

Archaeological Desk-Based
Assessment and Walkover Survey
New Village Hall
Saint Fillans
Perth and Kinross

CM09



Footbridge 2 over River Earn to site.
For Saint Fillans Community Council

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND
WALKOVER SURVEY
NEW VILLAGE HALL, SAINT FILLANS
PERTH AND KINROSS**

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ABSTRACT

St Fillans Community Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey on the site of a proposed new village hall, located to the S of the village, centred on NN 6962 2396. This was undertaken on 29th January 2022, and given the site code CM09.

The site appears to have been unoccupied, certainly on Roy's map of 1747 – 1752, and probably at other times too, perhaps on account of its low-lying, dark and windy location, right at the junction of Loch Earn and the river. The site is called An t-Eilean in Gaelic, and has clearly been an island in past, defined by a boggy and overgrown channel to the S.

The site lies within the St Fillans Conservation Area. There are three C-listed buildings nearby:- a hotel, a disused Episcopal church, and Dundurn Parish Church. There are also two 20th-century features of some significance:- the War Memorial and a footbridge over the Earn.

However, the wooded and secluded character of the site ensures that, with reasonable care, the impact of the development on the setting of these features will be minimal.

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Denholm Partnership Architects on behalf of St Fillans Community Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey on the site of a proposed new village hall for Saint Fillans on the S bank of the Earn, directly S of the village. The site is on a low-lying, D-shaped promontory, about 150 m E – W x 120 m N – S, where Loch Earn flows into the River Earn, covered with areas of woodland, grass and sedge. It is centred about NN 6962 2396.

This programme of archaeological works has been undertaken as part of the background scoping exercise, which will inform grant and planning applications for the project.

1.2 Objectives

The main aim of this desk-based assessment and walkover was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this DBA and survey. Copies will be sent to the client's agent, for circulation as appropriate.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1)

The village of Saint Fillans is about 8 km W of Comrie, in Perth and Kinross Council Area. It also lies at the NE extremity of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The whole of the village, including the present development site, lies within the Saint Fillans Conservation Area.

Saint Fillans lies at the E end of Loch Earn, on the N shore and bank of the loch and the river, which originates at this point. The A 85 from Comrie to Lochearnhead forms the main street of the village, and runs along the N bank of the river and the loch. South Loch Earn Road (unclassified) divides from the A 85 on the E edge of the village, crosses the river, and runs along the S bank and shore to Lochearnhead.

In the 19th century, St Fillans enjoyed a railway connection from Comrie, the old track bed still visible on the N side of the village, running along the N side of the loch and on through Glen Ogle and Glen Dochart, a relic of the great Victorian expansion of the Highland tourist trade and, sadly, of the mid 20th-century decimation of the railways.

The site of the proposed new village hall lies on the S bank of the River Earn, directly opposite the village. The site is on a low-lying, D-shaped promontory, about 150 m E – W x 120 m N – S, where Loch Earn flows into the River Earn, covered with areas of woodland, grass and sedge. It is centred at about NN 6962 2396. The site is bounded to the N by the curved bank of the River Earn, and to the S by South Loch

Earn Road. At the W end, the promontory rises slightly to form a low bluff facing directly out into the loch, fronted by a low shingle foreshore.

The site can be accessed directly from the village by the footbridge (2) which spans the River Earn, or by vehicle from South Loch Earn Road.

Encircling the whole promontory is the footpath (1) which appears on the Ordnance Survey First Edition.

To the N of South Loch Earn Road is a broad, shallow and irregular channel (7), mostly damp and overgrown, which appears to be a former natural branch of the river, opening into the loch at the SW corner of the site. If water levels were higher, this would fill, and turn the site into an island, no doubt explaining the Gaelic name for the site, An t-Eilean, 'the island'.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The site was not positively known to have archaeological or cultural heritage potential prior to the present study. However, given its sensitive location within a conservation area, directly adjacent to the village, and right at the junction of two major landscape features, the loch and the river, it was judged prudent to investigate its potential at an early stage in the scoping of the proposals for the village hall.

3 Methodology and Approach

Alder Archaeology Ltd abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

A rapid desk-based study of the proposed development area was undertaken, involving the examination of all readily available information sources relevant to the area. The following sources of information were searched:

- *Historic Environment Scotland*: the Schedule was checked for any Scheduled Monuments or listed buildings within or close to the proposed development area; sites recorded in the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) were examined.
- *Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record (PKHER)*: sites not recorded in the NMRS were examined.
- *The Map Library of the National Library of Scotland*: all Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey maps of the area were examined.
- *The National Records of Scotland*: no plans relevant to the proposed development area were found.

3.2 Walkover

The Walkover was conducted by one archaeologist on the 29th of January 2022 in bright and sunny but very windy weather conditions. The proposed development area was walked over, and also known sites of interest in the immediately surrounding area. All the known sites were already located on existing mapping. The development area and surrounding sites were extensively photographed to record their condition and show their relation to the development site.

4 Results

All sites identified during this project are discussed below and summarised in Table 1. Italicised numbers in brackets are identifiers assigned as part of this study. Site locations are shown in Illus 2. A full gazetteer of sites identified in the both the Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover is given in Appendices 1-3 at the end of this report.

4.1 Cartographic Sources

Early historic maps by Pont (1583-1601), Adair (1683), Moll (1745), Willdey (1746), Taylor and Skinner (1776), Stobie (1783), Johnson (1827) and Thomson (1832) were examined.

Pont shows a mill at the east end of Loch Earn on the south side of the River Earn, and an island with a structure on it, possibly a crannog, 'Ylen Loch Erin'; this is probably the island now known as Neish Island, about 0.5 km W of the development site. On the south side of the east end of the loch is depicted a building/mansion 'Dundurn' with a hill to its west, 'Chreig Chrostaing ane ancient fort'. Buildings are shown on the north side of the river and loch.

Adair shows the mill, possible crannog and Dundurn house. The settlement on the north side of the river/loch is Port.

Moll shows Port and Dundurn.

Willdey shows only Dundurn K (the ruined St Fillans Church to the east of the study area).

Roy shows the possible crannog as 'Island of Earn' and settlement at Meikle Port. The study area is shown as rig and furrow.

Taylor and Skinner show settlements at Meikle Port and Little Port.

Stobie shows the mill and W Dundurn to the east of the study area and a bridge across the River Earn at Little Port. An un-named hill, probably Cnoc a' Mhadaidh, is shown at the south-west end of Loch Earn.

Johnson and Thomson show no change from Stobie.

Matching the OS maps with pre-OS maps is difficult because, apart from Roy, none of the cartographers were surveying at a small enough scale to depict the study area. But it is clear from Roy that the study area was vacant ground, presumably fields.

The OS 'First Edition' shows the study area as a field called An t-Eilean (Gaelic, 'the island') edged along the shore by trees and a path or track (1), which is accessed by a footbridge (2) across the Earn. There is no change in the Second Edition. There are no small scale maps of the area between 1900 and 1977 when the War Memorial (3) is shown.

4.2 Sites with Statutory Designation

There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings within the study area and no Scheduled Monuments nearby. There are three listed buildings on the north side of the River Earn and Loch Earn. The Old Church (4) was built as the Free Church, later

the United Free Church, becoming redundant after the reunion with the Church of Scotland in 1929. It was acquired by the Episcopal Church as the Church of the Holy Spirit, a summer charge served from Comrie until closed. The former Drummond Arms Hotel (5) was built about 1872. Dundurn Parish Church (6) was built in 1878.

4.3 Sites with no Statutory Designation

There are two sites (2, 3) from the NRHE and PKHER which have no statutory designation. There is one site not recorded in either the NRHE or PKHER within the study area (1). There are no HER sites without statutory designation in the immediate surroundings of the development site. One additional feature, channel (7) was identified in the walkover.

4.4 Walkover Survey

The development site consists of gently rising ground in the centre, encircled on all sides by a belt of woodland. The central area, where the proposed building, car parks and access tracks will be, is currently open ground, covered with long grass and sedge. This was walked over carefully, but showed no obvious signs of earthworks, structures or other artificial features.

The surrounding woodland consists mostly of closely spaced, moderately tall but rather spindly birch, alder and similar broadleaves, all deeply gnarled and twisted, and profusely overgrown with moss and lichen. Their appearance is very reminiscent of the well-known 'cloud forest' seen in parts of Kintyre and Knapdale. The prevailing westerly winds are funnelled by the surrounding high mountains into a sort of wind-tunnel, over the loch, and then out over the development site, which lies exactly at the only eastern exit from the loch. In windy conditions a constant fine spray is whipped off the surface of the loch to feed the mosses and lichens on the trees. The close spacing of the tree trunks, and the depth of the belt of woodland make a more or less impenetrable visual screen between the centre of the site and the village and surrounding area, even in winter when the leaf canopy is entirely missing.

The biting wind chill, and the deep shadow in which the site lies even at noon, has had the effect of stunting the growth of the trees, which are probably older than might be guessed from their size, and discouraging the growth of larger trees such as oaks and beeches. It may also account for the uninhabited state of the site, from at least the time of Roy's map (1747 – 52) and probably earlier too. The present site of the village, and Glen Tarken to the S, receive much more sunlight, and suffer far less from damp and the wind-tunnel effect.

The footpath (1) which encircles the site is still an unobtrusive and recognisable feature. The original footbridge (2) which appears on the Ordnance Survey First Edition (1867) has been replaced in the late 20th century with a rather graceful and delicate single-span reinforced concrete arch bridge, high enough to clear any floodwaters, but low enough to be easily walkable without stairs, and avoid visual intrusion on the landscape. It is of course of no antiquity at all, but it does define the interface of an important loch and river, and its supple curve evokes in a subdued way the more exuberant 'stone rainbows' of some of General Wade's bridges.

The War Memorial (3) stands at the W end of the site, on the low bluff overlooking the loch. It is of modest size and simple, unimposing design, as befits a small village. It is easily visible from the village, but does not in any way dominate the

view, being partly overshadowed and screened by the woodland belt behind and partly around it. Its slightly elevated, W-facing position gives impressive views out over the loch, and captures the best of the afternoon and evening sun, creating an exceptionally suitable place for remembrance and reflection. To the E, the Memorial is largely screened from the centre of the development by the belt of woodland encircling the site.

On the S side of the development site, the channel (7) which runs roughly parallel with South Loch Earn Road appears to be natural. It is much overgrown, and generally rather damp. A very small rise in the level of the loch would soon flood it, re-connect it to the river and re-establish the site's traditional status as An t-Eilean, 'The Island'.

In other circumstances, the site's strategic location at the end of the loch, and its defensible status as an island might have attracted early settlement and fortification, perhaps as a high-status dwelling. If General Roy is to be believed, this did not happen, and anyone visiting the site on windy January day can immediately see why. It is in permanent shadow for at least a quarter of the year, and in the prevailing westerly gales it lies in the throat of a wind tunnel. In most periods of history and prehistory it would be uninhabitably cold, dark and damp, and in some periods at risk of torrential and catastrophic flooding.

Perhaps well-adapted to the site's micro-climate, the Earn's recently resettled beaver population are evidently making themselves at home, with gnawed stumps and branches along the N perimeter of the site, on the bank of the river.

In the village, the nearest listed building to the site is the Hotel (5). This is a substantial and imposing building, an impressive testament to the scale and ambition of the Victorian Highland tourist industry on which the village was built. It defines and dominates the main street of the village, and is clearly visible from the War Memorial and the Footbridge, but from the centre of the site it is practically invisible due to the screen of woodland along the river bank. It is likely that any modest-sized building in the centre of the site will similarly be practically invisible from the Hotel.

The second nearest listed building is the former Episcopal Church (4). This is a very small vernacular gothic building, standing on moderately high ground, set back from the main street, towards the E end of the village. Although it is quite close to the centre of the development site, it is only sporadically visible through gaps between the trees, and then only in mid-winter conditions. Similarly, a modest-sized building in the centre of the site will be barely visible from the church.

The farthest listed building in the study area is Dundurn Parish Church (6). The church is set well back from the street frontage, and the main road bends away to the NW before it reaches the church. As a result, as well as being screened by the trees on the development site, the site is completely invisible from the church, and practically so even from the church gate on the street frontage.

The whole of the village, including the development site, is within the Saint Fillans Conservation Area. On the ground, it is clear that the distinctive character of the village is established by the mainly 19th-century architecture of the buildings along the main street, and by its natural setting between the loch, the river and the

mountains. Like the prominent listed buildings, the main street as a whole is effectively screened from the development by the belt of woodland along the S bank of the Earn.

4.5 Assessment of Significance (see Appendix 4 for criteria)

There is no evidence of surviving below-ground archaeology in or near the development site, and less than usual reason to expect it, given the negative evidence of Roy's map, and the inhospitable natural setting of the site, exposed to wind, shade and flooding.

Turning to the built environment, none of the features in and around the site, taken individually, can be regarded as of Exceptional or High Significance. They are all rather modest and ordinary examples of their kind. However, taken together as an ensemble, in their remarkable natural setting, they contribute substantially to the distinctive character of the village as a conservation area.

4.6 Table 1: Sites of Cultural Heritage Interest Inside the Study Area

<i>Post-Medieval</i>					
<i>No</i>	<i>NRHE No</i>	<i>PKHT No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Significance</i>
1	None	None	An t-Eilean	Path/track	None
<i>Modern</i>					
2	NN62SE 12	MPK9324	River Earn	Footbridge	Some
3	NN62SE 24	MPK18693	An t-Eilean	War Memorial	Some

4.7 Table 2: Sites of Cultural Heritage Interest Outside the Study Area

<i>Medieval / Post-Medieval etc</i>					
<i>No</i>	<i>NRHE No</i>	<i>PKHT No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Significance</i>
4	NN62SE 14	MPK9327	The Old Church	Church	Some
5	NN62SE 30	MPK9325	Drummond Arms	Hotel	Some
6	None	None	Dundurn Parish Church	Church	Some

5 Mitigation and Recommendations

It is proposed to erect the new village hall in the centre of the site, with vehicle access from the SE on South Loch Earn Road, and parking areas to the S and E, ie away from the Village and War Memorial. It is intended to leave the encircling belt of woodland substantially in place. If this can be done, the impact on the setting of the listed buildings including the War Memorial, and on the conservation area as a whole should be minimal.

Special care should be taken to maintain the integrity of the woodland belt, as this will play such a large part in screening the development from the village. Care should also be taken in the design of the new building, to ensure that its scale, height and finishes

blend into the landscape rather than dominating it. Special care should be taken with any external lighting provided for access routes, entrances and car parks, to avoid light pollution, and intrusion on the rural character of the village after dark.

The channel (7) along the S side of the site appears to be a natural rather than a cultural heritage feature, and is already very irregular in form. It will need to be bridged to provide vehicle access, and perhaps also in places for parking areas. However, if possible it should not be entirely infilled and obliterated, as it defines the 'island' character of the site.

References

Cartographic

Adair, J 1683 The Mappe of Straithern, Stormont, & Cars of Gourie with the rivers Tay and Ern.

Johnson, W 1827 South West Part of Perthshire, with Clackmannan from Mr. James Stobie's survey.

Moll, H [1745] The South Part of Perth Shire Containing Perth, Strathern, Stormount and Cars of Gourie &c.

OS 1867 Ordnance Survey [First Edition], Perthshire Sheet XCIII.

OS 1900 Ordnance Survey, Second Edition, Perthshire, Sheet XCIII.8. Revised 1898. 1:2500.

OS 1977 Ordnance Survey, Plan NN6924. Surveyed 1976. 1:2500.

Pont, T 1583-1601 [Lower Glen Almond; Strathearn] - Pont 21.

Roy, W 1747-52 Military Survey, Sheet 16/3.

Stobie, J 1783 The counties of Perth and Clackmannan.

Taylor, G and Skinner, A 1776 The Road from Tarbet Inn to Crienlarach; the road from Crieff to Locherne Head; the Road from Crieff to Perth.

Thomson, J 1832 South West Part of Perthshire from Mr. James Stobie's survey by William Johnson Land Surveyor.

Willdey, T 1746 A map of the King's Roads, Made by his Excellency General Wade in the Highlands of Scotland.

Appendix 1 Sites Identified in Desk-Based Assessment

<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Type of Monument</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>NMRS No</i>	<i>NGR (NN)</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Statutory Designation</i>
1	An t-	Path/track	None	Post-	None	69557 23931 - 69543 24032 -	c250m	None

<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Type of Monument</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>NMRS No</i>	<i>NGR (NN)</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Statutory Designation</i>
	Eilean			medieval		69693 23998		
2	River Earn	Foot bridge	Some	Modern	NN62SE 12	69559 24058	22m	None
3	An t-Eilean	War Memorial	Some	Modern	NN62SE 24	69542 24025		None

Appendix 2 Sites Outside the Study Area Affected by Proposed Development

<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Type of Monument</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>NMRS No</i>	<i>NGR (NN)</i>	<i>Distance from study area</i>	<i>Statutory Designation</i>
4	The Old Church	Church	Some	Post-medieval	NN62SE 14	69699 24072	55m	LB6227; C listed
5	Drummond Arms	Hotel	Some	Post-medieval	NN62SE 30	69527 24128	61m	LB5299; C listed
6	Dundurn Parish Church	Church	Some	Post-medieval	None	69424 24180	171m	LB50379; C listed

Appendix 3 Further Site Discovered in Walkover Survey

<i>No</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Type of Monument</i>	<i>Significance</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>NMRS No</i>	<i>NGR (NN)</i>	<i>Dimensions & Distances</i>	<i>Statutory Designation</i>
7	Channel	Natural	Some	-	None	6962 2394	180 m long	None

Appendix 4 Photographic Register

<i>Image</i>	<i>View</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Description</i>
01-2	E	2	From loch shore to footbridge 2. Proposed site on R.
03	NE		Loch Earn Hotel. (Closed for winter)
04	SE		From loch shore to footbridge. Proposed site on R.
05	S		Village map at N end of footbridge.
06	ESE	4	Bluestone Church sign.
07	N	4	Former Episcopal Church
08-9	NW	4	Former Episcopal Church
10-14	NE	4	Former Episcopal Church
15-16	WNW	5	From Church 4 along A85 to Loch Earn Hotel 5.
17-19	W		From A85 to footbridge 2 over source of River Earn. Proposed site on L.
20	S	2	Over footbridge 2 to Proposed Site.
21	E	2	From centre of footbridge down River Earn. Proposed Site on R.
22	W	2	From centre of footbridge to Loch Earn. Proposed Site on L.
23	S	2	From centre of footbridge to Proposed Site. Screened in foreground by spindly birch and alder, with moss and lichen.
24	SSW	3	War Memorial 3 at W end of site, facing into loch.
25-6	E	3	W face of War Memorial 3, with inscription. Proposed Site beyond, screened by trees.
27	N	3, 5	S edge of War Memorial 3. Hotel 5 and village beyond. Proposed Site to R, beyond trees.
28-9	NNW	3, 5	S edge of War Memorial 3. Hotel 5 and village beyond. Proposed Site to R, beyond trees.
30-1	N		Trees on N side of Proposed Site screen village to N
32	E	7	Boggy former channel of Earn along S margin of Proposed Site. S Loch Earn Road on R.
33	WNW		From SW corner of Proposed Site to loch. Neish Island in distance.

<i>Image</i>	<i>View</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Description</i>
34	N		Tall, spindly birch and alder, green with moss and lichen.
35	N		Tall, spindly birch and alder, green with moss and lichen. Centre of Proposed Site with sedge.
36	W	1	E corner of Proposed Site, with footpath 1 along S bank of River Earn.
37	W		Raised centre of Proposed Site, screened by trees all round.
38-9	W		Detail of trees overhead. Birch and alder, with abundant moss and lichen.
40-2	W		Raised centre of site, long grass and sedge, screened by trees all round. War Memorial 3 hidden beyond trees.
43-4	WNW	3	Rear of War Memorial 3, with loch beyond.
45	N	2, 5	Across footbridge 2 to village. Loch Earn Hotel 5 screened by trees.
46-7	NNE	4	Village from Proposed Site centre, screened by trees. Former Episcopal Church hidden behind trees.
48-50	NNE	4	Detail of Former Episcopal Church beyond trees.
51-54	N		Detail of trees on bank of River Earn, gnawed by beavers.
55	NW	2	Footbridge 2 spanning River Earn. Hotel screened by trees.
56	N	2	Across footbridge 2 to village.
57	SW		NW corner of site from footbridge 2. Shingle beach on loch shore, rising ground behind. Waves raised by westerly gale.
58-9			National Park information panel on N bank of River Earn.
60-1	NNE	6	Dundurn Parish Church.
62	NW	6	Detail of church sign board.
63	NNE	6	Detail of modern grey granite path and inscription.
64	NNE	6	S facade of church.
65	N	6	Detail of inscription. ERECTED 1878.
66	NNE	6	Detail of stained glass window in S facade, E side.
67	NNE	6	Detail of stained glass window in S facade, W side.

<i>Image</i>	<i>View</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Description</i>
68-9	SSW	6	Modern grey granite path.
70	SSW	6	Detail of inscription in path
71	SSW	6	Detail of fish / <i>ichthys</i> pebble mosaic in path.
72	ESE	6	From church gate along A85 back to footbridge and Proposed Site on R.
73	S	6	Modern standing stone and inscription in SE corner of church garden.
74	W		Modern hut in Glentarken Park.
75	SSW	2	Detail of footbridge over River Earn.
76	S		Detail of village map at N end of footbridge.
77	NE	6	Dundurn Parish Church, from Manse Lane.

Appendix 5 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	New Village Hall
PROJECT CODE:	CM09
PARISH:	Comrie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Bowler
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Desk Based Assessment and Walkover Survey
NMRS NO(S):	NN62SE 12, NN62SE 24, NN62SE 14, NN62SE 30
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Footbridge, War Memorial, Episcopal Church, Hotel,
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 6962 2396
START DATE (this season)	29 January 2022
END DATE (this season)	29 January 2022
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	St Fillans Community Council commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey on the site of a proposed new village hall, located to the S of the village, centred on NN 6962 2396. This was undertaken on 29th January 2022, and given the site code

	CM09. The site appears to have been unoccupied, certainly on Roy's map of 1747 – 1752, and probably at other times too, perhaps on account of its low-lying, dark and windy location, right at the junction of Loch Earn and the river. The site is called An t-Eilean in Gaelic, and has clearly been an island in past, defined by a boggy and overgrown channel to the S. The site lies within the St Fillans Conservation Area. There are three C-listed buildings nearby:- a hotel, a disused Episcopal church, and Dundurn Parish Church. There are also two 20th-century features of some significance:- the War Memorial and a footbridge over the Earn. However, the wooded and secluded character of the site ensures that, with reasonable care, the impact of the development on the setting of these features will be minimal.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	none
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	St Fillans Community Council
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NRHE, HES (intended)

Appendix 6 Criteria for Assessment of Significance

6.1 Levels of significance

Four levels of significance have been used, derived from previous work carried out, notably by national and international conservation bodies. They deal with how worthy the particular asset is in terms of its importance, or alternatively, how dispensable it is. The terminology largely follows that outlined in the *Burra Charter*, and is as follows:

- *Exceptional* Widely regarded as an indispensable archaeological asset.
- *Considerable* A key feature, worth preserving if at all possible.
- *Some* Of interest – should normally be protected.
- *Little* Features which, at present, are thought to have relatively low archaeological value. Features of little significance are generally not dealt with here.

There is often no clear division between the above definitions; assessment of significance largely depends on underlying knowledge and understanding of the various attributes of the resource. Value judgements are an inevitable part of the process, and the evaluation may change as values develop.

6.2 Assessment Criteria

Criteria used by English Heritage and Historic Scotland to determine the significance of archaeological sites for scheduling purposes have been used by Alder to define the grounds on which the assessment of significance is made. These are not exhaustive, and other criteria may be applicable.

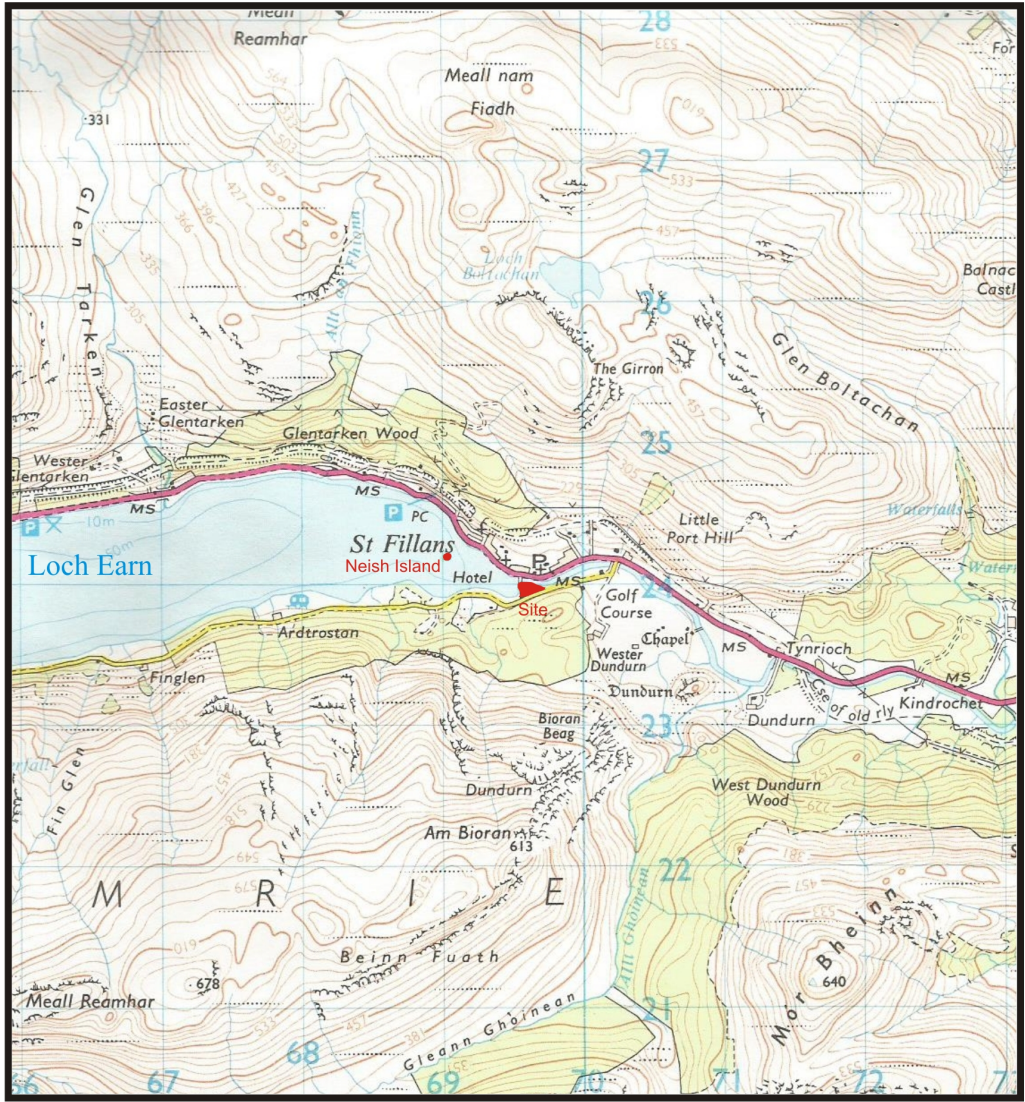
- *Survival*: the quality of the survival of a site can be of importance, and the survival potential of below- and above-ground remains is crucial to the importance of the site.
- *Period*: whether the site is a good example of its period, or whether it shows evidence of long-term or multi-period use. Contemporary sites of different types also complement each other in terms of the information and evidence they show.

- *Group Value:* the value of a single site is enhanced greatly by being part of an associated group of related sites. In such cases preservation of not just the group, but also the context of the group should be seriously considered.
- *Rarity:* some sites, due to the overall rarity of the type, merit raised importance despite not appearing to be particularly good examples.
- *Situation:* some sites are more abundant in different geographical areas than others, and accordingly may have higher potential value if geographically more rare.
- *Diversity of Form:* whether the style is different from others of its type in terms of style or function perhaps, or according to regional variations.
- *Multiperiod / single period:* sites showing evidence of successive reuse can have special value because they may contain particularly fine evidence of phasing and stratigraphy. Likewise, a single period site will generally have more evidence of the different functions carried out within it through having well-preserved archaeological relationships. Good examples of both site types are important in terms of their overall informational value.
- *Documentation:* a site may have particularly extensive supplementary information, such as charters or estate maps, which informs and enhances our overall understanding of it, yet cannot be seen through archaeological research. This information can serve to flesh out the evidence gathered by other means.
- *Potential:* the site may be viewed as having significant potential for providing further information on the past, or predictions may suggest that undiscovered deposits may have high informational value.
- *Amenity value:* the site may easily accessible by the general public, and its preservation may therefore be of benefit as an amenity.

Illus 1



St Fillans Village Hall Location

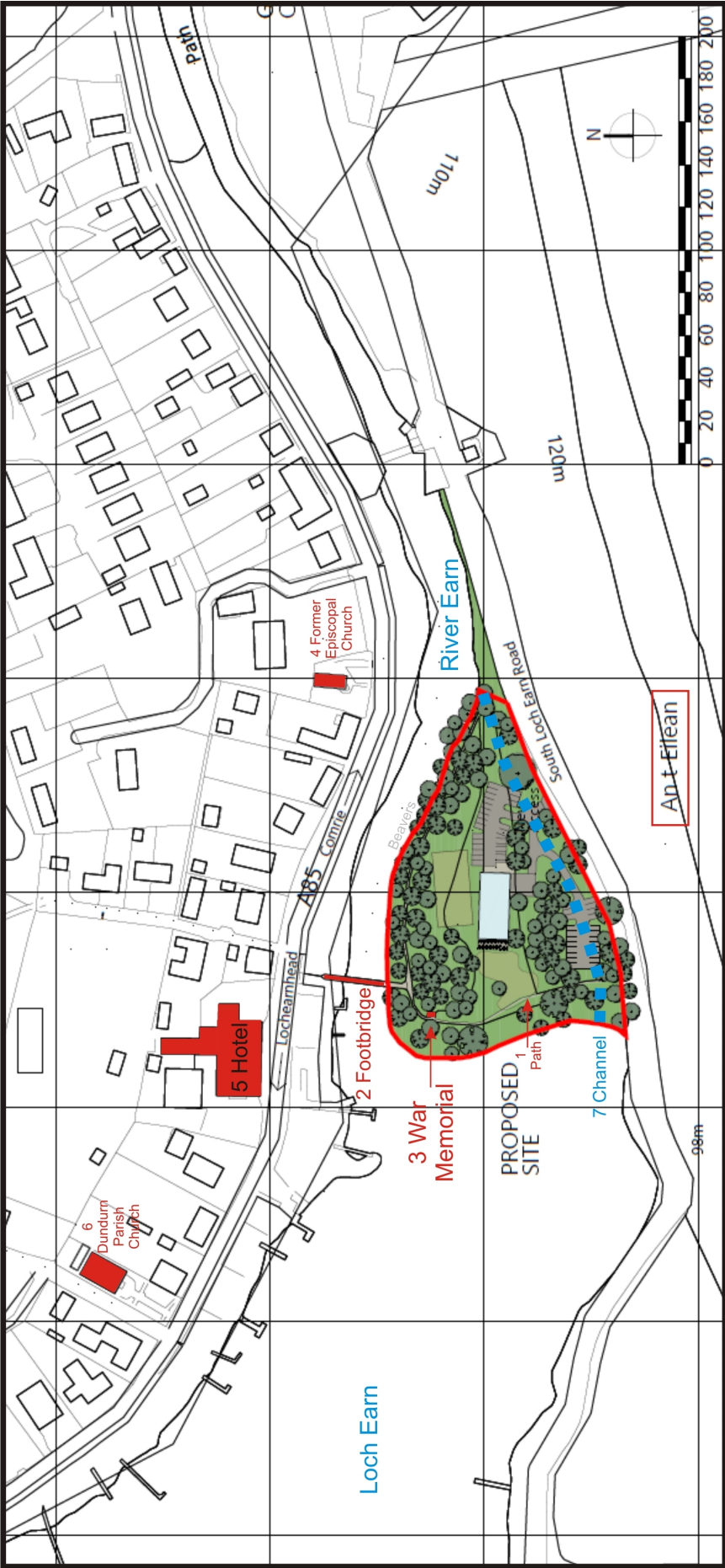


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St Fillans Village Hall Setting

Illus 2



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Base plan supplied by Denholm Partnership

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Illustration 3: Loch Earn Hotel 5.



Illustration 6: Site screened by trees.



Illustration 4: Former Episcopal Church 4.



Illustration 7: War Memorial 3. Site beyond, screened by trees.



Illustration 5: Footbridge 2 over Earn..



Illustration 8: War Memorial 3, Hotel 5 and village. Site to R, beyond trees.



Illustration 9: Channel 7 on S side of site.



Illustration 10: Entrance of channel 7 from loch.



Illustration 11: Centre of site screened N and S by trees..



Illustration 12: 'Cloud Forest' moss and lichen, fed by spray from loch.



Illustration 13: Raised centre of site, screened by trees all round. War Memorial 3 hidden beyond trees.



Illustration 14: Former Episcopal Church 4 beyond screen of trees.



Illustration 15: Trees on river bank, gnawed by beavers.



Illustration 16: Dundurn Parish Church 6, from Manse Lane.