

# Drum Castle, Drumoak, Banchory AB31 5EY

## Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for watching brief

**National Grid Reference:** NJ7963800491

**Parish:** Drumoak

**Written and researched by:**

Cameron Archaeology

**Commissioning client:**

The National Trust for Scotland

**Contractor:**

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located at Drum Castle. The trench is located at NGR NJ7963800491 in the parish of Drumoak.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by James Henderson, The National Trust for Scotland.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024)

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The Historic Environment Record (HER) and Canmore (HES) were consulted online within 1km of the proposed development.

- 2.1 Drum Castle (HES NJ70SE 4; Aberdeenshire HER NJ70SE0003) is a castle and mansion. The tower, believed to have been in existence before 1324, is a simple rectangular tower with rounded corners. The only original entrance was on first floor gained by means of a wooden stair, now replaced by a stone forestair, from where a door then led into the Common hall. A mural stair leads down to the cellar where there is a well. There is a newel stair in the southeast corner leading up to the Laird's hall, and both the Common Hall and the Laird's Hall contained upper wooden floors. During excavation in the Laird's Hall (Greig 1991, 34) the stone remains of the foundations of a screen were found towards the east end with a passageway between it and the east wall. A wooden stair led up to upper floor, then to a parapet with its wall-walk and an external garderobe. There are few such perfect examples of the parapet carried round the corners, and it has an unusual stepped walk. A Jacobean mansion was added to the southwest corner of the tower in 1619. A courtyard lies to the west of the tower with a brew-house and entrance gateway. The Victorians knocked through the tower to form a library out of the Common Hall and enlarged the windows in the east and south walls. A 16th/17th Century chapel lies to south-west (NJ70SE0136). To the north-east of the house is an 18th Century walled garden, gardener's cottage and laundry (NJ70SE0138). About a mile to the east is an associated lodge (NJ80SW0062). Drum remained in the Irvine family from 1323 until 1976 (Bogdan and Bryce 1991, 32).
- 2.2 Resistivity survey in September 1988 confirmed that the original courtyard lay to the west, and also recorded linear features in the lawn south of the castle, which relate to a hitherto unsuspected 'French' garden laid out circa 1619 when the 9th laird added the 17th century wing to the existing tower.
- 2.3 In 1999 part of the upper floor of the Laird's hall was reconstructed and a new stairway inserted in the northeast corner, close to where the original stairway had stood. Watching brief carried out on excavations for drainage sumps in June 1998. No artefacts were recovered but evidence was found of previous ground surfaces in the courtyard area, and a cobbled strip under the eaves of the chapel. A drainage trench was excavated in vicinity of chapel and a watching brief undertaken to establish whether any information on earlier formal garden layouts could be recovered. Deposits of silty sand and a layer of medium sized stones over bedrock seem to represent levelling fill put in place for the landscaped area around the castle. Their deposition probably post dates the early 19th century, based on ceramic finds.
- 2.4 An archaeological survey was undertaken by AOC in 2000. A watching brief by NTS in March 200 during removal of a tree stump from the site of the 17th century formal gardens uncovered evidence of landscaping possibly related to those gardens. In 2008, NTS commissioned trial excavations to be undertaken to identify the extent of the survival of archaeological features in those areas around the castle that are used for public events. A resistivity survey in 1988 had indicated that the garden plan survived south of the castle. MAS Ltd undertook the work in 2008, with an initial plan of targeting three areas around the castle for investigation: the south lawn, north of the Drum tower, and west of the Castle. The trenches on the south lawn were the first to be opened, revealing such a complexity of surviving archaeology that it was decided not to open any trenches in the other two target areas, as there was insufficient time to complete the work. In total six trenches were opened. A number of stone walls, a path and an area of paving were revealed, as well as two prehistoric flints (re-deposited) and sherds of possible medieval pottery and tiles. It is suggested that the part of the garden nearest the

mansion was a walled garden, possibly with simple geometric patterns. Through the wall, the south part of the garden included a long border along the south side. A wide pathway ran beside this and around the perimeter of the garden. The enclosed area may have been divided into slightly raised beds separated by narrow paths and revetted by low drystone walls.

- 2.5 Historic building survey of the tower, brewhouse and cross chamber was carried out by FAS Heritage in 2010 with further research in January 2011. It showed that the building represents nine phases of development, the earliest construction of the Drum Tower shortly after 1323, and building taking 4 years. A timber stair recovered from the northeast corner of the hall was dendrochronologically dated to the first half of the 15th century. Subsequent phases of development included addition of a one-storey range on the south side of the tower dated to the mid 14th -15th century. An entrance building was added to the north side of the tower in the late 15th or early 16th century, this building later reused for service use including a brewhouse, with the addition of the Jacobean south range in the early 17th century. The addition resulted in the demolition of the earlier hall range and construction of the cross range. In 2012 dendrochronological analysis was carried out of the Cross Chamber roof timbers and the castle steps. Results indicate felling of the roof timbers in the years between 1603 and 1612, comparable with dates for the Mansion House, and indicating that timber from the same woodland was used for both. Samples from the set of steps found in the northeast corner of the hall indicate original construction in the first half of the 15th century, with later refurbishment at an unknown date. Archaeological investigation was carried out in 2013 in the tower, included unblocking of two window openings on the west face of the tower, and revealed two medieval chambers, one with remains of a garderobe.
- 2.6 A watching brief by MAS in June-July 2013 on drainage works in the field southeast of the castle recorded no features or artefacts of archaeological significance. An area on the south and southwest perimeter of the south lawn was also investigated in an unsuccessful attempt to locate a well shown on an annotated estate copy of the 1899 OS map, although a well built stone channel was recorded which may have taken runoff from the well. Geophysical survey was carried out around the castle in July 2013 (Ovenden 2014, 19) aimed at mapping potential structural remains and garden features. Many elements of the formal garden were mapped within the south lawn. Ground penetrating radar over gravel/tarmac/paved areas identified several anomalies of possible interest, including possible footings of a wall associated with the tower and potential structures in the northeast of the courtyard. Excavation by MAS in May 2014 focused on three areas around the tower. In the castle courtyard this recorded a large stone-lined cesspit which would have taken waste from two garderobes within the tower. Excavation in the angle between the tower and the brewhouse recorded a building which abutted the brewhouse and the tower, and which may possibly have been a brewing room. There is limited documentary evidence for this building but it is suggested that it is shown on an 1831 engraving. Excavation south of the tower uncovered demolition rubble from a chimney which had been built against the east wall of the cross range and shown on an 1850s oil painting although it is not clear when it was constructed, a path also depicted in the same painting. Whilst the trench found no foundations for an earlier building abutting the hall on this side, there was some evidence of stone building demolished in the early 17th century in the reuse of a number of pieces of dressed stone in the 17th century path and courtyard that seem to be associated with the Cross range. A watching brief by MAS in November 2014 in the courtyard during resurfacing works recorded details of the base of the wall of the 14th century tower. A watching brief by MAS in March 2016 (Murray and Murray 2016, 16-17) during drainage trenching for the pathway west of the castle to the car park recorded cobbles that may represent an earlier pathway but no other features.
- 2.7 A watching brief was carried out by MAS in October to November 2016 (Murray and Murray 2016, 16-17) during works for a replacement drain from the southwest corner of the castle, along the south facade and north to the east of the castle.

South of the castle there appears to be evidence of a construction level with subsequent levelling of the ground south of the castle. Steps at the southwest corner appear to be 17th century in date and may relate to the formal 17th century gardens. A watching brief was carried out by Cameron Archaeology in April 2017 (Lenfert 2018, 15) on installation of over 60m of drainage ditches along the southern edge of the south lawn. This uncovered a fully functional hand-built stone culvert, which was used to assist with the present drainage scheme, No other archaeological features or finds were found.

### 3 METHOD STATEMENT

- 3.1 Cameron Archaeology will carry out a watching brief in a trench 7m long between the window and drainpipe (Illus 2).



Illus 2 Image showing location of proposed trench in blue (copyright NTS)

### 4 Reporting and finds

- 4.1 This archaeological work will follow the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and reported by the archaeological contractor to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel (National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.
- 4.3 Any human remains which are encountered will initially be left *in situ*. Their discovery will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal and the client. The Local Authority archaeologist and Planning Authority will also be informed. Their removal will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

## **5 Access and Safety**

- 5.1 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of conduct will be respected.
- 5.2 Staff will wear steel toe-capped boots, hard hats and hi-viz vests at all times. They will carry CSCS cards and present these during site induction. A health and safety risk assessment will be made and will be made available to all staff and contractors.
- 5.3 A machine with a flat-edged ditching bucket will be used at all times.
- 5.4 The archaeologist will hand clean and record any features and some will be part excavated to determine nature and depth.

## **6 Recording Systems**

- 6.1 Cameron Archaeology fieldwork number CA672 has been allocated to this site. This number will appear on all site records and finds and all post-excavation material. Cameron Archaeology recording systems will be used on this project.
- 6.2 A site location plan will be produced which will tie into National Grid and will locate Ordnance Survey bench marks and TBMs used on the site.
- 6.3 Plans of contexts will be produced at 1:20 (or other scale as appropriate) and sections of features at 1:10. All site drawings will be on polyester-based drawing film
- 6.4 The OD height of contexts will be calculated and recorded on plans, sections and level book.
- 6.5 For complex stratification, a Harris matrix will be prepared to record stratigraphic relationships.
- 6.6 A photographic record will consist of high-quality digital images for all main contexts as well as working and general site and location photographs.

## **7 Treatment of finds and samples**

- 7.1 Sampling strategies will depend on the perceived importance of the deposit or feature under excavation. Bulk samples for sieving will be taken as necessary. A selection of samples will be sent for analysis by specialist archaeological soil analysts.
- 7.2 Finds will be exposed, recorded, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in line with archaeological guidelines. Metalwork will be assessed, a selection will be x-rayed and selected for conservation.
- 7.3 Organic samples will be collected or sampled and subjected to conservation, dendrochronology, carbon 14 sampling or other analytical technique as necessary.
- 7.4 Cameron Archaeology can confirm that arrangements are in place to cover all necessary processing, conservation, specialist analysis and subsequent storage of finds and samples.

## **8 Post-excavation and publication**

- 8.1 The responsibility for funding the Post-Excavation work lies with the client/developer. A report will be prepared for the client within 4 weeks of the end of fieldwork and if appropriate a Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) will then be produced

outlining the scope of post-excavation work. The results of which will then be collated into a final Data Structure Report (DSR).

- 8.2 Publication will take place in a suitable journal. The costs for this publication are also the responsibility of the client/developer.

## 9 Archive

- 9.1 Copies of the fieldwork report will be sent to the applicant and the Local Authority archaeologist.
- 9.2 A brief summary of results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, along with the appropriate fee.
- 9.3 An OASIS report will be completed for this site within 4 weeks of the end of fieldwork.

## 10 REFERENCES

**Bogdan and Bryce, N and I B D.** (1991) '*Castles, manors and 'town houses' survey*', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 1991.

**Greig, M.** (1991) '*Drum Castle (Drumoak parish): castle*', *Discovery Excav Scot*, 1991.

**Lenfert, R.** (2018) *Drum Castle, Watching brief, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 18, 2017*. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

**Murray and Murray, H and C.** (2016) *Drum Castle (driveway), Watching brief, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 16, 2015*. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

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**Murray and Murray, HK and JC.** (2008) '*Drum Castle - South Lawn, Drumoak, Aberdeenshire (Drumoak parish), excavation*', *Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 9, 2008*. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

**Murray and Murray, JC and HK.** (2015) *Aberdeenshire, Drum Castle, Watching brief, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 15, 2014*. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

**Murray, H and C.** (2017) *Drum Castle (Pathway), Watching brief, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 17, 2016*. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England.

**Murray, J C.** (2002) '*Drum Castle, Aberdeenshire (Drumoak parish), excavation*', *Discovery Excav Scot, vol. 3, 2002*.

**Ovenden, S.** (2014) *Drumoak, Drum Castle, Geophysical survey, Discovery Excav Scot, New, vol. 14, 2013*. Cathedral Communications Limited, Wiltshire, England

## 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to James Henderson, NTS for initiating this project.

## APPENDIX 1

### Archaeological and historical sites within 0.3km of the proposed site (NRHE and Aberdeenshire HER online)

#### Aberdeenshire HER

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	OS NGR	Classification
HERABER	NJ70SE0104	Drum Castle	NJ 79440 00769	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0117	Old Wood Of Drum	NJ 79349 00551	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0009	Drum Home Farm	NJ 79945 00329	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0206	Drum Castle Laundry	NJ 79832 00580	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0138	Drum Castle Walled Garden	NJ 79882 00633	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0176	Drum Castle, The Kennels	NJ 79460 00727	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0144	Drum Castle	NJ 79680 00500	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0003	Drum Castle	NJ 79634 00458	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NJ70SE0136	Drum Castle Chapel	NJ 79576 00465	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0178	Drum Castle, Home Farm	NJ 79472 00287	Standard
HERABER	NJ70SE0008	Drum Home Farm	NJ 79807 00310	Regionally Significant
HERABER	NJ70SE0015	Home Farm, Drum	NJ 79619 00236	Standard

#### HES

Dataset	Dataset UID	Name	OS NGR	Classification
Canmore	18550	Drum Castle	NJ 79620 00494	POTTERY SCATTER (POST MEDIEVAL), POTTERY SCATTER (MEDIEVAL), STEPS (17TH CENTURY), TOWER HOUSE (MEDIEVAL), WALL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), WATER CHANNEL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333857	Drum Castle	NJ 79602 00533	ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339484	Drum Castle Policies, Castle North Lawn	NJ 79602 00533	ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)



Canmore	110843	Drum Castle, Walled Garden	NJ 79873 00644	BOTHY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), STRUCTURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), WALLED GARDEN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	340703	Drum Castle, South Lawn	NJ 79627 00411	FORMAL GARDEN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339485	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79388 00583	FIELD BOUNDARY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333870	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79360 00571	QUARRY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339506	Drum Castle Policies, Old Quarry, Cowie Hill	NJ 79360 00571	QUARRY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339486	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79339 00519	FIELD BOUNDARY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333858	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill Stone	NJ 79361 00488	STANDING STONE (PREHISTORIC)
Canmore	339493	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill Stone, Kitchen Bog	NJ 79361 00488	STANDING STONE (PREHISTORIC)
Canmore	333888	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79351 00612	CLAY PIT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE), POND (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE)
Canmore	339487	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79351 00612	CLAY PIT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), POND (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339488	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79409 00638	CLAY PIT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333889	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79409 00638	CLAY PIT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE)
Canmore	333890	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79411 00674	CLAY PIT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)(POSSIBLE)
Canmore	339489	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79411 00674	CLAY PIT (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339501	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79431 00703	CLEARANCE CAIRN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333862	Drum Castle Policies, Cowie Hill	NJ 79431 00703	CLEARANCE CAIRN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	110846	Drum Castle, The Kennels	NJ 79450 00730	KENNELS (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339526	Drum Castle Policies, Walled Garden North	NJ 79792 00719	BANK (EARTHWORK) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FIELD BOUNDARY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339525	Drum Castle Policies, Walled Garden North	NJ 79811 00718	MOUND (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333860	Drum Castle Policies,	NJ 79811 00718	MOUND (MODERN)

Canmore	339614	Drum Castle Policies, Laundry	NJ 79833 00580	LAUNDRY (19TH CENTURY) - (20TH CENTURY)
Canmore	339483	Drum Castle Policies, Back Of Steading	NJ 79408 00305	CLEARANCE CAIRN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333877	Drum Castle Policies, Home Farm Parks	NJ 79481 00335	CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339498	Drum Castle Policies, Home Farm Parks	NJ 79481 00335	CIRCULAR ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	110845	Drum Castle, Home Farm	NJ 79480 00310	FARMHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), FARMSTEAD (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339523	Drum Castle Policies, Triangular Park	NJ 79844 00392	FIELD BOUNDARY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	347462	Drum Castle, South Drive	NJ 79683 00396	DRIVE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	347800	Drum Castle	NJ 79591 00399	DRAIN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339615	Drum Castle Policies, Pet Cemetery	NJ 79573 00427	CEMETERY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333867	Drum Castle, South Lawn	NJ 79656 00469	PLATFORM (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), SUMMERHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339612	Drum Castle Policies, Former Summer-House	NJ 79656 00469	PLATFORM (PERIOD UNASSIGNED), SUMMERHOUSE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339504	Drum Castle Policies, Laundry Park	NJ 79730 00533	CLEARANCE CAIRN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333861	Drum Castle Policies, Laundry Park	NJ 79730 00533	CLEARANCE CAIRN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339611	Drum Castle Graveyard	NJ 79568 00440	CEMETERY (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	18545	Drum Castle, Chapel	NJ 79573 00465	CHAPEL (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339532	Drum Castle, East Bank Field	NJ 79624 00230	CROPMARK (PERIOD UNKNOWN)
Canmore	333868	Home Farm, Drum	NJ 79624 00230	CROPMARK (PERIOD UNKNOWN)
Canmore	18555	Drum Castle Policies, Middle Field	NJ 79792 00291	CROPMARK (PERIOD UNKNOWN), ENCLOSURE (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	333886	Drum Castle Policies, Kitchen Bog	NJ 79357 00429	CLEARANCE CAIRN(S) (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)
Canmore	339499	Drum Castle Policies, Kitchen Bog	NJ 79357 00429	CLEARANCE CAIRN (PERIOD UNASSIGNED)

APPENDIX 2 MAPS



Illus 3 Gordon's A map of Easter Scotland of c1636-52 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



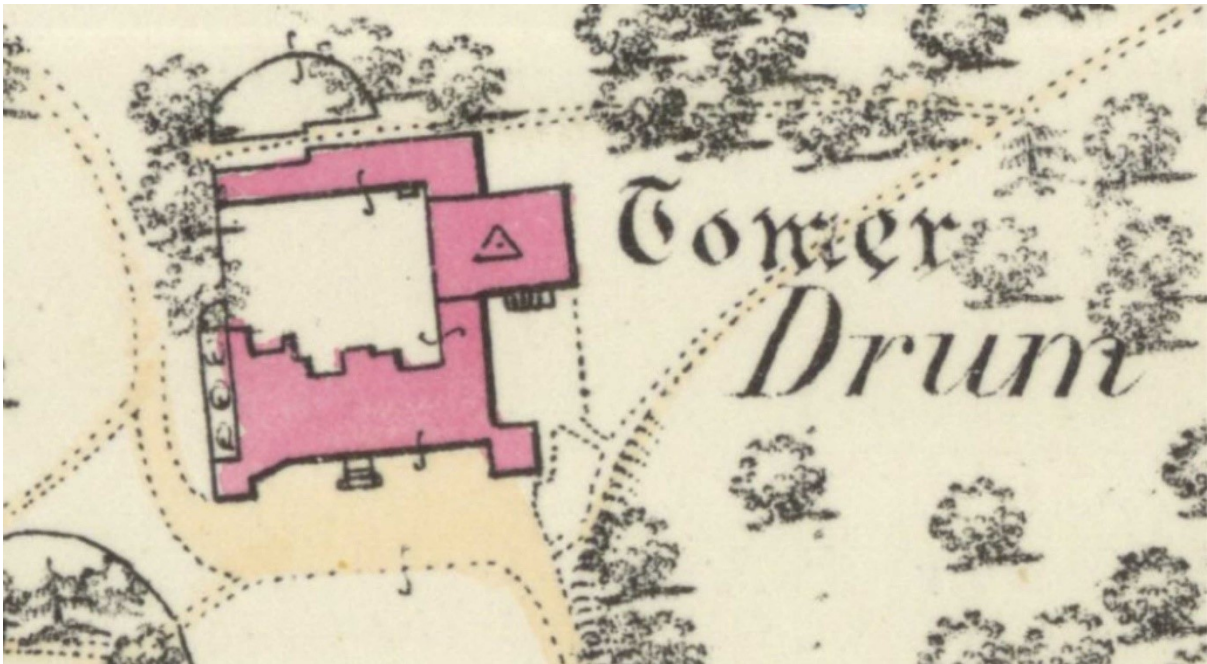
Illus 4 Blaeu's map of 1654 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



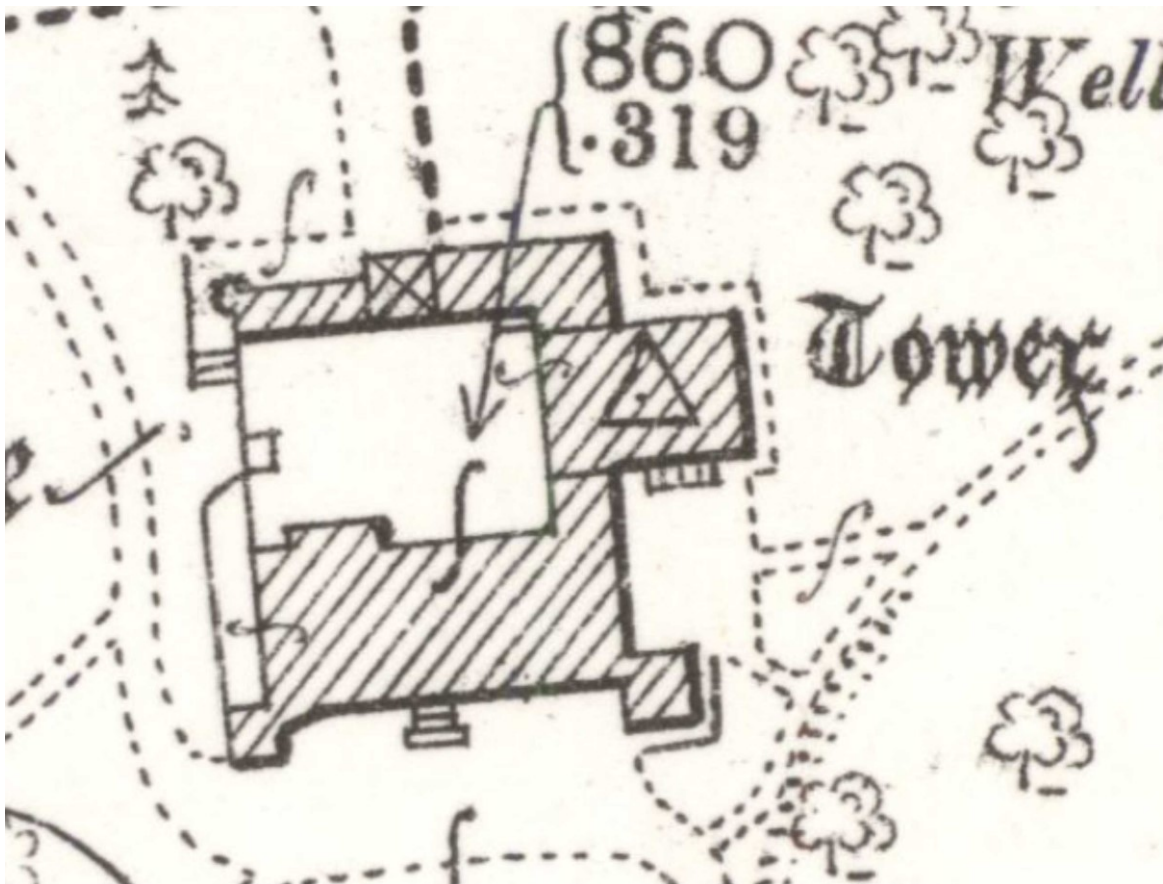
Illus 5 Moll's map of 1745 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 6 Roy's map of 1747-55 (copyright National Library of Scotland)



Illus 3 First Edition OS map (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire LXXXV.9 (Drumoak) Survey date: 1865, Publication date: 1866



Illus 4 Second Edition OS map (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire LXXXV.9 Revised: 1899, Published: 1900