

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	St Andrews Cathedral
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90260-2010-01
PARISH:	St. Andrews and St. Leonard's
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Gordon Ewart
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO51NW 2.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cathedral
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Centred c NO 513 166
START DATE (this season)	5 May 2010
END DATE (this season)	11 June 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was maintained during the digging of four trenches to house new sign boards at St. Andrews Cathedral, Fife. A record was also made of the removal of an existing sign.</p> <p>As to be expected on a site of such historical importance with a long history of occupation, even these relatively shallow trenches threw up evidence from the distant past in the form of a fragment of medieval floor tile.</p> <p>Little else of archaeological significance was recovered during the course of these works, however given the site's importance and the undoubted extensive archaeological deposits that survive relatively close to the ground surface, any future ground-breaking works should be carried out under close archaeological supervision.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2010**

**St. Andrews Cathedral:
Signage Removal and Installation
May / June 2010**

**HS PIC Index Number: 90260
Project Code: HSCO-90260-2010-01**



**5th May & 11th June 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	St. Andrews Cathedral, St. Andrews, Fife.
<u>N.G.R</u>	NO 51415 16687
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring of the removal of an old sign and the installation of four new ones.
<u>Project Code</u>	HSCO-90260-2010-01

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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 at St. Andrews Cathedral, Fife. A record was also made of the removal of an existing sign (see Figure 1).

The work was undertaken over the course of two visits on 5th May 2010 and 11th June 2010.

2.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Newly installed signs

No. 1

This trench measured 800mm x 1000mm and was dug to a depth of 300mm. There was a single deposit (009) with two power cables (010 and 011) running c.NW to SE at the W end of the trench. The remains of an earlier signpost were identified at the E end of the trench. This trench was cut against post-monastic infill, possibly garden soils, which predated the formal clearance of the cathedral ruins.

No. 2

This trench was the same size as Trench 1 (see above) and was located at the SW corner of the Cloister in the W alley. The trench contained a single deposit of dark topsoil/humic soil (007). There were no finds recovered from this trench. The trench appeared to reflect planting, perhaps flower beds or similar, in and around the cleared remains of the Cloister.

No. 3

This trench again measured 800mm x 1000mm and was dug to a depth of 300mm. It was located within the Chapter House. Three deposits were revealed, (004) the turf

and topsoil, sealing (005) a layer of light rubble and silt, sealing (006) a sandy silt. It was likely that contexts (004) and (005) represented similar landscaping to that picked up in the trench for sign 4, with context (006) being the truncated bedding deposit for the Chapter House floor. Disarticulated human remains were found within (005) along with fragments of oyster shell.

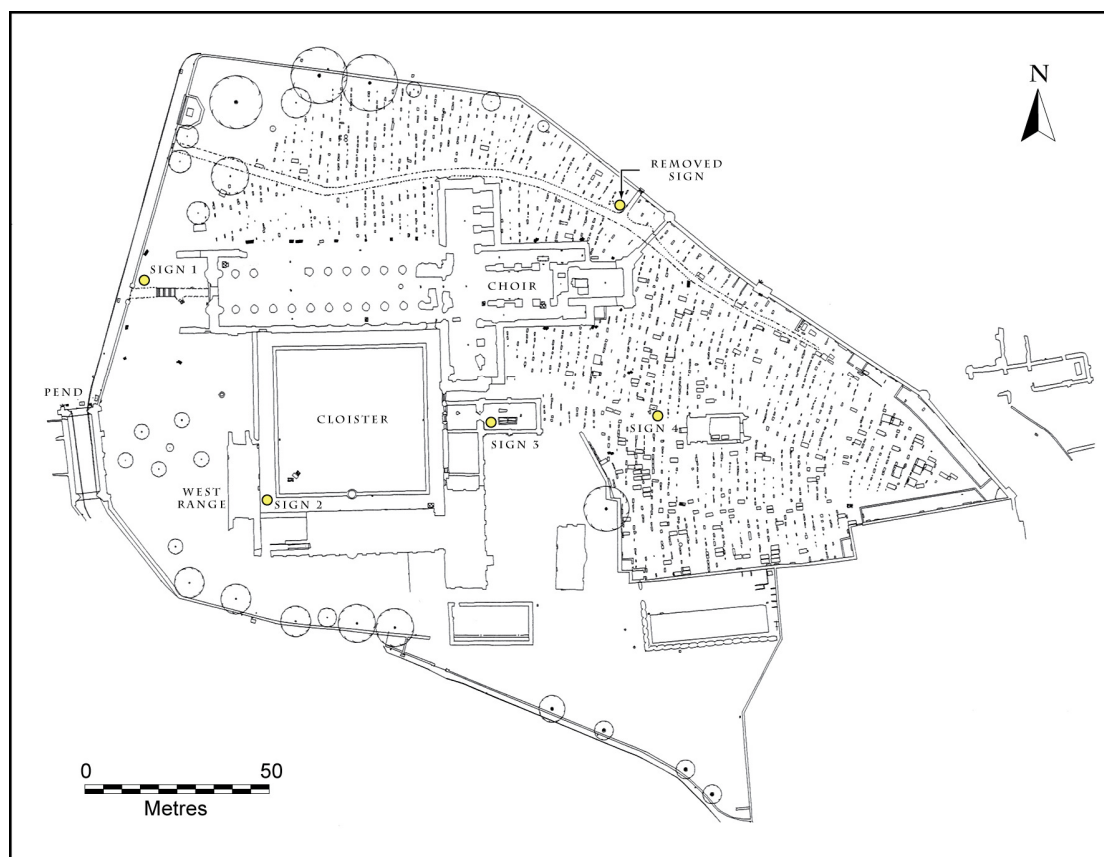


Figure 1: The locations of the four new signs, together with the old sign that was removed.

No. 4

This sign was located to the W of St Rule's Tower within the area of a post-monastic cemetery. The trench measured 800mm x 1000mm and was dug to a depth of 300mm. The trench revealed three deposits. The first of these (001) was the turf and topsoil which extended to a depth of 160mm. This deposit sealed (002) – a layer of dumped sandstone and crushed stone fragments that extended to a depth of 150mm. This in turn sealed (003) a dark grey stony deposit. (001) and (002) reflected two

episodes of landscaping, with the latter containing residual/disarticulated human remains and one fragment of a medieval floor tile. (003) was not fully excavated and represents the top of a potentially undisturbed 'cemetery' horizon.

Removed sign

This sign was removed from within a trench 700mm x 700mm square and 400mm deep. It contained one deposit, (008), a sandy stone free silt containing a few brick fragments. The trench lay close to a grave dated 1875, but at its completion there was no sign of any *in-situ* burial.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

As to be expected on a site of such historical importance with a long history of occupation, even these relatively shallow trenched threw up evidence from the distant past in the form of the fragment of medieval floor tile **SF001** recovered from Trench 4.

Little else of archaeological significance was recovered during the course of these works, however given the site's importance and the undoubted extensive archaeological deposits that survive relatively close to the ground surface, any future ground-breaking works should be carried out under close archaeological supervision.

4.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Trench	Description
001	Sign 4	Turf and topsoil, 160mm deep.
002	Sign 4	Sandstone and light rubble, 150mm deep - landscaping.
003	Sign 4	Dark silt - not fully excavated.
004	Sign 3	Turf and topsoil, 180mm deep.
005	Sign 3	Light rubble deposit in sandy silt - landscaping, 150mm deep.
006	Sign 3	Truncated monastic bedding for floor - not fully excavated.
007	Sign 2	Generally stone free dark silt dug to a depth of 300mm - garden soil.
008	Removed sign	Stone free dark sandy silt extending to a depth of 400mm.
009	Sign 1	Turf and topsoil dug to depth of 300mm - garden soil.
010	Sign 1	Electricity cable at the W end of the trench.
011	Sign 1	Electricity cable parallel to 010.

5.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF SMALL FINDS

No.	Description	Trench
SF001	1 x Fragment of a white ware ceramic floor tile with a green glaze, c.30mm thick. Recovered from context 002 .	5

6.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Trench for Sign 4.	W	5/5/2010
2	Trench for Sign 4.	S	5/5/2010
3	Trench for Sign 4.	E	5/5/2010
4	Trench for Sign 4.	N	5/5/2010
5	Trench for Sign 3.	W	5/5/2010
6	Trench for Sign 3.	S	5/5/2010
7	Trench for Sign 3.	E	5/5/2010
8	Trench for Sign 3.	N	5/5/2010
9	Trench for Sign 2.	W	5/5/2010

No.	Description	From	Date
10	Trench for Sign 2.	S	5/5/2010
11	Trench for Sign 2.	E	5/5/2010
12	Trench for Sign 2.	N	5/5/2010
13	General view of the Sign 2 trench.	SW	5/5/2010
14	General view of the Sign 3 trench.	W	5/5/2010
15	Trench for Sign 1.	NW	5/5/2010
16	Trench for Sign 1.	N	5/5/2010
17	Trench for Sign 1.	E	5/5/2010
18	General view of Sign 1 trench.	E	5/5/2010
19	Trench for Sign 1.	NW	5/5/2010