

HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2011

Crossraguel Abbey: Signage Relocation Trench, Watching Brief, March 2011

HS PIC Index Number: 90087

Site: Crossraguel Abbey, near Maybole, South Ayrshire

NGR: NS 2756 0836

Project Description: Watching Brief during the excavation of a trench to relocate signage to the SE corner of the Ticket Office.

Project Code: HSCO-90087-2011-01

Contents:	Introduction	1
	Description	2
	Conclusions	3
	List of Contexts	3
	List of Digital Photographs	3
	List of Drawings	3

Short Archaeological Report

**19th March 2011
Kirkdale Archaeology**

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 a trench to house an information board at Crossraguel Abbey near Maybole (see Fig. 1). An existing sign was considered to be interfering with the view of the abbey and it was decided to move it from inside the abbey grounds (to the SW of the existing gate) to a kerbed grassy area flanking the SW side of the car park to the ENE of a hedge behind the ticket office.

The work was carried out on the 7th March 2011.

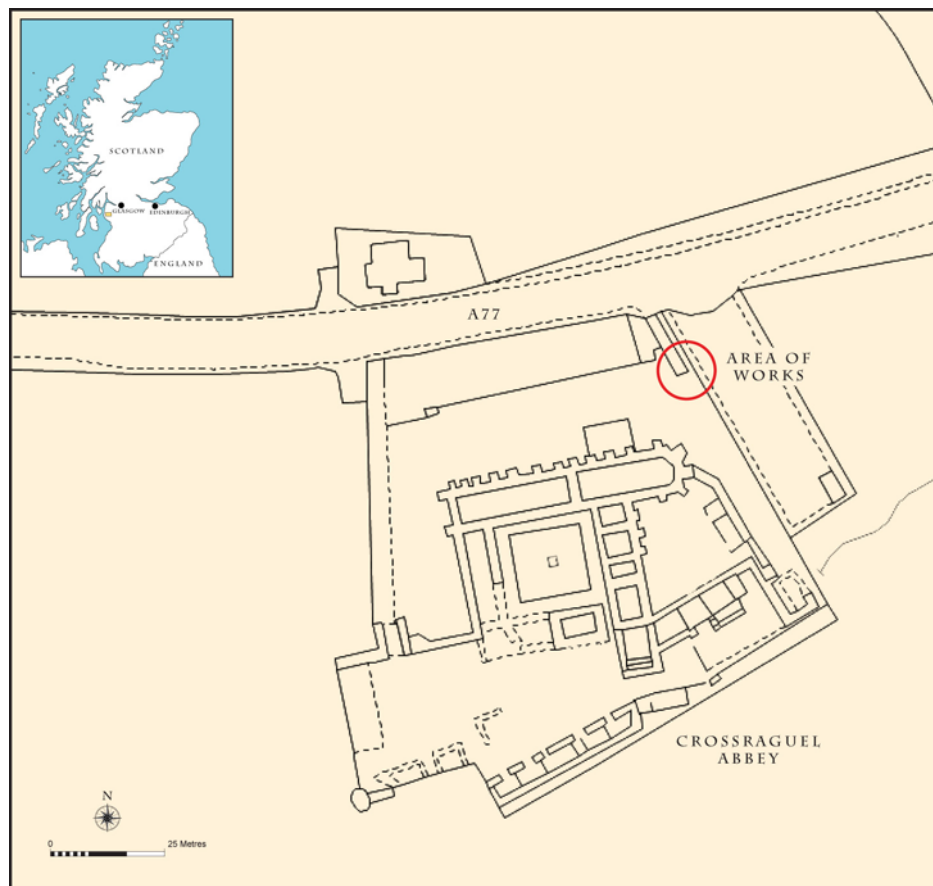


Figure 1: Location map showing the area of works.

DESCRIPTION

The trench measured 600mm NNW/SSE x 600mm WSW/ENE x 460mm deep. The SSE edge of the trench was located 860mm NNW of the path leading to the ticket office gate, and the WSW section of the trench was 200mm ENE of the hedge flanking the ENE side of the ticket office. The section consisted of an imported layer of turf and mid-brown topsoil (001), over a levelling layer (002) consisting of sandstone rubble, sand and silt. This context also contained a number of plastic bags and a spark plug. The levelling layer measured 160mm deep, and bottomed out on to a clean layer of mid-brown silt with occasional charcoal flecks (003), possibly a buried topsoil; this was not excavated as the required depth had been achieved.

Nothing of archaeological interest was recovered during the works.

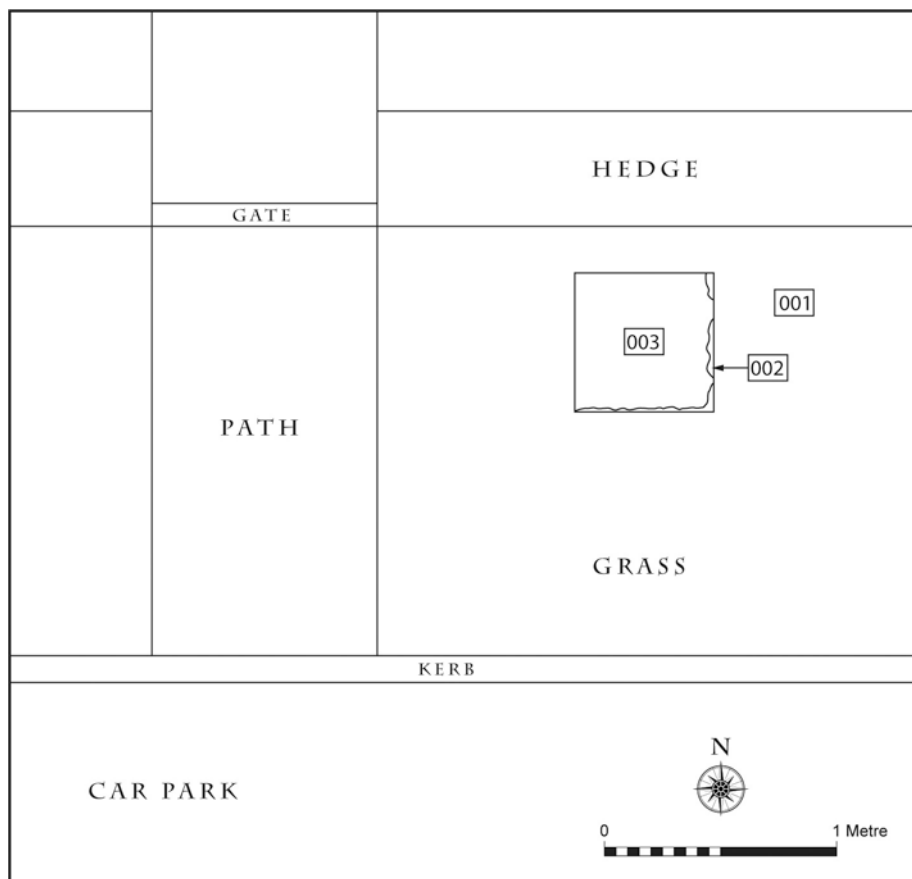


Figure 2: Plan of Trench.

CONCLUSIONS

The location and depth of the trench, and the nature of the ground, meant that the trench was dug through modern landscaping material. If future works extend to a greater depth it would be desirable to attach a watching brief, as the modern levelling may be sealing archaeological features.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	Turf and mid-brown silt levelling.
102	Levelling layer of sandstone rubble and silt containing modern debris.
103	Un-excavated layer of charcoal-flecked, mid-brown silt.

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	Facing	Date
1	Windows in N wall of Nave.	S	07/03/2011
2	Pre-excavation shot of trench location.	SW	07/03/2011
3	Pre-excavation shot of trench location.	SSE	07/03/2011
4	Work in progress.	SSW	07/03/2011
5	Post-excavation shot of SSE-facing section.	NNW	07/03/2011
6	Post-excavation shot of SSE-facing section.	N	07/03/2011
7	Post-excavation shot of NNW-facing section.	SSE	07/03/2011
8	Post-excavation shot of Trench.	WSW	07/03/2011
9	Post-excavation shot of Trench.	NNW	07/03/2011
10	Post-excavation shot of Trench.	NW	07/03/2011

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale
1	Plan of Trench.	1:20
2	SSE-facing section of Trench.	1:20