

The Beehive Cottage, Garvald.

July 2008

Carried out on behalf of Dr & Mrs Hay



connolly • heritage • consultancy

Buildings Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant

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References

DES entry

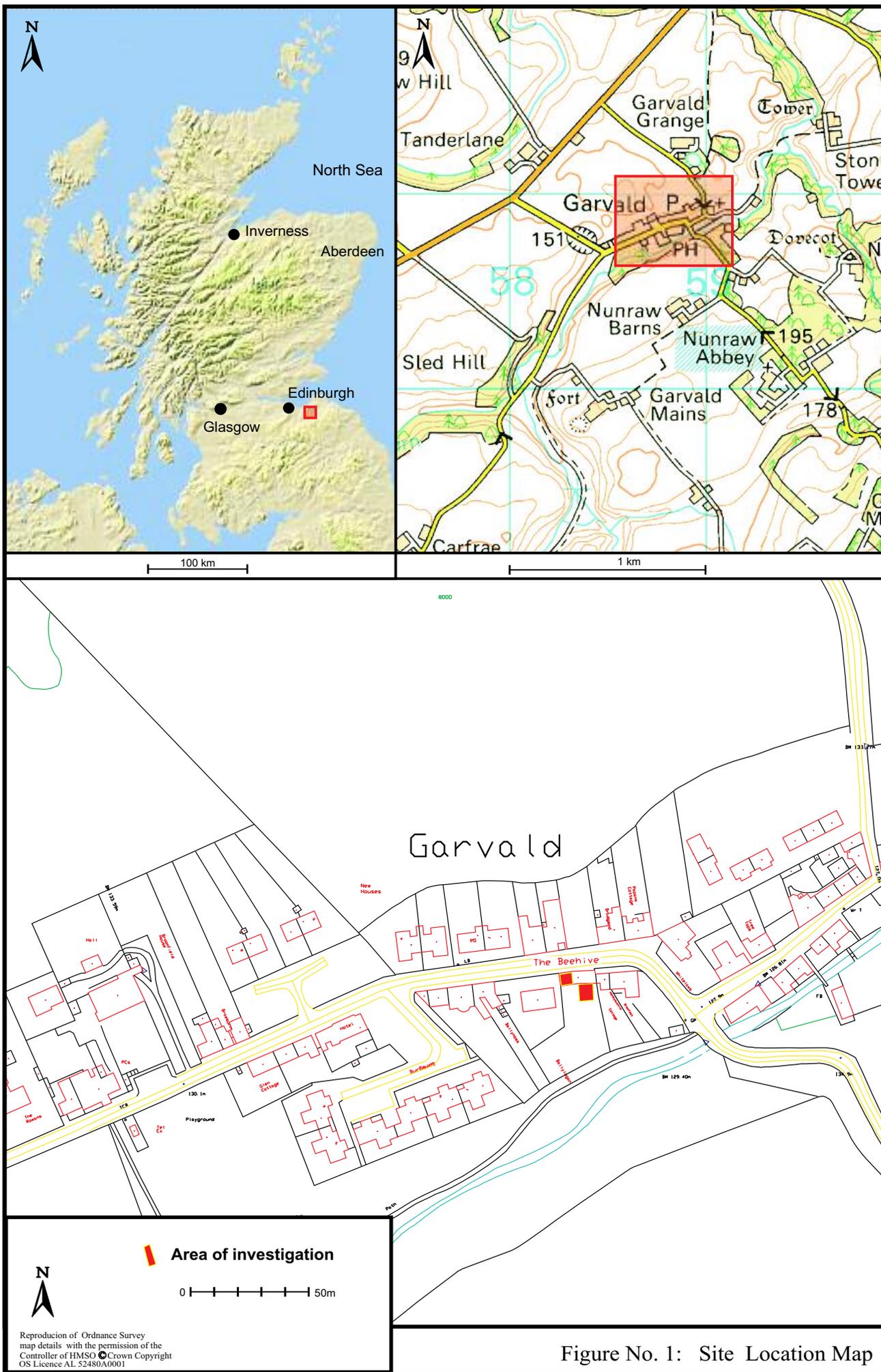


Figure No. 1: Site Location Map

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief and buildings appraisal was required due to an archaeological condition being placed on the development at The Beehive Cottage, Garvald. The site is located, within an historic village, and fronts onto the main road, with the south boundary delimited by the Papaná water. The work consisted of visual inspection of the standing structures to investigate the potential impact of proposed works on the fabric, and an intrusive evaluation on the line of the extension foundations to a depth of +700mm to ensure no archaeologically significant deposits would be impacted. These works were commissioned by Dr and Mrs Hay, the current occupiers of the property. The work was undertaken on the 24th July 2008, and was restricted to the area to be impacted by development works..
- 1.2 The work will enable the East Lothian Archaeological Officer to decide on the need for further work, or the removal of this particular condition
- 1.3 Further work is not advised based on the nature of the archaeological deposits uncovered. The fabric of the building that will be impacted by building work dates primarily to the late 1960s, and is of limited architectural value. No further action is recommended.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Site location

The site is located to the south of the main road of Garvald and forms part of the historic centre of 'Garvald Kirk', as it was previously known, at NT 58850 70825 (Fig. 1).

2.2 Site History

No prior work on this site has been carried out by professional archaeologists or historians, however, the previous occupants of the cottage have produced a short document (see appendix 4) that details their own research.

The village lies in a narrow, well-sheltered valley; the land rises very abruptly to the south after the bridge crosses the Papaná. At one time there were two breweries, three public houses, and as the village sits on a red sandstone formation, it was known for its stone masons and quarries.

Garvald itself is known to have been in existence since the 12th century if not earlier, and lies on one of the routes south across the Lammermuirs – indeed both James IV's army and Cromwells are supposed to have passed through this small village, as this was a major route.

There is a close connection with church lands, and Nunraw lies closeby to the south.



Figure No. 2: Trench Location

The Beehive Cottage, Garvald

The site itself is associated with a brewer and innkeeper in the 1780s, one James Robertson – who raised the original cottage a further storey. (see Fig 4) However, the brewhouse and inn, would likely have been located elsewhere, and this structure served mainly as the family home.

The full story of the property can be read at the rear of this report, however, as no references are given, the veracity of the contents cannot be checked, and it lies outwith the remit of this programme of works to carry out any further documentary research.

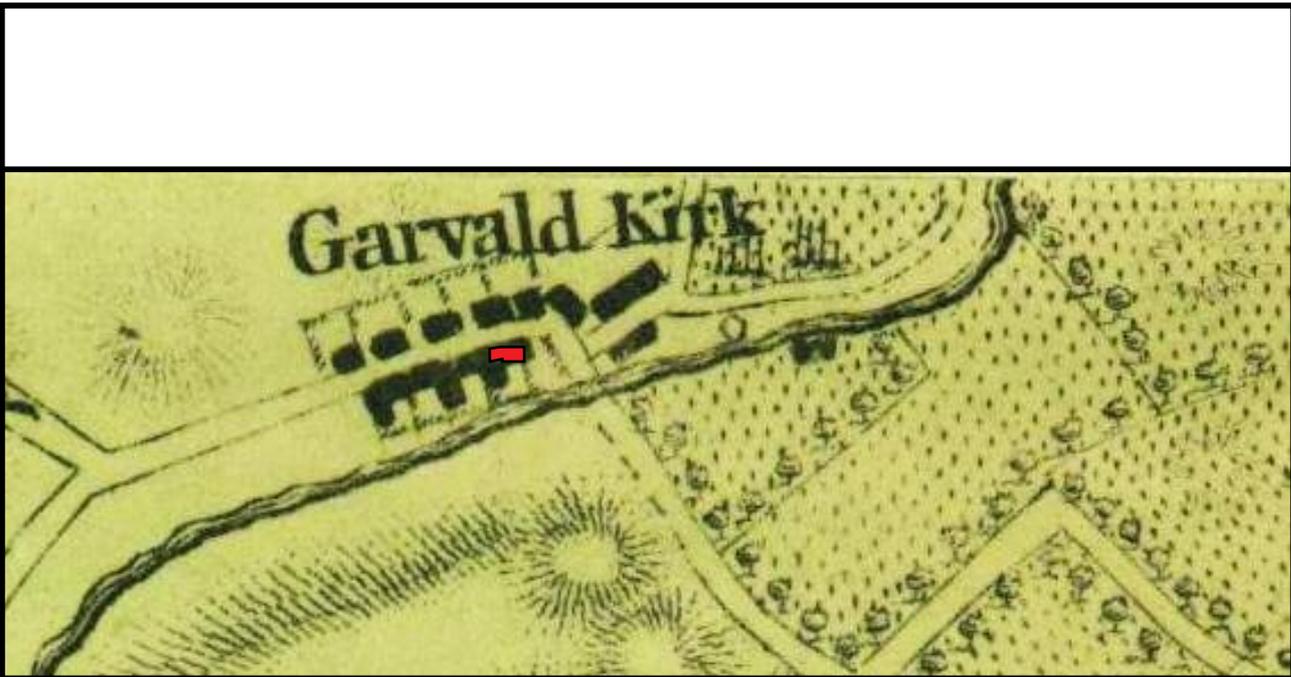
Map regression on the site was conducted, however, the level of detail is not sufficient to establish groundplan changes. It is clear however, that the development area is this part of Garvald ‘Kirk’ is part of the core settlement. (Fig. 3)

3.0 OBJECTIVES

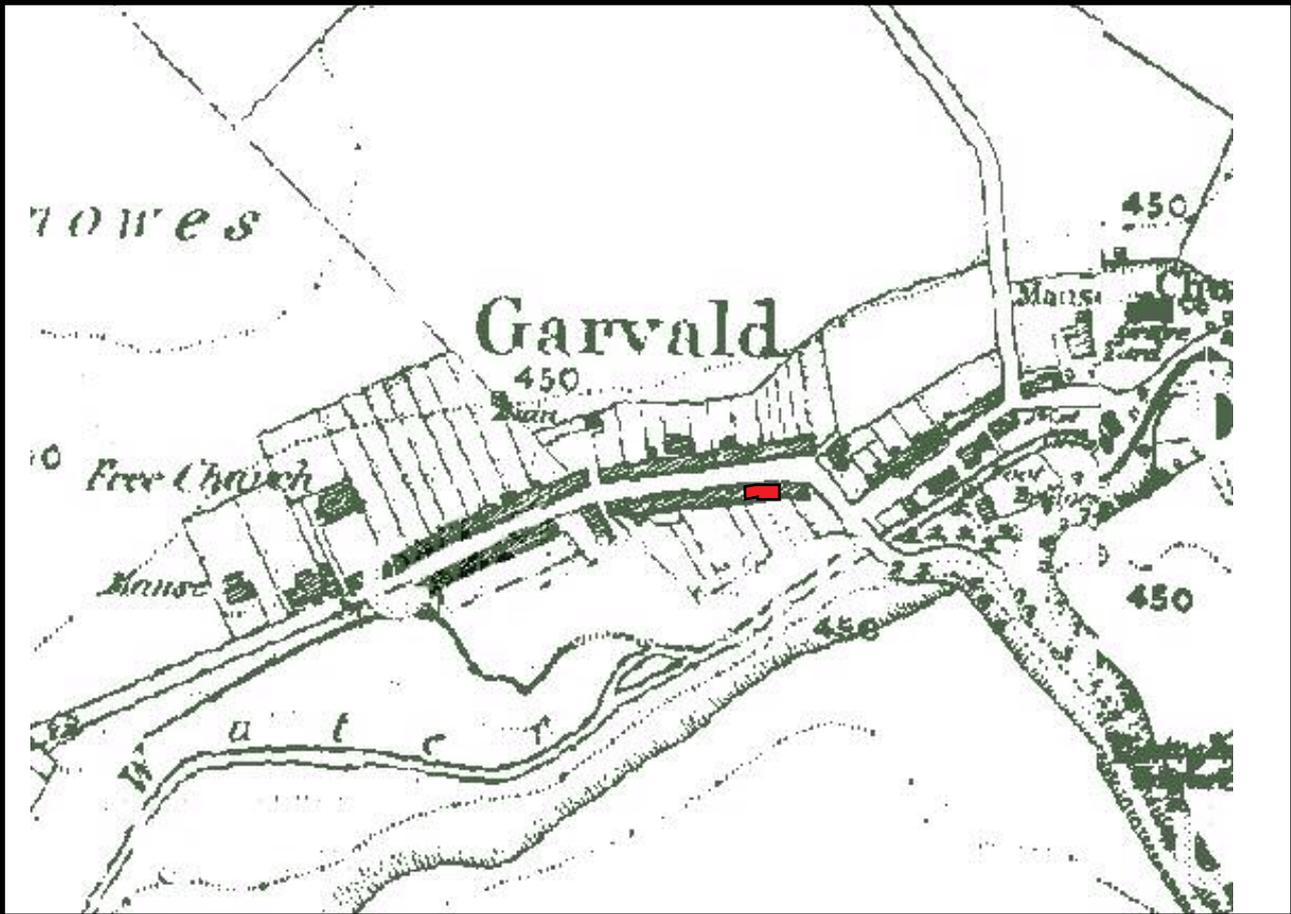
- 3.1** The basis for investigation is to examine the presence of any substantive remains in this early medieval village that may survive in the backlot to the rear of the property, which may show the evolution of the frontage to its present form. No backlot features are expected, as most elements, such as bread ovens, brewery pits etc are located to the end of the backlot, however, special consideration will be taken to check for the presence of pits and other negative features. Walls, drains, earlier land divisions etc will also be examined.
- 3.2** As no intrusive work has been carried out in this location before further, the relationships of the present standing structures will be examined as part of the investigation.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** Three trenches were excavated using a Kubota mechanical digger fitted with a 1.2m flatbladed ditching bucket. All surfaces examined and were then hand cleaned prior to further excavation. Trenches were excavated until natural was reached, and a small sondage was excavated through the natural for a further 300mm to ensure it was not redeposited. The trenches were located along all three sides of the proposed extension.
- 4.2** Each context was cleaned, levelled recorded and photographed using a 10 Mega-pixal digital camera, before further examination.
- 4.3** The elevations were photographed, and notes made on constructional details.
- 4.4** Artefacts were collected and are presented in appendix 3.



Forrest, William, fl. 1799-1832



1st Edition OS map (1854)



Figure No. 3: Map regression

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Fieldwork

The work was undertaken over 1 day on the 24th July 2008, with fine weather and good visibility of soil changes. The garden soil was of even thickness across the evaluated area and was c. 300-350mm in depth and the distinction between layers was marked.

The various datasets from the investigation are presented in the appendix section; Context list (Appendix 1)Photographic list (Appendix 2), Finds register (Appendix 3),

5.2 Trenches (Fig. 2)

5.2.1 West trench; length 3.8m width 1.2m final depth .62m with sondage to .75m
Removal of topsoil [1001] to a depth of circa 320mm revealed a mixed mortar and sandstone fragments layer in a silty clay matrix [1002] which contained several sherds of 18th century pottery and bottle glass. Removal of this thin layer revealed a mixed clay/soil but artefactually sterile deposit [1003] this lay directly on a final natural layer [1005] that was of pink/red clay. This layer began at c. 520mm beneath the ground surface, but excavation continued to a depth of c. 750mm beneath ground surface to ensure it was not a redeposited surface.

5.2.2 East trench; length 3.2m width 1.2m final depth .65m
The removal of topsoil [1001] revealed the line of a sandstone wall [1004] which bounded the concrete slab floor that lay directly outside the south east door in the rear elevation. The wall was constructed of red sandstone with a dark pinky-cream mortar. Foundation reaching only a further 300mm beneath the ground surface. The pattern of layers was exactly the same as in the west trench, with a layer of mortar and sandstone fragments at c. 350mm and natural clay at 520mm.

5.2.3 South trench; length 3 m width 1.2m final depth .65m
The removal of topsoil [1001] in this trench did not expose any trace of the construction debris layer [1002], but overlay the original landsurface [1003] This in turn overlay the natural clay, again at a depth of 510mm. No artefacts were recovered from this trench at all.

5.3 Building (Fig. 4)

5.3.1 Rear elevation and other structural notes were taken though it should be stressed that little historic fabric of the structure will be affected during the proposed development. The rear of the cottage shows a clear sign of raising, and documentary evidence suggests that James Robertson, the innkeeper, added a second storey to his residence (the Beehive) in the 1780s. The barn has been extensively altered, and very little of the original fabric remains, none being affected by current works. The structure has been added to the west of the cottage at an angle, and the join to the quoins of the cottage is clear. However, the wallhead does not extend beyond the original height of the main building, so it is possible to ascribe this to between 1720 and 1780, when the main building was raised. The lower window openings are all of 1960s date, though this does not preclude early openings, there is no evidence to confirm the possibility. The door to the east of the rear elevation shows evidence of raising of the lintel, where tooling is markedly different on the upper two jambs. This fits with a late 19th / early 20th century raising of the garden level [1001], and the construction of a small extension bounded by wall foundations [1004]. The floor of this extension is of concrete on a loose rubble base associated with this wall and concrete floor is a distinct wraggle line for a pitched roof. The wraggle line itself is cut by a further window in the 1st floor, which shows an insertion that post dates the removal of the extension. The other upper floor windows seem to suggest a late 18th century date, and would have been dormer in style, though there to have been altered to their current form, with the removal of the dormer above the roofline. The rear of the property has been much altered, and retains little of the original form. The main fabric of the original cottage can be little older than the 1700s. Record photographs were taken of the front of the property.

5.4 Artefacts

5.4.1 All artefacts were recovered from the interface between [1001] and [1002] and date exclusively to the mid to late 18th century. The artefacts consisted of glass bottle shards and general cooking and tableware ceramics, including recognisable mid/late 18th century Prestonpans wares.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The programme of evaluation has shown that in the areas of investigation there are no archaeological constraints within the zone of proposed development.

A large amount of topsoil has been brought in the late 19th or early 20th century, and has raised the garden by some 320mm. This also goes some way to explain the raising of the east door in the rear elevation, due to the raising of the exterior ground surface. This soil is clearly for gardening use, as it is a rich and well sorted topsoil, this may relate to the use of the rear space as a garden in the 19th/20th century.

Beneath this topsoil lies [1002] which represents a phase of construction or alteration that fits well with the 1780s phase of adding a storey to the main building, evidenced by mortar and sandstone fragments as well as the mid/late 18th century pottery and bottle artefacts.

The sandstone wall [1004] exposed in the east trench represents a late 19th/early 20th century extension from the southeast corner of the main structure. The wall surrounds a concrete floor, and further evidence for the extent of this structure is visible as a wrangle line in the rear elevation.

The barn to the west, has been extensively altered, and is secondary to the original single storey cottage, but prior to the heightening of the main building, giving a date of early to mid 18th century.

The fabric of the structure to be removed and altered is of no architectural value, and represents a later 20th century phase of alteration.

The suggestion that this was the site of a brewery is in some doubt, given the nature of the structure, and the lack of features within the immediate vicinity of the cottage, within the rear garden. Any such activity would have taken place at a distance from the house, and any non domestic 'industrial' activity should be located towards the river.

We therefore recommend that no further works pertaining to the archaeology of this particular development are required.

David Connolly July 2008

East

West

Wraggleline for 19th century extension

Roofline raised

Doorway raised

Area of fabric to be removed

Area of Extension

barn joined to existing cottage

Later 1960s insertion

Later 1960s insertion

0 |-----| 5m



Figure No.43: Rear Elevation, south facing

Appendix 1 Context Register

Context List – BCG08	
Context	Description
1001	Topsoil layer of well sorted garden soil – c. 350mm depth (beneath ground surface)
1002	Thin (c. 30mm) pinky-brown silty clay with frequent sandstone fragments and mortar – c. 350mm depth (beneath ground surface)
1003	Original ground surface a mixed silty clay, sterile from anthropogenic material – c. 400mm depth (beneath ground surface)
1004	Sandstone and mortar wall footings surrounding a concrete base, 540mm wide and forming an extension from the southeast corner of the cottage.
1005	Natural pink red clay – c.600mm depth (beneath ground surface)

Appendix 2 Photo Register

Photo Record List – BCG08 - Digital				
Photo ID	Site Code	Description	Direction from	Date
1	BCG08_01	Area of wall on elevation to be removed for extension – shows inserted windows	S	24/07/2008
2	BCG08_02	Area of wall on elevation to be removed for extension – shows inserted windows	S	24/07/2008
3	BCG08_03	Record shot of area – pre-excavation	S	24/07/2008
4	BCG08_04	Record shot of area – pre-excavation	S	24/07/2008
5	BCG08_05	Record shot of area – pre-excavation	N	24/07/2008
6	BCG08_06	Record shot of Trench west – 1002 exposed	S	24/07/2008
7	BCG08_07	Record shot of Trench west – 1002 exposed	S	24/07/2008
8	BCG08_08	Record shot of Trench west – 1003 exposed	S	24/07/2008
9	BCG08_09	Record shot of Trench west – 1003 exposed	S	24/07/2008
10	BCG08_10	Record shot of Trench east – 1004 wall	S	24/07/2008
11	BCG08_11	Record shot of Trench east – 1004 wall	S	24/07/2008
12	BCG08_12	Record shot of Trench east – 1004 wall	W	24/07/2008
13	BCG08_13	Record shot of Trench east – 1004 wall	W	24/07/2008
14	BCG08_14	Rear (south) elevation	S	24/07/2008
15	BCG08_15	Rear (south) elevation	S	24/07/2008
16	BCG08_16	Rear (south) elevation	S	24/07/2008
17	BCG08_17	Front (north) elevation	N	24/07/2008
18	BCG08_18	Front (north) elevation	N	24/07/2008
19	BCG08_19	Front (north) elevation	N	24/07/2008
20	BCG08_20	Front (north) elevation	N	24/07/2008
21	BCG08_21	Front (north) elevation general	NW	24/07/2008
22	BCG08_22	Front (north) elevation general	NW	24/07/2008

Appendix 3 Artefact List

Artefact Record List – BCG08		
Trench	Context	Description
1	1002	15 various sherd glazed redware and creamware (1 rim and 1 base) (18 th century) 11 fragments of bottle glass (18 th century)



References

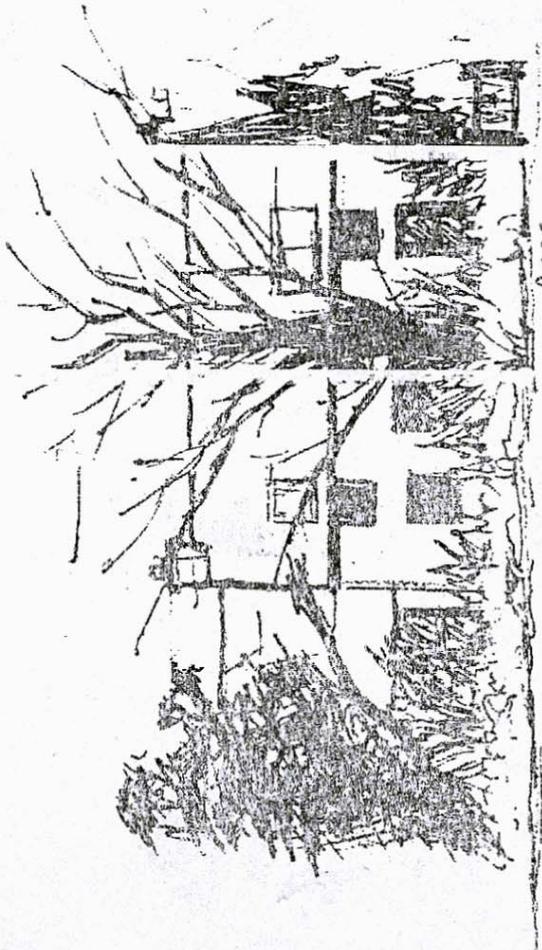
Forrest, William, fl. 1799-1832

Ordnance Survey Map 1854 Haddingtonshire 1:2500 scale map surveyed 1852

Reports/publications:

The story of a house – The Beehive, Irene Anderson, 2001

THE STORY
of a
HOUSE



The Beehive

Irene Anderson

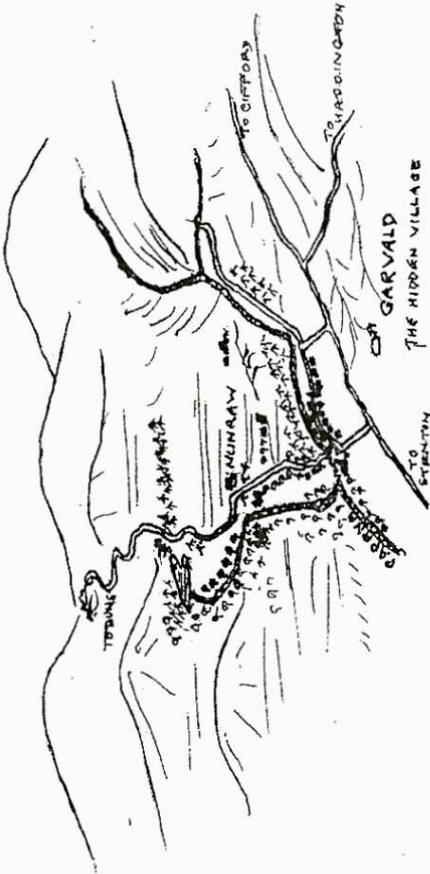
Garval

2001

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INTRODUCTION



It is impossible to tell how long there have been people living on this site. When did the earliest settlers come down from the hills, and settle beside the Papanas?

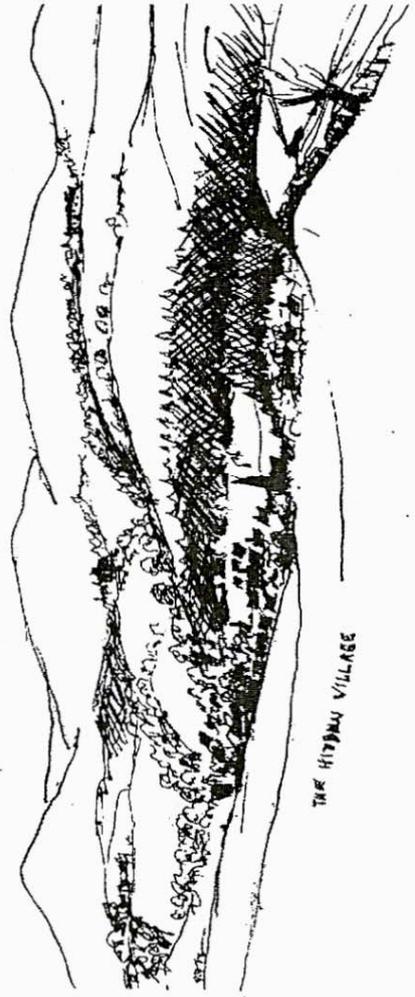
At the end of the twelfth century the nuns of the abbey in Haddington were granted the land for a Grange in Garvald. Hence the name of the farm on the south-east of the village. The original farmhouse was on a bluff much nearer the stream and the old village was on the Grange land. At the same time the church was commended to their care. The Norman stone work of the oldest walls of Garvald church goes back 1000 years. The red sandstone was quarried locally and skilled masons worked it. There must have been a village for these men, and those who worked on the grange with the nuns. Some of the basic stone walls of the cottages must go back to that time.

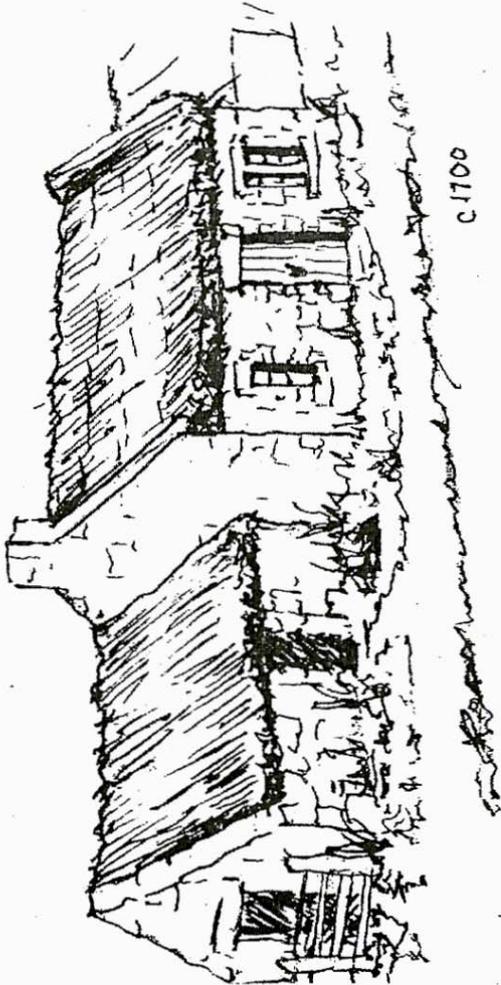
The road through the village was an important route from the Lothian lowlands, through the gap at Whitecastle, to the Whiteadder valley and the Merse. This was the route some of the troops sent by James IV used, when they assembled at Ellem on the Whiteadder to prepare for the Battle of Flodden in 1514. James himself is believed to have passed this way. They must have stopped for some refreshment.

The road was a 'Turnpike' road, which meant that travellers had to pay tolls. The Papanas bridge would seem to be an obvious site for a toll house. The stone walls of the Beehive are part of this history, it was one of the inns in Garvaldkirk.

The basic walls of the house are over a metre thick and one can still see the outline of the original door next to the present front door. There must have been some old thatched buildings where the 19th century cottages stand; which were possibly the byres, as most old Scottish cottages adjoined the byre. To the right of the fireplace in the house is a doorway which would have led to the byre. There would have been access to it from the road. In a later 'Feu' for the cottage next to the other side of the garden, it specifically states that the tenant is not to pile his dung on the road, but to take it up and spread it on Garvald Grange land!

It is only with the arrival of the Robertson family that we know the name of the innkeeper.





THE ROBERTSONS

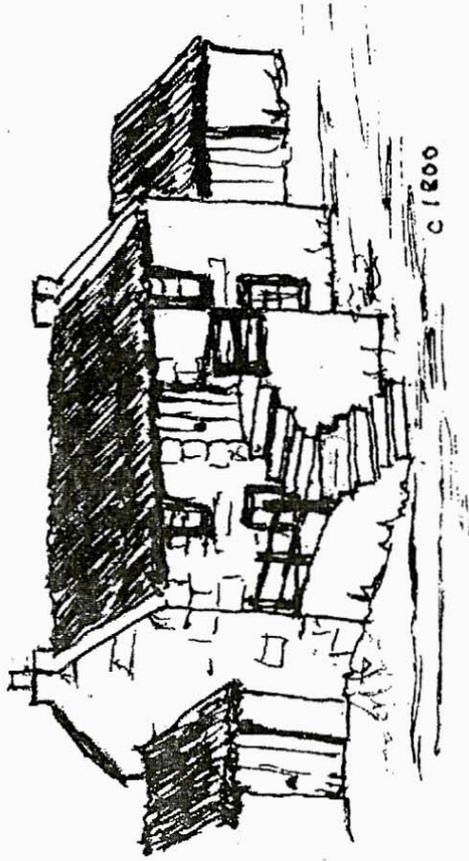
In Dr. Martine's reminiscences about early nineteenth century Garvald; one of his favourite characters was "Old Bannety"; his nickname for James Robertson. Apparently he was so called because of his habit of always wearing a bonnet. There were several inns in Garvald at that time, but Robertson is the only innkeeper named.

James was born in 1746, the son of James Robertson and Alison Kemp at Little Newton. This was a farm immediately north of Carfrae, now incorporated into that farm. James did not marry till he was 33, on 2nd November, 1779. His wife was Elizabeth Jameson, a member of the extensive Jameson family in the parish. James was never a prominent member of the parish church, and he was reprimanded by the kirk session because he was married in Haddington, presumably by one of the dissenting ministers. When his first daughter was born, (8. 1. 1781), he was working at Slaid, an old farm just west of the village, now part of Tanderlane. When his son James was baptised in 1783 he was employed Tanderlane, where his father was the grieve. His brother William was also working there and was to become innkeeper of Crossgatehall on the east side of Morham.

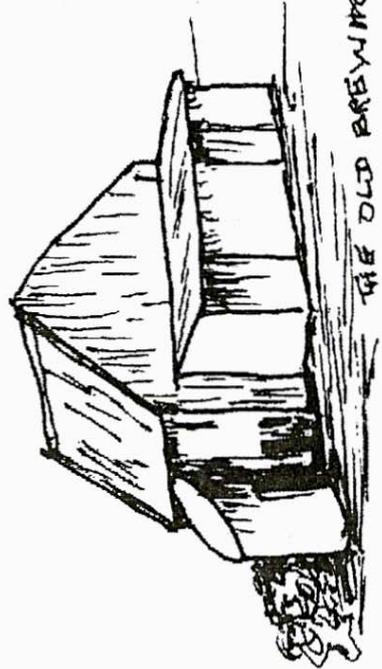
Sometime around 1785 James came to live in the village and had five more children, Betty in 1787, Alison in 1791, Catherine in 1793,

Agnes in 1796, and John in 1800, by which time the father was 54.

It was in the 1780's that James Robertson took over the present Beehive as brewer and innkeeper. I think at that time it was a single story house with a door a little to the left of the present front door. He added the upper floor of the house, giving it a thatched roof, an exterior flight of stone steps from the left hand side; and a door above the present door.



I think the brewhouse, which was sited at the north-west end of the land, and had a circular stone staircase to the upper floor belonged to that period.



Initially Robertson was a tenant of the property. At that time all the land from Garvald Grange, through the east end of the village, along the burn side and up to Garvald Mains belonged to the Douglas family, who came from Newbattle. Towards the end of the eighteenth century it became possible for tenants to register ownership of their land and pay a feu to the overlord. It seemed to take several years to finalise this legal process.

The entry in the Register of Sasines dated 3. 11. 1827 reads, 'To Jas. Robertson, Brewer, Garvald, Oct. 30th 1827, 294/1000 acres of ground and the houses thereon in the village of Garvaldkirk on the feu charter by the Factor in loco tutoris to William Douglas of Garvald dated Dec, 1st, 1814. I think the Papano burn was the southern boundary of the land, as that is specified in the feu of the property next door.

Some time in the 1830s son James inherited the property from his father. The fact that the feu stated 'and the houses thereon' in the plural, suggests that there may have been buildings to the east of the house. After all there were seven children growing up and it was an inn with accomodation for travellers. There is still a recess to the right of the fireplace which seems to have been an old doorway, giving access to the cottages. Another possibility is that it gave direct access to the byres. To the west of the house there was a sizeable barn which opened to the west, which is now converted to the garage and kitchen.

According to Dr. Martine in his account of Garvald in 'Ten Parishes of East Lothian' published in 1890, Bannety Robertson and Cooper Neillans were great pals. Neillans lived just the other side of the bridge towards the kirk, he built the substantial house there some time later. He was a skilled craftsman and was much in demand in the big houses, going round and repairing the casks in which the beer was brewed. He was also skilled at making other wooden articles like cogs and bickers (from which porridge was eaten). He used to take his wares over the hills to Lauder fair. Together the two men became experts at distilling 'mountain dew' or illicit whisky; and knew the remote and hidden places, and how to avoid the excise men. One of their stills was in a glen called Wanside (spelt 'oneside' on the old maps). This was a remote farm up a narrow glen behind Stobshiel, on the north-west side of Lammerlaw. There is now a reservoir there, but in the old days the glen was wooded, which would hide the smoke from the distillation fires.

Presumably the men had a horse and cart in which to take all the things they needed for their ploys, but it would take most of a day to get to Wanside and they would have to supervise the distillation. Meantime Elizabeth had the inn and seven children to look after.

Bannety died some time in the 1830s, and his son took over. The Parish Minister gives a list of male heads of households in 1838 and it is son James who is listed. His sister Alison married Coltman who ran a baker's business at the bottom end of the village, (the curved wall at the foot of the road from Stenton is that of the old bakehouse).

By the time of the censuses of 1851 and 1861 only the two unmarried sisters are left in the house, Elizabeth was the eldest and Catherine 12 years younger. The rental was valued at £4 a year, (cf Whitelaws £15). The census states that there were only two rooms with windows, which confirms that there were no living quarters downstairs. Meantime it is recorded in the Sasines that Buchan-Sydsersf of Ruchlaw bought the property in 1849, I have no idea why. At the 1871 census the property was uninhabited. When Wingate Gray bought Nunraw from Robert Hay, this was listed as one of the cottages in the village that went with the estate. I could not find a Sasine when Buchan-Sydsersf must have sold it to the Nunraw Hays. At some point during this period the house must have ceased to be an inn.

SNUFF TOKEN FOUND IN THE KIRKYARD



THE LINTONS

In the late 1870s John Linton, his wife Agnes Watt, and at least, two of their children came to live in Garvald.

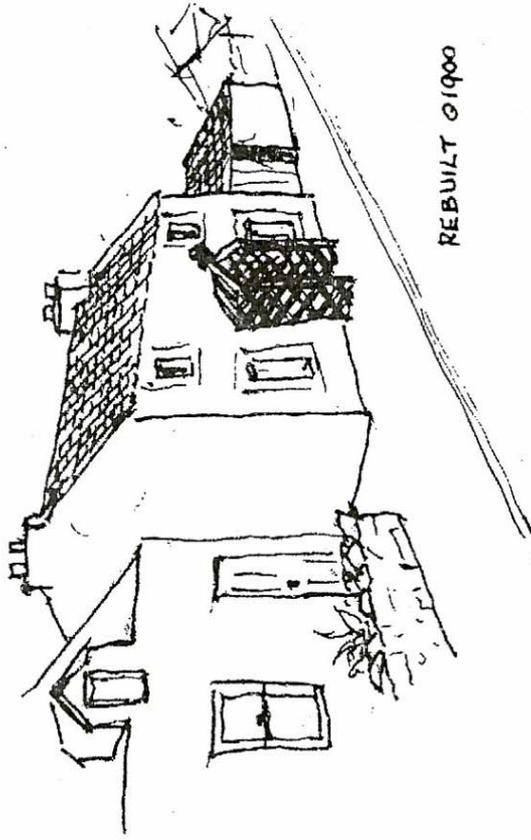
John belonged to Stonehaven. At that time vast quantities of slate were being brought by sea from Ballachulish, round the north of Scotland, to the port of Leith. They were being extensively used in the development of buildings in Edinburgh. John, having served his time as a slater, must have come from Stonehaven to Leith to look for employment. Meantime Agnes Watt had gone to the city, probably 'in service'. She came from the Watt family, who worked on farms in the southern part of Garvald parish, and was possibly born at Snawdon. John Linton and Agnes Watt married in the Free Church in Leith, Agnes was four years older than her husband, who was born in 1849. Their first two children were born in Leith, John in 1872 and Agnes in 1874; and possibly Ellen in 1878.

In 1880 Col. Wingate-Grey bought the estate of Nunraw, this included a number of cottages in Garvald village, as well as farms, woods and agricultural land developed by the Garvald Hays. One of the properties was that of the brewhouse and the land around, between the burn and the village street. Evidently Wingate-Grey decided to employ a slater and was probably influenced by the fact that Linton was a fellow member of the Free Church; and Linton took the opportunity to come to work in his wife's home village. Along with the job, he was given the tenancy of the Brewhouse property. Maybe because of his Free Church background, Linton changed the name to 'The Beehive'! The rent of the cottage was £5 per annum and a small feu had to be paid to Balfour of Whittinghame. In the 1881 census it states that there were two rooms with windows. This indicates that the first floor was considered the living quarters, going up the outside stair.

By the 1881 census, the Lintons had two or three more children, Ellen (or Helen), who was three, and the twins, William and Charlotte, who were just one year old. Because the parents were members of the Free Church their baptisms do not appear in the parish records.

During the 1880s, John worked to improve the cottage. He removed the outside stair. The stone frame of the upstairs doorway can still be seen in the centre of the wall.

He lifted the well-worn sandstone steps of the outside stair and took them inside and turned them over to make a stair in the middle of the house. This was eventually boxed in and covered with wooden treads. There was never anything but an earth floor downstairs, but the cooking must have been done there; and the rising main is still under the left-hand window, where there was an ancient stone sink. He made a neat little wooden porch at the front door, which appears in the earliest photos of the village street.



Son John was trained to join his father in the building trade, but as a master joiner; and he was brought up in the evangelical ethos of the Free Church.

In 1886, a Glasgow business man, Sir William Mackinnon, established a company, with the authority of the Sultan of Zanzibar, to combine commerce with mission in parts of the Sultan's territory. In 1888 it became the British East African Company, and in 1891 Mackinnon set up the East African Scottish Mission, to combine religion, medicine, education and industry. The first recruits arrived in East Africa in 1891 under James Stewart of The Free Church,

who was already at Lovedale in South Africa. He reported a catalogue of diseases, unsuitable sites and inexperience resulting in much loss of missionary life and health.

I do not know how young John Linton was recruited, but he sailed for East Africa in 1892 and in January 1893 died of a fever in Kibweze, a town on the railway, halfway between Mombasa and Nairobi, in what is now Kenya.

John and Ann in Garvald were shocked to lose their first born in his 21st year, and naturally blamed the Free Church for recruiting him, and sending him to Africa at such an early age. I wondered why the memorial stone is on the wall of the Parish Church and not the Free Church; but I discovered that in 1889, three years before their son sailed away, the Parish Kirk session received a letter from the Free Church minister giving permission for Mr and Mrs Linton to transfer their membership. Initially the Parish Kirk session were doubtful about the form of the letter; but the matter must have been resolved, because in the autumn their daughter Agnes was admitted as a young communicant, and joined her mother and father at the November Communion. Mr and Mrs Linton became two of the most regular communicants in the Parish Church, until they died in the 1920s. On the wall of the church, above the sundial is the poignant memorial to their eldest son:-

JOHN LINTON, ARTISAN MISSIONARY
died 3.1.1893, KIBWESE EAST AFRICA

It is only since I learnt that John Linton was a slater, that I looked closely at the roofs of the houses in and around Garvald. The oldest houses have pantile roofs, whereas those built or rebuilt around 100 years ago have slates. For example Viewpark which was rebuilt by one of the Dickson family, himself a mason, has slates.

In the 1890s the houses east of the Beehive were built on Beehive land. I have recently had proof that Linton was the slater. In September 2000 considerable extensions were being made to Honeysuckle cottage immediately next door to the Beehive. In a recess in the stone wall the workers found a 4oz. tin which had contained "Fruit Health Salts" - "Prepared from fresh ripe fruit and specially adapted to remove all impurities from the blood".

Inside the tin was a strip of brown paper torn from an envelope. On this were a number of pencil signatures. They were not all legible but they included:- Builders - J. Burnside, A. Dickson. Masons - W. Halliday. Labourers - A. Dickson. Dated 1896 and finally 'signed' John Linton, Slater, July 1896.

Originally the block consisted of three cottages. The first two were just two rooms, one up and one down, and a tiny scullery. They shared the same chimney stack. Braefoot was at right angles to the others and twice the size, had a stone wall all round the garden. Since there was so little room in the Beehive, perhaps Linton's growing family lived in the smaller cottages and they shared wash-house and earth closets where the wall is at the bottom of the garden near the burn. There was never a wall south of the Beehive where Linton planted ash trees, the last of which was felled in 1960.

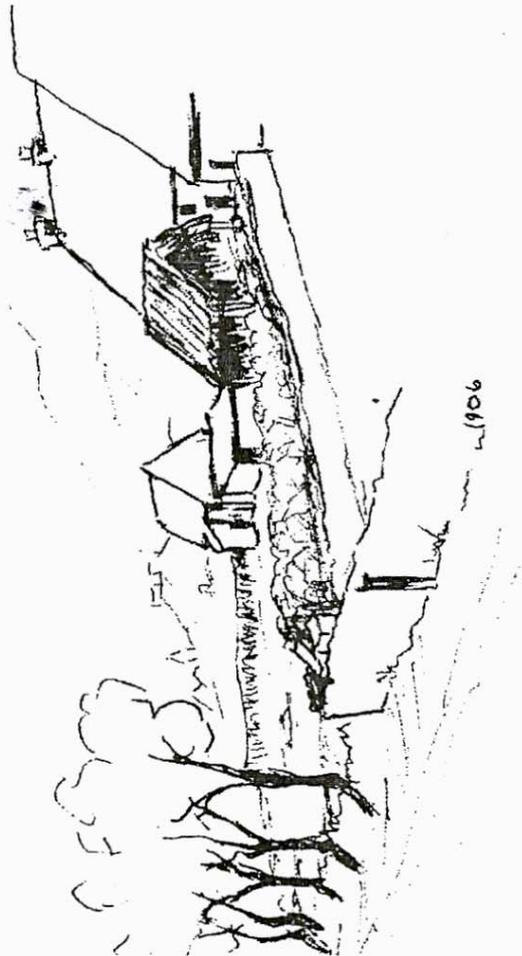
Shortly after the cottages were built the first two girls got married; Agnes to Thomas MacFarlane of St Stephens Street, Edinburgh in June 1898; Helen to James Farr of Leslie Place in June 1899. When Charlotte the youngest got married it was her twin brother, William, who witnessed the entry in the kirk records. In December 1905 she married Thomas McMinn, a blacksmith of Gilmore Street, Kilmarnock. His father-in-law must have set him up in business in Garvald since, when their first child was baptised in September 1908, their address appears as 'The Beehive'; proof that Linton gave the house that name. Two years later at the baptism of their second child 'The Beehive' is crossed out and Ormiston substituted.

So evidently McMinn only worked as a blacksmith from the Beehive for a comparatively short time.

There is a photograph taken from the hillside across the Papana in 1906, which of course had not yet been planted with coniferous trees. This shows the line of ash trees at the bottom of the Beehive garden.

Behind them one can see to the left, the old brewhouse, with a short stone built circular stair to the first floor. There is a lean-to shed on the end of the brewhouse. In front of the old cottage there is a curious thatched shed, where perhaps Linton worked on his slates. These buildings had all disappeared by 1960. The bottom of the garden was a hen run, and there was also a vegetable patch.

I do not know how long Linton continued to work as a slater. He and his wife continued to live in the Beehive. After the daughters married, they had a young girl as a housemaid. Mrs Linton died in 1922, aged 77 and John in 1924 aged 75.

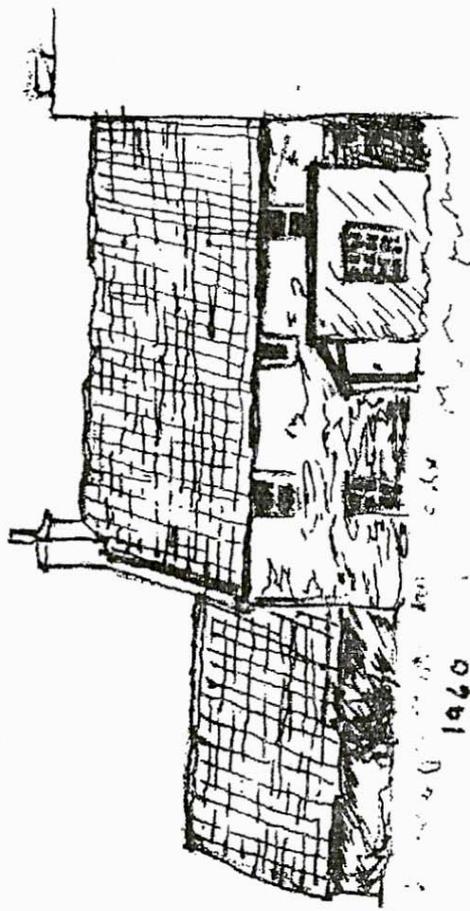


1925 - 1960

After the death of John Linton and his wife there were no regular tenants for a number of years. This was the period when Garvald became a popular holiday village for families from Leith. The railway to Gifford was still open, and especially in the summer, Leith families would come out to the country by train. There was a horse and trap to meet the train, and the dung cart was scrubbed out for the children. In the school holidays the mothers brought their children, and the men came out to join them at the weekend.

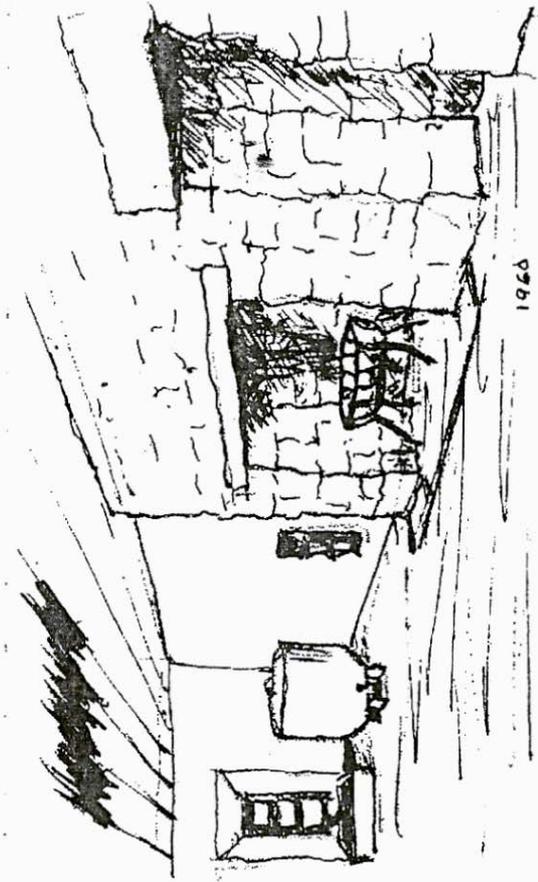
The families would happily camp in the semi-derelect cottages. Even in the early 2000s people still talk of those idyllic holidays and several families have kept up their connections with the village 70 to 80 years later.

There were of course adequate shops, including a popular baker. The Beehive was one of the holiday homes. The tenants stayed upstairs and there was a fireplace in what is now the main bedroom.



When the second world war broke out some of the families 'evacuated' to the village and the children increased the numbers in the village school.

After the end of the war the Beehive again had permanent tenants. Two brothers were born to a ploughman called James Steele, James at Chester's in 1885 and David at Garvald Mains in 1886. They never married and spent their working lives as agricultural labourers in the parish. When they retired, about 1950, they came to live in the Beehive. It was in a run-down state with no electricity or sanitation, just one cold tap at an old stone sink, and an old boiler.

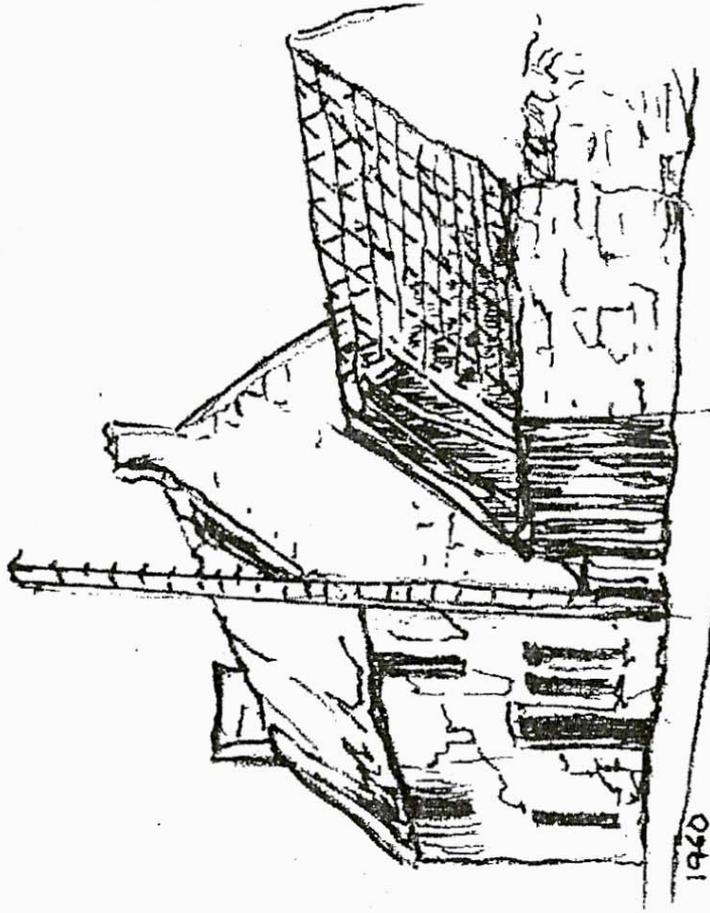


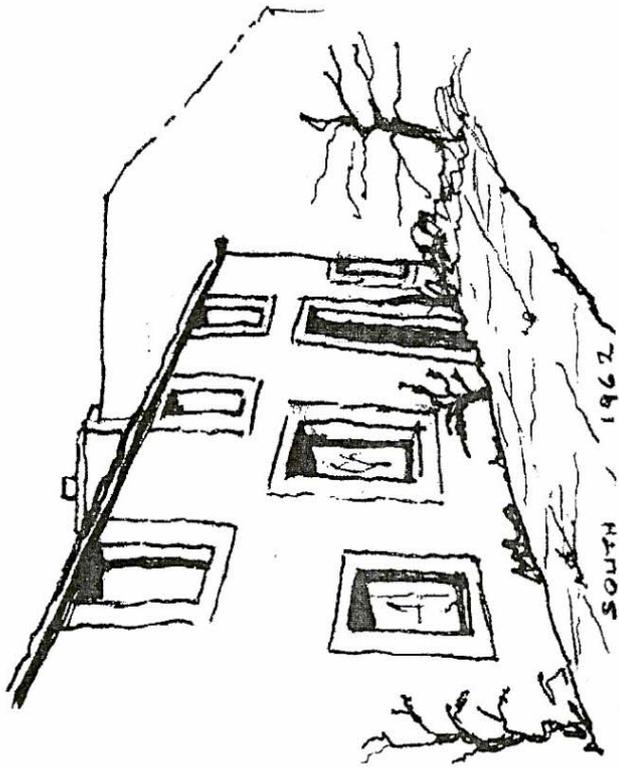
There was a good fertile garden and the villagers were happy to buy vegetables, eggs and flowers from the brothers. By this time the monks of Nunraw owned the property and it was an act of charity to give a home to the men. When eventually the men were taken to sheltered housing, some of the villagers swooped on the garden and despite the tales I was told of its beauty, all I could find in the summer of 1960 was one lonely border carnation.

On the earth floor was an ancient arm chair and, where a sapling had taken root, one could look up through the panicles to the sky.

In the 1920's the Police House was down near the bakery and the Post Office. Some time later a quarter of the Beehive land to the west was taken to build a two bedroom Police House, together with an office, and a cell. Evidently a policeman was not expected to want a very big garden, so a fence was made across, leaving the Beehive with an L shaped garden. In the 1960's it was no longer considered necessary to have a village policeman, and the property became a private bungalow.

late 1950's





THE MODERN BEEHIVE

In the summer of 1960, when I was on leave from Ghana, encouraged by my sister and brother-in-law, I was looking for a cottage in East Lothian. At that time the late Frank Tindall was anxious that disused properties in the county should be restored in keeping with their original character; and he gave us a list of possibilities. We were on an expedition, looking at such buildings and had my young nephews in the car; so we stopped at Mrs Bolton's shop in Garvald, as she sold old fashioned sweets. We looked across the road and saw the ruined Beehive and found out from Mrs Bolton that it belonged to the Monks of Numraw.

The following morning my brother-in-law rang the Abbot to find out whether they would sell us the cottage. Maybe the fact that at the time James was Chaplain to the University was to our advantage! Years later one of the Monks recalled what happened. The rule of the order is such that decisions had to be made by all the Monks in Convocation. The Abbot told them of our request. They reasoned that the land was worth £200. The County had put a demolition order on the house. It would cost £150 to carry this out. So, if I paid them £50 they would not be out of pocket!

I have been grateful to them ever since!. Meantime Mrs Bolton owned the small barn at the end of the cottage and sold it to me for £10.

I was lucky that the architect, Ian Arnott had recently started work in the county, and the restoration of my cottage was just the type of job he wanted; and he decided to employ a series of local craftsmen.

The first impression of the cottage was gloomy. As you opened the front door a boxed-in stair went straight up. To the left was an earth floored room with a big open grate, an old army type boiler, an ancient stone sink with a cold tap in the window recess and a broken-down armchair.

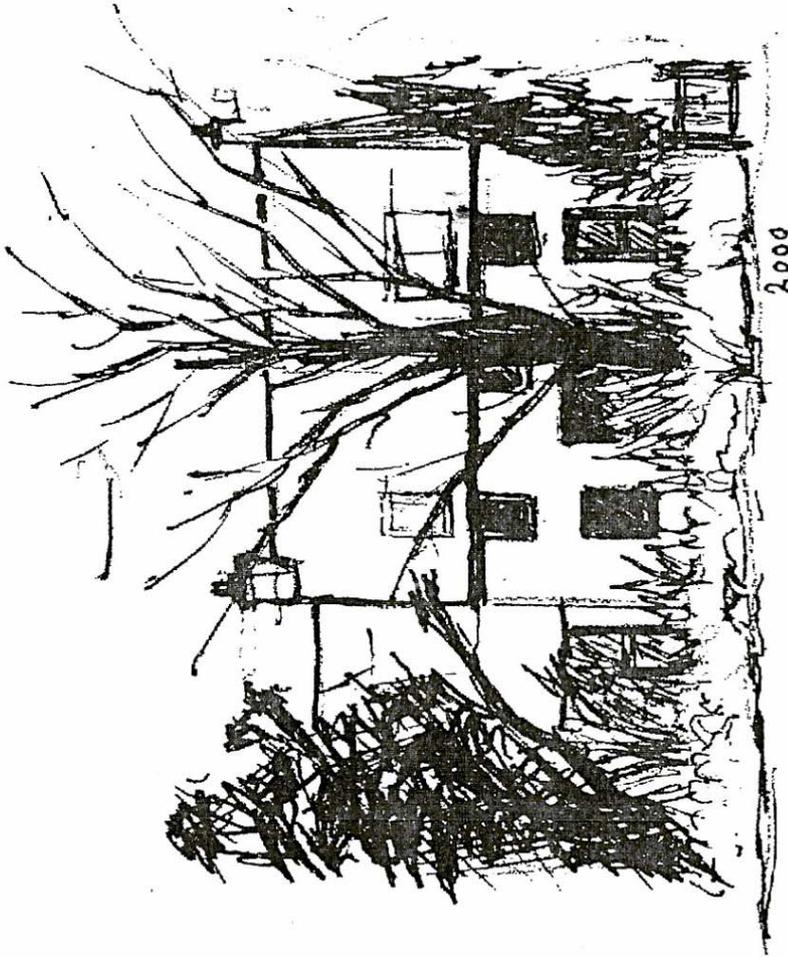
A sort of scullery had been built at the back through which you got access to the garden, which made the room very dark. The ceiling was only about 6'6" above the floor. The garden was just weeds.

The plans for restoration combined the need to follow modern building rules yet keep the traditional character of the house. The ceiling of the ground floor had to be raised. This means that the original bedroom windows are knee high, so double-glazed roof lights had to be made in the pantries; but the original pantiles were restored. The outer walls had to be clad, so Canadian pine panelling was being used in the style of a traditional Scottish cottage. An open plan was adopted for the ground floor, with a modern wooden staircase. The old stone walls at the fireplace and at kitchen ends were left exposed.

There was an elderly craftsman, employed by Chisholm, the Haddington joiners, who made an expert job of fitting the panelling. None of the window recesses was the same size or shape and he had to measure them separately to fit the panelling, which in 2000 is as good as it was forty years ago.

A passage was made through the solid stone wall, into the single storey barn, which was divided to make a kitchen and a garage. In a cupboard in the kitchen there was an oil burning device to supply hot air through under floor ducts. Unfortunately this proved unsatisfactory, and was replaced by night-store electric heaters. At the sitting room end, the iron fire basket with gleaming copper hod, looked impressive but was inadequate in the Scottish winter. On a visit to upstate New England I experienced a Norwegian wood burning stove and was able to buy one locally and it is much more functional.

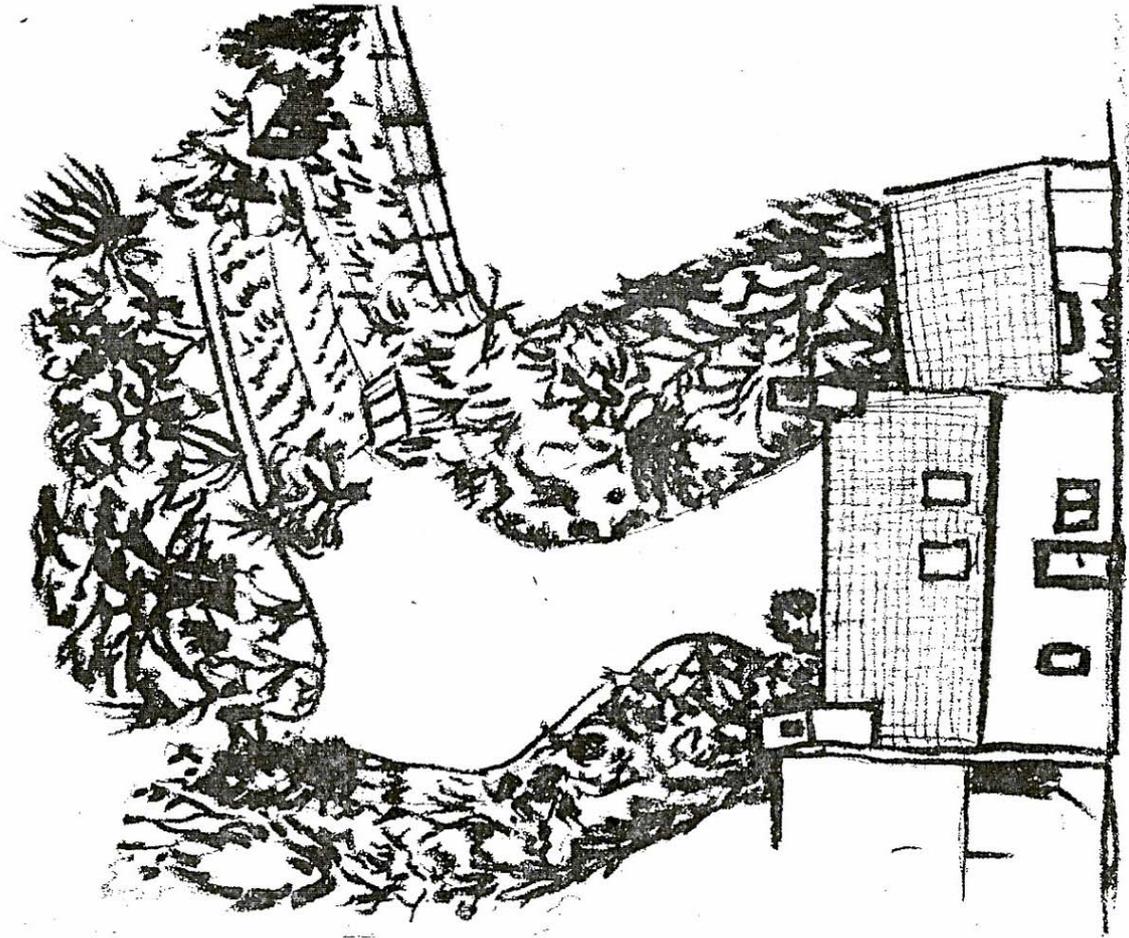
The timber 'up and over' garage door of the 1960's proved to be too narrow for a 1990's small car, and the replacement is only just wide enough!



POSTSCRIPT

A photo published in 1906 shows a row of ash trees at the foot of the garden, which John Linton must have planted. In 1960 only one remained and it was uprooted in 1961; and at the same time Tom Catleugh ploughed the whole garden. The new beginning was initiated when he planted a tiny copper beech seedling which in 2000 has become a mature tree, dominating the garden; and the vast range of trees, bushes and plants have all been established since then.

PASANO



THE HOUSE & GARDEN
FROM THE AIR (1980s)



BCG08_01.JPG



BCG08_02.JPG



BCG08_03.JPG



BCG08_04.JPG



BCG08_05.JPG



BCG08_06.JPG



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Discovery and Excavation Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY: East Lothian

Site Name: The Beehive

Parish: Garvald

Name of Contributor(s): David Connolly (Connolly Heritage Consultancy)

Type of Site or Find: 18th-century cottage and backlot

NGR (2 letters, 6 or 8 figures): NT 58850 70825

Report:

An archaeological investigation prior to a rear extension of an 18th century cottage within the medieval core of Garvald. Excavation to a depth of 700mm exposed the construction debris of a late 18th century building/alteration to the property, a late 19th/early 20th century stone wall extending from the southeast corner of the property and the depth of the clay natural at a depth of 520mm beneath the existing ground surface.

No significant archaeology was uncovered, and examination of the fabric to be impacted by the proposed works shows that very little historic material will be removed, with most of the area being heavily altered in the 1960s.

Sponsor(s): HS, Society, Institution, Developer, etc. (where appropriate):

Dr and Mrs Hay

Address(es) of Main Contributor(s):

Connolly Heritage Consultancy

Traprain House

Luggate Burn

Whittingehame

East Lothian

EH41 4QA