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Evelix Quarry Extension
Evaluation



Report and Recommendations

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Evelix Quarry Extension
Evaluation

Report and Recommendations

Report No.	EQE25-005
Site Code	EQE25
Client	G.F. Job Ltd
Planning Ref	TBC
OS Grid Ref	NH 76854 89569
Date/ revision	18/09/2025
Author	Karen Kennedy & Tom Davis
Approved by	Lynne McKeggie

Summary

An archaeological Evaluation was commission by G F Job Ltd to inform a planning application in advance of an extension to Evelix Quarry, Dornoch.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 1st and 3rd September 2025. The work took place in dry and mostly sunny conditions.

During the watching brief no archaeological features were recorded. The only anomalies of any note were a modern water pipe buried deep within the natural subsoil and a modern sand deposit. The pipe was noted in trenches 8, 9, 11 and 12. The sand was visible in the north west end of trench 4. No further archaeological work is therefore recommended.

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Acknowledgements

This document was written by Karen Kennedy and Tom Davis and edited by Lynne McKeggie. The project was commissioned and funded by G F Jobs Ltd. Fieldwork was directed by Karen Kennedy with the assistance of Tom Davis. Background mapping has been reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey under Licence 100043217. Historic mapping is courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

Glossary

- BGS - British Geological Survey
- DBA – Desk Based Assessment
- DES – Discovery and Excavation Scotland
- CIfA – Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- HES – Historic Environment Scotland
- HET – Historic Environment Team (Highland Team)
- HHER – Highland Historic Environment Record
- NGR – National Grid Reference
- NLS – National Library of Scotland
- OS – Ordnance Survey
- PAW – Previous Archaeological Work

Location

The site is located at Evelix Quarry on the north side of Canmore Woods, to the west of Dornoch and east of the A9, Highland. The extension is to the west of the current quarrying area in what is currently open field land.

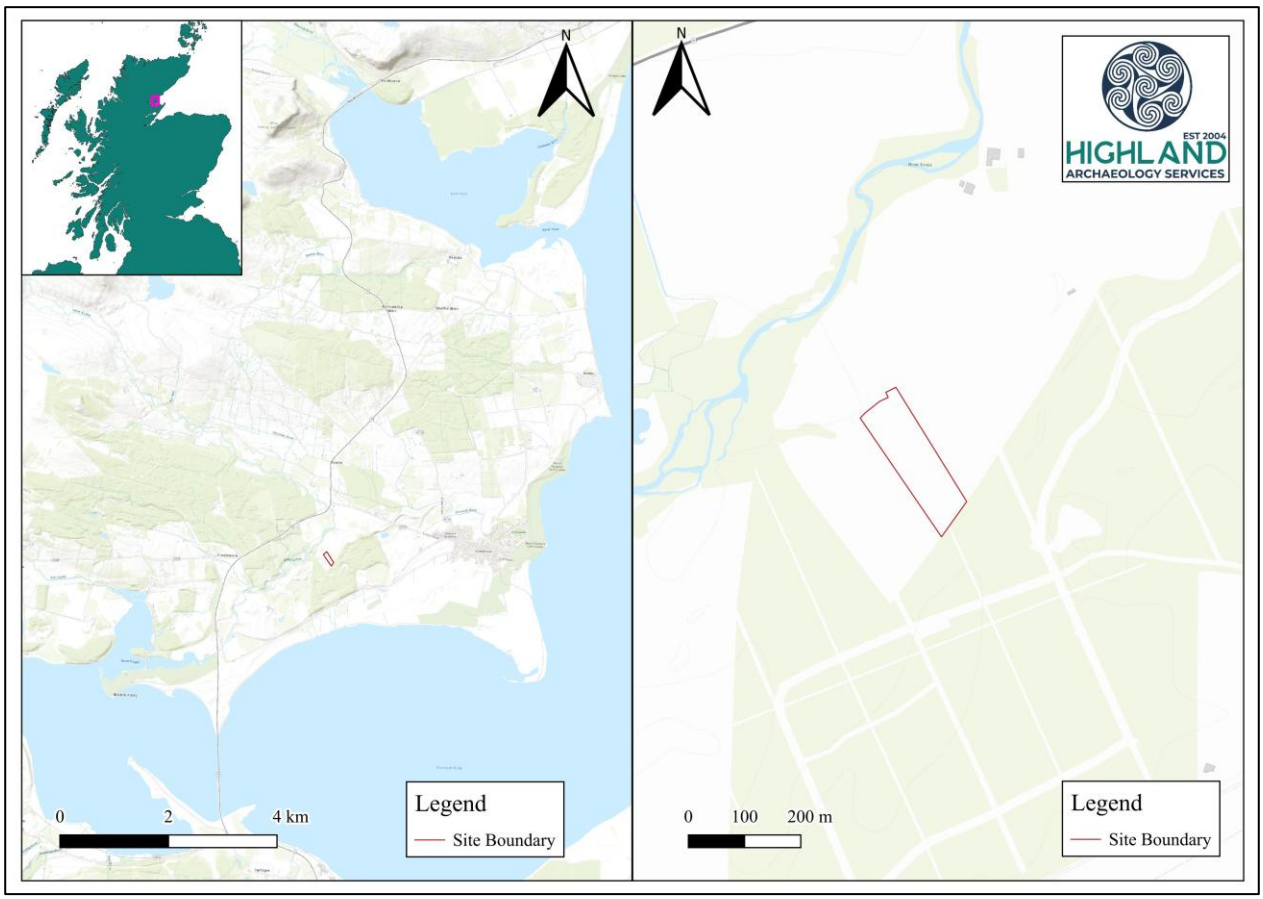


Figure 1: Site location and approximate boundary of the development area
From OS mapping, reproduced under Licence. Not to original scale

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 agreements, UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national and local planning policies.[1]

Professional standards maintained throughout the present project adhered to the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.[2]

[1] A summary of relevant international, EU, UK and Scottish legislation and policies is available from the HAS office on request.
[2] Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Excavation.

Introduction

An archaeological Evaluation was commissioned in order to facilitate the development of the extension to Evelix quarry, Dornoch. The fieldwork was in accordance with an agreed WSI approved by Highland Council Historic Environment Team.' Some slight variations top the WSI were made due to the presence of a fence and a natural esker formation, with trenches re-positioned to cover the prescribed 7% coverage across the site. A Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was conducted prior to arrival on site and is detailed below.

The plot was largely situated in an area of farmland adjacent to Evelix quarry. Fieldwork was undertaken between 1st and 3rd of September 2025. The work took place in dry and largely sunny conditions.

This project sought to identify and record archaeological remains that were present within the footprint of the development. This DSR presents the data for archaeological features, deposits and finds that were recorded during the development works.

Desk Based Assessment

An area of roughly 1km around the proposed development site has been examined in order to understand the archaeological and historical character of the surrounding and immediate area. This has included a study of the British Geology Societies (BGS) records (via Geology Viewer), Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER), the national historic record database (via Pastmap), publicly available historic mapping through the National Library of Scotland's online facility, the Ordnance Survey Namebook records and the Old and New Statistical Accounts of Scotland.

Geology

The underlying Bedrock at the quarry is Raddery Sandstone Formation. This is part of a large formation forming the cost from Golspie to Muir of Ord. The Superficial deposits consist of two bands crossing the site. On the south side Glaciofluvial Ice Contact Deposits consisting of gravel, sand and silt are recorded. The north side is recorded as Raised Marine Deposits, Devensian - again consisting of gravel, sand and silt. This site has been utilised for quarrying due to its superficial geology and the prevalence of sand and gravel in the area has made it a popular area for quarrying. The presence of upstanding glacial eskers are striking in this area and are rare in the north of Scotland.

Historic Environment Record

An investigation of available sources has been undertaken in order to establish a baseline of previously recorded archaeological sites both within and in the immediate vicinity of the development area. This has included research of the Highland Council HER and the NRHE's Pastmap facility. A full list of identified assets is presented in the appendix (**Table 1**). The most significant of these results are presented here.

Designated features

There are four designated features noted within a kilometre of the site. These consist of three Scheduled Monuments and a single category B Listed Building.

The most significant of these are the two Scheduled Monuments located a little to the south and east of the current quarry extension within Camore wood. These are Camore Wood, Settlement (**DBA 1**) and Davochfin Chambered Cairn (**DBA 2**).

The chambered cairn (**DBA 2**) is a neolithic burial site and survives as a low stony mound 17m by 14m containing slabs thought to have originally made up the chamber where the burials would have been housed. This is separated from the current quarry by both forestry plantation and the substantial natural esker or linear glacial mound.

The 'settlement' (**DBA 1**) is a much more complex arrangement of hut circles and cairns probably connected to field systems, many of which will have been disturbed by later woodland activity. While at least 18 hut circles sit within scheduled areas, many other hut circles and cairns have been recorded throughout the wood on its periphery and in the adjoining Sydera Wood (**DBA 12-19**, **DBA 21-25**, **DBA 28-29** & **DBA 32**). Although these latter sites are not scheduled, they do form part of the same prehistoric landscape, probably dating to the Bronze Age and form an important part of the heritage of the area.

The third designated asset noted within the 1km buffer is another chambered cairn to the north west of the site at Evelix Bridge Chambered Cairn (**DBA 3**). This Orkney-Cromarty round cairn still has a large part of the passage evident in the form of an avenue of large stones along with some indication of the chamber location. This is likely to date to the Neolithic.

The final designated feature is the B Listed Evelix Old Bridge (**DBA 4**). This is a single span rubble and dressed-rubble built bridge across the river Evelix and one of the Thomas Telford bridges built around 1815 as part of a large road building program across the Highlands. The bridge is no longer in use but sits just to the east of the current bridge carrying the A9 across the same water course.

There are no Garden & Designed Landscapes, Conservation Areas, Battlefields or World Heritage Sites within or close to the 1km buffer of the quarry extension.

Undesignated
As well as Scheduled and Listed features thirty three undesignated features were noted within 1km.

As stated above sixteen of these are hut circles, possible hut circles or cairns thought to be connected to the extensive hut circle and fields systems around Camore and Sydera Woods (**DBA 12-19**, **DBA 21-25**, **DBA 28-29** & **DBA 32**). These features have been recorded and re recorded over many years and this has created a large number of records often three or four for the same hut circle on the HHER. This has made quantifying these a little challenging but the overall impression of a large and important late prehistoric settlement with field systems is clear.

In addition to the Bronze Age settlement evidence four other features of possible prehistoric date are recorded. These are an Iron Aged burial site noted on the NRHE at Dornoch Bridge Quarry (**DBA 34**) and thought to be connected to the trial trenching undertaken there in 2017 (see PAWS below). A possible ring ditch identified in an aerial image in 1977 but not noted in subsequent trial trenching (**DBA 35**). In addition, a possible ring-ditch is recorded near Cyderhall from aerial photography (**DBA 27**). A feature described as a 'possible henge' (**DBA 36**) is also recorded close to Dornoch Bridge Quarry. This possible henge is oval in shape with an outer bank and inner ditch around a flattened inner area around 13m by 8m. It was apparently excavated with a single trench by the Home Guard during WWII and the trench was de-turfed to confirm its presence in 2017 during trial trenching. Its function and date are still not clear although it may be a funerary monument.

Unusually for the Highlands two Early Medieval dated features are also recorded. One is part of metal detector finds which included a ring headed pin (**DBA 8**) and the second is the reputed burial place of Earl Sigurd or Sigurd the Powerful the infamous Viking (**DBA 33**). The burial site seems to be rather speculative and the location is now within a quarry, however a burial dated to the Early Historic period was recovered during trail trenching at Dornoch Bridge Quarry in 2017 (see PAWS below). The dates however were a little late for Sigurd

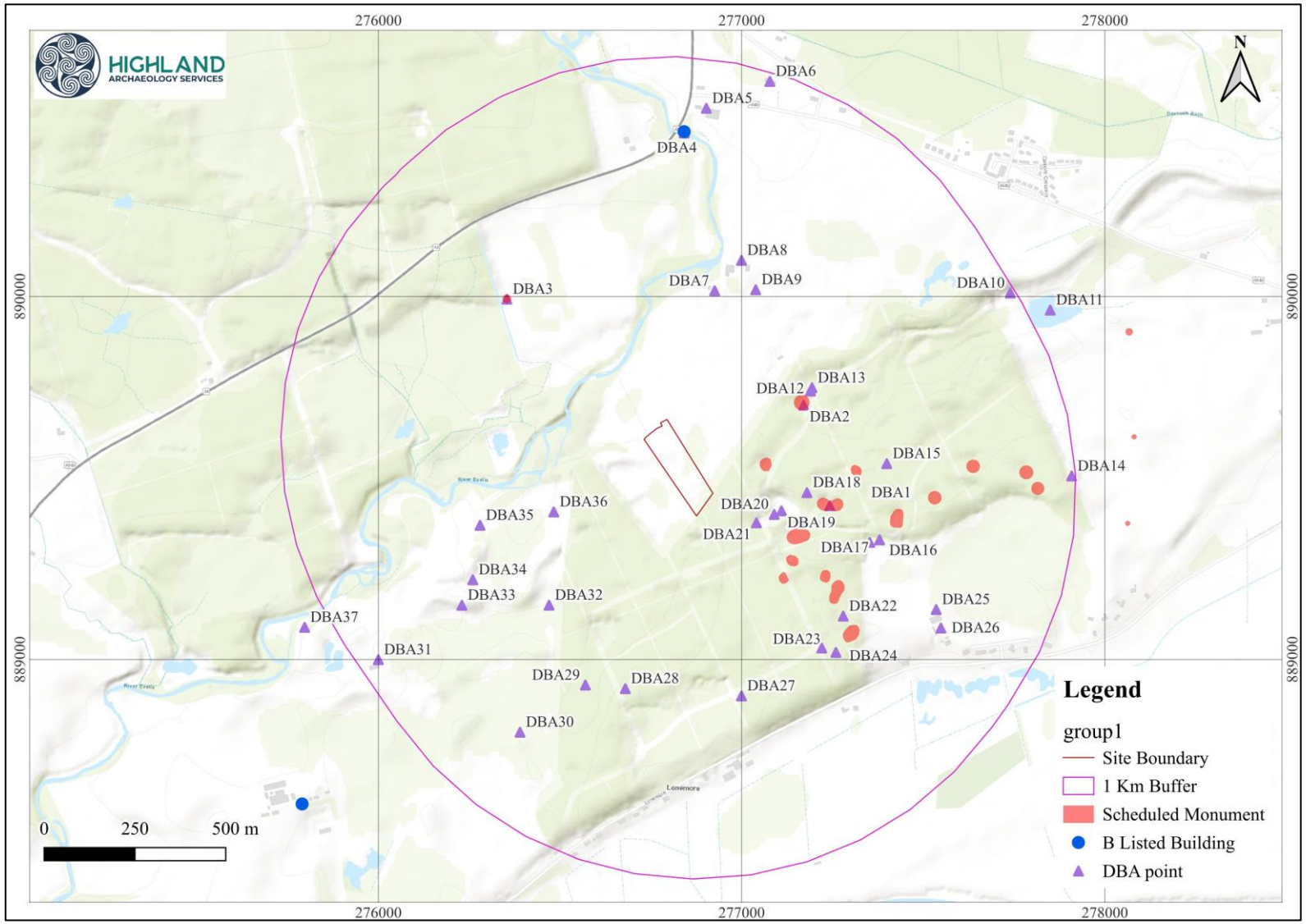


Figure 2: DBA points within or close to survey area

All the remining features noted within the rough 1km buffer were Post-medieval in date. These include some important structures including a court house near Evelix Farmhouse dating to the 1600's (**DBA 9**). This survived as footings until at least 1971 and is supposed to have had a gallows tree somewhere nearby. Along with a scattering of other farms and a mill (**DBA 37**) noted across the area an 'eviction settlement' is also recorded from what is now Dornoch Bridge Quarry (**DBA 31**). The record for this site includes a plan showing a series of sub rectangular footings, although it is not clear what date these may have been and not much further information is available. Finally, a Lochen (Loch-An-Treel), to the east of the area, is noted in the HHER as being used for Curling in the 1920's though to the 1970's (**DBA 11**).

Historic Maps

One of the earliest publicly available maps of the area is Roy's military map of Scotland, drawn around 1750.[3] This depicts the River Evelix in some detail, including the distinctive knot of islands to the west of the proposed development site. Both the river and Evelix House to the north of the site are labelled 'Evlagg.' 'Siderhall' is also depicted to the south-west of the site, with a similar layout of square, tree-lined enclosures as is depicted surrounding Evelix House. However, there are no features of note within the development area aside from some faint lines denoting agricultural fields. There is no woodland depicted at Camore, only open hillsides.

The 1st edition OS map gives much more detail. Surveyed in 1874 both the 25inch and 6 inch editions depict the site area as rough grazing land with enclosed farmland to the north and Camore wood to the south and east (see Figure 3).[4] Within Camore wood various hut circles are depicted. The 2nd edition map surveyed in 1904 shows very little change (see Figure 4).[5]

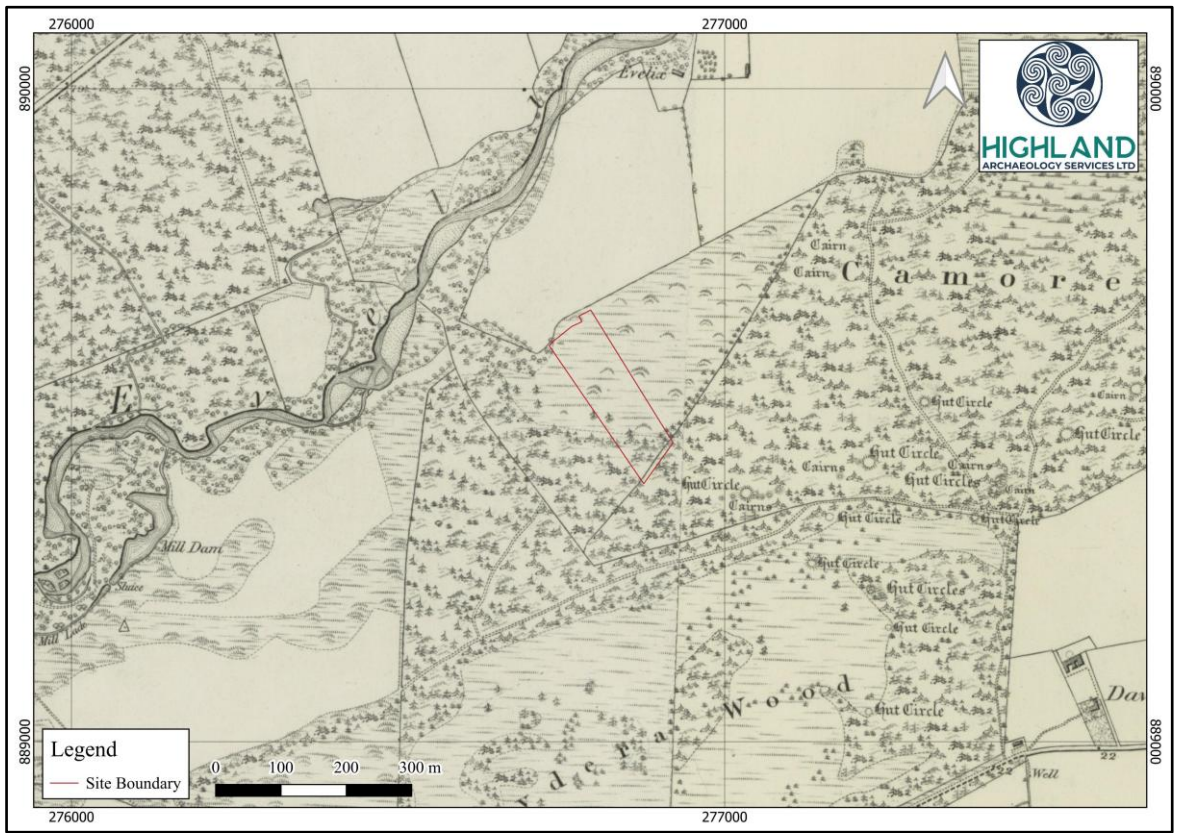


Figure 3: Extract from 1st edition OS 6 inch map surveyed 1874

[3] Roy 1747-52
[4] OS 1st ed 1874
[5] OS 2nd ed 1904

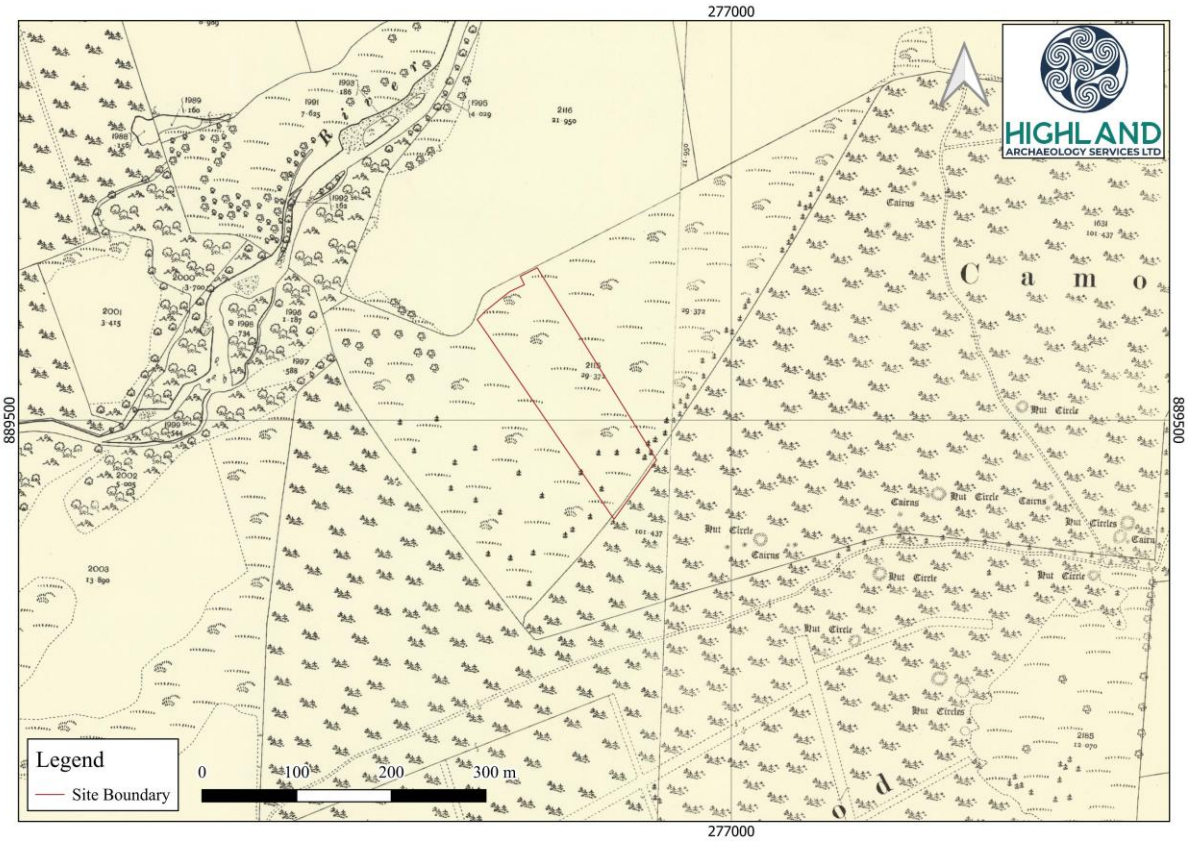


Figure 4: Extract from 2nd edition OS 25 inch surveyed 1904

OS Name book

The Ordnance Survey Name Books were created by surveyors as they mapped Britain in the 1800's. The books record the names of the settlements and natural features that they encountered, and descriptions of the places themselves. The named settlements on the 1st edition map are listed in the Sutherland county Name Book, volume 9.[6]

Evelix - 'Applies to a house which is situated about 1 ½ miles NNE of Clashmore, it is two storey high, stone and in good repair. Property of His Grace the Duke of Sutherland. The offices connected with this house are situated about ¼ of a mile north.'

'Sydera' (alternative spelling: Cyderhall) – name applies to a dwelling house and farm steading, which is situated about ½ a mile south of 'Lower Clashmore' dwelling house is two storey high, farm steading one, slated and in good repair. Property of His Grace the Duke of Sutherland.'

Statistical Accounts

The Old Statistical Account for the parish of Dornoch was written by the Rev. Mr John Bethune. He gave no details of local historical sites but did give a good account of the way in which people lived and the crops that they relied upon. He described a community of tenants surviving on the crops they were able to grow and fuel they could carry from the hills on the backs of their ponies, and that there was little wealth or manufacturing within the parish during his time of writing in the late 18th century.[7]

The New Statistical Account was written by the Rev. Angus Kennedy in 1834. He described the remains of Skelbo castle and asserted that emigration from the parish was purely voluntary. He says

[6] OS1/33/9
[7] Sinclair 1793

that people generally lived in cottages rather than 'feal-houses' and that their principal food was potatoes. Evelix was described as one of the principal farms of the Sutherland Estate at 154 acres.[8]

LiDAR

This area has been subject to LiDAR survey and images are available through the NLS. While no heritage features appear to be visible within the proposed evaluation area/ quarry extension a section of eskers is clearly visible to the west.

The LiDAR data is also very useful in making apparent the many hut circles in Camore wood. These round features are clearly visible including the damaged circle at **DBA16** (**MHG48769**). A further study of this data may help clarify some of the many records for the wood. However, it was felt outwith the scope of the current study to do so.

Other features including the Davochfin Chambered Cairn **DBA 2** and the 'Possible Henge, Sydera Wood' **DBA 36** were also visible on the LiDAR images.

Previous Archaeological Work

Ten instances of previous archaeological work were noted within a kilometre of the proposed quarry extension. These are laid out in Table 2: Previous Archaeological Works in the Appendix. The most relevant information is discussed here.

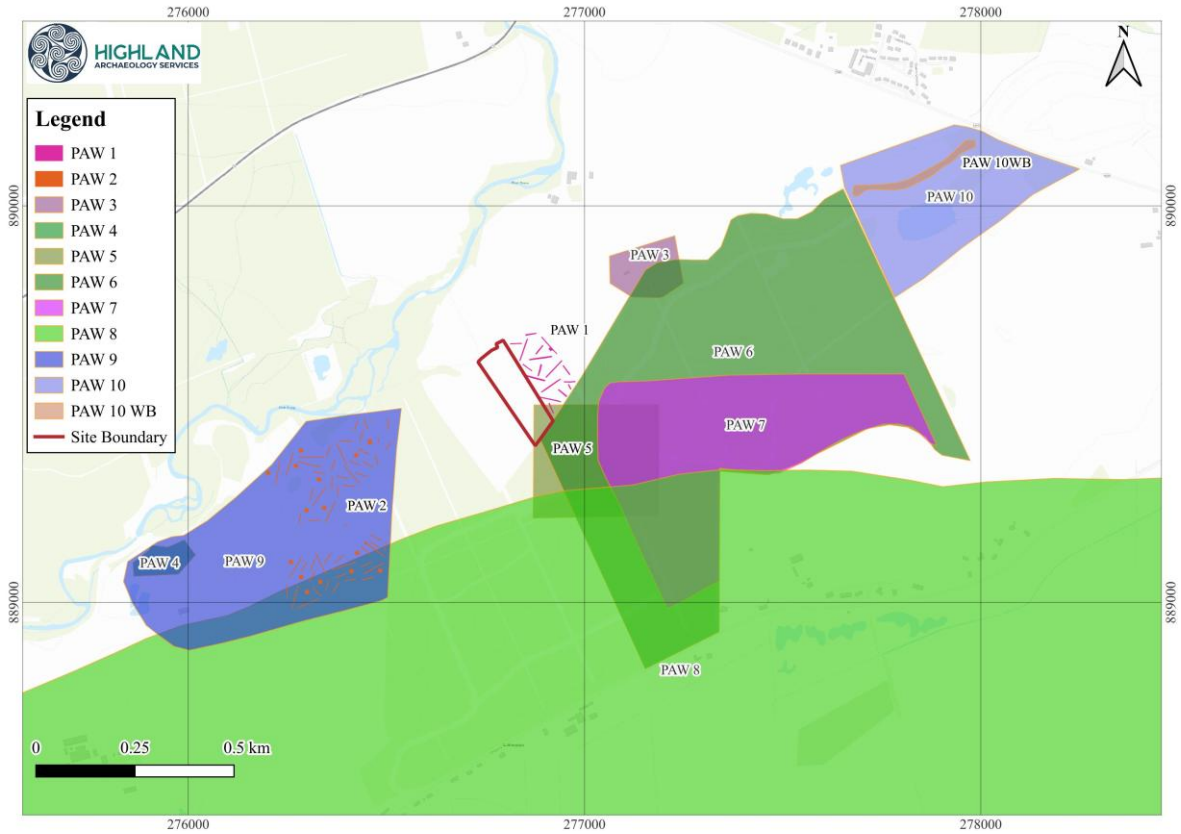


Figure 5: Previous Archaeological Work in vicinity of survey area

The closest previous work was carried out in 2020 just to the east of the current project area in a previous extension to Evelix quarry (**PAW 1**). This trial trenching comprised eighteen trenches with no significant archaeological remains recorded. Further to the west however a trial trenching in 2017 (**PAW 2**) encountered significant remains including three human burials, two cremated and

[8] Gordon 1845

one inhumation as well as investigating **DBA 36**. These remains were found to date to the Middle Iron Age as well as the Early Historic period although the dates for the early historic inhumation were too late to be those of Sigard the Powerful (see **DBA 33**). **PAW 2** also revealed a shell midden.

Back to the east of the current quarry extension **PAW3** records a watching brief undertaken in 1998 when the first parts of Evelix quarry were being stripped. This seems to have uncovered a group of seventeen features but a lack of finds and no apparent further work means their date and function is unclear.

On the south side of the current site and apparently partly overlapping it **PAW5** is a walkover survey undertaken in 2007 ahead of a proposed amphitheatre. This recorded two new turf dykes as well as a shell midden disturbed by tree roots.

The final PAWs thought to be relevant to the current work is **PAW 7** which was undertaken in 2023 and involved the recording of all the hut circles forming Scheduled Monument **SM5898** and targeted excavations of three damaged by forestry works. The closest feature 'Site 1' was the isolated northern hut circle closest to the current site **MHG32303** (part of **DBA 1**). This was found to have multiple floor layers and produced an impressive barbed and tanged arrow head and unfinished stone spindle whorl or pendant. Dating showed a long period of activity from the Middle Bronze Age to the Middle Iron Age.

Discussion & Conclusion

The DBA of the area surrounding the proposed quarry extension highlights an extensive and rich heritage including prehistoric, early historic and post medieval features. The most significant and relevant of these are the extensive hut circle and field system found in Camore Wood with the closest known features less than 200m from the current site. These have been shown in recent excavations (in 2023) to be multi period with activity surviving from both the Bronze and Iron Age as well as containing important finds. These findings back up the site's national importance signified by its scheduled status. This rich prehistoric landscape is backed up with findings from Dornoch Bridge Quarry just over 300m to the west of the current site, where a possible funerary monument as well as Iron Age cremations were found.

In addition to these prehistoric features a rare early historic burial was also found at Dornoch Bridge Quarry close to the Iron Age remains, implying a continuation of the importance of the area into this later time. The areas historic links to the Viking Sigurd and the placename of Cyderhall a little to the west only further highlight the importance of the area at this time.

Although no medieval remains were highlighted in the DBA the town of Dornoch is situated less than 3km to the east and the area would certainly have been occupied in this period, although no dated remains have been recovered.

Finally, the post medieval activity around the site is also interesting. In particular, a little to the north of the site at Evelix House with its court and gallows tree apparently dating back to the 1600's.

The apparent anomaly here is the trial trenching undertaken in 2020 partly on the current site and up to its eastern edge, where no significant archaeological finds were encountered. This does not, however, take away the very high potential for archaeological remains in the proposed extension area but is a reminder that even in the busiest landscape some open space is possible.

The fieldwork

Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the fieldwork stage of the project were:

- To establish what is previously known about the site and potentially related features in the vicinity of the development.
- To evaluate the site for the proposed quarry extension in order to identify and characterise significant archaeological remains and finds that may be affected by the proposed development.
- To present and disseminate the archaeological evidence gathered during the fieldwork and the research potential that evidence has to elucidate the history of the site.

Methodology

The evaluation survey took place between 1st and 3rd September 2025 in dry and mostly sunny conditions. Thirteen trenches were opened during the fieldwork, with two of these trenches (1 and 3) being split due to the presence of a fence line. An extant drainage ditch and glacial esker to the north-west of the site, as well as a steep-sided escarpment along the site's north-west boundary, prompted the reconfiguration of the proposed trench alignments in this area. The area stripped was approximately 2,112m² covering 11% of a 19,212m² zone to facilitate the enlargement of Evelix quarry. The trenches and features from the evaluation survey are shown on the map below (**Figure 6**).

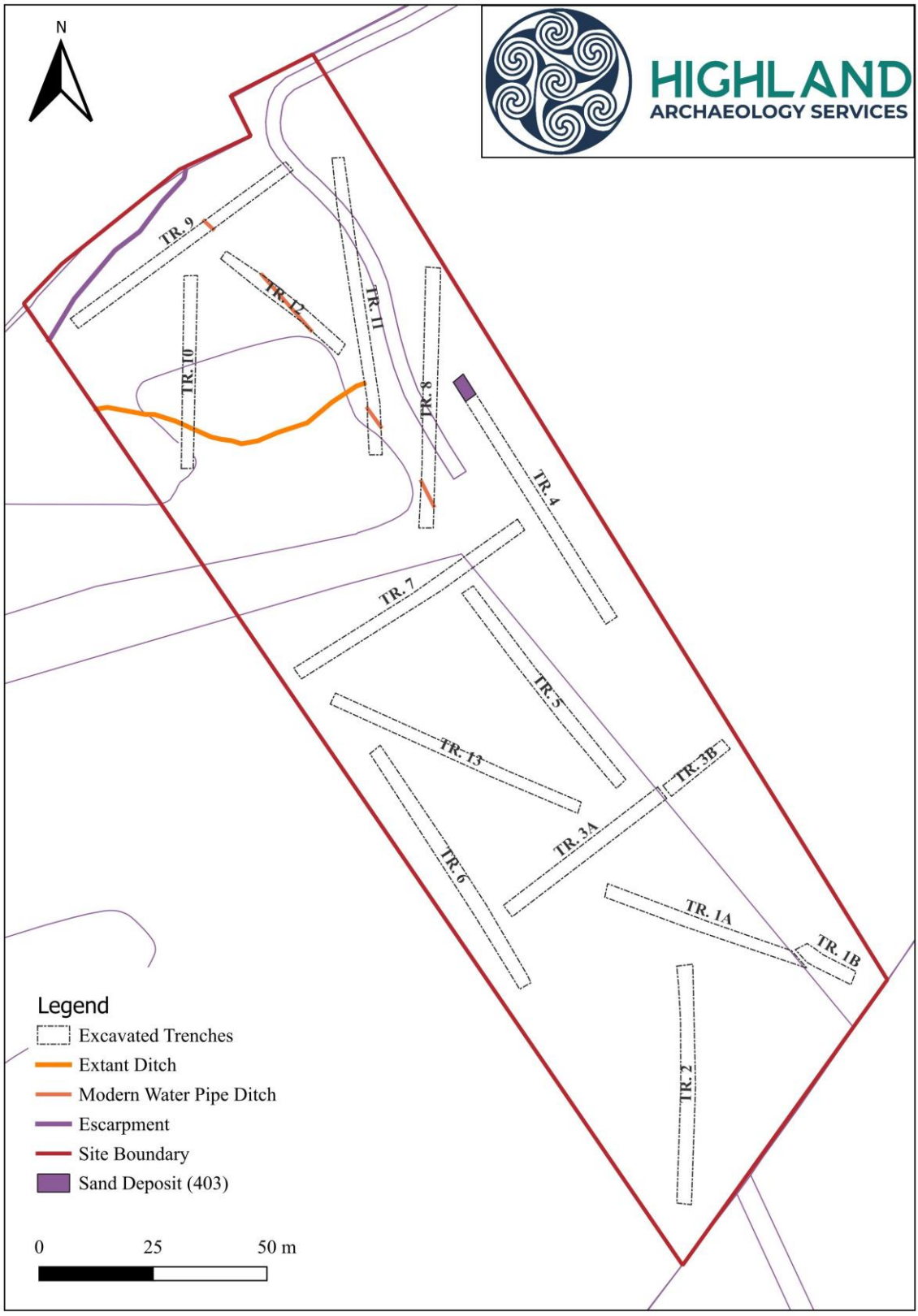


Figure 6: Excavated trenches and recorded features.

Description of Recorded Archaeology

A modern water pipe trench running north-west by south-east was identified (**Figure 7**: Photograph looking south-east of trench 12 showing the modern linear water pipe trench (Photo: 3206). following a linear alignment spanning trenches 8, 9, 11 and 12 and can be associated with a water trough visible to the north of Trench 7. A confined 2x5m area of made up ground, composed of sand at the northern end of Trench 4, was noted to be of modern date due to the presence of an aluminium topped glass drinks bottle (**Figure 8**: View looking south-east in trench 4 showing the made up ground sand deposit (403) of modern date (Photo: 3177).. The topsoil was consistent across the entire site, this being composed of a dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent, mixed medium to small rounded stones. The natural subsoil consisted of an orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones, though a mottled mid to dark orangey brown colouration was noted in several areas. No archaeological features were identified during the fieldwork.



Figure 7: Photograph looking south-east of trench 12 showing the modern linear water pipe trench (Photo: 3206).



Figure 8: View looking south-east in trench 4 showing the made up ground sand deposit (403) of modern date (Photo: 3177).

Discussion & Conclusions

The complete lack of archaeological features on the site can be regarded as relatively surprising given the number of known sites in the immediate area (see DBA data in **Table 1**) and can be tentatively associated with the destruction of features by agricultural processes in the past. This was evidenced by the shallow topsoil and plough scarring of the subsoil noted in Trench 5, while ploughing was reported by the plant operator in recent years (Pers. Comm., Plant Operator).

Recommendations

Given the lack of significant remains, no further work is recommended.

Archive

A copy of this report will be deposited with the Highland Council for inclusion in the Historic Environment Record and with OASIS under report number highland4-536573. A summary report will also be automatically generated to DES and the project archive will be submitted to HES following completion. The site archive comprises entirely digital records including photographs, registers and GIS files. These will be processed and submitted to HES following completion of the project in accordance with their published guidance. There are no archaeologically significant artefacts and therefore no submission will be made to the Treasure Trove Unit.

References

Guidance

ALGAO Scotland Before the Museum: Guidance on the transfer of Archaeological Assemblages in Scotland from Developer Funded Projects 2025 https://algao.org.uk/algao-scotland-museum

CIFA 2023 'Standards and Guidance' various documents Digital available at: https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa

Highland Council 2012 '*Highland Council Standards For Archaeological Work*' [.PDF] Inverness, Highland Council. Available at: https://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/1022/standards_for_archaeological_work

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Robins, G. 1998, '*Evelix Farm, Dornoch: Top-soil strip on proposed site of sand & gravel quarry*' North Highland Archaeology, accessed: https://her.highland.gov.uk/Event/EHG125

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Historic Mapping

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Ordnance Survey, 1904, 2nd edition 25 inch, *Sutherland CXII.8 & CXIII.5*, surveyed 1904, Published 1906. Accessed: https://maps.nls.uk/view/82907556 & https://maps.nls.uk/view/82907574

Roy's Military Map of Scotland, 1747-52, copyright the British Library. Accessed: https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.4&lat=57.87132&lon=-4.07783&layers=3&b=ESRIWorld&o=100

Web Sources

British Geological Survey available at https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/

Highland Council HER: Historic Environment Record available at: https://her.highland.gov.uk/

Historic Land Use Map, Available at https://hlamap.org.uk/

LiDAR Mapping, Available at https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/#zoom=6.3&lat=57.25140&lon=-2.69615&layers=LIDAR_DTM_1m&right=ESRIWorld
National Record of the Historic Environment accessed via Pastmap at: https://pastmap.org.uk/map

OS1/33/9: Sutherland county, volume 9, parish and burgh of Dornoch. OS Name Books Accessed via: https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/virtual-volumes/os-name-books-main

National Record of the Historic Environment accessed via Pastmap at: https://pastmap.org.uk/map

Statistical Accounts

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Sinclair, Sir John. The Statistical Account of Scotland, Dornoch, Sutherland, Vol. 8, Edinburgh: William Creech, 1793, p. 1. University of Edinburgh, University of Glasgow. (1999) The Statistical Accounts of Scotland online service: https://stataccscot.ed.ac.uk:443/link/osa-vol8-p1-parish-sutherland-dornoch

Appendices

Appendix A: Tables

Table 1: DBA Points

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA1	Camore Wood, Settlement	21 Hut circles within Camore wood. These vary in size from 14m to 6.5m across. This covers the Scheduled hut circles other hut circles are not covered in this DBA point	MHG11794, MHG32283, MHG32284, MHG32285, MHG32286, MHG32287, MHG32290, MHG32291, MHG32292, MHG32294, MHG32295, MHG32296, MHG32297, MHG32299, MHG32300, MHG32303, MHG32309, MHG32310, MHG32311, MHG32312, MHG33451, MHG41248, MHG41845, MHG48758, MHG48761, MHG48763, MHG48765, MHG48768	275266, 275267, 275268, 275269, 275272, 275273, 275275, 275276, 275277, 275280	SM5898	277243	889424	Bronze Age

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA2	Davochfin, Chambered Cairn	Remains of an Orkney-Cromarty chambered cairn 17m by 14m and up to 1.5m high. Within Camore wood. At least three slabs are visible in the cairn. This cairn is scheduled	MHG11749	14614	SM5493	277171	889701	Neolithic
DBA3	Evelix Bridge, Chambered Cairn	Orkney-Cromarty round cain with parts of passage and chamber still extant. Around 21 metres across with stone evident. Scheduled	MHG11752	14617	SM1789	276354	889993	Neolithic
DBA4	Evelix Old Bridge	Single span rubble built bridge with dressed rubble arch over River Evelix. Thought to have been constructed by Thomas Telford c.1815. Category B Listed	MHG11743	14846	LB609	276842	890451	
DBA5	Evelix Farm	Farm buildings including multi phase barn complex shown as roofed E shape on 1st edition map (1874). Additionally, two semi-detached farm houses are currently visible to the north west of the barn with a single structure shown on first edition.	MHG23793	112305	-	276903	890519	Post Medieval
DBA6	Evelix Cottage	A possible late C19 steading at Evelix. The cottage appears on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS Map which puts it at the latest possible date of 1875, although an earlier date is probable. A photographic survey was undertaken under the conditions of a planning application, in July 2007	MHG51201	-	-	277078	890593	Post Medieval

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA7	Evelix House	A house apparently referenced in 'The Industrial Archaeology of Sutherland (A Scottish Highland Economy 1700-1900)' by Sinclair B Calder, 1974	MHG11741	14844	-	276926	890016	Post Medieval
DBA8	MD assemblage - Camore	13 finds from metal detecting 'near Camore wood'. Including part of a ring headed pin, highland brooches, buckles and an example of a 17th-18th century Jew's harp. Also included is a lid from a 17th century weight set made in Nuremberg. Findspot is a grid square corner.	MHG61261	-	-	277000	890100	Early Historic & Post Medieval
DBA9	Court House Nr Evelix Farmhouse	The location of a court house dating to the 1600's is recorded at this location. It was apparently later made into a barn before being demolished. It accordingly survived as ruins in 1971 when visited by the OS. A gallows tree is also noted to have been close by.	MHG11737	14840	-	277039	890019	Post Medieval
DBA10	Cnoc Chaisteal, Evelix	The reputed site of a watch tower from 1570 on a high peace of ground with good views. Despite the story no good evidence for the structure is noted apart from a flattened peace of ground reported in 1955 and not apparently visible in 1971.	MHG11736	14839	-	277740	890010	Post Medieval
DBA11	Curling Pond - Loch-An-Treel	Records including photographs exist in Historylinks Museum, Dornoch of this Lochen being used for curling in 1920s, 1930s and 1970s.	MHG61288	-	-	277850	889963	Post Medieval
DBA12	Cairn, Camore Wood	The site of one of many cairns in Camore woods this example is not designated	MHG11793,	14624	-	277190	889740	Bronze Age?

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA13	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	A hut circle part of MH11794 is also recorded at this location this is the most northerly of this group and somewhat isolated from the rest.	MH11794	-	-	277194	889749	Bronze Age
DBA14	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	A hut circle within the MH11794 main area is also recorded separately at this location. It appears to have been recorded by plan table survey by the Dornoch heritage Society in 1994 and the plan is available on the HER	MHG33450	-	-	277909	889506	Bronze Age
DBA15	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	This hut circle was recorded here during survey work in this area of Dornoch parish in 1993 within the MH11794 main area. It apparently measures 7m in diameter and is located on the S slope of the hillside. There is an E entrance and the interior had two trees which have blown over, revealing a lot of water-rounded stones, forming part of the structure. This circle is not designated.	MHG48759, MHG32298	275271	-	277400	889540	Bronze Age
DBA16	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	The remains of the south wall of a hut circle apparently located right on the edge of the wood and reported as damaged by a ditch and dear fence within the MH11794 main area. This was apparently first described by the RCAHMS in 1911 and visited in 1993 by S J T Robertson. This is undesignated.	MHG48769, MHG32308	275281	-	277380	889330	Bronze Age
DBA17	Hut Circle, Clost to Camore Wood	A hut circle forming part of the MH11794 group is recorded at this location however it appears to be in open ploughed field and nothing is visible in the LiDAR images. This is undesignated	MH11794	-	-	277353	889323	Bronze Age

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA18	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	An undesignated hut circle is recorded at this location by the Dornoch Heritage Society (Site K 15). They record it as c14m in diameter with a wall spread to 2m. The entrance is apparently in the ENE and a lynchet (bank) supposedly curves to W from NW arc of the hut.	MHG32302	-	-	277180	889460	Bronze Age
DBA19	Cairn, Camore Woods	A cairn is marked at this location on the 1st edition OS map. Now the site of a quarry (DBA 20)	MHG32301	-	-	277110	889410	Bronze Age?
DBA20	Quarry, Camore Wood	Site of apparently disused quarry	MHG52768	-	-	277090	889400	Post Medieval
DBA21	Hut Circle and cairn, Camore Wood	Apparent site of undesignated Hut circle and cairn damaged by quarry. Recorded by Dornoch Heritage Society as Site M 18. Noted as c9.5m N-S with wall spread to c4m. There was apparently evidence of an entrance in W but this was damaged along with the destruction of the E arc of the hut.	MHG11794, MHG32304, MHG41870, MHG48762	275274	-	277041	889377	Bronze Age
DBA22	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	An undesignated hut circle is recorded at this location, within the MHG11794 area. recorded by the Dornoch Heritage Soc as site V 27. the circle was set into W slope and c8m diameter. The wall spread is recorded as c2m with no entrance visible. It was attached to NNE circular hollow c4m diameter and bounded by traces of stone wall which extends from S side of the hut	MHG32295	-	-	277280	889120	Bronze Age

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA23	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	An undesignated hut circle within MHG11794 area and recorded separately as part of that record. It was also recorded by the Dornoch Heritage Society as site U 26. It is apparently c10m in diameter with wall spread to c3m. The W quadrant is recorded as destroyed.	MHG32288, MHG48767, MHG11794	275279	-	277221	889032	Bronze Age
DBA24	Hut Circle, Camore Wood	An undesignated hut circle within MHG11794 area and recorded separately as part of that record. Also recorded by Dornoch Heritage Society as site Y 30. Noted as c10m in diameter with wall spread up to c 2.5m. No entrance was visible.	MHG32289, MHG11794	-	-	277260	889020	Bronze Age
DBA25	Hut Circle, Camore Wood/ Davochfin Farm	The record for an undesignated isolated hut circle is noted as part of the MHG11794 group outwith the Camore wood at Davochfin Farm. This is a record apparently created based on the first edition map where a round feature is noted agenised the north wall of the E shaped barn at the farm.	MHG11794	-	-	277536	889138	Bronze Age
DBA26	Davochfin Farm	A farm with house and large barn depicted on the first edition map surveyed 1874. No details are given on the record	MHG19608, MHG23864	112310	-	277549	889087	Post Medieval
DBA27	Possible Ring-ditch, Cyderhall	A possible cropmark feature from aerial photo supplied by Jim Bone.	MHG29478	-	-	277000	888900	Prehistoric?
DBA28	Hut Circle, Sydera Wood	A possible hut circle recorded in 1993 in Sydera Wood	MHG48771	275283	-	276680	888920	Prehistoric?
DBA29	Hut Circle, Sydera Wood	A possible hut circle recorded by Dornoch Heritage Society as Site 39 in Sydera Wood	MHG32281	-	-	276570	888930	Bronze Age?

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA30	Cyderhall Farm, Field System	No description available	MHG14303	-	-	276390	888800	?
DBA31	Settlement Cyderhall Farm	Record includes a plan by the Dornoch Heritage Society from 1989 showing what appear to be footings of four or five sub rectangular structures in an area that is now a quarry. Plan describes this as an 'Eviction Settlement'	MHG14302	-	-	276000	889000	Post Medieval
DBA32	Hut Circle, Sydera Wood	An undesignated hut circle is recorded in 1993 a little beyond the west side of Sydera Wood. It is described as mainly destroyed but with an entrance on the north side.	MHG48770, MHG32280	275282	-	276470	889150	Bronze Age
DBA33	Cyderhall Burial	The reputed burial site of Eral Sigurd or Sigurd the Powerful d.875AD on a natural mound or twin toped hillock. The area is now a quarry and no further evidence is presented.	MHG12994	14640	-	276230	889150	Early Historic?
DBA34	Dornoch Bridge Quarry	This location is recorded as a funerary site on the national record with an Iron Age designation. It is likely linked to trial trenching from a little to the north east were Iron Aged cremations were found (see PAWS).		358245	-	276260	889220	Iron Age
DBA35	Ring Ditch, River Evelix	This is a record created based on an aerial photograph taken in 1977 by RCAHMS. The area has since been trial trenched (see PAWS)	MHG11828	14627	-	276280	889370	?

DBA No.	Name	Description	HHER ID	NRHE ID	Designation ID	Easting	Northing	Period
DBA36	Possible Henge, Sydera Wood	A 13m by 8m ditched enclosure just clipped on its west side by the modern field / ploughing. This was recorded by the Dornoch Heritage Society in 1992 and at this time a trench cut by the Home Gurd during WWII was also recorded. This trench was de turfed in 2017 but no further work was undertaken (See PAWS). Its date and function are unknown.	MHG11795	14626	-	276483	889407	?
DBA37	Sydera Mill	A corn mill building connected to a long mill race and dam running off the river Evelix are shown on the first edition map with the ruins of the building still shown on modern mapping.	MHG32282	-	-	275797	889089	Post Medieval

Table 2: Previous Archaeological Works

PAW No.	Name	Description	HER No.	NRHE ID
PAW 1	Evelix TT 2020	Trial trenching was undertaken in 2020 for an extension of Evelix quarry. Eighteen trenches were opened but no features thought to be significant were recorded.	EHG5767	369796
PAW 2	Dornoch Bridge Quarry TT Extension Phase 5-9	Trial trenching undertaken in 2017 for extension to Dornoch Bridge Quarry Phase 5 to 9. Included de turfing of old trench over DBA 36 recorded as a 'possible henge' but interpreted as a possible funerary monument by the modern excavator. This Trial Trenching also recorded two cremations and a poorly preserved inhumation together with a shell midden and a group of post pads possibly belonging to a timber structure. The cremations were dated to c 400 to c 200 cal BC, or the middle Iron Age while the inhumation was dated to 998-1155 cal AD. This is particularly interesting in connection to the reputed site of Sigurd the Powerful burial so close by but are too late for the man himself.	EHG5372	358245
PAW 3	Evelix Farm, Dornoch WB	A watching brief carried out at the far east end of Evelix Quarry site in 1998. This revealed seventeen features but no finds were recovered or any pattern noted to imply a structure. Although samples are recorded as being taken no further information is available.	EHG125	140907
PAW 4	Cyderhall, Dornoch TT	A walkover and limited trial trenching were undertaken in 1998 for the extension of a gravel extraction pit now forming a small part of Dornoch Bridge Quarry. The four trenches opened were found to be clear of archaeological features.	EHG353	-

PAW No.	Name	Description	HER No.	NRHE ID
PAW 5	DBA and walkover survey - Camore Wood	"A desk Based Assessment and Walkover Survey were undertaken in 2007 very close to the current site within Camore Wood ahead of the proposed development of an open air amphitheatre with associated infrastructure. It recorded previously identified hut circles as well as two new turf dykes and a shell midden. Turf Dyke 1 NC 7680 8925 to NC 7745 8935, Turf Dyke 2: NC 7695 8923 to 7725 8935 and midden at: NC 7696 8928. It is not clear that the survey extended beyond the woodland on to the current site.	EHG1558	-
PAW 6	Camore and Sidera Wood, Prehistoric Dornoch	This area denotes a survey undertaken by Prehistoric Dornoch volunteers within the wood looking at the hut circle and associated features. These are laid out in the text of a talk delivered in November 1993. The talk was illustrated although the slides are not available on the HHER. This appears however to be confined to the woodland and the huts recorded in other records in the HHER.	EHG703	-
PAW 7	Walkover and measured surveys - Camore Wood, Dornoch	A survey and remedial works were undertaken in 2023 following damage to scheduled hut circle in Camore Woods. This included a survey of all parts of SM5898, followed by trenching across three of the damaged hut circles. The most extensive trenching was on 'Site 1' MHG32303 the Scheduled Hut Circle closest to the current site. This revealed floor layers as well as finds including a barbed and tanged arrow head and unfinished stone spindle whorl or pendant. Radio Carbon dates indicate both Middle Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age activity.	EHG6102 EHG6103	-
PAW 8	East Sutherland Coastal Zone Assessment Survey	A rapid coastal zone assessment survey was conducted in 2010 covering a stretch of cost from Bonar Bridge to Helmsdale. Although many features were identified the survey elements were all close to the shoreline and thus over a kilometre from the current site.	EHG3315	-
PAW 9	DBA and walkover survey - Dornoch Bridge Proposed Quarry Extension Phase 5-9	A walkover survey was undertaken in 2017 ahead of trial trenching for the extension of Dornoch Bridge Quarry (See PAW 2). DBA 36 was noted but crop marks were noted as not visible.	EHG5373	-
PAW 10	Walkover and Watching Bried land east of Camore Wood	A DBA Walkover Survey was undertaken in 2011 and noted the footings of a possible rectangular structure, a possible borrow pit and a sawmill noted on the 1st edition map. A watching brief was undertaken for a track across the area in 2012. This was designed to avoid identified features and no Archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this fieldwork.	EHG4427 EHG3655	-

Appendix B: Photographic Record

Table 3: Photographic Record

Photo No.	Camera Point	Facing	Description
3171	CP1	NE	General view of site pre excavation
3172	CP2	NW	General view of site pre excavation
3173-3175	CP3	SW-NW	General view of site pre excavation
3176		NW	Post ex Tr. 4
3177		SE	Post ex Tr. 4
3178		NW	Post ex Tr. 5
3179		SE	Post ex Tr. 5
3180		SE	Post ex Tr. 1a
3181		NW	Post ex Tr. 1a
3182		NE	Post ex Tr. 3a
3183		SW	Post ex Tr. 3a
3184		NE	Post ex Tr. 3b
3185		SW	Post ex Tr. 3b
3186		SE	Post ex Tr. 1b
3187		NW	Post ex Tr. 1b
02/09/2025			
3188-9	CP4	N, NW	General shot of site
3190		E	Post ex of Tr. 2
3191		W	Post ex of Tr. 2
3192		S	Post ex of Tr. 6
3193		N	Post ex of Tr. 6
3194		NE	Post ex of Tr. 7
3195		SW	Post ex of Tr. 7
3196		SW	Post ex of Tr. 8
3197		NE	Post ex of Tr. 8
3198		NE	Post ex of Tr. 9
3199		SW	Post ex of Tr. 9
3200		S	Post ex of Tr. 10
3201		N	Post ex of Tr. 10
03/09/2025			
3202	CP5	W	Photo of trench section in Tr. 11
3203		N	Post ex of Tr. 11
3204		S	Post ex of Tr. 11
3205		NW	Post ex. of Tr. 12
3206		SE	Post ex. of Tr. 12
3207		SW	Post ex of Tr. 13
3208		NE	Post ex of Tr. 13

Appendix C: Registers

Table 4: Context Register

Context No.	Area	Length	Width	Depth/ Height	Context Type (Cut, structure, Deposit/Layer/ other)	Method of Excavation	Conditions	Description	Interpretation
101	1	60	2	0.25		Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
102	1	60	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones.
301	3a	42.7	3.1			Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with common medium to small stones.
302	3a	42.7	3.1	0.3	Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent rounded small to medium stones. Mottled mid orangey brown colouration in confined areas.
303	3b	16.3	2.7			Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with common medium to small stones.
304	3b	16.3	2.7	0.3	Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent rounded small to medium stones. Mottled mid orangey brown colouration in confined areas.
401	4	63	3			Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with common medium to small, rounded stones.
402	4	63	3	0.25	Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent rounded small to medium stones. Mottled mid to dark orangey brown colouration in confined areas. A small patch, approx. 0.75m x 0.5m, of pale yellowish brown sand was identified to the NW end of the trench, though appeared ephemeral and non-archaeological upon investigation with

Context No.	Area	Length	Width	Depth/ Height	Context Type (Cut, structure, Deposit/Layer/ other)	Method of Excavation	Conditions	Description	Interpretation
									similar confined deposits noted nearby- potential geological anomalies.
403	4	5	2	-	Before topsoil, after subsoil	Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	At far NW end of trench 4 a noticeable patch of coarse light to mid brownish yellow sand was identified spanning 2m x 5m. Aligns with a dip in the field. Modern "Cruikshanks" bottle and animal bones (probable rabbit) found in it while excavating, suggesting it is made ground of modern date.
501	5	54	2	0.3		Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with common medium to small, rounded stones.
502	5	54	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Mid yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent rounded small to medium stones. Mottled mid to dark orangey brown colouration/staining in confined areas. Several linear NW-SE aligned plough scars. One possible feature examined but not found to be archaeological.
201	2	52	2	0.25		Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
202	2	52	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	Dry and sunny	Same as 102 although brighter orange in eastern end and some grey rooty patches and some plough scores
601	6	62	2	0.3		Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
602	6	62	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones.

Context No.	Area	Length	Width	Depth/ Height	Context Type (Cut, structure, Deposit/Layer/ other)	Method of Excavation	Conditions	Description	Interpretation
701	7	59	2	0.25		Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
702	7	59	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones.
801	8	57	2	0.25		Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
802	8	57	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones, although with patches of pale yellowish brown sand in mid to southern section.
901	9	59	2	0.25		Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
902	9	59	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones. with lense of pale greyish brown silty sand with frequent small, rounded stones at centre of trench.
1001	10	42	2	0.2		Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones. Truncated by modern extant ditch and made up ground at S End of trench with plastic visible throughout.
1002	10	42	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and sunny	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones.
1101	11	65	2	0.45	After topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and cloudy	Redeposited pale yellowish brown silty sand with very frequent small to medium sized rounded stones dumped on top of natural esker formation's topsoil, likely during

Context No.	Area	Length	Width	Depth/ Height	Context Type (Cut, structure, Deposit/Layer/ other)	Method of Excavation	Conditions	Description	Interpretation
									digging of extant ditch to the north and west of trench 11.
1102	11	65	2	0.2		Deposit	Machine	dry and cloudy	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
1103	11	65	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and cloudy	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones. although interspersed with patches of light whiteish grey silty sand. Linear ditch visible at S end of trench cut for modern plastic water pipe.
1201	12	33	2	0.25		Deposit	Machine	dry and cloudy	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
1202	12	33	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine	dry and cloudy	Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones.
1301	13	59	2	0.35		Deposit	Machine	dry and overcast	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil mixed with frequent medium to small mixed stones.
1302	13	59	2		Before topsoil	Deposit	Machine		Orange sandy silt with very frequent rounded medium to large stones with some sandy and gravelly silt.

Appendix D: Camera Point Figure

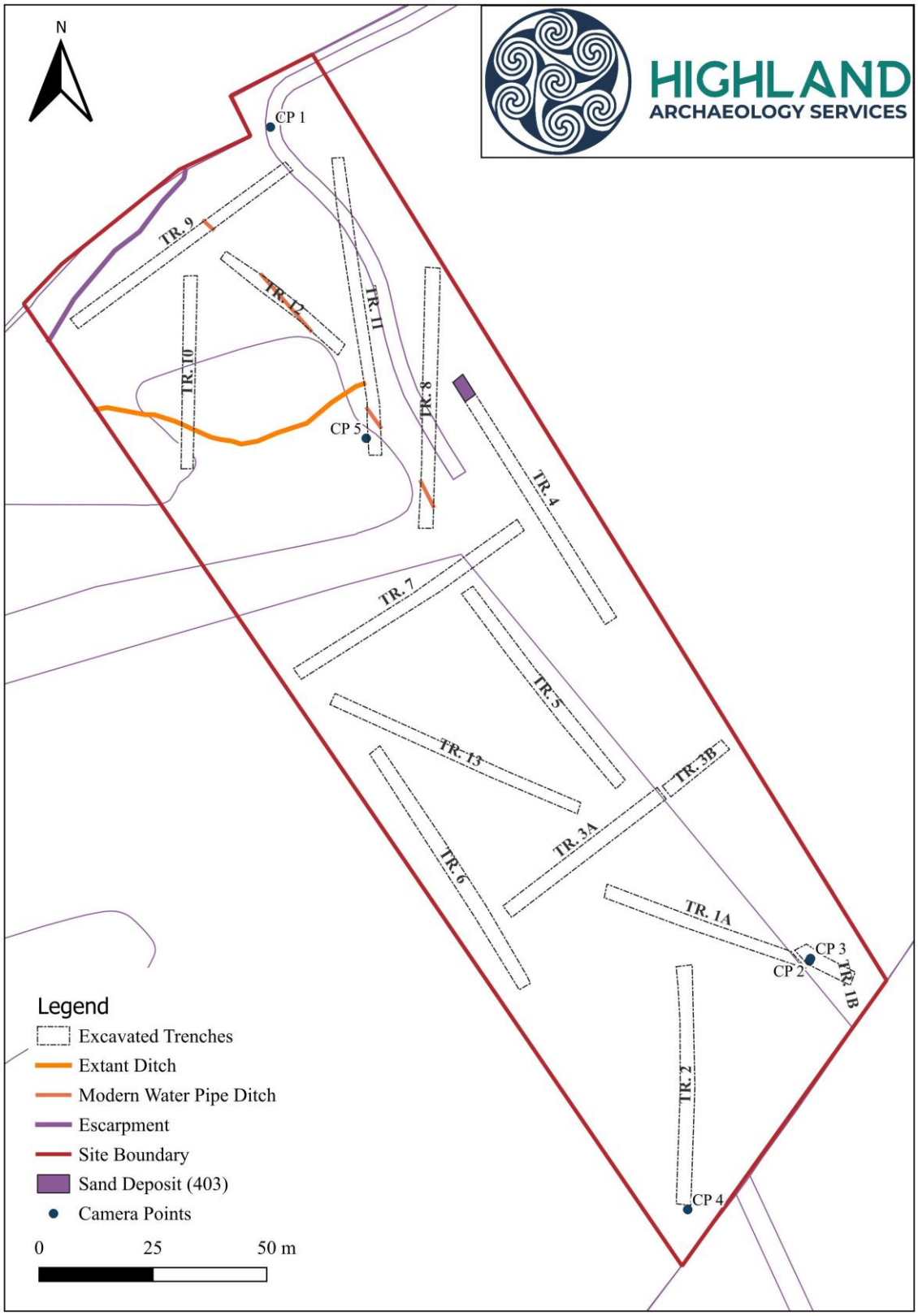


Figure 9: Camera Points