Report of Archaeological Desktop & Walkover Survey
Black Isle Water Mains Renewal Project
NH 55697/60477 - NH 58618/67332.

Client: Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water

By
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Non-Technical Summary

Stuart Farrell was commissioned by Halcrow Group Ltd in late March 2005 to undertake an archaeological desktop and walkover survey for the Black Isle Water Mains Renewal Project. This report forms part 1 of 2 reports, being section Q-R.

Work revealed a number of previously unrecorded archaeological sites to include buildings, farmsteads, and an area of rig & furrow cropmarks.

Recommendations have been made for a number of sites, to include archaeological watching briefs being required.
1. Introduction
This report is for an archaeological desktop and walkover survey conducted for Halcrow Group Ltd on behalf of Scottish Water by the author for the Black Isle Water Mains Renewal Project, Highland. This report is for the section between Dingwall and Assynt Water Treatment Works.

The fieldwork was conducted on the 11th of April 2005.

2. Acknowledgements
I would like to thank the following for their help during the work:
- Mr. A Barnett, of Halcrow Group Ltd;
- Mr. A Ross, of Halcrow Group Ltd;
- Staff of Highland Council Archaeology Unit;
- Staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland;
- Staff of the National Monuments Record of Scotland;
- Staff of Highland Council Archives;
- Staff of the National Library of Scotland, Map room.

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3. Objectives

To conduct a desktop and walkover survey to record those features that would be affected by the new proposed water renewals scheme, new scheme is to follow close to the existing pipeline to allow for connections. This survey to follow those guidelines as proposed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999).

4. Archaeological Survey

Desktop & Walkover Results

A desktop survey was conducted using the following sources:
- Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record;
- National Monuments Record of Scotland, Edinburgh;
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland – aerial photograph collection;
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh (Maps);
- Highland Council Archives;
- Inverness Library.

Aerial photographs, in particular had quite good coverage though was partially limited due to scale. Map coverage was also limited as the 1st edition of 1870’s was almost the same as the 2nd of 1905/6 and little survey work has been carried out in detail in the 20th century, with the next edition being late 1960’s. Early historical maps of the area do not provide enough detail for the proposed route.

No archaeological survey work has previously been conducted to the area of the proposed pipeline.

The following 18 archaeological sites were to be found on the route or close to the pipeline (existing pipeline is highlighted in red on the accompanying maps with sites numbered). Grid references on-site were obtained using a Garmin II GPS using OS data. Sites are as follows:

HSMR – Highland Sites and Monuments Record
NMRS - National Monuments Record of Scotland
N/a – not available

Recommendations are given after each site.

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The following 18 archaeological sites were to be found close to the existing pipeline (existing pipeline is highlighted in red on the relevant maps with sites numbered). Sites are as follows:

1 – Lemlair
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5740/6241
Type – Sheepfold

Walkover reveals recent building of wood with corrugated-iron roof, with concrete floor.
Recommend that site be avoided.

Below: View of site facing N.

2 – Mains of Foulis
HSMR – NH56SE 74
NMRS – NH56SE 2.02
Grid Ref: NH 58744/64199
Type – Steading
Status – Listed B
Noted in HSMR and NMRS of ‘late 19th century, 2 storey, 4-bay house with earlier 3-bay core’. Visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4212) as a complex of buildings, visible on aerial photographs of 1962 (F22 - 146).

Walkover reveals farm still in operation.

Recommend that site be avoided.

3 – Lowerpark Cottage
HSMR – NH56NE 45
NMRS – NH56NE 44
Grid Ref: NH 5888/6605
Type – Building
Noted in HSMR and NMRS of ‘A single unroofed building is depicted on the 1st edition OS (Ross & Cromarty, 1880, sheet 65), but is not shown on the current OS 1:10,000 sheet (1992)’. Nothing visible on aerial photographs of 1946 (3093) or 1965(17). Later photograph shows line of existing pipeline to go through right through this location.

Walkover reveals no visible remains, grass field only.

No recommendations to be made.

4 – Carn Liath or Upper Park
HSMR – NH56NE 6
NMRS – NH56NE 6
Grid Ref: NH 5893/6655
Type – Chambered Cairn
Status – Scheduled Ancient Monument
Noted in HSMR and NMRS of ‘Carn Liath (Name Book 1875), an Orkney-Cromarty type round cairn, occupies a prominent position on top of a ridge. The site has formerly been planted with trees and enclosed within a circular wall which skirted edge of cairn by a few feet. It has been much robbed and disturbed, but still stands up to 5’ or 6’ high. It measures 74’ x 80’, but it has possibly been enlarged by field-gathered stones on S side. Entrance has been from ENE. Nine feet from cairn edge, there is a low stone which is probably N stone of a pair of portal stones at entrance to passage. A large slab, 11’9” to W, also set transversely (though slightly askew) to axis of monument, appears to be N member of another pair of portal stones. To W, near centre of cairn, are remains of chamber, the interior hollowed out but not to ground level. The chamber seems to have been unusually large, about 11’ x 15’, and the split slabs used for its construction are notable for their size. Henshall (1972). Visited by OS 1970 & 1976’.

Visible on aerial photographs of 1946 (4371 & 4372) and 1965(17).

Walkover reveals cairn situated in ploughed field on ridge and covered with bracken.

Recommend that route go to west side of site; Also that Historic Scotland be notified of work close to SAM and that a watching brief be conducted along this section of pipeline.

Below: View of site facing E.

5 – Assynt Water Mains
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – NH56NE 55
Grid Ref: NH 586/573
Type – Watching brief

Noted in NMRS of ‘A desk-based assessment, walkover survey and monitoring of six test pits were undertaken in May 2002 in advance of a proposed enlargement to the clear water tank at Assynt, near Alness. There has been extensive disturbance around the site of the existing tank and much of the area proposed for development is under forestry or has been recently cleared of trees’. (Coleman, 2002)

Work on the monitoring of the test pits revealed area heavily disturbed by existing work and no archaeological deposits being revealed.

A further watching brief was undertaken by J Wordsworth in 2002, but at time of desktop survey report not available in HSMR. Not recorded in NMRS.

Walkover reveals construction currently underway.

No recommendations to be made.
6 – Cladh Churadain or St. Curitan’s Graveyard

HSMR – NH56NE 2
NMRS – NH56NE 2
Grid Ref: NH 585/673
Type – Graveyard
Status – Scheduled Ancient Monument
Noted in HSMR and NMRS of ‘Thought to be associated with the chapel of Fyrish, one of 3 chapels in the parish. Dedicated to Curitan, an 8th century Bishop of Rosemarkie. Site discovered in 1899 of a small banked enclosure, 28m square in a hollow in woodland. To the SW side of the enclosure is a bank about 14m long. In 1904 (Watson) thought site to have been used in living memory. Site has previously been planted’.

Watson (1904) also noted the site had both carved and inscribed stones. Nothing visible on aerial photographs of 1946 (4371 & 4372) or 1965(7).

Walkover reveals construction currently underway on area of tank.

No recommendations to be made as pipeline well away from site.

7 – Lemlair

HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH5710/6219
Type – Dam
Mill Dam and sluice marked on 1st edition OS with lade heading to Lemlair Farm. Area visible as rough ground on aerial photograph of 1946 (4208) and 1981 (11) and 1975 (780).

Walkover reveals no trace of site, area ploughed field.

No recommendations to be made.

8 – Katewell

HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5901/6545 (centred)
Type – Farmstead
4 roofed buildings marked on 1st and 2nd edition OS. Site is comprised of following:
A – NH 5901/6541 – roofed rectangular building on aerial photograph of 1946 and 1972 (259) and OS 1:10,000 map sheet of 1992. Marked as unroofed on latest OS.
B – NH 5901/6548 – L-shaped building partly roofed on OS 1:10,000 map sheet of 1992. Visible as unroofed on aerial photograph of 1946 (3092) and 1972 (259).
C – NH 5896/6544 – Rectangular unroofed building on aerial photograph of 1946 (3092) and 1972 (259) when gable to NW has gone. Not depicted on OS 1:10,000 map sheet of 1992.

Recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (Parish of Kiltearn, Bk1, page 62) as ‘A farmhouse and steading the property of Major Munro, Ardullie Lodge’.

Walkover reveals ruins of farmstead. Building C is 6m x 15m with walls 0.45m wide and gable at SE to height of 3m. Building B of 3 compartments 4.5m x 13m (NE range) with NW range 4.5m x 9m with walls 0.6m wide and up to 1.5m high. Building A only gable remains 5m wide and 3m high.

Recommend that site be avoided.
9 – Lemlair
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5710/6202
Type – Building
Not marked on 1st or 2nd edition OS. Unroofed building on 1:10,000 OS map of 1987. Not visible on aerial photograph of 1946 (4029) or 1975 (780) or 1981 (11) due to woodland.

Walkover reveals area of woodland only.
No recommendations to be made.

10 – Mountfield
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5670/6135 (centred)
Type – Rig & Furrow (cropmarks)
Area of rig & furrow visible on aerial photographs of 1976 (61) to western field. Also visible clearly on colour aerial photographs of 1975 (780 & 781). Not visible on earlier aerial photographs.

Forms part of Mountfield Farm (NMRS NH56SE 33), nearby Mountfield House being built circa 1800.

Walkover reveals grass fields only, no trace of rig & furrow. Fields are on a steep south-facing slope.
Recommend that route go to N side of road. If this is unavoidable a watching brief is to be undertaken in this area.

11 – Ochtobeg
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5703/6271
Type – Buildings
2 roofed houses marked on 1st edition OS, not depicted on 2nd or later editions.

Recorded in the Ordnance Survey Name Book (Parish of Kilteam, Bk1, page 91) as 'Two small dwelling houses on the edge of the hill north of Lemlair House the property of Mr. Munro Esq Swordale'.

Walkover not made as well away from existing route.

No recommendations to be made.

12 – Mains of Foulis
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 58750/64544
Type – Fountain
Marked as fountain on 1st edition OS, marked as cistern on 2nd edition OS. Marked but not named on latest OS map.

Walkover reveals site to lie in ploughed field, not visited.

Recommend that site be avoided.

13 – Teachatt
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5889/6504
Type – Building, Garden
T-shaped roofed building on 1st edition OS, with enclosed garden to SE. Not marked on 2nd edition OS or later editions.

Walkover reveals no trace of site, area ploughed field.
No recommendations to be made.

14 – Teachatt
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5888/6523
Type – Mill Dam (overshoot)
Marked on 1st edition OS with lade to W and SW. Only ‘Mill Dam’ on 2nd edition OS. Not marked on latest OS.

Walkover reveals no trace of site, area ploughed field.

No recommendations to be made.

15 – Lowerpark
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5865/6626
Type – Building, Wells
Roofed rectangular building with 2 wells depicted on 1st edition OS. Roofed on 2nd edition OS but only 1 well. Not marked on latest OS.

Walkover reveals slight traces only, full access not possible due to recently planted field.

Recommend that site be avoided.

16 – Carn Liath
HSMR – NH56NE 54
NMRS – NH56NE 24
Grid Ref: NH 5882/6610
Type – Footbridge
Noted in HSMR and NMRS of ‘Footbridge crossing the Black rock river. Probably modern, construction type unknown. This has been a desk-based assessment area’.

Walkover reveals modern concrete and steel bridge carrying existing water mains.

No recommendations to be made.

Below: View of bridge facing N.
17 – Cladh Thuradain
HSMR – NH56SE 74
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5854/6739
Type – Earthwork
Noted in HSMR of ‘Linear earthwork running N-S across the path to the E of the Chapel on the 1st edition OS’. Not marked on 2nd edition OS or later editions.

Walkover reveals construction currently underway on area of tank, site not visited.

*No recommendations to be made as pipeline well away from site.*

18 – Burn of Foulis
HSMR – N/a
NMRS – N/a
Grid Ref: NH 5822/6374
Type – Saw Mill
Rectangular roofed building on 2nd edition OS, named as ‘saw mill’. Not depicted on 1st edition OS or later editions.

Walkover reveals remains of wheel pit of sandstone blocks in area of scrub woodland. Likely that mill was a wooden building. No trace of machinery.

*Recommend that site be avoided.*

*Below: View of site facing N.*

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5. Conclusions

Overall most of the sites revealed relate to existing farming landscape with the occasional prehistoric site. Though a majority of these sites have been removed through agricultural improvements especially in the post Second World war period.

Any unexpected archaeological discoveries made during construction work should be notified to the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.

Any finds made of human remains during construction work should be reported to the police and the Highland Council Archaeology Unit.
6. Archive
A copy of this report is to be deposited in the National Monuments Record in Edinburgh and the Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record.

7. Discovery & Excavation in Scotland
A short summary of the results of this project will be submitted to the Council for Scottish Archaeology’s publication *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland*.

8. References

Highland Council Sites and Monuments Record database.


National Monuments Record of Scotland CANMORE database.

Ordnance Survey Name Book of the Parish of Kiltearn in the County of Ross-shire.


Maps Consulted


Ordnance Survey maps NH56NE, NH56SE for 1991-1996 1:10,000.

Aerial Photographs Consulted

RAF 106G/Scot/UK 114 23-5-1946 1:10,000
4205-4213, 3092-3094, 4372-4371

RAF 58/RAF/1424 14-8-1962 1:10,000
F21/148-145, F22/147-145 (Only covers North part of route)

OS OS/76/97 59-63 21-6-1975 1:7,500
OS OS/81/89 12-6 23-8-1981 1:7,900
OS OS/72/219 259 14-7-1972 1:10,000
OS OS/65/014 16-17, 6-7 3-4-1965 1:10,000

Fairey 7343/32 783-786 17-5-1975 1:10,000
(Only covers coast)