

# GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



## Culloden footpaths and drainage scheme Data Structure Report Project 3436

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## Culloden footpaths and drainage scheme

### Data Structure Report

**On behalf of:** National Trust for Scotland

**NGR:** NH 742445

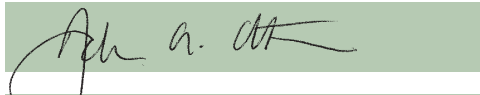
**Project Number:** 3436

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**Approved by:**

  
06/10/2012

**Date:**

*This document has been prepared in accordance  
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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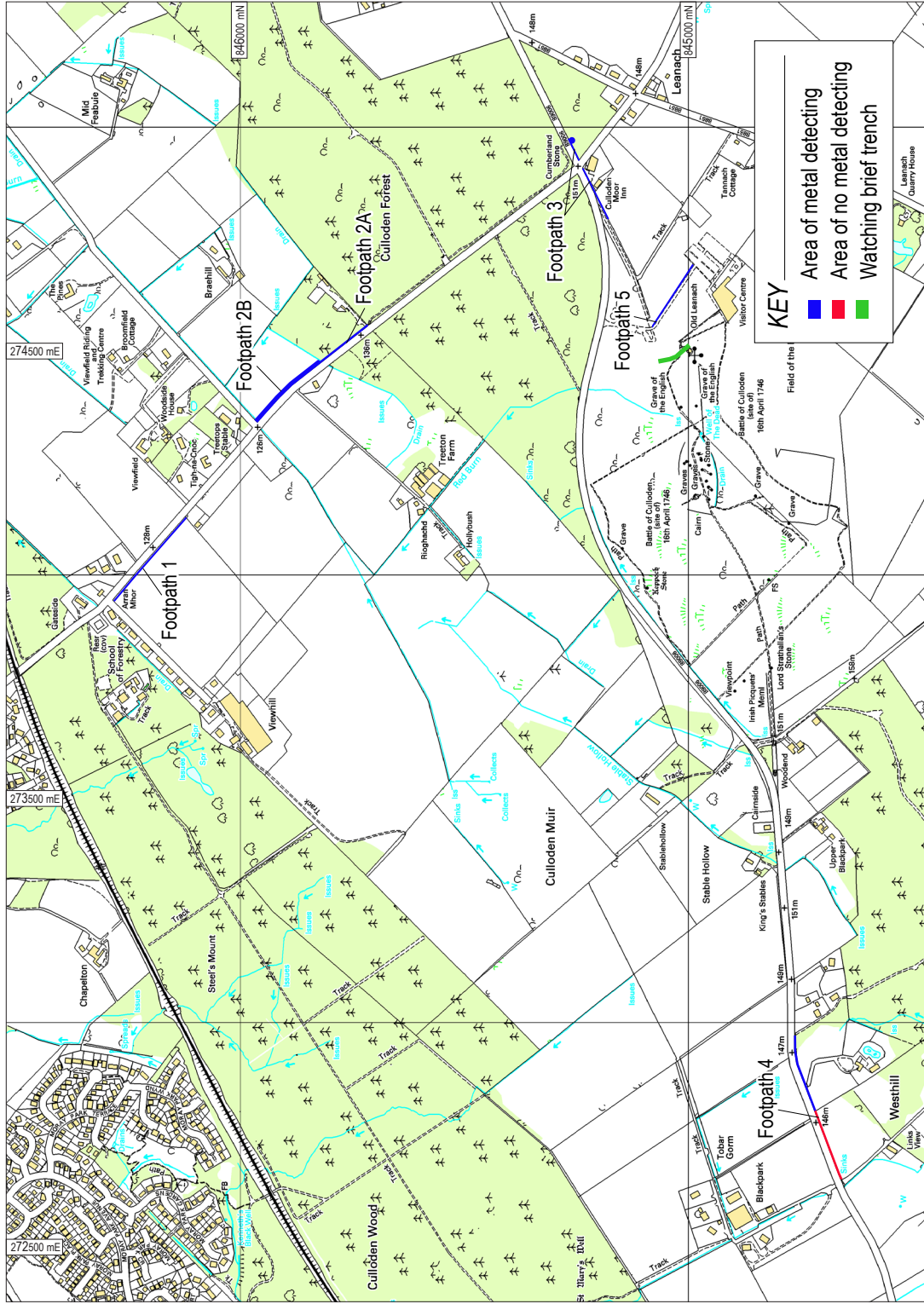
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**Figure 1:**  
Site location.

0 500 m

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## Executive Summary

- 1.1 GUARD Archaeology Limited was commissioned by National Trust for Scotland to undertake a metal detector survey prior to the construction of footpaths around the Culloden Battlefield site, Inverness. This work was undertaken between 21- 25 May 2012 and revealed no significant archaeological finds.
- 1.2 A further phase of watching brief was carried out during the construction of a drain next to Old Leanach Cottage. This work was undertaken on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2012 and revealed no significant archaeological finds.
- 1.3 A subsequent visit carry out metal detecting along footpath 2 area A which was previously inaccessible due to undergrowth was carried out on 10th-11th October 2012.

## Introduction

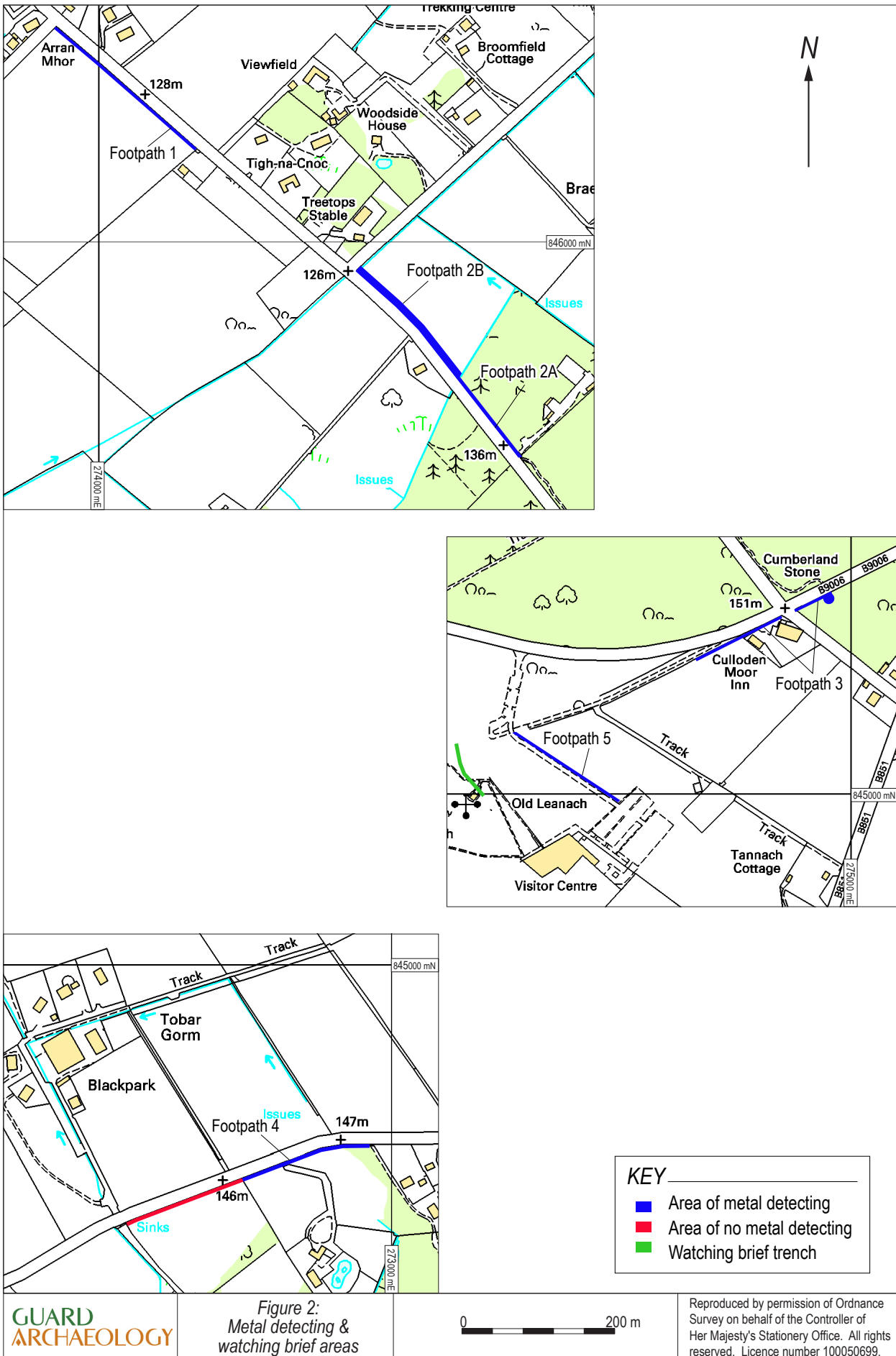
- 2.1 This report sets out the results of a metal detector survey and watching brief undertaken by GUARD Archaeology, on behalf of National Trust for Scotland on five areas proposed for the construction of footpaths around Culloden Battlefield and Old Leanach Cottage, Inverness. During the course of the metal detector survey and watching brief no significant archaeological finds were discovered. GUARD Archaeology undertook this programme of work between 21st – 25th of May, 7th of August and 10th-12th October 2012.

## Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The proposed development location lies across five different areas along the edges of the battlefield at Culloden Moor in Inverness (NGR NH742445) (Figure 1). The surveyed area covers approximately 6,625 m<sup>2</sup>. All the areas surveyed are inside the inventory boundary for the Battle of Culloden or in its periphery (north area of footpath 1 and west area of footpath 4) ([www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/battleofculloden](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/battleofculloden)).
- 3.2 Footpath 1 is bounded by the Edgemoor Park Road at its east, by fields to its west and south and houses to its north and currently consists of fairly flat field used for agricultural purposes. To the south-east of this footpath, footpath 2 is located and divided in Areas A and B. This path is bounded by fields and wood to its south and east, by Edgemoor Park Road at its west and Braehill Farm at its north. Area B, a fairly flat field is currently used for agricultural purposes, while area A is used as coniferous woodland. Footpath 3, a flat landscaped road verge, is situated around Cumberland's Stone just south of the B9006 road. Footpath 4 is defined by the Westhill Farm to its south, by the B9006 road to its north and Bayview Farm at its east and a track road at its west. Some of this area is currently used as pasture field, while the rest is a flat landscaped road verge. Finally footpath 5, a flat landscaped road verge, is located at the east side of the access road to the Culloden Visitor Centre (Figure 2).
- 3.3 The watching brief area is situated east of Old Leanach Cottage and currently consists of fairly flat field used as part of the Battlefield site.
- 3.4 The underlying drift geology consists of Devensian Till while the solid geology consists of Inshes Flagstone Formation – Sandstone ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

## Archaeological Background

- 4.1 Culloden battlefield area is a scheduled ancient monument known as Culloden Battlesite (SAM: 967; SMR: MGH3047; NMRS: NH74NW 17.0), Grave of the Clans, Cairn and Well of the Dead (NMRS: NH74NW 17.03; SMR: MHG14275). The Battle of Culloden took place on the 16th April 1746 between about 4500 men under Charles Edward Stuart and a Hanoverian force of 9000 led by the Duke of Cumberland. The result was an overwhelming victory for the Hanoverians (Brander 1975; Prentice 1976). A modern memorial cairn bearing an appropriate inscription



has been erected at a spot where there was intense fighting. There are several associated memorials on site and Cumberland's Stone (NMRS: NH74NW 17.01; SMR: MHG3046) is one of them. According to local tradition, the Cumberland Stone, near Culloden Moor, marks the spot where on the morning of the battle the "Butcher Duke" took breakfast. The huge conglomerate stone served the purpose of his table, and later in the day was used by him as an elevated point to survey the field. It measures 16 m in circumference and is 1.5 m high (Aberdeen Journal, 1909, 2, 132-3 and The Scotsman, 27 April 1909). On the top of the Cumberland Stone is the inscription 'Position of the Duke of Cumberland during the Battle of Culloden'.

- 4.2 Several archaeological projects had been conducted over the years in Culloden. After an analysis of contemporary plans of the battlefield, an attempt was made to locate a small polygonal enclosure in which the English dead are said to have been buried, and to assess whether any of the surviving enclosures could date from the time of the battle (NMRS: NH 741 447). The Grave of the English (NMRS: NH74NW 17.02) has been previously recorded as an enclosure known as 'Field of the English' so called from the fact that it was made a burial place for the English soldiers who were slain in the Battle of Culloden (Name Book 1869). A large granite stone with the inscription: 'Field of the English They were buried here' was located south of the road. All of the current drystone enclosures seem to date from around 1845, but to some extent follow the approximate lines of the larger enclosure shown on plans of 1746. Resistance and gradiometer surveys were conducted on two discrete areas of the battlefield at Culloden: the area around Old Leanach and an area in the extreme west of the land owned by NTS (NMRS: NH 745 450 and NH 740 448) (Neighbour 1995).
- 4.3 In June 2000 and September 2001 a programme of fieldwork was carried out (NMRS: NH 741 447) which included topographic survey of the battlefield area, GPR survey of the clan graves and the 'Field of the English' (where Government troops are presumed to have been buried), metal-detector survey of the 'Field of the English' and the area between the Interpretation Centre and the clan graves, geophysical survey of the area around Old Leanach Cottage and the area between the Interpretation Centre and the clan graves and excavation of the denuded walled feature adjacent to Old Leanach Cottage, traditionally referred to as the 'Red Barn'. The metal-detector survey revealed that both the Jacobite and Hanoverian lines extend further to the south than previously believed, while GPR survey revealed the presence of grave pits beneath the mounds in the clan cemetery (Pollard and Oliver 2001).
- 4.4 A further multi-faceted investigation was undertaken in April 2005 (NMRS: NH 741 447) as part of the programme of site re-assessment related to the construction of a new visitor centre. Metal detector survey, geophysical survey and limited excavation were combined to pursue a number of research avenues relating to the location, progress and character of the battle and the role of the landscape. Metal detector survey was carried out across a wide transect passing roughly east/west through the Field of the English, the reconstructed Leanach enclosure and the area beyond. This resulted in a considerable assemblage of battle-related debris, including around 250 lead balls of various types. This material represents several stages of the battle, including the Government artillery barrage, the Jacobite charge, hand-to-hand fighting on the Government left, and the fighting withdrawal of the Jacobite force. Geophysical survey was used in an attempt to locate the unmarked graves of the Government troops in the Field of the English. Both magnetometer and resistivity techniques were deployed, with some promising results. In addition to possible prehistoric activity, in the form of a circular feature, a large anomaly may represent a burial pit, especially when viewed in conjunction with the pattern of artefact deposition. Finally, the hand-excavation of two evaluation trenches across geophysical anomalies, first identified after survey in 2000, was carried out in an effort to locate the buried remains of a building related to the farmstead now represented by Old Leanach Cottage. One of these trenches contained a linear trench, which may relate to the foundation cut for the wall of a building, possibly related to the farmstead (Pollard 2005).
- 4.5 A post medieval farmstead was located in the vicinity of the footpaths: Braehill (NMRS: NH74NW.108; SMR: MHG25836), A post medieval well known as Viewhill (SMR: MHG51307) is also situated in the vicinity of footpath 1. Another farmstead, Westhill (NMRS: NH74SW 35; SMR: MHG25842) is situated close to the footpath 4.

## Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The general aim of the metal detector survey was to recover any archaeological metal finds encountered and record them fully. The specific objectives were:
- Establish the presence or absence of any archaeological finds within the development areas,
  - Record any archaeological finds encountered,
  - Fully excavate and survey any possible significant finds encountered,
- 5.2 The general aim of the watching brief was to identify any archaeological features encountered and record them fully. The specific objectives were:
- Establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains within the development area,
  - Determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered,
  - Fully excavate and salvage any information possible from any significant features encountered.

## Methodology *(Figure 1)*

- 6.1 Footpath areas were scanned using a metal detector machine (White's DFX spectrum E-Series) in 2 m wide transects running in a linear fashion along each of the blocks of ground defined as the course of the new footpath. The detected metal finds were then flagged and topsoil was removed to expose the metal find. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork. Survey of the finds was conducted using a Sub-metre DGPS (Magellan Mobilemapper CX).
- 6.2 During the watching brief topsoil was stripped using a mechanical excavator, fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. The topsoil was removed in spits to the surface of the subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork. A metal detector survey was also conducted on the spoilheap produced by the ground breaking work. The detected metal finds were then recorded, recovered and surveyed using a Sub-metre DGPS (Magellan Mobilemapper CX).
- 6.3 Conditions for the metal detector survey were dry and very hot while for the watching brief were overcast.

## Results

### Metal detector survey

- 7.1 A total area of approximately more than 4,750 m<sup>2</sup> was surveyed in 2 m wide transits. Two areas (footpath 2A and the field in footpath 4) covering an approximate area of 1,875 m<sup>2</sup> were not metal detected due to the presence of trees, dense undergrowth and gorse bushes.
- 7.2 In footpath 1, an area of 4 m from the fence line was metal detected. The area was divided in two transects revealing less than ten hits approximately. No significant finds were retrieved from this area apart from modern finds and cans.
- 7.3 The biggest area covered by the metal detector survey was located on footpath 2, area B. The area under investigation was 10 m in length from the fence and it was divided in five different



transects. It revealed approximately 35 hits, mostly located close to the road edge. However only five of these were collected, surveyed and recorded (SFs 1- 5). One of these finds was an iron chain (SF 5), probably used to lock the access gate to the field. The rest looked like possible iron tools or pieces of tools (SFs 1-4). Footpath 2 area A, a continuation of footpath 2 area B to the south-east recorded numerous modern finds comprising mainly empty modern drinks cans, bottle tops, fencing paraphernalia and discarded car parts. Five rusty iron objects recovered from the base of a shallow topsoil layer, small finds 13-17 were retained although none, after a cursory inspection, would appear to be items obviously associated with the battle site.

- 7.4 Footpath 3 covered 4 m from the road verge and around the Cumberland Stone. It was divided in two transects and revealed 25 hits. Most of these hits were modern in nature, probably due to the close proximity of the road but two finds were retrieved (SFs 6- 7). While SF 7 was an amorphous piece of iron, SF 6 was more interesting although is currently unidentified. Shaped as a squared 'U' shaped iron object with an arch attached to one of its side, the opposite side of this area had several spikes organized in lines.
- 7.5 In footpath 4, an area approximately between 3-4 m between the B9006 road verge and a fence was surveyed. It was divided in two transects and fifteen hits were detected. Most of the finds were modern, one of them was a spanner, but three finds (SFs 8-10) were collected and recorded. SF 8 was a flat square with a broken circularly shaped attachment area at its back while SF10 was a rounded iron object with a hole at one of its sides. SF 9 was the most modern looking of them, with some circular plastic at one side.
- 7.6 Finally in footpath 5, an area of approximately 4 m was metal detected in two transects. It exposed seven hits, however only two of these metal finds were significant and therefore collected and recorded (SFs 11-12). Small find 12 looks like a chain ring while SF11 is a rivet.
- 7.7 During the metal detector survey a total of 17 artefacts were recovered from topsoil deposits across the area (See Appendix A). It seemed that most of the metal finds were modern and concentrated on the proximity of the road verge. This concentration could be associated with accidental or deliberate discharge of from passing vehicles, but could also be related to agricultural use of some of the fields studied.

### Watching brief

- 7.8 A total area of less than 24 m<sup>2</sup> was stripped of topsoil to reveal light brown sandy silt (002). Over the majority of the area topsoil deposits were 0.18 m to 0.5 m thick, being deeper at the north side. In some areas a deposit of made ground of white sand with inclusions of rubble (003) and grey brown clayish silt subsoil (005) was encountered. Further to the north the made ground consisted of yellowy light brown sand (004) overlying a light yellow/brown clayish silt subsoil (006). An area in the vicinity of the old visitor centre revealed made ground consisting of re-deposited subsoil (007) consisting of a light yellow/brown clayish silt overlying type 1 stone (008), which in turn sealed a deposit of dark brown sandy silt (009). Finally at the north end, a layer made of large boulders was exposed underneath terram (010). During the course of the watching brief no features of archaeological significance were encountered.
- 7.9 During the watching brief a background scatter of metal artefacts were recorded from the spoilheap across the area, after the metal detector survey.

### Discussion

- 8.1 Even though the metal detector survey covered areas included within the Inventory for the Battle of Culloden or within its immediate vicinity, no significant archaeological artefacts associated with the battle were revealed. Given that the Government forces line of advance and their initial position within the battlefield is likely to have taken in the locations of footpaths 1-3, the presence of related materials in these areas is not unlikely. In contrast footpath 4 was on the route of Jacobite retreat while footpath 5 was on the route of Jacobites who broke through the Government line. Once again related material could easily have been found in this

area too. However, initial analysis of the recovered artefacts seems to suggest they are largely composed of modern agricultural implements and vehicle parts, rather than eighteenth century armaments.

- 8.2 No features of archaeological significance were found during the watching brief even though Old Leanach cottage is situated within the defined area of the Battle of Culloden. Previous metal detector surveys conducted in the enclosure of this farm, known traditionally as 'Red Barn' had demonstrated that it was part of the second Government line in which hand to hand fighting occurred. Finds recovered and assessed during this phase of work however did not suggest being associated to the fight. Instead they seem to represent modern agricultural tools.

## Recommendations

- 9.1 The metal detector survey has proved that no archaeologically sensitive finds exist within the sections of pathway scanned as part of this project. It is also evident from the finds recovered that most relate to fairly modern agricultural and vehicular discharge along the edges of busy roads.
- 9.2 Given that the locations of the footpaths coincide with key locations during the battlefield it seems likely that material culture may still be encountered in these areas, particularly within the areas not surveyed due to the presence of dense undergrowth and trees. In consequence, it is recommended that once all undergrowth has been removed the metal detector survey should be continued in these areas.
- 9.3 The watching brief work has proved that no archaeologically sensitive deposits or features exist within the development area. In consequence, it is recommended that no further archaeological work is required.

## Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank National Trust for Scotland for their assistance and Colin Ross for showing the location of the footpaths. Technical support was from Aileen Maule and John Kiely. The illustrations were produced by Fiona Jackson. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD Archaeology Limited by John Atkinson.

**Culloden footpaths and drainage scheme  
Data Structure Report**

**Section 2: Appendices**



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## Appendices

### Appendix A: Bibliography

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[http:// www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/battleofculloden.pdf>

Cartographic resources:

1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1874, sheet xii)

1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Nairnshire 1871-4-6, sheet vi)

### Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	Watching brief	Grass/Turf	Turf
002	Watching brief	Loose light brown sandy silt with occasional ceramic fragments and big boulders. Depth: 0.18-0.5m.	Topsoil
003	Watching brief	Loose white sand mixed with bricks and boulders. Depth: 0.2m.	Demolition/debris layer
004	Watching brief	Loose yellowy light brown sand. Depth: 0.13-0.18m.	-
005	Watching brief	Loose grey brown clayish silt	Subsoil
006	Watching brief	Moderately compacted light yellow/brown clayish silt with occasional pebbles/cobbles	Subsoil
007	Watching brief	Loose light yellow brown clayish silt. Depth: 0.3m	Redeposited natural- Made up ground
008	Watching brief	Moderately compacted type 1 stone. Depth: 0.25m.	Made up ground
009	Watching brief	Loose dark brown sandy silt. Depth: 0.2m.	Possible old topsoil underneath made up ground
010	Watching brief	Hardly compacted boulders of different sizes.	Old path underneath terrain.

### Appendix C: List of Finds

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
1	Footpath 2 area B	Topsoil	1	Metal	Flat possible iron object
2	Footpath 2 area B	Topsoil	1	Metal	Iron rounded stick with hoop at the end
3	Footpath 2 area B	Topsoil	1	Metal	Flat iron object
4	Footpath 2 area B	Topsoil	1	Metal	Unidentified iron object
5	Footpath 2 area B	Topsoil	1	Metal	Iron chain?
6	Footpath 3	Topsoil	1	Metal	Unidentified iron object
7	Footpath 3	Topsoil	1	Metal	Unidentified iron object
8	Footpath 5	Topsoil	1	Metal	Unidentified iron object
9	Footpath 5	Topsoil	1	Metal	Possibly modern unidentified object
10	Footpath 5	Topsoil	1	Metal	Rounded iron object
11	Footpath 4	Topsoil	1	Metal	Iron nail
12	Footpath 4	Topsoil	1	Metal	Iron bicycle part?
13	Footpath 2 area A	Topsoil	1	Metal	Heavily corroded thick iron pin?
14	Footpath 2 area A	Topsoil	1	Metal	Heavily corroded T-shaped iron object
15	Footpath 2 area A	Topsoil	1	Metal	Curved iron pin/wire with probable concretions at one end
16	Footpath 2 area A	Topsoil	1	Metal	Corroded iron pin/wire
17	Footpath 2 area A	Topsoil	1	Metal	Unidentified iron object

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
1	Watching brief	Unstratified	1	Metal	Possible iron nail
2	Watching brief	Unstratified	1	Metal	Unidentified triangular shaped iron? object
3	Watching brief	Unstratified	1	Metal	Flat unidentified object with pointy end
4	Watching brief	Unstratified	1	Metal	Possible iron nail
5	Watching brief	Unstratified	1	Metal	Flat unidentified object similar to SF3 broken at both ends
6	Watching brief	Unstratified	1	Metal	Unidentified heavy flat rectangular iron object
7	Watching brief	Unstratified	4	Metal	Three possible iron nails and unidentified flat object

### Appendix D: List of Photographs

#### File 1

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	-	-	ID shot	-
2	Footpath 2	-	Vegetation in footpath 2's Area A	SE
3	Footpath 5	-	Vegetation in footpath 5	E
4	Footpath 5	046	Vegetation in footpath 5	E
5	Footpath 5	047	Vegetation in footpath 5	E
6	Footpath 2	-	Vegetation in footpath 2's Area A	NW
7	Footpath 2	-	Vegetation in footpath 2's Area A	NW
8	Footpath 2	-	Vegetation in footpath 2's Area A	W
9	Footpath 2	-	Vegetation in footpath 2's Area A	W
10	Footpath 2	-	Vegetation in footpath 2's Area A	NW

#### File 2

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	Watching brief	-	ID shot	-
2	Watching brief	-	Pre-ex shot	S
3	Watching brief	-	Pre-ex shot	S
4	Watching brief	-	Pre-ex shot	S
5	Watching brief	001/002	East facing section	E



Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
6	Watching brief	001/	East facing section	E
7	Watching brief	001/003/004	West facing section	W
8	Watching brief	-	West facing section	W
9	Watching brief	001/005	West facing section	W
10	Watching brief	-	Post-ex of trench	S
11	Watching brief	-	Post-ex of trench	S
12	Watching brief	-	Post-ex of trench	S
13	Watching brief	-	Post-ex of trench	S
14	Watching brief	-	West facing section in area where old visitor centre was located	W
15	Watching brief	-	Post-ex of trench	SW

## File 3

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken from
1	Footpath 2 A	-	ID shot	-
2-4	Footpath 2 A	-	General views of area after removal of undergrowth	SE
5	Footpath 2 A	-	Pit containing what ultimately turned out to be a car hub cap	SE
6	Footpath 2 A	-	Expanded area around pit containing car hub cap	SE
7	Footpath 2 A	-	View showing frequent roots found in some of the excavated pits	E

## Appendix E: Discovery & Excavation Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Culloden Footpaths
PROJECT CODE:	3436
PARISH:	Croy and Dalcross
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Iraia Arabaolaza
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Guard Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Metal detector survey and watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NH74NW 17.0, NH74NW 17.01
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Battlefield
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NH742445 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	21 May 2012
END DATE (this season)	11 October 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	DES 1994, p 35, DES 1995 p39, DES 2001 p52, DES 2005 p 78-79
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>GUARD Archaeology Limited was commissioned by National Trust for Scotland to undertake a metal detector survey prior to the construction of footpaths leading to the Culloden Battlefield site, Inverness. All the areas investigated are inside the inventory boundary for the Battle of Culloden or in its periphery (north area of footpath 1 and west area of footpath 4) (<a href="http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/battleofculloden">www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/battleofculloden</a>).</p> <p>Footpath 1 is bounded by the Edgemoor Park Road at its east, by fields to its west and south and houses to its north and currently consists of fairly flat field used for agricultural purposes. To the south-east of this footpath, footpath 2 is located and divided into two parts, Areas A and B. This path is bounded by fields and wood to its south and east, by Edgemoor Park Road at its west and Braehill Farm at its north. Area B, a fairly flat field is used for agricultural purposes and is currently under pasture, while area A is coniferous woodland. Footpath 3, a flat landscaped road verge, is situated around Cumberland's Stone just south of the B9006 road. Footpath 4 is defined by the Westhill Farm to its south, by the B9006 road to its north and Bayview Farm at its east and a farm track at its west. Some of this area is currently under pasture; the rest is a flat landscaped road verge. Finally footpath 5, a flat landscaped road verge, is located at the east side of the access road to the Culloden Visitor Centre.</p> <p>The metal-detecting was done in 2m wide transects and covered an area of 5735 m2 although a number of metal objects were located they were modern and this work revealed no significant archaeological remains. The metal -detecting was done during two visits and a watching was also carried out during the construction of a drain next to Old Leanach Cottage by the visitor centre and revealed no significant archaeological features or finds.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	National Trust for Scotland
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.

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