

Report of Archaeological Evaluation
April 8th – 9th 2002
Glascairn, Culbokie, Highland
NH 602/587 (Centred)

By
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BA AIFA FSAScot
April 2002

Introduction

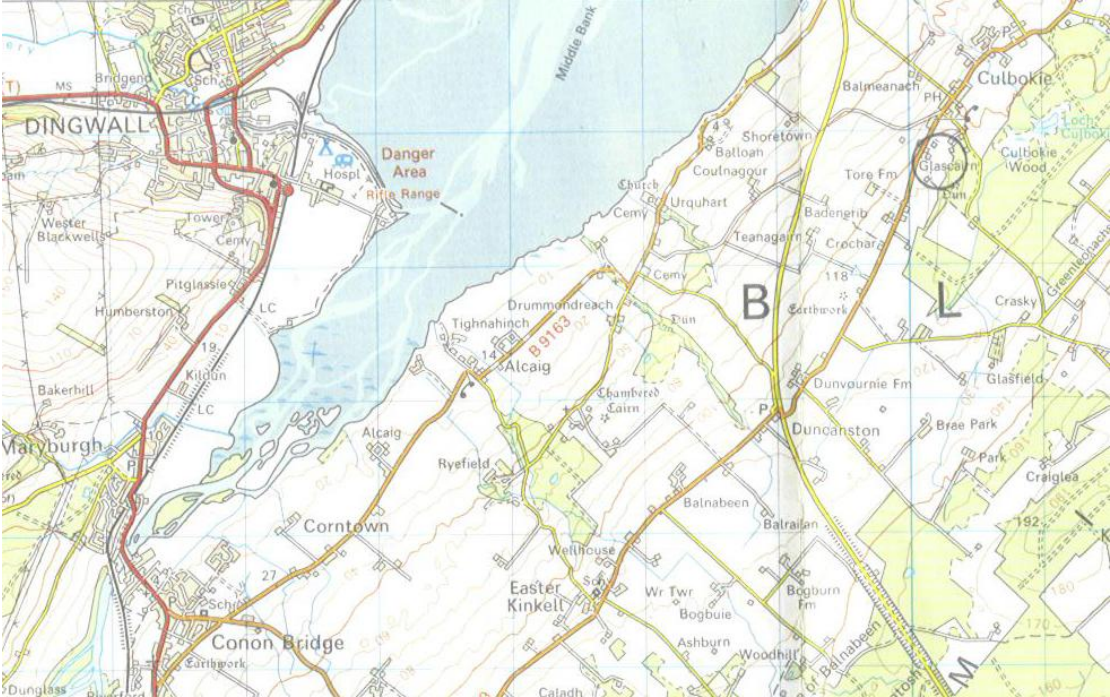
This report is for a programme of trial trenching conducted for Capital Homes by the author for a proposed development at Glascairn, Culbokie.

Acknowledgements

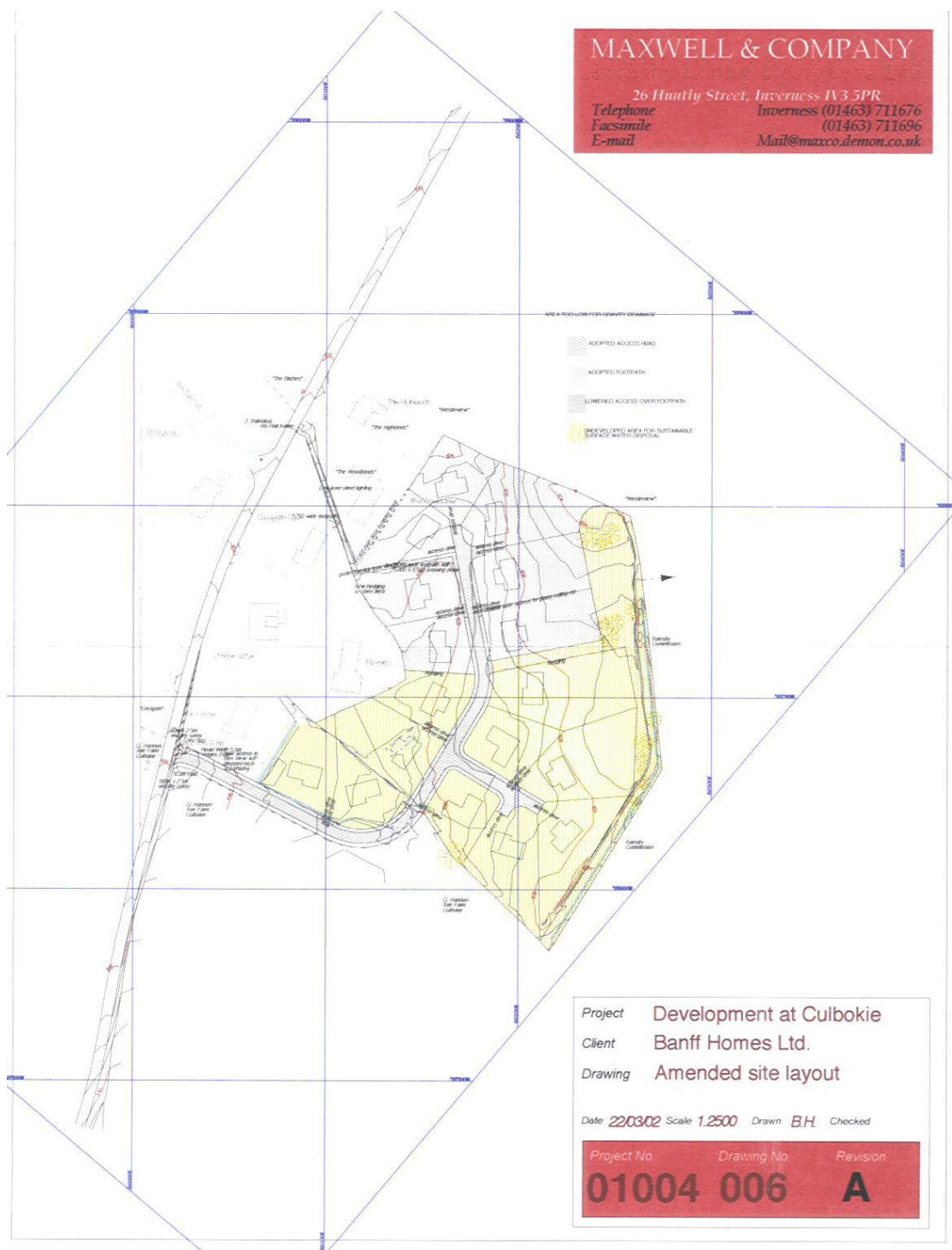
I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Mr. W Nelson of Capital Homes;
- Staff of Uist Builders Ltd for on-site help;
- Mr. D Farrell for on-site help.

Site Location



MAXWELL & COMPANY
 26 Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5PR
 Telephone Inverness (01463) 711676
 Facsimile (01463) 711696
 E-mail Mail@maxco.demon.co.uk



Project Development at Culbokie
 Client Banff Homes Ltd.
 Drawing Amended site layout

Date 22/03/02 Scale 1:2500 Drawn B.H. Checked

Project No Drawing No Revision
01004 006 A

Objectives

The author was commissioned by Capital Homes to conduct a programme of trial trenching as part of their planning conditions by Highland Council. This work followed on a desktop and walkover survey conducted by the author.

This work to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and to follow the specification produced by Highland Council Archaeology Unit. (Copy enclosed)

Methodology

The trial trenching was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). The work was carried out under the supervision of a member of the IFA.

Site Conditions

The area under investigation was formerly a grass field with the underlying geology being sandy gravel with occasional areas of natural bedrock.

Weather on the days of work was slightly overcast with bright sun.

Historical Background

Desktop Survey

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources :

- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland Aerial Photograph Collection;
- National Map Library, Edinburgh;
- Highland Council Archives.

Currently the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland within the development area record no sites. The following archaeological site is recorded in the vicinity in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Records and in the National Monuments Record of Scotland :

NH65NW 1 – Carn Mor – Dun at NH 6033/5858 – Noted in Ordnance Survey Name Book that human remains were found here in 1859. Dun is on a knoll with wall spread to 6m with no sign of walls with internal diameter of c18m. Two ramparts and a ditch with entrance to SW. Site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

A cartographic search of Ordnance Survey maps from 1868-1930 of the area revealed 2 sites of former crofts

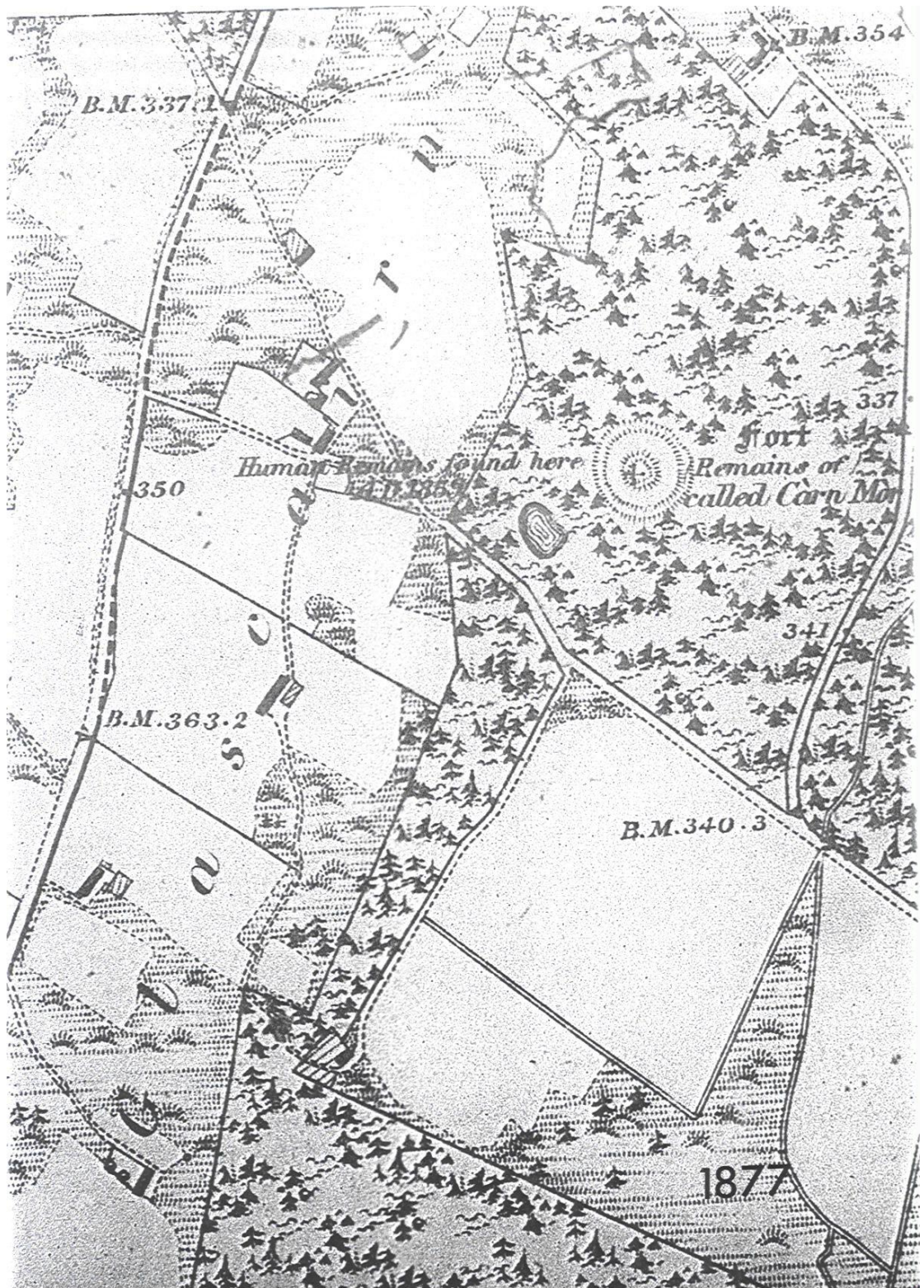
- 1 – at NH 6014/5858 to comprise of 2 buildings in an L shape within an enclosure.
- 2 – at NH 6014/5864 to comprise of 2 buildings side by side in a small enclosure.

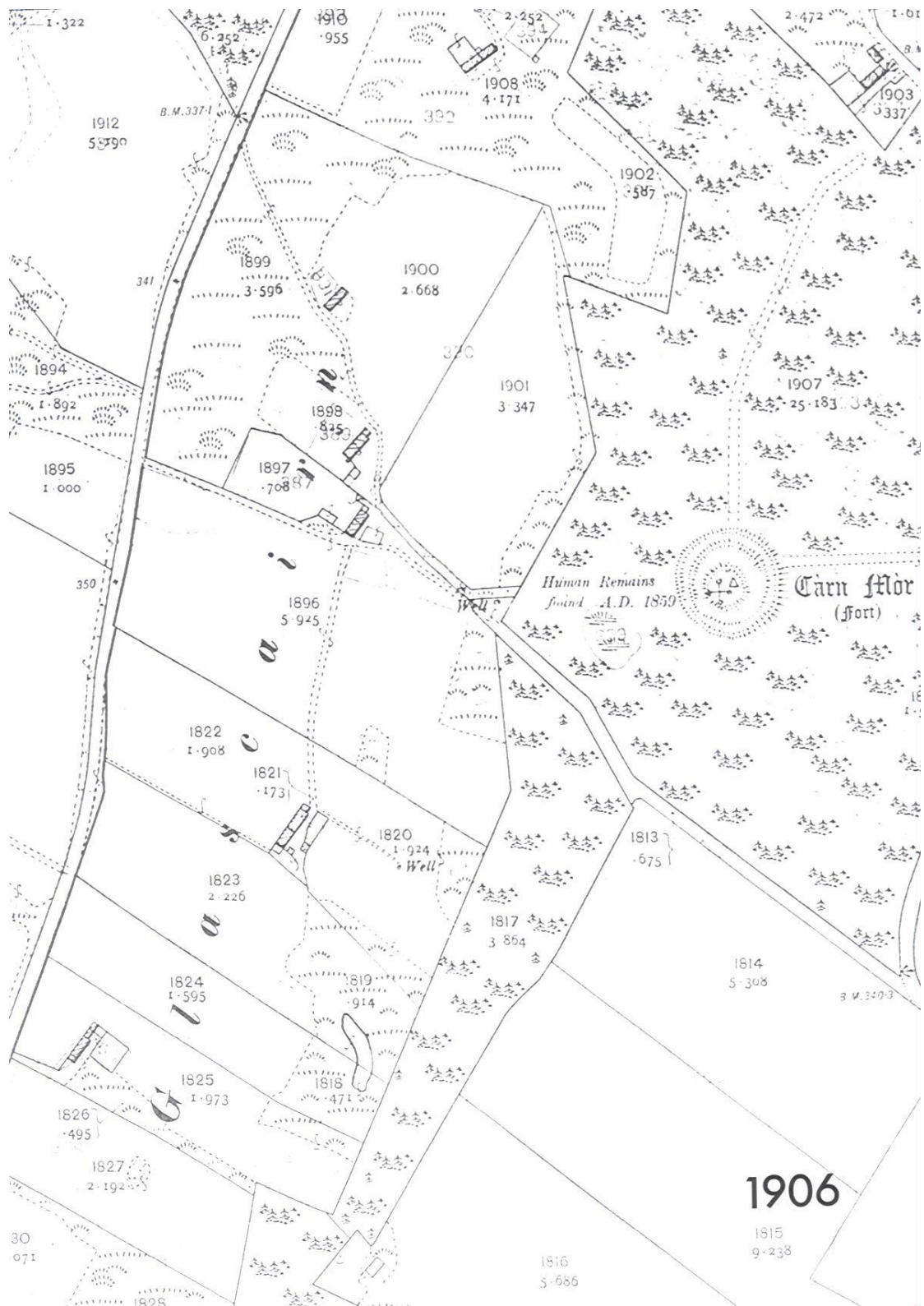
Both are named Glascairn on 2nd edition OS of 1906 (see over) though not numbered, and therefore difficult to ascertain through the County Valuation Rolls to whom lived there. Both houses are marked as roofed in the 1906 edition, though secondary buildings are marked as unroofed.

A search of aerial photographs from 1946 to 1988 held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland revealed the remains of the 2 crofts. By 1946 (see over) both crofts are out of use though the 2nd is still roofed. By 1952 only a trace of the secondary building from croft no.1 is visible. By 1966 (see over) the 2nd croft is now only partly roofed. Later aerial photographs show croft no.1 continuing to deteriorate whilst croft no.2 remains unchanged. A 3rd croft marked on the maps and partly visible on the AP of 1946 lies to the north edge of the site, and is now (after 1976) under housing. No other sites are evident in the aerial photographs.

Summary of Results of Desktop

The desktop survey has revealed that the area of development is mostly a field relating to the former crofts.





1906

1815
9-238

1816
5-686

1814
5-308

1813
-675

1817
3-864

1820
1-924
Well

1821
-1731

1822
1-908

1896
5-925

1897
-70887

1898
825

1900
2-668

1901
3-347

1902
-587

1908
4-171

1910
-955

1912
5-790

30
071

1828

1827
2-192

1826
-495

1825
1-973

1819
-914

1823
2-226

1895
1-000

1894
1-892

1894
1-892

1-322

B.M. 337-1

341

350

350

B.M. 340-3

Carn Mor
(Fort)

Human Remains
found A.D. 1859

Well

Well

1-61

2-472

1903
-337



RAF AP of 1946



OS AP of 1966

Walkover Survey

A walkover survey of the area of development revealed the following sites :

1 – Croft house at entrance NH 6014/5858 to be very ruinous 6m x 9.5m with walls 0.6m thick and standing to 1.2m with addition 6m x 3.5m with walls 0.4m thick and standing to 0.2m. Rabbit burrows in the vicinity of this building have produced pottery and glass (not retained) of an early to mid 19th century date.

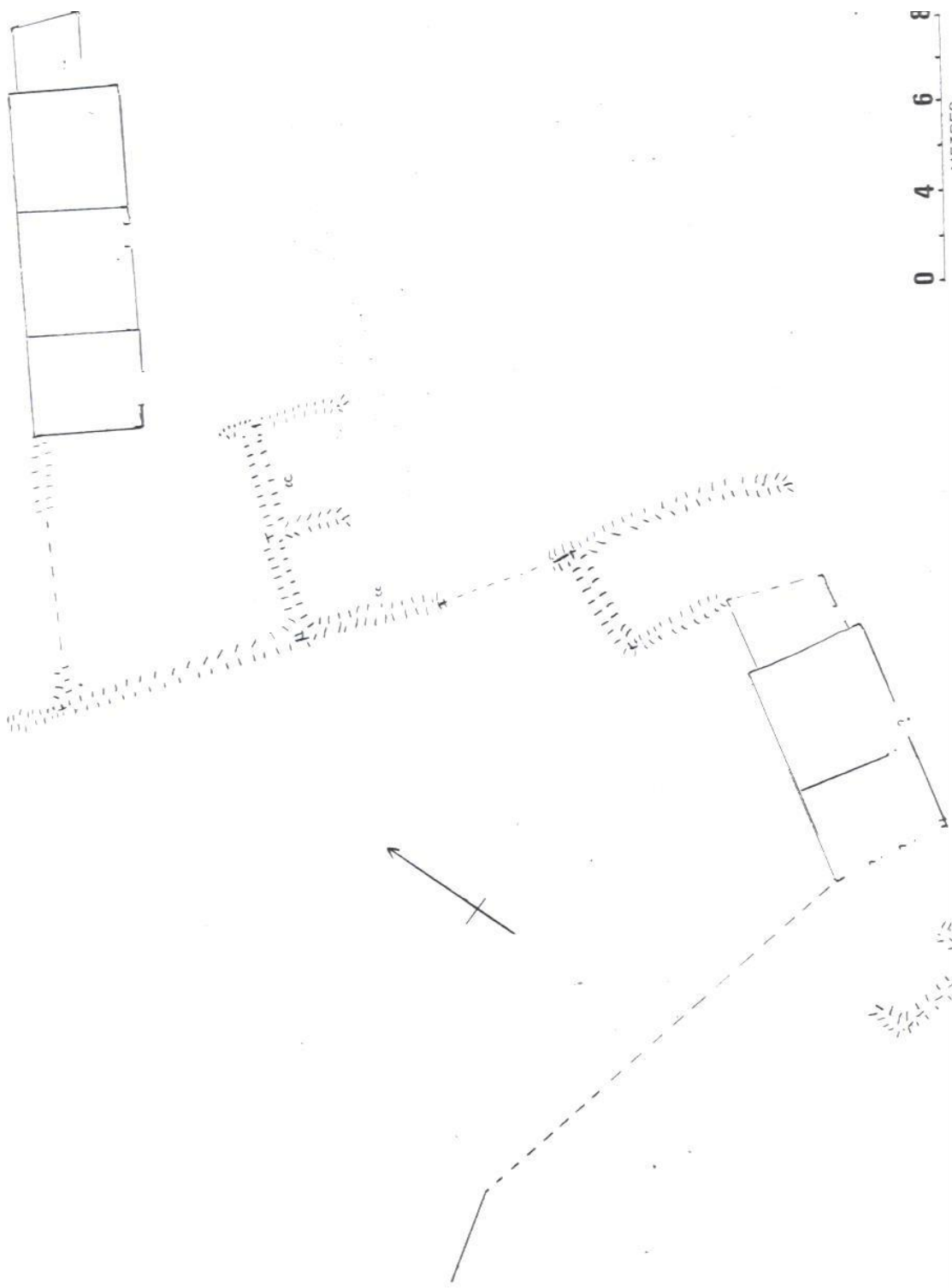
2 – Croft house at NH 6014/5864 to be of three compartments with overall size of 5m x 18m with walls 0.65m thick and standing to a height of 1.85m. Central structure has corrugated iron roof and fireplace still insitu and traces of fireplaces to end structures. Possible that structure reused as sheep shelter as concrete to doorway edge. (See plan over)



View of Croft No.1



View of Croft No.2



Trial Trenching Results

The trial trenching was based upon the results of the desktop survey and concentrated on the footprint of each proposed house, access and services. A total of 890m² was required to be excavated being 5% of the development area as requested in the Highland Council Archaeology Unit Specification.

A total of 5 trenches were excavated (see enclosed plan – scale 1:500). Results of trial trenching were as follows:

1 – 1.6m x 38m with depth of topsoil and subsoil to an average depth of 200mm onto natural of yellow brown sandy soil and bedrock. Find of occasional sherd of white glazed pottery in natural, giving indication that soil has been heavily ploughed in the past. No archaeological deposits or features revealed.

2 – 1.6m x 116.6m with depth of topsoil and subsoil to an average depth of 200mm onto natural of yellow brown sandy soil and bedrock. No archaeological deposits or features revealed.

3 – 1.6m x 166m with depth of topsoil and subsoil to an average depth of 250mm onto natural of yellow brown sandy soil and bedrock. Find of possible field drain running towards SE to centre of trench, though may have been fragmentary edge of bedrock. No archaeological deposits or features revealed.

4 – 1.6m x 170m with depth of topsoil and subsoil to an average depth of 400mm onto natural of yellow brown sandy soil and bedrock. Find of in-filled hollow 1.3m wide as part of agricultural improvements. No archaeological deposits or features revealed.

5 – 1.6m x 46.5m with depth of topsoil and subsoil to an average depth of 250mm onto natural of yellow brown sandy soil and bedrock. Southern edge of trench is low lying and indications of lying in a former wet area. No archaeological deposits or features revealed.

Conclusions

Overall the site has seen limited activity in the 19th century with the insertion of a possible rubble field drain to alleviate those areas that are low lying and infilling of hollows with stone.

There was no evidence of any earlier settlement in the area, which may relate to the Dun site close by. No archaeological deposits or features were revealed to any of the trenches.

Recommendations

No recommendations with regards to this development project are to be proposed.

References

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record database entries for NH65NW.

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database entries for NH65NW.

OS Maps Consulted

Ross & Cromarty sheet 89 of 1877 (surveyed 1871)

Ross & Cromarty sheet 89.1 of 1906

Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF 106G/Scot/Uk 114	frames 3056-3058	1946	1:10,000
RAF 540/RAF/725	frames 3037-3038	1952	1:10,000
RAF 58/RAF/5391	frames 0103-5 & 93-95	1962	1:10,000
OS OS/66/34	frames 51 –53	1966	1: 7500
OS OS/67/117	frames 46 – 48	1967	1: 7500
OS OS/76/97	frames 15 – 16	1976	1: 7500
OS 62688	frames 22 – 23	1988	1: 24,000

Archive

The following archive derived from this project is to be deposited with the National Monuments Record, Edinburgh :

- Site notebook
- Map of site at 1:500
- Copy of this report

Colour slides taken as part of this work are to be deposited with the Highland Sites and Monuments Record.

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IV12 4PP

Appendix 1 – Details of Slides

Set of slides has been deposited with the Highland SMR.

- 1 – View of site before excavation.
- 2 – View of croft no.1.
- 3 – Detail of croft no.1.
- 4 – View of croft no.2.
- 5 – View of croft no.2.
- 6 – ibid.
- 7 – View of machining of trench.
- 8 – View of trench 1 upon excavation.
- 9 – View of trench 2 upon excavation.
- 10 – View of trench 3 upon excavation.
- 11 – View of trench 4 during excavation.
- 12 – View of croft no.2.
- 13 – Detail of end building croft no.2.
- 14 – Rear of croft no.2.
- 15 – Detail of west gable of croft no.2.
- 16 – Detail of chimney of croft no.2.
- 17 – Detail of gable of croft no.2.
- 18 – View of croft no.2.
- 19 – View of trench 5 upon excavation.
- 20 – View of trench 3 upon excavation.
- 21 – View of trench 4 upon excavation.
- 22 – View of trenches with croft no.2 to rear.