

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	St Andrews Cathedral
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90260-2016-01
PARISH:	St. Andrews and St. Leonard's
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
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)	NO 5147 1665; NO 5152 1663; NO 5145 1670
START DATE (this season)	26 September 2016
END DATE (this season)	26 September 2016
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the installation of three stone plinths to support new signage. (NO 5147 1665; NO 5152 1663; NO 5145 1670). All three trenches revealed a similar sequence of topsoil over a similar subsoil with mortar and stone inclusions. This lower deposit may well represent the disturbed and redeposited soil of the cemetery. No bone was seen, and nothing of archaeological significance was found.
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 2016/2017**

St. Andrew's Cathedral • Watching Brief • September 2016

HS PIC Index Number: 90260

SITE:	St. Andrew's Cathedral, St Andrews.
N.G.R.:	NO 5147 1665; NO 5152 1663; NO 5145 1670
DESCRIPTION:	Archaeological watching brief during the installation of three stone plinths to support new signage.
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90260-2016-01
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INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to carry out an archaeological watching brief in the cemetery of St. Andrew's Cathedral during the excavation of three small trenches to house stone plinths on which new information boards could be attached (Fig. 1).

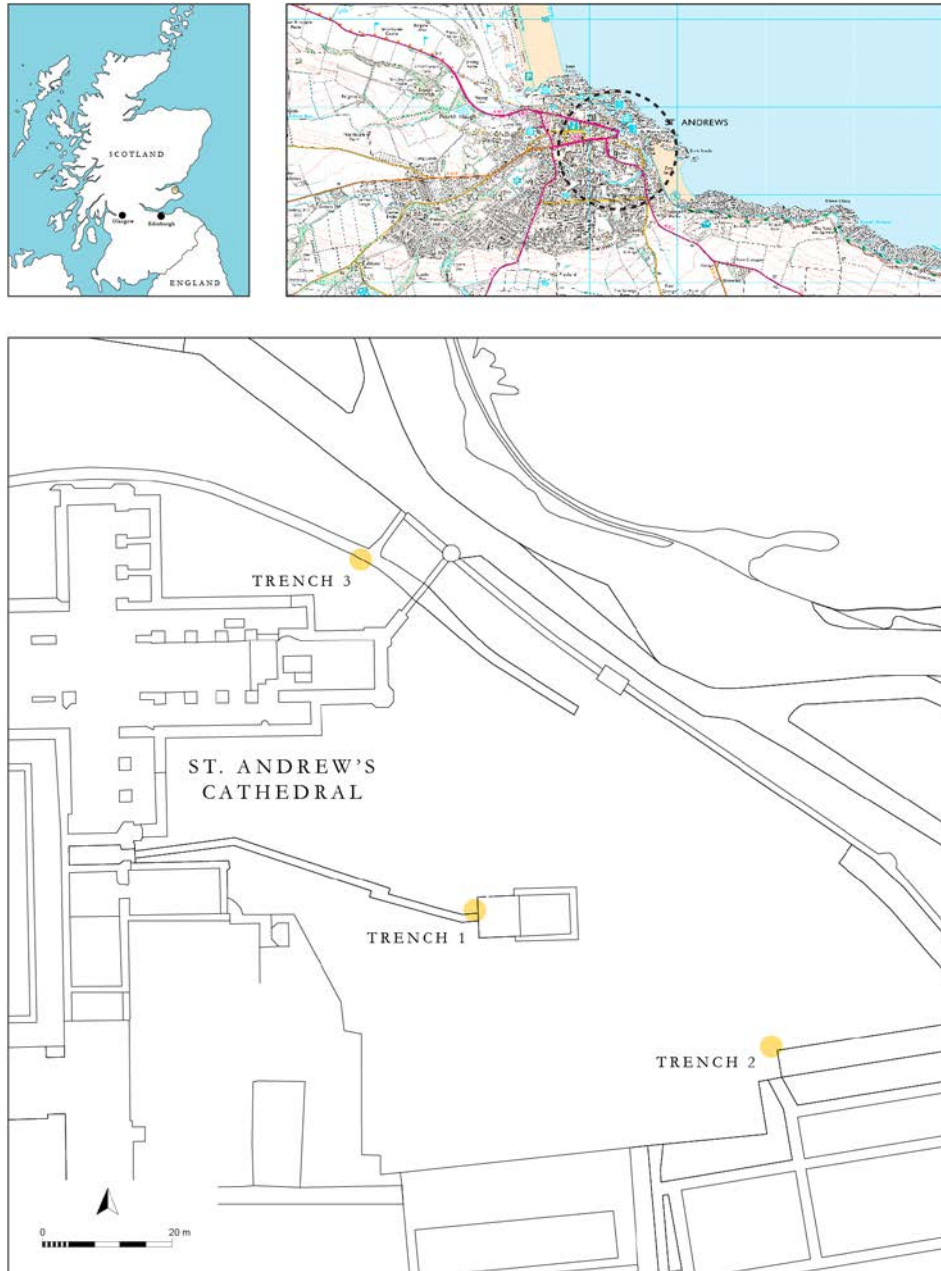


Figure 1: Plan showing the general locations of the three trenches.

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Excavation was undertaken by hand, by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and took place on 26th September, 2016.

DESCRIPTION

Trench 1 was opened up against the west face of St Rule's Tower, a small subsidiary church to the south-east of the cathedral itself. St Rule's has a complex (and controversial) architectural history, but today comprises two main components: a narrow tall rectangular chamber to the east with a taller tower to the west. The west face of this tower displays the scars of roof lines indicating that it once continued to the west. A large opening between two broad vertical roll mouldings has been partly in-filled to create a smaller door. Sockets cut into these roll mouldings suggest that a wooden porch once stood here, presumably post-dating the removed western building.

The trench was located to the north of the extant door, at the base of the northern of the two roll mouldings. It measured 54cm N/S by 43cm E/W and reached a maximum depth of 8cm. the topsoil **100** proved to be a very fine light brown silt, while at the base of the trench **101** was a similar soil matrix, but with flecks of mortar throughout.



Plate 1: Trench 1, as finished.

Trench 2 was located in the south-east corner of the graveyard, 6.25m north of the gate connecting the older graveyard with an extension to the south-east. A highly eroded, probably eighteenth century, gravestone (illegible) was situated 1.9m north of the trench. The trench measured 54cm E/W by 43cm N/S and reached a depth of 8cm. Fine light brown silt **200** overlay **201**, a similar soil with some mortar flecks and rounded gravel inclusions throughout.



Plate 2: Trench 2, as finished.

Trench 3 was opened up on the south side of the path running around the northern end of the cathedral. It was aligned parallel to this path (approximately NW/SE) and was located opposite a gate through the north side of the cemetery wall, just north of the east end of the cathedral. The trench measured 54cm NW/SE x 43cm NE/SW. A similar sequence of 8cm of fine light brown silt **300** was removed to expose a similar soil, **301**, flecked with mortar.



Plate 3: Trench 3, as finished.

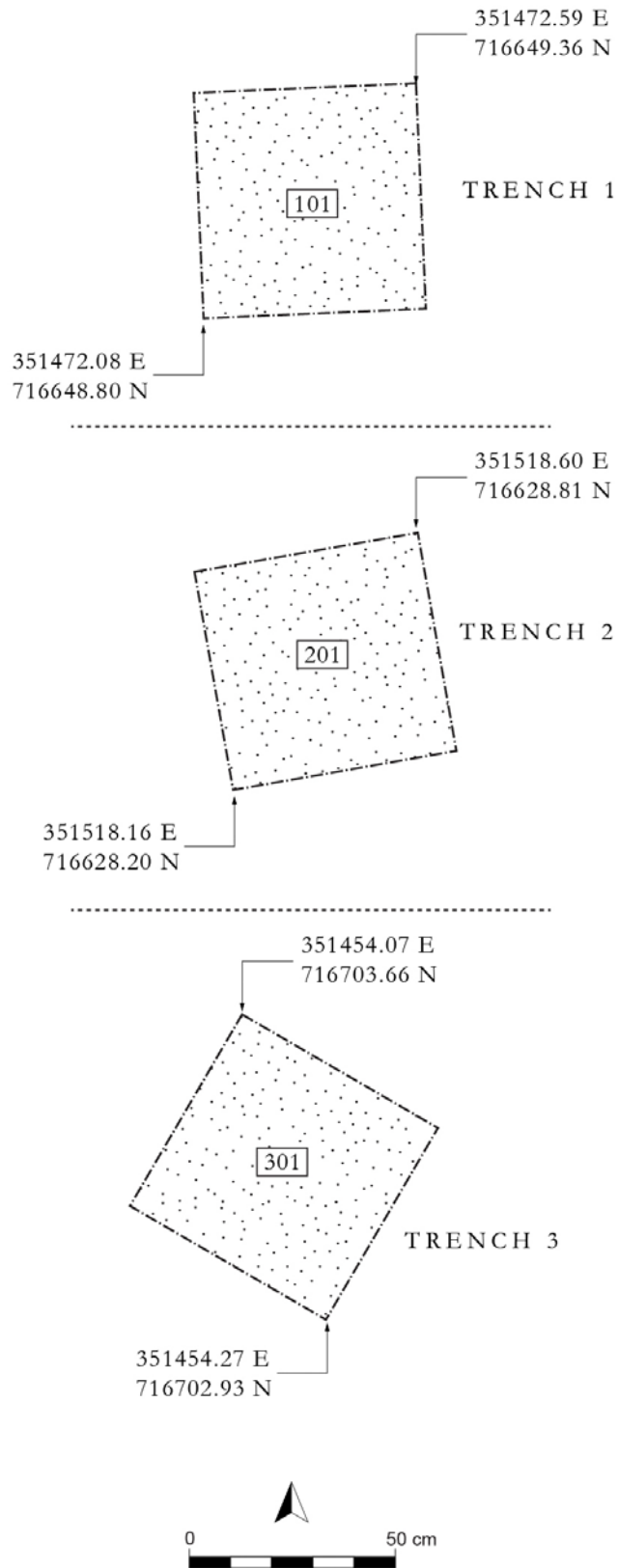


Figure 2: Trenches 1 – 3, post-excavation plans.

CONCLUSIONS

All three trenches revealed a similar sequence of topsoil over a similar soil with mortar and stone inclusions. This basal deposit may well represent the disturbed soil of the cemetery. No bone was seen, and nothing of archaeological significance was found.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Description
100	1	Topsoil, fine light brown silt.
101	1	Fine light brown silt flecked with mortar at base of trench.
200	2	Topsoil, fine light brown silt.
201	2	Fine light brown silt with mortar and rounded pebbles at base of trench.
300	3	Topsoil, fine light brown silt.
301	3	Fine light brown silt flecked with mortar at base of trench.

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Trench locations.	1:50

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Trench 1, pre-excavation.	W	29/09/2016
2	Trench 1, pre-excavation.	NW	29/09/2016
3	West face of St Rule's church.	W	29/09/2016
4	Trench 1, as finished.	W	29/09/2016
5	Trench 1, as finished.	W	29/09/2016
6	Trench 1, as finished.	W	29/09/2016
7	Trench 2, pre-excavation.	E	29/09/2016
8	Trench 2, as finished.	E	29/09/2016
9	Trench 3, pre-excavation.	N	29/09/2016
10	Trench 3, as finished.	NW	29/09/2016
11	Trench 3, as finished.	NW	29/09/2016