

**Report of Archaeological
Desktop & Walkover Survey
Kishorn, Wester Ross, Highland
NG 808 / 395 (Centred)**

Client: Dalgleish Associates Ltd on behalf of Leiths (Scotland) Ltd

**By
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B.A A.I.F.A F.S.A.Scot.
May 2004**

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Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by Dalgleish Associates Ltd on behalf of Leiths (Scotland) Ltd in April 2004 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey at Kishorn, Wester Ross, Highland (centred at NG 808/395) as part of an environmental impact assessment for a proposed quarry.

Highland Council Archaeology Unit produced a specification for this work.

Work revealed no archaeological sites in the proposed development area; the site lies close to an area used formerly as an oilrig fabrication yard.

No recommendations have currently been made for the proposed development area.

1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for Dalgleish Associates Ltd on behalf of Leiths (Scotland) Ltd by the author for a proposed quarry at Kishorn, Wester Ross. This work is to form part of the environmental statement for a future planning application.

The site is located to the southwest of Kishorn near Loch Carron on the coast.

The fieldwork was conducted on May 3rd 2004.

2. Acknowledgements

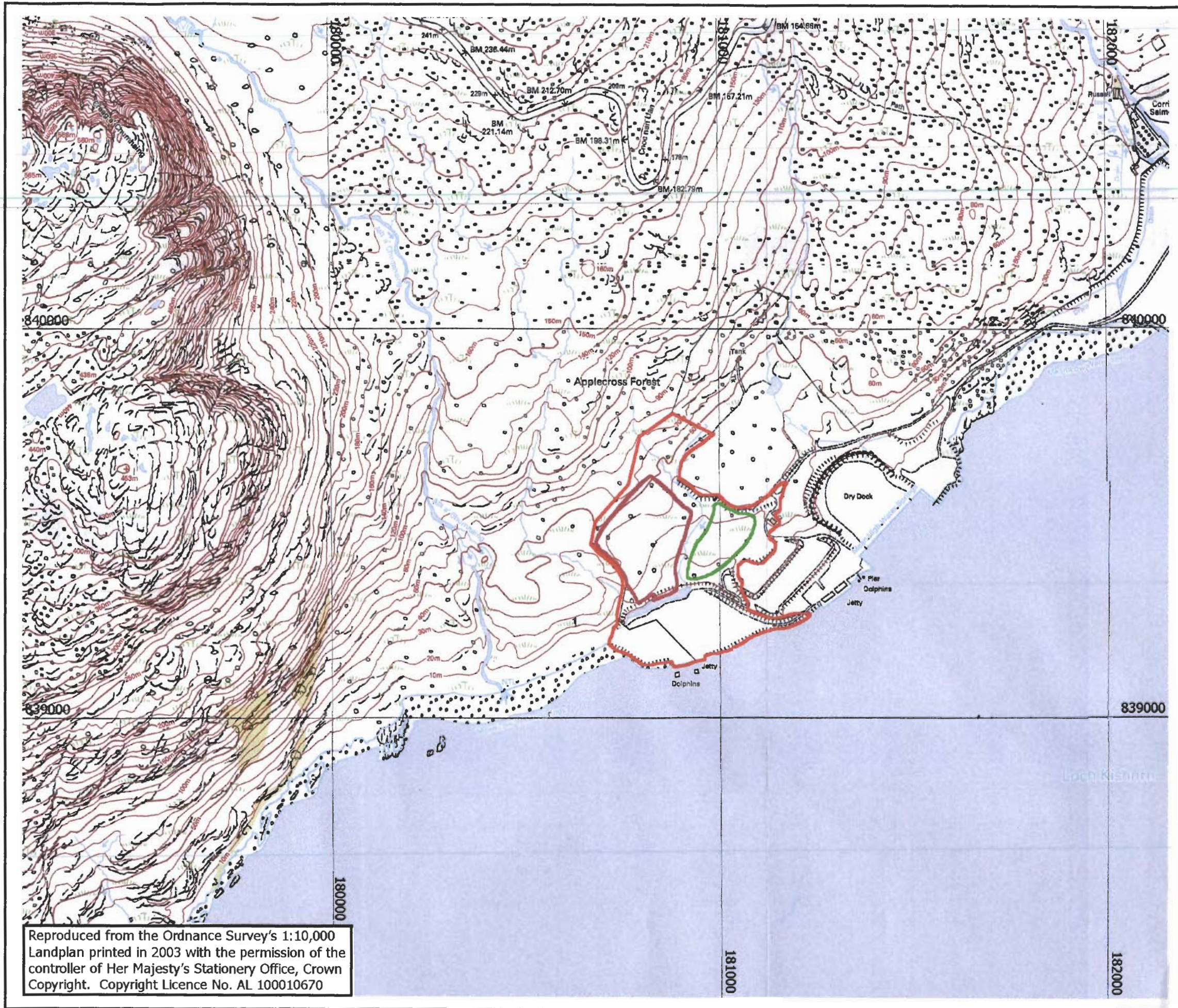
I would like to thank the following for their help during the work:

- Mr. E McLellan, of Dalgleish Associates Ltd;
- Mr. M Wildgoose of Scotland's First Settlers Project, for information on Kishorn shelter sites;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of the RCAHMS;
- Staff of the NMRS;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives.

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Figure 1 - General Location 1:50,000 – site circled.
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LEGEND

-  Proposed Site Boundary
-  Proposed Excavation Boundary
-  Proposed Overburden Area



Client: LEITHS (SCOTLAND) LTD.

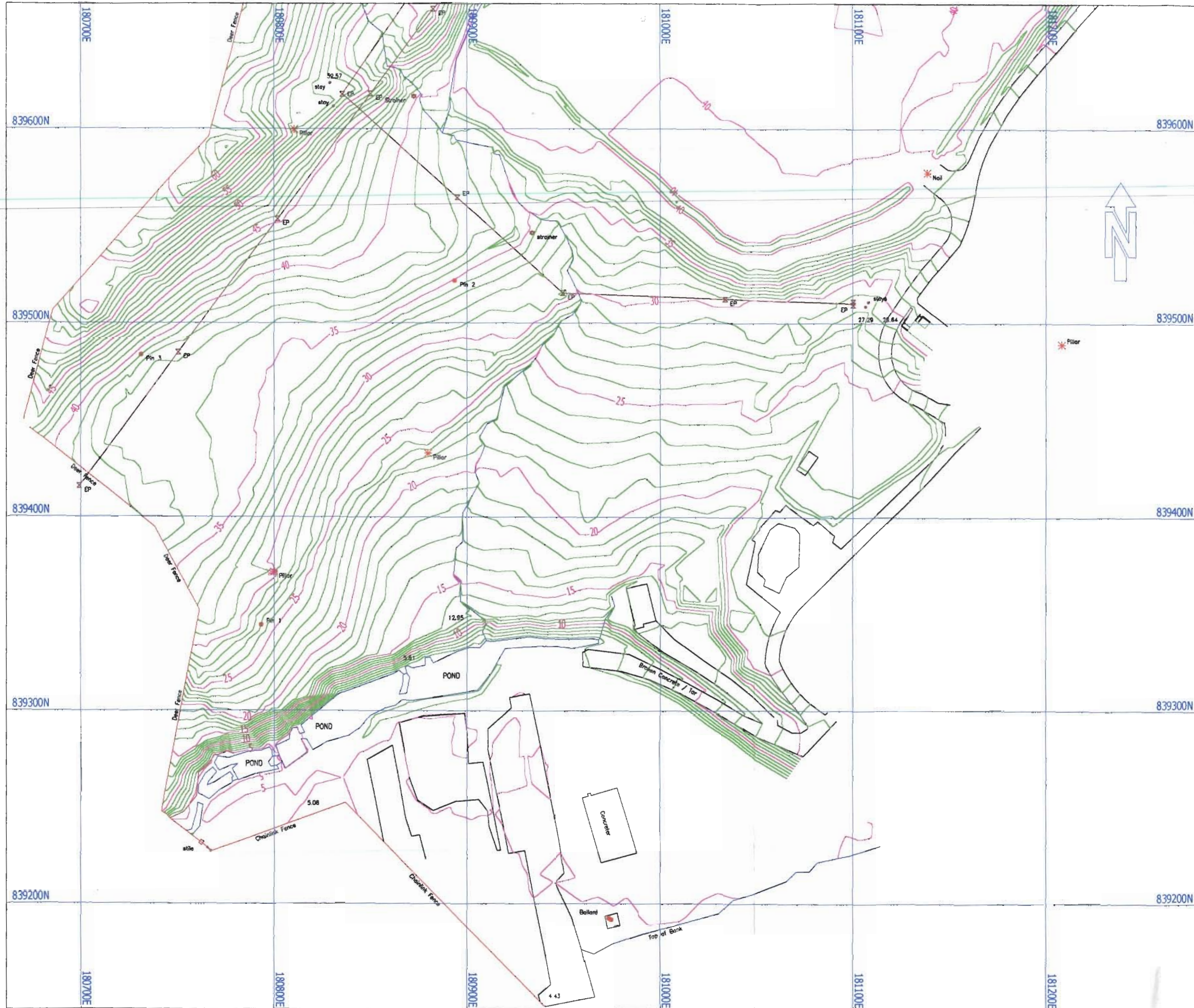
Project: KISHORN QUARRY

Title: SITE LOCATION PLAN **2**

Scale: 1:10,000	Date: 23.03.04	Drawn: JHRW	Checked: EM
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Figure: SL01 Revision Date:

Dalgleish Associates Ltd
 ENVIRONMENTAL, MINERAL AND PLANNING CONSULTANTS
 CATHEDRAL SQUARE
 DUNBLANE FK15 0AH
 Tel: 01786 822339 Fax: 01786 822899



LEITHS

DAL
DALGLEISH
ASSOCIATES
LIMITED

Client: LEITHS (SCOTLAND) LTD.

Project: PROPOSED QUARRY AT KISHORN

3

Title: EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY PLAN

Scale: 1:2000 Date: 05.03.04 Drawn: EM Checked: KVD

Figure: ETP1 Rev Date:

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3. Historical Background

Currently there are no archaeological sites recorded to the proposed development area recorded in either the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record or to the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database, though four sites are located close by (see figure 2). Details are as follows:

1 – Kishorn 3

NMRS – NG83NW 16

HSMR – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 8062/3935

Type – Rock shelter

No information in HSMR or the NMRS. Noted by M Wildggose (pers comm.) of 'sea cliff site, covered in bracken, 2m high by 4m deep and 8m wide, 20m from sea'.

2 – Russel or Kishorn 1

NMRS – NG84SW 31

HSMR – N/a

Grid Ref: NG 8170/4002

Type – Rock shelter

No information in HSMR or the NMRS. Noted by M Wildggose (pers comm.) of 'small cliff site, covered in bog myrtle, 1m high by 3.5m deep and 2m wide, 30m from rock and shingle beach'.

Both sites noted as part of the Scotland's First Settler's Project, though to date no other details are available.

3 – Kishorn

NMRS – N/a

HSMR – NG84SW 34

Grid Ref: NG 8179/4002

Type – Enclosure

Noted as 'Marked on the 1st edition OS map as sheep pen. Two enclosures making use of the rockface and boulders to form part of the walls:

- a- A well preserved section of walling 3m long and 1.2m high connects a large boulder to the rockface. Parallel to this and 2m to the S, the low remains of another section of walling connect this boulder to a tumble of boulders which form the western boundary of the enclosure.
- b- 10m W along the rockface, a second enclosure measuring 12m x 4m. The southern front section of wall is very tumbled but the side sections curving into key into the rockface are well preserved and stand 1m high.'

4 – Kishorn

NMRS – N/a

HSMR – NG83NW 22

Grid Ref: NG 81665/39937

Type – Dyke

Noted as 'section of drystone dyke. Aligned NW-SE and running down the scree slope from the rockface to the perimeter fence, the tumbled remains of a stone dyke'.

Both sites noted as part of a survey by C Dagg (1999) on the redevelopment of the oil construction yard, where it was noted in the summary of 'that within the perimeter fence defining the area of the construction yard, all evidence for previous human activity has been obliterated except along the short strip connecting the two main areas'.

The proposed development site lies to the south of the Township of Russel at NG 820/404. (NMRS NG84SW 10) Noted by the RCAHMS (2003, 31) that proposed site lies adjacent to the site of the Howard Davis Yard and noting 'originally built as oil-platform construction yard, the site is now partially used for industrial purposes, while the remainder lies derelict'.

Both the aerial photography and the map coverage were limited to the area of interest.

A study of aerial photographs held in the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Edinburgh revealed some areas of grassland and lazy beds visible on photographs of 1947 and 1959 (5) though all traces of these have been removed by 1975 when area is dominated by area of an oilrig fabrication yard.

Map coverage was also limited. A study of maps of the proposed development area revealed no features of interest. Early maps of the area from Blau's map of 1654 to Thomson's map of Inverness-shire of 1830 do not show enough detail for the development area. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1880 shows only moorland with the next edition of 1905 showing no change. On the earlier maps the nearby township is noted (Dorret 1750 – Rissell; Thomson 1830 – Rishal; Ainslie 1789 – Risgill; Thomson 1826 – Rishal; Blau 1654 – Rossol though marked on E side of Loch Kishorn).

Conclusions

The development area possibly formed part of grazings and land used by the nearby township of Russel, which probably dates from the late 17th century, though these have mostly been lost by the construction of an oil-platform yard in the 1970's. Two previous archaeological surveys conducted in the vicinity of the development area have not recorded any sites to this area.

4. Objectives

To conduct a walkover survey of the proposed development to record those features revealed by the survey. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed. This work is to include the following:

- Desk based survey
- Walkover survey
- Report on results

5. Methodology

A walkover was made of the proposed extraction area and the area to be used for storage of overburden and spoil.

Weather on the day of the walkover (May 3rd 2004) was sunny with occasional heavy showers.

6. Walkover Results

The walkover survey was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999).

Site Location

The site lies on a predominantly south facing slope of rough grass and heather (see figure 3).

Results

A walkover of the proposed extraction and soil storage areas revealed no archaeological features. The only features revealed were two modern concrete navigation pillars at NG 80804/39363 and NG 80884/39424. Similar other pillars are situated behind the dry dock to the east. Overall the area is very wet and open to the elements.

View of pillar no.1.



Top: View of proposed extraction area facing S.
Bottom: View of proposed storage area facing SE.



7. Conclusions

Though the proposed development site lies close to two rock shelters that may or may not have evidence of occupation, the overall site lies on a south facing slope open to the west and would therefore be unlikely to be suitable for settlement. The area has possibly been formally used as grazing, hence the nearby enclosures and lazy beds, by the nearby township from the 17th to the 20th centuries before the advent of the oil-platform construction yard in the 1970's.

8. Recommendations

No recommendations with regard any further archaeological work for this project is to be proposed due to no features being revealed, and it is likely that no other features would be revealed with further work.

It is recommended that it may be advisable for an assessment by trial trenching to be conducted on all 4 archaeological sites located nearby if the quarry expands in the future.

9. Archive

The following is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh:

- Copy of this report

10. 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*.

11. References

Dagg, C (1999) Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Redevelopment of the former Oil Construction Yard at Kishorn in Wester Ross. Unpublished report – copy held in Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record. (Report no.5)

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record database.

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

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database.

RCAHMS (2003) The Historic Land-use Assessment of Wester Ross. RCAHMS and Historic Scotland. Edinburgh.

Maps Consulted

Ainslie's map of Ross-shire 1789.

Blaues map of 1654. 'Moravia'.

Dorret's map of 1750. 'A general map of Scotland'.

Huddart's map of 1794. 'A new chart of the West coast of Scotland'.

Thomson's map of 1826. 'Ross and Cromarty Shires'.

Thomson's map of 1830. 'Inverness-shire'.

Ordnance Survey 1st edition 6inch-mile sheet 110 Ross-shire of 1880 surveyed 1875.

Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 6inch-mile sheet 110 Ross-shire of 1905 revised 1902.

Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 NG83NW of 1971.

Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF CPE/Scot/UK 248	4219-4216	1-8-1947	1:10,000
RAF 58/RAF/2711	F21 3-5	11-2-1959	1:10,000
Fairey 7343/35	171-169	21-5-1975	1:10,000

Brief for archaeological work at:

**Proposed Hard Rock Quarry, Kishorn, Wester Ross
(PP105)**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT AND WALK-OVER SURVEY

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

1) Background

A hard rock quarry has been proposed for this area. A development of this type has the potential for direct adverse impacts on archaeological sites and on their setting, visual or landscape integrity. Before development is agreed, the scale of these impacts should be fully assessed, so that an informed decision can be made as to whether the development should proceed and if so at what cost to the archaeological resource. Such an assessment will allow the integration of mitigation measures within any development scheme that proceeds. With early consultation and assessment programmes, arrangements can be made to avoid sites of archaeological interest, or mitigate the impact on this resource. If significant sites cannot be avoided then they should be recorded in advance of damage or destruction.

Many parts of Highland have not been subject to systematic and detailed field survey and up-to-date information on site condition and overall significance is not readily available. An assessment of the significance, survival and archaeological potential of sites and landscapes is therefore required for all areas of major development. Previously unrecorded archaeological sites are frequently identified where archaeological reconnaissance survey such as this is undertaken.

To meet the needs of such an approach, the first requirement is for a desk based assessment to check available records and aerial photographs. A rapid walk-over survey should then be undertaken by a competent archaeologist to assess the presence of, and potential for, archaeological sites in the development area; to assess the significance of the sites that will be affected; and the impact of the proposed development upon them. Each assessment should be undertaken to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), informed by, and referring to, this brief.

This approach aims to establish as far as possible the nature and extent of any features of archaeological interest likely to be affected by any aspects of the development, so that they can be preserved *in situ* if possible or, if necessary, fully recorded in advance of destruction.

A report should be produced that outlines the conclusions of this work and proposes appropriate mitigation and recording arrangements to be followed in the development scheme. Such arrangements might include re-routing to avoid key areas, excavation and recording of features, and/or an archaeological watching brief on excavations for construction purposes.

2) Terms of Reference

This brief specifies what is considered to be the **minimum** acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. It is assumed that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with Highland Council Archaeology Unit in writing before the start of any site works.

This brief has been produced for Mr Stuart Farrell, who will be responsible for the work.

The approach set out below aims to establish as far as possible the nature and extent of any features of archaeological interest likely to be affected at the earliest possible stage so that they can be preserved, or if necessary recorded before destruction. It is designed specifically for this scheme and may differ from previous briefs supplied for other projects.

The area to be covered by this assessment should be the entire development area: including the quarry site itself and any proposed services, access roads, works compounds, borrow pits or other ancillary works, unless otherwise indicated.

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

The brief has been produced specifically for this scheme. It is valid for one year from the date of issue

3) Objectives

- To identify and record the location, nature, form and extent of any archaeological sites, landscapes or objects that lie within the proposed scheme.
- To assess the potential for the survival of buried or truncated archaeological sites within the assessment area.
- To identify archaeological features that will be impacted by the development and indicate any areas of archaeological sensitivity.
- To identify archaeological sites, historic buildings and historic landscapes with statutory protection and assess any potential impact to them by the proposed development.
- To propose an appropriate mitigation strategy and recommendations for further work as necessary.

4) Method

a) Desk-based assessment

A check of all relevant archaeological/historical records, maps and aerial photographs should be undertaken and presented as an appendix within the report. At least the following sources should be checked:

- *The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)*
- *The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)*
- *any relevant early cartographic coverage*
- *any relevant aerial photographic coverage*
- *The Highland Council Archives*
- *any locally held private archives*

b) Walk-over survey and photographic record

A walk over survey of the project area will be undertaken to assess the survival and extent of previously identified sites and to enable the identification of any further upstanding remains. All archaeological sites will be assessed in the field for their survival, extent, significance and their relationship to other sites. 'Archaeological Sites' in this context means individual sites above and below ground; historic buildings or other built structures; designed gardens, cemeteries or landscapes; battlefield or skirmish sites; and sites with historical or cultural associations.

All individual features should be recorded, photographed and sketched. All features should be marked on a plan, at a relevant scale, keyed by means of Grid References to the Ordnance Survey mapping.

c) Report

A report must be produced which sets out the results of the work and meets the stated objectives of the assessment. The report should include proposals to mitigate the effects of the development on the archaeological resource. Areas where further archaeological work is recommended should be clearly identified. These proposals should be discussed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit before submission of the report.

5) 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.

At least **five** copies of the project report must be produced, in addition to those required by the client. These must be submitted to all of the following **within 4 weeks** of the completion of the field work.

- Where the proposal is the subject of a planning application, one paper copy should be supplied to the Council's Area Planning and Building Control Manager.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA. This will be available for public consultation through the public library service.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB.
- 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 disc. Please ensure that all drawings and photographs are included.

The report must include, as a minimum:

- A location plan showing the development area and all archaeological features identified. Grid references must be included.
- Details of all archaeological sites, landscapes and buildings with statutory heritage protection.
- A detailed gazetteer of all archaeological features identified during the survey.
- A statement of the potential for the survival of further, buried sites of archaeological interest within the proposal area.
- Measured sketch plans and photographs of all significant archaeological features identified.
- The circumstances, objectives and dates of work, including a copy of this specification.
- An analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate, and a statement of the significance of the results.
- Recommendations for the protection of the archaeological resource and/or mitigation measures should the development go ahead.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including the archive location.
- A list of finds (if applicable), set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting.
- A list of all references and information sources.
- A set of colour slides illustrating significant archaeological features and their setting.

b) 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 Contract Archaeologist, who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work.

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 (SMR), and through the public library service.

6) Finds

Chance finds can be made during any archaeological fieldwork. 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.

The contract archaeologist should notify all finds for Treasure Trove before the report is submitted. A finds list, in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting, must also be attached to and submitted with the report.

9) **General**

The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief and to:

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 Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

not comment to the press or other media without prior notification to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit

fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

This brief has been produced by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

Thursday, 6 May 2004