

**WEST RANGE DRAINAGE
DUNNOTAR CASTLE
STONEHAVEN
ABERDEENSHIRE**

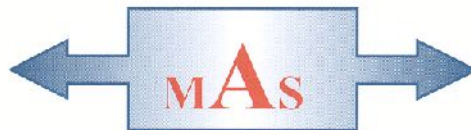


Watching brief

Carried out 30th October 2018

by

Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2018-14

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

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- Watching Brief-

1. Background
 - 1.1 An application for the insertion of shallow sumps in two rooms in the West Range at Dunnottar Castle required Scheduled Monument Consent from Historic Environment Scotland (Index No. SM986; Case ID 300027768). The Consent was granted subject to one condition. The Condition stipulates that no work should take place within the scheduled area until the applicant had secured the initiation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to be approved in writing by Historic Environment Scotland.
 - 1.2 The WSI stipulated that the excavation of the sumps should be carried out under archaeological supervision and recorded, in accordance with the plans submitted and approved. In the event of archaeological features or finds being discovered they were to be recorded in accordance with best archaeological practice.
 - 1.3 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd were commissioned by Dunecht Estates to provide the Written Scheme of Investigation and to carry out the fieldwork required.
 - 1.4 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by Dunecht Estates. The site element of the survey was completed on the 30th October 2018.

2 Methodology

2.1 The sump holes were excavated by spade. The work was observed by MAS Ltd and the sides of the holes cleaned by trowel and recorded.

3. The Site

3.1 Dunnottar Castle occupies a coastal promontory c.3km S of Stonehaven, protected on all sides by steep cliffs [NGR: NO88128 83842; NMRS No: NO88SE 11; Parish: Dunnottar]. Although the castle probably occupies the site of a prehistoric fort, in its present form the remains date to various periods from the 14th to the 17th centuries.

In 1716 the castle was forfeited to the government and sold to the York Mining Company and all fittings of value, including floors and doors were removed, and sold.

In 1919 it was bought by the Pearson family and restoration began soon after. It has continued under the management of Dunecht Estates since then.

Parish: Dunnottar

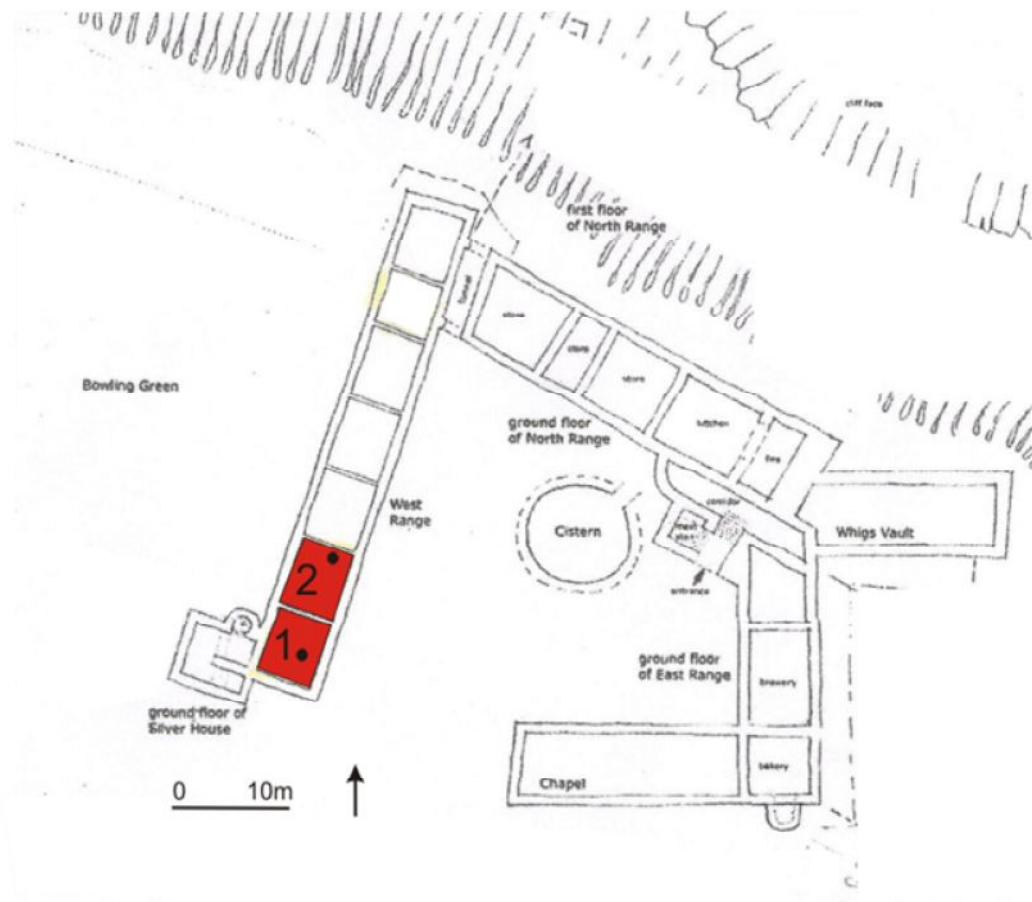
NGR: NO88128 83842

Aberdeenshire SMR: NO88SE0007

NMRS No: NO88SE 11

NRHE Numlink 36992

HES Index No. SM986



Illus 1 Location of sumps (black dots) in rooms 1 and 2 in W Range

4. Results

Room 1

In Room 1, the sump was between 2.0 and 2.4m W of the S face of the N jamb of the door.

The sump hole was 360mm in diameter and 420mm deep.

Stratigraphy: 100-110mm earthy gravel make up over natural reddish stoney clay. There was no evidence of any earlier floors and no finds in the fill that was removed



Illus 2 Room 1. Location of sump



Illus 3 Room 1 detail of sump

Room 2

In Room 2 the sump was between 1.8m and 2m W of the NE corner and 1.15 to 1.5m S of it.

The sump hole was 360mm in diameter and 420mm deep.

Stratigraphy: 100-110mm earthy gravel make up over natural reddish stoney clay. There was no evidence of any earlier floors and no finds in the fill that was removed.



Illus 4 Room 2. Location of sump.



Illus 5 Room 2 detail of sump.

After excavation the sump linings were inserted with capped lids.



Illus 6 Sump with lid

5 Archive

A full set of photographs will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR and to the HES archive.

Photo number	Content
1-2	General view of W range looking W towards doors of Rooms 1 and 2
3	Looking through doorway into Room 1 to indicate sump hole
4-5	Detail of Room 1 sump
6	Room 1 sump looking NE
7	Room 2 position of sump hole
8-9	Room 2 detail of sump hole
10	Room 2 sump looking E
11-12	Sump hole covers