

**Report of Archaeological Desktop &
Walkover Survey
West Shinness Water Mains Renewal Project
by Lairg, Sutherland, Highland.
NC 5291/1531 - NC 5546/1295.**

Client: Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water.

**By
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B.A A.I.F.A F.S.A.Scot.
October 2004**

Contents

1. Introduction
2. Acknowledgements
3. Objectives
4. Survey Results
5. Conclusions
6. Archive
7. Discovery and Excavation
8. References

Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd in late September 2004 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for the West Shinness Water Mains Renewal Project.

Work revealed a number of previously unrecorded sites of clearance cairns, a number of sites noted related to a township to include an enclosure, a building and a kiln.

No recommendations for further work have been made.

1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water by the author for the West Shinness Water Mains Renewal Project, by Lairg, Sutherland, Highland.

The walkover survey was conducted on September 25th 2004.

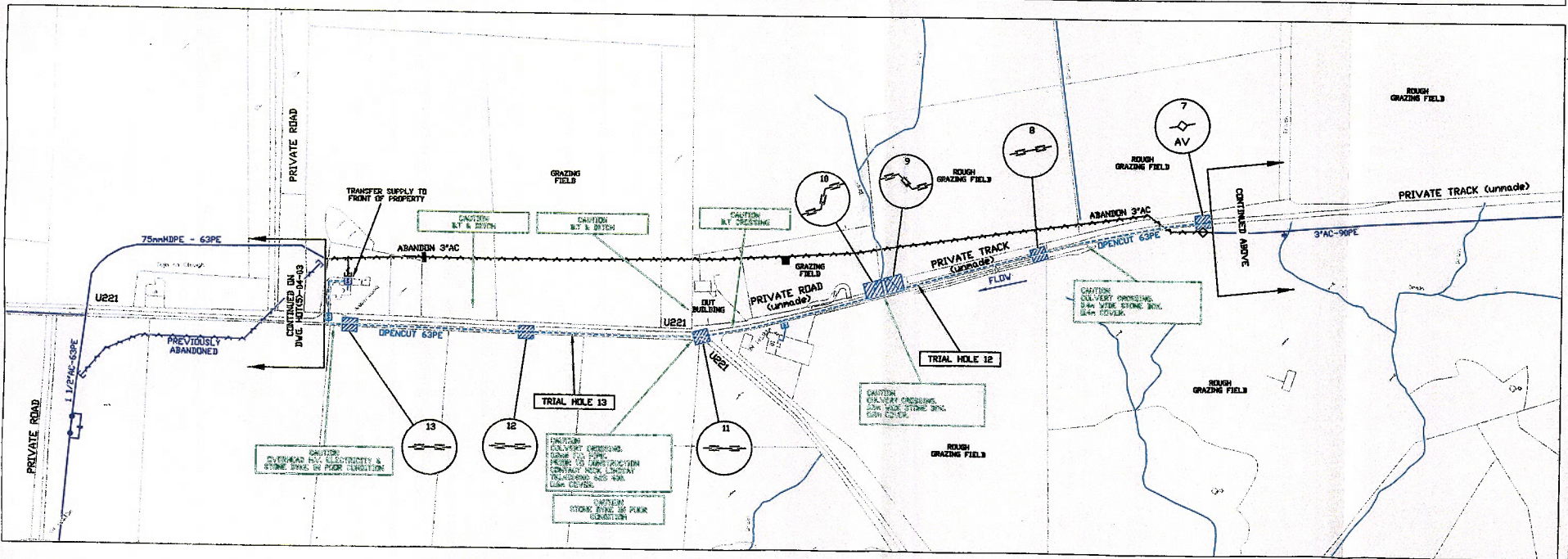
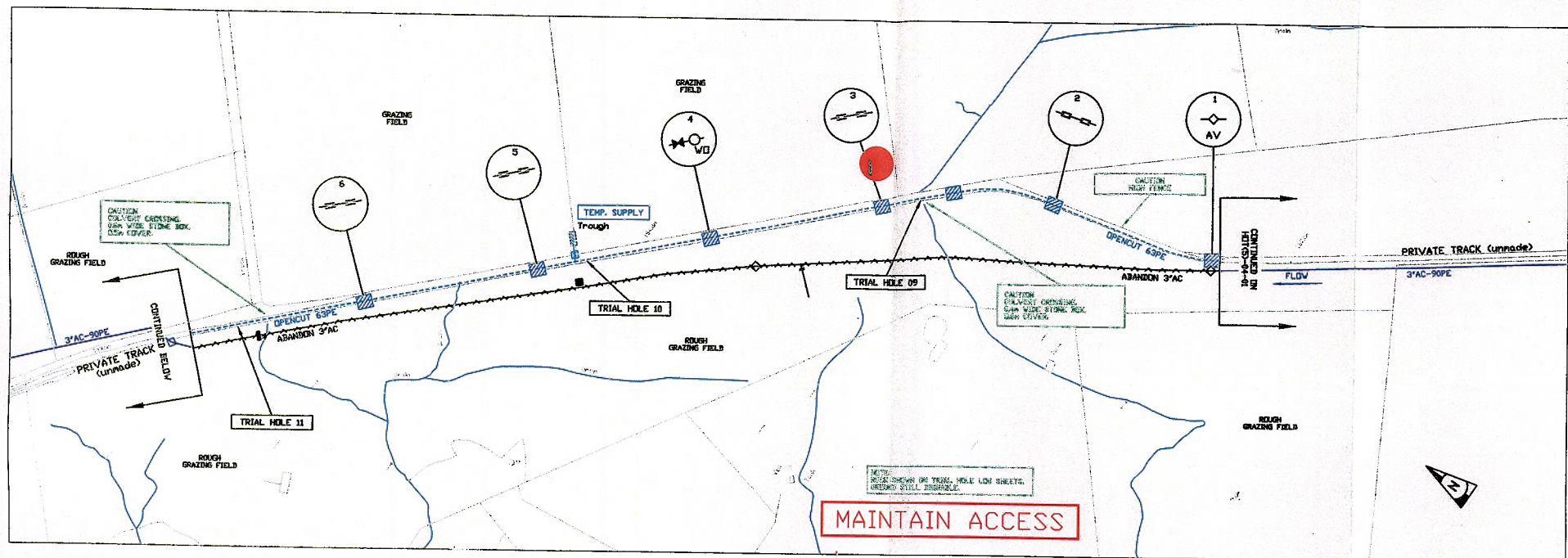
2. Acknowledgements

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

- Mr. A Barnett, of Halcrow Group Ltd;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives.

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This is a detailed topographic map of the Shinness area in the Scottish Highlands. The map shows the coastline of Loch Shinness, with various islands and headlands labeled. Key locations include Shinness, Achnairn, and Lairg. The map features contour lines, a grid system, and various geographical features like 'Hut Circles', 'Drum na h-Uamachd', and 'Cnoc a' Choire'. The map is oriented with North at the top.



IF POSSIBLE OPEN CUT SECTION MAY BE DIRECTIONAL DRILLED

NOTE: MAINS TO BE LAID IN VERGES WHERE POSSIBLE

- LEGEND**
- 1. OPEN CUT 1124m WITH 63mm MDPE.
- KEY**
- ABANDONED
 - EXISTING MAINS
 - PIPE BUSTING
 - SLIP LINGE
 - SWAB
 - DIRECTIONAL DRILLING
 - OPEN CUT
 - HYDRANT
 - WASHOUT
 - EXISTING VALVE
 - EXISTING P.A.V.
 - AIR VALVE
 - PROPOSED VALVE
 - EXCAVATION/ACCESS PIT
 - BOUNDARY BOX WITH P.A.V.
 - BOUNDARY BOX
 - STOP TAP
 - METER
 - REMOVE STOP TAP (STOP)

Notes

GENERAL

This drawing shall be read in conjunction with relevant Scottish Water Specifications, Standard Drawings & Schedule of Rates.

It is the responsibility of site personnel to ensure that All New Roads & Structures Act (NSR) information is conveyed prior to excavation.

All fittings to be as per Standard Details shown in Contract Documents. For open cut works all joints at fitting locations to be built using electro fusion or mechanical couplings subject to the approval of the engineer. Proposed method to be indicated on line diagrams.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic management issues associated with this phase of works will be covered by Chapter 8.

CONNECTIONS TO EXISTING MAINS

Details of connection methods: Connections to existing mains will be as outlined in our method statements and risk assessment documents.

If stop tap is on private land, re at boundary.

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The representation of physical assets and boundaries of areas in which Scottish Water and others have an interest does not necessarily imply their true positions. For further details contact the appropriate Local Office.

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Order No.	Version

Project Number	Contract ID

Drawing Title:
AMBERWOOD
WEST SHINNESS
HOTSPOT GROUP 5

Drawing No.:
HOT (5) 04-02

Scale:
1:1250

Drawn by:
S. MACKAY

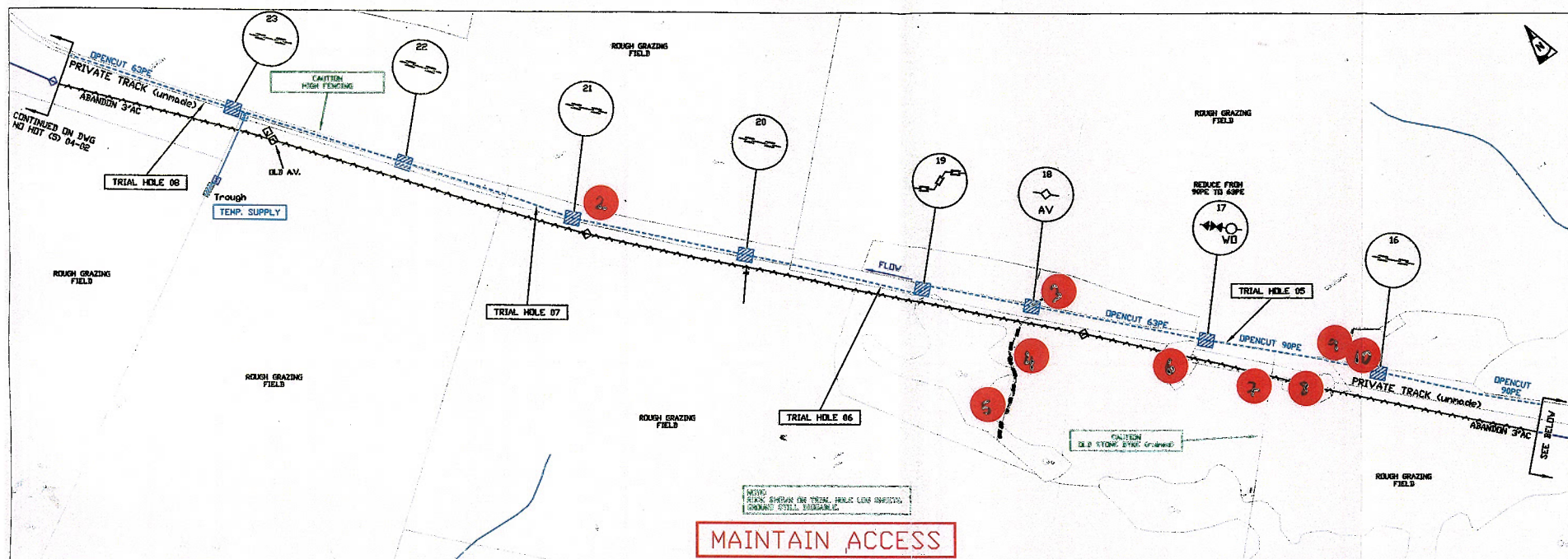
Date:
06/04/04

Checked by:
A. M. 07/05/04

Approved by:
A. M. 07/05/04

Issue Type:

01/01/2004



Notes

GENERAL
This drawing shall be read in
conjunction with relevant Scottish
Water Specifications, Standard Bids
Drawings & Schedule of Rates.

It is the responsibility of site personnel to ensure that All New Roads & Streetworks Act (MULESEYE) information is consulted prior to an excavation.

All fittings to be as per Standard Details shown in Contract Document
For open cut works all joints at
fitting locations to be butt fusion,
For other rehab methods, joints to
be electro fusion or mechanical, shall
be subject to the approval of the
engineer. Proposed method to be
indicated on the diagrams.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Traffic management issues associated with this phase of works will be covered by Chapter 8.

CONNECTIONS TO EXISTING MAINS

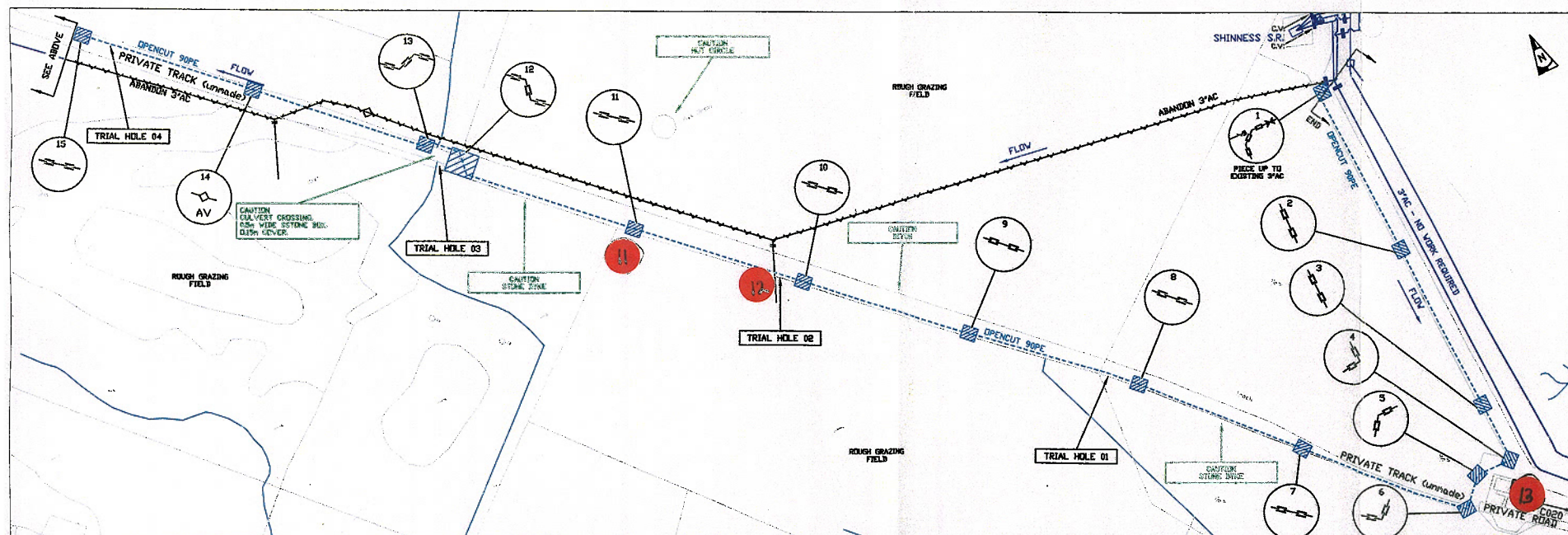
Details of connection methods:-

Connections to existing mains will be
as outlined in our method statement
and risk assessment documents.

If stop tap is on private land, rer
at boundary,

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IF POSSIBLE OPEN CUT SECTION MAY
BE DIRECTIONAL DRILLED

NOTE: MAINS TO BE LAID IN VERGES
WHERE POSSIBLE

LEGEND

1. OPENCUT 1316m WITH 90mm HPPE. SDR 17.
2. OPENCUT 666m WITH 63mm MDPE.

KEY

ABANDONED		HYDRANT		BOUNDARY BOX W
EXISTING MAINS		WASHOUT		BOUNDARY BOX
PIPE BURSTING		EXISTING VALVE		STEP TAP
SLIP LINDING		EXISTING P.R.V.		METER
SWAB		AIR VALVE		
DIRECTIONAL DRILLING				

Rev	Date	By	Description
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Originator	Version
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Project Number	Contract ID
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Drawing Title

SHRINNESS S.R.
WEST SHRINNESS
HOTSPOT GROUP 5

Drawing No.
HOT (5)-04-01

1:1250

Drawn by S. MACKAY	Date 05/04/04	Checked by AK 07/08/04
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DATE 200

3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record those features that would be affected by the new proposed water renewals scheme, new scheme is to follow close to existing to allow for connections. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999).

4. Archaeological Survey

Desktop & Walkover Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Highland Council Archives;
- Inverness Library.

Map coverage was limited as the 1st edition of 1870's was almost the same as the 2nd of 1907 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being late 1960's. Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the proposed routes.

Some archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the area of the proposed pipeline by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in 1989 (see entry below for sites 3-10 and 11). Work has also been conducted over part of the route by J Hooper in 2002 (Hooper, 2002) and to the edge of the route by C Dagg in 2003 (Dagg, 2003). Detailed history of the Shinness area is located in Hooper(2002, 8).

The following 13 archaeological sites were to be found close to the pipeline (proposed new pipelines are highlighted in blue on the accompanying maps with sites numbered). Route to follow edge of existing track. Sites are as follows:

HSMR – Highland Sites and Monuments Record
NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland
N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

1 – Shinness

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NC 54237/14362

Type – Clearance cairn (possible)

Noted as part of walkover survey.

Walkover reveals cairn 3m in diameter and 0.5m high. Forms part of a series of cairns lying along edge of stone-wall in a NE direction. May not be cairn but dump of stones used to built wall or combination of both.

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

Below: View of cairns facing NE.



2 – Shinness

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NC 54494/13946

Type – Clearance cairn

Noted as part of walkover survey.

Walkover reveals clearance cairn in edge of forestry area. Cairn is c4m x 2.5m x 1m high.

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

Below : View of cairn facing



Sites 3 to 10 form part of the following site:

Shinness or Caolishie

HSMR – NC51SW 8

NMRS – NC51SW 8

Grid Ref: NC 547/136

Type – Township

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'The remains of Caolishie township are located along the face and crest of a SW-facing slope about 1km SW of Shinness Lodge. There are the remains of at least ten buildings; a number of enclosures; two kilns, one of which is very well defined, within and attached to the banks which define the township and its field-system. To the SE of the field-system, which is orientated along the contours, are a

number of small cairns, measuring up to 5m in diameter and 1.0m high. To the SW of the track only fragmentary remains indicate the location of the previously extensive remains of the township of Achrapearain depicted on the OS 6" 1st edition map (Sutherland, Sheet 94: 1873 Survey). Visited by RCAHMS 19 October 1989.

A township comprising 5 unroofed buildings, one of which has 2 compartments, and an enclosure is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet 85). 5 unroofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1989).'

Site is unchanged between 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps.

3 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54676/13753 to NC 54690/13769

Type – Stone dyke.

Noted during walkover of stone dyke 1m wide and 0.2m high in area of bracken. Forms division of larger enclosure(?).

Recommend that care to be taken during works in this area.

Below: View of dyke facing E – scales 1m.



4 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54669/13743

Type – Clearance cairn, Stone dyke.

Noted during walkover of clearance cairn (?) dumped atop stone dyke, though not easily visible due to bracken. Cairn is 1.5m x 4m x 0.3m high. Dyke runs in SW direction to at least NC 54644/13726 and is visibly 0.5m wide and high continues in part to NC 54627/13708 then to NC 54617/13696 where it turns to SE into bank(?).

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

Below: View of clearance cairn – scales 1m.



5 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54614/13717

Type – Kiln, barn.

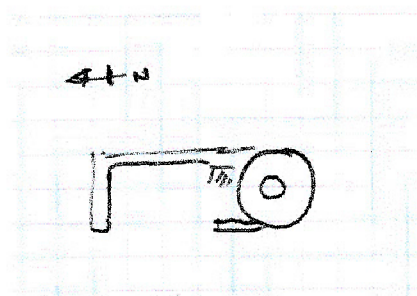
Noted during walkover of bowl of kiln 2.5m in diameter and 0.8m deep in very good state of preservation with stoke hole still visible, though partly covered in bracken. Adjoining barn at NC 54612/13720 is 4.5m x 3m with walls up to 0.4m high. No sign of entrance to barn.

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

Below left – Detail of kiln bowl – scales 1m.

Below right – View of kiln from barn – scales 1m.

Below – Enlarged sketch of kiln – not to scale.



6 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54723/13678

Type – Enclosure (?)

Noted during walkover of curved section of dyke visible in bracken 15m x c10m with wall 1m wide and 0.3m high in parts. Cut on NE side by existing mains.

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

Below – View facing S – scale 2m.



7 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54750/13647

Type – Clearance cairn.

Noted during walkover of clearance cairn covered in bracken 2m in diameter and 1m high. Not discernible enough for a photograph.

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

8 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54784/13619

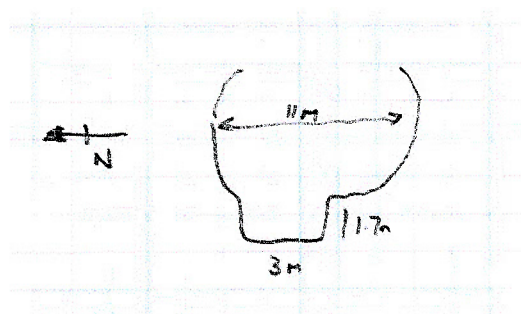
Type – Enclosure, building/pen (?).

Noted during walkover of sub-circular enclosure c11m in diameter (cut by existing mains to NE) with building (?) or pen attached at NC 54779/13614. Whole site is very heavily covered in bracken. Small clearance cairn within enclosure at NC 54786/13615 2m x 1.5m x 0.3m high.

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

Below – sketch of site – not to scale.

Over – View of building/pen – scales 1m.





9 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54795/13631

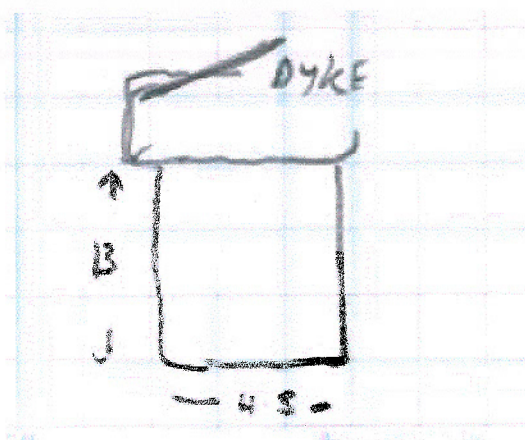
Type – Stone dyke, building.

Noted during walkover of turf and stone dyke by edge of track in inverted Z shape running up bank to edge of building at NC 54831/13624. Building centred at NC 54838/13625 is 13m x 4.5m with walls 0.5m wide and up to 0.2 high, with no sign of an entrance.

Recommend that care to be taken during works in this area. No recommendations to be made for building as outwith area.

Below top – View of building facing E – scales 1m.

Below bottom – sketch of house – not to scale.



10 – Caolishie

Grid Ref: NC 54805/13618

Type – Clearance cairn.

Noted during walkover of probable modern clearance cairn (as stones are clean) by edge of track 2m x 5m x 1m high.

Recommend that care to be taken during works in this area.

Below – View of cairn facing E – scale 2m.



11 – Shinness

HSMR – NC51SE

NMRS – NC51SE 15

Grid Ref: NC 551/133

Type – Enclosure, cairns, banks

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'At NC 5515 1335, on a gentle SW-facing slope, is a solitary stone-walled hut within an associated field system. The hut is oval, 9.0m NW-SE by 6.5m within a turf-covered wall, 0.3m internal height, spread to 2.0m broad. The footings of an 18/19th century wall cross the hut in a NW-SE direction; this presumably overlays the entrance as this cannot be seen. Around the hut are a number of stone clearance heaps fairly widely scattered. No measurable cultivation plots are discernible. Visited by OS 1976.

This group of monuments is situated on a W-facing slope NNW of Shinness Hall. The structure identified by the OS as a hut-circle (at NC 5515 1335) is an irregularly-shaped oval enclosure measuring 8.6m E to W by 6.4m within a low stony bank 1.4m thick. The NE side is coincidental with an earthen bank, but the relationship between the two is not clear owing to the long grass at the time of visit. Three banks (including the one adjacent to the enclosure) cut through the area of small cairns, some of which are of considerable size. Visited by RCAHMS 1989.'

Walkover reveals plotted site to lie behind stone wall with no visible features, detailed location places site above track and so well away from route.

No recommendations to be made as outwith route.

12 – Shinness

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NC 55168/13278

Type – Building, Enclosure.

Rectangular unroofed building depicted on 1st edition OS not on 2nd or later editions. A possible associated enclosure at NC 55144/13262 is likewise on the 1st edition but not on second.

Walkover reveals no trace of either site, at this location is a stonewall forming a field boundary.

No recommendations to be made as likely stone from building from building and enclosure used to build stonewall.

13 – Shinness

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NC 5548/1295

Type – Church (site of)

Site noted by Dagg (2003) as 'Recorded as church on present map, this site is now occupied by 3 derelict static caravans. The only trace of the former building is an iron-gate. The church is not recorded on the 1st edition OS and so must post-date the 1870's. There is no reason to suppose that this was an earlier church site and there is no associated burial ground'.

Site is not marked on 2nd edition OS of 1906 but is marked on current map (see figure 1).

Walkover reveals no trace of building or gate, modern house on site.

No recommendations to be made.

5. Conclusions

Overall most of the sites revealed relate to the former crofting landscape but no prehistoric site. Most of the prehistoric sites lie above the track or well below it closer to Loch Shinness. Most of the crofts seem to have been abandoned in the early 19th century or become part of larger crofts with buildings being removed over the years.

Overall no recommendations for further work have been made. Any unexpected archaeological discoveries made during construction work should be notified to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit. Any finds made of human remains during construction work should be reported to the police and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

6. Archive

A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh and the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

7. Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

8. References

Dagg, C (2003) Archaeological Evaluation of tow area of felled forestry at Shinness, Lairg, Sutherland. Unpublished report – copy held in HSMR report no.1053.

Highland Sites and Monuments Record database entries for NH51SW & SE.

Hooper, J (2002) Highland Water Mains Renewals Lairg Regional SUPPLY Phases 1-3 and Additional Works – An Archaeological Assessment. Unpublished report – copy held in HSMR report no.760.

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland PASTMAP entries for NH51SW & SE.

Maps Consulted

Blaue's Atlas of 1654.

Forbes 1820 map of Sutherland.

Dorret map of 1750 'A general map of Scotland'.

Thomson's 1823 map of Sutherlandshire.

Anon of 1815 'Sketch of the County of Sutherland showing the boundaries & divisions of the earldom of Sutherland'.

Burnett & Scott 1853 'Map of the County of Sutherland made on the basis of the trigometrical survey of Scotland in the years 1831 and 1832'.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6inch-mile sheet 85 Sutherland of 1878 surveyed 1873.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6inch-mile sheet 5 Sutherland of 1906 revised 1902-3.

Ordnance Survey maps NC51SW for 1971 1:10,000.