



The National Trust for Scotland

The Archaeologist
The Old Granary
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With Compliments

4th August 1998.

Dear John,

Herewith a copy of the project outline for a small archaeological investigation we plan to carry out at the end of the month. A copy of the final report will be sent for inclusion in the SMR once it has been done. I hope this is OK by you! Best wishes,

Damian Hind

 The National Trust for Scotland

Glenfinnan Monument, August - September 1998
Archaeological Project Outline



1. Introduction and historical background

The presence of a wall running concentric to Glenfinnan Monument has been noted by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). It has been agreed that investigation should be carried out into establishing whether or not the wall completely encloses the monument, since at present it is only partially visible. The work will be carried out by the NTS Archaeological Assistant, with the help of a volunteer, over the week of 31st August – 4th September.

Glenfinnan Monument was constructed in 1814, as a private family memorial to the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion. Later it was opened to the public. Originally it had a crenellated and adjoining single storey building, interpreted as being a shooting box. This is to be investigated, to establish its exact location and outline.

2. Aims and Methodology

The works will be undertaken with regard to the current edition of the *IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and *ACAO Model Briefs and Specifications for Archaeological Assessments and Field Evaluations*.

The work entails “keyhole” investigation into the nature of a wall that appears concentric to the monument. Excavation will be in the form of hand dug pits, *circa* 0.5-1.0m in width, and not in excess of 4m long, to a depth which will establish the existence of the wall, and ascertain stratigraphic relationships, but no further. The wall will remain undisturbed, as excavation merely seeks to verify its concentricity. The line of the trenches will be radial to the curve of the wall.

Within the Garden of the Clans, an investigation will be carried out at the base of the tower, attempting to reveal remains of the associated building adjoining the monument during the last century¹. This will be carried out by strip trenches *circa* 0.5-1m in width located in such a way as to intersect the wall footings of the demolished building. Excavation will cease as soon as the wall lines have been ascertained and will be to a maximum depth of 200mm.

All trenches will be hand dug using a context by context method of recording, with photographs and scale drawings. Any artefacts found will be collected, and labelled according to context in the field, in preparation for later processing. Full reinstatement of the original ground level will follow excavation.

Fieldwork may be monitored by the NTS Archaeologist. Any unexpected and significant discoveries are to be reported immediately to the NTS Archaeologist.

¹ As noted on a 19th Century print of Loch Shiel and the monument. A copy rests with the NTS SMR.

The fieldwork is to be carried out by the NTS Archaeological Assistant and possibly one volunteer, who will be under the supervision of the Archaeological Assistant.

3. Finds

All recovered finds will, as appropriate, will be washed, marked, bagged, catalogued and given basic identification. The finds will be kept in stable conditions, although no remedial conservation work will be done without the approval of the NTS Archaeologist. The NTS will report any finds to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel.

4. Health and Safety

The responsibility for health and safety arising from this work is defined in the appropriate legislation. The NTS carries suitable insurance and the NTS Archaeological Assistant will carry out and supply a Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Method Statement prior to the commencement of works.

A First Aid kit will be available in the event of injury on site.

5. Consents

No Scheduled Monument consent is required for this work.

The site is owned by Ronnie MacKellaig, who has given his permission to carry out the fieldwork.

Consent to carry out a Potentially Damaging Operation has been sought from SNH.

5. Report

A draft copy of a short report will be produced, broadly in line with Appendix 4 of the IFA Standard, within 4 weeks of completion of the fieldwork. Archival standard illustrations will be produced, rather than publication. The final report will be completed within 4 weeks of receipt of comments on the draft from the NTS Archaeologist. The primary archive for the project will be deposited with the NMRS within 6 months of completion of the report. A short report will also be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

Damian Hind

NTS Archaeological Assistant

3 August, 1998