

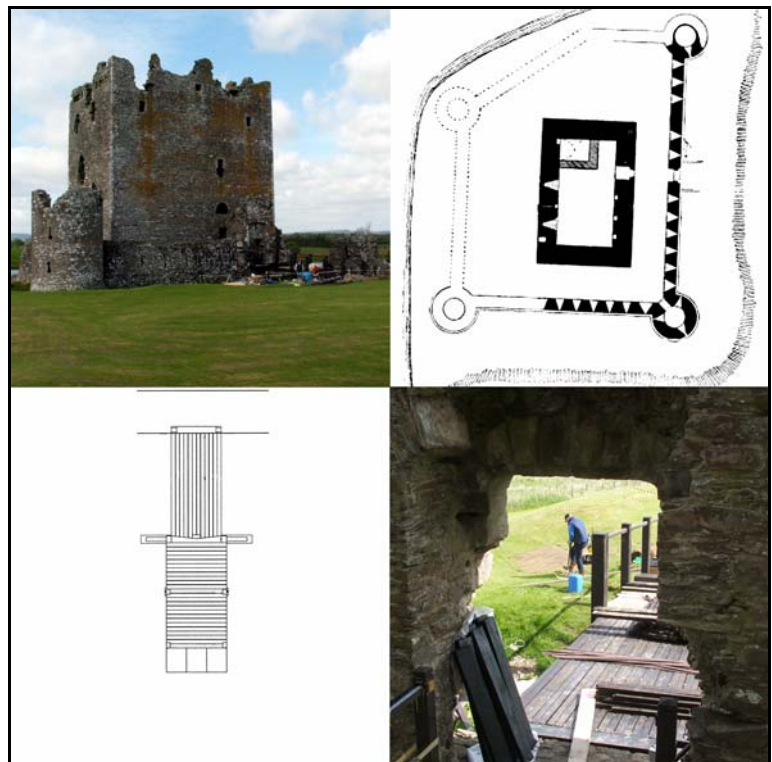
Discovery and Excavation in Scotland – OASIS-type Form (2006)

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Threave Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90301-2007-01 / HSCO-90301-2007-02
PARISH:	Balmaghie
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sarah Hogg
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NX76SW 7
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 739 622
START DATE (this season)	8 February 2007
END DATE (this season)	22 May 2007
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>February 2007: An archaeological watching brief was maintained at Threave Castle during works in advance of the replacement of the drawbridge to the east side of the castle. Three small trenches were excavated. Variation in the deposits encountered indicated at least two types of material used to build up the ground to the east side of the castle - possibly upcast from the nearby ditch.</p> <p>May 2007: A second short period of archaeological monitoring was required during the removal of a small area of turf. As part of works to improve access to the Castle the decision had been taken to fill a small hollow just to the N of the end of the drawbridge. This involved lifting the turf from the area, raising the ground level with imported soil, and replacing the turf, revealing nothing of archaeological interest other than a small group of stones thought likely to represent tumble from the outer defensive earthwork.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	4, Western Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5QF
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2007

Threave Castle: Archaeological Monitoring, May 2007

HS PIC Index number: 90301
Project code: HSCO-90301-2007-02



17 September 2007
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Threave Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NX 739 622
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90301-2007-02

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SUMMARY: An archaeological watching brief was maintained at Threave Castle during works near the drawbridge to the east side of the castle. An area of turf was removed revealing nothing of archaeological interest other than a small group of stones thought likely to represent tumble from the outer defensive earthwork

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a short period of archaeological monitoring at Threave Castle during the removal of a small area of turf. As part of works to improve access to the Castle the decision had been taken to fill a small hollow just to the N of the end of the drawbridge. This involved lifting the turf from the area, raising the ground level with imported soil, and replacing the turf.

The area of turf removal was at the junction of the inner E ditch of the Castle with the NW end of the outer bank thought to relate to the 17th-century use of the Castle. An irregular but roughly D-shaped hollow lay just to the E of the ditch and S of the bank, with the straight side of the 'D' parallel to the ditch.

The work was carried out 22 May 2007.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

The area of turf removed measured a maximum of 4.75 m N-S by 8.10 m E-W. A strip was dug by hand around the perimeter of the affected area, with the rest removed by mechanical turf cutter. The effect of this was that the hand dug strip tended to be dug deeper, generally 100 mm, but up to 150 mm, while the turf cutter rarely went below 50 mm deep.

Topsoil **F001** was mid brown fine silt containing occasional small stones. The only other deposit seen was to the NE, at the foot of the earthwork bank, where some larger stones, **F002**, were noted sloping down to the S. These were angular chunks of schist, up to 200 by 150 mm long. No artefacts were recovered.

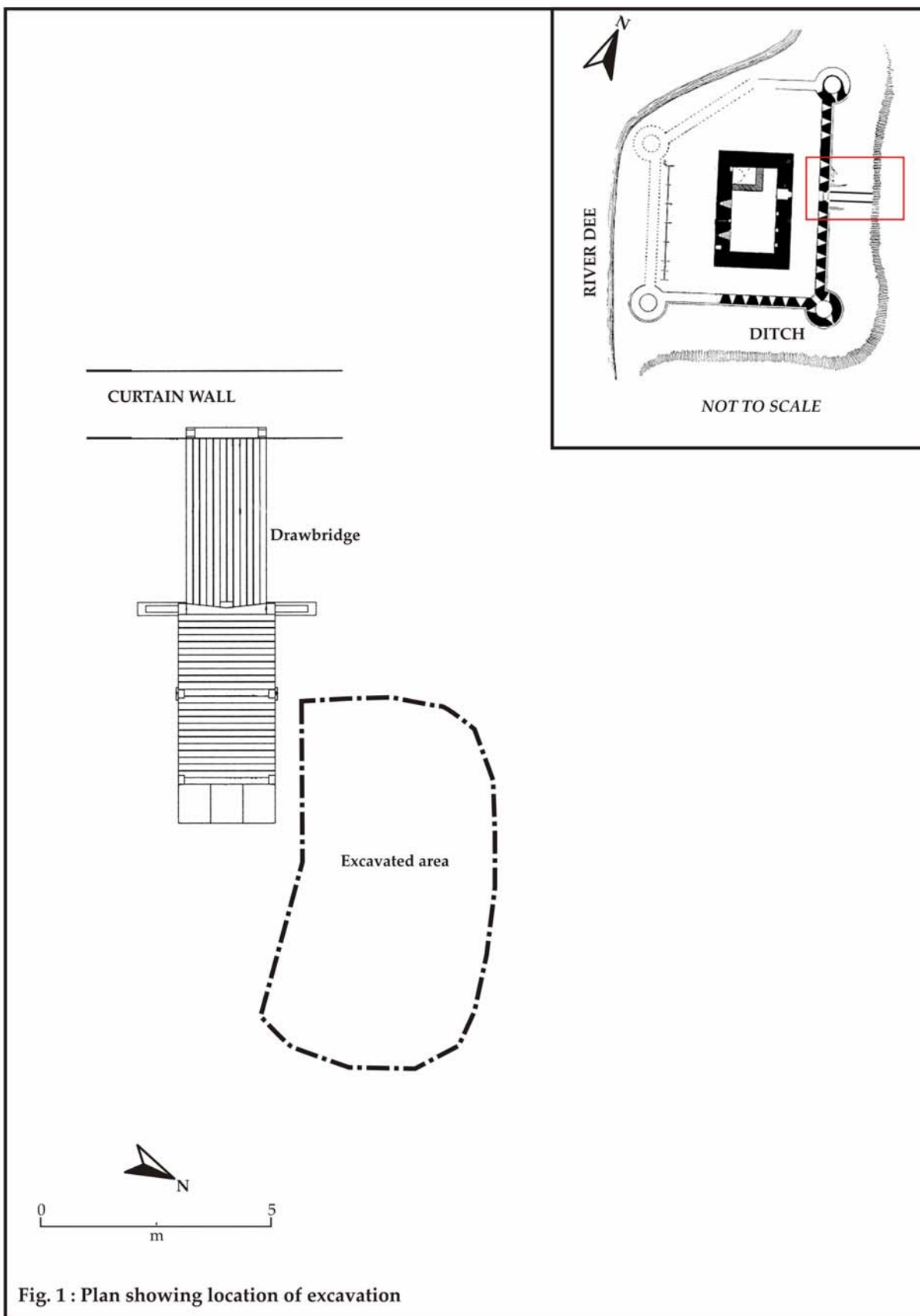


Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of excavation

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

Across almost the entire trench nothing below topsoil was seen. The only exception was in the NE corner, where the hand dug strip exposed the top of stones **F002**. These may represent tumble from the outer defensive earthwork.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
101	Turf and topsoil
102	Stones in NE corner of trench

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

#	Type	Scale	Description	Date
1	Plan	1:200	HS plan, annotated	22/5/2007

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

HSCO-90301-2007-02-CD1

#	Description	From	Date
6531-4	General shots	E	22/05/2007
6535-6	General shots	W	22/05/2007
6539-40	General shots	W	22/05/2007
6541	Turf cutting	S	22/05/2007
6542-3	Turf cutting	W	22/05/2007
6554-5	Stones F002	W	22/05/2007
6556	Trench from S	S	22/05/2007
6557	Trench from W	W	22/05/2007
6558-9	Trench as finished from W	W	22/05/2007
6560-1	Trench as finished from S	S	22/05/2007

Site	Threave Castle
HS PIC Index no	90301
Kirkdale Project no	HSCO-90301-2007-02
Date(s) of site work	22 May 2007

Report files submitted on CD:

Report in MS Word	HSCO-90301-2007-02-Report.doc
TIFFs	HSCO-90301-2007-02-Report Fig 1.tif
PDF	HSCO-90301-2007-02-Report.pdf

Other files submitted on CD:

Photo scans	HSCO-90301-2007-02-CD1- .jpg(s), x19
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