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Lochailort, Highland: Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey

Report no. 1885

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd will be developing land to the east of the Inn at Lochailort (NGR: NM 767 817). The area to be developed covers c.3 hectares and was previously used as a military training camp during World War II. Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HCHET) requested a metal detector survey across the site to recover artefacts relating to the military use of this site.

This report describes the results of this metal detector survey, which took place on 28–30 March 2011.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the programmes of archaeological works were

1. To conduct a metal detector survey (MDS) across the proposed development area, in order to detect and recover artefacts of archaeological or historical origins.
2. To produce a report on the results of the fieldwork.

1.3 Weather Conditions

Warm sunny weather and bright conditions prevailed over the three days of the survey.

2. WORKING METHODS

Members of the Scottish Detector Club carried out the metal detector survey over the site. A series of 30m by 30m grids was established over the area (Figure 1) and detecting took place on a grid by grid basis. Each grid was detected in parallel transects, typically c.2m apart, to ensure that the whole area was covered.

No discrimination was set on the equipment. The positions of the grids were recorded using industry-standard surveying equipment.

All metal finds were retained for recording by a finds specialist. All finds were bagged according to which grid they came from.

3. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The metal-detector survey resulted in the collection of 296 objects, including iron, copper alloy, lead and other metal alloys.

All objects were recorded to a basic level (material, find type, count, weight, spotdate) and this data was recorded in an Excel spreadsheet. The full list by grid/square is appended to this report. No parallels have yet been identified for any of the objects.

The majority of finds were modern. They included bullets and military artefacts, coins/tokens, personal items and household objects. A lead musket ball was also identified. Table 1 shows the quantities (count) of finds by find type and date. The main finds are summarised by find category in the table on the next page. A selection of the objects is shown in Plates 1–5.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The largest single group of objects recovered were empty bullet casings of 19th/20th-century date from the use of the area of as a military camp. It is likely that many other finds are related to the military use of the site, including those relating to machinery or pieces which have been preliminarily identified as fittings, whilst others may relate to later use of the site as farmland (e.g. the ploughshare fragment). Only one item could be assigned an earlier date than the military camp, a lead musket ball of post-medieval date.

Given the site's use during the modern period, the quantity of bullets and other finds of a possible military nature is not unexpected.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS). A summary statement of the results of this programme of work will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* 2011.

Category	Find type	19th-20th c.	Undated
Military and weaponry	bullet	84	
	musket ball		1
Dress accessories	button	2	
	buckle	7	
	finger ring?	1	
	decorated object	1	
Coins and tokens	coin	8	
Household object	clasp	2	
	lid	3	
	spoon	2	
	key	1	
Buildings and services	pipe		6
	pulley	1	
	switch	1	
	door knob	1	
	handle	2	
	hook	1	
	bracket		2
	nail	1	18
	stake		4
	bolt		3
	bolt+nut		1
Manufacturing waste	Fe waste		8
	lead waste		33
	ingot		1
Miscellaneous fittings	plate		4
	strap		2
	square washer		4
	circular eyelet	1	
	circular washer		14
	knob		1
	uncertain		23
Personal Equipment	watch?	1	
	pen knife	1	
Toilet and Surgical Objects	shaving brush	1	
Agricultural/equestrian	plough?		2
	horseshoe		4
Unidentified	unknown	4	7
	bell-shaped object		1

Table 1. Finds by category and date

APPENDIX 1: Metal Detecting Finds

Grid/Square	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes
A1	Bullets	3	46.4	
	Metal stake	1	488	
	Coin	1	3.8	
	Lead sheet - waste	1	11.3	
	Fe pipe	1	350	
A2	Bullets	2	75	
	Lid	1	50.1	
	Square washer	1	40.8	
	Nail	1	52.9	
	Pipe?	1	51.6	
	Manufacturing waste Fe	3	34	
A3	Bullets	15	238.6	
	Buckle	1	1.4	
	Bracket	1	253	
	Hook	1	55.3	
	Circular object	1	472	
A4	Bullets	2	81.4	
	Coin	1	2.5	
	Buckle	2	7.8	
	Bracket?	1	401	
B1	Bullets	2	17.3	
	Coin	2	10.8	
	Lead lump	1	25.3	
	Fe lump	1	628	
B2	Bullets	1	28.4	
	Horse shoe	1	525	
	Military weaponry waste?	1	59.0	
	Fe object (decorative)	1	5.4	
	Fe object	1	194.0	
	Lead manufacturing waste	2	176.2	
B3	Bullets	5	142.0	
	Lead manufacturing waste	3	104.6	
	Key	1	6.0	
	Button	1	0.9	
	Coin	2	14.6	
	Plate	1	32.3	with two screwholes
	Circular mechanical object	1	11.8	contains cogs - watch?
	Misc Fe lump	1	15.8	
	Square fittings	2	247.8	
	Nail	2	65.6	
	stake	1	291	
	Fe sheet frags - fittings	4	161.7	
	Fe square - fitting	1	934	
B4	Horse shoe	1	479	
	Spoon	1	14.0	
	Nail	1	33.0	
	Lead pipe	1	284	
	Lead waste	3	30.5	
	Fe fittings	2	36.1	
B5	Stake	1	43.0	

Grid/Square	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes
	Lead fitting	1	16.6	circular in cross section- tapering
C1	Bullets	3	70.4	
	Fe fitting	1	232	
	Nail	1	48.8	
C2	Bullets	3	34.2	
	Horse shoe	1	149.1	
	Coin	1	9.9	
	Nails	3	43.1	
	Buckle	1	26.3	
	Plough blade?	1	407	
	Unknown object	1	99.5	
	Small fitting	1	6.1	
	Cu alloy terminal	1	2.5	
	Fe unknown	7	163.5	
C3	Nails	3	53.0	
	Buckle	1	13.2	
	Manufacturing waste Fe	1	130.0	
C4	Lead waste	2	34.9	
	Plough blade?	1	169.1	
	Button	1	0.2	
	Fe fitting - unknown	1	2.8	
	Small decorated object	1	0.6	
	Fe terminal	1	1.2	
C5	Tapered strap- fitting	1	5.8	
	Circular washer	1	37.7	
D1	Bullets	1	11.3	
	Spoon	1	29.9	
D2	Bullets	2	20.6	
	Circular eyelet	1	1.8	prob from tent
	Bolt	2	120.8	
	Large square Fe lump	1	1664	
	Manufacturing waste Fe	1	99.1	
D3	Bullets	17	159.2	
	Lid?	1	13.6	
	Lead waste	1	22.8	
	Bent Fe plate with knobs	1	89.1	
	Buckle	1	8.2	
	Pulley?	1	11.3	
D4	Bullets	14	127.2	
	Nails	3	128.8	
	Horse shoe	1	264	
	Lid	1	2.7	
	Lead waste	2	31.9	
	Manufacturing waste Fe	1	48.1	
D5	Bullets	1	7.5	
	Lead sheet waste	2	225	
	Lead waste	1	18.2	
	Bell-shaped Cu Alloy object	1	65.0	
D6	Circular washer	7	226	
	Square washer	3	143.6	
	Pen knife	1	91.4	
	Fe plate with nail studs	2	198.7	

Grid/Square	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes
	Lead waste	1	41.3	
	Lead pipe	1	35.1	
	Unknown fittings	3	12.9	
E1	Bullets	3	33.6	
E2	Nails	3	36.4	
	Bar	1	122	
	Lead waste	1	169	
E3	Bullets	4	34.3	
	Lead pipe	1	77	
	Handle?	1	15.7	
E4	Bullets	3	23.4	
	Lead waste	1	9.1	
E5	Bullets	2	11.3	
	Lead waste	1	4.0	
	Lead pipe	1	126	
	Buckle	1	0.4	
E6	circular washer	3	109.1	
	Lead weight/ingot	1	342	
	Lead waste	1	35.7	
E7	circular washer	1	46.0	
F1	Bullets	5	56.0	
	Circular fitting	1	94.0	
	Manufacturing Waste Fe	1	271	
	lead terminal	1	6.0	
	Lead waste	1	21.8	
	Stake	1	857	
	Fitting	1	418	
F2	Lead waste	3	185.5	
	Iron fitting - hanging?	1	90.5	
	Rim?	1	24.0	
	Curved fitting	1	5.4	
F3	Lead waste	1	381	
	Fitting - window clasp?	1	94.9	
	misc. ?military waste	1	27.0	
F4	Bullets	1	10.9	
	Misc. fitting	1	4.9	
	Clasp	1	20.6	
	Bolt	1	198	
	Misc. ?military waste	1	233	
F5	Handle	1	284	
	Tapered strap	1	55.0	
F6	Plate/clasp	1	18.9	
	End fitting	1	5.7	
	Lead sheet waste	1	298	
	Lead musket ball	1	31.8	
F7	Circular washer	2	108.3	
X1	Nothing found	0	0	
X2	Circular objects/fittings	2	205	
	Door knob	1	183	
	Bolt+nut	1	91.5	
	Manufacturing Waste Fe	1	32.3	

Grid/Square	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes
X3	Lead manufacturing waste	1	276	
	Nail- military waste	1	5.3	
	Ring/ring shaped object	1	3.4	
	Knob	1	16.8	
W1	Circular fitting	2	52.4	
	Rectangular fitting	1	9.9	
	Coin	1	6.9	
	Switch	1	29.2	
W2	Military object	1	680	
	Lead waste	1	44.9	
	Fe Fitting	1	16.8	
Z1	Nothing found	0	0	
Z2	Bullets	9	77.2	
	Nail	1	18.3	
	Cu alloy circular fitting	1	4.5	
	Shaving Brush	1	30.8	
<i>Total</i>		<i>296</i>	<i>19791</i>	

APPENDIX 2: Proposed DES entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Scottish Highlands
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Lochailort, Highland: Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey
PROJECT CODE:	CHAI
PARISH:	
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Christina Hills
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal Detector Survey
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Military Camp
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Bullet Assemblage
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NM 767 817
START DATE (this season)	28/3/11
END DATE (this season)	30/3/11
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd are developing land to the east of the Inn at Lochailort (NM 767 817). The area was previously used as a military training camp during World War II.</p> <p>A metal detector survey took place on 28–30 March 2011 and recovered a wide variety of finds, including 84 spent bullets which will be subject to further post excavation analysis.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Post Excavation Analysis
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	sue@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS; report lodged with SMR and NMRS.

Plates



Plate 1. Examples of the smaller size of bullet casing.



Plate 2. Examples of the larger size of bullet casing.



Plate 3. Musket ball.

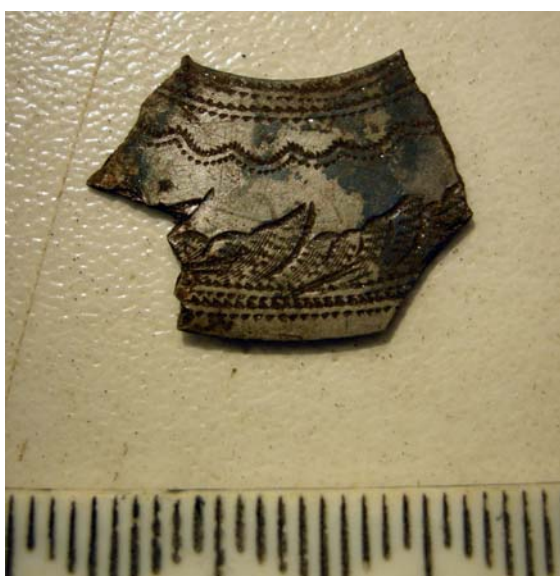
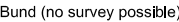


Plate 4. Decorated sheet object.



Plate 5. Examples of buckles.



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1

Revision

A

Title:

Location of survey grids

Project:

Lochailort, Highland: Archaeological Metal Detecting Survey

Client:

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd

Scale:

1:1000 @ A3



Drawn by: LY

Checked: MJ

Report No: 00

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