



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

Bringing the Past and Future Together

Little Sand, Gairloch



Archaeological Desk-based and Walk-over Survey

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Little Sand, Gairloch

Archaeological Desk-based and Walk-over Survey

Report No.	HAS150105
Site Code	SGH14
Client	James and Marie Cameron
Planning Ref	13/04494/FUL
OS Grid Ref	NG76152 79054 – NG78823 80200
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Author	Lachlan McKeggie

Summary

Archaeological desk-based and walkover surveys were carried out to identify cultural heritage features that might be affected by the development of a hill track at Little Sand, Gairloch. This was to fulfil a planning condition (13/04494/FUL). This document sets out the findings of these surveys and makes recommendations for further work. Although a number of features were identified, only one is likely to be affected by the track: a field dyke which will need to be cut through. When the dyke is cut we recommend a visit to record the construction and any earlier evidence beneath.

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Acknowledgements and Copyright

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Location

The proposed development is to be located approximately between NGR NG 76152 79054 & NG78823 80200 to the south of the River Sand in the Parish of Gairloch to the north and west of Gairloch village.

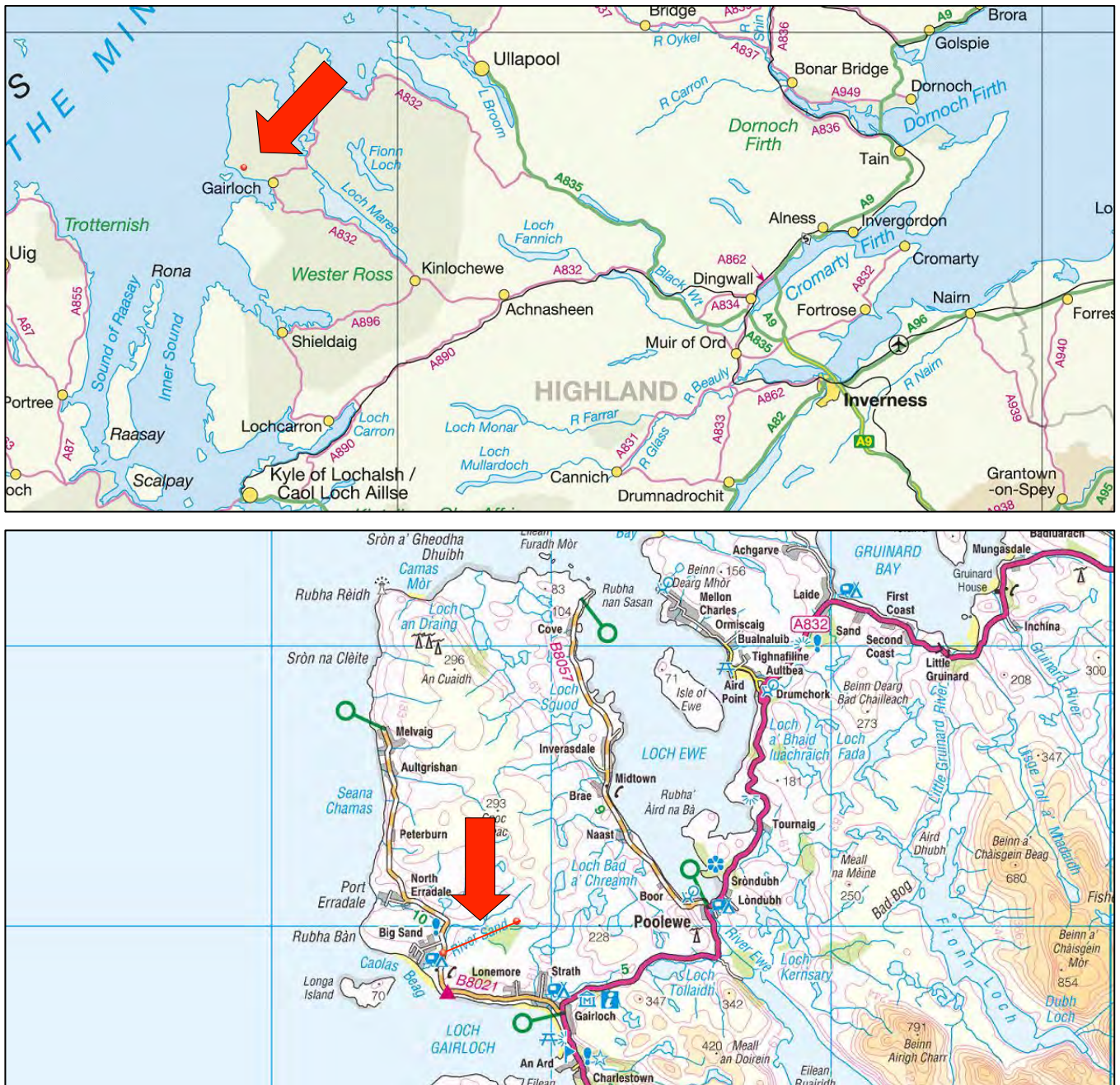


Figure 1 Project location

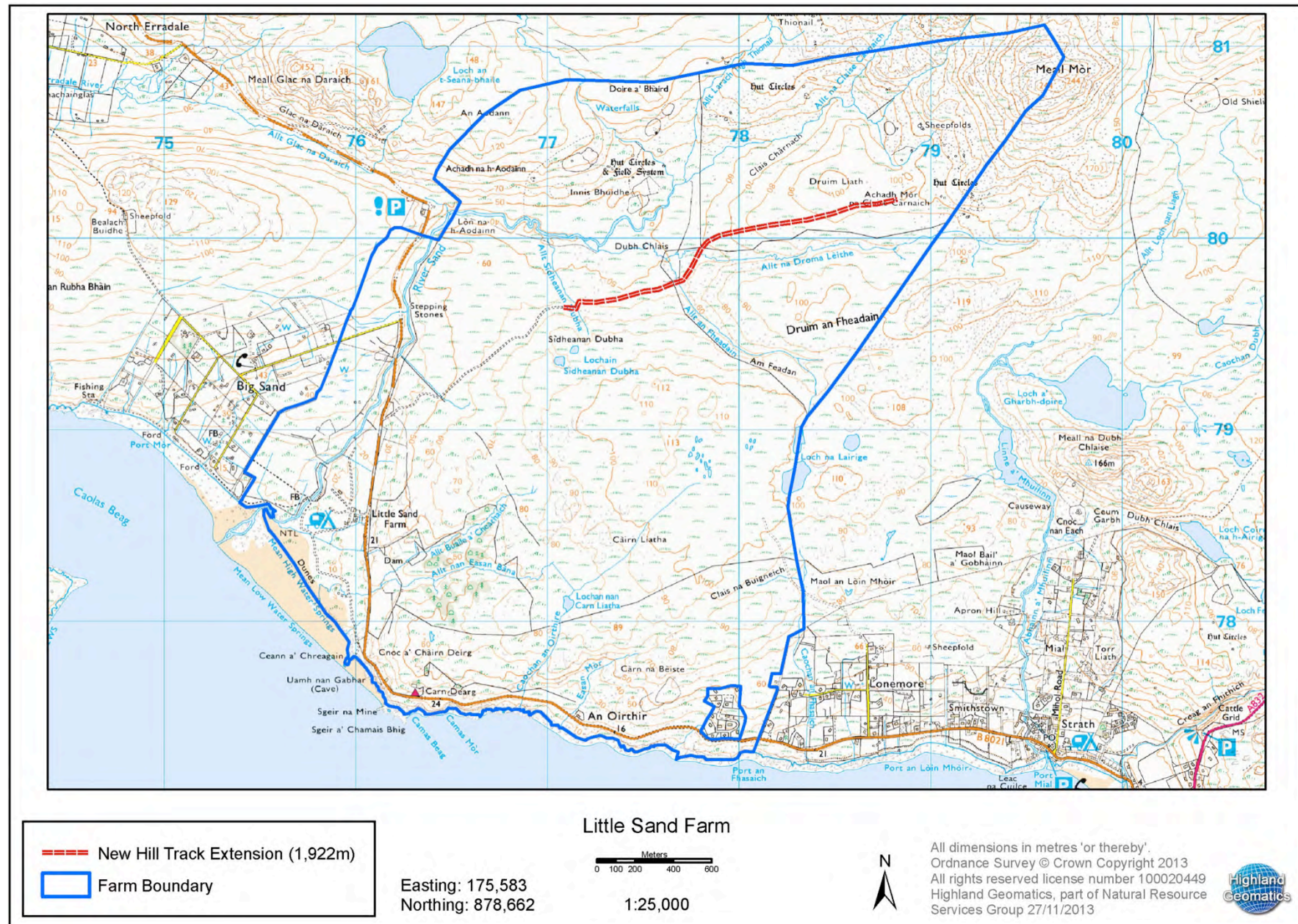


Figure 2 Project layout (courtesy of client)

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 policies¹.

Professional standards during the present project were secured by adherence to the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Institute for Archaeologists and the Highland Council's Standards for Archaeological Work.

Method

Desk-based assessment

A desk-based assessment has been undertaken to establish all recorded sites within 1km of the development area of the proposed site, to establish the general background character of the archaeological and historical resource. The findings of this assessment (set out below) informed the walk-over survey.

Walk-over survey

A walk-over survey was carried out to cover a the pegged line of the road by walking along or close to the line of the proposed new track (see Figure 2**Error! Reference source not found.**, Figure 7) to identify and record any historical or archaeological features. The methodology, together with a risk assessment was set out in a method statement available on request from the HAS office².

Results

Desk-based Assessment

The assessment covered all recorded sites within 1km of the development. In addition the old and new Statistical Accounts and historic mapping from the National Library of Scotland were consulted online for any evidence of features that might be affected by the track.

Historic Environment Records

The Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER) and the National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) were both consulted in order to identify previously recorded monument or sites in the vicinity of the development. Features recorded within 1 Km of the track line were checked to provide general background information on the archaeological potential of the area (Figure 3).

There have been two previous archaeological surveys in this area. In August 2002 Stuart Farrell undertook a desktop and walkover survey as part of a renewal of the Gairloch water main³. Part of this route passed close

¹ A summary of relevant international, EU, UK and Scottish legislation and policies is available from the HAS office on request.

² McKeggie LI 2014, *Archaeological Desk-based and Walk-over Survey: Little Sand, Gairloch = Track: Risk Assessment and Method Statement*, Highland Archaeology Services report HAS150101, Cromarty

³ Farrell S. 2002 'Report of Archaeological Desktop & Walkover Survey Gairloch Water Mains Renewal Project' (HHER)

to the current development. 27 features were recorded during this survey, including some previously recorded on the HHER and NMRS. In 1998 Headland Archaeology carried out a survey at Little Sand ahead of proposed forestry work⁴, which identified five features or groups of features. In the gazetteer below sources have been combined for each site to form a single list.

DBA 1: Allt na Gobhlaig **NGR:** NG 76112 78120
NMRS No:- HHER ID:-

Description: 'Square enclosure marked on 1st edition OS of 1881 to be aligned NNE-SSW but not marked on 2nd edition of 1905 or latest map. Site is partly visible on aerial photograph of 1946 of turf walls (CPE/ScoVUK/183/1271 flown 8 Oct 1946), not visible on aerial photograph of 1953 (F22/58/RAF/1143/0309 flown 23 June 1953) again not visible on aerial photograph of 1954 (V542/RAF/5/0182 flown 17 Aug 1954) again not visible on aerial photograph of 1964 (OS/64/68/099 flown 22 June 1964) again not visible on aerial photograph of 1974 (Fairey / 764 flown 8 June 1974). Site visit (7-8-02) reveals no trace of enclosure, area is now open grass. Possibly totally removed.' (Farrell 2002, 8)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 2: Allt na Gobhlaig (2) **NGR:** NG 76039 78148
NMRS No:- HHER ID:-

Description: 'Marked as roofed on 1st edition OS of 1881 but not marked on 2nd edition of 1905 or latest map. Site is barely visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (CPE/Scot/UK/183/1271 flown 8 Oct 1946) not visible on aerial photograph of 1953 (F22/58/RAF/1143/0309 flown 23 June 1953) again not visible on aerial photograph of 1954 (V542/RAF/5/0182 flown 17 Aug 1954) again not visible on aerial photograph of 1964 (OS/64/68/099 flown 22 June 1964) and again not visible on aerial photograph of 1974 (Fairey/764 flown 8 June 1974). Site visit (7-8-02) no trace of building made, lies in area of long grass.' (Farrell 2002, 8)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 3: Sands School **NGR:** NG 76003179353
NMRS No:- HHER ID:-

Description: '2 groups of buildings marked as unroofed on 1st edition OS of 1881 and on subsequent maps. Sites are visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (CPE/Scot/UK/183/1279 flown 8 Oct 1946) to lie in an extensive area of rigs and small field systems. Site is not well evident on aerial photograph of 1953 (F22/58/RAF/1143/0310 flown 23 June 1953) rigs to south on aerial photograph of 1954 (V542/RAF/5/0181 flown 17 Aug 1954) but cover does not extend northwards to North Erradale. Buildings not visible on aerial photograph of 1964 (OS/64/681101 flown 22 June 1964) extensive areas of rigs and field boundaries visible on aerial photograph of 1974 (Fairey / 764 flown 8 June 1974). Walkover reveals dykes, and cultivation rigs of former field system.' (Farrell 2002, 9)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 4: River Sand **NGR:** NG 76365 80175
NMRS No:- HHER ID:-

Description: 'Marked as roofed on 1st edition OS of 1881 marked as unroofed on 2nd edition of 1905. Building opposite not marked on 2nd edition OS. Not on latest OS map. Site is not visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (CPE/Scot/UK/183/1280 flown 8 Oct 1946) again not visible on aerial photograph of

⁴ Carter S. & Dalland M. 1998 'Forestry Survey: Sands Farm, Gairloch' Headland Archaeology, Edinburgh (HHER)

1964 (OS/64/68/119 flown 22 June 1964). Site visit reveals possible outline of building lying in area of rough ground to north of former school in private ground.' (Farrell 2002, 10)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 5: River Sand (2) **NGR:** NG 76401 80150
NMRS No: 241684 **HHER ID:** MHG46272

Description: 'Not marked on 151 or 2nd edition OS. Site is visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (CPE/Scot/UK/183/1280 flown 8 Oct 1946) as ruined building again on aerial photograph of 1964 (OS/64/68/119 flown 22 June 1964). Visit (7-8-02) reveals rubble built building 5m N south by 5m EW with doorway to south blocked up and east gable removed and built as centre partition 4.5m from W. Walls are 0.4m thick and standing to 1.8m high. Function unknown.' (Farrell 2002, 12)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 6: River Sand (3) **NGR:** NG 7635 8010
NMRS No: 241685 **HHER ID:** MHG46273

Description: 'Marked on 2nd edition OS as school. Currently (7-8-02) two private houses, though original toilet block still to be seen to rear.' (Farrell 2002, 12)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 7: River Sand (4) **NGR:** NG 7627 8012
NMRS No: 241686 **HHER ID:** MHG46274

Description: 'Site located during walkover survey. To comprise of 2 structures of 4m² at NG 76270/80119 and NG 76267/80112 of walls 0.2m high and 0.3m wide, with house at NG 76278/80133 of 8m x 4.5m with walls 0.4m wide and 0.2m high with possible internal division. Lies next to possible trackway.' (Farrell 2002, 13)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 8: River Sand (5) **NGR:** NG 7629 8017
NMRS No: 241687 **HHER ID:** MHG46275

Description: 'Site located during walkover survey to sit very close to edge of borrow pit (modern). To comprise of clearance cairn at NG 76293/80168 4m in diameter possible circular structure underneath. Also similar structure at NG 76296/80174 of 4.5m diameter with possible circular structure under clearance cairn with walls 0.4m wide. Possibly related to site 16.' (Farrell 2002, 13)

Comment: None of these features are likely to be affected by the creation of the track.

DBA 9: Allt an Fheadain Shielling **NGR:** NG 7782 7961
NMRS No:- **HHER ID:-**

Description: 'A single sub-rectangular shieling hut has been constructed on a platform dug into the steep slope on the east bank of the Allt an Fheadain. The platform measures 4 x 3 m and has low indistinct banks on the sides projecting from the slope. Condition The structure has a complete cover of heather and bracken and shows no evidence of recent disturbance.' (Carter & Dalland 1998, 5)

Comment: This feature is around 200m from the proposed track and should be unaffected.

DBA 10: Achadh Na H-Aodainn **NGR:** NG 7660 8032
NMRS No: 76484 **HHER ID:** MHG8289

Description: 'House platform, reused' located here by R Wentworth (no details given). L J Masters 1990.(HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 11: Druim an Fheadain **NGR:** NG 7941 7963
NMRS No: 76467 **HHER ID:** MHG8273

Description: Hut circle, c7m in diameter, part heather covered stone walls. Setting of isolated stones runs from 20m SE for 75m to W. R Wentworth 1989. (HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 12: Township, Doir' A' Bhaird **NGR:** NG 7836 8090
NMRS No: 11766, 98570 **HHER ID:** MHG7650, MHG44731, MHG44732

Description: NG78SE 1.01 centred NG 773 803 Township, NG78SE 1.02 centred NG 783 813 Shieling-huts; Enclosures, NG78SE 1.03 centred NG 77 80 to 78 81 Hut-circles; Enclosures; Small Cairns

(NG 773 802) An ancient settlement (c3000 BC) in an area of some 40 acres, is situated 1,350 yards from Loch-an-t-Seano-bhalle and 1,600 yards from Loch na Lairig. The remains of at least 4 beehive huts exist, 3 of which appear to be undisturbed. The fourth has about half of the perimeter wall dismantled. An 'altar' stone weighing some 4-5 tons extensive walling and a long mound were noted. Info in letter from W J Mitchell (AO/c/xm) to OS 9 9 1964

From NG 768 800 to NG 786 814 there are the remains of a probable IA settlement area occupied later as shielings followed by more recent (pre-1850) occupation. The probable IA settlement is indicated by some twenty hut-circles widely scattered, two enclosures and fragmentary traces of field walls of stone. The huts vary in condition from mere boulder outlines to substantial stone walls and in size from 6.0m - 13.0m overall diameter with entrances where evident in the east segment. Several have a small compartment either attached to the outer or inner face of the enclosing wall. The best preserved is at NG 7793 8090. It is 11.5m overall diameter and is formed by a heather covered stone wall, with inner and outer facings 2.4m thick and c. 0.7m high with a well defined entrance on east side. Two short stretches of wall extend north-west & north-east from hut, between west side of north-east wall and outer face of wall is small sub-triangular compartment. The larger of enclosures is situated at NG 7758 8045. It measures 17.5m E-west x 16m N-south overall and now consists of two concentric walls of stone, 2.3m apart (but which may have been 2.3m thick) and 0.5m max height. No definite entrance was established.

The occupation of the area as shielings is shown by the presence of some 30 shieling bothies, two of which have been constructed within older hut-circles. The bothies, built of stone, are either rectangular or boat-shaped with an average size of 5m x 3m x 0.3m, although one measures 9m x 4m. Above modern sheepfold at NG 782 813 the shieling area has been partially enclosed by a stone dyke, foundations of which are quite distinct. Later occupation of area is indicated by remains of rectangular stone walled buildings, an enclosure, small fields or paddocks, large stock enclosures and the remains of an enclosing dyke of earth and stone extending from the Allt Mor at NG 7732 8056 to the River Sand at NG 7688 8009. There are 4 buildings (area NG 7736 8035) varying in size from 6m x 3.5m to 9m x 4m with an average wall height of 0.6m. The enclosure (at NG 7731 8036) measures 12m x 5m x 0.8m and has a rectangular compartment 6m x 3m within its north-east angle. The fields are enclosed by turf covered stone walls and stock enclosures by substantial boulder walls. Two of large stock enclosures and one of small fields have a small compartment (3m x 2m average size) built against inside of the enclosing wall. Two types of stone clearance were noted within the area. Firstly, the usual gathering of stones into small heaps, now heather-covered, and secondly, on ground thickly covered by stones and rock fragments, small cultivation plots have been created here and there by simply throwing stones aside. Mr W Mitchell,

proprietor, Gairloch Sands Estate, pointed out a small (5.0m x 3.0m) 'D' shaped stone compartment attached to the inside of the large enclosure wall at NG 7723 8045 as a "beehive". Mr Mitchell said that there were four such "beehives" in the area but these are merely stone-built boat-shaped or sub-rectangular structures and are included in the features surveyed or mentioned previously. Visited by OS (WDJ) 11 October 1964.

Additional features discovered in 1990 include: at NG 7742 8039 and NG 7744 8026 Sub-circular stone walled houses. and at NG 7718 8026 house platform. Late medieval, post clearance remains include: enclosure banks, enclosed fields, sheep shelters, lambing pens, rectangular houses. New stretches of field banks were located and adjustments made to the alignment and amount of enclosure as published on the 1:10560 OS map. Sponsor: Glenfiddich Living Scotland Award, per Gairloch Heritage Trust. L J Masters 1990.' (HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 13: Township, Doir' A' Bhaird (House Platform) **NGR:** NG 7718 8026
NMRS No:- **HHER ID:** MHG44737

Description: For description see DBA12.

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 14: Township, Doir' A' Bhaird (Building) **NGR:** NG 7742 8039
NMRS No:- **HHER ID:** MHG44735

Description: For description see DBA12

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 15: Township, Doir' A' Bhaird (Building) **NGR:** NG 7744 8026
NMRS No:- **HHER ID:** MHG44736

Description: For description see DBA12.

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 16: Township, Doir' A' Bhaird (Enclosure) **NGR:** NG 7758 8045
NMRS No:- **HHER ID:** MHG44733

Description: For description see DBA12.

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 17: River Sand **NGR:** NG 7600 8000
NMRS No: 76485 **HHER ID:** MHG7521

Description: *Survey work was carried out by Masters in the River Sand area (NG 7600 and NG 7700) in 1990. 'Two slight sinuous banks in the west half of the area might be prehistoric.' (No further details given.) L J Masters 1990. (HHER)*

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 18: Meall Mor **NGR:** NG 7920 8030

NMRS No: 11767, 98604 **HHER ID:** MHG17462, MHG44321, MHG44362, MHG20063, MHG40139,

Description: *Within large area centred on NG 792 803 are remains of probable IA settlement with later shieling occupation. The probable IA settlement is indicated by 8 hut-circles, circular enclosure and the remains of a field system outlined by courses of boulders. The hut-circle remains vary from mere boulder outlines to substantial stone walls and in size from 6.0m - 8.0m in diameter, with entrances generally in the south-east segment.*

The best preserved is at NG 7907 8020. It is 8.0m in diameter and is formed by a stone wall 1.7m wide and 0.6m average height. No obvious entrance was noted; there are indications of a probable shieling inside. Another, at NG 7919 8010, is 6.0m in diameter and consists of a stone wall 1.6m wide x 0.5m average height set in the south-west corner of a larger sub-circular structure c. 9.0m in diameter. There are also traces of an oval structure c. 4.0m x 3.0m within the north-eastside of the larger feature. The enclosure at NG 7922 8021 measure c. 13.0m in diameter with a stone wall 1.8m average width and 0.6m average height. The well-defined entrance is in the south-east segment.

The shieling occupation is shown by the presence of some twelve bothies, five of which lie within older hut-circles. The bothies, built of stone, are generally boat-shaped and measures 5.0m x 3.0m on average. Little evidence of stone-clearance was seen in this area. Visited by OS (W D J) 14 October 1964.' (HHER)

Comment: See DBA 19.

DBA 19: Meall Mor **NGR:** NG 7922 8021
NMRS No: **HHER ID:** MHG 44360

Description: For description see DBA18.

Comment: DBA 18 and 19 form part of Meall Mor, an Iron age settlement with later structures over the top including shielings and enclosures. Although the recorded locations are over 350m from the end of the track it is possible that some outlying (buried) evidence could lie much closer. Indeed hut circles are shown around 200m from the track end.

DBA 20: Doir' A' Bhaird **NGR:** NG 7730 8030
NMRS No: 104966 **HHER ID:** MHG21313, MHG43406, MHG43408

Description: *Later occupation of area is indicated by remains of rectangular stone walled buildings, an enclosure, small fields or paddocks, large stock enclosures and remains of an enclosing dyke of earth and stone extending from the Allt Mor at NG 7732 8056 to the River Sand at NG 7688 8009. There are four buildings (area NG 7736 8035) varying in size from 6.0m x 3.5m to 9.0m x 4.0m with an average wall height of 0.6m. The enclosure (at NG 7731 8036) measures 12.0m x 5.0m x 0.8m and has a rectangular compartment 6.0m x 3.0m within its north-eastangle. The fields are enclosed by turf covered stone walls and the stock enclosures by substantial boulder walls. Two of large stock enclosures and one of small fields have a small compartment (3m x 2m average size) built against inside of enclosing wall.*

Two types of stone clearance were noted within the area. Firstly, the usual gathering of the stones into small heaps, now heather-covered, and secondly, on ground thickly covered by stones and rock fragments, small cultivation plots have been created here and there by simply throwing the stones aside.

Visited by OS (WDJ) 11 October 1964.

Additional features discovered in 1990 include:

at NG 7742 8039 and NG 7744 8026 Sub-circular stone walled houses.

at NG 7718 8026 house platform.

Late medieval, post clearance remains include: enclosure banks, enclosed fields, sheep shelters, lambing pens, rectangular houses. New stretches of field banks were located and adjustments made to the alignment and amount of enclosure as published on the 1:10560 OS map. Sponsor: Glenfiddich Living Scotland Award, per Gairloch Heritage Trust. L J Masters 1990.

A township comprising two unroofed buildings, a field-system and a short length of head-dyke is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire 1881, sheet xlv). Nine unroofed buildings, two unroofed structures, two field-systems, three enclosures and a head-dyke are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1968) as well as

some hut-circles which lie within the township (see NG78SE 1.03). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 19 April 1996. (HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 21: Doir' A' Bhaird (Hut Circle) **NGR:** NG 7820 8130
NMRS No: 104967 **HHER ID:** MHG21314, MHG40135, MHG40140

Description: *The occupation of the area as shielings is shown by the presence of some thirty shieling bothies, two of which have been constructed within older hut-circles. The bothies, built of stone, are either rectangular or boat-shaped with an average size of 5.0m x 3.0m x 0.3m, although one measures 9.0m x 4.0m. Above the modern sheepfold at NG 782 813 the shieling area has been partially enclosed by a stone dyke, the foundations of which are quite distinct. Visited by OS (WDJ) 11 October 1964.*

One shieling-hut is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire 1881, sheet xliv). At least twenty-three shieling-huts and four enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1968).

Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 19 April 1996. (HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 22: Field System, Sands Holiday Centre **NGR:** NG 7620 7860
NMRS No: 104953 **HHER ID:** MHG21445

Description: *'A field-system is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire 1881, sheet xliv), and on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1991). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 19 April 1996.'* (HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 23: Rubha na h-Airde Beithe **NGR:** NG 7811 7838
NMRS No: 119700 **HHER ID:** MHG27848

Description: *'What may be a farmstead, comprising two unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1876, sheet lxii) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1972). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 26 July 1996.'* (HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 24: Cnoc Nan Each **NGR:** NG 7977 7857
NMRS No: 104948 **HHER ID:** MHG21440, MHG44147

Description: *'A field-system and a sheepwash are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1991). An enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Ross-shire 1881, sheet xliv). Information from RCAHMS (AKK) 19 April 1996.'* (HHER)

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 25: Allt na Droma Leithe **NGR:** NG 7837 7997
NMRS No: 134147 **HHER ID:** MHG28657

Description: *One bracken and heather-covered shieling-hut, constructed on a platform levelled into the steep slope above the northbank of the Allt Droma Leithe, was recorded during a pre-afforestation survey by*

Headland Archaeology (NMRS MS 899/74, no.3). S Carter and M Dalland (Headland Archaeology) 12 March 1998; NMRS MS 899/74, no.3 (HHER)

Comment: This shieling-hut is around 130m from the proposed track. Its location on the other side of a field boundary in woodland is likely to mean it will be unaffected by the new track.

DBA 26: Dubh Chlais **NGR:** NG 7764 7983
NMRS No: 134145 **HHER ID:** MHG28655

Description: *At the confluence of Allt na Droma Leithe and the Allt an Fheadain at least one hut-circle and group of shieling-huts, enclosed by a series of banks, were recorded by Headland Archaeology (NMRS MS 899/74, no.1) during a pre-afforestation survey. About a third of the circumference of the hut-circle survives as a 1.2m thick wall with prominently set inner and outer facing stones. Elsewhere, the hut-circle is overlain by two low spreads of stones, each with a central rectangular depression, measuring 3m by 2m. To the south of the hut-circle there are two low circular platforms which may be the remains of other hut-circles. The larger platform measures 10m in diameter and is up to 0.6m high whilst the smaller measures 7m in diameter and stands up to 0.4m in height. In addition to the two low rectangular spreads, there are traces of four small rubble structures. The whole area lies within two long turf and stone banks which extend north and west to adjoin a major area of prehistoric and medieval to post-medieval settlement (NG78SE 1.00) on the north of the River Sand. S Carter and M Dalland (Headland Archaeology) 12 March 1998; NMRS MS 899/74, no.1 (HHER)*

Comment: This feature, which includes at least one hut circle and a group of shieling huts could be damaged by the new track. The intended track line passes within about 60m of the recorded location and may also be very close to platforms mentioned in the Headland survey.

DBA 27: Allt an Fheadain **NGR:** NG 7882 7961
NMRS No: 134146 **HHER ID:** MHG28656

Description: *One heather-covered shieling-hut, constructed on a platform levelled into the steep slope on the east bank of the Allt an Fheadain, was recorded during a pre-afforestation survey by Headland Archaeology (NMRS MS 899/74, no.2). The platform measures 4m by 3m and has low indistinct banks on the sides. S Carter and M Dalland (Headland Archaeology) 12 March 1998; NMRS MS 899/74, no.2 (HHER)*

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 28: Allt an Fheadain (Dam) **NGR:** NG 7808 7938
NMRS No: 134148 **HHER ID:** MHG28658, MHG44706

Description: *A low rubble dam, across the narrow valley floor of the Allt an Fheadain, was recorded during a pre-afforestation survey by Headland Archaeology (NMRS MS 899/74, no.4). The dam, which measures 2.5m in thickness and is 0.5m high, is broken in the centre by the burn. Given the location, the purpose of the dam is to create a pond to attract wildfowl, in which case a 19th or 20th century date seems probable. A right-angled section of well-faced rubble wall, measuring 3.5m by 2.5m and 0.5m high, lies 25m upstream on the south side of the burn. Its function is not known but it may be associated with the dam. south Carter and M Dalland (Headland Archaeology) 12 March 1998; NMRS MS 899/74, no.4 (HHER)*

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

DBA 29: Allt an Fheadain (Shieling Hut) **NGR:** NG 7822 7941
NMRS No: 134149 **HHER ID:** MHG28659

Description: *A structure, possibly a shieling-hut, situated immediately beside the Allt an Fheadain in a narrow deep section of its valley, was recorded during a pre-afforestation survey by Headland Archaeology (NMRS MS 899/74, no.5). The structure measures 2.5m by 2m and is two courses high. The location is not typical of shieling-huts which are usually situated on well-drained ground adjacent to water and it may therefore have had a different purpose. S Carter and M Dalland (Headland Archaeology) 12 March 1998; NMRS MS 899/74, no.5 (HHER)*

Comment: This is well away from the proposed track and highly unlikely to be affected.

Historic Maps

Historic maps available online from the National Library of Scotland were examined for indications of features of archaeological interest which might be affected by the proposed track. General Roy's map of 1746-55 shows the area with 'Sanda' on the west of the river⁵. To the east on this map only open moorland is shown. The area is also depicted on Pont and Thompsons maps but there is not enough detail to be useful in this case. As with most areas of the highlands the 1st edition OS map is the most useful.

At the time of writing the track is partly constructed and shown on modern mapping. An area at the west end of the track where it joins the public road is depicted on the OS 1st edition 6 and 25 inch scale maps surveyed in 1875 (Figure 3). These show the road and to the east of this, some field boundaries still visible on modern mapping. To the east of the boundaries however this map shows only open moor. The 6 inch map includes the whole area of the proposed track (Figure 4). This shows several field boundaries consistent with those shown on modern mapping. Close to the east end of the track area the map shows an enclosure labelled as 'Achadh Mor na Claise Carnaich' (see DBA 30). No other features likely to be affected by the route were noted on the maps.

DBA 30: Achadh Mor na Claise Carnaich **NGR:** NG 78841 80417 (center)
NMRS No:- **HHER ID:-**

Description: An enclosure with this name, which translates roughly as the big field of furrows and cairns, is shown on the 1st edition six inch map of the area. The enclosure utilises a bend in the burn to form its southern edge. Modern mapping suggests it is around 75m wide and over 130m long. It also shows two structures within this area. The enclosure may be linked to Meall Mor (HHER ID: MHG17462) which is a little to the east.

Comment: This enclosure to the north of the track was identified on the 1st edition OS map. Its closest edge is formed by the burn and is around 170m from the track end. It should be possible to avoid this.

Statistical Accounts

The Old and New Statistical Accounts of the Parish of Gairloch were examined for historical detail which could provide a context for the survey and highlight features to be aware of.

The Old Statistical Account (OSA) of the 1790's by Rev. Daniel McIntosh contains a short section on 'Rivers and Antiquities'⁶. This mentions small islands in Loch Maree some of which may be crannogs, with a 'Druidical temple' on one and a burial ground on another. However these are some distance from the survey

⁵ Roy W. *The Great Map : the Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55*, with introductory essays by Yolande Hodson, Chris Tabraham and Charles Withers (Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2007).

⁶ <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1791-99/Ross%20and%20Cromarty/Gairloch/3/90/>

area. No other antiquities are mentioned, and neither of the two buildings mentioned (the church and manse) are close by.

The second account (NSA) for Gairloch, written 1834-5, is by Rev. James Russell⁷. This account also mentions Loch Maree, its islands and the burial ground on one⁸. He also comments on the quality of the local houses and sharing human and animal accommodation⁹. However, nothing of specific relevance to this site is mentioned.

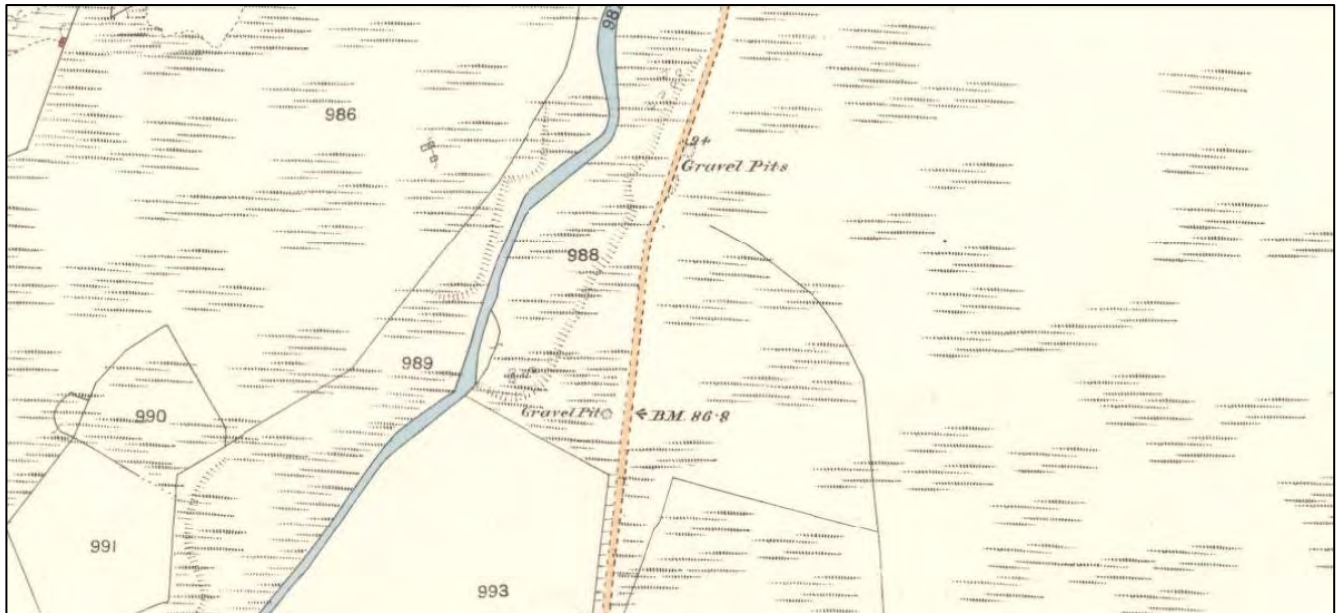


Figure 3: Section from 1:25000 map surveyed 1875
Ross and Cromarty Ross-shire Sheet XLIV.06 (not reproduced to scale)



Figure 4: Section from six inch (1:10560) 1st edition OS map showing enclosure.
Ross-Shire & Cromartyshire (Mainland), Sheet XLIV (not reproduced to scale)

⁷ <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Ross%20and%20Cromarty/Gairloch/>

⁸ <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Ross%20and%20Cromarty/Gairloch/14/91/>

⁹ <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Ross%20and%20Cromarty/Gairloch/14/96/>

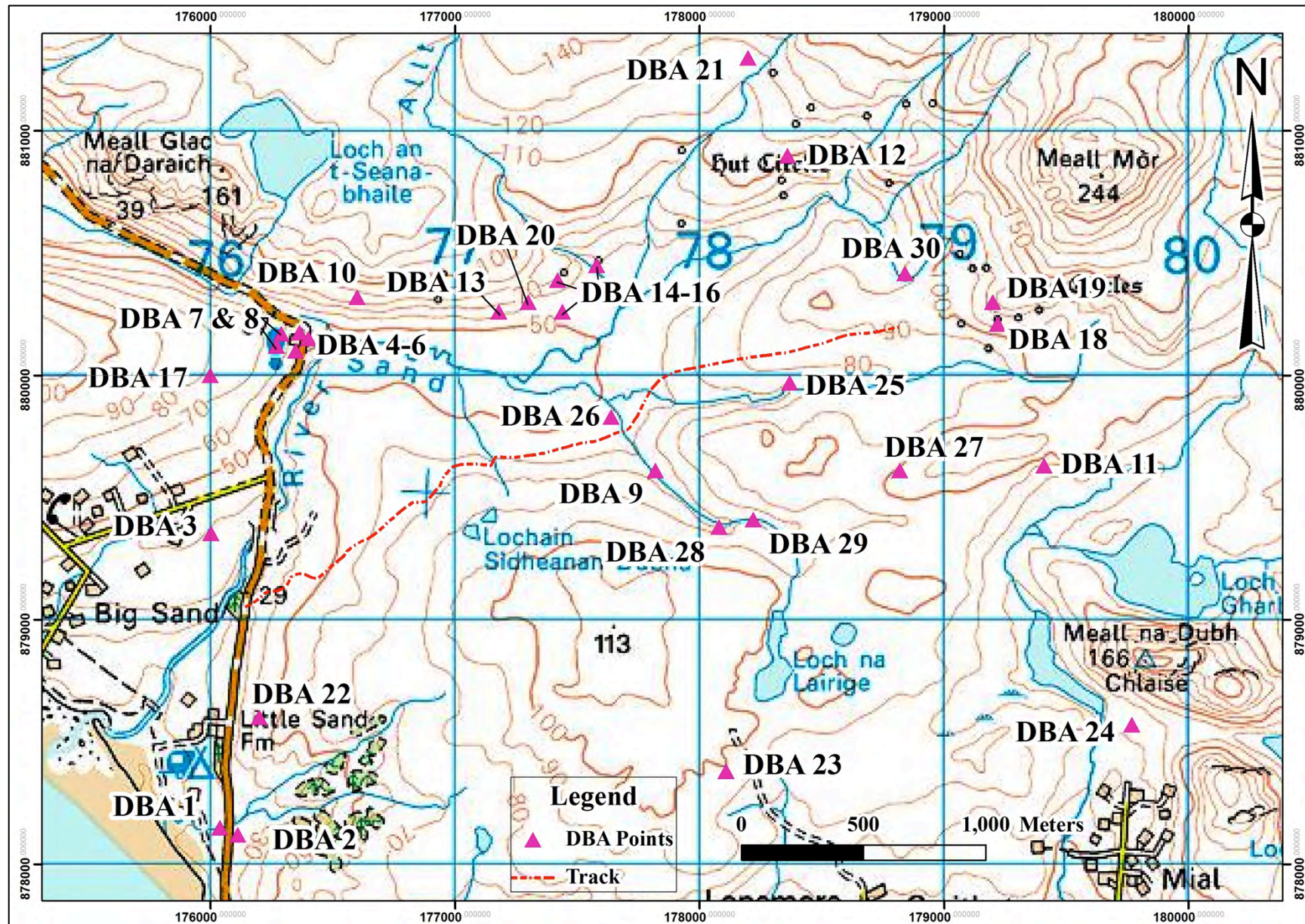


Figure 5: All previously recorded features within 1km of track

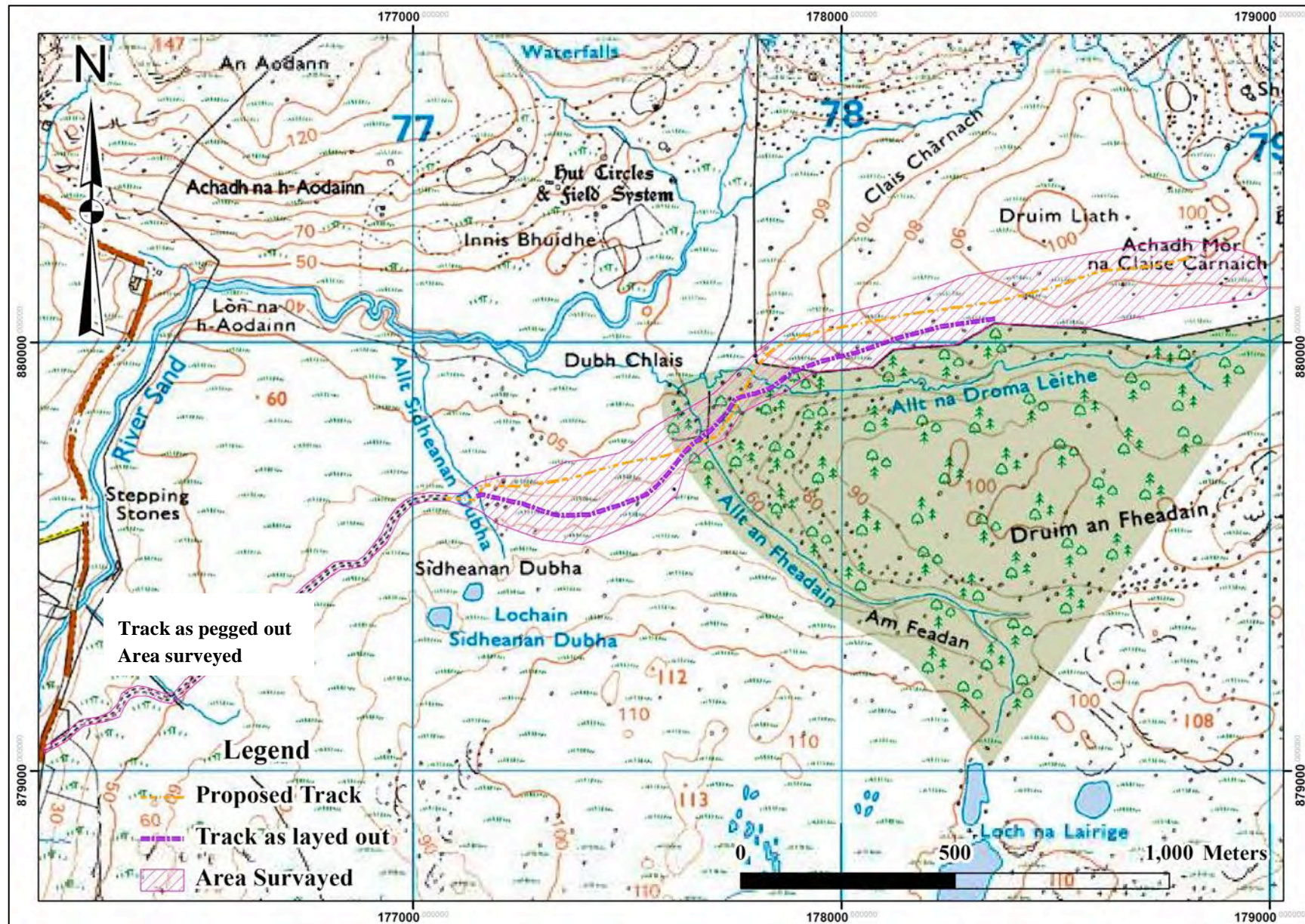


Figure 6: Track route and area surveyed

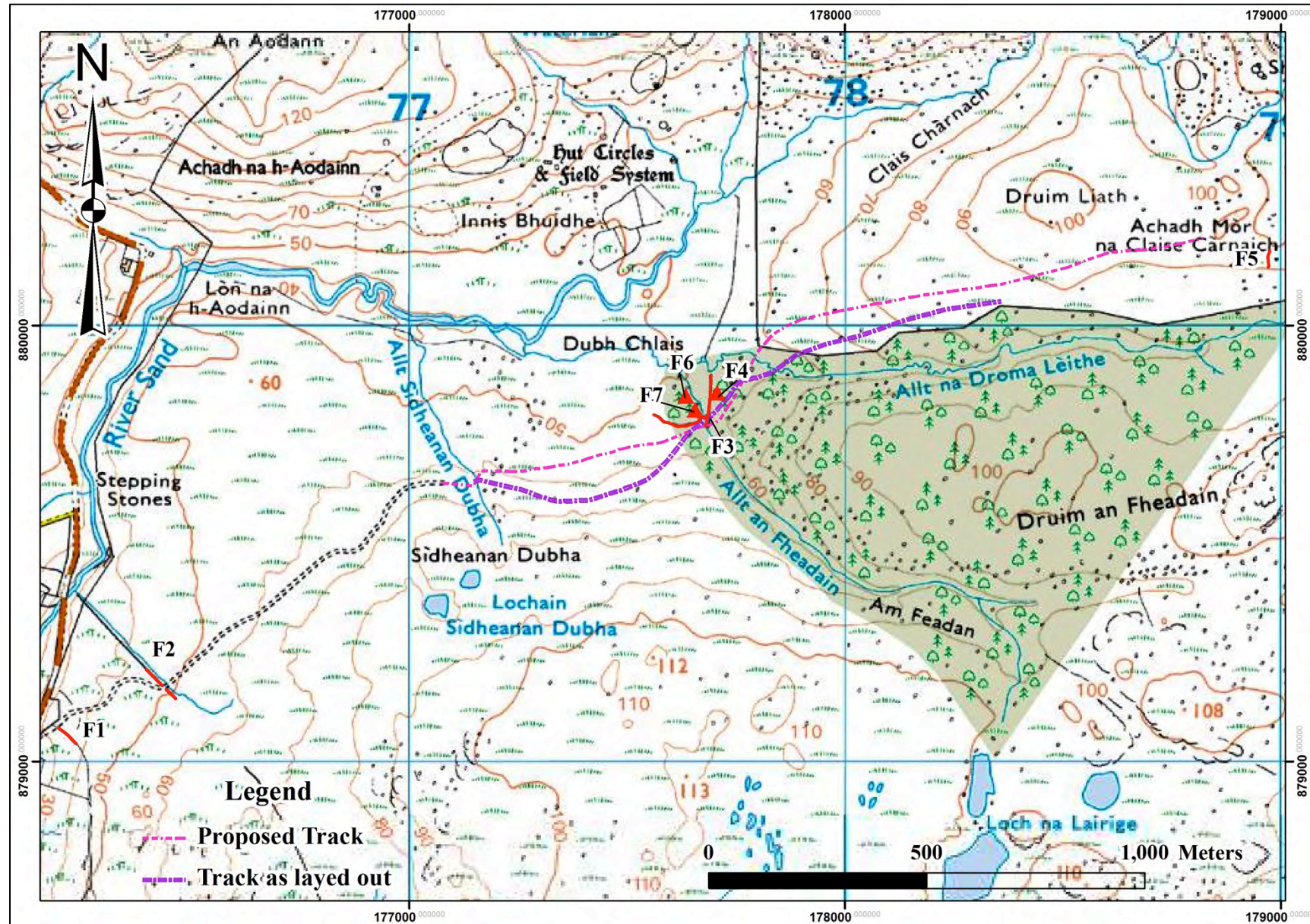


Figure 7: Features noted by walkover survey

Desk-based Assessment: Conclusions

The area checked during the desk-based assessment covered all known sites within 1km of the proposed track. In this area 29 were recorded in the archaeological records and a 30th was identified from the historic maps. The general area is characterised by many hut circles, platforms and shielings but most will not be affected by this development as they are over 500m away. Only six - DBA 9, 18, 19, 25, 26 and 30 - are within 400m of the new proposed track. These should be readily avoided, although it seems likely that the track will cut some field boundary dykes.

Walkover Survey

The walkover survey was undertaken on Tuesday 20th January 2014. Weather was overcast, cold with a light breeze. The ground was mainly clear but frozen with frosty pockets. The existing track and the proposed extension were walked and examined for historical and archaeological evidence. The line for the new track had been marked out using double posts around 10 m apart marking the two sides. Where this varied from the original plan supplied, both the area shown on the plan and the marked way were checked (Figure 6).

Seven features were noted during fieldwork, as follows:

Feature F1: Dyke

NGR: NG 76195 79076 running SE

The remains of a dyke running across the current track in a south-east direction and curving to the south. The dyke is now covered in turf and heather with possible ditch on the up hill / east side. It survives up to 0.4m in height and is up to 1m wide.

This is almost certainly the same as a feature shown on the 1st edition map of the area. It is also depicted on modern mapping.



Plate 1: Feature F2 Dyke (SGH14_04)

Feature F2: Dyke (Plate 1)**NGR:** NG 76433 79174 running north-west and SE

A dyke running on both sides of the current track in a north-west – south-east direction and cut by the track. It runs on the south-west side of a burn or drain. Some rounded local stone is visible but most of the features covered in turf and heather. It survives up to 0.4m above ground level and is up to 1m wide.

This dyke also appears on current OS mapping.

Feature F3: Dyke (Plate 2)**NGR:** NG 77560 79795 – NG 77684 79790 (T)
NG 77680 79768 – NG 77692 79884

This feature runs in two parts: a section running roughly east-west, and another section that it meets, running roughly north-south. The westernmost section of the east-west part appears to run along the bottom of a slope containing a boggy area to the south. This part is very low and covered in turf and heather. Further to the east the dyke is much more visible, with exposed rounded local stones. This east-west section crosses a burn - although tumbled, it is clear the dyke ran over this. This section curves noticeably along its length.

The dyke is most extant where it meets the north-south section. At the junction the wall survives up to 0.7m high and remains around 1m wide. From the T junction the wall runs clearly to the north with up to 4 courses of rounded local stone. To the south, the wall is much lower surviving only up to 0.3m high, but is constructed from the same stone.

The proposed track will cut the south part of the north-south section. This flat grassy area was also noted by Headland Archaeology as containing shielings and hut circles and banks (DBA 26).



Plate 2: Section of Feature F3 facing SW. (SGH14_18 &19)

Feature F4: Possible Hut Circle (Plate 3) **NGR:** NG 77707 79845

A possible hut circle on a flat topped mound, overlooking a burn and Feature F3. The flat and roughly circular area is 8m in diameter and up to 1.5m in height. The mound appears to be made up of large rounded local field stones, now mainly buried but partly exposed on the west side. The north and east sides slope down at 45 degrees while on the south side the slope is more gradual.

This is only a possible feature and lacks diagnostic features like an outer rim. It is situated 15m west of the nearest section of proposed track as marked on the ground. This area was also noted by Headland Archaeology as containing shielings and hut circles and banks (DBA 26).



Plate 3: Feature F4 Possible hut circle (SGH14_22 & 23)

Feature F5: Dyke **NGR:** NG 78975 80171 – NG 78971 80132

A very tumbled and degraded dyke consisting a single remaining course of rounded local stone. This feature runs in a north-south direction up a slope. The maximum height is 0.5m and it is around 1m wide. This might have formed part of an enclosure.

Feature F6: Possible Kiln with working area (Plate 4) **NGR:** NG 77634 79837

A circle of rough local stone around 5m in diameter and 0.5m high. Tumbled and loose stone mainly filled the centre of the circle which stood on a slight mound in flat grassy ground. To the south-east was a level area with by a few stones around the perimeter. This level area was roughly square and extended for 6m away from the edge of the circle.

This could be field clearance, but might possibly be a kiln with a working area or some other structure. This flat grassy area was also noted by Headland Archaeology as containing shielings and hut circles and banks (DBA 26).



Plate 4: Feature F6 Possible kiln (SGH14_49)



Plate 5: Feature F7 Possible structure (GSH14_52 & 53)

Feature F7: Possible structure

NGR: NG 77657 79806

This possible structure consists of a low turf covered mound around 0.5m high, to the west of a burn, in a flat grassy area. This mound had a flat top and was distinctive from the ground around it. However the springy turf and long grass made its shape hard to define. It appeared to be circular or square, but with no easily defined corners and around 6m – 8m across (Plate 5).

This could represent a badly degraded shieling or hut circle. This flat grassy area was also noted by Headland Archaeology as containing shielings and hut circles and banks (DBA 26).

Fieldwork: Conclusions

Of the seven features encountered during the survey that might be affected directly, four were boundary dykes. Most of these dykes are likely to date from the 19th century – this seems to be true of Features F1 and F2 which are shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1875. It is however possible that the east-west curvilinear section of Feature F3 could be much earlier.

The other three features are clustered around Feature F3 (Figure 8). These are rather ephemeral features with F6 the most clear. It seems likely however that this area where two small rivers meet has been used fairly extensively in the 19th century and possibly much earlier, and there is some potential for further features to be found with this area to the west of features F6 and F7.

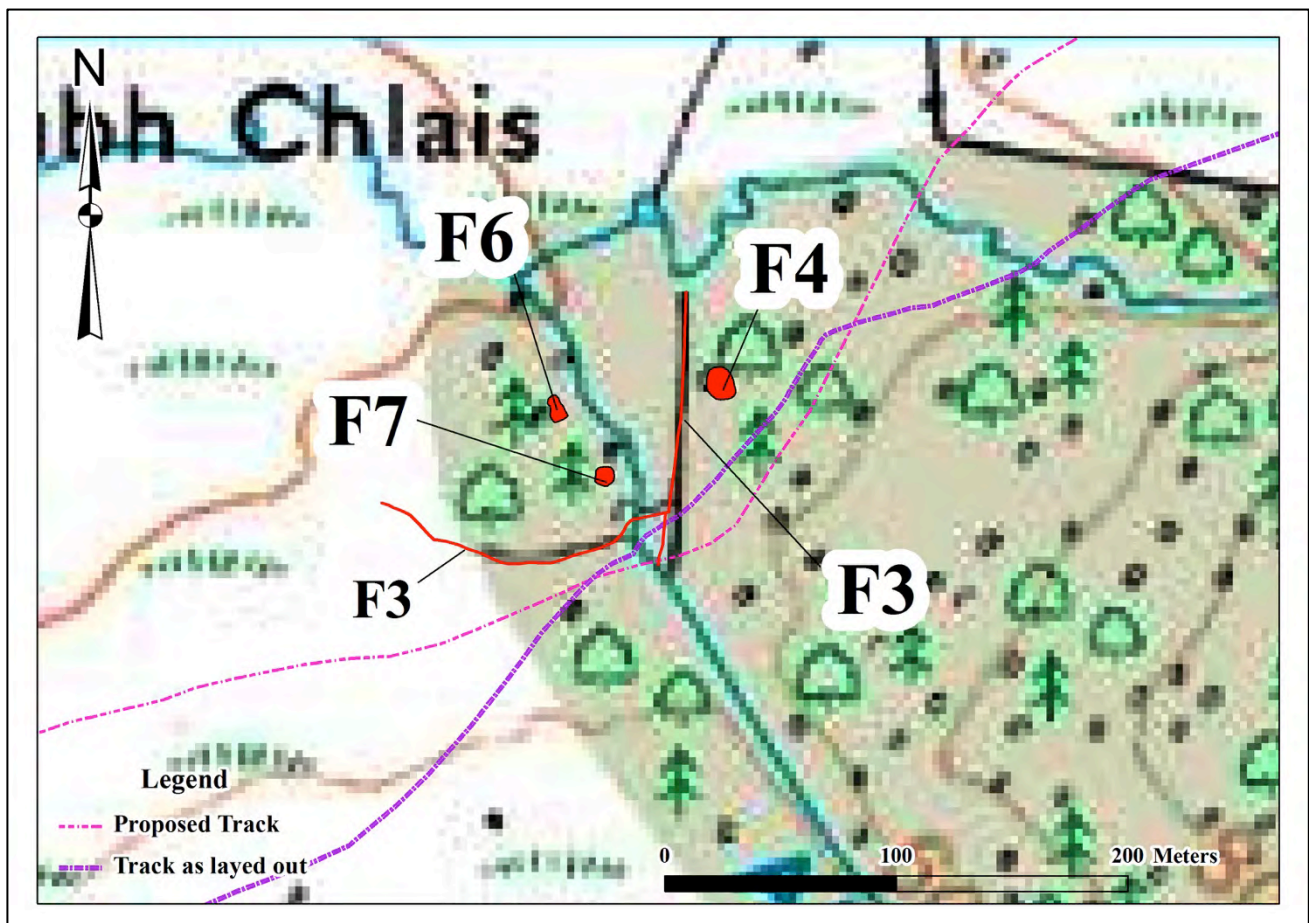


Figure 8: Layout of Features F3, F4, F6 and F7

Conclusions and Recommendations

Although a large number of features were noted by this study only four - F3, F4, F6 and F7 - are close to the proposed new section of track (Figure 8).

The track line as marked out passes to the south of most of feature F3 but will cut one section of it. We recommend that the track and all associated work keeps to the south of the east-west section of Dyke F3 and that an archaeologist records the construction details and any earlier phases when the southern part of the north-south section is cut through.

If the track stays to the south of the dyke F3, features F6 and F7 will be avoided and no further mitigation will be necessary.

Feature F4 is close to the route but if all construction work is kept within the markers on the ground this will leave an adequate buffer of at least 15m from the nearest edge of the feature. Provided this is possible no further mitigation is recommended.

Although the grassy area around Features F6 and F7 has high archaeological potential the positioning of the track well to the east on sloping ground, as it is marked out, should avoid this. No further mitigation is proposed for this.



Plate 6: Survey area east end (GSH14_38)

Appendix: Photographs

Photo Table

Photo No. (SGH14_)	From	Facing	Showing
1	-	-	Access sign
2	CP1	SW	Current track west end
3	CP2	SSE	Feature F1 Dyke
4	CP3	SE	Feature F2 Dyke
5	CP4	W	Current track
6	CP5	W	Current end of track
7	CP5	E	Proposed track route
8-12	CP6	-N-	Overlooking proposed track
13	CP7	W	Proposed track from between marker posts
14	CP7	E	Proposed track from between marker posts
15	CP8	E	Feature F3 Dyke
16	CP9	W	Feature F3 Dyke
17-20	CP10	S	Feature F3 Dyke Junction
21	CP11	N	Feature F3 Section to be cut
22-23	CP12	NNW	Feature F4 Possible hut circle
24-26	CP13	-N-	Track and post diversion from plan
27-31	CP14	-S-	Proposed track area and existing way.
32-37	CP15	-S-	Proposed track area
38-40	CP16	E	Proposed track area
41-44	CP17	-S-	Proposed track area from top end
45	CP18	S	Feature F5 Dyke
46	CP19	W	Existing way
47	CP20	W	Marked out track way
48	CP21	W	Marked out track way
49	CP22	N	Feature F6 possible kiln
50-51	-	SE	Feature F6 possible kiln and structure/working area
52-53	CP23	N	Feature F7 Possible structure.

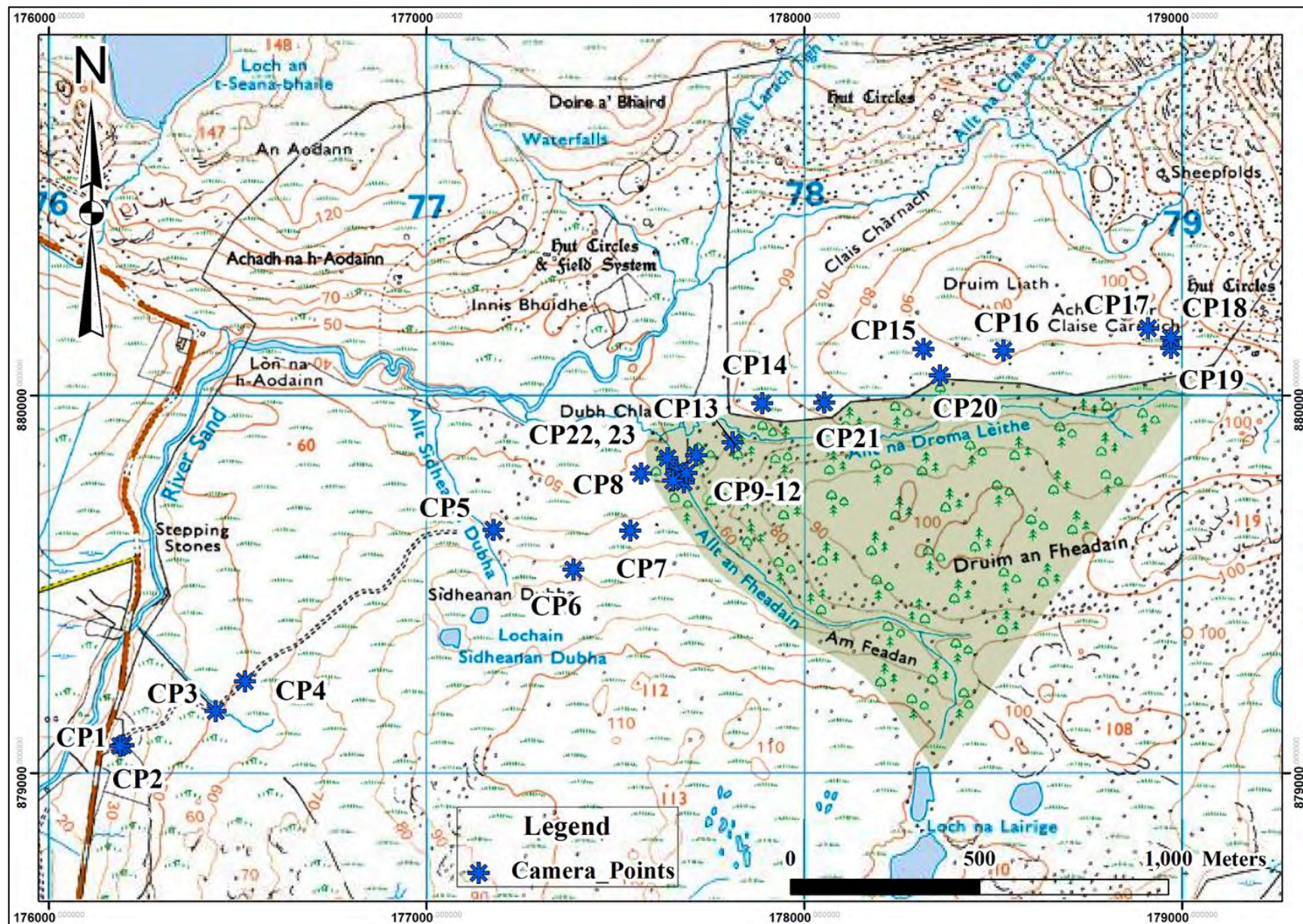


Figure 9: Camera points (CP1-23)

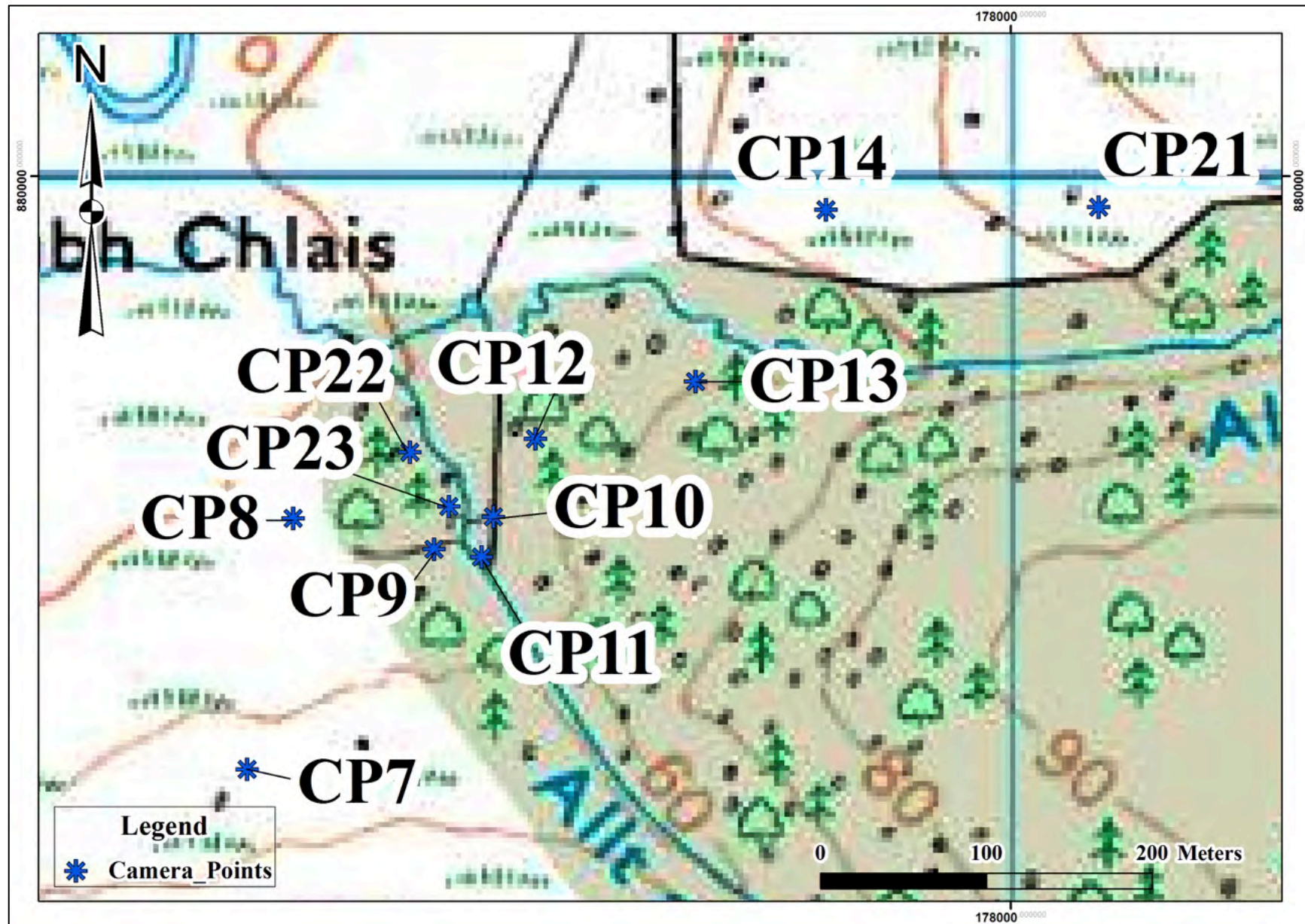


Figure 10: Camera Points close up (CP7-14, 21-23)