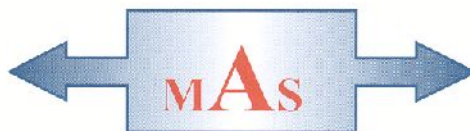


**CRATHES CASTLE
SOUTH LAWN
ABERDEENSHIRE**



Archaeological Excavation
Carried out October 2014
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2014-08
by
H K Murray and J C Murray

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

**CRATHES CASTLE
SOUTH LAWN
ABERDEENSHIRE**

-Archaeological excavation -

H K Murray and J C Murray

1. Background

1.1 The main objectives of the archaeological excavation in the S lawn at Crathes, a project designed by Dr Shannon Fraser, Archaeologist (East) of the National Trust for Scotland, were to further research into the original southern approach to the castle and in the process to aid future management of this part of the castle environs. It was also seen as an opportunity for both schools and the general public to be directly involved in discovering the history of the castle.

1.2 Resistivity survey of the lawn had been undertaken in 2012 by Rose Geophysical Consultants as part of a wider programme of geophysical survey for the Castle Environs Project (Ovenden, 2012). The results were used to target the areas of excavation within the lawn.

1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned by the National Trust for Scotland to undertake the project.

1.4 The excavations were undertaken between 29th September and 27th October 2014.

2. Public Involvement

The situation and nature of the site made this an ideal opportunity to invite the public and schools not only to visit the site, but also to work on the site alongside a core of professional archaeologists and experienced volunteers.

Site talks twice a day were also well attended.

2.1 *Schools* Sandra Morrison, Learning Manager (Events) for the NTS, planned and co-ordinated visits from local schools. Over a 5-day period, a total of 185 children in 16 groups from local schools worked on the site. All the children, who were aged between P4 and S1, spent a session working on site in Area 3 with the excavation team. Although this required a lot of supervision, they worked hard and their enthusiasm was infectious. They also visited the castle and attended workshop sessions on finds led by Dr Abeer Eladany and on documentary evidence led by Dr Shannon Fraser, Archaeologist for NTS East. The combination of different aspects of historical research did reduce the time possible on-site but was very positive in giving the children an understanding that archaeology was not just digging holes.

2.2 *Scouts* A group of the 1st Kintore Scouts with their leader Ron Nairn, Head Guide at Crathes, assisted for a day in Area 4.

2.3 *Young Archaeologists Club* The Young Archaeologists Club from Aberdeen assisted for a day in Area 3 with their leader Claire Christie.

2.4 *NTS Staff* On Thursday 23rd, National Trust for Scotland staff from both the Education and Human Resources teams, came on site as a team training exercise and enabled us to open up an additional four small trenches (trenches 7-10) to test the E extent and degree of survival of the features excavated in Area 2.

2.5 *Dig for a Day volunteers* For the final 2 ½ weeks of the excavation, 86 members of the public with no prior experience had been invited to volunteer to ‘dig for a day’. They ranged from 7-year olds working with their parents to several very active octogenarians and in one case an entire family. Most worked on site but there were others who for part of the time helped with washing finds – a hugely helpful and not

particularly pleasant job as there were large quantities of glass. These volunteers made a large contribution to the excavation but possibly more importantly seemed to get a greater understanding both of how archaeology works and of the multiple and sometimes conflicting roles of the NTS in researching and managing their properties. The need for site induction and basic training at the beginning of every day for new volunteers was the only major disadvantage and we would suggest that in future such a scheme should stop some days before the end of the excavation. It would also be helpful if it was stressed to prospective volunteers, possibly by the use of a small booking fee, that those who did not turn up were stopping others from participating.

2.6 *Experienced volunteers*

The excavation could not have been undertaken without the core of experienced volunteers, many of whom have worked with MAS Ltd over a number of years.

3. The Site

3.1 The site was focussed on a number of anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey of the S Lawn at Crathes Castle, Banchory, Aberdeenshire.

Parish: Banchory-Ternon,

NGR: NO 7341 9680

NMRS No: NO79NW 8

4 Methodology

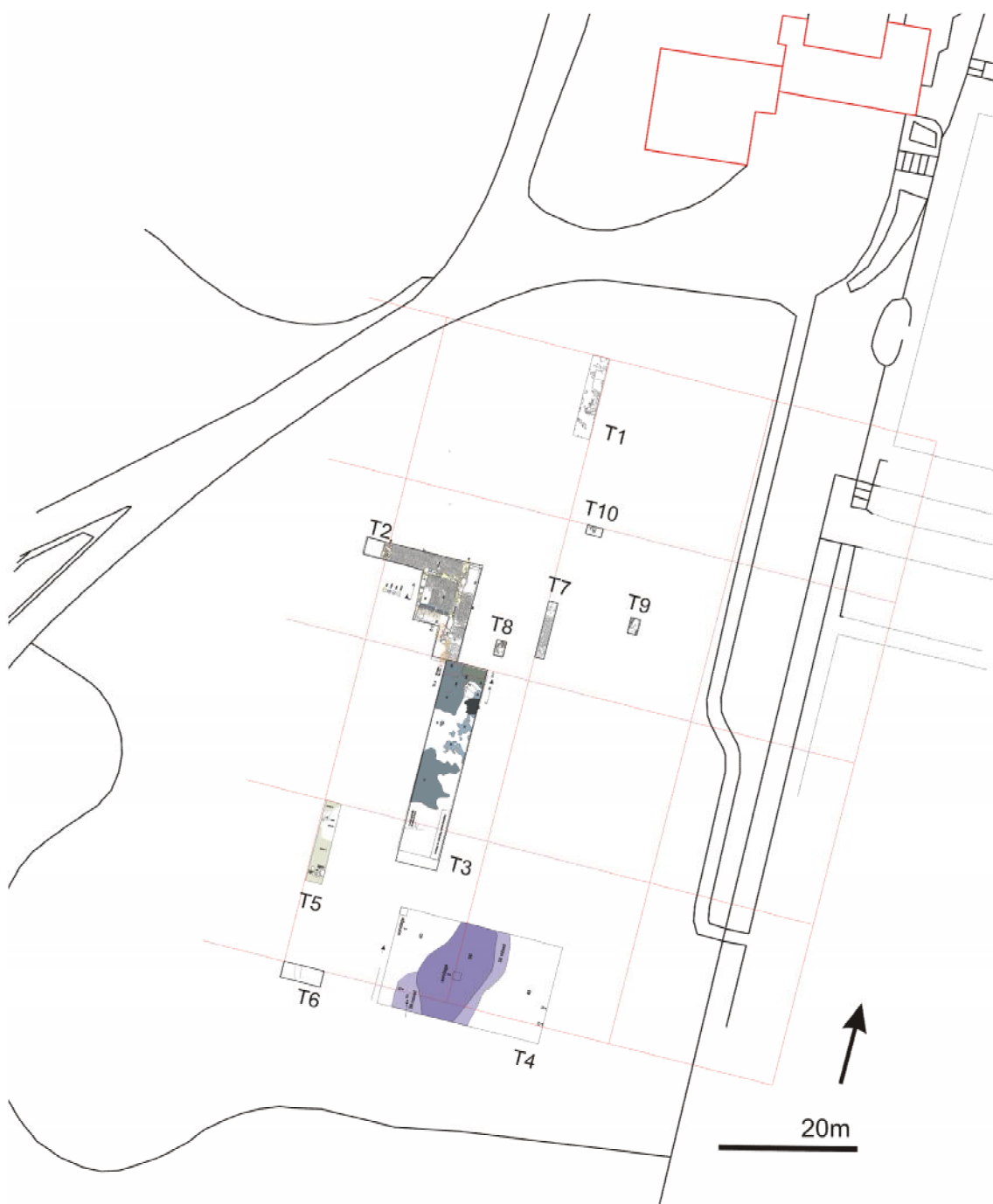
4.1 In order to tie-in with the geophysical survey, the grid used by Rose Geophysics was re-surveyed and all the excavation trenches were laid out in reference to it. They were subsequently also surveyed with a Magellan Mobile Mapper 120 GPS and Glonass.

4.2 Topsoil was removed by mechanical digger in trenches 1-6. Topsoil over the extension of trench 2 and over trenches 7-10 was removed by hand. All further excavation was undertaken by hand.

4.3 All features were planned, photographed (Appendix 1) and recorded (Context database: Appendix 2).

5 The Excavation

The excavation focussed on a number of areas in the S lawn (Illus 1 and Appendix 4).



Illus 1 Overall plan of the site. For comparison with geophysical survey see Appendix 4.

Trench 1-2 These two trenches were respectively at the N and NW end of the lawn, both intended to section an L-shaped linear anomaly observed in the resistance survey.

Trench 3: Trench 3 extended N/S up the middle of the lawn and was intended to locate and identify a hexagonal trend shown on the resistance survey, and to the S of it, one of a pair of roughly rectangular areas of high resistance which were considered as possibly indicating pavilions or entrance features.

Trench 4: Trench 4 was placed E/W at the S end of the lawn across the location of an area of high resistance, part of which appeared to be almost square, possibly indicating a structure.

Trench 5 – 6: Trenches 5 and 6 were placed to section a curving arc of high resistance which appeared to link with the features indicated in the area of Trenches 3 and 4.

Trench 7 – 10 When it became clear that the features in Trenches 1 and 2 related to a courtyard, four additional trenches were placed to gain some understanding of the survival of the courtyard at the E end of the lawn.

Trench 1 (Illus 2)

Dimensions: 10m N/S by 2m E/W

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed an E/W linear band of low resistance (Ovenden 2012, fig 11: 12) which extended across most of the N end of the lawn, some 30m S of the wall of the tower.

Stratigraphy

The lawn surface over trench 1 sloped gently down towards the S. When the grass and thin topsoil was removed at the northern 7m of the trench, it proved to lie directly over a very disturbed stony surface (18, 19) with one natural boulder protruding almost to the grass surface. In places the stony spread was directly on the natural rocks and hard yellow boulder clay, but in some hollows there was a thin layer of mid-brown slightly gritty loam (46), which may have been the original topsoil before the stones were spread. 1 sherd of abraded 14th/15th-century pottery was found in this layer. There were also frequent small slate fragments at the N end, becoming less frequent towards the centre of the trench. In patches, 46 lay over a finer, slightly paler clay/loam (48) which contained small flecks of charcoal but no slate and is interpreted as the original subsoil.



Illus 2 Plans and section of Trench 1.

The S end of the trench was demarcated by a rather disturbed drystone revetment (45) built against a vertical cut some 500mm deep and extending E/W across the trench. To the S of this the natural had been cut away to some 700-800mm below the level of the top of the revetment. This S area had been filled in by a series of dumped layers: 33 - a gritty loam with much slate and bottle glass; 35 - redeposited natural with slate and glass fragments and 36 a dark brown gritty loam with some slate fragments and bottle glass. 16th-18th-century pottery was found in all these layers. At the SE corner there was a loose spread of stones originally thought to be part of the stony surface to the N but, on excavation, proving to be part of the leveling dumps.



Illus 3 Trench 1 looking N after removal of the topsoil showing stone spread 18/19 to the N and dump layers 18A and 33 at the S.

Discussion of Trench 1

The scattered stone spread across the N end of Trench 1 can be interpreted as the very disturbed remains of cobbling similar to that found in Trench 2 with a direct comparison shown by the incorporation of in situ natural boulders leveled up by smaller stones. It appears to have been built directly on the original topsoil (46). The revetment across the trench (45) was contemporary with the disturbed cobbling and can be interpreted as edging the S side of an upper cobbled terrace, with lower ground forming a lower terrace to the S, which had later been filled in with rubbish. All of the infilling layers incorporated 16th-18th century ceramic but there was significantly more slate and bottle glass in the upper layers (20, 33), so it is possible that some of the lower fill may originally have been in ground put into grass or a garden bed. This lower terrace with its looser rubbish fill can be identified with the linear E/W low resistance anomaly shown by the geophysical survey; this would indicate that the upper cobbled terrace and the lower rubble-filled terrace both extended for the full width of the lawn. The infilling of the lower terrace can probably be dated to the late 18th century as part of the open landscaping shown on a 1798 estate plan (Illus 49).



Illus 4 Trench 1 looking N showing revetment 45 with surface of natural and natural rocks to the N of it and dump layer 35 in the foreground, S of the revetment.

Trench 2 (Illus 7, 8)

Dimensions: Maximum dimensions 12m N/S by 14m E/W. Trench 2 started as 2m N/S x 10m E/W but was extended and eventually linked with Trench 3.

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed a N/S high resistance anomaly some 40m long (Ovenden 2012, fig 11:14, 13) with a band of low resistance running parallel to its E side. These were within the W end of Trench 2. The S end of the trench also crossed a trend considered to be a possible service trench (Ovenden 2012, fig 11: 17).

Stratigraphy

Some 200mm of topsoil was removed by machine from the original trench. Topsoil over the extended areas was removed by hand. On the NW part of the trench the topsoil lay directly over disturbed cobbles and walling, to the E, and in what later became clear as the interior of a building, the topsoil lay over demolition rubble and infill.

Later drains and soakaway

The walls and rubble in the SW corner of the trench had been cut away by a large rectangular pit (Illus 5, 7:72), c.3m N/S by 3.7m E/W. This had clearly been cut within the S room of the earlier building (see below) when the building was derelict or very soon after its demolition when the base of the walls were still visible as the N and E sides of the pit were cut along the lines of the internal wall and E wall of the building. The pit or its associated drain/s appeared to have destroyed the S wall of the building and disturbed the S end of the W wall; this could only have been done when this end of the building was no longer roofed. The pit had been covered by large rectangular, dressed slabs (270-320 x 450-500mm and 50mm thick) over which there was c100mm layer of orange, graded quarry sand. Two of the slabs were removed during excavation and later replaced (Illus 5, 6: B). One at the S edge showed the S edge of the pit cut into natural and a fill of loose stones (possibly from the demolition) with a high water level among them. The second slab was near the middle of the N side, beside the internal wall of the building. This showed the slabs to be set in a bed of clean graded quarry sand over the loose stones of the fill. There were some pieces of a partly rotted horizontal timber along the N edge of the covering slabs, beside the internal wall of the earlier building. The timber is not likely to have been of any great age as survival of wood in this soil would be limited. The function of the timber was unclear. There were also three bricks set 700-800mm apart on the covering slabs along the E edge of the pit beside the E wall of the earlier building. There is a valid question as to why such a good surface was laid if the building was no longer standing. The slabs were not the primary flooring of the S room as a patch of cobbles survived in the NW corner; it is unlikely that this corner would have been left if the slabs had been laid as a secondary floor within a functioning building. It is perhaps simply that they were laid over the stone fill to create a level surface that was not likely to sink and which would be easily located when or if the soakaway needed to be opened and emptied or unblocked. The use of graded quarry sand suggests the soakaway may in fact have been opened and re-covered in the

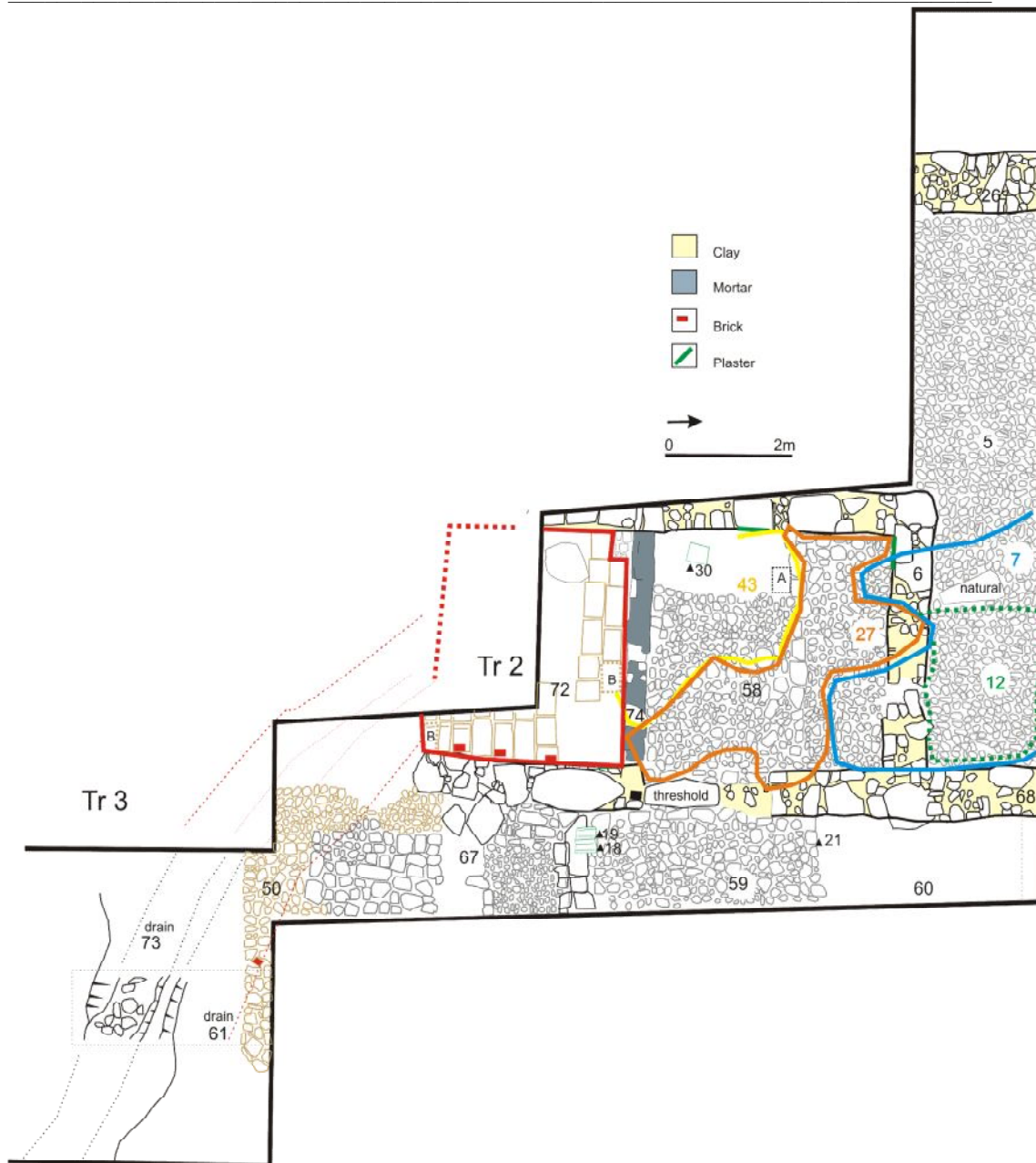
relatively recent past. The plank along the N edge may have been used to retain the sand. A relatively late revisiting of the soakaway would explain the lack of compacted demolition rubble over it, in contrast to the rubble over the N room (Illus 6). Two drains in Trench 3 appeared to be running from the direction of this soakaway (see Trench 3: 61, 75).



Illus 5 Trench 2 looking N showing the slab cover of the soakaway (62, 72) partially excavated and the S slab removed to examine underlying layers.



Illus 6 Slab removed from N side of cover of soakaway (62, 72) excavated to show the underlying pale yellow sand over the loose stone fill. The rotted timber can be clearly seen as a dark brown line (indicated by arrow)



Illus 7 Plan of trench 2 with some of major dumps and soakaway

Demolition rubble

Below the topsoil there were a series of layers across the centre and E side of the trench that included large quantities of slates and slate fragments, stone rubble and patches of mortar (Illus 7: 7, 27, 43). These extended across the top of demolished walls and down onto the internal floor of the building (see below) and onto external cobbles. Many of the slates within the NE corner of the building were complete or almost complete, some even having the slate nails in situ. In places they lay at an angle against the surviving wall faces of the building as if they had fallen, or been thrown, from the roof and remained undisturbed until covered by the leveling debris. Other smaller, broken

fragments, especially those in the upper rubble across the wall tops had clearly been moved after demolition. Slates outside the N wall of the building (in 7) were generally in smaller fragments.

Wall rubble (28, 52) including mortar and some large boulders extended down to the internal floor cobbles with some large stones from the wall resting directly on the floor. There appeared to have been a deliberate use of the rubble to fill and level the lower ground outside the building at the E of the trench and within the lowered floor level of the less disturbed N end of the building; in places within the building the rubble was c.600mm deep. The very hard gritty yellow matrix around much of the rubble may have included redistributed natural brought from elsewhere on the site, or more likely dug out from the soakaway which was cut through part of the S end of the building (see above). Several fragments of worked stone (SF 18, 19, 28, 30, 32) were also found in the lower rubble and are likely to be from the building or associated structures. Two of them (Illus 7: SF 18, 19, Illus 44) had been placed side by side outside the doorway, possibly suggesting that they had been set aside for re-use/salvage and then abandoned.

At the W end of the trench a spread of mortar (21) overlying, and on either side of the courtyard wall (26) also appears to be part of the demolition.

These layers appear to represent two processes; the demolition of a series of structures and the deliberate use of some of the demolition material to level the ground surface. A small number of contexts may be part of the demolition or may be deposits that were created before the walls of the building had been demolished at a time when the building was semi derelict. In particular there was an area of fine brown loam containing very large quantities of bottle glass (Illus 6: context 12, Illus 41, 42) which was clearly deposited on cobbles 5 in an area bounded by wall 68 and the N wall of the building. A very thin layer of fine grey silt (25) with a maximum thickness of 20mm lay on the cobbles N of the building and was sealed by the mortar spread from the demolition of the courtyard wall (26). Similarly a thin layer of silty loam (57) on the E path 59 was sealed by rubble 52 and may have been a pre-demolition build-up. Several other pieces of evidence suggest there was a period when the building was open to the elements before it was leveled: the surviving wall plaster only extended some 200mm above floor level, suggesting that above this level it was lost by natural weathering, some of the slates were stuck up at an angle that suggested they had simply fallen from the roof and, as discussed above, the soakaway is likely to have been dug in the S room when it was unroofed but when the wall lines were still visible.

The Building and related structures

As described above, the rubble both derived from and sealed the remains of a building and related structures (Illus 8). These comprised a rectangular building lying N/S with an entrance to the E, opening onto an E/W path. The E wall of the building extended N as a revetment (68), forming the E limit of a cobbled yard that extended along the N and possibly the W sides of the building and was bounded on the W by a stone wall (26), interpreted as a courtyard wall.



Illus 8 Plan of Trench 2 structures

The N half of the building survived well but the S half had been partially cut away by the later soakaway (discussed above). The building was 5m wide externally and c3.7m wide internally. The length was incomplete but had been at least 6-7m; if the doorway was central the full external length would have been 7.5m. However, if the two rooms were of equal size, the building would have been almost 9m long externally; possibly significantly, if a S room of equal size also had a door at the S end of its E wall, the doorway would have opened onto the good paving S of cut 67, very similar to paving 59 outside the surviving entrance.

As the natural ground was sloping down to the E, the floor of the building, especially at the W end, was dug into the natural to allow for a level surface. When the building was demolished the walls were taken down level with the external surfaces so, at the NW corner, the wall survived to a height of 600mm internally, although externally it was almost level with the cobbled yard. The walls were c 600mm wide with the basal course comprising large natural boulders set at intervals with smaller stones carefully built between them to maintain a flattish face to the inside of the building (Illus 9). In places this appeared awkward, for example directly S of the entrance where the boulder was curved and there was a thin facing of small stones along the inner face to maintain the wall line (Illus 10). S of 67 the line of the wall appeared disturbed, presumably by the demolition of the S end of the building.



Illus 9 Looking N along inner face of W wall

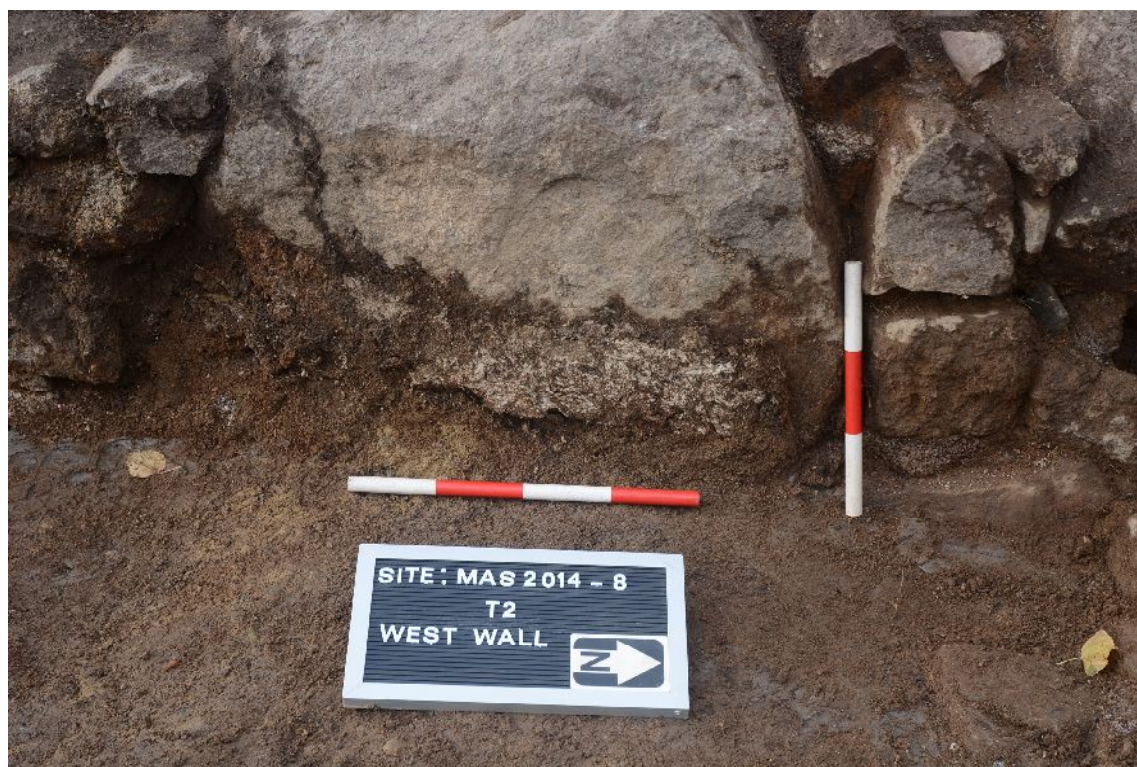


Illus 10 Detail of inside of E wall just S of entrance and of the junction with internal cross wall. Note the small stones used to face the wall

At the NW corner where up to three courses survived it appeared that more regular stones were used for upper courses. The bonding was thick hard yellow clay. In places there were patches of gritty white plaster up to 20mm thick surviving on the inner face of the wall (Illus 12).



Illus 11 Detail of NW corner. Note the more regular higher courses on the N wall (RHS)



Illus 12 Detail of plaster on inner face of the W wall

The entrance, which was at the S of the E wall of the N room, had a stone threshold 1.18m long and 450mm wide maximum with a good straight edge to the outside but a more curved inner face. Externally this formed a step 80-120mm above the level of the path. Internally the threshold was level with the cobbled floor. On the S side of the doorway there was a vertical square socket c120mm square and 180mm deep below the top of the threshold. The wall N of the door was robbed out so it is not possible to know if there was a matching socket on that side (Illus 13).

Internally the building was divided into two rooms, the complete N room being 3.7m square. The interior wall (74) was 300mm wide and, unlike the external wall, was mortar bonded. Occasional slates had been used to level the stonework. It may have been a low foundation for a timber partition wall. It clearly abutted the external E and W walls but, as it was robbed to floor level, it was not possible to see where any internal doorway may have been. It is suggested above that both rooms may have been of equal size. A cobbled floor (58) survived over much of the N room but only a small patch survived in the NW corner of the S room, the remainder having been removed by the later soakaway (see above). The cobbles were set into a layer of thick grey clay (69) up to 170mm thick. As it was NTS policy not to remove the cobbles, only a small sondage

(330 x 460mm. Illus 8: A, Illus 14, 15) was cut through the floor, removing (and later replacing) two cobbles. In this area the cobbles had been leveled with small pieces of slate and set on the clay which incorporated some stones and lay directly on undisturbed natural.



Illus 13 Threshold from outside. Arrow indicates socket



Illus 14 Position of the sondage through the cobbles



Illus 15 Detail of the sondage through cobbles

An area of the grey clay c 2 x 1m had no cobbles at the time of excavation. It is possible that it had been cobbled and the cobbles removed at the time of the demolition of the building, or that during the life of the building some internal feature had been set here and did not require the floor below it to be cobbled. There was an E/W line of slightly larger stones at c1.5m S of the N wall. The cobbles N of this were generally smaller ranging between c100x100 to 80x180mm and the cobbles to the S were c 200 x 200mm. There was nothing to suggest any functional difference between the two areas.



Illus 16 The building during excavation, looking N

As noted above, the rubble included both slates and dressed stones that almost certainly derive from this building and the associated structures. Three stones with a simple roll moulding (SF 18, 19 Illus 45 and SF 28) may have been coping stones from a low wall (pers. comm. T Addyman), possibly even from the top of revetment wall 68, or from a balustrade alongside steps which may have existed between different terraces within the court.

The area to the N of the building was covered by a cobbled surface that sloped down to the W from the courtyard wall (26) to revetment 68. At the NW corner of the building it was clear that this cobbled yard continued at least part of the way outside the W wall of the building. At the higher part of the slope the cobbles had been directly below the grass and disturbance during cultivation of the grass, including ploughing a few years ago, had clearly pulled some stones slightly out of position creating a rougher surface than may originally have existed. Some way down the slope a natural boulder had been incorporated into the yard surface. NTS policy required the cobbles not to be removed so underlying layers were not examined. However, the level of natural in the NE corner of Trench 2 would suggest that the cobbles were set on or very near to the natural boulder clay and that the incorporated boulder was probably in situ in the natural (cf Trench 1).

The W end of the trench exposed a wall (26) 900mm wide. On the inside, the cobbles (5) were laid up to the wall face. A sondage (Illus 17) cut at the S section outside the wall showed that below the topsoil there was a thin layer of yellow gritty sand and clay thought to be from demolition of the wall (21 = 22 see above). Below this, the sondage cut through fine dark grey silty soil (23) containing 2 slate fragments and a sherd of glass and a brown grey silty layer with pebbles (24) which might be the original topsoil outside the wall. The only find from 24 was a piece of slate at the interface of 23 and 24. This wall is clearly on the line of a linear anomaly which extends some 35m from level with Trench 1 to the N to nearly 10m S of this excavated section, parallel with the N end of Trench 3 (see Illus 47 and Appendix 4).



Illus 17 S section of W end of Trench 2 showing courtyard wall 26 and the internal (LHS) and external (RHS) stratigraphy.

The W end of the yard N of the building was marked by a stone revetment wall (68. Illus 18), 700-750mm wide, which appeared to have been cut into the slope of the natural and survived on the E face to a height of c350mm. While this wall may never have been very high there is some evidence that it had been freestanding above the level of the cobbles as the bottle dump (12) was contained by it. Slates (7) however extended over the top of the wall (presumably deposited after the wall had been reduced during demolition).

In the area E of the building there was an E/W path outside the entrance and, to the N of the path, an area of light/mid-brown gritty loam (60. Illus 18, 19). This extended E from the E wall of the building and from the E face of revetment 68. A sondage showed that the loam ranged in depth between 100 and 300mm and extended down to a very irregular surface on the yellow natural clay. This may have been a garden bed with planting holes.



Illus 18 Revetment 68, with sondage through context 60 at RHS foreground



Illus 19 N section of Trench 2 showing sondage through possible garden bed 60. Revetment wall 68 on LHS.

The pathway outside the entrance to the building extended between the S edge of possible garden bed 60 and an E/W cut (67). It was divided into two by a contemporary drain of sloped stones. The main path was at least 3.7m wide and formed of large cobbles (up to 200mm), S of the drain the cobbles were much smaller and there were

occasional slate fragments among them (60x60 to 60x80mm), if this area is included the path was 5m wide.



Illus 20 E side of Trench 2. The small ranging rod lies alongside cut 67. Note the stone drain in the cobbles beyond.

An E/W cut 67 (Illus 20,21) was 800-900mm wide and, in section, the base was cut into stony yellow clay natural 300mm below the level of the path to the N but only 120mm below the smaller cobbles to the S. The fill was of grey/brown silt with occasional stones and two large boulders. A small sherd of mid 18th-century ceramic (possibly residual) was from the base of the fill.

There was nothing to indicate that this was a late drain cut. but it was in line with a possible service cut identified on the geophysical survey (Appendix 4) which was identified with a modern drain in Trench 8 (below). However, it is of similar width to the W courtyard wall and one possible, although not preferred, interpretation is that this was the robbed out line of the S wall (See below for a full discussion of the possible line of the S wall).

A further 2m of larger paving stones extended to the S of this cut; in the section they appear to be set directly on natural but none were removed.



Illus 21 Trench 2. Detail of cut 67 and section through it.

Discussion of Trench 2

Trench 2 appears to cover part of the SW corner of a courtyard enclosed on the W by a stone wall. The S side has been badly damaged by the construction of a soakaway and associated drains but it is clear that the S edge of the courtyard was either at cut 67 or at the edge of the paving because further S in Trench 3 the relative lack of deposits strongly indicates this was outwith the courtyard. An additional strand of evidence is that the S limit of the geophysical anomaly which can be identified with the W wall does not extend further S than this approximate line (see Appendix 4).

There was no direct evidence of the function of the building although its position framing an entry to the courtyard might suggest a porter's lodge (see below).

The higher cobbling (5) to the W and N of the building as with the terrace in Trench 1 illustrates the way in which a fairly formal layout was imposed on a sloping rocky site.



Illus 22 Trench 2 from above

The pre-demolition bottle dumps in contexts 12 and 7 should be seen as part of a wider area of dumping which had extended to the N of Trench 2. In 1997 when a chestnut tree was removed, a large dump of late 18th-century bottles was found associated with some slate (but no other finds). The replacement tree lies 15m N of Trench 2 and 10m W of Trench 1. If this was the same dump it clearly represents a far larger dump, not just the casual deposition of domestic rubbish in an out of the way corner. It may even be the deliberate burying of difficult/dangerous rubbish from elsewhere in the castle environs.¹

¹ We are grateful to Charlie Sutherland for bringing our attention to this. It was also recorded by Kirsty Sabine in Canmore (RCAHMS No: NO79NW 8.01) as being about 40m S of the castle at NO 7338 9676. According to CS much of the glass was dumped in the woods and fresh soil imported to the site for planting the tree.

Trench 3 (Illus 23)

Dimensions: 25m N/S by 5m E/W

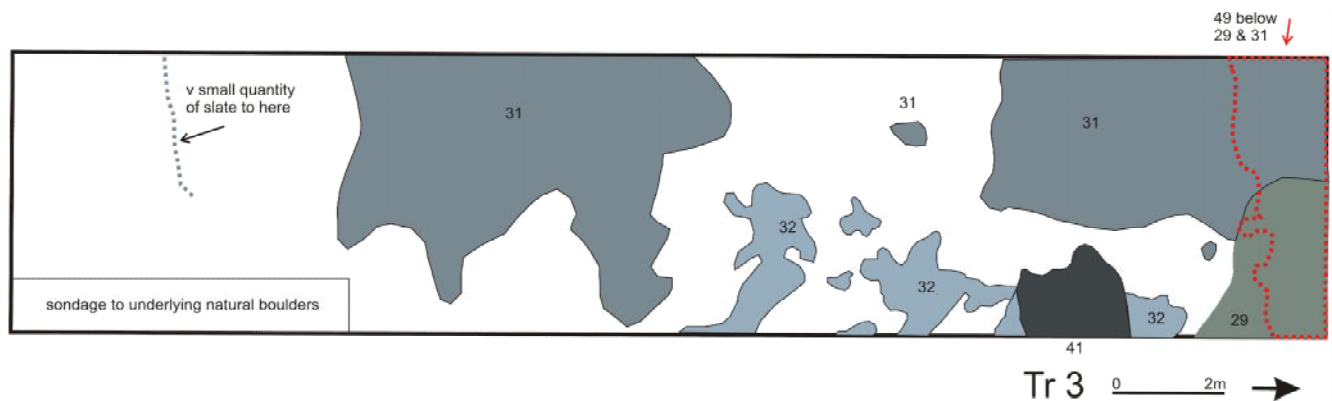
Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed 5 sides of a hexagonal area outlined by lines of high resistance (Ovenden 2012, fig 15:18); Trench 3 should have crossed the N side of this at c 4-5m from the N end of the trench. The S end of the trench was placed across the arc of high resistance that was also targeted by Trenches 5 and 6 (Ovenden 2012, fig 15:5 and 6). The trench was particularly targeted on the western of two small rectangular high resistance anomalies on the arc which were considered as possible structures.

Stratigraphy

When the topsoil was removed there was a clear distinction between the N third of the trench and the remainder. At the S end of the trench, a compact yellow subsoil (13) lay directly over the top of natural yellow clay with boulders; a sondage was cut into this at the SE corner of the trench.

At the N end there was a gritty stony layer (10) with some slate and patches of ? mortar. As this was partially excavated with school groups, this was removed in 2m strips from N to S. This showed that while there were large amounts of slate at the N end it reduced towards the S. Below this there were a series of patchy dumps of more grey stony, gritty loam (31, 32, 29, 41), some with charcoal in but generally fairly similar. In the centre of the trench these overlay natural but at the N end of the trench they sealed a layer of fairly clean redeposited natural (49) which extended into the S end of trench 2, with a total width of c3m (N/S). This was possibly upcast from the drains. It extended over a thin deposit of grey/brown silt (51) that was restricted to an area of paving (50). S of the paving 49 also extended over a fine light brown/yellow loam/clay mix (56).



Illus 23 Plan of Trench 3 before the removal of contexts 29 and 31

A N/S section through 56 extending S from the S edge of the paving 50 showed that all these rather disturbed layers were backfill over two drains (Illus 7, 24, 25), both running from NW to SE; either or both may have related to the soakaway (62/72. See Trench 2). Drain 61 was c 1.5m wide and c 0.5m deep with a loose stony fill and was running with water. At the N side the top of the stony fill appeared to extend below paving 50; as the paving was not excavated this must remain tentative. On the S side the stony fill of drain 61 also overlapped the edge of the cut of drain 73 (although the base of both cuts in natural did not cut each other). Drain 73 was stone filled at the base where it was 0.55m wide but the upper fill of the cut was 0.88m wide, the upper fill being indistinguishable from the clay/loam mix 56. It is considered possible that these drains, especially drain 61, cut away or were on the line of the original S wall of the courtyard.

Discussion of Trench 3

There was nothing in the S end of Trench 3 which could be equated with the anomalies on the geophysical survey; they may have been very transient features relating to use of this area of the lawn during an event.

The main impression of this area was that most of the trench was clearly outside the courtyard excavated in Trenches 1-2 and 7-10. Although there was some scatter of slates etc at the N end of the trench, the layers overlying the two drains comprised backfill and leveling material which would have been deposited after the demolition of the building and the excavation of the soakaway.



Illus 24 Sondage through layer 56 (foreground) showing stone fill of drain 61 extending to/below the paving (50) at the section (E/W ranging rod lies on the paving).



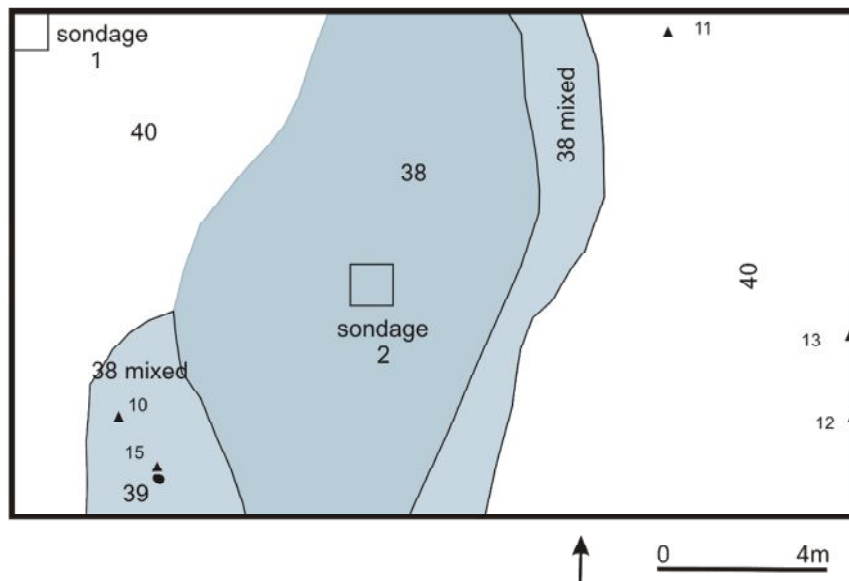
Illus 25 Sondage looking S with drain 61 in foreground with water flowing in it (among the leaves) and drain 73 behind. In the RHS section it is possible to see the stony fill of 61 overlapping the backfill of drain 73.

Trench 4 (Illus 26)

Dimensions: 12m N/S by 20m E/W

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed a rectilinear area of high resistance c. 20-25m square (Ovenden 2012, fig 15: 7, 8); the trench being targeted over most of the N half.



Illus 26 Plan of Trench 4

Stratigraphy

This area of the lawn was fairly level prior to excavation. 100-150mm of topsoil was removed by machine. Over much of the trench, the topsoil lay directly on hard yellow natural clay (34, 40) with frequent natural boulders. However, in the central area of the trench, there was a N/S band of very different, compact blue-grey clay (38) directly below the topsoil. It was up to 8m wide, with a further 1.5-2.5m spread of more mixed washed out blue clay on both sides. The clay was up to 215mm deep in the centre, thinning to a few millimeters at the edges. A 1m square sondage in the centre (Illus 26, 27) showed that it lay directly on the top of the yellow clay (40). The grey clay appeared to be completely sterile natural clay but, unlike the glacially deposited yellow clay (34,40), it looked more like water deposited clay that had either formed in situ in a hollow of meltwater or could possibly have been brought onto the site from elsewhere.

Only one feature (39) was cut into the natural; it was an irregular hollow, 230 x 220mm and 190mm deep, filled with grey clay and pebbles with some lumps of vitreous material/slag, the appearance was of the infilling of a stone-hole or similar.

Four pieces of worked flint (SF 10, 11, 13, 15) were found on the surface of the natural but unrelated to any features. A silver 3 penny piece (SF 12) dated 1926 was also found on the surface of the natural.

Discussion of Trench 4

The high resistance area shown on the geophysical survey appears to be the very hard natural clays exposed directly below the topsoil. While it is just possible that this was material brought in to form the S approach driveway there is no strong evidence to support this.

While the shallow topsoil and the 20th-century 3d coin on natural show this to be an area where grass cultivation has disturbed the ground down to natural, the four flints are important in indicating prehistoric activity in the area (although with the caveat that soil may have been brought in from elsewhere). It is perhaps significant that they lie on the same gravel terrace as the Overflow Car Park, where prehistoric activity has been recorded previously (see pp 53).



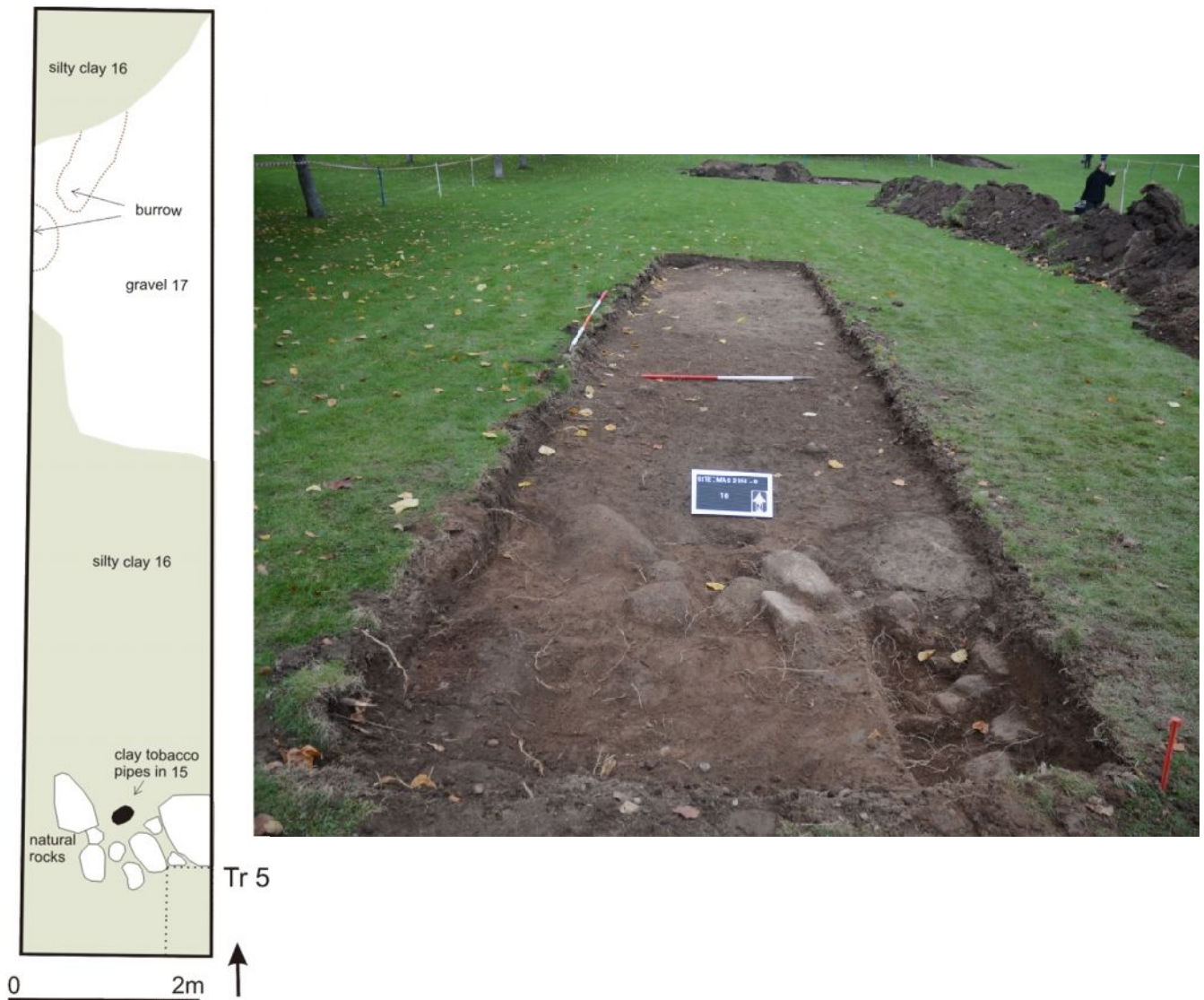
Illus 27 Trench 4 sondage 2 through 38 to top of 40.

Trench 5 (Illus 28)

Dimensions: 10m N/S by 2m E/W

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed an arc of high resistance some 40m across which curved around the high resistance area targeted by Trenches 5, 6 and the S part of Trench 3 (Ovenden 2012, fig 15:5).



Illus 28 Plan of Trench 5

Illus 29 Trench 5 looking N

Stratigraphy

200mm of topsoil was removed by machine. This lay directly on natural. Over most of the trench natural was a very compact yellow clay with large boulders (16) but there was a band of gravel 3-5m wide (17) across the N part of the trench. The edges of the gravel

merged into the clay (16). A small sondage was cut into the natural at the SE corner which showed the clay extended down among large rounded glacially deposited boulders.

One small intriguing feature was an irregular hole between natural boulders. The hole which had a top diameter of 120 x 200mm tapered to 50mm diameter at a depth of 200mm. It was entirely filled by a collection of fragmented clay tobacco pipes (SF 6) which had been broken prior to burial and were placed over a small iron object (SF 6) in the base of the hole (Illus 40). The clay pipes were of 19th-century date.

Discussion of Trench 5

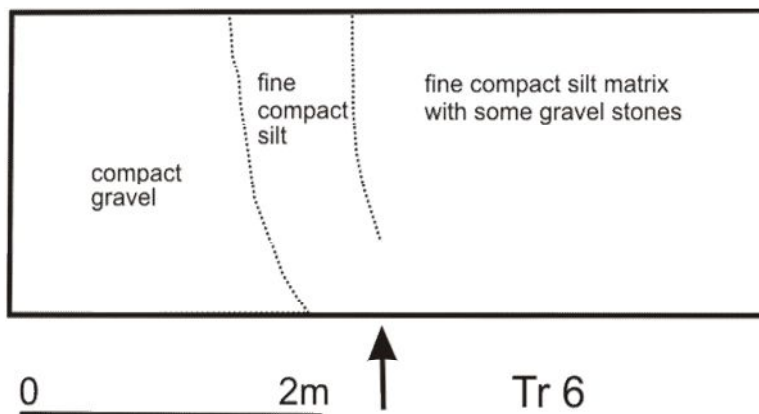
With the exception of the odd collection of clay pipes Trench 5 showed no anthropomorphic features and the geophysical anomaly proved to be natural.

Trench 6 (Illus 30)

Dimensions: 2m N/S by 5m E/W

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed an arc of high resistance some 40m across which curved around the high resistance area targeted by Trenches 5, 6 and the S part of Trench 3 (Ovenden 2012, fig 15:5).



Illus 30 Plan of Trench 6



Illus 31 Trench 6 looking S

Stratigraphy

150-200mm of topsoil was removed by machine. It lay directly over natural which comprised a series of gravel, silt and gravel/silt lenses which formed a series of arcs on the same alignment as the arced anomaly shown by the geophysical survey.

Discussion of Trench 6

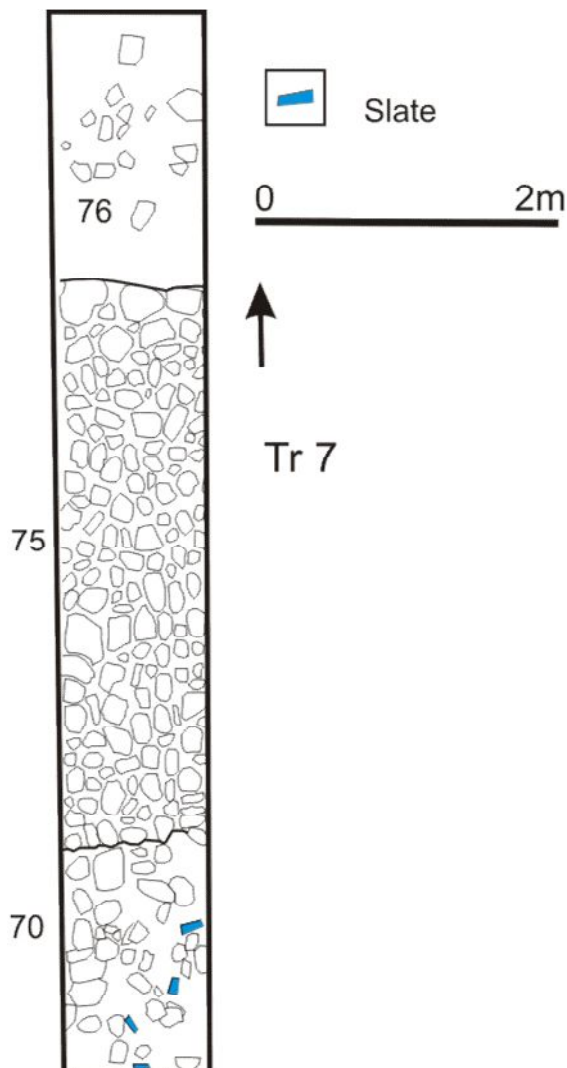
The geophysical anomaly proved to be natural.

Trench 7 (Illus 32)

Dimensions: 7m N/S by 1m E/W (extended from 2 x 1m)

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed no major anomalies although there was the line of a probable service trench E/W across the S end of the trench (Ovenden, 2012, fig 5: 16). The trench was placed to cross a visible ridge in the surface of the grass which could be observed running E/W across much of the width of the lawn.



Illus 32 Plan of Trench 7

Stratigraphy

Topsoil 150-180mm deep was removed by hand. Over the centre of the trench the topsoil lay directly on a band of cobbled paving (75) 3.8m wide running E/W across the trench. The cobbles were 150x150mm and 200x200mm with smaller infilling stones. They were worn, with a smooth flat upper surface. The N edge appeared to be bounded

by a line of slightly larger stones. The paving appeared to be set on subsoil. A small sondage to the N of the paving showed natural to be 430mm below the modern grass surface. Below the topsoil there was c250mm of stony loam (76).

The S edge of the paving was ragged and appeared to have been cut by an E/W trench, thought to be the service trench shown by the geophysical survey, which had been backfilled with a mixture of disturbed cobbles and occasional slates in grey loam with patches of redeposited natural (70). This possible service trench was only excavated to a depth of 600mm. Pantile, modern wood and clay pipe in the fill suggest it is a relatively recent drain. A thin mortar layer (65) which lay below the topsoil in this area also extended into the S end of Trench 8; it may be no more than leveling material

Discussion of Trench 7

The paving in Trench 7 is in line with and very similar to the paving (59) in Trench 2. Both are on the line of a flat ridge running E/W, which may indicate that the paving survives across much of the width of the lawn. The area N of the paving is very similar to context 60 in Trench 2, which is interpreted as a possible garden bed. The modern service cut at the S end of the trench may be on the edge of/masking the possible robbed out wall, 67, in Trench 2.



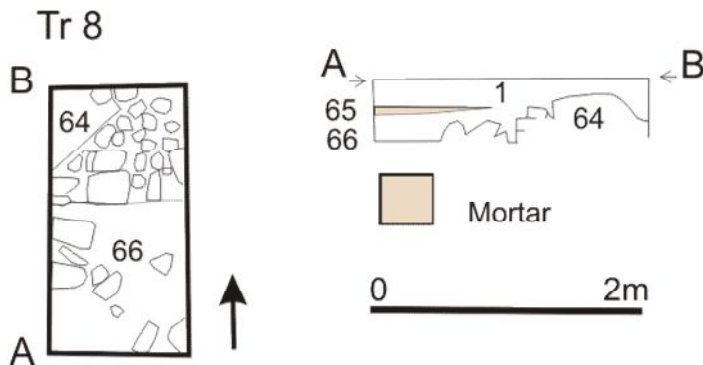
Illus 33 Trench 7 looking N. Disturbed area (70) in foreground with paving 75 behind.

Trench 8 (Illus 34)

Dimensions: 2m N/S by 1m E/W

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed no major anomalies although there was the line of a probable service trench E/W across the S end of the trench. The trench was placed to attempt to locate any S wall of the possible courtyard.



Illus 34 Plan and section of Trench 8

Stratigraphy

Topsoil 200-250mm deep was removed by hand. At the N end of the trench this overlay c 200mm gritty loam with some slate and 2 fragments of pantile. This sealed a band of stones c 850mm wide comprising a large natural boulder and smaller stones set around it (64). It appeared to have a straight edge on the S side. To the S there was a layer of mortar (65) below the topsoil. This extended into Trench 7. Below was a disturbed area of loose stones, slate and 1 pantile in a yellow/brown clayey matrix. At the extreme S edge of the trench there was a later cut c100mm wide extending into the section; this contained modern wood and china.

Discussion of Trench 8

Originally it was thought that the band of stones might be the remnant of a wall but they could perhaps be better regarded as paving. The inclusion of large natural boulders in situ in paving has been observed elsewhere on the site, for example in Trench 2. The alignment between the paving in Trenches 2 and 7 suggests this is part of the same pathway. The cut at the S end may relate to the cut 67, in Trench 2, there also appears to have been the very edge of another relatively modern drain cut just on the S section of

the trench within the earlier cut (This is not the same drain as cut Trench 7- see the geophysical survey Appendix 4).



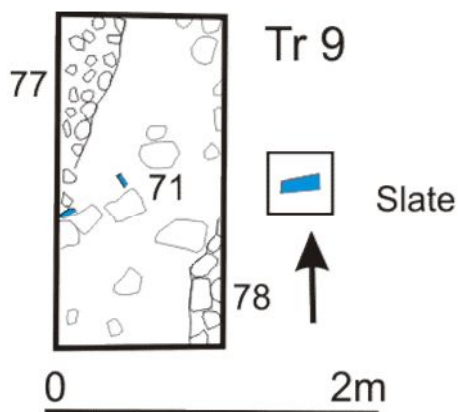
Illus 35 Trench 8 looking N. Stones 64 at N end of trench.

Trench 9 (Illus 36)

Dimensions: 2m N/S by 1m E/W

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed no anomalies. The trench was placed to identify the extent to which structural remains might survive below the E side of the lawn.



Illus 36 Plan of Trench 9

Stratigraphy

Below c 200mm of topsoil there was a grey brown sandy loam with rubble and occasional slate fragments. This was excavated to c 500mm below the present ground level without reaching natural. It was decided not to excavate deeper. At the NW corner there was an area of small waterworn stones <50mm forming a possible surface (77) at 330mm below the modern ground level. In the SE corner a small area of more angular stones <150mm and 200mm below the present ground level might also represent a deliberate surface.

Discussion of Trench 9

The very enigmatic features in Trench 9 can not be interpreted with any certainty. They do however show that possible structural surfaces and some depth of building rubble do survive at relatively shallow levels below the grass on the E side of the lawn.



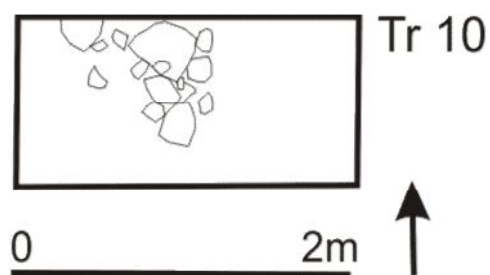
Illus 37 Trench 9 looking N. Stones 77 visible in NW corner

Trench 10 (Illus 38)

Dimensions: 1m N/S by 2m E/W

Geophysical survey (Appendix 4)

The geophysical survey of this area showed no anomalies. The trench was placed to identify the extent to which structural remains might survive in the area between Trenches 1, 2 and 7.



Illus 38 Plan of Trench 10

Stratigraphy

Below c 180mm of topsoil there was a further c 200-250mm of yellowish slightly gritty topsoil/subsoil mix above natural clay with a small outcrop of natural glacial boulders.

Discussion of Trench 10

There was no structural evidence; this area may have been disturbed or may have been a garden bed or similar.



Illus 39 Trench 10 looking E

6 The Finds

All the material has been catalogued in the database (Appendix 3). Building materials, bone, bottle body sherds and modern ceramic were recorded but not retained.

COINS

SF 12 Silver Threepence 1926 George V. Bare Head Silver Threepence. Tr 4, (34)

SF14 Silver Sixpence. 1926 George V. Bare Head Silver Sixpence. Tr 2 (37)

SF 17 Worn Copper-alloy coin 28mm diameter. Weight c. 9gm. Head facing L. Not identifiable. Probably One penny. Pre-1971. Tr 2, (1)

SF 33 Worn Copper-alloy coin 28mm diameter. Weight c. 9gm. Head facing R. Not identifiable. Probably One penny. Pre-1971. Tr 3 (56)

SF3 Worn Copper-alloy coin 28mm diameter. Not identifiable. Probably One penny. Pre-1971. Tr 3 (10)

SF26 Very worn ? Bronze coin 26-28mm diameter. Not identifiable. Probably One penny. Pre-1971. Tr 2 (57)

COPPER-ALLOY

Pin

SF 16 One bent silvered copper-alloy pin, with head of coiled wire soldered into place.
L: c10mm. Typical of hand made pins from the 16th-18th centuries. Tr 2 (7)

Buttons

SF 22 Copper-alloy disc 24mm diam with looped shank. Tr 3, (51)

SF 29 Copper-alloy disc 24mm diam with broken shank. Sunburst decoration on face.
Tr 2, (58).

Buckle

SF 27 Rectangular copper-alloy belt/harness buckle with broken iron tang. 480 x 540mm. Tr 2, (57)

Furniture fitting

SF 9 Cast copper-alloy knob with broken iron shank. Handle for small drawer. Diam at head: 110mm. L: 220mm. Tr 3, (10).

Several examples shown on Portable Antiquities Scheme website are dated c. 1750-1850. (NLM-7C5546)

<http://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/copper-alloy+furniture+post-medieval/thumbnail/1/page/5>

POTTERY

The pottery ranges in date from the medieval period to the 20th century. The later medieval material shows considerable abrasion and could have been moved around the site or abraded within its context (for example on a pathway). In contrast the post-medieval Scottish Reduced Greyware was in much better condition. Most of the tin-glazed ware was in a poor condition with poor adhesion between the glaze and the body of the pot.

The bulk of the 18th -century material is predominantly Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware of a utilitarian nature, mainly plates and bowls with one possible chamber pot.

Trench 1

Context 8

- 4 very abraded sherds redware. Poss 16th/17th century
- 1 fragment 19th century decorated white china

Context 18

- 1 small fragment cream tin-glazed ware. 17th/18th century

Context 20

- 1 rim sherd and 10 body sherds. Upper portion brown-glazed red earthenware small bowl. Possibly upper portion of bowl from Tr 1 (33).
- 1 thick orange-glazed redware sherd. 16th/17th century
- 1 abraded sherd. Grey fabric with external green glaze. 16th/17th century
- 8 fragments assorted 17th-19th century tin glaze and porcelain.

Context 33

- Lower portion of small brown-glazed red earthenware bowl. Rich brown glaze on all internal and most external surface to just above base. 17th/18th century?
- 2 sherds glazed Scottish Reduced Greyware. Thick vessel, internal and external glaze. 16th/17th century

Context 35

- 1 rim sherd. Green glazed Scottish Reduced Greyware. 16th/17th century
- 2 body sherds ditto.

Context 36

- 1 sherd thick redware, internal and external brown and green glaze. Possibly 16th/17th century
- 1 strap handle. Red fabric with green glaze. 15th/16th century?
- 1 fragment Upper part of strap handle. Scottish Reduced Greyware, dull olive green glaze. Possibly 16th/early 17th century

-
- 1 sherd (as above) with possible traces of thumb impression.
 - 1 inverted rim sherd and 2 body sherds cream tin-glazed bowl. Possibly 17th/18th century.

Context 46

- 1 sherd very abraded redware with external green glaze. 14th/15th century?

Trench 2

Context 1

- 1 base sherd Willow pattern ?bowl. 19th/20th century
- 3 sherds v. abraded plain pale blue tin-glazed ware. 17th/18th century
- 2 sherds white glazed china. 20th century
- 1 v abraded orange glazed red ware. C 17th/18th century

Context 5

- 1 rim sherd and 9 body sherds thick orange glazed redware bowl. C 17th/18th century

Context 7

- 6 sherds highly decorated porcelain plate. c18th/19th century
- 19 sherds and frags including base and rim. Pale blue tin-glazed bowl. 17th/18th century?
- 5 body sherds and 1 basal sherd. Red earthenware bowl, internal honey-orange glaze. 17th/18th century?
- 1 sherd tin-glazed ware. Internal blue decorated pattern. 17th/18th century

Context 12

- 5 sherds decorated porcelain plate. 18th/19th century. (as 7 above)
- 3 sherds pale blue tin-glazed bowl. 17th/18th century (as 7)
- 4 sherds thin red ware bowl with all-over lustrous brown glaze. c 17th/18th century
- 1 body sherd redware. Thick internal honey brown glaze. 17th/18th century. (see 7)
- 1 fragment white salt-glazed plate. 18th century

Context 25

- 1 sherd blue decoration on white tin-glazed ware. c18th/19th century
- 1 sherd possible white stoneware
- 1 very abraded green glazed red ware. c16th/17th century

Context 28

- 1 rim sherd possible tea cup. c19th/20th century

Context 32

- 1 sherd buff-grey stoneware with brown iron wash under salt glaze. Has outer piece of applied circular or oval medallion. Probably German. c 17th century.(Gaimster, 1977, 62, 218 & plate 14).

Context 37

- 6 sherds decorated porcelain plate (as 7, 12) c 18th century
- 5 sherds pale blue tin-glazed ? bowl. (as 7,12) ?17th/18th century.
- 4 sherds mixed china. 19th/20th century
- 4 sherds thick redware vessel. c 17th/18th century.
- 1 sherd green glazed Scottish Reduced Greyware. c 17th/18th century

Context 43

- 2 sherds blue floral patterned tin glaze. 17th century?
- 1 base sherd white porcelain. c 18th/19th century
- 1 sherd white salt-glazed plate mid-18th century
- 1 sherd white tin-glazed ware. c 17th/18th century

Context 44

- 5 sherds white salt-glazed bowl. Mid-18th century
- 1 sherd decorated porcelain. 18th/19th century

Context 52

- 1 sherd white salt-glazed ware. Mid-18th century

Context 57

- 1 rim and 4 sherds white salt-glazed bowl. (As Tr2, 44) Mid-18th century

Context 67

- 1 small frag white salt-glazed ware. Mid-18th century

Trenches 2 & 3

Context 56

- 23 sherds and frags white salt-glazed vessel, possibly bowl. Mid-18th century.
- 1 handle and 4 body sherds white salt-glazed bowl/jug. Mid-18th century
- 1 rim sherd decorated porcelain. c 18th/19th century
- 1 sherd tin glazed with internal blue and white floral decoration. ? 17th century.
- 1 basal portion green-glazed Scottish Reduced Greyware. 17th/18th century

Trench 3

Context 1

- 1 rim sherd large green glazed open bowl.greyish/red fabric. 16th/17th century.
- 1 abraded rim sherd. Thin small bowl. Red ware with external spot green-orange glaze. 15th century?

Context 10

-
- 4 base sherds (conjoin). Red earthenware jug(?) with thick internal brown glaze. 17th/18th century.
 - 1 v. abraded rim sherd. Redware with traces of external orange-brown glaze. Possibly jug. 16th/17th century
 - 4 sherds white salt-glazed plate, mid-18th century
 - 1 frag decorated white china. 19th century.

Context 41

- 1 small sherd white salt-glazed ware, Mid-18th century

Trench 4

Context 31

- 2 fragments very abraded fine buff fabric. Possibly late medieval (?)

Context 34

- 12 small mixed sherds 19th century china

Trench 8

Context 63

- 1 small fragment porcelain. 18th/19th century

Trench 10

Context 1

- 1 abraded sherd redware jug (?). Orange internal glaze. Possibly late medieval/post-medieval

CLAY TOBACCO PIPES

SF 6 Broken pieces of 5 or 6 pipes. Trench 5, context 15.

The pipe fragments are generally very small and all very abraded on the edges and appeared to have been broken up before deposition, with stem fragments packed in side by side very tightly. It has not been possible to reconstruct any of the pipes. The total count is based on 5/6 mouthpieces and 6 bowl base/stem junctions. A small iron object, now a corroded lump, had been placed in the base of the hole below the pipe fragments (The base of a container??).

The pieces comprise stems (59), mouthpieces (5, possibly 6), bowl/stem junctions (6) and both plain and decorated bowl fragments (29 decorated, 60 plain). 19 of the bowl pieces are decorated with cross-hatched hearts. Ten bowl fragments seem to bear initials in an oval cartouche (none complete) on the upper face of the bowl; the first initial may be an 'M' but the other is very indistinct, possibly 'O'. In two cases the initials occur with heart decoration. Pipes with

similar decoration to the cross-hatched heart and stamped 'TW' are dated to the later 19th or early 20th century. (Gretton,nd,figs 39, 43).



Illus 40 SF 6 during excavation

- SF 35 Portion of stem and bowl with heel. Trench 2, context 37 (= base of topsoil).
The heel bears the initials 'I' (?) and 'S'. The front of the pipe is decorated with a design, possibly the Prince of Wales feathers. Possibly 2nd half of 18th century. (Gretten, nd, fig 37).
- SF39 Bowl. Trench 8, context 1 (topsoil).
The flattened heel is much worn but may have had a squared stamp. Rouletting below rim of bowl. Possibly Dutch or Scottish. c late 17th century. (Gretten, nd, fig 3).

Stem fragments were found in the following contexts.

Trench	Context	No pieces	Comment
1	20	1	
1	33	1	Junction with bowl
1	36	1	
2	2	1	
2	3	1	Mouthpiece
2	4	1	Rouletted decoration around

			stem
2	7	1	
2	12	4	
2	25	3	
2	37	2 stem	
2	43	3	1 with red paint
2	44	3	
3	10	9	
3	56	5	
5	1	1	
7	1	1	
7	70	2	
10	1	1	Rouletted decoration around stem

GLASS

Vessel glass

A small number of vessel sherds were identified, most notably a large part of a wineglass of probable 18th-century date that was in the same context as much of the bottle glass.

Tr 1 context 20	1 body sherd pale greenish/clear
Tr 2 context 12	Wine glass. 2 stem sherds, base and rim sherd. Plain fairly solid stem expanding to base of bowl. Domed foot. Possibly 18 th -century firing glass for toasts http://18cglass.co.uk
	2 body sherds pale green glass
Tr 2 context 25	2 body sherds clear glass- one of which appears modern
Tr 2 context 37	2 green glass body sherds
Tr 2 context 42	1 clear glass rim sherd
	2 body sherds pale green glass
Tr 2/3 context 51	Clear glass foot rim
Tr 2 context 53	2 sherds clear glass foot rim- possibly same as context 51
Tr 3 context 10	Wineglass. Part of foot ring clear glass

	1 rim sherd fine clear glass with folded rim and colour in fold
	1 body sherd clear glass
Tr 3 context 32	1 body sherd clear glass
	1 body sherd green glass

Bottle glass

The bottle glass was sorted to body sherds, complete neck/rims and complete bases. The body sherds were weighed from each context and subsequently disposed as they were not suitable for exhibition or for education purposes. The rims and bases were counted and retained. A number of atypical pieces were also retained.



Illus 41 Some of the glass from Trench 2, context 12 drying after washing

Almost all the bottle glass was from Trenches 1 and 2, with only between 1 and 11 sherds in any of the other trenches. In Trench 2, the glass appears to have been dumped while the retaining wall 68 was still upstanding as it was concentrated on the cobbles to the W of the wall.

A minimum vessel count was undertaken based on the complete rims/necks and the complete bases. In Trench 1 there were 6 rims and 1 base. In Trench 2 there were 44 rims and 29 bases. The overall minimum bottles represented would therefore be c. 50. Of these, 29 bottles were in Trench 2 context 12 which seems to have been the primary deposition. Many of the other contexts can be seen as deriving from this as demolition

was completed and materials moved. Eleven contexts had more than 1kg of body glass of which five had more than 2kg (Context 12 : 9.4kg; Context 44: 3.3kg; Context 7: 3.14kg; Context 43: 2.4kg; Context 37: 2.04kg); the distribution again illustrates the concentration in Trench 2, context 12 and the overlying context 7, with the other high yielding contexts all among the demolition and leveling.



Illus 42 Some of the bottles dumped in Trench 2, context 12 on top of cobbles.

Base diameters ranged between 100 and 130mm, most being in the range 120-125mm. They had pronounced basal kicks, 20-45mm in depth. The sides directly above the base were straight. Necks ranged in length between 65 and 110mm. They seemed to be a majority 70-80mm long with the neck gently expanding to a rounded shoulder. Two with longer necks (100-110mm) appeared to have a slightly straighter neck with a very rounded shoulder. All the necks had an applied collar below the rim.

By comparison with the Museum of London glass bottle database, these all appear to fit within the range of 18th century wine bottles.

<http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/ceramics/pages/glass.asp>

Three sherds of what appears to have been a hexagonal bottle were found in context 12 and another in context 7. Blob seal SF 31 was from the shoulder of this or a similarly shaped bottle. These rectangular-sectioned bottles were mould blown. 18th-century examples, described as wine bottles (one notes that a label described it as a table bottle), are shown on the Museum of London database (for example: Accession numbers A23561, A12107).

Blob seals

Three blob seals with the Burnett coat-of arms from glass bottles were found- all in Trench 2, context 12. (SF 4, 5 and 31). SF 4 and 5 were just the seal, broken from the bottle. On SF 31 the seal was on part of a squared bottle. A fragment of a rectangular-sectioned bottle with the same family seal is on display in the castle.



Illus 43 Blob seal SF4 with Burnett coat of arms

IRON

SF23 *Cold chisel*. L:300mm. Width of blade: 28mm. Tr 2, (28)

SF 15 *Y-shaped iron object*. Shank square-sectioned 10mm. Total length 103mm. Max width at head 63mm. Tr 2, (28).

SF 21 *Boot scrape or architectural fragment*. Blade with tang at one end, other end broken. Blade L: 170mm W: 45mm Th: 110mm to 2mm thick at top and bent double so

that base is two sheets of iron 10mm apart.. Tang at right-angles to blade L: 70mm. Tr 2, (44).

SF 25 Almost certainly the broken end of SF21. Blade L: 70mmW: 45mm. 2mm thick at top and bent double so that base is two sheets of iron 10mm apart. V corroded. Tr 2, (52)

Together SF 21+25 would have been c 235mm long with a sharp edge to top and folded edge to base with a tang at either end. Both were in demolition rubble found c 500mm apart. in overlying layers outside the building to N side of doorway.



Illus 44 SF 21 in situ outside doorway of building prior to lifting.

STONE ARTEFACTS AND BUILDING MATERIALS

Flint

SF 7 Flint flake. Tr 2, (7)

SF 8 Chunk burnt flint. Tr 2 (2)

SF 10 Broken flint blade Tr 4, (34)

SF11 Small flint pebble Tr 4, (34)

SF 13 Burnt flint flake Tr 4, (34)

SF 34 Small flint chunk Tr 2, (5)

SF 36 Flint core Tr 2 (37)

SF 37 Small flint pebble fragment Tr 4 (34)

SF 38 Possible gun flint Tr 3 (13)

Hone

SF 20 Part of rectangular hone. Laminated. L: 500mm (incomplete). W: 280mm
Th:5mm (incomplete). Tr 3, (51)

Architectural stone

SF 18 Roll moulding. Sandstone. L: 320mm W: 240mm. Th:170mm. Roll 130mm
wide. Tr 2(52) (Illus 45). SF 18-19, 28 are possibly coping stones from a low
wall, comparable to those beside steps dated 1675 at Pitmedden, Aberdeenshire
(pers. comm. T Addyman).

SF19 Roll moulding. Sandstone. L: 380mm W: 240mm. Th:160mm. Roll 130mm
wide. Tr 2(52) (Illus 45)

SF 28 Roll moulding. Sandstone. L: 340mm W: 240mm. Th:170mm. Roll 130mm
wide. Tr 2(28)

SF 30 Sandstone. Dressed face. 290 x 190 x 130mm. Tr 2 (28)

SF 32 Sandstone top and two sides dressed. L: 455mm+ W:210mm+ Th:40mm Tr 2
(6)



Illus 45 Rolled mouldings SF18 and SF19 in situ outside wall of building prior to lifting.

Slate

Complete slates were measured and a selection of one of each size has been retained. Although broken slate was found in a wide range of contexts, the more complete slates were from Trench 2, context 27. With one exception all had a single nail hole. In some instances fragments of the nails were in situ at the time of excavation.

The slates may be schist (pers. comm. Peter Craig).

Length	Width	Thickness
270	140	25
250	170	18
250	115	15
220	120	15
240	115	18
300	160	12
230	160	18
335	115	20
260	230	18 two nail holes
250	135	15

6 Discussion

Prehistoric

No features were excavated that could be identified as of prehistoric date. Eight flints were recovered. Four were from on top of natural in Trench 4 context 34 – a context which included modern artefacts such as a zip tag and a plastic bottle top. The remaining four flints were from Trench 2, all residual (in contexts 2, 5, 7 and 37) just below topsoil. However, although the flints are residual in later or disturbed contexts they do fit in the background of the well-known prehistoric use of the area from the Mesolithic onwards. The nearest known findspots of prehistoric features and artefacts are the Warren Field, Crathes Castle Overflow Carpark and Milton Wood (Murray, Murray & Fraser 2009, fig 1), all lying on the same terraces above the river.

Pre- 16th century medieval

Much of the present fabric of Crathes Castle is thought to date from the mid 16th century. However, by 1488 documents were being signed at Crathes, indicating a substantial house was there by the 15th century and possibly before. There was no structural evidence of this date within the excavated area, but three definite and three possible, but very abraded, sherds of pottery ranging in date from the 14th to 16th century provide an elusive link to this earlier occupation on the site.

Late medieval to 1798- Courtyard (Illus 46)

The excavated and geophysical evidence suggests that, prior to the changes in the late 18th century, the traveller approaching Crathes from the Dee would have entered a large stone-walled courtyard through an entrance flanked by two quite elegant stone pavilions which would have framed the view of the castle. The excavated W wall of the courtyard is shown on the geophysical survey extending N to level with the terrace in Trench 1, at which point any possible continuation has either been destroyed or obscured by the trees and the drive. It may be postulated that originally it could have continued N to abut the W wing of the castle shown on the 1798 Estate Plan (Illus 49). To the S, the geophysical survey shows this line extending to the S to a point level with the S end of the pavilion if the building was of two equal rooms (see above). If this is accepted, there is a strong case for suggesting that drain 61 at the N end of Trench 3 was on the wall line or even

cut away the wall, which might explain why it appeared to undercut the edge of paving 50.

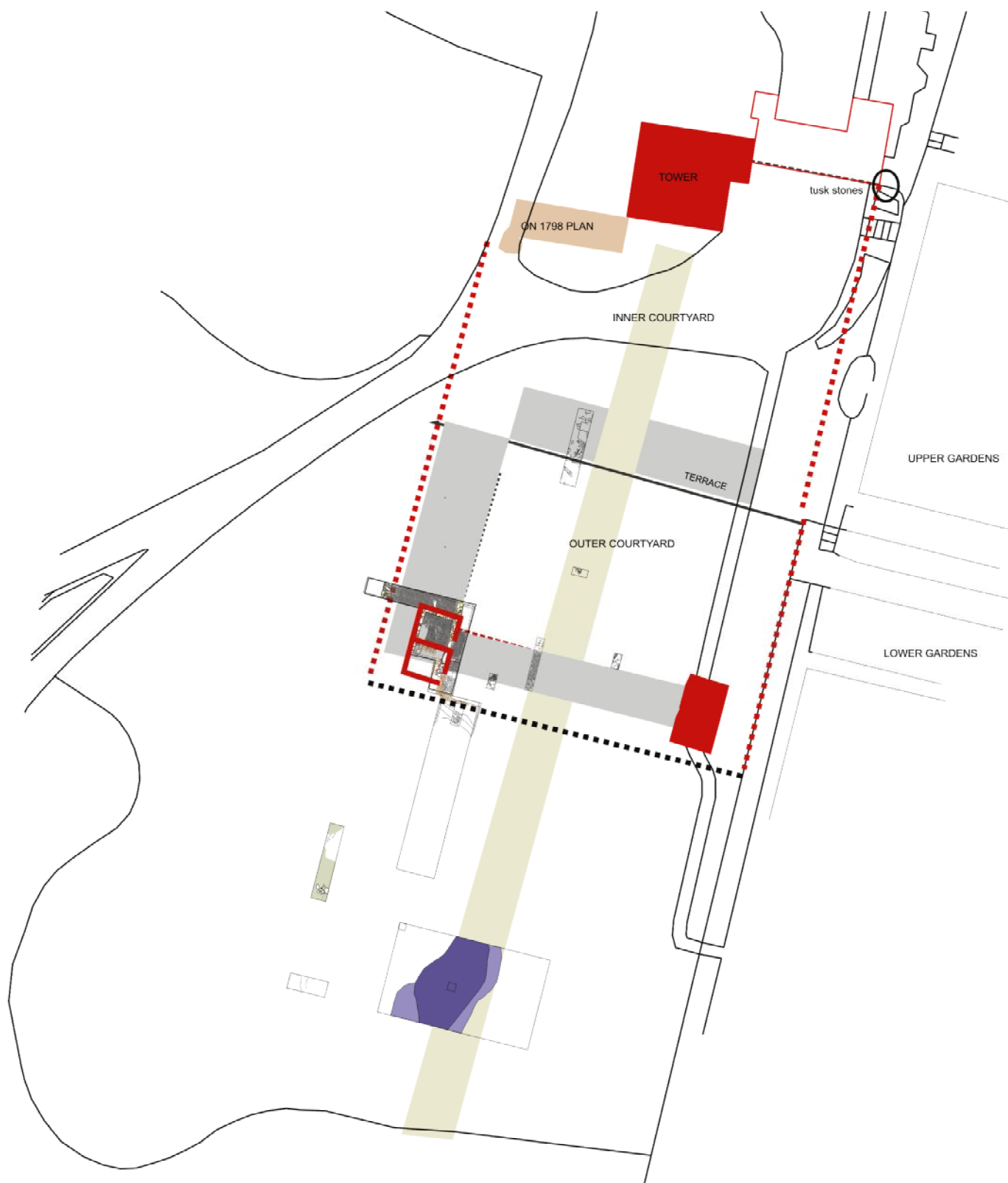
At Crathes it was not proven if there had been a wall across the S end of the courtyard between the two pavilions as at the junction between Trenches 2 and 3 where such a wall might be expected there was considerable disruption by drains. Two possibilities have been considered. A S wall may have been removed by cut 67 in Trench 2. This leaves a question as to why there is a continuation of the paving S of the S wall. The now preferred argument is that there had been a S wall along the S side of cobbles 50 which was cut away by drain 61. This leaves all the paving N of the S wall and also agrees with the S limit of the geophysical anomaly which is interpreted as the W wall of the courtyard.

This second interpretation also makes sense of the wide, well-paved E/W pathway running E from the front of the excavated building. This was excavated in Trenches 2, 7 and probably 8, and a visible ridge across the lawn along this line suggests it runs across the full width towards the probable position of the second pavilion. The pathway appears to have been up to 5m wide, with what may be a drainage channel running near the S edge of it in Trench 2. In both Trenches 2 and 7 there is some evidence to suggest that there was either a garden bed or area of grass along parts of the N edge of the pathway. Trench 9 contained possible cobbling but the area was too small for further interpretation.

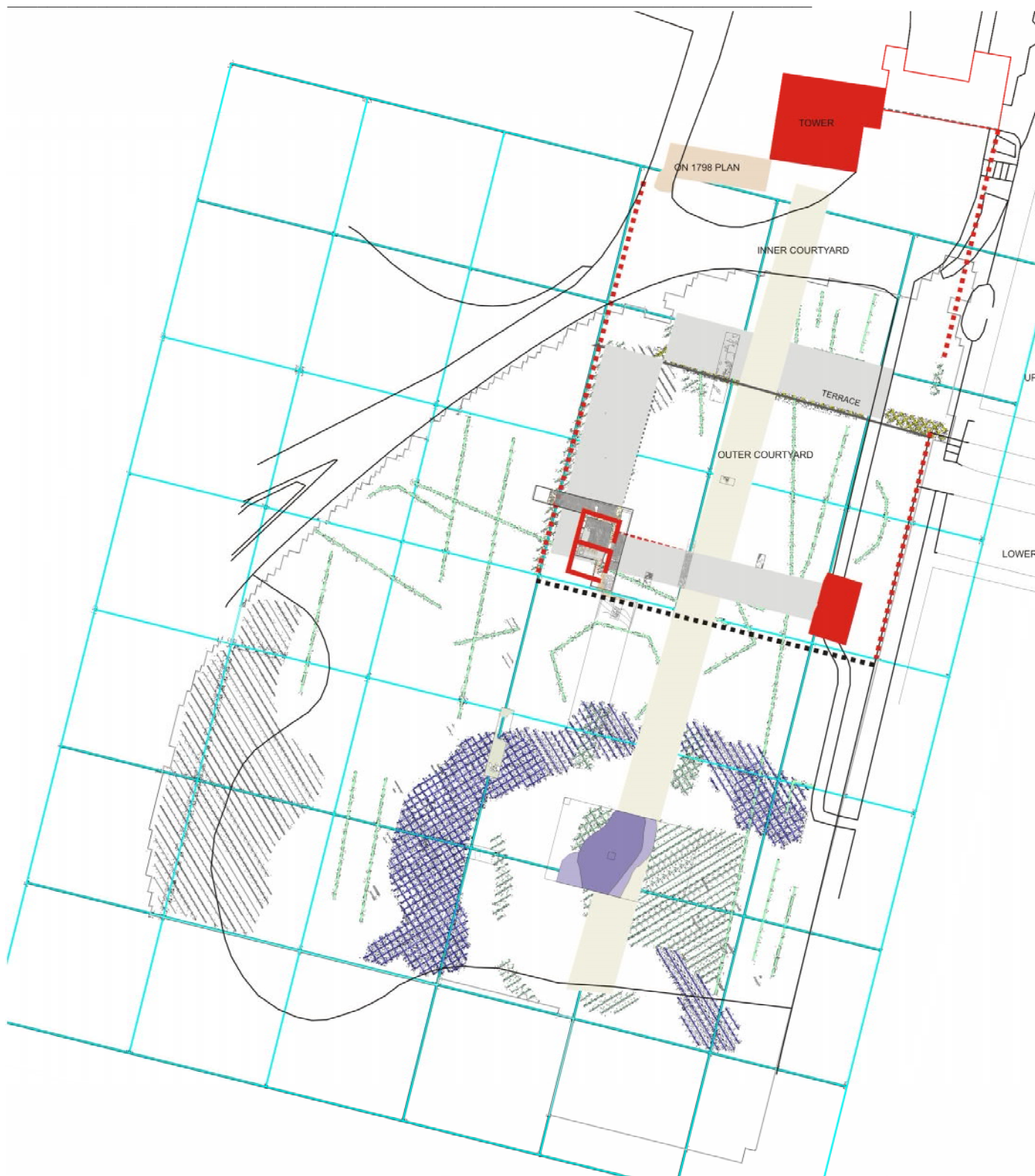
Due to the natural ground sloping down from W to E, the excavated pavilion had been cut into the slope. The higher ground to the W and NW of the building formed a cobbled yard between 4.5 and 8.5m wide, between the courtyard wall and a revetting wall (original height unknown) which separated this area from the slightly lower area between the pavilions.

The E side of the courtyard would almost certainly have been bounded by the garden wall. There are a number of strands of evidence to support this. Firstly, the geophysical anomaly that has been identified in Trench 1 as a terrace (Illus 47 and Appendix 4 and Ovenden 2012 fig 5, 12) extended up to the garden wall. A continuation of this line northwards meets the SE corner of the Queen Anne wing (which may be on the footprint of an earlier building) at the point where tusk stones survive, indicating that a NNE/SSW wall had joined at this point. A small linear anomaly in the geophysical survey suggests the survival of a portion of wall on this line. Moreover, not only is there no evidence of any other 'E wall', but it would not make sense to have had an awkward

slit of ground between the garden and the courtyard. If this is accepted, then the courtyard would have been some 50m wide, centered on the tower.



Illus 46 Hypothetical reconstruction of pre-1798 layout based on the excavation results supported by the geophysical and documentary evidence (see also Illus 47). Red dotted lines show the fairly certain E and W courtyard walls. Black dotted line shows the most probable line of the S end of courtyard.



Illus 47 Hypothetical reconstruction of pre-1798 layout based on the excavation results supported by the geophysical and documentary evidence (see also Illus 46). Underlay of geophysical results (after Ovenden 2012)

The courtyard also appears to have had some form of division into two roughly equal parts, each around 30m N/S; the S half extending from the pavilion(s) to the terrace excavated in Trench 1 and the N half from the terrace to the castle buildings. The

symmetry of this is quite convincing when looked at in relation to the gardens as the dividing terrace is in line with the division between the upper, formal gardens and the lower gardens which were possibly originally the kitchen garden.

There is little evidence concerning the appearance of the upper area. Its S edge was bordered by the wall revetting the drop to the lower terrace and it is reasonable to postulate steps (perhaps bordered by a balustrade with the moulded coping stones found in Trench 2) or a sloping path between the levels. There is some slight evidence in Trench 1 that there was a cobbled yard/path along the upper N side of the revetting wall. Some cobbling was found in association with a short kerb/wall in 2013 at the SW corner of the tower; however as this could not be dated it may be later (Murray & Murray, 2013).

In the lower area, S of the revetted terrace, the excavated pavilion lies on the S side of the outer courtyard, c 4.5m in from the W wall. It would have been quite an imposing little building with its internally plastered stone walls and slate roof. There is some evidence to suggest it was one of a pair, which makes sense of its position. A notebook by 'an Anonymous Lady' c1917-1942 in the Estate Archives refers to a lost map of 1766, some thirty years earlier than the surviving map of 1798. She notes,

*'The 1766 map shows the gateway referred to by Sir J.H.B in his notes flanked by two buildings, also a little further from the castle, two smaller outbuildings facing inwards with another gate between them. This second gate was about on a line with the small opening in the garden wall.'*²

There is no direct evidence of function although the location may suggest that they were porter's lodges; at Castle Fraser the entry to the court appears to have been flanked by porter's lodges which were referred to in damage appraisals dated to 1655 (Fraser and Addyman, 2015, 38 and fig 3).

The correlations of plan suggest that the excavated court and pavilions at Crathes may post-date the construction of the gardens. The gardens themselves have been attributed to the 1st Baronet in the period 1619-1653, but may in some form relate to the 16th-century house on the site. The excavated court and pavilions are unlikely to have been built in the period 1759-66 when there was a dispute over the succession. It is not possible to know whether the lost 1766 plan showed the extent of the property when the 6th Baronet took possession in that year, in which case the courtyard and pavilions could

² We are grateful to Susan Bennett for a discussion of this reference but feel that in the light of the parallels elsewhere this is the most likely identification of the location of the pavilions.

be from the second half of the 17th/early 18th century; or whether it showed his aspirations, in which case the pavilions could have been built c1766. Two small strands of evidence possibly support a 17th-century date: the moulded coping stones have parallels at Pitmedden dating to 1675 and porter's lodges are known to have existed in a similar position at Castle Fraser by 1655.

If identification of the excavated building at Crathes as one of a pair of pavilions is correct, it should be noted that other examples elsewhere in Aberdeenshire continued to be built at least until the mid-18th century.

In 2007 a pavilion was excavated at Leith Hall which was 5.5 x 11m externally – this is shown on an Estate map of 1758 (Illus 48) as one of a pair of pavilions flanking an open entrance of an outer court leading towards the main entrance into the inner courtyard enclosed by the buildings. It is not shown on a map of 1797 so may have been removed by that date. The Leith Hall pavilion had two rooms with a fairly elaborate water feature/cistern in the inner one (Murray & Murray 2007). Apart from the 1758 estate plan there was no evidence of date.



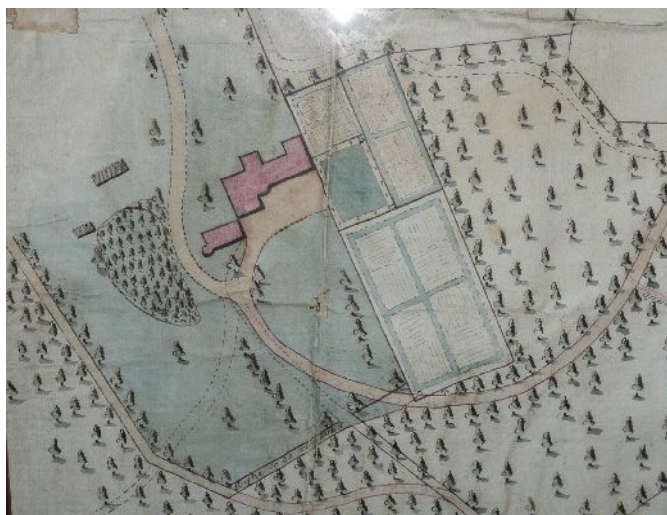
Illus 48 Detail of 1758 plan of Leith Hall (Courtesy of National Trust for Scotland).

However, at Barra Castle, Oldmeldrum, two pavilions that flank the outer court were built around 1753 (Shepherd, 1994, 117). They flank the outer side of an outer court which frames the approach to the castle from the road.

The pottery at Crathes gives evidence of activity within the courtyard area throughout the 16th-18th centuries- hardly surprising given the proximity of the castle known to have been built in the later 16th century and the presumed proximity of the earlier house. Many of the contexts include predominantly 17th and 18th century material dumped as part of, or prior to, the demolition, but five contexts may belong to the use of the courtyard. Ten sherds of a 17th/18th -century bowl were crushed into the cobbles N of the

pavilion (Tr 2, context 5), a very abraded 16th/17th -century sherd was found in Tr 2, context 25- a deposit on the same cobbled surface (albeit there was also later material), four very abraded 16th/17th -century sherds (and a fragment of 19th-century china) were found among the disturbed cobbles of the upper terrace (Tr 1, context 8) and a number of 15th/17th -century sherds were found in the lower fill (context 36- this contained later material and may have been dumping mixed with earlier garden ground?) S of the revetted terrace in Trench 1 and a very abraded sherd of 14th/15th century date in the subsoil below this fill (context 46). This earlier material may indicate that at least some of the excavated elements of the courtyard were in use during the 17th century, unsurprising as the S approach was in use from at least the end of the 16th century. It is of course probable that there were changes throughout the use of the courtyards and the pavilion(s) may have been part of an original design or may have been a later addition. Their function may also have altered over time. The question remains- if these are the pavilions shown on the 1766 map- are they the inner or outer buildings described? In the hypothetical reconstruction (Illus 46), it is suggested that these were the inner pavilions. The two outer smaller buildings described as opposite the entrance to the gardens could not be identified in the excavation.

Late 18th century- demolition and landscape reconstruction



Illus 49 Detail from 1798 plan of Crathes (courtesy of National Trust for Scotland)

An Estate Plan of 1798 (Illus 49) shows the area S of the castle laid out as the S lawn more or less as it remains today. A date in the second half of the 18th century for the creation of the new open landscape layout would accord with the general trends of garden design in the British Isles. The excavation has revealed the scale of work involved. The courtyard wall and pavilion- or pavilions- were demolished with some of

the building materials used to fill in lower areas, such as the interior of the pavilion in Trench 2. Other materials appear to have been salvaged; the two pieces of roll mouldings set side by side outside the pavilion doorway appeared to have been carefully laid to one side and then perhaps forgotten. Slates were left lying where they fell or used to level the surface. A fascinating find was the cold chisel (SF23) in context 28, the spread of mortar from dismantling the stone walls and cleaning stones- just the sort of job the cold chisel may have been used for.

At some point during or prior to the demolition- possibly during a period of dereliction- domestic rubbish including glass bottles, a wine glass and broken pottery were thrown onto the cobbled yards – this material also appears to be of 18th century date. When a large hole was excavated to plant a chestnut tree in the grass N of Trench 2 another large dump of 18th -century bottles had been uncovered (see footnote 1 above).

Nearer to the castle, at the N end of the present lawn, the revetted terrace was filled up with a series of deposits of gritty loam containing some slate and other building materials but with quite small amounts of domestic rubbish. Some of the loam may have been carted from elsewhere on the estate to level the ground.

It would appear that prior to the demolition, or during the demolition at a time when the outline of the pavilion walls were still visible, a large soakaway was dug partially within the shell of its S room and destroying the S wall. It would appear to have been in use until the 19th century as bricks and some partially surviving timbers are unlikely to be earlier and it is suggested that it may have been revisited during this later period. This is confirmed by the inclusion of some 19th -century material within the backfill over drains leading downhill away from the soakaway.

Later use

The lawn established in the late 18th century has had no major changes since but there have been cultivations with ploughing and rotovating to reseed the grass, the removal and replanting of trees including the lime avenues and of course the insertion of drains. This has resulted in a number of later finds in the topsoil- such as the 1926 coins. Most intriguing was the small hoard of clay tobacco pipes- whether hidden by a child or by a frustrated smoker we will never know!

8 References

Fraser, S M & Addyman, T 2015 'The price of ambition: Making the House of Muchall fit for Lordship', in R Oram (ed) *A House that Thieves might Knock At: Proceedings of the 2010 Stirling and 2011 Dundee conferences*. Donington: Shaun Tyas.

Gaimster, D 1977 *German Stoneware 1200-1900*. London: British Museum Press.

Gretten, E nd *Report on the National Trust for Scotland's collection of clay tobacco pipes*. Unpublished report for NTS.

Murray H K & Murray J C 2007 *Leith Hall, Kennethmont, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Excavation*. MAS 2007-27. Unpublished report for NTS. Available in NTS and RCAHMS archive.

Murray H K & Murray J C 2013 *Crathes Castle, Aberdeenshire: Drainage. Archaeological Watching Brief*. MAS 2013-23. Unpublished report for NTS. Available in NTS and RCAHMS archive.

Murray H K & Murray J C 2014 *Drum Castle, Tower of Drum major repairs project, Drumoak, Aberdeenshire. Archaeological Excavation*. MAS 2014-07. Unpublished report for NTS. Available in NTS and RCAHMS archive.

Murray, H K, Murray, J C & Fraser, S M 2009 *A Tale of the unknown unknowns: a Mesolithic pit alignment and a Neolithic timber hall at Warren Field, Crathes, Aberdeenshire*, Oxford: Oxbow Books.

Ovenden , S M 2012 *Geophysical Survey Report. Crathes Castle*. RGC1258/CRT. Unpublished report for NTS. Available in NTS archive.

Shepherd, I A G 1994 *Gordon: An Illustrated Architectural Guide*. Rutland Press: Edinburgh

Acknowledgements

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Shannon Fraser, Gareth Clingan and Sandra Morrison for initiating the project and Dr Shannon Fraser for discussion and support throughout. Thanks are also due to Gareth Clingan and the property staff, especially Chris Wardle and Toby Loveday, for their help during the excavation.

Many thanks to Sandra Morrison, Shannon Fraser and Abeer Eladany for organising and working with schools.

Our thanks must also go to all who worked on the excavation, to all those who 'Dug for a Day' and with special thanks to our experienced volunteers: Susan Bennett, Ken Bowker, Jean Bowker, Robert Brown, Claire Christie, Sheila Duthie, Jonie Guest, Andrew Hendry, David Marquardt, Clare McCabe, Lucy Munro, Veronica Ross, Irvine Ross, Moyra Simon, Malcolm Watson, William Wyeth, Sheila Young and Viadutis Zutautas.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Catalogue of digital photographic record (on CD)

Digital frame number	Content
Crathes Castle (2014)	
001-011	S lawn before excavation and during topsoil removal
012	Interpretation poster
013-014	Topsoil removal
015	Trench 2 looking W after initial cleaning
016	Trench 2 looking S after initial cleaning
017-019	Trench 2 looking S cobbles 5
020	Trench 2 looking SW cobbles 5
021-040	General views looking S with school and volunteers working
041-042	Trench 2, 12 looking S with bottles
043-044	Trench 2, 12 looking S with bottles: detail
045-051	Trench 2, 12 looking S with bottles. Volunteers excavating
052-055	Trench 2, 12 looking W with bottles
056-058	Trench 2, 12 looking S with bottles: detail
059	Trench 2, 12 looking S with bottles. Planning
060-062	Trench 5. Feature 15 and clay tobacco pipes
063-069	Volunteers washing bottle glass
070-075	Trench 2. Volunteers excavating
076-077	Trench 1. Volunteers excavating
078	Trench 2. Planning
079-080	Trench 2. Wall 6 looking S
081-082	Trench 2. Wall 6 looking W
083-084	Trench 2. Wall 6 looking S
085-086	Trench 2. 12
087-092	Trench 2. General looking W.
093-094	Trench 6. General looking S

095-098	Trench 5. General looking N
099	Trench 1. Volunteers working
100-102	Volunteers (dig for a day) in Trench 3
103-104	Trench 2. General
105-108	Trench 1. Stone layer 18 looking S
109-114	Trench 1 looking N. Infilled lower terrace in foreground
115-118	Trench 2 looking S. Wall 6
119-120	Trench 2. Wall 6 looking W
121-124	Volunteers (dig for a day) in Trench 3
125-126	Trench 1. Stone layer 18 in background. Infill 33 in foreground. Looking N
127-130	Trench 1. Infill 18A and 33 looking W
131-132	General views Trench 1 and castle
133-134	Talking to scouts
135-140	Scouts excavating in Trench 4. Cleaning top of natural
141-148	Trench 2 extension looking W. Slates 27
149	Trench 2 extension. Looking N. Slates 27
150-152	Trench 4. Cleaned top of natural 40 and 38. Looking W
153-154	Trench 4. Sondage 2 through clay 38 to yellow clay 40
155-157	Trench 3. Stony patch 41
158	Trench 3. General
159-165	Trench 2. Final extension. Volunteers working
166-174	Trench 2/junction to Trench 3. Context 49
175-177	Trench 2, Cobbles and rubble looking SW. Wall line emerging
178-183	Trench 2. Cobbles 6 and rubble looking S. Wall lines emerging
184-188	Trench 2. Worked stones SF 18 and 19 in situ in context 52
189-196	Trench 1. Revetment 45 looking N
197	Young archaeologists group in Trench 3
198	General
199-203	Trench 2. Worked stones SF 18 and 19 in situ in context 52

204-205	Trench 2. SF 21 in situ.
206	Trench 2. Removing rubble infill of building
207-209	Trench 2. General excavating after removal of rubble
211-213	Not Crathes
214-217	Trench 2. Volunteers cleaning paving. Rubble removed from building. Looking W
218-219	Trench 2. Volunteers cleaning paving. Rubble removed from building. Looking S
220-222	Trench 2. Volunteers cleaning paving. Rubble removed from building. Looking N
223	Trench 2. Volunteers cleaning paving. Rubble removed from building. Looking NE
224-226	Trench 1. Looking N. N end to natural. S end most of infill removed from lower terrace
227-229	Trench 1. Looking S. N end to natural. S end most of infill removed from lower terrace
230-232	Induction of NTS staff volunteers
233-237	Trench 2. W wall of building with details of internal plaster
238-245	NTS staff volunteers at work
246-249	Trench 1. E section
250-252	Trench 1 Looking N. Details of revetment 45
253-265	Trench 2. Details of W wall
266-269	Trench 2. Details of interior of wall at NW corner of building
270-276	Trench 2. Looking S along W wall from cobbles
277-279	Trench 7 (before it was extended) looking S
280-282	Trench 7. Details of S end
283-286	Trench 7. Full extent with paving
287-290	Trench 8. Looking N
291-293	Trench 9 looking N
294-295	Trench 9 looking E
296-297	Trench 2. Looking N. context 60
298-301	Trench 2. Small sondage through grey clay 69

302-304	Trench 2. Context 60 and wall 68 looking W
305-309	Trench 2. Threshold of building looking W
310-320	Trench 2. S section of W end of trench including wall 26 and 'internal' and 'external' layers
321-338	Trench 2. 'Pit' context 72. Paving stone cover.
339-341	Trench 10. Looking N
342-344	Trench 10, looking E
345-347	Trench 2. Paving S of 6. Looking N
348-351	Trench 2. 67. Looking E
352-355	Trench 2. 67. Looking W
356-360	Trench 2. 67. Looking S
361-362	Trench 3. Paving 50 over drain 61 Looking S
363-367	Section N/S to paving 50 and drain 61. Above drain 73
368-378	Trench 2. E side 'outside' building. Looking N
379-385	Trench 2. Detail of E wall of building to S of entrance. Looking E
386-390	Trench 3. Drain 73
391-412	Aerial views of trench 2, part of trenches 3 and 8
413-416	Aerial view trench 1
417-418	Aerial view trench 7-10
419-420	Aerial view trench 1 & 10
421-422	Aerial view trench 2 & 3
423-428	Trench 2. Detail of E wall of building to S of entrance.
429-430	Trench 2. Detail paving cover of pit 72
431-435	Trench 2. General looking N
436	Burnett coat of arms in castle window for comparison with blob seal
437-438	Backfilling
439-444	Trench 2. Detail of 72 as exposed final day
445-447	One of paving slabs 72 removed to show stone fill of soakaway
448-457	Backfilling and finished site

458-470	Views of the aerial photography being done from cherry-picker.
---------	--

Appendix 2: Context data

Context No	Area	Description	Interpretation
1	1-10	Topsoil 150-200mm	In trenches 1-6 topsoil removed by machine. In trenches 7-10 removed by hand.
2	2	Gravelly W of wall 26	Outside courtyard wall
3	2	Top of 5 gritty with frequent water rounded pebbles, slate etc	Top of yard surface
4	2	V fine compact silty loam	Remnant of topsoil not removed by machine
5	2	Water worn cobbles, incorporates 1 large natural boulder. Extends between courtyard wall 26 and inner walls of building (6) and of yard (68). Stones average 100x50mm to 100mm diam	Yard surface
6	2	Clay bonded stone wall of building	
7	2	Dark brown earth with much slate and angular stone fragments. Overlapped 7, also slightly over wall 6. Much bottle glass	=27 but more outside building over 5. Part demolition rubble/mixed with rubbish dumping, possibly to level off surface after demolition
8	1	Patchy hard grey clayish matrix around small infrequent stones. N end above stones 19	
9	1	Gritty stony.	Base of topsoil
10	3	Gritty loam below topsoil. Small frags of slate at N end and decreasingly as extend to S- none	

		S of 21m from N end. Slate more in W ½ of trench- especially further S.	
11	2	Small irregular hollow in top of 3=5. 270 x 300mm. Soft loam fill	Stone removal hole
12	2	Dark brown fine loam, much bottle glass	Dump over cobbles 5
13	3	At S end of Tr 3 topsoil directly over v compact fine yellow subsoil over natural boulders	? Original subsoil. Appears that there may have been topsoil removal/leveling at the S end of lawn- cf Tr 4, 5, 6)
14	3	Natural boulders below 13. A sondage cut through to expose these in SE corner of trench.	
15	5	Small hole into top of natural beside natural boulder. Fill fine dark brown soft loam and solidly packed pipe fragments (SF 6) with iron object packed in below them. Diam at top 120 x 200mm, tapers to 50mm diam. Depth 200mm.	Originally thought to be animal burrow but may be deliberately dug hole between the rocks.
16	5	Fine compact silty clay around glacially deposited boulders. Small sondage in SE corner showed this became cleaner yellow with less bioturbation by 350mm depth.	Natural
17	5	Gravel natural. Abuts/merges to clay 16	
18	1	Angular stones v. disturbed. S end of T1	=19. N of revetment 45 these may be v disturbed cobbles. 18A, 18B possibly dumping
19	1	Angular stones v. disturbed. N end of T1	=18

20	1	Gritty loam, some slate, glass, pottery 50-60mm deep	Merges to 33
21	2	V compact pale yellow sandy clay N/S across trench, over wall 26	Wash/mortar dump from demolition of wall 26
22	2	Yellow gritty sand W of wall 26. =2	Outside wall of courtyard
23	2	Dark fine grey silty clay W of wall 26.	Outside wall of courtyard
24	2	Brown/grey silty with pebbles and some charcoal. W of wall 26.	Outside wall of courtyard
25	2	V fine dark grey silt below the washed out mortar spread 21 and E of wall 26 over the cobbles 5	The initial/ poss during use surface build up on cobbles at W end. Max 20mm depth
26	2	Clay bonded N/S wall. W: 900mm.	Courtyard wall. Geophysics indicate extent to N
27	2	Large slates and rubble stones, Concentrated inside building especially at N and NE. Some lay at near vertical angles up wall faces.	Demolition rubble. Complete slates and slates with slate nails intact suggest this part of roof had collapsed either before or during demolition. Possibly the building lay derelict for a while?
28	2	Fine yellow redeposited clay- base of rubble within building 6. Less slate in this but some large boulders which sit onto floor cobbles	Mortar from cleaning stones that were removed for re-use. Demolition rubble
29	3	Mid/dark brown gritty loam with flecks of charcoal. Irregular patch in NE corner of trench.	Probably remnant of 10
30	3	Pale yellow/brown v fine sandy silt. E and centre of trench	? subsoil ? =13
31	3	Grey brown gritty with many small stones and large + small	31=32

		fragments of slate. Some charcoal.	
32	3	=31	
33	1	Deep deposit of gritty brown loam with much slate. S of revetment 45	Merges to 20. 33, 35, 36, 18A all fill of terrace S of revetment 45
34	4	Fine yellow brown compact silt clay	Top of natural 40
35	1	Band of redeposited natural yellow gritty sand c 100mm depth. Small frags slate	33, 35, 36, 18A all fill of terrace S of revetment 45
36	1	Dark brown gritty loam. Frags slate, yellow 'brick'	33, 35, 36, 18A all fill of terrace S of revetment 45
37	2	Gritty loam over S part of Tr 2 extension (S of 74)	Possibly base topsoil and leveling post- demolition- and/or post the disturbance of soakaway 72
38	4	V compact blue grey clay (clay can make into balls) < 215mm thick. Visible in section to level of grass. In central area of site	Anomaly on geophysics?
39	4	Stone hole? 220 x 230mm. Fill dense clay with frags of vitreous.	
40	4	Natural compact yellow clay around glacially deposited boulders.	
41	3	Black stony patch c 1.5m square in 32	
42	2	Fine slightly gritty yellow/brown, some small stones. No slate. E of building 6 outside building	
43	2	Small medium stones (<200mm) mostly angular merges to 27	Inside building. Demolition and leveling.
44	2	Gritty slightly grey/brown. V few stones or slates E of wall line. S and E of building	Probably = 43 To S may be 43 redeposited after soakaway dug out and backfilled

45	1	E/W revetment c. 3m N of S end of Tr 1. Across E side of trench appeared as vertical face (to S) of < 2 courses stone built against slope to N. Disturbed to W.	Although so disturbed this does appear to be genuine revetment, with the v disturbed 'cobbles' 18 and 19 to N and the infill layers 33 etc to S
46	1	Mid brown slightly gritty loam over natural clay and rocks N of revetment 45. Small slate frags.	Appears to be remnant of original subsoil.
47	1	Patches of more coherent cobbles on 46 and below the disturbed stones 18/19	Remnant of cobbling in the central area, built around bedrock.
48	1	Similar to 46 which it underlies at N end Tr 1. Charcoal frags but no slate/finds	Less disturbed base of 46 subsoil
49	3	Yellow redeposited natural	Above the stones 50/51 over drain 61
50	2, 3	Stone paving, includes some slate, brick and pantile	Appears to overlap drain 61- though this was not excavated and it may be slumping of the stones- or may be replacement of paving over wet ground.
51	2	Fine grey-brown silt. Directly on paving stones (50) over drain 61	
52	2	E of wall 6. Dark orange/brown almost gravelly gritty. Less slate and stone than inside building but still present. Extends over wall. =28. 200-300mm deep.	Demolition rubble. Dressed stones SF 18 and SF 19 in this.
53	3	Redeposited natural 100-200mm. Over 51 over N side of paving 50.	
54	2	Grey stony. SW corner.	Redeposited over soakaway.
55	2	Cobbled floor of building. Set in sticky grey clay. (also numbered 58)	Not excavated, just exposed and recorded.

56	3	Fine light brown yellow clay loam. Extends S of 50	?backfill over drain
57	2	Silt/loam over paving (59) outside entrance of building	
58	2	Cobbled floor of building. Set in sticky grey clay. (also numbered 55)	
59	2	Paving outside (E) of threshold of building. An E/W band of large stones, partly on edge may be a drain/gutter between area of smaller cobbles and the larger paving outside doorway.	
60	2	Light mid brown gritty loam. Extends from N edge of paving 59 and E of wall of building and wall 68. Small slate frags < 100mm. small stones to 50-60mm through it – very homogenous.	Garden bed? Base onto yellow boulder clay with irregular hollows to c 300mm depth-possible planting holes.
61	3	Stone drain. Paving slabs 50 lie on redeposited natural over stone fill of drain 61. Cut c. 1.5m + wide.	Looks as if 61 replaced drain 73 as stones of 61 extend over edge of 73
62	2	Large rectangular cut in SW corner of trench. C. 3.2 N/S x 4m+ E/W. Cuts building. Bright orange sand over stone slabs (72) across pit with small/medium sized stones in fill. Most of slabs left in situ but 2 were removed – 1 at S edge, 1 at N edge, to check pit. Drains 61 and 73 appear to drain from this.	Looks as if there was an awareness of the building when this was put in as the N edge follows the S edge of the internal wall (74), with traces of rotted wood along the edge.
63	8	Brown gritty loam over 64.	

		Includes slate, nail, 2 pantile frags	
64	8	Possible E/W wall. W: 850mm. 1 large natural boulder and smaller stones mortar layer (65) to S but none observed among stones	Possible wall?
65	8	Mortar layer. Also extends to Tr 7 below topsoil	
66	8	Sandy slightly orange in SW corner. Disturbed with modern wood and china	Looks like just catching the edge of modern cut/service cut
67	2	Wall cut? W: c.900mm- 800mm at W. Depth from level of cobbles 300 at N, 120mm at S. Base to stony natural. Two large displaced boulders- ? from wall of 6, lie in it.	
68	2	Revetment all at E end of cobbles 5. Abuts N end of wall 6 of building. W: 700-750mm. H c. 350mm surviving (2 courses).	Seems to have been standing to some height when building demolished as bottle dump and the slates from roof were almost exclusively to W of this wall.
69	2	V thick pure blue clay <170mm below cobbles as bedding layer (and damp-proofing?). Although floor cobbles were left in situ, two near the edge were removed to expose the clay running below them. The cobbles had been leveled with 2 bits slate. At W side of building part of the cobbles may have been removed during demolition- or there may have been an internal feature on the clay with no cobbles.	A small sondage through the clay showed it was directly on what appeared to be clay natural.

70	7	Loose mid grey/brown loam among rubble stones and slate & pantile	
71	9	Rubble with big bit of slate and yellow tile.	
72	2	Paving slabs used as cover over soakaway 62	
73	3	Stone drain WNW/ESE Stone filled. W: 880mm cut. Stone fill W: 550mm. Sealed by 56. cut into natural.	
74	2	Mortar bonded internal wall in building. W: 300mm. Gritty lime mortar. Slates used to level courses. Abuts external walls.	
75	7	Cobbles/paving in band 3.8m wide	= Trench 2, paving 59
76	7	Stony loam	Possible garden bed- in line with Trench 2, context 60.
77	9	Small area of cobbles at 330mm below present ground surface. 400x900mm. Stones <50mm waterworn.	
78	9	Possible stone surface c200mm below present ground surface. Stones more angular than 77 and up to 150mm. Rather close set to be rubble.	

Appendix 3. Table of all Finds																					
Context	Slate	Worked stone	Pan til/ drain	Brick	Nails	Fe unid frags	lead	Ceramic Pre 1500	Ceramic 16 th /17 th C	Ceramic 17 th /18 th C	Ceramic 18 th /19 th C	Ceramic 19 th 20 th C	Clay tobacco pipe	Bottle glass Body sherds	Bottle glass Rims	Bottle glass bases	Vessel glass	Window glass	Bone	Other	Small finds
Trench 1																					
8	*			2 yell ow	2				*			*		70gm			1		*	2 vitreous lumps Includes Welsh slate	
9	*			*										35gm						Includes Welsh slate	
18	*			1						*				490gm			1 modern	2			
19	*													170gm					1	clinker Includes Welsh slate	
20	***			*	4				*	*			1	1.18kg	1	1	1	7	2	Coal and clinker	
33	*			* 1 yell ow					*	*				1.45kg	4				5		
35	1			2 yell ow					*					140gm							
36	*			10 yell ow				*	*	*			1	650gm	1				1		
46	*							*													
Trench 2																					
1				*	13					*		*		1.085kg					1	Ring pull	SF 17 1d coin
2				*									1	20gm						coal	SF8. Flint chunk
3	*			*	6								1	255gm		1		1	1	coal	
4													1								
5				* 2 yell ow	5					*				955gm					1		SF34 Flint chunk
6		1			2									110gm							SF 32. Worked

Appendix 3. Table of all Finds																					
Context	Slate	Worked stone	Pan til/ drain	Brick	Nails	Fe unid frags	lead	Ceramic Pre 1500	Ceramic 16 th /17 th C	Ceramic 17 th /18 th C	Ceramic 18 th /19 th C	Ceramic 19 th 20 th C	Clay tobacco pipe	Bottle glass Body sherds	Bottle glass Rims	Bottle glass bases	Vessel glass	Window glass	Bone	Other	Small finds
																					stone
7	**			*	20					*	*		1	3.145kg some body sherds retained	4	3	2 modern	2	1	coal	SF 7 Flint flake SF 16 Pin. 16 th - 18 th C
11														10gm					1		
12	**		3		11					*	*		4	9.42kg some body sherds retained	29	17	6	1 Wineglas s 18 th century	4	1 slate with nail in situ retained	SF 4,5, 31 Bottle blob seals
23	*													5gm							
25	* small				21				*		*		3	1.39kg small abraded			2	2	5 small		
27	**													35gm							
28		2	2		23	1	lead scrap					*		0.95kg	1	1			1	Concrete frags; wood;	SF 28 roll moulding; SF 30 worked stone SF 15 iron fitting SF 23 Cold chisel
37	*		7		7					*	*	*	2 SF 35	2.04kg	3		2	5 poss modern		Coal, clay pigeon, shtgun cartridge	SF 36 Flint core SF 14 1926 Silver 6d coin SF 35 clay pipe bowl
42				1										55gm			3			coal	
43	*			*	17					*	*		3	2.45kg	2	2		3	1	coal	
44	*		6		15						*		3	3.3kg	3	3		4	1		SF 21+25. Bootsrape?
51			**		3									200gm small			1				SF 20. Hone

Appendix 3. Table of all Finds																					
Context	Slate	Worked stone	Pan til/ drain	Brick	Nails	Fe unid frags	lead	Ceramic Pre 1500	Ceramic 16 th /17 th C	Ceramic 17 th /18 th C	Ceramic 18 th /19 th C	Ceramic 19 th 20 th C	Clay tobacco pipe	Bottle glass Body sherds	Bottle glass Rims	Bottle glass bases	Vessel glass	Window glass	Bone	Other	Small finds
crosses tr 2 and 3																					SF 22 Button
52		2	**		13						*			0.795kg small abraded			1 modern				SF 18, SF 19. Roll mouldings
53 crosses tr 2 and 3														0.115kg			2				
54			1	**	5									1.61kg small							
56 crosses tr 2 and 3	* small		8	1	46	1				*	*		5	0.61kg small				5	2		SF33 1d coin
57			**		18						*			0.95kg	2	1			4		SF 26 Button SF 27 Belt buckle
58																					SF 29 Button
60														32gm							
62			3		3									45gm		1 worn					
67											*										
72					1									30gm small abraded							
Trench 3																					
1								*	*												
10	** small		*	** small	16	1			*	*		*	9	1.25kg small	1		3	5		Yellow brick 2	SF 3. Penny coin SF 9. Knob. ?1750-1850
13	*				1									2 sherds							SF 38 ?gunflint
30	2				1									10gm tiny							

Appendix 3. Table of all Finds							lead	Ceramic Pre 1500	Ceramic 16 th /17 th C	Ceramic 17 th /18 th C	Ceramic 18 th /19 th C	Ceramic 19 th 20 th C	Clay tobacco pipe	Bottle glass Body sherds	Bottle glass Rims	Bottle glass bases	Vessel glass	Window glass	Bone	Other	Small finds	
	small																					
31	* small		2		3									30gm tiny								
32	* small			7	5				*					0.275kg small abraded			2					
41	* incl. Wels h									*				20gm tiny								
49			*		3									<10gm								
61														235gm								
Trench 4																						
31	*			*	2			*						1 sherd						1		
34	* small				4							*	4	? 10 sherds							Zip tag; slag;; plastic bottle top	SF 10 flint blade; SF 11 flint pebble; SF 13 burnt flint flake; SF 37 frag flint pebble SF 12 1926 silver 3d coin
39																					Slag 2	
Trench 5																						
1												1		1 sherd							1	
15						*							** SF 6									SF 6 collection of tobacco pipes with iron object
Trench 7																						
1				1	1								1	4 sherds								

Appendix 3. Table of all Finds							lead	Ceramic Pre 1500	Ceramic 16 th /17 th C	Ceramic 17 th /18 th C	Ceramic 18 th /19 th C	Ceramic 19 th 20 th C	Clay tobacco pipe	Bottle glass Body sherds	Bottle glass Rims	Bottle glass bases	Vessel glass	Window glass	Bone	Other	Small finds
70													2								
Trench 8																					
1					1								SF39	8 sherds					2		
63			3		6					*											
Trench 9																					
71	1																				1 yellow brick
Trench 10																					
1			1					*					1	11					1		Fe slag

* present < 10

** significant quantity > 10

Red numbers denote retained material

Appendix 4. Excavation results shown against interpretation of geophysical results (after Ovenden 2012).

