

Waternish Farm Woodland Creation Scheme Isle of Skye

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Walkover Survey



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Client	Robert & Lucy Montgomery Waternish Farm
National Grid Ref	NG 25571 57628 (centred)
Site Code	Waternish 22
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Contents

Summary	5
1.0 Introduction	5
2.0 Site Location	5
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background	7
4.0 Aims and Objectives	8
5.0 Methodology	10
6.0 Results	10
6.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment	10
6.2 Archaeological Walkover Survey	16
7.0 Discussion	18
8.0 Mitigation and Recommendations	19
9.0 Acknowledgements	21
10.0 References	22
Appendix 1 Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites	28
Appendix 2 Index of Photographs	31

List of Figures

1 - Maps showing the location of the survey area	6
2 - Map showing the survey areas / planting schemes A – D at Waternish Farm	9
3 - Excerpt from the 1st Edition 6 inch to the mile OS map sheet	12
4 - Excerpt from the 2nd Edition 6 inch to the mile OS map sheet	13
5 - Estate map of Waternish c. 1790, showing the Risagan Township and Waternish House	21
6 - Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites survey areas at Waternish Farm	24
7 - Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites in Survey Area A, Waternish Farm	25
8 - Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites in Survey Area B	26

9 - Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites in Survey Areas C and D	27
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List of Plates

Cover – View west over cattle shelter to Loch Bay, Dunvegan Head and the Western Isles

1 - View NE up planting area D with drystone dyke Site 1 to right	11
2 - Another view looking NE up planting area D with drystone dyke Site 1 and drainage ditch	11
3 - View ENE over survey Area D and drystone dyke Site 1	17
4 - Image looking NNW showing construction detail of drystone dyke Site 2, survey Area B	17
5 - View NW over boulder clearance Site 3 in survey Area B	20
6 - View SW over drystone dyke Site 5, at junction between survey Area's B and A	20
7 - View NW over turf and stone dyke Site 8 in survey Area A	23
8 - View SW over the two cellular structures Site 9 in survey Area A	23
9 - Image looking NNW showing boulder clearance Site 10, Area A	23
10 - Turf and stone dyke Site 8 and drystone dyke Site 7 beyond, Area A	23
11 - View SSE along boulder boundary Site 11, Area A	23
12 - Boulder clearance Site 10 at NW end of survey Area A	23
13 - View NW over low footings of building Site 12a to SW of survey Area C	32
14 - View WSW over building Site 12b, located to the SW of survey Area C	32
15 - View SE over quarry Site 13 within survey Area C	33

Summary

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk based assessment and walkover survey carried out on behalf of Robert and Lucy Montgomery in advance of a proposed woodland creation scheme focused on Waternish Farm, Isle of Skye. The walkover survey recorded 15 archaeological sites comprising 17 individual features which included stone and turf dykes forming field systems, two stone cellular structures, two buildings, field clearance, and areas of rig and furrow cultivation; all of which are probably post-medieval in date. A short section of intermittent boulder dyke is probably prehistoric in age.

1.0 Introduction

An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey were carried out on behalf of Robert and Lucy Montgomery of Waternish Farm, Isle of Skye in advance of a proposed woodland creation scheme at Waternish Farm under the Croft Woodland Project. The survey areas are located within the administration of Highland Council and is advised on archaeological matters by Kirsty Cameron of Highland Council's Historic Environment Team.

A programme of archaeological works was specified in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014), *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011), UKFS and Scottish Forestry Guidance. The desk-based assessment was carried out in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area prior to any developments taking place.

The walkover survey was carried out on the 21st of November 2022 and identified a total of 15 archaeological sites, comprising 17 individual features, the majority of which relate to the use of the landscape during the later historic period. However, one short and intermittent section of boulder dyke is probably prehistoric in age.

2.0 Site Location

The four individual blocks of ground comprising the survey area are located on Waternish Farm, Waternish, on the island of Skye (Figures 1). The survey areas (NG 25571 57628 – centred) are located on sloping ground on the SW side of the Waternish Peninsula and to the northwest of Waternish House (Figure 2). The ground has a south-westerly aspect overlooking the outer reaches of Loch Bay, catches the full sun, and has extensive views towards Dunvegan Head, the Minch and the Western Isles. The survey areas are generally located between elevations of 40m and 60m above Ordnance Datum, and mainly comprise improved ground within well-defined field systems. Much of the land within the four survey areas comprises well-drained ground, with evidence for drainage channels, which form grazing for livestock (cattle and sheep). However, within some areas, drainage is not so effective, and the ground here has reverted back to marginal, wet land with extensive stands of rushes. There are existing pockets of deciduous woodland, which have been fenced in, along with some narrow strips of planted trees forming windbreaks/shelterbelts. One major stream course, the Allt Fasach, runs NE-SW along the southern boundary of the survey area, while two minor streams cross the ground on the same alignment to the NW. Drainage channels have been cut in the recent past to control the flow and direction of some of the water courses crossing the land, to assist with drainage.

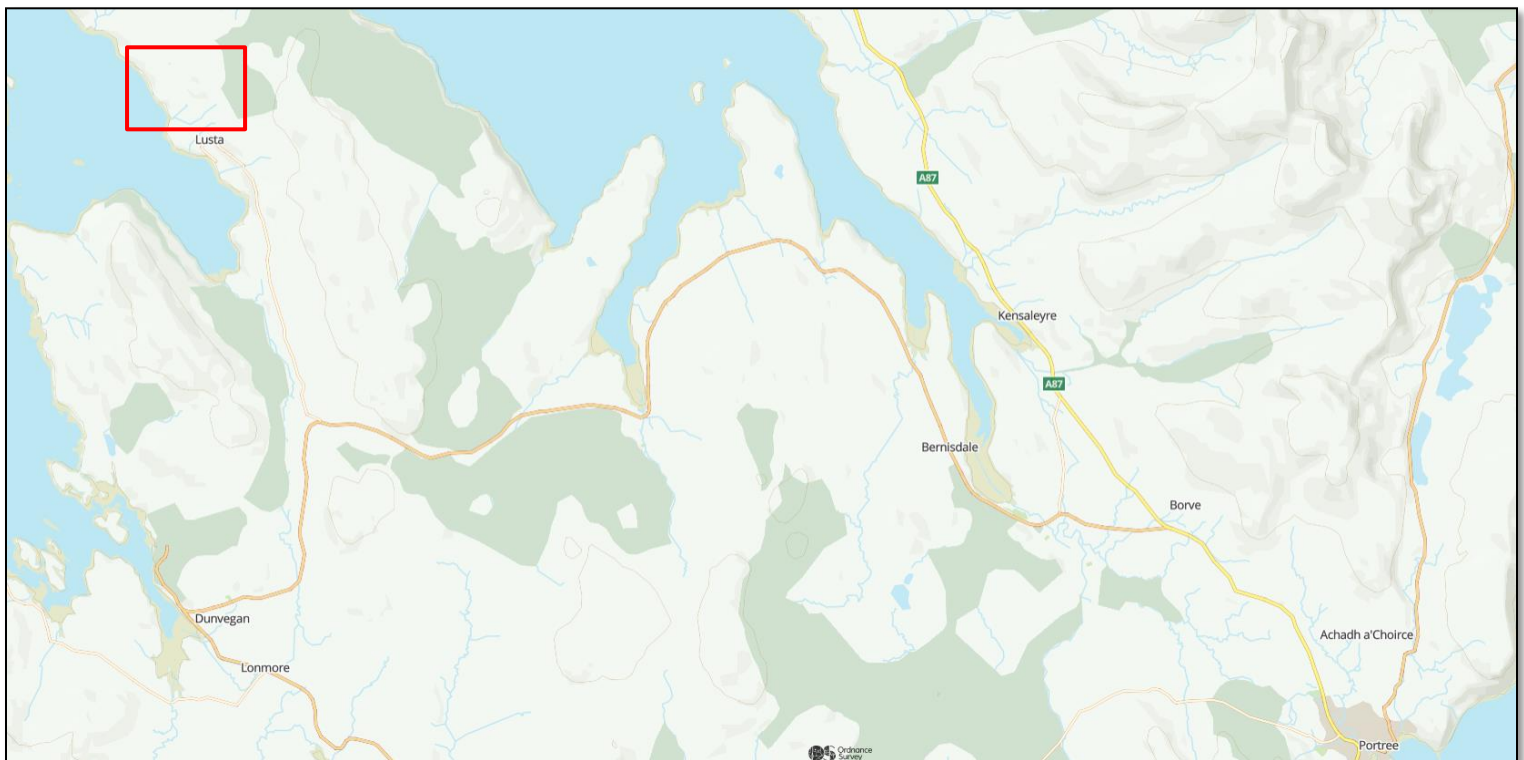
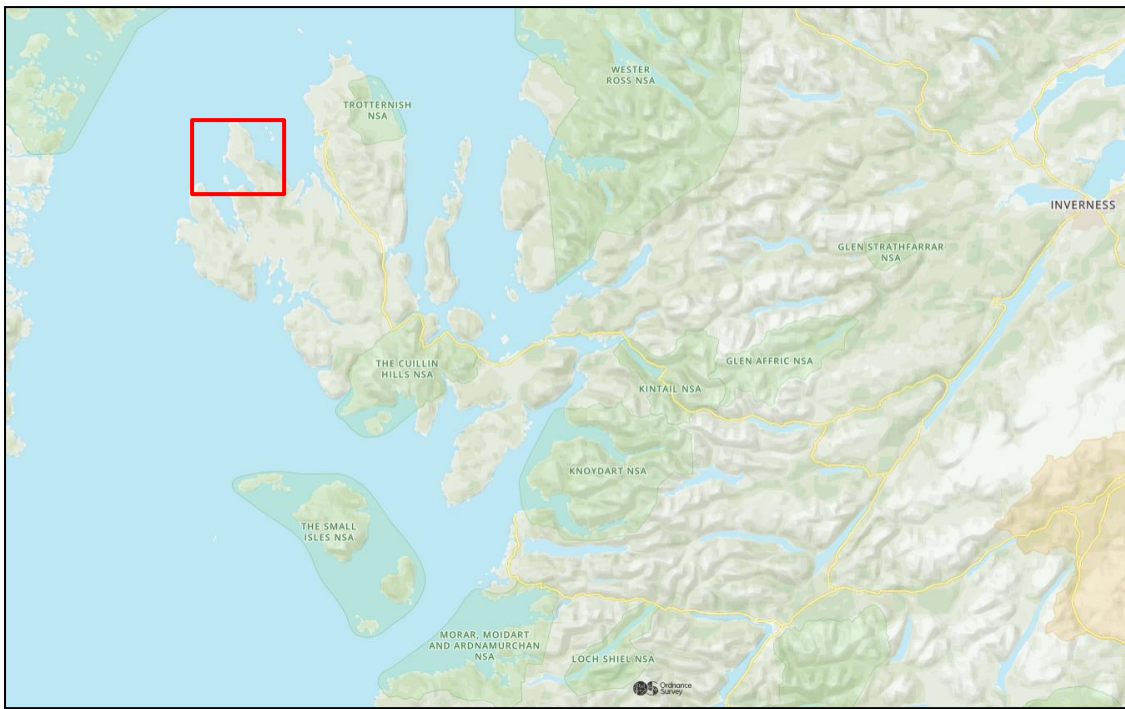


Figure 1 – Maps showing the general location of the survey area. See Figure 2 for details of survey area boundaries (contains OS data © Crown copyright and database rights 2022)

The underlying geology focused on Waternish Farm and the survey areas comprises the Skye Lava Groups, the Little Minch Sill Group, and North Britain Paleogene Dyke Systems including Basalt and Pyroclastic Rocks (BGS 2022). These basement rocks are overlain by Devensian Till and Diamicton, with areas of Raised Marine Beach Deposits including gravel and sand within the lower reaches of the area.

3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The requirement for walkover survey arose because of the presence of known archaeological sites within close proximity to the boundaries of the woodland creation schemes at Waternish Farm, comprising the remains of at least two prehistoric hut circles (MHG5900 and MHG5901) and post-medieval settlement remains (MHG6124, MHG6125 and MHG36360). Scottish Forestry, during a visit to the site, had also noted areas of exposed stone within two of the survey areas and requested an archaeological survey be carried out.

Waternish is the central of three peninsulas that project into the Minch from the north coast of Skye. A peat-covered ridge rising to a height of 300m OD, forms the backbone of the peninsula, and this is surrounded for the most part by a fringe of lower ground, separated from the sea by high, rocky cliffs. The underlying geology is dominated by horizontally bedded basalts which erode to produce the table-top hillsides that are such a characteristic feature of the north Skye landscapes.

Generally, the Waternish Peninsula, like many other areas of Skye, is rich in archaeological remains spanning the Prehistoric, Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods. Although there are chambered cairns on Trotternish to the east and Bracadale to the south, there are no monuments which can be firmly dated to the Neolithic on Waternish. However, three cairns of probably Bronze Age date are located at Trumpan, Lusta and Coshletter. Prehistoric settlement is principally represented by hut circles, some with their associated field systems, distributed throughout the peninsula at spacings of about 1km apart. They are normally found singly, but groupings have been identified including those near Waternish House. Later prehistoric forts have been recorded at Greshornish, Annait, and Geary, while a number of the more characteristic brochs are found on the peninsula including Dun Gearymore, Dun Borrafiach, and Dun Hallin. Underground souterrains have also been recorded at Trumpan and Hallin.

A site with Early Christian associations can be found at Annait (mother church), where the prehistoric fort was possibly later used as a monastery. The medieval and later historic period in general, are well represented on the Waternish Peninsula, with the medieval church and fortified promontory at Trumpan, 18th century estate at Unish, and a wealth of settlement remains, and field systems of post-medieval date well distributed throughout the peninsula. There are also a significant number of shielings associated with a transhumance economy, probably dating from the medieval period (and possibly earlier) through to the Clearances. Cultivation remains on the peninsula are extensive, as are the numerous field dykes defining townships, farms and field systems.

Place-name evidence provides two early Scandinavian settlement names on Waternish, at Halistra and Lusta. These form a part of a larger scatter of Scandinavian names on Skye. In the later medieval period Waternish was a separate estate, held by the MacLeod's of Lewis until 1610, when it passed to the Macleod's of Dunvegan. Early rentals of the Macleod's of Dunvegan reveal the distribution of farms or townships and their tenants. In 1683 farms are listed at Waternish, Dubage, Baye, Lousta, Steane, Triane, Haline, Penie Staptine, Halleista, Garrie, Trumpan Bege, and Trumpan Moire. A survey of Waternish carried out in 1788, on the eve of the Clearances, for the British Fisheries Society also recorded the township populations.

The Waternish estate of the Macleod's of Dunvegan was alienated piecemeal at the end of the 18th century, the Trumpan townships being the first to go in 1781; Stein and Lusta were sold in 1790 to the British Fisheries Society, and in 1796 the remainder of Waternish, including Greshornish, passed to James Shaw. By the early part of the 19th century the greater part of Waternish was in the possession of Charles Grant, but Bay and Camlach were sold back to the Macleod's in 1801. With the exception of Greshornish and Bay, all of the various pieces were reunited in the possession of Major Macdonald in 1853, when, according to the Crofting Commission of 1883, there were 126 crofters farming 500 acres of arable. By this time a single large farm had been established with 450 acres of arable, presumably based at Fasach with its fine mid-19th-century house and courtyard farm-buildings. The two-storeyed house and range of farm buildings at Ardmore also date to the early 19th century and may have been the nucleus of the Trumpan estate, until its absorption into Waternish.

See Section 6.1 of this report for a list of archaeological sites that have been recorded within the immediate landscape surrounding the Waternish Farm survey areas.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

The purpose of the desk based assessment and archaeological walkover survey was to identify and record any sites or features of archaeological importance that could be impacted by the proposed woodland creation schemes. The programme of archaeological works was in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and PAN 2/2011 *Planning and Archaeology* (2011), UKFS and Scottish Forestry Guidance. The desk-based assessment has been requested in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area prior to fieldwork commencing.

The aims of the archaeological works were:

- i. To assess the nature of the archaeological context and landscape of the proposed woodland creation scheme using all the available sources and material
- ii. To assess the impact of the proposed woodland creation scheme in relation to the archaeological landscape
- iii. To propose mitigation recommendations in advance of the proposed scheme in order to safeguard any significant archaeological sites and minimise delays to the programme including, but not limited to, the protection of identified archaeological sites within an agreed buffer zone.

Proposed Woodland Creation Area
Boundary

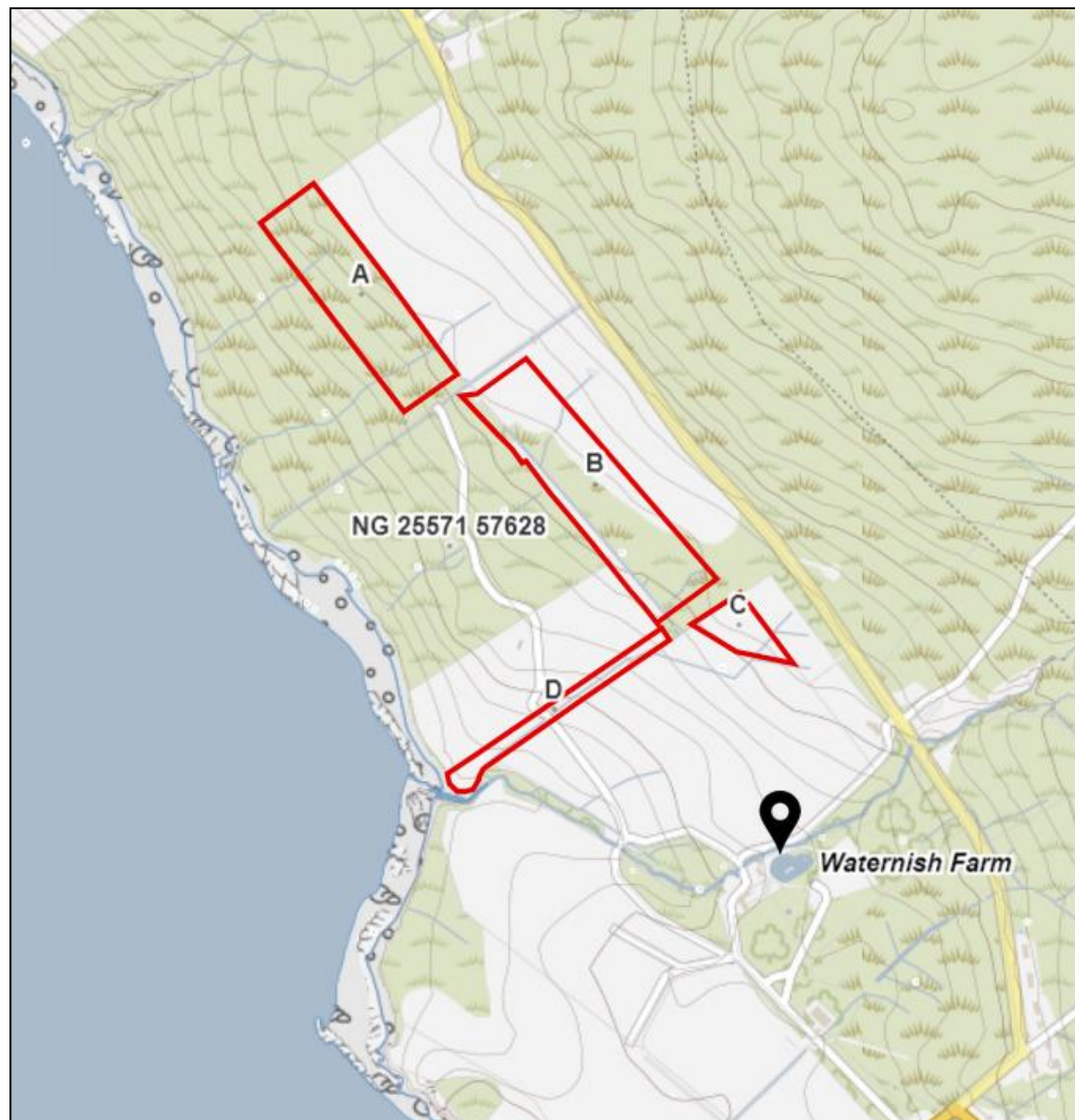


Figure 2 – Map showing the survey areas / planting schemes A – D at Waternish Farm (© Woodland Trust Scotland)

5.0 Methodology

The overall aim of the archaeological work was to identify and record any archaeological sites that might be directly affected by the proposed woodland creation schemes and associated developments including plant access and fencing requirements. This would enable informed mitigation measures and recommendations to be proposed to ensure that the value of any cultural heritage would not be compromised and is safeguarded for the future.

5.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

Prior to the fieldwork commencing, a check of all relevant archaeological and historical records, maps and aerial photographs was undertaken. This included searches of the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) at CANMORE, the National Library of Scotland and any other available records or online resources about the area. This work was conducted in accordance with the *Highland Council's Historic Environment Team Standards for Archaeological Work* (2022) and guidance from the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists standards* (CIfA 2014) including their 'Code of Conduct' and 'Standards and Guidance' for archaeologists.

5.2 Archaeological Walkover Survey

The areas proposed for the woodland creation schemes were walked over and surveyed on the 21st of November 2022. The weather was generally fine, bright and sunny during the survey, with moderate winds, and cool temperatures. Visibility was very good, with ground cover generally comprising grass, some stands of rushes, and pockets of planted and fenced-in mixed tree cover. Conditions underfoot were very wet in parts, due to prolonged recent rainfall.

Archaeological sites were recorded individually including using high-resolution digital photography, where this was possible and necessary. The individual site locations were plotted using DGPS technology on a handheld Trimble Geo XR Rover, while extant land divisions including dykes, walls and boulder alignments were also recorded using the same equipment. The resulting shape files from the survey have been used to create detailed plans of the surviving archaeological landscape, which have been included in this report. Details relating to the individual recovered sites and monuments can be found in the Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in Appendix 1.

6.0 Results

6.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

The proposed woodland creation schemes lie within the parish of Duirinish. This area, as is the case with much of Skye, has a rich archaeological heritage and there are a number of known sites in the surrounding landscape.

Historical mapping was consulted online through the National Library of Scotland (NLS 2021). Details of the maps consulted are as follows:



Plate 1: View NE up planting area D with drystone dyke Site 1 to right; **Plate 2:** Another view looking NE up planting area D with drystone dyke Site 1 and drainage ditch



Historical Mapping

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map Inverness-shire (Isle of Skye), sheet IX

Survey date: 1875-77 Publication date: 1880

This excerpt from the 1st Edition map sheet shows regular laid-out fields and narrow bands of trees forming shelter belts (Figure 3). No definite archaeological features are shown.



Figure 3 – Excerpt from the 1st Edition 6 inch to the mile OS map sheet (© NLS Edinburgh)

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map Inverness-shire (Isle of Skye), sheet XV

Survey date: 1877 Publication date: 1880

This map sheet shows Fasach House (Waternish House), its associated farm buildings and steading block, and formal gardens including a small pond. Scrub/mixed woodland is shown growing along the access drive and to the northeast of the house. No other settlement is shown towards the survey areas.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6-inch-to-the-mile map Inverness-shire (Isle of Skye), sheet IX and XV

Date Revised: 1901 Publication date: 1904

The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map sheets covering the area shown no new detail to that seen on the 1st Edition map sheets, with the exception of minor modifications to Waternish House and its associated gardens (Figure 4).



Figure 4 – Excerpt from the 2nd Edition 6 inch to the mile OS map sheet (© NLS Edinburgh)

Historic Environment Record

A search of the National Record of the Historic Environment (NRHE) was carried out online via Canmore and the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record websites. The following sites were identified within the survey area and the immediate, surrounding landscape:

MHG5910 NG 2554 5724 Waternish House, Building

A sub-rectangular building platform and two pits are situated just above high water mark to the S of where the Allt Fasach runs into Loch Dunvegan.

(WAT90 1477)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG36360 NG 2570 5750 Waternish House, Farmstead

There are at least seven buildings and an enclosure along a slight terrace on the slopes above Loch Bay, some 500m NW of Waternish House. Sometime before the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Island of Skye &c., Inverness-shire 1880, sheet ix) they have all been reduced by cultivation which appears to have removed earlier ridged cultivation, traces of which are still visible at the edges of the field.

12.01 NG 257 575 Buildings; Enclosure (848-854)

12.02 NG 256 576 Buildings (855-856)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG6125 NG 2570 5750 Waternish House, Enclosure

Five buildings and an enclosure are clustered on a bulge on a terrace to the NW of Waternish House. They are all aligned from NE to SW and smoothed by cultivation orientated the same way, across the contour.

The banks have some stone in them, but appear to have a high earthen content, the enclosure bank even more so. On the S-facing downslope, compartments of two of the buildings are noticeably sunken, the position of the partition marked by little more than a scarp. They measure up to 16.7m by 4.1m and stand up to 0.5m in height. (WAT90 848-854)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG6124 NG 2569 5750 Waternish House, Building

There are at least seven buildings and an enclosure along a slight terrace on the slopes above Loch Bay, some 500m NW of Waternish House. Sometime before the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Island of Skye &c., Inverness-shire 1880, sheet ix) they have all been reduced by cultivation which appears to have removed earlier ridged cultivation, traces of which are still visible at the edges of the field.

12.01 NG 257 575 Buildings; Enclosure (848-854)

12.02 NG 256 576 Buildings (855-856)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG6126 NG 2560 5760 Waternish House, Buildings

Two parallel buildings, aligned from NE to SW are situated some 65m to the NW of Waternish House on a slight terrace, under and to the S of a drystone cattle shelter, which is depicted on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Island of Skye &c., Inverness-shire 1880, sheet ix). The northernmost building measures at least 22m in length by 3.2m and may possibly extend for a further 3m to the NE. Both buildings have been reduced by cultivation, and fragments of bank to the SW may be the remains of enclosures. (WAT90 855-856)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG5899 NG 2519 5780 Waternish House, Hut Circle

At least three hut-circles are situated just above the shore of Loch Bay about 1km NW of Waternish House. They have been overlain by cultivation ridges and that to the E appears to have been supplemented by field clearance. There is a small inlet to the S and a fragment of what may be a pre-lazy-bed orthostatic bank running across the contour.

23.01 NG 2526 5786 Hut-circle (857)

23.02 NG 2527 5786 Hut-circle (858)

23.03 NG 2534 5788 Hut-circle (Possible) (859)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG5900 NG 2525 5786 Waternish House, Hut Circle

This hut-circle is situated some 25m from the shore of Loch Bay at a distinct break of slope. It measures 7.4m in diameter within a faced bank 2m to 2.3m in thickness and up to 0.7m in height, on the W, downslope, side. The outer face can be seen from the SE to N while the inner face is rather more intermittent. The entrance is to the SE where there is a gap 1.5m wide in the bank on either side of which are facing stones set transversely to the line of the bank. The W side is terraced to a height of 0.7m and the interior appears to have been levelled. At least one furrow rides over the bank.

(WAT90 857)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG5902 NG 2533 5788 Waternish House, Hut Circle

What may be a hut-circle is situated on a slight terrace on the slopes above the shore of Loch Bay. It measures 11m overall, possibly 7m in diameter within a bank about 2m thick and 0.4m in height. It has been overlain by cultivation ridges and supplemented by clearance, through which intermittent inner and outer faces are visible. The SW side has been terraced to a height of 0.6m from which a short stretch of banks runs away to the S. A substantial bank to the N and E appears to have been partially engulfed by lazy beds.

(WAT90 859)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG5901 NG 2533 5788 Waternish House, Hut Circle

This hut-circle is situated 4m to the SE of NG25NE 23.01. It measures 5.1m in diameter within a bank 1.2m in thickness and 0.5m high. The outer face is visible from the SE to E and more intermittently elsewhere. The entrance may be to the S, and the W side has been terraced to about 0.5m in height while the interior appears to have been levelled into the slope. Lazy-beds over-ride the E side of the hut-circle, where only the inner face of the bank is visible.

(WAT90 858)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG5907 NG 2541 5824 Hallin Park, Building

At least four buildings and a mound that may be a further building are situated in the heavily improved fields of Hallin Park NW of the war memorial to the S of Dunhallin. All have been reduced by cultivation and are defined by grass-grown banks up to 1.2m in thickness and 0.5m in height. This area is shown as improved on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map of 1880 (Island of Skye &c., Inverness-shire, 1880) and these buildings must represent a pre-crofting farmstead.

(WAT90 1191-1194)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 21 November 1990.

MHG60504 NG 2563 5815 Waternish, War Memorial

A War Memorial is depicted on current (2019) OS mapping.

MHG6127 NG 2608 5786 Allt Fasach, Building

To the NE of Waternish House and the public road are at least two buildings, one with an attached enclosure or garden plot, situated in a sea of lazy beds, interspersed with a series of globular fields. Some bear traces of widely spaced shallow grooves of recent ploughing. The globular fields appear to postdate the majority, if not all, of the lazy beds, which appear to be unenclosed, all of which predate the wider spaced plough furrows.

(WAT90 1158-1161)

Visited by RCAHMS (DCC) 3 October 1990.

MHG29301 NG 2611 5715 Waternish House, House

Waternish House. The Victorian Mansion House is now a ruin.

John Gifford, The Buildings of Scotland: Highlands and Islands 1992, p.551

MHG16081 NG 2602 5715 Waternish House, Steading

Steading dated 1864 on a skewputt but looking a good twenty years older. U-plan, with the farm buildings in the wings. These are linked by a screen wall, its central segmental arch placed under a gable surmounted by a steep obelisk.

John Gifford, The Buildings of Scotland: Highlands and Islands 1992, p.551

MHG48934 NG 26011 57146 Waternish House, Steading

Farmstead and stable within steadings at Waternish Farm.

MHG46504 NG 26009 57143 Waternish House, Steading, Archway and Bell Tower

Belltower at Waternish House, within steading.

MHG4823 NG 2599 5699 Waternish House, Silver Brooch

A small circular silver brooch, 1 1/16" in diameter, with faintly engraved ornament of triangles, filled with lines parallel to one side, from Waternish, is in the NMAS.

Proc Soc Antiq Scot 1897.

6.2 Archaeological Walkover Survey

The walkover survey carried out for this report revealed 15 archaeological sites comprising 17 individual features (Figures **6**, **7**, **8** and **9**), including stone and turf dykes forming field systems, two stone cellular structures, two buildings, field clearance, and areas of rig and furrow cultivation; all of which are probably post-medieval in date. A short section of intermittent boulder dyke (Site **11**) is probably prehistoric in age and is most likely contemporary with the hut circles located downslope and towards the shore in this field (**MHG5899**, **MHG5900**, **MHG5901** and **MHG5902**).



Plate 3: View ENE over survey Area D and drystone dyke Site 1; **Plate 4:** Image looking NNW showing construction detail of drystone dyke Site 2, survey Area B



Most of the stone dykes are later farm features comprising free-standing structures with double-faced walls and rubble cores, with coping stones surviving in some sections (Sites **1**, **2**, **5**, **6** and **7**). The areas of stone clearance (Sites **3** and **10**) are also most likely contemporary with the later activity at Waternish Farm, with some of the stone clearance overlying earlier rig and furrow cultivation. Located outside the survey areas to the southwest and located in a prominent position, is a cross-shaped stone-built animal shelter (see cover image and Figure **8**), which is not recorded on the Historic Environment Record.

Three sections of very degraded turf and stone dyke (Sites **8**) run along the upper slopes of the survey area and are contemporary with the areas of rig and furrow cultivation (Site **15**). These are revetting-type dykes with a single stone face and turf backing, and the field systems they define most likely relate to the earlier pre-clearance settlement at Waternish Farm, evidence of which still survives above the road to the northeast. These earlier fields are not regular-shaped, as were the later farm fields, but form globular/irregular-shaped enclosures along with their associated farmsteads and shieling -type structures. The two very degraded buildings (Sites **12a** and **12b**), reduced to their very low turf and stone footings, and the two small cellular structures (Sites **9**) attached to turf and stone dyke Site **8**, are examples of structures associated with this earlier settlement phase at Waternish Farm, most likely forming a part of the Risagan Township (Figure **5**). Other examples of this settlement infrastructure can also be seen outside the survey in fields to the southwest (**MHG6124**, **MHG6125** and **MHG36360**) and northwest (**MHG5907**).

The Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites (see Appendix **1**) lists the individual sites and provides a basic description of each structure.

7.0 Discussion

The desk based assessment conducted prior to the walkover survey taking place, including an assessment of the historical mapping, displayed a well laid out modern farm with regular shaped fields and farm steadings and associated infrastructure connected to Waternish House (Fasach House on the 1st Edition map sheet). However, the known sites shown on the Historic Environment Record and investigation of the online aerial imagery, showed more complex settlement on the land surrounding Waternish Farm including an earlier post-medieval phase of buildings and their associated fields systems including rig and furrow cultivation (Figure **5**), which was pre-dated by prehistoric settlement comprising at least three hut circles.

The walkover survey for this project recorded some elements from the modern farm, which was established during the early stages of the 19th century, including drystone dykes defining the regular-shaped fields, and areas of stone/boulder clearance, mainly on the downhill boundaries of the fields. The modern farm at Waternish, especially within the much-improved fields, has removed much of the evidence for earlier settlement. However, the survey recorded fragmentary remains of turf and stone boundary/field dykes, rig and furrow cultivation, the very degraded remains of two larger buildings (most likely farmsteads), and two small cellular structures (possibly shielings) relating to the pre-clearance phase of settlement focused on the Township of Risagan (Figure **5**).

Finally, a fragment of boulder boundary within planting Area A is probably a part of what was once a much larger field system associated with the hut circles located outside and to the southwest of the planting area. The earlier features recorded as a part of the walkover survey are generally located within the enclosed fields that have not seen the same level of agricultural improvements as the fields closer to the main Victorian-period farm complex, within Area A. Elements of the earlier post-medieval settlement, including the low footings of large buildings, enclosures and field systems also survive within the field located to the southwest of proposed planting Area B.

8.0 Mitigation and recommendations

The archaeological walkover survey conducted across the survey areas at Waternish Farm has revealed a well-distributed and relatively small scatter of archaeological sites relating to the use of the landscape during the prehistoric and later historic period.

The archaeological sites identified and recorded during the walkover survey are located within open ground, although some of the dykes run alongside stream courses and along the boundaries of established and fenced off areas of trees forming shelterbelts. Some of the post-medieval field walls associated with the Victorian era farm have also been fenced in.

With regards to recommendations for the protection of the archaeological sites within the areas of the walkover survey, the guidelines below are proposed.

A buffer zone of at least 5 metres should be retained to each side of boundary dykes (including the more recent field walls associated with Waternish Farm and the earlier post-medieval turf and stone dykes) and any new trees self-setting within these zones should be removed in the future as a part of a management plan. The boundary dykes representing the field systems can be built into the proposed planting scheme, such as in rides between tree plantings. A buffer zone of at least 5 metres should also be retained to each side of the probable fragment of prehistoric boulder boundary.

A buffer zone of at least 10 metres should be retained around the two buildings (Sites **12a** and **12b**) and around the two cellular structures at Site **9**.

It is recommended that planting is allowed over the extensive, but quite ephemeral areas of stone and boulder clearance (Sites **3** and **10**), and over the areas of rig and furrow cultivation (Site **15**). Good examples of the areas of the stone/boulder clearance and rig and furrow cultivation extend outwith the boundaries of the planting scheme.

Finally, access tracks for vehicles and the erection of any new fence lines should also respect the recommendations set out above. If vehicles have to track over the dykes, or if fences need to be erected through or alongside these features, minimal damage is recommended. If possible, natural breaks or already degraded sections of dykes should be used.



Plate 5: View NW over boulder clearance Site 3 in survey Area B; **Plate 6:** View SW over drystone dyke Site 5, at junction between survey Area's B and A





Figure 5 – Estate map of Waternish c. 1790, showing the Risagan Township and Waternish House bottom left below the Fasach River

9.0 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Robert and Lucy Montgomery of Waternish Farm for commissioning West Coast Archaeological Services to undertake the archaeological input for this project, for supplying copies of the location map and information regarding access to the survey areas. I am also grateful for the input of Gordon Cumming of Woodland Trust Scotland for drawing attention to the areas of stone that triggered the walkover survey, and to Kirsty Cameron of Highland Council's Historic Environment Team for commenting on this Data Structure Report and its recommendations.

10.0 References

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ClfA 2008 By-laws of the Institute for Archaeologists: Code of Conduct: Reading, ClfA

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The UK Forestry Standard Guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard>



Plate 7: View NW over turf and stone dyke Site 8 in survey Area A; **Plate 8:** View SW over the two cellular structures Site 9 in survey Area A; **Plate 9:** Image looking NNW showing boulder clearance Site 10, Area A; **Plate 10:** Turf and stone dyke Site 8 and drystone dyke Site 7 beyond, Area A; **Plate 11:** View SSE along boulder boundary Site 11, Area A; **Plate 12:** Boulder clearance Site 10 at NW end of survey Area A



Figure 6 – Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites survey areas at Waternish Farm



Figure 7 – Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites in Survey Area A, Waternish Farm

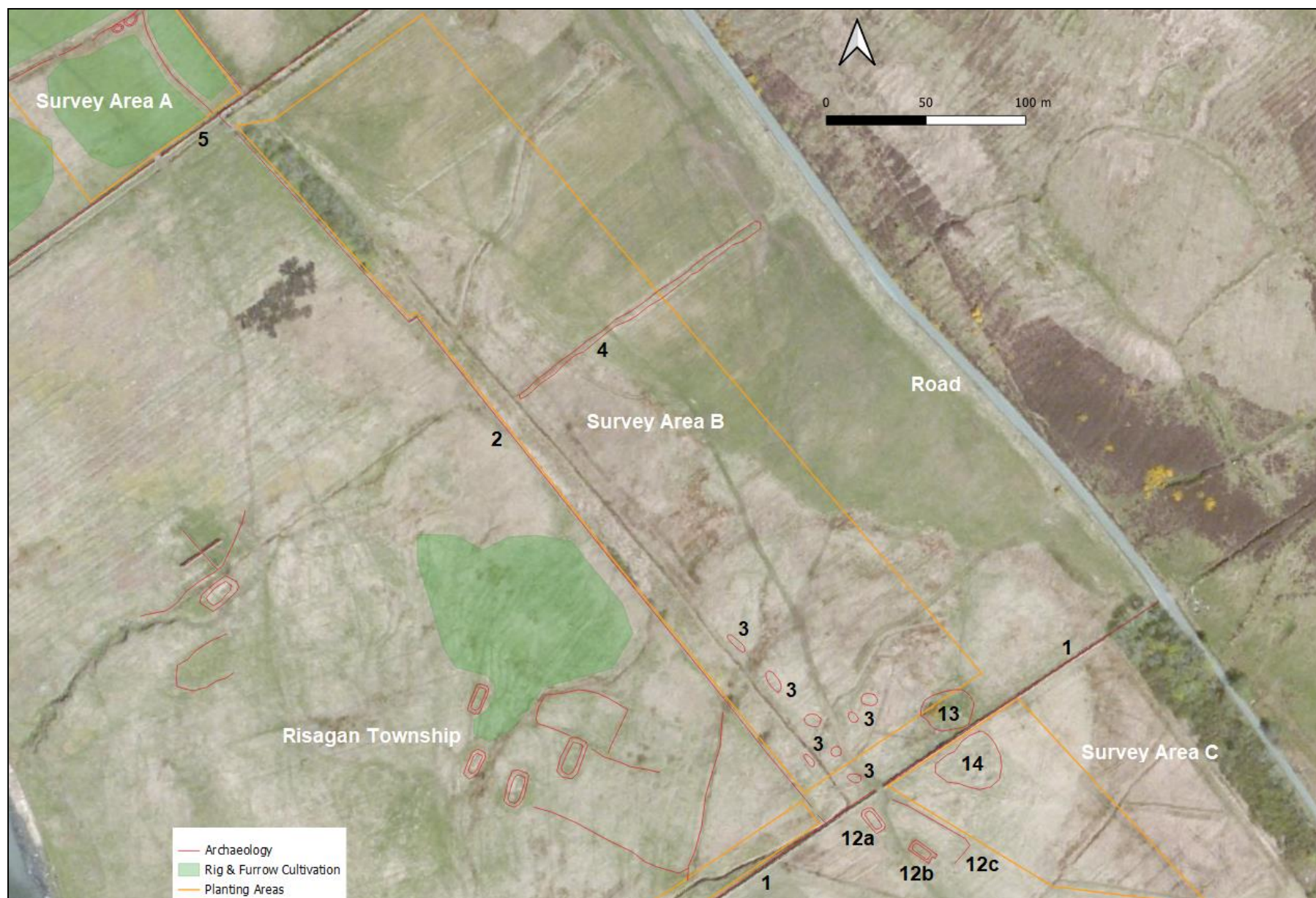


Figure 8 – Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites in Survey Area B and the Risagan Township

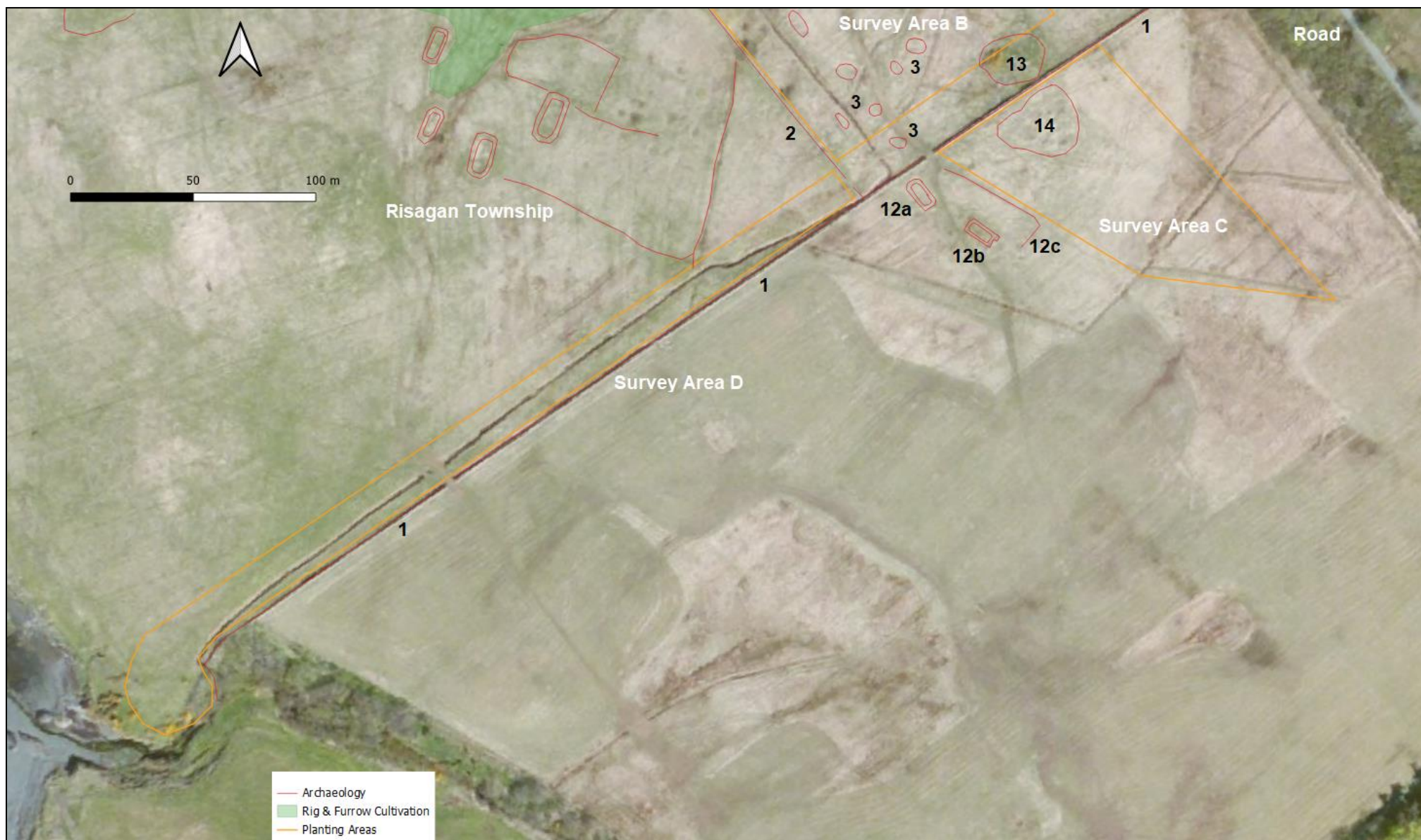


Figure 9 – Aerial image showing distribution of archaeological sites in Survey Areas C and D, and the Risagan Township

APPENDIX 1 - Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Site No.	Site Type	Description	Alignment	Condition	Easting	Northing	Photo No.
1	Dyke	Drystone dyke runs up the SE side of survey Area D and measures 0.6>0.7m wide and stands 1.5>1.8m high, with coping stones to wall-head.	SW-NE	Well Preserved	125617 126005	857301 857750	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Dyke	Drystone dyke runs along SW side of survey Area B and measures 0.7>0.8m wide and stands 1.4>1.6m high, with coping stones to wall-head.	SE-NW	Well Preserved	125877 125590	857500 857835	5, 7
3	Stone Clearance	Stone clearance mainly comprises large boulders and located along SW side/bottom of field forming survey Area B. Intermittent spread with stone size varying considerably and comprising some large boulders.	SE-NW	Degraded	125886	857537	6, 7, 8
4	Stone Clearance or Dyke	Possible degraded and spread stone dyke, or most likely stone clearance forming a low bank 4.0>5.0m wide and standing >0.4m high, is covered in grass.	SW-NE	Very Degraded	125767	857732	9
5	Dyke	Drystone dyke runs along NW side of survey Area B and SE side of survey Area A, measures 0.6>0.7m wide and stands 0.7>0.9m high, with some coping stones to wall-head.	SW-NE	Degraded	125451 125701	857753 857931	10
6	Dyke	Drystone dyke runs along NE side of survey Area A and measures 0.7>0.8m wide and stands 1.4>1.6m high, with coping stones to wall-head.	SE-NW	Well Preserved	125586 125381	857865 858133	11
7	Dyke	Drystone dyke runs along NW side of survey Area A, measures 0.6>0.7m wide and stands 0.7>0.9m high, with some coping stones to wall-head.	SW-NE	Well Preserved	125276 125402	858064 858155	16

Site No.	Site Type	Description	Alignment	Condition	Easting	Northing	Photo No.
8	Dyke	Very degraded remains of a stone and turf dyke measures 1.5>2.2m wide (spread) and stands >0.4m high and forms a part of the old field system predating the Victorian period field system. Dyke runs under later drystone dyke Site 6 in some sections and defines areas of rig and furrow cultivation (Site 15). Section of similar dyke runs NE-SW downslope before petering out, while other fragments could be seen outside survey Area A to the NE.	SE-NW & NE-SW	Very Degraded	125556 125467 125398 125507	857867 858017 858083 857878	12, 16
9	Shieling	Attached to SE side of stone and turf dyke Site 8 are the oval-shaped low footings of a stone-built structure measuring 4.5m long (SW-NE) by 1.8m wide internally with walls c.0.6>0.7m wide and standing >0.4m high. No visible entrance but may have been to the SW. Located 1.8m to the WSW is another possible single cell stone structure (shieling) measuring 2.5m long (SW-NE) by 1.8m wide internally with walls 0.6>0.8m wide and standing >0.3m high. Possible entrance to NE is collapsed. A stream runs down the slope immediately to the NW of the structures.	SW-NE	Very Degraded	125536 125530	857893 857889	13, 14
10	Stone Clearance	Extensive spread of stone spreads out of field to the NE of drystone dyke Site 6 and into survey Area A, forming a steep slope on the downhill side in some areas. Comprises a mix of stone size, but including some larger boulders, and overlies the rig and furrow cultivation (Site 15). Up to 1.2m high on the scarp slope.	SE-NW	Degraded	125524 125431	857925 858032	15
11	Boulder Alignment	An alignment of large boulders running along the contour are well-set and probably form a prehistoric boulder boundary. It generally measures 0.7>0.8m wide and stands 0.4>0.6m high. The feature disappears below the peat and topsoil in some sections, before eventually running out. Over-run by rig and furrow cultivation Site 15.	SE-NW	Very Degraded	125350 125381	858110 858073	17

Site No.	Site Type	Description	Alignment	Condition	Easting	Northing	Photo No.
12a	Building	The very degraded and low outline of a building under deer grass is located to the SE of survey Area B and at the SW limit of survey Area C. It measures approximately 11.5m long by 3.5m wide internally with walls/banks c.0.7>0.8m wide and standing just 0.4m high (max.). No visible entrance.	SE-NW	Very Degraded	125909	857492	20, 21
12b	Building	Very degraded and low footings of building under deer grass is located to the SE of survey Area B and at the SW limit of survey Area C, measuring c.11.0m long by 3.0m wide internally with walls/banks 0.7>0.9m wide and standing >0.4m high. No visible entrance. There is a possible drainage ditch running around the NE and SE sides of the structure.	SE-NW	Very Degraded	125933	857476	21
12c	Dyke	Fragment of turf and stone dyke running along NE side of buildings 12a and 12b may have formed an enclosure. Measures 1.4>1.8m wide (spread) and stands >0.4m high	NW-SE	Very Degraded	125943	857489	-
13	Quarries	The prominent knoll forming a part of survey Area C has been extensively quarried, forming a chaotic series of hollows and scarp slopes, with some larger stone still lying around. Possible used to quarry stone for the two buildings below forming Site 12, or in the construction of the Waternish Farm drystone dykes.	-	Degraded	125946	857546	22
14	Quarries	The prominent knoll forming a part of survey Area C has been extensively quarried, forming a chaotic series of hollows and scarp slopes, with some larger stone still lying around. Possible used to quarry stone for the two buildings below forming Site 12, or in the construction of the Waternish Farm drystone dykes.	-	Degraded	125960	857520	-
15	Rig & Furrow Cultivation	Extensive area of rig and furrow cultivation within survey Area A, with well-defined rigs 1.6>2.5m wide and furrows 0.7>1.2m wide, with the rigs standing c.0.2>0.3m high. The rig and furrow is overlain by the Victorian period drystone dykes and stone/boulder clearance.	SW-NE	Degraded	125433	857980	11

APPENDIX 2 - Index of Photographs

Photo No.	Direction Facing	Site No.	Description	Taken By	Date
1	NE	1	View up survey Area D with drystone dyke Site 1 to right and survey Area C top right to right of wall	SB	21.11.22
2	NE	1	View up survey Area D with drystone dyke Site 1 to right and survey Area C top right to right of wall	SB	21.11.21
3	ENE	1, 2, 14	Drystone dyke Site 1, with drystone dyke Site 2 at top left of image and knoll with quarry site 14 to right of wall Site 1	SB	21.11.22
4	SSW	1	View down survey Area D with drystone dyke Site 1	SB	21.11.22
5	NNW	2	Drystone dyke Site 2 within gateway showing dyke in section with survey Area B to right of wall	SB	21.11.22
6	NW	3	View from SE corner of survey Area B showing stone/boulder clearance Site 3 at bottom end of field system	SB	21.11.22
7	NW	2, 3	View over survey Area B showing extensive stands of rushes, boulder clearance at bottom left and drystone dyke Site 2 on far side of tree shelter belt	SB	21.11.22
8	NW	3, 2	Stone/boulder clearance Site 3 at bottom of field forming survey area B, with drystone dyke Site 2 on far side of tree shelter belt	SB	21.11.22
9	SW	4	View along possible degraded and robbed field dyke, or grass-covered field clearance within survey area B	SB	21.11.22
10	SW	5	View down drystone dyke Site 5 bounding the SW side of survey area B and SE side of survey area A	SB	21.11.22
11	NW	6	Drystone dyke Site 6 running along the NE boundary of survey Area A	SB	21.11.22
12	NW	8	View over very degraded remains of turf and stone dyke Site 8 within the NE sector of survey Area A	SB	21.11.22
13	SW	8, 9	View down another section of turf and stone dyke Site 8 with cellular structures forming Site 9 attached to left side of dyke, survey Area A	SB	21.11.22
14	SW	9, 8	The main cellular structure (shieling) Site 9 with the second cell just beyond and turf and stone dyke to right running down the side of a small stream, survey Area A	SB	21.11.22
15	NNW	10, 6	View over stone/boulder clearance Site 10 in survey Area A, with drystone dyke Site 6 top right	SB	21.11.22
16	NNW	8, 6, 7	View along section of turf and stone dyke Site 8 within N corner of survey Area A, with drystone dykes Site 6 to right, and Site 7 running downslope and bounding NW end of survey Area A	SB	21.11.22
17	SSE	11	Image showing fragmentary and only partially visible section of prehistoric boulder boundary Site 11, survey Area A	SB	21.11.22
18	NNW	10	View over stone/boulder spread representing field clearance within the NW end of survey Area A	SB	21.11.22
19	W	-	General view over settlement remains and cross-shaped sheep/cattle shelter within field to SW of survey Area B	SB	21.11.22
20	NW	12a, 1	View over very low and degraded footings of building Site 12a, located at the SW end of survey Area C	SB	21.11.22
21	WSW	12b, 12a, 1	Image showing the low banks (picked out in shadow) of building Site 12 b, with Site 12a to right, and drystone dyke running downslope, survey Area C	SB	21.11.22
22	SE	13, 14	Image showing one of several quarry scoops located in prominent knoll within survey Area C, with Waternish House and farmstead in distance	SB	21.11.22



Plate 13: View NW over low footings of building Site 12a to SW of survey Area C; **Plate 14:** View WSW over building Site 12b, located to the SW of survey Area C





Plate 15: View SE over quarry Site 13 within survey Area C