

**Report of Archaeological Evaluation
March 5th – 8th 2001
Cambusmore, by Balvraid, Highland
NH 7730 / 9519**

**By
Stuart Farrell
B.A A.I.F.A F.S.A.Scot.
March 2001**

	NH79NE 41	HI	region	SUTHERLAND
JULY 1972	77279511	SU	district	DORNOCH.

SU/656/CN	no.	name
		BALURAI
		ENCLOSURE

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Trial Trenching Investigation

Methodology

The trial trenching was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). Over the period of the ground works a suitably qualified archaeologist was on site to carry out observations and assessment of the trenches made by the excavation works.

Site Conditions

The area under investigation was formerly an area of field under arable cultivation. Weather on the days of work (March 5th – 8th 2001) were overcast with sunny periods.

Results

An inspection of the area of excavation centred at NH 7730 / 9519 showed no features prior to excavation.

Underlying the turf and topsoil of an average depth of 25cm was a natural of pink sandstone and yellowish brown marl. A total of 9 trench's running east to west (See over) totalling 1391.4m² were machine excavated using a back-acting machine with a straight edged bucket. The results of these excavations were as follows:

- 1 – 1.8m x 90m – pit (cut 3) with charcoal fill with shells (mussel, periwinkle and scallop). Probably prehistoric in date.
- 2 – 1.8m x 88m – small pit (cut 5) Probably prehistoric in date.
- 3 – 1.8m x 89m – agricultural ditch (possible field boundary)
- 4 – 1.8m x 88m – hearth (cut 11) find of burnt bone and worked stone object in fill, posthole (cut 32) Probably prehistoric in date.
- 5 – 1.8m x 87m – hearth (cut 13) Probably prehistoric in date.
- 6 – 1.8m x 83m – small pit (cut 15) and 2 postholes
- 7 – 1.8m x 80m – couple of burnt deposits, number of postholes and possible entranceway for field. (This trench was not taken to the extend of the area of proposed excavation at the east side due to an existing test pit)
- 8 – 1.8m x 84m – posthole.
- 9 – 1.8m x 84m – pit (cut 17), burnt deposits and 2 postholes.

In a number of trenches were signs of agricultural improvements in the form of rubble field drains and infilled hollows with clearance material dating probably from the mid to late 19th century. The only modern agricultural feature was a water trough built into the north wall.

Introduction

This report is for an evaluation conducted on behalf of Granit Union by the author for a development of a quarry at Cambusmore, by Balvraid.

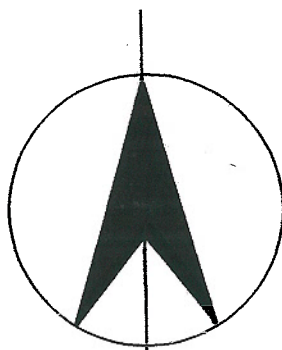
Acknowledgements

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

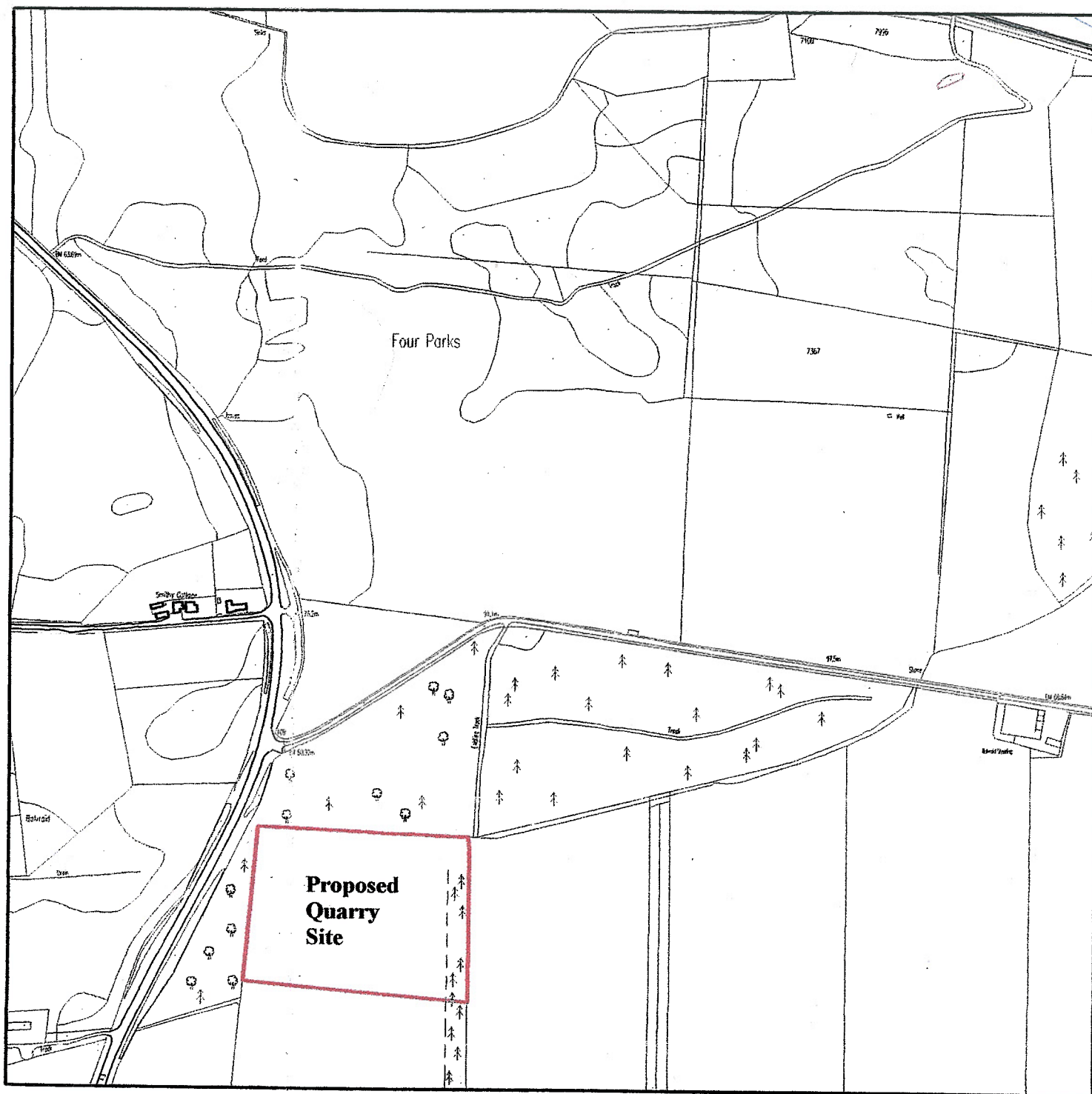
- Mr. P Gurr of Lorne Geoservices for Granit Union;
- Mr. M MacBeth of Granit Union;
- Mr. E Rutter for help with onsite work;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location

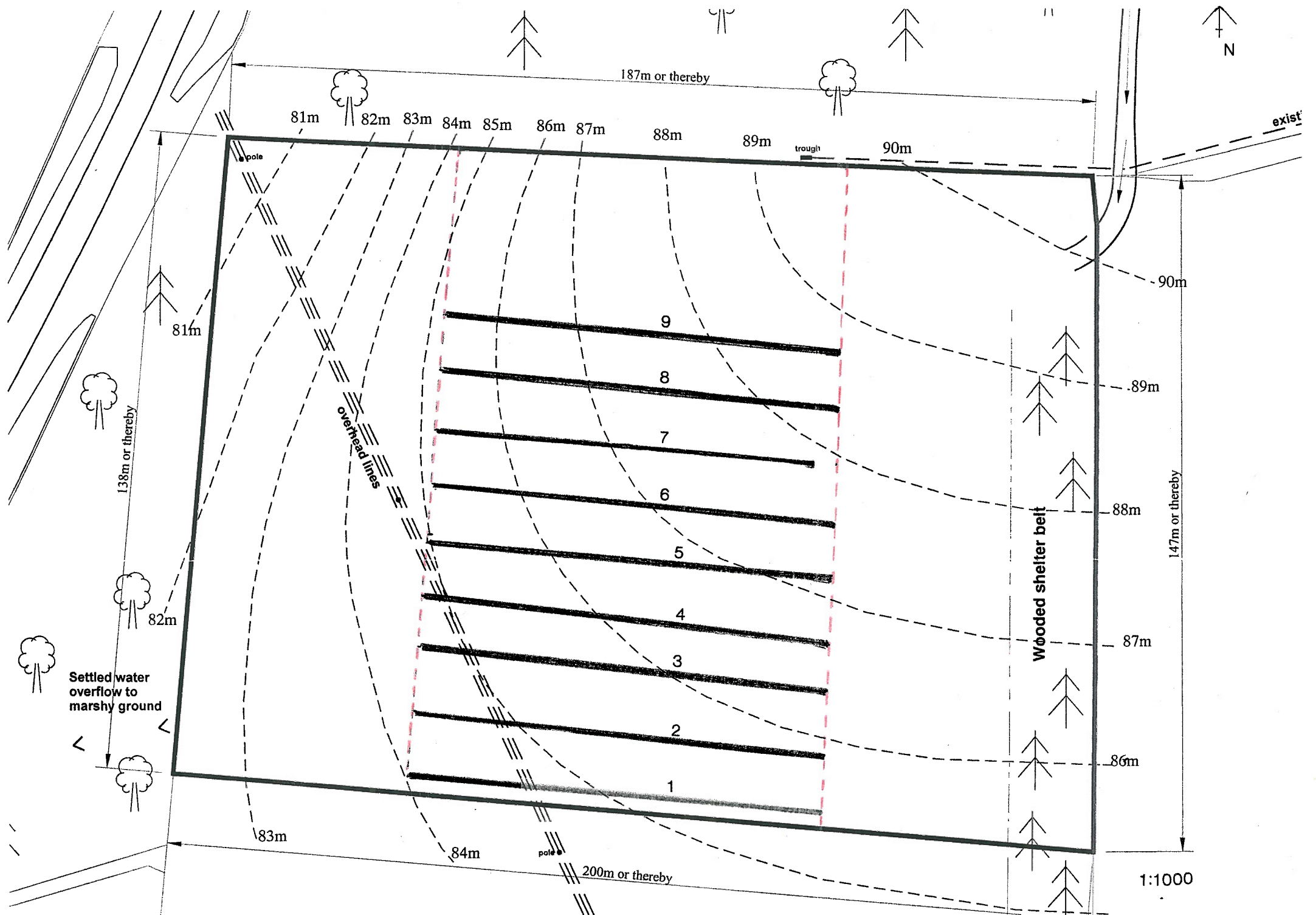




NORTH



Location Plan 1:5000



Historical Background

The area of the development lies adjacent to a recorded cropmark site.

The site is recorded in the Highland Sites and Monuments Record as - NH 79 NE 0045 (NMRS – NH79NE041) – cropmark at NH 7727 / 9511. No information is available about the site in the Highland Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database, with the exception of a colour aerial photograph taken in 1972 (See over).

Currently no archaeological sites are located in the development area but the site is in an overall area with a high number of archaeological sites.

There is nothing indicated on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map of 1879, sheet 110 (not enclosed). There is no record of the site in Highland Council Archives or in the National Archives of Scotland.

Objectives

To conduct an evaluation on the area of development and to record those features revealed by excavation work. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed. The site has a total area of 2.7 Hectares, with trial trenching to cover a *minimum* of 5% or 1380m².

As part of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit, a digitisation was made of the aerial photograph of the cropmark in relation to the proposed development. (See Over) This revealed that the cropmark site lies to the south and is currently unaffected by the proposed development.

Interpretation of the photograph was slightly difficult (see over) due to the original being at such an oblique angle, though possible features revealed are some of the infilled hollows as revealed by the trial trenching to be agricultural improvements. The linear feature may be a previous field boundary.

date	JULY 1972	N	G	R	7	7	2	7	9	5	1	1	SU	district	DORNOCH.
no.	01656/CN	name													
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Proposed
quarry site

94

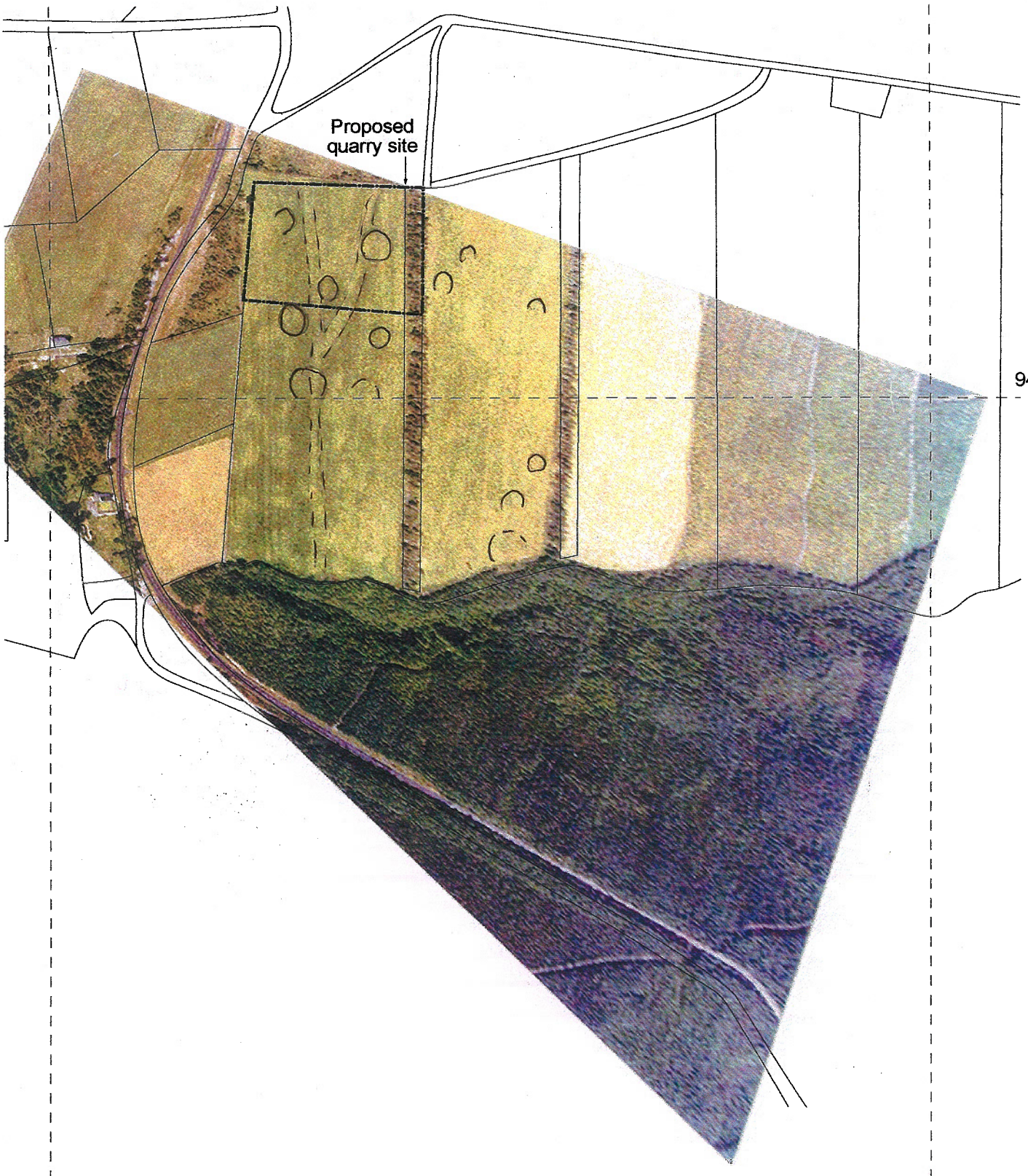


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Proposed
quarry site

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The features in the west end of trenches 6 – 8 probably relate to an earlier field system before the fields were improved, as they lay in a possible alignment.

Summary of results

It is likely that the features in trenches 1 –5 are prehistoric in date, due to them being close to the cropmark, the area around the development area has a number of prehistoric sites including cairns and a broch.

Whilst those features in trenches 6-9 represent former field system before agricultural improvements of the middle of the 19th century and are likely to be post-medieval in date. At present, further work may determine this.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the entire area of the current proposed development (c.90m east-west by c.135m north-south – a total of c.12150 m²) be subject to a complete archaeological investigation. The trial trenching has revealed that archaeological remains exist over the entire site.

A summary of the proposed work would be as follows:

Step 1 – Maintain watching brief over entire strip of site, and access road. All features to be marked.

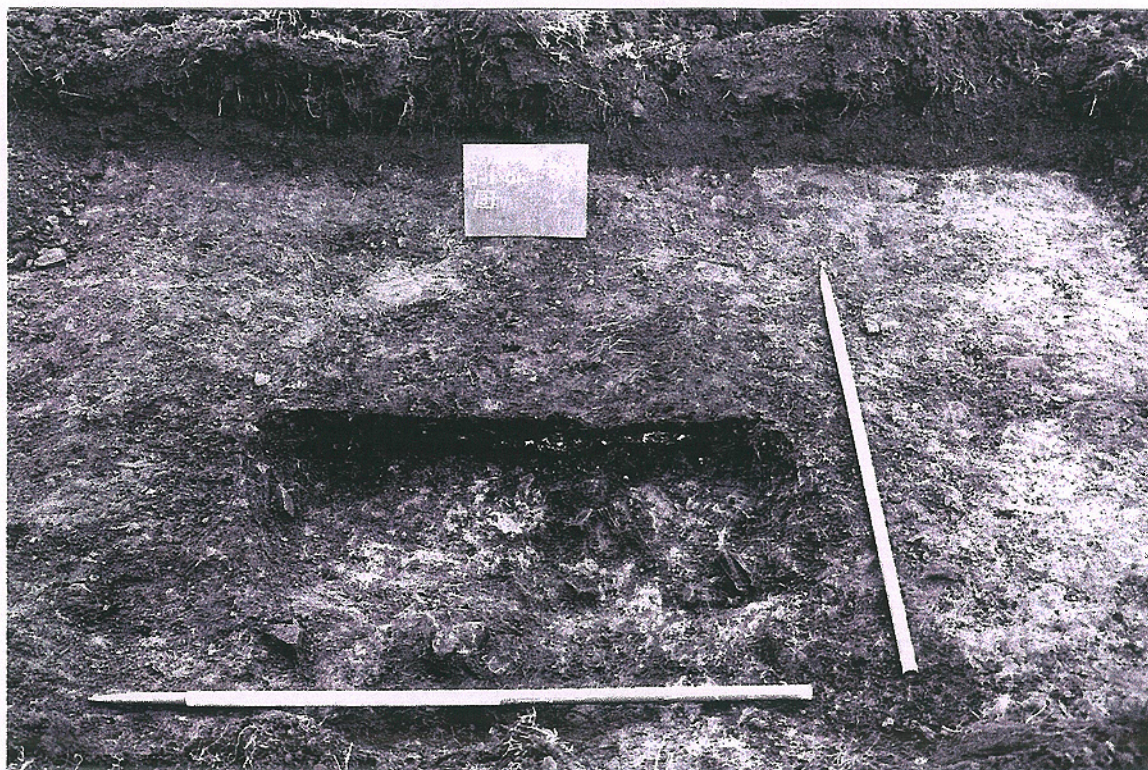
Step 2 – Full excavation of features identified, with sampling for environmental and carbon dating purposes.

Step 3 – Complete record to be made of features found, written and photographic.

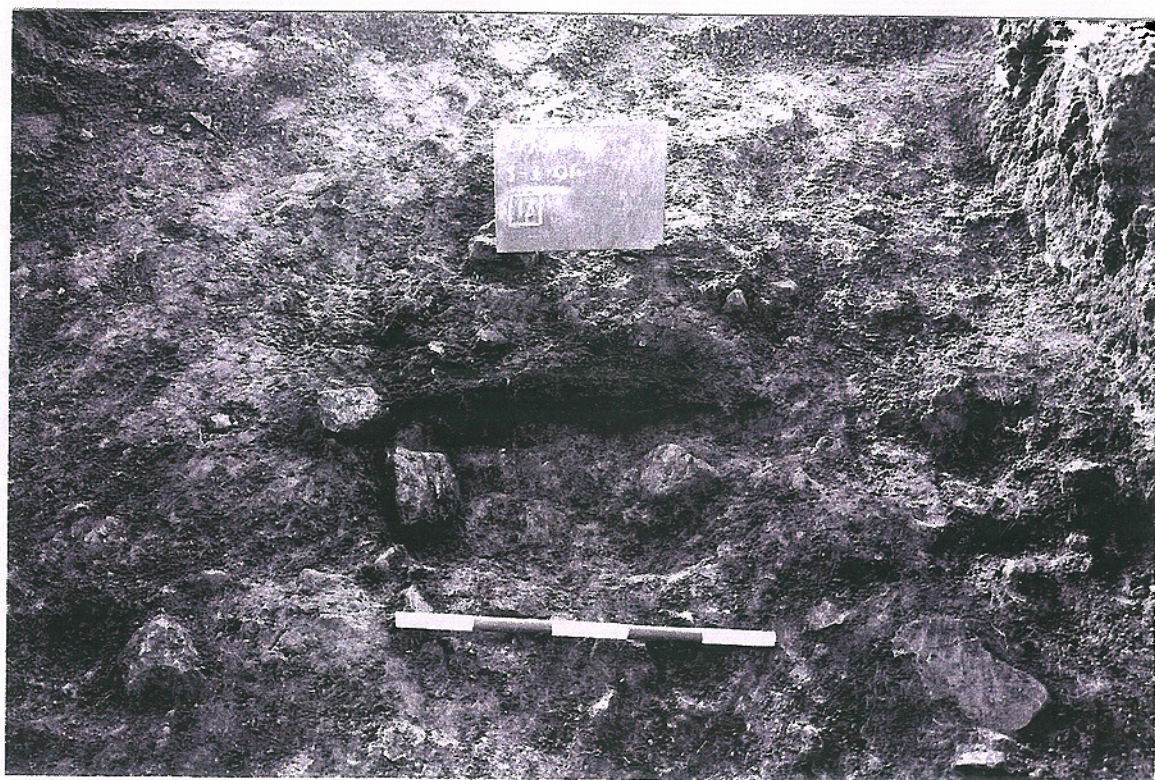
Step 4 – Produce report on work to include post-excavation work. Drawing upon results of excavation and other works to publishable report.

Top : View of cut of shell pit [context 3] trench 1 facing south.

Bottom : View of cut of posthole [context 5] and pit [context] 3 trench 1 facing east.



Top : View of cut of hearth [context 11] trench 4 facing north.
Bottom : view of cut of hearth [context 13] trench 5 facing west.



Archive

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

References

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

Highland Council Sites & Monuments Record entry NH79NE 045.

National Monuments Record CANMORE database entry NH79NE 041.

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Appendix 1 – Context Register

- 1 – topsoil
- 2 – fill of pit (shell content) – trench 1
- 3 – cut of 2.
- 4 – fill of posthole – trench 1
- 5 – cut of 4
- 6 – fill of possible pit – trench 2
- 7 – cut of 6
- 8 – fill of ditch – trench 3
- 9 – cut of 8
- 10 – fill of hearth – trench 4
- 11 – cut of 10
- 12 – fill of hearth – trench 5
- 13 – cut of 12
- 14 – fill of small pit – trench 6
- 15 – cut of 14
- 16 – burnt deposit – trench 9
- 17 – fill of burnt pit – trench 9
- 18 – cut of 17
- 19 – burnt deposit – trench 9
- 20 – cut of 19
- 21 – burnt deposit
- 22 – fill of posthole – trench 9
- 23 – cut of 22
- 24 – fill of posthole – trench 9
- 25 – cut of 24
- 26 – fill of burnt shallow scoop – trench 7
- 27 – cut of 26
- 28 – burnt deposit over bedrock – trench 7
- 29 – fill of possible posthole – trench 7
- 30 – cut of 29
- 31 – fill of posthole – trench 4
- 32 – cut of 31
- 33 – fill of possible field entranceway – trench 7
- 34 – cut of 33
- 35 – burnt deposit – trench 7
- 36 – burnt spread in shallow scoop– trench 6
- 37 – cut of 36
- 38 – fill of posthole – trench 6
- 39 – cut of 38
- 40 – fill of posthole – trench 6
- 41 – cut of 40
- 42 – fill of posthole – trench 6
- 43 – cut of 42
- 44 – fill of posthole – trench 8
- 45 – cut of 44

Appendix 2 – Details of Slides & Black & White Photographs

Slides have been deposited with Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

A set of black & white photographs has been deposited with Highland Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record, Edinburgh.

Film 1

1 – view of site facing S	5-3-01
2 – ibid	5-3-01
3 – view of machining	5-3-01
4 – pre-ex of fill of pit context 2 facing S	5-3-01
5 – ibid but facing SW	5-3-01
6 – section of cut of pit context 3 facing S	5-3-01
7 – ibid but facing SW	5-3-01
8 – cut of posthole context 5 facing E	5-3-01
9 – cut of posthole context 5 and pit context 3 facing E	5-3-01
10 – pre-ex of possible posthole context 6 facing S	5-3-01
11 – pre-ex of ditch context 8 facing E	5-3-01
12 – cut of ditch context 9 facing SE	5-3-01
13 – pre-ex of hearth context 10 facing E	5-3-01
14 – cut of pit context 7 facing E	5-3-01
15 – pre-ex of hearth context 12 facing E	5-3-01
16 – cut of hearth context 11 facing N	5-3-01
17 – cut of hearth context 13 facing W	5-3-01
18 – cut of small pit context 15 facing S	5-3-01
19 – View of trenches facing SW	6-3-01
20 – ibid	6-3-01
21 – pre-ex of burnt deposit context 19 facing N	6-3-01
22 – pre-ex of burnt deposit context 16 facing S	6-3-01
23 – pre-ex of posthole context 17 facing S	6-3-01
24 – cut of possible pit/treebole context 20 facing N	6-3-01
25 – burnt deposit context 21 facing S	6-3-01
26 – pre-ex of possible posthole context 22 facing S	6-3-01
27 – pre-ex of possible posthole context 24 facing N	6-3-01
28 – cut of posthole context 18 facing S	6-3-01
29 – cut of posthole context 25 facing N	6-3-01
30 – cut of posthole context 23 facing SE	6-3-01
31 – view of group of features in trench 7 facing E	6-3-01
32 – ibid	6-3-01
33 – cut of posthole context 30 facing E	6-3-01

Film 2

1 – cut of posthole context 32 facing S	7-3-01
2 – cut of possible field entranceway context 34 facing E	7-3-01
3 – ibid	7-3-01
4 – ibid but facing NE	7-3-01
5 – burnt deposit context 35 facing E	7-3-01
6 – deposit context 37	7-3-01
7 – view of group of postholes trench 6 facing E	7-3-01
8 – ibid	7-3-01
9 – view of group of postholes trench 6 facing S	7-3-01
10 – ibid	7-3-01
11 – cut of posthole context 39 facing NE	7-3-01
12 – cut of posthole context 41 facing E	7-3-01
13 – cut of posthole context 43 facing S	7-3-01
14 – cut of small pit context 15 facing S	7-3-01
15 – view of infilled hollow in trench 2 facing W	7-3-01
16 – cut of posthole context 45 facing S	7-3-01

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

**Brief for archaeological work at:
Cambusmore, Dornoch**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological evaluation to be carried out prior to work beginning on site. It is for a **minimum** standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by planning application no. su 00/311. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until August 31st 2001 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for Granit Union 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

Tender should 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 establish the presence / absence, nature, depth, extent and importance of previously unrecorded and recorded archaeological remains.
2. To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible and recording where necessary of any archaeological features of finds identified. These will be approved by the Senior Archaeologist.
3. To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development.

5. Method

♣ A desk based assessment will be carried out, utilising aerial photographs, NMR, SRO, National Map Library, Highland Council Archives and SMR, any locally held private archives.

♣ The existing AP held by the NMR will be rectified and plotted on an OS base.

♣ A survey will be made of the areas identified on the attached plan, using a walk over survey of the area to enable identification of any upstanding remains, from any period, including modern. All individual features to be recorded on a 1:2500 plan.

♣ Trial trenches will be excavated at locations to be proposed to provide a sample of the total site area. A sample of at least 5% of the area must be evaluated. The location of these trenches must be accurately located on the aforementioned 1:2500 plan.

♣ 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.

♣ The report must propose appropriate arrangements for the safeguarding where possible or recording where necessary of any objects or features identified by this evaluation.

6. Monitoring

- I. The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- II. Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- III. 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 Area Planning Manager and the Senior Archaeologist.
- IV. 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 so that revised arrangements can be made.
- V. Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

7. Reporting

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. One copy for the Highland SMR as above, on a computer disk in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 97 for Windows.
- 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 3 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

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 trial trenches and archaeological features noted. The scale plans must accurately locate the trial trenches within the development area.
 5. A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location
 6. Details of any measures proposed to mitigate the impact of the application on the archaeological resource.
 7. 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.
 8. General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project
 9. 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 insurances.
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 M Low
Wednesday, 31 January 2001