

Cairngorms National Park Authority

**Cairngorms National Park**  
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

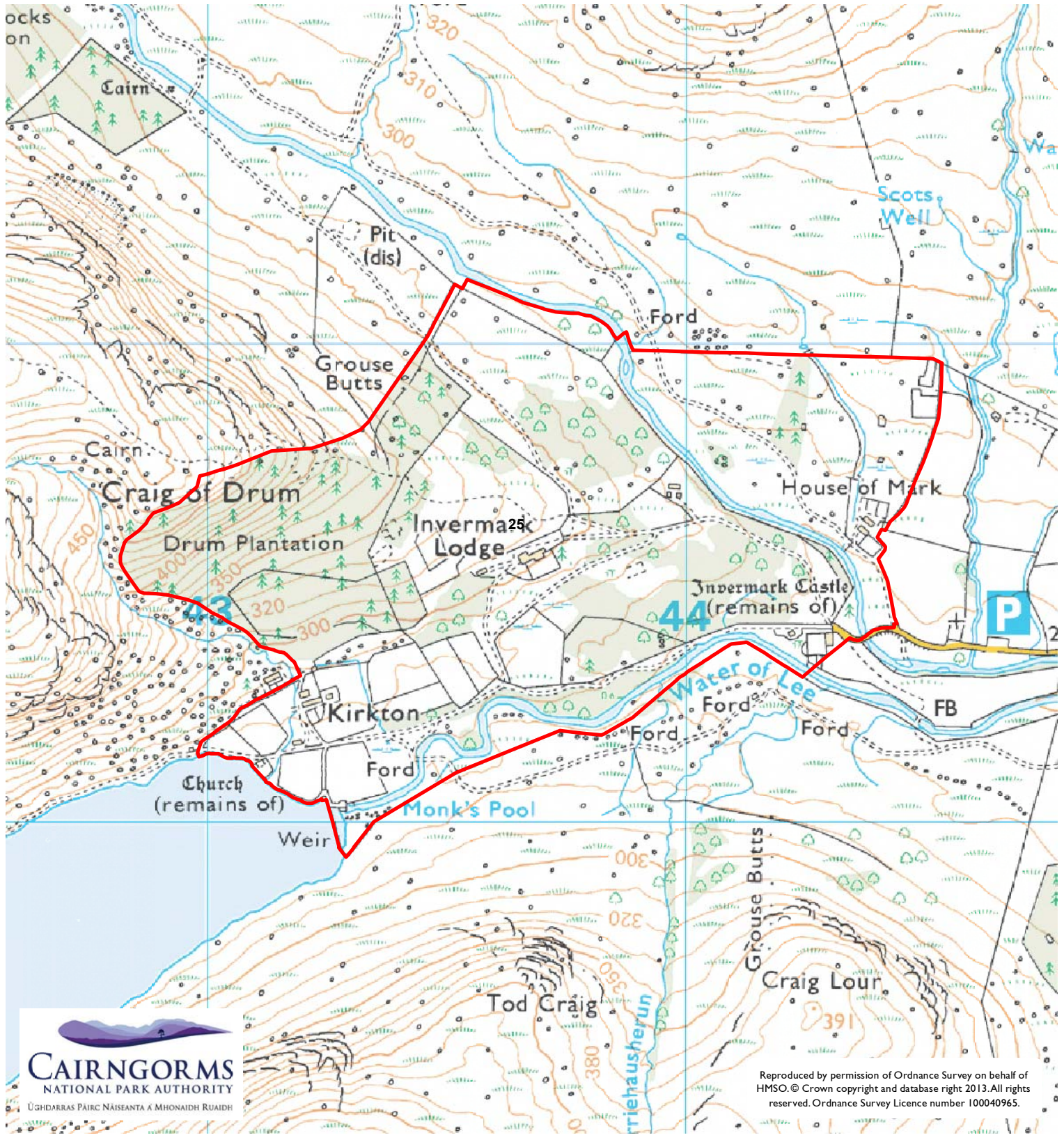
Site Research Report  
**25 Invermark Lodge (Castle)**

**Consultants**

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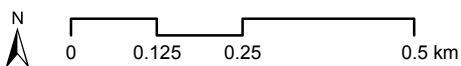


Legend

- Cairngorms National Park Boundary
- Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 25

Invermark Lodge



May 2013

## 25 Invermark Lodge (Castle)

County Angus  
Parish Lochlee  
NGR NO 436 805; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 395

### DESIGNATIONS

Listings Invermark Castle, HB Number 11349 – Category A (1971)  
Invermark Lodge, HB Number 11350 – Category B (1971)  
Deer larder, HB Number 11351 – Category C (1980)  
Kennels with east and west bothies, HB Number 50719 – Category C (2006)  
Stables, HB Number 50721 – Category C (2006)

Part of the woodland associated with Invermark Lodge is designated as Ancient Woodland, together with other fragments of woodland to the north and west.

Parts of the woodland associated with Invermark Lodge are the subject of WFGS Mark 1 and WGS Mark 3 Agreements.

### LOCATION AND EXTENT

Invermark Lodge and the neighbouring ruins of Invermark Castle are located at the junction of Glen Mark and Glen Lee, where the Water of Lee, the Water of Mark and the Burn of Brandy combine to form the headwaters of the River North Esk. They lie close to each other at the head of Glen Esk, approximately 25km north of the village of Edzell, and 5km west of Tarfside, from where they approached by an unclassified road. The site embraces the surroundings of the Victorian Invermark Lodge, which overlooks the confluence of the Water of Mark and the Water of Lee, together with ground previously wooded on the west bank of the River North Esk, a little to the south around Whitehilllocks.

### LANDSCAPE HISTORY

#### Map and documentary evidence

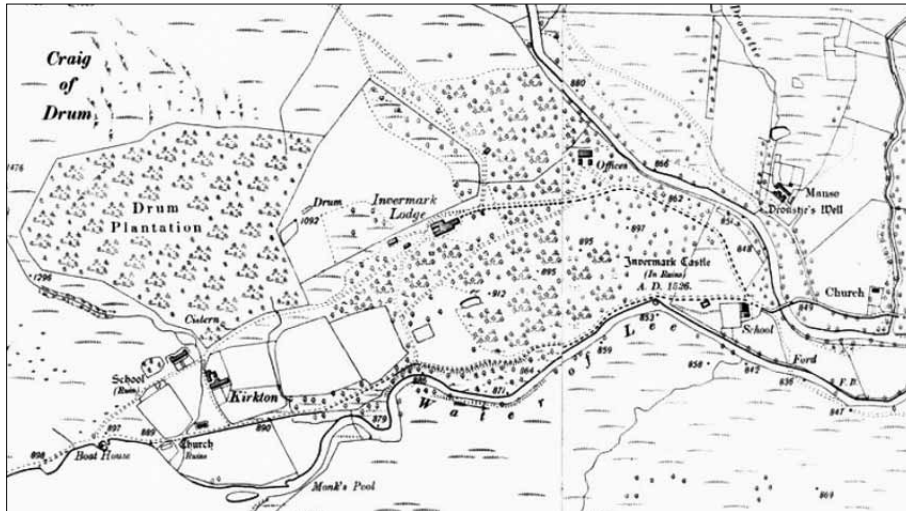
Mapping by Pont (c1595) and Gordon (c1650) – the latter probably based largely on Pont – shows a considerable extent of what is likely to have been semi-natural woodland around and to the south of Loch Lee. Pont depicts the tower of 'Innermarck Cast[le]' within a small walled or fenced enclosure, to the south of which is the enclosed 'Wood of Cochoily', and to the west of which is 'Wood of Lochly'. Of 'Lochly' itself he notes that it yields 'salmond, trouts, pycks and pearches'. Here, too, was the parish church and 'Kirktown of Lochly', and the settlements of 'Brigend of Lochly' and 'Shannack', giving the impression of a well-peopled and busy landscape. Edward (1678) notes 'Innermark' without additional information, save for a rather general indication of woodland thereabouts. Roy (c1750) shows what still seems to be a well-settled landscape, with a scatter of townships, and some unenclosed rig cultivation, but a much reduced extent of woodland, particularly to the south. Among features noted by Roy were the 'K[irk] of Lochlee' and 'C[astle] of Invermark' within a small walled enclosure. The 'Wood of Cochoily' had disappeared altogether by this time. Ainslie (1794) marks the castle, naming the Hon. William Maule, as proprietor, but does not indicate whether the castle was ruinous by this time. The next major change in the landscape is to be seen on the OS First Edition (1862) which records the castle as 'in ruins', but which also marks newly built Invermark Lodge, situated on rising ground between the Water of Mark and the Water of



Pont c1595



Roy's Military Survey c1750



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

Lee, where it is seen to be surrounded with woodland. The same landscape is seen on the OS Second Edition (1900), with the addition of new planting on the eastern flank of Craig of Drum, to the west of the lodge, known as Drum Plantation. Little change is apparent on later maps and aerial photographs.

### Building history and ownership

According to Coventry (2006) Invermark was the property of the Lindsay's of Crawford from an early date, being rebuilt by them in 1526. Gifford notes that a charter of 1554 mentions 'Glenmark with the brewhouse, tower fortalice and manor of Invermark'. Following the Crawford Lindsay's involvement with the Jacobite cause the castle (as with Edzell Castle to the south), was acquired by the Earl of Panmure. Historic Scotland speaks of the castle being repaired in 1729, after which it was still inhabited until the mid 18th century. The same source also states that the castle was gutted and partially dismantled c1803, and the stone re-used for the new parish church and manse. The Panmure estate eventually seems to have passed by marriage into the hands of the Earls of Dalhousie, with Invermark becoming part of the Dalhousie Estate. Invermark Lodge, which was built c1850 to designs by Messrs Wardrop and Brown, was visited by Queen Victoria on more than one occasion. The lodge is currently advertised by Dalhousie Estates for sporting lets.



*Invermark Castle by G W  
Wilson c1890 (University of  
Aberdeen)*



*Painting of Invermark Castle  
and Lodge (Glenesk Museum)*

## APPENDIX

### Historical notes

**Rev. John Pirie c1792** (OSA) noted that "the walls of the mansion house of Invermark ... are still entire".

**Gershom Cumming 1843** described "near the east end of Loch Lee, the remains of the Castle of Invermark [which] are situated amid very romantic scenery, consisting of a slender square tower and some fragments of lower buildings, occupying the summit of a beautiful green mount, surrounded with groves of natural wood, chiefly birch".

**OS Name Book 1862** (Lochlee, Forfarshire Book 25, p60) describes the "castle or tower [as] entire, except for the roof. It is a quadrangle with walls about 30 feet in height ... traces of other buildings are still to be seen near it - the stone wall round it is of recent erection".

**Queen Victoria 1868** wrote of Invermark that "We came in sight of a new country, and looked down on a very fine glen – Glen Mark ... as we approached the Manse of Loch Lee the glen widened, and the old castle of Invermark came out



*10th Earl of Dalhousie 1812-60*

*View of Invermark Lodge by G  
W Wilson c1890 (University of  
Aberdeen)*



extremely well, and surrounded by woods and cornfields, in which the people were shearing, looked most picturesque. We turned to the right and rode up to the old ruined castle, which is half covered with ivy. We then rode up to Lord Dalhousie's shooting lodge, where we dismounted. It is a new and very pretty house, built of granite, in a very fine position overlooking the glen, with wild hills at the back ... We passed through the drawing room and went on a few yards to the end of the walk, where you see Loch Lee, a wild but not large lake, closed in by mountains".

H G Woodley 1952 described Invermark Castle "hemmed in by the silent hills, surrounded by beautiful woodlands, with the river running at its feet [where] the tourist will find it difficult to appreciate that in the days we have in mind the glen was thickly populated by industrious, noisy and fighting people. Today we find noise and fight replaced by the overwhelming peace which pervades the scene; and whilst the glenners are still industrious, their energies are mainly centred upon farming".



*Old Castle of Invermark and  
lodge, postcard view*