

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Angus
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Edzell Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90136-2012-01
PARISH:	Edzell
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NO56NE 8
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NO 5844 6911
START DATE (this season)	15 November 2011
END DATE (this season)	15 November 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the removal of an expansion joint in the concrete first floor of the West Range. This concrete floor had been laid in the 1960s, with the expansion joint added in the 1980s to prevent cracking. Over time water had penetrated the sides of the expansion joint, causing inundation through into the vault of the cellar below. Nothing was disturbed other than concrete.
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 2011

Edzell Castle: Watching Brief, November 2011.

HS PIC Index Number: 90136

SITE: Edzell Castle, Aberdeenshire.

N.G.R.: NO 5844 6911

DESCRIPTION: Watching brief during the removal of a redundant expansion joint
in the first floor of the West Range.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90136-2011-01

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NOVEMBER 2011

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its Properties-In-Care (PIC) call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was requested to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the removal of an expansion joint in the concrete first floor of the West Range of Edzell Castle (Fig.1). This concrete floor had been laid in the 1960s, with the expansion joint added in the 1980s to prevent cracking. Over time water had penetrated the sides of the expansion joint, causing inundation through into the vault of the cellar below.

All work was undertaken by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision. The work was carried out on 15th November 2011.

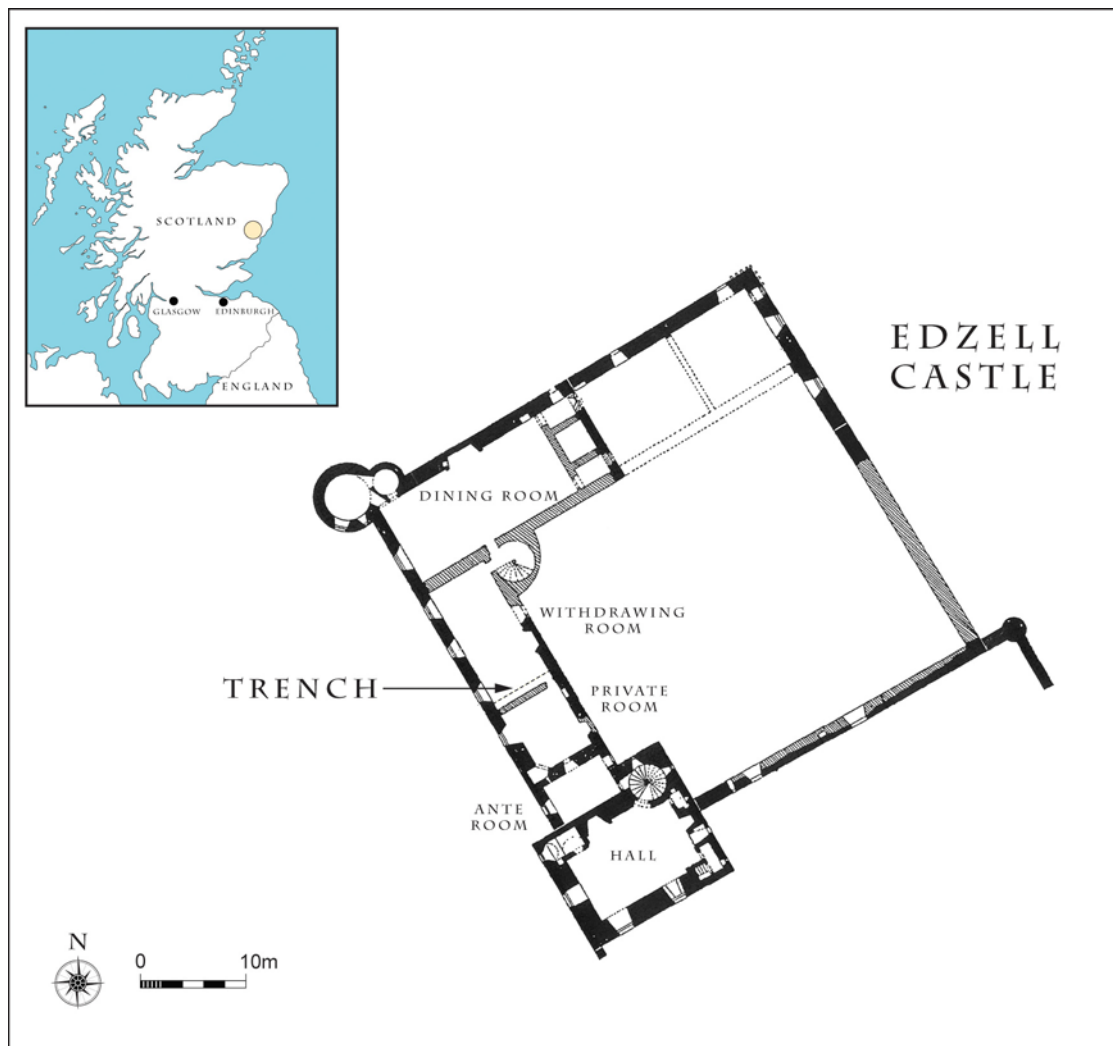


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Edzell Castle and the site of the present works.

DESCRIPTION

The excavated trench followed the side of the original cut to fit the expansion joint (Fig. 2). Using a circular saw¹, the sides were cut to a depth of 8cm through the concrete floor 001. The cut was 5cm wide (the width of the joint). The expansion joint 002 consisted of a mastic core 1.5cm wide x 5cm deep, encased in concrete, which in turn sat on a base of melted bitumen felt 003, approximately 0.5cm thick. Having removed the joint, the exposed base was revealed to be the same material as 001. However, there was no sign of either the extrados of the vault below or any covering deposits.

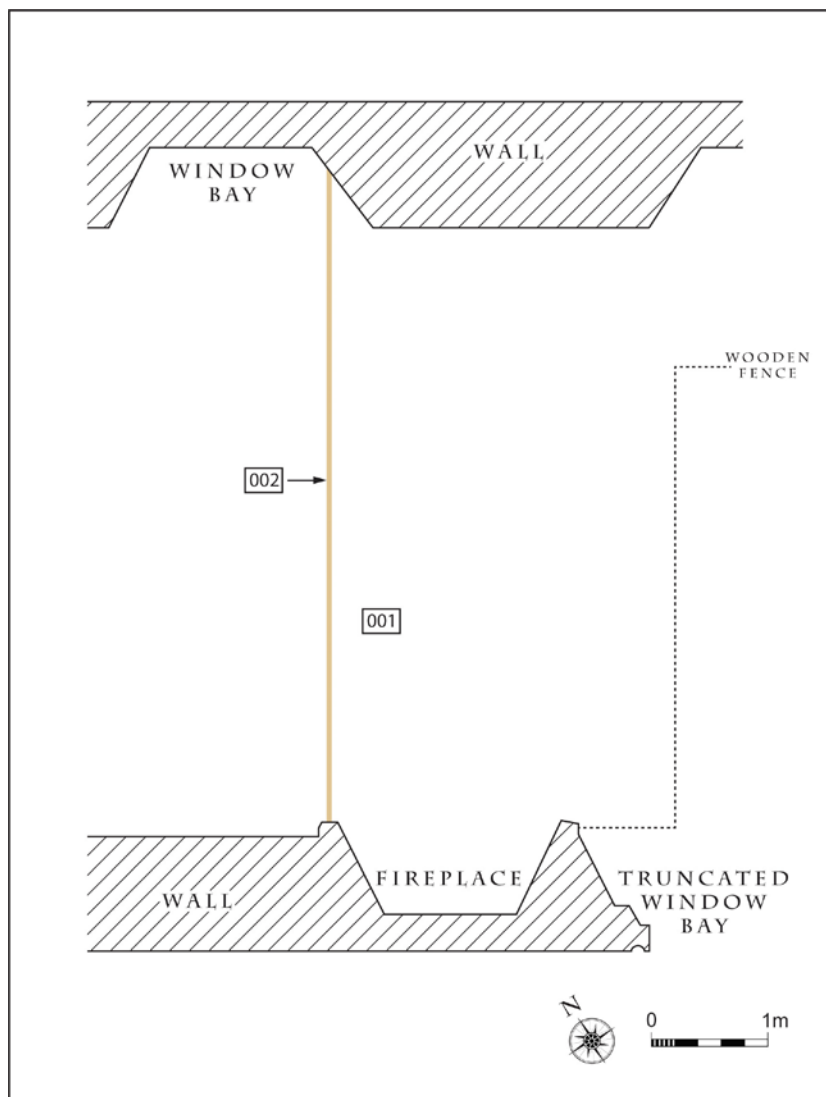


Figure 2: Detailed location / post-excitation plan of the trench.

¹ The circular saw used a constant flow of water to cool the blade, and thus the trench gradually filled with water - making detailed observations difficult.

CONCLUSIONS

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during this phase of the remedial work. The shallow depth of the cut meant that it was not possible to establish the full depth of the concrete floor, and there remains a good chance that archaeological horizons survive below the concrete. If more of the concrete floor is to be removed as part of further remedial works, it would be advisable to attach an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
001	1960s concrete floor
002	1980s expansion joint (mastic and concrete)
003	Bitumen felt below 002

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	The West Range	E	15/11/2011
02	Entrance pend through the West Range	W	15/11/2011
03	First floor windows of the West Range	W	15/11/2011
04	Vault intrados in the cellar of the West Range	E	15/11/2011
05	West Range first floor – expansion joint and concrete floor	NW	15/11/2011
06	West Range first floor	NW	15/11/2011
07	East wall of the West Range first floor	W	15/11/2011
08	East wall of the West Range first floor	W	15/11/2011
09	West wall of the West Range first floor, with concrete floor	E	15/11/2011
10	West wall of the West Range first floor, with concrete floor	N	15/11/2011
11	Concrete floor and the expansion joint	E	15/11/2011
12	East wall of the West Range, with the concrete floor	S	15/11/2011
13	Removal of the expansion joint	N	15/11/2011
14	Removal of the expansion joint	S	15/11/2011
15	Removal of the expansion joint	S	15/11/2011
16	Removal of the expansion joint	N	15/11/2011
17	General shot of the West Range	N	15/11/2011
18	General shot of the West Range	N	15/11/2011
19	Breaking-out of the expansion joint	SW	15/11/2011
20	Breaking-out of the expansion joint	W	15/11/2011
21	Breaking-out of the expansion joint	W	15/11/2011
22	Breaking-out of the expansion joint	W	15/11/2011
23	Breaking-out of the expansion joint	NW	15/11/2011
24	Breaking-out of the expansion joint	NE	15/11/2011
25	Cut through the concrete floor	N	15/11/2011
26	Bitumen layer below the expansion joint	NE	15/11/2011
27	Post-excavation shot of the removed expansion joint	NE	15/11/2011
28	Post-excavation shot of the removed expansion joint	W	15/11/2011
29	Post-excavation shot of the removed expansion joint	NW	15/11/2011
30	Post-excavation shot of the removed expansion joint	S	15/11/2011

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale
001	Plan of Trench	1:20