

HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2011

Dryburgh Abbey: Excavation, June 2011.

HS PIC Index Number: 90103

SITE: Dryburgh Abbey, Roxburghshire.

N.G.R.: NT 5918 3181; NT 5911 3171; NT 5912 3165

DESCRIPTION: Small-scale excavations ahead of the installation of new signage.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90103-2011-01

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JUNE 2011

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, and as part of the preparatory work ahead of the installation of new signage, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to monitor the excavation of three small trenches at various locations around Dryburgh Abbey (Fig.1). The work was completed by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and took place on 7th June 2011.

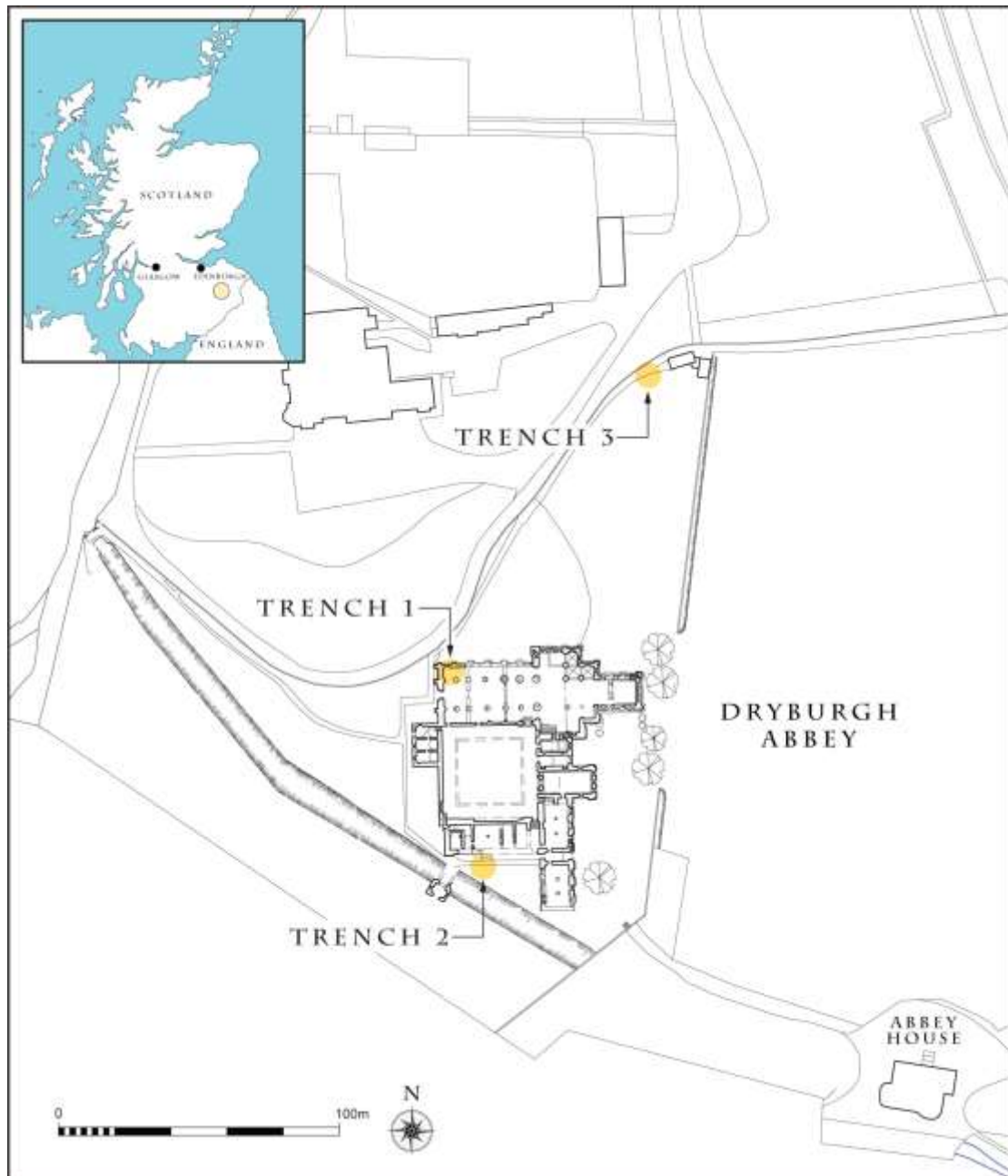


Figure 1: Location map of the works.

DESCRIPTION

Trench 1

This was located immediately within the Abbey Church at its W end. The trench was simply the clearance of an area immediately E of the present interpretation board. This was removed, and in so doing left behind two narrow slots cut into the turf. These two slots were each c.0.1m deep, and were back filled in order to receive a free standing interpretation board. The discovery of human remains during work on the installation of the earlier board mitigated against any further excavation in this area.

Trench 2

This was located immediately S of the southern abbey path. The existing sign was lifted revealing a stone slab sitting in a shallow trench. The new sign was located within a trench measuring 1.2m E/W by 0.6m N/S, and was dug to a depth of 0.45m. Turf and topsoil **001** extended to a depth of 0.2m, and sealed **002** – a compacted stone gravel and pebble surface. The latter was not fully excavated, as the required depth of trench had been established before it bottomed-out.

Trench 3

This was located to the S of the present shop, immediately E of the path leading towards the abbey. The trench was trapezoidal in plan, with a maximum width of 1m and length of 1m. The excavation exposed a single deposit **003** – a light brown silt with stones.

CONCLUSIONS

There was nothing of note recovered within Trench 1 or Trench 3. In Trench 2, context **002** probably represents post-monastic levelling associated with the presentation of the monastic ruin. The relining of the ditch and the establishment of present ground levels most likely respect this phase of levelling.



Figure 2: Post-excavation photographs of Trench 2 (top, No.4) and Trench 3 (No.10).

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Trench	Description
001	2	Turf and topsoil.
002	2	Compacted stone gravel and pebble surface.
003	3	A light brown silt with stones.

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Trench	Description	From	Date
01	1	Removal of existing signage from the site.	S	07/06/11
02	1	Removal of existing signage from the site.	S	07/06/11
03	1	Removal of existing signage from the site.	S	07/06/11
04	2	Post-excavation shot.	S	07/06/11
05	2	Post-excavation shot.	E	07/06/11
06	2	Post-excavation shot.	W	07/06/11
07	2	Post-excavation shot.	SW	07/06/11
08	2	General location shot.	SW	07/06/11
09	3	Post-excavation shot.	SW	07/06/11
10	3	Post-excavation shot.	S	07/06/11
11	3	Post-excavation shot.	S	07/06/11
12	3	Post-excavation shot.	E	07/06/11