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**Report of Archaeological Desktop &
Walkover Survey
Hughton Water Mains Renewal Project
NH 4598/4116 - NH 3917/3791.**

Client: Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water

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Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd in January 2004 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for the Hughton Water Mains Renewal Project (NH 45498/4116 to NH 3917/3791).

Work revealed a number of previously unrecorded buildings and a memorial cairn.

A couple of recommendations have been made for the proposed route.

1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop survey conducted for Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water by the author for the Hughton Water Mains Renewal Project.

The route of the pipeline to follow the road runs from Crask of Aigas past the village of Struy, Highland.

Fieldwork was conducted February 16th 2004.

2. Acknowledgements

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

- Mr. A Barnett, of Halcrow Group Ltd;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives.

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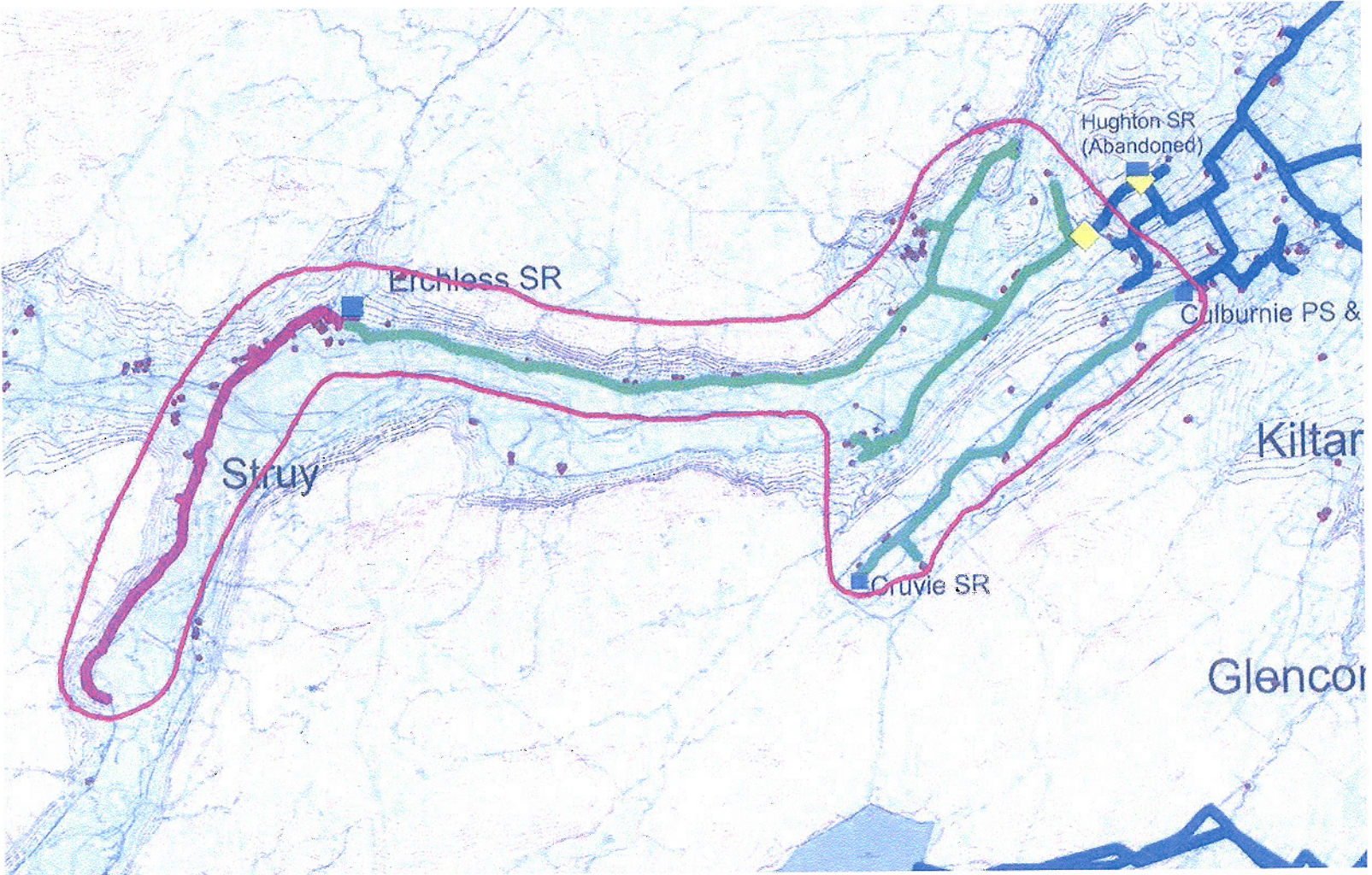


Figure 1: General Survey Location 1:50,000
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3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record those features that would be affected by the new proposed water renewals scheme. (See enclosed maps – scale 1:5000)

This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999).

4. Archaeological Survey

Desktop & Walkover Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Highland Council Archives;
- Inverness Library.

Both the aerial photography and the map coverage were limited to the area of interest. Aerial photographs, in particular the coverage held by Highland Council was wholly limited due to scale. Map coverage was also limited as the 1st edition of 1870's was almost the same as the 2nd of 1903/5 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being late 1960's.

The following 14 archaeological sites were to be found on the route or close to the pipeline (proposed new pipelines are highlighted in red on the accompanying maps with sites numbered). Sites are as follows:

HSMR – Highland Sites and Monuments Record
NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland
N/a – not available
Recommendations are given after each site.

1 – Oldtown of Aigas

HSMR – NH44SE 050

NMRS – NH44SE 050

Grid Ref: NH 457/409

Type – Township

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'A township comprising 6 roofed and 6 unroofed buildings is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1876, sheet 10). 2 roofed buildings are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1975).'

Only 3 roofed buildings, one of which is U shaped is depicted on the 2nd edition OS of 1905.

Walkover reveals site to sit well off of proposed route. U shaped building is visible as a steading/barn to be quite ruinous. Visit not made.

No recommendations to be made.

2 – Knocknashalvaig
HSMR – NH44SW 19
NMRS – NH44SW 8
Grid Ref: NH 436/404
Type – Township

Noted in HSMR and NMRS of 'A township comprising 8 roofed buildings, one of which is a long building, 3 unroofed buildings and 3 enclosures is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1876-81, sheet 9). 4 roofed, 2 unroofed buildings and 4 enclosures are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10560 map (1971).'
7 possible buildings (1 partly roofed) is marked on 2nd edition OS of 1905.

Walkover reveals site to sit well off of proposed route. Visit not made.

No recommendations to be made.

3 – Struy Bridge
HSMR – NH44SW 10
NMRS – NH44SW 7
Grid Ref: NH 40178/40384
Type – Bridge
Status – Listed B

No info in HSMR or NMRS databases. Noted in listed building information that built for Commissioner of Highlands Roads and Bridges.
Noted by Gifford (1992, 215) that bridge by Thomas Telford dated to 1812 of rubble with 5 segmental arches and triangular cutwaters.

Walkover reveals site to be as described.

Recommend that watching brief be made during work on bridge to determine if any original road material exists.

Below: View of bridge facing NW.



4 – Struy

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 3951/3891

Type – Farmstead

3 roofed buildings with an enclosing wall depicted on 1st edition OS. Only 1 roofed building and wall on 2nd edition OS. Named as Little Struy with roofed building and well with enclosure to SE on 1:10,560 of 1966. Not marked on latest OS.

Walkover reveals site to sit well off route of proposed route. Remains of house 12m x 5m with walls 0.5m wide and up to 1.4m high with concrete floor and remains of cast-iron roof. Remains of fireplaces in both gables. Possible 2nd structure to NE 6m x 5m cut into bank. Traces of walling to south forming possible enclosing wall. Also to the corner of the site is a memorial cairn within a wooden fenced enclosure (NH 39514/38902) 1.6m² by 2m in height of stone and concrete with oval panel with name 'Isabella Chisholm'.

No recommendations to be made as well away from proposed route.

Top: View of house facing NE.

Below: View of cairn facing N.



5 – Dun Struy Beag

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 3977/3920

Type – Farmstead, sheepfold

2 unroofed buildings (1 L-shaped of 2 compartments) and 2 small roofed buildings and a square sheepfold are depicted on the 1st edition OS. Nothing depicted on the 2nd edition OS of 1905 or 1:10,560 of 1966 or latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to sit to north of existing route. No trace of any buildings or structures. Part of site under modern forestry plantation.

Recommend that route to be moved to south side of road.

6 – Erchless House

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 4093/4101

Type – Buildings

2 roofed buildings are depicted on 1st edition OS. Nothing depicted on the 2nd edition OS of 1903 or 1:10,560 of 1966 or latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to sit within boundary of estate, existing mains lies along edge of existing road verge. Line of stones visible 5m in length, maybe remains of wall.

Recommend that route follow existing route.

Below: View of site facing SW.



7 – Knocknashalvaig

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 4272/4061

Type – Enclosure (possible)

Enclosure of 2 compartments depicted on 1st edition OS. Marked as single enclosure on 2nd edition OS of 1903 or 1:10,560 of 1966 or on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to sit well back from proposed route. No trace of enclosure though area covered in dead bracken.

No recommendations to be made.

Below: View of site facing N.



8 – Knocknashalvaig

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 4328/4048 (centred)

Type – Farmstead

2 roofed and 1 unroofed buildings and an enclosing wall depicted on 1st edition OS. Only 2 buildings marked on 2nd edition OS or 1:10,560 of 1966 or on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to sit well off route of proposed route. Valve chambers in this area already replaced. Visit not made.

No recommendations to be made.

9 – Craigdhu

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 4429/4046

Type – Building

Single roofed building depicted on 1st edition OS. Partly roofed on 2nd edition OS of 1903 or 1:10,000 of 1975 or on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to sit well off route of proposed route. Visit not made.

No recommendations to be made.

10 – Craigdhu

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 4467/4046

Type – Building

Single roofed building with enclosing wall depicted on 1st edition OS. Not shown on 2nd edition OS of 1903 or 1:10,000 of 1975 or latest OS map.

Walkover reveals no trace of building. Site is well covered in dead bracken, a faint outline of a possible wall visible through undergrowth. Site is located to north of existing route.

Recommend that route either stay on existing route or move to other side of road.

Below: View of site facing NE.



11 – Craigdhu

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 4506/4048

Type – Building

Single roofed building depicted on 1st edition OS. Not shown on 2nd edition OS of 1903 or 1:10,000 of 1975 on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to sit well off route of proposed route. Visit not made.

No recommendations to be made.

12 – Oldtown of Aigas

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 4549/4074

Type – Building

Single roofed building with enclosing wall depicted on 1st edition OS. Shown as partly roofed on 2nd edition OS of 1903 or 1:10,000 of 1975 or on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to sit well off route of proposed route. Visit not made.

No recommendations to be made.

13 – Tighchuig

HSMR – N/a

NMRS – N/a

Grid Ref: NH 3908/3826

Type – Sheepfold

Marked on 1st edition OS and 2nd and latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to lie close to existing route. Rough rectangular enclosure 26m x 40m with walls 0.6m wide and up to 0.8m high. Eroded out at SW, overlain with later fence to S and heavily covered with trees.

Recommend that new route follow existing or move to north side of road.

Below: View of enclosure facing SW.



14 – Struy

HSMR – NH44SW 6

NMRS – NH44SW 6

Grid Ref: NH 401/402

Type – Church, graveyard

Noted in HSMR of 'Architect Ross & Macbeth 1896'.

Churchyard contains mid 19th to modern day gravestones.

Recommend that route follow existing in field opposite.

Below: View of Church facing SW.



5. Conclusions

Overall most of the sites revealed relate to a former agricultural landscape, though a majority of these sites have been removed through agricultural improvements especially in the late 19th century or being abandoned in the early 20th century or become part of larger farms with buildings being removed over the years.

6. Archive

A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh and the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

7. Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology's publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

8. References

Gifford, J (1992) *The Buildings of Scotland: The Highlands and Islands*. Penguin. Edinburgh.

Highland Sites and Monuments Record database entries for NH44SW & SE.

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries for NH44SW & SE.

OS Maps Consulted

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6inch-mile sheet 9 Inverness-shire of 1876 surveyed 1873.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6inch-mile sheet 10 Inverness-shire of 1876 surveyed 1872.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6inch-mile sheet 9 Inverness-shire of 1903 revised 1901.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6inch-mile sheet 10 Inverness-shire of 1905 revised 1902-3.

Ordnance Survey map NH44 SW for 1966 1:10,560.

Ordnance Survey map NH44 SE for 1975 revised 1972 1:10,000.

Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF 540/A/435	7-3-1950	1:16,666
4048-4095, 4001-4039, 3001-3040		

RAF CPE/Scot/uk/192		1:20,000
5085-5095, 5073-5084		

RAF CPE/Scot/uk/184		1:10,000
3195-3220, 1196-1219		

Sheets in View:

- nh4140.spf
- nh4141.spf
- nh4240.spf
- nh4340.spf
- nh43ne.spf
- nh43nw.spf
- nh4440.spf

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Sheets in View:

- nh33ne.spf**
- nh3937.spf**
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- nh4039.spf**
- nh4040.spf**
- nh4140.spf**

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