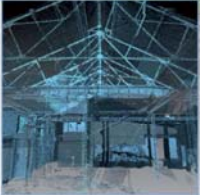


Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOCarcha1-168806
AOC Project 22551
20th January 2014



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye; Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Earl Thorfinn House
6 Druimchat view
Dingwall Business Park
Dingwall, Ross-shire
IV15 9XL

National Grid Reference (NGR): centred on NG 6384 2413

AOC Project No: 22551

Prepared by: Rob Engl

Illustration by: Diana Sproat

Date of Fieldwork: 14th January – 16th January 2014

Date of Report: 20th January 2014

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye (centred on NGR: NG 6384 2413).

The development area measures approximately 2.19 ha in total. A 7% (1,530 m²) sample of the available area was to be investigated by the evaluation. However the presence of previously unknown services and restricted access reduced the total amount of trenching to 1,430 m² opened across seven evaluation trenches.

No significant archaeological remains were recorded within the development area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise to undertake an archaeological evaluation in respect to a proposed development of land at Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye. The need for, and scope of, the archaeological works has been determined by Highland Council who are advised on archaeological matters by Highland Council Heritage Environment Team, (HCHET). The programme of archaeological works was undertaken in keeping with the policies outlined in Scottish Planning Policy (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 2/2011 Planning And Archaeology (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.2 The development area (centred on NGR: NG 6384 2413; Figure 1) measures approximately 2.19 ha in total. The majority of the area was comprised of recently felled forestry.
- 1.1.3 No significant archaeological features or finds were revealed during the evaluation.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred at approximately on Grid Ref NG 6384 2413 (Figure 1) and comprises four main land parcels with a total area of c.14 ha Areas A, B, C and D). Only three of these areas (Areas A, B, and D) with a total area of 2.19 ha was subject to evaluation. The development area lies within an area of forestry that has been partially clear felled in recent years. The development is bounded by the A87 to the south, by the High Road / An Rathan Ard and open ground to the east. To the north and west lie further areas of existing forestry.
- 1.2.2 The development area is situated on sloping ground ranging in height from 30.0 m to 50.0 m OD.

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The only site listed by The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland within the development area is that of Corry Lodge (NMRS No: NG62SW 128) where a number of modern glass bottles were recovered. Prehistoric sites are listed in close vicinity to the development area. These include the chambered cairn of Liveras (NMRS No: NG62SW 1) which lies to the south-east of the development area. During development of the Broadford Medical Centre, again to the south-east of the development area, significant Iron Age archaeological remains were excavated (NMRS No: NG62SW 129). These included a souterrain and a cist alongside numerous pits and postholes with Iron Age pottery being discovered during the excavations.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:
- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area through evaluation trenching;
 - ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The details of the archaeological evaluation, laid out below, were designed to meet the requirements of Highland Council as advised by HCHET.
- 3.2 The evaluation was initially based on the trenching of a 7% sample of the 2.19 ha development area (Areas A, B & D), for a total basal trench area of c.1, 530 m². However, the presence of a live drain and a previously unknown underground power cable running across the centre of the site, east to west restricted the area available for evaluation. Similarly the presence of steeply sloping topography and existing forestry further curtailed the area available for evaluation trenching. This led to a limited reduction of the trench plan previously agreed with HCHET. Nevertheless, a total of 650 linear metres equating to 1,430 m² were excavated.
- 3.3 The evaluation was undertaken by a tracked excavator equipped with 2.2 m wide ditching bucket. Excavation was undertaken in units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. Trenches had to be initially cleared of gorse and tree stumps before excavation could take place. All machine excavation was supervised by an experienced field archaeologist and undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures, and as per the methodology within the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2013). The trenches were immediately backfilled upon completion.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken during the 14th January – 16th January 2014. Overall weather conditions were dry and archaeological visibility was good.
- 4.2 The development area consisted of recently felled forestry and gorse covered scrubland. The area was covered by a relatively shallow deposit of peaty forest soil. This directly overlay a natural of coarse sands and gravels and grey boulder clay. The sub-soil was heavily truncated and disturbed by forestry activity. Occasional rubble drains were revealed within Areas B and D



Plate 1 Trench 2 post-excavation shot from north

4.3 Area A

4.3.1 Due to the presence of a live unmarked drain this area was not evaluated.

4.4 Area B (Trenches 2 & 3)

4.4.1 These two trenches were excavated through recently felled forestry. A thin peaty forest soil was revealed immediately overlying a natural of coarse sands and gravels. The forestry activity had significantly disturbed the sub-soil. Rubble drains aligned east to west were revealed in both trenches.



Plate 2 Trench 1 south facing section

4.5 Area D (Trenches 1 & 4 - 7)

4.5.1 Within this area trenching was restricted by a previously unmarked buried power cable (Figure 2) and areas of uncut forestry and steeply sloping ground. Trenching revealed thin forest soil overlying stony grey boulder clay and areas of orange coloured coarse sands and gravels (Plate 2). Pockets of peat up to 0.80 m in depth were revealed.

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

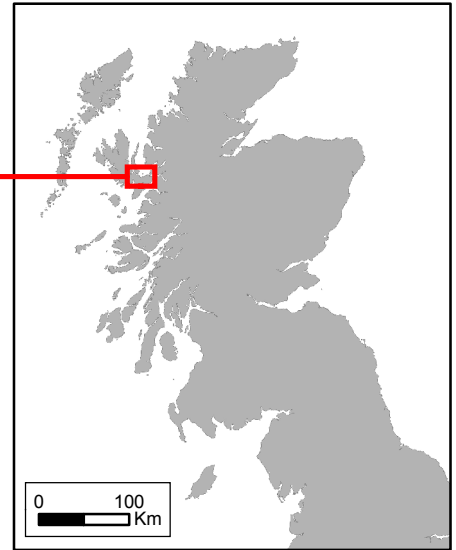
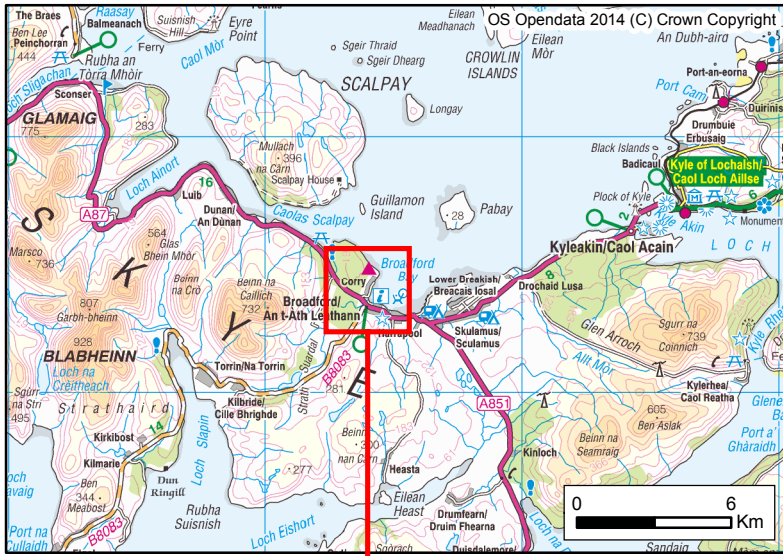
- 5.1 The proposed development site was subject to a comprehensive archaeological evaluation given the limitations imposed by the present services and access. It is likely that any previously existing archaeology would have been removed given the generally shallow depth of the top-soil and the past/present utilisation of the area for forestry.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by Highland Council Heritage Environment Team, (HCHET) on behalf of Highland Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2013 *Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye: Method Statement*. Unpublished client report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*, February 2010.

Scottish Government 2010 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology.



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Figure 1: Site Location Plan

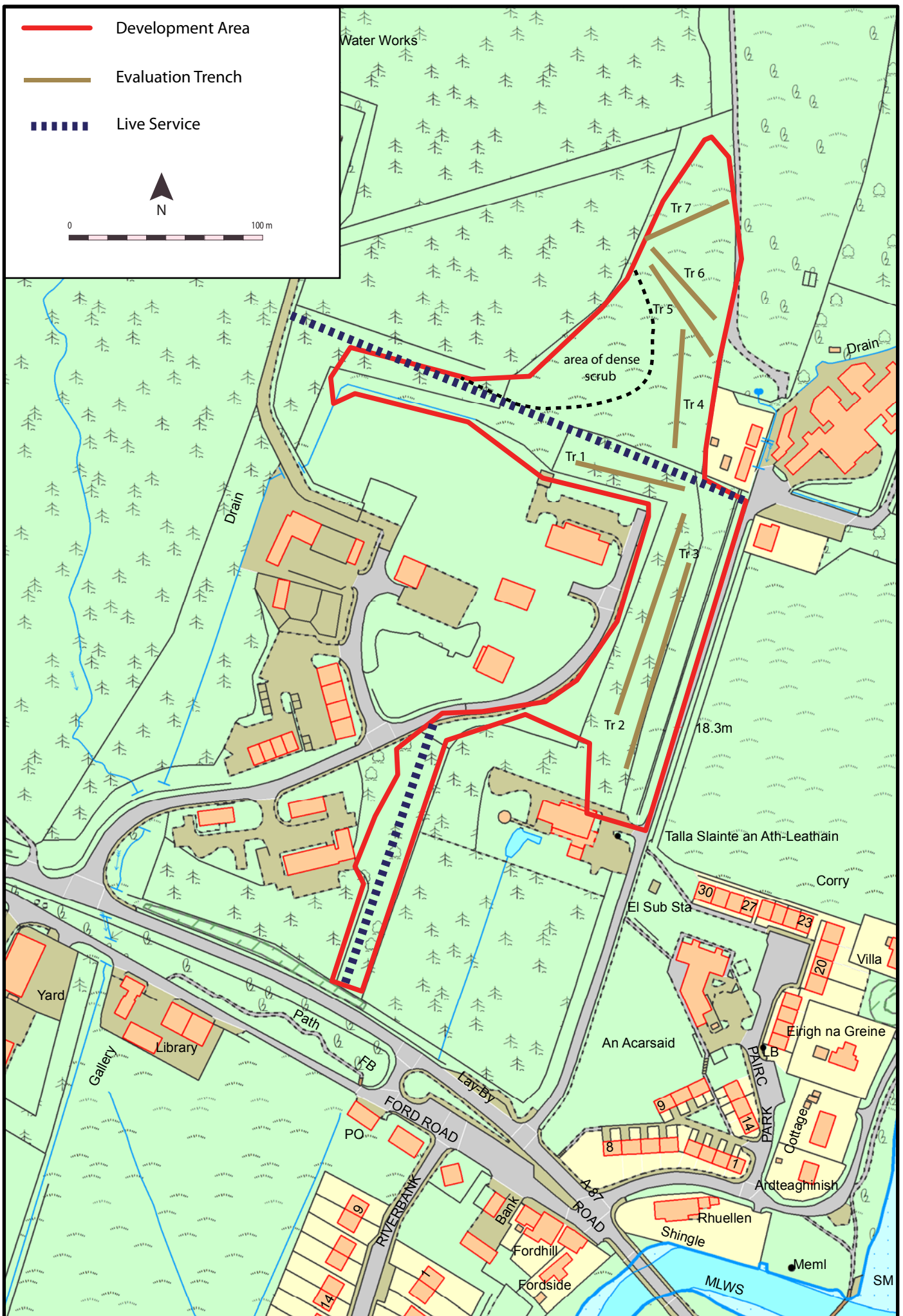


Figure 2: Site plan showing position of evaluation trenches

Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye: Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1 - Area D

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	W-E
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.25 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.30 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drain at 16.0 m N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale orange coarse sands and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 2 – Area B

<i>Dimensions</i>	110 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	NNE-SSW
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains at 0.0 m NNW-SSE and 44.0 m E-W
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale orange coarse sands and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 3 - Area B

<i>Dimensions</i>	110 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SSW-NNE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.30 m – 0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	Rubble field drains at 90.0 m & 93.0 m N-S
<i>Subsoil</i>	Pale orange coarse sands and gravels
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 4 - Area D

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2.0 m
<i>Orientation</i>	N-S
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.35 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.40 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Red-brown boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	Numerous white ceramics and glass within top-soil

Trench 5 - Area D

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	S-N
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.20 m – 0.30 m
<i>Peat depth</i>	0.20 m – 0.80 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.50 m – 1.0 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None

<i>Subsoil</i>	Grey stony boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 6 - Area D

<i>Dimensions</i>	70 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	E-W
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m - 0.20 m
<i>Peat depth</i>	0.10 m -0.20 m (Eastern end)
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m -0.50
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Grey stony boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Trench 7 - Area D

<i>Dimensions</i>	60 m by 2.2 m
<i>Orientation</i>	SW-NE
<i>Top-soil</i>	0.10 m – 0.20 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.25 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Grey stony boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

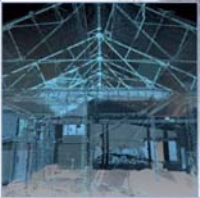
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital Photographs

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	-
2	Trench 1 South facing section	S
3	Trench 1 Post-excavation	W
4	Trench 4 Post-excavation	N
5	Trench 4 West facing section	W
6	Trench 2 West facing section	W
7	Trench 2 Post-excavation	N
8	Trench 3 East facing section	E
9	Trench 3 Post-excavation	N
10	Trench 5 Post-excavation	SE
11	Trench 6 Post-excavation	W
12	Trench 7 Post-excavation	W
13-17	Post-excavation shots	Var

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22551
PARISH:	Strath
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NG 6384 2413
START DATE (this season)	14 th January 2014
END DATE (this season)	15 th January 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken in respect to a proposed development at Broadford Industrial Estate, Skye (centred on NGR: NG 6384 2413).</p> <p>The development area measures approximately 2.19 ha in total. A 7% (1,530 m²) sample of the available area was to be investigated by the evaluation. However the presence of previously unknown services and restricted access reduced the total amount of trenching to 1,430 m² opened across seven evaluation trenches.</p> <p>No significant archaeological remains were recorded.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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