

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Doune Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90335-2016-01
PARISH:	Kilmadock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing building recording
NMRS NO(S):	NN70SW 1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Defence; Residential/ Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 7285 0107
START DATE (this season)	28 March 2016
END DATE (this season)	28 March 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Standing building recording was carried out in the central ground floor cellar of the hall range ahead of its conversion into a shop. The standing building recording revealed distinct phasing, deduced from the disposition of the cellar and its features. The north wall appears to have been extant, probably part of a curtain wall, prior to the layout of the hall range when the imposition of the three cellars left a risband joint between them and the earlier wall. The east and west cellar walls with their recesses, the doorway, lobby and window bay in the south wall and the vault appear to be of a common building phase.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Environment Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND
PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2015/2016**

Doone Castle • Standing Building Recording • March 2016

HS PIC Index Number: 90335

SITE: Doone Castle.

N.G.R.: NN 7285 0107

DESCRIPTION: Standing building recording of the central ground floor cellar of the hall range ahead of its conversion into a shop.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90335-2016-01

CONTENTS:

Introduction.....	1
Description.....	2
Conclusions.....	9
List of Contexts.....	10
List of Digital Photographs.....	10



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A P R I L 2 0 1 6

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Environment Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to carry out a small programme of standing building recording (SBR) at Doune Castle, within the central cellar of the hall range, ahead of its conversion into a new shop (Fig. 1).

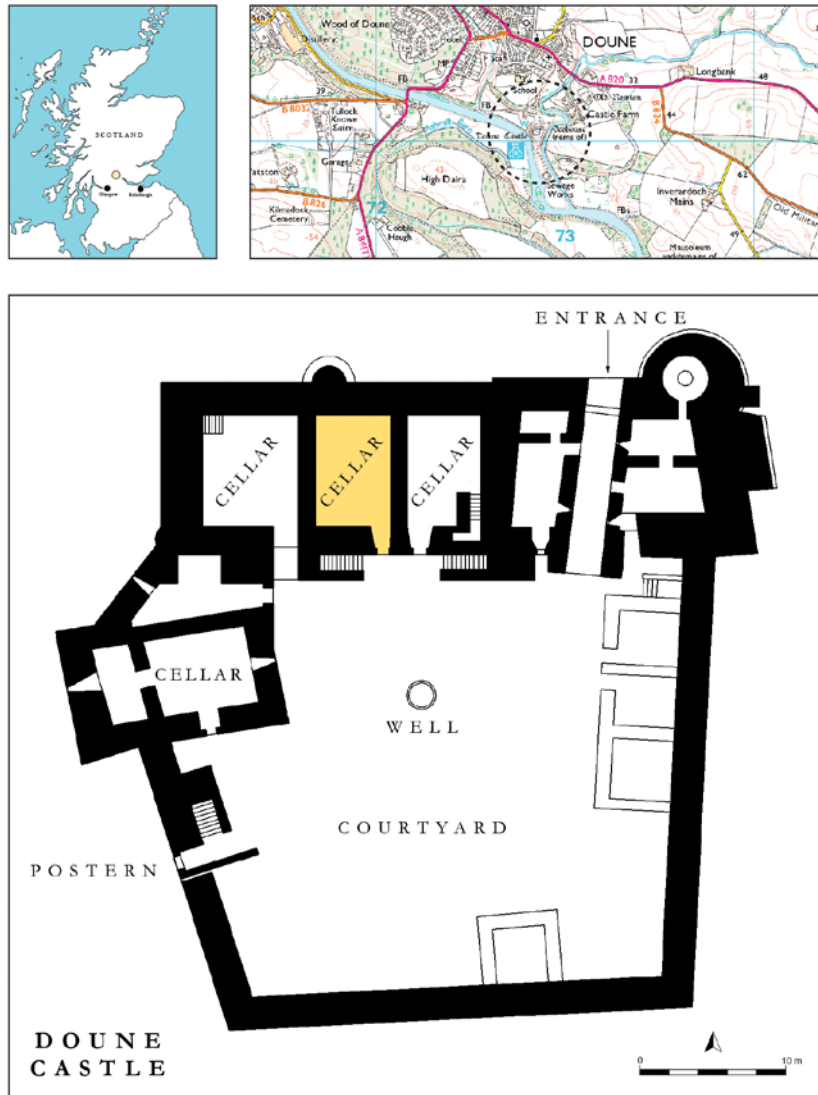


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of the cellar (highlighted) that is the subject of this report.

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The cellar forms part of the vaulted ground floor of the hall range of the castle and is flanked to the east and west by two further cellars. These flanking cellars can be accessed either from the courtyard or from the floor above, while access to the central cellar can only be achieved via a door entered from the courtyard. The purpose of the SBR exercise was to create a record of the extant features of the cellar before they become obscured during the conversion process. The cellar is currently used as an interpretation room but is favoured as the location for a new shop, as it would provide a larger display area than the current shop in the ground floor of the gatehouse tower. The fieldwork was undertaken on 28th March, 2016.

DESCRIPTION¹

The cellar is entered from the courtyard via an arch-headed door in the south-east corner of the room. This gives access to a short lobby with an arched soffit. The lobby splays out toward the interior of the cellar, which is in the form of a rectangle with its long axis running N/S; the cellar is therefore vaulted E/W. The south wall contains a splayed window bay with arched soffit served by a vertical-rectangular window aperture moulded externally with a broad chamfer (as with the external door surround to the east).

There are two small storage recesses in the west wall and one in the east wall. There are traces of plaster on the west and north walls comprising a base coat and finishing coat with evidence of dook holes within. There are several modern dooks on the cellar walls and evidence of different phases of door furniture. To the north there is a gap between the vault and the north wall suggesting that the north wall pre-dates the construction of both the cellar and the hall range which appear to have been built against an earlier curtain wall attached to the gatehouse tower.



Plate 1: Looking north from the courtyard, showing the layout of the ground floor cellars of the hall range.

¹ The high volume of visitors to the castle and the status of the room as a public space meant that the SBR had to be carried out while it was in use as the interpretation room. This meant that the most practical way to graphically record the space was via photography. The cellar was given the Component Number '1' and the features were then described per elevation (1 - north, 2 - east, 3 - south, 4 - west, 5 - floor, and 6 - door lobby) within that component. So, for example 1.3.002 references feature number 002 on the south wall (3) of the cellar (1).

North wall

The north wall **1.1.001** of the cellar is comprised of angular pieces of pinkish/grey sandstone rubble up to 40cm wide x 25cm high bonded in lime mortar. The wall is partially covered by a base plaster **1.1.002** c.1.5cm thick of lime mortar containing numerous small <5mm to large <30mm sub-rounded pebbles covered with a thin layer of fine lime finishing plaster **1.1.003**, c.3mm thick. Provision has been made within the plaster for dook holes **1.1.004**, a few of which survive. These are contemporary with the plaster. The north wall is not properly conjoined to the east or west walls or the vault of the cellar, suggesting that it was *in-situ* prior to the construction of the vault. This suggests that it formed a curtain wall attached to the gatehouse tower and was later absorbed into the hall range. The risband joints between the north wall and the rest of the cellar are described in the sections on the east wall (**1.2.009**) and the west wall (**1.4.009**).



Plate 2: Features on the north wall.

East wall

The east wall **1.2.001** of the cellar is comprised of angular pieces of pinkish/grey sandstone rubble up to 1m wide x 0.15m high bonded in lime mortar. Interspersed with the large stones are smaller pieces of the same angular stone filling the voids. The wall starts to spring to the vault c.1.20m above the floor. The build continues up into the vault **1.2.002** where the long thin rubble masonry predominates. There is a small recess **1.2.003** with a horizontal rectangular aperture centrally within build **1.2.001** with its base sitting c.55cm above the cellar floor. It is constructed with the same angular pinkish/grey sandstone rubble which forms the east wall and vault and is innate to the wall build. The aperture is 48cm wide x 35cm high x 48cm deep. The main east wall build of the cellar meets the splayed masonry build **1.2.004** of

the door lobby wall to the south. It is also constructed with the same angular pinkish/grey sandstone rubble which forms the east wall and vault and is contemporary with them.

At the south end of build **1.2.004** is the eastern door jamb **1.2.010** of the cellar door, formed from light yellowish/grey Ballengeich sandstone ashlar. On the exterior, the blocks forming the jamb are moulded with a broad chamfer 17cm wide. The door lobby wall **1.2.004** is rebated back from the jamb by *c.*10cm. The masonry of the door jamb continues into the build of the lobby wall and is contemporary with it.



Plate 3: Features on the east wall.

Within the rebate are several pieces of door furniture that show that the original door was hinged on this side (it now hangs on the west wall of the door lobby). There are three iron pintles leaded into the lobby wall behind the rebate of the door jamb. The upper pintle **1.2.005** is hand made with a flaring base and irregular top and appears to be contemporary with the lower pintle **1.2.008** which has a pinched base and cylindrical upright. The middle pintle **1.2.007** is curious in that its upright points downwards. It is shorter and squatter than the others and has a cylindrical upright. It may be that all three pintles helped to hang an original door or possibly that the middle one was added in order to carry an additional hinge in a later

configuration. The masonry builds of the east wall **1.2.001** and vault **1.2.002** form a risband joint **1.2.009** to the north wall in the form of a vertical void 8 – 10cm wide which contains only small portions of rubble in lime mortar to tie the builds together, suggesting that the north wall was *in-situ* prior to the construction of the vault. This suggests that the north wall was originally a curtain wall attached to the gatehouse tower and was later absorbed into the hall range. It was also noted that the eastern wall splays slightly to the north-east. This is a reaction to the fact that the neighbouring cellar (to the east) has as its eastern wall as the west wall of the gatehouse tower which is oriented NE/SW. The more gradual splaying of the eastern wall of the middle cellar allows the west wall to become more or less aligned N/S and the neighbouring cellar to the west to have a more regular plan.

South wall

The south wall **1.3.001** of the cellar is comprised of angular pieces of pinkish/grey sandstone rubble up to 60cm wide x 20cm high bonded in lime mortar. Interspersed with the large stones are smaller pieces of the same angular stone filling the voids. To the east is an arched aperture **1.3.002** giving access from the door lobby into the cellar. It has vertical quoins **1.3.003** forming its western side of yellowish/grey sandstone blocks with an arched top **1.3.004** which ties into the eastern wall and also forms the soffit of the lobby. One of the quoins carries a mason's mark in the shape of an upward pointing arrow **1.3.014**. The soffit, like the cellar vault, is formed from long thin pieces of angular rubble masonry, with its apex is c.1.20m lower than the main vault. To the south, the cellar door **1.3.005** itself has an aperture with vertical sides and an arched top **1.3.006** of segmental blocks of light yellowish/grey Ballengeich sandstone ashlar moulded to the aperture with a wide chamfer 17cm wide externally. The doorway is currently occupied by a modern planked door **1.3.007**. Centrally within the south wall is an arched window bay **1.3.008**, 1.25m deep N/S to where it meets the window back. The window bay has east and west sides formed from angular rubble masonry containing a few empty dook holes and an arched soffit **1.3.009**, formed from long thin pieces of angular rubble masonry which splays up to the interior of the cellar. Its apex is 70cm lower than the main vault. The window aperture **1.3.010** is vertical/rectangular, 30cm E/W x 90cm high and has a surround formed from blocks of light yellowish/grey Ballengeich sandstone ashlar moulded to the aperture with a wide chamfer 17cm wide externally. There is a vertical iron bar blocking the window centrally. The ashlar build of the window surround is crowned by a small patch of angular rubble masonry **1.3.011**. The south wall contains a few modern machine-cut wooden dooks **1.3.012**, and an old rusted flat iron fixture **1.3.013** with a looped end projects from arched soffit **1.3.009**. It may have been used to hang a lamp.



Plate 4: Features on the south wall.

West wall

The west wall **1.4.001** of the cellar is comprised of angular pieces of pinkish/grey sandstone rubble up to 95cm wide x 15cm high bonded in lime mortar. Interspersed with the large stones are smaller pieces of the same angular stone filling the voids. The wall starts to spring to the vault $\approx 1.20\text{m}$ above the floor. The build continues up into the vault **1.4.002** where long thin rubble masonry predominates. The wall build contains a possibly re-used piece of stone **1.4.003** which may have a rebate cut into its upper face and is possibly an architectural fragment. The wall is partially covered by a base plaster **1.4.004** some $\approx 1.5\text{cm}$ thick, of lime mortar containing numerous small $<5\text{mm}$ to large $<30\text{mm}$ sub-rounded pebbles covered with a thin layer of fine lime finishing plaster **1.4.005**, $\approx 3\text{mm}$ thick. Provision has been made within the plaster for dook holes **1.4.010**, a few of which survive with old wooden dooks intact. The dook holes are contemporary with the plaster. There are two small recesses **1.4.006** and **1.4.007** within the masonry build **1.4.001**. To the south, recess **1.4.006** has a horizontal rectangular aperture, with its base sitting $\approx 55\text{cm}$ above the cellar floor. It is constructed with the same angular pinkish/grey sandstone rubble which forms the west wall and vault and is innate to the wall build. The aperture is 40cm wide x 35cm high x 53cm deep. Centrally, recess **1.4.007** has a square aperture with its base sitting $\approx 35\text{cm}$ above the cellar floor. It is constructed with the same angular pinkish/grey sandstone rubble which forms the west wall and vault and is innate to the wall build. The aperture is 45cm wide x 45cm high x $\approx 80\text{cm}$ deep. The west wall contains a few modern machine-cut wooden dooks **1.4.008** in its southern portion. The masonry builds of the west wall **1.4.001** and vault **1.4.002** form a risband joint **1.4.010** to the north wall in the form of a vertical void 8 – 10cm wide which contains only small portions of rubble in lime mortar to tie the builds together, suggesting that the north wall was *in-situ* prior to the construction of the vault. This suggests that

the north wall was originally a curtain wall attached to the gatehouse tower and was later absorbed into the hall range.

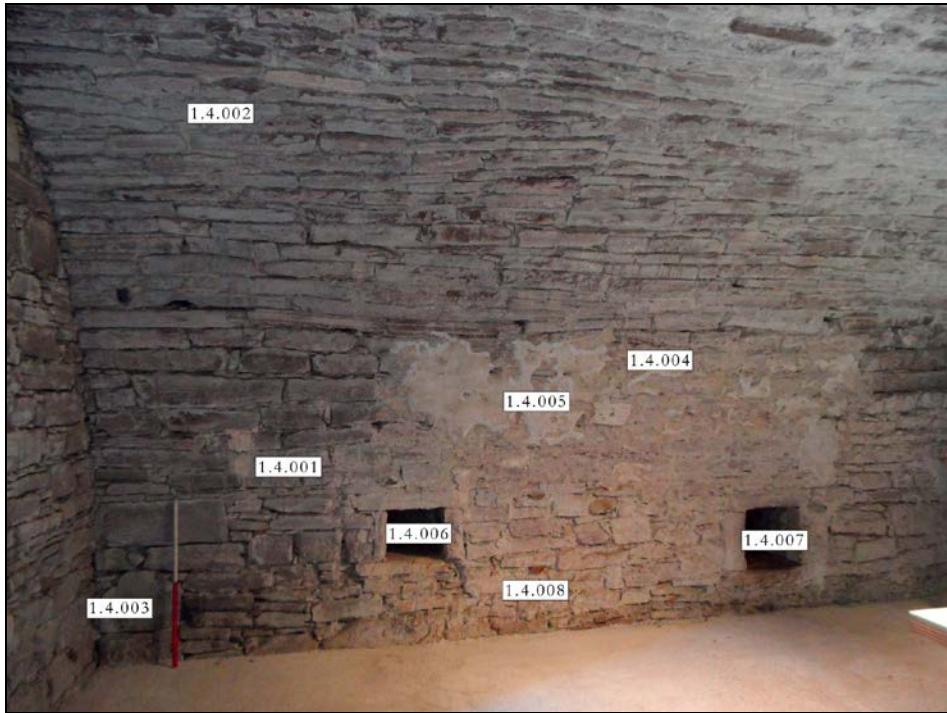


Plate 5: Features on the west wall (not all shown).

Floor

The cellar has a poured concrete floor **1.5.001**. The door lobby is floored with wooden planking **1.5.002** which runs up to meet the Ballengeich yellowish/grey sandstone sill **1.5.003** of the cellar door to the south. The sill is split centrally.



Plate 6: Features on the cellar floor.

Door lobby

The masonry **1.6.001** of the west wall of the door lobby leading to the cellar is comprised of angular pieces of pinkish/grey sandstone rubble up to 50cm wide x 17cm high bonded in lime mortar.

Interspersed with the large stones are smaller pieces of the same angular stone filling the voids. It has vertical quoins **1.6.002** (the same as **1.3.003**) forming its north side, of yellowish/grey sandstone. Two of the quoins have mason's marks: **1.6.004** in the shape of an upward pointing arrow, and **1.6.005** in the shape of an 'M'. The quoins contain a modern metal door catch **1.6.003** for holding the door in an open position to allow visitor access.



Plate 7: Features on the west wall of the door lobby.

At the southern end of build **1.6.001** is the western door jamb **1.6.006** of the cellar door, formed from light yellowish/grey Ballengeich sandstone ashlar. On the exterior, the blocks forming the jamb are moulded with a broad chamfer 17cm wide. The door lobby wall **1.6.001** is rebated back from the jamb by c.10cm. The masonry of the door jamb continues into the build of the lobby wall and is contemporary with it. On the reveal of the door jamb there is an iron bolt receiver plate **1.6.009** in the form of an iron staple flush to the jamb face with a circular aperture centrally. There is a further circular scar **1.6.009** below which may also have been used to recess a bolt. This shows that the door was locked and latched internally and was secured externally with draw bolts, probably the type with L-shaped ends. Between the bolt receivers is an area of damage **1.6.008** which may be accidental or related to door furniture.

Within the rebate of the western door jamb are the pintles and loops **1.6.010** and **1.6.011** which carry the modern cellar door. The rebate contains two vertical horizontal scars with undulating interiors **1.6.012** and **1.6.013** indicating that lock receivers sat in these positions. There is an iron staple **1.6.014** *in-situ* at

scar **1.6.013**, which would have been used to receive a lock. The combination of double locks and external bolts suggest that the cellar contained items of some importance or value, as there is a degree of 'excess' in the number of locking mechanisms. Whether these were used in tandem or whether they represent disparate forms of door lock is unclear.

CONCLUSIONS

The standing building recording exercise has revealed distinct phasing, deduced from the disposition of the cellar and its features. The north wall appears to have been extant, probably part of a curtain wall, prior to the layout of the hall range when the imposition of the three cellars left a risband joint between them and the earlier wall.

The east and west cellar walls with their recesses, the doorway, lobby and window bay in the south wall and the vault are all contemporary. There are indications that there is some phasing within the door furniture, but this is to be expected when subject to prolonged use and wear over time. It is not clear when the plaster base and finishing coats and their innate dooks were applied to the walls – this could have happened at any point subsequent to the building of the cellar. The plaster only survives partially on the north and east walls, and there is no clear indication of what its limits were.

A space which – at first glance – appears to be relatively free of features, has proven to be a valuable indicator of the development of this part of the castle.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
1.1.001	North wall masonry.
1.1.002	Base plaster over 1.1.001.
1.1.003	Finishing plaster over 1.1.002.
1.1.004	Dook holes within 1.1.002 and 1.1.003.
1.2.001	East wall masonry.
1.2.002	Vault masonry over 1.2.001.
1.2.003	Recess within 1.2.001.
1.2.004	Masonry of door lobby wall.
1.2.005	Upper iron pintle.
1.2.006	Iron staple.
1.2.007	Middle reversed iron pintle.
1.2.008	Lower iron pintle.
1.2.009	Risband joint between north wall and east wall/vault.
1.2.010	East door jamb.
1.3.001	South wall masonry.
1.3.002	Arched entry to door lobby.
1.3.003	Sandstone quoins on the west side of 1.3.002.
1.3.004	Arched soffit of door lobby.
1.3.005	Generic number for cellar door aperture.
1.3.006	Arched top of 1.3.005.
1.3.007	Modern wooden door within 1.3.005.
1.3.008	Arched window bay within 1.3.001.
1.3.009	Arched soffit of 1.3.008.
1.3.010	Window aperture and surround within 3.008.
1.3.011	Masonry build over 1.3.010.
1.3.012	Modern dooks within 1.3.001.
1.3.013	Iron fixture on 1.3.009.
1.3.014	Mason's mark on 1.3.003.
1.4.001	West wall masonry.
1.4.002	Vault masonry over 1.4.001.
1.4.003	Possible re-used stone within 1.4.001.
1.4.004	Base plaster over 1.4.001.
1.4.005	Finishing plaster over 1.4.004.
1.4.006	South recess within 1.4.001.
1.4.007	North recess within 1.4.001.
1.4.008	Modern dooks within 1.4.001.
1.4.009	Risband joint between north wall and west wall/vault.
1.4.010	Dooks and dook holes within 1.4.004 and 1.4.005.
1.5.001	Concrete floor.
1.5.002	Sandstone sill of door.
1.5.003	Wooden decking on the floor of the door lobby.
1.6.001	West wall masonry of door lobby.
1.6.002	Sandstone edge quoins (as per 1.3.003).
1.6.003	Modern door catch on 1.6.002.
1.6.004	Upper mason's mark on 1.6.002.
1.6.005	Lower mason's mark on 1.6.002.
1.6.006	Western door jamb.
1.6.007	Iron bolt receiver plate.
1.6.008	Area of damage on 1.6.006.
1.6.009	Scar of iron bolt receiver plate.
1.6.010	Pintle and loop for modern door.
1.6.011	Pintle and loop for modern door.
1.6.012	Scar of removed door furniture.
1.6.013	Scar of removed door furniture.
1.6.014	Iron staple over 1.6.013.

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Doors to the central and eastern cellars.	S	28/03/2016
2	North cellar wall.	S	28/03/2016
3	Risband joint 1.2.009.	W	28/03/2016
4	East wall recess 1.2.003.	W	28/03/2016
5	Main build 1.2.001, vault 1.2.002 and lobby build 1.2.004.	NW	28/03/2016
6	Lobby build 1.2.004, door jamb 1.2.010 and door furniture.	NW	28/03/2016
7	Cellar door 1.3.005.	N	28/03/2016
8	West wall of lobby.	NE	28/03/2016
9	South cellar wall.	N	28/03/2016
10	East side of window bay 1.3.008.	NW	28/03/2016
11	West side of window bay 1.3.008	NE	28/03/2016
12	West wall, south portion.	E	28/03/2016
13	Risband joint 1.4.009.	E	28/03/2016