

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

**Cadzow Castle: Wall Reduction/Reinstatement, May 2011.**

**HS PIC Index Number: 90342**

**SITE:** Cadzow Castle, Chatelherault Country Park.

**N.G.R.:** NS 7348 5376; NS 7350 5373

**DESCRIPTION:** Watching Brief during the down-taking of masonry in the inner ward, and during the clearance of soil from the masonry over the bedrock on the S side of the modern approach road to the castle.

**PROJECT CODE:** HSCO-90342-2011-01

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JULY 2011

## INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief during masonry restoration at Cadzow Castle in Chatelherault Country Park (Fig.1).

Two discreet restorative operations to be monitored; the first involved the down-taking and re-instatement of a badly-leaning wall in the Inner Ward of the castle, the second involved the clearance of earth from an un-identified structure set upon the bedrock ridge to the SE of the castle (on the opposite side of the road), so that the masonry could be raked-out and re-instated.

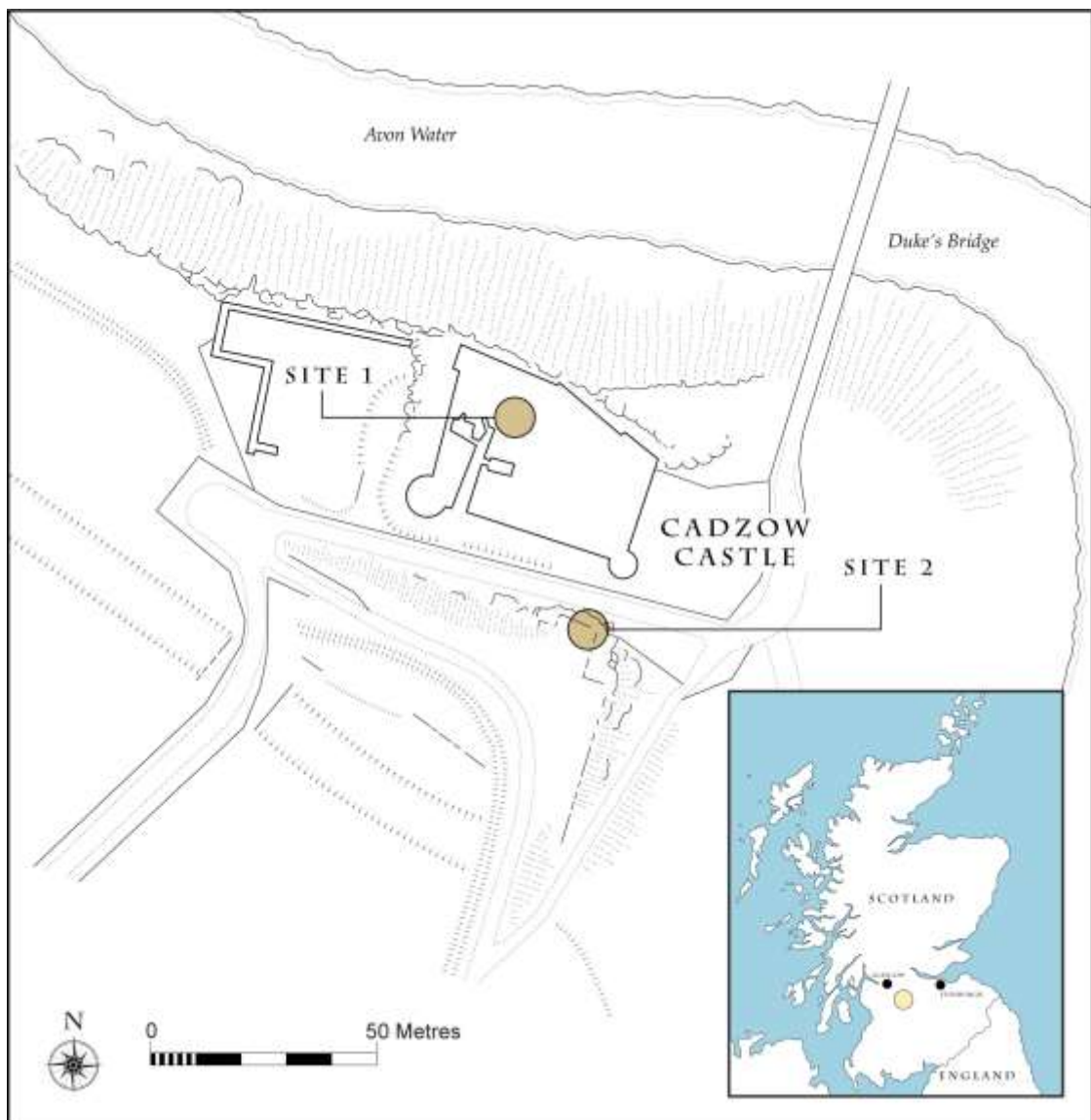


Figure 1: Location map of Cadzow Castle and the current works.

Cadzow Castle is a complicated multi-phase site which is only partially understood. The castle consists of an Inner, Middle & Outer ward with the remains of some greatly reduced ruined structures. The buildings themselves have been subject to later alteration during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries when the castle became a vista point for the great Hamilton estates. This alteration comes in the form of masonry sleeving where original masonry was used to dress off the broken ruins and make them more picturesque. The identification of this later work is necessary in order to create a reliable ground plan of the original masonry elements of the various structures.

The work was carried out on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

## DESCRIPTION

### SITE 1: THE N RANGE OF THE INNER WARD

The badly listing wall in the N Range of the Inner Ward was to be numbered, reduced, raked-out and re-instated (at a later date). Once the work was under way, it could be seen that the wall face was largely an outer skin *i.e.* an added component which did not tie into the original wall core, but was probably a later dressing of the ruin, perhaps during the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century 'romanticization' of the ruin, by the Dukes of Hamilton. The wall consisted of horizontal rectangular blocks of sandstone of varying dimensions, dressed with stippled or linear tool marks. The interface between this outer skin **101** and the original wall core **102** behind (consisting of small to medium sized pieces of angular sandstone bonded in a yellowish lime mortar) was a void filled with a mixture of loose mixed silt, grit and mortar **103**.

After the removal of two to three courses of masonry it became apparent that the upper portion of the wall face was a later addition, but that the lower wall face **104** (which contained a re-used stone carved with a rebate) was tied in to the wall core and was therefore original (Photo No. 11). There was little to distinguish the later masonry from the original, probably due to the fact that original masonry would have been re-used during the later dressing of the ruin. The upper masonry was removed to reveal the extent of the remains of the original wall face – it showed that the wall was only

partially dressed and that the line of its lower portion was on its original axis. This also meant that instead of removing and re-instating later material, the work was now potentially going to disturb original masonry. The wall face had been most heavily listing in its upper portion; this was due mainly to the fact that it was not properly bonded to the wall core. Although slightly inclined, the remaining original masonry would provide enough of a platform to build up from, saving further un-necessary damage to the monument. The Historic Scotland staff suggested this, and were given approval by the works manager. The remaining masonry was raked out and cleaned. The removed masonry was numbered and photographed in order to ensure its correct re-instatement.

#### **SITE 2: UNIDENTIFIED MASONRY TO THE SE OF THE CASTLE**

On the S side of the modern approach road to the castle is a natural bedrock ridge which runs E/W and is most prominent to the E where it protrudes slightly to the N. It is here that masonry can be seen in the form of a bonded sandstone wall face with a rougher un-bonded bedrock wall to the E. This wall returns to the S for a short distance, again following the bedrock ridge. The masonry was originally several courses higher but was reduced in c.2002. The purpose of the current work was to remove enough of the earthen overburden to allow reinstatement of the reduced masonry. Above and to the S (approximately 5m back) of the wall face is a further line of stones running E/W. It has been suggested<sup>1</sup> that this was part of an Outer Ward comprising a walled service enclosure, with this masonry representing the remains of a slightly projecting rectangular corner tower. Also, to the S of Site 2 were the remains of what is considered to be a medieval park pale for the corralling of game.

The overburden consisted of dark-brown loose silt **201** which had slumped over the masonry. The masonry itself was cleaned off, and the remains consisted of several elements. To the N, a wall **202** was exposed running E/W.

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<sup>1</sup> McKean, C (1995) 'Craignethan – the castle of the Bastard of Arran' *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* (125) pp.1082-83

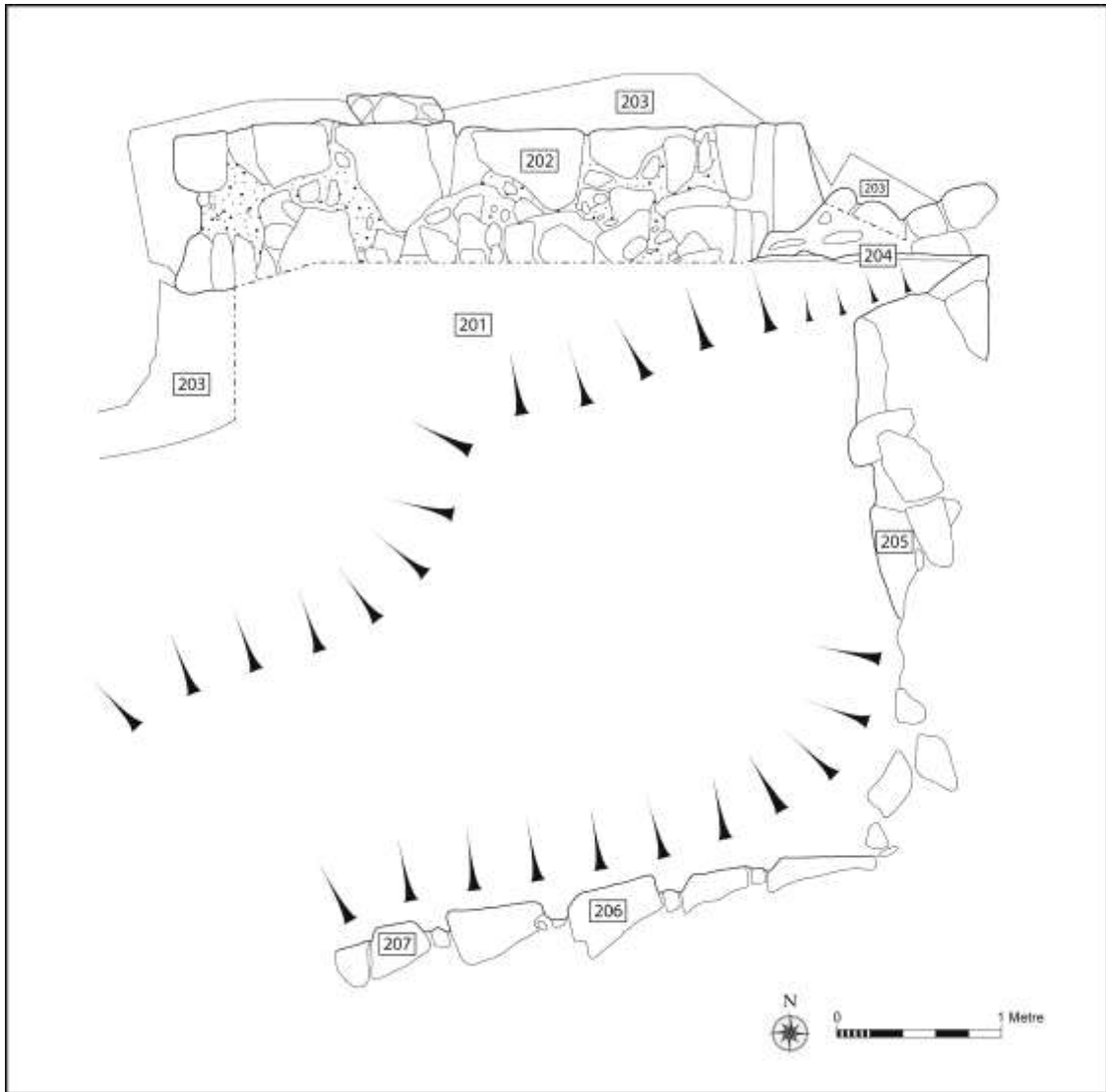


Figure 2: Plan of Site 2.

This consisted of a N face of two courses of horizontal rectangular dressed sandstone blocks bonded in a yellowish lime mortar and a S face which was less formalised and slightly higher, using occasional large sandstone blocks and largely composed of medium-sized sub-angular and sub-rounded sandstone pieces. The wall was 0.95m thick (N/S) where fully exposed, and c.5m long E/W. Neither end of the wall had a formal right-angled terminus, and there was no sign that the wall originally returned to the S. The wall itself sat on a natural red bedrock shelf 203 which protruded slightly to the NE. There was no sign of mortar on the bedrock outwith the confines of the wall itself. Within the bedrock cleft were repairs 208 dating to c.2002. It was also noted that there may have been some dressing of the bedrock at the NW corner. This comes in

the form of pecking of the outer face of the bedrock. While it is possibly natural, it could be that some localised shaping of the bedrock was necessary to make the face sheer.

Slightly behind (S) and to the E of wall **202** was a further wall of totally different character. This wall **204** consisted of un-jointed pieces of sub-angular bedrock in a state of near collapse. The dangerous condition of the wall meant that absolutely minimal earth removal was carried out. The overhanging nature of this loose rubble coupled with a general lack of access from the scaffold meant that the precise relationship between this wall and its neighbour **202** could not be properly established. Wall **204** was approximately 1.5m high x 1.4m E/W on its N face (the thickness could not be established). The inability to clear the loose earth from between the stones meant that it was not possible to get a clear look at how the wall was constructed internally. What was clear was that to the N, the wall face was flush and it returned to the S at its E corner. Above this wall, at a higher level to the S was a further wall running N/S **205** whose relationship to **204** could not be established. Wall **205** was constructed from large horizontal blocks of sandstone which did not appear to be bonded in lime mortar. Further to the S, and in a seeming return from wall **205** were three architectural fragments **206** dressed with a 0.09m wide chamfer with a 0.06m wide rebate cut in behind. The size of the chamfer was identical in each and it is likely that they originally sat one on top of each other as part of a door or window jamb until they were moved to their current position. To the W was a further line of un-dressed angular sandstone blocks **207**. These again seemed to be a later addition.

There would seem to be multi-phase activity although without excavation it would be difficult to make any genuinely informative statement about the nature and use of the remains. It is not possible to say whether this was a tower, gun emplacement or simply a wall of two or more phases. What is clear is that this particular corner of the bedrock ridge is extremely precipitous, and as such would have been a danger to people or livestock. If corralling of animals was part of the function of the outer ward then it would make sense that, having been driven in from the west, you would want

to contain them by closing off the east end and at the same time preventing them from falling over the edge. Alternatively, this particular location gives fine views over the castle, and may have been some form of viewing platform when the ruins were altered during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **C O N C L U S I O N S**

Unfortunately no artefacts were recovered during what was a relatively delicate earth-moving operation at Site 2. Poor access, the overhanging earth bank and potential for wall collapse prevented a thorough investigation of this enigmatic area of the castle grounds. However, enough information was gained to suggest that the area would greatly benefit from excavation once the walls have been stabilised and re-pointed. At Site 1, the lower courses were shown to be part of the original wall build, and thereby confirmed the ground plan.

It is recommended that any further clearance or re-instatement works should be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

## LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup> century masonry.
102	Original wall core.
103	Silt, grit and mortar behind 101.
104	Original 16 <sup>th</sup> century sandstone wall face.
201	Dark brown silt overburden.
202	Sandstone wall bonded in lime mortar.
203	Natural red bedrock.
204	Un-bonded bedrock wall.
205	Un-bonded sandstone wall over 204.
206	Three architectural fragments forming part of the E/W back wall.
207	Undressed angular stones forming part of the E/W back wall.
208	c.2002 repairs to bedrock.

## LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
001	Plan	Site 1 and Site 2 (location).	NTS
002	Plan	Site 2.	1:20

## LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	N-facing wall of inner ward prior to down-taking.	NW	23/05/2011
2	N-facing wall of inner ward prior to down-taking.	N	23/05/2011
3	N-facing wall of inner ward prior to down-taking.	N	23/05/2011
4	N-facing wall of inner ward prior to down-taking.	NW	23/05/2011
5	N-facing wall of inner ward.	W	23/05/2011
6	N-facing wall of inner ward.	W	23/05/2011
7	Bonded masonry revealed by down taking.	NW	23/05/2011
8	Dressed stone with rebate.	NW	23/05/2011
9	Bonded masonry revealed by down taking.	N	23/05/2011
10	Bonded masonry revealed by down taking.	NW	23/05/2011
11	Work in progress.	NW	23/05/2011
12	Work in progress.	W	23/05/2011
13	Work in progress.	NW	23/05/2011
14	Work in progress.	NW	23/05/2011
15	Wall after removal of un-bonded stones.	NW	23/05/2011
16	Bonded masonry revealed by down taking.	N	23/05/2011
17	Wall after removal of un-bonded stones.	NW	23/05/2011
18	E end of cleared wall lower portion.	N	23/05/2011
19	E end of cleared wall upper portion.	N	23/05/2011



No.	Description	From	Date
20	E central part of cleared wall lower portion.	N	23/05/2011
21	E central part of cleared wall upper portion.	N	23/05/2011
22	W central part of cleared wall lower portion.	N	23/05/2011
23	W central part of cleared wall upper portion.	N	23/05/2011
24	Work in progress.	NW	23/05/2011
25	W end of cleared wall lower portion.	N	23/05/2011
26	W end of cleared wall upper portion.	N	23/05/2011
27	Far W end of cleared wall lower portion.	N	23/05/2011
28	Far W end of cleared wall upper portion.	N	23/05/2011
29	Post-excavation shot of cleared wall.	NW	23/05/2011
30	Post-excavation shot of cleared wall.	E	23/05/2011
31	General shot of bonded masonry with moulded stone.	N	23/05/2011
32	General shot of bonded masonry with moulded stone.	NW	23/05/2011
33	Inserted stone steps looking W.	E	23/05/2011
34	Inserted stone steps looking S.	N	23/05/2011
35	Site 2.	SW	23/05/2011
36	Site 2.	S	23/05/2011
37	Site 2.	S	23/05/2011
38	Site 2.	S	23/05/2011
39	Site 2.	W	23/05/2011
40	Site 2.	W	23/05/2011
41	Masonry on S side of Inner Ward.	S	23/05/2011
42	Site 2.	NW	23/05/2011
43	Site 2.	NE	23/05/2011
44	Site 2 and the Inner Ward.	NW	23/05/2011
45	Site 1.	W	23/05/2011
46	Site 1.	W	23/05/2011
47	Site 1.	W	23/05/2011
48	The Inner Ward.	SW	23/05/2011
49	The U-shaped ditch.	W	23/05/2011
50	Pecked bedrock at Site 2.	NW	23/05/2011
51	Bonded and un-bonded masonry.	NW	23/05/2011
52	Un-bonded masonry.	N	23/05/2011
53	Un-bonded masonry.	N	23/05/2011
54	Bonded masonry, lower E portion.	N	23/05/2011
55	Bonded masonry, upper E portion	N	23/05/2011
56	Bonded masonry, lower W portion.	N	23/05/2011
57	Bonded masonry, upper W portion.	N	23/05/2011
58	Bonded masonry.	NW	23/05/2011
59	Bonded masonry.	NW	23/05/2011
60	Post-clearance shot of bonded masonry.	NW	23/05/2011
61	Post-clearance shot of un-bonded masonry.	N	23/05/2011
62	Post-clearance shot of un-bonded masonry and bedrock.	N	23/05/2011
63	Post-clearance shot of un-bonded masonry.	N	23/05/2011

No.	Description	From	Date
64	Work in progress.	N	23/05/2011
65	Post-clearance shot of bonded masonry lower E portion.	N	24/05/2011
66	Post-clearance shot of bonded masonry upper E portion.	N	24/05/2011
67	Post-clearance shot of bonded masonry lower W portion.	N	24/05/2011
68	Post-clearance shot of bonded masonry upper W portion.	N	24/05/2011
69	Post-clearance shot of bonded masonry looking SE.	NW	24/05/2011
70	S edge of bonded masonry.	W	24/05/2011
71	Bonded masonry and bedrock.	W	24/05/2011
72	Bonded masonry and bedrock.	W	24/05/2011
73	Bonded masonry and bedrock.	W	24/05/2011
74	Bonded masonry and bedrock.	N	24/05/2011
75	Upper architectural fragments.	N	24/05/2011
76	Upper architectural fragments.	N	24/05/2011
77	Architectural fragment with edge chamfer.	N	24/05/2011
78	Architectural fragment with edge chamfer.	N	24/05/2011
79	Architectural fragment with edge chamfer.	N	24/05/2011
80	Upper masonry of Site 2.	NE	24/05/2011
81	Bonded masonry.	S	24/05/2011
82	Bonded masonry.	S	24/05/2011
83	Upper portion of Site 2.	SW	24/05/2011
84	Architectural fragment with edge chamfer and rebate.	S	24/05/2011
85	General shot of Site 2.	S	24/05/2011
86	General shot of Site 2.	SW	24/05/2011
87	General shot of Site 2.	SW	24/05/2011
88	Upper masonry of Site 2.	N	24/05/2011
89	Upper masonry of Site 2.	N	24/05/2011
90	Upper E masonry of Site 2.	SW	24/05/2011
91	Site 2.	NE	24/05/2011
92	Site 2.	E	24/05/2011