

# LAND MOVING MONSTERS TAKE OVER FROM THE VIKINGS



Like Leviathans striding across the countryside, these earthmovers are operating on Cyderhall farm west of Dornoch, engaged in work in association with the approach road to the new Dornoch Firth bridge.

These photographs show them stripping the surface soil, preparatory to quarrying out gravel to be used in the approach roads while the lower picture — both taken by Dr Struan Robertson of Torranroy, Dornoch — shows a 250 hp diesel Caterpillar bulldozer on the ridge between Cuthill and Cyderhall.

Dr Robertson, in company with fellow members of the Dornoch Heritage Society, chairman Mr Jim Bell, vice-chairman Mr Jim Mitchell and Mrs Bridget Mackenzie, the local authority on Viking times in East Sutherland, visited the quarry site at the request of regional archaeologist Mr Robert Gourlay.

He was anxious that an effort should be help on the quarry in the hope that it might uncover evidence of Viking activity in the area between Cyderhall and Skibo.

Another point of interest is the possibility of uncovering the fine sand which was used, according to antiquarian Sr Robert Gordon, for glass-making to provide the windows for Dornoch Cathedral.

Unfortunately, reports Mr Bell, nothing so far has been uncovered of any historical interest.

