

**Report of Archaeological Watching Brief
June 26th – 27th 2001 & December 18th 2001
Camusaine by Strontian, Highland
NM 7566 / 6127**

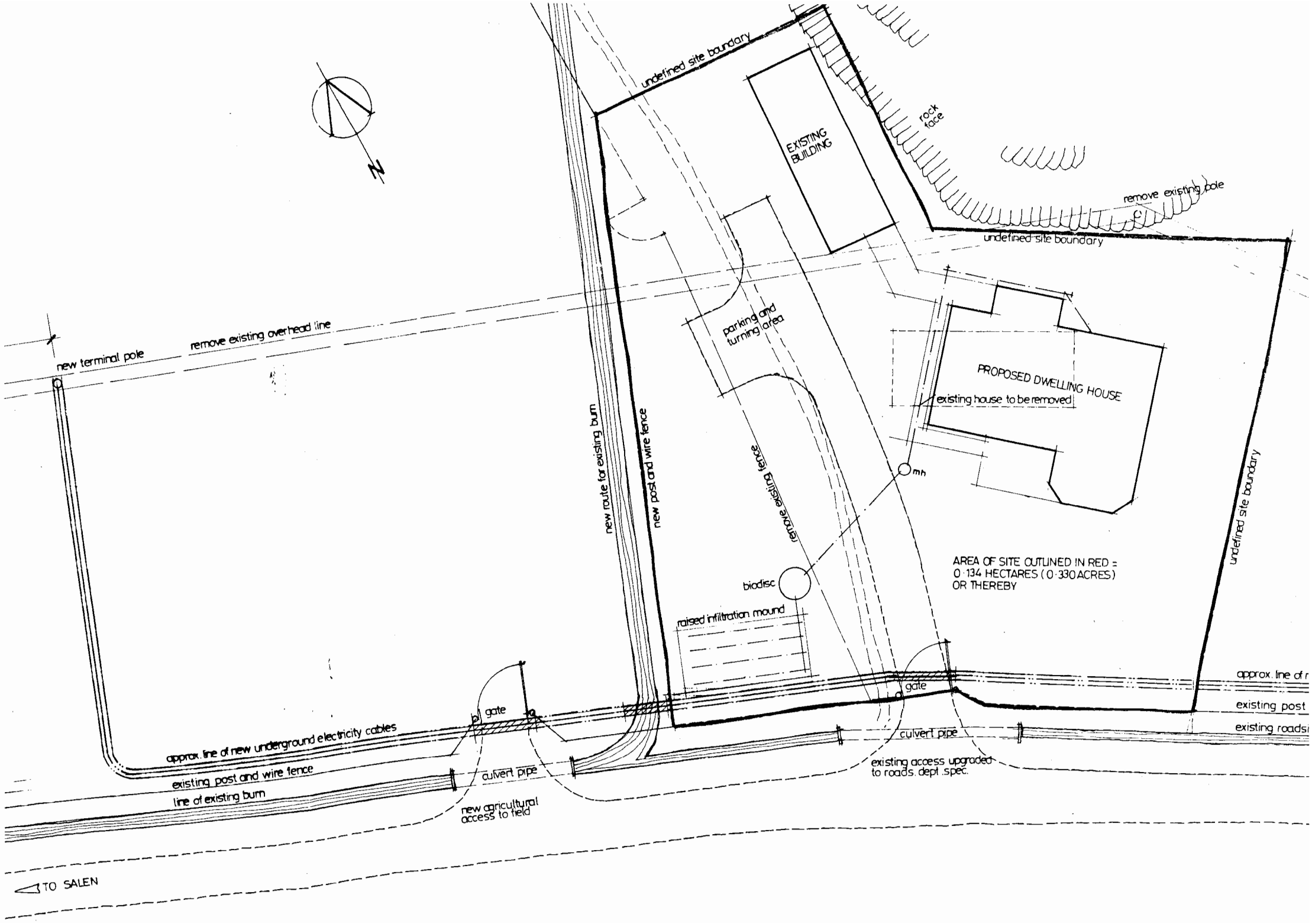
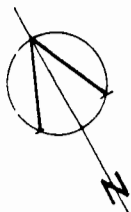
A.L.C. PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT

12-11-2002

GR		
JW	JW	7/1/02
HA	HA	7/1

12-11-2002

By
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December 2001



Historical Background

The area of the development lies in the vicinity of two recorded archaeological sites. They are recorded in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record and in the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database as follows :

- NM 76 SE 1 (NMRS 2) – Camasine – cairn at NM 7584 6117 that is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Cairn is robbed out partially.
- NM 76 SE 14 (NMRS 14) – Ceol Na Mara – rectangular structure at NM 756 615.

The site itself is a former croft of an early 20th century date, which was demolished at the commencement of this project. (See below)

Objectives

To conduct a watching brief on the excavation of the house plot, new services and access road to record those features revealed by excavation work. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed.

Site Conditions

The area under investigation was formerly part of a former croft with the ground being formerly part of an area of garden and a small adjacent field.

Weather on the days of work –

26th – 27th June 2001 was slightly cloudy with periods of rain;
18th December was a bright sunny day, with low sun.

Watching Brief Investigation

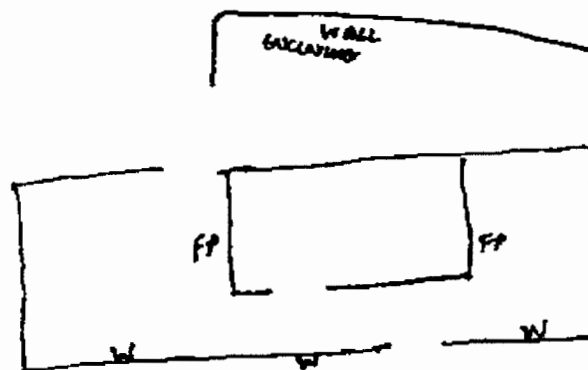
The watching brief was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). Over the construction period a suitably qualified archaeologist was on site to carry out observations and assessment of the area affected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

Results

The archaeological watching brief comprised of 3 areas of monitoring:

- 1- Creation of new burn and new access road;
- 2- Demolition of the former croft and subsequent new house plot;
- 3- Trench for electricity cable.

- 1- A new burn was installed due to the need for a wider access road and turning area. (See plan) Underlying the turf and topsoil, of an average depth of 150mm was a natural of brownish-orange fine silty gravel. Areas of the access road were heavily disturbed in area of the former croft. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.
- 2- The former croft (centred NM 7566 6127) consisted of rubble built building with a corrugated iron roof, with 3 windows and a door to the front and a door to the rear. The external walls were harled. With 2 internal fireplaces and an enclosing boundary wall to the rear. Internally the house was of 3 rooms, with wooden panelling to half wall height. There was no sign of a kitchen or a bathroom or any



FP – Fireplace
W - window

electricity or water supply. All the wood was machine cut and there were signs of later alterations in the form of newer wood and concrete.

The foundations of the croft lying on the same natural of brownish-orange fine silty gravel. The new house plot was sited in the same area of the former croft; excavation of the house plot revealed no archaeological deposits or features.

3 – A monitoring was made of the excavation of trench for an electricity supply cable currently overhead. This trench lay 10m close to the cairn to the east, a trench 0.35m wide by c140m long by 0.6m deep was excavated. Underlying turf and topsoil, of an average depth of 150mm was a natural of brownish-orange fine silty gravel. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed.

No other archaeological features were evident in the area around the croft.

Recommendations

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

Archive

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

References

Highland Sites and Monuments Record entry NM 76 SE 1 & 14.

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database entry NM 76 SE 2 & 14.

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Appendix 1 – Details of Slides

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.

1 – View of machining of new burn facing NW	26-7-01
2 – View of existing outbuilding facing N	26-7-01
3 – View of croft facing N	26-7-01
4 – View of croft facing E	26-7-01
5 – View of 'new burn' upon excavation facing S	26-7-01
6 – View of culvert (?) by old burn. Scale 1m.	26-7-01
7 – ibid.	
8 – View of rear of croft facing E	26-7-01
9 – View of demolition of croft facing E	26-7-01
10 – View of demolition of croft facing NE	26-7-01
11 – View of demolition of croft facing E	26-7-01
12 – View of demolition of croft facing E	26-7-01
13 – View of cleared ground (site of new house) facing NE	27-7-01
14 – View of track for house electricity supply facing W	18-12-01
15 – View of site for cable trench facing E	18-12-01
16 – ibid but facing W	18-12-01
17 – View of machining	18-12-01
18 – View of trench during excavation	18-12-01
19 – View of machining facing W	18-12-01
20 – View of cairn NM76SE 1	18-12-01
21 – View of trench facing E	18-12-01

Brief for archaeological work at:

Camuasaine, Strontian

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological watching brief to be carried on site ground works. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted. A watching brief is required due to the location of the site close to scheduled ancient monument - cairn -and resulting potential for subsurface archaeological remains.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by planning application no. 01/00082/FULLO. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until March 1st 2002 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for the applicant, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. Estimates should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The project should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

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

If this is for a road or water or sewerage proposal the area to be covered is the entire wayleave except where otherwise indicated.

3. Tendering

Tenders must be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

4. Objectives

1. To record, to professional standards, any features and objects of archaeological importance that will be damaged or destroyed by this development. This is often achieved by clearing the topsoil to a clean surface in which archaeological features can be identified by the archaeologist.

5. Method

- A watching brief will be conducted by an archaeologist on site groundworks, including service trenches so that any finds or features of importance can be recorded to professional standards.
- Those carrying out site works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. Where machinery is to be used for topsoil stripping, 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 regarding this.
- The archaeologist must be given every aid by contractors to enable the archaeological work to be carried out. Contractors may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. This must be catered for and adhered to.
- **Should archaeological remains be encountered during the work, the archaeologist must be allowed up to one hour to record each feature. If longer than this is required, refer to paragraph 6.IV.**
- Where this is a watching brief for road, water, or sewerage proposals the specification includes drainage and other ancillary works as well as the carriageway itself.

6. Monitoring

- The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- Monitoring will normally be 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 any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Senior Archaeologist. Revised arrangements will be required and the archaeologist must organize a site meeting with the applicant/agent and senior archaeologist to agree a course of action. No further archaeological work should take place upon the features requiring extra time until the meeting has been held and appropriate arrangements agreed. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.**
- Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

7. Reporting

Project report

At least five copies of the project report must be produced.

- I. One paper copy for the applicant.
- II. One paper copy for the Area Planning and Building Control Manager,
- III. One paper copy for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- IV. A 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.
- V. One paper copy to be deposited with Norman Newton, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness.

The report must be submitted to the all of the above within 2 weeks of the completion of the field work.

The report must include, as a minimum,

1. Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
2. Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
3. Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork
4. Scale plans, and photographs of all archaeological features noted
5. A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location

6. 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.
7. General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project
8. A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.

The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in writing, and the Archaeology Unit will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. Copyright will be acknowledged in all cases by the Archaeology Unit.

This specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

8. Treasure Trove

The Archaeological Contractor must liaise with the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery prior to the start of fieldwork, regarding possible emergency conservation needs and future storage arrangements. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify the local museum of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area. Should museum staff wish to visit the site whilst the archaeological work is in progress, they must first gain permission from the site owner/agent. **The site owner/agent must be aware that no one, other than the Council's Planning Officer, in consultation with the Archaeology Unit, has the authority to vary the terms of this specification.**

Provision must also be made for a cataloguing system for artefactual material, which will be compatible with the needs of the institution receiving these finds. Any report to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer must be copied to the Senior Archaeologist, and the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. Any finds, where appropriate, should also be reported to the Receiver of Wreck.

9. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council For Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. The cost of this must be included in any tender document.

10. General

1. The archaeologist appointed must be of a professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
2. The main contractor has responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff on site.
3. The archaeologist is responsible for taking all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance.
4. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.
5. The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
6. The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
7. Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.
8. The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.

Dorothy Low
Archaeologist
Tuesday, 5 June 2001