

A Report on the 2006 Archaeological Survey of Loch Hourn, Inverness-shire



Funded by Historic Scotland, with support from The SCAPE Trust
and the University of St Andrews



**A Report on the
Archaeological Survey of Loch Hourn
by Members of the North of Scotland Archaeological Society
May 2006**

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NOSAS would like to acknowledge support and assistance for this project from the following organisations and individuals

Historic Scotland
The SCAPE Trust
The University of St Andrews

Henry Birkbeck – Kinloch Hourn Estate
Robert Gordon – Barrisdale Estate
Mr Richmond Watson – Arnisdale Estate
Donald and Aileen Cameron – Kinloch Hourn Estate

The report was compiled by
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with the generous assistance of the team members
and
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March 2007

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Introduction

The survey was carried out over six working days in May 2006 and involved 12 members of NOSAS, plus two professional advisors. This third season forms a continuation of a long term project to survey and record all of the archaeological remains along the shores of Loch Hourn. The first reconnaissance work around the Inner Loch was carried out in 2000, followed by two weeks of detailed survey work in 2002 and 2004 (NOSAS 2002; 2004). It is advisable to have the two earlier reports to hand when reading the current report, as earlier work and discoveries are referred to below, while the maps in the earlier reports will be invaluable in understanding the geography of Loch Hourn.

The timing of field survey work on the West Coast is critical for two reasons. Firstly, many of the archaeological remains are smothered in bracken from mid May onwards. Even in the autumn and early winter, the degree of bracken cover is still a major concern. In addition, many of the archaeological sites at Loch Hourn now lie within natural regeneration compartments, from which livestock and deer are excluded. Young trees and shrubs are beginning to obscure sites and it is vital to carry out survey work ahead of full leaf cover. Secondly, the midges can make stationary work a misery on dull days from the 10th of May onwards, right through to mid September - and even later in some years.

The surveys in 2002 and 2004 were undertaken in late April. In both years, the weather encountered was atrocious, and, although the weather will always be a gamble, for 2006 it was decided to go in early May. This paid off and excellent weather conditions not only ensured the week was more enjoyable, but also boosted considerably the amount of work we were able to complete - as well as making searching the high ground for shielings practicable (plates 5 and 6). Even so, strong winds wrecked one of our equipment tents at a forward base and resulted in one or two very wet and bouncy journeys in the small boat. The steep sides of Loch Hourn funnel the wind and, if it is blowing against the tide through one of the narrows, sea conditions can become choppy very quickly.

Health and safety matters have to be taken very seriously and a detailed health and safety plan was in place. Any team out on remote survey work has a powerful two way radio enabling them to report in to our base at Kinloch Hourn at set times. Inexpensive two way radios enable teams working nearer to hand to keep in touch, while they also have a radio capable of contacting Kinloch Hourn. Teams are taken out to drop off points or work sites by launch which then returns to base. A smaller boat is kept on the loch in order to 'flit' team members and equipment between sites, as and when required, and to provide safety cover through the day. The launch returns to take everyone back to base at the end of each working day.

Historical research, and fieldwork elsewhere, has continued since 2004, in an effort to understand more about the West Coast herring fishing industry. The results are summarised below, while the main body of the report, covering the work carried out during the 2006 season, is in three parts:

Part 1 covers the results of the walkover survey

Part 2 covers the results of the more detailed survey and drawing work

Part 3 covers the results of two small excavations undertaken in 2006

Aims and Objectives

The programme of work for 2006 was designed to maximise the information recovered, whilst at the same time keeping physical intervention to a minimum. Our overriding objective is to work towards an understanding of the history of settlement along Loch Hourn, with particular emphasis on the influence of herring fishing on the local population during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The Objectives for 2006

1. To prospect for and record archaeological sites along the north shore of Loch Hourn between Camas nan Gall (at Caolasmore), and Corran, near Arnisdale, including the small tidal island of Eilean a' Gharb-làin.
2. To complete the detailed planning of 'the long building' at Mhogh Sgeir, the largest structure within the probable fishing station on the north shore of the Inner Loch.
3. To undertake detailed mapping and, if appropriate, plane table drawings of a number of places around the Inner Loch, where concentrations of structures and features were discovered in 2002 and 2004.
4. To prospect for and record shielings and evaluate other high ground resources.
5. To excavate a trial trench through one of the possible house platforms at Lochournhead, in the hope of establishing whether they represent the earliest settlement at the head of the loch.

Ongoing Historical and Archaeological Research 2004-2006

Following the 2004 season, various references to the early West Coast herring fishing have come to light, prompting several field trips by NOSAS members to other sea lochs to see whether remains similar to the many huts and cleared boat landing places found along the north shore of Inner Loch Hourn could be identified. Opportunities have also been taken to explore the higher ground around Loch Hourn, in the hope of not only identifying the shieling sites associated with the settlements down at the loch shore, but to set these settlements into their wider geographical context.

1. In July 2004, 2 NOSAS members explored the shores of Loch Duich and Loch Long, mostly by kayak, followed up by onshore exploration when something was spotted from the water. Whilst most of the Inner Loch Duich was searched, not all of the Outer Loch was covered. There are various historic settlements around Loch Long, many still inhabited today, others long since abandoned. Most of these settlements have easy access to beaches on which it would have been easy to beach a small boat. Loch Duich is very similar to Loch Hourn and it is clear that the settlements here would have had every chance to participate in whatever fishing opportunities presented themselves. However, no temporary structures, cleared landing places or fishing stations of a similar nature to the remains at Loch Hourn were found.
2. In January 2005, a group of NOSAS members explored a section of the south shore of Loch Torridon, covering the peninsulas of Aird Mhòir and Dubh Aird. A substantial fishing station, apparently built and operated by the local laird, was recorded (NOSAS 2005). A few isolated structures were identified, which could possibly be associated with fishing (although not necessarily for herring), but again nothing similar to the remains at Loch Hourn was found.
3. In May, 2005 two members searched a few kilometres of the north shore of Little Loch Broom between Badralloch and Sron Greag na Ceapaich at Kildonan. There are several cleared landing places below Badralloch with nausts, but all have paths leading up to the settlement. Nearer to Kildonan, on an isolated section of shore, two huts with landing places were found, which are similar to those found around Loch Hourn.
4. Also in May 2005, two members explored Corrie Mhàlagain, a huge grassy corrie above Kinloch Hourn. In the higher reaches of the corrie, the remains of numerous shielings were discovered, while a substantial shieling/summer farm was found lower down. The name of the latter has recently been established - Salnafairn - and it is now known that it was attached to 'Island Riach' (Eilanreach today), no less than 16km distant via Glen Beag.
5. Research work is also ongoing on the route leading between Bernera in Glenelg and Aberhalder in the Great Glen, the origins of which are thought to be both military and droving. This route, which is shown on Dorrett's map of 1750, heads up from Bernera through Glen More, crossing the Kinloch Hourn Estate at high level to drop down into Wester Glen Quoich. There are some unusual archaeological features on this route as it passes through the Kinloch Hourn Estate. This research is ongoing, and is due for completion in 2008.

6. In July 2005, two members spent three days exploring on foot much of the shoreline of Loch Eishort on Skye looking for archaeological remains. Although, there is historical evidence of herring fishing here (an old fishing smack, deliberately grounded in the lee of Eilean Heast, was used for gutting and packing herring at one time (Steven Birch, pers comm.)), nothing remotely similar to the remains at Loch Hourn was found. Two multi-period fishing stations on either side of a small inlet on the south shore called Bagh an Dubh Ard were explored.
7. In January 2006, a group of members visited Eilean Horrisdale, beside Badachro in Loch Gairloch, the location of a known fishing station. Although most of the island was explored, the majority of the features identified proved to be already on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map. However, two possible shieling huts were discovered on the south side of the island and the buildings - some of which are still in use - making up the substantial fishing station on the island (as well as that on Eilean Tioram, from which the boat leaves) were examined in detail. The boatman advised the party of some huts in an isolated bay on the mainland near to Badachro and these await a visit.
8. In November 2006, a number of shielings were briefly noted in Corrie Reidh on the Kinloch Hourn Estate. It has subsequently been discovered that, in 1808, this shieling ground was attached to 'Sandwich', the Sandaig of 'Gavin Maxwell fame', a remarkable 22km distant via Arnisdale and Gleann Dubh Lochan. The distance between the home farms of Eilanreach and Sandaig and their shielings in Corrie Mhàlagain and Corrie Reidh may indicate that the farms in the more fertile and populous parts of the Glenelg Estate were short of (and perhaps in competition for) summer grazing, whilst the Loch Hourn settlements were able to find sufficient shieling grounds much closer to home. Further research into this is ongoing.

Part 1

The 2006 Walkover Survey

Following the 2002 and 2004 surveys, only 1.5km of the north shore of the Inner Loch remained to be thoroughly prospected and recorded. This short section of coast runs west from Camas nan Gall, where the survey stopped in 2002. Given the shortness of this section, it was decided to extend the survey as far as Corran, considered to be as far away (approximately 12km) from our base at Kinloch Hourn, as was reasonable from both a logistical and health and safety perspective. It was known from earlier reconnaissance that there was probably not the same concentration of structures at shore level as we had found previously on the north shore of the Inner Loch, so it was decided that the walkover survey should include searching the higher ground between Camas nan Gall and Corran for shielings and any other managed resources.

We followed our tried and tested method of putting out teams of two people, in this case two teams of two, to carefully prospect and record in one operation. One team was dropped off at Corran to work east, and the other team was dropped off at Camas nan Gall to work west. This plan worked very well and the two teams met more or less in the middle, having completed 6.5km of coastal recording in one day. On two subsequent days, a third team undertook a carefully targeted survey of the higher ground between Camas nan Gall and Corran. Visual reconnaissance of the higher ground had been made from the loch and advice was taken from Donald Cameron of Kinloch Hourn Estate as to the best places to search. A surprising number of shielings were discovered, alongside the usual peat banks (plates 1, 7-9).

Another of our aims was to extend our walkover survey to cover the high ground on the south ridge of the Inner Loch and an intrepid team of two were dropped off at Barrisdale to walk back to Kinloch Hourn over the hill. Over time, considerable experience has been gained in knowing where and what to look for and much pouring over maps had been done before setting out. Two groups of shielings were discovered on the south ridge, which most probably relate to the two principal lochside settlements on the south shore, Skiary and Caolas Beag (plate 10). The substantial earth bank separating these two early farms was also identified.

On the north side of the loch, the shielings discovered in 2005 in Coire Mhàlagain, as well as in Coire Reidh in November 2006, have been included in the gazetteer. On earlier trips, a number of shielings in Coire Mhogh Sgeir had been recorded rather hurriedly and a half day expedition the short distance up from the settlement at Mhogh Sgeir was undertaken to look at them in more detail. The middle terraces in Coire Mhogh Sgeir are very fertile, now smothered in the most vigorous bracken and dotted about with oak and birch. Higher up, at an altitude of c420m, below the cliffs guarding the ridge, is an area of massive boulders, some as large as a double-decker bus, with a matrix of rich soil between them, clad in soft green grass and wild flowers. The area is heavily wooded with several tree species, including some massive willow, many fallen but still growing. This area forms a most unusual refuge, much frequented by deer and goats, and was no doubt an important grazing resource in past times. Two more shieling structures were identified and recorded.

On the mid-week day off, four members took the small boat and explored some of the islands in the Outer Loch. The highlight of this trip came towards the end of what was a most glorious spring day, with a landing on the once inhabited island of Ràrsaidh where the fascinating remains of a township were explored (plates 3 and 4). There is no livestock on the island and the vegetation is flourishing. This was about as near as one is likely to get in Britain to finding a lost city in a jungle!

The details of all the sites are recorded in the gazetteer which forms Appendix 1, and their locations shown on ?Maps 1-11.

Part 2

Detailed Surveys and Plans

Several settlement areas around the Inner Loch have now been planned in detail, and the plans and elevations of a number of individual structures drawn. The principal aim of this part of the work is to enhance our understanding of the layout of what appear to be key sites around the loch, as well as to facilitate comparison between the building types found around inner Loch Hourn.

The 'Long Building' at Mhogh Sgeir (Site 128/9)

In 2004, we commenced planning, at a scale of 1:50, the 'long building' at Mhogh Sgeir. This is the only building at Mhogh Sgeir which is orientated north-south i.e. 'gable on' to the sea. Bad weather and poor site conditions in 2004 prevented completion of this plan, so this became a priority for 2006. The structure was cleared of bracken and brambles, whilst taking care not to disturb any turf or stones. In ideal dry conditions, the remaining 200 sq metres or thereby, out of a total of 250 sq meters, were drawn using planning frames. This took 3 members a day and a half to accomplish and a lot more time at the desk to transfer the field drawings into final form. The resultant plan is reproduced as figure 12.

In addition to the secondary structure within the main building (visible just below centre and overlying the west wall of the main building), it became clear that the small compartment at the south end of the building was a later outshot, while areas of possible cobbling outwith the building at both the north and south ends were identified. The areas where stone was robbed for reuse in the secondary structure are clearly visible, contrasting with the larger amount of tumble at the north end of the building, which does not appear to have been robbed.

Without excavation, this building remains an enigma. Various finds, picked up on the surface, are also shown on the plan (see appendix 4). These include sherds of china, glass and a large fragment of fire clay pipe of a diameter such as might have been used to line a chimney! All the larger buildings at Mhogh Sgeir are apparently less well preserved - or were of slighter construction - than the small huts which were built in and around the older, perhaps deliberately destroyed, buildings.

Speculation on the possible uses of the 'long building' include the suggestion that it might have started out as a longhouse, housing livestock in the lower southern half. During the fishing station period, it

may have been re-used as a smoke house, salt store, cooper's workshop and/or a blacksmith's shop. Outside the probable entrance about two thirds up the east side of the building, there is a low mound of material, on the surface of which were collected a number of pieces of iron slag. It seems clear that this building was in use over a long time period and that, during some of this time, it was the focus of high status activities, even if it is difficult to characterise these without excavation.

Another of the buildings in the core area at Mhogh Sgeir was similarly plan drawn in 2006, as were two of the 'stand alone' small huts. These drawings form part of the 2006 archive and are not reproduced in this report. It is intended to complete drawing all the buildings in the core area of Mhogh Sgeir in 2007, at which point more detailed discussion should be possible.

The Water-front at Skiary

In recognising the importance of Skiary as one of the principal settlements beside the Inner Loch, it was decided that a more detailed plan was justified of the main water-front area, where we believe - aided by an early 19th century etching by William Daniell - activities related to the herring fishing were centred. Two plane-tables were set up just above the shoreline and an area of 1 hectare was drawn at a scale of 1:200 (fig. 13). In doing this work, the remains of several more structures were picked up to add to the 2004 survey of Skiary, all of them on the waterfront. This has provided a much clearer picture of the network of wharves and revetments which appear to date to the fishing period.

Three areas around the Inner Loch were identified as being suitable for survey by the 'pace and compass' method, with subsequent plans being produced using OCAD orienteering software. These plans are reproduced as figures 14, 15 and 16, and the three locations are discussed below.

Cnap an t-Sear

Cnap an t-Sear (fig. 14) is unusual in that it appears to have been an enclosed farmstead of relatively late date, although, so far, no historical references - or even a name - have been found for the site. The name we have given to it is taken from a nearby topographical feature. It is also unusual in that the buildings are down at the shoreline, whilst the tiny fields and separate areas of lazy beds are 100m away up a very steep slope. As at Mhogh Sgeir, there is evidence for secondary, post-abandonment hut construction inside the main building and a few other small huts. The beach is naturally clear and forms a good landing place, protected from westerly winds. The new plan accurately places all of the structures and features in their landscape context.

Glac an Tobhar

Adjoining Cnap an t-Sear is a section of coastline littered with the remains of huts and cleared landing places (fig. 15). Some of the huts are in a remarkably good state of preservation and clearly warranted a more accurate plan. There are also small kerbed platforms at the high tide line, perhaps used for the transfer of gear off and onto boats. During the survey, an additional hut was discovered (plate 11), while a good image of a perfectly constructed fireplace in one of a pair of huts is reproduced as plate 12.

Kinloch Hourn Flats and Lochournhead

We have long recognised that there are substantial differences - largely determined by land ownership - between the ways in which the flat ground at the head of the loch was utilised during recent centuries. On the south side of the river, Lochournhead was enclosed by a substantial wall and a deep cut-off ditch at the foot of the hill-slope, allowing a substantial farm to be laid out. A model farm was laid out about 1860, the buildings of which are now listed, and there are several cottages near the farmhouse which remain inhabited. The farm was viable until about 30 years ago. Surviving above the improved ground are the footings of some 10 or so buildings, mostly sitting on substantial platforms (plate 13). Some of these appear to command almost defensive positions. A single block of lazy beds survives on the very steep ground to the west of these buildings.

On the north, Kinloch Hourn side of the river, a two storey farmhouse was built, possibly in the late 18th century, and this was extended in 1890. A 20 hectare woodland garden was laid out plus a large walled garden along with a new byre and stables, and the old byre was converted into a cottage. There are some horse drawn implements still lying around and there is evidence of horse ploughing on the flat ground, but the dominant features are the scattered patches of lazy beds. However, there is no visible group of buildings comparable to those surviving at Lochournhead. Every inch of ground on the Kinloch Hourn side has been scoured several times looking for buildings and only one has turned up. The lonely building on the Kinloch Hourn side, Site 442, sits below a crag near to the road bridge and is the structure through which an exploratory trench was excavated in 2006 (see below). Are there more buried under the late Victorian developments? We may never know.

The Lochournhead sites were surveyed and recorded in 2004 in the most appalling weather and some sites were missed and some wrongly positioned. Surveying on the Kinloch Hourn side had been piecemeal at best so it was considered that a more comprehensive survey of the whole area was essential; the resultant plan is reproduced as figure 16.

In trying to interpret the various remains at the head of the loch it is tempting to see the platforms above Lochournhead as belonging to the earliest settlement here. The extent of cultivation remains on the Kinloch Hourn side also suggest an earlier settlement which is now lost. The single building, Site 442, is a mystery. It was constructed in an almost suicidal position just below the point at which two very substantial mountain burns meet and there is clear evidence that it was frequently inundated. When the Loch Hourn river is in spate it is a spectacular sight, even though some 2 or 3 square km of its catchment area were diverted eastwards into the Loch Quoich Hydro scheme in the 1960s. The report on the excavation will pick up on some of these issues.

Part 3

Excavations at Lochournhead and Mhogh Sgeir

The aim of the two small trenches excavated during 2006, was to establish the nature, function and date of one of the potentially early structures at Kinloch Hourn, as well as to explore the wharf - and the potential working area above it - at Mhogh Sgeir. Although the building selected at Kinloch Hourn (Site 442), had been identified during the 2004 survey, no detailed recording had been undertaken. The structure and its immediate environs were surveyed using a plane-table, which was then tied in to a larger scale EDM survey. The position of Trench 2 was also recorded by EDM. Both trenches were deturfed by hand, cleaned back and then planned and photographed, prior to excavation. Time constraints meant that only the first archaeological level was revealed in Trench 2, with two small exploratory sondages dug through the platform and the wharf. In both cases, the positions of the finds were recorded in three dimensions and samples taken, where appropriate (see appendices 2 and 3). A daybook was kept for each trench.

Trench 1

In 2006, it was intended to excavate a trial trench through one of ten or so similarly sized, level platforms, on the first terrace above Lochournhead. It is believed that the platforms may have been stances for round ended creel houses and it was hoped that excavation, even on a small scale, would prove whether or not this was the case. The group of platforms lie above the limits of later settlement at Lochournhead and appear to pre-date this phase of enclosure and improvement. It is possible, however, that the apparent lack of stone in the structure of these platforms may indicate the re-use of the building materials in the later buildings. One of the principal reasons for the preferred choice of Site 756 at Lochournhead was the apparent good state of preservation (plate 13).

That site, however, was unavailable for excavation in 2006, and an alternative structure (Site 442) was selected on the north side of the river, on the Kinloch Hourn Estate (figs. 16, 17). No other buildings have been identified on this side of the river, although there are larger areas of cultivation remains and

therefore establishing a date and context for it is even more difficult than for the Lochourhead platforms. This structure also sits on a slight platform, below a prominent rock outcrop (plate 14). It lies close to the river, which is revetted along the outside of its curve at this point; the river is clearly very active here, as it is close to where the ground begins to flatten out at the head of the loch. The outcrop has been quarried into and the head dyke for the settlement on the Kinloch Hourn side of the river begins from its west side, replaced now by a modern fence.

Whilst the position of Site 442 is quite different to any of the Lochourhead sites, its internal measurements of 9m long E-W x 2.5m N-S are very similar to those of the platforms. Site 442 also has rounded gables, but is defined by low, turf-covered stony footings, approximately 0.4m wide and standing to a maximum height of 0.5m. The north wall is very slight, but becomes more distinct at its north west end. There is a single possible entrance in the centre of the south wall. A trench, 1m wide E-W and 7m long N-S was opened across the structure, extending to incorporate possible tumble on the southern side. The trench was located across the more pronounced part of the southern wall, which becomes slighter to the east, in order to discover whether this represents a real difference, reflected also in the apparently much slighter northern wall (plate 15). Removal of the turf proved difficult due to the concentration of bracken and other dense roots. Finds in the turf and topsoil layer (001) included a fence staple, the broken butt end of the stem of a (?bulcanite) 'swan necked' tobacco pipe, along with small pieces of coal and charcoal. These appear consistent with the proximity of the site to the recent fence and with later activities in the vicinity of Kinloch Hourn.

The south end of the trench slopes gently upwards towards the southern wall of the structure (005), which was located 2.5m from the southern boundary of the trench. To the south of the wall (005), scattered stones (002) were unevenly distributed in an orangey brown sandy silt (003) and a grey/black silty sand (004). The stones vary in size from 10cm by 40cm to 10cm by 10cm and have been interpreted as tumble from the south wall of the structure, particularly because their frequency declines with distance from the wall; the stones are predominantly angular (probably deliberately broken) schist, reflecting the local bedrock, with a few occasional more rounded cobbles probably taken from the river. No clear relationship could be established between 003 and 004. 003 contained many flecks of mica and occasional inclusions of charcoal, particularly in the southern most metre of the trench, while 004 was firmer, including more fibrous patches - dominated by very fine roots - which may represent decayed turves, once part of the structure of the wall. Alternatively, these fibrous patches could be due to vegetation becoming established, before the addition of field clearance stones once the building had gone out of use. Further cleaning back of the western half of the trench revealed iron pan (014) in the southwest corner. A small sherd of china and an equally small piece of bone were found in (004).

The wall itself (005) contains larger stones, up to 40cm by 30cm in size, set into a dark brown clayey matrix, full of fine roots and bracken roots (006). A small, triangular piece of flint from 006, might just be a gunflint. With continued excavation, the wall appeared more substantial than it did when initially exposed. Four large, flat stones, clearly form the internal (north) face of the wall. A few stones, possibly tumble, lie to the north of the wall (007). Covering most of the interior of the building is a dense black layer, flecked with mica (008), within which a series of four small circular grey/brown patches were noticed. These were sectioned, proving them to be stakeholes, all of which were of similar size (017/018, 019/020, 021/022 and 023/024; plates 16 and 17). The first three were in a line running north-south, with the fourth slightly offset to the west. The thickness of 008 varied across the trench, averaging only 5cm in depth; it overlies a compacted orange/brown layer which seems to represent iron pan and into which the scatter of stone (016), protruding through 008, appears to be set. None of this stone appears to be structural, apart from a large, flat stone (015), partially exposed in the east facing section of the trench. This stone lies in a shallow depression and appears more granitic than the generally schistose stone visible elsewhere. It is possible that this stone was a post pad or formed part of a hearth. Small sherds of china, an iron nail, a piece of bone and burnt bone were found within 008, along with an unidentified iron object found close to the inside face of the north wall.

A sondage, measuring 1.4m in length, 0.3m in width and lying 0.3m from the eastern edge of the trench, was dug in order to examine the denser concentration of stone visible in the centre of the building close to the east side of the trench. It revealed a roughly circular pit (027), filled with stones and charcoal (026) and partly extending under the east side of the trench. The pit was 0.2m in depth with sides sloping down to a flat base, resting on the natural sand (025). The northern side of the pit was far more well defined than the south side, perhaps because of animal burrowing. Within the fill, the stones were tightly packed, embedded in an orange-coloured sandy matrix, densely penetrated by fine roots and with concentrations of burnt material present in the northern half of the pit. Samples of charcoal were obtained.

Prior to excavation, the north wall was apparent only as a slight rise, but, following the removal of the turf, became much more prominent. It consists of large flat, schistose stones, averaging 37cm by 20cm (010). A slightly protruding upper course had tipped forward over a lower course of larger flat slabs. There was no apparent face to the wall and it appears that much of the stone has been robbed, although some small packing stones are visible. The matrix of the wall consisted of a very rooty, firm black layer (011). A small sondage, 20cm by 20cm, dug on the north side of the wall revealed a thick deposit of laminated bands of coarse black silty sand and finer yellow sand (025). The thickness of this deposit is unknown, as excavation was halted at a depth of 40cm. These bands of sand, laid horizontally, indicate repeated flood events and appeared to confirm that the platform on which the structure is situated was entirely natural. A depression to the south of the site may be a relict river channel, although the OS 1st edition map confirms that it has not changed course in the last 150 years. Outside the wall, predominantly angular/sub-angular stones and a few rounded cobbles form a level surface (012), set in a brown, fairly loose matrix (013). This was interpreted as an area of clearance stones as the base of the rock face immediately behind the structure or, more probably, as cobbling at the back of the structure where animals might have been gathered.

Trench 2

Trench 2, measuring 5.5m NW-SE by 1m NE-SW, was laid out over the top of the wharf, which forms one of the most substantial and striking features at Mhogh Sgeir (Site 107). The trench was extended up the slope and onto the level, grassy platform above it (Site 175). The edge of the platform seems to be defined by a long stony revetment (Site 171), while buildings (Sites 108-111) line its seaward edge (figs. 20 and 21; plate 18). It has been assumed that this large level platform acted as a work area and that a variety of functions, such as drying of nets, stacking of barrels, fish processing, and so on, may once have taken place here. It was hoped that the trench would uncover evidence both for the nature of the activities taking place on the platform, as well as for the wharf's construction.

The removal of a dense layer of bracken and bluebell roots (001) exposed a dark, greasy soil (012), heavily penetrated by bracken roots, but virtually stone free. This extended for about 2m, across the level platform at the west end of the trench (plate 19). Finds 1-6 were found within this layer and appear to date from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century; none are diagnostic and could have been dropped at any time during the last two centuries. A small sondage (300mm x 300mm) was cut into context 012 (plate 20). This proved that the dark soil continued downwards to a depth of 15cm at this point. With increasing depth, this soil became less black in colour and less rooty, with occasional small stones and frequent flecks of charcoal, although these also declined with depth. Excavation was halted at a stony layer, consisting of a mixture of large and small stones in a yellow brown sandy matrix (013). This had similarities to the surface of the pier (011), but too small an area was exposed to be able to tell if this was the natural or perhaps subsoil redeposited to form a level, working surface.

Behind the much larger boulders at the edge of the break in slope (002) was an area c. 1m square of loose stone (003), set into a matrix of dark brown soil. The stone appears to be material used to level up the surface of the platform, although some may also have acted as packing for the neatly set large boulders, defining the edge of the platform. To the east of this, the slope down to the wharf was covered in small stones, averaging 5-10cms in size, overlaid by larger stones, up to 20-30cms in size (005). The smaller stones appeared to have been deliberately set into the slope in order to stabilize it

and to be set into a loose brown matrix. At the base of the slope are two large boulders (004), c50cm diameter by c40cm high; these appear to have formed a vertical retaining edge, although they have now slumped outwards (plate 18).

On the pier itself, removal of a thin layer of turf revealed a brown greasy soil (006), which also extended under the two large boulders (004). The area to the east of 004 was covered by a layer of loose stone, set into 006. The stones average 10cm x 10cm in size and butt up against two much larger stones, measuring 30cm x 30cm (007). This stone may be interpreted as tumble from the slope above falling onto the pier. Where this stone petered out, approximately 1.5m east of the base of the slope, removal of the turf revealed a pebbly deposit set into a loose brown, sandy matrix (008). On the outside (east) of the two larger stones - what appears to be a more neatly cobbled surface (009), overlain by a similar sandy matrix (010), may reflect a slow accumulation of material after the wharf had gone out of use. Both 008 and 009 could represent the original surface of the wharf, but either side of the two large stones, the northern half of the trench was dominated by larger stones. In order to examine whether the observed distinctions reflected real differences, a small sondage (300mm x 300mm) was dug into 008. This immediately revealed what appears to be rough paving, consisting of large flattish stones, surrounded by generally smaller, more rounded stones (011), quite similar in character to 009. Although only a very small area was exposed, if this is a levelled surface, it might represent the original make up of the wharf.

Conclusions

The results of the walkover survey and the more detailed survey work in a number of areas previously recorded - plus the sites discovered during a reconnaissance trip in 2005 - have produced a further 119 'new' sites. Looking at the map one can now draw a line roughly east-west on the '09' co-ordinate between Corran on the north shore and Rubha Ruadh on the south shore of Loch Hourn, and state that the majority of the upstanding remains along c26km of shore and extending up to the watershed, to the east of this line have now been recognised.

In 1991, the RCAHMS surveyed the south shore between Rubha Ruadh and Inbhir Dhorrcail for the John Muir Trust and identified approximately 120 sites. In 2002, NOSAS identified 282 new sites mostly on the north shore of the Inner Loch and, in 2004, a further 235 new sites on the south shore between Inbhir Dhorrcail and the head of the loch, were found. Many square kilometres of hill ground have also been prospected. The tally of sites discovered in the area described comes to approximately 770, which surely represents a fair body of knowledge in this remote location. In addition to the possibly unique grouping of probable herring fishers huts, stores and landing places on the north shore of the Inner Loch, the next largest category of sites identified have been shieling huts. Another 30 or so have been found in 2005/2006, some in the remotest of places. Not all shieling structures or shieling grounds will have been in use at any one time, and the structures we have found seem to fall into a number of categories, apparently representing development over many centuries.

One of the enigmas at Loch Hourn is the apparent invisibility of prehistoric activity. This has been frustrating to an extent, in view of the prehistoric remains nearby - of which the brochs in Glen Beag are spectacular examples. Many more prehistoric sites have been identified not far away by the 'First Settlers' project. That we have not found any certain prehistoric sites so far around Loch Hourn does not mean that either they are not there or that we have not been looking hard enough. However, we must recognise that the absence of prehistoric activity at Loch Hourn would be a positive outcome, if that turned out to be true. The aim is to keep looking meantime.

For those living around Loch Hourn, cattle would have been the currency, while the herring fishing was always sporadic, veering between bonanza and bust, depending on the movement of the herring shoals. Eventually, in the late 19th century, the shoals effectively disappeared altogether. In order to further our understanding of the relationship between the local population and the incoming herring fishers 250 years ago, NOSAS has started to look in more detail at a number of places around the

Inner Loch. Plane table surveys of target areas have been undertaken. Several 'pace and compass' surveys have also been carried out of densely settled areas, with the results being converted to plans using OCAD orienteering software. Detailed plan drawings at a scale of 1:50 have been undertaken of a number of buildings to facilitate comparison between building types.

Two very limited excavations were undertaken in 2006. At Kinloch Hourn, we wanted to find out how the earliest identifiable buildings had been constructed, as well as to obtain some dating evidence. At Mhogh Sgeir, it was hoped to find clear evidence of shore based herring fishing activity to confirm our identification of this site as a fishing station. The trench across Site 442 at Kinloch Hourn confirmed some of the details of its construction and layout, but did not reveal its function or date. The lack of any identifiable floor levels made it impossible to associate any of the features with the walling and may suggest that the building was only in use for a short period. The large flat stone (015) in the centre of the building obscured by the western edge of the trench could be a hearthstone or a post pad. The stake holes could be interpreted as providing shelter from draughts for the hearth or as a small animal pen at a later stage of use of the building. The stone and charcoal filled pit (027) may have been made on abandonment or subsequently. Further excavation to confirm the nature of the pit and large central stone would be advantageous in informing us on early settlement in Kinloch Hourn, particularly if complemented by excavation of one of the platforms at Lochournhead. The trench at Mhogh Sgeir, although much more limited in scope, has suggested the depths of the deposits which have built up on the postulated working platform, while indicating the extent of effort which has gone into the construction of both the platform and the wharf.

Of considerable interest are the results of the analysis of two soil samples taken at Mhogh Sgeir. These were subjected to the basic Scottish Agricultural College's pH, P (phosphorous), K (potassium), and Mg (magnesium) analysis, usually done on a regular basis for farmers and commercial growers. One sample (no. 1), was taken from the dark soil on the upper platform in Trench 2 (Site 175), and the second sample (no. 2) from two lazy beds, about 30m away from Trench 2, at the foot of the hill-slope (Site 231).

Results:

Sample no. 1	pH = 4.6 extractable P = 8.8mg/l extractable K = 162mg/l extractable Mg = 136mg/l
Sample no. 2	pH = 4.5 extractable P = 1.1mg/l extractable K = 124mg/l extractable Mg = 102mg/l

pH is a measure of soil acidity and provides an indication of how much calcium is available for plants to grow. pH 6.5 is neutral and would be the aim of most farmers and gardeners. The pH of 4.5 identified at Mhogh Sgeir is, therefore, extremely acid, only to be expected at a place with a very high rainfall which may never have been limed, at least in the recent past. The levels of the other essential elements are all in farming terms 'moderate' or 'satisfactory', if the soil was to be used as a growing medium. Only the phosphorous level in sample no. 2 would be classified as extremely low. Is it reasonable to interpret the striking difference between the levels of available phosphorous in the two samples in the context of land use history? The answer is maybe. Phosphorous remains in the soil for many hundreds of years; it is continually recycled and is not lost, in complete contrast to N (nitrogen) which leaches away in months or even weeks. Grazing pressure from sheep, deer and goats will have been identical over all the archaeological features at the Mhogh Sgeir site, following its last occupation more than 100 years ago, since when it has only been used for the occasional summer picnic. The significant difference in phosphorous levels may, therefore, be attributable to accumulated fish waste, lending weight to the interpretation of this level platform as a working area above the quayside.

However, interpreting the two very small fragments of lazy beds at Mhogh Sgeir, sites 231 and 140, is difficult. Are they the remnants of larger areas from a period pre-dating the fishing station, or are they the 'gardens' of those working at the fishing station? Whatever the answer, in the West Highlands seaweed tended to be the only manure used on lazy beds near to the coast. Seaweed is high in nitrogen and potassium, but low in phosphorous, and the continuous use of seaweed, combined with continuous cropping without any augmentation with animal dung, results in depletion of natural phosphate levels in the soil. This may, in part, explain the apparently striking difference between the phosphorous levels in samples 1 and 2. Even so, it seems not unreasonable to suggest that some form of human activity has boosted the phosphorous level in sample 1.

This season's work has reinforced our belief that what makes the archaeology at Loch Hourn special are the various remains - the fishing stations, the little huts, stores and landing places - which we believe were associated with the herring fishing around the shores of the Inner Loch. We have one more season of investigation planned based at Kinloch Hourn, and it is our intention to focus on a detailed survey of all the likely herring fishers' huts, and on the probable fishing station at Mhogh Sgeir. As part of this campaign, two concentrations of huts will be recorded in detail, by means of plans and elevations, in the hope that this will facilitate comparison between the building types found around inner Loch Hourn. Rubha na h-Uigaig, to the west of Mhogh Sgeir, and Glac an Tobhar appear to be both accessible and to comprise a large number of huts, encompassing the range of types so far identified. Completion of the recording of the core area at Mhogh Sgeir will complement the detailed picture of the securely identified fishing station at Skiary, while hopefully shedding light on the relationship between agricultural and fishing activities around the loch. One hut, just above the high water mark on the east side of Mhogh Sgeir (Site 141), has already been partially eroded by the sea and it is hoped that excavation of this structure will enhance the picture of the huts established through the recording of the upstanding remains, illuminating further their character and purpose. Any opportunity to complete the search of all the possible shieling grounds will also be taken; one representative group of shieling huts will be recorded in more detail, again to provide a comparison with the probable fishing huts.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks are extended to Historic Scotland for funding the project and to The SCAPE Trust, The University of St Andrews and the landowners and their staff for facilitating the fieldwork. Without the enthusiasm and expertise of every member of the 2006 team and our professional advisors none of this research would have been possible.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Gazetteer

All of the new sites discovered and recorded during the 2005 and 2006 surveys are set out in the following gazetteer, as are a small number which were re-visited to correct their positions. Sites have been ordered from west to east, i.e. Eilean Ràrsaidh to Kinloch Hourn.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
687	Eilean Ràrsaidh	181370	811715	Settlement	The island is split between heather covered rock to the west and a much smaller area of generally lower and more fertile ground to the east, sheltered by the higher rocky ground to the west. The whole of the east end of the island is regenerating naturally with native tree species below which bracken and brambles dominate, but there are large areas where bluebell and wild garlic cover the ground. A deserted settlement was noted during a reconnaissance trip in May 2006. There are approx 8 buildings in the main cluster on the north side of the island, under the lee of low cliffs. Here there is also a fine well in perfect order and a small corn drying kiln. The buildings are in various stages of natural decay. The best of the low ground, c1.5 hectares, is enclosed by a substantial stone wall and on the east side of this field there are several more small buildings and animal pens. There are cleared landing places on the N, E and W sides of the island, all located towards its east end.
686	Eilean a' Phìobaire	183080	808340	Cleared boat landings; stone setting; bird scarer	The above NGR is centred on the island, which was also visited by the RCAHMS in 1991. This site entry covers 5 features noted on a reconnaissance trip in May 2006. These features consist of two well-maintained cleared landing places, substantial evidence for stone quarrying, a small setting of stones abutting a rock face, and a low rusting corrugated iron shelter for an equally rusting Exid Thunderbird gas operated bird scarer. The island had one lonely sheep on it, many gulls' nests and is smothered in bracken and brambles. The island is very dry and there are no signs of any settlement in the past. There is a buoy in the bay between the island and the mainland suggesting that fish cages are moored there at times and we believe the only use of the island is as a base for scaring birds off fish cages.
810	Corran	184998	808884	Jetty	A line of irregularly spaced stones, c25m x 1.5m x 0.5m high, running down a pebble beach from the high water mark.
811	Corran	185054	808631	Unknown	A square depression, c2m x 2m x 0.3m deep, abuts the termination of a possible boundary wall, Site 812, on its north side. It lies c5m from the high water mark.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
812	Corran	185077	808634	Boundary wall	The south end of the wasted remains of a stone wall, generally 0.5 high and 0.5m wide, possibly denoting a boundary. It continues east uphill. A more substantial ruined wall continues north from this same point and appears to have been replaced by a modern deer fence.
813	Rubha Camas na Cailinn	185081	808120	Unknown	A rectangular depression, c3m x 2m x 0.5m deep, adjacent to a shingle beach.
814	Rubha Camas na Cailinn	185083	808079	Naust	Two rectangular depressions, c4m N-S x 1.5m x 0.5m deep at the rear. Possible boat nausts.
816	Rubha Camas na Cailinn	185163	807906	Cleared beach	A cleared beach, c25m long and 5m wide, to the west of Site 815. At the NE end there is a scooped area recessed into the shoreline.
815	Rubha Camas na Cailinn	185178	807910	Building	The substantial stone footings of a long rectangular building, measuring c25.5m NW-SE x c7m, the walls standing generally to 0.5m in height and 0.6m in width. The building occupies the whole of the heavily bracken infested level area at the back of a cove. The main part of the building appears to have been well built and consists of 2 compartments. The north compartment is c11m long, while the south is c9.5m long. The latter has been mostly destroyed, as the stone has been piled up to 1m in height in the east corner in order to make way for the Corran to A'Chiste Dhubh path which passes diagonally through the centre of this compartment. There is an entrance in the centre of the SW wall, close to the cleared beach, Site 816. Abutting the main building to the NW, there is a rough outshot, c4.75m long, which uses an adjacent crag as its outer wall. Across the small stream to the SE there is an enclosure (Site 817) and evidence of another structure (Site 818), which may also be associated.
837	The Corran to A' Chiste Dhubh Footpath	185180	807908	Path	A constructed path, well built originally, now overgrown and wasted in places by the action of the sea. The buildings at Rubha Camas na Cailinn appear to have been robbed to build the path. Particularly at the A'Chiste Dhubh end, the path negotiates rock slabs and rocky points in an impressive manner. Construction stops at A'Chiste Dhubh, but on the 1st edition OS the path is shown as continuing to Caolasmor. The path can still be followed to Caolasmor, but it is unmade and tricky to find in places.
818	Rubha Camas na Cailinn	185187	807900	Structure	The barely discernable, turf-covered footings of a structure, measuring c8m NW-SE x 3.5m. The west side of the platform is very obvious, whilst the NW end is much less so.
817	Rubha Camas na Cailinn	185197	807897	Enclosure	An 'L' shaped enclosure, c20m long and c15m wide, on the SE side of a small stream close to Site 815. It is bounded by the wasted remains of a stone wall. To the west there is evidence of a structure (Site 818), at a lower level. The path cuts across the southern part of the enclosure.
821	Camas Chonalain Beag	185371	807661	Clearance cairn	A linear pile of stones, measuring c10m in length by 2m in width.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
819	Camas Chonalain Bhig	185395	807672	Wall	A ruined stone wall, possibly a boundary. A short section is visible on the west side of the stream, it then crosses the stream and heads for c30m NE upslope beside the stream. It re-crosses onto the west side of the burn, from where it continues to run parallel to it. It was not traced to its end.
820	Camas Chonalain Beag	185395	807672	Rock shelter	A rock shelter, measuring c1.5m x 1m, fronted by a well-made drystone wall, through which is a c0.6m wide entrance with a slabbed threshold, located towards the north end of the wall. The shelter has a NW aspect and there appears to have been a deliberately levelled area at the front of the shelter.
988	Camas Chonalain Bhig	185575	807842	Shieling hut	An oval stony platform, c4m x 2m, with a central sunken area. To one side of the entrance, a projecting line of stones suggest the remains of a protecting wall or porch. Sites 988, 987, 986 and 985 form a group of probable summer shieling huts.
987	Camas Chonalain Bhig	185582	807846	Shieling hut	The footings of an oval structure, c5m x 2m, on a raised platform of stones, with a central sunken area.
986	Camas Chonalain Bhig	185590	807851	Shieling hut	The footings of an oval structure, c4m x 2m, sitting on a raised platform of stones, with a central sunken area.
985	Camas Chonalain Bhig	185594	807846	Shieling hut	The footings of a circular structure, c3m in diameter, sitting on a raised platform. Sunken in the centre.
822	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	185976	807261	Cleared beach	A cleared beach, measuring c20m long x 4m wide, with the remains of a building, Site 823, adjacent.
823	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	185994	807261	Building	The rectangular, wasted stone footings of a rectangular building, c10m N-S x 4m, lying parallel to the shoreline and c4m from the cleared beach, Site 822. The internal dimensions are 8m x 2.5m. There is much tumble, but the walls are still 0.7m wide and c0.3m high. There is an obvious ditch at the rear of the building.
831	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186029	807123	Cleared beach	A cleared beach at the south end of the bay.
829	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186066	807246	Structure	A much tumbled, roughly circular, stone structure, measuring c4.5m x 4m overall and 2.5m diameter internally. There is an additional small compartment, c1m square, on the SE side.
830	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186076	807111	Quarry	A recessed area, c6m square, set against a rock face on its south side. Possible quarry.
828	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186079	807238	Clearance cairn	Small clearance cairn.
827	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186131	807295	Enclosure	A triangular enclosure, lying between two burns, adjacent to and south of Site 824.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
824	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186135	807301	Farmstead	A rectangular stone building, measuring c10.5m E-W x 3.5m internally. Three of the walls are largely intact and stand to 1.5m high and 0.8m wide. The south wall is tumbled, but has a possible entrance in the centre. The corners are rounded inside and out at the east end. An outshot, 4.25m x 2.5m internally, to the south is more crudely constructed. A small structure, a possible kiln, Site 826, abuts the NE corner. Enclosures, Sites 825 and 827, are adjacent. A winding stone wall, possibly a boundary (not recorded separately), stretches away to the NE.
826	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186143	807308	Corn drying kiln	A small, circular stone structure abutting the NE corner of farmstead, Site 824. Internally, it measures 0.7m in diameter and is 0.4m deep. Regular stone facing is visible internally.
825	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186154	807306	Enclosure	An enclosure situated on the east side of a small stream to the east of the farmstead, Site 824. Enclosed by the scant remains of a curving wall and, on the NW side, by the stream.
981	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186163	807367	Wall	c220m of substantial drystone wall above the main building at Camas Chonalain Mhòir. Possible head dyke.
982	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186163	807367	Corn drying kiln	A thick walled, curvilinear structure, c1.5m in diameter and 1.5m tall. It sits at the north side of an enclosure and appears to have a gap at ground level, suggesting it may be the remains of a corn drying kiln.
980	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186163	807429	Building	On the west side of the burn and 50m from it, a stony platform, measuring c11m x 3m. It is revetted with stone on the west side and cut into the hillslope on the east side.
979	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186185	807445	Enclosure	A drystone dyke on the east side of the burn, running downhill for c20m, then west for c6m, then south for c6m, thus forming a possible enclosure.
978	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186202	807465	Enclosure	c10m length of drystone dyking further up the burn from site 780, extending from the burn side up the slope. It forms half of what may have been a roughly circular enclosure, with a circumference of c30m.
977	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186221	807472	Trackway	A green trackway, c26m in length and 1.5m wide, leading to the Allt Camas Chonalain Mhòir from an easterly direction. It is revetted with stone where the cross slope steepens. It appears to be associated with the drystone structures, Sites 978, 979 and 980. Probable shieling track.
984	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186256	807437	Shieling hut	The stone footings of a structure, measuring c4m x 2m, with a further line of stones at one end. A large stone set upright in front of the structure is a probable rubbing stone to keep animals off the building.
983	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186266	807433	Shieling hut	The stone footings of a rectangular structure, measuring c5.5m x 2.5m. Two long stones have been set upright either side of the entrance in one of the long sides, with a much larger stone set upright in front and to one side of this entrance.
976	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186332	807473	Shieling hut	The footings of an irregular rectilinear structure, c5m x 3m, on a knoll within an area of sloping, bracken infested, grassland.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
975	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186353	807488	Shieling hut	A drystone curvilinear structure, measuring c4m x 4m and standing to 0.8m in height, with a smaller structure in the upper part. Ruinous, but the upslope walls are well delineated. The entrance is in the upslope wall and has walling above it. The structure lies c3m from the burn.
974	Camas Chonalain Mhòir	186362	807500	Clearance cairn	A mass of large stones, measuring c11m x 7m overall and standing to 1m in height. A setting of 8 stones is visible in a straight line along the downslope edge. It lies above Site 975.
832	A'Chiste Dhubh	186430	806768	Hut	A possible structure visible as an oval depression, c4m x 2.5m x 0.8m deep, on a small knoll with commanding views down the loch.
833	A'Chiste Dhubh	186538	806828	Wall	A ruined stone boundary wall. From the given NGR, the wall runs parallel to the constructed path, then east, then north, then west to enclose a precipitous headland. Said by local people to have been built to keep livestock off the crags.
835	A'Chiste Dhubh	186549	806807	Cleared beach	A cleared beach, aligned N-S, c20m long and 3m wide.
834	A'Chiste Dhubh	186551	806823	Pen	A small square structure, measuring 1m x 1m internally, crudely built against the stone wall, Site 833. The walls of the structure stand to c1m high at the back and 0.6 high at the front, with 2 obvious vents in the walls, suggesting it might have had a roof at one time and been used as a lambing pen.
836	A'Chiste Dhubh	186565	806804	Cleared beach	A cleared beach aligned N-S, c20m long and 5m wide.
910	Eilean a' Gharb-làin	187040	806600	Enclosure	The stone footings of a rectilinear structure, measuring c6m x 5m internally, with a possible entrance in one corner. The gable wall beside the entrance extends past it.
909	Eilean a' Gharb-làin	187040	806637	Cleared beach	A cleared beach on the NE corner of the island, below Sites 910, 911, and 912.
913	Rubha Leac an Aoil (West)	187042	806741	Hut	The footings of a curvilinear structure, measuring c5m x 5m, lying close to the shoreline. The footings consist of a single layer of stone, 0.3m in height. The entrance is sheltered by a wall of stones running N-S.
911	Eilean a' Gharb-làin	187050	806600	Hut	A roughly square feature, c4m x 3m x 0.3m high, with a possible entrance on the north side.
912	Eilean a' Gharb-làin	187050	806600	Hut	A rectangular shaped feature, c8m x 3m x 0.3m in height, abutting Site 911. No obvious entrance.
914	Rubha Leac an Aoil (West)	187070	806741	Hut	A curvilinear structure, c5m x 5m x 0.5 in height, on a platform of rock with an entrance on the south side, facing towards the shore.
915	Rubha Leac an Aoil (West)	187075	806738	Hut	A circular structure, c5m in diameter, standing to 1m in height, on a raised platform of natural rock, contiguous to Site 914.
916	Rubha Leac an Aoil (East)	187352	806790	Hut	A roughly circular feature, c 4m in internal diameter, with walls varying between 0.3m and 0.8m in height. Precipitous slopes rise behind the structure.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
917	Rubha Leac an Aoil (East)	187370	806780	Cleared boat landing places	Two cleared boat landing places, c30m long x 2m to 4m in width, associated with hut sites 918 and 916.
918	Rubha Leac an Aoil (East)	187370	806795	Hut	A rectangular stone-built hut, measuring c4m x 2m internally, with walls standing to 1m in height. It is set hard against the rocky slope. A small storage area has been formed within the hut and there is also a three-sided outshot.
990	Rubha Leac an Aoil (East)	187490	806825	Building	The turf covered footings of a building, measuring c11m x 3m overall. Appears as roofless on the first edition OS.
907	Rubha Leac an Aoil (East)	187555	806845	Building	The two partially upstanding gable ends of a building, measuring c18m x 3m internally, with one gable standing to 1.7m in height. Part of the building sits on a platform c12m x 1m high at the front. A possible dwelling house, shown as unroofed on the 1st edition OS.
906	Rubha Leac an Aoil (East)	187571	806838	Building	Two partially upstanding gable ends of a stone built dwelling house, measuring c11m x 3m internally and sitting on a level platform. Shown on the 1st edition OS as unroofed. A hollowed out square feature, c3m x 3m, adjoins the main structure. Possible dwelling house.
908	Rubha Leac an Aoil (East)	187585	806845	Naust	A boat naust cut out of the rock, with the rock gained possibly used to build the nearby houses. It measures 9m long, narrowing to 1m, with a small protected area above.
902	Camas nan Gall	188403	807053	Hut	A sub-circular depression, c2m x 3m, with sides upstanding to 0.5m. Possible hut footing.
905	Camas nan Gall	188412	807011	Naust	A flattened area of stones on foreshore of beach, measuring c14m x 5m overall.
904	Camas nan Gall	188449	807043	Hut	A circular setting of stones, c3m in diameter and standing to 0.5m in height. Possible hut footing.
903	Camas nan Gall	188463	807045	Naust	A possible boat naust, c20m long x 10m wide, above a cleared beach.
900	Camas nan Gall	188580	807105	Pen	A stone walled pen, measuring 3.5m N-S x 3m internally, with walls standing to 1.4m in height. Wide entrance in SE corner. Structure sits c100m uphill from the group of buildings at Camas nan Gall.
901	Camas nan Gall	188580	807105	Quarry	A bowl shaped quarry, measuring c4m x 5m, with an open mouth on the lower side. Possible source of stone to build the pen (Site 900) nearby.
839	Coire Chaolis Bhig	189062	805054	Shieling mound	A grassy mound, measuring c5m in diameter at its base and 0.5m in height. A similar mound, Site 838, lies 20m to the SE.
838	Coire Chaolis Bhig	189066	805052	Shieling mound	A circular grassy mound, c5m in diameter at the base and 0.5m in height, with a flattish area on top, c3m in diameter, with raised edges. A second mound lies 20m to the NW (Site 839). Both lie within a flat marshy area which appears to have been relatively fertile ground.
841	Coire Chaolis Bhig	189091	805092	Shieling hut	The low footings of an oval structure, c5m NE-SW x 4m, located on a grassy platform, standing about 1m above the surrounding ground level. Some stone evident. One of a group of 4 probable shieling huts; several further small grassy mounds lie to the west.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
840	Coire Chaolis Bhig	189101	805049	Shieling hut	A small circular setting, c1.5m in diameter, of irregular stones up to 0.6m in size, on top of a prominent knoll. One of a group of 4 similar structures.
994	Coire Mhogh Sgeir	190924	808089	Ditch	A hand dug ditch, c0.6m wide and 0.3m deep, running approximately N-S downslope for c40m. It cuts across one of the shieling terraces and may have been intended to prevent surface water from running into the nearby shieling structures. The NGR given above is for the top end of the ditch, whilst the bottom end is at 190924 808059.
991	Allt Mhogh Sgeir (West)	191085	807490	Hut	The circular, bracken covered stone and boulder footings of a hut, c2.5m in internal diameter. There is a small circular stone setting in one corner such as might have held a coggie or bowl.
999	Coire Mhogh Sgeir	191095	808030	Shieling hut	A level, circular platform, measuring c5m in overall diameter. Some irregular stones/boulders are scattered across the site. A possible shieling hut.
989	Allt Mhogh Sgeir (West)	191105	807480	Hut	The roughly circular, bracken covered stone and boulder footings of a hut, c3m in diameter.
843	Coire Sgiath Airigh	191770	805436	Shieling hut	A small circular grass mound, c5m in diameter and 0.8m in height, with the remains of a small square structure, c2m x 2m, on top. It has a dished internal area, c0.2m deep. The mound lies 25m to the SW of Site 842.
842	Coire Sgiath Airigh	191798	805445	Shieling hut	A roughly rectangular structure, measuring c6m x 4m, lies in a green grassy patch, on an otherwise heathery hillside, below a more fertile alluvial delta, located at the base of a gentle west facing slope. The west wall is c4m long and is reasonably well defined.
844	Allt Raonabhal	191848	806276	Earth bank	A wasted earth bank, aligned SW-NE, parallel to and west of the Allt Raonabhal, can be traced for approx 500m from its highest GR point given above, across a stream at 191938 806373, and across a path at 192204 806723. It appears to delineate the boundary between the lands of Skiary and the wooded area to the west which formed part of the farm of Caolas Beag in the 18th Century.
845	Allt Raonabhal	191963	806383	Shieling hut	A circular mound, c5m in diameter and 0.8m in height, with the footings of a roughly circular structure on top, c2m in diameter. Some stone is evident. Within a grassy area and just east of the earth bank, Site 844.
664	Coire Mhàlagain	193026	811379	Shieling mound	A sub-circular shieling mound, measuring c4m N-S x 3.5m. The mound is flat topped, covered in moss, Juncus and Blaeberry. Some stones visible in places around the edge of the mound.
846	Allt Raonabhal	192141	806617	Hut	To the SW of the high point of the Barrisdale path, a small rectangular structure, measuring 2.5m x 1.5m internally and with a possible entrance in the NW wall. The surrounding earth banks stand to 0.2m high. There are small grassy patches around the structure, in an area of otherwise deep heather.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
854	Glac an Tobhar	192519	807901	Hut	A stone built structure, measuring 3m N-S x 1.5m internally, on an E facing slope. There is an abundance of tumbled stone, while an in situ boulder forms the N wall. The structure is recessed into the slope, where the crude stonework rises to 0.7m in height, and is built out at the front into an apron, c1.2m in height. A path winds southwards down the slope from the entrance. A probable fishers hut.
680	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain	192630	809730	Field system	An enclosed field system, shown in part on the current OS 1:25,000 map, but in better detail on the Harvey 1:25,000 'Kintail and Glen Shiel' hill walkers map. The NGR given above is centred on the larger enclosure. This place, with its buildings, enclosures and small area of lazy beds (Site 681), may represent the final period of development of a shieling site into a summer farm. It is a small green oasis of rough pasture in a wasteland of bog and heath. A possible military/droving route between Bernera and the Great Glen passes close by.
676	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain	192686	809926	Shieling mound	A low, circular shieling mound, with a central depression, c1.5m in internal diameter. The mound is moss covered.
660	Coire Mhàlagain	192690	810490	Enclosure	A substantial enclosure, roughly semi-circular in shape, formed by a part retaining and part free standing boulder and turf wall, c45m radius and 40m diameter, with the Allt Coire Mhàlagain forming one side. There is an entrance c15m up from the burn in the flattened wall on the north side. On the opposite bank of the burn are the wasted and fragmented remains of another wall running the length of the enclosure suggesting that, when in use, the wall on the opposite bank formed part of the enclosure and that the burn may have been blocked by watergates. There are no other associated features. The enclosure lies c250m downstream of the present day ford. Shown on the current OS 1:25,000 map.
675	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain	192691	809937	Shieling mound	A low, circular shieling mound, with a central depression c2.5m in internal diameter. The mound is moss covered.
681	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain	192697	809780	Enclosure	Two small enclosures, the larger being c0.3ha centred on the given NGR, are shown in part on the current OS 1:25,000 map, but in greater detail on the Harvey 1: 25,000 'Kintail and Glen Shiel' Hillwalkers Map. The enclosures and associated buildings along with a small area of lazy beds, measuring c20m x 30m overall, may represent the final phase of development of a shieling into a summer farm. It is a small oasis of rough pasture in an otherwise wasteland of bog and heath. A possible military/droving route between Bernera and the Great Glen passes close by.
679	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain	192697	809803	Building	The boulder footings, standing to 0.6m in height, of a building, measuring c4.5m SE-NW x 2m internally, with an entrance to the SW. The northern corner of the building has been truncated by the adjacent burn. Both faces of the wall are still visible.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
674	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain.	192698	809944	Shieling mound	A low, circular shieling mound, with a central, circular depression, measuring c3m in internal diameter. The mound is moss covered. The name of this site is given on the 1808 sale map for Glenelg Estate, which also notes that it was attached to the farm of Eilanreach.
678	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain	192699	809803	Building	The randomly coursed, boulder walls, standing to 1.2m high, of a building measuring c5m NE-SW x 3m internally. It has rounded corners inside and out on the NE side, but square corners on the SW side. There are aumbries in the SE and SW corners of the building, while the entrance is in the NE wall, 1m from the SW corner. A lower stone and turf outshot lies to the SW of the main building. It measures c4m NE-SW x 2.5m internally and has a possible entrance in the NE wall. Both wall faces are visible.
677	Salnafairn, Lower Coire Mhàlagain	192708	809810	Building	The low boulder walls, standing to 0.5m high and 0.9m wide, of a building measuring c5m N-S x 2.5m. It has rounded corners inside and out and a possible entrance in the west wall.
662	Coire Mhàlagain	192823	810632	Shieling hut	The turf and stone footings of a sub-triangular hut, measuring 2.75m NE-SW x 2.5m internally. The walls stand to c0.75m high and are spread to 1m. There is a possible entrance in the NE corner. Sits c10m from a ford at the end of the Kinloch Hourne Estate stalking path and is shown on the current OS 1:25,000.
661	Coire Mhàlagain	192847	810650	Wall	22m of ruinous boulder and turf retaining wall on the east bank of the Allt Coire Mhàlagain at a fording point.
682	Lower Coire Reidh	193006	809162	Building	The grass covered boulder footings of a building, measuring c11m E-W x 3m internally, with a ditch along its back (upper) wall. Note: this place has a name which is meantime lost, but may be recoverable.
666	Coire Mhàlagain	193014	811404	Shieling mound	A sub-circular shieling mound, measuring c3.5m N-S x 3m and covered in mosses, Juncus and Blaeberry. There is a stone revetment around the steepest side of the mound.
663	Coire Mhàlagain	193032	811408	Shieling hut	A probable shieling hut, measuring c3m N-S x 2m internally, with a 0.8m internal diameter outshot at NE corner. There is a possible entrance near the SE corner. The low footings are turf covered and there is moss and rush within the structure.
665	Coire Mhàlagain	193053	811403	Shieling mound	An oval shieling mound, with a central depression, measuring c3m NE-SW x 2m internally. No stone is visible protruding through the moss, Juncus and Blaeberry covering the mound.
685	Lower Coire Reidh	193055	809177	Building	The stone footings of a building, measuring c6m NNE-SSW x 3m, abutting Site 683. The platform on which it sits is revetted on the NNW side.
683	Lower Coire Reidh	193065	809177	Building	The faced stone walls, standing up to 1.2m in height, of a building, measuring c4.5m NNE-SSW x 3m internally. There is a small window in the SSW gable, a possible entrance in the west side and square corners inside and out. Depicted on the current OS 1:25,000 map.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
684	Lower Coire Reidh	193066	809196	Building	The footings of a stone built building, measuring c6.5m ENE-WSW x 3m internally, although lacking its SW gable. The walls are very tumbled, but some of the facing is still visible. Shown on the current OS 1:25,000 map.
668	Coire Mhàlagain	193083	811495	Shieling mound	A roughly figure of eight shaped shieling mound. The circular depression in the top half of the figure of eight measures c3m in diameter internally, with that in the lower half measuring 1.5m x 1m internally. The long axis of the mound is aligned NE-SW, but is less obvious on the north side. The mound is covered in mosses and Juncus.
667	Coire Mhàlagain	193103	811479	Shieling mound	An oval shieling mound, measuring c3m NE-SW x 2.5m and covered in mosses and Juncus. There is a possible tiny outshot at the SE corner, while the entrance appears to be in the SW corner. Some stone is visible around the outshot and near the entrance. That on the SE side of the entrance may be a windbreak.
699	Coire Mhàlagain	193116	811491	Shieling hut	The roughly square footings of a shieling hut, measuring 2m N-S x 2m internally. The structure has rounded corners and an outshot at the SE corner, measuring c1m internally, with a possible entrance in the SW corner.
670	Coire Mhàlagain	193523	811663	Shieling mound	An oval shieling mound, with a central depression measuring c3m N-S x 1.5m internally. There is a circular outshot at the SE corner, measuring c1m in internal diameter. Stonework is visible around the outshot.
671	Coire Mhàlagain	193525	811646	Shieling mound	A low, oval shaped shieling mound, with a central depression, measuring c3m E-W x 2m internally, and a small circular outshot at the SE corner. The mound is covered in mosses and Juncus.
672	Coire Mhàlagain	193525	811646	Shieling mound	A very low shieling mound, with a central depression, measuring c3m x 2m internally, lying 10m south of Site 670. It is covered in mosses and Juncus.
673	Coire Mhàlagain	193526	811447	Wall	The fragmented remains of a ditch and earth bank, c150m in length, running from one side of a natural gully at the foot of the hill-slope down into peat hags nearer to the burn. At one time it would have effectively enclosed the south side of the upper Coire below Sgurr na Sgein.
754	Lochourhead	195039	806523	Well	Previously recorded in 2004. A small, square stone-built structure with a large slab forming the roof. The opening to the front is c0.7m square. A large flat slab makes up half of the floor, with a pool of water at the back. A small stream of water issues a few meters downslope. A possible well.
693	Coire Reidh	194254	809724	Wall	The fragmented and eroded remains of a c70m length of stone and turf walling, partly free standing, partly retaining the edge of the north bank of the Allt Coire Reidh. The wall stands to 0.9m high in places. The burn has changed course considerably over time and the local topography suggests that the wall may have been part of a roughly 'D' shaped enclosure, similar to that found in Coire Mhàlagain, which has now been largely swept away by the burn. Noted during reconnaissance in Nov 2006.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
694	Coire Reidh	194276	809645	Shooting butt	The low stone footings of a roughly oval structure, with an internal radius of c2m and an opening c3m wide. It sits in a marshy area on the south side of the Allt Coire Reidh. Noted during reconnaissance in Nov 2006.
692	Coire Reidh	194373	809766	Shieling hut	The horseshoe shaped stone footings of a structure, measuring c3m N-S x 2.5m internally, with a wide entrance. Noted during reconnaissance in Nov 2006.
689	Coire Reidh	194530	809880	Shieling mound	A low, turf covered, oval shaped shieling mound, with a central depression measuring c4m N-S x 2.5m internally, noted during reconnaissance in Nov 2006.
690	Coire Reidh	194545	809823	Shieling hut	The stone footings of a 'D' shaped structure, measuring c4.5m N-S x 3.5m internally, noted during reconnaissance in Nov 2006.
691	Coire Reidh	194545	809823	Shieling mound	A circular, turf covered shieling mound, measuring c2.5m in diameter, noted during reconnaissance in Nov 2006.
688	Coire Reidh	194595	809914	Shieling mound	A turf covered, oval shaped shieling mound, with a central depression measuring c3m x 2m internally, noted during reconnaissance in Nov 2006.
755	Lochournhead	194910	806575	Building	Previously recorded in 2004. The remains of an oval structure, measuring c5m x 2m internally. The turf footings are complete on the north side, standing to 0.3m high and spread to 1m, but wasted and trampled by animals on the south side.
756	Lochournhead	194924	806590	Building	Previously recorded in 2004. The remains of an oval structure, measuring c8m x 2.2m internally. The turf footings are almost complete, standing to 0.2m high and spread to 1m. Site 757 lies a few meters to the SE and is very similar in character.
757	Lochournhead	194929	806597	Building	Previously recorded in 2004. A similar structure to Site 756, measuring c8m x 2.5m internally, but less well preserved. A post and wire fence crosses the west side of the structure.
850	Lochournhead	194959	806511	Platform	A platform, measuring c9m NW-SE x 3m. It is recessed into the hillslope and stands c1m high at the back. Revetted on the NE side.
753	Lochournhead	195001	806456	Structure	Previously recorded in 2004. A roughly square structure, c2m x 2m, with a large in situ boulder forming the east wall. The structure is recessed into the hillslope and stands c0.8m high at the back. Some stones are evident in the walls.
751	Lochournhead	195048	806421	Building	Previously recorded in 2004. A rectangular building platform, measuring c6m x 3m and oriented E-W, set between 2 small streams. It is revetted on the west side, where it stands c1m above the stream, and there is a possible turf wall on the east side.
450	Lochournhead	195061	106410	Platform	Previously recorded in 2004. A possible platform, measuring 3m x 2m.
449	Lochournhead	195079	806421	Building	Previously recorded in 2004. The barely discernable remains of an oval structure, measuring c8m x 2m internally, located on a raised platform. An obvious ditch above (south) of the structure.

Site	Name	Easting	Northing	Site Type	Description
448	Lochournhead	195089	806382	Rock shelter	Previously recorded in 2004. A possible small rock shelter. The floor area appears to have been roughly cobbled.
446	Lochournhead	195096	806389	Platform	Previously recorded in 2004. An indistinct platform, lying a few meters south of Site 445.
445	Lochournhead	195099	806398	Building	Previously recorded in 2004. The low turf walls of an oval building, measuring c8m x 3.5m internally, sitting on a platform recessed into the hillslope. There is a well defined ditch at the back of the structure, above the platform.
447	Lochournhead	195103	806348	Platform	Previously recorded in 2004. A small platform, c3m x 2.5m, recessed into the hillslope.
444	Lochournhead	195117	806410	Structure	Previously recorded in 2004. The turf footings of an oval structure can be discerned on a platform recessed into the hillslope.
847	Lochournhead	195140	806418	Unknown	A small circular depression, c1m in diameter and 0.5m deep, with vertical faces on the south and east sides. Some stone is visible at its base.
848	Lochournhead	195142	806420	Platform	A rectangular platform, c3m SW-NE x 1.5m, recessed into the hillslope. The bank at the back is c0.7m in height.
849	Lochournhead	195143	806404	Platform.	A rectangular platform, c3.5m SE-NW x 2m, recessed into the hillslope. It is bounded by some inset boulders on the south and east sides. The cut slope at the back of the platform has a height of 1m.
443	Lochournhead	195273	806401	Wall	Previously recorded in 2004. A turf and stone wall, in two sections, separated by crags. One section runs c20m uphill to SW and the other section c20m to N.
851	Kinloch Hourn	195414	806483	Quarry	A quarry, angled at the centre where the quarried face rises to c2m in height. To the south, the face rises to c4m, falling away to 0.2m to the west. Two drill holes can be seen on the south face, one containing the rusting remains of a broken chisel bit.
852	Kinloch Hourn	195417	806669	Structure	A small structure, measuring c3.5m E-W x 1.5m internally, recessed into the hillslope. There is a substantial upcast bank on the south side, c2m wide at its base, c1.5m high on the downslope side and 0.3m high inside the structure. There is a possible narrow entrance at the south end.
853	Kinloch Hourn	195527	806575	Platform	High up on the SE face of a craggy spur, a rectangular platform, c4m x 2m, recessed into the west side of a knoll. It has a commanding position with good views up the Loch Hourn River to the east and down Loch Hourn to the west.

Appendix 2 Trench 1 excavation records

Summary list of contexts

No.	Description
001	Turf and topsoil
002	Make-up/tumble from S wall of structure 442
003	Matrix of tumble, 002
004	Grey/black silty sand under 003
005	S wall of structure 442
006	Dark brown clayey silt, matrix of S wall, 005
007	Tumble on inside of S wall, 005
008	Grey silty clay, in interior of building
009	Orangey brown clayey silt, in interior of building
010	N wall of structure 442
011	Dark brown clayey silt, matrix of wall, 010
012	Cobbling on outside (N) side of wall, 010
013	Matrix of cobbling, 012
014	Iron pan
015	Large flat stone - possible hearth?
016	Stone scatter, overlying pit, 027
017	Fill of cut, 018
018	Cut for stakehole
019	Fill of cut, 020
020	Cut for stakehole
021	Fill of cut, 022
022	Cut for stakehole
023	Fill of cut, 024
024	Cut for stakehole
025	Natural sand
026	Fill of cut, 027
027	Cut for pit, 026

Finds list

No.	Description	Context
	Topsoil finds: fence staple, ?bulcanite pipe stem, coal, charcoal	001
1	China; basal sherd of white china ?cup	008
2	Fe nail; corroded shaft	008
3	China (in situ)	008
4	Bone; tiny fragment of burnt bone	008
5	China; tiny sherd of blue and white glazed china	003
6	Bone; several tiny fragments of burnt bone	008
7	China; scallop edged green glazed china	004
8	Flint; triangular in shape, with circular depression on one side	006
9	Bone; two tiny fragments of burnt bone	004
10	Fe object (in situ)	008

Sample list

No.	Description	Context
1	Charcoal	004
2	Charcoal	026
3	Charcoal	026
4	Charcoal	026

Drawing record

Sheet	Number	Description	Scale	Date	Author
1		Plane table of structure 442 and vicinity	1:50	7/5/06	KS/AW
2	1	Plan drawing of Trench 1, following initial cleaning	1:20	8/5/06	AW
3	2	Plan drawing of Trench 1	1:20	12/5/06	KS
4	3	Sections through stakeholes, 018, 020, 022 and 024	1:10	13/5/06	KS
2	4	Overlay plan of Trench 1, showing locations of stakeholes and sondage through pit, 026	1:20	13/5/06	AW
4	5	Section through pit, 026	1:10	13/5/06	KS

Appendix 3 Trench 2 excavation records

Summary list of contexts

No.	Description
001	Turf (bracken/bluebell roots)
002	Boulder edging to platform
003	Tumble/make-up behind (W) of 002
004	Boulder edging at base of slope
005	Stone infill between 003 and 004
006	Brown greasy deposit on wharf
007	Stony make-up on wharf
008	Gravel/small stones on wharf
009	Cobbling on wharf
010	Matrix of cobbling, 009
011	Rough paving
012	Black, greasy soil on platform
013	Stony deposit below 012

Finds list

No.	Description	Context
1	China; small sherds of blue and white glazed china	012
2	China; small sherds of blue and white glazed china	012
3	China; small sherds of blue and white glazed china	012
4	Coal; small piece	012
5	Glass; small sherd of green glass	012
6	China; small sherd of blue and white glazed china	012
7	Coal; small piece	005
8	China; small sherd of red and white glazed china	005
9	China; small sherd of red and white glazed china	005
10	Earthenware; brown and cream striped	005
11	Coal; several small pieces	012
12	China; small sherd of blue and white glazed china	012

Drawing record

Sheet	Number	Description	Scale	Date	Author
1		Plan of Trench 2, including sondages	1:20	12/5/06	AC

Appendix 4 Surface finds from Mhogh Sgeir

No.	Description	Context
1	Glass; base of green glass bottle	Site 175
2	Broken Wigtownshire Creamery stoneware jar	Beach
3	Glass; base of green glass bottle	Site 128
4	China; sherd of blue and white glazed china	Site 128
5	China; white glaze	Site 128
6	Glass; sherd of green glass	Site 128
7	China; sherd of blue and white glazed china	Site 128
8	Glass; sherd of green glass	Site 128
9	China; white glaze	Site 128

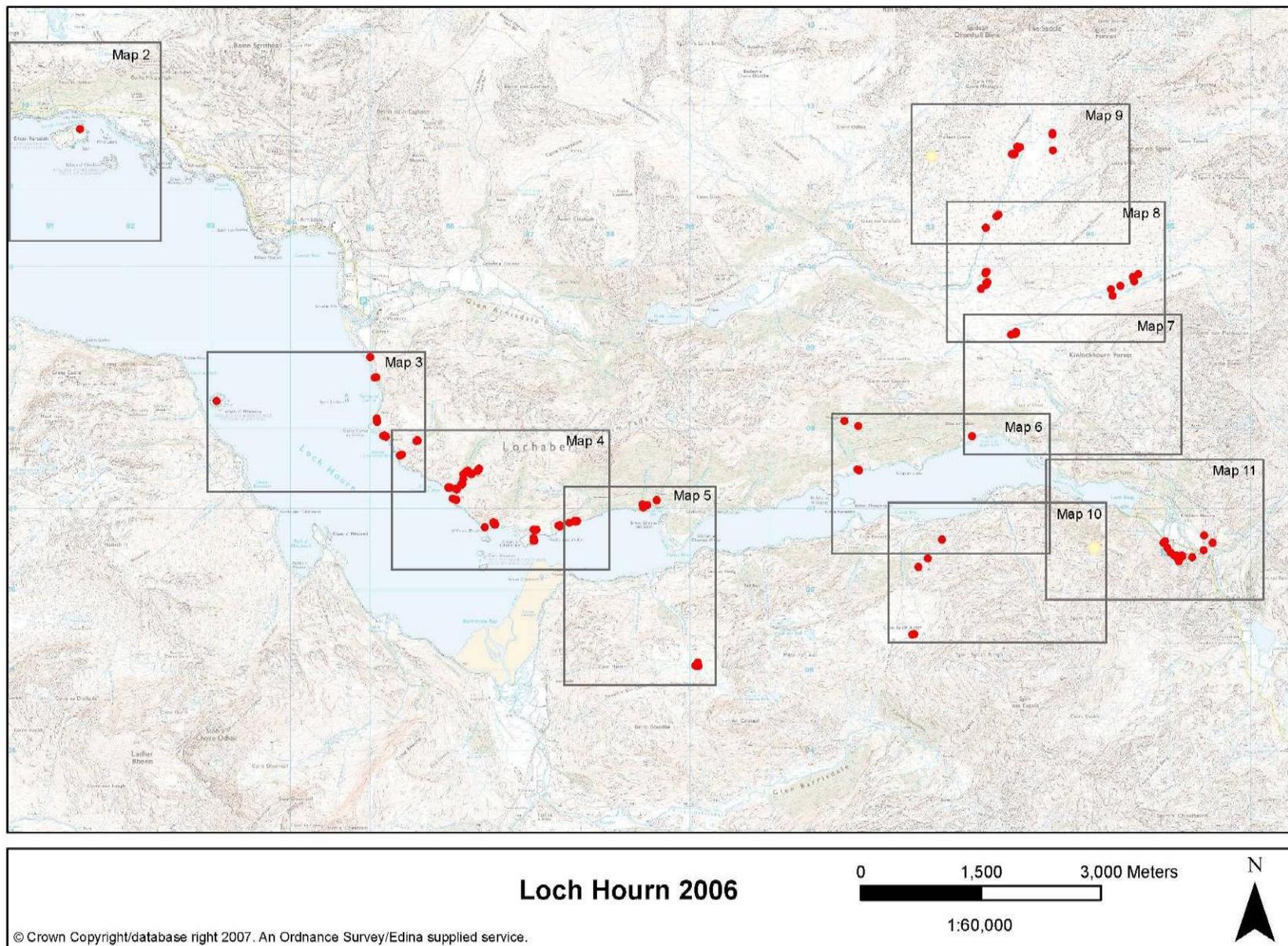


Figure 1 Survey area and position of more detailed location maps



Figure 2 Location map showing sites on Eilean Ràrsaidh

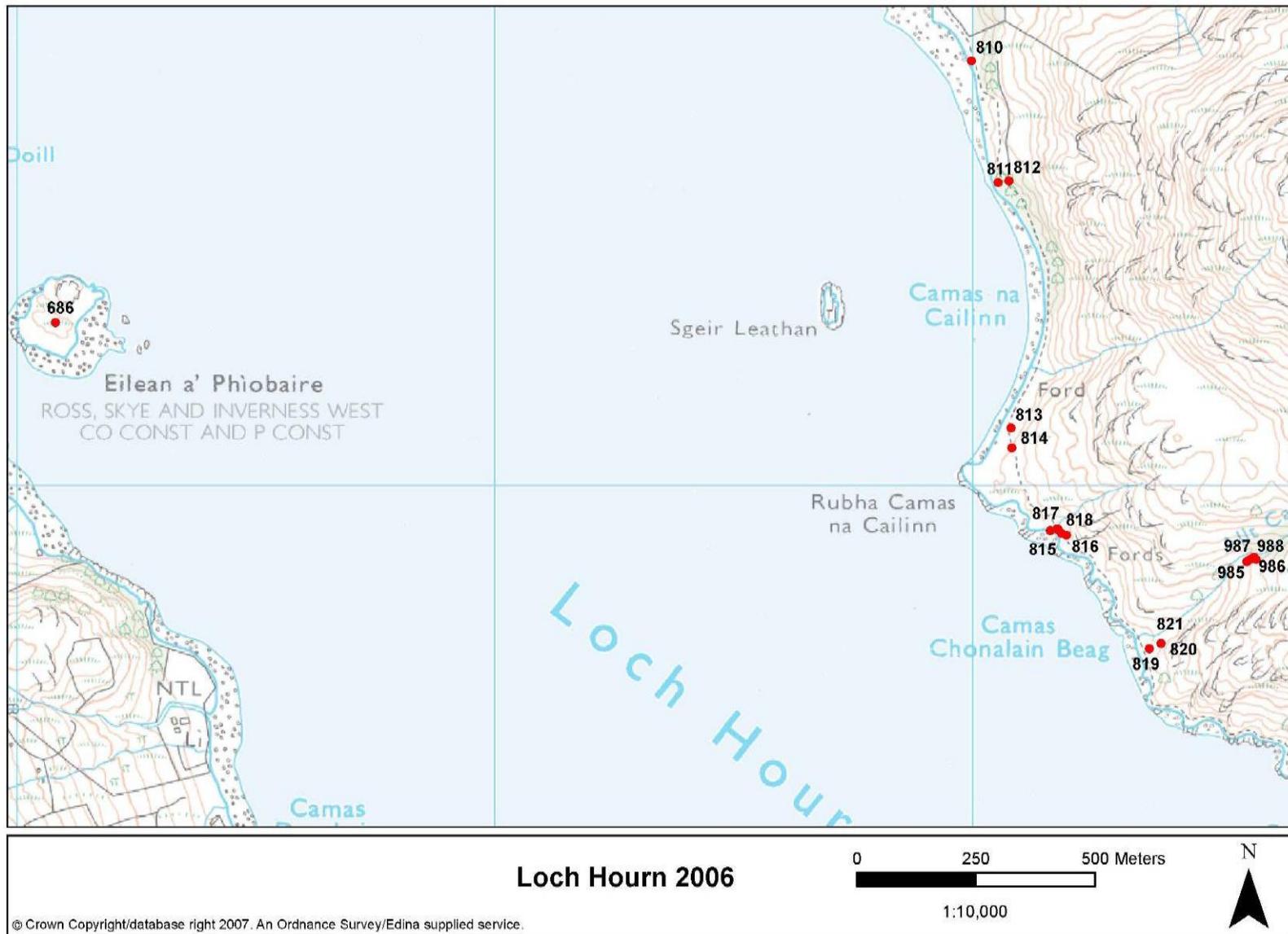


Figure 3 Location map showing sites on Eilean a' Phìobaire and between Corran and Camas Chonalain Beag

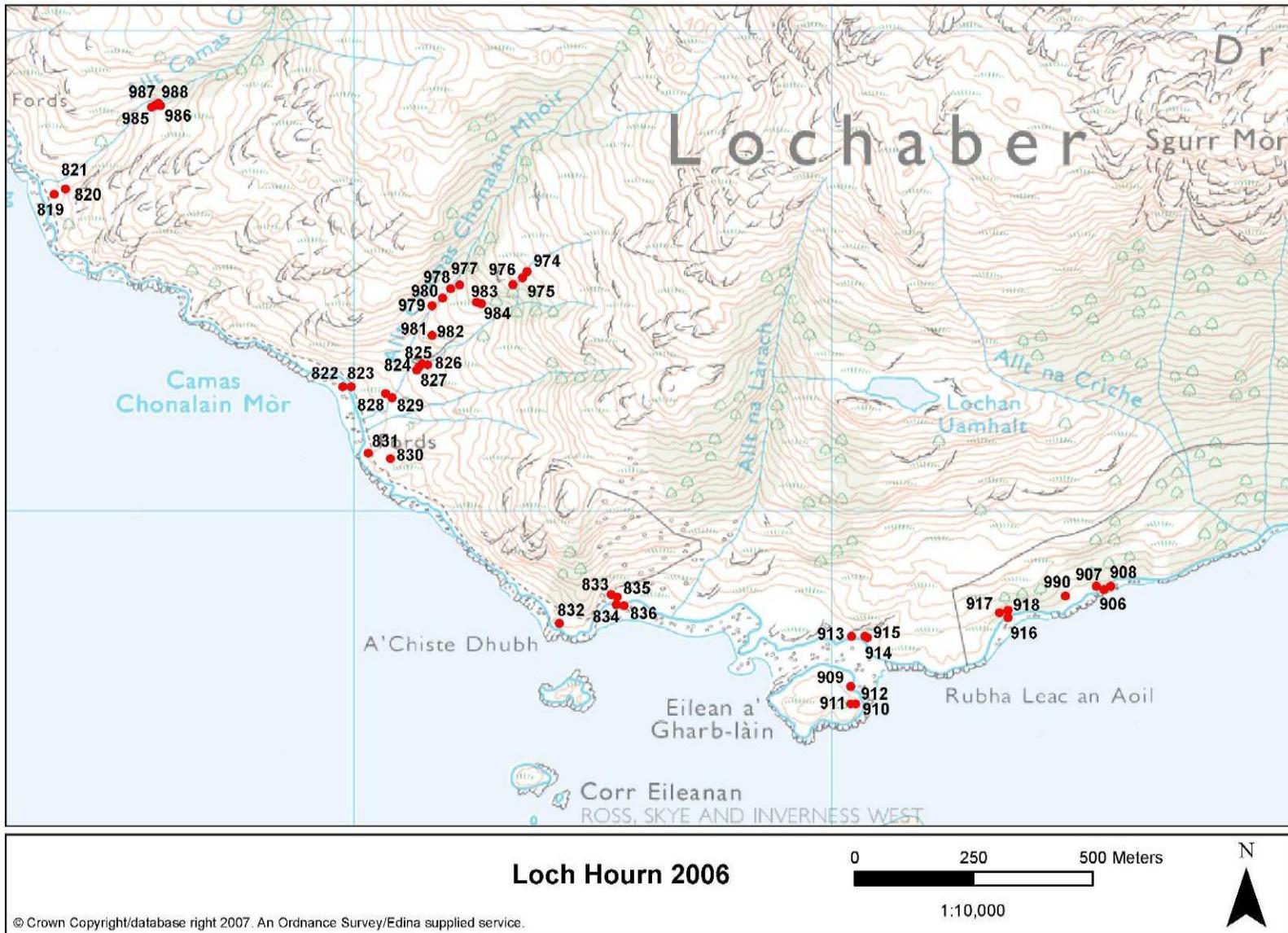


Figure 4 Location map showing sites between Chonalain Beag and Rubha Leac an Aoil

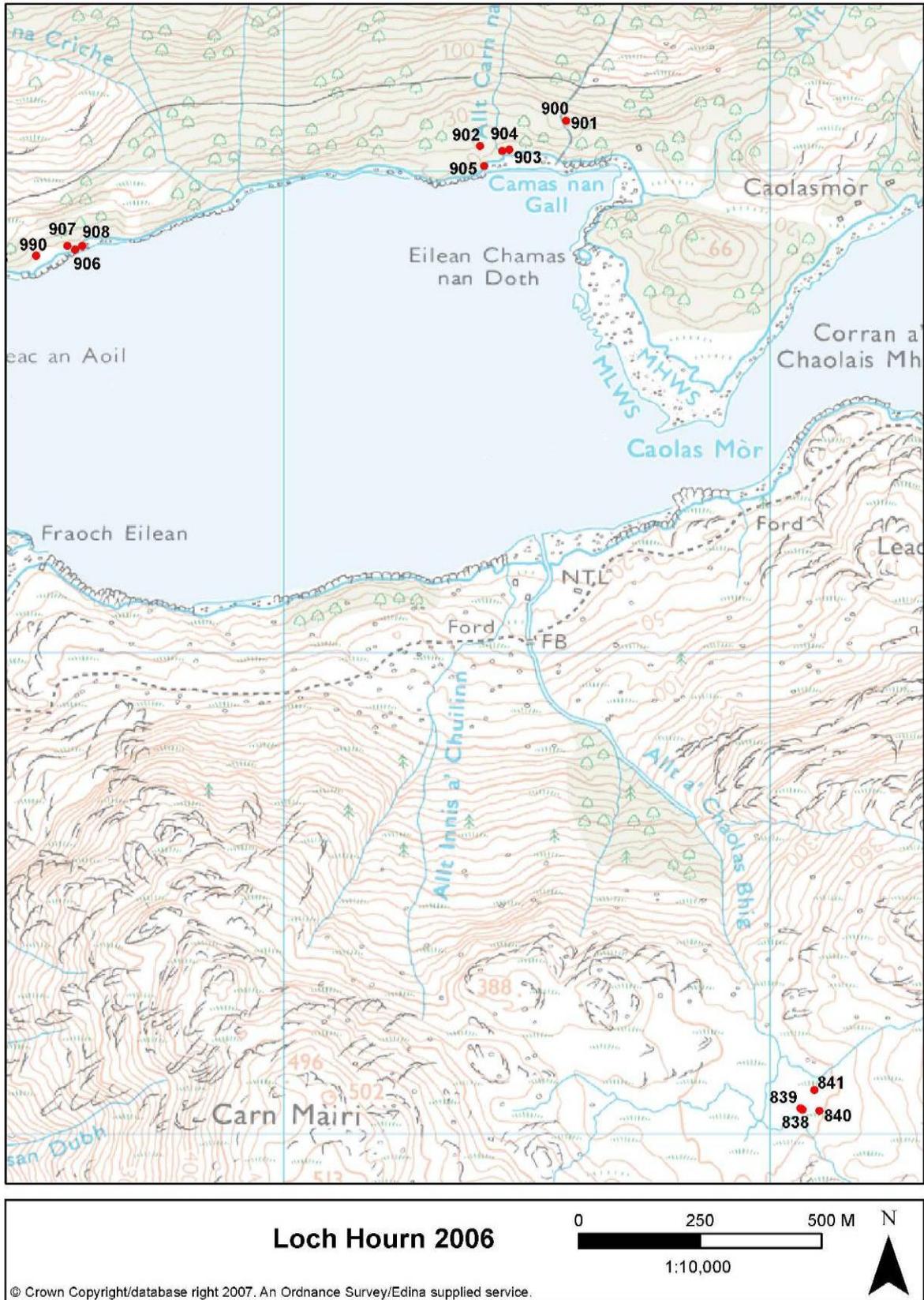


Figure 5 Location map showing sites between Rubha Leac an Aoil, Camas nan Gall and in Coire Chaolis Bhaig

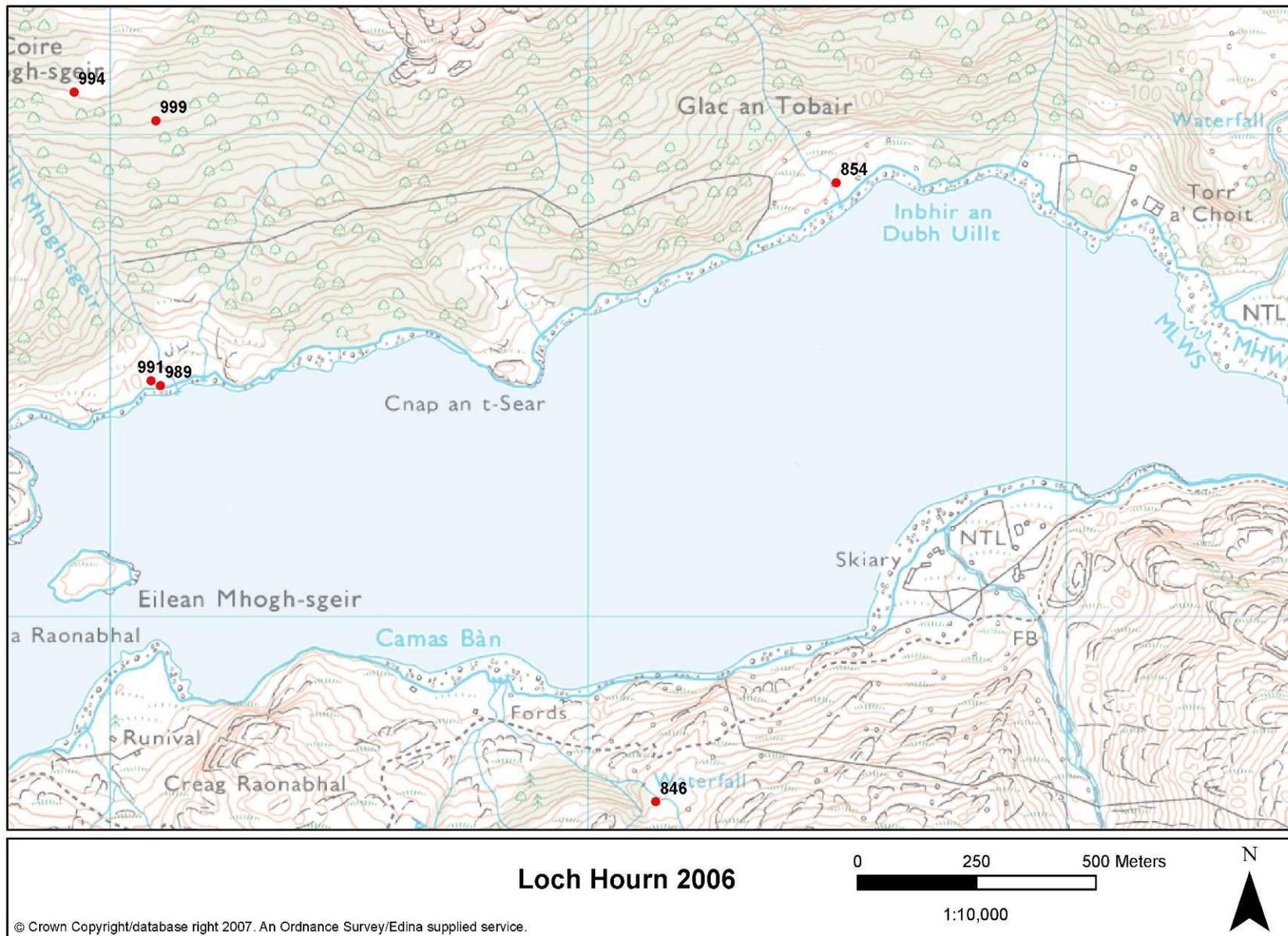


Figure 6 Location map showing sites at Mhogh Sgeir, Glac an Tobhair and along Allt Raonabhail

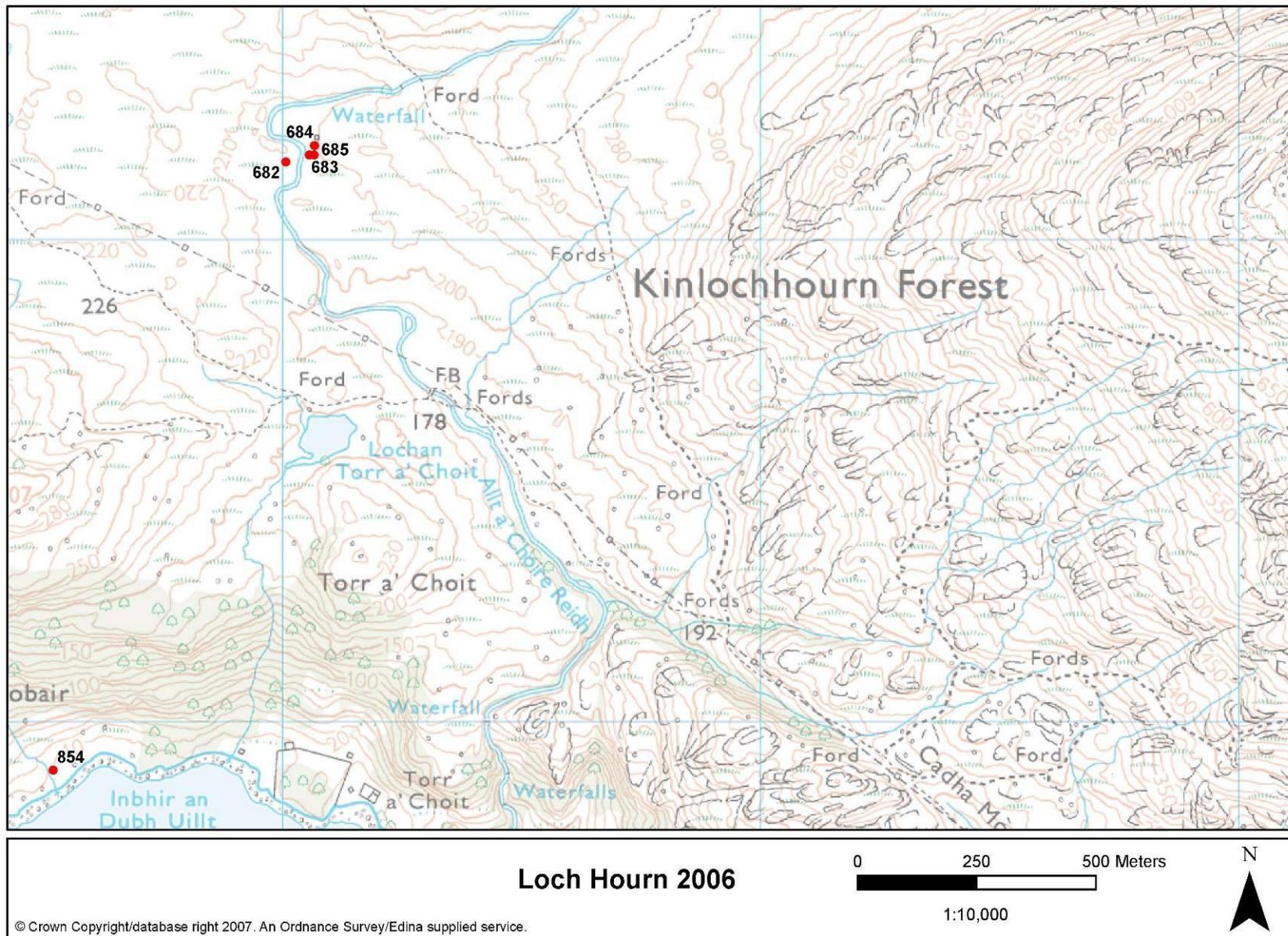


Figure 7 Location map showing sites at Salnafairn

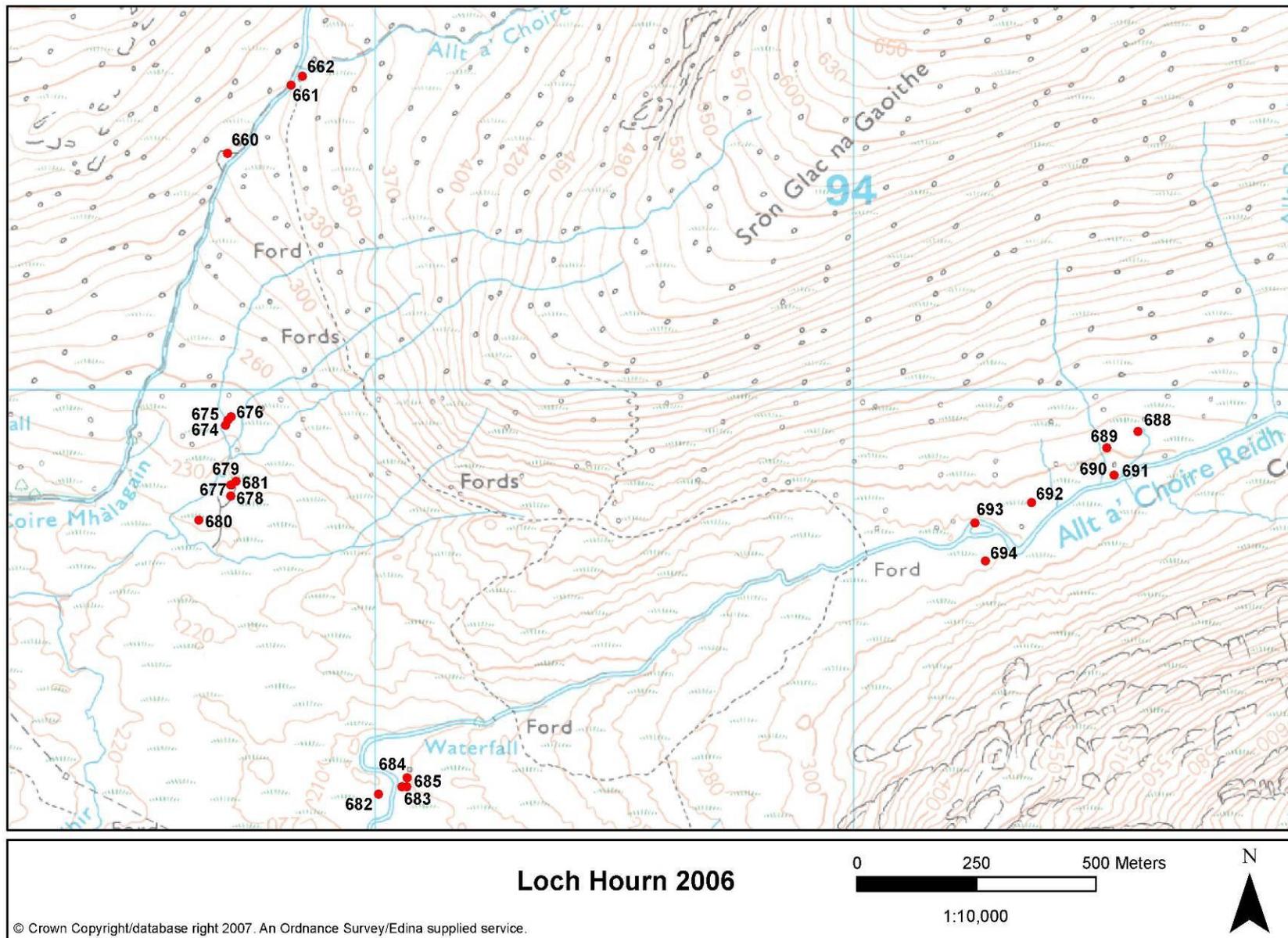


Figure 8 Location map showing sites in Coire Mhàlagain and Coire Reidh

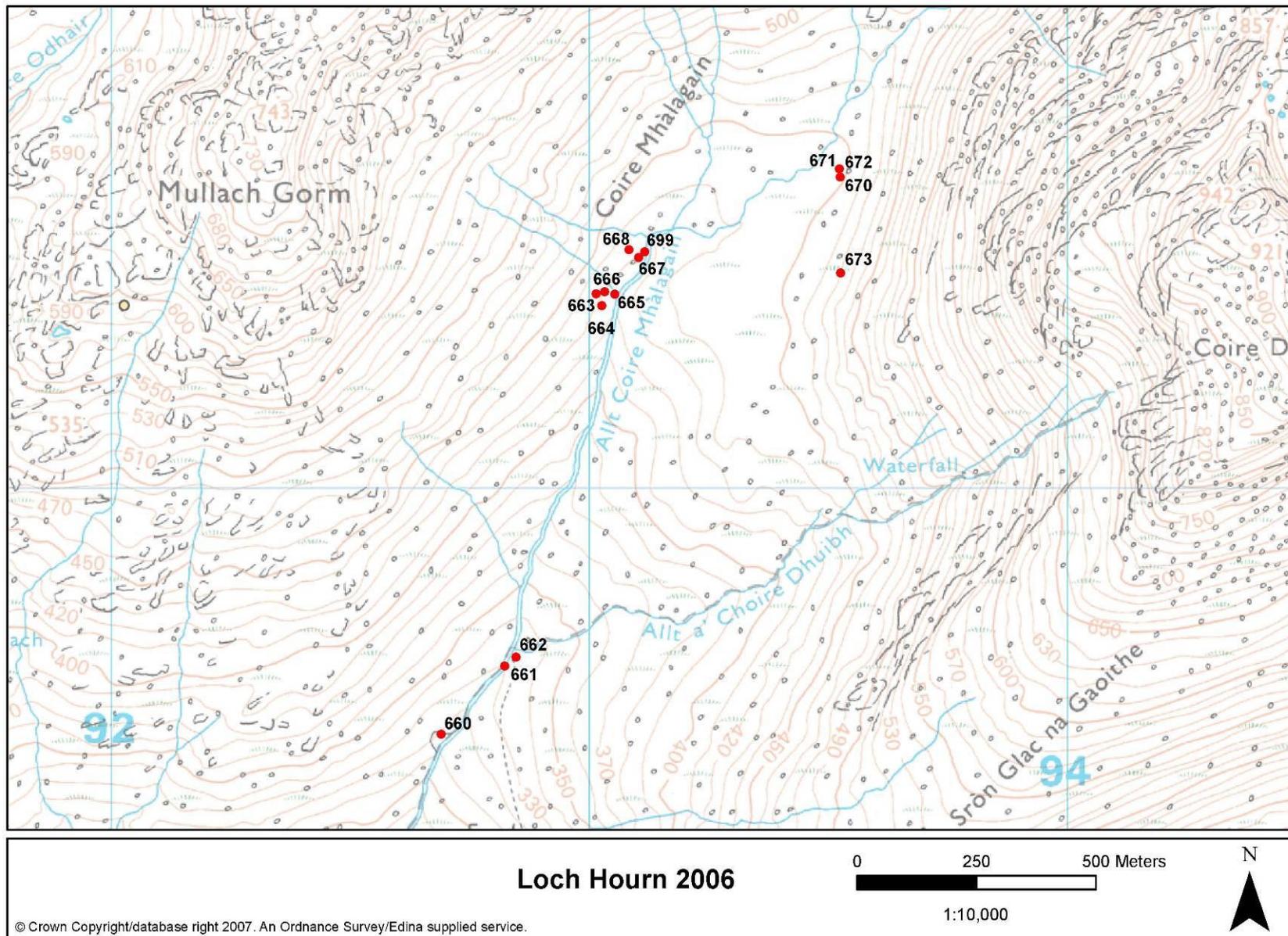


Figure 9 Location map showing sites in Coire Mhàlagain

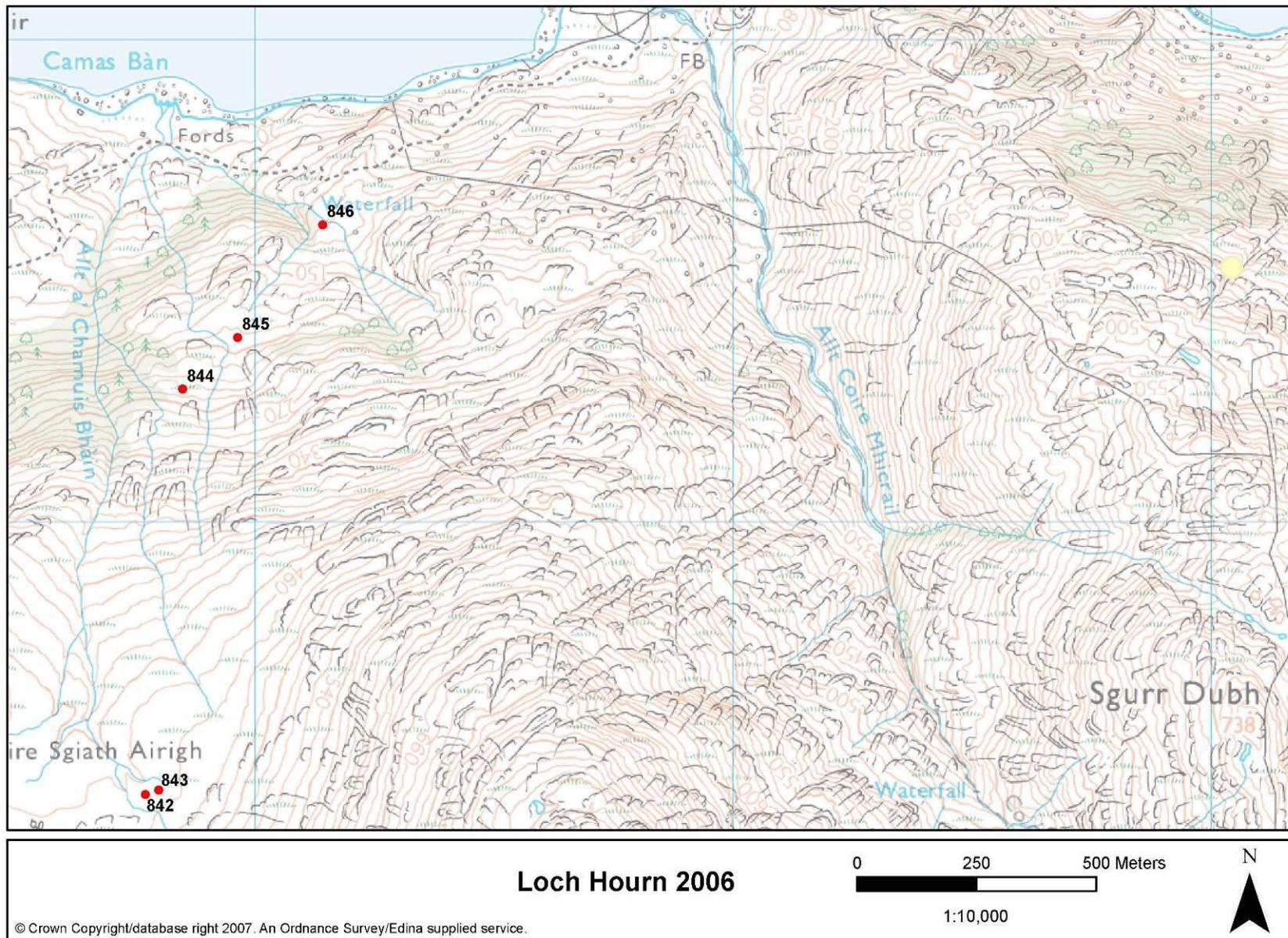


Figure 10 Location map showing sites in Coire Sgiath Airigh

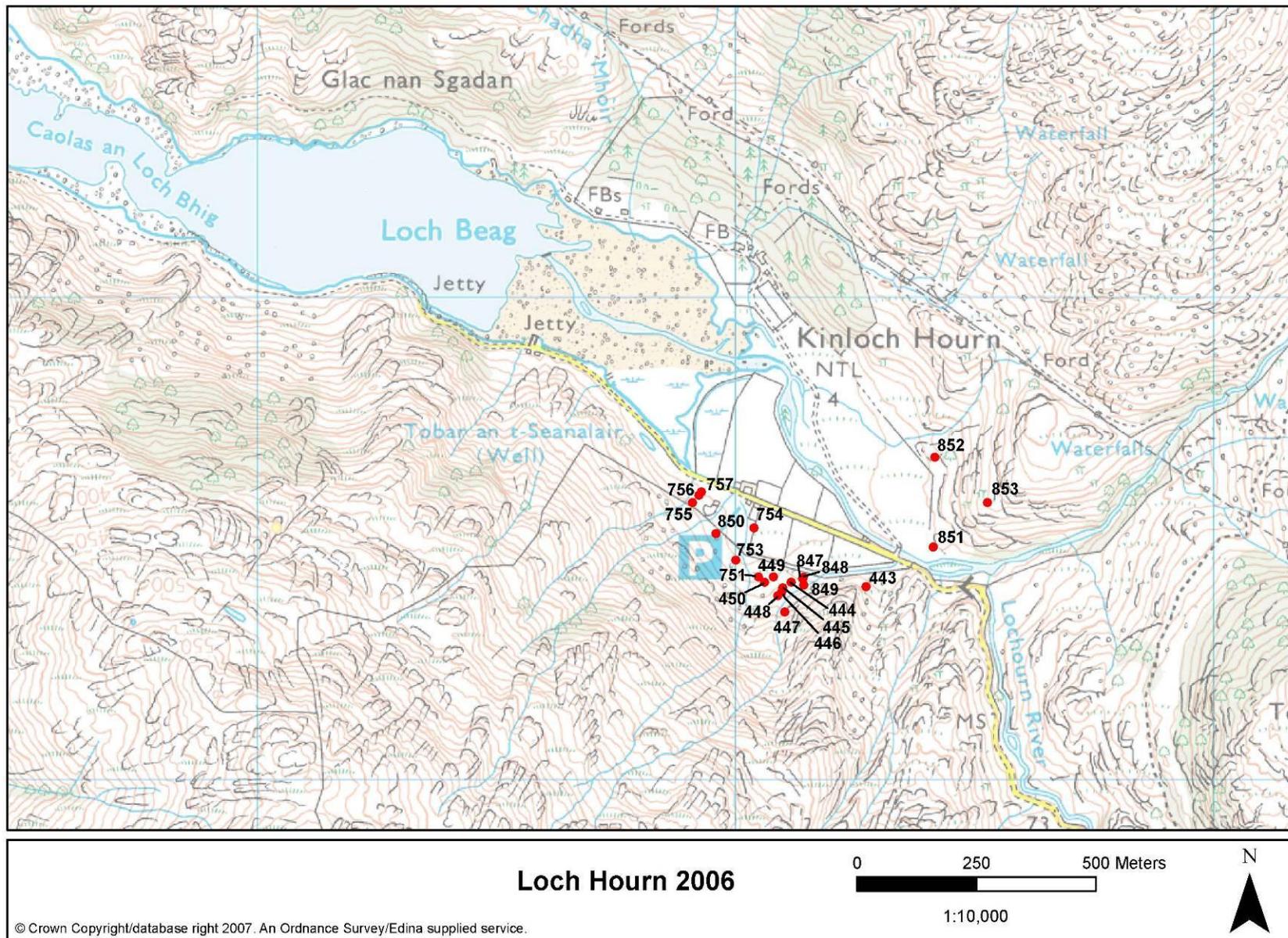


Figure 11 Location map showing sites at Lochourhead and Kinlochourn

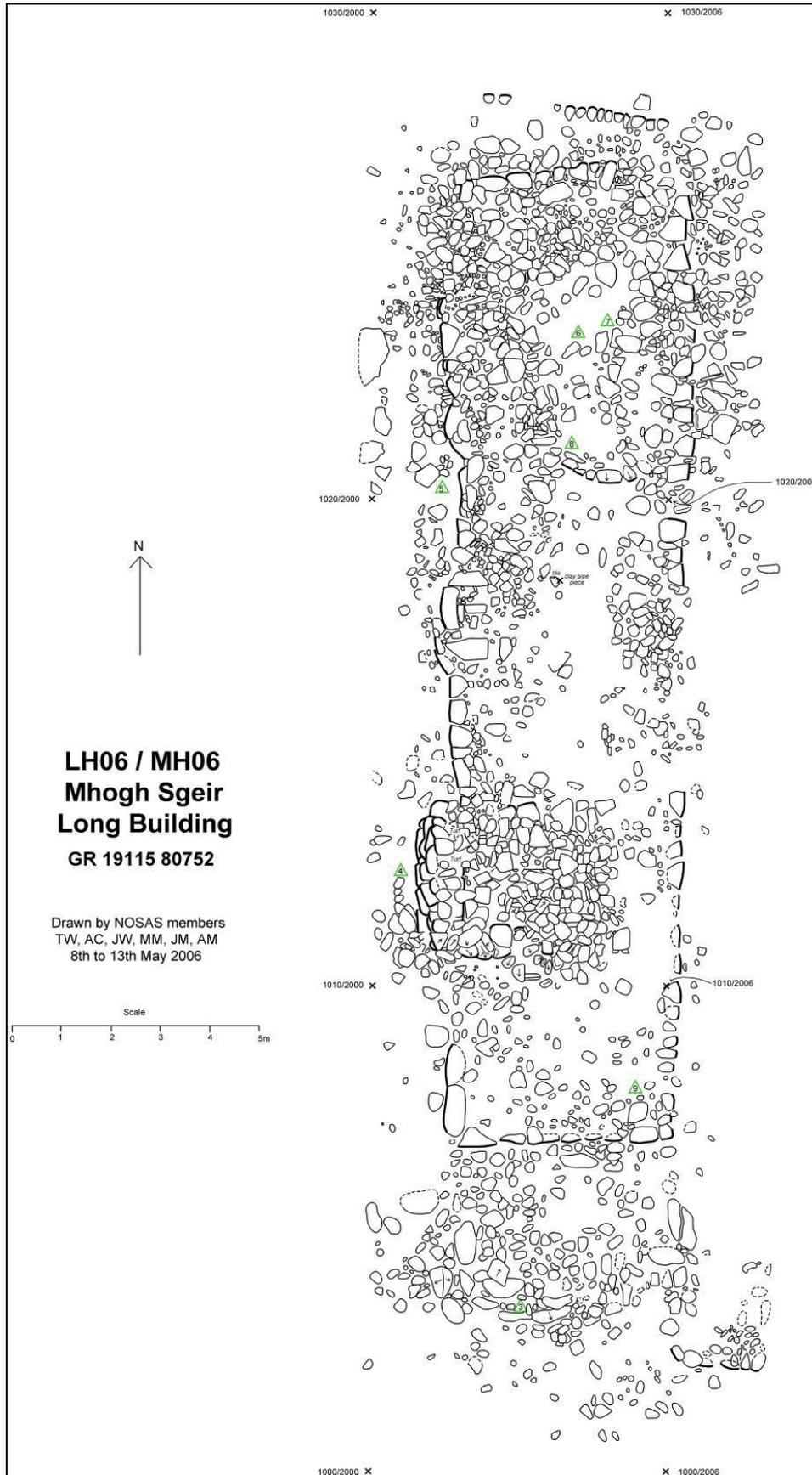


Figure 12 Plan of 'long building' (Site 128/9) at Mhogh Sgeir, following removal of bracken

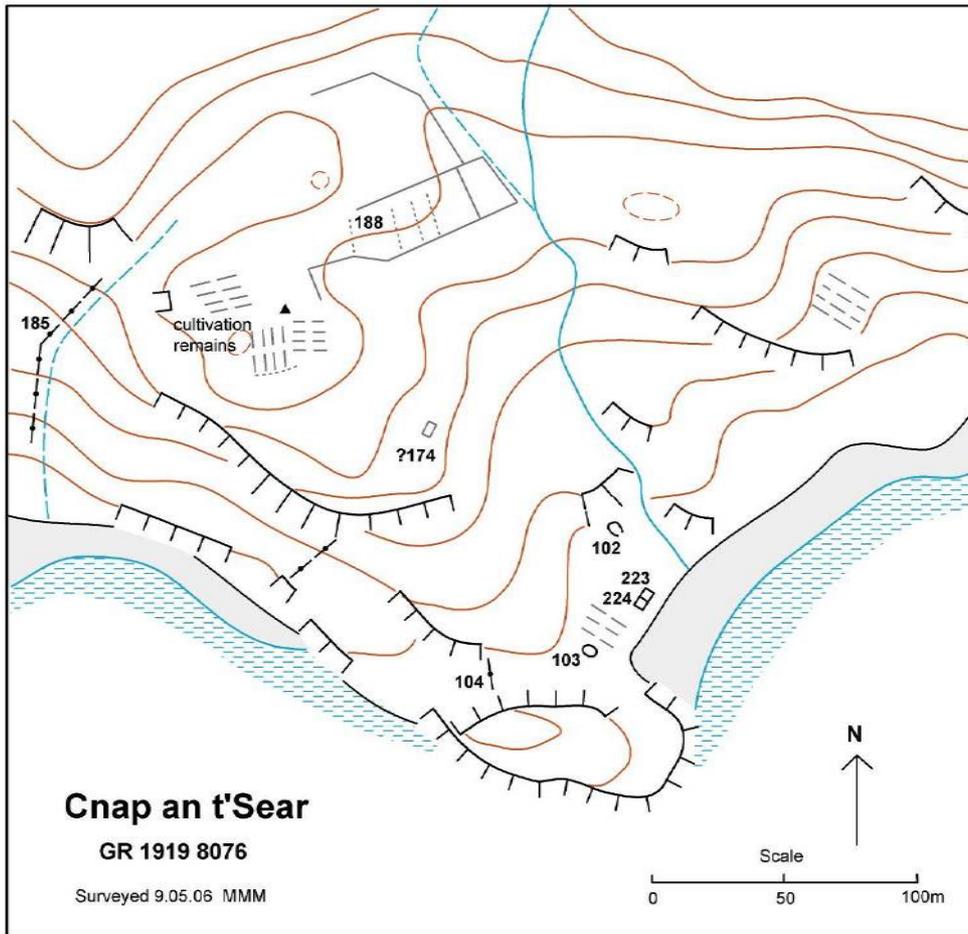


Figure 14 OCAD plan of Cnap an t-Sear

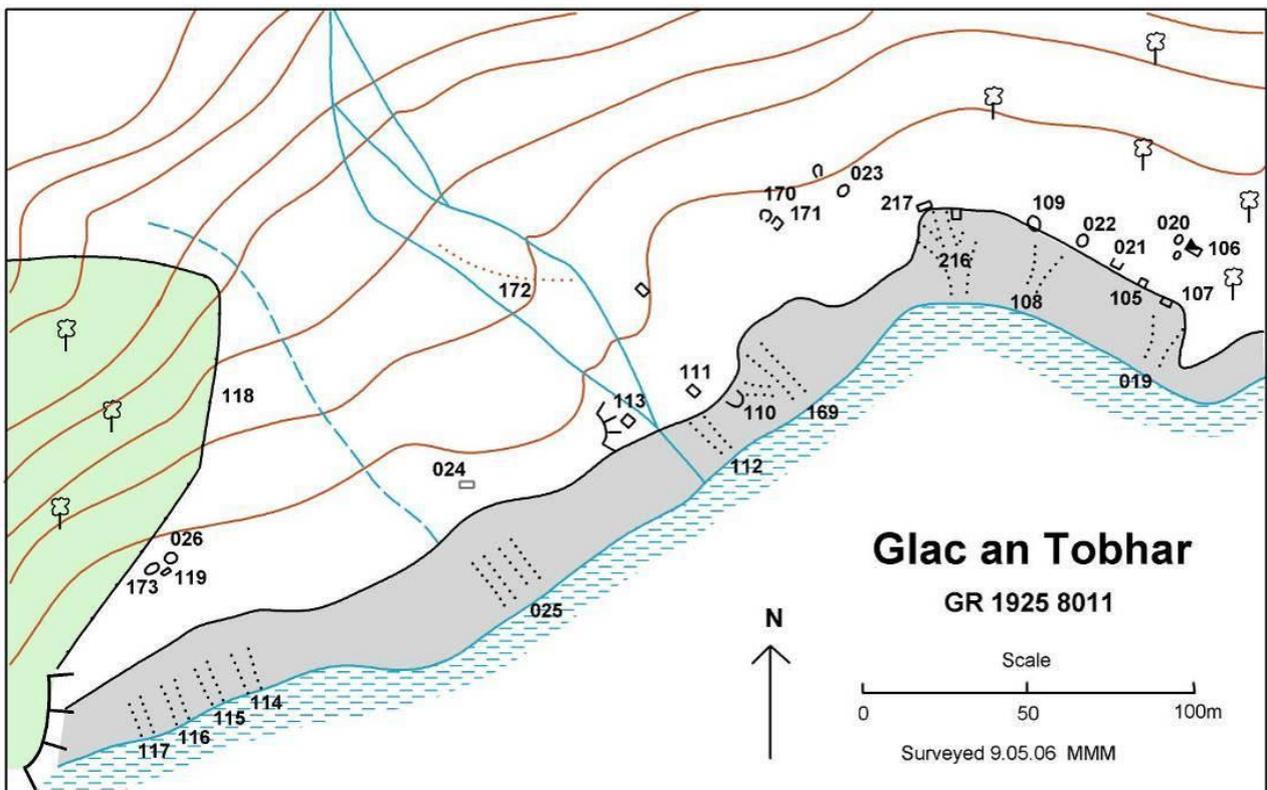


Figure 15 OCAD plan of Glac an Tobhar

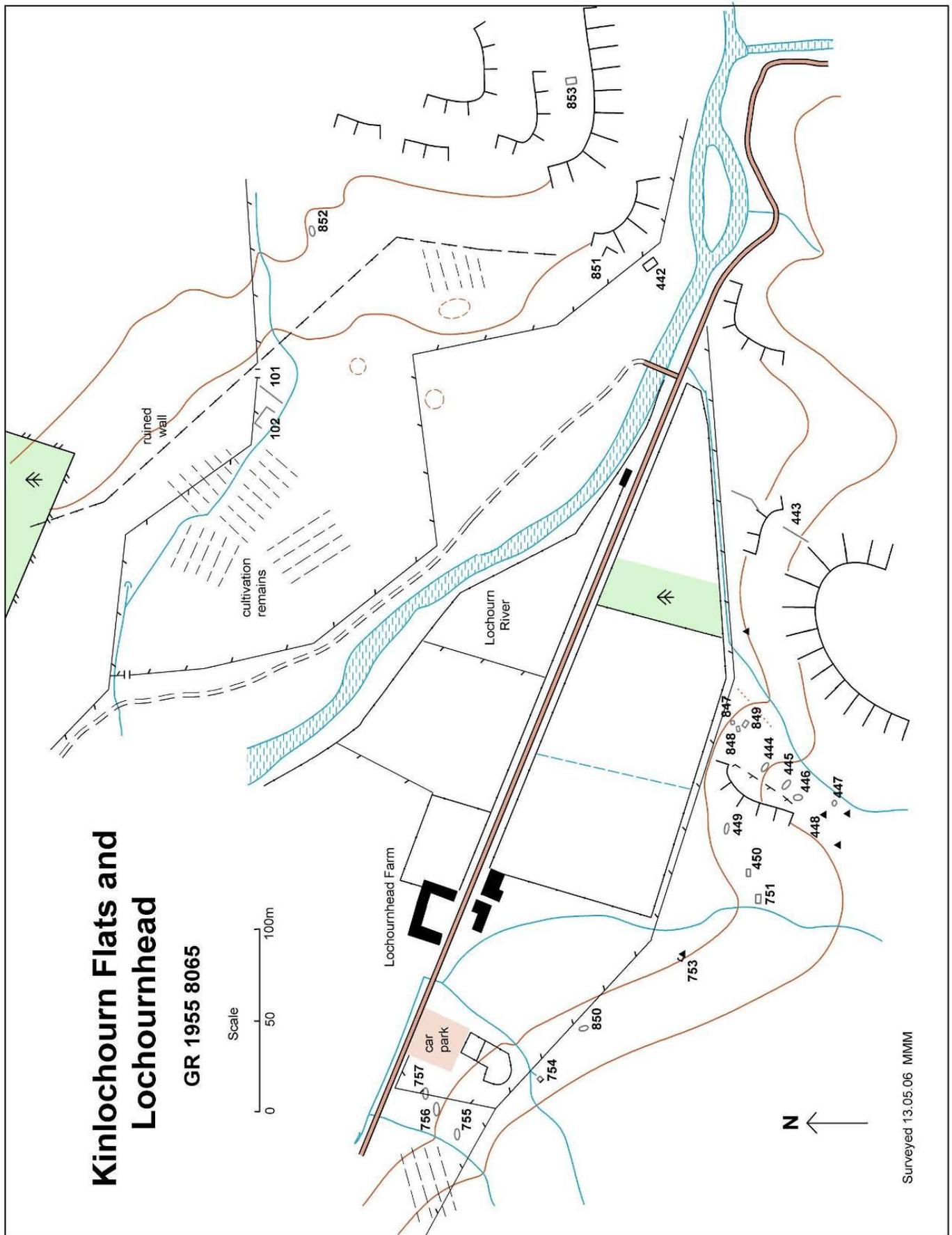


Figure 16 OCAD plan of Kinlochourn and Lochournhead, showing location of excavated structure, Site 442

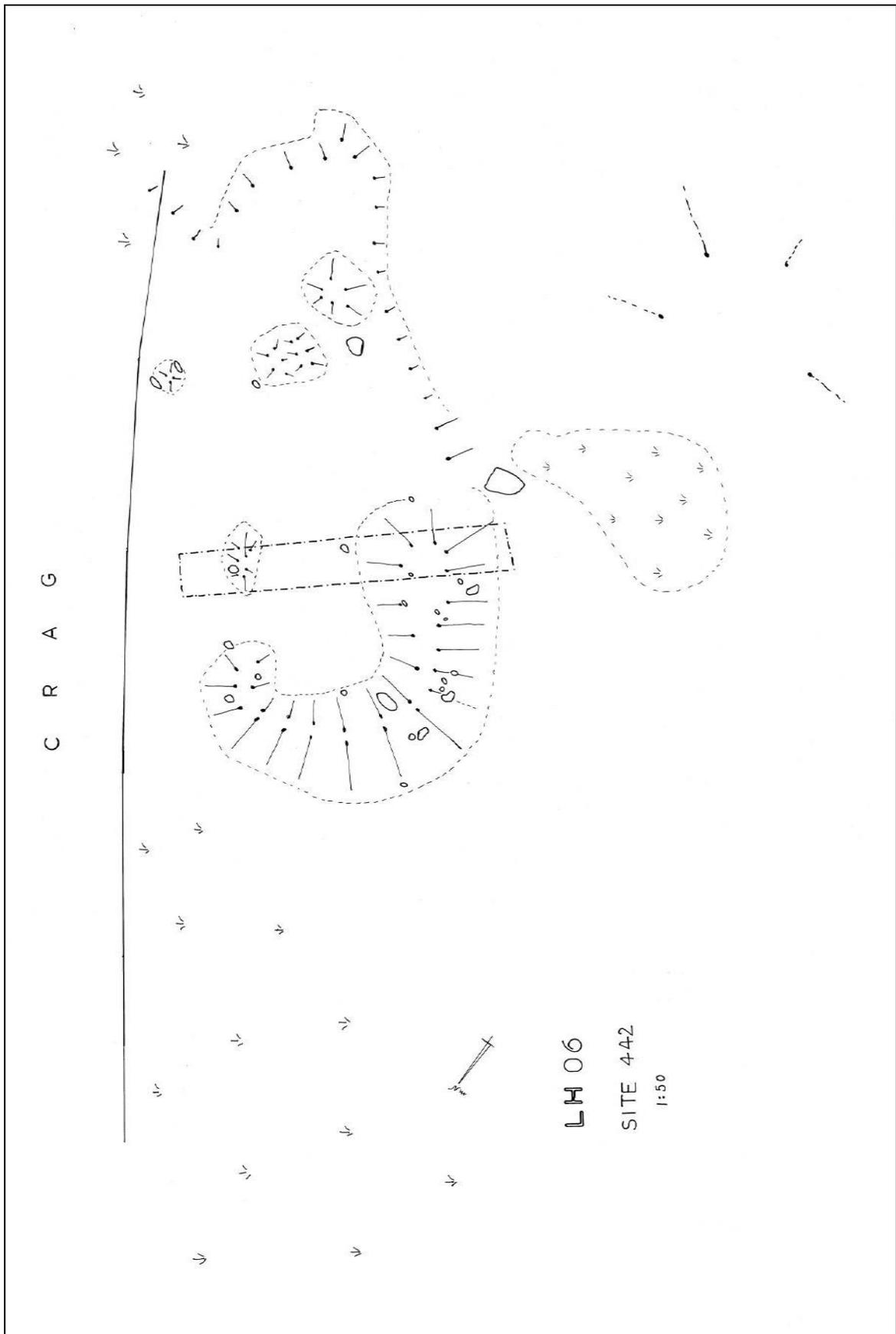


Figure 17 Plane-table survey of Site 442, showing location of Trench 1

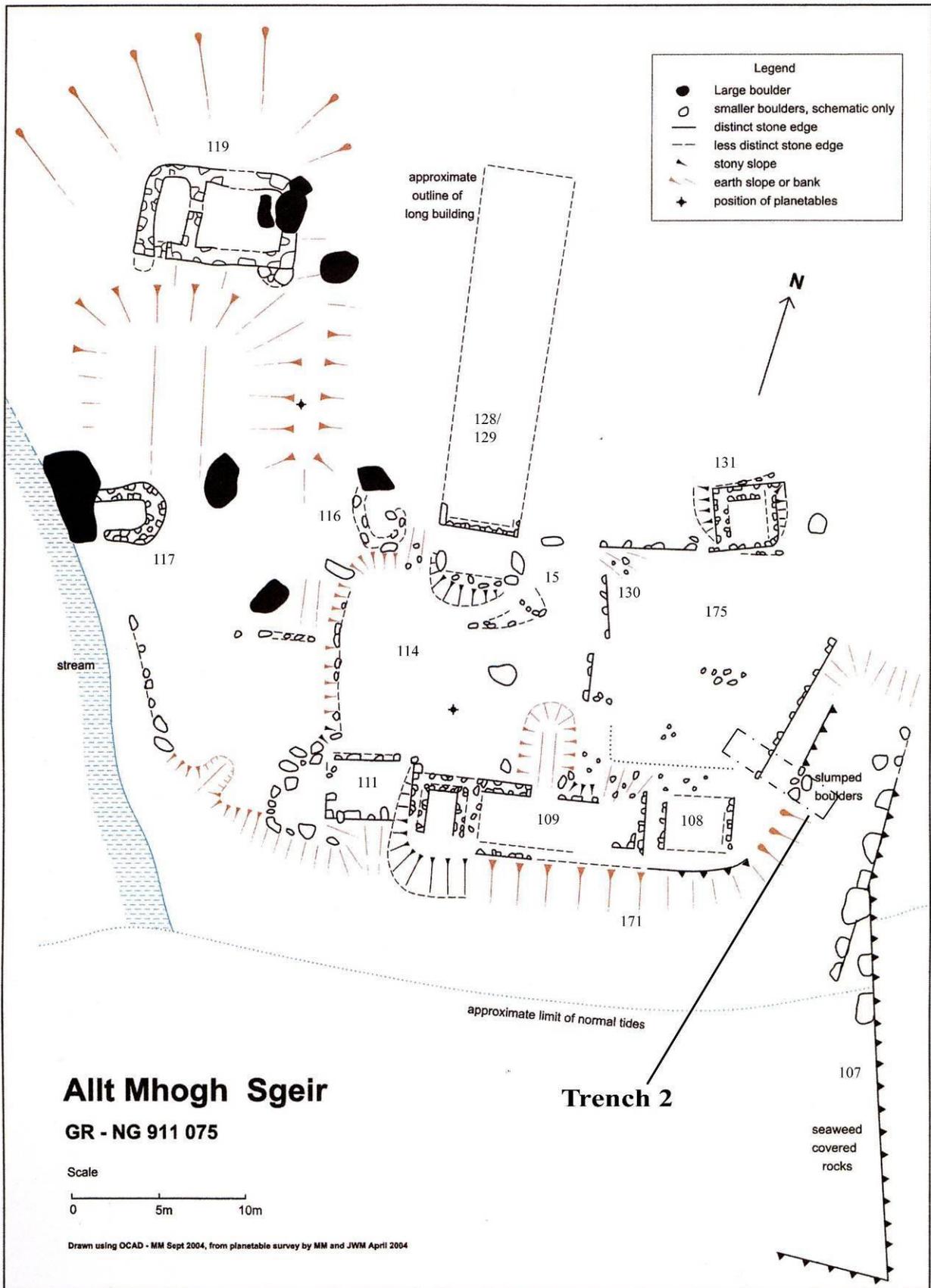


Figure 20 Location of Trench 2

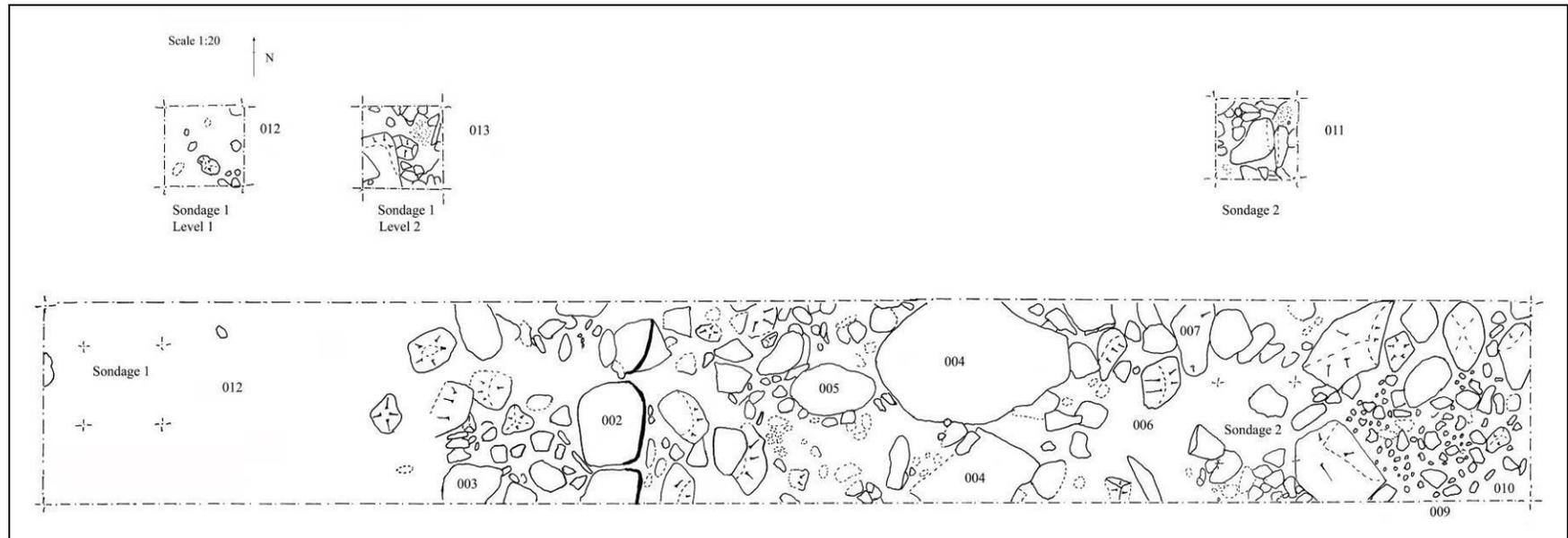


Figure 21 Plan of Trench 2, following excavation



Plate 1 Site 900 Camas nan Gall

A substantial animal pen some distance from any other buildings or enclosures



Plate 21 Eilean a' Phìobaire

A substantial cleared boat landing on the south side of the island. Possibly made originally for quarrying but more recently used to maintain fish farm bird scaring equipment. Note the extensive lazy beds on the mainland beyond



Plate 3 Eilean Ràrsaidh Outer Loch Hourn
The complex of well preserved buildings on the island smothered in bracken



Plate 4 Eilean Ràrsaidh
The well, just as abandoned, surrounded by bluebells and wild garlic



Plate 5 Outer Loch Hourn, with Skye in the distance and Eilean Ràrsaidh, centre right, below wooded slopes. Arnisdale is lower right. Taken from the Druim Fada ridge



Plate 6 Inner Loch Hourn, also from the Druim Fada ridge. Taken from above Coire Mhogh Sgeir, looking towards Kinlochourn



Plate 7 Site 975 Coire Allt Chamas Chonalain Mhòir
Recording a shieling



Plate 8 Site 824 Chonalain Mhòir
The most substantial of the remains at this multi period settlement



Plate 9 The footpath from Corran to A'Chiste Dubh



Plate 10 Sites 842 and 843 Shielings in Coire Sgiath Airigh



Plate 11 Site 854 Glac an Tobhar, probable herring fisher's hut
 Glac an Tobhar was 'walkover' surveyed by NOSAS in 2002. Whilst surveying the same area for a more detailed plan in 2006, this new site was discovered



Plate 12 Site 88 SMR: NG90NW0171 Glac an Tobhar
 The fireplace beside the entrance to this well preserved herring fisher's hut.
 One of a pair of huts near the shore and cleared landing places



Plate 13 Site 756 Lochourhead
The turf covered remains of a probable dwelling house



Plate 14 Site 442 Trench 1 Probable dwelling house at Kinlochourn.
Discussion at end of day 1, following removal of the turf

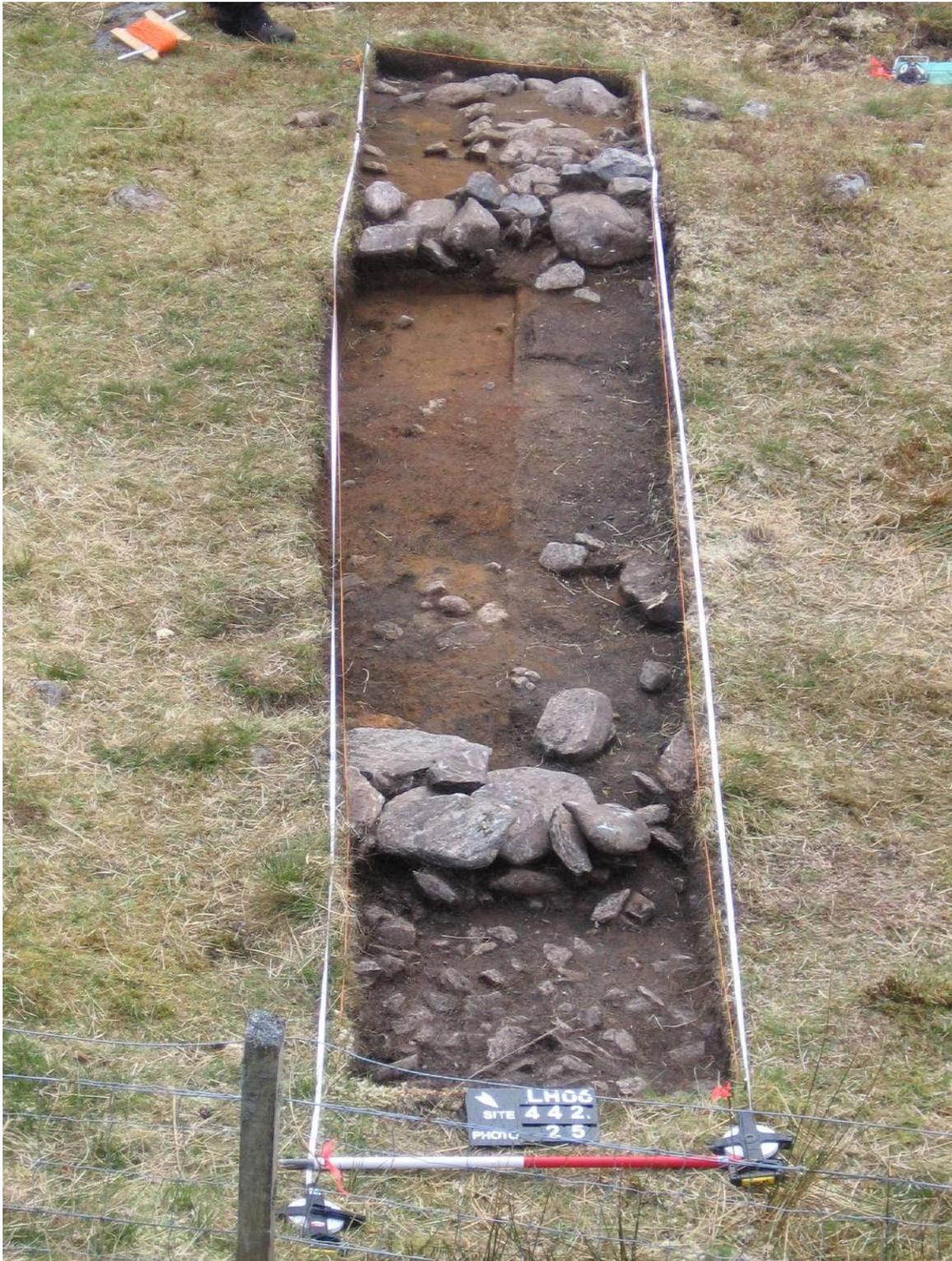


Plate 15 Trench 1

Whole trench viewed from the NE at a late stage in the excavation. The wall footings can be seen, with much iron staining within the structure and the stone cobbling outwith the north wall



Plate 16 Trench 1
The interior of the structure, cleaned down to reveal the line of stakeholes



Plate 17 Trench 1
Section through one of the stakeholes



Plate 18 Mhogh Sgeir Trench 2 Probable Herring Fishing Station
Exploratory trench through the quayside and retaining wall or bank above, at an early stage in the excavation



Plate 19 Trench 2

Black greasy soil on top of the platform, showing sondage in early stages of excavation



Plate 20 Trench 2

Sondage excavated through greasy black soil on top of platform