

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Cairngorms National Park
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

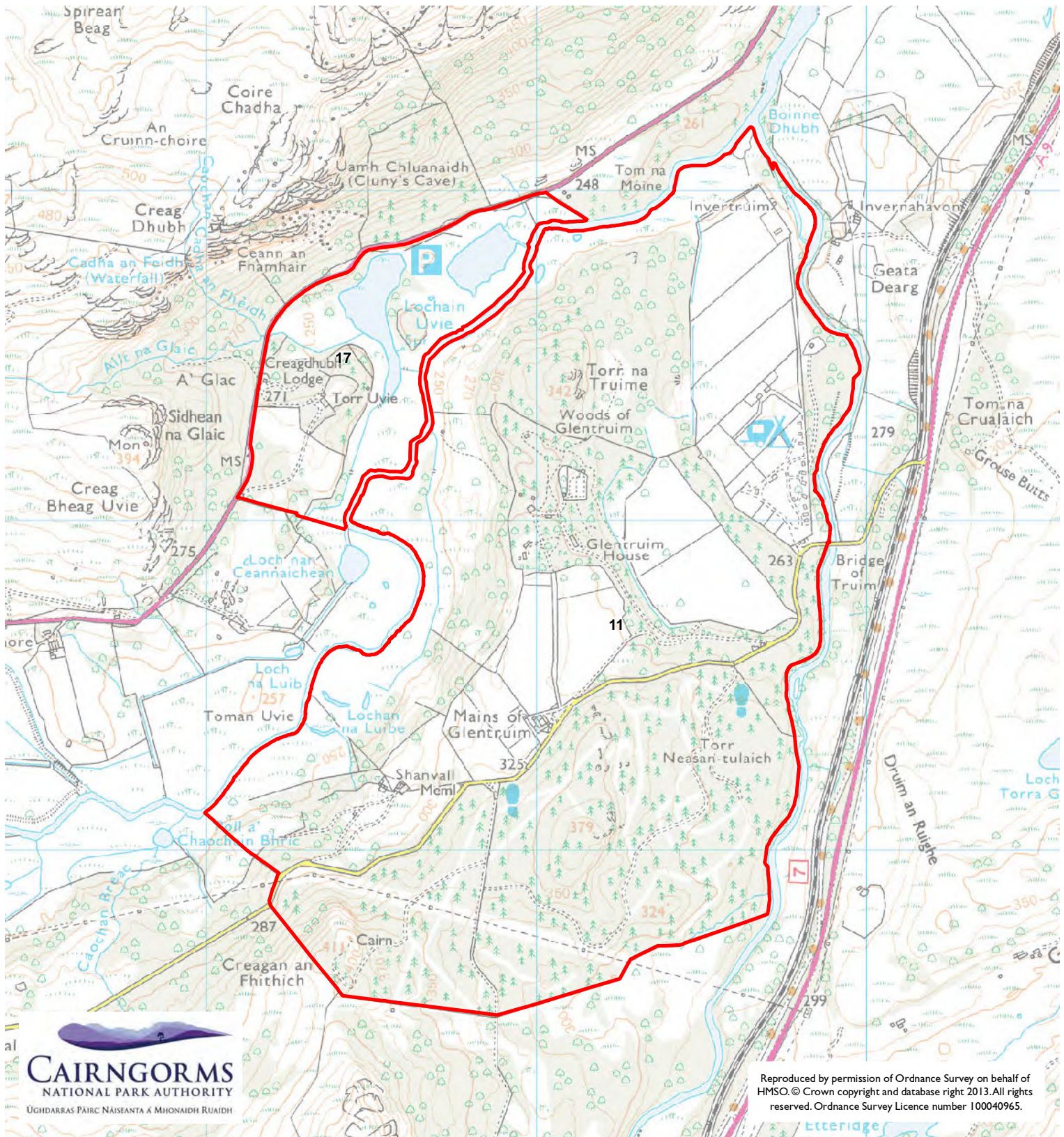
Site Research Report
11 Glentruim House (Castle)

Consultants

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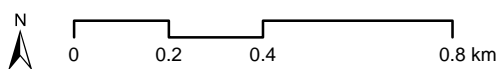
May 2013



Legend
 Cairngorms National Park Boundary
 Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 11

Glentruim House



May 2013

11 Glentruim House (Castle)

County Inverness-shire
Parish Kingussie / Laggan
NGR NN 680 949; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 402

DESIGNATIONS

Listing Glentruim House, HB Number 6903 – Category B (1979)
Macpherson burial ground, HB Number 6904 – Category C (1979)
Gate lodge, gates and gate piers, HB Number 6905 – Category C (1986)
Stables, HB Number 6906 – Category C (1986)

The majority of the woodland on the estate is designated Ancient Woodland.

Woods of Glentruim to north of house on Torr na Truime subject to WGS Mark 3 Agreement.

Woods on Torr Neasan-tulaich to south of house subject to WGS Mark 1, WGS Mark 3 and SFGS Agreements.

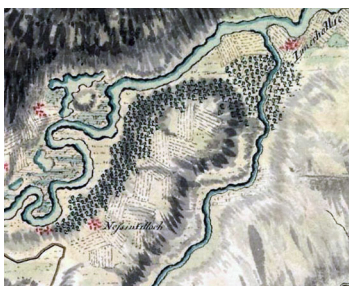
LOCATION AND EXTENT

The Glentruim Estate, comprising Glentruim House (now restyled 'Castle'), Mains of Glentruim, offices, walled garden and gate lodge, occupies a prominent position on a ridge which runs northward from Crùban Beag, separating the valleys of Strathspey and Glentruim near their confluence a little further to the north. The house is reached by way of a drive leading off an unclassified which joins the A9 near Bridge of Truim. The designed landscape occupies most of the ground north of Cruban Beg, between the River Spey and River Truim, as far north as the confluence of the two rivers.

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Maps and documentary evidence

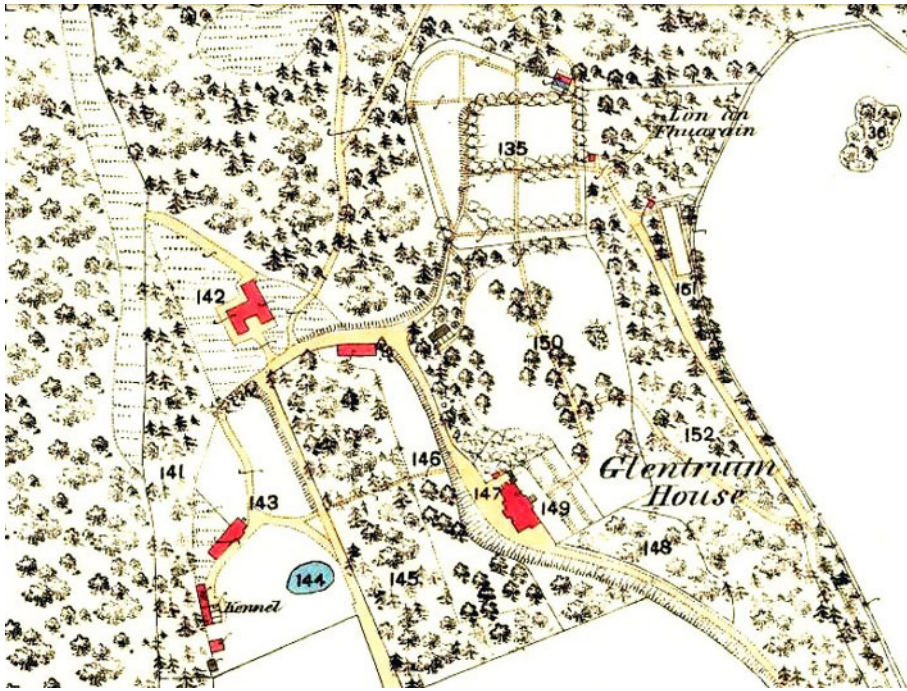
There is no appearance of enclosure, or of significant settlement on the site before the end of the 18th century. Roy (c1750) shows much of the area as being under unenclosed rig cultivation, with a strip of natural woodland on the sloping ground to the west, overlooking the River Spey. A single township named 'Nessinfilloch' (?) is seen towards the south-west. Thomson (1832), too, shows no settlement, but does mark a track leading southwards along the ridge from a ferry-point at the confluence of the two rivers to 'Nessintully' and 'Shanvall'. On both OS First Edition (1870) and OS Second Edition (1899), Glentruim House is marked, with a long southerly approach from South Lodge. Beyond the house to the north and west are the walled garden, offices, kennels etc. The woodland to the north of the house and on the western flank of Torr na Truime is marked as 'Woods of Glentruim'. Although there appears to have been little change to the landscape during the 20th century, later maps and aerial photographs show



Roy's Military Survey c1750



Glentruim House view



Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 1st edition 1870

a significant thinning of the Woods of Glentruim, on the northern and western flanks of Torr na Truime.

Building history and ownership

Timperley (1976) records the lands of 'Nessintully' as in the ownership of Macdonald of Laggan c1770, and the neighbouring land of 'Crubinmore' and 'Crubinbeg' as in the ownership of the Duke of Gordon. The Glentruim estate was created on land acquired by Major Euan Macpherson c1835 on his return from service in India. Historic Scotland dates the house to c1840, with additions c1870 attributed to architect Alexander Ross. The gate lodge and Mains farm are likely to date from c1840, the stable block to c1870. Recent maps also show an extensive caravan and camping park on the eastern side of Torr na Truim, just to the north of Bridge of Truim, advertised as Invernahavon Caravan Park.



Major Euan Macpherson
of Glentruim b1782 (Clan
Macpherson Museum)

APPENDIX

Historical notes

Rev. Donald Cameron 1839 (NSA) noted that "Major Macpherson of Glentruim is purposing to reside in the parish, having lately built a mansion house upon his estate".

Circuit Judge Lord Cockburn (1879) commented 1844 that "there is a strange wild place called Glen Truim on the left hand (going north) between Dalwhinnie and Kingussie, the progress of which I have been marking since ever it began a few years ago. It is the work of a Major Macpherson, an Indian officer, I believe, who no doubt from his having run about in a torn kilt here in his youth, has adventured on the rather bold attempt to make a habitable residence in apparently the most savage position of the whole strath. Everybody laughs at him, and he has certainly set his mansion too high ; but since he has courage to begin, and to live there, I predict its one day being a fine and not uncomfortable highland place. It will depend entirely on the wood he will be able to coax into life".

Glentruim House and terrace



J Murdoch 1852 recorded Glentruim House as “an elegant building of three storeys, with a number of wings, altogether a modern erection. On the south side of the Spey the country has all the appearance of a heathy wilderness”.

OS Name Book (Laggan, Inverness-shire Book 53, p69) commented that “Glentruim House is the mansion and dwelling house of Major Macpherson. It is beautifully situated on a ridge of land about four miles south-west of the village of Newtonmore. The seat of Robert Macpherson Esq., son of the late Major Macpherson of Glenruim ... Glenruim, which formed a portion of the Gordon Estates, was converted from a bleak and bare region into a beautiful residence by the late enterprising proprietor Major Ewan Macpherson of Ralia. An elegant mansion was the first in a series of judicious improvements which, in time, will prove emmunerating to the proprietor and an embellishment to that part of the country ... Woods of Glenruim applies to the woods situated immediately around Glentruim House”.

Robert Hall 1885 stated that “The mansion house of Glentruim is magnificently situated on an eminence commanding a grand view of the valley of the Spey, and surrounded by beautiful scenery, Highland in character ... There are stables, coach house, kennels and gardens, and the walks and drives are very charming ... Glentruim is certainly one of the most superbly situated mansions in the country, and the climate is perfect”.

F Groome 1883 described “Glentruim [which] presents for the most part a moorish, bleak and cheerless aspect. Glentruim House, in the angle between the Spey and the Truim, is the seat of Lachlan Macpherson”.
