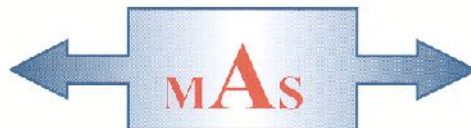


HADDO HOUSE ABERDEENSHIRE STAFF CAR PARK MAINS WATER LEAK



**- Archaeological Watching Brief -
Carried out 17th July 2013
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2013-22
by
H K Murray**

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**HADDO HOUSE STAFF CAR PARK
ABERDEENSHIRE
MAINS WATER LEAK
-Archaeological Watching Brief-**

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1. Background

1.1 A leak from the Haddo Estate private water main was identified in the area between the Haddo House S wing and the Haddo House Hall. An excavation was undertaken to try to locate and mend the leak. As a result an archaeological watching brief was carried out to record any archaeological features that might be revealed.

1.2 The watching brief was undertaken in the context of a considerable body of evidence to suggest that a large stone structure had existed on the site prior to the construction of Haddo House in the 1730s.

In the 1890s when the Hall was built, the foundations of a stone wall some 3m wide were discovered; there is no indication of the orientation.

In 1990 a Hydro- Electricity trench revealed ‘unworked boulders’; these were viewed by Nicholas Bogdan who described them as, ‘might have been demolition rubble’ (Bogdan 1992). In 1992 a trench to the S of the Hall revealed a platform of large boulders at c. 1m depth below the yard- again described by Bogdan as demolition rubble. A section of mortared wall c.1m wide and c. 0.5m below the gravel was built directly above the rubble; this wall was aligned NNE/SSW and Bogdan notes he had an ‘impression’ it was of 17th -century date (Bogdan, 1992). Following from this, GUARD undertook a geophysical survey of part of the car park between the Haddo House Hall and Haddo House in 2004 (McAllan, 2004) which indicated two large anomalies, possibly walls with rubble spread on a NNE/SSW orientation. In 2011 a fragment of a mortared stone wall > 400mm wide was observed in the fire main trench to the S of the Peatyards (Murray & Murray 2011 : fire mains, wall 2).

Until 2011, it was considered that this was the site of the 16th century House of Kelly but excavations in 2011 on the West Lawn (Murray & Murray 2011) revealed significant remains of a courtyard building which has been

interpreted with some confidence as the 16th century House of Kelly. It was suggested in the light of this new evidence that the structures in the area of the staff car park might relate to stables etc belonging to the 16th century complex.

- 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust for Scotland to undertake the watching brief on the drainage repair works; the field element of which was carried out on 17th July 2013.

2. The Site

- 2.1 The site lies along the E boundary of the staff car park, to the N of the hall and S of the S wing of Haddo House.

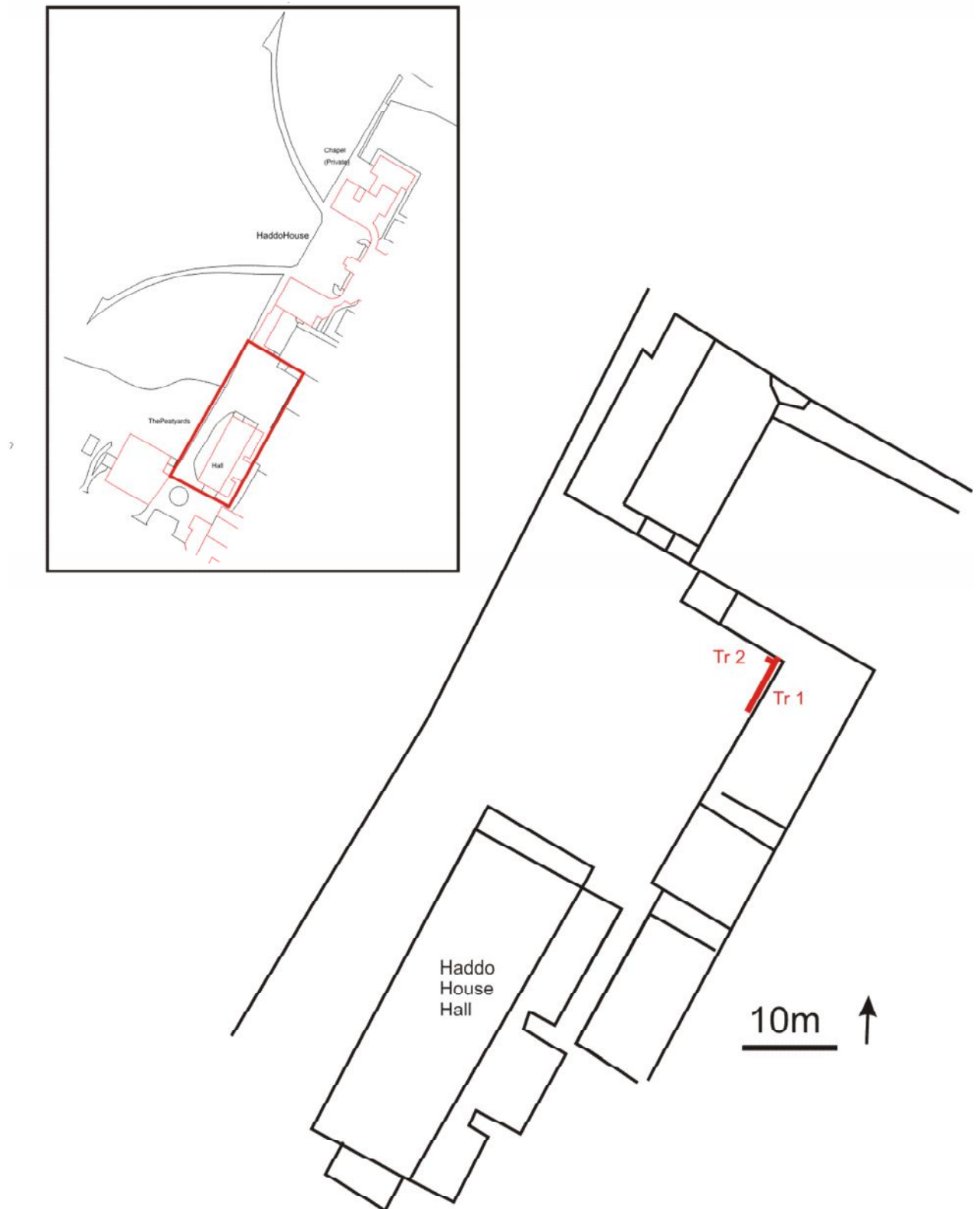
Parish: Methlick

NGR: NJ 8681 3470

NMRS ref: NJ 83SE 42.32 (Haddo House Hall) NJ83SE 21 (House of Kelly),
NJ83SE 42.00 (Haddo House)



Illus 1 Location of trenches in relation to Haddo House



Illus 2 Location of trenches 1 and 2. Inset shows detailed plan in relation to larger area.

3 Methodology

- 3.1 Two test trenches (Illus 1-3) were dug by JCB. Both were observed, planned and photographed by MAS Ltd.



Illus 3 Location of trench 1 in relation to Haddo House Hall

4. The Results

Trench 1 (Tr1)

Tr 1 was 0.8m (E/W) x c7m long (N/S). Depth: 1.20m maximum.

Initially 5m at the S end of this trench was excavated; this was later extended N to attempt to locate a junction.

At the N end of the trench at c 1.2m depth the top of a ceramic drain pipe was partially exposed.

In the S part, the E side of the trench was cut by the trench for the cast iron water main; this was backfilled with a mixture of small rubble, soil and clay. The top of the main is c. 900mm below the surface of the car park. The W side of the trench and the W section showed the following stratigraphy:

1. c 200mm gravel and yard make-up
2. 400-600mm made up ground including some stone, fragments of mortar and occasional fragments of slate.
3. c 300mm crumbly brown humic soil
4. c 40mm small pieces of stone and some sandy mortar
5. 80-100mm black compact peaty soil, probably natural
6. natural clay

Finds

Two sherds of late medieval or post-medieval redware pottery were found in trench 1; both appeared to be from layer 3.

Although most of Trench 1 had been disturbed it appears that layers 3 and 4 might relate to the structures observed elsewhere in the car park. The build-up layer 2 may derive from the demolition of these structures or could be as late as the construction of the Haddo House Hall in the late 19th century.

The rather peaty soil (5) that had developed over the clay natural (6) seems to suggest this was a fairly wet area which does beg the question as to why any large scale structures were located here in the medieval/post-medieval period.



Illus 4 Trench 1 looking N. In E (RHS) section brown line is the exposed iron water main. In the W section (LHS) the undisturbed stratigraphy is visible.

Trench 2 (Tr 2)

Tr 2 was 0.80m (N/S) x c1.5m (N/S). Depth: 0.5m

Trench 2 revealed a brick built inspection pit 460mm x 970mm (18" x 3' 6"); this had been backfilled with its broken cover and with soil and broken drain pipe fragments.

A live electricity cable in a metal pipe was revealed running NE/SW between the Haddo House S wing and Haddo House Hall. This was only just below the car park make-up at 200-300mm. Where exposed it was covered with hazard tape and backfilled.

No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.



Illus 5 Looking E along trench 2. Electric cable in foreground with brick inspection pit behind.

5. Interpretation

No archaeological features were observed and it was clear that this area of the staff car park has been considerably disturbed by the trench for the Haddo Estate water main and by other drainage works in the NE corner of the area at the angle between the wall of the private S wing garden and the fence of the main Haddo House garden beside the car park. Only in part of the W section face of Trench 1 was there some possibly undisturbed stratigraphy. There is also evidence of some degree of made up ground in the area, although with the extent of disturbance in this corner of the car park that conclusion must remain tentative.

However the find of two sherds of late medieval or post-medieval redware pottery does emphasise the probability that the features observed in the past within this area and examined by the GUARD geophysical survey are likely to be contemporary with the 16th century House of Kelly. It stresses the importance of the archaeological monitoring of any interventions or service cuts in the car park and around the Haddo House Hall.

References

- Bogdan N Q 1992 *Old House of Kelly/Haddo Hall*. Letter dated 14/9/1992 and notes regarding the walls observed in area of Hall. Unpublished.
- McAllan, L 2004 *Haddo House Geophysical survey and trial excavations: Data Structure report*. Unpublished client report for NTS, GUARD:Glasgow.
- Murray, H K & Murray, J C 2011 *West Lawn Haddo House, Tarves Aberdeenshire: Archaeological watching brief and excavation. HAH/11/1 and MAS 2011-19 and 2011-20*. Grey literature report.

Photographs supplied to archive on CD

Photographic catalogue Haddo House Staff Car park	
Digital frame no	Content
Haddo Staff Car Park 01	General view looking NE to Haddo House
02	Detail of N end Trench 1
03-04	Detail N end Trench 1 looking S
05	Drain at N end Trench 1
06-07	Brick inspection tank in Trench 2
08	Looking SW along Trench 1 with Haddo House Hall in background
09	Brick inspection tank in Trench 2
10-11	Looking NE along S end of Trench 1
12-13	Trench 1 W section