

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Cairngorms National Park
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

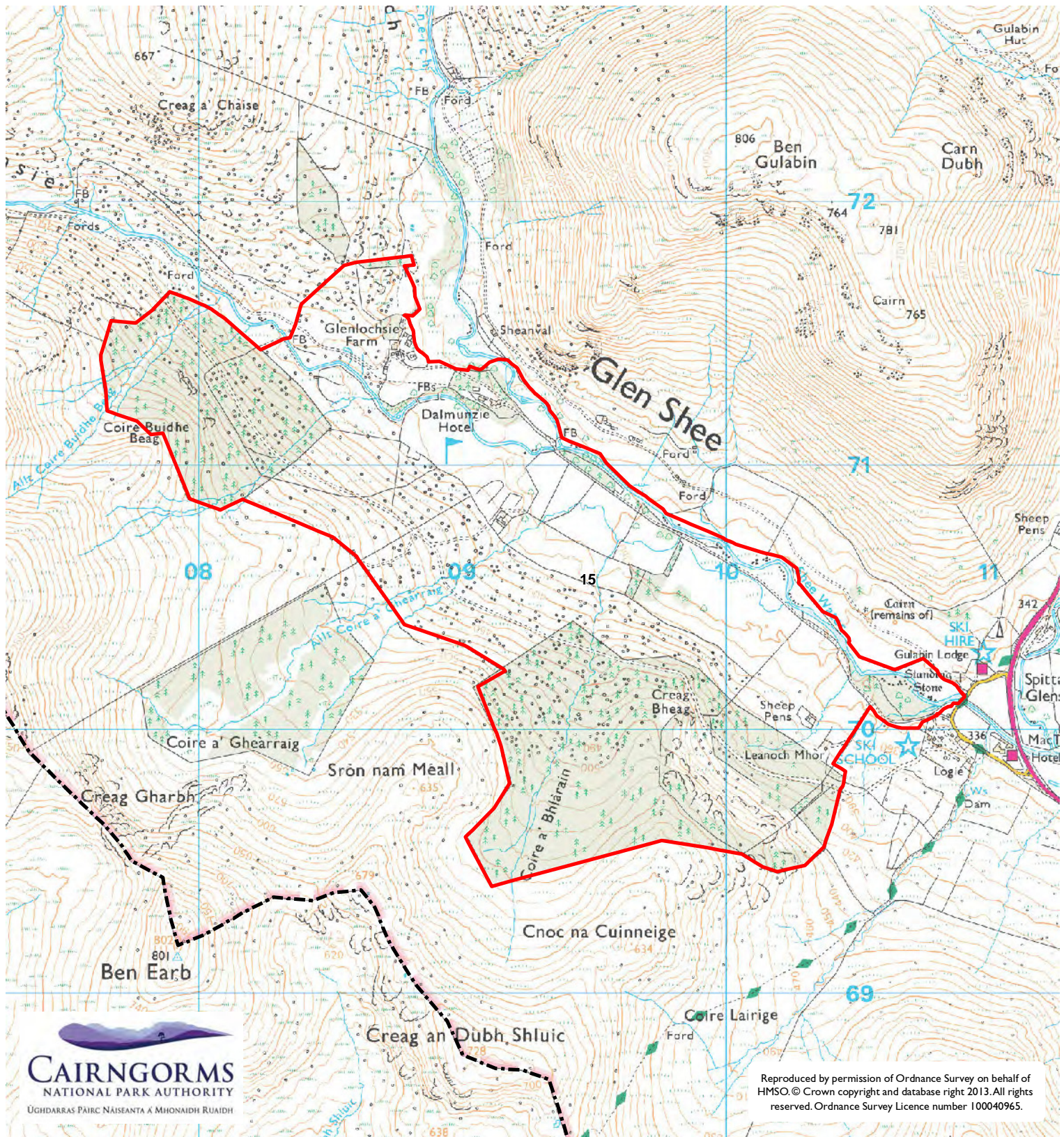
Site Research Report
15 Dalmunzie

Consultants

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May 2013



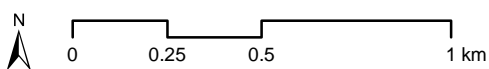
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Legend

-  Cairngorms National Park Boundary
-  Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 15

Dalmunzie House



May 2013



15 Dalmunzie

County Perthshire
Parish Kirkmichael
NGR NO 091 712; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 387 (North)

DESIGNATIONS

Listing Building is not listed.

Trackbed of former light railway noted on Perth & Kinross Sites and Monuments Record.

Some woodland immediately surrounding hotel subject of WGS Mark 2 Agreement

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Dalmunzie Lodge is situated at the north end of a private road, approximately 4km the the north west of Spittal of Glensee, on a spur of land at the confluence of the Glen Lochsie Burn with the Allt Ghlinn Thaitneich, at the head of Glenshee. There is a small area of planting around the main house, with other patches or blocks of woodland on the slopes of neighbouring hills, and on the approach. The drive to the house leads up the west bank of the Shee Water from Spittal of Glenshee, where the entry to the glen is guarded by a gate lodge.

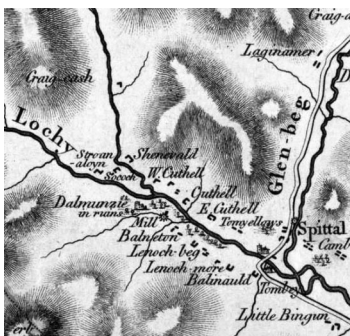
LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Map and documentary evidence

The name 'Dalmunoy' is seen on Pont (c1595), though misplaced to the south in relation to 'Spittel', but suggesting a building of some stature, or significant settlement. Roy names 'Dalmango', apparently as a township, correctly located at the above-noted confluence, but on the west bank of the river, about which there is marked some unenclosed rig cultivation and few scattered trees. Stobie (1783) records 'Dalmunzie in ruins' as a substantial building, probably a tower house, on the west bank of the river. There is no obvious trace of this earlier building to be seen on the OS First Edition (1862-66) or on the OS Second Edition (1900). These maps do show a farmstead between the two valleys, with associated enclosures, named on the OS First Edition as 'Socach' and on the OS Second Edition as 'Glenlochsie', located some distance to the north-west of the present house. Later maps such as the OS Popular Edition (1947) mark the new house as Dulmunzie Lodge, alongside neighbouring Glenlochsie farm. Later maps also mark the private light railway which linked Dalmunzie Lodge with Glenlochsie Lodge, nearly 4km to the north-west, further up Glen Lochsie.



Pont c1595



Stobie 1783



Roy's Military Survey c1750

Building history and ownership

Dalmunzie appears to have been a McIntosh property from an early date, and for several centuries before the 19th century – a fact supported by Timperley (1976), who notes a Mr. McIntosh as owner c1770. The current website for Dalmunzie Castle (Hotel) talks of a hunting lodge being built by Charles Hills Macintosh in 1874, enlarged in the 1880s and 1890, a claim re-iterated in Gifford (2007), but this is not supported by the map evidence noted above – the OS Second Edition (1900) showing no building on the site of the present house. What is beyond doubt is that the estate was purchased in 1920 by Sir Archibald Birkmyre, an India trader and industrialist, who built the present house in what Gifford (2007) describes as a 'Scottish' style. The gate lodge by

Spittal of Glenshee is presumably of the same date. An unusual feature of the Dalmunzie estate was a narrow-gauge light railway, which carried people and material between Dalmunzie Lodge and Dalchonsie Lodge. Opened c1920 for the carriage of building stone, the railway was used by shooting parties, closed in 1978, and the line was taken up.

Neither Dalmunzie nor Dalchonsie are to be found in Groome (1883), or in Lyall (1880). It may be that the lodge said to have been built in 1874 was Dalchonsie Lodge, marked on the OS First Edition (1862-66) as 'Glenlochy Lodge', and on the OS Second Edition (1900) as 'Glenlochsie Lodge', though the fact that this building appears on the 1860s map simply adds further to the confusion.

APPENDIX

Historical notes

The Dalmunzie Castle (Hotel) Website 2013 states the "an L-shaped hunting lodge was built on the site of the present hotel in 1874 by Dr. Charles Hills Macintosh, 10th Laird of Dalmunzie. A larger L-shaped lodge was built over this in 1884, a Victorian wing [was] added in the 1890s, and the building and estate [were] leased for shooting parties". This does not accord with the map evidence (see above).

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View of Dalmunzie and Gleann Taitneach



Dalmunzie former light railway