

Polmailly Golf Course

An Archaeological Survey



Wordsworth

Archaeological

Services

4, Balbeg, Balnain, Glenurquhart,

Inverness-shire IV63 6TL

Tel./Fax 01456476 288

email: J.Wordsworth@warchs@demon.co.uk

25th March 1999

Wordsworth Archaeological Services

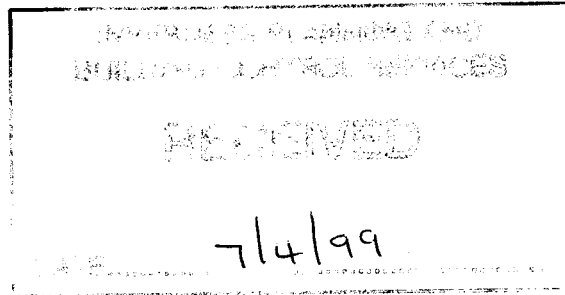
Jonathan Wordsworth MA., FSA(Scot), MIFA & Jill Kendrick BA

Balbeg, Balnain, Glenurquhart, Inverness-shire, IV63 6TL

Fax/Tel 01456 476288

Area Planning Manager
Church Street
Inverness

5th April 1999



Dear Sir,

Archaeological Survey of Proposed Golf Course at Polmaily Farm, Glenurquhart

I have pleasure in enclosing the report on the above survey as specified in the brief supplied by Dorothy Low of the Archaeology Section of the Planning and Economic Development Department, Highland Council.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Wordsworth

ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE
HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Introduction

Wordsworth Archaeological Services was asked to carry out an archaeological survey of the area of the proposed golf course at Polmaily, Glenurquhart. This report outlines the results of this survey.

Archaeological and Historical Survey

Within Glenurquhart the remains of chambered cairns dating probably to c2000 BC at Corrimony and perhaps even earlier at Cairn Daley, show that this area was settled by the first farmers in Scotland. Later prehistoric settlement is recorded along the north side of the glen in the unimproved and marginal ground fringing the modern farmland. These are significant settlements of roundhouses and later possibly Pictish houses, best recorded at Garbeg some 2 kilometres from Polmaily. The extent of these settlements show that this area was densely populated in prehistoric times and it has led to parts of the glen becoming scheduled as monuments and landscapes of national importance.

Apart from the record of three roundhouse sites surviving at Shenval, there is no record for such prehistoric settlement in the lower more fertile ground of Glenurquhart. Clearly areas, such as Polmaily, would have been desirable places to settle in earlier times. As these areas have been intensively used in the more recent past and are still populated today, it is clear much of the evidence for the earlier occupation of the lowlands of Glenurquhart is hidden under later settlements.

The name Polmaily is thought to derive from Polla Mhailidh – Malie's Pool. The name Malie has been attributed to an early celtic saint (*cf Kilmalie in Lochaber*). It is not thought that there was necessarily a connection with this saint, as it is unlikely that a church site would be established so close to the early foundation at St Ninian's in Drumnadrochit. The first reference to settlement at Polmaily is not until 1509, at the end of the medieval period, when John Grant of Freuchie received a charter from the king for the lands of Urquhart and Glenmoriston. Part of this grant referred to '*the six merk lands of Polmale and Dulchangy*'. This was clearly a discrete farm unit, presumably with most of the fields of the modern farm, already under cultivation.

The late 15th and early 16th centuries were unstable times politically and Glenurquhart was seen as a tempting target by raiders from Lochaber, especially Camerons and members of Clan Ranald. It was raided in 1478, 1479 and 1513 but the worst raid was in 1545 when the glen was totally stripped. A detailed claim for damages listed all the losses. At this time Polmaily (including Achnababan) consisted of 7 holdings and had lost:-

<i>84 great cattle</i>	<i>10 gimmers</i>	<i>54 bolls of bere</i>
<i>36 young cattle</i>	<i>62 lambs</i>	<i>(a form of barley)</i>
<i>36 calves</i>	<i>64 goats</i>	<i>and</i>
<i>22 horses</i>	<i>43 kids</i>	<i>furniture worth £26 13s</i>
<i>82 ewes</i>	<i>100 bolls of oats</i>	<i>6d</i>

These were not markedly different to the levels of stock held by other farms in the glen. Where these seven holdings were sited is not known, though presumably Polmaily lay either on the site of the modern farm and hotel or nearby.

The Grant lairds of Glenurquhart were sympathetic land owners, encouraging their tenants to improve their lands from the late 18th century and subsidised the use of lime from the kilns at Gartally. Polmaily was one of the first farms to adopt these new techniques and the tenant Patrick Mackay was recorded in 1763 as having '*begun liming and should be encouraged. His mind has been enlarged by going abroad.*' Apparently there was also a still at Polmaily at this time, one of seven in the glen. It is likely that Patrick Mackay started the construction of the drystone walls that form the basis of the modern field system, but this could have occurred under a later tenant and would require a detailed study of the original sources to be confirmed. Certainly by the end of the 18th century Polmaily was one of only six houses in the glen that had a slated roof and by the 1840s, it had formal garden grounds.

By the time of the 1st Ordnance Survey of 1870-71 both the farm and Polmaily House had been laid out in the form familiar today.

Archaeological survey

All the area outlined in the accompanying map was walked over by the writer on the 23rd March 1999 in damp, showery weather. No significant archaeological features were recorded. Apart from an attractive piece of oak woodland in the centre of the westernmost field, the ground predominantly consisted of improved fields, defined by modern post and wire fences. Behind these fences survive well-built, though partially derelict, drystone walls and field banks. All the fields have been ploughed and reseeded in recent years.

Within the piece of oak woodland is a substantial quarry some 30m long by 4m wide at NH 474 306, marked by an apparently coppiced oak tree. The apparent coppicing is probably the effect of cutting the oak during quarrying operations. The quarry may have been used as a source of stone for dyking and possibly for road metalling. At least three circular depressions c2m in diameter were seen in this wood. These are probably holes left by tree-throw but they could possibly be the remains of charcoal pits.

Conclusions

The proposed golf course will not impact on any significant archaeological features. It is possible that there may be buried archaeological features, though none have previously been recorded and the ground has been extensively cultivated for a number of years. The quarry and possible features within the area of the woodland are not threatened by the proposed development.

Jonathan Wordsworth
26th March 1999

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Bob Steward, Highland Council Archivist, for permission to reproduce Inverness-shire OS map sheet 29 published 1905.

Bibliography

Mackay W 1893 Urquhart and Glenmoriston, Inverness

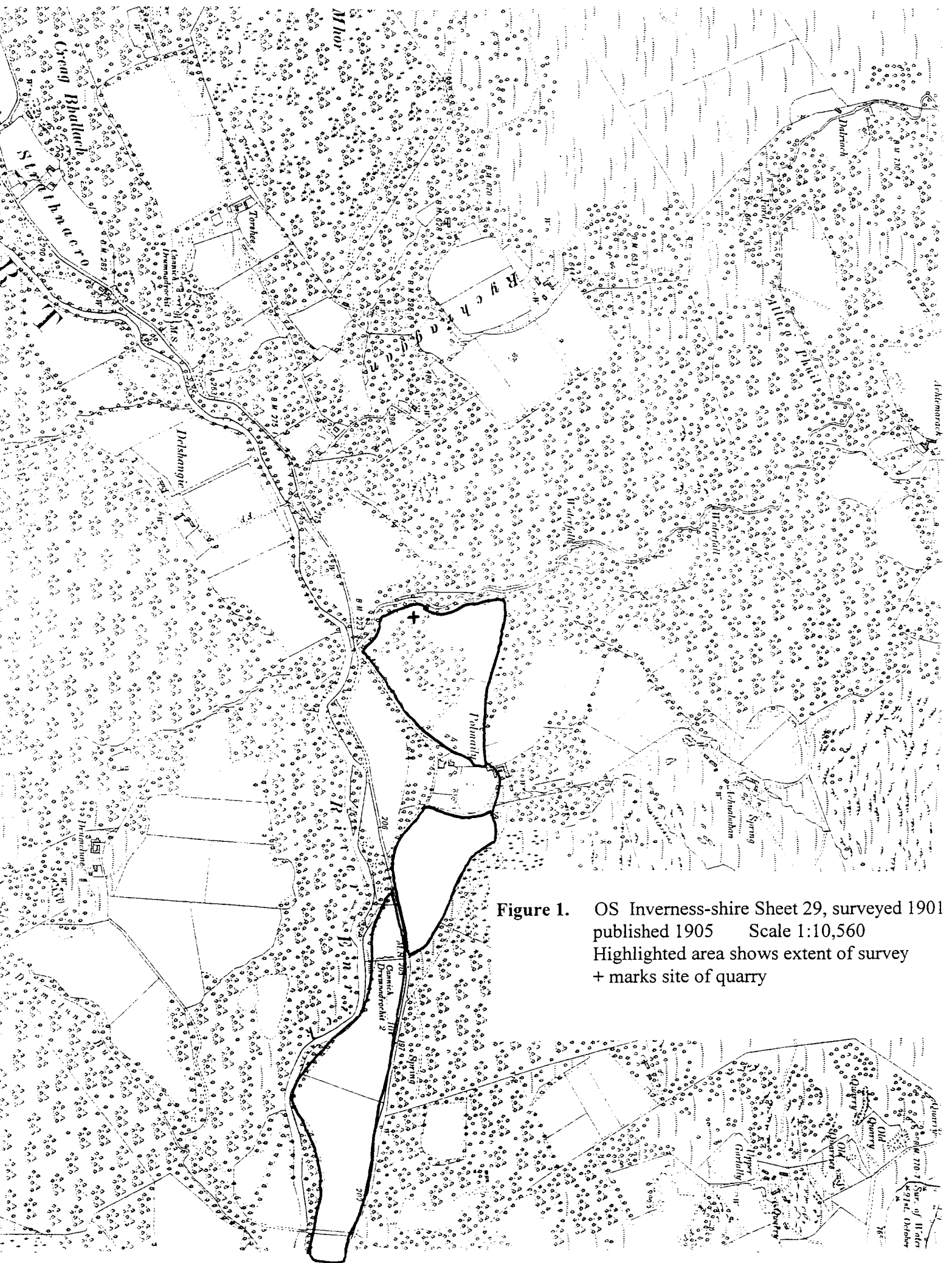


Figure 1. OS Inverness-shire Sheet 29, surveyed 1901 published 1905 Scale 1:10,560
Highlighted area shows extent of survey
+ marks site of quarry



**HIGHLAND COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICE
Archaeology Unit**

**Specification for archaeological work prepared for the
Proposed Golf Course at Polmaily Farm, Drumnadrochit**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SURVEY

Background

This specification has been produced in response to the need for an archaeological field survey of the above roadline. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

Terms of Reference

The specification has been produced for Neil Hampton who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. Estimates should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The project should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

Before site works commence, the Senior Archaeologist must agree, in writing, the proposed arrangements, including a timetable for the work.

If this is for a road or water or sewerage proposal the area to be covered is the entire wayleave except where otherwise indicated.

Tendering

Tenders must be accompanied by a statement and evidence of competence, including the CV of the Project Director, and other staff where possible.

Objectives

1. To identify the nature and extent of any archaeological remains which exist or may exist within the application area.
2. To propose arrangements for the safeguarding where possible and recording where necessary of any archaeological features or finds identified
3. To ensure that the needs for archaeological conservation and recording are met without causing any unnecessary delay or disturbance to the development project.

Method

1. A rapid, desk-based assessment of all records, documents and maps available in Inverness and in Edinburgh relating to the application area will be carried out.

2. A survey will be made of the affected area, using:

Walk over the affected area and indicate visible features of possible importance on a 1:2500 scale plan

3. No excavation is to take place as part of this specification

4. The report must propose appropriate arrangements for the safeguarding where possible or recording where necessary of any objects or features identified by this evaluation.

Monitoring

1. The Senior Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met, normally by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
2. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names and local addresses, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Senior Archaeologist.
3. Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Senior Archaeologist so that revised arrangements can be made. Reasons given later for non-completion to timetable or specification will not normally be accepted if immediate notification has not taken place.
4. Where archaeological work fails to meet this specification the applicant will be in breach of the planning condition until matters are rectified.

Reporting

1. Project report

At least FIVE copies of the project report must be produced.

- One paper copy for Neil Hampton, 149 Ardness Place, Inverness
- One paper copy for the Highland Sites and Monuments Record, Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
- One paper copy to be deposited in the local public library
- One copy for the Highland SMR as above, on a computer disk in a format compatible with Microsoft Office 95 for Windows.
- One paper copy the Area Planning Manager, Church Street, Inverness

The report must be submitted to the Senior Archaeologist within 2 weeks of the completion of the field work.

The report must include, as a minimum,

1. Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected
2. Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
3. Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork
4. Plans, drawings and photographs of archaeological features noted
5. A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location
6. Details of any measures proposed to mitigate the impact of the application on the archaeological resource
7. A brief analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate.
8. General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project
9. A set of colour slides detailing the progress of the project.

The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Sites and Monuments Record. In addition, the Archaeology Service reserves the right to make the report available for research purposes, either on paper, or electronically. Subject to this, copyright will remain with the author unless specifically transferred in writing, and the Archaeology Service will assume author's copyright unless advised otherwise. Copyright will be acknowledged in all cases by the Archaeology Service.

This specification includes arranging a presentation of the project results to the local community within a year of the completion of the fieldwork. Arrangements must be agreed with the Senior Archaeologist.

2. Treasure Trove

The Project Director must liaise with the Assistant Curator (Archaeology) at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery prior to the start of fieldwork, regarding possible emergency conservation needs and future storage arrangements. Provision must also be made for a cataloguing system for artefactual material which will be compatible with the needs of the institution receiving these finds. Any report to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer must be copied to the Senior Archaeologist.

Any finds, where appropriate, should also be reported to the Receiver of Wreck.

3. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council For Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

General

1. The archaeologist appointed must be of a professional standing acceptable to the Senior Archaeologist and must carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
2. The main contractor has responsibility for the Health and Safety of any archaeological staff on site.
3. Any Health and Safety incidents on site involving the archaeologist must be immediately notified to the Health and Safety Executive.
4. The archaeologist is responsible for taking all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurances.
5. The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Senior Archaeologist
6. The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Senior Archaeologist
7. Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland

Dorothy M Low
February 1999