

# *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

Updated on 15/06/2007

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Doon Hill
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-5765-2012-01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Dunbar
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Gordon Ewart
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT67NE 40
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	ENCLOSURE, TIMBER HALL
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	
<b>NGR</b> (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 6867 7551 & NT 6871 7558
<b>START DATE</b> (this season)	25 May 2012
<b>END DATE</b> (this season)	25 May 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b> (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<p>Two small trenches were excavated during works to relocate an information board. Both trenches only contained evidence of natural soil processes with no apparent archaeological activity. The soil profile reflects well drained pasture with no obvious plough soil, which presumably only represents the present, most recent 'maintenance-only' regime.</p> <p>However, the pits and slots associated with the various configurations of halls and boundaries are relatively close to the present ground surface. Consequently any exposed soil, from turf downwards, should be regarded as sensitive, with some features only surviving at shallow levels, the bulk having been ploughed out.</p> <p>The difficulty in recognising these features is also compounded by the compacted and homogenous natures of potential fills and the natural.</p>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Scotland
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE  
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2012**

**Doon Hill: Watching Brief, May 2012**

**HS PIC Index Number: 5765**

**SITE:** Doon Hill Enclosure, East Lothian

**N.G.R.:** NT 6867 7551 & NT 6871 7558

**DESCRIPTION:** Watching Brief during the excavation of a trench to house new signage

**PROJECT CODE:** HSCO-5765-2012-01

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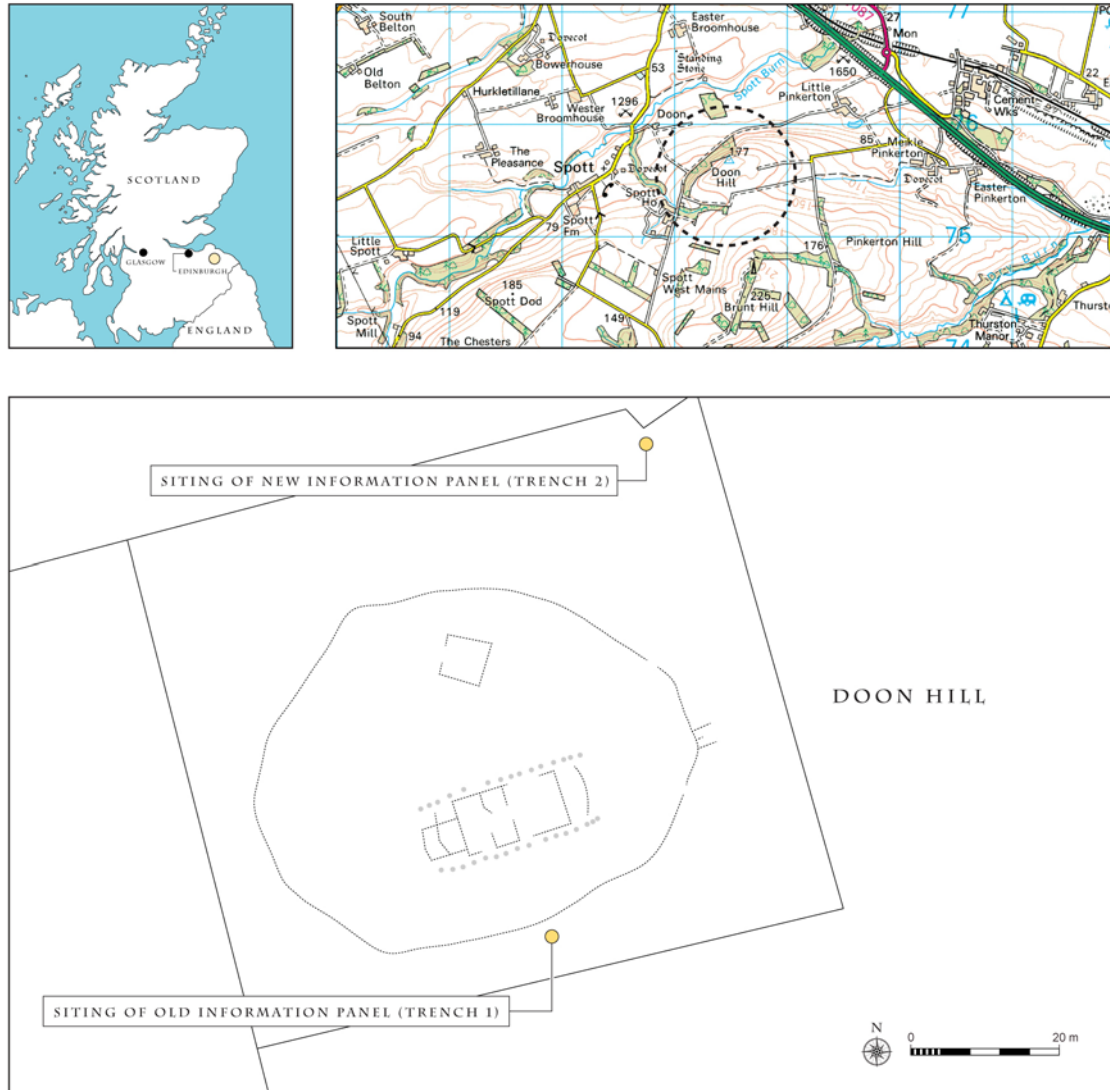


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## INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its Properties-In-Care (PIC) call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to maintain a watching brief during the removal and replacement of signage at Doon Hill (Fig.1).



**Figure 1:** Plan showing the location of Doon Hill, and the area of works.  
Inset No. 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2012. Licence number 100036933.

The trenches were hand dug by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and the work took place on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

## **DESCRIPTION**

A lectern sign on four legs, located towards the S edge of the site, was first lifted out of the ground. One of the resulting shallow pits (at the NW corner) was examined before being backfilled. This pit (Trench 1) measured 0.30m x 0.30m in plan and extended to a depth of 0.26m. The fill was a homogenous light brown, clay-rich soil (**001**) with a few small stones. It was firm and clean, with no sign of occupation debris.

A new trench, measuring 1.2m (E/W) x 1m (N/S) was located at the N side of the site, adjacent to the entrance gate. This trench (Trench 2) extended to a depth of 0.40m and contained three deposits. Uppermost was **002** - a clean clay rich soil with a few small stones (very similar to **001**), up to 0.12m deep, sealing **003**. The latter was very similar to **002** but with fewer stones. This deposit was an average of 0.10m deep and in turn sealed **004**, again very similar to **002** and **003**, but with even fewer stones.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Both trenches only contained evidence of natural soil processes with no apparent archaeological activity. The soil profile reflects well drained pasture with no obvious plough soil, which presumably only represents the present, most recent 'maintenance-only' regime.

However, the pits and slots associated with the various configurations of halls and boundaries are relatively close to the present ground surface. Consequently any exposed soil, from turf downwards, should be regarded as sensitive, with some features only surviving at shallow levels, the bulk having been ploughed out.

The difficulty in recognising these features is also compounded by the compacted and homogenous natures of potential fills and the natural.

## LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
001	Light red/brown clay-rich soil with few small stones, excavated to a depth of 0.26m
002	As above – 0.12m thick – sealed 003
003	Similar to 001 but with fewer stones – 0.10m thick - sealed 004
004	Similar to 001but almost stone free – 0.18m thick (at least, not bottomed)

## LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Trench 1	S	25/05/2012
02	Trench 1	S	25/05/2012
03	Trench 1	SW	25/05/2012
04	Trench 2	S	25/05/2012
05	Trench 2	E	25/05/2012
06	Trench 2	W	25/05/2012
07	Trench 2	W	25/05/2012
08	Trench 2	S	25/05/2012