

**Report of Archaeological Desktop &
Walkover Survey for a proposed Quarry at
Wester Urray, by Muir of Ord, Highland.
NH 503/523 (Centred)**



Client: Dagleish Associates Ltd on behalf of A Ross & Sons Ltd.

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

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Cover: View of main area of proposed quarry facing SW from Wester Urray Farm.

Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by Dalgleish Associates Ltd on behalf of Alexander Ross & Sons (Sand & Gravel) Ltd in July 2004 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed quarry at Wester Urray, by Muir of Ord, Highland.

Work revealed no archaeological sites in the area of the proposed quarry; a walkover did reveal clearance heaps of a modern date to include modern rubbish.

Currently no recommendations have been made for further archaeological work.

1. Introduction

This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for Dalgleish Associates Ltd on behalf of A Ross & Sons Ltd by the author for a proposed quarry at Wester Urray, by Muir of Ord, Highland.

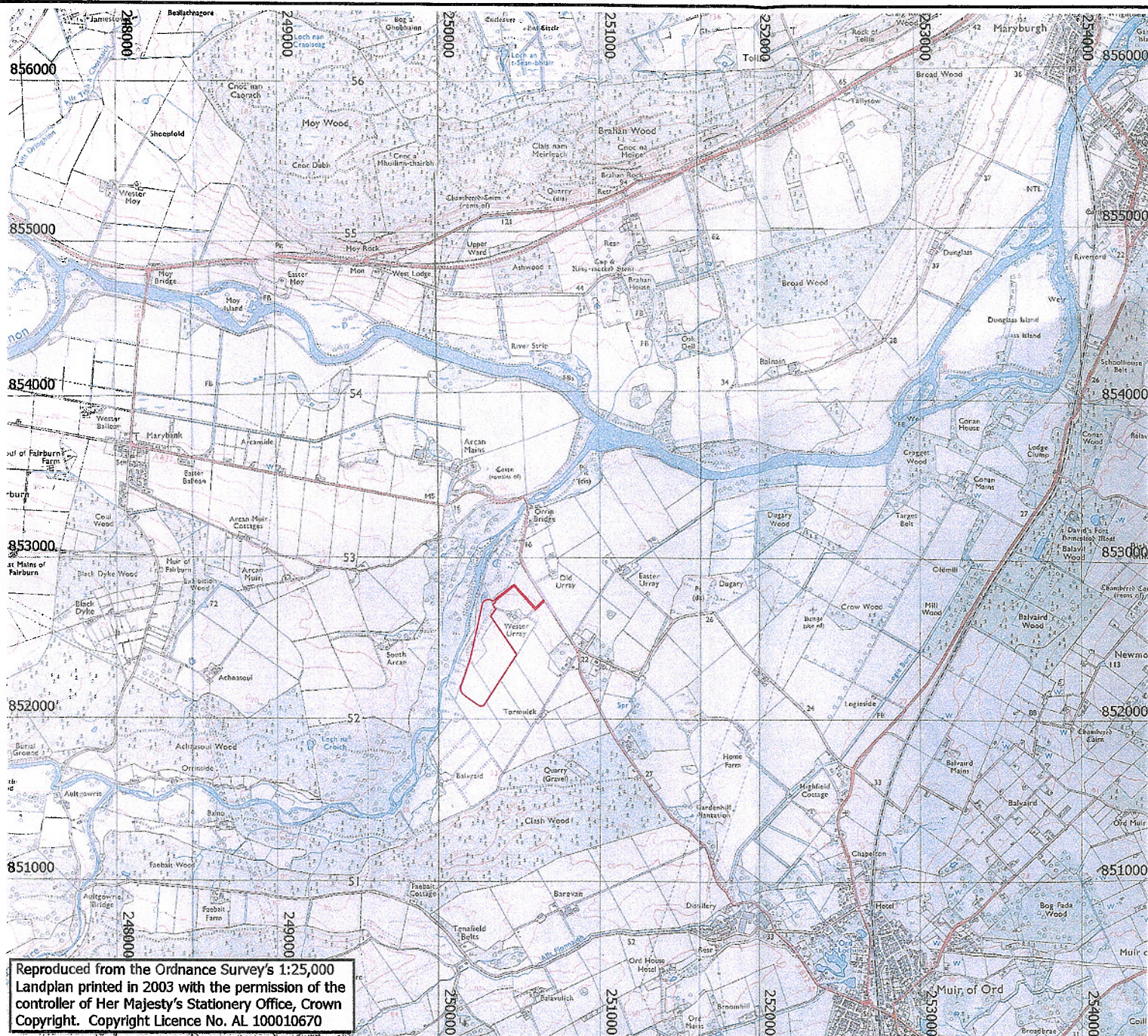
The fieldwork was conducted on 28th July 2004.

2. Acknowledgements

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

- Ms. E Cameron, of Dalgleish Associates Ltd;
- Mr. T Morrison, farmer at Wester Urray;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives;
- Staff of the National Library of Scotland, Map room.

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LEGEND

 Proposed Site Boundary



Client: ALEXANDER ROSS & SONS
(SAND & GRAVEL) LTD

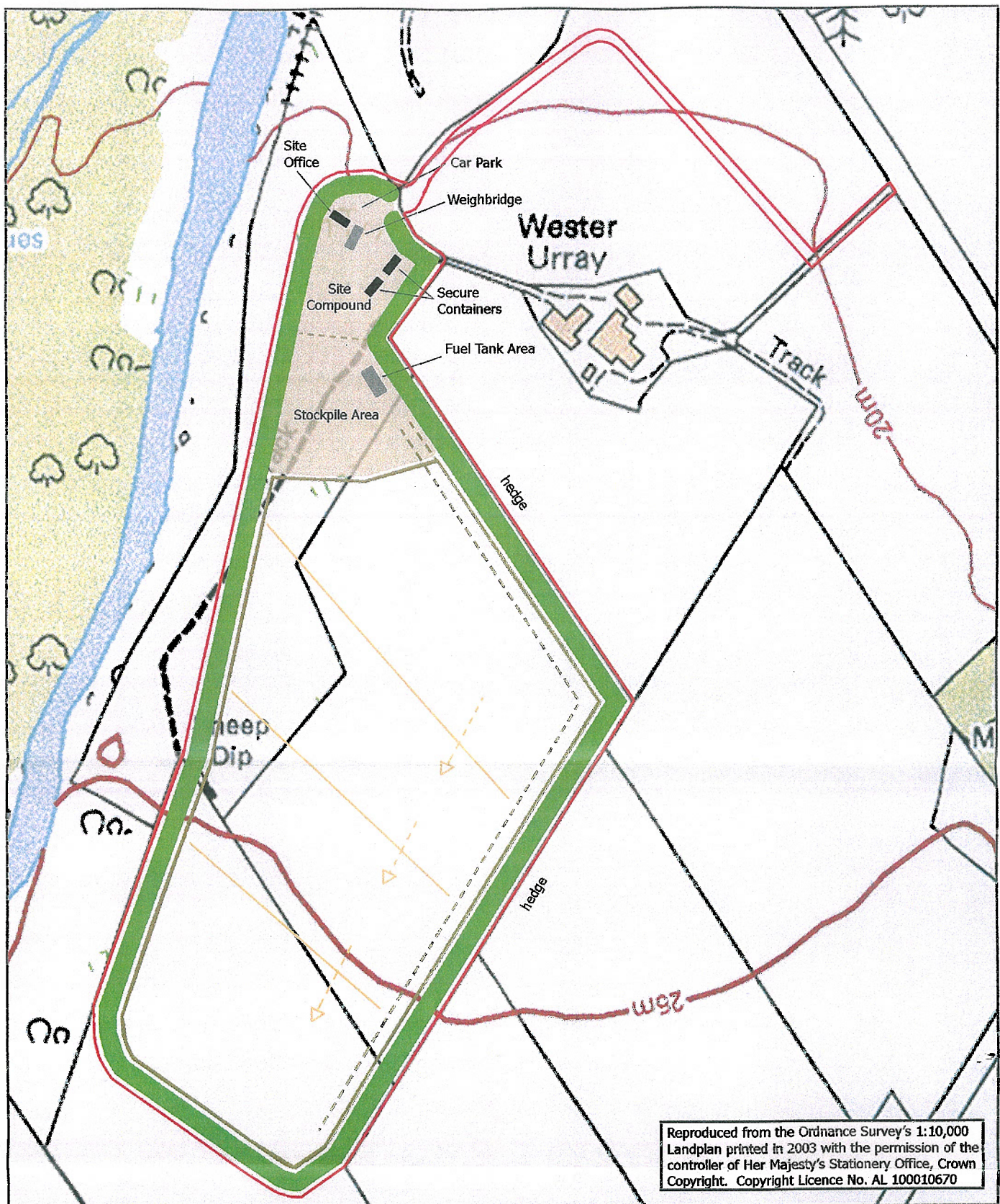
Project: WESTER URRAY

Title: SITE LOCATION PLAN

Scale: 1:25,000	Date: 21.11.03	Drawn: JHRW	Checked: KVD
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Figure: WU1	Revision Date:
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Dalgleish Associates Ltd
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LEGEND

- Proposed Site Boundary
- Bunds
- Stockpile & Compound Area
- Excavation Area
- Provisional Phasing
- Direction of Working
- Haul Road



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Tel: 01786 822539 Fax: 01786 822899

Client: ALEXANDER ROSS & SONS
(SAND & GRAVEL) LTD.

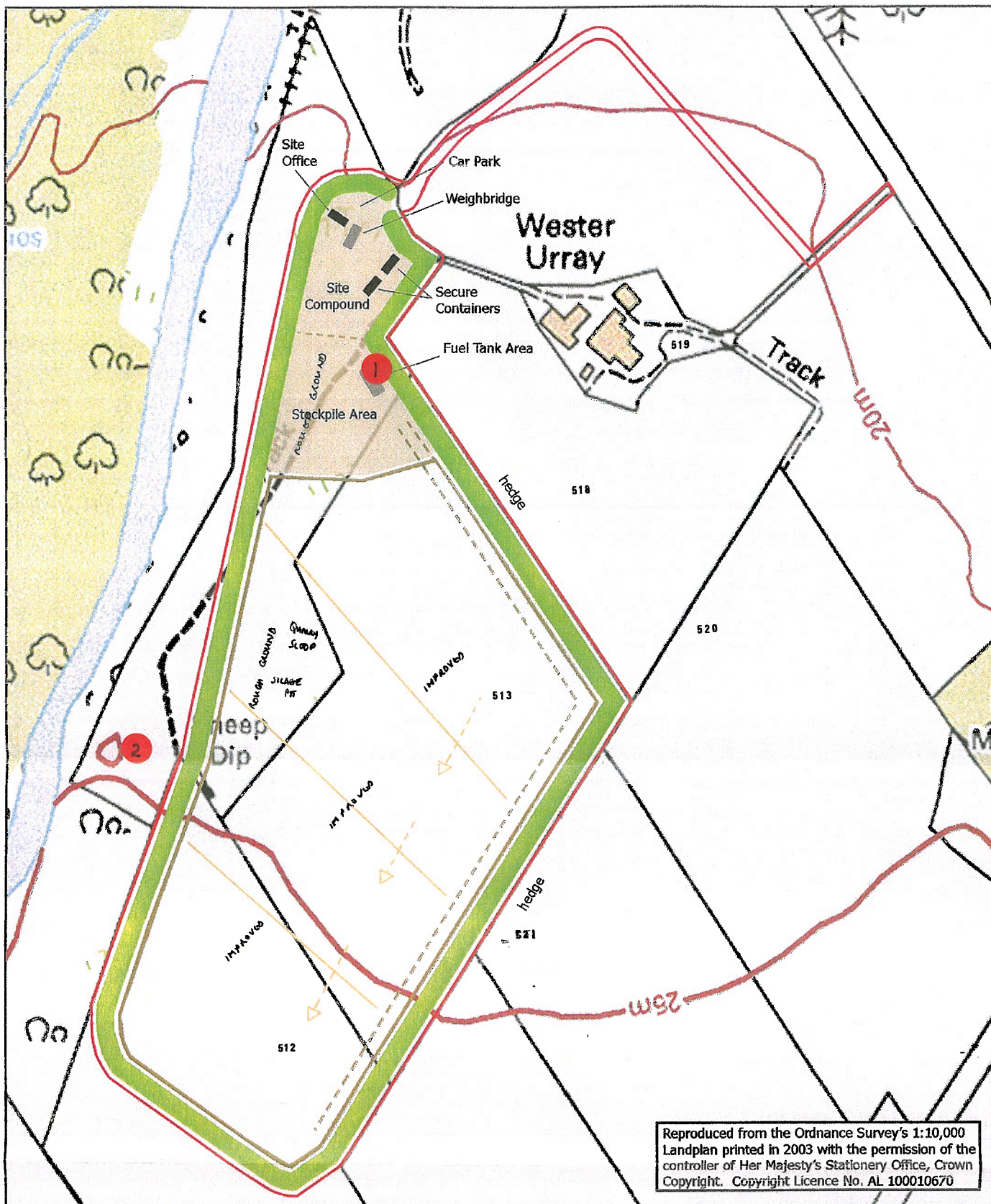
Project: WESTER URRAY

Title: SCOPING PLAN

Scale: 1:2,500	Date: 22.12.03	Drawn: RML	Checked: KVD
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Figure: WU2

Revision Date:



LEGEND

- Proposed Site Boundary
- Bunds
- Stockpile & Compound Area
- Excavation Area
- Provisional Phasing
- Direction of Working
- Haul Road



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Client: ALEXANDER ROSS & SONS
 (SAND & GRAVEL) LTD.

Project: WESTER URRAY

Title: ● - SITES NOTED IN FIELD SURVEY
 NUMBERS DENOTE OS FIELD DATA

Scale: 1:2,500	Date: 22.12.03	Drawn: RML	Checked: KVD
Figure: WU2		Revision Date:	

3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record those features that would be affected by the new proposed sand and gravel quarry. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and the enclosed specification as provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

4. Archaeological Survey

Desktop Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:

- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland – aerial photograph collection;
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh (Maps);
- Highland Council Archives;
- Inverness Library.

Both the aerial photography and the map coverage were limited to the area of interest. Aerial photographs, in particular were limited due to coverage. Map coverage was also limited as the 1st edition of 1876 was almost the same as the 2nd of 1906 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being late 1960's. Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the proposed quarry.

No archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the area of the proposed quarry except work in the overall surrounding area by the Ordnance Survey. The farm of Wester Urray is not noted in any of the main local sources (Alston 1999, Beaton 1992 or Gifford 1992) or the Old (OSA 1791-99) or New (NSA 1845) Statistical Accounts for the parish of Urray. The Rev John Downie writing in the Old Statistical Account (1791-99) noted that 'the Orrin has in the course of ages, evidently shifted its bed, and its passable fords, through every part of that plain, and would repeat its ravages almost every season, were it not restrained by the annual exertions of the surrounding proprietors' noting also that at this period most of the agricultural land had been partly enclosed but the majority was still open fields.

NMRS & HSMR

No archaeological sites are recorded in the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database or the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record database to lie within the proposed extraction area (centred NH 5035 5238) or in the immediate vicinity. No Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed buildings are to be found in the proposed application area or in the immediate vicinity. The proposed area does not affect any setting or part of any designed landscape. (Historic Scotland, 2003)

MAPS

Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the proposed quarry. No estate maps for Wester Urray are held in either the Highland Council Archives or noted in the National Register of Archives. The National Archives of Scotland (West Register House) holds a plan of Wester Urray Farm dated 1861-2

(RHP 23988) showing proposed arrangements and improvements. (Copy not currently available in NAS as no fiche card has been made) The layout of the fields is the same as the 1st edition OS with the area closest to the river marked as rough ground and proposed to be planted, other improvements proposed included a 2nd farm to the SW of the existing farm and a new farmhouse to the E of the current farm with a new access road along what is now the proposed SE boundary of the quarry. To who proposed these changes and why they were not conducted is unknown.

The 1st edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale map, Urray Parish Ross-shire, sheet XCIX.1 surveyed in 1876 shows field layout as almost very similar to modern. The farm of Wester Urray itself is shown as a series of 5 roofed buildings. The middle three form a small courtyard. Directly west of the farm a small well (approximately at NH 5034 5260) is marked.

Ordnance Survey field descriptions for Urray Farm

Field	Acres	Description
512	28.395	arable rough pasture etc
513	29.181	arable rough pasture etc
518	27.039	arable rough pasture etc
519	1.475	houses gardens etc
520	25.525	arable rough pasture etc
521	24.469	arable and trees

By the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 scale map, Ross and Cromarty, sheet XCIX.1 of 1906 a more elaborate arrangement of buildings is depicted at Urray farm. The well in the field adjacent to the W has gone out of use in favour of a new one near the farm.

Later maps of 1971 and latest OS map show no change to the layout of fields but do show slight additions to the farm. The main change that is noticeable is that the course of the nearby River Orrin has changed.

Aerial Photograph's

A study of vertical aerial photographs held by the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historical Monuments in Scotland revealed the following:

CPE/Scot/UK 184 Frames 3200-3201 (9.10.46)

Very similar field boundaries to modern. No sign of sheep dip.

CPE/Scot/UK 254 Frames 4270-4268 and 3269-3268 (9.8.47)

No significant changes.

OS/67/046 Frames 013-012 (23.4.67)

Some of the scrub between the proposed extraction and the river has been cleared.

Sheep dip is present (NH 5020 5234).

It is likely that the sheep dip is of a modern date.

Walkover Results

A walkover was made on the 28th of July 2004 (weather was slightly overcast but bright) that revealed only fields of rough ground and arable pasture.

Main area of proposed quarry is predominantly of improved fields of flat ground with some rough ground (some partly harrowed) or of rough grass (area of proposed offices, etc) close to the riverside. No archaeological features were noted in the rough ground, which was walked in 20m wide transects. 2 sites of recent activity were noted in the rough ground of dumping of rounded stones from the improved fields. No features evident in the improved fields (at time of visit of short grass). A quick field-walk over the rough ground did not give any finds of any period.

The first area of dumping (site 1) was of rounded stones in small heaps and included some modern concrete (possibly from the ongoing alterations of Wester Urray farm) to an area 6m x 20m with stones mostly being very clean (having little or no moss or lichen growth upon them) and probably date from the post Second World War Period.

The second (site 2) was to an area of 26m x 24m again of heaps of rounded stones some only being dumped there in the last few years (per comm. from Mr. Morrison, farmer) with others being again very clean (having little or no moss or lichen growth upon them) and probably again date from the post Second World War Period.

No trace was made of the sheep dip as noted in the study of aerial photographs of the area and was probably only a wooden structure. There was noted some disturbance to the area of rough ground (see figure 3) in the form of some slight quarrying of a knoll and the formation of silage pit both modern in date.

No sites of archaeological interest were noted. There was no evidence from both the clearance heaps that they covered any earlier structure.

Top: View of site 1 facing W.

Middle: View of site 1 facing S.

Bottom: Composite view of site 2 facing W.



5. Conclusions

Overall as no sites of archaeological interest were revealed with the exception of modern stone heaps relating to agricultural improvements of a probable post Second World war period it may be likely that no other archaeological sites are to be found in the area of the proposed quarry possibly due to the constant change of the course of the river in this area and that the site is exposed and would not have provided any shelter for settlement or is not in a prominent location that would be used for burial. The fields are all improved and formed to their existing plan prior to 1861 with little or no change to the modern day.

Currently no recommendations for further archaeological work have been proposed, though this would have to be confirmed in consultation with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit prior to planning approval.

Any unexpected archaeological discoveries made during construction work should be notified to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Any finds made of human remains during construction work should be reported to the police and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

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

- Alston, D (1999) Ross and Cromarty: A Historical Guide. Birlinn. Edinburgh.
- Beaton, E (1992) Ross & Cromarty: An Illustrated Architectural Guide. RIAS. Edinburgh.
- Gifford, J (1992) The Buildings of Scotland: The Highlands and Islands. Penguin. Edinburgh.
- Highland Sites and Monuments Record database entries for NH55SW.
- Historic Scotland (2003) Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland. Supplementary Volume 2: Highlands and Islands. Edinburgh.
- IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.
- National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE entries for NH55SW.
- NSA (1845) New Statistical Account of Scotland.
- Ordnance Survey (1870) Book of Reference to the Plan of the Parish of Urray in the County of Ross-shire.
- OSA (1791-99) Old Statistical Account of Scotland.

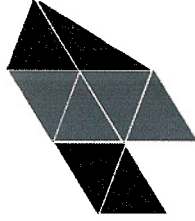
Maps Consulted

- Blaue, J 1654 Map of Scotland.
- Moll, H 1745 The Shires of Ross and Cromarty.
- Thomson, J 1826 Ross and Cromarty Shires (South section)
- Register House Plan 23988 – Plan of farms of Wester Urray and Tormuich as proposed to be arranged and improved and of adjacent lots, plantations, etc 1861-2. Surveyor David Gordon.
- Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 sheet 99.1 Ross & Cromarty of 1880 surveyed 1876.
- Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 sheet 99.1 Ross & Cromarty of 1906 revised 1902-3.
- Ordnance Survey map NH55SW for 1991 1:10,000.

Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF CPE/Scot/UK 184 3201-3200	9-10-1946	1:10,000
RAF CPE/Scot/UK 254 4270-4268, 3269-3268	9-9-1947	1:10,000
OS OS/67/046 12-13	23-4-1967	1:7,500

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Cs!qpes!tschq
Comwunicy nq
**Council
H!δp!sug
Tpe**

Brief for archaeological work at:

**Proposed Quarry Site, Wester Urray, Ross-shire
(PP 110)**

**DESK BASED ASSESSMENT &
WALK-OVER SURVEY**

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

1) Background

A 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 Stuart Farrell, Archaeological Consultant, who will be responsible for the work. It sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

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 may be used to

obtain estimates from archaeological contractors as required. 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 and landscaping and screening, 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 based on documents supplied at the time it was issued. It is valid for one year from the date of issue. Before site works start, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work should be agreed with the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

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*
- *Any relevant local history books or articles*

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, particularly with regard to future research.
- 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.

7) General

The contract 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.