

Report no:
775

Report of Rapid Pre-afforestation Survey
February 2002
Loch Ashie, Highland
NH 636 / 364 (centred)



fcc / 3684 / Af

By
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February 2002

Introduction

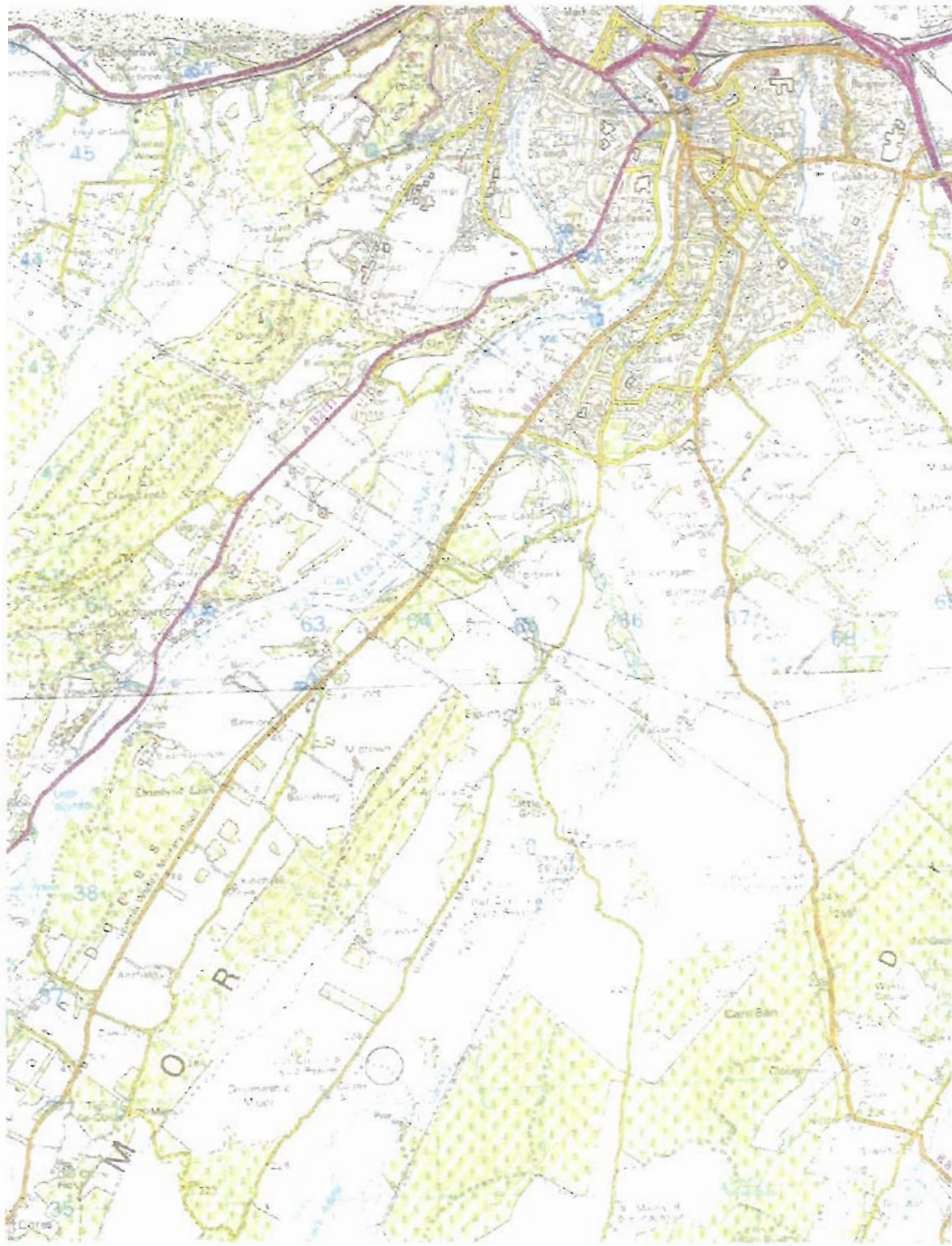
This report is for a rapid archaeological pre-afforestation survey for a Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) conducted by the author for Cawdor Forestry by Loch Ashie Water Treatment Works, Highland.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following for their help during the work :

- Mr. S Connelly of Cawdor Forestry;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Site Location



Cover : View of croft house with treatment works in background.

Map of Area of WGS



DOCHF0UR

ASHIE WATERWORKS

ARCHEAOLOGICAL SITES

All highlighted sites to be
protected by a 5M buffer zone
where they fall within the scheme
boundary

Public road
(General Wades)

Access track



Forestry Commission

Third Schedule

Map relevant to Application No: 035/002730

O.S. Grid Reference: NH 636364

Map Scale: Not To Scale Map 3 of 3

(Owner / Lessee)

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

(For and on behalf of the Forestry Commissioners)

Signature

Date



Objectives

A rapid walkover survey was conducted to identify those archaeological sites that lie in the area of the proposed Woodland Grant Scheme. (See previous)

This followed on a desktop survey of records held in the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record and Highland Council Archives and to follow the specification of Highland Council Archaeology Unit (See enclosed).

Background

Part of the WGS area had already been surveyed by the CFA in 2000 (Suddaby, 2001) (see map 3) as part of the archaeological evaluation carried out in advance of construction of the adjacent water treatment works. As part of that programme of works a number of archaeological sites identified in the WGS area were excavated as part of the construction work (see sites marked with an x on map 3 – blue line is WGS boundary). Also as part of the water treatment works a desktop and walkover survey was conducted for a pipeline by Headland Archaeology Ltd (Conolly & Masser, 2001) that identified the croft site at NH 6157/3692 but did not record any features, though the way-leave for the pipeline was only 12m wide.

No additional sites are recorded in the Highland Sites and Monuments Record or the National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database to the area of the WGS.

No sites are shown to the majority of the WGS area on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1875 (sheet 19) except the a single house and enclosure centred at NH 6157/3692 which is marked as roofed. (See over)

M.S. B.M. 778.6

755

B.M. 740.0

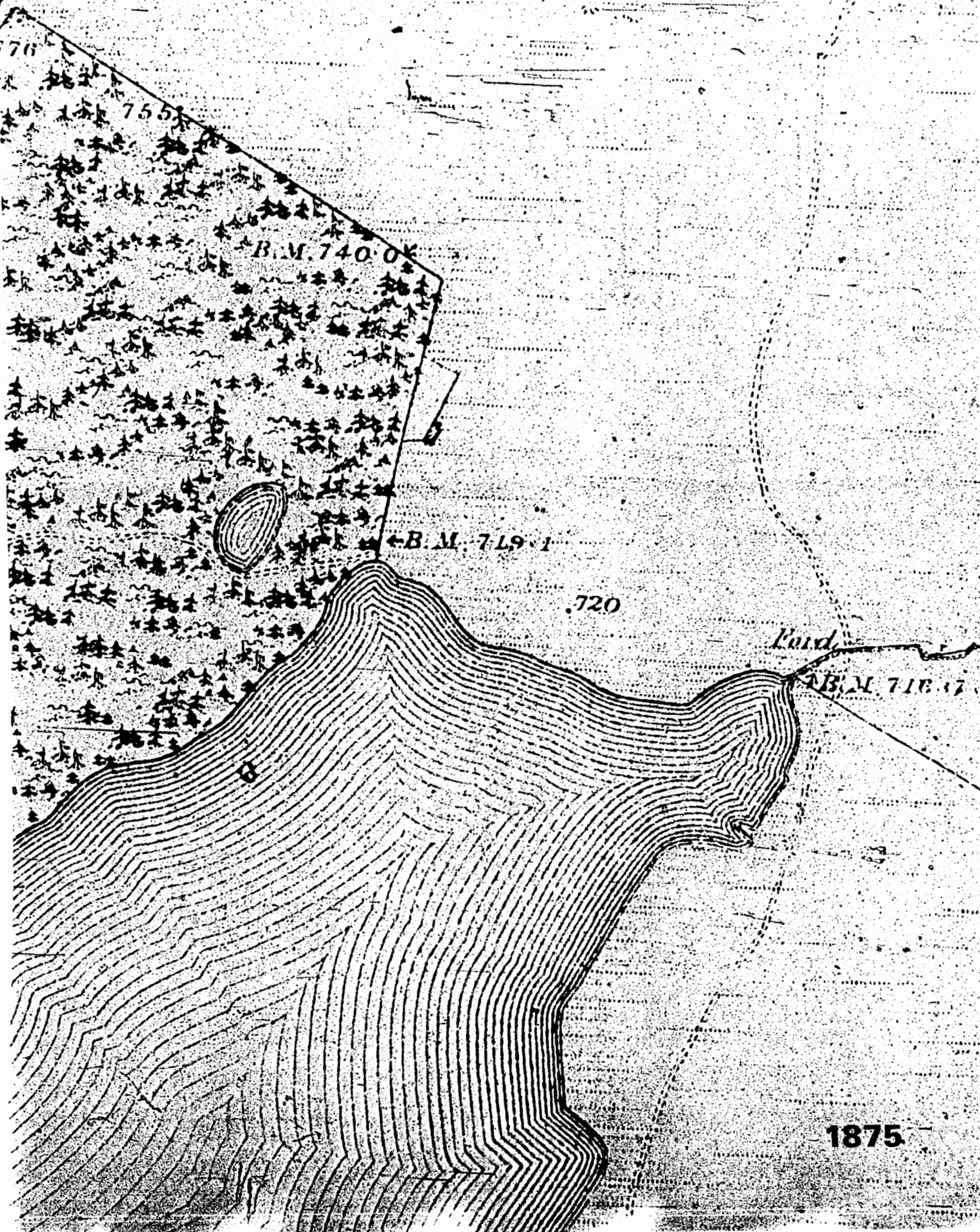
B.M. 719.1

720

Ford

B.M. 716.7

1875



Field Survey Results

Weather on the day of work (February 19th 2002) was partly cloudy with sunny periods. A rapid walkover was made of all areas of the proposed WGS area. All sites were marked with canes and biodegradable tape.

The following archaeological sites were found to the area of the proposed WGS (all grid references were obtained using a Garmin II Plus GPS) :

1 – Rectangular enclosure at NH 6356/3613 at 847ft above sea level. Measuring 14m by 8m with wall spread to 0.5m.



2 – Rectangular building at NH 6354/3610 5m by 10m – may be two separate structures, no visible entrance. This is likely to be the building marked on map of 1875.



3 – House at NH 6352/3605 of 5m by 16.3m with walls 0.63m thick and standing to a maximum height of 1.6m. Closer inspection revealed it to be of 2 buildings both with harling internally and externally. 1st building is 5m by 5.4m with 2nd building 4.7m by 4.6m. No windows or doors visible in primary building.



4 – Rectangular structure at NH 6355/3603 (lying outside edge of WGS area) of 5.8m by 2.6m, with some clearance dumped within.



5 – Possible Clearance cairn to NW of enclosure at NH 6354/3616 3m by 2m under turf.

6 – Possible structure at NH 6355/3617, partly exposed in ban. Under turf and heather of 3m by 3m.



The following sites relate to those noted by the CFA:

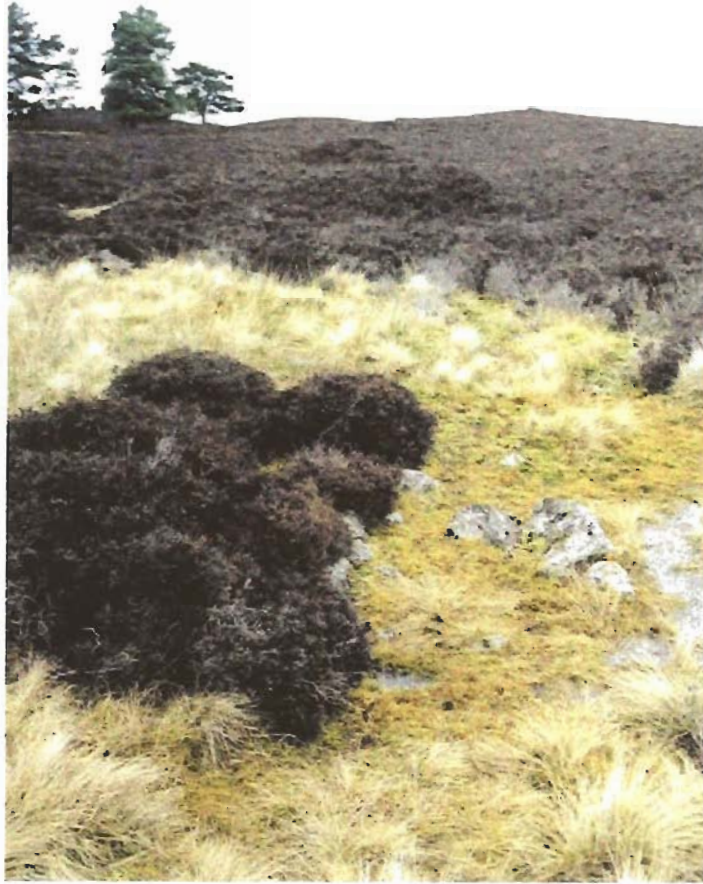
7 – Possible wall (site 48) at NH 6366/3649 – 2m diameter.

8 – (site 75) at NH 6376/3647 – 4m spread, looks more like a clearance cairn or in filled hollow rather than wall.

9 – Curved section of wall (not numbered) at NH 6379/3641 0.5m wide by 40m in length. (close to sites 63 & 64)



10 – Clearance Cairns sites 63 – at NH 6380/3641 - 2m diameter
64 – at NH 6381/3642 - ibid
67 – at NH 6384/3640 - ibid
68 – at NH 6383/3638 - ibid
(sites 65 & 66 lie outside WGS area)



Cairns 63, 67 & 68 facing North

11 – (site 62) at NH 6377/3640 – recorded as shooting butt.



View of site 62 - 520g 1m

12 – (site 73) – recorded as unknown not an archaeological site but natural stone outcrop on ridge.

13 – (site 51 & 52) at NH 6357/3635 recorded as unknown – may be another shooting butt as close to water.

14 – (site 56) at NH 6372/3636 – only a small stretch visible.

The following sites were not located:

Site 79 Clearance cairn – on fence line – not located, though area has evidence of machine tracks in the immediate area

Site 71 Clearance cairn – lies in area of landscaping

Site 72 ibid

Site 47 – unknown – not located

Site 46 – shooting butt – lies in area of landscaping

Recommendations

The following recommendation's are to be proposed for the area of the WGS, that a 20m exclusion area be put round each site in the area of the croft (being the additional area) and 10m be put round sites in the main area. (All sites were marked with cane and tape).

References

Conolly, R & Masser, P (2001) NOSWA Lower Loch Ness : SO73 Results of a Desk based Assessment, Walk Over Survey and Watching Brief North of Dores, Highland. Headland Archaeology Ltd. Edinburgh. Unpublished report copy held in HSMR.

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record entries for NH63

Ordnance Survey Maps Inverness-shire sheet 19 of 1875.

Suddaby, I (2001) Archaeological Excavations : Loch Ashie Water Treatment Works, Inverness, Highland. CFA report 607. Unpublished report copy held in HSMR.

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HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Planning and Development Service
ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

Specification for archaeological work
prepared for Cawdor Forestry

Loch Ashie

Archaeological Survey

Background

This specification has been produced in response to proposals for a Woodland Grant Scheme. There is a potential for unrecorded archaeological remains to be present within the Scheme area, therefore a rapid archaeological survey must be carried out, and any archaeological remains must be recorded and suitably marked out on the ground to ensure their preservation within the Scheme.

Terms of Reference

The specification has been produced for the applicant 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. It is for a *minimum* standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards.

The area to be covered is as shown on the attached plan.

Objectives

1. To identify the nature and extent of any archaeological remains which may exist within the Scheme area.
2. To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible and recording where necessary of any archaeological features or finds identified
3. To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay/disturbance to the Scheme.

Method

1. A rapid, desk-based assessment of all records, documents and maps available in Inverness relating to the application area will be carried out.
2. A survey will be made of the Scheme area, using

**** walk over the Scheme area and indicate all visible archaeological features on an appropriate Ordnance Survey base.***

3. No excavation is to take place as part of this specification
4. The archaeological areas should be marked out on the ground with appropriate buffer zones to ensure that they are clearly visible and safeguarded.

Monitoring

1. The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met, normally by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
2. 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.
3. 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. Reasons given later for non-completion to timetable or specification will not normally be accepted if immediate notification has not taken place.

Reporting

1. Survey report

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

- One copy for the applicant/agent
- Two copies for the Highland Sites and Monuments Record, Planning Service, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV1 5NX, where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public. One copy should be on disk in a format compatible with MSOffice 95/Windows 95.

The report must be submitted to the Senior Archaeologist within 2 weeks of the completion of the field work.

The report must include, as a minimum,

1. Location plan showing the Scheme area and archaeological sites and features affected, including the extent of any areas to be managed for conservation.
2. Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
3. Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork
4. Full descriptions of archaeological features noted
5. Photographs of archaeological features noted
6. A full index to any finds, records or other archive material generated by the project including their location
7. Details of any measures proposed to mitigate the impact of the application on the archaeological resource – including archaeological potential not immediately apparent on the surface and suggested appropriate buffer zones around archaeological areas to be marked out on the ground to ensure that they are clearly visible and safeguarded.
8. General comments and recommendations arising from the carrying out of this project

The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Sites and Monuments Record, in Inverness. Copyright in the report remains with the author unless transferred in writing. However, the Archaeology Unit may make the report available to researchers either on paper or electronically.

2. 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 archaeologist is responsible for any charge made.

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 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.
3. The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
4. The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
5. Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland