

WATCHING BRIEF AND
RESCUE EXCAVATION
AT TAVERN LANE, SORTROSE



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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An archaeological watching brief, leading to a rescue excavation, was carried out in accordance with a specification by the Archaeological Unit of the Highland Council Planning and Development Service (appended) on the site of a new house being built by BIC Construction Ltd. in Tavern Lane, Fortrose, Ross-shire.

The site is located at NH 7259 5660, within the conservation area of the mediaeval town of Fortrose, and just over 100 metres from the Cathedral. (Figs. 1, 2 and 3). It lies on the north-east side of Tavern Lane, behind a derelict house (marked as 'STORE' on the location plan Fig. 3), which itself is separated by a narrow courtyard from the back of the building at no. 31 High Street. Prior to the commencement of building work, the site was garden ground, with a number of trees, which were cut down about two years ago. The derelict house, reputed locally to be the oldest still roofed building on the Black Isle, has the date 1683 and the initials IR carved on one lintel, and has been constructed in at least two phases, with the ground floor bonded with clay and the upper storey with lime mortar. Before work began on the new house site in the garden, a cobbled area immediately outside the old house was removed by the builders and replaced with a tarred surface for car parking (Fig. 3).

The watching brief took place on Wednesday 24th. January 2001, while the builders excavated the foundation trench for the house. Prior to this, they had already stripped by machine a roughly rectangular area, within which the actual foundation trench was to be cut. The area was supposed to have been stripped only of topsoil, but in fact the machine had gone deeper than this and had gone down well into the natural sand all over the site, to depths varying from 11cm to 20cm. (Plate 1). During the removal of the topsoil, the builders had discovered a pit full of old bottles (e.g. a 19th. century local ginger beer bottle); this does not appear to have penetrated the natural.

Over the whole site, the layers (other than within archaeological features) consisted of:

layer 1: very black, humus-rich garden soil, with practically no stones, varying in depth from about 30 cm. in the south-east of the site, adjacent to the car-parking area (former cobbled area) to at least 70 cm. in the north-west.

layer 2: brown sandy soil, with some roots, and with very few stones, varying in depth from 20 cm. to 35 cm.

layer 3: orange natural sand, with some lenses of darker or lighter colour.

(It is claimed locally that the great depth of rich topsoil here and elsewhere in the town has come from soil from the continent used as ballast in ships).

No features could be seen before the cutting of the foundation trench began, as the area was covered in spread topsoil and machine tracks. As the digger excavated the foundation trench, it cut through two features in the north-west of the site, to a depth of about 35 cm. No further features were seen in the rest of the foundation trench, so, when it was completed, work began on cleaning the area surrounding the two features, in the course of which a third feature was discovered, lying just outside the foundation trench and immediately adjacent to F2 (plate 2; fig. 4). All three features appeared to be pits, and since two of them had been disturbed by the digger and the third was very vulnerable because of its position (only about 10 cm from the edge of the foundation trench and therefore liable to disturbance when the

builders started work in this section of the trench), it was decided to excavate all three features.

Excavation began on Thursday 25th. January and continued till Friday 2nd. February with one day off (a total of eight days). Weather conditions during the whole period were generally good, with frost overnight, but mainly dry and calm, sometimes sunny and not particularly cold during the day, with the exception of Thursday 1st. February, when it was wet all day, the rain in the afternoon being so heavy that all work on the site had to stop. Because of the time of year, the hours which could effectively be worked on site were limited by the light. The excavation was carried out very much as a rescue excavation, with building work continuing on the site throughout, and the sequence of excavation was planned to avoid causing delay to the builders.

Feature 1

The upper part of F1 had already been cut by the foundation trench (plate 3; fig. 4). It was sectioned west - east (fig. 4, section line AB), and the south half excavated. The lower part of the pit was very narrow, and at a depth of about 1.20 m it became impossible to maintain the section; the northern half was then removed as well, and excavation proceeded downwards in both halves to the bottom at 1.60 m. (plate 5; fig. 6).

The fill of the pit contained the following layers (plate 4; fig. 5):

layer 1/4: brown, rather clayey soil, with roots, and practically no stones. Finds from this layer consisted of animal bone, charcoal, shell, two sherds of mediaeval pottery, a fragment of bronze and a coin (a mediaeval silver penny).

layer 1/5: grey, clayey soil, with some roots, no stones, becoming more clayey and sticky at the very bottom. Finds comprised animal bone, shell, charcoal and a fragment of white stone, possibly chert (not worked).

layer 1/6: mixture of sand and grey clayey soil, possibly formed by the disintegration of a piece of sandstone.

The pit reached a depth of 1.60 m below the level in the natural sand to which the site had been stripped by machine prior to the excavation of the foundation trench, but this level was, over the whole site, from 10 to 20 cm below the top of the natural sand, and in the side nearest to the pits it was about 18 cm below. Thus another 18 cm must be added to the depth of the pit to find the depth to which it was originally cut into the natural, i.e. about 1.78 m., which means it is likely to have reached a depth of at least 2 m below the original ground surface.

The pit was about 80 cm diameter at the top, narrowing gradually to about 30 cm diameter at a depth of about 90 cm below the top as excavated, and gradually narrowing further to about

23 cm diameter in the bottom. This combination of depth and small diameter raises a question as to how the pit was dug in the first place, as it was extremely hard to excavate; there was so little room that it was difficult to extract the relatively soft fill, and it would have been much harder to dig out the natural sand in the first place.

It seems unlikely that a pit with such steep sides cut through sand could have been left standing open for any length of time, since there was no trace of collapse of the sides. It is possible that it might have been shored up with wood or wattle, but no trace of this was found.

The function of the pit is uncertain. The finds suggest that while some rubbish did find its way into the pit, the volume of rubbish is not sufficient for it to have been a rubbish pit as such, and the absence of any evidence for shoring (although it might have existed and decayed without trace) makes it doubtful whether the pit was left open for long. None of the finds gives any clue as to any other use for the pit. One possibility might be a well; although there was no water in it, the soil at the very bottom was damp and clayey, and the water table might have been lowered since mediaeval times by subsequent drainage of the area for building. However, the diameter in the lower half of the pit seems rather small for this, particularly if there was also some form of shoring reducing it further. Another possibility is that the pit was dug for the extraction of sand for some purpose (building? glass-making?) and very quickly back-filled. If an area round the pit had first been stripped to the level of the natural sand, the pit need only have been dug from this level and not right down from the old ground surface, thus overcoming some of the difficulty of digging to such a depth with such a narrow diameter. This would not explain, of course, why sand was extracted with such labour from such a depth, instead of from wider, shallower pits, or from the surface of the natural. The date of the pit is probably mediaeval, since all the dateable finds from it are mediaeval. More exact dating is not possible at present, but it is hoped that a *terminus post quem* can be obtained from the coin (a Scottish silver penny) if it can be more precisely identified after specialist cleaning and conservation. The sherds of pottery are small, undiagnostic body sherds which cannot be precisely dated.

Feature 2

The upper part of F2 had already been cut by the foundation trench (plate 6; fig. 4). Although the SW - NE section thus created passed to the west of the centre of the pit, it was decided to use it as the section for excavation, in order to avoid having a stepped section, which would have been the result if a true diameter had been used for the section, since any diameter would have been partly across the area of the pit already removed to a depth of about 35 cm by the digger. In fact this turned out to be the wrong decision, because of the great depth of the pit and the gradient of its base, which sloped down considerably towards the edge opposite the section; however, these could not have been predicted in advance. Unfortunately, cleaning and straightening of the very uneven section cut by the toothed bucket of the digger moved it still further towards the western edge of the pit (fig. 4, section line CD). The eastern portion of the pit was excavated, until the bottom was reached at a depth of 1.40 m. Since the base of

the pit was sloping down away from the section, the remaining material was sectioned NW - SE (fig. 4, section line EF) and the southern half excavated, the bottom being reached at a depth of up to 2 m below the top as excavated (plate 10; figs. 9 and 10). There was unfortunately not time to excavate the northern half, or to remove the western portion of the main SW - NE section.

The fill of the pit contained the following layers (plate 9; fig. 8):

layer 2/4: greyish-brown rather clayey soil, with many quite large roots. At a depth of about 45 cm some large stones appeared, with concentrations of charcoal amongst them, and some black clayey patches (possibly old turves) (plate 7; fig. 7). Finds from this layer comprised charcoal, two fragments of iron, both found adhering to stones, and a fragment of shell.

layer 2/5: brown soil, with many roots, and a few medium-sized stones. Finds comprised five sherds of mediaeval pottery, a fragment of iron, a fragment of burnt bone, a large flat dressed stone, two flat rounded stones which might be cobbles, and some charcoal.

layer 2/6: orange-brown gravelly sand, with roots, occurring as a lens within layer 2/5, probably consisting of natural sand mixed with soil and redeposited (plate 8). No finds.

layer 2/7: black clayey soil, with roots. Finds comprised two sherds of mediaeval pottery, two fragments of iron, a fragment of burnt bone and some charcoal.

The pit was about 1.40 m diameter at the top, with fairly steep sides, narrowing to 1.15 m at the bottom. The base of the pit sloped down from about 1.40 m depth on the north-west side to 2 m on the south-east. As with F1, the original surface of the natural sand through which the pit had been cut lay about 18 cm above the level to which the site had been stripped and from which excavation commenced, so this must be added to the depth of the pit, giving an original depth below the natural of about 1.58 m to 2.18 m, plus probably an unknown amount to the original ground surface. Unlike F1, the width of the pit means that there would have been no particular difficulty in digging to this depth.

The function of the pit is uncertain. It contains even less 'rubbish' than F1 - no bone apart from two tiny fragments of burnt bone, and only one fragment of shell. Its steep sides cut through sand make it unlikely to have been left standing open for any length of time, as there was no evidence of any collapse of the sides having taken place. It is possible that it was shored with planking or wattle, but if so, no trace of this has survived. Fairly large roots were growing right down to the bottom of the pit (plate 8), and they tended to follow the curve of the pit's sides, so they may have obscured any traces.

The most notable features of the pit are the sloping form of its base (fig. 10), the charcoal and iron fragments found throughout, and the concentration of charcoal and large stones, with black clayey patches which are possibly old turves, in the bottom of layer 2/4 (plate 7; fig 7). No explanation has occurred so far for the sloping base, and I am not aware of any parallels; the natural sand does not appear to be any softer on the deeper side, so it is unlikely that the pit was dug to this shape by accident.

The presence of charcoal throughout suggests that debris from burning was being deposited in the pit; this might be the result of clearance after an accidental fire (not uncommon in mediaeval wooden houses), or it might be from some industrial process. Debris from burning of some sort on the old ground surface above also seems the most likely explanation for the stones, charcoal and probable turves in layer 2/4. The stones were not in a setting in the pit but simply occurred through a depth of about 35 cm. in the lower part of layer 2/4, associated with concentrations of charcoal. Only one stone showed any trace of burning, so they are unlikely to have been part of a hearth. None of the iron fragments from the pit have been identified as yet, although one of the pieces found adhering to a stone in layer 2/4 seems to be a nail. There is no evidence of metal-working, and it seems likely that the iron fragments are part of the remains of some burnt object or building which have been thrown into the pit.

A tentative explanation might be that a nearby building burned down and its remains were cleared into the pit, including wood (charcoal) and nails, plus stones from the wall-footings. Turves from the old ground surface may also have been thrown into the pit, if the ground on which the building had stood were being cleared completely for new construction to take place. Of course, this begs the question of whether the pit was dug for this purpose, or whether it was conveniently standing empty and was made use of in this way. One possibility is that the pit was dug for some other reason (sand extraction? see discussion of F1) and was deliberately back-filled, some of the material being thrown in being fire debris which had been on the old ground surface; this explanation accords well with the existence of layer 2/6, a lens of redeposited natural sand within layer 2/5, which looks as if it has been thrown in from the north side of the pit.

Dating evidence for the pit is based on the fact that the only dateable finds are the sherds of mediaeval pottery, although they cannot be precisely dated..

Feature 3

F3, situated very close to the edge of the foundation trench, and to the edge of the pit F2 (plate 11; fig.4), was sectioned SW - NE (fig. 4, section line GH) and initially the north-west half was excavated. At a depth of 60 cm the section became impossible to maintain due to the narrowness of the pit, so the south-east half was also removed, and excavation continued downwards in both halves to the bottom at 80 cm. (fig.12).

The fill of the pit consisted of the following layers (plate 12; fig. 11):

layer 3/4: dark brown, clayey soil, containing patches of black clayey soil, probably old turves. Finds from this layer comprised two fragments of iron, and a tiny fragment of bronze.

layer 3/5: a lens of light brown, sandy soil, in the top of layer 3/4; probably soil with an admixture of natural sand. No finds.

layer 3/6: greyish-brown sandy soil. No finds.

The pit was about 60 cm wide at the top, narrowing to about 32 cm at the bottom, with the north-east side sloping down less steeply than the south-west. As with F1 and F2, another 18 cm must be added to the depth, to account for the difference in level between the original top of the natural sand and the level to which the area had been stripped by the builders; this gives a depth for the pit of about 98 cm. below the surface of the natural.

It is not possible to be certain about the function of the pit, but the size suggests a post-hole. A large flat stone in the very bottom of the pit may have been a pad-stone to support a wooden post. None of the finds are dateable at present, but they do not seem incompatible with a mediaeval date, and there was nothing to suggest a more recent date.

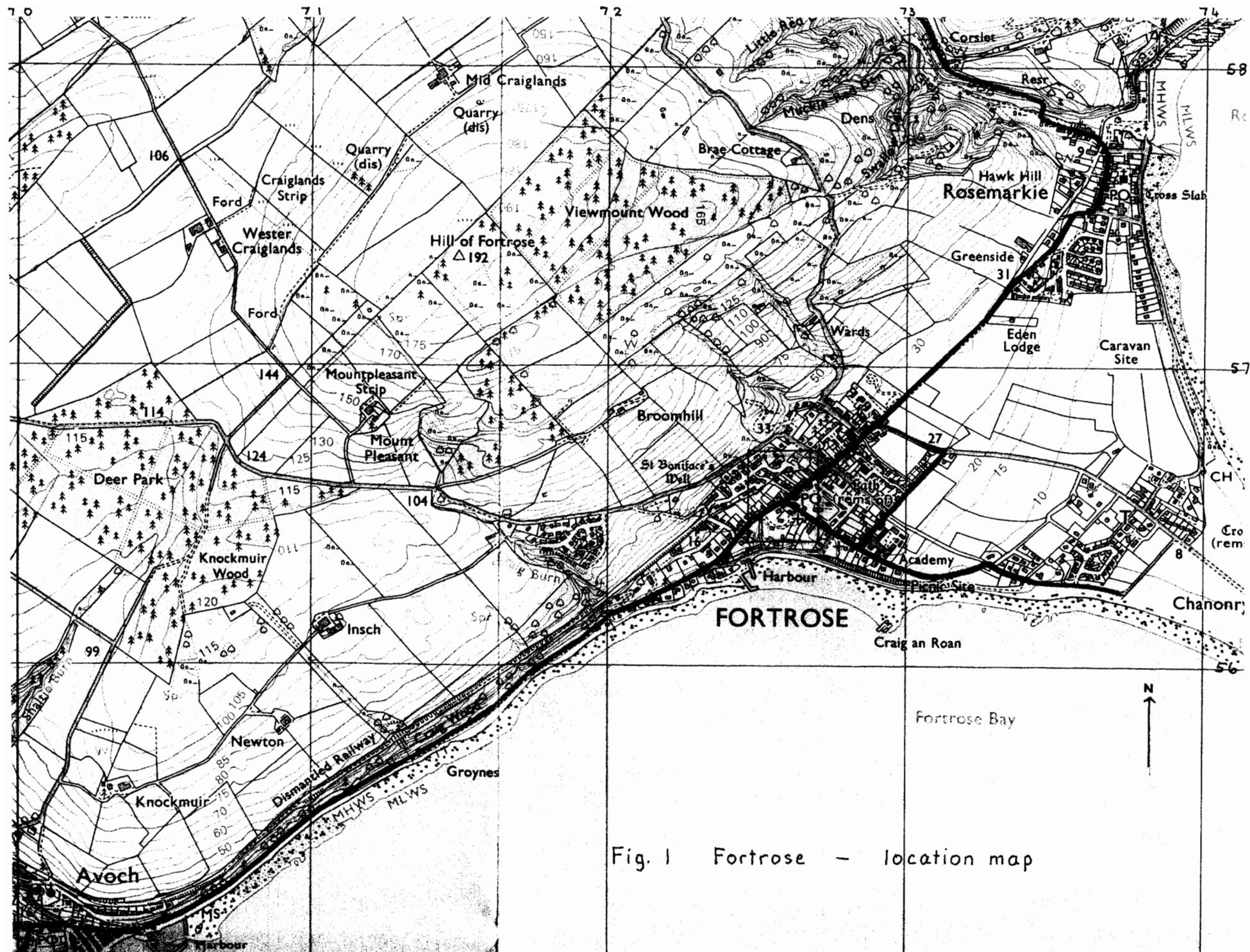
Conclusion

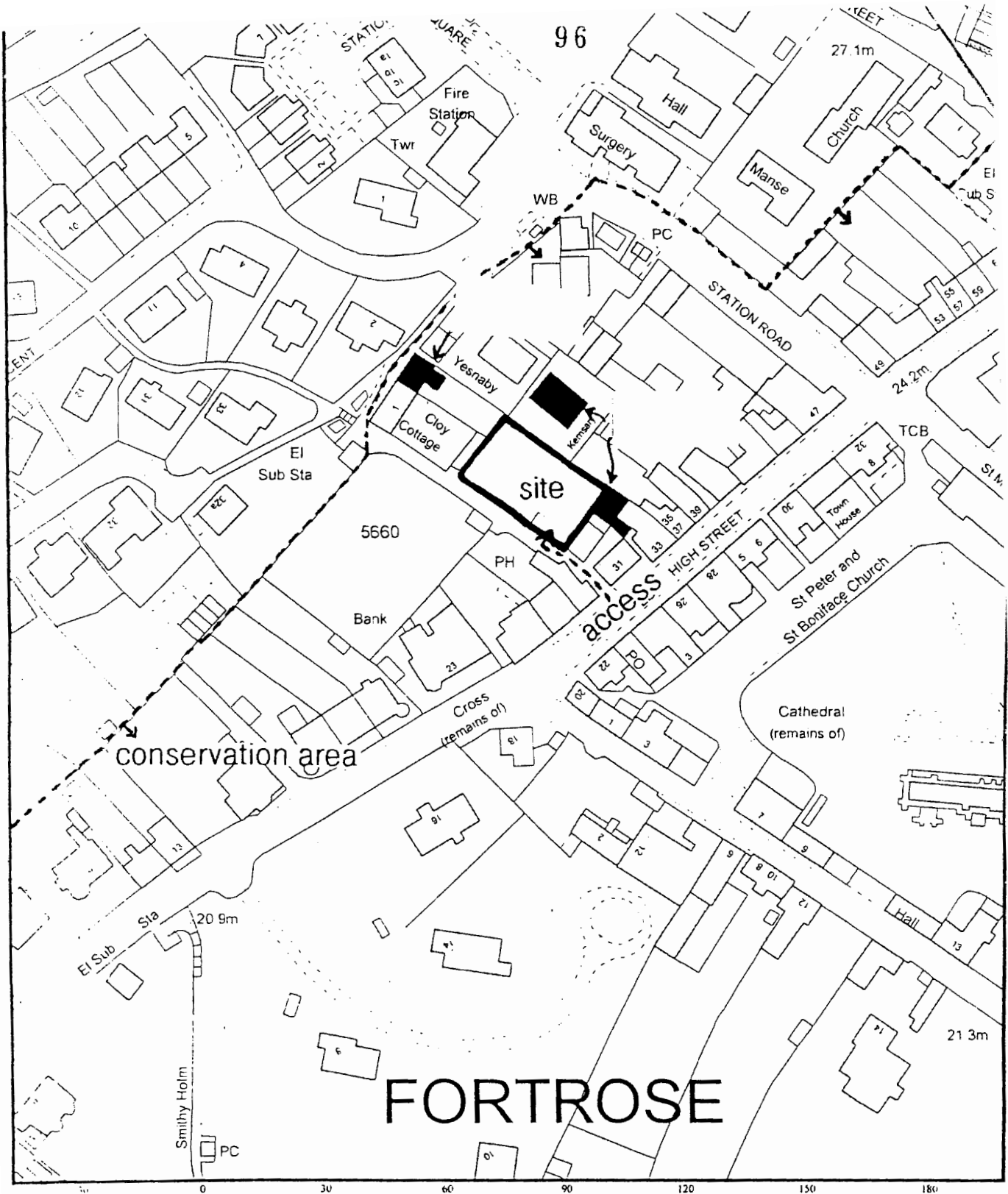
There is no definite evidence for the function and purpose of any of the features on the site, nor for their relationship to each other, although F2 and F3 are so close together (less than 10 cm apart) that they are unlikely to be exactly contemporary, and one is likely to have been filled before the other was dug, although there is no way of knowing which is earlier, and there need not be a long time between them. If F3 is a post-hole, as seems likely, we have no indication of what building or structure it was part, and in which direction other post-holes may lie.


Dating evidence for the site is based at present mainly on the finds of mediaeval pottery from F1 and F2, and of the coin from F1. The coin is mediaeval; it is hoped that closer dating will be possible after specialist cleaning and conservation. The pottery, consisting mainly of undiagnostic body sherds, cannot provide an exact date, but the presence of probably fairly locally made pottery may indicate a date not before the early 14th. century.

If a mediaeval date is accepted for the pits, they will have no connection with the 17th. century house in whose former garden they lie. Their place within the mediaeval town is also uncertain. Manses for the canons of the Cathedral were situated along the old High Street, facing the Cathedral (the modern High Street runs behind them), and the site of the pits would appear to lie approximately 75 m behind (west of) the Treasurer's manse (when projected on to W. Geddie's plan of the Cathedral and manses, replicated in MacDowall (1963; facing p. 29). Whether they are actually within the plot of land belonging to this manse is not clear.

The only definite conclusion which can be reached is that there is quite substantial evidence for mediaeval activity on the site, and it is recommended that any construction or other works in the area which go beneath the topsoil should be carefully monitored, preferably with an opportunity for archaeological investigation preceding disturbance of the subsoil. It is also recommended that the 17th. house adjacent to the site be recorded before it is renovated by the developers.








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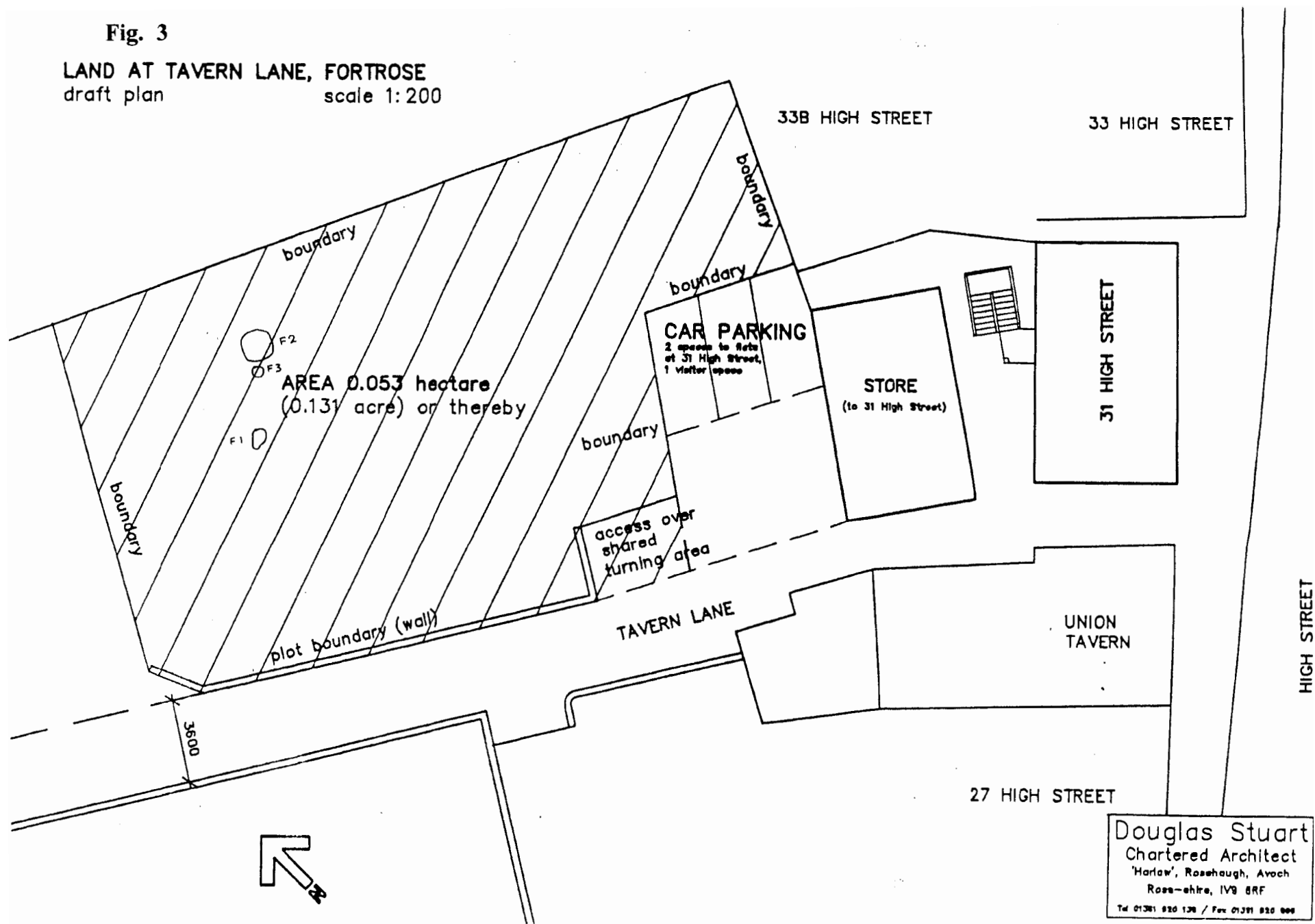
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Fig. 2

Fig. 3

LAND AT TAVERN LANE, FORTROSE
draft plan scale 1:200



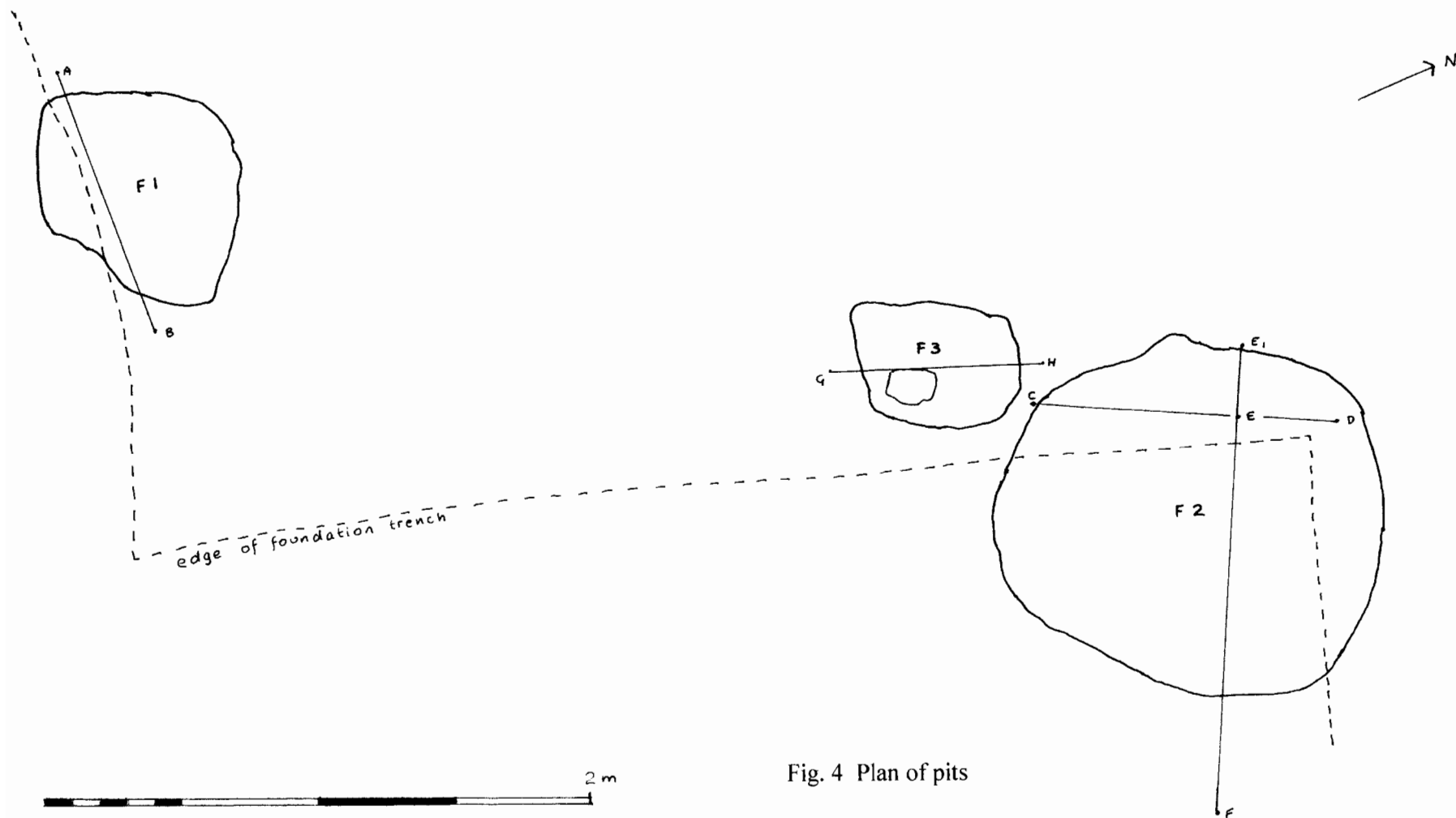


Fig. 4 Plan of pits

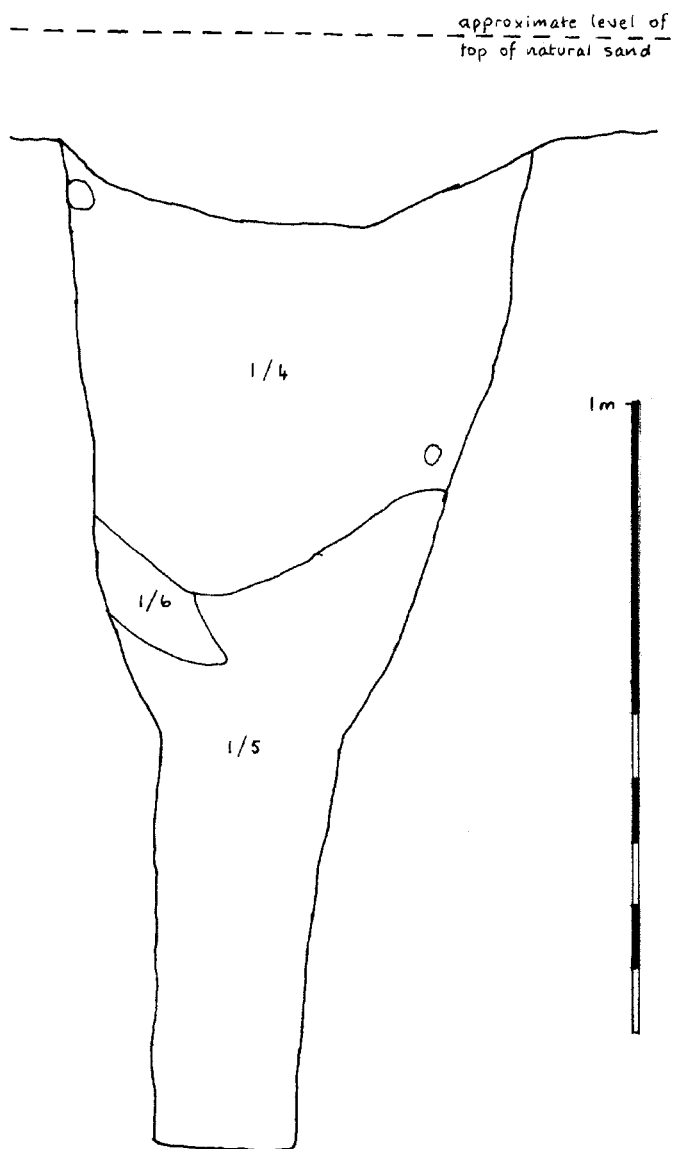


Fig. 5 F1: section of pit

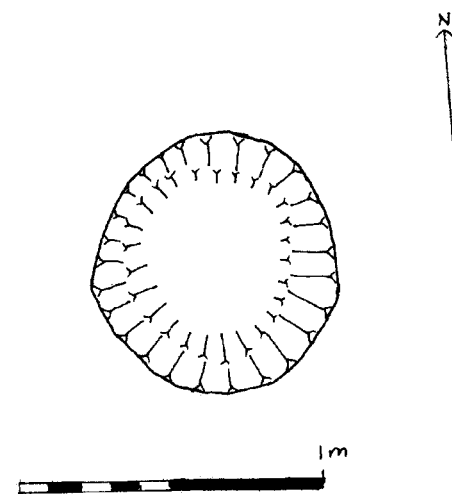


Fig. 6 F1: plan of pit, excavated

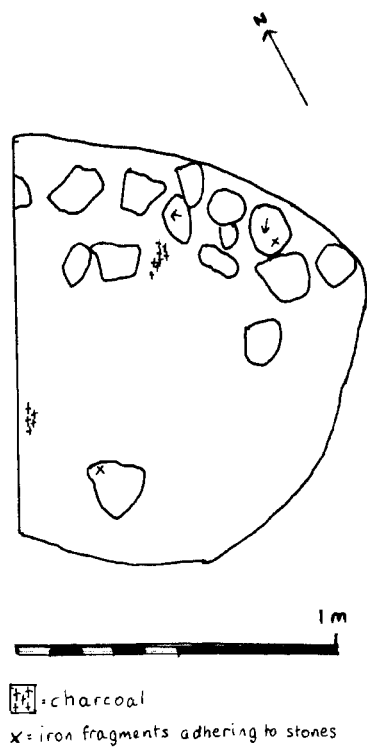


Fig. 7 F2: plan of stones in layer 2/4

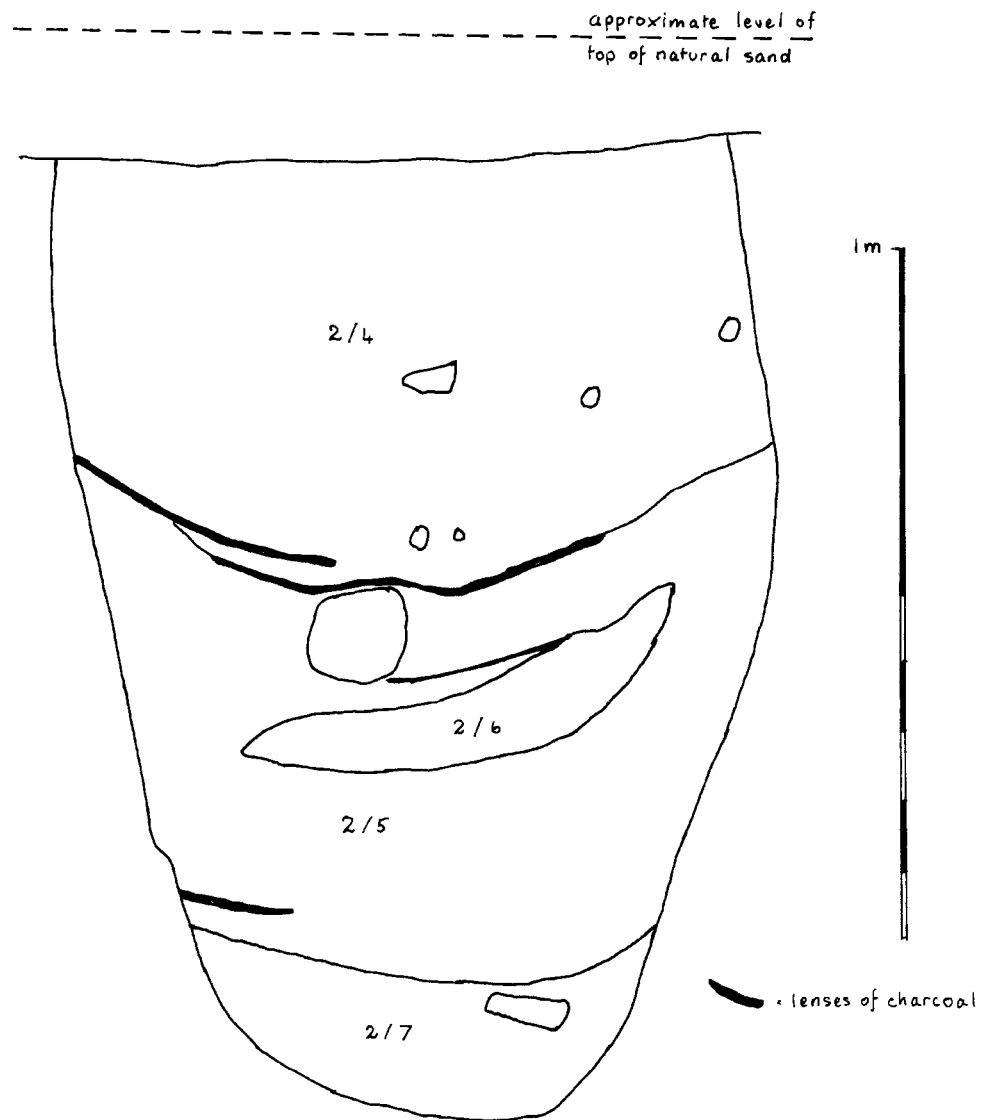


Fig. 8 F2: section of pit

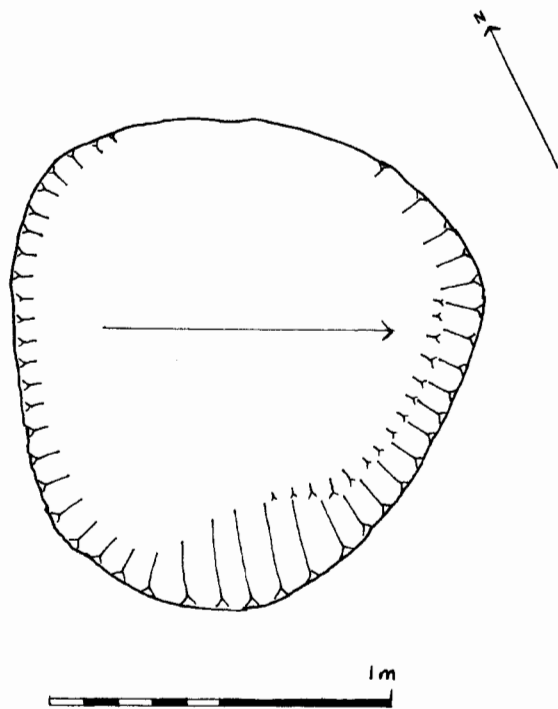


Fig.9 F2: plan of pit, excavated

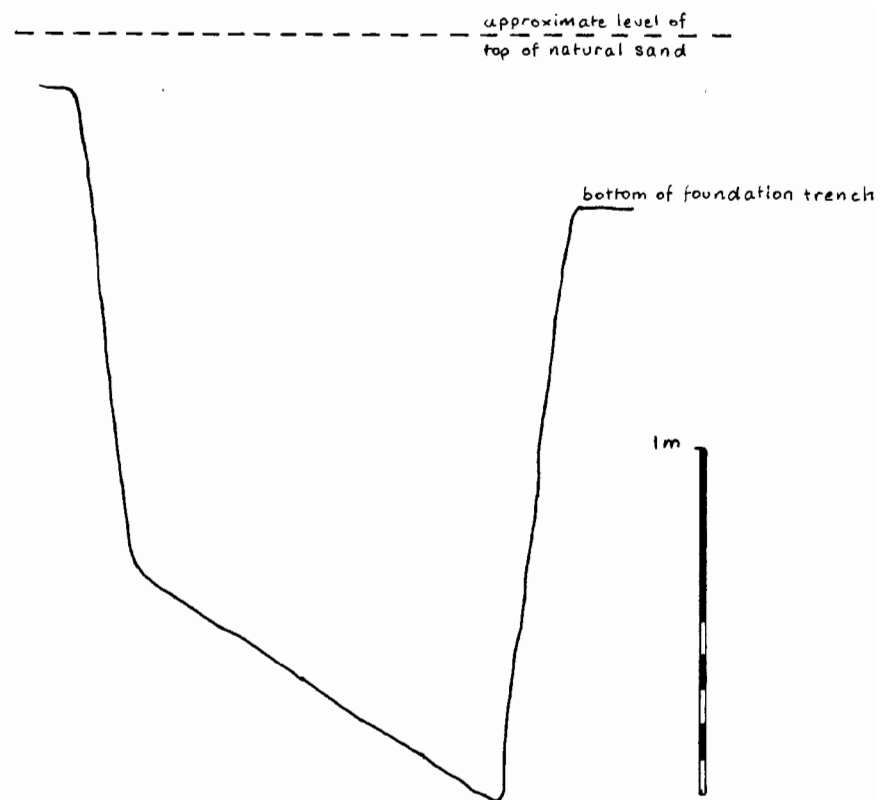


Fig. 10 F2: NW – SE profile of pit

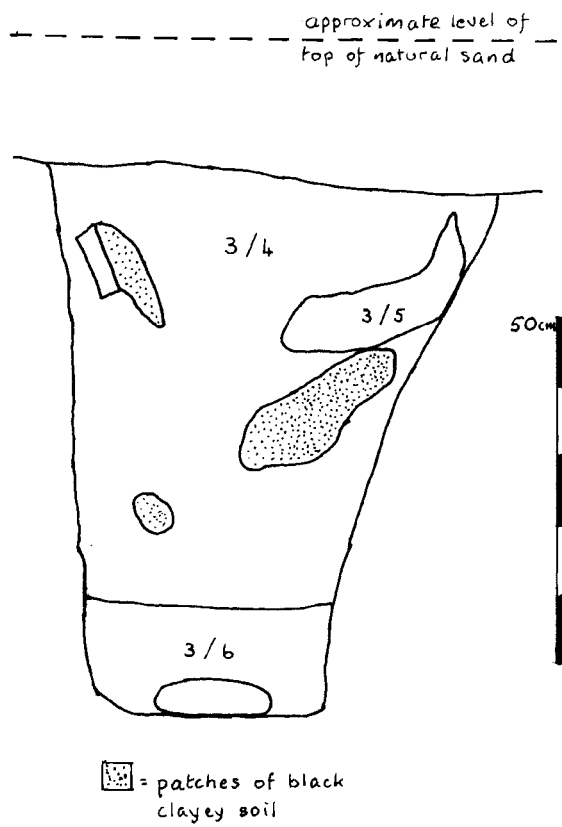


Fig. 11 F3: section of pit

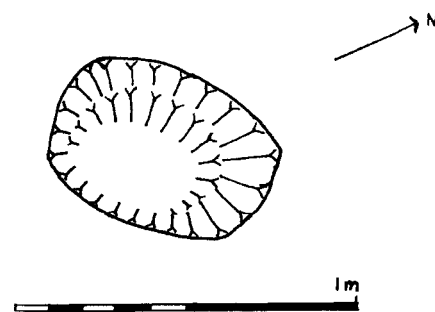


Fig. 12 F3: plan of pit, excavated

PLATES



Plate 1: NW side of building plot
showing layers removed
by machine



Plate 2: Area of pits cleaned,
showing F1 and F2 cut
by foundation trench



Plate 3: F1 before excavation



Plate 4: F1: section at c. 1 m depth



Plate 5: F1: pit excavated to bottom in south half



Plate 6: F2 before excavation



Plate 7: F2: stones in layer 2/4



Plate 8: F2 during excavation, sectioned NW - SE, showing stones in layer 2/4, and layers 2/5 and 2/6 below

Plate 9: F2: section



Plate 10: F2: pit excavated to bottom
in south segment





Plate 11: F3 before excavation



Plate 12: F3: section

The Finds

With the exception of the items mentioned below which are being cleaned and conserved in Inverness Museum, all finds are at present in the hands of the excavator, pending their reporting as treasure trove and the decisions which will then be made as to their ultimate destination. Financial constraints have prevented specialist reports being prepared on the finds, with the partial exception of the pottery.

Bone: A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from F1; it appears to consist partly of fragments of bones from food species (e.g. long-bones of ?ox) and partly of long-bones and one piece of vertebra from smaller species, plus one bird's leg-bone. Two tiny fragments of calcined bone from F2 (layers 2/5 and 2/7) are unidentifiable.

Shell: Most of the shell recovered from F1 appears to be oyster, but there are two fragments of what look like mussel shell from layer 1/5. The single shell from F2, layer 2/4, found adhering to a stone along with a fragment of iron, is probably oyster.

Charcoal: Charcoal was recovered from both F1 and F2. It has not been possible to determine the tree species. Layer 1/5 in F1 yielded only a few tiny fragments of indeterminate shape, but all other contexts (F1, layer 1/4; F2, layers 2/4, 2/5 and 2/7) included pieces which seemed to be from planks or worked pieces of wood.

Stone: An unworked, sharply fractured fragment (c. 18mm x 8 mm x 10mm) of a white stone which may be chert was recovered from layer 1/5 in F1. Layer 2/5 of F2 produced two large, rounded, flat stones which may have been cobbles. From the same context came a piece of worked masonry: a roughly rectangular fragment, approximately 25cm x 12cm x 5cm, with right-angled corners.

Metal

Silver: A silver coin was found in layer 1/4 of F1. It measures approximately 2cm in diameter. One side bears a design of a cross, extending right to the edges, with an inner circle containing circular pellets; the other side is indecipherable. The poor condition of the coin suggests that it is either made of a rather poor silver alloy, or else that it has suffered severe abrasion. The coin has been identified by Patricia Weeks of Inverness Museum as a Scottish long cross silver penny; these were in currency roughly from the mid-13th. century onwards to the 16th. century, although the nature of the design on this example suggests an earlier rather than a later date. The coin is presently being cleaned and conserved at Inverness Museum, and it is hoped that it may be possible, when this process is completed, to see what is on the obverse and identify the king concerned, thus enabling closer dating of the coin, and giving a

better terminus post quem for its context.

Bronze: A bronze bar, approximately 30mm long x 3mm wide x 1mm thick, was recovered from layer 1/4 of F1. Possibly part of a brooch or buckle, it is presently being cleaned and conserved at Inverness Museum.

From F3, layer 3/4, came a tiny fragment of bronze, approximately 3mm in diameter, globular in shape and hollow, with a small opening. It too is being cleaned and conserved at Inverness Museum.

Iron: Fragments of iron were found in layers 2/4, 2/5 and 2/7 of F2 and in layer 3/4 of F3. All are severely corroded and identification of the objects they represent is difficult. The two small pieces from layer 2/5 are flat and plate-like; the others are all rather cylindrical in shape, and the piece from layer 3/4 and one of the two pieces from layer 2/4 look like nails. Financial constraints have prevented the iron objects from being sent for specialist cleaning and conservation which might enable them to be properly identified; there was no urgent need for immediate conservation, as they all seem to be stable at present.

Pottery

While all the pottery sherds recovered were definitely of mediaeval date, all but one were small, undiagnostic body or base sherds, making identification difficult. Fabric analysis was carried out by microscopic examination, and three different fabrics were found. The description of the characteristics of the fabrics is based on current practice as summarized in Orton et al. (1993), with the changes and additions adopted for the Perth High Street pottery fabric analysis report (publication forthcoming; presently in the hands of Historic Scotland).

Fabric A

Smooth to slightly harsh feel. Fairly even fracture.

Exterior surface light red 2.5YR 6/8; pinkish grey 5YR 6/2; reddish yellow 5YR 6/8.

Interior surface light red 2.5YR 6/8; reddish yellow 5YR 6/8; light brown 7.5YR 6/4

Core light red 2.5YR 6/8; reddish yellow 5YR 7/8; light brown 7.5YR 6/4 with streaks of reddish yellow 5YR 6/6

Quartz: sparse to moderate, (very fine) - fine to medium - (coarse), clear and white

Mica: present to sparse, very fine to fine

Black ferromagnesian minerals: present, very fine to fine

Red iron oxide: occasionally present, fine

Rock fragments: present, fine to coarse, most from igneous or metamorphic rocks containing quartz, mica and sometimes another ferromagnesian mineral; one possible fragment of quartzite.

Sherds in this fabric came from F2, layers 2/5 and 2/7, and the small crumb of pottery from F1, layer 1/4 probably belongs to this type as well. The material from F2, layer 2/5 comprises three body sherds, all with traces of very abraded glazing, and one unglazed base sherd. One of the body sherds has a small circular hole drilled through it. The material from layer 2/7 comprises one body sherd with very abraded glaze and one unglazed base sherd.

This fabric must be of a fairly local origin, as it is the same as that identified as local from excavations in Inverness (MacAskill 1983). Most of the sherds are probably MacAskill's sub-type A1, while the one reduced (or less oxidized) sherd, with lenses of different coloured clay, (from layer 2/7), is probably his sub-type A3. The appearance of the fabric in Inverness is dated by MacAskill to the early to mid-14th. century.

Fabric B

Harsh feel. Irregular fracture.

Exterior surface and exterior margin weak red 2.5YR 5/2; light red 2.5YR 6/8

Interior surface reddish yellow 5YR 7/6

Interior margin light red 2.5YR 6/8

Core light reddish brown 2.5YR 6/4

Quartz: sparse, very fine to medium, clear and white

Mica: present, very fine to coarse

Black ferromagnesian minerals: sparse, very fine to fine

Red iron oxide: present, fine

Calcium carbonate: present, fine to medium

Rock fragments: present, medium to coarse

Felspar may also be present.

There is one glazed body sherd in this fabric, from F1, layer 1/4. It has not been identified, but it resembles fabric 66 from Perth High Street and may be from eastern England.

Fabric C

Smooth feel. Fairly even fracture.

Exterior and interior surfaces very dark grey 5YR 3/1; reddish yellow 5YR 6/6

Core very dark grey 5YR 3/1; reddish yellow 5YR 6/8

Quartz: abundant, very fine to medium

Mica: present, very fine to fine

Rock fragments: present, very coarse, probably a fine-grained metamorphic rock

There is one sherd in this fabric, a thin rim sherd from F2, layer 2/5. The rim diameter is 4cm and the beginnings of a pouring lip may be present, suggesting that the sherd is from a jug with a very narrow mouth. There are a few splashes of glaze on the interior. In the absence of more information on form or decoration, it is very difficult to identify pottery from fabric alone, where only one sherd is present, but the closest parallels to this fabric are probably from south-east England, possibly London.



Brief for archaeological work at:

TAVERN LANE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out on site ground works. It is for a *minimum* standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted. A watching brief is required due to the location of the site in the medieval village, and the accompanying potential for sub-surface remains of archaeological interest.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by planning application no. 00/00780/REMRC. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until July 31st 2001 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for the applicant, 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

- The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- 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.
- 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.
- Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

7. Reporting

Project report

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, Glenquhar 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 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.

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 insurance.
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 Low
Archaeologist
Friday, 27 October 2000