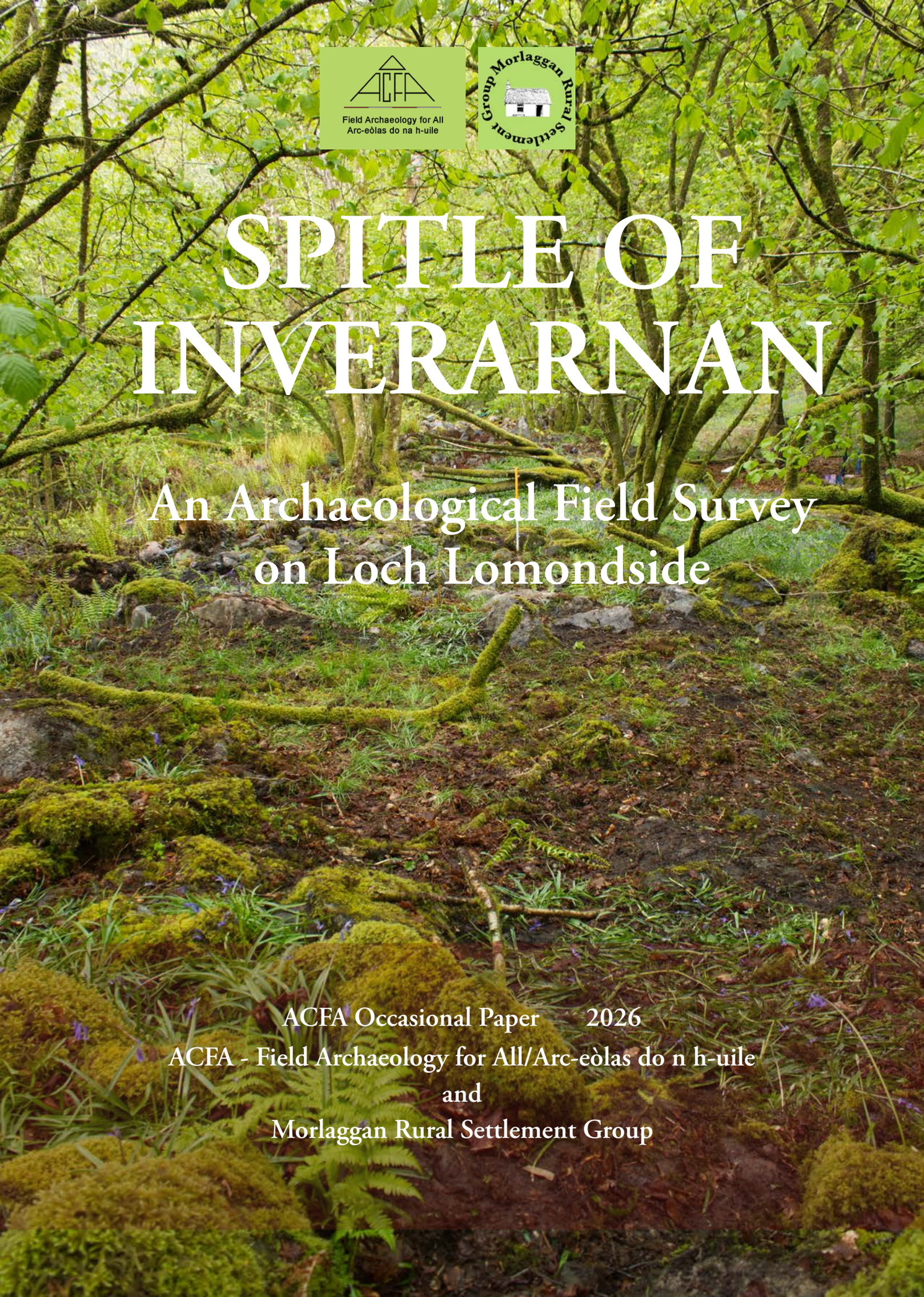


SPITLE OF INVERARNAN

An Archaeological Field Survey on Loch Lomondside

ACFA Occasional Paper 2026
ACFA - Field Archaeology for All/Arc-eòlas do n h-uile
and
Morlaggan Rural Settlement Group

Field Archaeology for All
Arc-eòlas do na h-uile

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ISBN

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Cover illustration: Looking eastwards over Feature 1.

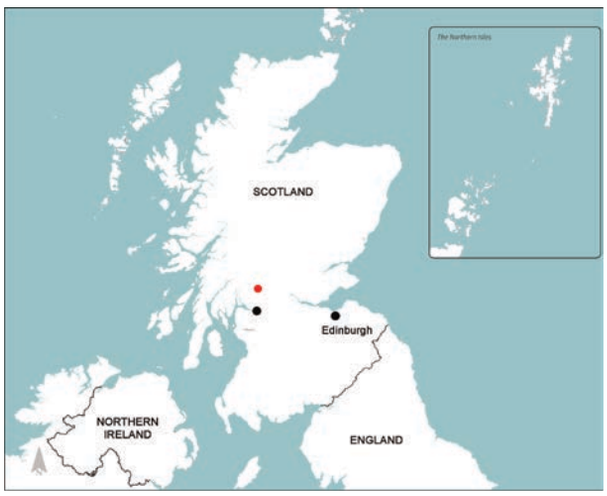


Figure 1. Indicative location of Inverarnan (red circle).
Courtesy of the UK Map Centre, Glasgow.

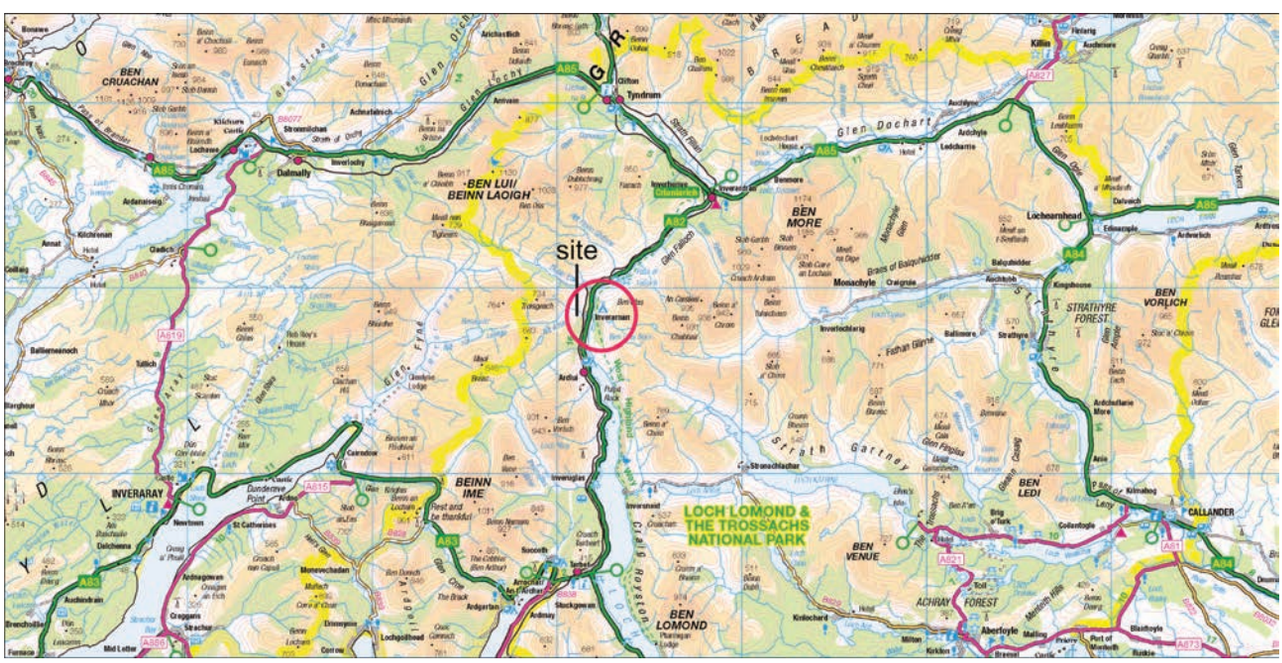


Figure 2. Indicative location of the survey site within a local context.
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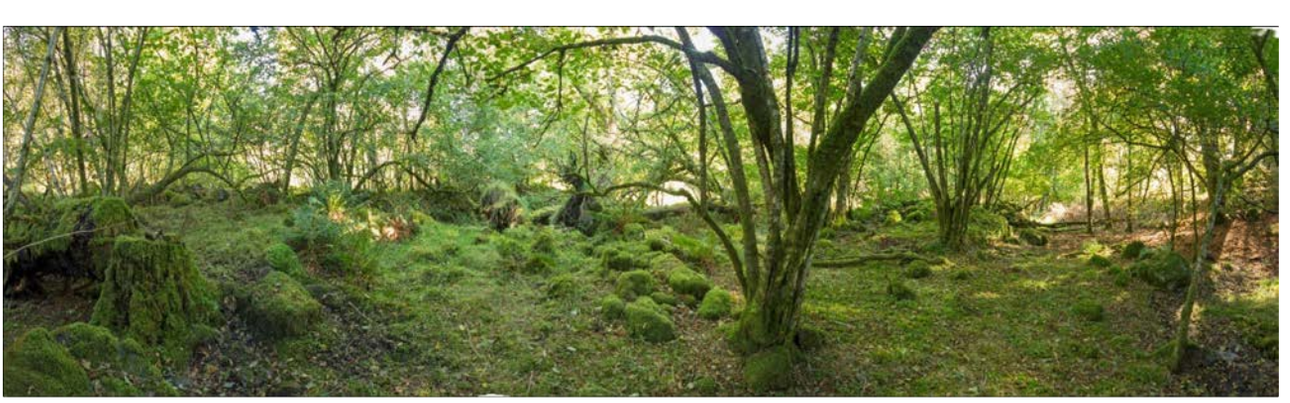
INTRODUCTION

The subject of this research is a group of ruins near the settlement of Inverarnan, located just north of Loch Lomond (NN 3174 1839) (Fig. 2 page i) and just within the northern boundary of Arrochar parish (previously in Dunbartonshire but now in the administrative area of Argyll and Bute), and within Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. The land is owned by Garabal Estate, which kindly gave permission to the Morlaggan Rural Settlement Group (MRSG) to survey the site. The MRSG would like to thank local resident Euan Palmer, to Dugald MacInnes, Libby King, and Margaret Gardiner from ACFA and to archaeologist Heather James for providing specialist support in completing the survey.

The site referred to as 'Spitle of Inverernan' is marked on William Edgar's map ("The Course of The King's Road makeing betwixt Dumbarton and Inverary"), surveyed in 1745 (Fig. 3 facing page). On this hand-drawn map, the spitle is depicted as a building (which Edgar seems to use as a symbol to indicate a settlement). It's located at the northern end of Loch Lomond, on the south side of the 'Ald-Ernan' (Allt Arnan), opposite 'Innerernan' (Inverarnan), which sits on the north side of the burn. The Allt Arnan forms the northern boundary of Arrochar parish, historically separating it from Killin parish, and at some times from the separate parish of Strathfillan. There are no roads marked on this part of the map, so the only features that can be used to locate the site are the rivers and other settlements. Notably, however, William Roy's map, produced around the same time (1747–1752) (Fig. 4 page 2), also marks some of the roads/tracks and shows red dots (buildings) corresponding to the spitle site; however, he labels all the buildings both south and north of the burn simply as 'Inverearnan'. Both the First (1874) (Fig. 5 page 3) and Second (1897) (Fig. 6 page 3) Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show a two-part building (half-roofed) in a location that could correspond to the spitle, but no other buildings around it. Nothing is marked on the modern OS map and the site is not included in the national records.

Our initial visit to the site revealed the remains of the building marked on the old OS maps, but a subsequent visit and the following survey also revealed the remains of several other, apparently older structures and enclosures, slightly south of the marked building, which may explain the multiple red dots on Roy's map.

Given its location at the junction of busy drove routes (Fig. 7 page 5), we were intrigued to know what the function of this 'spitle' might have been. Did the name merely indicate that the land was owned by the hospitallers (a historic Catholic military order formed during the Crusades)? Did the building on the site serve as a hostelry or refuge of some sort? What was the relationship, if any, with the current Drovers Inn (*sic*) and with the junction of the drove routes in the area? We have attempted to start to address these questions by doing some documentary research and by carrying out a detailed survey of the site. Further documentary research is planned, which will inform any future work on this enigmatic site.



'Spitle' site before clearing for survey. Image:



Figure 3. Extract from William Edgar's map, The Course of The King's Road making betwixt Dumbarton and Inverary, surveyed in 1745.
(Reproduced courtesy of West Dunbartonshire Council Arts & Heritage Service).

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Our only evidence to date for the 'Spitle of Inverernan' is from Edgar's map which depicts the spitle as a building (which Edgar seems to use as a symbol to indicate a settlement), at the northern end of Loch Lomond, on the south side of the 'Ald-Ernan' (Allt Arnan). He marks 'Innerernan' (Inverarnan) on the north side of the burn. The only landmarks to help locate the site are the rivers and other settlements. Roy's map, however, which also helpfully marks some roads/tracks, shows buildings corresponding to the spitle site, but labels all the buildings both south and north of the burn simply as 'Inverearnan'.

Both the First and Second Edition OS maps show a two-part building (half-roofed) in a location that could correspond to the spitle, but no other buildings around it. Nothing is marked on the modern OS map.

The proximity of the spitle site to the current settlement of Inverarnan, and its apparent inclusion in 'Inverearnan' by Roy, suggest that the histories of these are closely linked. However, the Allt Arnan forms part of the parish boundary, and the records for the area are complicated by the fact that the spitle is south of the burn, in Arrochar parish, while the settlement now known as Inverarnan, including the current Drovers Inn, is north of the burn in Stirling (used to be within Killin parish). As such, the spitle is on land historically belonging to the Clan MacFarlane, and is included in the current Garabal Estate, while Inverarnan is part of the Glen Falloch Estate, historically owned by the Earls of Breadalbane.

Given the hand-drawn nature of Edgar's map, it's reasonable to consider how accurate it might be. A (now sadly departed) friend and local historian,



Figure 4. Extract from Roy's Military Survey (copyright The British Library Board).

Alistair McIntyre, walked extensively throughout the area covered by the map and reckoned that it was remarkably accurate. We've also used the map to successfully locate some settlements that weren't marked on other maps. Added to that, if rivers are the main point of reference, it seems likely that a mapmaker would take particular care to indicate settlements in the right place relevant to a river (maybe especially if that river is also a parish boundary). We therefore think that the map is fairly accurate.

Is there any chance that the course of the river might have moved since the map was drawn? (In which case buildings might have been on the other side of the burn/in a different parish). Comparing the shape of the river in Edgar's map with that depicted in modern maps suggests that the river course has remained the same (though water levels may have changed).

Author?

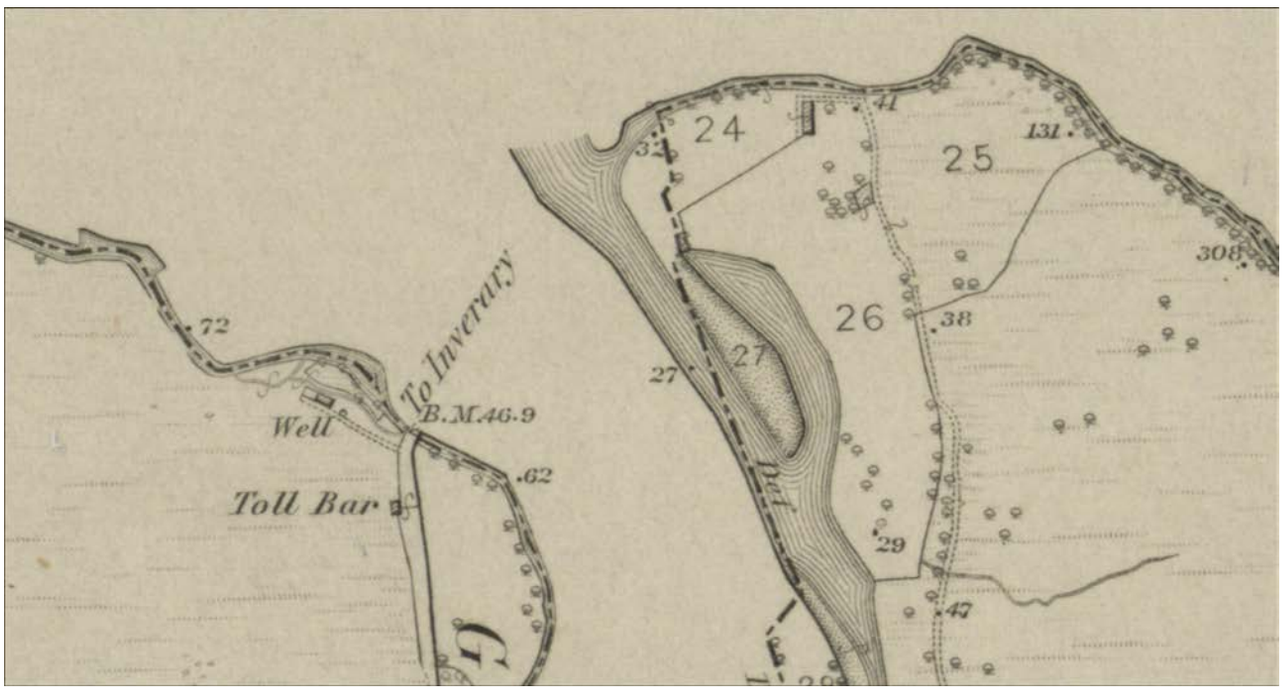


Figure 5. Extract from Ordnance Survey 6-inch First Edition. Dumbartonshire Sheet II (with inset I). Survey date: 1860; Publication date: 1864. Available at: https://maps.nls.uk/view/74426604. Reproduced with kind permission from the National Library of Scotland.

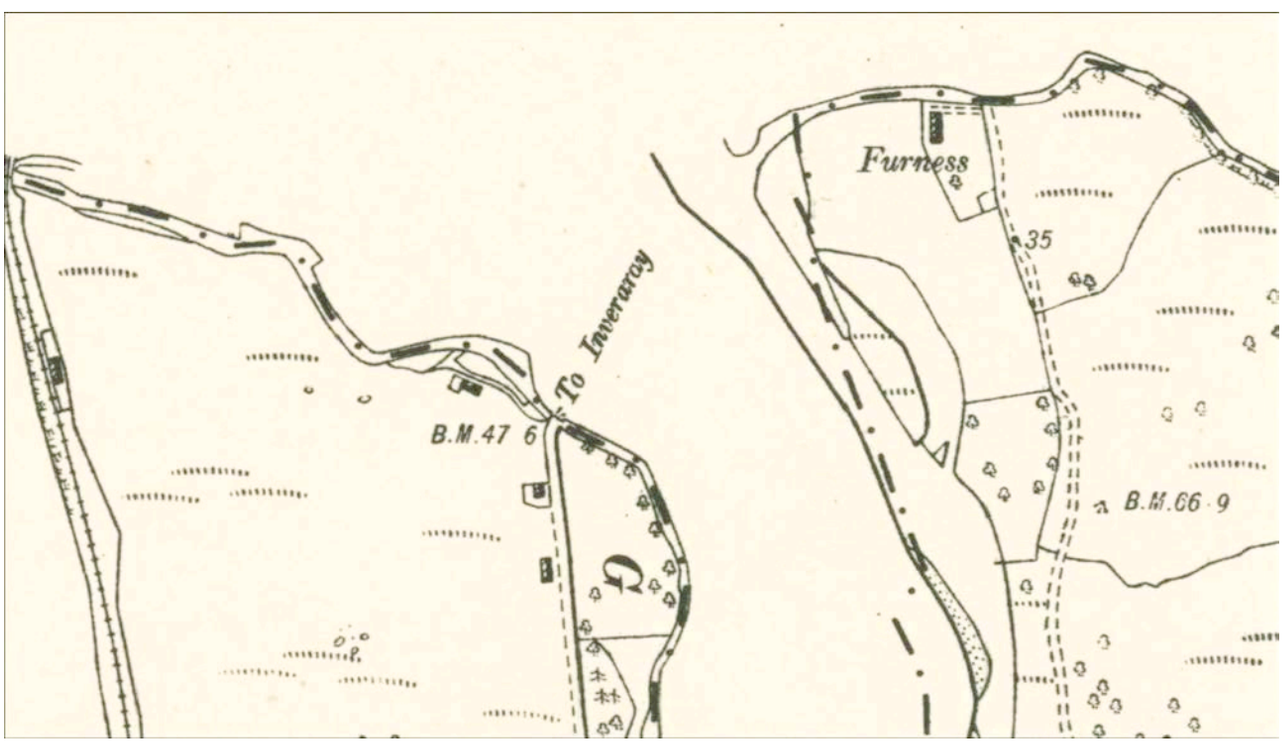


Figure 6. Ordnance Survey 6-inch Second Edition. Dumbartonshire Sheet II.SW. Revised 1896; Publication date: 1899. Available at: https://maps.nls.uk/view/75498207. Reproduced with kind permission from the National Library of Scotland.

What is a 'spitle'/'spittal'?

Any discussion of the historical context of the spitle must include something about what a spitle (or 'spittal') was or might have been. For much of the following, we are extremely grateful to Alistair McIntyre, for long email discussions and his amazing ability to find information. Peter McNiven noted that the term spittal derives from the Latin *hospitalaria* (a hostelry, guesthouse, or monastery), or *hospitale*, *hospitalitas* (an inn, guesthouse, or hospital) (McNiven P. 2013). It is presumably also related to the Gaelic *spideal*, indicating a hospital or refuge. However, this potentially encompasses a wide variety of functions, from a basic inn to a hospital providing medical treatments. Mike Darton's 'Dictionary of Place Names in Scotland' (Darton M. 1998) suggests that most spittals "were once remote, though on a major cross-country route, very suitable spots for overnight accommodation for travellers". This would fit well with the location of the spitle at Inverarnan, which was located on several busy cattle droving routes. However, we must also consider another possibility: several spittal sites do not seem to be in locations suitable for inns or hospitals, or even lands associated with hospitals, and McNiven suggests that the place name might just indicate lands that had been granted to the Knights Hospitallers or Templars, rather than reflecting a hospitality function. There are many 'spittal' names within the lands once owned by the Earls of Lennox (including Arrochar parish), who were known to have generously granted lands to the church, and it may be that virtually all these refer simply to properties belonging to the Knights Hospitaller (Fraser W. 1874; McIntyre A. and Fullarton D. 2020). Whether any of these served as inns is not known, but the locations of a few, notably the spitle at Inverarnan, make that likely.

Drove routes

The main circumstantial evidence that the spitle at Inverarnan might have acted as an inn lies in its location on a busy cattle droving route. It's therefore relevant to provide a short summary of the routes that the drovers used and how these changed over time. Crofters in the West Highlands needed to get their cattle to the markets ('trysts') in Central Scotland, and cattle drovers were paid to take them there. The routes they used were chosen to get the cattle to their destination as quick and in as good condition as possible, largely following passes between mountains, and with suitable locations for the cattle to stop and feed overnight ('stances'). Inevitably, inns will have sprung up to cater to the drovers' needs as well.

Long-distance cattle droving started in the 1500s, and Mitchell gives a good description of the routes passing through Inverarnan (Mitchell J. 2000). For many years, until the early 1700s, the main destination of the drovers was the tryst at Crieff. To reach Crieff, the drovers came from the west up Glen Fyne and through the Lairig Arnan to Inverarnan (a route marked on Roy's map), where Mitchell notes that there was a stance opposite the current Drovers Inn. From there, the drovers either headed north through Glen Falloch and through Glen Dochart and Glen Ogle to Lochearnhead, or east, up beside Beinn Glas falls, north around Parlan Hill, and on to meet the River Larig. To ascend beside the falls, Mitchell notes that the "now overgrown track is laid out in a long hairpin bend, which initially heads north before correcting southwards to pick up the burnside path again well above the falls". In the early 1700s, the tryst at Falkirk gradually replaced the one at Crieff. Cattle still travelled through the Lairig Arnan, but also from the north down Glen Falloch, and from Oban along Gleann nan Caorann (also marked on Roy's map). From Inverarnan, they might have continued south down the west side of Loch Lomond, until the road was surfaced and a toll imposed, when they reverted to a route via the Beinn Glas falls. Notably, all these routes would have passed through Inverarnan (Fig. 7 facing page). Droving finally declined in the 1800s, largely due the advent of steamers and railways.



Figure 7. First Edition OS map (1874). Indicative drove routes passing Inverarnan Hotel and the survey site. Map reproduced with kind permission from the National Library of Scotland.

History of the spitle site

Ideally, we'd like to work out which of the ruins surveyed at the site corresponds to Edgar's spitle (if any), when it was established, and when it ceased to exist. We'd also like to know how the site as a whole was used, before, during, and after 1745 (date of Edgar's survey), and how it relates to the other properties in the vicinity.

However, it's very difficult to trace the history of the spitle, given that we're not sure which building it refers to. It's also complicated by the fact that sites south of the Allt Arnan (which are in Arrochar parish) are sometimes referred to as Garbal/ Garabal/Garbel, and sometimes referred to as Inverarnan, while most historical entries for Inverarnan are in Killin parish.....

The earliest date that seems to be of relevance is the elusive 1705, which is widely stated to be the date that the current Drovers Inn was founded (the Drovers inn website). We have so far failed to find any evidence to support this date, but research is ongoing. If there was an inn there in 1705, it was presumably a much simpler building. Trove notes that additions were made in the 19th century (probably around 1825–30 and 1853). The existence of some form of drovers' inn around 1705 would certainly make sense, given that this corresponded with the time when there would have been a lot of cattle being taken to the trysts at Crieff, and later Falkirk; however, whether the inn was on the existing site or in another building

nearby (maybe even at the spitle?), remains unclear. Notably, GUARD Archaeology carried out an archaeological excavation of an 18th/19th century drovers' inn at Tigh Caol, Strathlachan, Argyll & Bute, in 2014, on behalf of Donald Adamson, which revealed a relatively small and unsophisticated building (GUARD Archaeology, 2015).

Edgar's map of 1745 shows a building/settlement at 'Innerernan', north of the Allt Arnan, and another at 'Spitle of Inverernan', south of the Allt Arnan. These locations correspond to the current Drovers Inn/steadings and 'our' surveyed ruins, respectively. Edgar doesn't specifically indicate an 'inn' anywhere, but this doesn't seem to be something that he bothered marking anywhere on his map. If the 1705 date for the current Drovers Inn is correct, it seems unlikely that it would coexist with another place offering a similar service, i.e., the spitle. This suggests that either the spitle didn't provide any hospitality function (at least by 1705), or that the spitle did act as an 'inn' at this time, and that the current Drovers Inn only took over that function at a later date. There was clearly a building/settlement at 'Innerernan' on the site of the Drovers Inn, but it might have just been a house/farm at that time.

Roy's map (1747–1752) marks 'Inverearnan' as a settlement with buildings both south and north of the Allt Arnan. Sadly, experts suggest that the individual red rectangles on Roy's map don't correspond to individual buildings but do give an idea of the size and location of the settlement. The buildings south of the burn correspond to the location of the spitle site, while those north of the burn correspond to the site of the steadings. Interestingly, there are no buildings marked east of the road that would correspond to the current Drovers Inn. This may be because the road alignment was slightly different, because Roy's dots weren't very accurate, or because the current Drovers Inn didn't exist at that time.

Interestingly, General Caulfield received £5,209 1s 4d in 1757 for 'carrying on the new roads in the Highlands', including the road from Dumbarton to 'Glenfalloch and Inverarara' (Taylor W. 1996). This was completed by 1760, because Pococke said 'from Torbut the road goes off to Inveraray in the west, another military road going northward to Fort William 63 miles'. Taylor and Skinner's road map (1776) (not reproduced here) marks 'Ault Arnin Inn' north of the burn but left of the road. This would correspond with the location of the current steadings. This is the first specific mention of an inn at Inverarnan. Interestingly, it also marks structures either side of the River Falloch, but it isn't clear what these are. This map doesn't show any buildings south of the Allt Arnan that would correspond to the spitle. Alistair McIntyre speculated that maybe the hospitality function of the spitle was taken over by the Drovers Inn (or a precursor operating from the steading site), somewhere between 1745 (Edgar) and 1776 (Taylor and Skinner).

Ross' map (1777) (not reproduced here) shows the 'Publick House of Auldarnan' at a site corresponding to the current Drovers Inn. Did the inn move from the steadings site to the current site between 1776 (Taylor and Skinner) and 1777 (Ross)? Was the inn split between the two sites? Or did one of the map makers put the inn on the wrong side of the road? Again, there's no indication of any buildings at the spitle.

In 1814, 'The Traveller's Guide Through Scotland, and Its Islands' refers to Aultarnan Inn (Anonymous, 1814).

Thomson's map (1832) marks 'Inverarnan Inn'. The spacing between these words is odd, making it unclear if it's 'Inverarnan Inn', or 'Inverarnan' and 'Inn'. The spacing may be affected by the parish boundary line? However, he shows two distinct buildings on the site of the current Drovers Inn, both east of the road. Why are there two buildings? Should one of these be the steadings (or its precursor) and he put it on the wrong side of the road? He also marks a building south of the burn and west of the road, which could possibly be associated with the word 'Inn'. However, this seems to align more with the location of the toll house than with the spitle.

In 1846, the Loch Lomond Steamboat Company held a meeting at the 'Inverarnan Hotel', and the canal from Loch Lomond to Inverarnan was constructed in 1847.

Trove (www.trove.scot) suggests that the current steadings were built in 1853, possibly associated with modifications to the inn.

In 1860, Robert Dalton of Taymouth petitioned for the lease of the inn and farm at Inverarnan.

Notably, up to this point, the last indication of any buildings at the spitle site is on Roy's map (1747–1752).

The First Edition OS map (surveyed 1860) (Fig. 5 page 3), however, shows a two-part building at the spitle site, of which the east half is marked as roofed. It also marks a track leading to it from the road, and a 'well'. (Why would a building so close to the burn need a well?: but see Feature 5 page 25). The same building (still half-roofed) is shown on the 2nd edition OS map (1896) (Fig. 5), but the track and well are not marked. Neither of these maps shows any signs any structures corresponding to the other surveyed remains south of this building.

This two-part structure corresponds to Feature 1, the 'longhouse' surveyed by ACFA (page 15). Interestingly, although this building was at least partly roofed between 1860 and 1896, it was difficult to see any sign of a fourth wall or doorway, although a possible fireplace lintel was found at the east end. Had the front wall been completely robbed out? (though there was no sign of large foundation stones). Was it only ever a shed/storage structure (though the census records suggest it was lived in, see below)? Or was the front wall made of wood? The squared corners and overall structure suggest that this building was probably built in the early 19th century (Heather James, this report) and therefore does not relate to the 'spitle' on Edgar's map. Some fragments of glass and pottery found during the survey appear to confirm this date (Fig. 8; although none of the finds have been examined.

The First and Second Edition OS maps both mark a building at the west side of the road just south of Inverarnan, which is presumably the toll house (Garabal Toll). The Second Edition also marks another building just south of the toll house that isn't on the First Edition map or the modern map. This may correspond to the 'wooden hall' noted in the valuation rolls, listed under 'churches' and owned by 'Inverarnan Mission Hall Committee', and subsequently 'Inverarnan Hall Committee'. This appears in the valuation rolls until 1935.

Census records and valuation rolls

It was hoped that the census records and/or valuation rolls could shed some light on whether the partly roofed structure at the spitle site (the 'longhouse') was a dwelling or not. Notably, both of these sources refer to the properties south of the Allt Arnan, i.e., in Arrochar parish, as Garbal, Garbel, or Garabal, and those north of the burn (in Killin parish) as Inverarnan (with a few exceptions. ...). However, the records are very confusing: sometimes there are two entries with the same property name, sometimes the entry for one property clearly refers to two different properties (with different numbers of windows), and the same property may be entered under different names in different years. The possible properties indicated in the census records are shown on the OS maps below (Figs. 8 and 9 page 9), based on the fact that the census recorded properties in geographic order – i.e. the recorders travelled north up the west side of Loch Lomond until they reached the parish boundary (Allt Arnan), and then crossed the River Falloch and headed back south down the east side of the loch.

The various census records/valuation rolls are detailed below, with reference to the maps.

1851: Census records Garabal ('old' Garabal) and Inverarnan Toll (presumably Garabal Toll), but no properties between Inverarnan Toll and Furnace (on the east side of the River Falloch) that might correspond to the spitle site. Either the partly-roofed structure shown in the old OS maps wasn't built then or wasn't lived in.

1855-1875: Valuation rolls have various mentions of Tollhouse in Garbal/Garabal and Farm of Garbal/Garabal, corresponding to the Tollhouse and 'old' Garabal in Figure 9, but no mention of any other buildings at Garabal that might correspond to the building at the spitle site (though we know from the map that the building had a roof by 1874).

1861: In contrast to the valuation rolls, the census records indicate three inhabited properties at 'Garbal': Garbal ('old' Garabal), Garbal Toll, and Garbal (possibly the 'longhouse' surveyed at the spitle site, later called Garabal/Garbel/Garbal Cottage). Why wasn't this third property included in the valuation rolls? This dwelling housed Mary McLean (head), her niece and nephew, and two boarders.

1871: Census records show Garbel Farm House ('old' Garabal) and Garbell Toll. Unlike the 1861 census, there's no entry for any property between the tollhouse and Furnace that would correspond to the longhouse; however, there are two entries for the tollhouse, one of which includes Mary Mclean (dressmaker) and Agnes Mclean (niece) in a property with one room with windows. It seems highly likely that this second entry for the tollhouse refers to the longhouse site. (Might the fact that it's linked with the tollhouse explain why it doesn't appear in the valuation rolls?).

1881: Census records Garbel ('old' Garabal), Garbel Toll, and Garbel Cottage. Garbel Cottage has two rooms with windows, lived in by Mary McLean (former dressmaker) and Agnes McLean (niece). This seems to confirm that Garbel Cottage was the longhouse ruin at the spitle; however, it now has two rooms with windows, compared with only one in 1871. Does this suggest they've added another room since 1871?

1891: Census only records the Toll House, but again there are two entries for this property: one with two rooms with windows, occupied by Duncan Clark (road surfaceman) and Margret Clark (mother), and another with three rooms with windows, occupied by Archibald Sinclair (shepherd) and Mary Sinclair plus 7 children, plus John Abie and Andrew Ferguson (boarders). It seems likely that the first of these refers to Garbel Cottage, and that Mary McLean has left, and the cottage is now occupied by Duncan Clark.

1901: The census records Garabal Farm Farmhouse ('new' Garabal?) and Garbal Cottage, which now has four rooms with windows and is occupied by John McVarish (railway surfaceman), Margred (wife) plus 2 children, and Malcolm Morrison and Duncan Fraser (mason) lodgers. This suggests yet further extensions to the longhouse.

1905-1940: The valuation rolls don't record any properties in Garabal, but do note two houses in Inverarnan, 'village of Arrochar'. These seem to refer to the railway houses that are shown on the Second Edition OS map; they're referred to as Inverarnan (as the nearest settlement) but are in Arrochar parish.

1911: The census records people living at both railway cottages and at Garabal Farm ('new' Garabal), and notes that 'Garabal Cottage' was uninhabited.



Figure 8. Extract from the First Edition OS map (1874) with properties labelled. Map reproduced with kind permission from the National Library of Scotland.

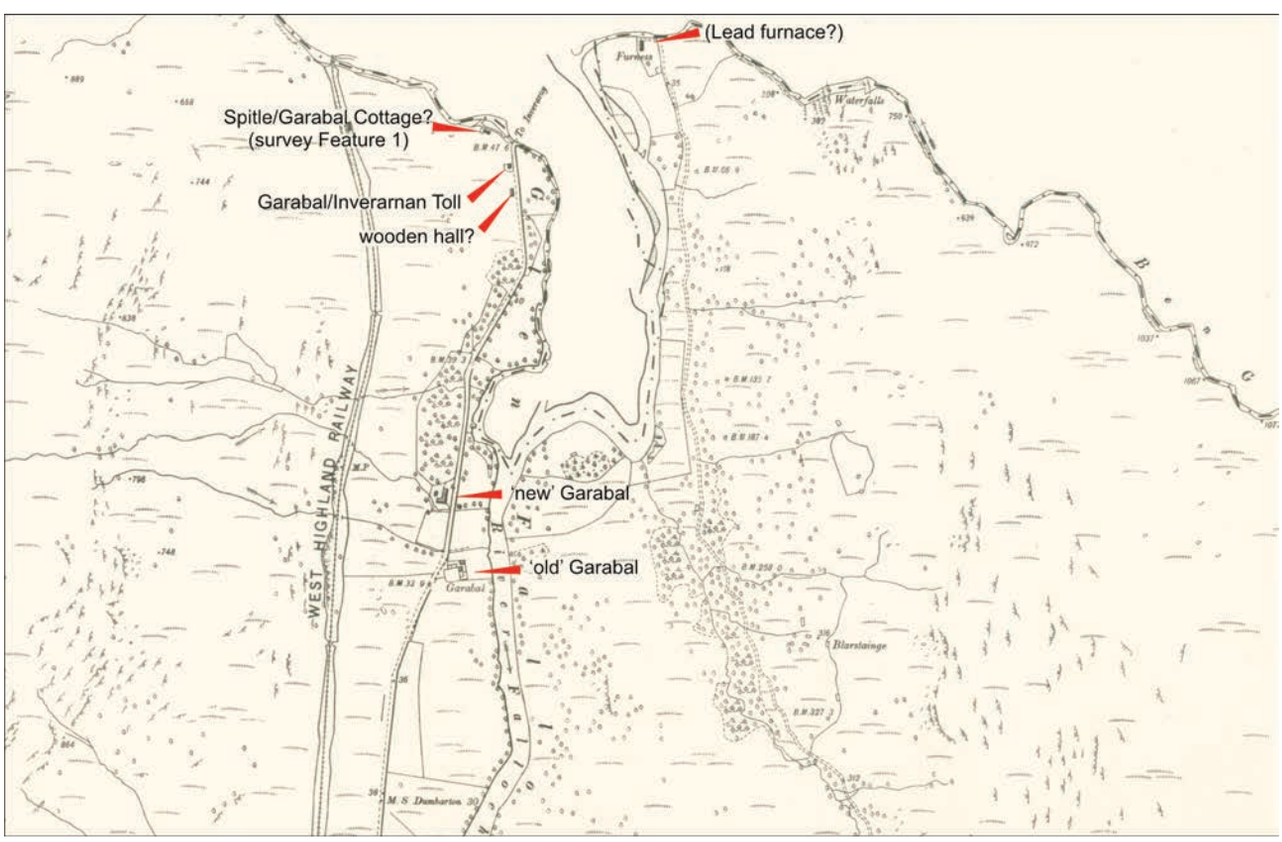


Figure 9. Extract from the Second Edition OS map (1897) with properties labelled. Map reproduced with kind permission from the National Library of Scotland.

Summary of the census/valuation information

The older-style buildings at the spitle site are not mentioned, in accord with the fact that they aren't shown on the OS maps that cover this period. They'd presumably disappeared before 1851. A property likely corresponding to the 'longhouse' at the spitle site appears in the census in 1861, variously called Garbal/Garbal Cottage/Garbel Cottage, and sometimes entered under the census entry for the tollhouse. The cottage seems to have been extended over the years, and was inhabited until 1901, but was uninhabited in 1911. It was lived in by Mary McLean (dressmaker) and members of her family until the 1891 census, and then by Duncan Clark (road surfaceman), followed by John McVarish (railway surfaceman). The cottage doesn't appear in the valuation rolls.

Conclusion

Maps and survey data indicate that there were several buildings and enclosures at the site marked by Edgar as 'Spitle of Inverernan', at least in the 1700s, and the style of the buildings suggests that some of them may have been of 17th or 18th century date. It is possible that one or more of these buildings may have acted as a drovers' inn (the spitle), prior to the establishment of the current Drovers Inn. These buildings had disappeared by the mid-1800s, but a new structure was built around this time (the surveyed 'longhouse'). The census records suggest that this might be 'Garabal Cottage', which was occupied from around 1861 (which would fit with the building style and its appearance on OS maps) until around 1901, after which it fell into ruin.

Author?

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

This survey undertaken in May 2026 revealed three structures and an enclosure located on the south side of the River Falloch. Although masked by copious rubble, the structures display characteristics from two different Scottish building traditions. The one nearest the river is a long, wide, rectangular-shaped, square-cornered building, around which the amount of rubble suggests it had high gable ends. The other two structures, located up the hill to the south-west, are narrower, have rounded internal corners and are generally surrounded by less rubble, suggesting that the walls did not have high gable ends (or have been robbed). All three structures are of dry-stone construction.

There are photographs, published in the mid-20th century, showing buildings that Illustrate three different building types (Sinclair 1953, James 2009, 351). In one photograph a building of the 'Skye-type' (undated) has rounded outer corners, walls of equal height, a central doorway, a possible second door in a short wall, two small windows, a thatched roof and presumably a central fireplace as there is no chimney. A building in the background has a chimney in the short wall. The 'Dailriadic-type' (taken in 1946) has square outer corners, a high gable end and no chimney. The 'Hebridean-type', taken in 1940, has thick, stone-faced, earth-cored, walls, rounded corners, a single doorway in the middle of one long side and a central chimney set in the thatched roof.

A 20th century model of settlement development has shown that there were significant regional differences in the construction of rural settlement during the pre-modern period and suggested that stone buildings did not replace turf walled structures till the 18th or 19th century (Dodgshon 1993, 420).

More recent research into medieval rural settlement in mid-Argyll (James 2009) examined the existing published material and recorded numerous deserted farmsteads, single buildings and shielings (ibid 180). Two sites have been excavated and are relevant here, one at Bàrr Mór, Kilmartin (James 2004, James 2009, 226–241, & 436–441) and another on Gunna (James 1998).

The site at Bàrr Mór consisted of the remains of a group of five oval-shaped, dry-stone, single-skinned structures which are consistent with the 'Skye type'. Five radiocarbon dates returned from hearth layers and a layer of peat ash were mid-15th to mid-17th century AD. Two sherds of brown-glazed French pottery which was of 16th or 17th century date and a medieval handle sherd were also found on this site and there was an absence of any later material. These structures are thought to have been occupied between the mid-15th to mid-17th centuries.

At Gunna, four oval-shaped structures with thick stone-faced walls and a single entrance appeared to be of the 'Hebridean-type'. They sealed earlier structures which although not fully excavated, appeared to be single-celled with a dry-stone inner skin. No radiocarbon dates have been submitted for this site, but a 15th century brooch, medieval glazed pottery and hand thrown pottery were found which suggests that this site was abandoned by the late-18th century.

These two sites have shown that stone was not used exclusively in high status sites prior to the improvements of the 18th century but was also used in some less elite rural settlement. Prior to any excavation of the sites at Garabal, it can be fairly confidently said that the rectangular structure nearest the river is a 'Dailriadic-type' probably of early-19th century date and relates to the one depicted on the Ordnance Survey first edition map (surveyed 1860–71). The round-cornered structures further up the hill, are likely to be of the 'Skye-type' and are at least of 17th or 18th century date, if not earlier and could correspond with the structures depicted south of the river by William Roy (1747–55) and named by Edgar (1717–1746) as Spitle of Inverearnan.

There is a small enclosure around the smaller of the two upper buildings, and potentially other features in the vicinity.

It is also interesting to note that Taylor & Skinners 'The Road from Tarbet Inn to Crienlarach', dated 1776, (not reproduced here) depicts a structure north of the river named 'Ault Arnin Inn' but no structures to the south of it. The oval-shaped structures up the hill could well have been too insignificant to show (or were abandoned) while the rectangular ones nearer the river had not yet been constructed.

Heather James

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY

1 Longhouse and yard
NN 31750 18370 - NN 31730 18370
(Images pages to)

The ruinous nature and a covering of vegetation and leaf mould made an interpretation of the remains difficult to make. On both OS six-inch maps of the nineteenth century the structure, apart for the western enclosure, is shown as being roofed (Figs. 5 and 6 page 3). There are three compartments to the longhouse, the central one of which is most likely to have been the dwelling. This measures overall about 10.5 m by 5.5 m, with its entrance possibly situated on its long south side. Attached externally to the east end is another dry-stone structure, measuring overall 8.0 m by 6.0 m, suggesting perhaps that it is later than the house. Tumble made it impossible to ascertain whether this structure was butted onto the house. Whatever the case, the south wall of this outshot has largely been robbed out, with two large stones remaining. Between them but extending southwards about 1.5 m is a low platform bounded on its east and north sides with small stones.

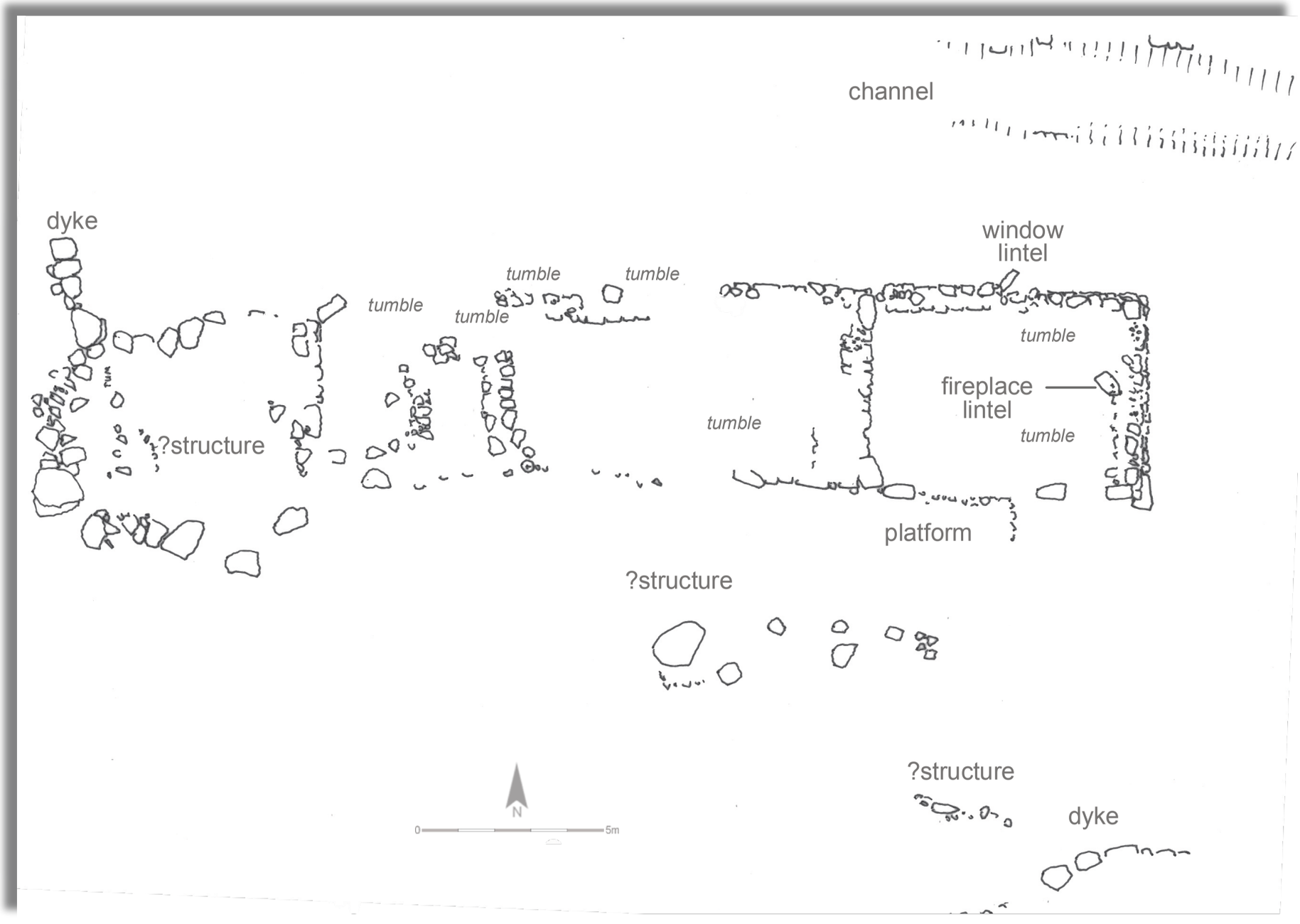
Internally, on its east side a large slab could indicate the presence of a chimney mid-way on the east end. Mid-way on the north wall there may have been a window, evidenced by the presence of a long stone slab here (see image page 19). At several points, the rubble core of the walls is revealed.

External to the house on its west side there is another compartment that may also have been butted against the house, but this is uncertain; the wall mutual with the end of the house appears to have been altered at some point in time. This section of the entire feature measures overall 5.5 m by 5.0 m and it may have been sub-divided, possibly later, as evidenced by a possible internal dry-stone foundation

Attached to the west side of the entire feature there is a crudely-formed sub-rectangular enclosure in which large boulders have been set aside to clear the space. It measures overall about 7.0 m by 6.5 m. A crudely-constructed dry-stone dyke runs off from its north-west corner. Internally, there is a small stone setting.

A well, shown on the First Edition map, was not identified largely because of thick vegetation but also because the ground here has been disturbed by the erection of a power or telephone pole.

Between the eastern compartment and an artificial channel (Feature 6) a much-disintegrated gas stove was found and several meters to the east the remains of an iron bedstead (image page 18) were also discovered, suggesting, perhaps, that a part of Feature 1 was used as a bothy of some kind in the not too distant past.


channel
dyke
tumble
tumble
tumble
tumble
?structure
window
lintel
tumble
fireplace
lintel
tumble
tumble
platform
?structure
?structure
dyke
N
0
5m



Looking over Feature 1 from the west.



The internal side of the west end of the eastern compartment.



The external south-east corner of the eastern compartment.



The external north-east corner of the eastern compartment.



The external east end of the eastern compartment.



The low platform external to the eastern compartment.



The possible fireplace lintel on the east end of the eastern compartment.



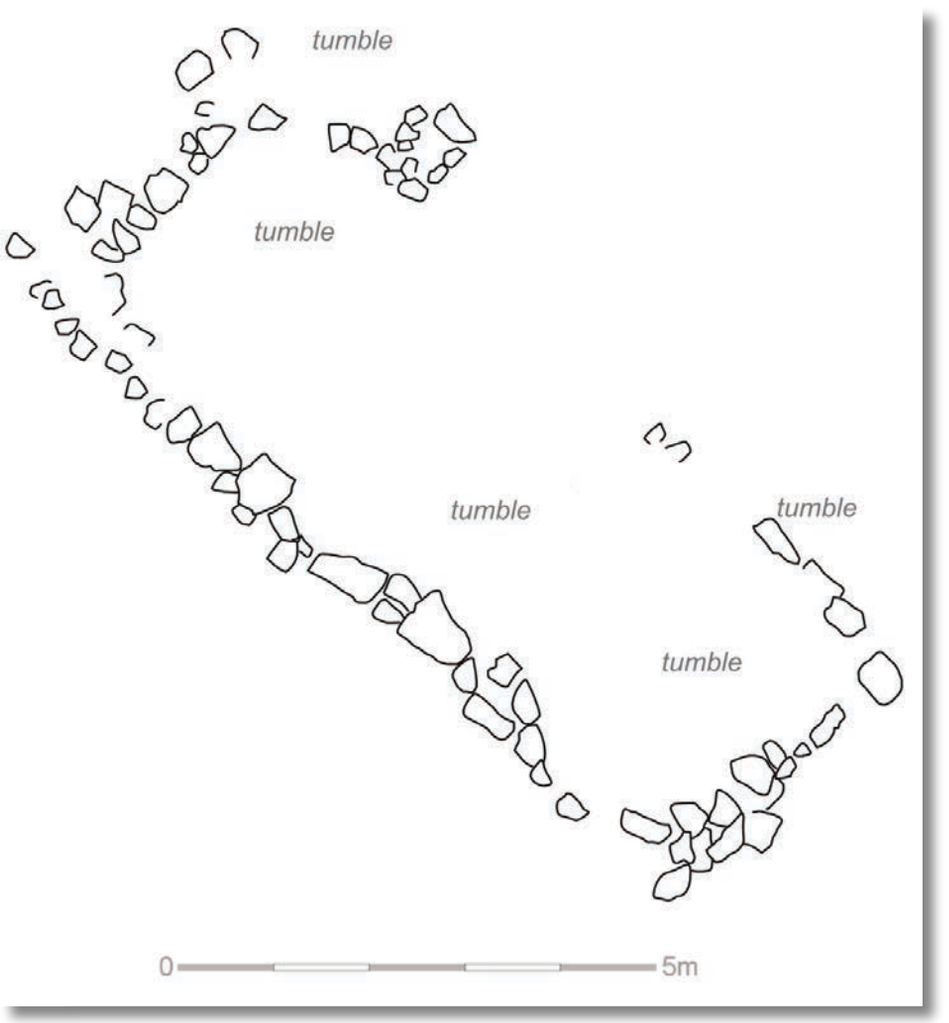
The possible widow lintel on the north side of the eastern compartment.

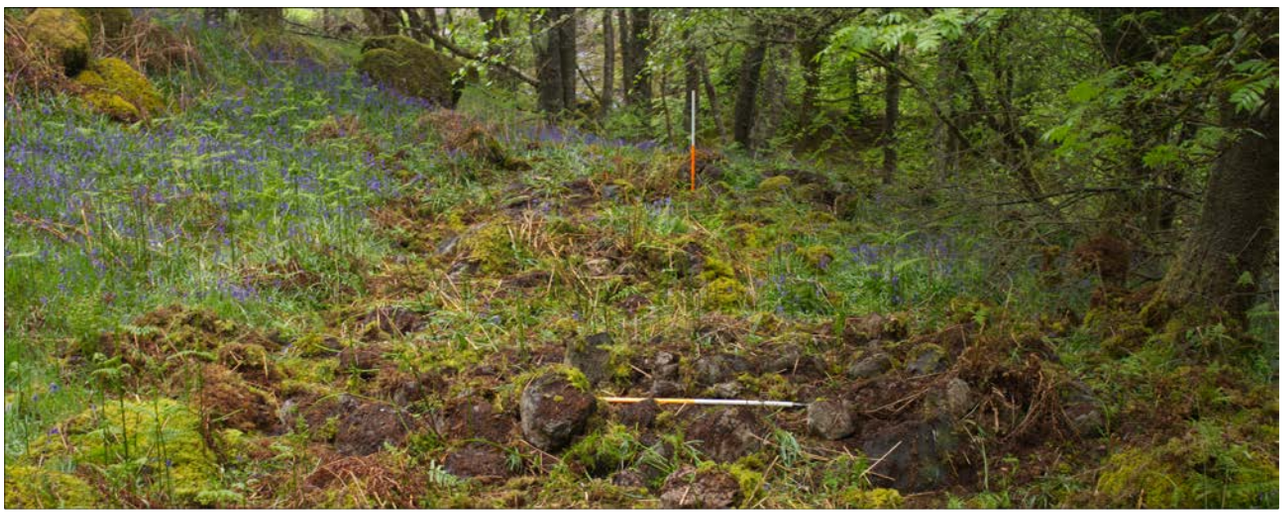
Features 2–5 are situated at a higher elevation some 30 m–50 m to the south-west of Feature 1.

2 House
NN 37121 18548

The much-diminished stone footings of this north-west to south-east orientated house measure overall 10 m by 4.0 m. The internal corners on its north-west end are rounded (see image facing page). Whether the same can be said of the opposite end is not clear because of its ruinous nature. No entrance was identified but it is likely to be situated on the long south-west side of the feature.

Externally, towards the north-east corner there is a small stone setting. What its purpose was is not clear.





Looking over Feature 2 from the north-west.



A section of the external north-east side of Feature 2.

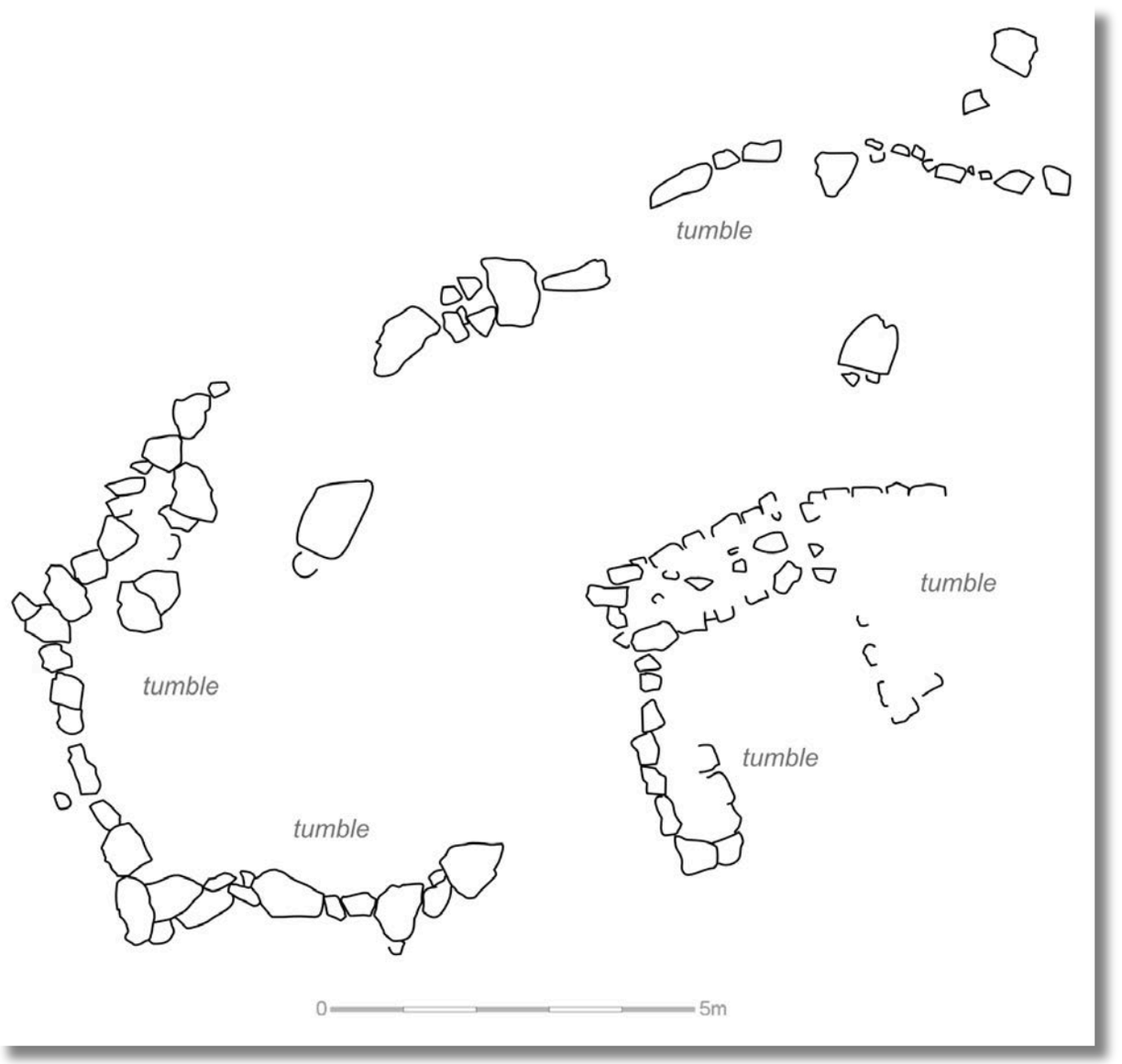


The internal north-west corner of Feature 2.

3 Enclosure and structure
NN 31710 18320

The ruinous remains of an enclosure and structure are situated above and to the south-west of Feature 2. The enclosure measures overall approximately 15 m by 8.0 m and straddles the crest of a broad ridge. The dry-stone structure is situated within the enclosure on the latter's south-east side but extends over what may have been part of the south-east side of the enclosure. This could suggest that the structure is later than the enclosure but its purpose was unclear. It is situated on a south-east facing slope and is open the south-east and has a possible outshot to its north-east side.

An open-ended structure such as this could be interpreted as a cart shed or peat store but whether either of these functions applies here is uncertain.





The south-west corner of the enclosure and the dry-stone structure of Feature 4 viewed from the south.

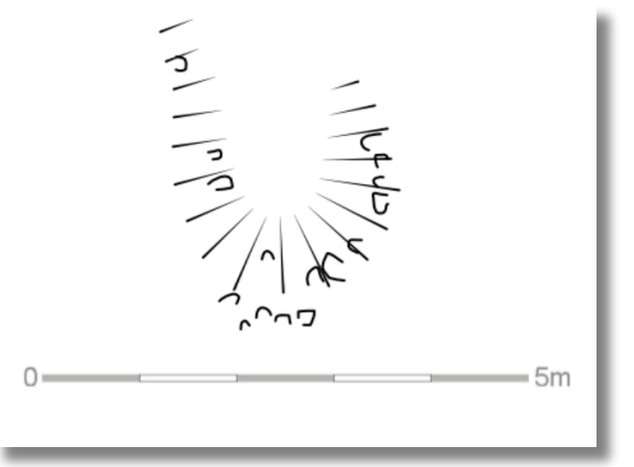


Looking over Feature 4 from the south-west. Margaret Gardiner and Libby King are at Feature 5.

4 Scoop

NN 31730 18328

Some 15 m to the north-east of Feature 3 and on a small mound there is a small scoop measuring approximately 3.0 m by 2.0 m and about 0.7 m deep and open to the north. Its purpose is unknown.





Looking into Feature4 from the north.

5 **Artificial channel**

NN 31730 18360 (centre)

Between 5.0 m and 8.0 m to the north of Feature 1 there is an artificial channel some 2.5 m wide and revetted with stone in places (images below). It disappears to the south-east of Feature 1. A mill lade would be a suitable function for the channel, but no mill is recorded around Inverarnan. There is, however, a dry-stone revetment (not recorded) near to the public road on the latter's west side that may be the remains of a mill, but this is far from certain.



The choked channel to the north of Feature 1.



A section of dry-stone revetment on the north side of the choked channel to the north of Feature 1.



Left to right: Margaret Gardiner, Libby King, Heather James, Sue Furness, Fiona Jackson and Euan Palmer.





Fiona Jackson (left) and Sue Furness recording Feature 1.



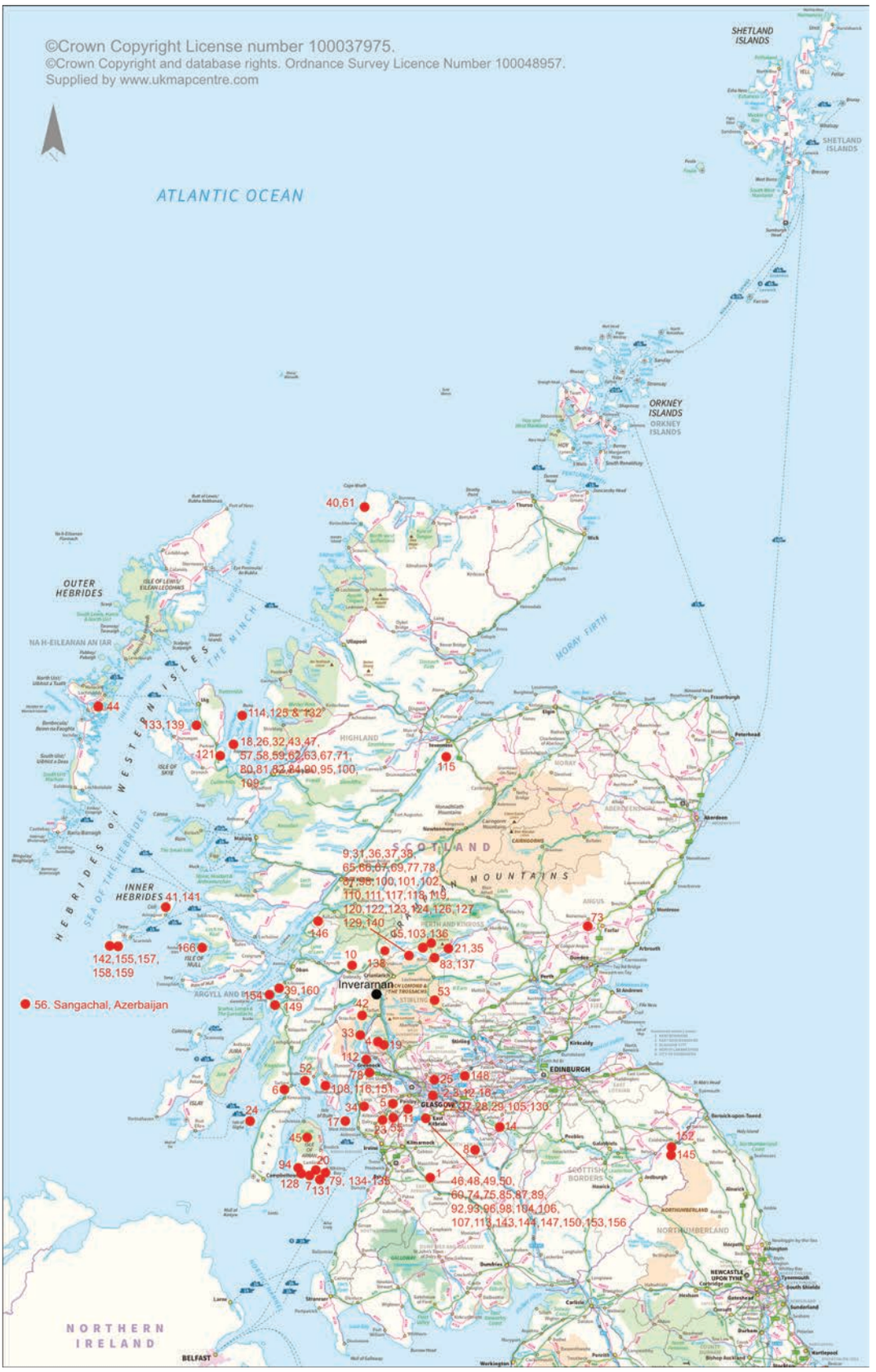
Left to right: Heather James, Margaret Gardiner and Libby King recording Feature 4.



Sherds of pottery found on site.

ACFA OCCASIONAL PAPERS

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The indicative location of ACFA surveys in Scotland. This current survey is indicated by a black circle. Map courtesy of the UK Map Centre, Glasgow. © Crown Copyright Licence number AC0000823295.

1 Chalmerston, Cumnock & Doon Valley, East Ayrshire (1989)
2 Gleniffer Braes, Renfrewshire (1992)
3 Garscadden Wood, Drumchapel, Glasgow City (1995)
4 Auchengaich, Parish of Rhu, Argyll & Bute (1991)
5 Millbank Mill, Renfrewshire (1992)
6 Meall Darroch, Tarbert, Argyll & Bute (1992)
7 Clachaig Limekiln, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire (1992)
8 Coalburn, Lanarkshire (1991)
9 Tirai, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (1996)
10 Glen Orchy, Dalmally, Argyll & Bute (forthcoming)
11 Neilston, Renfrewshire (1995)
12 Cathkin Braes, Glasgow City (1995)
13 Raasay - Oskaig & Holoman, Highland (1995)
14 Greens Moor, Lanarkshire (1995)
15 Bail' a Mhuilinn, Bridge of Balgie, Perth & Kinross (1995)
16 Queen's Park, Glasgow City (1996)
17 Island of Little Cumbrae, North Ayrshire (1996)
18 Raasay - Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inbhre & Brae, Highland (1996)
19 Glen Luss, Argyll & Bute (2001)
20 Gargadale, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire (1996)
21 Milton of Lawers, North Lochtayside (Part 1), Perth & Kinross (1996)
22 Castlemilk Ice House, Glasgow City (1996)
23 Irvine Valley, East Ayrshire (1996)
24 Island of Gigha, Argyll & Bute (1993)
25 Craigmaddie Muir, East Dumbartonshire (1999)
26 Raasay 1997, Glame, Manish More, Brochel & Doire Domhain, Highland (1997)
27 Alexandra & Springburn, Two Glasgow Parks, Glasgow City (1997)
28 Waulkmill Glen Ruin, Darnley, Glasgow City (1997)
29 Castlemilk Glen, Glasgow City (1997)
30 The Survey Director's Handbook (1997)
31 Duncroisk East, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (1997)
32 Raasay - North & South Screapadale, Highland(1998)
33 Dun Daraich, Glen Finart, Argyll & Bute (1998)
34 Largs Parish (Part 1), North Ayrshire (2000)
35 Milton of Lawers, North Lochtayside (Part 2), Perth & Kinross (2002)
36 Tullich Farm, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2003)
37 Corrycharmaig Farm, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2003)
38 Duncroisk Farm, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2001)
39 Four Worked Flints from Lorn, Argyll & Bute (1998)
40 Sandwood Estate, Sutherland (Part 1), Highland (1999)
41 The Island of Coll, A Preliminary Survey, Argyll and Bute (1998)
42 Loch Restil & Glen Croe, Argyll & Bute (1999)
43 Raasay - Manish Beg, Highland (1999)
44 Grimsay Wheelhouse, Island of North Uist, Na h-Eileanan Siar (1998)
45 Sites on Arran & Jura, Argyll and Bute (2003)
46 North & South Kirktonmoor, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2000)
47 Raasay - Arnish & Torran, Highland (2000)
48 An Excavation at South Kirktonmoor, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2000)
49 North Moorhouse Farm Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2001)
50 South & East Moorhouse Farms, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2002)
51 Blackhill, Lesmahagow, South Lanarkshire (2001)
52 Meldalloch Island, Kilfinan, Argyll & Bute (2001)
53 Leny Wood, Callander, Stirling (2002)
54 A Bracken Store, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2002)
55 Coldstream Mill, by Beith, N. Ayrshire (2002)
56 Survey at Sangachal, Azerbaijan (2002)
57 Inverarish Mill, Isle of Raasay, Highland (2002)
58 The Soils & Geology of Raasay, Highland (2002)
59 Raasay - North Fearns (Part 1) Highland (2002)
60 Bonnyton Moor Eaglesham, E. Renfrewshire (2003)
61 Sandwood Estate, Sutherland (Part 2) Highland (2003)
62 Raasay 2003, North Fearns (Part 2) Highland (2003)
63 Raasay 2003, Umachan, Highland (2003)
64 High Botaurnie, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2005)
65 Low Botaurnie, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2005)
66 Innischoarach, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2004)
67 Cairns & Standing Stones on Raasay, Highland (2004)
68 Dalgirdy in Tullich, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2004)
69 Blackhouse, Castlehill & Crosslees, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2004)
70 Langlee, Bennan & Shieldhill Farms, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2004)
71 Raasay 2004, Hallaig & An Leac, Highland (2004)
72 Director's Handbook (2005)
73 Barns of Airlie Souterrain, Angus (2005)
74 Greenfield Farm, including the farmlands of Blackwood, Braehead, Dunwan & Blackwood Hill, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2005)

75 East & West Revoch Farms including the farmlands of Hol-Hall & Picketlaw, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2005)
76 Dalgirdy, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2008)
77 Former Residents of Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2006)
78 A Washhouse, Campbell Street, Greenock, Inverclyde (2005)
79 Dippen Promontory Fort, Arran, N. Ayrshire (2005)
80 Raasay - Suisnish & South Fearns, Highland (2005)
81 Kilmoluag Graveyard Inventory & Raasay War Memorial, Highland (2005)
82 St Moluag's Chapel & Pictish Stones & Monuments of Raasay, Highland (2005)
83 Finlarig Castle, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2006)
84 Raasay - An Lon Ban & Coastal Area from An Lon Ban to Oskaig, Highland (2006)
85 Low Hill & Woodhouse Farms, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2006)
86 Kenknock Farm, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2006)
87 Floors & Windhill Farms of Brackenrig, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2007)
88 Doctor's Burn (Part 1), Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2007)
89 Middleton Farm, Neilston, East Renfrewshire (2007)
90 Raasay - Kyle Rona, Achadh & Doire Dubh, Highland (2007)
91 Allt Coire Challum Shieling, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2008)
92 Mains, Polnoon & Walkers Farms, Farmlands of Damhead & The Hamlet of Hillhead, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2008)
93 Park, Netherton, Nether Enoch, Over Enoch, Carrot & Myers Farms & Farmlands of Hare Shaw & Drumduff, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2008)
94 Clauchan Meeting House Pien by Shiskine, Arran, North Ayrshire (2008)
95 Raasay - Some Homesteads and a Cairnfield in Suisnish Hill, Highland (2008)
96 Ardoch, Stonebyres & Threepland Farms, Eaglesham, East Renfrewshire (2008)
97 Shaft Road, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2009)
98 North High Craig, Nethercraig & Temples Farms, East Renfrewshire (2009)
99 Doctor's Burn (Part 2), Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2009)
100 Raasay, the area from Beinn a Chapuill in the north to the Inverarish to Fearns road in the south, Highland (2009)
101 Innisraineach, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2009)
102 Lairig an Lochain, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2010)
103 The Shielings of An Riol, Kenmore Parish, Perth & Kinross (2010)
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123 Lubchurran, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2013)
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131 Levencorroch, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire (2016)
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139 An Caorann, Isle of Skye, Highland (2017)
140 Allt Dhùin Croisg and its Tributaries, Glen Lochay, Killin, Stirling (2018)
141. Isle of Coll Archaeological Surveys 2008–2012, Argyll and Bute (2018)
142 Tiree, Interim Report 2016, Argyll and Bute (2018)
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144 Southern Area of Mearns Parish, East Renfrewshire (2020)
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165 Below the Waves, Archaeological Field Surveys on the Island of Tiree, 2016–2022, Argyll and Bute (2025)
166 Eilean Ulva 2025, Argyll and Bute (2025)
167

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No. 1 Kenknock; No. 2 Innisrainneach; No. 3 Tomochrocher; No. 4 Badour; No. 5 Batavaime and Glas Leathad; No. 6 Doctor's Burn West; No. 7 Doctor's Burn east to Lochan Chailein; No. 8 Lairig and Lochain (The Watershed with Strath Fillan); No. 9 Allt Coire Challum Shieling; No. 10 Lub na Baintighearna; No. 11 Lubchurran.

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