



Highland Archaeology Services Ltd

Bringing the Past and Future Together

Archaeology Report: Site for New Housing



The Square: Dornoch, Sutherland

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Archaeology Report: Site for New Housing

The Square: Dornoch, Sutherland

Site Code:	HAS/DBP07
Grid Reference:	NH 798 896
Client:	JA Property Development Ltd
Report Date / revision:	20 April 2008
Authors:	Emma Malone and John Wood

Summary

Archaeological assessment and evaluation followed by recording of foundation trenches was undertaken in order to fulfil planning requirements imposed by the Highland Council.

An archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trenching evaluation were conducted in April 2007 to establish the nature and extent of any archaeology likely to be affected by a development at The Square in Dornoch, Sutherland. The footings of the former Sutherland Arms Hotel were found, as well as features of possible earlier date. As a result of this, the foundation trenches for the new building were excavated under archaeological supervision and the features revealed were mapped and analysed.

Excavations in Phase 2 discovered an abundance of archaeological features including; further footings of the Hotel; sections of walls pre-dating the Hotel; possible occupation surfaces (of indeterminate date); and some pits and gullies in the natural subsoil. The disturbance to the site created during its years as a garage was found to be surprisingly limited to specific areas surrounding the petrol and diesel tanks. Trenches were excavated only to the depth required by the development and full excavation to natural subsoil was not therefore possible.

Within the confines of the narrow trenches available only fragmentary information could be retrieved. However the excavation of the foundations revealed further information about former buildings as well as extensive destruction for underground tanks by the petrol filling station that occupied the site in the later 20th c.

Acknowledgements

The initial assessment and evaluation were undertaken by Mary Peteranna and John Wombell, assisted by Ann Coombs. The results were reported by Mary Peteranna in June 2007¹. The excavation of the foundation trenches was carried out in June 2007, supervised on site by Gemma Shannahan, assisted by John Wombell, George Grant, Alistair Jupp, Allan MacKenzie, and Ann Coombs. This report was prepared by Emma Malone and John Wood from the site records. We are very grateful to John Wombell for his considerable assistance in analysing the site plans and drawings. The project as a whole was managed by John Wood. We are grateful to the client JA Properties for their invaluable assistance throughout. Maps are based on Ordnance Survey data reproduced by permission under the Company's licence no.100043217.

¹ Peteranna, M 2007 *Evaluation: Site for New Housing, The Square: Dornoch, Sutherland* (HAS 070602)

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Location

The site is centred approximately at Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference NH 798 896, in the town square of Dornoch in Sutherland (see Figure 1 below). It is within the local authority area of the Highland Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit (HCAU).



Figure 1 Location

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping under licence. Not to original scale. Grid lines at 1km intervals.

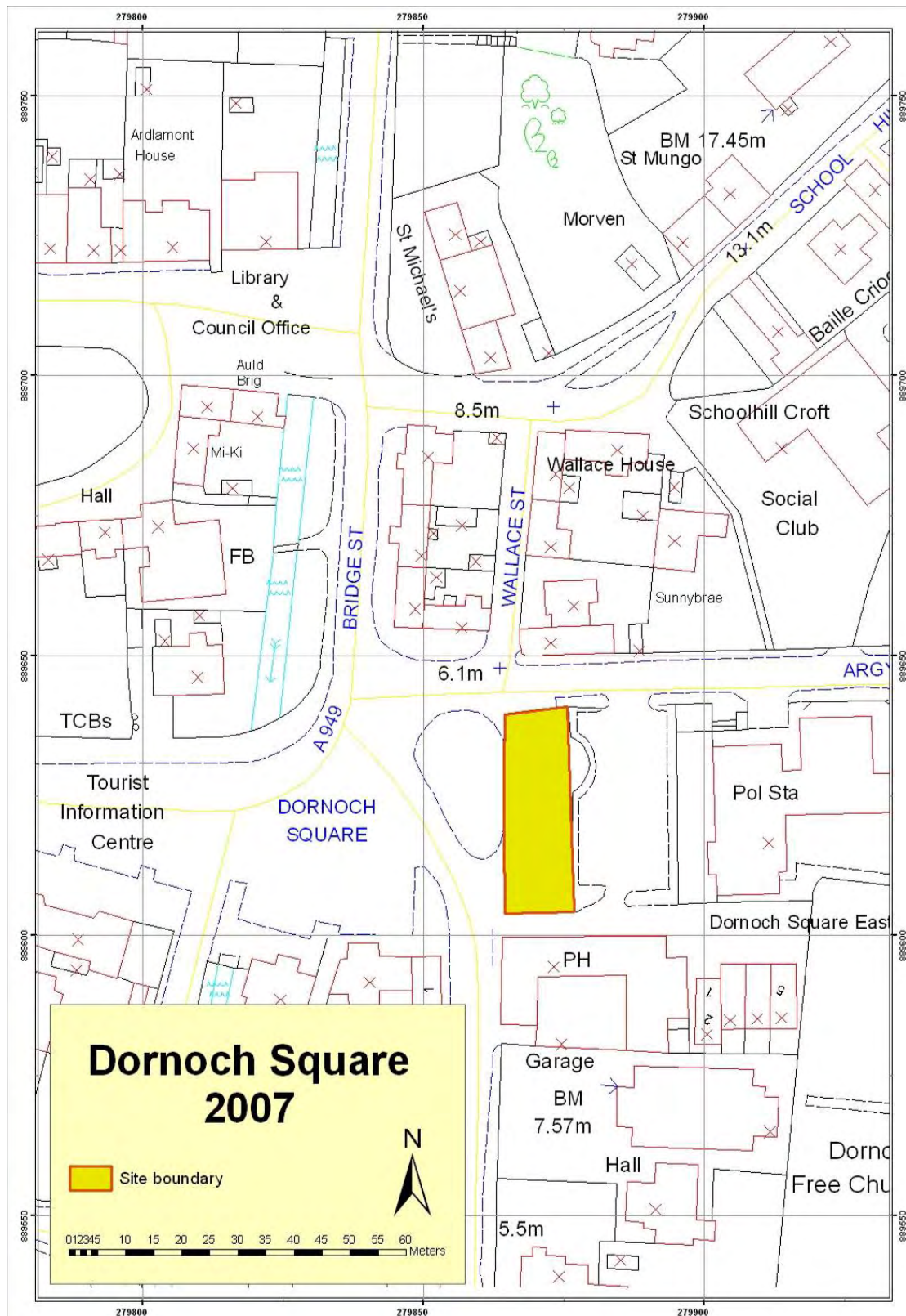


Figure 2 Site Location within Dornoch

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping under licence. Grid lines at 50m intervals

Introduction and Planning Background

A programme of archaeological evaluation was conducted by Highland Archaeology Services at The Square in Dornoch, Sutherland in April and June 2007 on behalf of JA Development Property Ltd to fulfil a planning requirement prior to development of the site for flats. This report summarises the overall results from the work.

The programme consisted of a desk-based assessment, walkover survey, and an initial archaeological trenching evaluation followed by supervised excavation of foundation trenches.

Aims and objectives

The archaeological investigation was requested in this case because of the site's location within the historical town of Dornoch, in order to reduce the risk of finds or features of interest being damaged or destroyed without record during site works.

The objectives of the archaeology programme were to:

1. Minimize any possible delay or costs to the development by anticipating any archaeological requirements as far as possible, timetabling and integrating archaeological recording work with the project, and dealing with any issues arising quickly and efficiently.
2. Determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; and to preserve these where possible and record where necessary in line with NPPG 5 (SOEND 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEND 1994).
3. Ensure that any artefacts or human remains are dealt with in accordance with legal requirements and current Historic Scotland policy guidance.
4. Meet the requirements of the Highland Council Archaeology Unit for this project.

Archaeological background and cultural significance

There is a long history of settlement in the south-eastern part of Sutherland around Dornoch. Many recorded prehistoric sites such as Neolithic chambered cairns (NH78NE1, NH78NE12) and Iron Age hut circles (Camore Wood, Scheduled Ancient Monument 5898) provide evidence of very early settlement in the fertile plains and sheltered bays around the Dornoch Firth. A large collection of carved symbol stones in Dunrobin Museum in Golspie, recovered in Caithness and Sutherland, seems to demonstrate a prosperous Pictish population in the region before the Viking occupation in the 9th century².

Little is known about settlement in Dornoch until the 13th century when Bishop Gilbert de Moray assigned the seat of the Caithness diocese to Dornoch. Dornoch retained the bishopric until it was abandoned in the mid 1500s³, after which there is little documentation about life in Dornoch until the 18th c.

² Hook, Michael. *A History of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch*. Dornoch: Historylinks Museum, 2005.

³ Simpson, W. Douglas. *The Ancient Stones of Scotland*. London : Robert Hale & Co, 1968.

Despite the acquisition of the title of royal burgh in 1628⁴ and the attempts at improving the town's prosperity, Medieval Dornoch did not experience any notable growth until well after Britain's Industrial Revolution⁵. The account of Dornoch from Sir John Ulbster's *Statistical Accounts of Scotland* in the 1790s tells of a lack of trade and general poverty amongst the few craftsmen and approximately 500 inhabitants of Dornoch⁶. The notes of the Dornoch Town Council corroborate these conditions, as do the Chambers' description in 1832, indicating a general lack of industry and growth in addition to the town's inability to maintain private and public buildings and services⁷.

There was, however, one documented attempt at improving the town. Between 1811 and 1816, as recorded in Hector MacKay's *Old Dornoch-Its Traditions and Legends*, the future Duke of Sutherland made some changes to the town for the sake of his future estates. This included clearing houses south of the High Street, clearing houses in the Castle Close, straightening the burn and laying out Castle Street and Bridge Street⁸.

A map of Dornoch in 1783 shows the eastern boundary of the town running roughly along the line of the Dornoch Burn. The present site was therefore in fields at that time. It is not clear whether the town had previously extended further but this seems unlikely.



Figure 3 Dornoch 1783

Courtesy of National Library of Scotland. Arrow shows approximate location of site.

⁴ Hook, Michael. *A History of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch*. Dornoch: Historylinks Museum, 2005: 24.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid: 39-40.

⁷ Ibid: 36-37, 65, 67.

⁸ Ibid: 68-69.

A map of 1811 (Fig 3) shows some changes: the burn has, it seems been diverted around a large building placed across its former line. The diversion would seem to run through the present site, and a substantial drain was found along approximately the expected alignment. However the map seems to show an open watercourse. This diversion does not appear on a map of 1832 (Fig 4), and it may be simply a cartographic error.

The map of 1832 shows a building apparently on this site, oriented north-south with wings projecting west at each end. This seems to lie close to the alignment of the later Sutherland Arms Hotel (Highland SMR NH78NE0076), the southern part of which seems to be of early 19th c. date (Plate 1).

Although the building shown in 1832 is large, the northern part of the hotel is late Victorian or Edwardian in character. This appears to be a replacement or at least a very extensive adaptation, and by 1906 the outline seems to have changed from that shown on the 1st edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1878.

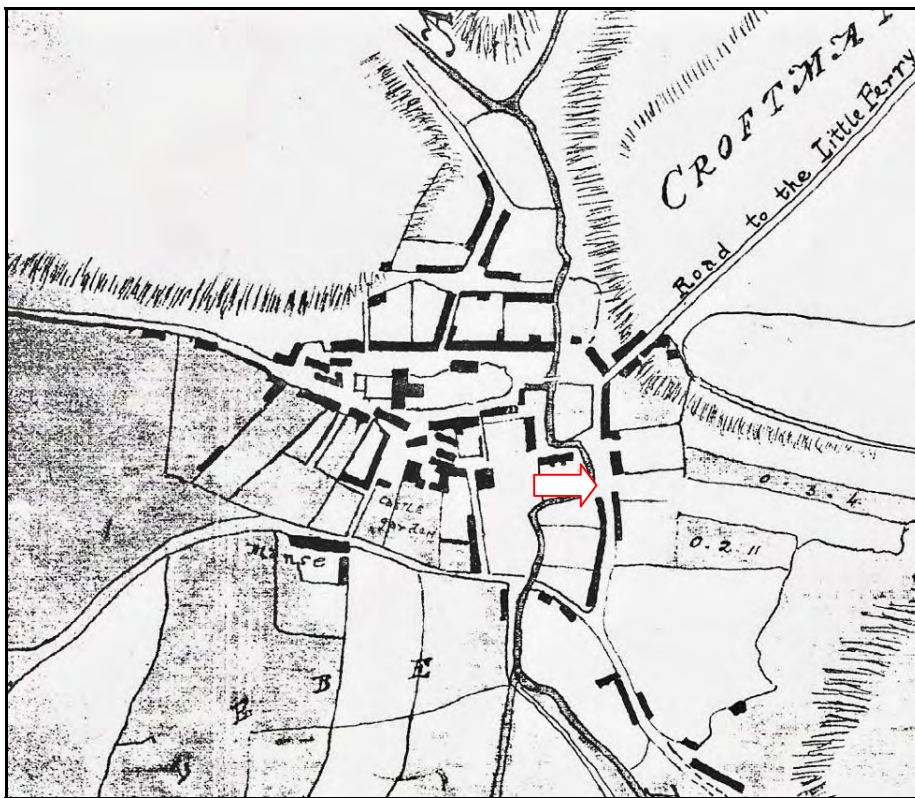


Figure 4 Dornoch 1811

Courtesy of National Library of Scotland. Arrow shows approximate location of site.

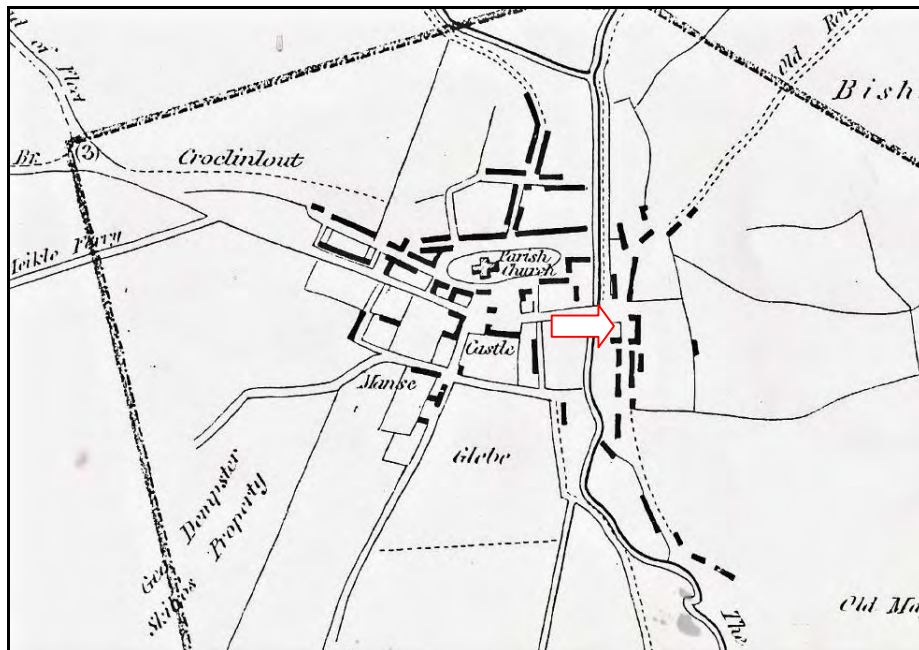


Figure 5 Dornoch 1832

Courtesy of National Library of Scotland. Arrow shows approximate location of site.



Figure 6 Dornoch 1878

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map – not to original scale. Courtesy of National Library of Scotland.



Plate 1: Postcard: Sutherland Arms Hotel 1909

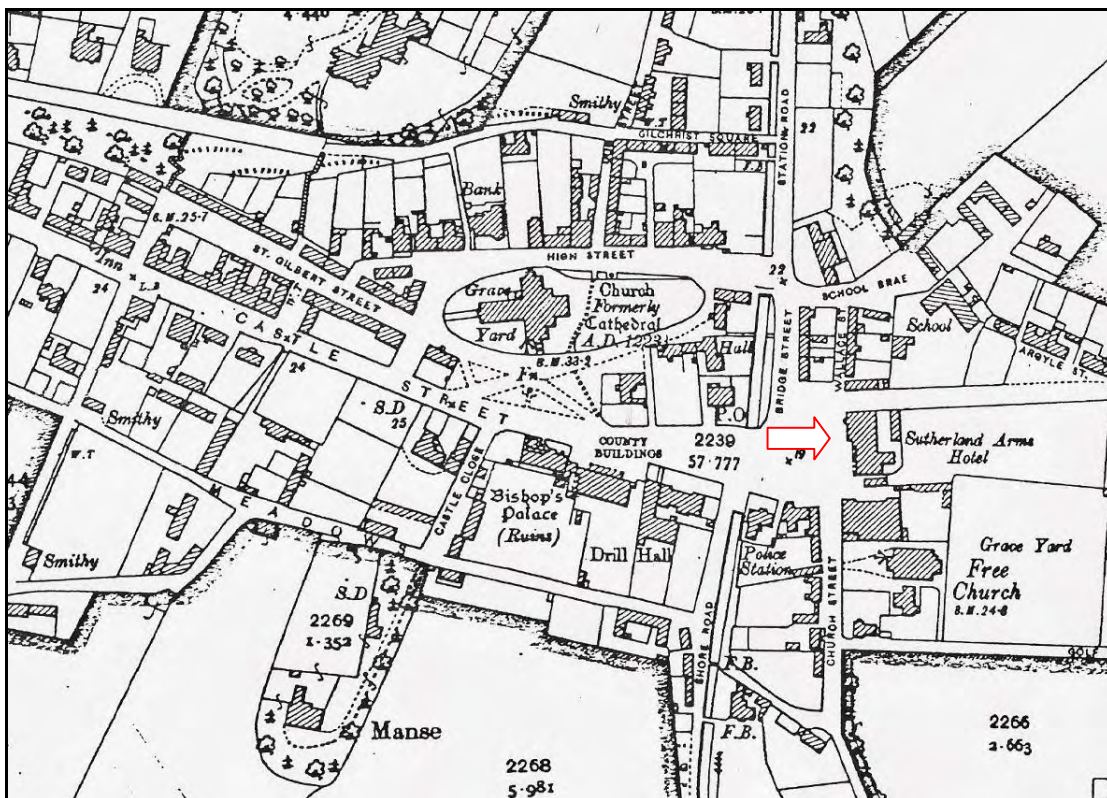


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, 1906

Compare with photograph (Plate 1) above



Plate 2: Sutherland Arms Hotel in the 1930s.
Courtesy of the Northern Times



Plate 3: The 1941 Fire
Courtesy of Dornoch Historylinks Museum

Photographs taken in the 1930s document various changes to the front of the hotel (Plate 2). These included a conservatory and bay window, replacing the veranda shown in 1909. However these changes do not seem to have been recorded by the Ordnance Survey who continued to show the 1906 plan as late as 1960, nearly 20 years after the hotel had been destroyed in a fire in 1941 (Plate 3). It was many years before the site was cleared.

The site was last used for a petrol filling station, during which time the installation of tanks and pipes destroyed all archaeology in large parts of the site.

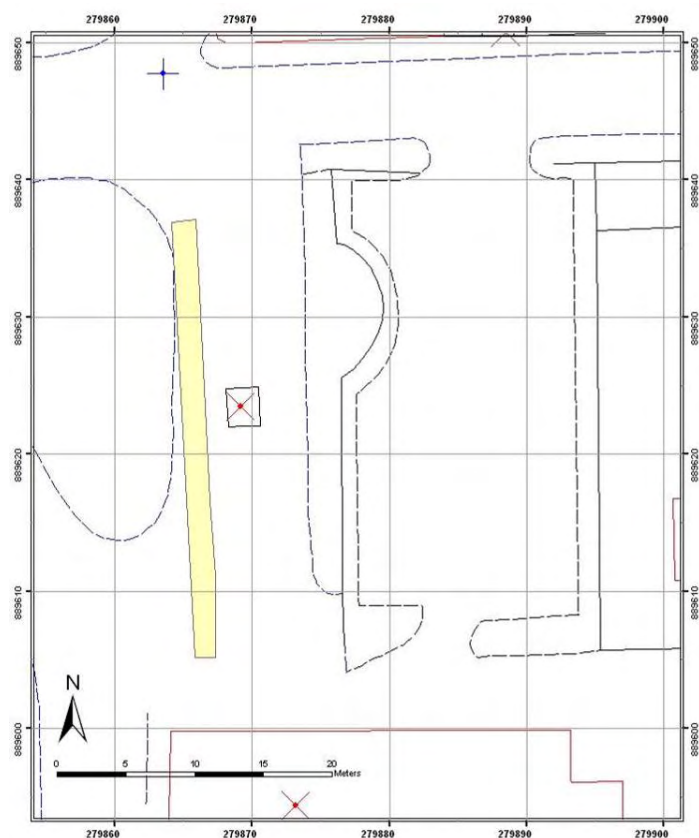


Figure 8 Location of first evaluation trench

Method

1. A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to fieldwork and all accessible records were checked for archaeological information.
2. An initial walkover survey and risk assessment was conducted on 30 March 2007.
3. A trial trenching evaluation was conducted in April 2007 to assess the site for features of archaeological interest prior to development. An initial trench was followed at the Council's request by an additional three trenches (Figures 8 and 9).

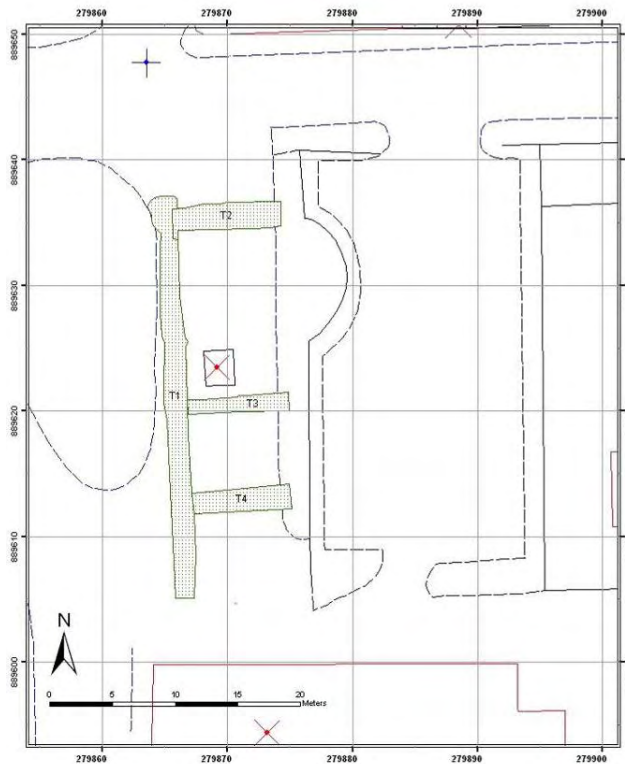


Figure 9 Evaluation trenches completed

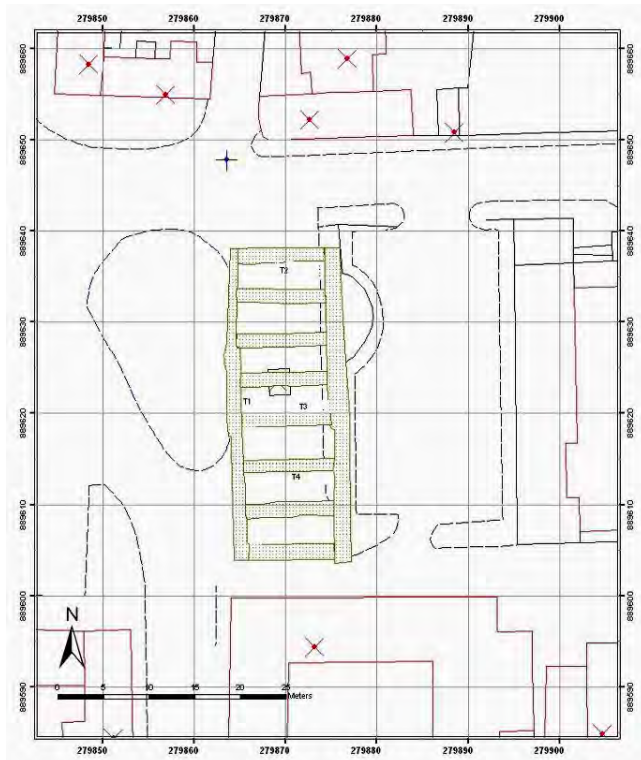


Figure 10: Foundation trenches as excavated

4. The foundations for the new building were excavated in June 2007 and monitored archaeologically (Fig 10). All features revealed were mapped. However the principle of preservation in situ was followed and excavation was confined to the depths necessary for the building work. A digital photographic record was made, and all photographs and an index, together with digital plans and indexes to archaeological contexts, features and finds are included on the CD accompanying this report.

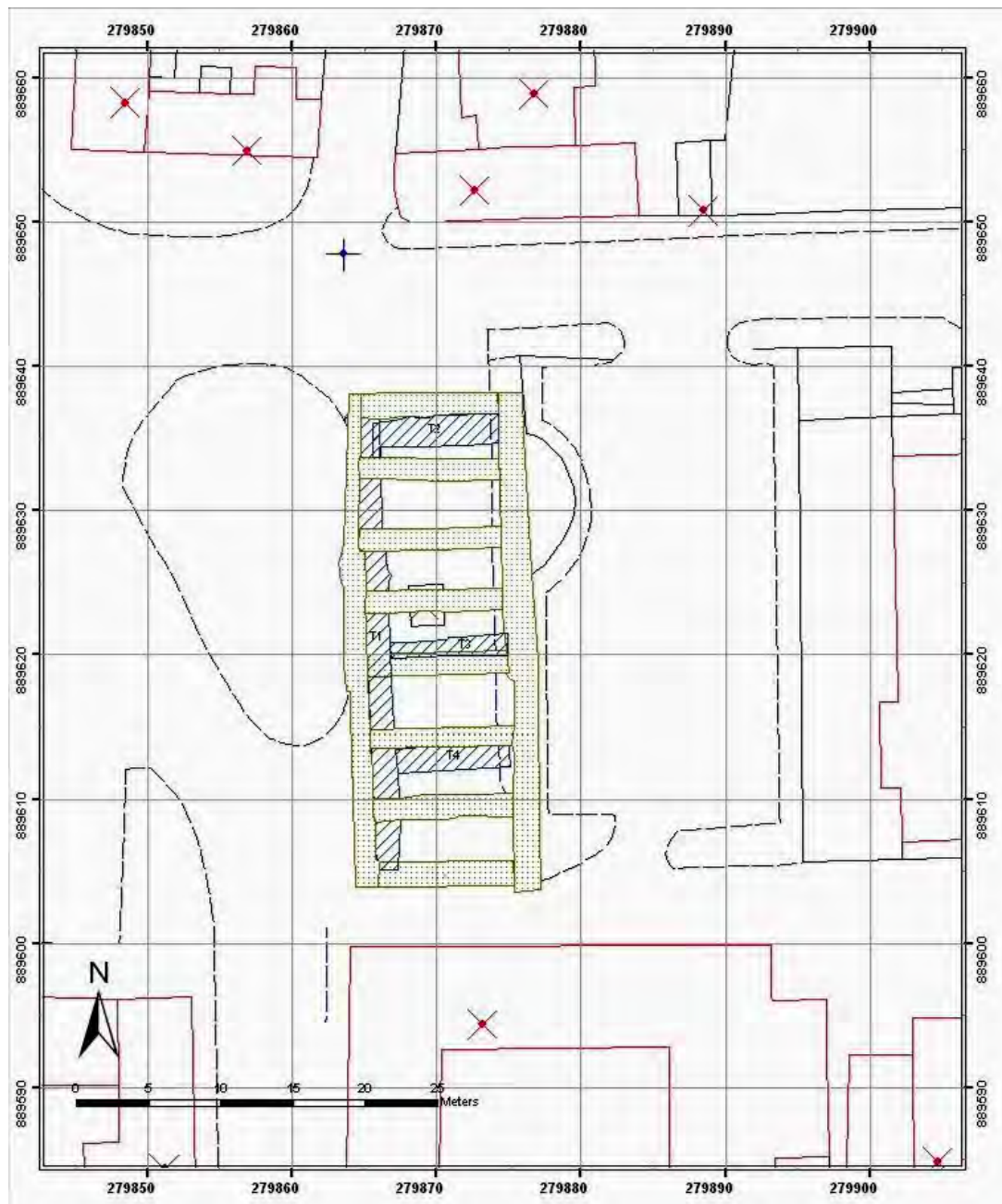


Figure 11: All trenches showing the full extent of excavations

Results



Plate 4: Trial trenches showing walls of the Sutherland Arms

Phase 1

Structures and deposits certainly associated with the Sutherland Arms Hotel were uncovered in Trench 1. The remains were identified using old hotel photographs from the Dornoch Historylinks museum that show the front of the hotel coinciding with the approximate position of Trench 1. The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (1909) was scaled up to create the outline of the hotel dimensions, which could then be overlaid with the 1:20 site plans. The 1909 photo compared with a photo of about 1930 show clearly that the timber veranda visible in 1909 had been demolished by the 1930s for the construction of a conservatory and the castellated doorway and bay window additions to the old building. The castellated addition was evidently designed to match the design of the new building.

Plans 1-4 of Trench 1 identify the hotel footings and other archaeological contexts. Collectively, Structures [108], [111] and [114] were the remains of the footings of the bay window and doorway additions (south of the conservatory). The sandstone slab and dry concrete bay window footings ([111]) measure approximately 4.5m along the line of the trench forming a rough semi-circle with a 0.5m-long concrete footing [108] on the south side. To the north side of the footing, dry concrete and sandstone slabs formed the castellated doorway footings [114]. These measured 1.8m along the trench, followed by a 0.8m gap and another 0.5m length of sandstone/concrete footing that linked it in with the conservatory remains.

The hotel conservatory footings (Structure [119]) appeared to be of a similar construction of sandstone slab and concrete to the bay window, but rougher; they measured approximately 6m in length along the line of the trench. Remains from the 1941 fire were also uncovered in Trench 1. Within the bay window footings, a dark grey-black ashy silt deposit [112] was identified. It contained numerous finds of burnt/broken glass, molten lead, ruined window fittings and burnt timber fragments. The same deposit

was later uncovered in Trench 4 [404], which extended eastward from the centre of the bay window footing. However, a similar deposit was not found within the conservatory footing. It appears from hotel photos following the 1941 fire that the main hotel, the older building and bay window addition all lay in ruins. But the fire mostly avoided the conservatory, which explains the lack of fire rubbish on the surface inside it. Based on the early photos and the identification of the hotel's bay window and conservatory footings, it was obvious that the line of Trench 1 followed roughly the front line of the hotel. And this was further corroborated by the existence of layers of gravel uncovered (Deposits [113-123-124-125]) during the excavation of Trench 1. The gravel was most likely laid down and replenished many times at the hotel's entrance. Plan 1 shows four separate gravel deposits partially excavated in the north corner of the conservatory footing. The gravel layers taper off in the trench profile toward the north end of Trench 1.

Evidence of the main (newer) hotel building was uncovered north of the conservatory footings (see Plate 5 below). A length of sandstone slab overlying sandstone fragments (Structure [131]) along the trench extended approximately 10-20cm from the east edge of T1. It is underlain by Cut [142], probably associated with the hotel's construction. The location and orientation of the footings line up with the conservatory and bay window to tie in with the position for the main hotel.



Plate 5: Structure [131]

Scale in 50cm divisions

Further evidence of the main building foundations appeared at the junction of Trenches 1 and 2 after extending the north end of Trench 1 and excavating the west end of Trench 2. Here, further structural footings (Figure 5) were revealed and the positions were tied in with Structure [131]. The curvature to Structure [204], though greatly disturbed, served to identify it as the remains of the footing of a smaller bay window at the north end of the hotel. In addition, the fill [214] below Structures [203/204] appears identical to the fill in Cut [142], which extends along the east edge of Trench 1 to its north end. This fill ([148] and [214]), comprised sandstone and mortar fragments within mid brown gravelly soil/sand, and is most likely a rubble base used during the construction of the hotel. To verify the line-up of the archaeology remains, measurements taken on site between the remains of these hotel footings were compared with a scaled down map of Dornoch from 1906 and it appeared that the positions approximately matched the map's footprint of the Sutherland Arms Hotel.

Finally, two probable hotel sleeper wall footings were uncovered in Trenches 2 and 4. Structure [205] in Trench 2 was overlain by a layer of burnt ashy silt with broken/burnt glass, burnt silver knife blade, melted copper vessel fragments and burnt wood fragments (see Finds photos from context [201])—very similar to the 1941 fire remains in Trench 1 (Deposit [112]). The wall was loosely constructed of slate fragments and stone slabs within a dry mortar (Photo 60; Plan 11). This wall footing resembles Structure [403] in Trench 4 (Photo 87; Plan 13), which was overlain by dark brown-black ashy silt and bound to the west by a deposit of burnt material [404] that is identical to the fire deposit in Trench 1 [112]

There were no further convincing hotel remains in Trenches 1-4, probably because most of the hotel rubble was eventually cleared away after the fire and because the site's later use for a filling station has disturbed the entire area behind the main hotel.

Archaeological Deposits Pre-dating the Hotel

While the digging of Trench 2 helped to uncover further structural footings of the Sutherland Arms Hotel, the majority of this trench was found to be disturbed leaving little else in the way of convincing archaeological deposits. However, in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 there were other areas of archaeological interest uncovered that appeared to predate the site's period as a hotel.

Sandstone drains and cobbled surfaces (Trenches 1, 3, 4)

In Trench 1, a nicely hewn sandstone drain (Structure [155] on Plan 10) was uncovered at the bottom of Cut [121] (= Cuts [116 / 304]). The identification of the cut itself was at first confused by the nature of its mixed fill [150], the overlying conservatory footing [119] and Cut [117]. But further excavation revealed that Cut [116] and Cut [121] were the same. Structure [155] was constructed of large yellow sandstone slabs lined on the sides by cobbles which covers a sandstone-slab drain passage. The drain runs across the trench along a southwest-northeast axis (see Plans 6, 10). Analysis of the stratigraphy (seen in the Cut [121] profile in Photo 51) showed that Cut [121] was made through Deposits [122], [151], and [153], all of which are potential surfaces of interest. No finds were recovered in association with the drain.



Plate 6 Structure 155

North of the sandstone drain, Deposit [122] (Plan 1), also inside the conservatory footings [119], is a compact fine dark brown-black silt surface. It was left mostly in situ, though a corner section was cut within the north corner of [119] after the removal of the gravel surfaces (Plan 9). This revealed the compact surface overlaid gravel/cobbles [153] embedded within a clay surface with fine shell fragments [151]. Though no finds were recovered in the section, the surface, which probably underlies the whole of [122], predates the laying of the conservatory footings and the construction of the drain.

Trench 4 revealed another probable drain (Structure [408]; Plan 13). Its construction is very similar to [155]: large yellow sandstone slabs edged with some large cobbles covering a slab-lined passage (see Photos 89-92). Structure [408], however, is narrower than and occurs at a higher level than [155]. Also, a clear cut was not identified in association with its construction. There is a probable structural wall [409] built over the drain, and it is likely that the entire area over the drain was disturbed. It is also possible that during digging of the trench, the digger removed evidence of a cut before it could be identified by the archaeologist; but more likely no significant cut through topsoil was necessary in the construction of this drain. Once more, there is nothing to date drain 408, but it appears contemporary with the surfaces directly east of it.

East of the drain in Trench 4, two surfaces appear at the same level (Plan 13; Photo 92). Deposit [413] is adjacent to the drain and composed of very compact clay with several large (5-7cm) cobbles embedded within it. The surface extends for 1.2m east of the drain and runs into a cobbled surface [414] composed of medium (3-6cm) cobbles. The edge between the clay and cobbled surfaces is uncertain—the clay surface probably still partially overlies the cobbles. The cobbled surface extends eastward a further 1.0m and ends in a roughly hewn structural wall (Structure [416]). In Trench 3 (Plan 12), a similar cobbled surface [312] appeared at the east end of the trench with a similar silty sand deposit overlying it. The surface is approximately 1.7m wide and was constructed to drain westward into a sandstone slab drain culvert [313]. Levels show that it is on the same ground level as the previous cobbled surface [414] and, like [414], the cobbled surface ends to the east in a roughly hewn structural wall (Structure [314]). To the west, however, the cobbled surface ends in the east face of a sandstone slab wall [311], which extends 30cm above the cobbles. This well-constructed wall [311] is overlain by compact, dry sandy silt [318] that merges into a deposit of very hard, compact clay [319] over the west face of the wall.

The west wall face was uncovered during the course of the investigation in Trench 3, when a new structure [310] was identified one metre west of the east face of [311] (Plan 12). Two upright sandstone slabs sat in situ divided by an area 50cm wide of dark friable silt [320]. After cleaning through this deposit, sandstone slabs were revealed on either side of the two facing stones (see Figure 9 below), forming a square opening 50cm by 50cm (now a pit [321]). Deposit [320] (10cm deep) yielded a small button, clay pipe fragments and thin glass fragments. Below the soil fill, sandstone fragments in wet silty sand [322] filled the stone pit (Plan 14). Further excavation through [322] revealed the face of a well-constructed sandstone wall inside the pit to the east elevation (Photo 104; Plan 15). Presumably this is the west wall face of Structure [311]. After excavation in the pit, water pooled approximately 30cm into the bottom, suggesting that the pit had something to do with construction of an access to drainage or a water source.

Phase 2

The second phase of archaeological investigation in Dornoch Square involved the excavation of 10 trenches coincident with the proposed development foundations. They were numbered 5 – 14, continuing the Phase 1 sequence. Trench 14 denoted the eastern boundary of excavation, running north – south, and Trench 13 denoted the western extent, with 8 trenches interlocking them at equi-distant spacing. (see Figures 10 and 11 above). Within this phase, foundation footings were uncovered which appear to provide evidence of the different buildings that have stood on this site, although it must be stressed that only a sample of the area could be investigated. The trenches were initially opened with a 1.5m wide machine bucket, but in order to provide preservation in situ where at all possible they later had to be narrowed to the width required for the foundations themselves (0.75m). The foundation depth of 0.45m also had to be adhered to. This hindered a full stratigraphic investigation. Contamination of some areas, especially Trench 5, by diesel leaching from the three tanks on-site and the lack of biological material eliminated the possibility of environmental sampling.



Plate 7 Diesel Tank in Trench 5

Trench 5 The uppermost deposit [500] was removed to reveal two petrol tanks: one was expected; the other was not. Some dark, possibly burnt indistinct areas were identified in the centre of the trench. These were cleaned but remained indistinct and appear to have been within some re-deposited material associated with these petrol tanks: the area of disturbance surrounding the old tanks was not clearly defined, despite attempts to identify an edge to the re-deposited soil the cut could not be found, which is most likely because considerable contamination had occurred in this trench with spillage or leakage of petrol from the tanks, in addition, oral history has hinted that owing to the high water-table in Dornoch the petrol tanks floated on the tide, until they were finally secured. This would have had an abrasive effect on the cut edge.

It is important to note that petrol and diesel fumes were of a significant strength around the tanks and work in these areas was constantly monitored for health and safety.



Plate 8 Footings of gable wall appearing in Trench 6

Trench 6 Beneath the top surface material [600], sections of walling from the first phase of the Sutherland Arms Hotel were identified. A narrow gap in the trench side revealed a horizontal void part-filled with a sandy context (Plate 7). It is possible that the iron beam is part of a system of supports for a cellar, though it may be associated with the old diesel tank set within a brick-walled pit just north of the iron beam. This is just west of a stone-covered drain, which presumably pre-dates the tank, but surprisingly remained in situ next to the retaining brick wall. A thick stone wall pre-dating the hotel exists at the east end of Trench 6, which turns and returns to the north. Elements of this wall were probably recycled into the building of the hotel



Plate 9 Iron beam over void in Trench 6

Trench 7 This trench truncated Trench 1 of Phase 1. Directly beneath the top surface material [700], a number of different contexts and features were identified. Fire debris from the Sutherland Arms Hotel fire was found to lie between the hotel walls. The bay window can be seen at the western most extent of the trench. A clay surface or deposit (apparently the same as that found in Trench 8), remained at the maximum trench depth (0.45m), so the stratigraphy of this area remains uncertain. A stone drain was identified within this trench. A cobbled surface lay to the east of the foundation for the first phase of the hotel. The cobbled surface could be a form of solum used for drainage purposes during the construction of this initial hotel phase, which remained partially covered in fire debris and clay at the maximum trench depth (0.45m).

Trench 8 Within this trench an area of paving was uncovered, one of the paving stones had had a prior purpose, with a small rectangular rebate cut within it measuring 0.05m x 0.075m. This was most likely a paved walkway up to the original entrance of the hotel. The re-cut stone furthermore suggests that the hotel incorporated building materials from earlier constructions.

Trench 9 This trench revealed a solid wall with clay bonded footings which was interpreted as the north gable of the first phase of the hotel. A further wall face appeared when the southern side of this trench was cleaned back – denoting the inner-face of the outer wall of the 1870's new wing of the hotel, below the corner turret as seen on early 20th century photographs.

Trenches 10 -12 These Trenches were almost completely sterile having been severely damaged by the filling station.

Trench 13 This was the north-south trench running parallel to Trench 1, along the western side of the site. A short section of wall was found in the northern part of this trench which seemed to be of poorer construction to the hotel and was interpreted as a possible boundary wall pre-dating the hotel – or at least its northern extension.

Trench 14 This was the north-south trench running along the eastern side of the site. The northern end of this trench had been destroyed by a petrol tank; parallel sections of wall in this trench further south may pre-date the hotel.



Plate 10 Trench 11 under initial excavation

Discussion

This site is located close to historic Dornoch, but it is difficult to draw any firm conclusions beyond those indicated above, as the project constraints allowed only the investigation of the site within the confines of the areas to be directly impacted by the new development. The rediscovery of the Sutherland Arms Hotel in Dornoch is a reminder of the role of Dornoch in the early development of highland tourism. The Hotel was important in employing a local workforce, and had a wider impact on the local economy as guests had to be fed and entertained, helping to develop a market for local farmers, merchants and musicians. The golf course and its associated staff and gardeners also felt the benefit of the hotel, which became an important destination. Its success can be charted archaeologically, with the extensions and progression of building styles. The possibility of private fuel tanks added at a time when motoring was an activity for the rich suggests a wealthy clientèle. Its unfortunate demise in 1941 by fire would have been devastating to the community at the height of the Second World War.

Three or four building phases can be seen in the Sutherland Arms Hotel (see fold-out plan)

1. A double fronted late 18th or early 19th c. town house. The map of 1832 suggests that this could have formed part of a longer terrace.

2. The addition of a porch and veranda
3. Perhaps contemporary with the veranda, the replacement or remodelling of the northern part in a late Victorian or Edwardian style complete with bay window, dating from the late 19th or very early 20th century.
4. The replacement of the veranda by a flat-roofed castellated extension with bay window and glass-topped conservatory dating probably from the 1920s.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The object of the trial trenching evaluation was simply to establish the archaeological character of the site. Initially it was thought that the filling station that occupied this site in the later 20th c. would have destroyed most of the archaeology, but this proved not to be so.

Well-preserved remains of the former hotel as well as possible earlier features were noted close to the surface which were uncovered and mapped, but not removed since they would not necessarily be affected directly by the new development.

The foundation trenches were then recorded archaeologically, but applying the principle of preservation in situ they were only opened to the depth necessary for the development. It was therefore impossible to do more than map the surface of the visible features beneath.

This site is located close to the heart of historic Dornoch, but the wider cultural significance of the site is not clear.

Notes and References

Indexes to Contexts, Features, Finds, drawings and photographs are all included in MS Excel 2003 format on the accompanying CDROM

Bibliography

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Fig 12