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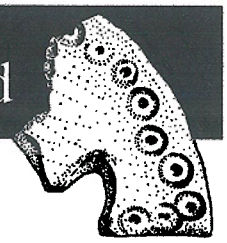

Archaeological Works at Laggan Road NEWTONMORE Highland

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RC/CAM/NR01-02

27th May 2003

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Archaeological Works
at
Laggan Road
Newtonmore
Highland

Abstract

SUAT Ltd was commissioned by Bracewell Stirling Architects on behalf of their client Aviemore & Highland Developments Ltd to undertake archaeological work in advance of a proposed development at Laggan Road, Newtonmore. A brief for the archaeological work was supplied by Highland Council Planning and Development Service Archaeology Unit. The proposed development site was considered to be of archaeological interest because of its proximity to the site of a supposed Roman fort. Approximately 20% of the site was topsoiled and recorded. Three cairns, possibly of prehistoric date were found in the northern part of the site. The cairns were considered to be archaeologically significant and a second phase of investigation was undertaken. It was concluded that the cairns were a result of field clearance. Pottery and lithic evidence in soil samples indicated prehistoric activity associated with an old ground surface below one of the cairns.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A brief for archaeological evaluation and recording work for a proposed housing development at Laggan Road, Newtonmore was prepared by John Wood, Senior Archaeologist for Highland Council Planning and Development Service, Archaeology Unit for Bracewell Stirling Architects

1.2 SUAT Ltd (hereafter SUAT) was commissioned by Bracewell Stirling Architects on behalf of their client Aviemore & Highland Developments Ltd to undertake the required archaeological work as defined by the brief. The site was considered to be archaeologically sensitive due to its location, on or close to the supposed site of a Roman fort and several other archaeological finds that had been reported within the vicinity.

1.3 The archaeological evaluation (SUAT site code NR01) took place during the period 3rd-7th March 2003. The weather during the evaluation was cool and overcast with short sunny spells and occasional showers and did not hamper the archaeological work. No earthworks or ditches or other indicators of Roman activity or occupation were identified. Two small features found on the southern part of the site were sectioned and sampled and required no further work. Of archaeological significance were three cairn features formed of field cobbles found on the northern part of the site. The cairns were further exposed by hand and partially investigated.

1.4 A site meeting was arranged between the developers, Highland Council Planning and Development Service Archaeology Unit and SUAT, where it was agreed that the cairns were significant archaeological features and that a second phase of fieldwork would be required to properly record, date and understand their significance. For the two small features found on the southern part of the site no further work was necessary. A brief for a second phase of investigation was prepared by The Highland Council Archaeology Service.

1.5 The second phase of fieldwork (SUAT site code NR02) took place during the period 17th-27th March 2003. The weather over this period was exceptionally fine for the time of year and did not adversely hamper the work. The three cairns, 1-3, found in the evaluation were further exposed, investigated, recorded and samples taken from the underlying soils. Cairn 3 was found to be much larger than expected and was not fully uncovered at its eastern end.

1.6 During the course of the second phase of fieldwork a site meeting was arranged between SUAT, Headland Archaeology Ltd's soil specialist Stephen Carter and Kirsty Cameron, of Highland Council Archaeology Service. The soil sampling and excavation strategies were further discussed. It was agreed that soil samples in the form of bulk samples (each context requiring 30 L in 10 L sized tubs) would be taken of soil immediately underlying the stones of each cairn and any other appropriate deposits. It was also agreed that it was not necessary to fully uncover Cairn 3 as sufficient of the feature had been exposed to establish its nature, function and construction characteristics.

1.7 *Reporting*

This report will be acceptable as the final report on the archaeological works carried out at Laggan Road, Newtonmore.

A short entry will also be prepared for *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland 2003.*

1.8 *Archiving*

The site records will be deposited with the NMRS.

1.9 *Acknowledgements*

The archaeological project was funded by Aviemore and Highland Developments Ltd. The brief for the archaeological work was supplied by John Wood, Senior Archaeologist for Highland Council Planning and Development Service, Archaeology Service. On site archaeological advice and guidance was given by Kirsty Cameron of Highland Council Planning and Development Service, Archaeology Service. Stephen Carter of Headland Archaeology Ltd provided information concerning the site's geological background and advised on sampling.

2.0 Desk-based Assessment

2.1 *Site Description and Location*

SUAT Ltd was commissioned by Bracewell Stirling Architects on behalf of their client, Aviemore and Highland Developments Ltd, to prepare a desk-based assessment of the archaeological implications of a proposed development at Laggan Road, Newtonmore, Inverness-shire.

The proposed development area is on the north side of Laggan Road, in a field between existing housing to the east and west and a loch to the north.

2.2 *Methodology*

The Ordnance Survey and the older maps of the area, held within the National Library of Scotland's Map Library and in the National Archives of Scotland, were examined.

A study was made of the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS).

The available vertical aerial photographs of the site, held by the RCAHMS, were examined.

Highland Archaeology Service's Sites and Monuments Record was consulted.

2.3 *Historical Background*

In 1543 the lands of *Bandachar* and others in the lordship of Badenoch were granted for life by George, Earl of Huntly, Lord Gordon and Badenoch to William Mackintosh, son and apparent heir of Lachlan Mackintosh, lately lord of Dunnachtan and Captain of Clan Chattan, for the homage of himself and his friends of the Clan Chattan to be rendered to the granter (NAS, GD 176/39). Later the lands of Banchor were acquired by the Macphersons of Benchar.

2.4 *Cartographic History*

Early regional maps by Gordon (c1636-52), Blaeu (1654), Moll (1745), Roy (1747-55), Ainslie (1789) and Thomson (1830) were examined. Gordon Estate plans, road maps and military road maps were also examined.

Two of Gordon's maps name Beandachar and Pitmean.

Blaeu and Moll name Bandachar and Pitmean.

Roy names Bannacher and 'Balnoe' and shows the open field system characteristic of the Scottish countryside before the agricultural improvements of the later 18th century.

A map of Wade's military roads (Willdey and Cooper 1746) shows Bandachar and 'Pitmea'. At this time, the road from Perth to Inverness crossed the Spey at Ruthven Barracks.

Taylor and Skinner's road survey shows that Bridge of Spey had been built by 1776.

Ainslie names Pitmain Inn and Bancher Ho[use], but the latter appears to be misplaced too far east.

Road maps of 1792 and 1805 (RHP 11595, RHP 11632) show no buildings at Newtonmore.

A road map of 1828 (RHP 11683) shows a row of buildings, 'Newton-more', on the north side of the road stretching eastwards from the junction of the Fort William and Inverness roads as far as Glen Road.

Thomson names Newton, Spey Bridge, Bancher Mains, Muir, but not Pitmain.

Only one of the Gordon Estate plans (RHP 1835) covers the development area but it shows no detail of the Banchor estate, apart from Banchor House on the east side of the River Calder.

The OS First Edition shows the development area was an open field, to the east of which is shown 'Supposed site of Roman Camp', although no site is marked.

The Second Edition shows that by 1903 the field had been subdivided by a north/south boundary into two fields. To the west of the site Glenbanchar Lodge had been built within formal gardens. The 'Supposed site of Roman Camp' is still shown.

By 1972 the two parts of the field had been re-united, but the south-east part of the eastern field had been split off for the construction of the present manse.

There was no change in 1982.

2.5 *Sites and Monuments*

No sites in the NMRS are noted within the proposed development area but the following sites are recorded nearby. The initial numbers are identifiers assigned as part of this study, while the secondary numbers are the NMRS identifiers.

1	NH79NW 2	Roman Camp (Possible), Urn, 'Roman tripod'
2	NH79NW 11	Tom Na Tilleadh, Socketed Bronze Axe.
3	NH79NW 12	Newtonmore Hotel, Residential
4	NH79NW 27	Newtonmore, General
5	NH79NW 35	Cnoc A' Ghuail, Farmstead

There are no listed buildings in the proposed development area. The following site is a listed building near the development area.

6	Craigmhor Hotel, Newtonmore	C(s) listed

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in or near the proposed development area.

The scan of the NMRS shows that the proposed development area lies within a rich prehistoric and post-medieval archaeological landscape.

Highland Archaeology Service's Sites and Monuments Record contained no new information.

2.6 *Aerial Photographs*

A range of vertical aerial photographs (1946–1989) from the Air Photographs Collection held by the RCAHMS was checked. The information recorded on these confirmed that recovered from the inspection of later cartographic sources, and revealed nothing of interest. The subdivided field had been re-united and the manse had been built by 1946.

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gaidhealtachd
SERVING The Highland Community

Brief for archaeological work at:

Fort William Road, Newtonmore
(BS-02-004)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION and RECORDING
By Controlled Topsoil Strip

HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Archaeology Unit

1) Background

Area 1 of this development lies close to the supposed remains of a Roman camp. There may, therefore, be sub-surface archaeological remains within the site and the project could impact on valuable features of historic and archaeological importance. Arrangements should therefore be made to avoid such features wherever possible. Where this is not practicable, they should be recorded before they are damaged or destroyed. This will need to be done by a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

In this case the nature and extent of the potential archaeological features need to be established. The archaeological work will seek to identify and record any such features at the earliest possible stage to minimise the risk of finds or features of interest being discovered and damaged during site works. This approach is intended to ensure that any archaeology on site is identified and recorded with minimum delay or disruption to the development,

The archaeologist carrying out the targeted and controlled topsoil strip will present a brief report containing the conclusions of this work and propose mitigation and recording arrangements to be followed in this scheme. Such arrangements might include redesign where practicable to avoid key areas, excavation and recording of features, and / or an archaeological watching brief on site clearance and excavations for construction purposes.

The brief sets out who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

2) Terms of Reference

This brief has been produced for Bracewell Stirling Architects, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. It supersedes a previous brief produced on 31 January 2002 which was valid until 31 January 2003.

It may be used to obtain estimates from archaeologists, and specifies what we consider to be the ***minimum*** acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. *We will assume that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with us in writing before the start of any site works.*

It sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements. The approach set out below aims to establish as far as possible the nature and extent of any features of archaeological interest likely to be affected at the earliest possible stage so that they can be preserved, or if necessary recorded before destruction.

The Archaeology Unit will be pleased to comment on tenders submitted in confidence if required. Any 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.

The work must be carried out by an archaeologist approved by the Council. The Council's current list of such archaeologists working in the area is attached. Other archaeologists who meet the criteria set out on the list may be acceptable - please contact us if you wish the clarify this.

Where archaeological work fails to meet the standards set out here, the applicant will be in breach of any archaeological planning condition until matters are rectified. The

Archaeology Unit may also refuse to accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to these standards.

The area to be covered includes any proposed ancillary works such as landscaping, drains, telecommunication, power and water supplies unless otherwise indicated.

The brief is based on details supplied at the time it was issued. However briefs have to be updated from time to time, so if any of these details do not apply when site works start, or fieldwork commences more than a year from the date below, please contact us to request the latest version. It may differ from previous briefs supplied by us for other projects.

Before site works start, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work should be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist in writing.

3) Objectives

- To identify the location, nature and extent of any features or objects of archaeological importance that would be damaged or destroyed by this development, and to record them where necessary.

  Exceptional discoveries may warrant preservation *in situ* or special arrangements for recording. Attention will be drawn immediately to any such discoveries so that arrangements can be agreed to deal with them quickly and effectively.

- To make sure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.

4) Method

a) ***Desk-based Assessment***

The archaeologist will carry out a check of relevant archaeological records and aerial photographs to provide background information. At least the following sources should be checked:

- *The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) (Inverness)*
- *The National Monuments Record for Scotland*
- *Any aerial photographic coverage*
- *Any relevant early cartographic coverage*

b) Controlled Topsoil Strip

Sample areas will be marked off and stripped of topsoil and overburden under controlled conditions. The sample areas will cover Area 1 of the development both spatially and topographically and will aim to expose areas of higher archaeological potential. We anticipate that sampling areas may need to vary in shape, however, the sample areas should aim to take the form of linear strips of not less than 5m wide. This will need to be done under the direction of the archaeologist appointed to provide a sample of at least 20% of the total site area (Area 1). An indicative plan showing the location and extent of all sampled areas will be included in the report.

A toothless (straight-edged) ditching bucket on a back-acting excavating machine should be used. A clean scrape down to subsoil will greatly speed up the work - depending on soil and weather conditions, a good excavator driver should be able to clean the revealed surface sufficiently with the machine bucket to enable the archaeologist to

establish the existence or otherwise of any important features. In others cases, the archaeologist will need to clean areas by hand.

Where a sample area reveals archaeological features it may need to be extended to enable the archaeologist to fully record the features. However, where no features are found, normal topsoil clearance can proceed to the next sample area. The archaeologist will monitor this and will record any features or finds of interest that appear.

Those carrying out site clearance and excavation works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. Please note the following, which will greatly help the efficient completion of the work:

- Care will need to be taken to avoid over- or under-excavation, and the advice of the archaeologist on-site should be adhered to on this.
- Archaeologists may need to get quickly into recently cleared areas and this may mean that drivers of excavators will sometimes need to wait briefly, or switch to working other areas.
- Each excavating machine needs to be watched by at least one archaeologist at all times (1:1 ratio). Work should not begin on the sample areas until this cover has been set up, and arrangements will need to be made for the archaeologists to monitor the topsoil stripping outwith the sample areas also.
- Because the archaeologist must be able to record any archaeological remains encountered during the work to professional standards, site clearance works may take slightly longer than normal. This should be allowed for in the development project timetable. Occasionally, more extensive excavation may be needed since there will be limited opportunities to preserve features *in situ*.

Once areas have been cleared, and any archaeology recorded, there should be no need for further archaeological work in these areas.

5) Monitoring

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met. This is usually by unannounced site visit - alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.

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.

Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and /or the development must be notified by the archaeologist immediately to the applicant and the Senior Archaeologist. The finds or features must be left until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.

6) Reporting

a) Project report

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for producing a report on the work, *and for making sure copies have been received by the recipients listed below.* The archaeologist appointed should allow for all costs when estimating for the work. We require archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline.

Apart from any copies required by the client, at least **five** copies of the project report must be produced by the archaeologist. These must be submitted to all of the following **within 3 weeks** of the completion of the fieldwork.

- One paper copy for the Council's Badenoch & Strathspey Planning and Building Control Manager, 100 High Street, Kingussie, PH21 1HY.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA. This will be available for public consultation through the public library service.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB
- Two copies for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX :
  - One paper copy
  - One copy of the complete report 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.

The report must include, as a minimum,

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Scale plans and photographs of all archaeological features.
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project, including its location.
- A brief analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results for future research. Note that a negative result may itself be significant.
- General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project.
- A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.
- A list of finds, set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting. Copies of the necessary forms are obtainable if required from the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB

b) Presentation

Where significant archaeology has been found, the archaeologist must arrange 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) DES

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

d) Copyright

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

7) Finds

Chance finds can be made during any archaeological fieldwork. Archaeologists should note that advice and facilities for emergency conservation and temporary storage can be offered by Inverness Museum on consultation with the Conservation Officer and Assistant Curator (Archaeology). A list of services and table of costs are available from the museum.

Archaeologists undertaking fieldwork should notify the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum, who will in turn notify local museums of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area. All finds should be notified for Treasure Trove before the report is submitted.

8) Insurance

The archaeologist appointed must take all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance. Section 24 of the Highland Council's revised Contracts Standing Orders states:

"All specifications issued by and contracts entered into with the Council in connection with the carrying out of work or the provision of services shall provide that the contractor holds a valid insurance policy, approved by the Council, for:-

(1) Employers liability - minimum limit - £10m (statutory limit)
(2) Public liability - minimum limit £5m."

9) General

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief, including the following:

The archaeologist appointed must:

- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
- fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced by the Council's Senior Archaeologist, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gaidhealtachd
SERVING The Highland Community

Brief for archaeological work at:

Laggan Road, Newtonmore
(BS-02-004)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AND RECORDING

HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Archaeology Unit

1) Background

This brief has been produced in response to the results of a controlled topsoil strip conducted under the supervision of an archaeologist over 20% of Area 1 for this development. The results of the controlled strip have identified several archaeological features, in particular, three discrete areas of stones that may represent the plough-truncated remains of prehistoric cairns. This specification is required for a second phase of archaeological work that aims to further investigate and record the stone features.

In this case the nature and extent of the identified archaeological features needs to be established. The upper (northern) segment of the development site should not be further excavated until this stage of archaeological work has been completed and the results made known to the Archaeology Unit. The results of the controlled topsoil strip have indicated that it is unlikely that significant archaeological features will be present within the southern part of the site and no further archaeological work is required there.

This approach is intended to ensure that the archaeological remains identified on site are evaluated and recorded with minimum delay or disruption to the development. The brief sets out who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

2) Terms of Reference

This brief has been produced for Bracewell Stirling Architects, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements.

It may be used to obtain estimates from archaeologists, and specifies what we consider to be the ***minimum*** acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. *We will assume that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with us in writing before the start of any site works.*

Where archaeological work fails to meet the standards set out here, the applicant will be in breach of any archaeological planning condition until matters are rectified. The Archaeology Unit may also refuse to accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to these standards.

Before site works start, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work should be agreed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

3) Objectives

- To fully expose archaeological features identified during the controlled topsoil strip, in order to identify and record their form, function, nature, extent and date. Specifically, the work should determine whether the three putative cairns originally had a structural element and whether the stones now seal a relict ground surface that could provide information on the nature of the landscape at the time the stones were laid.

  Exceptional discoveries, such as complex funerary remains, may warrant preservation *in situ* or further arrangements for recording. Attention will be drawn immediately to any such discoveries so that arrangements can be agreed to deal with them quickly and effectively.

- To make sure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.

4) Method

Excavation

A toothless (straight-edged) ditching bucket on an excavating machine should be used to fully expose an area around each of the three putative cairns. The exposed areas will then be roughly cleaned by hand to define their extent. Sample areas of the features (for example quadrants or wide slot trenches) will be further cleaned to expose fully the stones and determine whether there is any surviving structure to them. Sample trenching of each feature will be conducted in order to assess the character and to establish whether significant buried soils information survives within or beneath them.

The stratigraphic sequence of the putative cairns should be established by cutting and recording at least one section across each of the cairns to a depth where sterile subsoil or bedrock is exposed. Kubiena tin samples (to preserve soil structure and stratigraphy) should be taken of any layer thought to be an old ground surface. Samples of further soil contexts should be collected as appropriate.

Recording of the features should follow standard excavation procedures following IFA guidelines, principally by drawing, photography and written records. The location of each feature should be accurately plotted using industry-standard EDM survey equipment. The ground is to be reinstated upon completion of the work at the discretion of the client.

At the end of the fieldwork stage, proposals for relevant post-excavation analyses and reporting should be presented to, and a programme for this work agreed by, the client, the archaeological contractor and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

5) Monitoring

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met.

Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Archaeology Unit by the archaeologist contracted to carry out the work.

Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and /or the development must be notified by the archaeologist immediately to the applicant and the Senior Archaeologist. The finds or features must be left until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.

6) Reporting

a) ***Project report***

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for producing a report on the work, *and for making sure copies have been received by the recipients listed below.* The archaeologist appointed should allow for all costs when estimating for the work. We require

archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline. The report for this work should encompass this stage of work and the Stage 1 controlled topsoil strip.

Apart from any copies required by the client, at least **five** copies of the project report must be produced by the archaeologist. These must be submitted to all of the following **within 4 weeks** of the completion of the fieldwork.

- One paper copy for the Council's Badenoch & Strathspey Planning and Building Control Manager, 100 High Street, Kingussie, PH21 1HY.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA. This will be available for public consultation through the public library service.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB
- Two copies for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX :
  - One paper copy
  - One copy of the complete report 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.

The report must include, as a minimum;

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of the specifications.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Scale plans and photographs of all significant archaeological features.
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project, including its location.
- A brief analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results for future research. Note that a negative result may itself be significant.
- General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project.
- A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress and results.
- A list of finds, set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting. Copies of the necessary forms are obtainable if required from the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB

b) Presentation

Where significant archaeology has been found, the archaeologist must arrange 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) DES

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

d) Copyright

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

7) Finds

Chance finds can be made during any archaeological fieldwork. Archaeologists should note that advice and facilities for emergency conservation and temporary storage can be offered by Inverness Museum on consultation with the Conservation Officer and Assistant Curator (Archaeology). A list of services and table of costs are available from the museum.

Archaeologists undertaking fieldwork should notify the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum, who will in turn notify local museums of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area. All finds should be notified for Treasure Trove before the report is submitted.

8) Insurance

The archaeologist appointed must take all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance. Section 24 of the Highland Council's revised Contracts Standing Orders states:

"All specifications issued by and contracts entered into with the Council in connection with the carrying out of work or the provision of services shall provide that the contractor holds a valid insurance policy, approved by the Council, for:-

(1) Employers liability - minimum limit - £10m (statutory limit)
(2) Public liability - minimum limit £5m."

9) General

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief, including the following:

The archaeologist appointed must:

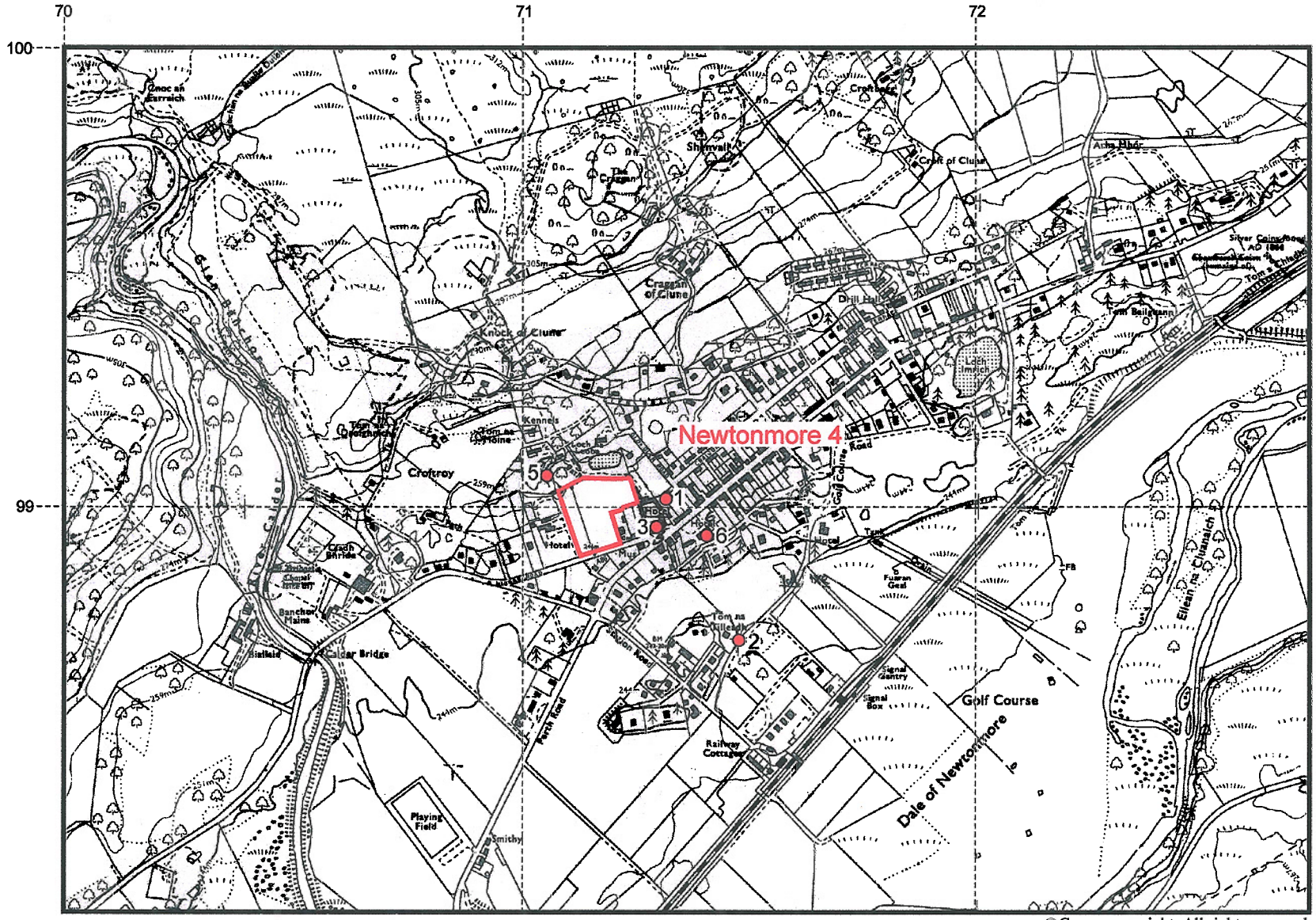
- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
- fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced by the Archaeology Unit of The Highland Council, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

Illus 1

Newtonmore, Site Location



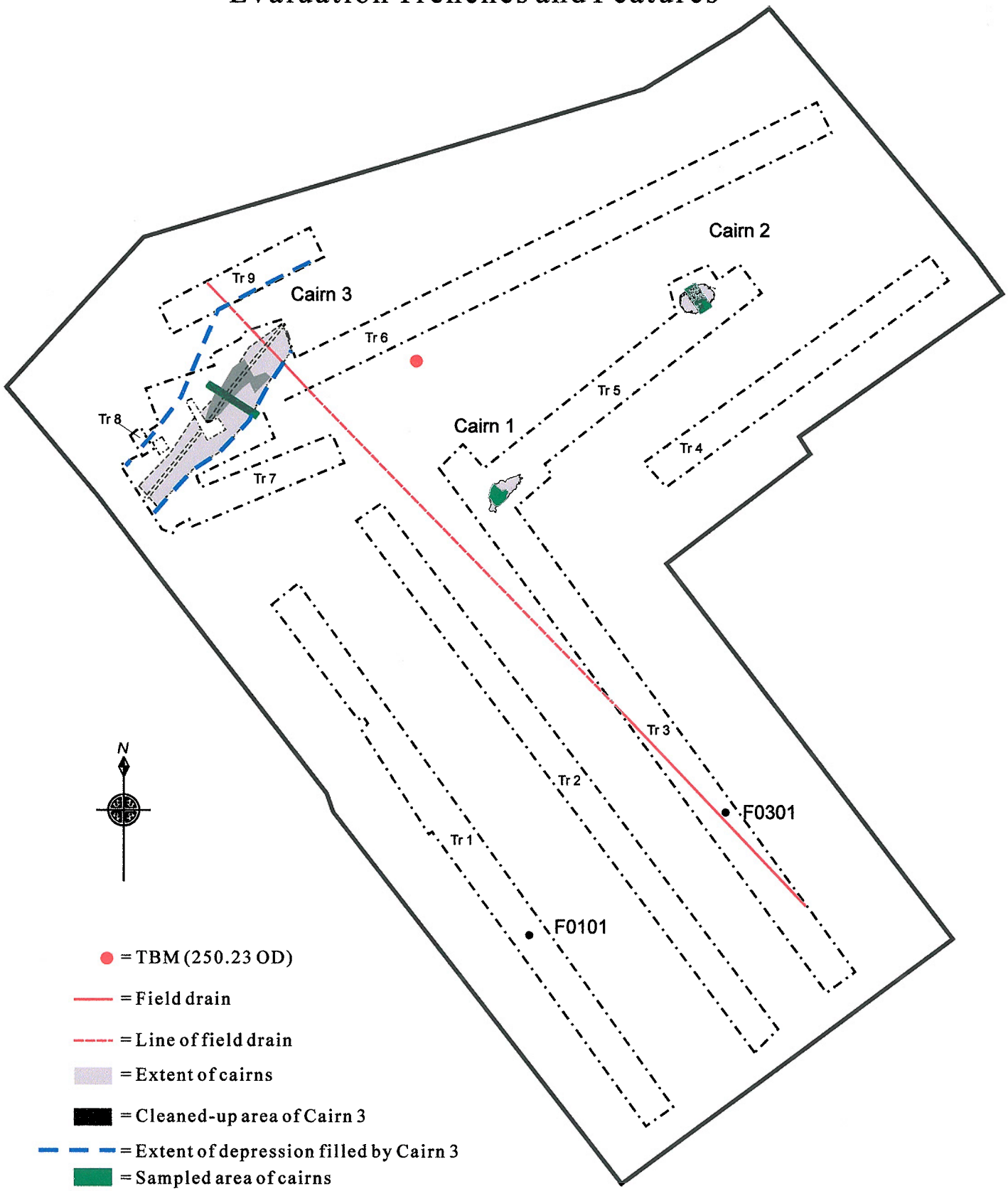
1 Site of 'Roman Camp', Urn and 'Roman Tripod'
2 Socketed Bronze Axe found
3 Newtonmore Hotel
4 Newtonmore
5 Cnoc A' Ghuail
6 Craigmhor Hotel

Development Area

NR01

Illus 2

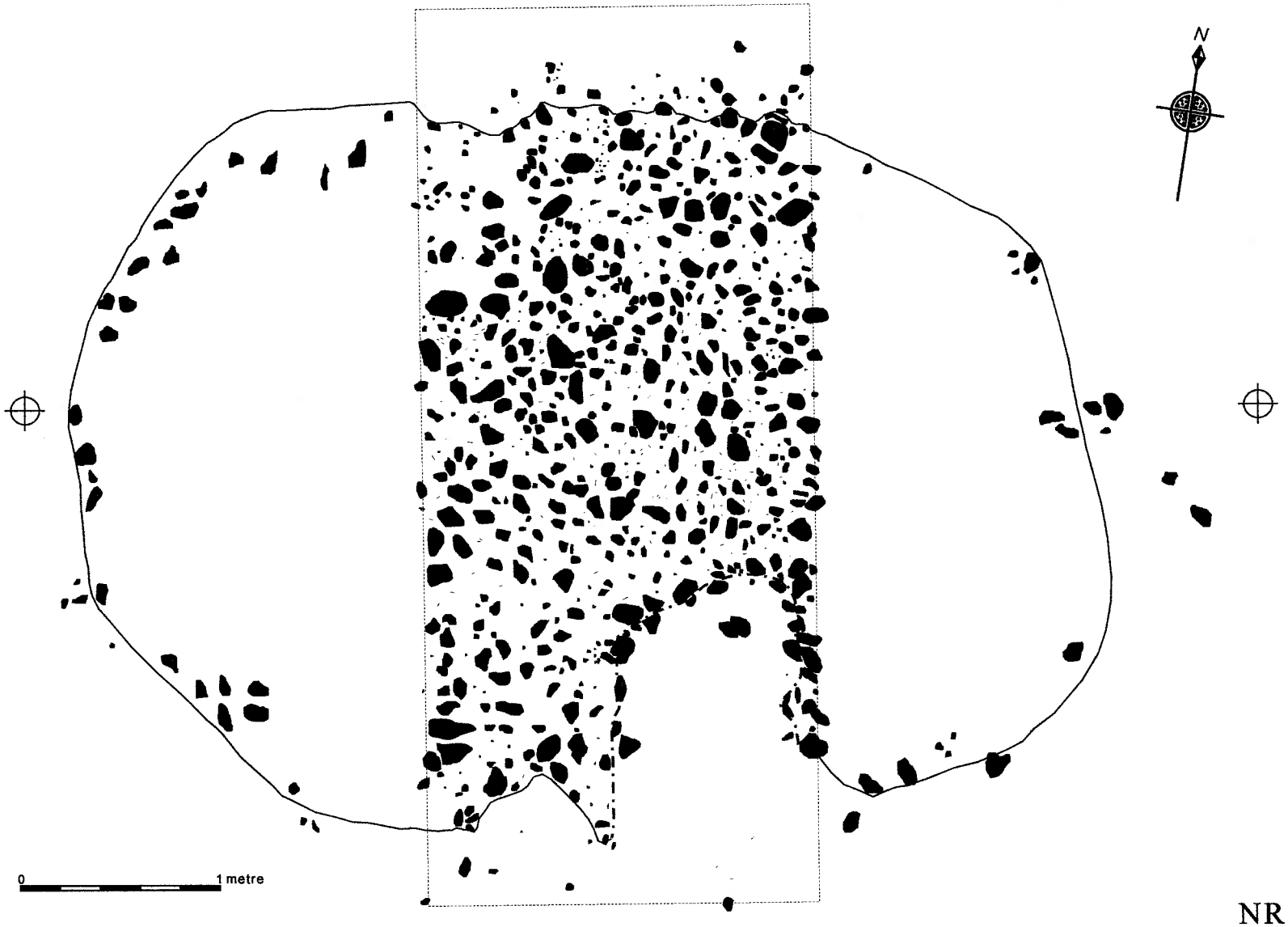
Evaluation Trenches and Features



NR01 & NR 02

Illus 3

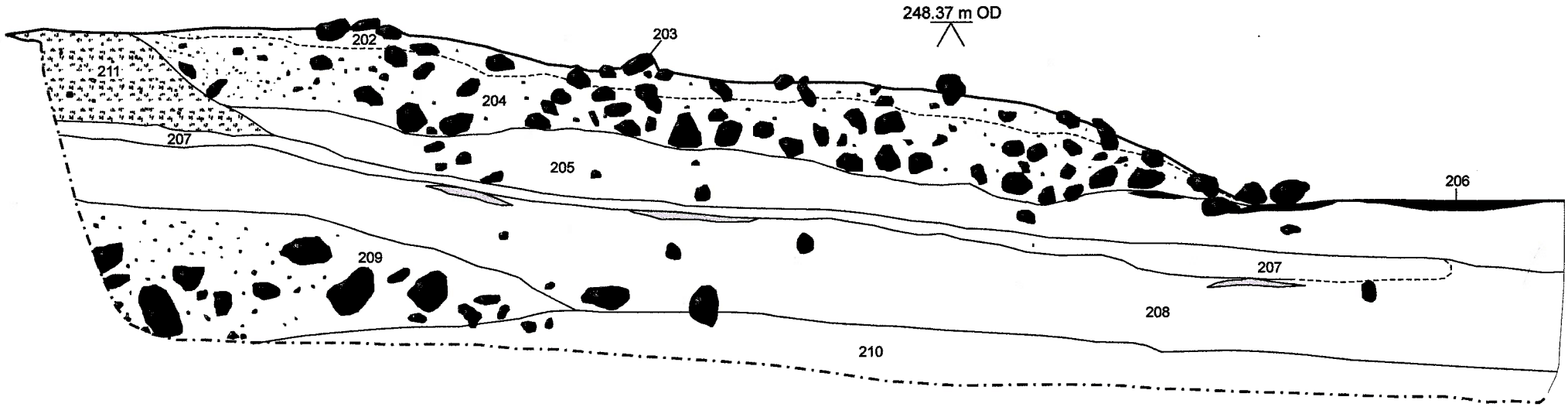
Cairn 2 Plan of sampled area



NR 02

Illus 4

Cairn 2 West Facing Section



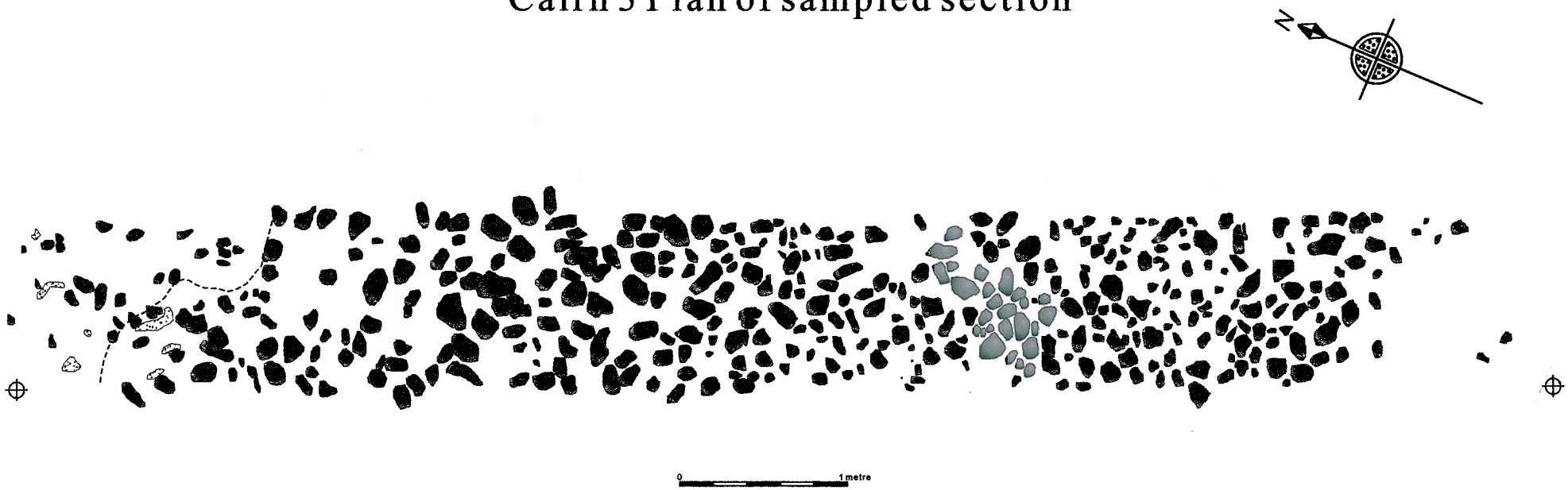
202 Bioturbated topsoil around upper cairn stones
203 Cairn stones
204 Sandy silt around cairn stones
205 Sandy silt (old ground surface)
206 Dark bioturbated silt
207 Silty sand, possible old subsoil
208 Silty sand, natural
209 Pebbly gravel, hill wash, natural
210 Sand, loose, natural

● Voids, rodent burrows

NR 02

Illus 5

Cairn 3 Plan of sampled section



NR 02

2.7 *Previous Work*

No previous archaeological work has been recorded in Newtonmore.

2.8 *Conclusions from the Desk-based Assessment*

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.

The following sites in the NMRS are noted near the proposed development area and are classified by SUAT Ltd as follows:

1	NH79NW 2	Roman Camp (Possible), Urn, 'Roman tripod'	Other
2	NH79NW 11	Tom Na Tilleadh, Socketed Bronze Axe.	Other
3	NH79NW 12	Newtonmore Hotel, Residential	Other
4	NH79NW 27	Newtonmore, General	Other
5	NH79NW 35	Cnoc A' Ghuail, Farmstead	Other

The following site is a listed building near the proposed development area.

6	Craigmhor Hotel, Newtonmore	Local

Historic Scotland categorises C(s) Listed Buildings as being of Local Importance. The impact of the proposed development on this structure is not known. Although it lies outwith the edge of the study area, any development may have a visual impact on it. If there is to be a visual impact on its setting the local planning authority should be contacted with regards to these issues, as prescribed in Sections 59 and 60 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997.

No other sites of archaeological interest were recorded in the course of this assessment.

It is the opinion of SUAT Ltd that most of the sites designated 'Other' are of little archaeological significance. The farm of Cnoc A' Ghuail (5) appears to be a development of the agricultural improvements of the late 18th or early 19th century. The origin of the supposed 'Roman Camp' (1) is unknown, but it is unlikely to be Roman. Remains of the entrenchment were still visible in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, but the site is now built over. In 1834 the village of Newton of Benchar (Newtonmore) was said to stand 'exactly within' the encampment. The road map of 1828 shows the buildings of Newtonmore extending from the east side of the manse grounds, which implies that part of the western edge of the encampment may lie within the north-east end of the proposed development area. The entrenchment is not recorded on any of the maps examined in this study. That it was considered to be Roman implies that it is unlikely to have been a recent defensive work relating to the Jacobite Risings of 1715 or 1745; it may have been prehistoric or medieval in origin: the urn full of ashes and the 'Roman tripod' found nearby in the 18th century may have been of Bronze Age and medieval dates respectively.

3.0 The Site (Illus 1)

3.1 The proposed development site occupies a fluvial glacial sloping terrace at the 150 m contour line on low lying ground north-west of the confluence of the Rivers Caulder and Spey. To the immediate north of the site is a small glacial loch. The site is an open field on the north side of the Laggan Road (A 86), 70 m to the west of its junction with the B9150 on the south-western edge of Newtonmore.

The national grid reference at the site centre is NN 712 990. The site lies between existing housing on the east and west and a small loch (Loch na Leoba) to the north. In total the proposed development site covers an area of 1.36 Ha. The site can be conveniently divided north to south.

3.2 The southern part is regular in shape forming a rectangle measuring 67.5 m east to west and 70 m north to south. It rises gently northward from a height of 246 m Ordnance Datum (OD) to 248 m (OD) and forms a ridge. Hydroelectric cables carried on two wooden poles run east to west across the ridge dividing the north and south parts of the site.

3.3 The northern part of the site extends further to the east along the rear of properties on the site's east side where it is bounded by a recent housing development. The northern area measures 130 m east to west with a 57 m eastern boundary and a 90 m western boundary. It has an irregular northern boundary line which follows the base of sharply rising glacial ridge behind which lies a loch. The northern area of the site forms a terrace with a low ridge extending east to west across the central part of the area. The highest part of the ridge is at its west end where it reaches 250 m (OD). On the north side of the ridge is a slight dip or depression representing what once was a poorly drained area. This depression measures approximately 75 x 25 m.

4.0 Methodology

SUAT Ltd abides by the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

4.1 The brief for the evaluation (NR01) prepared by Highland Council Archaeology Unit required that 20% or 2,720 m² of the site should be sampled for evaluation and recording. This was achieved by the excavation of nine trenches, which produced an area slightly in excess of the required figure. All trenches, except for a machine sondage, were 5 m wide. The trench excavations were carried out by a tracked excavator using a 2 m smooth edged ditching bucked. Topsoil and any subsoil was removed so that features cut into the natural could be observed, cleaned and recorded. Three 100 m long trenches **01**, **02** and **03** were placed in the southern part of the site extending slightly into the northern area. They were all in parallel and aligned north to south. On the northern part of the site were trenches **04**, 50 m in length, **05**, 50 m in length and **06**, 106 m in length.

Trenches **07** and **09** were both 25 m in length while trench **08** was 3 m long and 2 m wide. Features thought to be of archaeological worth found in the evaluation were given feature numbers prefixed with their trench number. They were hand cleaned and recorded and soil samples were taken where considered appropriate. Three archaeologically significant cairns were identified that would require a second phase of archaeological investigation.

4.2 A further brief by Highland Council Archaeology Unit was prepared for the second phase of archaeological work (NR02) which required the three stone cairns to be fully exposed to identify and record their form, function nature, extent and date. After the parameters of the cairns were established, sample areas of the features were cleaned to fully expose the stones to determine whether there was any surviving structure to them. Sample trenching across the feature was then undertaken in order to assess the character and establish the presence or not of any significant surviving soils. Recording of the features followed standard excavation procedures and the location of each feature was accurately plotted by an EDM.

5.0 Archaeological Results (Illus 2)

5.1 *Phase 1 : Evaluation* (NR01)

The topsoil or plough soil was 0.25 m to 0.40 m in depth and averaged about 0.30 m in depth. It comprised moderately stony dark loam. The natural deposits below the plough soil were fluvio-glacial in nature comprising brown orange-brown and yellow sands, gravel and silts, mainly very stony but with some areas of sand or silt containing very little stone.

Five archaeological features were recorded, a patch of burnt silt in trench **01**, a deposit of charcoal rich loam in trench **03**, and three cairns of cobble size rounded fieldstone in trenches **03**, **05** and **06**. One modern field drain running north to south down the side was observed in trenches **09**, **06**, and **03**.

In trench **01**, feature 0101 was located 41 m from the trench south end and 3.30 m in from the east edge. The feature was a small irregular shaped patch of orange-brown heat affected silt with occasional fragments of charcoal. It had axial dimensions of 0.85 x 0.55 m with a maximum depth of 0.095 m. The silt was sectioned and a sample taken. No dating evidence was found and the function of the feature was not ascertained. It probably represents natural silt scorched in-situ from a hearth. It was considered further work on this feature was not necessary.

In trench **03**, feature 0301 was located 27.40 m from the trench south end and 1.60 m in from the trench east side. It represented a spread of dark sandy silt loam with patches of charcoal, having a maximum depth of 0.15 m. It had axial dimensions of 1 x 0.60 m and was aligned east to west. The feature had no defined regular cut and overlay a depression in the natural orange-brown sandy silt. The feature was cut on its west side by a modern field drain. Feature 0301 was sectioned and sampled but no dating evidence was recovered. It was considered that the feature might represent the fill of a void caused by the clearance of a large stone. It was considered that no further work was necessary on this feature.

Also in trench **03** a cairn feature, 0302, was recorded at 91 m to the north of the trench south end. The feature was further exposed in the east end of trench **05** which was located so as to join trench **03** and thus expose more of the stones. The cairn feature could not be detected on the site surface and the top of the cairn was covered by 0.33 m of topsoil. The cairn was oblong, aligned east to west and measured 7.5 x 2.5 m. It comprised a 0.27 m thick spread of loose field cobbles, mainly medium to large in size.

The surface of the feature was fairly flat and the top stones were in a matrix of bioturbated topsoil while the lower stones were embedded within the natural silt. In trench **03**, a 2 m wide section of cobbles was removed by machine but no archaeological features were observed below. A strip of cobbles 0.80 x 2.50 m was hand dug, cleaned and recorded and a small sondage was made into the stones but no dating evidence was recovered. The feature appears to be man-made, and was probably higher when first constructed but has subsequently suffered truncation by modern ploughing (modern plough cuts were noted on some of the top stones). No modern pottery was found amongst the lower stones as would be expected if the feature had been constructed in the modern period. This feature was further investigated in the second phase of fieldwork (NR02)

In trench **05,** feature 0501 represented another cairn similar in construction to feature 0302. It was located at 40 m from the trench west end. It was about 0.20 m below the surface and 0.36 m thick. The upper stones were in bioturbated topsoil while the lower stones were embedded in natural silt. A small sondage into the stones found no dating evidence. This feature was further investigated in the second phase of fieldwork (NR02)

In trench **06**, feature 0601 represented another cairn but much larger than the cairns in trenches **03** and **05**. The top of the cobbles was about 0.22 m below the surface and formed a layer about 0.25 m thick. The cairn, as measured at this stage, measured at least 12 m long and 5 m wide but continued into the west, north and south baulks. A machine sondage revealed that the stones bottomed onto grey silt and no archaeological features were observed in the silt. A hand sondage measuring 1 x 3 m into the stones themselves revealed that, to the north of the packed cobbles the stone content was much less. Below the stones, within the area of less stone, was a layer of light grey sand with a maximum thickness of 0.09 m over a deposit of natural grey silt. This feature was further investigated in the second phase of fieldwork (NR02)

5.2 *Phase II : Further Work on the Cairns* (NR 02) (Illus 2-5)

For purposes of Phase II the cairns were renumbered as follows, Cairn 1 (at the junction of trenches **03** and **05**); Cairn 2 (at the east end of trench **05**) and Cairn 3, (the large feature, at the west end of trench **06**). Each cairn was given its own discrete set of context numbers, prefixed by the cairn number.

Cairn 1 when fully exposed measured 8 m east to west by 2.60 m north to south. A 2 m wide trench across the feature had been made with the machine ditching bucket during the evaluation. The southern edge of the feature was relatively straight while the northern edge was curved. It had been placed on slightly sloping ground with a northward rise of about 0.23 m. The top cairn stones were cleaned by hand and a 2 m wide section of stones were planned and then removed by hand. The removal of the stones revealed occasional sherds of modern 19th-20th pottery within the bioturbated soil (101) that had worked their way between the top stones due to modern ploughing. No dating evidence was found in soil (102) around the lower stones. The stones (108) varied in size from large pebbles to large cobbles and were two layers or about 0.20 m thick. There was no formal structure to the cairn, the stones had been randomly placed and any original voids had been filled with bioturbated soil.

Below the stones was a layer of sandy silt (103), 0.30 m thick, some of the bottom stones were impacted into this deposit. The sandy silt (103) was interpreted as a former ground surface upon which the cairn stones had been dumped. A 30 litre sample was taken from deposit 103. A sondage 1.10 m wide and 0.40 m deep was made through deposits below 103. This revealed a sequence of natural gravels and sands as follows. Deposit 104, sand and pebbles 0.15 m thick; sandy silt 105, 0.08 m thick; shingle/gravel 106, 0.20 m thick; and fine shingle, 107, (not bottomed).

Cairn 2, (Illus 3 and 4) in trench **05**, was located 40 m to the east of Cairn 1. When fully exposed it measured 5.20 m east to west and 3.50 m north to south, being oval in shape. The cairn had been built on sloping ground (248.17-247.37 m OD). On the north side of the cairn the stones could be seen as being up against the ground slope while on the south side the stones were free standing. The cairn surface stones were cleaned and a 2 m wide slot was excavated north to south across the centre of the cairn. The surface of the slot was planned and then the stones were removed by hand, down to the underlying deposit. The deposit of cairn stones, 203, had a maximum depth of 0.30 m. Excavation of the slot continued but due to the unstable nature of the underlying sandy deposits it was stepped in on both sides to a width of 0.35 m. In order to examine the underlying natural strata the slot was excavated to a depth of 0.90 m (247.02 m OD) below the surface of the cairn.

The removal of the surface cairn stones (203) revealed the presence of black bioturbated topsoil (202) between the top stones. As in Cairn 1 a few sherds of 19th century pottery were found in 202. A deposit of orange brown sandy silt (204) had accumulated between stones below the bioturbated topsoil.

The cairn stones had been placed on an earlier ground surface comprising moderately stony, orange-brown, sandy, silt (205), 0.20 m thick. At the north edge of the cairn the stones and deposit 205 overlay a deposit of orange brown silty sand (211) containing abundant pebbles. Deposit 211 was considered to be the result of hillwash. Also below the stones and over 205 was a small patch of black organic sandy silt (206) that appeared to have been caused by bioturbation around some of the lower stones. Below 205, was a 0.04 m thick deposit of orange brown silty sand 207which merged with 205 and was considered to be the subsoil for 205. Below 207 was a 0.30 m thick deposit of mid to light brown silty sand (208), with some small lenses of banded sand on its upper surface. Three small rodent tunnels (possibly rat) had penetrated into deposit 207. Deposit 208 overlay deposit 209, a 0.40 m thick, grey brown sandy silt with abundant gravel, pebbles, up to large cobble size stone. Deposit 209 had a sloping south edge and was confined to the north part of the section. Extending below 209 and 208 was a deposit of loosely compacted sand with occasional pebbles, not fully excavated but at least 0.15 m thick. No further archaeological features or deposits were identified below the bottom of the cairn stones (204).

Cairn 3 (Illus 5) was located in a slight depression or hollow in the north-west corner of the site. It was further exposed by machine and turned out to be substantially larger than expected. The exposed part of the feature measured approximately 30 m east to west and 10 m north to south. The feature was seen to extend into the western and eastern sections. After initial surface cleaning it was decided that sufficient of the feature had been exposed for the purposes of archaeological investigation. The partly cleaned feature comprised a large spread of small-large cobbles mixed with bioturbated topsoil filling a slight depression on a south-west, north-east alignment. The stones (303) edged the slope of the depression on the south side but feathered out toward the north edge.

After a certain amount of cleaning of the exposed feature, a slot 1 m wide and 9 m long aligned south-east to north west was placed across the feature to examine its construction in profile and to record some of the underlying stratigraphy. As in Cairn 1 and 2 some sherds of 19th century pottery and glass were found between the bioturbated soil (302) and the top stones of the cairn. The cairn stone layer (303) within the slot had a maximum thickness of 0.20 m and lacked any formal structure. The lower cairn stones were within a matrix of less bioturbated brown sandy silt (304). The bottom of the cairn stones 303 rested on and were embedded into a fine, grey sand (305) which had some dark mottles of bioturbated material. Deposit 305 had a maximum thickness of 0.22 m. On its south side (305) overlay a deposit of dark orange silt or silty sand (306) which was considered a natural deposit on the slope of the depression. On the northern side of (305) its edge was much less distinct and it merged gradually into an orange-grey silt. Below deposit 305, was a deposit of grey brown sandy gravel with abundant stone ranging in size from small cobbles to small boulders (307). Deposit 307 was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.20 m but not bottomed. No further archaeological features or deposits were found below the stones of the cairn.

6.0 General Discussion

6.1 The evaluation (NR01), which covered 20% of the site area, established the nature and depth of the topsoil as being a dark loam 0.25 m to 0.40 m in thickness overlaying variable glacial deposits comprising for the most part stony sands, gravels and silts. Of the five archaeological features identified as being relevant it was concluded that only the three stone cairns required further work. It was also noted that a modern ceramic field drain extended down the from the top north-west corner of the site to the bottom south-east corner and was observed in trenches **09**, **06** and **03**. No features or deposits relating to a possible Roman camp were identified.

6.2 The evaluation revealed that all three cairns were buried below the present topsoil, were set upon the natural or perhaps an earlier ground surface and revealed no dating evidence at least within the parts that were dismantled. With regard to dating, it would be expected that the cairns would contain modern or early modern pottery sherds amongst the bottom stones if they were constructed within these periods as there were numerous such sherds within the present topsoil. The cairns were considered to have good archaeological potential and it was considered that they could well represent prehistoric activity dating from the Neolithic (approximately 4500-2500 BC) or Bronze Age (2300-700 BC) and may overlie further significant archaeological features such as old ground surfaces, pits or even burials.

6.3 Phase II, further work (NR02), revealed more of the constructional nature of the cairns and established the overall shape of Cairns 1 and 2. It also established that below the stones of the cairns there were no further archaeological features apart from earlier ground surfaces for Cairns 1 and 2. Cairn 3 was much larger than expected, and was shown to have filled what was at one time a natural wet hollow. Cairn 3 was not fully excavated at its north-eastern end. No evidence was found during the excavation which could definitely date the construction of the cairns.

6.4 Of importance were the results from the soil sample taken of (103), the old ground surface below the stones of Cairn 1. The sample revealed a small sherd of prehistoric pottery and a small worked flint flake also believed to be prehistoric. These finds indicate that prehistoric activity was associated with the old ground surface below Cairn 1. No such finds were recovered from the old ground surface below Cairn 2. Although Cairn 1 sealed and was partly embedded into the prehistoric ground surface it is not conclusive evidence that the cairn was actually constructed in prehistoric times but such an association would strongly suggest that the cairn was a result of such activity of prehistoric date.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 Cairns 1 and 2 overlay an old ground surface represented by Contexts 103 and 205. When samples of these deposits were analysed the results revealed dating evidence relating to the prehistoric period below Cairn 1 but no artefactual dating evidence was recovered for Cairns 2 and 3. Cairns 1 and 2 also lay on the south slope of a slight ridge and abutted the ridge on their north sides. It is most likely that Cairns 1 and 2 resulted from the clearance of patches or plots of ground for cultivation purposes. Their position on the side of the ridge suggests that cultivation was taking place on the crest of the ridge where the topsoil would be shallower but more easily worked with crude agricultural implements.

7.2 Cairn 3 was located in a shallow hollow, which at the time of the cairn's formation was waterlogged. The cairn stones bottomed onto fine sand (305) which was considered to be a gleyed soil, resulting from waterlogging. The bulk of the stones had accumulated on the south side of the hollow, feathering out in a northerly direction. This would suggest that stones were actually thrown or tossed into the water from the south side of the feature, which fits well with the scenario that field clearance was taking place on the ridge to the south of the waterlogged dip. Thus the boggy patch would be a convenient place to dump clearance stone. It seems that this patch of ground was giving trouble even in modern times when a ceramic field drain was placed across the hollow.

7.3 With regard to dating; artefactual dating evidence relative to the prehistoric period was recovered from the deposits representing the old ground surface (103) below Cairn 1 but not from Cairns 2 and 3. Although the evidence suggests that Cairn 1 was constructed during the prehistoric period it is not conclusive proof, this evidence only shows that the cairn was constructed over a prehistoric ground surface.

7.4 Clearance cairns constructed in modern, pre-modern times or even medieval times would almost certainly contain the occasional pottery sherd, which would have derived from the manuring of the land. A lack of dating evidence from within a cairn structure could well be expected from field clearance cairns dating from the prehistoric period when artefactual evidence available in small areas of cultivation would be comparatively rare. The positions of the three cairns would also suggest that they were created in the prehistoric period as they do not respect any known earlier field boundaries but rather, lie on the edge of natural features; the slope of the ridge and within a former waterlogged depression. These locations would seem to lie on the edges of discrete cultivation areas or plots that were being worked on the central ridge of the northern area of the site.

7.5 Based on the artefactural evidence below Cairn 1, the relationship of Cairns 1 and 2 to an old ground surface and the location of all three cairns on the edge of the central ridge it seems very probable that the cairns represent clearance of the land for cultivation purposes during the prehistoric period.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 After the completion of the second phase of fieldwork by SUAT, Highland Council Planning and Development Service Archaeology Unit recommended that further archaeological work on the site was not required.

9.0 References

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RHP 11632 'Plan of the Projected Road between Fort William and Pitmain in Badenoch, by Glan Spean and the North side of Loch Laggan. Surveyed in April 1805 by William Cuming'.

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Photographic

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OS/65/178 013-015, 027-029 17/8/1965

60689 172-173 13/4/1989

Appendices

Appendix I: Photographic Record

Phase I (NR01)
Film 1
1-2 Tr01, Feature 0101 burnt silt, view E
3-4 Tr01, area of large fieldstone, view E
5-6 Tr01, general of Tr01, from S end, view N
7-8 Tr01, general of north part of trench, view S
9-10 General of S field from road, view N
11-12 Tr02, stony area, general, view SE
13-14 Tr02, general of trench S end from S, view N
15-16 Tr02, general of trench N end from S, view N
17-18 Tr03, Feature 0301, dark silty loam
19-20 Tr03, general of trench S end from S, view N
Film 2
1-2 Tr03, general of trench N end, view S
3-4 Tr04, general of trench, view W
5-6 Tr05, general of trench, view W
7-8 Tr06, general from E end, view W
9-10 Tr06, general from W end, view E
11-12 Tr07, general from E end, view W
13-14 Tr08, general from E, view NW
15-16 Tr08, general from W, view E
17-18 Tr01, F01, view E, (direction arrow wrong)
19-20 Tr01, F01, view E, (arrow direction corrected)
21-22 Tr02, dark area, F01, view S
23-24 Tr03, F02, cairn feature partly cleaned, view E
25-26 Tr03, F02, sondage into cairn feature, view E
27-28 Tr05, F01, cairn partly cleaned view N
29-30 Tr05, F01, sondage into cairn view N
31-32 Tr05, general of E end, view W
33-34 Tr06, F01, from S baulk view N
35-36 Tr06, F01, from W side, view E
37 Tr06, F01, from N baulk, view S

Phase II (NR02)
Film 1
1- blank
2-3 General, staff using the EDM, view NE
4-5 Cairn 1 after clearance, view NW
6-7 Cairn 2 after clearance, view N
8-9 Cairn 2, cleaning stones, view NW
10-11 Cairn 1, cleaning stones, view NE
12-13 Cairn 3, machine clearing, view NE
14-15 Cairn 1 cleaned, view NW

16-17 Cairn 1 general, view NW
18-19 Cairn 1 general, view N
20-21 Cairn 1 general, view N
22-23 Cairn 2, (incorrect identification number, view N
24-25 Cairn 2, general, view N
26-27 Cairn 2, general, view N
28-29 Cairn 2 with west part, view NW
30-31 Cairn 1 planning, view N
32-33 Cairn 2 planning, view N
34-35 Cairn 3, start of cleaning, view NW
36-38; Cairn 1, layer of stones removed, context 102
Film 2
1-2 General of site, view NE
3-4 Cairn 1, with stones in slot lifted, showing ground context 103, view E
5-6 Cairn 2 with first layer of stones lifted, context 202, view N
7-8 Cairn 1 with sondage into context 103, view E
9-10 Cairn 2, section trench cleared, context 205, view N
11-12 Cairn 3, general after some cleaning, view SW
13-14 Cairn 2, excavating context 205, view NE
15-16 Cairn 3, general cleaning of slot, view NE
17-18 Cairn 3, general cleaning of slot, view SE
19-20 Cairn 3, cleaned slot, view, context 303, view NW
21-22 Cairn 3, cleaned slot, context 303, view NW
23-24 Cairn 3, general of context 303, view SW
25-26 Cairn 3, general of context 303, view SE
27-28 Cairn 2, context 205, view NE
29-30 Cairn 3, general of slot, context 305, view SE
31-32 Cairn 3, general of slot, context 305, view NW
33-34 Cairn 3, final depth of slot, context 307, view NW
35-36 Cairn 3, final depth of slot, detail, context 307, view SW
37-38 Cairn 3, detail, context 307, view SE
39 General of site overlooking cairn 3, view SE

Appendix II: Plans and Sections (NR01)

Plans

Plan 1 Trench and feature locations within site, 1:500
Plan 2 Tr03, F02, cairn feature, location and investigation, 1:100
Plan 3 Tr05, F01, cairn feature, location and investigation, 1:100
Plan 4 Tr06, F01, cairn feature, location and investigation, 1:100

Section Drawings

Section 1 North facing section Tr 03, F01 dark silty loam, north facing, 1:20
Section 2 West facing section Tr 01, F01, heat affected silt, orange brown, 1:10
Section 3 North facing section Tr 06, F01, sample of north facing baulk, 1:10

Appendix III: Relevant Archaeological Features found in Evaluation (NR01)

Tr01 F01	Small area or heat affected silt, measuring 0.85 x 0.55 m, max depth 0.095 m. Sectioned and sampled no further work required.
Tr03 F01	Small spread of dark sandy silt loam with patches of charcoal, *c* 0.15 m deep, measuring *c* 1 x 0.60 m aligned N-S, possible stone hole. Sectioned and sampled, no further work required
Tr03 F02	Cairn loose cobble size rounded field stone, 0.34 m below surface. Measures *c* 7.5 m by 2.5 m and *c* 0.27 m thick. Flat topped upper stones in bioturbated topsoil, lower stones in silt. Sondage remove by machine and later area 0.80 x 2.50 m hand dug, cleaned recorded, dismantled. No dating evidence, possibly prehistoric, further work required.
Tr05 F01	Cairn loose cobble size rounded field stone, *c* 0.20 m below surface *c* 0.36 m, thick. Measures 3.5 x 5 m. Upper stone in black topsoil lower into natural silt. Hand sondage measuring 1 x 1 m. No dating evidence possibly prehistoric, further work required.
TR06 F01	Cairn , cobble size rounded field stone, *c* 0.22 m below site surface and *c* 0.25 m thick. Measures at least 12 m long and 5 m wide but continues into W, N and S baulks. Hand sondage 1 x 3 m, on N side of packed stones reveals less stone but stones set on a base or layer 'of sand 0.06-0.09 m thick.. No dating evidence but considered possibly prehistoric, further work required.

Appendix IV: Plans and Sections (NR02)

Plans

Plan 1a	Cairn 1, eastern area , context 103, 108;1:20
Plan 1b	Cairn 1, western area, 103, 108; 1:20
Plan 2	Cairn 2, detail across slot, 1:20
Plan 3	Cairn 1, surface 103, 1:20
Plan 4	Cairn 1, sondage, 104, 107,109 1:20
Plan 5	Cairn 2, with stones removed, 205, 206; 1:20
Plan 6a	Cairn 3, stones 303, south end, 1:20
Plan 6b	Cairn 3, stones 303, north end, 1:20
Plan 7a	Cairn 3, 305, south end; 1:20
Plan 7b	Cairn 3, 305, north end, 1:20
Plan 8	Cairn 2, slot fully excavated, 1:20

Section Drawings

Section 1	SW facing section through cairn 1, 1:10
Section 2	W facing section through cairn 2, 1:10
Section 3a	NE facing section through cairn 3, south end, 1:10
Section 3b	NE facing section through cairn 3, north end, 1:10

Appendix V: Context Register for NR02

Cairn 1

100	unstratified finds
101	topsoil over carin stones
102	bioturbated topsoil around top stones
103	sandy silt, upon which cairn stones are set, old ground surface
104	sandy silt, pebbles, below 103, natural
105	sand, below 104, natural
106	gravel/pebble deposit below 105
107	fine gravel below 106
108	cairn stones

Cairn 2

200	unstratified finds
201	topsoil over cairn stones
202	bioturbated topsoil around upper cairn stones
203	cairn stones
204	sandy silt, around cairn stones but below 202
205	sandy silt upon which cairn stones set, old ground surface
206	dark deposit over 205, bioturbation
207	silty sand possible old subsoil
208	silty sand natural
209	pebbly gravel, hill wash, natural
210	sand, loose, natural

Cairn 3

300	unstratified finds
301	topsoil over cairn stones
302	bioturbated topsoil around top stones of carin
303	cairn stones
304	sand around lower cairn stones
305	sand on which cairn stones sit
306	fine sand at SE edge of natural depression
307	sandy gravel, natural below 305

Appendix VI: Contexts Submitted for Sampling

Cairn 1, context 103; cairn 2, context 205, cairn 3 context 305

Appendix VII: NR02 Finds List

Con-text	Material type	Details
100	Clay pipe	1 stem fragment
102	Pottery	1sherd modern tin-glazed earthenware
300	Iron	1 horse shoe
300	Animal bone	Sheep/goat: femur; epiphyses unfused
301	Pottery	5 sherds modern tin-glazed earthenware
301	Glass	1 weathered fragment
301	Iron	3 corroded iron objects
301	Stone	1 quartz fragment
302	Pottery	1 earthenware fragment
302	Glass	1 bottle neck fragment
302	Clay pipe	1 stem fragment
302	Quartz	3 quartz fragments
302	Animal bone	Horse: 5 fragmentary upper molars/premolars

In addition one small sherd of prehistoric pottery and one fragment of worked flint were recovered from samples of context 103, the old ground surface below Cairn 1.

Appendix VIII Assessment of Soil Samples Mhairi Hastie

Summary

Two old ground surfaces and a gleyed soil deposit were uncovered below three clearance cairns, during fieldwork, carried out by SUAT Ltd, at Laggan Road, Newtonmore. Three 30-litre bulk soil samples were taken from the deposits and submitted to Headland Archaeology Ltd for palaeoenvironmental assessment.

Samples from the old ground surfaces were found to contain wood charcoal and two prehistoric artefacts suggesting that these deposits represent the remnants of old cultivated soil horizons. The gleyed deposit contained only low quantities of charcoal and occasional uncharred plant remains. The evidence suggests that this material is likely to be later contamination of the deposit.

1. Methodology

Two old ground surfaces and a gleyed soil deposit were uncovered below three clearance cairns, during field work, carried out by SUAT Ltd, at Laggan Road, Newtonmore.

Three 30-litre bulk soil samples were taken from the deposits and submitted to Headland Archaeology Ltd for palaeoenvironmental assessment. Each sample was processed through a system of flotation and wet sieving in a Siraf style flotation tank. The floating debris (flot) was collected in a 250 μm sieve and, once dry, scanned using a binocular microscope. Any material remaining in the flotation tank (retent) was wet-sieved through a 1 mm mesh and air-dried. This was then sorted and any material of archaeological significance removed.

2. Results

The results are summarised in Tables 1 and 2.

Old ground surfaces below Clearance Cairns 1 and 2

Both samples contained wood charcoal comprising of a mix of small shrubby species and oak fragments. In addition, one small sherd of prehistoric pottery and one fragment of worked flint were recovered from Context 103.

Gleyed soil below Clearance Cairn 3

The sample contained low levels of uncharred plant remains including root debris and a small assemblage of uncharred weed seeds, including *Carex* sp (sedge), *Chenopodium album* (fat hen), *Stellaria media* (chickweed), Chenopodiaceae indet (goosefoot), and *Galeopsis* sp. (hemp-nettle). Occasional fragments of wood charcoal were also present.

3. Discussion

Old ground surfaces 103 and 205

The presence of wood charcoal and prehistoric artefacts in Context 103 and 205 indicate that the ground surfaces contain a mix of domestic debris and that the two deposits represent the remnants of old cultivation horizons that have been sealed below the clearance Cairns 1 and 2.

Gleyed Deposit 305

The remains recovered from the gleyed deposit (Context 305) are different in composition to that of the old ground surfaces. The sample contained uncharred root debris with occasional uncharred weed seeds. Only low quantities of charcoal were present and no other palaeoenvironmental remains or artefacts were recovered. There is no evidence to indicate that this deposit was ever cultivated

Field observations suggest that this deposit was waterlogged at the time Clearance Cairn 3 was formed. The weed seed assemblage includes species that are associated with arable land or waste places and no aquatic plants were recovered. This implies that the weed assemblage is unlikely to be associated with the original waterlogged deposit. The presence of large concentrations of root debris throughout the sample and the location of the deposit near to the present surface suggests that the weed seeds are probably later contamination.

If these interpretations are correct, we can envisage the cultivation of the site during prehistory with low level stone clearance being undertaken and the construction of small clearance cairns. Then, at a later date, the site being more extensively cleared of stone that was dumped into the wet gully.

4. Recommendations

Artefacts

It is recommended that the prehistoric pottery sherd and lithic object, from Context 103, be submitted for specialist assessment.

AMS dating

If radiocarbon dates are required, charcoal is available from Context 103 and 205 for AMS dating. As the origin of this charcoal is unclear it is recommended that any dating should be carried out on several single fragments of charcoal in order to gain a range of dates for the two deposits.

Table 1: Composition of retents

Context number	Sample number	Context Description	Pottery	Lithic	Charcoal
103	1	Old ground surface below clearance Cairn 1	+	+	+++
205	2	Old ground surface below clearance Cairn 2			++
305	3	Deposit of gleyed soil below clearance Cairn 3			+

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

Table 2: Composition of flots

Context number	Sample number	Context Description	Total Flot Vol (ml)	Weed seeds	Charcoal		Modern Root debris	Comments
					Qty	AMS		
103	1	Old ground surface below clearance Cairn 1	100		++	*	+++	Uncharred insect remains +
205	2	Old ground surface below clearance Cairn 2	100		++	*	+++	Uncharred insect remains +
305	3	Deposit of gleyed soil below clearance Cairn 3	20	+			+++	Uncharred weed seeds including: *Carex* sp. x 1 *Chenopodium album* x 1 *Stellaria media* x 1 Chenopodiaceae indet x 1 *Galeopsis* sp. x 2

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant
* = sufficient charcoal for AMS dating