Anderson Archaeology (Scotland)

CASTLE HILL, CULLEN, MORAY (SITE CODE CHC16)

Preliminary Test Pitting - November 2016

Client: The Cullen Past and Present Volunteer Group

Authors: Dave Anderson & Leanne Demay



Contents

Summary	1
Acknowledgements	1
Location	1
Legislation & Policy	2
Background	2
Proposed Programme	3
Methodology	3
Health and Safety	4
Analysis and Reporting	4
Risk Assessment and Safety Method Statement	4
Personnel	4
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	4
Plant & Equipment and transport requirements	4
First Aid	4

Appendices

I Risk Assessment

Illustrations

Figure 1:	OS Map showing site location
Figure 2:	OS 25inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1855-1882
Figure 3:	Proposed locations of 1m test pits

SUMMARY

The Cullen Past and Present Volunteer Group aims to reinstate an antiquarian footpath running round the ramparts on Castle Hill, Cullen. This requires Scheduled Monument Consent. In advance of reinstatement works, test pits are required along the proposed line to ensure archaeological deposits are not disturbed and to mitigate the impact of the proposed works.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was written by Dave Anderson and Leanne Demay. Background mapping has been reproduced by permission of the Ordnance Survey under Licence 10043217. Historic mapping is courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

LOCATION

The site is located at approximately OS grid reference NJ 50880 67024, and lies to the south and west of the village of Cullen (figure 1).



Figure 1. Site Location (from OS mapping)

LEGISLATION & POLICY

The common principles underlying international conventions, national legislation and local authority planning policies are that cultural heritage assets should be identified in advance of any development and safeguarded where practicable. If disturbance is unavoidable, appropriate recording of features and recovery of portable artefacts should take place. These have been set out in international and European Union agreements, and UK and Scottish legislation, as well as national and local planning policies.

Professional standards during the present project will be secured by adherence to the Codes of Conduct and Approved Practice and Standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

BACKGROUND

The Moray Historic Environment Record and Canmore describe Castle Hill as a mounded motte surrounded by a broad ditch with an outer embankment. The proposed circular path will run along the top of the embankment, except to the north of the site where it was destroyed by a landslip in antiquity. There is no record of any archaeological investigation of the site.



Figure 2. OS 25inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1855-1882

PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The aim of the proposed works is to ensure that the reinstatement of the circular path has minimal aesthetic impact and a neutral impact on archaeological deposits. This would be achieved by ensuring the cut of any new path would extend at its deepest only to the level of the antiquarian path that preceded it.

Two access paths are also proposed; these should also follow the line of antiquarian paths, as shown on the 1st series OS Map (figure 2) and the same methodology will be employed.

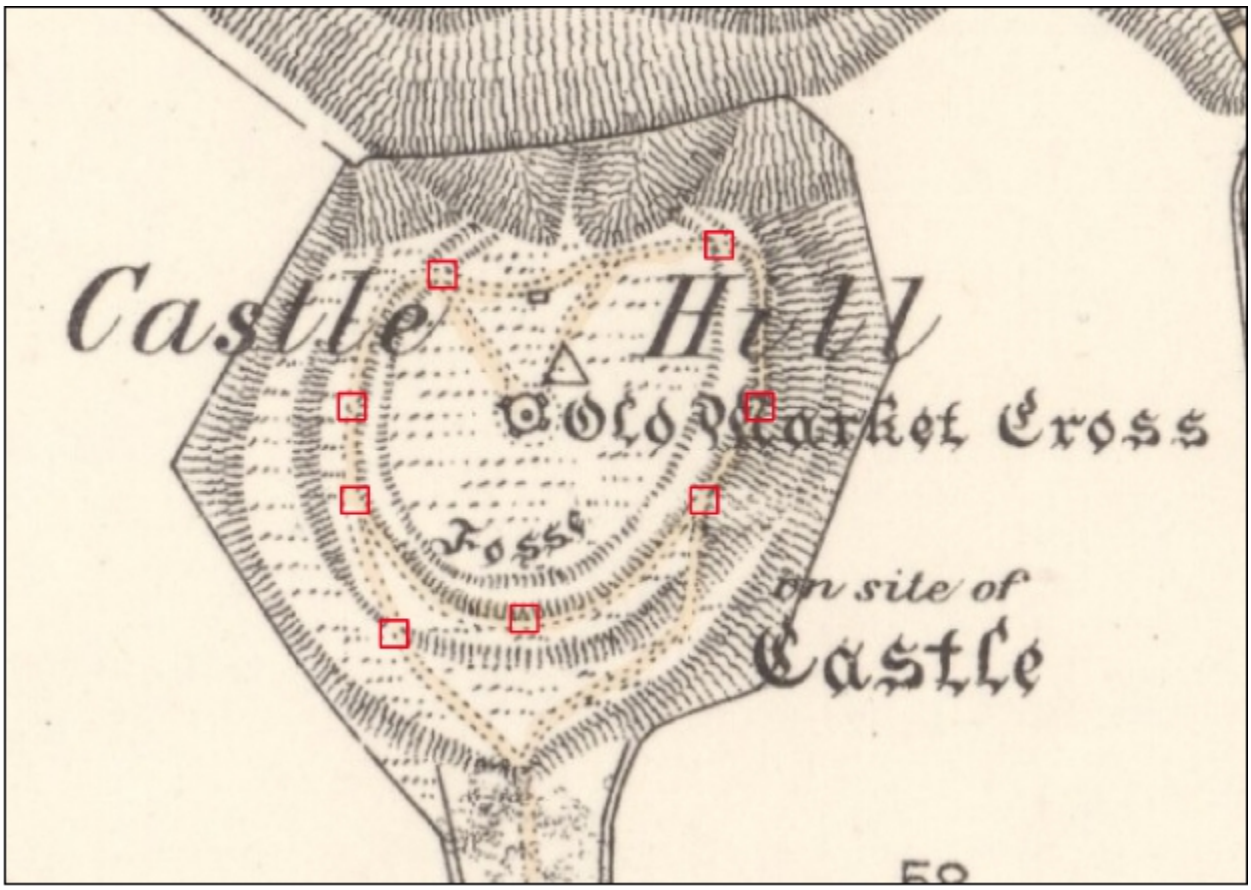


Figure 3. Proposed locations of 1m test pits (test pits not to scale)
OS 25inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1855-1882

Methodology

A series of test pits (8 in total) measuring 1m square will be placed at significant points along the line of the former path and on the access paths (figure 3). These pits will be excavated to a depth of 150mm or until the surface of the antiquarian path is encountered, whichever is shallower. The positioning of these test pits aims to investigate those points where archaeological remains are likely to be at greatest risk *i.e.* where access paths cross the embankment to join the circular path, and near where the embankment was cut by the landslip to the north. One test pit will be cut at a selected point on an access path to investigate the slope profile.

The test pits will be marked out using a metal frame and spray line and will be excavated using hand tools. The results of each pit will be recorded and the pits will be backfilled and turf relaid so as to minimise disturbance to the monument.

Health and Safety

A risk assessment is appended to this document and will be reviewed on arrival on site. Any necessary action will be taken to ensure health and safety, and work will not be carried out where it is considered unsafe to do so.

ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

Following fieldwork, a report will be produced, usually within 6 weeks of the end of fieldwork. This report will set out the results of the work and will normally be distributed as a PDF file, tables as excel spreadsheets, while photographs will be uncompressed Jpeg files.

The authors of the report hold author's copyright on all reports produced, but will allow the client, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and Historic Environment Scotland to make the report available for reference and research (but not commercial) purposes, either on paper or electronically, without charge, provided this copyright is acknowledged.

All work will meet or exceed the standards usually required by Historic Environment Scotland, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

RISK ASSESSMENT AND SAFETY METHOD STATEMENT

Personnel
The project will be managed by Dave Anderson and Leanne Demay who will be the only persons undertaking fieldwork on the site. They will be responsible to the clients for their own health and safety. No issues or concerns are expected to arise.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)
Appropriate PPE and suitable weatherproof clothing will be worn.

Plant & Equipment and transport requirements
The archaeologists will transport any necessary tools, survey and recording equipment

First Aid!
A first aid kit will be carried. If this is inadequate for the situation, help will be summoned.

APPENDIX I

RISK ASSESSMENT

Project: CHC16 **Date:!** 04/011/16

Staff on Site: Dave Anderson, Leanne Demay

Client: Cullen Past and Present Volunteer Group **Form Completed by:** Dave Anderson, Leanne Demay

Hazards	Who might be harmed?	What are you already doing?	Do you need to do anything else to manage this risk?	Action: by whom?	Action: by when?	Done (sign/ date)
Weather conditions	Archaeologists on site; visitors	Apprpriate clothing to be worn	Vigilance	Archaeologists on site	On arrival on site and duration of stay	
Environmental damage	Local environment	No hazardous materials are used, litter etc is removed from site and site is reinstated as work is undertaken	Vigilance	Archaeologists on site	On arrival on site and duration of stay	
Other hazards (check when on site)						