

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Cairngorms National Park
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

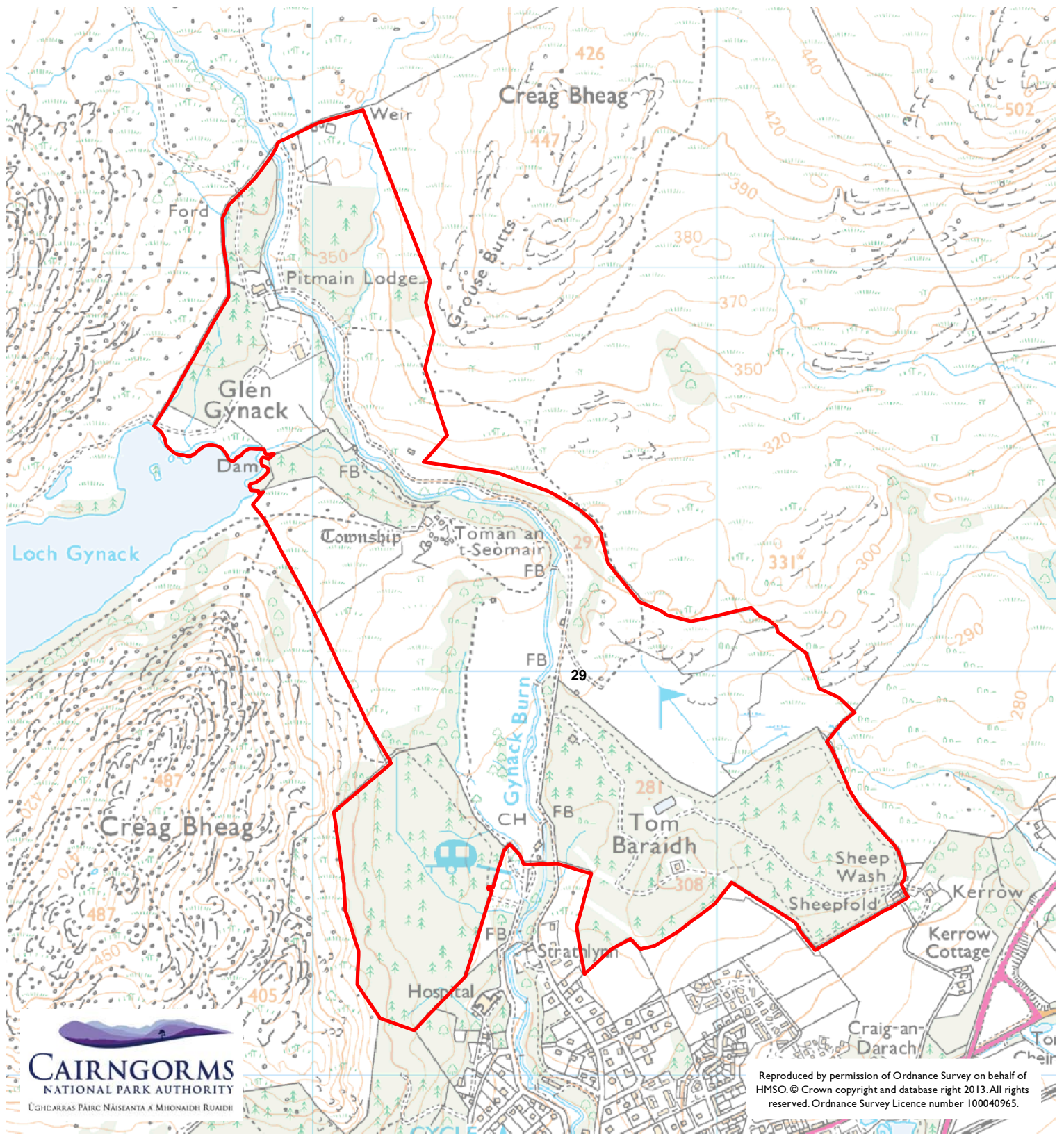
Site Research Report
29 Pitmain Lodge

Consultants

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May 2013

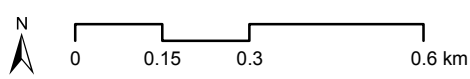


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- Legend**
- Cairngorms National Park Boundary
 - Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 29

Pitmain



May 2013

29 Pitmain Lodge

County Inverness-shire
Parish Kingussie & Insh
NGR NH 749 027; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 402

DESIGNATIONS

Listing Building is not listed (original house demolished)
Some woodland on southern approach designated as Ancient Woodland.

Some woodland on southern approach, but not around the house site, is subject of WGS Mark 1 and WGS Mark 3 Agreements.



Gordon c1650



Roy's Military Survey c1750



Thomson 1832



Ordnance Survey 1958

LOCATION AND EXTENT

The site of Pitmain Lodge lies just to the northeast of Loch Gynack, on the west bank of the Gynack Burn, between the hills of Creag Mhor to the west and Creag Bheag to the east. The approach from Kingussie is by way of a drive on the east bank of the Gynack Burn. This site should not be confused with Pitmain Farm (NGR NH 745 004) or (Old) Pitmain Lodge in Duke Street, Kingussie (NGR NH 760 006), former home of the Highland Folk Museum. The ownership boundary is unclear, but it is assumed, for the purposes of this study, that the designed landscape includes the long-established Kingussie Golf Course which straddles the Gynack Burn.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Map and documentary evidence

The name of Pitmain, close to Kingussie, is of ancient origin, but only came to be applied to the site of Pitmain (Hunting) Lodge during the 20th century. The name 'Pitmean' appears on Gordon (c1650) in close association with 'Kingussiemore' and 'L[och] Goinac'. Roy (c1750) does not record the name Pitmain, but shows a considerable extent of unenclosed rig cultivation on the west side of the Gynack Burn, along with the townships of 'Ard Gaylack' (?) and 'Glen Gaynick' to the south of, and 'Broocraig' (?) to the north, of the site of the lodge, along with a small patch of woodland. Thomson (1832) shows a much greater extent of woodland, stretching up past the site of the lodge, but at too small a scale to be helpful in describing the landscape. By way of contrast, the OS First Edition (1870) shows plantations in the southern part of Glen Gynack, but only a thin scatter of trees and what may be an old field system or shieling, around the site of the lodge, a picture repeated on the OS Second Edition (1899). The later map marks the golf course (then just nine-holes) and a 'pavilion' on the west bank of the Gynack Burn. The OS Popular Edition (1928), though at a small scale, shows new planting around recently built Pitmain Lodge (see below). Other maps show what appears to be a variable amount of woodland in the glen. Although the main lodge is said to have been demolished in 1957, other estate buildings remain, and are marked as Pitmain Lodge on modern maps. Indeed, recent pictures and aerial photographs suggest that a more modest house may have been built on the site of the original lodge.

Building ownership and history

Pitmain is one of many townlands listed by Timperley (1976) as being in the ownership of the Duke of Gordon c1770. Hall (1885) notes the then owner as J E B Baillie Esq of Dochfour. According to the Am Baile website, the estate was



*Site of Pitmain Lodge
 overlooking Loch Gynack*

acquired by the immensely wealthy James Douglas Fletcher of Rosehaugh, who built a very large shooting lodge or mansion, which came to be known as Pitmain Lodge, c1914. The same website records that, after changing hands, and being requisitioned during World War II, the lodge was demolished little more than half century later in 1957, by the then owners Teocarlo Ltd. It is noteworthy that Kingussie Golf Club, founded in 1891, developed a nine hole golf course on the west bank of the Gynack Burn. This was expanded to eighteen holes in 1908, with the advice of six times Open Champion golfer Harry Vardon. Part of the course was made into a caravan park in the 1950s. Loch Gynack was dammed some years ago, and is currently undergoing redevelopment as a source of Hydro-electric power.



*Pitmain Lodge, demolished in
 1957 (see notes)*



*Inaugural golf match at
 Kingussie Golf Club 1891
 (SCRAN)*

APPENDIX

Historical notes

Hall 1885 recorded "Pitmain, by Kingussie – Proprietor J.E.B. Baillie Esq. of Dochfour. Tenant (vacant). Rent £750. This very fine shooting extends to about 24,000 acres, of which about 800 acres are arable, the remainder being first rate grouse ground ... There is a little salmon and trout fishing in about one and a half miles of the River Spey, and some loch trout fishing."
