

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

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PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90166-2010-01
PARISH:	ABERDOUR (DUNFERMLINE)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
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MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of new signs at Inchcolm Abbey. The nature of the signs meant that shallow trenches had to be dug to house them. In addition, the existing weathered signage was removed and this process was also monitored. Some evidence of World War Two activity was uncovered during the work.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
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**Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2010**

Inchcolm Abbey: Signage Removal and Installation May 2010

**HS PIC Index Number: 90166
Project Code: HSCO-90166-2010-01**



**10th May 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	Inchcolm Abbey, Inchcolm Island, Fife.
<u>N.G.R</u>	NT 18973 82656
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring of the removal of old signs and the installation of new ones.
<u>Project Code</u>	HSCO-90166-2010-01

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An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the installation of new signage at Inchcolm Abbey. The nature of the signs meant that shallow trenches had to be dug to house them. In addition, the existing weathered signage was removed and this process was similarly monitored. Some evidence of World War Two activity was uncovered during the work.

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 during the digging of four trenches to house new sign boards on Inchcolm Island in the Firth of Forth. Though the trenches were shallow, the long history and multi-phase nature of occupation on the island meant that there was archaeological potential within them. A record was also made of the removal of the existing sign boards.

The work was undertaken on 10th May 2010.

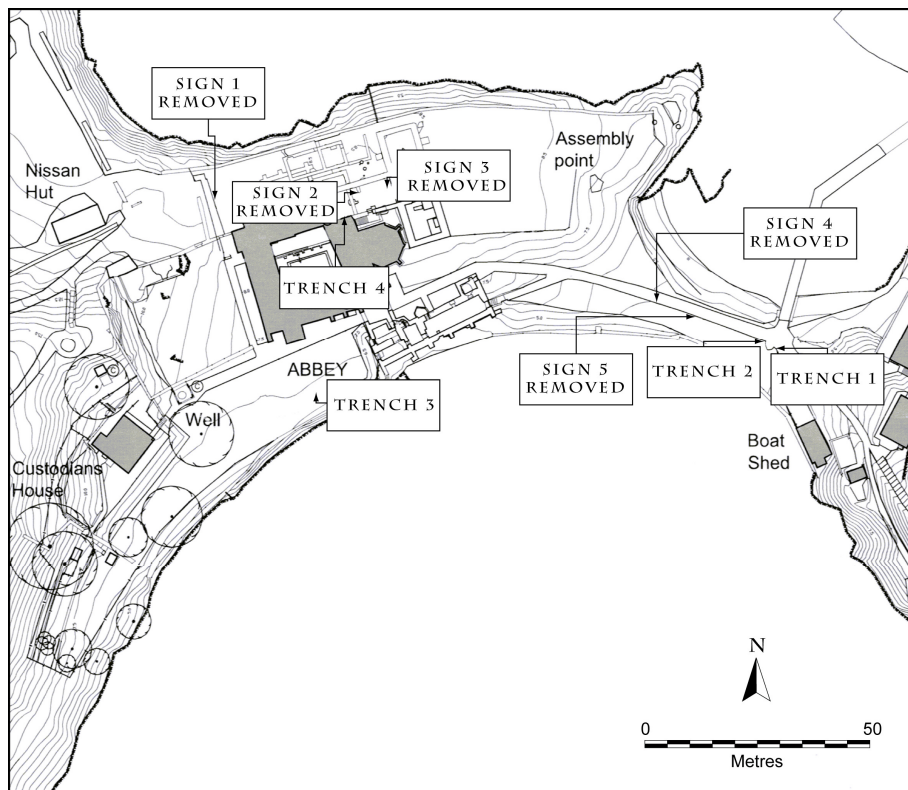


Figure 1: Location plan of trenches and removed signs.

2.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Trenches 1 and 2

Trenches 1 and 2 were located either side of the flagpole to the W of the Visitor Centre. Trench 1 housed sign INX5; Trench 2 housed sign INX4 (see Figure 1).

Trench 1 was located to the SE of the flagpole. An area 600mm x 600mm was de-turfed and the wooden shuttering cut back. The turf (**101**) was 500mm thick and sat on a mid-brown silty topsoil (**102**) 100mm thick. This appeared to be modern landscaping which cleared onto a base of Type 1 stone (**103**). New shuttering was cut to take the basal concrete pour for the new sign.

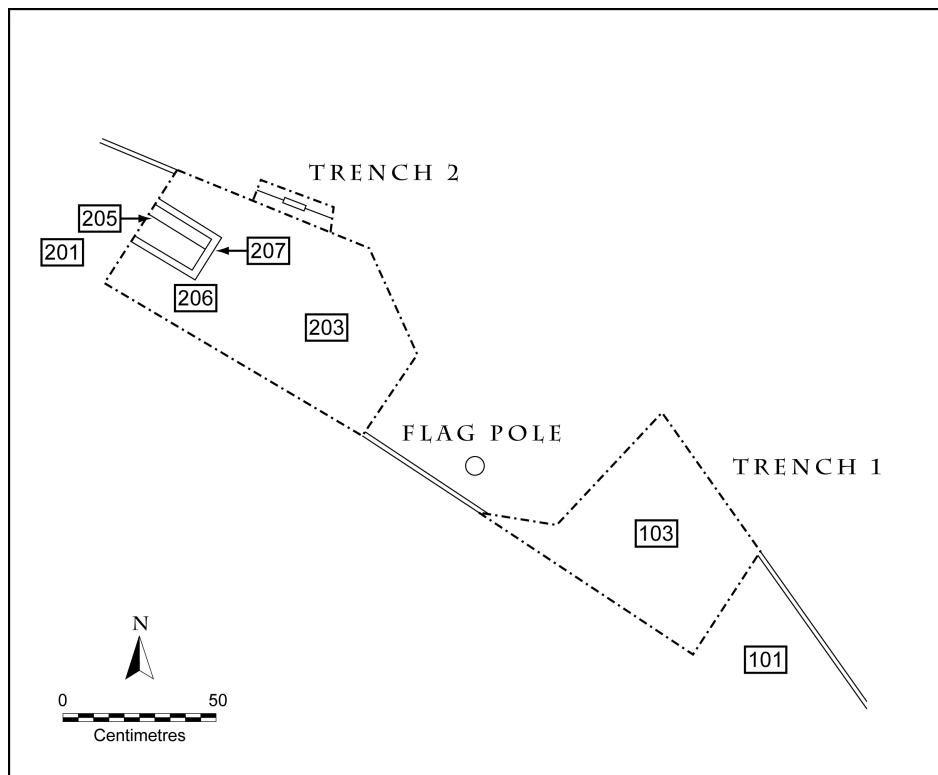


Figure 2: Plan of trenches 1 and 2.

Trench 2 was located to the NW of the flagpole. An area 500mm N/S x 1000mm E/W was de-turfed and the wooden shuttering cut back. The turf (**201**) was 500 mm thick and sat on a mid-brown silty topsoil (**202**) 100mm thick. This appeared to be modern

landscaping which cleared onto a base of Type 1 stone (203). Within this, an iron manhole cover (204) was found covering an open section of pipe (205) set within a red brick built box (206). A black rubber-coated electricity cable (207) ran back towards the abbey, and this had to be avoided during the work. New shuttering was cut to take the basal concrete pour for the new sign.

Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in either of these two trenches.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the grassed area W of the abbey's latrine. The trench housed sign INX9 (see Figure 1).



Figure 3: W-facing section of Trench 3 for INX9.

Trench 3 measured 500mm N/S x 900mm E/W x 200mm deep. The section showed turf and topsoil (301) to a depth of 100mm over a moderately compact black silt containing shell and bone fragments (302).

Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered in this trench.

Trench 4

Trench 4, for sign INX7, was located in the church choir but only required the removal of a section of modern turf (see Figure 1).

The trench measured 850mm NNW/SSE x 600mm WSW/ENE. The turf (401) was 60mm deep and cleared onto a layer of broken sandstone fragments (402). This layer was noted and photographed but not excavated. Below the turf a 1940's half-penny SF001 was found (only the first 3 digits '194' were visible); a remnant from the garrison manning the World War Two defences on the island perhaps.

Removal of the existing signs

The existing, weather-worn signs, were removed as part of the works (see Figure 1). Sign 1 was located to the NW of the nave of the original church. Signs 2 and 3 were within the grassed area within the choir. Signs 4 and 5 were located on the grassed area to the S side of the path from the Visitor Centre to the abbey complex. Their removal was recorded photographically. They were all bedded under the turf line on square-footed legs. The turf was cut, the signs were removed, and the turf was put back into place.

Nothing of archaeological significance was encountered during this work.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

Although this particular watching brief did not uncover anything of particular archaeological interest (the work has revealed that archaeological issues can largely be avoided through designs for signage (or similar installations) that do not require deep footings), the site as a whole must be considered as one of great archaeological significance and potential. It is highly recommended that future ground breaking works be similarly monitored for this reason.

4.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	Turf.
102	Brown silty topsoil.
103	Type 1 stone.
201	Turf.
202	Brown silty topsoil.
203	Type 1 stone.
204	Manhole cover.
205	Open pipe .
206	Red brick manhole box.
207	Electricity cable.
301	Turf and topsoil.
302	Black silt with shell and bone fragments.
401	Turf.
402	Layer of crushed sandstone.

5.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale
1	Plan of Trenches 1 and 2	1:20
2	General plan showing locations of trenches and removed signs.	N/A

6.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF SMALL FINDS

No.	Description	Trench
SF001	1940's Half Penny.	4

7.0 APPENDIX 4: LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Pre-excavation shot of sites for INX4 and INX5.	E	10/5/2010
2	Pre-excavation shot of sites for INX4 & INX5.	NE	10/5/2010
3	Electrical cable on path next to INX4.	NE	10/5/2010
4	Electrical cable on path next to INX4.	NE	10/5/2010
5	De-turfing Trench 1 for INX5.	E	10/5/2010
6	Trench 1 for INX5 after turf removal.	E	10/5/2010

No.	Description	From	Date
7	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 for INX5.	NE	10/5/2010
8	NW-facing section of Trench 1.	NE	10/5/2010
9	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1 for INX5.	NW	10/5/2010
10	Trench 1 for INX5 with new wooden shuttering.	NW	10/5/2010
11	Pre-excavation shot of site for INX4.	N	10/5/2010
12	Set up of Trench 2 for INX4.	E	10/5/2010
13	Trench 2 for INX4 after turf removal.	E	10/5/2010
14	Electrical cable and manhole cover in Trench 2.	E	10/5/2010
15	Detail of manhole cover in Trench 2.	E	10/5/2010
16	Detail of manhole cover in Trench 2.	E	10/5/2010
17	Rat's nest within pipe below manhole cover in Trench 2.	E	10/5/2010
18	Cable within pipe below manhole cover in Trench 2.	E	10/5/2010
19	Shot of info. board showing WWI buildings on Inchcolm Island.	N/A	10/5/2010
20	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 for INX4.	SE	10/5/2010
21	ESE-facing section of Trench 2.	SE	10/5/2010
22	New wooden shuttering in Trench 2.	E	10/5/2010
23	Pre-excavation shot of site of Trench 3 for INX9.	SW	10/5/2010
24	Pre-excavation shot of site of Trench 3 for INX9.	NW	10/5/2010
25	De-turfing Trench 3 for INX9.	N	10/5/2010
26	W-facing section of Trench 3 for INX9.	W	10/5/2010
27	W-facing section of Trench 3 for INX9.	W	10/5/2010
28	Pre-excavation shot of site of Trench 4 for INX7.	NE	10/5/2010
29	Pre-excavation shot of site of Trench 4 for INX7.	W	10/5/2010
30	General pre-removal shot of Signs 4 and 5.	NW	10/5/2010
31	Post-excavation shot of site of Trench 4 for INX7.	NE	10/5/2010
32	Post-excavation shot of site of Trench 4 for INX7.	NE	10/5/2010
33	Emplacement of INX7.	NE	10/5/2010
34	Trenches for INX4 and INX5 with concrete bases.	E	10/5/2010
35	Removal of Sign 1.	E	10/5/2010
36	Removal of Sign 1.	SW	10/5/2010
37	Removal of Sign 1.	E	10/5/2010
38	Removal of Sign 2.	NE	10/5/2010
39	Removal of Sign 2.	S	10/5/2010
40	Turf replacement after removal of Sign 2.	NE	10/5/2010
41	Removal of Sign 3.	NE	10/5/2010
42	Removal of Sign 3.	S	10/5/2010
43	Post-removal shot of Signs 2 and 3.	NE	10/5/2010
44	Removal of Sign 4.	NW	10/5/2010
45	Removal of Sign 4.	NW	10/5/2010
46	Removal of Sign 4.	N	10/5/2010
47	Removal of Sign 5.	NW	10/5/2010
48	Removal of Sign 5.	NW	10/5/2010

No.	Description	From	Date
49	Removal of Sign 5.	NW	10/5/2010
50	Trenches for INX4 & INX5 with concrete bases.	NW	10/5/2010
51	General shot of Inchcolm Island from the Bell Tower.	NW	10/5/2010