

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

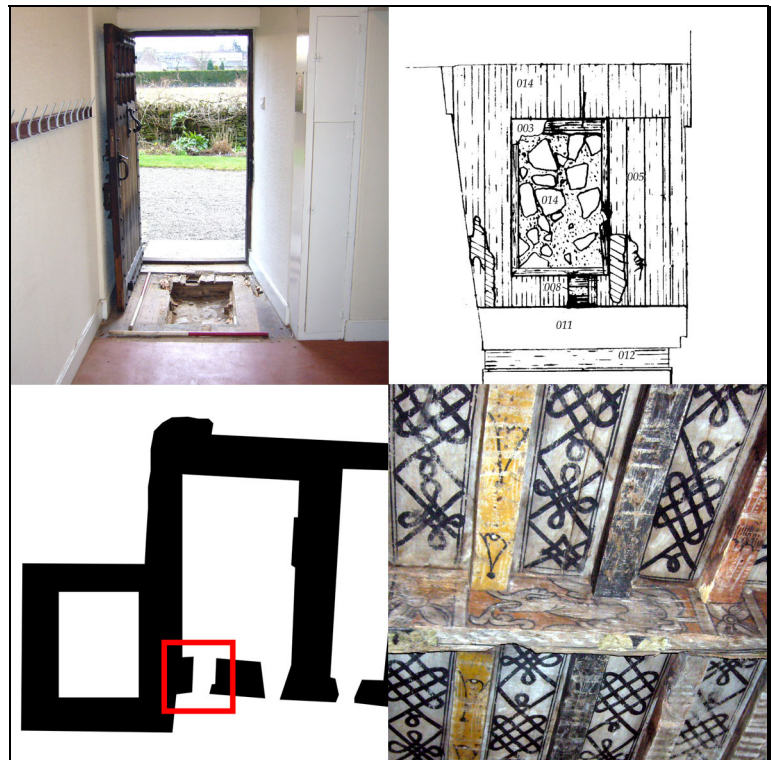
Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	PERTH AND KINROSS
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Huntingtower Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90164-2010-01
PARISH:	TIBBERMORE
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring and recording
NMRS NO(S):	NO02NE 1.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 0825 2512
START DATE (this season)	28 January 2010
END DATE (this season)	28 January 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A section of rotted flooring was to be replaced inside the S door to the W Tower of Huntingtower Castle. A section of the floorboards had already been lifted to ascertain depth. The floor was recorded in this condition and again when the boards were cut out. The floor was a mixture of modern joinery and recycled, powdery pieces of timber riddled with woodworm. A reduced late-15 th /early 16 th -century wall was uncovered on the same line as the S wall of the W Tower. It transpired that the current S door was originally a 17 th -century window that was converted into a doorway at a later date.
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

Huntingtower Castle: Archaeological monitoring and recording, January 2010

HS PIC Index number: 90164
Project code: HSCO-90164-2010-01



24 March 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Huntingtower Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NO 082 251
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring and recording
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90164-2010-01

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SUMMARY: A section of rotted flooring was to be replaced inside the S door to the W Tower of Huntingtower in Perthshire. A section of the floorboards had already been lifted to ascertain depth. The floor was recorded in this condition and again when the boards were cut out. The floor was a mixture of modern joinery and recycled, powdery pieces of timber riddled with woodworm. A reduced late-15th/early 16th-century wall was uncovered on the same line as the S wall of the W Tower. It transpired that the current S door was originally a 17th-century window that was converted into a doorway at a later date.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Huntingtower, Perthshire during the removal of a badly rotted section of wooden floorboards within the SW entrance door vestibule of the W Tower.

The floorboards were modern pine tongue and groove planks and these sat on a mixture of modern pine joists and recycled pieces of flaky timber, possibly re-used from within the castle although bearing no decoration or fabrication clues as to their age. They were so badly corroded that they fell apart in the hand. A section of floor 1.2 m E-W x 940 mm N-S was removed and the debris beneath it was cleared to expose the remains of a wall running E-W on the same orientation as the S wall of the W Tower. This was, in fact, a reduced section of this same wall as will be discussed later. Two plans were produced and photographs were taken to record the works.

A brief photographic survey of timbers within the castle was conducted at the same time. A re-used moulded stone was also noted at the SE angle of the 'Link Block' between the E and W Towers.

No archaeological artefacts were recovered. The work was carried out on 28 January 2010.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

A cut 001 had been made through the linoleum covering the floor of the SW door

vestibule of the W Tower (E Block). The area exposed measured 1.24 m E-W x 1.20 m N-S. Two different widths of modern pine tongue and groove floorboards were exposed- floorboards **004** were 130 mm wide x 30 mm deep while floor boards **005** were 90 mm wide x 30 mm deep. These sat on a levelling layer of thin timber packing **003**, again modern, above a series of joists carrying the floor. The joists were a mixture of old and modern timbers, with the old timbers in such a state of decay that they crumbled to the touch. These were carefully examined for any decorative surfaces or carpentry marks, none of which were present. **002** and **009** were modern pine joists 90 mm high x 60 mm wide. **007**, **010** and **015** were older pine timbers covered in woodworm holes and flaking badly on contact. These were again 90 mm high x 60 mm wide. One further 'joist' **008** was formed by placing 2 up-ended floorboards of **005** type side-by-side. An initial cut had been made through the floor boards in order to inspect the depth of joists etc so that they could be replaced. This cut **006** measured 480 mm E-W x 780 mm N-S. This cut had exposed a mortared stone wall **014** running E-W. This was further exposed when cut **006** was extended to remove all the damaged timbers. Wall **014** consisted of sub-angular pieces of sandstone from 20 mm – 420 mm wide bonded in a solid whitish yellow lime mortar. There were no facing stones to the N and the S portion was not visible. The exposed section of the wall was at least 850 mm wide – to the N a stone threshold slab **011** 1.04 m E-W x 200 mm N-S may be sitting on Wall **014** (Wall **014** is 160mm below slab **011**). Over **011** is the sill of a modern pine door frame **012** carrying a modern door while externally there is a 50 mm deep slate door slab **013**. Also of note was the main electricity cable **016** 30 mm thick and encased in black rubber 170-200 mm from the W side of the stone threshold slab and 130mm below it.

Wall **014** can perhaps be identified by an analysis of the exterior S face of the E Block of the W Tower. The Tower dates to the late 15th/ early 16th century. In the 17th century, large rectangular windows were placed across the several blocks comprising the S façade. These windows typically have sandstone surrounds with a 30 mm chamfer to the inner face of the aperture. The jambs and lintel then have a flat S Face, which rebates after 100 mm meaning that there is a flat surround framing the jambs and lintel. On the inner faces of the lintels, jambs and sills there are holes, which would have recessed an iron *yett*, a woven mesh of iron bars to prevent

unwanted access to the castle.

The SW doorway shares something in common with the two windows flanking it immediately to the E - it has a sandstone relieving arch comprising voussoirs and springers above it. The problem is that the relieving arch does nothing to relieve the stress on the lintel of the door- it is too high up. There is also a problem with the door itself- The underside of the lintel of the door carries five holes for the recessing of an iron *yet t*- the same number on the underside of the lintel of the window immediately to the E. This tells us that the door lintel is a re-used window lintel. The mouldings of the jambs and lintel of the door are also identical to the window to the E - except for the top three stones of the E jamb, which have a chamfer 90 mm wide. All of this suggests that the door aperture was originally a rectangular window aperture protected by a relieving arch, forced through a wall of the late 15th/ early 16th century. The elements of the window were then recycled in perhaps the 18th or 19th century to form a doorway. There was not enough masonry to form the door; therefore, three additional blocks with a wider chamfer were added to complete the aperture. The area between the top of the lintel and the relieving arch above then had to be filled in.

The wall 014 which was revealed by the removal of the floorboards is therefore the reduced remains of a late 15th/ early 16th-century wall which served as a window back in the 17th century and was converted to a doorway in perhaps the 18th or 19th century. This being the case, the total N-S width of the wall can be measured as 1.65 m.

During this visit, it was also noted that at the SE angle of the 'Link Block' between the E and W Towers there are several tusing stones. The lower of these (at the level of the relieving arch of the adjacent window to the W) is a finely moulded stone re-used from inside the castle. It is moulded on its E face with a double quadrant roll.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

A combination of watching brief and building survey has helped to identify an early feature within what is undoubtedly a complex building containing multiple building

phases. The trench did not extend far N enough to allow excavation of the deposits to the N of the reduced early wall. Should further floorboard/joist replacement be required within the floor, an archaeological watching brief should be carried out in order to record any elements of the internal tower floor as it potentially dates to the late 15th / early 16th century.

A1.0**APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS**

#	Description
001	Cut through Linoleum
002	Pine Floor Joist
003	Packing over Floor Joists
004	Broad Pine Floorboards
005	Thin Pine Floorboards
006	Cut through Floorboards
007	Pine Floor Joist with Woodworm
008	'Floor Joist' comprising 2 floorboards standing on end
009	Pine Floor Joist
010	Pine Floor Joist with Woodworm
011	Stone Threshold Slab
012	Sill of Pine Door Frame
013	Slate Door Slab
014	Mortared Stone Foundation
015	Pine Floor Joist with Woodworm
016	Electricity Cable over 014

A2.0**APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

Files have prefix "hsco-90164-2010-01_" followed by number below

#	Description	From	Date
1	Shot of Floor and Intervention	N	28/1/2010
2	Shot of Floor and Intervention	N	28/1/2010
3	Shot of Floor Boards, Joists and Reduced Wall	NE	28/1/2010
4	Shot of Floor Boards, Joists and Reduced Wall	NW	28/1/2010
5	Shot of Floor and Intervention	S	28/1/2010
6	Shot of Floor and Intervention	S	28/1/2010
7	Shot of Door and Intervention	S	28/1/2010
8	Shot of Floor Boards, Joists and Reduced Wall	S	28/1/2010
9	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010
10	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010
11	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010
12	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010
13	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010
14	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010

#	Description	From	Date
15	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010
16	Shot of Painted Ceiling in E Tower	E	28/1/2010
17	Shot of Mural on S Wall of E Tower	SW	28/1/2010
18	Ceiling Detail, E Tower	W	28/1/2010
19	Ceiling Detail, E Tower	SW	28/1/2010
20	Shot of Mural on W Wall of E Tower	NW	28/1/2010
21	Shot of Mural on W Wall of E Tower	W	28/1/2010
22	Shot of Mural on W Wall of E Tower	E	28/1/2010
23	Shot of Mural on W Wall of E Tower	SW	28/1/2010
24	Shot of Mural on W Wall of E Tower	W	28/1/2010
25	Shot of SW Door to W Tower	NW	28/1/2010
26	Shot of SW Door to W Tower and Windows	NE	28/1/2010
27	Shot of SW Door to W Tower	N	28/1/2010
28	Modern Timbers in E Tower Vault	SW	28/1/2010
29	Modern Timbers in E Tower Vault	SW	28/1/2010
30	3-D Painted Mural in W Tower	S	28/1/2010
31	3-D Painted Mural in W Tower	S	28/1/2010
32	Timbers with Nails in W Tower	W	28/1/2010
33	Coat of Arms Mural in W Tower	NW	28/1/2010
34	Modern Timbers in W Tower	S	28/1/2010
35	Modern Timbers in W Tower	N	28/1/2010
36	Modern Roof Timbers in W Tower	S	28/1/2010
37	Modern Planked Floor in W Tower	N	28/1/2010
38	Modern Roof Timbers in W Tower	-	28/1/2010
39	SW Door and Relieving Arch and Window to E	NE	28/1/2010
40	Lintel and Jambs of SW Door	N	28/1/2010
41	Bar-Holes for a Yett on Underside of Lintel of SW Door	N	28/1/2010
42	Underside of Lintel of Window to E	N	28/1/2010
43	Window in S Wall of E Tower	N	28/1/2010
44	Paint Traces on Upper E Door Jamb	NE	28/1/2010
45	Paint Traces on Lintel of SW Door	N	28/1/2010
46	Moulded Stone Re-used as Tusking on the SE angle of the 'Link Block' between the E and W Towers	W	28/1/2010
47	Moulded Stone Re-used as Tusking on the SE angle of the 'Link Block' between the E and W Towers	W	28/1/2010
48	Location of Moulded Stone	NW	28/1/2010

#	Description	From	Date
49	Post Ex Shot of Trench with Wall and Electricity Cable	N	28/1/2010
50	Post Ex Shot of Trench with Wall and Electricity Cable	N	28/1/2010
51	Post Ex Shot of Trench with Wall and Electricity Cable	S	28/1/2010
52	Post Ex Shot of Trench with Wall and Electricity Cable	SW	28/1/2010
53	Post Ex Shot of Trench with Wall and Electricity Cable	SE	28/1/2010

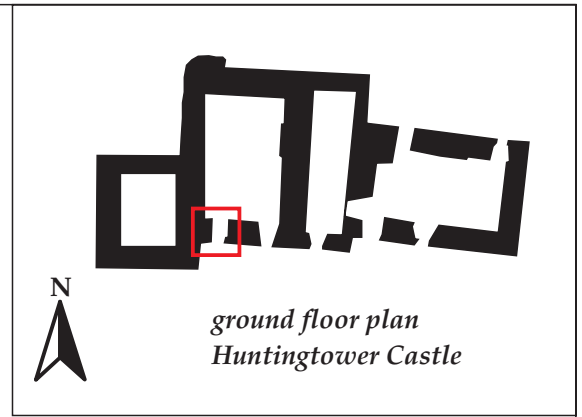
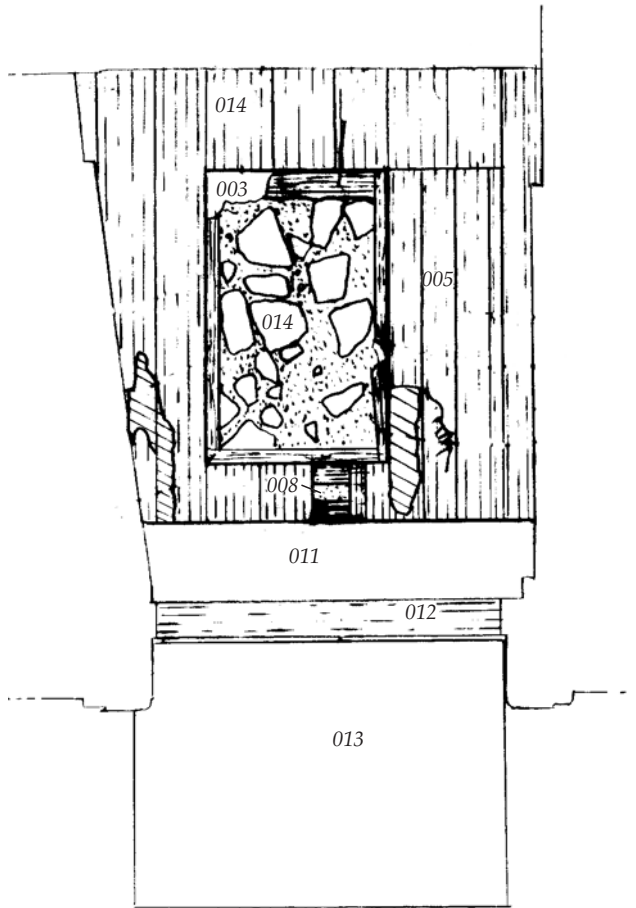


Fig. 1: Plan of area before excavation

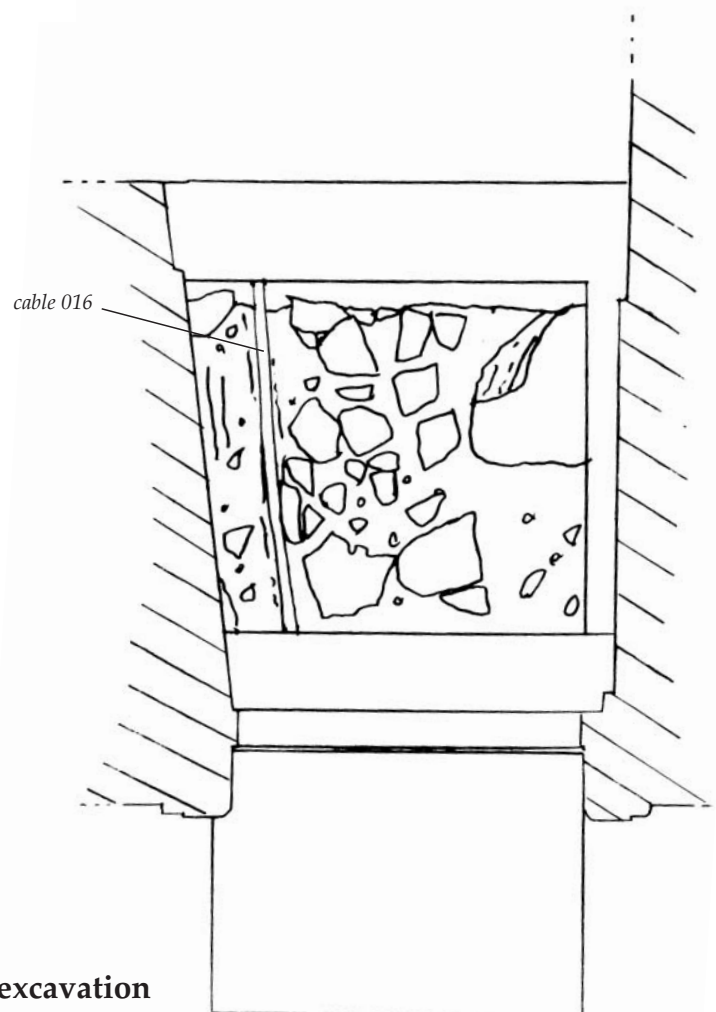
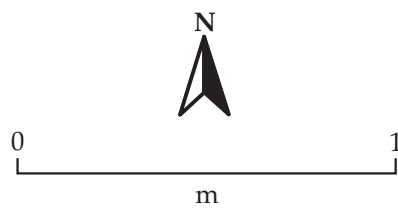


Fig. 2: Plan of area after excavation