

Report of Archaeological Field Investigation
June 20th – July 3rd 2000
Braemore, by Lairg, Highland
NC 5522/0302

By
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July 2000

Introduction

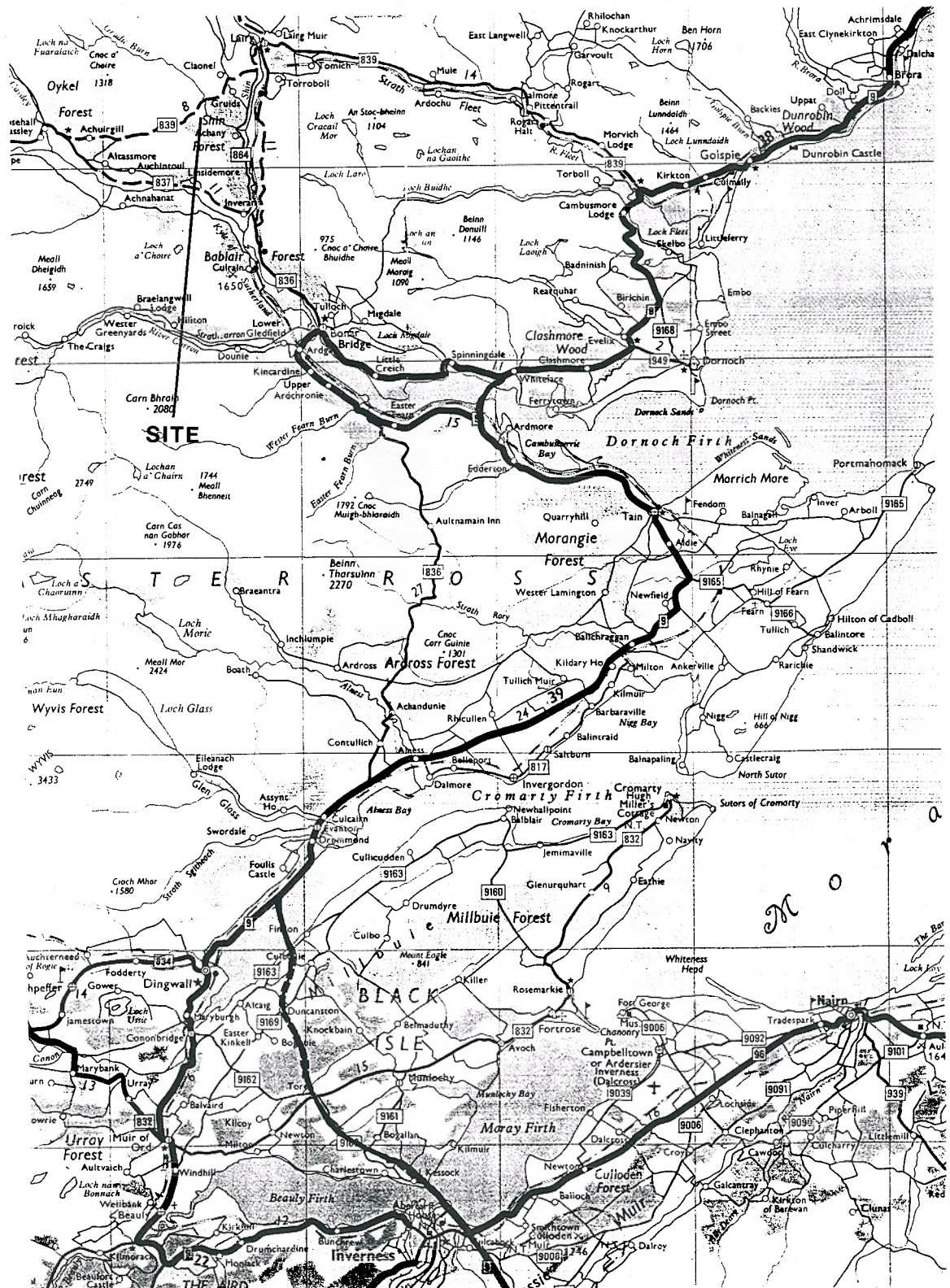
This report is for a field investigation conducted on behalf of Bell Ingram by the author for a watching brief on a water pipe trench and an inspection of an area of excavation for an agricultural barn at Braemore, by Lairg.

Acknowledgements

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

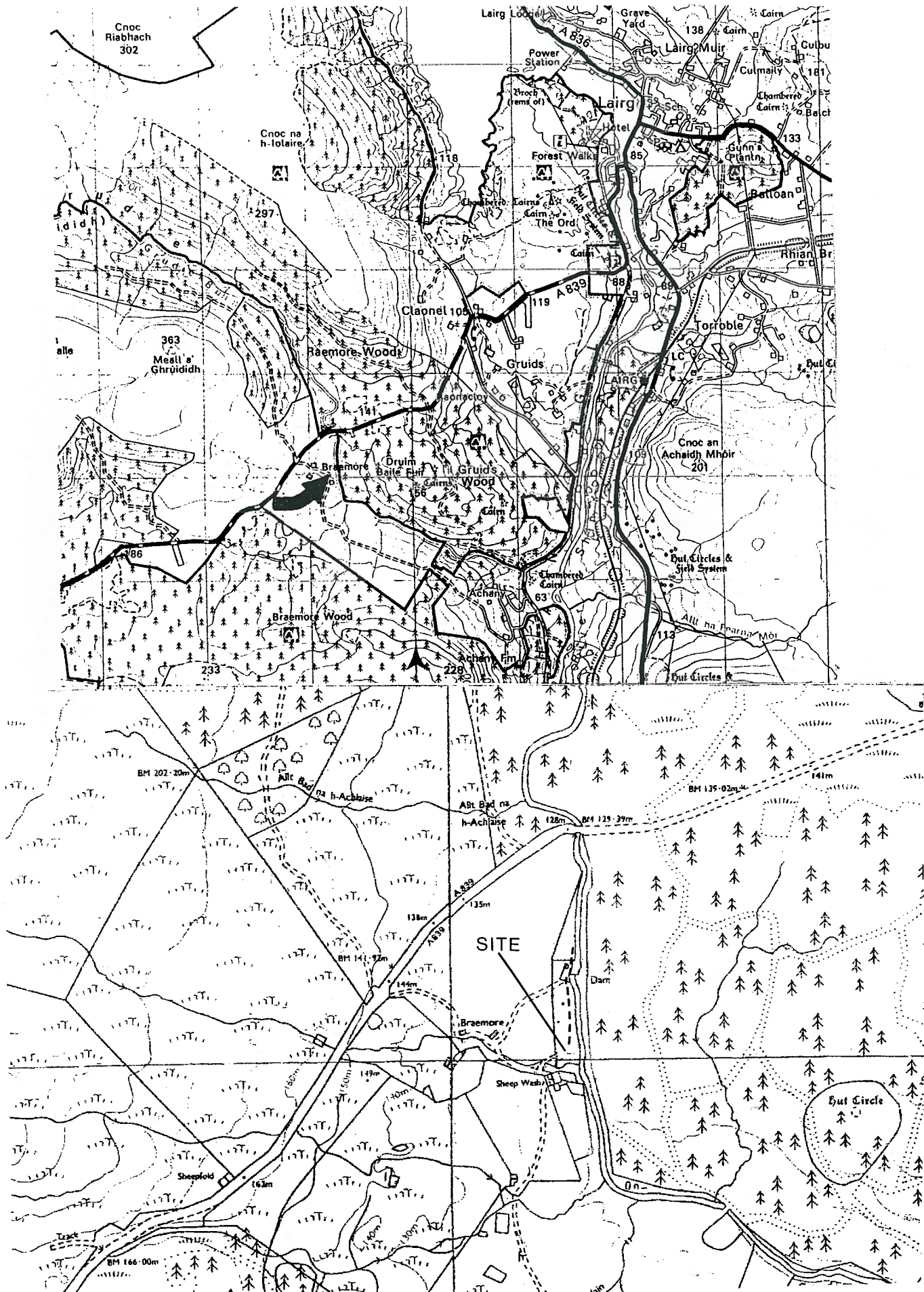
- Mr. D Greer, of Bell Ingram;
- Staff of Edward Mackay, contractors.
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location



Site Location

(Line of pipe trench indicated by dotted line)



Historical Background

The area of the development and watching brief lies adjacent to a number of recorded sites, most notably a burnt mound, with recorded hut circles in the vicinity. The sites are recorded in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record as follows:

- NC 50 SE 053 – Burnt mound at NC 5524/0303 of 15m by 13m and c1.2m in height.
- NC 50 SE 004 – Hut circle at NC 5578/0289 of 12m diameter.
- NC 50 SE 080 – Enclosure at NC 5570/ 0280.

Both the 2 later sites are situated on the opposite side of the Grudie Burn.

Objectives

The objectives of this work were in 2 parts.

Part 1 – To investigate an area of excavated ground to check if any archaeology had been destroyed and do a walkover survey of the line of a pipe trench to identify any archaeological sites. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed.

Part 2 – To conduct a watching brief on the excavation of the pipe trench. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed.

Site Conditions

The area under investigation is comprised of arable grazing with small areas of reed-grass. Weather on the days of work (June 20th & July 3rd 2000) were overcast with sunny periods.

Results

An inspection of the area of excavation (see photos 1 & 2), centred NC 5522 0302, of 30m by 18m which had been excavated without archaeological supervision revealed no archaeological features to be present in the sections exposed with topsoil being 5-10cm in depth overlying natural. The only deposit revealed was a small amount of fire-cracked stone 9m away from the NE corner (see photo 3) and lying 8m south of the recorded burnt mound (NMRS NC50SE 56 at NC 5524 0303) (see photo 1 & 2). It is possible that the two are related. No charcoal was found to enable a radiocarbon date to be made.

A walkover of the proposed route of the water pipe trench revealed 4 previously unrecorded sites:

- Hut circle – NC 5522/0311 – (see photo 4) – c.7m in diameter with signs of internal and external walling with entrance at SE.
- Rectangular structure – NC 5521/0307 – (see photo 5) – 7m by 4m of rubble construction, no sign of entrance. Possible lamb pen or kale yard.

- Clearance cairns – Group of 3 centred at NC 5522/ 0308 – 3 small cairns of 1-2m diameter of unknown date. A note is made under the record of the burnt mound at NC 5524/0303 of a number of clearance cairns situated nearby but not recorded separately.

- Turf and stone dyke. –NC 5521/0315 to NC 5518/0316 (see photo 6) dyke of c.40cm in height, eroded in sections by sheep.

The watching brief was made on the removal of turf and topsoil for a water service trench for the proposed agricultural barn. Sites previously noted were marked out to prevent any damage by contractor's machinery. Also with the above sites being identified the line of the trench was altered to avoid any damage to any of these sites.

Turf and topsoil of black-peaty soil was removed to an average depth of 15-20cm overlying orange-red silt natural. No features or deposits were revealed to a trench of a width of 40cm over a length of about 120 metres.

Recommendations

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

Advice of the need of a fuller detailed area survey was given to the developer to be of an advantage to any future development or being part of any farm management plan or related ESA or CPS scheme, was to be considered.

Archive

Notebook of results to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh. A set of colour slides has been deposited with Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

References

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record sheets NC 50 SE 4, 53, 80.

Photographic details

- 1 – View of excavated area from south.
- 2 – View of burnt mound in relation to excavated area from south.
- 3 – View of burnt stone in section from west – scale 1m.
- 4 – View of hut circle from south-east – scales 1m.
- 5 – View of rectangular structure from south-east – scale 1m.
- 6 – View of dyke from south-east – scale 1m.

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HIGHLAND COUNCIL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Archaeology Unit

Specification for archaeological work at: Braemore

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an Archaeological recording exercise to be carried on site ground works. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by planning notification for an agricultural shed submitted by Mr. David Greer

It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until 31st December 2000 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for the applicant who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. Estimates should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification

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 record, to professional standards, any features and objects of archaeological or historical importance which will be damaged, destroyed, or obscured by this development.

4. Method

1. The site should be visited and assessed to establish whether any archaeological features have been affected by groundwork's or are likely to be so. If so,
2. Any exposed archaeology, including all individual archaeological features must be planned at a scale of no more than 1:20. Levels should be taken OD at a maximum of 2m intervals across this exposed archaeology.
3. A comprehensive set of colour slides must be produced to illustrate all features of the archaeological remains. These slides must be indexed.
4. Those carrying out construction works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. Where machinery is to be used for topsoil stripping, 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 regarding this.

5. The archaeologist must be given every aid by contractors to enable the archaeological work to be carried out. Contractors may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. This must be catered for and adhered to.

5. Monitoring

1. The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.

2. Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.

3. Prior notice of construction starting dates, contact names and local addresses, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Area Planning Manager and the Senior Archaeologist.

4. Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Senior Archaeologist so that revised arrangements can be made.

5. Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

6. Reporting

a. Project report

(i) At least five copies of the project report must be produced.

1. One paper copy for the applicant

2. One paper copy for the Area Planning and Building Control Manager

3. One paper copy for the Highland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.

4. One copy for the Highland SMR as above, on a computer disk in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 95 for Windows.

5. One paper copy to be deposited with Norman Newton, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness.

The report must be submitted to all of the above within 3 weeks of the completion of field work.

(ii) The report must include, as a minimum,

Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected (see Method, above). The Grid Reference of the site 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 archaeological features noted. The scale plans must accurately locate the grids and trial trenches within the development area.

A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location

6. The report must include full details of the foundation design and other agreed arrangements for the safeguarding of archaeological features on this site.

7. 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.

8. General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project

9. A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.

(iii) The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in writing, and the Archaeology Unit will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. Copyright will be acknowledged in all cases by the Archaeology Unit.

b. Presentation to local community

This specification includes (if appropriate) arranging a presentation of the project results to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

c. Finds and Treasure Trove reporting

The Archaeological Contractor must contact the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery regarding possible emergency finds conservation needs and future storage arrangements. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify the local museum of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area. Should museum staff wish to visit the site whilst the archaeological work is in progress, they must first gain permission from the site owner/agent. The site owner/agent must be aware that no one, other than the Council's Planning Officer, in consultation with the Archaeology Unit, has the authority to vary the terms of this specification.

Applicants should note the provisions of Scottish Treasure Trove: any items found during site excavation works, regardless of value or the material of which they are made, must be reported to the Queen and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. This is normally done either through the police or a registered museum. It is a criminal offence not to report items, but where items are promptly and correctly reported, and are claimed by the Crown as Treasure Trove, a reward may be paid to the finder. Any report to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer must be copied to the Senior Archaeologist, and the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery.

d. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. The cost of this must be included in any tender document.

7. General

1. The archaeologist appointed must be of a professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
2. The main contractor has responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff on site.
3. The archaeologist is responsible for taking all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance.
4. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.
5. The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist.
6. The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
7. Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.
8. The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.

John Wood
Senior Archaeologist
Wednesday, 14 June 2000

Dorothy Low
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"The opinions expressed herein are my own and do not necessarily represent those of my employer".

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

Brief for archaeological work at:
Braemore

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological watching brief to be carried on site ground works. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted. In this case the need is for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out on the digging of a water pipe trench which runs close to archaeological remains.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by the erection of an agricultural building. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until December 31st 2000 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for Bell Ingram, who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. Estimates should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The project should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

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.

If this is for a road or water or sewerage proposal the area to be covered is the entire wayleave except where otherwise indicated.

3. Tendering

Tenders must be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

4. Objectives

1. To record, to professional standards, any features and objects of archaeological importance that will be damaged or destroyed by this development. This is often achieved by clearing the topsoil to a clean surface in which archaeological features can be identified by the archaeologist.

5. Method

A watching brief will be conducted by an archaeologist on site groundworks, including service trenches so that any finds or features of importance can be recorded to professional standards:

Those carrying out site works will need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. Where machinery is to be used for topsoil stripping, 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 regarding this.

The archaeologist must be given every aid by contractors to enable the archaeological work to be carried out. Contractors may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work. This must be catered for and adhered to.

Should archaeological remains be encountered during the work, the archaeologist must be allowed up to one hour to record each feature. If longer than this is required, refer to paragraph 6.IV.

Where this is a watching brief for road, water, or sewerage proposals the specification includes drainage and other ancillary works as well as the carriageway itself.

6. Monitoring

- I. The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- II. Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- III. 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.
- IV. Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Senior Archaeologist so that revised arrangements can be made.
- V. Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

7. Reporting

7.1. Project report

At least five copies of the project report must be produced.

- I. One paper copy for the applicant:
- II. One paper copy for the Area Planning and Building Control Manager,
- III. One paper copy for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- IV. One copy for the Highland SMR as above, on a computer disk in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 95 for Windows.
- V. One paper copy to be deposited with Norman Newton, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness.

The report must be submitted to the all of the above within weeks of the completion of the field work.

The report must include, as a minimum,

1. Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid references must be included.
2. Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
3. Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork
4. Scale plans, and photographs of all archaeological features noted
5. A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location
6. 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.
7. General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project
8. A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.

The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in

writing, and the Archaeology Unit will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. Copyright will be acknowledged in all cases by the Archaeology Unit.

This specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

7.2. Treasure Trove

The Archaeological Contractor must liaise with the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery prior to the start of fieldwork, regarding possible emergency conservation needs and future storage arrangements. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify the local museum of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area. Should museum staff wish to visit the site whilst the archaeological work is in progress, they must first gain permission from the site owner/agent. **The site owner/agent must be aware that no one, other than the Council's Planning Officer, in consultation with the Archaeology Unit, has the authority to vary the terms of this specification.**

Provision must also be made for a cataloguing system for artefactual material, which will be compatible with the needs of the institution receiving these finds. Any report to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer must be copied to the Senior Archaeologist, and the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. Any finds, where appropriate, should also be reported to the Receiver of Wreck.

7.3. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council For Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. The cost of this must be included in any tender document.

8. General

1. The archaeologist appointed must be of a professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
2. The main contractor has responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff on site.
3. The archaeologist is responsible for taking all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurances.
4. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

5. The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
6. The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
7. Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland
8. The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.

Dorothy Low
Archaeologist
Tuesday, 27 June 2000