

From: [Hunter, David \(NRS\)](#)
To: [Planning.OLandI](#)
Subject: 25/01984/PP Land East Of Ainsival Cornaigmore Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
Date: 05 January 2026 14:56:46

FAO Fiona Scott

Dear Fiona,

25/01984/PP Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of private sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access Land East Of Ainsival Cornaigmore Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute

The application site lies in the vicinity of a number of low enclosures walls or banks overlain by later kelp drying walls (Ease Archaeology 2002 Report on a Coastal Zone Assessment Survey on the Islands of Coll and Tiree; carried out by on behalf of The SCAPE TRUST; Map 12 (Wosas PIN 60079)).

Whilst the low kelp drying walls are likely to be late 20th century in date the enclosure walls & banks are undated and potentially significant.

Kelp was harvested at different times for both domestic and industrial purposes. The harvesting, drying and burning of kelp to provide alkalis for industry and later to produce iodine as a disinfectant. The industrial harvesting of kelp on Tiree ended at the beginning of the 20th century although domestic harvesting continued. Kelp burning is mentioned as a significant industry in the archaeological research framework for Argyll (<https://scarf.scot/regional/rarfa/10-early-modern-period-ad-1600-ad-1900-and-modern-in-argyll-ad-1900-present/10-9industry/>)

Current records are not precise enough to exclude standing and archaeological remains relating to this use from the application site. Evidence of the kelp industry may extend back further than the suggested 20th century and there is the potential for the enclosure banks to relate to previous uses, settlement or other activities; for example, the enclosures may be evidence of the unsustainable population growth and farm subdivision recorded on the island during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Given the known archaeological potential, a programme of post determination archaeological observation and recording is carried out during site enabling works and any activities associated with topsoil stripping or ground disturbance (an archaeological watching brief), such as:

- Earthmoving activities associated with site preparation, footings and the creation of construction compounds

- Any improvement to or new access and the proposed parking areas,
- Soakaways and service runs.

This approach is based on current best practice and experience, and the following condition reflects the principles outlined in Planning Advice Note 2/2011:-

“The developer shall secure the implementation of an archaeological watching brief, to be carried out by an archaeological organisation acceptable to the Planning Authority, during all ground disturbance. The retained archaeological organisation shall be afforded access at all reasonable times and allowed to record, recover and report items of interest and finds. A method statement for the watching brief will be submitted by the applicant, agreed by the West of Scotland Archaeology Service, and approved by the Planning Authority prior to commencement of the watching brief. The name of the archaeological organisation retained by the developer shall be given to the Planning Authority and to the West of Scotland Archaeology Service in writing not less than 14 days before development commences.”

The watching brief would include attendance during activities such as the removal of turf or topsoil, creating access, grading the site and the digging trenches for foundations and utilities. If buried remains are identified there may be a requirement for further stages of archaeological work before or during development to properly excavate any remains and preserve them by record. This may include further excavation and the completion of any post excavation analyses, reporting and publication of the results if warranted.

This will involve hiring a professional archaeological contractor (see list on our web site www.wosas.net) to undertake the required work.

Please contact me by if you require any further information or advice.

Best regards

David



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