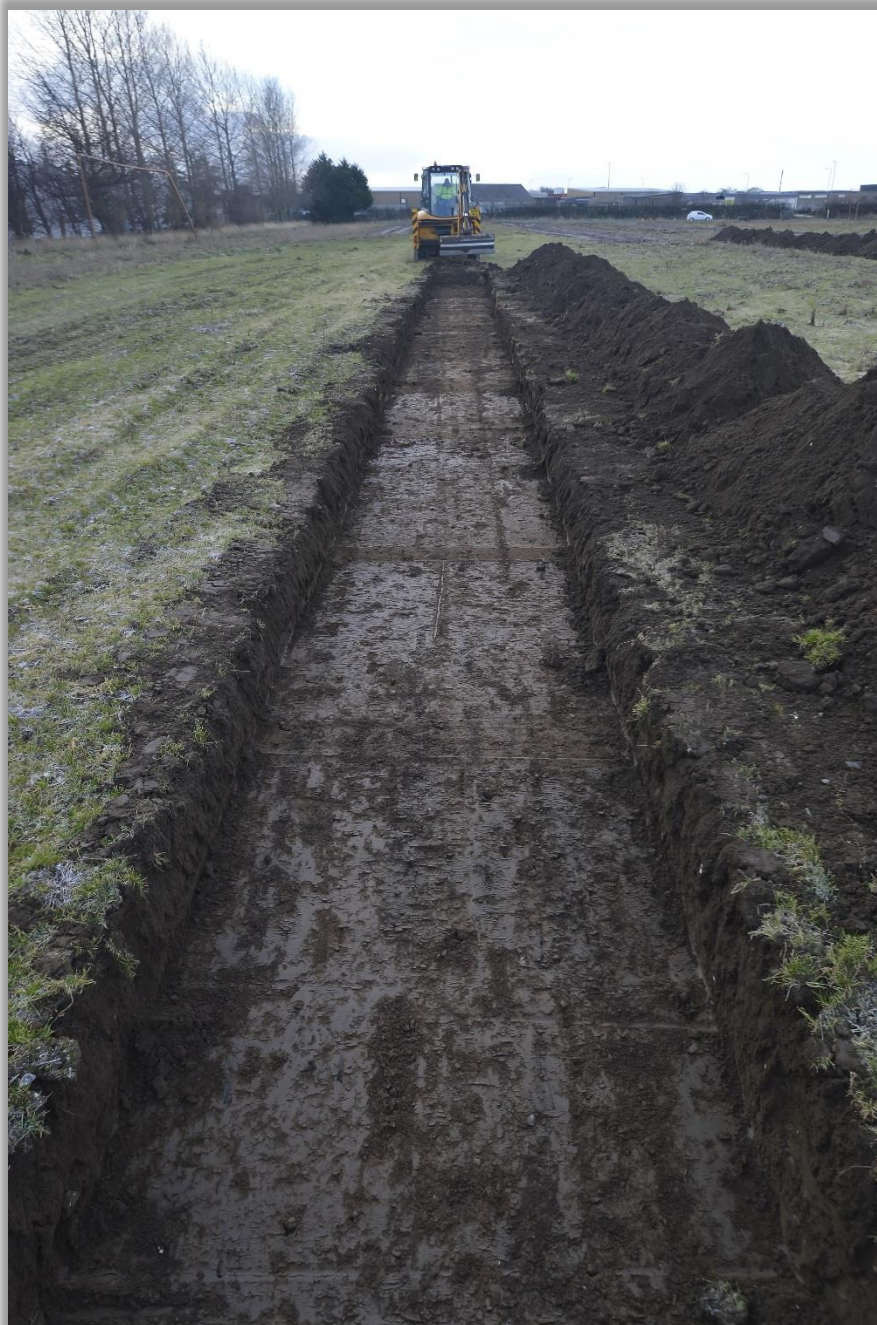


**Land Adjoining Benromach Distillery,
Waterford Road, Forres, IV36 3AD
Data Structure report
CA440-2018
Moray Council planning application 18/00811/APP**



**Dr Robert Lenfert, ACIfA
Cameron Archaeology
8-02-2019**

CONTENTS

1	BACKGROUND	3
2	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	4
3	THE METAL DETECTOR SURVEY AND EVALUATION	5
3.1	The metal detector survey	5
3.2	The evaluation.....	5
4	CONCLUSIONS.....	6
5	REFERENCES	6
6	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
	APPENDIX 1 METAL DETECTOR FINDS	7
	APPENDIX 2 MAPS.....	9
	APPENDIX 3 PHOTOS.....	12

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover photo: Evaluation Trench 5 nearing completion

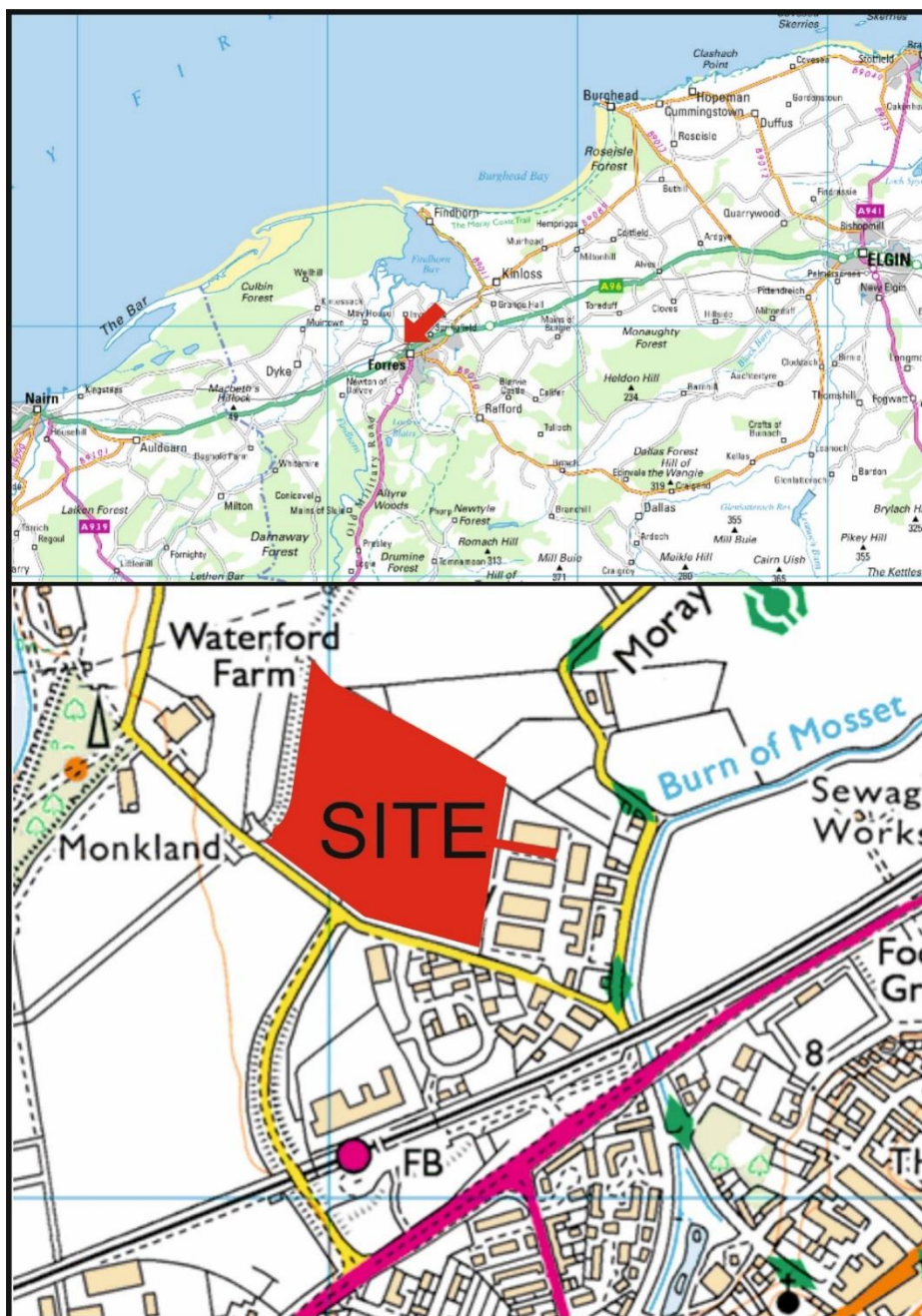
Illus 1	Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018)	3
Illus 2	Phase One Site plan (red) showing metal detecting and evaluation trenches. Shaded grey area at top of site was off-limits for machine excavation due to buried 11kw electrical cable. (<i>copyright LDN Architects</i>).....	6
Illus 3	Metal detector finds. No1 is a belt buckle, possibly from horse gear or bridle. The majority appear to represent agricultural machinery or broken plough tines. Two modern galvanised nuts in lower right discounted.....	8
Illus 4	Numbered locations for metal detector survey findspots.....	8
Illus 5	Gordon's map of c1636-52 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)	9
Illus 6	Blaeu's map of 1654 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)	9
Illus 7	Moll's map of 1745 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)	10
Illus 8	Roy's map of 1747-55 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)	10
Illus 9	Thomson's map of 1826 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)	11
Illus 10	First Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Elginshire Elginshire & Nairnshire (Det. No.1) X.8 (Combined) Survey date: 1868 Publication date: 1895.....	11
Illus 11	Second Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Elginshire X.8 (Dyke and Moy; Forres) Publication date: 1905 Revised: 1904 ..	12

SUMMARY

Between January 23rd and January 29th, 2019, a metal detector survey and evaluation trenching took place at Benromach Distillery, Forres on approximately one hectare of land adjacent to the current distillery outbuildings on the west perimeter of the property. Sixteen metal finds were agricultural or industrial in nature, with the exception of one belt or horse harness buckle. The seven evaluation trenches did not produce any archaeological finds or features, and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is required within the Phase 1 area.

1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the WNW side of Benromach Distillery, Forres. It is centred on NGR NJ 03030 59492, at 5-10m OD in the parish of Forres.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by LDN Architects. An application 18/00811/APP to Moray Council for Development of a 1 hectare Phase One development area out of a total of 4.7 hectares to the WNW of the existing distillery to deliver 11 new cask warehouses new access formation of pond and associated landscaping was approved on 13.11.18 with requirement for a metal detector survey followed by a 7-10% archaeological field evaluation.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work was carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019)

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore (HES) were consulted online within 1km (scheduled monuments) and 0.5km (non-designated sites) of the proposed development.

- 2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within 1km of the proposed development.
- 2.2 Middlefield Cropmarks of ring ditches and dark circular solid cropmarks, some of which may represent hut stances (SMR NJ05NW0074). Also a possible ring ditch and other blobs are visible on aerial photographs (SMR NJ06SW0033).
- 2.3 A watching brief was carried out at Waterford Farm by HAS in January 2104 during groundworks for service trenches associated with the Forres Flood Alleviation Scheme. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded (SMR NJ05NW0346).
- 2.4 An oval enclosure and other cropmarks are visible on aerial photographs (SMR NJ05NW0059). Trial trenching evaluation of this site proposed in 2010 by AOC as part of the River Findhorn-Pilmuir Flood Alleviation Scheme. Four trenches are proposed (4 trenches each 45 m by 2 m) totalling 360 square metres, or 10%, of the total site.
- 2.5 An area of rig and furrow visible on aerial photographs (SMR NJ05NW0058) at Waterford. Also at Waterford linear cropmarks and possible ring of pits are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs (SMR NJ05NW0061). Also a quadrilateral enclosure is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs (SMR NJ05NW0060).
- 2.6 At Waterford Road there are several circular enclosures with possible internal features showing as cropmarks, scattered over two fields. They may represent hut stances. One appears to be a double circular enclosure (SMR NJ05NW0033).
- 2.7 Benromach Distillery (SMR NJ05NW0045), founded by Duncan McCallum and F.W. Brickman as 'Glenromach', and built in 1898-9 by Charles C Doig. It is now owned and operated by Gordon and Macphail, and known as Benromach Distillery. Construction work started at the site of Benromach Distillery in 1898, however, due to the depression in the Scotch whisky industry in 1898, the distillery did not start producing whisky until 1900. It closed the same year due to a lack of money. In 1911 the distillery was acquired by the London based Harvey McNair and Co who continued distilling until the onset of the First World War. After the war, the distillery was acquired by Benromach Distillery Ltd and was run by this new private company until 1925. In 1938 Benromach was acquired by Associated Scottish Distilleries Ltd which later became a part of Scottish Malt Distillers Ltd. Between 1966 and 1974 the distillery was modernised and continued to run until 1983 when the distillery was officially closed. In 1993 Gordon and Macphail took over the site and in 1997 they started to restore the distillery to a working order. The design of the distillery was changed slightly to allow it to be operated by one man. Finally in 1998 the distillery was officially reopened by Charles, Prince of Wales, and bottling of the new malt started in 2004. It is a complex of one- and two-storey buildings, of various dates, with a pyramidal-roofed malting kiln and a neat stillhouse, and a large free-standing red-brick chimney to vent the coal-fired stills. The malt barn (Listed Category B) is a three-storey, 12-bay brick barn with regular fenestration. Each bay is defined by brick pilaster strips, and there is a West Highland slate roof. It has segmental headed windows of 12 pane sashes to the gables, and with six-pane with shuttering to the lower portion of the long elevations. Internally each floor is supported by 11 pairs of cast-iron piers. There is a warehouse dated from 1898, with alterations in 1950-1. It was the surviving part of a range of warehouses, the other three having been demolished in 1987. A garage was built in 1937. A building survey of No. 2 cask warehouse and a garage was carried out in 2014 by S Farrell prior to its proposed demolition (Farrell 2015, 138).
- 2.8 At Mossat Road is a signal box, still in use, depicted on OS 2nd edition map (SMR NJ05NW0169).
- 2.9 Pill-box dating from World War II (SMR NJ05NW0093). It sits on the northern side of the railway line, near a level-crossing. The pillbox measures about 12 feet across and is six sided with a door with five loopholes. A building survey of the pillbox was carried

- out by Headland Archaeology in August 2016 ahead of proposed demolition. The pillbox is a Type 22 structure, hexagonal in plan with a single entrance on the southeast wall and rifle loopholes in the remaining walls. The walls were constructed of large squared masonry blocks with a thick roof of prefabricated concrete sheets.
- 2.10 A series of trial pits were excavated across several sites along the River Findhorn and the W side of Forres between September 2008 and April 2009 as part of the River Findhorn-Pilmuir Flood Alleviation Scheme. Their excavation was monitored by AOC. No finds or features of archaeological significance were observed (SMR NJ05NW0158).
 - 2.11 A lead Papal bulla of Pope Nicolas III (1277-1280). Bullae were seals attached to Papal documents (bulls) and typically they depict the busts of the Saints Peter and Paul on the obverse and the name of the issuing Pope on the reverse. This example is in comparatively good condition, being complete and legible on both faces (HES NJ05NW 422).
 - 2.12 A watching brief was undertaken, 6–17 June 2016, during construction of a new road link between the A96 and Waterford Road. Several postholes and pits were uncovered and excavated, including a series of pits relating to the on-site smelting and smithing of iron ore, and the disposal of waste materials, both agricultural and industrial. These appeared to be Iron Age in date, indicating the possibility of Iron Age settlement in the vicinity (Gaunt 2017, 122).
 - 2.13 The proposed development site has been farmland since the earliest maps (Illus 3-9) and there are no known sites within the site boundaries.

3 THE METAL DETECTOR SURVEY AND EVALUATION

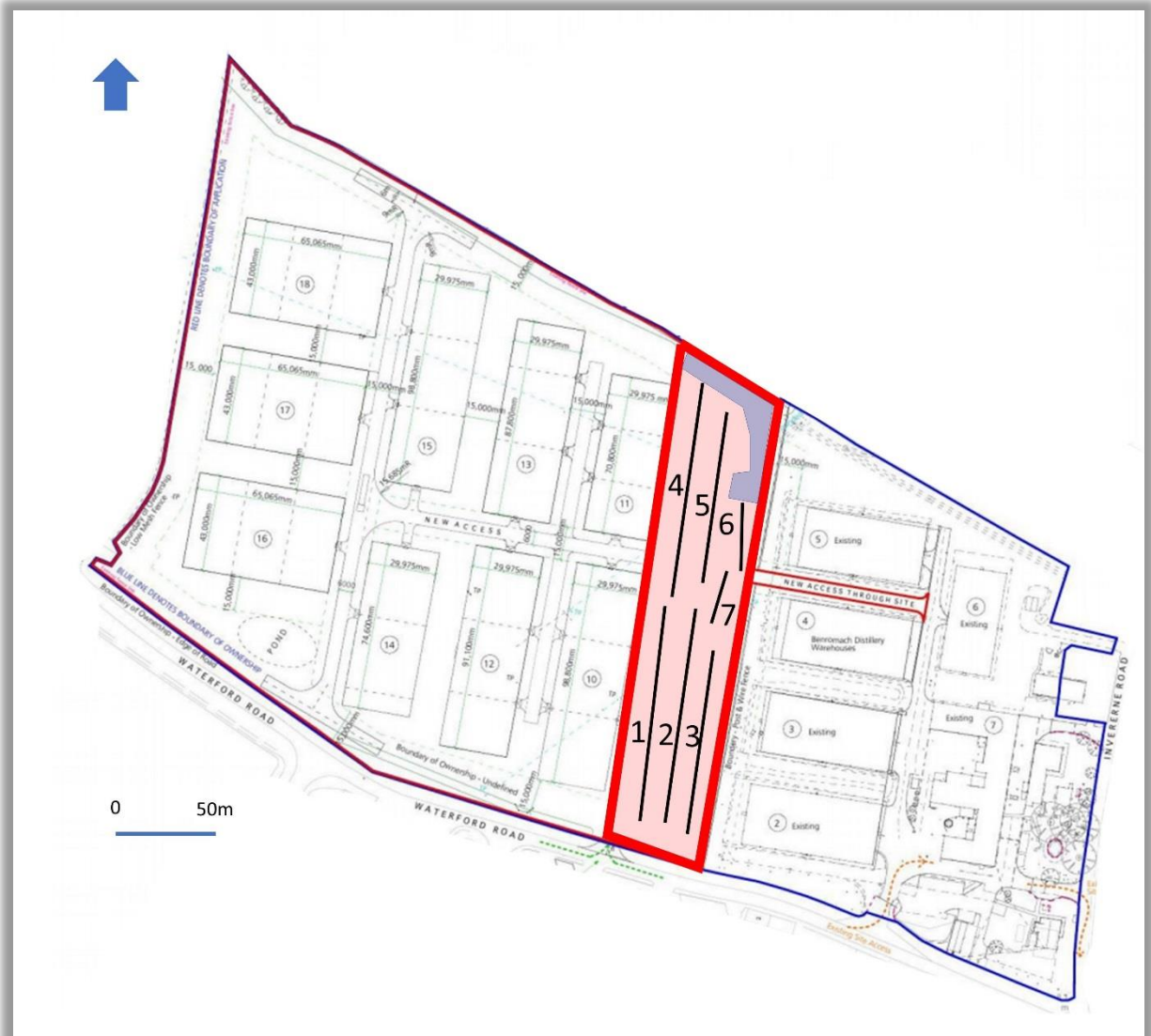
Between January 23rd and January 29th, 2019, a metal detector survey and evaluation trenching took place at Benromach Distillery, Forres on approximately one hectare of land adjacent to the current distillery outbuildings on the west perimeter of the property.

3.1 The metal detector survey

On January 23rd and 24th, 2019, a metal detector survey was carried out within the Phase One area, which roughly forms a rectangle measuring 205 x 50m, or just slightly over one hectare (Illus 2). The detector employed was a non-discriminating pulse-induction Garrett Hunter metal detector, typically capable of searching deeper into the soil than the standard VLF (Very Low Frequency) detector commonly used. Target depths are broadly discernible through the audio feedback provided by the unit's speaker. Overlapping transects were first carried out in a north-south orientation, then at a right angle in an east-west overlapping transect to ensure full coverage and maximise 'hits' or detection of buried metals. While a small number of finds were recovered over this two-day period, air temperatures were around -4C at the start of the survey and the ground remained frozen during much of this initial two-day survey. A decision was made to flag and mark remaining GPS detector hits and investigate them during the evaluation phase during warmer conditions. In total, 16 metal objects were recovered, the vast majority were broken agricultural implements, mainly plough tines and fasteners such as bolts, but a belt buckle was also recovered, possibly part of a horse harness (Illus 3, 4 Appendix 1).

3.2 The evaluation phase

The evaluation took place during January 28th and 29th, 2019 using a back-acting excavator with a 1.7m bladed bucket. In total, seven trenches totalling 480m in length, or 7.8% of the Phase One site area, were excavated. Topsoils remained consistently shallow, in the 275-350mm range. The subsoil consisted of a dark reddish-brown silty clay. Very little in the way of gravels or stony inclusions were visible and overall, all seven trenches remained homogenous in composition, colour and depth.



Illus 2 Phase One Site plan (red) showing metal detecting and evaluation trenches. Shaded grey area at top of site was off-limits for machine excavation due to buried 11kw electrical cable. (copyright LDN Architects)

4 CONCLUSIONS

The metal detector survey produced 16 ferrous objects, the bulk of which appear to be agricultural or industrial in nature, mainly broken plough tines or teeth and bolts. The belt buckle stands apart from the rest of the finds, though it potentially may have been part of horse gear for a bridle or reins.

The evaluation trenches did not produce any finds or features, and the author is therefore of the opinion no further archaeological work within the Phase One area is necessary.

5 REFERENCES

Farrell, S. (2015) *Moray, Benromach Distillery, Survey, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 15, 2014.* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

Gaunt, J. (2017) *Waterford Road, Forres, Watching brief, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 17, 2016.* Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Gillian Mackenzie, LDN Architects for initiating this project and to Claire Herbert, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service for her advice during this work.

APPENDIX 1 METAL DETECTOR FINDS

Find No	Longitude	Latitude	Grid Reference	X-axis	Y-axis
1	57.614559°	-3.622337°	NJ0317959445	303179	859445
2	57.615152°	-3.622394°	NJ0317759511	303177	859511
3	57.614238°	-3.622354°	NJ0317759409	303177	859409
4-6	57.614004°	-3.622281°	NJ0318059383	303180	859383
7	57.613824°	-3.622686°	NJ0315659364	303156	859364
8	57.613498°	-3.622417°	NJ0317159327	303171	859327
9	57.613721°	-3.622679°	NJ0315659352	303156	859352
10	57.614371°	-3.622837°	NJ0314859425	303148	859425
11	57.614256°	-3.622633°	NJ0316059412	303160	859412
12	57.615037°	-3.621952°	NJ0320359498	303203	859498
13	57.613497°	-3.622762°	NJ0315059328	303150	859328
14	57.615012°	-3.622555°	NJ0316759496	303167	859496
15	57.614719°	-3.622070°	NJ0319559463	303195	859463
16	57.613927°	-3.622211°	NJ0318459375	303184	859375



Illus 3 Metal detector finds. No1 is a belt buckle, possibly from horse gear or bridle. The majority appear to represent agricultural machinery or broken plough tines. Two modern galvanized nuts in lower right discounted.



Illus 4 Numbered locations for metal detector survey findspots.

APPENDIX 2 MAPS



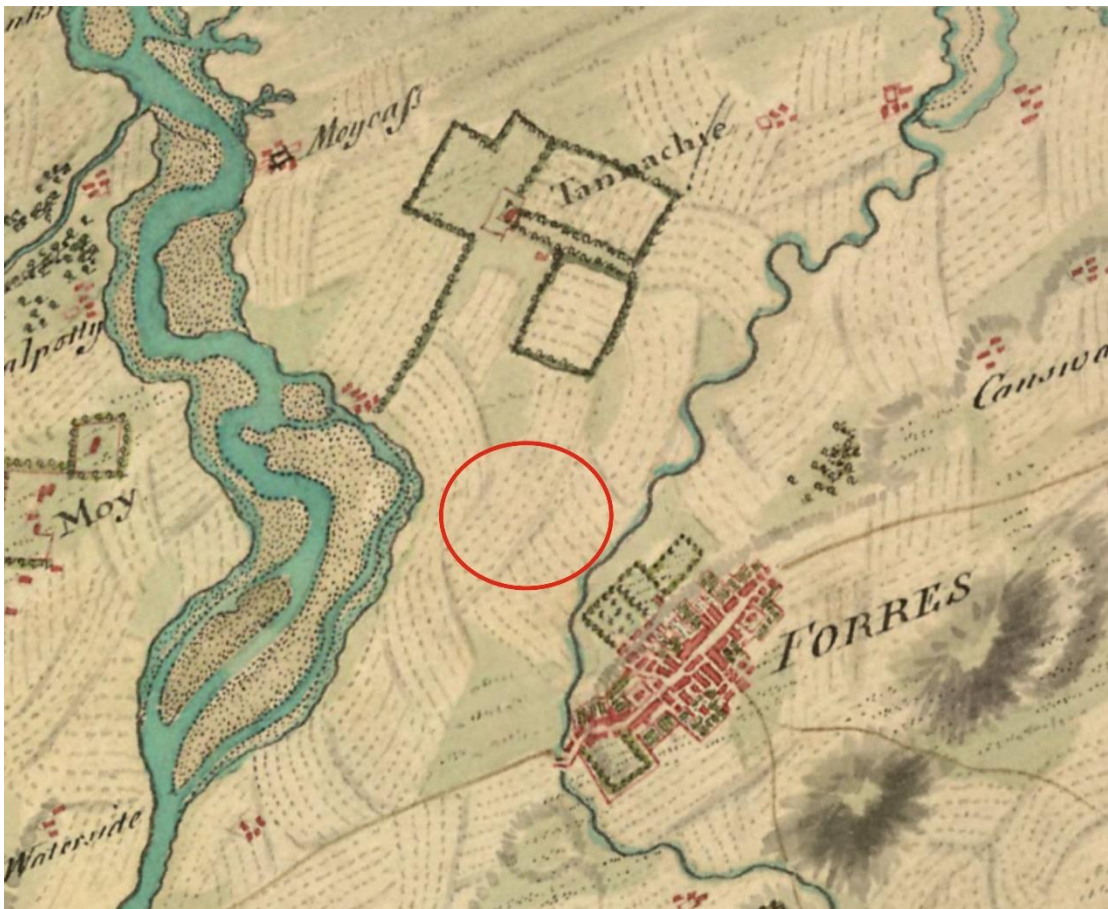
Illus 5 Gordon's map of c1636-52 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



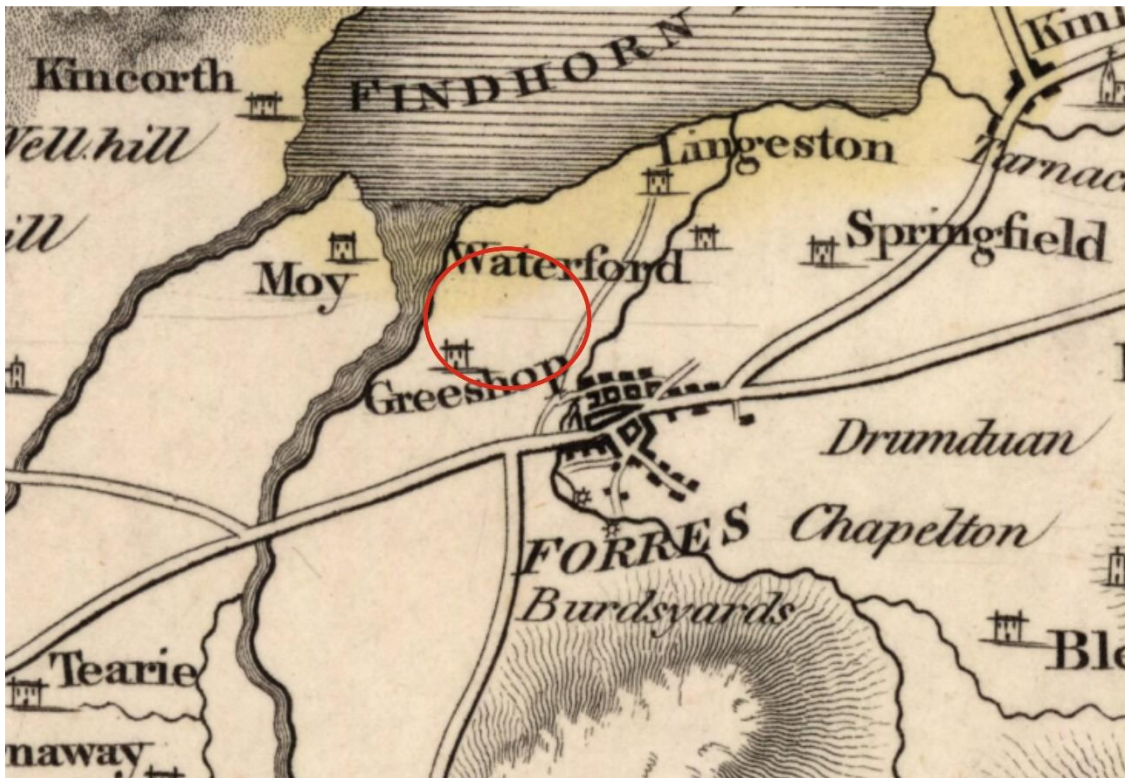
Illus 6 Blaeu's map of 1654 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



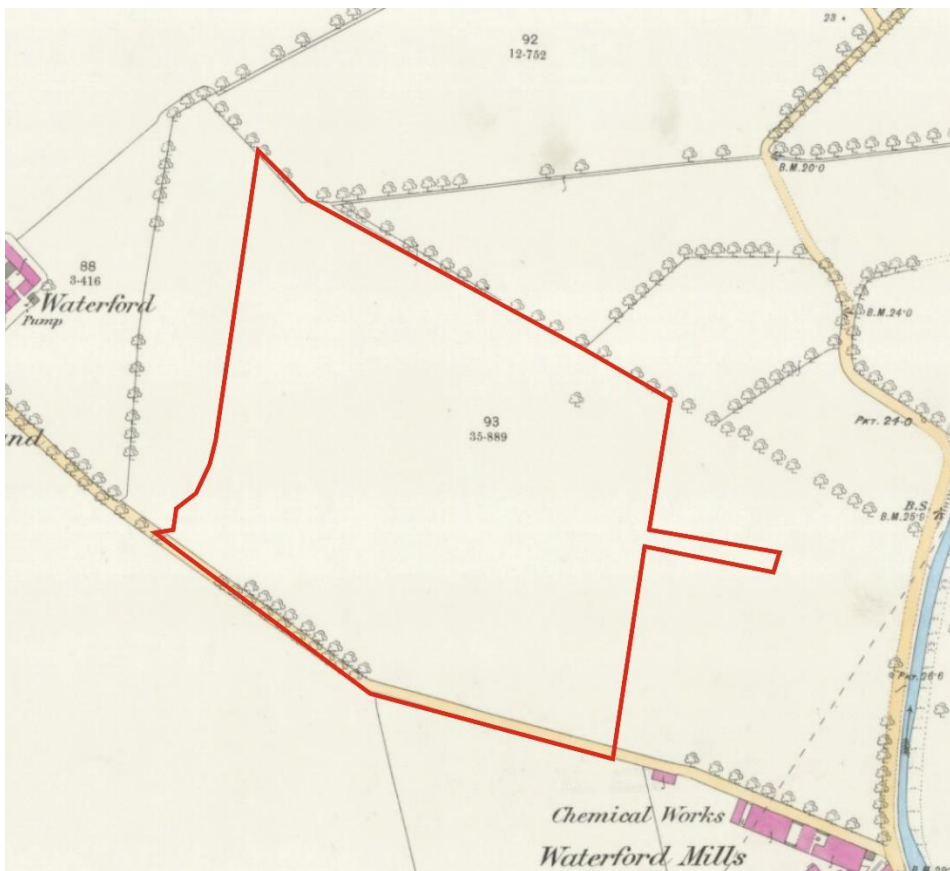
Illus 7 Moll's map of 1745 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



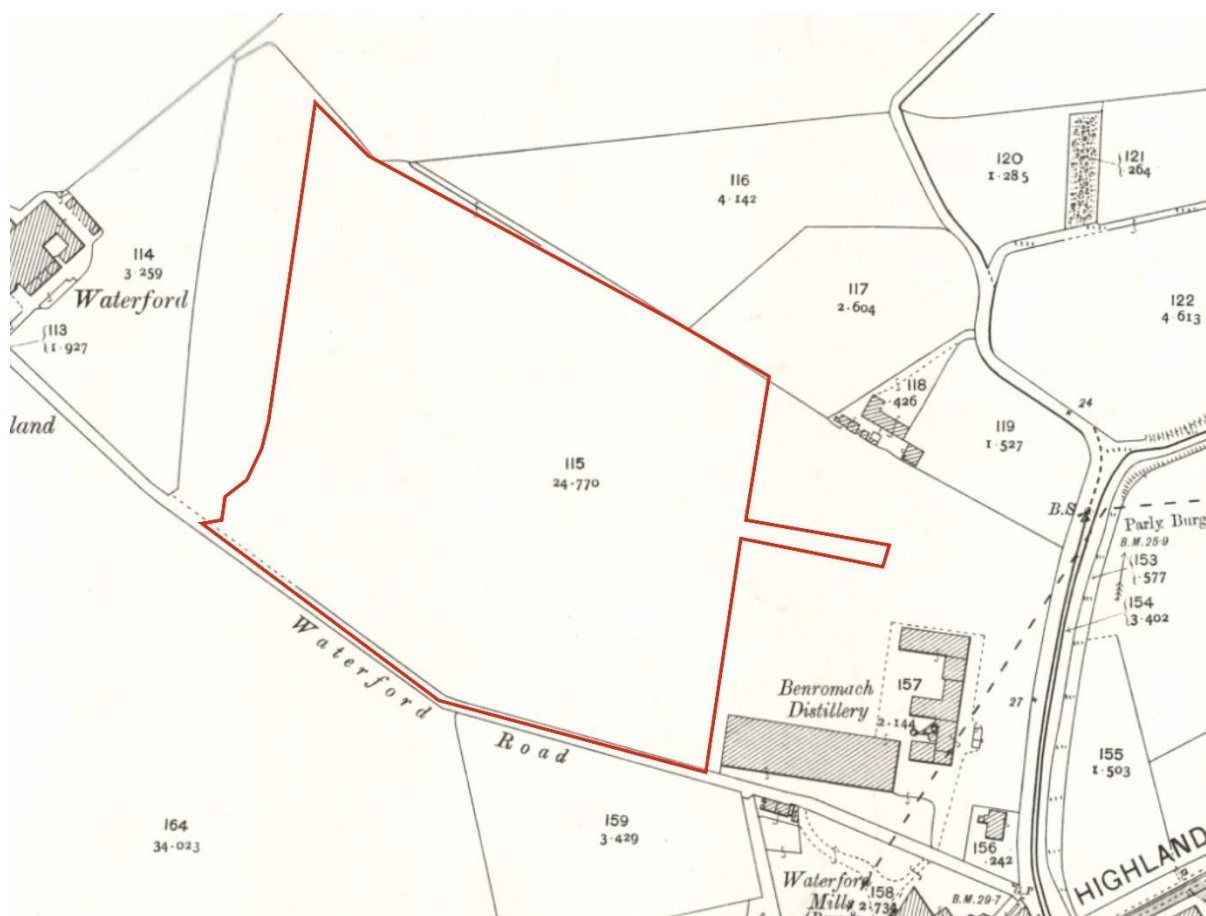
Illus 8 Roy's map of 1747-55 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 9 Thomson's map of 1826 showing showing approximate area of site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 10 First Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Elginshire Elginshire & Nairnshire (Det. No.1) X.8 (Combined) Survey date: 1868 Publication date: 1895



Illus 11 Second Edition OS map showing site outlined in red (copyright National Library of Scotland) Elginshire X.8 (Dyke and Moy; Forres) Publication date: 1905 Revised: 1904

APPENDIX 3 PHOTOS

Photo ID	Direction Facing	Comments
DSC7994	S	Trench 1, southern half completed
DSC7995	N	Trench 1 nearing completion
DSC7996	SE	Trench 1 completed
DSC8001	N	Trench 2 completed
DSC8002	S	Trench 2 completed
DSC8006	S	Trench 3 completed
DSC8011	N	Trench 4 in progress
DSC8018	S	Trench 5 nearing completion
DSC8023	NNW	Trench 6 nearing completion
DSC8026	SSW	Trench 7 nearing completion
DSC7984	--	All metal detecting finds
DSC7985	--	Detail photo of iron buckle



_DSC7994



_DSC7995



_DSC7996



_DSC8001



_DSC8002



_DSC8006



_DSC8011



_DSC8018



_DSC8023



_DSC8026



DSC_7984



DSC_7985