WRITTEN STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION

In respect of

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

at

HACKNESS BATTERY & MARTELLO TOWER

SIGNAGE INSTALLATION

for

Historic Environment Scotland

by

Kirkdale Archaeology

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INTRODUCTION

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A programme of archaeological works conducted by Kirkdale Archaeology is required in order to monitor the work associated with the proposed installation of new signage at Hackness Battery and Martello Tower (Figure 1). The green information sign located at the tower advising visitors to proceed to the battery for tickets / parking has been damaged, and requires replacement.

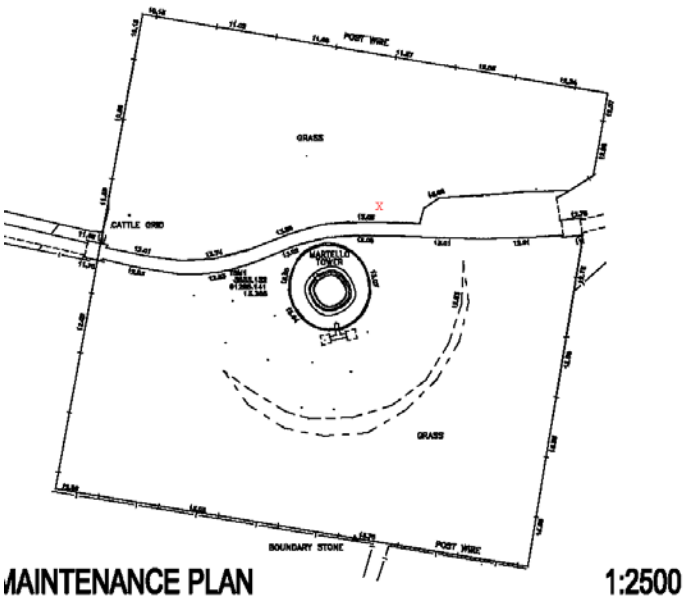


Figure 1: The proposed location of the sign.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The monument comprises an early 19th century gun battery and Martello tower which, with its sister tower at Crockness, was built to provide defence against French and American privateers for convoys assembling in Longhope Sound. Despite the threats of the War of American Independence and war against Napoleonic France, very few coastal defences were built in Scotland at this time, unlike further south. Declaration of war by the United States of America in 1812 prompted the construction of batteries at Aberdeen, Greenock (both now lost) and in Orkney from 1813, where two Martello towers were added from 1814. The battery was upgraded in 1866 against a perceived threat from the American Fenian Brotherhood. Neither saw the action for which they were intended, but each continued to be used for military purposes into the 20th century.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There has been very little archaeological investigation of the area around the tower. It is known to stand on a platform and is surrounded by a bank, but little is known about either. In 2000 a water main trench was dug, mostly by machine, partly by hand, from the battery to the Martello Tower, a distance of approximately 110m. The trench varied from 600mm to 800mm deep and averaged 400mm wide. No features were found outside the Martello Tower, except for the hard-core around the gateways, which is apparently of recent date. The proximity of bedrock indicates that the tower was, unsurprisingly, built on solid foundations.

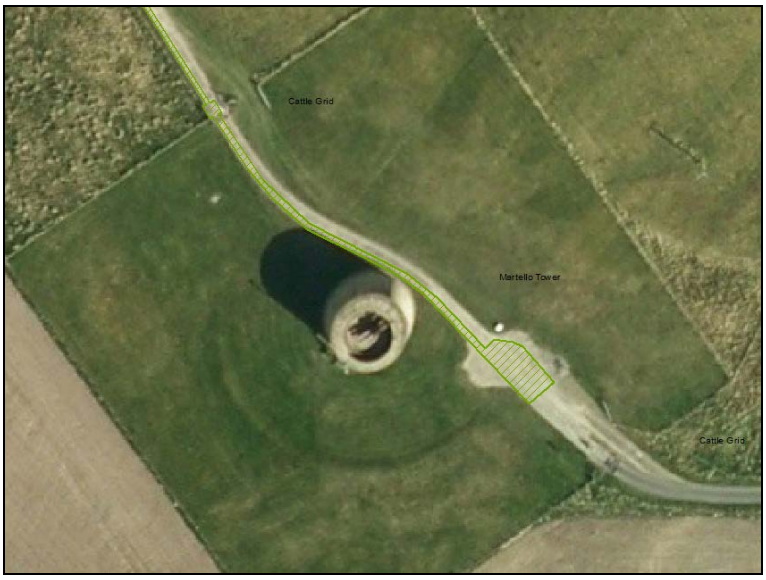


Plate 1: Location of the trench from 2000.

F I E L D W O R K

The new sign will require a foundation which is 450mm square and 460mm deep. The existing post will be cut off at the base, requiring no further excavation. The bedrock is known to run quite high here, so there is a chance that this may be hit before the depth required is reached. However, there is also a slight possibility that archaeological remains may be encountered. Although there have been no significant archaeological findings around the tower, the proposed location appears to be close to the location of the now lost bank surrounding the platform. As the exact course of this is not known, and nothing remains visible above ground, it is difficult to be certain of its position.

Excavation will be undertaken by hand by Historic Environment Scotland MCU and will proceed to the top of the first archaeological layer or to the required depth, whichever is shallower. If significant archaeological deposits are encountered within the required depth, work will stop and an alternative strategy will be sought. Evidence for the platform and bank are likely to be slight and hard to discern, and were not noted during excavations for the water main. If they are encountered they will be preserved *in-situ*. In addition, if the line of the bank is discerned during excavation, the sign will be moved to a location where it will not interfere with this.

M O N I T O R I N G

This will entail:

- The presence on site of at least one site archaeologist during all ground breaking works.
- The archaeologist should be able to direct rate, location and method of excavation employed by contractor.
- The archaeologist should suspend excavation if necessary, in order to examine / clean / retrieve any archaeological features, surfaces, structures or artefacts that may be exposed during excavation.
- All spoil will be suitably stored for examination before backfill/reinstatement.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING & EXCAVATION

This will entail:

Drawing

- Confirmation of site plan as supplied by the Client.
- Location plan of all interventions at a suitable scale, 1:50/1:100.
- Detailed, individual area plans of all interventions – at significant stages of excavation if appropriate and on completion of excavation, drawn at a scale of 1:20.
- All sections, or a representative selection, will be drawn in detail at a scale of 1:10.
- All drawing will be annotated with site feature numbers, site code, scale, date and name(s) of staff.

Photography

- Still photographs will be colour digital and will record general location of works, plus detailed coverage during, and on completion of, excavation.
- All photographs will have a suitable scale visible.
- All photographs will be listed in a full photo register (describing content, orientation and date).
- 'Documentary' photographs will also be taken in order to represent site conditions, constraints and resources.
- If appropriate, digital moving coverage will be taken for further illustration of site conditions, constraints and resources.

Site Recording: Buried Archaeology

- Description of all excavated material will be expressed in terms of archaeological features, each of which will be assigned a unique three-digit number. The numbering will also reference the site code and any individual trench number.
- Each discrete feature will be described on site *pro forma*, which will cover stratigraphic relationships, finds, physical description, location, drawing references and interpretation.
- Each feature will also be listed in a feature register – comprising a brief description, date, and feature number.

Sampling

When required, three levels of sampling are proposed for above and below ground investigations**:**

- **General:** Bulk sample per context removed.
- **Special:** Specific sample identified for later specialist study (charcoal, industrial waste, environmental, infestations, organics).
- **Specialist:** Monitoring of any independent sampling strategy from external specialists (dendrochronological, mortar, paint, *etc.*)

GENERAL ISSUES

In the event of the discovery of significant remains and/or artefacts, which may be impacted by the proposed works, excavation should be suspended until further instruction is received from relevant agencies. At this point the Historic Environment Scotland CRT should also be informed and consulted.

All artefacts, faunal remains and samples will be processed off-site. Disposal and/or examination/conservation of this material will be assessed in the light of results of fieldwork.

Any programme of specialist post-excavation work on finds, faunal remains and analysis of samples will be assessed on completion of the fieldwork

Any human remains revealed during the excavation will remain *in situ.* All discoveries of human remains will be reported to the local police and Historic Environment Scotland CRT.

If human remains are to be excavated during any subsequent work, this will be completed in line with Historic Environment Scotland policy on the treatment of human remains.

REPORTING

The results of the Fieldwork and DBA will be presented in an illustrated Data Structures Report (DSR) with accompanying digital documentation as specified by the Historic Environment Scotland CRT.

Copies of the report and digital files will be produced as specified. Typically this comprises:

- Four bound paper copies.
- Two digital versions on CD including all photographs (the latter in tiff or jpeg format).

This will include an assessment of all assemblages and recommendations for any further specialist work.

A costed programme for the full sample analysis towards publication of the findings will be included if appropriate.

A short note will be submitted to 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' and OASIS

The position of all trenches, excavation areas *etc.*, will be supplied on CD disk, as a georeferenced .dxf file.

Reports will be submitted within 20 working days of completion of the fieldwork.

ARCHIVE

If there is no further requirement for reporting beyond the DSR and D&E entry, the report and site records will be compiled in a suitable archive comprising primary data and digital documentation as appropriate, suitable for submission to local and national archives.

The archive will follow current guidelines for archival standards set by the Archaeology Data Service and RCAHMS.

The project archive will be deposited with the NMRS within six months of completion of fieldwork and relevant post-excavation analyses. Finds will be subject to the Scots laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*, and will be reported to the Crown Agent for disposal. Appropriate conservation of finds will be conducted before disposal.

Gordon Ewart

11h January, 2016