

**Report of Archaeological Desktop
& Walkover Survey
Dalraddy Quarry, Highland
NH 848 / 073 (centred)**

**By
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Introduction

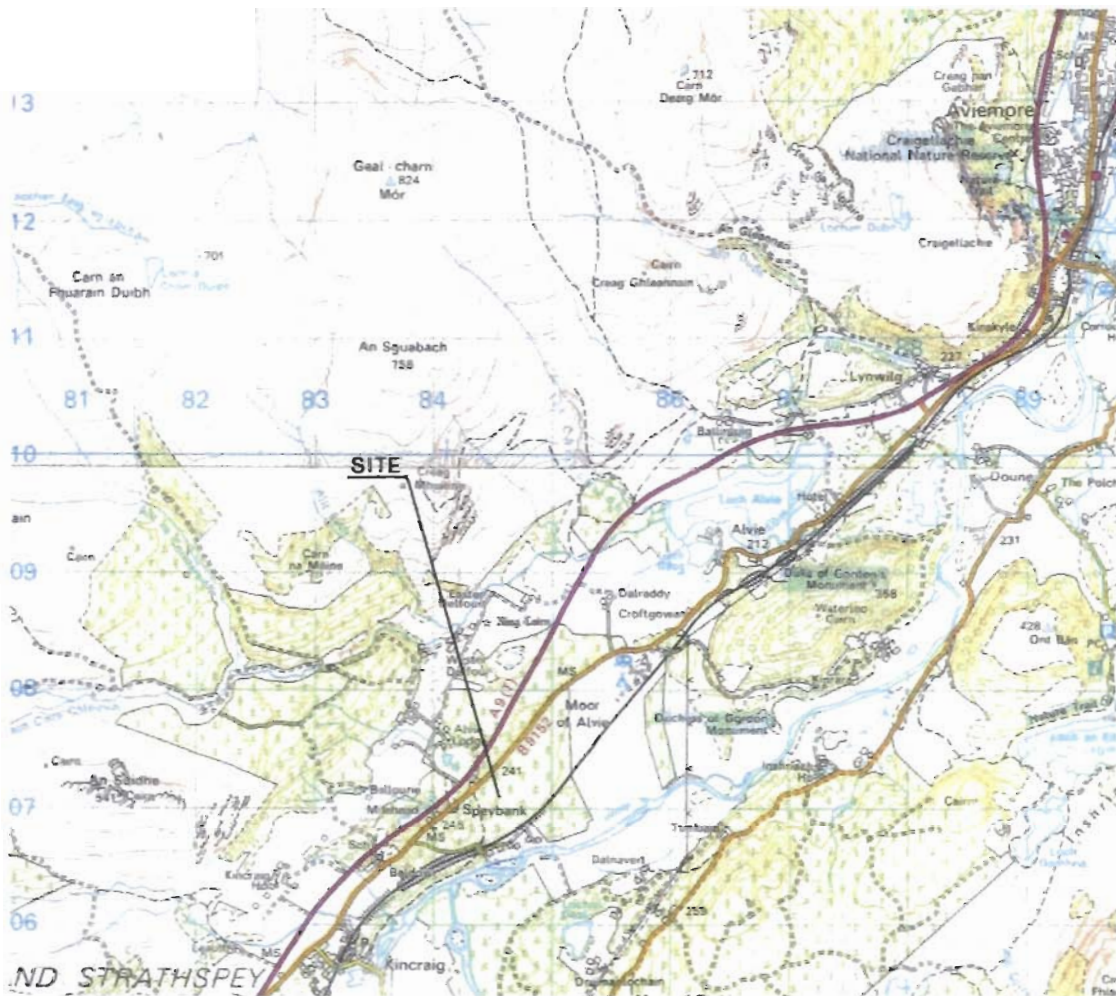
This report is for a desktop and walkover survey conducted on behalf of G F Job Ltd by the author for proposed sand and gravel quarry at Dalraddy, by Alvie, Highland.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Mr. A Johnstone, of G F Job Ltd;
- Staff of the Highland Council Archives;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location



Produced by

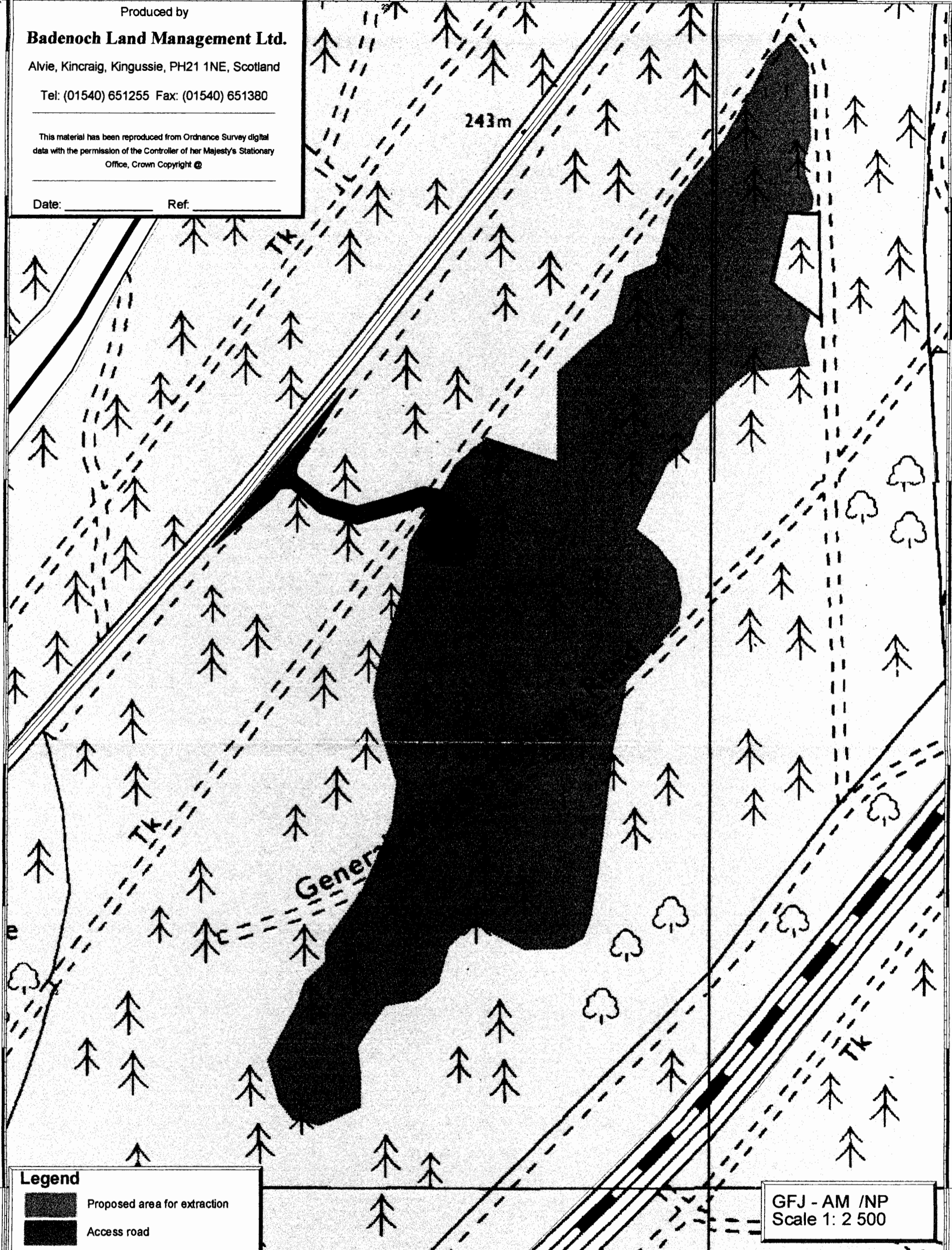
Badenoch Land Management Ltd.

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Legend

-  Proposed area for extraction
-  Access road
-  A9(T)
-  Conifer wood
-  Deciduous wood

GFJ - AM /NP
Scale 1: 2 500

Proposed Gravel Extraction Alvie Moor

Scale 1: 2500

Historical Background

The area of the development lies in an area of former woodland (Estate records show that the area was re-planted in the 1920's and felled in 1995-6). Currently only the following site is recorded in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record:

- NH80NE 119 – General Wade's Military Road, Alvie – with line of road marked at NH 8555/0788

The road was built under the auspices of General Wade, who had been appointed Commander-in-chief for North Britain on the 24th of December 1724. The road was built in the period 1728-30 as part of the Government's attempt to curb any future Jacobite rebellion by the quick movement of troops.

The road is indicated on the 1st edition of the OS map of 1874 (See below) with the area being former woodland.



A survey report of the military roads in Highland (Logie, 1997) records the following about this stretch of road "Again the track, stony and overgrown, is around 4 metres wide between low banks..... track becomes fainter just before Alvie Gate and saplings have been planted on top of the route through this area".

Between 1798 and 1813 the military road was superseded by the nearby B9152. The former military road was later utilised by the estate for use of forestry and access, as evident in the gate in the deer fence marking site boundary (See photo 2) to the east edge of the proposed development area.

There is no information of any kind in relation to the development area in the Highland Council Archives.

Walkover Results

Site Conditions

The area under investigation is an area of felled former woodland with some native birch and spruce surviving, and forms an irregular shaped piece of ground. Weather on the day of work (1st September 2001) was slightly overcast but bright.

An inspection of the area centred at NH 848 / 573 showed no additional archaeological features to be visible. The military road was the only feature noted (NH 8430/0717 to NH 8484/0734) and survives as a shallow depression 4 metres wide with associated bank (See photos 1 & 2). There is currently no sign of any associated ditches or features of this stretch of road.

As noted by Logie (1997) there is traces of the road being formerly planted (See photo 3) and that to the west the line of the road is not so visible, being lost in an adjacent area of new woodland plantation.

Recommendations

The following recommendations with regards to this development project are to be proposed:

- Conduct an EDM survey of the stretch of road within the development area. ✓
- Conduct a trial trenching of the road.
- Conduct a watching brief of the stripping of topsoil in the vicinity of the road to see if any drains or features survive under the heather. ✓

Archive

Photographs and negatives will be deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Copies (digital will be ok) here.

References

Highland Sites and Monuments Record database entries NH80NE 119.

IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.

Logie, M. (1997) Dunkeld to Inverness : An assessment of the 18th century military roads which lie within the Highland Council boundaries. Unpublished report. Copy held by Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries NH80NW 35.

Taylor, W (1996) The Military Roads in Scotland. House of Lochar. Colonsay. (Revised edition)

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Top – Photo 1 – View of road facing east.

Bottom – Photo 2 – View of road facing east – showing gate in fence.



Top – Photo 3 – View of stump in edge of road – scale 1m.
Bottom – Photo 4 – View of road facing west.

