

**Report of Archaeological Watching Brief
12th November 2002
Wester Torbreck, Highland
NH 64301 / 40577**

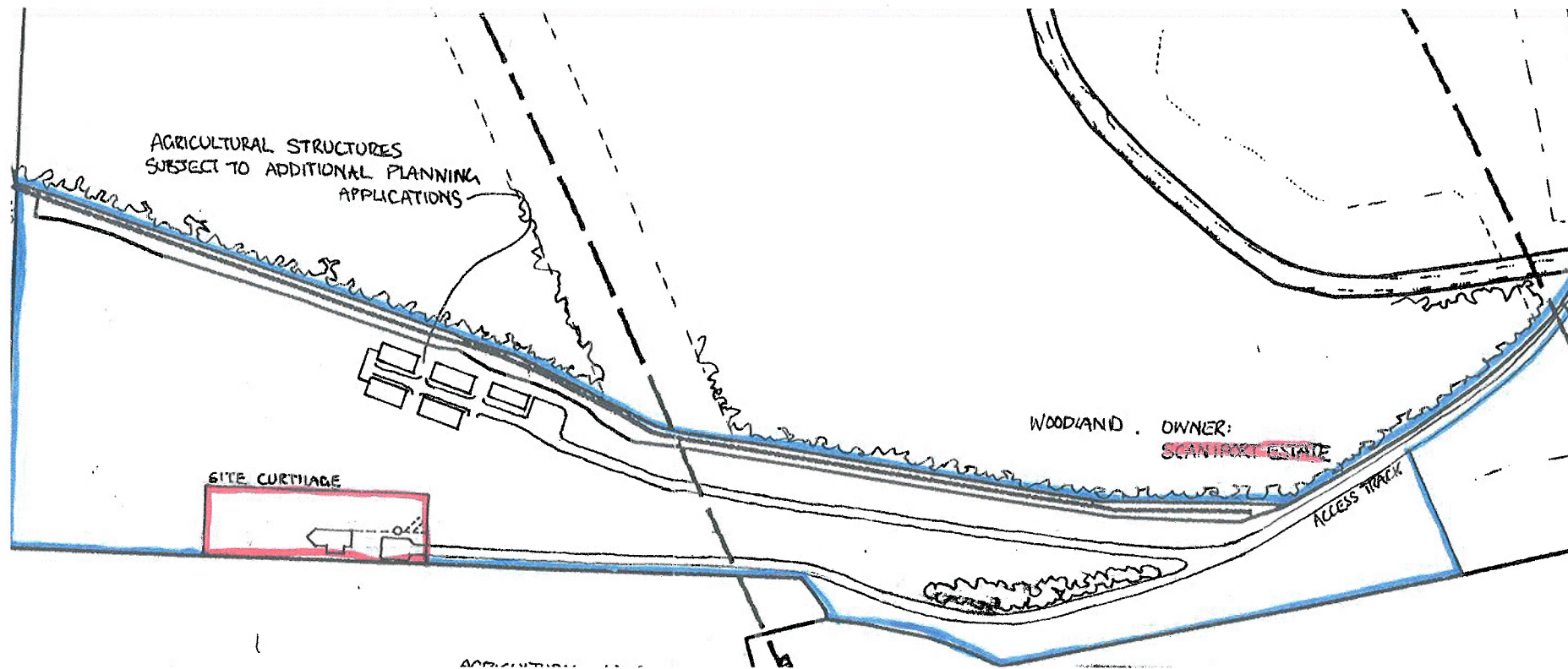
**By
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November 2002**

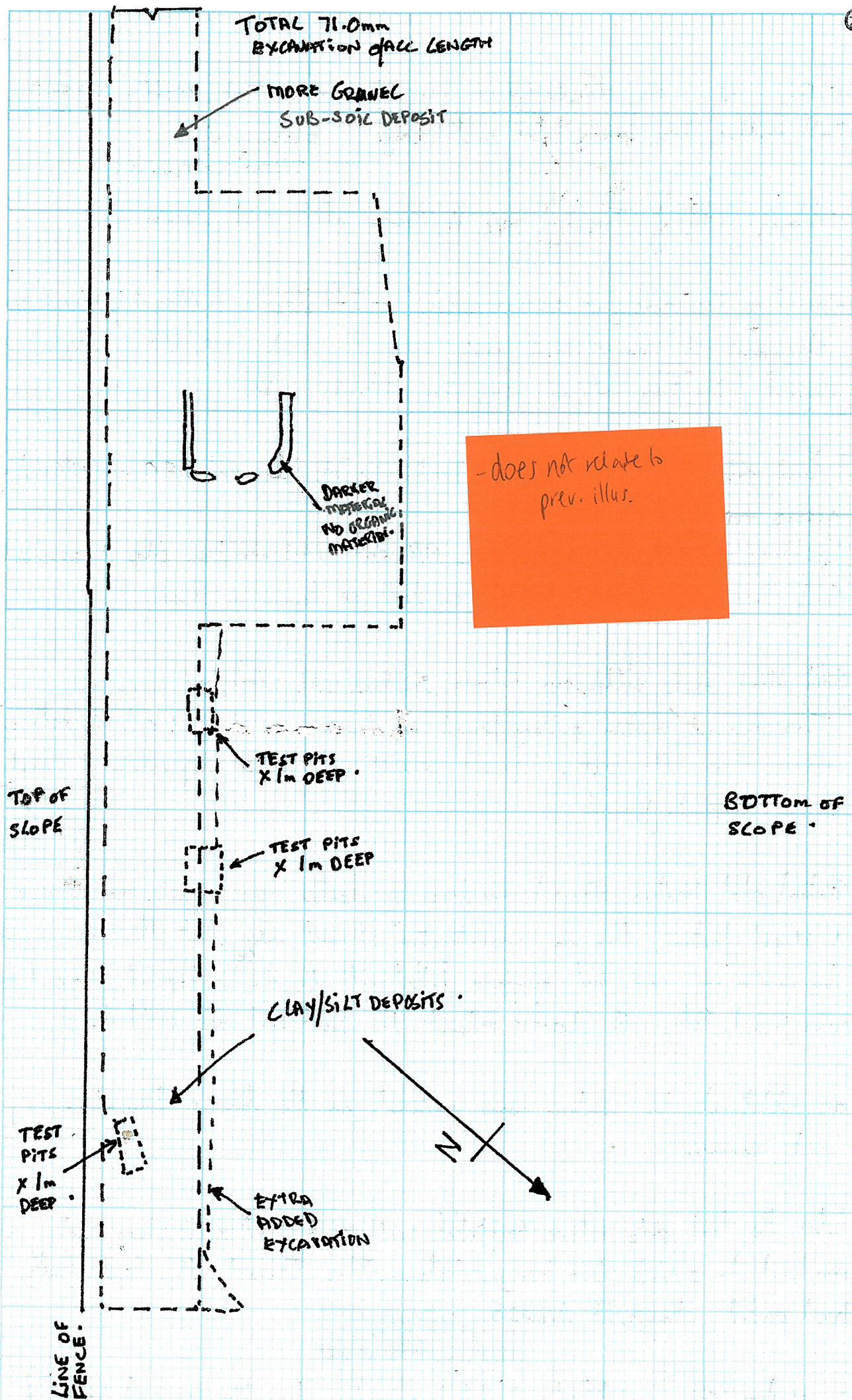
This report is for an archaeological watching brief conducted on behalf of Mr. J Martin for a house plot and associated access at Wester Torbreck, by Inverness, Highland.

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.

A detailed historical map of the area around Loch Lomond, Scotland. The map shows various geographical features, including the loch itself, several farms (e.g., Dunsin Mains Farm, Dalroch Farm, Cullaird Wood), woods (e.g., Racecourse Wood, Cullaird Wood), and settlements (e.g., New-side, Knocknagael, Balmore of Leys). A red circle is drawn on the map, highlighting a specific area near the 'West Lodge' and 'Cullaird Wood'. The map is oriented with North at the top.





TOTAL 71.0mm
EXCAVATION OF ALL LENGTH

MORE GRAVEL
SUB-SOIL DEPOSIT

DARKER
material
NO ORGANIC
MATERIAL

- does not relate to
prev. illus.

TEST PITS
X 1m DEEP

TEST PITS
X 1m DEEP

CLAY/SILT DEPOSITS

TEST
PITS
X 1m
DEEP

EXTRA
ADDED
EXCAVATION

LINE OF
FENCE

N

TOP OF
SLOPE

BOTTOM OF
SLOPE

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'.

more sites in area
- rich arch. landscape

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.

Services
not done

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.



Brief for archaeological work at:

**Erection of Dwelling
Wester Torbreck, Inverness**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

1) Background

An archaeological watching brief is needed at this site because there is a potential for finds or features of interest to be discovered during site works. A watching brief enables any such discoveries to be recorded quickly and efficiently as they appear with minimum delay or disruption to the development.

This brief specifies what we consider to be the ***minimum*** acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. It may be used to obtain estimates from archaeologists. We will assume that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with us in writing before the start of any site works.

Where archaeological work fails to meet the standards set out in this brief, the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified. The Council's Archaeology Unit may also refuse to accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to these standards.

The brief sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

2) Terms of Reference

This brief has been produced for the applicant, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. It has been produced in response to Planning Application no. 01/00138/FULIN. If any of these details do not apply when site works start, a new specification will be needed. Please note that it may differ from previous briefs supplied by us for other projects.

The work should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards.

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.

3) Objectives

To identify and record any features or objects of archaeological importance that would be damaged or destroyed by this development, while minimising any delays or disruption to the development project.

4) Method

a) Photographic record

There is a need to make a photographic record of the buildings on this site before any demolition or alterations take place. The minimum requirements are:

An overall site plan, and larger scale ground plans should be produced of the buildings to be altered or demolished, to include a scale and north point. These should be to a scale sufficient to show the locations of all photographs taken.

- A set of colour slides (slides, prints or good quality digital images) must be produced to illustrate all features of the building remains. These should include internal and external shots, general views of the site as well as any construction details of the buildings to be demolished or altered, such as windows, doorways, fireplaces, roof and construction details, etc.
- The photographic record should include shots of any features or details of the building revealed during the stripping out of internal features.
- Where necessary to understanding, a scale should be provided within the photograph.
- The photographs must be clearly labelled and numbered, and these numbers marked on the site plan to show which part of the building each photograph represents.

b) **Watching Brief**

A watching brief will be conducted by an archaeologist on site ground-works, so that any finds or features of importance can be recorded to professional standards. The archaeologist will endeavour wherever possible to work with the contractor to ensure that any recording required is done with minimum delay to the site works.

c) **Site Contractors**

Contractors and others carrying out site works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. They may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. For example,

- Where excavating machinery is used, 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 on this.
- Archaeologists may need to get quickly into recently cleared areas and this may mean that drivers of excavators may sometimes need to wait briefly, or switch to working other areas.
- Each excavating machine needs to be watched by at least one archaeologist at all times (1:1 ratio). Work should not begin on site until this cover has been set up.
- Because the archaeologist must be able to record any archaeological remains encountered during the work to professional standards, site clearance works may take slightly longer than normal. This should be allowed for in the development project timetable. Occasionally, more extensive excavation may be needed since there will be limited opportunities to preserve features in situ. If discoveries are made that would cause significant delays, **please see 6 below**.

Once areas have been cleared, and any archaeology recorded, there should be no need for further archaeological work in these areas. However any service trenches outwith areas of topsoil stripping will need to be included the watching brief.

5) Monitoring

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met. This is usually 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 other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and /or the development must be notified by the archaeologist immediately to the applicant and the Senior Archaeologist. The finds or features must be left until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.

6) Reporting

a) Project report

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for producing a report on the work, and for making sure copies have been received by the recipients listed below. We require archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline.

At least **six** copies of the project report must be produced. These must be submitted to all of the following **within 3 weeks** of the completion of the fieldwork.

- One paper copy for the applicant.
- One paper copy for the Highland Council's Area Planning and Building Control Manager, 1-3 Church Street, Inverness, IV1 1DY.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Highland Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA. This will be available for local reference through the public library service.
- Two copies for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX :
 - One paper copy
 - One 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.

The report must include, as a minimum,

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Scale plans, and photographs of all archaeological features noted
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location.
- 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.
- General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project.
- A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.
- A list of finds, set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting. Copies of the necessary forms are obtainable if required from the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB

b) Presentation

Where significant archaeology has been found, this specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results, to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. This is the responsibility of the archaeologist appointed

who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

c) Copyright

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

d) DES

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. This is also the responsibility of the archaeologist appointed who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work.

7) Finds

Contractors should be aware that advice and facilities for emergency conservation and temporary storage can be offered by Inverness Museum on consultation with the Conservation Officer and Assistant Curator (Archaeology). A list of services and table of costs are available from the museum.

Contractors should notify the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum before the start of site works. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify local museums of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area.

A finds list, in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting, must be attached to and submitted with the report.

All finds should be notified for Treasure Trove by the contractor before the report is submitted.

8) General

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief, he or she must:

- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
- take all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
- fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

The main contractor on site has overall responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced by the Council's Senior Archaeologist, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has the authority to vary its terms.