

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Kinnaird Head Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90344-2014-01
PARISH:	Fraserburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NJ96NE 7
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Tower House`
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NJ 9985 6754
START DATE (this season)	20 March 2014
END DATE (this season)	20 March 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during excavations associated with the renewal of corroded water pipes running from the Engine House into generators. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
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 2014/2015**

Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse • Monitoring • March 2014

HS PIC Index Number: 90344

SITE: Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse, Fraserburgh

N.G.R.: NJ 999 675

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during excavations associated with the renewal of corroded water pipes running from the Engine House into the generator engines.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90344-2014-01

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INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a Watching Brief during ground-breaking works associated with the renewal of the water pipes running from the Engine House to the generator engines at Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire (Fig.1).

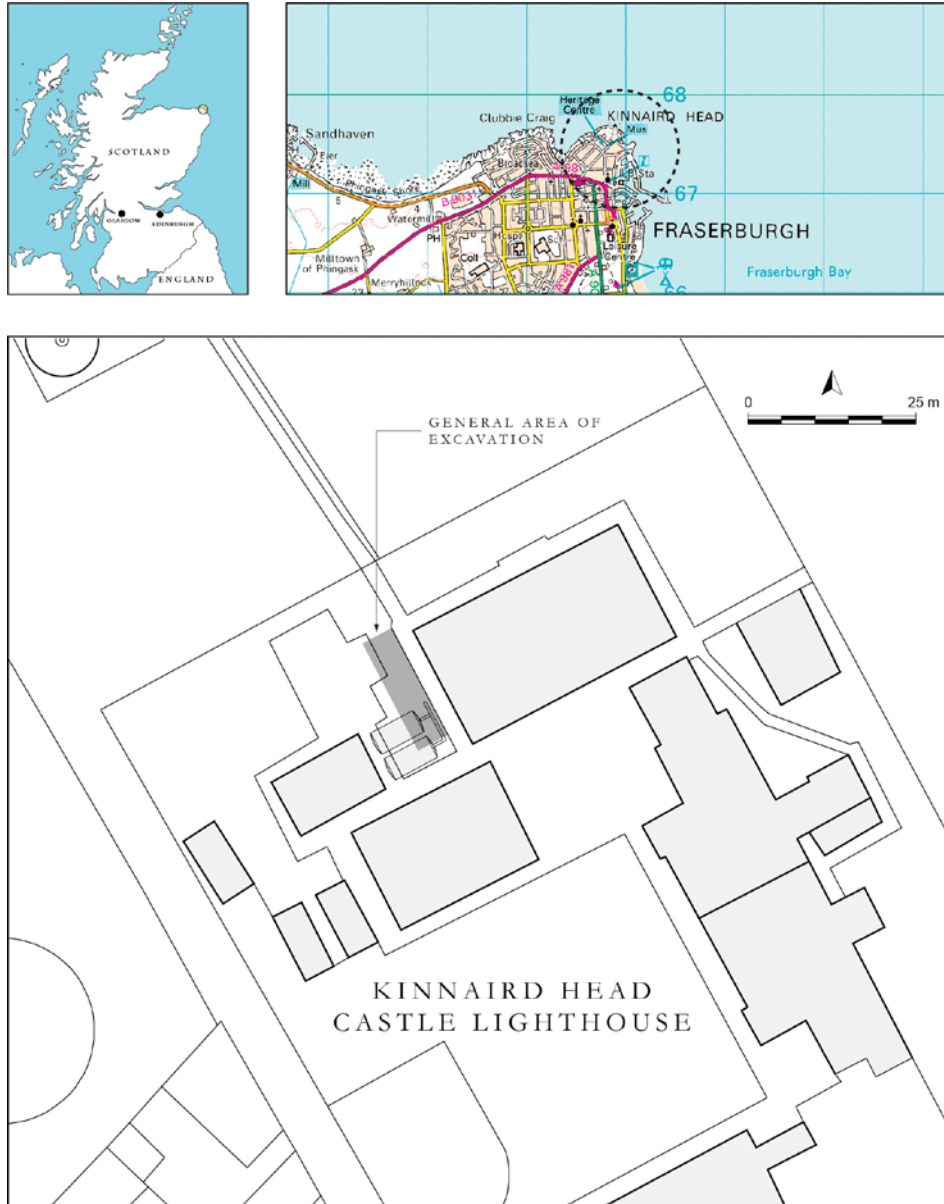


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of the trench.
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The area of excavation to expose the corroded pipes is shown on a plan of 1786 as being ‘Arable land’ (to the N of the tower). The tower was adapted to accommodate a large lantern upon its conversion into a lighthouse in 1787. The lighthouse keeper’s cottages were added in 1820 and additional stripping of the interior of the tower was carried out in 1824 when a new lantern was added. The foghorn was built in 1903 and was powered from the engine house (immediately NW of the tower) added in 1904. It was part

of the water cooling system coming out of the Engine House which was to be replaced as part of the present works.

The excavations were carried out manually by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and took place on 20th March, 2014.

DESCRIPTION

The pipe to be replaced was known to run from the manhole S of the W door of the Engine House into a manhole on the concrete pad to the NW. A narrow trench 25cm wide was excavated 8.8m NW/SE x 1.2m NE/SW in which the line of the corroded pipe was traced until exposed going into both manholes (Fig.2).

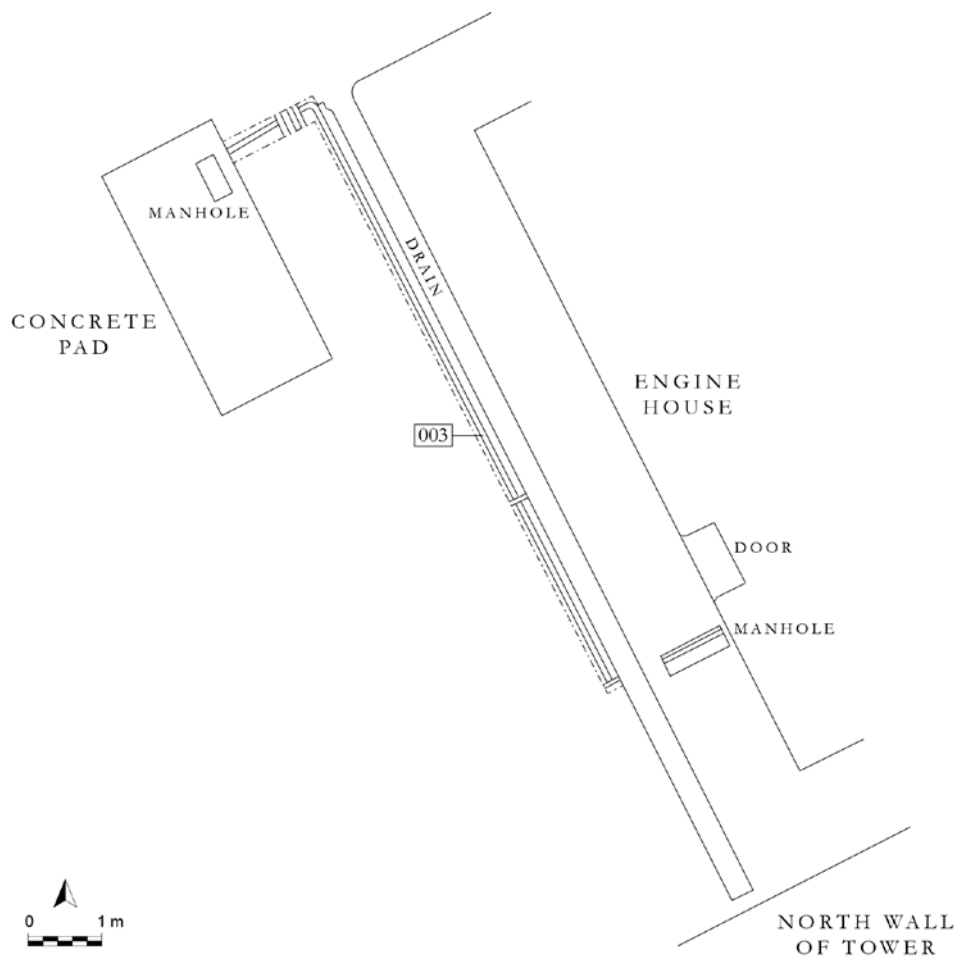


Figure 2: Post-excavation plan of the trench.

The ground was heavily disturbed, with a simple section of mixed-re-deposited silt and stony gravel **001** some 25cm thick overlying a 15cm thick layer of sand **002** over the corroded iron pipe **003**. The pipe sat to the SE on a layer of concrete **004** which contained a piece of newspaper dated 1972, suggesting that

this was when the pipe was last renewed. Other pipes were noted running over (and therefore post-dating) pipe **003** during the excavation, but nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.



Plate 1: The work in progress.

CONCLUSIONS

This area to the N of the tower has been disturbed heavily as the wet climate demands the frequent renewal of corroded components. Although nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered during this particular period of work, the site still retains high archaeological potential, and it is recommended that any further ground-breaking works should be similarly accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Description
001	Re-deposited trench fill of mixed silt and stony gravel
002	Bedding sand for pipe 003
003	Corroded iron pipe
004	Concrete bed for pipe 003

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Pre-excavation shot of trench	SE	20/03/2014
2	Pre-excavation shot of trench	SE	20/03/2014
3	Pre-excavation shot of trench	SE	20/03/2014
4	Trench in progress	NW	20/03/2014
5	Corroded pipes in manhole at the Engine House	NW	20/03/2014
6	Pipe 003 with corroded 2.5cm redundant pipe above	W	20/03/2014
7	Post-excavation shot of the trench	S	20/03/2014
8	N corner of pipe 003 turning to manhole	S	20/03/2014
9	Pipe 003 at manhole at concrete pad	W	20/03/2014
10	Post-excavation shot of trench	SE	20/03/2014
11	Post-excavation shot of trench	S	20/03/2014
12	Post-excavation shot of trench	S	20/03/2014
13	Post-excavation shot of trench	NW	20/03/2014
14	NE-facing section of the trench	SW	20/03/2014

LIST OF DRAWINGS

Number	Type	Description	Scale
001	Plan	Trench, post-excavation	1:50