

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Falkirk
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	St Ninian's Chapel
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90036-2013-01
PARISH:	Bo'ness and Carriden
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Paul Fox
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT08SE 7
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Chapel (possible)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 0547 8013
START DATE (this season)	12 June 2013
END DATE (this season)	12 June 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A small trench was excavated to allow the installation of a marches stone near the SW corner of St Ninian's Chapel, the remains of which sit on the flat summit of Castle Hill to the SW of Blackness Castle. Nothing of archaeological interest was recovered during the excavation.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	4, Western Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5QF
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2013**

St Ninian's Chapel • Excavation • June 2013

HS PIC Index Number: 90036

SITE: St Ninian's Chapel, near Blackness Castle

N.G.R.: NT 0547 8013

DESCRIPTION: Excavation of a trench to install a marches stone immediately adjacent to St Ninian's Chapel

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90036-2013-01

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INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake the excavation of a trench to install a marches stone next to St Ninian's Chapel, the remains of which sit on the flat summit of Castle Hill to the SW of Blackness Castle (Fig.1).

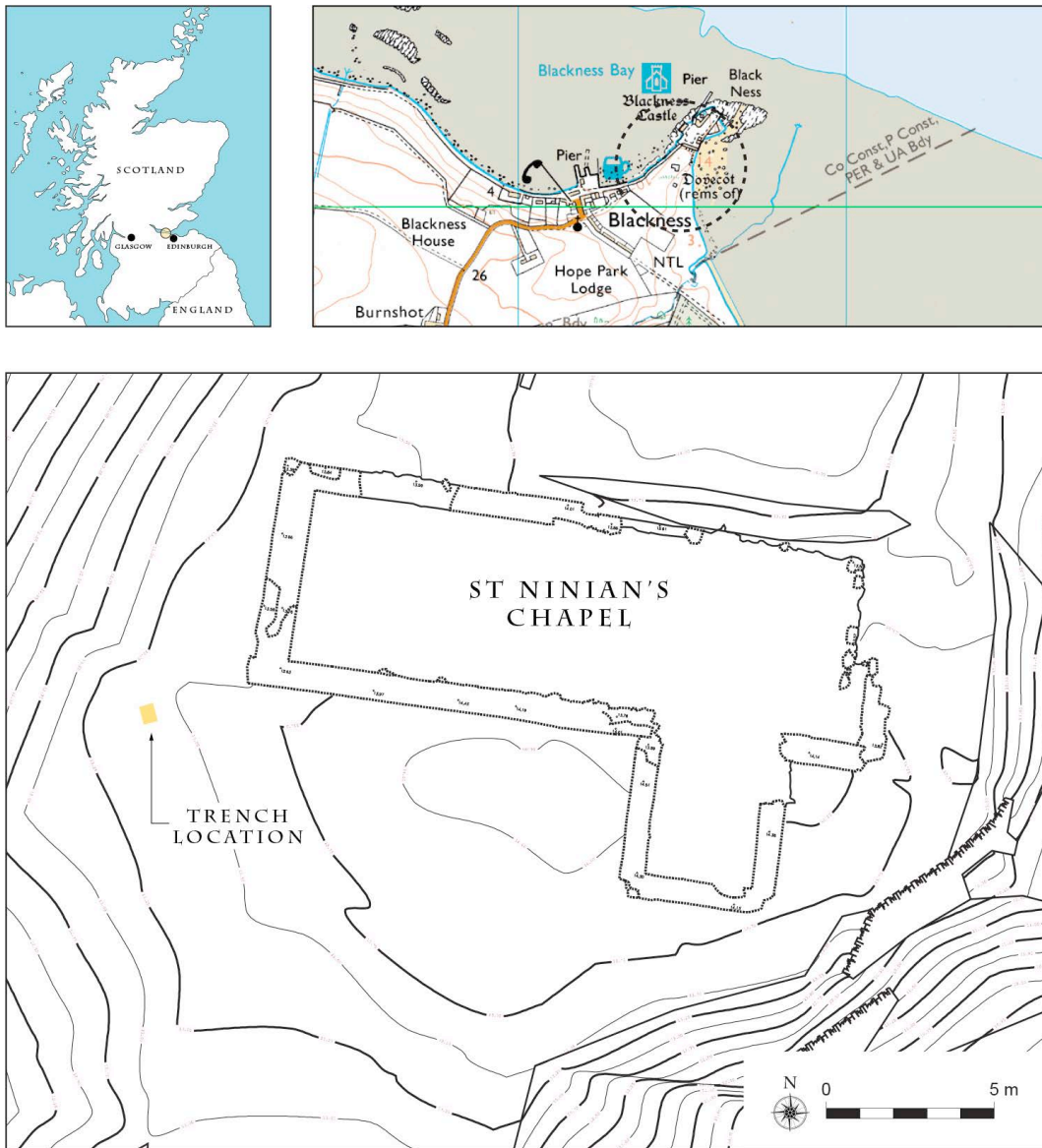


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of St Ninian's Chapel and the area of works.
Inset No. 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2013. Licence number 100036933.

The work was carried out by hand, and took place on 12th June 2013.

DESCRIPTION

The trench measured 0.6m NW/SE x 0.45m SW/NE x 0.3m deep, and was located just off the summit of Castle Hill, in an area of longer grass (Fig.2). The position was picked so as to minimise the possibility of encountering *in situ* burials. It would also allow the marches stone to be viewed from the gathering point within the chapel. A 9cm deep turf **101** covered an 11cm deep layer of moderately compact mid-brown silty topsoil (**102**) flecked with charcoal and containing occasional small sub-angular stones (<7cm). There were numerous rootlets throughout. A further layer **103** of more compact light-brown silt, some 10cm thick lay below, flecked with more charcoal. At the required trench depth, this was clearing onto a layer of creamy white mortar **104** with occasional small sub-angular stones (<7cm). No finds were recovered from any of the horizons and further investigation of **104** was not pursued.



Plate 1: Post-excitation shot of the trench

CONCLUSIONS

Although nothing of archaeological interest was recovered during the excavation, this is clearly an important site and one of high archaeological potential. Any further ground-breaking works should therefore be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

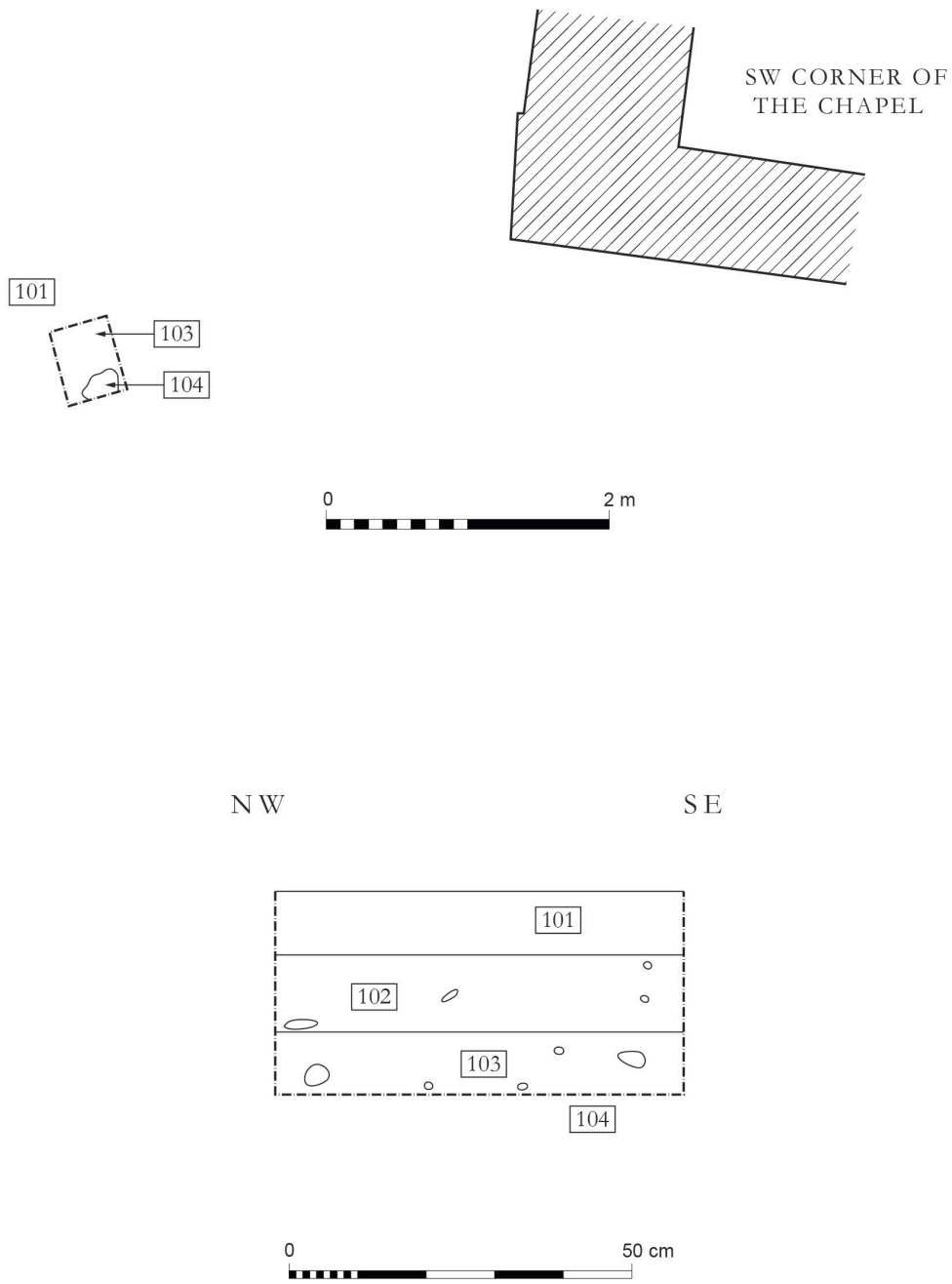


Figure 2: Post-excavation plan (top) and SW-facing section

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Description
100	Turf
101	Moderately compact mid-brown silty topsoil flecked with charcoal and containing occasional small sub-angular stones
102	Compact light-brown silt flecked with charcoal
104	Layer of creamy white mortar with occasional small sub-angular stones

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	Pre-excavation shot	SE	12/06/2013
2	Pre-excavation shot	SE	12/06/2013
3	St Ninian's Chapel	SW	12/06/2013
4	St Ninian's Chapel looking to Blackness Castle	SW	12/06/2013
5	St Ninian's Chapel looking to Blackness Village	E	12/06/2013
6	Post-excavation shot	NW	12/06/2013
7	Post-excavation shot	SE	12/06/2013
8	Post-excavation shot	SW	12/06/2013
9	General working shot	SE	12/06/2013
10	Looking up Castle Hill to the area of the trench	E	12/06/2013