
A83 Rest and Be Thankful

LTS EIAR VOLUME 4, APPENDIX 8.4 - HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Transport Scotland

A83AAB-AWJ-EAC-LTS_GEN-RP-LE-000252

A8-4. Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment

A8-4.1. Introduction and Scope

A8-4.1.1. The Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) has been commissioned to provide a baseline of known or potential cultural heritage assets within or immediately around The Site, which comprises the Long Term Solution (LTS), improvements to the Old Military Road (OMR), and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) areas. This baseline will be used to inform an assessment of impacts on cultural heritage assets from the Proposed Scheme. The HEDBA is appended to the LTS EIA Report, Volume 2 Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and should be consulted in conjunction with the following figures and appendices:

- Volume 3, Cultural Heritage – Figure 8.1
- Volume 4, Appendix 8.1 – Cultural Heritage Legislation, Policy and Guidance
- Volume 4, Appendix 8.2 – Cultural Heritage Methodology and
- Volume 4, Appendix 8.3 – Known Heritage Assets Tables.

A8-4.1.2. The HEDBA is required in relation to the planning process in order that the local planning authority (LPA) can formulate an appropriate response in the light of the impact upon any known or possible heritage assets. The planning framework is presented in LTS EIA Report Volume 4, Appendix 8.1 – Cultural Heritage Legislation, Policy and Guidance.

A8-4.1.3. Cultural heritage assets are identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions and includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority, including local listing and non-designated assets. Cultural heritage significance lies in the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest; this may be artistic, archaeological, architectural, historical, traditional, aesthetic, scientific or social.

A8-4.2. Planning Framework

- A8-4.2.1. The HEDBA has been produced in line with the appropriate legislation and planning policies, as detailed in Volume 4, Appendix 8.1 – Cultural Heritage Legislation, Policy and Guidance.
- A8-4.2.2. The following relevant guidance documents have also been consulted during the preparation of the HEDBA:

[Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting](#)

- A8-4.2.3. This Historic Environment Scotland (HES) guidance updated in 2020 sets out the principals that apply to developments affecting the setting of heritage assets or places.

[Designation Policy and Selection Guidance](#)

- A8-4.2.4. This HES document updated in 2020 sets out the policy and selection guidance used by HES when designation historic sites and places and the national level. It is used alongside the [HES \(2020\), Historic Environment Policy for Scotland \(HEPS\)](#). It provides context as to why heritage assets within the study area have been designated and details their protection as aligned with their designation. This provides greater understanding of the importance of a heritage asset.

[Procedural Guidance for Archaeology and Development](#)

- A8-4.2.5. This document, published by West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS) in 2009, sets the guidance for the minimum standards required by local councils for planning applications which are anticipated to impact archaeology.
- A8-4.2.6. All elements of the assessment have been undertaken in accordance with the following policies and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA); both of which were updated in 2020:

- [Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment](#)

The standard states that desk-based assessments should determine as far as reasonably possible, from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment in a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. It should establish the impact of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment and enables reasonable proposals and decisions to be made on mitigation or offsetting if this is deemed necessary. The guidance defines good practices for the execution of the desk-based assessment in line with ClfA regulations.

- [Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment](#)

The standard states that specialist advice to commissioners of archaeological and historic environment work will be ensure as far as possible that the commissioner understands and complies with ethical, legal and policy requirements. Any historical environment work which is procured to implement the advice will ensure it is fit for purpose and undertaken by suitably qualified contractors, adhering to ClfA Code of Conduct, regulations, standards and guidance. Any advice given should be from a suitably qualified advisor and should be clear, compliant, impartial, informed, robust and proportionate. The guidance sets out in detail the obligations and responsibilities which should be followed to comply with the standard.

A8-4.3. Sources and Methodology

- A8-4.3.1. In order to determine the full historic environment potential of the Proposed Scheme, a broad range of standard documentary and cartographic sources, including results from previous archaeological investigations within the Proposed Scheme and a 250m radius study area were examined.
- A8-4.3.2. Volume 4, Appendix 8.2 – Cultural Heritage Methodology presents the sources used for determining the historic environment baseline. This also contains the methodologies to determine significance criteria, magnitude of impact and significance of effect which are employed in the assessment presented in Volume 2, Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage.

A8-4.3.3. A walkover survey was undertaken on 24 October 2023 to examine known heritage assets, consider the potential for previously unrecorded assets and to examine potential effects on setting from the Proposed Scheme. Previously unrecorded heritage assets identified during the walkover have been assigned a unique reference number and have been incorporated into Volume 4, Appendix 8.3 – Known Heritage Assets Tables. A second site visit was undertaken in June 2024 to assess the preservation of a number of World War II related assets located north-east of the Rest and Be Thankful car park to assist with the design on a new active travel route.

Consultation

A8-4.3.4. Consultation was undertaken through the DMRB Stage 2 process through the A83 Environmental Steering Group (ESG), which facilitated engagement between Transport Scotland, AWJV, and statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) and HES were consulted in relation to cultural heritage. The details of scoping consultation are presented in Volume 2, Chapter 6 – Consultation and Scoping.

A8-4.3.5. It was requested by AWJV that LLTNPA consult with West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS), who maintain the HER, on the proposed approach to the cultural heritage mitigation strategy for the Proposed Scheme. The LLTNPA confirmed they were content with this approach and that they would be happy to obtain comments from WOSAS on the proposed approach to the mitigation strategy..

Assessing Archaeological Potential

A8-4.3.6. Section A8-4.5 presents an assessment of archaeological potential for each chronological period, based on the archaeological and historical background of the area, its geology, topography and hydrology, the likelihood for evidence of past activity, and considering past disturbance which may have affected survival. For example, an area or areas within the Proposed Scheme boundary may have high potential for activity of a particular period, but with low survival.

A8-4.4. Historic Environment Baseline

Introduction

A8-4.4.1. The heritage assets which are within the Proposed Scheme and 250m study area which inform the historic environment baseline are presented in the following figure and appendix:

- Volume 3, Cultural Heritage – Figure 8.1 and
- Volume 4, Appendix 8.3 – Known Heritage Assets Table.

Proposed Scheme Location

A8-4.4.2. The Proposed Scheme is detailed in Volume 2, Chapter 4 – the Proposed Scheme and is briefly summarised here. The LTS follows the route of the existing A83 Rest and Be Thankful, on the eastern slopes of Glen Croe. The improvements to the OMR follow the route from the Rest and Be Thankful car park to the south where it meets the A83.

A8-4.4.3. In addition to the changes to the A83 Rest and Be Thankful and the OMR, the Proposed Scheme has a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) in the floodplain to the west of the OMR at 223225 705551 (centre point), and areas for biodiversity net gain (BNG).

A8-4.4.4. The broader landscape is characterised by Loch Restil, located at the northern end of the Proposed Scheme, and by the steep slopes of Beinn Luibhean and Ben Arthur to the east and north east; Ben Donich to the west and south west; and Beinn an Lochain to the north and north-west. The slopes to the south and west have been planted with commercial forestry. The Proposed Scheme and the study area crosses through two historic landscape types: plantation and rough grazing. The archaeological features located in the study area are typical for these landscape types.

A8-4.4.5. The Proposed Scheme falls within the parish of Lochgoilhead and Kilmorich in the county of Argyll. This remains the same as in the [Old Statistical Account](#) of 1792 and [New Statistical Account](#) of 1845.

Topography

- A8-4.4.6. Topography can provide an indication of suitability for settlement, and ground levels can indicate whether the ground has been built up or truncated, which can have implications for archaeological survival.
- A8-4.4.7. The general topography of the area in which the Proposed Scheme is located is characterised as a U-shaped glacial valley with steep sided slopes of the surrounding hills and a flat valley floor. The slopes of Beinn Luibhean and Ben Arthur show evidence of landslide activity in the form of scree and exposed soils migrating downhill. The floodplain of the Croe Water, to the west of the Proposed Scheme, has pastoral land and is generally flat to undulating, ranging between c.110m – 145m above Ordnance Datum (AOD; [Elevation Finder](#)) Small tributary streams are present along the glen as run-off from the surrounding hills. Towards the north of the valley, the terrain becomes steeper towards the Rest and Be Thankful car park, reaching c.260m AOD. The OMR follows the contours of the glen floor and the lower, south-western slopes of Beinn Luibhean. The existing A83 hugs the lower western slopes of the mountain but at a higher elevation than the OMR. The elevation of the Proposed Scheme ranges from c.260m AOD at the north decreasing to 95m AOD at the southern end.

Geology and Soils

- A8-4.4.8. Geology can provide an indication of suitability for early settlement, and potential depth of remains.
- A8-4.4.9. The bedrock geology along the length of the Proposed Scheme comprises the metamorphic Beinn Bheula Schist Formation ([British Geological Survey](#)) and is further detailed in Volume 3, Figure 12.2 – Bedrock Geology. Schist is used as a building stone in construction and breaks along the mineral layers ([Geology Science](#)). As quarries have been identified along the OMR, the bedrock would likely have been extracted for the stone and turf banks and sheep fanks located in the study area.
- A8-4.4.10. Superficial deposits vary along the length of the Proposed Scheme and are further detailed in Volume 3, Figure 12.1 – Superficial Geology. At the northern

end, on the A83 near Loch Restil, the superficial deposits are characterised as sedimentary hummocky (moundy) glacial deposits of Diamicton ([British Geological Survey](#)). There is no information regarding superficial deposits to the south of the junction with the B828 until the point where the A83 turns towards the south-east. This indicates that there is exposed bedrock, and this is unlikely to support past human activity. From this point to where the A83 begins to turn to the east, the superficial deposits are sedimentary Devensian – Diamicton Tills ([British Geological Survey](#)) which are typical in glacial landscapes. These soils would previously have been truncated along the carriageway of the existing A83 during construction in the 1930s. However, the depth of truncation is unknown.

- A8-4.4.11. Where the A83 turns eastwards, the soils become River Terrace Deposits ([British Geological Survey](#)) of gravel, sand, silt and clay which indicate a surface in a river valley ([British Geological Survey](#)). Superficial deposits in the OMR area include Alluvium ([British Geological Survey](#)) which comprises clay, silt, sand and gravels deposited in the floodplain of the Croe Water. The area in which the OMR is located also comprises River Terrace Deposits. The areas demarcated for BNG (Volume 3, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Natural Capital (NC) Enhancement Sites – Figure 4.7) are located within River Terrace Deposits where they are close to the OMR, and within Devensian – Diamicton Tills on the slopes of Ben Arthur and An t-Sròn. As these superficial deposits were potentially deposited during periods of human activity, it is possible that they may contain evidence of prehistoric activity such as palaeochannels and palaeoenvironmental deposits. They may also conceal former land surfaces.
- A8-4.4.12. The SuDS to the west of the OMR is within River Terrace Deposits of sedimentary gravel, sand, silt and clay ([British Geological Survey](#)). As detailed above, it is possible that these were deposited during periods of human activity and may contain evidence of such.
- A8-4.4.13. A review of the soil type across the Proposed Scheme identified it as Strichen Association, which comprises glacial drift, tills shattered and weathered rocks. The generalised soil type of Strichen are peaty podzols which are within hummocky valleys and slope moraines ([Scotland's Soils](#)). The dominant land

use for this soil association is arable farming, pasture, forestry and recreation ([The James Hutton Institute](#)). However, the [Land Capability for Agriculture in Scotland](#) map of 2010 shows the land in the Proposed Scheme is Class 6.2, which suggests that the soil is not ideal for supporting agriculture and provides grazing of moderate value. This infers that previous land use may not have supported a large number of animals or crops and likely only have supported small or intermittent grazing activity, similar to what occurs now.

A8-4.4.14. Under the existing A83 the soil is generally formed from water erosion eroding the underlying rock and would be free draining. It is unlikely that these soils would have evidence of past human activity due to the steepness of the slope and unsuitability for supporting agriculture or settlement. In the base of the glen, where the OMR is located, the soil and terrain are more suited to human activity due to the alluvial deposits and the flatter terrain. This is also the case for the proposed location of the SuDS.

Overview of Past Archaeological Investigations

A8-4.4.15. Previous archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the study area of the Proposed Scheme, listed below:

- A reconnaissance survey along the route of the A83(T) Glen Croe to Succoth for a Forest Enterprise Design Plan for the Ardgarten peninsular (WoSAS (1996) New site reports from an unsystematic reconnaissance survey in response to a Forest Enterprise Design Plan for the Ardgarten peninsular, Argyll).
- A cultural heritage assessment along the route of the OMR (CFA Archaeology (2012), Old Military Road, Rest and Be Thankful Diversion Route: Cultural Heritage Assessment).
- An archaeological evaluation at the bus turning area next to the Rest and Be Thankful car park (Argyll Archaeology (2013), Rest and Be Thankful: Archaeological Evaluation).
- A walkover survey on the hill slopes to the west of the A83 (Argyll Archaeology (2018), Rest and Be Thankful Walkover Survey).

- A desk-based assessment and walkover survey for Beinn Reithe fish farm (Arcus (2021), Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, Technical Appendix A7.1).

A8-4.4.16. The results of the 2012 and 2018 investigation pertinent to the Proposed Scheme, along with other known sites and finds within the study area, are discussed by period, below. The results of the 1996 reconnaissance survey by West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) have since been incorporated into the HER record. Therefore, heritage assets identified from this programme of works are recorded by their WoSAS Pin. The results of the 2013 evaluation did not identify any archaeological features and confirmed that a mound (WoSAS Pin 66938) identified by WoSAS as a possible cairn during a walkover survey in 2013, was a natural feature (Argyll Archaeology (2013), Rest and Be Thankful: Archaeological Evaluation, unpublished client document). The study areas for the 2021 desk-based assessment overlapped with that of the Proposed Scheme but did not contain any additional information.

Site Visit

- A8-4.4.17. A walkover survey was undertaken by the AWJV's Cultural Heritage & Archaeology team on 24 October 2023. The purpose of the survey was to determine the topography of the Proposed Scheme and existing land use; identify any previously unrecorded, visible heritage assets; ground-truth known heritage assets; and assess factors which may have affected the survival or condition of any known or potential heritage assets. The walkover also included a setting assessment of the Category C Listed Building, Glen Croe 'Rest and Be Thankful' Stone (A2) and High Glen Croe settlement (A13), both of which are within the study area. The site visit also presented an opportunity to converse with the current landowners who provided information about the past and present land use of the OMR and its environs.
- A8-4.4.18. The walkover identified seven previously unrecorded assets including four quarries (A3, A15, A16 and A53), earthworks (A22 and A24) and a milestone (A19), although these were later identified during historic map analysis. Further details are presented in the relevant sections below.

A8-4.4.19. A second site visit was undertaken on 21 June 2024 to the World War II heritage assets (A11, A64, A65, A66 and A67), adjacent to the B828, to record their location. As well as recording known assets in this area, a modern memorial (A63) was also identified. This information was used to inform the design of the active travel route.

Archaeological and Historical Background

A8-4.4.20. The following presents the archaeological and historical background related to the Proposed Scheme and the wider area, drawing on information within the study area. This provides information about the potential for archaeological assets or deposits within the Proposed Scheme and includes seven assets identified through historic mapping, nine previously unrecorded assets identified during walkover surveys conducted by WSP, 22 assets identified within previous archaeological reports and 29 assets identified within the HER data of the study area.

A8-4.4.21. The date ranges which are used to determine the archaeological and historical background are approximate and align with the Regional Archaeological Research Framework for Argyll (RARFA) as part of the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) ([Scottish Archaeological Research Framework - RARFA](#)).

Prehistoric (10,050 BC – AD 500)

A8-4.4.22. Until approximately 14,000 years ago, the majority of Scotland was covered with ice sheets. Therefore, there is very limited evidence of human activity until the Mesolithic (c.10,800 BC – c.4100 BC). During this period humans began to expand into the region and undertook hunting, fishing, manufacturing stone tools and using the topography, such as caves, for shelter, which was largely confined to the coastal areas. A drop in temperature in c.6250 BC caused a decline in the population but increased again in c.4500 BC, resulting in population growth due to an increase in resources, resettlement and inland migration from the coastal fringes as the period progressed. The majority of evidence from this period is evidenced by stone tools ([ScARF \(2016\) The Early Prehistory of Argyll: The archaeological record, research themes and future priorities for the Palaeolithic,](#)

Mesolithic and Earliest Neolithic Periods (12,000BP - 6000BP) (10,050BC - 4050BC)). Although Argyll has the most evidence of Mesolithic activity in Scotland, there is none within the study area.

- A8-4.4.23. The Neolithic (c.4300 BC – c.2200 BC) and Bronze Age (c.2200 BC – c.800/700 BC) periods in Scotland heralded the introduction and progression of farming, cereal cultivation, technological advances with metal and pottery, and monument building. There is evidence of Neolithic activity within Argyll which is mainly focused on cursus monuments and rock art at Kilmartin, approximately 40km to the south-west of the Proposed Scheme ([ScARF \(2016\), Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age c.4000 BC – 800 BC](#)). Within the study area, the strongest evidence of Neolithic activity was in the form of a possible robbed-out long cairn (A39), located 20m to the east of the Proposed Scheme. However, the date and interpretation of this asset is uncertain, and it may be a later feature of different origin.
- A8-4.4.24. In the Bronze Age, monuments continued to be constructed and modified and Beaker pottery was introduced. Trade of metal with other parts of Scotland, Ireland and northern England developed and was controlled by elite groups which lead to a conspicuous display of status in the form of monuments, offerings and feasts ([ScARF \(2016\), Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze Age c.4000 BC – 800 BC](#)). An extensive network of contacts between the elite is evident from the Bronze Age, especially on the Atlantic coastline, within the Outer Hebrides and Kilmartin Glen. By the end of the Bronze Age, the climate had deteriorated resulting in larger areas of bog which were unsuited for settlement, likely resulting in dispersal of the population. There is limited knowledge of everyday settlement activity from these periods within inland Argyll and no evidence of activity from this period within the Proposed Scheme or study area. However, based on the archaeological evidence, populations were likely based further to the west near the coast and within the islands and therefore the Study Area was most likely unoccupied and utilised intermittently for grazing.

- A8-4.4.25. The Iron Age (c.800/700 BC – c.AD 5500) in Scotland saw the focus shift from the ritual and burial sites to community activity and settlement. Duns and forts appeared in prominent positions in the landscape and crannogs were constructed in lochs. Brochs were also built but were less common in Argyll. Along with duns, these have been reclassified as Atlantic roundhouses. There is a scarcity of Iron Age activity within Argyll, but existing evidence points to a hierarchical social organisation with the size and prominence of dwellings an indication of status ([ScARF \(2016\) The Iron Age](#)). There is no definitive evidence of activity from this period with the study area. However, two possible hut circles and/or a burial cairn (A21) were recorded within Mid Glen Croe, 17m to the west of the Proposed Scheme, which are likely Iron Age in date.
- A8-4.4.26. A possible prehistoric field system comprising a rig, bank and track (A28) was recorded 5m to the south-west of the Proposed Scheme at Mid Glen Croe. The field system is indicative that the land was being exploited in the prehistoric period to support a settlement, although no settlement evidence is recorded in this location

Early Medieval (AD 400 / 500 – 1100)

- A8-4.4.27. The Iron Age in Scotland continued to approximately AD 400 with the early medieval established in Argyll by c.AD 500. By the end of the 6th Century, Scotland was divided into four regions of control: the native Britons in Strathclyde and south into Cumbria; the Picts north of the Forth to Caithness; the Angles south and east of the Forth and into Northumbria; and Dál Riata in Argyll, Kintyre and the isles which was occupied by Gaelic speakers (Ross, D. (2013) Scotland: History of a Nation). As the period progressed, Christianity became more widespread as the dominant religion, with the formation of religious centres such as Iona monastery, c.95km to the west of the Proposed Scheme. Social control changed from kin-groups, as seen in the Iron Age, towards centres of power such as Dunadd Fort, c.40km to the south-west of the Proposed Scheme, from the 6th to 9th Centuries. The arrival of the Vikings to Argyll in the late 8th Century was predominantly focused on the islands, largely in the form of raiding parties.

A8-4.4.28. Although Argyll has important early medieval examples of early Christian carved stone monuments and Viking/Norse graves, the archaeological record is relatively scarce in terms of how ordinary people lived at this time ([ScARF \(2016\), Early Medieval Argyll and Norse/Viking Argyll \(AD 400 – AD 1100\)](#)). There are no known assets dating to the early medieval period within the study area. However, it is possible that small scale settlement and agricultural practices continued from earlier periods throughout this period. Alternatively, it is possible that settlement in this period was focused within the larger power centres or island communities to the west.

Medieval (AD 1100 – 1600)

- A8-4.4.29. The medieval period within Argyll saw a change from the Gaelic-Norse cultural hybrid to being predominantly Gaelic speaking. The period also signalled the narrowing between church and secular rule, resulting in shifts in alliances and territorial change. Architecture was utilised by the secular ruling elite to demonstrate dominance and status to outsiders through castle building near coastal areas. Previous defensive inhabitations such as duns and crannogs were also re-occupied in this period, which signified links to ancestral lands ([ScARF \(2016\) The Archaeology of Medieval Argyll \(AD 1100 – AD 1600\)](#)).
- A8-4.4.30. The main trades of the population of Argyll during this period were fishing, cattle driving, textiles, small-scale silver and copper mining, bloomeries, charcoal burning, boat building and cottage crafts. There is evidence of decreased temperatures from the mid-13th Century and during the mid-15th to mid-16th centuries which would have had impacts on agriculture, diet and trade within the local population (Lamb, H.H. (1977), *Climate: Present, Past and Future*, Volume 2: *Climatic History and the Future*, Methuen Press; [ScARF \(2016\) The Archaeology of Medieval Argyll \(AD 1100 – AD 1600\)](#)). However, there is a lack of archaeological or documentary evidence of how the population lived in this period.
- A8-4.4.31. There is minimal evidence of medieval activity within the study area, with only a possible settlement comprising four houses, a kiln, enclosures and banks (A13) located at High Glen Croe, approximately 105m to the east of BNG Site 1. The

location of the settlement would have taken advantage of the flat land and fertile soils in the floor of the glen. The settlement was later replaced by a 19th Century house, associated outbuildings and field systems which indicates periods of continued settlement in this area.

Post-medieval (AD 1600 – 1900)

- A8-4.4.32. The onset of the post-medieval period is characterised by the religious and political changes brought about by the Reformation in the 16th Century, the union of the crowns in 1603 under James VI, and by religious unrest and civil war throughout the 17th and 18th Centuries. Despite significant national political changes through the union of the crowns, the majority of the population remained under the influence of the clan system. As a result, any conflicts which occurred had a direct impact on communities, economy and settlement patterns ([ScARF \(2016\), Early Modern Period \(AD 1600 – AD 1900\) and Modern in Argyll \(ad 1900 – Present\)](#)).
- A8-4.4.33. The early post-medieval period of Argyll was predominantly rural with the majority of the population practicing subsistence farming under joint tenancies. Eventually this developed to single ownership farms and estate owned forests, resulting in the population settling within townships. Notable changes across the landscape included agricultural improvements in the 17th Century, which ultimately led to the clearance of populations for sheep grazing. As the period progressed, the commercial and industrial potential of the area was exploited, resulting in improvements to communication and transport links such as canals, drovers' roads and military ways. The improvement in transport also opened the region to increased tourism ([ScARF \(2016\), Early Modern Period \(AD 1600 – AD 1900\) and Modern in Argyll \(AD 1900 – Present\)](#)).
- A8-4.4.34. Cartographic evidence from van Keulen's 1720 map ([Nieuwe afteekening van de West kust van Schotland als ook de eijlanden van Jura, Collensa, IJla, Cantijra en Arren](#)) depicts the Crow Water, leading to the shore of Loch Long to the south-east and a building or settlement called 'Glencro' to the north of the river (Plate A8-4.1). It is likely that 'Glencro' refers to the settlement now known as High Glencroe (A13), which is within the study area and discussed above.

The [Roy Military Survey of Scotland map](#) (1747-55; not reproduced) depicts the Dunbarton-Tarbet-Inverary-Tyndrum Military Road (known as the Old Military Road (OMR)) (A48), which was completed by 1749. This road was constructed under the command of Major Caulfield to facilitate the rapid movement of troops in the event of another Jacobean rebellion. Prior to this, it was likely a track or path made by travellers and drovers travelling between Argyll and the Lowland cattle markets. The road is located within the Proposed Scheme and runs parallel, west of the section of the A83 within the Study Area. From this point towards the east, the OMR is within the study area flanked by BNG areas.

- A8-4.4.35. Roy's map also shows the settlements of 'Upper Glen Crow' (A13), 'Nether Glen Crow' (A49) and 'Larach' (A58) and depicts the valley as being used for agriculture during this period. James Dorret's 1750 map ([A General Map of Scotland and Islands Thereto Belonging](#)) shows the newly constructed military road (OMR) (A48) and two circled areas with a dotted line within the glen which presumably refers to the settlements and a track between them which may have become disused following the construction of the OMR. This map also depicts the settlement of 'Larich' (A58) (Plate A8-4.2). Arrowsmith's map of 1807 ([Map of Scotland Constructed from Original Materials](#)) also shows the OMR (A48), and the settlements of 'Higher' (A13) and 'Lower Glencro' (A49), 'Larach' (A58) and 'Craigdow' (A55) (Plate A8-4.3). This map is the first to depict 'Rest & Be Thankful' at the summit of the glen, possibly referring to the Category C listed building (A2) (Plate A8-4.4). The granite monument commemorates the transfer of responsibility of the road from the military to the Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges in 1814, indicating that the threat of another uprising had passed.

Plate A8-4.1 – An excerpt from *Nieuwe afteekening van de West kust van Schotland als ook de eijlanden van Jura, Collensa, IJla, Cantijra en Arren*, by van Keulen (1720) showing ‘Glencro’ which is likely High Glencroe (A13). Reproduced with permission from Leiden University Library.



Plate A8-4.2 – Excerpt from *A General Map of Scotland and Islands Thereto Belonging* by James Dorret (1750) depicting the newly built OMR (A48), the settlement of Larich (A58) and a possible track between Upper (A13) and Nether (A49) Glen Croe. Reproduced with permission from the National Library of Scotland.



Plate A8-4.3 – Excerpt from *Map of Scotland Constructed from Original Materials* by Aaron Arrowsmith (1807) depicting the OMR (A48), settlements ‘Higher Glencro’ (A13), ‘Lower Glencro’ (A49), ‘Larach’ (A58) and ‘Craigdow’ (A55) and the possible location of the ‘Rest and Be Thankful’ memorial stone (A2). Reproduced with permission from the National Library of Scotland.



Plate A8-4.4 – View to the east showing the ‘Rest and Be Thankful’ memorial stone (A2) at the summit of the Glen, with the A83 road behind. From site visit on 24 October 2023.



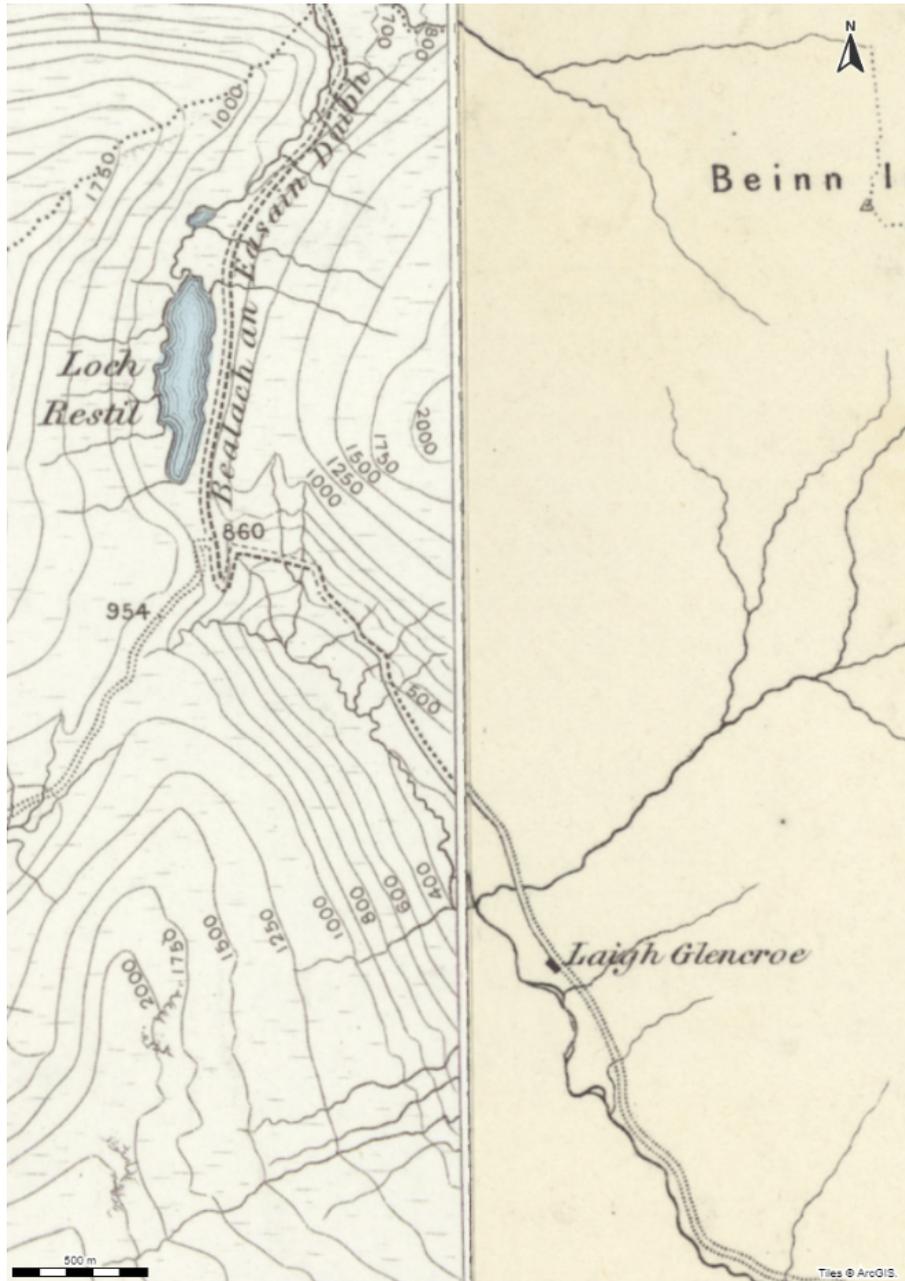
A8-4.4.36. A review of historic Ordnance Survey mapping was undertaken of the Proposed Scheme and study area. The Ordnance Survey one-inch 1st edition maps ([Sheet 38 – Loch Lomond](#) surveyed between 1859 and 1864 and [Sheet 37 – Inverary](#) surveyed between 1860 and 1871) shows the OMR (A48) and a building at Laigh Glencroe (formerly Nether Glen Crow / Lower Glencro (A49)) which was visible during the site visit as a ruined structure (Plate A8-4.5 and Plate A8-4.6). The farmstead also had evidence of associated structures and enclosures. There is no evidence of Upper Glen Crow / Higher Glencro (A13) which may suggest a hiatus in settlement sometime between 1807 and 1859, although it is shown on the Ordnance Survey six-inch 1st edition ([Argyllshire, Sheet CXXXIV](#)

surveyed 1870) (Plate A8-4.7)). This map series also shows the settlements previously known as Craigdow and Larich, now depicted as Creagdhu (A55) and Larachpark (A58).

Plate A8-4.5 – View to west showing the stone remains of a building from Laigh / Lower Glencroe (A49) from the site visit on 24 October 2023.



Plate A8-4.6 – Excerpt from *Ordnance Survey one-inch 1st edition* maps, Sheet 37 (left) and Sheet 38 (right) showing the OMR (A48) and Laigh Glencroe (A49). Reproduced with permission from the National Library of Scotland.



- A8-4.4.37. The Ordnance Survey six-inch 1st edition (Argyllshire, Sheet CXXXIV, surveyed 1870) depicts the OMR (A48) and buildings and enclosures of High Glencroe (A13) and Laigh Glencroe (A49) (Plate A8-4.7). The 'Rest and Be Thankful' is noted on the map, presumably indicating the location of the monument (A2). A milestone (A19) is shown on the OMR and was identified in this location during the site visit (Plate A8-4.8). The map also depicted agricultural enclosures including post-improvement sheep fanks and enclosures (A36, A50 and A51). These would have been associated with Laigh Glencroe (A49). One of the structures depicted at Laigh Glencroe may be buildings or structures associated with sheep dip preparations (A47), which is adjacent to A51. This map also depicts two unroofed buildings (A52) to the east of Laigh Glencroe which may be the remains of an earlier farmstead.
- A8-4.4.38. [Argyllshire, Sheet CXLIII](#), surveyed in 1865 depicts the buildings and enclosures of Creagdhu (A55), including a sheep fank (A56) and Larachpark (A48) which are both adjacent to the OMR. Further to the west, there is a small rectangular school building (A57), between Creagdhu and an area labelled as Little Rest, as shown on [Argyllshire, Sheet CXLII](#), surveyed in 1866.
- A8-4.4.39. Further to the south from Laigh Glencroe, the six-inch map shows a rectangular building within an enclosure to the west of the Croe Water, to the west of BNG area Site 3b (note this section of the six-inch map is not reproduced). A visit in 1996 identified the remains of a settlement (A54) comprising drystone wall buildings including a house, banks, sheilings and mounds of stone (WoSAS (1996) New site reports from an unsystematic reconnaissance survey in response to a Forest Enterprise Design Plan for the Ardgarten peninsular, Argyll). As the building (presumably the house) is depicted as unroofed on the six-inch map, this implies that the settlement was abandoned by 1870. The settlement is not depicted on earlier maps and does not appear to have a name which may suggest that occupation was short lived.
- A8-4.4.40. The terrain and ground cover of the landscape is shown on the six-inch map as rough pasture and boggy with rocky outcrops, which is how it appears today. The map also shows that any new settlements were constructed near the OMR.

Additionally, the six-inch maps show the locations of several milestones similar to (A19) along the route of the OMR (A48), suggesting that there was an increase in traffic along the route between Inverary and Tarbet that would necessitate the need to know distances between locations.

Plate A8-4.7 – Excerpt from *Ordnance Survey six-inch 1st edition* map, showing the OMR (A48), milestone (A19), High Glencroe (A13), Laigh Glencroe (A49) and the probable location of the Rest and Be Thankful monument (A2). Reproduced with permission from the National Library of Scotland.



Plate A8-4.8 – View to north-west showing the milestone (A19) showing ‘Inverary 17 miles’. High Glencroe (A13) can be seen in the distance. From the site visit on 24 October 2023.



A8-4.4.41. By the publication of the Ordnance Survey six-inch 2nd edition ([Argyll and Bute Sheet CXXXIV.SE](#) surveyed 1897), the buildings and enclosures associated with High Glencroe (A13) are unchanged and the milestone (A19) is also still present. The buildings and enclosures associated with Laigh Glencroe are still

visible, with a substantial extension of the sheep fank (A51). The ‘Rest and Be Thankful’ monument (A2) is also visible on the map in the same location as in 1870 (Plate A8-4.9).

Plate A8-4.9 – Excerpt from *Ordnance Survey six-inch 2nd edition* map, showing the OMR (A48), milestone (A19), High Glencroe (A13), Laigh Glencroe (A49) and the probable location of the Rest and Be Thankful monument (A2). Reproduced with permission from the National Library of Scotland.



A8-4.4.42. Creagdhu (A55), including the sheep fank (A56), and Larachpark (A58) are relatively unchanged on the 2nd edition [Argyll and Bute Sheet CCLIII.NW](#),

surveyed in 1897 with the exception of the unroofed building at Creagdhù no longer shown. The school building (A57) is also not present on the 2nd edition [Argyll and Bute Sheet CLII.NE](#) with the area it was located an enclosed area with trees.

- A8-4.4.43. Other assets from the post-medieval period include buildings, shielings, bridge piers, drystone walls, quarries, a bank and culverts. As well as being recorded on the HER, these were also identified from a cultural heritage assessment (CFA Archaeology, 2012), a previous walkover survey (Argyll Archaeology, 2018) and as part of the walkover survey undertaken by WSP in October 2023. A review of historic mapping also identified features which have yet to be added to the HER such as the sheep fank (A56) visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map (Argyllshire, Sheet CXLIII).
- A8-4.4.44. The ruined remains of a house (A1) are recorded within the study area, to the west of Loch Restil at the north of the Proposed Scheme. The stone-built, roofless structure is visible from the A83 road. The HER entry suggests that it formed part of a settlement as there is evidence of 10 further features although it is unclear what these represent. As there is no evidence of the building or other features on historic mapping, this suggests that it may have been a fishing hut or other temporary structure constructed at the end of the post-medieval period or early 20th Century.
- A8-4.4.45. A second building from the post-medieval period may be the remains of ruined longhouses (A39), located 20m to the east of the Proposed Scheme, close to the OMR (A48). There is no evidence of the features on historic mapping, they are in close proximity to sheep fank (A36) and may have been associated with sheep management such as storage buildings. As indicated in paragraph A8-4.4.23 it is possible that the remains are evidence of a prehistoric long cairn.
- A8-4.4.46. The remains of approximately 15 shielings are recorded within the study area. The majority are within the northern half of the study area, and one cluster is located in the southern half. Three of these (A40, A42 and A46) were recorded by Argyll Archaeology and CFA Archaeology, located either side of the Croe Water on the lower slopes of the mountain. One shieling (A40) was on the

border of the Proposed Scheme with the others in the study area. No evidence of the remains on the slope near the Croe Water on the eastern slope above the A83 (A40) were identified during the walkover undertaken in October 2023. This group was described as having platforms or walls which survived to a height of 0.6m. A group of five turf-built shielings (A31 – A35) were recorded 13m to the east the Proposed Scheme. The shielings in this area were within a flat, south-west facing area of ground with one (A35) having a north-facing entrance. Originally seven shielings were recorded but when the area was revisited in 2018 by Argyll Archaeology, only five were present (Argyll Archaeology, 2018). An isolated shieling (A17) was located c.200m from the Proposed Scheme, c.640m from the cluster of five shielings (A31 – A35), on the steep slopes of Beinn Luibhean. The remains of this structure, recorded by Argyll Archaeology in 2018, survived as a sub-rounded pile of stones with a fan of rubble on the south-western side and a platform.

- A8-4.4.47. The shielings would have been used as seasonal shelter with sheep grazing on the slopes of the mountain and within the glen. At least six shielings were recorded as part of (A54), immediately to the west of the Proposed Scheme. As described in A8-4.4.39, the shielings appeared to be part of a settlement within an enclosure. It is possible that several other features which comprised this asset (A54), such as mounds of turf covered stones, were degraded shielings.
- A8-4.4.48. The remains of bridge piers (A43) and (A44) were recorded by CFA Archaeology in 2012, within the Proposed Scheme, adjacent to the OMR (A48). The pier remains are probably the remains of a post-medieval bridge carrying the OMR over this section of the Croe Water.
- A8-4.4.49. Eleven sections of turf-covered drystone wall were recorded by CFA Archaeology along the length of the OMR (A48), within the Proposed Scheme. The sections (A7, A12, A14, A18, A20, A26, A27, A29, A30, A37 and A41) demarcate the edge of the carriageway, are approximately 1.2m wide, and survive to a height of c.0.5m. In some instances, where the wall has been damaged, it has been repaired with concrete binding. The walls are likely contemporary with the construction of the OMR (A48).

- A8-4.4.50. Eight quarries from the post-medieval period were recorded within the Proposed Scheme or study area. Three quarries (A3, A15 and A53) are located within the Proposed Scheme, with another (A16) identified by WSP during a walkover in October 2023, located at points adjacent to the OMR (A48). Gravel quarries (A59 and A60 – A62) were identified from a review of the 1st edition six-inch OS maps. Two of these (A59 and A62) were within or partially within the boundary of the Proposed Scheme. It is likely that the quarries were mined for creating the foundations, carriageways, drystone walls or sheep fanks along the OMR (A48) and are probably 18th Century in date.
- A8-4.4.51. A turf-covered stone bank (A24) was identified during the walkover, 20m from the OMR (A48). The bank was within the floor of the glen and likely formed a now-disused field boundary. It is likely that that the bank was originally a drystone wall with the stone robbed during a period of agricultural reorganisation. It is possible that the stone was re-used in the construction or repair of the stone-built structures, such as sheep fanks.
- A8-4.4.52. A boulder wall (A38) was also recorded 16m to the east of the Proposed Scheme. This was identified by Argyll Archaeology in 2018 and may have been a bank or field boundary.
- A8-4.4.53. Eighteen culverts were recorded by CFA Archaeology in 2012 along the OMR (A48). The culverts are not of any historic interest and are not considered further. Although many may have their origins in the later part of the post-medieval period, many have later alterations and contain plastic pipes.
- A8-4.4.54. The archaeological evidence from the post-medieval period was dominated by the construction and use of the OMR (A48). Despite the OMR improving transport links, settlement continued to be small-scale and related to using the land for agricultural purposes, predominantly sheep management, as indicated by the shielings and sheep fanks.
- A8-4.4.55. In addition to the archaeological evidence, the post-medieval period contains evidence of intangible heritage in literature related to the landscape, remoteness and travail to the summit of the OMR (A48). This includes commentary from

naturalist Thomas Penant in 1769; writer Dr Samuel Johnson in 1773; French Scientist Barthélemy Faujas de St Fond in 1784 and poet John Keats in 1818 ([Helensburgh Heritage Trust - Rest and Be Thankful](#)). A guidebook was authored in 1799 by Sarah Murray who embarked on an extensive tour of Scotland ([A Companion and Useful Guide to the Beauties of Scotland - Chapter XIV](#)). In 1803 Dorothy Wordsworth recounted her and William Wordsworth's journey to the summit of the OMR (A48) where they encountered "a seat with the well-known inscription Rest and be thankful." William Wordsworth later wrote a sonnet in 1831 about the journey to the summit titled '[Rest and Be Thankful – At the Head of Glencroe](#)'.

Modern (1901 – Present)

- A8-4.4.56. By the beginning of the 20th Century, Scotland's population had increased within the larger cities due to the increase in industry, such as shipbuilding and coal mining. As well as migration from remote areas to the urban centres, large numbers of people emigrated to Canada, Australia, the USA and New Zealand in search of employment. By the onset of World War I, Scotland's economy was booming through the production and supply of ships, machinery and arms production. In the inter-war period, there was a level of stagnation as heavy industry declined. However, World War II saw an increase in manufacture, industry and improvements in agriculture. The post-war period again resulted in Scotland entering into economic downturn which was relieved through the discovery of North Sea oil and gas in the 1970s.
- A8-4.4.57. The landscape of Argyll in the modern period is relatively similar to that of the post-medieval, albeit with the focus of the fishing industry limited to Campbelltown, Tarbet and Oban. Despite continuing as a largely rural region, it was at the forefront of technological advancement with the Kinlochleven Aluminium works (c.55km to the north of the Proposed Scheme), constructed in the early 20th Century and operated by a large hydro-electric power station ([ScARF \(2016\), Early Modern Period \(AD 1600 – AD 1900\) and Modern in Argyll \(AD 1900 – Present\)](#)). There has been limited development in the modern period within Argyll, with the focus remaining on agricultural practices and tourism. However, the realignment of the A83 road in the 1930s has increased

communication and transport networks, providing better access between the highlands and lowlands.

- A8-4.4.58. The 1924 six-inch Ordnance Survey maps (surveyed in 1914) shows minimal change from the second edition with an additional rectangular structure or enclosure at Creagdhù (A55) and Larachpark (A58) containing a school ([Argyll and Bute Sheet CXLIII](#), [Argyll and Bute Sheet CXLII](#) and [Argyll and Bute Sheet CXXXIV](#)). By the First Land Utilisation Survey between 1931-35 (not reproduced), ([Sheet 62 - Loch Katrine & Loch Earn](#) and [Sheet 61 – Oban & Loch Awe](#)), the construction of the realignment of the A83 is underway with an area to the east and south of the Crow Water marked as an area of ‘new plantation’. The one-inch seventh series Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1954 shows the A83 as complete ([Loch Lomond](#)). This map also shows that the buildings at High Glencroe (A13) are roofed and a building at Laigh Glencroe (A49) as unroofed and unoccupied by this time. This is largely how the Proposed Scheme and study area appears today.
- A8-4.4.59. Heritage assets within the Proposed Scheme and study area from the modern period are predominantly related to the use of the OMR (A48) and World War II. The modern period also contains evidence of intangible cultural heritage, particularly in relation to the OMR (A48) and the views across Glen Croe.
- A8-4.4.60. Several cultural heritage assets related to World War II Home Guard units were recorded within the Proposed Scheme and in the study area. The majority of these assets were located at the northern end of the Proposed Scheme, c.6.6km from the Loch Long Torpedo Range (Canmore ID 135114 / WoSAS Pin 43407) which operated between 1912 and 1986. Although operational during World War I, it was most active in World War II as the Royal Navy Torpedo Testing Station and Range, with over 12,000 torpedoes fired in 1944. The World War II assets recorded within the Proposed Scheme and study area were strategically located facing south over the glen, towards the testing facility to identify potential threat at this important military location. They may also have been located to defend from invasion via Loch Fyne leading from the Firth of Clyde to the west.

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- A8-4.4.61. A concrete base (A67) was recorded as part of a group of World War II heritage assets located within a natural rocky crevasse adjacent to the B828, with the only possible views towards Beinn Luibhean to the north-east. This base contained two sections. The remains of a small Nissen hut (A65) were also recorded within the crevasse, near the concrete base (A67). The Nissen hut was constructed of bricks, had two sections and the remains of the curved, corrugated iron roof were in the vegetation next to the structure (Plate A8-4.10). Nissen huts had various uses during World War II but the size of this example indicates that it may have been for storage rather than accommodation. The somewhat hidden location of these assets may be indicative of their use, such as for covert operations.
- A8-4.4.62. Further concrete bases (A5, A8 and A9) were identified during a heritage assessment, located near the summit of the OMR on the approach to the Rest and Be Thankful car park (CFA Archaeology (2012), Old Military Road, Rest and Be Thankful Diversion Route: Cultural Heritage Assessment, unpublished client document). The concrete bases were assumed to be World War II era as footings for structures. These bases were later used for structures associated with the Rest and Be Thankful hill climb race.

Plate A8-4.10 – View towards north-east showing the remains of Nissen hut (A65) within a crevasse. Photo taken on 21 June 2024 during WSP site visit.



A8-4.4.63. Two spigot mortar emplacements (A11 and A64) were recorded within the northern part of the Proposed Scheme and study area. Spigot mortars were used to mount Blacker Bombards which were an infantry anti-tank weapon used by Home Guard units in the event of German invasion. Both emplacements comprised cylindrical concrete bases with a metal pin in the centre and had a commanding view across Glen Croe. One emplacement (A11) was immediately adjacent to a boulder wall (A66), which may have been used to shield operators (Plate A8-4.11). Four spigot mortar emplacements were recorded within the HER but only two were visible during the site visit in June 2024.

Plate A8-4.11 – View to south across Glen Croe showing spigot mortar emplacement (A11) and boulder wall (A66). Photo taken on 21 June 2024 during WSP site visit.



A8-4.4.64. Other heritage assets from the modern period within the study area include a quarry, bridges and a flood defence bank. The quarry (A25) located c.35m from the boundary of the Proposed Scheme likely dates from the 1930s as part of the construction of the existing A83 and was identified by Argyll Archaeology. Two masonry arched bridges (A4 and A6), and a concrete block constructed bridge (A45) were presumed to be constructed in the modern period. The bridges carry the OMR (A48) across burns which lead to the Crow Water to the south. Another feature presumed to be from the modern period was a possible flood defence (A22), identified in October 2023 in an area of flat ground to the west of the OMR (A48). The bank of the flood defence appeared to be turf overlying stone and would have been used in water management during periods of high river levels to ensure the carriageway of the OMR was not affected. It is possible that this feature has its origins in the earlier post-medieval period.

- A8-4.4.65. The Proposed Scheme and its environs also contains evidence of intangible heritage within the modern period. This relates to the use of the OMR, glen and summit at the car park for motor racing, filming and as an area for memorials.
- A8-4.4.66. In the early 20th Century, a hill climb to the summit of the OMR (A48) was used to test automobiles. Rolls Royce tested 'The Silver Ghost' in 1907 as part of a test tour around the UK ([AX 201 - The Silver Ghost](#)). This resulted in the Hill Climb which began in 1949 and included an approximate one mile drive along the OMR (A48). The Hill Climb attracted many famous motor sporting figures including Jimmy Stewart and Sir Jackie Stewart and thousands of spectators. Footage of the races from the 1950s and 1960s shows the races at the harpin bends near the summit ([Riverside Museum Appeal: Rest and Be Thankful, Rest and Be Thankful Hill Climb 1950](#) and [RAC Rally. Rest and Be Thankful](#)). Footage from several races shows that the concrete bases (A5), (A8) and (A9) were re-used as footings for iron corrugated buildings erected for the purposes of the races ([Riverside Museum Appeal: Rest and Be Thankful, Rest and Be Thankful Hill Climb 1950](#) and [RAC Rally. Rest and Be Thankful](#)). Additionally, brick, roofed storage areas (A10) and A23) were also recorded at two points along the route of the OMR (A48). During the site visit in October 2024, the landowners confirmed that there is a vintage car race every 10 years along the OMR (A48) with the next likely in 2027 (Diane Kinghorn Pers. comm 2023), which confirms that the road is still integral to the motor racing community.
- A8-4.4.67. In the 20th and 21st Century, the summit of the OMR at the Rest and Be Thankful car park has been used as a film and TV location, including scenes in My Name is Joe (1998), Rab C. Nesbit (1988 – 99) and Restless Natives (1985). In 2004, the area was used as the filming location for the demise of the character Barry Evans from EastEnders, where he was pushed by his wife Janine Butcher and fell to his death on the rocks below. The scene has gained cult following in recent years with fans of the show seeking out the location and the subsequent 'memorial' plaque placed at the side of the B828 at 222861, 707115 (Plate A8-4.12). In 2023, it was used as the filming location for Kevin Wall's short film [Rest and Be Thankful](#), which documents the meeting of two strangers as they overlook the glen. In October 2023, the landowners informed the WSP Cultural

Heritage team that filming along the OMR (A48) is frequent as there are no modern structures or features. They also stated they had recently hosted a filming project and that a rapper had filmed a music video in the glen (Diane Kinghorn Pers. comm 2023). The area has also been immortalised in songs such as Joe McAlinden's [Rest and Be Thankful](#) from 2015 and Waverley's 2023 [Rest and Be Thankful](#) both of which refer to the landscape. The latter contains lyrics which refers to the landslides, road closures and views from the summit of the glen.

Plate A8-4.12 – View to south showing memorial plaque for the EastEnders character Barry Evans following his on-screen death. Photo taken on 21 June 2024 during WSP site visit.



A8-4.4.68. The summit of the OMR (A48) at the Rest and Be Thankful has been used in recent years as a location for memorials. The memorials are usually in the form

of plaques, lanterns and floral tributes which are placed on or adjacent to a rocky outcrop, offering a view over Glen Croe. Some have also been fixed to the concrete foundation base for a World War II hut (A5). A visit to the summit of the OMR (A48) at the Rest and Be Thankful in October 2023 also confirmed that there had been sub-surface disturbance for the burial of ashes. A subsequent visit in June 2024 identified an isolated, black granite memorial within the vegetation to the south of the B828 (A63), at the base of a promontory overlooking the glen. Although the summit of the OMR has been noted as providing scenic views across the landscape and a place for reflection, the placing of memorials has been relatively recent with the practice becoming more widespread at this location since the late 1990s (*Diane Kinghorn Pers. comm 2023*).

Plate A8-4.12 – View to south showing modern memorials at the summit of the OMR (A48). Photo taken on 21 June 2024 during WSP site visit.



A8-4.5. Baseline Assessment

Factors affecting archaeological survival

- A8-4.5.1. The factors affecting archaeological survival in the Proposed Scheme are related to the construction of the exiting road network comprising the A83 and OMR (A48). The floor of the glen and lower slopes of the hillsides have been used for pasture and have not been subjected to deep ploughing. As the land

within the Proposed Scheme is Class 6.2 ([Land Capability for Agriculture in Scotland](#)) this suggests that the soil is not ideal for supporting agriculture and provides grazing of moderate value.

- A8-4.5.2. As the LTS element of the Proposed Scheme will be on top of the existing road, there would be no direct physical impacts to archaeological deposits should they exist below the layers of the existing road. Similarly, the construction of the OMR would also have affected archaeological survival. However, unlike the existing A83, the OMR follows the contours of the glen on the lower, shallower slopes of the mountain and would not have required the same level of ground disturbance as the A83. As such, it is possible that there is archaeological survival below the OMR carriageway.

Archaeological Potential

Prehistoric

- A8-4.5.3. Three cultural heritage assets from the prehistoric period were identified within the study area: a possible Neolithic long cairn (A39); two possible Iron Age hut circles or a cairn (A21); and a field system (A28). Heritage assets from this period would likely be located close to the floor of the glen near the Croe Water, potentially in the location of the SuDS and Site 3b of the BNG areas where there have been minimal agricultural practices. However, the area has been extensively surveyed and as such has low archaeological potential from this period. Any remains are most likely to be related to agricultural activity, although ritual activity cannot be discounted, given the possible long cairn recorded in this area.

Early Medieval

- A8-4.5.4. There was no evidence of activity from the early medieval period within the Proposed Scheme or study area. The majority of evidence from this period within Argyll is concentrated in the island and larger power centres with limited evidence of everyday populations. As such, the potential for previously unrecorded archaeology from the early medieval period is considered to be low

within the Proposed Scheme and in the study area. Any remains are likely to be related to agricultural practices.

Medieval

- A8-4.5.5. The only evidence of medieval activity was within the study area at High Glen Croe (A13), which comprised a possible small settlement. There is potential for assets relating to medieval agricultural practices to be identified within the undeveloped, agricultural area in the floor of the glen. As such, the potential for previously unrecorded archaeology from the medieval period is low.

Post-medieval

- A8-4.5.6. Evidence of the post-medieval period is prevalent within the Proposed Scheme and study area, in the form of the OMR (A48), turf covered walls, farmsteads and associated agricultural structures, bridges, culverts, shielings and quarries. The period is well documented through mapping and from identification of cultural heritage assets through previous heritage investigations. Therefore, it is unlikely that previously unrecorded remains from this period exist within the Proposed Scheme. Additionally, post-medieval heritage assets within the Proposed Scheme and study area are extant and in moderate to good condition. As such, the potential for post-medieval remains is low.

Modern

- A8-4.5.7. The modern period within the study area is represented by heritage assets related to home guard activity during World War II, bridges, a quarry and a flood defence. As with the post-medieval period, the modern period is well documented and has good map coverage. It has also benefited from the identification of cultural heritage assets through previous studies in the study area and extant assets are in moderate to good condition. Therefore, the potential for unrecorded modern remains is low.

Assets within the Proposed Scheme

- A8-4.5.8. The cultural heritage assets known to be located within the Proposed Scheme are detailed below, by component. These assets may be subjected to direct physical impacts or to changes within their setting.

- LTS
 - A2: Category C listed building which is a 19th Century stone monument
 - A3, A15 and A25: post-medieval quarries
 - A11: spigot mortar base from World War II
 - A40: remains of a post-medieval sheiling
 - A48: section of the OMR and
 - A66: a boulder wall likely associated with spigot mortar base A11.
- BNG
 - A63: 21st Century black granite memorial and
 - A64: spigot mortar base from World War II.
- Improvements to the OMR
 - A4 and A6: modern masonry arched bridges
 - A5, A8 and A9: concrete foundation plinths
 - A7, A12, A14, A18, A20, A26, A27, A29, A30, A37 and A41: lengths of turf covered stone walls lining the OMR A48
 - A10: modern storage area associated with motor racing
 - A19: post-medieval granite milestone depicting the distances to Inverary and Arrochar from the OMR (A48)
 - A22: modern flood defence bank
 - A23: modern storage area associated with motor racing
 - A43 and A44: remains of post-medieval piers from a bridge
 - A45: modern bridge
 - A48: section of the OMR and
 - A53 and A62: post-medieval quarries.

A8-4.6. Conclusion

- A8-4.6.1. The HEDBA identified heritage assets within the Proposed Scheme and study area. These were identified through existing records, documentary evidence, historic mapping, previous archaeological investigations, site walkovers and aerial imagery to curate a cultural heritage baseline to inform the impact assessment within LTS EIA Report, Volume 2, Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage.

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- A8-4.6.2. The HEDBA concluded that the Proposed Scheme and study area had evidence of limited prehistoric activity with evidence of small-scale settlement within the glen. Farmsteads began to appear along the route of the OMR (A48), which was constructed in the 18th Century, one of which (A13) may have originated in the medieval period. The area was relatively unchanged in the modern period with some of the earlier farmsteads still in use. The main change in this period was the introduction of World War II military structures at the head of the OMR (A48).
- A8-4.6.3. A baseline assessment of the Proposed Scheme determined that while the discovery of previously unrecorded remains cannot be completely discounted, there was low archaeological potential for all periods. This conclusion was reached based on the fact that the area has been well surveyed and has been extensively mapped. The baseline assessment also identified assets within the Proposed Scheme which may have direct physical impacts, as well as those which may have changes within their setting. These will be assessed as part of the impact assessment within LTS EIA Report, Volume 2, Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage.