# West Coast Archaeological Services

# RCI Armadale PS DMA (Shebster WSZ) Water Main Rehab Bettyhill, Sutherland

# Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Walkover Survey



National Grid Reference Site Code Author WCAS Report # Client Date NC 6790 6080 (centred) Armadale 22 Steven Birch 2022-161/ARM/22 Scottish Water 24-10-2022

Tel: 01381 600500 Mobile: 07867 651886 Email: Skyesub1@aol.com

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# **RCI** Armadale PS DMA (Shebster WSZ) Water Main Rehab, Bettyhill, Sutherland Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey

#### Summary

An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was carried out on behalf of Scottish Water in advance of a new water main rehab project, focused on Bettyhill in Sutherland. The work was undertaken to assess the nature and extent of any archaeological sites likely to be affected within the areas outlined for the proposed open-cut trench for the water main in order to inform recommendations for the protection and management of any sites recovered. The desk-based assessment, investigation of aerial imagery, and walkover survey covering the development areas identified a significant number of archaeological sites within a corridor mirroring the alignment of the open-cut trench for the water main. The walkover survey recovered 22 sites with a total of 27 individual structures (not including the various elements of stone dykes forming larger field systems) included mainly post-medieval structures including buildings, enclosures, stone field dykes, field clearance, a stone drainage culvert, and a possible stone-lined well/culvert. New prehistoric sites include potential burial cairns and clearance cairns associated with a field system. The proposed water main upgrade will also pass through a landscape in Strath Naver that is populated by a significant number of prehistoric and post-medieval sites that have previously been recorded, details of which can be found in Highland Council's Historic Environment Record. Mitigation measures have been proposed to safeguard the sites during the development works.

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey was carried out in advance of a water main rehab project focused on Bettyhill in Sutherland (NGR NC 67719 60223 centred), but including the former Townships of Lamigo, Torroy, Clashbuie, Tubeg, Skerray, Clashaidy, Achtoty, Airdtorrisdale, Torrisdale, Borgie, Skelpick, Dail na Drochaide, Achanlochy, and Archoillenaborgie (see Figure 1). The brief for the archaeological work was requested by Scottish Water as the proposed developments lie within a wider area where archaeological sites have been recorded in the past.
- 1.2 The desk based assessment and walkover survey undertaken in advance of the proposed developments, which generally concentred on a corridor mirroring the alignment of the new open-cut trench for the new water main, identified and recorded a significant number of sites. Many of these sites are new to the archaeological record. Details of the sites can be found in Sections 6.1 and 6.2 and in the Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in Appendix 1 in this report, while plans are provided in this report showing the sites recorded during the walkover survey, along with additional detail taken from the aerial imagery (Figures 7 14). These plans also include sites and monuments already recorded in Highland Council's Historic Environment Record which are located in close proximity to the proposed water main route and their associated developments.
- 1.3 A number of sites are located in close proximity to the open-cut trench for the proposed water main rehab project. However, the water main trench will mainly run through roads, tracks and their associated verges with only short spurs of the proposed

route running through open ground. Recommendations and mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard the built heritage during the development works and are set out in this report (Section 8).

#### 2 Acknowledgements

2.1 We wish to thank Kirsty Windle of Scottish Water for commissioning the work and supplying base maps and associated information in advance of the survey. I would also like to thank Kirsty Cameron of the Highland Council's Historic Environment Team for her advice with regards to the recommendations and mitigation measures set out in this report. Fieldwork was carried out by Steven Birch, while mapping is reproduced by permission of Pro-Map license #LIG1044. Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery Rights 2022.

#### 3 Site Location

- 3.1 The proposed developments for this archaeological desk based assessment and walkover survey are focused on the former townships of Lamigo, Torroy, Clashbuie, Tubeg, Skerray, Clashaidy, Achtoty, Airdtorrisdale, Torrisdale, Borgie, Skelpick, Dail na Drochaide, Achanlochy, and Archoillenaborgie, to the NW, W, SW, S and SSE of Bettyhill in Sutherland (NGR NC 67719 60223 centred; and see Figure 1).
- 3.2 The sections of open-cut trench for the new water main rehab project provide the focus for this report, most of which run through township roads, tracks and their associated verges. However, short sections of the open-cut trench run through open ground, away from the roads and tracks, at Achtoty, Airdtorrisdale, Torrisdale, Ruigh Ruadh, Skelpick, and Archoillenaborgie (Figures 9, 10, 12 and 14).
- 3.3 The water main rehab project traverses ground located between the 6 metres and 80 metres Ordnance Datum contours and with the exception of the area focused on Skerray, where the ground comprises a series of rocky and grass-covered hills, and the bleak Glen Modsary, it runs through lower-lying river valleys including Strath Borgie and Strath Naver. The straths include improved agricultural fields interspersed and flanked by heather-covered ground, while the area focused on Skerray includes smaller improved fields and upland moorland with heather and blaeberry. The ground between Skerray and Torrisdale includes Blar Dubh (a drained former lochan), which is overlain by regular, laid-out crofts. Smaller crofts are also visible at Torrisdale, Airdtorrisdale, and Achtoty.
- 3.4 The underlying geology of the area include a complex mix of sandstones and conglomerates interspersed by outcrops of metamorphic rocks including Semipelite, Gneisses, Quartz, and minor intrusions of Ordovician age. The superficial geology is just as complex and includes hummocky glacial deposits, glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel, alluvium comprising clay, silt, sand and gravel, and windblown sand the latter confined to areas within Strath Naver, and at the back of the strand at Torrisdale (BGS 2022).



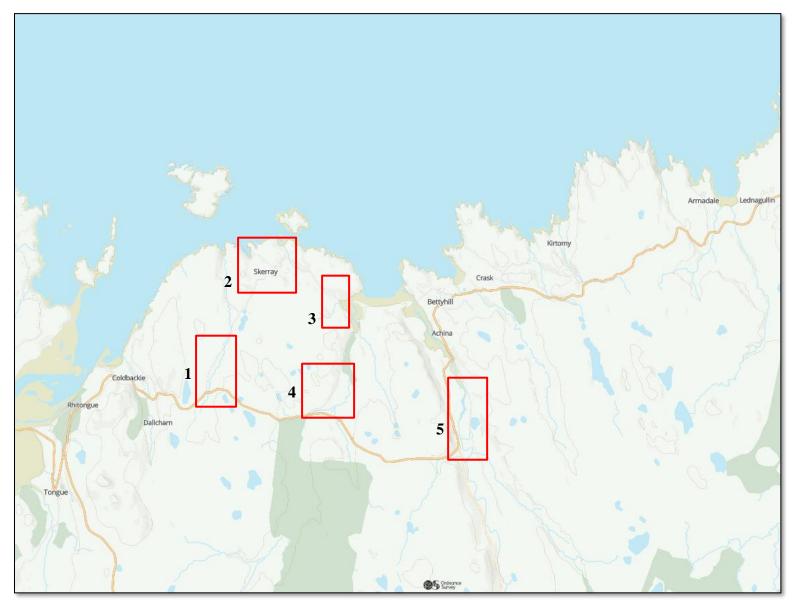


Figure 1: Location maps showing the general areas of the walkover survey near Bettyhill, Sutherland including 1: Glen Modsary; 2: Skerray; 3: Torrisdale; 4: Borgie; and 5: Strath Naver (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022)

#### 4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Strathnaver and the north Sutherland coast are extremely rich in archaeological sites and features, with evidence of settlement from the Neolithic period (c.6000 4,400 years ago) until the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This has been recognised in the creation of the Strathnaver Archaeology Trail, which enables visitors to access some of the most important sites in the area. Very few of these sites have however been the subject of modern, systematic excavation.
- 4.2 During the later Bronze Age and Iron Age (c.3,000 to 2,000 years ago) there was intensive agricultural land-use, with settlements and fields appearing at 60 90m above sea level. However the climate gradually deteriorated, becoming colder and wetter, leading to a retreat from the higher ground and extensive peat development, as well as a change to a more pasture based economy in the upland areas, although arable farming did not altogether cease. Bronze and Iron Age archaeology often survives in these upland areas where it might otherwise have been destroyed by later agricultural and industrial activity. However this is often not at all clearly visible as it has been buried by peat growth. Excavations elsewhere in Sutherland, for example along the A836 south of Lairg, have demonstrated that apart from the archaeology visible on the surface, many more features can lie completely buried in these conditions and therefore accessible only through excavation or remote sensing survey.
- 4.3 By the eleventh century, the Norwegian family who ruled Orkney were Earls of Caithness and extended their control into Strathnaver. In the late 12th century, Earl Harald Maddadsson was defeated at the battle at Dalharrold, where the River Naver issues from the loch, by the Norse King of the Hebrides, Rognvald Godrodarson, with a combined force of Irish and Hebrideans. Harald was driven down the strath to the coast and escaped to Orkney. The Orkneyinga Saga says however that Harold stayed in Orkney, and this location of the battle rests solely on tradition.
- 4.4 Clan Mackay came to prominence in 1408 and Angus Dow Mackay attained power. By 1427, he had become important enough to be one of the chiefs summoned to a parliament in Inverness, where they were arrested by James I, and at that time he had 4000 men under his command. The Earls of Sutherland contested control of Strathnaver with the MacKay's for centuries and in 1230, the courtesy title Lord Strathnaver was created for the heir to the Sutherland earldom. The two families usually took opposing sides. In 1578, John Robson and Alexander Gordon, 12th Earl of Sutherland fought the men of Strathnaver led by the MacKay's in the battle of Creag-Drumi-Doun, on Druim Chuibhe opposite Bettyhill. By the middle of the 17th century, their attempts to compete with the more powerful Sutherlands meant the Mackays were under severe financial strain and despite being devout Presbyterians and Covenanters, they were Royalists during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, in part because the Sutherlands were on the opposite side. However, they continued to decline in influence relative to the Sutherlands who purchased the last of their Scottish estates from Lord Reay in 1829.
- 4.5 Strathnaver, like many places in the Highlands, was involved in the Highland Clearances, with the eviction of tenants to allow the creation of large sheep farms. These generated a higher rental income to the Sutherland Estate than the mixed farms

that existed in the inland areas of the strath before clearance. A second objective of clearance was to overcome the recurrent years of famine that afflicted the region.

- 4.6 The first Strathnaver clearances took place during the early 1800's and is known as the "year of the burning". In all, as many as 15,000 people were cleared from the 1.5 million acre estates of the Countess of Sutherland and her husband, the Marquess of Stafford (later to become the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland), in the years 1811 to 1821: all to increase the income from the land by letting it to sheep farmers. The clearances were undertaken by the Estate Factor, Patrick Sellar. As a result of his notorious actions in 1814 in Strathnaver and the death of the elderly Margaret MacKay, Patrick Sellar stood trial in April 1816 in Inverness on a range of charges including culpable homicide and fire raising. He was acquitted: clearly Sellar's view of the rights of "barbarous Highlanders" was shared by the judicial establishment of the day.
- 4.7 The displaced tenants were offered crofts, with some shared grazing, in the coastal regions. The intention was that many would earn a living from fishing, as well as obtaining some subsistence from crops and a few cattle. The result of this clearance activity was the transformation of the strath from traditional semi-subsistence agriculture to sheep farming. In later years the Highland Clearances were reexamined, notably by the Napier Commission, who published their report in 1884. One outcome of this was the creation of the Congested Districts Board (CDB) in 1897, tasked with alleviating the problems of the over-crowded crofting communities created by clearance. This coincided with Patrick Sellar's grandson deciding not to continue with the tenancy in Strathnaver. After protracted negotiations, the CDB were able to buy North Syre in 1901 and lay it out into 29 substantial crofts, creating the present-day landscape. The clearances were not confined to Strath Naver alone but would have included other settlements in the surrounding landscapes.
- 4.8 The landscapes surrounding Bettyhill are populated by the ruins of abandoned and cleared settlements from the post-medieval period including farmsteads, outhouses, enclosures and field systems, along with the associated shieling settlements relating to transhumance activities.
- 4.9 Strath Naver has witnessed significant levels of archaeological survey over the years, especially when compared to the surrounding landscapes. The surveys have revealed, and continue to reveal, a significant density of archaeological sites and monuments including a number of well-preserved prehistoric sites such as chambered cairns, including the Long Cairns at Archoillenaborgie and Skelpick, brochs, hut circles and field systems relating to Bronze and Iron Age settlement, and of course, a wealth of structures and features relating to the post-medieval period.
- 4.10 However, many outlying areas such as those around Skerray, Torrisdale, Borgie, and Glen Modsary, have seen reduced levels of archaeological intervention with higher densities of recorded sites usually associated with archaeological surveys associated with developer-led projects, such as woodland creation schemes, wind farm developments, and the modernisation of old buildings, or construction of new homes on greenfield sites.

#### 5 Methodology

The overall aim of this archaeological input was to identify and record any archaeological sites or features that might be affected by the proposed developments and associated ground works, including access into the landscape with heavy plant. This would enable informed mitigation measures and recommendations to be proposed to ensure that archaeological evidence is not unnecessarily damaged or destroyed.

#### 5.1 Desk Based Assessment

- 5.1.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to commencement of the walkover survey in order to assess the archaeological potential of the area based on previously recorded sites and any historical documentation. Due to the relatively high density of known archaeological sites in the general area, especially in Strath Naver, the desk based assessment for this project was limited to a corridor mirroring the water main route where open-cut trenching would be used. In other areas, pipe-bursting and sliplining would be used, both of which would have very limited impact on the built heritage (see **6.1.1**).
- 5.1.2 A search was made of all relevant records from the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS *Canmore*) and the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HHER). Online aerial photographs and Lidar (where coverage was available) was also checked for any relevant site information where possible, while cartographic and other written records were also assessed for information relating to the area proposed for developments.
- 5.1.3 Aerial imagery was also consulted online to identify any potential archaeological features along the corridor, or in close proximity, to the water main route.

#### 5.2 <u>Walkover Survey</u>

- 5.2.1 The proposed water main rehab route, where open-cut trenching would be used, was covered by a walkover survey on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. The weather conditions for the survey included mixed conditions with generally dry and mild conditions, with some overcast skies, but with some brighter spells and a light wind. The day also included some very heavy rain showers and stronger winds as the day progressed, with wet conditions underfoot. Ground vegetation generally included grass and rushes, but with some dense stands of heather, blaeberry and deer grass, along with some dense stands of dying-back bracken in parts of Strath Naver. Light conditions for the survey were generally good.
- 5.2.2 Archaeological sites were recorded individually along a corridor for the water main route including using high-resolution digital photography where necessary. Individual site locations were plotted using DGPS technology and Trimble Business Centre software on a handheld Windows Mobile-based rover. General accuracy was in the region of sub-metre, but in some locations the accuracy varied between 1.2 and 1.6 metres due the landscape morphology and overhead atmospheric conditions. Details relating to the individual sites recorded in close proximity to the proposed access track route can be found in the Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites in Appendix 1.

5.2.3 Survey and recording methods from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) were employed and all work was conducted in strict adherence to the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct* (2014), and in compliance with the High Council's Historic Environment teams *Standards for Archaeological Work* (2012).

#### 6 Results

The following sections present the results of the desk-based assessment and walkover survey.

#### 6.1 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. The assessment was generally limited to a corridor mirroring the proposed pipeline route and associated works.

#### 6.1.1 Cartographic Sources

Mapping held at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh was checked on-line and produced the following results.

#### Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (Highlands), 1747-55

This map sheet shows the numerous settlements and associated areas of improved agricultural ground extending down the length of Strath Naver, Borgie, Torrisdale, Modsary, Skerray, and Lamigo (also with their associated areas of cultivation). Interestingly, a loch is shown at Blar Dubh, which by the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map sheet had been laid out as croft land.

#### 6.1.1.1 Ordnance Survey Map Sheets

#### First Edition OS 6-inch-to-the-mile map sheet: Sutherland, Sheet XVII – Surveyed 1874, published 1878

This map, which depicts the settlement around Borgie, shows roofed buildings at Deepburn, Borgie House and its associated buildings and gardens, and roofed structures at Seanbhaile, just to the NE of Borgie Bridge. The maps sheet also shows fields laid out between the road/track and River Borgie The site of a hillfort is shown to the ESE of Borgie Bridge, while a sheepfold is depicted at Borgidhbeag (Borgidhweag) along with three deserted buildings. Further to the east, at Reidhruadh, a total of six deserted buildings, two enclosures, and a circular sheepfold, are also shown located in open ground, without any associated field systems (Figure 2). At Torrisdale, settlement includes at least 42 roofed buildings, at least nine unroofed structures, several small enclosures, larger field systems, and the cemetery at the back of the beach. Thirteen roofed buildings are show at Airdtorrisdale along with two unroofed structures, and small and large enclosures. A Free Church School and more dispersed settlement are shown to the NW of Airdtorrisdale, but this soon gives away

Deepbur Loch a' Chaoruinn +371 .332 -340 294 Fountainhead Well Kennel 295 R.M. Borgie House Seanbhaile A phild Rèidhruadh Borgie Bridge Borgedhbeag HU Fort B

to strip crofts at Achtoty and Blar Dubh, each with their own roofed buildings and smaller enclosures located next to, and on the NE side of the road (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Excerpt from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 inch map sheet XVII showing Borgie, Borgidhbeag, and Reidhruadh – Area 4 (© NLS Edinburgh)

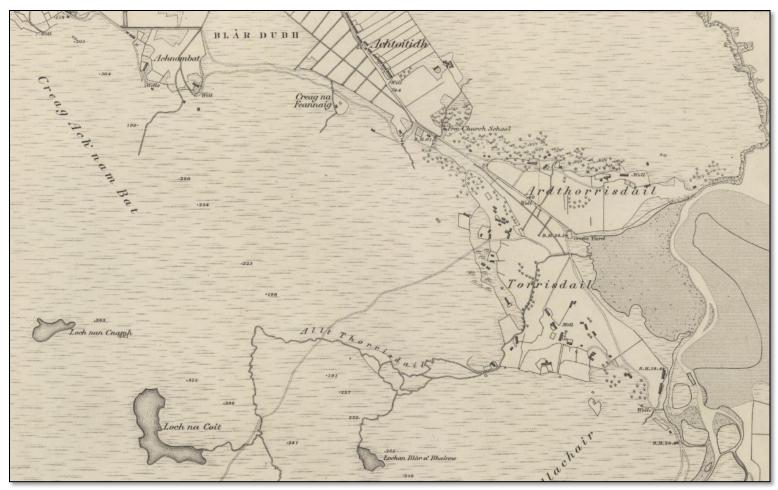


Figure 3: Excerpt from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 inch map sheet XVII showing Torrisdale, Airdtorrisdale, Achtoty, and Blar Dubh – Area 3 (© NLS Edinburgh)

#### First Edition OS 6-inch-to-the-mile map sheet: Sutherland, Sheet VIII – Surveyed 1873-4, published 1878

This map shows the settlements at Lamigo with three roofed buildings, small and large enclosures; Torroy and Skerray with at least twenty-two roofed buildings, four unroofed structures, along with a number of small enclosures and larger fields, and Skerray Mains. Fourteen roofed buildings and their associated enclosures and fields are depicted at Tubeg; nine roofed buildings and associated enclosures at Clashbuie, thirteen roofed buildings, two unroofed structures and cultivated/improved fields at Clashaidy, and two roofed buildings comprising a school to the SSE of Clashaidy (Figure 4).

#### First Edition OS 6-inch-to-the-mile map sheet: Sutherland, Sheet XVIII – Surveyed 1873, published 1878

This map shows the *Picts House* (broch) at Achcoillenaborgie, deserted settlement at Achcoillenaborgie including four enclosures and at least eleven unroofed buildings, but also three roofed structures; a stone circle, the two long cairns, and other tumuli at Achcoillenaborgie; and the deserted settlement at Achanlochy including at least eight buildings. Deserted settlements are also shown at Rhinovie and Dail na Drochaide, along with a *Pict's House* and *Pict's Tower* (broch) at Dail na Drochaide. Settlement including at least eight roofed structures is shown at Skelpick along with field enclosures, while the *Skelpick* Long Cairn is also shown to the NE (Figure **5**).



Figure 4: Excerpt from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 inch map sheet VIII showing Lamigo, Torroy, Skerray, Tubeg, Clashbuie, and Clashaidy – Area 2 (© NLS Edinburgh)

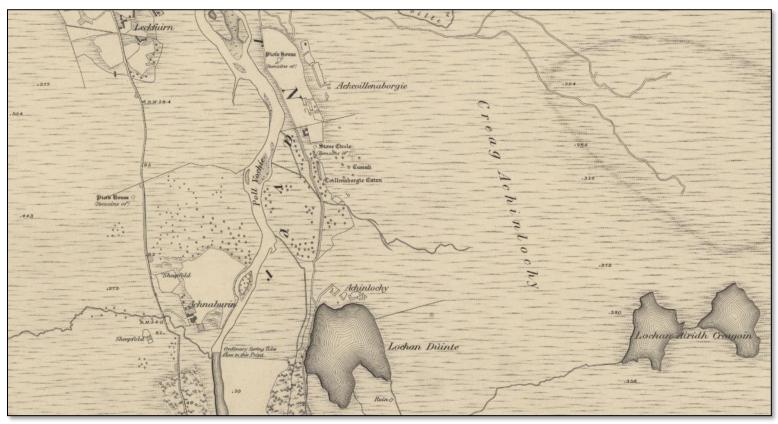


Figure 5: Excerpt from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 inch map sheet XVIII showing features between Achcoillenaborgie and Achanlochy in Strath Naver – Area 5 ( $\odot$  NLS Edinburgh)

#### First Edition OS 6-inch-to-the-mile map sheet: Sutherland, Sheet XXVII – Surveyed 1873, published 1878

To the south of Skelpick, in Strath Naver, the  $1^{st}$  Edition map sheet shows a *Pict's House* (broch) to the SE of Skelpick, deserted settlement at Delveghouse including at least twelve roofless buildings and five enclosures; deserted settlement at Dalmor including ten roofless structures and one enclosure; and another *Pict's House* (broch) to the NE of Dalmor (Figure **6**).

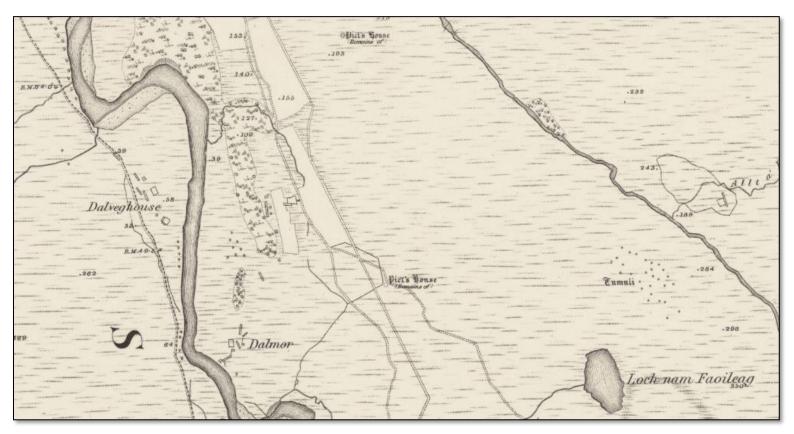


Figure 6: Excerpt from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 inch map sheet XVIII showing features between Skelpick and Dalmore in Strah Naver – Area 5 (© NLS Edinburgh)

#### Second Edition OS 6-inch-to-the-mile map sheet: Sutherland, Sheets VIII, XVII, XVIII, XXVII – Date Revised 1903, published 1908

There is little change between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map sheets covering the walkover survey areas, although there are new buildings within the various townships and modifications to the layout of the enclosed fields, especially with the establishment of new crofts around Skerray and Torrisdale. Within Strath Naver, the main developments are focused on Skelpick and its associated well-laid out, regular-shaped field systems, and the construction of Skelpick Lodge and its associated structures. Generally, the deserted settlements shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map sheets remain the same, still standing as testament to earlier settlement. The number of antiquities displayed on the map sheets also increases, especially in Strath Naver, where *Pict's Houses* (brochs) are shown distributed down the length of the Strath.



Plate 1: View NE along glen towards Modsary, and along the pipeline route on the right side of the road; Plate 2: View SW along Modsary glen towards its junction with the A836 main road



#### 6.1.2 Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HHER)

A full search of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland's National Sites and Monuments Record (Canmore) and Highland Council's Historic Environment Record produced the following sites and monuments within a corridor within close proximity to the route of the proposed water main rehab opencut trench:

#### Area 1 – Glen Modsary

# 1 MHG12607 NC 6382 5932 Loch Buidhe, Hut Circle

Set on the upper edge of a steep west facing slope overlooking the Allt Badaidh Bhaird, is a bracken covered hut circle measuring about 7.5m in diameter within a wall spread to 2.0m wide and up to 0.4m high. The entrance is in the south. On the shelf to the east of the hut are one or two low mounds which may be clearance heaps; they are the only suggestion of associated cultivation in the vicinity. Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (J B) 4 September 1978.

# 2 MHG12608 NC 6368 5929 Loch Buidhe, Hut Circle

On a shelf in an east facing slope, is a single hut circle measuring 6.5m in diameter within a heather covered rubble wall 0.2m high and spread to 1.5m wide. One or two inner facing stones are exposed. The entrance of simple form is in the south arc. There is no trace of associated land use; the surrounding area is overgrown with peat. Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (J B) 4 September 1978.

# 3 MHG12620 NC 6395 5965 Loch Crocach, Burnt Mound

Situated below a hut circle (NC65NW 10) and on the edge of an area of field clearance, is a burnt mound. It is heather covered and distinctly 'U' shaped measuring 8.5m across and 1.0m high. The open side is in south, facing a burn. Erosion reveals a content of friable stones. Surveyed at 1:10000 Visited by OS (J B) 28 August 1978.

# 4 MHG12606 NC 6401 5970 Loch Crocach, Hut Circle

Set on a west facing slope, is a peat and heather covered hut circle. It measures 5.5m in diameter within a wall spread to 2.0m wide and 0.3m high. Scattered clearance heaps cover about a hectare around the hut; no plots are visible.

Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (J B) 28 August 1978.

# 5 MHG12618 NC 6413 5987 Loch Crocach, Hut Circles

Two hut circles are in the area NC 641 598. The northern hut at NC 6416 5989 is set into the W-facing slope, and measures approximately 10.0m N-S by 8.5m within a well-defined wall spread to about 2.0m wide and 0.6m high. The interior is severely obscured by bracken; no logical pattern could be determined from the stones lying within the hut. The entrance is in the S. The second hut at NC 6414 5979, built onto the W-facing slope, is less well defined. It measures 7.0m in diameter within a wall spread at best to 2.5m wide and 0.5m high on the E side, but reducing to a barely visible rickle of stones on the W. The entrance is in the S. Field clearance heaps, about 10.0m to 15.0m apart, occasional lynchets and linear clearance occupy about a hectare around the huts. No measurable plots are discernible. Surveyed at 1:10,000.

#### 6 MHG12557 NC 6449 6082 Loch Modsarie, Hut Circle/Field System

Set into a gentle south facing slope, is an oval hut circle, overgrown with heather, measuring 10.5m north-south by 9.0m east-west within a wall about 1.5m thick, expanding to about 2.5m at either side of the entrance in the south arc. It lies within a small but well-preserved field system, occupying two hectares of undulating moorland, and comprising stone clearance heaps, at best 10.0m - 15.0m apart, and some lynchets fringing cleared areas of ground. No measurable plots are discernible.

Surveyed at 1:10000.

Visited by OS (N K B) 28 August 1978.

#### 7 MHG12556 NC 6456 6097 Loch Modsarie, Hut Circle

On a dry knoll within a minor field system, is a heather covered hut circle, measuring 10.5m west northwest - east southeast by 9.1m within a wall 1.5m wide and surviving to 0.5m maximum height. Intermittent inner facing slabs and one or two outers are exposed. The entrance, unusually, is on the shorter axis in the south-southwest arc, flanked on the east side by a side slab 1.0m long. The minor field system comprises scattered clearance heaps, most of which occur in a natural hollow, now marshy and overgrown with peat.

Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (N K B) 28 August 1978.

#### 8 MHG10373 NC 6463 6128 Modsairidhbeag, Settlement

A minor deserted settlement comprising the footings of a dwelling, 28m by 4m, one other building, possibly a dwelling, 10m by 4m, a corn-drying kiln and an enclosure, all within an enclosing ruinous wall.

Visited by OS (NKB) 25 August 1978.

# 9 MHG12555 NC 6441 6137 Alltan Dearg, Hut Circle

On a level shelf below a steep hill slope, is a mound of rubble stones overgrown with bracken, which measures 6.0m in diameter and 0.5m high. Its size, shape and content are indicative of a cairn, though no cist or kerb is identifiable and the position lacks prominence. To the north, and on the summit of the hill to the west, are at least a dozen heather covered mounds, probably clearance heaps, but no cultivation plots or hut circles are visible. These mounds are smaller than the probable cairn with a different composition. Surveyed at 1:10000.

Visited by OS (N K B) 28 August 1978.

# 10 MHG12554 NC 6437 6165 Alltan Dearg, Cairn

In undulating moorland are two cairns ('A' at NC 6437 6165 and 'B' at NC 6440 6168). 'A' on a low but prominent knoll, is the better preserved, measuring 9.0m in diameter and 1.0m high. Peat has encroached upon the east half, but in the west the content of rubble stones is exposed. No cist or kerb is discernible.

Cairn 'B', on a lower eminence is partially heather covered, 4.5m in diameter and 0.4m high. The distorted remains of a slab lined short cist, orientated east-west, are visible in the centre. The south slab, 1.2m long, is in situ; the north slab, at least 1.0m long is leaning inwards, as is the east lining. There is no trace of a cap stone or west slab, and the cist is choked with stones and peat.

Surveyed at 1:10000 Visited by OS (N K B) 25 August 1978.

#### Area 2 - Skerray

# 11 MHG18429 NC 6532 6319 Lamigo, Threshing Mill

The HHER records a threshing mill at Lamigo Croft, but no additional details are contained in the record.

# 12 MHG18199 NC 6570 6290 Skerray, Township

A township comprising seven roofed and three unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch maps (Sutherland 1878, sheets viii and xvii). The township is shown as three roofed and six unroofed buildings on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 9 August 1995.

# 13 MHG18197 NC 6590 6320 Skerray Mains, Building

What may be an unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet viii). The building is not shown on the current OS 1:10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 10 August 1995.

# 14 MHG11500 NC 6602 6314 Skerray Mains, Possible Souterrain

An artificial cave enters from below the road and runs for 40 or 50 yards below the house of Skerray Mains. Two urns were found in it when it was discovered but they crumbled away on being exposed to the air.

H Morrison 1883.

# 15 MHG18547 NC 6590 6360 Clashbuie, Township

A township comprising twenty-four roofed and two unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet viii). The township is shown as comprising fifteen roofed and seven unroofed buildings on the current edition of the OS 10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 9 August 1995.

# 16MHG18198NC 6649 6350Clashaidy, Township

A township comprising twelve roofed and two unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet viii). The township is shown as seven roofed and five unroofed buildings on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964). Information from RCAHMS (FO) 9 August 1995.

# Area 3 - Torrisdale

# 17 MHG12432 NC 6771 6205 Torrisdale, Skerray Cemetery

Suggestions that this is an early chapel site. 1st ed map missing. 2nd ed shows an elongated triangular shaped graveyard with building across the middle - HAW 12/2004.

# 18 MHG12697 NC 6773 6185 Torrisdale, Dun Torrisdale, Broch

The mutilated remains of a dun, Dun Thorasdal (Morrison 1882) or Dun Torrisdale (Information from George MacKay, Postmaster, Torrisdale), situated on a knoll immediately S of disused sandpit. The remains form a mound 15m diameter and 3m in maximum height on NE. Morrison notes the robbing of several underground chambers for building stone, and a

stone lamp from the sandpit (Info from George Mackay) was donated to the NMAS by W J MacKay in 1955-6 (PSAS 1958) (Acc.No. AQ 120) H Morrison 1882; 1883; Proc Soc Antiq Scot 1958.

A quarried stony mound, about 18m diameter, truncated on NE by a sand pit. The size, situation, and quality of stone in the mound suggest that it may have been a broch. Surveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (I S S) 14 July 1971.

Possible broch in Tongue, Sutherland, consisting of the wrecked remains of a building on a knoll of clay; the mound is 15min diameter and 3m in maximum height. Several "underground chambers" are reported to have been robbed for building stone [1] and a stone lamp from the nearby sandpit was given to the National Museum in Edinburgh in 1955 [4]. Sources: 1. NMRS site no. NC 66 SE 4: 2. Morrison 1883, 98: 3. RCAHMS 1911a, 184, no. 528: 4. Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 89 (1955-6), 459, no. 20.

The lamp is described in the NMS catalogue as cup shaped, of steatite with the handle sawn through lengthwise and the wedge between hole and outer edge removed.

# 19 MHG18194 NC 6760 6170 Torrisdale, Township

This township comprises forty-three roofed buildings and eight unroofed structures as it is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xvii). Twenty-four unroofed buildings, two roofed buildings, and five unroofed structures are depicted on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 15 August 1995.

#### 20 MHG12634 NC 6792 6113 Cnoc A' Phuillachair, Clearance Cairns

Centred on NC 679 612 on an east-facing slope is a small area of half a dozen to a dozen clearance heaps. The ground around the heaps is still partially stone strewn. No hut circles or cultivation plots were noted. Visited by OS (J B) 19 September 1977.

#### 21 MHG12699 NC 6799 6100 Carn Mean Leod, Possible Dun

Carn Mean Leod, a dun, near NC66SE 2 now consists of a cairn of boulders. There are traces of fortification on the slope on which it stood, and in this, at the foot of a large boulder, a small oblong bead of spar, 3/4 inch long, was found and was donated to the NMAS by Morrison in 1882 (Acc No. FN 24).

H Morrison 1882.

This structure was not located during field investigation but may refer to NC66SE 2 - broch. Visited by OS (J L D) 26 April 1960.

No change to previous field report.

Visited by OS (J M) 17 August 1978.

#### Area 4 - Borgie

22MHG16981NC 6767 5989Borgie, 1 Borgie, Croft BuildingListed Building: 1 Borgie and Steading (LB18463)

23MHG23555NC 6768 5990Borgie, 1 Borgie, SteadingListed Building: 1 Borgie and Steading (LB18463)

24MHG16988NC 6764 5974Borgie, 2 Borgie, Croft BuildingListed Building: 2 Borgie and Steading (LB18464)

25MHG23550NC 6764 5976Borgie, 2 Borgie, SteadingListed Building: 2 Borgie and Steading (LB18464)

# 26 MHG16997 NC 6759 5953 Bor

Listed Building: 3 Borgie (LB18465)

Borgie, 3 Borgie, Croft Building

# 27 MHG12604 NC 6756 5945 Borgie, Borgie Lodge Hotel

2-storey harled T-plan gable ended house/hunting lodge with end stacks. Attractive curved porchway located in SE corner. Projecting 2-storey timber-clad bays on SE elevation. Predominantly 4-pane sash and case windows. A timber with corrugated iron roof veranda links the original building to the SW with a later large 2 storey corrugated iron extension with hipped roof and large central corniced ridge stack. Tri-partite windows to house side; multipane glazing. The original building has been further extended to the NE, again with corrugated iron but on a smaller scale. A variety of outbuildings can be found to the rear of the house, some of which are of corrugated iron.

# 28 MHG17004 NC 6748 5938 Borgie, 4 Borgie, Croft Building

Listed Building: 4 Borgie (LB18466)

# 29 MHG29336 NC 6761 5928 Borgie, Souterrain

The site was uncovered by two JCB drivers in March 1997 whilst creating a trackway intended to improve access to the Borgie river for fishermen. They encountered a half ton boulder, which when they eventually managed to lift it, the souterrain was revealed beneath sunk into the former riverbank. At this point the chamber was flooded but the men on scene pumped out the water. The souterrain was described as having a 'banana-like' curve with a sloping floor away from where the digger broke through.

The 1.6m high stone-built chamber measures c9m from the entrance to the semicircular end wall and curved at a radius of c6m. The average width is c1m however it narrows to 0.6m towards the entrance and widens to 1.5m at the semicircular end. The underside of the entrance roof-lintels lies c1.4m below ground level, the chamber falls by a further 0.5m towards the semicircular (distal) end. Two orthostats set 0.6m apart are bridged by a non-load bearing "false lintel" to form an apparently deliberately restricted entrance. Beyond this, the structure can be seen to extend by at least 2m to form an asymmetrical roofed anti-chamber or forecourt. Whereas the west wall of the anti-chamber respects the line of the main chamber the opposing wall curves-away orthogonally and suggests the possibility of a second souterrain mirroring the first as is the case at Ham, Caithness and Easter Raitts, Badenoch. The floor of the main chamber is composed of mid-brown silty clay containing gravel and cobbles. The anti-chamber is partially filled by a darker brown soil that slopes down from the roof at c40 degrees and spills though the entrance virtually blocking it. A flat sub-circular boulder lies on this anti-chamber fill, where it spills into the main chamber.

The site was surveyed by P D Humphreys and B Hiddleston within days of its discovery to record and plan the site using a datum line and drawing frame. The site was also photographed at this time. The site survey was updated by Paul Humphreys in February 2012 with the addition of a reconstruction drawing based on surveyed data from the site.

#### 30 MHG12601 NC 6736 5939 Borgie, Chambered Cairn

Situated prominently on the S side of a rocky out-crop is a severely robbed, chambered cairn. It is about 15.0m in diameter, with a maximum height of 0.6m in the centre; elsewhere the cairn is reduced to a stony rim and scattered stones. In the centre a chamber is indicated by two opposing earth fast boulders 1.1m apart and protruding up to 0.6m through the cairn material. Surveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (J B) 16 September 1977.

31MHG17012NC 6733 5914Borgie, 5 Borgie, Croft BuildingListed Building: 5 Borgie (LB19882)

# 32 MHG23551 NC 6728 5904 Borgie, 6 Borgie, Steading

Listed Building: 6 Borgie and Steading (LB18467)

# 33 MHG17017 NC 6724 5903 Borgie, 6 Borgie, Croft Building

Listed Building: 6 Borgie and Steading (LB18467)

# 34 MHG12598 NC 6652 5871 Borgie Bridge, Hut Circle

A hut circle, discovered by the previous field investigator (JLD) is situated on a knoll on a gentle SE-facing, heather-covered slope. It measures 12.0m NW-SE by 11.0m within a wall spread to 3.0m wide and 0.3m high. The entrance is in the SE. There is no trace of associated cultivation in the immediate vicinity.

Revised at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (J L D) 26 April 1960 and (J B) 28 August 1978.

# 35 MHG16740 NC 6683 5873 Borgie, Borgie Old Bridge

Borgie Bridge built c. 1830. A rubble bridge with two segmental arches and a triangular cutwater. J R Hume 1977.

Good example of a large Parliamentary bridge with two segmental spans and triangular cutwaters; by-passed and marred by ugly breeze-block walls across the entry. G Nelson 1990.

This bridge carries the former line of the A836 public road over the river Borgie. Information from RCAHMS (RJCM), 8 May 1998.

#### 36 MHG12597 NC 6711 5872 Borgie Bridge, Homestead

Previously classified as a possible broch (RCAHMS 1911, visited 1909; A Graham 1947) or a dun (OS {JLD}, visited 26 April 1960), this well-preserved earthwork resembles a defended homestead. It is situated on edge of a natural escarpment overlooking Borgie valley and consists of a semi-circular ditch averaging 8m wide by 2 m deep from which material has gone to form a flat-topped mound c18m diameter and 2m high. Ditch stops short of escarpment at both ends where there are slight counterscarps. A straight-edged but splayed causeway across ditch in SE measures 5.4 m wide on outside and 3.7 m wide on inner. Eccentrically placed on top of mound is a stone-walled structure so reduced that its shape cannot be determined with any accuracy. In S, where it is best preserved, several inner and outer facing-stones give a wall thickness of 1.6 m. The classification of site offers problems. The raised central mound constructed from material from ditch is reminiscent of a motte, but presence of causeway and eccentric stone structure argue against this. It would appear to be a defended homestead of uncertain date (cf. NC75NW 14). Surveyed at 1:2500. Visited by OS (AA) 21 July 1971

A defended earthwork of enigmatic type, as described and illustrated by the previous field investigators. This form of ditch is found occasionally in association with brochs (see

NC75SW 9 and NC91NE 27), but apart from indefinite and insubstantial remains of a 'stonewalled structure', the summit area is clear of stone as is ditch. It would appear to be a ringwork of possibly medieval, or earlier, date.

Revised at 1:10,000 scale. Visited by OS (JB) 4 September 1978.

# 37 MHG18200 NC 6740 5860 Borgidhweag, Farmstead

Two roofed buildings, one unroofed long building, two enclosures, one of which is marked as a sheepfold, are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xvii). Two roofed and two unroofed buildings and a sheepwash are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1985).

Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 17 August 1995

# 38 MHG18185 NC 6766 5880 Ruigh Ruadh, Township

A small township comprising six unroofed buildings, four of which are long buildings, and three enclosures are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xvii). There are two roofed buildings, three unroofed buildings and what appear to be the walls of four ruined buildings depicted on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map (1985). Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 17 August 1995

There appear to be additional structures not shown on historic and modern mapping visible as earthworks just to the north of the known structures on aerial photographs taken in 2009.

#### Area 5 – Strath Naver

#### 39 MHG17602 NC 7146 5968 Allt Ach Coille Na Borgie, Building

What may be an unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xviii) and on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964). information from RCAHMS (FO) 17 August 1995.

Although described as a building, on aerial photographs it has more of the appearance of a small enclosure [IS-L 15/11/2012].

# 40 MHG9561 NC 7147 5965 Coillelyal, Cairn

Situated prominently among broken and undulating ground is a peat and heather-obscured cairn. It is about 7.8m in diameter and up to 0.8m high, with the summit slightly dished. One or two probable kerb stones are visible in the northeast half, but the southwest periphery is rather indefinite. When viewed from the north the feature presents a typical cairn-like profile. Surveyed at 1:10000.

Visited by OS (J B) 10 August 1977.

# 41 MHG10661 NC 7145 5974 Coillelyal, Field System

extending along a heather covered shelf in a southwest facing slope, is a field system of about two hectares. It comprises stone clearance heaps fringing small areas of relatively stone free ground. One of these plots' measures 20.0m by 15.0m. No hut circles can be identified. Visited by OS (N K B) 17 August 1978.

# 42 MHG10772 NC 7138 5941 Achcoillenaborgie, Broch

The denuded remains of a broch, 28 feet diameter within a wall 14 feet thick, with an entrance in north. The walls of a chamber lie 8 feet west of the passage and the remains of buildings lie outside. RCAHMS 1911, visited 1909.

The remains of a broch, set on a low knoll and generally as described by RCAHMS except that the north segment is now severely denuded, and the entrance passage is no longer visible although the chamber survives. In the north arc of the interior are traces of a dry-stone chamber, partly built into the broch wall. To the SW of the broch lies a circular rubble-walled enclosure, 7.2m in diameter with no visible entrance, whose period is uncertain. Remains of a ditch, partly accompanied by an outer bank, curve round the broch on the north and west and are probably a contemporary defence, protecting the easier approach. Visited by OS (J L D) 27 April 1960.

The broch and its outer defence are generally as described by previous OS investigators, the remains are obscured by tumble, and mutilated by stone robbing and the insertion of later structures. Visited by OS (J B) 10 July 1977.

The site of the broch was visited by Highland Archaeology Services in 2007 during a walkover survey in advance of a proposed windfarm development to the northeast. It was found to be much as previously described. It lay outside the main development area but was adjacent to a potential point of access to the windfarm.

This probable broch in Farr, Sutherland, stands at about 15m OD on a slight knoll between the base of a hill and the river Naver, and about half a mile south of the road bridge over the Naver near Bettyhill (visited in 1963). The structure is now low and badly ruined, no doubt because of stone robbing by the builders of nearby settlements.

In 1910 the entrance was seen on the north and the walls of a possible mural chamber were exposed west of the passage and 2.44m (8ft) from it. These features were no longer visible in 1960 but traces of a drystone chamber were then noted on the northern arc, partly built into the wall. The side of a possible entry into the broch wall from the interior was noted on the south side in 1985.

There are signs of outbuildings around the site but Swanson doubts if these are contemporary with the broch. There are also signs of an outer ditch with an outer rampart on the north-east. Dimensions: the interior diameter is about 8.54m (28ft) and the wall is about 4.27m (14ft) thick; the wall proportion would thus be 50%.

Sources: 1. NMRS site no. NC 75 NW 2: 2. RCAHMS 1911a, 61, no. 183: 3. Swanson (ms) 1985, 713-15 and plan.

#### 43 MHG10788 NC 7154 5922 Achcoillenaborgie, Settlement

The remains of a depopulated settlement, mentioned as Achcaillnaborgin (Macfarlane 1906-8) in 1726, which is presumably one of those abandoned during the clearance of Strathnaver between 1814 and 1891. Only a shepherd occupied the site in 1873. Name Book 1873; W Macfarlane 1906-8; J Prebble 1963.

This deserted township is commonly known locally as Achnaborgie and comprises at least 10 domestic structures, totally overgrown with bracken when investigated. The ground below the boundary wall is clearly marked with run-rig ploughing. Visited by OS (J B) 21 July 1977.

A township, comprising three roofed and eleven unroofed buildings and six enclosures, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xviii). Three roofed and nine unroofed buildings and eight enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 17 August 1995.

44 MHG10782 NC 7153 5903 **Coille na Borgie, Chambered Long Cairn** The remains of three horned chambered cairns, two of which 'A' and 'B', were formerly thought to form one long, horned cairn (Henshall 1963) like 'C' but with a polygonal as opposed to a Camster - type chamber. They are now considered to be two separate cairns, set back-to-back on the same axis, and only 6 feet apart, and are therefore comparable with the Kinbrace Hill Long Cairn (NC82NE 3) (Henshall 1972). 'A' which may have been short trapezoidal in plan is ruinous and of bare stones now reaching a height of about 5 feet. It has a deep north-facing forecourt with an orthostatic facade of which only three stones, two of them fallen, survive. A deep spread of cairn material fills the forecourt. Four stones of a peristalith, three of them fallen outwards, are visible on the west side. The east side is welldefined except that it almost fades away towards the NE corner. Of the axial chamber only the tips of two orthostats are visible. There is no sign of robbing at the southern end. 'B' is trapezoidal, but 10 feet narrower than 'A', their west sides being in line. It appears to have a south- facing, crescentric, orthostatic facade, and shows little sign of robbing except at the NE corner, but there has been a spread of cairn material, outwards and downhill along the west side. Three stones of the peristalith are still visible on the west side and two on the east. Two stones, the taller 3 feet high, apparently belong to the façade but the forecourt is full of cairn material which falls neatly to make an almost square end to the cairn. There are wall foundations in front of the façade of 'A' and on the east sides of both 'A' and 'B'. 'C' only 30 feet from 'B' and horned at both ends is assumed to represent a further development of the stage exemplified by 'A' and 'B'. It measures 235 feet, by 62 feet at the high north end and 30 feet at the south. The forecourt on the north appears to have been square rather than crescentric with a façade of upright, pointed stones. The south end has been considerably robbed but is clearly square in plan with a considerable amount of cairn material in the crescentric forecourt. There is a hollow in the profile behind the chamber. The side edges of the cairn are well-defined and generally rise steeply, with the stones of the perstalith some feet within the edges.

This group of three cairns is unique in the north and east of Scotland in the use of orthostatic facades; and the cairn and façade developments probably extended through much of the third millennium.

A S Henshall 1963; 1972; Visited by OS (J L D) 27 April 1960.

A huge, elongated mass of grey stones protrudes through the heather above the road. On closer inspection, there are substantial remains of at least two and probably three long chambered cairns set in line. Best preserved is the south cairn, some 72m long, with traces of somewhat rectilinear forecourts defined by short horns, at either end. The cairn is widest and highest where the chamber is, and the north forecourt is marked by a series of tall upright slabs once linked by drystone walling. The chamber and passage are set at an angle to the axis of the cairn and may have been covered by a small round cairn before the long cairn was built. The chamber is divided into compartments by the usual pairs of upright slabs. Its roof has collapsed, and much of the structure is visible. The status of the northern structure is uncertain. Sometimes regarded as one cairn, it may in fact be two cairns set in line. There are traces of a forecourt at either end and a chamber at the north end now hidden by a horrid modern rubbish dump. All these cairns were cleared out around 1867 when 'only a few bones were found' and 'no account was taken of them'. The set of upright stones in the facades of these cairns is unique in the north of Scotland, though quite usual in the south and west. The development and use of these cairns may have continued through most of the 3rd millennium BC.

J Close-Brooks 1986.

#### 45 MHG10651 NC 7164 5897 Achcoillenaborgie, Field System

Small cairns in which are interred human remains.

Name Book 1873.

Along the slopes of the shelving hillside are small tumuli, about 10 feet in diameter and 5 feet high, composed of earth and stones, which yield an unctuous substance at the centre when excavated showing that the slope was used as a prehistoric cemetery.

A Mackay 1914

A minor field system covering an area some 250m N-S by 100m E-W and consisting of stone clearance heaps and lynchets with fields measuring between 30m by 15m and 20m by 10m. Visited by OS (A A) 20 July 1971.

#### 46 MHG10652 NC 7163 5891 Achcoillenaborgie, Cairns

One robbed and one probable cairn were discovered on this hillside, but majority of mounds in area are stone clearance heaps of an early field system (see NC75NW 4).

'A' at NC 7164 5890 is near early modern structures and walls. It measures about 13.5m in diameter with clear stretches of contiguous kerbing in N & S arcs; elsewhere perimeter is rather vague with a later building foundation encroaching upon it in west arc. The cairn material reaches a maximum height of 0.8m in N. A pit has been dug in the centre, but no cist is exposed.

'B' lies 15.0m to NW, and although probably a cairn, its classification is not as certain as that of 'A'. It measures about 6.8m in diameter. Around N arc resembling a kerb is a line of boulders which straightens for 4m in NW; this straightening may be due to stone displacement. The position on sloping ground is somewhat unusual for a cairn. A depression in the centre revealed no cist.

Surveyed at 1:10,000. Visited by OS (J B) 20 July 1977.

#### MHG62262 NC 7163 5890 47 Achcoillenaborgie, Buildings

Two ruined buildings at Achcoillenaborgie. They measure 14m x 8m and 6m x 3.5 They are visible on 2009 vertical APs with the larger of the two shown on historic OS mapping.

#### **48** MHG62263 NC 7160 5888 Achcoillenaborgie, Buildings and Enclosure

Two buildings and an enclosure at Achcoillenaborgie. The enclosure measures c.27m x 14m. The footings of the two small buildings (one at either end of the enclosure) both measure c.8m x 4m. All three features are visible on 2009 vertical APs and are shown on historic OS mapping.

#### 49 MHG17612 NC 7160 5880 **Coillenaborgie**, Farmstead

What may be a farmstead is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xviii) as an enclosure and three unroofed structures, two of which are attached to the enclosure and may have been buildings. They are not shown on the current edition OS 1:10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 17 August 1995.

#### 50 MHG10769 NC 7148 5882 Achinlochy, Cairn

A prominent, turf-covered cairn on the summit of a ridge, discovered during field investigation, measures 11m in diameter and 1.2m high, and from its south side, a low mound, 0.5m high, extends for about 9m. Visited by OS (J L D) 2 May 1960.

The cairn is generally as described. The 'mound' extending from the south end is natural, its profile emphasized by run rig cutting into its edge. A few disturbances within the cairn material reveal nothing. Visited by OS (J B) 8 August 1977.

# 51 MHG62266 NC 7142 5875 Achinlochy, Building or Enclosure

A possible building or small enclosure at Achcoillenaborgie. The footings of a possible building or small enclosure measuring c.16.5m x 9.5m. It is visible on 2009 vertical APs but is not shown on historic OS mapping.

# 52 MHG62264 NC 7167 5876 Achanlochy, Building and Enclosure

A building within an enclosure at Achcoillenaborgie/Achanlochy. The enclosure measures c.13m x 11m. The footings of the building in the southeast corner of the enclosure measures c.5m x 3.5m. The features are visible on 2009 vertical APs but are not shown on historic OS mapping.

# 53 MHG62265 NC 7171 5868 Achanlochy, Farmstead

A possible farmstead at Achcoillenaborgie. The footings of two buildings, one rectangular measuring c.16m x 4m and the other 'L'-shaped to its immediate northwest measuring 11m x 4m and 8.5 x 4m. The buildings are visible on 2009 vertical APs but are not shown on historic OS mapping.

# 54 MHG10789 NC 7160 5854 Achanlochy, Settlement

The remains of a depopulated settlement, which since it was under sheep by 1873, is presumably one of those abandoned during the clearance of Strathnaver between 1814 and 1819.

Name Book 1873; J Prebble 1963.

Achinlochy (name verified) a deserted township comprising at least eleven domestic structures with associated enclosures. The western side of the township is being destroyed by the enlarging of a quarry. Run-rig plough lines can be seen on the river terrace to the northwest and northeast of the township. Visited by OS (J B) 21 July 1977.

A township, comprising seven unroofed buildings and two enclosures, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xviii). The township is shown as ten unroofed buildings and three enclosures on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 17 August 1995.

The township has been fenced in and a plaque with a small description and site plan has been erected by Bettyhill Museum. In addition to the OS description there are two corn-drying kilns.

Information from A K Kilpatrick to RCAHMS, 29 May 1997, visited 26 May 1997.

# 55 MHG10668 NC 7171 5800 Rhinovie, Hut Circle

Situated on the spine of a low ridge are the remains of a hut circle discovered by Rudie (Elliot Rudie, 7 Mackenzie Cres., Bettyhill). It measures 10.5m in diameter within a wall practically reduced to ground level, except in the north where it survives as a low band of rubble spread to 1.5m broad. The west side is overlaid by an early modern wall. No entrance is visible.

There is no trace in the immediate vicinity of the clearance heaps etc., normally found in association with hut circles.

Surveyed at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (J B) 19 September 1977.

# 56 MHG17614 NC 7180 5812 Lochan Duinte, Building

What may be a ruined building is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xviii) and is shown as a ruin on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 17 August 1995.

# 57 MHG10506 NC 7173 5732 Skelpick Burn, Building

These were destroyed by ploughing, during the introduction of a "re-seed" area, in the late 1980's Reputedly Norse (bowed walls) Information from RB Gourlay (DML)

A completely turf-covered long-house 33m by 3.5m with walls 0.3m average height. In the vicinity are two or three smaller footings in a similar state of preservation. Visited by OS (JB) 30 November 1978.

# 58 MHG10347 NC 7186 5733 Dail na Drochaide, Mill

Situated S of the Skelpick Burn, some 375m E of its junction with the river Naver is the site of a mill of which no buildings can be identified. The mill lade and leat are extant but dry, as are two mill pits, now choked with stones, measuring about 6m by 5m and 1.5m deep. Visited by OS (JB) 30 November 1978.

# 59 MHG9560 NC 7168 5708 Lochan Dubh Skelpick, Cairns

Within an area of undulating ground are two probable heather covered cairns ('A' and 'B'), both situated at the end of low ridges.

'A' is up to 0.7m high and measures overall about 7.2m north-east-southwest by about 5.5m, with the longer axis on the line of the ridge. One or two large stones around the perimeter may form part of a kerb. The interior is probably intact.

'B' is about 6.7m in diameter and 0.5m high. The centre has been disturbed revealing no structural features. In the area there are a few scattered mounds, probably clearance heaps. The prominent position of the two features rather than their construction is the prime reason for consideration as burial cairns.

Surveyed at 1:10000.

Visited by OS (J B) 8 August 1977.

# 60 MHG10776 NC 7195 5698 Dail na Drochaide, Field System

A group of field clearance heaps covering an area of about 500m northwest-southeast by 100m north-east-south-west.

RCAHMS 1911, visited 1909; Visited by OS (J L D) 2 May 1960.

These clearance heaps, about 10.0m to 30.0m apart, among rough grazing comprise a field system. No measurable hut circles or plots can be identified. Low banks in the area are more recent.

Visited by OS (J B) 8 August 1977.

# 61 MHG10671 NC 7185 5661 Skelpick, Hut Circles

Within an area of run-rig cultivation, are two turf covered hut circles ('A' and 'B') discovered by Rudie (Elliot Rudie, 7 Mackenzie Cres., Bettyhill).

'A' is about 4.5m in diameter within a wall 0.3m high and spread to 2.0m. The south arc has been destroyed.

'B' is 7.5m in diameter within a low wall spread to 1.5m; later clearance has been dumped on the east arc. The entrance is in the south. Any remains of contemporary cultivation have probably been destroyed run rig, but a field system (NC75NW 23) 200.0m to the northeast may be associated.

Surveyed at 1:10000. Visited by OS (J B) 19 September 1977.

#### 62 MHG17650 NC 7200 5640 Skelpick, Township

A township, comprising seven roofed and two unroofed buildings, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xviii). Two roofed buildings are shown on the current edition OS map (1964).

Information from RCAHMS (FO) 17 August 1995.

#### 63 MHG10774 NC 7205 5641 Skelpick, Cairn

An alleged round cairn (RCAHMS 1911) is simply a large clearance heap, measuring 17.9m north-south by 16.4m east-west and 1.5m high.

RCAHMS 1911, visited 1909; Visited by OS (J L D) 4 May 1960,

No change to previous field report.

Visited by OS (J B) 1 August 1977.

#### 64 MHG11102 NC 7217 5635 Skelpick, Chambered Cairn

The heavily robbed remains of an Orkney-Cromarty type round cairn with a polygonal chamber, lying on flat moorland terrace. The edge of the cairn is still clearly defined giving a diameter of about 93ft. The entrance has been from south where a pair of portal stones, one fallen, can still be seen as can some of structural stones of chamber. RCAHMS 1911; A S Henshall 1963.

The remains of this chambered cairn are generally as described, standing 2m high. It has been used as a rubbish tip.

Visited by OS (J L D) 2 May 1960. No change to previous reports. Revised at 1/10,000. Visited by OS (J B) 1 August 1977.

#### 65 MHG10197 NC 7229 5620 Skelpick, Broch

The remains of a Pictish House which has never been explored. Name Book 1873.

Only rock outcrop occurs at this site and there is no evidence to suggest that any artificial feature ever existed. The situation is not suitable for a broch. It seems probable that this is a mis-plotting of NC75NW 9 (see MHG11102). Visited by OS (J L D) 2 May 1960.

No change. Visited by OS (J B) 1 September 1977.

Site of possible broch in Farr, Suther-land. It was marked as a 'Pict's House' on the 6-inch map of 1873 but there are no traces of a building, and the site is not a suitable one for a broch.

Sources: 1. NMRS site no. NC 75 NW 28: 2. Swanson (ms) 1985, 720.

# **66 MHG37300 NC 7222 5588 Skelpick, Lodge Keeper's House** No record for this property within the Highland Council's HHER.

# 67 MHG10783 NC 7233 5588 Skelpick, Chambered Cairn?

Three large erect stones, forming a rough close triangle and surrounded by a raised, stony area, were found during field investigation in a cleared wood and may be the remains of a cairn The site is mutilated by forestry operations, but the large slabs resemble a chamber. Visited by OS (J L D) 5 May 1960.

Four large stones or boulders at NC 7233 5586 are possibly the stones described above. Three of them form a rough triangle, with one of these, of a more slab like nature, prone. Due to the contrasting shapes of the stones and position of the fourth, it is unlikely that this is the remains of a chamber. It is probably either a fortuitous arrangement or the result of stone clearance from the adjacent field. The ground at NC 72345 588 is covered by dense whin bushes and wind sown birch. No likely arrangement of stones was encountered here. Visited by OS (J B) 1 August 1977.

# 68 MHG37431 NC 7234 5546 Skelpick, No. 4 Holding, Factory

There is no record for this site within Highland Council's HHER.

# 69 MHG11076 NC 7238 5547 Dalmore, Cairn

Pict's House (NR) (Remains of) OS 6"map, Sutherland, 1st ed., (1873) Brough (NR) (Site of) OS 6"map, Sutherland, 2nd ed., (1906)

There are no structural remains here although there are several mounds, one of which, about 15m in diameter and 2m high, is a possible site of a cairn. It is not a suitable location for a broch.

Visited by OS (J L D) 2 May 1960.

There is no local knowledge of a broch or cairn in this area. Any mounds of a significant size appear to be natural, of a sandy composition. Visited by OS (J B) 1 September 1977.

# 70 MHG10792 NC 7209 5528 Dalmore, Settlement

The remains of a depopulated settlement which since it was in ruins in 1873, is presumably one of those abandoned during the clearance of Strathnaver between 1814 and 1819 Name Book 1873; J Prebble 1963.

Dalmor or Dalmarnach (Information from Mr. I Meiklejohn, Skelpick, Bettyhill) is a small, deserted township of about 7 building foundations, the largest being 26.0m by 3.5m; one foundation has been destroyed by recent quarrying. The remains of associated enclosures and obscure remains of a probable corn-drying kiln also survive. On the ridge to the south of the main group of houses are at least 3 shallow pits, about 2.0m diameter; these are commonly found adjacent to dwellings within deserted townships, but their purposes are uncertain. There are slight traces of run-rig on the heugh to the west of the township. Revised at 1:10,000.

Visited by OS (J B) 22 August 1977.

This township comprising one roofed building, fifteen unroofed buildings of which six are long buildings, and two enclosures, is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1878, sheet xxvii). Three unroofed long buildings, nine other unroofed buildings and one enclosure are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1964).



Plate 3: View NW showing stone and turf dyke (Site 2) running up slope and defining a field system at Torroy; Plate 4: View NNW showing substantial drystone dyke (Site 3) defining field at Torroy, with the road to Lamigo; Plate 5: View E over drystone dyke (Site 5) running up the side of the road at Skerray; Plate 6: View S over remains of drystone building (Site 6) at Tubeg, located on the W side of the township road

#### 6.1.3 Aerial Imagery

Aerial imagery was consulted online to record features near the open-cut trench for the proposed water main that extended beyond the survey area (into areas of ground where access had not been granted) and includes sites that were not visible on the ground during the walkover survey. A total of 25 additional sites were recorded (with some sites including multiple structures and dykes forming field systems) including field and boundary dykes, buildings and smaller structures of unknown function, sheep folds and a sheep dip. Most of the sites appear to be post-medieval in date.

The sites have been included in Appendix 1 and have been represented by a different coloured line (yellow) in the GIS to sites recorded during the walkover survey (red). It should be noted that not all the additional sites were inspected during the walkover

survey and in most instances, these features have been lifted directly off the aerial imagery. This exercise was carried out to provide a more complete picture of the built heritage located in a corridor mirroring the alignment of the new water main route where open-cut trenches are to be used.

#### 6.2 Walkover Survey

The walkover survey revealed 22 archaeological sites comprising at least 27 individual structures (not including the various elements of stone dykes forming larger field systems), and a further 25 sites were identified using online aerial imagery (see Appendix 1). Most of these sites are new to the archaeological record. The sites include buildings, enclosures, stone, and stone and turf dykes, sheep folds, a sheep dip, a well/culvert, a stone culvert, clearance cairns, stone spreads (field clearance), and a possible burial cairn. The Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites provides details of the individual sites recovered during the survey, while their locations are shown on Figures 7 - 14).

#### 6.2.1 Prehistoric Period

6.2.1.1 Possible prehistoric sites recorded during the walkover survey included a possible burial cairn (Site 15), and what may be part of a larger burial monument (Site 13; MHG10774), both at Skelpick in Strath Naver; and a number of clearance cairns near the road at Dail na Drochaide forming a part of a larger field system (Site 16; MHG10776). The broch at Archoillenaborgie (Site 18; MHG10772) is also located close to the open-cut water main route. In such a landscape, it is always possible that additional sites are buried below the current land surface, and this should be taken into consideration while cutting the pipe trench.

#### 6.2.2 Historic Period

6.2.2.1 The majority of the sites relate to post-medieval settlement, including the associated field boundaries and field systems, and other specific structures relating to agricultural practices and animal husbandry such as sheep folds and sheep dips. The settlement relates to different phases of the post-medieval period, although some of these settlements may have earlier foundations rooted in the late medieval period. Some of the settlements, especially those on Strath Naver such as Archoillenaborgie (MHG10788), Achinlochy (Site 46; MHG10789), Dalmor (MHG10792), and Ruigh Ruadh (Site 22; MHG18185), had already been cleared at the time of the survey for the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, while some of the structures identified in the other townships, such as Skerray and Tubeg, may also relate to this earlier phase. However, many of the structures recorded during the walkover survey, or lifted off the online aerial imagery, are shown occupied at the time of the survey for the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition mapping, and indeed, at the time of survey for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition map sheets. Contemporary with these later farmsteads and individual buildings in the townships, and appearing slightly later, are the buildings and infrastructure relating to the larger farms and estate buildings, such as those seen at Skelpick in Strath Naver. The changes in the form and shape of the field enclosures can also be tied in, to some extent, with these settlements. The irregular-shaped fields are earlier in date, while the strip crofts relate to people cleared off the land and assigned new plots of land.

Finally, the larger, regular-shaped fields, along with other features such as sheep folds and sheep dips, relate to the larger sheep runs and farms, most of which would have been connected to an estate.



Plate 7: View NW showing very degraded and robbed remains of building (Site 7a) at Tubeg; Plate 8: View NNE showing the low foundations of the building at Tubeg (Site 8) with the Clashbuie road to left; Plate 9: View SW of the possible well or culvert (Site 9) located to the side of the road at Tubeg; Plate 10: View SW of stone culvert (Site 10) at the Skerray/Tubeg road junction with the wall of Skerray Mains visible above

#### 7 Discussion

7.1 The desk based assessment for this project has revealed a landscape well-populated with archaeological sites and monuments, within the immediate landscape surrounding the proposed water main rehab scheme focused on Bettyhill. The density of structures and features recorded during the walkover survey (22 sites with at least 27 individual structures), within a narrow corridor, is supplemented by the identified sites lifted off the online aerial imagery (25 sites), and in particular, by the desk-based

assessment relating to previously recorded sites on the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (70 sites). The higher density of sites already recorded in Strath Naver is the result of targeted, landscape-based surveys by the Ordnance Survey and Royal Commission over a number of years, along with the enhanced preservation of both prehistoric and historic period sites. The latter is partly due to the land in Strath Naver being cleared before the onset of more intensive agricultural practices, although a significant number of sites must have been swept away in preparing the regular fields and associated buildings associated with the farm and estate at Skelpick.

- 7.2 The quality and survival of the prehistoric sites in Strath Naver is quite remarkable, especially when compared to some of the surrounding landscapes. This high density of prehistoric sites is most likely due to the unique location of the strath, which carries a significant river, while the terraced ground to each side supports better quantity soils, some of which are enhanced by windblown sand derived from the beaches located to the west and southwest of Bettyhill. It is remarkable that these sites, some dating back to the Neolithic period some 5000 years ago, have endured, while many of the post-medieval townships cleared during the 19<sup>th</sup> century have been reduced to barely visible earthworks.
- 7.3 A number of sites recorded during the walkover survey are located in close proximity to the proposed water main rehab project, and it is possible that some sites could be directly impacted by the excavation of the open-cut sections of the pipe trench. The recommendations in Section 8 set out measures to mitigate against further disturbance or destruction of archaeological sites and features and retain where possible the integrity of the built heritage and any associated/buried archaeological deposits.



Plate 11: View SSE showing the road from Skerray Bay, with improved, hilly ground on the Tubeg side with numerous clearance cairns



Plate 12: View ESE over pipeline route at Torrisdale and Torrisdale Bay, showing stone dyke (Site 11) forming a part of the field system; Plate 13: View ESE showing drystone dyke (Site 12) running alongside township road at Skelpick; Plate 14: View E showing stone spread (Site 13), which may represent stone clearance, or the very degraded remains of a prehistoric cairn; Plate 15: View SSW over possible burial cairn (Site 15) at Dail na Drochaide with the township road to the left

#### 8 Recommendations

8.1 The results of the desk based assessment and walkover survey carried out in advance of the proposed water main rehab project focused on Bettyhill, in Sutherland, have highlighted the density of archaeological sites and monuments within a corridor mirroring the proposed development works. High densities of sites are focused on the townships, where most of the project will take place, and particularly, in Strath Naver. Fortunately, the sections of open-cut trench for the new water main run through roads and tracks, and their associated verges, and only deviates into open ground in eight short sections, including to the south of the junction of the A836 main road and the Glen Modsary minor road (NC 63676 59422), at Achtoty (NC 67159 62673), at

Airdtorrisdale (NC 67655 62212), at Torrisdale (NC 67531 62001), at Borgidhweag (NC 67423 58673), at Ruigh Ruadh (NC 67690 58814); and at three short sections in Strath Naver including Skelpick (NC 71937 56643), at Achcoillenaborgie (NC 71514 59176), and adjacent to the broch at Achcoillenaborgie (NC 71405 59384).

- 8.2 Within the townships of Lamigo, Torroy, Skerray, Tubeg, Clashbuie, Clashaidy, Achtoty, Airdtorrisdale, Borgie, and in Strath Naver, the open-cut trench for the water main will run close to drystone dykes and field walls, and the footings and walls of some buildings. Due to the constricted nature of the working area available for the development works in these areas, it is not possible to recommend the usual protective buffer zones. These features should not be impacted by the trench cutting, but caution should be taken while moving heavy plant into place and while swinging the arm and bucket on mechanical excavators.
- 8.3 At Skerray, it is possible that the well/culvert Site **9** and stone culvert Site **10** will be directly impacted by the cutting of the pipe trench, while the discovery of culvert Site 10 may also indicate the presence of other, unknown features of this type associated with the township roads. Where possible, damage to these features should be kept to a minimum.
- 8.4 The open cut pipe trench will directly impact on drystone dykes at Achtoty (Site 19), on the foundations of a possible enclosure at Borgidhweag (Site 48), and on a section of stone dyke and a potential remains of an enclosure and building at Ruigh Ruadh (Site 22; HHER Site MHG18185). Only a small section of the enclosure wall will potentially be impacted at Borgidhweag (Site 48), so no additional archaeological input is recommended. Features identified at the Ruigh Ruadh settlement (Site 22) were lifted off the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map sheet (see Figure 16). Any visible features associated with these sites appear to have been removed by agricultural activities and the construction of new buildings and tracks. The wall of a possible enclosure, located at the north end of the site, will only be impacted in one small area, while the pipeline trench will run through the location of a former long building, located to the SE of the current house at this site. Much of this structure appears to have been truncated by the access track and parking for the house, while the pipeline will run in the edge of the access track. Therefore, due to the limited impacts on these features, no further archaeological input is recommended.
- 8.5 At the broch Site **18** (**MHG10772**) at Achcoillenaborgie, in Strath Naver, the proposed open-cut trench for the water main will run from the road up the SE side of the main footpath accessing the monument and will cut through the SE corner of the designated Scheduled Monument area (**SM1824**; Figure **15**). It is recommended that the pipeline route is diverted to the SE by at least 8 metres, into the edge of the improved field.
- 8.6 Finally, access to the landscape, including tracking by heavy plant should be kept to well-marked routes and avoiding archaeological sites and features. In particular, tracking over archaeological sites, including field dykes, should be avoided or kept to a minimum.

## 9 References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) 2014 Code of Conduct

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA) 2014 Standards and guidance: Archaeological evaluation

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) 2014 Standards and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessments

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), April 2004. *Survey and Recording Policy* 

Scottish Government 2011 PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology

Scottish Government 2014 Scottish Planning Policy

Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HHER) 2022 Accessed online on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at: https://her.highland.gov.uk/map

Highland Council's Historic Environment Team *Standards for Archaeological Work* (2012)

## 10 Web-Based Sources

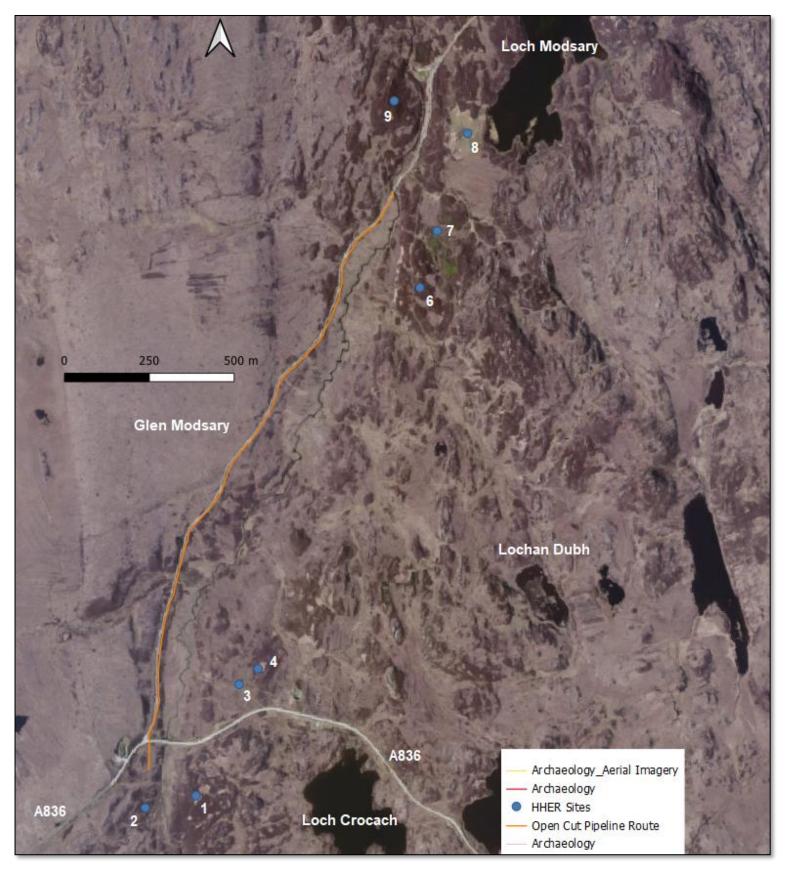
British Geological Survey – http://www.bgs.ac.uk

Gazetteer for Scotland – http://www.scottish-places.info National Map Library of Scotland – http://maps.nls.uk

Scotland's Places 2022 Ordnance Survey Name Books http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books



Plate 16: View NNW showing township road, close to Site 15, and Dail na Drochaide, Strath Naver



*Figure 7: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER sites in Glen Modsary – Area 1* (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)

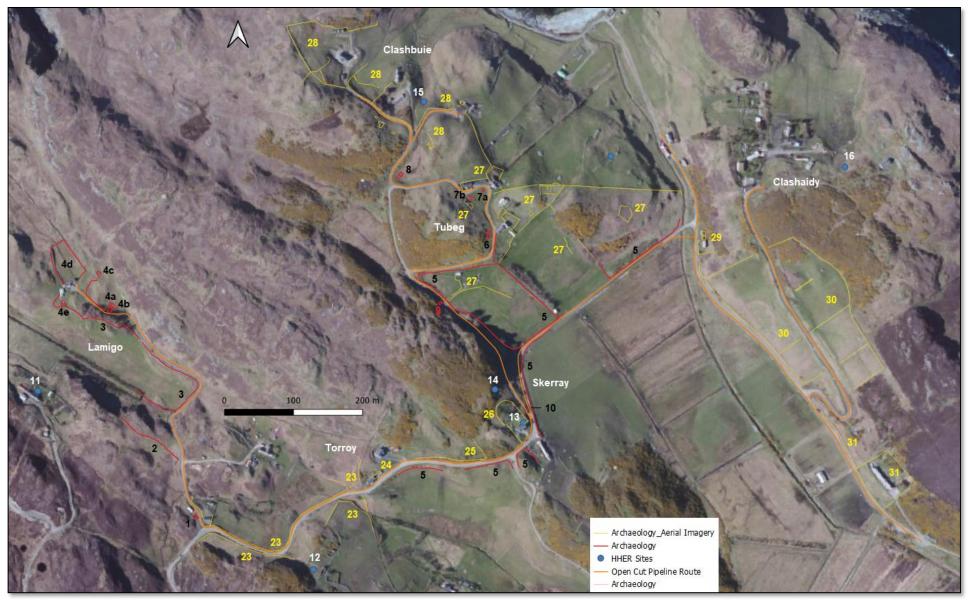


Figure 8: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER, aerial and archaeological sites at Skerray – Area 2 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)

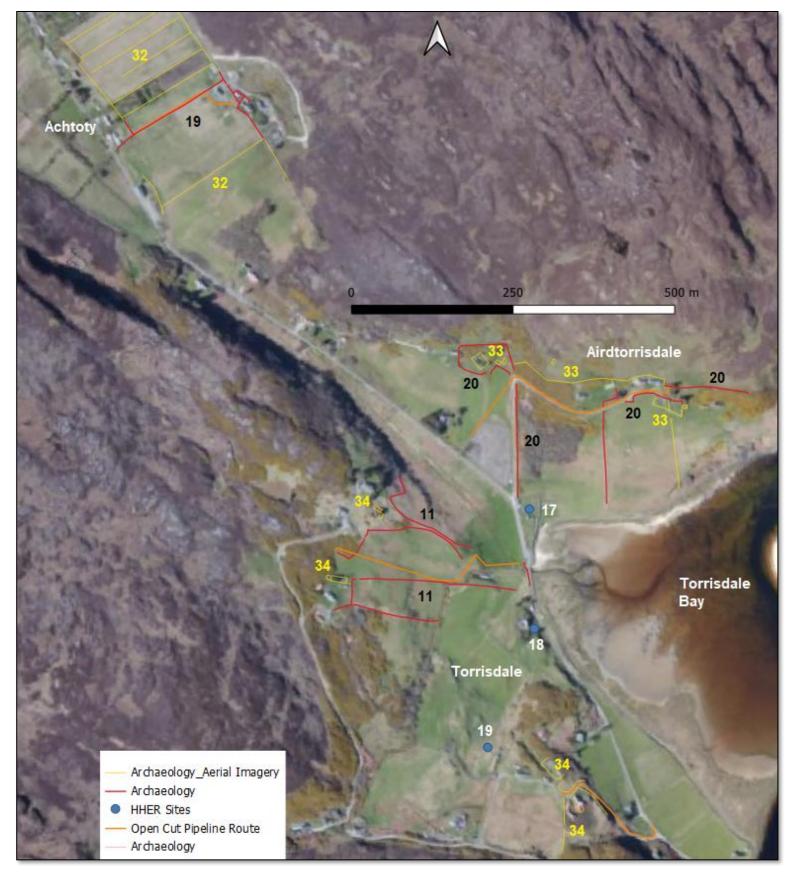


Figure 9: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER, aerial and archaeology sites in Achtoty, Airdtorrisdale and Torrisdale – Area 3 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)

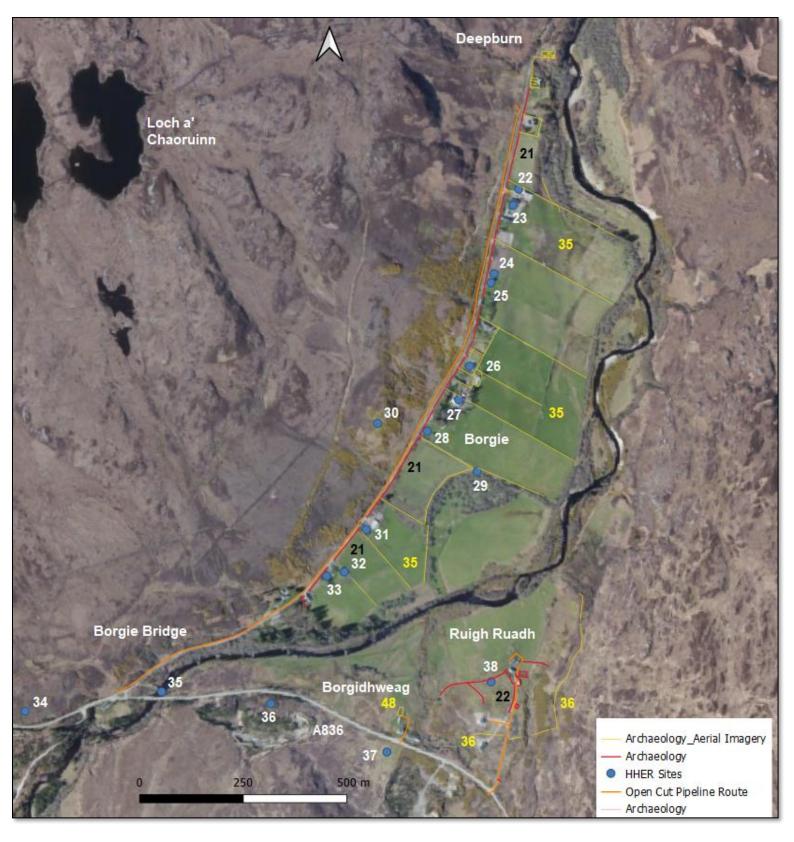


Figure 10: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER, aerial and archaeology sites in Borgie, Borgidhweag, and Ruigh Ruadh – Area 4 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)



Figure 11: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER, aerial and archaeology sites between Dalmor and Skelpick House – Area 5 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)

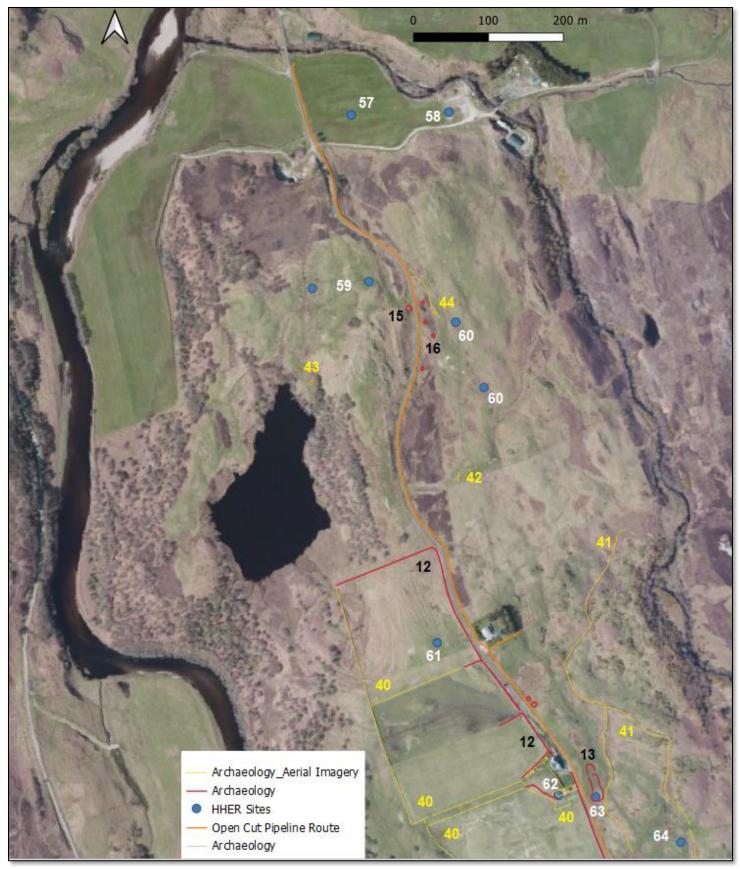


Figure 12: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER, aerial and archaeology sites between Skelpick House and Dail na Drochaide – Area 5 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)

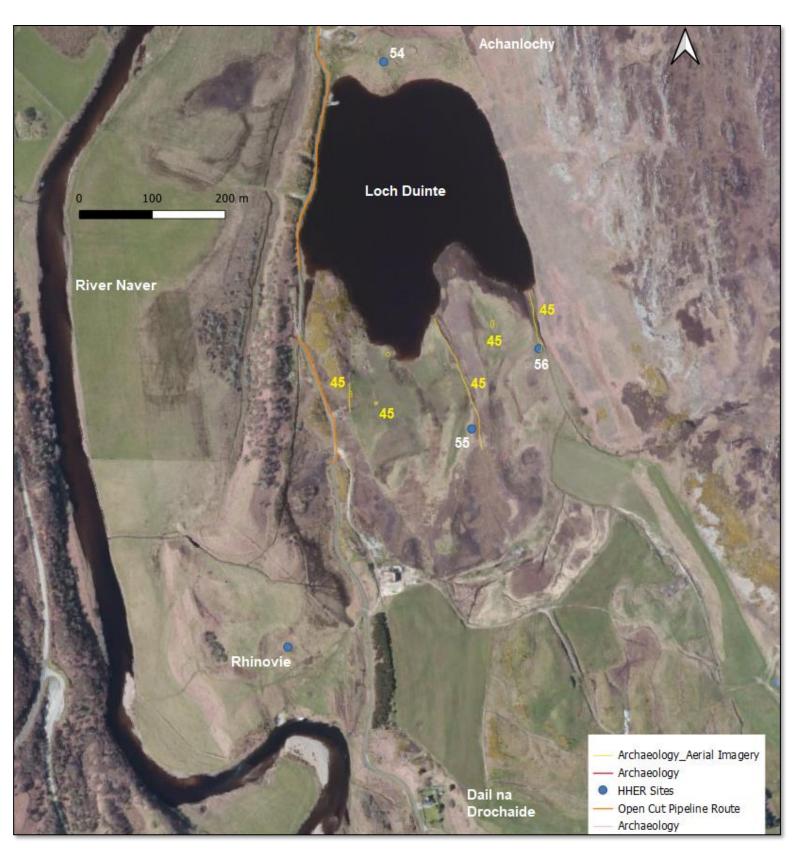


Figure 13: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER, aerial and archaeology sites between Dail na Drochaide and Achanlochy – Area 5 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)

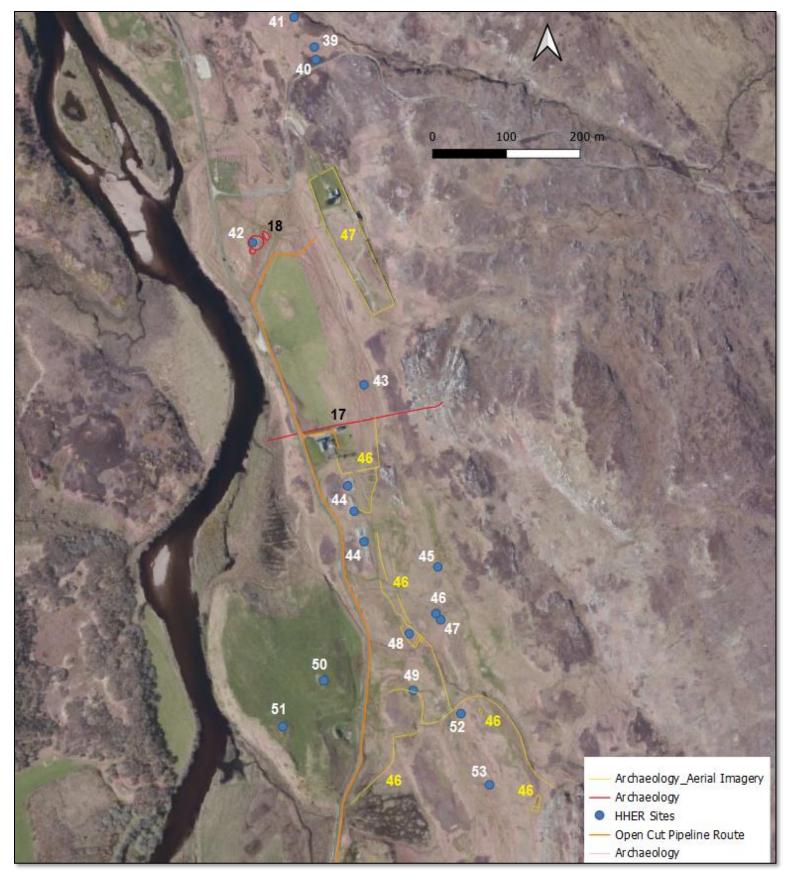


Figure 14: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and distribution of recorded HHER, aerial and archaeology sites between Achanlochy and Achcoillenaborgie – Area 5 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)



*Figure 15: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route, location of Broch Site 18 at Achcoillenaborgie, and scheduled area for monument – Area 5 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)* 

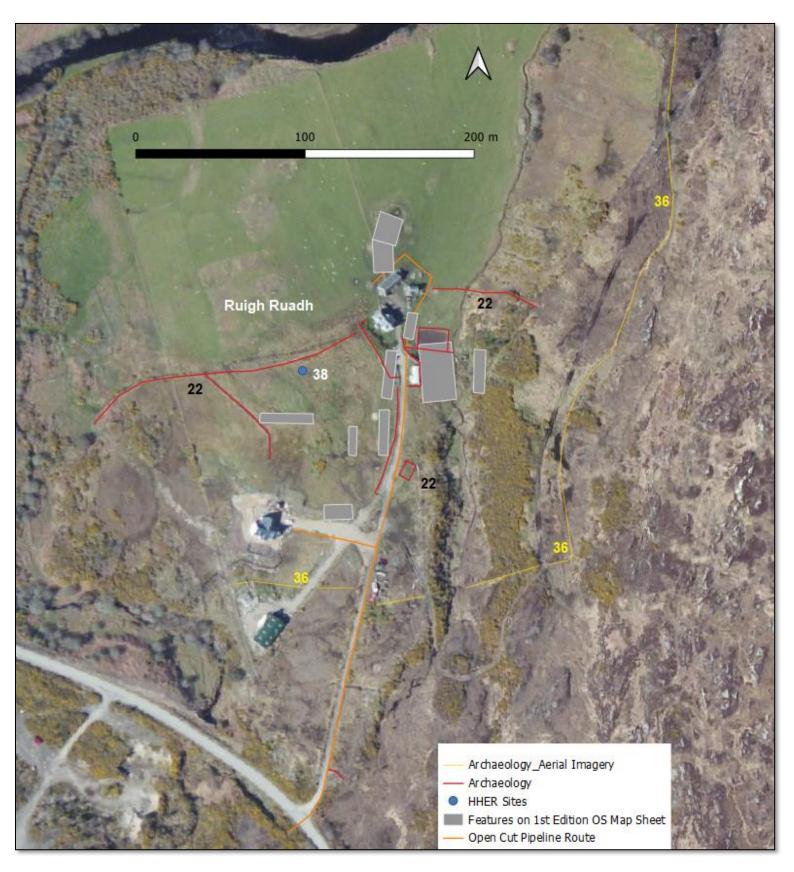


Figure 16: Aerial image screenshot showing pipeline route and archaeological features at Ruigh Ruadh (Site 22), and features lifted off 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS Map Sheet – Area 4 (Base maps contain Ordnance Survey Data Crown Copyright and Database Rights 2022 and ESRI World Imagery © 2022)

APPENDIX 1 RCI Armadale DMA Water Main Renewal - Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
1	Structure	Torroy	Located on the WSW side of the road to Lamigo and partially revetted into the steeply sloping ground are the remains of a degraded stone structure that has seen some recent modification and is used as a store. The structure, of drystone build, is roughly L-shaped with the NW range measuring 5.8m long SW-NE by 3.2m wide externally. The SE range runs off this and measures 4.4m long by 2.8m wide externally. The walls are 0.6m wide and stand 0.8>1.8m high. The main entrance is in the NE wall adjacent to the road and is 0.8m wide.	NW-SE	Degraded	Post Medieval	265563	963015
2	Dyke	Torroy	Stone and turf dyke system is very degraded and spread 1.2>1.7m wide and stands 0.2>0.5m high. The structure is covered in heather and grass.	ESE-WNW	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265530	963103
3	Dyke	Torroy	A substantial drystone dyke defining a field on the W side of the road through Torroy, leading to Lamigo. The structure measures 0.7>0.8m wide and stands 0.8>1.4m high and has a deer fence erected on its outside edge.	-	Well Preserved	Post Medieval	265551	963188
4	Settlement	Lamigo	Located at the end of the road at Lamigo are the remains of settlement including farmsteads, outbuildings and enclosures. Some of the buildings have been renovated and re-used as dwellings and outbuildings/workshops. The individual structures are listed below.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265396	963332
4a	Building	Lamigo	Rectangular building with two phases of construction, located on N side of road. Underlying foundations measure 16m long by 5.2m wide externally with banks of stone and turf spread 0.7>1.2m wide and >0.4m high. Later construction built over the SW end is 11.5m long by 5.2m wide externally with walls 0.6>0.7m wide and 0.8>1.6m high. Entrance 0.6m wide in SE wall.	SW-NE	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265540	963319

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
4b	Enclosure	Lamigo	Located on the NW and NE sides of Site 4a are small enclosures contemporary with the earlier phase of the building. Walls are spread 0.7>0.9m wide and stand 0.2>0.4m high.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265445	963319
4c	Building	Lamigo	Located to the NW of Site 4a and to the NE of the road at Lamigo is a small rectangular structure, most likely an outhouse, byre or workshop. It measures 4.2m long by 3.4m wide externally with walls 0.6m wide and standing 0.4>0.7m high. There is a doorway 0.6m wide in the S corner of the structure.	WSW-ENE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265422	963367
4d	Enclosure	Lamigo	A substantial enclosure of irregular form is attached the current dwelling house at Lamigo. The walls are 0.6>0.7m wide and stand 0.4>0.9m high. There are slight traces of a wall dividing the enclosure into two on its long axis.	SE-NW	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265376	963378
4e	Building	Lamigo	Remains of a stone-built structure which probably formed a part of a larger range, the NNW end of which has been re-roofed and renovated and is used as an outbuilding. The surviving fragment of the original building measures 5.8m long by 4.8m wide externally with walls 0.6m wide and standing 0.5>0.8m high. The structure is open to the NNW end and is attached to a drystone dyke on the SSE side. Remains of window aperture in ENE wall.	NNW-SSE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265370	963324
5	Dyke	Skerray	Drystone dyke runs up the SE, E and NE sides of the road at Skerray, forming field systems, and measures 0.6>0.7m wide and stands 0.3>0.9m high. Coping stones to the top where the wall survives to maximum height.	-	Degraded	Post Medieval	266035	963242
6	Building	Tubeg	Remains of a rectangular drystone building on the E side of the township road. The structure has three compartments, the S is 5.5m long, the central 2.0m long, and the N w.0m long internally with all compartments 3.0m wide. Walls are 0.6>0.7m wide and stand 0.2>1.4m high. Entrances to compartments on E.	N-S	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265986	963427

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
7a	Building	Tubeg	Very degraded and robbed remains of a structure revetted into the slope and located on the side of the township road at Tubeg. The SE and NE walls have been robbed away and the structure measures c.3.2m long by 2.6m wide internally with walls 0.6m wide and standing >1.2m high max. No visible entrance but was most likely in the SE wall.	NE-SW	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265978	963489
7b	Revetted Platform	Tubeg	Located upslope and to SW of Site 7a is a curved revetting wall >0.5m high, forming a level platform on which a building may have stood. No stone foundations remain, although it could also have housed a timber structure. Platform measures approximately 3.8m long by 2.6m wide. The possible foundations of another building are located to the SW, on which a number of small wooden structures have been built.	NE-SW	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265960	963476
8	Building	Tubeg	Low foundations of a stone-built structure comprising two compartments. The WSW compartment measures 3.5m long by 2.0m wide, and the ENE compartment 3.0m long by 2.0m wide. Walls are 0.7>0.8m wide and stand >0.4m high. Entrances into both compartments in the ESE wall approximately 0.6m wide.	WSW-ENE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265857	963508
9	Well/Culvert	Tubeg	Located on SW side of the township road is a stone-built structure with thin lintel slabs 0.8m wide, supported by side walls of stone including what appears to be mortar in the joints. The structure extends to a depth of 0.5m below current road level. The internal area of the structure is 0.55m wide by at least 1.8m deep (from road back towards steep rock face) and 0.6m high. It is marked as a well on the historic mapping.	SW-NE	Well Preserved	Post Medieval	265916	963324
10	Stone Culvert	Skerray	Located at a road junction for Tubeg from Skerray, and to the NNE of Skerray Mains, is a stone culvert measuring 0.3m wide and 0.25m high and extending under the Tubeg road. Surrounded by well-constructed stonework.	ENE-WSW	Well Preserved	Post Medieval	266042	963171

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
11	Dyke	Torrisdale	A series of stone dykes forming field systems and enclosures at Torrisdale. The dykes vary in their survival and generally measure 0.6>0.7m wide and stand 0.2>0.8m high. In one section, two dykes form an avenue or define an old trackway leading down from the remains of settlement on the higher ground towards the shore at Torrisdale.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267605	961954
12	Dyke	Skelpick	Drystone dykes running alongside the township road and forming field systems of regular form to each side of the road. The dykes have now been supplemented with post and wire fences, running along the roadside of the walls. The generally measure 0.6>0.7m wide and stand 0.2>1.3m high. Where the walls survive to full height, they are capped by coping stones.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	272281 272109	955676 956241
13	Stone Spread	Skelpick	Located on the NE side of the township road opposite Skelpick House is a substantial area of stone spreads. Located on a slight rise, much of the stone is grass- covered, or partially grass-covered, while an area of the site at the SE end is exposed revealing there is some depth to the stone (c.15>18m in diameter), up to 1.2m high. There is no definite form to the stone spreads, but the aerial imagery shows a roughly circular form resembling a cairn. However, other deposits of stone break through the grass to the NW and N of the main visible spread, indicating it may be field clearance or a part of a much larger long cairn (measuring c.38m long by 12>18m wide). Other recorded prehistoric cairns are located to the SE, NE and NNW. The feature will not be impacted by the proposed water main route.	SE-NW	Very Degraded	Unknown	272067	956428
14	Stone Spreads	Skelpick	Located to the NNW of Skelpick House and on the NE side of the township road is an irregular-shaped spread of stone, some grass-covered and with other areas exposed. The feature is located in a wet hollow and does not show any shape or form to suggest it has been a built structure. It most likely represents field clearance.	-	Very Degraded	Unknown	271980	956538

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
15	Cairn?	Dail na Drochaide	Located just on the WSW side of the road and fence- line is a prominent grass-covered mound measuring c.10m in diameter and >1.1m high with a hollow in its centre measuring 2.5m diameter at its base and c.0.3m deep. There is no visible stone at the site. The feature is in a fairly prominent location overlooking the glen to the NNW. Due to the presence of three other possible burial cairns to the NNW and NW, and the disturbed top of the mound, it is possible that this feature also represents a prehistoric burial monument. The site will not be impacted by the proposed open-cut water main trench.	-	Very Degraded	Prehistoric?	271818	957063
16	Clearance Cairns	Dail na Drochaide	Four clearance cairns located on the ENE side of the township road forming a part of a much larger prehistoric field system at Dail na Drochaide recorded on the HHER. The two mounds recorded measure c.3.0>3.5m in diameter and stand 0.5m and 0.6m high. The mounds are heather and grass-covered, while one of the cairns has been partially truncated by a drainage ditch revealing some stone within the feature. This field system also continues on the SW side of the road, across the hillslope above Lochan Dubh Skelpick.	-	Degraded	Prehistoric	271834 271837	956981 957070
17	Dyke	Coille na Borgie	A very degraded stone field dyke runs up the side of a house to the NNW of the Long Cairns at Coille na Borgie. It measures 0.7>0.9m wide (spread) and stands 0.3>0.6m high. The dyke extends to each side of the township road on the same alignment. Runrig ploughing appears to extend below the dyke, indicating that it is a later field wall. The settlement of Achnaborgie is located NNW of the field dyke and includes at least 10 individual structures totally overgrown with bracken. The structures will not be impacted by the proposed water main spur which extends to the ENE from the road.	WSW-ENE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	271471	959157

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
18	Broch	Archoillen- aborgie	The remains of a broch (MHG10772), set on a low knoll and generally as described by RCAHMS except that the north segment is now severely denuded and the entrance passage is no longer visible, although the chamber survives. In the north arc of the interior are traces of a dry-stone chamber, partly built into the broch wall. To the SW of the broch lies a circular rubble-walled enclosure, 7.2m in diameter with no visible entrance, whose period is uncertain. The remains of a ditch, partly accompanied by an outer bank, curve round the broch on the north and west and are probably a contemporary defence, protecting the easier approach. The proposed open-cut trench for the water main will run along the SE side of a grassy access path leading to the site and will cut through the area defined on the Scheduled Legal Documents (SM1824).	_	Very Degraded	Prehistoric	271396	959414
19	Dyke	Achtoty	The very degraded remains of a stone dyke forming a croft boundary at Achtoty, onto which has been deposited additional stone from field clearance. Measures 0.7>1.8m wide (spread) and stands 0.3>0.7m high.	SW-NE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267180	962689
20	Dykes	Airdtorrisd -ale	Stone field dykes located on each side of the road leading to Airdtorrisdale forming larger field systems and enclosures. On average, the dykes measure 0.6>0.8m wide and stand 0.2>1.6m high.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267840	962215
21	Stone Dykes	Borgie	Stone field dykes located on the SE side of the road running through Borgie and delineating large and small fields, some of which appear to relate to croft boundaries. They measure 0.6>0.7m wide, although in some areas they have been spread through collapse to 1.4m wide; and stand 0.3>1.4m high. Some walls have coping stones, suggesting a later phase of construction.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267728 267232	960155 959022

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
22	Stone Dykes and Enclosures	Ruigh Ruadh	Very degraded stone dyke fragments relating to field systems and a small enclosure located at . The field dykes measure 0.7>0.8m wide, although wider than this where collapsed and spread on the ground forming banks >1.4m wide. Survive between 0.2 and 0.6m high. On the ESE of a track accessing houses is a small enclosure, attached to one of the field dykes, measuring 9.8m long by 6.0>7.8m wide, with walls 0.6m wide and standing 0.5>0.8m high.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267690 267728 267569	958700 958821 958768

## APPENDIX 1 RCI Armadale DMA Water Main Renewal - Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites: Aerial Imagery

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
23	Stone Dykes	Skerray	Stone dykes running along side of township road and forming small field systems measure 0.6>0.7m wide and stand 0.2>0.7m high.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265621 265680	962976 962968
24	Building	Skerray	Remains of stone building located on NNW side of road has been partly renovated and incorporated into dwelling house. Measures c.14m long and 5.8m wide externally with walls 0.6m wide and standing >1.6m high.	SW-NE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265824	963976
25	Stone Dyke	Skerray Mains	Very degraded stone dyke running down the N side of the township road is 0.6>0.7m wide and stands 0.3>0.6m high.	W-E	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265932	963100
26	Stone Wall	Skerray Mains	A substantial wall forms an enclosure to the NE of Skerray Mains and measures 0.7>0.8m wide and stands 0.8>1.4m high.	-	Well Preserved	Post Medieval	266029	963127

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
27	Settlement	Tubeg	Building remains, drystone dykes and enclosures associated with the settlement/Township at Tubeg.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	266010	963467
28	Settlement	Clashbuie	Buidling remains, drystone dykes and enclosures associated with the settlement/township of Clashbuie.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	265783	963650
29	Building	Clashaidy	A section of degraded stone building, with a dwelling at the SSE end, probably formed a longer structure. Measures 13m long by 5.2m wide externally with walls 0.6m wide and standing 0.8>1.6m high. Window and door apertures in the WSW wall.	NNW-SSE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	266295	963423
30	Field System	Clashaidy	Located to each side of the Clashaidy Township road are drystone dykes forming individual fields or crofts. Walls average 0.6>0.8m wide at base and stand 0.3>0.7m high.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	266442	963301
31	Drystone Dyke and Enclosure	Clashaidy	Located on the NE side of the road at Blar Dubh is a fragment of drystone dyke forming a part of a field system, and an enclosure surrounding a long dwelling house. Walls 0.7m wide and stand 0.2>1.2m high – the highest sections of wall forming the enclosure.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	266533	963055
32	Stone Dykes	Achtoty	A series of drystone dykes, some enhanced in width by field clearance stone, form crofts at Achtoty on the NE side of the township road. Walls vary in width from 0.7>1.2m (spread) and stand 0.3>0.7m high.	SW-NE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267162	962735
33	Settlement	Airdtorrisd -ale	Small outbuildings, enclosures and drystone dykes forming field systems at Airdtorrisdale.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267843	962253
34	Settlement	Torrisdale	Stone buildings, enclosures and drystone walls associated with the township and settlement at Torrisdale.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267512 267786	962019 961644
35	Field Walls	Borgie	Located on the SE side of the road at Borgie are a complex of drystone walls forming larger fields and crofts. The walls average 0.6>0.6m wide and stand 0.3>1.2m high. Some walls have been robed away.	NW-SE	Degraded	Post Medieval	267631	959355

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
36	Dyke	Ruigh Ruadh	A turf and stone dyke (possibly the old head-dyke for the township at Ruigh Ruadh) runs across the lower ground intermittently, before contouring through the unimproved ground to the NE. Measures 0.8>1.6m wide (spread) and stands 0.3>0.5m high.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267803	958663
37	Stone Dykes	Skelpick	Stone dykes and walls associated with the farm and Lodge at Skelpick, Strath Naver, forming regular-shaped field systems. Walls 0.6>0.7m wide and stand 0.3>1.5m high.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	272210	955690
38	Sheep Fold and Sheep Dip	Skelpick	Stone sheep fold with wooden partitions at Skelpick Farm. A sheep dip is located to the N of the sheepfold.	SSE-NNW	Degraded	Post Medieval	272208	955915
39	Sheep Fold	Skelpick	Stone-built sheep fold comprising five compartments located to the SE of Skelpick House , on the E side of the road.	WSW-ENE	Well Preserved	Post Medieval	272147	956316
40	Stone Dykes	Skelpick	Stone dykes and walls associated with the farm and Lodge at Skelpick, Strath Naver, forming regular-shaped field systems. Walls 0.6>0.7m wide and stand 0.3>1.5m high. Also, remains of buildings located to W and SW of Skelpick House relating to earlier settlement.	-	Degraded to Very Degraded	Post Medieval	271879	956480
41	Dykes	Skelpick	A series of older stone and turf dykes located on the hill slopes to the NE of the road and Skelpick House, forming irregular-shaped fields. Banks spread 0.8>1.6m wide and stand 0.2>0.4m high.	-	Very Degraded	Unknown	272076	956533
42	Structure	Skelpick	Small structure of unknown function and not visited during walkover survey.	WSW-ENE	-	Post Medieval	271881	956836
43	Structure	Lochan Dubh Skelpick	Small, stone-built structure located to the NE of Lochan Dubh Skelpick measures c.5m long by 3.4m wide.	SSW-NNE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	271685	956965
44	Structure and Wall	Dail na Drochaide	Located to the E side of the road and within prehistoric field system, is a short length of wall with an attached, square-shaped structure. Walls measure 0.6m wide and stand 0.3>0.4m high. Structure is c.4m square.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	271851	957060

Site No.	Site Type	Site Name	Description	Alignment	Condition	Period	Easting	Northing
45	Buildings and Dykes	Lochan Duinte	Fragments of two stone and turf dykes and at least three small structures located at the S end of Lochan Duinte.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	271561	958045
46	Structures and Dykes	Achanloch -y	Located to the N of the main settlement at Achanlochy and to the E of the road under bracken-infested areas of ground, are the very degraded footings of at least three buildings, small enclosures, and stone and turf dykes forming larger, irregular-shaped fields.	-	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	271618	958762
47	Enclosure	Archoillen- aborgie	A large enclosure located to the NE of the broch at Archoillenaborgie with a building attached to its NE wall and enclosing a larger dwelling at its NNW end. Walls 0.7>0.7m wide and standing 0.6>1.2m high.	NNW-SSE	Degraded to Well Preserved	Post Medieval	271517	959428
48	Structure	Borgidhwe -ag	What appears to be the low footings of a small enclosure are visible on the aerial imagery to the N of an existing agricultural shed at Borgidhweag. The feature measures c.22m long by 11m wide over banks spread >1.2m wide.	SSW-NNE	Very Degraded	Post Medieval	267426	958701

Photo No.	Site No.	Direction facing	Description	Date	Taken by
1	-	NE	General view along glen towards Modsary, and along the pipeline route on the right side of the road.	12.10.22	SB
2	-	SW	View along Modsary glen towards its junction with the A836 main road.	12.10.22	SB
3	2	NW	Image showing stone and turf dyke running up slope and defining a field system at Torroy.	12.10.22	SB
4	3	NNW	Image showing substantial drystone dyke defining field at Torroy, with the road to Lamigo.	12.10.22	SB
5	5	E	View over drystone dyke running up the side of the road at Skerray.	12.10.22	SB
6	6	S	View over remains of drystone building at Tubeg, located on the W side of the township road.	12.10.22	SB
7	7a	NW	Image showing very degraded and robbed remains of building at Tubeg.	12.10.22	SB
8	8	N	View over building Site 8 at Tubeg with the road to Clashbuie to the left.	12.10.22	SB
9	8	NNE	Image showing the low foundations of the building at Tubeg (Site 8) with the Clashbuie road to the left.	12.10.22	SB
10	9	SW	Image showing possible well, or culvert, located on the SW side of the Tubeg township road.	12.10.22	SB
11	9	SW	A closer view of the possible well or culvert located to the side of the road at Tubeg.	12.10.22	SB
12	10	SW	Stone culvert at the Skerray/Tubeg road junction with the wall of Skerray Mains visible above.	12.10.22	SB
13	-	SSE	General view along the road from Skerray Bay and between Clashaidy and Tubeg, showing improved, hilly ground on the Tubeg side with numerous clearance cairns.	12.10.22	SB
14	11	ESE	View over pipeline route at Torrisdale and Torrisdale Bay, showing a stone dyke forming a part of the field system.	12.10.22	SB
15	12	ESE	Image showing drystone dyke running alongside township road at Skelpick.	12.10.22	SB

<b>APPENDIX 2</b>	<b>RCI Armadale DMA</b>	Water Main Renewal	- Index of Photographs
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Photo No.	Site No.	Direction facing	Description	Date	Taken by
16	13	E	Image showing the area of visible stone located at the SE end of Site 13, which may represent stone clearance, or the very degraded remains of a prehistoric cairn.	12.10.22	SB
17	15	SSW	View over possible burial cairn Site 15 at Dail na Drochaide with the township road to the left.	12.10.22	SB
18	-	NNW	General view from the township road, close to Site 15, towards Dail na Drochaide and River Naver.	12.10.22	SB
19	-	N	Image showing road and alignment of proposed pipeline route at the side of the road, in relation to the Long Cairns at Coille na Borgie.	12.10.22	SB
20	-	S	View over the Long/Horned Cairns at Coille na Borgie, with the road and proposed pipeline route along the side of the road to the right.	12.10.22	SB
21	-	NNE	Image showing the access path to the broch at Achcoillenaborgie and the proposed route of the open-cut water main trench, which will run up the right-hand side of the path.	12.10.22	SB



Plate 17: View N showing road and alignment of proposed pipeline route at the side of the road, in relation to the Long Cairns at Coille na Borgie; Plate 18: View NNE showing the access path to the broch at Achcoillenaborgie and the proposed route of the open-cut water main trench

