

**Appendix 11.1C
Archaeological Walk-over Survey Report:
Allt na h-Imrich**



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd
Bringing the Past and Future Together

Archaeological Walk-over Survey



Allt na h-Imrich Glen Affric, Highland

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Archaeological Walk-over Survey

Allt na h-Imrich Glen Affric, Highland

Report No.	HAS130304
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Client	Green Highland Renewables Ltd
Planning Ref	N/A
OS Grid Ref	NH 22549 26406 (intake)
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Summary

An archaeological walk-over survey was undertaken to inform plans for construction of a hydro-electric scheme at Allt na h-Imrich, Glen Affric, Highland.

Nine archaeological features were identified, four of which might require mitigation.

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Aims and objectives

- To minimise any possible delay or cost to the development by anticipating archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently.
- To determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; and to record these where necessary in line with national and local policies and standards.

Legislation and Policy

The common principles underlying international conventions, national legislation and local authority planning policies are that cultural heritage assets should be identified in advance of development and safeguarded where practicable; if disturbance is unavoidable appropriate recording of features and recovery of portable artefacts should take place. These have been set out in international and European Union agreements, and UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national and local planning policies⁶.

⁶ *International policy includes the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (the Valletta Convention), ratified by the UK government in 2000; European Directives incorporated into UK legislation include the Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2011*

Key UK legislation includes The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 which covers any monument 'of national importance' and requires Historic Scotland's consent for any works affecting it. The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006 confirm that the historic environment (whether covered by statutory protection or not) is a material consideration in the planning process.

Planning policy includes the Scottish Government's Scottish Planning Policy (SPP 2010). This defines the 'historic environment' and indicates that where preservation is not possible, planning authorities should ensure that procedures are in place in order that appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving is undertaken before and/or during development and that the developer has made appropriate provision for this. Historic Scotland's policies and guidance are set out in Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP) 2009, and Managing Change in the Historic Environment series (2010).

The Highland Council's Highland-wide Local Development Plan (HwLDP) (2010, adopted 2012) encourages appropriate developments while protecting archaeology and built heritage

Location

The proposed run-of-river hydro-electric scheme is proposed in Glen Affric at Allt na h-Imrich (intake at NH 22549 26406, at about 360m above sea level). The scheme runs down to an outlet into Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin at 220m above sea level.

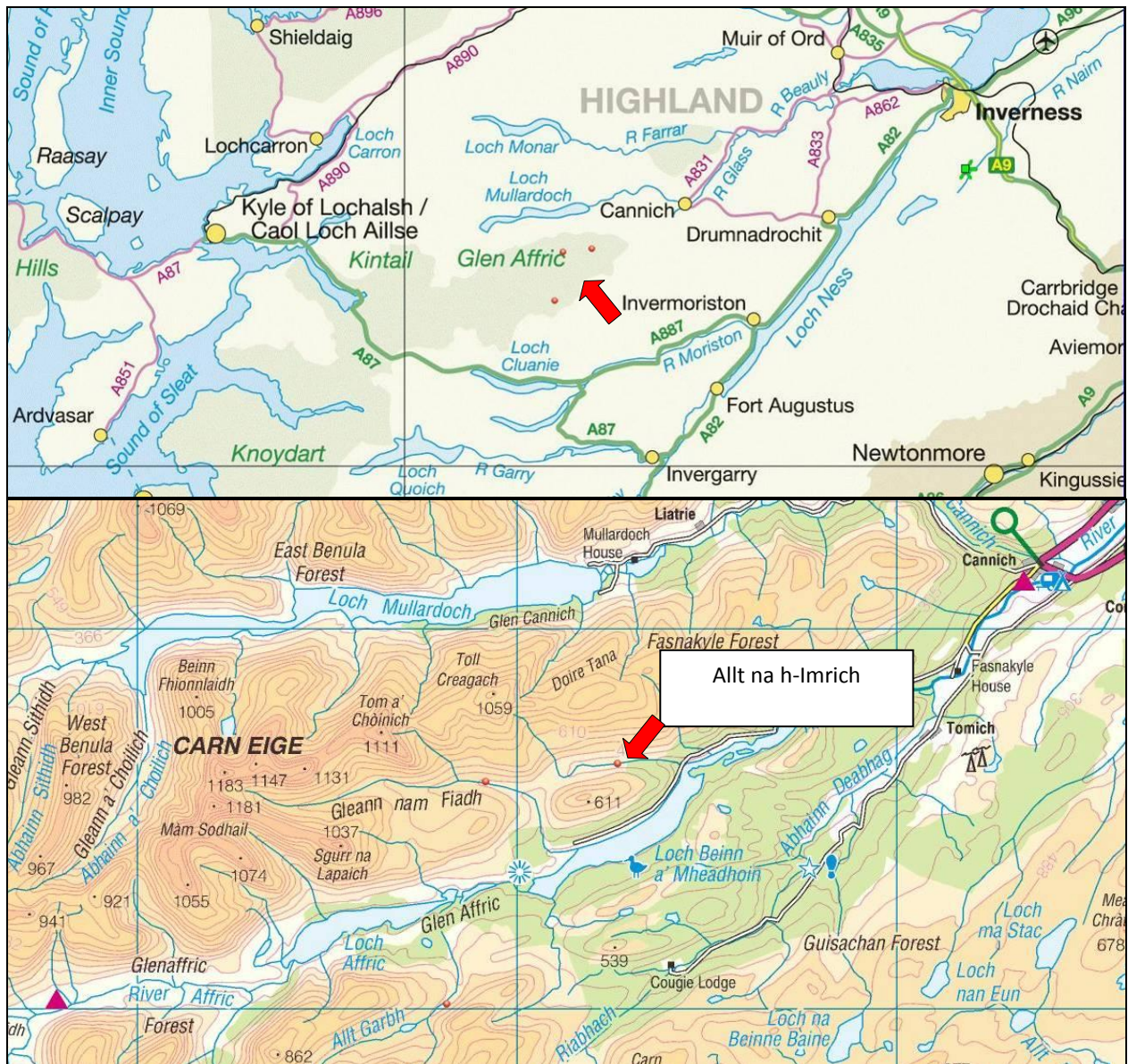


Figure 12 Location

From OS mapping, reproduced under Licence. Not to original scale

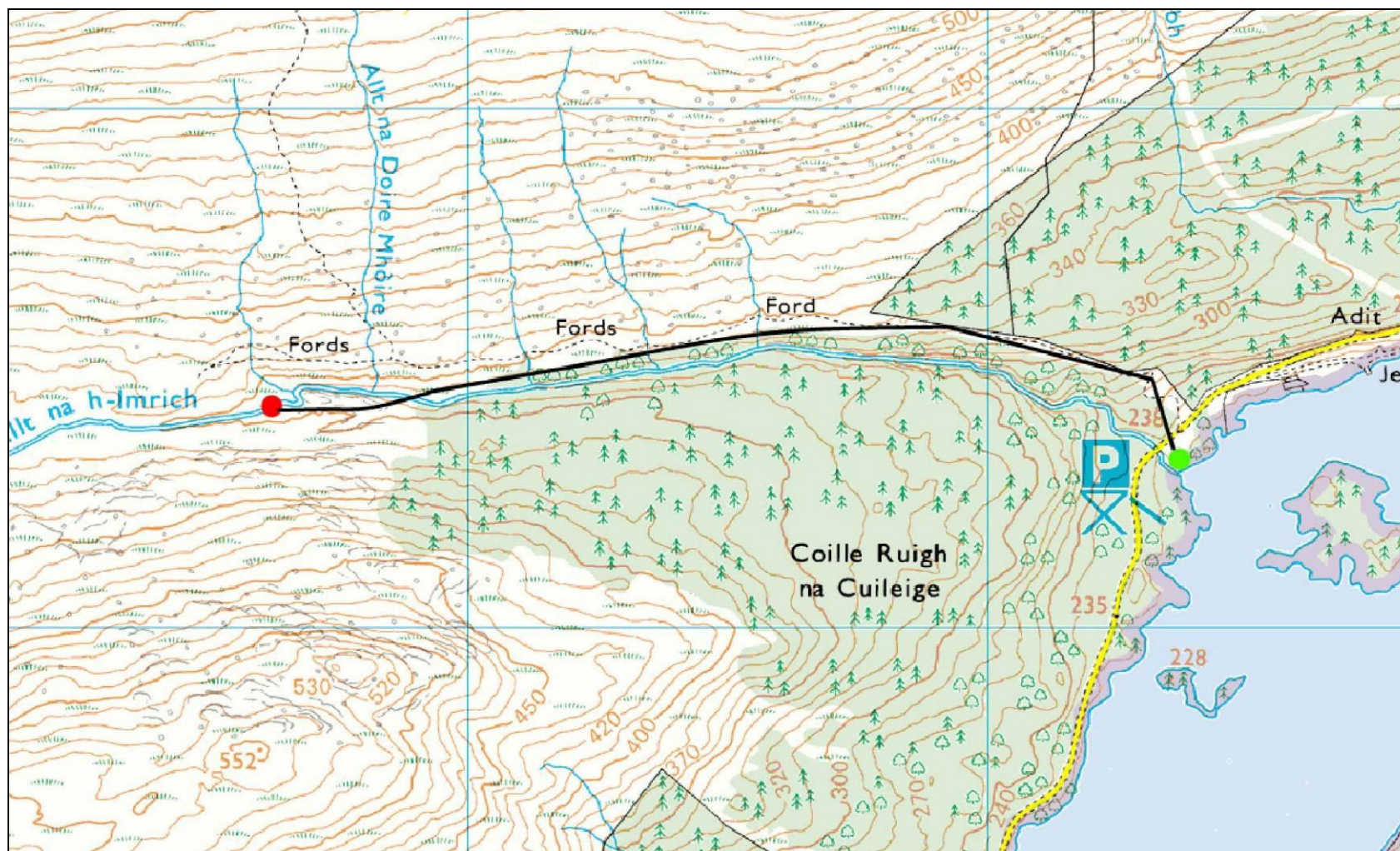


Figure 13 Allt na h-Imrich – proposed hydro-electric scheme (indicative)

Archaeology background

The proposed development comprises a hydro-electric scheme at Allt na h-Imrich in Glen Affric. The approximate locations of the intake, penstock routes and turbine house are shown in Figures 2 above: a corridor at least 50m wide, centred on this line, was checked on the ground so as to accommodate minor design changes.

Very little archaeological fieldwork has been carried out in this area. However, a shieling was reported by Meryl Marshall of NOSAS in 2003 by the Allt na h-Imrich and there was considered to be potential for further features to be recorded nearby.

The name Allt na h-Imrich means the burn of the flitting or migration. This may refer to a track to shielings further up in the headwaters, or perhaps a more major routeway.

Method

Preparatory Desk Based Assessment and Initial Recording

Relevant archaeological / historical records, maps and aerial photographs were checked, and photographs taken to record the area as found. No cultural heritage features seem to have been recorded here previously.

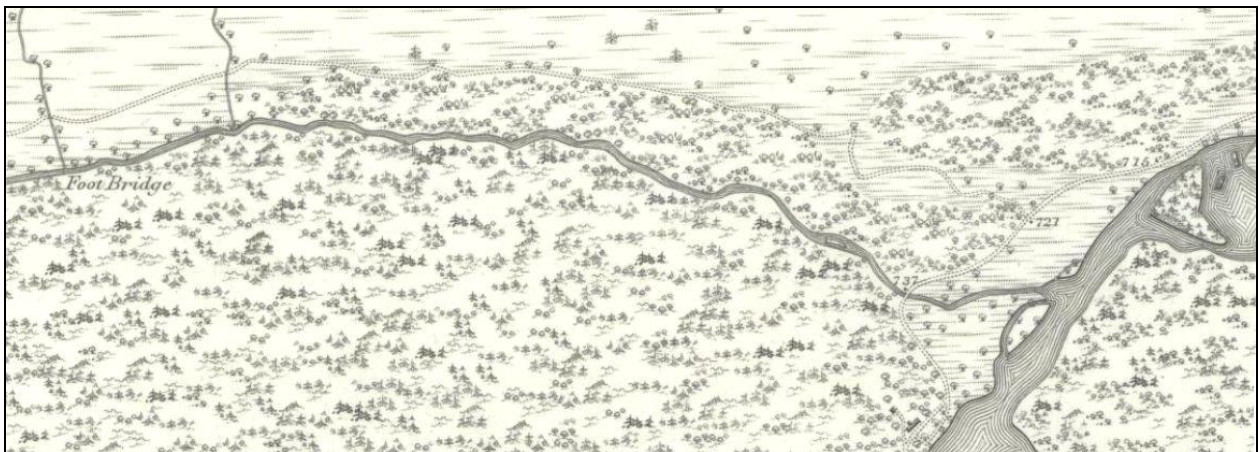


Figure 14 Extract from 1st edition OS 6 inch (1:10560) map, surveyed 1872
Inverness-shire (Mainland), Sheet XXXVIII. Not reproduced to scale

Walk-over and topographic survey

The survey was undertaken on 21st February 2013. The weather was cold and clear, with bright sunshine. Much of the river and Loch Beinn a Mheadhoin were frozen over.

The method adopted was as set out in the Project Design previously approved by all parties⁷. The proposed intake location, penstock route and turbine site were walked and carefully inspected for signs of archaeological or other cultural heritage features, including any potential for buried evidence. General photographs of the area surveyed were taken to show the area before development. Cultural heritage features were noted and recorded using digital photography and where appropriate, dimensioned sketches.

Results

Nine features (F1-9) were identified and recorded during the survey. These are shown on the maps at the end of this report (Figures 5-8) and listed in Table 1 below.

Feature F1

This is an old track or roadway defined by a stone embankment on NW/uphill side and banked up on other. It was 5-6m across and ran for around 50m from the loch side towards the river. It was cut across at 90° by a modern deer fence (Plate 1). It does not appear on the 1st edition OS mapping but appears to pre-date the raising of the water level in the loch following the building of Benevean Dam in the 1940s.



Plate 5 Feature F1, looking W

⁷ Wood J 2013 *Glen Affric: Project Design, Method Statement and Risk Assessment*, Highland Archaeology Services Report HAS130203, Cromarty, Scotland



Plate 6 Feature F2 stone walled platform



Plate 7 Feature F3 Flat area

Feature F2

At the west end of the track (Feature F1), where it meets the river, the road sits on a substantial rounded raised platform abutting the river on one side. The platform walls on the south/river side are constructed of random rubble and mortar and stand approximately 2-3m high, tailing off around a

curve to nothing on the road's north side. On the east side the wall was of dry stone with a corner on the rest of the structure (Plate 2)

Feature F3

Just south east of the main road and east of the nearby bridge a large, artificially flat area. No features were visible on this platform (Plate 3).



Plate 8 Feature F4: Trackway

Feature F4

Running off the main road a to the north, a sunken path with rough stone embanking on its west side standing up to 1.5m in height. The bank is rough with trees growing from it and consists of turf and some stones. This track appears on the current OS mapping but not on the 19th c. editions (Plate 4).

Feature F5

A possible old pathway defined by stones on its south side. It runs E-W and is just downhill and close to the current track. It is approximately 2m wide and now in poor condition (Plate 5).

Feature F6

Possible structure, now very ephemeral, defined by rough U of moss covered stone orientated N-S. Close to old track Feature F5. It is small and could possibly be a shieling but very degraded. Maximum wall height 0.2m at north end. 5x3m. (See photo P10, not reproduced here)



Plate 9 Feature F5: Trackway



Plate 10 Feature F7



Plate 11 Feature F8: Possible shieling or kiln

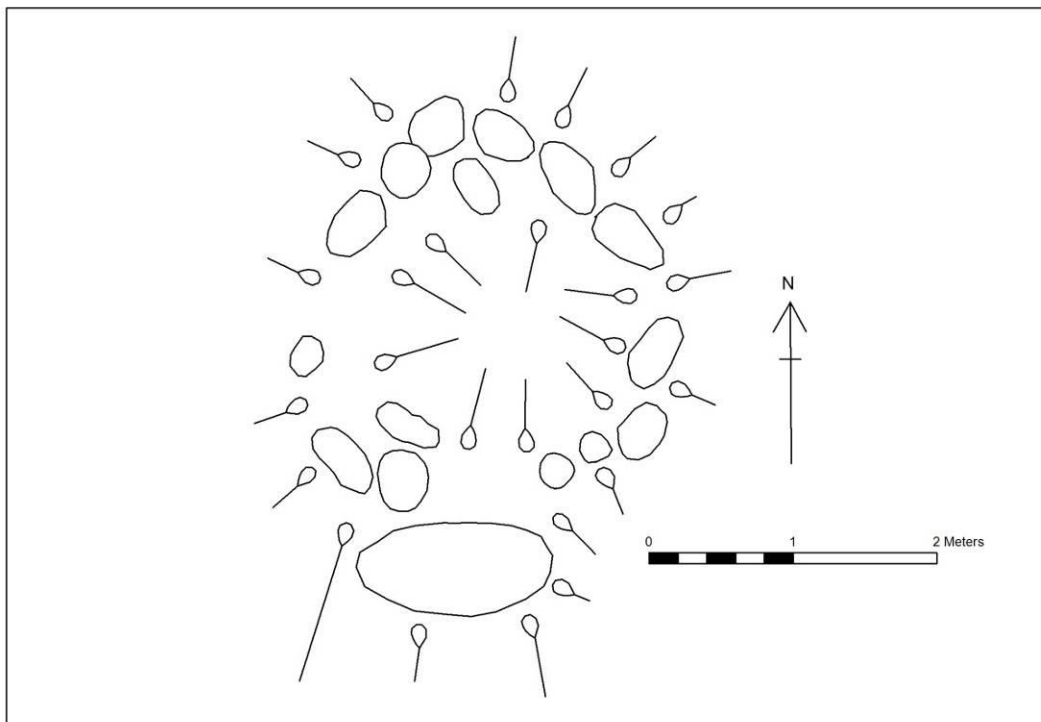


Figure 15 Feature F8

Feature F7

Modern fenced off area 4x6m – not a significant cultural heritage feature (Plate 6, above).

Feature F8

Possible kiln or round shieling. Round stone bound feature 4m in diameter. Consisting of random rubble walls c.0.5m across with hollow free of stone in the centre. West of large flat area (Feature F9) and several meters above the river. Max wall height 0.5m. Hollow in centre 0.3m deep. Max wall thickness 1m. (Plate 7, Figure 4).

Feature F9

Large flat grass-covered platform, 5-10m to E of Feature F8, several meters above the river and free of heather. There are no obvious upstanding features in this uneven, but incoherent area. Possibly a former grazing area (Plate 8)



Plate 12 Feature F9

Discussion

Features F1 and F2 (road and platform) are well-constructed and apparently of late 18th or 19th c. date. Their function is unclear but it is possible they have been used to move goods or livestock between the loch and the shore. The roadway leads towards a group of sheep pens and a jetty on the loch side, shown on the current OS mapping. Although these were not investigated as part of the survey they may be connected to the roadway. They do not appear on the 1st edition OS mapping but appear to pre-date the raising of the water level in the loch following the building of Benevean Dam in the 1940s.

Feature F3 is apparently an area of ground flattened off during road construction and of little significance.

Feature F4 is very hard to date. Its sunken nature may indicate it is of some antiquity. The early OS maps show a network of paths in the area but this does not seem to coincide with these.

Feature F5: It seems likely that this path was originally part of the same network as the paths nearby. Feature F6 is close by and may be associated. Again it is almost impossible to date.

Feature F6 this feature is very ephemeral and is probably a spoil heap created by opening or repairing path (Feature F5) just above.

Feature F7: a wire fenced enclosure, 20th or 21st c.

Feature F8: this small building appears to be either a kiln or a small round shieling. It is of some archaeological significance as it can clearly be made out on the ground despite its very dilapidated state, and it is evidence of human occupation of the area.

Feature F9: this flattened area containing improved pasture is significant owing to its proximity to Feature F8. It may have been a platform for turf buildings that are now lost, or perhaps a summer grazing pen for livestock.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The proposed penstock line is generally clear of significant upstanding archaeological features, but the turbine house could impact on the roadway and platform (features F1 and F2). Features 8 and 9 are also potentially of some archaeological significance and should be safeguarded during construction if possible. Micro-siting to avoid these is recommended. If these cannot be avoided they should be recorded by excavation before construction starts.

The other features identified are of relatively limited cultural heritage interest and are unlikely to be affected unless the penstock route is changed.

Tables

Table 5 Cultural heritage features

Feature No.	Grid Ref	Description
F1.	NH 2440 2632	This is an old track/roadway defined by a stone embankment on NW/uphill side and banked up on other 5/6m across. Cut by modern fence.
F2.	NH 2436 2630	Feature 1's west end is a raised platform feature defined by the burn on one side approx 2-3m high. Constructed of random rubble and mortar construction.
F3.	NH 2436 2634	Large man-made flat area SE of road and N of bridge. Central point taken. No features visible.
F4.	NH 2436 2640	Sunken path with rough stone embanking up to 1.5m in height. Recorded on west edge to first gate.
F5.	NH 2428 2643	Old pathway defined by stones on south side. Running E-W close to current track c.2m wide now in poor condition.
F6.	NH 2429 2643	Possible structure very ephemeral defined by ruff U of moss covered stone orientated N-S by old track f5. small possible shieling but very degraded. Max wall height 0.2m at N end. 5x3m
F7.	NH 2359 2657	Fenced off area c.4x6m of different vegetation containing grass, distinct from surrounding heather. There are no trees within; function unclear.
F8.	NH 2313 2650	Possible Kiln. Round stone bound feature 4m in diameter. Made with random rubble walls c.0.5m across dipped and free of stone in centre. West of large flat area (F9.) and several meters above the river. Max wall height 0.5m. Dish in centre 0.3m deep. Max wall thickness 1m. See Drawing 1
F9.	NH 2322 2652	Large flat area 5-10m to E of F8. Consisting of grass platform above river, free of heather. There are no obvious upstanding features in this area but this seems a likely area for structures connected to kiln. Some lumps but no coherent form.

Table 6 Photographs

Photo number	Facing	Location	Subject
P1			[Deleted]
P2	W	CP1	Roadway F1.
P3	SW	CP1	Roadway F1. North side
P4	ESE	CP2	Road embankment end feature F2.
P5	NE	CP2	Road embankment end feature F2
P6	W	CP3	Road embankment end feature F2
P7	NW	CP4	Flat area (F3.)
P8	N	CP5	Track bank (F4.)
P9	W	CP6	Old Track 9 (F5.)
P10	SW	CP7	Possible structure (F6.)
P11	NW	CP8	Path on OS map
P12	W	-	General view
P13	S	CP9	Fenced area (F7.)
P14	S	CP10	Kiln (F8.)
P15	W	CP11	Pipe crossing point

Photo number	Facing	Location	Subject
P16	S	-	Falls at bend in river
P17	N	CP12	Intake area
P18	E	CP13	Flat area (F9.) to E of kiln (F8.)
P19	SW	-	General View showing loch

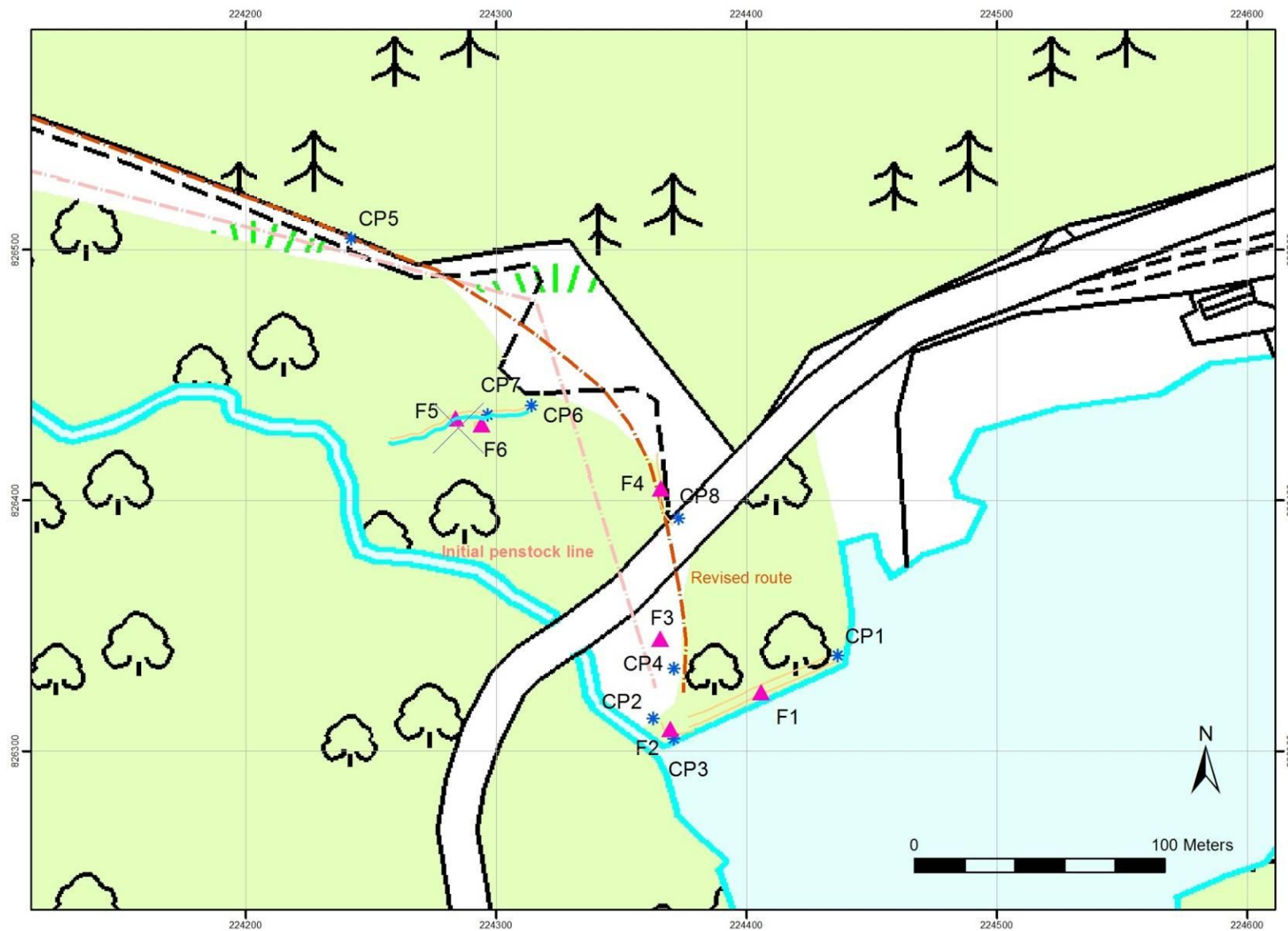


Figure 16 Turbine area: Camera points (CP) and cultural heritage features

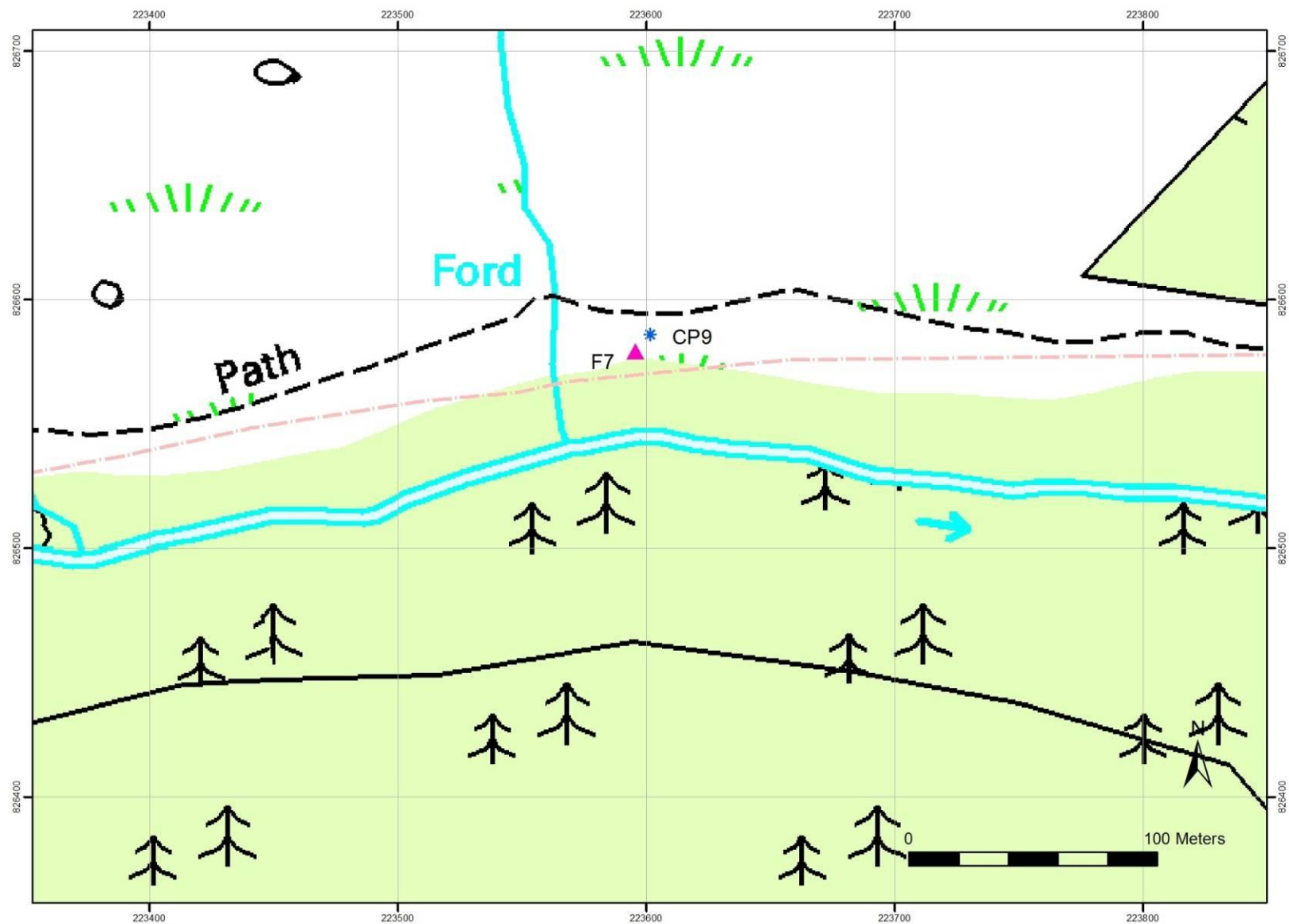


Figure 17 Feature 7: Camera points (CP) and cultural heritage features

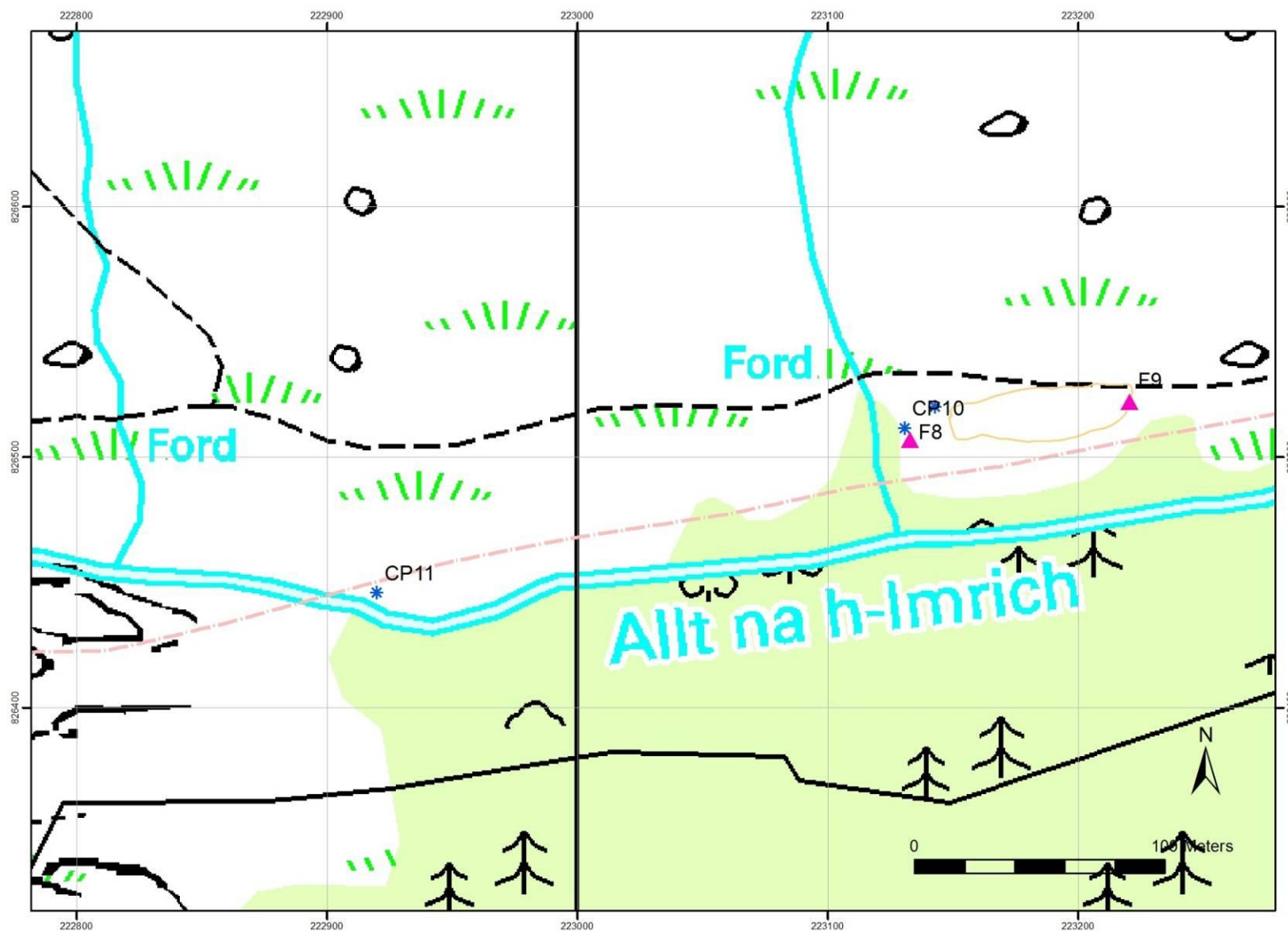


Figure 18 Features F8 and F9: Camera points (CP) and cultural heritage features

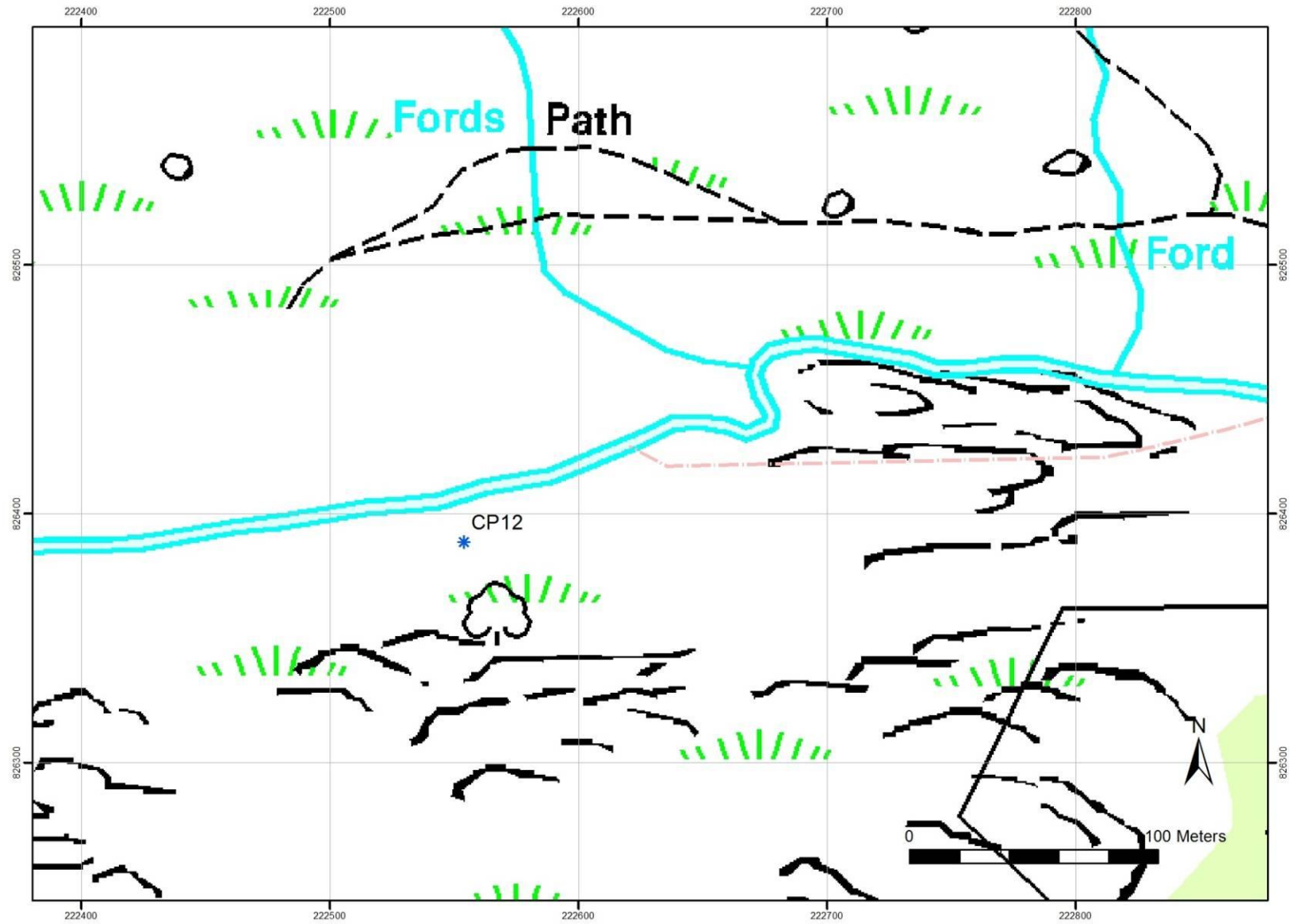


Figure 19 Intake area: Camera points (CP) and cultural heritage features