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BLAIRFINDY CASTLE

REPORT

APPENDIX 3

PROPOSED PATH

PRELIMINARY SPECIFICATION AND SECTION PREPARED BY SPECIALIST

Blairfindy Castle -
Paths within grounds of the Castle

Pedestrian access up to the existing boundary fence of the Castle has been considered in a previous report and this report is focused on the pathways within the boundaries of the castle grounds.

It is envisaged that the exact routes of the paths will be established after all other works to the castle are substantially completed. The potential routes are likely to be defined during the castle refurbishment works when site operatives are moving within the site. Over and above the direct access to the Castle provision can be made for extending a path to a suitable viewing point of the local landscape.

At this stage it is proposed that the path construction follows the same specification as the proposed path between Glenlivet distillery and the Castle boundaries.

Specifications

Note: These specification details should be read in conjunction with standard detail drawing 201

Material Specification Details

Sub base layer	40mm (0/40) or 20mm (0/20) DTp Type 1 granular sub base. Optional base: scalpings, road planings, crusher run with 100mm type 1 Granular sub base.
Surface layer	6mm (0/6) quarry whin dust
Geotextile	Terram 1000 or alternative equivalent product
Geogrid (If required)	Tensar TS20 or alternative equivalent product

Construction Specification Details

Formation tray excavation

No excavation to be undertaken

Geotextile sheet installation (including geogrid if required)

Lay and secure geotextile sheet directly on existing ground. Geotextile sheet should line the base and both sides. Overlap joining sheets by 1.0m. Lay and secure geogrid on top of geotextile sheet. Geogrid should not protrude up the sides of the formation tray. Overlap joining sheets by 1.0m.

Sub base layer

Using a drag box lay 100mm depth of DTp Type 1 granular sub base upon the geotextile sheet in the formation tray to falls and levels, to form 1:50 (2%) camber or 1:40 (2.5%) crossfall. If no drag box is available, DTp Type 1 granular sub base should be laid, spread and raked to falls and levels using asphalt rake. Compact sub base layer thoroughly to refusal using a heavy ride-on tandem vibrating roller until full compaction is achieved (minimum 120 type roller recommended).

Once sub base layer is compacted, check levels of the surface at regular intervals along the compacted sub base layer for consistent even surface regularity, which should be accurate to maximum gap of 10mm under a 3 meter long straight edge, with no high or low points or hollows.

Any part of the sub base layer deviating from the required level must be raked off or topped up with additional DTp Type 1 granular sub base and re-compacted to the correct levels.

Check the finished compacted sub base layer is closed tightly with no exposed surface voids before laying the surface layer. If necessary, fill any voids with 6mm quarry whin dust.

Surface layer

Using drag box lay 25mm depth of 6mm quarry whin dust to falls and levels, to form 1.5m wide path surface with 1:50 (2%) camber or 1:40 (2.5%) crossfall along the centre line of compacted sub base layer. If no drag box is available, 6mm quarry whin dust should be laid, spread and raked to falls and levels using asphalt rake.

Compact surface layer thoroughly to refusal using a heavy ride-on tandem vibrating roller and continue rolling non-stop until there is no roller marks in the finished surface (minimum 120 type roller recommended).

Once rolling is finished, check levels of the surface at regular intervals along the compacted surface layer for consistent even surface regularity, which should be accurate to maximum gap of 5mm under a 3metere long straight edge, with no high or low points or hollows.

Any part of the surface layer deviating from the required level must be raked off or topped up with additional 6mm quarry whin dust and re- compacted to the correct levels.

1.1 **Culvert Pipes - Provisional (Unlikely to be required)**

Culvert pipes should be black twin walled polypropylene and be of the specified diameter and should be of sufficient length to overlap each side of the path by 500mm. Stone headwalls of

dimensions to suit the diameter of the pipe should be constructed to disguise the pipe and retain the backfill and path edge. The top stone of each headwall should be lower than the finished path surface to allow for turfing over to match the adjoining path edge landscaping. A stone splash plate should be set flush with the base of the culvert pipe at its entrance and exit to prevent scour. Water should be able to drain unimpeded through the culvert and away from the path. If necessary an exit ditch and silt trap should be install to ensure water cannot get back onto the path.

1.2 **Landscaping along Path Margins**

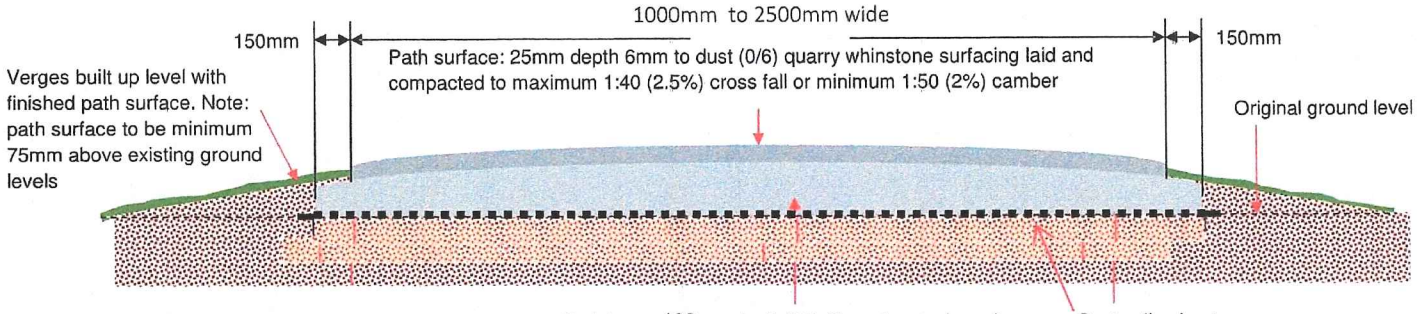
Turf should be used to narrow in the path to the finished width. There should be no bare ground and turf should be finished with no exposed roots showing and no gaps between planted turfs. The margins and areas of disturbed ground should be left clean and tidy, free of all spoil and debris. Blocking boulders well dug in should be installed at irregular intervals along the margins of the path to contain path spread and create pinch points to exaggerate variations in path width.

1.3 **Materials**

All earthwork materials sourced are to be approved by the Project Manager.

Construction notes:

Lay path base and surface with drag box if available.
Path base and surface to be laid to maximum 1:40 (2.5%) cross fall or minimum 1:50 (2%) camber and compacted to refusal using heavy vibrating roller (minimum 120 type roller recommended).
Surface regularity - maximum 10mm gap under 3.0 metre straight edge placed along the base surface and maximum 5mm gap for path surface.
Soft spots to be excavated and filled with lower quality sub base e.g. scalpings, crusher run, crushed demolition waste.



Note
Geotextile laid directly on existing surface. No excavation required

Drawing Nr	Whin Dust Path (Semi Tray Excavation) Standard Detail	**BLAIRFINDY CASTLE**
201		

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REPORT

APPENDIX 4

WRITTEN SCHEME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION BY FAS ARCHAEOLOGY

FAS HERITAGE

BLAIRFINDY CASTLE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

1.0 SUMMARY

This document presents a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a measured and photographic survey, and watching brief at Blairfindy Castle, Moray. The WSI has been prepared by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (FAS Heritage) for Addison Conservation + Design.

A measured and photographic survey is to be undertaken to create a pre-intervention record and identify and document features of archaeological and architectural interest prior to any conservation works. An archaeological watching brief will be carried out to monitor any groundworks required for conservation purposes in order to record any archaeological information and prevent damage to the monument.

2.0 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

2.1 LOCATION

Blairfindy Castle (NGR: NJ 1983 2864) is a ruinous towerhouse, which occupies an elevated location overlooking the river Livet, next to the Glenlivet Distillery, in the modern hamlet of Castleton.

Plate 1 Aerial view of Blairfindy Castle (Historic Environment Scotland)

2.2 DESCRIPTION

The castle is an L-shaped building with a three-storeyed main block and a wing containing the principal stair to the first floor. Most of the structure dates to the 16th century, although there may be vestiges of 15th-century fabric surviving. Notable features include a machicolated bretache overlooking the entrance door, a date stone and shield coat of arms, and a single, intact round turret. The interior has been gutted, but extant features include a segmental headed 1st-floor fireplace, and a vaulted ground floor.

Blairfindy Castle is a Scheduled Monument and a Category B Listed Building.

3.0 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Various descriptions note the completion of Blairfindy Castle by John Grant in 1564, and the upgrading of the castle by John Gordon of Strathavon in the 1580s. From 1606, the castle was owned by the Gordon family, tenanted by the Grants. The castle may not have been in permanent

occupation, but was used as a hunting lodge. In 1647/9, it is documented as the site of the incarceration of the 2nd Marquis of Huntly, after his capture by Cromwellian troops, and prior to his execution.

In 1746 the 'house of Blairfindy' was burned by Cumberland's troops after Culloden, after which it remained unoccupied. When the Gordon estate was required to pay death duties in 1936, the Blairfindy Estate was one of several relinquished to the Crown in lieu, and was renamed the Glenlivet Estate.

4.0 AIMS OF THE PROJECT

The aim of the survey is to prepare a comprehensive pre-intervention record of the site prior to any conservation works, and to identify and objectively record any significant evidence for the original and subsequent form and functions of the surviving above ground elements of the building.

The aim of the watching brief is to record any archaeological information during groundworks and to minimise any necessary damage to the monument.

5.0 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

5.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY

FAS Heritage will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In general the ruinous buildings are in a poor condition, and there is no access to the higher parts of the building. Prior to the commencement of any work on site FAS Heritage will carry out a Risk Assessment on the site in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations.

5.2 WRITTEN RECORD

FAS Heritage will carefully examine all parts of the building prior to the commencement of the survey, in order to identify all features relevant to its use and to obtain an overview of the development of the building and of the site as a whole. As part of this exercise, FAS Heritage will produce brief written observations (e.g. on phasing; on building function) sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the structure. The results of that examination will be noted in a systematic fashion and used to inform an analytical interpretation of the overall development and operation of the site.

5.3 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

5.3.1 External photographs

A high-resolution digital colour, and a 35mm monochrome external photographic record will be made of all elevations of the buildings from vantage points as nearly parallel to the elevation being photographed as is possible within the constraints of the site. A general external photographic record

will also be made which includes a number of oblique general views of the building from all sides, showing the complex as a whole in its setting. The record will be sufficiently comprehensive to provide a good picture of the form and general appearance of the building and surrounding site.

5.3.2 Internal photographs

A general internal photographic record will also be made.

5.3.3 Detail photographs

In addition, detailed record shots will be made of all features of archaeological and architectural interest identified during the process of appraisal. Typically, items of interest would include, for example:

- all original structural elements;
- evidence for original domestic arrangements;
- evidence for historic windows or doors;
- original decorative elements;
- original access arrangements;
- any dates, inscriptions or graffiti which contribute to the understanding of the building.

FAS Heritage will also identify and note:

- any significant changes in construction material;
- any blocked, altered or introduced openings;
- evidence for phasing, and for historical additions or alterations to the building.

Elements for which multiple examples exist may be recorded by means of a single representative photograph.

5.3.4 Equipment

General and detail photographs will be taken with a 35mm SLR film camera, and a high-resolution digital SLR camera using a tripod or flashgun as appropriate. Detail photographs will contain a graduated photographic scale of appropriate dimensions. A 2-metre ranging-rod, will be included in a selection of general shots, sufficient to independently establish the scale of all elements of the structure.

5.3.5 Film stock

All monochrome record photographs will be taken using conventional (not chromogenic) silver-based film to ensure archival stability.

5.3.6 Documentation

A photographic register detailing location, direction and subject of shot will accompany the photographic record. The position and direction of each photograph will be noted on a plan of the building.

5.4 MEASURED SURVEY

A measured survey of the castle will be undertaken using a reflectorless total station theodolite and rectified photography. The survey will be produced from a set of control stations established as part of a series of closed traverses within and around the building which will be based on the Ordnance Survey National Grid and Datum. Overall dimensional accuracy will be within 20mm and all drawings will be created at a scale of 1:20 in order to achieve a high dimensional accuracy when reproduced at 1:50.

5.4.1 Site Survey

The immediate site of the castle will be the subject of a topographic survey. Coded 'strings' of data will be recorded to accurately locate any breaks of slope in order to model the area. Further data points will be recorded at appropriate intervals across the area to provide adequate level information. The data will then be used to generate a contour map of the area at an appropriate contour interval.

5.4.2 Floor plans

A series of floor plans will be prepared based on a series of measurements taken on the interior and exterior using a reflectorless total station theodolite. A set of draft drawings will then be checked and enhanced on site.

5.4.3 Exterior Elevations

Measured outline drawings of the exterior elevations will be prepared using a combination of total station theodolite data and rectified photographs. A set of draft drawings will then be checked and enhanced on site. On completion of the survey, a set of AutoCAD drawings incorporating accurately positioned colour rectified photographs will be produced.

5.4.4 Sections

A series of four section drawings will be prepared showing the interior elevations of the castle. Where possible, the completed AutoCAD drawings will also incorporate colour rectified photographs.

5.5 WATCHING BRIEF

All archaeological remains revealed during the course of any groundworks will be cleaned, sampled

and recorded as appropriate. Any significant primary archaeological deposits will be hand-excavated. Structural remains will be recorded and left *in situ*.

A full written, drawn and photographic record will be made of all deposits encountered during the course of the watching brief. Archaeological deposits, features and structures will be recorded using a standard system of context and feature record forms.

A systematic environmental sampling method will be employed. Deposits which are clearly of a mixed/secondary origin such as make-up layers or deposits, which display a high degree of residual/intrusive artefactual material would not be the subject of environmental sampling unless a specific question relating to function or social status can be addressed. Where deposits are thought to be of primary origin and have potential to contain biological remains, an appropriate sampling regime will be implemented. All finds identified during the watching brief will be hand-collected and processed.

On completion of the field investigation all records and material will be indexed, ordered, quantified and checked for consistency. The drawn record will be digitised in an appropriate format that will permit the output of standard AutoCAD files.

6.0 REPORTING

6.1 ANALYSIS

The drawings and photographs resulting from the survey will be used as the basis for presenting an archaeological analysis of the fabric of the building. Elevation and plan drawings will be enhanced to include details of construction and building sequence in order to show phasing of the structures.

6.2 REPORT FORMAT AND CONTENT

A written report will be produced which will include:

- an executive summary including dates of fieldwork, name of commissioning body, and a brief summary of the results including details of any significant finds;
- an introduction outlining the reasons for the survey;
- a brief outline of the historical development of the building;
- an outline of the methods used for the survey and watching brief;
- an architectural description of the building correlated to the measured and photographic record, presented in a logical manner, (as a walk around and through the buildings, starting with setting, then progressing to all sides of the structure in sequence, and finally to the interior from the ground floor up) and correlated/fully referenced to the measured and photographic record;
- a description of the results of any watching brief monitoring of groundworks;
- recommendations for any further archaeological investigation.

The architectural description will be fully cross-referenced to the photographic record, sufficient to illustrate the major features of the site and the major points raised. It is not envisaged that the report will be published, but it will be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers. A copy of this WSI will be bound into the back of the report.

6.2 REPORT ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrations will include:

- a location map at a scale sufficient to allow clear identification of the buildings in relation to other buildings in the immediate area;
- an overall keyed plan of the site showing the surviving elements of the building in relation to each other on which position and direction of each photograph has been noted;
- any relevant historic map editions, with the position and extent of the site clearly indicated;
- a full set of survey drawings including a site survey, floor plans, outline exterior elevations, sections through the interior showing the outline interior elevations;
- a plan showing the location of any groundworks subject to watching brief;
- any additional illustrations pertinent to the site.

7.0 REPORT DISTRIBUTION AND ARCHIVE

Copies of the report will be circulated to Addison Conservation + Design and Historic Environment Scotland. The archive will be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland.

On completion of the report, a summary report would be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*.