

**Report of Archaeological Desktop &
Walkover Survey
Achmore Water Mains Renewal Project
Achmore Highland.
NG 85731/33797 - NG 85581/33389.**

Client: Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water.

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Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd in February 2005 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for the Achmore Water Mains Renewal Project, Achmore, Highland.

Work revealed a number of unrecorded archaeological sites to include two former schools and a modern structure.

No recommendations for further archaeological work have been made.

1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water by the author for the Achmore Water Mains Renewal Project, Highland.

The fieldwork was conducted on February 6th 2005.

2. Acknowledgements

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

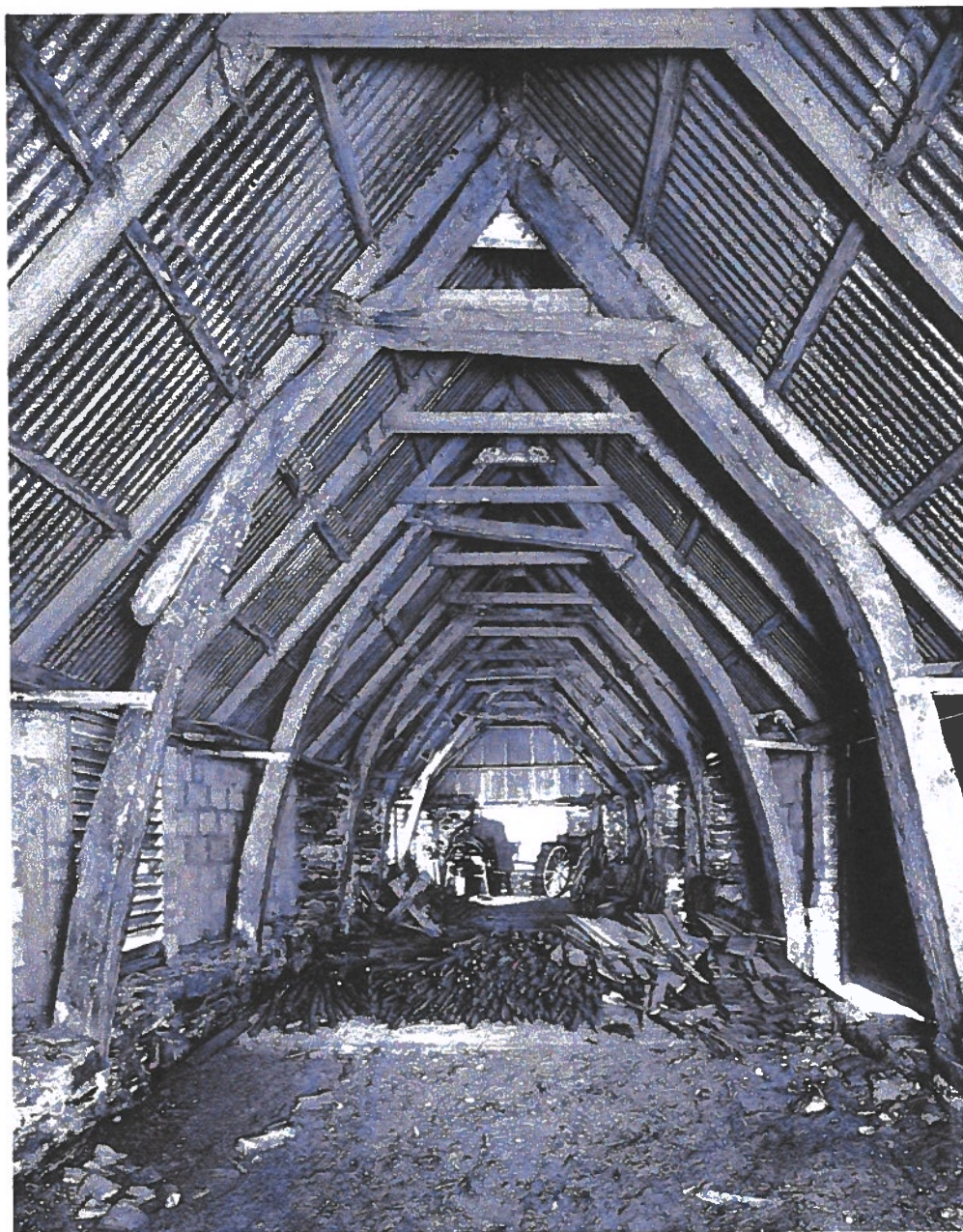
- Mr. A Barnett, of Halcrow Group Ltd;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives;
- Staff of the National Library of Scotland, Map room.

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Figure 1: General Survey Location 1:50,000.
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Figure 2: View of Inside of Barn 1974.
Copyright RCAHMS.



3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record those features that would be affected by the new proposed water renewals scheme, new scheme is to follow close to the existing pipeline to allow for connections. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999).

4. Archaeological Survey

Desktop & Walkover Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh (Maps);
- Highland Council Archives;
- Inverness Library.

Map coverage was very limited as the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1880 was almost the same as the 2nd of 1904 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being 1970.

No archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the area of the proposed pipeline.

The following 6 archaeological sites were to be found close to the pipeline (proposed new pipeline are to replace those marked 2"AC on the accompanying map with sites numbered). Grid references on-site were obtained using a Garmin II GPS using OS data. Sites are as follows:

HSMR – Highland Sites and Monuments Record

NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland

N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

1 – Achmore

HSMR – NG83SE 11

NMRS – NG83SE 1.01

Grid Ref: NH 8570/3370

Type – Cruck-framed Barn

No information available in HSMR or NMRS. Noted in CANMORE to be located at NG 8574/3361 that places it to the SE of existing grid reference. Photographs held in the NMRS also show it to the SE and to vary in construction type (see figure 2).

Walkover reveals site to lie in Achmore Farm well away from area of existing/new pipeline.

No recommendations to be made.

Over: View of barns facing E.



2 – Achmore
 HSMR – NG83SE 14
 NMRS – NG83SE 1
 Grid Ref: NG 85696/33647
 Type – Farm
 Category – Listed C(S)
 Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'Built 1868 with architect A Ross'.

Walkover reveals

No recommendations to be made.

Below: View of house facing E.



3 – Achmore
 HSMR – NG83SE 29
 NMRS – NG83SE 22
 Grid Ref: NG 8559/3357
 Type – Settlement
 No information available in HSMR or NMRS. The 1st edition OS shows no settlement except farm and school (sites 2 and 4) and a scattering of buildings to the NW.

Walkover reveals most of housing to date from 1950's to modern day, with exception of sites 2 and 5.

No recommendations to be made.

4 – Achmore

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 8569/3371

Type – School

Site marked on 1st edition OS as 'School (Boys and Girls)', marked as roofed but not named on 2nd edition OS of 1904. Not marked on edition of 1970.

Walkover reveals footings of building visible in dense undergrowth 0.5m wide and up to 0.25m high with building c5m x c8m.

Recommend that new pipeline follow existing route.

Below: View of site facing E.



5 – Achmore

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 8559/3359

Type – School

Site marked as school on 2nd edition OS of 1904, marked as 'Achmore Primary School' on edition of 1970. Latest OS not marked as school but named 'Sean Sgall'.

Walkover reveals stone built 2-storey house now private dwelling.

No recommendations to be made.

Below: View of former school facing NW.



6 – Achmore

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 8564/3366

Type – Structure

Site marked on OS map of 1970 not on 1st or 2nd or latest editions.

Walkover reveals square structure of concrete brick c 2m x 2m by 0.4m high. Modern in date. Covered in vegetation.

No recommendations to be made.

Below: View facing N.



5. Conclusions

Overall most of the sites revealed are of a late 19th century date and relate to the development of Achmore as a village.

Any unexpected archaeological discoveries made during construction work should be notified to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Any finds made of human remains during construction work should be reported to the police and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

6. Archive

A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh and the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

7. Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

8. References

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record database entries for NG83SE.

IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries for NG83SE.

Maps Consulted

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 sheet 117.7 Inverness-shire of 1880 surveyed 1877.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 sheet 117.7 Inverness-shire of 1904 revised 1902.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 NG8533 of 1970.

Ordnance Survey map NG83SE for 1992 1:10,000.

