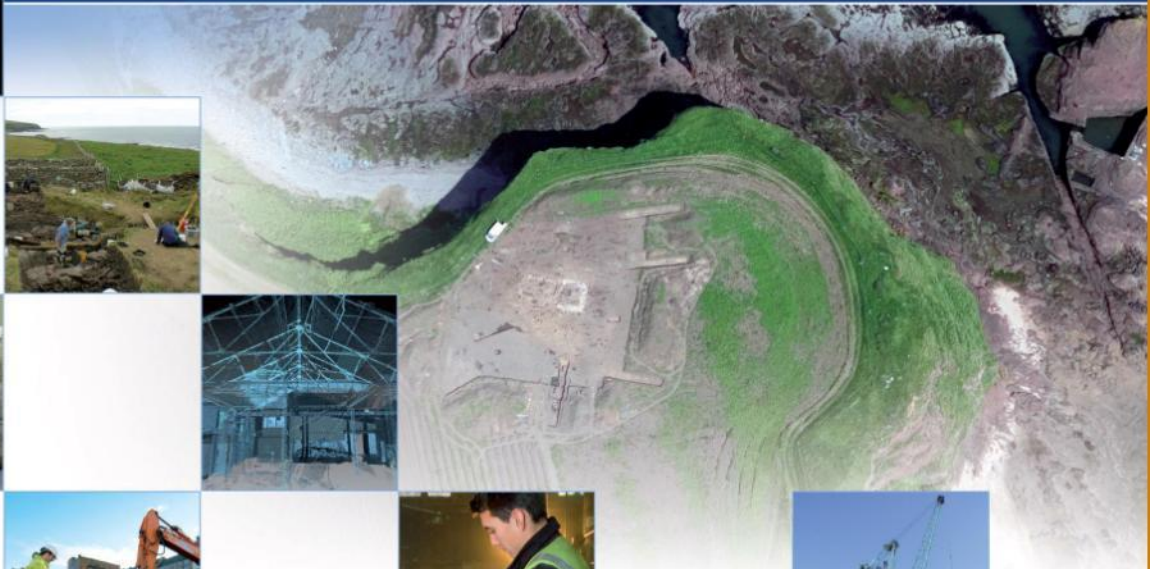


New House Plot, Kilmore Road, Drumnadrochit Archaeological Evaluation Data Structure Report

March 2023

AOC 70723



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

New House Plot, Kilmore Road, Drumnadrochit

Archaeological Evaluation

Data Structure Report

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| On Behalf of: | Springfield Properties |
| Planning Reference: | 22/04193/FUL |
| National Grid Reference (NGR) (approx.): | NH 50870 29600 |
| AOC Project No: | 70723 |
| Prepared by: | Patrick Rowan |
| Illustrations by: | Lindsey Stirling |
| OASIS No. | aocarcha1-514478 |
| Date: | 31 st March 2023 |

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

Author: Patrick Rowan

Date: 31st March 2023

Approved by: Mary Peteranna

Date: 31st March 2023

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
The Old Estate Office
Rosehaugh Estate
Avoch
IV9 8RF

Tel. 01463 819841
Mob. 07972 259255
E-mail inverness@aocarchaeology.com



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Abstract

This report details the findings of an archaeological evaluation carried out prior to the construction of a new house at Kilmore Road, Drumnadrochit on behalf of Springfield Properties (Highland Council Planning Reference 22/04103/FUL). The requirement arose as the site was located immediately south of a larger development where significant buried prehistoric archaeology had been found including a Neolithic structure, Bronze Age cist and round barrow.

Fieldwork was carried out on 22nd February where five trenches were excavated and initially two prehistoric pits were located. The site was later revisited on 2nd March 2023 for inspection following full topsoil removal where two additional prehistoric pits were identified and recorded outside the original trench locations. Samples from the pits contained charcoal and burnt hazelnut shells. A small programme of post-excavation work will be recommended.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A 10% archaeological evaluation was required with regard to a new house plot at Kilmore Road, Drumnadrochit (Planning Reference 22/04103/FUL). The requirement arose as the development site was located immediately south of a larger development where significant buried prehistoric archaeology had been found.
- 1.2 The site lies within the administrative jurisdiction of Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Historic Environment Team (HET), Highland Council. These works were required in accordance with *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011), to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains present within the development area.
- 1.3 The objectives for the fieldwork had previously been set out in a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) (AOC 2023). Four archaeological features, prehistoric pits containing carbonised material, and a possible stone artefact, were identified during the fieldwork. A small programme of post-excavation work is required and no further fieldwork has been recommended.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The development site is located at Kilmore Road, Drumnadrochit, on the east side of the A82 (NGR: NH 50870 29600) (**Figure 1**). It comprises part of a larger flat agricultural field located between two existing residential properties (**Plate 1**) at circa 26m AOD. Drumnadrochit lies at the head of Glenurquhart next to Urquhart Bay on the northwest shore of Loch Ness.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey Index (BGS 2023), the site is underlain by sandstone, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 359 to 385 million years ago in the Devonian Period and resulting from deposits laid down on the floodplains or the levees of a river. This is overlain by superficial deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel alluvium dating from the Quaternary Period up to 2 million years ago and resulting from deposits laid down in floodplains and levees of a river.
- 2.3 A desk-based assessment of the site was carried out in 2017 and identified no known assets within the development area (Littlewood 2017). Recent archaeological investigations at Drum Farm to the north of the development site have uncovered significant prehistoric remains, including a Neolithic structure and pit groups, a Bronze Age cist and remains of a possible round barrow, and metalworking features of potential Iron Age date (Watt 2022; Teufel and Robertson 2022). Archaeological investigations at Lewiston, c.300m to the southeast, had also uncovered a large number of Neolithic pit groups and six Early Bronze Age cist burials, with associated ceramics, a carved stone slab and a plano-convex flint knife (Peteranna 2015; Peteranna 2017; Williamson and Stirling 2019; Williamson, Stirling and Peteranna 2019). As such, there was significant potential for buried archaeological remains to survive on the site.



Figure 1: Site location plan

04/70723/DSR/01/01

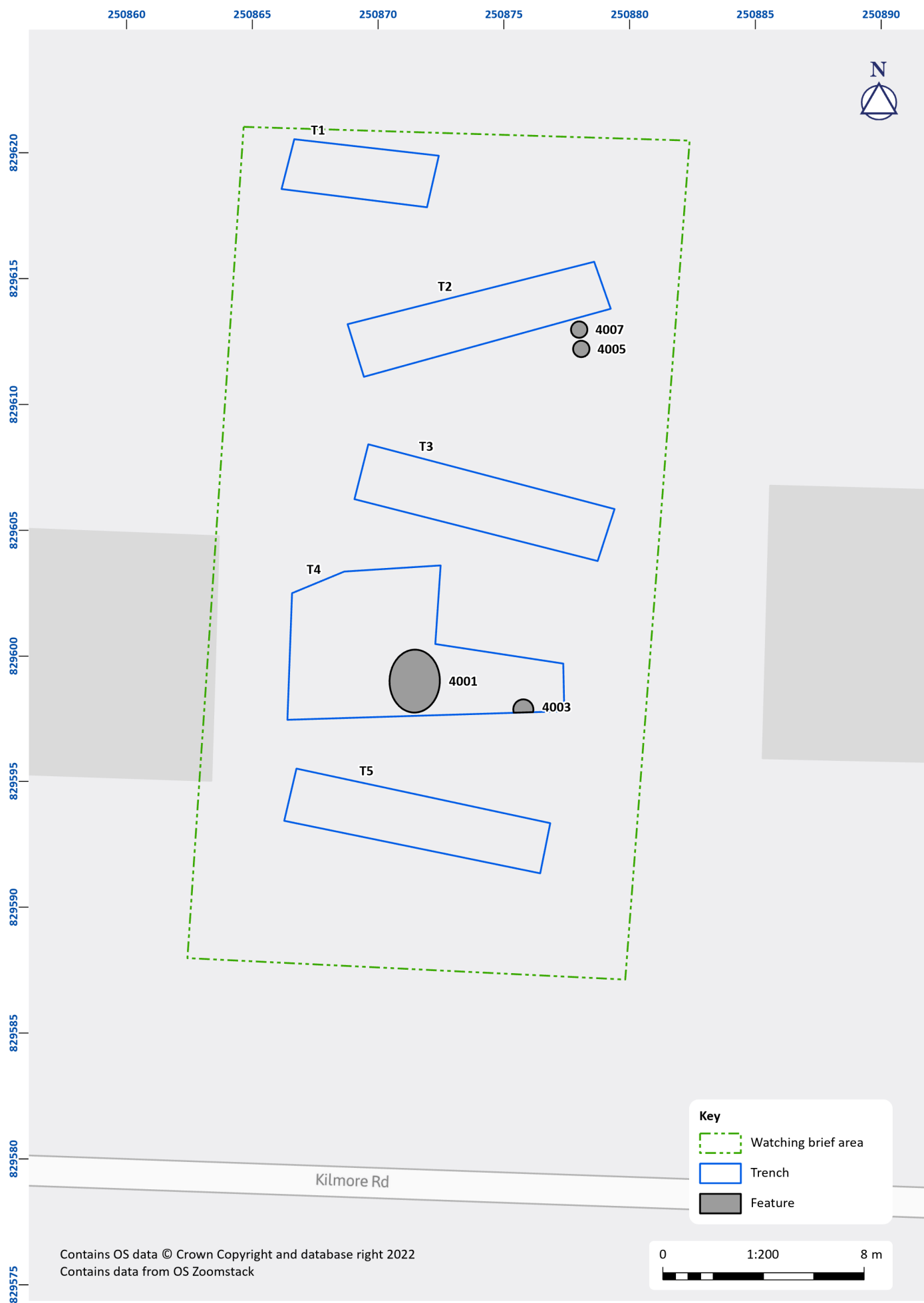


Figure 2: Trench plan

04/70723/DSR/02/01

3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The *Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) (2014a) defines an archaeological evaluation as 'a limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land...field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate'.

3.2 The aims of the archaeological works were:

- i) To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area
- ii) To remove by hand any overburden in order to expose the archaeological deposits
- iii) To excavate, sample and record any features or to propose arrangements for their safeguarding, where possible
- iv) To sample deposits for post-excavation work, including environmental analysis and dating
- v) To make recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development
- vi) To make recommendations for post-excavation work that will require completion to fulfill the archaeological planning condition



Plate 1: View northeast across site during evaluation

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 An archaeological trial trenching evaluation of 10% of the proposed development site was required to evaluate the archaeological potential. Four trenches comprising 80m² were proposed to cover 10% of the development area (total 690m²). Following on from excavation of the first four trenches and additional fifth trench was excavated, and another trench was extended (**Figure 2**). This all equated to 45 linear metres using a 2m trenching bucket and a total area of 115m².
- 4.2 An archaeologist directed digging by a mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide **straight-edged bucket** in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the site. All work was carried out in accordance with the (ClfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014b).
- 4.3 All features of archaeological significance were evaluated by hand in order to establish the date, nature, extent and state of preservation of the deposits. Archaeological features and deposits were drawn at a scale of 1:20 and section drawings were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All significant archaeological features were sampled, in the event post-excavation analysis is deemed necessary.
- 4.4 The location of all archaeological findspots and features and the area covered by the evaluation, were plotted using a Trimble GPS capable of centimetre accuracy. The archaeological monitoring was recorded using high resolution digital photography in order to record the process as well as any archaeological features or finds of interest.

5.0 RESULTS

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out on 22nd February 2023. A total of five trenches, ranging in length from 5 -10m, were excavated across the development area (**Plates 6-11**). All trenches were excavated to the natural geology. Full details of the trench records can be seen in **Appendix 1**.
- 5.2 Trenches 1 - 3 and 5 were all void of archaeologically significant features with Trench 4 containing two prehistoric pits.
- 5.3 Following the discovery of archaeological evidence, the Highland Council Historic Environment Team Archaeologist was informed of the results and requested for a second inspection visit after topsoil clearance was completed. During the inspection visit on 2nd March 2023, two additional pit features were located and recorded in the northeast corner of the site.
- 5.4 Topsoil averaged 0.4m in depth and comprised mid brown clayey silt with 2% inclusions of gravel and cobbles. The underlying natural comprised compact mid orangey-brown cobbly gravelly sand with areas of lightly compacted pale yellow-brown coarse sand.
- 5.5 Four prehistoric pit features were identified and recorded (**Appendix 3**). Two pits, [4001] & [4003] (**Plates 2 & 3**), were located within Trench 4; and two pits, [4005] & [4007] (**Plate 4**), were located on the south side of Trench 2.

- 5.6 Two of the pits, [4001] & [4003], contained charcoal fragments and small amounts of burnt hazelnut shells. These pits were sampled for post-excavation analysis. Pits [4005] & [4007] also contained trace amounts of charcoal and hazelnut shell, they were heavily truncated and could not allow for effective samples to be retained.
- 5.7 One find was recorded, this being a single possible whetstone tool (SF01) (**Plate 5**), however this was recovered from within topsoil material during evaluation trenching and could not be stratigraphically associated with any archaeological features. The stone was recorded and retained.



Plate 2: North-facing-section of pit [4001]



Plate 3: North-northeast-facing-section of pit [4003]



Plate 4: Northeast-facing-section of pit [4003] (right) and north-facing-section of pit [4007] (left)



Plate 5: Working photograph of possible whetstone SF01

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation at Kilmore Road had successfully determined the survival of two prehistoric pit features. The subsequent inspection following topsoil stripping located the remains of two further truncated pit features. Initial interpretation suggests they may represent occupation of the site during the Neolithic period, on the basis of similar archaeological results on the site to the south.
- 6.2 All archaeological features have been fully recorded, with finds and samples recovered for post-excavation analysis. It is recommended that the post-excavation analysis of the samples and single artefact can be incorporated into the Drum Farm archaeological post-excavation programme.

7.0 REFERENCES

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Plate 6: Post-excitation view of Trench 1 facing east-southeast



Plate 7: Post-excitation view of Trench 2 facing east-northeast



Plate 8: Post-excavation view of Trench 3 facing east-southeast



Plate 9: Post-excavation view of Trench 4 facing east, [4001] in centre next to ranging pole



Plate 10: Post-excitation view of Trench 5 facing east-southeast

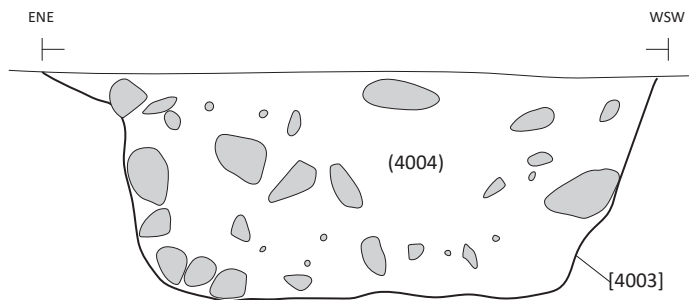


Plate 11: View over site after evaluation trenching facing southwest

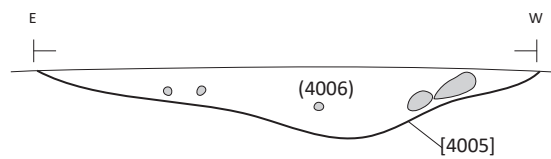
Section 4001



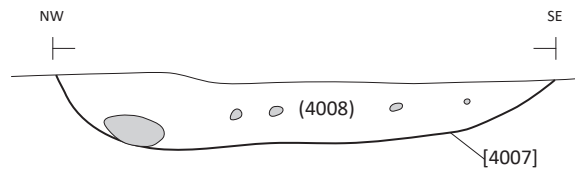
Section 4003



Section 4005



Section 4007



Key



0 1:10 @ A4 0.5m

Figure 3: Section Drawings

Appendix 1: Trench Register

| Trench No. | Depths (m) | Dimensions (m) | Area (m ²) | Alignment | Description | Archaeology |
|------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | (ESE) 0.35, (M) 0.45, (WNW) 0.4 | (L) 5, (W) 2 | 10 | WNW - ESE | Topsoil (4000): Mid brown clayey silt with gravel / cobble inclusions. Subsoil (4009): Mid orange-brown compact cobbly gravelly sand with areas of lightly compact coarse pale yellow-brown sand. | None |
| 2 | (WSW) 0.35, (M) 0.45, (ENE) 0.4 | (L) 10, (W) 2 | 20 | WSW - ENE | Topsoil (4000): Mid brown clayey silt with gravel / cobble inclusions. Subsoil (4009): Mid orange-brown compact cobbly gravelly sand with areas of lightly compact coarse pale yellow-brown sand. | None |
| 3 | (WNW - ESE) 0.35 | (L) 10, (W) 2 | 20 | WNW - ESE | Topsoil (4000): Mid brown clayey silt with gravel / cobble inclusions. Subsoil (4009): Mid orange-brown compact cobbly gravelly sand with areas of lightly compact coarse pale yellow-brown sand. | None |
| 4 | (E - W) 0.35m | (L) 10, (W) 4.5 / Extended W Side | 45 | E - W | Topsoil (4000): Mid brown clayey silt with gravel / cobble inclusions. Subsoil (4009): Mid orange-brown compact cobbly gravelly sand with areas of lightly compact coarse pale yellow-brown sand. Extended along west side to expose the extent of [4001]. | [4001] & [4003] Prehistoric pits |
| 5 | (WNW) 0.45, (M) 0.4, (ESE) 0.5 | (L) 10, (W) 2 | 20 | WNW - ESE | Topsoil (4000): Mid brown clayey silt with gravel / cobble inclusions. Subsoil (4009): Mid orange-brown compact cobbly gravelly sand with areas of lightly compact coarse pale yellow-brown sand. | None |

Appendix 2: Photographic Register

| Photo No. | Subject | Direction Facing | Date |
|-----------|---|------------------|------------|
| 1 | View across site from southwest corner during evaluation, Trench 5 in front | NE | 22/02/2023 |
| 2 | View northeast across site from southwest corner during evaluation, Trench 5 in front | NE | 22/02/2023 |
| 3 | Looking south-southeast over Trench 5, post-excavation | SSE | 22/02/2023 |
| 4 | Post-excavation of Trench 5 | ESE | 22/02/2023 |
| 5 | Post-excavation of Trench 4 | ESE | 22/02/2023 |
| 6 | Post-excavation of Trench 4, [4001] in centre in front of ranging pole | E | 22/02/2023 |
| 7 | Pre-excavation of [4001] | E | 22/02/2023 |
| 8 | Pre-excavation of [4003] | E | 22/02/2023 |
| 9 | Post-excavation of Trench 3 | SE | 22/02/2023 |
| 10 | Post-excavation of Trench 3 | ESE | 22/02/2023 |
| 11 | Post-excavation of Trench 2 | SE | 22/02/2023 |
| 12 | Post-excavation of Trench 2 | ENE | 22/02/2023 |
| 13 | Post-excavation of Trench 1 | SSE | 22/02/2023 |
| 14 | Post-excavation of Trench 1 | ESE | 22/02/2023 |
| 15 | View across site over Trenches 2-5 after evaluation | SW | 22/02/2023 |
| 16 | View across site over Trenches 2-5 after evaluation | SW | 22/02/2023 |
| 17 | View across site after evaluation | NE | 22/02/2023 |
| 18 | Pre-excavation of [4001] | NE | 22/02/2023 |
| 19 | North-facing-section of [4001] | S | 22/02/2023 |
| 20 | South-facing-section of [4001] | N | 22/02/2023 |
| 21 | View over [4001] after section through centre of feature | ENE | 22/02/2023 |
| 22 | North-northeast-facing-section of [4003] | SSW | 22/02/2023 |
| 23 | North-northeast-facing-section of [4003] | SW | 22/02/2023 |
| 24 | Northeast-facing-section of [4007] (front) and north-facing-section of [4005] (back) | SW | 02/03/2023 |
| 25 | Northeast-facing-section of [4007] (right) and north-facing-section of [4005] (left) | W | 02/03/2023 |
| 26 | Small Find 1, possible whetstone | - | 02/03/2023 |
| 27 | Small Find 1, possible whetstone | - | 02/03/2023 |

Appendix 3: Context Register

| Context No. | Area | Context Type | Identity | Length (m) | Width (m) | Depth (m) | Description/ Interpretation | Over | Cuts | Fill of | Under | Filled By |
|-------------|------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|--|------|------|---------|-------|-----------|
| 4000 | All | Deposit | Deposit | - | - | - | Topsoil | All | | | | |
| 4001 | T4 | Cut | Pit | 1.25 | 1.00 | 0.45 | Cut of pit. Suboval large pit with steep sloping sides onto flat base (0.35m wide). | | 4009 | | | 4002 |
| 4002 | T4 | Fill | | 1.25 | 1.00 | 0.45 | Fill of pit. Mid grey-brown gritty sandy silt with 40% small - large subangular stones (0.15 - 0.35m). Moderately compact with occasional small charcoal fragments. Prehistoric pit - unknown use. | | | 4001 | 4000 | |
| 4003 | T4 | Cut | Pit | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.30 | Cut of pit. Circular in plan, deep with steep sides and flat base. | | 4009 | | | 4004 |
| 4004 | T4 | Fill | | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.30 | Fill of pit. Mid grey-brown gritty sandy silt with 10-15% small subangular stones and some small burnt hazelnut shells, charcoal fragments. Prehistoric pit - related to 4001, 4005 & 4007? | | | 4003 | 4000 | |
| 4005 | - | Cut | Pit | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.08 | Cut of pit. Circular in plan, very shallow probably a truncated prehistoric pit. Located in NE corner of development area. | | 4009 | | | 4006 |
| 4006 | - | Fill | | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.08 | Fill of pit. Dark grey-brown sandy soil with 2% small cobbles and gravel, rare small charcoal fragments. | | | 4005 | 4000 | |
| 4007 | - | Cut | Pit | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.08 | Cut of pit. Circular in plan, very shallow probably a truncated prehistoric pit. Located in NE corner of development area. | | 4009 | | | 4008 |
| 4008 | - | Fill | | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.08 | Fill of pit. Dark brown-black sandy silt with occasional small charcoal fragments and possible rare burnt hazelnut shells. | | | 4007 | 4000 | |
| 4009 | All | Deposit | Deposit | - | - | - | Natural | | | | All | |

Appendix 4: Sample Register

| Context no. | Type | Volume (L) | No. bags | No. tubs | Comments |
|-------------|------|------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 4002 | SBS | 10 | - | 1 | Charcoal fragments & hazelnut shell |
| 4004 | SBS | 10 | - | 1 | Charcoal fragments & hazelnut shell |

Appendix 5: Drawing Register

| Drawing No. | Sheet No. | Description | Scale | Date |
|-------------|-----------|--|-------|------------|
| 1 | 1 | South-facing-section of [4001] | 1:10 | 22/02/2023 |
| 2 | 1 | North-northeast-facing-section of [4003] | 1:10 | 22/02/2023 |
| 3 | 1 | North-facing-section of [4005] | 1:10 | 02/03/2023 |
| 4 | 1 | Northeast-facing-section of [4007] | 1:10 | 02/03/2023 |

Appendix 6: Finds Register

| Find No. | Context no. | Material Type | Identity | Count | Weight | Description/Notes | Date |
|----------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-------|--------|---|------------|
| 01 | - | St | Whetstone | 1 | - | Possible whetstone recovered from topsoil (4000). | 22/02/2023 |

Appendix 7: OASIS Summary

Summary for aocarcha1-514478

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| OASIS ID (UID) | aocarcha1-514478 |
| Project Name | Evaluation at Kilmore Rd, Drumnadrochit |
| Sitename | Kilmore Rd, Drumnadrochit |
| Activity type | Evaluation |
| Reason For Investigation | Planning requirement |
| Location | Kilmore Rd, Drumnadrochit NGR : NH 50870 29600 LL : 57.33246452816789, -4.47892534275858 12 Fig : 250870,829600 |
| Administrative Areas | Parish : Urquhart and Glenmoriston District : Highland Country : Scotland |
| Project Methodology | An archaeological trial trenching evaluation of 10% of the proposed development site was required to evaluate the archaeological potential. Four trenches comprising 80m ² were proposed to cover 10% of the development area (total 690m ²). Following on from the first four trenches and additional fifth trench was opened at the request of the onsite archaeologist. This all equated to 45 linear metres using a 2m trenching bucket and a total area of 115m ² . |
| Project Results | Fieldwork was carried out on 22nd February where five trenches were excavated and initially two prehistoric pits were located. The site was later revisited on 2nd March 2023 for inspection following full topsoil removal where two additional prehistoric pits were found out with of the original trench locations. Samples from the pits contained charcoal and burnt hazelnut shells. No further archaeological work is required. |
| Funder | Private or public corporation Springfield Properties |
| Person Responsible for work | Patrick, Rowan |
| HER Identifiers | |
| DES description | |
| NGR | NH 50870 29600 |



AOC Archaeology Group, The Old Estate Office, Rosehaugh Estate, Avoch, IV9 8RF

| tel: 01463 819841 | mob: 07972 259255 | e-mail: inverness@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com