



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd
Bringing the Past and Future Together

Arrowdale

Leacnasaide, Gairloch



Archaeological Survey

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Arrowdale

Leacnasaide, Gairloch

Archaeological Survey

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Client	Rupert + Clare Lumsden
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Summary

An archaeological desk-based assessment and walk-over survey were undertaken to inform development of a proposed new house. Evidence was noted of several buildings shown on the 1st Edition OS 6 inch map. It is understood that the intention is to preserve these within the development.

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Acknowledgements

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Figure 1 General Location

Ordnance Survey mapping reproduced under licence 100043217. Not reproduced to original scale.

Location and setting

The area surveyed is centred at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NG 7987 7315, at a height of about 15m above sea level. It covers about 2.6 hectares on the west side of Loch Shildaig looking across to Eilean Shildaig, off the B8056 between Shildaig and Badachro. The site includes woodland, improved former arable maintained as grass, and extensive garden grounds, within which are the remains of former houses and outbuildings belonging to the township of Leacnasaide. Historically it lies in Gairloch parish which was a medieval parish and continued after the Reformation for both civil and religious purposes until 1975.

Introduction

It is proposed to reduce the present house at Arrowdale, Leacnasaide in size by removal of modern extensions, restoring it to its original proportions, and to build a new house on higher and drier ground nearby. The present rapid survey was undertaken to inform this project and propose mitigation if necessary where it might affect features or buildings of archaeological or historic interest.

The survey comprised a site visit guided by the owner and his architect, during which a Magellan Promark 3 DGPS unit was used to plot features of possible interest. Digital photographs were also taken.

Objectives

- To 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.
- To determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; so that these can be preserved where possible and recorded where necessary in line with national and local policies and standards.

Policy and legislation background

Archaeological and historical features are safeguarded through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Scheduled Monuments) and also through the Town and Country Planning Acts. These provide for the designation of buildings of historical or architectural interest (Listed Buildings) and also for wider protection through policy.

The current planning and policy framework includes the Highland Council's *Structure Plan*¹, and the Scottish Government's *Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)*, issued in February 2010, which consolidates and supersedes the previous SPP and NPPG series *Planning and the Historic Environment* (2008)².

The SPP states (paragraph 123)

Archaeological sites and monuments are an important, finite and non-renewable resource and should be protected and preserved in situ wherever feasible. The presence and potential presence of

¹ <http://www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/planning/developmentplans/structureplan/thehighlandstructureplan.htm>

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/10/28135841/0>

archaeological assets should be considered by planning authorities when allocating sites in the development plan and when making decisions on planning applications. Where preservation in-situ is not possible planning authorities should, through the use of conditions or a legal agreement, ensure that developers undertake appropriate excavation, recording, analysis, publication and archiving before and/or during development. If archaeological discoveries are made during any development, a professional archaeologist should be given access to inspect and record them.

The fundamental principles underpinning the above policies are set out in *Passed to the Future: Historic Scotland's Policy for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2002)³ and the *Burra Charter* (Australia ICOMOS 1999).⁴

Archaeology background

The name Leacnasaide is a contraction of the Gaelic *Leac nan Saighead*, flat rock of the arrows. This refers to the promontory north of the site from which, according to local tradition, Mackenzie archers destroyed a hostile force of Macleods whose ship had taken shelter on Eilean Fraoch⁵. The name of the house, Arrowdale, refers to the same event. A township is shown here on the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch to 1 Mile (1:10560) maps, and also

About 500m south of the site, along the valley of the Cammassie Burn, the Highland Council Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record note a group of Bronze Age / Iron Age round houses as well as post-medieval lazybeds⁶. However there are no archaeological features recorded within the present site, although a walk-over survey by Cathy Dagg in 2008 in advance of construction of a new water main⁷ located the footings of two buildings at Leacnasaide that are shown on the 1st edition OS 6 inch map (Figures 2, 3; Features 2, 3). This survey focussed only on features likely to be affected by the construction of the new water main, so did not cover the remains of several other buildings nearby.

Programme

A desk-based assessment was carried out. This consulted the archaeological and historical records but detailed research was not undertaken and further investigations, for example in the estate archives, might be useful.

A rapid walk-over DGPS survey was undertaken in the company of the client and architect, using one Magellan Promark 3 DGPS unit in mapping mode using real-time satellite-based correction. This typically offers accuracy of 1-2m but this can be affected (as in this case) by prevailing conditions including tree cover and satellite geometry. The results were post-processed to the current OS Mastermap mapping.

³ www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pasttofuture.pdf

⁴ <http://australia.icomos.org/publications/charters/>

⁵ Mackenzie, A 1894 *History of the Mackenzies with Genealogies of the Principal Families of the Name*, 2nd edition, A & W Mackenzie, Inverness

⁶ Hut circles: HHER MHG8286, MHG 8290-1, MHG 41316; Lazy Beds HHER MHG41457

⁷ Dagg, C 2008 *Shieldaig Water Main Renewal Walk-over Survey* (Highland Archaeology Services Report no. HAS080505)



Figure 2 Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6 inch map, surveyed 1875.

Ross-shire & Cromartyshire (Mainland) - 1:10,560 Sheet LVI. Not reproduced to scale. Courtesy of National Library of Scotland. Red arrow shows approximate location of present house.

Results

According to the first Statistical Account of 1791-9⁸ the population of the parish stood at about 2,200 people at that time, but was increasing steadily. Poverty too was noted as being on the increase, but the people were described as ‘sober, regular, industrious and pious. They have always been remarked and esteemed for their civility, and hospitality to strangers’⁹. Gaelic was the language spoken by virtually everyone. The parish suffered from a lack of roads and bridges.

By the time of the 1831 census, the population of the parish had risen to 4,445. The second Statistical Account of 1836¹⁰ repeats the complaint of the first about the lack of roads and bridges, and tells us that

The houses of the people in general, have but one door, and as they and their cattle go in by that one entrance, - the bipeds to take possession of one end of the house, and the quadrupeds of the other, - it cannot be expected that a habitation common to man and beast can be particularly clean. Some of the people, indeed, are now getting into the way of building byres for their cattle, contiguous to their dwelling-houses; and it is acknowledged, even by the most indolent, that a great improvement is thus effected. It is hoped that the practice may soon become more general. When the young people go to kirk or market, few appear more “trig or clean;” and a stranger would hardly be persuaded that some of them lived in such miserable hovels. When a girl dresses in her best attire, her very habiliments, in

⁸ The Statistical Accounts of Scotland: Gairloch, Ross and Cromarty: Account of 1791-9 (<http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1791-99/Ross%20and%20Cromarty/Gairloch/>)

⁹ Ibid., p 92

¹⁰ The Statistical Accounts of Scotland: Gairloch, Ross and Cromarty: Account of 1834-45 (<http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Ross%20and%20Cromarty/Gairloch/>)

some instances, would be sufficient to purchase a better dwelling-house than that from which she has just issued.

The people are in general content with their situation and circumstances. If they have a lot of lands, grass for two or three cows, and fishing materials, they seldom have any further objects of ambition...¹¹

However the minister goes on to propose that (although only 100 people were receiving poor relief from church door donations), 'The population is much too dense for the means of support which they enjoy. A government grant to convey one-third of the people to Upper Canada would be most desirable'¹².

The First Edition OS 6 inch map (Figure 2 above) shows that the township of Leacnasaide was still roofed and occupied in 1878. The houses are aligned around the edges of the cultivated ground, with the two noted in 2008 standing in an island of pasture.

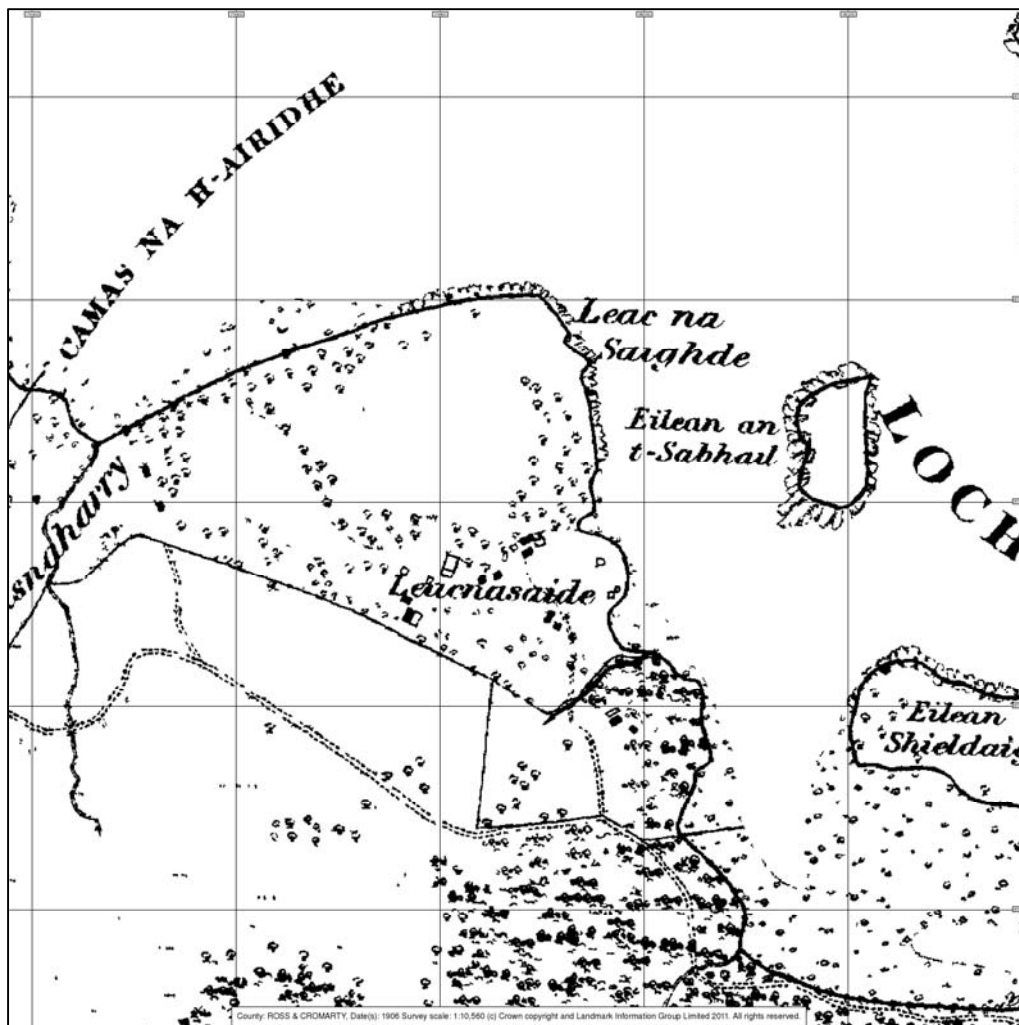


Figure 3 2nd Edition OS 6 inch map, 1906

Digital version courtesy of Landmark Information Group, modern OS grid superimposed. Not reproduced to scale.

By 1906, when the second edition OS map was published, the settlement was clearly in decline (Figure 3 above). No cultivated land is defined and of the 17 buildings shown on the previous map, only eight houses are now roofed. The line of the present road to Arrowdale house now appears, but

¹¹ Ibid. p97

¹² Ibid. p99

as a path. One building (F12) appears to have been rebuilt or extended. It appears that Arrowdale has become a farm with its farmhouse replacing an earlier building on much the same site. It is not known whether any fabric from the earlier structure was incorporated into this but it seems unlikely.

The above results of the desk-based assessment were confirmed in the field. Comparison of the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch to 1 mile mapping with the features located in the field show a number of changes and re-buildings, including some buildings or footings shown on modern maps that do not appear on the old maps consulted. Features noted are shown on Figure 4 and described in detail in Table 1 below.

Conclusions and recommendations

The proposed new development is intended to be very sympathetic to the historic township setting and adverse impacts are expected to be avoided wherever possible. A watching brief is recommended on ground disturbance in areas where archaeological features have been noted.

Tables

Table 1 Features

These features are located on Figure 4.

Feature No.	Type	Location	Dimensions (Approx)	Notes
F1	Wall	NG 79827 73134	0.7m wide	Revetting Wall: garden feature noted during fieldwork. See Photo DSC_001
F2	Building	NG 79891 73100	5m x 3.1m	Rectangular building footings noted during fieldwork and shown on current OS mapping, but does not coincide with the outline of a building shown on the 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS maps.
F3	Building	NG 79894 73091	6.1m x 2.4m	Rectangular building footings noted during fieldwork. Shown on current OS mapping, but does not coincide with the outline of a building shown on the 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS maps (F39).
F4	Building	NG 79945 73160	5.25m x 8.15m	Rectangular building footings noted during fieldwork. Shown on current OS mapping, but does not coincide with the outline of a building shown on the 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS maps.
F5	Building	NG 79857 73151	13.4m x 4m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map but not on later maps. Not identified during the survey and apparently destroyed.
F6	Building	NG 79835 73141	11.46m x 4m	Rectangular building footings noted during fieldwork. Shown on current OS mapping, but a shorter building on the same N and S wall lines is shown on the 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS maps (F43)

Feature No.	Type	Location	Dimensions (Approx)	Notes
F7	Building	NG 79824 73139	5.65m x 2.65m	Rough stone footings with a wood framed, corrugated iron superstructure. See Photo DSC_001
F8	Wall	NG 79789 73157	11.9m x 21m	Rectangular enclosure, noted during survey and shown on 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps.
F9	Building	NG 79796 73139	5.55m x 11.85m	A rectangular building within F8 shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed) and 2nd edition OS 6 inch map edition (unroofed). The footings of a building noted during survey and shown on the current OS mapping (F21) do not seem to coincide with that shown on the 1st and 2nd edition maps.
F10	Building	NG 79866 73163	9.5m x 4.7m	Rectangular building shown (apparently roofed) on 2nd edition OS 6 inch map but not on the first edition, or on later maps. This lies partly beneath the present Arrowdale house and no evidence was visible on the surface.
F11	Building	NG 79853 73162	8.5m x 4.2m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); but not on later maps. A building on a slightly different alignment appears on the 2nd edition OS 6 inch map (F28). No building remains were noted here during the survey but this area is strewn with rocks.
F12	Building	NG 79869 73173	5m x 5m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); but not on later maps. A building on a slightly different alignment appears on the 2nd edition OS 6 inch map (F26). No building remains were noted here during the survey but this area is strewn with rocks.
F13	Building	NG 79883 73180	8.9m x 7m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (unroofed); but not on later maps. Not found during survey: apparently removed as part of garden landscaping.
F14	Building	NG 79748 73115	7.4m x 4.1m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); but not on later maps. Not found during survey.
F15	Building	NG 79750 873094	4.7m x 12.7m	Rectangular building shown on 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps (apparently roofed); on the 2nd edition, it has enclosure F27 attached to its eastern side. Not found during survey: probably removed when the present house of Innis Bheatha was built close by.
F16	Wall	NG 79695 73106	0.75m - 1.2m across	Township boundary dyke, surviving a tumbled stones with modern post and wire fence. Shown on 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps and located during survey.
F17	Building	NG 79886 73004	0.7-1.0m across	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); but not on later maps. Not found during survey.
F18	Wall	NG 79822 72929	0.8m across (approx)	Stone dyke shown on 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch maps but not on current OS mapping. Not

Feature No.	Type	Location	Dimensions (Approx)	Notes
				included in field survey.
F19	deleted			
F20	Wall	NG 80039 72877	0.8m across (approx)	Stone dyke shown on 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch maps but not on current OS mapping. Not included in field survey.
F21	Building	NG 79791 73143	11.5m x 3m	Footings of a rectangular building within F8 were noted during survey; the outline of a building is also shown here on the current OS mapping. This does not seem to coincide with the outline of a building here shown on the 1st and 2nd edition maps shown on 1st this does not seem to coincide with that shown on the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps (F9).
F22	Building	NG 79773 73133	7.2m x 3.8m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); and on the 2nd edition 6 inch map (unroofed). Not found during survey.
F23	Building	NG 79751 73142	7.5m x 5.9m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); and on the 2nd edition 6 inch map (unroofed). Not found during survey.
F24	Building	NG 79958 73130	4.4m x 4.4m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); and on the 2nd edition 6 inch map (unroofed). Footings found during survey. The outline of the building as found and those on the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps appear not to coincide but this may be due to cartographic rather than actual differences. F24 and F25 appear to be linked.
F25	Building	NG 79950 73122	9m x 4.8m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); and on the 2nd edition 6 inch map (unroofed). Substantial stone footings found during survey. The outline of the building as found and those on the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps appear not to coincide but this may be due to cartographic rather than actual differences. F24 and F25 appear to be linked.
F26	Building	NG 79874 873178	12m x 4.2m	Rectangular building shown on 1st edition OS 6 inch map (apparently roofed); and on the 2nd edition 6 inch map (unroofed). Substantial stone footings found during survey. The outline of the building as found and those on the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps appear not to coincide but this may be due to cartographic rather than actual differences. F24 and F25 appear to be linked.
F27	Wall	NG 79753 73092	8.6m x 3.8m	Rectangular enclosure shown on 2nd edition OS 6 inch map, attached to the eastern side of F15. Not found during survey: probably removed when the present house of Innis Bheatha was built close by.

Feature No.	Type	Location	Dimensions (Approx)	Notes
F28	Building	NG 79847 73157	9m x 3.8m	Rectangular building shown on the 2nd edition OS 6 inch map, apparently replacing F11. No building remains were noted here during the survey but this area is strewn with rocks.
F29	Building	NG 79776 73119	7.8m x 3.4m	Rectangular building - roofed in corrugated iron. See photo DSC_006. This building does not seem to be shown on either the 1st or 2nd edition OS maps.
F30	Building	NG 79828 73136	4m x 5.3m	A rectangular building is shown here on the 1st and 2nd edition OS 6 inch maps but not on the current map, which shows a building apparently close by but on a different alignment. See F7 and Photo DSC_001
F31	Building	NG 79891 73083	6.3m x 2.8m	Rectangular building shown on current OS mapping. Not recorded during fieldwork.
F32	Building	NG 79770 873113	3.3m x 3.5m	Rectangular building shown on current OS mapping. Not recorded during fieldwork.
F33	Building	NG 79791 73147	2m x 2.4m	Shed (standing building) noted during the survey and shown on current OS mapping. Not shown on 1st or 2nd edition 6 inch maps.
F34	Building	NG 79963 73141	6.4m x 4.5m	Boathouse (standing building) noted during the survey and shown on current OS mapping. Not shown on 1st or 2nd edition 6 inch maps. See photos DSC-0013; DSC-0014
F35	Building	NG 79956 73131	6.3m x 3.6m	Rectangular building shown on 2nd edition 6 inch OS mapping. Building footings noted during fieldwork (F24) do not coincide with the outline of this building.
F36	Building	NG 79949 73118	6m x 5.5m	Rectangular building shown on 2nd edition 6 inch OS mapping. Building footings noted during fieldwork (F25) do not coincide with the outline of this building.
F37	Building	NG 79940 73152	7m x 6m	Rectangular building shown on 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS mapping. Rectangular building footings noted during fieldwork (F4) and shown on current OS mapping, do not coincide with the outline of this building.
F38	Building	NG 79893 73104	10.4m x 3.9m	Rectangular building shown on 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS mapping. Rectangular building footings noted during fieldwork (F2) and shown on current OS mapping, do not coincide with the outline of this building.
F39	Building	NG 79900 73092	5m x 4.2m	Rectangular building shown on 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS mapping. Rectangular building footings noted during fieldwork (F3) and shown on current OS mapping, do not coincide with the outline of this building.
F40	Building	NG 79782 73107	4m x 3.9m	Rectangular building shown on current OS mapping. Not recorded during fieldwork.
F41	Wall	NG 79970 73061	0.75m - 1.2m across	Dyke forming part of the township boundary where it meets the sea - noted during fieldwork

Feature No.	Type	Location	Dimensions (Approx)	Notes
F42	Wall	NG 79812 73064	8.8m x 11.3m	Oval enclosure - garden feature noted during survey
F43	Building	NG 79839 73138	4m x 6.6m	Rectangular building shown on the 1st and 2nd edition 6 inch OS maps. A longer building on the same N and S wall lines (F6) was noted during fieldwork and is shown on current OS mapping.
F44	Building	NG 79899 73030	8.65m x 3.75m	Concrete foundations of a rectangular building partly recorded on the current OS mapping but not shown on the 1st or 2nd edition maps. This has the appearance of a military building, possibly from the 2nd World War.

Table 2 Photographs

See Figure 4 for locations

Photo no	Location	Direction	Subject
DSC_001	CP1	W	Corrugated shed (F7) to R of path; revetment wall (F1) to L.
DSC_002	CP1	E	Footings of building F6; fence and current Arrowdale house
DSC_003	CP2	E	Footings of building F3
DSC_004	CP2	N	Footings of building F2
DSC_005	CP3	ESE	Township boundary dyke and modern fence line
DSC_006	CP4	N	Roofed building F29
DSC_007	CP5	S	View to roofed building F29 across garden pond
DSC_008	CP5	NNE	View along line of enclosure F8 to shed F33
DSC_009			(deleted)
DSC_010	CP6	WNW	Footings of building F4
DSC_011	CP6	NNW	Footings of building F4
DSC_012	CP6	NE	General view
DSC_013	CP7	NE	Boathouse F34
DSC_014	CP8	W	Boathouse F34
DSC_015	CP9	W	Wall forming part of F25 / F36
DSC_016	CP9	N	Wall forming part of F25 / F36
DSC_017	CP9	NNE	General view
DSC_017	CP9	ENE	General view
DSC_019	CP10	S	General view
DSC_020	CP11	W	Rock-cut ledge / quay
DSC_021	CP12	E	Township dyke F41 meets the sea
DSC_022	CP12	W	Township dyke F41
DSC_023	CP12	WNW	Building F44



Photo 1 Corrugated shed (F7) to R of path; revetment wall (F1) to L.



Photo 2 Footings of building F6; fence and current Arrowdale house



Photo 3 Footings of building F3



Photo 4 Footings of building F2



Photo 5 Township boundary dyke and modern fence line



Photo 6 Roofed building F29



Photo 7 View to roofed building F29 across garden pond



Photo 8 View along line of enclosure F8 to shed F33

(Photo 9 deleted)



Photo 10 Footings of building F4



Photo 11 Footings of building F4



Photo 12 General view



Photo 13 Boathouse F34



Photo 14 Boathouse F34



Photo 15 Wall forming part of F25 / F36



Photo 16 Wall forming part of F25 / F36



Photo 17 General view



Photo 18 General view



Photo 19 General view



Photo 20 Rock-cut ledge / quay



Photo 21 Township dyke F41



Photo 22 Township dyke F41



Photo 23 Building F44

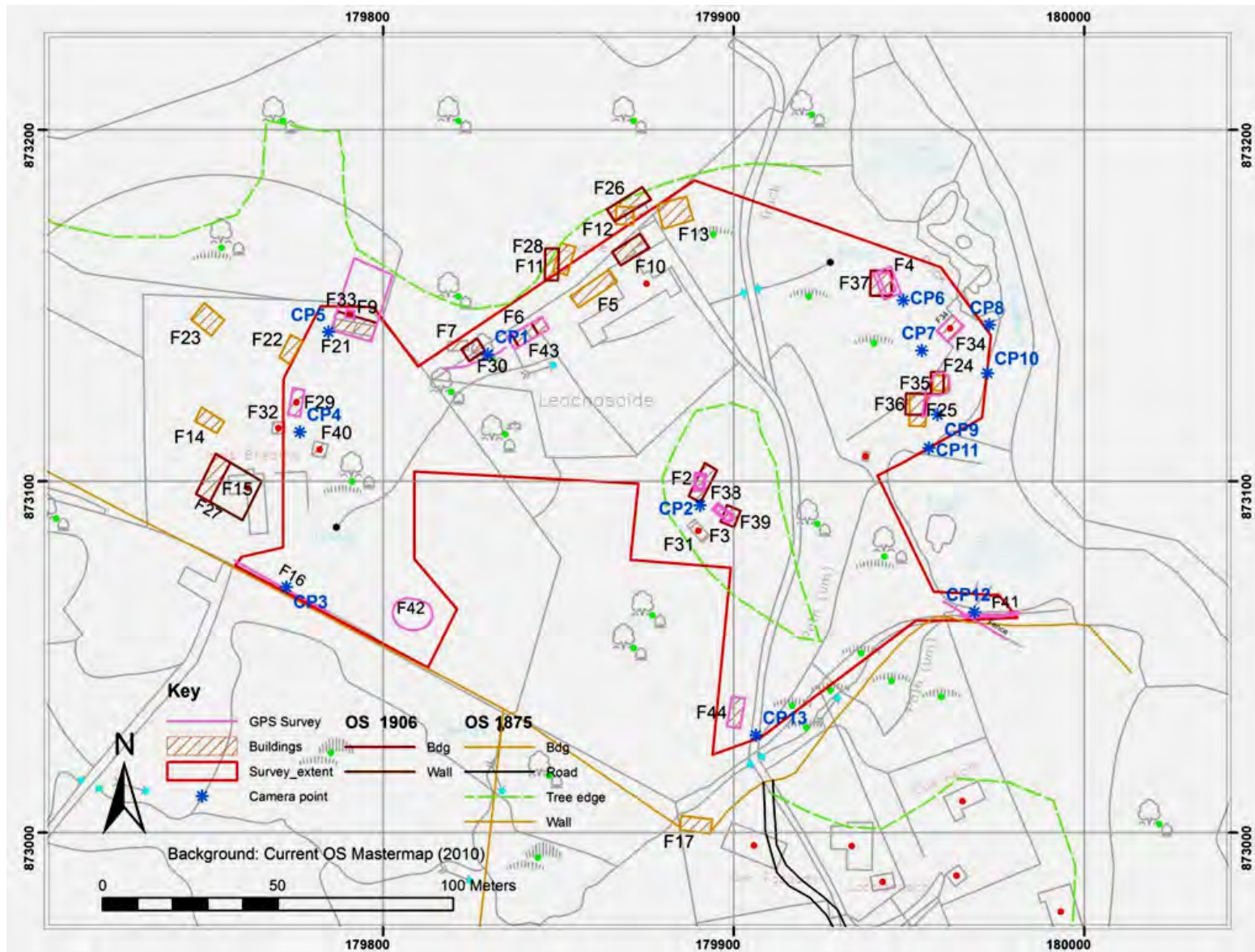


Figure 4 Survey results and photo locations