

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Stirling Castle Esplanade (near Robert The Bruce Monument)
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90291-2014-02
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gordon Ewart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	NS79SE 6.01; NS79SE 6.13
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Commemorative Monument
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 7911 9399
START DATE (this season)	16 June 2014
END DATE (this season)	16 June 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during minor excavations for the installation of four lights within the repaved area around the base of the Robert The Bruce statue. The statue is located on the eastern side of the Castle Esplanade. levelling material, mostly modern, was revealed. 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
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2014/2015**

Stirling Castle • Monitoring • June 2014

HS PIC Index Number: 90291

SITE: Stirling Castle, Stirling

N.G.R.: NS 788 941 - NS 792 938

DESCRIPTION: Archaeological monitoring during the installation of new lights in an area around the statue of Robert Bruce on the castle esplanade.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90291-2014-02

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INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Stirling Castle during the installation of four lights within the repaved area around the base of the Robert Bruce statue. The statue is located on the eastern side of the Esplanade (Fig.1).

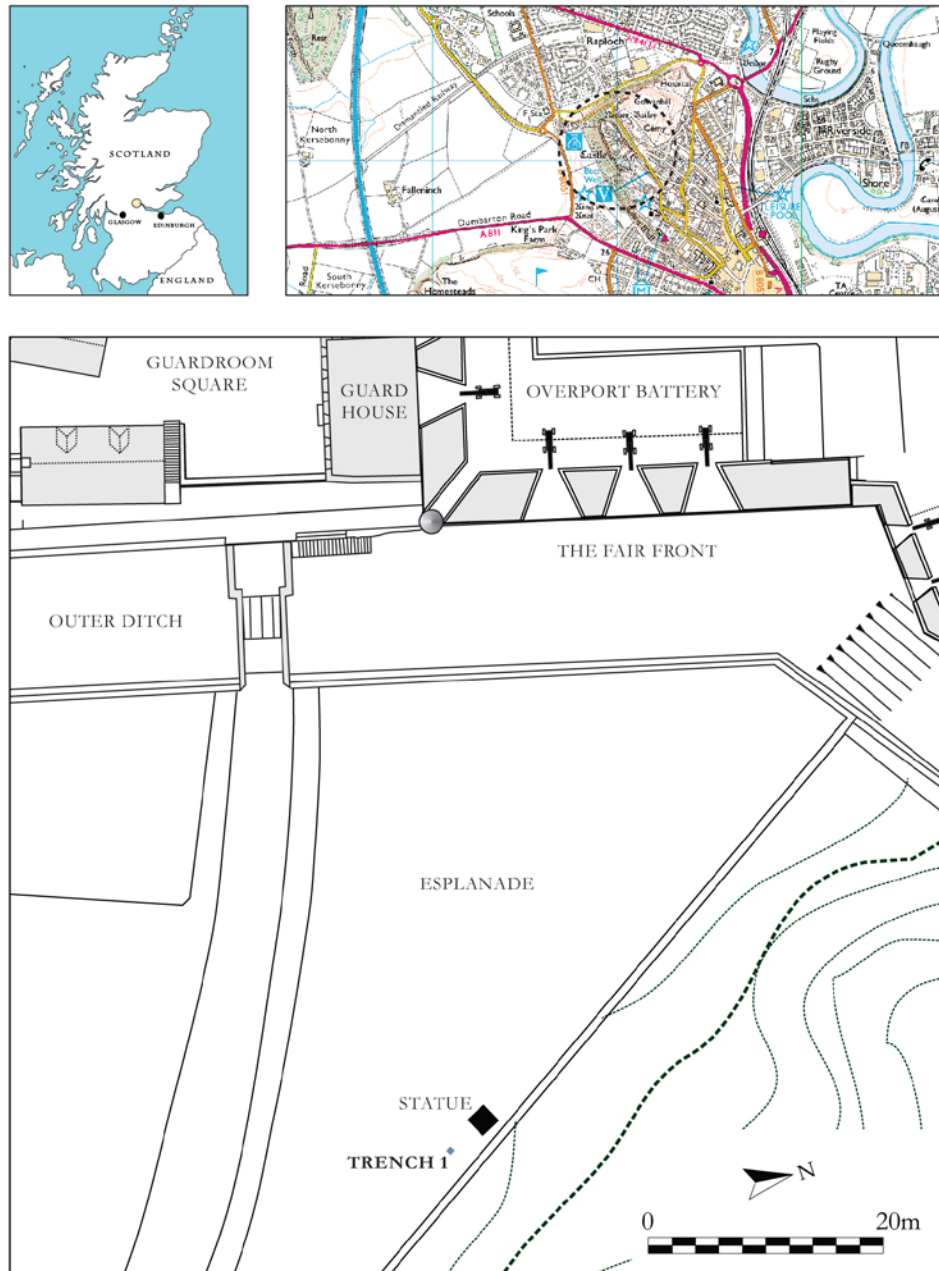


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of the Robert Bruce statue and the area of works.

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The excavations were carried out manually by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision. The work took place on 16th June, 2014.

DESCRIPTION

Each trench was to be dug to a depth of 300mm and measure \approx 500mm x 500mm in plan; however the work was abandoned when fragments (up to 50mm long) of white asbestos sheeting were found in the trench on the S side of the statue plinth (Trench 1).

The centre point of the trench was located \approx 2.3m from the S face of the statue plinth. The upper fill comprised loose, imported stone chippings (**001**) over an imported dump of reddish coloured clay rich silt and stones (**002**) up to 100mm deep. Asbestos was found immediately below **002**, as part of the fill of a spread of dark grey silt and stones (**003**) which was reburied following consultation with Historic Scotland staff.



Plate 1: View of Trench 1 during excavation.

CONCLUSIONS

Contexts **001** and **002** represent recent landscaping, utilising imported material. Context **003** with its asbestos sheeting fragments, is also indicative of recent (20th century) levelling, but is most likely associated with activities of the garrison, utilising debris cleared from elsewhere on the site. This material lies at a depth of \approx 200mm below the present ground level, in the vicinity of the statue base.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Description
001	Imported, commercially purchased stone chippings, up to 100mm deep.
002	Imported, reddish clay rich silt and stones, up to 100mm deep, sealed by 001.
003	Dark, loose dark grey silt and stone fragments, sealed by 002, containing white asbestos sheet fragments. Unexcavated.

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Trench 1 during excavation - 001 and 002 removed	SE	16/06/2014
2	Trench 1 during excavation - 001 and 002 removed	SE	16/06/2014
3	Trench 1 during excavation - 001 and 002 removed	SE	16/06/2014
4	Trench 1 during excavation - 001 and 002 removed	S	16/06/2014
5	General view of work in progress	S	16/06/2014
6	General view of work in progress	S	16/06/2014