

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Aberdeenshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Knock Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-HB9326-2011-01
PARISH:	GLENMUICK, TULLICH AND GLENGAIRN
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	NO39NE 4
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Tower House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Centred c. NO 3521 9515
START DATE (this season)	9 November 2011
END DATE (this season)	9 November 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of three small holes to house permanent survey markers at Knock Castle as part of an on-going survey of the castle and its grounds. 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 2011**

Knock Castle: Watching Brief, November 2011.

HS PIC Reference: HB9326

SITE: Knock Castle, Aberdeenshire.

N.G.R.: Centred c. NO 3521 9515

DESCRIPTION: Watching brief during the excavation of three small trenches to house permanent survey markers.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-HB9326-2011-01

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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 excavation of three trenches to house permanent survey markers (PSMs) at Knock Castle, as part of an on-going survey of the castle and its grounds (Fig.1).

The work was undertaken by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and was carried out on 9th November 2011.

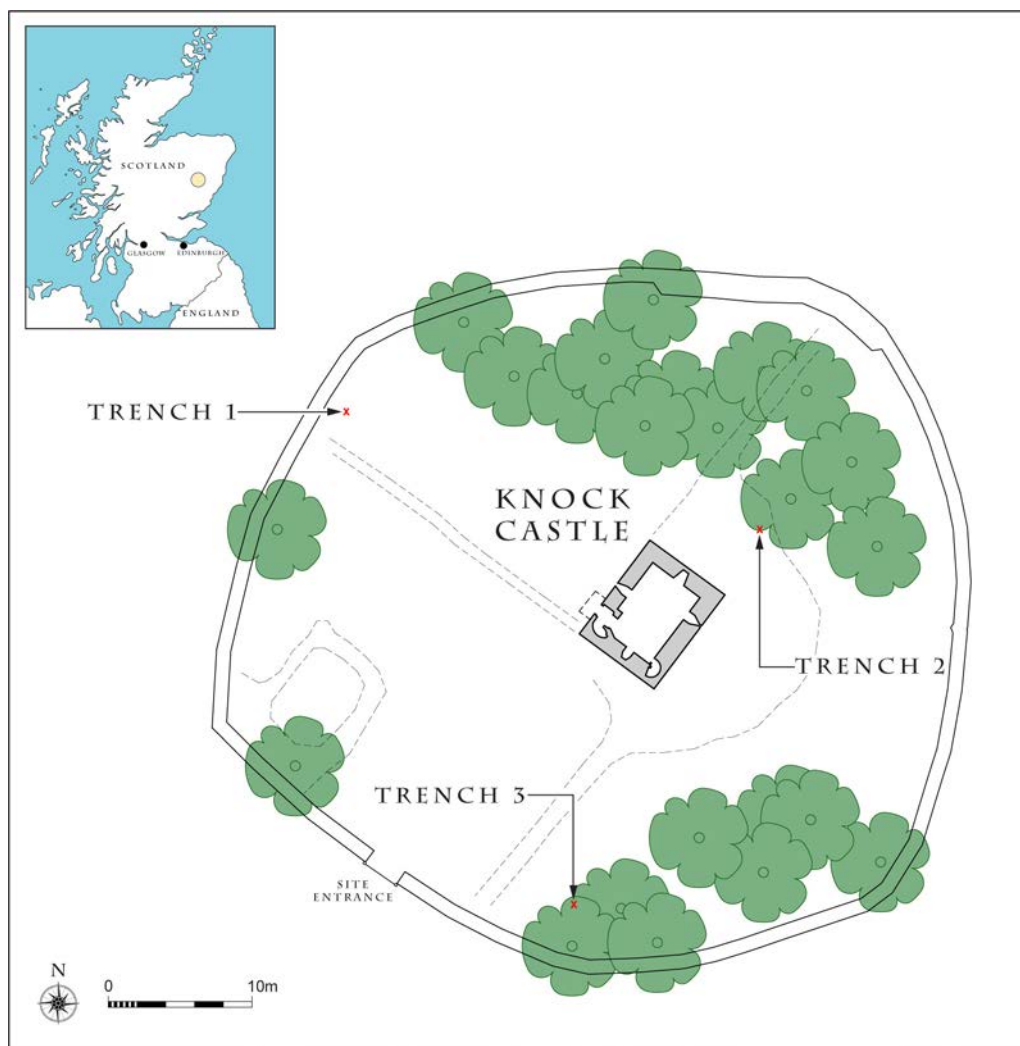


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Knock Castle and the site of the present works.

DESCRIPTION

TRENCH 1

Trench 1 (for PSM 1) lay to the NW of the tower near the enclosing stone dyke. The trench measured 35cm x 35cm x 15cm deep. Below the turf **101** was a layer of mid-brown silt **102**, containing sub-rounded granite rubble, pieces of which were typically c.12cm across. The rubble may have come from the collapse of one of the courtyard structures, but contained no traces of mortar. No artefacts were recovered.

TRENCH 2

Trench 2 (for PSM 2) lay to the NE of the tower on the flat portion of the castle knoll. The trench measured 35cm x 35cm x 15cm deep. Below the turf **201** was a layer of mid-brown silt **202**, containing sub-rounded granite rubble, pieces of which typically measured c.6-8cm across. The silt was cut through by medium sized tree roots. No artefacts were recovered.

TRENCH 3

Trench 3 (for PSM 3) lay to the SW of the tower at the foot of the castle knoll adjacent to some mature trees. The trench measured 35cm x 35cm x 15cm deep initially. The inability to sink the survey spike meant that the trench was first extended to the SW by 20cm, and then to the NE by 20cm. Below the turf **301** was a layer of compact mid-brown silt **302**, containing small sub-rounded stone inclusions, typically measuring <2cm in size. The silt was cut through by medium sized tree roots. No artefacts were recovered.

CONCLUSIONS

Nothing of archaeological interest was noted during the excavations due to the shallow profile of each of the trenches.

The undulating terrain in the immediate vicinity of the castle indicates that substantial remnants of a number of structures survive, and so any further ground-breaking activity should be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	Turf
102	Compact mid-brown silt with granite rubble
201	Turf
202	Compact mid-brown silt with granite rubble
301	Turf
302	Compact mid-brown silt

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Knock Castle	NW	09/11/2011
02	Knock Castle	NW	09/11/2011
03	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1	SE	09/11/2011
04	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 1	S	09/11/2011
05	Trench 1 after de-turfing	SW	09/11/2011
06	Trench 1 after de-turfing	S	09/11/2011
07	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1	SE	09/11/2011
08	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2	SE	09/11/2011
09	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2	E	09/11/2011
10	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 2	E	09/11/2011
11	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2 (tree root)	S	09/11/2011
12	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2	SW	09/11/2011
13	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 3	S	09/11/2011
14	Knock Castle	S	09/11/2011
15	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 3	N	09/11/2011
16	Pre-excavation shot of Trench 3	NW	09/11/2011
17	Trench 3 after de-turfing, showing tree roots	S	09/11/2011
18	Trench 3 after de-turfing, showing tree roots	S	09/11/2011
19	Post-excavation shot of Trench 3	N	09/11/2011
20	Knock Castle	SW	09/11/2011
21	Knock Castle	SW	09/11/2011
22	Knock Castle	W	09/11/2011
23	Remains of structure to W of castle	SW	09/11/2011
24	Knock Castle	NW	09/11/2011
25	Looking S at Knock Castle	N	09/11/2011
26	Survey marker in Trench 1	NW	09/11/2011
27	Survey marker in Trench 2	W	09/11/2011
28	Survey marker in Trench 3	N	09/11/2011
29	Knock Castle	NW	09/11/2011
30	Knock Castle	NW	09/11/2011

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale
001	Location plan of Trenches 1 - 3	1:100