

# Development areas at Bombay Farm, Cromdale, Highland

Archaeological Evaluation Project  
(21/03710/FUL)

Metal Detecting Survey

## Data Structure Report

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For  
Elspeth Rainy-Bown

Andrew Young BA (Hons) MCIfA  
May 2022  
(Project BFC22)

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Avon Archaeology (Highland) Limited  
Professional Archaeological Services





## House and Pods development areas for Bombay Farm, Cromdale, Grantown-on-Spey

### Archaeological Evaluation Project – Metal detecting Survey

Report No.	BFC22-003
Site Code	BFC22
Client	Elsbeth Rainy-Bown
Planning Ref	21/03710/FUL
OS Grid Ref	NH 0797 2782
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Author	Andrew Young MCIfA

### Executive Summary

*An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken on behalf of landowner Elspeth Rainy-Bown across areas of proposed development at Bombay Farm, Cromdale, in accordance with the requirements of a planning Condition issued by Highland Council. The site is located within the footprint of the designated Cromdale Battlefield (BTL20), where Jacobite and Royal armies fought in 1690 at the end of the first Jacobite Rising.*

*The evaluation involved a metal detecting survey of three separate areas that are designated for the construction of a new dwelling, new holiday Pods and a new access to the dwelling. The survey was required in order to recover and identify and recover all significant metal artefacts present within the three development areas.*

*The metal detecting survey recovered a moderate assemblage of metal finds totalling 84 objects. The assemblage is considered to reflect a fairly standard range of casual loss items, including personal objects and fittings derived from agricultural machinery, dating from the later post-medieval and modern periods. Objects potentially relating to the Battle of Cromdale were restricted to two pieces of probable lead musket shot. No further archaeological mitigation is recommended.*

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## 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 policies<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> A summary of relevant international, EU, UK and Scottish legislation and policies is available from the AAH office on request.



Professional standards maintained throughout the present project adhered to the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists<sup>2</sup>.

## *Acknowledgements*

This document was written by Andrew Young MCI(A). The project was commissioned and funded by landowner Elspeth Rainy-Bown.

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No omissions are intended. All errors are unintentional and the responsibility of the writer.

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<sup>2</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Standards and Guidelines. <https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>



## Introduction

### *Location*

The proposed development at Bombay Farm, Cromdale (hereafter The Site) is located in three separate areas of open grassland on the NE side of the Cromdale Burn, to the SE of the village of Cromdale in the civil parish of Cromdale, Inverallan and Advie. Development will include a new dwelling, a separate area containing three new holiday Pods and a new access for the dwelling. The three areas of development are centred respectively at NGR NJ 07994 27788 (Dwelling), NGR NJ 07817 28086 (Pods) and NGR NJ 07885 27987 (Access) (Figures 1 to 4 below).

The site lies at an elevation of between 212m and 220m above Ordnance Datum and is underlain by basement geology of the Nethybridge Psammite Formation, metamorphosed sedimentary deposits of Precambrian and Palaeozoic date. These in turn are locally overlain by heterogeneous river terrace deposits of Quaternary date<sup>3</sup>.

### *Background to the Project*

Planning permission has been granted to Elspeth Rainy-Bown for the development of a new dwelling, holiday Pods and access at Bombay Farm, Cromdale. The consent includes a Condition requiring an archaeological metal detecting survey in advance of development works.

The development area lies within the boundary of the historic and designated Cromdale Battlefield (BTL20). As a consequence, Highland Council (THC) require an archaeological metal detecting survey of the proposed development areas to identify and record any significant artefacts or features associated with the battle and any other unforeseen heritage assets revealed by the works.

The present survey followed on from an earlier metal detecting survey undertaken in 2021 (AAH 2021), which was designed to evaluate the corridor of new underground services for the house and a section of its new access route.

The present evaluation involved a detailed metal detecting survey of the three areas of proposed development (Figures 3 and 4 below) followed by the identification and assessment of all finds recovered during the survey work.

The fieldwork project was undertaken to satisfy the requirements of Highland Council and followed the preparation of a Written Scheme of Work (WSI) (AAH 2022) that was approved by the Archaeological Officer for Highland Council Environment.

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<sup>3</sup> British Geological Survey online viewer



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Figure 1 - General Site Location

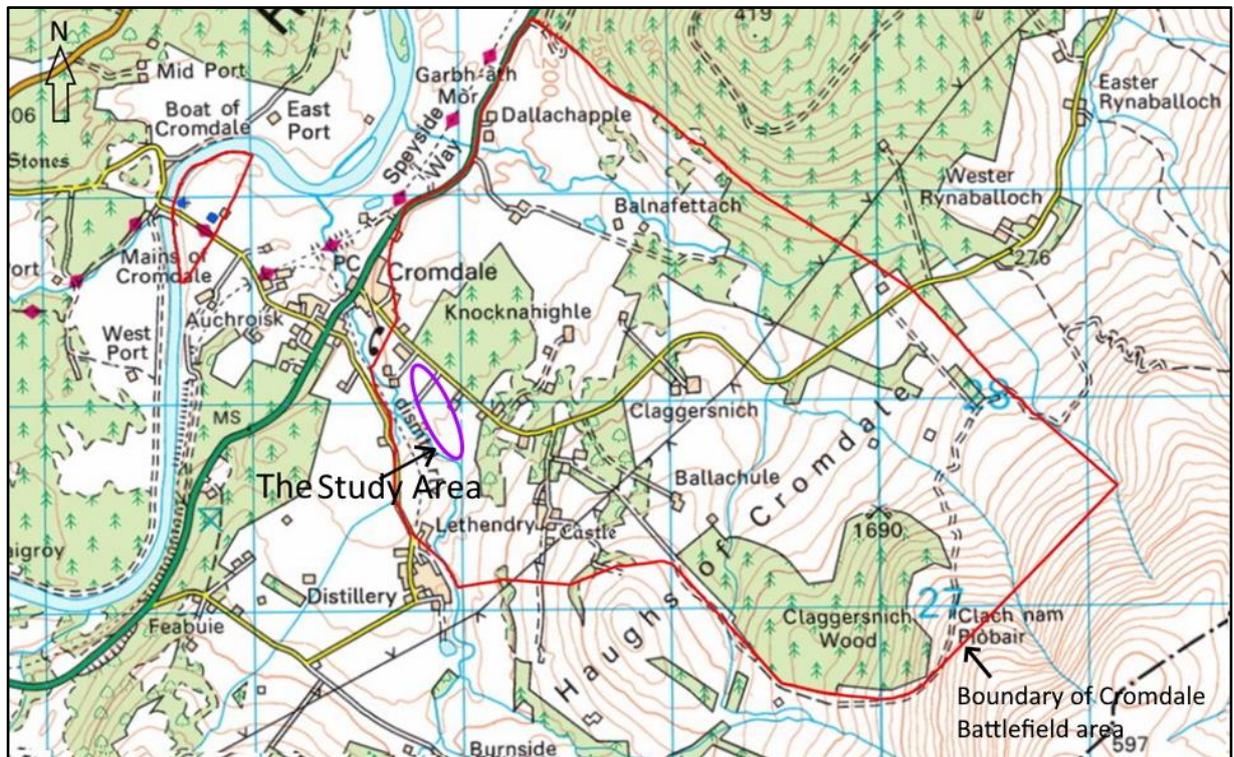


Figure 2 - The general location of the Study Area (in purple) showing boundary of the designated Cromdale Battlefield site (in red). Grid squares in kms



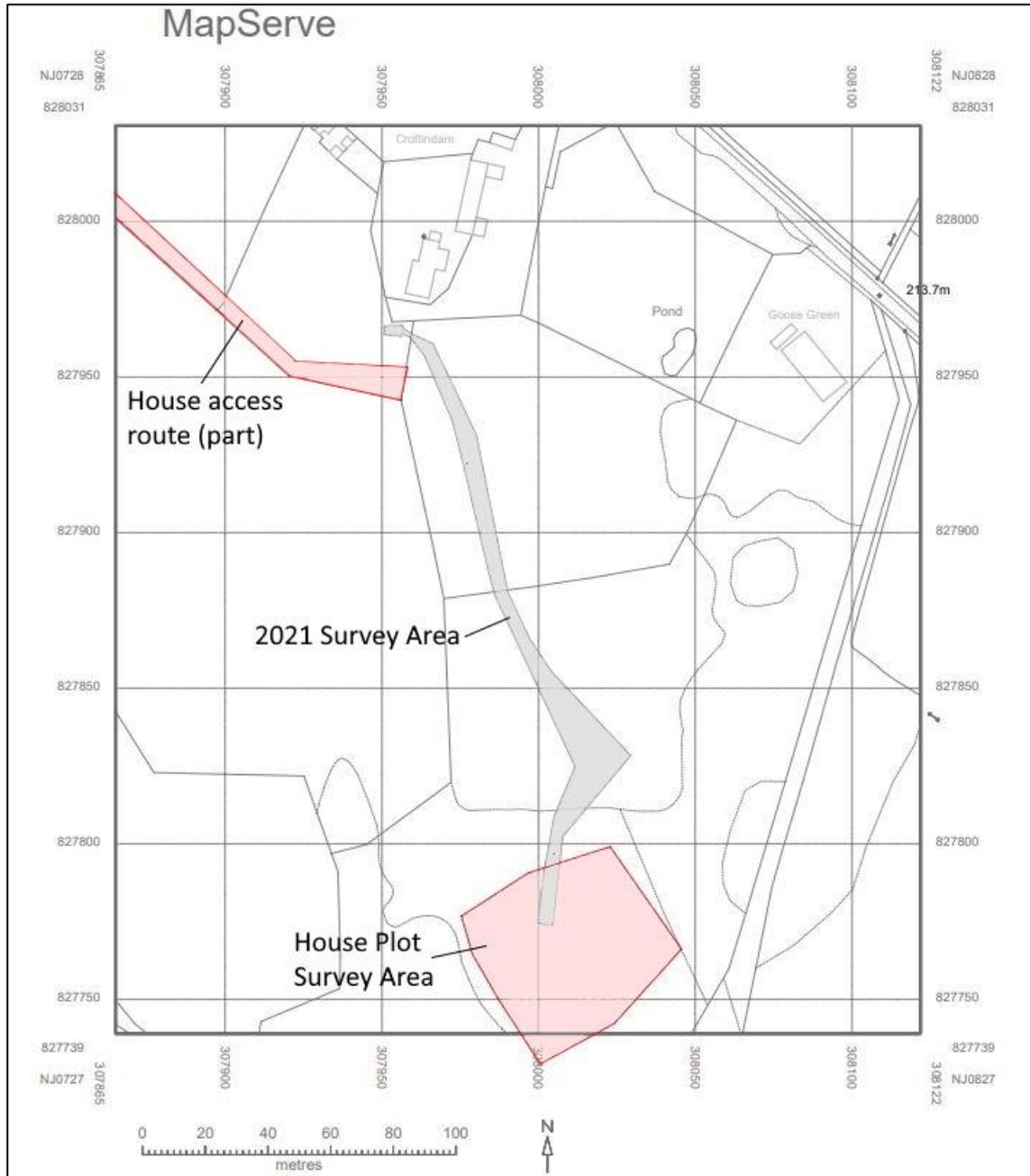


Figure 3 - The Bombay Farm house-plot survey area. Scale shown



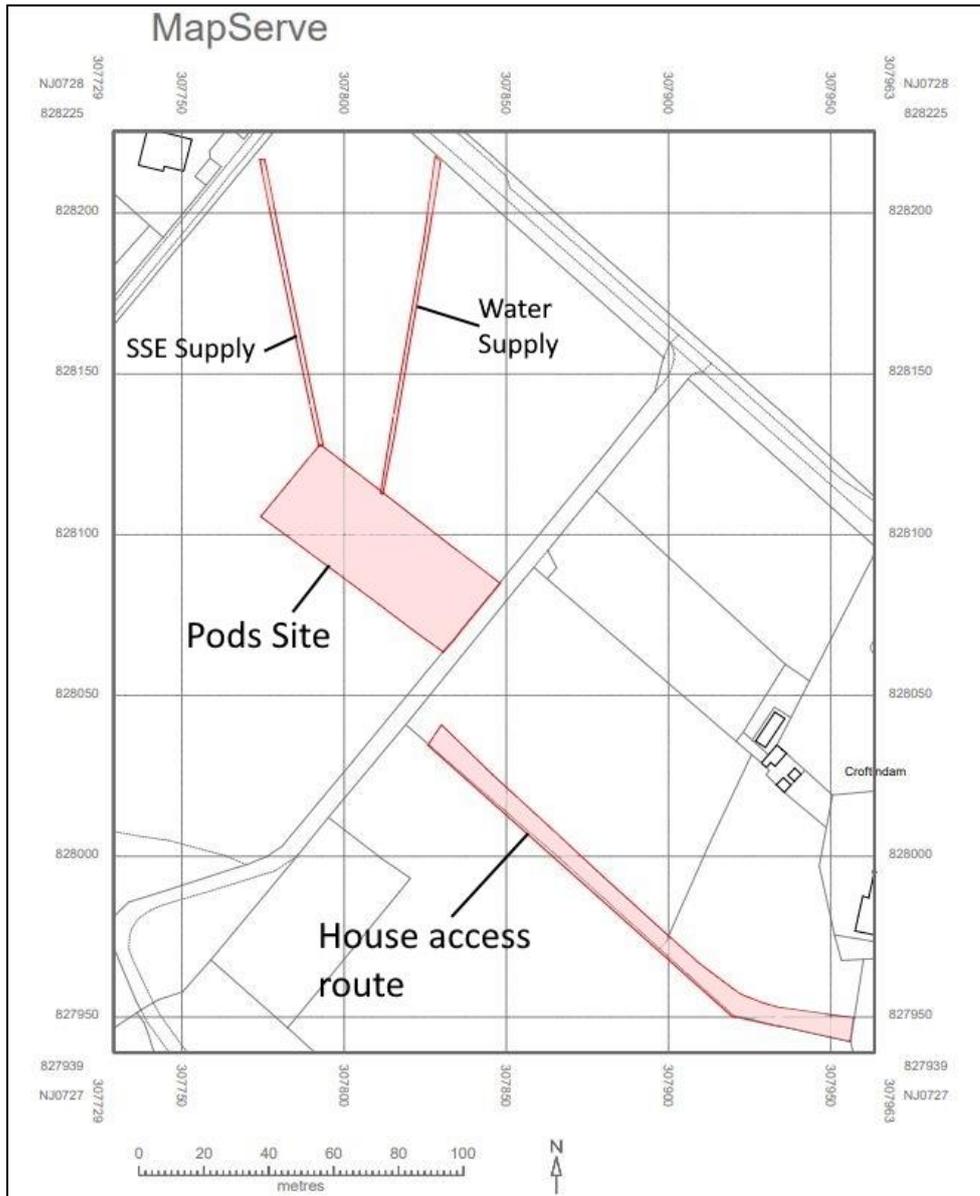


Figure 4 - The Bombay Farm Pods and Access Road survey areas. Scale shown

## Archaeological & Historical Background

Recorded heritage assets located in the vicinity of the study area were reviewed for the present project and are detailed in the WSI document (AAH2022) submitted to and approved by Highland Council in advance of the fieldwork project. The sources consulted for the review included historic mapping held by the National Library of Scotland, the Highland Council HER and Canmore databases, the Old and New Statistical Accounts, Ordnance Survey Name Books, aerial photographs held by NCAP and aerial LiDAR survey data.

The principal heritage asset relevant to the present survey is the designated Cromdale Battlefield site (BTL20, HER no. MHG6797), which took place in 1690 at the end of the first Jacobite Rising. It was fought between a small force of Jacobite Highlanders under the command of Major-General Thomas Buchan and a Government army of dragoons and



infantry under Sir Thomas Livingstone. The Government troops inflicted a crushing defeat upon the Jacobite forces in the area of Lethendry Castle and The Haughs of Cromdale, the Jacobite losses suggested to have numbered in the region of 500 men. Cromdale Church also played a significant role in the battle, as the government force crossed the Spey at the ford located downstream from the church (thought to be approximately where the modern road bridge crosses the river) at 3 a.m., their advance shielded by the darkness and tree cover, before attacking a Jacobite outpost stationed at the church; the church's bells sounded the alarm, but with too little time for the Jacobites to react effectively (Livingstone 1690). This attack may have served as a diversion for the crossing, drawing the Jacobite guards away from the ford to support their comrades at the church. Cromdale Church is therefore also important to the historical narrative of the battle.

Aside from the battle, the documentary research noted the paucity of recorded heritage assets and events of any kind in the vicinity of the site but, nonetheless, concluded that the study area had some moderate archaeological potential.

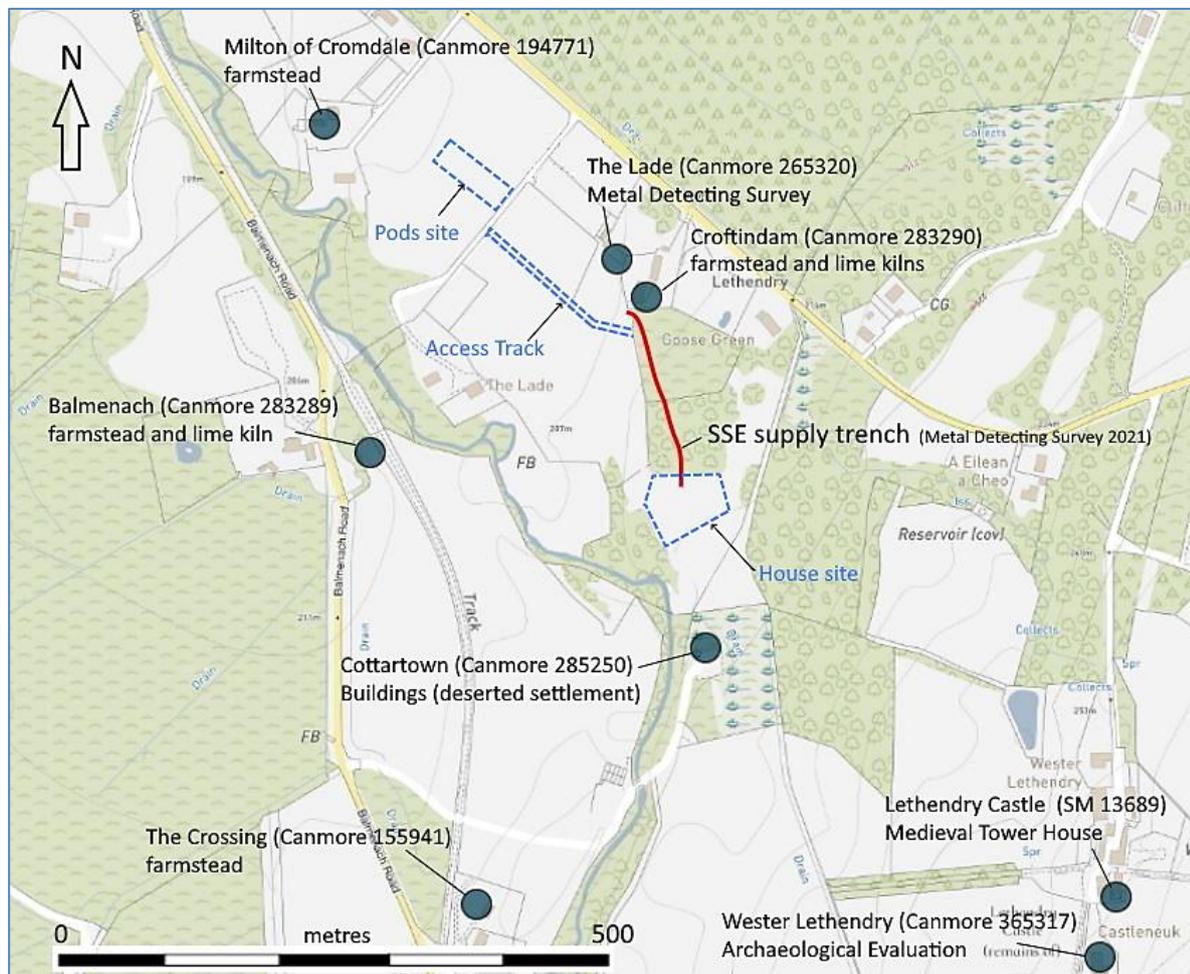


Figure 5 - The heritage setting of the three metal detecting survey areas as recorded on the Highland HER and Canmore register (excluding the designated Cromdale Battlefield). Courtesy Pastmap with annotation by the writer.



## Methodology

The metal detecting survey of the Bombay Farm House, Pods and Access areas (Figures 3 and 4 above) was undertaken by experienced metal detecting specialist Eric Soane over two days assisted by the writer. The survey was undertaken in a systematic manner in each area by means of 2m wide survey transects laid out parallel to the long axis of each area. Detected finds were inspected and bagged and findspots recorded. Metal objects of very obviously modern origin, for example fencing wire, were discarded on identification.

The extent of the metal detecting survey areas and the finds recovered by detecting therein were surveyed using a Topcon Hiper GPS unit capable of cm accuracy.

All the finds were cleaned, dried, catalogued and repackaged with acid-free tissue during the post-site phase work.

## Finds

### *Metal Detecting Survey*

A total assemblage of 84 metal objects (Table 1 below - F1 to F84) of potential archaeological significance were recovered from the three survey areas. These are described in Table 1 below.

Finds F1 to F64 were recovered from the Pods area and its associated new services corridors (Figure 4). Finds F65 to F80 were recovered from the House site (Figure 3) with the remainder from the new house access route (Figure 3). The distribution of the finds recovered from each survey area is shown on Figures 6 to 8 below.

*Table 1 - Catalogue of Metal Detecting Finds*

Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F1	Cu alloy	134	<1	Thin corrugated copper alloy strip with a single perforated lug. 30 x 12 x 1.5 mm  NGR307791/828121	



Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F2	Iron	135	6	A bent iron strip with bulbous corrosion at each end.  50 x <10 x <5 mm  NGR307786/828118	
F3	Lead	136	11	Deformed and flattened lump of lead – probably lead musket shot.  18 x 15 x 10 mm  NGR307794/828119	
F4	Cu alloy	137	13	Pressed circular copper alloy vessel/flask lid with hinge pivot attachment and slightly domed and dimpled top with lifting-lip.  31mm diameter x 4 mm  NGR 307792/828113	
F5	Cu alloy	138	6	Copper alloy with rubber washer tap washer unit.  11 x 13mm  20 <sup>th</sup> century  NGR 307783/828108	
F6	Copper	139	11	Part of copper spring mechanism – snapped - ?from agricultural equipment/machine. 28 x 21 mm and up to 5mm diameter. Modern  NGR 307791/828104	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F7	Cu alloy	140	35	Copper alloy casing or cap with 4 small holes, three in the side and one in the top. 41 x 13 x 1.5mm NGR 307787/828099	
F8	Cu alloy	141	4	1924 half penny. Heavy corrosion but just legible. 25 mm diameter NGR 307787/828097	
F9	?silver or lead	142	<1	Tiny irregular lump of silver or lead. 10 x 7 x 3 mm NGR 307786/828097	
F10	Copper	143	5	Small slightly curved fragment of copper. 20 x 16 x 5mm NGR 307789/828098	



Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F11	Cu alloy	144	7	Illegible folded copper alloy coin. 30mm diameter.  NGR 307790/828097	
F12	Lead	145	7	Triangular fragment of lead. 33 x 19 x 4mm  NGR 307790/828097	
F13	Copper	146	12	As F6  NGR 307791/828099	See F6 above
F14	?Tin	147	7	Circular pressed metal cap. 22 x 8 mm with a 10 mm diameter hole centrally  NGR 307791/828099	
F15	?Steel	148	2	Circular polished ?steel button with rear attachment boss. Undecorated and damaged. 25mm diameter x 2mm  NGR 307793/828099	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F16	Brass	149	17	Curved brass harness buckle with stump of iron pin. 40 x 40 x 4mm NGR 307799/828106	
F17	Brass	150	4	Circular brass fitting with round head and narrow threaded shank. 20 x 10mm NGR 307792/828093	
F18	Copper	151	11	Same as F6 NGR 307794/828093	As F6
F19	Brass	152	50	Body of a folding penknife with remains of wood side panels and heavily corroded steel blade. 90 x 17 x 10mm NGR 307798/828096	
F20	Brass	153	2	Small undecorated button with rear loop attachment. 19mm diameter x 1.5mm NGR 307801/828100	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F21	?lead	154	<1	Small irregular fragment of lead NGR 307803/828097	
F22	copper	155	14	As F6 above NGR 307802/828096	As F6
F23	copper	156	2	Fragment of folded tubular copper wire NGR 307799/828093	
F24	?silver	157	15	Damaged commemorative coin or medal celebrating Queen Victoria's 60 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee in 1897. Small hole at top edge. 39 mm diameter. NGR 307797/828088	
F25	lead	158	11	Flattened lump of lead – possibly musket shot. 27 x 20 x 4mm NGR 307799/828085	
F26	Copper	159	12	As F6 above NGR 307800/828091	As F6



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F27	Copper	160	13	As F6 above NGR 307802/828090	As F6
F28	Copper	161	12	As F6 above NGR 307803/828089	As F6
F29	Iron	162	611	Large iron coupling or hitch fitting. 150 x 60 mm NGR 307804/828089	
F30	Copper	163	13	As F6 above NGR 307806/828086	As F6
F31	Copper	164	12	As F6 above NGR 307807/828085	As F6
F32	Copper	165	<1	Small pressed copper/brass cap. 12 mm diameter x 4mm deep NGR 307809/828080	
F33	Brass	166	17	Octagonal Daily Record 'Chums Club' badge with red and blue enamel and central Lion Rampant 24 mm diameter. Pin missing. 1930s NGR 307812/828082	
F34	Copper	167	11	As F6 above	As F6



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
				NGR 307812/828081	
F35	Copper	168	12	As F6 above NGR 307811/828080	As F6
F36	Copper	169	5	Pressed military cap badge with stags head abashed over a scroll with the motto ' <i>CUIDDICH'N RIGH</i> ' (Help the King or Kings Tribute). Seaforth Highlanders Regiment 1898-1921. 60 x 27 x <1 mm NGR 307811/828077	
F37	iron	170	4	Heavily corroded iron nail head and part of shank. 35 x 10 mm NGR 307818/828084	
F38	iron and bronze	171	157	Part of bridle bit retaining one large bronze attachment ring. Iron bit is very heavily corroded. 110 x 18 mm overall with 65 mm diameter bronze ring. NGR 307819/828097	
F39	copper	172	11	As F6 above NGR 307813/828076	As F6
F40	Copper alloy	173	3	Coin of 25 mm diameter. Illegible but probably a 20 <sup>th</sup> century halfpenny NGR 307815/828078	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F41	Brass	174	2	Small brass cap or washer with 3mm central hole. 12 x 5mm NGR 307817/828074	
F42	Brass	175	14	Small cast finial with stump of attachment. 18 x 20 mm NGR 307820/828078	
F43	Brass	176	6	Tapered finial or fitting with rounded head incorporating deep round socket leading to squared then round threaded shank. Head is 12 mm diameter. 41 mm long overall NGR 307824/828083	
F44	copper	177	6	Plain copper spoon handle missing bowl NGR 307823/828080	
F45	Brass	178	1	Four-point pressed star shaped fitting with 6mm diameter central hole. 35 mm diameter. Possibly the central part of a clock gear cog. NGR 307822/828077	
F46	copper	179	12	As F6 above	As F6



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
				NGR 307820/828075	
F47	copper	180	11	As F6 above NGR 307818/828070	As F6
F48	brass	181	<1	Small pressed copper button with four thread holes. 15 mm diameter NGR 307820/828072	
F49	iron	182	389	Large square cast or forged agricultural nut or washer with central hole. 104 x 108 x 11 mm NGR 307822/828075	
F50	brass	183	13	As F6 above NGR 307820/828070	As F6
F51	iron	184	8	Round iron shank with trace of machine thread. 25 mm x 10 mm diameter NGR 307823/828070	
F52	brass	185	12	As F6 above NGR 307828/828076	As F6
F53	brass	186	7	Broken window or door latch clasp. 32 x 12 x 5 mm NGR 307829/828081	



Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F54	?steel	187	6	Large polished steel or ?tinned button with traces of simple rouletted decoration around outer edge. 28 mm diameter  NGR 307829/828081	
F55	cu alloy	188	3	Umbrella handle connector piece. 18 mm diameter.  NGR 307834/828087	
F56	cu alloy	189	3	Coin. Illegible. 25 mm diameter  NGR 307830/828079	
F57	lead	190	9	Irregular flattened lead fragment. Probably not shot. 23 x 15 x 5 mm  NGR 307836/828073	
F58	lead	191	6	Small triangular and flattened fragment of lead. 20 x 15 x 3mm  NGR 307828/828067	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F59	copper	192	12	As F6 above NGR 307829/828064	As F6
F60	copper	193	5	Folded rectangular copper sheet. 37 x 28 x 2mm NGR 307785/828159	
F61	cu alloy	194	8	Coin. Barely legible ?1904 penny. 30 mm diameter NGR 307784/828157	
F62	pewter	195	12	Cutlery handle end with iron concretions. 60 x 20 x 1.5 mm NGR 307786/828153	
F63	pewter	196	14	Fork end with stumps of 4 tines and heavy iron corrosion lumps adhering. 50 x 23 x 1.5mm NGR 307788/828152	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F64	lead	197	30	Fragment of lead sheet with folded edges. 38 x 38 x 2 mm NGR 307822/828175	
F65	steel	198	4	Half a plain steel washer NGR 307823/828175	
F66	brass	199	1	A single .22LR (Long Rifle) shell case. 5.7mm diameter x 15mm long. 20 <sup>th</sup> century spent rimfire cartridge. NGR 308019/827762	
F67	brass	200	32	Body of folding penknife with heavily corroded steel blades. 89 x 20 x 8mm NGR 308017/827768	
F68	iron	201	28	Handmade nail with squared shank and 4-facet head. 106 x 9 mm NGR 308016/827769	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F69	lead	202	3	Small irregular offcut. 10 x 7 mm NGR 308009/827768	
F70	brass	203	1	A single .22LR (Long Rifle) shell case. 5.7mm diameter x 15mm long. 20th century spent rimfire cartridge. NGR 308009/827771	As F66
F71	brass	204	1	A single .22LR (Long Rifle) shell case. 5.7mm diameter x 15mm long. 20th century spent rimfire cartridge. NGR 308008/827771	As F66
F72	brass	205	1	A single .22LR (Long Rifle) shell case. 5.7mm diameter x 15mm long. 20th century spent rimfire cartridge. NGR 308007/827772	As F66
F73	iron	206	284	Thick iron slab with triangular profile curved to point. ?plough or harrow fitting. 148 x 50 x 10 mm NGR 307996/827770	
F74	brass	207	72	Broken and bent brass horse-gear buckle with central bar and scalloped edges. 50 x 48 x 2 mm NGR 308009/827778	



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Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F75	iron	208	48	Large clamped handmade nail with square shank and simple flattened head. 130 x 10 mm diameter  NGR 307983/827765	
F76	Cu alloy	209	5	Button with pressed '105' on outer face. ?military. 24mm diameter x 2mm  NGR 308021/827789	
F77	brass	210	5	Plain brass button with simple line defining outer edge. 26 mm diameter.  NGR 308015/827786	
F78	iron	211	580	Thick heavy triangular-shaped lump of iron. 95 x <63 x 25mm  NGR 307980/827771	
F79	brass	212	1	A single .22LR (Long Rifle) shell case. 5.7mm diameter x 15mm long. 20th century spent rimfire cartridge.  NGR 308007/827784	As F66



Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F80	brass	213	37	Brass or bronze horse-gear strap fitting with two oval rings of different size set at 90 degrees. 75 x 33 mm  NGR 307982/827774	
F81	brass	222	34	Squared brass furniture 'foot' with scalloped decoration and 2 attachment holes. Pressed. 55 x 63 x 30 mm  NGR 307932/827952	
F82	?brass	223	2	Half of a small rectangular buckle – possibly a shoe buckle or horse-gear buckle. 23 x 18 x 2mm  NGR 307860/828007	
F83	?copper	224	1	Tiny copper pronged object. ?clock mechanism part. 15 x 5 x 1mm  NGR 307857/828007	



Find No.	Material	Survey Point No	Wt (g)	Description, Dimensions and OS Location	Image (scale in cm)
F84	brass	225	7	Circular brass gear mechanism cog with teeth. Part of a clock mechanism. 48mm diameter  NGR 307856/828009	

## Finds Distributions

### Pods Area

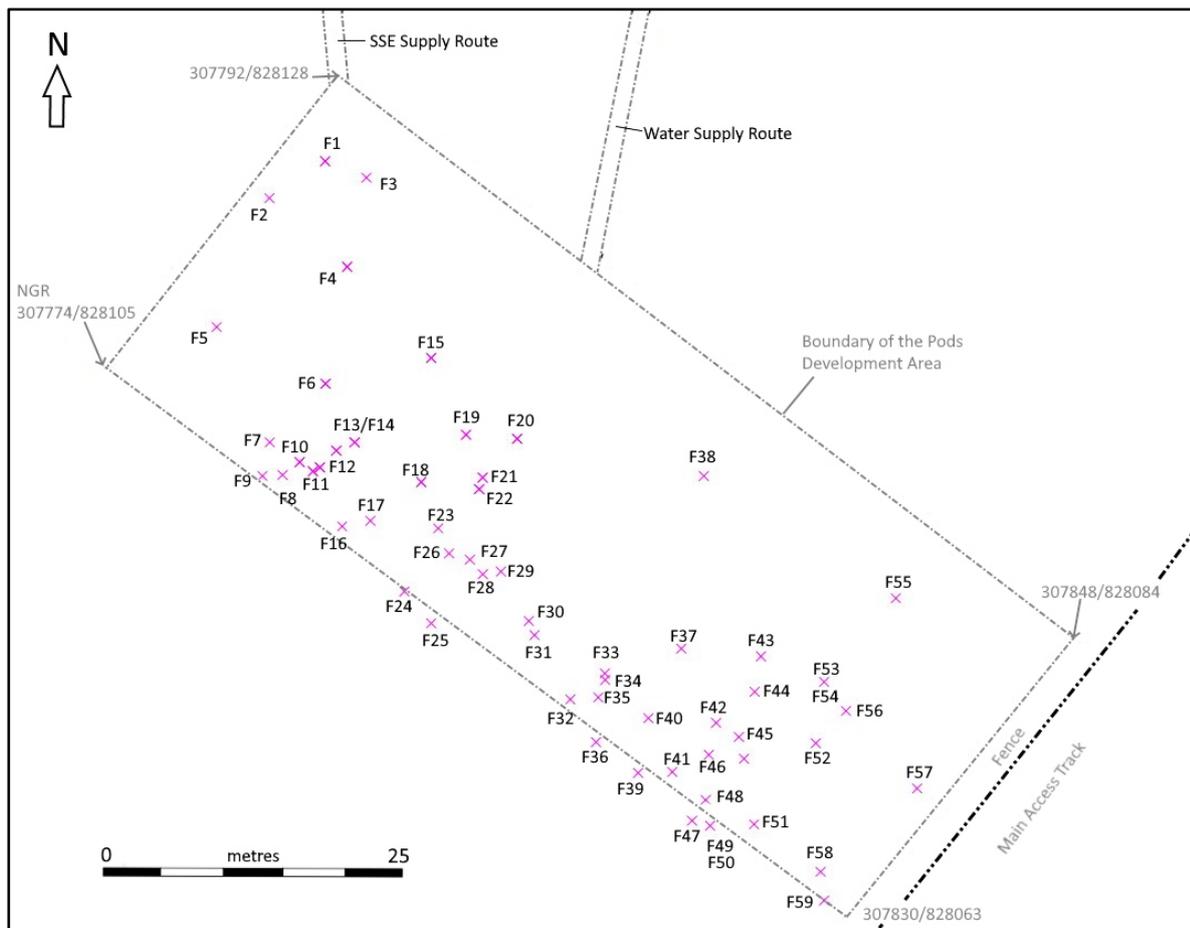


Figure 6 - Distribution of metal detecting finds from the Pods Area. Scale shown



*House Plot Area*

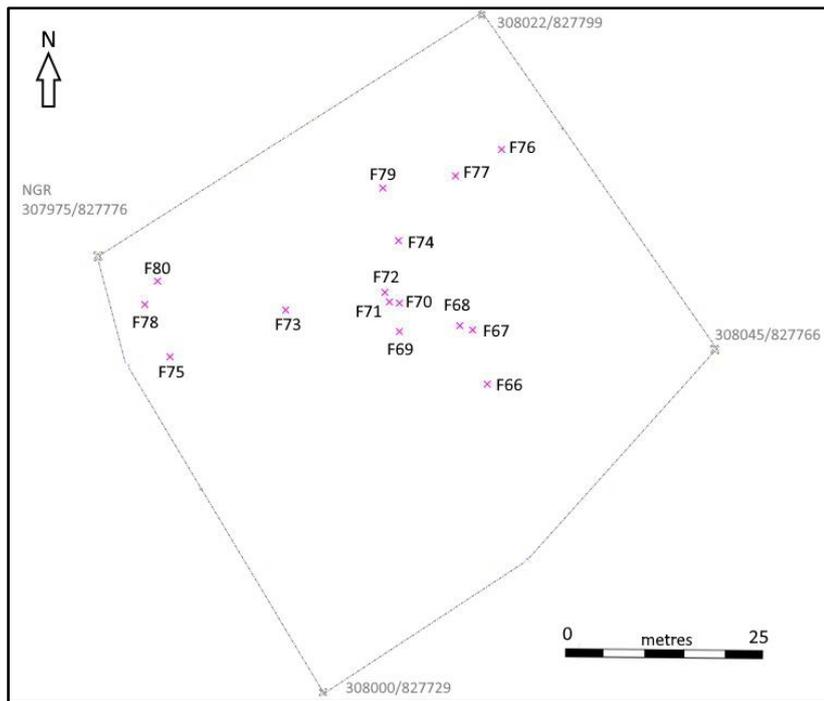


Figure 7 - Distribution of metal detecting finds from the House Plot area. Scale shown

*House Access Route Area*

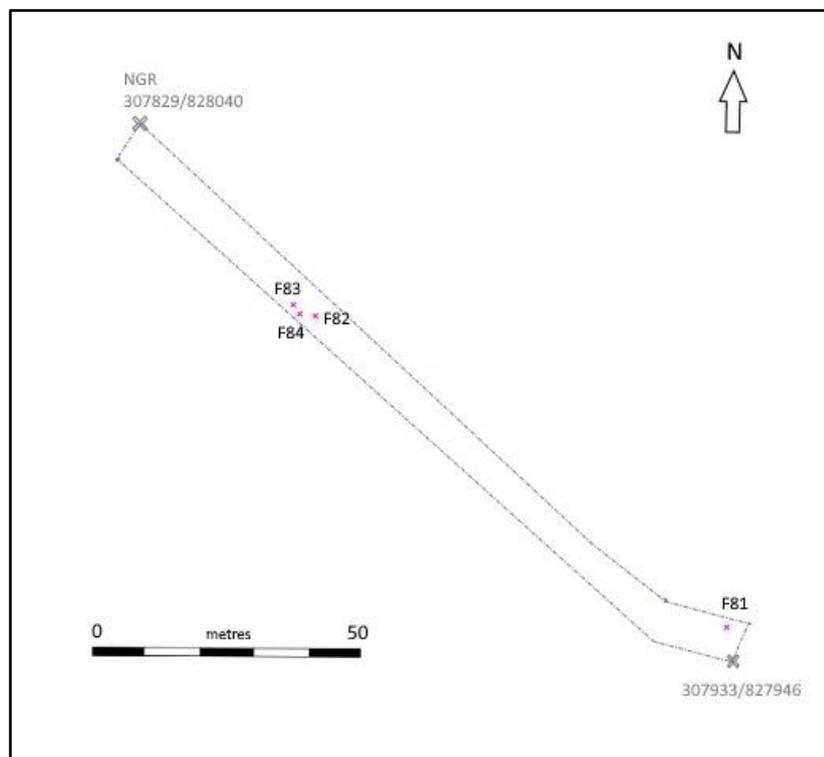


Figure 8 - Distribution of metal detecting finds from the House Access route. Scale shown



## *Discussion & Conclusions*

An archaeological evaluation has been undertaken on behalf of landowner Elspeth Rainy-Bown across areas of proposed development for Bombay Farm, Cromdale, in accordance with the requirements of a planning Condition issued by Highland Council. The site is located within the footprint of the designated Cromdale Battlefield (BTL20), where Jacobite and Royal armies fought in 1690 at the end of the first Jacobite Rising.

The evaluation involved a metal detecting survey of three separate areas that are designated for the construction of a new dwelling, new holiday Pods and a new access to the dwelling. The survey was designed to recover and identify and recover all significant metal artefacts present within the three development areas.

The metal detecting survey recovered a moderate assemblage of metal finds totalling 84 objects. The assemblage is considered to reflect a fairly standard range of casual loss items, including personal objects and fittings derived from agricultural machinery, dating from the later post-medieval and modern periods.

Objects potentially relating to the Battle of Cromdale were restricted to just two pieces of lead musket shot although, in addition, it is possible that at least some of the plain buckles could conceivably reflect military equestrian gear.

The distribution of metal detecting finds (Figures 6 to 8) provides no particular focus or concentration of objects, other than that the great majority were recovered from the area of the proposed holiday Pods, which consists of level agricultural land located closest to the historic core of settlement at Cromdale. In this respect the greater numbers from this area are not unexpected.

No further archaeological mitigation is recommended as part of the Bombay Farm development. Treasure Trove Scotland will be notified and offered the assemblage of metal detecting finds.

## *References*

*Avon Archaeology (Highland) Ltd 2022. Proposed development at Bombay Farm, Cromdale, Highland - Archaeological Evaluation Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished client report.*

*Avon Archaeology (Highland) Ltd 2021. Site SE of The Lade, Cromdale, Highland - Archaeological Evaluation DSR. Unpublished client report.*

*Canmore database - passim*

*Highland Council HER - passim*



*Scotland's Archaeology Strategy 2016* Central Government document setting out the importance of archaeology in Scotland

The *Historic Environment Policy for Scotland 2019* (HES 2019): Historic Environment Scotland's published revised principles and policies for the management of heritage in Scotland including managing change and sources of further information.

*Managing Change in the Historic Environment* (MCHE): Documents including guidance on the treatment and management of heritage assets including Scheduled Monuments



