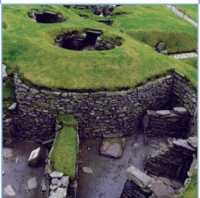
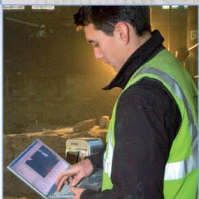
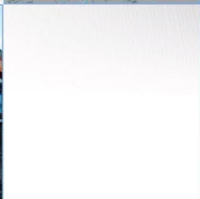
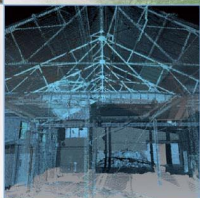
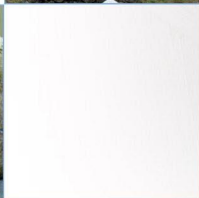
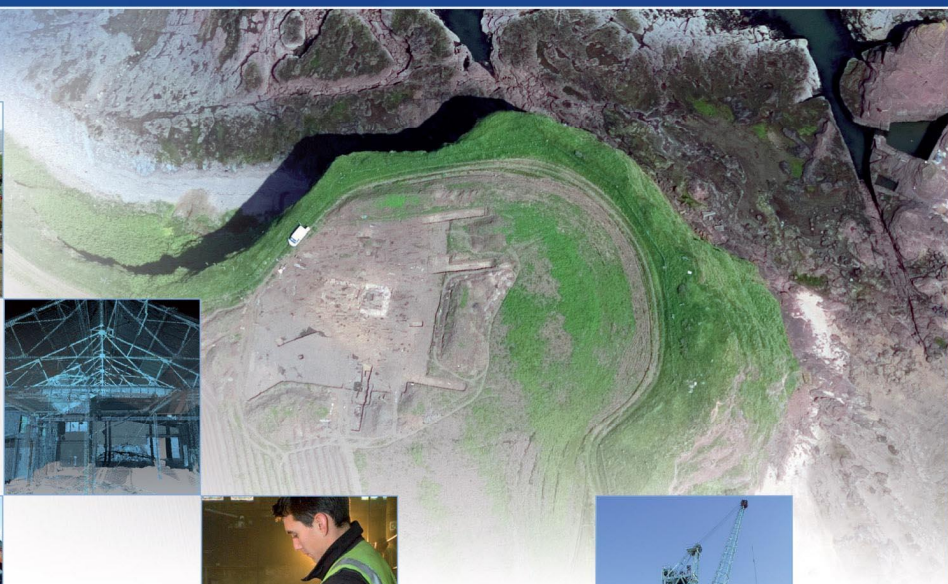
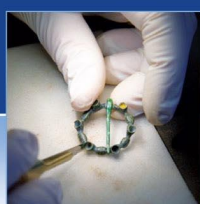


Crossal Hydro Scheme, Crossal, Isle of Skye

Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

AOC 70061
17th September 2015



Crossal Hydro Scheme, Crossal, Isle of Skye

Archaeological Walkover Survey Report

On Behalf of:	Manitoba Energy
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NG 4450 3271 to NG 4528 3188
Planning Reference	15/01995/FUL
AOC Project No:	70061
Prepared by:	Lynn Fraser
Illustrations by:	Mary Peteranna
Date of Fieldwork:	11 th September 2015
Date of Report:	17 th September 2015

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Authors: L Fraser

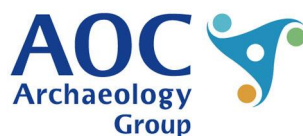
Date: 17/09/2015

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Appendix 1: Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Abstract

This report details the results of an archaeological walkover survey of the proposed site for a hydro scheme at Crossal, Isle of Skye. The survey was undertaken on 11th September 2015. One archaeological site was recorded.

Mitigation measures have been recommended to ensure this site is not compromised during development.

Introduction

1. An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was carried out on behalf of Manitoba Energy in advance of the construction of a small hydro scheme located at Crossal, Isle of Skye. The aim of the survey was to identify and assess the nature and extent of any archaeology likely to be directly affected by the proposed development in order to inform recommendations for the protection and management of any sites identified. One archaeological site was recorded. Recommendation has been made with regards to this site.

Project Background

2. The proposed hydro scheme is located at Crossal in Glen Drynoch, a landscape situated between Loch Sligachan to east and Loch Harport to west. The planned pipeline route is located to the north side of the A863 along the *Allt Mor*. The proposed access track and pipeline route are located between National Grid Reference NG 4450 3271 at the northwest end and NG 4528 3188 at the southeast end (Figure 1). The present survey was undertaken to identify any archaeological sites that would be directly affected by the proposed hydro scheme and development works.
3. A desk-based study of the surrounding landscape was undertaken to identify any known archaeological sites within the development area and to assess the archaeological potential of the site. Evidence for prehistoric settlement has been recorded in the wider area, which is considered to have the potential for further historic environment features to be present.

Character of the Study Area

4. The landscape situation of the survey area comprises a fairly steep slope that rises in a northerly direction from the A863 (Plate 1). As the pipeline route swings towards the northwest, the gradient becomes less steep (Plate 2). The survey area does not have a land use designation (The Historic Land Use Assessment, RCAHMS 2014). The underlying geology of the area comprises the Skye lava group; a combination of basalt, microgabbro and hawaiite (BGS 2015).



Plate 1 Looking N, a general view of the survey area from the A863



Plate 2 Looking SE, a general view of the survey area from the intake location

Desk-based Assessment

5. A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to commencement of the survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation. 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 Scotland's 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.
6. In the Old Statistical Account (1791-99) the parish of Bracadale is described as irregular in form and hilly with the hills mostly covered in heath, mixed with some spots of grass, and afford good summer pasture for horses, sheep and cows. Although antiquities are mentioned within the Account as being present in the parish none are described in any detail as to their location.
7. The New Statistical Account provides no additional information other than the only fuel used in the parish is peat.
8. To the west of Crossal are a shieling (MHG55752), a quarry pit (MHG13883) and a turf-built house (MHG55751).

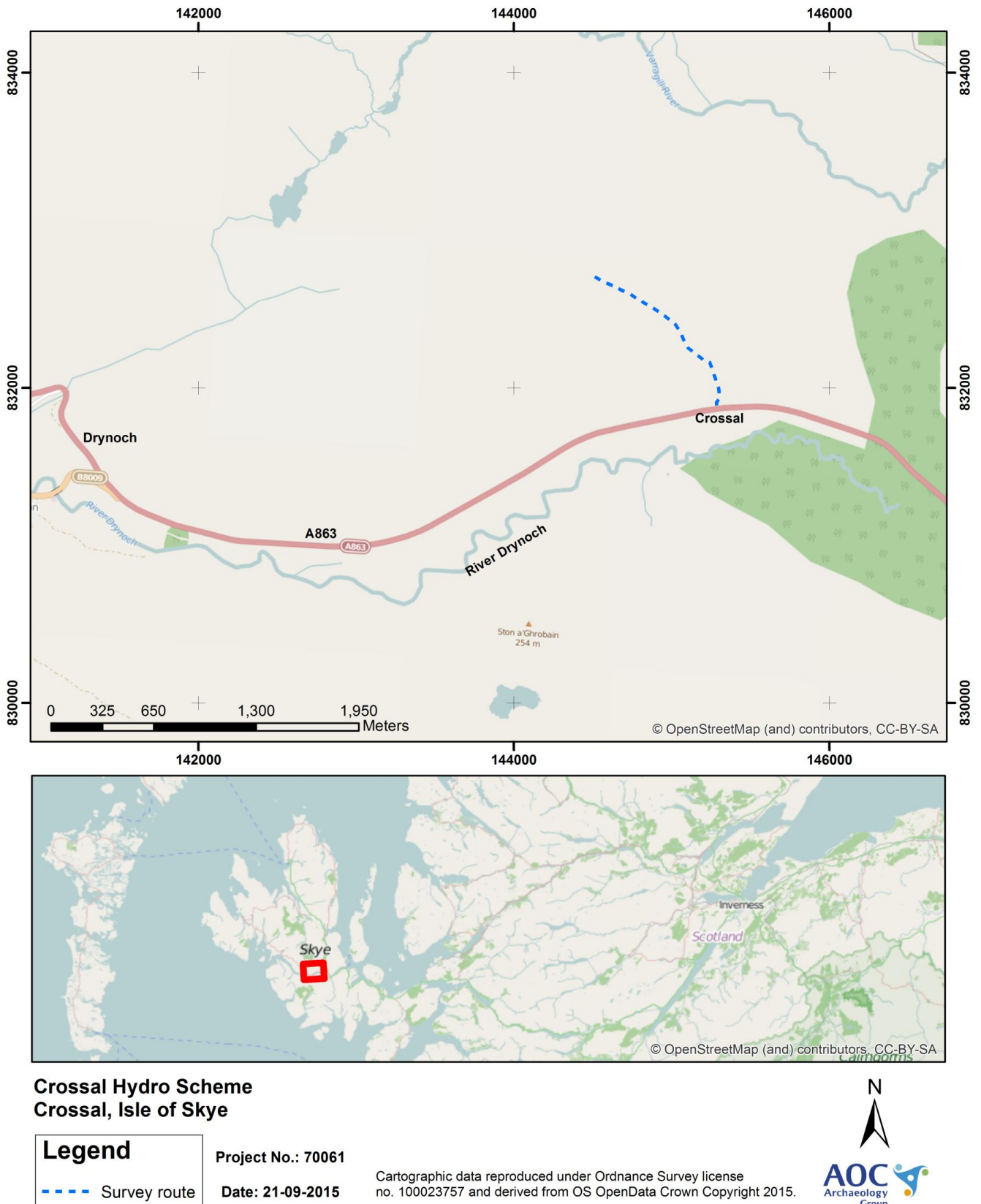


Figure 1 Location of the proposed hydro scheme

Cartographic Sources

9. Historical maps were consulted at the National Library of Scotland (2015) online.
 - a) First Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey map:
Inverness-shire (Isle of Skye), Sheet XXXIV (includes: Bracadale; Portree)
Survey date: 1877 Publication date: 1881
This map shows the area of the proposed pipeline route as moorland alongside the *Allt Mor*. The southern end of the pipeline route crosses a track which runs in a north-easterly direction from a farmstead marked *Crossal* across the moorland. *Crossal* is located on the western bank of the *Allt Mor* to the north of the road, now the A863.
 - b) Second Edition 6-inch-to-the-mile Ordnance Survey map:
Inverness-shire ĩ Isle of Skye, Sheet XXXIV (includes: Bracadale; Portree)
Survey date: 1901 Publication date: 1903
There is no change from the first edition map.

Aerial Imagery

10. a) Aerial photographs were consulted at the RCAHMS National Collection of Aerial Photography (2015) online:

NCAP-000-000-148-443 taken on 10th June 1988 shows nothing of archaeological significance.
- b) Google (2015) 50m satellite imagery was also inspected. There was nothing of archaeological significance noted.

Historic Environment Sources

11. A full search of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland's National Sites and Monuments Record (Canmore) revealed no previously recorded sites directly in-line with the proposed access and pipeline routes. The following sites in the vicinity of the routes:
 - a) **MHG38842** **NG 4533 3189** **Crossal, pen**
Sheep pens are depicted on the current edition of the Ordnance Survey map. These are located to the east of the base of the access track.
 - b) **MHG13882** **NG 4524 3189** **Crossal, croft house**
A roofed building and enclosure are depicted on the OS 1st Edition Map. These are located on the western bank of the *Allt Mor* at the south end of the route in the location of present settlement.

Aims of the Survey

12. The overall aim of this desk-based assessment and archaeological walkover survey was to identify and record any unknown archaeological sites or features that might be directly affected by the construction of the access track and pipeline route and to assess the potential for buried archaeology to be affected during site construction. This would enable informed mitigation measures and recommendations to be proposed to ensure that the value of any cultural heritage sites would not be compromised.

Survey Methodology

13. The development site was walked over and surveyed on 11th September 2015. The weather for the survey was dry and sunny with excellent archaeological visibility. The ground conditions were dry across of the whole of the route. The presence of dense bracken at the location of the only possible archaeological site made accurate survey difficult. The survey was carried out by Lynn Fraser and Sam Williamson.
14. The route was systematically walked by the two archaeologists, always within visual contact with one another. Archaeological sites were recorded using high-resolution digital photography. Individual site locations were recorded, using ArcPad GIS software on a handheld Windows Mobile-based Archer Field PC capable of sub-metre accuracy.
15. Survey and recording methods recommended by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (2004) were employed and all work was conducted in strict adherence to the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct* (2014).

Results

16. The walkover survey identified one possible archaeological site (Figure 2), which is previously unrecorded.
17. The site, Site 1, appeared as a low line of small turf-covered boulders with some stone visible standing to approximately 0.2m. It was approximately 0.25m wide. A dense stand of bracken at this location prevented a detailed survey from being carried out. It was not possible to assess the character or use of the site.

Recommendations

18. The recommended buffer zones for protection of the archaeological sites are shown in Figure 3. The following mitigation recommendations are made:
 - ❖ Site 1 – a 5m buffer zone should be maintained around this site, which should be marked out with high visibility mesh fencing prior to works commencing.
19. It is possible that archaeological remains may still be preserved below the areas covered by peat and below ground-level in general, and this should be taken into consideration during construction. Should any unexpected archaeological remains be uncovered during construction, the Highland Council Historic Environment Team should be notified immediately.

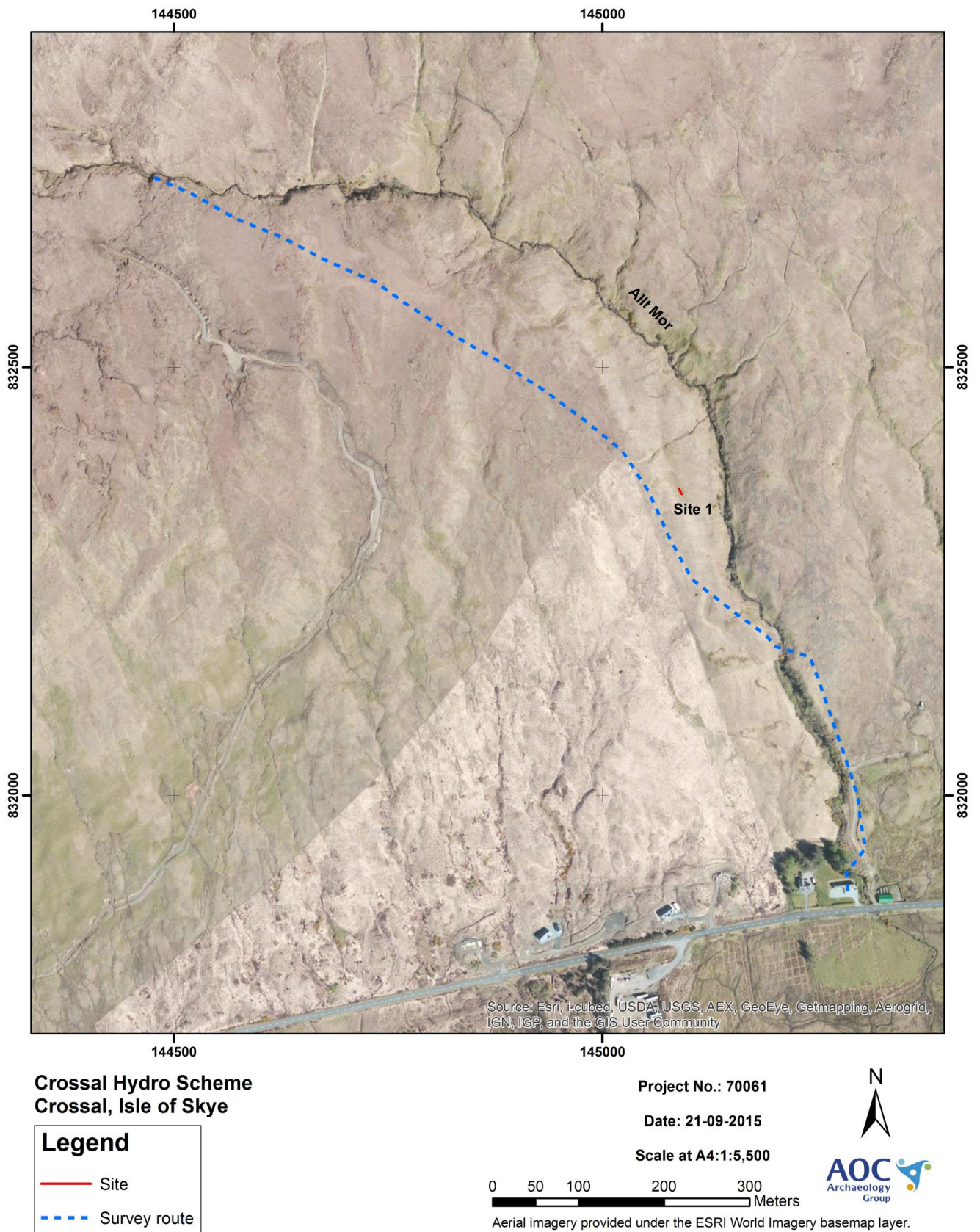


Figure 2 Location of archaeological sites

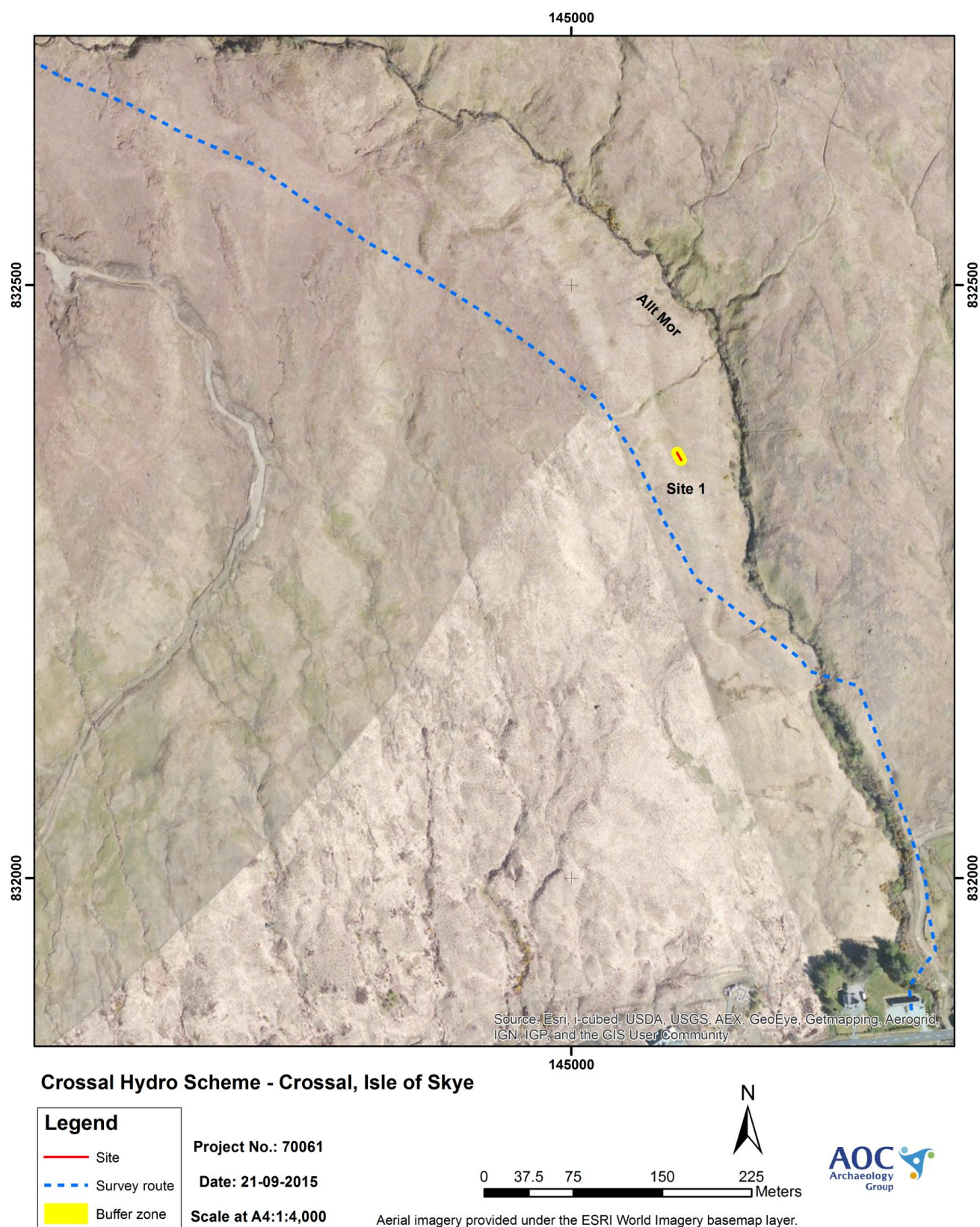


Figure 3 Recommended buffer zones

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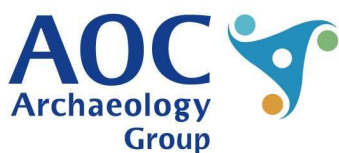
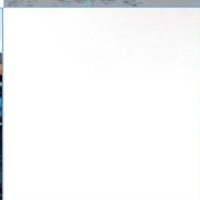
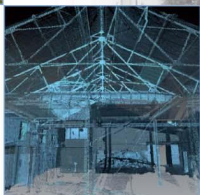
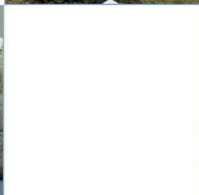
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