

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Moray
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Sueno's Stone
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90292-2015-01
PARISH:	Rafford
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NJ05NW 1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cross slab
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NJ 0462 5950
START DATE (this season)	15 July 2015
END DATE (this season)	15 July 2015
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 two trenches to house the concrete foundations for a bench to be installed to the southwest of Sueno's Stone. Nothing was disturbed other than modern landscaping.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Environment Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2015/2016**

Sueno's Stone • Watching Brief • July 2015

HS PIC Index Number: 90292

SITE: Sueno's Stone, Forres, Morayshire.

N.G.R.: NJ 0462 5950

DESCRIPTION: Archaeological watching brief during the excavation of two small trenches for bench foundations, to the southwest of Sueno's Stone.

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90292-2015-01

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AUGUST 2015

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of two trenches to house the concrete foundations for a bench to be installed to the southwest of Sueno's Stone in Forres, Morayshire (Fig.1).

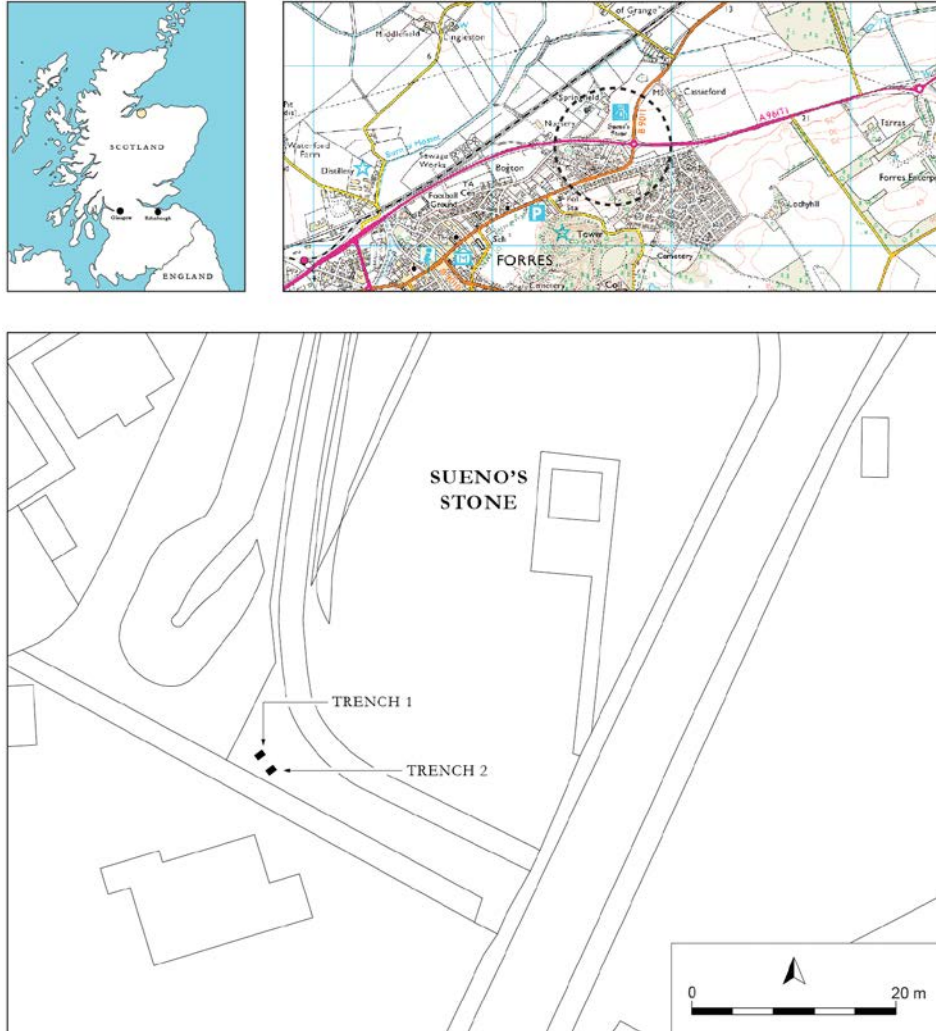


Figure 1: Plan showing the general locations of the trenches.
Mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2015. Licence number 100036933.

Excavation was undertaken by hand, by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and took place on 15th July, 2015.

DESCRIPTION

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 0.9m SW/NE x 0.6m NW/SE x 0.25m deep. The turf and topsoil **101** was \approx 9cm deep and overlay a modern levelling layer of sandy silt **102** with numerous small water-rolled pebbles ($<$ 10cm). This layer contained modern glass and pottery, pieces of roof slate and an iron nail. Layer **102** was partially excavated to a depth of \approx 16cm. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.



Plate 1: Post-excavation view of Trench 1.

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 0.9m SW/NE x 0.6m NW/SE x 0.25m deep. The turf and topsoil **201** was c.9cm deep and overlay a modern levelling layer of sandy silt **202** containing numerous small water-rolled pebbles (<10cm). This layer contained modern glass, pottery and pieces of roof slate. Layer **202** was partially excavated to a depth of c.16cm. Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered.



Plate 2: Post-excavation view of Trench 2.

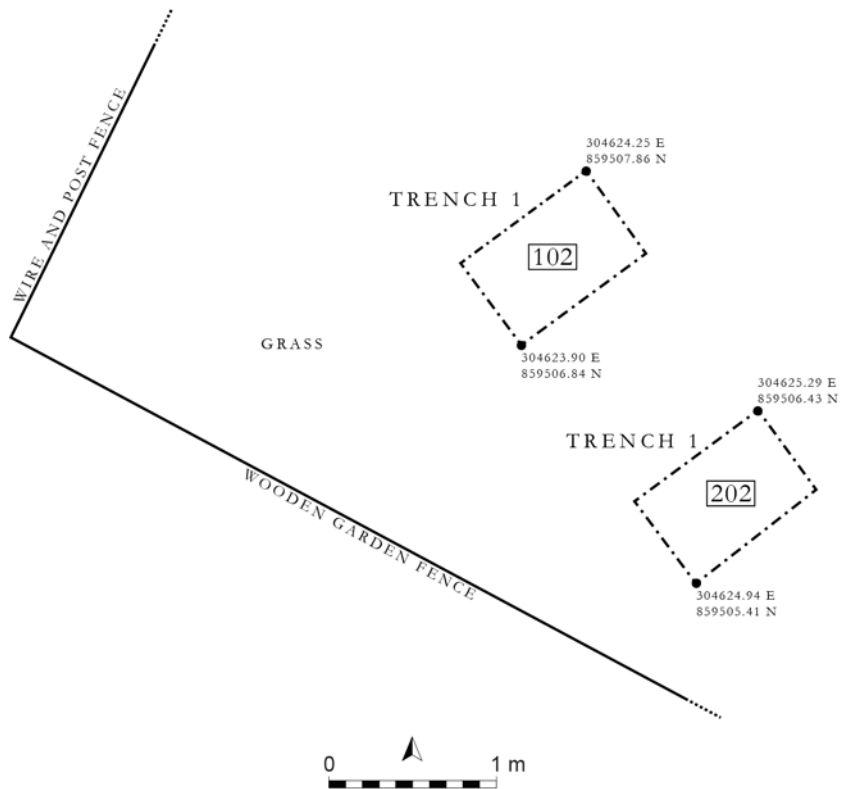


Figure 2: Post-excavation plan of the two trenches.

CONCLUSIONS

The shallow depth for the trenches meant that the modern landscaping layer (102/202) was all that was disturbed during the work, and nothing of archaeological interest was recovered. The area should still be considered to be highly archaeologically sensitive, and the layers sealed by this modern capping may hold valuable information about the site and its development. It is therefore recommended that any future ground-breaking activities be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No	Description
101	Turf and mid-brown topsoil in Trench 1.
102	Sandy silt with water-rolled pebbles and modern artefacts in Trench 1.
201	Turf and mid-brown topsoil in Trench 2.
202	Sandy silt with water-rolled pebbles and modern artefacts in Trench 2.

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Trenches 1 and 2, post-excavation.	1:20

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Sueno's Stone with the bench location in the background.	E	15/07/15
2	Pre-excavation shot showing the trench locations marked out.	E	15/07/15
3	Pre-excavation shot showing the trench locations marked out.	SW	15/07/15
4	Trenches 1 and 2 de-turfed.	W	15/07/15
5	Post-excavation shot of Trench 1.	SW	15/07/15
6	SW-facing section of Trench 1.	SW	15/07/15
7	Post-excavation shot of Trench 2.	SW	15/07/15
8	SW-facing section of Trench 2.	SW	15/07/15
9	Post-excavation shot of Trenches 1 and 2.	SW	15/07/15
10	Post-excavation shot of Trenches 1 and 2.	NW	15/07/15