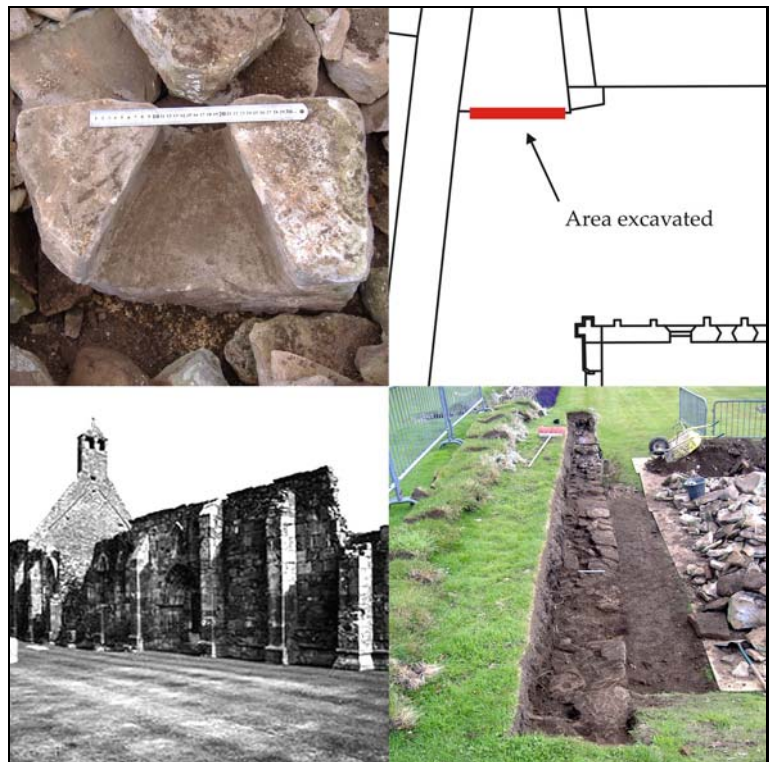


Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008

Crossraguel Abbey: Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations, July 2008

HS PIC Index number: 90087
Project code: HSCO-90087-2008-01



22 September 2008
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Crossraguel Abbey
<u>N.G.R</u>	NS 2749 0836
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90087-2008-01

Contents

Summary	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Excavation Account	1
3.0 Interpretation and observations	2
A1.0 Appendix 1: List of contexts	5
A2.0 Appendix 2: List of drawings	5
A3.0 Appendix 3: List of photographs	5

SUMMARY

A watching brief was maintained during the dismantling of a stone wall in the grounds of Crossraguel Abbey. This revetting wall to the northwest of the Abbey appeared to be of relatively recent construction, possibly 20th-century in date, and contained architectural fragments which looked likely to have been reclaimed from collapsed Abbey structures. No finds or features of archaeological significance were seen.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a watching brief and to record a revetting wall forming the S edge of a raised grassed area to the NW of the Abbey. This wall was being dismantled.

The work was undertaken on 22 July 2008.

2.0 EXCAVATION ACCOUNT

The area recorded measured 7.30 m E-W, 750 mm in width and up to 1.30 m deep.

There were three deposits seen behind (N of) the dismantled wall and the uppermost of these, **001**, was turf and topsoil that measured up to 180 mm in depth.

001 sealed **002**, a deposit of heavily rooted light brown sand with occasional small stones. **002** measured 400 mm in depth and sealed a deposit of grey brown sandy clay, **003**. Although up to 750 mm in depth of **003** was seen, the base of the deposit was not reached.

The wall, **004**, was formed with rectangular grey and red sandstone blocks that were roughly coursed. There was no bonding material noted in the area of **004** that was recorded.

The base of the wall was formed in two parts, **005** at the S edge with **006** infilling behind these stone blocks.

005 comprised large sandstone blocks, up to 600 mm by 300 mm that had a straight and even outer (S) face. It was noted that in the central part of the trench the S face of the blocks had slipped S by up to 150 mm.

To the N of **005** there was an area, averaging 500 mm N-S, of smaller sub-rectangular stones, **006**. The stones at **006** measured 150 mm by 100 mm on average.

Roughly half way along the trench there was an area, c 1.70 m E-W and across the trench N-S, of flat slabs, **007**, measuring 200 mm by 150 mm on average.

There were two architectural fragments found within the wall structure, **008** remains *in situ* and **009** had been removed by HS personnel, who provided the rough location of where it had lain.

008 was an "L"-shaped sandstone block that measured 550 mm E-W, 200 mm N-S and 250 mm in height. There was a 50 mm wide margin parallel to the S baulk that stood the full height of the stone that dropped at right angles to the base which was also 50 mm thick. The whole stone was therefore a 50mm thick "L".

Recovered from the spoil heap but thought to have lain N-S across the full width of the wall in roughly the same area as **008**, **009** measured up to 520 mm by 300 mm and 300 mm thick, although one corner had been broken off. There was a channel, triangular in shape, cut into the upper face of **009**. The channel cut into the central 100 mm of the stone at one end and widened to 300 mm at the other face. At the narrow end the channel was 120mm deep and has straight sides and a curved base while at the other end it was 160 mm deep, with straight sides and a flat base.

009 was retained and taken to the "stone store" within the castle.

Seen in patches between **007** and sealed by that deposit, **010** was light brown clay with abundant coal flecks.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Phase 1

Sealed by **007**, deposit **010** pre-dates the construction of the revetting wall and shows activity in this area prior to that construction. Unfortunately there was little of this deposit seen and no artifacts recovered from it.

3.2 Phase 2

004 the upstanding face of the wall was a dry-stone construction and it could be seen

at the base that it was formed with facing stones at the S face (005) and smaller infill to the N (006).

Central within the trench there was an area of flat slabs, 007. In this area 005 and 006 had been completely removed and it seems likely that 007 were laid to form a flat base for the construction of the wall above.

Deposits 002 and 003 are against the S side of stones 006 and as there seemed to be no formal S edge to the stones, and little chance of them being free standing, then these deposits must have been *in situ* with the wall then constructed against them.

The bank formed with 002 and 003 measures 1.10 m in height and forms the S edge of a raised grass area along the N side of the Abbey grounds.

It seems unlikely that either the wall or bank would have stood alone; the likelihood is they are part of the same phase creating a raised area.

3.3 Reused Architectural Fragments

Both stones 008 and 009 were clearly reused in the wall and, as it seems unlikely that parts of the Abbey were being robbed when this wall was constructed to formalize part of the gardens, this is a later reuse or the stones recovered from an area of collapse.

Fragment 008 looked likely to have fitted against another stone, perhaps as half of a drain section or part of a trough. 008 has been left *in situ* so only one side of the stone was seen.

The channel in 009 is clearly for drainage, perhaps taking water from a wall head with the narrow part of the stone at the wall face.

3.4 Phase 3

Artifacts seen in 001 included a piece of modern fence wire and a tin can, and this material was either deposited late in the 20th century or had been disturbed at that time.

3.5 Summary

The majority of the features investigated relate to the construction of a revetting wall

forming the S edge of a raised grassed area the exception being the phase 1 and 3 deposits, **010** and **001** respectively. The only dating evidence was late 20th-century material from the phase 3 deposit **001**. The date of construction of the phase 2 wall is most likely 20th-century, but could be confirmed by the examination of records kept by HS.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
001	Turf and Topsoil.
002	Light brown silty sand with occasional small stones, under 001.
003	Grey brown sandy clay, sealed by 002.
004	Upstanding S face of wall.
005	Facing slabs, base of the S face.
006	Stone infill N of 005.
007	Area of flat slabs, under 005 and 006.
008	Architectural fragment, in situ within 005/006.
009	Architectural fragment, recovered from stone heap.
010	Light brown clay and coal flecks, under 007.

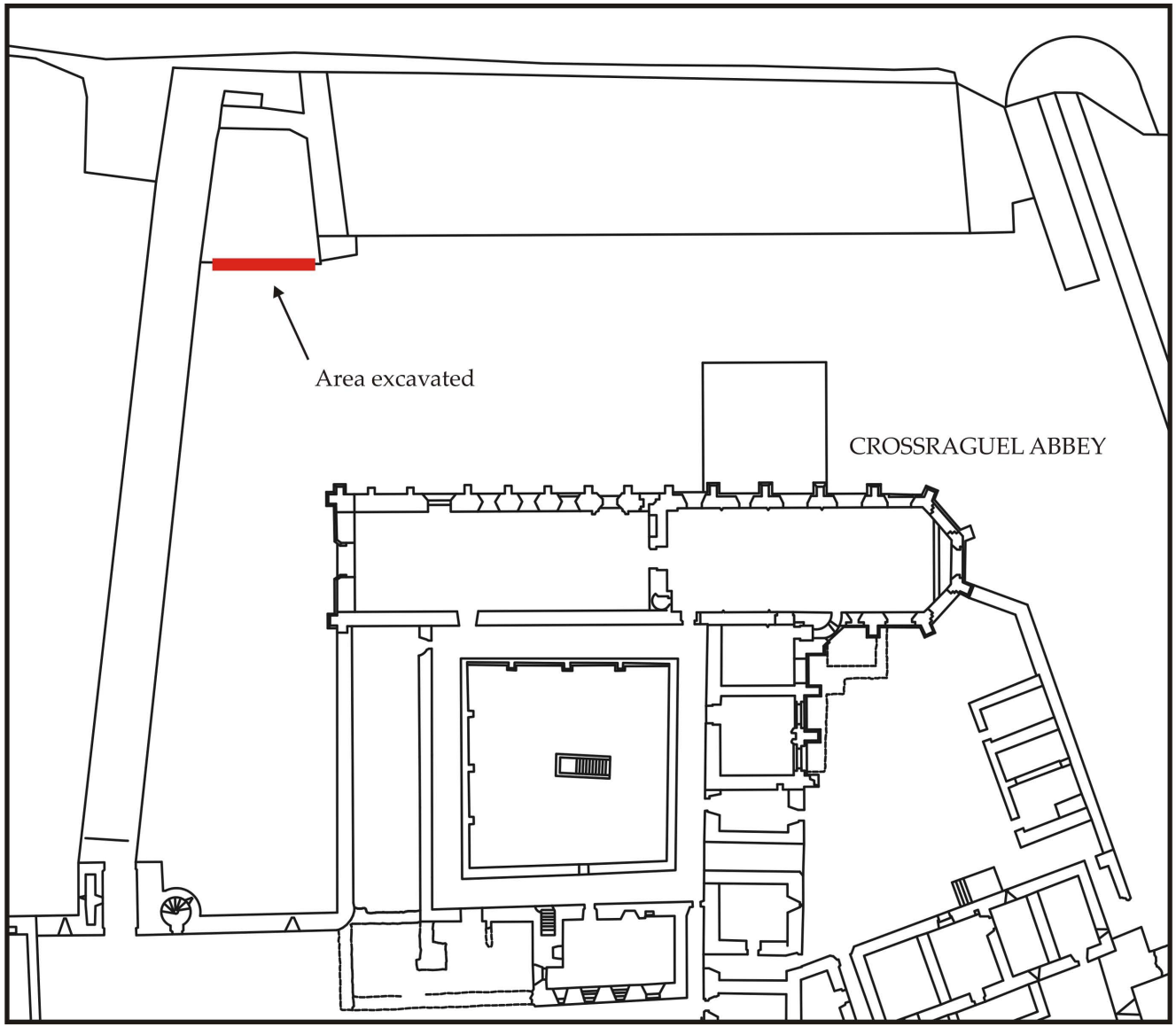
A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No	Type	Description	Scale	Date
001	Plan	Plan of the upper face of 009.	1:10	22/07/08
002	Elevation	Elevation of the edge of 009.	1:10	22/07/08
003	Elevation	Elevation of the N edge of 008.	1:10	22/07/08
004	Plan	Plan of the trench at the limit of excavation.	1:20	22/07/08
005	Elevation	W end of the S elevation.	1:20	22/07/08

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	From	Date
1	Plan view of architectural fragment 009.	----	22/07/08
2	Plan view of architectural fragment 009.	----	22/07/08
3	E end of the trench post excavation.	E	22/07/08
4	E end of the trench post excavation.	E	22/07/08
5	E end of the trench post excavation.	E	22/07/08
6	Plan view of architectural fragment 008.	W	22/07/08
7	Elevation view of architectural fragment 008.	W	22/07/08

#	Description	From	Date
8	The whole trench post excavation.	W	22/07/08
9	The whole trench post excavation.	W	22/07/08
10	The whole trench post excavation.	W	22/07/08
11	Detail of deposit 010.	S	22/07/08



Area excavated

CROSSRAGUEL ABBEY

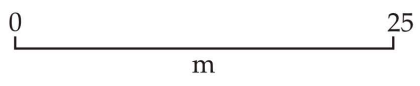


Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of works