

**Report of Archaeological Desktop
&
Walkover Survey
Craigton, Strathbrora, Highland.
Centred NC 665/125**

Client: UPM Tilhill

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Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by UPM Tilhill in July 2009 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for a block of proposed forestry at Craigton, Strathbrora, Highland.

Fieldwork revealed a number of previously unrecorded archaeological sites to include cairns, a sheepfold, buildings, a horizontal mill and memorials.

A number of recommendations have been made.

1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for UPM Tilhill for a block of proposed forestry of 165 hectares at Craigton, Strathbrora, Highland.

The fieldwork was conducted on the 10th of July 2009.

2. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work:

- Mr. John McGlade of UPM Tilhill;
- Staff of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.

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Figure 1 – Site Location.
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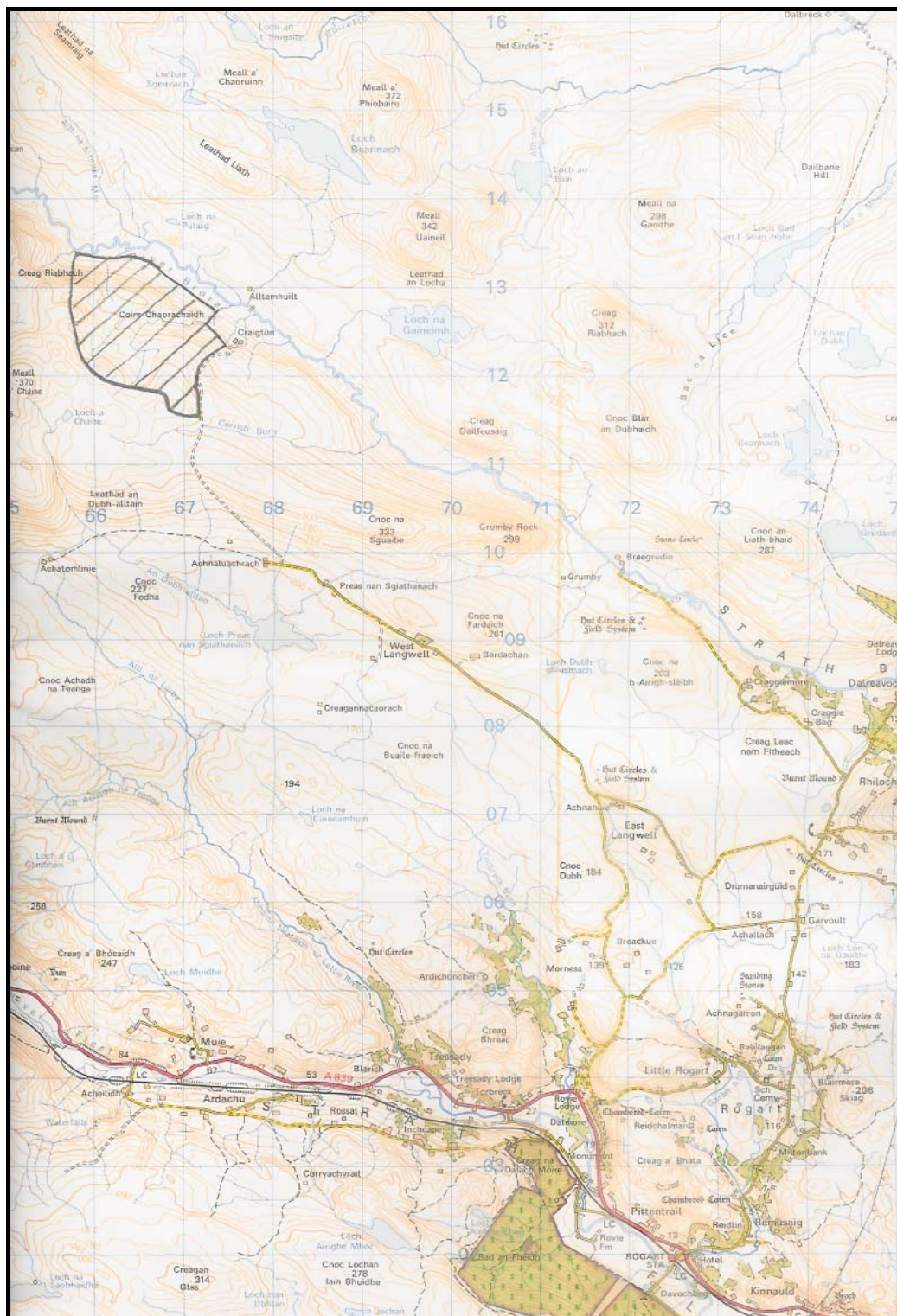
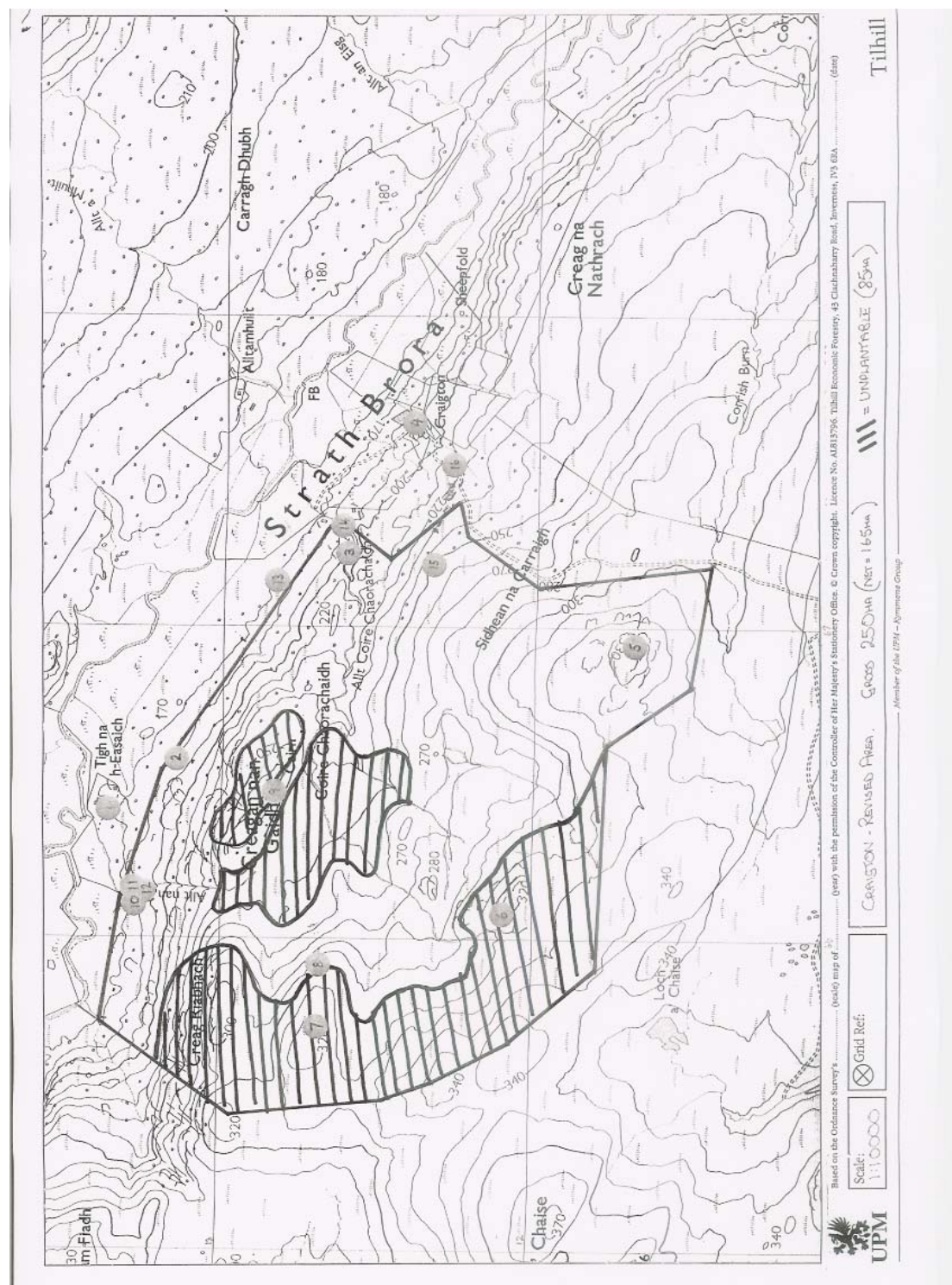


Figure 2 – Survey Area & Location of Archaeological Sites.
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3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record to the block of proposed forestry. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999); those of the Forestry Commission (FC, 1995).

4. Archaeological Survey

Desktop & Walkover Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Historic Environmental Records;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh (Maps);
- Local archives.

Map coverage was limited to the area of interest, as the 1st edition OS of 1879 was almost the same as the 2nd edition of c1900 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being 1968. Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the area of proposed forestry.

No archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the area of proposed forestry.

The following archaeological sites were to be found in or close to the forestry block. Grid references on-site were obtained using a Garmin II GPS using OS data. Sites are as follows:

HER – Highland Council Historic Environmental Record

NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland

N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

1 – Tigh na h-Easaich

HER – MHG 19103

NMRS – NC61SE 7

Grid Ref: NC 6640 1330

Type – Farmstead

Noted in HER and NMRS of 'A farmstead comprising 3 roofed and 1 unroofed buildings, an enclosure, field walls and some cultivated ground is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1879, sheet lxxxvi). Three unroofed buildings and some field walls are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1968).'

Walkover reveals the following:

a – Byre at NC 66439/13333 at 573ft. Aligned N-S 2.5m by 6m on N facing slop. There is a drain at the lower N end. Walls 0.5m wide and up to 0.4m high.

b – Building, possibly a house, to the N c25m outside boundary fence.

c – House at NC 66471/13325 walls up to 2.3m high, 13m by 5.5m with walls 0.5m thick. Doorway to S, fireplaces and recesses in both gables.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

2 – Tigh na h-Easaich
HER – n/a
NMRS – n/a
Grid Ref: NC 66565/13134
Type – Sheepfold

Marked on 1st edition OS of 1880 and following editions.

Walkover reveals circular sheepfold with walls up to 1.5m topped with turf. Possible entrance, collapsed on S side. Walls 1m wide at base but tapered upwards. Small stretch of wall 7m by entrance on S side.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

3 – Allt Coire Chaorachaidh
HER – MHG 19104
NMRS – NC71SE 8
Grid Ref: NC 673 / 126
Type – Farmstead

Noted in HER and NMRS of 'A farmstead comprising three unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1879, sheet lxxxvi). Two unroofed buildings and some field walls are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1968).'

Nothing marked on 2nd edition OS.

Walkover reveals the following:

a – Turf and Stone Dyke NC 67220/12827 to NC 67257/12756 to NC 67196/12623. 0.8m wide and 0.3m high, very discernible in places.

b – Building at NC 67255/12613 at 644ft. Aligned E-W 7m by 3m with walls up to 1m high and 0.4m thick, doorway on S side.

c – Longhouse at NC 67332/12677 at 577ft. T-shaped longhouse aligned N-S 4m by 32 with porch on E side 5m by 5.5m with walls 0.6m thick and up to 0.8m high. On N facing slope, probably byre to N end, though no sign of internal divisions. To the E is a small burn and on the E bank is a small stretch of turf & stone dyke NC 67350/12672 to NC 67372/12670 then continues ENE for about another 40m outside boundary fence line.

d – House at NC 67369/12586 at 627ft. Aligned E-W 14m by 4m with walls 0.5m thick and up to 0.3m high. Possible doorway on S side. Situated close to fence line.

e – Horizontal Mill see site 14 below.

Recommend that area from dyke to buildings to fence line be excluded from scheme.

4 – Craighton
HER – MHG 19126
NMRS – NC71SE 10
Grid Ref: NC 676 / 123
Type – Township

Noted in HER and NMRS of 'A small township comprising six unroofed buildings, field walls and some cultivated ground is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1879, sheet lxxxvi). Three roofed buildings, three enclosures and some field walls are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,560 map (1968).'

Walkover reveals farm, currently empty, but looks like being partially still in use. Stretch of head-dyke from NC 67395/12343 to NC 67513/12241 of large stones covered partly with turf and heather but not consistent. Quite denuded in places, especially close to burns or wet areas. From the road it continues E for about another 40m but again not very discernible. Up to 1m wide and 0.4m high.

No recommendations to be made.

5 – Craigton

HER – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: NC 66967/11679

Type – Cairn

Walkover reveals oval cairn at 1084ft 2m by 1.5m by 0.5m high of large stones though other small stones visible in turf.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

6 – Craigton

HER – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: NC 66105/12091

Type – Cairn

Walkover reveals small cairn at 1074ft 1m² with 7 or 8 stones set over edge of bedrock.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

7 – Craigton

HER – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: NC 65735/12668

Type – Cairn

Walkover reveals cairn at 1062ft 2m in diameter by 0.4m high of large stones.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

8 – Craigton

HER – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: NC 65696/12701

Type – Cairn

Walkover reveals small cairn at 1081ft 1.8m by 1.5m by 0.4m high.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

9 – Craigton

HER – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: NC 66530/12812

Type – Memorial Cairn

Walkover reveals square cairn at 890ft to height of 2.1m, 1m² at base. Inscribed DS 1907.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

10 – Craigton
HER – n/a
NMRS – n/a
Grid Ref: NC 66141/13276
Type – Building

Walkover reveals rectangular building aligned NNW-SSE with large stones at N end, no sign of doorway due to collapse. 2.5m by 7.5m with walls 0.4m thick.

Recommend that site with sites 11 and 12 are grouped together and excluded from scheme.

11 – Craigton
HER – n/a
NMRS – n/a
Grid Ref: NC 66125/13299 to NC 60072/13327
Type – Building, Turf & Stone Dyke

Walkover reveals dyke 1.5m wide and 0.8m high aligned E-W. At E end there is a rectangular building which uses dyke as one wall. Building is 4.5m by 9m with walls 0.5m thick and up to 0.7m high, no sign of doorway. The Dyke continues westward from boundary fence for about another 30m.

Recommend that site with sites 10 and 12 are grouped together and excluded from scheme.

12 – Craigton
HER – n/a
NMRS – n/a
Grid Ref: NC 66138/13313 to NC 66145/13329
Type – Dyke

Walkover reveals stretch of dyke/field wall 1m wide and 0.25m wide; it continues N from boundary fence for about another 35m. To the N an earlier turf and stone dyke is visible to its W side. Another stretch of walls heads to NC 66175/13324.

Recommend that site with sites 10 and 11 are grouped together and excluded from scheme.

13 – Craigton
HER – n/a
NMRS – n/a
Grid Ref: NC 67161/12840
Type – Structure

Walkover reveals small pen or structure built against south side of large boulder, though completely collapsed.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

14 – Allt Coire Chaorachaidh
HER – n/a
NMRS – n/a
Grid Ref: NC 67338/12633
Type – Horizontal Mill

Walkover reveals Horizontal Mill adjacent to stream, with natural lade and possible surviving fragment of mill machinery (not in situ). Rubble built with lime mortar 2.5m by 2m with walls up to 1.5m high and 0.5m wide, possible 2nd structure on its N side.

For recommendations see site 3.

15 – Craigton

HER – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: NC 67206/12335

Type – Cairn

Walkover reveals small cairn of large stones 1m by 0.8m to a height of 0.6m, set on outcrop of bedrock.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

16 – Craigton

HER – n/a

NMRS – n/a

Grid Ref: NC 67522/12270

Type – Memorial Cairn

Walkover reveals small memorial cairn, possibly a seat. Inscribed 'Andrew Sutherland 1901-88'.

Recommend that site to be given 20m exclusion area.

5. Conclusions

Overall most of the sites revealed relate to a former farming landscape, of a late 18th century to early 19th century date but later cleared in the mid 19th century to make way for a larger sheep farm. The numerous cairns are undated but may be prehistoric.

Any unexpected archaeological discoveries made during forestry operations should be notified to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

6. Archive

A copy of this report and digital photographs taken are to be deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland in Edinburgh and with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

7. Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

8. References

Forestry Commission (1995) Forests & Archaeology Guidelines. Forestry Commission. Edinburgh.

IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.

Highland Council Historic Environmental Records MHG 1904, 19103 and 19126.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entry for NC61SE 7, 8 & 10.

Maps Consulted

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6inch-mile sheet 86 Sutherland of 1879 surveyed 1871-8.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6inch-mile sheet 86 Sutherland of 1900 revised 1897.

Ordnance Survey map NC61SE of 1968 revised 1963-64 1:10,560.

Photograph Register

- 1 – View of Cairn (site 5) facing SW – scales 2m.
- 2 – View of Cairn (site 5) facing S – scales 2m.
- 3 – View of Cairn (site 6) facing S – scales 2m.
- 4 – View of Cairn (site 6) facing SW – scales 2m.
- 5 – View of Cairn (site 7) facing SW – scales 2m.
- 6 – View of Cairn (site 7) facing S – scales 2m.
- 7 – View of Cairn (site 8) facing SW – scales 2m.
- 8 – View of Cairn (site 8) facing W – scales 2m.
- 9 – View of Memorial Cairn (site 9) facing W – scale 2m.
- 10 – Detail of inscription on Cairn (site 9).
- 11 – View of building (site 10) facing SW – scales 2m.
- 12 – View of building (site 10) facing S – scales 2m.
- 13 – View of Dyke (site 11) facing W – scales 1m.
- 14 – View of building (site 11) facing W – scales 2m.
- 15 – View of Dyke (site 12) facing N – scale 2m.
- 16 – View of building (site 1b) facing N.
- 17 – View of building (site 1a) facing S – scales 2m.
- 18 – View of building (site 1c) facing N – scales 2m.
- 19 – View of building (site 1c) facing NE – scales 2m.
- 20 – View of building (site 1c) facing NW – scales 2m.
- 21 – View of building (site 1c) facing NW – scales 2m.
- 22 – View of fireplace in W gable of site 1c – scale 2m.
- 23 – View of fireplace in E gable of site 1c – scale 2m.
- 24 – View of sheepfold (site 2) facing SE scale 2m.
- 25 – View of sheepfold (site 2) facing NE.
- 26 – View of structure (site 13) facing NE – scales 2m.
- 27 – View of Dyke (site 3) facing S – scale 1m.
- 28 – View of Dyke (site 3) facing NW – scale 1m.
- 29 – View of building (site 3a) facing NW – scales 2m.
- 30 – View of building (site 3a) facing W – scales 2m.
- 31 – View of building (site 3a) facing SW – scales 2m.
- 32 – View of Horizontal Mill (site 14) facing W – scales 2m.
- 33 – View of mill machinery.
- 34 – View of building (site 3b) facing N – scales 2m.
- 35 – View of building (site 3b) facing W.
- 36 – View of building (site 3c) facing NE – scales 2m.
- 37 – View of Cairn (site 15) facing W – scales 2m.
- 38 – View of Dyke (site 4) facing E – scale 1m.
- 39 – View of Memorial Cairn (site 16) facing W.
- 40 – View of Memorial Cairn (site 16) facing S.
- 41 – View of Craigton Farm barn facing N.
- 42 – Ibid.
- 43 – View of front of Craigton farmhouse.
- 44 – View of rear of Craigton farmhouse.
- 45 – Ibid.

Top: View of house (site 1) facing NW – scales 2m.
Bottom: View of sheepfold (site 2) facing NE.



Top: View of building (site 3a) facing SW – scales 2m.
Bottom: View of Craigton Farmhouse (site 4).



Top: View of Cairn (site 5) facing S – scales 2m.
Bottom: View of Cairn (site 6) facing W – scales 2m.



Top: View of Cairn (site 7) facing S – scales 2m.
Bottom: View of Cairn (site 8) facing SW – scales 2m.



Top: View of Memorial Cairn (site 9) facing W – scale 2m.
Bottom: Detail of inscription.



Top: View of building (site 10) facing SW – scales 2m.
Bottom: View of building (site 11) facing W – scales 2m.



View of site 12 facing N.



Top: View of Structure (site 13) facing N – scales 2m.
Bottom: View of Horizontal Mill (site 14) facing W – scales 2m.



Top: View of Cairn (site 15) facing W – scales 2m.
Bottom: View of Memorial Cairn (site 16) facing SW.

