

**Report of Archaeological Desktop
&
Walkover Survey
Scalpay Woods, Scalpay, Highland.**

Centred at NG 590/310

Client: CKD Galbraith for Scalpay Estate

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Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by CKD Galbraith on behalf of Scalpay Estate in August 2009 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for an area of proposed woodland on the island of Scalpay, Highland. Part of the area had previously been part surveyed in 2001 and work was undertaken to confirm the results made therein. Only part of the site was walked over.

Work revealed a number of previously unrecorded archaeological sites to include buildings, a sheepfold and clearance cairns.

A number of recommendations have been made to exclude these sites from the proposed schemes.

3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to the area of proposed woodland. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and those of the Forestry Commission (FC, 1995).

4. Archaeological Survey

Desktop & Walkover Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Historic Environment Records;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh (Maps);
- Local archives.

Map coverage was limited to the areas of interest, as the 1st edition OS of 1880 was almost the same as the 2nd edition of 1900 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being the late 1960's or early 1970's. Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the areas of proposed woodland. Very limited aerial photographs are available for study in the RCAHMS, Edinburgh with only partial cover at a low height (with no coverage to N part of island) with later flights being too high.

Historical Background

Not much is known about the history of Scalpay. Martin Martin in his journey to the Western Isles in the very late 17th century noted the island to have woods in several parts, with the ground being mostly arable and fruitful in grass and corn. The population size at this period is unknown but by 1841 there were 90 persons recorded on the island by the Census.

'Roundish, hilly isle of three by four miles for which Dr Johnson proposed in 1773 that a school and episcopal chapel should be built, 'and a printing press where we should print all the Erse that could be found.' Formerly owned by the MacDonald's of Sleat, Scalpay was bought c. 1890 by Sir Donald Currie of the Castle Line shipping company. He remodelled the 18th century tacksman's residence, Scalpay House, which looks over to Broadford and down the Kyle of Lochalsh from the south-east end of the island. Scalpay is still privately owned and has a population of six.' (Meirs, 2008, 376-7)

Some archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the south end of the proposed scheme. Mr. Steven Birch of West Coast Archaeological Services undertook a survey of three blocks of proposed woodland in April 2001. Work revealed a number of new sites to include farmsteads, shieling groups and prehistoric lithic scatters, though the survey did not include a number of landscape boundaries or cultivation plots except where associated with an archaeological feature. The lithic scatters found included microliths and other artifacts to suggest a late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

The following archaeological sites were to be found in the area of the proposed woodland scheme. Grid references on-site were obtained using a Garmin II GPS using OS data. Sites are as follows:

HER – Highland Council Historic Environment Record
NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland
N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

1 – Scalpay
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NG 5874/2938
Type – Lithic Scatter

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 11) as 'At the base of south-west facing slope covered in relict lazy-bed cultivation, and at 7 metres OD, numerous pieces of chipped stone were found. There were recovered from animal rubs, tracks and erosion features, 20 metres south-west of the old wire fence. Although situated outside the proposed boundary for the management unit, it is possible that the main centre of the site lies upslope on the 12 metre raised beach platform and therefore close to the suggested fence-line. The area from which lithics were collected measures approximately 10 metres (NW-SE axis) by 8 metres, although the actual focus of settlement and the area it covers could not be confirmed during this survey. The assemblage of struck stone collected from the erosion features comprises chalcedonic silica, quartz, quartzite, rock crystal and Rum bloodstone. The latter material had its main source on the Hebridean island of Rum, to the south of Skye. Most of the pieces collected comprised small fraction debitage, although snapped blade fragments and possible crecentric microliths could suggest a Mesolithic date for this site.'

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme. Should be grouped with sites 2-6.

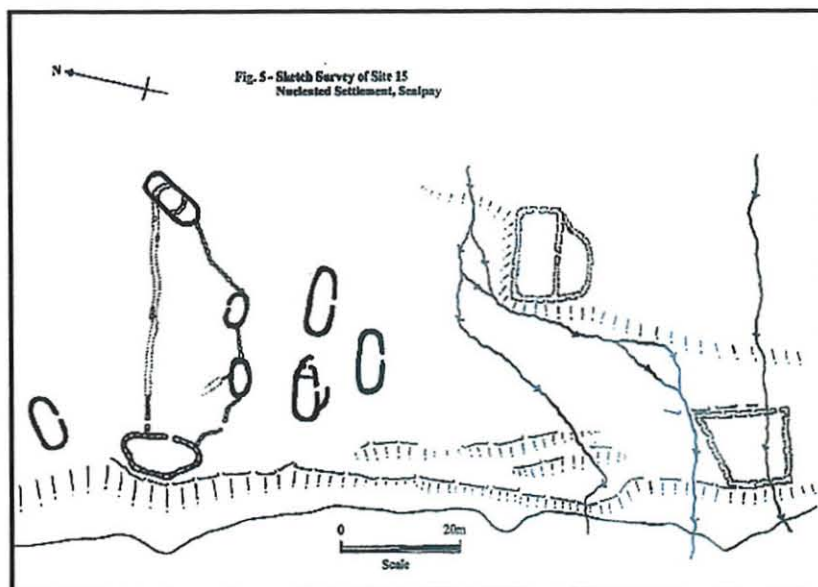
2 - Scalpay
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NG 5864/2948
Type – Settlement

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 11-13) as 'Situated at 8 metres OD and extending down to just above the limit of the High Water Spring tide mark, are the degraded remains of a nucleated settlement. The settlement, lying 20 metres north a large ruined boundary wall and having a south-westerly aspect, comprises the remains of 5 houses, 2 byres, 2 stock pens and a compartmented kale yard (see Fig. V). Sections of degraded boundary walls link some of the of the structures within the group and large areas of relict lazy-bed cultivation are situated to the north and north-east. The quality of the stone built structures is quite poor and may have been the houses and associated settlement remains of the resident cotters and their families. Two of the house structures show signs of re-use and modification at a later stage in their life. A stone-built shieling-type structure has been incorporated within House 1, and House 3 has been converted into a smaller accommodation unit or bothy.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Plan of Site – From Birch, 2001, 13.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme. Should be grouped with sites 1-6.



3a - Scalpay

HER – MHG 37348

NMRS – NG52NE 30

Grid Ref: NG 5872/2956

Type – Lithic Scatter

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'The following sites were recorded between October 1999 and May 2000 as part of the Scotland's First Settlers Project (DES 1999,49-50): NG 5872 2956 Scalpay 4 Lithic scatter. A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.'

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme. Should be grouped with sites 1-6.

3b - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5874/2955

Type – Enclosure

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 14) as 'Situated in a hollow, 80 metres south-west of the vehicle access track and upstream from Site 15, are the degraded remains of a stone and turf-built enclosure. Measuring 18 metres long (NE-SW axis) and 12 metres wide, the sub-rectangular structure has been built around a small stream and may have been used to house livestock. The enclosure is covered in heather and situated at 18 metres OD.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme. Should be grouped with sites 1-6.

4 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5855/2959

Type – Structure

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 14) as 'On wet slope at base of raised beach platform and 8 metres north-east of the High Water Spring tide mark, are the remains of stone-built sub-rectangular structure. Measuring 9 metres long (NE-SW axis) by 4 metres wide over walls around 1 metre thick, the partially grass-covered structure is situated at 3 metres OD. A very degraded stone-built pen, measuring 7metres by 4 metres over walls of indeterminate thickness, is attached to the south side of the building.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme. Should be grouped with sites 1-6.

5 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5858/2977

Type – Farmstead

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 14) as 'On a stone-revetted platform at 21 metres OD, are the ruinous remains of a stone-built sub-rectangular building measuring 12 metres long by 5 metres wide over walls 1.2 metres thick. The structure is aligned on a north-south axis and has an entrance in the south end of the east wall. The remains of a dividing walls are visible within the house, possibly indication the presence of an integral byre. The building has a small annex attached on the west-facing wall measuring 5 metres by 4 metres over walls 1 metre thick. The structure has a south-westerly aspect with wide ranging views over Loch na Cairidh to Skye, and is surrounded by large areas of relict lazy-bed cultivation.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme. Should be grouped with sites 1-6.

6 - Scalpay

HER – MHG 37346

NMRS – NG52NE 28

Grid Ref: NG 5853/2974

Type – Lithic Scatter

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'The following sites were recorded between October 1999 and May 2000 as part of the Scotland's First Settlers Project (DES 1999, 49-50): NG 5853 2974 Scalpay 2 Lithic scatter. A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.'

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 14) as 'Situating towards the back of a raised beach platform and at a height of 12 metres OD, several flakes of struck stone were found eroding from a washed out animal track. The site is located around 90 metres SSW of site 18 and has a south-westerly aspect. The animal track cuts through an area of improved ground containing relict lazy-bed cultivation strips and the sites boundaries seem to be defined by two small streams. This area measures around 50 metres (NW-SE axis) by 40 metres, however, this is difficult to define without further exploratory work. The material comprising the lithics collected from the erosions on this site consists of chalcedonic silicas, quartz, quartzite, rock crystal and Rum bloodstone and although most of the pieces are small fraction debitage, struck blades and flakes were recovered.'

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme. Should be grouped with sites 1-5.

7 - Scalpay
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NG 5916/2991
Type – Shielings

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 15) as 'On south-east facing platform overlooking the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich and at the base of old forestry gripping, 6 metres uphill from metal fence, and the degraded remains of 3 stone and turf-built shielings. The shieling group is situated at 92 metres OD and comprises single and multi-cell types.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

8 - Scalpay
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NG 5929/2965
Type – Shielings

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 15) as 'Situated on an east facing slope above the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich, and to either side of a small east-trending stream, are the very degraded remains of 2 turf and stone-built shielings. These ephemeral structures now appear as low platforms cut into the hillside their appearance enhanced somewhat by their use as cattle stances. The site is located at 75 metres OD.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

9 - Scalpay
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NG 5929/2985
Type – Shielings

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 15) as 'Located on a narrow terrace of improved ground and to the south of a low sandstone rock outcrop, are the remains of 2 degraded stone-built shielings. Overlooking the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich at a height of 92 metres OD, the shielings comprise 1 single-cell structure measuring 3 metres long by 2 metres wide over walls of indeterminate thickness. There is no entrance visible into the structure. The second shieling is sub-rectangular in plan, measuring 5.5 metres long by 3.5 metres wide over walls 0.8 metres thick. The 0.6 metres entrance is located in the south end of the structure, and a 1 metre diameter twinning pen has been constructed at a later date in the north-west sector. A boulder-built pen measuring 5 metres long by 3.5m wide is attached to the south-west wall of the shieling.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

10 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5922/2965

Type – Shielings

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 15) as 'A little over 10 metres east of the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich and by the junction with a small stream descending from a large waterfall, are the ruinous remains of a stone-built multi-cell shieling. Measuring 8 metres by 4 metres over walls 0.8 metres thick and comprising five individual cells, the bracken-covered structure still survives to a maximum height of 1.2 metres. Approximately 80 metres east and up the steep hillside, are the degraded remains of 3 single cell and 2 twin cell stone-built shielings. All of the structures are located on a well-drained and steeply-sloping piece of ground at 55 metres OD.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

11 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5940/2958

Type – Shielings

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 16) as 'On a west facing shelf, high on the steep slopes of the hill overlooking the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich Glen, are the ruinous remains of a multi-cell stone-built structure. Measuring 8 metres long by 6 metres wide over walls 0.6 metres thick, the structure comprises a large central cell that has 4 smaller cells radiating off and stands to a maximum height of 0.8 metres. The 1 metre wide entrance to the central cell faces north. The shieling is situated at 108 metres OD.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

12 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5936/2953

Type – Shieling

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 16) as 'Located at 92 metres OD, on a small grassy platform overlooking the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich and 30 metres north of a deep gully containing a small stream, are the ruinous remains of a stone-built structure. Measuring 6 metres long by 4 metres wide over walls 0.8 metres thick, the shieling comprises 4 individual cells aligned NE-SW. Two large upright stones flank the 0.6 metres wide entrance that faces south-west, and the internal arrangement of the cells seems to have been modified at some stage during use. A broken rock outcrop rises to the north of the structure, which has extensive views over the surrounding landscape.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

13 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5951/2854

Type – Bothy, Pen

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 16) as 'Situated on an improved area of ground with a south-west aspect and around 40 metres north-east of the vehicle access track, are the ruinous remains of a sub-circular stone-built pen measuring 5.5 metres by 5 metres over walls 1 metre thick. The pen stands to a maximum height of 0.7 metres. Approximately 20 metres north-west is a D-shaped structure measuring 7 metres long by 4 metres wide. The 0.8 metre entrance faces north-west and the structure, possibly a bothy, survives to a maximum height of 0.8 metres. A degraded stone-built enclosure is attached to the north-west side of the bothy. Located at 27 metres OD, the structures are situated around 150 metres north-west of the Allt na Criche.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

14 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5939/2880

Type – Pen

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 16) as 'At base of steep south-west facing slope at 22 metres OD and 50 metres north-east of the vehicle access track, are the ruinous remains of a stone-built twinning pen. Measuring 1 metre diameter over walls 0.4 metre thick, the pen retains two courses of stonework and has been built abutting the west side of remnant of large boulder boundary. The pen is situated around 70 metres south a small stream, which descends from a steep, rocky gully.'

Not visible on aerial photographs of 1946. Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

15 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5923/2897

Type – Farmstead

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 17) as 'On a heather-covered knoll, at the base of south-west facing slopes and 100 metres north-east of the vehicle access track, are the ruinous remains of a stone-built house, byre and kale yard. Situated at 19 metres OD, the structures are completely covered with bracken and heather. The house comprises of a sub-rectangular structure aligned N-S and measures 10 metres long by 4.5 metres wide over walls 1 metre thick. The 0.7 metre wide entrance faces north-east. The kale yard is attached to the west wall of the house and is sub-rectangular in shape. A twin celled structure is situated 11

metres south-east of the houses and is aligned SE-NW. Measuring 7 metres long by 4 metres wide over walls 1 metre thick, there is no visible entrance into this structure. This could be a byre or drying kiln.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Walkover reveals 2 structures as previously described covered with bracken, situated to E of former forestry ploughing.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

16 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5926/2905

Type – Bothy, Kale Yard

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 17) as 'At base of south-west facing slope with old forestry gripping and 80 metres north of site 27 [This surveys site 22], are the degraded remains of a stone-built sub-rectangular structure. This measures 8 metres long (SW-NE axis) by 4 metres wide over walls 0.8 metres thick. There is no obvious entrance within the building, which survives to a maximum height of 1 metre. The stone and turf-built kale yard is located 22 metres to the north and has been badly damaged by the forestry gripping and the construction of a drainage ditch.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Walkover reveals site as described in poor condition. Kale yard at NG 59260/29077. Situated to SW of former forestry ploughing.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

17 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

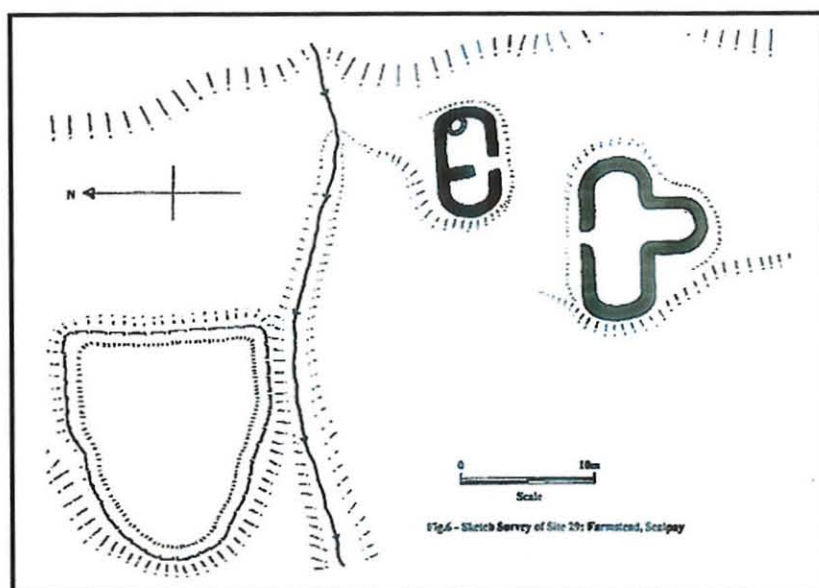
Grid Ref: NG 5925/2916

Type – Farmstead

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 17) as 'Situated at the base of south-west facing slopes at 37 metres OD and 5 metres south of a small stream, are the ruinous remains of a stone-built farmstead. Comprising house, byre and kale yard, the complex is located in area of improved ground containing lazy-bed cultivation plots and boundary dykes. The house measures 12 metres long (E-W axis) by 5.5 metres over walls 1 metre thick. The 1m wide entrance is located in the north wall of the structure and a small annex has been built on the south-facing wall, measuring 4 metres by 4 metres over walls. The byre, measuring 8 metres long (E-W axis) by 4.5 metres wide over walls 1 metre thick is situated 6 metres to the north. The remains of a partition wall are visible inside and the entrance faces south. A 1 metre diameter twinning pen has been built within the north-east corner of the byre at a later date. Sections of the house and byre survive to a maximum height of 1.2 metres.

Around 16 metres to the north-west of the byre and just beyond the small stream, are the degraded remains of the kale yard. This structure is sub-rectangular in shape and measures 18 metres long (E-W axis) by 15 metres wide, over stone and turf-built walls of indeterminate thickness.'

Sub-circular enclosure visible in area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4055). Enclosure marked on OS map of 1968. (NG52NE).



(Site Plan, from Birch, 2001, 18)

Walkover reveals house sites and enclosure only visible due to rise and fall in bracken.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place, with both houses and enclosure to form one area of exclusion.

18 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5913/2927

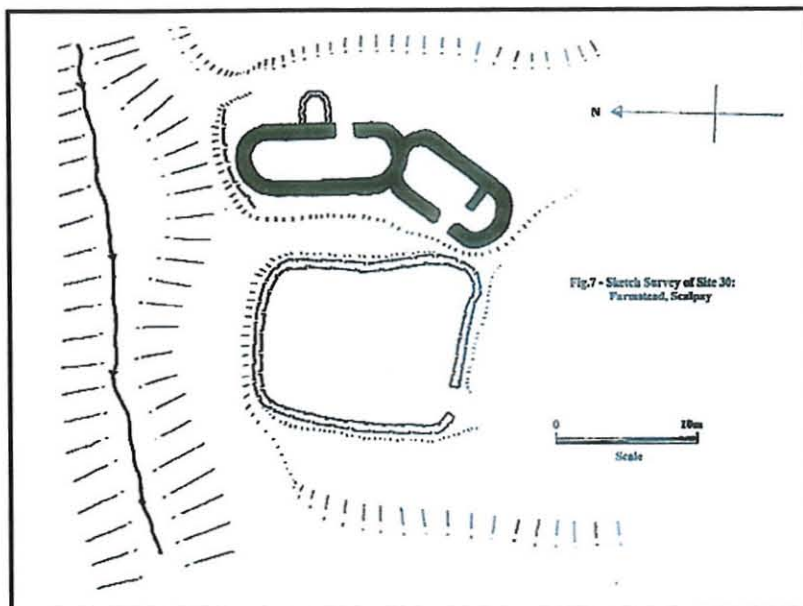
Type – Farmstead

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 18-19) as 'Around 50 metres south of the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich and on a west facing slope, are the well preserved remains of a stone-built farmstead comprising house, byre and boulder-built pen. Situated at 32 metres OD, the site is distinguished from a distance by a large area of bracken lying at the foot of gently rising ground.

Set on a slope facing the river (N-S axis) the house with rounded ends measures 12 metres long by 5 metres wide over walls 1 metre thick. A 0.8 metre wide entrance faces to the east and immediately north of this, a small stone pen has been built against the outer wall of the house. This measures 2.5 metres by 2 metres and has no visible entrance. The byre is attached to the south wall of the house and is aligned on a NE-SW axis. Measuring 8 metres long by 5 metres wide over walls 1 metre thick, a 1 metre wide entrance faces north-west. The remains of an internal partition wall were noted within this structure.

The large sub-rectangular boulder-built enclosure almost touches the south-west corner of the byre and measures 15 metres long (NE-SW axis) by 12 metres wide over walls at least 1 metre thick. A 2 metre wide entrance is visible within the south wall of the enclosure. Sections of the house and byre walls survive to 1.4 metres on height.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Single unroofed building marked on OS map of 1968. (NG52NE).



(Site Plan, from Birch, 2001, 19)

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

19 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5921/2944

Type – Shieling

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 19) as 'Set on the east bank of the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich at 40 metres OD, amidst a small patch of bracken, are the degraded remains of a single-cell stone and turf-built shieling. Measuring 2.5 metres in diameter over walls 0.6 metres thick, the structure has no visible entrance and survives to a maximum height of 0.4 metres.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

20 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5901/2910

Type – Bothy

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 20) as 'Around 50 metres southeast of the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich on a bracken-covered rise, and situated at 14 metres OD, are the degraded remains of a stone and turf-built bothy. Aligned on a N-S axis and measuring 9 metres long by 5 metres wide over walls of indeterminate thickness, the structure has no visible entrance and survives to 0.25 metres in height. Two individual lazy-beds are located immediately to the east of the structure.'

In area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

21 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5908/2898

Type – Structure

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 20) as 'On improved ground 25 metres east of the vehicle access track and at 13 metres OD, are the degraded remains of stone-built cell. Having a westerly aspect and situated 20 metres south of a small stream, the structure measures 4 metres in diameter over walls 0.8 metres thick. Standing to a maximum height of 0.7 metres, the 0.8 metre wide entrance faces west.'

Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

22 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5901/2927

Type – Farmstead

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 20) as 'Situated on a level terrace with a south-westerly aspect, are the ruinous remains of a farmstead. Around 60 metres north of the Allt a' Chinn Uachdaraich and located at 20 metres OD, the farmstead comprises a stone-built house, a possible kiln byre and a boulder-built pen or kale yard.

The house with squared corners is aligned on a NE-SW axis and measures 12 metres long by 5 metres wide over walls 1m thick. The 0.8 metre wide entrance faces east and the structure survives to a maximum height of 0.7 metres. However, this structure seems to have been built over a slightly larger earlier building, which has rounded ends. The kiln byre is located 20 metres east of the house and measures 8 metres long (N-S axis) by 4 metres wide over walls 0.8 metres thick and has two separate compartments. This structure is situated in a very wet area of ground.

The boulder-built pen or kale yard is situated 20 metres south of the house, at the base of a river terrace bordering the Allt a Chinn Uachdaraich. Measuring 14 metres long (NE-SW axis) by 12 metres wide over walls 0.6 metres thick, the pen utilises the stream as a natural boundary.'

Not marked on OS maps.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

23 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5890/2934

Type – Farmstead

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 20-21) as 'Abutting the west side of the vehicle access track at 23 metres OD, are the ruinous remains of a stone-built farmstead. Situated on

improved ground with a south-westerly aspect, the house is aligned NE-SW and measures 13 metres long by 4.5 metres wide over walls 1m thick. The 1 metre entrance to the house faces south-east and the structure survives to a maximum height of 1 metre. A boulder and turf built kale yard is attached to the north-west side of the house and measures approximately 14 metres long by 10 metres wide over walls 0.8 metres thick. The remains of a stone and turf-built byre are attached to the east corner of the house by a low connecting wall, however, this has been partially destroyed by the construction of the nearby vehicle access track. A stone-built stack stand is located by the south corner of the house and measures 1.2 metres in diameter. This consists of a layer of stones placed edge-to-edge on the ground surface.'

Single unroofed building visible in area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (4054). Unroofed building marked on OS map of 1968. (NG52NE).

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

24 - Scalpay

HER – MHG 37347

NMRS – NG52NE 29

Grid Ref: NG 5883/2920

Type – Lithic Scatter

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'The following sites were recorded between October 1999 and May 2000 as part of the Scotland's First Settlers Project (DES 1999, 49-50): NG 5883 2920 Scalpay 3 Lithic scatter. A full report has been lodged with the NMRS.'

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 21) as 'Situated at 12 metres OD on the surface of a raised beach platform, 120 metres north of the cottage of Corran a' Chinn Uachdaraich, erosion has exposed part of an old ground surface containing flaked stone artefacts. Having a west and south-westerly aspect, the site has revealed a range of stone material types utilised by the prehistoric communities visiting this site including chaldedonic silicas (including flint) quartz, quartzite and Rum bloodstone. Mainly consisting of small fraction debitage, the assemblage collected from this site includes scrapers and struck blades, although these are not diagnostic to any particular period.

A drainage ditch 20 metres south-east of the platform has also produced lithic material, along with smaller eroded areas to the east. Therefore, the area from which artefacts have been recovered is approximately 60 metres N-S by 50 metres E-W. Considering the locality of the site on the raised beach platform and the types of raw material utilised, the chipped stone assemblage may be prehistoric in date.'

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

25 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5893/2916

Type – Lithic Scatter

Recorded by S Birch in 2001 (ibid, 21) as 'A number of struck stone artefacts have also been recovered from the surface of the vehicle access track, 150 metres east of the cottage at Corran a' Chinn Uachdaraich. The main concentration of artefacts, have been recovered from the exposed and eroding surface of the track where it rises over a series of raised beach platforms. Situated at 12 metres OD and having a southerly aspect the site has produced material types similar to site 35 [This survey's site 24] including chaldedonic silicas, quartz,

quartzite and Rum bloodstone. The few artefacts collecting representing tools include thumbnail scrapers and struck blades, however, the majority of the material comprises small fraction debitage. Material collected from the site covers an area approximately 70 metres long, on a SE-NW axis, by 5 metres wide, however, the full extent and main focus of the site are not known.'

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme; area between here and cottage to be excluded from scheme.

26 - Corran A' Chinn Uachdaraich
HER – MHG 25483
NMRS – NG52NE 18
Grid Ref: NG 588/291
Type – Farmstead, Sheepfold

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'A farmstead comprising one unroofed building and, approximately 160m to the E, one roofed building, an enclosure, a sheepfold and a field is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1881, sheet 40) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1968) except the unroofed building lies approximately 220m to the NNE of the location of that shown on the 1st edition. Information from RCAHMS 28 November 1996.'

Roofed building visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4054). Possible building visible to point, again of aerial photograph of 1946 (4056). T-shaped building with small roofed building and well, also enclosure and sheepfold, not named, on 2nd edition OS of 1903 (sheet 40).

Walkover reveals farmstead now holiday cottage. Sheepfold to rear, used recently as vegetable garden with walls up to 1.5m high. Building at point at NG 58660/29117 aligned N-S 8m by 3.2m with banks of walls up to 0.4m wide and 0.2m high, which lies in area of slight field banks, also the following:

CC at NG 58723/29172 3m by 6m by 1.5m high.
CC at NG 58702/29280 4m by 3m by 1m high.
CC at NG 58755/29224 *ibid*.
CC at NG 58789/29217 3m by 3m by 1.5m high.

No recommendations to be made (area of ground to point and surrounding cottage under private lease – see red line marked on map).

27 – Scalpay,
HER – MHG 27779
NMRS – NG53SE 1
Grid Ref: NG 5802/3074
Type – Building

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'An unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1879, sheet 36) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1988). Information from RCAHMS 8 November 1996.'

One unroofed building on 2nd edition OS of 1903 (sheet 36); marked as unroofed on OS map of 1988 (NG53SE). Single unroofed building visible in area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (2054).

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

28 - Scalpay
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NG 5800/3125 (centred)
Type – Farmstead

6 Unroofed buildings, one of 2 compartments marked on OS map of 1988 (NG53SE). Two unroofed buildings visible in area of lazy-beds on aerial photograph of 1946 (2053). The lazy beds are visible to both North and South sides of burn. Not marked on 1st or 2nd edition OS maps (sheet 36).

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place. Area to include area between buildings.

29 – Scalpay,
HER – MHG 27780
NMRS – NG53SE 12
Grid Ref: NG 5888/3250
Type – Buildings

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'Two unroofed buildings are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1879, sheet xxxvi). One unroofed building is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1988). Information from RCAHMS 8 November 1996.'

One unroofed building on 2nd edition OS of 1903 (sheet 36); marked as unroofed on OS map of 1988 (NG53SE).

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place. Site to be joined with site 30.

30 - Scalpay
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NG 5909/3255
Type – Building, Enclosure (Possible)

Roofed building marked on latest OS. Not marked on 1st edition OS, Marked as roofed on 2nd edition OS of 1903 (sheet 36). One L-shaped roofed building marked on OS map of 1988 (NG53SE). Possible enclosure marked on OS map.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place. Site to be joined with site 29.

31 – Scalpay, Rubha a' Chinn Mhoir
HER – MHG 27781
NMRS – NG53SE 13
Grid Ref: NG 5999/3293
Type – Farmstead

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'What may be a farmstead comprising one unroofed and two roofed buildings are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1879, sheet 36). Two unroofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1988). Information from RCAHMS 8 November 1996.'

Two unroofed building shown on 2nd edition OS of 1903.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place. Site to be joined with site 32.

32 - Scalpay

HER – MHG 27845

NMRS – NG63SW1

Grid Ref: NG 601/328

Type – Building

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'An unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1879, sheet xxxvi), but it is not shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1968). Information from RCAHMS 8 November 1996.'

Unroofed building on 2nd edition OS of 1903 (sheet 36).

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place. Site to be joined with site 31.

33 - Scalpay

HER – MHG 27846

NMRS – NG63SW 2

Grid Ref: NG 6070/3260

Type – Township

Noted by HER and NMRS of 'A township comprising seventeen unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1879, sheet xxxvi). Twenty-one unroofed buildings and three enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1968). Information from RCAHMS 8 November 1996.'

On the 1:10,560 map of 1968, 5 of the buildings are marked of having 2 compartments, with one of 3 compartments. A section of head-dyke is shown to the west wide of the village, upslope and towards the burn; a further section is shown to the south. The head-dyke is not shown on the 1st edition or 2nd edition OS. A total of 25 buildings and three enclosures are shown on 2nd edition OS of 1903.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

34 - Scalpay

HER – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 5924/2892

Type – Pen, Building

Walkover reveals Pen at NG 59243/28915 at 82ft. c1.5m in diameter and 0.2m high, oval in shape. Some lazy beds to SE but not very discernible. Building at NG 59239/28929 aligned NW-SE on a SW facing slope; cut into bank on its E side 6.2m by 3m; round-ended at NW end.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and 20m wide exclusion area to be put in place.

5. Conclusions

Overall most of the sites revealed relate to a former 'farming' landscape, though they seem to relate to the island being depopulated in the mid 19th century. They probably date in the most part to the late 18th to early 19th century, though some are of a later date. The lack of prehistoric sites, apart from the lithic sites, probably indicates probable marginal land availability which has constantly been reused until the mid 19th century.

Any unexpected archaeological discoveries made during forestry operations should be notified to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

6. Archive

A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland in Edinburgh and with the Highland Council Archaeology Service.

7. Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

8. References

Birch, Steven (2001) Scalpay Estate – An Archaeological Survey. Unpublished report by West Coast Archaeological Services – copy held by Highland Council HER.

Forestry Commission (1995) Forests & Archaeology Guidelines. Forestry Commission. Edinburgh.

IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.

Miers, M (2008) Western Seaboard: An Illustrated Architectural Guide. Rutland Press.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries for NG52NE, NG53SE and NG63SE.

Maps Consulted

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6inch-mile sheet 36 Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye of 1881 surveyed 1876.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6inch-mile sheet 36 Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye of 1903 revised 1901.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6inch-mile sheet 40 Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye of 1881 surveyed 1876.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6inch-mile sheet 40 Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye of 1903 revised 1901.

Ordnance Survey map NG52NE of 1968 1:10,560.

Ordnance Survey map NG53SE of 1986 1:10,000.

Ordnance Survey map NG63SE of 1968 1:10,560.

Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF CPE/UK/0175	2053-2056, 4053-4056	1946	1:10,000
OS OS-64-061	130-140	1964	1:7500



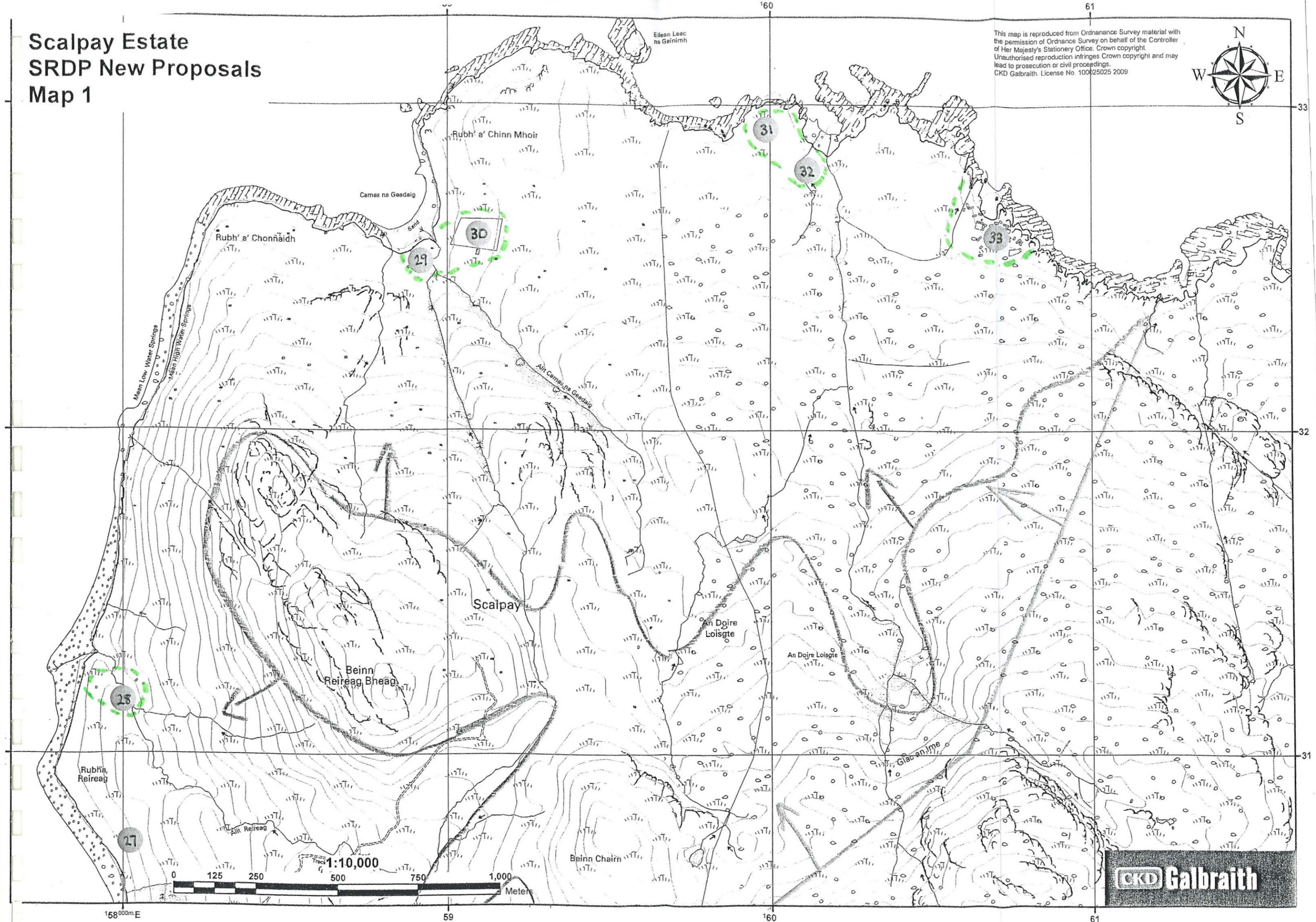
Plate 1 – View of building (site 34) facing NW – scales 2m.

Plate 2 – View of sheepfold (site 26) facing NW.

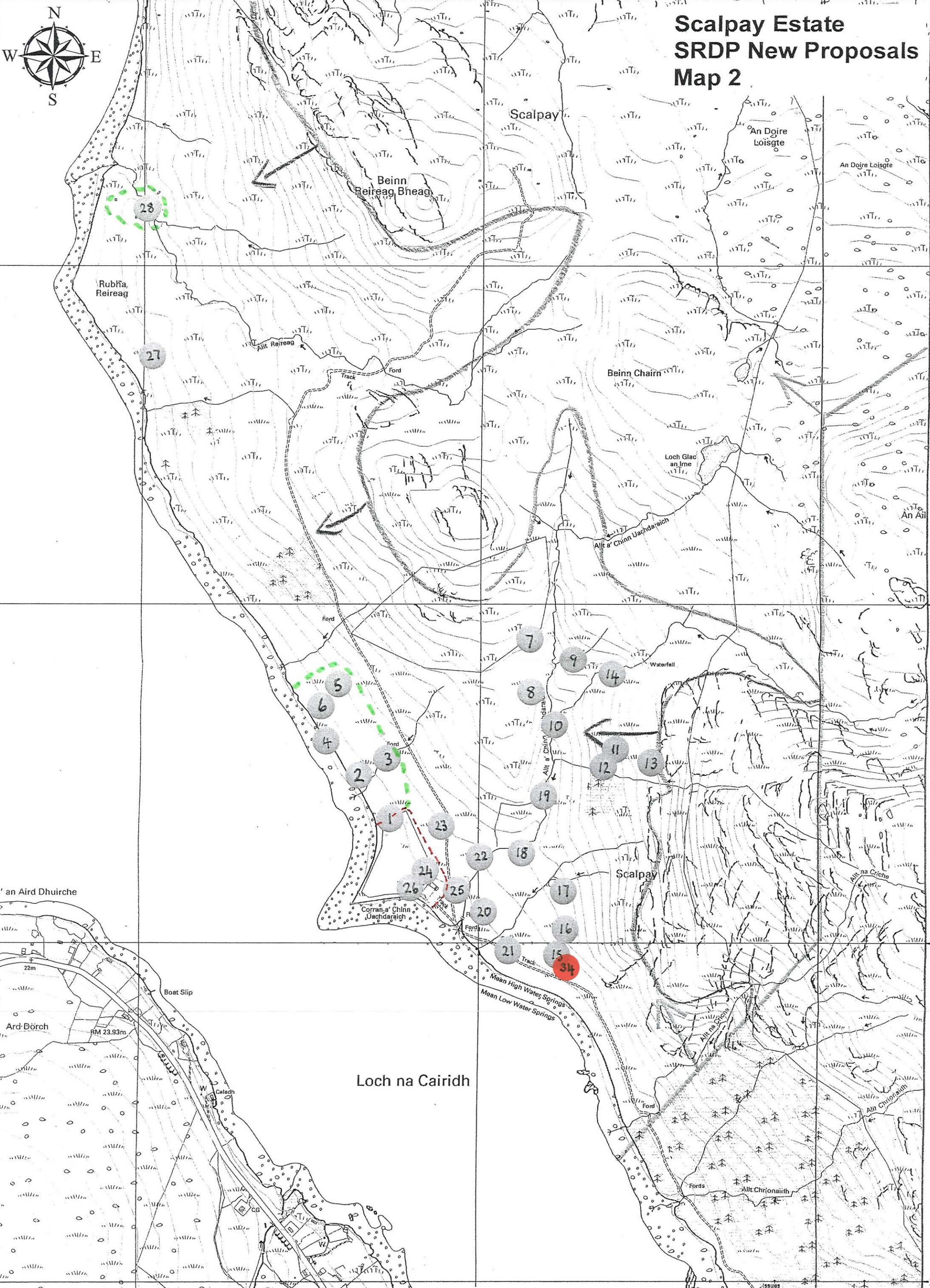


Scalpay Estate SRDP New Proposals Map 1

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Scalpay Estate SRDP New Proposals Map 2



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