

BCCB10

**Housing Development at Braes of Conon, Conon Bridge,
Dingwall:
Written Scheme of Investigation for targeted
Archaeological Excavation**

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

Client: Cameron & Patterson Homes

April 2011

Planning Applications: 08/00994/FULRC

1. INTRODUCTION

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is presented in connection with an archaeological excavation in response to a planning conditions placed on a development at Braes of Conon, Conon Bridge. The condition was placed by Highland Council. An evaluation (trial trenching) of the site was undertaken in 2010 and established the presence of low concentrations of archaeological features in several parts of the development (McNicol 2010). The areas for further excavation were agreed at that time with the Highland Council Archaeologist and are shown on the figure included at the end of this document.

This WSI covers the further areas for further excavation required by Highland Council's Archaeologists.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are as follows:

- To mitigate the impact of the proposed development on archaeological remains by recording
- To produce a report on that work for public dissemination

3. METHODOLOGY

The excavations will comprise a machine excavated topsoil strip of squares up to 20 m by 20 m (see attached plan) around features of archaeological potential identified during the evaluation phase, followed by hand investigation of archaeological deposits. If any features are located close to the limit of excavation the trench may be extended up to 5 m to determine whether features represent part of a larger group extending beyond the limit of excavation.

All features will be hand-excavated to an appropriate level. The following sample sizes will be used as a minimum; more hand-excavation may be undertaken if deemed appropriate in discussions with the Highland Council Archaeologist.

- 100% of all structures
- 50% (half-section) of all discrete pits and postholes

- 10% of linear features.

Following characterisation and recording of all exposed features, a site meeting will be arranged to discuss the results of the excavation and agree the scope of any further works if deemed necessary. The site meeting will be attended by Headland's project manager, the clients representative and the Highland Council Archaeologist.

The site meeting will establish whether any further archaeological works are necessary or if archaeological site works are completed to the satisfaction of HCAU.

3.1 Recording

All recording will be according to IfA standards and guidance. All contexts, small finds and environmental samples will be given unique numbers and all recording will be undertaken on *pro forma* record cards.

Colour transparency and print photographs will be taken and recorded in a photographic register. Record shots of archaeological contexts will have a metric scale visible. Digital photographs will be taken to illustrate the progress of the excavation and provide working shots.

An overall site plan will be recorded using Total Station survey and related to the National Grid. Hand-drawn plans of individual features at a scale of 1:20 will be drawn where appropriate. Sections and elevations will be drawn at 1:10 where appropriate.

3.2 Samples and Artefacts

Deposits identified as archaeologically significant (e.g. fills from negative features such as pits and postholes) will be sampled for environmental material and other finds (e.g. bone, pottery etc.). Bulk samples will be taken from deposits for wet sieving and floatation in order to recover any environmental material. A bulk sample ranges from 10 to 30 litres; however, where large deposits are encountered more than one bulk sample may be taken. Similarly, small deposits such as the fill of postholes may contain less than 10 litres of sediment and will be fully sampled. A representative proportion of samples taken on site will be

processed and assessed with the results and recommendations for any further work included in the evaluation report.

Bulk finds will be collected by context. Small finds will be recorded in a register and plotted using Total Station survey. Finds will be stored in appropriate conditions as advised by Headland's Finds Officer (Julie Franklin). Any objects requiring conservation shall be assessed and stored in appropriate conditions.

4. PRODUCTS

A draft Data Structure Report prepared in accordance with Highland Council's requirements (revised March 2010) will be sent to Cameron & Paterson Homes Ltd and Highland Council within 12 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork for comment. Final copies in required formats will be distributed as per the requirements. A summary report will be prepared for submission to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* and the OASIS database.

The results of the work may be deemed of sufficient significance to merit further analysis and publication. If this is the case a design for this work will be produced after consideration of the DSR.

The complete project archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) within six months of the completion of the project. The records (paper and digital) will be archived according to best practice guidelines set out by the Archaeological Archiving Forum.

Any artefacts from the site will be declared for Treasure Trove procedures within 6 months of the completion of the project. A copy of the site archive will be kept with the finds.

5. PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork will be managed for Headland Archaeology by Edward Bailey (AIfA) and supervised on-site by David McNicol assisted by a team of 2 archaeologists.

Headland Archaeology Ltd is a Registered Archaeological Organisation of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and abides by its Codes of Conduct. The

company has all the necessary technical and personnel resources for the satisfactory completion of the investigation.

6. INSURANCE

Headland Archaeology Ltd is fully indemnified and all necessary insurances can be presented on request.

7. HEALTH & SAFETY

All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current H&S legislation. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

All staff will wear appropriate PPE (high-visibility clothing, hard hats and safety footwear as required). Welfare facilities will be located at a suitable location after consultation with the client.

The site lies within former farm fields with some open access to members of the public through gaps in existing wire and post fencing. The contract does not provide for fencing the site. Some hazard tape and safety notices may be used where appropriate to warn members of the public of the presence of open trenches.

8. ACCESS & SERVICES

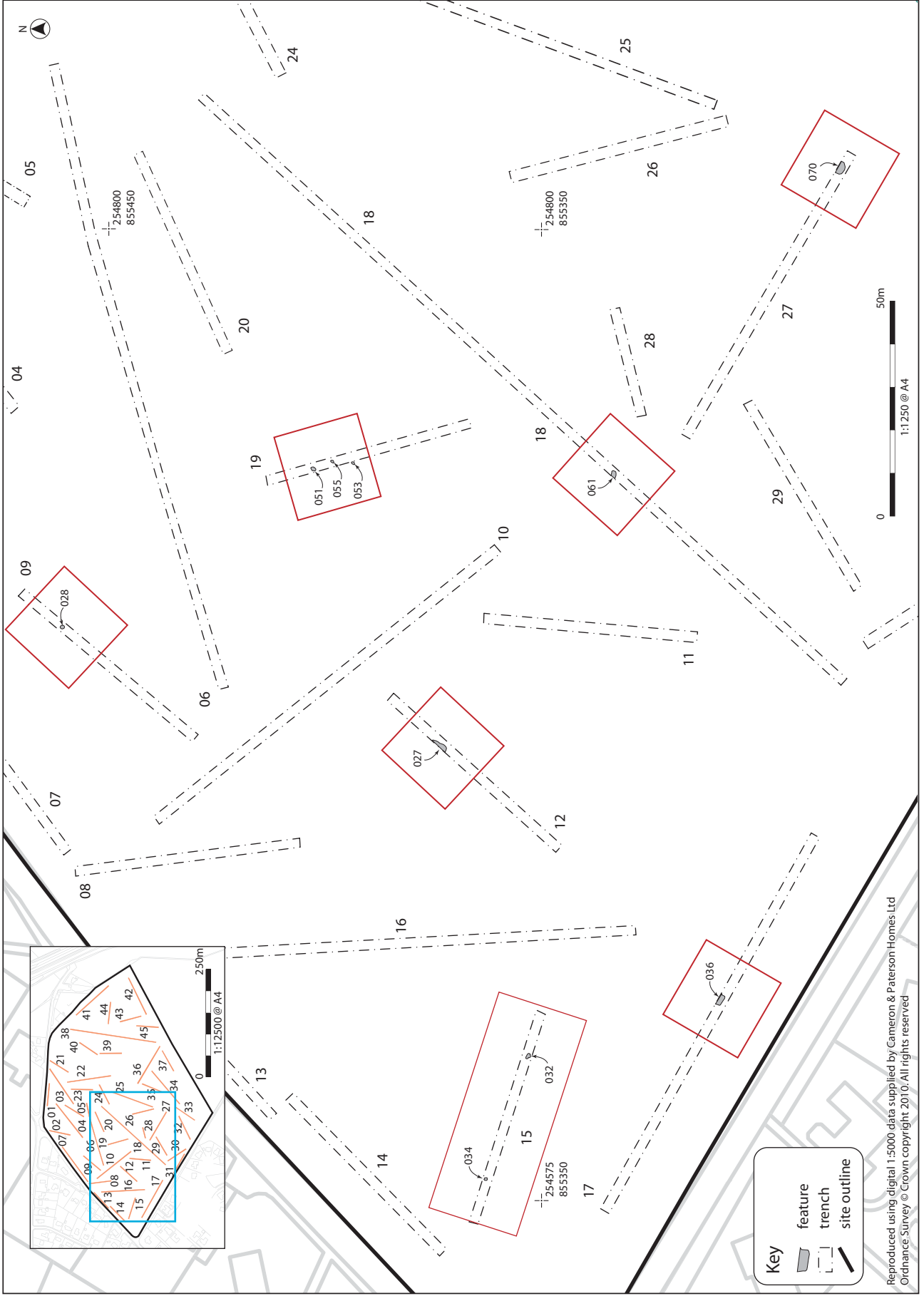
This Written Scheme of Investigation is submitted on the understanding that there will be unhindered access (including machine-access) to all areas of the site; a plan of any services within the proposed development area has been provided by the client or his agents.

9. HUMAN REMAINS

All finds of human remains will be reported to the client, Highland Council Archaeological Unit and the local police.

If human remains are to be excavated during this work, all works will be agreed with the client and undertaken in accordance with Historic Scotland policy on the treatment of human remains and in cognisance of IFA Technical Paper Number 13 (McKinley & Roberts 1993). A Human Bone specialist based at

Headland's offices, will provide specialist on-site advice.



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