

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh, City of
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Edinburgh Castle - Esplanade
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90130-2016-01 & HSCO-90130-2016-03
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SE 1.33
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Watching brief
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 25376 73508
START DATE (this season)	24 March 2016
END DATE (this season)	4 May 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of the footprint for a replacement kiosk at the eastern end of the esplanade. The work was carried out in two phases during March and May 2016. The removal of whin setts revealed only modern infill and no features or finds of archaeological significance were revealed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Environment Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	4 Western Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5QF
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	Archive to be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland

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

Edinburgh Castle • Watching Brief • March 2016

HS PIC Index Number: 90130

SITE: Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh.

N.G.R.: NT 249 734 – NT 254 736

DESCRIPTION: Archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the footprint for a replacement kiosk at the eastern end of the esplanade.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90130-2016-01

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4 Western Terrace, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 5QF

MARCH 2016

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the footprint for a new ticket kiosk at the eastern end of the esplanade in front of Edinburgh Castle (Fig. 1). The present kiosk sits on a concrete base which was to be incorporated as part of the new layout, with a curving extension to be excavated to the south-west.



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

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Excavation was undertaken by the appointed contractor under archaeological supervision, and took place on 24th March, 2016.

DESCRIPTION

The existing concrete kiosk base was bordered to the south by three rows of whin setts 0.16m – 0.20m deep, and to the west by four rows of granite setts 0.16m – 0.18m deep, set in cement. Thereafter, the remaining footprint of the trench was occupied by tarmacadam.

The setts were removed and the extended footprint was cut with a circular saw. A hydraulic breaker was then used to remove the tarmacadam. The tarmacadam was 0.07m – 0.12m thick and sat on a layer of mid-brown granular bedding **104**. At a depth of \approx 0.20m, a concrete sub-base **101** was attached to the existing concrete kiosk base. This was backfilled to the west by a solid layer of 'type 2' stone **102**. The concrete sub-base had been cut (**103**) to the east in order to insert various electrical cables **105**. These ran past a projecting red brick service box **106**. It was decided to reuse the concrete sub-base **101** and type 2 stone **102** as part of the new extended kiosk base.



Plate 1: Post-excitation view of the trench, viewed from the west.

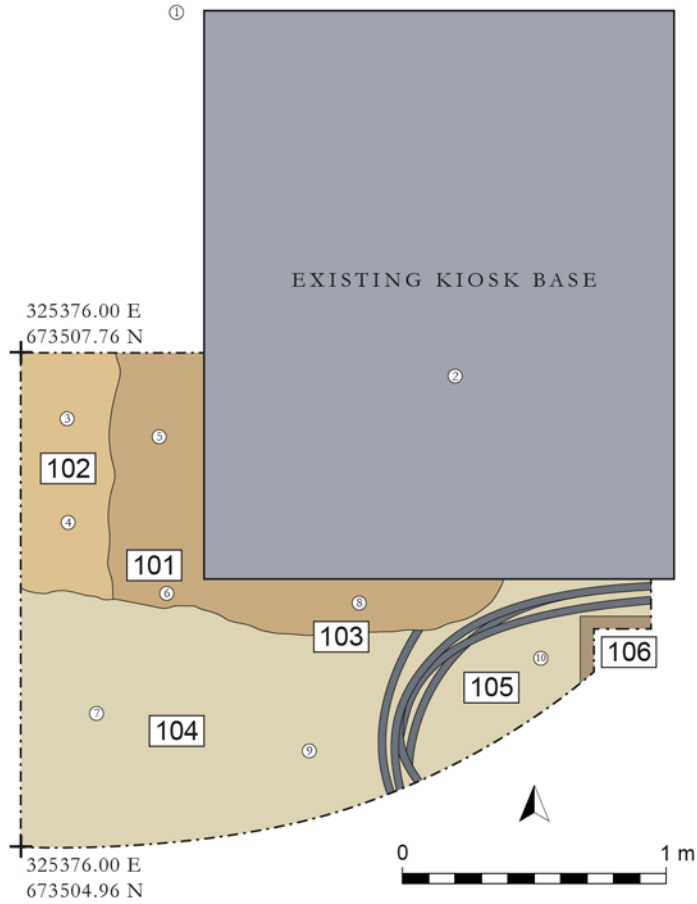


Figure 2: Post-excitation plan of the trench.
The circled numbers correspond to levels, see p.4.

CONCLUSIONS

All of the fills encountered during this exercise were modern, and although nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the work, the site still has significant archaeological potential and it is recommended that further ground breaking works be similarly accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Description
101	Concrete sub-base attached to the existing concrete kiosk base.
102	Layer of type 2 stone west of 101.
103	Cut through 101 to insert various electrical cables 105.
104	Layer of mid-brown granular bedding for tarmacadam.
105	Various electrical cables within cut 101.
106	Projecting red brick service box.

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Post-excavation.	1:20

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Pre-excavation shot.	S	24/03/2016
2	Pre-excavation shot.	W	24/03/2016
3	Pre-excavation shot.	W	24/03/2016
4	Pre-excavation shot.	SW	24/03/2016
5	Sett removal in progress.	W	24/03/2016
6	Sett removal in progress.	W	24/03/2016
7	Tarmacadam with granular bedding layer 104.	N	24/03/2016
8	Concrete sub-base 101.	SW	24/03/2016
9	Existing concrete base and concrete sub-base 101.	S	24/03/2016
10	Cables 105 within cut 103.	N	24/03/2016
11	Cables 105 within cut 103.	W	24/03/2016
12	Cables 105 and services box 106.	N	24/03/2016
13	Post-excavation shot.	W	24/03/2016
14	Post-excavation shot.	W	24/03/2016
15	Post-excavation shot.	S	24/03/2016

LIST OF LEVELS

No.	Height in metres (A.O.D.)
1	102.51
2	102.71
3	102.55
4	102.57
5	102.62
6	102.60
7	102.43
8	102.61
9	102.46
10	102.40

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND
PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2016/2017**

Edinburgh Castle • Watching Brief • May 2016

HS PIC Index Number: 90130

SITE: Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh.

N.G.R.: NT 249 734 – NT 254 736

DESCRIPTION: Archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the footprint for a replacement kiosk at the eastern end of the esplanade.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90130-2016-03

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4 Western Terrace, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 5QF

J U N E 2 0 1 6

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of the footprint for a new ticket kiosk at the eastern end of the esplanade in front of Edinburgh Castle (Fig. 1).



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

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The present kiosk sits on a concrete base which was to be incorporated as part of the new layout. A curving extension was excavated in March 2016¹ to the south-west, to a depth of 0.32m; the trench did not yield anything of archaeological interest. The current trench was excavated in order to remove the north-west portion of the existing concrete base and the western end of the concrete step to the north.

¹ See HSCO-90130-2016-01.

Excavation was undertaken by the appointed contractor under archaeological supervision, and took place between 3rd – 4th May, 2016.

DESCRIPTION

The existing concrete kiosk base was bordered to the west by rows of whin setts 0.16 – 0.2m deep within which was a service hatch with a metal lid. The footprint of Trench 2 was cut with a circular saw. A hydraulic breaker was then used to remove the concrete **201**, which was 0.16m deep to the south and 0.29m deep to the north, and was bedded on a mesh of reinforcing bar. This had been placed on an imported layer of mid-brown granular bedding **202** of indeterminate depth. Nothing of archaeological significance was noted during the works.

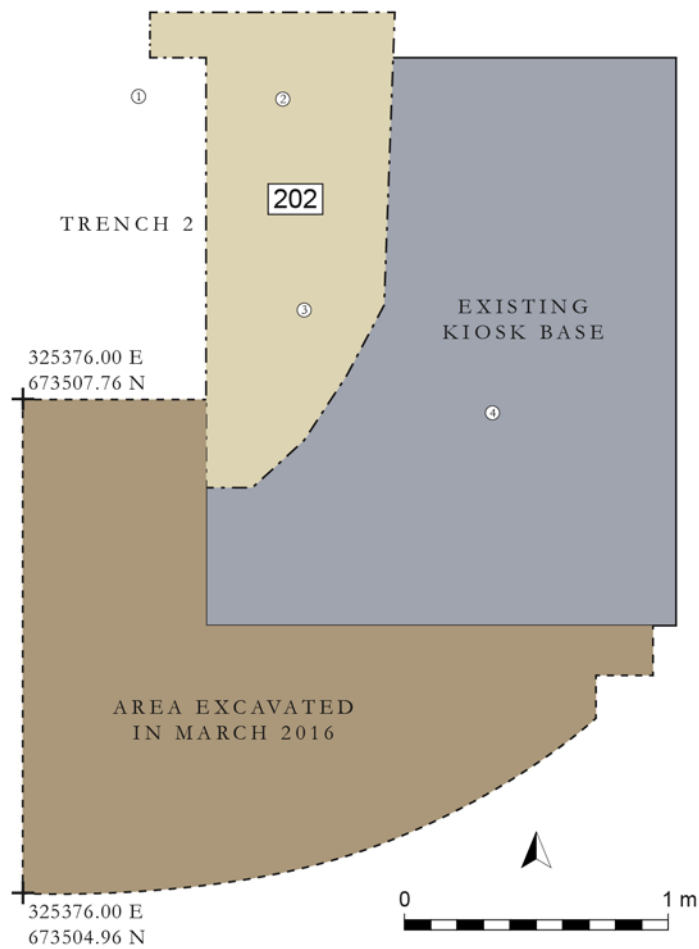


Figure 2: Post-excitation plan.
The circled numbers correspond to levels, see p.4.



Plate 1: Post-excitation view of the trench, viewed from the west.

CONCLUSIONS

All of the fills encountered during this exercise were clearly modern, featuring detritus ranging from coffee cups to crisp packets. Despite this, given the historical importance of the general location, it is recommended that further ground breaking works be similarly accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Description
201	Concrete of kiosk base and step.
202	Layer of mid-brown granular bedding below 201.

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Post-excavation.	1:20

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Trench 2, work in progress.	W	03/05/2016
2	Trench 2, work in progress.	NW	03/05/2016
3	Trench 2, work in progress.	NE	03/05/2016
4	Service hatch to the west of Trench 2.	E	03/05/2016
5	Trench 2, work in progress.	S	03/05/2016
6	Trench 2, work in progress.	W	03/05/2016
7	Trench 2, work in progress.	N	03/05/2016
8	Trench 2, post-excavation shot.	S	04/05/2016
9	Trench 2, post-excavation shot.	N	04/05/2016
10	Trench 2, post-excavation shot.	W	04/05/2016

LIST OF LEVELS

No.	Height in metres (A.O.D.)
1	102.50
2	102.21
3	102.34
4	102.70