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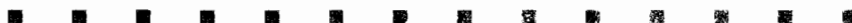
**Torridon, Ross and Cromarty  
Marking-out Survey**

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*Client: Historic Scotland*

*WGS Reference no. 030/001953*

*October 8th 1998*



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Marking-out work to define and delineate the limits of sites of archaeological interest in advance of tree planting within the Torridon WGS areas was commissioned by Historic Scotland. The area concerned had previously been surveyed for the National Trust by Jill Harden. A report of this survey work titled 'Archaeological Sites and the NTS Proposed WGS' was produced by Jill Harden in July 1998. This gave descriptions of sites identified and located them at a scale of 1:10,000. The marking-out fieldwork was undertaken by Headland Archaeology Ltd during the last week of September under the WGS pre-afforestation survey contract.

## **2 METHODS**

The report by Jill Harden was used to locate sites of interest within the 5 areas concerned. The impact of forestry development on each individual site was assessed and marking-out was undertaken as appropriate. Sites were marked-out using bamboo canes with coloured tell-tails at intervals close enough to be inter-visible. The bamboos were positioned at 10 m distance from dykes and linear features and at 20 m distance from structures as requested by Highland Council.

## **3 RESULTS**

Not all of the WGS areas contained sites which required marking-out and any sites outwith the proposed planting areas were not studied. Details of work carried out are given below for each area and are summarised in a table at the end of the report. Sites within areas 3, 4 and 5 are illustrated at a scale of 1:10,000 with marked-out sites shown (Figures 1, 2 and 3). The area numbers and site types used are those assigned by Jill Harden. Additional features were identified within Area 3 and these are described below.

### *AREA 1*

No features of archaeological interest were identified by Jill Harden within this area.

### *AREA 2*

Although some features of archaeological interest were identified by Jill Harden these were situated in an area presently covered by woodland and so did not require marking-out to protect from new planting. Appropriate management of these features will be required if felling occurs in this area in the future.

### *AREA 3*

#### Site 1

NG 904 553

#### Structure

The area around the position given for this site was systematically walked but the site was not identified. Not marked out.

#### Site 2

NG 9045 5515 (centred on)

##### Settlement

This area was walked systematically and two areas of settlement were identified. Directly to the north of Newton were the remains of 5 rectangular stone built structures, 2 enclosures and, near the road, a quarry pit. To the north east of this settlement, situated on a terrace above the river, were the remains of 3 turf and stone built sub-rectangular structures. To the west of these were the remains of a stone and turf dyke of which a length of 35 m was visible. Turf cutting with peat stacks was evident in the area between these settlements. A track lay to the west of the river as marked on the OS 1:10,000. This may have been a principal route-way prior to the construction of the modern road.

These areas were marked out by enclosing the entire area from the road to the river to a distance of approximately 100 m to the north of Newton.

#### Site 3

NG 9100 5575

##### Cave

The site was positioned in an area of natural rock fall in the form of very large rocks which made it unsuitable for tree planting. Not marked.

#### Site 4

NG 9120 5536

##### Sheepfold & earlier enclosure and structures

This site was in an area of established woodland and so was not marked out. Appropriate management of this site will be required if felling occurs in this area in the future.

#### Site 5

NG 9174 5576

##### Trig point

This site consists of holes bored into rock and so would not be damaged by planting. Not marked.

#### Site 6

NG 9175 5535 (centred on)

##### Earthen bank

This site was in an area of established woodland and so was not marked out. Appropriate management of this site will be required if felling occurs in this area in the future.

### *AREA 4*

#### Site 1

NG 8793 5738 (centred on)

##### Dyke

This feature was not marked out as it was in an area designated as open ground in the WGS proposals.

Site 2

NG 8855 5749 (centred on)

Dyke

This feature was not marked out as it was within in an area where no active planting is to take place.

Site 3

NG 8858 5694 (centred on)

Settlement

Part of the enclosure in this area was observed although dense and high bracken growth prevented identification of the entire site. Any marking undertaken would not be visible and so the site was not marked out. Identification and marking could be carried out if bracken was removed.

Site 4

NG 8878 5693

Enclosure

Feature was marked out.

Site 5

NG 8885 5681

Settlement

This site was marked out with the eastern limit defined by a path linking the road to the path marked on the OS 1:10,000 map. A crag and steep slope limited the area to the south and an adequate clearance was given on the other sides.

Site 6

NG 8895 5667

Milestone, memorial stone and cairn.

This site was positioned directly next to the road and did not require marking out.

Site 7

NG 8947 5661

Structure

This structure was found to be positioned further to the west than the position plotted by Jill Harden and it was marked out.

Site 8

NG 9002 5635

Settlement

This settlement was in an area with dense whin and rhododendron cover which obscured much of the site. Planting could not occur here unless the present vegetation was removed and so the site was not marked out. The site will require management if the vegetation is cleared in the future.

## *AREA 5*

### Site 1

NG 8751 5736

#### Dyke

This site lies within an area designated as open ground in the WGS proposals and so was not marked out.

### Site 2

NG 8662 5772

#### Store

The area around the position given for this site was systematically walked but the site was not identified. Not marked out.

### Site 3

NG 8681 5779

#### Enclosure

This site lay in a rock gully and so would not be affected by planting. Not marked out.

### Site 4

NG 8721 5810

#### Store/?Still

The area around the position given for this site was systematically walked but the site was not identified. Not marked out.

### Site 5

NG 8700 5756

#### Dyke

A section of the dyke adjacent to the road was marked out. The eastern section lay within established woodland and so would not be planted on and was not marked out.

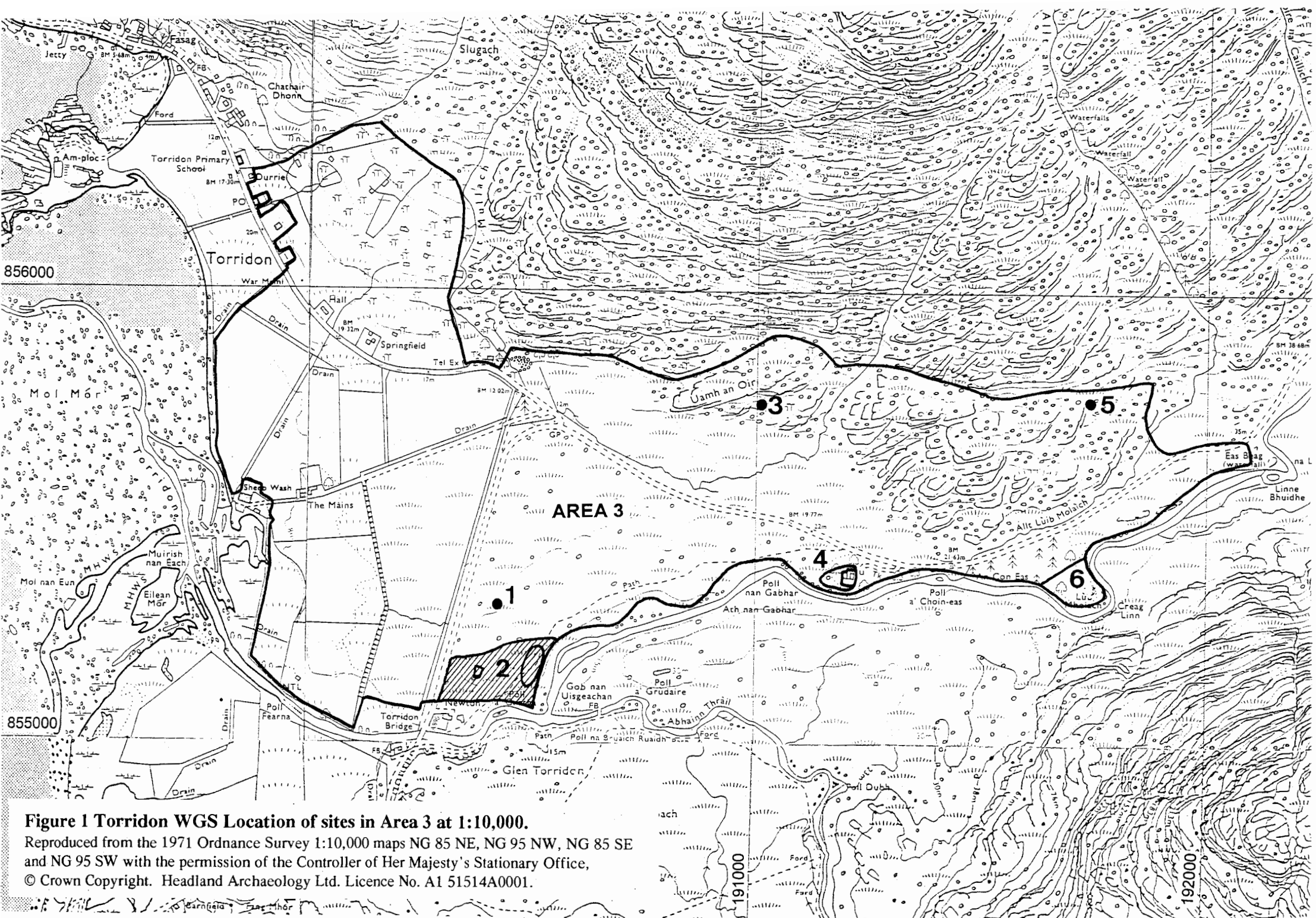
### Site 6

NG 8750 5738

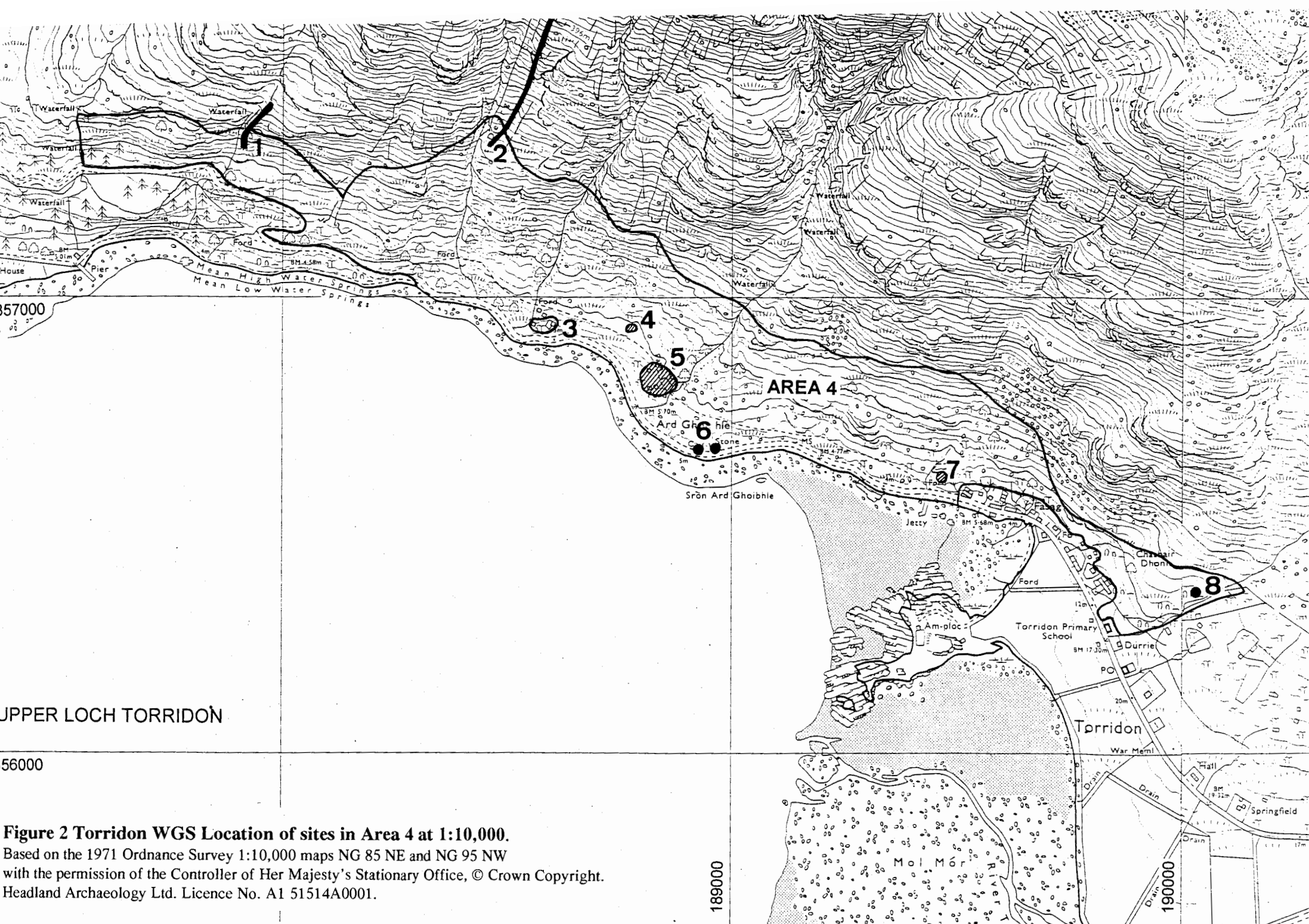
#### Dyke

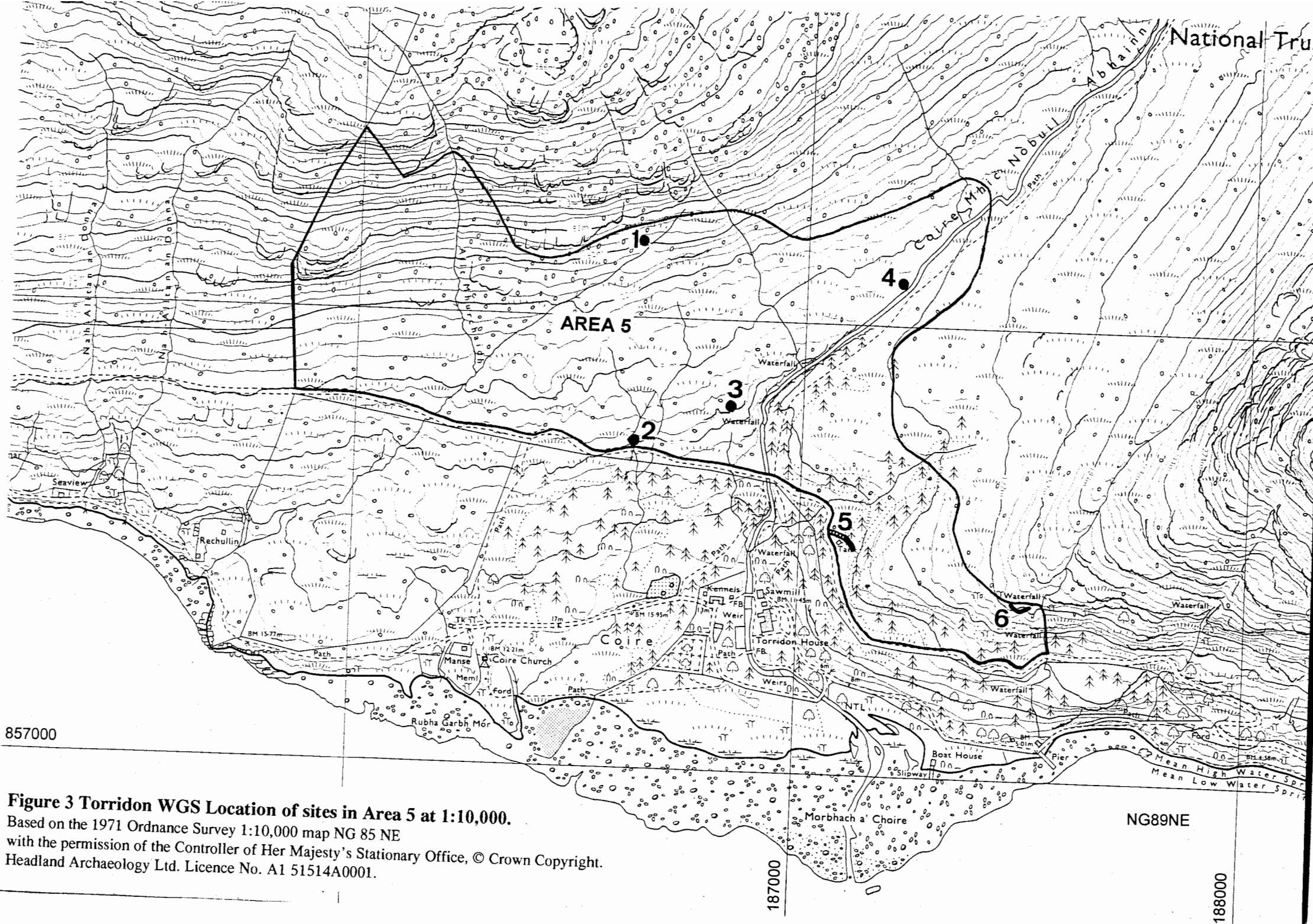
This feature lay in an area designated as open ground in the WGS proposals and so was not marked out.

AREA	SITE	MARKING
2	1	Not marked out
3	1	Not marked out
3	2	Marked out at 20 m
3	3	Not marked out
3	4	Not marked out
3	5	Not marked out
3	6	Not marked out
4	1	Not marked out
4	2	Not marked out
4	3	Not marked out
4	4	Marked out at 10 m
4	5	Marked out at 20 m
4	6	Not marked out
4	7	Marked out at 20 m
4	8	Not marked out
5	1	Not marked out
5	2	Not marked out
5	3	Not marked out
5	4	Not marked out
5	5	West end marked out at 10 m
5	6	Not marked out



**Figure 1 Torrion WGS Location of sites in Area 3 at 1:10,000.**  
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 and NG 95 SW with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office,  
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**Figure 3 Torrion WGS Location of sites in Area 5 at 1:10,000.**  
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