

***AUCHNAGALLIN LEASE AREA, GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY***

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
AND WALKOVER SURVEY**



National Grid Reference

**NJ 0477 3324 (Centred)**

Site Code

**ANG13**

Author

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## **AUCHNAGALLIN LEASE AREA, GRANTOWN-ON-SPEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND WALKOVER SURVEY**

### **Summary**

*An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was carried out on 20 May 2013 on behalf of Forestry Commission Scotland at Auchnagallin Lease Area, Grantown-on-Spey. The work was undertaken to establish the baseline extent and condition of any archaeological sites on the property, by recording and identifying any features that may need conservation management, and to inform forest design and operational planning. The survey identified seven previously unrecorded archaeological sites, including a Post-Medieval limekiln, quarry and dam and a possible prehistoric field system. Mitigation measures are proposed to safeguard the sites during the woodland planting.*

### **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 A desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the visible archaeological monuments surviving within the boundaries of the Auchnagallin Lease Area, Grantown-on-Spey (centred at grid reference NJ 0477 3324) was carried out by *Ross and Cromarty Archaeological Services* on 20 May 2013 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The purpose of the desk-based assessment and archaeological walkover survey was to identify the cultural heritage baseline within the Auchnagallin Lease Area by recording and identifying any features that may need conservation management in order to inform forest design and operational planning. The *Scottish Planning Policy 2010*<sup>1</sup> describes how archaeology should be managed when considering planning decisions and determining conditions for developments that have an impact on the historic environment.

### **2.0 Site Location**

- 2.1 The Auchnagallin Lease Area is located in Badenoch and Strathspey in the former parish of Cromdale, Inverallan and Advie in the former county of Moray. It is situated adjacent to the western edge of Wester Auchnagallin farm, approximately 3.5km north of Grantown-on-Spey (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The survey area slopes uphill from east to west and comprises heather moorland with a small number of mature trees at the southern end of the survey area and a scattering of self-set conifers. A water course runs along the north-eastern edge of the area. The underlying bedrock comprises psammite of the Nethybridge Formation, metamorphic bedrock formed approximately 545 to 1000 million years ago, which is overlain by glacial deposits of diamicton, sand and gravel<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Scottish Government 2010

<sup>2</sup> British Geological Survey 2013



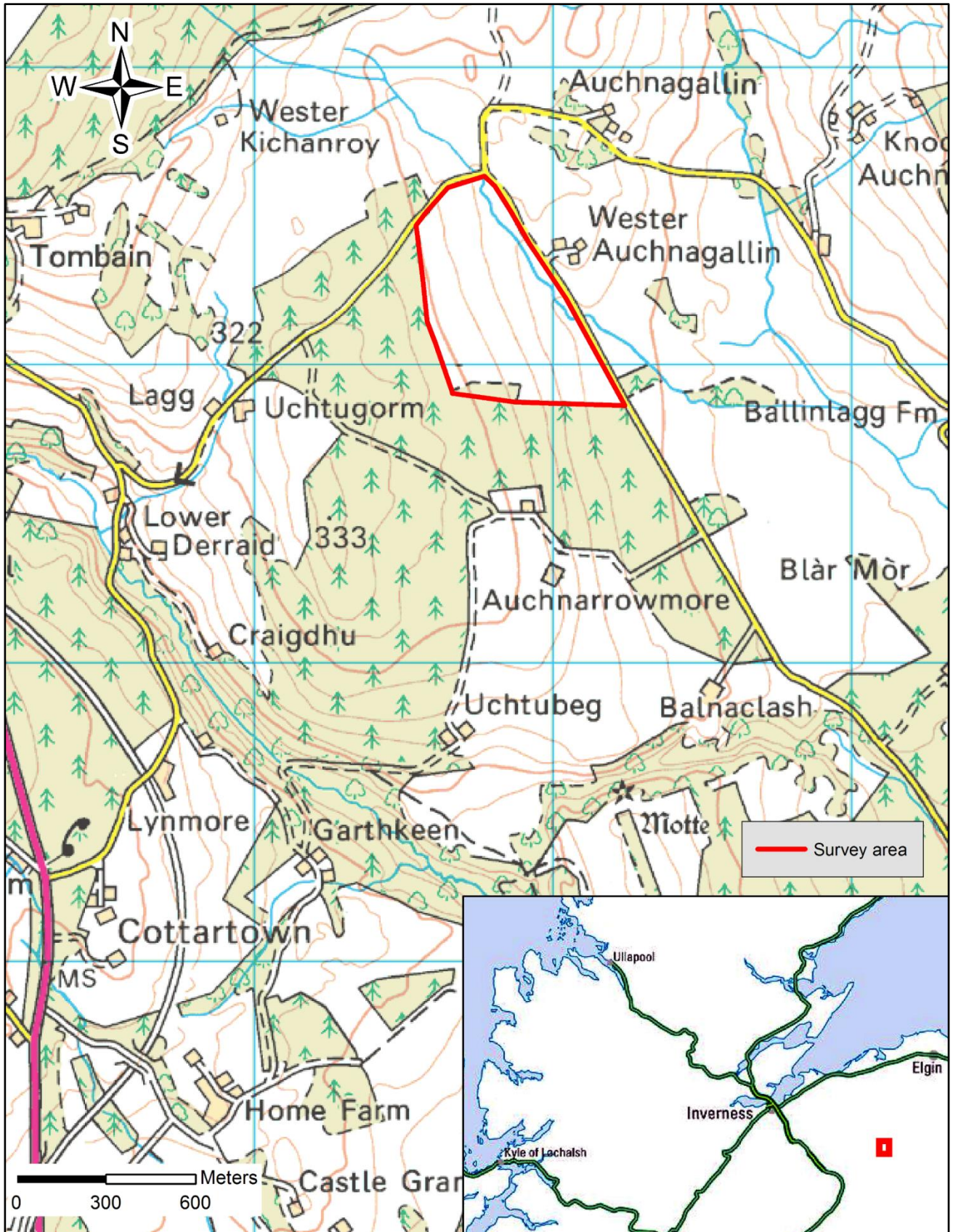


Figure 1: Location of survey area

### 3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

The survey area is situated adjacent to Wester Auchnagallin farm, approximately 3.5km north of Grantown-on-Spey. Grantown-on-Spey was founded in 1766 by Sir James Grant, a planned village which grew to a population of more than 1,000 by 1851. The town developed latterly as a Victorian holiday destination, after the arrival of the railway in 1863, and has mainly become a centre for skiers, hill walkers and fisherman in the 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>3</sup>.

Wester Auchnagallin is located on the north side of the Spey Valley, an area with a prolific past and present agricultural use. The Old Statistical Account of the *Parish of Cromdale*, 1791-99, describes that the soil of the parish was ‘generally dry and thin, with the exception of some flat or low haughs, close by the river Spey’. The account also notes that numerous lime quarries were ‘opened by the proprietor’, James Grant of Grant<sup>4</sup>. The historical mapping and site records for the survey area and surrounding region attest to the presence of numerous 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, lime kilns and associated quarries. There is little in the way of prehistoric sites recorded in the area.

The New Statistical Account of 1834-45 explains the prolific instances of lime kilns in the parish: “limestone (primitive) of the best quality is found in great abundance in some parts of the parish. Large quantities of it are prepared by the tenants for sale, and also for their own use in agriculture and building. There is scarcely a tenant in the parish occupying a L. 5 farm, who has not his lime-kiln<sup>5</sup>”.

Lime was extracted from limestone by heating the stone in the lime kiln to between 800-1000 degrees Celsius, the product of which was quicklime (calcium oxide). The quicklime was raked out from the bottom of the kiln for use. Mixing quicklime with water would result in a reaction creating slaked lime (calcium hydroxide). Limestone was used for building, while burnt lime or quicklime was used for making lime mortar. Quicklime could also be used in treating infected livestock and slaked lime was used in agriculture as a fertiliser for soils. Other uses include a disinfectant, an ingredient in caustic soda and soap and as bleach<sup>6</sup>.

### 4.0 Methodology

The overall aim of this assessment was to provide the cultural heritage baseline for the Auchnagallin Lease Area. The specific objectives were to verify known archaeological sites or features and identify and record any previously unknown archaeological sites or features within the survey area, which would inform conservation management, forest design and operational planning.

#### 4.1 Desk-based assessment

- 4.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to commencement of the survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation. This was done in accordance with the *Institute for Archaeologists’ (IfA) Standards and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Scotland’s Places 2013

<sup>4</sup> Grant, Rev L. 1791-99

<sup>5</sup> Grant, Rev J. 1834-45

<sup>6</sup> National Trust for Scotland 2010

<sup>7</sup> IfA 2008

4.1.2 The drawings of the area, as supplied by the client, were checked in detail against the Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Map, Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HER), the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and Historic Scotland's records of scheduled monuments and listed buildings. Online aerial photographs were checked and the map collections of the National Library of Scotland (NLS) were studied. Other literary sources were also consulted.

## 4.2 Walkover survey

4.2.1 The objectives were to identify and record all archaeological sites within the lease area.

4.2.2 Archaeological sites were recorded individually including using high-resolution digital photography where possible, while sketch survey drawings were produced where necessary. The individual site locations were plotted using ArcPad GIS software on a handheld Windows Mobile-based computer capable of sub-metre accuracy. Details relating to the individual sites and monuments located during the survey can be found in the Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in Appendix 1.

4.2.3 Survey and recording methods from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)<sup>8</sup> were employed and all work was conducted in strict adherence to the *Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct*<sup>9</sup>.

## 5.0 Results

### 5.1 Desk-based assessment

A desk-based assessment was carried out in advance of the walkover survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation.

#### 5.1.1 Cartographic sources

Mapping held at the National Library of Scotland (NLS) in Edinburgh was checked on-line and produced the following results:

##### **Herman Moll's *The Shires of Murray and Nairn*, 1732**

Moll's map of 1732 shows the area around Auchnagallin as a densely settled region with small townships. It appears that the location of Auchnagallin falls within or to the east of a geographical location referred to as *Hills of Limekill*, presumably indicating a geological source of limestone.

##### **John Thomson's *Atlas of Scotland, 1832: Northern Part of Inverness-shire. Southern Part.***

Thomson's map notes small townships at *W. Achnagallon* and *E. Achnagallon* to the northwest and *Balnaclash* to the southeast.

##### **Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 mile 1st Edition**

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<sup>8</sup> RCAHMS 2004

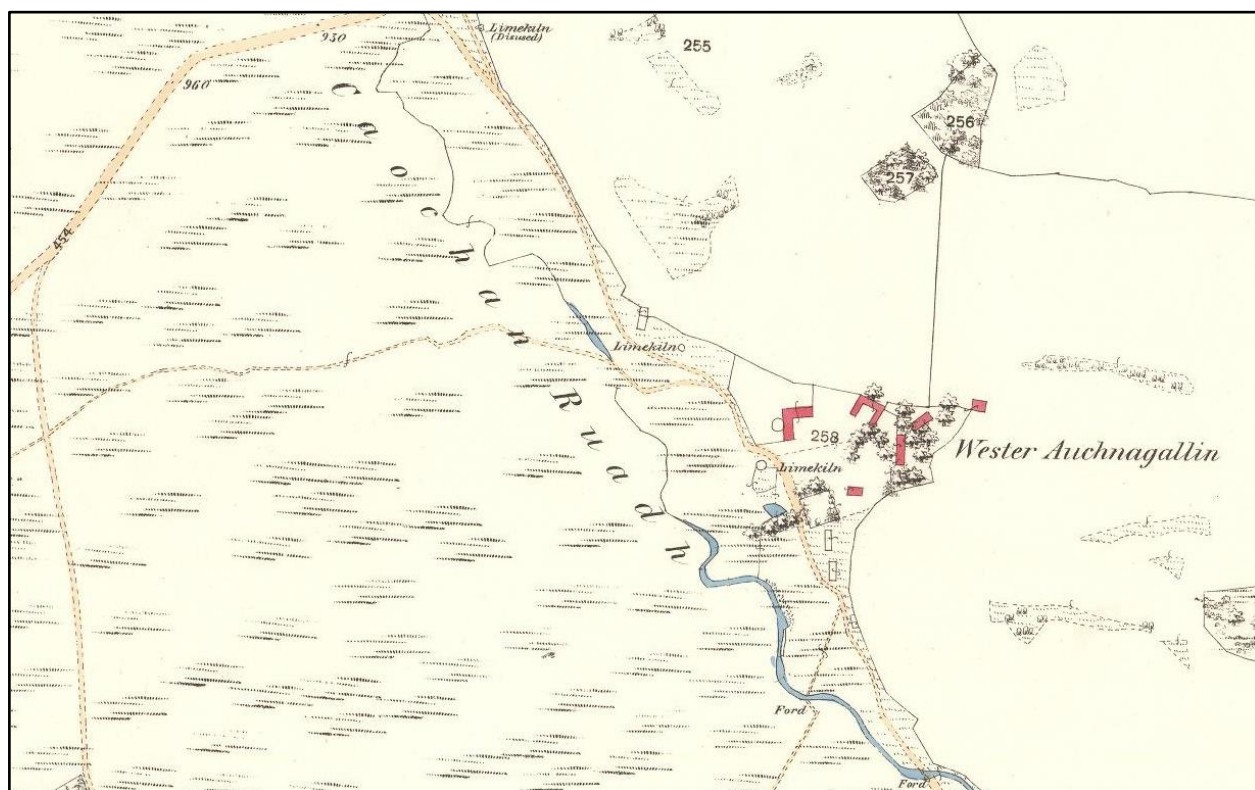
<sup>9</sup> IfA 2009



***Elgin (Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie), Sheet XXX.5 - Surveyed 1868, published 1874***

The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map (Figure 2) depicts six roofed and four unroofed buildings, enclosures and field boundary walls at Wester Auchnagallin, located outside of the eastern edge of the survey area. There is one lime kiln shown on the west side of the farmstead and a second lime kiln approximately 200m northwest of it. A third lime kiln, outside of the northeast corner of the survey area, is marked as *disused*. The road shown running along the west side of Wester Auchnagallin is depicted as the *supposed site of Roman Road*.

The survey area is mostly depicted as open heather moorland, with the exception of two tracks and two features noted along the *Coachan Ruadh* burn, which runs from northwest to southeast along the east side of the survey area. The northern track runs westward from the road at Wester Auchnagallin to where it meets with another track beyond the western survey area boundary. There is a wide crossing for the track over the *Coachan Ruadh* burn depicted on the map. The burn itself is shown as wider to the north of this crossing and narrower to the south of it. Further south, the burn widens again west of the farmstead and a small area of stone or gravel is noted on the east side of the burn. Downstream of this, a second track runs southwest from the road over a ford and meets with another track northwest of the township at *Auchnarrowmore*.



**Figure 2:** Excerpt from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 25 inch to 1 mile OS map<sup>10</sup>

<sup>10</sup>NLS 2013

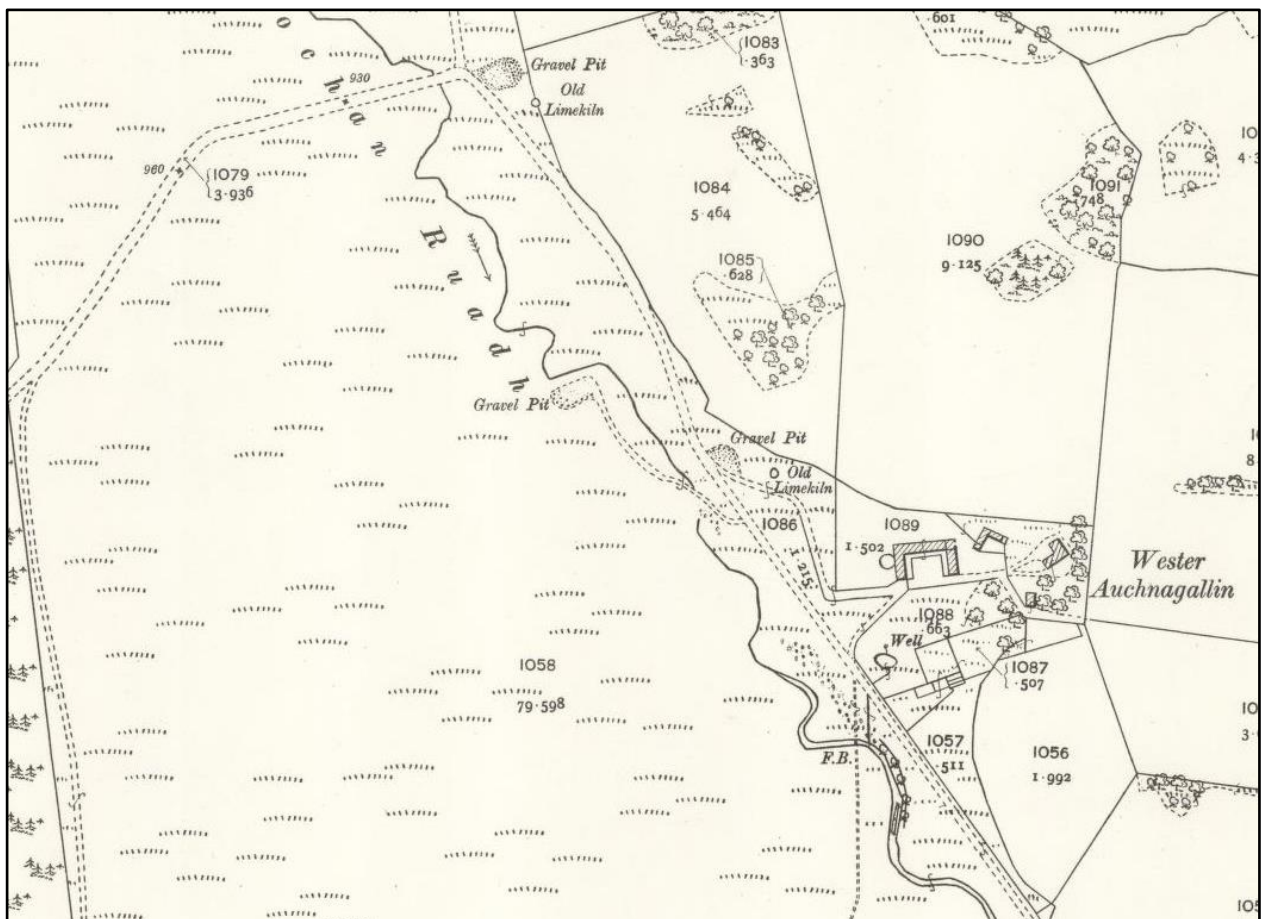


**Ordnance Survey 25 inch to 1 mile 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition  
Elgin-shire, Sheet 030.05 – Revised ca. 1903/1904, published 1905**

There are substantial changes depicted to the buildings and enclosures at Wester Auchnagallin on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition map (Figure 3), although the majority of the farm is still in use. The north-western lime kiln is shown as disused, whilst the lime kiln west of the farmstead is not depicted. The old lime kiln by the north-eastern corner of the survey area is also shown, along with a gravel pit. The line of the road on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition has also changed to follow the present-day route.

Within the survey area the northern track no longer crosses the survey area but runs a short distance across the burn to a gravel pit in the northeastern section of the survey area. The burn crossing for this track is depicted similarly to the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, although the burn is not depicted with a widening to the north side of the crossing. Also, a stony area is shown on the south side of the burn crossing.

The southern track, still shown, has shifted northward and runs across a second stony area near the widening of the burn shown southeast of the burn crossing. A line of trees has been planted southeast of this stony area, and a portion of a possible wall is shown running alongside it.



**Figure 3:** Excerpt from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 25 inch to 1 mile OS map<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> NLS 2013

### 5.1.2 Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HHER)

A full search of the Highland Council Historic Environment Record revealed no sites within the survey area. However, the farmstead at Wester Auchnagallin was noted next to the eastern boundary:

**MHG35853**

**NJ 05040 33360 (centred)**

**Wester Auchnagallin**

A township, comprising six roofed buildings, four unroofed buildings, two enclosures and two limekilns is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Elginshire 1874, sheet xxx). It also notes that one of the buildings has a horse-engine attached to it.

## 5.2 Walkover Survey Results

The walkover survey revealed seven unrecorded archaeological sites (Figure 4) which relate to possible prehistoric activity and Post Medieval and later occupation of the area. The majority of the sites are concentrated along the Caochan Ruadh burn, which runs along the north-eastern boundary of the survey area, to the west of the Wester Auchnagallin farmstead. The Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites (Appendix 1) provides details of the seven sites identified during the survey.

### 5.2.1 Conditions

The survey area was walked over and surveyed on 20 May 2013, during dry weather. Conditions on the ground were good, although the ground was slightly boggy in places, and visibility was unimpaired.

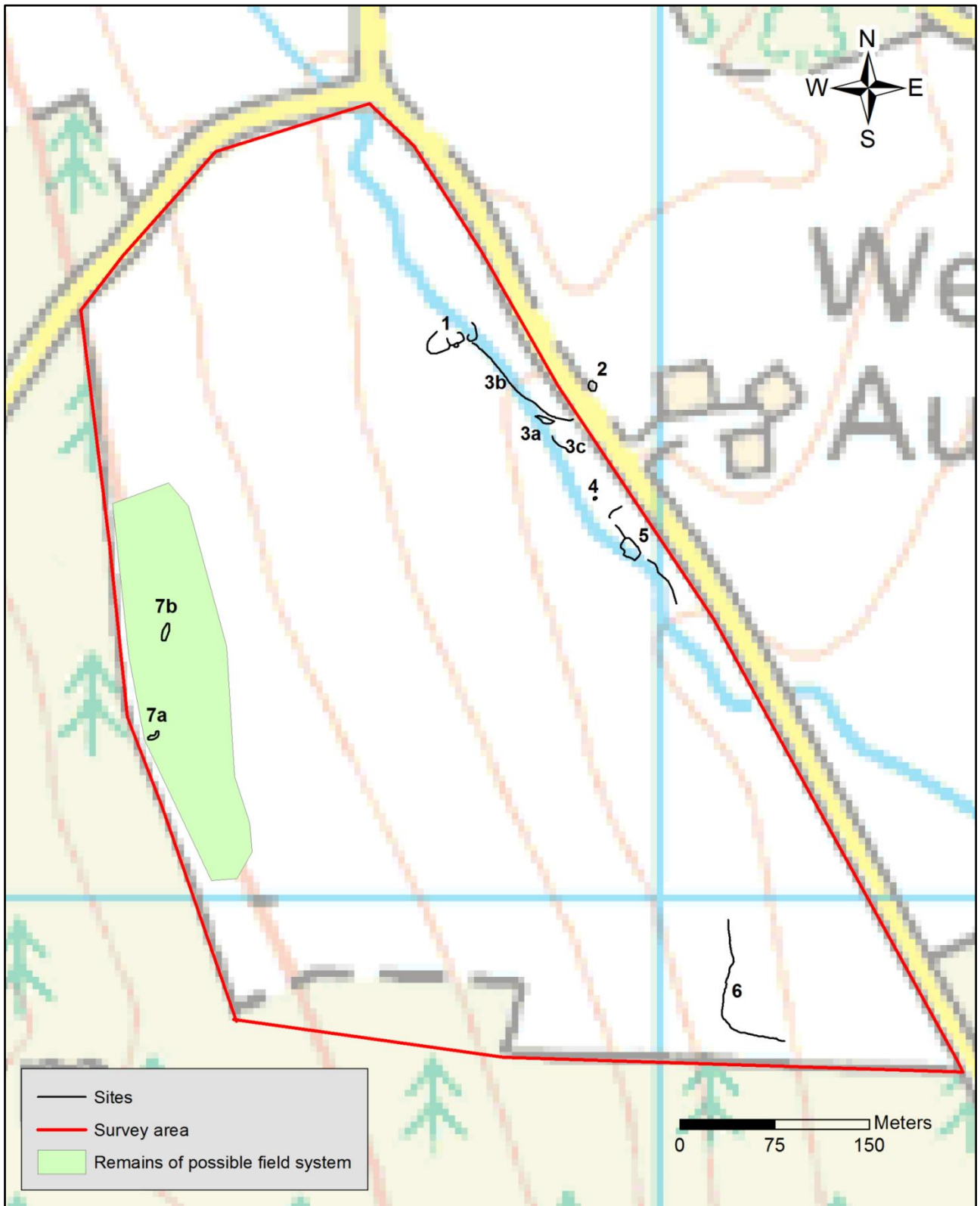
### 5.2.2 Post Medieval Sites

The majority of the sites recorded within the survey area relate to Post Medieval or later activity (Sites 1-6; Figure 4) and, with the exception of Site 6 (a boundary wall), cluster along the Caochan Ruadh burn to the west of the Wester Auchnagallin farmstead, which lies just beyond the survey area's limit. Site 2 (limekiln) lies outwith the survey area but was recorded due to its close proximity and possible relationship to Sites 1 and 2.

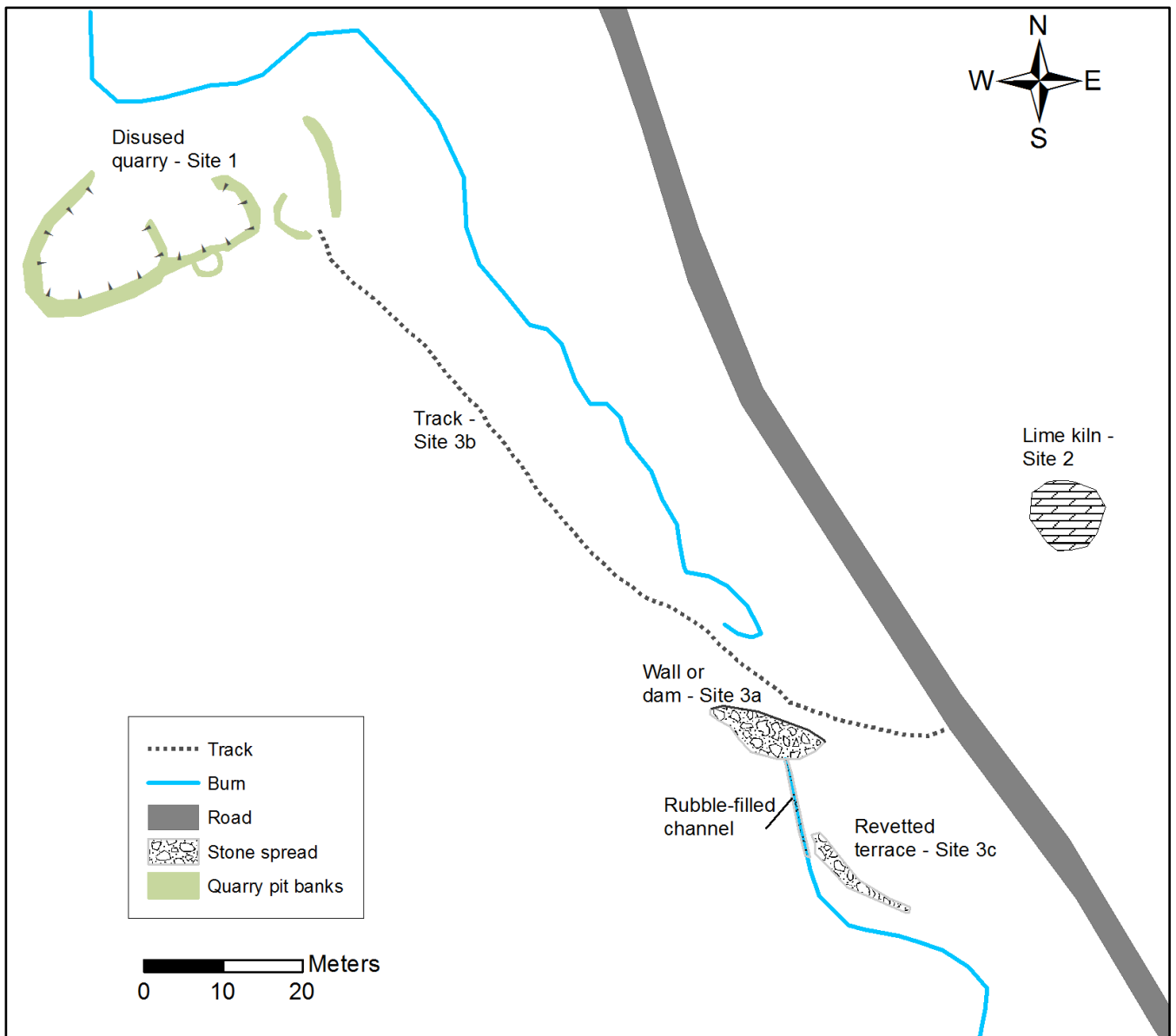
Sites 1-3, a quarry (Plate 1), limekiln (Plate 2), track, dam (Plate 3) and walls, form a small industrial complex (Figure 5). The area where the track crosses the stream has been interpreted as a dam as the stream has been modified on both the upstream and downstream sides. The modification is most evident on the downstream side where there is a large mound of stone, which has a circular appearance that may have been the base of a structure. Additionally, the stream channel here has been filled with stones for several metres.

The limekiln and track are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 25-inch map and were therefore in existence prior to the OS survey in 1868. By the time of the revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map in 1903/4, the quarry is depicted and the limekiln has gone out of use. It is not known whether the extraction of gravel here is connected to the production of lime.

Site 4 is a small pile of stone interpreted as clearance material.



**Figure 4:** Location of the archaeological sites



**Figure 5:** Plan showing the industrial complex comprising sites 1-3

Site 5 is in a much degraded state with a large spread of stone making a definitive interpretation difficult, although walling was evident along the bank facing the stream. It is possible that this is related to the location of the limekiln and associated infrastructure depicted to the southwest of Wester Auchnagallin on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 25-inch map (Figure 2), but which is no longer in evidence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition map.

Site 6 is a much degraded, heather-covered bank that may be the remains of a boundary dyke.

### 5.2.3 Prehistoric Site

A possible area of prehistoric activity was located along the south-western boundary of the survey area. Situated on a terrace, a heather-, moss- and grass-covered bank shows possible indications of structural remains on the east side and could be the much degraded remains of a hut circle. It is located along the edge of the fence-line in an area with small-medium grass-covered mounds, which may be the remains of a possible field system. The much degraded nature of the sites makes a definitive interpretation of them impossible; however they lie on the type of terrain typically used in prehistory for settlement and cultivation.





**Plate 1:** Site 1, the quarry or gravel pit.



**Plate 2:** Site 2, the limekiln.





**Plate 3:** Sites 3a and 3b, the dam and track with site 1, the quarry, in the background.

## **6.0 Discussion**

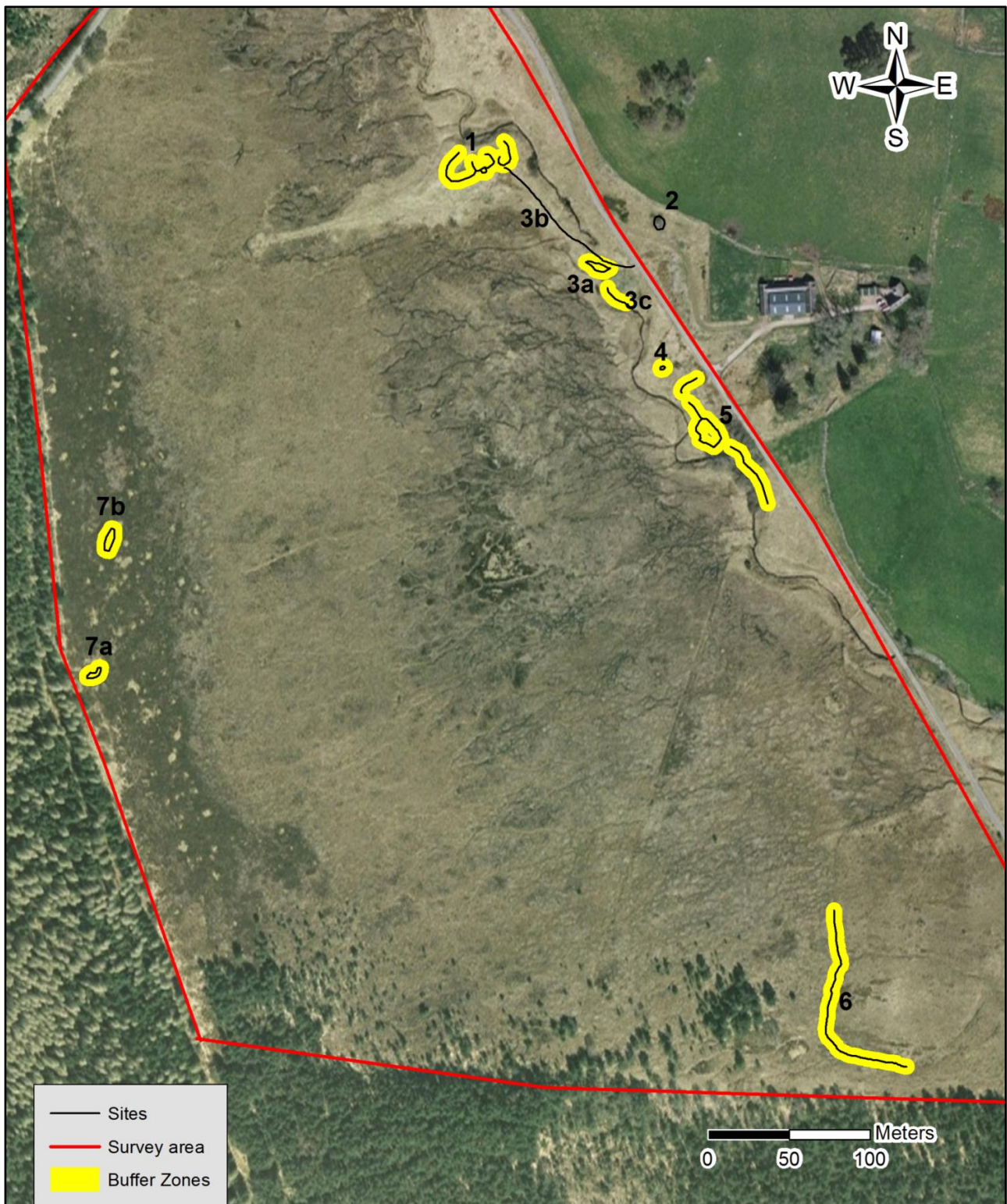
- 6.1 The walkover survey recorded seven previously unrecorded archaeological sites within the survey area. The majority of the sites are Post- Medieval in date, with the exception of the area of possible prehistoric settlement and field system.
- 6.2 The Post-Medieval structures represent industrial activity that took place over many years, which is depicted on the historical mapping and referred to in the Old and New Statistical Accounts.
- 6.3 The remains of the possible prehistoric structures and field system are not conclusive in their interpretation, but have been included in the results as they are situated in a typical landscape setting for such activity.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 The following buffer zones should be retained around archaeological sites recorded during the walkover survey (Figure 6):
  - A 5-metre buffer zone all the sites recorded with the exception of site 2, the limekiln outwith the survey area, and site 3b, the track. Preservation of the entire area of the possible field system (Figure 4) has not been recommended due to the uncertain interpretation and poor survival of the remains found.



- 7.2 Sites should be marked out with highly visible fencing or flags prior to planting of new woodland.
- 7.3 Access tracks for vehicles associated with the proposed developments should also respect the recommendations set out above.



**Figure 6:** Plan showing the proposed buffer zones around the archaeological sites. Imagery supplied under ESRI licensing, World Imagery layer.

## 8.0 References

British Geological Survey (BGS) 2013. Accessed 28 May 2013 at <http://bgs.ac.uk>

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**APPENDIX 1 Auchnagallin Lease Area Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites**

| Site No. | Site Type          | Site Name    | Description  | Alignment | Condition     | Period        | Ht OD (m) | Easting | Northing | Photo No. |
|----------|--------------------|--------------|--|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 1        | Quarry             | Auchnagallin | A sinuous, grass-covered mound aligned E-W is the site of disused quarry pit; it comprises several large pits, the largest at the W end, w/ fragments of low turf/banks on the edges; a faintly visible track (on 2nd Ed OS map) leads from the site to the road. A small, circular pit is located on the top of the quarried mound. It may be a smaller quarry pit. | WNW-ESE   | Very degraded | Post Medieval | 265       | 304829  | 833433   | 1-3       |
| 2        | Limekiln           | Auchnagallin | A ruinous, D-shaped limekiln comprises 1m-wide boulder/stone walls with a flue on the SE side. It stands 1m high on the E, N and W sides where it is enclosed by a U-shaped bank spread 1.5m wide. It measures 2m high and 3m across on the SE side.   | -         | Ruinous       | Post Medieval | 265       | 304951  | 833403   | 4-8       |
| 3a       | Wall or dam        | Auchnagallin | Along the S edge of a grass-covered platform crossing a burn is a rubble-built wall face 0.6m high and 0.4m wide forming the edge of a dam or revetment for the platform. It measures 15m long WNW-ESE w/ a stone spread up to 5m wide at the base.  | WNW-ESE   | Ruinous       | Post Medieval | 265       | 304911  | 833381   | 9-12      |
| 3b       | Track              | Auchnagallin | The line of a disused, grass-covered track leads from the road, across the burn to the disused quarry, Site 1. The burn crossing comprises a grass-covered platform 10m wide, w/ a possible dam or revetment wall (Site 3a) along the S edge.  | NW-SE     | Degraded      | Post Medieval | 265       | 304889  | 833402   | -         |
| 3c       | Wall               | Auchnagallin | A grass-covered spread of stone along the edge of a lower burn terrace, NE side of burn, may be the remains of a revetment wall for the terrace. It is located to the SE of a section of the burn channel, at the base of Site 3a, which is filled w/ rubble.  | NE-SW     | Degraded      | Post Medieval | 265       | 304921  | 833360   | 13        |
| 4        | Cairn              | Auchnagallin | A small cairn of large stones and boulders measures 1.5m E-W by 1.2m and up to 0.5m high. There is further stone spread around the edges under grass. It may be a clearance cairn.   | E-W       | Degraded      | Unknown       | 265       | 304952  | 833316   | 14        |
| 5        | Revetment wall (?) | Auchnagallin | Grass-covered linear spreads of stone along the edge of the burn terrace may have formed walling or a revetment to the burn terrace. A extensive spread of stone at the centre of the feature may be the remains of clearance material overlying the wall.   | NE-SW     | Degraded      | Unknown       | 265       | 304974  | 833275   | 15-17     |
| 6        | Boundary wall      | Auchnagallin | The very degraded remains of a heather-covered low bank forms the remains of a possible field boundary wall with banks spread 1.4m-2m wide and standing up to 0.4-0.5m high.   | -         | Degraded      | Unknown       | 265       | 305052  | 832917   | -         |

ANG13 – Auchnagallin, Grantown-on-Spey: Archaeological Walkover Survey

| Site No. | Site Type | Site Name    | Description  | Align-ment | Condition     | Period  | Ht OD (m) | Easting | Northing | Photo No. |
|----------|-----------|--------------|--|------------|---------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 7a       | Bank      | Auchnagallin | A heather-, moss- and grass-covered bank spread up to 1.5m wide shows possible indications of structural remains on the E side. It is located along the edge of the fenceline in an area with small-medium grass-covered mounds,which may be the remains of a possible field system. | -          | Very degraded | Unknown | 305       | 304605  | 833131   | -         |
| 7b       | Bank      | Auchnagallin | A heather-, moss- and grass-covered linear bank may be the remains of a structure. It is located along the edge of the fenceline in an area with small-medium grass-covered mounds,which may be the remains of a possible field system.  | -          | Very degraded | Unknown | 305       | 304609  | 833204   | -         |



**APPENDIX 2      Auchnagallin Lease Area: Index of Photographs**

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Direction Facing</b> | <b>Site No.</b> | <b>Notes</b>   | <b>Taken By</b> | <b>Date</b> |
|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|-------------|
| 1          | SW                      | 1               | Disused quarry site - grass-covered mound with hollows to north side   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 2          | WSW                     | 1               | Disused quarry site - grass-covered mound with hollows to north side   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 3          | WSW                     | 1               | Landscape situation of disused quarry  | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 4          | N                       | 2               | Ruinous limekiln, showing the 'eye' (aperture at the base of the kiln)   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 5          | NW                      | 2               | Ruinous limekiln, showing the 'eye' (aperture at the base of the kiln)   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 6          | NW                      | 2               | Ruinous limekiln   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 7          | NW                      | 2               | Ruinous limekiln   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 8          | E                       | 2               | Location of limekiln with road in front centre and Wester Auchnagallin steadings to right  | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 9          | NW                      | 3a              | Spread of stone located on left side of grass-covered platform (track across burn); alignment of stone on right side of rubble formed a possible wall face to a track revetment or dam   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 10         | N                       | 3a              | Rubble/stone-lined channel of burn on the S side of the stone spread and wall/dam (visible in centre background)   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 11         | N                       | 3a              | Photograph looking across the ruinous stone structure Site 3a - shows the stone alignment, above the rubble, that may have formed a face to a revetment wall or dam along the edge of grass-covered platform crossing the burn (runs out of photo to centre left and centre right)   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 12         | N                       | 3a              | Photograph looking across the ruinous stone structure Site 3a - shows the stone alignment, above the rubble, that may have formed a face to a revetment wall or dam along the edge of grass-covered platform crossing the burn; circular, grass-covered patch at centre of rubble may be indicative of a dip in the rubble | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 13         | E                       | 3c              | Ruinous stone wall or revetment wall (centre of photo) located along the burn terrace  | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 14         | NW                      | 4               | Small stone cairn at the top of burn terrace   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 15         | SE                      | 5               | Spread of stone along edge of burn terrace; may have formed ruinous walling or revetment along the terrace   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 16         | E                       | 5               | Extensive stone spread above burn terrace - possible field clearance on ruined wall or substantial revetment wall along the terrace  | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |
| 17         | NE                      | 5               | Spread of stone along edge of burn terrace; may have formed ruinous walling or revetment along the terrace   | MKP             | 20/05/2013  |