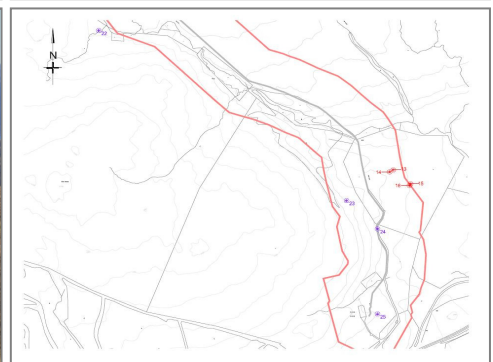
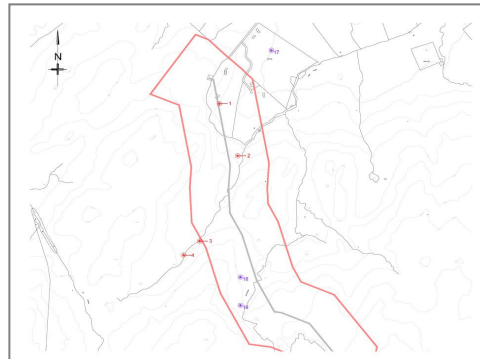


Drumfearn, Isle of Skye Archaeological Walkover Survey

November 2010



Prepared for:

Revision Schedule

Archaeological Walkover November 2010

Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Approved by
01	17.11.10	Draft	Annie Calder Senior Archaeological Consultant	Neil Macnab Principal Archaeological Consultant	Annette Roe Technical Director
02	24.11.10	Final	Annie Calder Senior Archaeological Consultant	Neil Macnab Principal Archaeological Consultant	Annette Roe Technical Director

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Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of Walkover Survey; Sheet 1 of 3

Figure 3: Location of Walkover Survey; Sheet 2 of 3

Figure 4: Location of Walkover Survey; Sheet 3 of 3

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Report

Scott Wilson Ltd has been commissioned by Scottish Water Ltd to undertake an archaeological walkover in advance of a water treatment works upgrade at Drumfearn, Isle of Skye.

This report presents the results of the walkover survey, and identifies the location of archaeological assets identified during the survey. Recommendations to mitigate the impact of the proposed works on the archaeological resource are proposed where necessary.

1.2 Location of Works

Drumfearn is located in the parish of Sleat, in the SE of the Isle of Skye. Sleat is bounded at its north-eastern extremity by Loch Alsh and by Kyle-Rhea, along all its south-eastern side by the Sound of Sleat, and along its north-western by the Atlantic, Loch Eishort, and Strath parish (Groome 1882).

The proposed pipeline will start to the south of the scattered crofting Drumfearn at co-ordinate 167239, 815345 at the site of the existing water plant and head south round the northern edge of Loch an lasgaich and will then follow the lowest contour points south east to the A851 (Figure 1), and terminating at 168378, 812134.

1.3 Site Conditions

The proposed works will cover terrain entirely comprising rocky and boggy moorland and rocky undulating plateau (Stanton 1996). Ground conditions underfoot were very wet which led to extremely slow progress for the survey team. The terrain was also very uneven; natural features, such as peat ledges, were common throughout the area. The peat ledges – typically between 300mm 800mm high, create semi-enclosed spaces which can provide low level shelter for sheep and deer (Plates 9, 24, & 25).

The weather conditions were fine and bright with excellent visibility, although it is noted that the undulating landform was not ideal for long view observation and focussed the surveyor's attention towards more foreground features.

1.4 Methodology

A limited desk-based search was carried out prior to the commencement of the works in order to locate known archaeological assets within the area. The Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland's CANMORE database was consulted, as was the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HER).

Detailed location plans were provided by Scottish water prior to the walkover survey. The walkover survey was undertaken 10.11.10 during a bright, dry day with clear visibility.

The archaeological survey team walked the length of the proposed route and the Limit of Deviation (LoD) associated with the proposed route. Co-ordinates were checked every 50m to ensure the survey team staying within the LoD.

Identified and potential archaeological assets were located by GPS and are illustrated on Figures 2 to 4. All features noted, including natural features, were photographed. In addition, long view shots of the proposed route of the pipeline upgrade were taken at intervals during the survey to characterise the landscape.

A full catalogue of recorded assets is presented in Table 1.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Overview

No sites of prehistoric date recorded within the HER occur within the bounds of the site or its immediate surroundings; however there is evidence of prehistoric activity in the wider area. Skye was occupied from prehistoric times, attested by the numerous standing stones and burials cairns. The island has many brochs, duns and hill forts, some of them particularly well preserved, such as Dun Beag and Dun Ardtreck, and traces of Mesolithic occupation have been identified at Point of Sleat in the south of island.

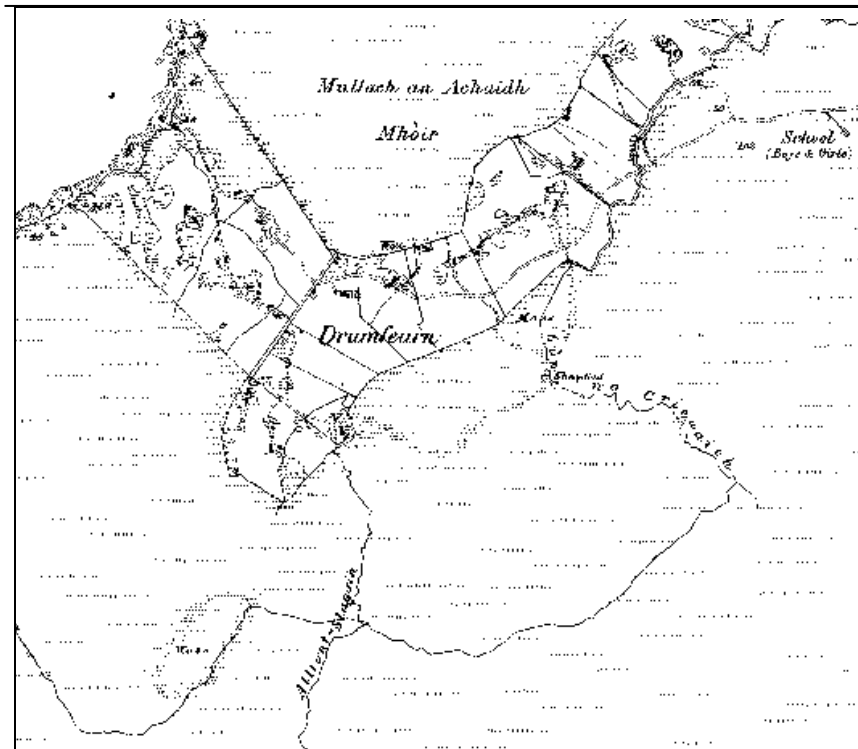
St Columba is said to have visited the island in the 6th century, and Skye also has associations with St Maelrubha and St Moluag, early Christian missionaries.

The island was held by the Vikings from the 9th century, but after Norwegian defeat at the battle of Largs in 1263, the island became more and more under the influence of the kings of Scots. The island was held by the MacLeods, MacDonalds and MacKinnons. The MacLeods were based at Dunvegan to the north of the island, while the MacDonalds held Sleat. www.virtualhebrides.com

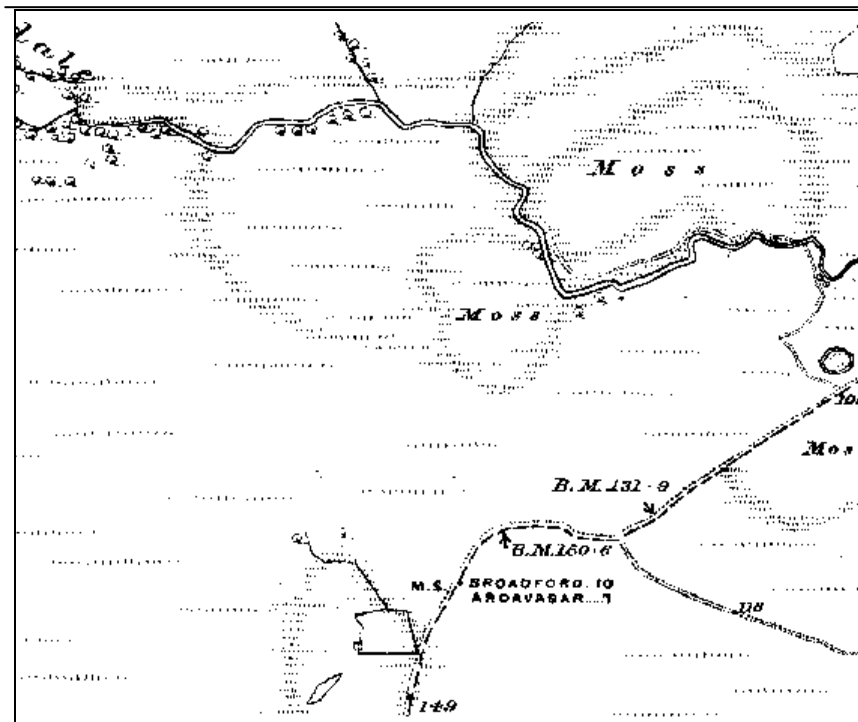
The crofting Drumfearn (Druim Fheàrna) derives from 'alder ridge', suggesting the area was at one time wooded (Forbes 1923). The settlement is small; In the 1780s John MacInnes was moved to Drumfearn from Letterfurra, and in the 1820s at least two families moved here when Kilbride was cleared to make way for a glebe for the minister of Strath. Several families who had been cleared from Borreraig and Suishnish were resettled at Drumfearn in 1852 (www.sleatlocalhistorysociety.org.uk).

The Ordnance Survey map dated 1881 (Map extract 1) shows the crofting occupied by several small houses and a school building for boys and girls to the east. The route of the proposed pipeline upgrade to the south of Drumfearn is annotated as rough pasture and patches of moss, with no distinct earthworks or structures other than the land boundaries which were still extant at the time of the walkover survey.

The map extract which covers the southern portion of the proposed upgrade route (Map extract 2) shows the route covered in rough pasture and uneven mossy ground. The undated earthen enclosure banks noted during the walkover survey (Plates 36, 37 & 38) are not annotated.



Map extract 1: Ordnance Survey map dated 1881, scale 1:10,560



Map extract 2: Ordnance Survey map dated 1881, scale 1:10,560

3 Results of the Walkover Survey

All known and potential archaeological assets are presented in Table 1.

A search of the online HER databases (Highlands HER and the NMRS) identified 9 archaeological assets within the immediate vicinity of the proposed pipeline upgrade route and its LoD; these are listed in Table 1 by their site identification number (ID 17 – 25) and by their HER number.

All archaeological assets, known features and those identified during the walkover survey, are located on Figures 2 – 4. Blue points indicate assets already existing on the HER; red points indicate features noted during the walkover.

Each feature was photographed, plotted via GPS and located on the proposed upgrade route mapping.

Site ID: 1

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Extant stone dyke land division, aligned NNE/ SSW and then turning to roughly SE/ NW. Marks the western boundary between Drumfearn Common and the marshy moorland to the west.



Plate 1: View to the north. NNE SSW stone dyke land division



Plate 2: View to the north. NNE SSW stone dyke land division



Plate 3: View to the East. Stone dyke land division.

Site ID: 2

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Extant part earthen/ stone dyke land division, aligned SE/ NW. Marks the boundary between the southern edge of Drumfearn Common and the marshy moorland to the south.



Plate 4: View to the NW; earthen bank/ stone dyke bordering the south of Drumfearn Common.



Plate 5: View to the North; stone dyke bordering the southern edge of Drumfearn Common.



Plate 6: General view to the North, towards Drumfearn Common.



Plate 7: General view to the NW; character of landscape to the west of Drumfearn Common.

Site ID: 3

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Short, standing stone and earthen bank. The stone is an isolated feature in an area of very wet boggy ground. Around the northern edge was a short stretch of upstanding earthen bank, approx. 400mm high. The bank or peat ledge appeared to be a natural feature, potentially used as shelter/ wind-break by sheep.



Plate 8: View to the South, setting of standing stone in area of boggy ground.



Plate 9: Close up of natural earthen bank or peat ledge, approximately 500mm in height. 1m scale.

Site ID: 4

HER Ref: N/A

Description: earthen mound; natural feature. When viewed from a distance, feature was thought to be a potential cairn. However closer inspection confirmed the feature was natural. It is included in the walkover record as an example of natural features within this landscape.



Plate 10: View to the North; natural feature, mound. 1m scale. Standing stone and Drumfearn Common in the background.

Site ID: 5

HER Ref: N/A

Description: View point location: General North and South views of route of proposed upgrade.



Plate 11: View to the north. General views showing the route of the proposed upgrade.



Plate 12: View to the South. General views showing the route of the proposed upgrade.

Site ID: 6

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Natural feature on southern edge of loch.



Plate 18: Natural feature on southern edge of loch; not a cairn.

Site ID: 7

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Natural feature on southern edge of loch; not a cairn



Plate 19: View to the SE; natural feature

Site ID: 8

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Stone shieling situated on hillside overlooking loch an lasgaich. Shieling is sub-circular with a N/S diameter of 3.6m and an E/W diameter of 3.75m. The subcircular chamber is constructed of unbonded roughly hewn stone and survives to 3 courses. Two upright stones flank a NNW/SSE facing entrance. An area of tumble is located on the western side of the structure.



Plate 20: View from the East



Plate 21: View from the East



Plate 22: View from the north; close up of internal face.



Plate 23: View from the south; general dimension view; shieling entrance faces NNW/SSE overlooking the loch.

Site ID: 9

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Natural feature: Peat ledge offering shelter for sheep/ deer.



Plate 24: Natural feature, peat ledge



Plate 25: Natural feature, peat ledge.



Plate 26: General views to the north showing the route of the proposed upgrade



Plate 27: General views to the south showing the route of the proposed upgrade

Site ID: 10

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Shallow peat scoop; earthen shelter



Plate 28: Semi-circular earthen shelter cut into SW face of hillside, overlooking flat expanse of rough pasture and moorland. 1m scale, 600m depth, 2m diameter.



Plate 29: Semi-circular earthen shelter cut into SW face of hillside, overlooking flat expanse of rough pasture and moorland. 1m scale, 600m depth, 2m diameter.



Plate 30: View to the SW; flat expanse of pasture, moorland and route of proposed upgrade. Semi-circular shelters overlook this area.

Site ID: 11

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Shallow peat scoop; earthen shelter



Plate 31: Shallow scoop cut into SW face of hillside; depth 600mm, diameter 1m.



Plate 32: Shallow scoop cut into SW face of hillside; 1m scale, depth 600mm, diameter 1m.

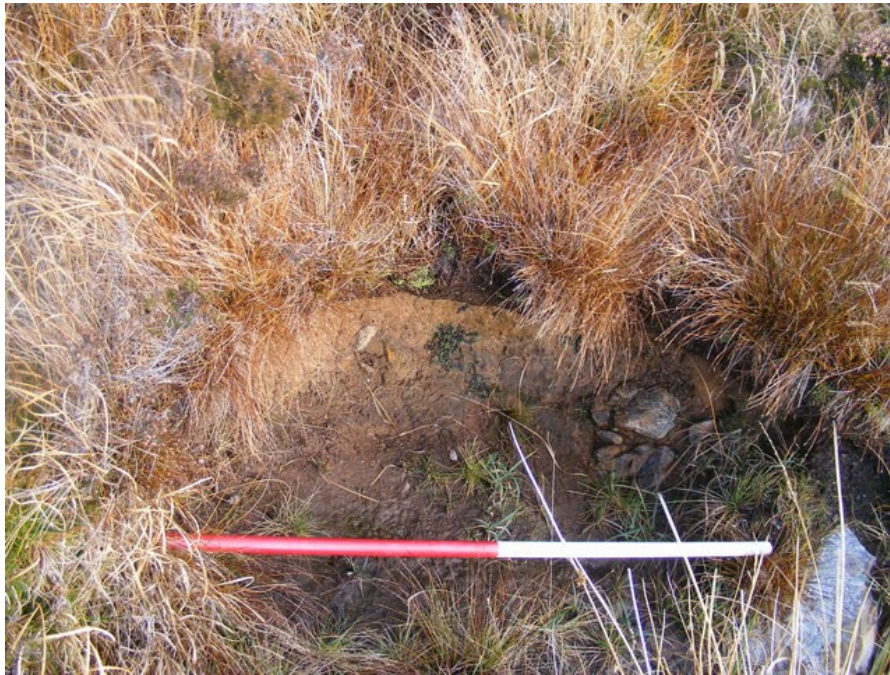


Plate 33: Shallow scoop cut into SW face of hillside; 1 m scale, depth 600mm, diameter 1m.

Site ID: 12

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Shallow peat scoop; earthen shelter. 2.3m in diameter; 650mm deep



Plate 34: Semicircular shallow scoop shelter; 1 m scale



Plate 35: Semicircular shallow scoop shelter; 1m scale

Site ID: 13, 14 & 24

HER Ref: N/A

Description: Earthen banked enclosure aligned approximately NE/SW/W. Enclosure is listed on the HER, see ID reference **24**, HER reference MHG18232.



Plate 36: View to the NW, NE/SW aligned stretch of earthen bank. Width ranges from 1.2m to 3m, although the latter dimension has been created by bank erosion. Heavily disturbed by grazing sheep and animal burrows.



Plate 37: View to the NW, NE/SW aligned stretch of earthen bank.



Plate 38: View to the South. Stretch of segmented earthen enclosure, aligned NE/SW. Bank is 1m wide on average and 2m wide maximum. Bank is associated with 2m wide infilled ditch on external edge. Remnant rig and furrow aligned NE/SW is visible within the enclosure.

Table 1: Catalogue of sites

Site ID	HER Ref:	E	N	Description	Photo ID
1	N/A	167232	815412	NNE SSW Dyke	Plate 1, 2, 3
2	N/A	167291	815228	SE NW Dyke	Plate 4, 5
3	N/A	167168	815927	Short, bulky standing stone and earthen bank	Plate 8, 9
4	N/A	167116	814878	Earthen mound, possible natural feature	Plate 10
5	N/A	167064	814167	Viewpoint location	Plate 13
6	N/A	167583	814294	Possible cairn site – likely natural feature	Plate 18
7	N/A	167584	814222	Natural feature	Plate 19
8	N/A	167561	814075	Stone shieling	Plate 20, 21, 22, 23
9	N/A	167501	813917	Peat ledge; semi-enclosed space providing low level shelter for sheep/deer. Natural feature.	Plate 24, 25
10	N/A	167529	813411	Shallow peat scoop - earthen shelter	Plate 28, 29
11	N/A	167547	813280	Shallow peat scoop - earthen shelter	Plate 31, 32, 33
12	N/A	167554	813275	Shallow peat scoop - earthen shelter	Plate 34, 35
13	N/A	168451	812608	Point taken at position of NE SW earthen enclosure	Plate 36
14	N/A	168439	812601	Point taken at position of NE SW earthen enclosure	Plate 37
15	N/A	168507	812559	Point taken at position of ENE WSW earthen enclosure	Plate 38
16	N/A	168503	812553	Point taken at position of ENE WSW earthen enclosure	Plate 38
17	MHG18254	6740	1560	A crofting township comprising forty-nine roofed, two partially roofed and four unroofed buildings, one of which is annotated as a school, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1881, sheet lii). Thirty-two roofed, one partially roofed and eleven unroofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1986).	N/A
18	MHG18249	6730	1480	Shieling listing - no detail	N/A
19	MHG18234	6730	1470	Cairn (modern) listed only - no details given	N/A

				Site of purported fort: Possible promontory fort - undated: A defensive enclosure created by constructing one or more lines of ramparts across a neck of land, in order to defend, or restrict access to, a spur or promontory, either inland or on the coast. Listed only, no details given	Plate 14, 15, 17
20	MHG18263	6740	1450		
21	MHG18247	6740	1410	Shieling listing - no further detail. HER position plotted on figure, but asset not located at this point.	N/A
22	MHG18240	6750	1310	Shieling listing - no further detail. HER position plotted on figure, but asset not located at this point	N/A
23	MHG18231	6830	1250	Shieling listing - no further detail. HER position plotted on figure, but asset not located at this point	N/A
24	MHG18232	6840	1240	Undated enclosure – Ref ID points 13-16 inclusive	Plate 36, 37, 38
25	MHG27819	6840	1210	An enclosure with an attached length of wall and what may be an unroofed building attached to the W wall and, approximately 50m to the SW, another enclosure are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6 inch map (Inverness-shire, Isle of Skye 1881, sheet lii), but they are not shown and on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1968)	N/A

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

The survey has confirmed that the route of the proposed upgrade passes through boggy moorland and will have no direct impact on the majority of recognised archaeological assets.

The avoidance of the archaeological resource is preferred, and avoidance is achievable for the majority of the identified assets. The majority of the assets lie outside of the impact footprint for the proposed route, but are located within the LoD, therefore the creation of a 10m exclusion zone around each asset will be sufficient to mitigate potential impacts during construction. The 10m exclusion is also recommended for natural features.

Where avoidance is impossible or impractical, a solution will be adopted which will minimise the construction impact upon the archaeological resource. There are two areas where the proposed route has the potential to directly impact archaeological remains:

- Extant land divisions - dykes (Site ID points 1 and 2); and
- Undated earthen enclosure (Site ID points 13-16 & 24).

The route of the proposed upgrade will cross these extant boundaries and mitigation strategies are proposed in Table 2.

Recommendations for appropriate mitigation during construction are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Mitigation Recommendations

ID	E	N	Description	Mitigation
1	167232	815412	NNE SSW Dyke	If avoidance of dyke is impossible, then the pipe trench should cross perpendicular to the dyke, not at an oblique angle, to reduce the level of impact
2	167291	815228	SE NW Dyke	If avoidance of dyke is impossible, then the pipe trench should cross perpendicular to the dyke, not at an oblique angle, to reduce the level of impact
3	167168	815927	Short, bulky standing stone and earthen bank	Outside of LoD. No impact.
4	167116	814878	Earthen mound, possible natural feature	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
5	167064	814167	Viewpoint location	No Impact
6	167583	814294	Possible cairn site – likely natural feature	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
7	167584	814222	Natural feature	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
8	167561	814075	Stone shieling	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained

ID	E	N	Description	Mitigation
9	167501	813917	Peat ledge; semi-enclosed space providing low level shelter for sheep/ deer. Natural feature.	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
10	167529	813411	Shallow peat scoop - earthen shelter	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
11	167547	813280	Shallow peat scoop - earthen shelter	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
12	167554	813275	Shallow peat scoop - earthen shelter	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
13	168451	812608	Point taken at position of NE SW earthen enclosure	Current proposed route should be maintained as this utilises an existing break/ trackway through the enclosure. If this solution is impractical, then a watching brief shall be maintained during the excavation of the pipe trench through the enclosure and associated features (ditch)
14	168439	812601	Point taken at position of NE SW earthen enclosure	As above
15	168507	812559	Point taken at position of ENE WSW earthen enclosure	Current proposed route should be maintained as this utilises an existing break/ trackway through the enclosure. If this solution is impractical, then a watching brief shall be maintained during the excavation of the pipe trench through the enclosure and associated features (ditch)
16	168503	812553	Point taken at position of ENE WSW earthen enclosure	As above
17	6740	1560	A crofting township comprising forty-nine roofed, two partially roofed and four unroofed buildings, one of which is annotated as a school	Outside of LoD. No Impact
18	6730	1480	Shieling listing - no detail	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
19	6730	1470	Cairn (modern) listed only - no details given	A 10m buffer zone from this asset should be maintained
20	6740	1450	Site of purported fort	Outside of LoD. No Impact
21	6740	1410	Shieling listing - no further detail. HER position plotted on figure, but asset not located at this point.	A 10m buffer zone from the recorded location of this asset should be maintained
22	6750	1310	Shieling listing - no further detail. HER position plotted on figure, but asset not located at this point	Outside of LoD. No Impact

ID	E	N	Description	Mitigation
23	6830	1250	Shieling listing - no further detail. HER position plotted on figure, but asset not located at this point	A 10m buffer zone from the recorded location of this asset should be maintained
24	6840	1240	Undated enclosure – Ref ID points 13-16 inclusive	As above for points 13-16 inclusive
25	6840	1210	An enclosure with an attached length of wall and what may be an unroofed building attached to the W wall and, not shown and on the current edition of the OS map (1968)	No longer extant, however subsurface deposits may survive. A 10m buffer zone from the recorded location of this asset should be maintained

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<http://www.megalithic.co.uk>

Appendix A

Figures

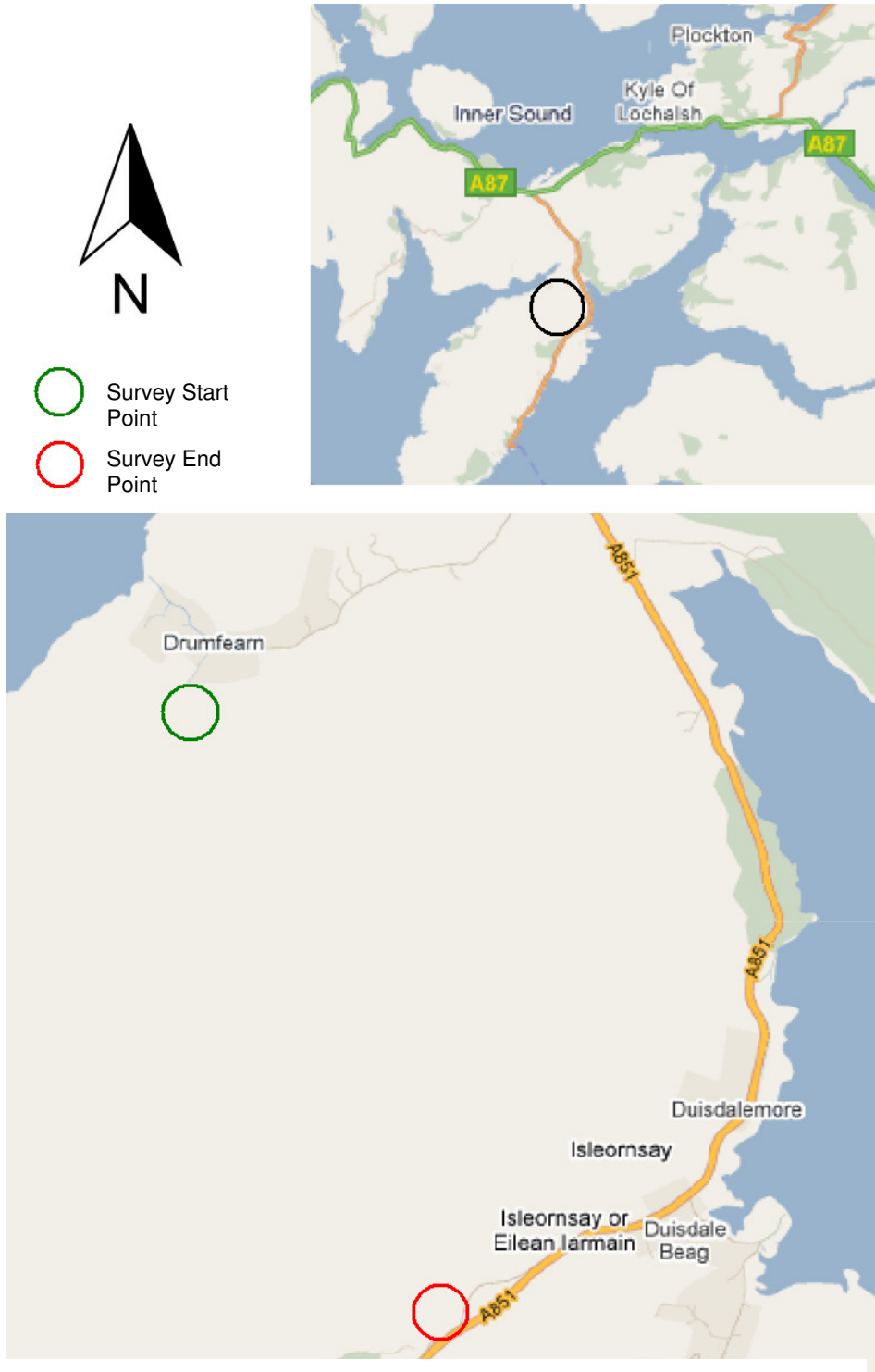
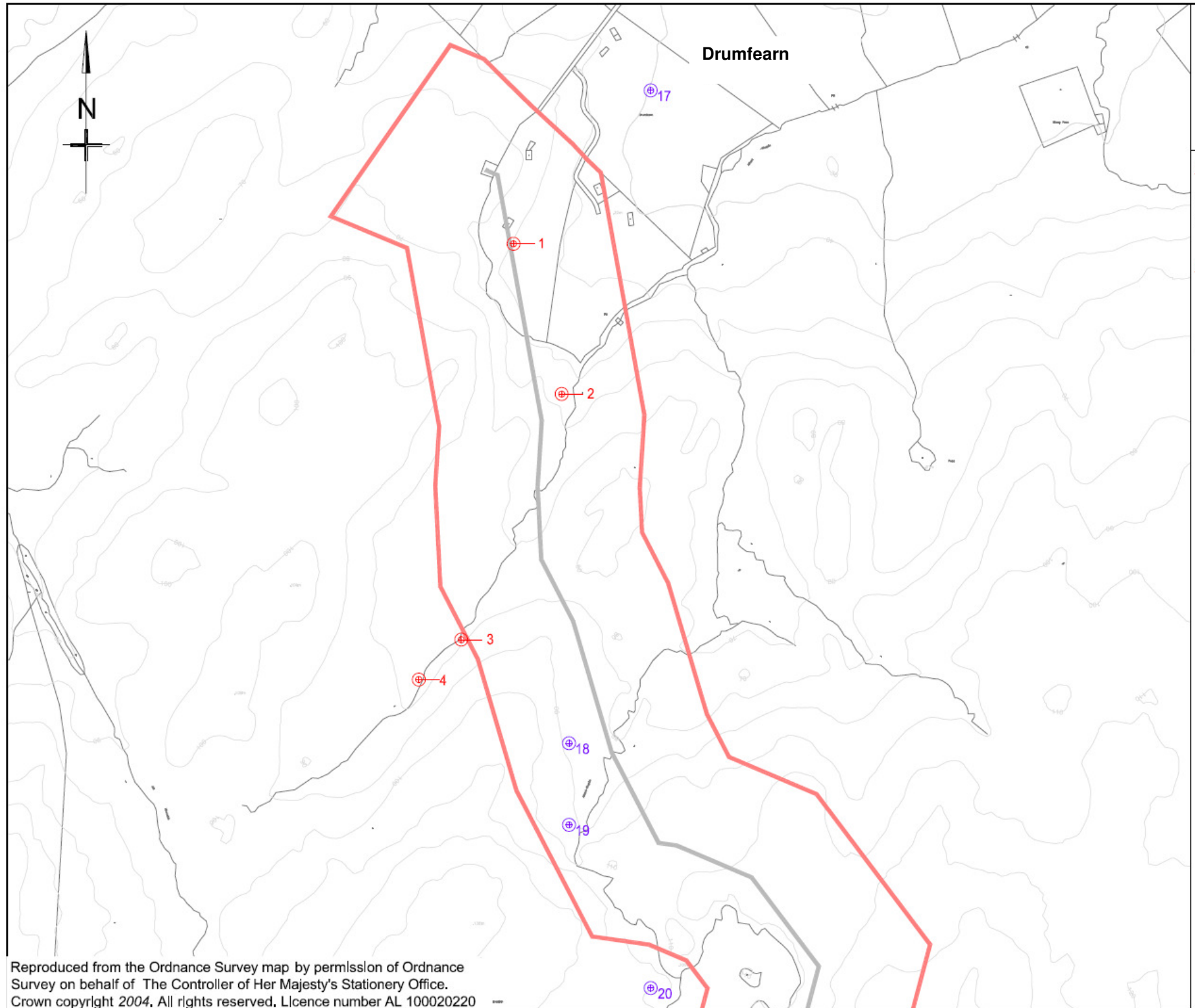


Figure 1: Site Location



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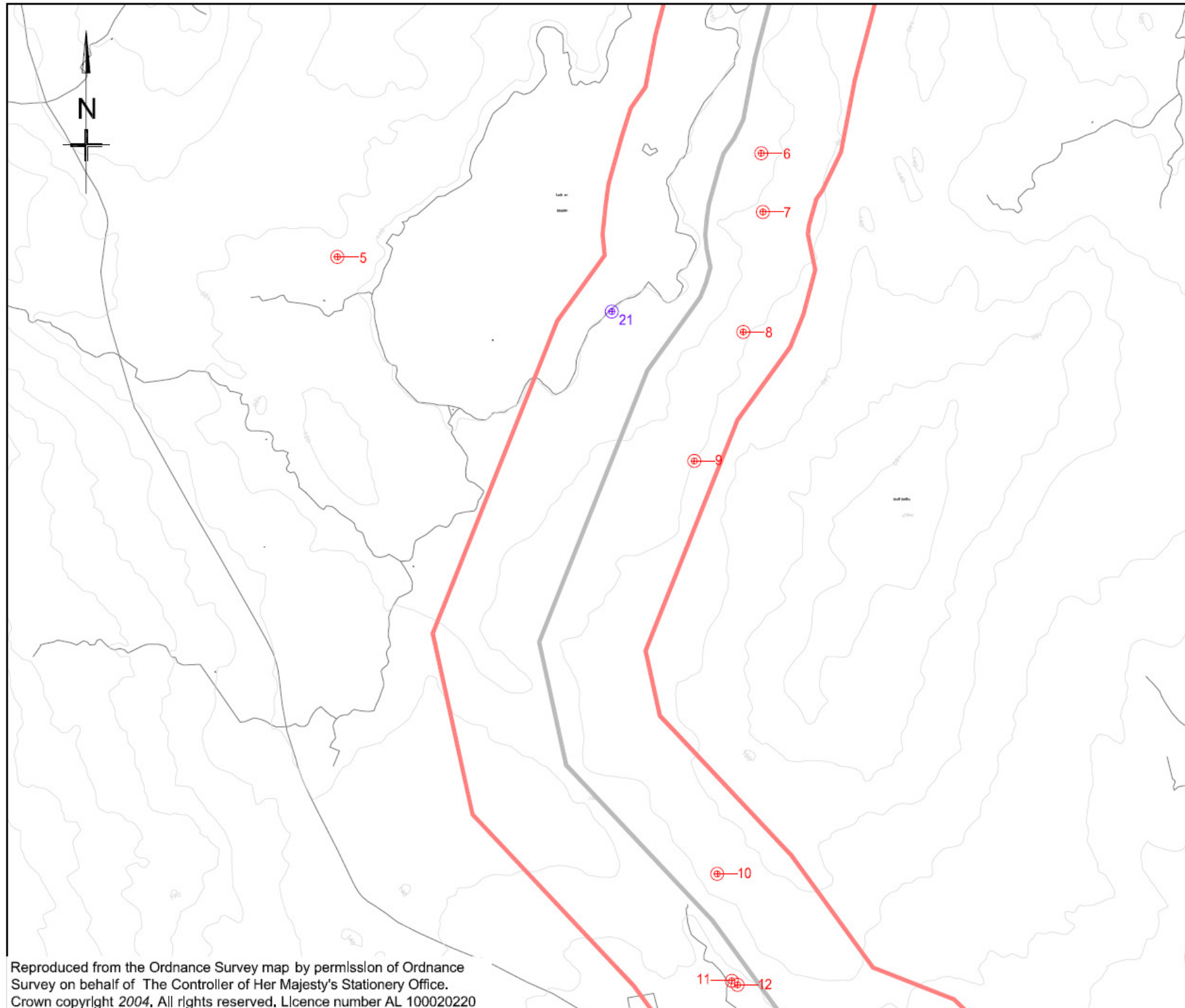
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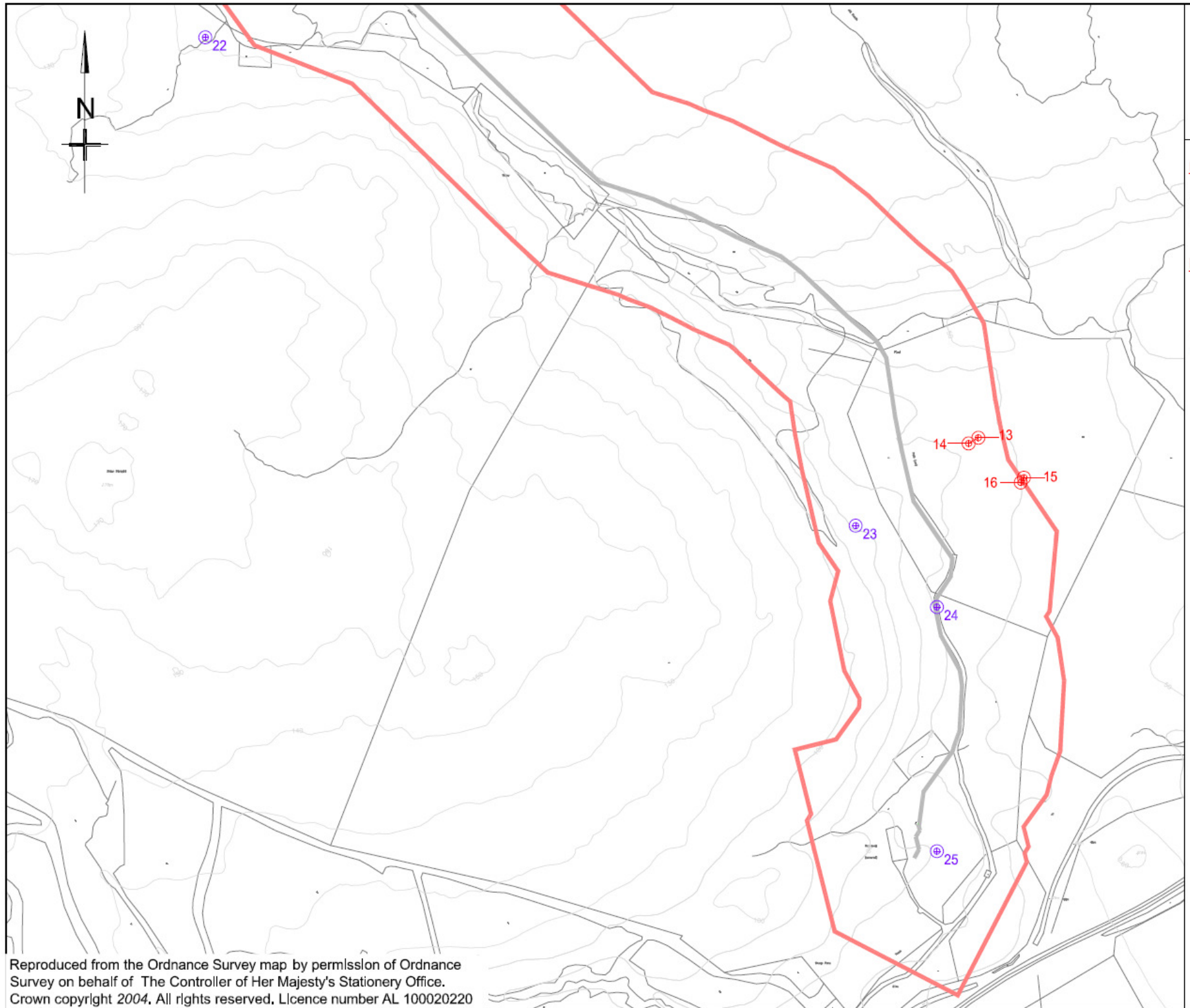
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