

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Cairngorms National Park
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

Site Research Report
23 Inverernan House

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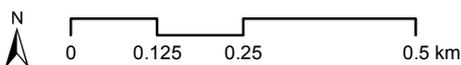
May 2013



- Legend**
- Cairngorms National Park Boundary
 - Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 23

Inverernan House



May 2013

23 Inverernan House

County Aberdeenshire
Parish Strathdon
NGR NJ 330 109; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 405 (West)

DESIGNATIONS

Listings Inverernan House : HB Number 16169 – Category B / Group Category B (1984)
Stables : HB Number 16170 – Category C / Group Category B (1984)
Gates and gatepiers : HB Number 16171 – Category C / Group Category (1984)
Dovecot Cottage : HB Number 49581 – Category C / Group Category B (2003)
Ice House : HB Number 50636 – Category C / Group Category B (2006)
Walled garden : HB Number 59637 – Category C / Group Category B (2006)

Much of the surrounding woodland, though not the core policies, is designated as Ancient Woodland.

While the core policies are the subject of an SFGS Agreement, much of the surrounding woodland is the subject of a WGS Mark 3 Agreement.

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Inverernan House and its designed landscape occupy a comparatively small site on the north bank of the River Don, just upstream of its confluence with the Ernan Water. It is located approximately 3km south-west of the village of Strathdon, from where it is accessed by drives leading off the A944. The house stands at the foot of the spur of Lonach Hill, to the south of Carn More. Much of the landscape is wooded, save for six large rectangular fields overlooked from the north by the farm of Torrandhu. The landscape may be seen as having a group value together with the neighbouring non-Inventory landscapes of Edinglassie and Skellater, and the Inventory landscape of Candacraig, which combine to influence landscape character in this part of Strathdon. Because of their close proximity to each other, it has proved difficult to establish the ownership boundaries between these landscapes.



Gordon c1650

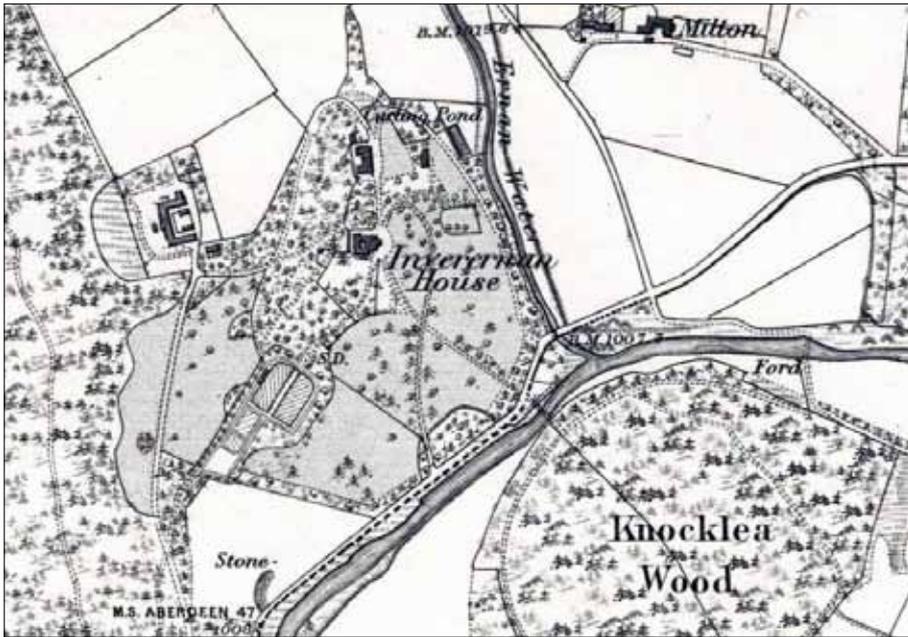


Roy's Military Survey c1750

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Map and documentary evidence

Gordon (c1650) records a settlement by the name of 'Inner Ernan'. Roy (c1750), too, notes 'Inver Earnan', apparently as a township, rather than a higher status dwelling, with some rig cultivation thereabouts. Robertson (1832) is the first map to show 'Inverernan House, though with little useful landscape detail. By the OS First Edition (1867) a new landscape appears to be well-established, comprising an area of parkland embracing the mansion house and walled garden, approached from the south by a looping drive. To the north of the house were the offices and open fields. Later maps such as the OS Second Edition (1900) and more recent maps and aerial photographs show a landscape little changed in its basic outline, though with a thickening of the tree-belt surrounding the parkland, and some new planting in fields to the north of the house.



*Ordnance Survey 1:10,560
 2nd edition 1900*

Building history and ownership

Historic Scotland describes evidence for a house built by the Forbes family on or close to the present site c.1680, and it is known to have been the home of 'Black Jock' Forbes bailie to the Earl of Mar in 1715. Timperley (1976) records 'Inverernan' as in the ownership of Alexander Forbes c1770. Both Historic Scotland and Shepherd (2006) date the present house to 1764, though note that substantial alterations and additions were made in the 1820s, and again in 1930s. Most of the associated structures, such as the stables, walled garden, ice house, gates etc. would appear to date from the 1820s, and may reflect the 'extensive additions and alterations' described by Rev. Robert Meikle (NSA 1840). It was the Wallace family, who are said to have acquired the property in 1934, who made the later alterations.



Inverernan House

APPENDIX

Historical notes

Rev. Robert Meiklejohn 1840 (NSA) described "the mansion of Inverernan [which] received extensive additions and alterations. The style is that of a modern villa, partaking of the Italian".

Francis Groome 1883 noted Inverernan as "a mansion in Strathdon parish, near the left bank of the River Don ... As altered and enlarged about 1825, it presents the appearance of a modern villa, in the Italian style. Its owner Lieut. Gen Sir John Forbes".
