

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2011**

Kinnaird Head Castle: Watching Brief, June 2011.

HS PIC Index Number: 90344

SITE: Kinnaird Head Castle and the Wine Tower, Kinnaird Head,
Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

N.G.R.: c. NJ 998 675

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during the excavation of trenches to install
new signage.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90344-2011-02

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INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of trenches ahead of the installation of new signage at Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse and the Wine Tower, in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. Five trenches were excavated – four around the grounds of the lighthouse and one next to the Wine Tower (Fig.1). The trenches were excavated manually by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision. A piece of a prehistoric flint blade was recovered from Trench 3, although the ground had been previously disturbed - as shown by the presence of modern pottery within the same context.

The work was carried out on 6th June 2011.

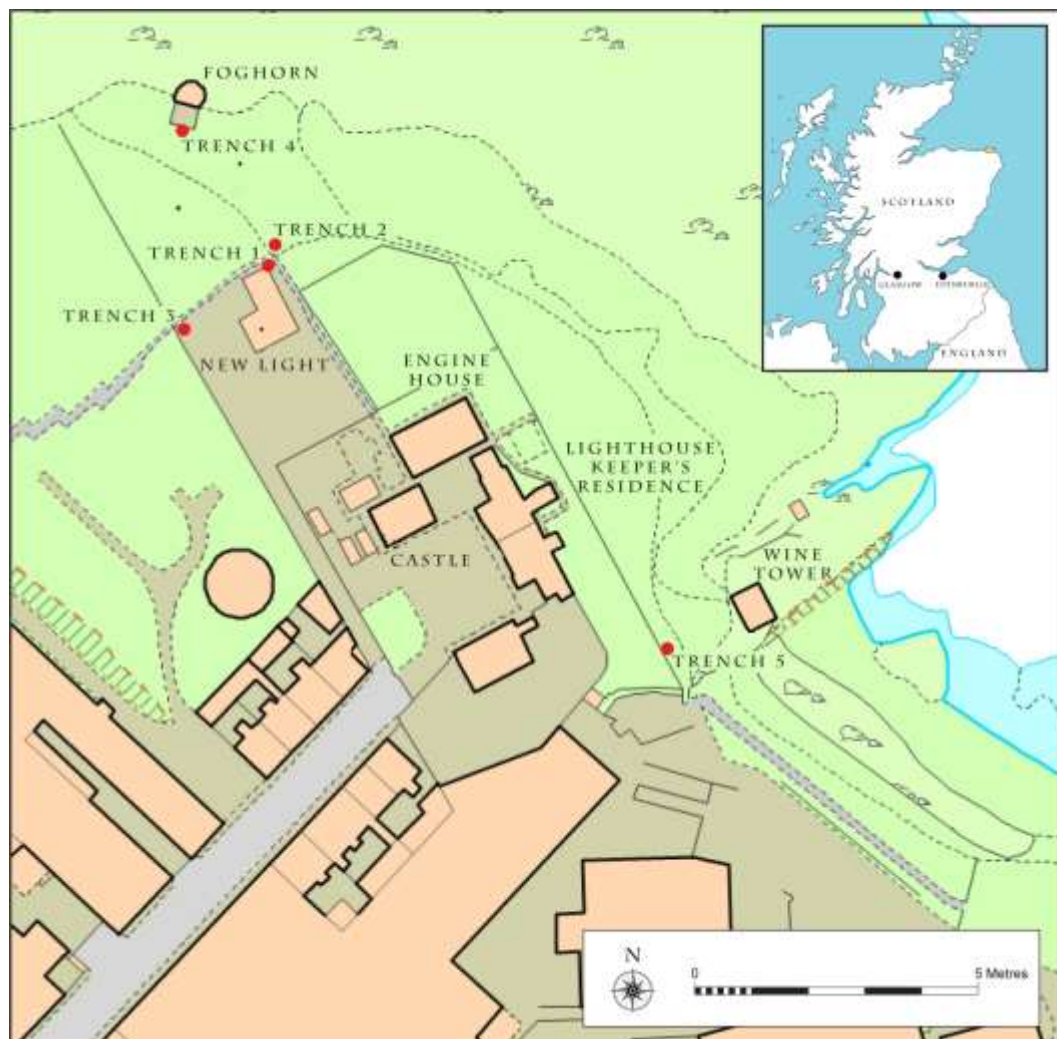


Figure 1: Trench location map.

DESCRIPTION

TRENCH 1

Trench 1 measured 1.45m N/S x 1m E/W. To the W the depth was 0.25m, while to the E it was 0.15m due to the slope of the ground. The fill consisted of turf and dark brown silty topsoil **101** that extended to the excavated depth. The presence of several sherds of modern pottery showed that the area had previously been disturbed.

TRENCH 2

Trench 2 measured 1.1m N/S x 1m E/W x 0.15m deep. The fill consisted of turf and dark brown stony silty topsoil **201** that extended to the excavated depth. The presence of modern pottery showed that the area had previously been disturbed. An existing signpost with its concrete base intruded slightly upon the N corner of the trench, but this was to be removed at a later date.

TRENCH 3

Trench 3 measured 90cm N/S x 1m E/W. To the S the depth was 0.24m, while to the N it was 0.14m deep due to the slope of the ground. The fill consisted of turf and dark brown silty topsoil **301** that extended to the excavated depth. The presence of sherds of modern pottery showed that the area had previously been disturbed. A broken light yellowish-brown prehistoric flint blade **SF001** was recovered, albeit from previously disturbed ground.

TRENCH 4

Trench 4 measured up to 1.25m N/S x 1.5m E/W x up to 0.3m deep. The fill consisted of turf and dark brown silty topsoil **401** that extended to the excavated depth. The ground had previously been disturbed by the installation of a plastic pipe (its top at 0.25m depth), carrying an electric cable to the foghorn.

TRENCH 5

Trench 5 measured 1m N/S x 1m E/W x up to 0.1m deep. The fill consisted of turf and dark brown silty topsoil **401** that extended to the excavated depth. The ground had previously been disturbed by the installation of the existing signage.

CONCLUSIONS

It was clear from the excavations that the ground had previously been disturbed, probably as a result of formal landscaping. That said, the flint blade found in Trench 3 showed that there was possible prehistoric archaeological potential in the vicinity of the present works.

Further ground-breaking works should therefore be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
001	Turf and mid-brown silty topsoil.
002	Turf and mid-brown silty topsoil.
003	Turf and mid-brown silty topsoil.
004	Turf and mid-brown silty topsoil.
005	Turf and mid-brown silty topsoil.

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Trenches 1 - 5.	1:20

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	The Wine Tower and Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse	SE	06/06/2011
02	Trench 1, stripped.	E	06/06/2011
03	Trench 1 and the 'New Light'.	NE	06/06/2011
04	Trench 1.	NW	06/06/2011
05	Trench 1, work in progress.	S	06/06/2011
06	Trench 1, the 'New Light' and Foghorn.	SE	06/06/2011
07	Trench 1, work in progress.	S	06/06/2011
08	N-facing section of Trench 1.	N	06/06/2011
09	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1.	N	06/06/2011
10	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1.	N	06/06/2011
11	Trench 2, work in progress.	SE	06/06/2011
12	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	SW	06/06/2011
13	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	NW	06/06/2011
14	Trench 3.	NE	06/06/2011
15	Trench 3, work in progress.	NW	06/06/2011
16	Trench 3, work in progress.	E	06/06/2011
17	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3.	N	06/06/2011
18	N-facing section of Trench 3.	N	06/06/2011
19	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3.	N	06/06/2011
20	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3.	W	06/06/2011
21	Foghorn and Trench 4.	SE	06/06/2011
22	Foghorn and Trench 4.	SE	06/06/2011
23	Foghorn signpost.	S	06/06/2011
24	Trench 4, work in progress.	NW	06/06/2011
25	Trench 4, work in progress.	NW	06/06/2011
26	Foghorn.	W	06/06/2011
27	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4.	N	06/06/2011
28	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4.	N	06/06/2011

No.	Description	From	Date
29	Post-excavation shot of Trench 4.	NE	06/06/2011
30	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 5 at the Wine Tower.	SW	06/06/2011
31	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 5 at the Wine Tower.	S	06/06/2011
32	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5.	NW	06/06/2011
33	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5.	N	06/06/2011
34	Post-excavation shot of Trench 5.	W	06/06/2011

LIST OF SMALL FINDS

No.	Trench	Description
1	3	Flint blade tip.