An Archaeological Watching Brief (Phase 1)
At Achabeag, Ardtornish Estate,
Morvern, Lochaber, Highland.

For Ardtornish Estate.

30th November 2011.

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1. Abstract.
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of two house sites at Achabeag, Morvern, Lochaber, Highland (NGR NM 65070 45330). This is part of a larger development of 20 houses, which are being constructed in phases, so that this report is concerned only with Phase 1: House Sites 1 and 2.

The watching brief was required under the terms of a specification (LO-09-333), issued by the Archaeology Unit of the Highland Council Planning and Development Service, as part of the planning application. (See Appendix B)

The specification was issued on account of the site’s proximity to prehistoric remains, specifically a kerb cairn, which is protected as a scheduled ancient monument within an area 28m by 20m. (HER Ref. MHG 475)

All groundworks at Site 2 were observed by the writer on 18\textsuperscript{th} and 28\textsuperscript{th} October 2011. A short fragment of a field wall, associated with the 18\textsuperscript{th} /early 19\textsuperscript{th} century township of Achabeg was revealed on the South edge of the site. This was part of a wall, recorded in a survey in 2006, Site 2006/50d. It was accompanied by a small quantity of 19\textsuperscript{th} century pottery sherds. No other features or finds were uncovered. The topsoil had previously been mistakenly stripped from House Site 1 without the writer’s knowledge.

2. Introduction.
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Ardtornish Estate Ltd, during the excavation of two house sites at Achabeag, Morvern, Lochaber, Highland (NGR NM 65070 45330) (OS 1:10.000 Sheet NM64NW). (See Fig 1: Location Map)
A preliminary phase of desk-based research was carried out to assess the potential for archaeology in the vicinity of the house-sites. The watching brief was carried out by the writer on 18th and 28th October 2011, when the building contractor was Kenneth MacIver, Ardgour.

The house sites are situated on the SW shore of Morvern peninsula, on the NE side of the B849 road from Lochaline to Drimnin. They lie at a height of 60m OD, at the foot of a steep rocky slope.

3.1. Desk-based Assessment.
A preliminary phase of desk-based research assessed the potential for archaeology in the vicinity of the house-sites. The sources consulted included:

3.1.1. Sites and Monuments Registers.
a) The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), held by RCAHMS, John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX, available on www.rcahms.gov.uk
b) The Historic Environment Record (HER), held by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit, Planning and Development Service, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX, available on www.ambail.org

Four sites were previously recorded with relevance to the survey area:

1. HER Ref. MHG 475 Kerb Cairn, Achabeg. NGR NM 64880 45320
   NMRS Ref. NM64NW.5.
   Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 7782
   "Situated on a terrace on the N side of the road from Lochaline to Drimnin, about 150m SE of Achabeg, is a mutilated turf-covered cairn (noted as a stone circle by Argyll County Council in 1914). It is about 0.50m high and its perimeter is marked by a kerb of sixteen close-set stones, up to 0.90m high, giving a diameter of 5.30m. In the S arc there is a break of 2.50m in the kerb. Two loose slabs within the cairn may have come from here."

2. HER Ref. MHG 566 Township, Achabeg. NGR NM 65400 45400
   NMRS Ref. NM64NE.15
   "Outlines of six houses, occupied by 1755, when there were other houses at NM 656 456. There were 10 houses in the mid-19th century, which were cleared in 1865."

3. HER Ref. MHG 466 Shieling Hut, Eiligear. NGR NM 67000 47000
   NRNS Ref. NM64NE.6
   "The main shieling sites of the area covered by Achabeg, Keil, Knock and probably Achafors are located at NM 662 469, NM 667 477 (Poulivan), NM 671 478 (Pouligou) and NM 677 472 at 900m OD"

4. HER Ref. MHG 36576 Achabeg Cottage. NGR NM 74740 45410
   NMRS NM64NW.24

3.1.2. Maps.
a) William Roy’s Map of Scotland, 1747-55. (Scran at RCAHMS)
b) George Langlands: Plan of Achnahaw Achabeg Keil and Knock belonging to his Grace the Duke of Argyll taken in July 1788. (NAS RHP 2971)
c) Alexander Langlands: Plan of Achnahaw Achabeg Keil and Knock, Summer of 1815 (NAS RHP 2993)
e) OS 1st Ed. 6" Map Sheet: Argyllshire lxx, surveyed 1872-8, pub. 1880.
h) OS 1:10,000 Sheet NM64NW, 1974.
i) OS Explorer 383 Morvern & Lochaline, 1:25,000, 2002.

3.1.3. Archives.
a) Lochaber archives:
   Census of Morvern
b) National Archive of Scotland (NAS):
   Langlands Maps (see above)
c) Ardtornish Estate Archives:
An archaeological survey of the area between the Savary River and Allt Nan Gall was undertaken by the writer in 2006 and identified 59 archaeological sites, comprising a total of 96 individual features. They included the kerbed cairn at Achabeg but most of the sites consisted of remains pertaining to the abandoned townships of Achnaha and Achabeg. These comprised remains of stone and turf houses and smaller structures, associated with earthen dykes and enclosures, all overlain by a later field system of rectilinear stone walls. (See Appendix A: Extract from gazetteer)

3.1.4. Aerial Photographs.
Aerial photographs were consulted in the RCAHMS Air Photo Unit:
a) 106G/UK/101; Date 19.5.1946; Scale 1:10,000; Frames 3441-3435.
b) OS/68/105; Date 8.5.1968; Scale 1:10,000; Frames 013, 016, 019, 022, 025, 028.
c) OS/72/080; Date 22.4.1972; Scale 1:7.500; Frames 349-354.

3.1.5. Published Sources.
Cregeen, Eric: Argyll Estate Instructions, Mull, Morvern and Tiree, 1771-1805, (Scottish History Society), Edinburgh, 1964
Gillies: The Place-Names of Argyll, 1906.
Napier Commission: Condition of the crofters and cottars in the highlands and islands of Scotland, Report of her Majesty’s Commission of Inquiry, 1884.
Innes, C. ed.: Origines Parochiales Scotiae, 1851-5.
RCAHMS: Inventory of Argyll Volume 3 Mull, Tiree, Coll and Northern Argyll, HMSO, 1980

4. Historical Background.
The archaeological watching brief was deemed necessary because of the proximity of the site to prehistoric remains, notably the kerbed cairn of Achabeg, situated immediately above the Lochaline to Drimnin road at NM 64880 45320. (HER Ref. MHG 475; NMRS ref. NM64NW.5; Robertson, 2006, Site 2006/ 41) This cairn is particularly well-preserved, warranting its scheduled status, with an almost continuous retaining kerb, 5.30m in diameter. It is, however, almost engulfed by gorse, which will be removed as part of the present housing development.
The cairn, probably dating to the Bronze Age, is one of a series along the SW coast of Morvern, from Rhemore in the NE to Rubha Dearg, about 1.75km to the SE. ¹

Some occupation of the area may have continued in the later prehistoric period, though any extant sites are concentrated in the northern end of the peninsula. The nearest is Dun Fhionnairidh, an Iron Age dun, about 3.75km to the NW at NM 61490 46890. (NMRS Ref. NM64NW.2; HER Ref. MHG 472)

Some settlement may have been established in the vicinity in the Early Christian period, contemporary with the foundation of a church at Kiel, the site of which is said to have been selected by St Columba. However, there is no archaeological evidence in the immediate area; two early Christian grave markers were found at Killundine, 7.5km to the NW while the earliest remains at Kiel Church date to the late Medieval period.

Achabeg first enters the documentary record in 1494, when “Achenbeg” along with other lands in Morvern was granted to John McGilleoun [McLean] of Lochbuie. (Innes, 1851-5, 191) The first clear evidence of settlement in the area is in the “Inventory of the Inner Hebrides Morvern and Arnamurchan”, compiled in the aftermath of the 1715 rebellion. (Maclean Bristol, 1998) This lists five male inhabitants at Achabeg, either Camerons or McLeans, four of whom had taken part in the recent rebellion. John McLea[n] had been forced to hand in his sword and durk while another John McLean had handed in his gun.

The inhabitants would have suffered during the 1745 rebellion as well, when the entire coast of Morvern, from Drimnin to Ardtornish, was set alight in March 1746 by Government troops, stationed offshore on HMS Terror. (Fergusson, 1951) Roy’s map, dating from 1747-55, shows two small clusters of houses at “Achbeg”, which

¹ Dun Ban at Rhemore NM 56900 50500 (NMRS Ref. NM55SE.9; HER Ref. MHG 282). Carn na Caoliche NM 57890 50310 (NMRS Ref. NM55SE.1, HER Ref. MHG 275; Scheduled Ref. 3390)
Two kerbed cairns at Killundine NM 58670 49690 (NMRS Ref. 54NE.2; HER Ref, MHG 261; Scheduled Ref. 7785)
Three cairns at Rubha Dearg:
1. NM 66270 44440 (NMRS Ref. NM64SE.2; HER Ref. MHG 481; Scheduled Ref. 7822)
2. NM 66420 44470 (NMRS Ref. NM64SE.3; HER Ref. MHG 482; Scheduled Ref. 7823)
3. NM 66170 44460 (NMRS Ref. NM64SE.4; HER Ref. MHG 483; Scheduled Ref. 7825
had developed into a sizeable settlement by 1788, when at least 17 buildings and seven enclosures were depicted on George Langlands map. (See Fig. 3)

By 1841, the population of 67 in eleven households included shoemakers, weavers, a tailor and a mason, as well as agricultural labourers. (1841 Census) The population of Achabeg and the small neighbouring settlement of Ardness reached a total of 75 in 1851, dropping slightly to 63 by 1861.

However, in 1865, as reported to the Napier Commission in 1883, the “well-to-do crofter population [of Achabeg and Knock], consisting of between twenty-five and thirty families … were evicted wholesale” owing to “some whim of the proprietrix”, Mrs Paterson, who had bought Lochaline Estate the previous year. (Napier Commission, 1884, 2288) Only one house at Achabeg was still occupied in 1871. (Census 1871)

Some remains of this sizeable settlement survive today. Much of the township lies within the Forestry Commission plantation to the East of the housing development. At least two sites identified in the First Edition Survey Project may have been part of Achabeg township: Allt Nan Gall building (HER Ref. MHG 35651) and Allt Nan Gall farmstead (HER Ref. MHG 35659). However, one substantial, though very dilapidated, stone house is recorded at NM 65064 45337, within the area of the present housing development. (Recorded as Site 2006/50c in 2006 survey)(See Figs. 4, 5 & 6)
This house, measuring 19.20m E-W by 5.90m, probably consisted of three compartments, with partitions 4.80m and 12.80m from the eastern end. It is accompanied by another wall (Site 2006/50d) situated to the South at NM 65057 45324 and a wall, (Site 2006/50g) running from the SW corner of the house to the base of a cliff at NM 65027 45348. Some of the latter was removed in the construction of an access road in a previous phase of development but the house has now been marked out on the ground to avoid any accidental damage during the present development.

Other possible sites of houses, earthen dykes and areas of rig and furrow may represent further vestiges of the Achabeg township. (See Appendix A: extract from 2006 survey) A wall of single boulders, (Site 2006/49) which currently marks the boundary between House Sites 1 and 2, is part of a later field system imposed on the earlier agricultural landscape. (See Fig. 6.)

5. The Archaeological Watching Brief.
The archaeological watching brief was carried out over two days by Jennifer Robertson.

5.1. 18th October 2011.
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the writer on 18th October 2011 in initially wet weather and poor visibility, with sunny spells later. The groundworks were carried out carefully and competently by the contractor, though a toothed bucket had to be substituted for the straight-edged bucket at the last minute, when the cable for the latter was holed.
5.1.1. House Site 1:
The topsoil was mistakenly stripped from this site without the writer's knowledge and
without an archaeological watching brief. An examination of the stripped site
revealed no evidence of archaeological features. Prior to the groundworks, this had
been an area of rig and furrow, Site 2006/50i. The perimeter of House Site 2 is
marked on the site plan, Fig 15, and is as follows:
NW corner: NM 65078 45350
SW corner: NM 65073 45326
SE corner: NM 65101 45335
E side: NM 65102 45346
NE corner: NM 65093 54366.

Fig. 7: House Site 1, after topsoil stripping, from NE corner at NM 65093 45366.

5.1.2. House Site 2.
The topsoil was removed from the eastern part of House Site 2 to a depth of 0.20m
to 0.30m down to an orangey-brown clay soil.

Fig. 8: Site 2 before excavation, from NNE. Fig. 9: E side of Site 2, from WSW.

Site 2006/50d.
Fragments of a wall, previously recorded in the 2006 survey, Site 2006/50d, were
uncovered, immediately under the surface vegetation, on the eastern edge of the
house site. In the walkover survey in 2006, a wall, running E-W for 11m from the
boulder wall, Site 2006/49, was recorded. At the western end, a fragment of stone
walling was visible on the surface, which was interpreted as part of the wall or a small
structure. The watching brief established that this was a wall, running roughly N-S,
probably from the house, Site 2006/50c and connecting with the E-W element at NM
65057 45324. Another fragment of this wall was visible on the edge of the house site.
at NM 65055 45317. (See Site Plan, Fig. 15) The wall was found to consist of only one or two courses of stone.

Fig 10: Fragment of wall, **Site 2006/50d** at NM 65056 45322, from S

Fig. 11: Fragment of wall, **Site 2006/50d** at NM 65055 45317, from W.

A small quantity of 19th century pot sherds was recovered from within the wall at NM 65057 45324. This wall may be interpreted as of local significance, associated with the adjacent house, Site 2006/50c. A short fragment was disturbed in the preparation of House Site 2 but the remainder is extant just below the surface vegetation.

**Site 2006/50e.**
In the 2006 walkover survey, a probably naturally level area at NM 65050 45315 was identified as a possible stance for a house, though there was no outline of a structure. This feature lies within House Site 2 and removal of the topsoil revealed no evidence for any structure.

**No new archaeological features or other small finds were recorded.**

**5.2. 28th October 2011.**
An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by the writer in dry, bright conditions. The groundworks were carried out carefully and competently by the contractor, using a straight-edged bucket.

Topsoil was removed from the whole site.

Fig. 12: Western part of House Site 2, before excavation, from SE.

Fig. 13: Removal of topsoil at West end of House Site 2, from W.
In the NE corner, an orangey brown stony subsoil was reached at a depth of 0.20m. In the SW corner a stony gravelly layer, atop the orangey brown stony subsoil, was reached at a depth of 0.20m. Small pockets of orangey brown soil reached depths of 0.60m only in the NE corner. **No further archaeological features or small finds were revealed.** The perimeter of House Site 2 is marked on the Site Plan, Fig. 15 and is as follows:

NE corner: NM 65054 45332  
E side: NM 65056 45319  
SE corner: NM 65052 45312  
S side: NM 65038 45308  
SW corner: NM 65030 45309  
NW corner: NM 65026 45334

![Image of House Site 2 after stripping, from NW.](image)

Topsoil was also stripped from the access track, running from House Site 2 at NM 65040 45334 to the new road at NM 65028 45339. Topsoil was stripped to a depth of 0.30m. **No archaeological features or small finds were revealed.**
Fig. 15: Plan of archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Achabeag housing development. House sites 1 and 2 are marked. Other numbers refer to the 2006 survey. (See Appendix A)
List of Photographs

18th October 2011
DSCF 4471 House Site 2 before topsoil stripping, from NNE (reproduced in the report as Fig. 8)
DSCF 4472 First scrape of topsoil on House Site 2 from NNE
DSCF 4473 East side of House Site 2 at NM 65047 45327, from N.
DSCF 4474 House Site 2 at NM 65042 45305, from WSW (reproduced as Fig 9 in the report).
DSCF 4475 Stone wall, Site 2006/50d, from SSE.
DSCF 4476 House Site 2, from NE.
DSCF 4477 House Site 2 at NM 65031 45328, from NE.
DSCF 4478 Stone wall, site 2006/50d, from N.
DSCF 4480 Stone wall, Site 2006/50d, from S (reproduced as Fig. 10 in the report)
DSCF 4481 Stone wall, Site 2006/50d, (close up) S end from E.
DSCF 4482 Stone wall, Site 2006/50d, (close up) N of DSCF 4481, from E.
DSCF 4483 Stone wall, Site 2006/50d, (close up) N of DSCF 4482, from E
DSCF 4484 Stone wall, Site 2006/50d, (close up) N end, from E.
DSCF 4485 Stone wall, Site 2006/50d, fragment at NM 65055 45317, from W (reproduced as Fig. 11 in the report)
DSCF 4486 House Site 1 after topsoil stripping from NE corner at NM 65093 45366 (reproduced as Fig. 7 in the report)

28th October 2011
DSCF 4534 The western end of House Site 2, before topsoil stripping, from W (reproduced as Fig. 12 in the report)
DSCF 4535 Topsoil stripping at western end of House Site 2, from W
DSCF 4536 Topsoil stripping at western end of House Site 2, from W
DSCF 4537 Topsoil stripping at western end of House Site 2, from W (reproduced as Fig. 13 in the report)
DSCF 4538 Topsoil stripping at Western side of House Site 2, from N.
DSCF 4539 Western end of House Site 2 after topsoil stripping, from NE
DSCF 4540 Western end of House Site 2 after topsoil stripping, from N.
DSCF 4541 NE side of House Site 2 after topsoil stripping, from W
DSCF 4542 Fragment of stone wall on edge of House Site 2, Site 2006/40d, from S
DSCF 4543 Topsoil stripping at South end of House Site 2, from W.
DSCF 4544 Topsoil stripping at South end of House Site 2, from W
DSCF 4545 Topsoil stripping at SE corner of House Site 2, from W
DSCF 4546 House Site 2 after topsoil stripping, from NW, (reproduced as Fig. 14 in the report)
Appendix A: Extracts from Gazetteer of Archaeological Sites, 2006

Site 41. Cairn.  NGR NM 64899 453321
A cairn, 5.30m in diameter and 0.50m in height, is situated on a gorse-filled terrace, immediately North of the B 849 road from Lochaline to Drimnin. It is retained within an almost continuous kerb, consisting of sixteen closely-set stones, up to 0.90m in height. The RCAHMS suggest that two loose slabs within the interior may have come from the single gap in the kerb, in the southern arc.
Refs: NMRS Ref. NM64NW.5
HER Ref. MHG 475
Scheduled Ancient Monument Ref. No. 7782.

Site 47. Possible site of house.  NGR NM 65138 45447
Situated on the top of a natural mound are hummocks and occasional lines of stones, which may represent the remains of a demolished house. The top of the mound measures 18m NW-SE by 5.50m and the possible wall may have been up to 0.50m in height, though no width was measurable.
Refs: NMRS Ref. NM64NE.15: Achabeg Township – may be part of
HER Ref. MHG 566: Achabeg Township – may be part of.

Site 48. Dyke and cultivation.
Site 48a. Earth and Stone Dyke.  NGR W end NM 65103 45472
E end (at fence) NM 65158 45469
An earth and stone dyke runs W-E from a steeply-sloping bank to the fence around Achabeg East House. An earthen bank, 0.80m in width, is revetted with a coursed stone wall, 1.10m in height, on the North side. The revetment is only visible for 11m at the NW end, though may be overgrown elsewhere.

Site 48b. Rig and Furrow.  NGR (centre) NM 65145 45461
An area of rig and furrow, 37m NW-SE by 23m, is situated between the possible house site, Site 47, and the earth and stone dyke, Site 48a. Rigs, 1.60m in width and 0.20m in height, run NW-SE, and are separated by furrows, 0.80m in width.

Site 48c. Ditches.  NGR (centre) NM 65144 45430
Four parallel reed-filled ditches, 0.20m in depth and 8m apart, run NW-SE between the possible house site, Site 47, and the earthen dyke, Site 50h.
Refs: NMRS Ref. NM64NE.15: Achabeg Township – may be part of
HER Ref. MHG 566: Achabeg Township – may be part of.

Site 49. Stone Wall.  NGR S end (at road) NM 65059 45291
at new road NM 65078 45349
A wall of single boulders runs SSW-NNE from the B 849 road (at NM 65059 45291) to the base of a rocky cliff. Since 2006, the NNE end of this section has been truncated by an access road and the wall now stops at NM 65078 45349. At the top of the cliff, the wall continues to the NNE to the edge of the forest plantation at NM This wall is part of a field system imposed, perhaps in the mid-19th century, on top of the earlier houses and earthen dykes of Achabeg and Achnaha. This later field pattern of more or less parallel strips is depicted on the OS 1st ed. Map of 1880, extending from Achanha in the West to Kiel and Lochaline Village in the East.
Refs: OS 1st ed. 6" map sheet Argyllshire lxx, surveyed 1872-8, publ. 1880.
Site 50.  Achabeg Township, part of.
Site 50a.  Possible Site of House.  NGR NM 65148 45375
A level area, roughly circular in plan and 6m in diameter, may have been a stance for a house, though no outline of any structure is visible. It is situated at the eastern end of rig and furrow, Site 50i.

Site 50b.  Mound – Possible site of house.  NGR NM 65152 45396
An overgrown mound, sub-circular in plan and measuring 10m N-S by 8m, may be the remains of a demolished house. It seems to be respected by the fragmentary earthen dyke, Site 50h.

Site 50c.  House.  NGR NM 65064 45337
A substantial, though very dilapidate house, is situated at the WNW end of a broad level terrace, which was also cultivated at one time, Sites 50i and 50j. The house, 19.20m WNW-ESE by 5.90m, is defined by overgrown walls of large stones and boulders. The walls measure 0.80m in width and up to 0.70m in height but are now almost swamped in bracken. The house is divided into three compartments by partition walls, 4.80m and 12.80m from the ESE end. Gaps in the South wall give access into each compartment, though these gaps are not necessarily original entrances. Two gaps in the North wall of the central compartment are more distinct and more likely to be original entrances, particularly the eastern gap, 7.0m from the ESE, which is flanked by large squared blocks of stone.

Site 50d.  Wall.  NGR W end NM 65057 45324  
E end NM 65069 45324
A low wall, 11m in length, 0.60m in width and 0.10m in height, runs westwards from the boulder wall, Site 49, at NM 65069 45324, 8m South of the house, Site 50c. At the western end it stops at a stone feature, which runs N-S for 2.70m. The latter may be a fragment of another wall, running N-S or a small structure.

Site 50e.  Possible Site of House.  NGR NM 65050 45315
A level, probably natural, platform situated to the South of the house, Site 50c, may have been a stance for a house. There are a few hummocks on the surface but no distinct outline of a structure.

Site 50f.  Mound.  NGR NM 65074 45336
An small overgrown mound, oval in plan and measuring 4.30m NNE-SSW by 2.80m and 0.20m in height, is situated immediately to the East of the wall, Site 49. Situated at the western end of the cultivated area, Sites 50i and j, it may have been a clearance cairn.

Site 50g.  Stone wall.  NGR SE end NM 65048 45339  
NW end NM 65027 45348
A low wall of irregular stones runs to the NW from the SW corner of the house, Site 50c. It turns to the NNW at NM 65029 45342 and continues to the base of a stony cliff at NM 65027 45348. Since 2006, an access road has cut through the NW end of this feature.

Site 50h.  Earthen Dyke.  NGR NW end NM 65120 45411  
SE end NM 65170 45399
An earthen dyke, 1.30m in width and 0.40m in height, runs NW for 11m from the fence around Achabeg East. After a gap of 24m partly occupied by the possible house, Site 50b, it continues for another 13m until it peters out at NM 65120 45411.
Site 50i. Rig and Furrow.  

An area of rig and furrow, 90m E-W by 40m, occupies a natural terrace between the boulder wall, Site 49, and the Achabeg East fence. The rigs measure 2.40m in width and 0.20m in height and are separated by furrows, 0.60m in width.

Refs: NMRS Ref. NM64NE.15: Achabeg Township – may be part of
HER Ref. MHG 566: Achabeg Township – may be part of.

Site 50j. Rig and Furrow.  

An area of rig and furrow, 60m WSW – ENE by 25m, is situated on a natural terrace, at a lower level than the terrace on which the rig and furrow, Site 50i, is situated. The rigs measure 1.20m in width and 0.30m in height.

HIGHLAND COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Erection of 20 houses at land to East of Achnaha, Lochaline, Morvern
(LO-09-333) NGR 164688 745466

1) Summary
This project may impact on valuable features of historic and archaeological importance. In view of the archaeological potential/sensitivity of the site, HCAU advised that archaeological mitigation is required. The implementation of this brief will meet the concerns raised.

This brief is for a Watching Brief which will enable any discoveries to be recorded quickly and efficiently as they appear with minimum delay or disruption to the development. If significant deposits are encountered, recommendations for further measures necessary to mitigate the impact of the development must be made.

This brief has been produced for Ardtornish Estate Company who will be responsible for the work and costs, including any tendering and contractual arrangements. This brief must be read with reference to the HCAU Development Guidance that sets out in detail who is responsible for what, as well as the terms of reference, objectives, method, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

The Development Guidance is available on our webpage at www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/conservation/archaeology or a printed copy is available from this office on request.

2) Archaeological Background
The application site lies in a wider area where prehistoric remains have been identified. Specifically a kerb cairn at Achabeg, protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lies within the application site. There is potential that further unrecorded buried remains survive within the application site and will be impacted by the proposed development.

3) Objectives
To identify and record any features or objects of archaeological importance that could be damaged or destroyed by this development, while minimising any delays or disruption to the development project.

4) Methodology
All fieldwork must be informed by a desk-based assessment undertaken in advance of the start of works.

Fieldwork
Archaeological monitoring (a Watching Brief) is required during all site groundworks for this application. Topsoil stripping of the building footprints, the access roads and all services (including the undergrounding of the overhead line) must be monitored by an archaeologist so that any buried archaeological features
can be identified, recorded and/or appropriate mitigation put in place to ensure their preservation.

All recovered artefacts and ecofacts must be subject to a programme of post-exavation analysis and the results incorporated into a final report.

The Archaeological Contractor must refer to the minimum standard requirements as laid out in HCAU Development Guidance. This brief itself is not comprehensive or definitive - tendering Archaeological Contractors will need to determine for themselves the methodology that will deliver the required product. This should be laid down in a Project Design (or Written Scheme of Investigation) and agreed with HCAU in advance of the start of site works. The start of archaeological work will be subject to the submission and approval of this document.

5) Schedule & Monitoring

The Archaeological Contractor is responsible for agreeing arrangements for monitoring with HCAU staff. We will monitor projects as necessary to ensure that minimum standards are met. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names, telephone numbers and arrangements for access must be given to HCAU by the Archaeological Contractor.

The Archaeological Contractor must make a short progress report (by telephone) to HCAU for every week of fieldwork undertaken. 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 Archaeological Contractor immediately to the applicant and HCAU. The finds or features must be left in situ until arrangements have been agreed for safeguarding or recording them. In the meantime work may continue on other areas of the site.

6) Products

Following completion of the fieldwork, an archive and report will be produced and disseminated according to the standards set out in the HCAU Development Guidance. The report should describe the nature of the field work undertaken; the conditions and limitations within which the work was carried-out; the results that were obtained and recommendations for mitigation and/or further work, as appropriate.

All work will be undertaken according to the Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists.

The brief has been produced specifically for this scheme based on documents supplied at the time it was issued. It is valid for one year from the date of issue. Where work is not carried out in full within that time, a revised specification may be issued.

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

Highland Council Archaeology Unit
www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/conservation/archaeology

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