

Report of Archaeological Evaluation  
February 21<sup>st</sup> – 23rd 2001  
Balaldie, by Hill of Fearn, Highland  
NH 8720 / 7930

By  
Stuart Farrell  
B.A A.I.F.A F.S.A.Scot.  
March 2001

## Introduction

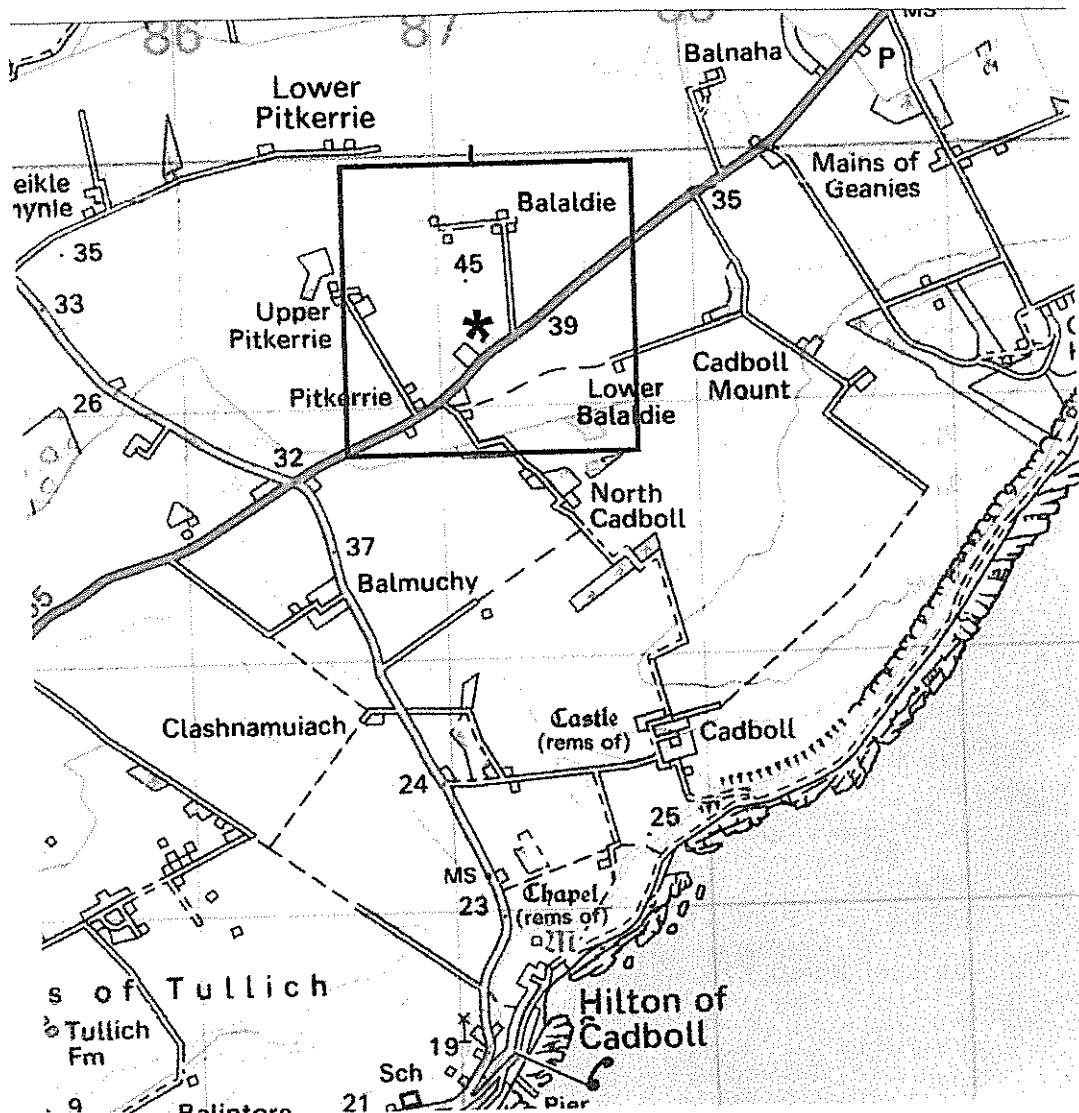
This report is for an evaluation conducted on behalf of Granit Union by the author for a development of a quarry at Balaldie, by Hill of Fearn.

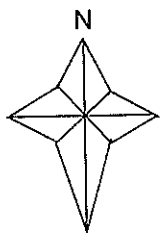
## Acknowledgements

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

- Mr. P Gurr of Lorne Geoservices for Granit Union;
- Mr. M MacBeth of Granit Union;
- Staff of A J Wilson Ltd for onsite works;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

## Site Location





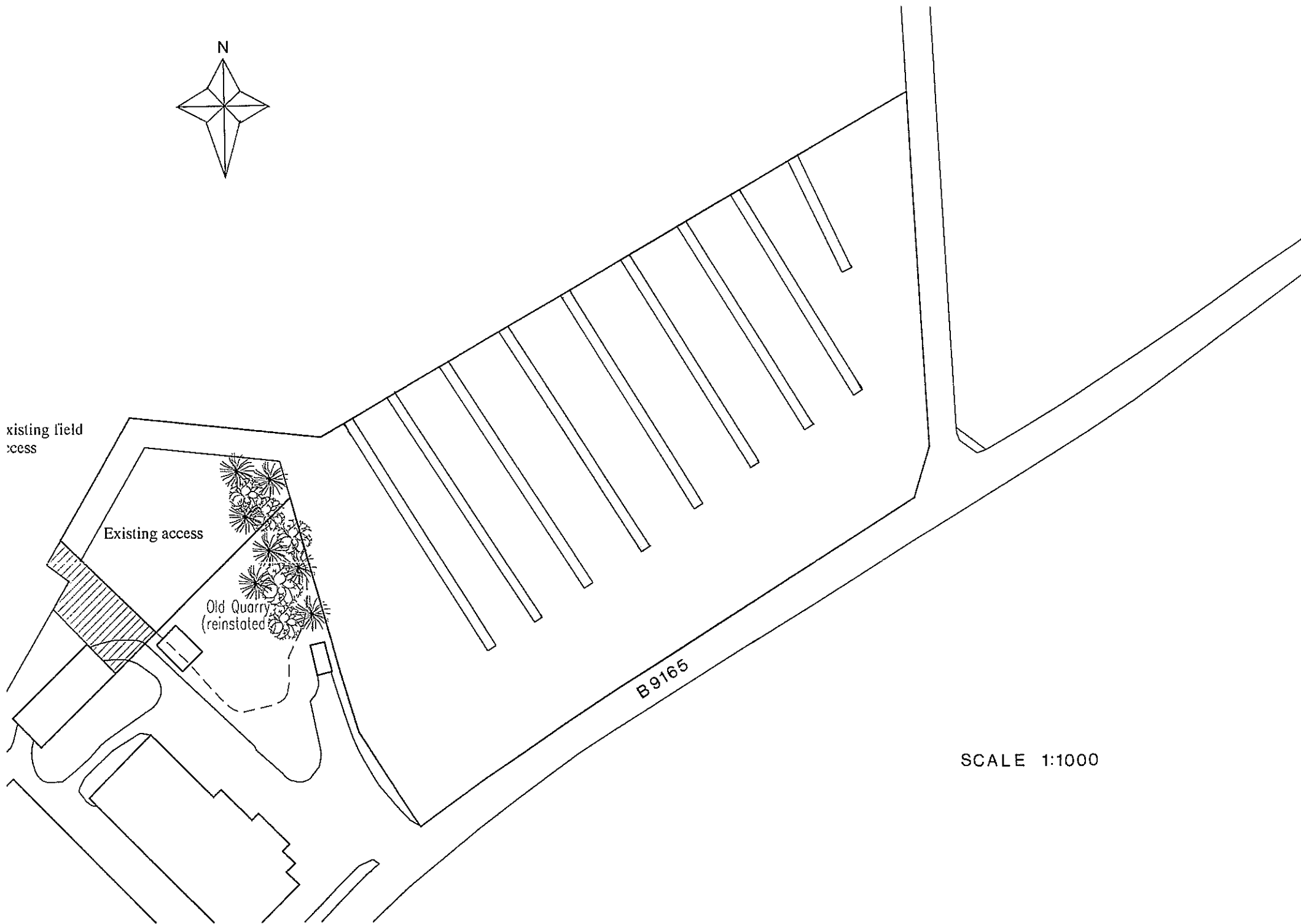
Existing field  
access

Existing access

Old Quarry  
(reinstated)

B9165

SCALE 1:1000



## **Historical Background**

The area of the development lies adjacent to the site of a former quarry (not recorded in Highland Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database). Currently no archaeological sites are located near to the development area but the site is in an overall area with a high number of archaeological sites.

The quarry is indicated on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OS map of 1872, sheet 42 (See over) but not named.

A study of the Valuation Rolls for the County of Ross & Cromarty of 1868-9 makes no mention of a quarry only of land belong to a Mr. Andrew Fraser with a Mr. William Ross as tenant with rent of £367.16.6. The roll for 1874-5 is the same. The roll for 1877-78 records the existence of the quarry as being with the same owner per a Mr. G T Munro of Tain and the same tenant with a rent of £8. Noted in 1878-79 as being unworked. Not listed in 1879-80 or 1880-1 or 1900-01.

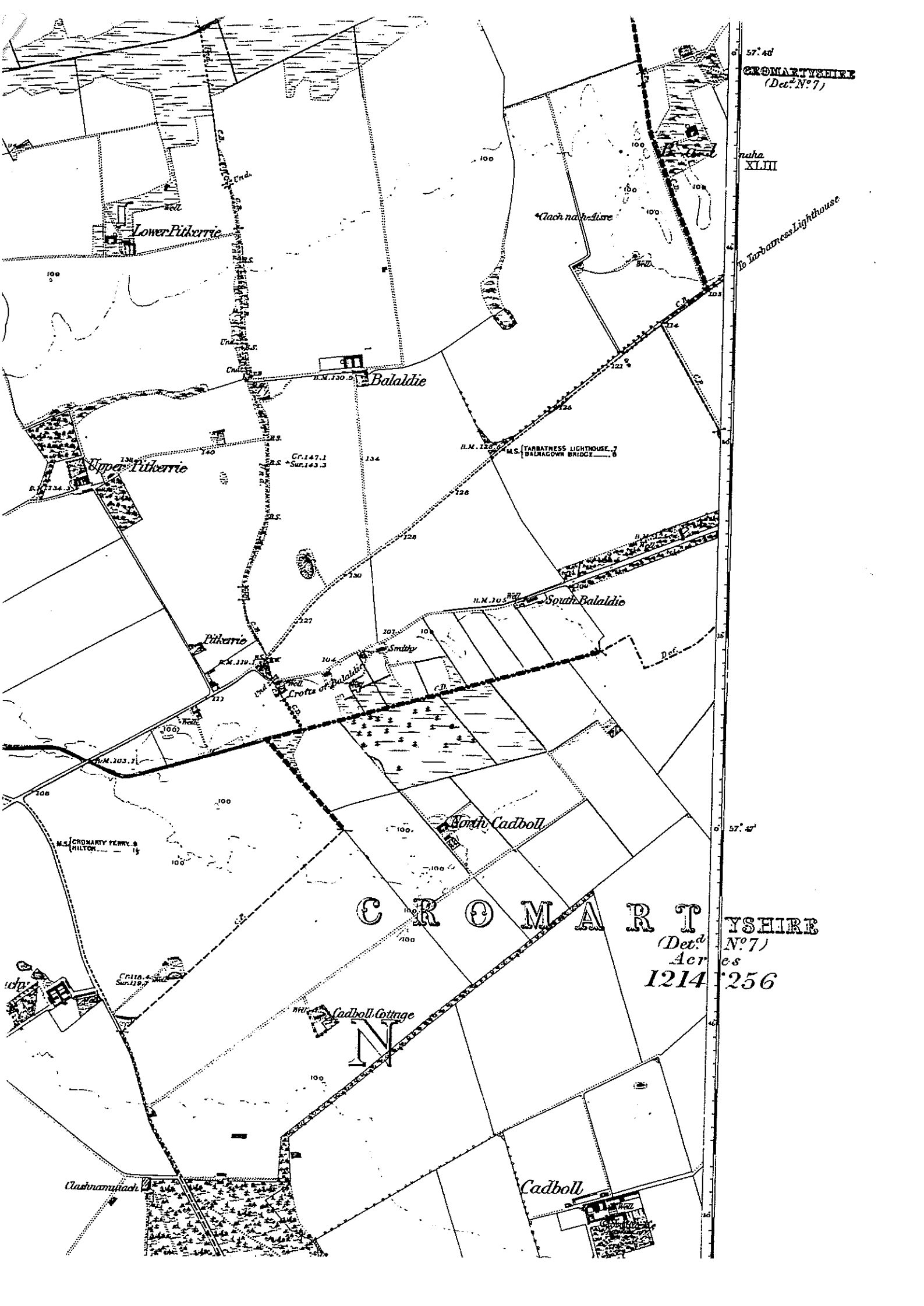
The OS name book of 1869 makes no mention of the quarry. The farm of Balaldie gave information to Granit Union that the site was still used until the 1950's. (Per comm. Mr. P Gurr)

There is no record of the quarry in the National Monuments Record or in the National Archives of Scotland.

It is likely that the quarry was only used periodically and was not highly viable economically but just used for purposes of need at varied times as part of any agricultural works.

## **Objectives**

To conduct an evaluation on the area of development and to record those features revealed by excavation work. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed.



CROMARTYSHIRE  
(Det. N° 7)

nahe  
XLIII

To Tarbatness Lighthouse

57° 42'

CROMARTYSHIRE  
(Det. N° 7)  
Acr es  
1214 256

N

## **Trial Trenching Investigation**

### **Methodology**

The trial trenching was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). Over the period of the ground works a suitably qualified archaeologist was on site to carry out observations and assessment of the trenches made by the excavation works.

### **Site Conditions**

The area under investigation was formerly an area of field under arable cultivation. Weather on the days of work (February 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> 2001) were overcast with showers and sunny periods.

### **Results**

An inspection of the area of excavation centred at NH 8720/7930 showed no features prior to excavation. Underlying the turf and topsoil of 25cm – 80cm (the depth of topsoil increased from trenches running east to west) was pink sandstone bedrock and yellowish marl. A total of 9 trench's totalling 880 m<sup>2</sup> were machine excavated. In some trenches evidence of heavy ploughing was evident in the form of plough scars.

No archaeological deposits or features were revealed during the course of excavations. The only finds made were some sherds of glazed Victorian pottery (not retained) in the topsoil in the trench nearest the site of the original quarry and are probably the result of rubbish being tipped around it.

### **Recommendations**

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

### **Archive**

Notebook of results to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh. A set of colour slides detailing the work has been deposited with Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

### **References**

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

Stuart Farrell  
39a Park Street  
Nairn  
Highland  
IV12 4PP

## **Appendix 1 – Details of Slides**

Slides have been deposited with Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, Inverness.

1 – View of area of excavation facing east.	21-2-01
2 – View of machining of trench 1 facing south.	21-2-01
3 – ibid.	21-2-01
4 – View of former quarry site facing west.	21-2-01
5 – View of trenches facing east.	22-2-01
6 – ibid.	22-2-01
7 – View of machining of trench 8 facing south.	22-2-01
8 – View of trenches upon completion of trenching	22-2-01



**HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

**Archaeology Unit**

**Brief for archaeological work at:  
Balaldie, by Tarbat**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

## 1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological evaluation to be carried out prior to work beginning on site. 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 information provided by Granit Union. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until August 31<sup>st</sup> 2001 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for Granit Union 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

Tender should 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 establish the presence / absence, nature, depth, extent and importance of previously unrecorded and recorded archaeological remains.
2. To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible and recording where necessary of any archaeological features of finds identified. These will be approved by the Senior Archaeologist.
3. To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development.

## 5. Method

♣ A desk-based assessment will be carried out, utilising aerial photographs, NMR, SRO, National Map Library, Highland Council Archives and SMR, any locally held private archives.

♣ A survey will be made of the areas identified on the attached plan, using a walk over survey of the area to enable identification of any upstanding remains, from any period, including modern. All individual features to be recorded on a 1:2500 plan.

♣ Trial trenches will be excavated at locations to be proposed to provide a sample of the total site area. A sample of at least 5% of the area must be evaluated. The location of these trenches must be accurately located on the aforementioned 1:2500 plan.

♣ 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.

♣ The report must propose appropriate arrangements for the safeguarding where possible or recording where necessary of any objects or features identified by this evaluation.

## **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 Area Planning Manager and the Senior Archaeologist.
- 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**

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

- I. One paper copy for the applicant.
- 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 97 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 3 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.**

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 trial trenches and archaeological features noted. The scale plans must accurately locate the trial trenches within the development area.
5. A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location
6. Details of any measures proposed to mitigate the impact of the application on the archaeological resource.
7. 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.
8. General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project
9. 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.

## **8. 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.

## **9. 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.

## **10. 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.

Dorothy M Low  
February 2001