

Client: William Gray Construction Ltd
Date: July 2018

**Archaeological Watching Brief of a Development at
Land 145m North of Smiddy Bar, Lewiston,
Drumnadrochit, Highland.**

Director: Stuart Farrell
Written by: Stuart Farrell
Planning Ref. 17/01702/FUL
Grid Ref: NH 50905/29270 (centred)

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. BACKGROUND
3. METHODOLOGY
4. RESULTS
5. DISCUSSION
6. RECOMMENDATIONS
7. REFERENCES
8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
9. ARCHIVE
10. DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Figure 1 | Site location. |
| Figure 2 | Site Plan. |
| Figure 3 | Area of Watching Brief |
| Figure 4 | 1 st Edition Ordnance Survey Map |
| Figure 5 | 2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map |

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Plate 1 | View of site facing N. |
| Plate 2 | View of site facing SW. |
| Plate 3 | View of work in progress facing NW. |
| Plate 4 | View of work in progress facing NW. |
| Plate 5 | View of centre of site upon stripping facing South-west. |
| Plate 6 | View of centre of site upon stripping facing South-west. |

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Appendix 1 | Photograph Register |
|------------|---------------------|

Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by William Gray Construction Ltd in June 2018 to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Land 145m North of Smiddy Bar, Lewiston, Drumnadrochit, Highland (NH 50905/29270 centred) as part of a project for new retail units with associated access and services.

An archaeological evaluation and watching brief in the same field in 2017 had produced a Bronze Age cist and pits with pre-historic pottery as well as other features. The watching brief for this development area revealed no archaeological features or deposits.

No recommendations for further archaeological work are proposed.

Figure 1 – Site Location 1:25000.

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence no. 100041016.

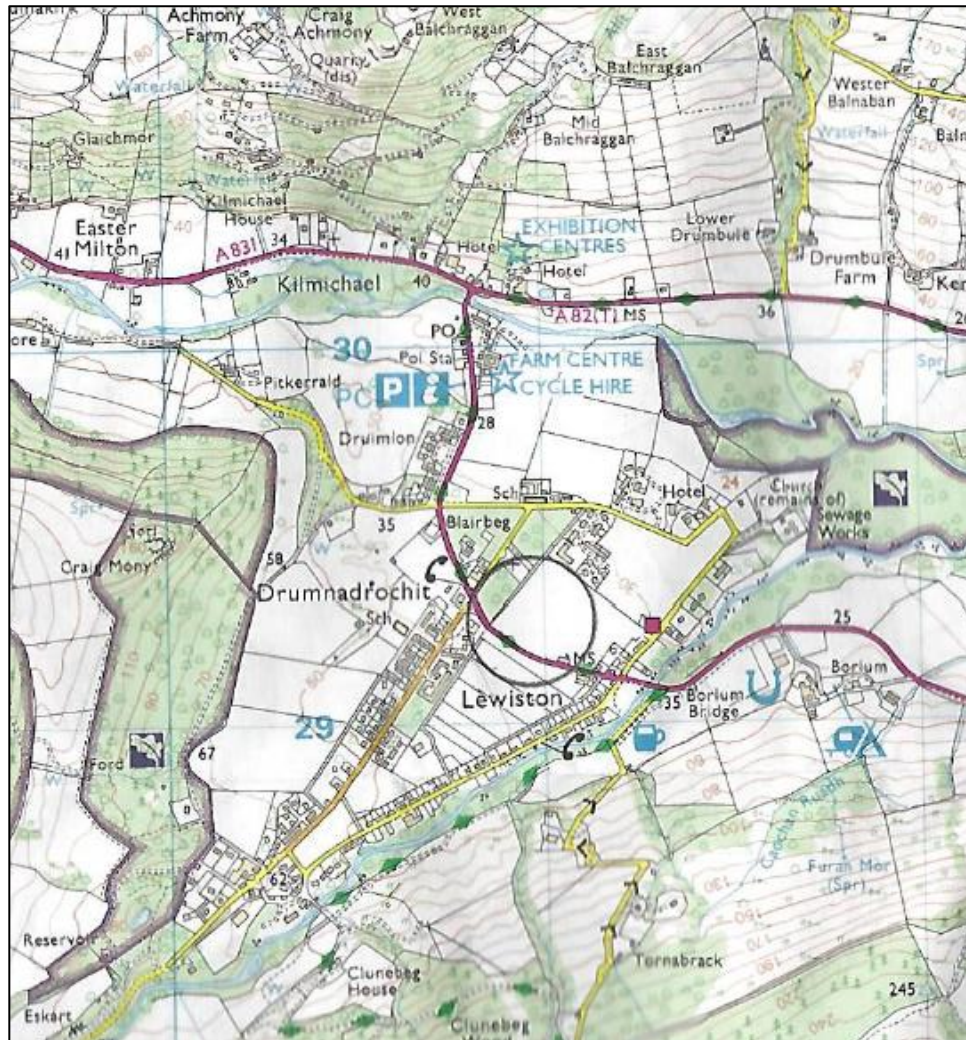


Figure 2 – Site Plan 1:1250 (A3).
© William Gray Construction Ltd.

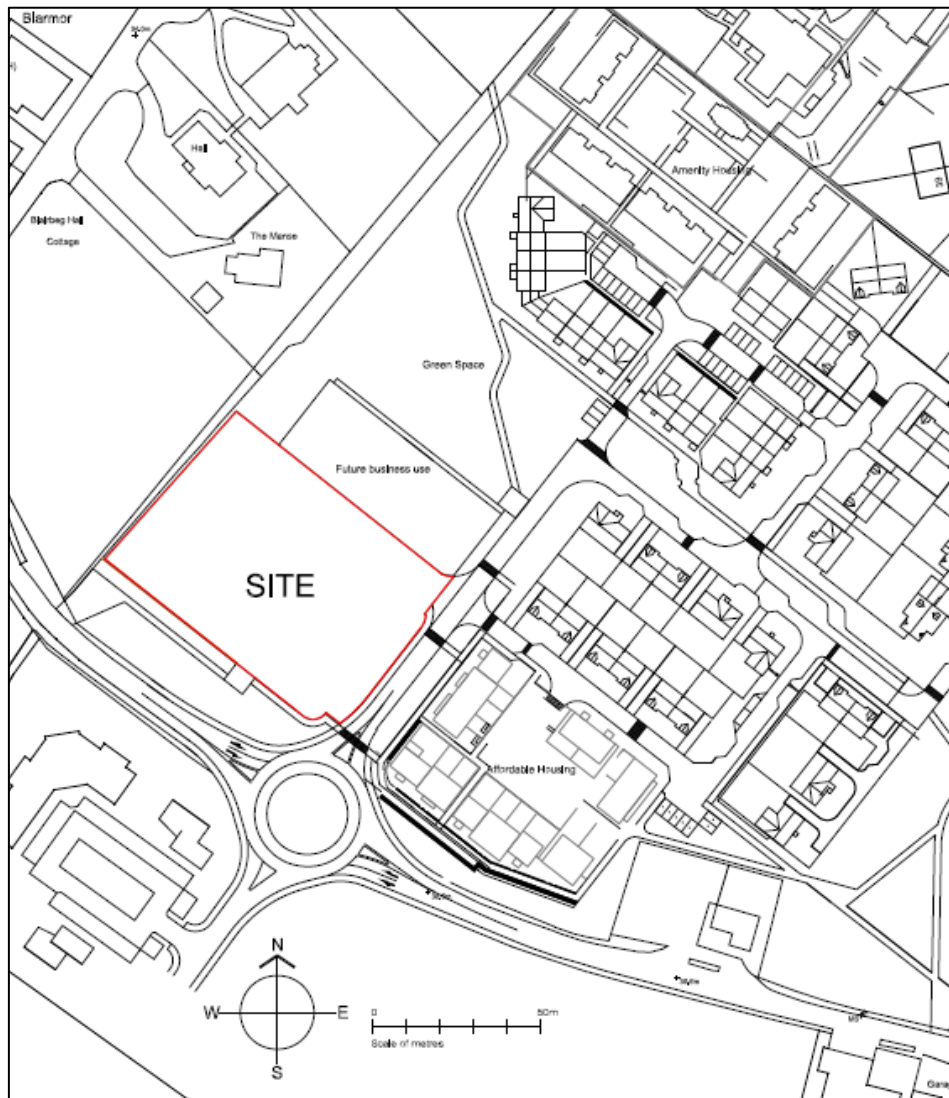


Figure 3 – Area of Watching Brief 1:250 A1.
© Caintech Ltd.



The map shows a rural area with a large central plot of land (951, 1'104) and several surrounding plots. The central plot is bounded by a road to the west and a road to the east. To the west of the central plot is a road that runs diagonally from the top left to the bottom left. Along this road, there are several plots of land, including 938 (072), 939 (2'545), 940 (888), 941 (811), 942 (100), 943 (190), 944 (107), 945 (107), 946 (107), 947 (091), 948 (2'190), 949 (5'940), 950 (1'104), 951 (1'104), 952 (5'846), 953 (1'017), 954 (3'668), 955 (3'668), 956 (3'668), 957 (305), 958 (305), 959 (305), 960 (305), 961 (305), 962 (305), 963 (305), 964 (305), 965 (305), 966 (305), 967 (305), 968 (305), 969 (305), 970 (305), 971 (305), 972 (305), 973 (305), 974 (305), 975 (305), 976 (305), 977 (305), 978 (305), 979 (305), 980 (305), 981 (305), 982 (305), 983 (305), 984 (305), 985 (305), 986 (305), 987 (305), 988 (305), 989 (305), 990 (305), 991 (305), 992 (305), 993 (305), 994 (305), 995 (305), 996 (305), 997 (305), 998 (305), 999 (305), 1000 (305).

Other features on the map include a road, a school, a church, and various numbered plots. The map is oriented with North at the top.

Church

1007
507

1008
888

985
2-545

983
6-075

983a
4-291

984
6-072

978a
2-262

986a
3-630

Inverness 15

Invermoriston 12

1. INTRODUCTION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by the author on behalf of William Gray Construction Ltd in regard to a condition of planning as required as part of a planning application. The development site forms an area of ground to the North side of the A82 road from Inverness to Fort Augustus in the village of Drumnadrochit. The site is centred at NH 50905/29270. The development site is a 'green field' site.

The work was required as part of planning condition no.9 by Highland Council Planning Department (ref. 17/01702/FUL), which stated the following:

No development or work (including site clearance) shall commence until a programme of work for the evaluation, preservation and recording of any archaeological and historic features affected by the proposed development/work, including a timetable for investigation, all in accordance with the attached specification, has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Planning Authority. The approved programme shall be implemented in accordance with the agreed timetable for investigation.

Reason: In order to protect the archaeological and historic interest of the site.

The archaeological evaluation stage of the work had been conducted by AOC Archaeology in 2017 (see below) with the recommendation of a watching brief on any further work.

2. BACKGROUND

The site lies to the North-West to an area of late Neolithic/Bronze Age features found by AOC Archaeology Group in 2017 with a number of other features noted as possibly medieval/post-medieval in date (Peteranna 2018), also in the vicinity three burials have now been found, two burials were found to the south (at the health centre site) and a third cist, with a beaker, was found to the northern edge of the development area. In addition, a massive slab, which would appear to be a capstone, was found in the development area during an evaluation in 2017 (Peteranna, 2017).

The following archaeological site is located to the area of the development site:

1 – Lewiston
HCHER – MHG 26272
NRHE – NH52NW 23
Grid Ref – NH 510/290 (centred)
Type – Township

Recorded in HCHER and NRHE as 'A crofting township comprising one unroofed, three partially roofed and fifty-six roofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1875, sheet xxix). Thirty-eight roofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1976). Information from RCAHMS 20 May 1996.'

The development site is indicated on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (see figure 4) as an open field. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1903 (see figure 5) shows the same. The Ordnance Survey map of 1975 shows open ground but with field boundaries orientation being altered.

The archaeological evaluation conducted by AOC Archaeology in 2017 (Peteranna 2017 & 2018) was comprised of a number of trenches which revealed a massive slab, which would appear to be a capstone, was found in the development area during the evaluation. A Bronze Age cist with a number of other features were noted during subsequent monitoring (Williamson & Stirling 2017) to include pre-historic pits with prehistoric pottery and a number of other features noted as possibly medieval/post-medieval in date. In addition, Two other Bronze Age cist burials and a pit were found to the south of the current development area at the health centre site in 2015 (Peteranna 2015).

3. METHODOLOGY

The archaeological watching brief took place on the site between the 16th of June 2018 and the 6th of July 2018.

Weather during the work was usually bright and sunny, some days started off cloudy brightening up later. The development area was excavated using a 14-ton back-acting machine with a 1.6m wide straight-edged bucket under direct archaeological supervision.

Topsoil was removed to an average depth of 0.3m across the development area, though some of the ground to the North end of the site was only 150mm deep and some to the East was 0.6m in depth. All subsoil patches were excavated by hand to ensure no archaeological features were hidden.

4. RESULTS

The topsoil, laid to grass, was a greyish brown silty loam with a moderately high humic content varying in depth across the site being only 150mm to the North-west side of the site deepening to 0.2 to .45m to the middle of the site and up to 0.6m deep to the East side of the site. The subsoil consisted of light brown silty sand deeper to the South-east than to the North. Below the subsoil lay a variable natural deposit of gravels orange-brown or yellow-brown sand. The gravel to the North was densely packed and included large stones, the sand which covered most of the centre of the site was quite loose, whilst the gravel to the South and South-East was of a smaller size.

A small portion of the site to the North-west was not monitored as this was being used for stockpiling of topsoil and is not subject to development due to adjacent mature trees.

No archaeological features or deposits were revealed to area of development, only 2 shards of 19th century pottery (not retained) were found in the topsoil.

5. DISCUSSION

The archaeological watching brief revealed no archaeological features or deposits to any area excavated with no indication of any others. Although a possible capstone was found during the evaluation there was no indication of any archaeological activity on this area of the field.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

No further archaeological work is recommended for this site. This is subject to approval by the Highland Council Archaeologist.

7. REFERENCES

Highland Council Historic Environment Record entry MHG 26272.

National Record of the Historic Environment entry NH52NW 23.

1st Edition Ordnance Survey map 1:2500 Inverness-shire sheet XXIX.11 published 1893 surveyed 1871.

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map 1:2500 Inverness-shire sheet XXIX.11 published 1903 revised 1901.

3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map sheet NH52NW 1:2500 published 1975.

Peteranna, M (2015) New Medical Centre, Drumnadrochit Archaeological Excavation Data Structure Report 20th April 2015 AOC Project Number: 70012. Unpublished report – copy held by Highland Council HER EHG 4672.

Peteranna, M (2017) Mixed-use development Lewiston, Drumnadrochit Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report 26th July 2017 AOC Project Number: 70203. Unpublished report.

Peteranna, M (2018) Smiddy Bar, Lewiston, Drumnadrochit. *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, 2017, volume 18, 131-132. Archaeology Scotland, Edinburgh.

Williamson, S & Stirling, L (2017) Mixed-use development Lewiston, Drumnadrochit Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report 19th December 2017 AOC Project Number: 70221. Unpublished report.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

- Mr Mark MacLennan of William Gray Construction Ltd;
- Staff of William Gray Construction Ltd for onsite groundworks.

9. ARCHIVE

The following is to be deposited in the National Record of the Historic Environment in Edinburgh:

- Notebook of results & copy of this report

A set of digital images showing the progress of the work has been deposited with Highland Council Historic Environment Record. Digital images used in this report have been deposited with HCHER on disc as well as a copy of this report as a PDF file.

10. DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to Archaeology Scotland's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*. OASIS Report no. 322356.

Plate 1 – View of site facing North (Photo 1)



Plate 2 – View of site facing South-west (Photo 2).



Plate 3 – View of work in progress facing North-west (Photo 9).



Plate 4 – View of work in progress facing North-west (Photo 14).



Plate 5 – View of centre of site upon stripping facing South-west (Photo 16).



Plate 6 – View of centre of site upon stripping facing South-west (Photo 21).



Appendix 1 Photograph Register

- 1 – View of site facing North.
- 2 – View of site facing South-west.
- 3 – View of site facing South-east.
- 4 – View of site facing South-west.
- 5 – View of excavation for cabins facing South-west.
- 6 – View of excavation for cabins facing North-east.
- 7 – View of excavation for cabins facing South-west.
- 8 – View of work in progress facing South-west.
- 9 – View of work in progress facing North-west.
- 10 – View of work in progress facing North-west.
- 11 – View of site partly stripped facing South-east.
- 12 – View of site partly stripped facing South-east.
- 13 – View of site partly stripped facing North-west.
- 14 – View of work in progress facing North-west.
- 15 – View of site partly stripped facing North-west.
- 16 – View of site partly stripped facing South-west.
- 17 – View of site partly stripped facing North-east.
- 18 – View of site partly stripped facing North.
- 19 – View of work in progress facing North-west.
- 20 – View of site partly stripped facing South-west.
- 21 – View of site partly stripped facing South-west.
- 22 – View of site partly stripped facing South-east.
- 23 – View of site partly stripped facing South-west.
- 24 – View of work in progress facing North-west.
- 25 – View of site stripped facing North-west.
- 26 – View of site stripped facing North-west.

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Land 145m North of Smiddy Bar, Lewiston, Drumnadrochit
PROJECT CODE:	-
PARISH:	Urquhart and Glenmoriston
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Farrell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	-
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	-
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NH 50905/29270 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	27 June 2018
END DATE (this season)	6 July 2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	DES 2018, 17 (2017), 131-132.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in late June to early July 2018 for a development of retail units with associated access and services, the site lying in the area of the find of a Bronze Age cist and other pre-historic features (DES 2018, 17 (2017), 131-132).</p> <p>The watching brief produced no archaeological deposits or features.</p> <p>Full report submitted to HCHER & NRHE.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	William Gray Construction Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	39a Park Street, Nairn, Highland, IV12 4PP
EMAIL ADDRESS:	stuart714@btinternet.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	To be deposited with NRHE