

# **Craigievar Castle, Alford, AB33 8JF Mains Distribution Board Relocation Report on archaeological watching brief**



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Cover Trench 1 (left) Trench 2 (right)

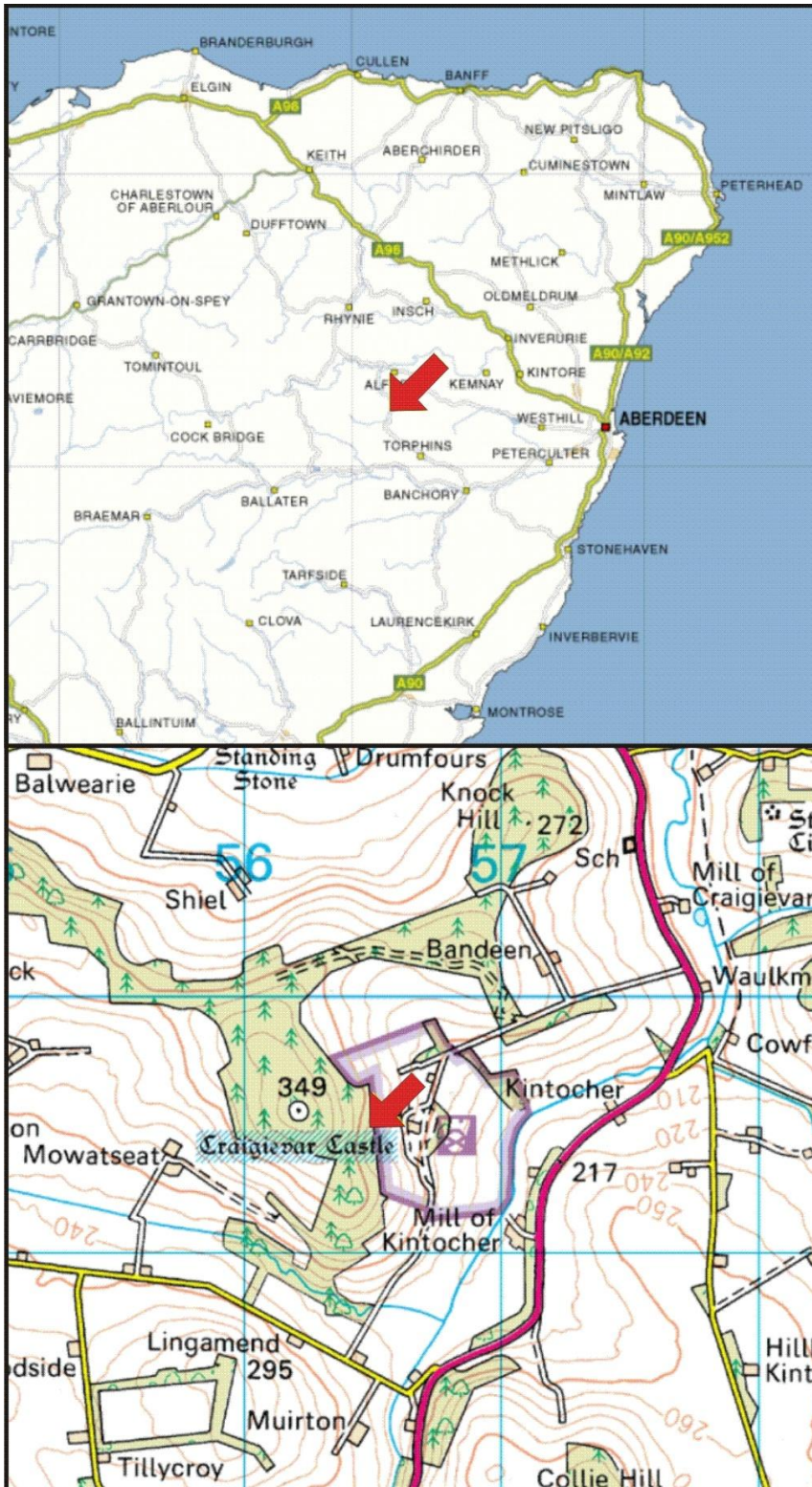
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## SUMMARY

Two trenches were dug to relocate the Electricity Mains Distribution Board and an archaeological watching brief was carried out. No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

A watching brief was carried out on Sunday 17th June 2012 on a track for relocation of an electricity distribution board to steadings which lie NW of Craigievar Castle. The site is in Leochel-Cushnie parish, the NGR for the site is NJ 56678 09486 and it lies at 150-160m OD. The work was commissioned by Paul Quigley and Cheryl Roberts, National Trust for Scotland.



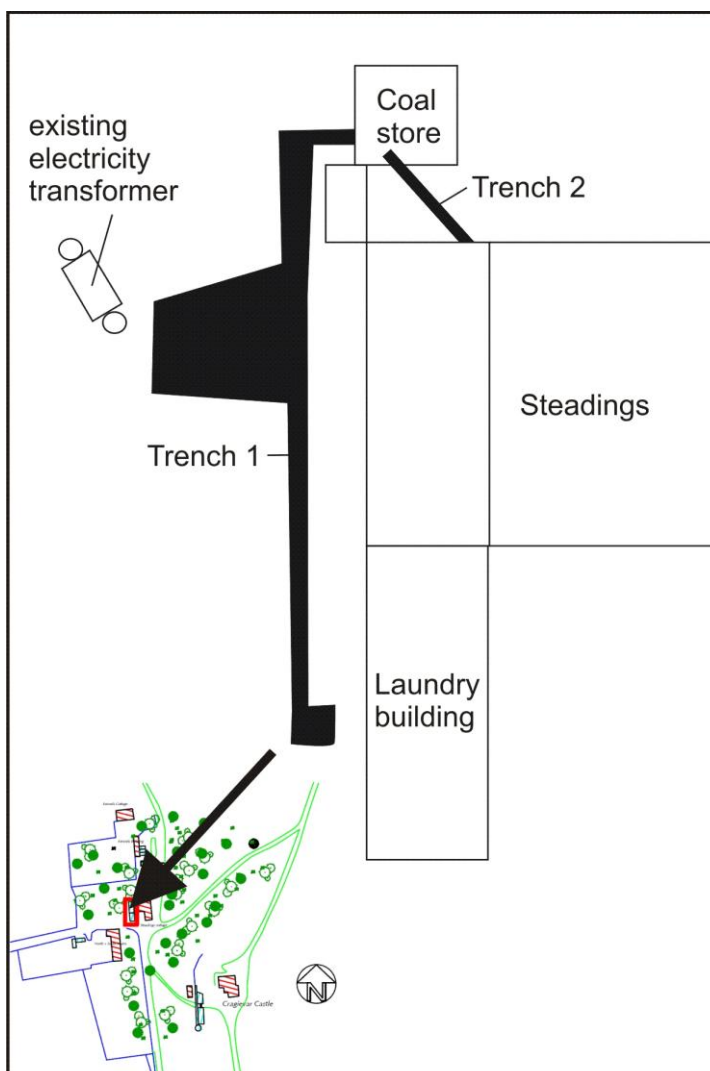
Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

There have been several archaeological interventions at Craigievar Castle. In 1986-8 Aberdeenshire Archaeology Service recorded the Barmkin wall (Greig 1988, 14; Shepherd 1986, 76-8) and in 1990 an excavation revealed the lower courses of this wall as well as associated drains (Greig 1990, 18). A watching brief was carried out during the installation of a water main to Craigievar Castle and the estate buildings. The work uncovered modern pottery and glass around the Mains Cottages, and a linear, charcoal-lined, ditch-like feature 4m E of the old coach building. The pipeline did not pass close by the castle and so no disturbance occurred in that area (Hind 1998, 9). The strengthening of the lightning protection at the castle involved the hand excavation of two trenches c 70cm square by c 60cm deep. These revealed rubble, possibly from the destroyed barmkin wall, overlain by a 19th-century midden. A trench dug alongside the W wall of the castle, in order to test drainage problems, revealed the shallow nature of the castle foundations at this point (Murray 2002, 10).

## 3 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Two trenches (Illus 2) were excavated on Sunday 17th June 2012.



Illus 2 Plan showing trenches (from a plan copyright National Trust for Scotland)

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was 0.5m wide and 0.6m deep and was located west of the Laundry Building past the existing electricity transformer and east to the Coal Store. It was dug with a mini-digger. There was 0.2-0.3m depth of garden soil with numerous roots from existing trees; no finds were recovered from this layer. Near the existing transformer the bedrock was reached at a depth of 0.5m; it consisted of beds of slaty stone.



Illus 3 Trench 1 with Laundry Building (left) facing south

### Trench 2

Trench 2 was hand-dug, 2m long, 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep between the Coal Store and existing steadings. The ground had been previously disturbed and no finds were recovered.



Illus 4 Trench 2 facing NW

## 4 REFERENCES

- Bowler, D 2003 'Craigievar Castle (Leochel-Cushnie; Lumphanan parishes), designed landscape survey', *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol.4, 20.
- Greig, M K 1988 'Craigievar Castle (Leochel-Cushnie parish): barmkin wall', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 14.
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- Shepherd, I A G 1986 Exploring Scotland's heritage: Grampian, Exploring Scotland's heritage series Edinburgh, 76-8.

## 5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## APPENDIX 1 PHOTOGRAPHS



DSC\_0007



DSC\_0008



DSC\_0011



DSC\_0022



DSC\_0160



DSC\_0161



DSC\_0167



DSC\_0173



DSC\_0183



DSC\_0191



DSC\_0192



DSC\_0193



DSC\_0199



DSC\_0205



DSC\_0229



DSC\_0230



DSC\_0244



DSC\_0245



DSC\_0257



DSC\_0268



DSC\_0269



DSC\_0280



DSC\_0286



DSC\_0287



DSC\_0288



DSC\_0294



DSC\_0305



DSC\_0315



DSC\_0316



DSC\_0317



DSC\_0318

<b>Photo no</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Facing</b>
DSC_0007-0010	Trench 1 showing laundry building (right)	N
DSC_0022-0023	Trench 1 location showing laundry building (right)	NNE
DSC_0155-0172	Trench 1 showing laundry building (right)	N
DSC_0173-0178	Trench 1 bedrock adjacent to existing electricity transformer	N
DSC_0179-0191	Trench 1 showing laundry building (left)	S
DSC_0192	Trench 1 existing electricity transformer (left)	NNE
DSC_0193-198	Trench 1 north section (including existing electricity transformer left)	NE
DSC_0199-210	Trench 1 from existing electricity transformer	SSE
DSC_0224-229	Trench 2	W
DSC_0230-236	Trench 2 (foreground) with steps adjacent to Coal Store showing north section Trench 1 (background)	W
DSC_0237-261	Steps adjacent to Coal Store showing north section Trench 1 (background)	W
DSC_0262-268	Trench 1 North section to wall/steps	W
DSC_0269-274	Trench 1 next to wall/steps at Coal Store (top)	NE
DSC_0275-280	Trench 1 next to wall/steps at Coal Store	W
DSC_0281-286	Trench 1 North section to wall/steps	W
DSC_0287	Slatey stone tread from steps removed during this work	
DSC_0287-293	Trench 1 North section to wall/steps	W
DSC_0294-305	Trench 2	ESE
DSC_0315-318	Trench 1 location with laundry building (right)	N
DSC_0319-325	Trench 1	N