

JUSTICE STREET ABERDEEN



- Archaeological Watching Brief -

Carried out 18TH – 20TH October 2010

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2010-22

by

J C Murray

H K Murray BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA Scot
J C Murray BA, MIFA, FSA Scot, FMA
Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN
Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

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1. Background

- 1.1 The laying of a new underground cable on a section of the N side of Justice Street, required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the ground works.
- 1.2 The archaeological condition was applied in the context of PAN 42 para 35 which states that it is necessary for developers to arrange for archaeological fieldwork to take place prior to development, in appropriate circumstances.
- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by SSE Power Distribution to undertake the work; the field element of which was carried out on the 18th & 20th October 2010.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The site is located on the N side of Justice Street and ran E-W from the entrance to the former Timmer Market car park almost to the entrance to Peacock's Close. NGR: NJ 9454 0642. Parish: Aberdeen.
- 2.2 The site lies a short distance to the W of the supposed location of the Justice Port and, borders on the medieval market at the Castlegate.

3. The Work

- 3.1 The excavation of the cable trench, c.400mm wide and c.650mm deep and which ran for some 17m, was observed over two days.



Illus. 1: Location plan. The cable trench is shown in red, connecting with the previous service trench in black.

- 3.2 The slow rate of progress was due to the fact that after the excavation of each short stretch of trench, the conduit for the cable had to be laid, the trench backfilled and the surface pavement re-laid.
- 3.3 At its E end, the trench connected with a service trench running N-S from the new development in the Timmer Market site and which had been archaeologically evaluated in 2009 (Murray & Murray, 2009): no archaeological features or finds were observed at that time. The trench continued W to No.22-23 Justice Street.
- 3.4 At the E end of the trench a layer of fine beige natural sand underlay the pavement and sub-base material. Cutting through this was a sequence of modern service pipes [see Illus.2, below].



Illus. 2: Disused service pipe, looking W.

- 3.5 At 2.2m to the W a disused lead water supply pipe was uncovered c.450mm below pavement level. After a gap of c.1.7m a water cistern and stopcock and a sewer pipe lay at depths of 200mm and 300mm, respectively, below the surface.



Illus. 3: View, looking W, at the disturbance in the cable trench.

- 3.6 At c.17m W of the E end of the trench the density of services was such that the cable conduit was being laid at c.450mm below pavement level. At this point the watching brief was discontinued as it was evident that no medieval levels or finds survived the modern service disturbances.

4. Results

- 4.1 Observation of the new cable service trench showed that no archaeological deposits, features or finds are evident along this N side of Justice Street.

References

Murray, H K & J C 2007 'Timmer Mart, East North Street, Aberdeen'
Discovery & Excavation, Scotland, New Series Vol 10, 2009,12.

Catalogue of Digital Photographs (supplied to SMR an NMRS only)

- 1 – 4 Views of trench during excavation, looking W
5 General view of N side of Justice Street, looking NE
49 – 53 Service pipe at E end of trench, looking W