

**Report of Archaeological Watching Brief
August 3rd 2002
Nairn Road, Ardersier, Highland
NH 78464/54510**

**By
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Introduction

This report is for an archaeological watching brief conducted on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. D MacDonald by the author for a house plot at Nairn Road, Ardersier.

Acknowledgements

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

- Mr. D MacDonald;
- Staff of HPG (Inverness) Ltd for onsite works;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Location



Scale 1:1000

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View of site before excavation facing NW

Historical Background

The area of the development lies to the edge of the village of Ardersier. The village was formerly named Campbelltown and was licensed as a burgh of barony in 1623. The majority of buildings in the village date to the late 18th to mid 19th century onwards.

The development site lies to the west of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Dalyards (NH75SE 2). The site is recorded to have belonged to the Knight's Templars, with cropmark showing evidence of a double ditched rectilinear enclosure.

Previous archaeological work on the site (Kenworthy, 1998) took the form of trial trenching. Of 14 trenches made no features of a medieval date were revealed, only 'modern' pottery. Finds were made of field drains and occasionally plough-scars. Site of house plot is noted to have formed part of an area of hard standing for a HGV testing facility.

Objectives

To conduct a watching brief on the excavation of the development to record those features revealed by excavation work. A copy of the specification provided by Highland Council Archaeology Unit is enclosed.

Methodology

A watching brief was maintained on a back-acting machine with a straight edged bucket for the removal of turf and subsoil.

Weather on the day of work (August 3rd 2002) was slightly dull and overcast.

Watching Brief Investigation

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with accepted professional archaeological standards as published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1999). Over the construction period a suitably qualified archaeologist was on site to carry out observations and assessment of the area affected by the excavation works.

Results

A monitoring of the excavation revealed no archaeological features or deposits. No features were found as the site as a hard standing lorry park had been previously been excavated into the natural and broken rock made-up to a depth of over 300mm.

Recommendations

No recommendations with regards to this project are to be proposed.

Archive

Notebook of results is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh. A set of colour slides and photographs taken previously showing the progress of the work has been deposited with Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

References

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record entry for NH75SE 2.

IFA (1999) By-laws, Standards and Policy Statements of the Institute of Field Archaeologists. Reading.

Kenworthy, J (1998) Report on the archaeological evaluation of a development area at Nairn Road, Ardersier, Inverness-shire April 1998. Unpublished report – copy held in Highland SMR.

National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database entry for NH75SE 2.

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Appendix 1 – Details of Photographs and Slides

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| 1 – View of site prior to excavation facing NW | June 2002. |
| 2 – View of site upon initial cleaning facing N | August 2002. |
| 3 – ibid but facing S | August 2002. |
| 4 – View of excavation showing crushed rock on natural facing S | August 2002. |