



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

Bringing the past and future together

North Kessock Wastewater Pumping Station Inverness



Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

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|----------------|----------------------------|
| Report No. | HAS080103 |
| Site Code | HAS/NKK07 |
| Client | Morrison Construction Ltd. |
| Planning Ref | 06/005021FULRC |
| Date / revised | 10 January 2008 |
| Author | John Wood |

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out to record the nature and extent of any archaeology affected by the construction of a wastewater pumping station at N Kessock, Inverness.

No archaeological features or finds were recorded and there are no recommendations for follow-up work.

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Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Morrison Construction for commissioning the work. Fieldwork was carried out by John Wood, Gemma Shannahan and Cait McCullagh, and the photographic index was prepared by Cait McCullagh. Mapping is reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey: Licence 100043217. The site plan is reproduced courtesy of Scottish Water Solutions and Morrison Construction Ltd.

Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Highland Archaeology Services Ltd on behalf of Morrison Construction Ltd., and Scottish Water Solutions to cover the construction of a wastewater pumping station at N Kessock, Inverness.

The purpose of the work was to identify and record the nature and extent of any archaeological features revealed or affected by the excavations for the new pumping station.

Location

The site is centred approximately at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NH 6303 4776. It is within the local authority area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by its Archaeology Unit staff based within the Council's Planning and Development Service (HCAU).

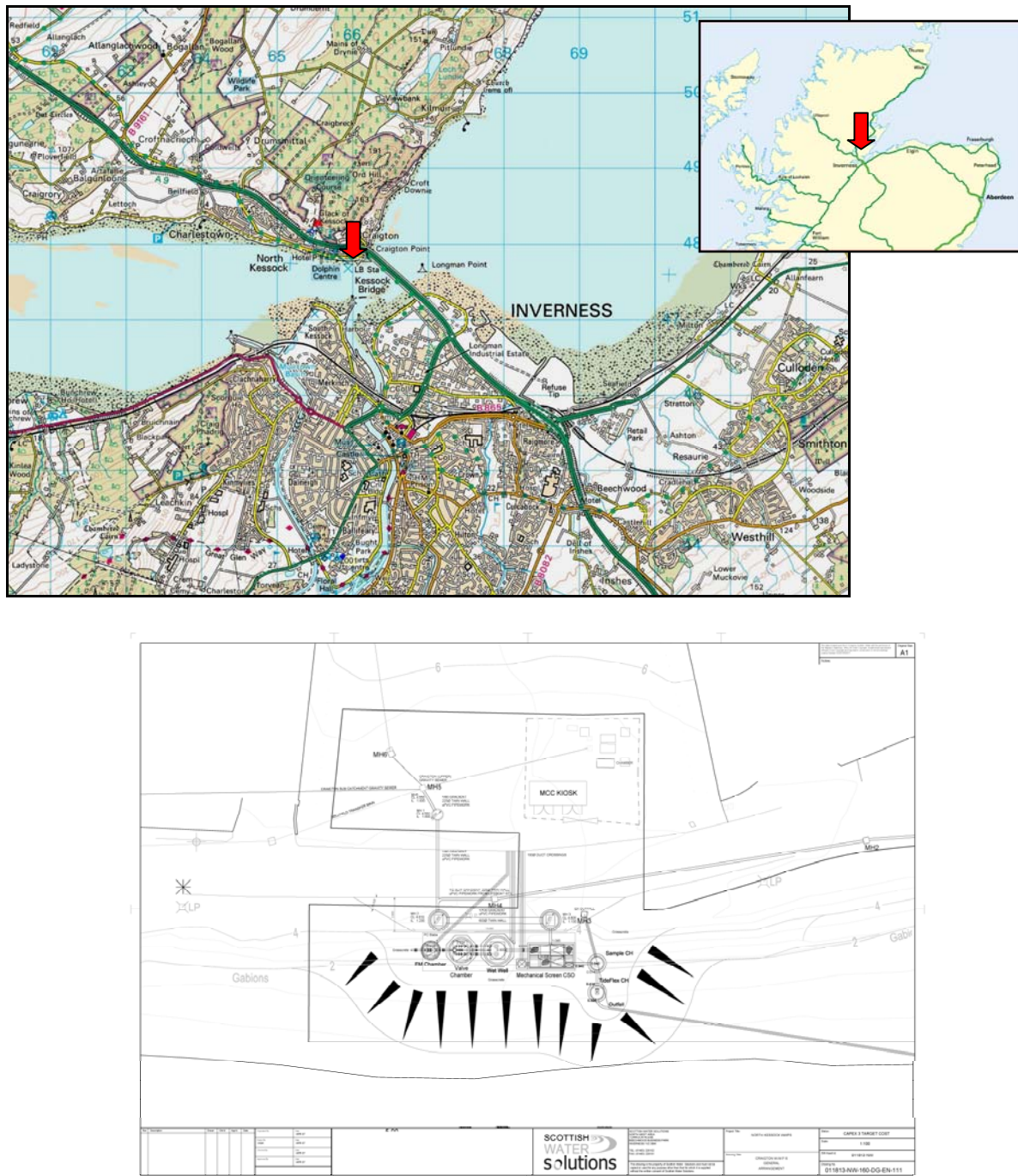


Figure 1 Site Location

Archaeology and policy background

Inverness occupies a strategic site near the mouth of the River Ness, guarding the northern entrance to the Great Glen and forming a natural meeting point for travellers from the south and east. The area has been occupied at least intermittently since at least the late Bronze Age, and there are hillforts at Craig Phadraig and at the Ord at N Kessock. It seems a ferry existed between South and North Kessock from an early date.

An archaeological watching brief was required at this site because there was believed to be a potential for finds or features of interest to be discovered during site works. There has been very little previous archaeological fieldwork at N Kessock, but near the general area of the proposed development there has been a report of the discovery of human bones (HSMR NH64NE0888). The exact location of these finds is unknown but they are recorded from N Kessock point and appear to have been on the foreshore. A skull was recorded and talking to local people informally revealed a belief that this might represent a vertical burial. However as far as can be discovered no other bones were found, and it may be that this was in fact a stray find. Local folklore has suggested that an ancient cemetery once existed in this area which raised the possibility of further human remains being found.

Aims and objectives

- To minimise any possible delay or cost to the development by anticipating archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently.
- To determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; and to preserve these where possible and record where necessary in line with the Highland Council's Structure Plan, NPPG 5 and PAN 42.
- To ensure that any artefacts or human remains are dealt with in accordance with legal requirements and current Historic Scotland policy guidance.

Programme

1. Desk Based Assessment

A check of all relevant and accessible archaeological / historical records available in Inverness or online including maps and aerial photographs was undertaken. Apart from the find of human remains mentioned above, and the site of a beacon at the present Lifeboat Station, there were no other recorded features or finds. The first and subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey maps for the area do not show any unusual or potentially significant features.



Figure 2 Extract from 1st Edition OS 1:10560 Map 1880

Not to scale

2. Watching Brief

Working in co-ordination with the contractor, a watching brief was carried out on all ground-works by means of frequent visits. All trenches were observed and a photographic record was made. No specifically archaeological excavation was undertaken as part of this work.

Photography was digital, and copies of all photographs, with an index, are available on the CDROM enclosed with this report. The camera locations and direction of all photographs taken have been plotted on a site plan.

No archaeological finds or features were discovered and there are no recommendations for further fieldwork.

John Wood
Highland Archaeology Services Ltd
11 January 2008

Appendix 1: Index of Photographs

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DSCF1117 | 1 | Site Compound | NW | 29/08/07 | JW | Landscape view of the proposed location of the NKK Site Compound, pre-excavation and construction. |
| DSCF1118 | 1 | Site Compound | N | 29/08/07 | JW | Landscape view of the proposed location of the NKK Site Compound, pre-excavation and construction. |
| DSCF1119 | 2 | Site Compound | ENE | 29/08/07 | JW | Landscape view of the proposed location of the NKK Site Compound, pre-excavation and construction. |
| DSCF1120 | 3 | N/A | E | 29/08/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |
| DSCF1121 | 3 | N/A | W | 29/08/07 | JW | Landscape view of the foreshore at North Kessock. |
| DSCF1167 | 3 | N/A | E | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation, the vegetation on the north bank of the site having been cleared. |
| DSCF1168 | 4 | Site Compound | E | 04/09/07 | JW | Showing the area for access to the NKK Site Compound cleaned back, to subsoil; mechanical excavator in shot. |
| DSCF1169 | 5 | N/A | NNE | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal. |
| DSCF1170 | 3 | N/A | N/A | 04/09/07 | JW | Showing the pebble surface of the foreshore at North Kessock. |
| DSCF1171 | 3 | N/A | WNW | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore. |
| DSCF1172 | 3 | N/A | NNW | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |
| DSCF1173 | 3 | N/A | N | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DSCF1174 | 3 | N/A | N | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation, the vegetation on the north bank of the site having been cleared. |
| DSCF1175 | 3 | N/A | NNE | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation, the vegetation on the north bank of the site having been cleared. |
| DSCF1176 | 3 | N/A | E | 04/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |
| DSCF1177 | 6 | Site Compound | WNW | 04/09/07 | JW | Showing the area being created for NKK Site Compound cleaned back, to subsoil. |
| DSCF1178 | 6 | Site Compound | W | 04/09/07 | JW | Showing the areas being created for NKK Site Compound and Site Access cleaned back, to subsoil; mechanical excavator in shot. |
| DSCF1179 | 6 | Site Compound | WSW | 04/09/07 | JW | Showing the area for access to the NKK Site Compound cleaned back, to subsoil; mechanical excavator in shot. |
| DSCF1181 | 2 | Site Compound | E | 04/09/07 | JW | Showing the area for access to the NKK Site Compound cleaned back, to subsoil; mechanical excavator in shot. |
| DSCF1182 | 2 | Site Compound | E | 04/09/07 | JW | Showing the area for access to the NKK Site Compound cleaned back, to subsoil; mechanical excavator in shot. |
| DSCF1183 | 1 | N/A | E | 11/09/07 | JW | Showing the embankment above the foreshore cleaned back and cut by a trench (approx. 0.3m deep, running W – E). |
| DSCF1184 | 1 | N/A | W | 11/09/07 | JW | Showing the embankment above the foreshore cleaned back and cut by a trench (approx. 0.3m deep), running W – E. |
| DSCF1185 | 12 | A | W | 11/09/07 | JW | Showing the area being created for NKK Site Compound cleaned back, to subsoil (background) and a platform for Structure A (foreground). |

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DSCF1186 | 12 | A | W | 11/09/07 | JW | Showing the area being created for NKK Site Compound cleaned back, to subsoil (background) and a platform for Structure A (foreground). |
| DSCF1187 | 5 | N/A | ENE | 11/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |
| DSCF1188 | 8 | N/A | N | 11/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |
| DSCF1189 | 9 | N/A | NNW | 11/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |
| DSCF1190 | 10 | N/A | NNW | 11/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, pre-excavation. |
| FJI1909006 | 11 | N/A | E | 18/09/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, mid-clean back. |
| FJI1909007 | 14 | N/A | WSW | 18/09/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, mid-clean back. |
| FJI1909008 | 14 | N/A | WSW | 18/09/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, mid-clean back. |
| FJI1909010 | 12 | N/A | WSW | 18/09/07 | JW | Showing the area created for the access to the NKK Site Compound backfilled and surfaced with hardcore. |
| FJI1909011 | 12 | A | W | 18/09/07 | JW | Showing the areas created for NKK Site Compound backfilled and surfaced with hardcore (background) and a platform covered with a rectilinear foundational metal casing for Structure A (foreground). |
| FJI1909012 | 12 | A | WNW | 18/09/07 | JW | Showing the areas being created for NKK Site Compound backfilled and surfaced with hardcore (background) and a platform covered with a rectilinear foundational metal casing for Structure A (foreground). |

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FJI190901 3 | 7 | N/A | E | 18/09/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, mid-clean back (background). |
| IMGP7996 | 1 | N/A | W | 27/09/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, post-clean back. |
| IMGP7997 | 1 | N/A | E | 27/09/07 | JW | Showing the embankment, above the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, post-clean back. |
| IMGP7998 | 7 | N/A | E | 27/09/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, post-clean back (background). |
| IMGP7999 | 7 | A & B | NNE | 27/09/07 | JW | Showing the areas created for NKK Site Compound and for Structures A & B (background). |
| IMGP8000 | 11 | N/A | ESE | 27/09/07 | JW | Landscape view of the Site Compound and North Kessock foreshore, work in progress. |
| IMGP8001 | 11 | N/A | SSE | 27/09/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, post-clean back. |
| 100_1886 | 15 | 1 | SSE | 03/10/07 | CJMc C | Trench 1: a square trench, at 2.5m depth, waterlogged and lined with a 4-walled metal casing, each wall is approx. 10cm thick. This trench was subsequently sunk to 5m depth. |
| 100_1888 | 16 | 5 | ESE | 04/10/07 | CJMc C | Structure 5 placed above the site proposed for Trench 5; showing cleaned back foreshore surface below the square metal casing. |
| 100_1891 | 15 | 1 | S | 04/10/07 | CJMc C | Trench 1: a square trench, at 2.5m depth, waterlogged and filled with a 4-walled metal casing, each wall is approx. 10cm thick. This trench was subsequently sunk to 5m depth. |
| 100_1894 | 16 | 5 | SSW | 04/10/07 | CJMc C | 4-walled metal casing (walls approx. 10cm thick) placed above the site proposed for Trench 5; showing cleaned back foreshore surface below the square metal casing. |

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DSCF1343 | 17 | N/A | S | 05/10/07 | JW | Marine pumping station, anchored in the Inverness Firth in preparation for the laying of the new water main. |
| DSCF1344 | 17 | N/A | ESE | 05/10/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore. |
| DSCF1345 | 7 | 1 | ESE | 05/10/07 | JW | Showing the backfilling of Trench and Structure 1; Mechanical excavator in shot. |
| DSCF1346 | 18 | 5 | W | 05/10/07 | JW | Showing Trench 5, at approx. 0.5m depth, in profile; lined with a 4-walled metal casing (walls: approx. 10cm thickness). |
| DSCF1347 | 16 | 5 | WNW | 05/10/07 | JW | Showing Trench 5, at approx. 0.5m depth, partially filled with water and cut and traversed NNW - SSE by a mains pipe, lined with a 4-walled metal casing (walls: approx. 10cm thickness).. |
| DSCF1348 | 19 | N/A | W | 05/10/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; marine pumping station and mechanical excavator in shot (background). |
| DSCF1349 | 19 | N/A | W | 05/10/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; marine pumping station and mechanical excavator in shot (background). |
| DSCF1350 | 1 | A & B | NNW | 05/10/07 | JW | Showing the superstructures A & B; work in progress (picture right, foreground). |
| DSCF1351 | 1 | A & B | WNW | 05/10/07 | JW | Showing the area of the NKK Site Compound the superstructures A & B (picture right, foreground). |
| DSCF1381 | 11 | N/A | ESE | 12/10/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore. |
| DSCF1382 | 7 | 1 | ESE | 12/10/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; showing Trench 1, mid-backfilling (background). |
| DSCF1383 | 7 | B | NNE | 12/10/07 | JW | Showing the NKK Site Compound (picture left foreground) and superstructure B (picture left, background). |
| DSCF1384 | 20 | 1 | W | 12/10/07 | JW | Showing Trench 1, mid-backfill. |

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DSCF1385 | 16 | 5 | SSE | 12/10/07 | JW | Showing Trench 5, at approx. 0.5m depth, in profile and surrounded by a 4-walled metal casing (walls: approx. 10cm thickness), traversed by a mains pipe and filled with a cylindrical structure (bisected diagonally by said pipe). |
| DSCF1386 | 19 | N/A | WSW | 12/10/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore. |
| DSCF1387 | 19 | N/A | W | 12/10/07 | JW | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore. |
| IMGP8047 | 15 | 1 | S | 19/10/07 | CJMc C | Trench 1 at 5m depth, waterlogged lined with a 4-walled metal casing palisaded by a series of vertically embedded girders. The superstructure is being built upon these foundations. |
| IMGP8048 | 15 | 2 & 3 | SE | 19/10/07 | CJMc C | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore; showing Trenches 2 and 3, work in progress. |
| IMGP8050 | 21 | 1 – 4 | ESE | 19/10/07 | CJMc C | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore, showing the locations of Trenches 1 – 4, work in progress. |
| IMGP8053 | 18 | 5 | W | 19/10/07 | CJMc C | Showing Trench 5, at approx. 0.5m depth, in profile and surrounded by a 4-walled metal casing (walls: approx. 10cm thickness), traversed by a mains pipe and filled with a cylindrical structure (bisected diagonally by said pipe), mid-back fill. |
| IMGP8054 | 20 | 5 | WSW | 19/10/07 | CJMc C | Showing Trench 5, at approx. 0.5m depth, in profile and surrounded by a 4-walled metal casing (walls: approx. 10cm thickness), traversed by a mains pipe and filled with a cylindrical structure (bisected diagonally by said pipe), mid-back fill. |
| IMGP8055 | 20 | 5 | SSW | 19/10/07 | CJMc C | Showing Trench 5, at approx. 0.5m depth, in profile and surrounded by a 4-walled metal casing (walls: approx. 10cm thickness), traversed by a mains pipe and filled with a cylindrical structure (bisected diagonally by said pipe), mid-back fill. |

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DSCF1390 | 11 | 1 | ESE | 22/10/07 | JW | Showing the foreshore; location of the site proposed for trenching for the NKK Water Main Renewal, post-clean back, with Trench 1 mid-back fill; supporting girders being driven vertically around the interior metal casing shoring up the trench sections. |
| DSCF1392 | 7 | 1 | SW | 22/10/07 | JW | Trench 1: a square trench, at 5m depth, lined with a 4-walled metal casing, further surrounded by a series of vertically embedded girders. |
| DSCF1393 | 16 | 5 | SE | 22/10/07 | JW | Showing Trench 5, at approx. 0.5m depth, in profile and surrounded by a 4-walled metal casing (walls: approx. 10cm thickness), traversed by a mains pipe and filled with a cylindrical structure (bisected diagonally by said pipe). |
| IMGP8176 | 22 | 3 | S | 07/11/07 | CJMc C | Trench 3 at approx. 0.3m depth, waterlogged and lined with a rectilinear 4-walled metal structure (L = 3.7m; W (external) = 4m), work in progress. |
| IMGP8177 | 22 | 3 | S | 07/11/07 | CJMc C | Trench 3 at approx. 0.3m depth, waterlogged and lined with a rectilinear 4-walled metal structure (L = 3.7m; W (external) = 4m), work in progress. |
| IMGP8180 | 23 | 2 | S | 07/11/07 | CJMc C | Cylindrical superstructure (R = approx. 3m), surmounting Trench 2, work in progress. |
| IMGP8181 | 15 | 1 | S | 07/11/07 | CJMc C | Trench 1 (Depth = 5m, lined with a 4-walled metal casing (L = 3.7m; W (external) = 4m) palisaded by a series of vertically embedded girders, filled in with concrete. This trench / structure composite is now complete. |
| IMGP8314 | 7 | 1 – 4 | E | 05/12/07 | CJMc C | Landscape view of the North Kessock foreshore at high tide, showing Trenches 1 – 4 (waterlogged / submerged), work in progress. |
| IMGP8315 | 14 | 4 | S | 05/12/07 | CJMc C | Trench 4 at 1m depth, with an area of 2.4m ² , lined with a cuboid 4-walled metal casing, waterlogged; work in progress. |

| photo no. | camera point | Trench / structure | direction (facing) | date | initials | description |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| IMGP8316 | 14 | 4 | S | 05/12/07 | CJMc C | Trench 4 at 1m depth, with an area of 2.4m ² , lined with a cuboid 4-walled metal casing, waterlogged; work in progress. |
| IMGP8317 | 16 | 5 | SW | 05/12/07 | CJMc C | Showing Trench 5, capped with an hexagonal lidded structure. This composite trench / structure is now complete. An additional cylindrical superstructure is being stored on the foreshore SW of T5 (background). |
| IMGP8318 | 16 | 5 | SW | 05/12/07 | CJMc C | Showing Trench 5, capped with an hexagonal lidded structure. This composite trench / structure is now complete. |