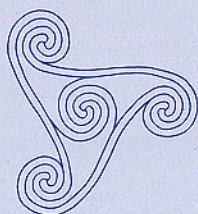


829/NAI

Watching Brief at Firhall, Nairn

Data Structure Report



On behalf of:

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National Grid Reference (NGR):

NH 8818 5515

AOC Archaeology project no:

3044

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Timing:

November 2001

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0. SUMMARY

- 0.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on ground breaking works associated with the construction of a housing development at Firhall, Nairn. These works followed on from an earlier phase of evaluation work on site (Rankin 1999).
- 0.2 The archaeological works were commissioned by Kerr Duncan McAllister (Architects Designers).
- 0.3 There were no archaeological features of any significance observed during the course of the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Kerr Duncan McAllister (Architects Designers) to carry out archaeological works in the development area.
- 1.2 The area being developed lies within the grounds of Firhall House and is adjacent to the B9090, 0.8km south of Nairn Railway Station (Figure 1). The development comprises the building of new housing, which will consist of several distinct phases of housing and construction groups. This interim report relates solely to the stripping of the access road and the Phase 1 works.

2. METHOD

- 2.1 The ground works consisted of the stripping of the topsoil to the subsoil by a JCB excavator with a toothless bucket working in concert with a bulldozer which removed the spoil. The average depth of topsoil within the areas was between 0.25 and 0.4m deep.
- 2.2 The exposed surface was carefully examined for the presence of any archaeological features.
- 2.3 The spoil heaps were examined for artefactual evidence of human activity. Any features were to be briefly sketched, photographed and recorded.
- 2.4 The work was carried out on the 1st of November 2001.

3. RESULTS

- 3.1 The topsoil was a dark brown organic soil with numerous stone inclusions, the subsoil was a dark orange sands and gravels.
- 3.2 The subsoil was inspected across the full area as outlined in red on the attached plan.(Figure 1)

3.3 No archaeological features were observed in the area concerned.

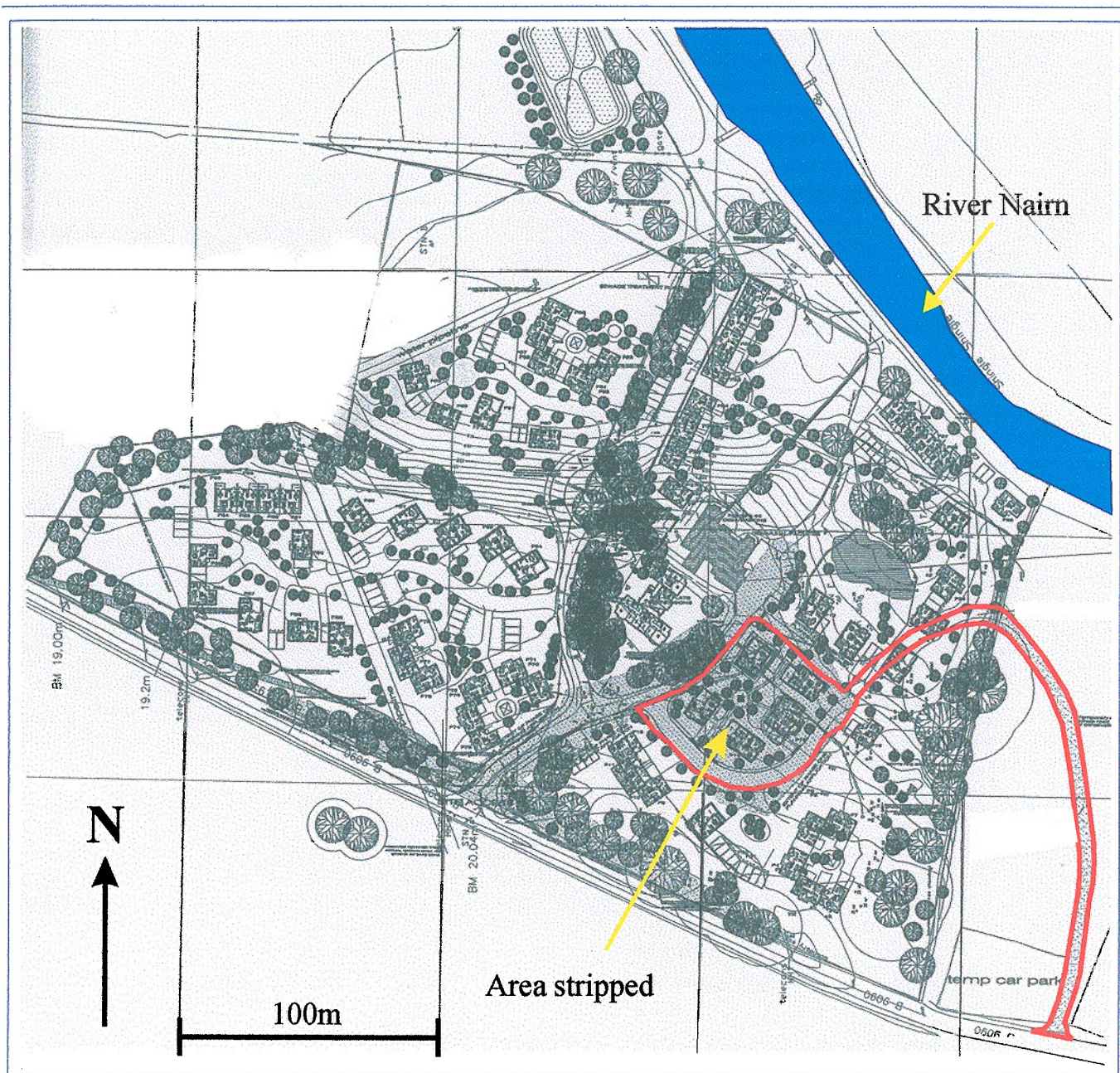


Figure 1 Plan of Development Area

APPENDIX 1: REFERENCES

- Rankin, D 1999 An archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation of a proposed sheltered housing development, Firhall, Nairn.

APPENDIX 1 – DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

Location Authority	Highland
Site Name	Firhall Nairn
Parish	Nairn
Contributor	Martin Cook (AOC Archaeology Group)
Type of Site	Watching Brief
NGR	NH 8818 5515

Report

An archaeological watching was undertaken on a top-soil strip of the Phase 1 works including the access road. No archaeological remains were uncovered.

Sponsor: *Kerr, Duncan, McAllister*