

PSS 01

**Results of a Desk-Based Assessment, Walk Over Survey
and Watching Brief at Portree, Skye**

Project Code: Portree Regional South SO35

Client: Team Aquarius.

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20 September 2001

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Summary

Headland Archaeology were commissioned to undertake a desk based assessment and walk over survey in advance of test pitting along the route of a proposed pipeline south of Portree, Skye, Highland. A search was made of records held by the National Monuments Record of Scotland and maps held by the National Map Library of Scotland were consulted followed by a walk over survey of the route of the proposed pipeline. A total of eighteen sites along the proposed route of the pipeline were identified. Of these four were considered to be at some risk of disturbance during test pitting. A watching brief was subsequently undertaken on two test-pits. It is recommended that further watching briefs are undertaken on sections of the pipeline during construction. Marked up plans showing the location of the watching briefs have been attached.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment, walk over survey and watching brief on the route of a proposed water main running from Portree to Conardan, Skye, Highland - **fig 1**. The work was undertaken on behalf of Team Aquarius in order to establish the likely archaeological impact of test pitting along the route and to provide Highland Council with sufficient information to formulate an appropriate mitigation strategy where it was established that such works had the potential to disturb archaeological deposits or features. It is recommended that further watching briefs are undertaken on certain sections of the pipeline during construction. Marked up plans have been attached - **Site Plans Sheets 1-5**.

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The pipeline runs south from the centre of Portree (NG 4746 4390) for a distance of 8 km to Conardan (NG 5065 3822). Approximately 80% of the route is along the roadside with the remainder crossing farmland.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Desk Based Assessment

The Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was intended to collate and summarise existing information relating to the archaeology along the route of the proposed pipeline in order to establish the likely archaeological impact of the test pitting and to allow an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated.

The assessment involved a search of the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), using Canmore, and the examination of relevant maps held by the National Map Library of Scotland.

3.2 Walk Over Survey

A systematic walk over survey of the route of the pipeline was undertaken in order to identify hitherto unrecognised sites and to record the condition of known sites. The walkover inspected a 12 m corridor where the route crossed farmland. Where the route ran alongside a road 5 m on each side was inspected. The survey was carried out on 23rd, 24th and 25th July 2001. CAD drawings of the route and proposed test-pit locations were supplied by the client and have been annotated with archaeological information by Headland. These have attached as part of this report – **Site Plans Sheets 1-5**.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Desk Based Assessment

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings lie within the assessment area.

The NMRS held the details of fourteen sites along the route (Appendix 1). Of these two were relevant to the programme of test pitting, these are listed in Table 1. The remainder will not suffer any damage during this work.

Headland No.	Description	NGR	Date
4	Field system	NG 495 395	18/19 th Century
11	Hut circles and possible cairn	NG 484 405	Prehistoric

Table 1: Sites identified by the DBA that may be affected by test pitting.

No sites that had not been previously noted by the NMRS were noted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey maps of the area.

4.2 Walk Over Survey

The walk over survey identified a further seven sites along the line of the route, of which two may be effected to some degree by test pitting, these are listed in Table 2. Full descriptions can be found in Appendix 2.

Headland No.	Description	NGR	Date
5	Possible cairn	NG 495 396	Unknown
6	Possible cairn	NG 495 396	Unknown

Table 2: Sites identified by the walk over survey that may be affected by test pitting.

5 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments or other sites of national importance were identified along the line of the pipeline. A total of eleven sites of cultural heritage interest were found to lie along the route of the proposed pipeline. With only two exceptions these date to the nineteenth century and in only two cases is test pitting likely to cause any significant disturbance.

Taking into account the age, nature and condition of these sites, they are considered to be of only local significance.

The potential for unrecorded sites, principally of prehistoric and early medieval date, is also recognised.

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF TEST-PITTING

Four sites were considered to be at risk of potential disturbance in the course of test pitting. They were as follows:

Headland Sites 4, 5 and 6 were considered to be at slight risk from Test Pit 27. Headland Site 11, a group of four hut circles and a possible artificial mound, lay adjacent to the route and Test Pit 24. A watching brief was, therefore, recommended on Test-Pit 24 and Test-Pit 27, primarily to keep plant and vehicles away from known archaeological sites

7 WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was carried out on the excavation of Test Pit 24 and Test-Pit 27 on Friday 10th August 2001. No archaeological deposits were encountered and plant was kept at a safe distance from sensitive areas.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the results of the desk-based assessment and walkover survey, a watching brief is recommended on certain sections of the pipeline route. The areas requiring a watching brief are marked up on the attached plans – **Site Plans Sheets 2 & 3**.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The field work was carried out by Edward Wilkinson. Background information was gathered by Richard Conolly who also prepared the report. The project managed by Russel Coleman.

APPENDIX 1: SOURCES

National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)

The NMRS held the following records of sites along the route of the pipeline:

NMRS No. NG 43 NE 7: Farmstead and Field System
NMRS No. NG 43 NE 8: Shieling Huts (Possible) and Enclosure
NMRS No. NG 43 NE 9: Field System
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 7: Hut Circles
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 15: Cottage
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 22: Hotel
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 23: House
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 28: Crofting Township
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 30: Township (Possible)
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 31: Township (Possible)
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 33: Crofting Township
NMRS No. NG 44 SE 34: Buildings and Enclosure
NMRS No. NG 53 NW 45: Township and Field System
NMRS No. NG 53 NW 47: Field System

Cartographic sources

The following maps held at the National Map Library of Scotland were consulted:

1881	Ordnance Survey <i>First Edition island of Skye, Inverness-shire 1:10,560 sheet XXIII</i> (Surveyed 1875 - 7)
1881	Ordnance Survey <i>First Edition island of Skye, Inverness-shire 1:10,560 sheet XXIX</i> (Surveyed 1875 - 7)
1881	Ordnance Survey <i>First Edition island of Skye, Inverness-shire 1:10,560 sheet XXX</i> (Surveyed 1875 - 7)

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER AND CONCORDANCE

Headland Site No.	Site Plan Sheet No.	NMRS No.	Site type	NGR	Description
1	1	NG 53 NW 45	Township field system.	NG 506 386 (centre)	A township comprising of one roofed building, two unroofed buildings, three enclosures and a field system.
2	2	N/A	Earth bank.	NG 501 389	Earth bank 1m high, 0.5m wide and c.100m long running north - south along the eastern edge of the B883
3	2	NG 53 NW 47	Field system	NG 500 391	
4	2	NG 43 NE 9	Field system.	NG 495 395	Field system shown on First Edition OS. Survives in good condition, standing to a height of 1 m.
5	2	N/A	Cairn.	NG 495 396	Possible cairn identified by walk over survey. 6 m in diameter 1 – 1.2 m in height.
6	2	N/A	Cairn.	NG 495 396	Possible cairn identified by walk over survey. 8 x 6 m and 1.5 – 1.7 m in height.
7	2	N/A	Enclosure.	NG 494 398	Sub-rectangular enclosure with stone wall standing to a height of 0.3 m.
8	2	NG 43 NE 7	Farmstead; field system.	NG 495 399	Farmstead depicted on First Edition Ordnance Survey, comprising of one roofed and one unroofed building with attached enclosure. Enclosure now in poor condition
9	3	N/A	Field wall.	NG 491 403	Wall identified during walk over survey. Dilapidated.
10	3	N/A	Sheep Pen.	NG 488 402	Penannular earthen bank cut away on its northern side by the B883. 13 m in diameter and up to 1.5 m high.
11	3	NG 44 SE 7	Hut circles and possible cairn.	NG 484 405	Four circular stone walled huts and a possible flat topped mound.
12	5	N/A	Cairn.	NG 474 436	Cairn 4 m in diameter and 0.4 m in height.
13	2	NG 43 NE 8	Shieling huts (possible) and enclosure	NG 496 392	Four unroofed shieling-huts, one with an attached enclosure shown on First Edition OS map.
14	3	NG 44 SE	Township	NG 483	First Edition OS shows crofting township of fourteen roofed and three

		28			416	unroofed buildings with associated enclosures and field walls.
15	4	NG 44 SE 30	Township (Possible)	NG 474 415		One partially roofed, five unroofed buildings, an enclosure and a head-dyke shown on First Edition OS. The building nearest to the route of the pipeline is no longer upstanding.
16	5	NG 44 SE 31	Township (Possible)	NG 475 427		Three unroofed buildings, an enclosure, some fields and a head-dyke shown on the First Edition OS.
17	5	NG 44 SE 33	Crofting Township	NG 478 429		Twenty three roofed, two partially roofed and thirteen unroofed buildings with associated enclosures on First Edition OS.
18	4	NG 44 SE 34	Buildings and Enclosure	NG 495 399		One roofed and one unroofed building depicted on First Edition OS.

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

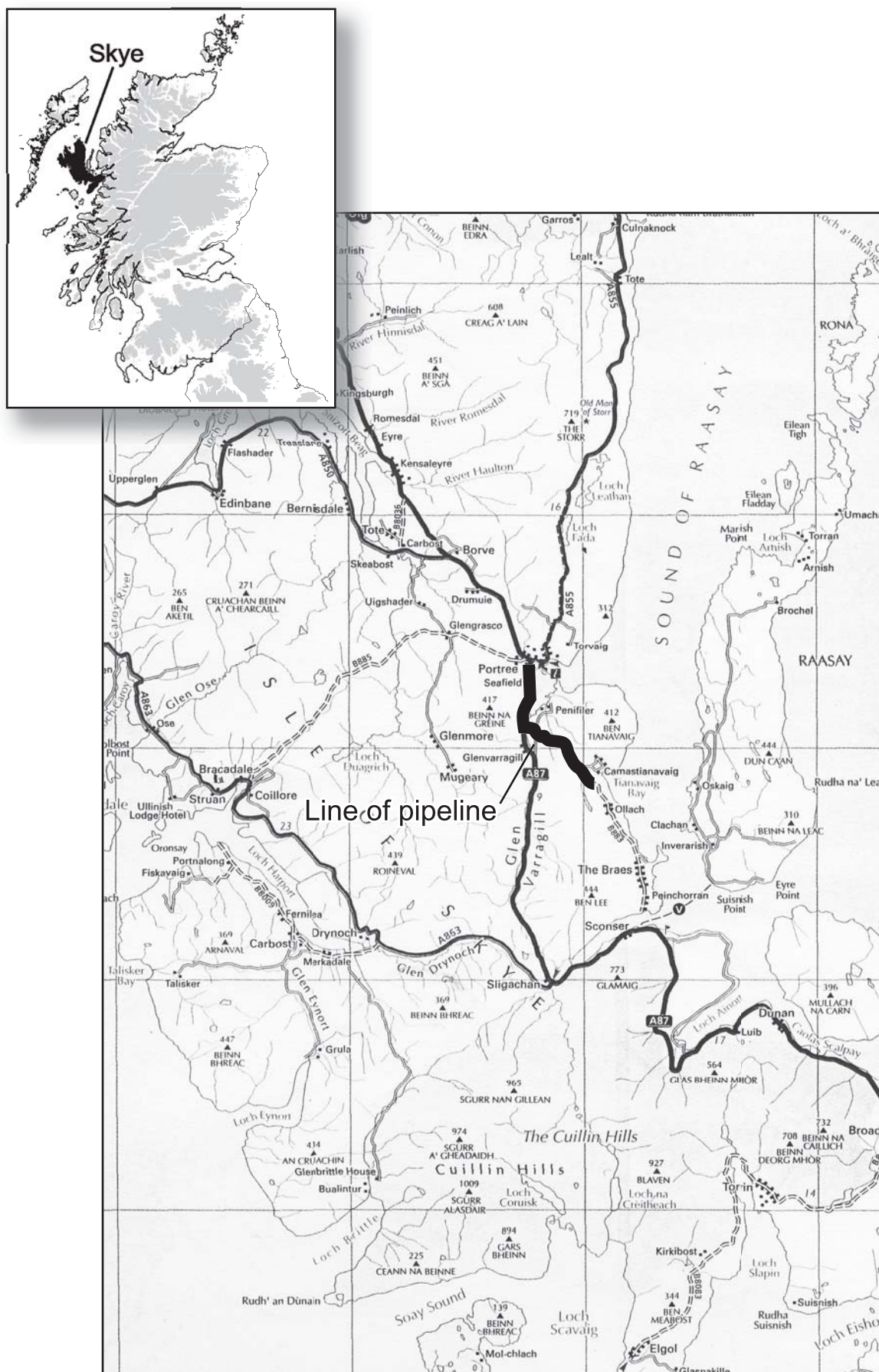
Colour Slide Film 1

Shot No.	Direction facing	Description
1-2	West	St. Mary's RC Chapel
3-4	South	Site 12 – cairn
5-6	N/A	N/A
7	West	Viewfield House
8	N/A	N/A
9	West	View of embankment to West of A87.
10	West	View of embankment to West of A87.
11	East	Site 11 – hut circle (exterior wall)
12	East	Site 11 – hut circle (interior)
13-14	North	General – including Site 11
15-16	North	Site 11 – cairn
17-18	West	Site 11 – hut circle (exterior wall)
19-20	West	Site 10 – West bank
21	East	Site 10 – cut at end of East bank
22	North	Site 10 – East bank
23	South	Site 10 – 4m gap to South of bank
24	North	Site 8 – South end of field wall running N/S
25	North	Site 8 – Westward spur running E/W
26	East	Site 9 – N/S field wall
27	South	Site 9 – Westward spur running E/W
28	South	Site 9 – Westward spur
29	West	Site 3
30	North	Site 3
31-32	South	Site 3
33-34	South West	Site 5 – cairn
35-36	South West	Site 6 – cairn
37-38	East	Site 1

Colour Slide Film No.2

<i>Shot No.</i>	Direction Facing	Description
1	East	Site 1
2-3	South West	Site 3
4-5	South	Site 9 – Westward spur
6-7	West	Site 9

8-9	West	Site 7
10-11	East	Site 3
12-13	North	Site 3
14-15	North	Site 3 – Northern side
16-17	South	Site 3 – Southern side
18-19	South	Site 3
20-23	-	Void
24-25	West	Site 2
26-27	North	General



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Figure 1. Portree Regional South, Skye (S035): Location of pipeline

NOTES

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2. KEY:-

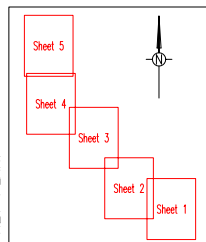
- Proposed New Mains
Alternative Route for New Mains
Mean High Water Springs
Water Course
Existing Mains
Recommended archaeological watching



Forest Boundaries

- | P 00 | Proposed Trial Pit Locations |
|------|------------------------------|
| P 00 | Monitored Trial Pit |
| | DAV – Double Air Valve |
| | SXV – Single Air Valve |
| | SC – Scour Valve |

3. KEY PLAN:-



Issue	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	Approved
03/03/2011	03/03/2011	First Issue	RUE	ATM	GLUD
02/22/2011	20/07/01	Revised Pipe Route As Shown	BM	ACF	
03/23/2011	26/07/01	Trial Pit And Valve Locations Added	BM	ACF	



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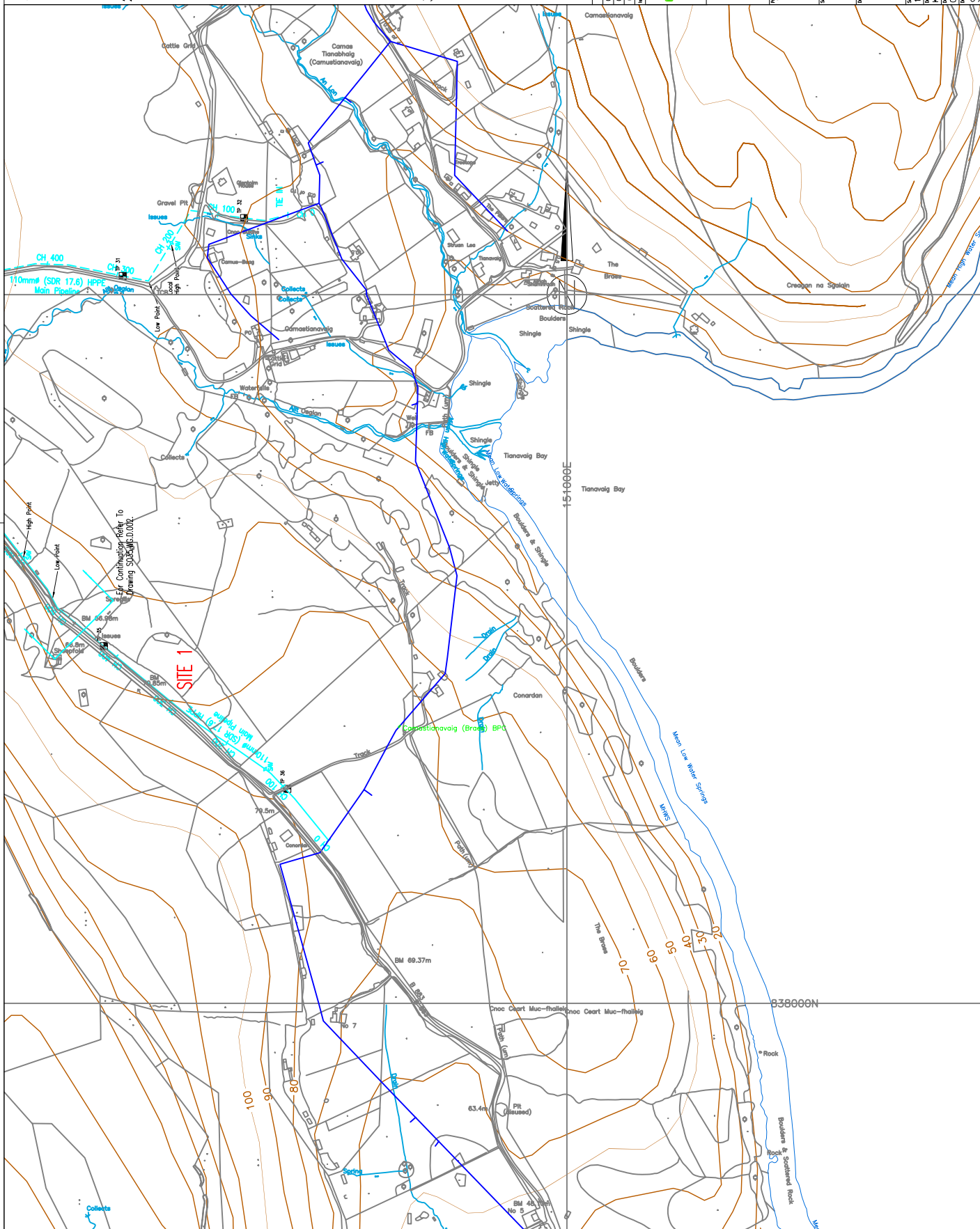
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THEME: PORTREE REGIONAL

SOUTH

Working Title:
SITE PLAN
SHEET 1

Code of AI:	Status:	Ref Job Number:
:2500	Preliminary	48395
Checked:	Checked:	Approved:
NAME	ATM	GLJD
File Name:	DW File Name:	
03/07/01	M:\S035\Drawings\In Progress\S035.D.001.dwg	
Plotting Number:	Issue:	
S035.WG.D.001	03	



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Proposed New Mains
Alternative Route for New Mains
Mean High Water Springs
Water Course
Existing Mains
Recommended archaeological watching
brief



Forest Boundaries

Proposed Trial Pit Locations

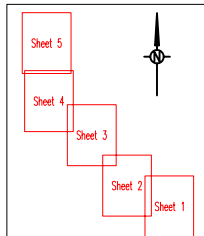
Monitored Trial Pit

DAV - Double Air Valve

SAV – Single Air Valve

SC - Scour Valve

3. KEY PLAN:-



03	28/07/01	Trial Pit And Valve Locations Added	BM	ACF
02	20/07/01	Revised Pipe Route As Shown	BM	ACF
01	03/07/01	First Issue	KME	ATM GLJD



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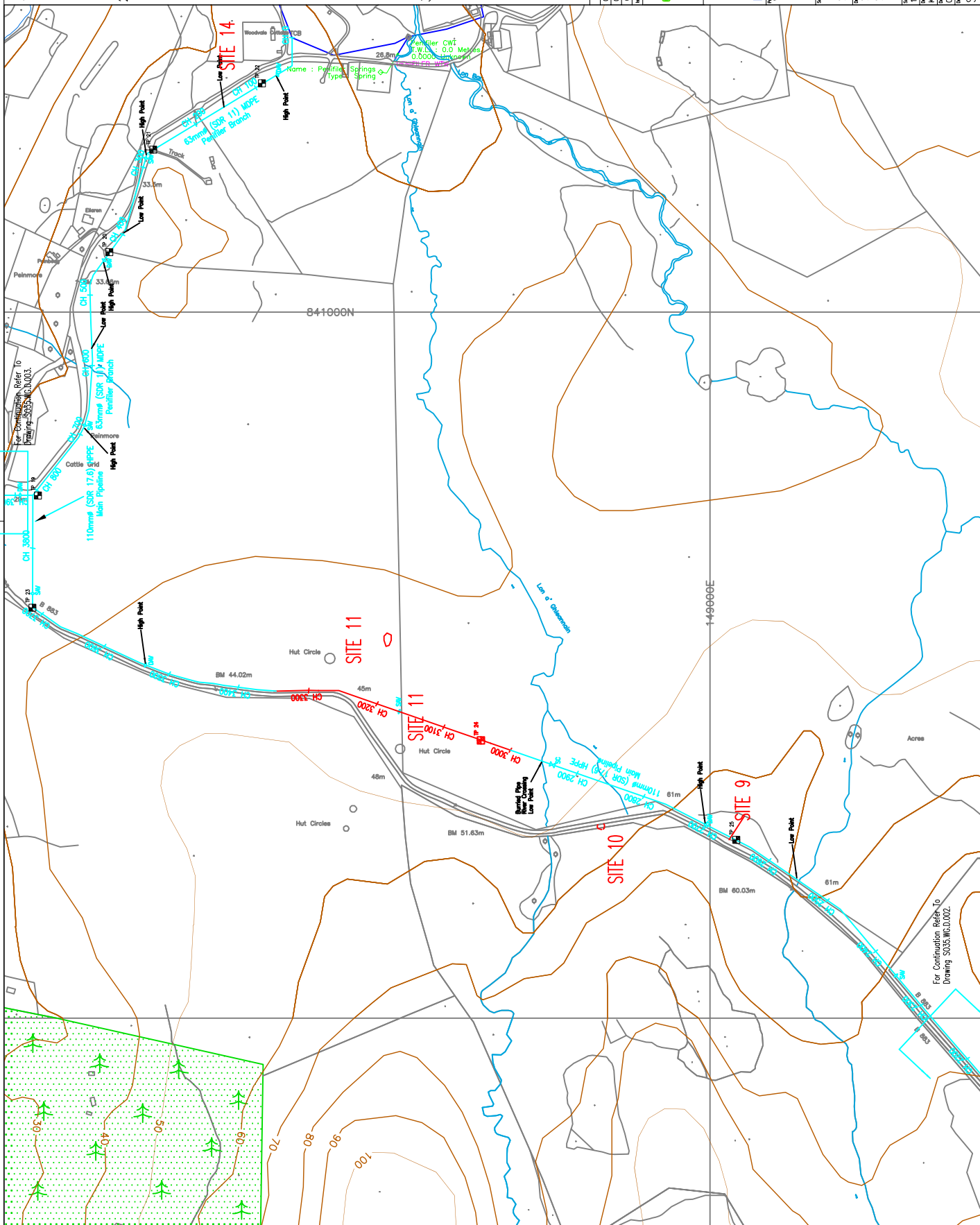
North of Scotland Water Authority

Project Title:
WATER QUALITY
UNDERTAKINGS PROGRAMME
DELIVERY AREA WEST

Portree Regional

Working Title:
SITE PLAN
SHEET 3

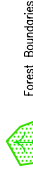
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entry Number:	Issue:	
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2. KEY:-

- Proposed New Mains
- Alternative Route for New Mains
- Mean High Water Springs
- Water Course
- Existing Mains
- Recommended archaeological watching brief



Forest Boundaries

- TP 00 Proposed Trial Pit Locations
- TP 00 Monitored Trial Pit

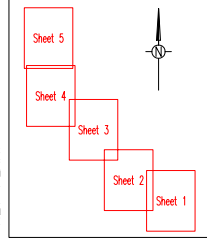


DAV - Double Air Valve

SAV - Single Air Valve

SC - Scour Valve

3. KEY PLAN:-



Sheet	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked
01	20/07/20	Initial	BM	ACZ
02	20/07/20	Revised Pipe Route & Storm	BM	ACZ
03	03/07/21	Final	BM	ACZ



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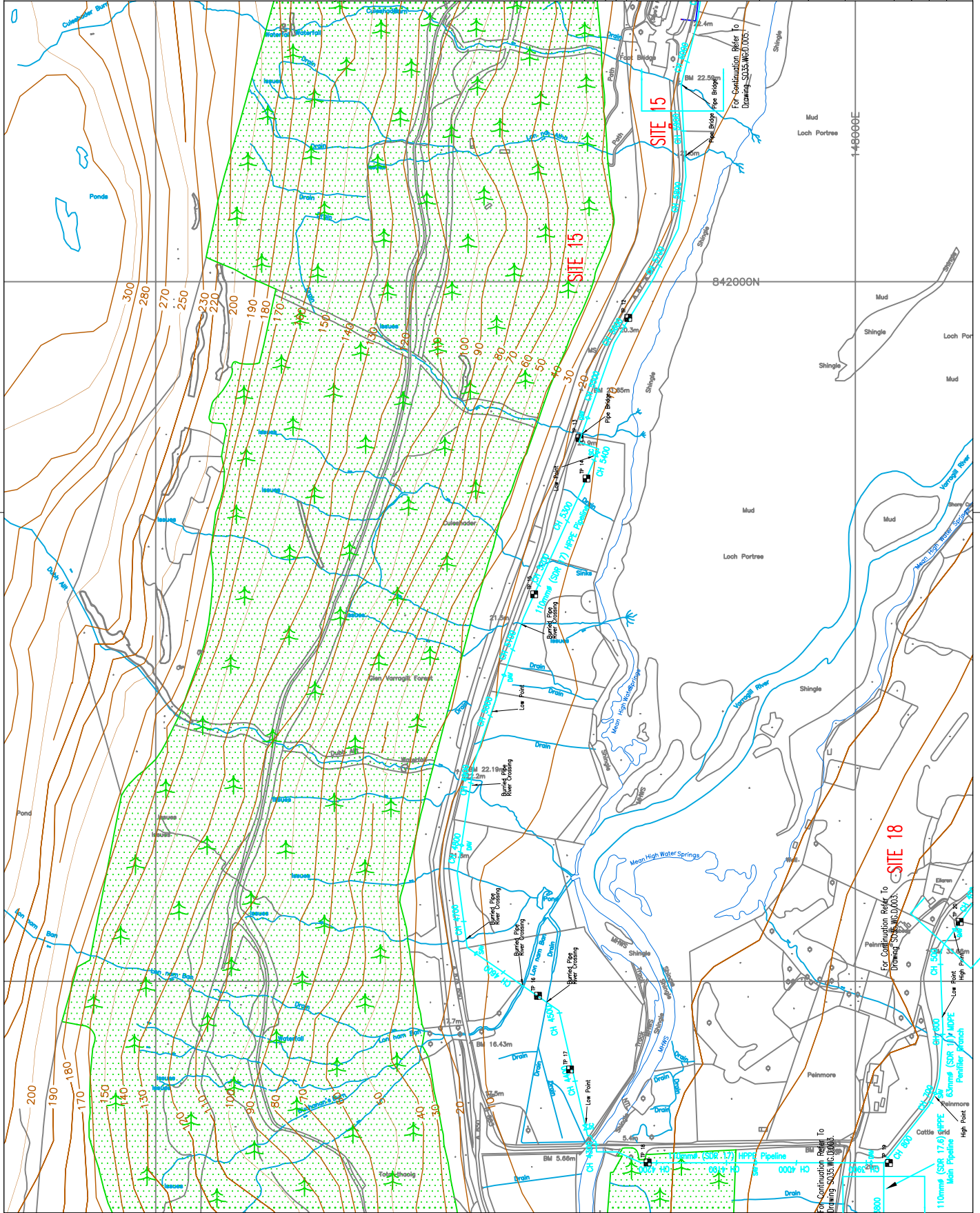
WATER QUALITY
UNDERTAKINGS PROGRAMME
DELIVERY AREA WEST

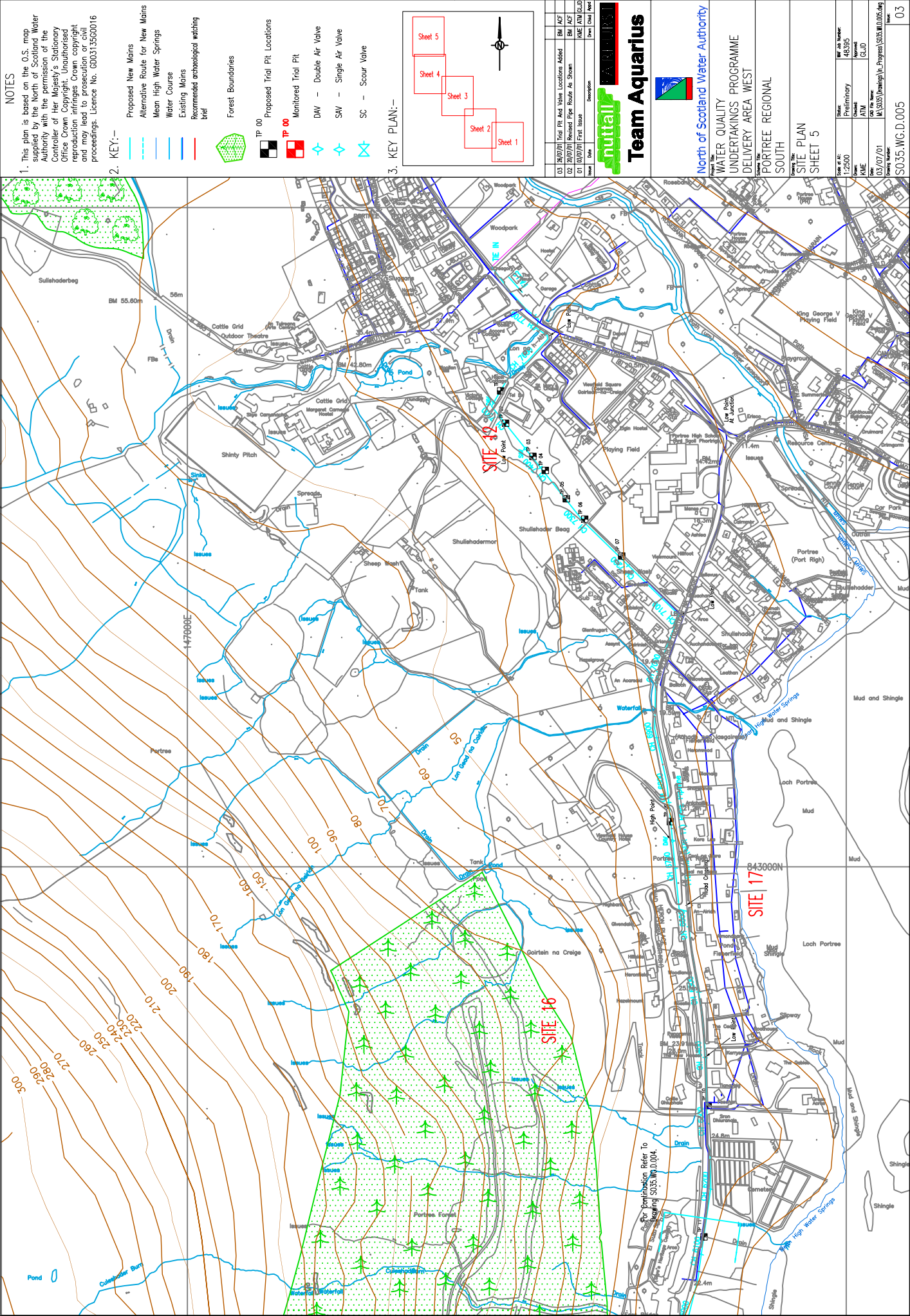
PORTEE REGIONAL
SOUTH

SITE PLAN
SHEET 4

Sheet	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked
01	22/07/20	Preliminary	BM	ACZ
02	03/07/21	Final	BM	ACZ

03



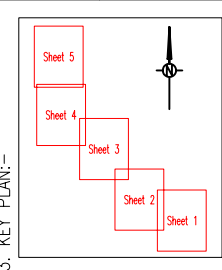


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2. KEY:-

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- TP 00 Proposed Trial Pit Locations
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- SC - Scour Valve



Sheet	Date	Description	Drawn	Check	Sheet
03	18/07/01	Trial Pit and Valve Locations Added	BM	ACF	01
02	20/07/01	Revised Pipe Route As Shown	BM	ACF	01
01	03/07/01	First Issue	KME	BM/CLD	01

natural
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WATER QUALITY
UNDERTAKINGS PROGRAMME
DELIVERY AREA WEST
PORTREE REGIONAL
SOUTH

Project Title: WATER QUALITY UNDERTAKINGS PROGRAMME DELIVERY AREA WEST
Drawing Title: PORTREE REGIONAL SOUTH
Drawing No: S035.WG.D.005
Revision: 03

Scale of A1	1:2500	Scale of A2	1:2500
Drawn	KME	Checked	ATM
Date	03/07/01	Approved	CLD
Drawn	03/07/01	Drawn	03/07/01
Drawn	03/07/01	Drawn	03/07/01