

SUAT Ltd

archaeological
contractors



***DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT and EDM SURVEY
of
BEGLAN TOWNSHIP
AVIEMORE
HIGHLAND***

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RW/CAM/AV01

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Abstract

SUAT Ltd was commissioned by Forest Enterprise (Inverness District) to undertake a Desk-based Assessment and Electronic Distance Measuring (EDM) device survey of the deserted township of Beglan, near Aviemore, Highland. The survey succeeded in producing a plan of the site that shows the township has not deteriorated too dramatically since the 1st Edition (1875) OS map of the area.

1.0 Site Description and Location (Illus 1)

- 1.1 SUAT Ltd was commissioned by Forest Enterprise (Inverness District) to undertake a desk-based assessment and EDM survey of the deserted township of Beglan, near Aviemore.
- 1.2 The site lies within Glenmore Forest and was cleared of trees in 1998-9.
- 1.3 Forest Enterprise proposes to provide interpretation boards for the public, as part of its aim to conserve and enhance the remains of Beglan Township.

2.0 Methodology

- 2.1 Easily accessible documentary evidence was studied including the *Regesta Regum Scottorum* and the Register of the Great Seal (RMS) series. Previously identified documents in the Gordon Muniments (GD 44) and Seafeld Muniments (GD 258) in the National Archives of Scotland were examined.
- 2.2 The Ordnance Survey and the older maps of the area, held within the National Library of Scotland's Map Library were examined, as were estate plans in the National Archives of Scotland.
- 2.3 A study was made of the National Sites and Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).
- 2.4 The available vertical aerial photographs of the site, held by the RCAHMS, were examined.

3.0 Historical Background

- 3.1 Beglan was part of the lordship of Badenoch and barony of Kincardine. In the 13th century Badenoch belonged to the 'Red' Comyns, the last of whom, Sir John Comyn of Badenoch, was murdered by Robert Bruce, Earl of Carrick (later Robert I) in 1306. In 1312 Badenoch was included in the grant of the earldom of Moray by Robert I to his nephew, Sir Thomas Randolph (*RRS*, v, no 389). In 1371 Robert II granted Badenoch to his third surviving son, Alexander Stewart, the 'Wolf of Badenoch' (*RMS*, i, nos 382, 530, 558). After the latter's death in 1436, the lordship of Badenoch was granted to the Earl of Huntly in 1451 (*RMS*, ii, no 442), in whose family it was to remain into the 19/20th century.
- 3.2 Beglan is not listed among place-names of the lordship of Badenoch in 1482 (*RMS*, ii, no 1532) and 1634-43 (*RMS*, ix, nos 152, 938, 1065, 1083-1087, 1254, 1452) (nor are Kincardine or Glenmore).
- 3.3 Beglan is first documented in the 18th century. It is not listed in the place-names of the barony of Kincardine in a rental of 1696, although Alexander McCurle, Forester of the Glenmore is named (*NAS*, GD44/51/153).
- 3.4 There is a bundle of documents concerning problems over the lease, or tack, of Beglan between 1765 and 1776 (GD44/29/5). In 1764, Duncan McIntosh in Achourisk or Achorick had secured a tack of Beglan in opposition to the sitting tacksman by offering a higher rent. However McIntosh was or went bankrupt. The sitting tacksman, Alexander Grant of Tulligorum, was granted a tack at the new higher rent for one year in 1765. Grant retained the tack for several years in dispute with the landlord, the Duke of Gordon, and the estate factor, being eventually summonsed before the sheriff court for non-payment of rent. At one point in the dispute, the tacksman refers to the 'grazing' or pasture of Beglan. McIntosh offered to, and Grant did, ditch, dyke and drain 'upon the faills' (turf) to improve the land. It should be noted that Grant is unlikely to have resided at Beglan. As tacksman he was a middleman between the laird and the tenants who resided at Beglan; Grant himself probably resided at Tulligorum (now Tullochgorum, NGR - NH 96 21).
- 3.5 Another bundle of documents concerns the construction and improvements made to a house at Beglan (GD44/51/23/2). In 1812 John Grant was permitted to build a house of 'complete stone and lime', with compensation of two-thirds of its value (up to a maximum of £30) being allowed at the expiry of his lease if the house was 'in good and sufficient repair'. If he built stone dykes he was also to be allowed two-thirds of their value, up to a maximum of £20. At the expiry of the lease in 1821 the house, both mason work and carpentry work, was valued at £78-1s-2d (£78.06). The house comprised a ground floor and garret, the latter divided by two wooden partitions and accessed by a wooden stair. The ground floor was divided by an entry passage and had three doors and windows (for three rooms?), in addition to an outside door. There was a hanging chimney in one room. A second house was built entirely of wood, consisting of two rooms, each with a hanging chimney; it was valued at £3-5s (£3.25). A stone dyke round the garden was valued at £1-6s (£1.30). In all, Grant received £44 compensation at the expiry of his lease, when he removed to Glenmore; his successor in the house at Beglan was the forester and gamekeeper.
- 3.6 While John Grant built a house of stone and lime in Beglan about 1812, in 1770 Lewis Grant in Balnafettach built a 'ffeal and divot house thirty foot long' for the father of James Grant, Clerk at Castle Grant, for £1-15s-9d (£1-79) (GD248/251/8/8).

3.7 A long document of 1580-9 with building specifications for buildings on lands of John Grant of Freuchie (GD248/13/6) could not be examined within the time limits of this assessment.

3.8 In the late 18th century the Duke of Gordon sold his forest of Glenmore to an English company (OSA, xvi, 435).

4.0 Cartographic History

4.1 Early maps by Pont (c1583-1601), Gordon (c1636-52), Blaeu (1654), Moll (1745), Roy (1747-55), Dorret (1750), Ainslie (1789) and Thomson (1830) were examined. Three estate plans of the Gordon Estates were also examined, RHP 2501, RHP 2502 and RHP 2737.

4.2 Pont, Gordon, Blaeu and Moll do not show Beglan.

4.3 Roy's Military Survey shows a cluster of four or five buildings at 'Begglen' with arable ground.

4.4 Dorret, Ainslie and Thomson do not show Beglan.

4.5 Of the three Gordon Estates plans, one (RHP 2737) shows only the boundary of the estate of Glenmore, with no details of any settlements in it. The others (RHP 2501, 2502) are detailed plans of Glenmore with settlements, arable land and forests. RHP 2501 is dated 1766, but RHP 2502 is undated, possibly later.

4.6 RHP 2501 contains a list of the settlements with acreages. 'Beg Land' consisted of four houses and two yards/enclosures, divided equally by a road. There were three arable strips attached to the township, which contained 22 acres of cornland and 21 acres of open grass. Nearby were three other townships: 'Baddues' (now Badaguish?) with four houses, one yard/enclosure, two arable strips, and comprising eight acres of cornland; 'Bonchonich' with two houses, one yard/enclosure and two arable strips, comprising eight acres and two roods of cornland; and 'Lamochory' or 'Lym o Chory' with two houses, one yard/enclosure and one arable strip of three acres of cornland. Presumably the grassland at Beglan was enclosed, as the other three townships contained 'open grass' or grass 'open to pasture'.

4.7 RHP 2502 is a pencil and ink draft plan, with comments on soil and forestry. The arable land of 'Beg Land' is composed of 15 small parcels of land (of which 10 are numbered), varying in size from 1 rood to 3 acres, 1 rood, 16 falls. The settlement consists of eight buildings divided equally by a road. One building is long and T-shaped. The plan shows a series of possible drains and dykes surrounding the township. The ground near the township is described as 'Grass with some Heath interspersed. The soil mossy and wet.'

4.8 The OS First Edition in 1875 (Illus 2) shows that the township was deserted. It comprised seven unroofed buildings (including two adjacent lengthways), one enclosure and three dykes spread over the land from the south of the Allt na Doire to the south, to an un-named burn to the north of the Allt Coire Beag-ghleann.

- 4.9 By the Second Edition the buildings to the south of the Allt na Doire and between that burn and the Allt Coire Beag-ghleann are no longer shown.
- 4.10 By 1972 only the two adjacent lengthways buildings, beside the un-named burn to the north were shown, the site having been planted with trees. A 'tower' had been built nearby.

5.0 Sites and Monuments

- 5.1 The following site in the NMRS is noted within or on the edge of the study area. The initial number is an identifier assigned as part of this study, while the secondary number is the NMRS identifier. (The Highland Council's Sites and Monuments Record identifies Beglan Township as NH91SE 2.)

1 NH91SE 7 Allt Coire Beag-Ghleann (Begland), Township

- 5.2 There are no Listed Buildings in the study area.
- 5.3 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area.
- 5.4 The scan of the NMRS showed that the application area does not lie within a particularly rich archaeological landscape.

6.0 Aerial Photographs

- 6.1 A range of vertical aerial photographs (1948-1988) from the Air Photographs Collection held by the RCAHMS was checked. The site was under tree plantations and no buildings were visible.

7.0 Previous Work

- 7.1 No previous archaeological work has been recorded within the study area.

8.0 Results of EDM Survey (Illus 3 and 4)

- 8.1 An EDM survey was carried out in November 2002 of the remains of the buildings and associated features. A Leica TCR 300 EDM was used for this survey.
- 8.2 The structures that were encountered were difficult to see on the ground because the area had been felled of trees in 1998-99, see 1.2 above, and has since become overgrown, boggy in places and difficult to traverse. Also the township was quite spread out in the small valley. Nevertheless it was possible to identify about 16 features, and to see what was left of the general layout of the deserted settlement.
- 8.3 Several boundary walls were observed, as well as about seven houses and enclosures. The northern-most house, Feature 9, contained a sub-circular pit, almost the shape of an upside-down cone. This pit structure may have been a form of drying kiln. The surrounding

building may have been a small mill, kilns usually being associated with mills. The close proximity of this feature to the water course, the Allt Coire Beag-ghleann, also reinforces the theory of this building being a mill, as mills are often near water sources.

- 8.4 The most prominent surviving features were the dykes, of which about seven were recorded (Features 10 to 16). Features 11 and 12 were more than likely part of the same dyke, but the cutting of the forestry road has separated them. It is also probable that Feature 10 was connected to Feature 11 at a right-angle, and these formed part of a boundary dyke.
- 8.5 Feature 15 is another long dyke running NNE to SSW, and was also probably a boundary dyke between two properties.
- 8.6 The water course that runs from north to south past the township, next to the roadway, is the Allt Coire Beag-ghleann. This was named in the First Edition OS map (1875) (Illus 2), and would have been an important feature in the township as close-by a source of water.
- 8.7 It is difficult to match the results of the survey with old maps such as RHP 2501 (1766) and RHP 2502 (undated), as neither of them show the Allt Coire Beag-ghleann. RHP 2501 shows the Allt na Doire, which is just south of the Allt Coire Beag-ghleann. RHP 2502 shows the "Burn of Begland," and this shows buildings around the burn, although the map is not clear enough to match up specific structures. The 1st Edition (1875) OS map (Illus 2) of the area shows, as was mentioned earlier, that the township had been abandoned, with all the structures roofless. This map, however, matches up with the survey very well, showing that the condition of the site has not deteriorated too dramatically over time, even with the forestry activity. The basic outline of the township is still visible.
- 8.8 Allt Coire Beag-ghleann means 'stream of the corrie of the little glen'. This is an apt name for the site as inspection of the map shows. The stream, and the township of Beglan ('little glen'), are set in a corrie, surrounded to the north by mountains. The 'glen' refers to the hills surrounding Loch Morlich, south of Beglan. These mountains give an enclosed feeling to this area of Glenmore, possibly attributing to the name of 'little glen'.
- 8.9 The EDM survey succeeded in providing an accurate record of the remains of the township, and also shows what structures are still visible.

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 Sites are classified as defined in *National Planning Policy Guidelines No 5 Archaeology and Planning* (Scottish Office, 1994). The categories are National, Regional or Local Importance, or Other.
- 9.2 The following site in the NMRS is noted within or on the edge of the proposed development area and is classified as follows:
- 1 NH91SE 7 Township
- 9.3 The origins of the settlement are uncertain, but it is possible that Beglan was a late township, created during commercial working of the forest of Glenmore in the late 17th or early 18th century. John Grant's stone house of 1812 became the forester's house in 1821,

although Grant's occupation is not recorded. By the third quarter of the 19th century the settlement had been deserted.

10.0 Acknowledgements

10.1 This desk-based assessment and EDM survey and report was funded by Forest Enterprise.

11.0 References

11.1 *Bibliographic*

OSA The Statistical Account of Scotland 1791-99, Withrington D J and Grant, I R (Gen Eds), vol 16, Banffshire, Moray and Nairnshire. Wakefield.

RMS *Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum*, 11 vols 1306-1668, (eds) Thomson, J M *et al.* Edinburgh, 1882-1914.

RRS *Regesta Regum Scottorum*, 8 vols (eds) G W S Barrow *et al.* Edinburgh, 1960-.

11.2 *Cartographic*

Ainslie, J 1789 'Scotland.'

Blaeu, J 1654 'Scotiæ provinciæ mediterraneæ inter Taum flumen et Vararis æsturarium' (Plate 31).

Dorret, J 1750 'General Map of Scotland and the Islands.'

Gordon, R 1636-52 [A detailed map including Glenmore] (Gordon 5).

Moll, H 1745 'The East Part of the Shire of Inverness with Badenoch etc'

Moll, H 1745 'The Shires of Moray and Nairn.'

OS 1875 [First Edition] Inverness-shire, Sheet LXXIV, 1:10560.

OS 1902 Second, Edition, Inverness-shire, Sheet LXXIV, 1:10560.

OS 1972 Sheet NH91SE, 1:10000.

Pont, T 1583-1601 'All Straspey in Mappe' (Pont 6).

RHP 2501 'Plan of Kincardin with Glen More and Wood Exhibiting All the different Tacks, Crofts, etc With their Extents', William Anderson, 1766.

RHP 2502 [Plan of Kincardine and Glen More], no date [18th century], no surveyor.

RHP 2737 'Marches betwixt the Duke of Gordon's Lands of Kincardine and Glenmore with Sir Lodwick Grant's Lands of Gerton, Tulloch, Glen Avin & Rothymurchus and all the Boundings of Kincardine and Glenmore'. [William Anderson], 1765.

Roy, W 1747-55 Military Survey, Sheet 27/2.

Thomson, J 1830 Southern Part of Inverness-shire.

11.3 *Photographic*

541/A/433 3048-3050 27/7/1948.

543/RAF/1428 F21:0094-0097 31/8/1961.

58/RAF/6809 F22:0067-0069 10/6/1965.

64188 254-255 15/10/1988.

Appendix 1

Surviving Feature Descriptions and Corresponding Numbers

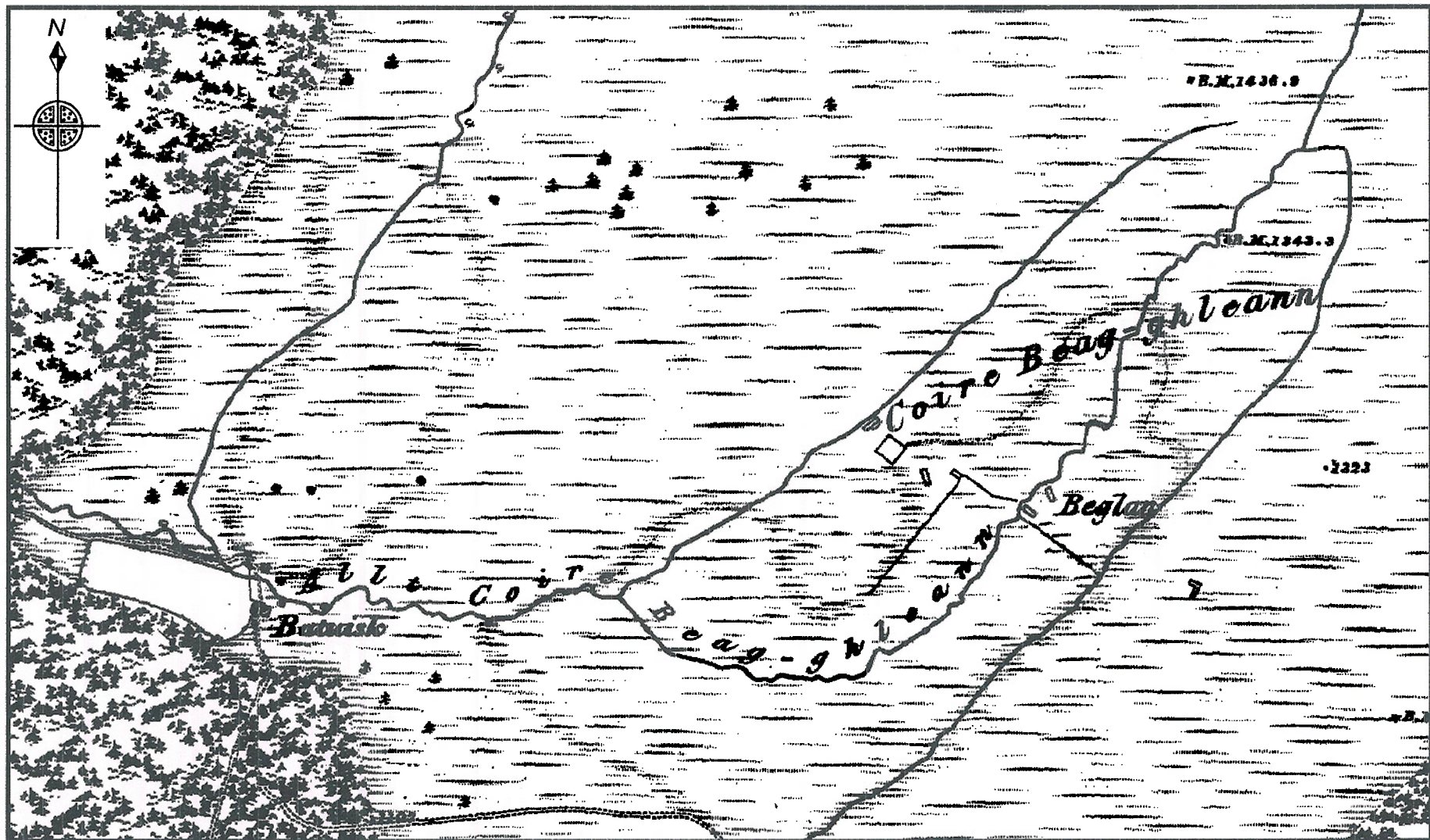
Feature Number	Description
1	Enclosure
2	Building
3	Enclosure
4	Building
5	Building
6	Small building
7	Small building
8	Building
9	Building, with drying kiln possibly a mill
10	Dyke
11	Dyke
12	Dyke
13	Dyke
14	Dyke
15	Dyke
16	Dyke

Beglan Township Site Location



Illus 2

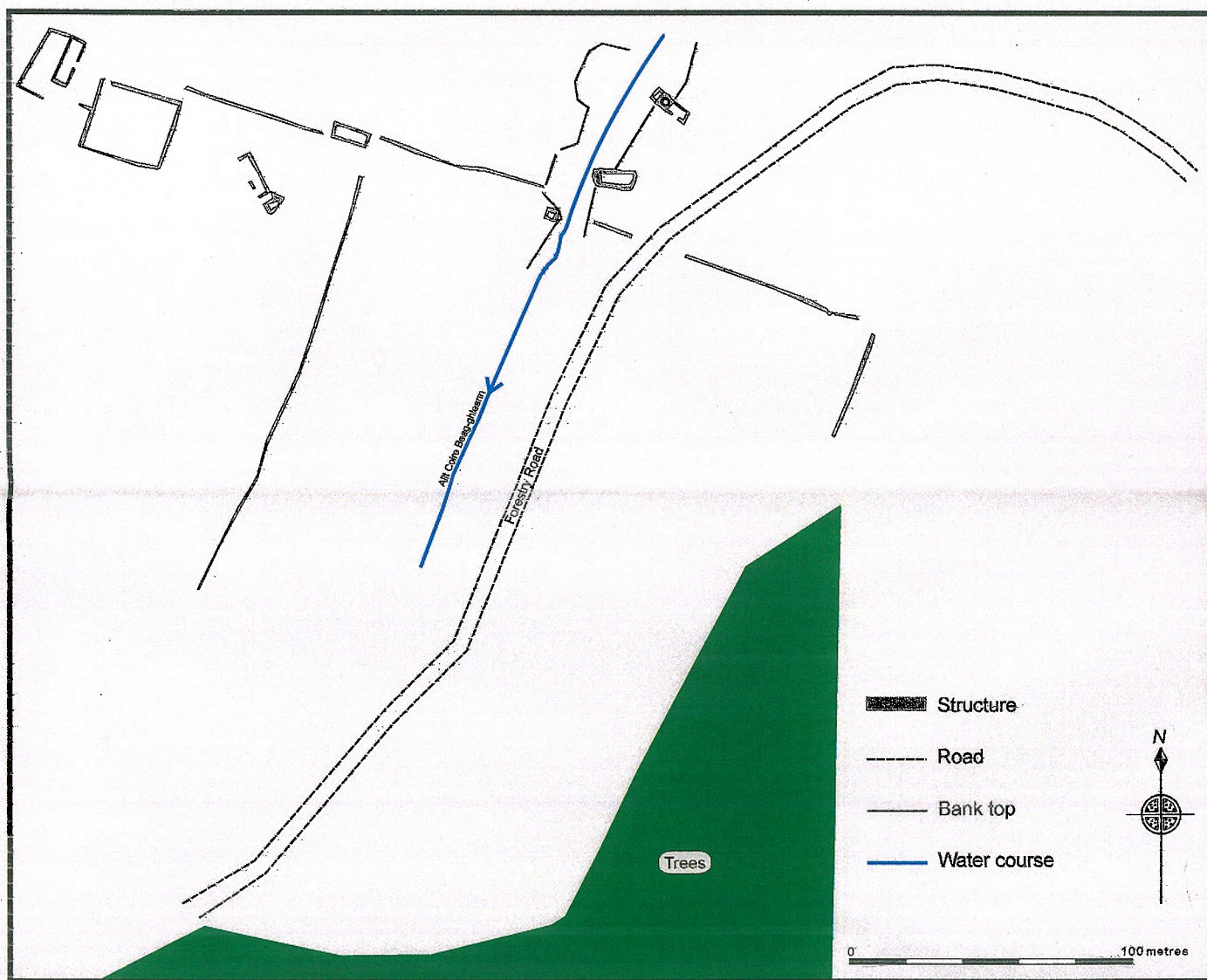
1st Edition OS Map (1875)



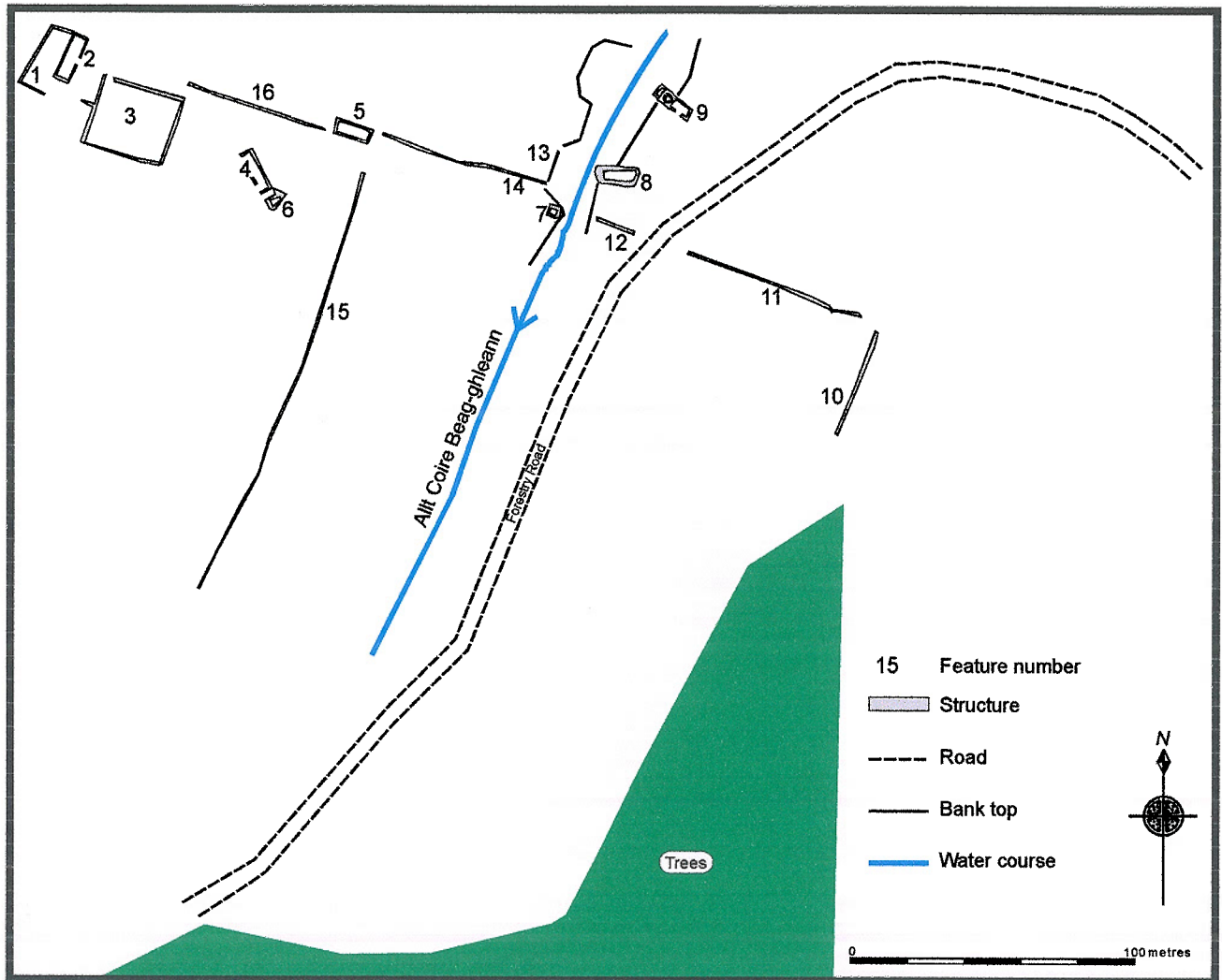
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence Number AL 100034704

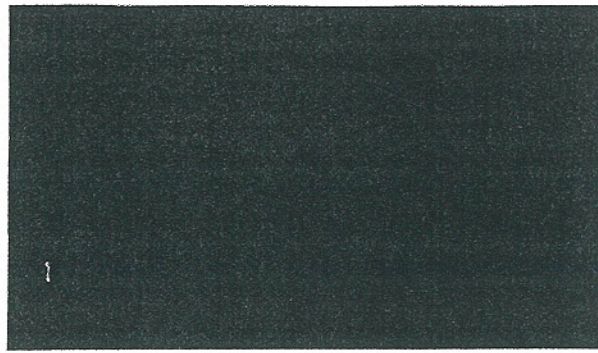
AV 01

Beglan Township EDM Survey Results



EDM Survey Results with Feature Numbers





Brief for archaeological work at:

Beglan, Glenmore

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

1) Background

- a) This specification has been produced in response to the requirement to record as accurately as possible the nature and extent of any features of archaeological interest at Beglan, for management and possible interpretive purposes.
- b) It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted

2) Terms of Reference

- a) This specification is valid until December 1st 2003 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.
- b) The specification has been produced for the District Manager, Forest Enterprise, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements.
- c) Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The project should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.
- d) Before fieldwork commences, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist in writing.

3) Tendering

- a) Tenders should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification.
- b) Tenders should be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

4) Objectives

- a) To identify and define, to professional standards, any features and objects of archaeological importance for land management, including possible public access and interpretation.
- b) To assess the likelihood of buried as well as surface remains, and indicate any areas of particular sensitivity.
- c) To provide an opportunity for participation by local people as volunteers. The project design needs to reflect this.

5) Method

- a) Desk-based research

All documentary, map, and photographic (including aerial photograph) sources publicly available in Inverness, Edinburgh and within Badenoch and Strathspey should be checked and any references to the site extracted.

- b) Field survey

The full area of the settlement itself, including buildings, dykes, roadways, kailyards, kilns and other features, should be surveyed and recorded at a minimum scale of 1:500. Survey methods may include EDM and theodolite survey, or high-resolution (2cm) differential GPS.

Areas of particular interest should be recorded in more detail if appropriate using the above methods, offsets or plane-table

The full extent of the associated field system, as far as possible, should be recorded at 1:2500.

c) Community involvement

The archaeologist appointed will need to liaise with the Council's Heritage Officer for Badenoch and Strathspey, Andrew Ferguson, 68 High Street, Nairn, IV12 4AU regarding participation by local volunteers.

d) Report

A report must be produced and distributed, as set out below.

6) Monitoring

- a) The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- b) Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- c) Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names and local addresses, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Senior Archaeologist by the archaeologist contracted to carry out the work.
- d) Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Senior Archaeologist.
- e) Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

7) Reporting

a) Project report

- i) At least six copies of the project report must be produced. These must be submitted to the all of the following within 4 weeks of the completion of the field work.
 - Two paper copies for the client, the District Manager, Forest Enterprise.
 - Two copies, one paper and one digital, for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where they will be available for immediate consultation by the public. The digital copy should be complete and in Adobe Acrobat format (ie a pdf file). This can be supplied by email or on a computer disc. Please ensure that all drawings and photographs are included.
 - One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Library Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA
 - One paper copy for the Council's Heritage Officer for Badenoch and Strathspey, 68 High Street, Nairn, IV12 4AU
- ii) The report must include, as a minimum,
 - Location plan showing the project area within Scotland and within Badenoch and Strathspey.
 - An overall plan of the site at 1:2500 scale (minimum), to include its associated field-systems, located with OS grid references.
 - A plan at 1:500 scale (minimum) of the buildings, walls, roads and associated features, to cover the full extent of the settlement itself.
 - Where appropriate only, plans and /or elevations of individual features at 1:50 scale (minimum).

- Photographs (either 35mm slides, 35mm prints), or good quality (minimum 1.3 megapixels) digital images of the site, individual features, and work in progress, to illustrate the project progress from start to completion.
 - A written report, setting out the circumstances and objectives of this work, the methods adopted, names of the surveyors, and the dates on which the survey was carried out, as well as weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
 - The report must include a copy of this specification, and a full index to any archive material generated by the project, including a note of its location.
 - A brief analysis should be provided of the project results, drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results for future research. Note that apparently negative areas may themselves be significant.
 - General comments, including consideration of any issues to be taken into account in developing public access and interpretation at the site, and, if appropriate, proposals for follow-up archaeological projects.
- iii) The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in writing, and the Archaeology Unit will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. Copyright will be acknowledged in all cases by the Archaeology Unit.
- b) This specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.
- c) A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. The cost of this must be included in any tender document.

8) Portable Artifacts and Treasure Trove

- a) The Archaeological Contractor should liaise with the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery prior to the start of fieldwork, regarding possible finds, their emergency conservation needs and future storage arrangements. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify the local museum of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area.
- b) Provision should also be made for a cataloguing system for any artifacts found, which will be compatible with the needs of the institution receiving these finds. Any report to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer must be copied to the Senior Archaeologist, and the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery.

9) General

- a) The archaeologist appointed must be of a professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- b) Responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological workers on site lies with Forest Enterprise. However, the archaeologist appointed, and any volunteers on site, are responsible for taking all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and must be covered by all necessary insurance. It is the responsibility of the archaeologist appointed to ensure that all volunteers and paid archaeological staff are made aware of this requirement.
- c) Any Health and Safety incidents on site must be immediately notified to the Forest Enterprise and the Health and Safety Executive.

- d) The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the Forest Enterprise District Manager and the Senior Archaeologist
- e) The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
- f) Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.
- g) The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.

John Wood

Senior Archaeologist

Monday, 3 December 2001