



*Highland Archaeology Services Ltd*

## **Watching Brief**



### **4 Burnside Hilton of Cadboll Ross-shire**

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### 4 Burnside Hilton of Cadboll Ross-shire

<b>Report No.</b>	HAS060505
<b>Client</b>	WPA Design acting for Mr and Mrs Joy
<b>Planning Ref</b>	06/00084/FULRC
<b>Author</b>	John Wood
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## Summary

*An archaeological watching brief was implemented by Highland Archaeology Services Ltd on 27 April 2006 to record the nature and extent of any archaeology likely to be affected by a house extension at 4 Burnside, Hilton of Cadboll, Tain IV20 1XF. No archaeological finds or features were found and no further archaeological work is recommended.*

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## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by John Wood for Highland Archaeology Services Ltd. We would like to thank Will Aitken for his assistance.

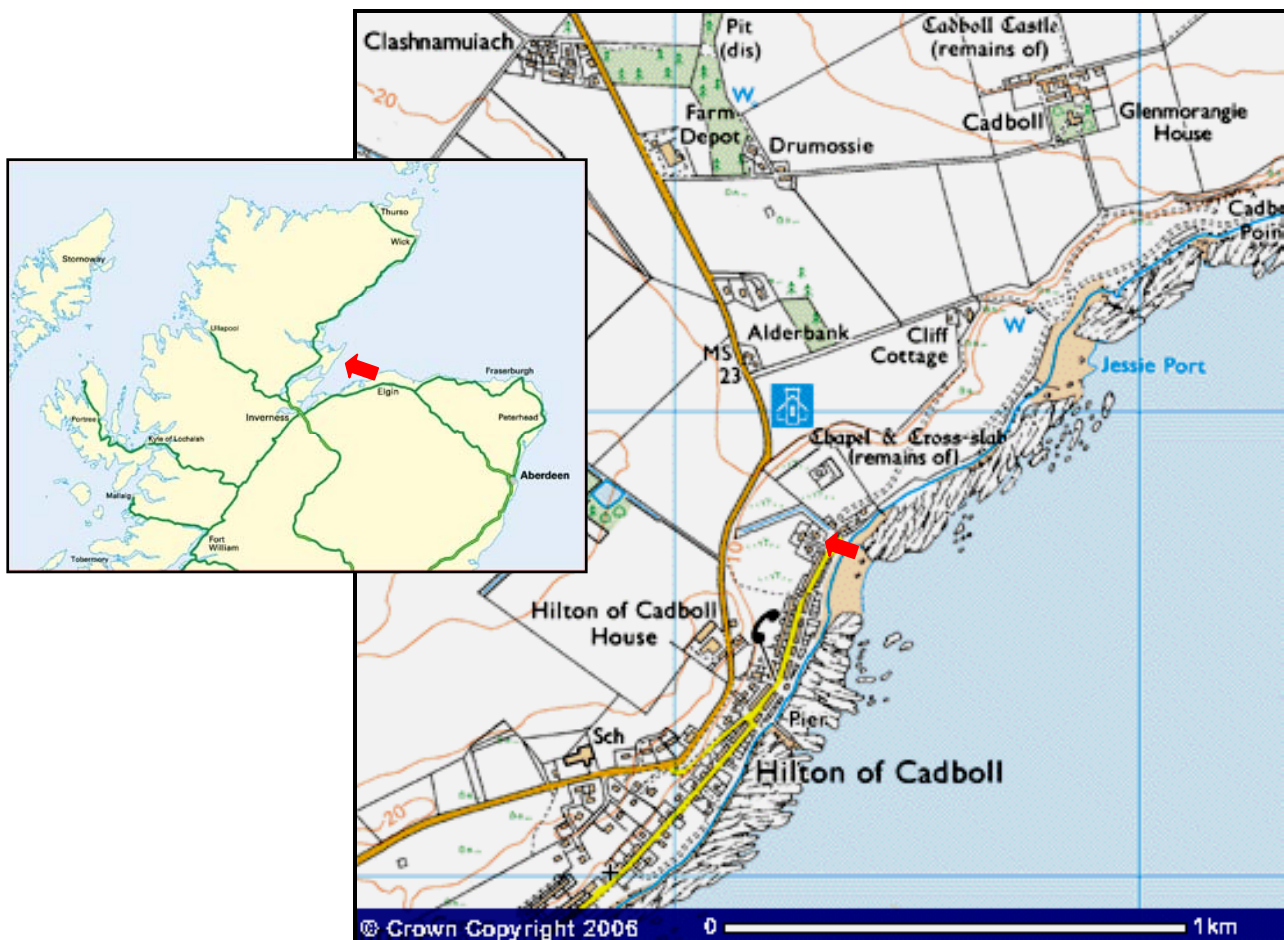
## Introduction

A watching brief was carried out on 27 April 2006 by Highland Archaeology Services Ltd on behalf of WPA Design, acting for Mr and Mrs Joy.

The purpose of the work was to identify and record the nature and extent of any archaeological features revealed or affected by the construction of an extension to No 4 Burnside, Hilton of Cadboll, Tain. It was carried out to conform with the Highland Council's Structure Plan policies, and the Scottish Executive's National Planning Policy Guidance Note 5 (NPPG5) and Planning Advice Note 42 (PAN42) (SOEND 1994).

## Location

The site is centred approximately at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NH 8729 7674. It is within the local authority area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by its Archaeology Unit staff based within the Council's Planning and Development Service (HCAU). It adjoins the Hilton of Cadboll Chapel site, which is in Historic Scotland Guardianship.



**Figure 1 Site Location**

*Mapping reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey: Licence 100043217*

## Site details and archaeological background

The house extension required the excavation of trenches for foundations. There are no recorded sites or features of archaeological interest on the site itself, but adjoining to the north lies the Hilton of Cadboll Chapel site, which is of national importance and in State Guardianship. No previous archaeological work has been carried out at Burnside itself, or even within the village of Hilton of Cadboll, but excavations

within the chapel site to the north have revealed significant 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> century occupation (see [www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk/1078](http://www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk/1078)). House extensions in the adjoining village of Balintore have sometimes revealed human remains.

## Aims and objectives

The aim of the programme was to minimise any possible delay or cost to the building work by anticipating archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently.

The objective was to determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; and to preserve these where possible and record where necessary in line with the Highland Council's Structure Plan, NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

## Desk Based Assessment

This work took place entirely within the garden ground of the 4 Burnside. No archaeological records were found referring to this site itself, but it adjoins the field containing the remains of the Hilton of Cadboll chapel and the former site of the sculptured stone of the same name.

According to the excellent local book, Down to the Sea: an Account of Life in the Fishing Villages of Hilton, Balintore and Shandwick, Jessie Macdonald and Anne Gordon (3rd edition, Ross & Cromarty Heritage Society, n.d.),

An item in Cadboll Estate papers is thought to be an early reference to what was then called the Fishertown of Hilton - between 1561-66 the rental of Fearn Abbey included, 'The Fishers' 8 acres, which never payed a penny, but given to them for the purpose of dwelling upon and for furnishing fish to the place and County upon the Countries expenses,' which makes it appear that Hilton was specially developed as a fishing village.

Topographical and geophysical surveys were carried out in 1997 on the Chapel site by the University of York. Traces of settlement were found which were interpreted as belonging to this village, which, they reasoned, could have lain between the chapel and the sea. "As the name implies, the "Hilton" of Cadboll was presumably sited on the higher ground." (Martin Carver, Preliminary notice of investigations at Hilton of Cadboll. Tarbat Discovery Programme Bulletin 3, York University 1997)

However it is by no means clear that the Fishertown of Hilton actually lay in this area. As Macdonald and Gordon point out,

By 1610 Hilton was known as Balnaknok from the Gaelic, Bail' a' chnuic, town of the cliffs. The parish records of Fearn list the communicants of both Hilton and Hilltown as though they were separate villages, though possibly a newer addition of Hilton fusing with the older part may be the explanation.

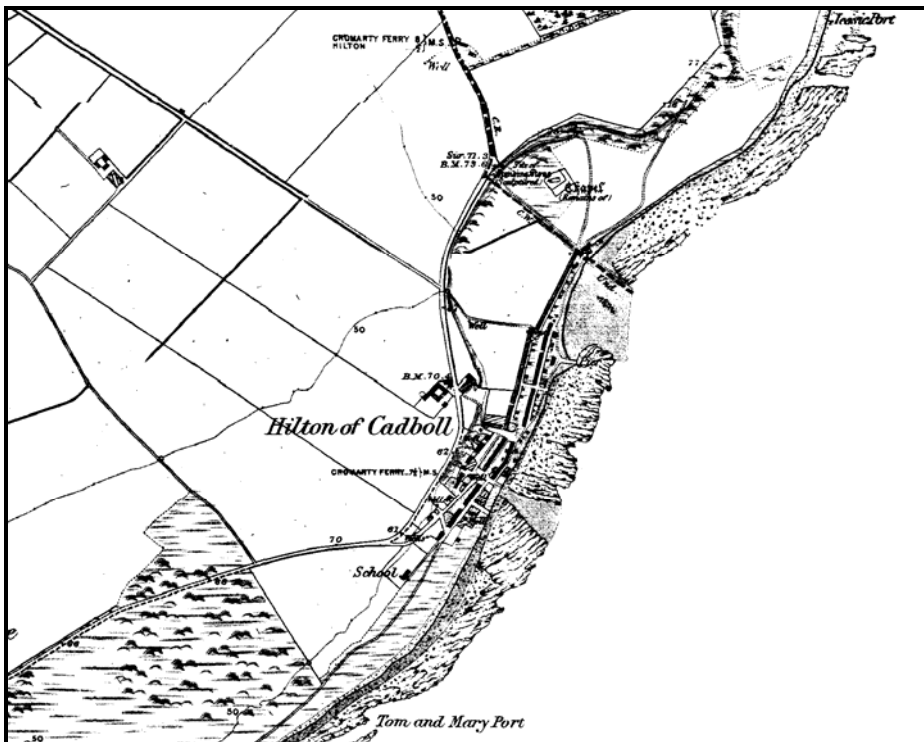
Timothy Pont's map (pre c. 1614) may offer an explanation. On this, both *Hiltoun* and *Balintoir* are marked inland, with Hilton to the south of Balintore. It is a curious fact that Baile an Toir is in fact Hill Town in Gaelic. Today, the name fits the location of neither. Pont's Hiltoun occupies roughly the site of the modern Hill of Fearn: no doubt the later development of Hilton of Cadboll was so named to distinguish it. Balintore has apparently migrated, or been removed, to the coast since Pont's time. He shows the present site of Balintore as *Abotsheaun* (Abbotshaven). However, Shandwick





**Figure 2 Pont's map (pre c. 1614)**

*Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland*



**Figure 3 First Edition OS 6" map (1880)**

and *Cattbo Cast*. (Cadboll Castle) – both names of Norse origin - appear in approximately their present position. Shandwick (Norse Sand Vik, or sandy bay) is also at least a name that seems to relate to its coastal location. It is also worth noting that the Fishertown of Hilton formed part of the estates of Fearn Abbey before the Reformation, whereas Cadboll did not. If this is correct, there is no

reason to assume that the Fishertown of Hilton lay near the chapel site. (see fig 2). It seems more likely that the evidence found by the University of York is of more recent origin, perhaps representing fairly short-lived occupation by people cleared from inland areas in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The development of the modern Seaboard villages seems to have been largely a 19th century phenomenon. According to Macdonald and Gordon,

A plan of Hilton in 1813 shows only two streets with a total of twenty-four houses. Like Shandwick it provided refuge for victims of the Clearances so that by 1832 there were fifty-eight families, and a later plan of around 1908 shows how great an increase in population there had been during the 19th century. Many of the MacKays now in Hilton came originally from around Helmsdale in Sutherland during that time.

The First Edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch (1:10560) map shows Hilton as a very regular, planned settlement. Burnside itself appears to have been developed in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century on agricultural land (the houses are shown on the 1974 OS map).

## Watching Brief

A watching brief was conducted on all site ground-works, so that any finds or features of importance could be recorded to professional standards.

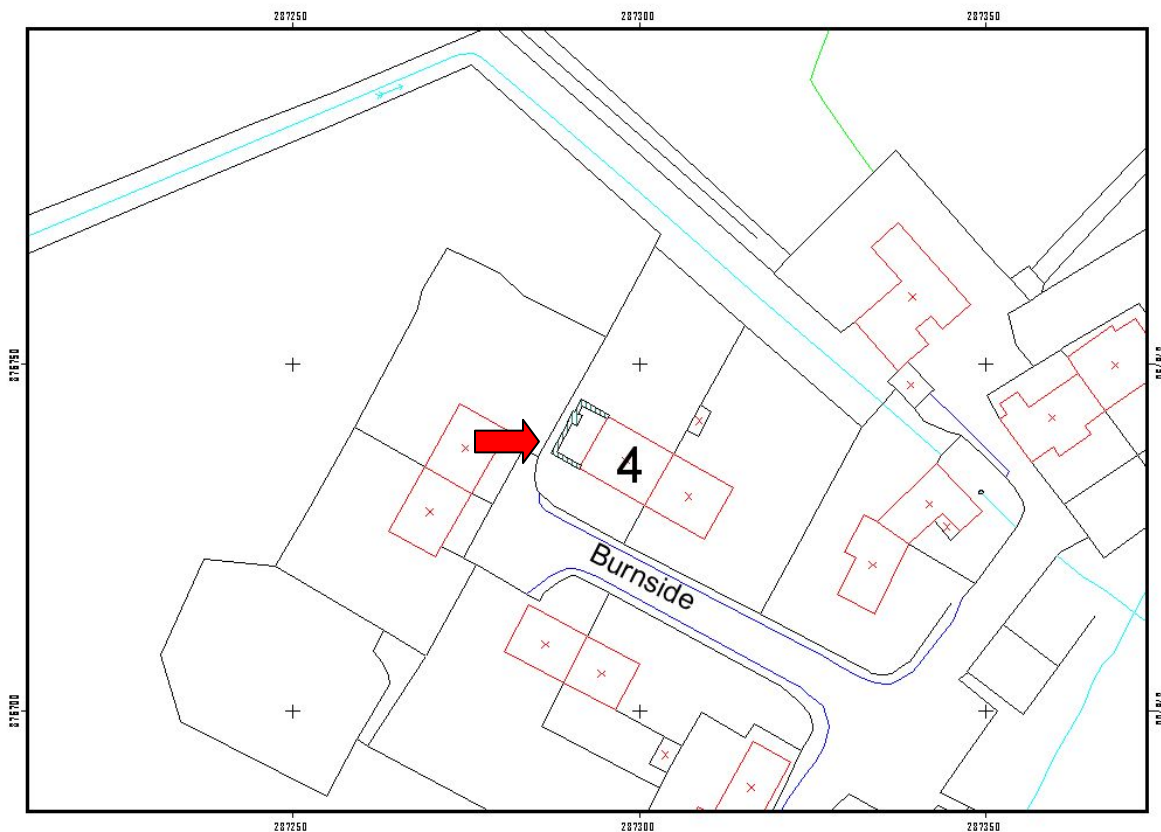


Figure 4 Location of watching brief (detail)

The site appeared to have been extensively levelled and disturbed when the Burnside houses were built. A construction level for the houses was clearly visible with clean natural sand beneath (Fig 5).



**Figure 5** Section, showing disturbed ground and construction level overlying clean natural sand  
(50cm scale in 10cm divisions)



**Figure 6** Footings of present house  
(50cm scale in 10cm divisions)



## Significance and Recommendations

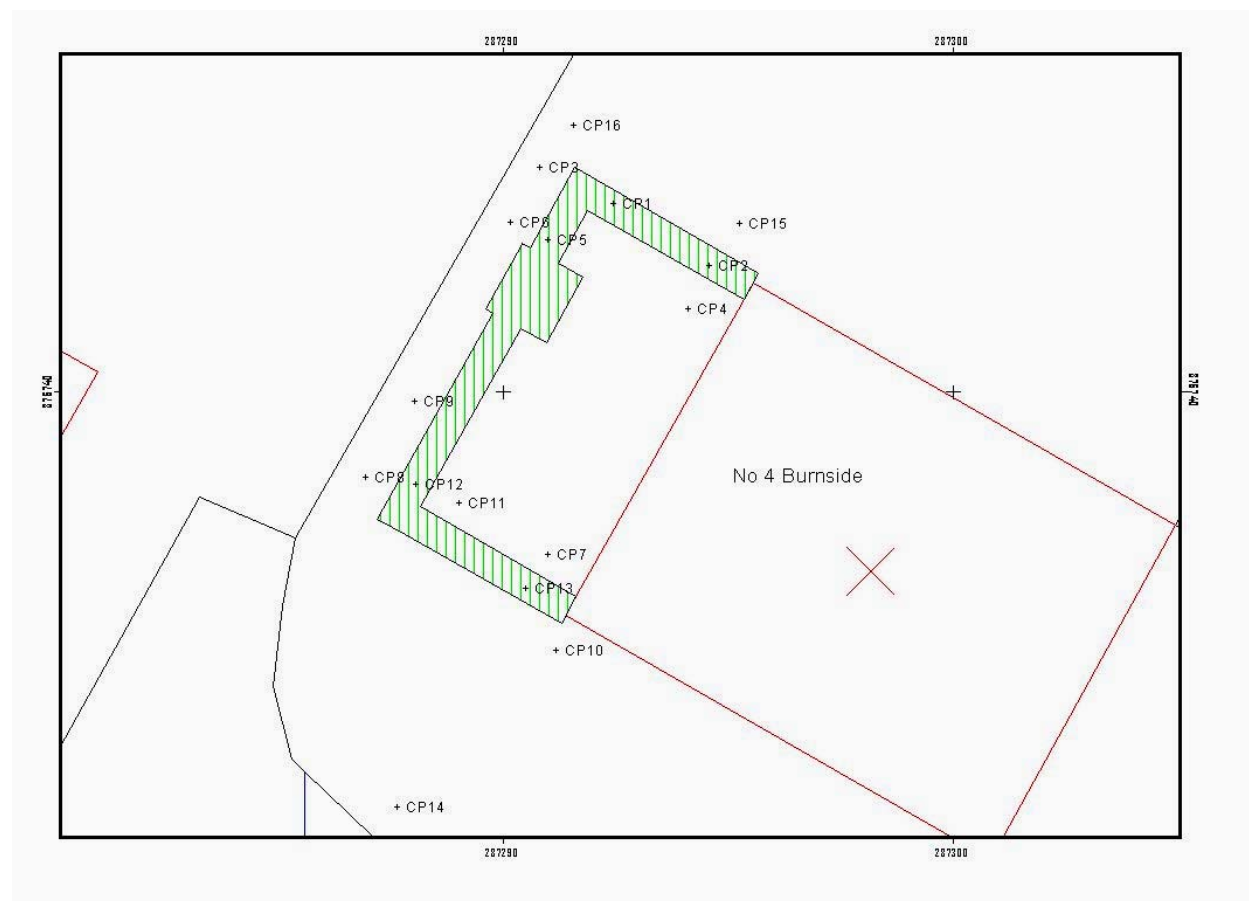
No trenches contained archaeologically significant features, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

## Operational Matters

The weather was variable with gleams of sunshine and showers.

There were no finds, and no samples were taken.

All photography was digital at a minimum resolution of 5 mpx. This slight reduction in image size from the usual standard was because a substitute camera had to be used at short notice. Digital copies (JPEGs) of all photographs are included on the CDROM accompanying this report. The camera location and direction of each photograph taken has been plotted on the site plan. No human remains were encountered. Palaeo-environmental sampling was not undertaken. All work was carried out to the standards usually required by Historic Scotland, the Highland Council, and the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The Company's Risk Assessment and Health and Safety procedures were followed throughout.



**Figure 7 Camera locations**

## Photographic Index

A copy of this table in MS Excel format is on the accompanying CDROM.

Photo no.	Camera Location	Notes	Taken by	Date
1a	CP1	View NW showing section	JW	27/04/2006
2a	CP1	View NW showing section (close up)	JW	27/04/2006
3a	CP2	View NW showing section	JW	27/04/2006
4	CP3	View SE showing section	JW	27/04/2006
5	CP3	View SE showing section	JW	27/04/2006
6	CP2	View SE showing house footings and construction level	JW	27/04/2006
7	CP2	View SE showing house footings and construction level	JW	27/04/2006
8	CP3	View S showing trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
10	CP2	View SE showing house footings and construction level	JW	27/04/2006
11	CP2	View SE showing house footings and construction level	JW	27/04/2006
12	CP4	View NE showing house footings and construction level	JW	27/04/2006
14	CP1	View NW showing section (close up)	JW	27/04/2006
15	CP1	View NW showing section (close up)	JW	27/04/2006
16	CP5	View SW showing trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
17	CP6	View SE showing section	JW	27/04/2006
18	CP1	View SW showing trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
19	CP7	View N	JW	27/04/2006
20	CP7	View NNE	JW	27/04/2006
21	CP7	View NE	JW	27/04/2006
22	CP4	View SW - trench under excavation; widening driveway	JW	27/04/2006
23	CP3	View SW - trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
24	CP8	View NE - trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
25	CP9	View NE - trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
26	CP5	View SW - trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
27	CP5	View SW - trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006
28	CP9	View E showing section	JW	27/04/2006
29	CP9	View E showing section	JW	27/04/2006
30	CP9	View E showing section	JW	27/04/2006
31	CP5	View SW showing section	JW	27/04/2006
32	CP7	View S showing house footings and garden path in section	JW	27/04/2006
33	CP7	View SW showing house footings and garden path in section	JW	27/04/2006
34	CP10	View N showing construction level and garden path in section	JW	27/04/2006
35	CP10	View N showing construction level and garden path in section	JW	27/04/2006
36	CP10	View NW - trench under excavation	JW	27/04/2006

<b>Photo no.</b>	<b>Camera Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Taken by</b>	<b>Date</b>
37	CP7	View SE showing house footings and construction level	JW	20/04/2005
38	CP9	View E showing section	JW	20/04/2005
39	CP11	View W showing section	JW	20/04/2005
40	CP11	View SW showing section	JW	20/04/2005
41	CP12	View SW showing section	JW	20/04/2005
42	CP12	View SW showing section	JW	20/04/2005
43	CP13	View NW showing section	JW	20/04/2005
44	CP13	View SE showing house footings	JW	20/04/2005
45	CP13	View SE showing house footings	JW	20/04/2005
46	CP11 (approx)	View SW showing section	JW	20/04/2005
47	CP14	View N across site	JW	20/04/2005
48	CP14	View N across site	JW	20/04/2005
49	CP4	View SSW across site	JW	20/04/2005
50	CP4	View SW across site	JW	20/04/2005
51	CP15	View NW	JW	20/04/2005
52	CP16	View SE	JW	20/04/2005
53	CP16	View SSW across site	JW	20/04/2005
54	CP16	View SSW across site	JW	20/04/2005
55	CP8	View NE across site	JW	20/04/2005
56	CP8	View SE - trench under excavation	JW	20/04/2005