

FAH 02

**NOSWA Fort Augustus WTW S075:
Results of a Desk Based Assessment and Walk Over
Survey at Glendoebeg, Fort Augustus, Highland**

Client: Edmund Nuttall Limited

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Summary

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological assessment of the site of a proposed water treatment works at Glendoebeg, Fort Augustus, Highland. A search was made of records held by the National Monuments Record of Scotland, National Map Library of Scotland and Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record and a walk over survey of the proposed site was carried out. One site of limited cultural heritage interest, an 18th-19th century dyke, lies within the site. This is already adequately recorded and no further work is recommended.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report details the results of an archaeological impact assessment carried out by Headland Archaeology, on behalf of Edmund Nuttall Ltd, in relation to a proposed water treatment works at Glendoebeg, Fort Augustus, Highland. The work followed a brief supplied by Highland Council Archaeology Unit (Appendix 4).

2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION (fig.1)

The proposed site is located 3.5 km to the east of Fort Augustus, Highland (NGR NH 416 092) at 250 m OD. It occupies 3920 m² of roughly flat heather moorland and bog at the foot of a south-east facing slope. The site's south-eastern limit is formed by the B 862.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

3.1 Desk Based Assessment

The desk-based assessment was intended to collate and summarise existing information relating to the archaeology within the scheme in order to establish the likely archaeological impact of the project and to allow an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated.

The assessment involved a search of the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), using Canmore, and the examination of relevant maps held by the National Map Library of Scotland.

3.2 Walk Over Survey and Watching Brief

A systematic walk over survey of the proposed site was undertaken in order to identify hitherto unrecognised sites and to record the condition of known sites. This visit coincided with site geotechnical investigation work to insure that no sites were inadvertently damaged by test pitting. This part of the work was undertaken on 20th August 2002 in bright sunshine.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Desk Based Assessment

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments lie within or adjacent to the site of the proposed works.

The Highland SMR and the NMRS, respectively, held the details of three sites of cultural heritage interest near the site (Appendix 1). None of these will be in any way affected by the proposed works. The B 862 follows the line of one of General Wade's Military Roads (Headland Site 2) and at this point appears to directly overlie it. Some sections of the Military Road are listed, but the nearest such sections lie 0.75 km to the south-west of the site (Logie 1997).

One new site was identified by the desk-based assessment. This (Headland Site 4) is a dyke depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1874) map of the area, which runs along the south-eastern limit of the site.

4.2 Walk Over Survey and Watching Brief (Appendix 2)

The walk over survey identified no further sites that might be affected by the proposed works.

The excavation of five test-pits was monitored. Three of these were located at the south-eastern edge of the site and hence would have exposed Wade's Road if it had extended into the site. There was no evidence that this had been the case. Headland Site 4 was found to be a stone built dyke surviving to a height of two courses. The test pits encountered up to 0.7 m of peat.

5 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or listed buildings either within the site or in the immediate area.

The assessment identified one site of cultural heritage interest that will be affected by the proposed works. This, Headland Site 4, is a stone dyke of 18th to 19th century date and of limited local significance.

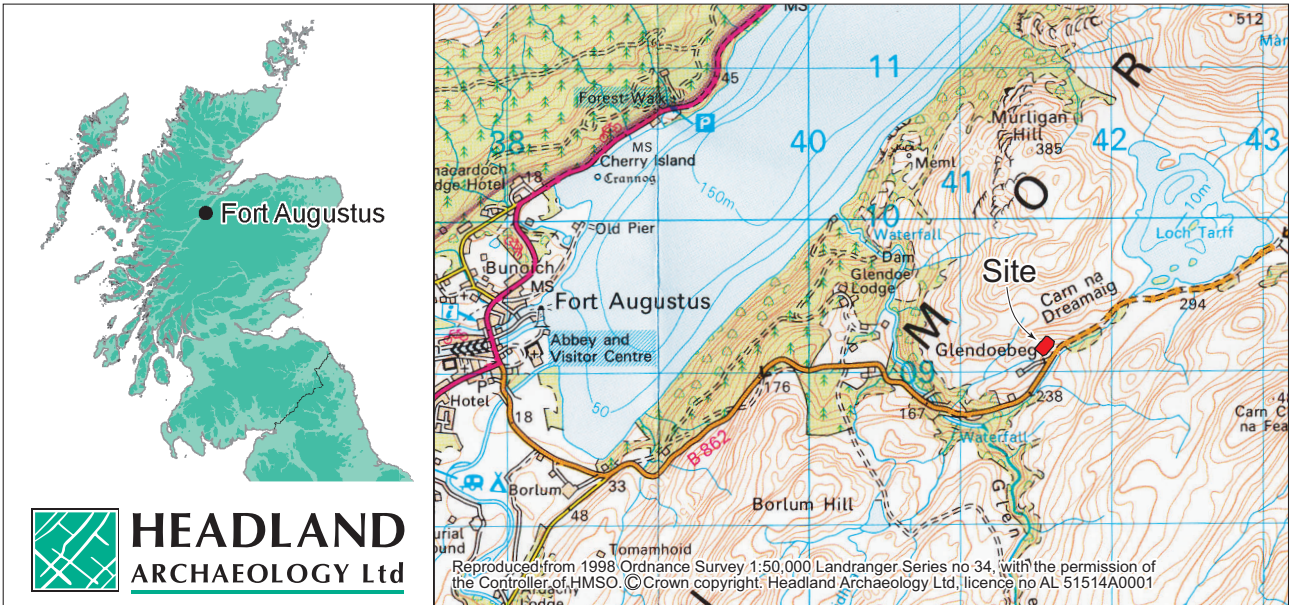
The potential for unrecorded sites, principally of prehistoric and early medieval date, is also recognised. However, this potential is extremely low given the boggy ground conditions on the site.

6 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

One site of cultural heritage interest would be affected were the proposed works to go ahead. This is a stone built dyke (Headland Site 4) of limited local significance that will be destroyed where it passes through the site. The dyke has been satisfactorily mapped by the Ordnance Survey and was recorded further at the time of the site visit. Therefore, no further work is recommended.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The project was managed by Russel Coleman. The location plan was prepared by Mike Middleton. The CAD drawings were supplied by Team Aquarius and annotated by Richard Conolly. The desk-based assessment was carried out by Richard Conolly and Jo Dawson and the field-work by Richard Conolly.



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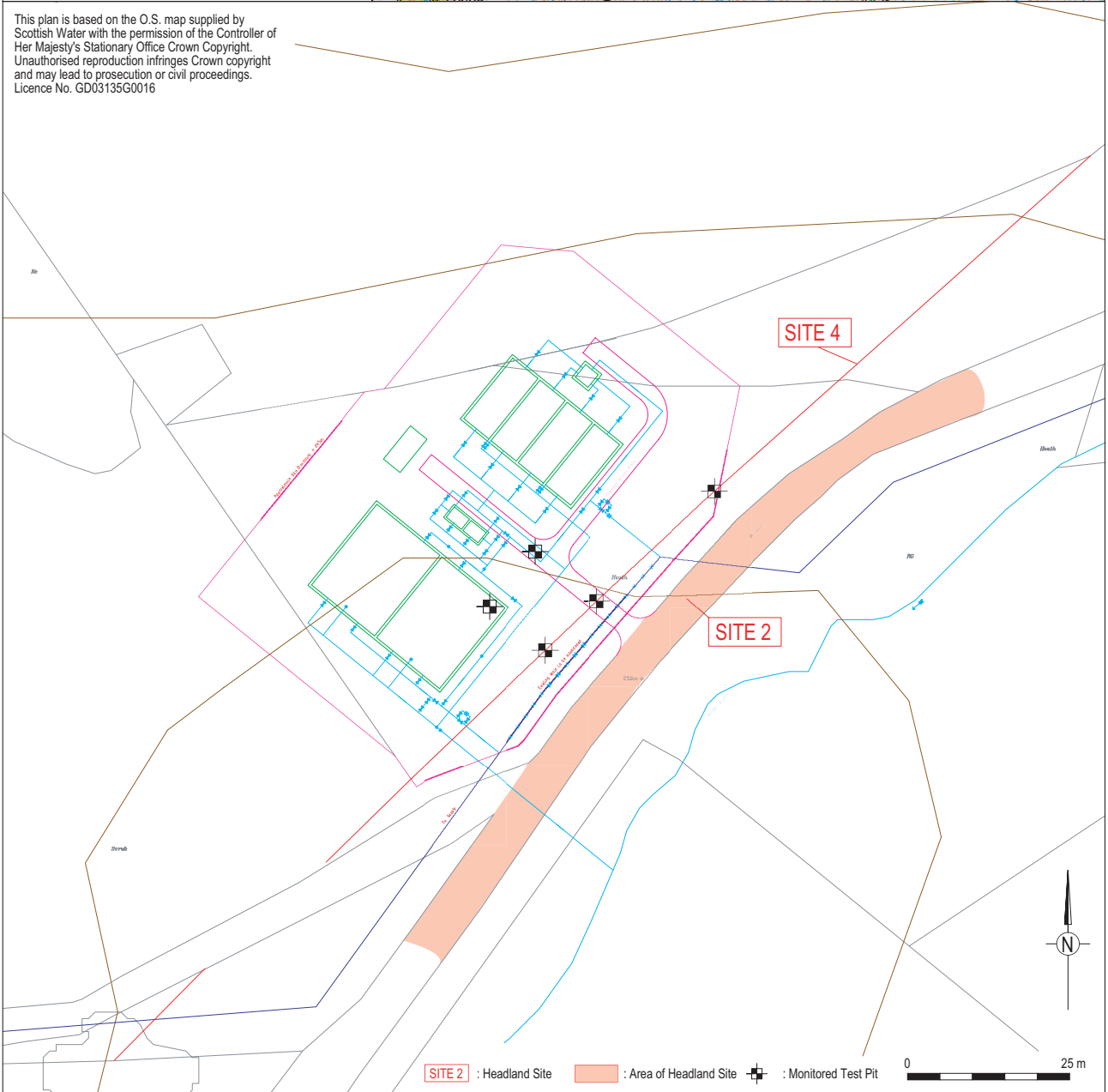


Figure 1 - Fort Augustus, Highland: Site location

APPENDIX 1: SOURCES

Highland Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

Highland SMR held records of the following sites in the area of the proposed works:

NH40NW 1: Fort
NH40NW 7: Military Road
NH40NW 8: Farmstead

Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS)

The RCAHMS held the following aerial photographs for the area of the proposed works:

Sortie 541/A/483, Frames 3292-4, 4292-4, 23rd June 1949, 1:10000
Sortie 543/RAF/T451, Frames F21: 0063-0066, 3rd February 1959, 1:10000
Sortie OS/233, Frames 139-141, 4th October 1964, 1:10500

National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)

The NMRS held the following records of sites in the area of the proposed works:

NH40NW 1: Fort
NH40NW 3: Military Road
NH40NW 7: Farmstead

Cartographic sources

The following maps held at the National Map Library of Scotland were consulted (listed in chronological order):

Ainslie, J. 1789 *Scotland*
Thomson, J. 1830 *Inverness-shire*

Ordnance Survey 1874 *Inverness-shire LXVIII* 1:10560 (Surveyed 1871)
Ordnance Survey 1904 *Inverness-shire LXVIII* 1:10560 (Surveyed 1871, Revised 1899)

Other Sources

Logie, M, 1997 *Fort William To Inverness: An Assessment Of The 18th Century Military Roads Which Lie Within The Highland Council Boundaries*. Historic Scotland.

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER AND CONCORDANCE

The following includes only those sites within the scheme or with a direct bearing upon it.

Headland Site No.	Highland SMR No.	NMRS No.	Site type	NGR	Description and Comments	Significance
1	NH40NW 1	NH40NW 1	Fort	NH 4175 0942	Turf covered remains of stone built prehistoric fort.	Regional
2	NH40NW 7	NH40NW 3	Military Road	NH 4200 0936	B 862 runs along line of Military Road between Fort Augustus and Inverness. Not visible on ground or in test pits the Road is assumed to be sealed by the existing road.	Regional
3	NH40NW 8	NH40NW 7	Farmstead	NH 4135 0882	Farmstead, comprising four roofed and one unroofed structure shown on First Edition OS.	Local
4	-	-	Dyke		Stone built dyke orientated NE – SW, shown on First Edition OS. Dyke now stands to a maximum height of 0.4 m and has spread to < 1 m in width.	Limited Local

APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Film no. 1			Film Type: Colour Slide
Shot No.	Site No.	Direction Facing	Description
1	-	-	ID shot
2	4	SW	General view of site
3	4	SW	General view of site
4	4	S	Test Pit 2
5	-	N	Test Pit 3
6	-	N	Test Pit 4
7	4	N	Test Pit 5

Brief for archaeological work

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

Produced for general use by Team Aquarius

**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE**

Archaeology Unit

1) Background

Capital projects can impact on valuable features of historic and archaeological importance. Arrangements should therefore be made to avoid such features wherever possible. Where this is not practicable, they should be recorded before they are damaged or destroyed. This will need to be done by a qualified and experienced archaeologist.

In the highlands, there has been relatively little archaeological survey carried out but conditions have tended to mean that there can be a high survival of features and finds of all periods. These may be buried with only limited visibility above ground. There is therefore a need to establish the potential impact of projects on both recorded and unrecorded archaeology at the earliest possible stage so that an appropriate approach can be taken to preserving them wherever possible, or recording them where preservation is impractical.

The first requirement is therefore for a check of available records and aerial photographs. However, as many parts of the highlands have not been subject to systematic archaeological field survey, there is a potential for further unrecorded archaeology of all periods. A rapid walk-over survey should therefore be undertaken by an archaeologist at the earliest possible stage to assess the nature and extent of this potential. This should assess the likelihood of buried as well as surface remains, and indicate any areas of particular sensitivity. Similar walk-over surveys in similar areas elsewhere have revealed large numbers of visible, but previously unrecorded sites of all periods.

Although this brief is for a basic desk based assessment and walk-over survey, in some cases, field evaluation by trial trenching or geophysics may also be needed to establish the nature and extent of buried archaeological features. The advice of the archaeologist appointed should be followed in this, but the Archaeology Unit can advise if required.

A report should present the conclusions of this work and propose mitigation and recording arrangements to be followed in this scheme. Such arrangements might include re-routing to avoid key areas, excavation and recording of features, and / or an archaeological watching brief on site clearance and excavations for construction purposes.

2) Terms of Reference

This brief may be used to obtain estimates from archaeologists. It specifies what we consider to be the ***minimum*** acceptable standard of work; proposals that present a higher standard may be offered and accepted. *We will assume that this will form the basis of an agreed approach unless changes are agreed with us in writing before the start of any site works.*

This brief has been produced for Team Aquarius, who will be responsible for the work, including any tendering and contractual arrangements. It sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements. The approach set out below aims to establish as far as possible the nature and extent of any features of archaeological interest likely to be affected at the earliest possible stage so that they can be preserved, or if necessary recorded before destruction. may be used to obtain estimates from archaeological contractors as required. It is designed specifically for this scheme and may differ from previous briefs supplied by us for other projects.

The Archaeology Unit will be pleased to comment on tenders submitted in confidence if required. Any tenders should be accompanied by a project design, statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

The work should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. Where archaeological work is conducted in response to a planning condition or is commissioned by the Highland Council itself, the Archaeology Unit may refuse to

accept work from, or otherwise take action against, archaeologists who fail to carry out work to these standards.

The area to be covered is the entire wayleave, and includes any proposed ancillary works unless otherwise indicated.

The brief is based on documents supplied at the time it was issued. However briefs have to be updated from time to time, so if any of these details do not apply when site works start, or fieldwork commences more than a year from the date below, please contact us to request the latest version.

Before site works start, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work should be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist in writing.

3) Objectives

To identify the location, nature and extent of any features or objects of archaeological importance that would be damaged or destroyed by this project.

To assess the likelihood of buried as well as surface remains, and indicate any areas of particular sensitivity.

To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible (or recording where necessary) of any archaeological features or finds identified. These arrangements will need to be agreed by the Senior Archaeologist before the start of site clearance works.

To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the project.

4) Method

a) Desk-based Assessment

An initial check of all relevant archaeological records and aerial photographs held in Inverness and Edinburgh will be needed. At least the following sources should be checked:

- *The Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)*
- *The Highland Council Archives*
- *The National Monuments Record*
- *any locally held private archives*
- *any aerial photographic coverage*

b) Walk-over survey and photographic record

A walk over survey of the project area will be needed to enable identification of any upstanding remains, from any period (including 19th and 20th century features of historic interest, such as military or industrial archaeology). All individual features should be photographed and the features themselves and the location and direction of all photographs taken should be marked on a 1:2500 plan, keyed by means of Grid References to the Ordnance Survey mapping.

The archaeologist should mark the limits of all features on the ground by temporary boundary flags or tape set at least 5m out from the nearest visible feature edge. This should help to avoid accidental damage by contractors or machinery on site.

c) *Watching brief*

- (a) In general it is expected that watching briefs will only be required in particular locations rather than on the entire project. The requirement will usually arise from the results of the initial desk-based and walkover surveys. Where these indicate a need for a watching brief on site clearance and excavations, this will be drawn to the attention of Team Aquarius by the archaeologist at the earliest opportunity.
- (b) Archaeological watching briefs are carried out to ensure that any finds or features of importance found during site works can be recorded to professional standards with minimum delay to the construction project. Contractors and others undertaking the site works will therefore need to work closely with the archaeologist and provide all necessary access and other arrangements. They may need to use differing work practices on site than usual to enable the archaeologist to complete the work.

For example,

- Where excavating machinery is used, a straight-edged bucket must be used on a back acting machine. Care will need to be taken to avoid over excavation, and the advice of the archaeologist on-site should be adhered to on this.
 - Archaeologists may need to get quickly into recently cleared areas and this may mean that drivers of excavators may sometimes need to wait briefly, or switch to working other areas.
 - Each excavating machine needs to be watched by at least one archaeologist at all times (1:1 ratio). Work should not begin on site until this cover has been set up.
- (c) Because the archaeologist must be able to record any archaeological remains encountered during the work to professional standards, site clearance works may take slightly longer than normal. It is usually possible however to work around this if the schedule is flexible enough to allow minor changes. This should be allowed for in the development project timetable.
 - (d) Very occasionally more extensive excavation may be needed to record unexpectedly important or extensive features. Such finds or features must not be disturbed until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. For this reason, any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or other unexpected occurrences which might significantly affect the archaeological work and /or the development must be notified by the archaeologist immediately to Team Aquarius and to the Archaeology Unit.
 - (e) Once topsoil stripping and site excavations are complete, and any archaeology has been recorded, there should be no need for further archaeological work in these areas. However the full wayleave will need to be included in the watching brief.

d) *Report*

A report must be produced which sets out the results of the work and proposes appropriate arrangements for the safeguarding where possible (or recording where necessary) of any objects or features identified. These arrangements must be agreed by the Council's Senior Archaeologist before the start of site clearance works.

5) *Monitoring*

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with Archaeology Unit staff. We monitor projects as necessary to ensure that, as far as possible, minimum standards are met. This is usually 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 by the archaeologist contracted to carry out the work.

6) Reporting

a) Project report

The archaeologist appointed is responsible for producing a report on the work, *and for making sure copies have been received by the recipients listed below*. We require archaeologists to submit satisfactory reports within the agreed deadline.

At least **six** copies of the project report must be produced. These must be submitted to all of the following **within 3 weeks** of the completion of the field work.

- At least one paper copy for Team Aquarius, Aquarius House, 22 Longman Drive, Inverness IV1 1SU.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Senior Librarian Information Co-ordinator, Libraries Support Unit, 31a Harbour Road, Inverness IV1 1UA. This will be available for public consultation through the public library service.
- One paper copy to be deposited with the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB.
- Two copies for the Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX :
 - One paper copy
 - One copy of the complete report in Adobe Acrobat format (ie a pdf file). This can be supplied by email or on a computer disc. Please ensure that all drawings and photographs are included in the digital copy.

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 material generated by the project including its location.
- A brief 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.
- General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project.
- A set of colour slides illustrating the project progress from start to completion.
- A list of finds, set out in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting. Copies of the necessary forms are obtainable if required from the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology), Museum & Art Gallery, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EB.

b) Presentation

Where significant archaeology has been found, this specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results, to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. This is the responsibility of the archaeologist appointed who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work. Arrangements should be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

c) DES

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland. This is also the responsibility of the archaeologist appointed who should allow for any costs when estimating for the work.

d) Copyright

The Council will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. However, the Archaeology Unit reserves the right to make the report available for reference and research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. The completed report will be made available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record, and through the public library service. The Archaeology Unit will acknowledge copyright in all cases.

7) Finds

Chance finds can be made during any archaeological fieldwork. Advice and facilities for emergency conservation and temporary storage can be offered by Inverness Museum on consultation with the Conservation Officer and Assistant Curator (Archaeology). A list of services and table of costs are available from the museum.

Archaeologists undertaking fieldwork should notify the Council's Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum, before the start of site works. The Assistant Curator will in turn notify local museums of the fact that there is archaeological work ongoing in the area.

The archaeologist should notify all finds for Treasure Trove before the report is submitted. A finds list, in the required format for Treasure Trove reporting, must also be attached to and submitted with the report.

8) General

The archaeologist appointed agrees by undertaking this work to the terms of this brief, including the following:

He or she will:

- carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist.
- take all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurance.
- not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist.
- fully allow for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

The main contractor on site has overall responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.

This brief has been produced by the Highland Council's Senior Archaeologist, to whom any enquiries should be addressed. No one else has authority to vary its terms.

John Wood

Senior Archaeologist

Tuesday, 3 September 2002