

**Report of Archaeological Watching Brief  
May 16<sup>th</sup> 2002  
Clava Cairns, Highland  
NH 7586/ 4447.**

**By  
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May 2002**

## Introduction

This report is for an archaeological watching brief conducted on behalf of the Capital Projects Team of Highland Council by the author for an environmental improvement scheme at Clava Cairns.

## Acknowledgements

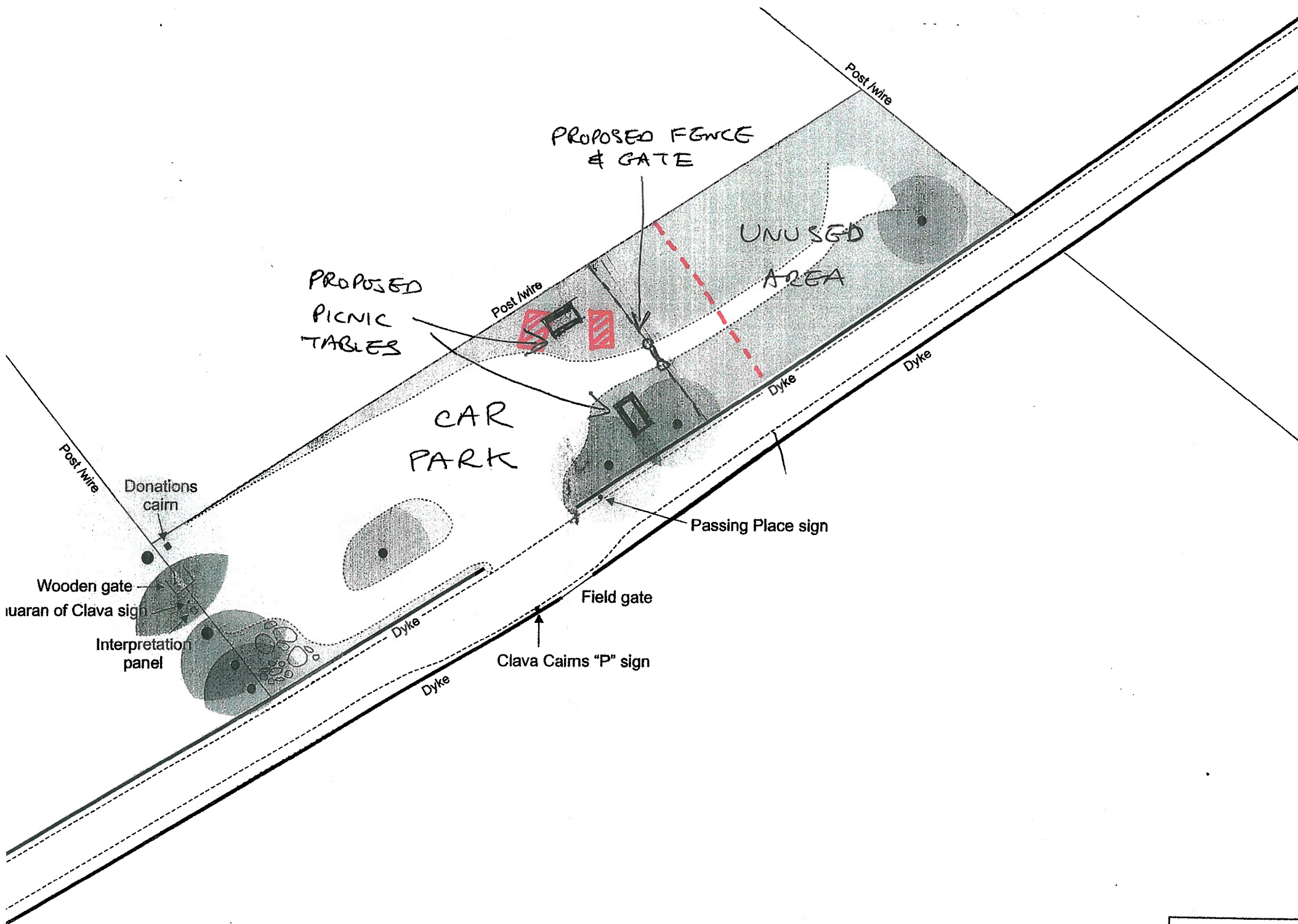
I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Mrs D Maxwell, of Highland Council;
- Mr. R Murchison, of Highland Council
- Staff of D MacLean for onsite works;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

## Location

Location of benches and fence-line marked in red on site plan over.







## **Historical Background**

The site lies close to the site of Clava Cairns which is under the guardianship of the Secretary of State for Scotland and managed by Historic Scotland forming three chambered cairns, also within the vicinity are a number of other prehistoric monuments including other cairns and a standing stone which form part of a larger complex of monuments in the Strathnairn region. (Bradley, 2000)

## **Objectives**

To conduct a watching brief on the excavation of the base of 2 picnic benches and fence-line to record those features revealed by excavation work. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed.

## **Methodology**

A monitoring was made of the removal of topsoil and subsoil's to a maximum depth of 350mm for the picnic benches to an area of 2m<sup>2</sup>. Weather on the day of work (May 16<sup>th</sup> 2002) was generally clear with sunny periods.

## **Watching Brief Investigation**

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). Over the construction period a suitably qualified archaeologist was on site to carry out observations and assessment of the area affected by the excavation works.

## **Results**

For the fence-line both the strainer posts were inserted without archaeological supervision, though an inspection of the spoil revealed no indication of archaeological deposits being disturbed or any artefacts.

The excavation of the picnic benches were as follows, though both lay in area of semi rough ground, with evidence of root disturbance due to gorse.

1 – NH 75868/44478 area excavated to 2m<sup>2</sup> with removal of turf and topsoil to 150mm, area heavy with root action. Sand silt deposit revealed similar to the current car park material. Excavation for concrete bases of picnic base to 350mm of 1.6m x 200mm revealed only natural ground of red-brown gravel silts.

2 – NH 75859/44476 area excavated to 2m<sup>2</sup> with removal of turf and topsoil to 150mm, sand silt deposit again revealed to part of excavation. Excavation for concrete bases of picnic base to 350mm of 1.6m x 200mm revealed only natural ground of red-brown gravel silts.

Overall no archaeological deposits or features were revealed. The two picnic benches lie in an area of former car park that has over grown.

## **Recommendations**

No recommendations with regards to this project are to be proposed.

**Archive**

Notebook of results to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh. A set of colour slides showing the progress of the work has been deposited with Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

**References**

Bradley, R (2000) *The Good Stones : a new investigation of the Clava Cairns*, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph 17. Edinburgh.

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

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## **Appendix 1 – Details of Slides**

- 1 – View of fence-line facing south.
- 2 – View of area of benches pre-ex facing north-east.
- 3 – View of spoil from fence strainer facing south.
- 4 – View of site of bench no.1 pre-ex facing south-east.
- 5 – View of excavation in progress facing south.
- 6 – View of bench no.1 upon removal of turf and topsoil facing south.
- 7 – View of site of bench no.2 pre-ex facing south.
- 8 – View of bench no.2 upon removal of turf and topsoil facing south.
- 9 – View of excavation for concrete base bench no.1 facing east.
- 10 – View of excavation for concrete base bench no.2 facing north.

*Brief for archaeological work at:*

**CLAVA**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

**Archaeology Unit**

## 1) Background

An archaeological watching brief is needed at this site because there is a potential for finds or features of interest to be discovered during site works. A watching brief enables any such discoveries to be recorded quickly and efficiently as they appear with minimum delay or disruption to the development.

This brief specifies what we consider to be the *minimum* acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. It may be used to obtain estimates from archaeologists. We will assume that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with us in writing before the start of any site works.

The brief sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

## 2) Terms of Reference

This brief has been produced on Thursday, 16 May 2002 for the Capital Projects Team, who will be responsible for the work, including any tendering and contractual arrangements. It is valid until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2003. If any of these details do not apply when site works start, a new specification will be needed. Please note that it may differ from previous briefs supplied by us for other projects.

The work should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The Council's Archaeology Unit may refuse to accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to these standards. Where this brief has been produced in response to a planning condition, and archaeological work fails to meet the standards set out here, the applicant will also be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

The area to be covered is the entire development area, and includes any proposed drainage, services or other ancillary works unless otherwise indicated.

**Before site works commence, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist in writing.**

## 3) Objectives

To identify and record any features or objects of archaeological importance that would be damaged or destroyed by this development, while minimising any delays or disruption to the development project.

## 4) Method

No archaeological excavation is to take place as part of this brief.

### *a) Watching Brief*

A watching brief will be conducted by the archaeologist on all site ground-works, so that any finds or features of importance can be recorded to professional standards. The archaeologist will endeavour wherever possible to work with the contractor to ensure that any recording required is done with minimum delay to the site works.

### *b) Site Contractors*



Contractors and others carrying out site works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. They may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. For example,

- Where excavating machinery is used, 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 on this.
- Archaeologists may need to get quickly into recently cleared areas and this may mean that drivers of excavators may sometimes need to wait briefly, or switch to working other areas.
- Each excavating machine needs to be watched by at least one archaeologist at all times (1:1 ratio). Work should not begin on site until this cover has been set up.
- Because the archaeologist must be able to record any archaeological remains encountered during the work to professional standards, site clearance works may take slightly longer than normal. This should be allowed for in the development project timetable. Occasionally, more extensive excavation may be needed since there will be limited opportunities to preserve features in situ. If discoveries are made that would cause significant delays, **please see 6 (d) below**.

Once areas have been cleared, and any archaeology recorded, there should be no need for further archaeological work in these areas. However any service trenches outwith areas of topsoil stripping will need to be included the watching brief.

**c) Report**

A report must be produced which sets out the results of the work (see below)

## **5) Monitoring**

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met. This is usually by unannounced site visit - alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.

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.

**Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and /or the development must be notified by the archaeologist immediately to the applicant and the Senior Archaeologist. The finds or features must be left until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.**

## **6) Reporting**

**a) Project report**

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for producing a report on the work, *and for making sure copies have been received by the recipients listed below*. We require archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline.

At least six copies of the project report must be produced. These must be submitted to all of the following **within 3 weeks** of the completion of fieldwork.

- One paper copy for Capital Projects Team.

- One paper copy for Inverness Museum to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB
- One paper copy for the Information Co-ordinator, Library Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA. This will be available for local reference through the public library service.
- Two copies for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX:
  - One paper copy.
  - One copy of the complete report in Adobe Acrobat format (ie a pdf file). This can be supplied by email or on a computer disc. Please ensure that all drawings and photographs are included.

The report must include, as a minimum,

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Scale plans, and photographs of all archaeological features noted.
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location.
- 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.
- General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project.
- A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.
- A list of finds, set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting. Copies of the necessary forms are obtainable if required from the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB

#### ***b) Presentation***

Where significant archaeology has been found, this specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results, to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. This is the responsibility of the archaeologist appointed who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

#### ***c) DES***

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. This is also the responsibility of the archaeologist appointed who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work.

#### ***d) Copyright***

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

## **7) Finds**

Contractors should be aware that advice and facilities for emergency conservation and temporary storage can be offered by Inverness Museum on consultation with the Conservation Officer and Assistant Curator (Archaeology). A list of services and table of costs are available from the museum.

Contractors should notify the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum, before the start of site works. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify local museums of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area.

A finds list, in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting, must be attached to and submitted with the report.

All finds should be notified for Treasure Trove by the contractor before the report is submitted.

## **8) General**

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief. he or she must:

- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
- take all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
- fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

The main contractor on site has overall responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced by the Council's Senior Archaeologist, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

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*DMM*  
*16.5.2002*