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

Client: Kerr, Duncan, McAllister
September 1999

AOC
ARCHAEOLOGY
GROUP

On behalf of:	**Kerr, Duncan, McAllister** Architects, Designers 217 Brook Street Broughty Ferry Dundee DD5 2AG
Client reference:	AMK/BK/1291
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NH 8818 5515
AOC Archaeology project no:	3044
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1 INTRODUCTION

A programme of archaeological works comprising a desk-based assessment, archaeological evaluation and reporting was undertaken on behalf of Kerr Duncan McAllister (Architects Designers). The trial trenching for the evaluation took place between 31 August and 2 September 1999 and was carried out by AOC Archaeology Group in advance of a proposed sheltered housing development at Firhall, Nairn. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with planning recommendations, which were made retrospectively by the Archaeology Service, after planning consent had been given. The requirements stipulated by The Highland Council's Archaeology Service comprised an Archaeological Field Evaluation reported on in this report, and an Archaeological Watching Brief. The watching brief will take place concurrently with the ground penetrating works within the grounds and policies of the existing house at Firhall, which will take place in the near future and reported upon separately.

1.1 Site location

The site is located in an area of arable pasture extending over three fields occupying approximately 4.6 hectares that are currently used to graze cattle. The fields are separated by narrow bands of established woodland and are situated approximately 0.8 km south of Nairn railway station, about 24 km east of Inverness, centred on NH 8818 5515 (see Figure 1). The westernmost field lies between 20 and 15 m OD and the middle field straddles the higher ground in the west with the floodplain to the east that lies between 10 and 8 m OD. In the immediate vicinity of the site to the north-east and south-west, is a complex of cropmark sites (Site Nos 2 & 3) identified by the RCAHMS from aerial photographs. These monuments include; a large enclosure around a circular structure, which is probably a round-house; two penannular ring-ditches, as well as, further round-houses and other remnant features (see Figure 1).

2 METHODOLOGY

The trench positions and sizes were decided in consultation with Dorothy Low, the Highland Council's archaeologist. The trench locations took into consideration the possible advantages to be gained from the local topography, both in terms of site survival and from predictive models of site location based on the results of the desk-based assessment. The trenches also avoided impinging on the corridor carrying an oil pipeline that bisects the western part of the site in a southwest-northeast alignment, which was protected from archaeological works by adhering to a 10m buffer zone along its course. The trenches were designed to expose an area of approximately 2300 m^2, representing about 5 % of the northern portion of the proposed development area at Firhall (see Figure 2).

Each trench was stripped of its topsoil to a level where the upper surface of the underlying subsoil was exposed. This was carried out by a 360° mechanical excavator using a 1.8 m wide ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The subsoil surface, or first archaeologically significant soil horizon, and sample sections along the sides of the trenches were examined for any archaeological features present. More supervised machine stripping expanded existing trenches around potential archaeological features, in order to fully define their extent and character.

Standard procedures, in compliance with Health & Safety regulations, for working with heavy plant/machinery were maintained at all times.

A selection of features were excavated to determine their archaeological significance, complexity and surviving depth. Archaeological features were drawn in plan and section, where appropriate, and recorded on standard AOC Archaeology Group context forms and by photography (a catalogue of site drawings and the photographic record is presented in Appendices 3 & 4). All excavated features and any features that were neither modern, nor natural were sampled, where appropriate, using AOC Archaeology Group's standard field sampling strategy. This included taking Standard Bulk Samples and Routine Samples of soil from individual contexts (see Appendix 5).

3 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

No known sites are recorded within the proposed development area, however, there are three sites noted in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development, see Figure 1. A full gazetteer of the archaeological and historical sites identified by the desk-based assessment is contained in Appendix 1 below. They comprise of an upstanding building probably dating to the eighteenth century (Site No 1) and two cropmark sites (Site Nos 2 & 3) that could possibly extend into the site, which may date to the later prehistoric period.

4 FIELD EVALUATION

The fieldwork took place over a period of three long-working days. Weather conditions were mainly dry and breezy. All trenches were excavated by machine and hand-cleaned where appropriate. In general the topsoil consisted of a slightly sandy loose medium brown soil with inclusions of nineteenth and/or twentieth pottery and glass sherds. The topsoil was more or less the same across the site with variations in its depth due to variations in topography. Subsoil comprised of sands and gravels across the site as a whole with slight variations in consistency occurring locally within individual trenches.

4.1 Trench 1

Size: Length 143m, width 3.5m.
Orientation: NE-SW
Topsoil depth: 0.28 to 0.45 m.
Artefacts: A sherd of glazed white pottery observed from the topsoil.
Summary: Truncated plough marks were revealed in the interface between the subsoil and the topsoil.
Interpretation: The merging interface between the topsoil (Context 0100) and subsoil (Context 0101), as well as, the evidence of truncated plough marks, indicated that this area had been extensively and deeply ploughed, which included sub-soiling.

4.2 Trench 2

Size: Length 64m, width 3.5m.
Orientation: NW-SE
Topsoil depth: 0.26 to 0.35 m.
Artefacts: A sherd of glazed white pottery observed in the topsoil, probably nineteenth century.
Summary: Truncated plough marks were revealed in the subsoil
Interpretation: The merging interface between the topsoil (Context 0200) and subsoil (Context 0201), as well as, the evidence of truncated plough marks, indicated that this area had been extensively ploughed, which included sub-soiling.

4.3 Trench 3

Size: Length 56m, width 3.5m.
Orientation: NNE-SSW
Topsoil depth: 0.42 to 0.59 m.
Artefacts: Sherds of glazed white pottery observed, probably nineteenth century.
Summary: Three features were revealed in this trench. Respectively, they comprised two small charcoal spreads (Contexts 302 & 303) and a small pit feature, Contexts 304 & 305. The two small charcoal spreads appeared on the subsoil surface that was mottled with ecological and biological activity at this point. The small pit feature occurred as a shallow depression in the subsoil surface and it also, was affected by bioturbation and rootlet disturbance..
Interpretation: The two small charcoal features (Contexts 302 & 303) probably represent the remnants of a larger charcoal spread. However their amorphous shape, very shallow depth and lack of anthropic material within their fills, does not allow for more detailed conclusions about their function, or origin,to be made. The small pit feature (Contexts 304 & 305) could be the remains of a post-hole. The feature is in a very degraded condition due to the effects of ploughing, bioturbation, small mammal burrowing and rootlet activity. The lack of any dating evidence such as charcoal or artefactual remains, together with the absence of associated features including other post-holes, suggests that this site has suffered such extensive damage that any surviving remnants of archaeological activity, where they survive at all, will inevitably be of very poor quality.

4.4 Trench 4

Size: Length 64m, width 3.3m.
Orientation: WNW-ESE
Topsoil depth: 0.35 to 0.55 m.
Artefacts: Sherds of glazed white pottery observed, probably nineteenth century, as well as fragments of iron and sherds of glass.
Summary: Two features (Contexts 402 & 403) comprising small concentrations of charcoal were evident in the bed of this trench.
Interpretation: These features upon investigation proved to be 0.02 and 0.03 m deep by 0.02 and 0.04 m^2 in plan respectively. The heavy truncation of these features does not allow for detailed interpretation, however, they may represent the remnants of

post-holes associated with earlier structures. Due to their very poor, ephemeral condition, their archaeological significance is very low.

4.5 Trench 5

Size: Length 112m, width 3.4m.
Orientation: NNE-SSW
Topsoil depth: 0.50 to 0.60 m.
Artefacts: Sherds of thick green glass, glazed white pottery and a large piece of large mammal bone were observed in the topsoil. An iron scissors blade and two fragments of rotary quern stone were recovered from the pit feature (Contexts 502 & 503).
Summary: A total of seven features were observed in this trench including natural phenomena such as a tree-bowl (Context 509), natural band of sand (Context 510) and a mammal burrow (Context 508). Human-made features comprised of a geological test-pit (Context 506), a possible plough-mark (Context 507) and two large pits (Contexts 502 & 503 and 504 & 505 respectively).
Interpretation: The two large pits revealed in the bed of the trench had overall dimensions of 5.00 m long by 2.50 m wide by 0.30 m deep and 3.00 m long by 2.00 m wide and 0.20 m deep respectively (see Figure 3). Upon excavation, the larger of these pits contained two fragments (basal and upper) of a rotary quern stone, and a rusty iron blade, probably from a pair of scissors (pers comm Mandy Clydesdale, Conservation Manager, AOC Archaeology Group). Both pit features are irregular in plan and the bases of their cuts are also uneven (see Figures 4 & 5). One of the pits (Contexts 504) showed that it had held a post about 0.15 m diameter and 0.20 m deep. The cut for this post-hole was only visible as it cut into the subsoil. Its cut within the fill was not evident and this could be considered to be due to its instatement at the same time as the pit in which it was located. Equally, the reason for the lack of evidence being visible in the section could be due to post-depositional bioturbation that has masked this evidence by homogenising it, making it impossible to identify individual elements of a feature's composition due to the loss of the discrete interfaces between them. The fill of this feature (Context 505) consisted of a dark to medium brown slightly silty sandy loam that contained a high proportion of medium sized stones. The cut for the other pit feature (Context 502) was not clearly observed in the trench section due to the homogenised nature of the topsoil horizon. The uneven bases for these pits, particularly, Context 502, suggests that they were hand-dug. The function and date of these pits is however, unclear. One of the pits, Context 502, contains two large fragments of a rotary quern stone with a rusty scissors blade in its fill, whilst Pit 504 contained a post-hole within its fill. Pit 504 may represent the remains of a structure using stony packing material to secure a supporting post. This feature has no artefactual or dating evidence from its fill. However, Pit 504 is very similar in form and fill to Pit 502. Pit 502 appears also to have been packed with stony material including stony waste material such as broken quern stones. This feature too, may have contained a post, although no evidence for this was recovered. That these pits are remnant founds for a temporary/flimsy structure seems more likely than the possibility that they are rubbish pits, as they contain a relatively small amount of waste material. The metal blade and quern stone fragments recovered from the fill of one of the pit features (Context 503) may upon further analysis (see section 6 below), provide further information about their provenance. Certainly, rotary quern stones are common artefacts in agricultural areas from their introduction since the

Iron Age, only becoming antiquated in the early twentieth century after two thousand years in the artefactual record. These artefacts may represent reworked topsoil material that has become incorporated into the pit from modern agricultural disturbance and/or construction. These pits are considered to be of potential archaeological significance due to the possibility that these remains derive from early settlement and activity in the area and a further programme of post-excavation works may provide some additional information about the land-use history.

The geological test-pit (Context 506) contained an unhomogenised mixed fill of sandy loam and pockets of sandy gravel indicating its very recent origins connected with the site investigations works at Firhall. A linear band of medium brown sandy loamy soil aligned NW-SE also appears to be modern in origin and probably represents the remains of deep machine ploughing (Context 507). A pale curvilinear band of sand (context 510) upon excavation represented a natural geological phenomenon.

4.6 Trench 6

Size: Length 107m, width 3.5m.
Orientation: NW-SE
Topsoil depth: 0.32 to 0.84 m.
Artefacts: Sherds of glazed white pottery observed, probably nineteenth century.
Summary: One feature, a services ditch (Contexts 603 & 604) was observed in this trench.
Interpretation: A modern services ditch carrying a polyurethane water pipe bisects the bed of the trench in an east-northeast/west-southwest alignment. This feature was not clear in the trench section, which showed a very homogenised interface between the ditch cut and the topsoil, which is the result of intensive ploughing. The deeper area of topsoil stratigraphy occurs as the topography of the landscape slopes more steeply to the west as it leaves the floodplain and ascends onto higher ground.

4.7 Trench 7

Size: Length 50.2m, width 3.5m.
Orientation: NNE-SSW
Topsoil depth: 0.27 to 2.43 m.
Artefacts: Sherds of glazed white pottery observed, probably nineteenth century.
Summary: No features of archaeological significance were noted in this trench.
Interpretation: The trench bed indicates an area devoid of any human activity either in the past or in modern times. The deepest area of topsoil coincides with the transition from the floodplain to higher ground. A possible cut for a palaeo-channel about 7.2 m wide is shown in section (Context 703) aligned south-southwest/north-northeast as it crosses the trench.

4.8 Trench 8

Size: Length 30.1m, width 3.4m.
Orientation: WNW-ESE

Topsoil depth: 0.29 to 0.60 m.
Artefacts: Sherds of glazed white pottery observed, probably nineteenth century.
Summary: No features of archaeological significance were observed in this trench.
Interpretation: The lack of features in the bed of the trench shows this to be an area devoid of evidence for human activity past or present.

4.9 Trench 9

Size: Length 19.1m, width 3.3m.
Orientation: NNE-SSW
Topsoil depth: 0.43 to 0.67 m.
Artefacts: None observed.
Summary: No features of archaeological significance were revealed in this trench.
Interpretation: An area that did not reveal any evidence for human activity either in the past, or in more recent times.

4.10 Trench 10

Size: Length 20.30m, width 3.35m.
Orientation: NNE-SSW
Topsoil depth: 0.32 to 0.43 m.
Artefacts: Sherds of glazed white pottery observed, probably nineteenth century.
Summary: One feature was exposed, which consisted of a small dark spread of composite material contained within a shallow depression on the surface of the subsoil (Contexts 1002 & 1003). The cut for this feature was greatly obscured by the mixing of soils between the interfaces. Once again, the soil profile was very active with worms and rootlets.
Interpretation: This small spread of dark brown gritty sandy soil contains concentrations of black soil within its cut (Context 1003). The concentrations of blackened soil may represent deposits of sooty material, however, no charcoal was recovered from this feature upon excavation. The very ephemeral nature of this spread, and the mixed nature of its fill, suggests that it represents the very last vestiges of a feature, which has since been so heavily truncated that interpretation is not possible, although it may represent the remnants of a hearth.

5 CONCLUSIONS

Only two features were potentially archaeologically significant (Contexts 502-504). All the other features were heavily plough-truncated as evidenced in the extensive evidence for sub-soiling shown in the merging topsoil and subsoil interfaces, as well as, the presence of modern plough-marks in some of the trench beds.

Artefactual material from the excavated topsoil, which included sherds of glazed white pottery, bottle glass and rarely, large mammal bone, was primarily modern in date. They are certainly post-mediaeval, if not modern in date.

The features that were revealed in the trench beds can be categorised into four main groups: firstly, ephemeral pits and spreads of a possible prehistoric to mediaeval date; secondly, nineteenth and twentieth century features such as drains and test-pits

associated with agricultural activity and geological works respectively; thirdly, natural features such as tree-bowls; and finally, more substantially surviving pits of unknown function but containing artefactual or structural debris that may prove archaeologically significant. The features that were encountered were concentrated in the westernmost field, which occupies an area of higher ground that then descends onto a floodplain to the east.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the archaeological field evaluation suggest that the likely archaeological remains are of a minor or uncertain nature. This is particularly the case with respect to Contexts 502 and 504, the pit features in Trench 5. The site as a whole has been heavily truncated by modern machine ploughing and the active presence of worms and rootlets, together with evidence for small mammal burrowing has homogenised even the deepest stratigraphic sequences across the site. As is reasonable under Section 35, PAN 42:

> '...planning authorities may wish to ensure that reasonable access is given to a nominated archaeologist or archaeological body either to hold a watching brief during the construction period or specifically to carry out archaeological investigation and recording in the course of permitted operations on site'.

This method of proceeding the archaeological investigations (conducting an archaeological watching brief) for this development with respect to the development of the area around Firhall House and grounds has already been agreed between Highland Council and the developers. . Based on the results of this evaluation, and the uncertain nature of the surviving remains recovered, a limited watching brief around the area of these two pits is also to be recommended as a mitigation strategy with respect to the recording of potential in situ archaeological deposits. In conjunction with the watching brief for the house and messuage therefore, it is proposed that the watching brief should also be carried out in the immediate vicinity centred on the pits in Trench 5, Contexts 502 and 504, in a 50 m buffer zone around them.
Beyond a limited archaeological watching brief in the area of Trench 5, no further archaeological investigation of the northern portion of the proposed development is recommended. Despite the high proportion of land that was excavated, a very low number remains was discovered. Of the remains that may be prehistoric, all of these were of extremely poor quality, surviving in most instances as ephemeral traces in the exposed subsoil, which in turn showed that it had been intensively ploughed in modern times, as well as disturbed by rootlet, worm and small mammal activity. The function of these features is unknown and could not be determined in the course of the field evaluation due to their degraded condition. In spite of the poor survival of features in the ground, the artefacts that were recovered from the pit in Trench 5 (Context 502), should be part of a programme of post-excavation works. These works would be able to determine their date if possible and perhaps indicate their significance within the feature and the landscape as a whole. It is proposed that this work be undertaken once all archaeological works have been completed as part of a comprehensive Finds Record for the site as a whole.

Proposed development area/area of archaeological evaluation

Area subject to an archaeological watching brief

Archaeological or historic site (defined)

Site number

Evaluation trench

1 Evaluation trench number

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Map key, Firhall, Nairn

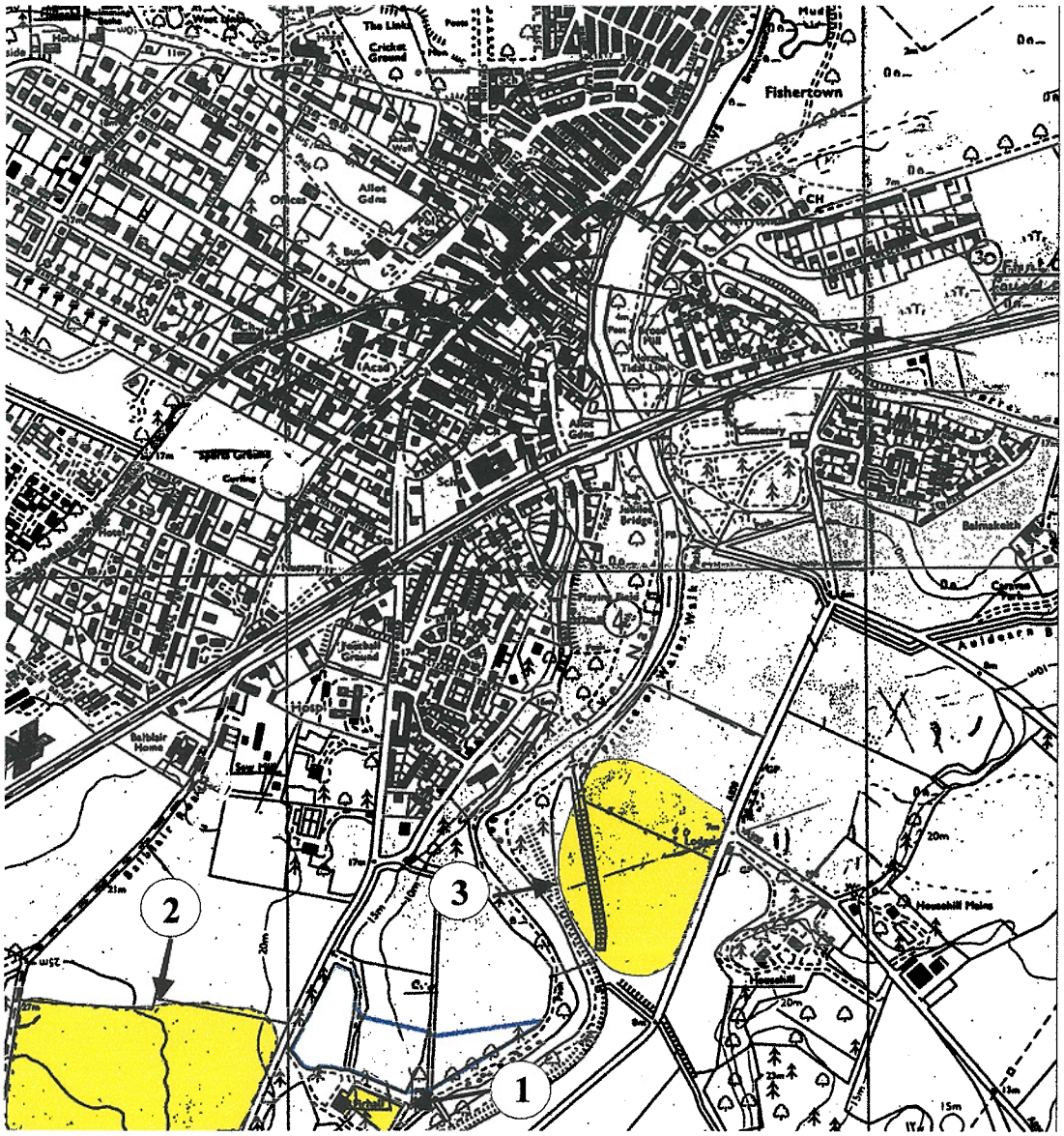

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Figure 1 Location map of archaeological and historic sites and monuments, Firhall, Nairn

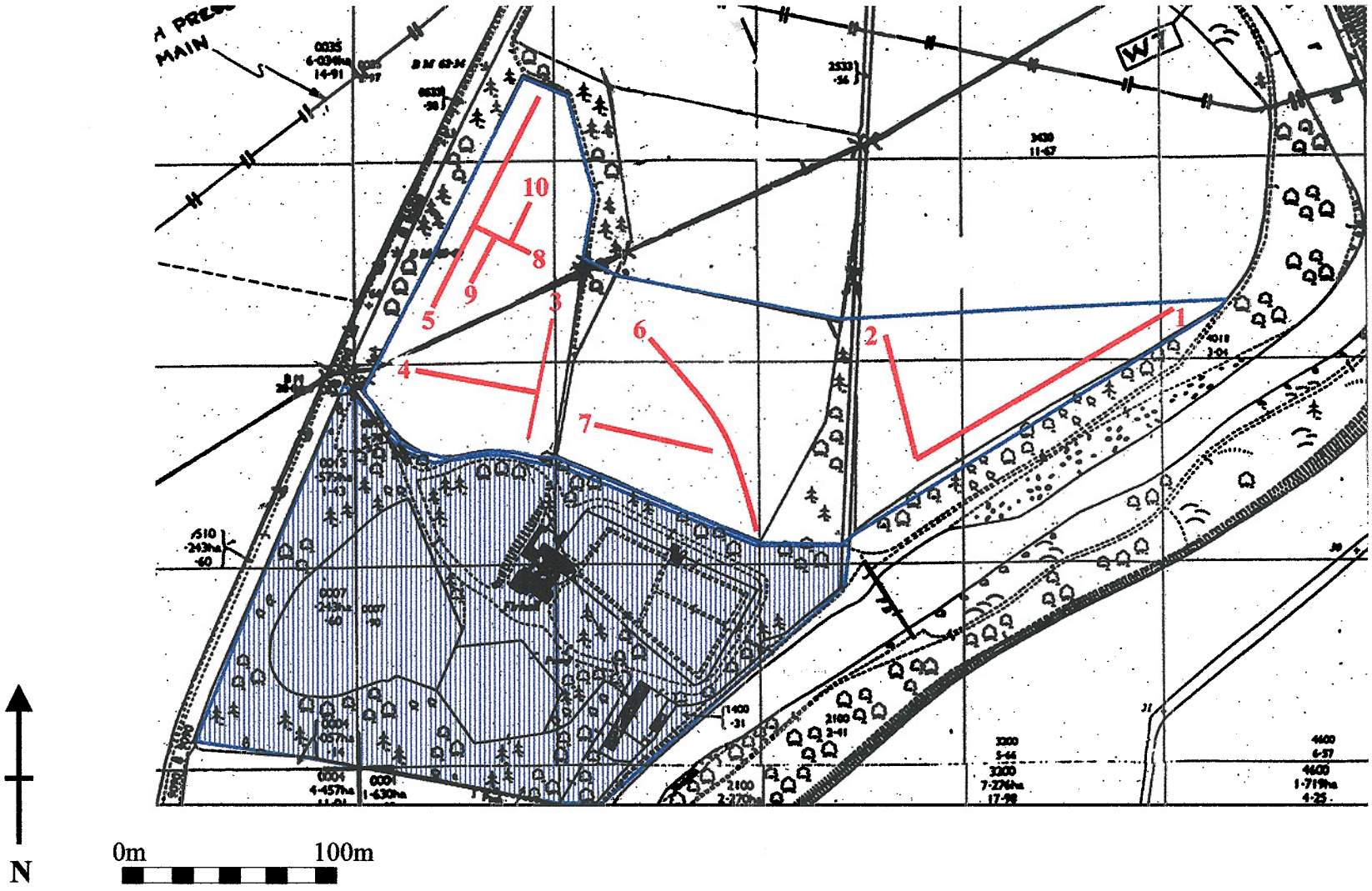

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Figure 2 Location plan of evaluation trenches, Firhall, Nairn.

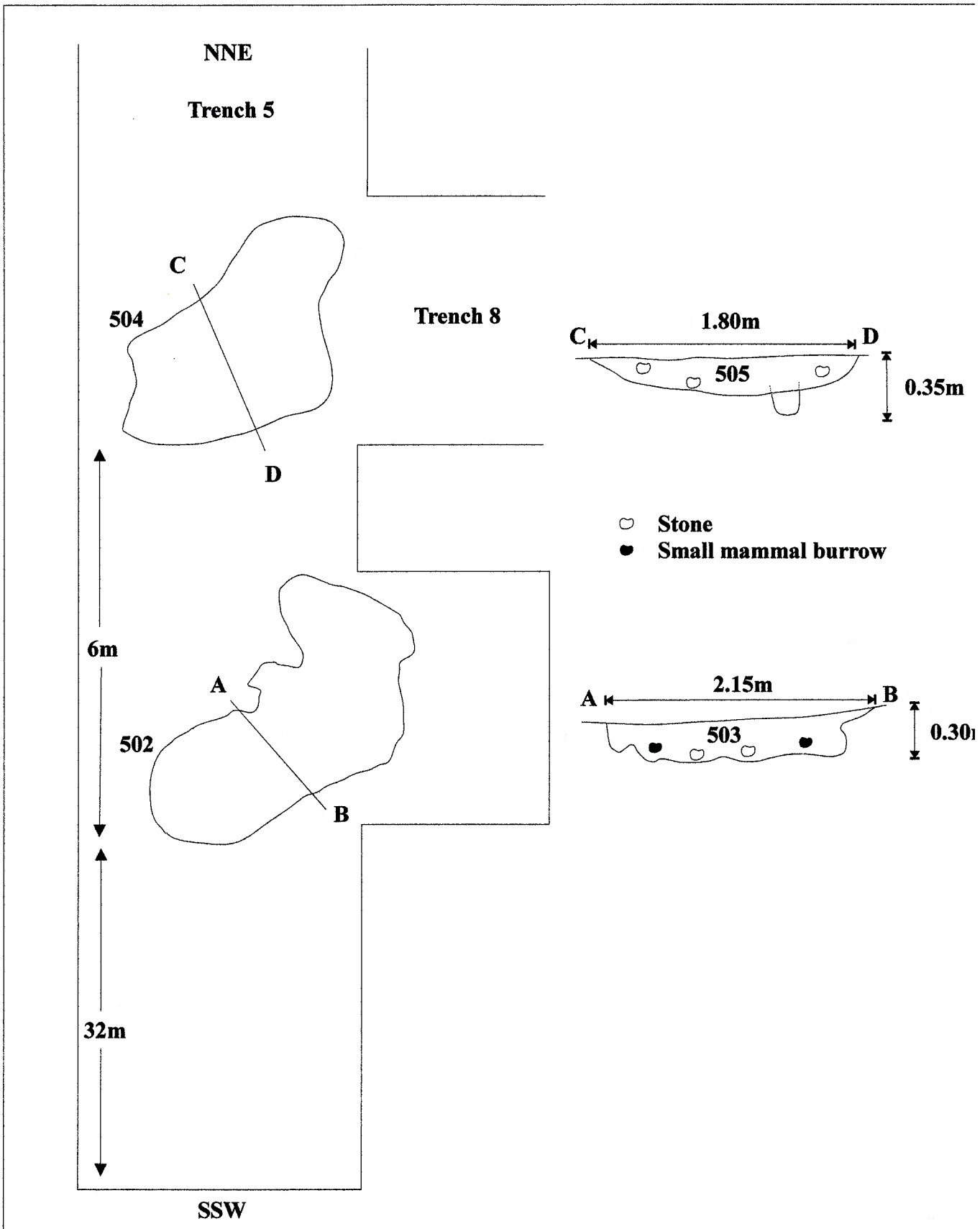

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Figure 3 Plan and section of pit features, Contexts 502 & 503 and 504 & 505 respectiv

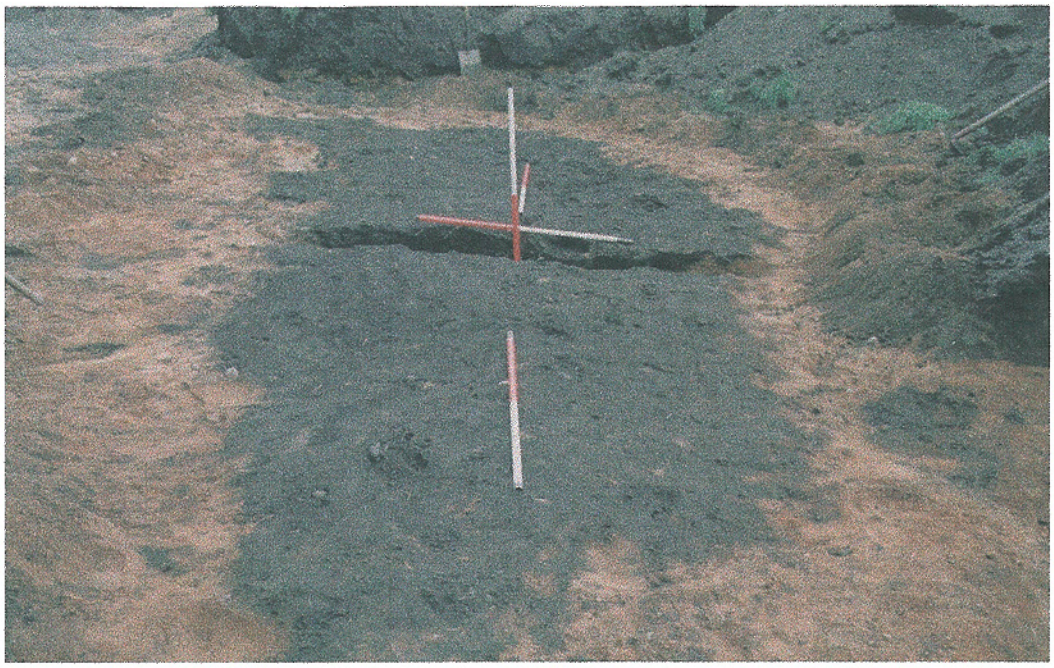

Figure 4 Pit feature (Context 502 & 503) in plan, from SW

Figure 5 Pit feature (Context 502 & 503) in section, from SW

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES & MONUMENTS

What follows is a gazetteer of the sites located during the desk-based assessment. The desk-based assessment found there to be no sites located in the proposed development area, but there were three sites in the immediate area of the proposed development (<200m). These are listed below in Section 1.2. Each site number is unique to the survey and corresponds to the numbers attached to each site illustrated in Figure 1 and each individual site entry follows the format described below.

1.1 Format

The format of each site entry in the gazetteer is in the order given, (entries follow the NMRS, where applicable);

Unique monument number
National grid reference (eight figures)
Site name Site type
Description of archaeological and historic interest
Primary references

1.2 Sites and monuments in immediate vicinity of proposed development (<500m)

1

NH 8801 5501

Firhall, Cawdor Road, Nairn House

No further information available. The earliest map that depicts the house at Firhall is Ainslie's *Travelling map of Scotland* (1789).

NMRS: NH85NE 66

2

NH 8770 5510

Balblair Enclosure; cropmarks; ring-ditches

Aerial photography has revealed a series of cropmarks scattered across a field 350m ESE of Balblair House. A large oval enclosure, measuring about 55m by 40m internally, has a parallel pair of palisades 4m apart, and 6m in from the external ditch. At least one circular mark within this enclosure, probably a house, suggests that this is a settlement.

Immediately to the south and west of this settlement are a number of indeterminate circular and sub-circular features, some of which may be ring-ditches, five of them appear on the same alignment. An irregular curving linear cropmark runs for some 50m north-east from

the roadside in the north-west corner of the field, and one of the features identified as a pennannular ring-ditch lies 40m to the north-west of the settlement.
Further cropmarks are visible in the south-east corner of the field, 150m south-southeast of the settlement. Two circular marks, both with diameters of about 10m, may be further round-houses, and arcs of ditch between these and to the west are probably parts of ring-ditches. Various other indeterminate markings have been recorded immediately to the north.

Swirling cropmarks in the south-west corner of the same field are geological in origin, and irregular narrow linear features in the north-east corner represent frost or ice wedges.

NMRS: NH85NE 46

3

NH 8850 5540

Househill Cropmarks

A series of cropmarks, mostly geological, have been recorded by aerial photography 150m west-northwest of Househill House. An alignment of three or four indeterminate marks, one of which may be a small ring-ditch, with a diameter of approximately 6m, are visible at NH 8866 5554, and a possible small-sub-rectangular feature lies immediately to the east-northeast. Further indeterminate marks to the south appear to lie along the line of the cropmark of a field drain, suggesting they are of recent origin.
Various linear cropmarks are visible in this area, and these include a linear feature which runs northeast-southwest across the field until it reaches the River Nairn, suggesting that it is probably a modern field drain or pipeline. Further cropmarks may also represent field boundaries or drains. There is no indication on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Nairnshire Sheet I), suggesting the latter interpretation to be more likely.

A linear cropmark, much wider than those already discussed, runs south to north across the centre of the field, and bifurcates at NH 8862 5556. The north and south extents of this feature are obscured by geological marks, but it may represent some kind of trackway. These cropmarks lie amidst a series of geological marks, which are visible across the field, and these almost certainly show old river channels. Similar marks have been recorded in fields immediately to the north and west.

NMRS: NH85NE 62

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context no	Trench no	Description
0100	1	Topsoil of light brown sandy loam.
0101	1	Subsoil of mainly mottled pale ochre to white sand with bands of gravels and cobbles (see Context 0102).
0102	1	Subsoil of mainly gravels and cobbles.
0200	2	Topsoil of light to mid-brown sandy loam.
0201	2	Subsoil of mainly gravels and cobbles with occasional bands of pale ochre sand.
0300	3	Topsoil of mid-brown sandy loam.
0301	3	Subsoil consists of fine to coarse gravels with orange to dark beige sand.
0302	3	Charcoal smear 0.30 m long by 0.10 m wide by 0.07m deep, aligned north-south.
0303	3	Charcoal smear 0.30 m long by 0.10 m wide by 007 m deep, aligned east-west.
0304	3	Cut of possible post-hole. A steep-sided sub-oval cut up to 0.54 m wide by 0.65 m long and 0.11 m deep. Edge of cut merges with subsoil due to burrowing mammals and bioturbation.
0305	3	Fill of possible post-hole (Context 304) consists of a dark brown to black fine silty soil containing 1-2 % small angular stones and rounded pebbles. This context is devoid of artefactual and ecofactual material. Worm activity presence.
0400	4	Topsoil (see Context 0300).
0401	4	Subsoil (see Context 0301).
0402	4	Charcoal smear, sub-oval in plan, 0.04m long by 0.04m wide by 0.03m deep.
0403	4	Charcoal smear, sub-oval in plan, 0.02m long by 0.02m wide by 0.02m deep.
0500	5	Topsoil (see Context 0300).
0501	5	Subsoil (see Context 0301).
0502	5	Cut of pit, overall dimensions 5.00m long by 2.50m wide by 0.30m deep, aligned ENE-WSW. Base and sides uneven but more or less, flat-bottomed and steeply-sided (about 90° angle).
0503	5	Fill of pit (Context 502) a dark brown smooth silty, slightly sandy loam abundant in rootlet, worm and small mammal activity. Stone inclusions (rounded to sub-angular) about 30% by litre volume and about 0.10m by 0.08m by 0.05m in size. Iron scissors blade and rotary quern stone fragment recovered from fill.
0504	5	Cut of pit, overall dimensions 3.00m by 2.00m by 0.2m deep, aligned NNE-SSW. Comprised within this cut is a post-hole (collapsed during excavation) about 0.15 to 0.20m diameter and up to 0.15 to 0.2m deep. The sides of this pit are also uneven, although they form an angle of approximately 45° as they reach the flat base of the feature, which is cut by the post-hole, although no clear cut is evident within the fill.

0505	5	Fill of pit (Context 504) consists of a dark brown smooth silty, slightly sandy loam containing stone inclusions of sub-rounded pebbles with average dimensions of 0.05m by 0.04m by 0.02m, at a proportion of 5-10% per litre volume. There is extensive evidence for bioturbation and rootlet activity within the fill and its cut (Context 504).
0506	5	Geological test pit.
0507	5	Plough mark
0508	5	Mammal burrow.
0509	5	Tree bowl.
0510	5	Natural curvilinear band of sand.
0600	6	Topsoil. Comprises a turf layer between 0.08 to 0.10 m thick, which lies on a mid to light brown, loose, slightly sandy loam containing small to medium sized stones and pebbles (about 30-40%). Worm and rootlet activity is evident in section.
0601	6	B-Horizon.
0602	6	Subsoil of a light ochre to orangey brown sandy gravel with larger rounded stone inclusions frequent.
0603	6	Cut of drainage ditch
0604	6	Fill of drainage ditch
0700	7	Topsoil (see Context 0600).
0701	7	Subsoil consisting of pale ochre sand that incorporates modern Plough marks in plan
0702	7	Subsoil of darker orange sand.
0703	7	Subsoil of pale to mid grey brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of angular stones and rounded pebbles, as well as cobbles about 0.13 m long by 0.12 m wide by 0.10 m thick.
0704	7	Subsoil of pale to mid ochre sandy gravel similar to Context 0602.
0705	7	Plough marks that are oblong in plan, about 0.40m long by 0.14 m wide by 0.07m deep located in the bed of the trench in Context 0701.
0800	8	Topsoil (as Context 500).
0801	8	Subsoil (as Context 501).
0900	9	Topsoil (as Context 500).
0901	9	Subsoil (as Context 501).
1000	10	Topsoil (as Context 500).
1001	10	Subsoil (as Context 501).
1002	10	Cut of spread. A sub-circular feature measuring 0.82 m long N-S by 0.78 m E-W and 0.10 m deep.
1003	10	Fill of spread. The spread of dark material comprises a dark brown sandy soil, which contain small concentrations of black soil?

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

All photography used colour print film

Film number 1

Frame No	*Area*	*Description*	*From*	*Date*
1	-	Registration shot -		31.8.99
2	Trench 1	Sample section of plough-truncated subsoil	N	31.8.99
3	Trench 1	General shot of machine opening	NE	31.8.99
4	Trench 1	General shot	SW	31.8.99
5	Trench 1	General shot	SW	31.8.99
6	Trench 2	General shot	S	31.8.99
7	Trench 2	General shot	S	31.8.99
8	Trench 2	General shot	N	31.8.99
9	Trench 2	General shot	N	31.8.99
10	Trench 1 & 2	General view of easternmost field	?	31.8.99
11	Trench 1 & 2	General view of easternmost field	?	31.8.99
12	Trench 6	General shot	SE	31.8.99
13	Trench 6	General shot	SE	31.8.99
14	Trench 6	General shot	NW	31.8.99
15	Trench 6	General shot	NW	31.8.99
16	Trench 6	Water-pipe ditch, Contexts 603 & 604	NE	01.09.99
17	Trench 6	Water-pipe ditch, Contexts 603 & 604	NE	01.09.99
18	Trench 6	Section of Contexts 603 & 604	NE	01.09.99
19	Trench 6	Section of Contexts 603 & 604	NE	01.09.99
20	Trench 7	General shot	ESE	01.09.99
21	Trench 7	General shot	ESE	01.09.99
22	Trench 7	General shot	ESE	01.09.99
23	Trench 7	General shot	WNW	01.09.99
24	Trench 7	Sample section centred at 26.4 m from ESE	ENE	01.09.99
25	Trench 7	Sample section centred at 26.4 m from ESE	ENE	01.09.99
26	Trench 3	General shot	SSW	01.09.99
27	Trench 3	General shot	SSW	01.09.99
28	Trench 3	General shot	NNE	01.09.99
29	Trench 3	General shot	NNE	01.09.99
30	Trench 3	Sample section	ESE	01.09.99
31	Trench 3	Sample section	ESE	01.09.99
32	Trench 3	Context 301: two charcoal concentrations	NE	01.09.99
33	Trench 3	Context 301: two charcoal concentrations	NE	01.09.99
34	Trench 3	Section of Contexts 302 & 303	SW	01.09.99
35	Trench 3	Section of Contexts 302 & 303	SW	01.09.99
36	Trench 4	General shot	E	01.09.99
37	Trench 4	General shot	E	01.09.99

Film number 2

Frame	*Area*	*Description*	*From*	*Date*
1	-	Registration shot	-	01.09.99
2	Trench 4	General shot	W	01.09.99
3	Trench 4	General shot	W	01.09.99
4	Trench 4	Context 401: charcoal smear	N	01.09.99
5	Trench 4	Context 401: charcoal smear	N	01.09.99
6	Trench 4	Sample section	S	01.09.99
7	Trench 4	Sample section	S	01.09.99
8	Trench 4	Context 402: charcoal concentration	SW	01.09.99
9	Trench 4	Context 402: charcoal concentration	SW	01.09.99
10	Trench 5	General shot	S	01.09.99
11	Trench 5	General shot	S	01.09.99
12	Trench 5	General shot	N	01.09.99
13	Trench 5	General shot	N	01.09.99
14	Trench 5	Sample section	W	01.09.99
15	Trench 5	Sample section	W	01.09.99
16	Trench 5	Contexts 502 & 503 in plan	SW	01.09.99
17	Trench 5	Contexts 502 & 503 in plan	SW	01.09.99
18	Trench 5	Section of Contexts 502 & 503, close-up	SW	01.09.99
19	Trench 5	Section of Contexts 502 & 503, close-up	SW	01.09.99
20	Trench 5	Section of Contexts 502 & 503, general	SW	01.09.99
21	Trench 5	General shot of Contexts 502 & 503	SE	01.09.99
22	Trench 5	General shot of Contexts 502 & 503	SE	01.09.99
23	Trench 6 & 7	General shot of backfilling	W	01.09.99
24	Trench 6 & 7	General shot of backfilling	SW	01.09.99
25	Trench 5	Plan of Contexts 504 & 505	E	02.09.99
26	Trench 5	Plan of Contexts 504 & 505	E	02.09.99
27	Trench 8	General shot	E	02.09.99
28	Trench 8	General shot	E	02.09.99
29	Trench 8	General shot	W	02.09.99
30	Trench 5	Section of Contexts 504 & 505	SW	02.09.99
31	Trench 5	Section of Contexts 504 & 505	SW	02.09.99
32	Trench 9	General shot	N	02.09.99
33	Trench 9	General shot	N	02.09.99
34	Trench 9	General shot	S	02.09.99
35	Trench 10	General shot	S	02.09.99
36	Trench 10	General shot	S	02.09.99
37	Trench 10	General shot	N	02.09.99

Film number 3

Frame	*Area*	*Description*	*From*	*Date*
1	-	Registration shot	-	02.09.99
2	Trench 10	Plan of Contexts 1003 & 1004	W	02.09.99
3	Trench 10	Plan of Contexts 1003 & 1004	W	02.09.99
4	Trench 10	Section of Contexts 1003 & 1004	W	02.09.99
5	Trench 10	Section of Contexts 1003 & 1004	W	02.09.99
6	Trenches 3-5, 8-10	General shots, post-evaluation	S	02.09.99
7	Trenches 3-5, 8-10	General shots, post-evaluation	SSW	02.09.99

8	Trenches 3-5, 8-10	General shots, post-evaluation	WSW	02.09.99
9	Trenches 3-5, 8-10	General shots, post-evaluation	N	02.09.99
10	Trenches 3-5, 8-10	General shots, post-evaluation	NNE	02.09.99
11	Trenches 3-5, 8-10	General shots, post-evaluation	ENE	02.09.99
12	Trenches 3-5, 8-10	General shots, post-evaluation	E	02.09.99
13	Trenches 5 & 6	General shots of backfilled trenches	SW	02.09.99
14	Trenches 5 & 6	General shots of backfilled trenches	WSW	02.09.99
15	Trenches 1 & 2	General shots of backfilling in progress	SW	02.09.99
16	Trenches 1 & 2	General shots of backfilling in progress	WSW	02.09.99
17	Trench 5	Quadrant section of Context 509	W	02.09.99
18	Trench 5	Quadrant section of Context 509	W	02.09.99
19	Trench 5	Context 506 in plan	W	02.09.99
20	Trench 5	Context 506 in plan	W	02.09.99

APPENDIX 4: DRAWING RECORD

Drawing no	**Description**	**Scale**
1	Plan of Contexts 502 and 503	1:50
2	Plan of Contexts 504 and 505	1:50
3	Section of Context 502	1:10
4	Section of Context 304	1:10

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLE RECORD

Standard Bulk Samples

Context no	*Sample volume*
503	5 litres

APPENDIX 6: FINDS RECORD

Finds no	**Provenance**	**Description**
1	Context 503, fill of Context 502	Two quern stone fragments
2	Context 503, fill of Context 502	Metal blade, rusty, possible scissors blade

APPENDIX 7: REFERENCES

7.1 Cartographic sources

Blaeu, J 1654 *Moravia Scotia provincia.*

Ainslie, J 1789 *Travelling map of Scotland.*

Roy, W 1747-55 *Military Survey of Scotland (Sheet 27/4).*

Ordnance Survey 1871 *Nairnshire Sheet I.*

Ordnance Survey 1906 *Nairnshire Sheet I.SE.*

7.2 Bibliographic sources

Grant, Rev J 1845 'Parish of Nairn', in *New Statistical Account*, vol XIII, 1-6.

Morrison, Rev J 1797 'Parish of Nairn' in *The Statistical Account*, vol XII, 381–393.

APPENDIX 8: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

Local Authority	Highland Council
Site name	Firhall, Nairn
Parish	Nairn
Contributor	Dorothy Rankin (AOC Archaeology Group)
Type of site	Archaeological Field Evaluation
NGR	NH 8818 5515

Report

The northern area of a proposed sheltered housing development at Firhall, Nairn was subject to an archaeological evaluation by Highland Council's Department of Planning. A total of 2300 m^2 was excavated and only two features of potential archaeological significance were revealed. These features were amorphous pits, one of which contained two fragments of a rotary quern stone. Their function and date could not be determined in the course of archaeological works, but they may represent structural footings.

Sponsor: Kerr, Duncan, McAllister.