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HEADLAND
ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd

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

Project Code: Portree Regional South SO35

Client: Team Aquarius.

Richard Conolly

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

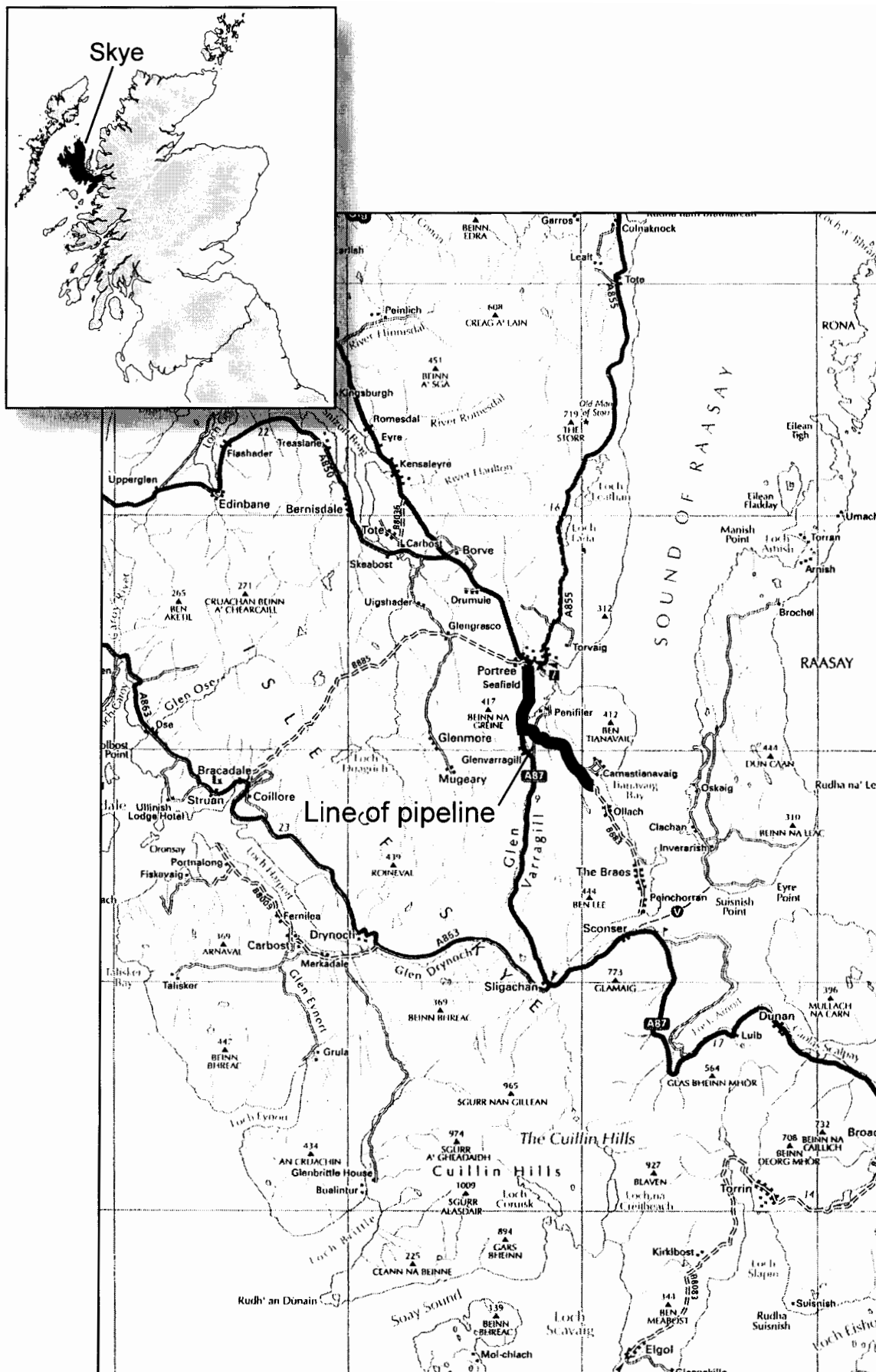
Colour Slide Film 1

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

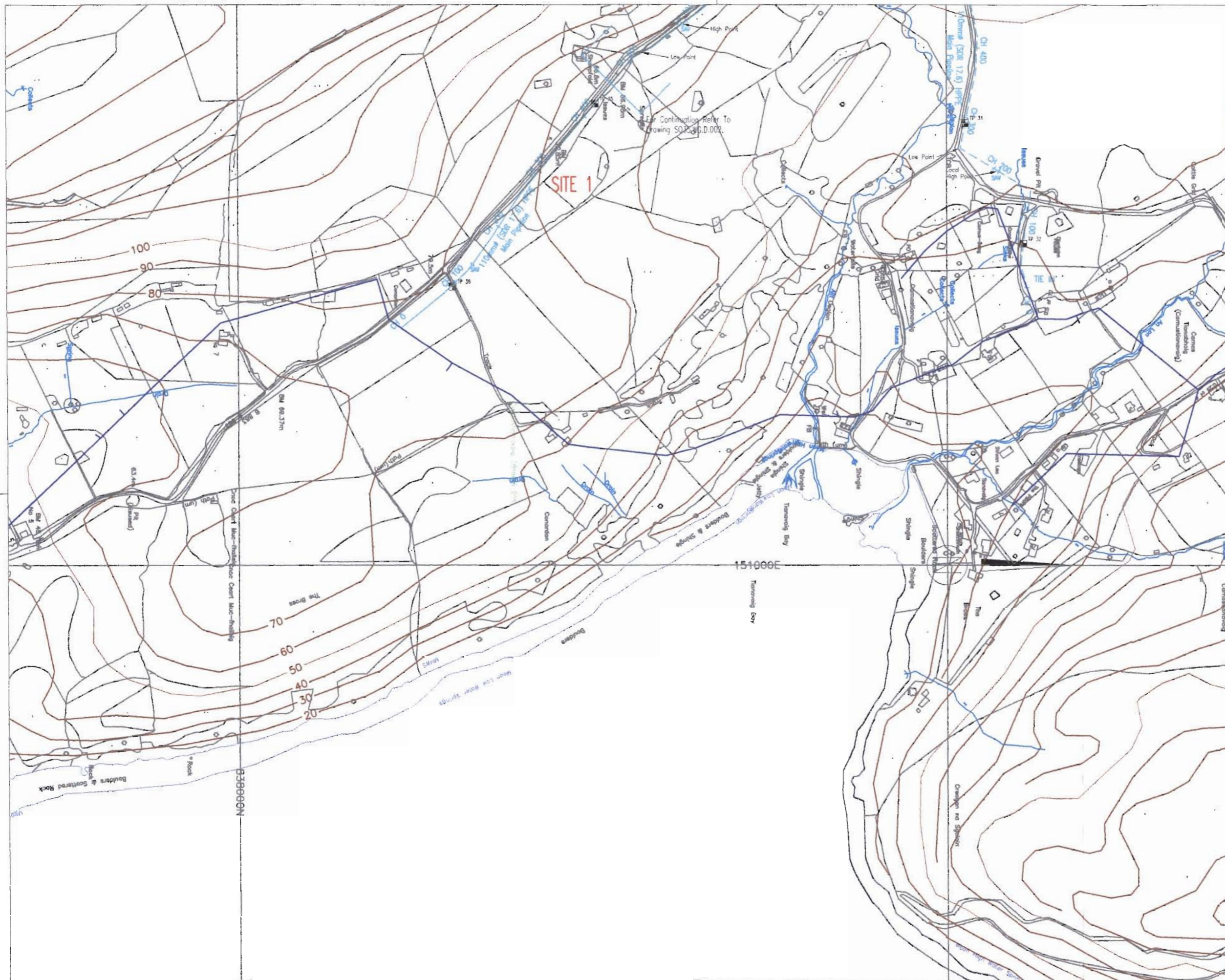
Shot No.	Direction Facing	Description
1	East	Site 1
2-3	South West	Site 3
4-5	South	Site 9 – Westward spur
6-7	West	Site 9

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



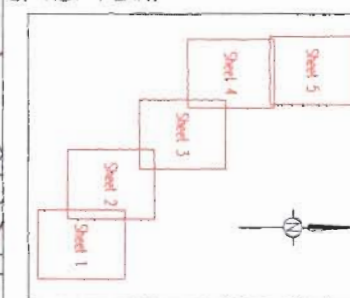
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2. KEY:-

- 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:-



03	26/07/01	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 CLJD

Rev	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked	App'd
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Team Aquarius

North of Scotland Water Authority

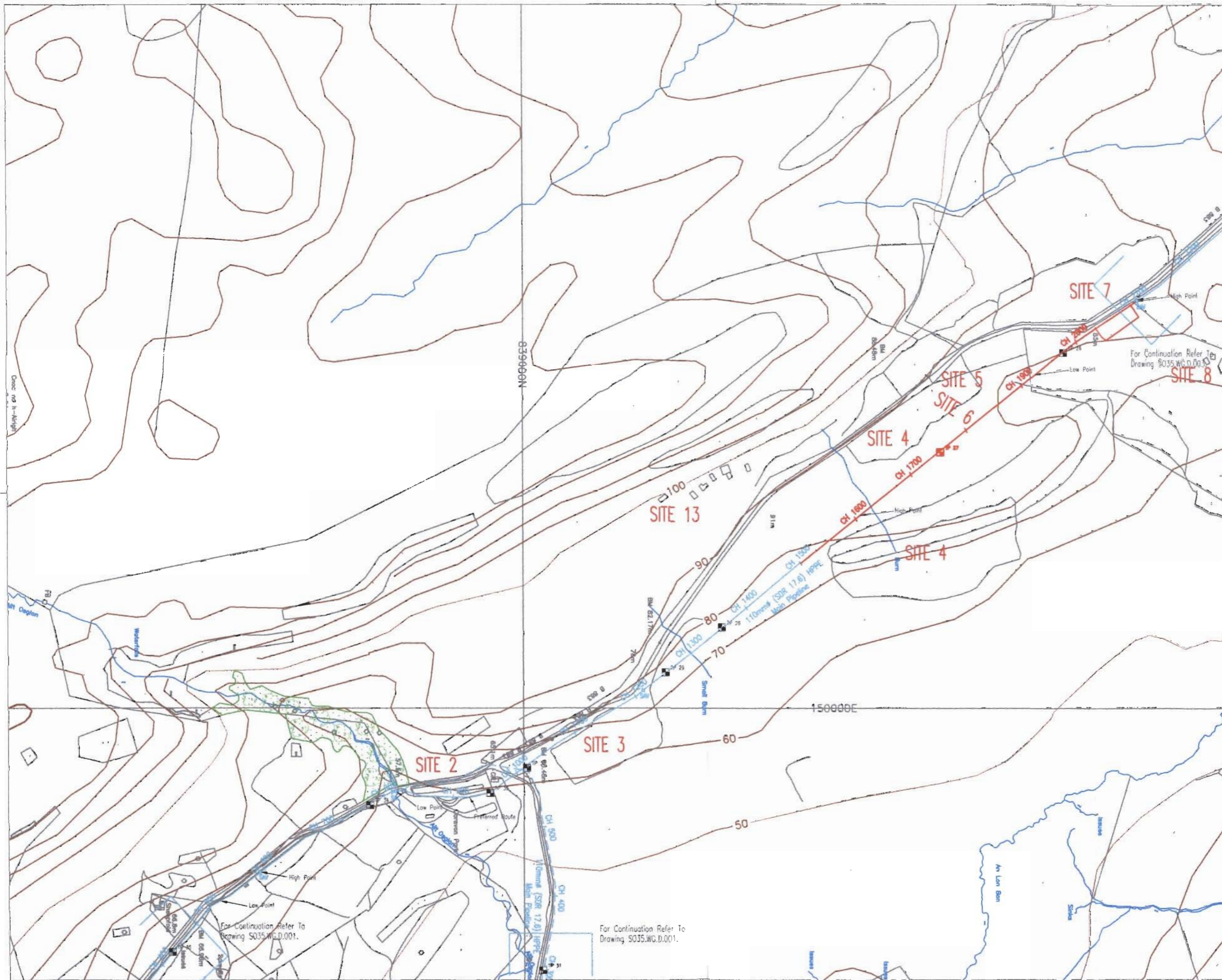
WATER QUALITY
 UNDERTAKINGS PROGRAMME
 DELIVERY AREA WEST

PORTREE REGIONAL
 SOUTH

SITE PLAN
 SHEET 1

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Drawing Number: S035.WG.D.001 03



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Forest Boundaries



Proposed Trial Pit Locations



Monitored Trial Pit



DAV = Double Air Valve

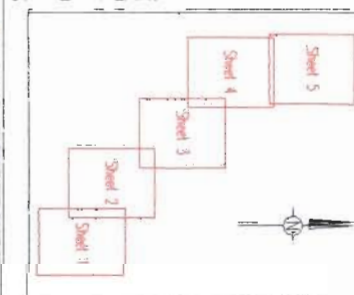


SAV = Single Air Valve



SC = Seour Valve

3. KEY PLAN:-



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01	03/07/01	First Issue	RME	ATM/CLUD

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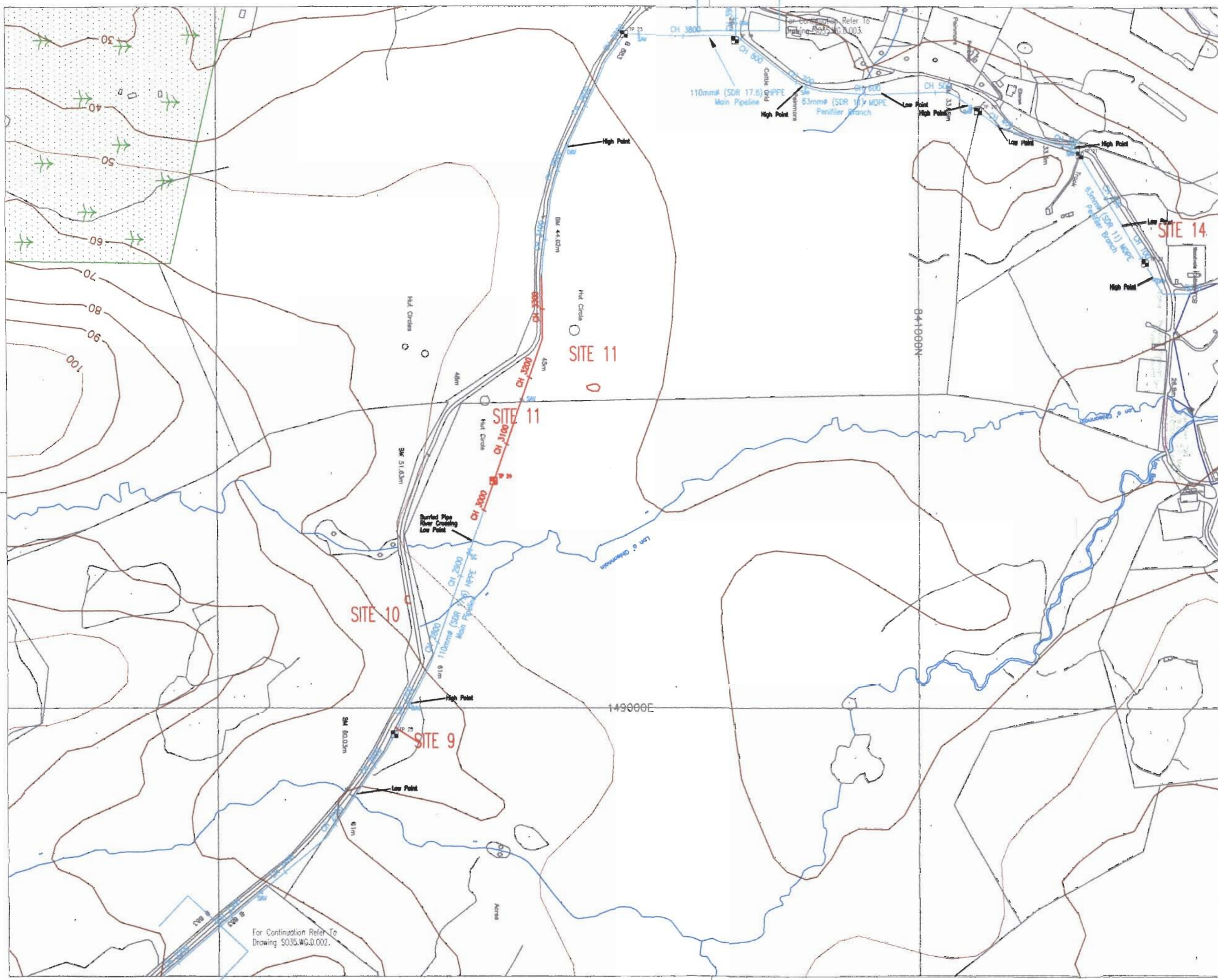
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SOUTH**

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SHEET 2**

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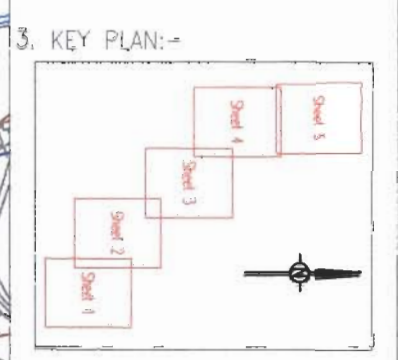
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03	26/07/01	Trial Pit And Valve Locations Added	BM	ACT
02	20/07/01	Revised Pipe Route As Shown	BM	ACT
01	03/07/01	First Issue	KME	ATM/CLD
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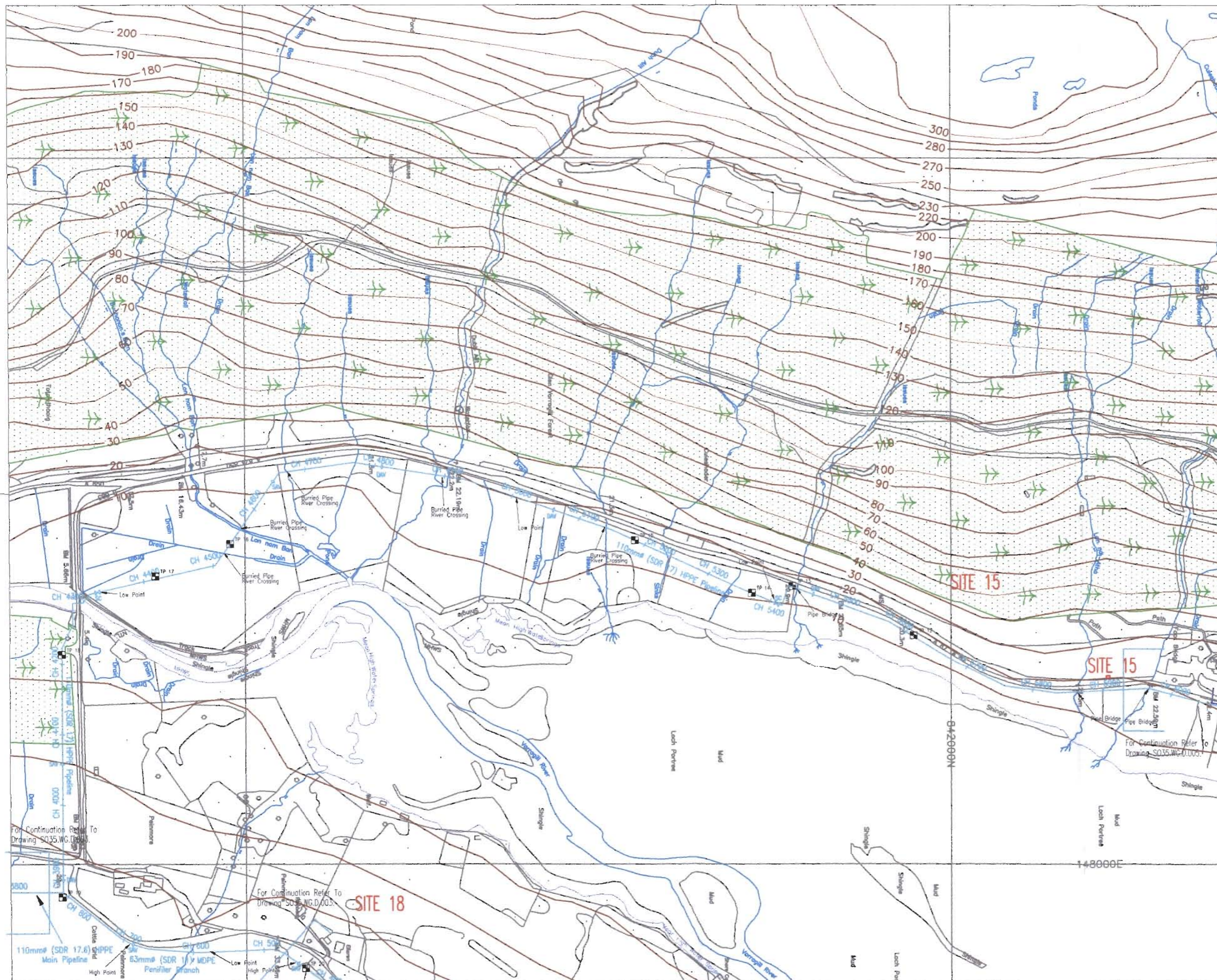
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Scheme Title
PORTREE REGIONAL SOUTH

Drawing Title
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Drawing Number 035.WG.D.003	Issue 03	

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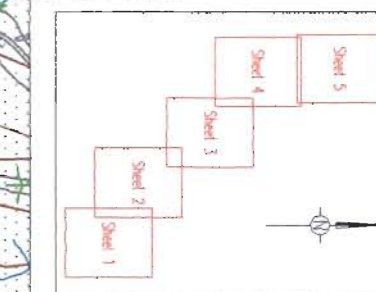
TP 00 Monitored Trial Pit

DAV - Double Air Valve

SAV - Single Air Valve

SC - Scour Valve

3. KEY PLAN:-



Rev	Date	Description	By	App'd
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02	20/07/01	Revised Pipe Route As Shown	BM	ACF
01	03/07/01	First Issue	KME	ATM

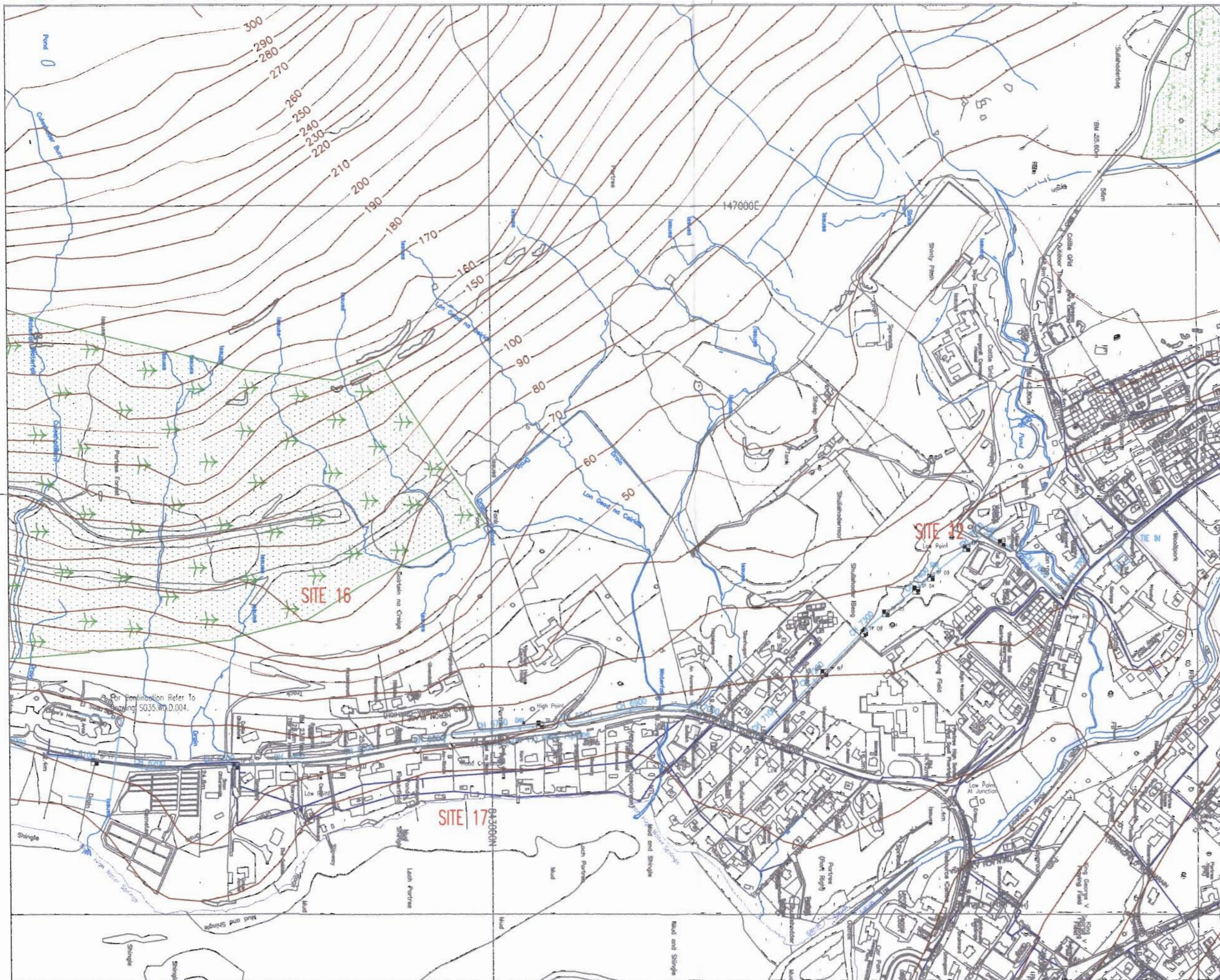
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WATER QUALITY
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PORTREE REGIONAL
SOUTH

SITE PLAN
SHEET 4

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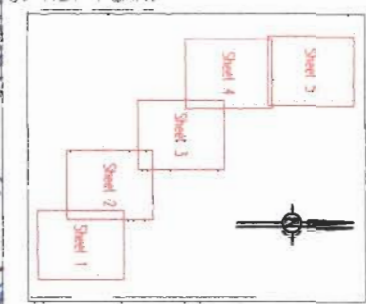
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3. KEY PLAN:



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02	25/07/01	Revised Pipe Route As Shown	BM	ACF
01	03/07/01	First Issue	KME	ATM
Issue	Date	Description	Drawn	Checked

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Project Title:
WATER QUALITY UNDERTAKINGS PROGRAMME DELIVERY AREA WEST

Scheme Title:
PORTREE REGIONAL SOUTH

Drawing Title:
SITE PLAN SHEET 3

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Drawing Number:		Issue:
S035.WG.D.005		03



Brief for archaeological work.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

HIGHLAND COUNCIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Archaeology Unit

1. Background

This specification is for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on site ground works comprising the excavation of trial pits and the installation of approximately 8 kilometres of water main pipeline. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by site ground works being undertaken on behalf of the North of Scotland Water Authority. It is based on the attached information. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until March 1st 2002 after which if no work has been undertaken a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for Edmund Nuttall Ltd, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. Estimates should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification.

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is undertaken to professional standards. The project should be undertaken by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

Before site works commence, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work must be agreed with the Area Planning Manager, and the senior Archaeologist in writing.

As this is for a water main the area to be covered is the entire wayleave except where otherwise indicated.

3. Tendering

Tenders must be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

4. Objectives

To record, to professional standards, any features and objects of archaeological importance that will be damaged or destroyed by this development. This is often achieved by clearing the topsoil to a clean surface in which archaeological features can be identified by the archaeologist.

5. Method

- A watching brief will be conducted by an archaeologist on site ground works, including service trenches so that any finds or features of importance can be recorded to professional standards.
- Those undertaking the site ground works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. Where machinery is to be used for topsoil stripping, a straight-edged bucket must be used on a back acting machine. Care will need to be taken to avoid over excavation, and the advice of the archaeologist on-site should be adhered to regarding this.
- To enable the archaeological work to be undertaken the archaeologist must be given every aid by those undertaking the site ground works. It may be necessary to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. This must be catered for and adhered to.
- **Should archaeological remains be encountered during the work, the archaeologist must be allowed up to one hour to record each feature. If longer than this is required, refer to paragraph 6.**

- Where this is a watching brief for a water main the specification includes drainage and other ancillary works as well as the water main itself.

6. Monitoring

- The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names and local addresses, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Senior Archaeologist by the archaeologist contracted to undertake the work.
- **Any unexpected significant or complex discoveries, or any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Senior Archaeologist. Revised arrangements will be required and the archaeologist must organise a meeting with the applicant/agent and Senior Archaeologist to agree a course of action. No further archaeological work should take place upon the features requiring extra time until the meeting has been held and appropriate arrangements agreed. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.**
- Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

7. Reporting

Project report

At least six copies of the project report must be produced, including all drawings and photographs.

- Two paper copies (one bound and one loose leaf) for Edmund Nuttall Ltd, Aquarius House, 22 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU.
- One bound paper copy for the Area Planning and Building Control Manager.
- One bound paper copy for the Highland Council Planning and Development Service, Archaeology Unit, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- One bound copy for the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (*address as above*), on a computer disk as a pdf file in Adobe Acrobat format compatible with Microsoft Office 97 for windows.
- One bound paper copy to be deposited with Norman Newton, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA.

The report must be submitted to all of the above within two weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

The report must include, as a minimum,

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy specification.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.

*S035 Portree Regional South
Archaeological Watching Brief*

- The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist.
- The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist.
- Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.
- The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.
- The archaeologist is responsible for complying with the Foot and Mouth Disease Code of Practice for Contractors Working on Agricultural Land produced by the North of Scotland Water Authority.

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

Brief for:

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED
ASSESSMENT AND WALK-OVER
SURVEY**

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken prior to work beginning on site. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for an archaeological desk based assessment and walkover survey prior to the commencement of works proposed by Edmund Nuttall Ltd, who are responsible for all tendering and contractual arrangements.

The proposed works comprise the excavation of trial pits and the installation of approximately 8 kilometres of water main pipeline on behalf of the North of Scotland Water Authority.

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is undertaken to professional standards. The project should be undertaken by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

As this is for a water main proposal the area to be covered is the entire wayleave except where otherwise indicated.

3. Tendering

Tenders must be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

4. Objectives

- *To establish the presence of recorded archaeological remains, and the likelihood of further as yet unrecorded archaeological remains.*
- *To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible and recording where necessary of any archaeological features or finds identified.*
- *To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.*

5. Method

- A desk based assessment of the site, to include consultation of at least *The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, The Highland Council Archive, The National Monuments Record, The National Map Library, The Scottish Record Office and any locally held private archives and aerial photographic coverage.*
- The desk-based assessment must make full use of all of the resources held in these repositories.
- A walkover survey will be made of the area in question, to enable identification of any upstanding remains from any period, including modern. All individual features to be recorded on a 1:2500 plan.
- No excavation is to take place as part of this work.

6. Monitoring

- The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor fieldwork to ensure that specifications are met.

- Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names and local addresses, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Senior Archaeologist.

7. Reporting

Project Report

At least four copies of the project report must be produced, including all drawings and photographs.

- Two paper copies (one bound and one loose leaf) for Edmund Nuttall Ltd, Aquarius House, 22 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU.
- One bound paper copy for the Highland Council Planning and Development Service, Archaeology Unit, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- One copy for the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (*address as above*), on a computer disk as a pdf file in Adobe Acrobat format compatible with Microsoft Office 97 for windows.

The report must be submitted to all of the above within two weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

The Report must include, as a minimum,

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid References must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Scale plans, and photographs of all archaeological features noted.
- A full index to any records or other materials generated by the project including its location.
- An analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results for future research. Note that a negative result may itself be significant.
- The report must propose appropriate arrangements for the safeguarding where possible or recording where necessary of any objects or features identified by this evaluation.
- A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.

The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in writing, and the Archaeology Unit will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

This specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

8. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. The cost for this must be included in any tender document.

9. General

- The Archaeologist appointed must be of professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must undertake the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- The main contractor has responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff on site.
- The archaeologist is responsible for taking all necessary measures to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance.
- Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.
- The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist.
- The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist.
- Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.
- The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.
- The archaeologist is responsible for complying with the Foot and Mouth Disease Code of Practice for Contractors Working on Agricultural Land produced by the North of Scotland Water Authority