

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Sweetheart Abbey
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90293-2012-01
PARISH:	New Abbey
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NX96NE 9
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Abbey
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 9645 6624
START DATE (this season)	21 March 2012
END DATE (this season)	21 March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during a small excavation for the erection of a new sign close to the entrance of Sweetheart Abbey. 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

Sweetheart Abbey: Watching Brief, March 2012

HS PIC Index Number: 90293

SITE: Sweetheart Abbey

N.G.R.: NX 9645 6624

DESCRIPTION: Archaeological watching brief on the installation of a new sign at
the entrance to the site

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90293-2012-01

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MARCH 2012

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 on the erection of a new sign close to the entrance of Sweetheart Abbey (Fig.1). All work was undertaken by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and the work took place on 21st March 2012.

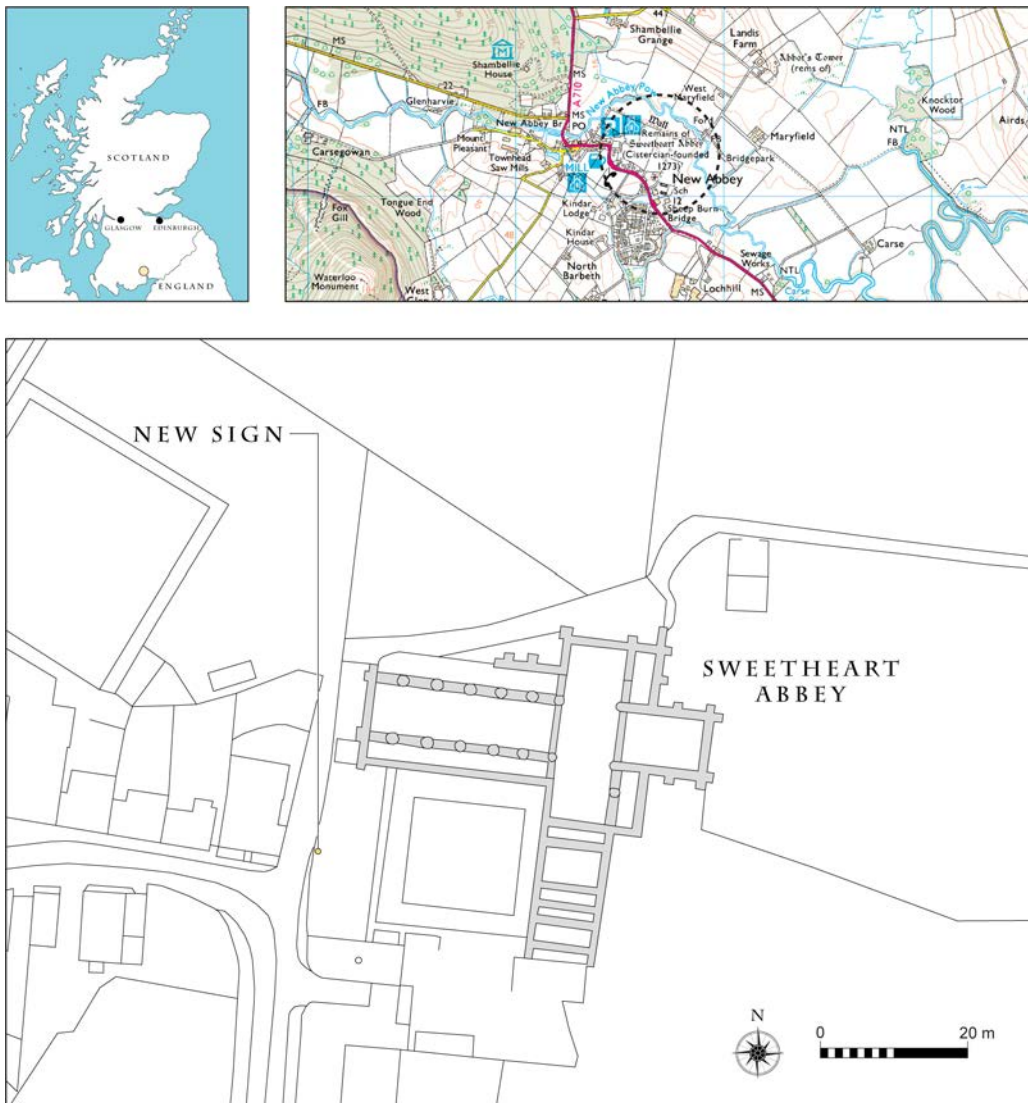


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Sweetheart Abbey, and the site of the new sign.
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DESCRIPTION

The area to be excavated measured 0.6m x 0.6m in plan, centred on the existing sign, and was to be dug to a depth of 0.45m. The trench was located 8.6m E of the NW corner of the site, some 1.55m W of the entrance gate.

Work started with the removal of the existing sign and its associated concrete base. When this was finally levered out of the ground, it was found to measure 0.37m x 0.37m at its base, narrowing towards the top, and 0.4m tall. The removal of this redundant base had already opened up most of the required area for the new sign, and small scale trimming around the edge of the trench showed it to be a dark grey slightly clayey silt, rich in small rounded stones, containing occasional small angular fragments of red sandstone throughout (001).

CONCLUSIONS

Due to the small size of the trench, and the minimal excavation required, little new was revealed to add to the history of Sweetheart Abbey. Perhaps the occasional fragments of red sandstone were from the Abbey, as the almost entirely ruinous W range lay just a few metres E of the trench.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
001	Dark grey slightly clayey silt rich in small rounded stones, containing occasional small angular fragments of red sandstone throughout

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Trench being opened	SE	21/03/2011
02	Trench being opened	W	21/03/2011
03	Concrete plinth from the existing sign, following extraction	E	21/03/2011
04	Trench as finished	E	21/03/2011