

DRUIM NAN SLOCHD

Flodigarry, Isle of Skye

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

JULY 1999

Erection of Telephone Relay Mast and Generator Cabin

by

Martin Wildgoose

for

British Telecommunications PLC

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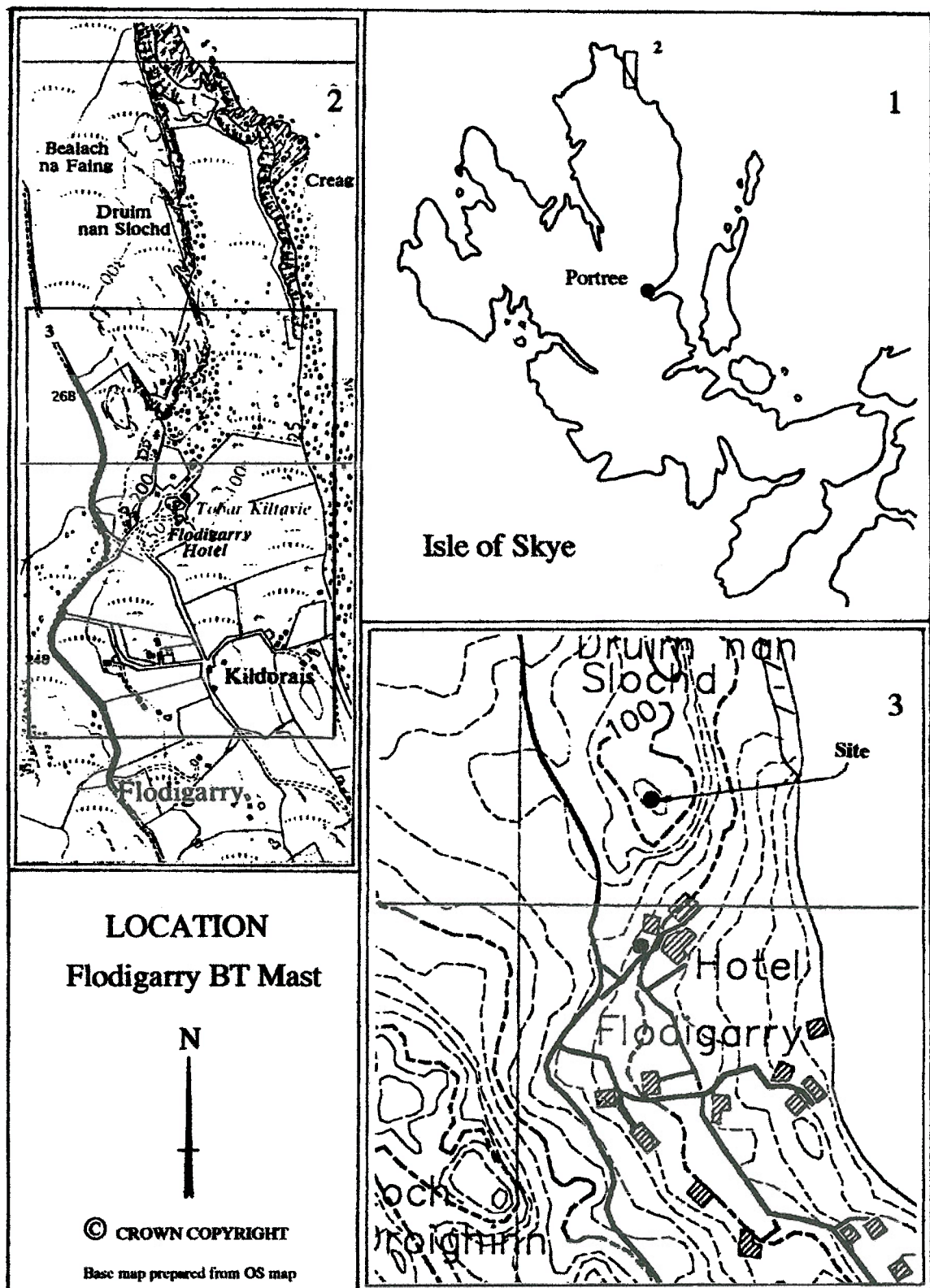


Fig. 1 : Location - BT mast, Flodigarry, Isle of Skye.

DRUIM NAN SLOCHD.

Trotternish Parish, Isle of Skye.

NG 464722

A watching brief carried out during the excavation of the foundations for a BT telephone relay mast and associated generator shed.

SUMMARY

The site of the proposed works lies on the summit of Druim nan Slochd, at a height of 120 metres above OD and approximately 350 metres to the north of the Flodigarry Hotel. A previously recorded Dun (NG 47SE 7) and the remains of Flodigarry Broch (NG 47SE 6) lie 70 and 100 metres respectively to the south of the proposed site. The proposed site works affected neither structure. (See Appendix B for the SMR cards for these sites)

The excavations and watching brief was carried out on the 29th July 1999 during a spell of fine sunny weather. Two sites were excavated – the foundations for the generator shed and the socket for the relay mast. The excavations were carried out by a tracked excavator with a toothless bucket. No archaeological levels were encountered.

WATCHING BRIEF

The foundations for the generator shed were excavated first :- (SEE Fig. 2)

A 6.00 metre by 4.00 metre trench, aligned north-west to south-east, was excavated to a depth of 300mm revealing a uniform layer of fibrous peat over the entire trench. A 1.00 metre wide trench was then excavated, within the perimeter of the trench, to a depth of 200mm - still within the peat layer. Six circular shafts were then dug to a depth of 500mm, 3 on each long axis, within the 1 metre trench giving a total depth of 1.00 metre. The bottom 250mm of the circular shafts cut into a layer of fine grained, grey clay, The fibrous peat lay directly upon the clay.

A 1.00 metre square trench was excavated for the relay mast, 30.00 metres to the north-east of the generator shed, to a depth of 1.50 metres. A similar series of sub-strata was encountered.

REPORT

Generator Shed Trench 6.00 metres by 4.00 metres to a total depth of 1.00 metre.

The excavations cut through a 750mm thick layer of fibrous peat and 250mm into a layer of fine grained, grey clay.

At no point were archaeological deposits encountered.

Relay mast Trench 1.00 Metre Square to a total depth of 1.50 metres

The excavations cut through a 500mm layer of fibrous peat which lay directly on a grey to orange clay. The clay became inter-mixed with a small, sharp ratchel stone towards the limit of the section.

At no point were archaeological deposits encountered.

Upon completion of the excavation and watching brief the trenches were shuttered and filled with concrete to a level just above the present ground surface.

LOCATION OF RECORDS

All records and site drawings are held in the archive of M. Wildgoose

Tigh an Dun
Dunan
Broadford
Isle of Skye IV49 9AJ

Retained drawings include: -

Site drawing on drafting film of the generator shed excavation - plan and section.

Architects drawings of the site proposals.

Written notes relating to the site visit and watching brief.

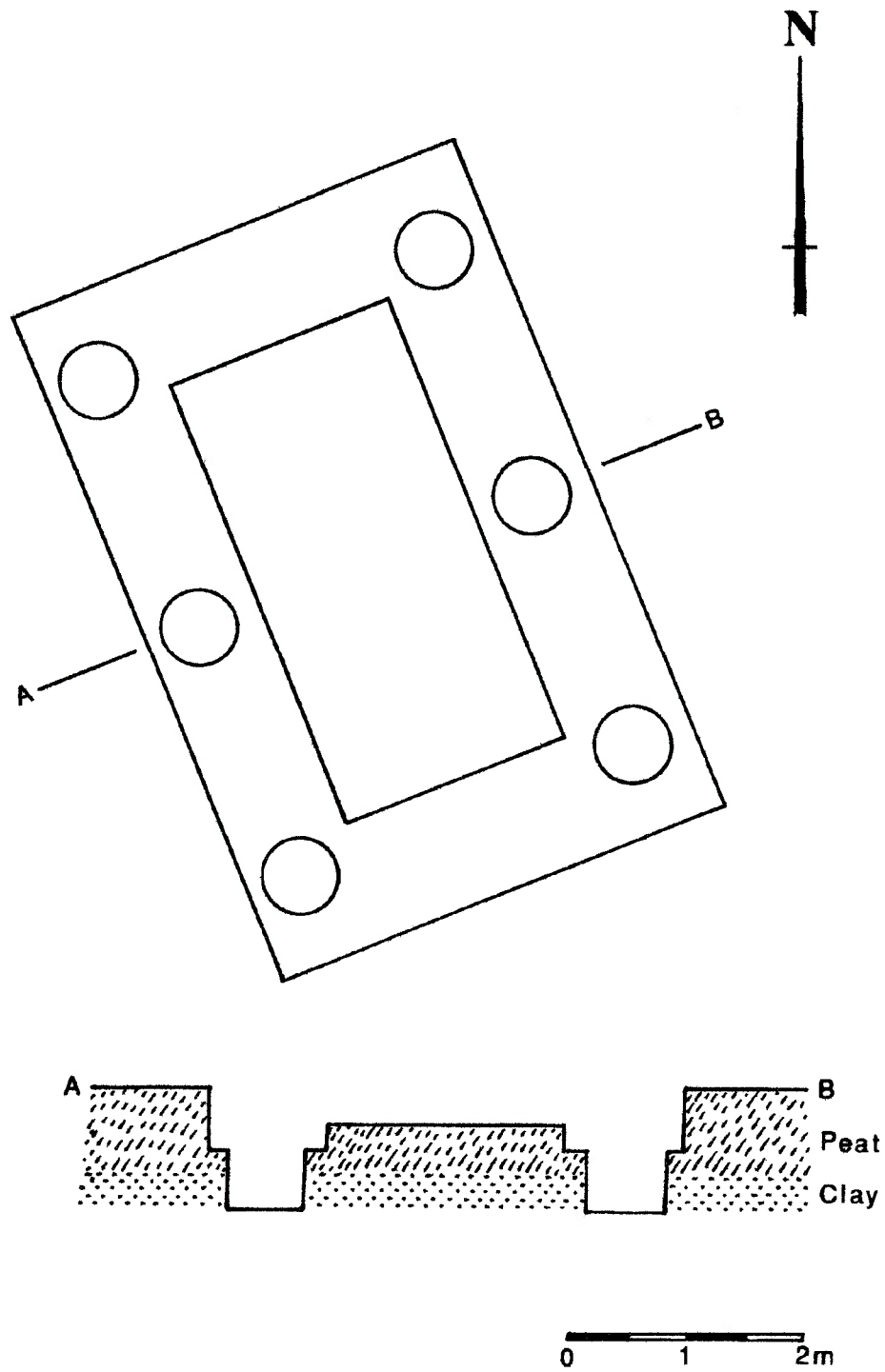


Fig. 2 Generator cabin foundation - Plan and Section.

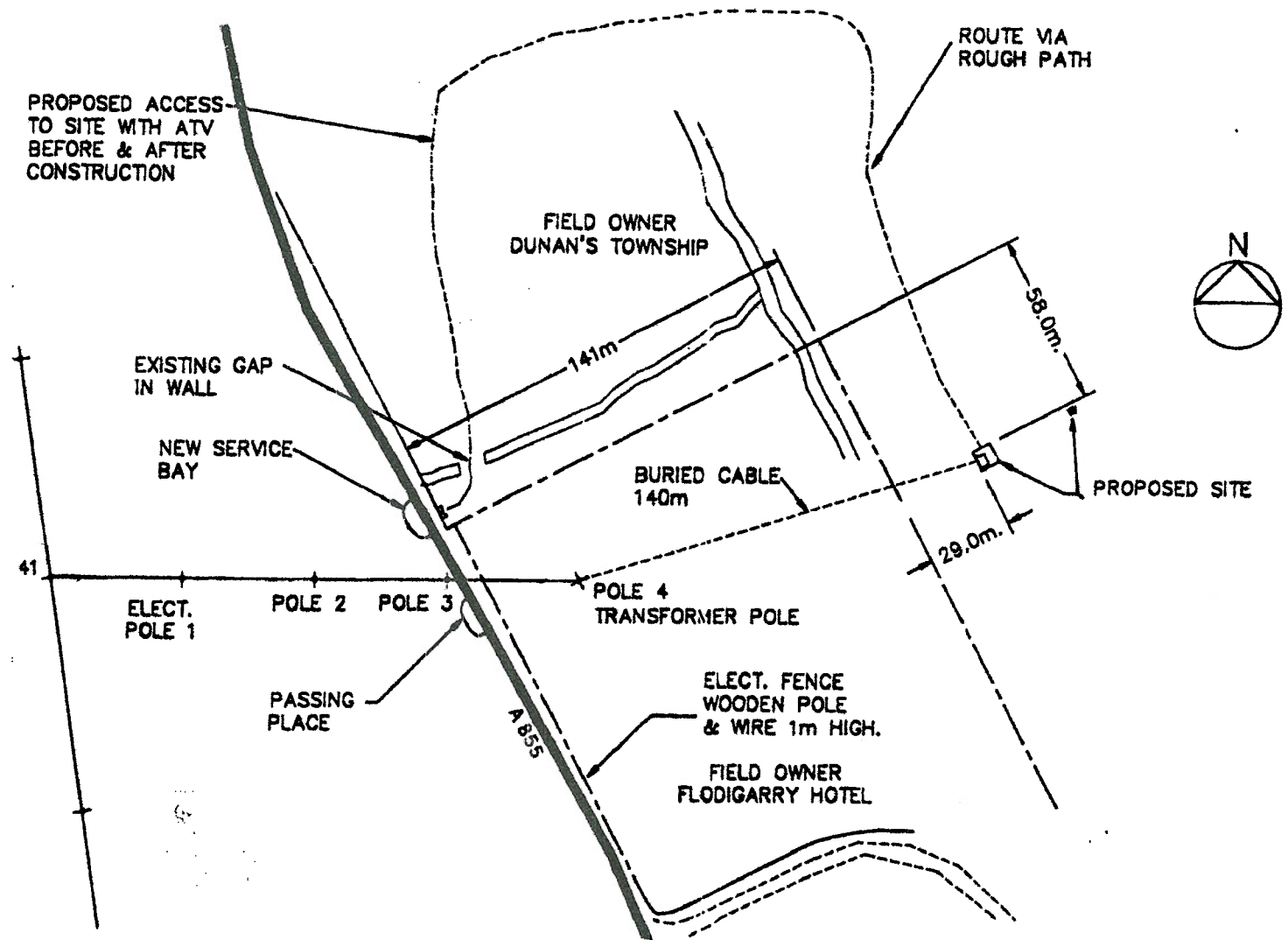


Fig. 3 Site plan : Location of Generator cabin and mast.

SLIDE INDEX

1. The site from the west
2. The site from the north-west
3. The start of excavations.
4. The completed excavations
5. **Dun,** Druim nan Slochd, from the north.

APPENDIX A

Specification for archaeological watching brief.

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

**Brief for archaeological work at:
DRUIM NAN SLOCHD**

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 planning application no. SL/1999/22. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until December 1999 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for BT PLC 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 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: BT PLC, Telephone House, 21 Ward Road, Dundee.
- II. One paper copy for the Area Planning and Building Control Manager, Kings House, The Green, Portree
- 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, ie before, during and after.

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. 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. 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
Friday, 9 July 1999

APPENDIX B

SMR Cards for

DUN – DRUIM NAN SLOCHD : NG 47SE 7

BROCH – DUN FLODIGARRY : NG 47SE 6

N G 4 7 S E 6	Hi Inverness-shire	
4 6 3 7 1 9	Sk Kilmuir	
4638 2197		
Name FLODIGARRY HOTEL		
Features Broch		
		DATE OF VISIT
		BY
		IS

In the final season of excavation of the broch all quadrants were excavated down to bedrock, and the rubble against the outer face of the wall was sectioned. The walls had been built on cleared, uneven, bedrock, with clay foundations filling in the larger gullies. The rubble had been piled up against the outer wall shortly afterwards on the W side of the site. Paving in the main entrance led out on to the top of this bank (incorporating the top stone of a rotary quern), and several large slabs had been laid as rough paving to the N. To the S of the main entrance a narrow passage leads through the inner wall to the gallery and a square-ended cell, mirroring a similar entrance to a more oval cell on the N. None of the internal features common in brochs were found; the walls did not continue around the eastern side of the site, and no evidence for collapse was found on the slopes below.

Pottery finds included a few sherds of Vaul ware and sherds with fingertip impressions, cordons or everted rims. A second small flint scraper was found, and a large number of rounded cobbles from the beach, some of which had probably been used during the construction of the site for tapping stones into place in the wall. Evidence for metal-working in the area was also recovered.

Preliminary analysis suggests that charcoal found just above the bedrock in the south-west consists mainly of willow and hazel; samples will be submitted for C14 dating. Phosphate levels were low across the whole site, apart from the cell to the S of the main entrance.

Post-excavation work, including thin-sectioning of pottery, is continuing at Leicester University.

Sponser: EARTHWATCH, Leicester University Archaeology Dept.

1. Martlew R 1982 DES (1982) 15

2. Martlew R 1979 DES (1979) 17-18

3. Martlew R 1980 DES (1980) 18-19

4. Martlew R 1981 DES (1981) 20-21

5. Martlew R 1985. *The Excavation of Dun Flogigarry, Staffin, Isle of Skye.*
Glasgow Arch J Vol 12, 30-48.