

# **New House and Vehicle Access Beolary, Glenelg, Isle of Skye**

NG 8415 2008

Archaeological Watching Brief

February 2006



Illus. 1 : The cleared house site at Beolary, Glenelg, viewed from the north-east.

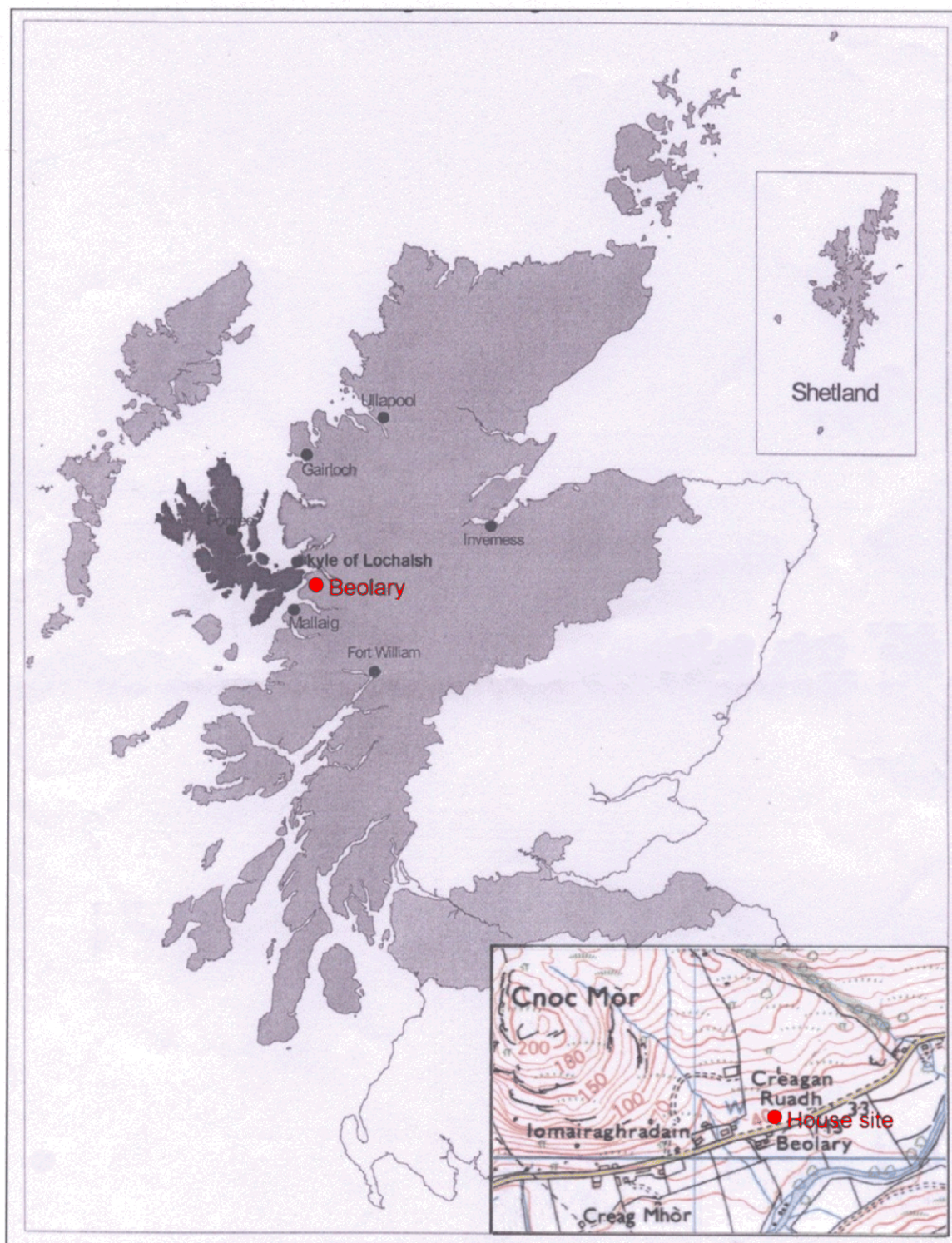
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For    Mr Donald Lamont  
      Old Free Church Manse  
      Glenelg  
      By Kyle of Lochalsh  
      Ross-Shire

Planning Ref.    SL-04-500

Martin Wildgoose AIFA  
Archaeological and Ancient Landscape Survey

Report No. 168



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illus. 2 : Location of Beolary and Site of new house.

**WATCHING BRIEF  
NEW HOUSE SITE, BEOLOARY, GLENELG****NG 39571 55237****1. INTRODUCTION**

The development covered by this report lies at Beolary, immediately to the north of the main Glenelg road at the foot of the steep, south facing flank of Cnoc Mhor. The site overlooks Glen Mhor and the Glenmore River to the south and has open views to the east and west. There is no obvious archaeology in the vicinity. The watching brief was concerned with the excavation of a platform for the new house and an access road leading to the main road.

**2. THE WATCHING BRIEF**

The watching brief consisted of 3 elements:-

- a) A desk-based assessment. (carried out prior to site works)
- b) A walkover survey (carried out on the day of the site works)
- c) A watching brief during site works.

**2.1 Desk-based assessment**

The desk-based assessment consulted the following sources:

- The National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) via the Internet.
- The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (HSMR) also via the Internet.
- The Dualchas Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Portree
- The Dualchas Aerial Photo Archive
- The Dualchas Map Archive
- The Archaeological and Ancient Landscape Archive.

A search of the above sources revealed that there was only one recorded archaeological site within 200 meters of the development area, (see below).

**NMRS No.** NG82SW 18  
**Type of Site** Township (Iomairaghradain), Fank  
**Map Ref.** NG 8405 2005  
**Parish** Glenelg

**Associated Notes**

A township, comprising two roofed buildings each with an enclosure attached and three unroofed buildings, and an enclosure annotated as a fank are depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1876, sheet xlvii). Five roofed, two unroofed buildings and three enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1971).



In 2001 a desk-based assessment and walkover survey in advance of a new water treatment works recorded the farmstead mentioned above (1876), before it was removed during site works. (Ref. NG82SW 20) This recorded site lies 100 meters to the west of the site of the proposed house. (Information gathered from RCAHMS Canmore Web Site)

## 2.2 The Walkover Survey

The walkover survey was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February prior to the start of site works. The day was very cold with an easterly wind.

No archaeological features were visible within the house plot. There was no trace of the fank shown on the 1876 OS map.

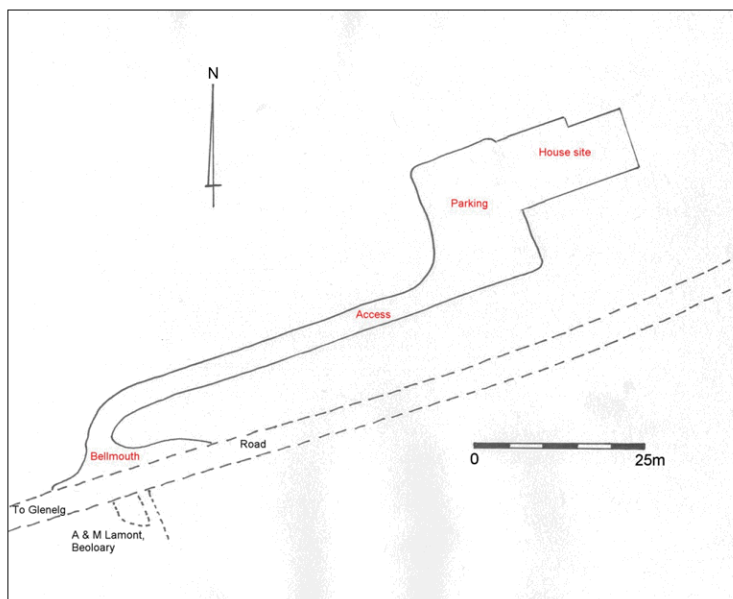
## 2.3 The Watching Brief

The watching brief was carried out on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Site works were carried out by a tracked excavator using a straight edged bucket. Site works consisted of the excavation of a level platform for a house and parking area and the creation of a track for access.

The house platform lies on natural terrace at the foot of a steep south-facing hillside. The terrace consists of water-worn local geology probably deposited at the end of the last ice age. A maximum of 70mm of soil covered the glacial outwash.

During the stripping of the house platform the stumps of two rotten wooden fence posts were noted in the south-east corner. These may represent part of a post and wire enclosure.

**No archaeological features were recorded within the excavated area.**



illus 3 : Plan of area cleared for house, parking and access.



illus. 4 : The house platform stripped to the underlying natural, (viewed from the west).

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The archaeological requirements for this house site have been completed. There are no further recommendations regarding this site.

The Highland Council Archaeology Unit brief is appended at the end of the report.

### **4. LOCATION OF RECORDS**

All records relating to this report and watching brief are held in the archive of:

Archaeological and Ancient Landscape Survey

c/o Martin Wildgoose

Tigh an Dun

Dunan

Broadford

Isle of Skye IV49 9AJ Tel. 01471 822 562

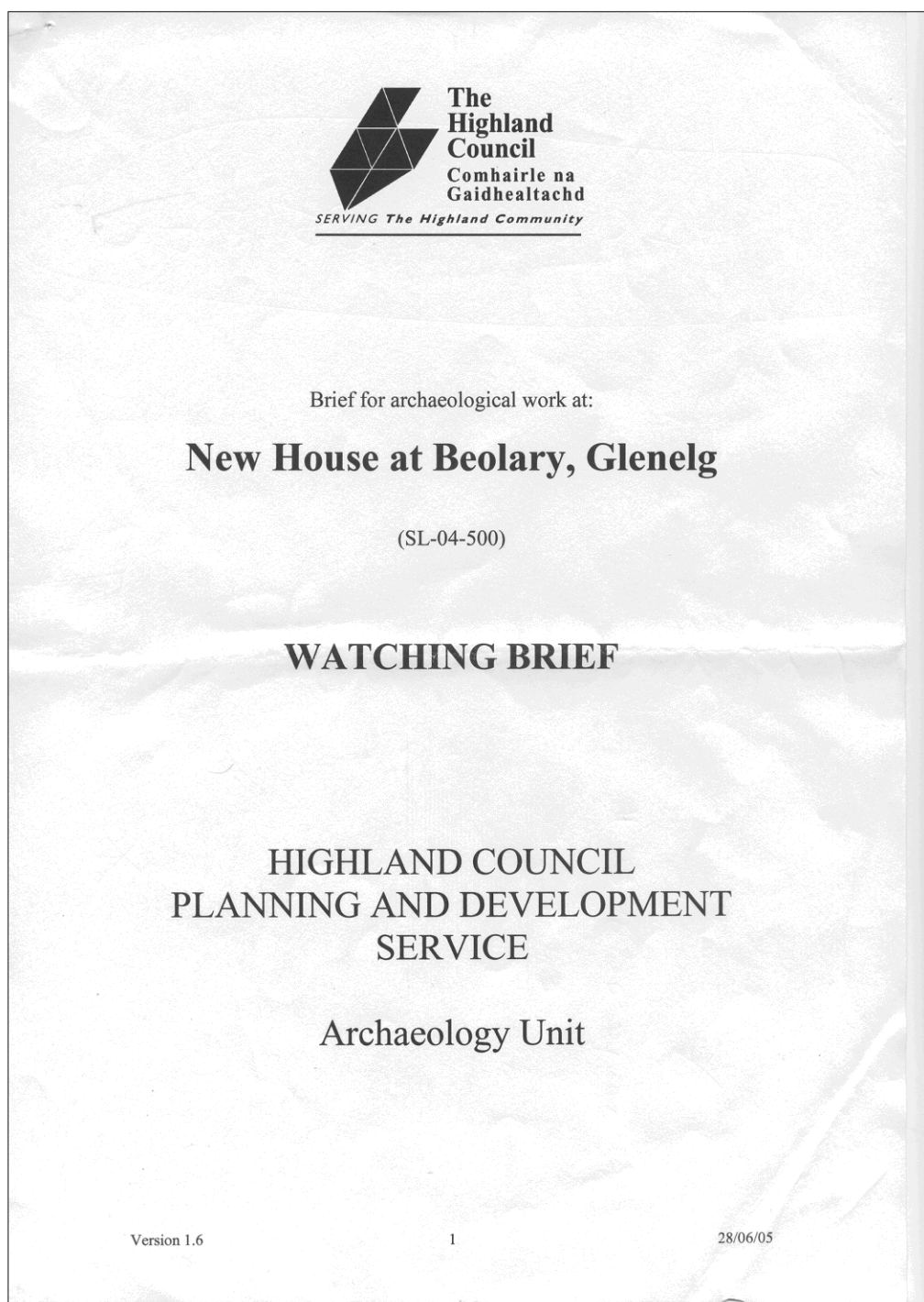
E-mail : [jwildgoose@aol.com](mailto:jwildgoose@aol.com)

END

Martin Wildgoose AIFA

14<sup>th</sup> February 2006

## APPENDIX 1 : The Highland Council Brief



### 1) Background

An archaeological watching brief is needed at this site because there is a potential for finds or features of interest to be discovered during site works. A watching brief enables any discoveries to be recorded quickly and efficiently as they appear with minimum delay or disruption to the development.

The application site lies in area containing later prehistoric and historic remain. Although no features are visible on the ground surface within the application area, unrecorded buried remains may still survive. These features should be identified and recorded in detail before they are damaged or destroyed. This will need to be done by a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

This brief sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

### 2) Terms of Reference

This brief specifies what is considered to be the **minimum** acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. It is assumed that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with Highland Council Archaeology Unit in writing before the start of any site works.

This brief has been produced for Mr D Lamont, who will be responsible for the work, including any tendering and contractual arrangements. It sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

The area to be covered by this assessment should be the entire development area: including any proposed services, access roads, works compounds, borrow pits or other ancillary works.

The work should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The Archaeology Unit may refuse to accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to these standards. **The Archaeology Unit would be pleased to comment on tenders submitted in confidence.** Tenders should be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director.

The brief has been produced specifically for this scheme based on documents supplied at the time it was issued. It is valid for one year from the date of issue.

Before site works start, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work should be agreed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit in writing.

### 3) Objectives

To identify and record any features or objects of archaeological importance that could be damaged or destroyed by this development, while minimising any delays or disruption to the development project.



#### 4) Method

##### a) Desk-based Assessment

A check of all relevant archaeological / historical records, maps and aerial photographs should be undertaken. At least the following sources should be checked:

- The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). *Please note - the online SMR 'Am Baile' is not designed for use in development control or for constructing management policy of sites. In order to source the full SMR information required for such studies all consultants should approach the Highland Council Archaeology Unit directly.*
- The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)
- Vertical stereo aerial photographic coverage held by RCAHMS and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
- Ordnance Survey map coverage from 1850 onwards, and any other readily available early cartographic sources held at the National Library of Scotland Map Library.
- Bibliographic references and early parish accounts.

##### b) Watching Brief

A watching brief will be conducted by the Archaeological Contractor on all site ground-works, so that any finds or features of importance can be recorded to professional standards. The Archaeological Contractor will endeavour wherever possible to work with the contractor to ensure that any recording required is done with minimum delay to the site works.

##### *Important Note for architects, builders and site contractors*

Those carrying out site clearance and excavation works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. They may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. For example:

- Where excavating machinery is used, a straight-edged bucket must be used on a back-acting machine. Care will need to be taken to avoid over excavation, and the advice of the archaeologist on-site should be adhered to on this.
- Archaeologists may need to get quickly into recently cleared areas and this may mean that drivers of excavators may sometimes need to wait briefly, or switch to working other areas.
- Each excavating machine needs to be watched by at least one archaeologist at all times (1:1 ratio). Work should not begin on site until this cover has been set up.
- Because the archaeologist must be able to record any archaeological remains encountered during the work to professional standards, site clearance works may take slightly longer than normal. This should be allowed for in the development project timetable. Occasionally, more extensive excavation may be needed since there will be limited opportunities to preserve features *in situ*. If discoveries are made that would cause significant delays, see paragraph 5 below.

Human remains must be immediately reported to the local police and to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit and should not be excavated as part of this work.

Once areas have been cleared, and any archaeology recorded, there should be no need for further archaeological work in these areas.



**c) Report**

The archaeologist will produce a brief report setting out the results of the work as described below.

**5) Monitoring**

The Archaeological Contractor is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates - with contact names, telephone numbers and arrangements for access - must be given to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and /or the development, must be notified immediately to the applicant and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit. The finds or features must be left *in situ* until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.

**6) Reporting**

**a) Project report**

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for producing a report on the work, and for making sure copies have been received by the recipients listed below. The Archaeological Contractor should allow for all costs when estimating for the work. We require archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline.

Apart from any copies required by the client, at least **five** copies of the project report must be produced by the archaeologist. These must be submitted to all of the following **within 4 weeks** of the completion of the fieldwork.

- One paper copy for the Council's Area Planning and Building Control Manager, Kings House, The Green, Portree, Isle of Skye, IV51 9BS.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA. This will be available for public consultation through the public library service.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB
- Two copies for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX : one paper copy and one copy of the complete report a *pdf* file, on a computer disc or CDROM. Please ensure that all drawings and photographs are included.

The report must include as a minimum:

- Location plan (bound into the report) showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification.
- The archaeological background of the site, placed in the context of the wider area.

- An analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results as per the Burra Charter.
- General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project.
- Scale plans and photographs of all significant archaeological features noted.
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including the archive location.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- A list of finds, as appropriate, set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting.

**b) Presentation**

Where significant archaeology has been found, the archaeologist must arrange a presentation of the project results, to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork.

**c) DES**

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

**d) Copyright**

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

**7) Finds**

Chance finds can be made during any archaeological fieldwork. Archaeologists should note that advice and facilities for emergency conservation and temporary storage can be offered by Inverness Museum. All finds should be notified for Treasure Trove before the report is submitted.

**8) Insurance**

The archaeologist appointed must take all necessary measures to conform to the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance. Section 24 of the Highland Council's revised Contracts Standing Orders states:

"All specifications issued by and contracts entered into with the Council in connection with the carrying out of work or the provision of services shall provide that the contractor holds a valid insurance policy, approved by the Council, for:-

- (1) Employers liability - minimum limit - £10m (statutory limit)
- (2) Public liability - minimum limit £5m."

**9) General**

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief. He or she must:

- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the client and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
- fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

*Highland Council Archaeology Unit  
Tuesday, 28 June 2005*