

NEW FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT Year 1997 / 8

Proposer: John Wood, Highland Archaeologist
Site Name: Kinbeachie
Region: Highland District: Ross and Cromarty
NGR: NH 626624 NMRS No. (Not recorded)
Legal Status: ~~Scheduled / In-Care / Unscheduled / Listed~~

What is the site? has any work been done on it recently?

Neolithic and Bronze Age material is being recovered from ploughed fields at Kinbeachie. However fieldwalking and limited trial excavations have so far failed to establish the extent and character of the site.

Why is the project proposed?

There is a need to establish the nature and extent of the archaeological features here, especially as the farmer, Mr. Fraser, is very interested in the site and is ploughing deeper deliberately to bring material to the surface. It has proved impossible to persuade him to stop.

When will any threat materialise? Can it be averted? What would this cost?

The site is currently subject to ploughing erosion. A number of pits have also apparently been dug by the farmer to investigate for himself. However these have not been excavated archaeologically and no records have been made.

It should also be noted that the Black Isle is one of the areas in Highland where development pressure is considerable and many of the local farmers have received planning permission for houses. However as yet no application has been received for this site.

What response do you suggest?

Desk Assessment

Field Evaluation: survey/geophysics/sampling

Survey

Partial excavation

Full excavation

When will it be too late to do anything useful?

Fairly soon, although it is impossible at this stage to assess how rapidly the site is being destroyed.

Why is it worth spending public money on this site? What is its value to archaeology & conservation? Would it be part of an existing research programme?

The site at Kinbeachie is relevant to Professor Richard Bradley's work on the Neolithic in the Inverness area and he has visited to assess the situation for himself. It seems unlikely however that this could be included in his research programme at present. The proposal is for trial trenching to establish the nature and extent of the remains.

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The report will include recommendations for further fieldwork, conservation management and interpretation as necessary. At present it is considered that geophysics would be unlikely to be cost-effective on this site, but this will be reviewed when the results of this project are received.

What would be the consequences of not undertaking the project?

Continued erosion leading to the complete loss of the site.

What is your preliminary estimate of costs this FY?: Fieldwork £5,000

Pre/post-fieldwork £5,000

How many years if the field element likely to last? *One*

In which year do you hope the report might be submitted? *1997/8*

What is your estimate of the total cost? £10,000

Who else is contributing to the cost? (If no-one, explain why)

Previous fieldwork has been funded by the Highland Regional Council, Ross and Cromarty District Council and SNH (partners in the Ross and Cromarty Community Archaeologist Project); students from Aberdeen University Certificate in Field Archaeology have fieldwalked the area; and local archaeologists have undertaken work on a voluntary basis. A proper evaluation, conducted to a clear project design and to a clear timetable, is needed. Following this it may be possible to attract further local funding for follow-up work if necessary based on the recommendations of the project report.

For AMD use

Main File No.

Proposing Inspector

Priority Code:

- 0 Unavoidable
- 1 Post-excavation complete this year
- 2 Post-excavation ongoing
- 3 Continuing field project
- 4 New evaluation
- 5 New excavation