

**ANDREW PK WRIGHT**

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19 April 2009

Ronald G Lansley  
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Dear Ronnie

SSPCK SCHOOL, LOCH CROISPOL

I found the time we spent on Thursday in the company of Graham Bruce and Malcolm Bangor-Jones quite fascinating. This is without question an important site of which a surprising amount remains which is a testament to the high standards of construction employed by the masons. There is sufficient surviving here to confirm the original use and the likely date of the structure.

If it can be arranged I would very much like to be involved in the development of the scheme, and at some stage in the proceedings would like to be considered for the preparation of a conservation plan setting down the significance of the site and a series of conservation policies to guide the solutions for consolidation of the fabric. It is important at this early stage to stress that the importance of the site should not just relate to the architectural significance of the structure, but should take in the surrounding cultural landscape which appears to be of unusual richness. The purpose of such a document would be to underpin the case for seeking an appropriate designation for the site, for which I am minded to suggest that, on the basis of what I have seen so far, it should be scheduled as an ancient monument for which there would have to be agreement that the site is of national importance as set out in the recent Scottish Historic Environment Policy document (SHEP) published by Historic Scotland in October 2008. In order to achieve this it may be necessary to make a case for rarity, if not actually uniqueness. An appropriate designation may hold the key to securing funding, and funding should be available for the preparation of a conservation plan.

A conservation plan I prepared in the recent past for the East Church at Cromarty can be seen online at [www.srct.org.uk/Cromarty\\_conservation.pdf](http://www.srct.org.uk/Cromarty_conservation.pdf). I mentioned that for the Inchnadamph Project carried out by Historic Assynt I undertook the role of conservation adviser, a position that I still hold loosely for the work being carried out at the moment at the Macleod Mausoleum at the old parish church. I am accredited as a conservation architect, and this may be needed in order to secure grant funding from Historic Scotland if that is one of the routes to funding you may be prepared to pursue.

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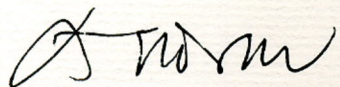
Partners: Andrew PK Wright OBE BArch RIBA PPRIAS FRSA FSAScot, Jean P Wright

It would be valuable in my view to proceed first with the building recording exercise for which I gather you may have funding at the moment, in parallel with undertaking the archival research. You had asked me about the safety of the site, and the one area over which I would have some concern is at the northeast corner of the east gable where already much of the walling has collapsed. However it is the case that it would be easy to dislodge masonry at any level of the structure and so care would need to be taken when entering the site to record it. Apart from the area identified above, the walls in general seem remarkably sound for the age of the building and considering the time for which it has been exposed. It would be advisable to establish a method statement before work commences, and Olivia and her team will be familiar with this.

I look forward to hearing in due course what may be uncovered, and what you might establish by way of archival research. Any evidence of roofing slate in the rubble, or pantiles, could throw light on the original, or later, roofing materials. I would guess that it could have been slate originally noting that so many fragments of black slate have been used in the external walls as a means of levelling the masonry courses during construction.

I am sorry that there was insufficient time to take a look at some of the other sites and hope that there will be an opportunity to come back to the area at some stage soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew PK Wright', written in a cursive style.

Andrew PK Wright