

file: SMR.

NH68NW0010

Mr R Balfour  
Treasurer  
Fearn Abbey & Nigg Parish Church  
Tanmhor  
Hilton  
Tain  
Ross-shire  
IV20 1VZ

**Director of Cultural and  
Leisure Services: Alan J. Jones**  
Please ask for: Jeannie Graham  
Direct Dial: (01463) 702064  
Your Ref:  
Our Ref: JG/JG  
Date 16 February 2001  
E-Mail: jeannie.graham@highland.gov.uk

Dear Mr Balfour

### **RESORATION OF FEARN ABBEY**

I refer to your application for a grant of £10,000 towards the cost of restoring Fearn Abbey. Please accept my apologies in the delay in replying to your request but I am afraid the application form went astray in the system.

I am sorry to let you know that that we will be unable to assist your project. Cultural and Leisure has very limited resources and unfortunately cannot provide grants to restore historic buildings.

However, the council's archaeology service is willing to offer initial informal advice (though not capital funding I am afraid) to groups undertaking this type of project. I appreciate that you may already have been in touch but, if not, the contact number is 01463 702502.

Although we are unable to help, may I take this opportunity to wish you every success with the restoration project.

Yours sincerely

JEANNIE GRAHAM  
Grant Aid Officer

cc. Archaeology Section  
Ross & Cromarty Cultural and Leisure Services



Mr. A. Wright  
Law & Dunbar-Nasmith  
29 St. Leonards Road  
Forres  
IV36 0DN

Please ask for: John Wood  
Direct Dial: 01463 703669  
Your ref:  
Our ref: SMR/JW/JW  
Date: 11 June 1998

Dear Mr. Wright

Fearn Abbey

Thank you for your letter of 3 April. I apologise for the long delay in responding.

I would agree with you that an archaeologist should be engaged. I would think that a watching brief on the excavation of subsoil drains and soakaways would be an appropriate response. I enclose a draft brief for such work for your comment and a list of professionally qualified contractors who could do the work.

I hope this is helpful. Please do contact me if I can help further.

Yours sincerely

A.J.R. Wood  
Senior Archaeologist.

Copy

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Director of Planning and Development, John Rennilson, Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX.  
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Inverness IV3 6RB. Tel. (01463) 711176 Fax (01463) 711455  
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Highland Council Archaeological Services  
Clachnaharry Old School  
Clachnaharry  
Inverness  
IV3 6RG

AW/JD/F9725/L/10

3 April 1998

Dear Sirs

Fearn Abbey.

We have been appointed by the Congregational Board for Fearn Abbey and Nigg Chapelhill Parish Church on repairs to the fabric of the Abbey Church which are likely to be supported by grant assistance from Historic Scotland. A report by Historic Scotland District Architect has been prepared.

One of the matters which will prove difficult to reconcile is the question of rainwater disposal due to the burial lairs which appear so close to the foundations of the building, and which will make an exercise to introduce sub-soil drains and soakaways a delicate, and potentially costly exercise. The matter had not been resolved during the last phase of repairs, in that the downpipes are not connected to sub-soil drains and simply discharge large quantities of rainwater over the ground in concentrated areas, which is having a damaging effect on the fabric of the church.

We reported at a recent meeting of the Congregational Board the need to engage the services of an archaeologist in this particular exercise, and the suggestion was made that in the first instance we should contact your own department. We would be grateful to hear whether you would be in a position to offer advice at this stage in relation to this particular issue.

As you may be aware, the RCAHMS has been undertaking survey work over the last twelve months or so at the Abbey.

We look forward to hearing from you.

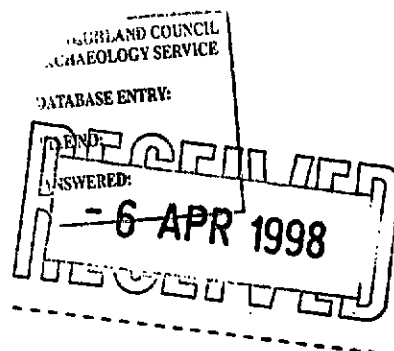
Yours faithfully

For: LAW & DUNBAR-NASMITH



Andrew Wright

copy Rev James Forsyth



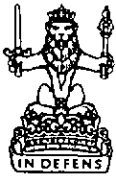
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KS.Docs

NH 68NW.



**The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland**  
(including the National Monuments Record of Scotland)

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Robert Gourlay Esq  
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Highland Regional Council  
Regional Buildings  
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INVERNESS IV3 5NX

Your reference

Our reference

Date

27 November 1986

Dear Bob

FEARN ABBEY


Thank you for your letter.

The most relevant and most immediately available information that I can give you is from the Hutton Collection in the National Library of Scotland; these comprise a set of drawings and notes prepared for General Hutton by a local schoolteacher, James Shand, in 1815. I have acquired a respect for what Shand recorded at Dornoch, Tain, Fearn and Fortrose, and I think that you will find this small selection helpful. The wall marked x-x is particularly interesting, and I do think that the site of the proposed hall will impinge upon the area of at least some of the conventual buildings and the burial-ground. I have also included a brief description of Fearn in Firthlands in History, which, I believe, has now been published.

I hope that this material will help to support your case for the time being. I should be able to give this matter rather more attention in early January when I may be able to come north to visit Fearn and discuss the excursion itinerary for the Forestry conference.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

  
Geoffrey Stell

