

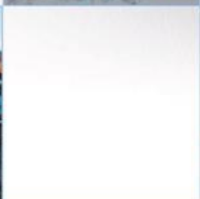
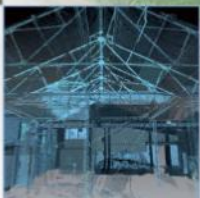
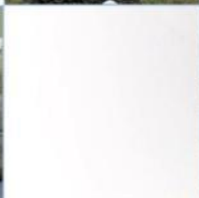
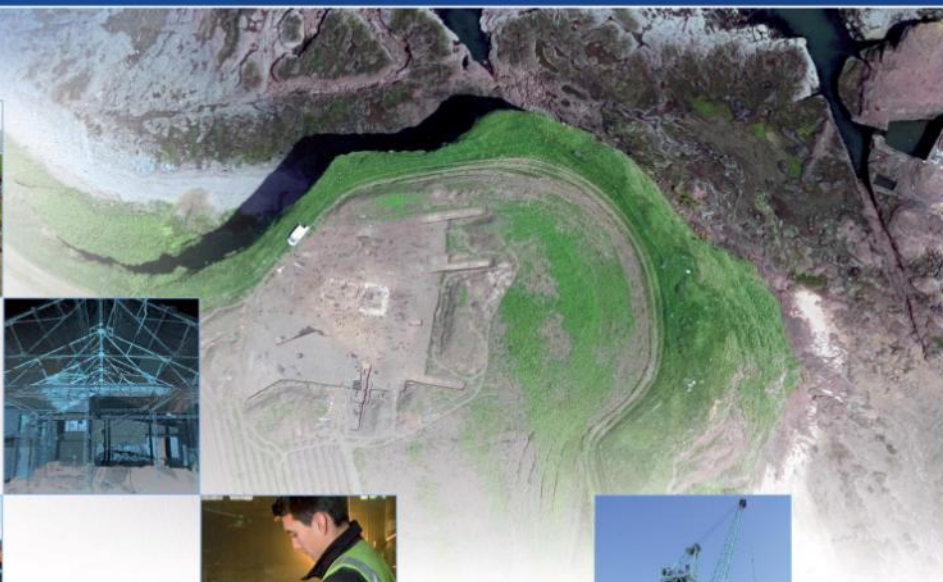
Erection of a house Plot 1 to the west of Fodderty House, Fodderty, Dingwall

Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

AOC Project Number: 70499

1st September 2020



Erection of a house, Plot 1 to the west of Fodderty House, Fodderty, Dingwall

Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Lesley Campbell
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NH 51158 59643
Planning Reference	18/04749/FUL
AOC Project No:	70499
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Abstract

This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation carried out at a residential development site at Plot 1 Fodderty, near Dingwall. The evaluation was required due to the potential for buried archaeological remains to be present on the site.

Fieldwork was carried out on 4th August 2020 during which four trenches were excavated. On the north side of the site, the area had been previously cleared and disturbed, and the trenches in this area were excavated directly onto the subsoil. No archaeological features were identified. No further archaeological work is recommended.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was required by Lesley Campbell in advance of the proposed erection of a dwelling house at Plot 1 to the west of Fodderty House, Fodderty, Dingwall (Planning reference: 18/04749/FUL). The requirement arose due to the Development Site being located in an area with the potential for the survival of buried archaeological deposits.
- 1.2 The site lies within the administrative area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Kirsty Cameron, Archaeologist, Historic Environment Team, Highland Council. A programme of trial trenching across the site was specified in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the development area.
- 1.3 The fieldwork was carried out on 4th August 2020 during which four trenches were excavated. On the north side of the site, the area had been previously cleared and disturbed, and the trenches in this area were excavated directly onto the subsoil. No archaeological features were identified.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is located on the north side of the A834, approximately 20m west of Fodderty House. It is bounded on the north by an unclassified road, and on the remaining boundaries by mature trees (centred at NH 51158 59643; **Figure 1**). The Proposed Development Area at present consists of an uncultivated plot of land (**Plate 1**), albeit heavily wooded, and, as such, there was the potential for archaeological remains to survive sub-surface.
- 2.2 There are no known archaeological sites within the site boundary. However, three cist burials are recorded within 0.5km of the site. A Bronze Age short cist (MHG9046), located about 80m to the south-west of the site, was discovered during ploughing in 1980 and contained a skeleton, Beaker, and other finds. A second cist (MHG7150) is recorded as being found in the late 1800s about 70m to the south-southwest of the Site, with the third (MHG7151) found in the early 1800s and located about 450m to the west of the Site.
- 2.3 Settlement at Fodderty is depicted on historic mapping from at least the 18th century. William Roy's Military Survey of 1747-52 shows the area as a wooded landscape alongside the river with several small settlements (**Figure 2**). Later Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition maps (1875-6 and 1904) show the site within a small wooded area between the buildings of the settlement of Fodderty (**Figure 3-4**). These maps also record the locations of the two cists.

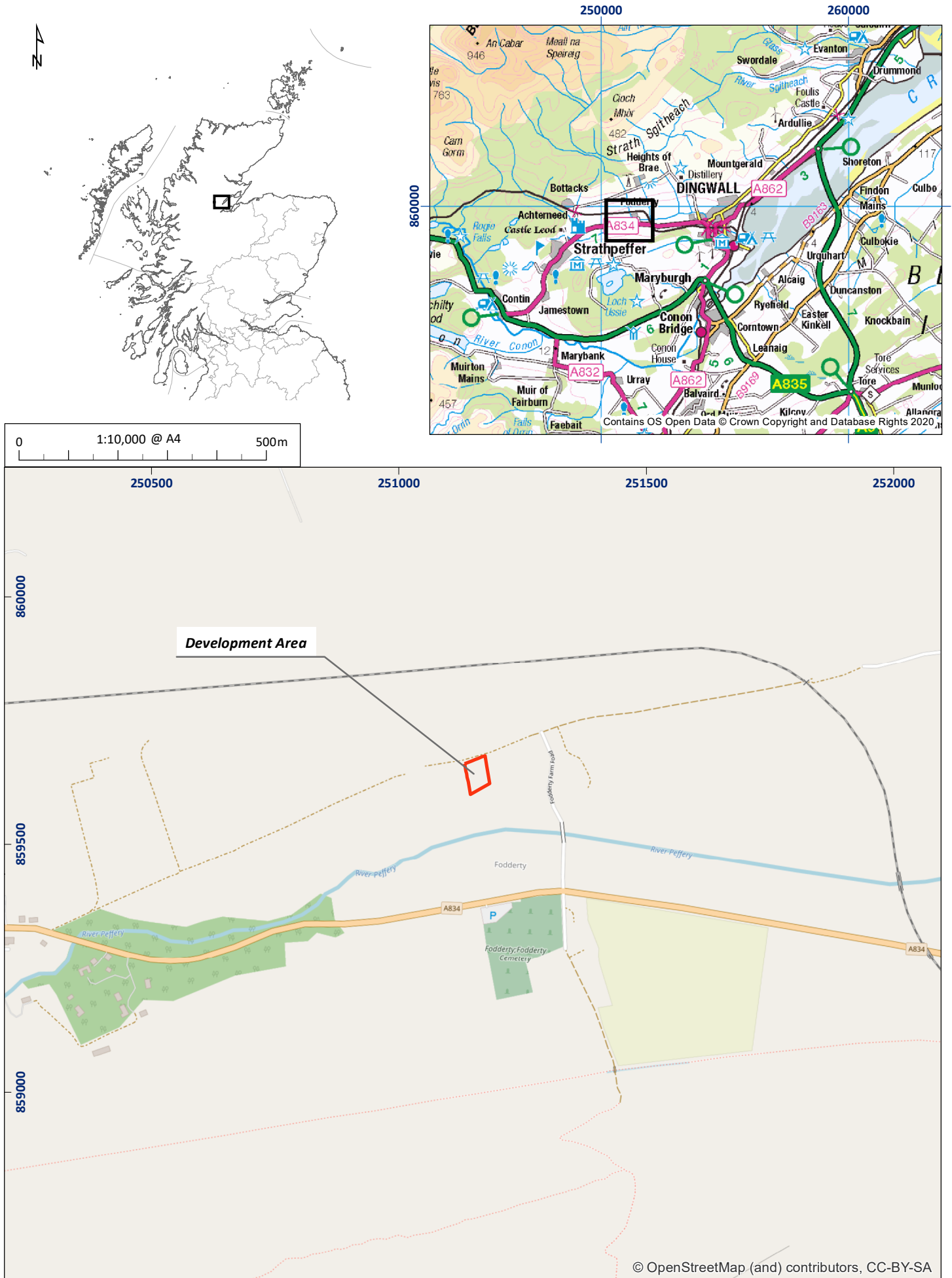


Figure 1: Site location plan

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Figure 2: Excerpt from William Roy's Military Survey 1747-52 (Reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the British Library, Shelfmark: Maps CC.5.a.441.)



Figure 3: Excerpt from Ordnance Survey 1st edition map Ross-shire and Cromartyshire Sheet LXXVI, 1875-6, Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland



Figure 4: Excerpt from Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map Ross and Cromarty Sheet LXXVI, 1904, Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) (2014a) defines an archaeological evaluation as ‘a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land...field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate’.
- 3.2 The aims of the archaeological works were:
- i) To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area
 - ii) To remove by hand any overburden in order to expose the archaeological deposits
 - iii) To excavate, sample and record any features or to propose arrangements for their safeguarding, where possible
 - iv) To sample deposits for post-excavation work, including environmental analysis and dating
 - v) To make recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development
 - vi) To make recommendations for post-excavation work

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 An archaeological trial trenching evaluation of the Proposed Development Site was carried out to evaluate the archaeological potential therein. Due to the considerable tree protection areas required in the plot, the evaluation works were restricted to the house footprint, wastewater treatment plant, soakaway, and access road. Trenches were situated within accessible areas avoiding mature trees which will be retained as part of the Development.
- 4.2 An archaeologist directed digging by a mechanical excavator fitted with a straight-edged bucket in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site. All work was carried out in accordance with the Highland Council *Standards for Archaeological Work* (2012) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2014b).
- 4.3 All features of archaeological significance were excavated by hand in order to establish the date, nature, extent, and state of preservation of the deposits. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and section drawings were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All significant archaeological features were sampled, in the event post-excavation analysis is deemed necessary.
- 4.4 The archaeological monitoring was recorded using high resolution digital photography in order to record the process as well as any archaeological features or finds of interest.

5.0 EVALUATION RESULTS

- 5.1 The fieldwork was carried out on 4th August 2020 in wet conditions. Four trenches, comprising 80m², were excavated to the level of the subsoil (**Figure 5; Plates 2-5**). Topsoil across the site was dark brown sandy silt with rare small and medium stones, overlying the yellow gravelly sandy subsoil. On the north side of the site, the area had been previously cleared and disturbed, and the trenches in this area were excavated directly onto the subsoil.
- 5.2 The only buried feature identified in the trenches was a rubble field drain containing a red clay pipe located in trench 1. No archaeological features were identified.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation carried out at Plot 1 Fodderty identified that the site had been partly disturbed in the past and that on the north side of the site the potential for archaeological features to survive had been removed. No significant archaeological features were identified in any of the other areas. As such no further archaeological monitoring is recommended.

7.0 REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014a. *Standards and guidance: Archaeological evaluation*

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Plate 1: The development site pre-evaluation



Plate 2: Post-excavation of trench 1, showing rubble field drain



Plate 3: Post-excavation of trench 2



Plate 4: Post-excavation of trench 3



Plate 5: Post-excavation of trench 4



Figure 5: Trench plan

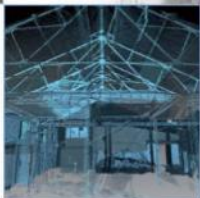
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Appendix 1 List of Trenches

Trench No.	Dimensions (m)	Depths (m)	Alignment	Description/Comments
1	10m by 2m	0.4-0.6m	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: fine dark brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sized stones. Subsoil: pale yellow sand. Rubble field drain aligned NE-SW with red clay pipe within located between 1-3m along trench (NNW end).
2	10m by 2m	-	NE-SW	Trench excavated directly onto natural subsoil. This area has been previously disturbed/cleared.
3	10m by 2m	0.2m	ENE-WSW	Some topsoil at the ENE end but otherwise excavated directly onto subsoil. This area has been previously disturbed/cleared.
4	10m by 2m	0.2-0.3m	ENE-WSW	Topsoil: fine dark brown sandy silt with rare small to medium sized stones. Heavily root disturbed. Subsoil: pale yellow sand.

Appendix 2 List of Photographs

Photo No.	Trench No.	Description	Direction Facing	Date
1	-	Pre-excavation image of the site showing goal posts	SE	04/08/2020
2	-	Pre-excavation image of the site	S	04/08/2020
3	-	Working shot showing the site after vegetation flattening	S	04/08/2020
4	T1	Pre-excavation image of trench 1	SSE	04/08/2020
5	T1	ENE-facing section of trench 1	WSW	04/08/2020
6	T1	Post-excavation image of trench 1	SSE	04/08/2020
7	T2	Post-excavation image of trench 2	SW	04/08/2020
8	T3	Post-excavation image of trench 3	WSW	04/08/2020
9	T4	Post-excavation image of trench 4	ENE	04/08/2020
10	-	Post-reinstatement image of the site	SE	04/08/2020



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