

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland – OASIS-type Form (2006)

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Inverclyde
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Newark Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90230-2012-01
PARISH:	Port Glasgow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	NS37SW 1.00
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 3280 7450
START DATE (this season)	16 August 2012
END DATE (this season)	16 August 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a trench to house new signage inside the modern entrance gateway to the southwest of the castle. The trench was located on the east side of the path running north from the modern gated entrance. 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

Newark Castle • Watching Brief • August 2012

HS PIC Index Number: 90230

SITE: Newark Castle, Port Glasgow

N.G.R.: NS 3280 7450

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during the excavation of a trench to house new signage inside the modern entrance gateway to the SW of the castle

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90230-2012-01

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SEPTEMBER 2012

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC Call-Off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Newark Castle during the excavation of a trench to house a new information board. The trench was located on the E side of the path running N from the modern gated entrance (Fig.1).

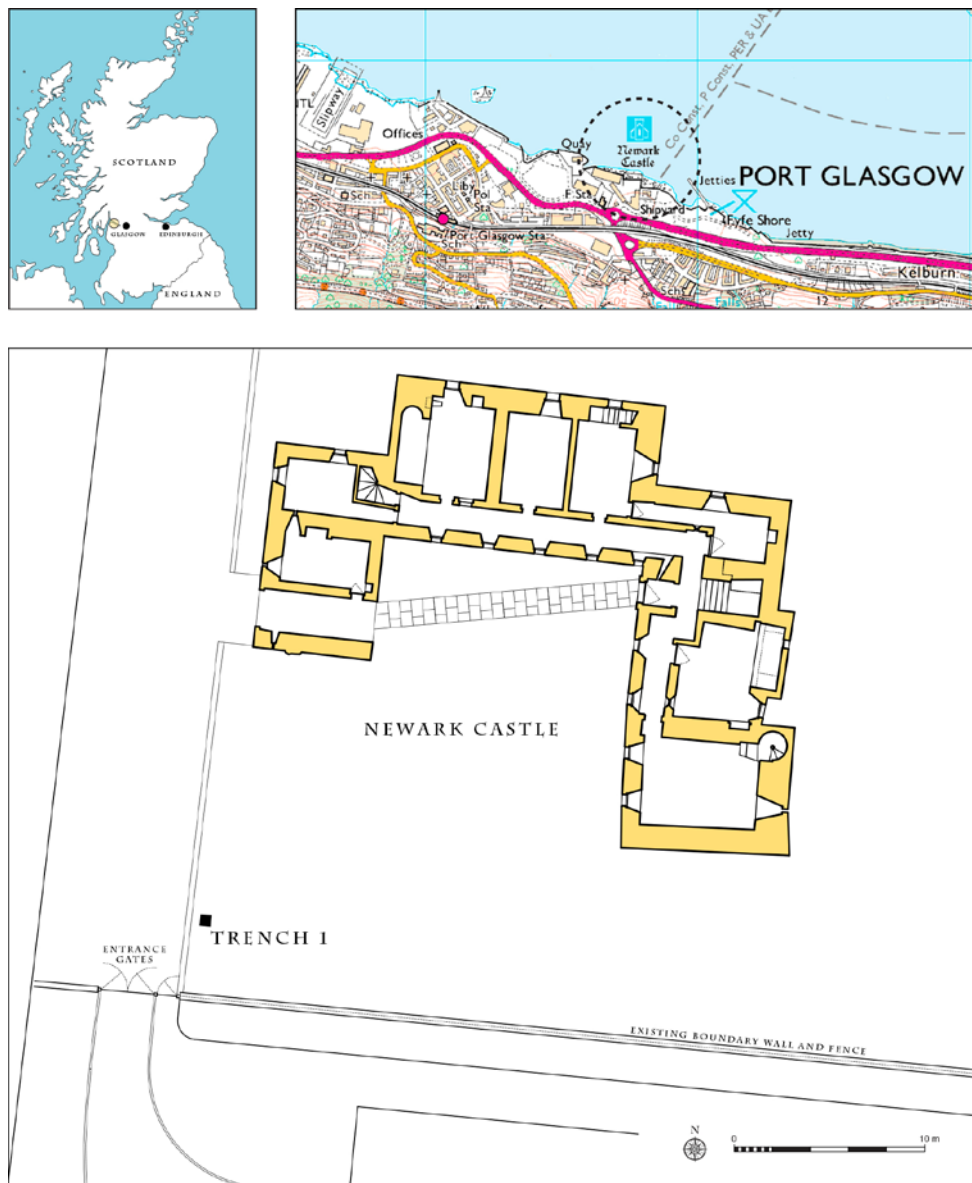


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Newark Castle, and the area of works.
Inset No. 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2012. Licence number 100036933.

A pre-existing sign had to be removed in order to insert the replacement one; as such the footprint of the new sign was already disturbed - but there was some concern that the barmkin wall would be revealed or disturbed by the current works. In the event, the location

of the trench laid out with the N/S stretch of the barmkin, which originally bonded directly to the SW corner of the gatehouse. The layers exposed within the trench were shown to be the product of modern levelling and landscaping.

The excavation was carried out manually by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and took place on 16th August 2012.

DESCRIPTION

Trench 1

Trench 1 sat on the grass 2.67m N of the stone perimeter wall bounding the S side of the current lawn to the S of the castle. The trench measured 0.6m N/S x 0.6m E/W x 0.5m deep. The turf and light-brown silty clay topsoil **101** was clearly a landscaping layer, 0.3m deep, and lay over a layer of gritty black ashy industrial debris **102**, mixed with pieces of modern glazed tiles, only partially exposed to a depth of 0.2m. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during the works.

CONCLUSIONS

Although nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered during this particular period of work, the sensitive nature of the site and its high archaeological potential suggests that any further ground-breaking works should be similarly accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trench 1

Number	Description
101	Turf and light brown silty clay topsoil (landscaping)
102	Gritty black ashy industrial debris (levelling)

LIST OF DRAWINGS

Number	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Trench 1	1:50
2	Section	W-facing of Trench 1	1:10

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

Number	Description	From	Date
1	De-turfing around existing signage	SW	16/8/2012
2	Existing signage de-turfed	SW	16/8/2012
3	Removal of existing signage	E	16/8/2012
4	S side of gatehouse showing roof scar from barmkin building	S	16/8/2012
5	W-facing section in Trench 1	W	16/8/2012
6	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	W	16/8/2012
7	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	SW	16/8/2012
8	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	SW	16/8/2012
9	N-facing section in Trench 1	N	16/8/2012
10	General location shot of Trench 1	E	16/8/2012
11	General location shot of Trench 1	E	16/8/2012
12	General location shot of Trench 1	N	16/8/2012
13	General location shot of Trench 1	SW	16/8/2012
14	Concrete being spread in Trench 1	NE	16/8/2012