

BRAEMAR CASTLE ENVIRONS ABERDEENSHIRE

Archaeological desk top and walkover survey



Carried out 31st July 2013
by
Murray Archaeological Services Ltd



Report No: MAS 2013-17
by
H K Murray and J C Murray

H K Murray BA, PhD, MIFA, FSA Scot
J C Murray BA, MIFA, FSA Scot, FMA
Hill of Belnagoak, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7JN
Telephone: (01651) 806394 e-mail: cmurray@btinternet.com

BRAEMAR CASTLE ENVIRONS

ABERDEENSHIRE

Archaeological desk top and walkover survey

1. Background
 - 1.1 An archaeological desk top and walkover survey of the environs of Braemar Castle, Aberdeenshire, was required as part of a wider landscape survey, prior to the preparation of plans for a proposed extended car park, new visitor centre and changes to access routes and paths.
 - 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by Vanessa Stephen on behalf of Braemar Community Ltd. A walkover survey was undertaken on 31st July, 2013.
2. Methodology
 - 2.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council and in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (RCAHMS).
 - 2.2 The 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.
 - 2.3 All easily available military maps and plans of the castle and environs were consulted.
 - 2.4 Archive photographs were consulted on SCRAN, St Andrews University photographic collections, Aberdeen University photographic archive and all relevant photographs and images on display in Braemar Castle were photographed.
 - 2.5 All features were plotted using a Magellan Mobile Mapper CX.

- 2.6 A full catalogue of photographs taken for the survey is in Appendix 1 of the report. A full set of photographs will be supplied on CD to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen, to the NMRS and to Braemar Community Ltd.

3. The Site

The area of the survey included the grounds directly around the castle, on the N side of the A93 Braemar to Aberdeen road. It also included part of a field to the W of the castle adjacent to the present car park (Illus 10, 15).

Parish: Crathie and Braemar

Castle : RCAHMS Site No NO19SE 4 (NGR 15604 92374) (Also known as Mar Castle).

Motte: RCAHMS Site No NO19SE.15 (NGR NO1560 9240)

Historic Scotland Listed building category A. (Listed 1972) Curtain wall descheduled 1996.

4 Brief Historical background

The castle was built in 1628 as a strategic stronghold and hunting lodge for John Erskine, the Earl of Mar. It was burnt in 1689 by the neighbouring John Farquharson. Attempts to repair it are recorded in 1689 and in 1715 (Castle Guide book) but the castle may have been partly habitable during this period (www.braemarcastle.co.uk). In 1715, after the Earl of Mar and Farquharson of Invercauld rose against the crown, the estate was forfeit. The Earl of Mar's estates were bought in 1724 by the Earl of Mar's relatives Lord Dun and Lord Grange and in 1732 Braemar Castle was sold to the Farquharsons (Braemar Castle website).

In 1748 the castle and 14 acres of ground were leased on a 99-year lease to the crown for military use. This use may have been intermittent and the Statistical Account for 1834-45 refers back to it as 'occasionally occupied by a party of soldiers for barracks' (Stat Acc vol 12, 650), a similar situation is reported at the similar site of Corgaff (Simpson, 1926, 81-3). By the beginning of the 19th century the Farquharsons were trying to regain use of the castle, in which they succeeded in 1832. Thereafter it became a family home.

5. Maps, photographs and paintings

The available documentary evidence includes a number of plans and maps drawn at the beginning of the conversion of the castle to military use in the 18th century. From the early 19th century, when the castle was returned to domestic use, there are a large number of both private and commercial photographs of the castle; only those that add or confirm the dating of features of the exterior of the castle or its environs are discussed here. The interior of the castle is not part of the remit of the survey and is not discussed here.

The documentary evidence is summarised below. Individual features are listed in table form in the Gazetteer (Appendix 2). The overall changes to the castle environs are discussed in section 7. Where the documentary sources are referred to in the text it will be in the form ‘Doc 5.3’ and refers to this section.

5.1 *Timothy Pont’s map of Glen Tilt 1580s/1590s* (www.nls.ac.uk)

Shows Casteltoun (Braemar) at extreme E side of map. Castle symbol (?Kindrochit but position wrong as on W side of Clunie water). Map does not extend further E.

5.2 *Plan of the country where the new intended road is to be made from the Barack at Ruthven in Badenoch to Invercall in Braemar. By Joseph Avery. 1735.* (www.scran.ac.uk 000-000-184-446-C).

Castle shown as generic castle symbol and named Castle Marr. Shows line of old road. Describes the ground by river as ‘level corn ground’.

5.3 *Sketch of the ground about Braemarr Castle. David Watson. 1748.* (www.nls.ac.uk MS 1649.Z 03/32c).

Shows castle as large L- plan building on a mound. The old road to Aberdeen to the ford shown N of the castle. Two separate clusters of settlement S of the castle on slopes of Creag Choinnich. Ground all around castle from the settlements N to river shown as unenclosed rig and furrow. Trees shown elsewhere on map but none shown near castle.

5.4 *1749 Sketch of the loop-holed walls built around the castles of Corgaff and Braemar in 1749. Andrew Frazer.* (www.nls.ac.uk MS 1649.Z 03/36a).

Detailed plan of the curtain wall. Note on plan ‘first occupied in February 1749’.

5.5 *Plans of Brae-Marr Castle in the year 1750. William Skinner, Charles Tarrant. (www.nls.ac.uk MS 1649.Z 03/31a).*

Shows detail of star curtain wall and well within the enclosed area. Paths shown from two gates in wall running to SE and SW.

5.6 *Roy's Military Map of 1747/55 (www.nls.ac.uk)*

Drawn after the military use of the castle began (so post 1749). The castle is shown with a rough drawing of the curtain wall and named as Braemarr (sic) Barrack. The new military road shown to S of castle and very faintly the old Braemar –Aberdeen road to ford is shown to N of castle. The ground between the castle and the river is shown as unenclosed rig and furrow. Two buildings are shown W of castle between old road and river. Small unnamed settlement to S of castle on higher ground on skirts of Creag Choinnich.

5.7 *Detail of the road from Aberdeen to Braemar 1776. G Taylor and A Skinner Survey and maps of the roads of North Britain or Scotland. 1776. (www.scran.ac.uk 000-000-562-531-C).*

Shows the castle named 'Castle of Braemarr' on clear mound. The new military road shown S of castle. Chapel shown but no indication of settlement to S.

5.8 *Ink and watercolour titled: Brae-marr Castle in Scotland. Aug: 1778. (Braemar Castle Morning Room). Illus 1.*

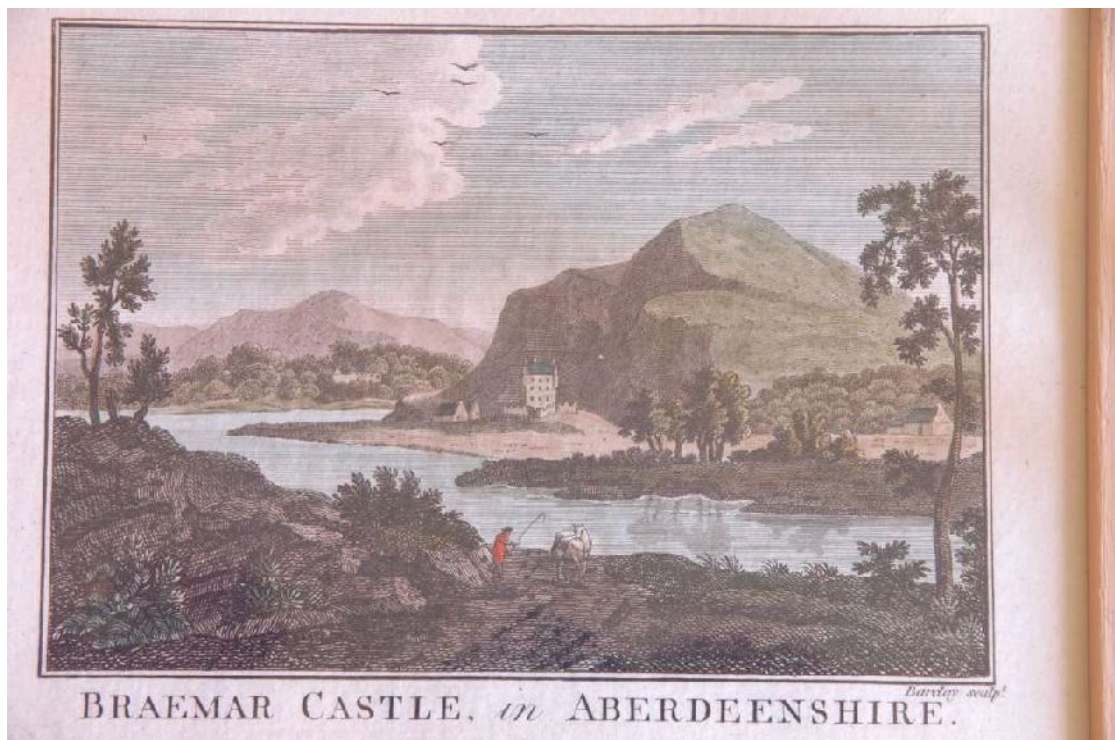
This appears to be copied from the view from the print in the same room (see below), although the figures at the ford have been changed and some details obscured.

5.9 *Print of etching titled: Braemar Castle in Aberdeenshir. Barclay sculpt. (Braemar Castle Morning Room). Illus 2.*

No visible date as framed. However an uncoloured print of same etching (www.sandersofoxford.com) was printed by Alexander Hogg No 16 Paternoster Row. (floruit 1778-1824). With reference to the painting (5.8 above) a date in the 1770s appears probable for the original of the print.



Illus 1 Ink and watercolour titled: Brae-marr Castle in Scotland. Aug: 1778. (Braemar Castle Morning Room).



Illus 2 Print of etching titled: Braemar Castle in Aberdeenshire. Barclay sculpt. (Braemar Castle Morning Room).

Both 5.8 and 5.9 show a view of the castle from the ford on the old road. The castle is shown on its mound with the curtain wall around it. Two single storey rectangular

buildings lie to the E outwith the castle wall. Chimneys are shown at the near gable of each building.

No trees are shown around the castle. Trees are shown to the S of the chapel at the W (LHS) side of the picture.

5.10 Copy of newspaper print titled: *The gathering of the highland clans at Braemar Castle in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales.* (Braemar Castle Drawing Room). Illus 3.

Although no date shown on this, the print can be dated to 1864 and was published in the Illustrated London News for Sept 17th 1864

http://www.iln.org.uk/iln_years/year/1864.htm

This is a view of the castle from the S, showing highland dancers on the flat area of grass S of the castle. A rectangular outshot building appears built across the curtain wall on the E side of the castle.

Trees are shown E and W of the castle (conifers) with more trees behind (broad-leaved). No trees are shown S of the lawn.



Illus 3 Copy of newspaper print titled: *The gathering of the highland clans at Braemar Castle in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales.* (Braemar Castle Drawing Room). 1864.

5.11 1st edition Ordnance Survey 6"/mile maps (www.nls.ac.uk)

Aberdeenshire lxxxix. Surveyed 1866, published 1867.

The castle is shown with rectangular outshot on E side through curtain wall. A single track runs from the military road (at the present position of vehicle gate) to the SW of the castle mound, then angling across the mound to the SE corner of the curtain wall (present door through curtain wall). No trees shown S of the castle. Well shown N of castle. Old road shown along N field boundary, ford still marked.

By this stage the ground N and W of the castle has been enclosed into rectangular fields.

5.12 Photograph titled 'The Gathering at Braemar Castle – 1876. (Braemar Castle Exhibition room) Illus 4.

The castle is shown with rectangular outshot on E side through curtain wall.

A paling of vertical wooden posts runs around the base of the mound. Path to SW of curtain wall. Trees behind castle to E and W.

5.13 Photograph titled *Braemar Castle. View of castle from across grass.* George Washington Wilson. Listed in GWW 1877 catalogue. (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/E2730. <http://abdn.ac.uk>).



Illus 4 George Washington Wilson. Listed in GWW 1877 catalogue. (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/E2730. <http://abdn.ac.uk>).

Castle seen from the SSW. Rectangular outshot on E through curtain wall. Zoom allows detail of the outshot- it was of vertical timber construction with a possible slate roof and was built incorporating the curtain wall and abutting the castle wall across the courtyard. A paling of vertical timbers with top and base timber bars is shown around the base of the mound. Zoom allows detail of the fence which was in poor repair with many gaps. Rock outcrops visible in field S of mound.

Trees behind castle to E and W. Ground to S of castle no trees.

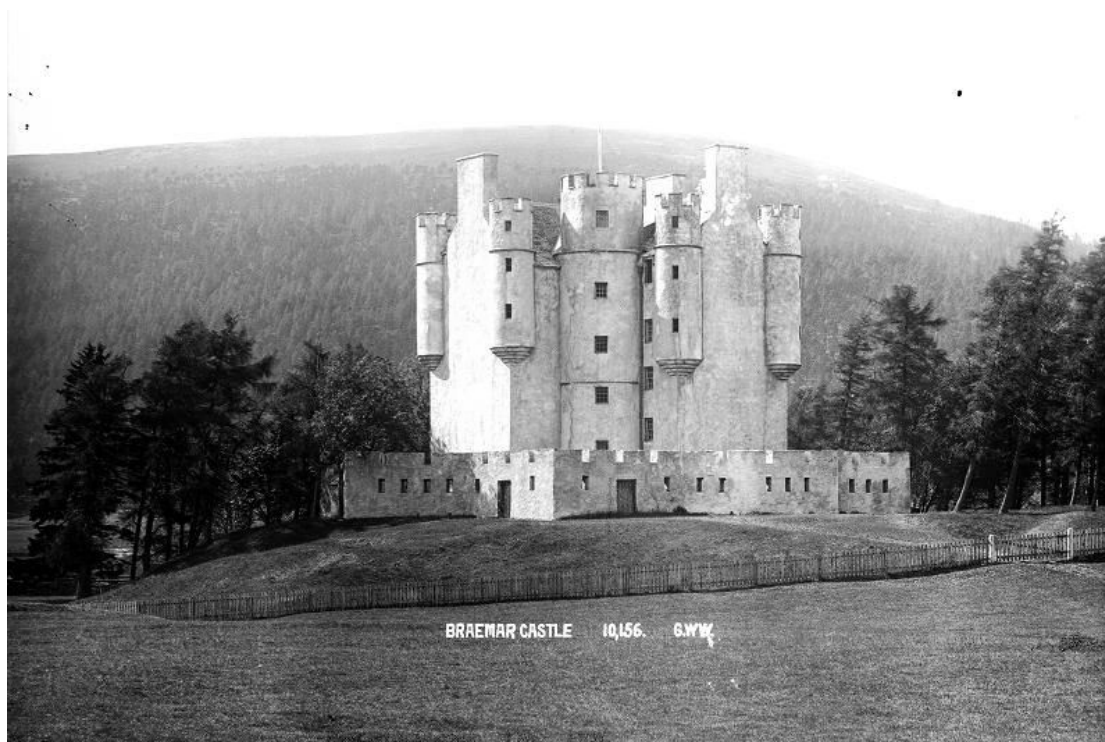
A more distant view of the castle from the W by George Washington Wilson (GB 0231 MS 3792/E3291) confirms the open ground to S but adds no further detail.

5.14 Photograph titled Braemar Castle. View across field to castle. Man and horse in field. George Washington Wilson. No date. (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/F3280. <http://abdn.ac.uk>).

Long view from SSW showing open grassland to S. E outshot , paling fence and trees as above. Pre c 1899 (see below).

5.15 Photograph Titled Braemar Castle. George Washington Wilson. Registered 1899. (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/C0905. <http://abdn.ac.uk>).
Illus 5.

Major changes and renovations are clear. The E outshot has been removed from the castle and curtain wall. Both the castle and curtain walls appear to have been re-painted (or possibly re-harled). They appear clean and pale whereas in the earlier photographs there are distinct damp stains down the towers and along the top of the curtain wall. Zoom allows detail of fence around base of the mound, which has been replaced or repaired; it is still a paling fence with top and base bars. The trees remain behind castle to E and W. The foreground is grass but does not extend far enough S to be sure if there are trees on this side by this time.



Illus 5 Photograph Titled *Braemar Castle*. George Washington Wilson. Registered 1899. (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/C0905. <http://abdn.ac.uk>). Doc 5.15.

5.16 Photograph Titled *Braemar Castle, Braemar, from Craig Coynach*. George Washington Wilson. No date. (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/C5856. <http://abdn.ac.uk>).

This appears to be similar date to C0905 (above) but from the high ground to S. The path is clear from the paling to the SW of curtain wall. The dyke N of the castle beside line of old road is clear. No trees to W of paling.

5.17 Photograph titled *View from Craig Coynach, Braemar*. Valentines series. Photograph registered 1893. (www.scran.ac.uk 000-000-152-061-C). Illus 6.

Very similar to the Washington Wilson photograph above but taken from higher up. Straight path to SW corner curtain wall clear. Curved path on E visible through trees.

5.18 Photograph of the *Braemar Gathering*. (Braemar Castle, Exhibition room).

No date but appears to be shortly after the renovations noted by 1899 (above) as the castle is clean and pale and the E outshot is not present. Small roofed lean-to (extant) against W side of curtain wall; this is shown on 1900 OS map. The Braemar games were not held at the castle after they moved to their permanent grounds in Braemar village in 1906. Possible date range 1890s-1906. Probable 1893-95 (see below 5.19)

Paling fence around base of mound. Path clear to SW angle of curtain wall. Curved path on E side of mound/lawn ? Trees to E and W behind castle. Two small trees quite near curtain wall on W.



Illus 6 Photograph of the Braemar Gathering. (Braemar Castle, Exhibition room). Possibly 1893-95. Doc 5.18.

5.19 Photograph Titled Braemar Gathering. Mar Castle. George Washington Wilson. Listed in 1904 catalogue (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/A0091. <http://abdn.ac.uk>). Illus 7.

Aberdeen University archive notes that Braemar gathering was held at the castle in the years 1893-95. The clothing suggests mid to late 1890s. Details of the position of the tents, the size of the two small trees at SW corner of curtain wall suggest this was taken in the same year as 5.18 above.

The interest in this photograph is that it is taken from the Aberdeen to Braemar road (A93) with the drystone dyke (extant) in foreground. It clearly shows that at this stage the woodland between the road and the lawn had not been planted.



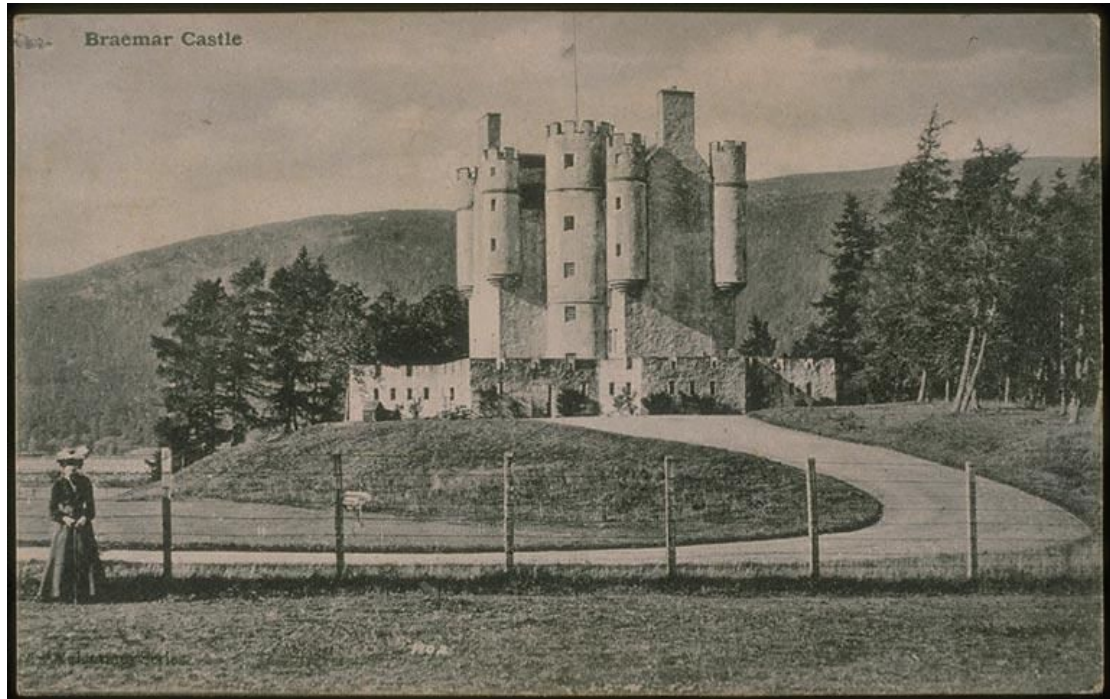
Illus 7 Photograph Titled Braemar Gathering. Mar Castle. George Washington Wilson. Listed in 1904 catalogue (Aberdeen University collection. GB0231 MS3792/A0091. <http://abdn.ac.uk>). Doc 5.19.

5.20 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25"/mile maps (www.nls.ac.uk)
Aberdeenshire sheet 089.15 1900 (published 1901).

Small roofed lean-to buildings (extant) against E and W sides of curtain wall. Small freestanding building to N of castle outwith curtain wall. The kitchen garden is shown for the first time. Both straight path to SW of curtain wall and the curved path to SE are shown. Trees are shown to the S and NW of the grass lawn enclosed by the paths.

5.21 *Photograph Braemar Castle. Post card. Valentine collection. St Andrews University Photographic Collection ID JV-1702. (www.st-andrews.ac.uk) . Illus 8, 9.* The collection date the creation of photograph as 1878 but internal evidence suggests it is later. As Vanessa Stephen noted (pers comm.) the dress of woman in foreground appears Edwardian. The photograph also post-dates the removal of the E outshot (c 1899) and is later than the Washington Wilson prints as the curved path is now very

clear and there is a post and wire fence to the E of it. Probable date c. 1900 or soon after.



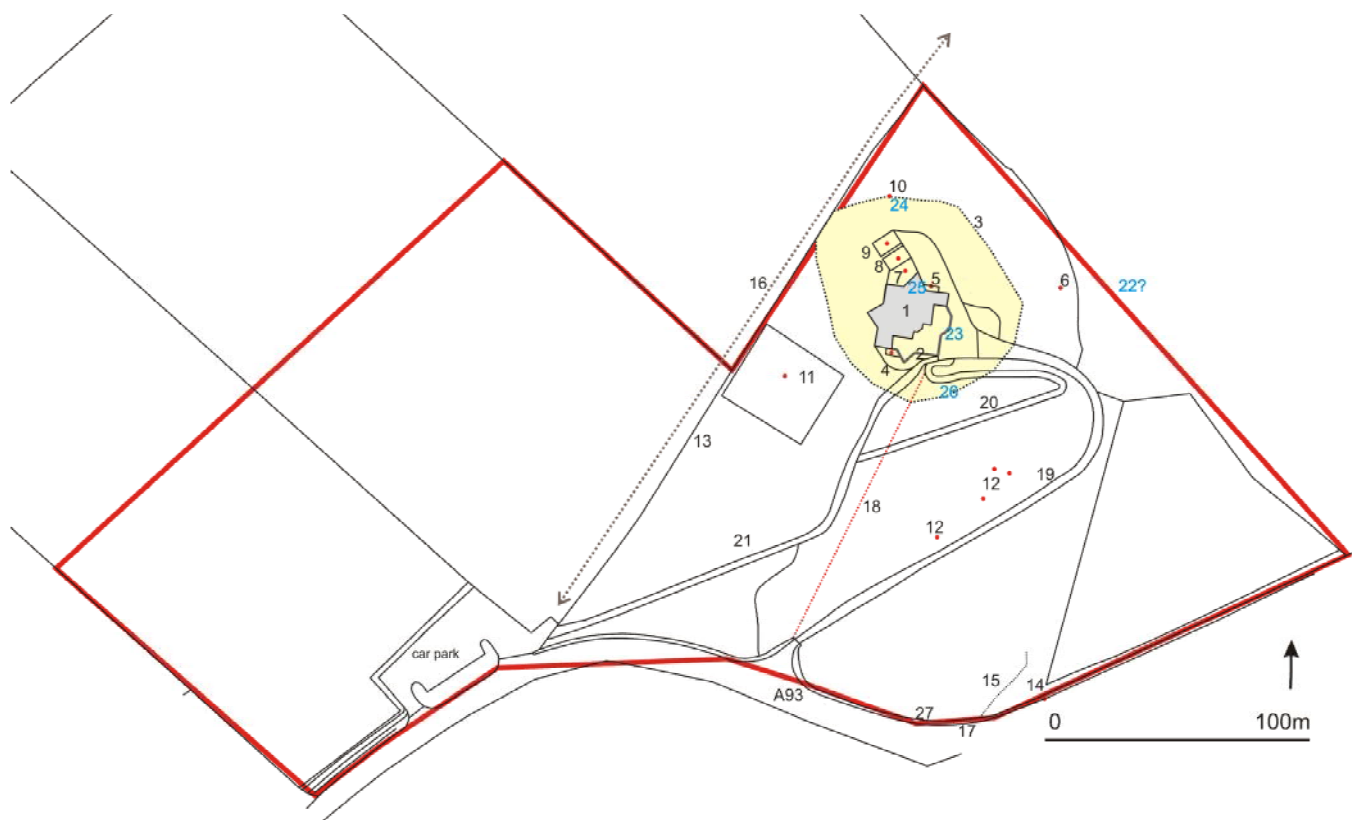
Illus 8 Photograph Braemar Castle. Post card. Valentine collection. St Andrews University Photographic Collection ID JV-1702. (www.st-andrews.ac.uk) Doc 5.21.



Illus 9 Castle from SE giving same view as Doc 5.21

6 Gazetteer and details of specified sites

All the sites in the Gazetteer are fully described in Appendix 2 at the end of this report, with tabulated reference to the changes on each of the maps consulted. Site numbers refer to the Site Nos in the Gazetteer in Appendix 2 and on the map Illus 10 below and in larger format Illus 15.



Illus 10 Sites in the Gazetteer Based on OS. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2012. License No 0100031673). Features numbered in blue only known from documentary sources. Red outline is area of survey. A larger version of this plan is in Appendix 1.

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Castle |
| 2 | Curtain wall |
| 3 | Motte |
| 4 | W lean-to against curtain wall |
| 5 | E lean-to against curtain wall |
| 6 | Summer House |
| 7 | Outhouse to N |
| 8 | Outhouse to N |
| 9 | Shed to N |
| 10 | Water outflow? |
| 11 | Kitchen garden |

-
- 12 *Rock outcrops in S lawn*
 - 13 *N dyke*
 - 14 *Gate in S dyke*
 - 15 *Drain below A93*
 - 16 *Site of old Aberdeen –Braemar road to ford*
 - 17 *Military Road (A93)*
 - 18 *Path (trace in grass only)*
 - 19 *Path curving*
 - 20 *Path*
 - 21 *Path modern*
 - 22 *Possible site of buildings shown on Doc 5:8 and 5.9*
 - 23 *Site of outshot removed c 1890s*
 - 24 *Site approx of well on 1900 OS map*
 - 25 *Well within curtain wall 18th C*
 - 26 *Fence around base of mound. 19th C photographs*
 - 27 *S dyke*

7 Discussion of the development of the castle and environs

This discussion only includes the area directly around the castle which is included in the proposed development. It does not include details of the buildings.

Medieval motte?

There is no reported documentary or artefactual evidence of a medieval motte on the site. However, the form of the mound (Illus 11), although of natural origin, appears possibly scaped on the N and E faces and as a result Yeoman (1988, 130) included this as a possible motte in his summary of Aberdeenshire motte sites. It is perhaps significant that Yeoman considers that many of the NE Scottish mottes had links with hunting reserves.

Certainly there are strong arguments to argue for a medieval use of the site. The site is a natural mound on a location that commanded a routeway through the hills, beside a confluence of two rivers and at a ford on the major E/W route. The tactical importance of the site would have been as clear in the medieval period as it was in the 18th century. Strategically the site has at least as significant or a more dominating location as the 14th century Kindroichit Castle within the village of Braemar beside the Clunie water.



Illus 11 Mound as seen from field to W

18th and 19th century references (for example Pinkerton 1789) to an early medieval fort called Doldencha near the Braemar Castle site may be somewhat apocryphal but may possibly have a foundation in fact.

Another argument for a medieval site here is the nearby early chapel site just W of the car park. References suggest an 8th-9th century church on the site. By the reign of David I (1084-1153) a new church was built with revenues going initially to St Andrews and later to St Mary of Monymusk (RCAHMS Site No: NO19SE 2. NGR NO 1530 9216).

The deserted settlement on the S flank of Creag Choinnich (RCAHMS Site No: NO19SE 17. NGR NO 155921) may also be of medieval date. It is shown in the 18th century on Roy's map of 1747-55 and on the 1748 sketch plan of the environs of Braemar Castle but such pre-Improvement settlements often prove to have medieval origins.

On the W/SW side of the base of the mound, between it and the former kitchen garden, there is a wide area of nettles, which might indicate the possibility of a partial ditch around the mound base.

Hunting lodge 1628-1689

The main L shaped tower house was built in 1628 and burnt or partially burnt in 1689. While the remit of this study does not extend to the building it should be noted that if harling has to be removed any revealed features such as blocked windows should be recorded.

The 1748 *Plan of Braemar Castle as it stands at present* (David Watson, 1748. NLS. MS 1649.Z.03/33b) shows the external entrance was always at the base of the stair tower; significantly this leads out to the SE where the mound appears less steep. However the main large rooms at first floor and above are on the long axis of the castle, with windows looking N, S and W across to the river and the old ford road. It is probable that there would have been buildings near the tower; stables, barns etc, which may have been burnt in 1689 or may have been removed by the military. It is also probable that some evidence may remain below ground of such features as latrine pits below garderobes, middens and wells.

During this stage the road was still the old road along the N side of the mound to the ford. The evidence for most of the low lying ground being rig and furrow cultivation in the 17th century is based purely on the 18th century military maps and on the general medieval origins of many such cultivation systems.

Military Use 1748 – c 1830

Externally the main surviving evidence of the military use of Braemar Castle is the star-shaped curtain wall. However, the plans of 1748 and 1750 (Docs 5.3, 5.4, 5.5) also show the very considerable building works undertaken to convert the building into a barracks, including the building of a well within the curtain wall (Murray & Murray 2007). A plan of the curtain wall (Frazer 1749) has an annotation that Braemar was ‘first occupied in February 1749’. In the event, the military use was perhaps less intensive than had been anticipated and the building fell into considerable disrepair. Bulloch (1930) quotes an 1807 account by the Board of Ordnance after an inspection. The description details that the slating of the roof was entirely gone, the rough cast in poor repair and missing patches with the result of considerable damp and fallen plaster internally. Chimneys were in disrepair and a crack was noted in the E wall.

Apart from the plans from 1748-1750, the only representations of the castle at the time are a romanticised engraving (Doc 5.9) and a watercolour considered by the

present authors to be a possible copy of it (Doc 5.8) dating to 1776. Two features are worth noting. They show the castle on the bare mound with no trees nearby; this would appear likely to be accurate as it would be strategically good practise for the castle to have had clear views. They also show two rectangular buildings to the E of the castle; these appear to be single storied, possibly of stone and with a chimney at least on the more northerly building. It is of course possible that these are entirely imaginary structures! As the perspective is somewhat odd, they might be interpreted as part of the settlement on the slopes of Creag Choinnich, although this might be expected to be depicted nearer to the site of the chapel which is also shown. However it is also worth considering that there was no apparent accommodation within the curtain wall for horses and it is probable that at least the officers should have had horses. Regardless of the possible veracity of the documentary evidence, there is the possibility of ancillary structures from the 18th century use of the castle.

The only clear evidence for the wider castle environs comes from the military maps (Docs 5.3, 5.6) of the mid 18th century. At this time the ground N and E of the castle was still unenclosed and shown as rig and furrow. The 1748 plan notes it as 'level corn land'.

The old Braemar to Aberdeen road N of the castle, is still shown on the 1748 plan. But this was being replaced during this period by the road S of the castle (now partly the A93) which was the Military Road built 1753/4.

Family home from 1831

As the 1807 references noted above show, by the time the castle was returned to the Farquharsons it appears to have been in a poor state of repair. The earliest visual references from this phase are the print of 1864 (Doc 5.10), the 1st OS map of 1866 (Doc 5.11) and two photographs from the late 1870s (Docs 5.12, 5.13). Two other photographs (Docs 5.14 and Aberdeen University GB0231 MS 3792/E3291) also probably belong to the 1870s or 1880s.

These all show the castle with an outshot built abutting the E wall of the castle and built out beyond the curtain wall, which was incorporated within the building. This was single storied with a pitched roof. A door and single window faced S and two windows faced E; these are the only two sides which appear in any images. The 1864 etching, although generally accurate appears to have used some artistic license as it only shows a window on the S wall and has a dormer below the eaves line. The

photographs show all the windows as plain, without dormers. The date of construction of this outshot is not known (though it may be recorded in the Invercauld archives), however it is likely to be part of the 19th century partial infilling of the area between the castle and the curtain wall with kitchens and other domestic accommodation (Murray & Murray, 2009).

In the immediate environs, the main changes are in the landscape with trees shown behind (N) of the castle, extending down the E and W flanks of the mound. The foreground however to the S is clear of any planting or landscaping. There is no evidence for the kitchen garden at this time. A well (Gazetteer No 24) is shown to the N of the castle (this may relate to Gazetteer No 10). This would have replaced the well/cistern within the curtain wall that was in use during the military occupation. That well/cistern was filled in with stones before the 19th century extensions between the castle and the wall, with some of its upper stones removed and a 19th century internal wall built across the top of the filled in well/cistern (Murray & Murray 2007). The 1870s photographs consistently show a paling fence around the base of the mound, with a gate to the S. The 1866 OS map shows a straight path running from the outshot, SSW to the military road (A93) to the S. At this stage the old road and the ford are still marked and may have remained in use for local carting etc.

In the wider environs, the most important change is the agricultural improvement (L18th/E 19th century) which enclosed the ground to the N and W, forming the existing field boundary pattern.

It is noticeable that in photographs of the 1870s and 1880s, the paling fence is shown to be in slightly dilapidated condition, the top of the curtain wall is stained and there are damp streaks down the towers of the castle.

By 1899 however, there appears to have been a further stage of renovation. The rather ugly E outshot has been removed and both curtain wall and the castle have clearly been reharled or re-painted. Even the fence has been repaired or replaced

The trees are still limited to the areas behind and flanking the castle, with the ground to the S remaining clear. One photograph of the Braemar Gathering probably dating to the mid-late 1890s (possibly 1893-95, years when the games were held at Braemar Castle) is taken from the road (A93) and shows the roadside drystone dyke, with grass between it and the castle.

The next major change comes around 1900 when the OS map shows trees planted in some of the ground between the road and the castle and in the SW part of the grounds

(near the existing gate to car park). By this point a new curving driveway has been built curving from the present road entrance to the E and then around to the castle entrance; this roadway is still extent. The central almost triangular grassed area between the old and new pathways is shown as it is today. It is worth noting that some of the photographs show the rock outcrops (Gazetteer No 12) in this grass, although none show the earth heaped around the largest – this may have been an attempt in the 20th century to plant a tree or shrub or form a flower bed in this area. The impetus for these changes to the S of the castle possibly come from the lack of a need to keep this area of ground clear for the Braemar Gathering (which was held at a number of local estates in turn) as from 1906 the Gathering had its own grounds in the village.

The kitchen garden is also first shown on the 1900 OS map, it may have been earlier but does not show on any of the 19th century photographs.

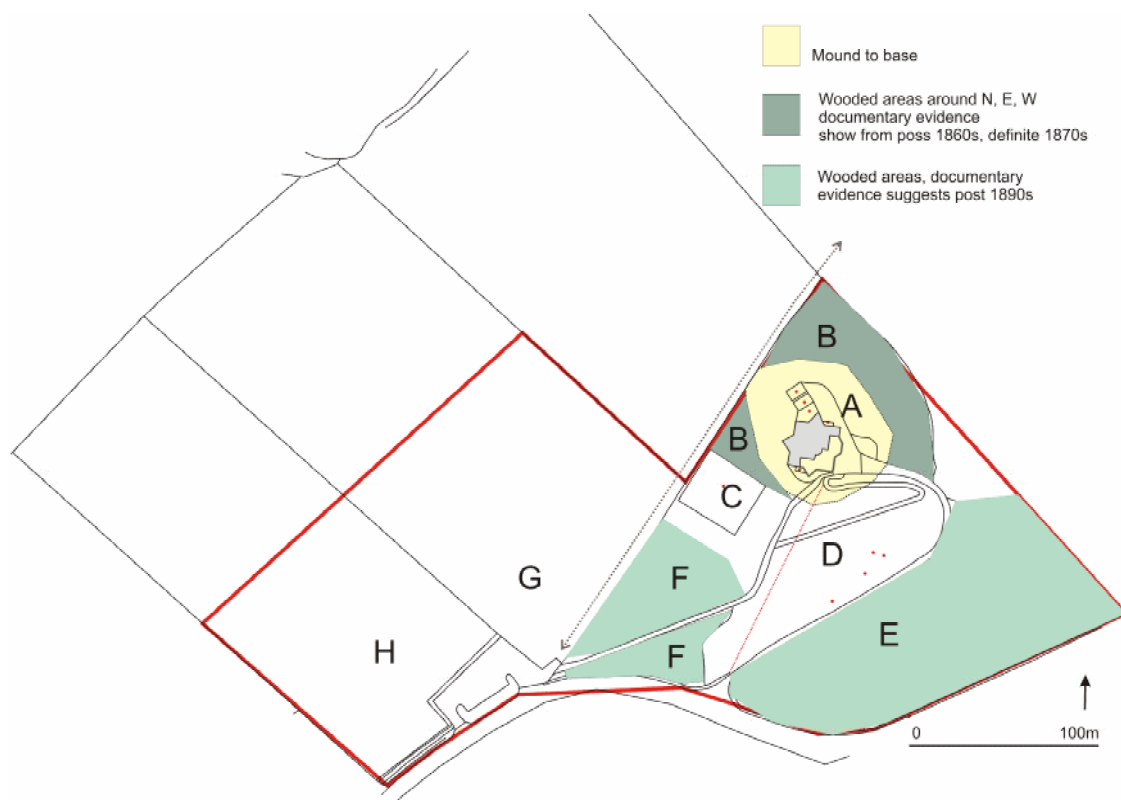
Two significant changes to the buildings around 1900 are the addition of two small lean-tos in two of the external angles of the curtain wall (Gazetteer Nos 3, 4 and the building of a small freestanding building to the N of the castle (Gazetteer No 8). All of these structures survive to the present.

A photograph (Doc 21) probably dating to c 1900 shows the curved driveway, with a post and wire fence to the E. Other later developments include the summer house (Gazetteer No 6) and the possible flower bed around one of the rock outcrops in the S lawn (Gazetteer No 12a).



Illus 12 Summer house Gazetteer No 6.

8 Areas of archaeological potential



Illus 13 Sites in the Gazetteer Based on OS. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2012. License No 0100031673)

A: The area of the mound

Any ground work in this area could have archaeological implications. This would include any changes to existing paths or addition of new paths up the mound or the digging of new drainage or other service trenches. This area is of particular significance in attempting to identify any evidence that there was indeed a medieval motte on the site.

If the freestanding buildings to the N are demolished, the late 19th/early 20th century building (Gazetteer No 8) should be fully recorded and planned.

B: Base of the mound to N, E and W.

Any ground work in this area could have archaeological implications. Not only is there a faint possibility of a ditch or partial ditch, but there is also the possibility of identifying peripheral structures, middens, wells etc. If trees are to be removed it

would be preferable that the roots are not disturbed. It should be noted that the roots will have damaged potential archaeology to some extent.



Illus 14 Base of mound W side. Dark green of nettles suggest possible ditch

C: Former kitchen garden

It can be assumed that cultivation will have disturbed the ground to c 300mm, so re-grassing or cultivation would not have any great negative impact. Any ground work that involved stripping the topsoil or any structural work (such as a play park) in this area would have archaeological implications.

D: Central grass area

It would be advisable to monitor any soil strip (for paths etc) that was undertaken in this area in case there were any peripheral structures on this side. This however appears to be unlikely as all the evidence from the 18th century onwards suggests this area was kept clear. It is not considered that there was any significance to the rock outcrops in this area.

E, F : Woodland

Archaeologically these are of low potential. They are well away from the castle and tree roots are likely to have had a significant negative impact in the area.

Areas G, H: The field adjacent to the present car park.

This area appears to have been in cultivation from at least the 18th century and probably from the medieval period. While its distance from the castle might suggest

limited potential, it does lie between the castle, the known site of the medieval church and the known site of the medieval or post-medieval settlement on the slope of Creag Choinnich. When the graveyard extension was planned directly along the W boundary of Area H an archaeological evaluation was part of the planning process although no archaeology was found (Baker 1998).

References

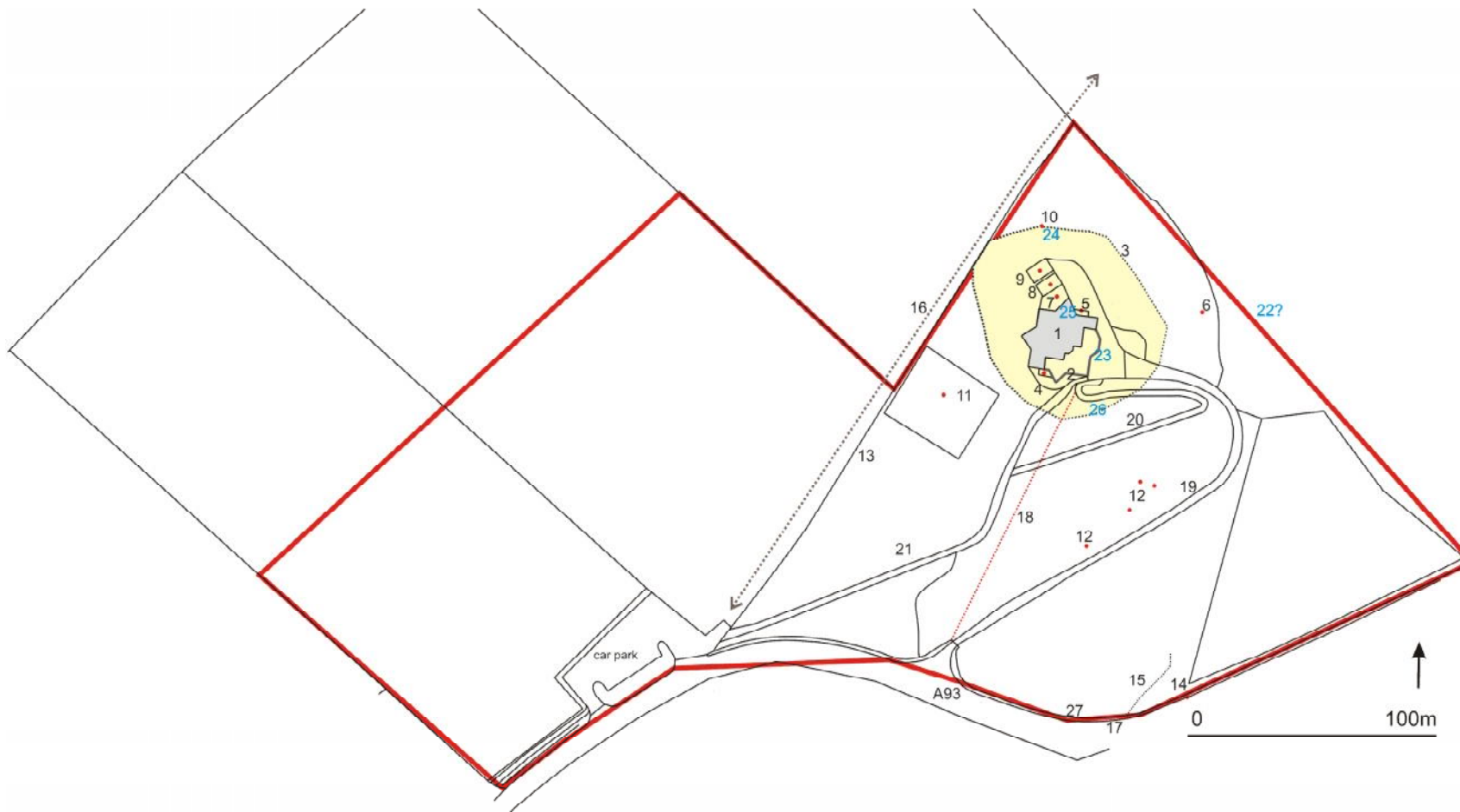
- Baker, L 1998 'Braemar Cemetery (Crathie and Braemar parish), evaluation'.
Discovery Exc Scotland, 7.
- Bulloch, J M 1931 'The reconstruction of Braemar and Corgaff Castles 1746', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 65, 379-81.
- Frazer, A 1749 *Sketch of the loop-holed walls built around the castles of Corgaff and Braemar in 1749* National Library of Scotland MS 1649 Z.03/36a
- Murray H K and Murray J C 2007 *Braemar Castle, Braemar, Aberdeenshire: Archaeological Watching Brief*. MAS 2007-37. Unpublished client report.
- Murray H K and Murray J C 2009 *Braemar Castle, Braemar, Aberdeenshire: Standing Building Survey*. MAS 2009-9. Unpublished client report.
- Pinkerton, J 1789 *An Enquiry into the History of Scotland preceding the reign of Malcolm III*. London.
- Simpson, W D 1926 'Corgaff Castle, Aberdeenshire', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot* 61, 48-103.
- Yeoman, P A 1988 'Mottes in Northeast Scotland', *Scot Archaeol Rev*, 5, 125-133.

Appendix 1

Catalogue of photographs from field survey 2013

Photographic catalogue Braemar Castle walkover	
Digital frame no	Content
1-4	Print of engraving (Doc 5.9) Braemar Castle in Morning Room
5-6	Photograph. Braemar Castle in Morning Room
7-8	Print. Braemar Castle in Morning Room
9-10	Watercolour. Braemar Castle in Morning Room
11-13	Ink and watercolour. Braemar Castle in Morning Room
14	Photograph. Braemar Castle in Morning Room
15	Photograph. 1951. Susie Selkirk as child outside castle. Braemar Castle. Drawing Room.
16	Print from Illustrated London News. Braemar Castle Drawing Room.
17	Photograph. Braemar Castle Exhibition Room.
18-19	Photograph Braemar Gathering 1876. Braemar Castle Exhibition Room.
20-22	Gazetteer No 6. Summer House
23	View of Invercauld House from Gazetteer No 6. Summer House
24-25	Line of path Gazetteer No 18
26	Road end (S) of path 19
27-29	Looking S from castle to paths
30-32	Gate Gazetteer No 14 and related wire fence and dyke 27
33	Drain Gazetteer No 15
34-38	S side of castle, lawn and path 19 from same viewpoint as photo Doc 5.19 c. 1900.
39	Building Gazetteer No 8
40	Buildings Gazetteer Nos 7-9 looking N
41-42	Lean-to Gazetteer No 5
43-44	Motte? E side Gazetteer No 3
45	Gazetteer No 10
46-47	Line of old road (Gazetteer No 10) towards ford
48-49	N side of possible motte Gazetteer No 3
50-51	Looking W to kitchen garden (pink with willowherb) Gazetteer No 11.
52-54	W side of motte Gazetteer No 3. Dark green of nettles on possible ditch
55	Looking N to kitchen garden Gazetteer No 11
56	Lean-to Gazetteer No 4
57-60	Looking E at castle from beside car park

Appendix 2
Plan of features in Gazetteer



Illus 15 Sites in the Gazetteer Based on OS. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2012. License No 0100031673)
Features numbered in blue only known from documentary sources.

Gazetteer of Features(X shows present in source)

No	Key word	GPS	1748 plan Doc 5.3	1750 plan Doc 5.5	Print and painting c 1778 Doc 5.8, 5.9	1864 print Doc 5.10	1 st OS 1866 (pub 1867) Aberdeens hire lxxxix Doc 5.11	1876 photo Doc 5.12	1877 cat photo Doc 5.13	1890s photos Doc 5.15 – Doc 5.19	2 nd OS 1900 (pub 1901) Aberdeenshire sheet 089.15 Doc 5.20	Survey 2013
1	Castle	315605, 792375 (centre)	L plan.							Repainted or reharled		Standing building
2	Curtain wall	315605, 792375 (centre)	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	Repainted or harled	X	Standing Building
3	Motte	315605, 792375 (centre)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	c. 75 x 60m, up to c.6m high est. Natural mound. Possible motte.
4	Lean-to W side curtain wall	315599, 792359								X	X	Slate roof. Harled. In external angle of curtain wall.
5	Lean-to E side curtain wall	315614, 792353									X	Slate roof. Harled. In external angle of curtain wall.
6	Summer house	315662, 792383	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rustic hexagonal timber summer house open to E with views of Invercauld House. Heather thatch with wooden finial and lead apex. 1.65m each side. 20 th C.
7	Outbuilding	315611, 792389										Weatherboard with corrugated asbestos roof. Brick chimney.
8	Outbuilding	315608, 792395									X	Weatherboard with slate roof and ashlar stone chimney
9	Outbuilding	315610, 792400										Shed. Weatherboard with corrugated asbestos roof
10	Water outflow?	315599, 792417										Cut into N slope of motte. Possible outflow of well 23. Concrete slabs with groove for sluice(?) set in stone wall. Infill of possible well to S
11	Kitchen garden	315557, 792347									X	Overgrown. 0.11 hectares. Wire fence.
12	Rock outcrops	A:31563 8,								Visible in foreground as	X	A c 8 x 10m, c. 1m high. No visible rock. B-D visible rock outcrops.

		792315 B:31563 4, 792303 C: 315643, 792313 D: 315617, 792289								outcrops. No soil at A. (Doc 5.14)		Probably all natural outcrops. The earth cover around A appears recent and may have been a 20 th C attempt to create a garden bed.
13	N dyke	315474, 792257 to 315611, 792458					X fence or dyke on line		X in background (Doc 5.13)	X in background (Doc 5.16)	X	Drystone dyke along S side of Old Aberdeen road (feature 16).
14	Gate	315651, 792225										Wrought iron gate opposite path to Lions Face. Part of Iron and wire fence on top of roadside dyke. 20 th C
15	Drain	315631, 792220 to 315650, 792246										Shallow drainage ditch, runs below A93.
16	Road	-	X		X		X					Old medieval road. No visible remains.
17	Road	-		X Doc 5.6, 5.7			X				X	Military Road 18 th C. now A93
18	Path	315562, 792253 to 315611, 792350					X Divides at base of mound with spur to SE and SW curtain wall	X		X	X	S end visible as scar in grass. N end part extant, diverted to path 21
19	Path	315562, 792253 to 315631, 792359								Gate in paling fence with faint track (Doc 5.15)	X	Wide curved vehicle access path around base of grass area to main entrance at SE of curtain wall
20	Path	315613, 792352, to 315664, 792346 to										Curving path across S edge of mound. 20 th C

		315586, 792318										
21	Path											Modern path to car park
22	2 rectangular buildings	S and E of castle			X Only evidence.							No evidence. See discussion section 7
23	Outshot E side through curtain wall	Approx 315592, 792364				X	X	X	X Zoom shows vertical timber walls with possible slate roof. Built incorporating curtain wall. (Doc 5.13)	Removed by 1890s		No evidence.
24	Well	N of castle					X					See feature 10
25	Well	Within curtain wall		X								Extant (Murray & Murray 2007)
26	Fence at base of mound								X Paling. Zoom shows poor condition (Doc 5.13)	X Paling repaired or replaced.		
27	Dyke by A93									Foreground in Doc 5.19	X	19 th C drystone dyke with 20 th C iron post and wire fence on top.