

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

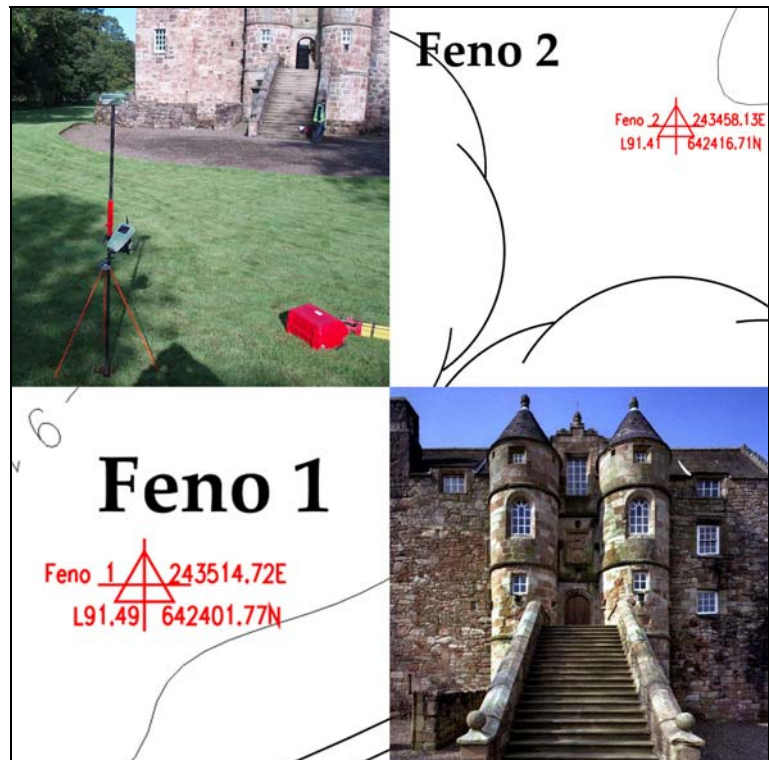
Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	EAST AYRSHIRE
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Rowallan Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90254-2009-01
PARISH:	KILMARNOCK
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS44SW 9.00; NS44SW 9.01
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle/ Country House/ Garden
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 4345 4240
START DATE (this season)	24 August 2009
END DATE (this season)	24 August 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of two small holes for the installation of new permanent survey points in an area of flat grass to the south of Rowallan Castle. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	4, Western Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5QF
EMAIL ADDRESS:	g_ewart@hotmail.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2009

Rowallan Castle: Archaeological excavation, August 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90254
Project code: HSCO-90254-2009-01



28 February 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Rowallan Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NS 43514 42401 & NS 43458 42416
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological excavation
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90254-2009-01

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SUMMARY: Two small holes were excavated by hand for the installation of two new permanent survey points in an area of flat grass to the south of Rowallan Castle. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to excavate two small holes near Rowallan Castle within the guardianship area. These were needed to allow the installation of two permanent survey points ('Feno' markers).

The work was carried out 24 August 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

The first of the two markers was to be sited to the SE of the castle, in line with the steps leading to the Castle entrance, and close to the river which loops around the site. The hole excavated was only 1.1 m W of the bank adjacent to the river, and the required hole measured some 400 mm square. This was hand dug through dark brown, silty clay for 125 mm, after which the marker was inserted, and then hammered 400 mm down into the ground.

The second site was to the SW of the Castle, on the low-lying, flat, grassy area between the Castle and the river where it loops around the S side of the site. It was in line with the back wall (NW side) of the castle, and again measured 400 mm square. Dark brown, silty clay was again seen throughout its 125 mm depth, after which the probe was hammered 400 mm into the ground.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

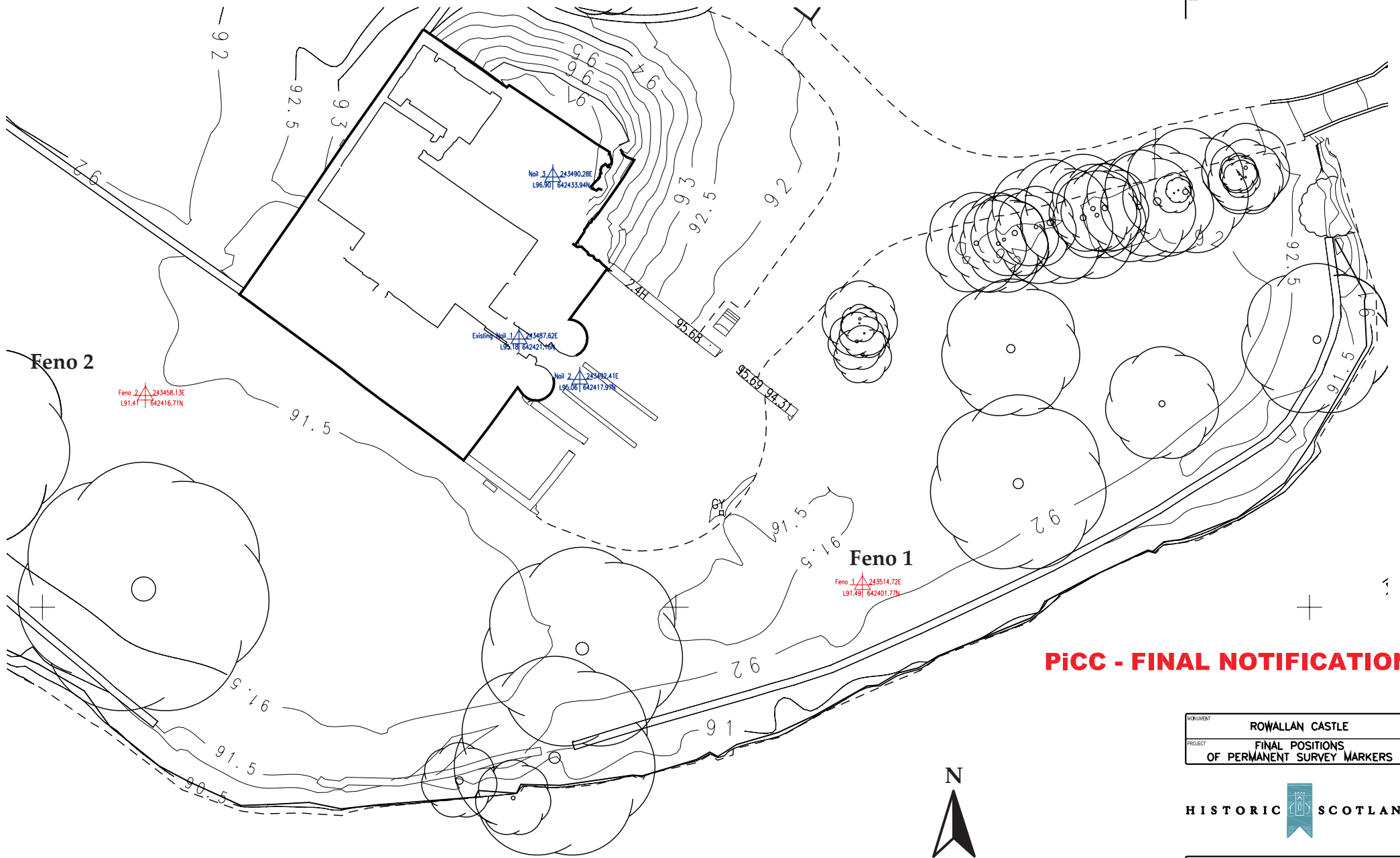
Neither of these two small holes revealed anything of archaeological significance. Both were located in flat grassy areas outside the castle, and there is a strong possibility that there were once gardens in these areas. This would be likely to mean a considerable depth of garden soil, although as the area is so remarkably level there may well be evidence for the preparation of this ground, with the raising of hollows,

and the levelling of protrusions. The ground is so flat next to the river that the whole area may well have been raised to alleviate the problems of flooding. The low bank that follows the river is presumably a flood defence, and indicates that this has been a problem in the past.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Files have prefix "hsco-90038-2009-01_" followed by number below

#	Description	From	Date
01	Hole for Feno marker 1, GPS installed	E	24/08/2009
02	Hole for Feno marker 1 after excavation	E	24/08/2009
03	Hole for Feno marker 2, after excavation	NE	24/08/2009
04	Hole for Feno marker 2, general shot to show location	NE	24/08/2009



Notes

PICC - FINAL NOTIFICATION

MONUMENT	ROWALLAN CASTLE
PROJECT	FINAL POSITIONS OF PERMANENT SURVEY MARKERS



PROJECT DRAWING NUMBER	
SCALE	ARCHITECT S Morris
DATE Dec 2009	DRAWN BY Consultant/JG
ARCHIVE NUMBER 228/254/354	

Fig. 1 : Plan (1:400) showing location of holes excavated for Feno markers.