

A possible almshouse at Creag a'Phuirt, Loch Lomond, Argyll & Bute, Scotland

Data Structure Report
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Creag a'Phuirt, Loch Lomond, Argyll & Bute, Scotland

NGR: NN 32755 12881

Data Structure Report

on behalf of

Clan Macfarlane Worldwide

Cover plate: The structure at Creag a'Phuirt being excavated

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Date:23/06/2025...

[Amended:.....Name of James Macfarlane corrected to John Macfarlane]

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Abstract

An excavation was carried out on a site at Creag a'Phuirt on the west shore of Loch Lomond in 2017. It was thought that this might be an almshouse built by John Macfarlane opposite his house on Island I Vow between 1612 and 1625 to provide for travellers passing through the district. The building proved to be a small, well-built, slightly trapezoidal-shaped structure, with a slate roof, but no obvious entrance or fireplace. The floor consisted of re-deposited loch-side material with water-rolled stones and contained a sherd of late 16th/17th century window glass and a broken sherd of 17th century pottery. Considering its location and date, this structure may well have been the almshouse perhaps comprising two stories, with access from an outer stair. By the mid-19th century the walls had been robbed and the site left ruinous. The site has been used in recent times for wild camping.

1. Introduction

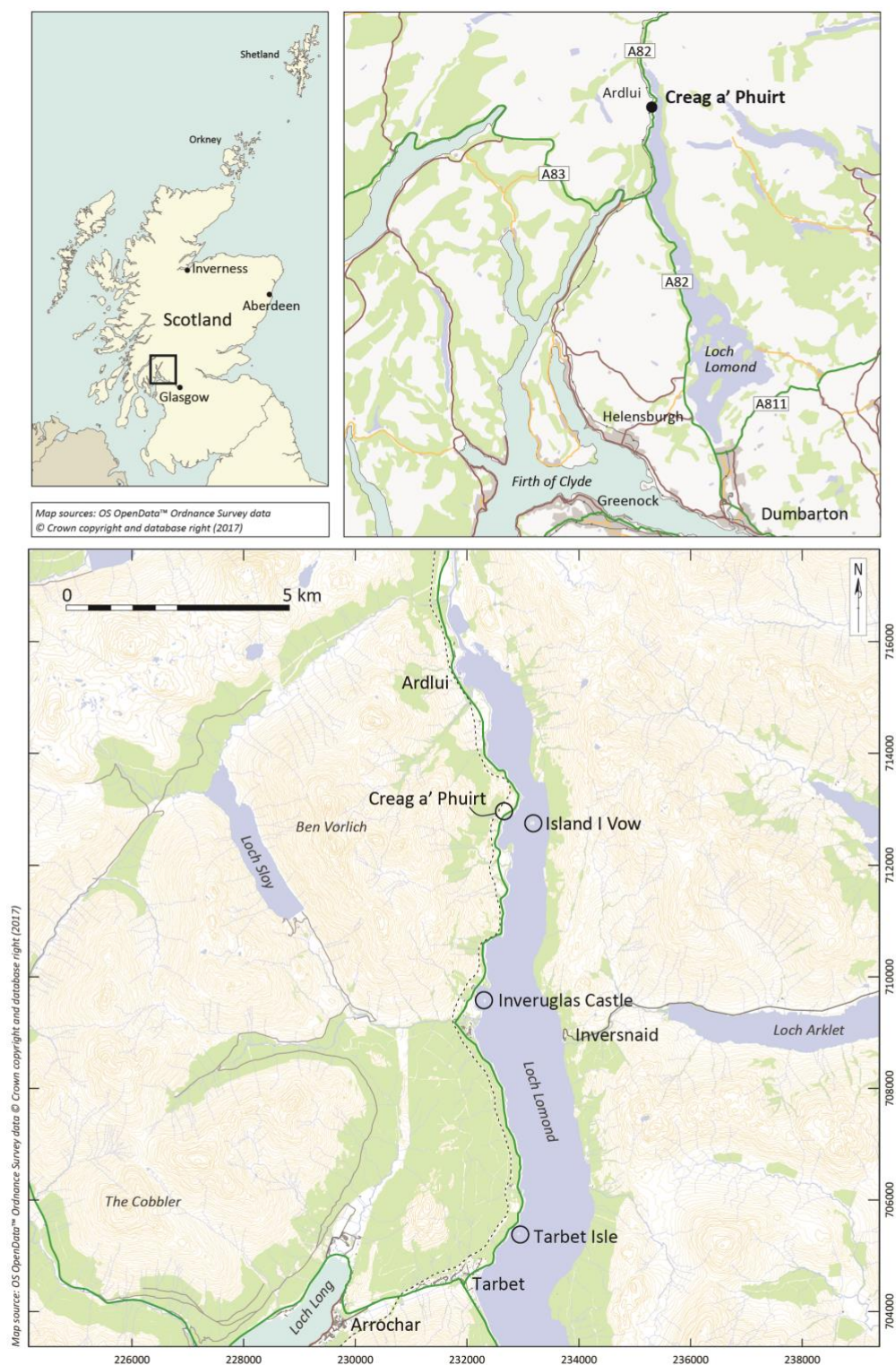
A walkover survey of Arrochar Parish was carried out in 2016 on behalf of Clan Macfarlane Worldwide (James 2016). Over 80 new sites were identified, of which Site No. 28 at Creag a'Phuirt was chosen as the focus for an excavation in 2017. It was thought that this site could be the remains of an almshouse built by John Macfarlane in the early 17th century (Fraser 1869, 98). The dig was carried out by Calluna Archaeology assisted by local volunteers between 11th and 19th April 2017.

Site 28 was one of the most significant discoveries made during the walkover survey in 2016, consisting of the footings of a rectangular structure in the vicinity of Creag a'Phuirt. Several different spellings for the local place names have been used over the past. Those names used in this report are as depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map dated to the mid-19th century. John Macfarlane is said to have built an almshouse at Creag a'Phuirt in the early 17th century opposite his house on Island I Vow. This almshouse was endowed with 'ample resources' for the 'reception of poor passengers who might happen to require shelter in visiting or in passing through the district' (Fraser 1869, 98). Fraser also notes that '[o]n the front of the almshouse there was placed a stone, containing his own armorial bearings impaled with those of his fourth wife, Margaret Murray of Strowan, being three mullets'. By 1869 only the wall 'tracks' could be seen (ibid). Creag a'Phuirt is a Gaelic name meaning 'the croft of the landing, or where persons embark or disembark from a small boat' (Irving 1879; Fraser 1869).

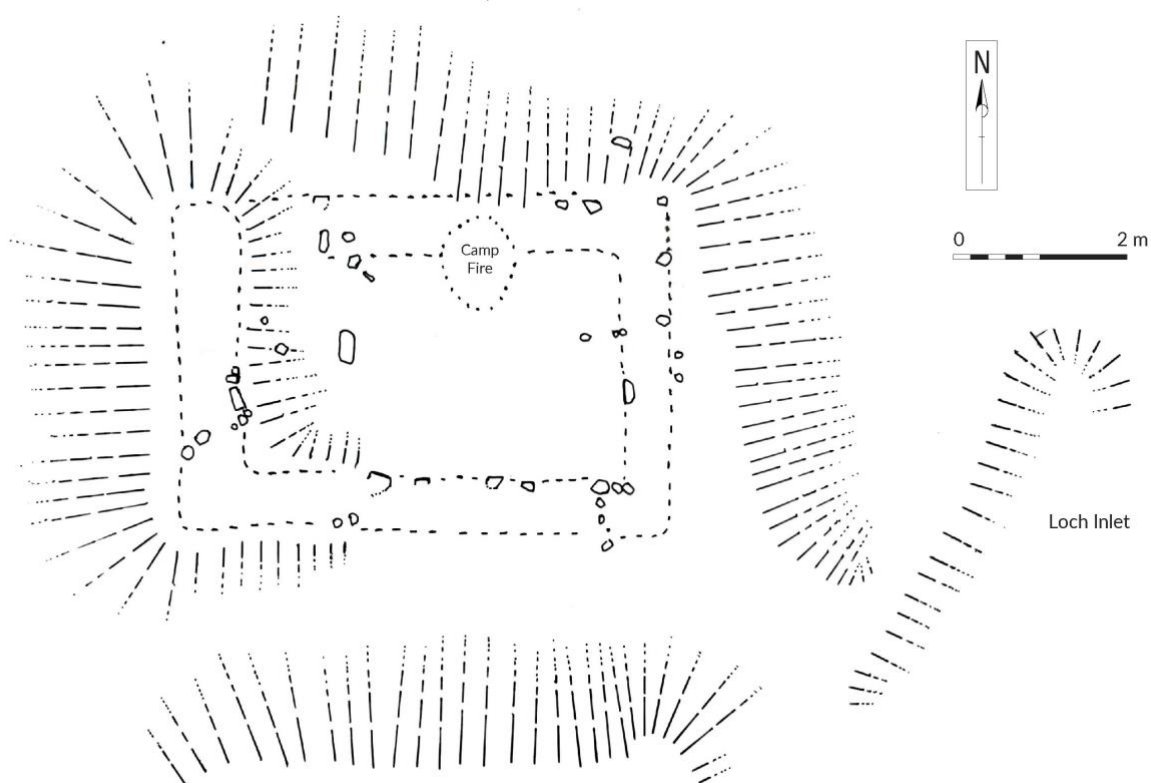
The National Monuments Register (see Canmore NN31SW 3) notes that an Ordnance Survey team found no remains at the site in 1956. However, during the walkover survey in 2016 led by this author, the low foundations of a structure were noted at NGR NN 32755 12881 (James 2016). These foundations measured 5.2m by 3.8m externally (see Illus. 1, 2 & 3). Other nearby potential archaeological features included a low stone wall and a revetment facing the loch.

2. Location, Geology and Topography

Creag a'Phuirt is located on the north-west shore of Loch Lomond opposite Island I Vow (Ellan Vhow) between Inveruglas Isle and Ardlui (NGR: NN 32755 12881; see Illus. 1). It is located on a small headland, sheltered from the loch, behind a small rocky outcrop (see Illus. 4 & 6). The local geology consists of Southern Highland Group sedimentary rocks including sandstone and mudstone (psammite and pelite; British Geological Survey: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The superficial deposits are not recorded.



Illus. 1: Location of Creag a' Phuirt, Argyll & Bute



Illus. 2: Pre-excavation plan of the site (James 2016)



Illus. 3: Photo of the site at Creag a'Phuirt, 2016



Illus. 4: Bonfire spot over the structure, 2017

3. Archaeological and Historical Contexts

3.1 Archaeological background

Previous work around the shores of Loch Lomond has highlighted the relative scarcity of prehistoric sites in the area which is likely to be a result of water level changes, poor soils, steep slopes and later cultivation and building works on the most favourable ground. Sites that are known of include a Mesolithic site at Midross (Dene Wright, pers comm) and several crannogs or artificial islands, which generally date to the later prehistoric and medieval periods (Baker 1997; Baker and Dixon 1998).

3.2 Historical background

The parish of Arrochar formed the traditional clan lands of the Macfarlanes between the 13th and the 18th centuries, during which period their clan chiefs possessed a number of strongholds at the north end of Loch Lomond, including castles/dwellings on Inveruglas Isle and Island I Vow (Fraser 1869; James 2016). By the 16th century, the Macfarlanes had their main residence on Inveruglas Isle, comprising a substantial, mortar-bonded, sandstone structure with a Z-plan characteristic of 16th century castles (Fraser 1869, 69). A more domestic residence with outbuildings was built (or enlarged) on Island I Vow in 1577 by the then-laird of Arrochar, Andrew Macfarlane (Fraser 1869, 78). Pont describes Island I Vow in his 16th century text as ‘Ylen-ow with a fair dwelling with orchards’ (Pont maps 1583-1614, National Library of Scotland transcripts). John Macfarlane is said to have built an almshouse opposite his house on Island I Vow during the reign of James VI (1567-1625).

When the castle on Inveruglas Isle was burned by Cromwell's troops in 1653 or 1654, the Macfarlanes re-occupied Island I Vow, and then constructed a new house at Inverioch (or New Tarbet) in Arrochar in 1697, after which Island I Vow was used as a storehouse (Canmore NN31SW 2). By the 19th century only 'the wall tracks of a house' could still be traced at a spot called 'Croiteaphurte' (Creag a'Phuirt) (Irving 1879; Fraser 1869). Thereafter no trace of the building was found. There are several archaeological sites in the vicinity which belong to the period between the 18th and 20th centuries and these include farmsteads, buildings, shielings, a railway line, the old Military Road (NN31NW9) and bridges (See James 2016).

4. Summary Objectives

The primary research question guiding the work was:

- Is Site 28 the remains of the 16th/17th century almshouse?

Secondary research questions included:

- What function did the structure serve?
- Is there any evidence for an earlier use of the site?

5. Methodology

All excavation was carried out by hand (see Illus. 5) and all trenches were backfilled to pre-excavation levels at the end of the excavation. All archaeological features were planned, photographed and recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets and digital photography. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and 1:20 as appropriate. Bulk samples were taken of archaeological deposits that had the potential to contain artefacts or macroplant remains. A hand-drawn offset plan of the site was produced to locate the trenches (see Illus. 7).

Trench 1 measuring 3.5m by 7m and was laid out over the east side of the structure, and Trench 2 measuring 2.8m by 4.5m was laid out over the west side. The gap between them was deturfed at the north end towards the end of the dig, to try and locate any doorway.

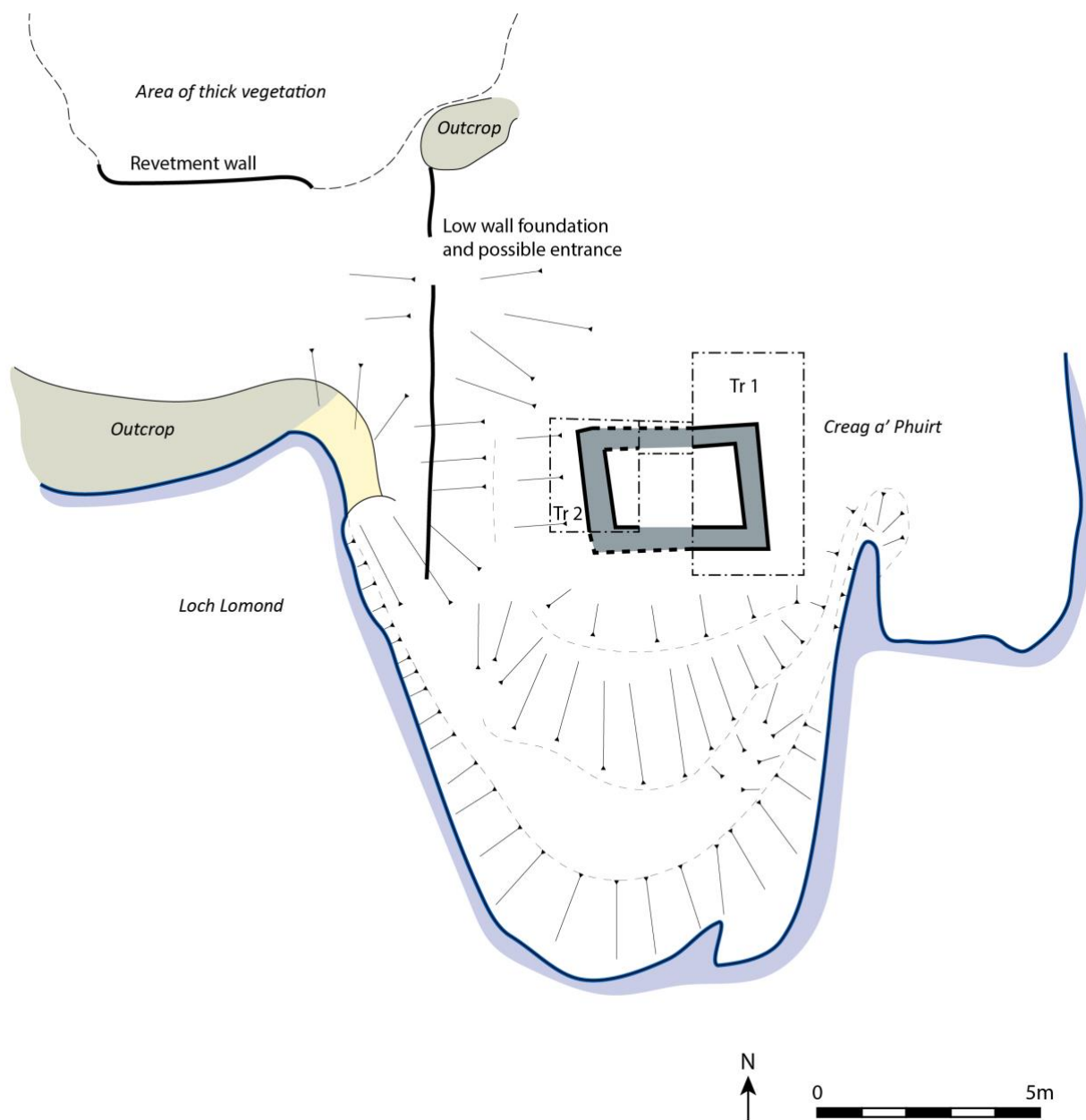


Illus. 5: Day 1 deturfing team

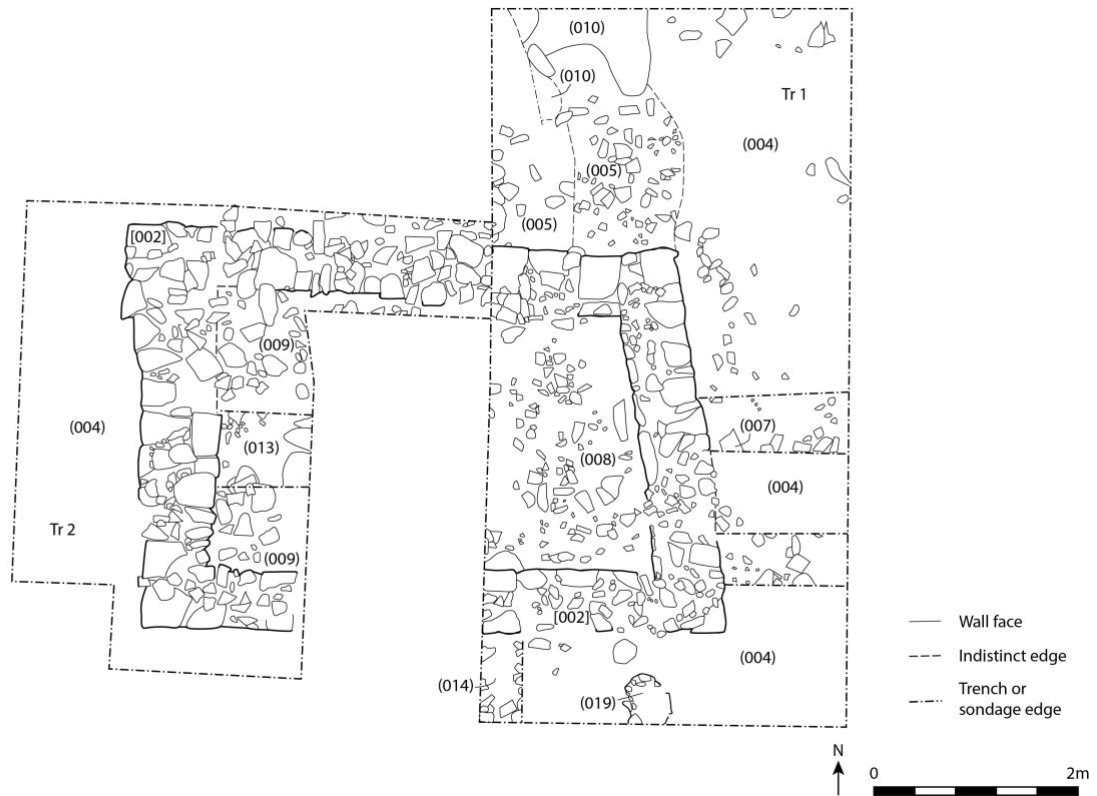
6. Results

6.1 Trenches 1 & 2 (see Illus. 6, 7 & 8)

Within Trenches 1 & 2 the natural subsoil (016) consisted of mottled silt and stones and was revealed at a depth of between 0.15m and 0.40m below the surface (see Illus. 9). The surface of the subsoil (016) sloped down gently from the south to the north. Occasional small fragments of charcoal were seen on the surface of the subsoil both inside and outside the structure.



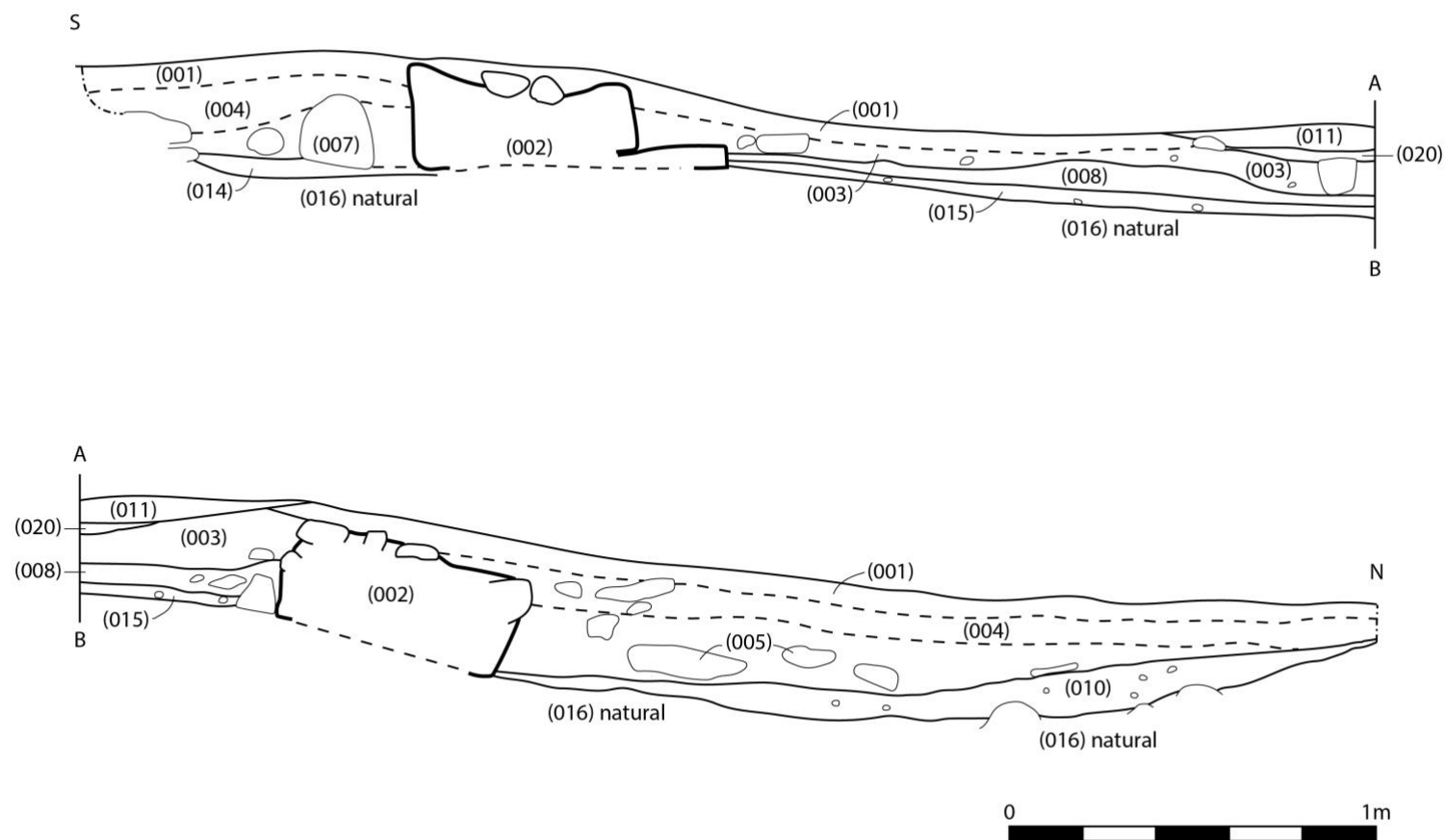
Illus. 6: Location of excavation trenches, 2017



Illus. 7: Plan of the trenches



Illus. 8: Trench 1, the east side of the structure



Illus. 9: East-facing section

Four walls of a drystone, slightly trapezoidal-shaped structure (002) were constructed directly onto the subsoil (016) (see Illus. 8 & 9). The walls (002) were 0.6m – 0.7m wide and formed a structure measuring 5.5m by 3.9m externally (see cover).

6.2 Trench 1

The walls (002) were of locally quarried stones with a core of earth and small stones, which survived to only one or two courses high within Trench 1. No entrance or internal features were identified within this trench. Inside the structure, the basal layer above subsoil consisted of a thin (0.03m – 0.05m) layer of loose mid-brown sandy silt (015) containing occasional small, water-rolled pebbles of quartz and other stones (see Illus. 9). These round stones did not form a continuous surface and appeared to be randomly spread throughout the layer (015).

Layer (015) was sealed by a layer of compact mid-brown grey sandy silt (008) 0.02m – 0.07 m deep, containing numerous roots and angular stones. The interior of the building was then infilled with dark brown peaty soil (003) containing numerous roots and occasional large stones.

Outside the structure to the north, the subsoil formed a slight hollow within which there was a layer of mottled red/brown and orange silt (context 010) up to 0.12m deep (see Illus. 10). This layer abutted, but did not go beneath the wall (002). Layer (010) was sealed by angular stones within a soil matrix of compact dark brown peaty soil (005) and a layer of dark brown peaty soil with numerous roots (004).

Outside the structure to the south, the subsoil (016) lay beneath a layer of dark brown clay silt (014) 0.02-0.10m deep. This in turn lay beneath a layer of angular stones within a dark brown peaty matrix (007), thought to be equivalent to layer (005). Layer (007) was also sealed by the rooty layer (004).

These layers were sealed by turf and topsoil (001). The uppermost deposit was a modern bonfire spot in the centre of the trench, which contained dark brown ash (020), white/grey ash (011) and an informal circular stone setting (see Illus. 4).



Illus. 10: Red/brown and orange silt (010) to the north of the structure

On the south side, outside the structure, a second small stone bonfire spot (context 019) lying against the southern trench edge was revealed when the topsoil was removed.



Illus. 11: Happy volunteers

6.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 2.70m by 4.50m and was located over the west side of the structure. The wall (002) was of a similar build to that in Trench 1 and was also constructed directly onto the subsoil. However, the wall in trench 2 survived up to five courses high (about 0.4m). No evidence of an entrance or fireplace was noted in this side of the structure.

A small sondage, measuring 0.7m by 0.9m, was dug against the inside of the west wall (002). The subsoil here was seen at a depth of 0.3m below the surface (see Illus.12 & 13). The subsoil was covered with a layer of dark brown silty sand with occasional rounded pebbles and small fragments of charcoal (018), similar to layer (015). Above layer (018) was a layer of orange brown silty sand (013), which also contained occasional small rounded pebbles, which was in turn covered by a layer of loose yellow sand (012/017). Layer (012/017) was then sealed by a layer of angular stones within a peaty matrix (009), (see Illus. 12).

Outside the structure, the layer of angular stones (004) continued into Trench 2. These layers were sealed by turf and topsoil (006).



Illus. 12: Trench 2, west wall (002) and internal tumble (009) revealed



Illus. 13: Trench 2, sondage against the west wall



Illus. 14: More happy volunteers

6.4 Finds

See Table 2 (Appendix 1) for a full list of finds. The layer of turf and topsoil (contexts (001) and (006)), contained modern material including decimal coins, tent pegs, bottle glass, white ceramics and a plastic toy soldier. A clay pipe bowl from layer (001) was badly burned and had no inscription or decoration, and is likely to be 19th or 20th century in date (see Illus. 15 & 16). One fragment of roof slate was also retrieved from layer (001).



Illus. 15 & 16: Clay pipe from context (001)

Layer (003) contained bottle glass, metal tins and nails. A single water-rolled pebble was collected, as well as angular quartz flakes, which were probably natural. Layer (004) contained two complete, clear glass jam jars, one depicting the Robertson Golly (officially discontinued in 2002), metal tin fragments (see Illus. 17), a number of tent pegs, a rubber bottle stopper and several roof-slate fragments.



Illus. 17: Corroded metal tin from context (004)

Roof-slate fragments were also retrieved from layers (005) and (007) (see Illus. 18). Layer (008) also contained a small number of angular, probably natural, quartz fragments.



Illus. 18: Slate with nail hole from context (007)

Layer (010) contained a single flake of reddish brown chert with possible reworking, which might be prehistoric in date (see Illus. 19) and several fragments of what might be very corroded metal tins (see Illus. 20).

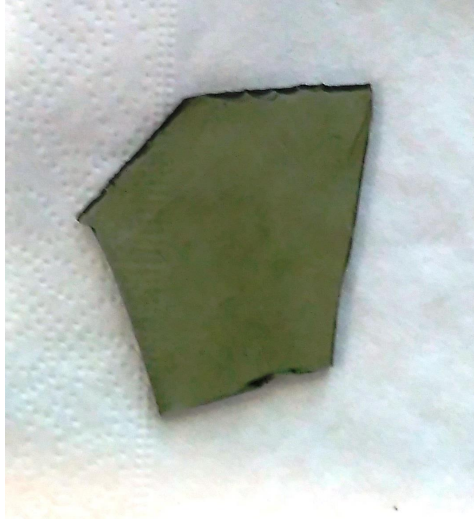


Illus. 19: Chert fragment from context (010)



Illus. 20: Corroded metal tin from context (010)

The floor layer (018) contained one sherd of clear, pre-industrial window glass (see Appendix 5, Glass Report by Helen Spencer and Illus. 21). The floor layer (015) contained a single sherd of pottery identified as 17th century in date (George Haggarty pers. comm.), (see Illus. 22), a small corroded nail, a corroded lump of metal, a roof-slate fragment and a fragment of possible burnt daub or brick (see Illus. 23 & 24).



Illus. 21: Window glass from floor layer (018) Trench 2 (dated to the late 16th or early 17th century) (Helen Spencer pers. comm.)



Illus. 22: Broken pot sherd from floor layer (015) (dated to the 17th century) (George Haggarty pers. comm.)



Illus. 23 and 24: Two sides of a piece of burnt daub or brick from context (018)



Illus. 25: View of the possible almshouse from the north with rising ground behind

7. Discussion

The excavation revealed the foundations of a slightly trapezoidal-shaped, well-constructed, possibly two-storied structure. The construction, location and date suggest that these may have been the foundations of the reported almshouse (see Illus. 25).

The building was built directly onto the subsoil and there was no evidence of any other structures beneath it. The only evidence for anything earlier than the 17th century was a single sherd of chert, which had possible signs of re-touching and could therefore be prehistoric. However, very little can be said about a single artefact such as this, found within a deposit containing later material. It may be residual evidence of occupation of the area beside the loch, but this evidence is very slight.

The building was small, extending for 5.5m east-west and 3.9m north-south. The walls survived to a maximum height of 0.4m in the west end. They were drystone walls about 0.6m to 0.7m wide, built directly onto the subsoil. Although the floor plan of the building was slightly asymmetrical, it was well-constructed with substantial quarried stones used to face the walls, and smaller stones within the core. No entrance was identified within the surviving foundations. It is possible that an entrance may have been located in the south wall, which was not fully revealed, but this is unlikely, because it would have been awkward to access due to the rising ground behind (see Illus. 25).

The floor of the building consisted of layers of sandy silt and silty sand (contexts (015) and (018)), which contained numerous small rolled stones. This floor deposit was probably brought up from the nearby loch side, hence the inclusion of the water-rolled stones. The floor deposits were deeper in the west side than in the east, and contained a single broken sherd of pottery and a sherd of window glass, the dates of both being consistent with a late 16th or early 17th century date for the structure. The metal finds were undiagnostic, and the small fragment of slate may have derived from the roof. These few finds support a late 16th or early 17th century date for the structure.

If the building was utilised for shelter, as suggested by the documentary reference (Fraser 1869, 98), the lack of a fireplace, charcoal or any burnt deposits within the building would be unusual. However, it is possible that it may have been a two-storied structure with a fireplace on the first floor and access via an external wooden stair, which could explain the absence of a fireplace, evidence of burning and a ground floor doorway from the archaeological record. The ground floor could have been used for storage, with an access from the first floor within the structure. As Sue Furness has pointed out (pers. comm.) the existence of an armorial stone would suggest that there was a significant entrance to the structure which the stone would probably have been located above.

The floor and the area surrounding the walls were sealed by layers containing numerous angular stones, which were probably derived from the walls. There was an absence of large stones similar to the outer facing stones, suggesting that these may have been removed for re-use elsewhere, leaving only the smaller stones that had once made up the core of the walls. This would indicate that the building was deliberately demolished sometime before 1869, when Fraser commented that only the 'wall tracks' could be traced (Fraser 1869). Fragments of slate were found throughout the site, many with nail holes, indicating that the roof was made of slate, probably acquired from the local quarry at Luss. The single sherd of window glass suggests that there was at least one glass window within the structure, possibly a sign of its relatively high status and it is likely that the glass window would have been re-used elsewhere, along with the good stone.

The mottled silt (context 010) seen outside the structure and extending towards the north contained fragments of corroded circular metal tins, and probably represented the remains of numerous campfires. It contained ash, presumably derived from peat, but no visible charcoal. Layer (010) lay beneath the layer of tumble (005), suggesting that it could have been deposited before the structure was demolished.

Time line

1567	James VI on throne
1577	Andrew Macfarlane built house on Island I Vow
1612	John Macfarlane acceded to title, Chief of the Macfarlanes
	John Macfarlane built almshouse
c. 1620	John Macfarlane married fourth wife Margaret Murray
1625	James VI died
1653/4	Macfarlanes re-occupy Island I Vow
1697	Inverloch House built
1869	Wall traces of almshouse seen by Fraser
1956	No trace of almshouse
2016	Possible foundations of almshouse rediscovered

Although the actual date for the construction of the almshouse is not recorded, the timeline above suggests that it would have been built sometime between 1612 and 1625. The artefacts from the dig indicate a period of use of this structure consistent with an early 17th century date and for the almshouse to have gone out of use prior to the 18th century. It is therefore likely that when the new Macfarlane house was built in 1697, interest in maintaining the almshouse for the benefit of travellers was reduced and the building was left to ruin. The site may then have attracted visits from informal travellers who may have utilised the flat area around the building for camping as it has done to the present day.

Attention was first drawn to this area by the presence of the Gaelic place name 'Creag a'Phuirt' on the 1st edition OS map. Its meaning as 'the croft of the landing, or where persons embark or disembark from a small boat' was suggested by one author (Fraser 1856) and this would fit the topography of this site well, given its

location next to a sheltered sandy bay, which would be suitable for landing a small boat (see Illus. 6). The revetment wall and low foundation wall to the west of the structure both attest to there being more activity in this area than previously realised, perhaps forming a sheltered landing place.

The almshouse was probably accessed by travellers via an offshoot from the drove road that extended down the west side of the loch (see map in Haldane 1997). There are two road lines in this vicinity marked on the 1st edition OS map. One close to the shore (perhaps the Old Military road) which is followed by the present A 82 and another higher up the hill which may be the old drove road. Travellers in the early 17th century would have included local people taking produce to market, pilgrims, as well as more itinerant ‘peddlar[s] and packsm[e]n’ (Haldane 1997, 148), perhaps providing temporary lodgings and sustenance that would also benefit the local people. There was a drovers stance at the top of the Loch at Inverarnan and when Falkirk replaced Crieff as the main ‘tryst’ (after 1770) the flow of cattle would have been more north to south along Loch Lomondside, than in earlier times (Adamson 214, 213-4 & 228-30).

Building an almshouse in the early 17th century would have involved a substantial financial outlay and such charitable works would have reflected the substance and status of the giver. A gazetteer of hospitals in Scotland has been carried out which includes poorhouses (39), almshouses (26), leper hospitals (23) and many with unidentified functions (Hall 2006; Hall 2017). An almshouse often refers to a permanent residence for poor people (Cowan & Easson 1976), but could also indicate as a place of rest for travellers. The place-name ‘Spittal’ is often associated with former locations of medieval hospitals, or lands once owned by hospitals, although several spittal sites are located in places with no other evidence for a hospital (Hall 2006, 90). This suggests that the ‘hospitality’ aspect of the place-name may reflect its original function along a routeway. The gazetteer does not include any hospitals, spittals or almshouses in the West of Scotland, the nearest to this site being at Kilpatrick in West Dunbartonshire (ibid, 102). The gazetteer is based mainly on Cowan and Easson’s research into the documentary sources, backed up by some new information that came to light during the survey. Fairly comprehensive though this may be in the well-documented east coast and Lowlands of Scotland, it probably does not represent the full picture of lesser sites providing hospitality to travellers and pilgrims in the west of Scotland and the Highlands. For example, Edgar’s map of 1745 shows the place name ‘Spittle of Inverarnan’ at the north end of Arrochar Parish, to the south of the *Allt Arnan*, at the site of a previously unrecorded deserted settlement (James 2016, 24-5). This was unlikely to be a hospital in the sense of a place to care for the sick, but may have been a stopping point or an inn on the route along the west side of Loch Lomond (see also Adamson & Bailie 2015). ‘Spittle of Inverarnan’ is a different site to that of the Drovers Inn at Inverarnan which is on the north side of the *Allt Arnan*.

Being located on the shore of Loch Lomond opposite John Macfarlane’s house on Island I Vow will have influenced how the almshouse was maintained and used, who stayed in the building and for how long it was in use. There is currently no more information about the history of the almshouse, and further documentary research is recommended. It is possible that it ceased to be maintained at the end of the 17th century when the Macfarlanes moved their main residence to Inverloch in Arrochar, and that better facilities for travellers became available at the inn at Inverarnan.

The site has latterly been used for camping, which represents a form of continued ‘occupation’, without the formality of a building and facilities. The deposits represented by context (010) located outside the building appeared to be of burnt turf and contained fragments of metal tins and other corroded metal and these appear to be derived from camping activity prior to the final demolition of the building.

8. Recommendations

Apart from a general text on cattle droving in Scotland (Haldane 1997), a PhD on ‘rural commercial practice in

the Scottish Highlands' (Adamson 2014) and the excavation of an 18th and 19th century Inn in Strathlachan, Argyll (Adamson & Bailie 2015), the movement of pre-18th century travellers, hospitality and routeways along Loch Lomond has been generally under-researched. Further documentary research, as part of the on-going Macfarlane Worldwide Project in Arrochar Parish, could help to uncover more information about the almshouse and other 'spittal' sites, which would provide a picture of contemporary movement and control in the area. This is the second 17th century building in the area that the author has revealed, the first being the structure on Tarbet Isle, which was probably used as a look-out point and store house (James 2016).

Comparison of the corroded metal from two contexts (004) and (010) may help to establish if these were similar objects and therefore possibly of a similar date. This would help to determine when the burning took place outside the building. Radiocarbon dating is of little use in the recent past, however processing of the samples and analysis of the botanical remains may shed more light on activity at this site.

9. List of Sources

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11. Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Tables / Concordances

Table 1: Context information

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Compaction</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Texture</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Description/interpretation</i>	<i>Stratigraphy and/or phasing info</i>
001	1	Layer	Compact	Dark brown	Silty	0 - 0.05	Turf & topsoil, lots of roots	Above all layers apart from (011)
002	1	Structure					Drystone wall of local grey mica schist. Stones vary in size 0.20 – 0.40m. Outer stones blocky with smaller stones forming core. Forming a trapezoidal-shaped structure	Wall constructed on subsoil (018) and abutted by other layers
003	1	Layer	Compact	Dark brown	Peaty	0.10 - 0.15	Rooty soil beneath topsoil within structure	Probably the same as (004)
004	1	Layer	Compact	Dark brown	Peaty	0.10 - 0.15	Rooty soil beneath topsoil outside the structure	Probably the same as (003)
005	1	Layer	Compact	Dark brown	Peaty soil with angular stones	0.10 - 0.20	Angular stones seen on the N side of wall (002). Tumble from the wall when it was dismantled	Sealed by (004), over (010)
006	2	Layer	Compact	Dark brown	Silty	0 - 0.05	Turf & topsoil, lots of roots	Above all layers
007	1	Layer	Compact	Dark brown	Peaty soil with angular stones	0.10 - 0.20	Angular stones seen on the E side of wall (002). Tumble from the wall when it was dismantled	Sealed by (004)
008	1	Layer	Compact	Mid-brown/grey	Sandy silt	0.02 - 0.10	Lots of roots and angular stones	Sealed by (003), over floor (015)
009	2	Layer	Compact	Dark brown	Peaty soil with angular stones	0.10 - 0.20	Angular stones seen on the interior E side of wall (002). Tumble from the wall when it was dismantled. Deeper than elsewhere on the site because wall (002) is highest here	Sealed by (006), over (013)
010	1 & 2	Layer	Moderate	Mottled	Silt	0.02-0.10	Burnt patch to the N of wall (002)	Sealed by (005) and over

				Red/brown/orange				natural (016)
011	1 & 2	Layer	Loose	White/grey	ash	0.08	Modern bonfire, wood ash	Over (001)
012	2	Layer	Loose	Yellow	sand	0.10	Clean sand, possibly remnant of wall core matrix	Abutted wall (002) below (009) mixed with more angular stones
013	2	Layer	Loose	Orange/brown	silty sand		Floor layer also contained small rounded pebbles	Sealed by (012)
014	1	Layer	Compact	Dark brown/black	Clay silt	0.02 - 0.10	Natural subsoil with occasional quartz fragments	Beneath tumble (007) & (004)
015	1	Layer	Loose	Mid-brown	Sandy silt		Contains occasional rounded pebbles, quartz and other stones	Beneath (008). Over (016)
016	1 & 2	Layer	Compact	Mottled orange/brown/pink	Silt & stones		Natural subsoil with small patches of charcoal on its surface	Beneath all layers
017		Layer	Loose	Light yellow/brown	Sandy silt		Contains large angular stones, seen in the sondage in the W half of the site. Demolition debris with lighter coloured soil matrix (wall core?)	Beneath (009), over floor (018)
018		Layer	Loose	Dark brown	Silty sand		Occasional small rounded pebbles. Small fragments of charcoal possibly from layer below (surface of subsoil)	Beneath (013), (012) and (017)
019		Layer	Loose	Dark brown and white	Ash		Modern bonfire, wood ash, not excavated	Over (004) sealed by (001)
020		Layer	Loose	Dark brown/black	Ash	0.05	Modern bonfire, wood ash	Sealed by (011), over (003)

Table 2: Finds

<i>Context no.</i>	<i>No. of pieces</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	1	Clay	Clay pipe bowl, very worn and burnt
001	26	Glass	Green bottle fragments
001	5	Glass	Clear bottle fragments
001	10	Glass	Thin clear vessel fragments
001	1	Metal	Stainless steel teaspoon
001	1	Metal	Tent peg
001	16	Metal	Nails, staples, zipper & misc. objects
001	1	Plastic	Toy soldier
001	3	Quartz	Angular fragments
001	1	Rubber	Bottle stopper
001	1	Shell	Mussel shell
001	1	Slag	Dark-coloured waste
001	5	Slate	Roof fragments
003	1	Clay	Sphere (for plant-pot drainage)
003	3	Glass	Clear bottle fragments
003	9	Glass	Green bottle fragments
003	3	Metal	Tins & nails
003	8	Quartz	Angular fragments
003	2	Quartz	Rounded pebbles (c. 40mm & 25mm diameter, respectively)
004	1	Coal	Fragment
004	1	Glass	Clear jam jar: 'Keiller Fine Jams and Jellies'
004	1	Glass	Small clear jam jar: Robertson's 'Golly'
004	6	Glass	Clear bottle fragments
004	9	Glass	Green bottle fragments
004	3	Metal	Tent pegs
004	18	Metal	?Food tin fragments
004	6	Metal	Nail, hinge, sheet & metal bar
004	1	Quartz	Rounded pebble (c. 30mm diameter)
004	3	Quartz	Angular fragments
004	1	Rubber	Bottle stopper 'BARR'
004	12	Slate	Fragments of roof slate
005	5	Slate	Large roof slate fragments
006	1	Coin	10p
006	6	Metal	Tent peg & tin fragments
006	1	Metal	Hoe
006	2	Pottery	White ceramic sherds
007	10	Slate	Fragments of roof slate
008	4	Quartz	Angular fragments
010	1	Chert	Pink/brown flake, possible reworking
010	numerous	Metal	Fragments of ?food tins
015	1	Pottery	Red fabric with worn green glaze 17 th century. Broken into 3 pieces
015	2	Metal	Corroded lumps, 1 possible nail (no head)
018	1	Glass	Clear window sherd
018	1	Slate	Fragment
018	1	Burnt clay	Daub/brick?

Table 3: Samples

Sample no.	Context no.	No./size bag/bucket	Reason for sampling				Application/comments
			Pot	Lithic	Bone	Botanicals	
001	010	S				X	Charcoal?
002	013	S				X	Charcoal?
003	015	S				X	Coal/charcoal?
004	018	S				X	Charcoal?

Table 4: Drawings

Drawing no.	Sheet no.	Context	Subject	Scale
001	1	002	Plan of structure, nearby walling and revetment	1:100
002	2	002, 004, 005, 009	Plan of E side of structure	1:20
003	3	001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 007, 008, 010, 014, 015, 016	Section through structure	1:10
004	4	002, 004, 013, 009	Plan of W side of structure	1:20
005	5		Revetment wall and low wall forming sheltered landing place	1:100

Table 5: Digital photographs

Photo no.	Context no.	Description	From (compass)
CA001-001	001, 011	Bonfire spot before excavation	NE
CA001-002	001, 011	Bonfire spot before excavation	E
CA001-003	001, 011	Bonfire spot before excavation	E
CA001-004	001, 011	Bonfire spot, stones removed	N
CA001-005	001, 011	Bonfire spot, stones removed	N
CA001-006	001, 011	Bonfire spot, stones removed	N
CA001-007		Elaine	
CA001-008		Ian	
CA001-009		Elaine, Margaret, Libby & Ian	
CA001-010		Elaine, Margaret, Libby & Ian deturfing	
CA001-011	001, 011	Deturfing	NE
CA001-012	001, 011	Deturfing	E
CA001-013	001, 002, 003	Deturfing in Trench 1	SW
CA001-014	001, 002, 003	Deturfing in Trench 1	N
CA001-015	001, 002, 003	Deturfing in Trench 1	E
CA001-016	001, 002, 003	Deturfing in Trench 1	E
CA001-017		View up the loch	
CA001-018	001, 002, 003	Deturfing in Trench 1	S
CA001-019	001, 002, 003	Deturfing in Trench 1	SW
CA001-020	001, 003	Deturfing in Trench 1, rooty soil	
CA001-021		Valerie & clay pipe bowl	

CA001-022		Clay pipe bowl detail	
CA001-023	003	Trowelling surface	SW
CA001-024	003, 004	Trowelling surface	N
CA001-025	002, 003, 004	Trowelled surface of Trench 1	N
CA001-026	002, 003, 004	Trowelled surface of Trench 1	W
CA001-027	002, 003, 004	Trowelled surface of Trench 1	SE
CA001-028	002, 003, 004	Trowelling surface of Trench 1	SE
CA001-029	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	W
CA001-030	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	W
CA001-031	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	W
CA001-032		Diggers	
CA001-033	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	W
CA001-034	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	W
CA001-035	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	S
CA001-036	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	W
CA001-037	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble. View to Island I Vow	W
CA001-038	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	E
CA001-039	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	E
CA001-040		Valerie, Alison, Wendy, Sue, Irene & Elaine	
CA001-041		Visit from LLTNP wardens	
CA001-042	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble	SE
CA001-043		Visit from Colin Stark	
CA001-044	002, 003, 004, 008	Removing layers 003 & 004 onto tumble, Trench 1	SW
CA001-045	006, 009	Deturfing Trench 2	N
CA001-046	004, 002	Trench 1	N
CA001-047	002, 003, 004, 008	Trench 1, 001 removed	N
CA001-048	002, 003, 004, 008	Trench 1, 001 removed	N
CA001-049	002, 003, 004, 008	Trench 1, 001 removed	W
CA001-050	002, 008	Trench 1, interior surface of tumble, S end	W
CA001-051	002, 008	Trench 1, interior surface of tumble, centre	W
CA001-052	002, 008	Trench 1, interior surface of tumble, N end	W
CA001-053	002, 009	Trench 2, topsoil 006 removed	SW
CA001-054	002, 009	Trench 2, topsoil 006 removed	NW
CA001-055	002, 009	Trench 2, topsoil 006 removed	SW
CA001-056	004, 007, 008	Trench 1, sondage to E of wall 002	E
CA001-057		Alison, Kath & Ewen	
CA001-058		Roof slate with nail hole	
CA001-059		Johnny with roof slate	
CA001-060	002, 009	Trench 2, tumble around wall	E
CA001-061	002, 009	Trench 2, tumble around wall	S
CA001-062	002, 004, 005, 010	Trench 1, removing 004 in NW corner	S
CA001-063	002, 005	Trench 1, tumble 005 exposed.	E
CA001-064	005	Trench 1 detail	E
CA001-065	002, 005, 010	Trench 1, 010 appearing at N end	N
CA001-066	002, 004, 005,	Trench 1, topsoil removed	S
CA001-067	002, 005	Trench 1, tumble to N of wall 002, with slate	N
CA001-068	005	Trench 1, detail of slate in 005	N
CA001-069	009	Trench 1, sondage laid out	NE
CA001-070	002	Trench 1, wall becoming clearer	SE
CA001-071	002	Trenches 1 & 2	N
CA001-072	002	Trenches 1 & 2	N
CA001-073		Ian, Isaac, Johnny, Lesley	

CA001-074	002, 010	Planning the site	N
CA001-075	010	Areas of burning outside the structure	N
CA001-076	010	Areas of burning outside the structure	W
CA001-077	010	Areas of burning outside the structure	W
CA001-078	002, 007	Planning the site	NE
CA001-079	002, 009, 012	Sondage against W wall, top course of wall	E
CA001-080	002, 009, 012	Sondage against W wall	E
CA001-081		Colin & drone	
CA001-082		Planning the site	
CA001-083	002, 006,	Deturfing in Trench 2	E
CA001-084	002, 009, 012	Sondage against W wall	SW
CA001-085	002	Digging area between Trenches 1 & 2	W
CA001-086		Colin & drone	
CA001-087		Colin & drone	
CA001-088		Colin & drone	
CA001-089		Colin & drone	
CA001-090		Colin & drone	
CA001-091		Drone	
CA001-092		Cleft in rock to E of site	
CA001-093		Sue & Katherine	
CA001-094	002	Area between Trenches 1 & 2	N
CA001-095	002	Area between Trenches 1 & 2	N
CA001-096	002, 004,	Whole site	N
CA001-097	002, 008, 012	Site from pole	NW
CA001-098	002,	Whole site	NW
CA001-099	002, 008, 012	Site from pole	NW
CA001-100	002,	Whole site	NW
CA001-101	002, 008, 012	Site from pole	NW
CA001-102	002, 008, 012	Site from pole	NW
CA001-103	002, 008, 012	Site from pole	NW
CA001-104		Whole site	E
CA001-105	012	Sondage against W wall	N
CA001-106	012	Sondage against W wall	NE
CA001-107	002	Exploring wall make-up	NW
CA001-108		Whole site	NE
CA001-109	002	Exploring wall make-up	N
CA001-110	002	Exploring wall make-up	N
CA001-111		Ian and spoil heap	
CA001-112		Ian and spoil heap	
CA001-113		ACFA visitors return to site	
CA001-114		ACFA visitors return to site	
CA001-115	002, 013	Sondage against W wall	NE
CA001-116	002, 013	Sondage against W wall	NE
CA001-117	002, 003, 008	Removing 003 onto 008	W
CA001-118	002, 003, 008	Removing 003 onto 008	W
CA001-119	002, 003, 008	Removing 003 onto 008	SW
CA001-120		Planning	
CA001-121	002, 005, 010	Removed 005 onto 010	N
CA001-122	002, 003, 008	Removing 003 onto 008	N
CA001-123	002, 003, 008	Main section N of wall 002	E
CA001-124	002, 003, 008	Main section N of wall 002	E
CA001-125	002, 009, 013	Sondage against wall	E
CA001-126	002, 009, 013	Sondage against wall, floor surface	E
CA001-127	002, 009, 013	S-facing section through rubble 009	S

CA001-128	002, 003, 008	Removing 003 onto 008	S
CA001-129	014	Sondage at S end	S
CA001-130	007, 014	Sondage at S end	E
CA001-131	015, 002	Pottery found in surface of 015	W
CA001-132	015, 002	Pottery found in surface of 015	W
CA001-133	015, 002	Pottery found in surface of 015	W
CA001-134		Pottery cleaned (external)	
CA001-135		Pottery cleaned (internal)	
CA001-136		Shelter wall for landing place	N
CA001-137		Shelter wall stretching from bedrock outcrop	N
CA001-138		Shelter wall stretching from bedrock outcrop	N
CA001-139		Shelter wall	N
CA001-140		Shelter wall	SW
CA001-141		Shelter wall	W
CA001-142		Revetment wall	SE
CA001-143		Revetment wall	S
CA001-144		Revetment wall	SW
CA001-145		Backfilling team, Heather, Katherine & Eric	
CA001-146		Trenches backfilled	SE

APPENDIX 2: Glass Report by Helen Spencer (Heriot Watt University)

Scanning electron microscopy allows the proportions of the lighter elements, but not the heavier elements, to be identified, which provides enough information about the composition of the glass.

Na ₂ O	MgO	Al ₂ O ₃	SiO ₂	P ₂ O ₅	SO ₃	K ₂ O	CaO	TiO ₂	MnO	FeO
0.56	3.74	2.74	58.3	2.98	0.26	7.33	21.54	0.35	1.45	0.66

Table 6: Normalised percentages of the main elemental oxides in glass sherd from floor layer (018)

The composition of the glass is 'high-lime low-alkali 1' (HLLA1), which is rich in calcium and low in sodium. Potassium-rich plants were the main source of flux for this type of glass. There is a relatively high level of manganese (>1%).

Window glass of this composition was manufactured for a relatively short period in England, between 1567 and 1615. This type of glass found in a domestic context in England would date to the late 16th century. However, the situation in Scotland is more complicated, because glass is not known to be manufactured here before 1610. Rather than coming from England, it is most likely that the window glass was imported from the continent. Window glass with this HLLA 1 composition most likely originates from the Flanders/Rhineland/Lorraine regions, where it was made much earlier than in England - from the mid-late 15th century to the early 17th century.

The glass has small oval bubbles that run parallel to each other and the glass is quite thin - both of which features suggest that it was made by the cylinder-blown method - which is also typical of manufacture in the Lorraine/Flanders region on the continent. The grozing on two edges (cutting of the glass edges) suggests it was originally diamond-shaped, and both the grozing and the shape suggest a date no later than the late 17th century, given that panes are more likely to be square moving into the 18th century.

Glass manufactured in England and Scotland from around 1615 was still of a high-lime low-alkali type, but contained much less manganese (<0.4%) as a result of new technologies/recipes associated with coal-fired furnaces. Such later glass is termed HLLA 2 and is typical of mid-17th century window glass. The composition changes to a more mixed alkali composition in the later 17th and early 18th centuries, with similar levels of sodium and potassium. This shard of glass does not fit into either of these compositions.

In summary, the composition of the glass is consistent with a probable date of manufacture in the late 16th/very early 17th century. The high level of manganese suggests that it was not made later than 1615. It may have been manufactured as early as the late 15th century on the continent, but a late 16th century date is most probable, given that very few domestic properties were glazed in Scotland until this time. Domestic windows from this time were often portable and moved house with the owner, and it is therefore possible that the window itself could have been in another building, prior to being installed in the almshouse.



APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Creag a'Phuirt
PROJECT CODE:	CA001
PARISH:	Arrochar
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Heather James
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Calluna Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	NN31SW3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	17 th -century pottery sherd and fragment of late 16th/very early 17 th century window glass
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 32755 12881
START DATE (this season)	11/4/2017
END DATE (this season)	19/4/2017
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	James, H F. 2016. <i>Walkover Survey of the Arrochar Parish</i> . Northlight Heritage Report No. 175.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An excavation was carried out on a site at Creag a'Phuirt on the west shore of Loch Lomond in 2017. It was thought that this might be an almshouse built by James Macfarlane opposite his house on Island I Vow between 1612 and 1625 to provide for travellers passing through the district. The building proved to be a small, well-built, slightly trapezoidal-shaped structure, with a slate roof, but no obvious entrance or fireplace. The floor consisted of re-deposited loch-side material with water-rolled stones and contained a sherd of late 16th/17th century window glass and a broken sherd of 17th century pottery. Considering its location and date, this structure may well have been the almshouse perhaps comprising two stories, with access from an outer stair. By the mid-19th century the walls had been robbed and the site left ruinous. The site has been used in recent times for wild camping.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	The possible 17 th century almshouse at Creag a'Phuirt during excavation
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Clan Macfarlane Worldwide
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Calluna Archaeology, 139, Wilton St, Glasgow, G20 6DQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	calluna.archaeology@gmail.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS (intended)