

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ANCIENT
LANDSCAPE SURVEY

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT
AND WALK-OVER SURVEY**

Water Quality Undertakings Program

Delivery Area West

**LOHCARRON WATER TREATMENT WORKS
ROSS-SHIRE**

JULY 2002

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For

Edmund Nuttall Ltd

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Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walk-Over Survey –
Lochcarron Water Treatment Works, Ross-Shire – NG 8933 3989
(centred)

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 *An archaeological desk based assessment and walk-over survey in advance of development work at the Lochcarron Water Treatment Works, Ross-shire (see Fig.1). The desk based assessment identified no sites within the proposed area for development within the National Monuments Record of Scotland (Canmore), or within the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record in Inverness, although the surrounding landscape showed evidence for prehistoric and later settlement remains (see Section 3.0). The walk-over survey of the site outlined for further development recorded no new archaeological sites (see Section 4.0).*

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 During June 2002, *Archaeological and Ancient Landscape Survey* were commissioned by Team Aquarius, on behalf of Edmund Nuttall Ltd., to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment and walk-over survey at the site of the Lochcarron Water Treatment Works, Ross-shire (see Fig.1). The work was commissioned to address the conditions outlined within the planning consents for the re-development of the treatment works at Lochcarron, which stipulates that any archaeological interest in the site is identified and recognised prior to the commencement of ground works. The Archaeological Brief to cover this work, issued by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit in Inverness, is attached to this report (see Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Base maps and other relevant materials were supplied by Team Aquarius in Inverness, on behalf of Edmund Nuttall Ltd., and these indicated the extent of the area for development including access roads, service trenches and areas identified for trial boring/test-pitting.
- 2.3 The area of land outlined for development is adjacent to the present water treatment works at Lochcarron at National Grid Reference NG 8933 3989 (centred) and is bounded to the east by the A 896 Lochcarron to Kishorn road. The open moorland ground rises gradually to the west and is bounded to the north by a small stream (see Fig.1). The ground is poorly drained and has a typical covering of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and other moorland taxa, while small surface erosions show a shallow peat deposit overlying a till of fine angular stone. The ground has been cut by a series of shallow open drainage ditches, associated with the present water treatment works, and is situated between 72-88 metres above Ordnance Datum.

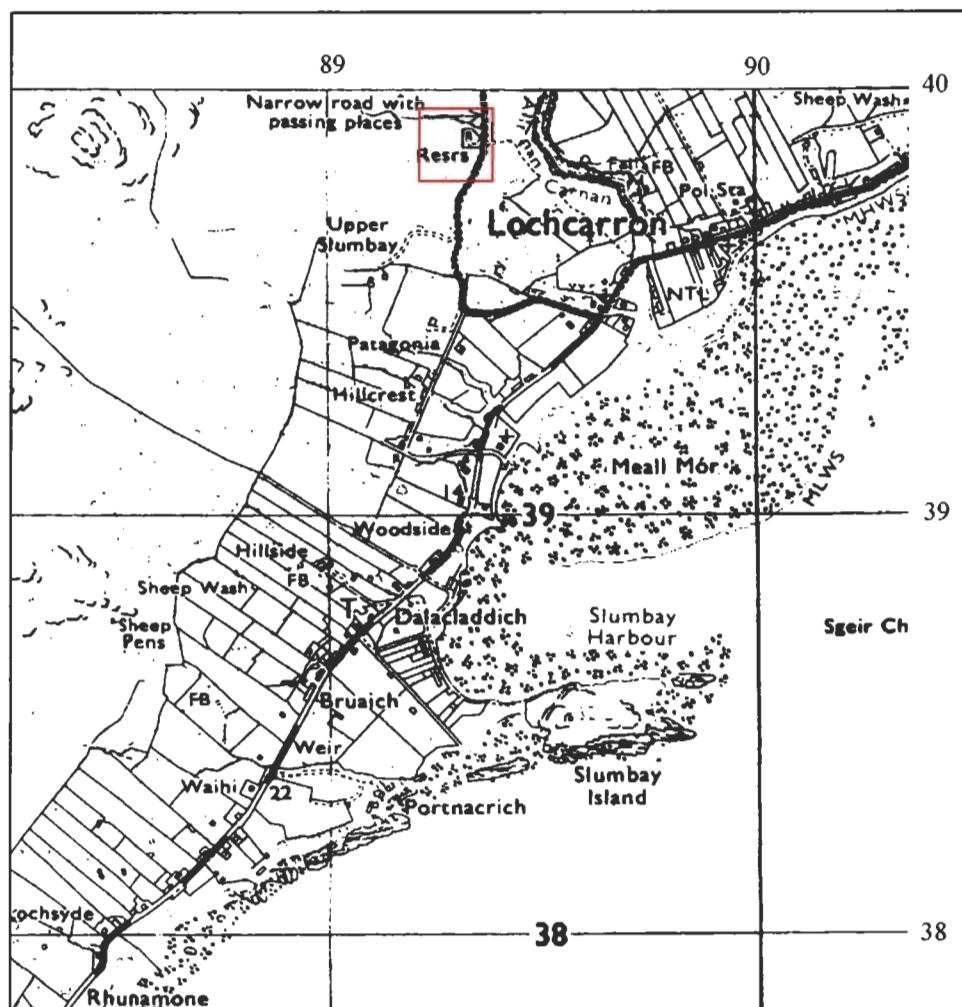
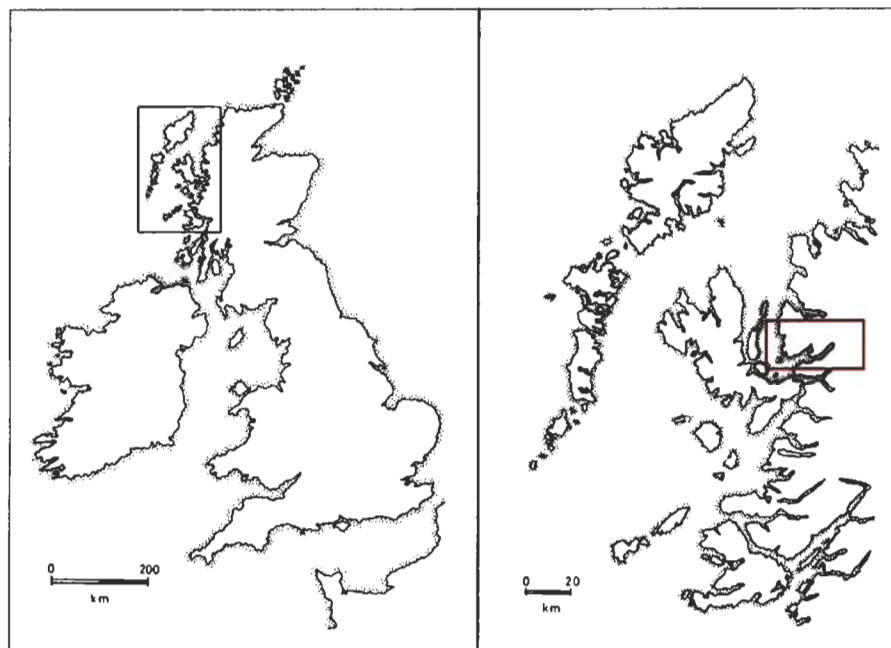


Fig.1 – Location Maps showing the Lochcarron Water Treatment Works (area of survey indicated by red rectangle)

3.0 RESULTS OF THE DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 A search of the National Monuments Record of Scotland (Canmore) and the Highland Sites and Monuments Record in Inverness produced no sites within the boundaries of the area for development. However, the search did indicate that the surrounding landscape contained sites relating to both the prehistoric and historic periods. The prehistoric landscape is represented by a series of hut circles, the nearest of these to the development site situated approximately 0.75 km to the west, while the historic landscape comprises the crofting township of Easter Slumbay, some 0.5 km to the south.
- 3.2 A search of the relevant Ordnance Survey map-based sources was also made during the desk based assessment, to verify the presence of archaeological features within the proposed area for development. The 1st Edition 6" and 1:25 000 OS sheets showed no features of potential archaeological interest within the survey area.

4.0 RESULTS OF THE WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 4.1 The walk-over survey was carried out on the 5th July 2002 during a day of dry and sunny weather, with good visibility. The survey recorded no new sites of archaeological interest within the area of proposed development.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Although the desk based assessment indicated that the area proposed for development was situated within a landscape of prehistoric and historic significance, the walk-over survey found no sites of archaeological interest.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological sites have been identified within the area proposed for development during this evaluation, therefore, there are no recommendations for further archaeological work on site.
- 6.2 Received with the information for the archaeological fieldwork at Lochcarron was a copy of a brief from the Highland Council Planning and Development Service for an Archaeological Watching Brief. However, with regards to the results of the desk based assessment and walk-over survey carried out at the site of the proposed developments at the Lochcarron Water Treatment Works, it is suggested that a archaeological watching brief is not necessary. The final decision regarding the undertaking of this brief will obviously depend on the judgement of the Senior Archaeologist within the Highland Council Planning and Development Service in Inverness.

Appendix 1

The Archaeological Brief for: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Walk-Over Survey

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

Brief for:

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED
ASSESSMENT AND WALK-OVER
SURVEY**

**S041 Lochcarron Water Treatment Works
Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Walkover Survey**

1. Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken prior to work beginning on site. It is for a *minimum* standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

2. Terms of Reference

This specification is for an archaeological desk based assessment and walkover survey prior to the commencement of works proposed by Scottish Water. The applicant is responsible for all tendering and contractual arrangements.

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 undertaken to professional standards. The project should be undertaken by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

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

- *To establish the presence of recorded archaeological remains, and the likelihood of further as yet unrecorded archaeological remains.*
- *To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible and recording where necessary of any archaeological features or finds identified.*
- *To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.*

5. Method

- A desk based assessment of the site, to include consultation of at least *The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, The Highland Council Archive, The National Monuments Record, any locally held private archives and aerial photographic coverage.*
- The desk-based assessment must make full use of all of the resources held in these repositories.
- A walkover survey will be made of the area in question, to enable identification of any upstanding remains from any period, including modern. All individual features to be recorded on a 1:2500 plan.
- No excavation is to take place as part of this work.

6. Monitoring

- The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor fieldwork to ensure that specifications are met.
- Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- 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.

Document Number S041.WI.S.001.01 Date 28/06/02

7. Reporting

Project Report

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

- One paper copy for Team Aquarius, Aquarius House, 22 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU.
- One paper copy for the Highland Council Planning and Development Service, Archaeology Unit, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- One copy for the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (*address as above*), on a computer disk in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 97 for windows.

The report must be submitted to all of the above within two weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

The Report must include, as a minimum,

- Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected. Grid References must be included.
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification.
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork.
- Scale plans, and photographs of all archaeological features noted.
- A full index to any records or other materials generated by the project including its location.
- An 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.
- The report must propose appropriate arrangements for the safeguarding where possible or recording where necessary of any objects or features identified by this evaluation.
- 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. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

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.

8. 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 for this must be included in any tender document.

9. General

- The Archaeologist appointed must be of professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must undertake 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 comply with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance.
- 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.