

Cairngorms National Park Authority

**Cairngorms National Park**  
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

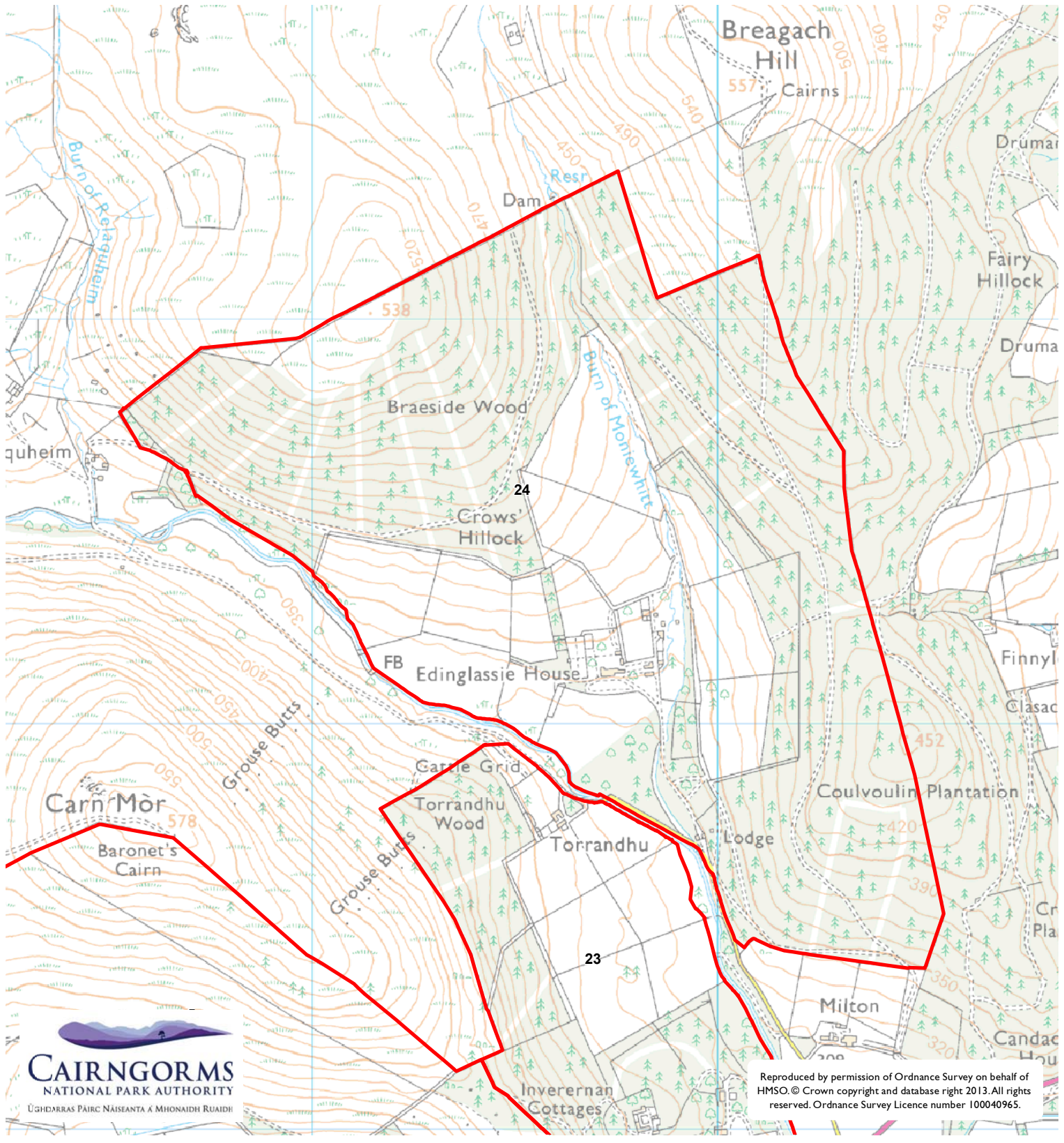
Site Research Report  
**24 Edinglassie**

**Consultants**

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May 2013

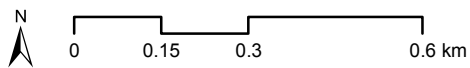


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- Legend**
- Cairngorms National Park Boundary
  - Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 24

Edinglassie House



May 2013

## 24 Edinglassie

County Aberdeenshire  
Parish Strathdon  
NGR NJ 327 121; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 405 (West)

### DESIGNATIONS

Listing Glen Ernan, Edinglassie House, including ancillary structures : HB Number 19784 – Category C / Group Category B (1971)  
Edinglassie Mains Farmhouse : HB Number 15856 – Category C / Group Category B (1987)  
Edinglassie Mains steading and former stables : HB Number 15857 – Category C / Group Category B (1987)  
Gate lodges, gatepiers and gates : HB Number 16162 – Category B / Group Category B (1971)  
Keeper's Cottage : HB Number 50632 – Category C / Group Category B (2006)  
Stable and garage block : HB Number 50633 – Category C / Group Category B (2006)  
Walled garden : HB Number 50634 – Category C / Group Category B (2006)  
Dairy : HB Number 50635 – Category C / Group Category B (2006)

The majority of the woodland surrounding Edinglassie is designated as Ancient Woodland.

The great majority of the woodland surrounding the house is the subject of WGS Mark 2 or WGS Mark 3 Agreements.

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Edinglassie House lies near the mouth of Glen Ernan, on the east bank of the Ernan Water, approximately 3km to the west of the village of Strathdon, from where it is accessed via the A944, and a short stretch of unclassified road. The house occupies a sloping site overlooked from the north-east by Breagach Hill, from the western side of which the Burn of Moniewhitt runs down through the heart of the landscape. The house, which is approached from the south, stands among fields and parkland, embraced to the north and west by Braeside Wood and Coulvoulin Plantation. This site could be seen as having a group value with neighbouring non-Inventory designed landscapes of Inverernan 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.



*Roy's Military Survey c1750*



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

### LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

#### Map and documentary evidence

Although there is no indication of a house on Gordon (c1650), Roy (c1750) shows a house of high status within a small block of planting, with a substantial axial avenue to the south, flanked by two large, rectangular tree-lined grazing parks, one of which runs down to the Ernan Water. Robertson's map (1832), though drawn at a small scale, shows the house between plantations to the north and east, indicating that further enclosure and planting had occurred in the late 18th or early 19th century, creating the framework for today's landscape.

This comprises a gate lodge and southern approach through parkland, leading to the house and offices, to the west of which is a walled garden. Little change seems to have occurred in the landscape during the 20th century. That said, traces of the old axial avenue to the south, seen on the OS First Edition (1867) and the OS Second Edition (1900) are no longer apparent on later maps and aerial photographs

#### Building history and ownership

Both Historic Scotland and Shepherd (2006) describe the house as being of 18th century date, with later 18th and 19th century additions. Timperley (1976) notes the owner c.1770 as Alexander Stewart. The property was evidently acquired by Sir Charles Forbes of Castle Newe, who is noted by Hall (1885) as owner in the 1880s, albeit that the house was let to the Marquis de Breteuil at that time. Later owners are noted by Historic Scotland as the Tennant family, and most recently by the Cowdray family, whose principal house is Dunecht. The house, which continues in their ownership, is used in connection with sporting interests.

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## APPENDIX

### Historical notes

**Rev. Robert Meiklejohn 1840** (NSA) describes Edinglassie, along with Skellater and Bellabeg as being a house “of an older date”.

**Francis Groome 1884** notes Edinglassie as “an estate with an old mansion ... included in the Castle Newe property”.

**Hall 1885** describes Edinglassie with “the house delightfully situated in Strathdon ...[with] outside gun room, bedroom, laundry and wash house. There is a six stalled stable, with coach house and harness room, also three servants’ rooms over stables, kennels and garden. Proprietor Sir Charles Forbes of Newew. Tenant Marquis de Breteuil”.

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*Edinglassie House (Geograph)*



*Sir Charles Forbes of Newe and Edinglassie*