

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

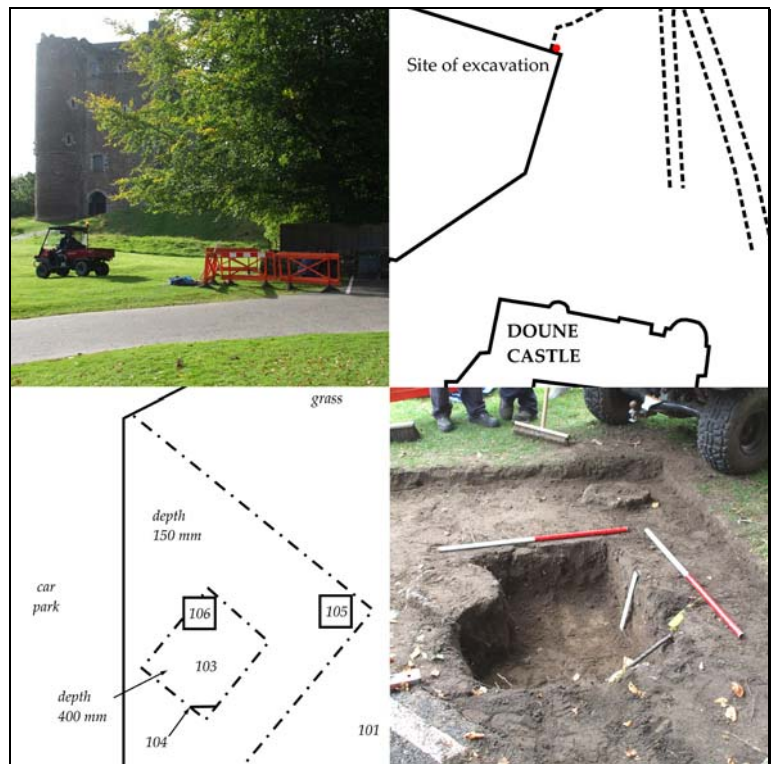
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Doune Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90335-2009-01
PARISH:	Kilmadock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NN70SW 1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Defence; Residential/ Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 7284 0112
START DATE (this season)	23 September 2009
END DATE (this season)	23 September 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<i>A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a small area immediately southeast of the car park to the north of Doune Castle. The excavation reached a depth of 400 mm and the modern finds seen within the trench suggested this ground had been recently disturbed to this level, most likely during the installation of the two concrete fence-post bases which were seen. No finds of archaeological significance were encountered.</i>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2009

Doune Castle:
Archaeological monitoring,
September 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90335
Project code: HSCO-90335-2009-01



20 March 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Doune Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NN 7284 0112
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90335-2009-01

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Excavation Account	1
3.0 Interpretation and observations	2
A1.0 Appendix 1: List of contexts	3
A2.0 Appendix 2: List of photographs	3
Fig. 1: Plan (1:1000) showing location of excavation	4
Fig. 2: Plan (1:50) showing excavated area	5

SUMMARY

A watching brief was maintained at Doune Castle during the excavation of a trench for the insertion of a new signpost on the grassed area at the east end of the car park NW of the castle. The area had previously been disturbed and contained modern refuse. Two concrete foundations were uncovered, part of a 20th-century wood and wire fence. An electricity cable was revealed running east-west through the trench. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

1.0 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 install a signpost near Doune Castle. The trench was located on the grassy area at the E end of the S side of the car park to the NW of the Castle.

Doune Castle was built by the Duke of Albany in the late 14th century and occupies an impressive position overlooking the River Teith. The car park is modern and the watching brief has shown that the area around the castle has been landscaped to present a more picturesque setting for visitors to the castle.

The trenches were excavated by hand by Historic Scotland MCU personnel under archaeological supervision.

No archaeological artefacts were recovered. The work was carried out on 23 September 2009.

2.0 EXCAVATION ACCOUNT

The trench had an irregular shape and measured 3.5 m N-S by up to 2.3 m E-W. The central portion of the trench (to carry the found for the signpost) was 1.00 m NE-SW by 800 mm NW-SE and 400 mm deep. The rest of the trench was cut to a depth of 150 mm to allow 50 mm of bedding under the 100 mm thick grass bars which were to be installed. The grass bars would allow disabled access to the new information signpost. The trench was bounded to the S by a dry-stone wall running E-W.

The trench was de-turfed and the area dug to a depth of 150mm. The turf **101** was 50

mm thick and overlay a layer of compact, yellowish mid-brown silt **102** containing modern glass, plastic spoons, barbed wire and batteries. **102** was a disturbed layer of landscaping material 200 mm deep that overlay a compact layer of mid-brown silt **103** containing a moderate amount of small angular stones. This represented a pre-landscaping sub-soil but contained no artefacts.

At a depth of 120 mm, three features were noted. An electricity cable **104** was located running E-W 700 mm out from the N face of the dry-stone wall. At the same depth and 1.00 m apart were two concrete foundations of a demolished fence. The fence would have been aligned E-W and was composed of concrete foundations 1.00 m apart with central wooden uprights (the holes for which are on the upper face of the founds) probably linked with barbed wire (which was found in quantity throughout **102**). Its demolition was likely contemporaneous with the 20th-century landscaping. The E (**105**) and W (**106**) concrete foundations were 300 mm x 300 mm x at least 350 mm deep. On their upper faces was a square hole to carry the wooden upright 80 mm x 80 mm and containing the snapped remains of the post. It was decided that there was no need to remove either foundation.

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted or recovered during the excavation.

3.0 INTERPRETATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

Although nothing of particular archaeological interest was noted during the watching brief, it has shown that this landscaping probably seals layers in other areas which may not be as archaeologically sterile as this one, so it is advisable to maintain an archaeological watching brief during any future ground-breaking works.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Ctxt	Description
001	Turf
002	Mid-yellowish brown compact silt (landscaping material)
003	Compact layer of mid-brown stony silt
004	Electricity cable
005	E Concrete Fence Foundation
006	W Concrete Fence Foundation

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	From	Date
1	Pre-Excavation Shot looking E	W	23/9/2010
2	Pre-Excavation Shot looking ESE	WNW	23/9/2010
3	Pre-Excavation Shot looking S	N	23/9/2010
4	Pre-Excavation Shot looking S	N	23/9/2010
5	Pre-Excavation Shot looking S	N	23/9/2010
6	Trench being marked out looking SE	NW	23/9/2010
7	De-turfing looking SE	NW	23/9/2010
8	Excavation in Progress looking E	W	23/9/2010
9	Excavation in Progress looking E	W	23/9/2010
10	E Concrete Fence Foundation looking SW	NE	23/9/2010
11	Looking E at E and W Concrete Fence Foundations	W	23/9/2010
12	Looking ESE at Signpost Trench and EandW Concrete Fence Foundations	WNW	23/9/2010
13	Looking E at Signpost Trench and EandW Concrete Fence Foundations and Electricity Cable	W	23/9/2010
14	Looking SE at Signpost Trench	NW	23/9/2010
15	Looking SE at Signpost Trench and depth of Grass bars	NW	23/9/2010
16	Looking SE at Signpost Trench and (with found and cable)	NW	23/9/2010
17	Looking SE at Signpost Trench and (with found and cable)	NW	23/9/2010
18	Post-Ex Shot of Trench looking NE	SW	23/9/2010

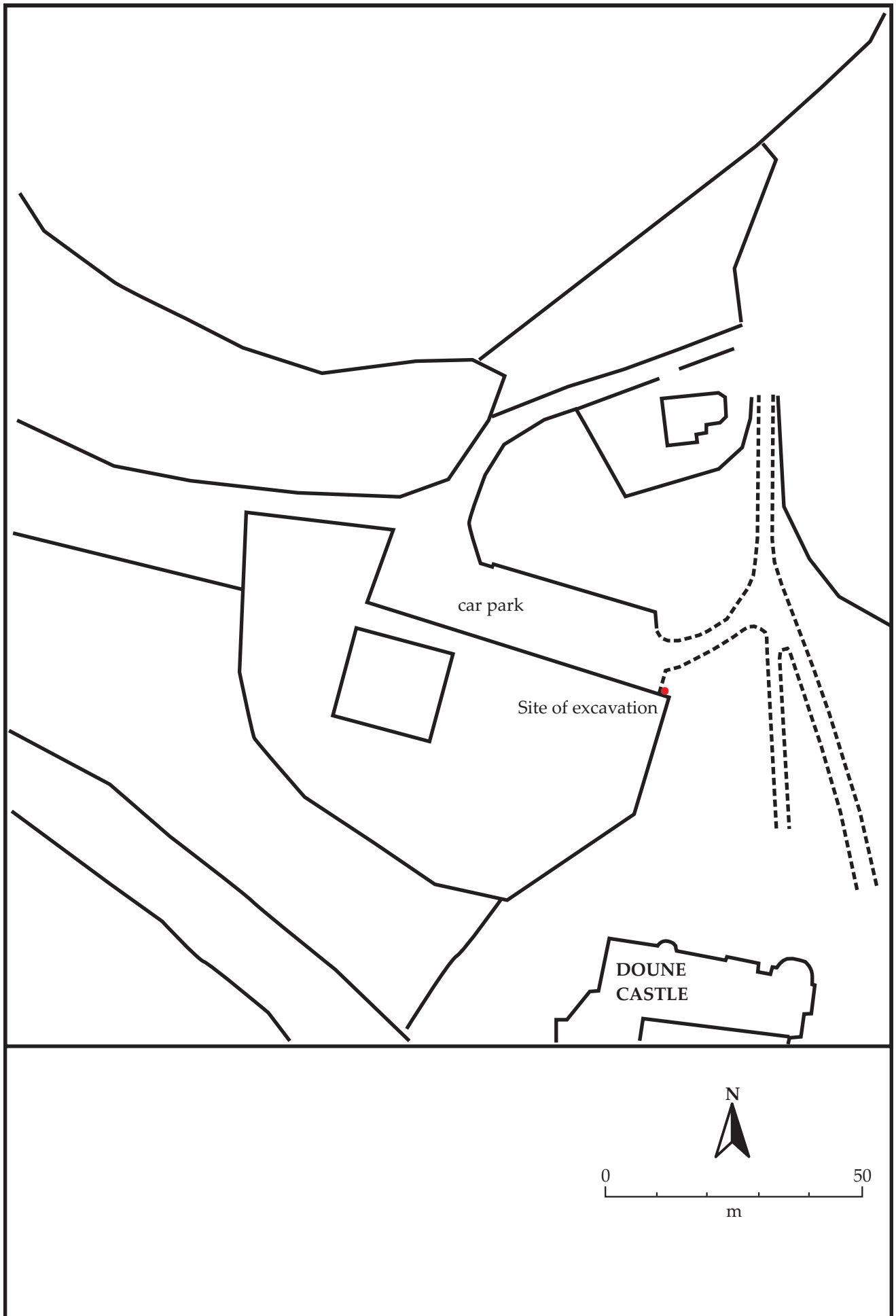


Fig. 1 : Plan (1:1000) showing location of excavation

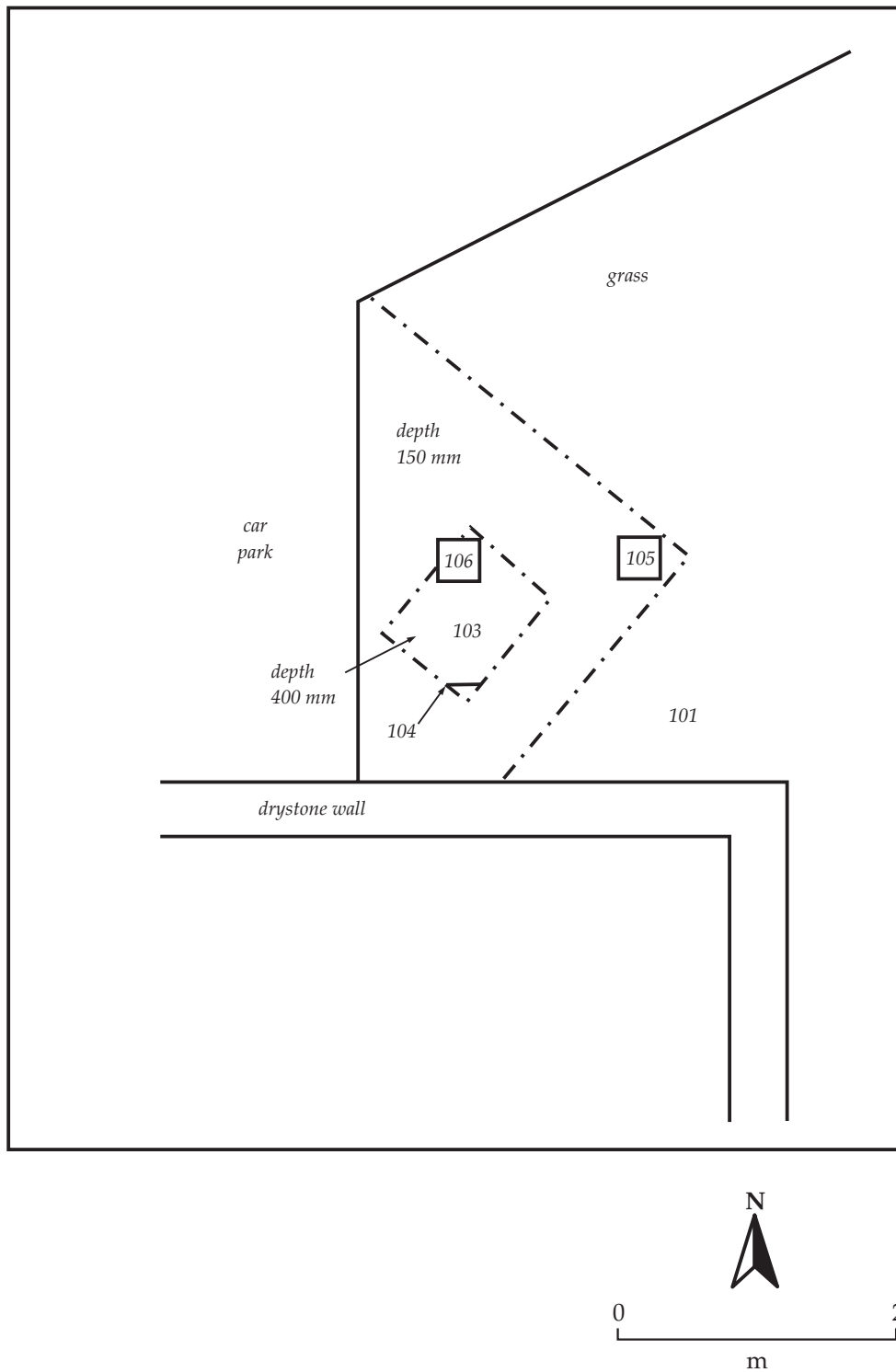


Fig. 2: Plan (1:50) of excavated area