Report of Archaeological
Desktop & Walkover Survey
Fannyfield Farm, Evanton, Highland.

Centred NH 5570/6566.

Client: CKD Galbraith

By
Stuart Farrell
B.A A.I.F.A F.S.A.Scot.
August 2010
Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by CKD Galbraith in August 2010 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for an area of proposed woodland at Fannyfield Farm, Evanton, Highland.

Work revealed a number of previously unrecorded archaeological sites, to include a former farmstead sited at the edge of the proposed scheme.

A number of recommendations have been made in relation to the proposed scheme.
1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for CKD Galbraith for an area of proposed forestry at Fannyfield Farm, Evanton, Highland.

The walkover survey was conducted on 30th August 2010.

2. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work:
- Ms. Louise Alexander of CKD Galbraith;
- Staff of the Highland Council Archives.

Stuart Farrell
39a Park Street
Nairn
Highland
IV12 4PP
Figure 1 – Site Location.
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence no. 100041016.
Figure 2 – Site Location (2). 1:10,000
© CKD Galbraith.

Swordale Hill
Tay

"T", "T"

Tay or River Braan
Eastfield House

Annan or River Nith

Ayrshire or River Nith
Figure 3 – Location of Archaeological Sites.
© CKD Galbraith.
Figure 4 – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey
Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence no. 100041016.
3. Objectives

To conduct an archaeological desktop and walkover survey to the block of proposed woodland. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999); and 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 Environment Record;
- 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 Ordnance Survey of 1875-6 was almost the same as the 2nd edition of 1906 with no archaeological sites being marked. Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the area of forestry.

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

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

HER – Highland Council Historic Environment Record
NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland
N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

1 – Fannyfield House
HER – MHG 21964
NMRS – NH56NE 48
Grid Ref: NH 55250/65761
Type – House
No information in HER or NMRS.

Not listed by Alston (1999) or Beaton (1992) or Gifford (1992). Does not appear on Thomson’s map of 1832. Recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (Bk1, page 41) as ‘A Farm house with offices & c attached situate about the centre of Clare and close to the road leading from Evanton to Clare. The property of W Munro Swordale.’
Marked on 2nd edition OS of 1906 (sheet 76.3) to comprise of 3 compartments with building to rear and E all roofed.

Walkover reveals 1½ storey building, harled, slate roof, of yellow sandstone of 3 compartments and 2nd building to rear with 3rd (former house ? to E) all occupied and in good repair. Area of former woodland on W side of house.
Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and to be given 20m wide exclusion area.

2 – Fannyfield
HER – MHG 33707
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5544/6585
Type – Building

Recorded in HER of ‘Linear roofed building marked in middle of field to E of farm on 1st ed OS. Unroofed by 2nd ed. Now gone - HAW 8/2004.’

Shown as aligned E-W with well on 1st edition OS (see figure 4) with track running to SE. Unroofed structure but no well on 2nd edition OS of 1906 (sheet 64.15).

Walkover reveals green mound visible in field, with fence around. Close inspection reveals concrete cover over well, still in use. 2nd well to the SE closeby. No trace of building, field has been improved.

Recommend that site be excluded from proposed scheme and to be given 20m wide exclusion area.

3 – Fannyfield
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5540/6576
Type – Building, Sheepfold

Rectangular roofed building aligned E-W shown on 2nd edition OS (sheet 64.15) of 1906 with 3-compartment rectangular sheepfold aligned N-S. Not shown on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals no trace of any structures, though gate access to field at this location. Was probably of wooden construction.

No recommendations to be made.

4 – Fannyfield
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5574/6572
Type – Sheepfold

Rectangular 2-compartment sheepfold aligned N-S shown on 2nd edition OS (sheet 64.15) of 1906. Not shown on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals no trace of any structure only a water trough, was probably of wooden construction.

No recommendations to be made.
5 – Fannyfield
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5607/6538 (centred)
Type – Stone

Stone marked on 1st edition OS (1:10560) not shown on 1st edition 1:2500 or later sheets.

Walkover reveals no trace of stone, area of dense mixed woodland.

No recommendations to be made.

The following site was noted close to the scheme:

6 – Milton
Alt Name – Wester Swordale
HER – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5611/6559
Type – Farmstead

Marked on 1st edition OS as 2 L-shaped roofed buildings and named Wester Swordale; 2nd edition OS (1:2500) of 1906 (sheet 64.16) with kennels and windpump and named Milton. Marked on latest OS as stables of only one L-shaped building. Recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (Bk1, page 40) as ‘Applies to a farm house with steading attached situate about 1 mile east of Swordale House. It is the property of W Matheson Newton.’

Walkover reveals farm converted into house, and heavily modernised.

No recommendations to be made.

5. Conclusions

The sites revealed relate to a former farming landscape, though they seem to relate mostly to sheep farming in the late 19th century but they have generally not survived the continued improving of the fields. Fields to E are rougher than those to the N which seem to have been maintained until recently. The overall area for proposed forestry is of improved fields on S-SSW facing slopes with existing mixed woodland along the edge of the river.

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

6. Archive
A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record of Scotland in Edinburgh.
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


Highland Council Historic Environment Record entries MHG 21964 & 33707.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entry for NH56NE 48.

Ordnance Survey Name Book – Alness & Kiltiern, Book 1, pages 40 and 41.

Maps Consulted


Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 sheet 64.15 Ross & Cromarty of 1906 revised 1904.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 sheet 64.16 Ross & Cromarty of 1906 revised 1904.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 sheet 76.3 Ross & Cromarty of 1906 revised 1904.

Plate 1 – View of front of Fannyfield House (site 1) facing NE.
Plate 2 - View of rear of Fannyfield House (site 1) facing SW.
Plate 3 – View of Well (site 2) facing N.
Plate 4 – View of former farmhouse (site 6) facing NW.
Plate 5 – View of south part site facing W.
Plate 6 – View of north part of site facing W.