

# **W**ordsworth

## **A**rchaeological

### **S**ervices

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## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AT SLACKBUIE, INVERNESS**

Trial trenching at Slackbuie was carried out prior to the development of the site by Tullochs for housing. No archaeological features had previously been recorded despite its proximity to the palisaded enclosure at Balloan. The field had been under pasture for a number of years.

The site was therefore randomly machine trenched with two trenches running the length of the main field, with two spurs (see plan). A further small investigative trench was positioned in the adjacent field. Most of the rest of this field was under water.

Along the length of the two main trenches I and II c.40cm of topsoil revealed a fluvio-glacial subsoil of gravel and sand. It was noted that the ploughsoil masked the true undulations of the land surface. These trenches were featureless apart from F1, a shallow truncated ditch of c10cm depth.

Trenches Ia and Ib were dug at right angles to trench I in order to investigate a slight dip in the ground. At the lowest point silty sand was exposed, suggestive of a watercourse. In trench Ib a ditch contained a water pipe, probably serving the two field troughs. No finds of archaeological significance were discovered in any of the above trenches.

Trench III in the second field was widened after the discovery of a spread of stones. This was investigated and proved to be a shallow hollow containing large pebbles with a loose matrix of topsoil. Its extent to the SE was not established in the time available. Its purpose is unknown but it is thought to be a modern feature of little archaeological interest. Its modernity is suggested by the presence of a sherd of brown glazed earthenware towards the base of the fill. The only other finds were of modern pottery fragments.

Jill Wordsworth      January 1992

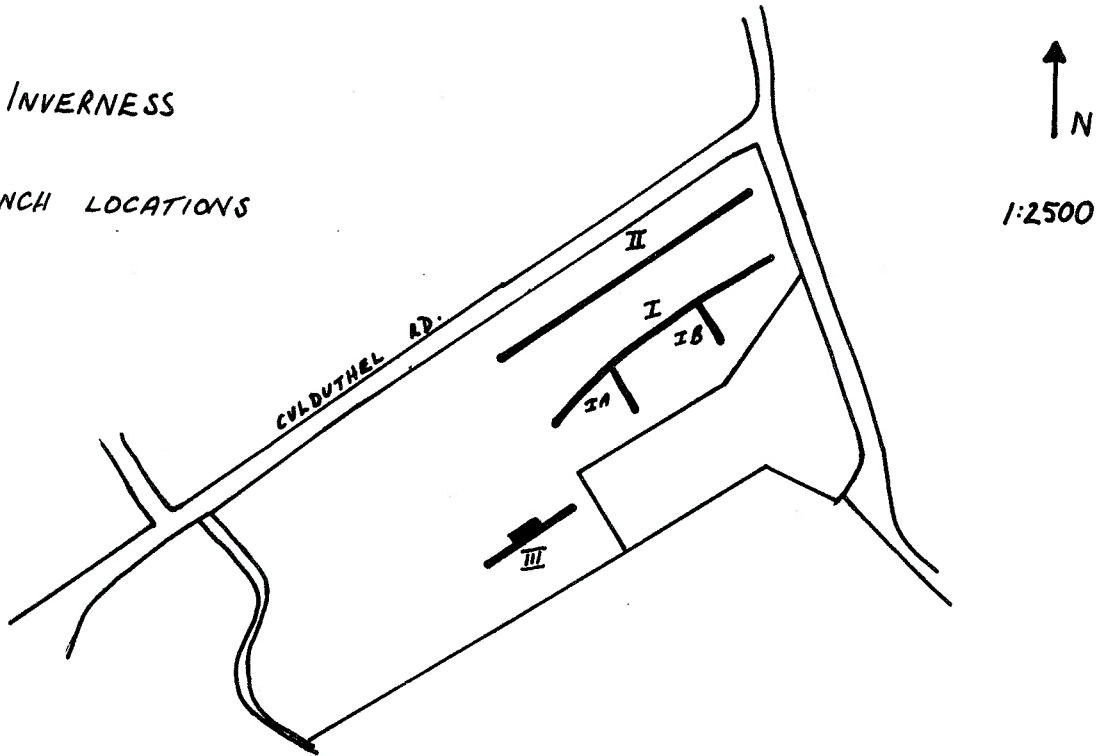


**Highland Regional Council**

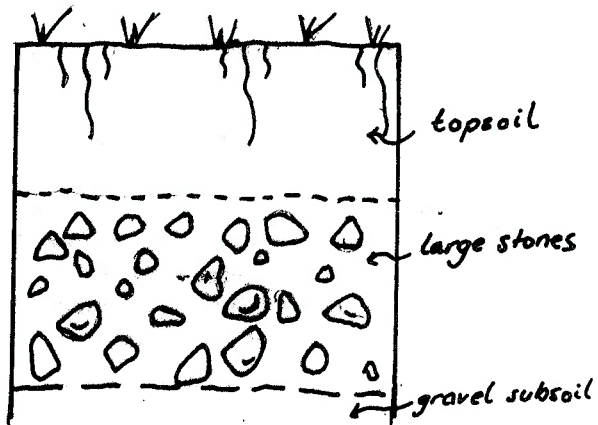
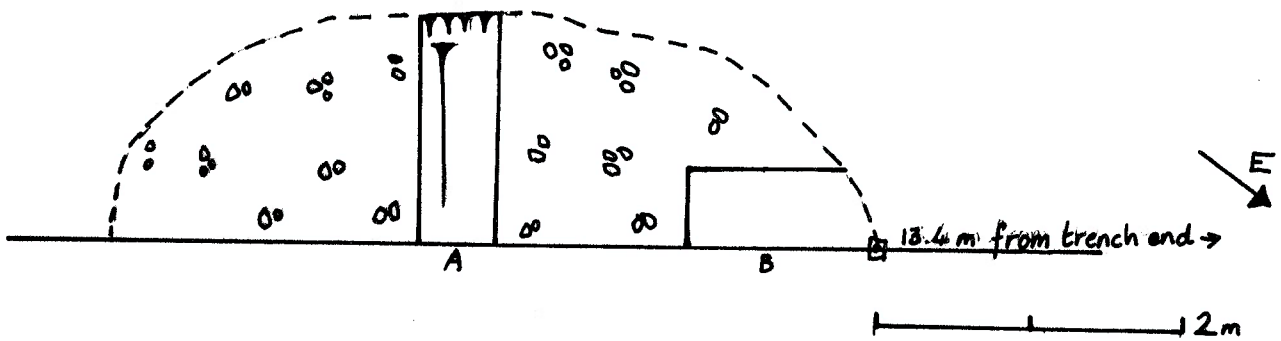
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# SLACKBUIE - INVERNESS

## SKETCH OF TRENCH LOCATIONS



## FEATURE IN TR. III



## SECTION AT A