



[WEMYSS BAY]

Inverclyde
council

INTRODUCTION

Local authorities are responsible for maintaining a register of all the known archaeological sites in their area. A small proportion of these are protected as Scheduled Monuments which are listed in a separate schedule, but many others merit protection for their regional or local importance.

The records for all of these archaeology sites in Inverclyde were transferred from the West of Scotland Archaeology Service in 2013. Currently there are 634 recorded archaeology sites. This schedule contains details of all the sites within the Wemyss Bay area. There are also schedules for Greenock, Gourock, Port Glasgow, Kilmacolm/Quarrier's Village and Inverkip.

Each record sheet contains site details including the site name(s), grid reference, monument type, the date the site was first recorded, which parish it was located in, a location map, available background details and a Canmore reference number. Canmore is the online catalogue to Scotland's archaeology, buildings and industrial and marine heritage. It can be accessed to carry out searches, through the Historic Environment Scotland website at:

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/learn/learning-resources/canmore/>

Anyone with details of potential archaeological sites in Inverclyde that they think could be worthy of investigation should contact Margaret Pickett from our Planning Policy team on 01475 712493, or send us an email to devplan.planning@inverclyde.gov.uk

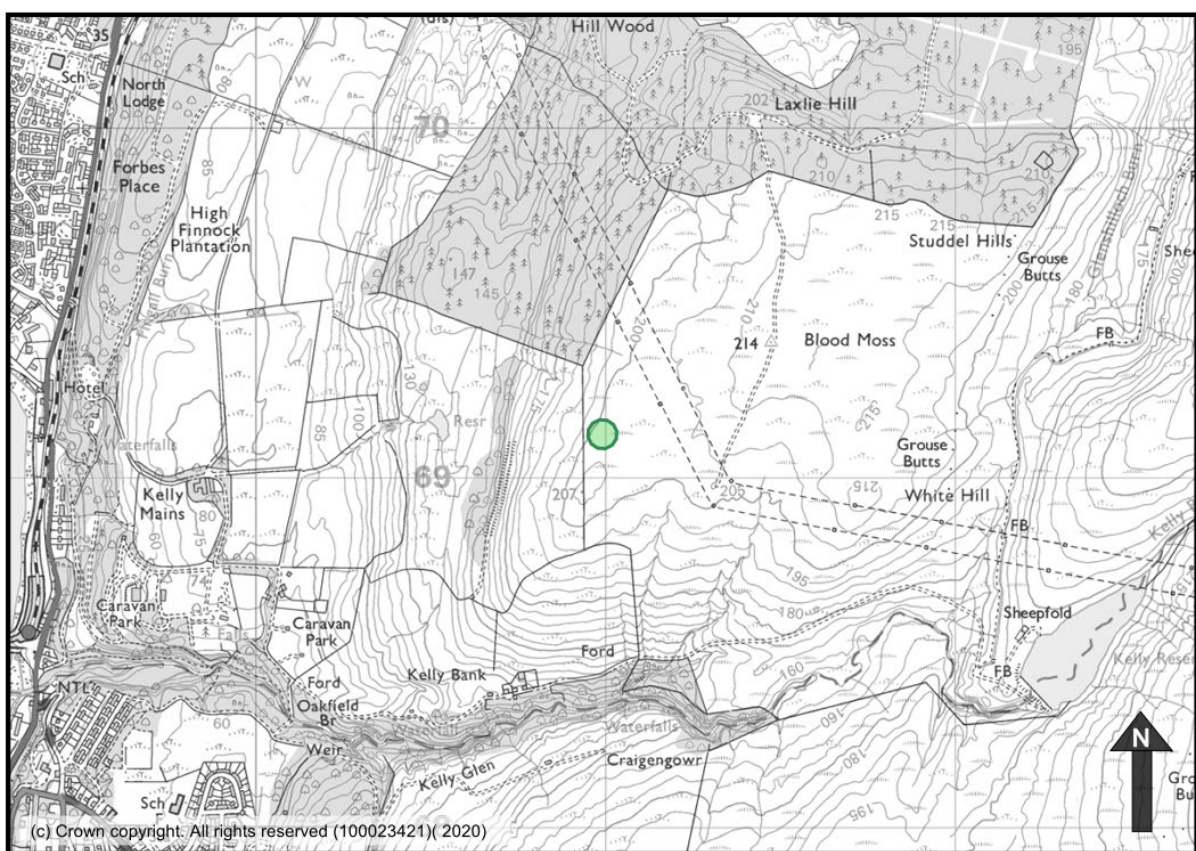
ARCHAEOLOGY SITES IN WEMYSS BAY

LOCATION	CANMORE REFERENCE
B	
Blood Moss (Enclosure)	41274
Blood Moss (Structure)	41269
Blood Moss (Ring Ditch)	75367
Blood Moss (Long Cist (possible), Mound)	22717
C	
Craig Bridge (Bridge)	40695
H	
Harestone Burn (Building)	41246
K	
Kelly Aqueduct (Aqueduct)	-
Kelly Aqueduct (Platform)	41270
Kelly Burn (Building)	41271
Kelly Burn (Cairn)	41280
Kelly Burn (Settlement)	41273
Kelly Castle (Castle)	40692
Kelly House (Country House)	40694
Kelly Sawmill (Industrial sawmill, Water Channel Dam)	147165
R	
Rottenburn Bridge (Structure)	41244
Rottenburn Bridge (Building)	41245
W	
Wemyss Bay Railway Station and Pier (Railway Terminus, Pier)	68123
Wemyss Bay, Station Cottages (Cottages)	125234
Wemyss Bay Station House (House)	125223
Wemyss Bay Station Pier	125235
Wemyss Bay, Wemyss Plantation (Anti-aircraft battery)	107527

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Blood Moss, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name: Kelly Plantation	
Grid Reference: 221000 669100	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Enclosure	
Date Recorded: Unknown	Canmore Ref No. 41274

Archaeology Note

East of the Kelly Plantation, and against the E side of the road described on NS26NW 22, apparently partly disturbed by it, is a small earth walled enclosure. The walls are based on flat stones with a suggestion of ditching round the N and S sides.



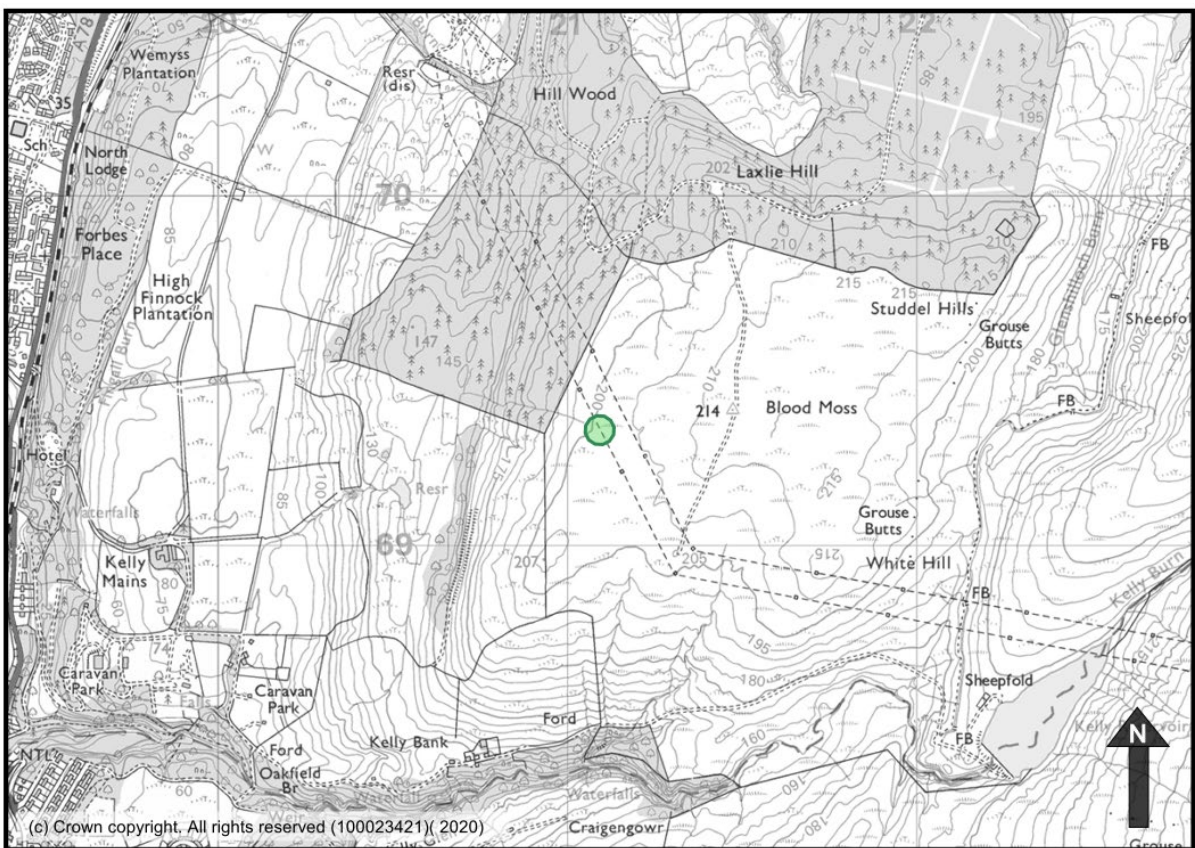
Further Reading

Newall and Lonie, F and W - 'Inverkip parish', *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, 1964, p.45 (1964)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Blood Moss, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 221100 669300	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Structure	
Date Recorded: 24 April 2001	Canmore Ref No. 41269

Archaeology Note

Indeterminate build obscured by stone removal and disturbance but suggestive of a roughly rectangular stone build with attached circle or semi-circle. A metalled track passes along the side. (In context, probably NS 281 693 is intended here)



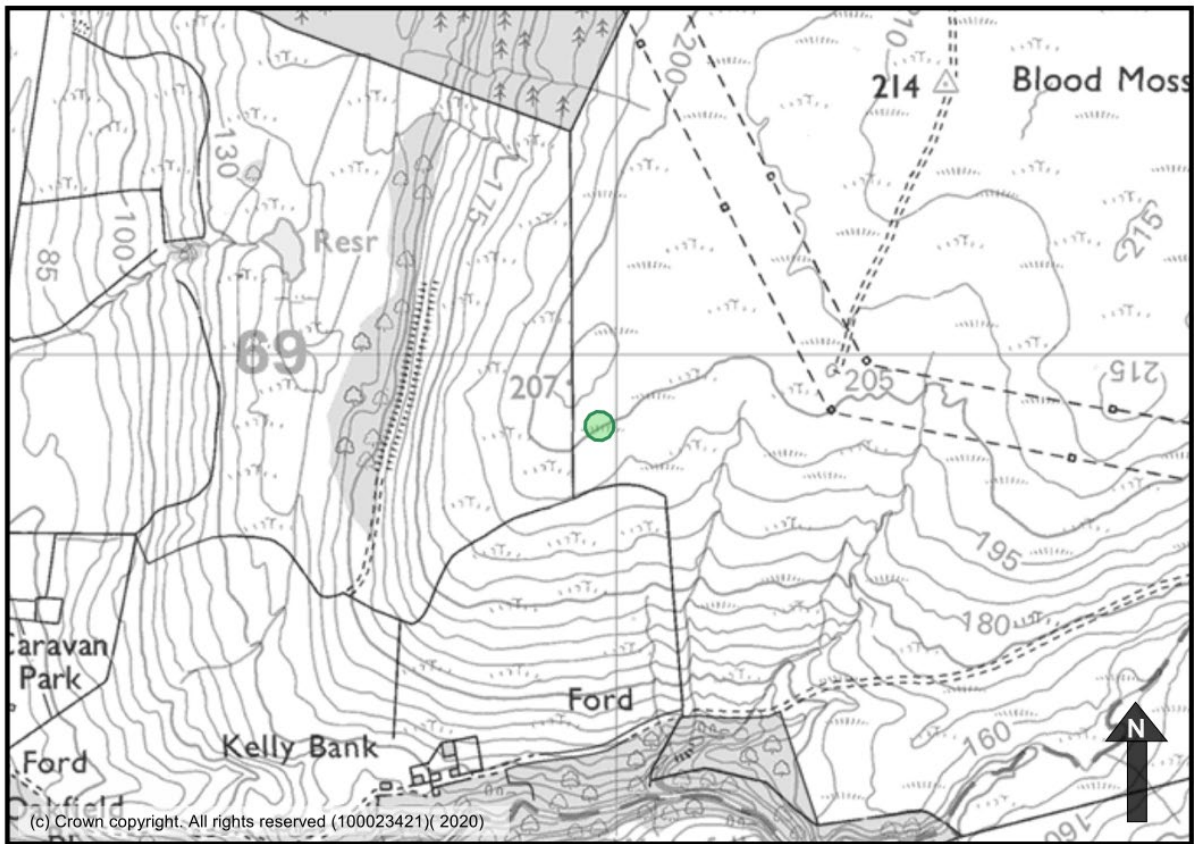
Further Reading

McKinnon and Newall, D and F - 'Track', Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, 1976, pp.55 (1976)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Blood Moss	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 221000 668900	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Ring-ditch	
Date Recorded: Unknown	Canmore Ref No. 75367

Archaeology Note

A low knoll projected north from the Roman Road terrace edge has been ditched to a depth of 0.6m round the downhill side but only shallowly across the uphill neck, 16.5m over the outer bank, within the ditch it covers 8.9m.



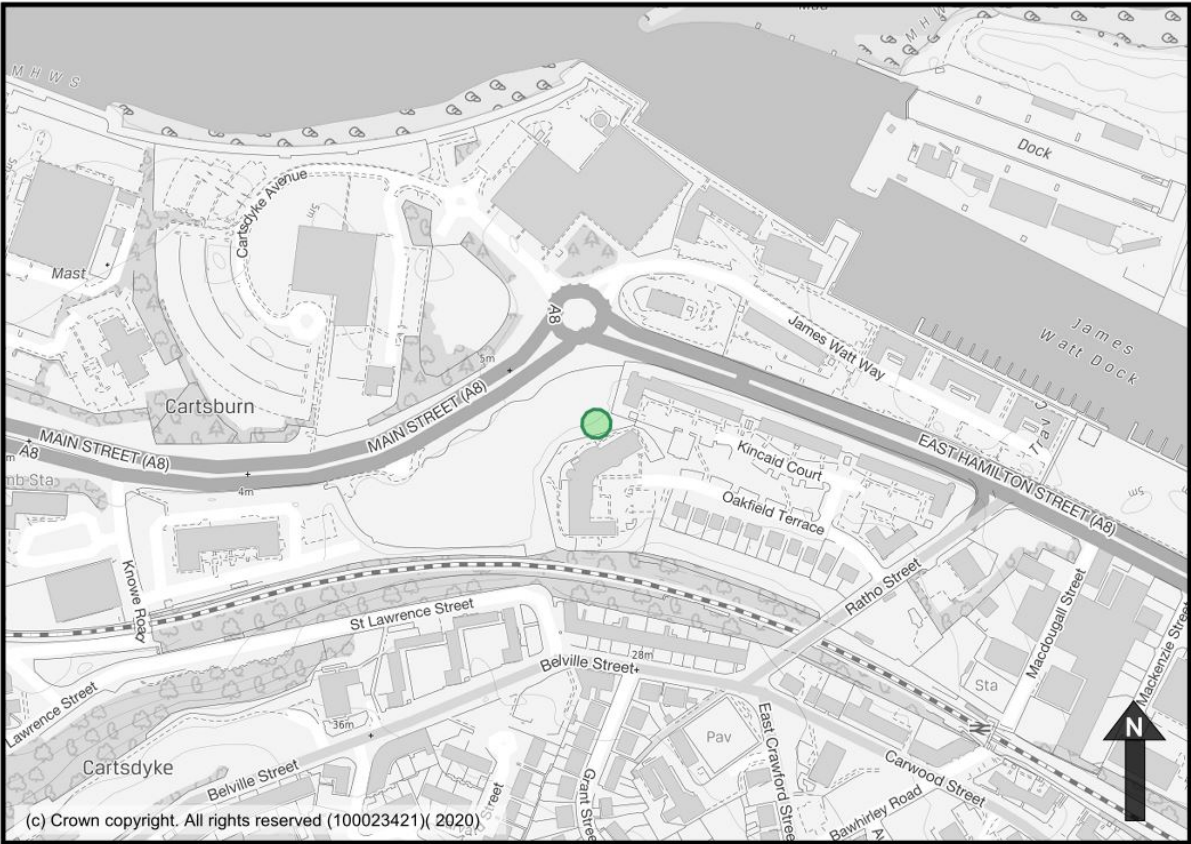
Further Reading

Newall and Sinclair, F and HM - 'Blood Moss (Inverkip parish): ring ditch site', *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 1991 pp.60. (1991)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Blood Moss	
Alternative Name: Long Cist (possible), Mound	
Grid Reference: 221400 668970	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Long Cist (possible), Mound	
Date Recorded: 25 April 2001	Canmore Ref No. 22717

Archaeology Note

A badly preserved cist grave measuring 1.5m long by 0.5m wide and 0.5m deep sites in a low mound approximately 7m in diameter. The cavity is stone-lined and the cist is probably Early Historic in date. Other similar low mounds are to be seen in the vicinity, though these could be natural.



Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Craig Bridge, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name: Roman Bridge	
Grid Reference: 219890 6688460	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Bridge	
Date Recorded: 17 September 1956	Canmore Ref No. 40695

Archaeology Note

A bridge over the Kelly Burn, traditionally called the "Roman Bridge" is built of local stone in the high arch, plain centre style, the parapet consisting of small stone pillars placed a short distance apart.

J Smith 1895

NS 1989 6846. This bridge, published as "Craig Bridge" on the OS map was pointed out by Mr J H Murray, a local historian (Pensilva, Skelmorlie) who states that it was known locally as the "Roman Bridge". It has been completely destroyed except for traces of the N abutment. Though its date of construction was not ascertained, Mr Murray, who knew the bridge before its demolition some years ago, does not believe that it was very old. It was certainly not Roman.



Further Reading

Smith, J - Prehistoric man in Ayrshire. London (1895)

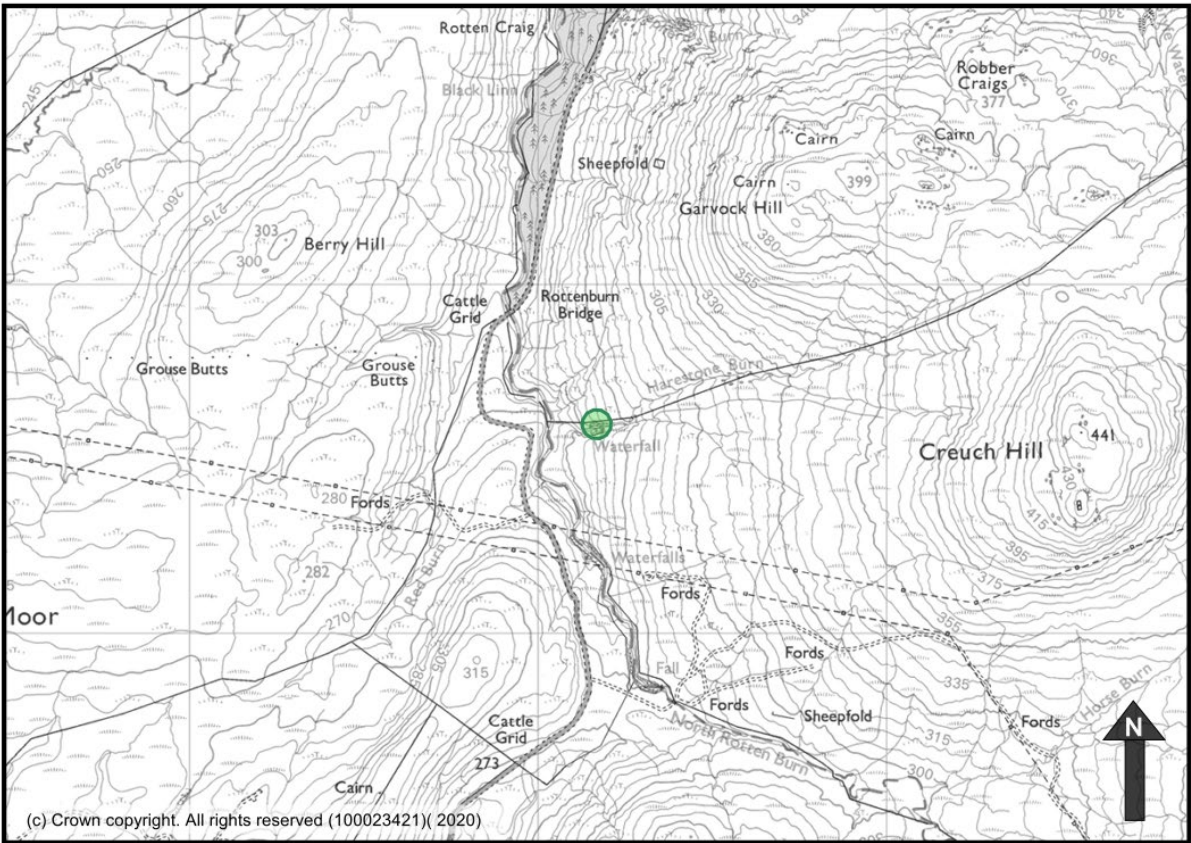
Lee, A - 'Wemyss Bay, 'over Kelly', The Waterfall, The Roman Bridge, Craig's Bridge (Inverkip parish), remains of bridge platform', Discovery and Excavation, Scotland 1995, pp. 80 (1995)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Harestone Burn, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 225080 668550	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Building	
Date Recorded: 24 April 2001	Canmore Ref No. 41246

Archaeology Note

On the S bank of Harestone Burn, just S of Rottenburn Motte (NS26NE 8), a sub-rectangular low mound 23ft x 16ft supports a rectangular building 13ft x 10ft. An outer W wall increases the overall E-W length to 20ft.

Some 16m to the S of [the shieling huts recorded under at NS 2508 6857] is another footing measuring 5 by 2.5m. [This is probably the feature described by Newall, giving a NGR of about NS 2508 6855].



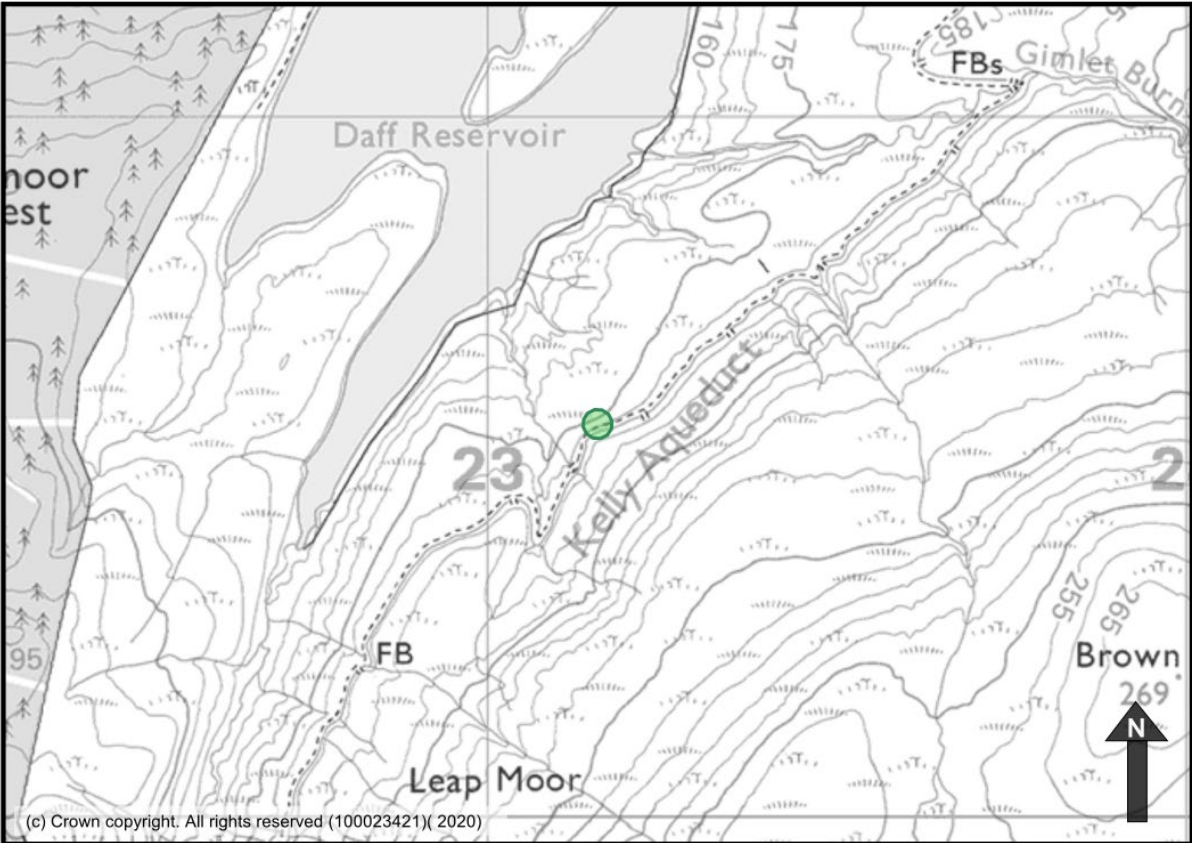
Further Reading

Newall, F - 'Harestane Burn, Kilmacolm', Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, 1961, pp.44 (1961)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly Aqueduct	
Alternative Name: Kelly Cut	
Grid Reference: 223158 670555	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Aqueduct	
Date Recorded: 21 October 2005	Canmore Ref No -

Archaeology Note

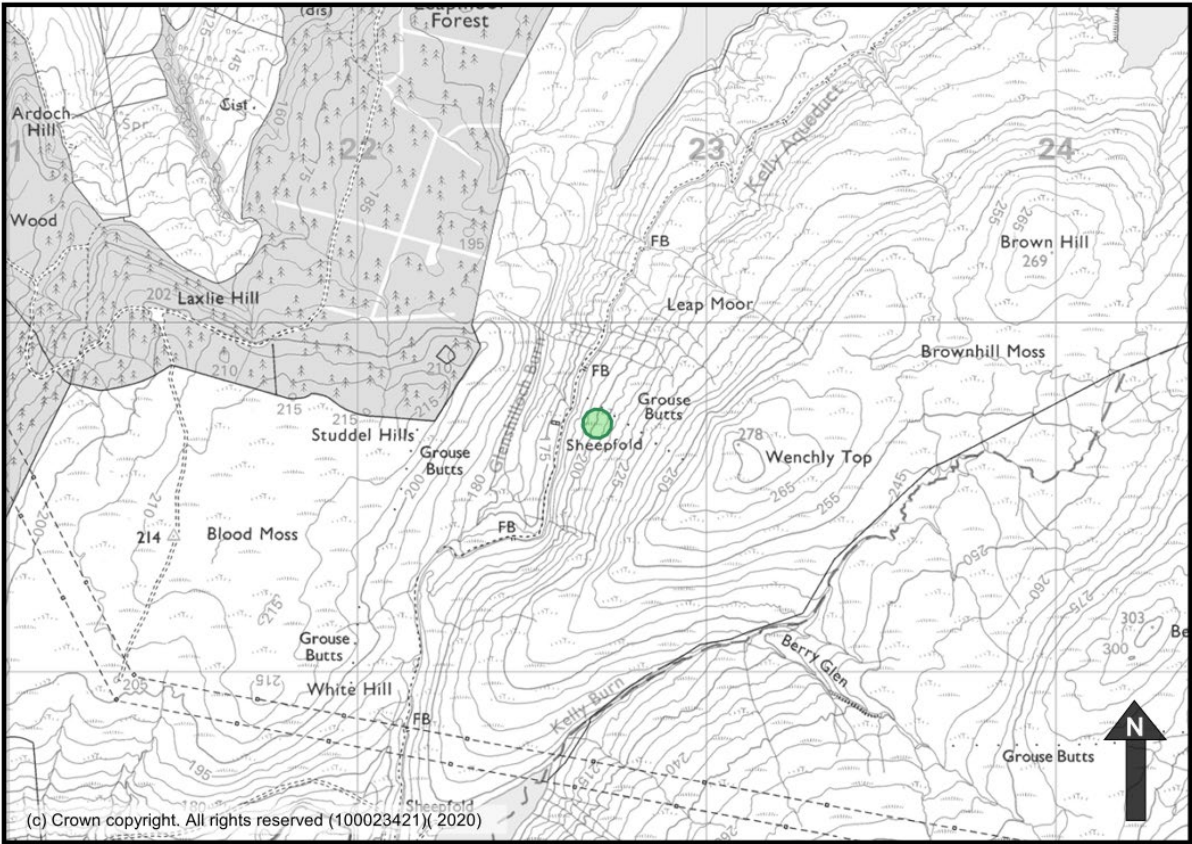
The line of the Kelly Cut, leading NE from the Kelly reservoir, was depicted on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map



Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly Aqueduct, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 222700 669700	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Platform	
Date Recorded: Unknown	Canmore Ref No. 41270

Archaeology Note

On the S side of the Kelly Cut is an oval recessed occupation terrace, limited by a rough turf and boulder wall on the N (downhill) side. It measures 57ft E-W by 47ft.



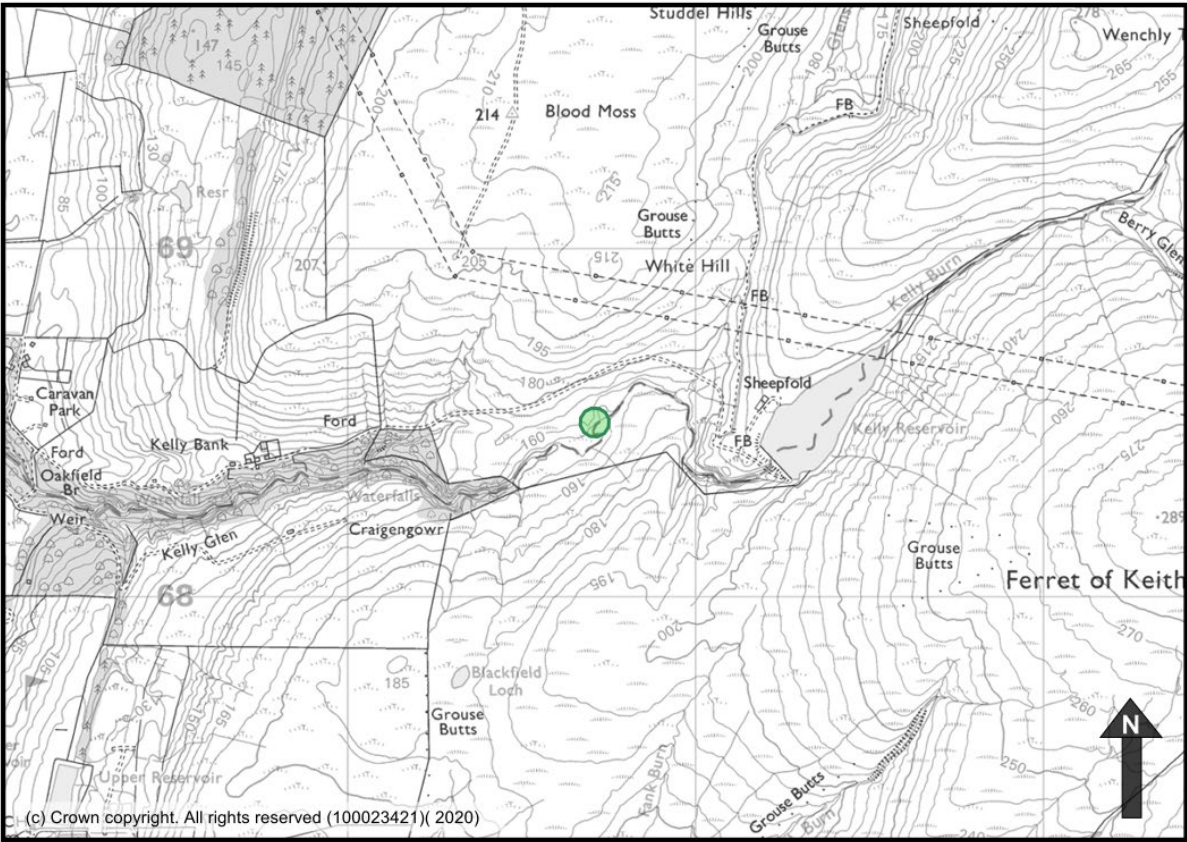
Further Reading

Newall, F - 'Kelly Cut', Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, 1963, pp.44 (1963)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly Burn, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 221700 668500	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Building	
Date Recorded: Unknown	Canmore Ref No. 41271

Archaeology Note

Situated on the N bank of Kelly Burn is an isolated house, measuring 8ft by 13ft, with much spread walls.



Further Reading

Newall and Lonie, F and W - 'Kelly Burn, north bank', *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, 1964, pp.46 (1964)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly Burn, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 221425 668420	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Cairn	
Date Recorded: 26 April 2011	Canmore Ref No. 41280

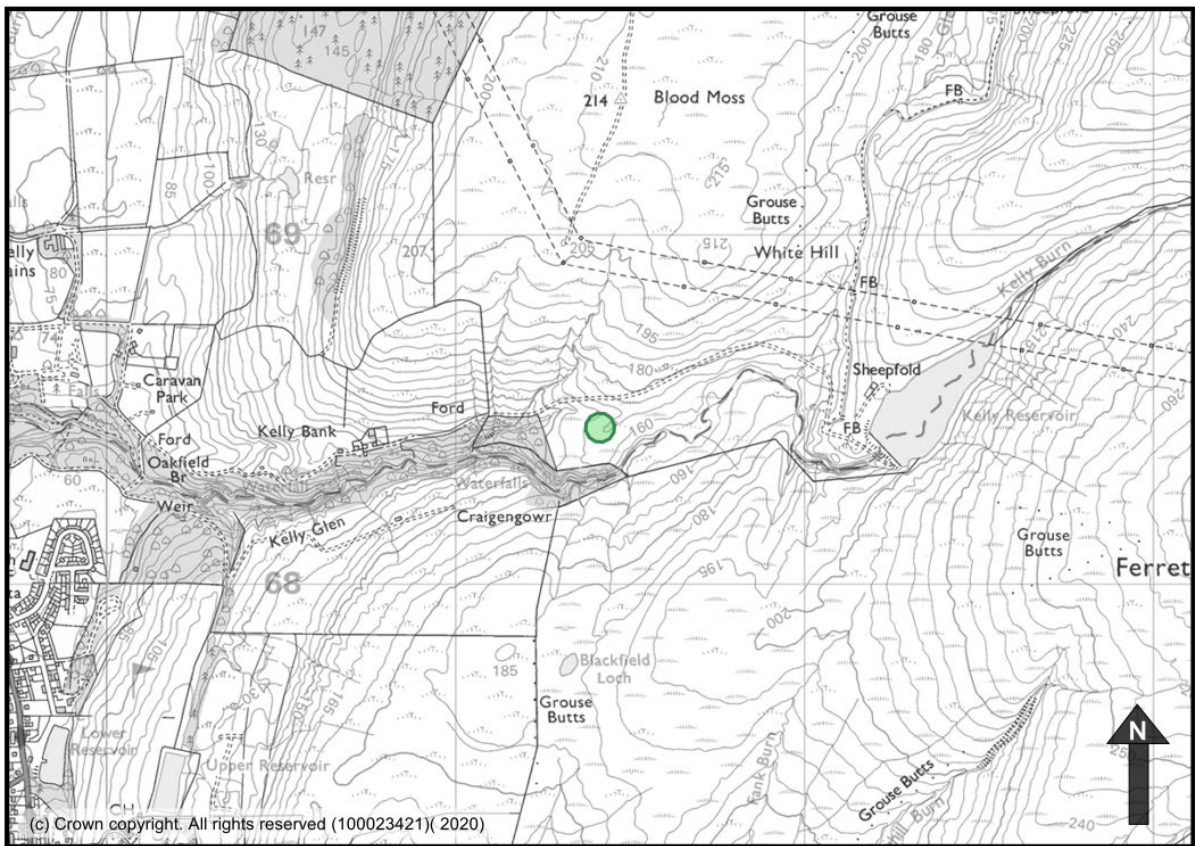
Archaeology Note

At NS 214 684 is a cairn, 21ft in diameter by 2 1/2ft-3ft high. It has been disturbed by an off-centre cross-trench.

F Newall 1964

The fourth year of survey of the Loch Thom area was undertaken in May and June 2000 (DES 1999, 62). The areas covered were Loch Thom, Blood Moss, Flatterton Farm, and the land between Garvock and Dowries Farm. NS 2135 6835 Cairn; 6.5m in diameter, 0.75m high.

NS 21425 68420 Cairn scheduled on the 25th of March 2011 as 'Kelly Bank Cottage, cairn 750m E of'. Monument comprises the remains of a cairn, built probably between 3000 and 1000BC in the late Neolithic period or Bronze Age. It is visible as a low mound of turf covered stones and lies in moorland at about 165m above sea level. The cairn lies on the W slopes of Berry Hill and is sites on a low hill above the N side of the Kelly Glen.



Further Reading

Newall and Lonie, F and W - 'Kelly Burn, north bank', *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, 1964, pp.46 (1964)

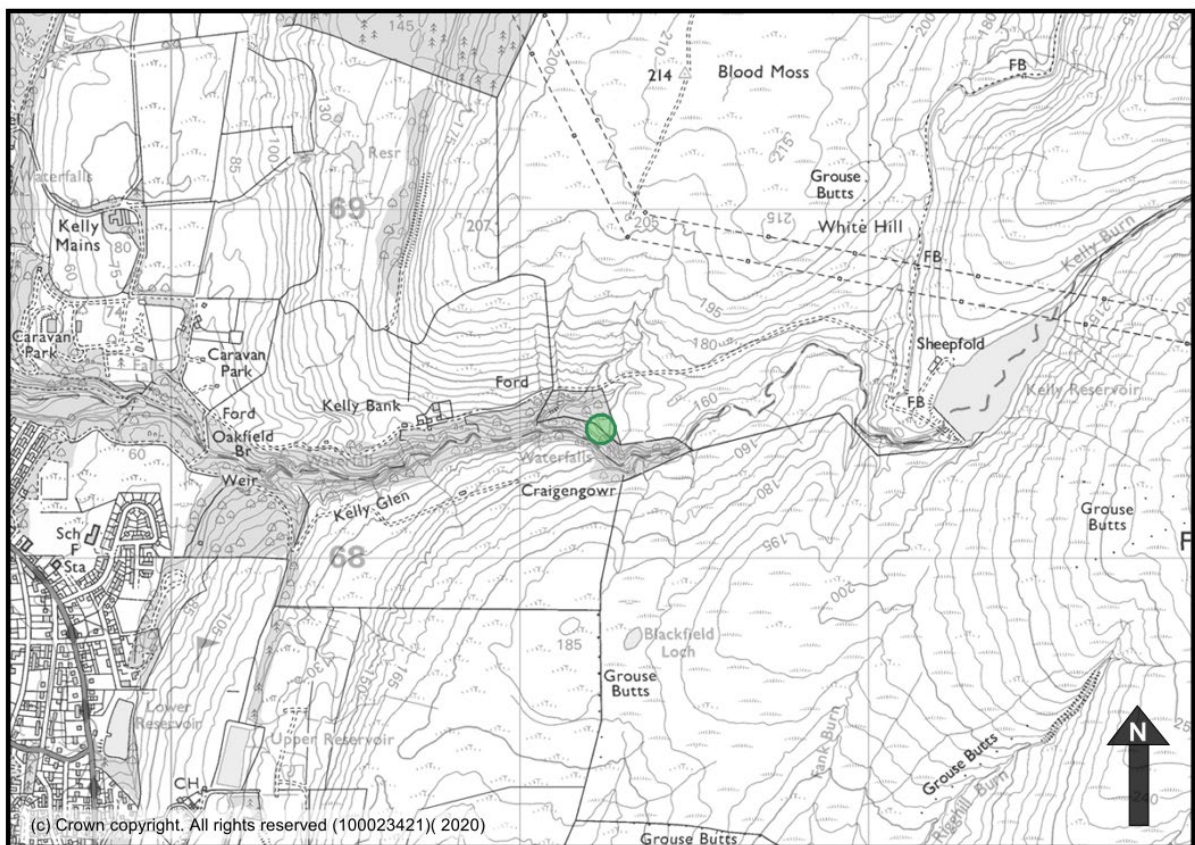
Hogg, I - 'Loch Thom, Inverclyde (Inverkip; Kilmalcolm parishes), survey', *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland*, 2000, pp.58, 2001 (2000)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly Burn, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 221150 668420	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Settlement	
Date Recorded: 31 January 2001	Canmore Ref No. 41273

Archaeology Note

White Hill are seven rectangular house foundations, chiefly of turf or earth. A hollow track up the Kelly Bank probably serviced the settlement. The houses measure from 16 to 18ft by 23 to 28ft, and internally only 7 to 8ft by 13 to 15ft, with a central partition.

Several inhabitants of "Kelly Bank" in the 1841 census may possibly have occupied these structures.



Further Reading

Newall and Lonie, F and W - 'Kelly Burn, north bank', *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, 1964, pp.46 (1964)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly Castle, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 219800 668510	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Castle	
Date Recorded: 21 July 1979	Canmore Ref No. 40692

Archaeology Note

The lands of Kelly were given or confirmed by James III (1460-88) to James Bannatyne. OPS 1851 The old house of Kelly was destroyed in 1740 and no attempt was made by the Bannatynes to rebuild it.

The site of this castle is a smooth grassy knoll; no remains of it are now visible. Mr Lohead states that it was the residence of the Bannatynes, the proprietors of Kelly estate until 1790. Name Book 1856The Kelly estate is now used as a caravan and camping site. No trace of the castle was seen during field investigation.



Further Reading

Millar, AH -The castles and mansions of Ayrshire illustrated in seventy views with historical and descriptive accounts. Edinburgh (1885)

Ordnance Survey, Name Book (County), Original Name Books of the Ordnance Survey (n/a)
OPS, Origines parochiales Scotiae: the antiquities ecclesiastical and territorial of the parishes of Scotland. Vol 1, Edinburgh. (1851)

Lee, A - 'Wemyss Bay, 'over Kelly', The Waterfall, The Roman Bridge, Craig's Bridge (Inverkip parish), remains of estate feature', Discovery and Excavation, Scotland 1995, pp.80 (1995)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly House, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 219495 668845	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Country House	
Date Recorded: 21 July 1979	Canmore Ref No. 40694

Archaeology Note

None

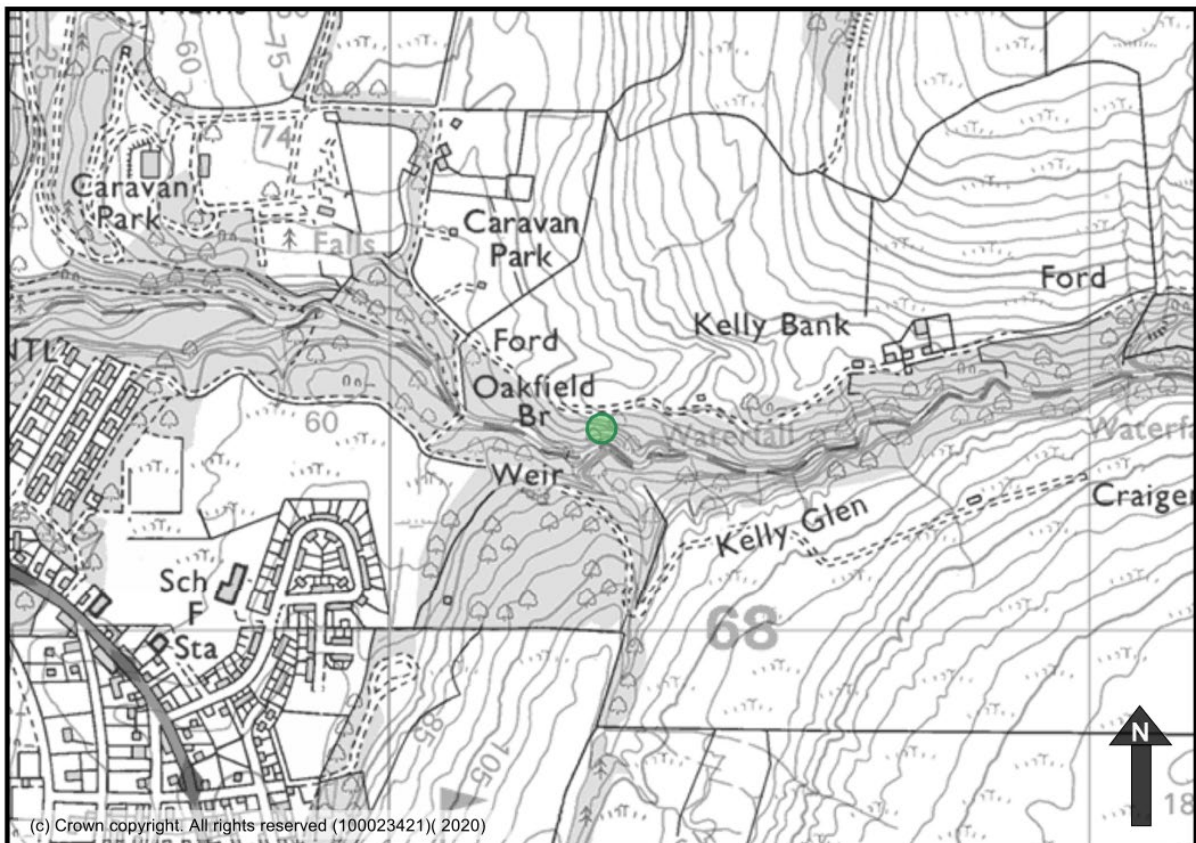


Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Kelly Sawmill, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 220300 668300	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Industrial, Sawmill, Water Channel , Dam	
Date Recorded: 6 August 2001	Canmore Ref No 147165

Archaeology Note

NS 203 683 Reduced remains of the Kelly Sawmill, silted water channel and breached dam; Mill site on record for 150years, and occupied up to the early 1900s. Fieldwork and research is in progress.

A Lee 1995



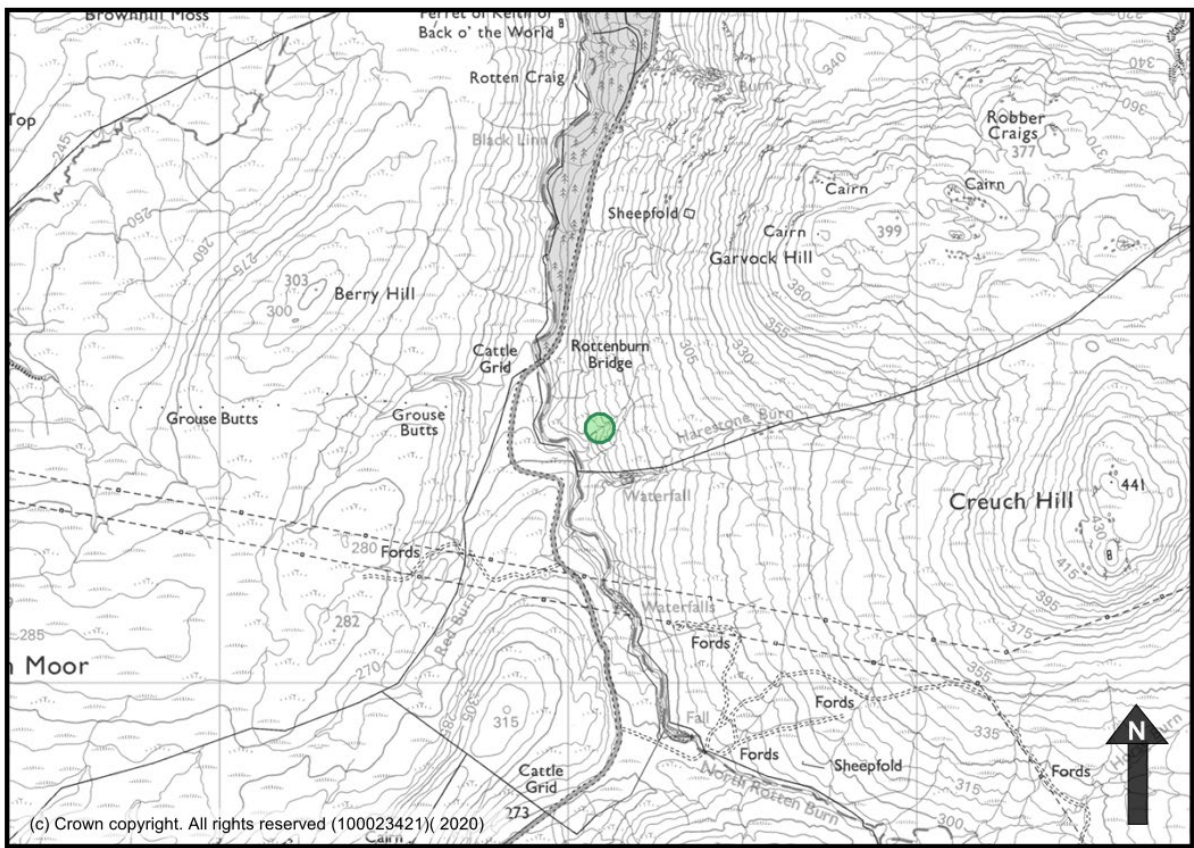
Further Reading

Lee, A - 'Wemyss Bay, 'over Kelly', The Sawmill (Inverkip parish), remains of mill, channel, dam', *Discovery and Excavation, Scotland*, 1995, pp.80 (1995)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Rottenburn Bridge, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 225100 668700	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Structure	
Date Recorded: Unknown	Canmore Ref No. 41244

Archaeology Note

A circular foundation, 10ft 8ins in diameter, partly fallen down the N bank of a dried watercourse.



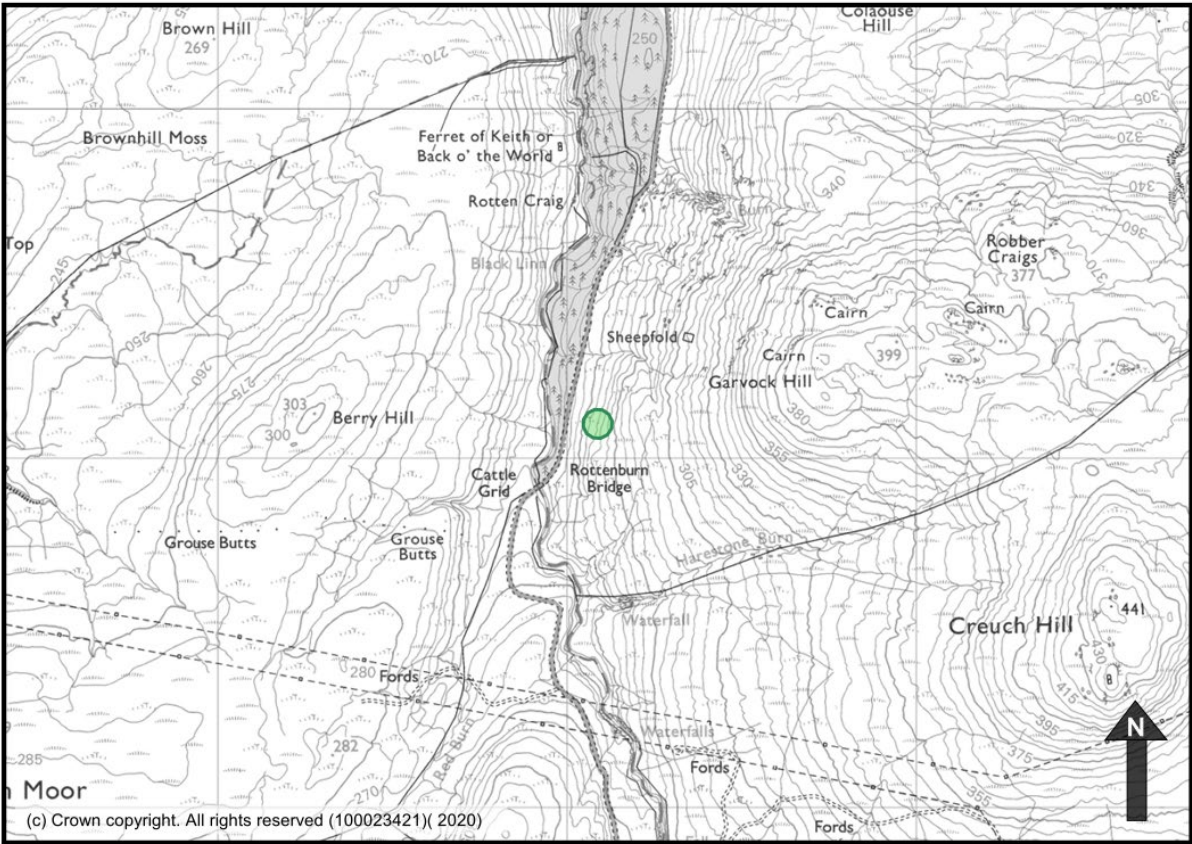
Further Reading

Newall, F - 'Rottenburn Bridge', Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, 1965, pp.35 (1965)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Rottenburn Bridge, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 225100 668700	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Building	
Date Recorded: Unknown	Canmore Ref No. 41245

Archaeology Note

A round-ended foundation, 33ft x 12ft 9ins (internally 26ft 6ins x 5ft 6ins) divided by a cross wall.



Further Reading

Newall, F - 'Rottenburn Bridge', Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, 1965, pp.35 (1965)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Wemyss Bay Railway Station and Pier	
Alternative Name: Wemyss Bay Station, Wemyss Bay Pier	
Grid Reference:	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Railway Terminus, Pier	
Date Recorded: 12 March 2008	Canmore Ref No. 68123

Archaeology Note

(Wemyss Bay Station and Pier; location cited as NS 193 685). Rebuilt 1903 by the Caledonian Rly, architect James Miller and engineer Donald Mathieson. Noted as one of the finest stations of its period; a platform terminus with glazed awnings over the platform. There is a circular booking office with steel ribs radiating from it to support a circular glazed roof. The approach from the street is through a single-storey, stone and harl building with a clock tower in similar style. There is a gently sloping ramp to the pier, with glazed sides and roof.
J R Hume 1976

Wemyss Bay Station (1903-4) is an astonishing delight. There are several buildings, all designed by the prolific James Miller for the Caledonian Rly: a house and cottages on the main coast road and the station building itself are built in half-timbered, red-tiled, turn-of-the-century Tudor using local red stone for plinths and dressings. A striped clock tower catches the eye from ship or shore. But it is inside that catches the imagination. Everything is roofed in a bright, light, fully-glazed lattice steel structure which curves fluently not only in section but in plan too. Around the central semi-circular booking office shallow arched canopies slide out like sinuous octopus tentacles over arcaded platforms and down the ramped hall leading to the pier and the Rothesay ferry. It is a miracle of intersecting curves: the finest railway architecture in Scotland.
F A Walker 1986

This terminal station on the Wemyss Bay branch of the (former) Caledonian Railway. was opened on 15 May 1865 by the Greenock and Wemyss Bay Railway. It remains in regular passenger use.
R V J Butt 1995

This station and its branch line have been electrified. 29 December 1997.

Constructed 1903-4. James Miller, architect. Front buildings: rock faced ashlar plinth, mock hall timber and harling, red tiled roofs. Italianate clock tower. Concourse: 2/3 of a circle with circular booking office. From it fans out a curved ramp down to steamboat pier and curved railway platforms. All with glazed steel-trussed roofs.

Greenock to Wemyss Bay railway was opened 1865. It was absorbed by Caledonian Railway 1893



Further Reading

Stevenson, JB - Exploring Scotland's heritage: the Clyde estuary and Central Region. Edinburgh (1985)

Hume, JR - The industrial archaeology of Scotland. Volume 1: The Lowlands and Borders. London (1976)

Bonavia, MR - Historic railway sites in Britain. London (1987)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Wemyss Bay Station Cottages	
Alternative Name: Wemyss Bay Station	
Grid Reference: 219388 688588	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Cottages	
Date Recorded:	Canmore Ref No 125234

Archaeology Note

Station Cottages

OS 1:10,000 map, 1965.
 1903-4 (?) James Miller (?) architect. 2 storeyed, mock half-timbering and harling, red tiled roofs.



Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Wemyss Bay Station House	
Alternative Name: Wemyss Bay Station	
Grid Reference: 219380 668560	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: House	
Date Recorded: 20 April 2001	Canmore Ref No 125223

Archaeology Note

Station House
 OS 1:10,000 map, 1965.
 1903-4 (?) James Miller (?) architect. 2 storeyed, mock half timbering and harling, red tiled roofs.



Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Wemyss Bay Station Pier	
Alternative Name: Wemyss Bay Pier	
Grid Reference: 219140 668550	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Pier	
Date Recorded: Unknown	Canmore Ref No 125235

Archaeology Note

None



Further Reading

Newall, F - 'Outerward - Largs, Main Trunk Road, Roman Roads', Discovery and Excavation in Scotland, 1971, p.12 (1971)

Archaeology Site – Wemyss Bay	
Site Name: Wemyss Plantation, Wemyss Bay	
Alternative Name:	
Grid Reference: 219250 670400	Parish: Inverkip
Monument Type: Anti-aircraft Battery	
Date Recorded: 3 May 2001	Canmore Ref No. 107527

Archaeology Note

This anti-aircraft battery has been demolished and a new housing estate built on the site.

One of five heavy 5.25-inch anti-aircraft batteries built around Glasgow. Built between 1951-2, the battery was a fully automated radar controlled unit with four emplacements. Records show that the guns were disposed of for scrap in July 1956 to McConnells of Coatbridge.

NS 1925 7040. Heavy AA battery WWI. 5.25 inch battery built on earlier Heavy AA site. Guy, 1992-99. Report in SMR archive.

