



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

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Mid Craggie Farm, Daviot, Highland



Archaeological Strip & Record Project

Report and Recommendations

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Mid Craggie Farm, Daviot, Highland

Archaeological Strip & Record Project

HAS Report No.	MCF18 - 3
Site Code	MCF18
Client	Theresa Kemp
Planning Reference	16/04514/FUL
OS Grid Reference	NH 3500 9108
Date	July 2018
Author(s)	Andrew Young MCifA

Summary

A programme of archaeological Strip & Record was undertaken in order to satisfy a Condition attached to planning consent for residential development at Mid Craggie Farm, Daviot, Highland.

The work revealed a series of shallowly buried modern service pipes and service trenches and part of a very large modern rubble-filled soakaway.

The top of the natural substrate was reached in the Strip and Record area and no significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were located.

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Legislation and Policy

The common principles underlying international conventions, national legislation and local authority planning policies are that cultural heritage assets should be identified in advance of development and safeguarded where practicable; if disturbance is unavoidable appropriate recording of features and recovery of portable artefacts should take place. These have been set out in international and European Union agreements, and UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national and local planning policies¹.

¹ A summary of relevant international, EU, UK and Scottish legislation and policies is available from the HAS office on request.

Professional standards maintained throughout the present project adhered to the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists².

Acknowledgements

This document was written by Andrew Young MCIfA. The project was commissioned and funded by Theresa Kemp. Fieldwork was directed by the writer. Machine work was ably undertaken by experienced operator Dell. Background mapping has been reproduced with the permission of the Ordnance Survey under Licence 100043217. Historic mapping is courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

Location

The site is located at Mid Craggie Farm, Daviot, approximately 1km to the south east of the settlement of Daviot and some 6km to the south east of Inverness (Figures 1, 2 and 3). The study area is centred at NH 3500 9108. The development area incorporates the footprint of a new house and attendant structures (Figure 4), which will have an overall footprint of approximately 250 square metres.



Figure 1 – General Site Location

² Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Excavation.

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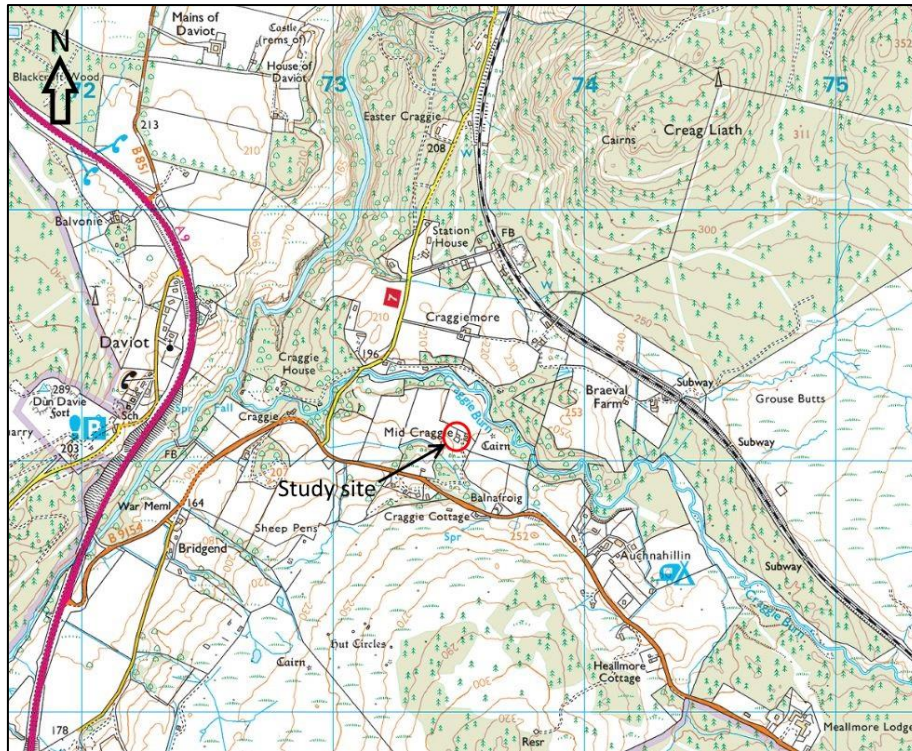


Figure 2 – Site Location. Grid scale in kms

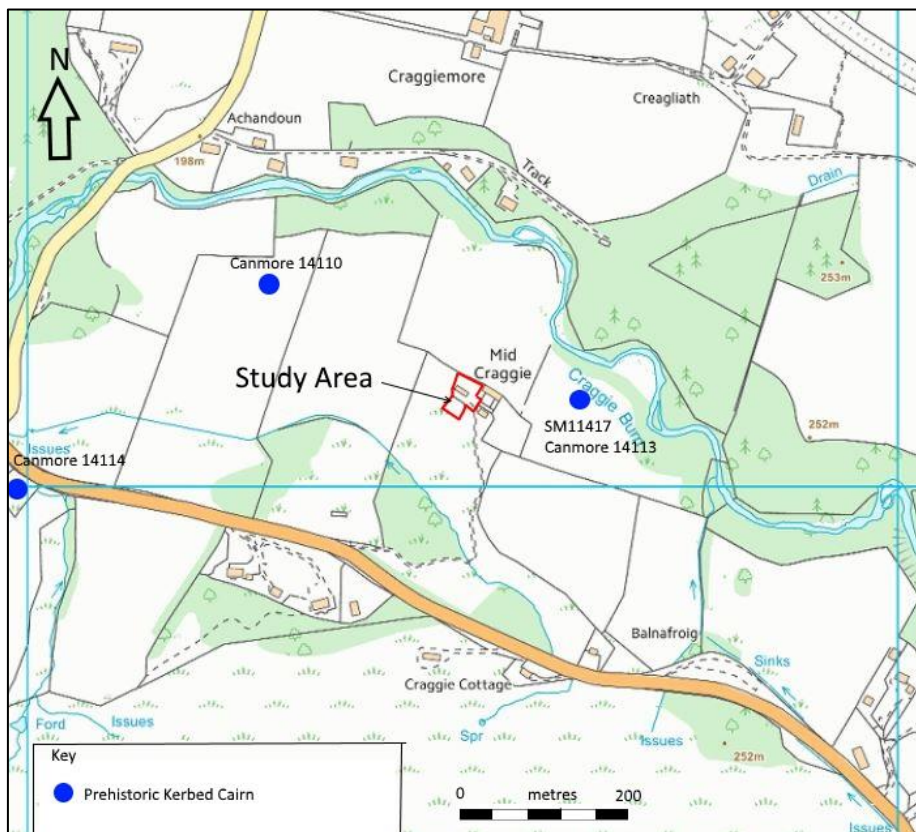


Figure 3 – Boundary of the Study Area. Grid scale in kms

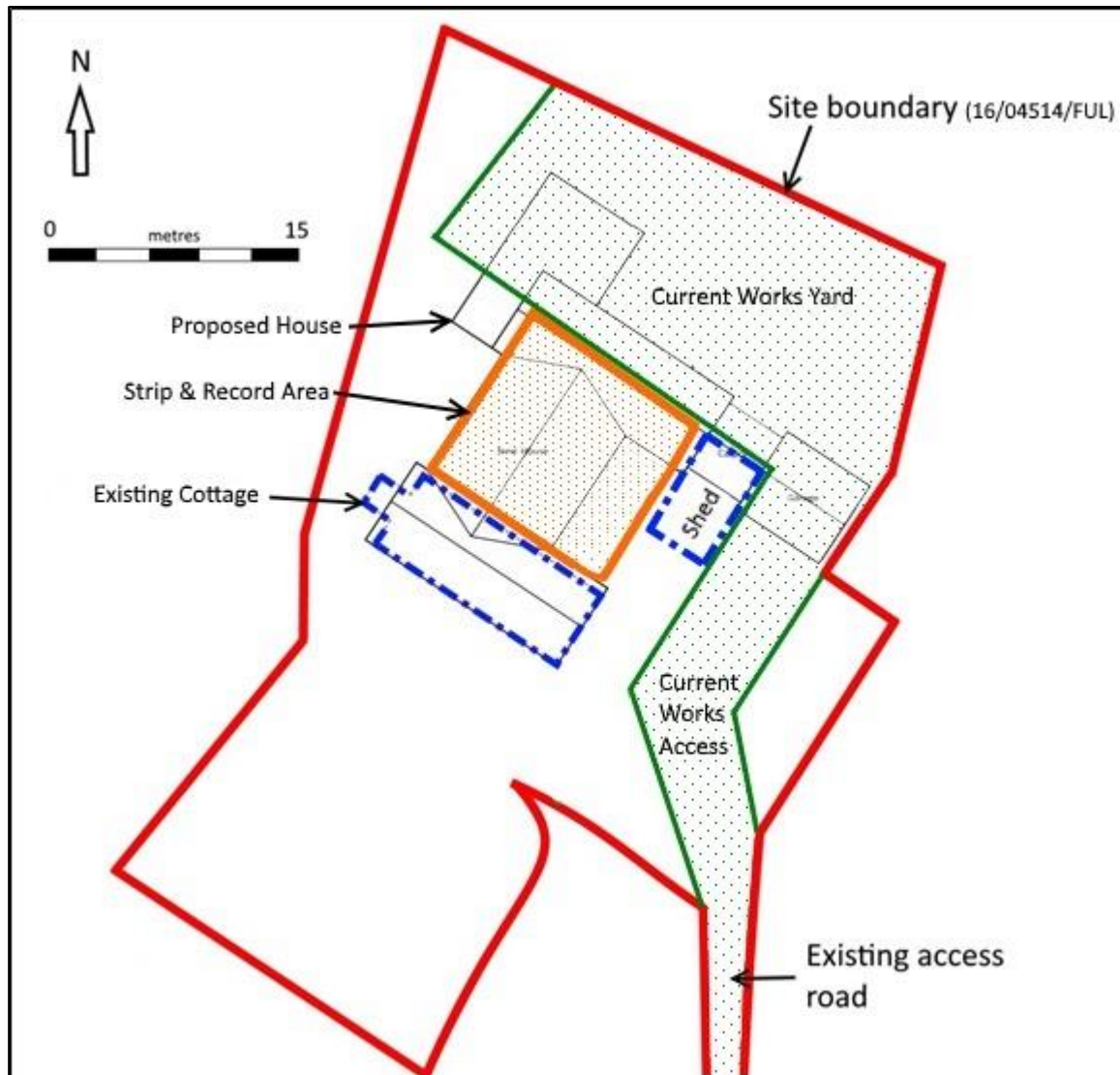


Figure 4 – Schematic site layout showing footprint of Strip & Record Area

Introduction

Planning permission has been granted (16/04514/FUL) for the construction of a new house and associated structures at Mid Craggie Farm, Daviot (Figures 1- 4). The consent for development includes a Condition for archaeological Strip & Record in advance of development works in order to ensure that all significant archaeological deposits present within the development area are identified and fully recorded in advance of their destruction. The results of that work are set out in this report.

The project was commissioned and funded by the landowner, Theresa Kemp, who also provided suitable machinery and operator to open the Strip & Record area. At the time of the project the development footprint consisted in the main of open heavily overgrown ground with large heaps of mixed spoil. A small part of the development area extended into an operational works yard (see Figure 4 above).

The site is located at an elevation of approximately 219m aOD. The underlying bedrock geology consists of the Moy Pluton-Granitic igneous suite of Ordovician date. Locally this is overlain by highly variable glaciogenic and glaciolacustrine clay, silts, sands and gravels of Quaternary date.

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken by the writer on the 18th July 2018 in dry conditions.

Archaeological & Historical Background

Readily available documentary and cartographic sources for the site including the Highland Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore database were reviewed to identify significant recorded monuments, areas, sites and find locations in the vicinity of the development area.

Historic Environment Record

The site is located adjacent to Mid Craggie Cairn, a prehistoric burial site and Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM11417) of prehistoric date. There are no Listed Buildings present in the study area or in the near vicinity.

The development area is located approximately 150m to the west of the scheduled kerbed cairn monument (SM11417 and Canmore 14113), which is situated on a prominent position just to the south of the Craggie Burn. The burial monument survives to a height of approximately 1.7m. The overall diameter of the structure is recorded to be in the region of 13m with the outer perimeter defined by several boulder kerb stones. The monument appears to be shown on the Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1871 (see Figure 6 below) but is not named.

Both the Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore database record two further prehistoric kerbed cairn monuments nearby (Figure 3, Canmore 14110 and 14114). The presence of these three substantial burial mounds indicate that the area formed part of an important prehistoric funerary landscape, which may have incorporated further lost burial monuments or associated structures. Evidence for an area of extensive and nationally important prehistoric settlement related activity including round houses and field systems (SM4712) is recorded approximately 800m to the SW of the study site.

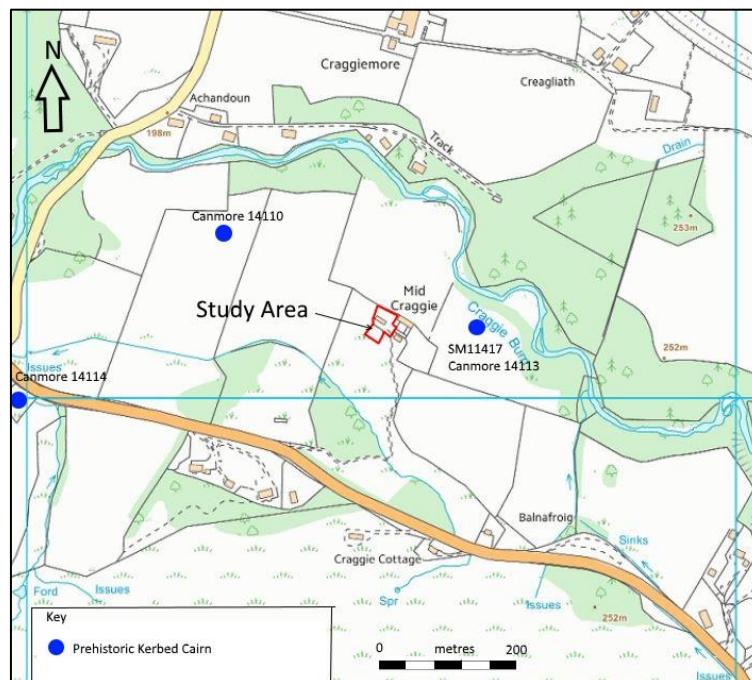


Figure 5 – Prehistoric cairns in the vicinity of the site. Scale shown

Historic Mapping

Historic mapping for the site was reviewed for the preparation of the project WSI. The principal sources of note are the 1st and 2nd Edition 6 inch Ordnance survey maps (Figures 6 and 7 below).

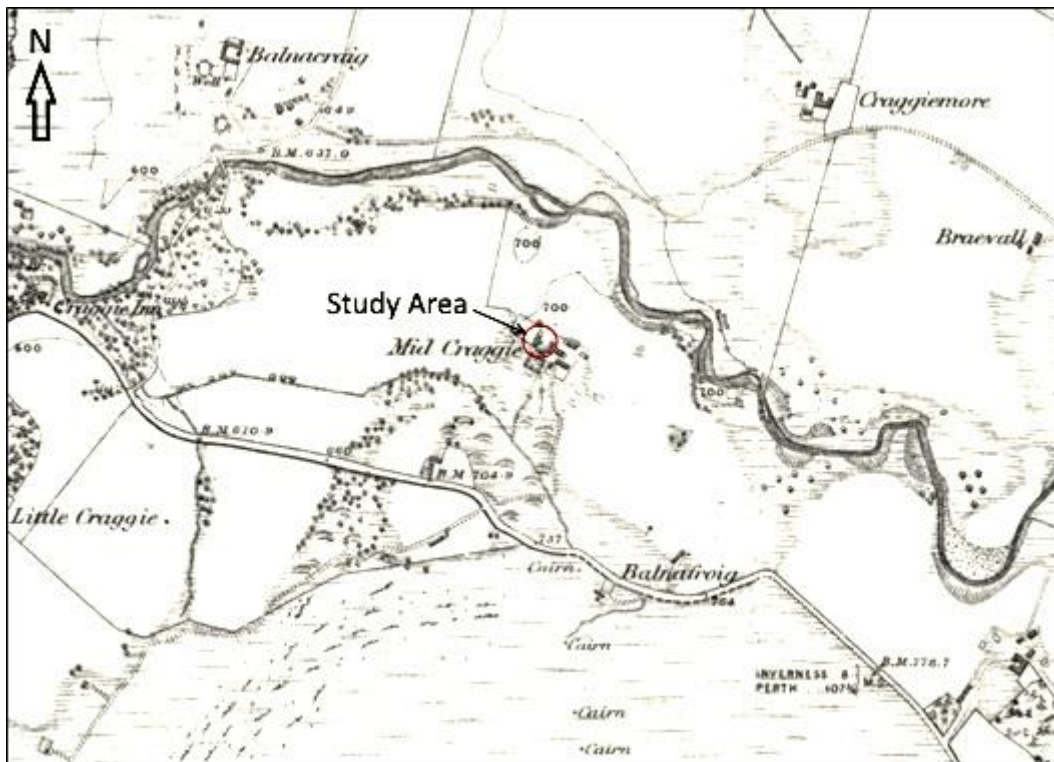


Figure 6 - Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1871. Not to scale



Figure 7 - Extract from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of 1906. Not to scale

Statistical Accounts

The Old³ Statistical Account (OSA) for the parish of Daviot and Dunlichity was reviewed as part of the present study. The document contains no reference to antiquities or archaeologically significant features either on or in the near vicinity of the study site. There does not appear to be any New Statistical Account for these parishes.

DBA Conclusions

The Desk Based Assessment shows that the development site is located in an area where there is significant potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains associated with prehistoric funerary activity.

Strip & Record Fieldwork

Aims and Objectives

The principal aims of the project were to:

- Establish the presence or absence of significant buried archaeological deposits within the study area and, if present, to determine their character, extent, date and archaeological significance and to record them to professional standards, in line with current legislation and policy.
- Minimise any possible delay or cost to the development by anticipating archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently.

Methodology

The Strip & Record area (Figures 4, 5 and 9) was opened using an 8 ton slew tracked excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket under archaeological direction. In practice the work was undertaken in two stages: initial clearance of the several large mixed modern spoil heaps on the site followed by the excavation of in-situ deposits to the upper surface of the natural substrate (Figure 8).

Excavation work was interrupted as necessary to examine deposits and features by hand.

Archaeological recording was undertaken in standard fashion using unique context-based records complimented by written notes and photographs. Provision was made for the preparation of detailed archaeological drawings but in the event these were not required.

The Strip & Record area and features revealed therein were recorded using a survey grade GPS unit.

³ Daviot and Dunlichity, County of Inverness, OSA, Vol. XIV, 1795



Figure 8 – Removal of modern spoil heaps in progress. Facing N

Description of Recorded Archaeology

A series of large modern spoil heaps were removed by machine (Figure 8) in order to allow controlled soil stripping. These deposits were clearly of recent origin and were not examined or recorded archaeologically.

The topsoil (101) consisted of thin stony silt sand of variable thickness but no more than 200mm deep. This was overlain in places by the remnants of material that had formed the modern spoil heaps.

Along the westernmost 3m or so of the strip area the topsoil directly overlay pale mottled yellowish-brown gravelly silt sand (102) that reflected the undisturbed natural substrate. This was interrupted by three modern plastic and ceramic waste pipes (Figure 9, Features (107), (108) and (109)), each set in a shallow scour in the natural that extended from the existing cottage towards the north and north east.

The stony topsoil (101) across the remainder of the stripped area (Figures 4 and 9) gradually increased in depth towards the north east. In the central portion of the area it directly overlay a large linear soil feature (104) aligned NW to SE and up to 1.2m wide. The feature was examined by hand and confirmed to represent the fill of a modern service trench [103] for a large (8 inch) ceramic waste pipe (Figure 10). The service trench cut varied in width between 900mm and 1.2m and terminated at the northern end at a very large area of modern soil disturbance (Figure 9 (106)).

Deposit (106) occupied the north eastern third or so of the strip and record area (Figure 9) but appeared to extend beyond it towards the north and east. The deposit lay directly below the topsoil and consisted of an unsorted mixture of boulders (up to 400mm x 350mm x 200mm) and smaller cobbles and stones set in a moist silty sand matrix. The deposit also contained fragments of modern glass, plastic and pottery, a small sample of which was retained. A machine dug sondage was opened through the deposit, which confirmed that it represented a single heterogeneous deposit filling a broad shallow cut [105] in the natural substrate up to 850mm deep (Figure 11).

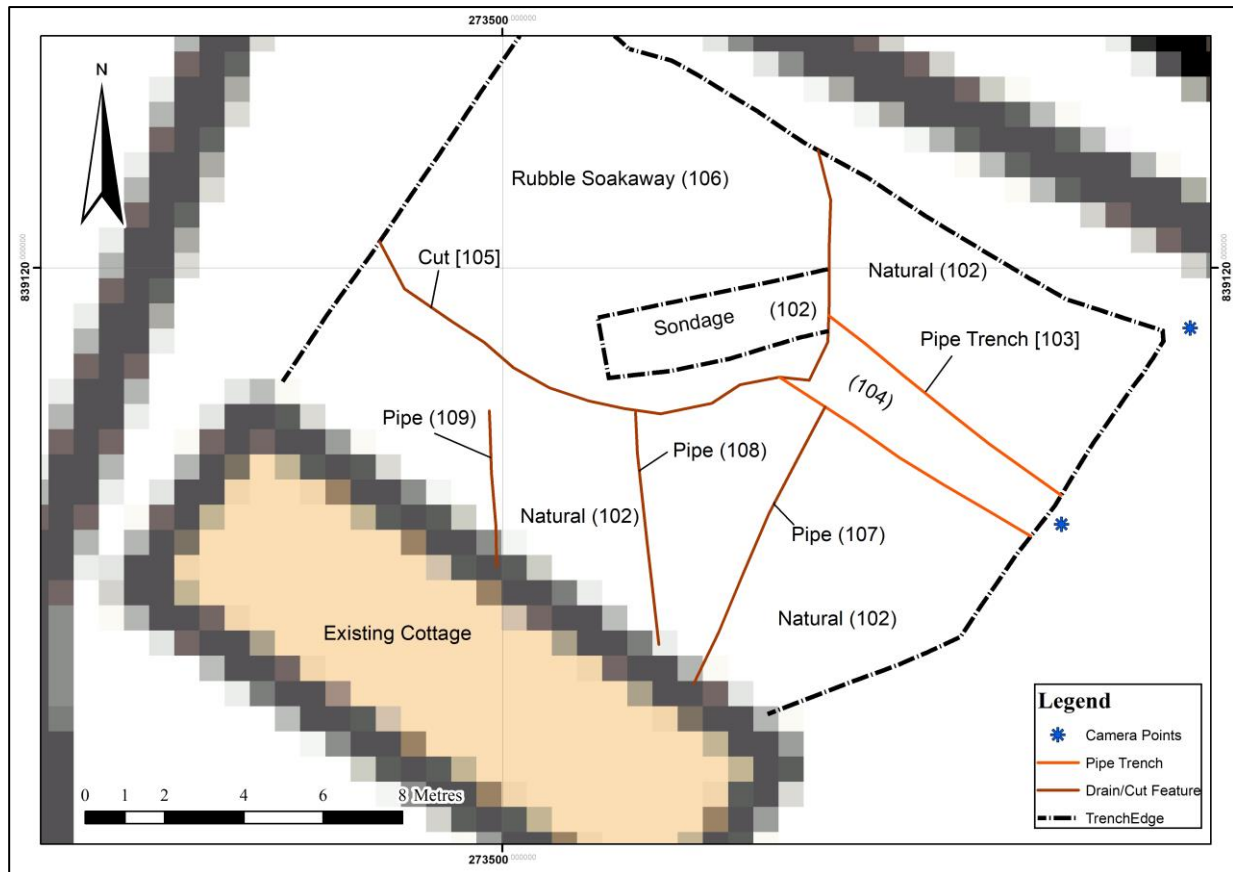


Figure 9 – Plan of the Strip & Record area showing recorded deposits and features. Scale shown



Figure 10 – Modern pipe trench [103] showing ceramic waste pipe. Scales 1m. Facing N



Figure 11 – Cutting in Soakaway Deposit (106) also showing modern waste pipes. Facing S. Scales 1m

Summary of Finds

Finds were restricted to a collection of modern items including fragments of bottle and vessel glass, and sherds of Transfer Printed pottery, the latter recovered from both the fill of the boulder and rubble soakaway (106) and the fill (104) of the modern service trench (103). The lower part of Deposit (106) also produced a splendid white plastic ‘digger driver’ toy, of c 1970s vintage (Figure 12).

Further modern pottery sherds were noted in the topsoil in addition to miscellaneous modern metalwork. Overall, no archaeologically significant finds were identified during the site work.



Figure 12 – The c 1970s plastic toy digger driver from Deposit (106). Scale in cms

Discussion & Conclusions

The Strip & Record exercise has been undertaken on the site in accordance with the requirements of Condition 3 attached to planning consent issued by Highland Council.

No significant archaeological deposits, structures or finds were identified during the course of the site work.

Recommendations

No further archaeological mitigation is considered necessary in advance of development works.

Bibliography and References

CIFA standards: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

HAS 2018 Mid Craggie Farm, Daviot, Highland - *Project Design and RAMS*. Unpublished client report. Highland Archaeology Services Ltd.

HER Highland Council Historic Environment Record *passim*

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Context Register

Context	Trench	Description	Comments
101	1	Brown silt clay layer with common stones and modern plastic/metal rubbish.	Topsoil
102	1	Yellowish-brown gravelly silt and sand	Natural substrate
103	1	Cut in natural substrate up to 1.2m wide and aligned N-S. Filled by (104).	Modern trench for ceramic drainage pipe
104	1	Dark grey brown silt loam fill [103] containing sparse stones and cobbles along with rare fragments of ceramic building material and fragments of lime mortar. Surrounding a modern ceramic 8 inch waste pipe.	Fill of modern service trench
105	1	Cut in natural substrate up to 850mm deep and >8m x 5.5m in plan. Filled by (106).	Cut for modern soakaway pit
106	1	Unsorted fill of [105] consisting of boulder to stone sized rubble in a silt sand soil matrix. Inclusions including modern finds.	Fill of modern soakaway
107	1	Modern plastic 4 inch waste pipe.	Modern
108	1	Modern ceramic 4 inch waste pipe.	Modern
109	1	Modern 4 inch waste pipe.	Modern

Appendix 2 – Photographic Register

Photo No.	Scale	Description	Facing
3994	2m	Strip & Record area before clearance	N
3995	2m	Strip & Record area before clearance	N
3996	2m	Strip & Record area before clearance	N
3997	2m	Strip & Record area before clearance	mosaic
3998	2m	Strip & Record area before clearance	E
3999	-	Removal of modern spoil heaps	N

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Photo No.	Scale	Description	Facing
4000	-	Removal of modern spoil heaps	N
4001	-	Site after removal of spoil heaps	N
4002	-	Site after removal of spoil heaps	N
4003	-	Site after removal of spoil heaps	N
4004	2 x 1m	Site after removal of spoil heaps	NW
4005	2 x 1m	Site after removal of spoil heaps	NW
4006	2 x 1m	Site stripping in progress	WNW
4007	2 x 1m	Site stripping in progress	WNW
4008	2 x 1m	Modern service trench [103]/(104)	NW
4009	2 x 1m	Modern service trench [103]/(104)	NW
4010	2 x 1m	Modern service trench [103]/(104)	NW
4011	2 x 1m	Modern service trench [103]/(104)	NW
4012	2 x 1m	Modern service trench [103]/(104)	NW
4013	-	Site stripping in progress	NE
4014	1m	Site stripping in progress	N
4015	1m	Site stripping in progress	NE
4016	-	Site stripping in progress	NE
4017	2 x 1m	Cutting through Deposit (106)	NW
4018	2 x 1m	Cutting through Deposit (106)	NW
4019	2 x 1m	Cutting through Deposit (106)	NW
4020	1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	NW
4021	1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	NW
4022	2 x 1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	NW
4023	2 x 1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	NW
4024	2 x 1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	NW
4025	2 x 1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	NW
4026	2 x 1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	S
4027	2 x 1m	Service trench [103] after cleaning and cutting through (106)	S