

J. Wood

Rec'd 1/21/99

**HILTON OF CADBOLL REPLICA STONE PROJECT
PHASE II VISITOR ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS**

**SCHEDULE OF WORKS FOR FOOTPATH FROM PARKING LAYBY ON
BALMUCHY ROAD TO MONUMENT SITE**

1. Remove roadside dyke and verge at A on Balmuchy road along a 6 metre length to provide an access entrance to footpath. Stockpile removed stones neatly at back of adjoining dyke. Excavate adjacent ground in field to provide an entrance area for footpath lowered to road level.
2. Construct approx 180m of new access footpath using traditional machine method of excavating path tray to approx 200mm and then filling with approx 150mm of sub-base compacted and a top surface of approx 50mm fine surfacing material formed into a camber and compacted as per the specification on the information sheet 6.7 ; 6.8 attached. Spoil from the path to be landscaped into the adjacent area. Please price per linear metre.
3. Footpath to be constructed to attached information sheet "BT Countryside for All Accessibility Standards for Urban and Formal Landscapes", 1.4m wide with landings on ramps, passing places and rest areas, from A on Balmuchy wood to E at Historic Scotland's Scheduled Ancient Monument Site via the bend at B, the existing gate at C, and the 2m wide existing opening in the field dyke at D. Please price per linear metre.
4. Construct 2m long wooden bridge 1.2m wide over the drainage ditch at E as per specification on attached information sheet 5.2 Sawn Timber Footbridge (C.C.S.). Bridge to have handrail on both sides and decking to be level with path. Bridge to be set either on stone or concrete pads. Ditch to be cleaned of debris and stones within section adjacent to two hawthorn trees. Detailed specification for bridge can be discussed on site.
5. Construct 1.2m wide return spring wooden gate positioned close to bridge at E to open into monument site end similar to specification on information sheet 4.8.4 attached. Please supply price for gate separately. Detailed specification and location can be discussed on site.
6. Construct 1.2m wide return spring wooden gate at access path entrance at A to open into field similar to specification on information sheet 4.8.4 attached. Please supply price for gate separately. Detailed specification and location can be discussed on site.
7. Cut back gorse in the area adjoining the top edge of the drainage ditch and remove existing fencing between P and Q to provide clear working area. Erect approx 20m of 2 wire and 1 barb fence as per the attached specification along adjusted top edge of drainage ditch from P (new strainer) to Q (new strainer). Please price per linear metre.
8. Take down existing gate, fencing, style and posts on the line ACQ.
9. Erect approx 180m of 2 wire and 1 barb fence to enclose the footpath construction area as per the attached specification. Fence to be erected from the existing 'sleeper' strainer at M to N (new strainer) and thence to PQ and kept a minimum of 3m separate from it. Please price per linear metre.
10. Erect a 3m wide galvanised steel gate at NP.

11. Construct a narrow ditch approx parallel to MNP from low point on road verge to allow water run-off to enter large drainage ditch. Please price per linear metre.
12. Take down existing redundant fencing at DE. Clean ditch of debris and any large stones within section adjacent to two hawthorn trees. All debris including cut branches and old fence wire to be removed off-site. Site visit will determine exact requirements.
13. Lay spare turfs as cope on top of refurbished field dyke at D between hawthorn trees (10 metres).

NOTE:

You should note that as the proposed footpath site is adjacent to the St Margaret's Chapel Scheduled Ancient Monument site at Hilton of Cadboll (which is in the Guardianship of Historic Scotland), the contract specification requires that a Highland Council archaeologist must be present at the site at all times during the footpath construction work. He/she may require that work is halted temporarily to allow for recording/removal of any archaeological remains/evidence that may be uncovered in the course of the work and which are considered to be of archaeological interest. It is entirely possible that the footpath construction work may uncover some item of interest which consequently may incur a slight delay to the Contractor's work programme. It is hoped, that in the event of such a situation arising, any disruption so caused would be kept to a minimum. The Contractor's co-operation with the Site Archaeologist is therefore vital to the success of the project.

R MURCHISON
Planning and Development Service

October '99



The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

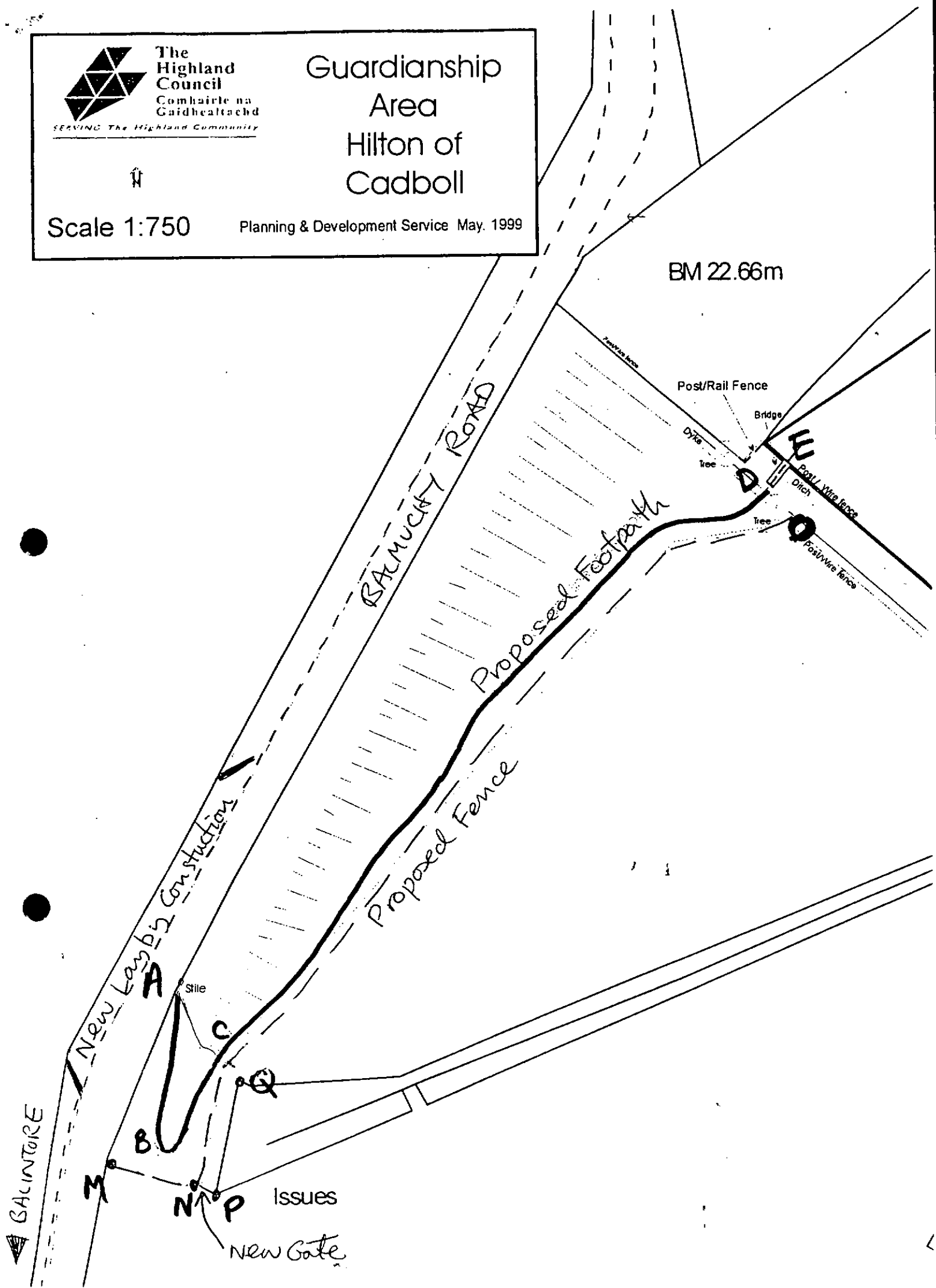
SERVING The Highland Community

Guardianship Area Hilton of Cadboll



Scale 1:750

Planning & Development Service May, 1999



Historic Scotland's
Properties in Care -
Minor Archaeological Works
1998

Hilton of Cadboll Chapel

3rd August 1998



ARCHAEOLOGY

Site Hilton of Cadboll Chapel

N.G.R NH 873 768

Project Description Excavation

Report

Attached

**EXCAVATIONS AT HILTON OF CADBOLL CHAPEL, ROSS AND CROMARTY,
JULY 1998**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work was carried out as part of the Historic Scotland Properties in Care Minor Archaeological Works, and the archaeologists were Jon Triscott and Paul Sharman. The hachured location plan (Fig. 1) was based on that in the Carver assessment, itself based on a Crown Copyright measured survey by the RCAHMS in 1997. Kirkdale Archaeology does not have the full reference for the Carver work, nor for the Bates and Durham survey included within it, but the use of this information in this report is freely acknowledged. The excerpt was supplied by Nick Bridgland, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic Scotland.

SUMMARY

An area of 6 square metres was excavated for Historic Scotland outside the west gable of the chapel at Hilton of Cadboll, Ross and Cromarty (NGR NH 873 768, Fig. 1). The purpose was to locate the base of the Pictish cross slab, now in the NMS, prior to the erection of a reproduction on the site. The base was not located, but the excavations revealed that the D-shaped 'annexe' against the W gable was probably the result of 19th-century disturbance. Some of the sculpted debitage from the re-dressing of one face of the cross slab in the late 17th century was retrieved.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The grassed-over chapel site at Hilton of Cadboll, Ross and Cromarty (NGR NH 873 768), consists of a subrectangular building 12 m E-W x 6.5 m N-S within a sub-rectangular enclosure along with other earthworks. A semicircular feature at the W end of the building was interpreted by RCAHMS as an annexe and the probable original site of the Pictish cross slab now in the NMS (RCAHMS 1979, 26). The origin of the cross slab is by no means certain, it having been moved at least twice in its history, the evidence for which is summarised in M O H Carver's assessment (including a dowsing survey by D L Bates and J Durham) of the Hilton area, an excerpt of which was provided by Nick Bridgland of HS Inspectorate. The 1st edition O S places the cross at the W end of the chapel, but its last position before being sent south was actually on a modern base in the grounds of Invergordon Castle, to

where it was moved in the second half of the 19th century. Only one side of the Hilton of Cadboll cross slab survives, the other having been reworked as an inscribed tombstone in the late 17th century. Stylistically, the surviving face with its panels of interlace, a hunting scene, double disc, crescent and V-rod and inhabited vine scroll (fully described in Allen & Anderson 1903, 61-3), has been assigned to the Class II group of Pictish sculpture and dated to the late 8th or early 9th century AD (Close-Brooks 1995, 122-3).

2.0

THE EXCAVATION

The brief, under Kirkdale Archaeology's call-off contract with Historic Scotland, was to locate the last position of the cross (before its removal to Invergordon Castle) by investigating with a 4 square metre trench the hypotheses that the cross was erected at the W gable of the chapel, and that the base was still in place with the bottom of the stone still left in the socket. These hypotheses appear to be based on the 1st edition O S, the RCAHMS interpretation of the semi-circular feature at the W end of the chapel as the site of the stone, local tradition and a dowsing and shallow probing survey.

Initially, an area of 2 x 2 m was opened immediately outside the W gable of the chapel and central to its E-W axis. This was subsequently expanded with a 2 x 1 m extension to the S. Care was taken to minimise damage to the archaeology because of the sensitive nature of the site. Therefore it was decided that only the levels above the surface on which the tumble from the W gable rested should be excavated, because this seemed to be the most likely level at which to find the cross base if the hypotheses on its position were correct. This would avoid intrusion into Pictish or medieval stratigraphy.

The trench, which was backfilled and re-turfed, was excavated by trowel and recorded using notes, *pro forma* context sheets, photography and scale drawings. All finds were retained, with the exception of lumps of mortar, samples of which were retained. The OS benchmark on the brow of the hill above the site was not visible, so a temporary bench mark (TBM) with a notional value of 100 m was used, positioned on top of the NW corner fence post of the fencing surrounding the site. The work was executed between the 8th and 10th July, 1998.

2.1

DESCRIPTION

001, the 0.05-0.15 m thick mole-disturbed turf and grey sandy topsoil was removed, revealing 002, a layer of loose rubble with a matrix of grey, slightly silty sand. The rubble itself comprised mostly angular flaggy schistose stone with occasional sandstone and beach cobbles, 0.05 x 0.05 x 0.02 - 0.35 x 0.20 x 0.10 m in size. 002 also contained occasional small lumps of shelly lime mortar, fragments of 19th-century pottery and a fragment of a sandstone vaulting rib. Below 002 and at the base of the steep slope down from the gable was 003, a deposit of loose angular stone, 0.05 - 0.15 m in size and similar in types to 002, with a matrix of mid brown silty sand. 003 appeared to fill a slight depression and some of the smaller stones were on edge around the margins of the deposit. E of 003 and over the base of 004 was a 0.10 m thick, 0.30 - 0.60 m wide deposit of soft, mid brown-grey slightly silty sand with moderate stone and occasional mortar fragments - 005. 003 lay on top of and 005 overlapped the side of a linear feature running N-S across the trench. The feature consisted of a 0.20 m deep, 0.60 m wide cut with shallow sides and a flat base - 008 - filled with 006, a deposit of stone, similar to 002 in the mixture of type, shape and size, but with a compact matrix of orange-brown sandy clay.

To the E, forming the upper part of the slope down from the W gable of the chapel, was 004, a 0.10-0.50 m thick heap of rubble with a matrix of firm orange-brown sandy clay. The stone, like 002, comprised mostly angular flaggy schistose stone with occasional sandstone and beach cobbles, 0.01 x 0.05 x 0.08 - 0.40 x 0.35 x 0.120 m in size. Finds from 004 included fragments of shelly lime mortar, 19th-century ceramics and a fragment of a schistose roof slate. 010 lay on and 008 cut through an even surface of mid grey-brown sand (010) which sloped slightly down to the W. An animal bone and occasional fragments of flaggy schistose stone were visible on the surface, which was left unexcavated.

To the W in the extension below 002 lay 009, a 0.20 m thick deposit of comparatively large stone and soft, mid grey rooty sand which tipped down to the W. The stone was mostly angular, flaggy schistose material, sometimes pockmarked, with rare beach cobbles, 0.02 x 0.07 x 0.08 - 0.15 x 0.35 x 0.37 m in size. 009 overlay and 008 cut through 007, a N-S linear heap 0.15 m thick and 0.30-0.70 m wide, consisting of compact, angular, mainly schistose stone with occasional sandstone, 0.02 x 0.05 x 0.05 - 0.15 x 0.25 m in size, in a matrix of firm orange-brown sandy clay. 007 formed the ridge of the semi-circular annexe visible on the ground surface; it was left unexcavated. 007 lay over 011, a 0.15 m thick deposit of soft, mid grey sand containing moderate small stone. The deposit dipped down to the W. 012,

below 011, was a 0.05 m thick layer of sandstone chips roughly 0.05 x 0.10 m in size, in a slight matrix of soft grey sand. The chips were mostly fragments of Pictish carving. It was initially thought that 012 lay at the base of 009, but partial excavation showed that it lay under 011 as well as running outwith the confines of the trench, so the rest of both 011 and 012 were left *in situ*. The spoil from 012 was kept (4 large bags in total) for dry sieving in order to recover any fragments of sculpture missed during excavation. 012 lay on an even surface of mid brown-grey sand (013) which sloped slightly down to the W. Occasional fragments of flaggy schistose stone were visible on the moderately compact surface, which was left unexcavated. At the very W of the trench in the section, 013 appeared to lay against, or include, a large pockmarked stone over 0.60 x 0.30 m in size.

3.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Although a cross base was not found, a large amount of information has been uncovered concerning the missing face of the cross slab, the likely construction of the medieval chapel and the misleading nature of the ground surface. Obviously the most important discovery of the excavation was the layer of fragments of Pictish carving (012). The chips were of micaceous sandstone with a red oxidised surface, similar in type to the Hilton of Cadboll cross slab (Dr Theo Skinner, NMS, *pers comm*). The deposit must be linked to the redressing of one face of the stone to form the grave slab of Alexander Duff and his 3 wives in 1676 (Allen & Anderson 1903, 61-2) and therefore 013 (and possibly 010) must be the late 17th-century ground surface on which this activity occurred. The cross base was not found within the area as excavated, in the location 'indicated repeatedly and unequivocally' by D L Bates' dowsing investigation, but it seems likely that if it is in the general area it will be at the same stratigraphic level as 013, or perhaps below. There is of course no direct evidence that the cross slab was erected here, only that it was redressed here, but again it is probable that it was in its original position (erect or collapsed) until moved in the late 17th century. The designs on the flakes were not studied, but certain patterns were noticed as they were excavated, especially diagonal and square key patterns and small bosses. Visits to the Pictish crosses at Shandwick, Nigg and the Groam House Museum in Rosemarkie and a subsequent cursory inspection of books containing illustrations of Pictish sculpture, especially Allen and Anderson's work (1903), indicate a close similarity of designs to those used on the Nigg stone, some of those from Rosemarkie and (not surprisingly) the key pattern infilling the crescent on the other face of the cross slab from Hilton of Cadboll itself.

The designs on other stones in the area, such as those from Tarbat, Edderton and the Shandwick cross slab were not particularly similar.

The sandy deposit, 011, may be the result of natural accumulation after the late 17th century, whilst the contexts later than this appear to be the result of the decay of the W end of the building (part of which was used as a shed in the mid 19th century) and various intrusive activities. Despite the presence of moles, worms and grassroots, the ceramics and bottle glass appeared to be fairly secure in their stratification, especially those from contexts with compact clayey matrices such as 004 and 006. Therefore at least 001 - 005 must be dated to the 19th century or later, whilst 006 and 009 contained bottle glass and a clay pipe stem, indicating that they are post-medieval in date. No dateable material was retrieved from 007, but the fact that it was later than 012 and similar to other 19th-century deposits indicates that the 'annexe' visible on the ground is certainly a post-mediaeval dump of material, quite possibly upcast from 19th-century activity. The vaulting rib recovered from 002, and possibly the schistose roof slate from 004, the shelly lime mortar fragments from most deposits and the stone types present on the site give some indication of the construction of the mediaeval chapel. The rib fragment must be mediaeval in date, whilst the other structural elements may only reflect the shed, although it is likely that the shed would have utilised the materials available on the site.

4.0

REFERENCES

Allen, J Romilly & Anderson, J 1903 *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, vol 3, Edinburgh.

Close-Brooks, J 1995 *Exploring Scotland's Heritage: the Highlands*, HMSO, Edinburgh.

RCAHMS 1979 *The Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Easter Ross, Ross and Cromarty District, Highland Region*, Edinburgh.

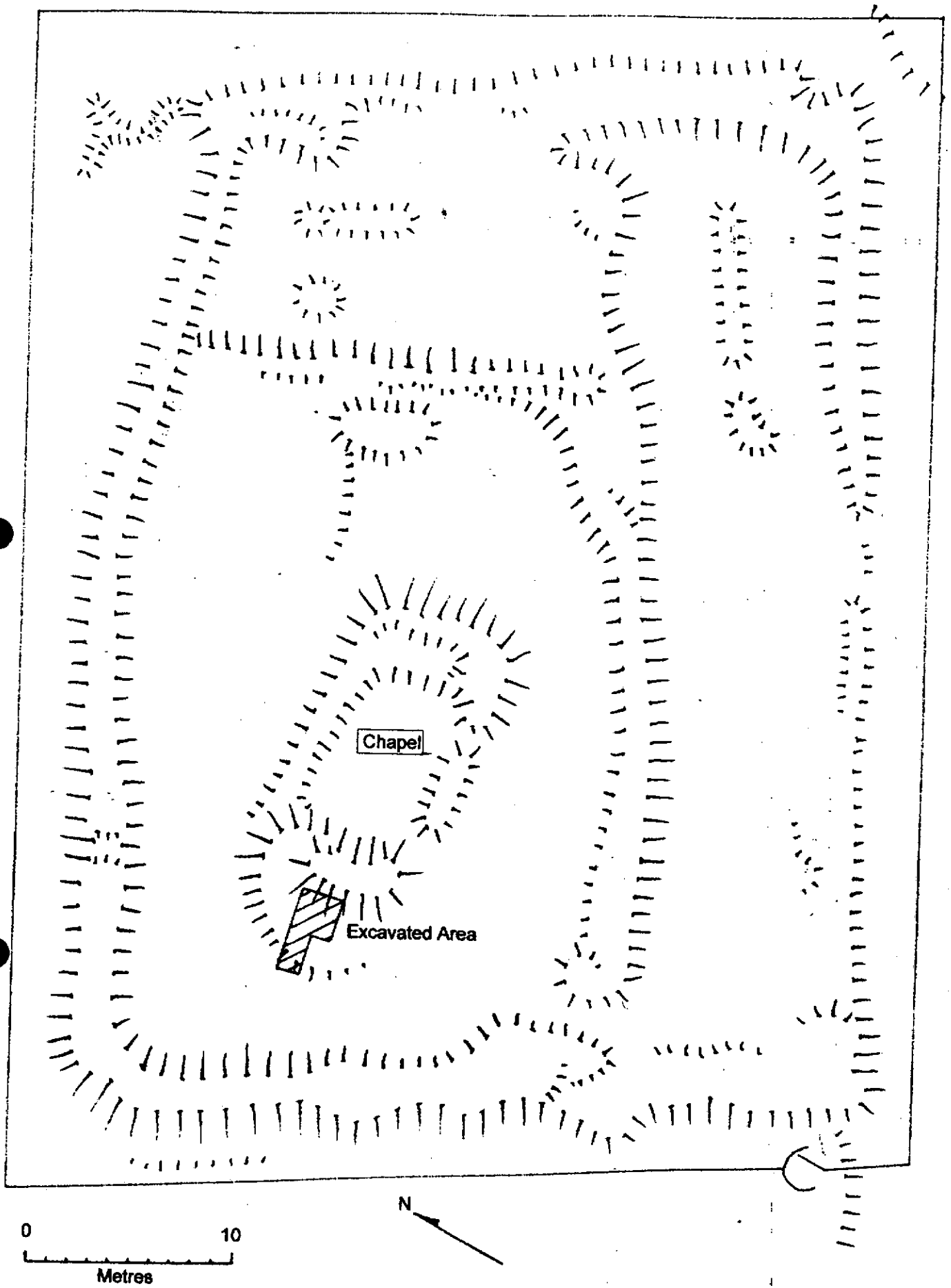


Fig. 1 : Location of Excavated Areas

HISTORIC SCOTLAND

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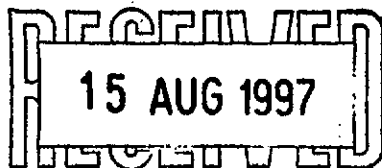
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Our Ref: - AMH/90320/1/1

14 August 1997



THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE
DATABASE ENTRY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FILE NO: <input type="checkbox"/>
ANSWERED: <input type="checkbox"/>

Dear Sir

ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979
APPLICATION FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT: HILTON OF
CADBOLL, CHAPEL 500m NNW OF

I refer to your application for scheduled monument consent of 11 August to undertake a geophysical survey at the above scheduled ancient monument.

In the terms of Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, before determining whether or not to grant scheduled monument consent the Secretary of State must provide you with an opportunity to appear before and be heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This right to a hearing can also be extended to any other person whom the Secretary of State considers has an interest.

To enable you to decide whether or not to exercise your statutory right to a hearing, which would normally take the form of a public local inquiry, I can advise you that on the basis of the information at present available and the advice given to the Secretary of State, he is minded to grant scheduled monument consent subject to the following conditions:

1. Historic Scotland should be informed of exact dates on which the work is to take place.
2. The insertion of probes as part of the remote mapping survey is the only ground disturbance which is permitted.
3. Within 3 months of the end of fieldwork a preliminary report should be submitted to Historic Scotland and the Highland Council Archaeology Service and a report suitable for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland should be sent to the Council for Scottish Archaeology.

MFA05906



If you wish to contest the above advice you may use your statutory right to a hearing as set out above. Any request for a hearing should be made within 28 days of the date of this letter. Alternatively, instead of a hearing you may wish to submit your written representations in support of your application.

If I do not have a reply from you within 28 days either requesting a hearing or making your representations, the Secretary of State shall proceed to a final determination of the matter and his decision will be notified to you.

A form of reply and a pre-paid self addressed envelope is enclosed for your use.

I must remind you that no works may be undertaken without a formal grant of scheduled monument consent.

Yours faithfully

Pamela Wood

MRS P WOOD

cc: Mr Andrew Taylor, Glenmorangie Distillery
Lucy Vaughan, Fort George
Justin Garner-Lahire, University of York
Monument Warden
Mr J Wood, LA Archaeologist ✓
Mr N Bridgland, Historic Scotland
Dr R Hingley, Historic Scotland