

Glen Lochy Guesthouse, Fort William, Metal Detector Survey

Data Structure Report



by Jack Portwood

contribution by Dr Louise Turner

issued 15th March 2018

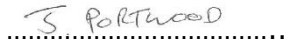
on behalf of Mr Neil Lewis

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Quality Assurance

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Signed

Date15th March 2018....

In keeping with the procedure of Rathmell Archaeology Limited this document and its findings have been reviewed and agreed by an appropriate colleague:



Checked

.....

Date15th March 2018....

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Quality Assurance Data

Author(s)	Jack Portwood		
Date of Issue	15 th March 2018	Version	1.0
Commissioning Body	Mr Neil Lewis		
Event Name	Glen Lochy Guest house		
Event Type	Metal Detector Survey		
Event Date(s)	March 2018		
Rathmell Archaeology Code	RA18002	OASIS Ref	Rathmell1- 311487
Location	United Kingdom : Scotland : Highland		
NGR	NN 11383 74634	Parish	Kilmonivaig
Designation(s)	Inventory of Battlefields BLT34		
Canmore IDs	None		

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Introduction

1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Mr Neil Lewis in respect to the development a residential house at Glen Lochy Guest House, Fort William. The initial archaeological works are designed to determine the nature, form and extent of any archaeological artefacts present within the area and hence inform the appropriate mitigation to facilitate the development.
2. These initial works are structured to meet the Brief issued by Highland Council Archaeology Service who, in consultation regarding the existing planning applications (17/02551/FUL), have required a programme of archaeological evaluation works.
3. The archaeological evaluation, which comprised a metal detecting survey, would aim to provide sufficient information to either evidence an absence of significant archaeological sites (hence seeking to purge any issue) or to define more closely the archaeology necessary to deal with significant archaeological sites within the area.
4. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works for the construction. These archaeological works are designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area

Archaeological and Historical Background

5. The development area lies within the grounds of Glen Lochy Guesthouse and consists of a wooded garden to the immediate south of the guesthouse. The area slopes downwards and forms the northern bank of the Water of Nevis close to both the modern road bridge, which carries the existing A82 (North Road) over the watercourse and into the southern part of Fort William, and the older Nevis Bridge (now a foot bridge).
6. There are no known discrete prehistoric or historic sites within the immediate vicinity of the development area but the development area does lie within the boundary of the first battle of Inverlochy which took place in 1431 and is listed as an Inventory Battlefield by Historic Environment Scotland (Inventory ID BTL34).
7. The first Battle of Inverlochy was part of the conflict between the Scottish monarchy and the Lords of the Isles during the 15th century. The Lords of the Isles controlled much of the Western Highlands and the Western Isles in the medieval period and this was to cause problems for several Scottish Kings during the medieval period. The Battle of Inverlochy was the final attempt by King James I to bring the Highlands fully under his control, after several years of struggle against Alexander of Islay the Lord of the Isles.
8. The battle started when Donald Balloch, the younger cousin of Alexander, sailed up Loch Linnhe and landed a force at Inverlochy, where the King and his army were camped beside the castle. The King's forces were then attacked by Balloch's army from the south, while his ally Alasdair Carrach of Tor Castle made a simultaneous attack from the north. The King's army suffered a major defeat which was the end of any future attempts by James to control the region militarily.
9. The ground is generally flat within the battlefield and the presumption is that the development area may have been moved across by Balloch's force as they approached the castle from the southwest
10. The development area lies to the immediate northeast of Fort William (Canmore 23715) and the adjacent town of Maryburgh. The fort was originally erected in 1654 during the Protectorate, although slighted after the Restoration the fortification was revived in the late 17th century and substantially remodelled in 1746 after a prolonged Jacobite siege (remaining in active use to 1854). This prolonged military use has resulted in an extensive array of military survey and mapping during the 18th and 19th centuries focused on the fort and the adjacent military roads running along the glen.



Figure 1a: Johnson's c.1710 Plan of Fort William (note orientation)



Figure 1b: Avery c.1727 Plan containing Lochness, Lochoych, Lochlochey, & all the rivers



Figure 2a: Wade 1736 A Plan of Fort William (E denotes Ford) (note orientation)



Figure 1b: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-52.



Figure 3a: 1st edition Ordnance survey, published 1876.

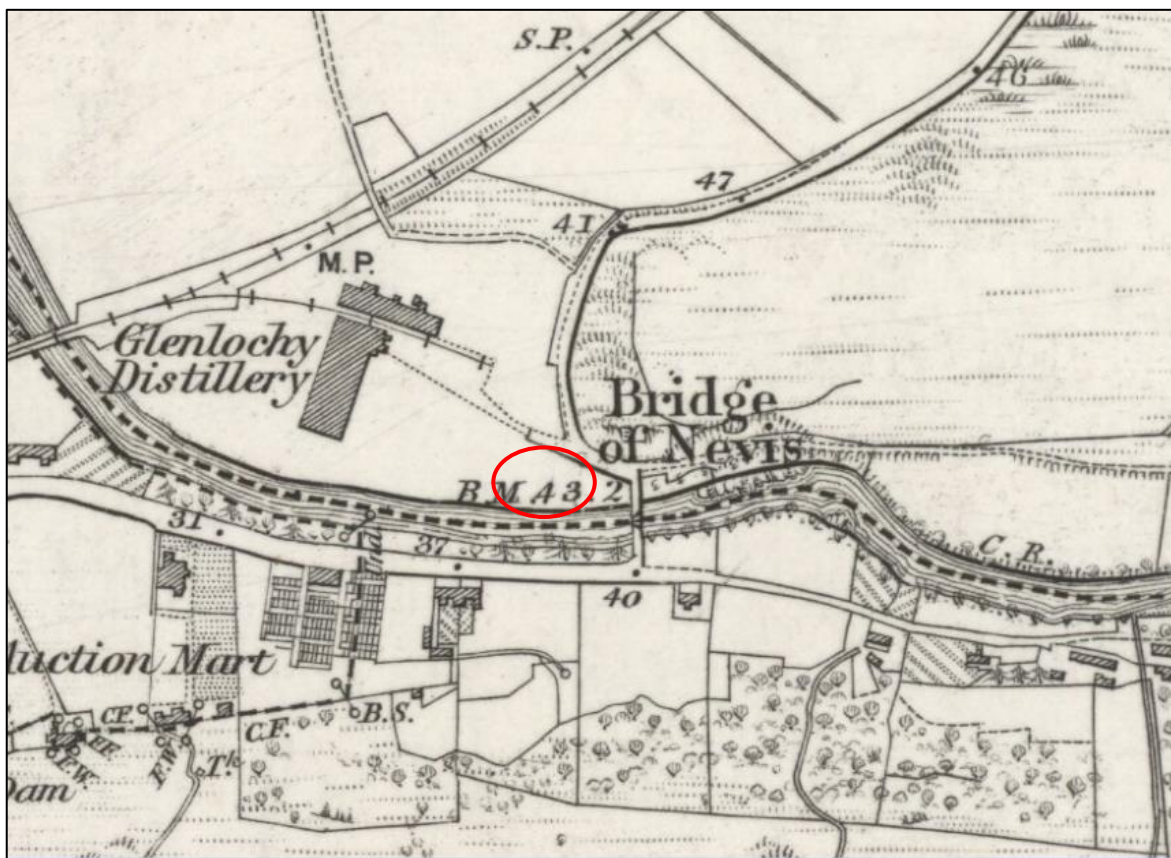


Figure 3b: 2nd edition Ordnance survey, published 1904.

11. The earliest sound depiction of the development area is from Johnson's c1710 plan (Figure 1a) which shows no activity at our locale, being in an area described as 'morrass ground'. This is a consistent theme of the military mapping, depicting the lower banks of the River Nevis as being a morass or mossy or boggy ground. Note that Johnson's image is not proportionate with settlement and fort over-large, it also does not depict any routeways. In contrast Avery's c.1727 map (Figure 1b) though at a smaller scale, shows a military road striking past Fort William and crossing the Nevis, heading to Fort Augustus.
12. Comparing Avery and Wade's 1736 (Figure 2a) with Roy 1747-52 (Figure 2b) it is clear that the crossing of the Nevis shown prior to c.1752 is not using the 'old bridge' (Canmore 106428) that lies to the immediate east of the development site. Rather a ford is being used (see Figure 2a) downstream, with this subsequently abandoned c.1750-2 in favour of a stone bridge carrying the military road across the river on firmer, drier ground (see Figure 2b that depicts both routes).
13. The new bridge is mapped post-1780 (Frazer – not shown) when a 'cut' from 1780 is shown that was made to canalise and redirect the Nevis that was eroding the northeastern side of the Fort. The development area is still depicted as open ground at this time, part of 'Gordon's Estate'.
14. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 3a) depicts a small building where the present Glen Lochy Guesthouse is now situated, where a small track running off the main road runs into the Black Park (continuing a road network depicted on Roy, Figure 2b). The small building had been demolished by the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (Figure 3b) and replaced by a widened North Road as it bends to the south and then southeast towards the Bridge of Nevis. Where the road widened there was a junction with a new road leading off to the Glenlochy Distillery buildings which had been constructed by at least 1901 when production started.

Project Works

15. A programme of archaeological works was undertaken on the 8th of March 2018. This consisted of a metal detector survey carried out within the development area. The survey was undertaken using a Garret Euro Ace with an 8 inch search coil. Transects were surveyed north-south then east-west at intervals which ensured 100% coverage of the development area.
16. The development area consisted of a designed landscape which had been in use since the mid 20th century. This area consisted of a steep south facing slope, which appeared to be naturally sloping in the northwest and artificially steeped in the northeast (Figure 4a). The slope continued, becoming less steep, towards the riverside where it formed a flat terrace close to the river's edge. The river (Nevis Water) ran in an east-west direction at the southern extent of the site.
17. The western side of the site consisted of a paved stair way which allowed access to the flat terrace. The eastern side of the site consisted of a modern wire and post fence (to the south) and a wooden fence (to the north) which was surrounded by hedgerow. The northern part of the eastern side of the site was the remains of an earlier (but still modern) boundary which showed signs that there had been an offshoot to the west, which most likely cordoned off the steep part of the slope from the flatter terrace area.
18. Set in behind the old fence boundary were bushes which contain a large amount of detritus both plastic and metallic, there was a considerable amount of detritus present on the surface of the development area, this is probably due to the sites location beneath the main A82 and Belford roads.
19. Located within the southern terrace was an old rusted harrower (agricultural equipment) and what could possibly have been the remnants of an old path running east-west through the garden which seemed to run parallel and to the immediate south of the earlier, and now gone, fence line (see above). Located within the centre of the southern terrace was a partially overgrown square shaped stone slabbed area which may have marked the presence of a septic tank (Figure 4b).

20. The northeast part of the development area was also part of the designed garden landscape which had been raised above the currently level of the carpark (Figure 5a), this area was not investigated due to amount of vegetation and that it had been raised in the past most likely removing any archaeological materials.

Findings

21. All signals were investigated during the course of the metal detector survey within the depth of the topsoil as agreed in the Method Statement (McKinstry, 2018) (Figure 5b).
22. The topsoil (001) was a friable, dark grey brown, sandy-silt with small sub-rounded inclusions, the subsoil (002) observed on the slope within the development area was a loose mid brown orange, sandy silt, with frequent sub rounded inclusions most probably an alluvial deposit due to the proximity to the river.
23. A total of 25 signals were detected during the survey, six of which proved positive and produced metallic finds. A seventh revealed no metal, but produced two small fragments of glazed white earthenware, probably 19th century in date. Five of the metallic finds were ferrous, the sixth non-ferrous. None were of any archaeological significance. The non-ferrous item (Find No. <2>) comprised a small length of very thin rectangular sheet lead measuring 60 x 25mm in extent (i.e. 2½" by 1" in imperial measurements). This fragment represented a piece of structural leadwork, either derived from a piece of lead flashing or representing an offcut produced during construction.
24. Of the ferrous metalwork, four items represented fragments of structural ironwork, represented by nails of various forms (Find Nos. <1>, <3>, <5> and <7>). All were either heavily corroded or had suffered loss of corrosion product which rendered both the surface detail and the character/form of the items obscured. However, three of the objects (Find Nos. <1>, <5> and <7>), had circular sections which suggested that they were wire-cut nails post-dating the 1890s. The broad flat, rectangular head of <7> might suggest original use as a roofing nail. The fourth nail, <3>, was heavily concreted but may have represented a heavier, rectangular sectioned form, perhaps a cut nail which may have predated the 1890s but which nonetheless derived from the modern period (late 18th century onwards).
25. One final item, Find No. <7>, was more ambiguous in character. This comprised a polygonal lump of heavily concreted iron with stones adhering, measuring roughly 500 x 400mm in extent. Traces of an iron object could still be identified at its core, the original form and dimensions of which were now completely obscured through corrosion build-up. Judging by the nature of the metalwork with which it was associated, it is likely to be modern in date, perhaps representing a fragmentary tool or structural item.

Discussion

26. No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were uncovered during the course of the metal detector survey. A limited number of iron, lead and ceramic objects were recovered, but all the material was modern (20th century) in origin and related to the continued use of the designed garden landscape.
27. The development area was dominated by a significant slope, given the severity of this slope and the possibility that it was part of the design of the garden makes it highly unlikely that it retained any material of significance relating to the first battle of Inverlochy.
28. The flat riverside terrace at the foot of the slope, provided all of the items recovered from the metal detector survey, the continued use and various episodes of re-design of the garden makes it unlikely that any significant archaeological material remains. The large amount of debris on the surface and the presence of the rusted harrower made it difficult to identify genuine from false signals, explaining why only 7 out of the 25 signals produced artefacts.
29. The lack of any 15th century artefacts could also be explained by the historical evidence in that the development area was in a part of the battlefield which may only have seen the movement of troops to the north, where most of the battle was to take place, thus playing

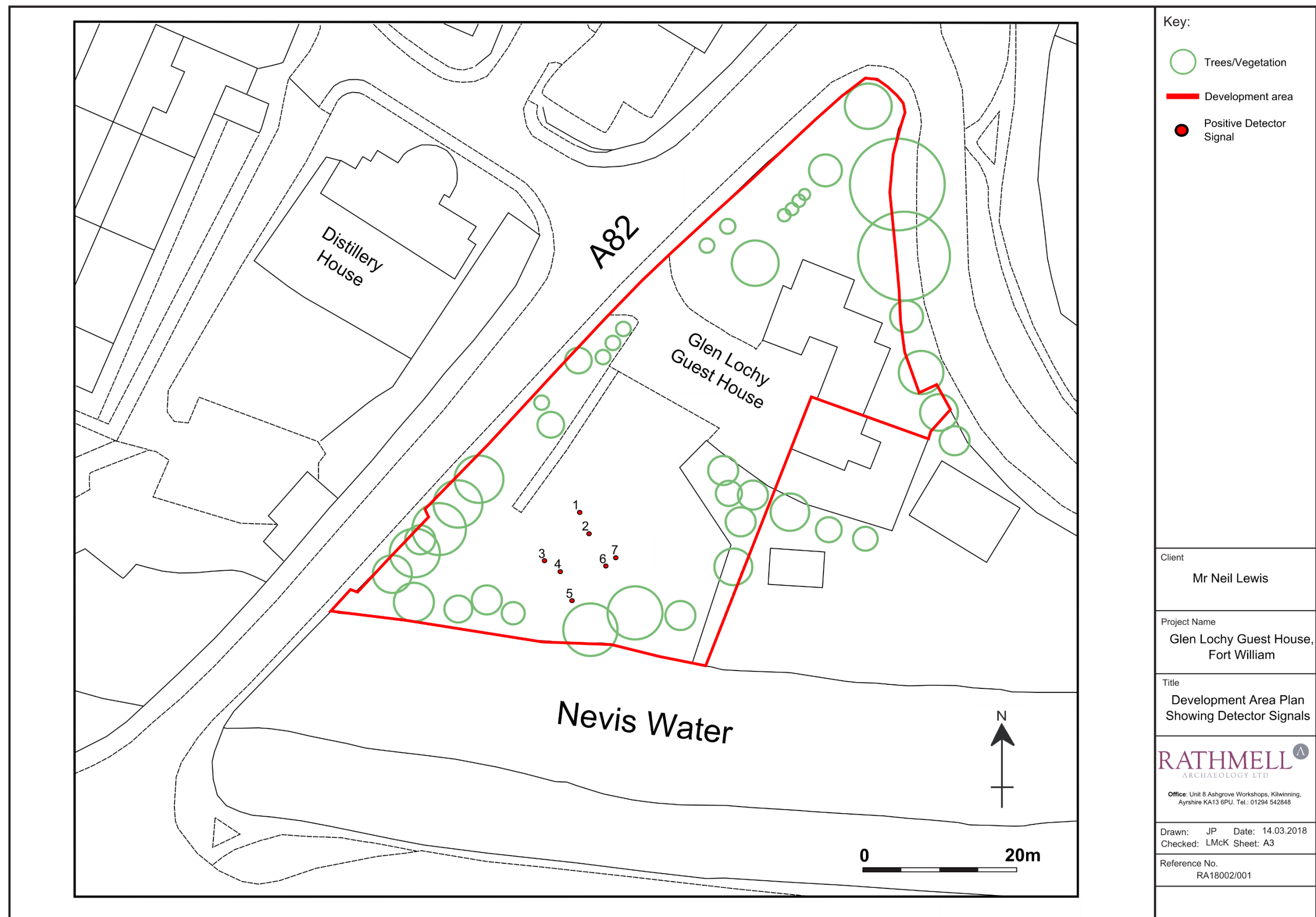


Figure 1: Site Location Plan showing positive metal detector signals (false signals not recorded).



Figure 4a: Shot of possible man-made slope from SSW. .



Figure 4b: Shot of Harrow, possible septic tank (foreground) and connections from WNW.







Figure 5a: Shot of raised garden and vegetation (NE of site) from the west.






Figure 5b: Contact being investigated to topsoil depth (001) from ESE.

Table 1: Table of Artefacts

Finds No.	Material	Object :	Description	Period	Image of Site Artefact
<01>	Iron (FE)	Fragment of nail	1 x fragmentary shank of nail, probably wire-cut. Coordinates 211325, 774312.	1890 onwards	
<02>	Lead (PB)	Fragment of lead	1 fragment of sheet lead flashing 1" (25mm) wide, or lead offcut derived from a larger piece of structural leadwork. Coordinates 211327, 774309.	19 th -20 th Century	

Finds No.	Material	Object :	Description	Period	Image of Site Artefact
<03>	Iron (FE)	Fragment of nail	1 x shank of circular-sectioned nail, with sub-rectangular section. May present a fragmentary cut nail, from the period c. 1780-1890. Coordinates 211321, 774306.	?19 th Century	
<04>	Ceramic	2 x sherds.	2 x white glazed ceramic sherds. Coordinates 211323, 774304.	19 th -20 th Century	

Finds No.	Material	Object :	Description	Period	Image of Site Artefact
<05>	Iron (FE)	2 x Nail fragments	1 x shank and adjoining head derived from circular-sectioned iron nail, probably wire cut. Coordinates 211324, 774301.	19 th -20 th Century	
<06>	Iron (FE)	Nail	1 x circular-sectioned nail with large, robust sub-rectangular head and narrow shank. Probably wire-cut, and may represent a roofing nail. Coordinates 21129, 774305.	1890 onwards	

Finds No.	Material	Object :	Description	Period	Image of Site Artefact
<07>	Iron (FE)	Unknown	1 x lump of heavily corroded iron, polygonal in shape, measuring a maximum of 500 x 400mm in extent, with concretions and stones adhering. The original form and dimensions of the object can no longer be established. Coordinates 211330, 774306.	19 th -20 th Century	

a minor role in the ensuing battle.

Recommendations

30. No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area, despite implementing a metal detector survey which recovered no significant archaeological artefacts relating to the first battle of Inverlochy
31. Given the lack of significant archaeological material recovered in the course of the metal detector survey, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd recommends that no further archaeological work be carried out within this development area.

Conclusions

32. The archaeological works at Glen Lochy Guest House, Fort William consisted of a metal detector survey which was designed to cover 100% of the available ground within the development area which could potentially to contain material relating to the first battle of Inverlochy. Although several signals were investigated the only material recovered was modern.
33. No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area. The results of the archaeological work indicates that no activity relating to the first Battle of Inverlochy was present within the development area. All of the material recovered was modern.

References

Documentary

McKinstry L (2018) *Glen Lochy Guest House, Fort William, Highland: Archaeological Mitigation Method Statement* Unpublished, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

Cartographic

Johnson, R	c.1710	Plan of Fort William with the country adjacent
Avery, J	c.1727	This Plan containing Lochness Lochoyoch, Lochlochey, & all the Rivers
Wade, G	1736	A Plan of Fort William
Roy, W	1747-52	Military Survey of Scotland, Highlands
Dorret, J	1750	Map of 1750
Fraser, A	post-1780	Sketch of Ground in Neighbourhood of Fort William
Ordnance Survey	1876	6-inch 1 st edition Inverness-shire, Sheet CL
Ordnance Survey	1904	6-inch 2 nd edition Inverness-shire, Sheet CL

Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the monitoring works.

Context Register

Context	Type	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Friable, dark grey brown, sandy-silt with occasional small sub-rounded inclusions	Topsoil
002	Deposit	Loose, mid brown orange, sandy silt, with frequent sub rounded inclusions	Subsoil

Finds Register

Find No.	Material Type	Description	Excavator	Date
1	Metal	Possible iron (FE) find	JP/ LMcK	08/03/18
2	Metal	Possible lead (PB) find	JP/ LMcK	08/03/18
3	Metal	Possible iron (FE) find	JP/ LMcK	08/03/18
4	Ceramic	Shard of ceramic	JP/ LMcK	08/03/18
5	Metal	Possible iron (FE) find	JP/ LMcK	08/03/18
6	Metal	Possible iron (FE) find	JP/ LMcK	08/03/18
7	Metal	Possible iron (FE) find	JP/ LMcK	08/03/18

Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
1	9196	General view of guesthouse	W	08/03/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
2	9197	From where new carpark space is / Tree in way of survey	WSW	08/03/18
3	9198	View of area before survey	NE	08/03/18
4	9199	View of area before survey	N	08/03/18
5	9200	View of guesthouse and carpark	W	08/03/18
6	9201	View of area before survey	WNW	08/03/18
7	9202	View of area before survey	WNW	08/03/18
8	9203	View of survey ongoing	WNW	08/03/18
9	9204	View of flags marking possible hits (Southeast)	WNW	08/03/18
10	9205	View of flags marking possible hits (Southeast)	WNW	08/03/18
11	9206	View of manhole cover near possible hits	ESE	08/03/18
12	9207	View of possible path near old fence line	ESE	08/03/18
13	9208	View of 19 th century bridge	ENE	08/03/18
14	9209	View of flags marking possible hits (Northwest)	SE	08/03/18
15	9210	View of flags marking possible hits (Northwest)	SSW	08/03/18
16	9211	View south of flagged area with old agricultural machinery	WNW	08/03/18
17	9212	View of 18 th century bridge	WNW	08/03/18
18	9213	Survey area / possible septic tank	ESE	08/03/18
19	9214	Survey area / possible septic tank	ESE	08/03/18
20	9215	Old fence / boundary line	S	08/03/18
21	9216	Old fence / boundary line	W	08/03/18

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
22	9217	Working shot of excavation of flagged areas	N	08/03/18
23	9218	Working shot of excavation of flagged areas	ESE	08/03/18

Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Glen Lochy Guest House
PROJECT CODE:	RA18002
PARISH:	Kilmonivaig
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Jack Portwood
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal Detector Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Battlefield
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 11556 74564
START DATE (this season)	8 th March 2018
END DATE (this season)	15 th March 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>The archaeological works at Glen Lochy Guest House, Fort William consisted of a metal detector survey which was designed to cover 100% of the available ground within the development area which could potentially to contain material relating to the first battle of Inverlochy. Although several signals were investigated the only material recovered was modern.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were located within the development area. The results of the archaeological work indicates that no activity relating to the first Battle of Inverlochy was present within the development area. All of the material recovered was modern.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Neil Lewis
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment

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