

SMR/ACC/INV

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT CROMWELL ROAD, INVERNESS



**W**ordsworth

**A**rchaeological

**S**ervices

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27<sup>th</sup> July 1999

## INTRODUCTION

The writer was asked to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief on the site of Crowell's Fort, Inverness on behalf of BP Oil UK Ltd, this being a condition of planning consent for construction work on this site. The specification for this work, Planning Reference IN/1998/1013, is appended to this report which outlines the results of this watching brief.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The fort or citadel of Inverness was built by Oliver Cromwell between 1653 and 1658. It was largely of earth construction but the breastwork incorporated materials from several medieval buildings in the vicinity, including Greyfriars Church and St Marys Chapel in Inverness as well as from the monasteries of Beaulieu and Kinloss. Timber was obtained from Strathglass as well as oak from England.

On the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 it was largely demolished. Both the NW and the NE bastions of this fort survived well into this century. At present only the NE bastion survives as a recognisable feature, with remains up to 3m high. This portion enjoys statutory protection as a Scheduled Ancient Monument as does the clock tower in the centre of the fort. However it is not certain whether the clock tower was part of Cromwell's original buildings.

The remainder of the site has been developed as part of the industrial estate around Inverness, mostly as an oil storage depot. Some features of the fort's layout were established during reconstruction work carried out on the harbour, and a detailed plan incorporating these discoveries was published in Trans Inverness Scientific S and Field C 6, 1899-1906, pp93-102

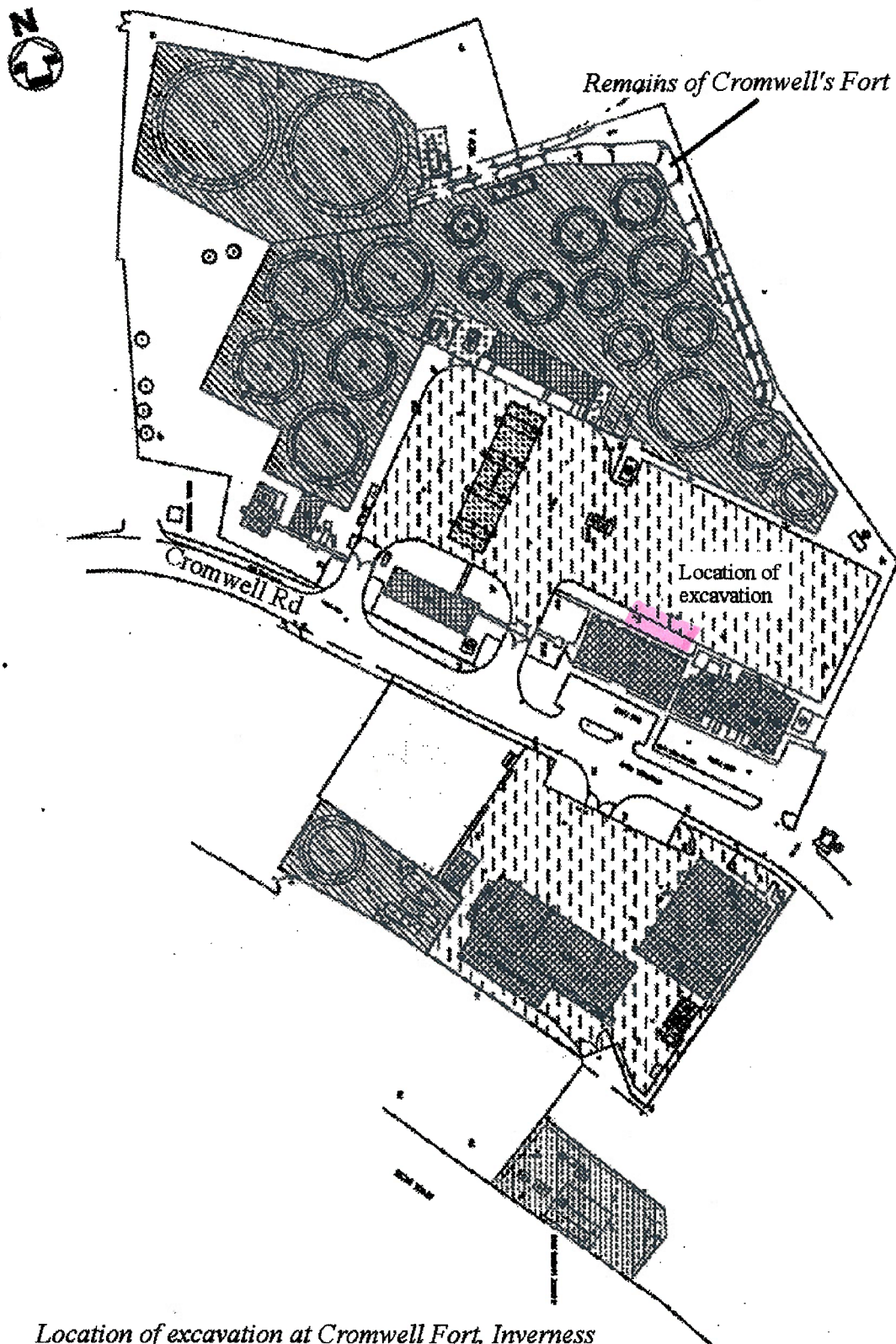
No recent archaeological fieldwork has been carried out on this site, and no record was made of archaeological discoveries from previous developments.

The location of this excavation was in the centre of the fort. Previous accounts of the fort are not sufficiently detailed to predict what buildings, if any, might be sited in the area. It was unknown whether the original ground surface remained or whether it was destroyed by subsequent development.

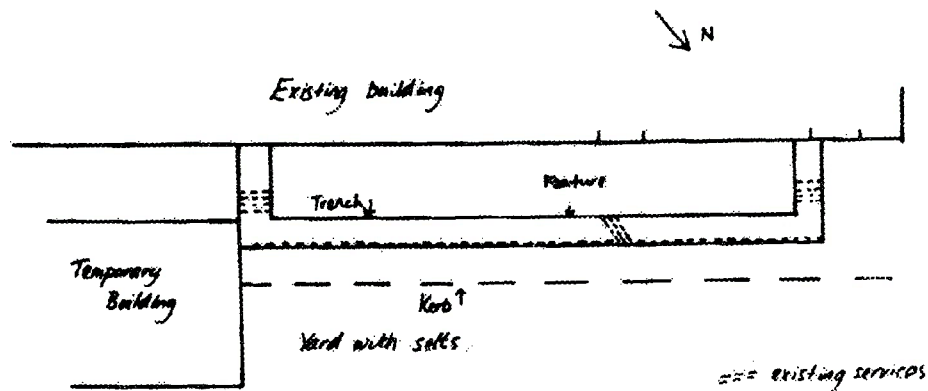
The open space at the centre of the site is partially laid with setts which may date from the 19th century when the site was used as the town yard. The trenches studied in this report did not infiltrate the setts, but were positioned close to the present buildings.

A previous watching brief carried out by this author in Dec 1997 and Jan 1998 did not reveal any archaeological features.





*Location of excavation at Cromwell Fort, Inverness*



*Sketch showing detail of trench location*

## THE EXCAVATIONS

A foundation trench for an extension to the office building was dug, using a JCB back actor (see sketch and site location plans). This measured 20m long by 1m wide by 0.80m deep.

The machining was observed continuously.

As with the previous watching brief, the ground appeared to be very disturbed to a depth of 0.80m. At this depth a clean yellow gravel subsoil, with large rounded pebbles, was observed. Excavation did not continue into the subsoil. Services such as drainage and electricity cables had been frequently cut into the disturbed overlying material.

Loose setts, bricks, and pieces of concrete occurred frequently throughout the excavated material, as well as domestic rubbish such as glass, plastic, and pieces of cable.

## FEATURE 1 (see sketch for location)

An area of loose dark rubble appeared to cut into the subsoil at this point, although it was not distinguishable from the overlying disturbed material. Excavation by hand suggested it was a segment of ditch or pit, steeply sided to a depth of at least 1.2m from the ground surface. It contained small pieces of modern ceramic, bone, glass, and a fragment of clay pipe stem. However at a depth of 1.2m a small piece of electricity cable was found. The excavation was abandoned at this point as being of modern origin.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This site is potentially important in terms of the history of Inverness and indeed of the UK. Although much of the site has been re-developed there is still some open space that may contain Cromwellian features, such as the "yard" still laid with setts.

This watching brief did not reveal any such features but the importance of monitoring any intrusions must be stressed.

I am very grateful to Wilder Engineer and Consultants for their help with this watching brief, and to the site foreman, Mr MacNaughton.

*Jill Kendrick July 1999 for WAS*



**Excavation in Progress**



**Modern Feature as described in text, partially excavated**



**HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE  
Archaeology Service**

**Specification for archaeological work  
prepared for BP Oil UK Ltd**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**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.

**Terms of Reference**

This specification is for archaeological recording work occasioned by planning application no IN/1998/1013. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until July 1999 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for BP Oil UK Ltd 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 Senior Archaeologist must agree, in writing, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work.

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

## **Tendering**

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

## **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.

## **Method**

A watching brief will be conducted by an archaeologist on site groundworks 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 top soil 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.

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.



## Monitoring

1. The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor 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 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.
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.

## Reporting

### 1. Project report

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

- One paper copy for Mr Tooth, ~~BP Oil UK Ltd, Witan Gate House, 500-600 Witan Gate, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 1ES~~ *WILDER ENG. + CONSULTANTS LTD.*
- One paper copy for the Highland Sites and Monuments Record, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- One paper copy to be deposited in the local public library
- One copy for the Highland SMR as above, on a computer disk in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 95 for Windows.

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

The report must include, as a minimum,

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork
- Plans, drawings and photographs of archaeological features noted
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location
- Details of any measures proposed to mitigate the impact of the application on the archaeological resource
- 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.
- General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project
- 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 Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Service reserves the right to make the report available for research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in writing, and the Archaeology Service will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. Copyright will be acknowledged in all cases by the Archaeology Service.

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.

## **2. Treasure Trove**

The Project Director 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. 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 Highland Archaeologist. Any finds, where appropriate, should also be reported to the Receiver of Wreck.

## **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.

### **General**

- 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.
- The main contractor has responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff on site.
- 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.
- Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.
- The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
- The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
- Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland
- The archaeologist agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this specification.
- The Archaeology Service will not recommend archaeologists or archaeological units for contract work if they fail to meet specifications.

Dorothy Low  
Archaeologist