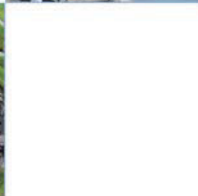


# Dalvuie Farm, North Connel: Watching Brief Report

AOC 21331  
July 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Dalvuie Farm, North Connel: Watching Brief Report

**For:** **Mr Max Bonniwell,**  
Dalvuie Farm,  
Moss Road,  
North Connel,  
PA37 1RX.

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** **NM 9207 3659**

**AOC Project No:** **21331**

**Fieldwork by:** **Diana Sproat & Graeme Carruthers**

**Prepared by:** **Diana Sproat & Graeme Carruthers**

**Illustration by:** **Graeme Carruthers**

**Date of Fieldwork:** **26<sup>th</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009**

**Date of Report:** **20<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

**Author: Graeme Carruthers** **Date: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

**Approved by: John Gooder** **Date: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

**Draft Report Stage** **Date: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

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## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Dalvuie Farm, North Connel, near Oban (centred NGR: NM 9207 3659). The work was commissioned by Mr Max Bonniwell in response to planning consent. The archaeological works were designed in accordance with the principles inherent within SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994).

The proposed development comprises an existing 19<sup>th</sup> century barn and associated horse circle (part of a threshing machine), both of which were recorded prior to demolition

The watching brief uncovered no other features or artefacts of archaeological significance.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Dalvuie Farm, North Connel, Oban. The work was commissioned by Mr Max Bonniwell to address the potential impact of ground breaking works required as part of a proposed residential development. The area lies within the administrative jurisdiction of the Argyll and Bute Council, who are advised on archaeological matters by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS). The archaeological works were designed in accordance with the principles inherent within SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994). A programme of works that fully satisfied and met the requirements of the Conditions of Planning Consent (08/1460/DET) was undertaken.

1.1.2 The proposed development comprises an existing 19<sup>th</sup> century barn and associated horse circle (part of a threshing machine).

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development site lies within Dalvuie Farm, North Connel, Argyll and Bute and is adjacent to the existing farm buildings (NGR: NM 9207 3659; Figure 1).

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to record the existing horse circle prior to demolition;
- ii) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
- iii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that would be disturbed by the development programme;
- iv) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that would suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie, preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with WoSAS.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The works involved two distinct elements, a standing building assessment of the remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn and associated horse circle (part of a threshing machine) and an archaeological watching brief on ground breaking works associated with the residential development.

- 3.2 The standing building assessment consisted of a simple photographic record of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn and associated horse circle prior to the redevelopment and refurbishment works starting on site.
- 3.3 The watching brief consisted of an experienced field archaeologist monitoring all ground breaking works occurring within the confines of the watching brief area which in this instance was the footprint of the proposed house plot. Excavation was by means of a tracked 360° degree mechanical digger utilising a smooth bladed bucket for all excavations.
- 3.4 All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practice. A black and white print and digital photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

## 4 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by our Senior Buildings Archaeologist and a single archaeologist in predominantly dry bright weather conditions on 26<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009.

### 4.2 Standing Building Assessment (Plates 1-3)

- 4.2.1 On-site works recorded the remaining elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn and associated horse circle. In total 22 Black and White print photographs and Colour digital photographs, as listed in Appendix 1, were taken to record the barn prior to the redevelopment works.



**Plate 1: General view of the horse circle from the north-west**



**Plate 2: General view of the horse circle from the west**

4.2.2 The horse circle is located to the north-west of the main house, adjacent to a three by one bay single storey barn, which is almost certainly associated with the circle. It is possible that there was once a chute or mechanism in which the horse would have powered machinery within the barn. However, there was no evidence within the barn of former machinery, all openings on the western side adjacent to the circle having been blocked.



**Plate 3: Detail of the small depression on the north side of the horse circle from the south**



- 4.2.3 The circle itself stands between 0.5 m and 1.0 m in height above the ground and is now covered in grass, although the large sub-rounded stones of its foundations were still visible (Plates 1 & 2). It measured approximately 16.20 m (north/south) by 12 m (east/west) and the depression of the horse circle within the mound – where the horse would have effectively walked – was still visible, much wider on the southern side. There was a small depression on the north side (Plate 3), 0.80 m in width, and another depression adjacent to the barn, also 0.80 m in width.
- 4.2.4 The barn itself is a three by one bay single storey stone rubble white-washed barn, open to the north end with a large double door to the east side. The south gable has been entirely rebuilt in brick and the floor is now concrete. The openings on the west side had been blocked with breeze block, a door to the centre flanked by two splayed window bays. It is clear that the barn had changed use over time and that there was no evidence of any former machinery which would have once been powered by the horsed circle.

### **4.3 Watching Brief (Figures 1 and 2)**

- 4.3.1 The watching brief covered all ground breaking works that occurred within the proposed house plot and included topsoil stripping and excavations for services/foundations (Figure 2).
- 4.3.2 The site was covered in a thin, patchy topsoil between 0.05 - 0.10 m in depth. The subsoil comprised loose gravel.
- 4.3.3 Neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered during the watching brief.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Standing Building Assessment has provided a suitably comprehensive record of the remaining elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century barn and threshing machine, whilst the watching brief uncovered no features or artefacts of any archaeological significance.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 No further works are required. Please note this recommendation will require confirmation from WoSAS on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

AOC 2009 *Dalvuie Farm, North Connel Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished AOC Archaeology Client Report.

SPP23 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning*. Nov.2008.

PAN42 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department, January 1994.

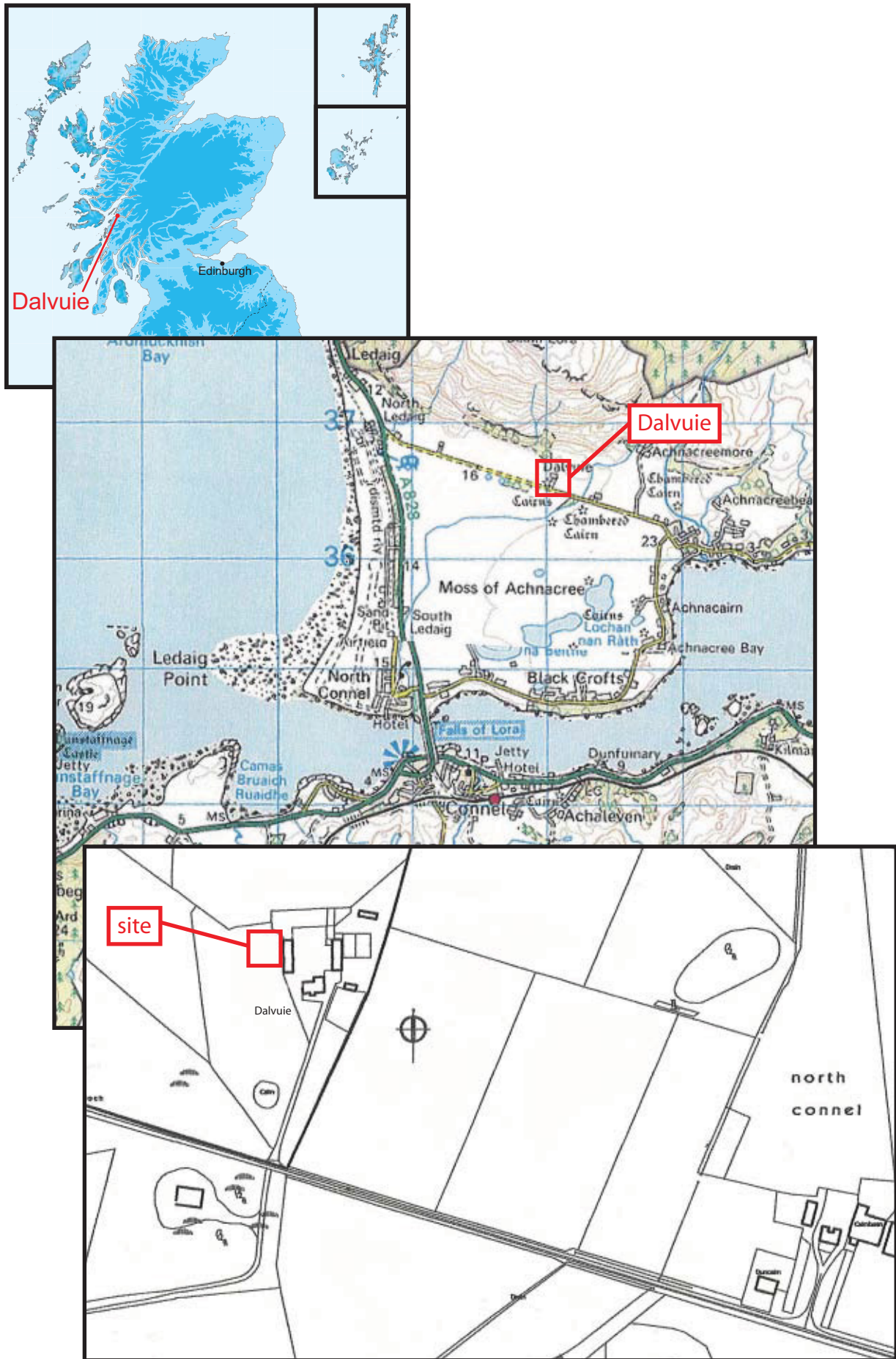
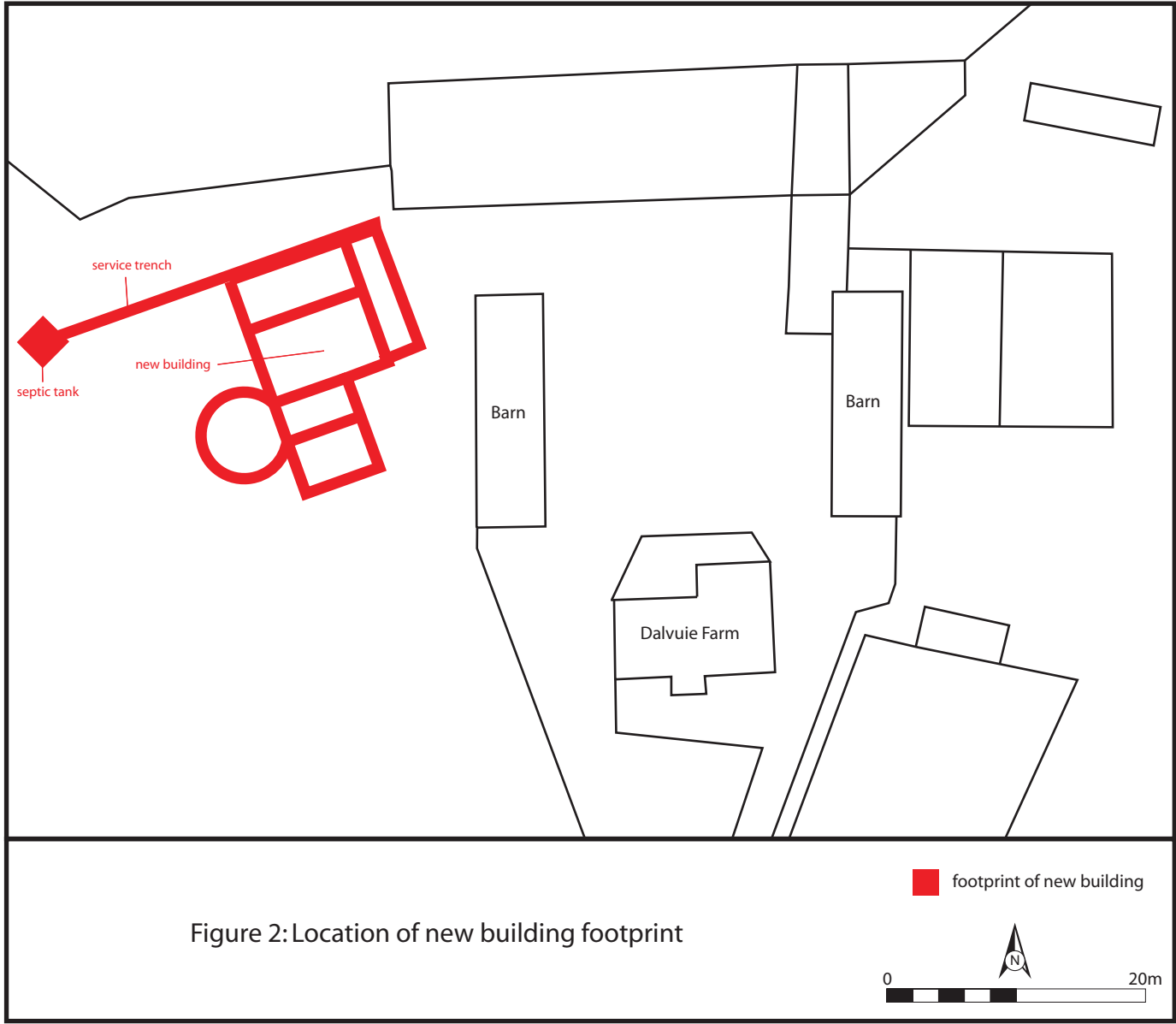


Figure 1: Site location



# **Dalvuie Farm, North Connel: Watching Brief Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

### Black & White Print Film 1 & Colour Digital – Historic Building Photographic Record

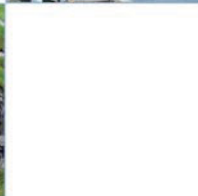
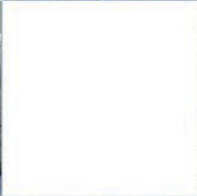
Frame	Description	From
1	Registration	
2	General view of barn	E
3	General view of barn	S
4	General view of interior of barn	S
5-6	Detail of window on W wall of interior of barn	NEE
7	General view of barn	W
8	General view of barn, DS gable end	S
9	General view of barn and horse circle	SW
10	General view of horse circle	SSW
11	General view of barn and horse circle	SWW
12	General view of barn and horse circle	NW
13	General view of barn and horse circle	NNW
14	Detail of horse circle to the NW side	NNW
15	Detail of horse circle and step on the S side	E
16	Detail of Holloway within horse circle to the N edge	S
17	Detail of stone within horse circle to the E side adjacent to the barn	W
18	General view of the horse circle showing the main dip to the S side	W
19	Detail of stones brought up by tree roots to the W side	W
20	General view of the horse circle to the W side showing profile of horse circle	S
21	Detail of profile horse circle on the W side	W
22	Detail of small Holloway on the E side of the horse circle adjacent to the barn	W

### Colour Digital Film 2

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shot	-
3-9	General shots of the excavation of the building foundations	Var

**APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT**

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll and Bute Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dalvuie Farm, North Connel Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21331
PARISH:	Ardchattan and Muckairn
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Diana Sproat & Graeme Carruthers
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief & Standing Building Assessment
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	19 <sup>th</sup> century barn and associated horse circle (part of a threshing machine)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NM 9207 3659
START DATE (this season)	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2009
END DATE (this season)	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Dalvuie Farm, North Connel during ground breaking works associated with the construction of a single residence.</p> <p>Prior to re-development works commencing a standing building assessment consisting of a photographic record was made of the remaining elements of an existing 19<sup>th</sup> century barn and associated horse circle (part of a threshing machine).</p> <p>The watching brief uncovered neither features nor artefacts of any archaeological significance.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Max Bonniewell
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	c/o AOC Archaeology Group
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com



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