



Archaeological Dig Report 2017

The location for our 2017 dig was within the walls of Deer Abbey. A Geophysical study was carried out by Rose Geophysics early in the year, the results indicated areas of interest and anomalies which Archaeologist Ali Cameron of Cameron Archaeology used to position trenches on site.

The dig took place between 24th June and 2nd July, with local schools, Aberdeen Young Archaeologists, volunteers and a team of archaeologists all taking part.

Four trenches were opened to the West of the Abbey. fig1

Trench 1

A post hole was excavated, with other possible postholes being identified. An area of compacted stones may be a floor surface. Pottery from above the stone layer was carbon dated to 1276—1395calAD

Trench 2

Contained a stone lined hearth. To the North of the hearth was a semi circular ditch which contained stake holes, thought to have been a structure to shelter the hearth. Charcoal material from around the hearth was carbon dated to 1147—1260calAD. The date suggests that the structure could be associated with an early phase of the Abbey (1219) or late Monastery. Metal slag was also evident in this trench suggesting an industrial site.

Trench 3

This area is thought to have been filled in with material from the surrounding area. The top soil contained pottery Medieval to modern, slate, tile and bone ,both animal and human.

Trench 4

This trench was located in what would have been the flood plain of the river. There were no finds.

The Dig open day was a great success. A shuttle service transporting visitors between Aden Park and the Abbey proved popular. Visitors were given a guided tour of the site and could view the finds.

last year we were lucky enough to have the whole dig recorded by Midas Media, who produced an hour long documentary - The Lost Monastery of Deer about our continuing search for the Monastery, which was shown on BBC Alba. The programme resulted in interest from both National and International press.

2018 Archaeology

This Summer we plan to return to the Abbey site to investigate more anomalies from the Geophys. Survey. Once again local schools will be invited along to lend a hand. The dig will run from 25th June to 6th July.

Check the Web page for information on visiting the site and details of Dig open day.

FUNDRAISING

Many of you will have seen The BBC Alba programme "The Lost Monastery of Deer", which followed our successful dig in 2017. In order to raise funds to carry on with our search we have set up a crowdfunding page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bookofdeerprojectdig2018>

Our aim is to raise £2000 pounds to continue with our dig in 2018.

This Newsletter is printed and published by the Book of Deer Project, a SCIO registered Charity SC 030656

Aberdeenshire Area Office

Nethermuir Road

Maud AB42 4ND

Email info@bookofdeer.co.uk

WHY NOT VISIT US AT:

OUR WEBSITE www.bookofdeer.co.uk or our FACEBOOK PAGE The Book of Deer Project