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**Archaeological watching brief at
Garblies Farm, Auldearn.**

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*Client: Scottish Hydro-Electric
28 September 1999*



Archaeological watching brief at Garblies Farm, Auldearn

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Summary

This report contains the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out in connection with the laying of electric powerlines in advance of housing development at Garblies Farm, Auldearn. A total of five post-holes and four service trenches were excavated to a depth of 1 m to 1.5 m but no archaeological features or finds were discovered.

INTRODUCTION

The watching brief was undertaken in connection with the laying of electric powerlines prior to the construction of a housing development at Garblies Farm, Auldearn. The site lies to the east of Auldearn and covers three fields located to the southwest of Garblies Farm house (Figure 1). The site lies within an area containing a large number of archaeological features ranging from the Neolithic to the medieval period. To the east and west of the site lie two Clava cairns at Kinstreary Cottage and Moyness. To the immediate east lies a motte believed to be medieval and a burial cairn dated to the period 1800-1600 BC while to the north lay Pencik Castle, demolished before 1869. At the centre of the watching brief area a cist was discovered in 1903 and is believed to be of a late Neolithic date. In addition recent excavations to the immediate east at Old Millar's Cottage uncovered a series of pits, a number of worked flints and a possible horse burial (Kenworthy, 1998).

The work was carried out in compliance with conditions of the planning consent (application no NA/99/79) and was executed in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Highland Council Planning and Development Service. The watching brief was undertaken on the 21st to 23rd September 1999.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to monitor all excavations and to record features of archaeological interest and finds.

METHODS

Two areas of groundbreaking were monitored during the watching brief (Figure 2):

1. Five 0.5 m wide post-holes and two 1 m by 0.5m strainer holes were excavated to a depth of approximately 1 m to 1.5 m using a JCB fitted with a toothed bucket. These ran across Area A (situated to the west of Meadowfield Farm) in a northwest to southeast direction.

2. Four 0.5 m wide service trenches, covering 350 m in total length, were excavated to a depth of approximately 1 m using a JCB fitted with a toothed bucket.

- The first was situated within Area A running roughly east to west along the side of a wooded embankment.
- The second was situated within Area B running from northwest to southeast along the south edge of the road.

- The last two were situated within Area C, the third running northwest to southeast along the north side of the road just within the field boundary and the fourth aligned roughly northeast to southwest parallel to a stone track running down the centre of the field.

RESULTS

The weather throughout the watching brief was generally dry and sunny with only the occasional rain shower on the last day with no problems arising. No archaeologically significant deposits or features were identified in the base or sides of the excavated areas.

Topsoil consisted of dark brown silty loam down to a depth ranging from 100 mm to 500 mm. Subsoil was light brown sand containing a high percentage of large rounded gravel and boulders with the occasional inclusion of pink to grey silty clay.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological features were identified during the course of the watching brief. No further analysis or reporting is therefore required. A short summary report of the work will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

REFERENCES

Kenworthy, J. 1998. *Report on the archaeological evaluation of a proposed house site near Kinsteary house, Auldearn, Nairnshire, June - August 1998*

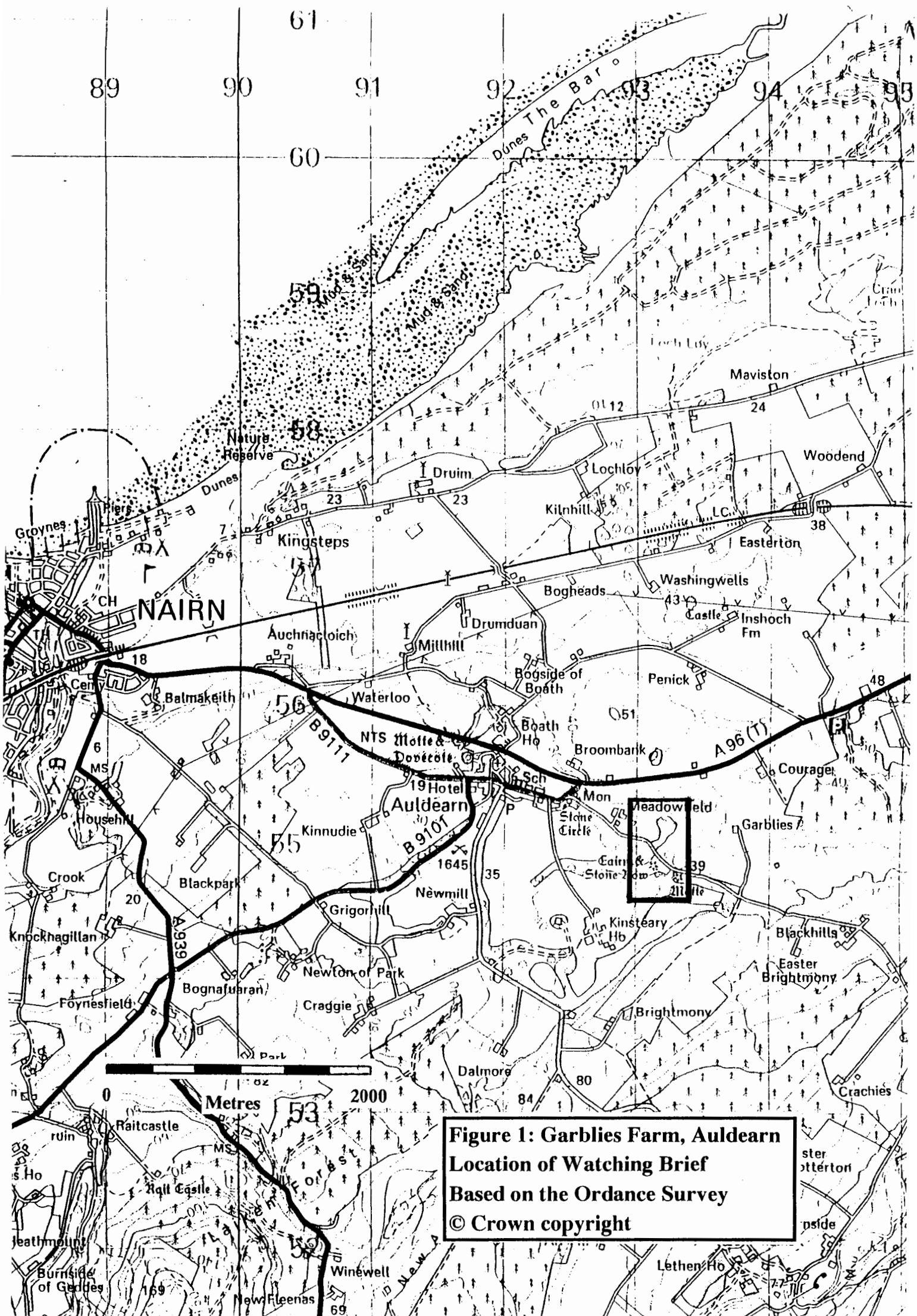


Figure 1: Garblies Farm, Auldearn
Location of Watching Brief
Based on the Ordnance Survey
© Crown copyright

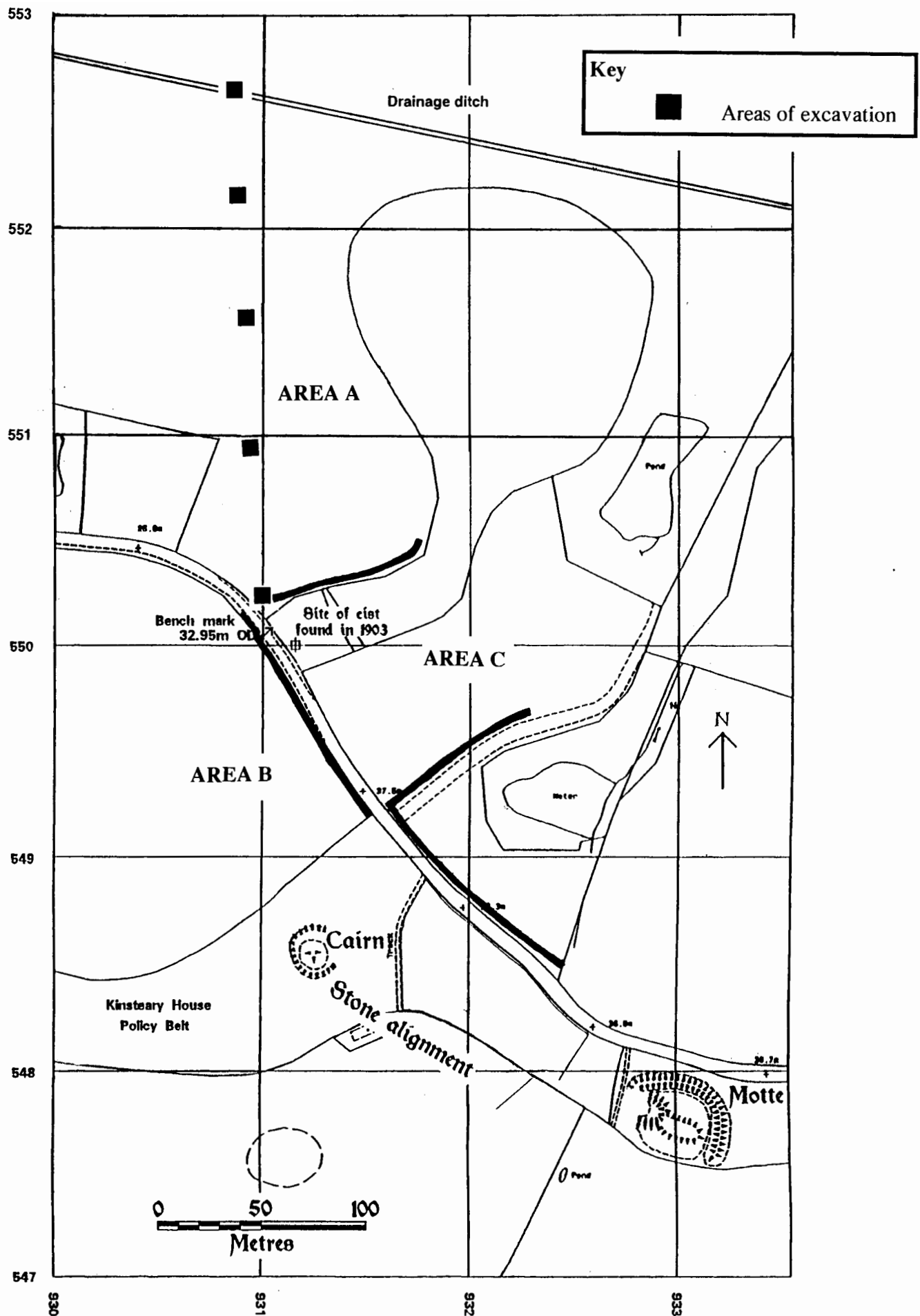


Figure 2: Garblies Farm, Auldearn

The immediate area of the site, showing the location of service trenches, post-holes and archaeological features.

Scale 1:2500

APPENDIX 1

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

**Brief for archaeological work at:
GARBLIES FARM**

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 planning application no. NA/99/79. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until December 1999 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for Scottish Hydro Electric 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 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: Scottish Hydro Electric, 10 Dunkeld Road, Perth
- II. One paper copy for the Area Planning and Building Control Manager, Highland council, High Street, Nairn
- 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 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. 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. 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.

Dorothy Low
Archaeologist
Friday, 18 June 1999

APPENDIX 2

Slide No	Area No	Description	Facing
1	A	Excavation of Posthole 4	North
2	A	Post-excavation view of Posthole 4	West
3	A	Excavation of Trench 1	Northeast
4	B	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	Northwest
5	B	Post-excavation view of Trench 2	Southeast
6	C	Excavation of Trench 3	Southeast
7	C	Excavation of Trench 3	Southeast
8	C	Excavation of Trench 3	Southeast
9	C	Excavation of Trench 3	Southeast
10	A	General of Area A	North
11	A	General of Area A	East
12	A	General of Area A	South
13	A	General of Area A	Northeast
14	A	View of wooded bank to east of Area A	South
15	B	General of northwest end of Area B	East
16	B	General of northwest end of Area B and showing south end of wooded bank	East
17	C	General of Area C	Northwest
18	C	General of Area C	Northeast
19	C	General of Area C	Northeast
20	C	General of Area C	North
21	-	General of the surrounding area	North
22	-	General of the surrounding area	West
23	-	General of the surrounding area	Northwest
24	-	General of the surrounding area	Northeast
25	-	General of surrounding area	South

Slide No	Area No	Description	Facing
26	-	General of surrounding area showing wooded bank east of Area A	Southeast
27	A	General of Area A	South
28	A	General of Area A	Northeast
29	A	View of Wooded bank	Northeast
30	A	General of Area A showing powerline	North
31	A	General of Area A showing powerline	North
32	A	General of Area A showing powerline	North
33	A	General of Area A showing powerline	North
34	A	General of Area A showing powerline	Northeast
35	A	General of Area A showing powerline	Northeast
36	A	General of Area A showing pole 4	Northeast
37	A	General of Area A showing powerline	North