

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Doone Castle Farm Steading
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90335-2013-01
PARISH:	Kilmadock
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	Near NN70SW 61 (Castle Farm) and NN70SW 66 (Mill of Doone)
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Farmhouse / Grain mill
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NN 7303 0117
START DATE (this season)	14 June 2013
END DATE (this season)	14 June 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a small trench to locate a burst water pipe at the Historic Scotland depot at Doone Steading, between Doone Castle Farm and Mill of Doone. Nothing of archaeological significance was revealed.
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 2013**

Doone Steading • Monitoring • June 2013

HS PIC Index Number: 90335

SITE: Doone Steading, near Doone Castle

N.G.R.: NN 7303 0117

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during excavation of a trench to locate a burst water pipe at the Historic Scotland depot in Doone Steading

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90335-2013-01

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JULY 2013

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a trench to locate a burst water pipe at Doune Steading, currently used as a depot by Historic Scotland (Fig. 1).

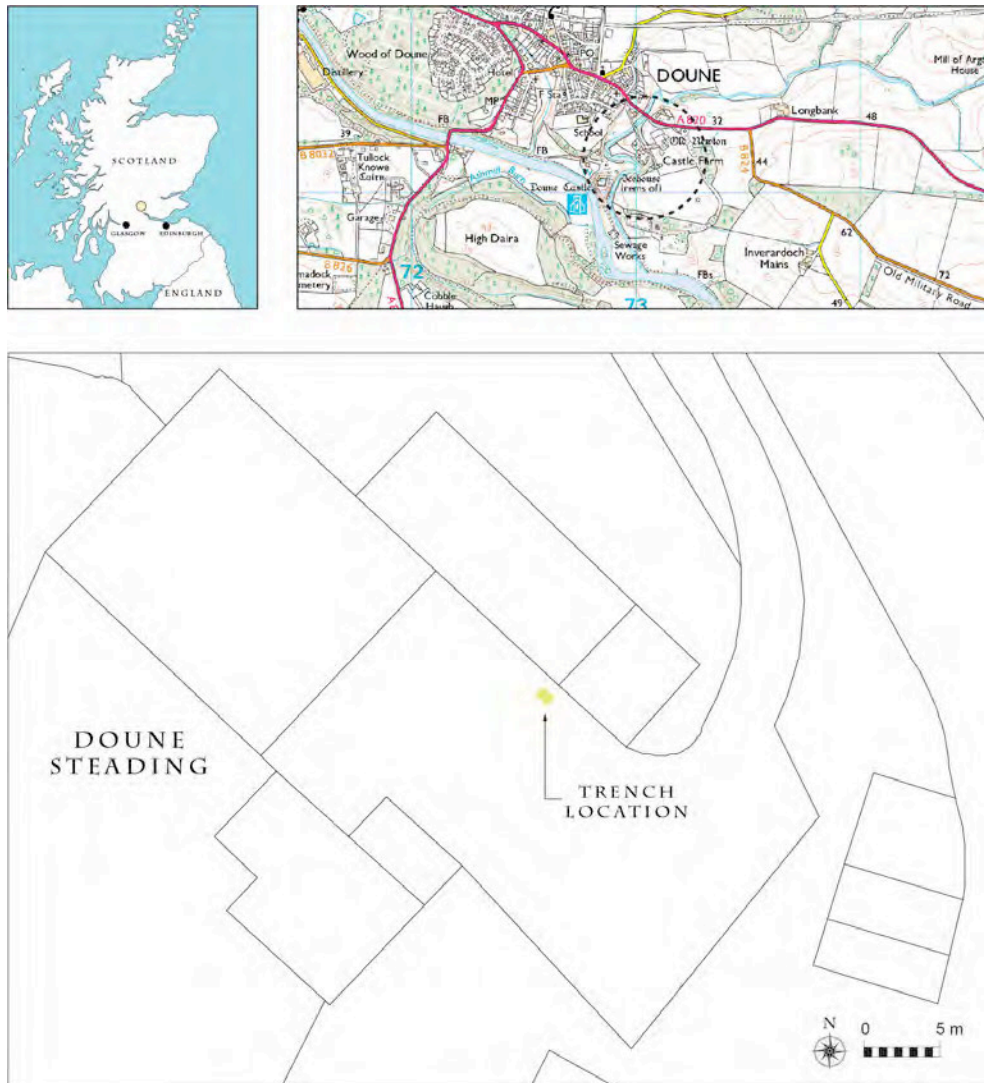


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Doune Steading and the area of works.
Inset No. 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2013. Licence number 100036933.

The work was carried out manually, by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and took place on 14th June 2013.

DESCRIPTION

The trench measured 1.15m NW/SE x 0.72m NE/SW x 0.45m deep. Below the 10cm thick turf **100** was a bedding layer 6cm thick of mixed sand, silt and small pebbles **101**. An area of loosely compacted backfill **102** comprising mixed stone, gravel, silt, clay and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles (<12cm) was removed in the central area of the trench. This layer was 20cm deep and cleared onto a layer of yellowish brown sand **103**, some 10cm thick, within which was situated the blue alkathene water pipe **104**.

Following cleaning of the trench it became apparent that backfill **102**, sand **103** and the pipe **104** were sitting within a cut **105** some 60cm wide at the top x 40cm wide at the base. This cut, obviously made to install the water pipe, had truncated (to the NW and SE), a compact layer **106** of silty clay containing sub-rounded pebbles (<12cm) and charcoal flecks, representing either a layer of historic make-up or (potentially) a cobbled surface, as would be expected in a late 19th Century steading courtyard (a cobbled surface is present in one of the steading buildings to the NW).



Plate 1: Post-excitation shot of the trench

CONCLUSIONS

The excavation itself was straightforward, and it was fortuitous that the burst was located quickly, which meant that the pipe did not have to be chased in order to find the leak. Given the interesting historical nature of Doune Steading, it is recommended that any future ground-breaking works be monitored archaeologically.

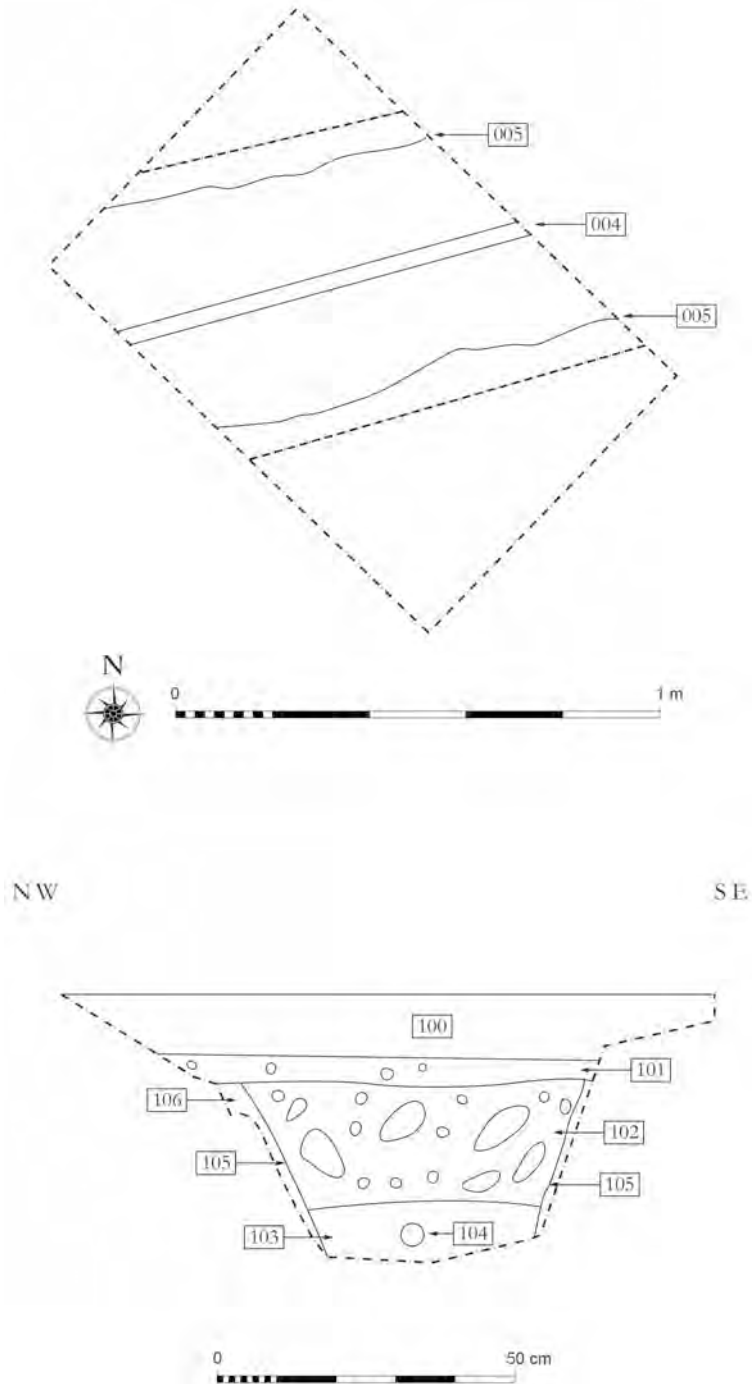


Figure 2: Post-excavation plan (top) and SW-facing section

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Description
100	Turf
101	Turf bedding layer of mixed sand, silt and small pebbles
102	Loosely compacted backfill comprising mixed stone, gravel, silt, clay and medium sized sub-rounded pebbles
103	Bedding layer of yellowish brown sand for 104
104	Blue alkathene water pipe
105	Cut through 106, filled by contexts 102 -104
106	Compact layer of silty clay containing sub-rounded pebbles and charcoal flecks

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Post-excavation plan of the trench	1:50
2	Section	SW-facing	1:20

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Doone Steading and de-turfed trench	S	14/06/2013
2	Doone Steading and de-turfed trench	SE	14/06/2013
3	Doone Steading and de-turfed trench	SE	14/06/2013
4	Doone Steading and de-turfed trench	SW	14/06/2013
5	Doone Steading	NE	14/06/2013
6	Mill of Doune	N	14/06/2013
7	Mill of Doune	N	14/06/2013
8	Mill of Doune	NW	14/06/2013
9	Mill of Doune	W	14/06/2013
10	Doone Steading and courtyard	S	14/06/2013
11	Doone Steading and courtyard	SE	14/06/2013
12	Pre-excavation shot of the trench	SW	14/06/2013
13	Excavation in progress	SE	14/06/2013
14	Sand 103 over pipe as exposed	W	14/06/2013
15	Burst pipe 104 as exposed	SW	14/06/2013
16	Post-excavation shot of the trench and pipe 104	SW	14/06/2013
17	Post-excavation shot of the trench and pipe 104	NW	14/06/2013