

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Argyll & Bute
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dunstaffnage Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90120-2010-01
PARISH:	Kilmore & Kilbride
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NM83SE 2
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Defence; Residential/ Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NM 8813 3422
START DATE (this season)	28 July 2010
END DATE (this season)	28 July 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of a trench to house a new sign at the foot of the avenue leading from the car park to the castle. There were no finds of features of archaeological significance. The presence of modern material within the trench fill suggested that the area was most likely landscaped in the late 20 th century. Anecdotal evidence about possible World War Two material, coupled with the presence of beach deposits with archaeological potential, suggests that the area should be subject to archaeological monitoring during any future ground-breaking works.
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 2010**

**Dunstaffnage Castle:
New Signage Trench
Watching Brief
July 2010**

**HS PIC Index Number:
Project Code: HSCO-90120-2010-01**



**28th July 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	Dunstaffnage Castle, near Oban.
<u>N.G.R</u>	NM 88266 34491
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a trench to house a new sign at the foot of the avenue leading from the car park to the castle.
<u>Project Code</u>	HSCO-90120-2010-01

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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 a new signage trench at Dunstaffnage Castle on the W side (at the S End) of the long avenue leading from the car park to the castle (see Figure 1).

The trench was hand-dug by HS staff under archaeological supervision. One of the members of staff suggested that there had been metal tracks here during World War Two for the transport of munitions, although nothing of them could be seen during this particular excavation.

The work was carried out on 28th July 2010.

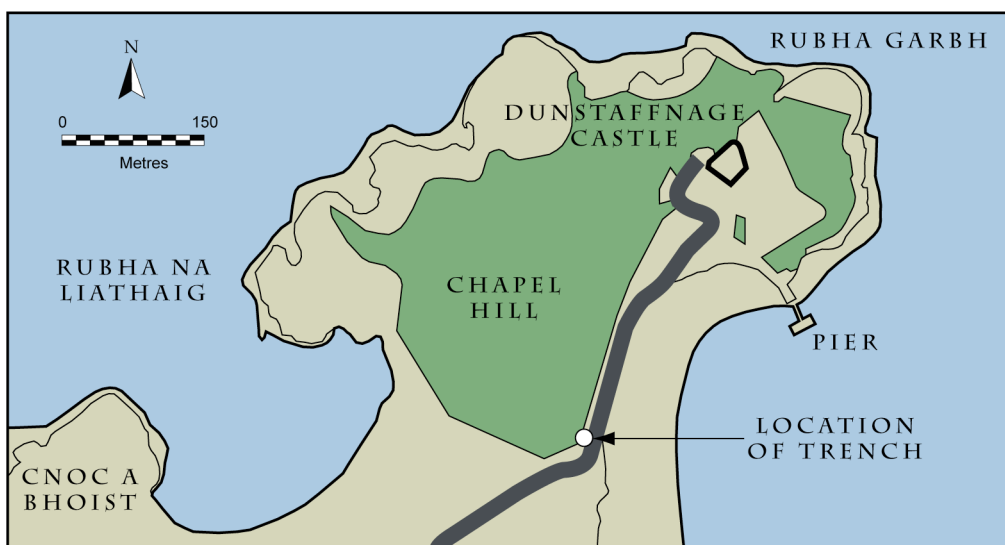


Figure 1: Map showing the general location of the trench.

2.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

The trench (see Figure 2) was 1.65m WNW/ESE x 0.9m SSW/NNE x 0.45m deep. The fills consisted of (101), a turf and mid-brown sandy silt 100mm thick which lay over a 350mm thick deposit of a moderately compact layer of demolition debris in a black

silty matrix (102). This fill consisted of a mixture of pieces of modern red brick, Type II stone, pieces of wood, plastic and modern bottle glass. This cleared onto a layer of yellowish-brown gravelly sand (103), although this layer was not investigated as its initial appearance occurred at the maximum depth of the trench. The beach to the E suggested that this could have been a natural deposit. Having achieved the appropriate depth, the trench was shuttered in order to receive its concrete base. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during the excavation.

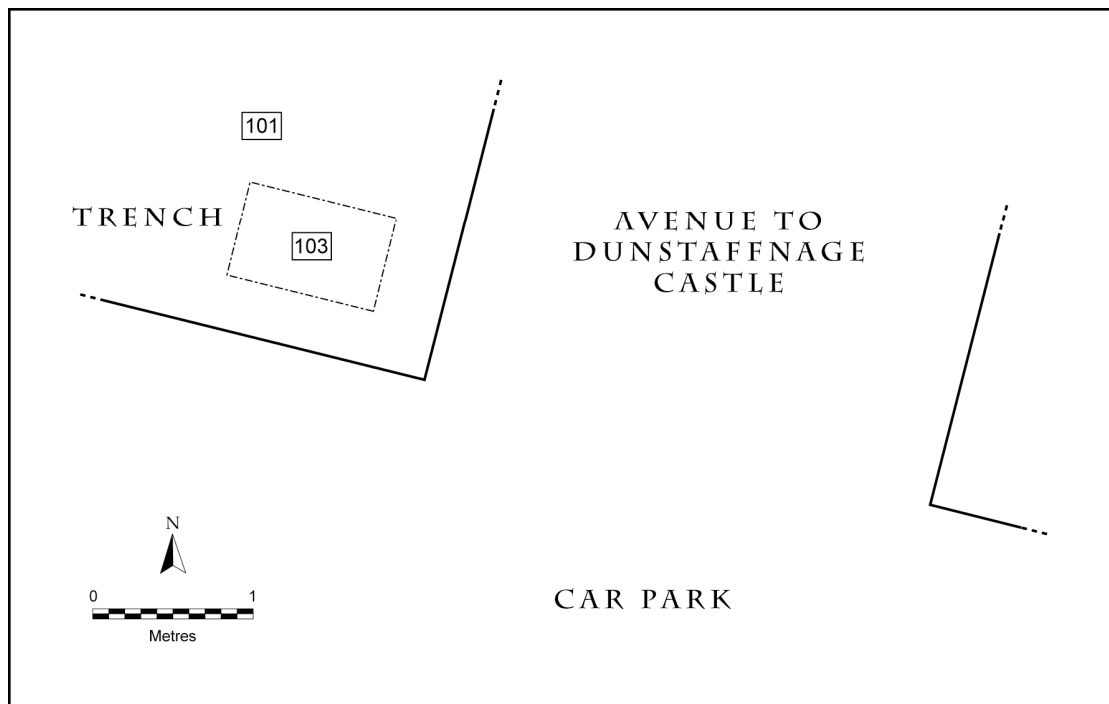


Figure 2: Post-excavation plan of the trench.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

The presence of modern material within the trench fill showed that the area was landscaped in the late 20th century. Anecdotal evidence about possible World War Two material, coupled with the presence of beach deposits with archaeological potential, suggests that the area should be subject to archaeological monitoring during any future ground-breaking works.

4.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	Turf and brown silt.
102	Black silt containing slate, red brick and Type II stone.
103	Layer of gravelly sand.

5.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Shot of the avenue leading from the car park to the castle.	SW	28/7/2010
02	Pre-excavation shot of the proposed trench location.	SE	28/7/2010
03	Shot of trench after turf removal.	NE	28/7/2010
04	Work in progress.	NE	28/7/2010
05	Work in progress.	SW	28/7/2010
06	Post-excavation.	W	28/7/2010
07	Post-e excavation.	W	28/7/2010
08	Post- excavation.	S	28/7/2010
09	Post- excavation.	S	28/7/2010
10	Post- excavation.	SE	28/7/2010

6.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale	Date
001	Plan of Trench 1	1:50	28/7/2010