RoCAS

Ross & Cromarty Archaeological Services

Torvean Sports Hub, Inverness
Ground Investigations

Archaeological Watching Brief

Ryefield Farm Tore Ross-shire IV6 7SB Scotland
Mob: 07891 578998 / 07776 027306 Ph: 01463 811310
rossandcromarch@gmail.com www.rossandcromarch.co.uk

Torvean Sports Hub
Inverness

Ground Investigations
Archaeological Watching Brief

Client	**Capita / The Highland Council**
Planning Reference	**14/00049/PIP**
National Grid Reference	**NH 6462 7372**
Site Code	**TOR14**
Report Number	**2014-30/TOR14**
Author	**Mary Peteranna**
Date	**22/09/2014, rev. 06/10/14**
Approved by	**Lynn Fraser**
Date	**24/09/2014**
OASIS No.	**rosscrom1-190836**

CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Plates

Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was conducted by Lynn Fraser and Mary Peteranna. We would like to thank Jane Jackson of Capita and Ali Nairn of The Highland Council for commissioning the work and Ali Nairn and Philip Thompson (REC Ltd) for their help on-site. Ordnance Survey mapping is reproduced by permission of Landmark Information Group under RoCAS licence LIG1044. Mapping containing Ordnance Survey data is subject to Crown Copyright 2014. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432. Excerpts from historical maps are taken from mapping copyright of the National Library of Scotland. This is an unpublished report.

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on behalf of The Highland Council from 9-11 September 2014 during the ground investigations for the Torvean Sports Hub. Two boundary walls, Sites 9 and 12, recorded during the 2013 walkover survey, were evaluated during the monitoring. There were no other features of archaeological interest uncovered in the test pits.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground investigations in advance of development of the Torvean Sports Hub on the southwest side of Inverness. An archaeological walkover survey of the site in July 2013[1] identified the remains of settlement buildings, boundary dykes, possible clearance cairns and a possible prehistoric burial cairn within the development area. The work was requested by the Highland Council Historic Environment Team as the development is located in the middle of a landscape rich in prehistoric and post-medieval settlement remains and as such has substantial potential for buried archaeological remains to be identified.

The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was to efficiently record the character, extent, condition and date of any archaeologically significant remains before destruction and to evaluate the site for archaeological potential.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the watching brief was to allow any archaeological features or objects to be identified and recorded before destruction and to propose appropriate mitigation in the event that significant features of interest were uncovered[2].The *Scottish Planning Policy 2014* and PAN 2/2011 describe how archaeology should be managed when considering planning decisions and determining conditions for developments that have an impact on the historic environment[3]. The end result of the fieldwork is to make available the records of any archaeological remains found on a site.

The specific objectives were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the area evaluated during the ground investigations
- To remove by hand any overburden in order to expose the archaeological deposits
- To record and excavate all features and recover any artefacts prior to their destruction
- To sample deposits for post-excavation work, including environmental analysis and dating
- To make recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development
- To make recommendations for further monitoring or post-excavation work, if required

[1] Fraser 2013
[2] Highland Council 2012
[3] The Scottish Government 2011; 2014

2.0 Site Location

The development area (Figure **1**) is centred on NGR NH 6462 4372 in the former parish of Inverness and Bona in Inverness-shire. It lies to the west-northwest of the Caledonian Canal at Kilvean, within the southern part of Kinmylies, on the north side of the A82 road on the southwest side of the city of Inverness. Torvean Hill, which borders the south side of the development site, and Tomnahurich Hill, adjacent to the east-northeast side of the development site, form part of a complex of eskers, gravel mounds formed under ice sheets, which are prominent features in the surrounding landscape.

The underlying geology of the site is Inverness Sandstone overlain by a glacial till[4]. The northeastern corner of the development site is presently occupied by Torvean Golf Course with the remainder of the area being open pasture. The western half of the area slopes uphill in a westerly direction rising from 20m OD to 80m OD.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

Artefactual evidence in Inverness establishes that the area was at least intermittently occupied during the Mesolithic period and numerous development-led excavations, on terraces above the southeast side of Inverness, have uncovered very clear evidence of substantial Iron Age, Bronze Age and Neolithic settlement in Inverness. Long-term occupation of the west side of Inverness is reflected in the Iron Age hillfort at Craig Phadrig, which overlooks the mouth of the River Ness and the Moray Firth, and in the numerous prehistoric sites dotted around the landscape.

The development area is located within the fertile, undulating hills on the west side of the River Ness valley, an ideal location for settlement as represented by the many previously recorded sites of antiquity nearby (Figure **1**). It is overlooked by Craig Phadrig, less than 1.5km to the north and is located next to the site of Torvean fort to the south. The name *Tor-vean* may be a reference to the Christian saint, Bean, and this site may be another possibility for the location of Brudeôs Fort that was visited by St. Columba in 582[5]. Furthermore, the name *Kil-vean* may be a reference to a church of the same saint.

Three prehistoric cists (Highland HER Nos. MHG40992, MHG3757 and MHG3804) have been found 300-500m to the east and southeast of the development area. The cist at Tomnahurich was constructed of slabs and boulders and contained a male inhumation, along with a pot and flint knife or scraper, probably of Bronze Age date[6]. The 1793 Statistical Account of the *Town and Parish of Inverness* described the cairns at Kilvean and Torvean. ñThere was, a few years ago at Kilvean, a great number of small cairns overgrown with heath. They occupied space of an acre on a pretty extensive plain, and were inclosed by a ditch of an orbicular form.ò According to the records, the cairns had unfortunately been removed during land improvements without investigation. It notes further that, ñthere is a very large cairn near the river at the foot of a hill, called Torvean. It some years ago was partly removed,

[4] BGS 2010
[5] Newton 2013, 1-2
[6] Scottish Highlander 1886

a coffin was found composed of six thick flags. This is supposed to be the dormitory of Beané [7]à The estate of Bught, which Torvean forms part, is also said to be also called Kilvean[8].

A Neolithic polished axe (MHG3802) was recovered in Lach na Sanois, next to the south side of the development site, with a second axe (MHG29581) found 230m southwest of the development area. A rare Neolithic carved ball (MHG3803) has also been found at the base of Tomnahurich cemetery, situated on the east side of the site. Other nearby prehistoric sites include a prehistoric cup-marked stone and possible souterrain at Kinmylies and the remains of a Neolithic chambered cairn at Leachkin, located less than 1km to the west of the development area.

From as early as the middle of the 17th century, historical mapping depicts settlement at Kinmylies. Possibly the first map to show the area in any detail is John Humeôs map of Inverness in 1774, which shows two substantial farmsteads roughly within the development area[9]. The buildings at *Balphadrig* are easily identifiable as roofed buildings on the 1st and 2nd Ordnance Survey maps, located inside the development area between *Charleston* to southwest and *Mile-end* farmstead to northeast (both of which are just outside of the development area). These settlements may relate to the earlier farmsteads shown on Humeôs map of 1774.

Built between 1803 and 1822, the Caledonian Canal, designed by Thomas Telford, runs alongside the north-eastern edge of the development area. In 1808, during construction of the canal at a location 330m southeast of the development site, a Pictish silver chain was recovered by workers. Loch na Sanais, *loch of the whispering*, where the Neolithic axe was found, was built as part of the clay extraction during construction of the canal. It has been partly filled in and forms part of the present golf course[10].

As discussed in the 2013 survey report[11], the ruins of the two buildings at Balphadrig settlement, two further possible structures and a possible prehistoric cairn were recorded within the development area. The other seventeen sites recorded consisted of boundary dykes and probable clearance cairns associated with long-term settlement of the area (Figure **1**).

[7] Rose *et al* 1793, 693
[8] Gazetteer for Scotland 2014
[9] Miller, J., 2004
[10] Am Baile 2014
[11] Fraser 2013

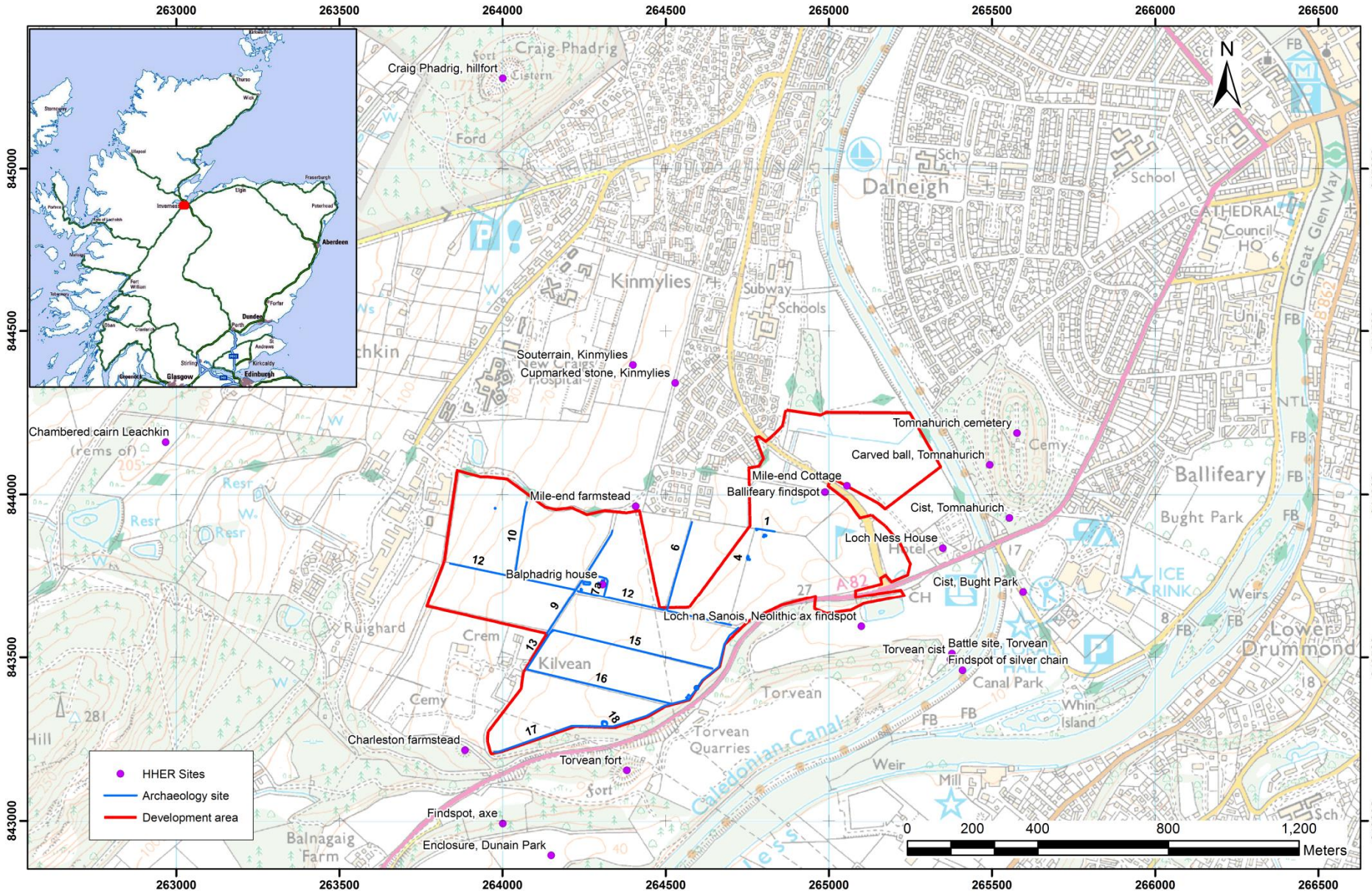

Figure 1: Location of the development site, showing the sites recorded during the 2013 survey and Historic Environment Record (HER) sites

4.0 Methodology

All work was conducted in accordance with Highland Councilôs *Standards for Archaeological Work* [12] and the Institute for Archaeologistsô(IfA) *Code of Conduct*[13].

4.1 Desk-based Assessment

The purpose of the desk-based assessment (DBA) was to gain information about the known archaeology or potential for archaeology within a given area or site (including the presence or absence, character and extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and relative quality of the potential archaeological resource), in order to make an assessment of its merit in context and assist in the formulation of a strategy for further work. This information will also inform the field archaeologist of the potential nature of archaeological features to be uncovered during fieldwork.

A DBA was conducted in advance of fieldwork. A full check of all available historical and archaeological records, aerial photographs and historical maps was conducted using the Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER), the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), Ordnance Survey Name Books, Historic Scotlandôs databases, the National Library of Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland databases, statistical accounts and other available records, literary sources or online resources about the site.

4.2 Watching Brief

The purpose of the archaeological watching brief was to efficiently identify and record any features or finds of archaeological interest uncovered during the development work, in order to minimise any delays or disruptions to the project[14].

Topsoil clearance of fifteen test pits was conducted under the guidance of an archaeologist. This was conducted using a smooth-bladed bucket on a mechanical excavator down to the first archaeological horizon or subsoil[15]. Two of the test pits (2 and 6) were hand dug: Test Pit 2 to allow for boundary dyke Site 9 to be evaluated and Test Pit 6 to allow for boundary dyke Site 12 to be evaluated.

5.0 Results

5.1 Desk-based assessment

The desk-based assessment provides information about previous historical and archaeological records in and around the proposed development area.

[12] Highland Council 2012
[13] Institute for Archaeologists, 2012
[14] Highland Council, 2012
[15] Highland Council 2012

5.1.1 Cartographic Sources

The site location and surrounding landscape were examined using mapping held on-line by the National Library of Scotland[16]. Robert Gordon (1636-52), Joan Blaeu (1654), Hermann Moll (1745) and John Thomson (1832) all show various spellings of the place-name of Kinmylies in the location of the proposed development, although none of these maps show the area in any detail.

William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-1755

This map shows extensive cultivation at *Kinmyliss*, with seven farms depicted, at least two of which appear to fall within the development site, which is shown as cultivated fields.

John Hume's Plan of the River Ness, 1774

In the area northwest of *Torevain Hill*, *Kinmellie* is shown as comprising amorphous enclosed fields with two farms at *Bellahellich* and *Bellachlan* in the western side of the proposed development site (Figure **2**). There are a series of roads running through the area. *Bellahellich*, which appears to be near the location of the later Charleston farmstead, contains four small buildings and one U-shaped farmstead. *Bellachlan*, which may be near the location of the later Mile-end farm, is shown as a group of four buildings with a road running east-ward to *Bellach Churcht*. At the eastern end, there are five roofed and two unroofed small buildings at *Muirtown* (later Millartown). Another settlement at *Achin-a palna-botick* is shown with one large roofed building and one small unroofed building to the northeast of *Bellahellich. Kilvean Cairn* is shown at the northeast end of *Torevain* Hill.

First Edition 25-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey map
***Inverness Mainland* Sheet XII.5**
Survey date: 1868 Publication date: 1874

Balphadrig and Mile-end Cottage (Figure **1**) are shown within the proposed development area. Mile-end farmstead is located adjacent to the north side of the development area with Charleston adjacent to the southwest side. There are a number of enclosed fields within the site.

Balphadrig farmstead sits in the southwest corner of a rectangular-shaped enclosed field and comprises three roofed buildings. A substantial building on the east side is aligned N-S and has a circular driveway in front (east). It is enclosed by a grove of trees, at the western end of which is a building aligned E-W with attached enclosures on the north side, including a possible fank. There is a third building, aligned N-S, next to another road access, which runs from the southwest side of the western building.

Mile-end Cottage is shown as a small roofed building aligned NW-SE, at the eastern end of a road leading to Mile-end farmstead. It is situated within a small grove of trees and a road also runs southeast from it to Millarton House, a substantial house with two large buildings to NE and SW, extensive landscaped gardens and a small pond (in the location of the present small golf course pond) on its southwest side. Southwest of Millarton House, on either side of the road, are two small roofed buildings, the eastern of which is a smithy. The smithy is located in the approximate location of the present golf course clubhouse. Loch na Sanais is also shown in the location of a present golf course pond.

[16] National Library of Scotland, 2014

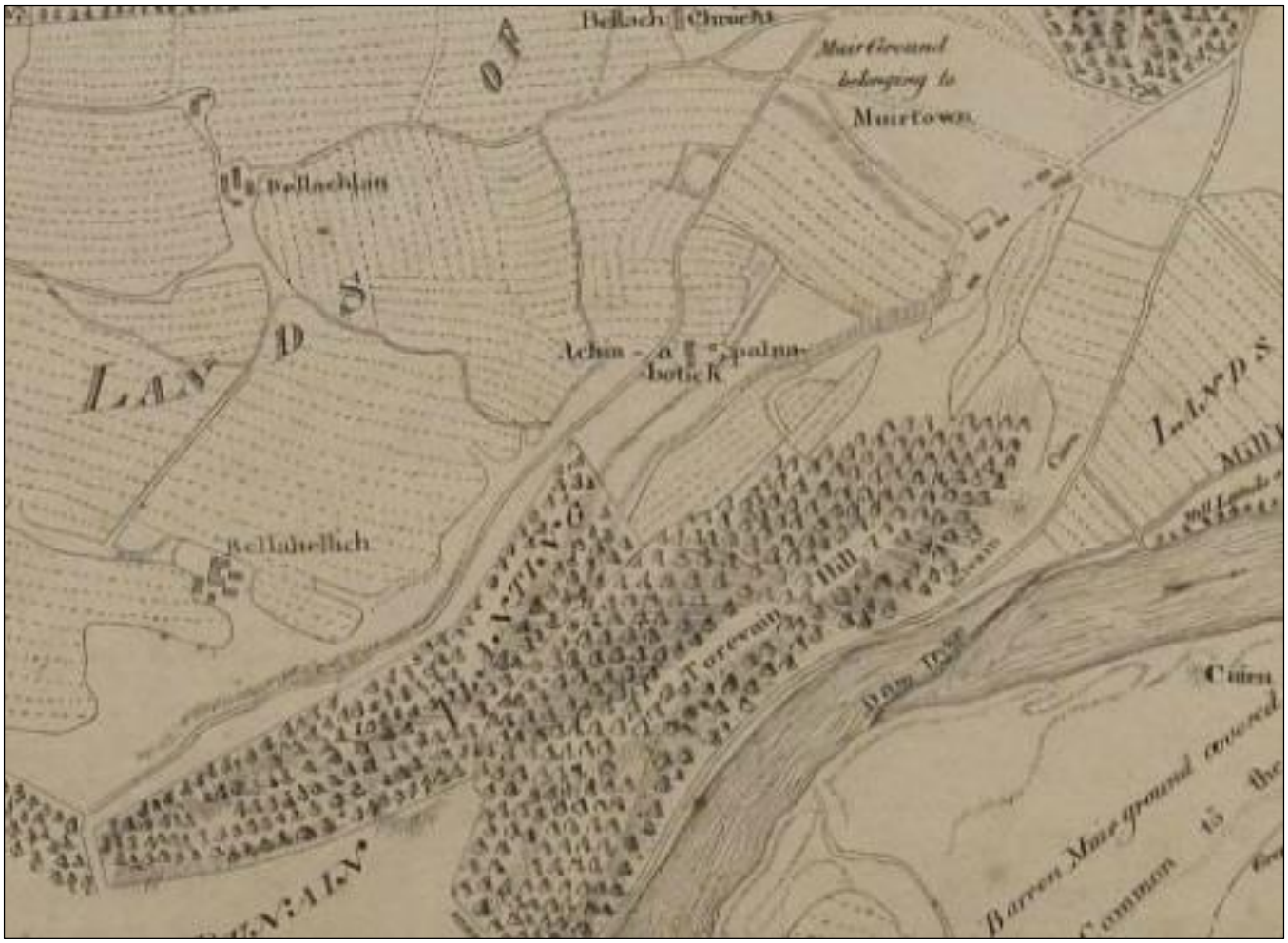

Figure 2: Excerpt from Humeôs *Plan of the River Ness*, 1774[17]

Second Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey map
***Inverness-shire Mainland* Sheet 012.05**
Publication date: 1904 Date revised: 1903

The 1904 map shows increased division within the fields to the east of Balphadrig. Not far from the west side of Mile-end Cottage, which is still shown as roofed, a small pond is now depicted. The buildings at Mile-end farm appear much the same as on the First Edition. At Balphadrig, only two buildings, both roofed, are shown while the grove of trees and circular driveway are no longer shown. The eastern building has been extended to all sides.

Millerton is now shown as a single large building with wings to NE and SW, although the landscaped gardens are no longer shown. The building SW of Millerton (former smithy) is still shown, although the second building further to the west no longer exists. Loch na Sanais appears to have been widened and improved to include a pavilion and club house, and is shown as being used for curling and skating (Plate **1**).

[17] Am Baile 2014

Plate 1: *Loch na Sanais, during the great frost of 1895* (courtesy of the Highland Photographic Archive)

5.1.2 Aerial Photographs

The RCAHMS online collection of historical aerial images[18] and modern aerial images supplied by Bing Maps[19] were checked. On a 1946 photograph, there were no clear archaeological features identified within the site, although linear patterns could be discerned, probably indicating the location of earlier field boundaries. In this image, the farmstead at Balphadrig is shown with at least the western building still roofed, while the eastern building is not clearly discernible.

5.1.3 Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER) Sites

The following sites are recorded within the development area:

[18] RCAHMS 2014
[19] Supplied under ESRI licensing and Microsoft Bing Mapping

MHG3799 Ballifeary NH 65000 44000
A stone axe head was found at Ballifeary.

MHG42351 Balphadrig NH 64310 43730
A house and building are recorded here but no description is given.

The following sites are beyond, but close to the survey area:

MHG29578 Find spot, Torvean NH 64500 44000
A wooden "hanging bowl" - type object with copper alloy fittings was found in a peat bog near Inverness, the exact location of which is not known. It is a warped conical turned wood object decorated with concentric cordons and pierced at the base of the cone by two opposing copper alloy mounts for internal suspension loops and cruciform mounts with cast terminals and incised geometric decorative motifs.

MHG3749 Torvean NH 64370 43150
An Iron Age fort oriented ENE-WSW is situated on Torvean Hill. The outer line of defence consists of a ditch cut into the slope with the material piled on its outer lip to form a rampart. In the N, where best preserved, the ditch averages c.3m in width and c.0.8m in depth with the rampart averaging c.4m in width, both are reduced to a terrace along the S slopes of the ridge. About 9m inside the ditch on the N is a terrace, averaging c1.5m in width, which may represent an unfinished line of defence. The entrance was probably in the ENE at the easiest approach along the spine of the ridge. Here the defence terminates on the NW side of the spine, and on the SE side it is destroyed for a length of 20m. Any further details are obscured by a modern wall which runs along the spine and bisects the fort. The level summit, measuring about 30m x 14m, is featureless.

MHG40992 Cist, Torvean NH 6542 4346
There is a very large cairn near the river at the foot of a hill called Torvean, close to where the silver chain was found. Part of the cairn was opened and a ócoffinôcomprising six thick slabs was noted. Legend says that the cairn was the burial sites of Bean, a saint of the Culdee order. The OS could not find the site of the cairn in 1960.

MHG3758 Battle site, Torvean NH 6541 4346
As reported in the 1845 Statistical Account (Rose et al), ñDonald Bane, a Hebridean chief, and leader of a body of islemen, who, in 1187, encountered a party from the Castle of Inverness, headed by Duncan Mackintosh, son of the governor, who as well as his principal opponent, is said to have perished in the conflict". The cairn at Torvean is said to be the burial place of Donald Bane suggesting that the battle took place in this area.

MHG3800 Silver Chain, Torvean NH 6542 4346
Workers digging the Caledonia Canal at the base of Torvean Hill recovered a massive Pictish silver chain in 1808. Measuring 18 inches long, it comprises a double series of large plain unornamented circular rings, 16 pairs of rings with a single ring at one end. It was reported in the *Inverness Journal* on 1 January 1808 that it was found in the side of a large flat cairn 2 ft deep, and possibly further silver objects were recovered with it. Such chains were symbols of high status, worn between 400 and 800 AD, and are generally attributed to the Picts. The find is in the National Museum of Scotland (X.FC 148) and is described as follows:

"This massive silver chain was found at Torvean in Inverness-shire. It is one of ten surviving heavy silver chains, of a type found only in Scotland and generally attributed to the Picts. They were symbols of high status, worn between 400 and 800 AD. The chain has 16 pairs of silver rings, plus a single ring at one end. It is incomplete, lacking its penannular terminal ring, which was lost soon after the chain was found. It is the heaviest of the ten surviving examples, weighing 2.88 kilograms. Although commonly attributed to the Picts, only three chains, including this one, have been found in the Pictish kingdom proper. They were almost certainly badges of high rank - perhaps the equivalent of 'crown jewels' in a land of many kings."

MHG54253 Cupmarked stone, Kinmylies NH 6452 4433

A cup marked stone with at least 14 cup marks are visible on the exposed surface has been built into a stone dyke at Kinmylies.

MHG28426 Tomnahurich cemetery NH 6558 4415
Tomnahurich, a conical glacial mound, has long been used as a cemetery.

MHG3804 Cist, Tomnahurich NH 6555 4393
Reported by Ross and Aitken in 1893, a short cist containing a male skeleton, fragments of an urn and a flint scraper was found in 1885 on the flat ground between Tomnahurich Bridge and the SW corner of Tomnahurich Hill in the portion occupied as a burying ground by the Roman Catholics.

MHG3803 Carved ball, Tomnahurich NH 65504410
A carved stone ball, covered with numerous projecting knobs (type 8), found early in the 19th century on Tomnahurich, near Inverness.

MHG3802 Loch Na Sanois NH 65100 43600
A Neolithic stone axe was found near the skating pond at Loch Na Sanois.

MHG29581 Find spot, Torvean NH 64000 43000
A stray find of a part-polished flint axe head in a load of topsoil.

MHG3221 Dunain Park NH 64150 42900
Air photography has revealed a penannular, broad ditched enclosure approximately 575m ENE of the Dunain Park Hotel.

Two Scheduled Monuments are located slightly further afield:

MHG3743 Leachkin NH 62960 44160
This is an Orkney-Cromarty type round chambered cairn, although most of the cairn material has been removed leaving a number of large stones remaining (SM 3104).

MHG3809 Craig Phadrig NH 64003 45281
An Iron Age vitrified fort contains evidence for re-use as a manufacturing site during the Pictish period. The fort is reputed to have been the site of the Pictish king Bridei's conversion to Christianity by St Columba in AD 565, although this is doubtful. There is evidence for early

medieval bronze working, including the only firm evidence for the manufacture of hanging bowls. High status imported French pottery testifies to the importance of the site in the early medieval period (SM 2892).

5.2 Archaeological Watching brief

The archaeological watching brief was conducted between 9 and 11 September 2014 during a period of dry, partly cloudy weather. Details of the Test Pits (Figure **3**), which measured between 1m to 2.5m long, are shown in Table **1** below. Two of the pits, Test Pit 2 and Test Pit 6, evaluated two of the previously recorded boundary walls.

Plate 2: Test Pit 7, after topsoil removal

Plate 3: Test Pit 10 after topsoil removal

One pit in the existing golf course, Test Pit 7 (Plate **2**), provided an opportunity to assess the condition of the underlying subsoil within the present course. There was no evidence in this single pit that the subsoil had been disturbed during the course construction. Several fragments of Victorian period ceramic sherds were recovered from Test Pit 8 and Test Pit 10 (Plate **3**). There were no archaeological features identified within any of the other pits.

Test Pit 2 evaluated the level of preservation of the field boundary dyke (Site **9** from the 2013 survey), which runs below an existing fence line. The dyke, aligned NE-SW, measured 0.75m wide and stood 0.9m high after removal of a soil bank 0.5m deep. It appeared to have been constructed as a revetment wall for the field to the west-northwest side. Although only the ESE face was evaluated, the wall appeared well-preserved (Plate **4**), comprising five rubble courses of cobbles and clasts 8-12cm long with a soil core. It was revetted into the slope on a base layer of large cobbles 15-20cm long. The underlying mid orange-brown sandy soil appeared to be a lower, and earlier soil horizon.

Test Pit 6 evaluated the level of preservation of a second field boundary dyke (Site **12** from the 2013 survey). Aligned WNW-ESE, it comprised a spread of stones below an existing fence line and appeared to have been mostly cleared or robbed out. All that remained of the wall, as revealed in the pit, was a single course of medium-sized cobbles (Plate **5**), measuring 0.15m deep and up to 0.3m high at most. It appeared to have been built directly on top of the upper plough soil.

According to first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps, the Site **9** boundary wall appears to have been constructed between 1868 and 1903, while the Site **12** wall had been constructed prior to 1868, which may explain its poorer condition.

Plate 4 (left): Boundary wall (Site **9**) exposed in TP 2

Plate 5 (right): Single course of stones forming the remains of boundary wall (Site **12**) exposed in TP 6

Table 1: Test Pits

Test Pit No.	Dimensions (m)	Topsoil	Subsoil
TP 1	2 x 1.5	Mid-dark brown sandy loam, 0.7m deep	Dark orange-red gritty sand with small-large stones
TP 2	1 x 0.6	Mid brown dry sandy loam, 0.5m deep	Mid orange-brown sandy soil
TP 3	1.5 x 1.5	Mid-dark brown sandy loam, 0.5m deep	Dark orange sand and pale yellow-grey sandy clay
TP 4	2 x 1.5	Mid brown stony loam, 0.4m deep	Dark orange sand and pale yellow-grey sandy clay with small stones
TP 5	2 x 1.5	Mid-dark brown sandy loam, 0.3m deep	Pale yellow-grey silty sand
TP 6	0.6 x 0.7	Mid-dark brown dry sandy loam, 0.6m deep	Mid orange-brown sandy soil
TP 7	2.5x 2	Mid-dark brown sandy loam, 0.5-0.55m deep	Dark red-brown pea gravelly sand over pale yellow clay
TP 8	2.2 x 1.5	Mid brown gravelly soil, 0.5m deep with 1x sherd white-glazed stoneware	Pale orange-yellow gravelly clayey sand
TP 9	1.6 x 1.4	Mid brown gravelly soil, 0.3-0.35m deep	Mid orange-brown sandy gravel
TP 10	1.75 x 1.5	Mid brown gravelly soil, 0.45m deep and 2x sherds white-glazed stoneware	Pale yellow-grey stony sandy clay
TP 11	1 x 1.4	Mid brown-grey gravelly soil, 2% stones, 0.35-0.4m deep	Mid orange-brown stony clayey sand
TP 12	2 x 1.5	Mid orange-brown stony loam 0.3m deep	Mid brown-orange sandy gravel
TP 13	2 x 1.5	Mid-dark brown sandy loam, 0.5m deep	Mid orange-brown gravelly sand
TP 14	2 x 1.5	Mid brown gravelly soil, 0.3m deep	Pale yellow clayey sand
TP 15	2 x 2	Mid-dark brown sandy loam, 0.5m deep	Pale yellow clayey sand with small stones

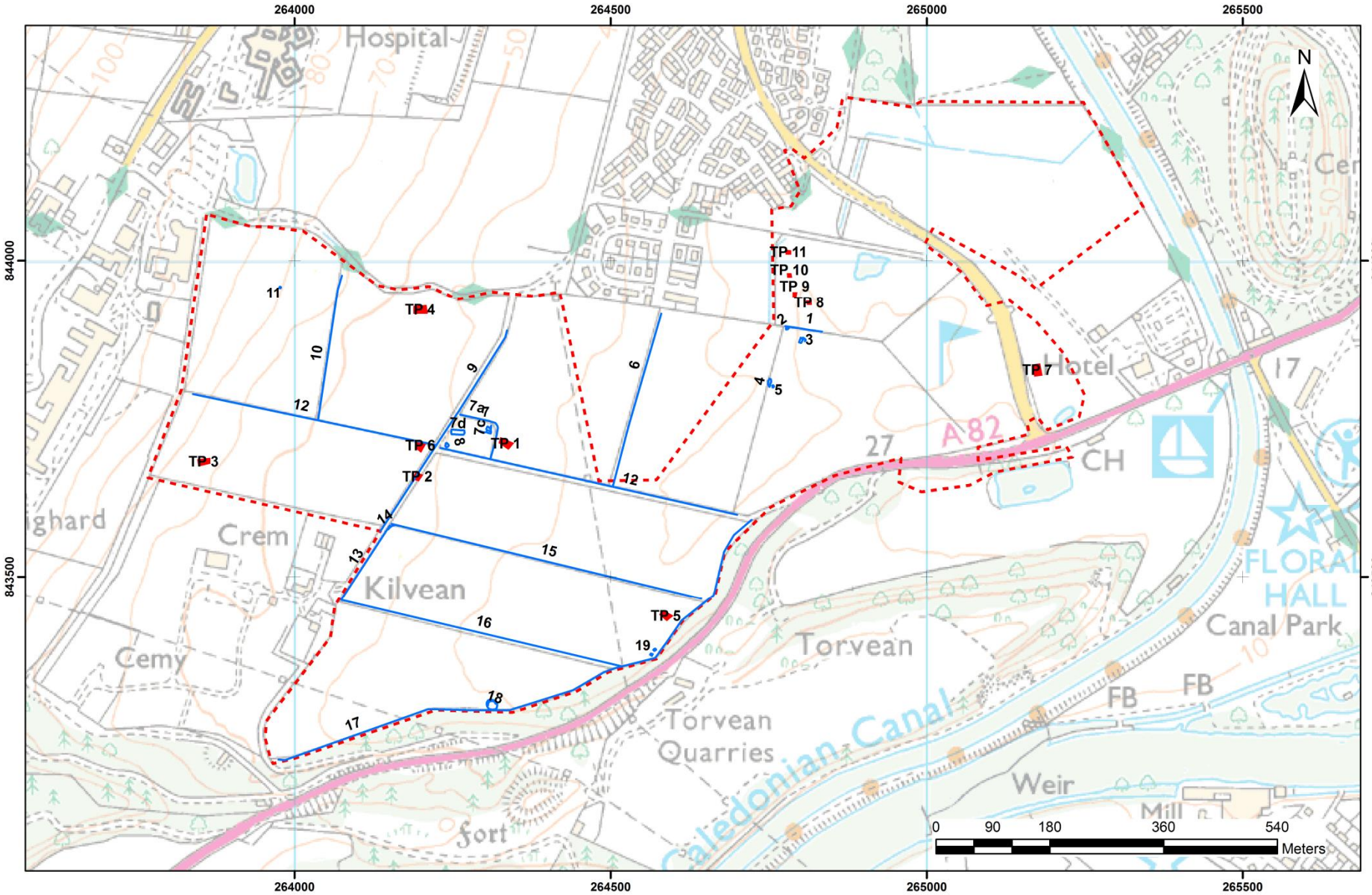

Figure 3: Location of 2014 ground investigation test pits and sites recorded in the 2013 survey

6.0 Discussion

While there were no features uncovered in the test pits, a scatter of Victorian-era pottery sherds was noted in Test Pits 8 and 10. There were no individual archaeological horizons identified between the topsoil and the plough soil and there was no previous disturbance noted within the topsoil-subsoil transition in the existing golf course (Test Pit 7), indicating that future monitoring of ground works in this area would provide the opportunity to uncover buried archaeological remains.

The fieldwork also provided the opportunity to assess two of the field boundary dykes recorded during the 2013 walkover survey. It revealed that one of the dykes (Site 9), comprises a substantial, well-preserved wall surviving under a 0.5m-deep bank of soil overburden. Located to the west side of the Balphadrig farmstead ruins (Site 7), this wall could be a potential feature to incorporate into the future golf course design.

7.0 Recommendations

The development area contains the remains of settlement buildings (Balphadrig, Site 7), various boundary dykes dating to before and after the mid-1800s, a probable prehistoric burial cairn (Site 18) and other possible structures and small cairns (Sites 2-5). While these are definite elements of archaeological remains in the area, the desk-based research has provided further information about the likely potential for significant buried prehistoric and later archaeology to survive. Monitoring of the ground investigations provided the opportunity to assess the ground conditions on both sides of the site, as well as the chance to assess two boundary dykes. Based on the results of the previous survey, the results of the desk-based assessment and the assessment of good ground conditions (depth of topsoil, type of subsoil) witnessed during the present monitoring there appears to be good potential for buried archaeological remains to survive.

A substantial portion of the proposed development (Figure **4**) is intended as the new golf course at Torvean. Given the occurrence of well-preserved archaeological remains surviving within this part of the course, it is recommended that consideration be given to incorporating some of the sites into golf course design. Features of archaeological and historical significance would provide a unique level of interest to the course, whilst also allowing for the sites to be safeguarded, seen and interpreted.

The following proposals are recommended:

- *Site18 – Prehistoric burial cairn*
  Given the location of the cairn, near the south border of the west side of the proposed new golf course, this archaeological monument has potential to be easily incorporated into the course, without hindering play and without advocating much concern for erosion due to play. The site is in a stable condition, although at the time of survey, it was enclosed within tall grasses which hindered a full assessment of any surviving features. It is recommended that, in order to assist course design, the site be cleared of vegetation from around it in order to plan and photograph it. Although a loose interpretation that the site is probably prehistoric in

date has been proposed, the only way to test this theory is by excavation. If the site were to be incorporated into the course design, interpretation would be assisted by the excavation of one or two small trenches over the feature, which would enable the structural features to be examined.

Even if there is no interest in the site being used as a feature on the course, it is not recommended that it be removed by the development. If removal was the end decision, then this should only take place after it has been fully excavated by an archaeologist.

- *Site 7 – Balphadrig settlement*
  A full assessment of the quality and preservation of the buildings at Balphadrig has not previously been possible due to the dense vegetation covering the site, which includes giant hogweed[20]. It is still the recommendation that vegetation clearance is conducted so that further survey and recording by plan drawings and photographs can be conducted. This would provide information for the golf course designer about the condition of the sites and their potential for incorporation into the design. It is recommended that this be conducted in the near future, in order to assist with the golf course design.

  It is not recommended that the sites be removed by the development. If removal was the end decision, then it should only take place after it has been fully excavated by an archaeologist.

- *Boundary dykes*
  While removal of the boundary dykes during course construction is not a major concern, it is still recommended that any remaining walls be evaluated prior to destruction. This can take place at any time during development. Two of the walls, Sites **9** and **12** have already been assessed as part of the ground investigations and have shown that Site **9** is in such a well-preserved state so as to be useful in incorporation into the course design. Clearance of the wall for this purpose would require machine excavation along the eastern face and rapid exposure of the wall face using hand tools. This would not have to be done by archaeologists.

- *Sites 2, 3, 4 and 5*
  These sites, as recorded during the 2013 survey are still under dense vegetation[21]. Two of these may be footings of structures, while the others appeared to be possible clearance cairns. Although they did not appear to be substantially well-preserved as to warrant incorporation into the golf course as visible features, it is not recommended that they are removed by the development. If they were to be removed or compromised by the development, it is recommended that they are evaluated first by an archaeologist, by excavating a minimum of one trench on each structure.

[20] Fraser 2013
[21] Fraser 2013

- *Trial trenching evaluation*
  Given the known archaeological sites within the development area, combined with the high potential for buried archaeological remains to be discovered, as indicated by the desk-based assessment, it is recommended that a trial trenching evaluation be conducted in all areas to be excavated by the development works. Trial trenching aims to identify the location, character, extent, quality and preservation of any features or objects of archaeological importance within an area. The work enables an assessment of the potential for archaeological remains to be uncovered in order to aid the planning authorityôs decision-making process. The end result is to assist in formulating a strategy so that unexpected archaeological discoveries do not delay the development works.

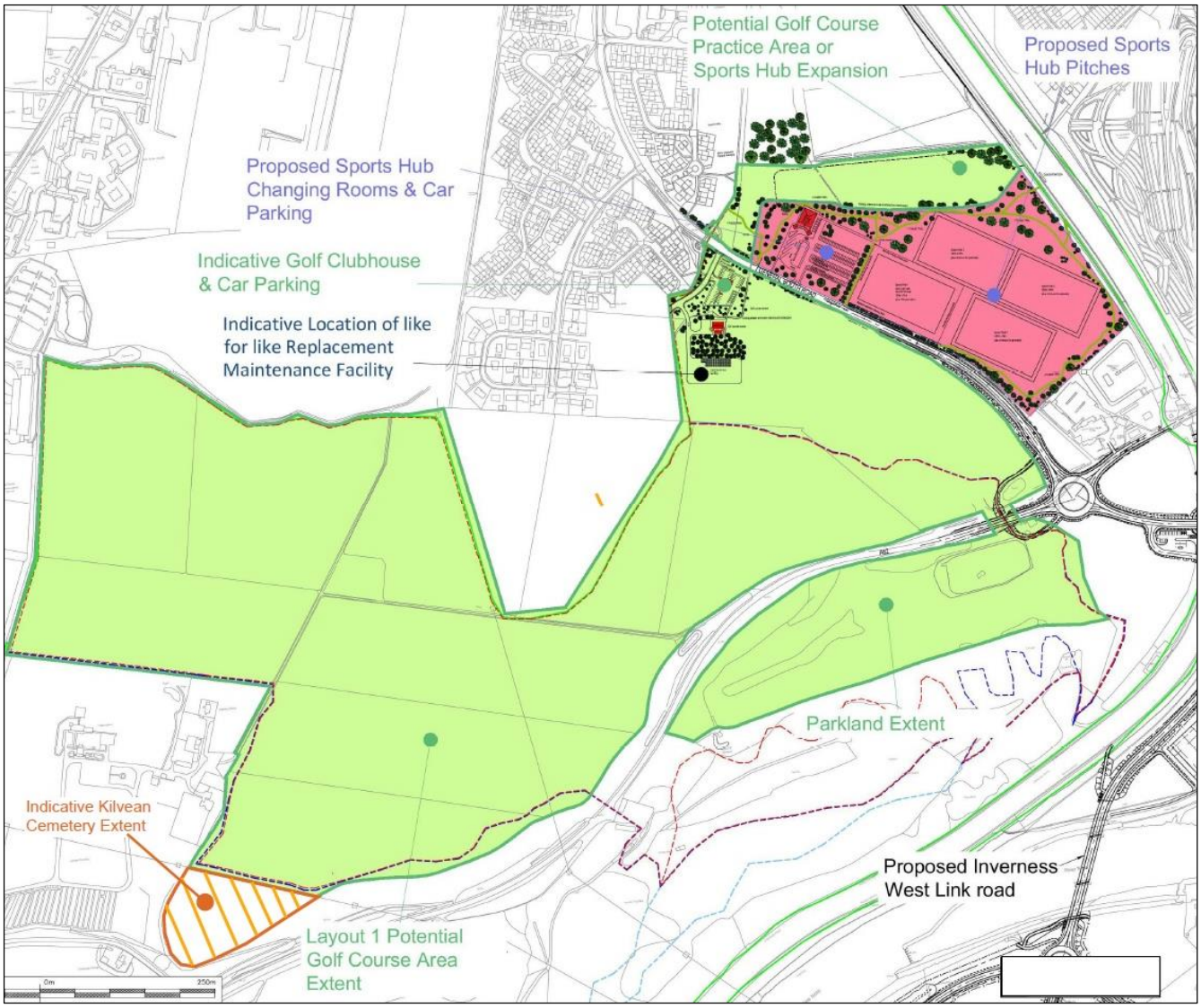

Figure 4: Proposed Torvean Sports Hub layout, provided by *The Highland Council*

References

Am Baile, 2014. Accessed online at http://www.ambaile.org.uk

British Geology Survey 2014 Accessed on 24 August 2014 at http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

Fraser, L 2013 *Torvean Golf Course, Sports Hub, Kilvean Cemetery Extension & Parkland*. Ross and Cromarty Archaeological Services, 2013-26/TSH13

Gazetteer for Scotland 2014. *Inverness and Bona*. Accessed online at http://www.scottish-places.info

Highland Council 2012 *Standards for Archaeological Work*. Inverness: Highland Council: Planning and Development Service

Highland Council Historic Environment Team 2014 *Highland Historic Environment Record (HHER)*. Accessed on 24 August 2014 at http://her/highland.gov.uk

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief.* Reading, IfA.

Institute for Archaeologists 2013 *By-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists: Code of Conduct*: Reading, IfA

Newton, N 2013 *Lost Inverness.* Birlinn Ltd, Edinburgh.

Miller, J. 2004 *Inverness*. Edinburgh: Birlinn, Ltd.

National Library of Scotland, 2014 Accessed on 24 August 2014 at http://www.nls.uk

Rose, R, Watson, G, and Fraser, A 1793. *Town and Parish of Inverness,* Vol 39, Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-99. Accessed online at http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1791-99/Inverness/Inverness/

The Scottish Government, 2008 *Treasure Trove in Scotland A Code of Practice*.

The Scottish Government, 2011 *Planning Advice Note 2/2011* (PAN 2/2011): *Planning and Archaeology*.

The Scottish Government, 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy.*

Scottish Highlander 1886. *Discovery of a Cist at Tomnahurich.* 8 January 1886

Appendix 1 Index of Photographs

Photo No.	Direction Facing	Test Pit No.	Description	Taken By	Date
1	WNW	TP 2	ESE wall face of stone-built dyke, Site 9	MKP	09/09/2014
2	WNW	TP 2	ESE wall face of stone-built dyke, Site 9, overlying pale brown silty soil, early plough soil	MKP	09/09/2014
3	W	TP 2	ESE wall face of stone-built dyke, Site 9, overlying pale brown silty soil, early plough soil horizon	MKP	09/09/2014
4	NW	TP 2	ESE wall face of stone-built dyke, Site 9, showing building up of approximately 0.5m of soil against outer face	MKP	09/09/2014
5	WNW	TP 2	ESE wall face of stone-built dyke, Site 9, showing location	MKP	09/09/2014
6	NE	TP 2	Looking down track in front of location of Test Pit 2; Balphadrig farmstead is located below the trees in the right background	MKP	09/09/2014
7	NNE	TP 6	Single course of rounded stones, forming remains of mostly degraded field dyke, Site 12, overlying the plough soil	MKP	09/09/2014
8	NNE	TP 6	Single course of rounded stones, forming remains of mostly degraded field dyke, Site 12, overlying the plough soil	MKP	09/09/2014
9	NE	TP 6	Looking over TP 6 towards the NE, Balphadrig farmstead is located in the trees in the right background	MKP	09/09/2014
10	NE	TP 7	TP 7, after removal of topsoil, showing subsoil transition	MKP	10/09/2014
11	N	TP 7	TP 7, after removal of topsoil, showing depth of soil	MKP	10/09/2014
12	N	TP 7	TP 7 during soakaway test, golf course in back	MKP	10/09/2014
13	SSE	TP 8	TP 8 after topsoil removal, showing subsoil transition	MKP	10/09/2014
14	SE	TP 8	TP 8 after topsoil removal, showing depth of topsoil	MKP	10/09/2014
15	NW	TP 10	TP 10 after topsoil removal, showing depth of topsoil	MKP	10/09/2014
16	N	TP 10	TP 10 after topsoil removal, showing subsoil transition	MKP	10/09/2014
17	SSE	TP 9	TP 9 after topsoil removal, showing subsoil transition	MKP	10/09/2014
18	NW	TP 11	TP 11 after topsoil removal, showing subsoil transition	MKP	10/09/2014
19	NW	TP 11	TP 11 after topsoil removal, showing subsoil transition and location	MKP	10/09/2014
20	SE	TP 12	TP 12 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
21	SE	TP 5	TP 5 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
22	NE	TP 5	TP 5 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
23	NW	TP 14	TP 14 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
24	NNW	TP 14	TP 14 after excavation of pit, showing location	LF	11/09/2014
25	SE	TP 3	TP 3 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
26	NE	TP 15	TP 15 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
27	SW	TP 4	TP 4 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
28	ENE	TP 1	TP 1 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014
29	NE	TP 13	TP 13 after excavation of pit, showing layers through topsoil and subsoil	LF	11/09/2014