

HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2012

Ruthven Barracks • Watching Brief • December 2012

HS PIC Index Number: 90255

SITE: Ruthven Barracks, Kingussie

N.G.R.: Centred c. NN 7645 9976

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during the excavation of trenches related to the installation of a permanent survey markers

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-90255-2012-01

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JANUARY 2013

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its Properties-In-Care (PIC) call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Ruthven Barracks, Kingussie during the excavation of eight small trenches to house permanent survey markers. In the event, only six markers were installed (two inside the barracks were abandoned), and all of the survey markers were located close to the external walls of Ruthven Barracks (Fig.1).

The work was carried out manually by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and the work took place on 19th December 2012.

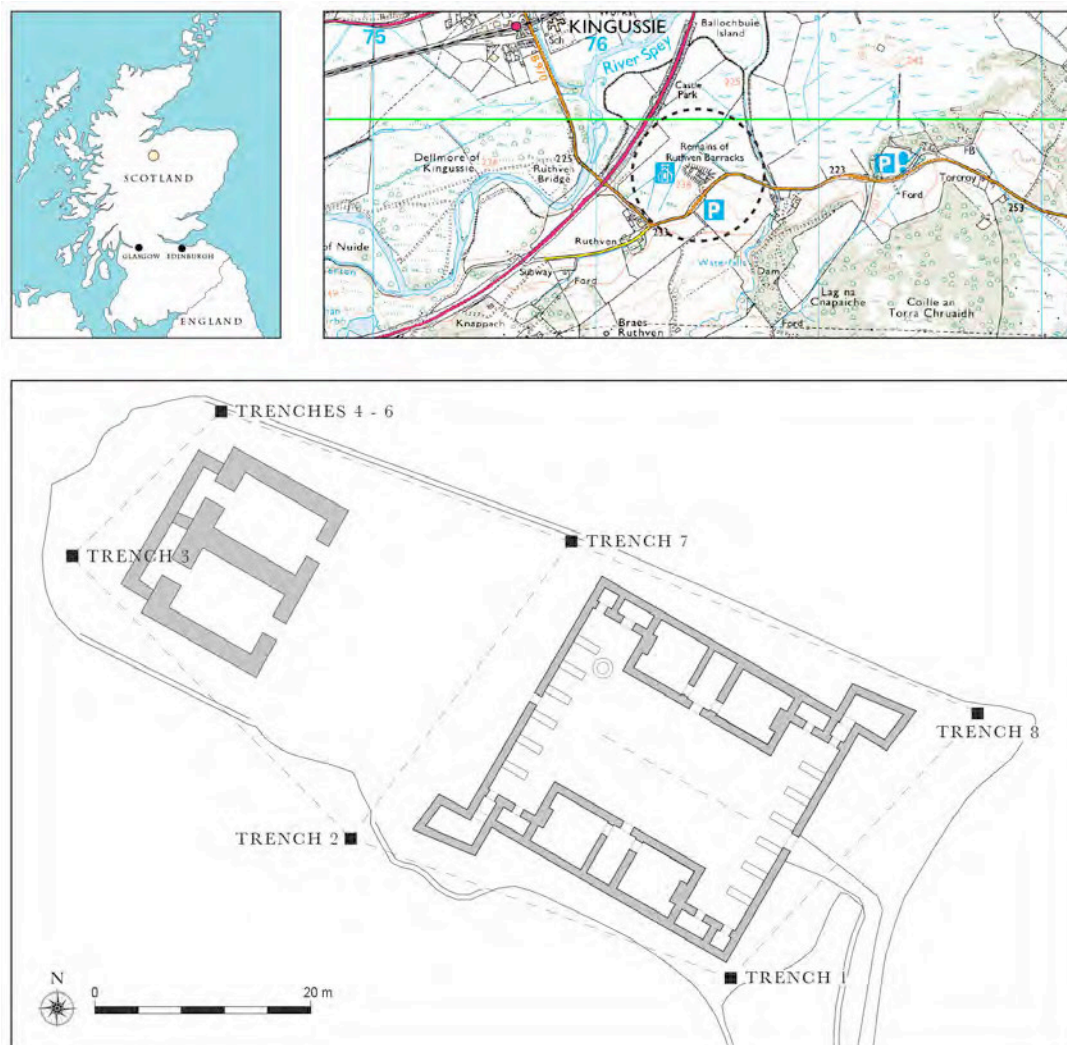


Figure 1: Plan showing the location of Ruthven Barracks, and the survey markers. Inset No. 2 © Crown copyright. All rights reserved 2012. Licence number 100036933.

DESCRIPTION

Trench 1 (PSM-Marker 1) measured 250mm x 280mm x 210mm deep and was dug through a silty black topsoil (**101**) containing some rounded small stones.

Trench 2 (PSM-Marker 2) measured 270mm x 250mm x 200mm deep and was dug through a silty black topsoil (**201**) intermingled with small stones.

Trench 3 (PSM-Marker 3) measured 290mm x 280mm x 150mm deep and was dug through a silty black topsoil (**301**) that contained remnants of a wire mesh (**302**).

Trench 4 measured 290mm x 290mm x 120mm deep and was again dug through the silty black topsoil (**401**) observed elsewhere, which contained stone fragments throughout. At a depth of 120mm below ground level resistance was met, and it was thus decided not to continue digging, but to find an alternative location. Trench 4 was backfilled.

Trench 5 (PSM-Marker 4) was located 3m to the SE of the abandoned Trench 4. It measured 320mm x 300mm x 230mm deep. The black topsoil (**501**) contained plant roots and small pebbles throughout. Again, during excavation, the possibility arose of disturbing buried archaeological horizons, which led to the decision not to continue excavation. Trench 5 was backfilled.

Trench 6 (PSM-Marker 4) measured 290mm x 300mm x 120mm deep, and was dug through a silty black topsoil (**601**).

Trench 7 (PSM-Marker 5) measured 290mm x 300mm x 120mm deep, and was dug through a silty black topsoil (**701**) containing rounded small stones.

Trench 8 (PSM-Marker 6) measured 290mm x 290mm x 190mm deep and was dug through a silty black topsoil (**801**) intermingled with a small number of rocks.

CONCLUSIONS

Nothing of archaeological interest was uncovered during the monitoring process, and where potential archaeological horizons were approached, the relevant survey markers were relocated. The possibility of buried external structures, however, suggests that any further ground-breaking work should be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trench 1

No.	Trench	Description
101	Trench 1	Black silty topsoil intermingled with small stones
201	Trench 2	Black silty topsoil intermingled with small stones
301	Trench 3	Black silty topsoil
302	Trench 3	Wire mesh
401	Trench 4	Black silty topsoil
501	Trench 5	Black silty topsoil intermingled with small stones
601	Trench 6	Black silty topsoil intermingled with small stones
701	Trench 7	Black silty topsoil intermingled with small stones
801	Trench 8	Black silty topsoil

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Topsoil 101 in Trench 1	NE	19/12/2012
02	Trench 1 and PSM-Marker	NE	19/12/2012
03	Topsoil 201 in Trench 2	NE	19/12/2012
04	Trench 2 and PSM-Marker	NE	19/12/2012
05	Trench 3 and wire mesh 302	E	19/12/2012
06	Trench 3, Topsoil 301 and PSM-Marker	E	19/12/2012
07	Trench 4	W	19/12/2012
08	Trench 5 and topsoil 501	W	19/12/2012
09	Trench 6, PSM-Marker and topsoil 601	W	19/12/2012
10	Trench 7, PSM-Marker and topsoil 701	S	19/12/2012
11	Trench 7 and PSM-Marker	S	19/12/2012
12	Trench 8, topsoil 801 and PSM-Marker	W	19/12/2012
13	Topsoil 801 in Trench 8	W	19/12/2012

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Highland
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Ruthven Barracks
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90255-2012-01
PARISH:	Kingussie and Insh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Thorsten Hanke
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NN79NE 1
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Barracks
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Centred c. NN 7645 9976
START DATE (this season)	19 December 2012
END DATE (this season)	19 December 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of small holes to allow the installation of permanent survey markers around the exterior of the Barracks. The interventions did not exceed 200mm in depth and nothing of archaeological significance was noted.
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