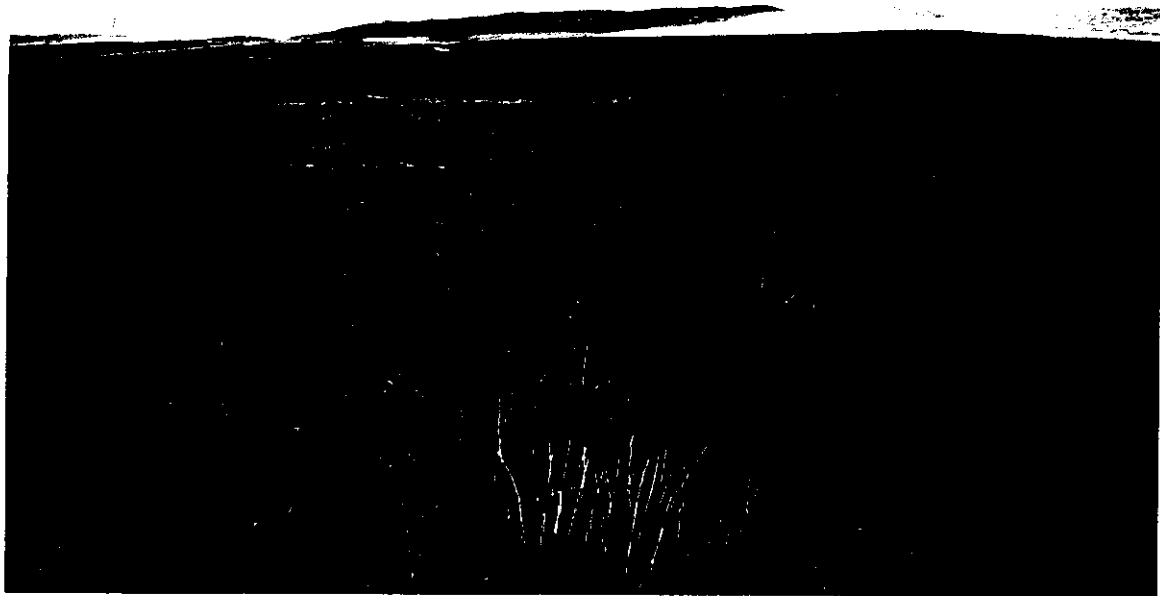


SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mcall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900m N of



**Forest Enterprise
Dornoch Forest District
Hilton of Embo
Dornoch IV25 3PW
01862 810359**



SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN

Name of Monument: **Meall Meadhonach, settlement
and shielings 900m N of**

Scheduled Ancient Monument Number: **5093**

Local Authority Area: **Highland**

Local Authority Sites and Monuments Record Number: **NC61SW11**

OS Grid Reference: **NC619124**

Forest Enterprise District: **Dornoch**

Forest Enterprise Compartment: **1253, 1254, 1256 & 1257**

Plan Period: **1/1/99-31/12/2003**

Plan prepared by; **M D Canham, Chief Ranger,
Forest Enterprise
Tower Road
Smithton
Inverness
IV1 2NL**

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Description of Monument

The monument comprises a settlement of post-medieval date, situated on the northern slopes of Meall Meadhonach in a clear area within a forestry plantation.

The monument consists of a number of structures. These include 5 rectangular houses, 6 small oval shielings and 8 other irregular foundations, possibly shielings. There is also a stone-built sheepfold 14m in diameter to the S of the site. The buildings vary in size from about 3m across to some 15m by 3.5m. The walls of the structures are all vegetation-covered and measure up to 0.4m wide and up to 0.3m high. The two most southerly structures lie E-W whilst the structures to the N of the forest road lie roughly N-S.

The scheduled area measures a maximum of 300m N-S by 240m E-W, to include the buildings and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their construction and use will survive as shown on the scheduling certificate (Appendix 1).

Forest Enterprise's Objectives

- i. To ensure that the monument and its surrounding area are kept free of trees and scrub, thereby preserving both the archaeological remains and their setting.
- ii. To maintain and improve access to the monument, and to enhance its setting in the wider landscape.

Management

Issues requiring attention:

The monument is situated in a large clearing of coniferous trees, which were planted in 1984 and 1985, and is bisected by the forest road. Approximately one third of the site lies to the south, and two thirds to the north, of the forest road. The trees currently define the outer edge of the scheduled area (see appendix 5). In most cases, the trees are well over 20m from any of the structures, but some trees require removing on the northern edge of the site where two structures are within 10m of the plantation, and at the south-east corner where there is a structure within 10m of the trees. There is a spruce tree on the side of the road in the middle of the site which requires removing. The site requires waymarking from the forest road. The structures on the monument are mainly grass covered with small patches of heather and rushes. There is some sign of woody regeneration/colonisation within the scheduled area in the form of scrubby willow. This appears not to be increasing and no action is deemed necessary in this respect, apart from monitoring any spread.

Work proposals

a Harvesting operations

No harvesting operations are planned during the term of this management plan, but the trees which are closer than 20m to structures within the scheduled area will be removed. If any new woody regeneration/colonisation is found within the scheduled area during routine inspections, then the following conditions will be applied:-

All trees and shrubs shall be cut off at ground level, the stumps or roots being left in the ground and not grubbed out. Trees should be cut by hand or by the use of a hand held power saw. These measures will enable the trees to be felled in such a way as to cause no damage to the remains of the monument or the ground surface within the scheduled area.

Where necessary stumps should be treated with the appropriate chemical according to the statutory "Code of practice for safe use of pesticides on farms and holdings" (HMSO 1990) prepared by MAFF, HSC and DoE.

Any brash resulting from these operations shall be removed well away from the area of the scheduled ancient monument. Cut timber shall be removed from the site by cutting into easily transportable pieces, rather than by dragging, to prevent damage to underlying archaeology. If brash is to be burned, this operation shall be carried out well away from the scheduled area.

If appropriate, a harvester may be used to fell and lift trees from the scheduled area that are within its reach as the machine itself must be placed in a position out with the scheduled area. Care must be taken not to disturb the ground surface within the scheduled area during these operations.

No vehicles shall enter the scheduled area.

b Site clearance

The scheduled area, and an area 20m beyond the edge of the scheduled area, will be kept tree free. Any natural regeneration of trees, scrub, or bracken will be assessed at yearly intervals and controlled using hand held scrub cutters and herbicides where appropriate. No vehicles will be allowed in the scheduled area.

c Public access

Access is via the A836 Lairg to Altnaharra road, turning on to the gravel road signposted to Dalnessie at grid reference NC576139, then by taking the second forest road on the right at grid reference NC621143 and following this road to the site.

Public access will be improved by provision of waymarking and maintenance of a clear track to the site.(Appendix 3)

This route and way marking will be inspected on a yearly basis in September each year.

d On site access

Good site access will be maintained by the removal of any scrub from the site on a regular basis. The condition of on site access routes will be checked on a yearly basis, in September.

e Interpretation

It is not intended to provide Interpretation panels at this site, but a small map and information leaflet is to be produced which details the SAMs on Forest Enterprise land. Details of sites in the local area will be available from the Forest Enterprise Dornoch District office on request.

Interpretation panels, information boards and way markers, when provided will be erected out with the scheduled area.

f Tree planting

No tree planting will take place within the scheduled area or within 20m of the edge of the scheduled area.

g Site maintenance

The site is to be checked on a yearly basis to identify any site maintenance required. No work other than those specified in the management agreement conditions of this plan, shall be carried out in the scheduled area without the prior approval of Historic Scotland.

h Access/signs maintenance

Access paths and way markers will be inspected on an annual basis, and any maintenance required shall be recorded and carried out.

Management Agreement Conditions

The Occupier undertakes:

1. To monitor and control all scrub, tree and bracken regeneration in the Scheduled Area to prevent colonisation.
2. Not to plant trees within 20 metres of the Scheduled Area.
3. Not to cut any drains, ditches or dykes across, or within 20 metres of, the Scheduled Area.
4. Not to use the Scheduled Area as a dump for any material.
5. Not to use wheeled or tracked vehicles within the Scheduled Area.
6. Not to park any farm or forestry machinery on the Scheduled Area, nor to use the area for storing any materials.
7. Not to construct any building works or access tracks within 10 metres of the Scheduled Area.
8. Not to afford any person access to the Scheduled Area for the purpose of using a metal detector unless that person can produce the written consent of the Secretary of State.
9. To permit any authorised representative of the Secretary of State access to the Scheduled Area without prior notice.
10. To allow public access at all reasonable times to the Scheduled Area. An access route will be way-marked as shown on the attached map extract (Appendix 3). This route will be checked annually to ensure it provides adequate guidance and access.
11. To report any objects such as pottery, flint or bone, or archaeological features, which are found within the Scheduled Area. Such objects should be left undisturbed and reported to the Council Archaeologist, Historic Scotland or your local museum.

Liaison

Formal consultation every 5 years with Historic Scotland to review the management strategy of the monument prior to the preparation of the subsequent Management Plan. Meetings with local Historic Scotland staff as required.

Monitoring

Monitoring of the site will be carried out on a yearly basis in September each year as described in work proposals (g)

Check due (Date)	Date Checked	Action required	Date work completed and checked by
9/1999			
9/2000			
9/2001			
9/2002			
9/2003			

This is an agreement under Section 17 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Only works which are carried out in Fulfilment of the Occupier's obligations and which are specifically identified in this agreement are deemed to have been granted Scheduled Monument Consent under the Ancient Monuments Class Consents Order (Scotland) 1996. The Occupier must apply for the Secretary of State's consent prior to undertaking any further works affecting the Area.

Signed on behalf of Forest Enterprise by



Dated ..15.. ~~DECEMBER~~ 1998

Signed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Scotland by



Dated 17TH March 1999

Appendices

Appendix 1 Scheduling Certificate

THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979

Entry in the Schedule of Monuments

1991

Re: The Monument known as
Meall Meadhonach, settlement and
shielings 900m N of

in the Parish of Lairg and
County of Sutherland

File Ref:

Solicitor
to the
Secretary of State
for Scotland
New St Andrew's House
Edinburgh

THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS

The monument known as Meall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900m N of comprises a Post Medieval settlement which consists of a range of structures. These include 5 rectangular houses, 6 small oval shielings and 8 other irregular foundations, possibly shielings. The buildings vary in size from 3m across to 15m by 3.5m and survive in a variety of conditions which may indicate a fairly long period of occupation. There is also a stone-built sheepfold 14m in diameter to the S of the site. This settlement would appear to represent part of a 'cottar town', many of which were destroyed during the clearances of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The area to be scheduled measures a maximum of 300m N-S and 240m E-W to include the buildings and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their use may survive. A recent forestry track and adjacent tipping is excluded from the area to be scheduled. The monument, which lies in the Parish of Lairg and the County of Sutherland as shown outlined in red on the Plan annexed and executed as relative hereto and which forms part of the subjects described in the Disposition by Graham Hector Carlile Mackay in favour of the Secretary of State for Scotland dated 29 September and recorded in the Division of the General Register of Sasines for the County of Sutherland on 21 November, both in the year 1977 (the present owner where of being The Forestry Commission, Northern Conservancy, 21 Church Street, Inverness), is hereby included in the Schedule of Monuments appearing to the Secretary of State for Scotland to be of national importance compiled and maintained by him under section 1(1) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Given under the Seal of the Secretary of State for Scotland.



Assistant Secretary
Date 6 SEPTEMBER 1991

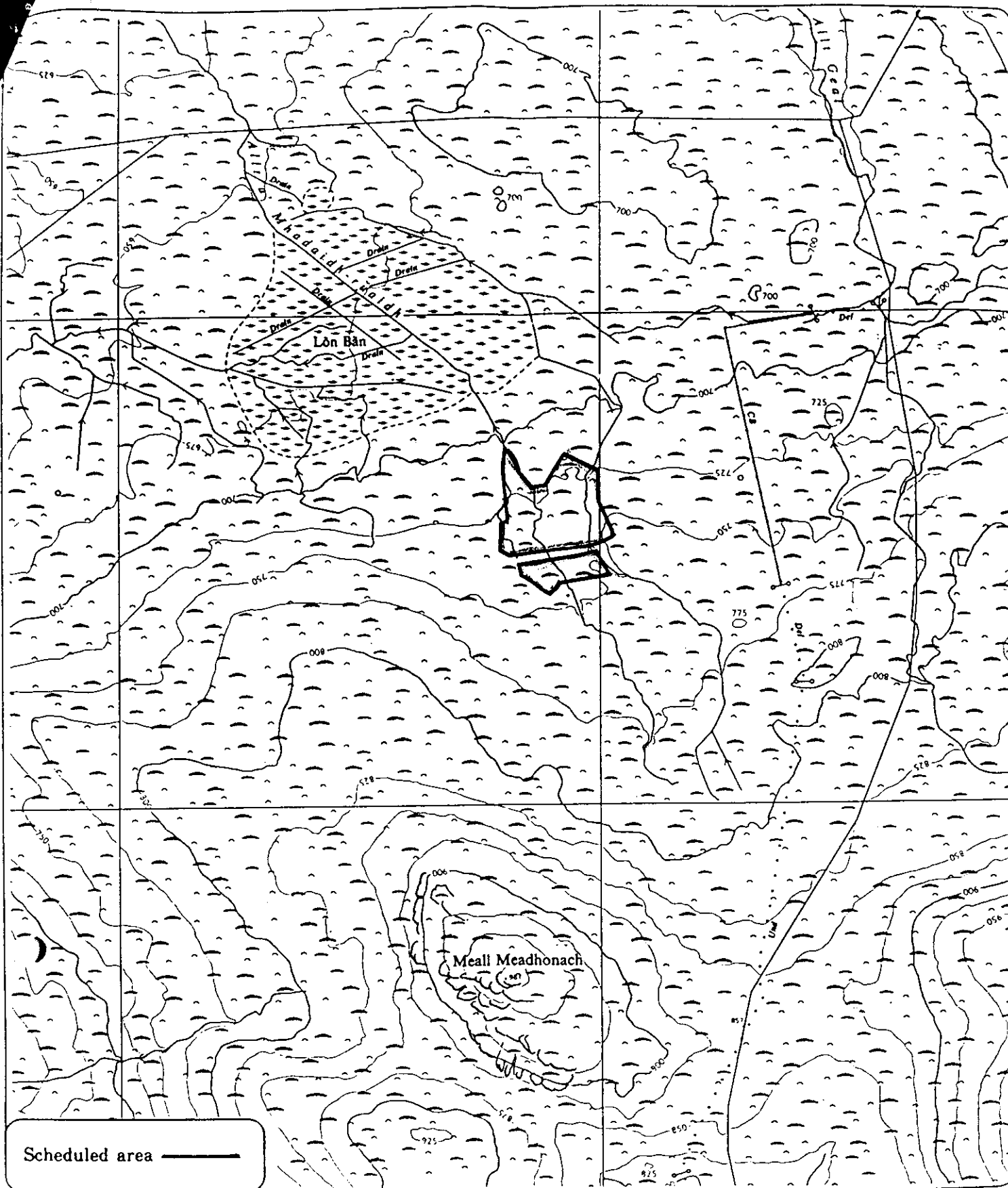
Historic Scotland
20 Brandon Street
Edinburgh
EH3 5RA

Register on behalf of the Secretary of State for Scotland in the Register of the County of Sutherland.

Solicitor, Edinburgh, Agent

This is the plan referred to in the entry in the schedule affecting Meall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900m N of, dated 6 SEPTEMBER 1991 and is signed as relative thereto.

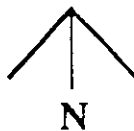
A. Lammie



Scheduled area ———

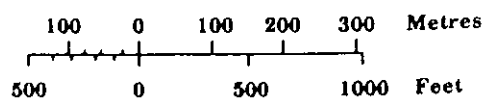
Meall Meadhonach,
settlement and shielings
900m N of

Lairg Parish



Sheet: NC61SW

Scale: 1/10,560

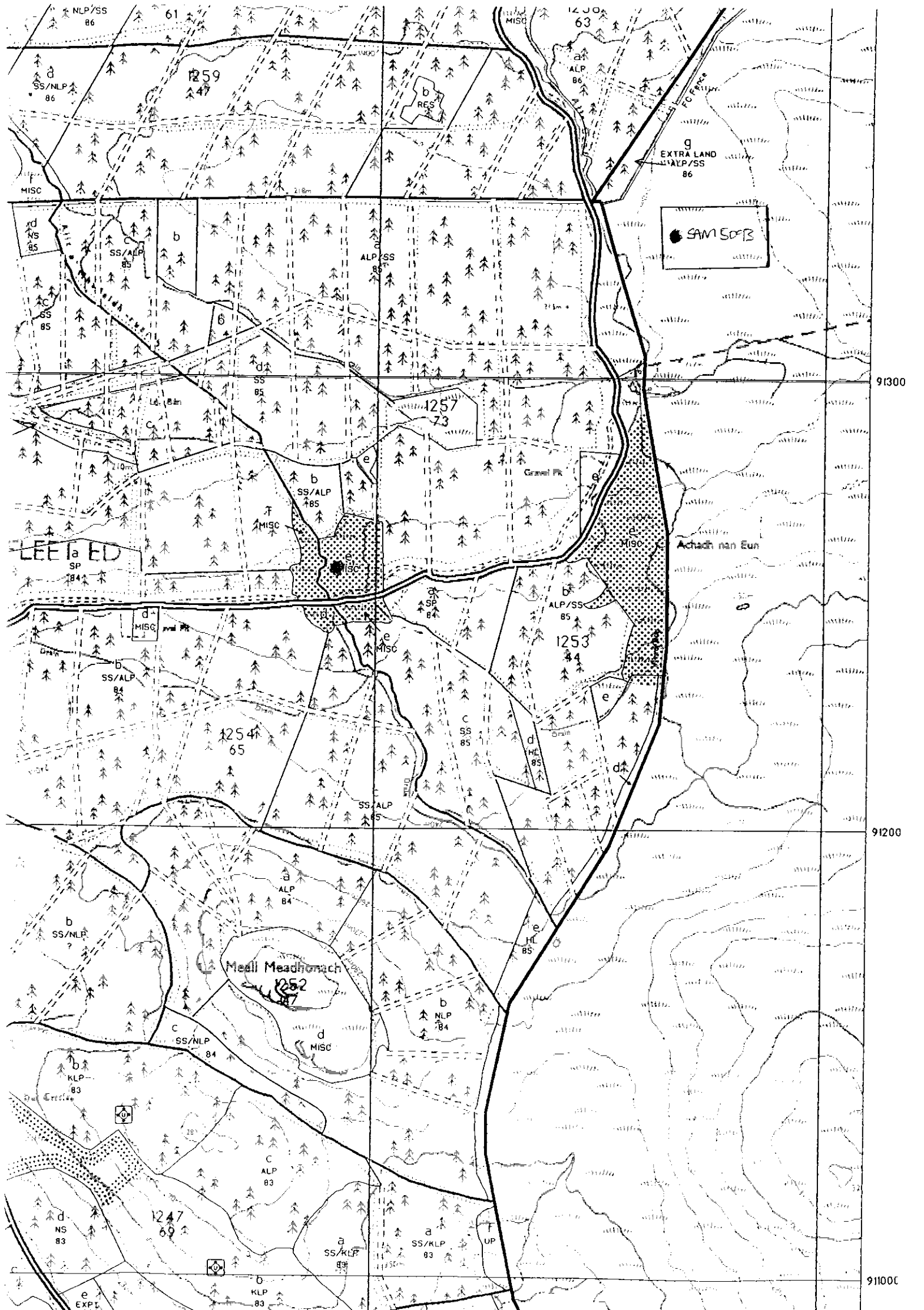


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Appendix 2 Forest Enterprise stock map

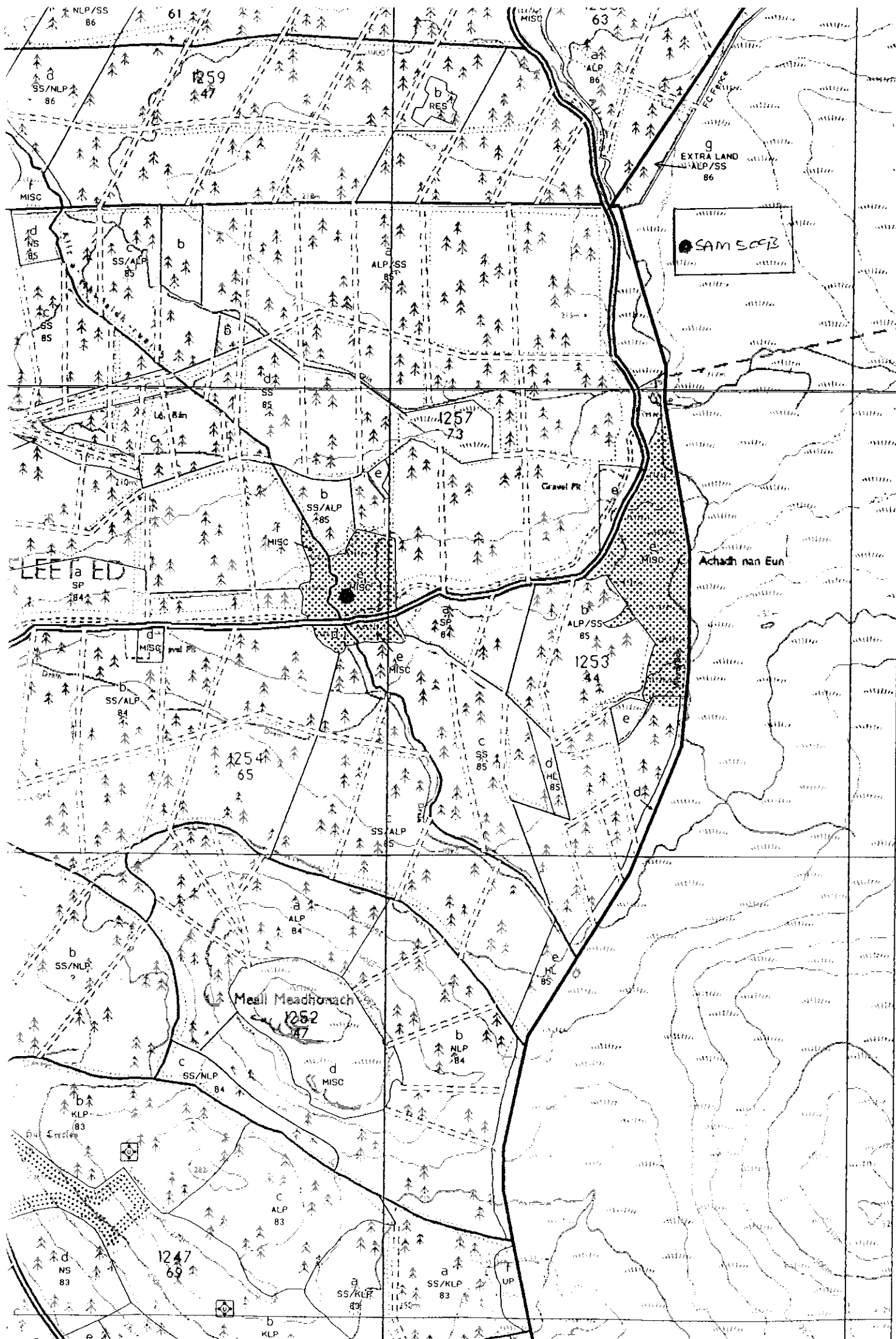


91300

91200

91100C

Appendix 3 Site access map



91300

91200

911001

Appendix 4 Historic Scotland's last Monument Warden report

Visit summary report

Index number **5093** NGR **NC619124** Date originally scheduled **06-Sep-1991**
Date last scheduled
Monument name **Meall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900m N of**
Visit date **08-Sep-1998** Council **HIGHLAND**
Recorder **Mrs A Coombs** Inspector
Condition **1** Risk **1** HS Priority **1.41** Opportunity for positive management **4**
New damage? IAM visit required? Interest in a HS grant? Sketch made? **Y** Slides taken? **Y**
Inadequate area? Review scheduling? Proportion scheduled **100%**

Description and assessment of management requirements

8-Sep-1998, AC

The site lies on the lower N slope of Meall Meadhonach. The monument, a settlement and shielings, is a scheduled area split E-W by the forestry road and N-S by Allt a' Mhadaidh-Ruaidh. The site is a clear area within the forestry plantation the edges of which define the scheduled area. The site is grass and heather covered with the main structures on the grassy areas. There are 2 sub-rectangular structures on the SE side of the forestry road and 16 on the N side. The size varies from c.4m by c.2m up to c.19m by c.4m. There are indications of field boundaries and cultivation patches. There is a ruined sheep fold c.14m in diameter at the NE end of the area, this is the only structure with any quantity of visible stone. The majority of other structures are identified by the wall remains creating a mound in the grass and have no visible stone. There is no indication of a head or ring dyke around the settlement. The site is in a stable condition with a little grazing by deer. There is no sign of regeneration but there is one conifer tree beside the road which ideally would be removed. There is some scrubby willow on the site but it is not increasing and if not causing a problem at present. The site will be subject to a Forest Enterprise Management Plan.

17-AUG-92

Located on the northern slopes of Meall Meadhonach this grass and heather covered site, surrounded by conifer plantation, contains several sub-rectangular structures, some of which have internal divisions and the remains of a sheepfold.

The sub-rectangular structures vary in size from 6m x 3m to 11m x 3m with "walls" up to 0.4m wide x up to 0.3m high. All are vegetation covered. The two most southerly structures lie E-W whilst the two structures to the N of the forest road lie roughly N-S.

The sheepfold has a diameter of 8m and walls 0.5m wide x up to 0.4m high. There is a considerable amount of stone scattered in and around the fold.

The vegetation on the site is in general up to 0.4m high, though around the perimeter where willow herb is abundant it is much higher, and causes problems as regards structure recognition/visibility.

The surrounding land is covered by ploughed conifer plantation.

I could find little evidence of damage on this site, other than a number of dead trees scattered by the side of the forest road that crosses the site, though there has been a recent report to that effect.

Comments on scheduling

Visit summary report

, Comments on scheduling

The scheduled area measures a maximum of 300m N-S and 240m E-W not including the forest road. The plantation appears to define the scheduled area, if the trees need to be taken back 20m the trees will no longer define the scheduled area.

Comments by IAM

Who was contacted and nature of contact

8-Sep-1998, AC

The owners, Forest Enterprise, are in the process of creating a management plan for this site and the site was visited with the Chief Ranger.

Appendix 5 Historic Scotland's last Monument Warden site sketch

HBM WARDEN SKETCH SHEET

Index No 5093

Monument MEALL MEADHONACH, settlement and shielings
900m N of

Region HIGHLAND

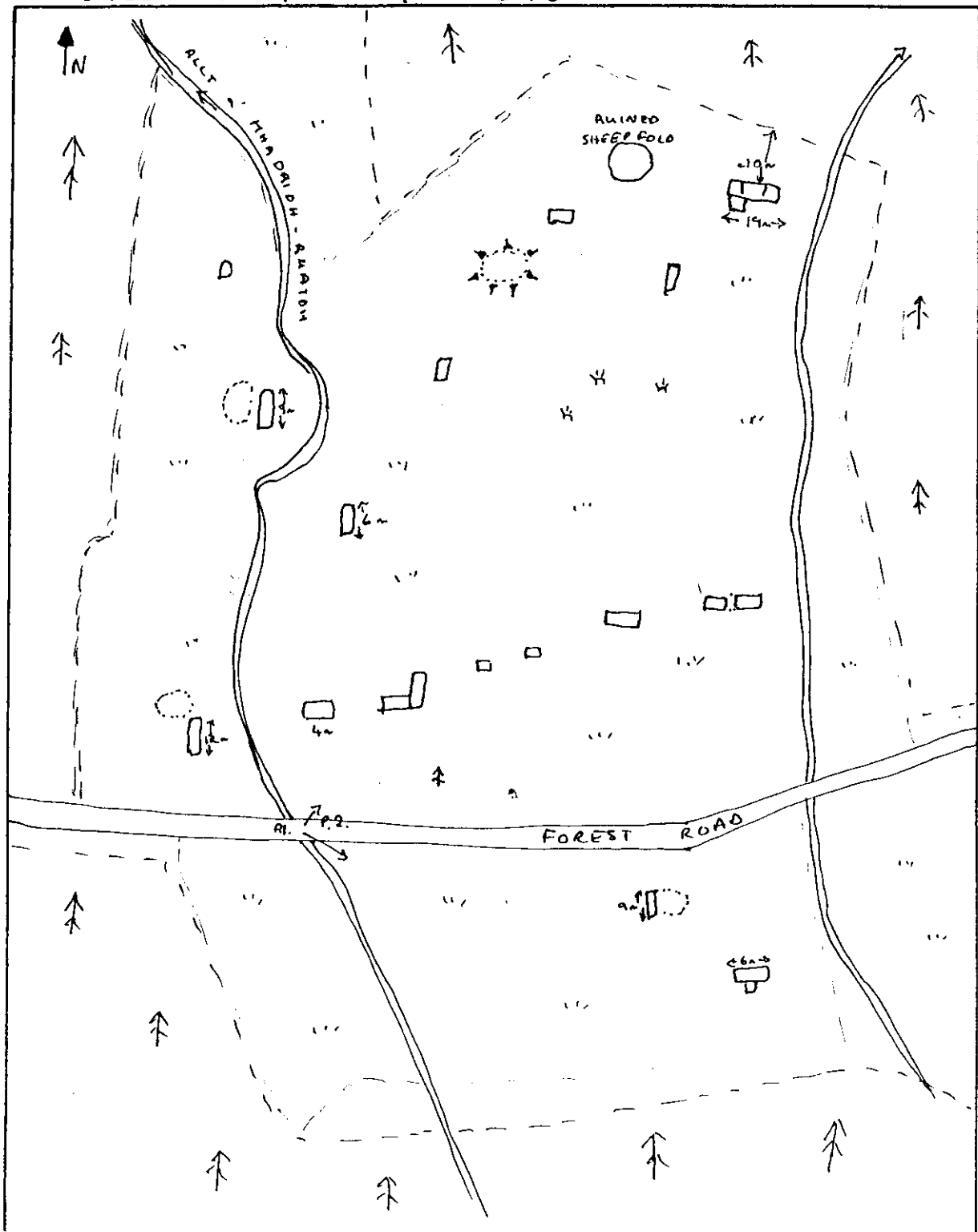
District SUTHERLAND

Initials of Recorder A.C.

Date of Visit 8-9-98

Visit No 02

SKETCH NOT TO SCALE



- SCHEDULED AREA MAXIMUM of 300m N-S x 240m E-W.
- - - EDGE OF FOREST PLANTATION
- ENCLOSURE WALLS
- HOUSE/shieling walls

Appendix 6 Aerial & Other Photographs

Appendix 7 Other Information

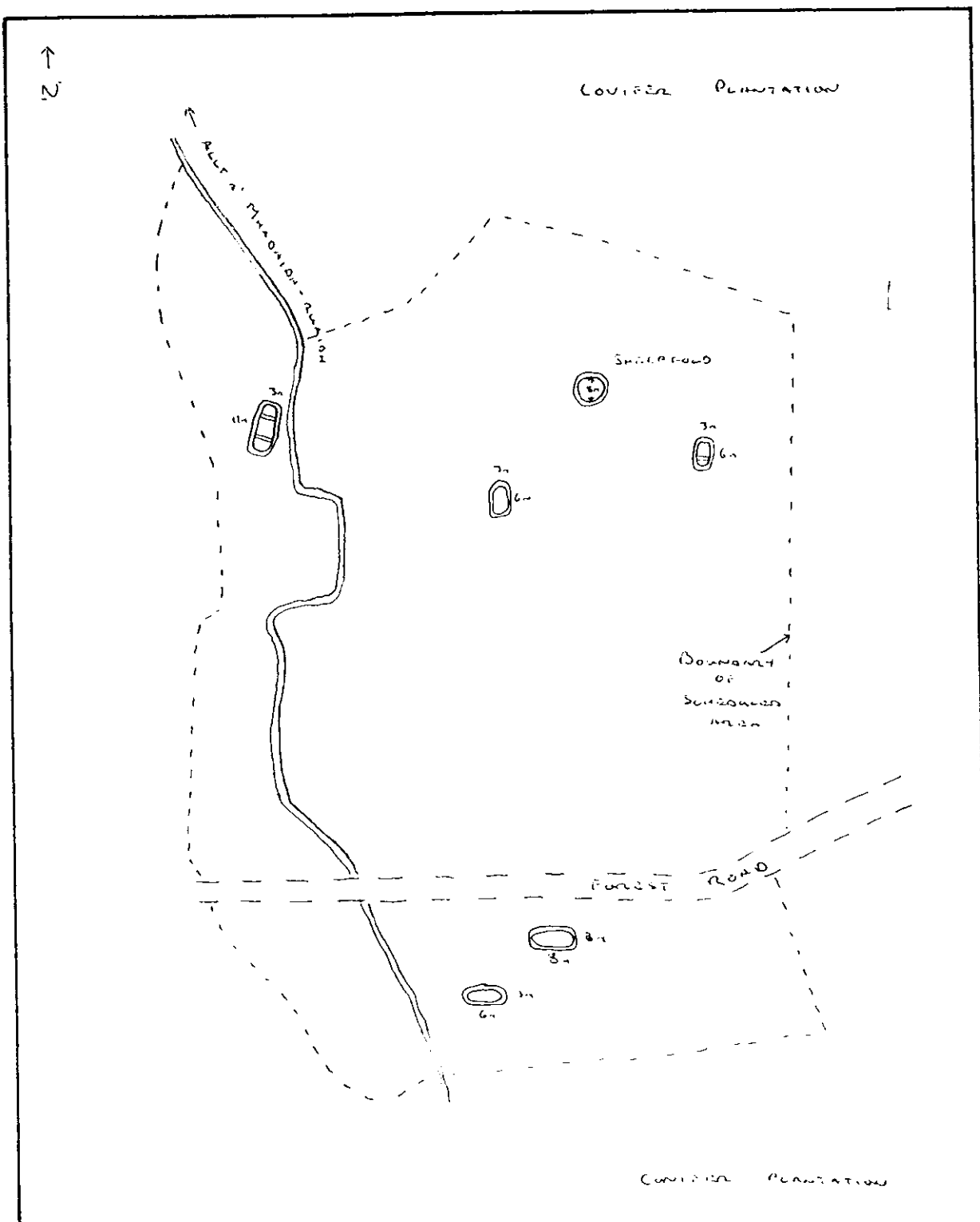
HBM WARDEN SKETCH SHEET

Index No 5093

Monument MERCY MEMORIAL, SETTLEMENT AND SHELTERS 4000 N. 20

Region Higashimura District Suzurama

Initials of Recorder DS Date of Visit 17/8/52 Visit No 1



16

PROPOSAL TO SCHEDULE AN ANCIENT MONUMENT
STATEMENT OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

AMJ/1621/1/1

Region: Highland

District: Sutherland

Meall Meadhonach, settlement and shielings 900m N of

The proposal arose from programme B1 Forestry

The area was excluded from Forestry Commission planting and is being scheduled to regularise the protection of the monument.

The monument is a Post Medieval settlement which consists of a range of structures. These include 5 rectangular houses, 6 small oval shielings and 8 other irregular foundations, possibly shielings. The buildings vary in size from 3m across to 15m by 3.5m and survive in a variety of conditions which may indicate a fairly long period of occupation. There is also a stone-built sheepfold 14m in diameter to the S of the site. This settlement would appear to represent part of a 'cottar town', many of which were destroyed during the clearances of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The area to be scheduled measures a maximum of 300m N-S and 240m E-W, to include the buildings and an area around them in which traces of activities associated with their use will survive, as shown in red on the attached plan. A recent forestry track and adjacent tipping is excluded from the area to be scheduled.

The monument is of national importance as a Post Medieval settlement which has the potential to enhance considerably our understanding of the domestic organization and farming practices of its inhabitants. The site is also of importance from the perspective of the process of Clearance in this area of the Highlands and is one of an important group of deserted Post Medieval settlements to the north of Lairg.