

**Report of Archaeological
Desktop & Walkover Survey
Creag Mholach, Glen Gloy,
Spean Bridge, Highland.**

Centred NN 245/872



Client: UPM Tilhill

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Cover: View of settlement facing S.

Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by UPM Tilhill in November 2010 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for an area of proposed forestry at Creag Mholach, Glen Gloy, Spean Bridge, Highland.

Work revealed nine rectangular structures of a small settlement, named Bolugie on Roy's Military map of 1747-55 to the lower part of the scheme.

A number of recommendations have been made in relation to the proposed scheme.

1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for UPM Tilhill for an area of proposed forestry at Creag Mholach, Glen Gloy, Spean Bridge, Highland.

The walkover survey was conducted on the 10th November 2010.

2. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work:

- Mr. Niel Taylor of UPM Tilhill;
- Staff of the Highland Council Archives, Inverness.

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Figure 1 – Site Location. 1:50,000

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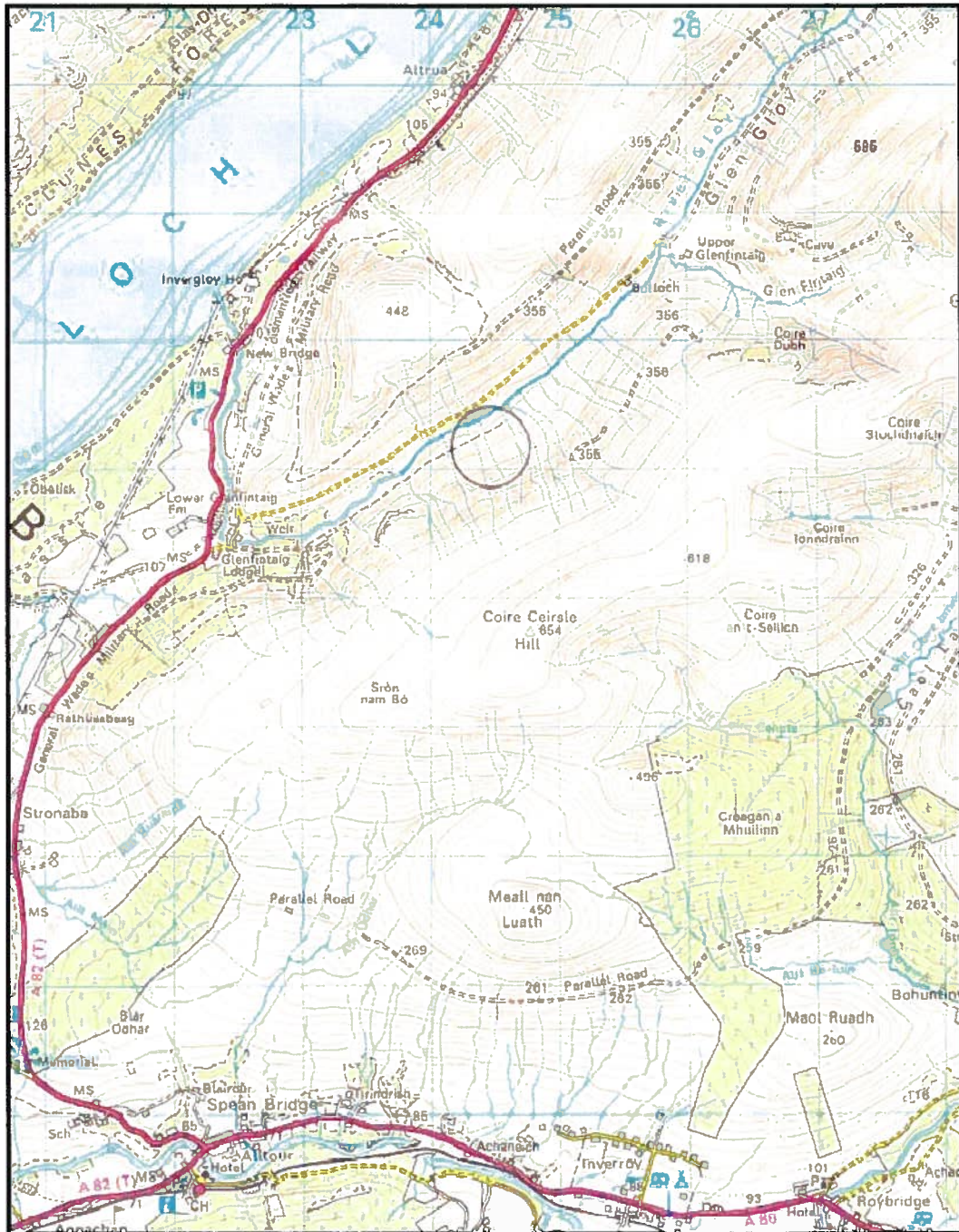


Figure 2 – Site Location 1:10,000.
 © UPM Tilhill

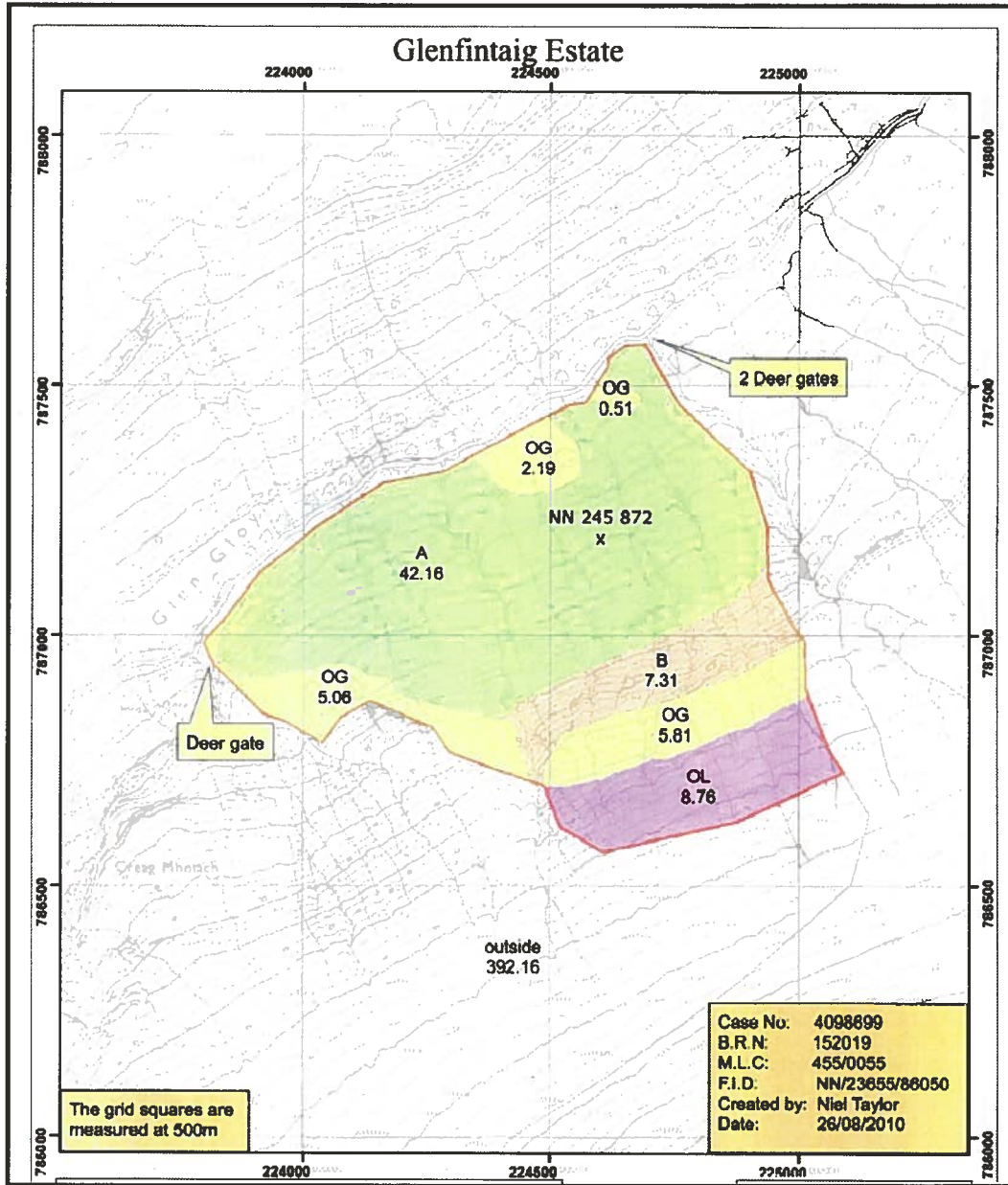


Figure 3 – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1873.
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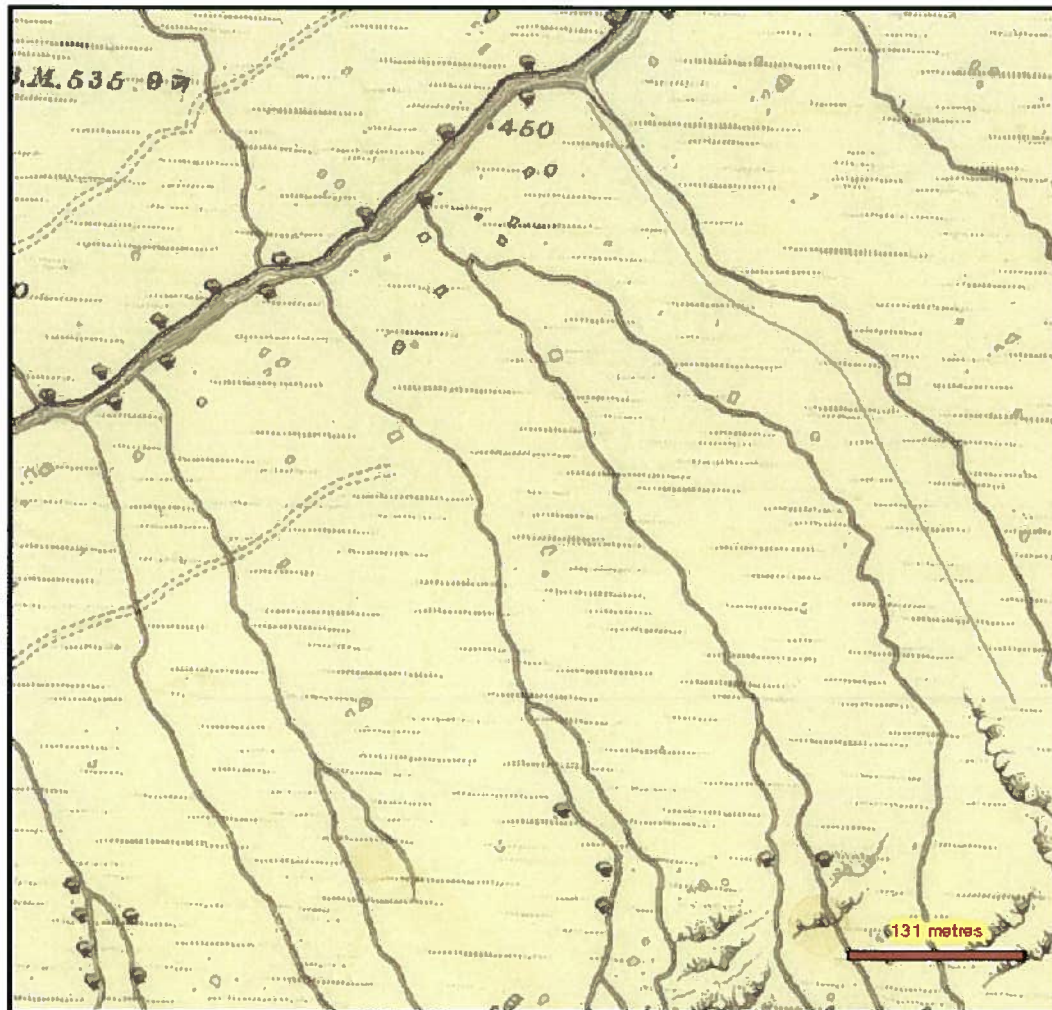


Figure 4 –Location of Archaeological Sites 1:10,000.
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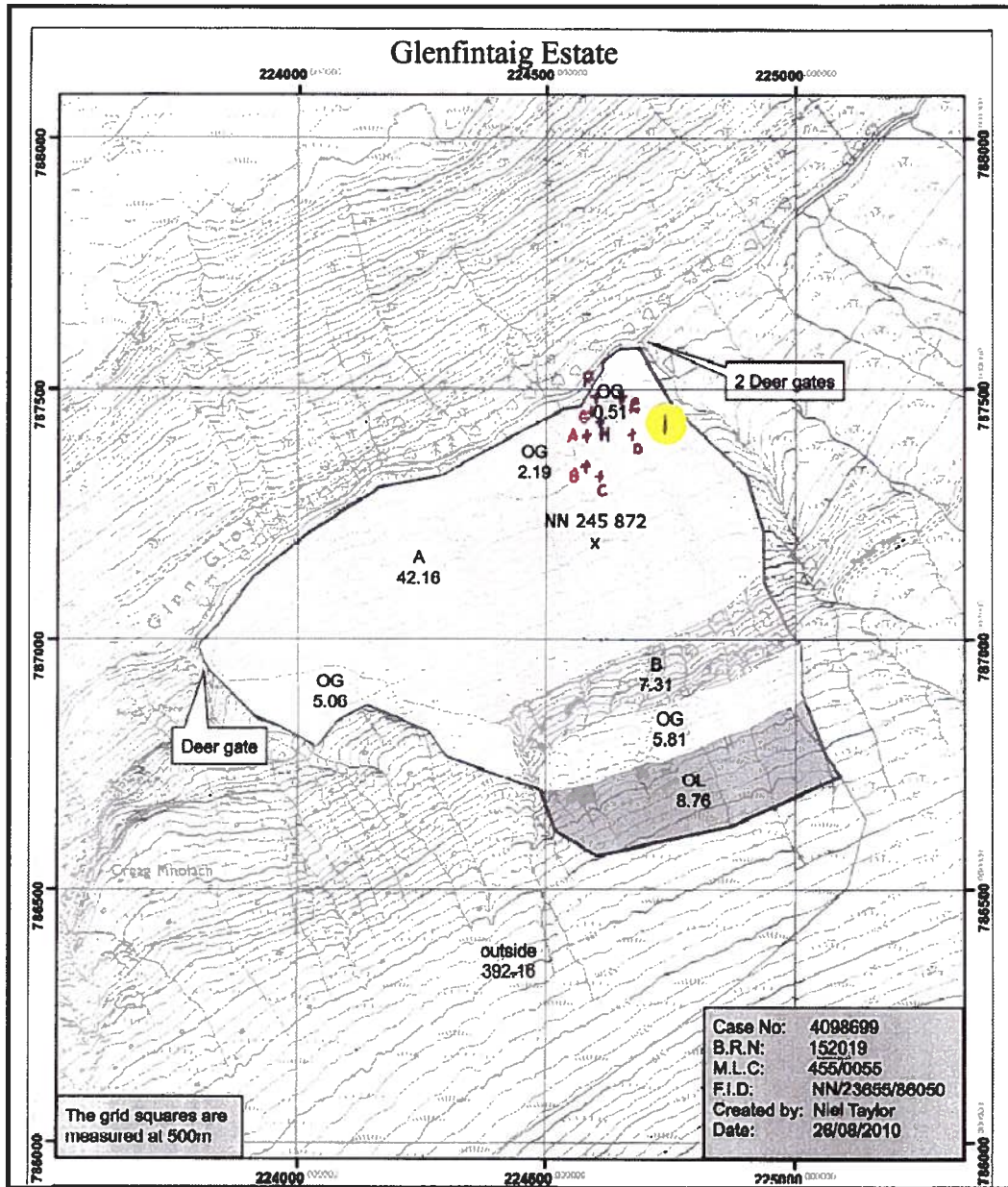
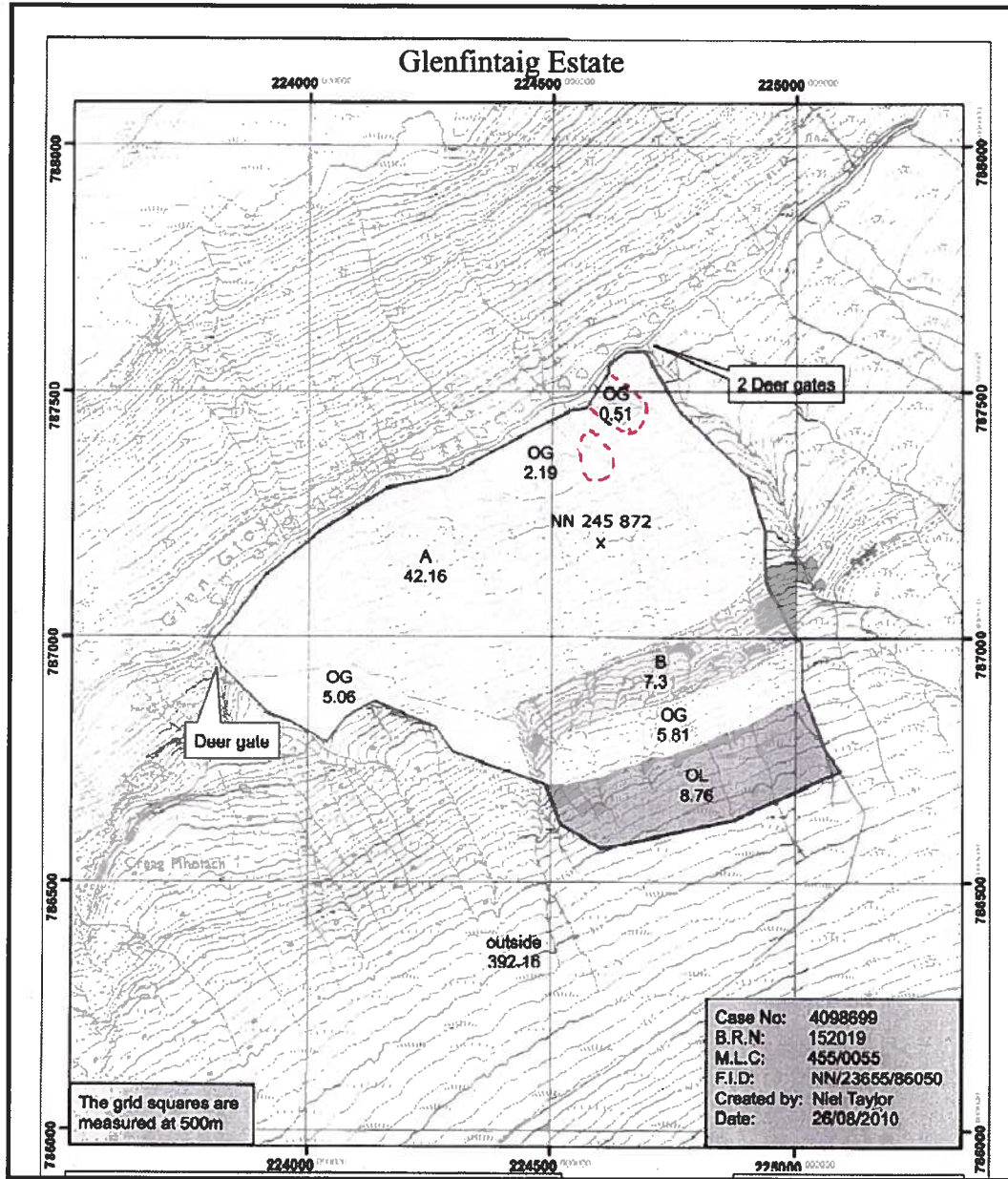


Figure 5 –Location of Areas of Exclusion 1:10,000.
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3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record any archaeological features to the area of proposed forestry. 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 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.

The area of proposed forestry is of a total of 71.8 hectares on a predominantly north-facing slope situated to the south side of Glen Gloy with ridges of grass with heather as the ground rises steeply to the S of the scheme.

Map coverage was limited to the area of interest, as the 1st edition OS of 1873 was almost the same as the 2nd edition of 1903 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being 1970.

An enquiry to the RCAHMS re Aerial photographs for the area of proposed forestry noted that the area had very limited coverage and what was available was too high to be of any use.

No archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the proposed area of forestry. Work by Cath Dagg (2003) to the NE revealed a number of structures to include turf & stone dykes, an enclosure, a structure, and a shieling associated with two other structures and two clearance cairns.

The following archaeological sites were to be found in or close to the proposed forestry area:

HER – Highland Council Historic Environment Record

NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland

N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

Onsite Grid-References were obtained by a Garmin II GPS using OS data.

1 – Glen Gloy

HER – MHG 26941

NMRS – NN28NW 11

Grid Ref: NN 275/875

Type – Shieling, Enclosure, Wall

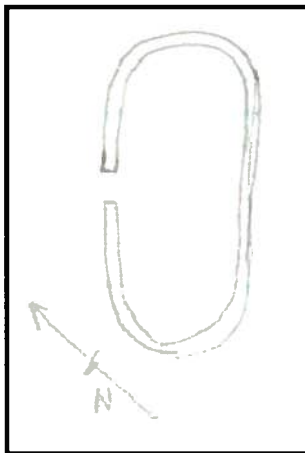
Noted in HER and NMRS of 'What may be eight unroofed shieling-huts and a wall are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1873, sheet cxxvii). An enclosure and a wall are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1970). Information from RCAHMS 12 September 1996.'

Settlement named Bolugie on Roy's Military Map of 1747-55, not shown on John Thomsons map of 1832. The 1st edition OS of 1873 shows a number of rectangular structures but area unnamed, same shown on 2nd edition OS of 1903. Square-shaped enclosure on OS map of 1970. Same shown on OS of 1992.

Walkover reveals site to be comprised of a number of structures as follows:

A – NN 24583/87370 at 549ft (EPE 17ft) Rectangular structure aligned NE-SW 6.9m by 3.2m with walls 0.8m wide and up to 0.3m high with rounded corners. Lamb pen to NE end of house 1.8m in diameter and 1.1m high. Sited on ridge between 2 burns, one now wet area.

B – NN 24591/87308 at 583ft (EPE 17ft) Rectangular building aligned NE-SW 6.3m by 3m with walls 0.55m thick and up to 0.3m high. Doorway to NW, with possible terrace to front.



Site Sketch of Structure B.

C – NN 24609/87315 at 578ft (EPE 17ft) Structure in poor condition aligned NE-SW, looks partly robbed out with only front very visible. 4.6m by 3.2m with walls 0.5m wide and 0.2m high.

D – NN 24682/87418 at 522ft (EPE 17ft) Rectangular structure aligned E-E with well defined rounded ends 8.2m by 3.4m with walls 0.8m thick and up to 0.4m high. No sign of entrance. Drain along outside edge of house to S.

E – NN 24648/87493 at 480ft (EPE 17ft) of 2 structure. First a house aligned 6.4m by 3m with walls 0.7m wide and up to 0.7m high. No sign of doorway. 2nd structure at NN 24618/87495 at 508ft (EPE 18ft) with wall at SW 0.5m high, rest 0.25m high 5m by 3.2m and walls 0.5m wide.

F – NN 24618/87494 at 456ft (EPE 18ft) to E side of burn rectangular structure aligned NE-SW 6.9m by 3.3m with walls 0.7m wide and up to 0.6m high. Covered in reeds. No visible entrance, round ended.

G – NN 24592/87489 at 459ft (EPE 18ft) aligned NE-SW 6.1m by 3m with walls 0.8m wide and up to 0.2m high. Covered in reeds with no visible entrance.

H – NN 24605/87486 at 498ft (EPE 18ft) rectangular structure aligned NW-SE 6m by 3.4m with walls 0.8m wide and up to 0.7m high. Lamb pens built inside each gable, one is 1.8 in diameter, the other 1m in diameter. No sign of entrance. On natural ridge.

Structures to be excluded from scheme and 20m exclusion area put in place. Structures form 2 groups (see figure 5).

5. Conclusions

Overall the area for proposed planting is on a North-facing slope of heather, grass, occasional outcrops of stone with natural ridges and a series of burns.

The buildings, which are all similar in size, relate to a former pre-improvement settlement landscape, they seem to have been abandoned in the late 18th or early 19th century but reused for sheep. At the time of visit area still used for sheep grazing.

6. Archive

A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland in Edinburgh.

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

Dagg, C (2003) Archaeological Evaluation of the area of a Proposed Woodland Grant Scheme at Glenfintaig Estate, Glen Gloy, Inverness-shire. Unpublished report – copy held by Highland Council HER EHG 910.

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

Highland Council Historic Environment Record entry MHG 26941.

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries for NN28NW.

Maps Consulted

Roy, W (1747-55) Military Map of Scotland.

Thomson, J (1832) Atlas of Scotland – Inverness, Southern part.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:10,560 sheet 127 Inverness-shire of 1873 surveyed 1870.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:10,560 sheet 127 Inverness-shire of 1903.

Ordnance Survey map NN28NW of 1970 1:10,000.

Ordnance Survey map NN28NW of 1992 1:10,000.

Top: Plate 1 – View of site A facing E - scales 2m.
Bottom: Plate 2 – View of pen on Site A – scale 2m.



Top: Plate 3 – View of site B facing NE – scales 2m.
Bottom: Plate 4 – View of site C facing N – scale 2m.



Top: Plate 5 – View of site D facing SW – scales 2m and 1m.

Bottom: Plate 6 – View of site E structure 1 facing SW – scales 2m and 1m.



Top: Plate 7 – View of structure 2 site E facing NE – scale 2m.
Bottom: Plate 8 – View of site F facing SW – scales 2m and 1m.



Top: Plate 9 – View of site G facing NW – scales 2m.

Bottom: Plate 10 – View of site H facing N – scales 2m and 1m.



Top: Plate 11 – View of site H pen 1 facing SW – scales 1m.
Bottom: Plate 12 – View of site H pen 2 facing NW – scales 1m.

