

Ellon Castle Gardens

Examining the Potential Study

Ellon Castle, together with its garden terraces, walled garden and deer park and surrounding policies constitute a site of considerable complexity, with what was a compact early 18th century formal landscape overlaid by a more extensive 19th century landscape. Although the lack of detailed documentary evidence for the period prior to 1850 has proved frustrating, the comparative abundance of pictorial and documentary and evidence for the garden after that date, combines with the surviving built and planted elements to give the site considerable significance. Of particular significance are the walled garden and garden terraces which lay at the heart of the former Ellon estate. The implementation of a comprehensive management and conservation plan could do much to enhance its status.

Although lacking the features or qualities which might give it 'outstanding' value in a national context, there is no doubting Ellon Castle's considerable importance in a regional context. It is seen as having a 'group value' with neighbouring sites such as Haddo House, Tolquhon and Pitmedden. The association of the site with significant historical figures such as the Earls of Aberdeen, Eleanor Vere Boyle, James Giles and George Washington Wilson can be seen to add to its heritage value.

The site is also seen as having outstanding value in a local context, both for its contribution to the setting of the historic town of Ellon, and the scenery of Lower Ythan Valley, and for the recreational opportunities which it affords to surrounding communities. The site is seen from a garden history standpoint as having significant archaeological interest.