

report no. 163
NH70 510005
Added to SMR ✓

Report of Archaeological Watching Brief
September – November 2000
Strone, by Newtonmore, Highland

NH 9022 5730

NN

NH 7216 0021

By
Stuart Farrell
B.A A.I.F.A F.S.A.Scot.
December 2000

Introduction

This report is for a watching brief conducted for George Leslie Ltd on behalf of NOSWA by the author for a water pipe and access road at Strone, by Newtonmore, Highland.

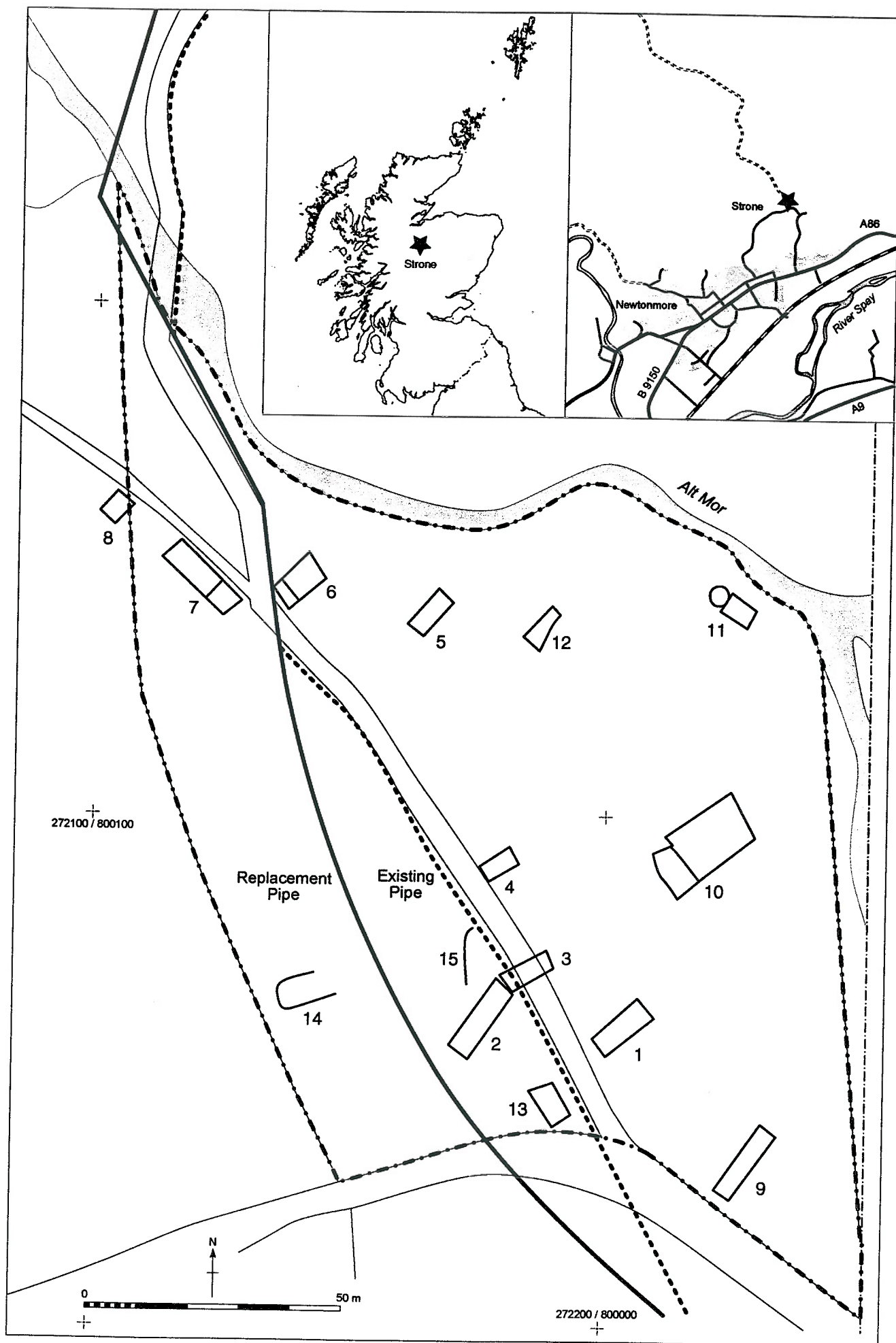
Acknowledgements

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

- Mr. C McCaig, engineer of George Leslie Ltd;
- Mr. J Duguid, site foreman of George Leslie Ltd;
- Mr. K Hardy, engineer for NOSWA;
- Staff of NOSWA;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location

See over



Historical Background

The area of the development lies in the area of the deserted settlement of Strone. (NMRS NH70SW 14) The site comprises of the remains of a small township of houses, enclosures and corn drying kiln of about 12 buildings, the site lying formerly on land owned by the Duke of Gordon.

The site has been partly surveyed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland as part of an Afforrestable Land Survey in 1995. (NMRS MS 731/18)

As part of this project a further 6 structures were noted in the area of the settlement closest to the construction works. Details of the buildings are as follows (Number in brackets relate to computer number of RCAHMS survey)

- 1 – house – rough rubble & corrugated iron roof 11.6m x 4.8m (see photo 1)
- 2 – house – 15.9m x 5.4m – no sign of entrance [437] (see photo 2)
- 3 – byre of house 2 – 4m x 4.4m – cut by existing track and pipeline.
- 4 – structure – 4.2m x 7.2m EW – cut partially by track and fence line [426]
- 5 – structure – 4.5m x 9.7m – doorway to south. Midden to SE. [429]
- 6 – structure – 4.5m x 8.8m – cut by existing pipelines and track [430] (see photo 3)
- 7 – structure – 18.8m x 4.7m NS with byre to south end.
- 8 – structure – 10.1m x 4.8m EW – doorways to North and south. Midden to E. [431]
- 9 – Marked on map as structure but no sign of. Not numbered in RCAHMS survey.
- 10 – structure – 5.4m x 10.8m NS with enclosure adjoining to East 10.8m x 15m. [425]
- 11 – structure & kiln – 8.2m x 5m NS with adjoining circular kiln of 2.4m². Walls are 0.8m thick and 0.4m high, entrance to SW. [428] (see photo 4)
- 12 – structure – 11m x 5.5m EW [427]
- 13 – structure – 4m x 3m NS
- 14 – structure – 14m? x 6m EW
- 15 – structure – 7m x 6m NS, entrance to N?

The history of this site is unknown; there are no records of the site in the 1841 census, with the exception of Strone Cottage situated to the south. The site is likely to have been cleared in 1803 when other clearances were occurring in the Badenoch area.

Watching Brief Investigation

Methodology

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). Over the construction period a suitably qualified archaeologist was on site to carry out observations and assessment of the area affected by the excavation works.

This work was carried out further to an archaeological specification produced by Highland Council Archaeology Unit. A copy of this specification is enclosed.

Results

An initial inspection of the site revealed that structure 6, although looking complete, was heavily truncated by three previous excavations for pipelaying operations and by existing track. Subsequent work showed no archaeological deposits to be remaining.

It was also evident that the existing trackway and fence-line cut through buildings 3 and 4. Operations for the widening of the road, up to 0.9m, revealed no archaeological deposits.

The trench for the pipe revealed topsoil to a depth of c.100mm with underlying natural of bluish-grey clay. No archaeological deposits were revealed during the course of the work. The only find was some rounded stone rubble to the west of structure no.2 (See photographs 5 & 6 for area of pipeline) and is probably the result of the building collapsing.

Recommendations

No recommendations with regards to this development project are to be proposed.

Further study is needed of the deserted settlement, maybe in the form of trial excavations to try and get a date of its construction.

Archive

A set of colour slides (Those indicated with # in appendix 1) documenting the work carried out has been deposited with Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

The complete site archive to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh, to comprise of the following :

- Site notebook,
- Plan of pipeline in relation to site,
- Colour slides,
- Colour photographs & negatives,
- A copy of this report.

References

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entry NH70SW14.

National Monuments Record of Scotland manuscript MS 731/18.

Appendix 1 – Film details

Colour Prints

- 1 - Building no.1 from south.
- 2 - Structure no.5 from south-west.
- 3 - Structure no.12 from east.
- 4 - Structure no.11 – detail of kiln from south.
- 5 - Structure no.11 from south.
- 6 - Sunken trackway to east of structure no.10.
- 7 - Structure no.10 from west.
- 8 - Structure no.2 from east.
- 9 - Structure no.3 from west.
- 10 - Structure no.13 from north.
- 11 - Structure no.3 from south.
- 12 - Structure no.2 from east.
- 13 - Detail of gable of building no.1.
- 14 - Detail of building no.1.
- 15 - Structure no.8 from west.
- 16 - Structure no.7 from south.
- 17 - Structure no.7 from south.
- 18 - Structure no.6 from west.
- 19 - Structure no.5 from south-west.
- 20 - Structure no.2 from northeast.
- 21 - Structure no.2 –detail of wall from east.
- 22 - View of track to tank site from south.
- 23 - View of site from north.
- 24 - Structure no.6 from west.
- 25 - Structure no.6 from west.

Slides

- 1 – Building no.1 from south.
- 2 – Structure no.5 from south-west.
- 3 – Structure no.6 from west.
- 4 – View of track to tank site from south.
- 5 – View of site from north.
- 6 – Structure no.2 from east.
- 7 - Structure no.2 from north-east.
- 8 – Structure no.5 from south-west.
- 9 - Structure no.6 from west.
- 10 - Structure no.7 from south.
- 11 - Structure no.8 from south.
- 12 – Detail of building no.1.
- 13 - Detail of gable of building no.1.
- 14 - Structure no.2 from east.
- 15 - Structure no.3 from south.
- 16 – Structure no.13 from north.
- 17 - Structure no.3 from west.
- 18 – Structure no.10 from west.
- 19 – Sunken trackway to east of structure no.10.
- 20 – Structure no.11 from south.
- 21 – Structure no.11 – detail of kiln from south.
- 22 – Structure no.12 from east.
- 23 – Machining of trackway to west of structure no.6.
- 24 - Machining of trackway to north of structure no.6.
- 25 - Machining of trackway to west of structure no.6.
- 26 – View of track from south from main road.
- 27 - Machining of trackway to north of structure no.6.
- 28 - Machining of trackway to west of structure no.6.
- 29 - Building no.1 from west.
- 30 - Detail of building no.1.

- 31 - Detail of building no.1.
- 32 - Structure no.4 from west prior to machining.
- 33 - Structure no.4 from west prior to machining.
- 34 - View of site from north.
- × 35 - Machining of road verge. #
- 36 - Machining of road verge. #
- 37 - Structure no.4 from west post machining. #
- 38 - Structure no.4 from west post machining. #
- 39 - View of machined track from south. #
- 40 - View of machined track from south. #
- 41 - View of line of pipe trench from north. #
- 42 - View of ditch clearance to north of structure no.14. #
- 43 - View of existing cut through road to south edge of site. #
- 44 - Structure no.2 from east. #
- 45 - Machining of trench to west of structure no.2. #
- 46 - View of pipe trench from north. #
- 47 - Machining of pipe trench. #
- × 48 - View of pipe trench from north. #

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19-12-2000

Mr. John Wood
Archaeologist
Highland Council
Planning Dept
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

Archaeological work at Newtonmore Tank, Highland

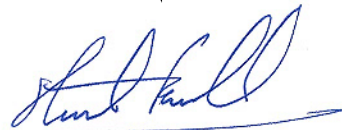
Dear John,

I am writing to you per the above.

Please find enclosed completed report per requirement of the specification of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Please also find slides and disc (text only) per the same.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Farrell

Enclosures.

H.C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE		
22 DEC 2000		
PASS TO	INITIALS	DATE
SCR	CM	22/12
FW	FW	03/01
FILE REF.:		

Photo 1 - Building no.1 from south.
Photo 2 - Structure no.2 from east.

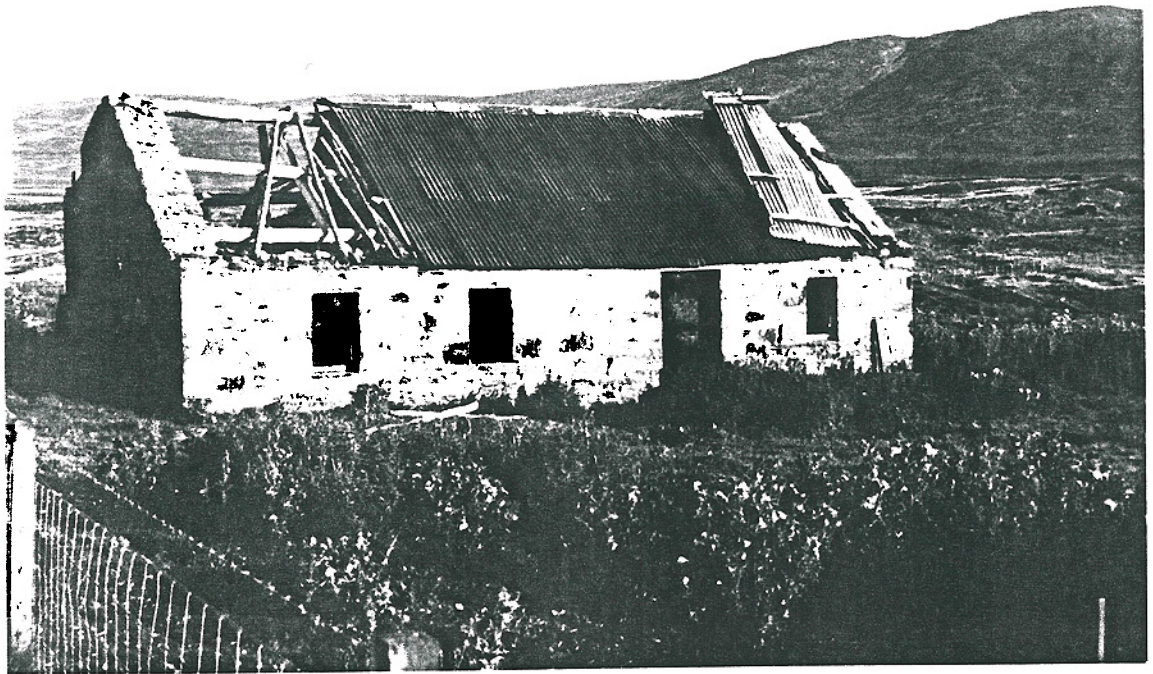


Photo 3 – Structure no.6 from west.
Photo 4 – Structure no.11 from south.



Photo 5 – Structure no.2 from northeast.

Photo 6 - Structure no.2 –detail of wall from east.



**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

Brief for archaeological work at:

Newtonmore Tank

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological watching brief to be carried on site ground works. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by work programmed by NOSWA. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until 31st December 2000 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for NOSWA, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. Estimates should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The project should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

Before site works commence, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work must be agreed with the Area Planning Manager, and the Senior Archaeologist in writing.

If this is for a road or water or sewerage proposal the area to be covered is the entire wayleave except where otherwise indicated.

3. Tendering

Tenders must be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

4. Objectives

1. To record, to professional standards, any features and objects of archaeological importance that will be damaged or destroyed by this development. This is often achieved by clearing the topsoil to a clean surface in which archaeological features can be identified by the archaeologist.

5. Method

A watching brief will be conducted by an archaeologist on site groundworks, including service trenches so that any finds or features of importance can be recorded to professional standards.

Those carrying out site works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. Where machinery is to be used for topsoil stripping, 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 regarding this.

The archaeologist must be given every aid by contractors to enable the archaeological work to be carried out. Contractors may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. This must be catered for and adhered to.

Should archaeological remains be encountered during the work, the archaeologist must be allowed up to one hour to record each feature. If longer than this is required, refer to paragraph 6.IV.

Where this is a watching brief for road, water, or sewerage proposals the specification includes drainage and other ancillary works as well as the carriageway itself.

6. Monitoring

- I. The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- II. Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- III. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names and local addresses, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Senior Archaeologist by the archaeologist contracted to carry out the work.
- IV. Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Senior Archaeologist so that revised arrangements can be made.
- V. Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

7. Reporting

7.1. Project report

At least five copies of the project report must be produced.

- I. One paper copy for the applicant: NoSWA
- II. One paper copy for the Area Planning and Building Control Manager.
- III. One paper copy for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- IV. One copy for the Highland SMR as above, on a computer disk in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 95 for Windows.
- V. One paper copy to be deposited with Norman Newton, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness.

The report must be submitted to the all of the above within 2 weeks of the completion of the field work.

The report must include, as a minimum,

1. Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
2. Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
3. Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork
4. Scale plans, and photographs of all archaeological features noted
5. A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location
6. A brief analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results for future research. Note that a negative result may itself be significant.
7. General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project
8. A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.

The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available

for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in writing, and the Archaeology Unit will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. Copyright will be acknowledged in all cases by the Archaeology Unit.

This specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

7.2. Treasure Trove

The Archaeological Contractor must liaise with the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery prior to the start of fieldwork, regarding possible emergency conservation needs and future storage arrangements. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify the local museum of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area. Should museum staff wish to visit the site whilst the archaeological work is in progress, they must first gain permission from the site owner/agent. **The site owner/agent must be aware that no one, other than the Council's Planning Officer, in consultation with the Archaeology Unit, has the authority to vary the terms of this specification.**

Provision must also be made for a cataloguing system for artefactual material, which will be compatible with the needs of the institution receiving these finds. Any report to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer must be copied to the Senior Archaeologist, and the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. Any finds, where appropriate, should also be reported to the Receiver of Wreck.

7.3. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council For Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. The cost of this must be included in any tender document.

8. General

1. The archaeologist appointed must be of a professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
2. The main contractor has responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff on site.
3. The archaeologist is responsible for taking all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurances.

4. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.
5. The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
6. The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
7. Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland
8. The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.