

Cairngorms National Park Authority

Cairngorms National Park
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

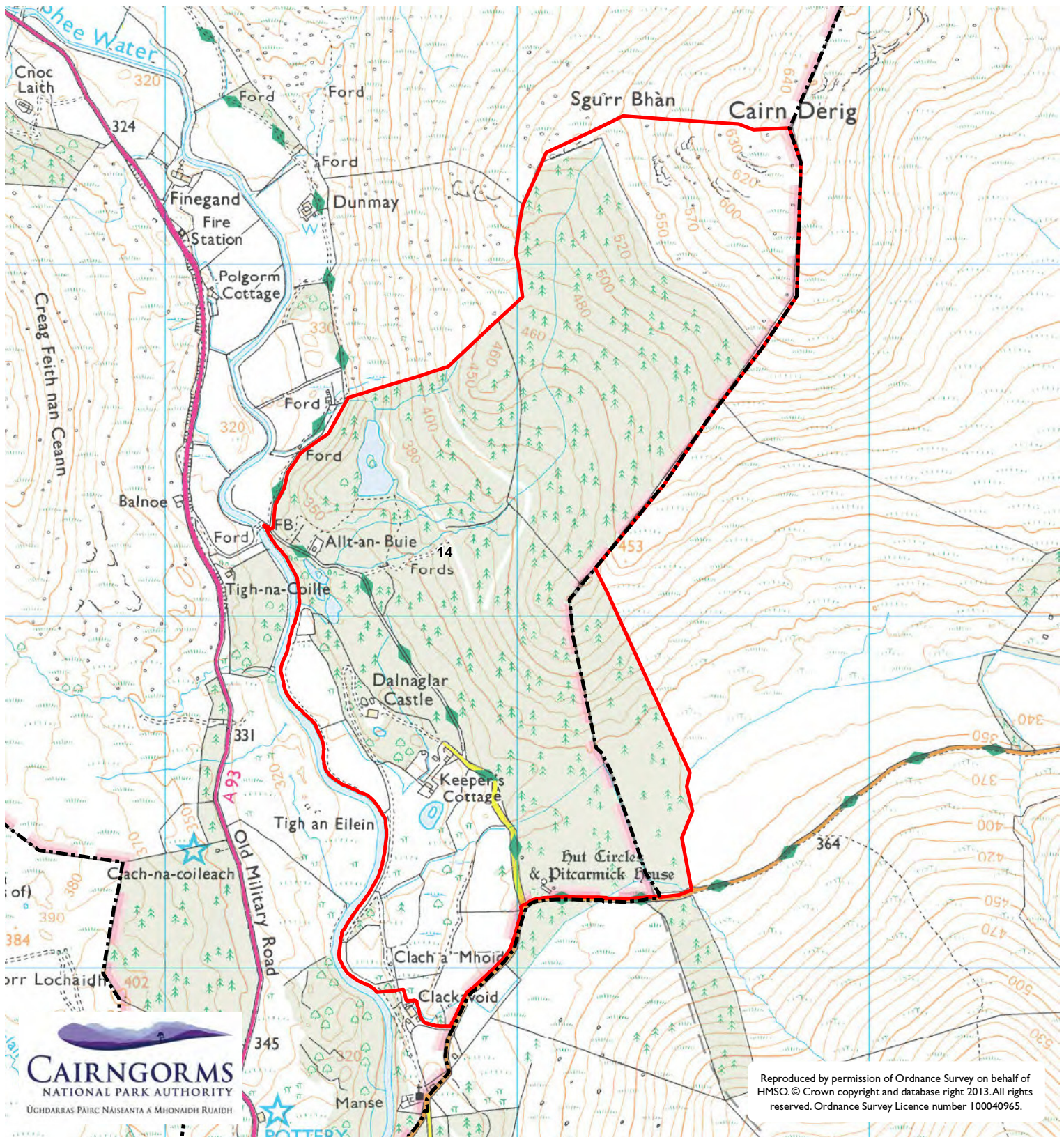
Site Research Report
14 Dalnaglar Castle

Consultants



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May 2013

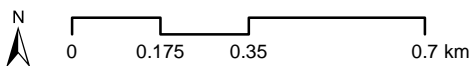


Legend

-  Cairngorms National Park Boundary
-  Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 14

Dalnaglar Castle



May 2013

14 Dalnaglar Castle

County Perthshire
Parish Kirkmichael
NGR NO 145 647; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 387 (South)

DESIGNATIONS

Listing Dalnaglar Castle, HB Number 11485 – Category C (1981)
Part of woodland on Cairn Derig Woodland designated Ancient Woodland
Majority of hill planting under Forestry Commission management
The Cateran Trail passes through the estate.

LOCATION AND EXTENT

Dalnaglar Castle stands at the foot of Carn Derig, on the east side of the Shee Water, approximately 6km south of Spittal of Glenshee, at the northern extremity of an unclassified road which runs up the east side of Glenshee, parallel to the A93. The line of the road continues northward as the Cateran Trail. The designed landscape comprises the policies surrounding the castle on the lower slopes of Carn Derig, with blocks of woodland on the rising ground to the east.

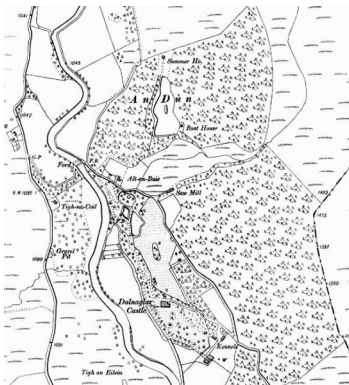
LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Map and documentary evidence

Although there is some suggestion of an earlier building of high stature, the name does not appear on maps until Roy (c1750) records 'Dalniglaer' as a small township or settlement, at the foot of Carn Derig, along with neighbouring 'Aldbui', to which it is linked by a narrow strip of unenclosed woodland. An area of rig cultivation is seen on the valley floor. Stobie (1783) records the name, apparently applied to a small group of buildings, but at a scale too small to get an impression of associated planting or landscaping. The OS First Edition (1862) shows 'Dalnaglar Cottage', with associated planting, prior to the building of Dalnaglar Castle in 1864. Much the same landscape is seen on the OS Second Edition (1898), and on later maps, save for the extension of the hill planting further up the slope of Carn Derig during the late 20th century. The OS Second Edition records part of the lower ground as parkland. There is a so-far uncorroborated report of part of the grounds having been laid out in the style of a Japanese garden at one time.



Roy's Military Survey c1750



Ordnance Survey 1:10,560
2nd edition 1898

Dalnaglar Castle, J Valentine
1898 (SCRAN)





*View of Glenshee from
Dalnaglar Castle*

Building history and ownership

Dalnaglar does not appear as a name in Timperley (1976) who lists the landownership in Kirkmichael Parish c1770. This points to the 'estate' being formed, and a higher status house being built, in the late 18th or early 19th century. Planting and improvement had evidently taken place by the mid-19th century, presumably to provide the setting for 'Dalnaglar Cottage', a precursor to the present 'castle', likely to have been built as a hunting lodge. This suggestion is supported by Haynes (2000), who notes "there appears to be an older more sedate house at the core of the baronial riot". The present baronial mansion or 'castle', which is described by Historic Scotland as a "baronial curiosity ... [with] detail coarse and incorrect" was built in 1864 for Robertson, Blairgowrie-born banker to Queen Victoria. Lack of time means that it has not been possible to determine subsequent changes of ownership, though Lyall (1880) records the proprietor as Mr D A Paterson, and Munro & Co. (1938) name Mrs E C Sharp of Dundee.

APPENDIX

Historical notes

Haynes 2000 describes "an earlier 19th century [house], given the Disneyland baronial treatment of harled towers, crenellations and pepperpot turrets".

Gifford 2007 speaks of "white harled baronial extravaganza set among trees", noting an associated statue and both cast iron and ashlar gate piers.
