

Myrton Castle

Monreith, by Port William, Wigtownshire

Archaeological Evaluation : August 2015

for

Prof and Mrs Mark Watson-Gandy

September 2015



Myrton Castle tower



Addyman Archaeology
Building Historians & Archaeologists
A division of Simpson & Brown Architects

Addyman Archaeology



Myrton Castle

Monreith, by Port William, Wigtownshire

Archaeological Evaluation : August 2015

Job number AA 2037.00

September 2015

by Elizabeth Jones, Kenneth Macfadyen, Rachel McMullan, Andrew Morrison & Tom Addyman

Contents

Illustrations

Executive Summary

1.	Introduction	2
i.	General	2
ii.	Setting	2
iii.	Methodology	2
iv.	Historic Summary	5
2.	Archaeological Evaluation	5
i.	Trench 1	5
a.	General	5
b.	Original Tower phase: 15 th century	5
c.	Later range: 17 th -18 th century	6
d.	Dismantling : end of the 18 th century	7
e.	Discussion	10
ii.	Trench 2	10
a.	General	10
b.	Motte mound	11
c.	Early tower : c.1500	11
d.	Later range : 17 th century	12
e.	Later interventions : later 18 th century	14
f.	Dismantling : end of the 18 th century	14
g.	Landscaping	15
h.	Demolition	16
i.	Discussion	16
iii.	Trench 3	17
a.	General	17
b.	Excavation	17
c.	Discussion	20
iv.	Trench 4	21
a.	General	21
b.	Excavation	21
c.	Discussion	22
v.	Trench 5	23
a.	General	23

	b.	Excavation	24
	c.	Discussion	26
vi.		Trench 6	26
	a.	General	26
	b.	Excavation	26
	c.	Discussion	28
vii.		Artefacts	28
3.		Overview	33
	i.	General	33
	ii.	Motte mound (trenches 1-6)	33
	iii.	Exterior footings of tower to east, south and west (trenches 3, 4 and 5)	33
	iv.	Interior footings of tower (trench 6)	33
	v.	North wall of tower – medieval period (trenches 1 and 2)	33
	vi.	North wall of tower – early 17 th century (trenches 1 and 2)	33
	vii.	17 th century range to north (trenches 1 and 2)	34
	viii.	18 th century modifications (trenches 1 and 2)	34
	ix.	Domestic occupation - finds (mainly trenches 1, 2 and 3)	34
	x.	Dismantling at the end of the 18 th century (trenches 1 and 2)	34
	xi.	Doocot - c.1800 - early 19th century (trench 6)	35
4.		Discussion and recommendations	38
		References	38
Appendix A		Written Scheme of Investigation	39
Appendix B		Context Register	44
Appendix C		Drawing Register	46
Appendix D		Finds Register	47
Appendix E		Sample Register	50
Appendix F		Photographic Register	51
Appendix G		Photographic Thumbnails	56
Appendix H		Discovery and Excavation Scotland (DES) Entry	63

Illustrations

List of Figures

Figure 1 Site Plan	3
Figure 2 Trench location plan	4
Figure 3 West elevation of Wall [104] Trench 1	6
Figure 4 Sill stone of window within wall [104]	7
Figure 5 South facing section of Trench 1	9
Figure 6 East facing section of Trench 1	9
Figure 7 plan of trench 2	13
Figure 8 east facing section of trench 2	14
Figure 9 west facing section of trench 2	17
Figure 10 Trench 3 plan and sections	18
Figure 11 Trench 4 plan and sections	22
Figure 12 Trench 5 plan and sections	24
Figure 13 Trench 6 plan, section and elevations	27
Figure 14 Plan of the tower showing excavated remains, phasing, etc	35
Figure 15 West-facing section of the tower incorporating the findings of the 2015 evaluation	36
Figure 16 South-facing section of the tower incorporating the findings of the 2015 evaluation	36
Figure 17 East elevation of the castle ruin showing the relationship of the tower to the northern range	36
Figure 18 General phased plan of the castle ruin incorporating the findings of the 2015 evaluation	37

List of Plates

Plate 1 Pre-excavation of Trench 1, looking southeast	5
Plate 2 West (interior) face of wall [104], joined to wall [108] by slate pinnings; wall plaster relating to the later press can be seen behind the vertical scale	6
Plate 3 Wall [104] showing infilled window and chamfered stone (at bottom of photo)	7
Plate 4 Plaster deposit [107] in Trench 1, confined to N of tower wall [108], looking east	8
Plate 5 Deposit [105] in Trench 1, in north-west corner, looking north-east	9
Plate 6 Pre-excavation of northern half of Trench 2, looking north	11
Plate 7 The projecting stub of wall [208] as initially revealed; the distorted section of walling at top right [211] lies on the line of the north exterior wall face of the early tower; looking northwest	12
Plate 8 Window recess [213] with internal partition wall [211] to right, looking east	13
Plate 9 collapsed plaster ceiling [204]	15
Plate 10 clay capping [207] enhancing ruined castle walls (50 cm scale)	16
Plate 11 Pre-excavation view of Trench 3, showing its relation to the castle's eastern face, looking southwest	18
Plate 12 Trench 3 showing post hole [313] pre-excavation between scale and section; looking south-west	19
Plate 13 Trench 3 post-ex, looking north; showing tower foundations [305] (on left) and drain [308]	19
Plate 14 Trench 3 showing motte surface and west-facing drain section; looking east	20
Plate 15 The south side of the tower exterior, as cleared before excavation, looking east	21
Plate 16 East section of Trench 4 at limit of excavation, looking east	22
Plate 17 Post-excavation view of Trench 4 (2015) looking north	23
Plate 18 Pre-excavation of Trench 5, looking south (032)	23
Plate 19 Post-excavation south section of Trench 5, showing cut [506] and fill (507)	25
Plate 20 Post-excavation of Trench 5, looking east	25
Plate 21 Pre-excavation of Trench 6, looking west (010)	26
Plate 22 Post-excavation view of Trench 6 with (602) in the SE corner and the motte top (604) across the bottom of the trench, looking north (014)	27
Plate 23 The range of ceramics recovered from the excavations, all of mid- and later-18 th century in date	29
Plate 24 Selection of bottle glass, mostly later 18 th century	30
Plate 25 Selection of window glass	30

Plate 26	Thimble (SF040) and Dutch coin (SF059)	31
Plate 27	Selection of plaster from trenches 1 and 2 including run cornice sections of classical profile	32

List of Tables

Table 1	Artefact Quantity by Type	29
---------	---------------------------	----

Myrton Castle

Monreith, by Port William, Wigtownshire

Executive Summary

Addyman Archaeology undertook an evaluation at Myrton Castle, Wigtownshire in August 2015. The Castle remains comprise a 15th century tower on top of an earlier motte, possibly 12th century in date, with a later range of 17th century date extending to the north. The tower was latterly converted to use as a doocot. The investigation was intended to address architectural, engineering and archaeological issues relating to the understanding of the structure and the viability of a proposed scheme for reuse of the tower house. The evaluation followed an analytical assessment and historic building survey carried out at the site in 2013.

The evaluation comprised six trenches in the immediate vicinity of and within the tower ruin, each sited to address specific structural questions. Excavations revealed that the upper parts of the earlier motte mound comprised a hard dense clayey matrix. The base of the tower wall on the inside had been excavated nearly 1m deeper than the exterior footings. There was no indication of structural instability within the surviving walling or indication of poor ground conditions on its north side. The gun-loops in the east, south and west walls of the tower were situated immediately above the surface of the motte, above a projecting footing course. A clay-cut drain with stone capping was found in Trench 3 on the east side of the tower.

The position of the original north tower wall was located in Trenches 1 and 2, although almost nothing of the wall survived. A possible stone turnpike stair was located in the north-west angle of the tower, possibly accessed by an external entrance at the north end of the west wall. The north wall of the tower seems to have been deliberately dismantled prior to the addition of the later range in the 17th century. An internal cross wall was built in the 17th century range along the line of the original north wall. This wall was later removed, probably in the late 18th century, when other repairs and alterations to the range were evident. The doocot was added in the early 19th century. Finds from the excavations comprised 17th and 18th century ceramics and a 17th-century Dutch coin, with few finds post-dating 1800.

It is proposed to extend Trench 2 to the north to further investigate the arrangement of chambers within the 17th century range as the range stepped down to the north, down the side of the motte mound and to confirm the precise location of the north-west angle of the tower and to confirm or disprove the presence of an original entrance at that point.

Myrton Castle, Archaeological Evaluation, August 2015

1. Introduction

i. General

Addyman Archaeology was commissioned through Philip Mercer, Architect, on behalf of Professor and Mrs Mark Watson-Gandy to undertake an evaluation at Myrton Castle, by Port William, Wigtownshire in August 2015 (NGR: NX 36016 43275; see *figure 1*). The Castle comprises a 15th/16th century tower on top of an earlier motte, possibly 12th century in date, with a later range extending to the north. The remains of the tower had subsequently been converted to use as a doocot. The investigation was intended to address architectural, engineering and archaeological issues relating to the understanding of the structure and the viability of a proposed scheme for reuse of the tower house. The evaluation followed an analytical assessment and historic building survey carried out at the site in 2013 (Addyman & Oram 2014), and continuing discussions with Historic Scotland, contact John Malcolm, Senior Heritage Management Officer, West of Scotland. Engineering issues had been discussed with Charles Blackett-Ord and Emma Cochrane of Blackett Ord Conservation Engineering, in particular at a site meeting on 22 July 2015 at which Tom Addyman was in attendance.

The evaluation took place from 3rd – 7th August 2015 and was conducted by Elizabeth Jones, Kenneth Macfadyen, Andrew Morrison and Rachel McMullan. Tom Addyman and Emma Cochrane reviewed the findings on site on 6 August 2015.

A record of the building recording (OASIS ID: *addymana1-222458*) has been deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service and with *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

ii. Setting

Myrton Castle is located within the Monreith estate policies, in the parish of Mochrum, located on the western side of the Machars of Galloway. The Castle is situated on top of a steep sided motte located on the high point of the crest of the ridge that bounds the easternmost side of the White Loch of Myrton. The ground to the east falls away to marshy ground and to the Black Loch to the south-east. The approach seems always to have been from the north and an associated settlement most likely lay on this side, as also suggested by the presence of the later medieval chapel whose ruin is incorporated into the existing steading complex (Addyman & Oram 2014). The ruinous 17th century range is located to the north of the tower, with a later estate cottage located immediately to the north-west. The present approach is from the south, along the road to the cottage, which is on the west side of the tower. Present-day tree cover restricts the current view from the top of the motte, which would have been extensive including the Black Loch to the south-east and the White Loch and coast to the west.

iii. Methodology

The evaluation comprised six trenches in the immediate vicinity of and within the tower ruin, each sited to address specific structural questions. Trenches 1 and 2 were located on the north side of the tower and aimed to examine evidence for the position of its original north wall and for the position of the walls of the later 17th century range. Trenches 3, 4 and 5 were situated adjacent to the surviving outer walls of the tower to investigate the footing structure of the tower and to identify the extent of survival of the original upper surface of the earlier motte. Trench 6 was excavated at the north-west corner of the tower interior to establish the floor level of the tower, the details of the internal wall foot and the depth and detail of the footing of the existing doocot wall at its junction with the tower wall.

All trenches were hand excavated. Plans of the site were related to the National Grid and levels related to Ordnance Datum. All archaeological contexts were assigned individual numbers and recorded on pro-forma record sheets, given in *italics* in the following text. Plans, sections and

photographs of the trenches were made. All recording was in line with current guidance from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and RCAHMS.

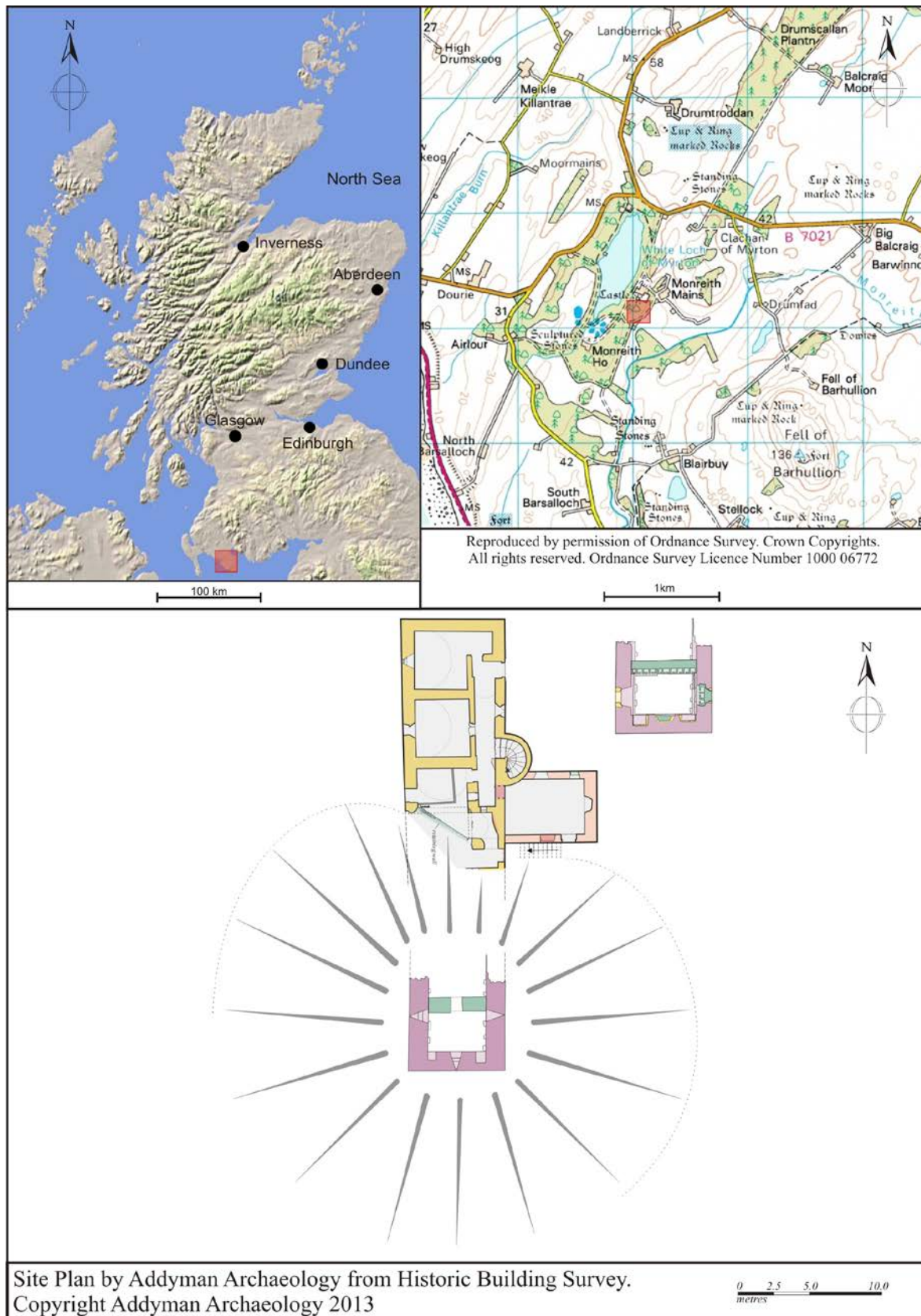


Figure 1 Site Plan

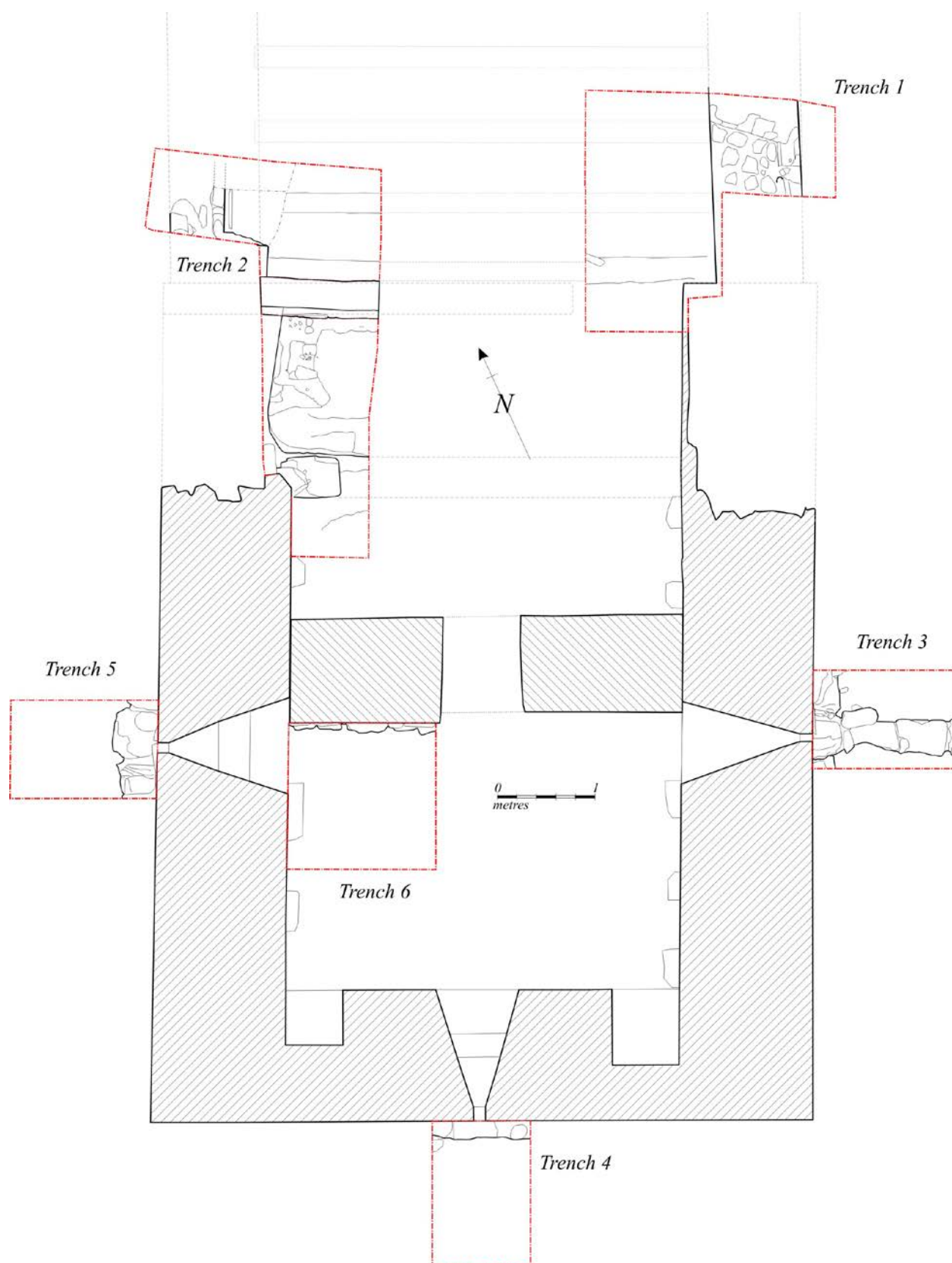


Figure 2 Trench location plan

iv. Historic Summary

The motte, tower and later castle at Myrton are a good example of continuity of a seat of lordship from the construction of the motte around the 12th century, through to the 18th century (Addyman & Oram 2014). The presence of a motte at this site points to it being a centre of considerable socio-economic importance in the later twelfth and thirteenth centuries, probably functioning as the principal seat of a individual of substance who exercised lordship over a wide district. The existence of two substantial crannogs in the White Loch of Myrton immediately west of the motte and the Black Loch of Myrton to the south-east could indicate continuity of function as the centre of an important economic unit and high-status residence from at least the later Iron Age (Addyman & Oram 2014).

From the mid-fifteenth century Myrton was in possession of the McCulloch family, although the family's prominence in the records of western Galloway/Wigtownshire suggests that their connection with Myrton may date back considerably further than their first clear association with it in a written source, although their lands are not identified in the sources (Addyman & Oram 2014). Possibly the earliest surviving references to the 'tower of Mertoun' occur in 1532, when a charter of King James V confirmed Simon McCulloch's sale of the whole barony together with the 'tower and fortalice' to Henry McCulloch of Kilasser and his wife, Margaret McCulloch, with the instrument of sasine recording the settlement drawn up at the tower of Mertoun (Addyman & Oram 2014).

2. Archaeological Evaluation

i. Trench 1

a. General

Trench 1 extended northwards from the eastern wall of the tower (*figure 2; plate 1*). It was L-shaped in plan and measured 1m by 2.5m north to south and 1m by 2.5m east to west. It was positioned from north to south to locate the re-entrant angles of the tower interior; to cross the location of the north wall footings; and to include the junction with the wall of the later range. The trench also included an extension to the east to examine the wall of the later range.



Plate 1 Pre-excavation of Trench 1, looking southeast

b. Original Tower phase: 15th century

The earliest deposits within the trench were the surviving upper extent of the motte mound [110/111], which comprised compact orange brown silty clay. The footings of the stone tower, built in the 15th

century, had been cut into the surface of the motte and the walls built up against the cut as there was no evidence for a cut for the eastern wall within the trench. The northern wall of the tower had been completely removed, although its position was ascertained from the truncated end of the eastern wall (plate 2). There was little other evidence for the early use of the tower within the trench.



Plate 2 West (interior) face of wall [104], joined to wall [108] by slate pinnings; wall plaster relating to the later press can be seen behind the vertical scale

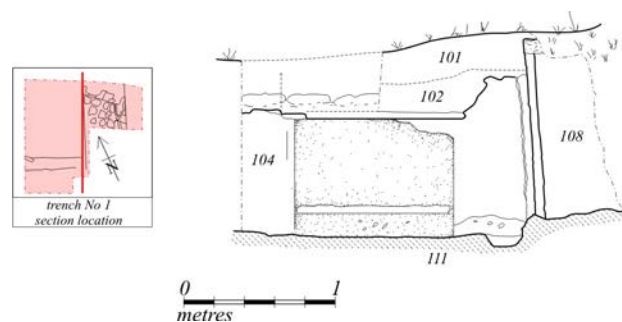


Figure 3 West elevation of Wall [104] Trench 1

c. Later range: 17th-18th century

For the construction of the later range in the 17th century the northern wall of the original tower had been removed and a stone 'skin' applied to the stub of the eastern wall. This wall [108] comprised narrow shaped stones and was bonded with mortar. It survived to 1.2m in height and covered the western and northern ends of the truncated eastern wall of the tower. An east to west aligned beam slot [113], 0.2m wide and 0.05m deep was located in the position of the former north wall of the tower and had evidently held an earth-fast floor joist (also seen in trench 2).

The eastern north-south aligned wall of the later range [104] was built against wall [108], joined by a series of slate pinnings (*plate 2*). The wall was 0.8m in width and survived to 0.7m in height, with the eastern (exterior) face built up against the cut through the motte. It comprised medium-large angular stones bonded with lime mortar. The remains of a window, subsequently in-filled, were revealed in the upper part of the surviving wall section; its northern splay was defined within the trench area. On the exterior face the sill stone of the window remained *in situ*; possibly reused in its present position the stone displayed a chamfered surround (*figure 4; plate 3*).

In the 18th century modifications were made to the buildings. The window was blocked with mortared rubble and a timber press or shelving built against the interior (western) wall face, the extent of which was silhouetted by plaster applied to the wall face. Sockets for shelving also survived. A hole to the left of the cupboard may have been for associated fixtures (*figure 3; plate 2*). Fine pale grey plaster fragments [112], of the same material as the plaster covering the wall were found adhering to the base of wall [104]. This plaster contained embedded fragments of bottle glass dating to the later 18th century. Fragments of similar glass were found within the mortar of the infilled window, suggesting the window was infilled at the same date; similar material was also found in trench 2.



Plate 3 Wall [104] showing infilled window and chamfered stone (at bottom of photo)

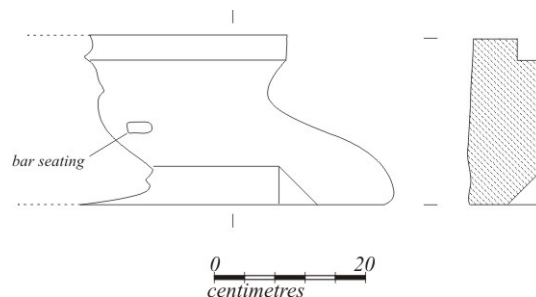


Figure 4 Sill stone of window within wall [104]

d. Dismantling : end of the 18th century

Evidence for the initial strip-out of the building comprised a thin layer of grey silt [109], which filled the beam slot and covered the motte surface at the base of the trench; it was not completely excavated. This material may represent a combination of a general build-up of dirt beneath the floor boards, combined with a degree of silting once they were removed. This was overlain by a compacted layer of flat roof slates and broken plaster with occasional moulded fragments [107]. There had been some

root disturbance in this layer, which was 0.02m thick and was confined to the northern part of the trench, suggesting the ceiling in the former room by the earlier tower was not plastered (*plate 4*).



Plate 4 Plaster deposit [107] in Trench 1, confined to N of tower wall [108], looking east

Overlying the plaster was a loose deposit of mixed rubble, mortar, plaster and roof slates [106] 0.30m deep, representing the rubble remains following the salvage of useable materials. This material was overlain by compact orange brown silty clay [105], which contained mortar fragments and lenses and medium-large angular stones towards the base and was 0.34m in depth. This deposit was confined to the north-west part of the trench and sloped sharply from east to west (*plate 5*). It appeared to have been deliberately placed to partly consolidate the ruins.

On the eastern side of wall [104] a deposit of 0.2m of greyish brown fine silt [103] had built up. This deposit was very disturbed by roots and contained occasional small stone and mortar inclusions. It directly overlay the motte surface [110] which was 0.6m deep at this location (see *figure 5*).

Overlying the landscaping deposits was a further demolition layer up to 0.64m thick of moderately compact mid brownish-grey silt [102], which became looser towards the base and included fine degraded lime mortar, angular stone fragments, slate and mortar lumps. This deposit was deeper on the western side of the trench (*figure 6*). The overlying topsoil comprised 0.3m of dark blackish-brown clayey silt [101] containing numerous roots, becoming stony towards the base.



Plate 5 Deposit [105] in Trench 1, in north-west corner, looking north-east

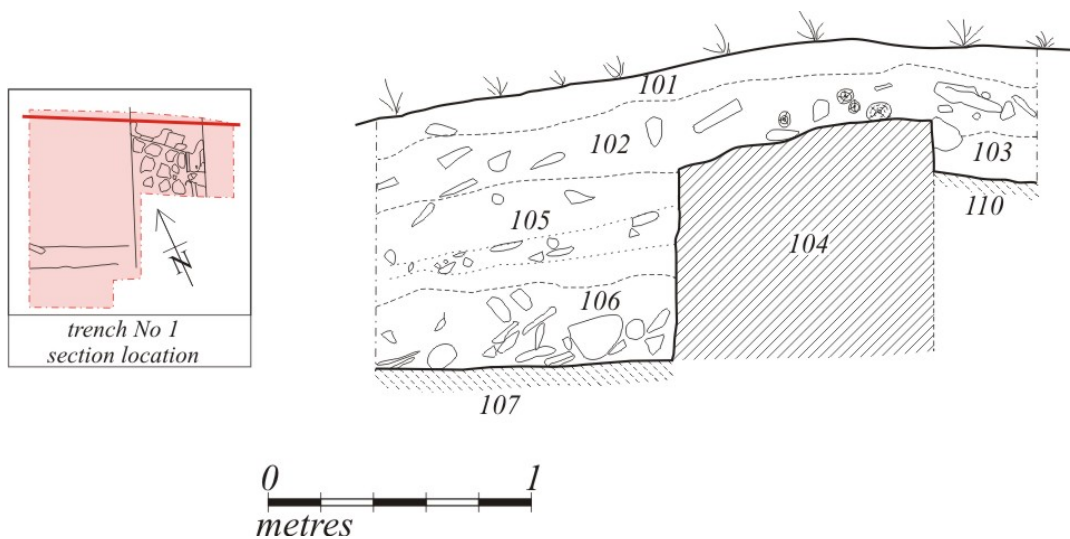


Figure 5 South facing section of Trench 1

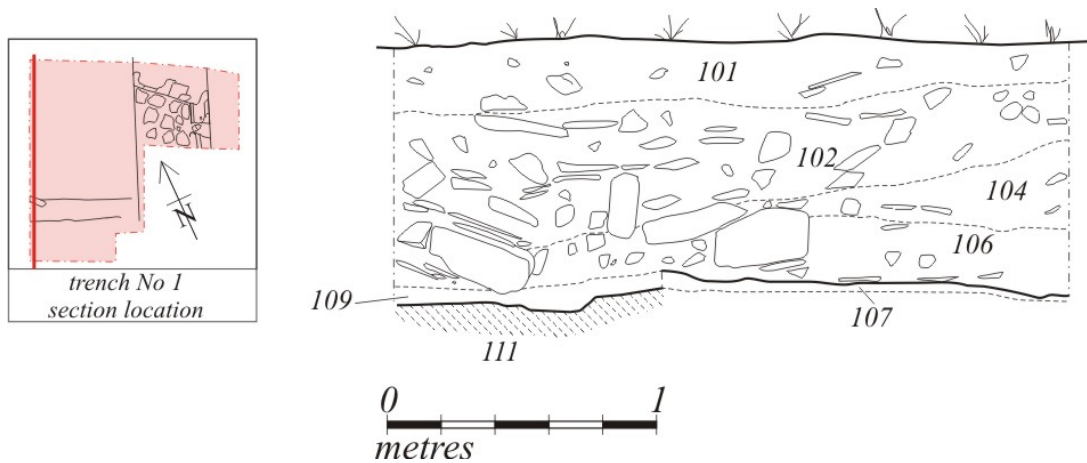


Figure 6 East facing section of Trench 1

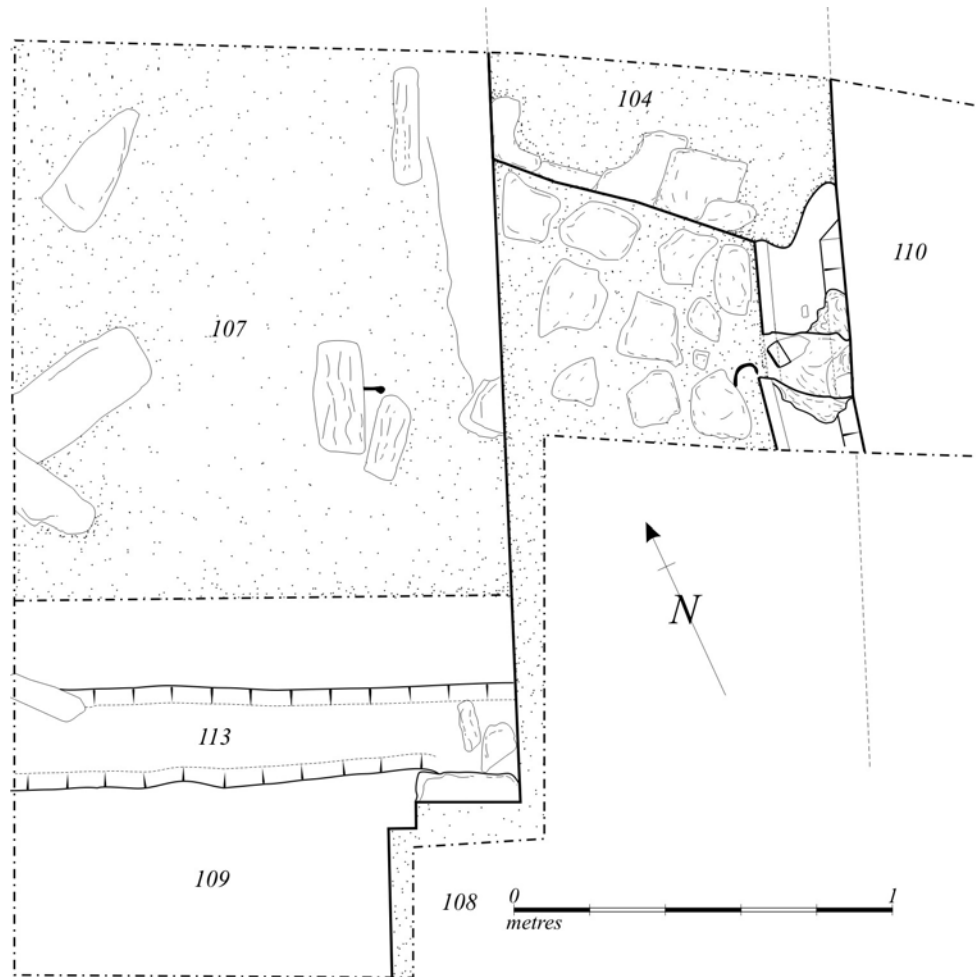


Figure 7 plan of trench 1

e. Discussion

The excavation of the trench demonstrated that the north wall of the tower was demolished prior to the addition of the later 17th century later range. A beam slot cut into the top of the motte surface was probably part of this initial remodelling of the tower and probably represents room division. A skin was placed around the truncated end of the eastern wall of the tower and then the adjoining range was built up against it, with slate pinnings added. In the 18th century the building was remodelled with a cupboard added to the inside wall and a plaster wash added to the wall. The slot at the base of the cupboard was probably at floor level, with a silt deposit built up below the boards. During the latter part of the 18th century the plaster ceiling in the newer (northern) part of the building was taken down or collapsed, followed by the slate tiles of the roof. A general demolition layer of plaster and rubble built up over this, which seems to have been capped with clay at some point to consolidate the ruins. Further collapse of the building followed, before the northernmost walls became covered with topsoil and vegetation.

ii. Trench 2

a. General

Trench 2 was aligned north-south and measured 4.0m by 1.2m in width; it also had a 1.5m long by 1m wide westwards extension at its north end. It was located along the interior face of the west wall of the tower at its north end (*plate 6*). By this trench it was intended to expose the original eastern return of the north wall of the tower to allow its former footprint to be confirmed on that side, and to examine

any footing structure that might survive. The trench was also intended to examine the nature of the junction between the tower and the later range running off to the north.



Plate 6 Pre-excavation of northern half of Trench 2, looking north

b. Motte mound

The earliest deposit noted within the trench was the solid clay makeup of the underlying core of the pre-existing motte mound [216]. As seen in the other evaluation trenches the footings of the tower had been sunk into the top of the mound. Within trench 2, as elsewhere, this had obliterated any evidence for earlier structures or features.

c. Early tower : c.1500

Within the trench the original tower was represented by the masonry of the northern termination of its west wall, as revealed along the west side of the trench. At its northernmost surviving extent stones projecting at the wall face indicated what seems to have been the remnant of an eastwards-running internal cross wall [208]. The main walling had evidently formerly continued further to the north (*plate 7*). The stones of cross-wall [208], of which only a small section survived, were fully tied in to the masonry of the tower. A wall at this point indicated there had been a construction that had projected in to the northwest angle of the tower interior. This was most likely the position of a stairwell, and in probability a turnpike stair occupying the angle of the original tower. The cross wall had been truncated by cut [209] (see below).

Part of a possible jamb for the south side of an entrance was also revealed in the west wall [218] but this was not fully defined within the trench's limits. It is possible this related to the position of the original tower entrance although it is alternatively possible this was a feature such as a window that related to the later re-working of this area.

Little other evidence for the original tower was noted within the trench; any floor surfaces had been robbed leaving the bare clay of the motte [216] exposed. .



Plate 7 The projecting stub of wall [208] as initially revealed; the distorted section of walling at top right [211] lies on the line of the north exterior wall face of the early tower; looking northwest

d. Later range : 17th century

The construction of the 17th century range running northwards from the early tower appeared to have involved the deliberate dismantling of the tower's north wall.

Within trench 2 remains of the later range included parts of its exterior west wall [212], which ran up to the northern end of the earlier tower's west wall its exterior face evidently on the same alignment, and by a less substantial transverse (east-west aligned) wall section running across the trench, [211]. The latter was narrow, 0.40m wide, and built of lime-bonded sandstone rubble and surviving to about 0.50m in height (*figure 7*). This was evidently an internal partition wall within the later range and apparently partly built upon the line of the original northern wall of the tower. As revealed the section of wall [211] had been heavily distorted, presumably during the dismantling process, its remains now leaning dramatically to the north.

Immediately to the north of this internal partition were revealed parts of a window ingo within the west wall [213], this displaying a pronounced internal splay (*plate 8*).

The footing of the west wall and the footprint of this part of the later range had been cut [209] down into the motte core to a lower level than that of the original tower, stepping down by about 0.5m at the line of the [208] cross wall, and by a further 0.20m at the line of the [212] cross wall. This base level equated to the first floor floor level of later range as surviving further to the north. This lower floor was achieved by simply cutting down vertically into the motte core on the line of the tower internal wall [208]. This cut [209] undercut the masonry of [208] by at least 0.50m. The vertical face of the cut at this point had been faced up with plaster [210] with no attempt to underpin.

On the north side of the [211] cross wall evidence for flooring within the later range consisted of two beam slots [215] sunken into the underlying clay of the motte [216], these for earth-fast joists that had supported timber boards (*figure 7*).

The internal wall face of the west wall [212] appears to have become distorted during the dismantling process (*figures 7 and 8*). The footing of the masonry [212] continued down to the same floor level as [211], demonstrating the [212] masonry is part of the later 17th century range.

Directly above this masonry [212] there appeared to be the remnants of rubble-formed jambs of an entrance, [218], however so little was exposed it was hard to be certain. As discussed in the previous section the main entrance to the original tower may have been in this location as there was no evidence in the other three corners of the tower for a door opening or an associated stair access to the upper floors. The masonry may therefore be part of the tower or, perhaps, a rebuild of the entrance in the later range, perhaps as a window.

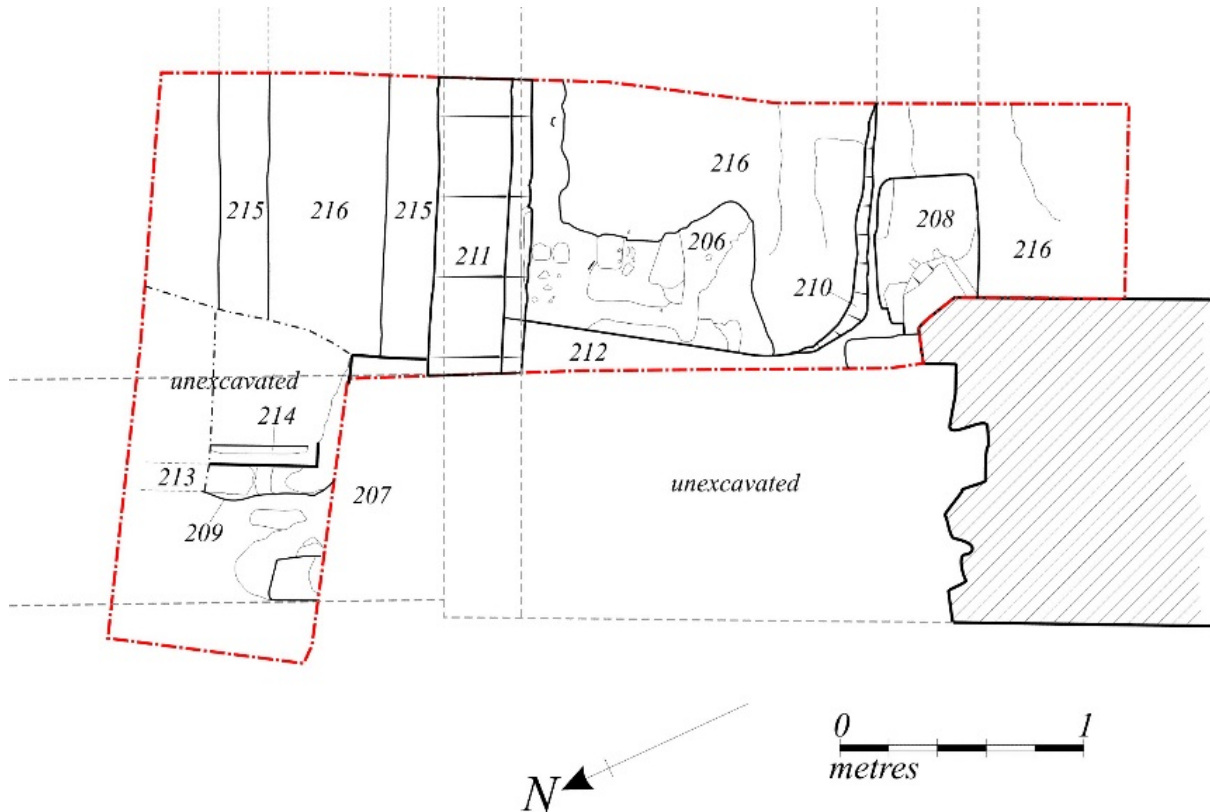


Figure 8 plan of trench 2



Plate 8 Window recess [213] with internal partition wall [211] to right, looking east

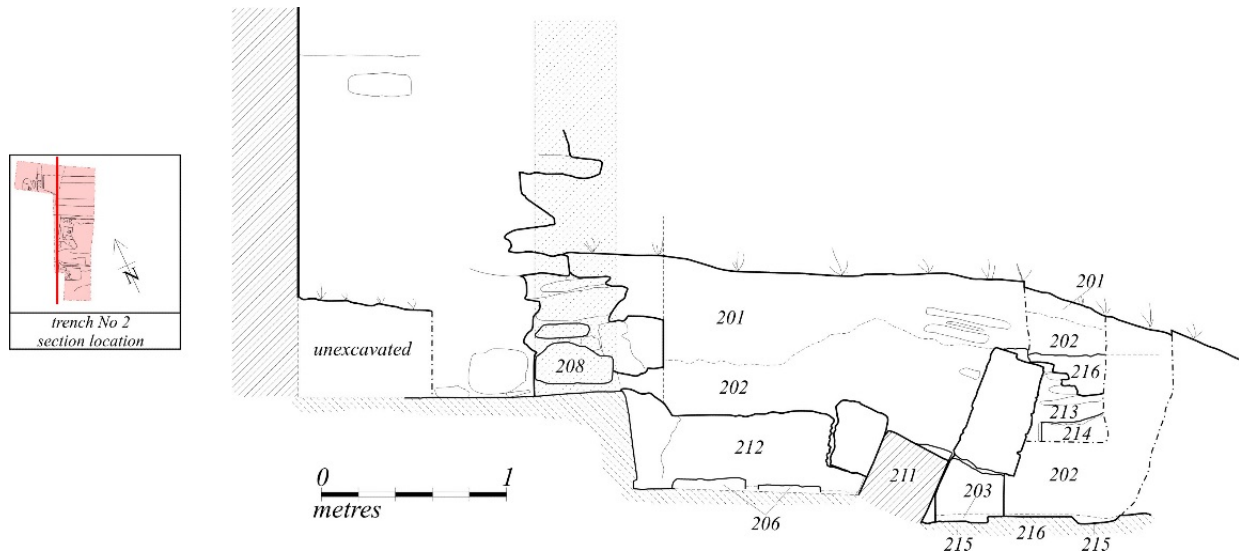


Figure 9 east facing section of trench 2

e. Later interventions : later 18th century

At the junction between the wall [211] and the window [213] there appeared to be a secondary masonry pier at the SW corner of the room [217]. This pier was associated with large quantities of later 18th century broken bottle glass built into its fabric as pinnings, something not seen in the earlier masonry of the tower or later 17th century range. There were also large quantities of similar glass within deposits of dropped lime mortar [206] on the underlying motte clay [216] in both the northern and the middle chamber clearly relating to this construction. Similar mortar and bottle glass is associated with a secondary phase in trench 1 blocking a window and inserting a cupboard, perhaps indicating that [217] is part of a secondary remodelling of the interior.

Other secondary interventions to the later range were indicated by a secondary lath and plaster lining [214] within the window [213]; the timber of this had rotted away leaving the plaster upstanding. This plaster was quite hard, thick and very well preserved allowing it to stand unsupported (*plate 8*).

f. Dismantling : end of the 18th century

The initial stage of the dismantling of the 17th century range in this area was represented by a spread of thin lime plaster [204] with impressions of timber lath on the upper visible face; a neat finished but undecorated face was seen on the lower side after lifting (*plate 9*). The large size of the sheets of the plaster indicate they were most likely dropped flat during the stripping out of a lath and plaster ceiling directly above where they lay; they could also represent wall lining but as the walls as surviving are plastered on the hard it is more likely to derive from the ceiling.

The plaster was only noted between walls [211] and [208] and not within the chambers to the north or south. The plaster lay on the bare clay [216] of the motte core, this showing that any floor surfacing that may have existed had been robbed prior to the ceiling coming down.



Plate 9 collapsed plaster ceiling [204]

Further demolition/occupation deposits [203] were noted to the north of wall [211] within the two linear bean-slot depressions [215]. The deposits comprised a fairly dense concentration of animal bone and pottery sherds mixed with fine silt and crushed lime mortar; the pottery sherds were mostly from a Chinese porcelain vessel. Similar bone and pottery were noted within the overlying [202] destruction deposit but very dispersed within it.

g. Landscaping

Following the initial demolition and robbing of the masonry to below ground level a linear mound of rubble-rich clayey material [207] was formed running along the line of the demolished west wall. This was initially considered to be the wall core of a clay-bonded wall with the facing stones robbed. However continuing excavation showed the surviving masonry beneath to be lime-bonded. This was interpreted as a deliberate attempt to delineate and make visible the walls of the castle that had been robbed to beneath ground level, as part of landscaping works to enhance the appearance of the ruined castle.

This clay capping was in part buried beneath some crushed lime mortar of [202] (see below) indicating that robbing or at least works on the ruins continued after the landscaping.



Plate 10 clay capping [207] enhancing ruined castle walls (50 cm scale)

h. Demolition

Infilling most of the trench was a 1m deep deposit of crushed lime mortar and rubble stone [202] (*figure 9*). This was the remaining debris following the salvage of reusable masonry during the demolition of the castle. Mixed through the deposit were a number of slates as well as fragments of 18th – 19th century pottery. The deposit varied a little in its composition representing phases of demolition or dumping of the debris; with a higher percentage of crushed clean lime mortar at the base of the deposit and larger rubble fragments and greater root action towards the top.

i. Discussion

The excavation of the trench demonstrated that the original tower was represented by the remains of a cross wall and little else. The rest of the tower, the north gable, the main entrance and an associated stairwell were removed and the floor level reduced during the construction of the later range. The stairwell and thick north gable wall may have been removed to provide room for more modern accommodation.

The surviving masonry of the later 17th century range shows evidence for major collapse with masonry buckled and leaning over to the north. Whether this was a “controlled” demolition or a catastrophic collapse is not entirely clear; the evidence may suggest a collapse, as the floor level seems to drop to the north of the collapsing wall, perhaps suggesting a slump of part of the motte. The masonry of the south jamb of window [213] in the partial exposure also appeared to have partially slipped to the north and split apart, although only a small area was exposed so this is not entirely clear. The later range was partially stripped for masonry and of internal fittings prior to further collapse/demolition. An attempt had been made to consolidate the ruins, perhaps for aesthetic reasons or perhaps to prevent further collapse, however this was unsuccessful as further building debris had built up above the consolidation.

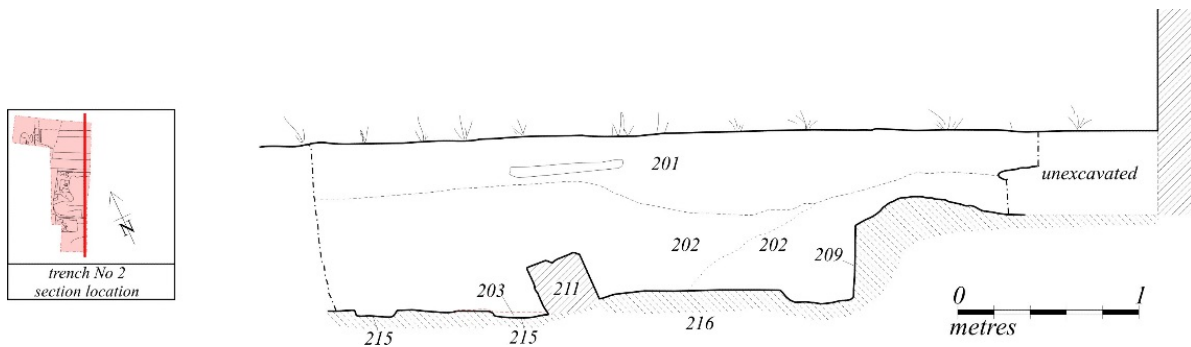


Figure 10 west facing section of trench 2

iii. Trench 3

a. General

Trench 3 was located at the exterior wall foot of the castle's eastern wall, 3.5m north from the tower's southeast corner, and measured 1.5m east-west by 1.0m north-south (*figure 2 & 10; plate 11*). The placement of this trench was designed to investigate the castle's footings and their relationship with the original motte mound, also to reveal the cellar-level loop, and possibly to reveal evidence for the original motte surface and any associated features.

b. Excavation

The earliest deposit within the trench was the motte core [307], comprising firmly compacted orange to light brown clay with inclusions of rounded pebbles and stones. The surviving upper surface was encountered at a depth of 0.50m below topsoil in the northeast corner of the trench, sloping westwards to a depth of around 0.80m as dictated by the castle foundation cut (see below).

Post-hole [313] was cut into the clay of the motte (*figure 9*). It was 0.26m wide and 0.16m deep; but only half was exposed against the south-facing section of the trench (*plate 12*). It was filled with a rounded pebble post packing [314] within a matrix of grey-brown silty clay [315]. The sides slope inwards at a near 45° angle and terminate at a base set with a flat stone. While there is a possibility that it may relate to early structures occupying the motte summit, the feature was perhaps more likely contemporaneous with either the construction of, or the earliest phases of, the later medieval castle.

The foundation stones of the tower [305] were set within moderately compact rich brown-orange silty clay with frequent angular stone inclusions [312]. This material fills the foundation cut [317], visible in the south facing section. The cut sloped at 45° and measured 0.70m from the foundation stones and was 0.20m in depth. Similar foundation cuts were seen in trenches 4 and 5.



Plate 11 Pre-excavation view of Trench 3, showing its relation to the castle's eastern face, looking southwest

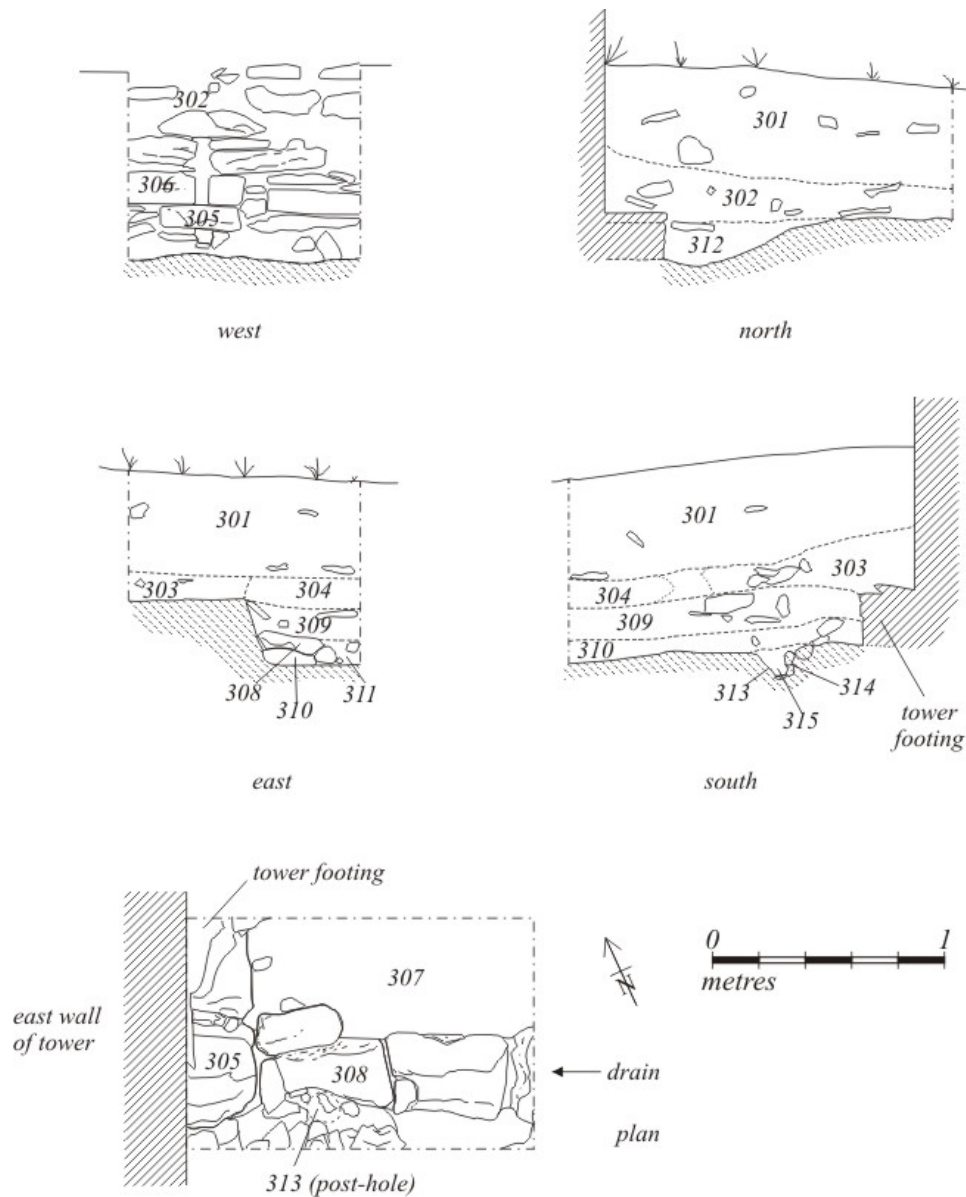


Figure 11 Trench 3 plan and sections

The tower foundations [305] consist of a single course of large, flat stones 0.40-0.50m in width, and 0.10-0.20m in thickness, placed end-to-end (*figure 9; plate 13*). The foundations protruded 0.30m from beneath the wall face. The loop [306] was a narrow opening 0.05-0.08m in width by 0.35m in height built into the wall as part of the tower's construction. The top and sides of the gun loop were formed within the rubblework of the surrounding wall [302], while its sill was formed by the projecting foundation structure [305].



Plate 12 Trench 3 showing post hole [313] pre-excitation between scale and section; looking south-west



Plate 13 Trench 3 post-ex, looking north; showing tower foundations [305] (on left) and drain [308]

The tower foundation contained a small, narrow outlet beneath the loop, this seemingly to lead into the drain (*plate 13*). From this outlet, the drain sloped eastwards at approximately a 23° angle for 0.50m before levelling out to a shallower gradient. The drain ran eastwards from the loop and was generally un-lined on the sides and base with a stone capping [308]. However stones lining the sides were visible in the west facing section (*plate 14*). The channel thus formed was 0.3m in width and up to 0.26m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. The fill of the drain [311] comprised water-sorted friable brown-grey gritty silt, rich in shell fragments. The drain cut was filled with light brown silt [310] and contained a Cu alloy coin (SF059) tentatively identified as a 17th century Dutch *zeelandia duit*.

Overlying the drain fill was a deposit of a mid-light brown gritty sandy clay [309], 0.12-0.14m in depth, with small pebble and mortar flecks and slate and angular stone inclusions. Above this deposit in the south-east corner of the trench was a concentration of mortar lumps [304], thought to be medieval in date and sampled for further analysis. This deposit blocked the gun loop's opening [306] and may reflect a change in use. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit, though infrequent faunal remains were noted in section. The mortar deposit was overlain with mid-brown to grey gritty, sandy clay [303] with angular stone, slate and mortar inclusions. The overlying humic, dark-brown topsoil [301] contained frequent stone, slate, brick, and mortar inclusions that varied in depth from 0.40-0.45m. Abutting the castle wall [302] to the west, this layer is thought to be a later 18th or 19th century landscaping deposit, and contained a mix of 18th and 19th century artefacts including window glass, tin-glazed ceramics, and faunal remains.



Plate 14 Trench 3 showing motte surface and west-facing drain section; looking east

c. Discussion

The excavation of Trench 3 showed that the castle foundations were set within a foundation trench cut into the clay core of the upper part of the motte mound. The motte core material as encountered was thought to be the original make-up of the motte rather than a re-deposit, the original height of which may be indicated in the northeast corner of the trench. The motte make-up material had also been cut into by the post-hole, though this may relate to the erection of scaffolding during the construction of the existing tower.

Although the drain was apparently of later date than the construction of the tower, having been cut through the fill of the tower's foundation cut, the outlet for the drain within the masonry walling of the tower suggests that it had formed part of the castle's initial construction. The blocking of the loop is likely to have occurred as part of the reuse of the tower following its incorporation into the building of the later mansion house (north range) in the early 17th century.

iv. Trench 4

a. General

Trench 4 measured 1m (east to west) by 1.50m (north to south), and was located at the centre of the exterior wall foot of the tower on its south side (*figure 2 & 11; plate 15*). This trench was intended to reveal the details of the tower footing structure and to examine how the tower construction may have impacted upon the pre-existing motte mound. The trench was located directly in front of the blocked cellar-level gun loop on the south side of the tower, a feature visible internally.



Plate 15 The south side of the tower exterior, as cleared before excavation, looking east

b. Excavation

The earliest deposit within the trench was very compact orange clay [402], which appeared to represent the surviving upper extent of the early motte mound. A sondage was dug through this deposit to a depth of 0.35m below the tower footings [404] (0.8m below ground surface); the material was found to be homogenous and firm throughout.

Overlying the motte surface was the stone foundation course for the tower [404]. This consisted of three flat-laid stones that were bonded back into the wall fabric, projecting approximately 0.20m beyond the line of the wall face above. Although evidently bonded back into the masonry of the tower [403] there was no bonding material apparent between the footing stones themselves. The sondage excavated below the foundation stones revealed that [404] consisted of a single course.

The wall of the tower [403] was built above the foundation course. There was some possible suggestion of a shallow footing trench [407] cut into the top of the motte; however this was poorly defined and mainly suggested in the east section – see *plate 16* below. The gun loop [405] within the wall was low and narrow and had been simply formed by rubble stone, without dressings (*plate 17*).

The gun loop had been obscured by the deposition of a compact level of dark brown humic soil [401], with fragments of rock and slate debris and crushed mortar, presumably fallen from the upper parts of the tower. It was 0.20m -0.45m deep, deepening to the north and heaped against the foot of the tower. Mid-late 18th century ceramics and bottle glass were recovered from the deposit. This was sealed by loose overlying topsoil [406] 0.10-0.15m in depth.

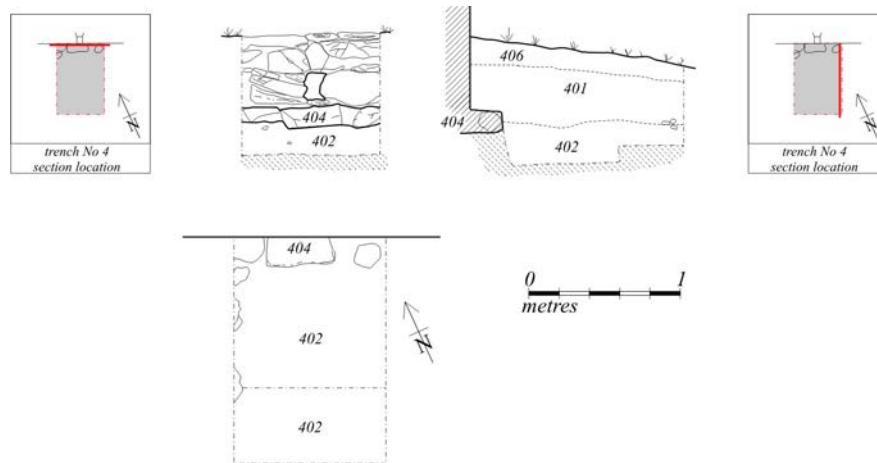


Figure 12 Trench 4 plan and sections



Plate 16 East section of Trench 4 at limit of excavation, looking east

c. Discussion

The excavation of trench 4 revealed that the compacted clay deposit constituted the surviving upper extent of the top of the early motte mound. There was no evidence noted to indicate that the deposit was re-deposited material cast up when the existing tower was built. Given the comparatively level surface of the clay deposit within the trench and the absence of obvious overlying stratigraphy such as occupation deposits or other features, it is possible that the motte top had been levelled before construction of the tower commenced. No evidence for early earth-fast construction, such as post-holes, was revealed within the trench.

The tower's exterior footing structure was built directly upon the level surface of clay deposit. The footing itself consisted of a single projecting base course of large stone slabs. The interior of the wall extended down in to the motte top to a considerably greater depth.



Plate 17 Post-excavation view of Trench 4 (2015) looking north

v. *Trench 5*

a. *General*

Trench 5 measured 1m (north to south) by 1.50m (east to west), located along the western exterior wall foot of the tower (*figure 2 & 12; plate 18*). Similar to Trenches 3 and 4 this trench was designed to explore and reveal the details of the tower footing structure and examine the impact of the tower construction on the pre-existing motte. It was located directly in front of the blocked cellar-level loop on the western side of the tower, visible above the level of the topsoil, though harled over.



Plate 18 Pre-excavation of Trench 5, looking south (032)

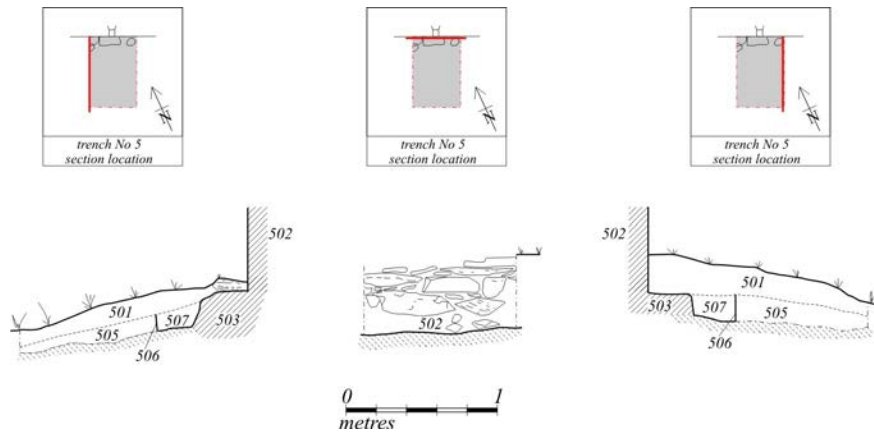


Figure 13 Trench 5 plan and sections

b. Excavation

The motte surface [505] consisted of a firm to solid orange-brown clay with rounded pebble inclusions, and was found to directly underlie the shallow topsoil; this differs from what was uncovered in trenches 3 and 4, and was possibly the result of a past localised landslip, likely relocating the 17th and 18th century deposits seen elsewhere to the bottom of the slope. No motte occupation related features were uncovered within Trench 5, though the original surface had been cut by the castle foundation trench [506] to the east.

The trench was opened after clearing of the overlying vegetation, revealing a layer of moderately loose, mid to dark brown gritty humic clay [501] extending to a depth of 0.15m - 0.25m. This topsoil abutted the west-facing castle elevation [502], and sloped quite significantly downward towards the western edge of the motte with an almost c 0.30m difference between the top of the trench along the wall [502] and the top at the western terminus of the trench. Once removed, the topsoil [501] was found to overlie the castle foundations [503] to the east, and the clay motte surface [505] to the centre and west of the trench.

The castle foundation trench [506] was a north-south orientated linear cut with a 45° sloping side and flat base cut into the clay motte surface. The foundation trench was filled by mid to grey brown gritty silty clay [507] with mortar flecks and angular stone and pebble inclusions, surviving to a depth of 0.15m. The foundation trench and fill are most visible in the north facing section (*plate 19*), and it is within this fill [507] that the castle foundations [503] are set.

The castle foundations [503] are made up of a single course of large linear stone slabs measuring 0.50m in width and approximately 0.20m in thickness. Protruding 0.40m from the castle's western face, the foundation stones are aligned east-west and arranged in a north-south arrangement (*plate 20*). The foundation stones appear to be un-bonded, though are mortared to the overlying wall with a yellow to light brown shell rich mortar [504] seen in the southeast corner of the trench.



Plate 19 Post-excavation south section of Trench 5, showing cut [506] and fill (507)



Plate 20 Post-excavation of Trench 5, looking east

c. Discussion

The excavation of Trench 5 showed that, like trenches 3 and 4, the castle foundations were set within a shallow foundation trench cut into the original clay motte surface. Unlike Trenches 3 and 4 however, Trench 5 contained no 17th or 18th century deposits, and yielded no artefactual material beyond modern topsoil finds that were not retained. The lack of deposits within this trench is due to a landslip along the western slope that would have exposed the castle foundations and the orange clay surface of the motte.

vi. Trench 6

a. General

Trench 6 was located within the interior of the tower in the north-west corner. It measured 1.5m by 1.5m and was placed against the western tower wall and the northern doocot wall (*figure 2 & 13; plate 21*). This was intended to investigate the details of the interior walls and their footings, the nature of any abandonment / destruction deposits, occupation deposits and flooring, and the relationship of the two walls to the underlying substrate of the motte. It was also located in front of the blocked loop in the west wall. The interior of the tower at this level had likely functioned as cellarge when first built. Following abandonment of the castle as a residence at the end of the 18th century the remains of the tower had seen secondary use as a doocot. The existing north wall wholly related to this latter phase. It comprised mortar-bonded masonry of recycled rubble, containing some dressings from pre-existing features, with an internal lining of nesting boxes formed of brick and recycled roofing slates.



Plate 21 Pre-excavation of Trench 6, looking west (010)

b. Excavation

The earliest deposit within the trench was compact orange clay [604] which comprised the surviving upper extent of the pre-existing motte mound (as also observed within the exterior trenches 3, 4, and 5). However within the tower interior the surviving upper surface of the motte was up to 0.90m deeper than the exterior. The upper surface had evidently been deliberately levelled (cut [607]). This surface displayed apparent wear patterns and a number of 'divots' [608]. It was unclear whether this was an indication of use of the motte as a floor surface for the cellar or if the divots related to the prying-up of floor slabs.

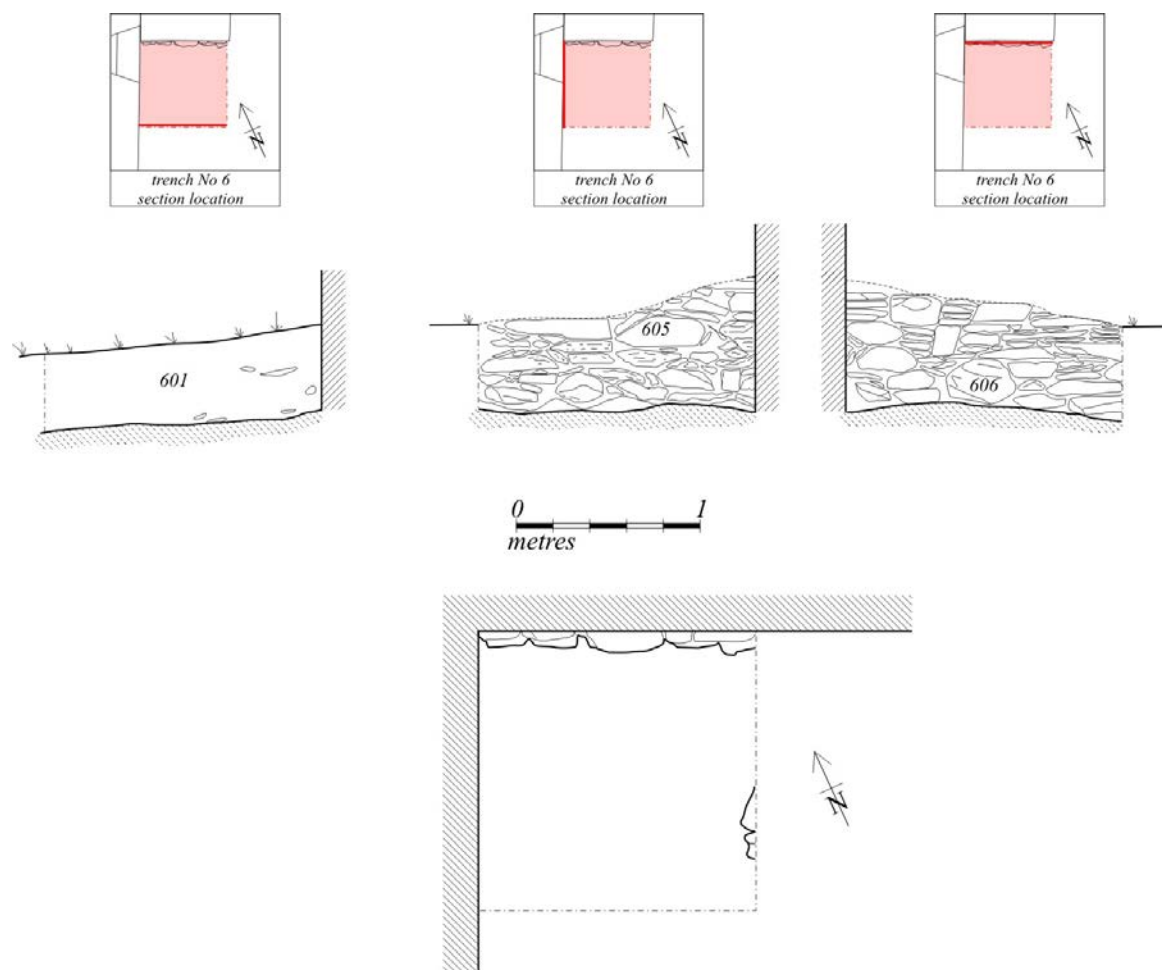


Figure 14 Trench 6 plan, section and elevations



Plate 22 Post-excavation view of Trench 6 with (602) in the SE corner and the motte top (604) across the bottom of the trench, looking north (014)

The base of the original tower wall [605] was constructed on the surface of [604], within a foundation cut, which was not seen. The northern doocot wall [606] appeared to have been constructed directly upon the levelled surface of the motte (*plate 22*). Both walls were of rubble construction with lime and mortar bonding.

Overlying the motte surface was moderately compact, dark brown silty clay [603]. It was not present throughout the entirety of the trench and was concentrated within its SW, SE, and NE corners. There was no visible difference between [601] and [603] where they were not separated by [602].

Overlying this deposit was a concentration of slate and rubble [602], although this did not cover the whole surface of the motte. The deposit of slate and rubble is likely to be the result of the abandonment and destruction phase of the upper floors and roof of the tower. It was 0.10m – 0.20m in depth. Within this deposit were frequent roof slates, brick (matching the bricks employed for the nesting boxes – hand-made low-fired orange-red terracotta of narrow thickness), mortar and rubble stone. Such material had been observed throughout the overlying topsoil but was present in a greater concentration in [602].

The top soil layer [601] was humic, soft, and dark brown in colour with inclusions of brick, slate and mortar and included organic material of avian origin. It extended to a depth between 0.40 – 0.50m.

c. Discussion

The excavation of trench 6 demonstrated that the compacted clay deposit comprised the surviving upper extent of the top of the pre-existing motte mound. As it occupied the interior of the tower it seemed unlikely that this material was re-deposited during the construction of the existing tower in the 15th century. It is more likely that the motte mound's upper surface had been dug into during the construction before being levelled and used as a floor surface or the base of a floor surface for the cellar level of the tower. No evidence for early earth-fast construction, post-holes, etc. was revealed within the trench.

The doocot wall was built in the early 19th century directly upon the level surface of the clay motte deposit and directly abuts the original tower wall to the west. There is no evidence that these walls were bonded into each other. .

vii. Artefacts

A total of 465 artefacts were recovered during the archaeological evaluation of Myrton Castle. The assemblage is largely made up of bottle and window glass, ceramic sherds, plaster and mortar fragments, faunal remains, and Iron nails, while small quantities of worked stone and bone, clay tobacco pipe fragments, and non-ferrous metals were recovered as well (*see Table 1*). The artefacts are all domestic in nature and for the most part are thought to relate to the 17th and 18th century occupation of the castle. Of particular interest is the ceramic assemblage- including mid-17th century to 18th century tin-glaze and mid-18th century salt-glazed sherds, and the glass assemblage- including a number of 17th and 18th century bottle glass shards, some of which had been incorporated into the masonry of later works to lairdly mansion. Also present within the assemblage is a Copper Alloy coin- thought to be an early to mid-17th century Dutch *duit* recovered from the base of Trench 3, and the complete base (in 4 shards) of a large case gin bottle and a section of Lead window *came* from Trench 1. The majority of the artefacts were recovered from Trenches 1-4; no artefacts were recovered from Trench 5, while Trench 6 yielded few artefacts, all of which relate to the tower's later re-use as a doocot.

Artefact Type	Quantity	Artefact Type	Quantity
Ceramic	93	Iron	30
Clay Pipe	2	Copper Alloy	1

Glass	194	Coins	1
Faunal Remains	71	Plaster / Mortar	64
Worked Bone	2	Worked Stone	6
Lead	1	Total:	465

Table 1 Artefact Quantity by Type

The ceramic assemblage is made up of 93 sherds, mostly recovered from the demolition debris of Trenches 1 and 2, and clearly relate to the later domestic occupation of the castle. These sherds mostly comprise late-17th to mid-18th century tin-glazed ceramics, mid-18th century salt-glazed and creamware ceramics, as well as porcelain, pearlware, and Scottish redware. Some of the finds from Trench 1 included numerous fragments of a chamber pot with residue, and fragments of what is likely an 18th century slipware loaf dish (SF002). Unsurprisingly the finds from Trench 2 were similar to those recovered from Trench 1, with numerous chamber pot fragments, delftware, creamware, and porcelain having been recovered amongst others. Trench 3 also produced a number of ceramic sherds, with a number of tin-glazed, creamware, and porcelain fragments coming from the demolition debris below the castle's eastern face.

Plate 23 The range of ceramics recovered from the excavations, all of mid- and later-18th century in date

Only two clay tobacco pipe fragments were recovered during the evaluation: a possible 18th century stem fragment from the lower deposits within Trench 1 (SF009), and a later, mid-19th century stem fragment with long-spur from the topsoil within Trench 5 (SF062).

In total 194 shards of glass were recovered, these mainly green bottle glass that had been incorporated into the mortar uncovered within Trenches 1 and 2. The majority of the green bottle glass is datable to the mid to late 18th century, with one shard possibly dating to the late 17th century (SF005). Four base shards from a particularly large case gin bottle (SF003) were also recovered from the demolition debris within Trench 1; this displayed a pontil scar and likely dates to the final quarter of the 18th century.



Plate 24 Selection of bottle glass, mostly later 18th century

Numerous shards of window glass are also present within the assemblage, recovered from Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6. Many of these shards are clear / aqua glass and likely date to the 18th century; some of the shards recovered are a darker-iridescent glass and are likely somewhat earlier in date. In addition to the glass pane shards, a section of Lead window came (SF001) was also recovered from the demolition debris within Trench 1.



Plate 25 Selection of window glass

The Iron assemblage from Myrton is made up mostly of nails from the ceiling contexts or demolition debris within Trenches 1 and 2. Many of the nails have wood and plaster adherences, are from secure contexts, and are in a relatively good state of preservation. A hinge crook and bolt were also recovered from the wall within Trench 1, showing the location of a former doorway. Other Iron finds include various fittings, a possible fire choke, and hammer head, from the topsoil within Trench 2. Two Copper Alloy finds were recovered during the evaluation: a small thimble (SF040), likely late 18th century in date, was discovered within the demolition debris within Trench 2, and the find of a single coin was made from the lower deposits within Trench 3. The coin (SF059), is thought to be a Dutch *Duit* from the early to mid-17th century, with 'ZEE LAN DIA' encircled by a wreath on the reverse.

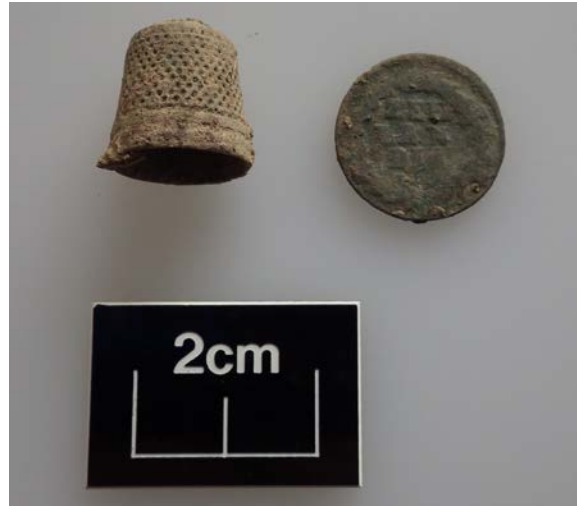


Plate 26 Thimble (SF040) and Dutch coin (SF059)

The Faunal Remains assemblage represents only a sample of what was present during the excavation, with small bird and mammal remains that were likely deposited post-abandonment and a selection of remains from the topsoil contexts not being retained. In all, 71 faunal remains were recovered, mostly from Trenches 1 and 2, comprising mostly cattle, and sheep, with other small mammal and bird included. The remains are for the most part butchered, and are represent what would be expected of typical domestic consumption.

In addition to the faunal remains, two worked bone artefacts were recovered. A bone knife handle with Fe tang and blade (SF023) was retrieved from the demolition debris within Trench 2, and a section of a utensil handle (SF061) was discovered in the topsoil deposits within Trench 4.

The worked stone assemblage from Myrton consists of 6 roofing slates (SF028), both complete and fragmentary, from the debris deposits within Trench 2. The roofing slates retained are a small sample of what was uncovered on-site, and were selected to show the differing diameters of nail holes; one slate contains the remnants of an Fe nail *in situ*.

The plaster and mortar assemblage consists of 64 fragments, including 52 plaster fragments and 12 lumps of mortar. All of the plaster was recovered from Trenches 1 and 2, while the mortar comes from trenches 2 and 3. Both wall plaster and ceiling plaster are present, some with the remnants of paint and brush hairs adhering (SF011). 5 fragments of moulded architectural plaster (SF017) were recovered from the context associated with ceiling collapse within Trench 1, some of these are conjoining, and show lath imprints and traces of paint remaining – sections of a robustly detailed run classical cornice. The mortar (in addition to what is adhered to the glass assemblage) was recovered from Trenches 2 and 3. The mortar from Trench 2 is likely 17th-18th century in date, and is associated with the demolition rubble deposits. The mortar from Trench 3 is much earlier in date, shell-rich, and is likely the result of debris / collapse from the late medieval tower.



Plate 27 Selection of plaster from trenches 1 and 2 including run cornice sections of classical profile

Overall, the finds recovered during the archaeological evaluation of Myrton Castle makes up what is considered to be a very interesting assemblage that reflects the castle's later re-use as a lairdly household during the 17th and 18th centuries. Some later finds relating to the castle's dismantling, c.1800, were made though very few dating to the post-1800 period were recovered. Prior to more formal analysis, it would seem that no artefacts pre-dating the mid-17th century were uncovered during the archaeological evaluation. The evidence suggests that the motte summit was scoured clean of archaeological debris prior to the castle's 17th century remodelling, though it is possible that the placement of the evaluation trenches missed out on earlier deposits. It seems most probable that if any earlier artefactual material at Myrton survives it will most likely be found at the base of the Motte and within the moat to the southeast.

3. Overview

i. General

In most respects the evaluation succeeded in providing the information required for the purposes of better understanding the tower, its extent and footing details, and its relationship both to the pre-existing motte mound and the later range that extended off from its north side. The evaluation also provided significant new information on the details of the later range itself, of an episode of secondary remodelling that affected the range towards the end of its life, likely to have occurred in the third quarter of the 18th century, and in relation to the material culture of the later lairdly household in the 18th century. The following sections provide a chronological summary the findings of the evaluation (also refer to *figures 13 and 14*):

ii. Motte mound (trenches 1-6)

At the base of each of the six trenches a deposit of compacted dense orange-brown clayey material was encountered. This would appear to be the make-up material of the early motte mound (at least its upper extent). It was surprisingly hard, encouraging in terms of being a stable substrate that might adequately support new construction. Certainly the tower, which remains vertically walled for its three surviving sides, was built directly off this material.

There was no indication of features that related to the earlier history of the motte mound, such as post-holes for a timber superstructure, a palisade or similar. It appeared that the motte top had been deliberately levelled at the time of the tower's construction around AD1500. No finds or pottery of medieval (pre-1500) date were recovered.

iii. Exterior footings of tower to east, south and west (trenches 3, 4 and 5)

These trenches revealed a footing structure that was consistent for each side, comprising a solitary projecting footing course formed of individual large blocks of stone. The footing had been built within a very shallow foundation trench cut dug directly into the clay. These footings were originally not deeply buried, and their upper parts may even have been visible.

iv. Interior footings of tower (trench 6)

Before excavation it was already apparent that the interior of the tower lay at a lower level than the ground surface at its east, south and west sides. With the excavation of trench 6 it was confirmed that the base of the tower wall (its west wall, as revealed in the trench) lies about 0.90m below the level of the tower's exterior footings.

v. North wall of tower – medieval period (trenches 1 and 2)

The excavation of trenches 1 and 2 confirmed the position of the lost north wall of the tower. Overall the tower had measured 8.60m by 6.80m. Probable evidence was found for the position of a stone turnpike stair at the NW angle that may have been accessed by an exterior entrance at the north end of the west wall (a small trench excavation in this area would probably provide more definitive evidence). Almost nothing of the north wall itself survived. However the probable points of its return were visible internally, particularly within trench 1 on the east side, and could be deduced for the west side. It is possible that the base course(s) of the external angles of the tower may still remain *in situ* – however these points lay beyond the edges of the two evaluation trenches. The north wall was of similar thickness to the surviving walls.

vi. North wall of tower – early 17th century (trenches 1 and 2)

Rather than having collapsed the excavation demonstrated beyond reasonable doubt that the north wall of the tower had been deliberately dismantled. It would seem that it was removed so that the early 17th

century range to the north could be built into the side of the tower. Obviously this would appear to be good news in structural terms – i.e. its loss was probably not the result of structural instability of the tower or mound beneath.

vii. 17th century range to north (trenches 1 and 2)

Parts of the side walls of the 17th century range were found in trenches 1 and 2 respectively. As hypothesised they formed a link between the existing remains of the tower and the north range. The walling revealed in on the east side in trench 1 contained the sill of a window that still retained its chamfered surround. It lay at a similar level to the only other surviving first floor window in the early 17th century range – the latter now embedded within the west gable wall of the later bothy (which had been built up against the 17th century range's facade).

When the 17th century range had been built, the north wall of the tower was removed and the later range's rooms extended in to the tower interior. Clearly the 17th century range stepped up as it ran in to the motte mound.

The line of an internal cross wall within the 17th century range was revealed within trenches 1 and 2, this lying upon the site of north wall of the medieval tower, but much thinner. The floor level to the south of the cross wall (extending in to the tower interior) lay at higher level than the floor level of the room on its north side – but only by about 0.45 - 0.50m.

The room to the north of the cross wall had had a timber floor supported on earth-fast joists. In this area a mass of fallen wall plaster was excavated that also included some substantial sections of run lime plaster cornice – possibly from the ceiling of the chamber, or from the ceiling of the chamber on the floor above. This is of a 'robust' classical detail – not totally clear whether this is original to the 17th century range or to an 18th century reworking of its interiors.

viii. 18th century modifications (trenches 1 and 2)

There was some evidence for a secondary reorganisation of the space within the 17th century range. Part of the cross wall seems to have been dismantled (its east end, as seen in trench 1), and the side wall in that area patched – the window was blocked and a shelved press installed. The dating of this work – with similar masonry patchings seen in trench 2 as well – would appear to be about the 3rd quarter of the 18th century, because much broken bottle glass of that date was built in to the fabric.

ix. Domestic occupation - finds (mainly trenches 1, 2 and 3)

In the demolition debris layers within the trenches, particularly within trenches 1 and 2, but also in trench 3, a number of finds relating to the later domestic occupation of the castle were recovered (see Appendix D. The ceramics included tin-glazed Delftware pottery dating from the 17th-mid 18th century and salt-glazed ceramics from the mid-18th century. Glassware included bottle glass ranging in date from around 1700 or a little earlier to the later 18th century and window glass – some earlier dark-iridised examples and some clearer glass, probably dating to the 18th century. A single coin was recovered (from trench 3). This was a Dutch *Zeelandia Duit* of early-mid 17th century date. Overall this is a very interesting finds assemblage that speaks of the lairdly household in the latter days of the castle's occupation.

Some later finds date to the time of the dismantling of the castle at the end of the 18th century-c.1800. Very few finds of post-1800 date were recovered.

x. Dismantling at the end of the 18th century (trenches 1 and 2)

The upper floors of the 17th century range were deliberately and quite carefully dismantled towards the end of the 18th century. The assessment of the site in 2012 and 2013 had concluded that this related to

the re-ordering of the estate's policies, its buildings and the erection of the existing Monreith House. Dismantled material from the old castle and its associated structures was likely recycled.

xi. *Doocot - c.1800 - early 19th century (trench 6)*

The footing of the doocot wall was revealed at its junction with the west wall of the earlier tower. The footing base lay at higher level than that of the tower wall.

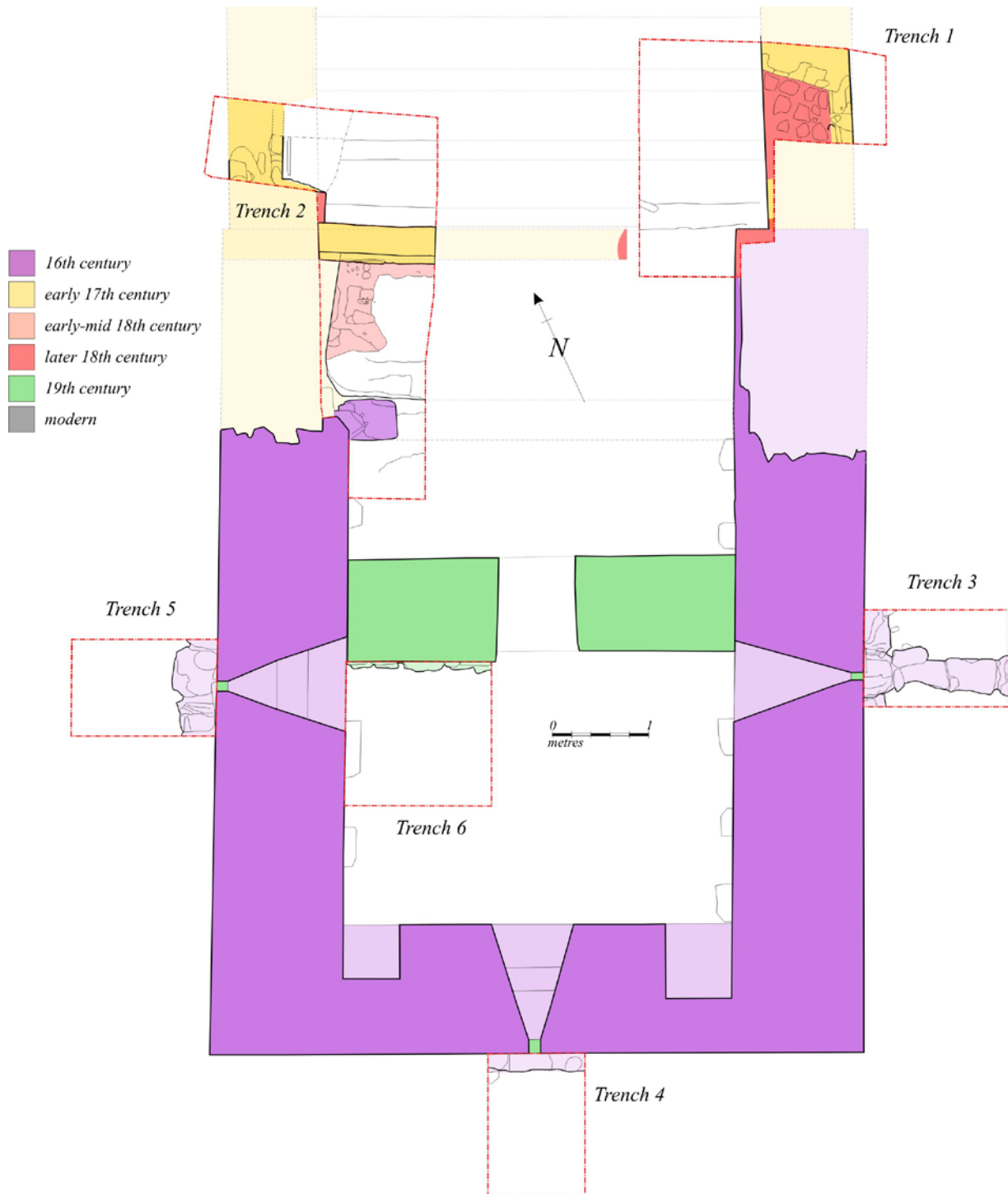


Figure 15 Plan of the tower showing excavated remains, phasing, etc

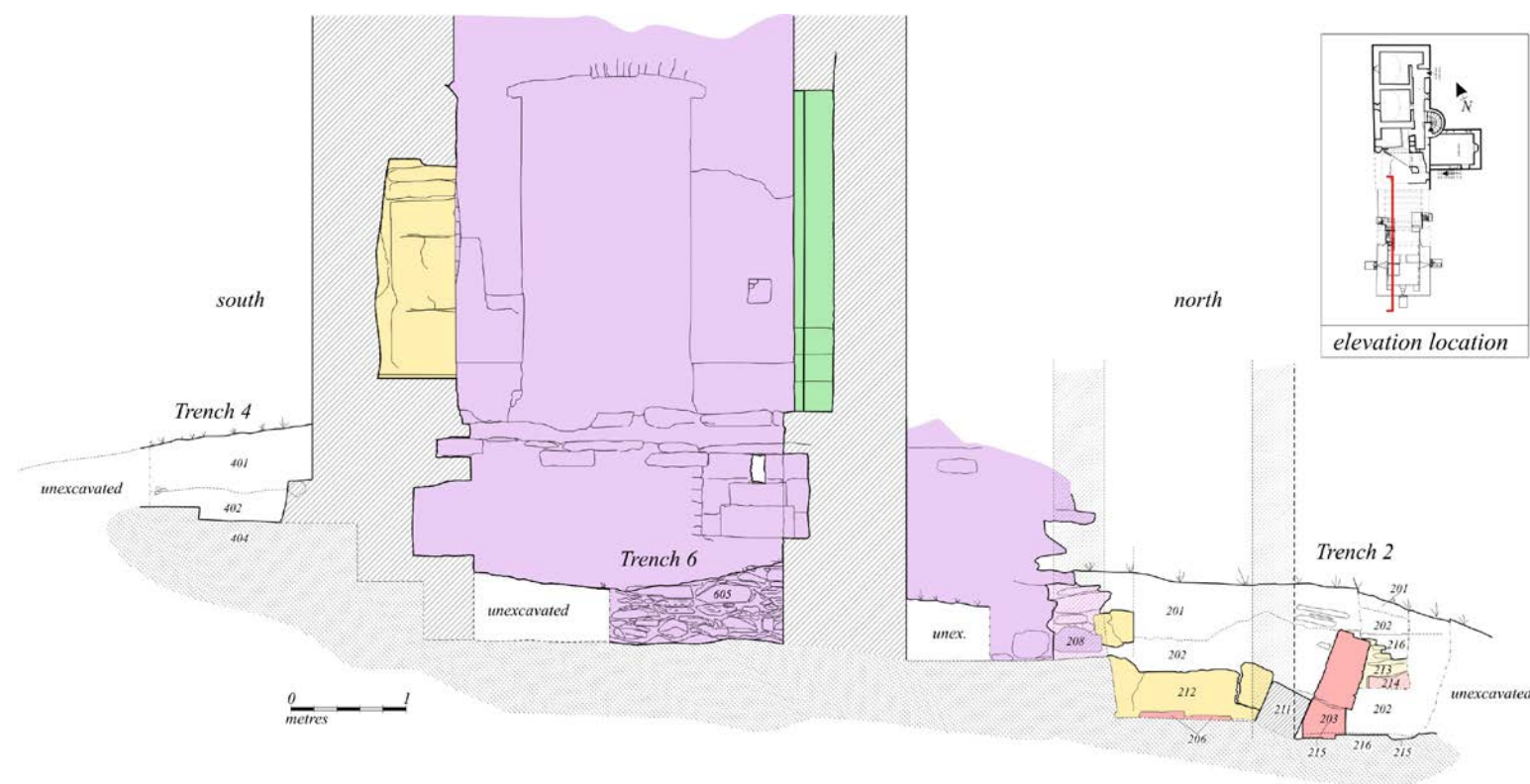


Figure 16 West-facing section of the tower incorporating the findings of the 2015 evaluation

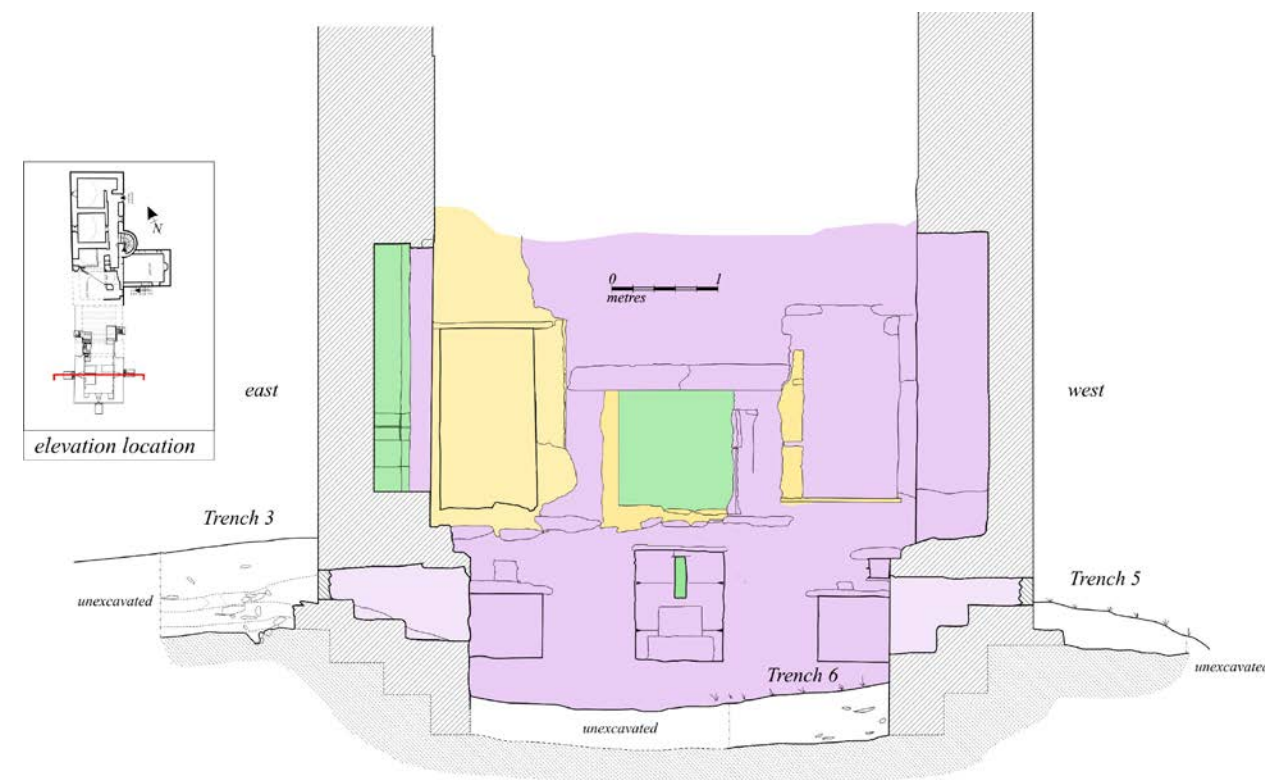


Figure 17 South-facing section of the tower incorporating the findings of the 2015 evaluation

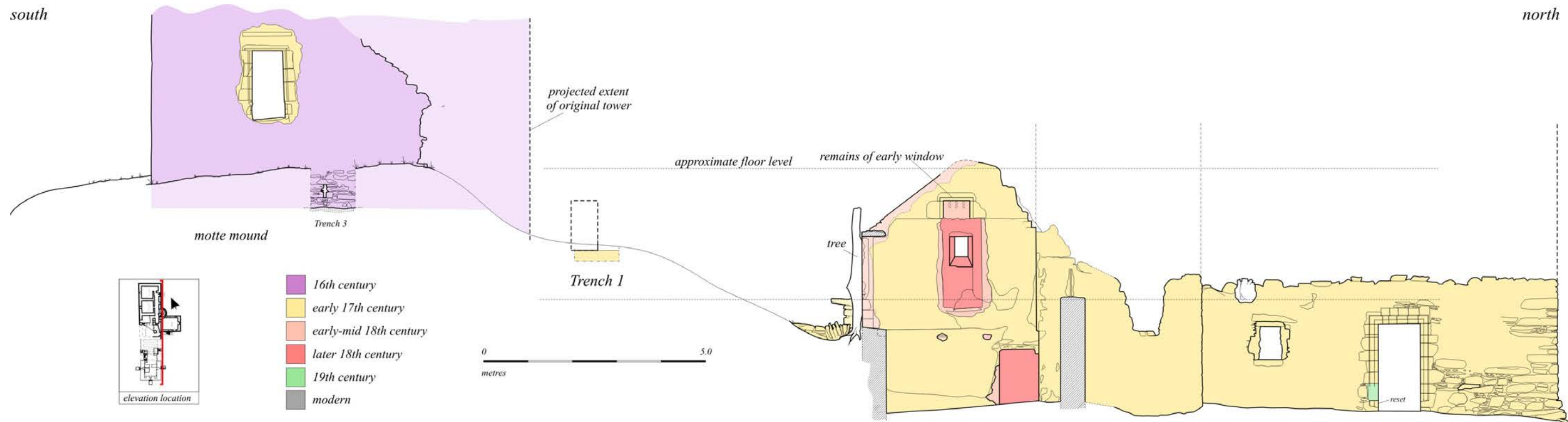


Figure 18 East elevation of the castle ruin showing the relationship of the tower to the northern range

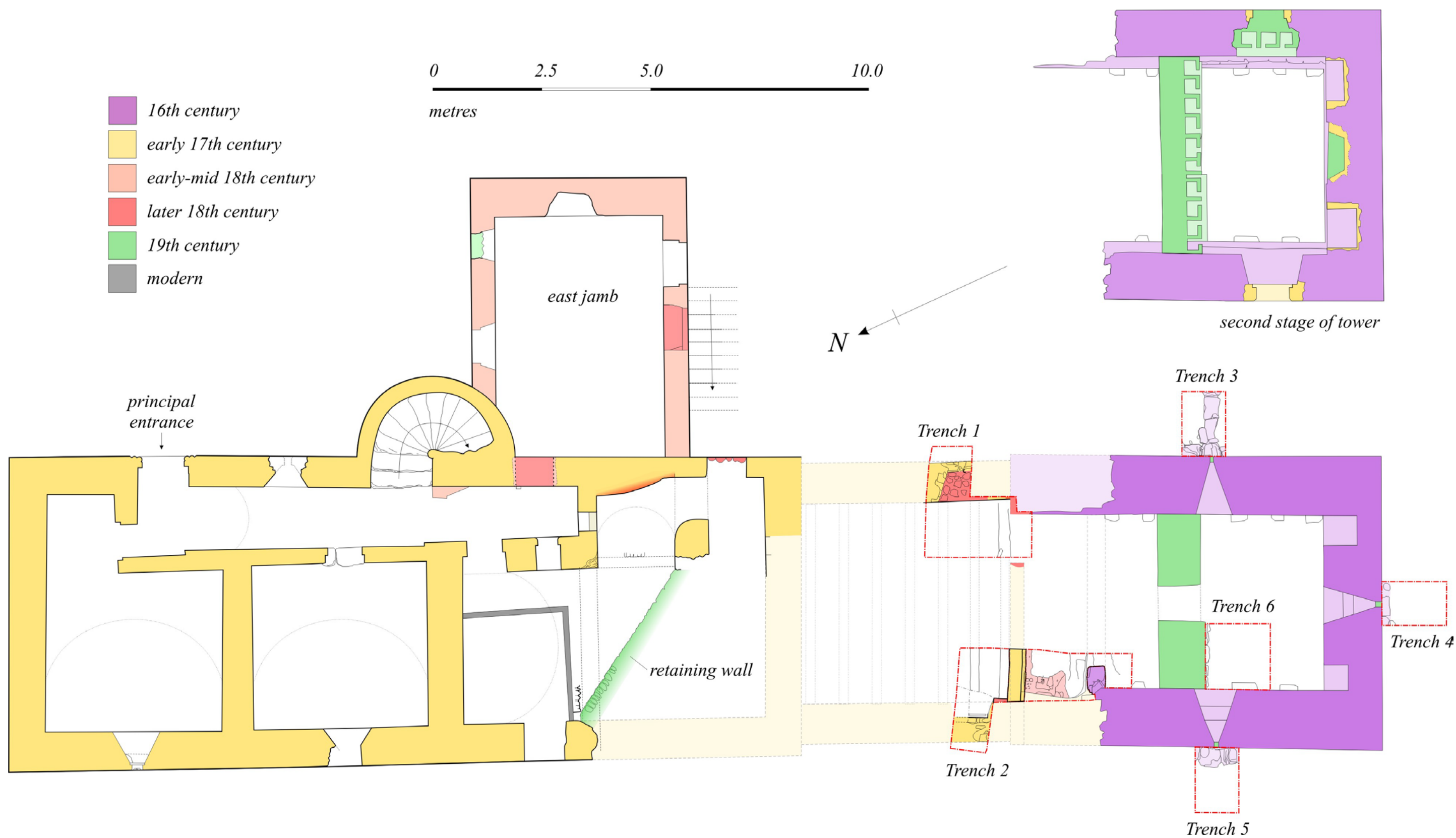


Figure 19 General phased plan of the castle ruin incorporating the findings of the 2015 evaluation

4. Discussion and recommendations

The primary reason for the evaluation exercise was to investigate whether the existing tower and the ground on its north side is capable of supporting new construction. From an archaeologist-observer's perspective the surviving three walls of the tower would seem to be structurally stable and solidly founded; this in spite of the slight nature of the footing structure to the exterior. Clearly the interior footings of the tower extend to greater depth and are bedded down in to the core of the summit of the motte mound.

The motte mound (or at least its upper parts) was revealed to have comprised a core of a hard, dense, compacted clayey matrix. It is possible that much of the motte mound is composed of such material. From the evaluation exercise there was no indication of structural instability within the surviving walling or indication of poor ground conditions on its north side. The north wall of the early tower seems to have been deliberately dismantled so that the later range could adjoin it in the 17th century.

What was not confirmed was the arrangement of chambers within the 17th century range as the range stepped down to the north, down the side of the motte mound. It seems likely that the chambers that must exist had been terraced in to the side of the mound. As discussed with the engineers on site there may be a need to confirm the position and nature of the terracing-in to the motte side in that area in order to determine whether the mound can still support new construction. The possibility of carrying out a northwards extension of trench 2 was discussed on site so that a more complete profile of the deposition, and structures could be recovered. A minimum extension of 1m by 6m would be needed to address this. It was also considered that an expansion of trench 2 in the area of the NW corner of the early tower would be helpful to confirm the precise location of its NW angle and to confirm or disprove the presence of an original entrance at that point.

References

Addyman, T & Oram, R 2014 *Myrton Castle, Monreith, by Port William, Wigtownshire: Historic Building Record and Analytical Assessment*. Addyman Archaeology unpublished report.

Appendix A Written Scheme of Investigation

Myrton Castle

Monreith, by Port William, Wigtownshire

Archaeological evaluation – Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

i. General

In 2013 Addyman Archaeology were commissioned by Philip Mercer, Architect, on behalf of Prof and Mrs. Watson-Gandy to undertake an analytical assessment and historic building survey at Myrton Castle within the Monreith estate policies, in the parish of Mochrum, located on the western side of the Machars of Galloway (NGR NX 36016 43275). The study was requested by Historic Scotland (contact Allan Rutherford) in advance of submission and to inform proposals for the repair and possible reoccupation of parts of the ruin.

The specific purpose was to develop a good understanding of the history and architectural evolution of the site in order to inform the design process. Particular attention was to be paid to the understanding of the phasing and relative significance of the individual elements that form features of the site.

Following submission of the resulting report in June 2013, with a further enhancement (December 2014), and continuing discussions with Historic Scotland, between 27 February and July 2015 (with John Malcolm, Senior Heritage Management Officer, West of Scotland), the desirability for some site investigation was discussed, the extent of excavation proposed and trench positions confirmed.

ii. Objectives

The investigation is required in order to better understand the potential issues relating to the reuse of the tower house at the heart of the site. The investigation is intended to address architectural, engineering and archaeological issues relating to the understanding of the structure and the viability of the proposed scheme for reuse.

ii. Methodology

a. General

It is proposed that the evaluation consist of the excavation of a limited series of localised archaeologically-controlled evaluation trenches in the immediate vicinity of and within the tower ruin. The trenches are to be sited so as to address very specific questions. Refer to *figure 3* - proposed trench locations.

b. North wall of tower (Trenches 1 and 2)

The north side of the tower is long since dismantled. The visible footings of the east and west walls of the tower can be seen extending considerably further northwards than the extent of the presently upstanding structure. No specific evidence for the position of the north wall of the tower is presently observable, but the returns of its internal wall-face cannot have lain much further beyond the extent of the visible side wall footings (and it is assumed that the tower basement level window lights were centrally positioned in the side walls). The position and details of the footing of the north wall therefore needs to be confirmed, both to better understand the architecture of the tower, as well as to understand the nature, extent and details of the footing structure for structural/architectural reasons –

whether they can form an adequate base for new construction. For archaeological reasons it would also be beneficial to understand the relationship of the north wall of the tower to the position of the later range (of early 17th century date) running off to the north, *figures 1 and 2*. It seems probable that the upper stories of the range had extended right up to the base of the tower, perhaps even having stepped up one or more times with the rise of the motte mound.

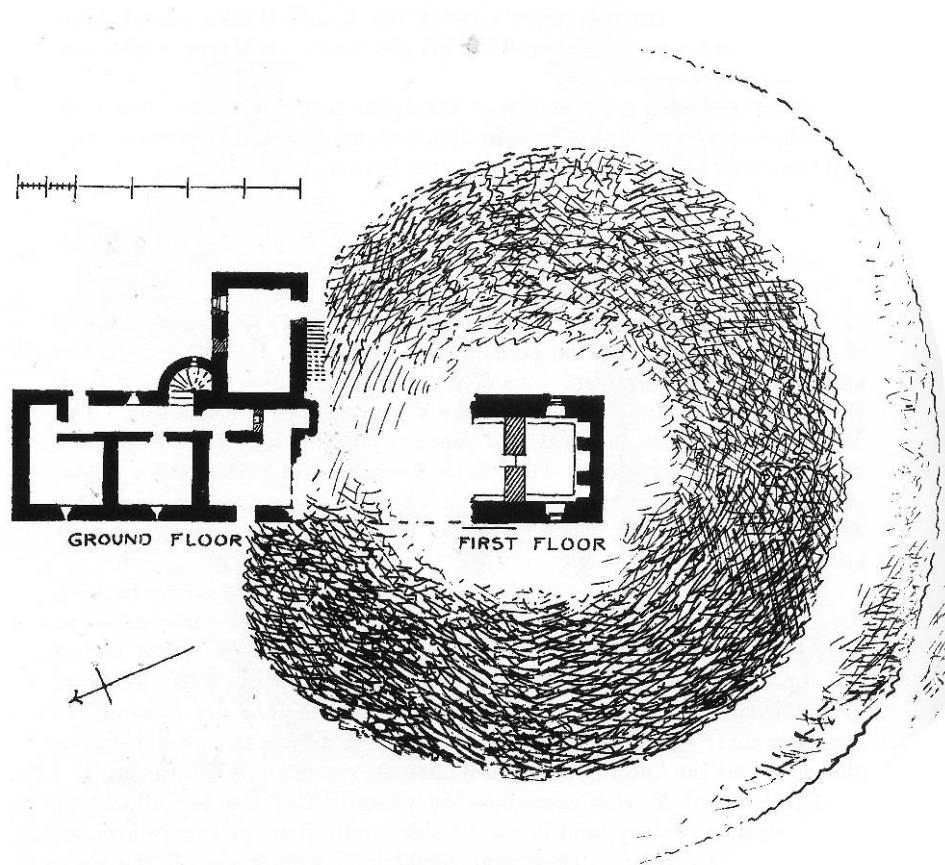


FIG. 1442.—Myrton Castle. Plans.

Figure 1 MacGibbon and Ross' plan of the castle site of 1892 showing the relationship of the tower, motte mound and the later range running in from the north

The north wall must also have contained the principal entrance to the tower, there being no evidence for such a feature within the surviving upstanding walling. It seems more probable that the entrance was at ground level – i.e. at the level of the motte top; perhaps less likely but not impossible for a tower of this date is that there had been a first floor entrance reached by a stair. Whichever may have been the case there must have subsequently been an internal entrance between the abutting range and the tower – either re-using the original entrance or with a new opening formed. It is likely that there would be some evidence preserved for the original arrangement within the footing structure of the north wall if it has not been entirely grubbed-out.

It is proposed that one or two trenches be positioned so as to understand this area (*figure 3*, Trenches 1 and 2). The trenches might be positioned in north-south alignment so as to locate the re-entrant angles of the tower interior and to cross the anticipated thickness of the north wall footings, and then to extend beyond its northern wall face to take in part of the area of the junction of the range running in from the north, each trench then angles outwards in order to more fully examine the junction with the range extending northwards from the angles of the tower. Precise positions may see slight adjustment in response to site conditions – see dimensions on figure 3.

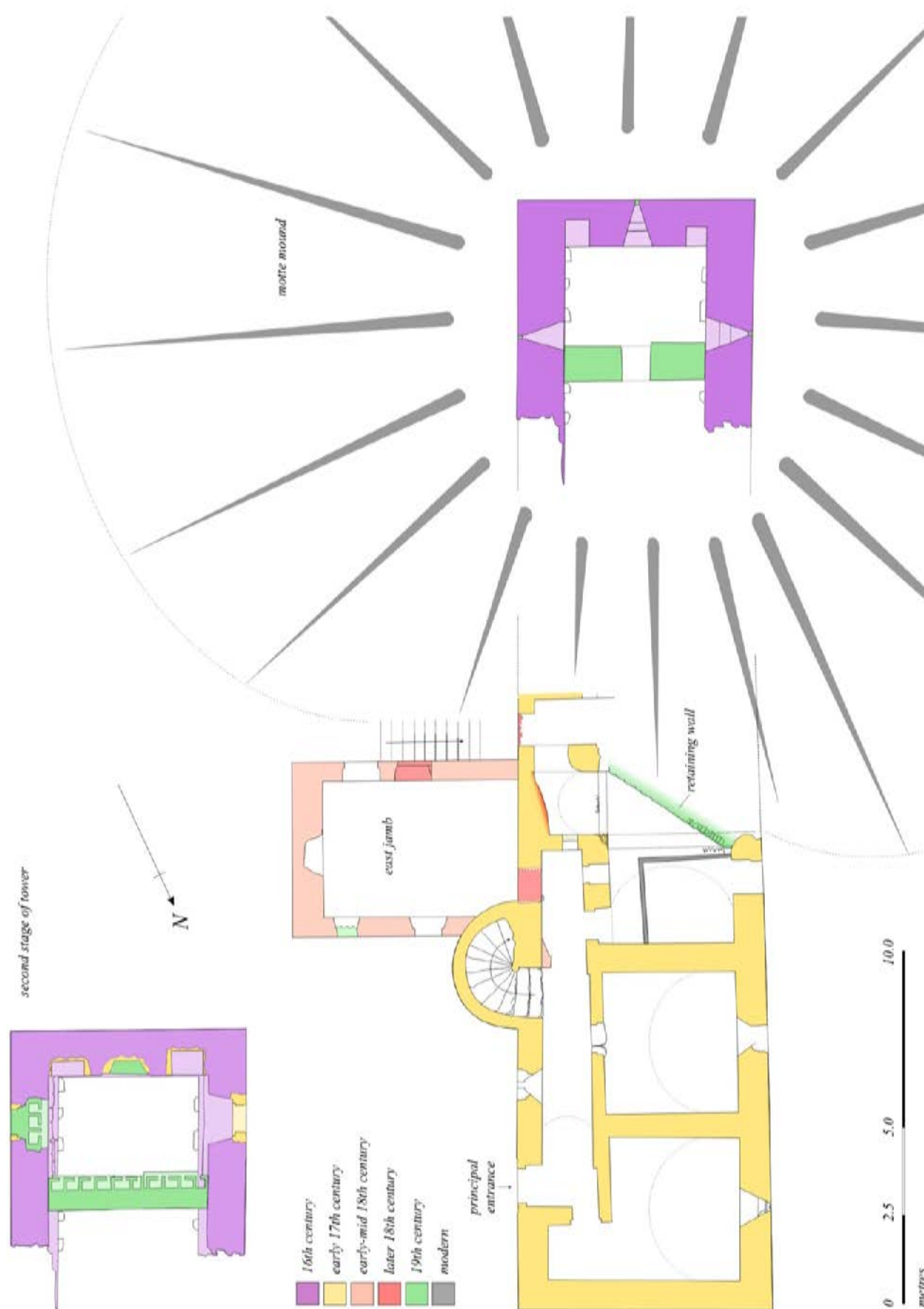


Figure 2 General plan showing phasing

c. Tower footing structure to east, west and south (Trenches 3, 4, and 5)

Confirmation of the nature and condition of the tower footing structure by localised evaluation trenches at the foot of the east, south and west walls. Structurally this is desirable to confirm the stability of the tower. Archaeologically this would allow understanding and record of the footing structure,. And would address particular analytical issues – why was the lower stage of the tower so deeply set in to the motte-top and whether it is possible to identify the extent of survival of the original upper surface of the earlier motte structure, and whether the motte-top was actually raised up around the base of the tower.

Investigation might take the form of three 1m x 1.5m sondages set perpendicularly against the respective wall foots, excavated down to the base of the wall footings. See *figure 3*, Trenches 3, 4 and 5.

d. Internal floor level of the tower (Trench 6)

It is proposed that a trench be located within the interior of the tower, this positioned so as to establish the floor level of the tower, the details of the internal wall foot and the depth and detail of the footing of the existing doo-cot wall at its junction with the tower wall. It is likely that the lower fill of the tower interior will also contain destruction deposits from its partial dismantling and, possibly, occupation-related deposits underlying. An investigative sondage would thus also address whether there is a more complex archaeological issue resulting from survival of such deposits, or not.

A single 1.5m by 1.5m or 2.0m by 2.0m sondage set at the NE or NW internal angle would address these issues. See *figure 3*, Trench 6.

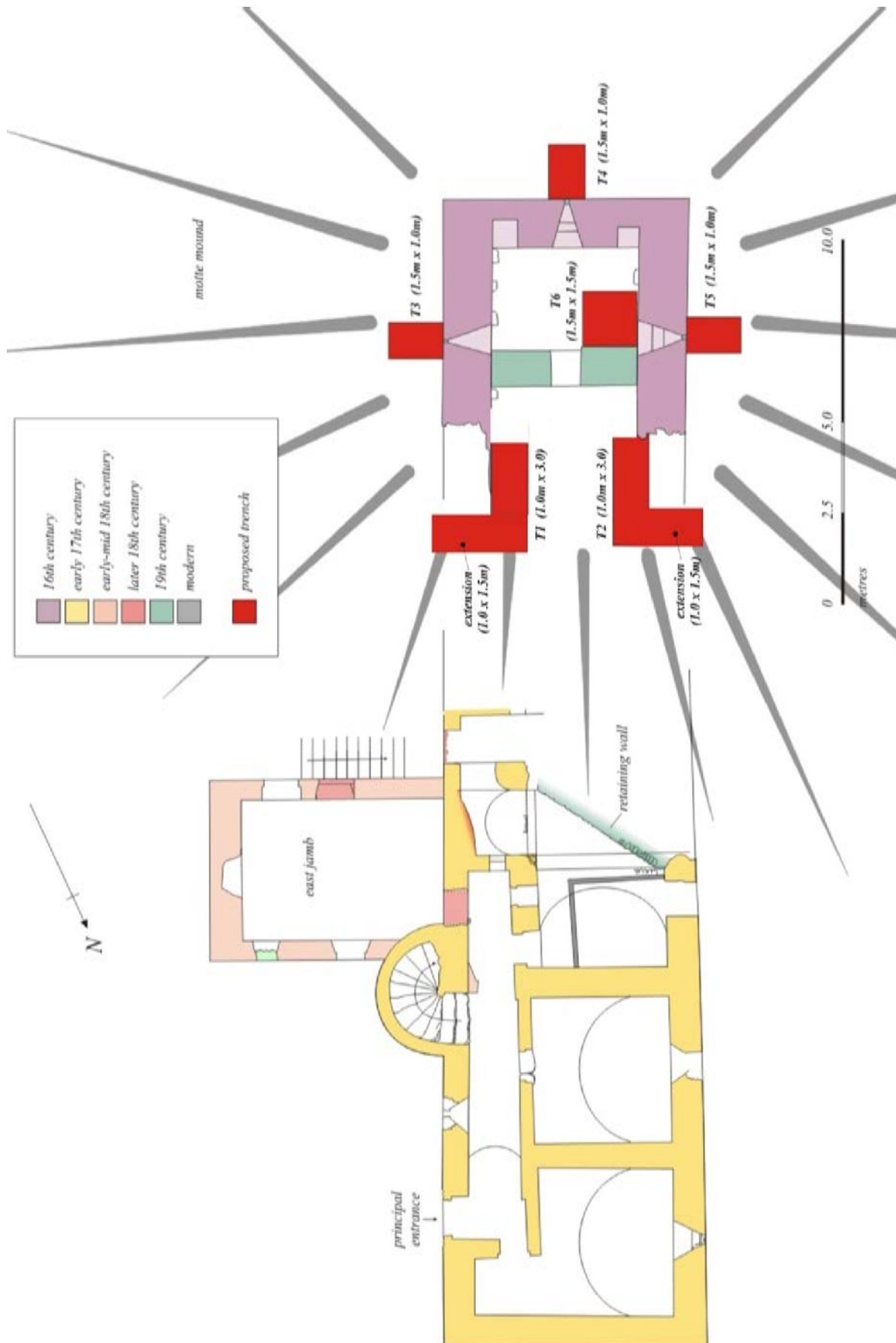


Figure 3 Proposed trench locations

Appendix B Context Register

Context No.	Trench	Description	Date	Initials
101	1	Topsoil and rubble	04/08/2015	EJ
102	1	Demolition - loose mortar and large stones	04/08/2015	EJ
103	1	Mid-brown silt E of [104]	04/08/2015	EJ
104	1	N/S wall in E part of trench	04/08/2015	EJ
105	1	Orange brown clayey silt W of [104]	04/08/2015	EJ
106	1	Loose mortar, bricks, rubble, plasters, and slates	05/08/2015	EJ
107	1	Layer of plaster/mid-brown silt/lath and plaster ceiling collapse	05/08/2015	EJ
108	1	Wall of tower	05/08/2015	EJ
109	1	Light brown silt under (107)	05/08/2015	EJ
110	1	Clay on E of wall [104]	05/08/2015	EJ
111	1	Clay on W of wall [104]	05/08/2015	EJ
112	1	Fine grey mortar at base of wall [104]	05/08/2015	EJ
201	2	Turf and topsoil	08/08/2015	KMacF
202	2	remnants of demolition and reuse of larger stones	08/08/2015	KMacF
203	2	Initial demolition strip out	08/08/2015	KMacF
204	2	Ceiling plaster	08/08/2015	KMacF
205	2	Mid-dark brown silty soil	08/08/2015	KMacF
206	2	Construction deposit between walls [208], [211]	08/08/2015	KMacF
207	2	Red/brown clay with rubble and mortar	08/08/2015	KMacF
208	2	E-W aligned masonry wall	08/08/2015	KMacF
209	2	Terracing of motte for mansion house	08/08/2015	KMacF
210	2	Mansion house W elevation	08/08/2015	KMacF
211	2	E-W aligned crosswall	08/08/2015	KMacF
212	2	N-S aligned mansion house W elevation	08/08/2015	KMacF
213	2	Window recess within [212]	08/08/2015	KMacF
214	2	Secondary wall lining of [213]	08/08/2015	KMacF
215	2	Linear cuts within motte [216]	08/08/2015	KMacF
216	2	Motte clay	08/08/2015	KMacF
217	2	Secondary 'jamb' formed on south side of the [213] window ingo	08/08/2015	KMacF
218	2	South jamb of possible entrance or window opening within [212] masonry	08/08/2015	KMacF
301	3	Topsoil/landscaping layer	05/08/2015	AJLM
302	3	Castle wall E facing elevation	05/08/2015	AJLM
303	3	Demolition rubble/collapse	05/08/2015	AJLM
304	3	Mortar lens	05/08/2015	AJLM
305	3	Castle foundation stones	05/08/2015	AJLM
306	3	Gun loop	05/08/2015	AJLM
307	3	Orange clay motte surface	05/08/2015	AJLM
308	3	Stone-capped drain	06/08/2015	AJLM
309	3	Deposit overlying drain, below (304)	06/08/2015	AJLM
310	3	Silty deposit S of drain	06/08/2015	AJLM
311	3	Drain fill	06/08/2015	AJLM

Context No.	Trench	Description	Date	Initials
312	3	Likely same as (310)?	06/08/2015	AJLM
313	3	Post-hole cut	07/08/2015	AJLM
314	3	Post-hole post packing	07/08/2015	AJLM
315	3	Post-hole fill	07/08/2015	AJLM
316	3	Cut for drain (308)	07/08/2015	AJLM
401	4	Loose soil w pebble/slate debris	05/08/2015	RAM
402	4	Compact orange clay	05/08/2015	RAM
403	4	S exterior wall of tower	05/08/2015	RAM
404	4	Wall foundation of tower	05/08/2015	RAM
405	4	Loop in S wall	05/08/2015	RAM
406	4	Topsoil	12/08/2015	TA
407	4	Shallow footing trench for {404}	12/08/2015	TA
501	5	Topsoil	05/08/2015	AJLM
502	5	Castle W facing elevation	05/08/2015	AJLM
503	5	Stone castle foundations	05/08/2015	AJLM
504	5	Light brown/yellow shell-rich mortar	05/08/2015	AJLM
505	5	Orange-brown clay motte surface	05/08/2015	AJLM
506	5	Cut in motte for [503]	10/08/2015	AJLM
507	5	Fill of [506] underlying [503]	10/08/2015	AJLM
601	6	Top soil/pigeon, humic, soft, frequent brick/stone rubble	04/08/2015	AJLM
602	6	Concentration of slate/rubble	04/08/2015	AJLM
603	6	Soft silty clay underlying (602)	04/08/2015	AJLM
604	6	Compact orange clay, motte surface	04/08/2015	AJLM
605	6	W wall of castle, E facing	04/08/2015	AJLM
606	6	N wall of doocot, S facing.	04/08/2015	AJLM
607	6	'cut' – upper of surface the (604) deposit	04/08/2015	AJLM
608	6	'divots' within the upper surface of (604)	04/08/2015	AJLM

Appendix C Drawing Register

Dwg No.	Type	Scale	Sheet	Description	Date	Drawn by
001	P	1:20	1	Mid-ex plan TR 1	04/08/2015	EJ
002	E	1:10	1	S elevation TR 4	05/08/2015	RAM
003	S	1:10	1	W facing section TR 4	05/08/2015	RAM
004	P	1:20	1	TR 4 Plan	05/08/2015	RAM
005	P	1:20	1	Post-ex plan TR 1	06/08/2015	EJ
006	P	1:20	1	Post-ex S-end TR 1	06/08/2015	EJ
007	S	1:20	1	S facing section TR1	06/08/2015	EJ
008	S	1:20	1	E facing Section TR 1	06/08/2015	EJ
009	P	1:20	2	Plan of TR 5 post-ex	06/08/2015	RAM
010	P	1:20	2	Plan of TR 6 post-ex	06/08/2015	RAM
011	E	1:10	2	W facing Elevation TR 5 post-ex	06/08/2015	RAM
012	S	1:10	2	N facing Section TR 5 post-ex	06/08/2015	RAM
013	S	1:10	2	S facing section TR 5 post-ex	06/08/2015	RAM
014	E	1:10	2	Elevation TR 6 post-ex E and S facings walls [605] [606]	06/08/2015	RAM
015	S	1:10	2	N facing section TR 6 post-ex	06/08/2015	RAM
016	P	1:20	2	TR 3 post-ex plan	06/08/2015	AJLM
017	P	1:20		TR 3 post hole [313] post-ex overlay	07/08/2015	AJLM
018	E/S	1:20		TR 3 post-ex E facing elevation, S, W, N facing sections	06-07/08/2015	AJLM
019	P	1:20	3	TR 2 plan at LoE	08/08/2015	KMacF
020	P	1:20	3	TR 1 plan of wall [104]	08/08/2015	KMacF
021	P	1:20	3	TR 2 Clay lump	04/08/2015	KMacF
022	S	1:20	3	TR 2 N section	08/08/2015	KMacF
023	E	1:20	3	TR 1 elevation	08/08/2015	KMacF
024	S	1:20	3	TR 2 E section	08/08/2015	KMacF
025	S/E	1:20	3	TR 2 S section	08/08/2015	KMacF
026	S	1:20	3	TR 2 N section	08/08/2015	KMacF
027	S/P	1:10	3	TR 1 detail of window	08/08/2015	KMacF

Appendix D Finds Register

Finds No.	Context No.	Trench	Material	Date	Initials	Quantity	Description	Comments
001	102	1	Pb	04/08/2015	EJ	1	Lead window came section	
002	102	1	Ceramic	04/08/2015	EJ	14	Various sherds including Tin-glaze	5-6 sherds from same vessel, some with residue
003	102	1	Glass	04/08/2015	EJ	6	Case Gin base in 4 shards, plus green bottle glass	Bottle glass mouth with neck, plus body shard
004	102	1	Fe	04/08/2015	EJ	2	Nails	Squared nails with wood and plaster concretions
005	103	1	Glass	04/08/2015	EJ	3	Bottle glass and vessel glass	Includes body shard of onion bottle
006	103	1	Glass	04/08/2015	EJ	9	Window glass	Crown glass?
007	103	1	Ceramic	04/08/2015	EJ	4	Various sherds including Tin-glaze	3 rim, 1 base sherd
008	105	1	Faunal Remains	04/08/2015	EJ	2	Rib and vertebrae	Sheep? Excellent preservation not obviously butchered
009	105	1	Clay Pipe	04/08/2015	EJ	1	Stem Fragment	Unmarked
010	105	1	Ceramic	04/08/2015	EJ	2	Tin-glaze	Base sherd with residue
011	105	1	Plaster	04/08/2015	EJ	2	Wall plaster?	Wood impressions and brush hair
012	105	1	Glass	04/08/2015	EJ	5	Green bottle glass with mortar adherences	Incorporated into mortar
013	106	1	Glass	05/08/2015	EJ	12	Green bottle glass with mortar adherences	7 base, 3 body, 2 neck/lip. Good diagnostic
014	106	1	Faunal Remains	05/08/2015	EJ	3	Cattle? Rib butchered, Skull (rat?), and long bone	Possible juvenile long bone, know marks
015	107	1	Glass	05/08/2015	EJ	3	Green bottle glass	Body sherds
016	107	1	Fe	05/08/2015	EJ	4	Nails	Possible roofing nails, wood adherence
017	107	1	Plaster	05/08/2015	EJ	5	Moulded plaster	Lath imprints and Pb paint, joining
018	109	1	Ceramic	05/08/2015	EJ	4	Glazed vessel, 0.22m base diameter	3 base joining, 1 body. From corner of wall [108]
019	109	1	Glass	05/08/2015	EJ	6	Green bottle glass with mortar adherences	2 base, 4 body. From corner of wall [108]
020	109	1	Fe	05/08/2015	EJ	2	Hinge crook and bolt?	From corner of wall [108]
021	112	1	Glass	05/08/2015	EJ	6	Green bottle glass	3 base, 2 body, 1 neck. Mortar encrusted.
022	201	2	Faunal Remains	04/08/2015	KmacF	6	Includes butcheries vertebrae, cattle, bird	Long bones include 1 non-fusion
023	201	2	Worked Bone	04/08/2015	KmacF	1	Bone knife handle with Fe blade fragment / tang	Worked Bone and Fe

Finds No.	Context No.	Trench	Material	Date	Initials	Quantity	Description	Comments
024	201	2	Fe	04/08/2015	KmacF	4	Various, including fire choke?, hammer head, etc.	From top deposit
025	201	2	Glass	04/08/2015	KmacF	9	8 green bottle glass, 1 squared vessel shoulder	Good diagnostics
026	201	2	Plaster	04/08/2015	KmacF	3	Possibly wall plaster or harl?	
027	201	2	Ceramic	04/08/2015	KmacF	16	Chamber pot with residue, and others	Various sherds
028	201	2	Slate	04/08/2015	KmacF	6	Roof slates, 1 with Fe nail intact, 1 complete	Showing hole sizes
029	202	2	Fe	04/08/2015	KmacF	7	Nails, some with wood adherence	From north half
030	202	2	Faunal Remains	04/08/2015	KmacF	19	Bird, cattle, sheep, long bones, rib, vertebrae, etc.	Mostly butchered. From north half
031	202	2	Glass	04/08/2015	KmacF	15	Bottle glass, 1 with mortar adherence	Good diagnostic. From north half
032	202	2	Glass	04/08/2015	KmacF	3	Window glass	From north half
033	202	2	Ceramic	04/08/2015	KmacF	19	Mostly chamber pot with residue	From north half
034	202	2	Plaster	04/08/2015	KmacF	4	Fragments, including 2 with wood impressions	From north half
035	202	2	Faunal Remains	04/08/2015	KmacF	9	Rib, long bone, vertebrae, mandible, etc.	Mostly butchered. From deposit
036	202	2	Mortar	04/08/2015	KmacF	1	Lump with nail hole?	From deposit
037	202	2	Glass	04/08/2015	KmacF	29	Green bottle glass with mortar adherences	7 base, 18 body, 4 neck. From deposit
038	202	2	Ceramic	04/08/2015	KmacF	1	Painted dish base	From deposit
039	202	2	Fe	04/08/2015	KmacF	3	Nails x 2, plus other	From deposit
040	202	2	CuA	04/08/2015	KmacF	1	Thimble	From deposit
041	202	2	Ceramic	03/08/2015	RAM	2	Base sherds	
042	203	2	Ceramic	06/08/2015	KmacF	8	Various sherds including Tin-glaze	4 rim, 2 base, 2 body
043	203	2	Faunal Remains	04/08/2015	KmacF	19	Mammal, bird, Gnawed and butchered	From sitting on surface of clay below
044	203	2	Glass	04/08/2015	KmacF	32	Green bottle glass with mortar adherences	Good diagnostic. From sitting on surface of clay below
045	203	2	Mortar/Plaster	04/08/2015	KmacF	4	Lumps of mortar/plaster	From sitting on surface of clay below
046	203	2	Fe	04/08/2015	KmacF	1	Nail	From sitting on surface of clay below
047	204	2	Plaster	06/08/2015	KmacF	38	Small fragments of ceiling plaster	
048	204	2	Fe	06/08/2015	KmacF	1	Nail?	From context with ceiling plaster
049	205	2	Faunal Remains	06/08/2015	KmacF	4	Long bone, rib, bird, butchered	From silt below ceiling collapse

<i>Finds No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Comments</i>
050	205	2	Ceramic	06/08/2015	KmacF	2	Body and rim sherd	From silt below ceiling collapse
051	205	2	Glass	06/08/2015	KmacF	6	Window glass	From silt below ceiling collapse
052	205	2	Fe	06/08/2015	KmacF	6	Nails	From silt below ceiling collapse
053	205	2	Glass	06/08/2015	KmacF	31	Green bottle glass with mortar adherences	From silt below ceiling collapse
054	205	2	Glass	06/08/2015	KmacF	1	Blue vial lip shard	From silt below ceiling collapse
055	301	3	Faunal Remains	05/08/2015	AJLM	2	Hoof, phalange	
056	301	3	Ceramic	05/08/2015	AJLM	9	Various sherds including Tin-glaze handle	
057	301	3	Glass	05/08/2015	AJLM	3	Window glass	
058	304	3	Mortar	05/08/2015	AJLM	7	Shell rich lumps .0.05m in size	
059	310	3	CuA	05/08/2015	AJLM	1	Coin, Dutch c.early-mid 17th century	Obv 'ZEE LAN DIA' encircled with wreath
060	401	4	Faunal Remains	04/08/2015	RAM	7	Long bone, rib, etc. Butchered	
061	401	4	Worked Bone	04/08/2015	RAM	1	Utensil handle segment, drilled	
062	401	4	Clay Pipe	04/08/2015	RAM	1	Stem fragment with long spur	Likely mid 19th century
063	401	4	Glass	04/08/2015	RAM	5	Window glass	
064	401	4	Glass	04/08/2015	RAM	7	Bottle glass	Multi period
065	401	4	Ceramic	04/08/2015	RAM	11	Various multi period sherds	
066	603	6	Ceramic	04/08/2015	AJLM	1	Rim Sherd	From above floor
067	603	6	Glass	04/08/2015	AJLM	3	Window Glass	From above floor

Appendix E Sample Register

<i>Sample number</i>	<i>Context number</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	311	Fill of drain [316]
002	304	Mortar sample

Appendix F Photographic Register

Image No.	Taken from	Trench #	Description	Date	Initials	Orientation
001	SE		Pre-Ex general shots at N-end	03/08/2015	EJ	L
002	SE		Pre-Ex general shots at N-end	03/08/2015	EJ	P
003	E		Pre-Ex general shots at N-end	03/08/2015	EJ	L
004	N		Pre-Ex general shots at N-end	03/08/2015	EJ	L
005	S		Pre-ex TR 3	03/08/2015	AJLM	L
006	W		Pre-ex TR 3	03/08/2015	AJLM	P
007	SW	2	TR 2 working shot	03/08/2015	EJ	L
008	W	2	TR 2 working shot	03/08/2015	EJ	L
009	NE	1	TR 1 showing rubble layer (102)	03/08/2015	EJ	L
010	W	6	TR 6 pre-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
011	N	6	TR 6 pre-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
012	W	6	TR 6 pre-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	P
013	W	6	TR 6 mid-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
014	N	6	TR 6 mid-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
015	N/V	6	TR 6 mid-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
016	N/V	6	TR 6 mid-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
017	V/W	6	TR 6 mid-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
018	W	6	TR 6 mid-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
019	V/N	6	TR 6 mid-ex, south end	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
020	W	6	TR 6 mid-ex, E-facing elevation	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
021	W	6	TR 6 mid-ex, E-facing elevation	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
022	N	6	TR 6 mid-ex, S-facing elevation	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
023	E	6	TR 6 mid-ex, W-facing elevation	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
024	E	6	TR 6 mid-ex, W-facing elevation	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
025	S	6	TR 6 mid-ex, N-facing elevation	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
026	NW	6	TR 6 post-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
027	N	6	TR 6 post-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
028	W	6	TR 6 post-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
029	V/W	6	TR 6 post-ex, imprint detail	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
030	V/W	6	TR 6 post-ex, imprint detail	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
031	E	5	TR 5 pre-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	P
032	S	5	TR 5 pre-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
033	S	5	TR 5 pre-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	L
034	S	5	TR 5 pre-ex	04/08/2015	AJLM	P
035	E	4	TR 4 (105) clay context	04/08/2015	RAM	P
036	E	4	TR 4 (105) clay context	04/08/2015	RAM	P
037	E	4	TR 4 (105) clay context	04/08/2015	RAM	P
038	W	1	TR 1 wall [104] and deposit (105) to W	04/08/2015	EJ	P
039	W	1	Wall [104] TR 1 mid-ex	04/08/2015	EJ	L
040	E	1	Deposit (105) against wall [104] TR 1	04/08/2015	EJ	L
041	NE	1	Deposit (105) against wall [104] TR 1	04/08/2015	EJ	L
042	W	2	TR 2 working shot, possible ceiling collapse	04/08/2015	EJ	L
043	S	5	TR 5 mid-ex showing (503)	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
044	E	5	TR 5 mid-ex showing (503)	05/08/2015	AJLM	P
045	N	5	TR 5 mid-ex showing (503)	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
046	E	5	TR 5 mid-ex showing (503), detail	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
047	NE	5	TR 5 mid-ex showing (503), detail	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
048	N	5	TR 5, post-ex (503) (505)	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
049	E	5	TR 5, post-ex showing (503) below gun loop	05/08/2015	AJLM	P

Image No.	Taken from	Trench #	Description	Date	Initials	Orientation
050	S	5	TR 5, post-ex (503) (505)	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
051	E	5	TR 5, post-ex W-facing elevation	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
052	E	5	TR 5, post-ex W-facing elevation, gun loop detail	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
053	E	5	TR 5, post-ex W-facing elevation, gun loop detail	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
054	S	5	TR 5, post-ex, N-Facing section	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
055	S	5	TR 5, post-ex, N-Facing section	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
056	W	5	TR 5, post-ex, E-Facing section	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
057	N	5	TR 5, post-ex, S-Facing section	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
058	N	4	TR 4 post-ex	05/08/2015	RAM	P
059	N	4	TR 4 post-ex	05/08/2015	RAM	P
060	N	4	TR 4 post-ex, wall and gun slot elevation	05/08/2015	RAM	P
061	N	4	TR 4 post-ex, wall and gun slot elevation	05/08/2015	RAM	P
062	S	4	TR 4 post-ex, N-facing section	05/08/2015	RAM	P
063	S	4	TR 4 post-ex, N-facing section	05/08/2015	RAM	P
064	E	4	TR 4 post-ex, W-facing section	05/08/2015	RAM	L
065	E	4	TR 4 post-ex, W-facing section	05/08/2015	RAM	L
066	W	4	TR 4 post-ex, E-facing section	05/08/2015	RAM	L
067	W	4	TR 4 post-ex, E-facing section	05/08/2015	RAM	L
068	S	3	TR 3 pre-ex	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
069	S	3	TR 3 pre-ex	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
070	SW	3	TR 3 pre-ex	05/08/2015	AJLM	L
071	V	2	TR 2 wall stub 208	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
072	V	2	TR 2 wall stub 208	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
073	NW	2	TR 2 wall stub 208	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
074	NW	2	TR 2 wall stub 208	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
075	W	2	TR 2 wall stub 208	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
076	W	2	TR 2 wall stub 208	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
077	W	2	TR 2 wall stub 208, shows toothing in return masonry	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
078	W	2	TR 2 West elevation of 212 masonry	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
079	W	2	TR 2 West elevation of 212 masonry	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
080	W	2	TR 2 212 and 211 masonry	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
081	N	2	TR 2 general view to north mid ex	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
082	S	2	TR 2 plaster ceiling collapse 204	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
083	S	2	TR 2 plaster ceiling collapse 204	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
084	S	2	TR 2 plaster ceiling collapse 204	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
085	S	2	TR 2 plaster ceiling collapse 204	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
086	V	2	TR 2 plaster ceiling collapse 204	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
087	V	2	TR 2 plaster ceiling collapse 204	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
088	S	2	TR 2 cut 209 plastered with 210	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
089	S	2	TR 2 cut 209 plastered with 210	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
090	W	2	TR 2 212 masonry	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
091	V	2	TR 2 216 Motte clay with beam slots 215	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
092	N	2	TR 2 north section	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
093	S	2	TR 2 WALL 211	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
094	SW	2	TR 2 wall 211 junction with window jamb	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
095	V	2	TR 2 ceiling plaster 204	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
096	V	2	TR 2 ceiling plaster 204, shows traces of lath	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
097	W	2	TR 2 masonry 211	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L

Image No.	Taken from	Trench #	Description	Date	Initials	Orientation
098	SW	2	TR 2 plaster 210 on cut 209	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
099	S	2	TR 2 mid ex view to south	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
100	S	2	TR 2 mid ex view to south	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
101	S	2	TR 2 mid ex view to south	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
102	S	2	TR 2 mid ex view to south	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
103	N	2	TR 2 construction deposit 206	05/08/2015	Kmacf	P
104	W	2	TR 2 construction deposit 206	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
105	W	2	TR 2 construction deposit 206	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
106	W	2	TR 2 construction deposit 206	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
107	W	2	TR 2 construction deposit 206	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
108	S	2	TR 2 207 clay deposit	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
109	V	2	TR 2 207 clay deposit	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
110	S	1	TR 1 wall [104] Plan	05/08/2015	EJ	L
111	S	1	TR 1 wall [104] Plan	05/08/2015	EJ	L
112	S	1	TR 1 N facing above wall [104]	05/08/2015	EJ	L
113	E	1	TR 1 W elevation wall [104]	05/08/2015	EJ	L
114	E	1	TR 1 S facing section	05/08/2015	EJ	P
115	E	1	TR 1 S facing section	05/08/2015	EJ	P
116	W	1	TR 1 E facing section	05/08/2015	EJ	L
117	SW	1	TR 1 general shot (107)	05/08/2015	EJ	P
118	SW	1	TR 1 general shot post-ex	05/08/2015	EJ	L
119	S	1	TR 1 N facing section	05/08/2015	EJ	P
120	NW	2	TR 2 Working shot	05/08/2015	EJ	L
121	S	1	TR 1 deposit (107) after removal of (106)	05/08/2015	EJ	P
122	E	1	TR 1 deposit (107)	05/08/2015	EJ	L
123	W	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
124	W	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
125	W	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
126	SW	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
127	SW	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
128	V	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
129	V	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
130	V	2	TR 2 window recess 213 and secondary plaster lining 214	05/08/2015	Kmacf	L
131	S	1	TR 1 after removal (109) at S end	05/08/2015	EJ	L
132	S	1	TR 1 after removal (109) at S end	05/08/2015	EJ	L
133	E	1	TR 1 wall [104] and [108], (109) silt, late pinnings, filling slot [113]	05/08/2015	EJ	P
134	S	1	TR 1 (111) with beam slot [113]	06/08/2015	EJ	L
135	V/S	3	TR 3 post-ex 2 scales	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
136	V/W	3	TR 3 post-ex 2 scales	06/08/2015	AJLM	P
137	V/N	3	TR 3 post-ex 2 scales	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
138	V/S	3	TR 3 post-ex 1 scale	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
139	V/W	3	TR 3 post-ex 1 scale	06/08/2015	AJLM	P
140	V/N	3	TR 3 post-ex 1 scale	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
141	S	3	TR 3 post-ex N facing section	06/08/2015	AJLM	L

Image No.	Taken from	Trench #	Description	Date	Initials	Orientation
142	N	3	TR 3 post-ex S facing section	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
143	E	3	TR 3 post-ex W facing section	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
144	SE	3	TR 3 post-ex SE corner section	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
145	SE	3	TR 3 post-ex SE corner section	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
146	W	3	TR 3 post-ex E facing elevation	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
147	W	3	TR 3 post-ex E facing elevation S-end	06/08/2015	AJLM	P
148	W	3	TR 3 post-ex E facing elevation N-end	06/08/2015	AJLM	P
149	V/W	3	TR 3 post-ex E facing elevation N-end	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
150	V/S	3	TR 3 post-ex drain	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
151	W	3	TR 3 post-ex E facing elevation and drain	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
152	E	1	TR 1 internal elevation	06/08/2015	EJ	L
153	S	3	TR 3 post-hole pre-ex	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
154	SW	3	TR 3 post-hole pre-ex	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
155	SW	3	TR 3 post-hole pre-ex, detail	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
156	S	3	TR 3 post-hole pre-ex, detail	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
157	S	3	TR 3 post-hole post-ex	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
158	S	3	TR 3 post-hole post-ex, detail	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
159	S	3	TR 3 post-hole post-ex, detail	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
160	V/W	3	TR 3 post-hole post-ex, detail	06/08/2015	AJLM	L
161	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
162	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
163	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess, detail of window cill	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
164	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess, detail of reused window cill	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
165	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess, detail of reused window cill	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
166	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess, detail of reused window cill	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
167	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
168	V	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
169	E	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
170	E	1	TR 1 wall head cleaned up shows infilled window recess	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
171	E	1	TR 1 internal elevation	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
172	E	1	TR 1 internal elevation	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
173	E	1	TR 1 internal elevation	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
174	E	1	TR 1 internal elevation	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
175	SE	1	TR1 internal elevation detail of secondary pier	07/08/2015	Kmacf	P
176	SE	1	TR1 internal elevation detail of secondary pier	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
177	E	1	TR 1 Internal elevation, detail of bottle glass in plaster and shelf scar	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
178	E	1	TR 1 Internal elevation, detail of bottle glass in plaster and shelf scar	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
179	E	1	TR 1 Internal elevation,	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
180	E	1	TR 1 Internal elevation,	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Taken from</i>	<i>Trench #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Orientation</i>
181	E	1	TR 1 Internal elevation,	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
182	SE	1	TR 1 Internal elevation,	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
183	NE	1	TR 1 Internal elevation,	07/08/2015	Kmacf	L
184	W	3	TR 3 post-ex, drain, W-end	07/08/2015	AJLM	L
185	W	3	TR 3 post-ex, drain, W-end	07/08/2015	AJLM	L
186	E	3	TR 3 post-ex, drain, E-end	07/08/2015	AJLM	L
187	E	3	TR 3 post-ex, drain, E-end	07/08/2015	AJLM	L
188	E	3	TR 3 post-ex, drain, E-end	07/08/2015	AJLM	L
189	SE		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
190	SW		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
191	SW		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
192	S		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
193	N		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
194	W		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
195	E		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
196	NE		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
197	N		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
198	S		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	P
199	S		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	P
200	S		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
201	S		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	L
202	S		Pre-excavation vegetation clearance	22/07/2015	TA	P

Appendix G Photographic Thumbnails



2037 (001).JPG



2037 (002).JPG



2037 (003).JPG



2037 (004).JPG



2037 (005).JPG



2037 (006).JPG



2037 (007).JPG



2037 (008).JPG



2037 (009).JPG



2037 (010).JPG



2037 (011).JPG



2037 (012).JPG



2037 (013).JPG



2037 (014).JPG



2037 (015).JPG



2037 (016).JPG



2037 (017).JPG



2037 (018).JPG



2037 (019).JPG



2037 (020).JPG



2037 (021).JPG



2037 (022).JPG



2037 (023).JPG



2037 (024).JPG



2037 (025).JPG



2037 (026).JPG



2037 (027).JPG



2037 (028).JPG



2037 (029).JPG



2037 (030).JPG



2037 (031).JPG



2037 (032).JPG



2037 (033).JPG



2037 (034).JPG



2037 (035).JPG



2037 (036).JPG



2037 (037).JPG



2037 (038).JPG



2037 (039).JPG



2037 (040).JPG



2037 (041).JPG



2037 (042).JPG



2037 (043).JPG



2037 (044).JPG



2037 (045).JPG



2037 (046).JPG



2037 (047).JPG



2037 (048).JPG



2037 (049).JPG



2037 (050).JPG



2037 (051).JPG



2037 (052).JPG



2037 (053).JPG



2037 (054).JPG



2037 (055).JPG



2037 (056).JPG



2037 (057).JPG



2037 (058).JPG



2037 (059).JPG



2037 (060).JPG



2037 (061).JPG



2037 (062).JPG



2037 (063).JPG



2037 (064).JPG



2037 (065).JPG



2037 (066).JPG



2037 (067).JPG



2037 (068).JPG



2037 (069).JPG



2037 (070).JPG



2037 (071).JPG



2037 (072).JPG



2037 (073).JPG



2037 (074).JPG



2037 (075).JPG



2037 (076).JPG



2037 (077).JPG



2037 (078).JPG



2037 (079).JPG



2037 (080).JPG



2037 (081).JPG



2037 (082).JPG



2037 (083).JPG



2037 (084).JPG



2037 (085).JPG



2037 (086).JPG



2037 (087).JPG



2037 (088).JPG



2037 (089).JPG



2037 (090).JPG





2037 (121).JPG



2037 (122).JPG



2037 (123).JPG



2037 (124).JPG



2037 (125).JPG



2037 (126).JPG



2037 (127).JPG



2037 (128).JPG



2037 (129).JPG



2037 (130).JPG



2037 (131).JPG



2037 (132).JPG



2037 (133).JPG



2037 (134).JPG



2037 (135).JPG



2037 (136).JPG



2037 (137).JPG



2037 (138).JPG



2037 (139).JPG



2037 (140).JPG



2037 (141).JPG



2037 (142).JPG



2037 (143).JPG



2037 (144).JPG



2037 (145).JPG



2037 (146).JPG



2037 (147).JPG



2037 (148).JPG



2037 (149).JPG



2037 (150).JPG





Appendix H Discovery and Excavation Scotland (DES) Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Myrton Castle
PROJECT CODE:	AA 2037
PARISH:	Mochrum
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Elizabeth Jones
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Addyman Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Evaluation
NMRS NO(S):	NX34SE 5; Canmore ID 62795
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle, Motte
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	17 th century Dutch coin; 17 th -mid 18 th century tin-glazed Delftware
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NX 36016 43275
START DATE (this season)	03/08/2015
END DATE (this season)	07/08/2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Historic Building Record and Analytical Assessment, June 2013
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Addyman Archaeology undertook an evaluation at Myrton Castle, Wigtownshire in August 2015. The Castle comprises a 15th century tower on top of an earlier motte, possibly 12th century in date, with a later range of 17th century date extending to the north. The castle was partly dismantled c.1800 and the tower's remains converted for use as a doocot. The investigation was intended to address architectural, engineering and archaeological issues relating to the understanding of the structure and the viability of a proposed scheme for reuse of the tower house. The evaluation followed an analytical assessment and historic building survey carried out at the site in 2013. The evaluation comprised six trenches in the immediate vicinity of and within the tower ruin, each sited to address specific structural questions. The excavations revealed that the upper parts of the earlier motte mound comprised a hard dense clayey matrix. The bases of the tower's internal footings were found to have been excavated nearly 1m deeper than the footing base to the exterior. There was no indication of structural instability within the surviving walling of the east, south and west sides of the tower, or evidence for poor ground conditions on its north side where the tower's walling had been removed. The loops in the east, south and west walls of the tower were situated immediately above the surface of the motte, above a projecting footing course; these were more fully revealed in respective trenches. A clay-cut drain with stone capping was found in Trench 3 on the east side of the tower. The position of the original north tower wall was located in Trenches 1 and 2, although almost nothing of the wall itself or its footing survived. Evidence to suggest the possible position of a stone turnpike stair was identified in the north-west angle of the tower, this possibly accessed by an external entrance at the north end of the west wall. The north wall of the tower seems to have been deliberately dismantled prior to the addition of the later range in the 17th century – it is possible that the keys of the earlier stair were recycled within the later range. An internal cross wall was built in the 17th century range along the line of the original north wall. This wall was later removed, probably in the late 18th century, when other repairs and alterations to the range were evident. The doocot was added in the early 19th century. Finds from the excavations comprised 17th and 18th century domestic refuse, particularly ceramics and glass, and a 17th-century Dutch coin, with few finds post-dating 1800.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None

CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	202: Myrton Castle 139: Myrton Castle trench 3 showing drain and gun loop 113: Myrton Castle wall of later range showing inserted shelved press
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Prof and Mrs Watson-Gandy
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	St.Ninian's Manse, Quayside Street, Edinburgh, EH6 6EJ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	lizjones@addyman-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS (intended)