

FIG. 52.—Inverlochy Castle from the North-West.

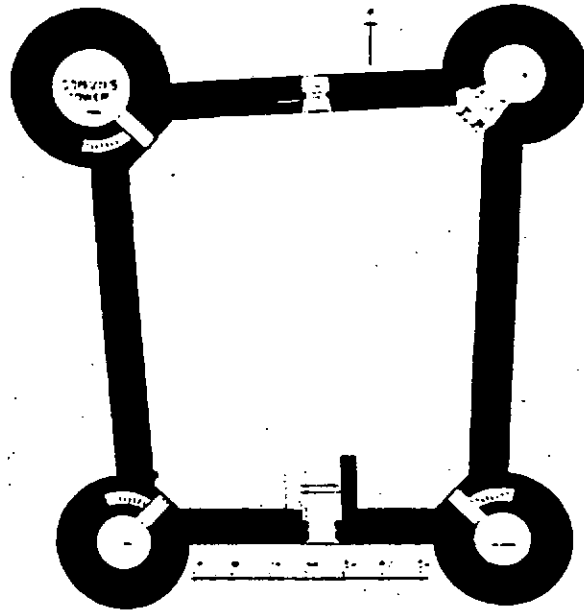
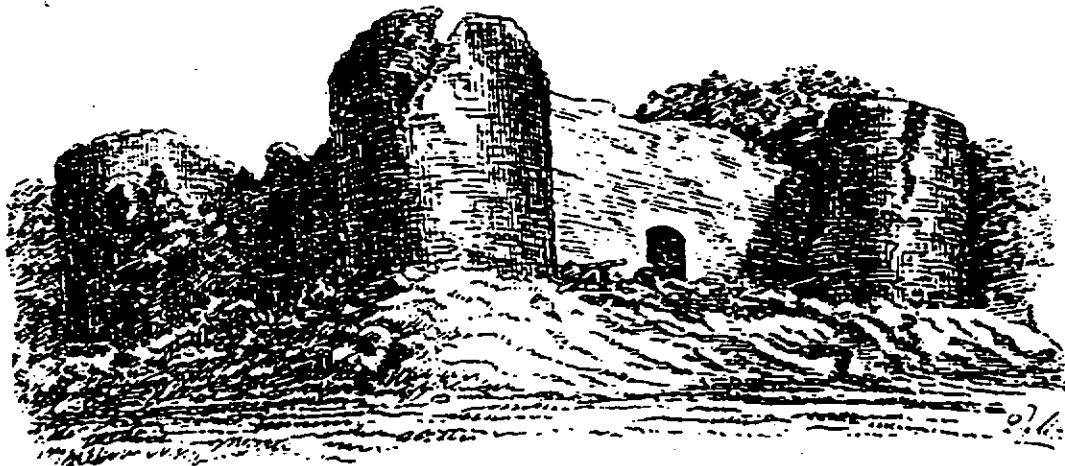


FIG. 51.—Inverlochy Castle. Plan.



**Inverlochy Castle**

**Draft Brief**

## INVERLOCHY CASTLE

DRAFT

### OUTLINE BRIEF

7 October 1998

#### Aims & Objectives

To Establish a tourist attraction based around Inverlochy Castle.

To create a landscaped area, appropriate to the Region, in and around Inverlochy Castle that will appeal to the Visitors and the residents of Fort William.

To obtain all land owners approvals.

The aim of this project is to better present Inverlochy Castle, the Battle Site, the graveyard and the Industrial Heritage of the area the Aluminium Smelter and the Railway (perhaps to a lesser extent?) as a whole.

Establish a pedestrian route from the Milton Hotel to the Castle and the riverside via Tom na Faire, the viewing point of the Battle Site. Sheep grazing may be used to control the bulk of the fields. However, we may consider a fenced pedestrian walkway to allow access up to the vantage point to view the Battle site. Stop grazing on the burial ground site. Open route perhaps, through the burial ground over to the Castle and a riverside walk.

**The whole route should be accessible for the less-able and wheelchair access to all pathways where possible.**

To create additional local employment if possible.

To provide the most practical form of interpretation, including the possibility of covering a foreign language

To clear the derelict areas adjacent to the railway siding and screen off the unsightly modern buildings in the same area.

Within the study area consideration should be given to roads and road treatment  
Traffic calming measures where appropriate to make the whole site pedestrian friendly.

To establish a visitor access route and provide sufficient parking facilities for cars and coaches. If access is required over the tailrace system, an upgrading of the access bridge may be required. Consider upgrading the bridge.

To consider ways in which the local community can use the area for community/  
Town activities such as Galas, Fetes, Festivals etc. which would bring extra life to the whole site.

Establish who needs vehicular access over the tailrace bridge: Social Club, Historic Scotland, private dwelling.

Can access be restricted and a car park formed adjacent to the railway-siding?

Social Club car park is a large area of under used Macadam. Consider reducing the area or breaking the area up with additional planting. Can vehicular access to the club be obtained without passing the main entrance to the Castle?

Improve road signage with advanced notice and junction signage.

## **A FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The group should consider the appointment of a consultancy team to look at the landscape of the whole area and to present draft proposals to the group. Interpretation proposals and reconstruction sketches for the Castle.

There will be the need for a Tourism Consultant to assess potential visitor numbers. Historic Scotland travel trade branch would be able to lend considerable support and advice in this area.

The Consultants should be aware of the Highland Interpretative Strategy (HIS).

Prepare an Interpretation Plan for the Castle, Burial Ground and Battle Site, Tailrace System

Historic Scotland would offer a co-ordinating roll to allow an integrated plan to be prepared for all sites.

### **The Castle**

Historic Scotland's draft Interpretation Plan is available.

Laying out and revealing the plan of the Castle including the full extent of the outer walls.

Assess the trees throughout the site. Consider the removal of some of the mature trees around the castle to make it more visible and take the landscape back to a known period. See early paintings of the Castle.

Consider interpretation within the inner courtyard.

### **British Alcan**

Smelting Process - The need for water. Why was the factory built here?- the need for electricity etc.

### **Battle Site Interpretation**

The Highland Council Cultural and Leisure Services would be very keen to be involved in the interpretation as this could involve a number of the different disciplines within this Service.

Who would provide the background information? Is this something the Local Historical Society would wish to prepare?

The story of Iain Lom

### **History of the Burial Ground**

As above? ? Is this something the Local Historical Society would wish to prepare?

It is anticipated that this site should be more of a vantage point for viewing the Castle and Battlefield Site with perhaps some minimal interpretation to explain why the graveyard is here.

#### **Railway**

This could be a secondary theme linked to a general industrial archaeological themed display board. Rail Track should be consulted.

#### **Flora and Fauna**

SNH? Interpretation of the whole site and pre-works investigations.

#### **Financial Appraisal**

To assess the realistic visitor numbers that the site can anticipate. To examine the income generation potential for the site including amongst others, ticketing, sales, functions and events. To assess the running costs for the site.

Recommend possible sources of capital funding.

#### **Short Term**

To remove the security fencing around the Castle

Clear inner courtyard of construction site huts.

#### **Long Term**

To consider further pedestrian routes, riverside walks, access over railway bridge, back into the town centre via the riverside. A circuit may be possible from the long stay car park adjacent to the railway station out via the Battle Site, to the Castle and back along the riverside or vice versa.

Consider a building for interpretation/reception near the Castle  
(acquisition of the existing cottage?)

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