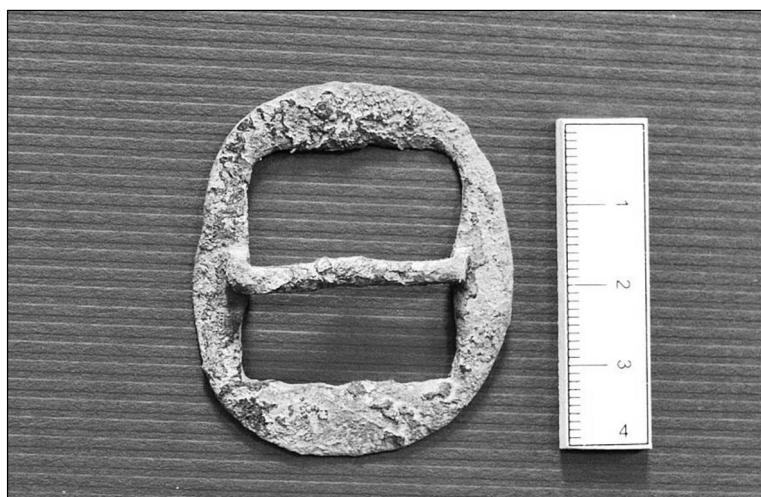


Ross and Cromarty Archaeological Services
West Coast Archaeological Services

CULLODEN ACCESS AND INTERPRETATION PROJECT

METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY

Culloden Footpath, near Culloden Battlefield, Inverness



National Grid Reference
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**CULLODEN ACCESS AND INTERPRETATION PROJECT
METAL-DETECTOR SURVEY OF CULLODEN FOOTPATH
WESTHILL, NEAR CULLODEN BATTLEFIELD ó INVERNESS**

Summary

A metal-detecting survey was carried out on 8 February 2013 on behalf of the Highland Council and National Trust for Scotland at a site located to the west-southwest of Culloden Battlefield in Inverness. The work was undertaken during construction of a new footpath along the south side of the B9006 to check for any archaeological finds of interest, particularly in relation to the Battle of Culloden. Forty-two objects were recovered, including two copper alloy buttons, one copper alloy buckle, a lead or pewter object and miscellaneous iron objects.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A metal detector survey of Culloden Footpath was requested in advance of construction works as part of the Culloden Access and Interpretation Project. The survey had been requested by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) due to the proximity of the site to Culloden Battlefield, the site of the 1746 battle and a property under guardianship of NTS, and the potential for archaeological finds relating to the battle to be recovered in the location of the footpath.
- 1.2 Archaeological investigations of battlefield sites can increase our understanding of the landscape of a battle and help in assessing the potential for the survival of physical and artefactual remains. Some of the most important evidence relating to these sites, the artefact assemblage, resides in the topsoil horizons and a meticulous metal-detecting survey in advance of development works has the potential to add to the known archaeological and historical record¹. Archaeological remains can also extend into the wider landscape around the battlefield and can further add to our understanding of the events.

2.0 Site Location

- 2.1 The new footpath was constructed along the southern side of the B9006 from a road end 650m from the west-southwest corner of Culloden battlefield for a distance of 350m along the roadside (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The metal-detector survey was conducted along a 125m-long stretch of ground, covering the west-southwestern half of the new footpath route (Figure 2). The terrain, mostly flat, was located along the south side of the road verge within open ground under grass and low shrub. The remaining stretch of footpath between the metal-detector survey area and the footpath end (eastern half) was constructed through a narrow grass verge between the road and a fenceline bordering private land and comprised made-up ground covering extensive utilities services.

¹ Historic Scotland 2011



Figure 1 Location of metal detector survey area²

² Contains Ordnance Survey data, Crown copyright and database rights (2013)



Figure 2 Location of survey and findspots³

³ Imagery supplied under ESRI licensing, courtesy of Microsoft Bing mapping

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 3.1 On the 6th of April 1746 at Culloden, Bonnie Prince Charlie led 5,000 Jacobite troops in battle against 9,000 Government troops led by the Duke of Cumberland. The Jacobites carried muskets, pikes, axes and other weapons whilst the Government troop carried mostly the Brown Bess musket. The Hanoverians defeated the Jacobites decisively that afternoon, leaving at least 1,200 Jacobites dead and only 350 Government troops dead⁴.
- 3.2 Previous metal-detector surveys, carried out as a part of the *Culloden Battlefield Memorial Project* by the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow, have revealed a rich assemblage of metal objects relating to the battle. These objects included musket balls, cannon shots, mortar shell fragments, pieces broken from muskets, buttons, buckles, personal possessions and a bayonet⁵. Piecing together the locations of the finds has allowed archaeologists to put together meaningful information about the battle.

4.0 Methodology

- 4.1 A team of two professional archaeologists, using one metal detector, carried out the metal-detecting survey during one day. Although the intention had been for the survey to be carried out ahead of any construction work, due to the short notice of the project, one section of the new footpath had already been excavated and constructed prior to the archaeologists' visit.
- 4.2 The western half of the new footpath had already been constructed at the time of the survey (Plate 1). Therefore, an area 10m wide to the south side of the footpath (Figure 3) was surveyed using the metal detector. The spoil heaps from the construction were also checked for contacts, but the overwhelming mix of modern rubbish in the spoil led to no useful results.
- 4.3 Only the western half of the site for the new footpath was metal-detected during the fieldwork. The eastern half of the footpath route was not surveyed due to the following reasons: 1) the ground had been previously made-up with numerous services running below the narrow road verge surface and 2) any detecting to the side of the footpath extended into privately owned land beyond the fenceline boundary (Figure 2).
- 4.4 During the survey, metal detector signals were marked by a pin flag prior to the excavation of the buried artefact (Plate 2). A small pit was dug by hand to retrieve the source of the signal and its position was recorded in three dimensions using a Trimble GeoExplorer staff-mounted GPS system with decimetre accuracy. The pits were reinstated by the replacement of the earth and turf plug.
- 4.5 The recovered finds were placed in bags, which were labelled and logged. Following fieldwork, the finds were assessed and compiled into a database, included in Appendix 1 of this report.

⁴ Roberts et al 2008

⁵ Pollard 2009



Plate 1 Culloden Footpath on 8 Feb 2013, facing E



Plate 2 Metal-detecting in progress, facing W

5.0 Results

- 5.1 Forty-two finds were recovered during the survey (Figure 3 and Appendix 1). All but six of the objects were generally identifiable into object types, although the dates of most objects are uncertain. Five finds of archaeological interest include: two copper alloy buttons, a copper alloy buckle, a lead or pewter unknown object and a possible iron fastening or mechanism. The great majority of the finds were iron nails or rivets, both modern and Post Medieval in date. Other finds recovered include: a modern machine part, a horseshoe, fragments of farm equipment, a lipstick tube (Find No. 34, Plate 8) and iron chain links.
- 5.2 The buckle (Find No. 28, Plate 11) appears to be a copper alloy object and its size, 48mm long by 40mm wide suggests it was a belt buckle. It is a potentially interesting artefact which may be contemporary with the mid-18th century Battle of Culloden. The lead or pewter object (Find No. 32, Plate 7) may also be of interest, as it appears that it may have been an object deformed through heat.
- 5.3 One copper alloy button (Find No. 19, Plate 4) had no discernible decoration on it, although the worn nature of the object could suggest an early date to the find. The second button (Find No. 31, Plates 5-6), also of copper alloy, appears to have a decoration on the front and the word *Currie* on the back and finding its date should be possible.
- 5.4 The possible iron fastening or mechanism (Find No. 23, Plate 9) may be of interest, although the surveyors were unable to establish what type of object it came from.
- 5.5 Other objects recovered may be of interest, such as Find No. 7 (Plate 3), and unknown iron object, and Find No. 30 (Plate 10), a possible part of farm machinery. Recommendations are made below for a finds specialist to identify some of the finds recovered during the survey.



Figure 3 Plan showing location of finds recovered during metal detector survey



Plate 3 Find No. 7 – small unknown iron object



Plate 4 Find No. 19 – copper alloy button



Plate 5 Find No. 31 – copper alloy button, front



Plate 6 Find No. 31 – copper alloy button, back



Plate 7 Find No. 32 – Lead or pewter object



Plate 8 Find No. 34 – small lipsticker container



Plate 9 Find No. 23 – iron fastening or mechanism



Plate 10 Find No. 30 – possible farm machine part

6.0 Recovered artefacts

All artefacts recovered from the fieldwork will be reported to Derek Alexander, archaeologist at National Trust for Scotland, who will have the final decision on artefact disposal/retention. Following this decision, the finds will be sent to Treasure Trove at the National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh, where their future disposal will be decided.

7.0 Recommendations

As the construction of the footpath has already been concluded, there are no further recommendations for work on the site.

It is recommended that a finds specialist carry out an identification of any finds of interest, specifically Find Nos. **7, 12, 19, 23, 24, 27, 28, 30, 31 and 32.**

8.0 References

Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) 2013 Accessed at <http://her.highland.gov.uk>

Historic Scotland 2011 *Historic Battlefields*

Pollard, T 2009 *Culloden: The History and Archaeology of the Last Clan Battle* Pen & Sword Books Limited

Roberts, N A, Brown, J W, Hammett, B and Kingston, PDF 2008 *A detailed Study of the Effectiveness and Capabilities of 18th Century Musketry on the Battlefield* in Journal of Conflict Archaeology, Vol 4: 1-21



Plate 11 Find No. 28 – copper alloy buckle

Appendix 1 List of Metal-detector Finds

| Find No. | Material | Description | Approx. Date | Initials | Date |
|-----------------|------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | Iron / Cu alloy? | Machine part - unknown type | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 2 | Iron | Iron bolt or fitting | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 3 | Iron | 1 x iron nail | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 4 | Iron | 3 x fragments of iron spherule? | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 5 | Iron | Iron fragment | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 6 | Iron | Small iron horseshoe - 10cm long by 10cm wide | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 7 | Iron | Iron object | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 8 | Iron | 1 x iron nail | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 9 | Iron | 1 x iron nail ? | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 10 | Iron | Iron object | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 11 | Iron | 1 x large iron nail / rivet | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 12 | Iron | Iron object, possible ard point | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 13 | Iron | 1 x iron fragment (nail?) | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 14 | Iron | 1 x iron nail | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 15 | Iron | 1 x iron nail | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 16 | Iron | 1 x iron nail | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 17 | Iron | 2 x amorphous iron concretions | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 18 | Iron | 1 x iron nail | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 19 | Cu alloy | 1 Cu alloy button, 34mm diameter, <1mm thick; no writing or patterning discernible | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 20 | Iron | 1 x iron fragment | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 21 | Iron | 1 x piece of iron wire | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 22 | Iron | 1 x large iron eye bolt, threaded at one end | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 23 | Iron | Possible iron fastening or mechanism | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 24 | Iron | 1 x iron lump, possible iron block from unknown object | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 25 | Metal | Non-ferrous metal strip, car trim? | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 26 | Metal | 1 x fragment of metal trim and 1 x metal bar/fitting | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 27 | Iron | Small perforated iron object, 20mm diameter | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |

CUL13 6 Culloden Footpath Metal-detector Survey

| Find No. | Material | Description | Approx. Date | Initials | Date |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 28 | Cu alloy | Buckle, 48mm long by 40mm wide, 1mm thick | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 29 | Iron | Cylindrical iron object | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 30 | Iron | Iron object, possible farm machinery attachment | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 31 | Cu alloy | Button with design on front and 'Currie' marking on the inside; 20mm diameter, 2mm thick | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 32 | Lead or pewter | Fragment of a lead/pewter fragment, shows signs of deformation through heat | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 33 | Iron | 1 x small iron nail | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 34 | Non-ferrous | Small lipstick container, 50mm long by 13mm diameter | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 35 | Aluminium | Aluminium tube, splayed at both ends | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 36 | Iron | 1 x fragment of iron wire or nail | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 37 | Steel | Steel washer, 36mm diameter, 17mm diameter perforation and 3mm thick | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 38 | Iron | 1 x square-headed iron screw | Modern | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 39 | Iron | 1 x small iron rivet or nail head | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 40 | Iron | 1 x fragment iron wire or nail | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 41 | Iron | 2 x fragments of small iron nail fastenings found with degraded cloth fragments - upholstery material? | Post Medieval | SB | 08/02/2013 |
| 42 | Iron | 2 x iron chain links of unknown date | Unknown | SB | 08/02/2013 |

Appendix 2 Findspot Locations

| Find No. | Easting | Northing | Elevation |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 | 272780.5736 | 844706.3937 | 146.1397 |
| 2 | 272767.3531 | 844694.2363 | 146.2675 |
| 3 | 272751.8981 | 844690.1659 | 145.9795 |
| 4 | 272747.1706 | 844688.7083 | 145.9915 |
| 5 | 272739.2532 | 844687.9057 | 145.9274 |
| 6 | 272735.9282 | 844688.7340 | 145.8993 |
| 7 | 272735.9830 | 844684.4046 | 145.9584 |
| 8 | 272733.3342 | 844682.2726 | 145.9430 |
| 9 | 272728.7029 | 844682.4082 | 145.8948 |
| 10 | 272730.4077 | 844677.2854 | 146.1493 |
| 11 | 272728.5610 | 844676.2463 | 146.1995 |
| 12 | 272726.7411 | 844674.7780 | 146.1870 |
| 13 | 272723.5747 | 844679.5899 | 145.9164 |
| 14 | 272723.5397 | 844680.9730 | 145.8538 |
| 15 | 272718.7700 | 844679.4689 | 145.7763 |
| 16 | 272717.5807 | 844676.5479 | 145.8717 |
| 17 | 272719.0130 | 844675.9598 | 145.8936 |
| 18 | 272716.1771 | 844670.3828 | 146.0781 |
| 19 | 272713.0569 | 844671.6789 | 145.9375 |
| 20 | 272712.6912 | 844674.8261 | 145.7245 |
| 21 | 272709.5706 | 844676.4994 | 145.5360 |
| 22 | 272705.0540 | 844676.9788 | 145.4313 |
| 23 | 272709.2337 | 844669.3566 | 145.9308 |
| 24 | 272708.1068 | 844669.0946 | 145.8865 |
| 25 | 272702.1756 | 844668.6628 | 145.6143 |
| 26 | 272701.6047 | 844668.4290 | 145.6086 |
| 27 | 272692.9362 | 844669.7234 | 145.2297 |
| 28 | 272690.9380 | 844667.5912 | 145.1656 |
| 29 | 272678.3292 | 844666.0690 | 145.0236 |
| 30 | 272673.5507 | 844665.1590 | 145.1204 |
| 31 | 272674.1543 | 844662.5956 | 145.2076 |
| 32 | 272674.5560 | 844660.1066 | 145.2645 |
| 33 | 272675.2141 | 844657.0109 | 145.2985 |
| 34 | 272673.8056 | 844657.2885 | 145.3365 |
| 35 | 272668.1637 | 844662.3035 | 145.2269 |
| 36 | 272667.1174 | 844660.9347 | 145.2330 |
| 37 | 272669.0526 | 844658.7500 | 145.3195 |
| 38 | 272669.2928 | 844654.5854 | 145.3675 |
| 39 | 272667.8415 | 844653.1093 | 145.3239 |
| 40 | 272667.1375 | 844653.1471 | 145.3278 |
| 41 | 272665.1563 | 844655.9936 | 145.2646 |
| 42 | 272663.9837 | 844658.9197 | 145.1509 |

Appendix 3 List of Photographs

| No. | Direction Facing | Finds No. | Notes | Taken By | Date |
|-----|------------------|-----------|--|----------|------------|
| 1 | NNE-NE-E | - | General shot of the site | LF | 08/02/2013 |
| 2 | E | - | Path as constructed prior to the site attendance | LF | 08/02/2013 |
| 3 | W | - | Path as constructed prior to the site attendance | LF | 08/02/2013 |
| 4 | W | - | Working shot | LF | 08/02/2013 |
| 5 | - | 6 | Small iron horseshoe - 10cm long by 10cm wide | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 6 | - | 7 | Small unknown iron object | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 7 | - | 11 | Large iron nail or rivet, Post Medieval? in date | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 8 | - | 19 | 1 Cu alloy button, 34mm diameter, <1mm thick; no writing or patterning discernible | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 9 | - | 19 | 1 Cu alloy button, 34mm diameter, <1mm thick; no writing or patterning discernible | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 10 | - | 20 | Small unknown iron object | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 11 | - | 23 | Possible iron fastening or mechanism | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 12 | - | 23 | Possible iron fastening or mechanism | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 13 | - | 23 | Possible iron fastening or mechanism | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 14 | - | 27 | Small perforated iron object, 20mm diameter | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 15 | - | 27 | Small perforated iron object, 20mm diameter | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 16 | - | 28 | Cu alloy buckle, 48mm long by 40mm wide, 1mm thick | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 17 | - | 28 | Cu alloy buckle, 48mm long by 40mm wide, 1mm thick | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 18 | - | 31 | Button with design on front; 20mm diameter, 2mm thick | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 19 | - | 31 | Button with 'Currie' marking on the inside; 20mm diameter, 2mm thick | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 20 | - | 32 | Fragment of a lead/pewter fragment, shows signs of deformation through heat | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 21 | - | 32 | Fragment of a lead/pewter fragment, shows signs of deformation through heat | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 22 | - | 34 | Small lipstick container, non-ferrous, 50mm long by 13mm diameter | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 23 | - | 30 | Large iron object, possible farm machinery attachment | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 24 | - | 30 | Large iron object, possible farm machinery attachment | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 25 | - | - | Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 26 | - | - | Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 27 | - | - | Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing | MKP | 19/03/2013 |
| 28 | - | - | Informal photographs of finds during cataloguing | MKP | 19/03/2013 |