

Report of Archaeological Watching Brief
May 13th 2000
Balintore
NH 86/75

By
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May 2000

Introduction

This report is for a watching-brief conducted on behalf of the North of Scotland Water Authority by the author for water outfall inspection chambers being constructed at Balintore.

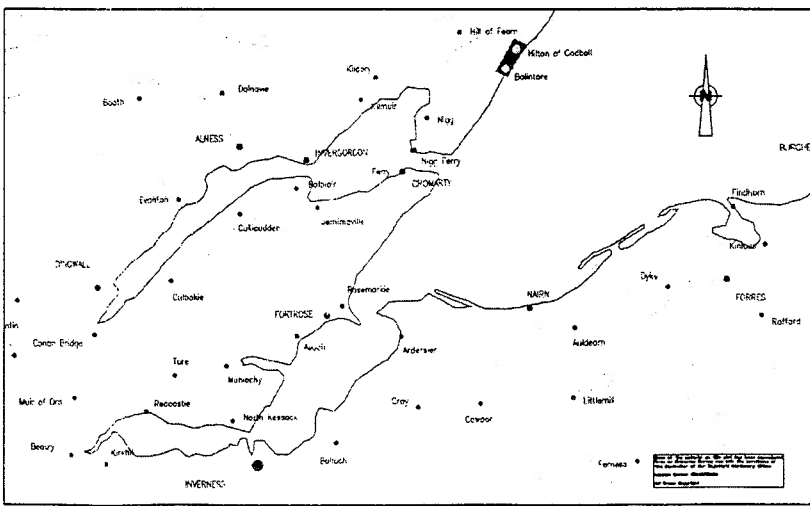
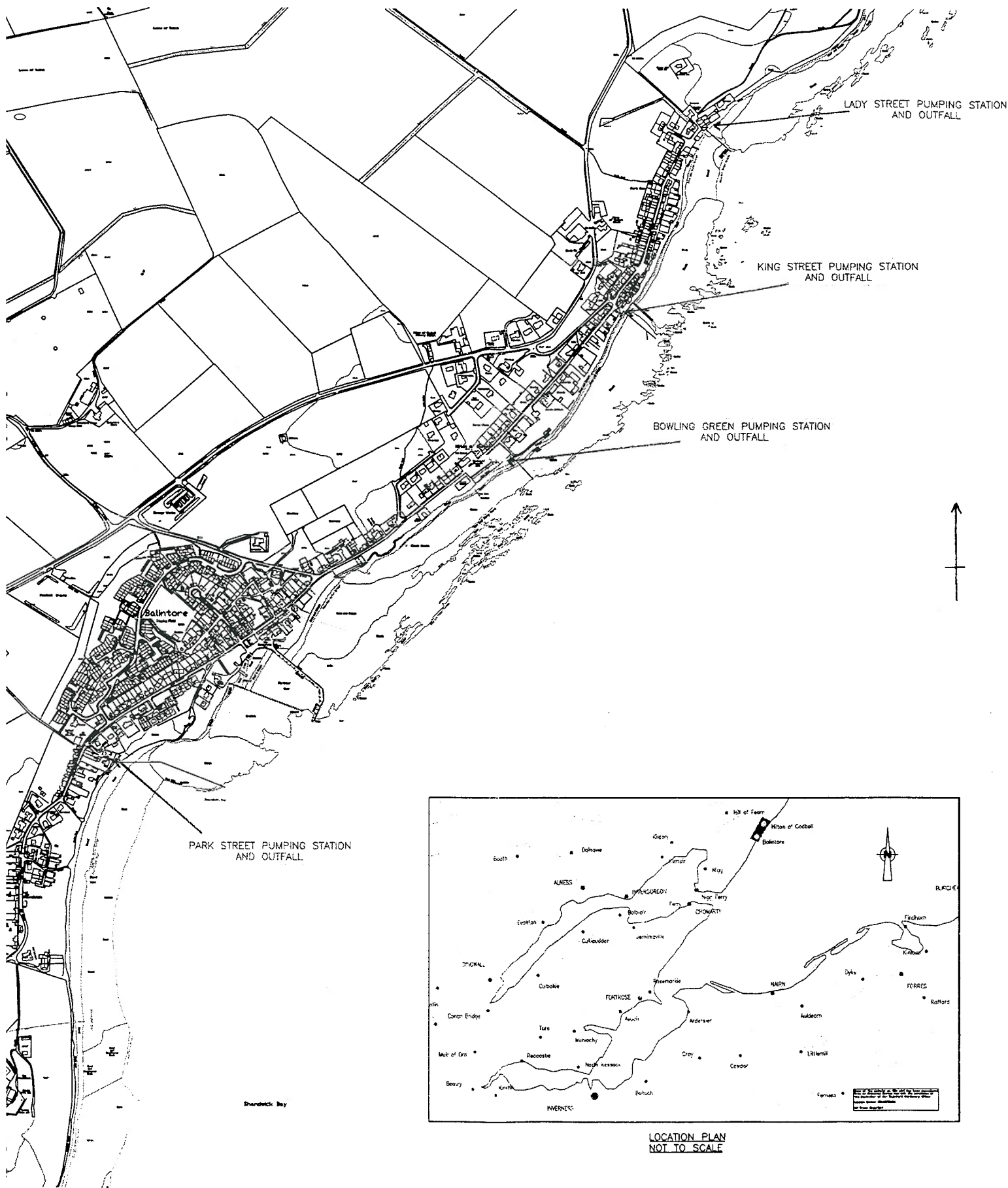
Acknowledgements

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

- Mr. N Gunn, of North of Scotland Water Authority;
- Mr. D Campbell, of Construction Centre Group Ltd, contractors;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location

See over



LOCATION PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

Historical Background

The area of the watching brief lies adjacent to a number of recorded sites, most notably a number of burials. The sites are recorded in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (NH 87 NE 5 & 14) and comprise of the recording of 9 sites of burials in the period 1919 to 1982. The last of these finds in 1982 was made when the sewage pipes related to the current work were installed.

The remains are predominantly thought to be Bronze Age in date though the find in 1937 of a group of 13 individuals in an extended position may indicate an early Christian cemetery existed here also.

Objectives

To monitor the ground works to record those archaeological deposits or features uncovered or those that cannot be preserved in situ as result of the work. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed.

Methodology

The area for each inspection chamber was machine excavated using a back-acting machine with 1.8m ditching bucket.

Weather on the day of work was overcast with sunny periods.

Results

A monitoring of the areas of excavation (centred NH 870 760) revealed no archaeological features or deposits related to any of the sites. All the areas of excavation lay close on the foreshore. Details of each site is as follows :

- Park Street – NH 8604 7530 - Excavation is 2m by 2m by 1.6m deep. No turf or topsoil as being at foreshore. Excavation reveals part of previous trench for existing chamber, through sand. Area has previously been disturbed. No archaeological deposits or features noted.
- Bowling Green – NH 8694 7598 - Excavation is 3m by 3m by 2m deep. No topsoil as being at foreshore, only a slight turf covering. Excavation reveals partly shore erosion barrier of broken rock over sand. No archaeological deposits or features noted.
- King Street – NH 8718 7631 - Excavation is 2m by 2m by 1.6m deep. No turf or topsoil as area is area for use for nearby slipway. Excavation reveals made up ground relating to it. Area has previously been heavily disturbed with inclusions of brick and modern rubbish. No archaeological deposits or features noted.
- Lady Street – NH 8737 7672 - Excavation is 2m by 2m by 1.8m deep. No topsoil as being at foreshore, only a slight turf covering. Excavation reveals part of previous trench for existing chamber, through sand. No archaeological deposits or features noted.

Archive

Notebook of results to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh.

Colour slides of the work are deposited with Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Recommendations

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

References

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record sheets NH 87 NE 5 & 14.

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**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

**Brief for archaeological work at:
BALINTORE PUMPING STATIONS AND OVERFLOWS**

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.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by NoSWA. It is based on documents supplied by NoSWA. 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 NoSWA, 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 NoSWA.
- 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 2 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
Monday, 6 March 2000