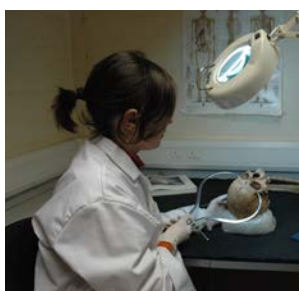


GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



**Spey Dam, Laggan
Data Structure Report
Project 3258**

www.guard-archaeology.co.uk

Spey Dam, Laggan

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd

NGR: NN 58254 93714

Project Number: 3258

Project Manager: Ronan Toolis

Report by: Alan Hunter Blair

Illustrations: Gillian McSwan

Approved by:



Date:

15/03/2011

*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

GUARD Archaeology Limited
52 Elderpark Workspace
100 Elderpark Street
Glasgow
G51 3TR

Tel: 0141 445 8800
Fax: 0141 445 3222
email: info@guard-archaeology.co.uk



www.guard-archaeology.co.uk

Contents

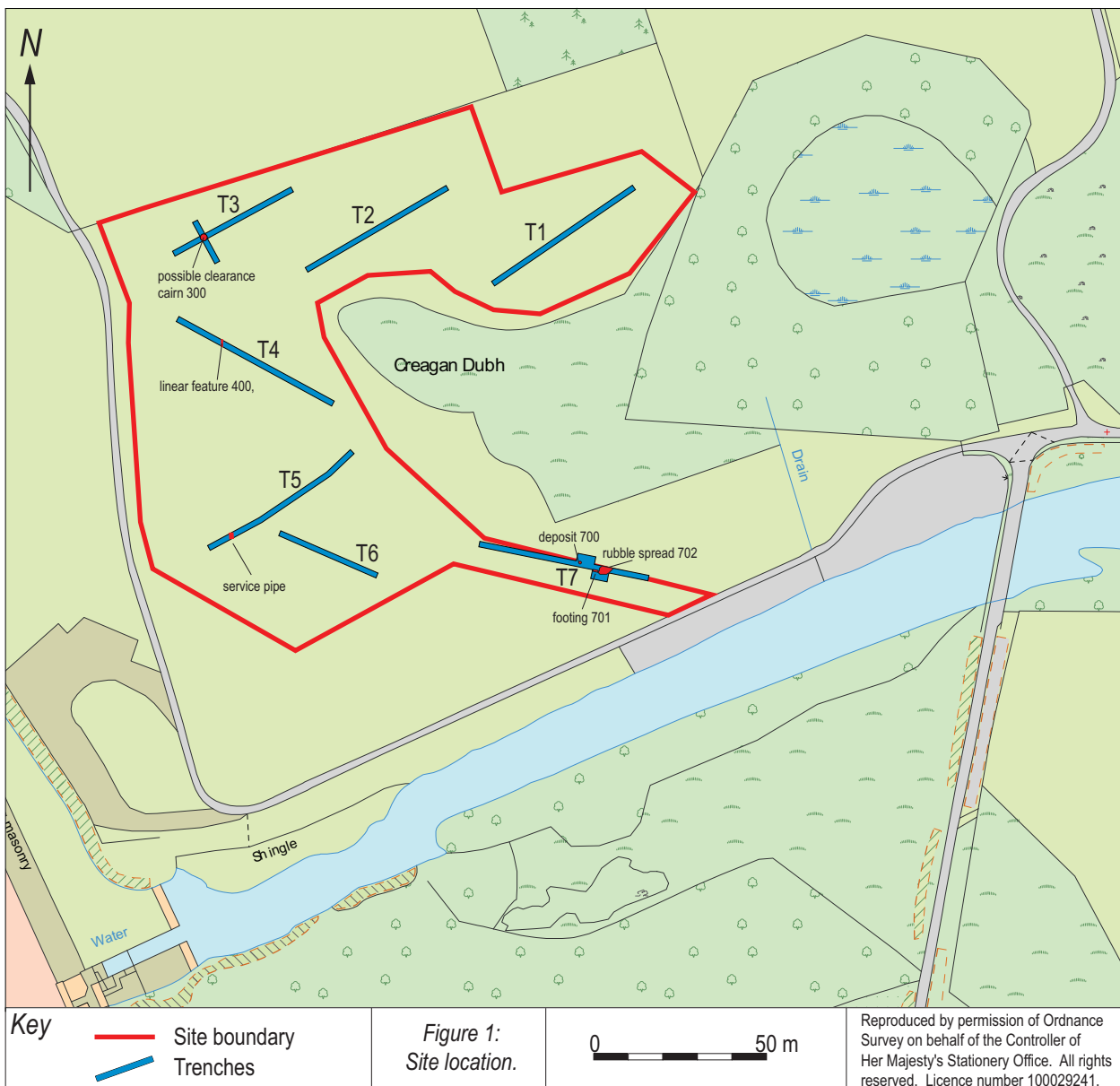
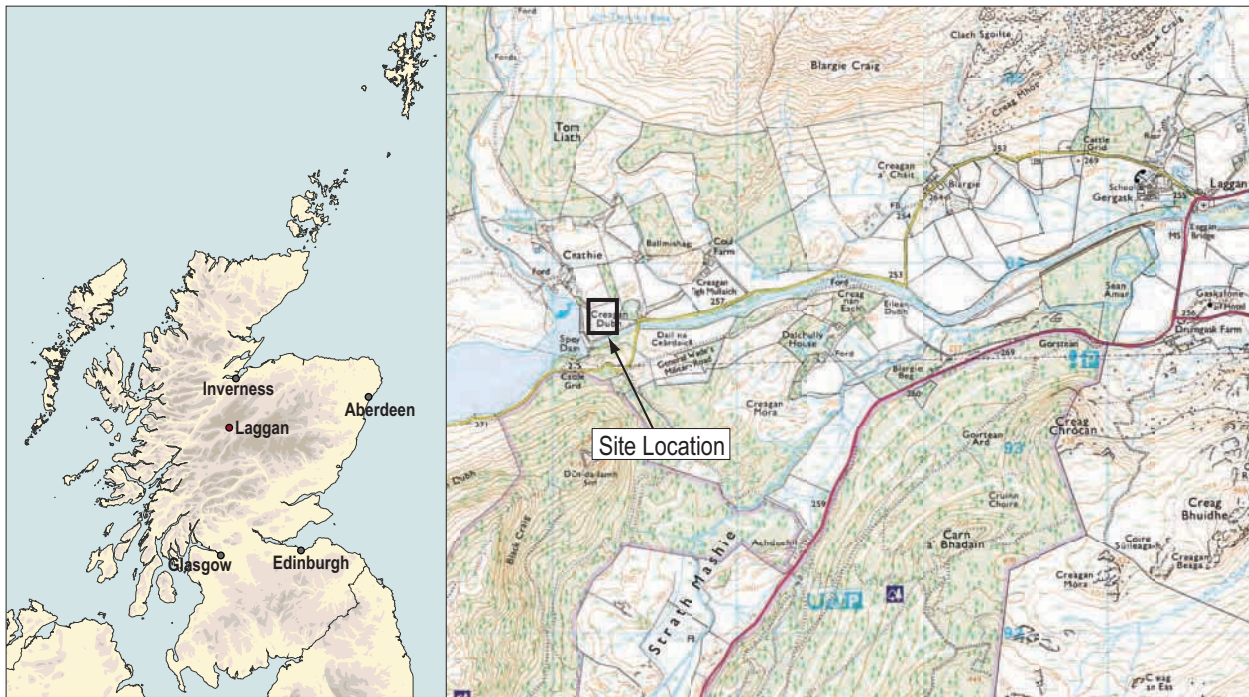
Executive Summary	5
Introduction	5
Site Location	5
Archaeological Background	5
Aims and Objectives	6
Fieldwork Methodology	6
Results	6
Discussion	9
Conclusions	9
Acknowledgements	9
Appendices	11
Appendix A: Trench Details	11
Appendix B: List of Contexts	12
Appendix C: List of Finds	13
Appendix D: List of Samples	13
Appendix E: List of Drawings	13
Appendix F: Photographic Record	13
Appendix G: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry	14
Appendix H: Written Scheme Of Investigation	15

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location	4
Figure 2: Sections through features in Trenches 3 & 4	7
Figure 3: Plan of features towards the SE end of Trench 7	8

List of Plates

Plate 1: Possible clearance cairn [300], from the northeast in Trench 3	7
Plate 2: Southwest facing section through possible clearance cairn [300] and underlying deposit [301], in Trench 3, from the southwest	7
Plate 3: North facing section through linear feature [400], in Trench 4, from the north	7
Plate 4: Deposit [700] in Trench 7, 0.3 m scale indicates area of concentrated burnt bone, from the south	8
Plate 6: View of features in Trench 7, ranging rod top right denotes position of possible hearth [700], plastic bag to right of near ranging rod marks position of pottery small find 1, from the east	8
Plate 5: Possible wall footing remnant [701] in Trench 7, from the north	8



Executive Summary

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Ltd of a proposed development area at Spey Dam, Laggan. The trial trench evaluation encountered a number of archaeological features. A possible clearance cairn was identified towards the north western part of the development area while towards the south eastern part of the development area a deposit containing a good quantity of burnt bone and charcoal, possibly representing the remains of a hearth, next to the ruinous remains of part of a dry stone structure was encountered. A shallow linear cut feature was visible across the central part of the development area and a service pipe was visible at the topsoil base at the eastern end of the development area.

Introduction

- 2.1 This data structure report sets out the results of the archaeological evaluation of the proposed Spey Dam site compound near Laggan, that was required to meet Planning Condition 8 (Planning Reference: 10/02815/FUL) and the archaeological specification set by Highland Council Archaeology Unit (HCAU), archaeological advisors to the Cairngorms National Park Authority. GUARD Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd, to undertake the work.

Site Location

- 3.1 The proposed development area requiring evaluation covered 1.33 ha and is located c. 3 km to the west of Laggan (NGR: NN 58254 93714; Figure 1). The proposed development area is bounded to the north by fields, to the west by the Spey Dam, to the south by the River Spey and to the east by a woodland plantation.

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 While no archaeological remains have been identified within the development area, the land surrounding the development area has a moderate distribution of archaeological sites. To the immediate north-east of the development area, just outwith its boundary, lies the site of St Michael's Chapel, constructed in 1845 to replace an earlier chapel and graveyard located several hundred metres further east. The later St Michael's Chapel is now demolished with no upstanding remains, but once stood on a hillock above the present road and was surrounded by Yew trees. The presence of the lower shaft of a carved stone cross on the site of the earlier chapel further to the east indicates that the original chapel was perhaps of some status during the early medieval period. No remains of this earlier chapel survive, however, with only a D-shaped enclosure, the carved stone cross-shaft and some gravestones marking the burial ground that surrounded it.
- 4.2 Between the two St Michael Chapel sites, to the east of the development area is the findspot of a stone axe found in 1975. Dun da Lamh hillfort overlooks the development area from high ground to the south of the River Spey.
- 4.3 A short distance to the north of the development area is the depopulated township of Crathie, which comprises about 61 buildings, 25 small enclosures and a corn-drying kiln. The major part of Crathie was deserted in the late 19th century. More buildings were abandoned in the 1920's. In 1960 further depopulation was instigated by Sir William Ramsden. This township is depicted on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (1872), when it comprised thirty-nine roofed, three partially, twelve unroofed buildings, enclosures, field-system and two lengths of head-dyke. Four roofed, twenty-nine unroofed buildings, field-system and the head-dykes were shown on the 1971 edition of the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map.
- 4.4 The modern Dalwhinnie to Fort Augustus section of General Wade's 18th century Military Road runs parallel to the southern bank of the River Spey.

- 4.5 The evaluation thus had the potential to encounter previously unknown archaeological remains related to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval occupation of the surrounding landscape.

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The aims and objectives of the evaluation were as follows:

- evaluate 5 % of the development area by machine-cut trial trench excavation;
- establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains;
- determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- establish whether there are any archaeological issues resulting from the proposed development and recommend how they may be addressed.

Fieldwork Methodology

- 6.1 The proposed development area was photographed and a brief written description made prior to the commencement of ground-breaking works.
- 6.2 The programme of archaeological works commenced with a 5 % evaluation of the 1.33 ha development area, comprising six trenches, each of which measured 50 m long x 2 m wide and one further trench measuring 33 m long by 2 m wide (See Figure 1).
- 6.3 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator, utilizing a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of a GUARD archaeologist, down to the first archaeological horizon or to natural, whichever was encountered first. The depth of stratigraphy apparent in all trenches was recorded.
- 6.4 A proportion of all minor or locally significant archaeological features encountered were sample excavated. All finds encountered were recovered and a bulk soil sampling strategy was adopted for discrete negative features as exposed within trenches. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork.
- 6.5 If features of regional or national archaeological significance were found within the evaluation trenches HCAU and the client were to be notified immediately and further phases of work to mitigate the archaeologically adverse effects of the development may be required, subject to further discussion with HCAU, on behalf of the Cairngorms National Park Authority.
- 6.6 Should significant archaeological remains be identified, Stage 2 will involve the implementation of appropriate archaeological mitigation measures, which may consist of further evaluation and/or excavation and recording of features that will be destroyed by development works. Stage 3 will include suitable post-excavation analysis, reporting, and publication of discovered archaeological remains, if appropriate.

Results

- 7.1 Seven trenches were excavated, totalling 665 m² and therefore amounting to 5 % of the proposed development area (Figure 1). The following text should be read in conjunction with the full trench descriptions in Appendix A and the context descriptions presented in Appendix B.
- 7.2 In general topsoil [001] across the development area measured up to 0.28-0.35 m deep and was found overlying a thin interface layer [002] forming a discrete horizon between the topsoil and the underlying natural sand and gravels. Towards the northern part of the development area, in Trench 3, a subsoil horizon [004] was encountered that measured up to 0.46 m deep and may represent an accumulation of colluvium.

7.3 Clearance Cairn

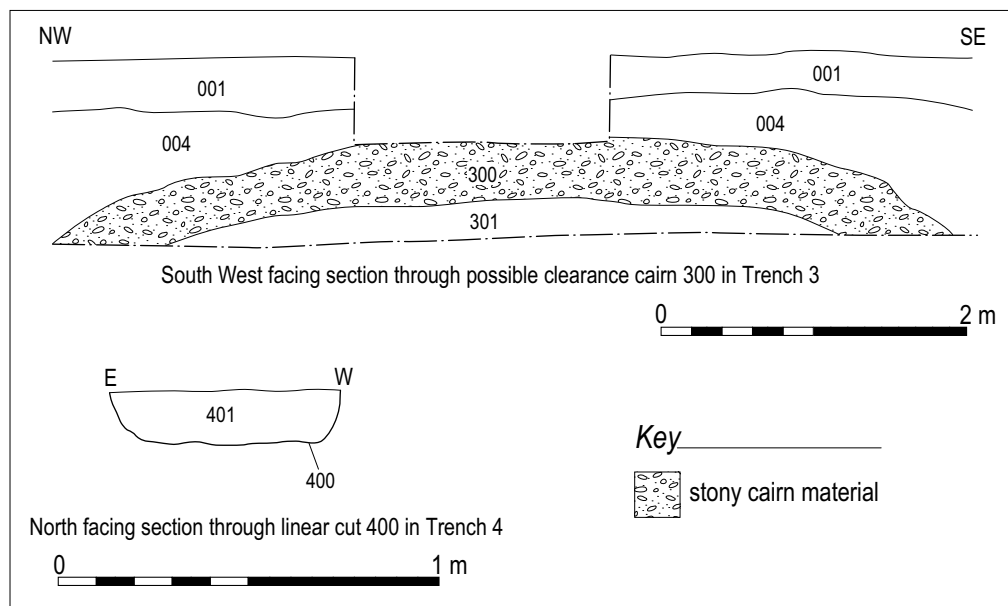


Figure 2: Sections through features in Trenches 3 & 4.

- 7.3.1** A low mound of stone [300] measuring circa 6 m in diameter and up to 0.4 m in height was recorded in Trench 3 (Figures 1-2; Plates 1-2). The fabric of the mound comprised large, medium and small stones which appeared to have been partially subsumed by colluvium deposit [004]. A slot was excavated through the mound of stone which was found to overlie a layer of grey sand [301] with thin discontinuous lenses of peat towards its base.



Plate 1: Possible clearance cairn [300], from the northeast in Trench 3.



Plate 2: Southwest facing section through possible clearance cairn [300] and underlying deposit [301], in Trench 3, from the southwest.

7.4 Linear Feature

- 7.4.1** A shallow linear cut [400] was recorded in Trench 4 (Figures 1-2; Plate 3). This measured up to 0.6 m wide by 0.15 m deep by 2 m long (excavated) and continued below the north and south trench edges. This linear ditch was filled by deposit [401] which appeared no different in character to the topsoil layer [001].



Plate 3: North facing section through linear feature [400], in Trench 4, from the north.

7.5 Ashy deposit and Structural remains



Figure 3: Plan of features towards the SE end of Trench 7.

7.5.1 An area of grey (ashy) silty sand with charcoal and frequent burnt bone [700] was visible in Trench 7 (Figures 1 & 3, Plates 4-6). This measured 1.3 m long by 1.2 m wide by 0.06 m deep. Situated 2 m east of this, a stone founded structure [701] was encountered, possibly representing the remains of a wall footing. This measured 1.3 m long by up to 0.68 m wide and stood no taller than 0.22 m in height. Immediately to the east of this lay an undefined spread of rubble contained within mid greyish brown sand [702], which was unexcavated. The trench around this group of features was expanded but given the constraints of this part of the development area, comprising a narrow strip of land designated as the site access, it was not possible to establish the extent of these remains.



Plate 4: Deposit [700] in Trench 7, 0.3 m scale indicates area of concentrated burnt bone, from the south.



Plate 5: Possible wall footing remnant [701] in Trench 7, from the north.

Plate 6: View of features in Trench 7, ranging rod top right denotes position of possible hearth [700], plastic bag to right of near ranging rod marks position of pottery small find 1, from the east.



Discussion

- 8.1 The evaluation recorded a limited number of undated features. No finds were recovered from the isolated possible clearance cairn in Trench 3 which may be a relic of the depopulated township of Crathie situated to the north of the development area.
- 8.2 It isn't clear what period the features identified in Trench 7 date from, but a small fragment of modern orange fabric brown glazed pottery was recovered from the top of the undefined rubble spread [702] during surface cleaning. A sample of the charcoal and burnt faunal bone material was recovered from deposit [700] as these appear to represent domestic debris.
- 8.3 The linear feature identified in Trench 4 and the iron service pipe seen in Trench 5 would appear to date to more recent activity on the site and may be associated with development of the Spey Dam.

Conclusions

- 9.1 With the exception of Trench 7, the development area appears to be archaeologically sterile, with no archaeological remains of significance encountered.
- 9.2 The archaeological features encountered in Trench 7, however, occur on the route of the only planned access road to the development, and would therefore be heavily impacted by the development. In order to avoid detrimentally impacting these archaeological remains, it is proposed that construction of the access road will exclude ground-breaking works from a 10 m buffer zone around the site of the archaeological remains encountered in Trench 7. Instead the access road foundations will be raised above the present ground surface at this location, thus allowing these archaeological remains to be preserved in situ, and negating the need for further archaeological mitigation works.
- 9.3 GUARD would stress that the final decision on the proposed scheme rests with the planning authority Cairngorms National Park Authority, and their archaeological advisors, HCAU.

Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD would like to thank Ken Quinn, Site Engineer to Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions, and Andrew Puls of HCAU for their assistance during the project. Plant and driver were supplied via Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions. In-house technical support was provided by Aileen Maule and John Kiely. The illustrations were produced by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD by Ronan Toolis.

**Spey Dam, Laggan
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices



www.guard-archaeology.co.uk

Appendices

Appendix A: Trench Details

Trench 1						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50.0	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.35
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Overburden	Topsoil 001				Depth (m)	0.30
Subsoil	Interface layer 002				Depth (m)	0.05
Natural	Orange sand and gravel 003					
Significant features	N/A					
Finds	N/A					
Trench 2						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.38
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Overburden	Topsoil 001				Depth (m)	0.32
Subsoil	Interface layer 002				Depth (m)	0.06
Natural	Orange sand and gravel 003					
Significant features	N/A					
Finds	N/A					
Trench 3						
Dimensions	Length (m)	37 x 13	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.46-0.90
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Overburden	Topsoil 001				Depth (m)	0.36
Subsoil	Interface layer 002				Depth (m)	0.10
Subsoil	Colluvium layer 004				Depth (m)	0.44
Natural	Orange sand and gravel 003					
Significant features	Stone deposit 300					
Finds	N/A					
Trench 4						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.33
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NW-SE					
Overburden	Topsoil 001				Depth (m)	0.25
Subsoil	Interface layer 002				Depth (m)	0.08
Natural	Orange sand and gravel 003					
Significant features	Linear feature 400					
Finds	N/A					
Trench 5						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.35
Total Area (m ²)	100					
Orientation	NE-SW					
Overburden	Topsoil 001				Depth (m)	0.28-0.35
Subsoil	Interface layer 002				Depth (m)	0.07
Natural	Orange sand and gravel 003					
Significant features	Iron service pipe					
Finds	N/A					

Trench 6						
Dimensions	Length (m)	33	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.38
Total Area (m²)	66					
Orientation	NW-SE					
Overburden	Topsoil 001				Depth (m)	0.30
Subsoil	Interface layer 002				Depth (m)	0.08
Natural	Orange sand and gravel 003					
Significant features	N/A					
Finds	N/A					

Trench 7						
Dimensions	Length (m)	50	Width (m)	2	Depth (m)	0.4
Total Area (m²)	100					
Orientation	NW-SE					
Overburden	Topsoil 001				Depth (m)	0.30
Subsoil	Interface layer 002				Depth (m)	0.22
Natural	Orange sand and gravel 003					
Significant features	700, 701 and 702					
Finds	Pottery from 702 small find no. 1					

Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context	Area	Description	Height (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Above	Below
001	Site	Deposit: A moist, firm, dark grey/brown sandy loam with moderate inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones 60 mm<. Interpreted as: Topsoil	-	-	-	Up to 0.35 m	002	-
002	Site	Deposit: A thin interface at the base of the topsoil layer 001, top of the underlying sand and gravel layer 003.	-	-	-	Up to 0.1 m	003	001
003	Site	Deposit: Orange sand and gravel. Interpreted as: Natural	-	-	-	-	-	002
004	Trench 3	Deposit: A moist, firm, mid brown sand with moderate inclusions of gravel. Interpreted as: Colluvium	-	-	-	Up to 0.46	002	001
300	Trench 3	Deposit: A moist, firm, mid brown sand with frequent inclusions of large, medium and small sub-rounded stones 400 mm x 350 mm x 220 mm<. Interpreted as: Possible clearance cairn	0.4	7	6.1	-	301	004
301	Trench 3	Deposit: A moist, firm, Grey sand with moderate inclusions of gravel, orange mottling and discontinuous lenses of peat towards the base of the layer. Interpreted as: Layer sealed by stony deposit 300	-	6	5	0.20	003	300
400	Trench 4	Cut: Linear in plan aligned north-south and continued below trench edges to north and south. Sharp break of slope at top to steep slightly curving sides which break abruptly to form a broad irregular base. Interpreted as: Linear feature (modern)	-	2 excavated	Up to 0.6	0.15	Cuts natural 003	401
401	Trench 4	Fill: A moist, firm, dark grey/brown sandy loam with moderate inclusions of small sub-angular and sub-rounded stones 60 mm<. Interpreted as: Fill of linear feature 400	-	-	-	0.15	400	002
700	Trench 7	Deposit: A moist, firm, grey silty sand with frequent inclusions of charcoal and burnt bone. Not fully excavated. Interpreted as: Possible hearth remnant	-	1.3	1.2	0.06	003	002

Context	Area	Description	Height (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Above	Below
701	Trench 7	Structure: Random rubble sub-rounded stone 250 mm x 220 mm x 180 mm< possibly originally drystone but now bound by a brown sand. Aligned northwest to southeast. Interpreted as: Putative wall or wall footing remnant	-	1.3	Up to 0.68	Up to 0.22	003	001
702	Trench 7	Structure: A moist, firm, mid grey brown sand with moderate inclusions of large, medium and small sub-rounded stones. Interpreted as: Undefined possible structural remains	-	5	3.5 (exposed)	0.35	001	003

Appendix C: List of Finds

No.	Description	Context	Trench
1	1 pottery fragment	702	7

Appendix D: List of Samples

No.	Description	Context	Trench
1	Deposit	301	3
2	Fill of linear feature	400	4
3	Charcoal and burnt bone rich deposit	700	7

Appendix E: List of Drawings

No.	Description	Trench	Scale
1	Southwest facing section through stone deposit 300 and deposit 301	3	1:50
2	North facing section through linear feature 400	4	1:10
3	Plan of features 700, 701 and 702	7	1:50

Appendix F: Photographic Record

Digital Film No.1

No.	Trench	Description	From
1	-	Registration shot	-
2	-	General view of southern part of site	S
3	-	General view of north part of site	E
4	1	General view of Trench	SW
5-6	2	View of interface layer 002	NE
7	2	General view of Trench	SW
8-9	3	SE facing section through deposit 004	SE
10-11	3	Stone deposit 300	NW
12-13	3	Stone deposit 300	SW
14-17	3	Stone deposit 300 SW facing section	SW
18-19	3	Detail of deposit 301 below stone deposit 300	SW
20-21	3	General view of Trench	SW
22-23	4	General view of Trench	NW
24-27	4	N facing section through linear feature 400	N
28-30	-	General view of site	W
31	-	Spey Dam	N

No.	Trench	Description	From
32-34	-	General view of Site	E
35	-	Relict spoil heap towards east end of site	NE
36	5	General view of Trench	SW
37	5	Service pipe	N
38	6	General view of Trench	SE
39	7	General view of Trench	NW
40-41	7	Detail of burnt bone concentration within deposit 700	SW
42-44	7	Possible wall footing remnant 701	NE
45-46	7	Possible wall footing 701 and rubble spread 702	NW
47-48	7	General view of Trench	W
49-50	7	General view of Trench	NW
51-52	7	Deposit 700	SW

Appendix G: Discovery And Excavation Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Cairngorms National Park
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Spey Dam, Laggan
PROJECT CODE:	3258
PARISH:	Laggan
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Alan Hunter Blair
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	---
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	---
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	---
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 58254 93714
START DATE (this season)	17 th February 2011
END DATE (this season)	18 th February 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Due to the proximity of archaeological remains such as the site of St Michael's Chapel and the deserted township of Crathie, an archaeological evaluation of a proposed development area at Spey Dam near Laggan was undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Ltd. The trial trench evaluation encountered a number of undated archaeological features. A possible clearance cairn was identified towards the north western part of the development area, while towards the south eastern part of the development area, a deposit containing a good quantity of burnt faunal bone and charcoal, possibly representing the remains of a hearth, next to the ruinous remains of dry stone structure was encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions Ltd
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	52 Elderpark Workspace, 100 Elderpark Street, Glasgow, G51 3TR
EMAIL ADDRESS:	ronan.toolis@guard-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.

Appendix H: Written Scheme Of Investigation

GUARD 3258: Spey Dam, Laggan

Written Scheme of Investigation

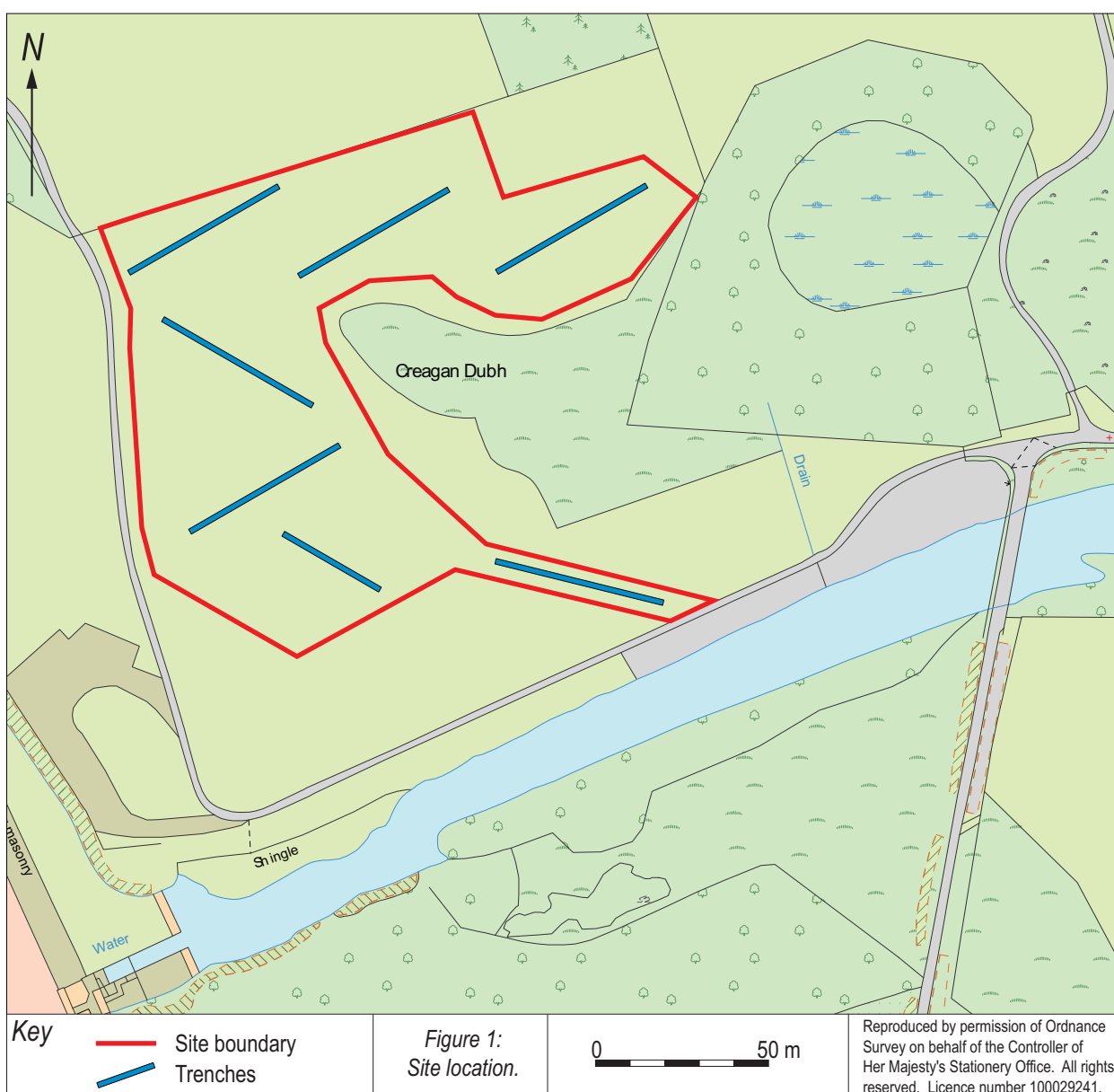
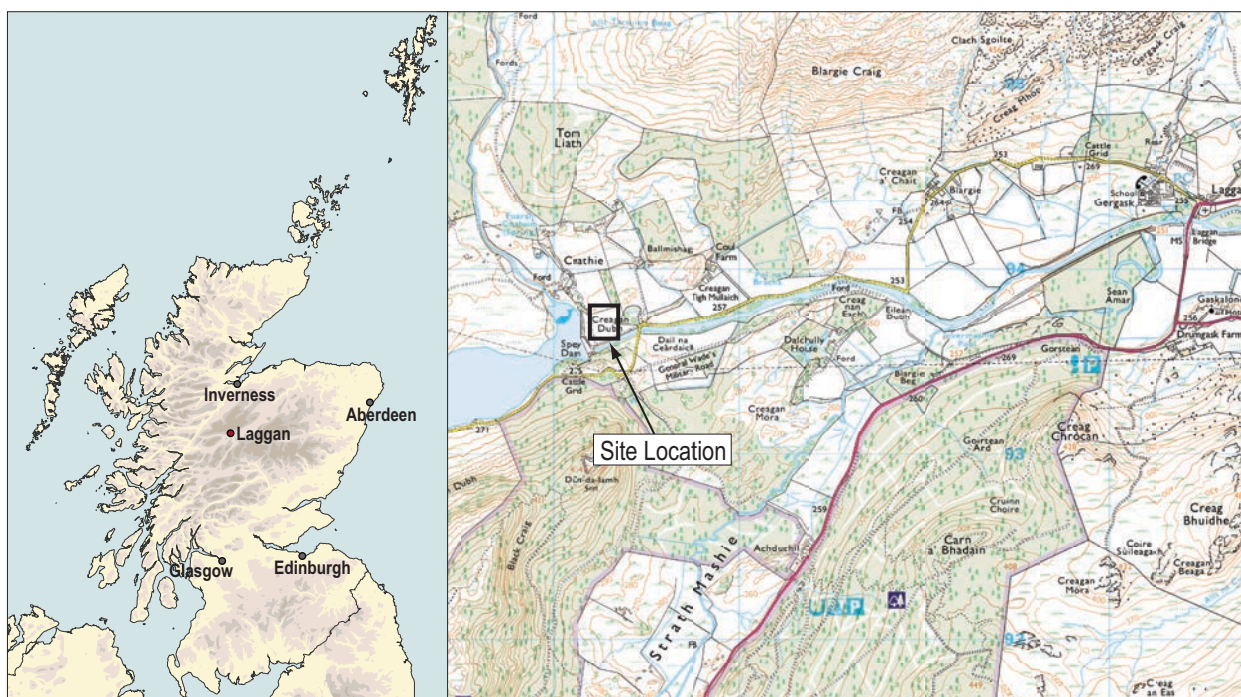
Planning Reference: 10/02815/FUL

Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a phased programme of archaeological works for the proposed development of the site known as 3258: Spey Dam, Laggan. In the first instance, an evaluation of the site will be undertaken to establish whether any significant archaeological remains are associated with the site. Should significant remains be identified and it is not possible to preserve them in-situ a further requirement for archaeological works to ensure their preservation through record is likely to be pursued.
- 1.2 This WSI outlines the entirety of the programme of archaeological works that may be needed to mitigate the effects of the proposed development. It details the methodology to be employed in implementing the Stage 1 archaeological works. The mitigation methodology to be employed during Stage 2 and Stage 3 post excavation analysis and publication, will be specified in addenda to this document. These addenda, if required, will be submitted for agreement of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit (HCAU) acting on behalf of the Cairngorms National Park Authority, prior to the commencement of any archaeological work. All phases of work will be funded by the developer as required by the Planning Authority.

Site Location and Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The proposed development area requiring evaluation covers 1.33 ha and is located c. 3 km to the west of Laggan (NGR: NN 58254 93714; Figure 1). The proposed site is bounded to the north by fields, to the west by the Spey Dam, to the south by the River Spey and to the east by a woodland plantation.
- 2.2 While no archaeological remains have been identified within the development area, the land surrounding the development area has a moderate distribution of archaeological sites. To the immediate north-east of the development area, just outwith its boundary, lies the site of St Michael's Chapel, constructed in 1845 to replace an earlier chapel and graveyard located several hundred metres further east. The later St Michael's Chapel is now demolished with no upstanding remains, but once stood on a hillock above the present road and was surrounded by Yew trees. The presence of the lower shaft of a carved stone cross on the site of the earlier chapel further to the east indicates that the original chapel was perhaps of some status during the early medieval period. No remains of this earlier chapel survive, however, with only a D-shaped enclosure, the carved stone cross-shaft and some gravestones marking the burial ground that surrounded it.
- 2.3 Between the two St Michael Chapel sites, to the east of the development area, is the findspot of a stone axe found in 1975. Dun da Lamh hillfort overlooks the development area from high ground to the south of the River Spey.
- 2.4 A short distance to the north of the development area is the depopulated township of Crathie, which comprises about 61 buildings, 25 small enclosures and a corn-drying kiln. The major part of Crathie was deserted in the late 19th century. More buildings were abandoned in the 1920's. In 1960 further depopulation was instigated by Sir William Ramsden. This township is depicted on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (1872), where it comprises thirty-nine



roofed, three partially, twelve unroofed buildings, enclosures, field-system and two lengths of head-dyke. Four roofed, twenty-nine unroofed buildings, field-system and the head-dykes are shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1971).

- 2.5 The modern Dalwhinnie to Fort Augustus section of General Wade's 18th century Military Road runs parallel to the southern bank of the River Spey.
- 2.6 The evaluation thus has the potential to encounter previously unknown archaeological remains related to the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval occupation of the surrounding landscape.

Planning Background

- 3.1 This WSI has been drafted in response to Planning Condition 8 and the archaeological specification set by HCAU, archaeological advisors to the Cairngorms National Park Authority, which requires an archaeological evaluation of the development area, prior to commencement of the development.

Aims

- 4.1 The aims and objectives of archaeological works are as follows:
 - evaluate 5 % of the development area by machine-cut trial trench excavation.
 - establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains.
 - determine the character, extent and significance of any archaeological deposits encountered.
 - establish whether there are any archaeological issues resulting from the proposed development and recommend how they may be addressed.

Methodology

- 5.1 The programme of archaeological works will commence with a 5 % evaluation of the 1.33 ha development area, comprising six trenches, each measuring 50 m long x 2 m wide and one further trench measuring 33 m long by 2 m wide (See Figure 1).
- 5.2 All trenches will be excavated by mechanical excavator, utilizing a toothless ditching bucket under direct supervision of an archaeologist, down to the first archaeological horizon or to natural, whichever is encountered first. The depth of stratigraphy apparent in all trenches will be recorded.
- 5.3 A proportion of any minor or locally significant archaeological features encountered will be sample excavated. All finds will be recovered and a bulk soil sampling strategy will be adopted for discrete negative features as exposed within trenches. All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, will be to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork.
- 5.4 If features of regional or national archaeological significance are found within the evaluation trenches HCAU and the client will be notified immediately and further phases of work to mitigate the archaeologically adverse effects of the development may be required, subject to further discussion with HCAU, on behalf of the Cairngorms National Park Authority.
- 5.5 Should significant archaeological remains be identified, Stage 2 will involve the implementation of appropriate archaeological mitigation measures, which may consist of further evaluation and/or excavation and recording of features that will be destroyed by development works. Stage 3 will include suitable post-excavation analysis, reporting, and publication of discovered archaeological remains, if appropriate.

Reporting

- 6.1 Following the completion of the evaluation fieldwork, an illustrated Data Structure Report will be produced, detailing the results of the fieldwork and including recommendations for mitigation measures appropriate to any remains encountered by the evaluation. Our report will meet the standards as required by HCAU as outlined on their website (<http://her.highland.gov.uk/SingleResult.aspx?uid='THG6327'>). Hard and digital copies of the evaluation report will be produced and copies lodged, as a minimum, with the client, HCAU (digital copy only) and the National Monuments Record for Scotland.
- 6.2 GUARD will also implement the standards and requirements of the Archaeological Standard Protocol for the Integrated Reporting of Events (ASPIRE), Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) and Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

Archive, Small Finds and Human Remains

- 7.1 The resultant site archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Records for Scotland within six months of the completion of all work. Any small finds recovered will be declared to the Crown Agent in accordance with Scots Law, and if claimed, will be transferred to the appointed museum. In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered during the evaluation, the local police and the client will be notified immediately and no further work will take place on site until agreement on how to proceed has been reached with all parties.

Timetable and Staffing

- 8.1 The precise date for the work will be agreed between the developer and GUARD and notified to HCAU at least two working days prior to work beginning on site. It is envisaged that the evaluation will take no more than one day to complete. Once the date for trenching has been agreed, a suitably qualified project officer from GUARD will be appointed. All project team members will be qualified and suitably experienced professional archaeologists and CVs will be supplied if required. The site mobile phone number will be notified to HCAU and the client prior to work commencing.

Health & Safety and Insurance

- 9.1 GUARD will conduct the evaluation in accordance with Health and Safety legislation and with the guidelines and standards governing archaeological fieldwork set down in the IFA approved Health and Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork document prepared by SCAUM. Prior to fieldwork commencing a risk assessment of the project will be undertaken, giving rise to a project-specific safety plan. GUARD also possess all necessary insurance cover, including employer's and public liability insurance cover, proofs of which will be supplied upon request.

**GUARD Archaeology Limited
52 Elderpark Workspace
100 Elderpark Street
Glasgow
G51 3TR**

**Tel: 0141 445 8800
Fax: 0141 445 3222
email: info@guard-archaeology.co.uk**



www.guard-archaeology.co.uk