

**Report of Archaeological Watching Brief
13th November 2002
Wester Torbreck, Highland
NH 64301 / 40577**

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November 2002**

Introduction

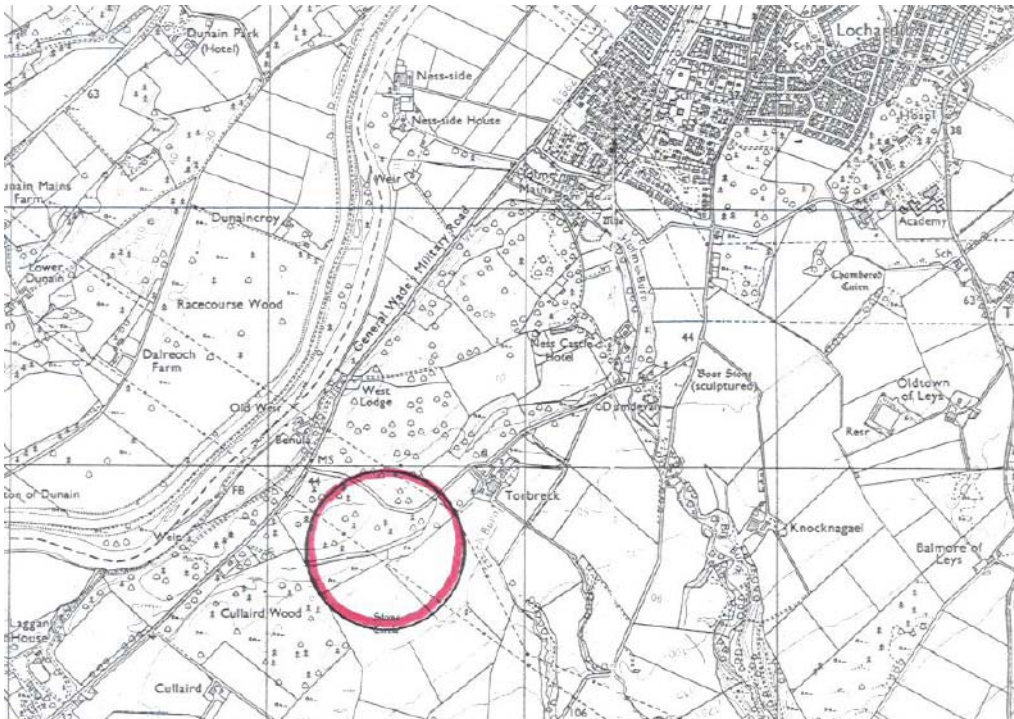
This report is for an archaeological watching brief conducted on behalf of Mr. J Martin for a house plot and associated access at Wester Torbreck, by Inverness, Highland.

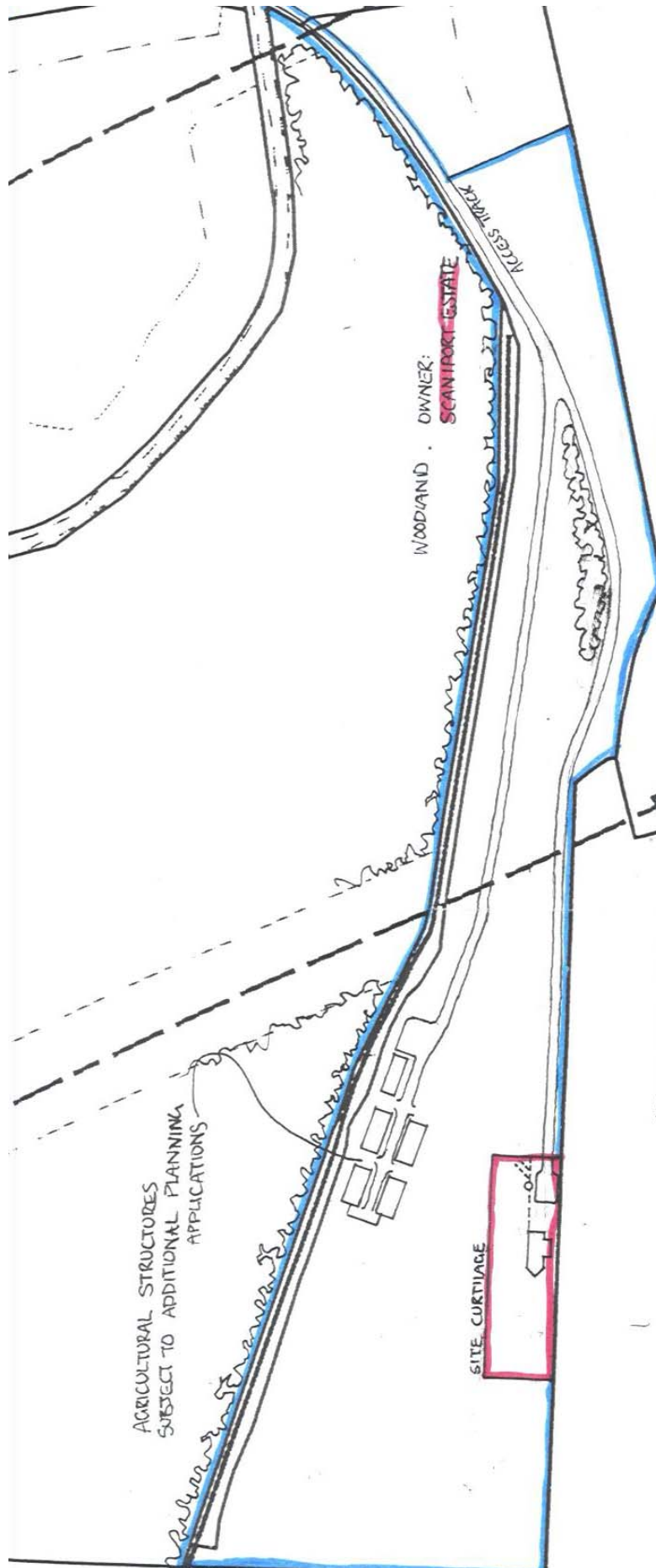
Acknowledgements

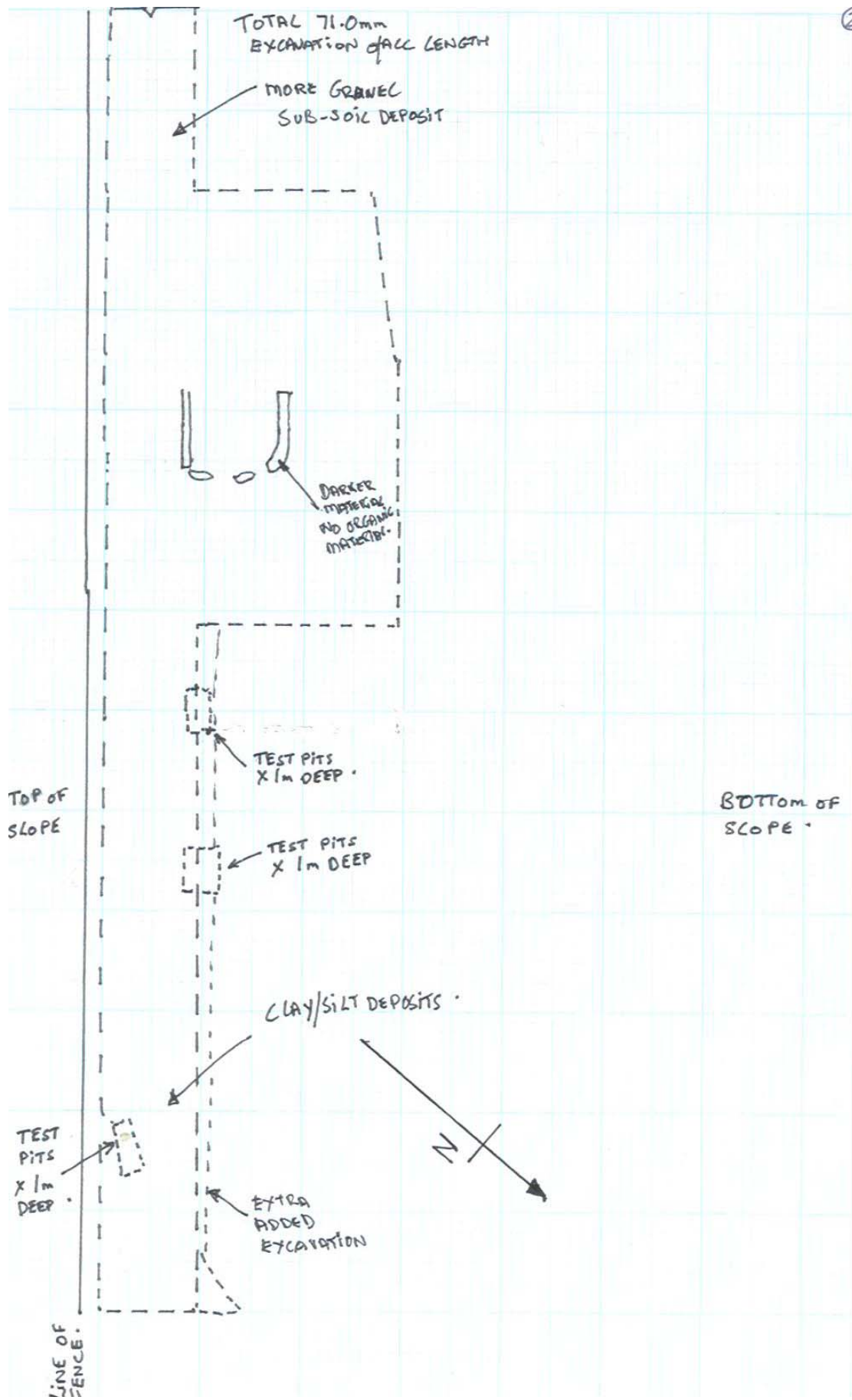
I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Mr. J Martin;
- Mr. S Miles, for onsite work;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Location







Historical Background

The house plot lies to the north of the following archaeological site:

Torbreck

HSMR – NH64SW 1

NMRS – NH64SW 1

Grid Ref – NH 6437/4037

Type – Stone Circle

Noted in Highland Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database of 'circle of 9 stones with overall diameter 7.8m, possibly had additional stones'.

Objectives

To conduct a watching brief on the excavation of the development to record those features revealed by excavation work. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed. This specification relates to planning application 01/00138/FULIN.

Methodology

A monitoring was made of the removal of topsoil and subsoil's to a maximum depth of 400mm for the house and access road (services to lie in access road) to an area of c110m². Soil was stripped by a back-acting machine with a straight edged bucket.

Weather on the day of work (13th November 2002) was partly cloudy with low bright 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

A monitoring of the excavation revealed no archaeological features or deposits only natural ground of brown silty clay. Overall the site was mostly on the edge of a north facing steep slope. 3 former test pits made for percolation were the only features revealed. A possible U-shaped feature upon investigation proved to be natural.

Recommendations

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

Archive

Notebook of results is 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

Highland Sites and Monuments Record for NH64SW 1.

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database entry for NH64SW 1.

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Appendix 1 – Details of Slides

- 1 – View of site prior to excavation facing south.
- 2 – View of site prior to excavation from existing access facing south.
- 3 – View of excavation in progress facing south.
- 4 – View of excavation for house plot.
- 5 – View of possible u shaped feature prior to investigation – scale 2m.
- 6 – View of ibid facing south.
- 7 – View of ibid.
- 8 – View of site upon excavation facing north.
- 9 – View of section of bank – scale 2m.
- 10 – View of Torbreck stone circle.