

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dundrennan Abbey
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90114-2012-01
PARISH:	Rerrick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NX74NW 12
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Abbey
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 7489 4752
START DATE (this season)	30 March 2012
END DATE (this season)	30 March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a trench for new signage. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2012

Dundrennan Abbey: Excavation, March 2012

HS PIC Index Number: 90114

SITE: Dundrennan Abbey, Dundrennan near Kirkcudbright

N.G.R.: NX 7489 4752

DESCRIPTION: Archaeological excavation associated with the installation of new signage

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90114-2012-01

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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 undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a trench for new signage at Dundrennan Abbey, near Kirkcudbright (Fig.1).

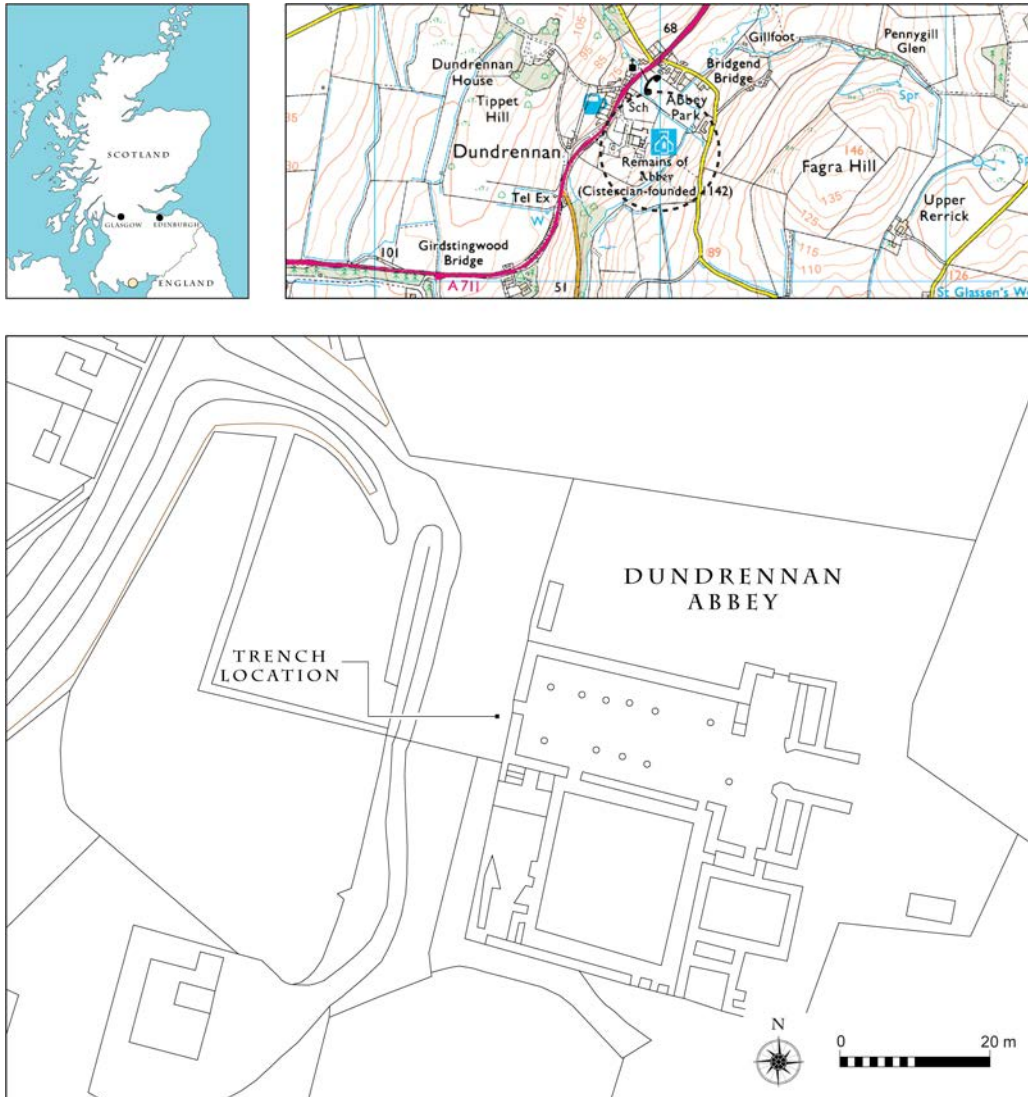


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Dundrennan Abbey, and the area of works.
Inset No. 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2012. Licence number 100036933.

The new sign replaced an existing one in the same location, with the old sign positioned immediately to the SW of the W door of the Abbey Church. The old wooden upright was removed, but the concrete base could not be broken out, so it was decided to recycle the base as part of the bedding of the new sign. The work was carried out by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and was carried out on 30th March 2012.

DESCRIPTION

The trench measured 0.8m N/S x 0.7m E/W x 0.5m deep. Below a 0.07m thick layer of turf **101** was a re-deposited backfill **102** composed of a mid-brown silt mixed with greyish clay. This fill had been excavated and backfilled during the installation of the existing sign, probably in the 1990s. The wooden upright of the sign was removed leaving a large concrete base **103** *in situ*. This measured 0.6m N/S x 0.45m E/W x 0.5m deep – its upper surface was located 0.5m below the turf line. After unsuccessfully attempting to remove the concrete, it was decided to re-use it as part of the new signage base. This would involve the filling of the central cavity left by the removal of the existing sign and the mounting of the new sign plinth onto this prepared base. At no point did the excavation extend beyond the limits of the original backfill. No artefacts or features of archaeological interest were noted during the excavation.

CONCLUSIONS

Although nothing of archaeological interest was noted during the works, the area has high archaeological potential. Further ground-breaking works should therefore be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	Turf
102	Re-deposited dark-brown silty topsoil and clay
103	Concrete sign base

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Pre-excavation shot of existing sign	N	30/03/2012
02	Existing sign and W door of Abbey Church	W	30/03/2012
03	Existing sign and W door of Abbey Church	S	30/03/2012
04	Removal of existing sign	NW	30/03/2012
05	Removal of existing sign	N	30/03/2012
06	Removal of existing sign	N	30/03/2012
07	Concrete base of existing sign	N	30/03/2012
08	N-facing section of trench	N	30/03/2012
09	N-facing section of trench	N	30/03/2012
10	N-facing section of trench	N	30/03/2012
11	Post-excavation shot of trench	NW	30/03/2012
12	Post-excavation shot of trench and W door	W	30/03/2012
13	Post-excavation shot of trench and W door	NW	30/03/2012

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
01	Plan	Plan of trench	1:20