

**CITADEL CORPS COMPLEX, CASTLE STREET, ABERDEEN
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT**

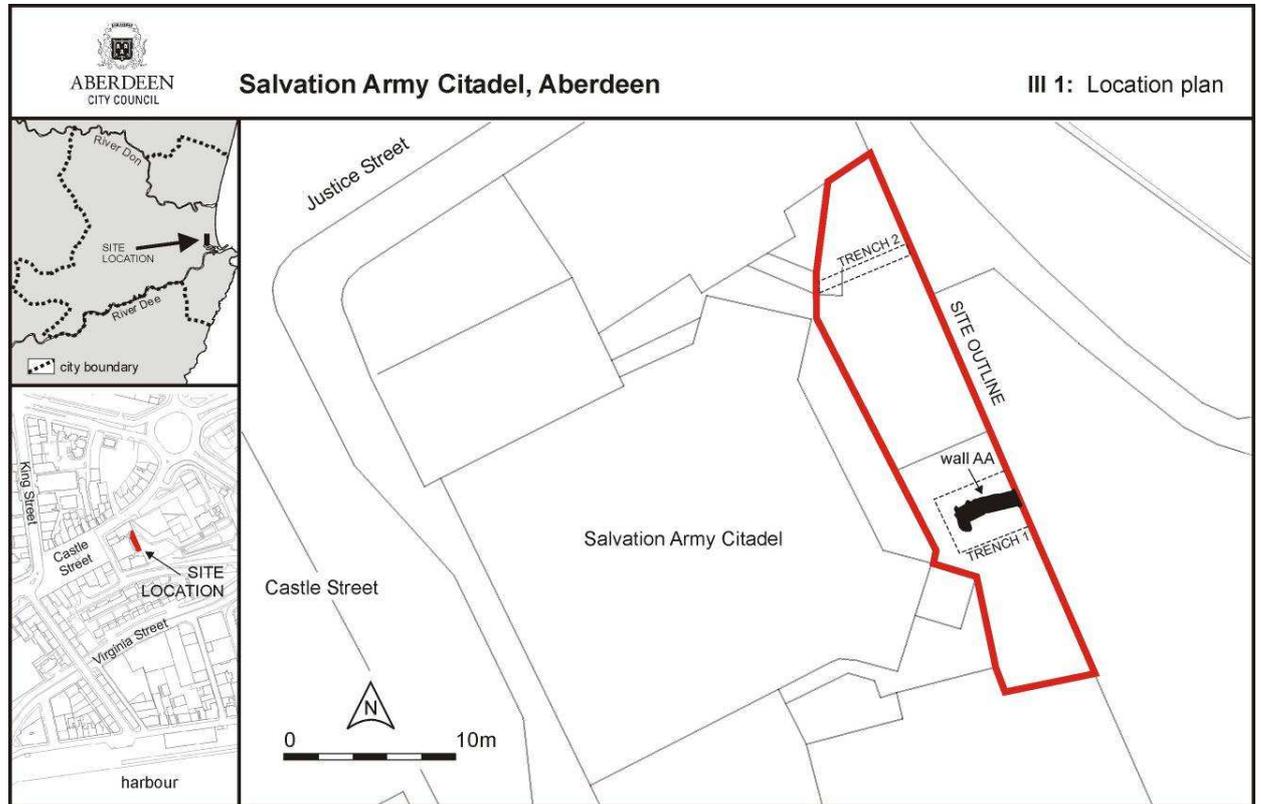


**Alison Cameron
Aberdeen City Council Archaeological Unit
February 2008**

CITADEL CORPS COMPLEX, CASTLE STREET, ABERDEEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

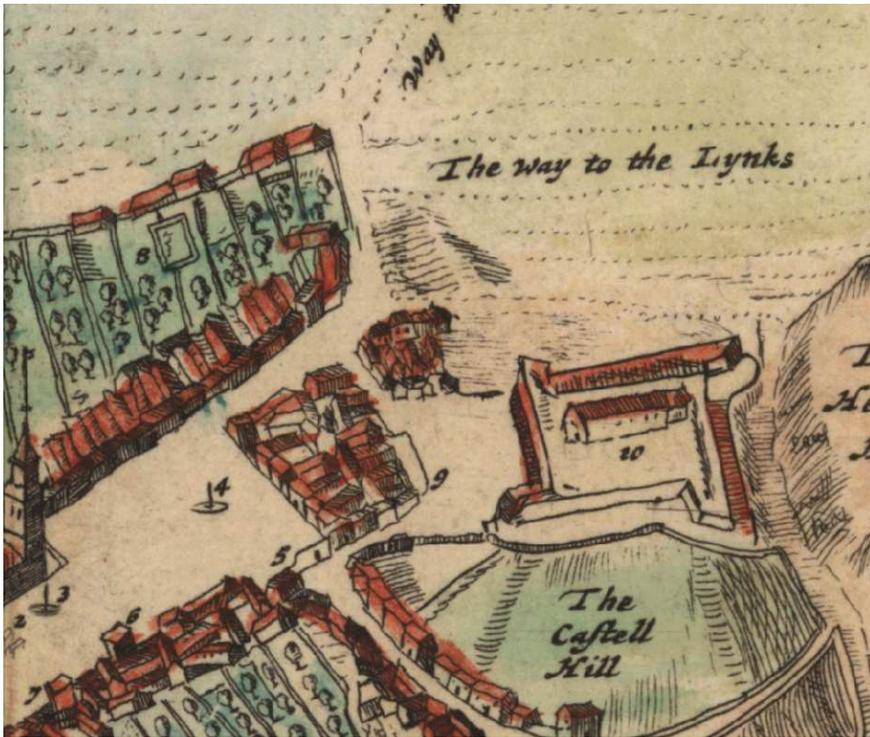
The area of the site (NJ 9455 0639; III 1) is located on the east side of Castle Street and is occupied by the Salvation Army Citadel, built to the design of James Souttar between 1893 and 1896.



III 1 Location plan

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

This site lies on the east side of Castle Street and to west of the site of Aberdeen's medieval castle. Castle Street, known as Castlegate (or the way to the castle), is first referred to as a market place in 1393, although it had undoubtedly developed that role prior to that date. Two 'ports' or gates controlled entry to the market place, and indeed to the town at this location. Justice Port lay on Justice Street, to north of the present site, while Futtie Port lay on Futtie Wynd, which linked Aberdeen southwards with the neighbouring fishing settlement of that name. Aberdeen's castle itself is not well documented, but was clearly in existence by 1264, when the Exchequer Rolls give detail of costs for its provisioning and for building, probably in fact repair work. It still stood in July 1308, when Edward II instructed the gathering of resources to assist in the raising of the siege there. There is no known documentary evidence for the castle later than that date.



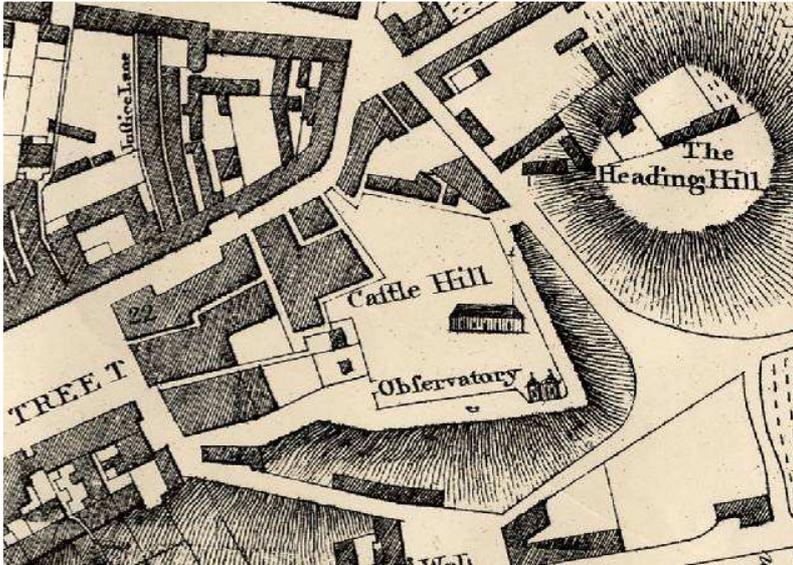
Ill 2 Extract from Parson James Gordon's map, 1661

In the late 15th or early 16th century a chapel dedicated to St Ninian was placed on Castle Hill, as successor to the castle chapel (Aberdeen City Council Sites and Monuments Record online). In the 16th century the chapel was converted into a lighthouse and in the 17th century used as a place for the ceremonial laying out of the dead. In the 1650s Castle Hill was fortified by Cromwell's troops, using some stone quarried from the ruined chancel of St Machar's Cathedral. Some of those fortifications are said to be represented by the existing southern boundary wall which overlooks Castle Terrace. The chapel was eventually demolished in 1794 to make way for a barracks complex, replaced in the 1960s by the present high-rise housing.

The area of the present site is shown to be occupied by a number of buildings on the earliest map of Aberdeen produced by Parson James Gordon of Rothiemay in 1661 (Ill 2). Before the construction of the Salvation Army citadel, the Record Office of 1789 stood on the site.



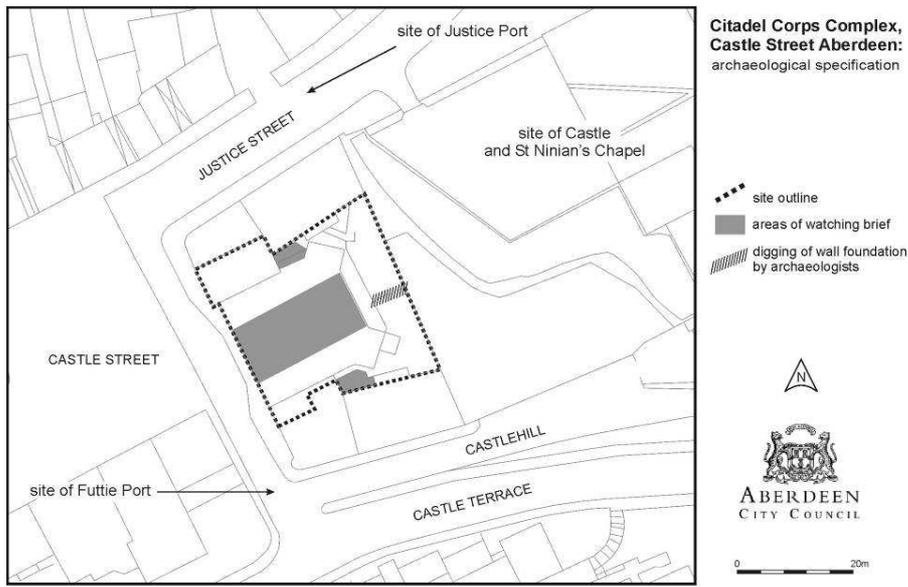
Ill 3 Extract from Paterson's map 1746



III 4 Extract from Milne's map

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

It was apparent that construction of the Salvation Army Citadel had caused considerable loss of archaeological deposits. The building has a substantial basement level and also appeared to have been terraced into the lower slope of the western side of Castle Hill. In addition, the present development is relatively limited in scope as regards intended excavation work.



III 5 Plan of areas for archaeological evaluation

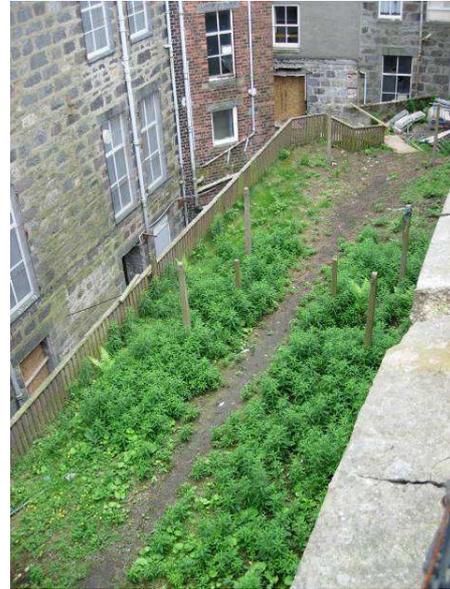
The objectives of the Archaeological Evaluation were:

- Excavations in certain areas, within and outside the building, were watched by an archaeologist until the Keeper of Archaeology was satisfied that no archaeological deposits survive in those locations.
- To the rear (east) of the Citadel, trenches were being dug for new sections of walling and the area scraped to remove modern rubble. This work was monitored by an archaeologist and the trenches for the walls were excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist.

RESULTS

WATCHING BRIEF

A watching brief was maintained on three areas (Ill 5; areas of watching brief); no evidence of archaeological layers or features were encountered during this work. A network of drains, sewers and other services were encountered in the exterior areas to the north and south of the standing building; these had destroyed any archaeological remains which may have survived the construction of the Citadel in 1893.



Ill 6 Small JCB machine excavating around wall AA and clearing debris from the site (left), the site prior to the excavation (right)

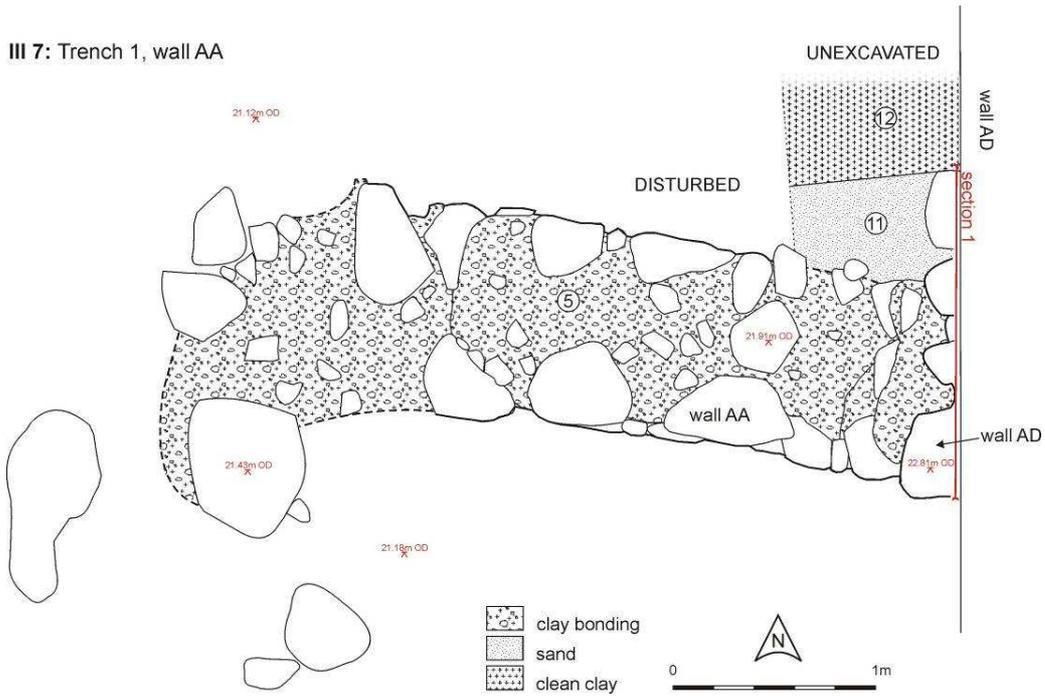
EXCAVATION

The open area to the east of the standing building was scraped by small JCB machine (Ill 6) and two areas were excavated for the construction of boundary walls to the Citadel Corps garden area. During the excavation of the south-most trench, a wall was uncovered. This was recorded and then covered up as it was not being disturbed by the current work.

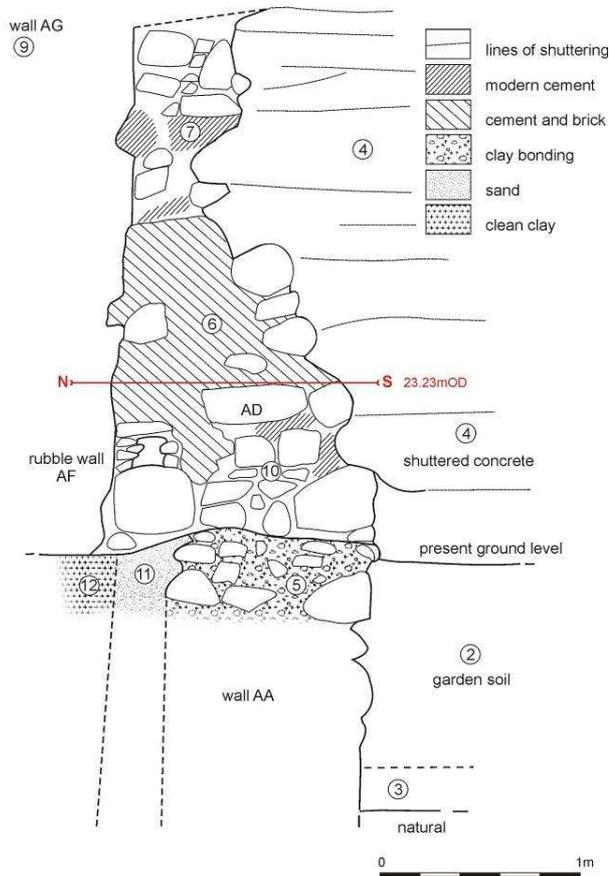
PHASE 1

The earliest feature excavated was wall (or wall foundation, see below), AA (Ils 7 and 8) which was 1m wide and survived to a depth of at least 0.80m (although it continued below the excavated level). It was aligned approximately on an E-W orientation and was constructed of large and small fieldstones with an inner core of small packing stones, all bonded with a light brown gravelly clay, similar to the surrounding natural subsoil. A fragment of oyster shell was found in the bonding material during the cleaning of the wall. The wall was cut into the natural subsoil and an accumulation of garden soils (layers 2 and 3), containing sherds of medieval (13th-15th century) pottery, had built up on its south side.

III 7: Trench 1, wall AA



III 8: Section 1, walls AA/AD





III 9 Wall AA, south face showing larger facing stones



III 10 The top of wall AA

Built into the adjoining N-S boundary wall, a slightly wider version of AA (AD) was recorded. AD ran on the same alignment as AA and had a similar construction method. AD was poorly preserved (III 8, 9) and no original bonding material could be seen as the wall had been heavily pointed, probably during the construction of the Citadel building.



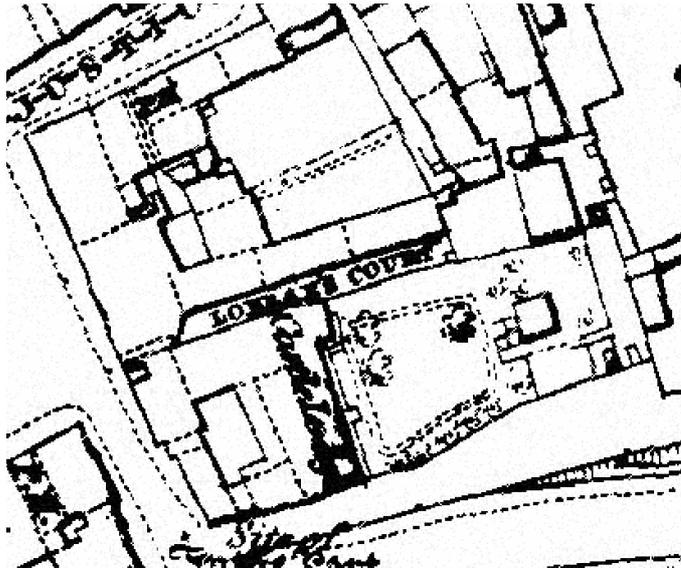
Ill 11 Section showing wall AA (foreground) and wall AD built into boundary wall (see Ill 8)

AD may be:

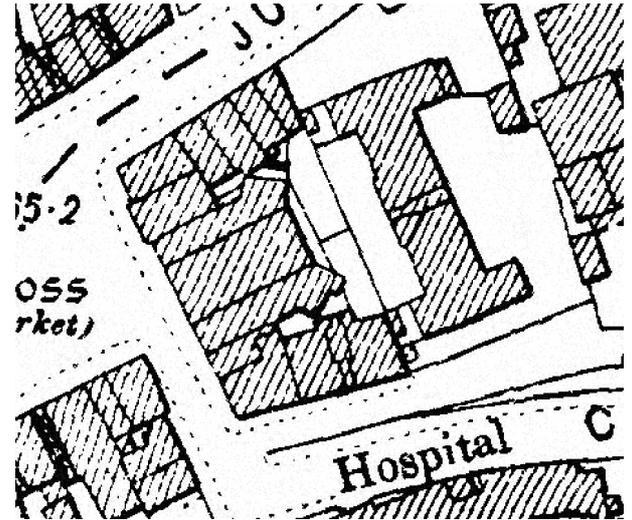
- the remnants of the original upstanding wall of which AA is the foundation
- the remnants of a rebuilding of AA, wider and on the same alignment or
- a later wall built on the same alignment, possibly related to the pend (?Lonray's Court – writing unclear on map) visible on the 1867 Ordnance Survey map (Ill 12).

PHASE 2

Upstanding wall AD was later built into a N-S boundary wall AF; this probably occurred during the construction of the Citadel in the 1890s. Lonray's Court was removed at this time and AA/AD demolished (see Ills 11, 12 and 13). The remnants of AA and AD can be seen on the section (Ills 8 and 11); Rubble wall AF appears to be infill blocking off Lonray's Court – perhaps the walls were still in use on the east side of the boundary wall and so wholesale demolition could not occur. The height of this wall was also raised at this time (AG) and the remainder of the wall repaired by the construction wooden shuttering on the west face of the wall and pouring stony concrete behind it. This can clearly be seen on the right of Ills 8 and 11). This phase probably took place during the construction of the Citadel in the 1890s; the project's architect reported that other stony concrete had been found in the basement of the Citadel building (Roger Legge pers comm.).



III 12 Extract from 1867 OS map (above left)



III 13 Extract from 1901 OS map (above right)



III 14 Trench 2

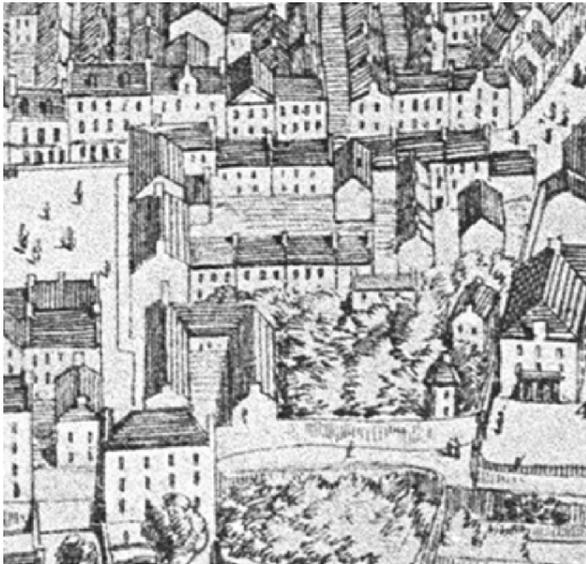
The wall foundation trench dug on the north side of the open area (Trench 2) contained loam, mortar and brick to a depth of 0.40m; it is likely that this area was backfilled in the relatively recent past, probably during the construction of the Citadel in the 1890s. No earlier layers or features were recorded in this trench.

An armorial panel was recorded at the south end of the boundary wall AG. It had been built into heightened wall AG, probably in the 1890s although this may have occurred in the 20th century. Further details of this stone are available in the City of Aberdeen Sites and Monuments Record.

III 15 Armorial panel (right) Aberdeen City Council Sites and Monuments number NJ90NW 1148.



CONCLUSIONS



Ill 16 Extract from George Washington Wilson's elevation, 1850 (left) and detail of centre part of plan showing buildings on same alignment as wall AA (right; centre).

From the construction method and the nature of wall AA, it is probably medieval in date. Oyster shell has been found in the bonding material in medieval walls in Aberdeen and on other sites in Britain and was also used to level stones during building work. It was found extensively in walls dating to the 15th century at the excavations at the east Kirk of Nicholas in 2006 (Cameron forthcoming) and outwith Aberdeen at many sites including The Abbey Wall at the King's School in Gloucester (Heighway 2006) in a building of mid 16th-century date.

Further historical research may determine more about wall AA, although it would appear that the wall may have been reused possibly over a long period of time. There is a possibility that the wall is the remains of one of the buildings which can be seen on George Washington Wilson's elevation of Aberdeen (Ill 16).

RECOMMENDATIONS

The soil removal related to the building work is understood to have been completed by the end of January 2008. If no further excavation work is to take place at this site, no further archaeological monitoring will be necessary.

REFERENCES

Aberdeen City Council Sites and Monuments online,
www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/ACCI/web/site/xsm_SmrDetail.asp?id=2326

Heighway, CM, 2006 'The Abbey Wall, King's School, Pitt Street, Gloucester: archaeological recording. A report by Past Historic for the King's School, Gloucester 2006'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Steve Anderson and Bill Emslie, Robertson Construction
Roger Legge, Mackie Ramsay Taylor Architects

ILLUSTRATIONS

Front cover: The wall AA during recording showing it's location in relation to the

III 1 Location plan

III 2 Extract from Parson Gordon's map, 1661

III 3 Extract from Paterson's map 1746

III 4 Extract from Milne's map

III 5 Plan of areas for archaeological evaluation

III 6 Small JCB machine excavating around wall AA and clearing debris from the site

III 7 Trench 1 Wall AA plan

III 8 Trench 1 Walls AA/AD section

III 9 Wall AA, south face showing larger facing stones

III 10 The top of wall AA

III 11 Section showing wall AA (foreground), wall AD built into boundary wall (see III 8)

III 12 Extract from 1867 OS map (above left)

III 13 Extract from 1901 OS map (above right)

III 14 Trench 2

III 15 Armorial panel Aberdeen City Council Sites and Monuments number NJ90NW 1148.

III 16 Extract from George Washington Wilson's elevation, 1850 (left) and detail of centre part of plan showing buildings on same alignment as wall AA.

APPENDICES

1 Specification for Archaeological Work

2 List of layers and features

3 List of photographs and thumbnails

4 List of finds

5 Levels

APPENDIX 1

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL, NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CENTRAL

MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

Citadel Corps Complex, Castle Street, Aberdeen Specification for Archaeological Work

Summary

This specification gives an outline of the archaeological value of this site and indicates the works which will be required to ensure that any surviving archaeological deposits are protected and recorded.

1.0 Site Location and Description

The area of the site (NJ 945063) is shown on the enclosed map extract. It is located on the east side of Castle Street and is occupied by the Salvation Army Citadel, built to the design of James Souttar between 1893 and 1896.

2.0 Planning Background

The request for this archaeological work is made in the context of National Planning Policy Guideline no 5, Archaeology and Planning, which states that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed. In paragraph 14, planning authorities are advised that they should ensure that archaeological factors are fully considered in both the development planning and development control processes. Paragraph 16 urges planning authorities to regard archaeological remains as a finite and often highly fragile resource vulnerable to needless or thoughtless damage or destruction. Paragraph 25 states that the implications of development proposals for ancient monuments and their settings should be considered at the outset of the development control process. It is appropriate for planning authorities to request, where appropriate, the prospective developer to arrange for archaeological field evaluation and ensure that relevant information on the cultural heritage is taken into account in any environmental assessment that may be necessary (paragraph 24).

3.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

The historical interest of this site lies in its location on the east side of Castle Street and to west of the site of Aberdeen's medieval castle. Castle Street, known as Castlegate (or the way to the castle), is first referred to as a market place in 1393, although it had undoubtedly developed that role prior to that date. Two 'ports' or gates controlled entry to the market place, and indeed to the town at this location. Justice Port lay on Justice Street, to north of the present site, while Futtie Port lay on Futtie Wynd, which linked Aberdeen southwards with the neighbouring fishing settlement of that name. Aberdeen's castle itself is not well documented, but was clearly in existence by 1264, when the Exchequer Rolls give detail of costs for its provisioning and for building, probably in fact repair work. It still stood in July 1308, when Edward II instructed the gathering of resources to assist in the raising of the siege there. There is no known documentary evidence for the castle later than that date.

In the early 14th century a chapel dedicated to St Ninian was placed on Castle Hill, as successor to the castle chapel. In the 16th century the chapel was converted into a lighthouse and in the 17th century used as a place for the ceremonial laying out of the dead. In the 1650s Castle Hill was fortified by Cromwell's troops, using some stone quarried from the ruined chancel of St Machar's Cathedral. Some of those fortifications are said to be represented by the existing southern boundary wall which overlooks Castle Terrace. The chapel was eventually demolished in 1794 to make way for a barracks complex, replaced in the 1960s by the present high-rise housing.

The area of the present site is shown to be occupied by a number of buildings on the earliest map of Aberdeen produced by Parson James Gordon of Rothiemay in 1661. Before the construction of the Salvation Army citadel, the Record Office of 1789 stood on the site.

4.0 Previous Archaeological Work

Although there has been no archaeological work on the site of the castle itself, there have been a number of interventions in the Castlegate area. Details of them, and further information about the history and archaeology of this area of Aberdeen, can be found in the publications listed below or by contacting Aberdeen City Council Archaeological Unit – 01224 523658: judiths@aberdeencity.gov.uk.

5.0 Requirement for Work

It is apparent that construction of the Salvation Army Citadel must have caused considerable loss of archaeological deposits. The building has a substantial basement level and also appears to have been terraced into the lower slope of the western side of Castle Hill. In addition, the present development is relatively limited in scope as regards intended excavation work. There is, however, a requirement for a watching brief in certain areas and for the foundations of a new piece of walling, to the rear of the building, to be dug by archaeologists.

6.0 Watching brief

Excavations in certain areas, within and outside the building, must be watched by an archaeologist until the Keeper of Archaeology is satisfied that no archaeological deposits survive in those locations. The archaeologist must have the opportunity to record any features and finds which are uncovered during those excavation works. The areas are indicated on the attached map.

7.0 Excavation

In one area, to the rear of the Citadel, a new section of walling is to be constructed on a gentle slope between the rear of the Citadel complex and the eastern boundary wall of the property. The foundations of that wall must be excavated by archaeologists, with recording of any features and finds which are encountered.

8.0 Timetable

A timetable must be agreed for the various stages of work so that provision can be made for monitoring by the Keeper of Archaeology.

9.0 Staff Structure

A list of key project staff with qualifications and experience will be submitted by the archaeological contractor.

10.0 Health and Safety /PLI

Such concerns and responsibilities are primarily a matter for the archaeological contractor who must submit evidence of conformity to the Health and Safety at Work Act and possession of public liability insurance to Aberdeen City Council.

11.0 Recording Systems

These must be specified and should include the structure for site record.

12.0 Monitoring Arrangements

It is necessary for City of Aberdeen Strategic Services – Planning and Infrastructure City of Aberdeen Strategic Services – Planning and Infrastructure to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the archaeological work in order to ensure the proper execution of the specification and therefore conformity to the brief. Stages at which monitoring is appropriate will be agreed between the archaeological contractor and the Keeper, Archaeology. The possibility of random inspections should not be excluded.

13.0 Reporting Requirements

Provision must be made for:

- 13.1 Specialist examination of animal and human bone and of any preserved or organic material. Any human remains found must be left *in situ*, with notification being made to the Keeper of Archaeology.
- 13.3 Specialist conservation and examination of artefacts found during the work
- 13.4 Preparation of plans, sections, reconstructions and finds drawings to publication standards.
- 13.5 The sorting and analysis of records and the production of a full report on the work.
- 13.6 Its publication in an appropriate scholarly journal.
- 13.7 The preparation of a catalogued archive and its deposition in the City Council's Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record of Scotland within six months of the end of the archaeological work.
- 13.8 Copies of the report should be sent to the Keeper of Archaeology, the applicant and the City of Aberdeen Strategic Services – Planning and Infrastructure. A brief survey of results should be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, along with the appropriate fee.
- 13.9 The report must be ASPIRE compliant.

14.0 Small finds

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and reported by the archaeological contractor to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel (Dr Alan Saville, National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

15.0 Timescale

The report must be produced within 12 weeks of the end of the field work.

16.0 Further Information

Additional information about the site, or this brief, can be obtained from the Keeper of Archaeology, Whitespace, 60 Frederick Street, Aberdeen AB24 5HY Tel (01224) 523658.

17.0 Conclusion

The archaeological work is to be carried out in compliance with this brief and in the context of NPPG 5. The selection of any contractor will be subject to approval of the Keeper, Archaeology. Work should be carried out in close liaison with the Keeper, Archaeology.

June 2006

Bibliography

- A S Cameron and J A Stones, *Aberdeen: an in-depth view of the city's past*. Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph Series 19, 2001
 J C Murray, *Excavations in the Medieval Burgh of Aberdeen 1973-81*. Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Monograph Series 2, 1982.
 D H Evans, *Excavations at 18 Castle Street (Albion Court), Aberdeen*, *Post-Medieval Archaeology*, 20, 1986, 217-95
 E P Dennison and J A Stones, *Historic Aberdeen*, Scottish Burgh Survey, HMSO, 1997
 E P Dennison et al, *Aberdeen before 1800: a New History*, 2002

APPENDIX 2
 LAYERS AND FEATURES

LAYER	FEATURE	DETAILS	INTERPRETATION
1		TOPSOIL AND MODERN DEMOLITION MATERIAL	MODERN RUBBISH INCLUDING ROOFING MATERIAL TAKEN DOWN OFF CITADEL IN 2007
2		GARDEN SOIL, LATE MEDIEVAL FINDS	LATE MEDIEVAL GARDEN SOIL
3		GARDEN SOIL WITH CHARCOAL, MEDIEVAL FINDS	MEDIEVAL GARDEN SOIL
4		STONEY CONCRETE, SHUTTERED	SHUTTERED CONCRETE - ROGER LEGGE SAID THAT THERE WAS OTHER CONCRETE LIKE THIS WITHIN THE BUILDING - PEROBABLY CONTEMPORARY WITH BUILDING - 1893?
5	AA	GRITTY LIGHT BROWN CLAY BONDING OF MEDIEVAL WALL AA	MEDIEVAL WALL BONDING MATERIAL
6		CONCRETE AND BRICK INFILL ABOVE AA	PATCHING IN LATE 19TH CENTURY?
7		CONCRETE SPREAD OVER FACE OF WALL AD	PATCHING IN 20TH CENTURY
8	AF	RUBBLE AND MORTAR WALL	WALL INFILLED WHEN PENDON 1867 WAS CLOSED OFF; PROBABLY WHEN SALVATION ARMY CITADEL WAS BUILT IN 1893 (ROGER LEGGE PERS COMM)
9	AG	STONE AND MORTAR WALL	WALL INCREASED IN HEIGHT, PROBABLY WHEN SALVATION ARMY WAS BUILT
10	AD	STONE WALL, ? BONDING AS WALL HAS BEEN PATCHED SO MUCH	SECOND PHASE OF AA OR WIDER ORIGINAL PHASE WALL
11		CLEAN LIGHT BROWN COARSE SAND	NATURAL THROUGH WHICH WALL AA CUT?
12		CLEAN COMPACT PINK CLAY	NATURAL

APPENDIX 4

SALVATION ARMY CITADEL

LIST OF FINDS

A small number of finds were recovered from the garden soils around AA (layers 2 and 3)

12 sherds medieval pottery, mostly locally made with green-brown lead glazes
1 lump daub

1 fragment of oyster shell from aa.

Finds from the upper layers (layer 1) included a clay pipe stem and the base of an 18th or 19th-century black-glazed jug.

Finds of 20th-century date were not recovered.

APPENDIX 5

SALVATION ARMY CITADEL

LEVELS

String Section 1 23.23mOD
Plan 1 Wall AD 22.81m OD
Wall AA 21.91m OD; 21.43m OD
Surrounding area Trench 1 21.12m OD
21.18m OD