



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

Bringing the Past and Future Together

Land at Caulfield Road South, Cradlehall, Inverness



Archaeological Evaluation

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Land at Caulfield Road South, Cradlehall, Inverness

Archaeological Evaluation

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Report No. | HAS110304 |
| Site Code | CDH11 |
| Client | Dr RJ Campbell |
| OS Grid Ref | NH 7023 4430 |
| HCAU / Planning Ref | 10/02621/FUL |
| Date | 15/03/2011 |
| Author | J Wood |

Summary

Desk-based assessment and trial trenching evaluation were undertaken in response to a planning condition at Land N of An Caladh, Caulfield Road South, Inverness, where two house plots are proposed.

Aims and objectives

- To minimise any possible delay or cost to the development by anticipating archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently.*
- To determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; and to preserve these where possible and record where necessary in line with national and local policies and standards.*
- To ensure that any artefacts or human remains are dealt with in accordance with legal requirements and current Historic Scotland policy guidance.*

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Acknowledgements

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Location

The site is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NH 7023 4430 at a height of about 64 m above sea level.

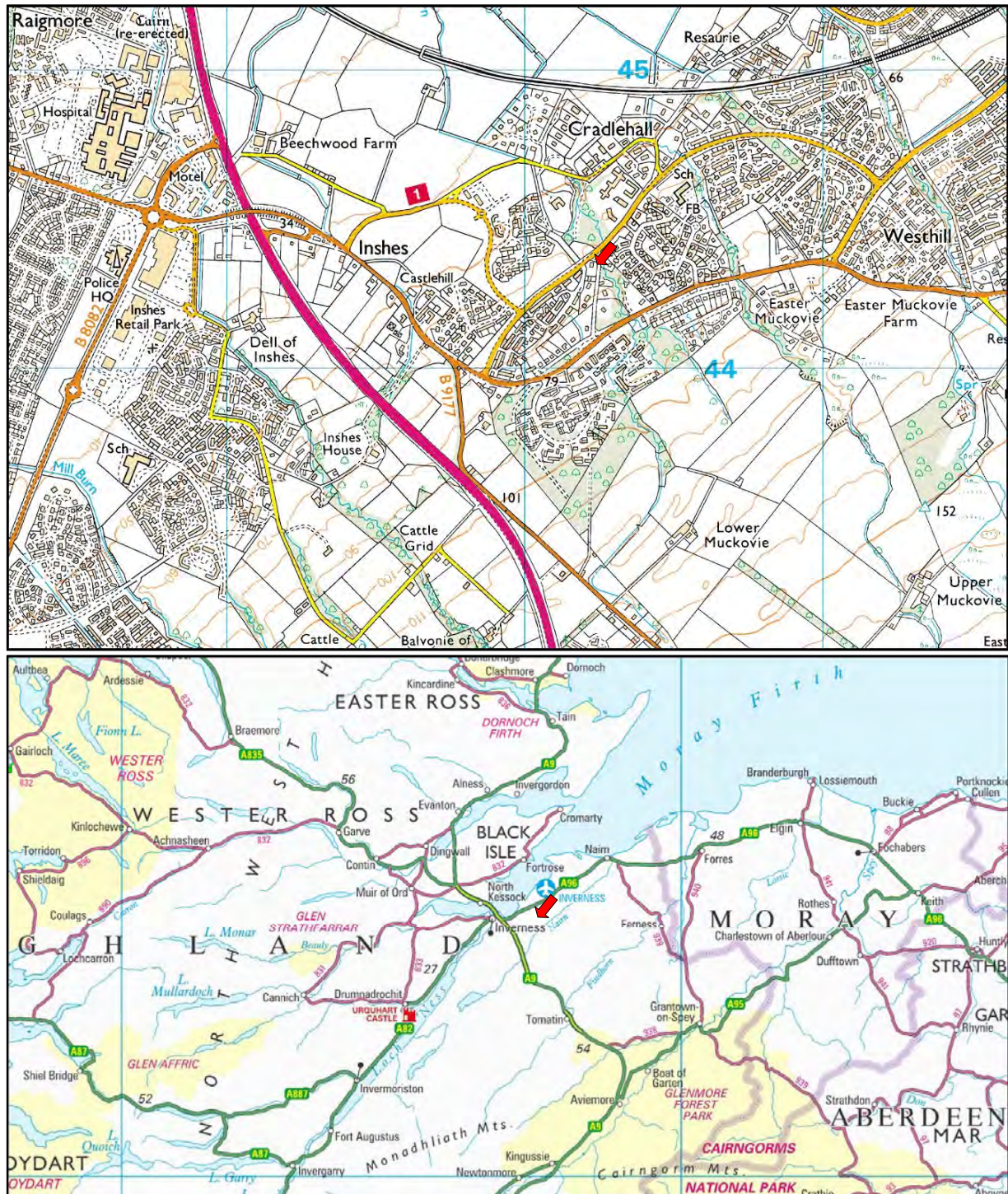


Figure 1 Site location (approx)

Introduction

A programme of archaeological work was undertaken by Highland Archaeology Services Ltd in response to a planning requirement at Caulfield Road South, Cradlehall, Inverness, to identify and record the nature and extent of any archaeological features affected by a proposed development of two houses.

Archaeology and policy background

An archaeological evaluation was requested in this case because there was potential for finds or features of archaeological significance to be affected by site works. The brief for the work provided by the planning authority stated

The application site lies in an area where prehistoric remains have been identified; positive results were obtained from archaeological investigation in advance of development at the adjacent areas of Cradlehall and Castlehill. It is considered likely that further archaeological remains may be present in this area. As such, there is a requirement to evaluate the entire application area in advance of development.¹

The planning and policy framework includes the Highland Council's *Structure Plan*², and the Scottish Government's *Scottish Planning Policy SPP 23: Planning and the Historic Environment* (2008)³. The fundamental principles underpinning the above policies are set out in *Passed to the Future: Historic Scotland's Policy for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2002)⁴ and the *Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS 1999).⁵

Methods and Results

All work was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Highland Council in March 2011⁶.

¹ Highland Council, 2011: *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Formation Of 3 Serviced House Plots At Land N Of An Caladh, Caulfield Road South, Inverness* GR 270233 844304 (10/02621/FUL)

² <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/structureplan/thehighlandstructureplan.htm>

³ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/10/28135841/0>

⁴ www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pasttofuture.pdf

⁵ <http://www.icomos.org/australia/burra.html>

⁶ Wood, J 2011 *Land at Caulfield Road South, Cradlehall, Inverness - Proposed Field Evaluation: Written Scheme of Investigation* Report No. HAS110303

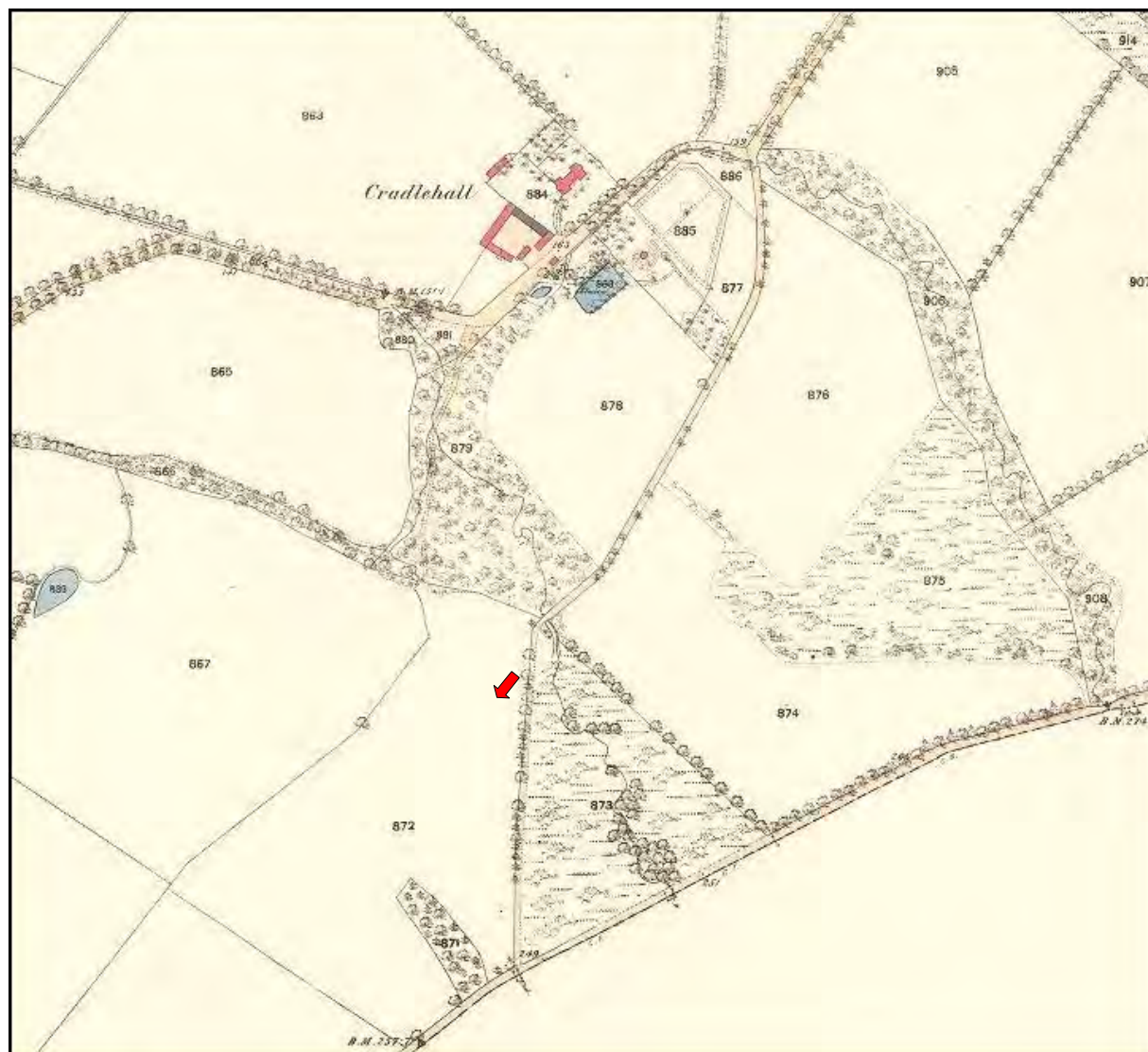


Figure 2 Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 25 inch map, surveyed 1868
Inverness Mainland Sheet XII.3 (Inverness and Bona), published 1874. *Courtesy of National Library of Scotland.*
Arrow shows approximate position of site. Not reproduced to original scale.

Desk Based Assessment

A check of all relevant archaeological / historical records, maps and aerial photographs available online or locally was undertaken as specified by the Highland Council. No archaeological finds or features have been recorded within the survey area, but a pair of Bronze / Iron Age hut circles were noted in 1885 approximately 400m ESE of the site⁷. The Ordnance Survey visited in 1970 and found they had been destroyed by development.

About 300m north of the present site at Cradlehall Farm is the supposed site of Major Caulfield's headquarters during his construction of the highland roads in the late 18th c. barracks, said to have been

⁷ HHER MHG3249

standing in 1911. However this is not apparent on the 1st edition OS 1:2500 map surveyed in 1868 and it has not been noted since⁸. There is no indication of a barracks on General Roy's map of 1747-55.

Previous trial trenching evaluations were undertaken in advance of Cradlehall Farm housing development in 2003 and 2004. At Cradlehall Meadow, north of Cradlehall Farm, 18 trial trenches were machine-excavated in May 2003 but did not uncover any traces of past activity. In the Castlehill Drive area at about NH 700 440 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in May and June 2004 on the second phase of housing development. This encountered a small pit containing a rim sherd of Neolithic pottery. A thorough investigation was made of the area adjacent to this find, but no significant or contemporary features were encountered. A small isolated fire pit of possible prehistoric date was found some 65m away, but on a separate hill⁹.

On the 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, surveyed in 1868 (see Figure 2), the present site is part of the improved and enclosed fields of Cradlehall farm. There is no indication of any archaeology nearby.

Field Evaluation

The present application area measures approximately 1630 sq m. or thereby. It was evaluated as specified by the Highland Council which required that

An evaluation by trial trenching will be conducted across the entire application site. The location of these trenches will be informed by the results of a desk-based assessment and a study of the local topography. The trenches must be of linear strip trenches arranged in a 'herringbone' pattern and not of excessive length.

The application site will be subject to a minimum 5% sample evaluation¹⁰.

An initial photographic survey of the site overall as existing was undertaken. Details of the photographs are provided below.

An area of about 407 sq m. was found to be inaccessible. Along the eastern boundary a main drain has been laid which has disturbed a strip about 6m wide; on the southern boundary, the ground has been built up to provide a platform for the construction of An Caladh, the adjoining property. Further disturbance may have occurred during the construction of Inshes Brae, the new road along the north, but this was not apparent from the trenches excavated.

Six trenches were excavated using a back-acting mechanical digger fitted with a 1.5m wide straight-edged ditching bucket. All these were 1.5m wide by 10m long apart from Trench 4, which was extended to 13m. The area evaluated was therefore approximately 95 sq. m, representing a sample of about 7.7% of the available area.

Within these areas, topsoil was removed to the first visible soil change, and revealed surfaces were cleaned as necessary by hand to identify any features. One linear feature was found (Feature 1 in Trench

⁸ HHER MHG35434

⁹ HHER MHG47838

¹⁰ *Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Formation of 3 Serviced House Plots at Land N of An Caladh, Caulfield Road South, Inverness* Highland Council Archaeology Unit, Planning & Development Service: Issued: 08/03/2011

4): this was sample excavated by the removal of a section 0.55m long, providing a sample of approximately 15% of its visible length of 3.75 m.

No artefacts, bones or samples were recovered. Trenches, features and photograph locations are shown on Figure 4 below.

Trench 1

This encountered clean, pale grey/ brown silts and gravels. The depth from the adjoining ground surface at the SE end was 0.32m; at the NW end, 0.75m. No archaeological features.



Plate 1 Trench 1 from NW

Trench 2

This encountered clean, brown gravels with areas of clay. The depth from the adjoining ground surface was 0.3m throughout. No archaeological features.



Plate 2 Trench 2 from E

Trench 3

This encountered re-deposited and disturbed mixed stones and gravel. The depth from the adjoining ground surface was 0.6m at the NW end; 0.25m at the SE. No archaeological features.

Trench 4

This encountered clean, stony, orange-brown gravels. The depth from the adjoining ground surface was 0.3m throughout. Feature 1 was a drain comprising red fired clay round drainage pipes, outside diameter 10cm; laid in a machine-cut trench 0.3m wide. The top of the pipe was 0.3m below the level of the subsoil; 0.6m below the present ground surface. This may have been an outflow from a septic tank or similar. The drainage pipe was not disturbed.



Plate 3 Trench 3 from NW



Plate 4 Trench 4 from NW

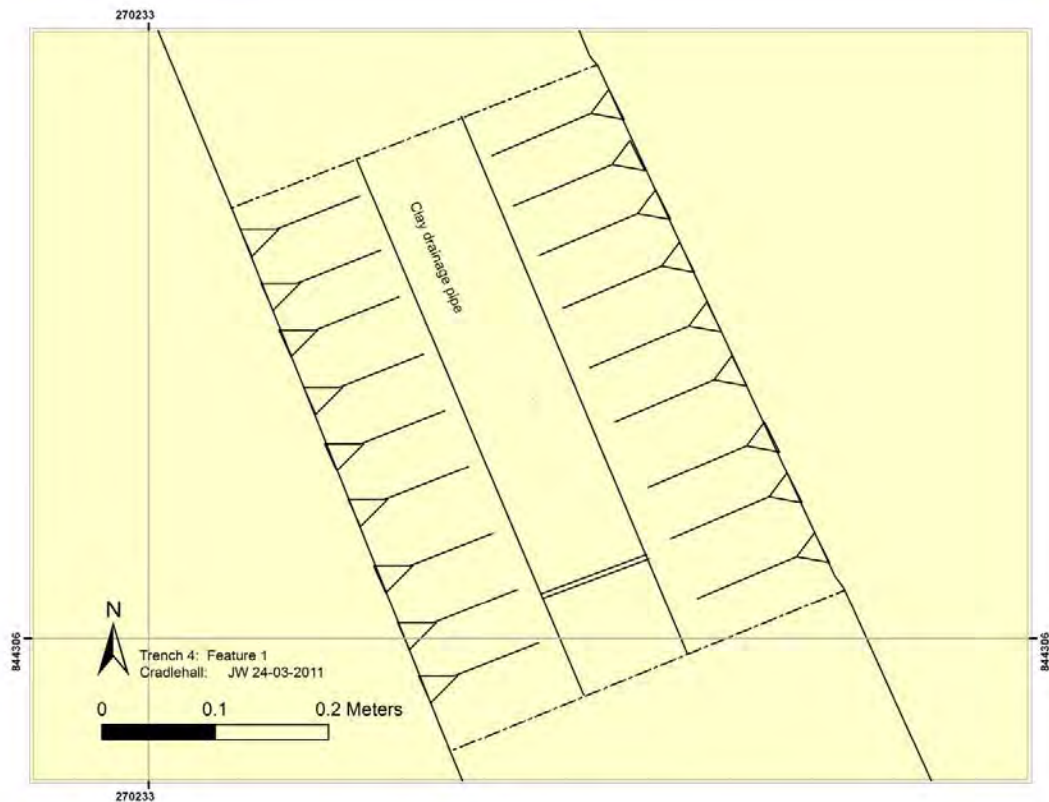


Figure 3 Sketch plan of sample excavation of drain F1. (Sections not drawn)



Plate 5: feature 1, showing drainage pipe



Plate 6 Trench 5 from SW



Plate 7 Trench 6 from NE

Trench 5

This encountered clean, brown gravels with areas of clay. The depth from the adjoining ground surface was 0.3m throughout. No archaeological features.

Trench 6

This encountered clean, stony, orange-brown gravels. The depth from the adjoining ground surface was 0.3m at the E end; 0.2m at the W.. No archaeological features.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No artefacts or features of archaeological significance were discovered. There are no recommendations for further work.

Appendix: Tables

Table 1 Trenches

| Trench No. | Width x Length | Depth | Features |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| Trench 1 | 1.5m x 10m | 0.32-0.75m | No archaeology |
| Trench 2 | 1.5m x 10m | 0.3m | No archaeology |
| Trench 3 | 1.5m x 10m | 0.25-0.6m | No archaeology |
| Trench 4 | 1.5m x 13m | 0.3m | No archaeology. Feature 1 was a machine-cut trench containing round, fired clay drainage pipe. |
| Trench 5 | 1.5m x 10m | 0.3-0.35m | No archaeology |
| Trench 6 | 1.5m x 10m | 0.2-0.3m | No archaeology |

Table 2 Features

| Feature No. | Width x Length | Depth | Interpretation |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Trench 1 | 0.3m x 3.75m (visible) | 0.3m to top of pipe | Modern drain |

Table 3 Photographs

| Photo No. | Location | Direction | Subject | Date |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| DSC_0001 | CP1 | E | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0002 | CP1 | SE | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0003 | CP1 | S | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0004 | CP2 | W | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0005 | CP2 | SW | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0006 | CP2 | S | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0007 | CP3 | N | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0008 | CP3 | NW | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0009 | CP3 | W | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0010 | CP4 | E | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0011 | CP4 | NE | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0012 | CP4 | NNE | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0013 | CP4 | NNW | Pre-excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0014 | CP5 | ESE | Trench 1 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0015 | CP6 | WNW | Trench 1 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0016 | CP7 | NE | Trench 2 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0017 | CP8 | SW | Trench 2 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0018 | CP9 | SSE | Trench 3 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0019 | CP10 | NNW | Trench 3 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0020 | CP14 | SE | Trench 4 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0021 | CP17 | NE | Trench 4: Feature 1 pre-ex | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0022 | CP12 | SW | Trench 5 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0023 | CP11 | NE | Trench 5 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0024 | CP15 | SW | Trench 6 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0025 | CP16 | NE | Trench 6 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0026 | | | (deleted) | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0027 | CP16 | NE | Trench 6 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0028 | CP12 | SW | Trench 5 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0029 | CP13 | NW | Trench 4 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0030 | CP10 | NNW | Trench 3 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0031 | CP6 | WNW | Trench 1 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0032 | CP8 | SW | Trench 2 | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0033 | CP1 | E | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0034 | CP1 | NE | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0035 | CP1 | N | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0036 | CP2 | W | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0037 | CP2 | SW | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0038 | CP2 | S | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0039 | CP3 | N | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |

| Photo No. | Location | Direction | Subject | Date |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|-------------|
| DSC_0040 | CP3 | NW | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0041 | CP3 | W | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0042 | CP4 | E | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0043 | CP4 | NE | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0044 | CP4 | NNE | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0045 | CP4 | NNW | Post -excavation | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0046 | CP20 | WSW | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0047 | CP19 | ENE | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0048 | - | WSW | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) from above | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0049 | - | NNW | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) from above | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0050 | - | ENE | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) from above | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0051 | - | SSE | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) from above | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0052 | CP17 | NNE | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0053 | CP18 | SSW | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0054 | CP18 | SSW | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) | 23/03/2011 |
| DSC_0055 | CP13 | NW | Trench 4, Feature 1 (post-excavation) | 23/03/2011 |

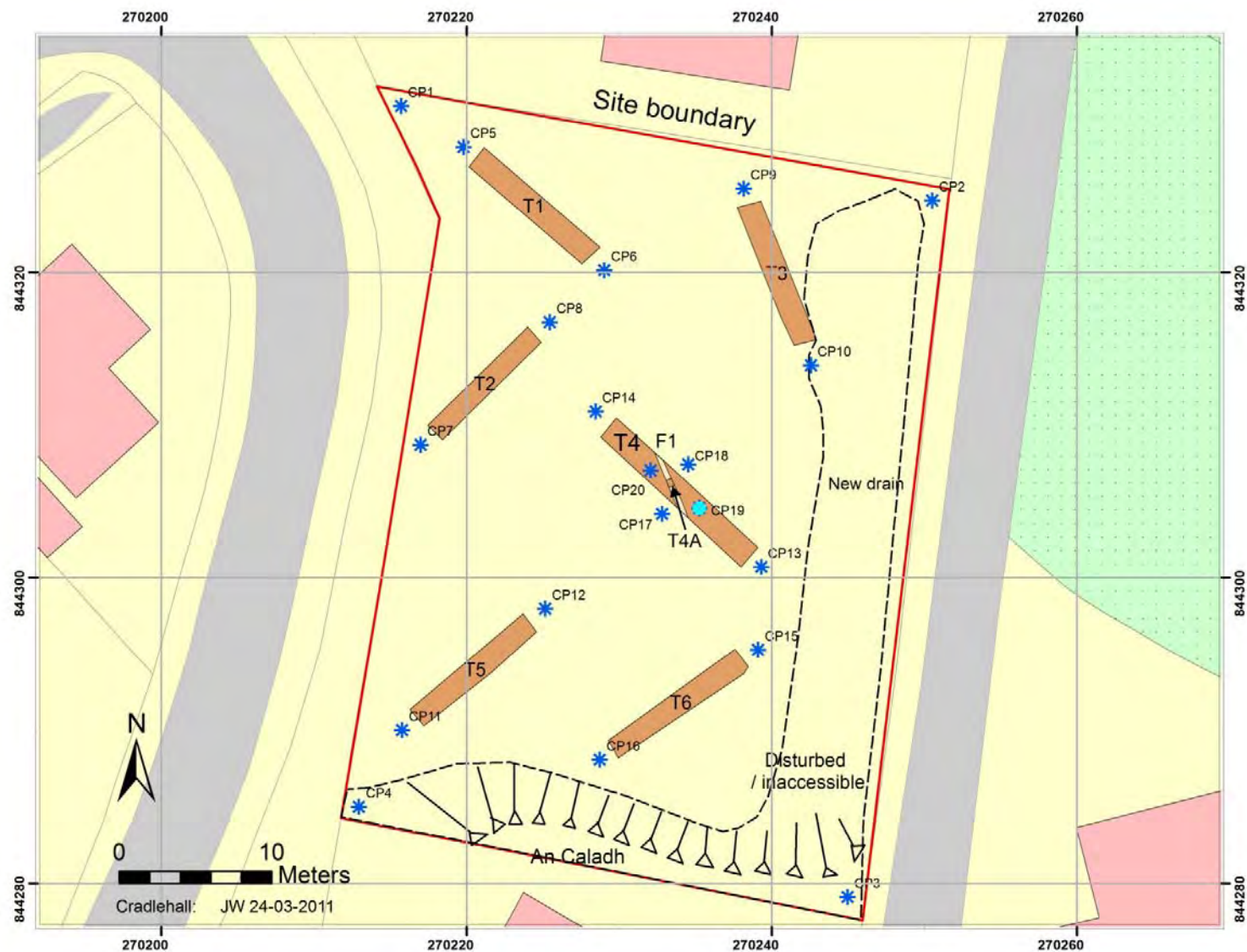


Figure 4 Site plan showing trenches, camera points and Feature 1.