

FAX TRANSMISSION

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To: John Wood, Highland
Archaeology Service

Date: 18 July 1997

Fax No.: 01463-711188

Pages: 6 including this cover sheet.

From: Dr Chris Lowe

Subject: Balblair evaluation

COMMENTS:

Costing and method statement for geophysical survey at Balblair attached. Copy to follow today in post.

Chris

**Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological
evaluation at Newhall Point, Balblair, Easter Ross**

Client: Highland Council Archaeology Service, on behalf of Mr G Fraser

July 18th 1997

**Headland Archaeology Ltd
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1. Summary & Introduction

1.1 An application has been received by the Highland Council (Application No. RC96573) for the erection of five houses at Newhall Point, Ballblair. Archaeological excavations by Reed (1995) in the plot immediately north of the application area uncovered a number of human burials bounded by a shallow circular ditch. These are thought to be associated with a pre-Reformation chapel which documentary evidence suggests was in the immediate area. There are no upstanding remains of the chapel.

1.2 The Highland Archaeologist has specified that prior to the proposed development initial archaeological works comprising a desk-based assessment of all documents and records pertaining to the application site and a geophysical survey of the area be carried out, given that the archaeological implications of the proposals cannot be adequately assessed on the basis of the available information.

2. Objectives and Strategy

2.1 As the proposed development would involve the destruction of any archaeological remains, the primary aim of this phase of the evaluation will be to gather sufficient information to establish the location and extent of the archaeological features within the proposed development area and, where possible, to characterise the archaeology thus located; specifically to precisely define the extent of the graveyard and to locate any associated buildings or other archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area.

2.2 The information from this phase will facilitate further informed decisions to be made regarding the appropriate fieldwork and/or mitigation strategy which might be required to fulfill any secondary stage of the phased evaluation.

3. Field Methodology

3.1 A geophysical survey using both fluxgate gradiometry and resistivity shall be carried out over the whole of the application site, an area of roughly 1.2 ha.

3.2 A Geometrics 858 fluxgate gradiometer taking readings at 0.5m intervals on traverses 1m apart shall be used for the gradiometric survey and a Geoscan RM40

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earth resistance meter for the resistivity survey. The mobile probe separation will be 0.5m and the remote probe separation 15m.

4. The Report

4.1 The final report shall contain a title page, summary of results, introduction, methods, results, conclusions, acknowledgements, references and appendices. A summary account will be submitted to *Discovery & Excavation in Scotland* at the appropriate time.

4.2 An interim report can be provided soon after the completion of the fieldwork if required.

4.3 Copies of the full report will be supplied to the client, the Highland Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record for Scotland.

5. Timetable

5.1 It is intended that the surveys will take in the region of 2-3 working days.

5.2 A verbal report can be made available within three days of the completion of the field-work. The final report will be completed within 15 days of the completion of the field-work.

6. Health and Safety

All of Headland's work is undertaken in accordance with current Health and Safety at Work legislation. Proper provision will be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland.

7. Insurance

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

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8. Monitoring

The work will be monitored under the auspices of the Highland Archaeologist to whom notice of at least two days should be given before the commencement of the work.

9. Project Team

The project will be managed by Dr Christopher Lowe (summary *curriculum vitae* attached: Appendix 2), who will also undertake the desk-assessment and the SMC application. The fieldwork will be undertaken by a specialist geophysical survey company, *Arkensol*. The survey will be supervised by Mr Alan Stapf, with the assistance of Michelle Graham. Their *curricula vitae* are available upon request.

10. Cost

The desk-assessment, geophysical survey and reporting are costed at £1,995 (exclusive of VAT). Full details of the costing are set out in Appendix 1.

Reference

Reed, D 1995 'The excavation of a cemetery and putative chapel site at Newhall Point, Balblair, Ross & Cromarty, 1985' *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 125 (1995), 779-791

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT COSTING

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION: BALBLAIR (BAL97)

Desk assessment & SMC	£ 200
Fieldwork	£ 1195
Reporting	£ 600
Total	£ 1,995

All prices are quoted exclusive of VAT