

A watching brief at Bragar, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles.

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Jacobs
27 Abercronby Place
Edinburgh
EH3 6QE

National Grid Reference (NGR): NB 365 886 to NB 058 855

AOC Archaeology Project No: 20746

Prepared by: Alan Duffy

Illustration by: Graeme Carruthers

Timing: Watching Brief 18th - 25th September 2007
Reporting 27th - 28th September 2007

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1 NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Jacobs during groundbreaking works associated with a section of the replacement of a water main within the settlement of Bragar, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were recorded.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Jacobs to undertake an archaeological watching brief in compliance with the requirements of a planning condition imposed on the advice of Comhairle Nan Eilean Sair-Le Archaeology Unit in accordance with NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994), and Pan 42 (SOEnd 1994a) within the settlement of Bragar, Isle of Lewis Western Isles. (Figure 1)
- 2.1.2 During an initial desk based assessment and walkover survey (Shaw 2007) the remains of twenty one upstanding archaeological sites were noted within the vicinity of the water pipeline replacement. These sites were in the main features associated with post medieval crofting including horizontal mills (one of which is a scheduled ancient monument), enclosures, a farmstead, buildings, a jawbone arch: whalebone arch (which is a B Listed monument), corn-drying kilns and agricultural remains. Two features dating from the Medieval period or earlier were also identified, these being a crannog and a broch (a scheduled ancient monument) at Loch an Duna.
- 2.1.3 Further to the desk based assessment and walkover survey, a series of test pits were dug along the proposed route of the water main (Sludden 2007). A total of seven test pits were dug along the roadside verges or within disused ground near the existing water main. No buried or truncated archaeological remains were noted in the test pits. The test pitting revealed that the eastern half of the water main was dug into mainly modern made up ground, frequently cut by existing services, and that the western half contained no made up ground but was still disturbed by existing services.
- 2.1.4 In light of the test pitting it was decided that the only section of ground breaking works that required monitoring was the central section which deviated sufficiently from the existing route of the water main and other services where undisturbed archaeology might be present. This section was in the central part of the water pipeline and was located between NB 365 886 to NB 058 855.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE INVESTIGATION

3.1 The objectives of the site inspection and watching brief were:

- i) to determine the presence, character, extent and significance of any archaeological features or artefacts that may be disturbed during the ground breaking works.
- ii) to present a mitigation strategy allowing works to proceed should an adverse archaeological impact be identified.

4 METHOD

- #### 4.1
- The pipe trench was excavated with a 360° mechanical excavator using a toothed ditching bucket c 0.60 m wide. The topsoil was removed in shallow spits down to either the first archaeological horizon or natural, under constant archaeological monitoring. Beyond natural the trench was excavated down to a depth of between 0.60 m– 0.90 m below the present ground level. Black and white print and colour slide photographs were taken during the course of the works (Appendix 2)

5 RESULTS

- #### 5.1
- At the eastern end of the pipe trench a ruinous stone enclosure, adjacent and to the west of Shore Road, was truncated on it's southern and northern sides. Also the remains of a sheep burial were disturbed in the central area to the north of the crofts.
- #### 5.2
- No significant archaeological features, sediments or artefacts were noted during the works.

6 REFERENCES:

Shaw C, *Bragar, Mains Water Replacement Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and walk over survey*, Unpublished Client Report.

Sludden K, *Bragar Water Main – Test Pit Assessment*, Unpublished Client Report.

SOEnd 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline 5, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environmental Department.

SOEnd 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Office Environmental Department.

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Frame Detail:
No:

1 – 2	Registration shot
3 – 4	Trench truncating enclosure adjacent to Shore Road
5 – 6	Trench to the north of the crofts – eastern end
7 – 8	Trench to the north of the crofts – higher ground – eastern end from East
9 – 10	Trench to the north of the crofts – higher ground – eastern end from West
11-12	Trench to the north of the crofts – lower ground
13 – 14	Trench at western end

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Western Isles
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Bragar, Lewis
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20746
PARISH:	Barvas
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NB 365 886 to NB 058 855.
START DATE (this season)	18 th September 2007
END DATE (this season)	25 th September 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was undertaken on the ground breaking works associated with replacement of a water main within the settlement of Bragar, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were found.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Jacobs

Watching brief – Bragar, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles

ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

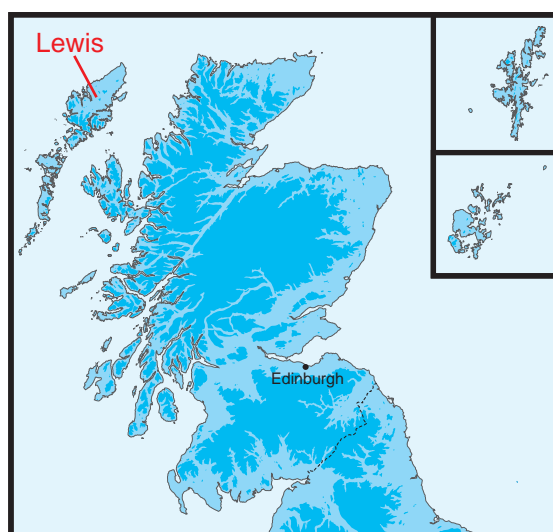
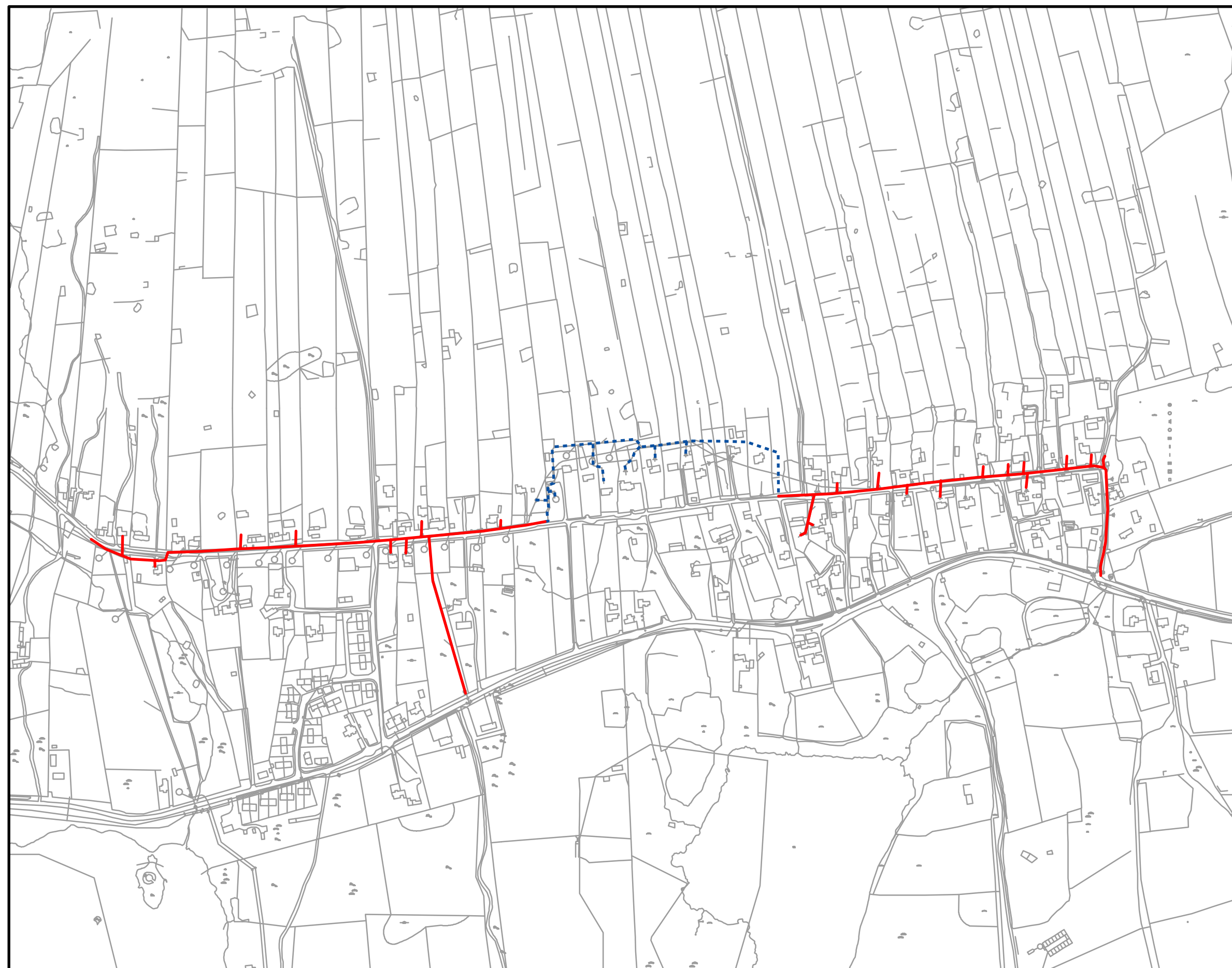


Figure 1: Site location





KEY

- pipe trench
- area of pipe trench
observed under
watching brief

Figure 2: Location of water
pipe trench and area of
watching brief

