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**Aberdour Castle Walled Garden
Aberdour
Fife**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1782

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in May 2010 at Aberdour Castle Walled Garden, Aberdour, Fife (NGR: NT 19323 85518) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Scottish Power Distribution Ltd.

1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 04 May 2010 was produced by CFA on behalf of Scottish Power Distribution Ltd. The watching brief area was situated within the scheduled area associated with Aberdour Castle (SAM No. 90002) and consequently the WSI was produced in support of an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). SMC was granted by Historic Scotland on 20 May 2010 (HS Ref. AMH/90002/1/1).

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Scottish Power Distribution Ltd was required to undertake repairs to an underground cable that supplies electricity to the Vestry at St Fillans Church. The power cable was located within the walled garden associated with Aberdour Castle, situated within a flower bed running alongside the south-western wall.

1.2.2 Aberdour Castle walled garden (NMRS No. NT18NE 8.05) lies within the scheduled area associated with the castle and is a Category A Listed building (HB No. 3610). It dates to 1632 and consists of a large square-plan walled garden with random coursed rubble walls with pyramidal coping. The Castle was one of the seats of the Douglas Earls of Morton and the 12th century origins of the building make it one of the two earliest upstanding castles in Scotland.

1.2.3 A previous programme of works (Hogg and Murray 2007) undertaken within the walled garden identified some pantile fragments that may relate to a 17th century summerhouse, as well as oyster shells, china fragments and two iron objects of unknown date. There were no structures or significant finds discovered.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To establish the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the area of excavation.
- To propose further mitigation measures as appropriate.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

2.2 Test-Pits

2.2.1 Although the terms of the WSI allowed for the use of a mechanical excavator, the programme of works undertaken consisted of the excavation of three hand-dug test-pits (TP1 – TP3 on Fig. 1).

2.2.2 The stratification of all test-pits was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified and their position was recorded using industry standard Total Station electronic surveying equipment.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

3.1.1 Numbers in bold in the following text refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 1.

3.2 Test-Pits

3.2.1 The programme of works required the excavation of three test-pits (TP1 – TP3 on Fig. 1) in order to allow the location of the fault to be identified and repaired. Details of the individual test-pits are given below.

Test-pit 1

3.2.2 Test-pit 1 measured 1.2m from south-east to north-west by 0.8m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.9m. The deposits within this test-pit consisted of 0.6m of black garden soil (**001**) overlying 0.4m of backfilled material (**002**) from the existing cable trench. Excavation works were terminated when the electrical cable was uncovered, and natural subsoil was not reached. A number of oyster shells were noted within deposit **001**, but no features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed.

Test-pit 2

3.2.3 Test-pit 2 measured 1m from south-east to north-west by 0.6m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.6m. The deposits within this test-pit consisted of 0.4m of black garden soil (**001**) overlying 0.2m of backfilled material (**002**) from the existing cable trench. Excavation works were terminated when the electrical cable was uncovered, and natural subsoil was not reached. A number

of oyster shells were noted within deposit **001**, but no features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed.

Test-pit 3

- 3.2.4 Test-pit 3 was excavated within the path at the south-west entrance to the walled garden. This test-pit measured 1.5m south-east to north-west by 0.8m wide and was 0.3m deep. The deposits within this test-pit consisted of 0.15m of gravel (**003**) overlying 0.15m of backfilled material (**002**) from the existing cable trench. Excavation works were terminated when the electrical cable was reached and natural subsoil was not reached. No features, artefacts or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed. The break in the cable was revealed in this test-pit.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 A watching brief was carried out within the scheduled area associated with Aberdour Castle during excavation works for the purpose of identifying an electrical fault in an underground cable. This programme of works involved the excavation of three test-pits. The test-pits were excavated through the modern garden soil into the backfill of the previously excavated cable trench and consequently, were entirely within recently disturbed and modern deposits. Natural subsoil was not reached and there were no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified. The break in the cable was revealed in the third test-pit (TP3 on Fig. 1).
- 4.2 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with Historic Scotland and with the Fife Council Sites and Monuments Record.
- 4.3 A summary statement of the results of this watching brief will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 3) and an online OASIS form will be completed.

5. REFERENCE

- Hogg S. and Murray D, 2007 'Aberdour Castle, Fife (Aberdour Parish) watching brief', *Discovery Excav Scot*, Vol 8 (2007)

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Description
001	Black garden soil
002	Backfill of existing trench for electrical cable
003	Gravel forming surface of path

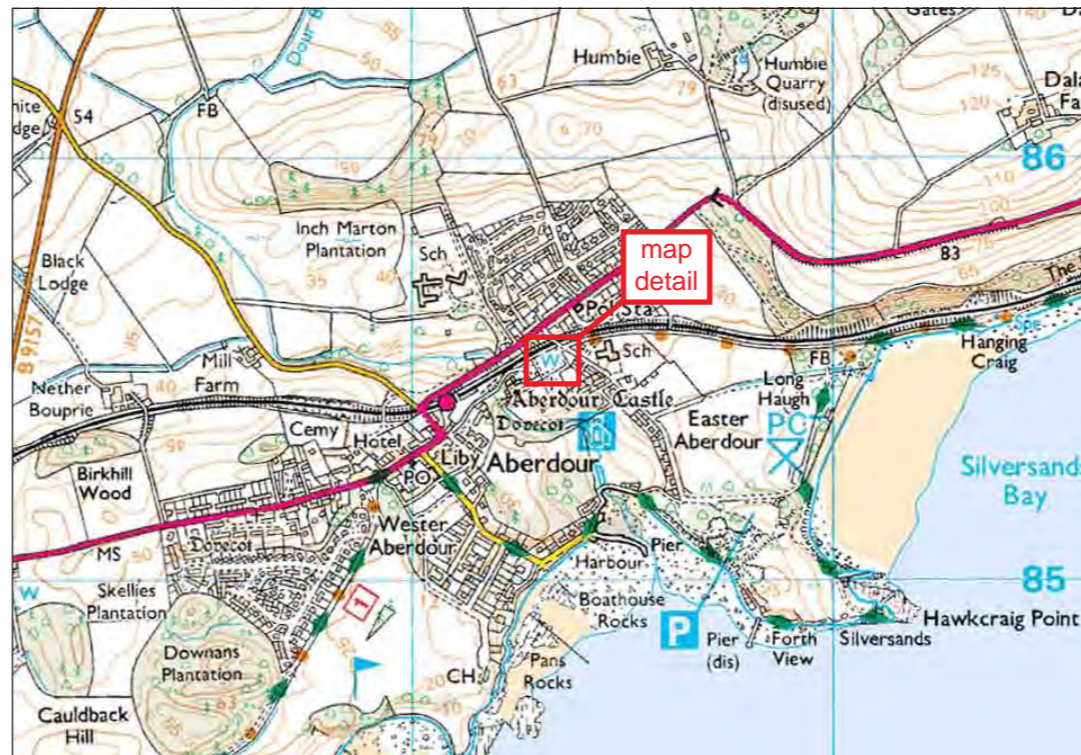
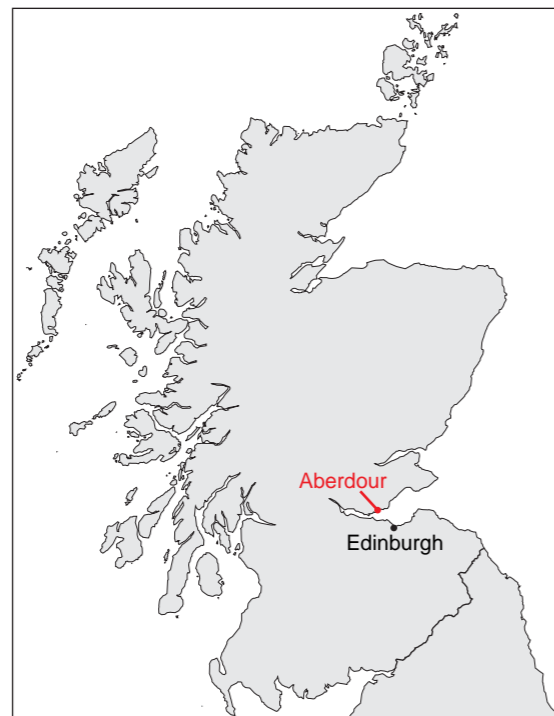
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

Digital Images

Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1-2	General working shots showing excavation of TP1	SE	Sun
3-6	TP1, south-east facing section	SE	Sun
7-8	TP2, general shot	NE	Sun
9-10	TP2, north-east facing section	NE	Sun
11-12	TP3, electrical cable	NE	Sun
13-14	TP3, general shot	NE	Sun
15-16	TP1 following backfilling	NE	Sun
17-18	TP2 following backfilling	NE	Sun
19-20	TP3 following backfilling	NE	Sun
21-22	General shot of watching brief area	NW	Sun
23-24	General shot of watching brief area	SE	Sun

APPENDIX 3: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Fife
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Aberdour Castle Walled Garden, Aberdour, Fife
PROJECT CODE:	ABCA
PARISH:	Aberdour
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Magnus Kirby
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT18NE 8.05
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Walled Garden
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 10 figures)	NT 19323 85518
START DATE (this season)	May 2010
END DATE (this season)	May 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Hogg S. and Murray D, 2007 'Aberdour Castle, Fife (Aberdour Parish) watching brief', <i>Discovery Excav Scot</i> , Vol 8 (2007)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out within the walled garden associated with Aberdour Castle during the excavation of three test-pits to identify an electrical fault in an underground cable. The test-pits were excavated through the modern garden soil into the backfill of the previously excavated cable trench. Subsoil was not reached and no features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance were revealed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Power Distribution Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record of Scotland Fife Council Sites and Monuments Record Historic Scotland



Key:

- Underground cable
- Test Pit

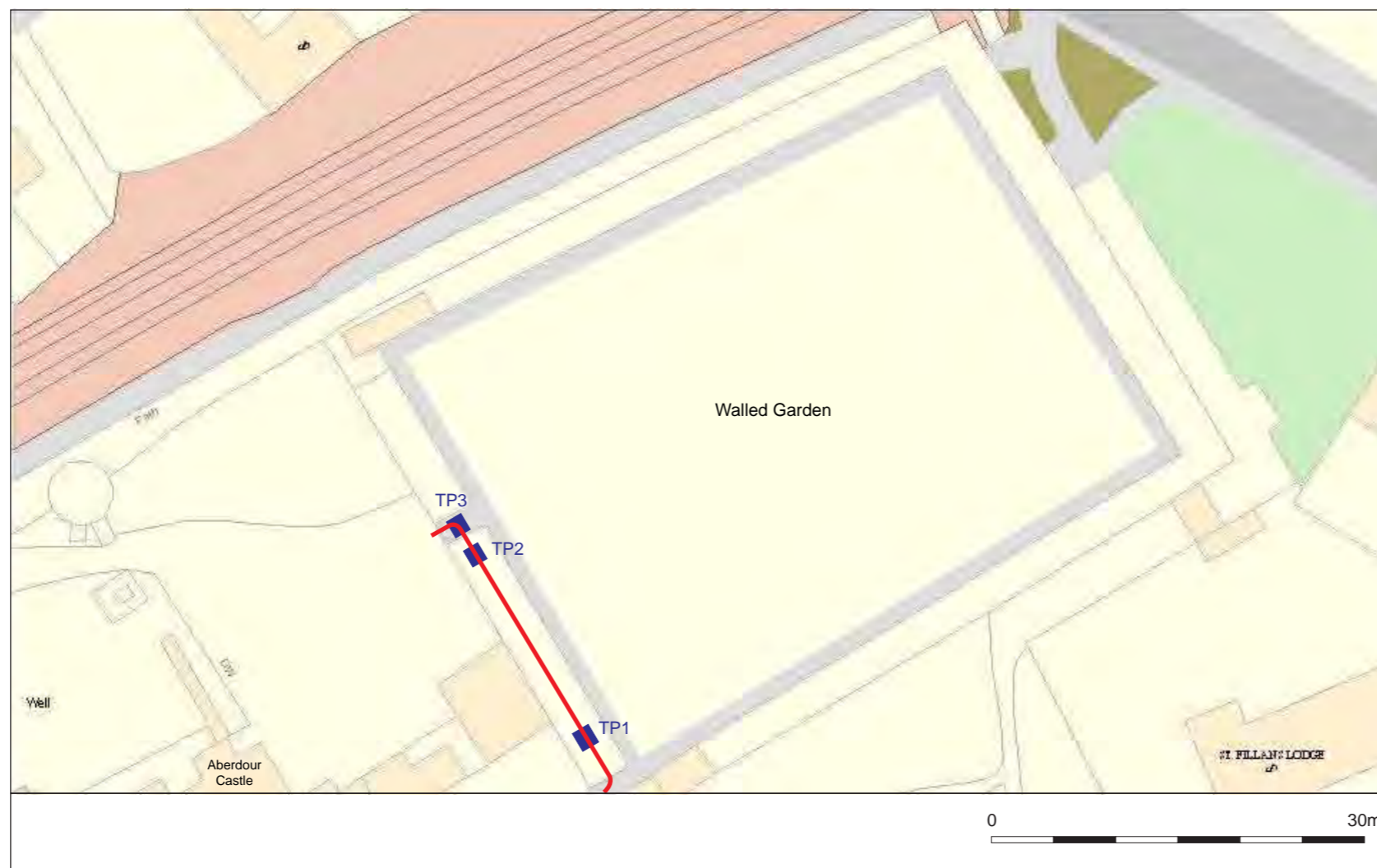




Fig 2. General shot of watching brief area



Fig 3. TP1, SE facing section



Key:	Fig. No:	2-3	Revision:	A	Client:	Scottish Power Distribution
	Title:					
	Project:	Aberdour Castle Walled Garden, Aberdour, Fife				
Scale:						 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD. The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
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Fig 4. TP2, NE facing section



Fig 5. TP3, general shot from NE

Key:	Fig. No:	4-5	Revision:	A	Client:	Scottish Power Distribution
	Title:	Text Here				
	Project:	Aberdour Castle Walled Garden, Aberdour, Fife				
Scale:						 <p>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD. The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, EH21 7PQ t: 0131 273 4380 f: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</p>
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