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Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract Stirling Castle, Stirling (PIC111)

Queen Anne Casemates Drainage
Improvements, Watching Brief, November 2020
Report No. HES-PIC111-2020-02

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Quality Procedures.

Minor Archaeological Services Call-Off Contract

Stirling Castle, Stirling (PIC111)

**Queen Anne Casemates Drainage Improvements,
Watching Brief, November 2020**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during November 2020 for a programme of work at Stirling Castle (NGR: NS 7903 9398), a Property in Care (PIC111) in the ownership of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Archaeological monitoring was required during the excavation of three trial pits above the Queen Anne Casemates, Stirling Castle, to investigate the make-up and depth of existing ground to inform drainage improvements works (Fig. 1). Work was undertaken under the terms of the Minor Archaeological Services Call-off Contract.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), dated 03 October 2019, was produced by CFA Archaeology Ltd on behalf of HES.

1.2 Background

Stirling Castle is a strongly fortified medieval and later royal castle occupying a volcanic outcrop which commands the upper Forth valley. Within the castle are three main enclosures: the outer defences (on the main line of approach); the main enclosure (at the summit of the rock) bounded in the south by the Forework and encircled by a defensive wall; and to the north of it is the Nether Bailey. The principal buildings for royal occupation form a square known as the Inner Close and are enclosed by the King's Old Building, the Great Hall, the Chapel Royal and the Palace. Access to the mainly 19th-century army buildings within the Nether Bailey is through the 14th-century North Gate.

The recent excavations at Stirling Castle have provided evidence of the medieval development of the castle. Excavations within the Great Hall, medieval kitchens, Chapel Royal, under the Inner Close, in the Lion's Den and on the Lady's Lookout have all demonstrated the richness of the archaeological deposits at Stirling, confirming the complex layering of medieval buildings on the site.

1.3 Objectives

The project's aims and objectives were:

- To conduct a watching brief during the excavation of three trial pits.
- To mitigate the effects of construction on any archaeological deposits or features identified through their excavation and recording and produce a report on them.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

All work was compliant with the requirements of Historic Environment Scotland and undertaken under the terms of the Minor Archaeological Services Call-off Contract. CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance as necessary.

2.2 Watching Brief

A watching brief was undertaken during all ground breaking works required for the excavation of three trial pits, each measuring up to 1.0m x 1.0m to a depth of either approximately 0.60m or a depth sufficient to allow investigation of the existing ground make-up and the arrangement of the existing drainage. Excavation was carried out by hand under constant archaeological supervision.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms. The stratification of all excavated areas was fully recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

The three trial pits were situated along the known line of existing drainage, against the parapet wall of the Battery overlooking the Queen Anne Casemates. Trial Pits 1 and 2 were located on the grass verge to the SW of the Battery, while Trial Pit 3 was excavated through the cobbled surface of the NE end of the Battery.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Numbers in bold and parentheses are context numbers, a full list of which can be found in Appendix 1.

Excavations of Trial Pits 1 and 2 encountered modern concrete and bitumen tanking (**005**) at a depth of 0.60m, forming a base that sloped to a moulded gutter against the parapet wall (Fig. 2). Both trial pits measured 1.0m by 1.0m and the deposits comprised 0.12m of topsoil (**001**) overlying 0.48m of dark blackish-grey sandy silt (**002**) with bitumen rubble inclusions (Fig. 3). This lay atop clean gravel (**003**) sealed by terram sheeting, which contained the modern perforated pipe (**004**) as indicated in Fig 1. The base of the pipe rested in the gutter formed by the tanking (**005**), at a maximum depth of 0.72m in Trial Pit 2 situated centrally along the Battery.

In Trial Pit 3, the surface deposit consisted of the modern cobbled surface which was 0.13m deep, immediately atop 0.37m of terram-sealed gravel (**003**) and the modern pipe (**004**). The bitumen tanking lay at a depth of 0.50m where excavations ceased (Fig. 4).

No archaeologically significant deposits or features were impacted upon.

4. CONCLUSIONS

An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of three trial pits above the Queen Anne Casemates, Stirling Castle, Stirling to investigate the make-up and depth of existing ground to inform drainage improvements works. Excavations reached a maximum depth of 0.72m, encountering a modern level of concrete and bitumen tanking at this depth, which was not removed. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed or disturbed.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment of Scotland and copies of reports will be lodged with Historic Environment Scotland and Stirling Sites and Monuments Record.

On completion of this project, a summary statement will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and will also be reported on through *OASIS Scotland*.

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Type	Description
001		Topsoil	Cobbles/turf and topsoil; dark brown grey sandy silt
002		Fill	Modern backfill; dark blackish-grey sandy silt with bitumen and rubble inclusions
003		Fill	Clean gravel infill surrounding drainage pipe, sealed by terram sheet
004		Service	Modern perforated 100mm-diameter drainage pipe
005		Deposit	Concrete and bitumen tanking beneath modern pipe

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

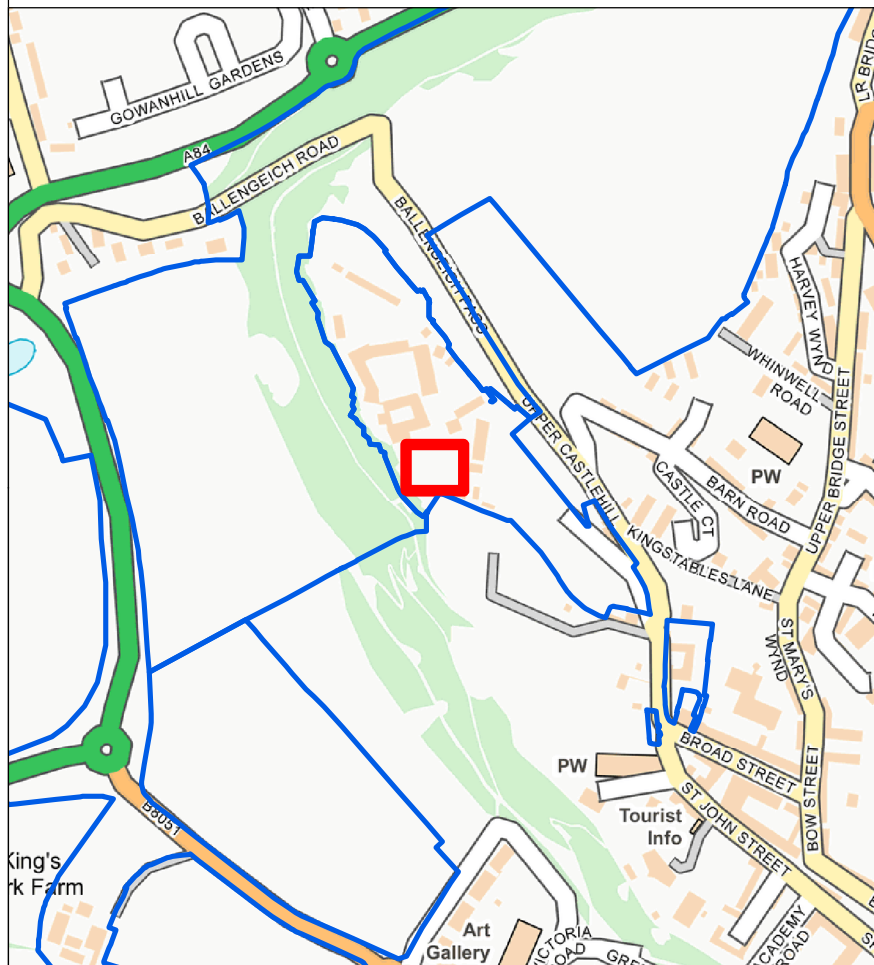
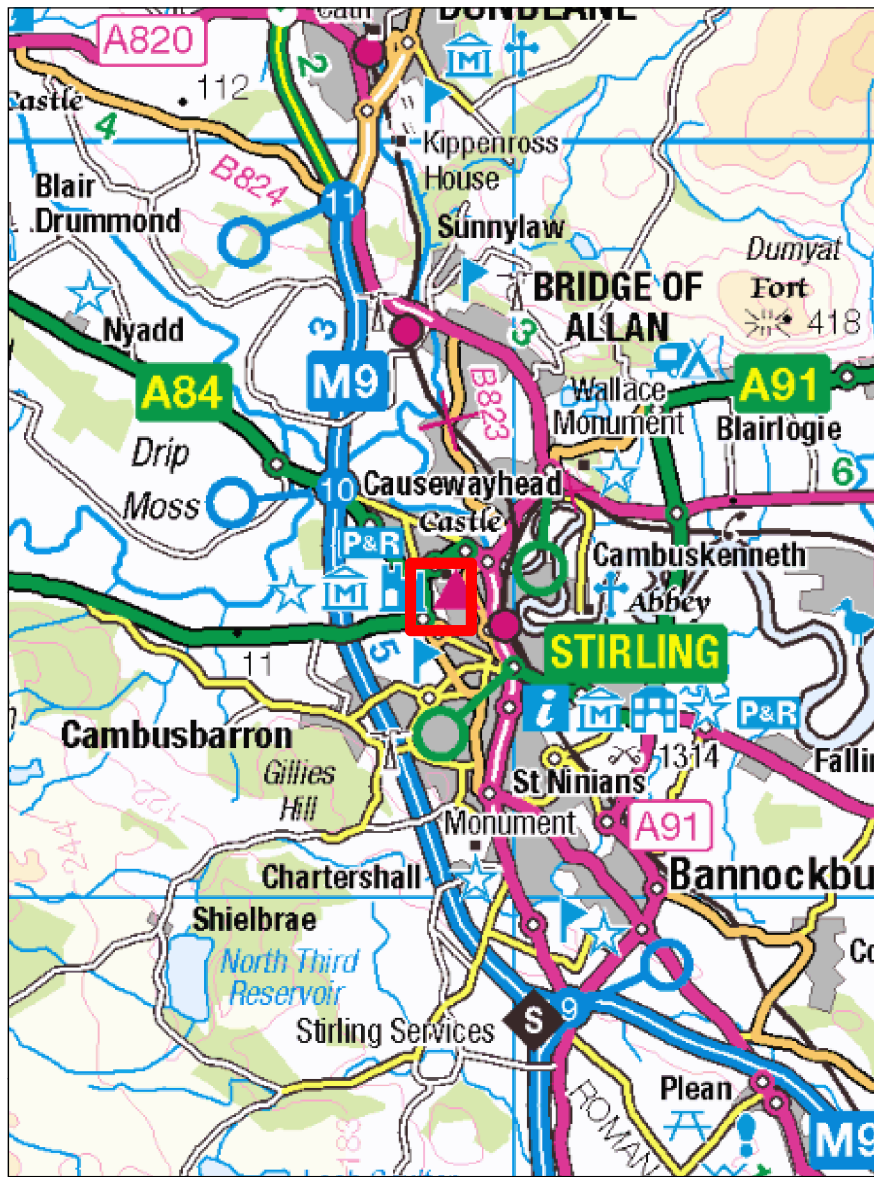
Shot No.	Summary description of subject	Facing
001	Pre-ex shot of TP2, turf removed	NE
002	General location shot TP2	N
003	General location shot TP1	W
004	Pre-ex shot of TP1, turf removed	SW
005	NE-facing section of TP2 at 600mm depth	SW
006	Post-ex shot of TP2	NW
007	NE-facing section of TP1 at 600mm depth	SW
008	Post-ex plan of TP1	NW
009	Pre-ex shot of TP3, cobbles removed	NW
010	General location shot TP3	W
011	Post-ex shot of TP3	NW
012	SW-facing section of TP3 at 500mm depth (level of tanking)	NE

APPENDIX 3: Trial Pit Summary

TP No.	Size	Depth	Description
1	1m x 1m	0.6m	Located toward the eastern end of grass verge on Battery, against parapet wall. 0.12m topsoil (001) overlies up to 0.4m dark black-grey silt and rubble (002) atop terram-sealed gravel (003) and modern pipe (004). Concrete and bitumen tanking forms base (005), moulded to the wall.
2	1m x 1m	0.72m	Located centrally on grass along Battery, against parapet wall. 0.12m topsoil (001) overlies 0.4m dark black-grey silt and rubble (002) atop 0.44m terram-sealed gravel (003) and modern pipe (004). Concrete and bitumen tanking forms base (005), moulded to the wall.
3	0.70m x 0.85m	0.6m	Located c. 2.95m SW of existing manhole at NE of Battery, against parapet wall. Orientated NW-SE. Cobbles (001) lie for 0.13m over terram-sealed gravel (003) for 0.47m, containing modern solid pipe (004). Bitumen tanking forms base (005) moulded to the wall. Solid pipe links to perforated at next drain access to SW.

APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Stirling
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Stirling Castle: Queen Anne Casemates Drainage Improvements
PROJECT CODE:	MINA106
PARISH:	Stirling
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Oliver Rusk
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	SM90291
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 7903 9398
START DATE (this season)	November 2020
END DATE (this season)	November 2020
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was conducted during the excavation of three trial pits above the Queen Anne Casemates, Stirling Castle, Stirling to investigate the make-up and depth of existing ground to inform drainage improvements works. Excavations reached a maximum depth of 0.72m, encountering a modern level of concrete and bitumen tanking at this depth. No significant archaeological features or deposits were observed or disturbed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Environment Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited with NHRE, Reports lodged with local SMR.



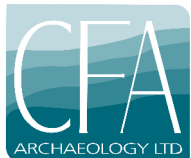
Key:

- PIC 111 Boundary
- Trial Pit

0 10m

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Title:
Location map and plan of works

Project:
**Stirling Castle,
Queen Anne Casemates
Drainage Improvements**

Client:
Historic Environment Scotland

Scale at A3:
1:150

Drawn by: CA	Checked by: SW	Date: 19/11/2020
Report No: 3995	Fig. No: 1	



Fig. 2: Post-ex plan view of Trial Pit 1, facing NW



Fig. 3: NE-facing section of Trial Pit 2

Project:
Stirling Castle, Queen Anne Casemates Drainage Improvements



Client:
Historic Environment Scotland

Drawn by: CA	Checked: SW	Date: 19/11/20
Report No: 3995		Fig. No: 2 - 3



Fig. 4: SW-facing section of Trial Pit 3

Project:
Stirling Castle, Queen Anne Casemates Drainage Improvements



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Report No: 3995		Fig. No: 4



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