

## *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Argyll And Bute
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Bonawe Ironworks
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-90037-2010-01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Glenorchy And Inishail (Argyll And Bute)
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Paul Fox
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NN03SW 5
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Iron Works
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NN 0096 3191
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	28 July 2010
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	28 July 2010
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of two small holes near the ticket office for the installation of signs. Only modern landscaping deposits were disturbed and no finds or features of archaeological significance were seen.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Scotland
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	4, Western Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5QF
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	g_ewart@hotmail.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**Historic Scotland  
Properties in Care  
Minor Archaeological Works 2010**

**Bonawe Iron Furnace:  
New Signage Trenches  
July 2010**

**HS PIC Index Number:  
Project Code: HSCO-90037-2010-01**



**28<sup>th</sup> July 2010  
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<b><u>Site</u></b>	Bonawe Iron Furnace, Taynuilt.
<b><u>N.G.R</u></b>	NN 00974 31882
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	Archaeological watching brief on the excavation of two trenches to house new signage outside the ticket office.
<b><u>Project Code</u></b>	HSCO-90037-2010-01

## **Contents**

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Description and Interpretation	2
3.0	Conclusions	3
4.0	Appendix 1: List of Small Finds	4
5.0	Appendix 2: List of Contexts	4
6.0	Appendix 3: List of Digital Photographs	4
7.0	Appendix 4: List of Drawings	5

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of two trenches for new signage outside the ticket office at Bonawe Iron Furnace in Taynuilt.

Existing signage in the (same) locations had been removed, so the trenches were already partially disturbed. They were hand-dug by HS staff under archaeological supervision.

Trench 1 was dug to house 'Sign 2' (as defined on the HS Plan), while Trench 2 was dug to house 'Sign 1' (see Figure 1).

The work was carried out on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

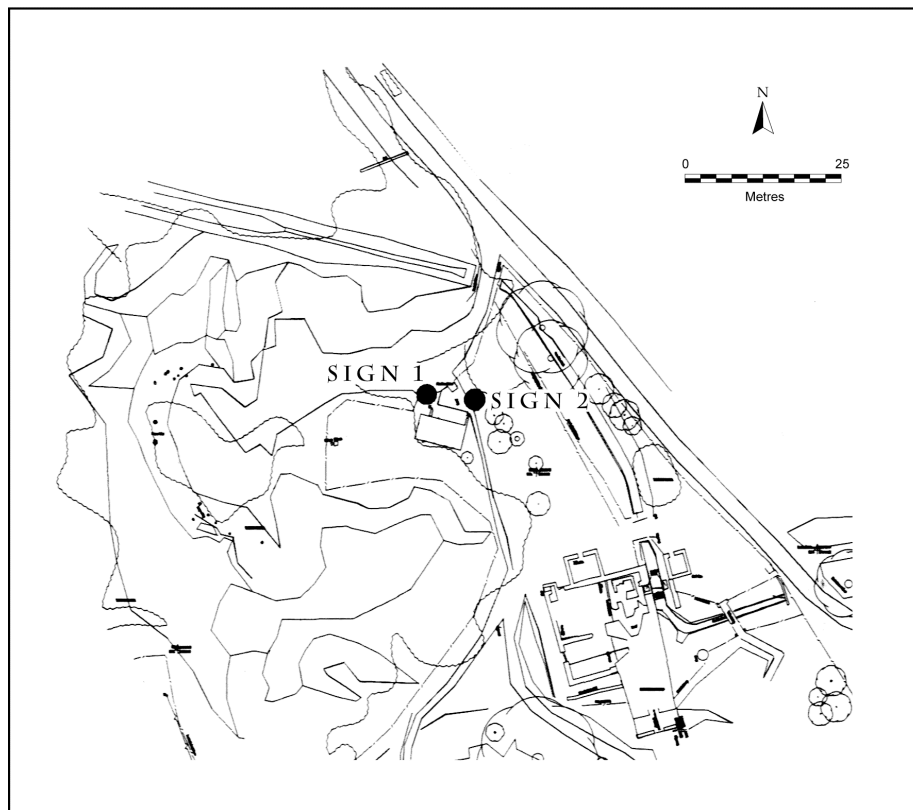


Figure 1: Locations of the two signs.

## 2.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Trench 1 (see Figure 2) was 1.5m WSW/ESE x 0.75m SSE/NNW x 0.5m deep. The fills consisted of (101), a turf and mid-brown sandy silt 100mm thick over a 40-50mm thick drainage bed of pea gravel (102). Below (102) was a moderately compact levelling cap of brown silt (103), a maximum of 150mm thick. From within this layer small finds were recovered (see Appendix 1). These three (101,102 and 103) layers had been used to seal an undulating layer of industrial waste (104) comprising spent fuel and industrial slag. It appeared that the large slag heaps to the W and NW of the ticket office had been used to provide levelling material for the landscaping of the site in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nothing of particular archaeological significance was uncovered during the works.

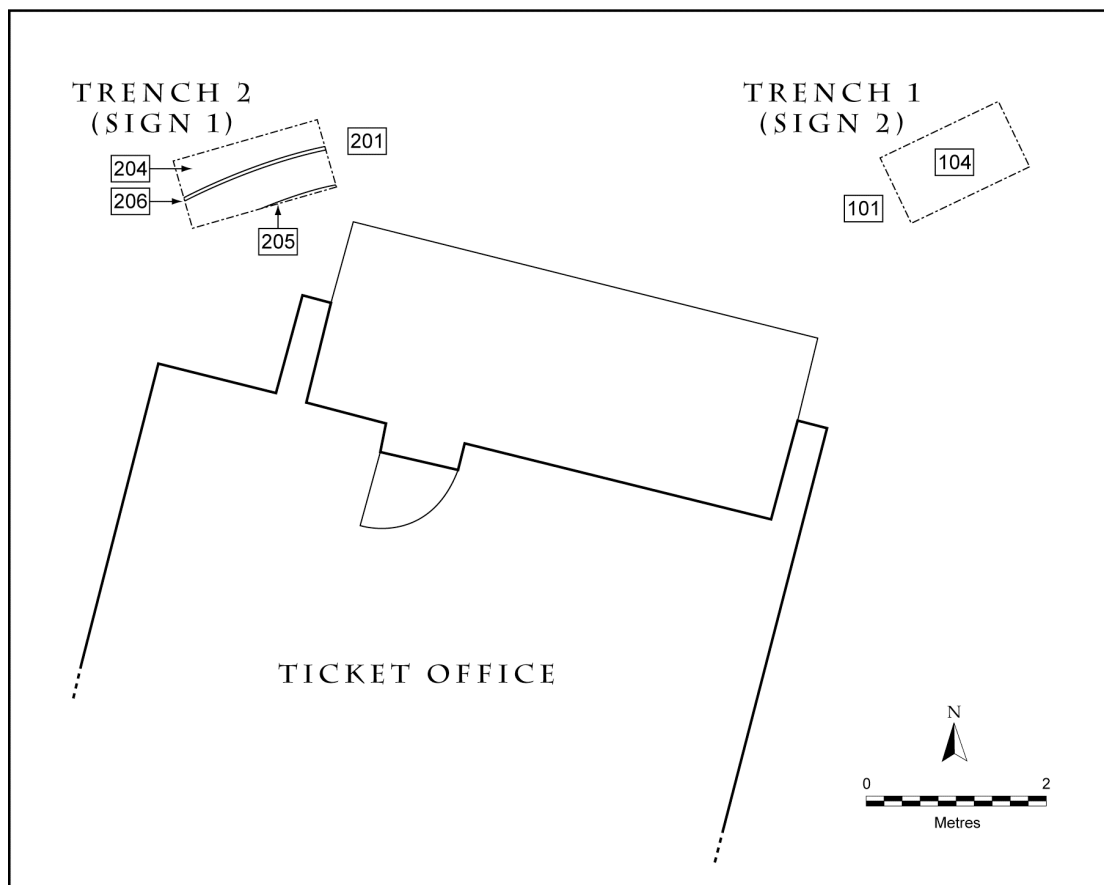


Figure 2: Post-excitation plans of Trenches 1 & 2.

Trench 2 (see Figure 2) was 1.7m WSW/ESE x 0.75m SSE/NNW x 0.45m deep. The fills consisted (to the WSW) of (201) a turf and mid-brown silt 100mm thick, while to the ENE was a gravel path (202) 150mm thick. Below these was a moderately compact brown silt (203), a maximum of 150mm thick - from within this layer was a single small find was recovered (see Appendix 1). The topsoil capped a layer of industrial waste and demolition debris (204), consisting of slag, clinkers and smashed red brick. This was only partially excavated so its full thickness was not revealed. Within the trench an electricity cable, 10mm in diameter (205) and a water pipe 250mm in diameter (206) were exposed. These were avoided during the placing of the concrete shuttering. The pipes and path were installed as part of the recent construction of the ticket office. Nothing of particular archaeological significance was uncovered during the works.

### **3.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The location of the trenches, especially Trench 2 suggested that much of the make-up encountered could be attributed to 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping and the building of the ticket office. Nevertheless it has to be recognised that the site is an important relic of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century industrial landscape and as such should be subject to archaeological monitoring during any future ground-breaking works.

#### 4.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF SMALL FINDS

No.	Description	Trench	Type
001	2 x Sherds of un-glazed pottery (1 basal, 1 rim sherd).	1	Ceramic
002	1 x Sherd of blue and white glazed earthenware.	1	Ceramic
003	1 x Shard of clear glass.	1	Glass
004	1x Coin (a One Penny dated 1918).	1	Coin
005	1 x Body sherd of black-glazed pottery.	2	Ceramic

#### 5.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	Turf and sandy brown silt.
102	Bed of pea gravel.
103	Silt cap over 104.
104	Layer of black industrial waste.
201	Turf and sandy brown silt.
202	Gravel path.
203	Brown silt topsoil.
204	Layer of industrial waste.
205	Electricity cable.
206	Water cable.

#### 6.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Trench 1 and ticket office pre-excavation.	NE	28/7/2010
02	Trench 1 pre-excavation shot showing removed signpost.	NE	28/7/2010
03	Trench 1 pre-excavation.	N	28/7/2010
04	Trench 1 pre-excavation.	NE	28/7/2010
05	Trench 1 pre-excavation.	NE	28/7/2010
06	Trench 1 de-turfed.	NE	28/7/2010
07	Trench 1 work in progress.	NE	28/7/2010
08	Trench 1 industrial slag.	N/A	28/7/2010
09	Trench 1 post- excavation shot of NW-facing section.	NW	28/7/2010
10	Trench 1 post- excavation shot of NE-facing section.	NE	28/7/2010
11	Trench 2 shot of water pipe.	N	28/7/2010
12	Trench 2 shot of water pipe and electricity cable.	NE	28/7/2010
13	Trench 2 shot of water pipe and electricity cable.	NE	28/7/2010
14	Trench 2 post- excavation.	NE	28/7/2010

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Date</b>
15	Trench 2 post- excavation.	NE	28/7/2010
16	Trench 2 post- excavation.	S	28/7/2010
17	Trench 2 post- excavation.	E	28/7/2010
18	Trenches 1 and 2 post-excavation.	E	28/7/2010
19	Location shot of trenches 1 and 2 and the ticket office.	NE	28/7/2010
20	Location shot of trenches 1 and 2 and the ticket office.	NE	28/7/2010

#### 7.0 APPENDIX 4: LIST OF DRAWINGS

<b>No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Date</b>
001	Plan of Trenches 1 and 2	1:50	28/7/2010