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The Robert Gordon University
Faculty of Design

The Doocots of Moray: A Holistic Approach to their Evolutionary Development

Volume I

NICHOLAS A BROWN

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Robert Gordon University for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Date: August 2000

Awarding Establishment: **The Robert Gordon University**

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Poor text in the original thesis.

DEDICATED TO ELIZABETH BEATON

– friend, mentor and source of inspiration.

Research Award
The work within this thesis gained the author the 1998-2000 Thomas Ross Award for architectural research in Scotland. The award was made by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland.

Thesis accessibility
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At the time of writing, this thesis is due to be published in modified form by the Scottish Vernacular Building Working Group, as part of a series on Scottish doocots.

About the author
Nick Brown is an architect who worked for several years in private practice before 'crossing the fence' to join Moray District Council's planning department. He now co-ordinates the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership and is a member of the Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a member of the British Trust for Ornithology.

NOTE TO READER:

This study is presented in two volumes.

VOLUME I describes the line of research relating to doocots in general and contains Chapters 1-4 and 6-8 respectively.

VOLUME II consists of Chapter 5 which is a self-contained body of work relating specifically to the doocots of Moray as a set of 77 buildings (existing and lost).

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ABSTRACT

This study concerns a particular building type; the doocot. Consequently the work has an architectural bias.

In stark contrast to large-scale, 'high culture', urban buildings erected for human occupation, the mere doocot has been mostly omitted from inclusion in architectural studies, Scotland especially having the ignominious claim to a dearth of published material on doocots. As a consequence, our ability to comprehend, interpret, evaluate and, where required, conserve doocots is inadequate.

This study shows that the doocot has had a long history and, for the first time, it is placed in an overall, international, national, regional and local context. Many historic doocots are redundant and, due to their difficulty to convert or revitalise, some will be lost. The study, therefore, addresses the urgency for action and takes the opportunity to critically review key issues, establish a model for recording, and also test and analyse existing theories whilst the buildings still remain.

In the course of the study, a unique methodology is applied. Firstly, an holistic approach (involving matters relating, not only to architecture, but also to history and ornithology) is taken at every step. Secondly, an extensive *catalogue raisonne* (a detailed building inventory covering a defined geographical area) is utilised as test-bed material for widely recognised theories.

Aside from producing transferable models for the researching, or recording, of doocots, the study is able to substantiate and/or refute a variety of theories and also rationalise the issues into a coherent pattern of evolutionary development.

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List of Abbreviations

ACO	Association of Conservation Officers
BHW	British Homing World
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology
c.	around
c.f.	compare with
ed.	editor
edn.	edition
et. al.	and other
etc.	and so on
et.seq.	and following
GRC	Grampian Regional Council
HMSO	Her Majesty's Stationery Office
ibid	same
ICOMOS	International Council of Monuments and Sites
IHBC	Institute of Historic Buildings Conservation
infra	below
loc. cit.	place already cited
m	metre
MDC	Moray District Council
mm	millimetre
MS	manuscript
n.d.	no date
NGS	National Gallery of Scotland
NLS	National Library of Scotland
NSA	New Statistical Account
NTS	National Trust for Scotland
NW, NE	north west, north east, etc.
op. cit.	already cited
OS	Ordnance Survey
OSA	Old Statistical Account
passim	here & there
pers. comm.	personal communication
pp.	pages
PSAS	Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries in Scotland
q.v.	seen earlier
RCAHMS	Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland
RPRA	Royal Pigeon Racing Association
RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
s.v.	under heading of
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SRO	Scottish Records Office
supra	above
SVBWG	Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group
TAMS	Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society
u.p.	unpaginated
vol.	volume
(w), (h), (d)	width, height, depth

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following is a glossary of some of the terms which are found throughout the text . They are included in order to both assist the reader and avoid any ambiguity of meaning. The majority are architectural technical terms, but others relating to history, ornithology and geography are inevitably included. Terms which have been the subject of discussion within the text are not included.

Altar – Small base or plinth, normally constructed in stone, found in centre of doocot in order to support central pole of revolving ladder (used by Roger North, c.1698 in description of Rougham Hall, Norfolk).

Arris - Sharp edge at angle formed by the meeting of two planes.

Ashlar – Dressed stonework of any type, where the blocks have squared sides, carefully squared corners, and are laid in regular courses, usually with fine joints. The faces of the stones, called ashlars, are generally smooth and polished, but can be tooled (see broached) or have a decorative treatment such as rockfaced or vermiculated.

Association of Conservation Officers (ACO) – formed in 1981 by a small group of local authority conservation officers, to act as a support organisation for those in local government with a responsibility for the built heritage. Reformed in 1998 as the Institute of Historic Building Conservation. Now enjoys wide membership, is consulted by central government, and publishes 'Context' arguably the best journal on issues affecting listed buildings and conservation areas.

Bays – divisions of an elevation or interior space (see vault) as defined by any regular vertical features. Often simply relates to the number of windows in a horizontal line across a façade, e.g. doors, windows.

Bed – a sedimentary layer of stone, or a horizontal mortar joint on which sits a course of stone or brick.

Beehive – used since the 1950's in Scotland to describe early form of domed stone doocots. Derived from straw skeps or skapes (often called 'niskies' in Scotland from Gaelic 'nisgan', source Walker, 'Beekeeping', 1998, p.109). See also 'Tun'.

Bell Cast – a levelling out of a roof pitch over a wall head. Usually achieved by fixing short timbers called sprockets to the feet of the rafters.

Band Course – a name given to a very deep string course. It implies a lack of decoration.

Bioregion – A distinct geographical region that has a continuity of watersheds, land forms, climate, flora, fauna and other natural characteristics. (Introduced into common use by Scottish Natural Heritage during the 1990s).

Boll – Measure of capacity of grain, malt, salt etc. or of weight, varying for different commodities and in different localities.

Bool and Clay – (S) form of vernacular wall construction using locally available and uncut stone such as field or river gathered boulders and clay.

Boss – see vault. Also a term applied to describe render no longer adhering to the wall surface beneath it, which will therefore sound hollow when tapped.

Bowlin – French word for spherical pot (e.g. Suzzoni, 'Colombiers and Pigeonniers De Notre Region', 1974, p.14). Known in Northern England and Southern Scotland as '*bowlies*' in reference to the nesting provision within doocots. *Bole* or *Boal* Scottish word for small recess in a wall.

Bracket – Any projection from the face of a wall whose purpose is to support a structure or object. Also known as a *corbel*.

Breed – a group of animals that has been selected by man to possess a uniform appearance that is inheritable and distinguishes it from other groups of animals within the same species.

Broached – a tooling on the face of masonry, most often found on door or window margins, sometimes on ashlar work, , consisting of parallel grooves, often vertical, and nearly always with a margin draft. Droved is much the same process, but the grooves cut tend to be broader and deeper, and would normally be horizontal.

Building Preservation Notice – a notice served by a local authority in respect of an unlisted building, perceived as being of architectural or historic interest, the effect of which notice is to give the building a temporary listed status lasting for six months, which the Secretary of State then has six months to confirm.

Burgh – a Burgh is literally a fortified enclosure. Burgh and town are not synonymous, there is a legal difference, relating to rights of trade-burghs were in effect commercial centres administered by burgesses. Town walls were mostly a means of protecting the wealth of the burghesses by preventing competition. In Scotland, Royal Burghs paid duty direct to the king, in Burghs of Barony duties paid went to the baron, a sign of royal favour or of power.

Canon – a member of the chapter, the body who presides over a cathedral, or other important religious house.

Catslide Dormer – a dormer whose roof is simply a shallower pitched section of the main roof.

Cavetto (Concave) – a moulding with a concave profile describing a quarter of a circle.

Cement – a material used for binding aggregate to form a mortar or a concrete.

Chalder – a measure of capacity for grain, malt, lime, coal etc. The chalder of grain contained sixteen bolls. (Note that ten chalder or thousand merks was the sign of a landed man).

Chamfer – narrow face created when an arris is cut at an angle, usually 45 degrees, but sometimes hollow (i.e. concave) or ovolo, smaller than a splay, but more than a bevel.

Check – rebate or small step back, in timber, masonry etc.
Clearstorey – upper parts of the walls of a church pierced by windows, term now applies to domestic and industrial building.
Collar - a horizontal timber across two opposite rafters, above the tie beam and below the apex.
Conservation – any work necessary to halt or prevent the process of deterioration. In terms of the built environment, this could embrace completely new work, without historical precedent, making the term particularly suited to areas. A step beyond restoration is implied, see preservation, restoration.
Consolidation – insitu repair of existing fabric.
Coping – top course, usually of some form of slab, of a wall. Can be decorative, or shaped e.g. saddlebacked.
Corbel – a projecting block which supports a parapet or beam. Corbelling is building out by projecting over the block below.
Cramming – word given to the practice of feeding birds artificially high levels of food in order to increase the size and body weight for sale purposes. Very common in France, Belgium and Italy. Sometimes carried out in form of force feeding.
Crowsteps – squared stones set like steps, surmounting a gable.
Cupola – small dome-shaped roof structure crowning a roof or dome.
Dentil Course – rectangular projecting blocks, tightly spaced like teeth, usually below cornices.
Diminishing Courses – a term usually applied to slates where it was common for the size of the slate to decrease towards the ridge.
Dook Hole – hole drilled in masonry or plaster for a fixing. The dook is the wooden plug filling the hole.
Dressings – all embracing term, used to describe stones worked to a smooth face and used to form features such as string courses or window margins.
Drip – a groove cut into the underside of any projection e.g. a sill, to prevent water running back onto the face of the building.
Dripmould – horizontal moulding to throw off water.
Dry Stone – building in stone without mortar.
Eaves – the lower edge of a sloping roof, where it overhangs the wallhead.
Eaves Cornice – wallhead cornice under the eaves of a roof.
Edge Roll – a circular moulding at the edge of an opening.
Efflorescence – a white powdery deposit on the surface of stone or cement work, caused by soluble salts being drawn to the surface where they then crystallise.
Escutcheon – an ornamental covering to a keyhole.
Façade – front or face of a building, usually implies an architectural treatment.
Fascia – the broad, horizontal board over a shopfront which carries the name of the shop, can be ornamental, with consoles and cornice. Also, a board carrying the rainwater gutter.
Fenestration – the arrangement of windows in an elevation.
Feu – an annual payment, for the right to use a piece of land. The person receiving the payment is the feudal superior.
Finial – topmost featured ornament, freestanding above spire gable etc.
Flashing – a protective sheet metal detail, usually of lead or copper covering a joint or surface which may be exposed to rain penetration. Soakers are in effect small individual flashings, laid with each course of slate or tile.
Flight – An appendage, or integral part, of a dove house which permits the birds space to fly, perch and feed outwith the nesting/roosting area, yet still keeps them in confinement. Some flights have trap doors which allow selective birds access to free flight. Most flights are lightweight, netted structures. Sometimes also known as a 'flypen'.
Flight Distance – the point at which the prey will begin to run is known as the flight distance. It is more or less a fixed length for each group of animals.
Folly – useless but usually costly, often fantastic structure, generally attributable to wealthy eccentrics, i.e. picturesque ruins.
Freestone – a stone in which the beds are strongly bonded, making it relatively easy to work in either direction, and durable, suitable for balusters etc.
Fuie – French word, referring to small wooden box placed in the walls of a house. Frequently in cottage gables.
Gallet – (galleting) chip of stone, brick etc. pressed into mortar joint. Can be decorative but purpose is usually to reduce amount of mortar required, prior to the wall being rendered. Cherry caulking is essentially the same process, although it seems to refer more to the beds only.
Georgian – the period from the accession of King George I in 1714 to the death of King George IV in 1830, including therefore the first ten years of the Regency period, characterised by the influence of classical antiquity, but also noted for the exotic and oriental. The architecture of the period gave way to the Gothic revival.
Grange – originally, a farm associated with a monastery.

Heritors – persons liable for public burden. The heritors were a parish body, usually landowners and officials within burghs who were expected to make provision for the poor; in addition, they were responsible for the parish school up until 1872, and the church and manse up to 1925.
Historic Scotland – formed 1984, as Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, renamed Historic Scotland in 1990. An Executive Agency within The Scottish Office (unlike English Heritage, not a Quango) its basic objectives are to safeguard and promote Scotland's built heritage on behalf of the Secretary of State.
ICOMOS – (International Council of Monuments and Sites) – international authority on monument conservation. Independent of government, it is open to people and institutions concerned with, and knowledgeable in the field of conservation. It was created by UNESCO in 1965, essentially to promulgate the message of the Venice Charter.
Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) – See A.C.O.
Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes – (1987) jointly compiled by the Countryside Commission for Scotland (now Scottish Natural Heritage) and the Historic Buildings and Monuments Directorate (now Historic Scotland). List of 275 sites considered representative of the most important gardens and designed landscapes in Scotland.
Jamb – the vertical sides to a window or door opening.
Joists – parallel timbers which carry floorboards.
Keep – the principal tower of a castle.
Kitchen Garden – area of the garden or estate, often walled, which is set aside for the production of fruit and vegetables. Usually laid out in functional rectangular beds.
Laird – Scots landowner.
Lantern – a small glazed turret lighting a roof or dome.
Lintel – a horizontal beam bridging an opening in a wall. A safe lintel is a timber lintel set behind the main face lintel which traditionally would have been in stone.
Listed Building – a building included on a list of buildings of architectural or historic interest, compiled by the Secretary of State. Listing covers any structure or erection or any part of a building, or any building or structure falling within the curtilage of a listed building and dating prior to 1948. Listed buildings are divided into three categories, A, B and C. (I II* II in England).
Mains – the home or main farm on a larger estate.
Margins – margins frame an opening or emphasise the angle of a building; most are raised (usually adopted when the building was to be harled but sometimes used decoratively) but some are chamfered and some are backset (i.e. recessed from the plane of the harl or render).
Monocoque - a form of construction whereby a structure is entirely composed in an integral form of only one material; a modern example being red telephone boxes.
Mortar – a mixture traditionally including an aggregate, slaked lime or clay, any appropriate additive and water which is used for pointing and bedding masonry. In modern times, portland cement has been more widely used. A mixture rich in the cementing material is said to be 'fat'.
Occuli – small circular panels or windows.
Ogee – a double curve shape composed of two curves in opposite directions (concave to convex) without a break; on both roofs and arches and as a profile on mouldings.
Oversail – where a roof projects over the wallhead or skews. Sometimes used to describe the situation where one course, either brick or stone projects beyond the course below, which should be properly referred to as corbelling.
Ovolo – a convex moulding profile forming a quarter of a circle, sometimes called a quarter round.
Parish – a district supporting its own established church and minister. Parish records are an invaluable archive source. The National Statistical Account is based on parish records, and the statutory lists are still compiled on the basis of parish boundaries. (See Heritors.)
Pediment – classical form of corniced gable or gablet used at openings as well as a termination to roof structures.
Peeser – Scots version of a *squab*.
Piended – hipped roofed.
Pilaster – the flat version of a column, consisting of a slim rectangle projecting from a wall; used also of plain piers or pilasters without classical orders which are more correctly termed pilaster strips.
Pinned – description of masonry, usually ashlar, in which small stones or pinnings are set between the larger stones, forming a regular decorative pattern.
Polite Architecture – designed by a professional person following national or international fashion towards an aesthetically satisfying result (often implemented with a sense of design adventure) e.g. large houses of late 17th century, farm houses by 18th century, estate cottages of mid 19th century and most 20th century architecture.
Psittacosis – disease of birds that primarily affects the respiratory system and which is caused by a strain of a parasitic bacterium. Transmissible to humans, psittacosis is often considered an occupational hazard among pigeon breeders.

Quoins – stones larger than those of which a wall is composed, or better shaped, and forming the corners of walls or door and window openings: if they project they are described as raised, and if with chamfered angles, rusticated.
Roll Moulding – a plain, semicircular moulding replacing the arris on the margins round doors or windows.
Roof – the exterior top covering of a building, the internal covering being the ceiling. Roofs are usually described in one of two ways, either by external shape e.g. gambrel roof, or by the principal structural component e.g. hammer beam roof.
Gabled – A ridged roof which finishes at each end on a gable.
Hipped – where the ends of the roof are sloped rather than vertical. (*See piended.*)
Lean To – a roof with one slope only, built against a vertical wall.
Pitched roof – refers to almost any roof built at an angle, the pitch refers to the slope of the roof.
Crown Post – a vertical post standing on the centre of a tie beam and supporting a collar beam.
King Post – a vertical timber rising from the centre of a tie beam to support the ridge.
Rafter – a timber sloping from the ridge to the wall head and supporting the roof coverings.
Ridge – ridge piece, a main timber running along the apex of the roof.
Tie Beam – a horizontal beam which joins the feet of the principals at wall head level.
Truss – name given to rigid frame of principals and tie beams or collar beams.
Wall Plate – a timber laid along the top of a wall, rafter ends and studs and posts from below may be joined to it.
Rubble – a term used to describe any build where the stones are not fully dressed. Can vary from stones which are wholly natural in shape to stones which have been roughly squared, can be completely random or coursed. The more cutting, the more costly the stone, which tends to denigrate the art of rubble building which is in fact, very skilful.
Rybat – a dressed stone at the side of a door or window.
Salt Cat – a mineral supplement for domestic doves normally comprising salt, calcium, grit and cummin seed.
Sarking – roofing boards to which slates etc. are nailed. Nearly always used where slates are laid in diminishing courses.
Skew – the sloping tabling which caps a gable and is upstanding above the plane of the roof. The skew end is the larger, usually square bottom stone of a skew, which holds the sloping stones in place. The skew end does not project over the wallhead, unlike a skewputt, which does, and is usually moulded or carved.
Snecked – form of rubble construction composed of square stones in which the coursing is varied by small filler stones or snecks.
Squeakers – young pigeons up to the age of six months. So called due to their tendency to 'squeak' for attention.
Squabs – nestling pigeons still at the stage of being fed by their parents. Thought to be a word of Scandinavian origin.
Stipend - fixed or regular amount of money paid as a salary or allowance to a clergyman.
Stretcher – a brick laid with its long side to the face of the wall.
String Course – a shallow moulding continued across a whole façade.
Stugged – of masonry stonework picked to a consistent pattern, commonly employed from the mid 19th century onwards – a process which attracts many different names; in Scotland, 'nidged' and 'pinged' are quite common.
Tame – a tame animal differs from a wild one in that it is dependent on man and will stay close to him of its own free will.
Trap - not unlike the modern-day cat flap, the general purpose is control - to allow the birds liberty only when the breeder desires, yet permit a bird to enter at any time. Trapping a bird quickly is essential during racing for sport.
Tun – a vat, tub for pouring beer/ale. (Used by Scott, Waverley, 1814, p.78, to describe a 'beehive' doocot).
Vault – an arched ceiling or roof, usually of stone, brick, or concrete, which in its most basic form, is a continuous semi-circular arch i.e. a tunnel. As Romanesque evolved into Gothic and the pointed arch, vault construction became very sophisticated and because of its fireproof potential, comparatively widespread.
Vernacular – vernacular, or 'traditional', architecture encompasses most of the buildings of the world. It is not architect-designed but is customarily owner-built or community-built, utilising available resources and guided by conventions built up in the locality.
Victual – general term in Scotland for all kinds of grain.
Yett – open metal grid, hinged to form protection for a doorway; a sort of Scottish portcullis.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps nowadays we are so used to relying on statistics and the written word, that we have forgotten to use our eyes to take in the evidence around us. The danger is that by the time we wake up, that evidence will have gone forever.

Susanna Wade Martins, 1993.

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION

Dovecotes, or doocots as they have become commonly known in Scotland, of varying vintages and conditions, are found throughout much of the British Isles. At times, some are regarded by a number of observers as wondrous, even fascinating structures possessing great architectural and/or antiquarian interest. Others see some of the more historic buildings as curious monuments on the landscape, inexplicable both by their redundancy and their individuality, yet providing a sense of place and continuity with the past. Less appreciative observers, and even some owners, look upon them, however, as economic millstones and of general nuisance.

In recognition of their 'special architectural or historic interest', many dovecotes are categorised as 'listed buildings' by the Scottish Executive agency, Historic Scotland, and are protected to a high degree. Despite these levels of protection, many are openly susceptible to the vagaries of the weather, the vandal or the neglectful owner. However, there are many dovecotes still standing from past centuries. The legacy of a bygone era is an existing, but fragile, collection of what may be some of the finest vernacular and architectural structures of their type. A clear understanding of how and why these early buildings came into being is required to help us evaluate why they remain and, importantly, what to do with them, both now, and in the future.

Many early dovecotes in Scotland have been vacant for some time, so there is probably no living person who is able to inform us first hand about how these buildings once functioned. Unlike the high architecture associated with buildings such as churches, cathedrals, castles, mansions and great halls, the vernacular architecture of dovecotes has rarely been the subject of serious study.

Today, we therefore possess empty buildings which we fail to fully comprehend, and which are also under considerable threat of depletion, if not extinction. Depending upon uncertain factors such as future funding sources, changes in ownership and attitudes to listed building consents, some will probably be extirpated in a few short years. There is consequently an increasing need, if not an obligation, to study these decaying structures.

> *Now that historic dovecotes are no longer in great use, it is important that as many as possible are recorded. This should be dealt with as a priority*

lest the evidence disappears. Initially, evidence should comprise good photographs, written descriptions and sketches. The second stage should be the careful measurement of the buildings and the preparation of accurate drawings from the site dimensions. This should importantly be followed, but perhaps less urgently, by research into past records.[1]

Thus, there is a pressing requirement to **record** these buildings for documentary reasons, as advocated by many historians. Further, because of the general absence of accessible material on dovecotes,[2] it is necessary to **reconsider** the former purposes of these historic buildings and the present contributions they make to society and to assess both the need and the value in their retention.

In view of the urgency to re-evaluate these threatened buildings, **three principal objectives** are presented which will create the framework for the study. These are:

(i) <u>place existing, redundant dovecotes in a broader historical and architectural context</u> (to help evaluate their local and/or national importance, both individually and collectively);

(ii) <u>critically evaluate existing theories about historic dovecotes in general</u> (to ensure their robustness and application);

(iii) <u>identify common criteria and design details, particularly those relating to dove ecology</u> (to assess their individuality, commonalties, and ability to respond to the bird's needs).

All buildings that pose or answer historical problems, irrespective of their architectural merits, should be recorded for future generations. In 1903, antiquarian Mildred Berkeley identified that the 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire' were, " .. *an object lesson in the*

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[1] J. Severn, <u>Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire</u>, (Newark: Cromwell Press, 1986), p. 26.
A similar sentiment is conveyed by J. Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', <u>Context</u>, No. 57, (1998) pp. 21-2, (p. 22). "*The role of the Conservation Officer is to recognise the importance of doocots as a part of the social, historic and architectural character of the area, to maintain adequate records of doocots in their area and to encourage maintenance, re-use and consolidation where necessary*".

[2] A.N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, sadly unpublished typescript held in Edinburgh City Library, XDA 875, 1961. His attempt to describe all of Scotland's doocots was a quixotic, but laudable, aim and his work now remains as a key archive for any doocot structure demolished in Scotland during the past four decades. Equally important, his work also provides a solid basis for constructive discussion and further research.

architecture of the country" and Professor Alexander Fenton (then of Edinburgh University) once said in conversation that, "... *doocots are an index of vernacular building*".[3] Some apparently ordinary structures throw much light on both the economies that produced them, and on the daily life of the past. In today's age of increasingly rapid change, many curious, but redundant and decaying landmarks, are greatly valued by those for whom their familiarity confirms a sense of place, individuality and continuity with the past.

This study, therefore, seeks to increase the understanding of historic dovecotes and record them whilst they still remain.

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[3] M. Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', Worcester Diocesan Architectural and Archaeological Society, (1903), pp. 333-49, (p. 334).
A. Fenton, President of SVBWG and Prof. at European Ethnological Research Centre, Edinburgh, pers. comm., July 1992.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DOVECOTES

And God said,

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the fowl of the air..... and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Genesis I, 26.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF DOVECOTES

This chapter seeks to address the objectives of the study previously outlined, and provide a summary of how past and present commentators (within dovecote literature) have established their theories. In doing so, the review will reveal, not only where consensus lies, but also where disputes and uncertainties prevail.

To make the review most effective in meeting the aims of the study, the chapter is specifically structured to identify key sections that are best suited to the study objectives; and will examine how others have approached important issues. These are: (i) examination of the term 'dovecote'; (ii) historical background; (iii) architectural response; (iv) management and present day assessment; and (v) literature assessment.[1]

2.1 Dovecotes and established theory: definition, nomenclature, and classification

To clarify the scope of the study, properly review dovecotes, and subsequently progress towards a wider understanding of dovecotes generally, it is necessary to begin with a re-examination of what is meant by the term 'dovecote'.

2.1.1 Definitions of dovecotes

In previous writings, there is generally always an assumption that the reader knows what is meant by the term 'dovecote'. When, however, the few definitions that have been offered down the years are examined, it can be found that uniformity is far from achieved.

Firstly, architectural historian, Elizabeth Beaton described her dovecotes as, "*...freestanding, ... prestigious farm buildings*".[2] Philip Ariss, a surveying student, agreed, to some extent, by describing the dovecote as, "*...a freestanding building*

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[1]Unless necessary to expose a point of weakness in certain approaches or theories, anecdotal or highly speculative information is deliberately not included.

[2]E. Beaton, Doocots of Moray, (Elgin,: Moray Field Club, 1978)1978, p.1.

designed or adapted so that its main function is in the domestication of pigeons".[3] On this latter point, he disagreed with McCann, who had earlier written that a, "*...columbarium, culverhouse, dovehouse, dovecote or pigeon-house is a building standing directly on the ground and wholly devoted to the domestication of pigeons*".[4] These three authors define the 'dovecote' using different combinations of form and function.

Historians Bailey and Tindall, meanwhile, defined dovecotes in their area solely on the basis of function where, "*...the dovecotes of East Lothian ... as elsewhere provided fresh food*".[5] John Severn, an architect, did likewise stating, "*The dovecote was built exclusively for the breeding of pigeons*".[6]

Others decided to define the dovecote on the basis of **scale.** For example, historian Ian Whyte noted that, "... *the smallest ones had boxes for about 500 pigeons*",[7] whilst a hundred years earlier, antiquary Alfred Watkins described the dovecote as a, "*...substantial tower-like building*".[8] Previously, Henry Stephens, an agriculturalist, had suggested differently in that, "*...a pigeon house is a necessary apartment on a farm ..... A large pigeon-house is not required*".[9]

The Norfolk Dovecote Trust also defined the subject on the basis of scale, but this time included function and ownership. "*Dovecotes were built near the manor houses and farms to contain breeding birds and their hundreds of off-spring which provided young tender meat in the days when the main diet was of salt meat*".[10] Novelist, Walter Scott had earlier written, "*This dovecot, or* columbarium, *as the owner called it, was no small resource to a Scottish laird ..... for the benefit of the table*".[11]

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[3] P. Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', Journal of Historic Farm Buildings Group, vol.6, (1992), pp. 3-34, (p.3).

[4] J. McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry into the Design and Use of Dovecotes', Transactions of Ancient Monuments Society, vol.35, (1991), pp. 89-160 and 'Dovecotes; and Addendum', TAMS, vol. 36, 1992, pp. 137-9, (p.152).
pers.comm., 12/2/95, "*... later literature is almost exclusively about fancy breeds and racing pigeons, in which I have taken no interest, because they were kept in small numbers for other purposes*".

[5] D. C. Bailey & M. C. Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', TAMS, vol. 11, new series, (1963), pp. 22-52, (p.22).

[6] J. Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, (Nottinghamshire: Cromwell Press, 1986),p.18. He did not, however, follow this thought through when developing his description of the dovecotes.

[7] I. K. Whyte, Scottish Landscape, (London: Routledge, 1991), p.47.

[8] A. Watkins, 'Dovecotes of Herefordshire', 1893, pp. 8-9. He continued his statement with "*...the mere loft over stables, or picturesque barrel dovecot on a pole, or a cluster of nesting boxes against a wall, I do not include*".

[9] H. Stephens, Book of Farm Building, Div.2 (Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1844), 1890 fourth edn. p. 429.

[10] C. Carter, Norfolk Dovecote Trust, promotional leaflet, n.d.
N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.7, focused his thoughts entirely upon ownership when he said, "*.. it is reasonable to classify dovecotes into I. Ecclesiastical, II. Castle, III. Baronial*".

[11] W. Scott, Waverley, (Edinburgh; Archibald Constable, 1814), 1985 edn., vol. 1, p. 78.

Finally, a group of authors chose to define the dovecote on the basis of time, as well as function. For example, Eric Hardy, in his A-Z Pigeon Guide, wrote, "*Dovecote (Columbarium); House for Pigeons ... Used until about nineteenth century*".[12] Peter and Jean Hansell prefaced their beautifully illustrated book with a definition of dovecotes as being, "*...built from the time of the Normans onwards to house the pigeons which were bred for the larder. They are of all ages and range from ancient, rugged utilitarian structures to the elegant architectural fancies of the eighteenth century*".[13] These latter definitions imply that dovecotes are objects of the past, and belong only to previous centuries. Yet, in 1931 breeder Marion Cran wrote a book entitled Making the Dovecote Pay in response to public demand, saying, "*I have been asked with great persistence to give detail of feeding table pigeons*".[14] Within her work Cran principally described how to breed and house pigeons for food, although aspects of breeding for ornament and pleasure are also discussed.

A consensus has not been reached on the definition of what constitutes a 'dovecote' (c.f. Chap. 7.1.1).

2.1.2 Nomenclature of dovecotes

'Dovecote' is a compound word that has become the collective term for a 'dove house' in Scotland. It was first, formally, used in 1978 by Beaton in Doocots of Moray.[15] Prior to that, the more polite, and less colloquial, form 'dovecot' had been generally used by twentieth century writers. This likely emerged from the use of the terms in Ordnance Survey Maps dating back to 1869 when surveyors, well familiar with favoured English parlance, frequently identified 'dovecots' as local landmarks.[16]

Previously, in various eighteenth century estate maps, a variety of terms was used with the most frequent being 'pigeon house', or 'pidgeon house', 'dovecott' and 'duvcot'.[17]

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[12] E. Hardy, A-Z Pigeon Guide, (London: Burke, 1951), p. 57, s.v. 'Dovecote'.

[13] P. & J. Hansell, Doves & Dovecotes, (Bath: Millstream Publishing, 1988), preface. Peter Hansell is a member of the Royal Photographic Society.

[14] M. Cran, Making Dovecotes Pay, (London: Herbert Jenkins, 1931), p.9.

[15] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978.
"*The Scottish use of the expression 'doo', for pigeon, may be derived from the Dutch 'duyve', or more likely the Danish 'due', since much of Scottish language and culture has Norse influence.*"
Even today the wood pigeon is referred to as the 'cushat doo' in Scotland.

[16] During this period, the use of Scots colloquialism was frowned upon.

[17] A variety of words and spellings is cited in W. Craigie's, Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue, (London; Oxford University Press), nd., p. 207. "*Dowcat, dowcott, doucot, dowcatt, dowkat, dwcat, dukat, duckat, docat, dowecote, doufecot*".

In earlier maps and manuscripts, a further variety of terms, such as 'doecot', 'duckat' and 'ducat' was found, all of which begin to resemble the word now used today. The term 'pidgeon house', or 'pigion house', also appears in seventeenth and eighteenth century documentation.

Latin was used in documents such as titles and charters, hence the word '*columbarium*' appears in reference to the dovecote.[18] The use of '*columbarium*' had become common in Britain by the medieval period, although the Romans had themselves preferred the Greek term '*peristeron*' (a Roman '*columbarium*' was a structure of a lesser scale).[19] The French also used more than one term, '*colombier*' and '*pigeonnier*' although their reasons behind the differences were not so clear.[20] In his Dovecotes of Essex, Donald Smith noted that the term 'cote' derives from the Saxon word for 'shelter'. Although not a naturalist, he attempted to define the 'dove' part of 'dovecote' using characteristics such as, "*...small, ...lives in pairs, ...nests alone, ...never thoroughly domesticated, ...a cage bird*".[21] Smith did not explore this any further but he was (perhaps unwittingly) inferring that the use of 'dove' in 'dovecote' is misapplied. In stark contrast to his definition of the 'dove', he characterised the 'pigeon' in more predictable terms such as, "*...wild or tame, ...gregarious, ...sizeable, ...domesticated, ...returns home*".[22] In his erudite works 'Conservation of Historic Doocots', former Inspector of Historic Buildings, John McCann, summarises the point by stating, "*The word 'dovecote' has been widely adopted only this century .... still, 'dovecote' is now in general use, and it is too late to revert to earlier usage*." McCann's recommendation is to use the term 'pigeon house'[23] (c.f. Chap. 7.1.2).

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p. 494 describes 'Pigeoun' as a "*(young) dove*".
D. Kempe, 'Some Northumbrian Dovecotes', Journal of Historic Farm Building Group, vol.6, (1992), pp. 73-6, (p.73)., p.73 refers to the colloquialism "*ducket*".

[18] '*Columba*' is the Latin word used to describe the dove genus. '*Pipio*', meaning young chirping bird, possibly developed into the French '*pijon*'. '*Columba*' meanwhile, may be derived from the Greek word '*kolumba*' which means to 'dive' – possibly in reference to certain dove species habit of dipping and diving during courtship.

[19] John Clerk of Penicuik, in a letter to a friend regarding a Latin inscription on his building, stated 25/4/1707, "*I find that the ancient Romans had no word of their own to express a pigeonhouse, except the Greek word peristeron, which Varro expresses in Greek characters. Columella* [Roman writer]*and he usescolumbarium only for a pigeon hole*". SRO MS GD 18/4528.
Peristeraki is the Greek word for 'pigeon'.
Clerk's observations reveal that he was well versed with the works of Roman writers.

[20] J. - P. Suzzoni, 'Colombiers et pigeonniers de notre region', Organe de la Societe les toulousains, 401 (Jan., 1974), pp. 10-21 and 402 (Feb. 1974), pp. 39-45, select trans., E. Russell. The article does not explain why some structures are called 'dovecotes' and others 'pigeon houses'.

[21] D. Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, (London: Simpkin Marshall Ltd., 1931, p. 4.

[22] Ibid.

[23] J McCann, Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', Journal of Architectural Conservation, vol. 1, No.2, (July 1995), pp. 78-96.

2.1.3. Classification of dovecotes

Some authors who avoid the issue of definition have attempted to clarify matters through the use of classification. Just as there are different approaches to definition, the classification of dovecotes appears in a variety of forms.

For example, Glen Pride classified dovecotes as occurring as, "... *four basic types*":

(i) 'Beehive' – (circular, domed roof);
(ii) 'Lectern' – (rectangular/square, lean-to roof);
(iii) 'Drum' – (circular with flat roof/decorated parapet);
(iv) 'Attached' – (incorporated in tower or other parts of building)[24].

A century earlier, a dove breeder, the Reverend William Lumley also indicated four, but very different, types:

(i) 'Lean-to' (to a cottage);
(ii) 'Suspended' (on a wall);
(iii) 'Old fashioned' (on a pole);
(iv) 'Old fashioned edifice' ("*...an ugly but substantial structure*").[25]

Secretary for the Yorkshire Dovecote Society, Alan Whitworth wrote that in his area, three types existed:

(i) 'Separate dovecote';
(ii) 'Pigeon-holes leading into an enclosed loft';
(iii) 'Pigeon-holes formed within the walls of a structure'.[26]

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[24] G. Pride, Glossary of Scottish Buildings, (St. Andrews, Famedram Publishers Ltd., 1975), p. 36,
and G L Pride, Dictionary of Scottish Building, Rutland Press, 1996, p.30.

[25] W. F. Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, (London: Cassell & Co., 1845) revised version of Fulton's earlier works, 1874, p.29.

[26] A. Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes and Pigeon Lofts', Yorkshire Archaeological Journal, 65, (1993), pp.75-89, (p.75).
J. E. C. Peters, Development of Farm Buildings, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1969), p.205, narrowed the 'dovecote' down to only two types:(i) 'Raised over cow house or granary'; (ii) Gable entry' (where the dovecote occupies part of the roof).
This was borne out of a pioneering study - few, if any, had considered farm buildings worthy of analysis during the 1960s. (Peters may have deliberately excluded prestigious cotes from his study, however).

Others, such as Cooke and the Hansells, opted to classify dovecotes more on the basis of nationality (although it appears that this was perhaps done more to facilitate 'subject management', rather than to define 'classification').[27]

One of the more conscious attempts at classification was carried out by Bailey and Tindall. They propounded the theory that the dovecotes in their area could be classified using the following symbolism and description:

⊙	Beehive;
□	Square dovecots;
⊡	Lecterns (and double lecterns ⧈ ⧈ ;
△	Octagonal dovecots;
O	Cylindrical dovecots;
T	Dovecots in roofs and towers.[28]

This form of classification was repeated in a later 'Dovecots of East Lothian' leaflet and was subsequently adopted at a national level in Peterkin's, Scottish Dovecotes.[29] Tim Buxbaum declined to do likewise and preferred to use his own typology of, "*...Beehive/Modified Beehive, Lectern/Square Plan/Ridge Roof, Pavilion, Miscellaneous*".[30] Buxbaum is not alone, since many other authors also classify dovecotes in their own particular way[31] (c.f. Chap. 7.1.3).

2.2 Dovecotes and established theory: historical background, distribution, ownership and purpose

In order to contextualise dovecotes, there is a requirement to trace their historical background. It is also necessary to consider: who erected them; where they can be found; and what functions they have served.

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[27] A. Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, (London: T.N. Foulis, 1920) and P. & J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, (Bath:Millstream Books, 1988).

[28] Bailey & Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p.31.

[29] G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, (Coupar Angus: Wm. Culross & Son Ltd., 1981), p.26. (Peterkin was a personal friend of Noven Robertson).

[30] T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, (Princes Risborough: Shire Publications Ltd., 1987), pp. 31-2.

[31] For some undisclosed reason, both N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961 and Peterkin, supra, do not arrange their counties in alphabetical order (although individual buildings within each county are arranged alphabetically).
In his very recent publication Dovecotes of Suffolk, (Ipswich: Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, 1998), p.17, John McCann avoids such ambiguity and makes a very clear statement, s.v. 'The Scope of this Study'.

2.2.1. Early history of dovecotes

The Persians, as revealed in Jean Hansell's very recent and comprehensive publication Pigeon in History, have had a long relationship with the bird. From the mythology of the Semitic peoples, we find that the dove occupied a place of reverence in their thoughts, in the approximate period 5000-2000 B.C.[32] At least by 2700 B.C., doves were represented on Egyptian bas-relief, and palaces and temples were frequently inhabited by them. The Greeks also associated the bird with their goddess Aphrodite, and similarly revered doves.[33]

The Romans were the first people to extensively document their pigeon-rearing exploits. From the works of Ovid and Cato, but more so the detailed writings of Varro, Pliny and Columella, we are able to develop a picture of pigeon rearing that was large scale and in a state of high activity, even long before the time of Christ.[34]

There is sufficient biblical evidence to illustrate that doves were important to the Jewish and Christian faiths[35] (see Appendix Section 2).

Despite a long period of subsequent domestication spreading northwards across Europe, "*The savage years following the Roman withdrawal, and the incursion of the 'Saxon' who knew nothing of the domestic pigeon*"[36], perhaps explain the developmental hiatus of the domestic pigeon in Britain (or perhaps more truthfully England) during the Dark Ages. Smith observed that there is no mention of dovecotes in the Domesday Book (an

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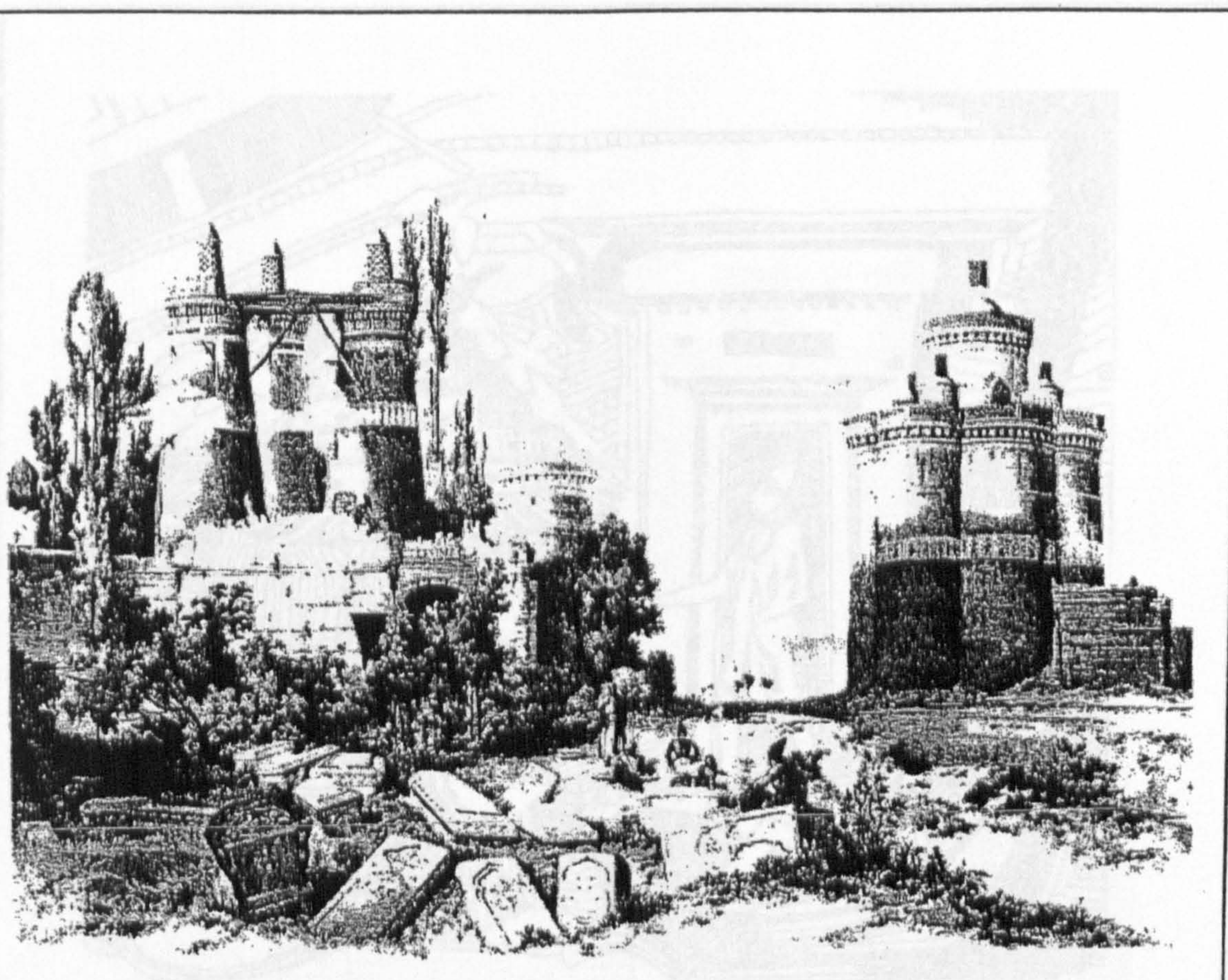
[32] J. Hansell, Pigeon in History, (Bath: Millstream Books, 1998), passim. The Semitic people worshipped Astarte, goddess of Venus, as did the Egyptians, and the dove became a symbol of worship in the ancient world. . Reverence for the dove has continued to this day in Muhammedan countries. As recently as 1925, a near riot was just avoided in Bombay when two European boys unwittingly killed some street pigeons.

[33] P. & J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, p.15. "*All these temple birds were regarded as sacred and it was forbidden to kill them for other than sacrificial purposes. Such circumstances provided an ideal milieu for domestication, however unintentional*"

[34] Ovid, Tristia: Exponto, c. 10 A.D. (London: Heinemann, 1924), trans. A. L. Wheeler.
Cato the Censor, On Farming, c. 170, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1933), trans. Brehaut.

[35] Biblical references contain 36 citations on doves and 12 on young pigeons, the latter always being sacrificial references of the poor (the wealthy offered quadrupeds). The references are found in Genesis and the four gospels. The dove comes across as the supreme bird in Christian faith and was utlised also as a symbol of fertility, worship at birth, sacrifice during mourning and as a messenger. There are no references in the Apocryphal books. Artists, through various centuries, have notably depicted white doves (frequently with an olive branch) as a symbol of the Lord and such images often appear in Christian churches.

[36] Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1930, p. 50.
The word 'culver' or 'culfre' for pigeon or dove, first appears c. 825, thus suggesting the previous lack of a native bird. There seems to be no word in the early Saxon language for the dove, wild or tame.



Towers near Isfahan Persia (Fig. 2.1)

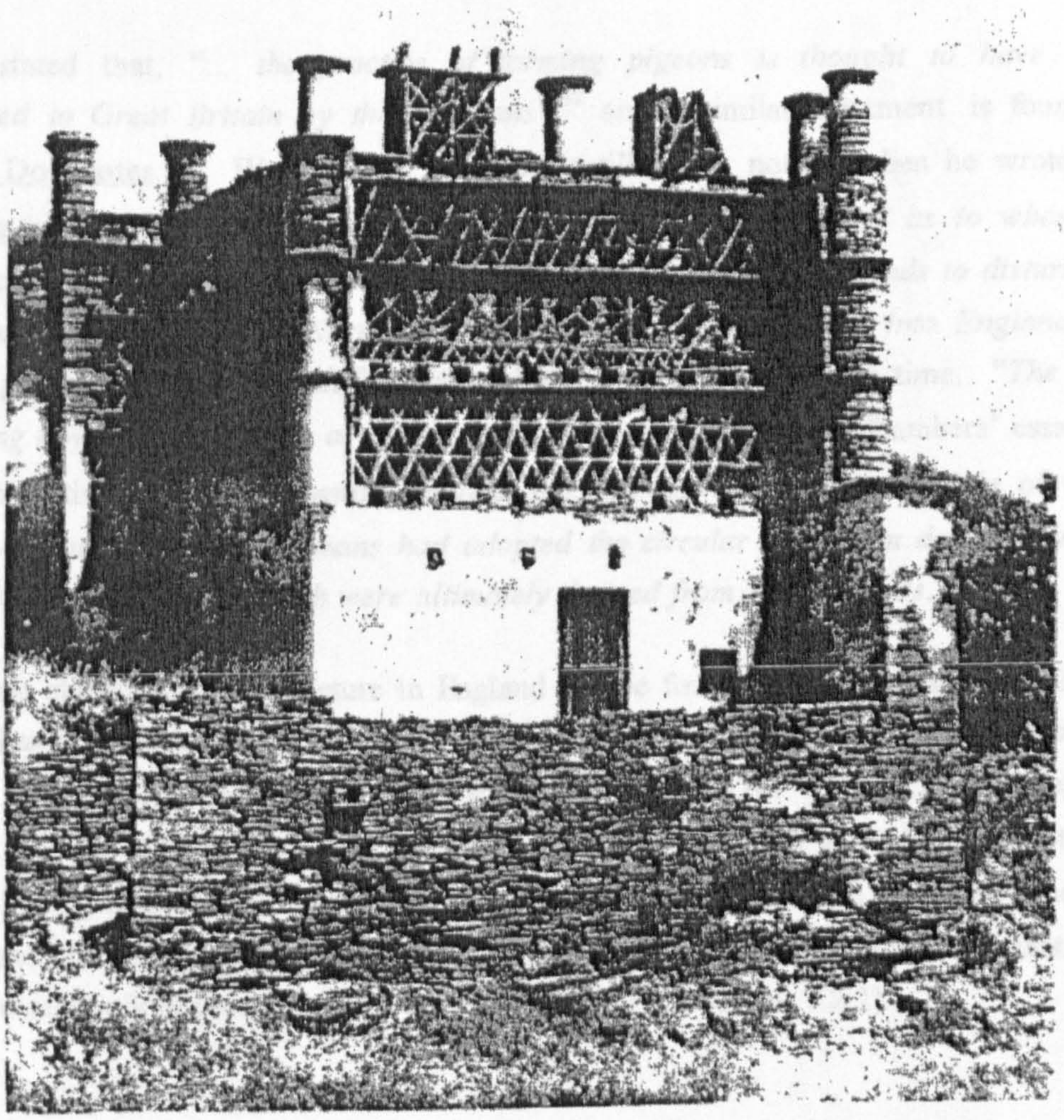
A nineteenth century engraving of two huge pigeon towers near Isfahan. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p. 140. *"The large pigeon house at Chahar Burj is an excellent example and has been estimated to have space for 10,000 birds".*



Roman Columbarium (Fig. 2.2)

Drawing of a Roman mosaic at Palestrina showing a priest emerging from a shrine with a domed *columbarium*, which is punctuated with many holes, in the background.

(reproduced from J. Hansell, Pigeon History, 1998, p. 54. Original 'mosaic version' shown in P. & J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p. 134).



Greek *Peristeron* (Plate 2.1)

P. & J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p. 129, "*The most attractive dovecotes are on Tinos, where recent estimates of numbers still standing vary between 800 and 1300.*" Note the flat roof design and the frequent punctuations in the walls which are both responses of local climatic conditions.

important reference document since it recorded virtually every other type of building) although sufficient records existed in southern England during the thirteenth century to suggest that pigeon rearing was becoming more widely practised.

Beaton stated that, "... *the practice of farming pigeons is thought to have been introduced to Great Britain by the Normans*",[37] and a similar statement is found in Scottish Dovecotes.[38] Watkins had probably instilled this notion when he wrote the following in 1890, "*I have no new light to throw upon the question as to when the English people first kept pigeons in dovecots; but nothing I have seen tends to disturb the usual opinion that it was the Norman conqueror who first introduced into England the massive pigeon tower*".[39] Robert Douglas took the issue further back in time. "*The idea of keeping doves came directly or indirectly from Rome*".[40] Charles Chambers' essay on 'Romano-British Dovecots', possibly provides the link between these two points of view. "*We may assume that the Normans had adopted the circular plan from dovecots which they found in France and which were ultimately derived from Roman times.*"[41]

The oldest standing, dated structure in England can be found at Garway (see Fig. 2.5) , inscribed as ".. *erected in 1325*".[42] In some contrast, the earliest Scottish dovecote is thought to be at Mertoun House in Berwickshire, dated 1576.[43] This simple statistic suggests that the domestication of doves may not have progressed as rapidly in Scotland, as it did in England. Further, research into exactly how, and when, the dovecote emerged in Scotland has not been tackled by previous study, although it has been stated that, "... *they were certainly present by the thirteenth century*"[44] (c.f. Chap. 7.2.1).

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[37] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.2.

[38] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p.3.
"*The Normans were responsible for introducing dovecotes to this country*".

[39] A. Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon Houses', Transaction sof Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club, (1890), pp. 9-22, (p.9).

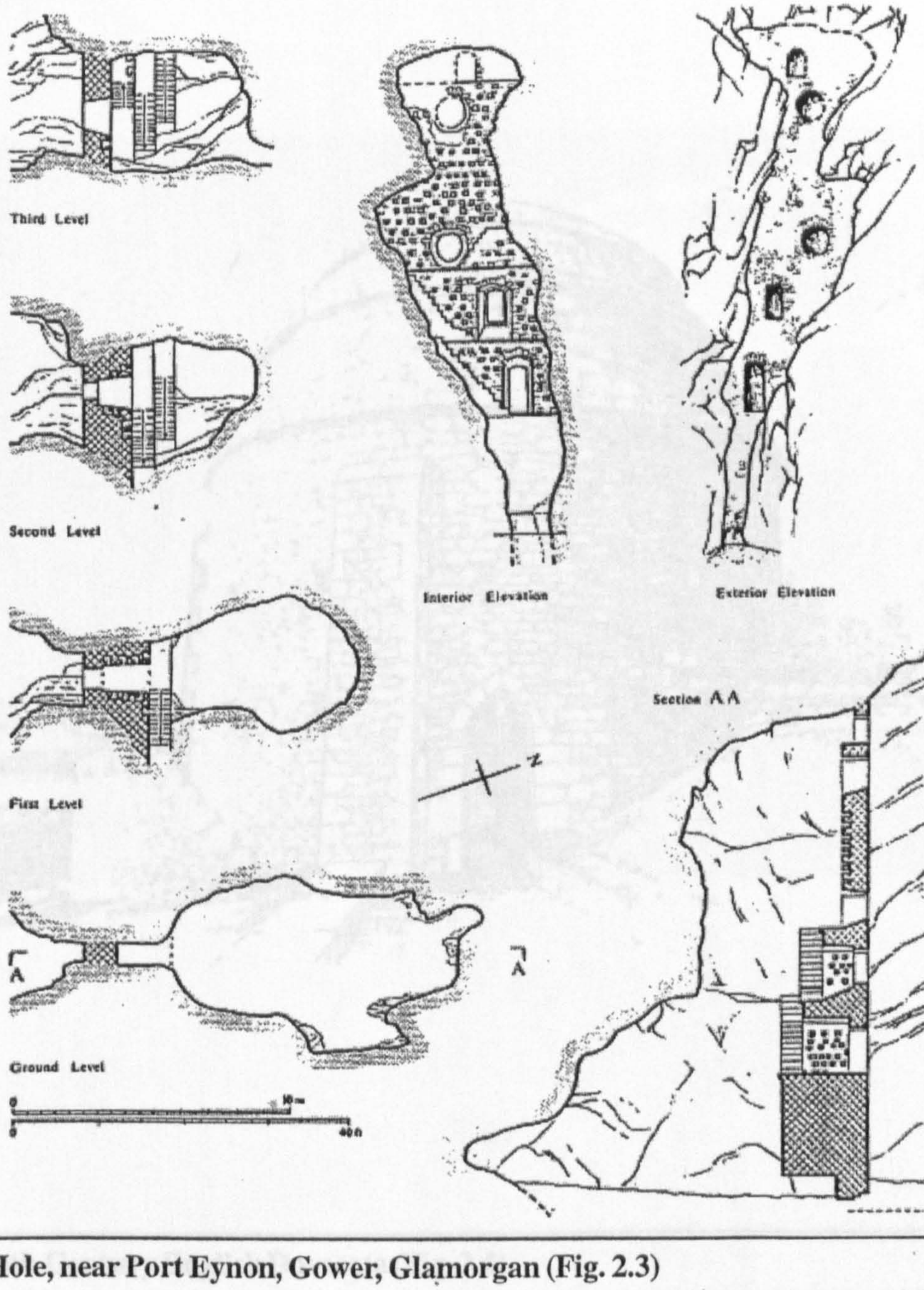
[40] R. Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, (Elgin: Courant and Courier, 1931), p.10.

[41] C. Chambers, 'Romano-British Dovecots', Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies, vol. 10, (1920), pp. 189-93, (p. 189).

[42] J. Webb, 'Notes on a Preceptory at Garway' Archaelogia, vol. 31, (1844), pp.182-97.

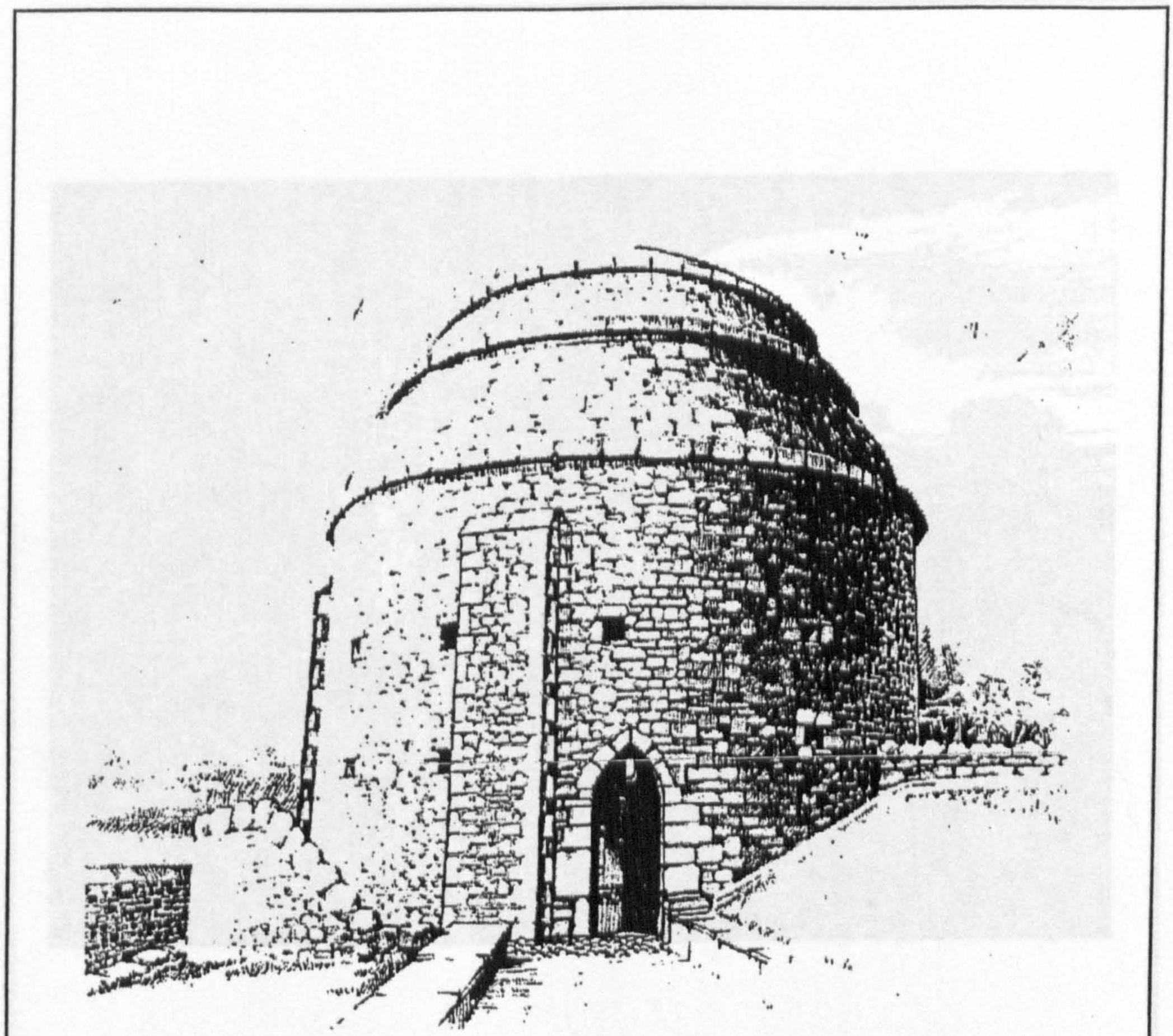
[43] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980,p. 31. "*Designed by Sir William Bruce. Four buttresses; domed roof of smooth stone or cement; wooden louvre. In fine condition with many doves*". N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', 1961, p. 6, states "*The columbaria at Inchholm [in tower] and Crossraguel [Abbey] are possibly the oldest existing in Scotland*".
Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.5, states, however, that, "*Early references suggest there was a pigeon house at Skara Brae in Orkney.*"

[44] Stated without citation of reference, G. Bailey, 'Doocots in the Falkirk District', Calatria, vol.1, (1991), pp. 33-56, (p.33) stated, "*They were certainly present by the thirteenth century*".



Culver Hole, near Port Eynon, Gower, Glamorgan (Fig. 2.3)

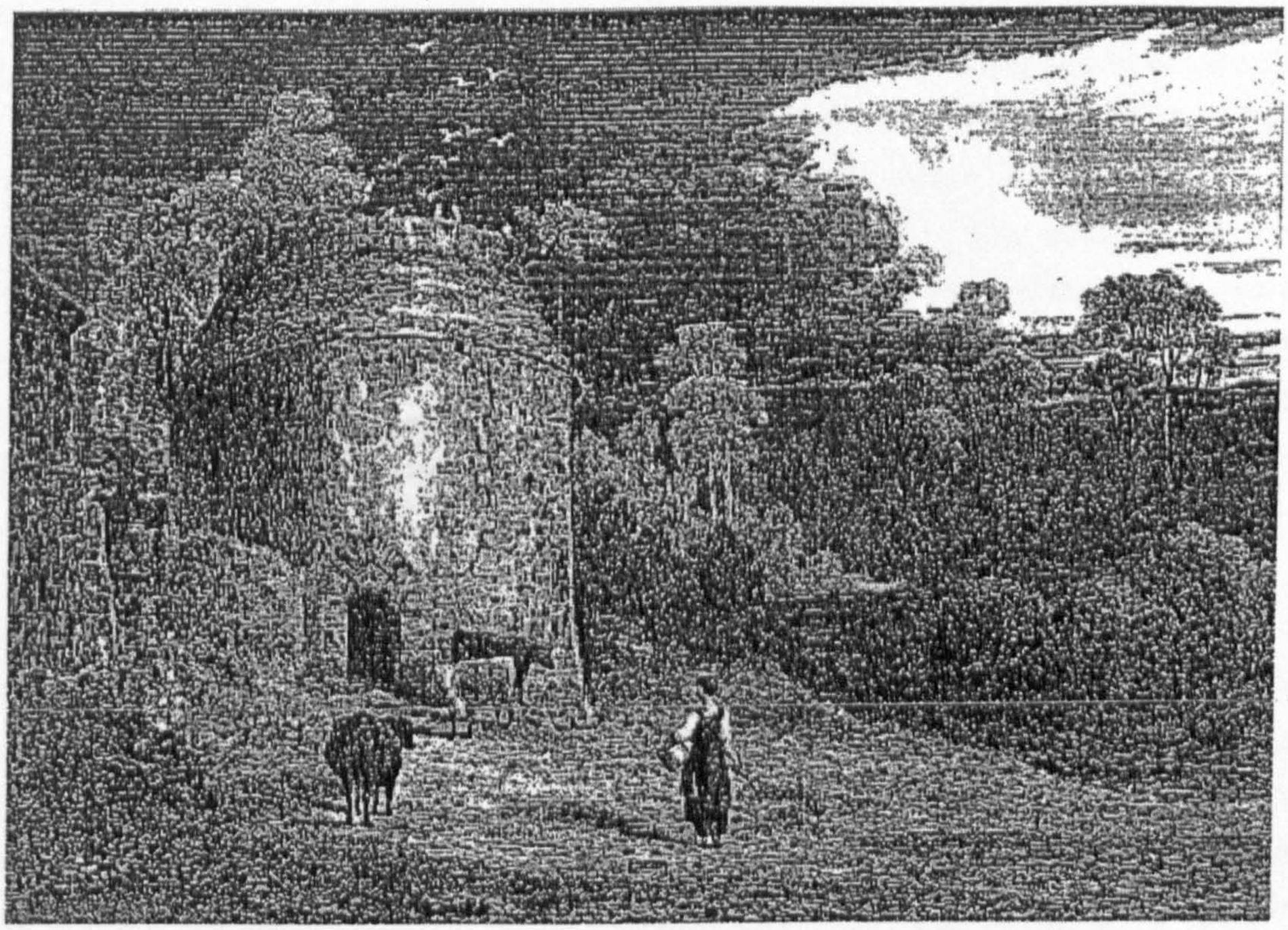
Natural cave in the sea cliffs has been walled up and provided with L-shaped nest holes. Mowat, 'Early Pigeon-Houses', 1903, p. 31, "... *culver is Anglo-Saxon for a pigeon*." (reproduced from McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 122, courtesy of RCAHM of Wales).



Thirteenth Century English Dovecote (Fig. 2.4)

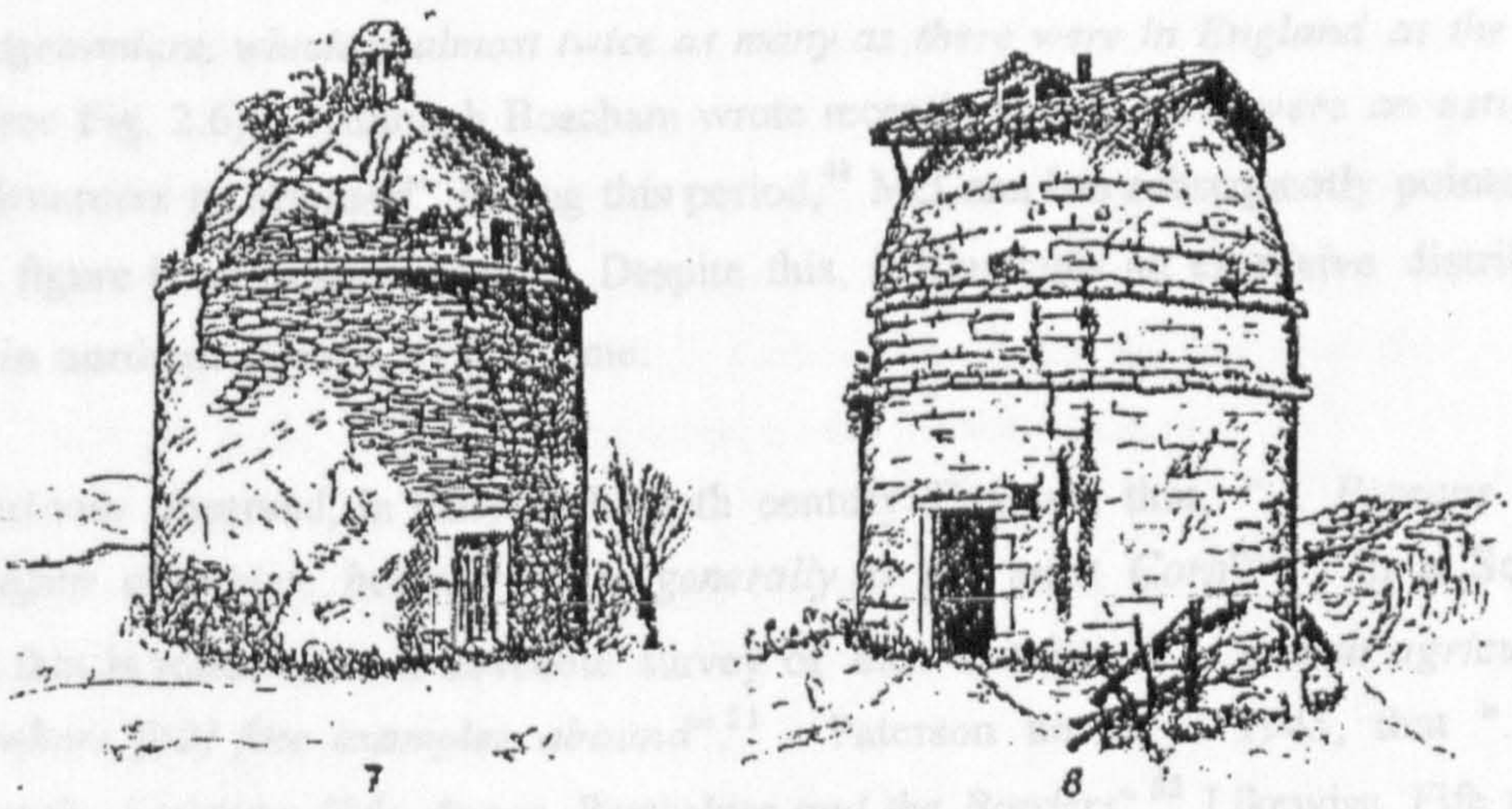
Sketch by B. Frears of substantial, freestanding, stone, domed dovecote on the site of thirteenth century fortified manor house of Cadoxton Court on the Gower peninsula (the original house now replaced by a later mansion).

(reproduced from P. & J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, p. 72)



Fourteenth Century Dovecote at Garway, Herefordshire (Fig 2.5)

Nineteenth century engraving by J. Basire showing some doves still utilising a large, but deteriorating, dovecote which is thought to be, "*...the work of a religious order*", Webb, 'Archaeologica', 1844, p. 191



French Colombiers (Fig. 2.6)

Sketches of two cotes in Southern France: the first at Larresingle has a domed top and is sited on an ancient hunting estate; the second at L'Isle-Bouzon is adjacent a thirteenth century feudal castle.

(reproduced from Suzzoni, 'Colombiers and Pigeonniers de Notre region', 1974, p. 41)

2.2.2. Distribution of dovecotes

The writings of the likes of Varro, Columella and Aristotle inform us that *columbaria* in ancient Rome were widely distributed in town and country[45], whilst the travels of Tavernier revealed thousands of dove towers throughout Persia during the seventeenth century.[46] It is thought that dovecotes have also been widespread across Europe, and, "*Even today there are dovecotes still standing in Greece, Italy, Spain, Germany, Holland and, of course, France, where in the seventeenth century there were estimated to be 42,000 pigeonniers, which is almost twice as many as there were in England at the same time*"[47] (see Fig. 2.6). Although Beacham wrote recently that ".. *there were an estimated 26,000 dovecotes in England*" during this period,[48] McCann has subsequently pointed out that this figure is an exaggeration.[49] Despite this, it illustrates an extensive distribution of cotes in northern Europe by this time.

John Mortimer observed, in early eighteenth century England, that, "... *Pigeons thrive best on open countries, because there generally is the most Corn*"[50]. In a Scottish context, this is reflected in a dovecote survey of East Lothian, "... *a rich agricultural country where [62] fine examples abound*".[51] Paterson noted, in 1945, that ".. *they abound in the Lothians, Fife, Angus, Perthshire and the Borders*".[52] Likewise, Fife region is recorded as being, "... *liberally studded with dovecotes.*"[53] On the other hand, no dovecote was recorded in the Dumfries and Wigtown area during a RCHAMS survey in the

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[45] Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., p. 281.
Columella, Of Husbandry, c. 50 A.D., p. 355.
Aristotle, History of Animals, bks. VII-X, (London: Harvard University Press, 1991), trans. D. M. Balme, pp. 253-5.

[46] M. Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', Transactions of Worcestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society, (1903), pp. 333-49, (p. 335) quotes the works of Tavernier entitled 'Persian Travels'. It was discovered that Isfahan, the capital, had as many as 10,000 alone.

[47] P. & J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, p. 46.
The authors pick up on Ferguson's earlier thoughts (1888) that this large number of doves, owned by the aristocracy, may have contributed to the peasant uprisings of the French Revolution.

[48] M.J.A. Beacham, 'Dovecotes in England: An Introduction and Gazetteer', Transactions of Ancient Monuments Society, vol.34, (1990), pp.85-93, (p.88).

[49] McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.100, sources Beacham's figures to Dymock. *"From his knowledge of Cambridgeshire he estimated that on average there were three pigeon-houses in each parish; he multiplied this by the number of parishes in England... and this produced a national total."*

[50] J. Mortimer, Whole Art of Husbandry, vol. 1, (London: Robinson and Mortlock, 1721), 5th edn., p. 262.

[51] Bailey & Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p. 23.

[52] L.S. Paterson, 'Dowcattes'. 'A Feature of Scottish Lowland Scenery', Scots Magazine, (Feb.1945), pp. 373-8, (p. 373).
"Dowcattes, or dovecots, are one of the best preserved links with life in that Scotland of three or four hundred years ago. They recall the times when fresh meat in winter was almost unknown."

[53] Anon, 'Ancient Larders', Scots Magazine, (June 1947), p. 30.
"In a history of Fife and Kinross it is stated that there were no fewer than 360 dovecotes in these counties with 36,000 pairs of breeders". Original source of information is given in N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 23 as Mackay, History of Fife and Kinross, p. 203.

early twentieth century.[54] Cooke, however, preferred to identify the Edinburgh area as 'dovecote land'[55], whilst Buxbaum commented that dovecotes are, "... *dependent on the availability of richer arable lands*".[56]

Taylor wrote that ,"... *at the end of the eighteenth century there were 360 in the Kingdom of Fife alone. Today only seventy-three are recorded*".[57] The degree to which existing dovecotes reflects original numbers has also been speculated upon by others. Ariss observed that in his area, "*It is clear however that those standing today represent only a small population of the number once in existence,*"[58] and when Berkeley wrote about her region at the turn of the century, she recollected that over one fifth of the total had been demolished or was falling into severe decay.[59] Although John Severn did not carry out a full measurement of lost structures, he expressed a notion that the rate of loss in his area was high and concluded, "... *I am inclined towards the view that pigeon-keeping ... was far more important than many would have us believe*".[60]

The lack of research on this overall matter is, perhaps, best summarised in a recent statement by Beaton: "*The distribution of dovecotes is of interest and as yet unexplained*".[61]

2.2.3 Ownership of dovecotes

The ownership of a dovecote in Scotland is thought to be so distinctive that an article carried the heading, 'Ownership of Dovecot was Patent of Gentility' [62] and that, "..*it is probable that in the past every Scottish castle possessed a dovecote*." [63] "*An added*

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[54] J. Gladstone, 'Dovecote at Blackwood', Transactions of Dumfries and Galloway Antiquarian Society, 1929, pp. 78-86, (p.83).

[55] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 243. It is not altogether clear if he meant Edinburgh as a 'city' or a 'region'.

[56] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 3.

[57] M. E. Taylor, 'Dovecotes as Ancient Monuments', The Listener, 18/4/1957, p. 626. The statement ends, "... *in the inventory of ancient and historic monuments of Fife.*"
Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p. 23 account for 12 lost in their area since 1938.

[58] Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 7.

[59] Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p. 338. She observed, in Herefordshire, that almost half had been lost during her memory and urged that, "... *neither owner nor tenant must regard the demolition of these ancient dovehouses as an improvement.*", p. 349.

[60] Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p. 7.
"*Whilst not necessarily supporting the statement that every farm had a pigeon house of some description, I am now becoming convinced that nearly every farm had one.*"

[61] Beaton, pers. comm., 20/10/96.

[62] W. Brydon, 'Ownership of Dovecot...', Edinburgh Evening News, 16/3/1957, p.4. "*Of course, it was only landowners who were entitled to erect dovecots.*"

[63] N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.7 and p.11.

convenience, at least to their owners, was that they [the doves] fed themselves off the surrounding countryside... It is not therefore surprising to find that the right to farm doos was restricted, as elsewhere, by both law and custom".[64] This late twentieth century opinion (that building a dovecote was legally a restricted practice), had been likewise conveyed almost half a century earlier. "*It was not permissible for anyone to erect dovecotes and keep any number of pigeons ... it was enacted by a Scottish Statute in 1617 chap. 19 that certain requirements must be fulfilled before any person should build a dovecote or pigeon house either in town or country. The chief requirement was that the privilege of possessing a dovecote was confined to those who owned lands or teinds which might produce a value equal to 10 chalders of victual lying at least within two miles of it*".[65]

Similar wording, this time for a law in 1627, was recorded by Jean Maitland, whilst David Elder documented it (again in his own words) as 1697; "*An Act was passed restricting the privilege of building doocots to lairds who owned land in the vicinity.*"[66] Previously, "*When in the sixteenth century, there was much building of dovecots, stringent laws were passed for their protection, and from 1424 onwards severe punishments were meted out to destroyers or breakers of 'dow-houses'*".[67] Niven Robertson cuttingly observed that all, "*These laws were made by the wealthy people who owned the dovecotes*".[68]

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[64] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.1, "as elsewhere", presumably meaning the likes of England, France, Persia which appear to have had some form of restrictive practice (the latter having a complete moratorium of right upon Christians). N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p.18. "*In France, one who owned... (54 acres) was allowed to have a colombier, not more than sixteen feet high, and containing sixty to a hundred boulins.*"

[65] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 7-8.
Before the Union of the Crowns in 1603, followed by the Union of Parliaments in 1707, England's legal similarities with Scotland would have been limited, except where cultures overlapped. Prior to the Reformation, English laws positively discriminated more in favour of who you were, rather than what you owned. R. Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, (London: Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1987 new and enlarged edn.), p. 84. "*The right to maintain a dovecot was restricted to privileged landlords, monasteries and parochial clergy*". Also, Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1930, p. 72, observes that, "*Pigeons never in accounts of the poor for rents and dues ... no statute was necessary ... displeasure of the lord would be quite sufficient*". See details of 1617 law in Appendix Section 2.

[66] J. Maitland, 'The Doocots of Angus, The Arbroath Herald, Dec. 1964, u.p.
D. Elder, 'Doos and Doocots', Scots Magazine, (Feb.1996), pp. 166-8, (p.166).
It seems that both these authors have misquoted the date of this law.

[67] J. Whitaker, 'Ancient Dovecots of East Lothian', Transactions of the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists Society, vol.3, (1938), pp.1-22, (p.4). "*Dovecot breakers were, in the view of old Scots law, guilty of theft.*"

[68] N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes', 1961, p. 16. See Appendix Section 2 for full details of these laws.
The protection of doves should be taken in context with similar laws which protected other 'tame' animals such as game birds, hares, deer etc. Penalties for crime were severe, including execution, but one of the obvious difficulties was proving 'ownership' of individual birds.
Even an Act as late as George IV, c. 29, stated that, "...*to steal wild pigeons, in a pigeon house, shut up so that their owner may taken them, is felony*". (as cited by Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1930, p.81. J. McCann, pers. comm., 12/2/99, points out that, "*Smith was wrong. However, that is a correct statements of English common law*".).
See J. McCann, 'Dovecotes and Pigeons in English Law', Transactions of Ancient Monument Society, vol. 44, (2000), pp. 25-50 for fuller details.

By the late seventeenth century, it had been determined that a dovecote owner, "... *was not obliged to demolish his doocot even though he no longer owned the required land*".[69] The 1617 Act was still in force at this time and Harold McIntosh, a lawyer, surprisingly reported in 1939 that it is, "... *still unrepealed*".[70] From the beginning of the eighteenth century the range and number of estates claiming the right to a dovecote increased as the legislation, or at least the attitudes towards it, were relaxed.[71]

Clearly, the association of ownership of the dovecote in Scotland is closely tied over many centuries to acts of law, and many authors rightly choose to refer to them in one way or another. It is unfortunate, nevertheless, that some sources of dates and references for these laws are inaccurate and that varying interpretations, rather than true accounts, are cited (suggesting that some authors may be recounting previous dovecote authors, as opposed to original material). Also, since Scottish law is different to English, laws pertaining to dovecotes may have charted a particularly unique path that affected the development of pigeon rearing and dovecote design.

2.2.4 Purpose of dovecotes

Understanding the function of dovecotes is critical to meeting the key objectives of this study. In 1998 two short articles were published entitled, 'Doocots in Scotland' and 'Our outdoor larders of the past.'[72] These were concise accounts, each of only two pages in length, but nevertheless significant because of who wrote them, together with where, and when, they were published. Jack Gillon, a Conservation Officer with Edinburgh City

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[69]G. Bailey, 'Doocots in the Falkirk District', Calatria, vol. 1, (1991), pp.33-56, (p.36), "...*but he was forced to close up the pigeon holes.*".

[70]H. McIntosh, 'Dovecotes in the eyes of the law', Transactions of the Glasgow Archaeological Society, vol. 9, (1938), pp. 189-94, (p.194).
Berkely, Dovecotes of Worcestershire, 1903, p.342, makes a similar suggestion to McIntosh. Meanwhile, J. Cochrane, 'Doves of Sark', Racing Pigeon Pictorial, 306, (August 1995), pp. 167-8, (p.167) notes, "*And in one part of the British Isles, that law still exists. On the tiny island of Sark, in the Channel Islands, only the Seigneur of Sark is ... allowed to keep a breeding bitch or pigeons*".
N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p.18, suggests that many of these laws are said to have been valid up to the nineteenth century.

[71]Bailey, loc.cit. "*From the beginning of the eighteenth century the range and number of estates claiming the right to a doocot increased as the legislation was relaxed.*"
Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.36, suggests that manorial privilege in England is, "*.. generally stated to have been abolished during the reign of Elizabeth.*"
Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings, 1982, p.85. In England, "*An Act of 1761/2 allowed any landowners or freeholder to build a dovecot on his own land and any tenant to build one with his landlord's permission.*"
McCann, 'Dovecotes and Pigeons in English Law', 2000, p.27, "*To set the record straight, the Act of 1761/2 said nothing whatever about the right to build dovecotes; nor was that right ever defined by Act of Parliament. As will be shown, the exclusive prerogative of the lord of the manor was terminated a century and a half earlier.*"

[72] J. Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', Context, 57, (March 1998), pp. 21-2 and
J. Hume, 'Our outdoor larders of the Past', Magazine of Friends of Historic Scotland, (Spring 1998), pp. 10-1.

Council, wrote the former article in 'Context' (a journal for Conservation Officers) whilst the latter was written by John Hume, Chief Inspector of Historic Buildings, (in a magazine for the 'Friends of Historic Scotland'). These articles are considered important to this study because they are very recent, and have been penned by knowledgeable authors for a knowledgeable audience. Both address the key question of purpose and they produce remarkably similar statements. Hume says, "*Doocots were developed to provide fresh food in the form of pigeon flesh and eggs, especially during the winter months*",[73] and Gillon accords with, "*Pigeons provided a valuable source of year-round fresh meat and eggs, adding variety to meals in the winter months*"[74]. This thought is found repeated in much twentieth century material and the theory can be traced back, in a Scottish context, to Douglas', Dovecotes of Moray and Ferguson, in an English context.[75]

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[73] Hume, ibid., p. 10.

Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings, 1982, p.84. "*At all times pigeon eggs were regarded as a tasty addition to the diet.*"

[74] Gillon, op.cit, p. 21.

Neither author, however, defines a 'doocot', so it is assumed, by the authors, that the audience understands the term.

[75] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.6. "*The chief reason, no doubt, for keeping pigeons was to provide the owner with fresh food. Before the introduction of turnips and other green crops suitable for the winter feeding of cattle, it was impossible to keep cattle throughout the winter. They were therefore killed in the autumn and cured for winter use, and fresh food was obtainable from killing pigeons*".

Douglas had, however, acknowledged Cooke's Book of Dovecotes as a key source of background information.

Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.33, "... *with this elimination of fresh beef and mutton from the winter bill of fare, we understand how welcome would be any smaller creatures which would live through the lean months and yield a never-failing stock of appetising food*".

Iid., p.x. (C.A. Markham's work 'Northamptonshire Dovecotes', Northamptonshire Notes and Queries, has not been sourced).

Looking therefore at these, it is noted that Berkeley had written in 1903 that pigeons, "... *were a source of revenue and a means of subsistence. During the winter months the religious houses and the manor houses depended on these birds for their supply of fresh meat*".

Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p. 14 and p.338. "*In the growth of feudalism they grew, in the rise of the yeoman class they flourish, they give you an insight into the worth of these places as a means of subsistence.*".

Watkins had written in 1890 that, "*In our forefathers' time, when salted meat was the staple for the winter, it is no wonder that the roomy pigeon house ... was considered an indispensable adjunct to the larder at the country house*". Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon Houses', 1890, p. 14

Two years earlier, Ferguson had stated that, "*The reason why in the middle ages such large numbers of these destructive birds were kept is not far to seek. Fresh meat could only be procured during the summer ... oxen and sheep could not be fattened during the winter; indeed they could be barely kept alive*". R. S. Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland', Transactions of Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquaries and Archaeological Society, vol. 9, (1888), pp. 412-34, (p.413). Ferguson provided three references to support his point that quadrupeds were only slaughtered and salted at the beginning of winter, but his source regarding pigeons as winter food was not disclosed.

Ibid., p. 414, viz. J. Fowler, 'On the sculptured Capitals in the Choir of the Cathedral at Carlisle', Trans. Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquaries, vol.4, (n.d.), pp.208-4; Anon, History of England, vol. 1, p.326 and Tusser, Five hundred points of Good Husbandrie, 1878, p.63.

McCann, 'Historical Enquiry'; 1991, p. 89.

Some years before Ferguson's account, the Reverend John Webb, described as, "*The first antiquarian to take an interest in a [monastic] dovecote*", had written, "*In an earlier stage of society, when towns were not so accessible, nor supplies so regular and abundant as they now are, when each family that had the daily task of maintaining dependants, was obliged to subsist itself ..... the importance of Columbaria was generally felt*".

Earlier works (referred to by Ferguson) that is, Moore's Columbarium, 1735 and The Sportman's Directory, also 1735, do not refer to this specific theory, other than to say within the latter that the 'pigeon' is a "*..domestic bird, very well known, and fed in order to be eaten*". J. Moore, Columbarium: or the Pigeon House, (London: J. Wilford, 1735), updated as Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765, reprinted, (Buckinghamshire: Paul Minet, 1972). The same book was republished, virtually verbatim, by W. B. Tegetmeier, Pigeons: their structure, variety, habits and management, (London: Routledge, 1868).

Not long ago, two authors challenged this inveterate view in separate articles. In 1988, cultural historian, Una Robertson, during a culinary investigation into consumption figures of pigeons in the eighteenth-century, noticed, "... *a puzzling discrepancy between what historians said had happened .... and what contemporary records reveal was happening*".[76] Her study of the household books of certain Scottish estates indicated that pigeons were not being eaten in the winter months. She concluded that, "*In total opposition to the widely held views on the subject, salt beef and pigeons could not have been the dietary duo that feature so often in the history books*".[77] This counter opinion was independently conveyed by McCann in a detailed account in 1991.[78]

Having dismissed the established theory using strong evidential material, Robertson offered no alternative answer. McCann, on the other hand, was more forthcoming. "*The truth is that before the late eighteenth century, when pigeon-keeping ceased to be a manorial prerogative, dovecotes were expensive prestige buildings whose only economic function was to provide an additional delicacy for those who already had plenty of other fresh meat*".[79] Recent Scottish authors, Hume and Gillon, either do not agree with the findings of Robertson and McCann, or more likely, are not aware of their evidence and thus continue to perpetuate a false notion. This is unfortunate, since the question of purpose is certainly a principal issue in this subject.

Anon, The Sportsman's Dictionary, (London: Fielding and Walker, 1735), u.p., s.v. 'Pigeons'. It seems, therefore, that the concept of the dovecote being built to 'provide fresh winter meat', developed from Ferguson's interpretation of Webb's use of the word 'subsist' in 1845. It is a view that is firmly engraved in dovecote literature.

[76] U. Robertson, 'Pigeons as a Source of Food in eighteenth century Scotland', in A. Fenton, ed., Review of Scottish Culture, 4. (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1988), pp. 89-103, (p. 89).

[77] Ibid, p. 102.

[78] McCann, 'Historical Inquiry', 1991, p. 94. "*Whether one looks at ecclesiastical, monastic or secular households, from the country gentry to the highest in the land, at any period from the thirteenth century to the eighteenth, the evidence is the same; the dovecote did not provide fresh meat in winter except in tiny quantities on very rare occasions*". McCann repeated this thought in 1995, within an article to the Journal of Architectural Conservation, where he asserted that "*[English] Household accounts of all periods confirm that pigeons formed a significant part of their owners' diet from the end of Lent to early November*".
see J. McCann, 'The Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', Journal of Architectural Conservation, vol.1, no.2 (July 1995), pp. 78-96, (p.79).

[79] McCann, 'Historical Inquiry', 1991, p.95.

2.3 Dovecotes and established theory, their architectural response: design criteria, architectural concepts and architectural features

In order to fully comprehend the architectural response of dovecotes, it is deemed essential to: realise the design criteria; examine the design products; and identify all key features and details.

2.3.1 Design criteria

In her introduction to Doocots of Moray, Beaton commented that the Roman author Varro, "... *gives five architectural requisites ... [which] have held good throughout the history of pigeon farming*". They are:

1. Shelter;
2. Nesting Facilities;
3. Access (for bird and man);
4. Ventilation;
5. Defence against vermin.[80]

Buxbaum wrote a near identical statement but, since Varro did not actually state these 'requisites' as such, it can only be assumed that Buxbaum was copying Beaton's text.[81] What Varro did actually document (within his description of a *peristeron*) is extracted as follows:

1. "... *a narrow entrance*" [i.e. human access];
2. "... *well lit*" [i.e. daylight];

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[80] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 2. "*The doocots of Moray all provide for these five needs*". This proved not to be the case for Burnside of Duffus, see Appendix Section 1.
Previously, none of the works by certain other twentieth century Scottish authors had offered any 'requisites' of design. That is;
Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961.
Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931.
Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980.
Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963.
Whitaker, 'Ancient Dovecots of East Lothian', 1938.
All of these authors do, nevertheless, explore the architectural features in some depth. By examining the architectural results, they are invariably touching upon aspects of design criteria.

[81] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 3.
"*Varro, in Rerum Rusticarum wrote of five requirements for keeping pigeons ... and they have remained virtually unchanged ever since.*"

3. "... *inside* [and] ... *windows are plastered over to prevent a mouse or a lizard creeping in*" [i.e. defence against vermin];
4. "... *round niches ... one for each pair of pigeons*" [i.e. nesting facilities];
5. "... *water flowing in*" [i.e. pure water];
6. "... *a fixed place ... shut off ... by a net*" [i.e. a 'flight'];
7. "...*size proportionate to the number of birds*" [i.e. appropriate scale]

It is noted that this advice is not vastly different from that offered for other birds 'crammed' by the Romans at this time.[82] The major difference between Varro's criteria and Beaton's later interpretation is the inclusion of the 'flight' (an appended, netted cage).[83] .

The earliest available specification for a dovecote in Britain was given at the end of the seventeenth century by Roger North, who defined the design criteria with far greater complexity than his Roman predecessor:

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[82]Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., pp. 264-311, namely, hens, guinea-fowl, thrushes, starlings, fieldfares, wood pigeons, turtle doves, ducks and geese.
Peristeron being the Greek word for dove house.
He goes on to repeat these criteria s.v. 'Of Turtle-Doves', p.287, "... *must have an entrance, windows, pure water, and walls and ceilings protected with plaster, but instead of pigeon-holes along the wall* [since the turtle dove does not breed in captivity, according to Columella, Of Husbandry, c.50 A.D,. p.358], *shelves or poles placed in a row, on which little mats made of hemp are placed. The lowest row should not be less than three feet from the ground*". He describes the pigeon house as having the shape of a *'testudo'* , which is Latin for tortoise (i.e. a vault or dome), p. 283.
p. 304. Geese, "... *need ponds as well*".

[83]Ibid., pp. 281-4. Varro gives a clue to its necessity which Beaton may have missed. He introduces his chapter by referring to two kinds of dove kept in houses, "... *a wild kind ... kept in turrets and gable-ends... flying up to them from the fields and back again as the fancy takes them*", and a, "*.. less shy ... generally white*" breed with a strain which is, "... *bred for profit*" and "... *confined* [my underline] ... *in the peristeron ... otherwise they lose weight*". He then goes on to explain that the flight is necessary to give the birds some occasional exercise and sunlight, to prevent them from, "... *growing feeble in captivity*".
He also states that "*Food is given them in small troughs placed round the walls which are filled from the outside by means of pipes*". This, together with water flowing in for bathing and drinking, would be necessary if the birds were confined.
Columella, meanwhile, writing not long after Varro, presented a slightly different set of criteria:

1. Nests ("... *pots on shelves will do*");
2. Sunlight ("... *especially in winter*");
3. White plastered ("...*because this kind of fowl is exceedingly delighted with this colour*");
4. Flight ("... *a large-enough gallery or balcony joined to it [the pigeon-house] secured with nets*").

Columella, Of Husbandry, c. 50 A.D., pp. 355-8.
On p. 355, he mentions that, "... *a loft must be made for them in a high place, which may look to the sun at noon in winter*". Some subsequent writers have taken this 'high place' to be a requisite, as opposed to Columella's identification of the need for winter sun. In relation to Columella's description here, it should be remembered that he is referring to a town loft, in which case, a 'high place' would be necessary to avoid overshadowing from other buildings (and also escape from the obvious dangers of a low position). His following description, p. 356, of the (apparently) free standing dove house, refers to the flight as having, "... *a passage to go out into the fields*", in which case the flight had a role to play in rural or suburban houses too. He, moreover, stated in his introduction that the birds in houses of, "... *distant Regions*" (this could mean the Roman countryside and/or different countries) have a, "... *free egress*", but, due to the number of dangers and lack of feeding opportunities city birds, "... *therefore they ought to be shut up*". As a consequence of this state of confinement, having a flight attached to the main dove house would seem an obvious necessity. However, any reference to such a requirement is apparently absent from subsequent British dovecote literature.
(It will be shown later that a 'flight' is a requisite of some modern day cotes, see Chaps. 5.7, 6.3 and 7.3).

1. Careful siting (away from noise and at a moderate distance from water);
2. Higher than other buildings ("... *hawks cannot strike so well rising*")
3. "*Warm and airy*";
4. Sufficient openings ("...*for the multitude to issue" i*ncluding a lantern with a, "... *slitt of 6 inches ... for doves to enter and above that glass windows round*");
5. Strong foundation ("... *walls were fortified underground*");
6. Circular interior;
7. No windows in walls (so that, "... *apertures did not weaken the walls*");
8. Free roof space (to give birds freedom and ensure, "... *that winged vermin might have no means to fly out, if once ventured in*");
9. Entrance door ("... *3 ft up and 4ft, 6 inches itself*");
10. Nest holes ("... *raised from the ground a course or two with bricks ... with moulded clay, which, they say, pigeons love most of anything ... and rising above the level walls, will gain a yard in height*");
11. Collecting device ("... *altar ... to carry 2 ladders, within 8 inches of the walls ... so as 2 persons may search the house at once, with the same movements*");
12. Perching board (put, "... *next the lover ... which made a convenient stage round for the doves to sit on*").[84]

About forty years later, three further English publications appeared in close succession. The first was an anonymous entry in the Sportman's Dictionary, in 1735, which provides a detailed specification for a 'pigeon-house' containing birds, "... *bred for profit*". It states that there is, "... *an infinite number of things to be observed*":

1. Careful siting (close to water);

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[84] R. North, c. 1698, in H. Colvin and J. Newman, (eds), Of Building: Roger North's Writings on Architecture, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981), pp. 100-3.
North was an educated English aristocrat. His text conveys a clear concern for 'structural solidity'. His octagonal, brick-built dovecote still stands at Rougham in Norfolk (an area, by the way, which has its own Norfolk Dovecote Trust). The detail of the specification and the level of architectural refinement in relation to structural mechanics, use of materials, geometrical form and composition, suggests that dovecote design in England had developed to a significant state of sophistication by the time of North's writings.
"*As to the particularitys of a dovehouse, concerning the building and accommodating of it, I cannot find a better method of declaring my opinion of them, than by giving the models of one I build for myself*"
The term 'lover' (item 12) is presumed by McCann, pers. comm., 6/4/97, to mean 'louver' and by Beaton, pers. comm, 12/8/96, to mean 'glover', (thought by N. Robertson: Old Dovecotes of Scotland, 1961, p.46 to be derived from the French word 'ouvert').

2. Size (depending on numbers of birds);
3. Form (round preferred to square, "*... because rats cannot so easily come at the one as at the other. Also favours revolving ladder*");
4. Defence against rats (and other vermin entering);
5. Free from draughts;
6. Watertight;
7. Solid foundations and floor;
8. Two external ledges ("*...for landing on*");
9. Door in view of house;
10. Whitewashed (inside and out);
11. South facing (for winter sun);
12. Aperture (protected by lattice and lockable in winter – no opening on east side, however).[85]

There is a strong possibility that the entry was written by John Moore, one of England's recognised pigeon-keeping authorities at that time, although Moore's own 'treatise', the second eighteenth century publication on this subject, is nowhere as specific with regard to design criteria.[86]

The third publication of this period, an anonymous, but well detailed, poem offered:

1. Careful siting (clear view of hawks and food available);
2. Walls protected from climbing vermin;
3. Apertures: one for low winter sun (without light falling directly on nestlings); and one high for light and access (just large enough for doves but not hawks and owls);
4. Perching places;
5. Whitewashed inside;

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[85] Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, s.v. 'Pigeon House', (London: Fielding and Walker, 1735), u.p.
The description of the 'pigeon-house' is sandwiched between information on different types of 'pigeon' and 'tame pigeons'. It is not clear, therefore, if the description here of the 'pigeon house' is generalist, or specific to a certain rearing purpose, e.g. for fancy breeding.

[86] J. Moore, Columbarium: or the Pigeon House, (London : J. Wilford, 1735), 2nd edn., as Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, (London: Stationer's Hall, 1765) reprinted by Paul Minet, Buckinghamshire, 1972, p. 102. It states:
1. Landing ledge;
2. Defence against predators (particularly cats);
3. Sized in proportion to number of birds;
4. Nests;
5. Accessories (for feeding, watering, etc.).

6. Nests. [87]

Compared to eighteenth century authors, those of the nineteenth century appear to become rather nonchalant about the design essentials previously alluded to. In 1836, Loudon wrote, "... *the only essential requisite is that it must be at some distance from the ground*".[88]

The most scholarly twentieth century publication in British literature is that by McCann (1991). He propounds the following requirements:

1. Height ("... *pigeon keepers of all periods have recognised that it is desirable to build the dovecote high*");
2. Clear field of view ("... *so that the pigeons could see birds of prey approaching*");
3. Distance from human activity ("... *for protection from hawks, combined with absence of disturbance*");
4. External perching spaces ("... *which combine shelter from the wind with exposure to the sun*");
5. Enclosed interior ("... *fairly dark*");
6. Water (within or nearby);
7. Human requirements (fashion and access).[89]

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[87] Anon, 'The Dovecote; or the Art of Breeding Pigeons, a Poem', (London: Joseph Davidson, 1740), pp. 4-24, supplied by J. McCann, courtesy of British Library.

[88] J. C. Loudon, Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture, (London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown and Green, 1836), p. 393, "... *because the pigeon is a bird that flies much higher than any of the domesticated fowls before mentioned*". Loudon emphasised empirical knowledge at the time when he observed that, "*The Pigeon-House, or Dovecote, has been an appendage of the Country-house from the earliest ages, and nothing can be more simple and universally known than its structure*".
Stephens, Book of the Farm, 1844, bk. 2, p. 429. "*A large pigeon-house is not required ... The flooring should be strong and close, and the three sides with the ceiling of the roof lathed and plastered to retain heat ... a small door will suffice ... the pigeon-holes in the gable should be of stone, and kept bright with white paint. The nest-cells should be of wood, 9 inches cube, placed round the walls*".
Having kept a p

[89] McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, pp. 125-7. He remarks that, "*If the dovecote or its siting did not fulfil these basic requirements the pigeons would not stay*".
Apart from the criteria already identified, few twentieth century historians have anything more to offer. Severn, after stating that, "*The dovecote was built exclusively for the breeding of pigeons*", recognised that the birds need a "... *safe, warm and peaceful environment*", but did not elaborate further. J. Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, (Newark: Cromwell Press, 1986), p. 18.
He goes on to say, "*The shape of the building will often give a clue to its use*".
This booklet is superbly illustrated with the author's freehand sketches.
Ariss (author of one of only two known University studies into dovecotes) decided to focus upon the issue of siting; "... *kept away from woodland, and surrounded by open space ... located within near sight of other buildings ... where possible ... built on higher ground*".
Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 14.
The only other college-based study being P. Collins, 'Dovecotes, with particular reference to the dovecotes of Northamptonshire', unpublished thesis for the City of Leicester College of Education, held in Record Office, Delapré Abbey, Northampton (cited in P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, p. 245), unsourced.

An interpretation of published literature in Britain, therefore, suggests that the ancient writings have been important in the development of the dovecote in Britain. The lack of documentation on dovecotes before the 1730's can be explained, partly by the general paucity of publication at this time, but also perhaps by the lack of demand for detailed information on this subject. The flurry of 'pattern book' publications in the 1730's, however (notably just a few years after the brown rat is thought to have entered Britain - see Appendix Section 2), will have undoubtedly been highly influential on the thinking of eighteenth century owners and builders, as would have been various nineteenth century publications on 'husbandry'. Nevertheless, specific advice on design criteria differed from author to author.

Despite Buxbaum's claim that Varro's 'five' (misquoted) requirements have remained virtually unchanged ever since, no true consensus appears to have been reached. Twentieth century historians have largely concentrated their efforts upon examination of the elements of the end product (i.e. the buildings themselves) and tried, without system, to work out the design criteria based upon actual provision. Since dovecotes can be highly individual structures, the inevitable result of this approach is a variety of criteria that may be appropriate to some, but not all, dovecotes.

2.3.2 Architectural concepts

The ability to translate the parameters of the design criteria into an end product is normally the role of the architect and/or builder. This can result in responses that are purely utilitarian, as opposed to those which are architecturally exuberant.[90]

The most basic aspect of dovecote design has been put forward by McCann; "*In function terms, every dovecote was, in effect, a man-made substitute for the natural cave ... the exterior of the dovecote can be considered as a man-made substitute for the cliff*".[91] He supports this with an illustration of a remarkable 'Culver hole' in Wales (see Fig. 2.3). On the face of it, his notion is backed up in an article by David Kempe which states, "*Doo*

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[90] P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, preface. "*Their present fascination lies not only in this wide diversity of style but also in the fact that no two dovecotes are identical in every detail.*"

[91] McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p. 80.
He goes on to say, "... *enough high perches for the pigeons to perch on, facing the sun* [Moray, for example, has north facing cliffs]... *Gothic is a kind of architecture especially suited to nesting pigeons; its crenallated parapets, pinnacles and other protuberances offer many sheltered perching areas*".
McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 123. In a separate article he states, "*The earliest dovecotes in Britain – round with domed roofs – are really just man-made caves above ground*".

caves were a practical solution to a need: why go to the trouble of building a doocot when natural, or sometimes manmade, caves were often plentiful in the cliffs".[92]

Cooke observed that Norman dovecotes were of, "*Great size, age, solidity, absence of ornament, simplicity of form*"[93] (see Fig. 2.4 and 2.5). This contrasts dramatically with Suzzoni's interpretation of ancient dovecotes in his native French region as having been, "*... always of a beautiful construction, carefully finished in detail, and of good taste, often luxurious in decoration*".[94] North took architectural delight in the crowning of his structure, "... *the lover* [see glossary s.v. 'glover'] *rising, as seems, out of that platform, looks all Italiana*".[95] Ferguson noted Greek Revival architecture appearing at Corby Castle that, by the early nineteenth century, had been, "... *disguised as a Doric Temple*".[96] A similar proposal was put to the Duke of Argyll by architect Robert Mylne (see Fig. 2.8). Whilst observing the 'Queen Anne' octagonal dovecote at Stewkley, McCann suggested (somewhat rashly by his standards) that, "*Because dovecotes were visible indications of high social status they were always prominently sited, and they were always treated externally with a degree of architectural ostentation*" (see Figs. 2.7 - 2.10).[97]

The modern-day version on the other hand, as remarked upon by Hume, seems to lose this degree of architectural credibility because of the materials used and lack of refinement; "*Their tall narrow doocots, usually made from corrugated iron, lack the appeal of their older counterparts*".[98] Yet, in a counter opinion, architect Brian Edwards wrote admiringly on this 'vernacular', ramshackle quality of the dovecote design, "...

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[92] D. Kempe, 'Exploring Doo Caves', Scots Magazine, 1992, pp. 407-12, (p. 407).
"*Doo Caves are almost unique to Scotland, though it seems probable that all but a very few were the domain of wild birds only – the rockies and feral escapees;from conventional doocots.*" Examples given are: East Weymss, Fife; Hawthornden Castle, Roslin; Sunlaw Mills, Roxburghshire. Reference to doocaves also given in Anon, General Index to the Proceedings of Society of Antiquaries in Scotland, vols. 25-48, 1968, p. 52.

[93] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 53.
A quote from D. Wordsworth, Recollections of a Tour made in Scotland, J. C. Shairp, ed., 1874, pp. 37-8, cited in J. Holloway and L. Errington, Discovery of Scotland, (Edinburgh: NGS, 1978), p. 54, refers to a three stage domed doocot at Bonnington Linn which had been converted but still retained its primitive quality. "*We came to a pleasure house .. it resembled some of the huts in the prints belonging to Captain Cook's voyages*".

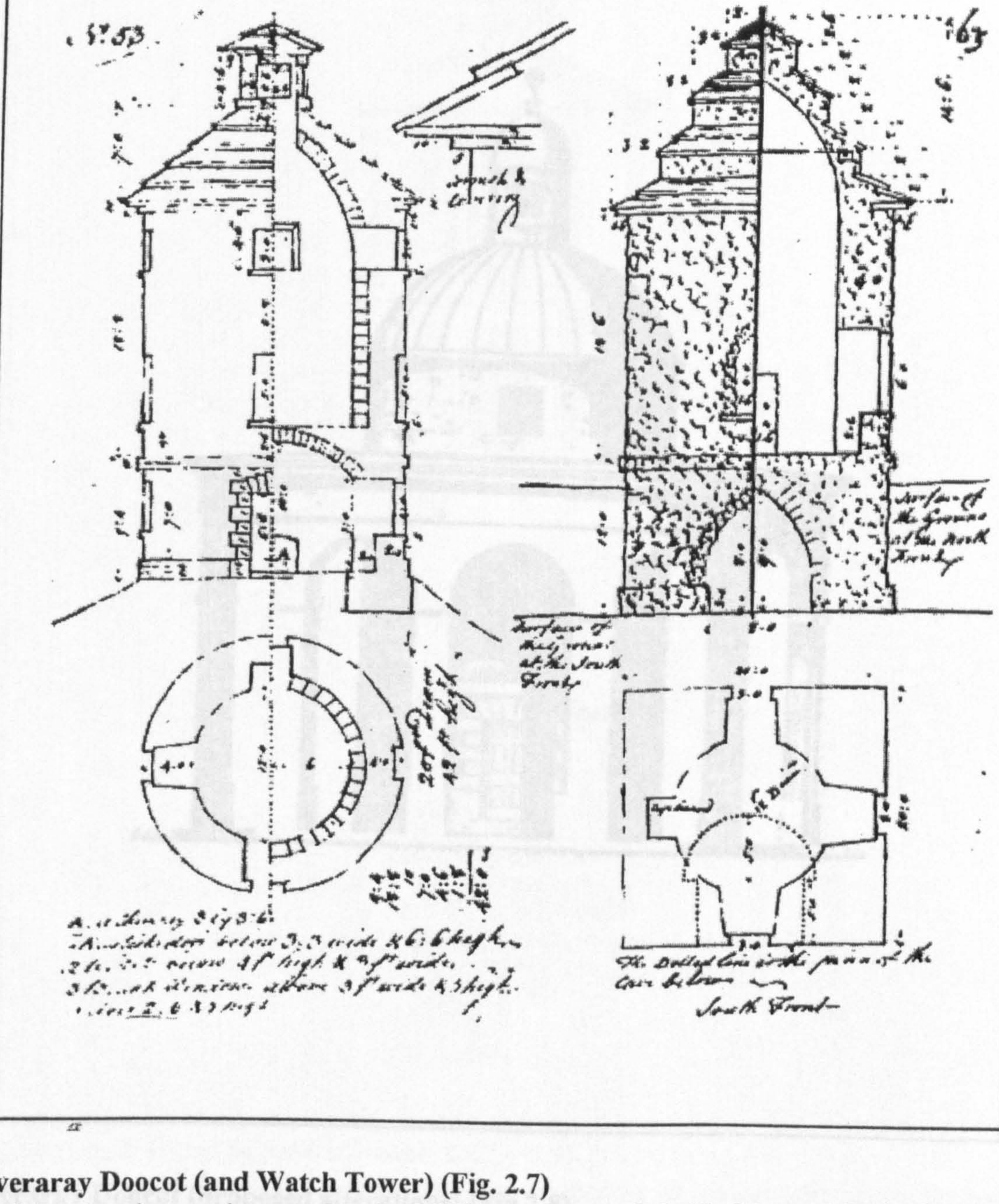
[94] Suzzoni, 'Colombiers et pigeonniers de notre region', 1974, p. 16. Suzzoni may, of course, have a different perception of 'ancient' to that of Cooke, part of which is possibly emphasised during translation.
(Several authors feel that Scottish doocots have been heavily influenced by French designs.)

[95] North, in Colvin & Newman, Of Buildings, 1981, p. 103.
North's dovecote, at Rougham in Norfolk, was built in the 1690's.

[96] Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland', 1887, p. 431.
He also noted other styles occurring: Baroque, Georgian, Norman, Victorian, neo-Elizabethan etc.

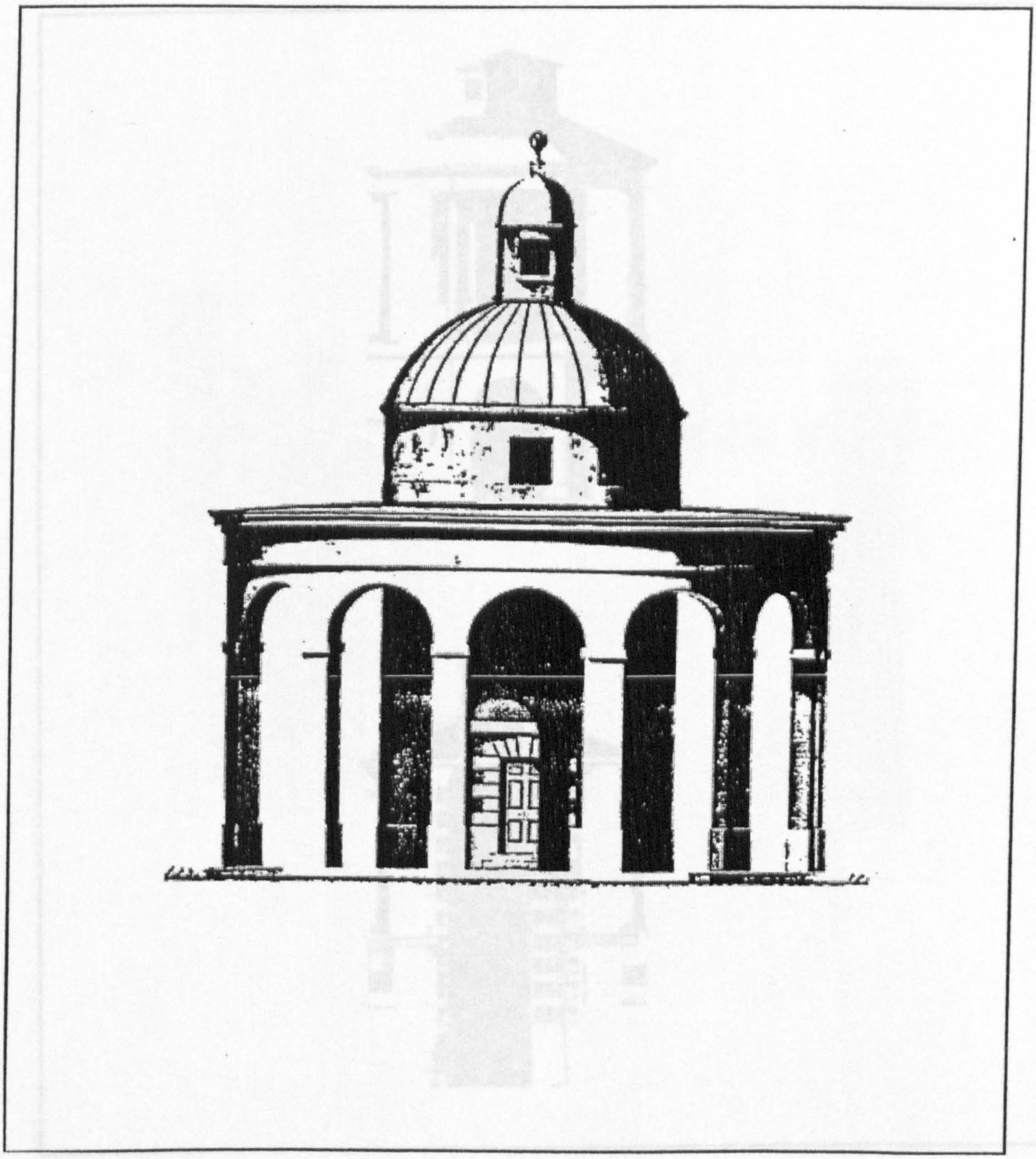
[97] J. McCann, 'Eighteenth Century Dovecote at Stewkley; Records of Buckinghamshire, vol. 36, (1994), pp. 120-8., (p. 122).

[98] Hume, 'Our outdoor larders', 1998, p. 11.



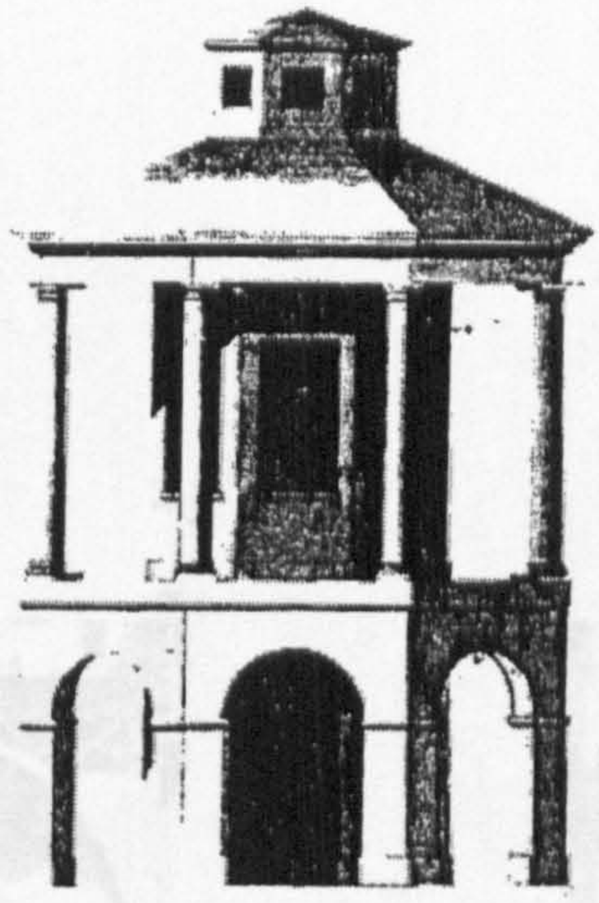
Inveraray Doocot (and Watch Tower) (Fig. 2.7)
Working drawings and annotations by William Adam, on behalf of Roger Morris, for the Duke of Argyll's new landscaped policies in 1748.

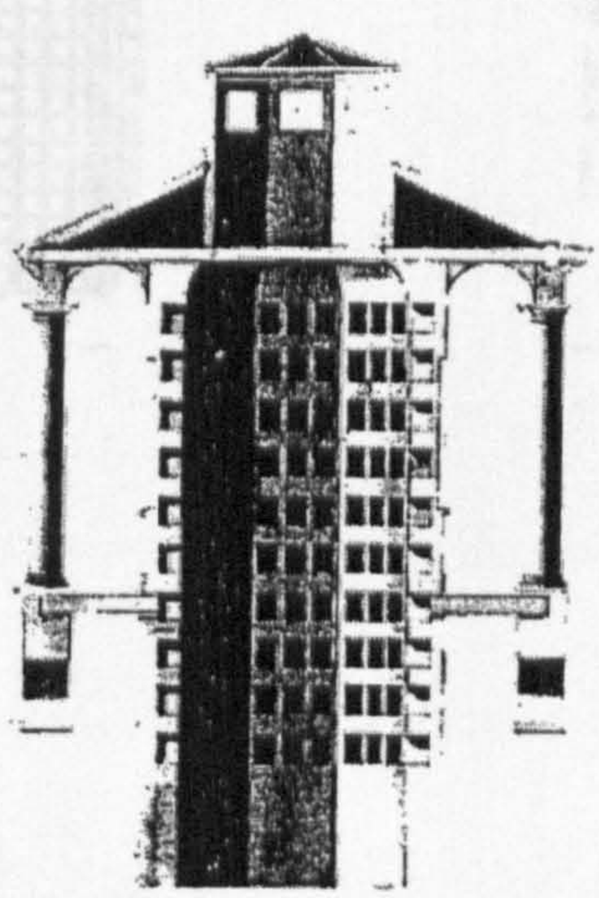
(reproduced from Cosh and Lindsay, Inveraray, 1972, p.234)



Inveraray Doocot (proposed alterations) (Fig.2.8)
Robert Mylne's unexecuted design in the style of the round temple, 1776.

(reproduced from Cosh and Lindsay, Inveraray, 1972, p.237)

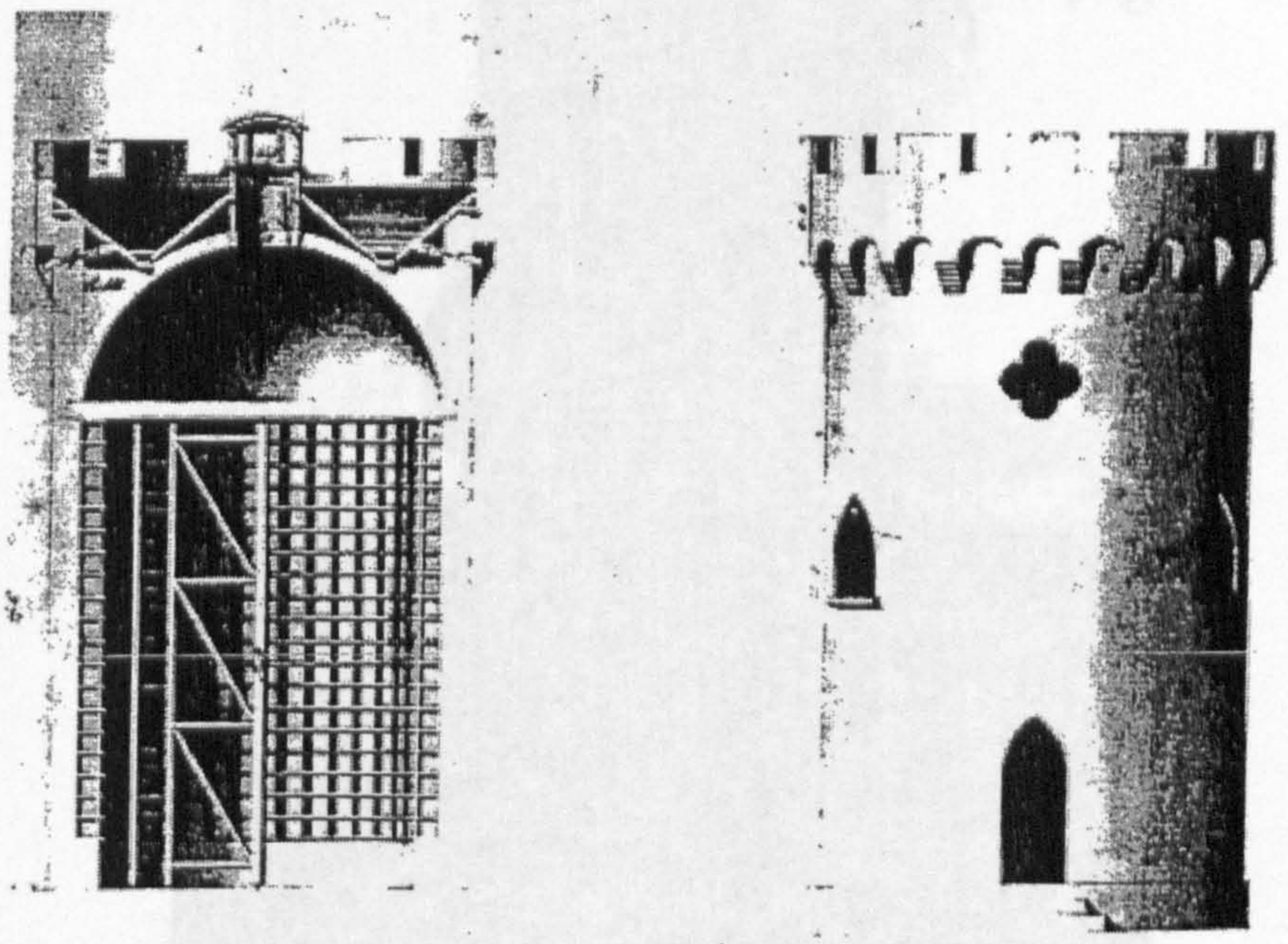




Dovecote Designs by Adam Brothers (Fig. 2.9)

Illustrations for elaborate, octagonal dovecote, dated 1778, found among the drawings and designs by Robert and James Adam, held in Sir John Soane's Museum, London.

(reproduced for P. & J. Hansell, Doves & Dovecotes, 1988, p. 187)



Drawing of Gothic Style Dovecote in Shropshire, 1784 (Fig. 2.10)

Unexecuted design for a cylindrical, tower dovecote at Coppice Green by architect and surveyor, James Smith.

(reproduced from P. & J. Hansell, Doves & Dovecotes, 1988, p. 188)



Doocot Clad in Corrugated Iron (Plate 2.2)

Copy of photograph of a ramshackle doocot in Glasgow's Easterhouse, c. 1975, showing owner descending on a moveable ladder from the upper level door access.

(reproduced from Edwards, 'Flights of Fancy', 1983, p. 21)



Dovecote at Sark, Jersey (Plate 2.3)

Photograph of the southern elevation of the fanciful cote at la Seigneurie on the island of Sark. Elaborately constructed in brick, stone and lead, this circular tower is noted to be the only doocot permitted on the island.

constructed of corrugated iron sheets, timber, old window frames and parts from derelict cars, they have the appearance of shanty town architecture. ... these dovecots are an expression of vernacular in the true sense of the word" (see Plate 2.2).[99] The use of inexpensive, easily obtainable materials is not, however, a modern-day trait of dovecote design as Maitland observed the use of thatch as a roofing material in the Angus area, as did Horne in Somerset and North in Norfolk.[100]

The debate as to whether dovecotes are either 'architectural' or 'vernacular' is somewhat assisted by Brunskill who identifies a 'middle ground'; that is, architecturally polite buildings using local materials.[101]

By including dovecotes in a book on **farm** buildings, Brunsksill gives a clear message on where he thinks dovecotes are to be found.[102] Alan Whitworth, Secretary for the Yorkshire Dovecote Society, underpins Brunskill's thought in a personal statement (which also reveals his feelings on architectural iconography) when he states that dovecotes are, "... *the Cinderallas* [sic] *of farm buildings*" (see Plate 2.3).[103] Several authors write of dovecotes being conceptually incorporated, or later inserted, into other buildings, but not all can be recognised as being 'farm' buildings. For example, after completing a late nineteenth century archival investigation, Micklethwaite concluded, "... *it would not surprise me if it were shewn* [sic] *that it was usual practice in the middle ages to cultivate pigeons in the void places in the roofs and towers of churches*".[104] In quite different

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[99] B. Edwards, 'Flights of Fancy', Building Design, March 1983, pp. 20-1. "*The organisation and arrangement follows the traditional Scottish pattern of the lectern dovecote ... Tragically, more and more dovecots are being cleared away .*"
Also, pers.comm., 8/4/98, "*From a cultural and aesthetic point of view, the modern dovecotes were not without interest and sometimes charm.*"
The inner city doocot was the subject of a BBC Radio Scotland live discussion on 'Designer Doocots', 2/7/98.

[100] J. Maitland, 'Doocots of Angus', Arbroath Herald, Dec. 1964, u.p., "... *writes of a fascinating aspect of farm architecture in the country.*" (Exhibition boards containing display material from the 1970s are currently held at Inverquharity Castle in Angus).
She makes reference to the doocot at Craig, Montrose.
E. Horne, 'Dovecotes of Somerset', bound MS in SANHS library, p. 14 as cited in J. Bond, 'Shapwick Manor Dovecote', Proceedings of Somerset Archaeology and Natural History Society, vol. 13, (1989), pp. 161-4, (p. 164).
North, in Colvin and Newman's, Of buildings, 1986, p. 102.

[101] R. W. Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, 1987 new and enlarged version, (London: Victor Gollancz Ltd, 1982), p. 86.
Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 17. It is this middle ground which Ariss found in Gloucestershire and described as the, "... *fusion of styles*" .
C. McKean, pers. comm., 27/7/94, "*In general, doocots do not form part of the local vernacular; because for the most part, they are quite distinctly architectural - and sometimes very grandly so.*"

[102] Brunskill, ibid.
Dovecotes are cited under the heading 'Agricultural'.

[103] Whitworth, pers. comm., letter 14/12/94.

[104] J. T. Micklethwaite, 'On Pigeon Houses in Churches', Archaeological Journal, vol. 65, (1988), pp. 374-8, (p. 378).
Several writers, e.g. the Hansells, Niven Robertson, Arthur Cooke etc. recorded examples of doocots within churches.

circumstances, Craig Mair concluded that dovecotes were often conceived as a main feature of a typical burgh town in the 1650s.[105] In another circumstance again, Cosh & Lindsay recorded the Adam dovecote for the Duke of Argyll as being deliberately designed as one of, "... *the first two small ornamental buildings in the [picturesque landscape] policies*" of Inveraray (Fig. 2.7).[106]

Besides having an inconsistent reaction to stylistic response, dovecote commentators also seem to have different attitudes towards the architectural ranges of housing doves. In his significant publication, Book of Dovecotes, Cooke paid much attention to the 'large, ancient dovecote' and virtually dismissed (although to be fair he recognised) the existence of the smaller versions. Whitworth, on the other hand, was obviously enchanted by cotes of any size possessing architectural charm, "...*the most unusual and prettiest ... petite 19th century dovecote standing in the garden ... quite doll's house-like*".[107]

Although architectural concepts, based upon the function, aesthetic, siting and scale of the dovecote, have drawn the obvious attention of previous writers, nothing has more universally stimulated these observers than its 'shape'. Beaton describes the dovecotes of Moray in near identical vein to Peterkin's description of dovecotes in Scotland: both use a mixture of two and three dimensional terms to convey the architectural massing of the building. Those named are 'beehive', 'lectern', 'square/rectangular', 'cyclindrical' and 'hexagonal/octagonal'.[108] They appear to have adopted Robertson's typology and pursued Ramsey Maitland's use of the term 'beehive', in Scotland, to convey the shape of a particular type.[109] Buxbaum expands on its design, "... *the typical beehive pigeon house*

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105 C. Mair, Mercat Cross & Tolbooth, (Edinburgh: John Donald Publishing Ltd., 1988), p. 67.
"*Doocots were more often found on private land, but some did exist in burghs, usually owned by individual people rather than by the community as a whole. It is known, for example, that one stood in Glasgow Green in 1653 ... Hawick's records for 1621 name three.*"

106 M. Cosh and I. Lindsay, Inverary and the Dukes of Argyll (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1973), p.127.
The other being a watch tower.
McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p.80, states that a doocot was, "... *sited where it would be seen from the main approach road*".

107 A. Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes and Pigeon lofts : A Preliminary Survey', Yorkshire Archaeology Journal, vol. 65, (1993), pp. 75-89, (p. 85).
The dovecote referred to, Lower Hoyle Ing Farm, Allerton, is not illustrated.
Beaton observed that the dovecotes in Moray, "... *vary in size from those with nearly nine hundred nesting boxes down to thirty-two*".Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 2.
As well as observing that the scale of the doocot can vary in relation to nest box requirement, Beaton's statement implies that either, Moray has no doocots with a nesting facility below the figure of thirty-two, or a building with a nesting facility of less than thirty-two is not regarded as a 'doocot'.

108 Ibid.,pp. 1-2, and
Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 13.

109 Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 42.
R. Maitland, 'Doocots', paper to the Abertay Historical Society, 1959, p.3, held by RCAHMS, No. 1999/86.
The etymology is explained by Beaton as, "... *so called because they resemble circular straw bee skeps*".

is of circular plan, some 3 metres (10 feet) internal diameter, built up in massive rubble construction of three or four 'stages' to a shallow domed roof. Most beehive doocots are somewhat clumsy looking, squat and rather heavy" (see Figs. 2.11 and 2.12).[110] Brunskill states that, in Britain, "*There were three main designs for dovecots: the beehive, the lectern and the tower*", yet he goes on to note that the 'beehive' is common to lowland Scotland and the 'lectern' is not common in England.[111] According to the Hansells, "*The definition of the lectern type of dovecote design derives from its resemblance to a reading desk, but in practical terms it implies a four-sided building with a single-pitched roof, generally having raised parapet walls on three sides ... this variety is confined to Scotland and is believed to have stemmed from those built in parts of southern France and northern Spain, where the lean-to roof is thought to have been intended as a protection for the birds against the mistral wind*".[112] Southey's early nineteenth century description of the 'lectern' uses plain language to great effect. "*Two or three pigeon houses in the fields of singular construction – slender but not narrow buildings, with a shelving roof in front, and a straight wall on the back from the summit of the roof – the whole being like the section of a house cut in half, from the ridge of the roof*" (see Figs. 2.13 and 2.14).[113]

Other dovecote shapes did exist, however, as noted by Hume, "*Some doocots were built like little houses, with gabled roofs*" (see Fig. 2.15).[114] Whitaker, in his survey of East

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Previously authors described this shape of buildings as "*... a well-built stack of straw*", Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 26; "*...bell-like...*", Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 275; and "*...tun-bellied*", Scott, Waverley, vol. 1, (Edinburgh: Archibald Constable, 1814), 1985 edn., by Penguin, p. 78.
The lawsuits in Martine's, 'Ancient Dovecots of East Lothian', 1970, pp. 25-7, seem to suggest that this design was employed up to c. 1615.

[110] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 5.

[111] Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, 1982, (1987 edn.), p. 86.
McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.133, "*.. it is a regrettable omission in the modern literature that no one has published a measured section of the pigeon-entrance*" (see Chap. 5.3, s.v. 'Plewlands' and 'New Elgin').
The 'beehive' can be found in northern England; D. Kempe, 'Some Northumbrian Dovecotes', Journal of Historic Farm Group, vol. 6, (1992), pp. 73-76, (p. 73), [colloquially described as 'duckets'] and Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes and Pigeon Lofts', 1993, p. 75. Sometimes these structures have failed and have had to be supported by stone buttresses to prevent outward thrust e.g. Mertoun, Berwickshire.

[112] P. and J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p. 18.
"*The origin of this intriguing link is, no doubt, enmeshed in the history of the Auld Alliance*".
Maitland, 'Doocots of Angus', 1964, u.p., notes that, "*They are, except a very few, of the French type, a lean-to shape with three walls standing above the roof to shelter birds sunning themselves*".

[113] R. Southey, Journal of Tour in Scotland, (Edinburgh: John Murray, 1819), 1929 edn., quoted in Peterkin's, Scottish Dovecots, 1988, p. 13.
It seems that Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p.24, were the first Scots to use the term 'lectern' to describe, "*.. squares and double squares with one-way roofs.*"
Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.90, comments that, "*.. compartmentalised cotes ... common in Scotland, not England.*"

[114] Hume, 'Our Outdoor Larders', 1998, p. 11.
This shape was not identified by Waddell when he commented on three types of dovecots in the Glasgow area, "*... lean-to... circular tun-type... in tower or roof space*".
J. J. Waddell, 'Some Old Stone Dove Cots', Transactions of Glasgow Archaeological Society, vol. 9, (1937), pp. 189-93, (p. 189).
Having identified these three types, Waddell then illustrates his paper with octagonal and circular plan towers. He opens his account with "*Dotted over the Scottish landscape are frequently to be seen dovecots – minor structures they are*".

Lothian, discovered, "... *three types on the country ... circular plan ... rectangular ... part of another building*".[115] Brunskill added to the list in his statement, "... *later dovecots, incorporated in buildings, show as grouped openings usually in gable walls..*"[116]

The approach of the St. Andrews Preservation Trust was quite different again and they cited seven concepts within the one town.[117] Smith summarised the conceptual response of the Dovecotes of Essex in his statement, "*Not only the material but the shape is exquisitely varied. Round, square, rectangular and octagonal cotes occur of one or two stores* [sic] *and of all heights and sizes*" (see Fig. 2.16). It is noted that the four-gabled dovecote (a common feature throughout southern England) is a particularly striking example of the diversity of form (see Fig. 2.17).[118] Robertson recognised that, "*In Scotland, there are many dovecotes which might be termed eccentric*"[119] and Douglas declared that ,"*Their differences in design seemed to me to be such a marked characteristic that I became anxious to know something more about dovecotes in*

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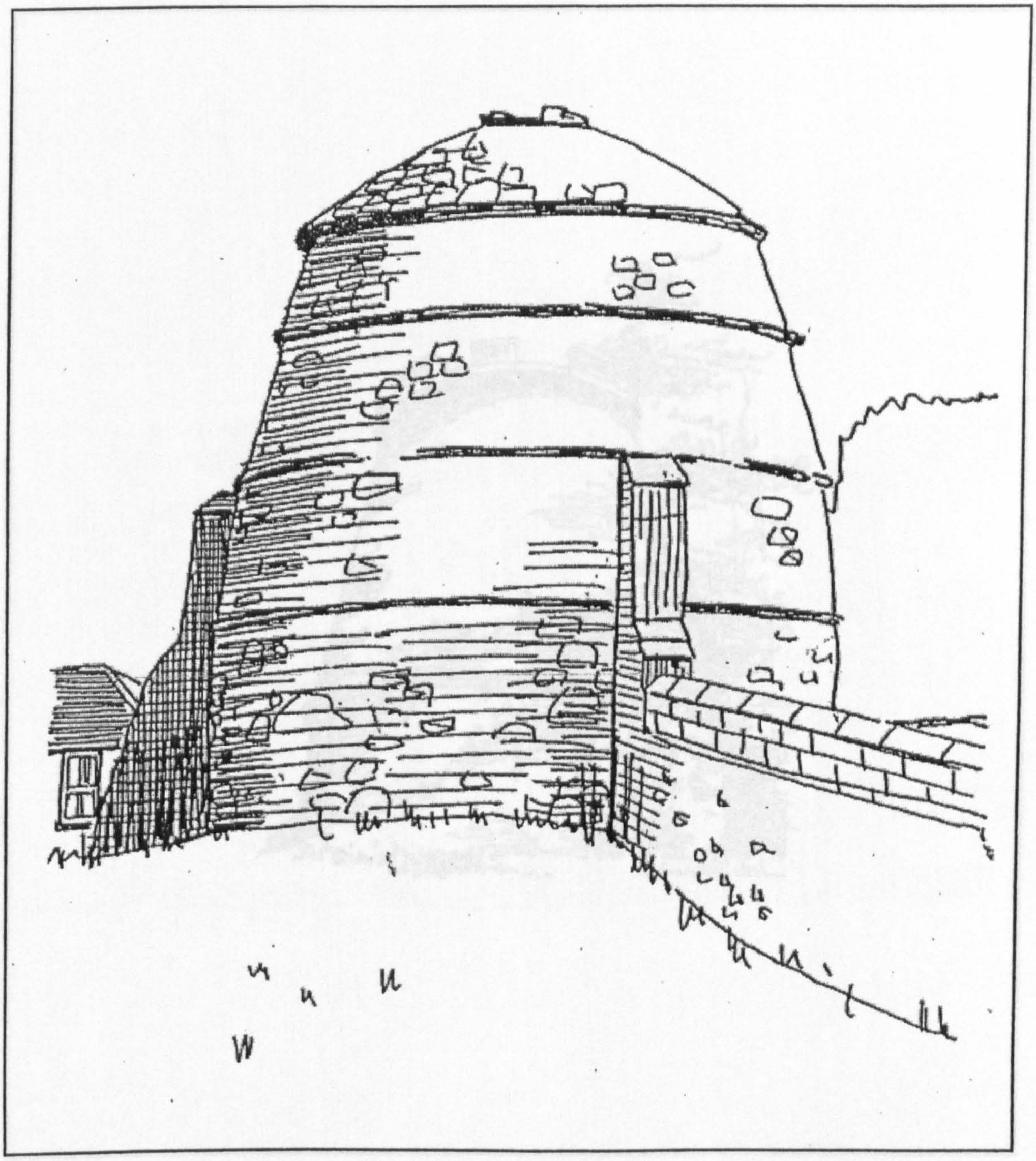
[115] Whitaker, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1938, p. 4.
On p. 13, he identifies the classicism of the architecture at Huntington and notes, "*For architectural peculiarities this cote rivals the one at Saltoun*". Saltoun is described on p. 19 as, "*A most ornate cote ... intended to harmonise with the mansion architecturally, being for most part in the classic style*". The emergence of neo-classicism is also self evident in the design of Amisfield, illustrated in Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 25.
Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p. 23. "*Their appearance is different*"
He goes on to say, "*For example, the likelihood of a rat-ledge is remote*".

[116] Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings, 1982, p. 86. *In one type ... the pigeons went into nesting boxes in a little garret underneath the gable ... In the other type, the opening was as before but each served a single nesting box and eggs were removed from the outside*"
The latter type referred to is not common in Scotland. N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes', 1961, p. 40 and Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, pp. 19-20 decribe small appendages to buildings which house doves as being called 'fuies' (derived from the French term 'flight').
K. Mathey, 'Peristerones', Architectural Association Quarterly, vol. 9, No.4, (1979) pp. 15-25, (p.18). "*Although different types of building shape can be identified, it does not appear that there are any strict rules as to their application apart from certain regional preferences for one type or another.*"

[117] St. Andrews Preservation Trust, 'Discovering Doocots', leaflet, St Andrews, 1990.
Lists eight doocots in the town ranging from the 'beehive', 'lectern', 'dual gabled' and 'tower loft', to the 'mill doocot', 'garden doocot' and the 'doo-port'.

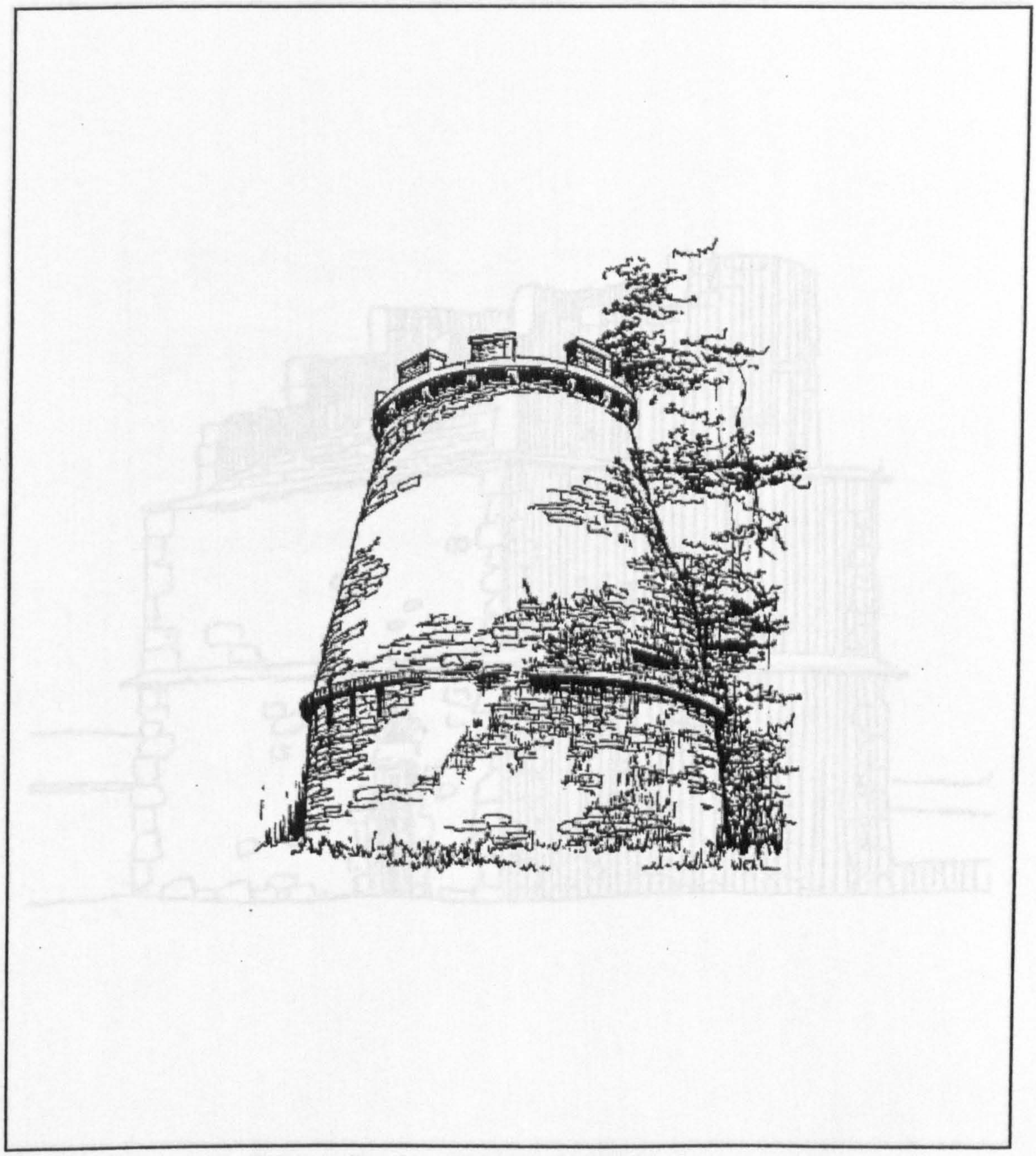
[118] Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p. 4.
The four-gabled dovecote is featured frequently in English publications and is often employed in timber-constructed buildings with plaster infill. McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p. 82 attempts to explain its purpose. "*Some forms of roof construction were adopted precisely because they provided shelter from wind. That is the reason why in England and Wales many square dovecotes have four gabled roofs*". Although this reason would make even more sense in Scotland, it is not a feature generally employed, a rare example being Candacraig, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire. An even rarer form of dovecote (but apparently effective) was the cruciform plan of Lewes Priory, Sussex which is thought to have held 5,000 pigeons. It is illustrated in Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland',1887, p. 417.

[119] Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 21.
Sometimes this 'eccentricity' can be explained by the fact that doocots can form part, or all, of the conversion of a former building type, e.g. a windmill, a watch tower.
Other cotes, such as at Megginch Castle, Perthshire and Doon House, Ayrshire, were raised on columns or pillars. Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.24 notes that, "*French pigeon-keepers found their flocks extremely subject to attacks from vermin. Hence probably the form of dovecote known as the colombier a pied ... raised on four or sometimes eight pillars.*"
The simple pole cote is an equivalent example of this approach.



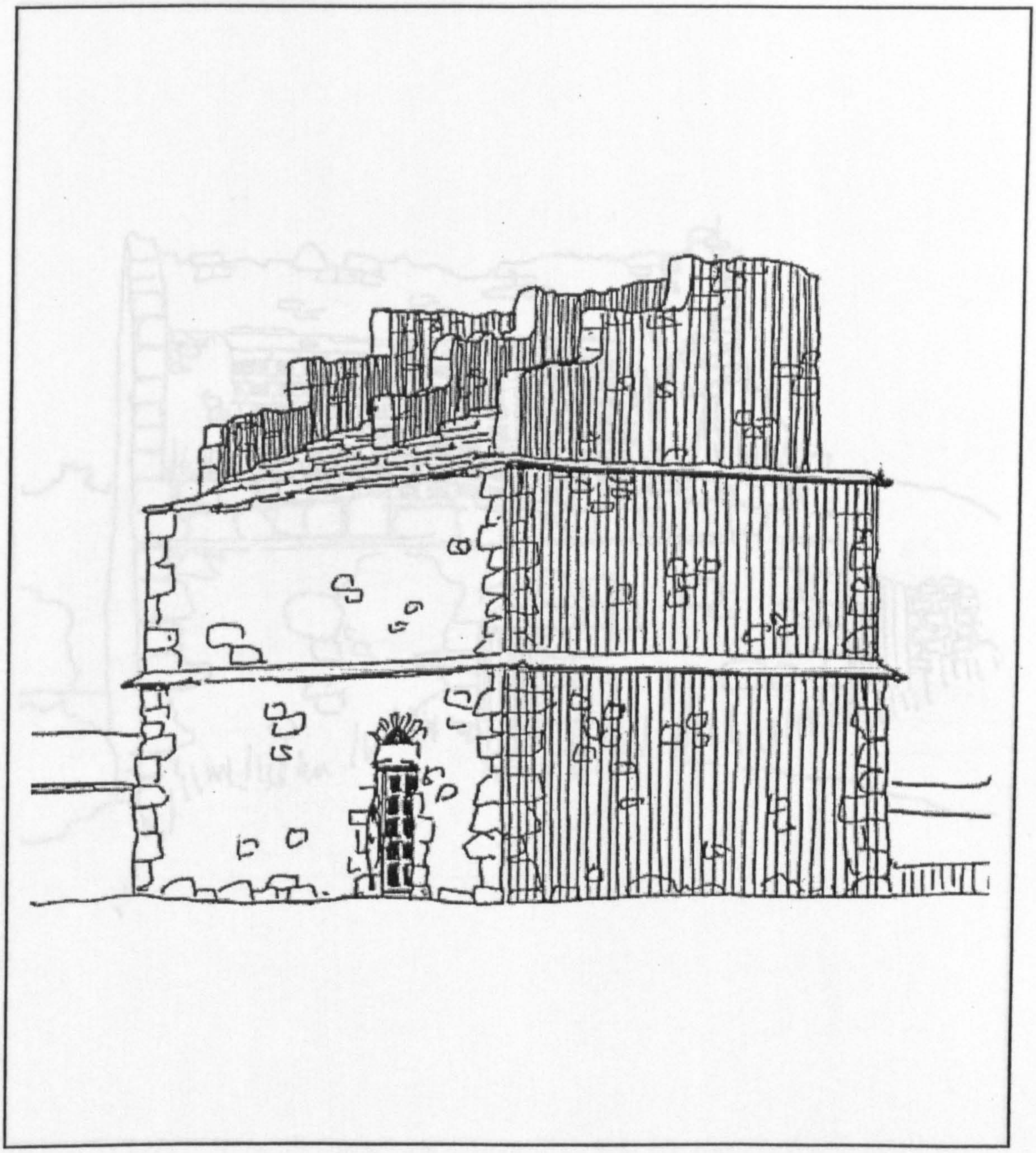
Sketch of Dirleton Doocot, East Lothian (Fig. 2.11)

Hume, 'Our outdoor larders', 1998, p.10, "*Dirleton doocot, built into the boundary wall of the castle. This is a 'beehive' doocot, built entirely of stone, of a type general in the 16th century*".



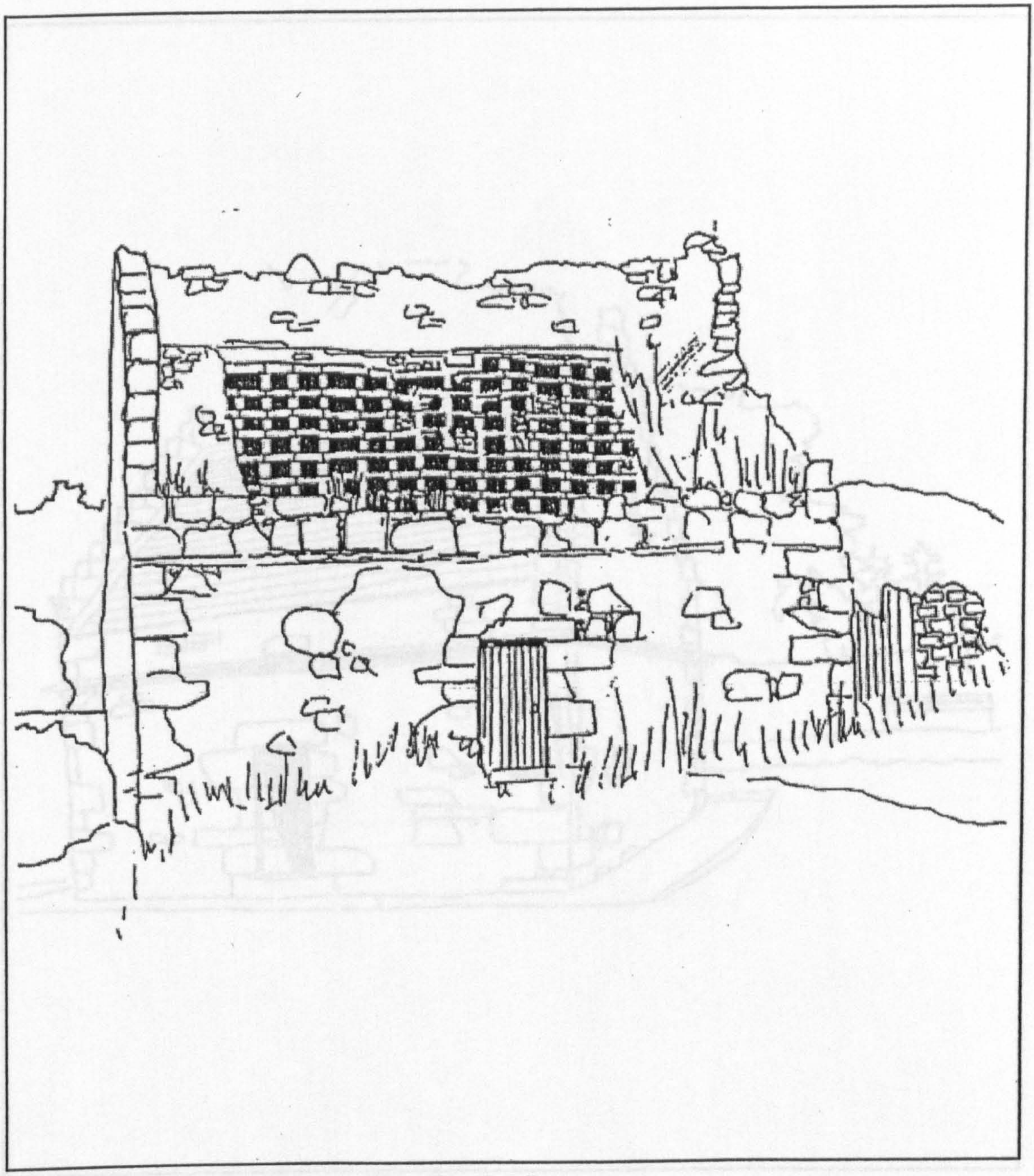
Sketch of Monteviot Doocot, Roxburghshire (Fig. 2.12)

Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 29, "*Large battlemented tun-bellied with over 1,000 nests. Entrance holes on south side; corbelled roof with large stones at opening and louvre consisting of two huge flagstones on four legs*". (Drawing by W. Logie)



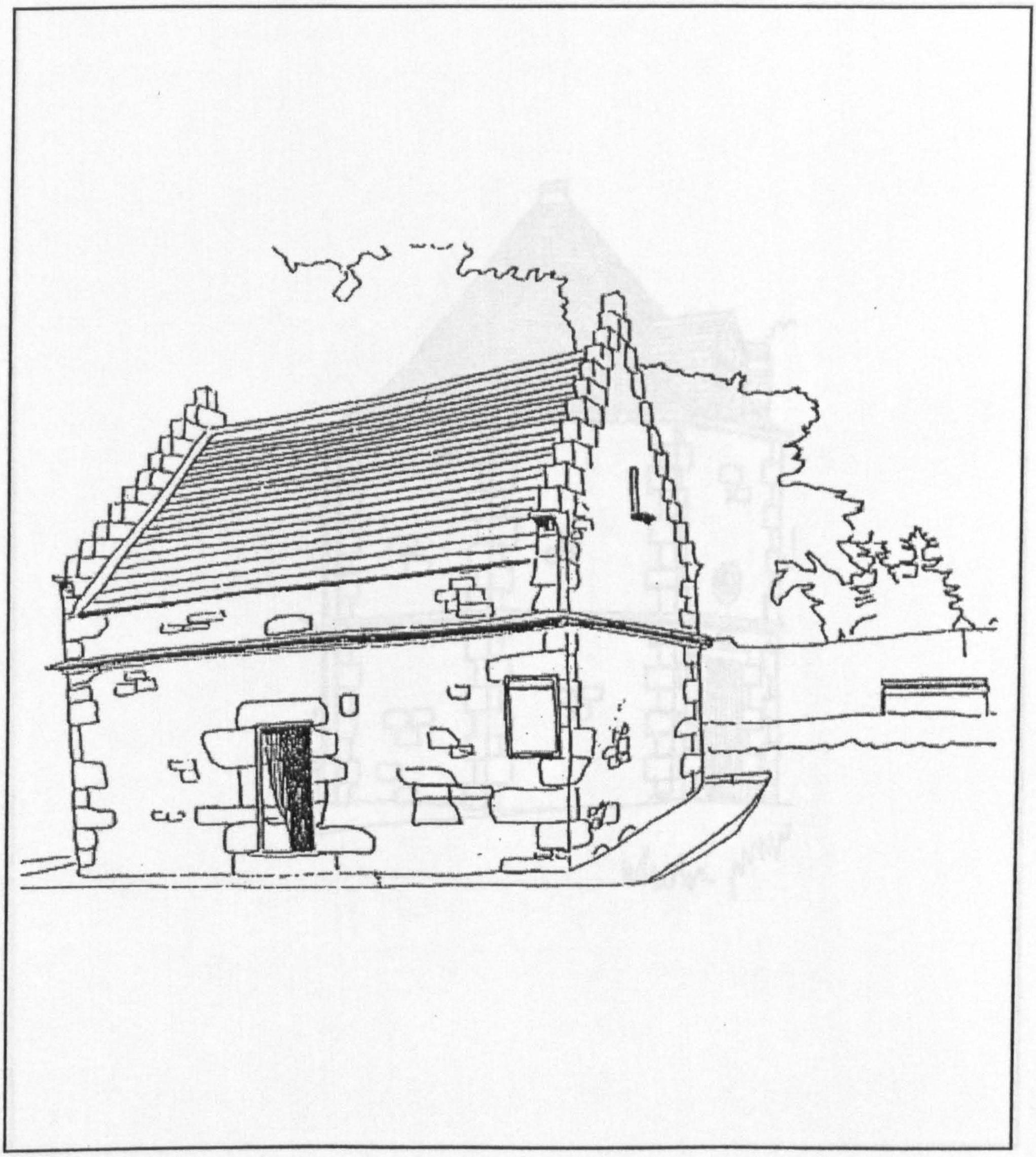
Sketch of Tantallon Doocot, East Lothian (Fig. 2.13)

Hume, 'Our outdoor larders', 1998, p. 10, "*A ruined 'lectern' doocot at Tantallon Castle, built in two compartments, and of rougher masonry than usual* [55]



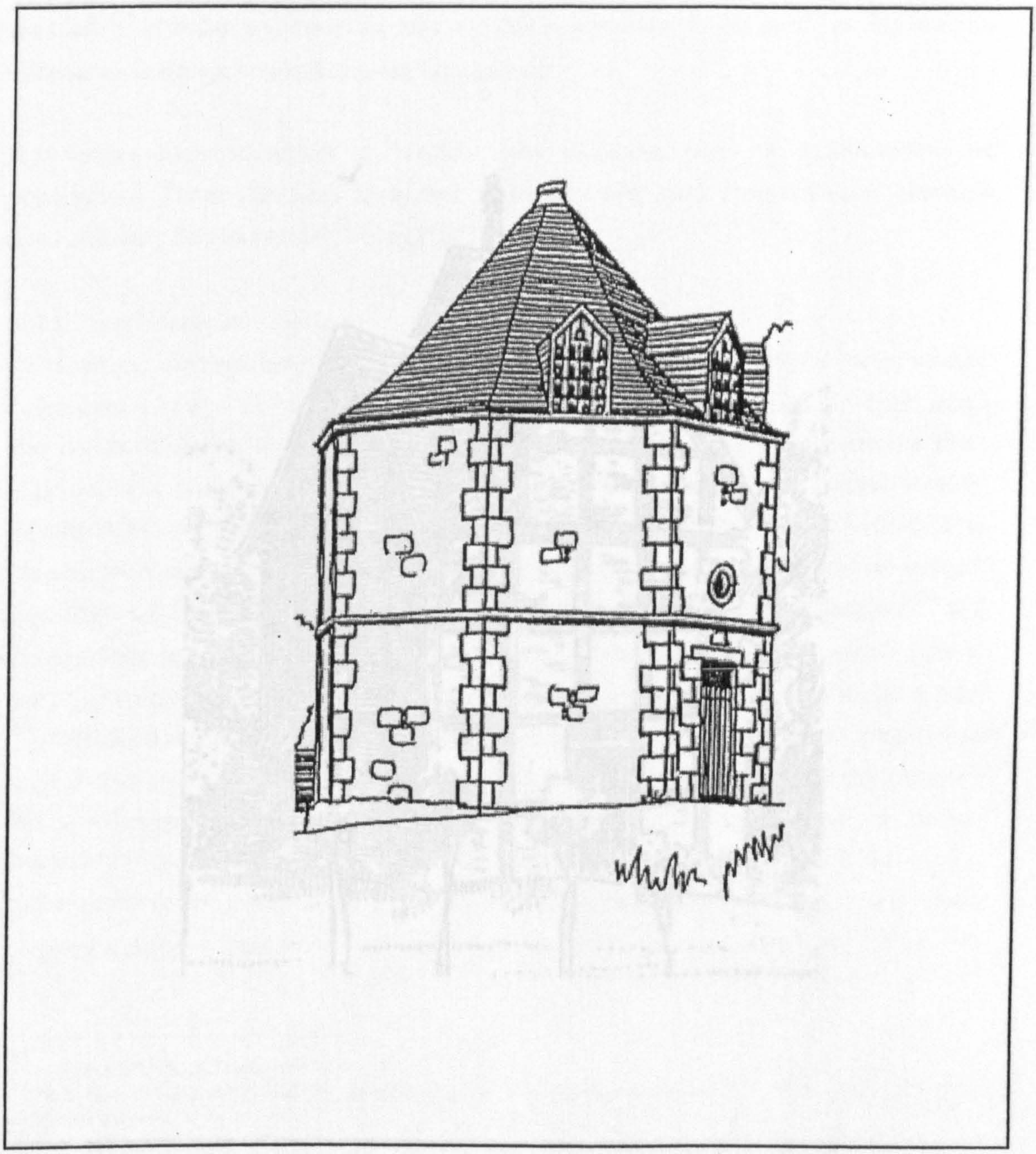
Sketch of Glenduckie Doocot, Fife (Fig. 2.14)

Hume, 'Our outdoor larders', 1998, p. 10, "*A 17th century 'lectern' doocot at Glenduckie, Fife, showing the layout of the nesting boxes. This probably dates from the early 18th century.*"



Sketch of Tealing Doocot, Angus (Fig. 2.15)

Hume, 'Our outdoor larders', 1998, p. 10, "*The charming gabled doocot of Tealing, an ancient settlement site in Angus ... Note the 'rat course' of projecting stones to prevent vermin from entering the building.*"



Sketch of Culloden House Doocot, Inverness (Fig. 2.16)

Hume, 'Our outdoor larders', 1998, p. 11, "*A good example of a relatively late doocot, the octagonal one at Culloden House, near Inverness, built in about 1788.*"



Sketch of dovecot at Dormstone, Worcestershire (Fig. 2.17)

Example of a wooden framed, four gabled dovecote. It is tall, possesses a central lantern but no projecting ledges.

(reproduced from Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920).

general".[120] He did not, however, take the full opportunity in his work to explain the differences in design that had aroused his curiosity.

Few writers have attempted to explore why dovecotes may be individualistic or prototypical. Fewer still have attempted to explain why, and how, different concepts arose and how they developed throughout history.

2.3.3 Architectural features

Architectural features have attracted much attention from those who have studied dovecotes (refer also to Appendix Section 1, s.v. 'Previous Theories') Most writers agree that a historic dovecote required to be a solid, sturdy edifice.[121] Beaton observed that, "*For the most part, cotes in Moray are stone built, either random or coursed rubble, sometimes harled,*"(see Fig. 9.3)[122] whilst Bailey and Tindall noted in East Lothian that "*In almost all the dovecotes, of whatever type, walls are of random rubble with dressings*" (see Chap. 6.3.1 and 6.3.3)[123]. Cooke observed that brick is common in England[124] and promoted the theory that the walls should be, "... *whitewashed externally, with a view to making it conspicuous to its inmates on their homeward flight*" (see Chap. 4 and 6.3.2).[125] "*In Scotland there are many* lectern dovecotes (see Fig. 2.19), *with single-pitch roofs facing south, protected from wind by high parapets. In many cases the parapets are crow-stepped to provide additional high perching places for use in calmer conditions*" 9(see Chap. 6.3.4).[126] Apart from the domed structures with their, "... *entire construction being stone*",[127] dovecotes (like most other buildings) apparently received a slate, or local stone roof finish (see Fig. 9.3). In the Angus area, "T*he only*

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[120] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 5.

[121] North, 1698, in Colvin & Newman, Of Building, 1981, p. 101, "... *raised upon a very strong foundation ... spread the base, and shewed a strength*".

[122] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 3.

[123] Bailey & Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p. 26.

[124] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 103. Some cots 'step in'; or are built with a batter. J. McCann, uses the brickwork at the 'Dovecot of Berechurch Hall, Colchester', Transactions of Essex Society for Archaeology and History, vol. 251, third series, (1994), pp. 285-8, (p. 287), to date the building, "... *has horizontal pressure marks. Probably this dovecote was built in the first decades of the nineteenth century*"

[125] Cooke, ibid, p.20, "... *a practice forbidden in England ... as being likely to attract neighbours' birds*".
It appears that it was Viollet-le-Duc, Dictionnaire de L'architecture, as cited in |Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1093, p.336, who first described dovecotes as whitewashed so that birds could see them from afar.
Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 7, s.v. 'The Lectern Doocot'. "*Marriage stones, heraldic panels and armorial designs were integrated ... [and] ball finials, sundials and carved heads*" became part of the wall structure.

[126] McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes,' 1995, p. 82.

[127] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 7.
Other materials such as pantiles, corrugated sheet etc. can be found.

thatched doo'cot we came across was a lovely one at Craig near Montrose".[128] Cooke noticed that weathervanes were common, especially in England, and ,"*...great diversity displayed by these useful terminals... dragons, coats-of-arms, eagles, foxes, fish, claws, frequently just a pole and ball.*"[129] Openings in the walls are frequently documented and, " ... *in addition to apertures for access and ventilation, glazed windows* [certainly in England] *were used at an early date*" (see Chap. 6.3.6 and 6.3.10).[130]

Gillon sweepingly observed that, "*Access for the pigeons is normally by louvred vents in the beehive doocots and small arched openings in the lectern type*" (see Chap. 6.3.7).[131] Ariss noted that, "*The most distinguishing feature of many dovecotes* [in Gloucestershire] *is the roof turret, through which the pigeons entered and emerged*" (see Fig. 2.18).[132] Beaton, astutely, referred to several means by which dovecote designers provided access for doves; "... *a round aperture in the apex for the entrance of the birds ... through dormers pierced with pigeon ports ... an apexhole – sometimes capped with a later glover or cupola ... entrances are pierced in the walls*".[133] Peterkin also noted that, "*Entrance holes for the birds differed greatly*"(see Chap. 6.3.8).[134] He did not see the same diversity in design response for human access when he stated, "*Doors are low and narrow, about 5 feet high, to prevent the egress of birds*".[135] Cooke noted the

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[128] Maitland, 'Doo'cots of Angus', 1964, u.p.
"*It was in a good state except for the reed thatch.*"
North, 1698 in Colvin & Newman, Of Building, 1981, p. 103, although prestigious and architectural, also documents a 'roof covering of reed' at his dovecote at Rougham, Norfolk.

[129] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 57.

[130] McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 134.
McCann quotes several sixteenth century examples in England. Whether or not glazing was incorporated in early Scottish doocots is debateable.

[131] Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', 1998, p. 22.
The louvred vents referred to are, almost certainly, later additions to doocots of this type.

[132] Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 22.
"*The structures were supported from the main roof on timber posts or legs. The traditional 'louver' usually has four simple legs, while 'cupolas' may be of more complex design. Their roofs* [cupolas] *often follow the style of the main roof.*" (s.v. 'Lesmurdie'; Chap. 5).
McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 128, observes that some dovecotes have special devices fitted to try and deter flying predators such as hawks. An example of this being louvred slats on the outside and a timber chute, or 'pipe', on the inside (see Fig. 2.24).

[133] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 2-3.

[134] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 15.
He suggested examples like, "... *louvre, arched holes.. horizontal roof dormer ... shutters.*"
Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 189, noted it is quite common to find that dove access holes increase in size as they open out through the wall thickness.

[135] Peterkin, ibid.
Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 19. "*The reason for keeping the doorway small was partly so that the opening could be easily blocked to prevent escape in times of culling, but also to minimise the amount of potential nesting space lost.*"
Likewise, McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 134, "*A man of average height could have blocked many of these doorways, as would be required when culling, merely by ducking his head.*" In 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p. 87, he observes differently that, "*In Georgian dovecotes, the doorway is usually of normal size.*"

employment of more than one access doorway, " ... *a fairly frequent feature of Scottish dovecotes*, due to the use of twin chambers" (see Chap. 6.3.5).[136]

Previous writers have paid a great deal of attention to the external string courses and ledges that are found on many dovecotes. Robertson commented upon their significance. "*The presence of a string course on a building, which otherwise resembles a dovecote, is almost a confirmation that it is a dovecote or has been one*".[137] Beaton stated that in Moray, "*Deep ledges of stone or slate encircle most cotes and were intended to deter rats from climbing to the pigeon entrances*," (see Fig. 2.21)[138] Most other Scottish writers provide a similar opinion.

The term 'rat ledge', however, is a modern one and the earliest reference in Britain to rats, as a matter for serious consideration by pigeon house keepers, appears to have been written in the Sportsman's Dictionary (1735), which describes techniques to, "...*hinder rats from getting upon the outside into a pigeon-house*".[139] The purpose of these ledges, and in particular the modern day terminology, was challenged at length by McCann who argued convincingly that 'rat ledges' are, "... *perching ledges .. and that was their only function*".[140] His argument was substantiated on three rational grounds: that birds require somewhere to perch; that the brown rat (which ousted the Black Rat) did not arrive in

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136 Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 189, "... *less often seen in English instances*".

137 Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 42.

138 Beaton, ibid.

For example, she goes on to say that these ledges would have had some structural role to play (see McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, Addendum).

Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 5. "*Vermin were deterred from climbing the walls by projecting stone 'rat courses', which had some ornamental value*".

Whitaker, 'Ancient Dovecotes of East Lothian: A Survey', 1938, p. 6.

"*It may be added, that the projecting string courses, which are so prominent an architectural feature of the dovecotes, were intended to prevent rats from climbing to the entrance holes*". (It should be noted, that this is extracted from an anonymous introduction. The naturalist's own survey, does not actually refer to rats).

Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 15. "*Stringcourses are a good indication that a building is, or has been, a doocot, and there may even be two or three of them. These projecting ridges were made smooth and slippery, so that predators such as rats could not gain a foothold.*"

Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', 1998, p. 22. "*Doocots are normally provided with projecting stringcourses around the outside to prevent rats getting into the structure.*"

139 Anon, Sportsmans Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House', u.p. "... *and for it's [sic] form, the round is to be preferred before the square ones, because rats cannot so easily come at the one as at the other .. they fasten tin plates to a certain height, and in such places where they foresee the rats might pass, at the outward angles of a square pigeon-house; these plates ought to be a foot high, and raised above half a foot on the sides, so that when the rats come to them and cannot catch hold of them, the fall upon the iron spikes which are usually fixed at the bottom*".

Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 61 states, ".. *a guard against attack from rats .... though recommended by the early eighteenth century Sportsman's Dictionary, is seldom seen*". This device was,either not taken up by many owners, and/or was easily lost from record.

140 McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, (pp. 101-17), p. 114.

On p. 110, he argues that dovecotes which have definite rat defence mechanisms - e.g. in his opinion, blocked or raised nest holes - can attribute such devices to post-arrival of the brown rat c. 1730. (Although on p. 108 he notes that the brown rat was, "... *still unknown in rural parts of Angus and Moray in 1813*").see Appendix Sction 2, interview with R. Quy).

Britain until c.1730; (see Appendix Section2, 'Interview with R. Quy') and that not all dovecotes possess ledges. In the year following McCann's publication, Ariss commented, "*John McCann has discussed the origins and nature of rats and 'rat ledges' in great detail, and concludes that the theory of the rat ledge is no more than a myth, the real purpose of external ledges being for pigeons to perch on. This alternative view is difficult to support when one looks at examples in Gloucestershire ... there can be no dispute that rat ledges do exist on some buildings*".[141] After hearing McCann deliver a lecture at The Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies in York, the Secretary of the Yorkshire Dovecote Society penned, "*...I am convinced that he is on the totally wrong track*".[142] The evident concern with rats as an issue for debate must indicate a potentially influential design factor (which may, nevertheless, have been overplayed). McCann's robust challenge to its full impact, is not, by all accounts, entirely accepted by all of his peer group (see Chap. 6.3.9).

Ledges found on the inside of dovecotes, meanwhile have also commanded a fair amount of attention, also in relation to 'rat defence' (see Plate 2.4). One of the earliest observations, in this respect, came in the late nineteenth century from Ferguson who noted that a first row of next boxes began, "*...four feet from the floor, and has a ledge of flag 6 inches broad projecting in front of it, thus interposing an effectual bar to any climbing or jumping rat that may have intruded*".[143] Watkins, describing the interior of an early English dovecote, noted that, "*An alighting ledge of stone projects underneath each alternate tier of holes being without alighting ledges. I cannot guess at the reason for this, but I find these alternate ledges copied in pigeon houses of many styles for several centuries*".[144] Severn attempted an explanation when saying, "*...alighting ledges in front of the nesting boxes, where these are continuous, also acted as rat-ledges. Where they were not, this provided an advantage to vermin which could jump from one ledge to another*".[145] McCann, perhaps not surprisingly in light of his aforementioned challenge on external ledges, offered an alternative view on internal ledging as 'alighting ledges'. He also suggested that ledging, which is found at various heights and thicknesses in a dovecote, "*...may have been intended to support staging; others sound more like shelves*

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141 Arris, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 23.

142 A. Whitworth, pers. comm., 31/1/96.

143 Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland', 1887, p. 422.

144 Watkins, 'Ancient Dovecots', 1893, p. 10.
He describes The Knights Templars' dovecot at Garway, thought to be 1326.

145 Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p. 21.
In light of this argument, it seems odd that owners would even contemplate discontinuous ledges.

on which containers could be placed to feed and water the birds in winter" (see Chap. 6.3.14).[146]

A preoccupation with rats leads some authors (including McCann) to suggest that nest box design is also affected, that is, they are raised significantly above the internal floor level[147]. McCann found that the nesting provision for birds can be constructed using stone, brick, wood, wood and plaster and clay bats and that the, "*...number of nest-boxes of a particular size which could be formed in a given space depended mainly on the thickness of the vertical divisions and floors between them*".[148] Robertson recorded that in Scottish dovecotes, "*The nest holes are usually of sandstone. Usually, in Scotland, the nests are square or rectangular boxes, or 'pigeon holes', but in England, they were often L-shaped .. The lowest tier is often a few feet from the floor level*" (see Fig. 2.23).[149] Ariss confirmed this statement and added (without further explanation), "*Almost invariably, the L-shaped nests in one tier turn in the same direction, those in the rows immediately above and below it being reversed, thus producing an alternating pattern*" (see Chap. 6.3.13).[150]

The collection of water from the roof into the interior of the dovecote at Garway, in England, is a rare example of Varro's recommendation to incorporate fresh water into a Roman cote. McCann suggests that very early cotes may have had original channels for fresh running water, but that these were perhaps later blocked to prevent the entry of rats (see Chap. 4.2 and 6.2.3).[151] Floors and foundations were also thought to be constructed

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146 McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1992, p. 142.
He earlier notes that, "*Almost every conceivable arrangement of alighting-ledges has been reported in one dovecote or another – some continuous, some intermittent, some to every tier, others to every second, third or fourth tier of nest-holes. Some dovecotes do not have alighting-ledges at all.*" (see Fig. 2.22).

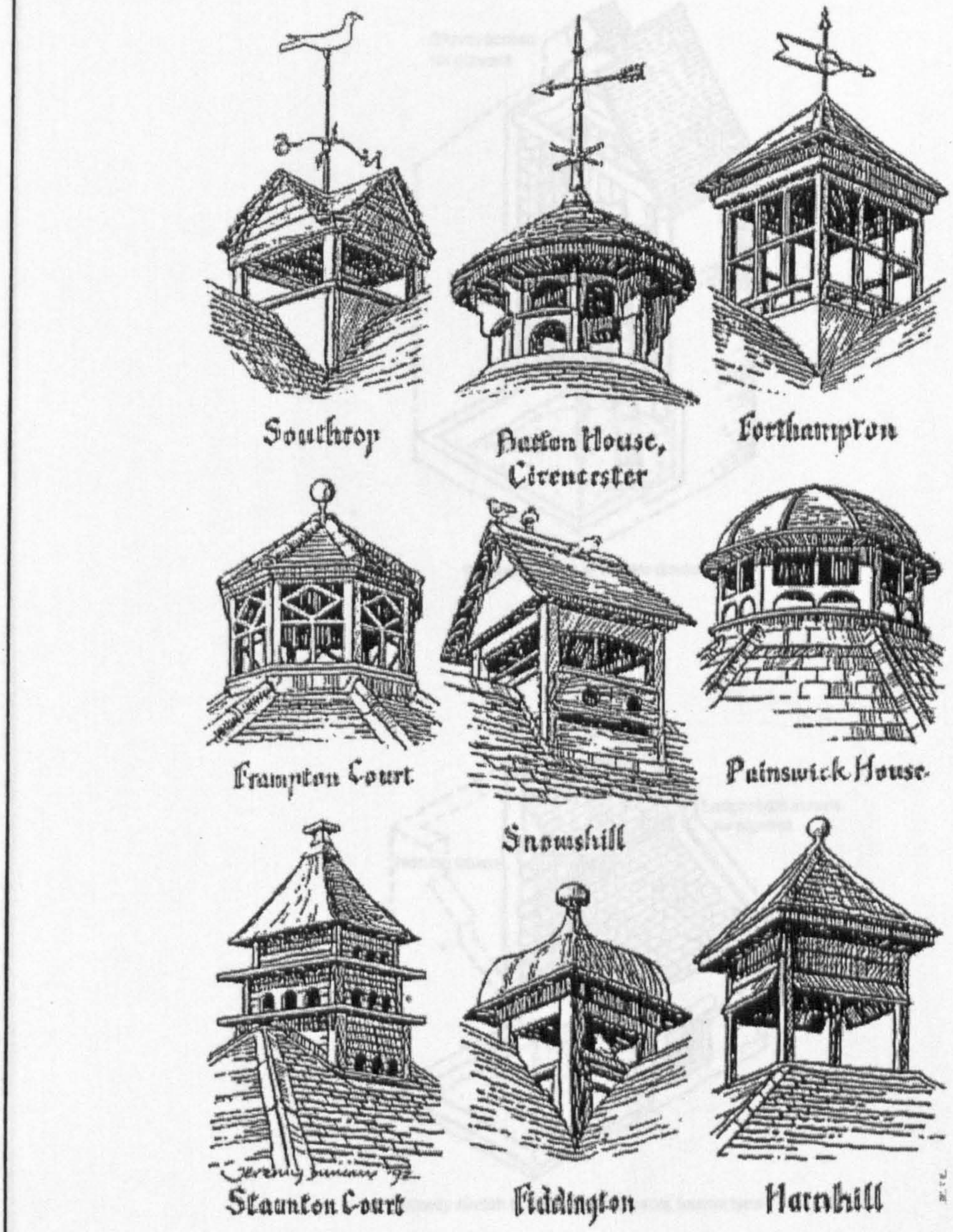
147 Various sources suggest a height about 1200mm (probably taken from Sportsman's).
McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, Addendum and pers.comm., 4/4/97, states that, "*...older dovecotes will likely have their lower tiers of boxes blocked up in an attempt to deter the climbing rats (which became a menace after 1730)*" (see Appendix Section 2, interview with R. Quy).

148 J. McCann, 'The Origin of Clay Lump in England', Vernacular Architecture, vol.28, (1997), pp. 57-64,(p.59). His remark is a clear indication of how choice of box material affects both the building design and the dove management.

149 Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 47.
Rows of masonry nest boxing is, indeed, an impressive sight to experience, particularly if the boxes dome over one's head (as they do in some of the older doocots).

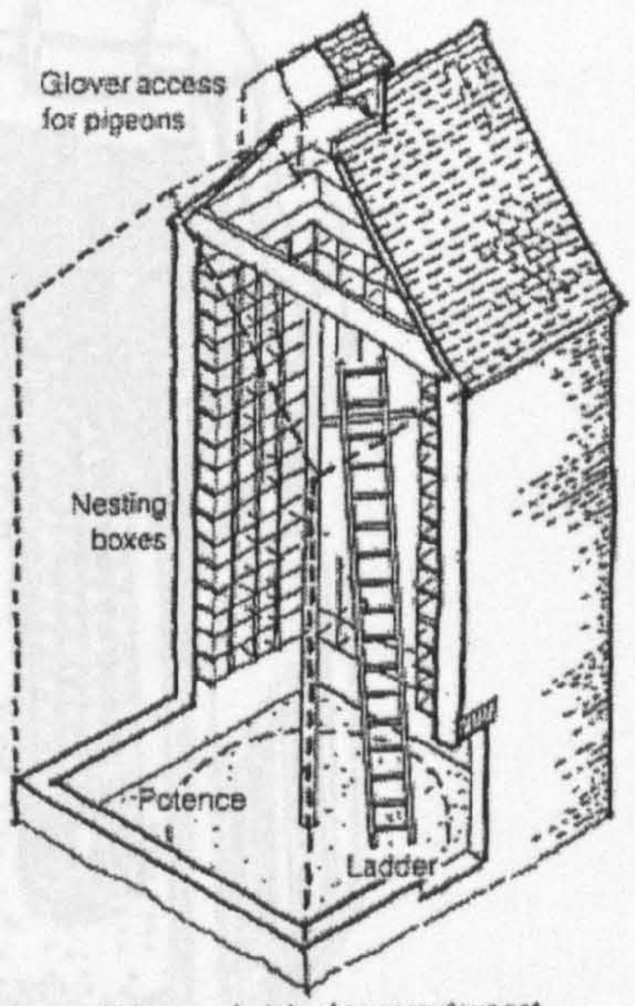
150 Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire,' 1992, p. 27, "*Individual nests are generally L-shaped.*" McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 139, suggests that the L shape provides more room for nesting and , "*... would have given as much protection from hawks as could be devised.*" He also suggests, pers.comm., 12/2/99, that, "*Reversing the direction of L-shaped nests in alternate tiers is desirable for structural stability.*" See Chap. 6.3.13.
The late Dr David Roberts, member of SVBWG, pers. comm, 2/4/94, put forward the unusual theory that alternate rows created pigeons which would turn both left and right in shooting matches.

151 McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 142.
Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., p. 283, had originally suggested, "... *There should be water flowing in for their drinking and washing*".

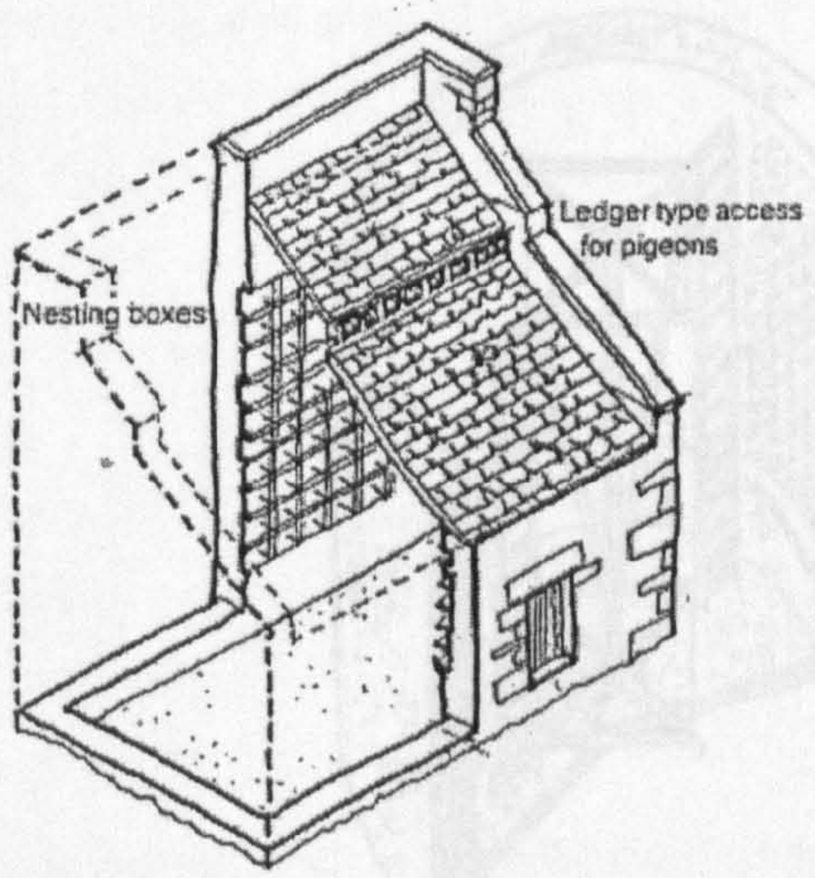


Sketches of dovecote turrets in Gloucestershire (Fig. 2.18)

Ariss, 'Dovcotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 22, *"The most distinguishing feature of many dovecotes is the roof turret, through which the pigeons entered and emerged ... Dovecote turrets were always built over the highest point of the roof and only one was provided for each building, unless it is of rectangular double plan, in which case there are normally two."*



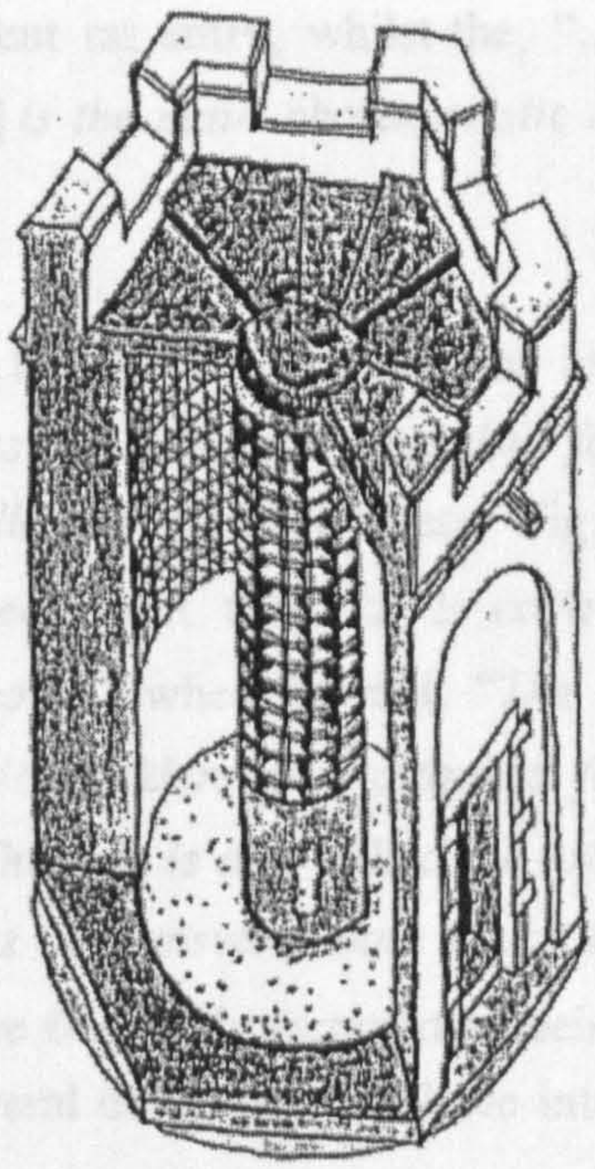
Cutaway sketch of square dovecot

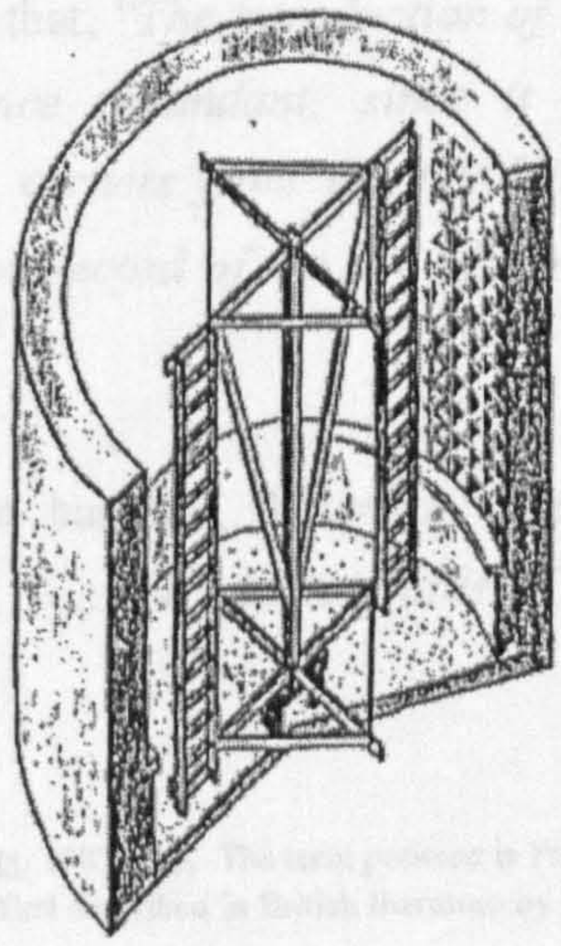


Cutaway sketch of rectangular dovecot, lectern type

Cutaway Sketches of Typical Doocots (Square plan and lectern) (Fig. 2.19)

Sketches by Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings, 1982, p. 84, illustrating apparently typical doocot features: 'glover and ledger access, nesting boxes and a potence ladder'.





Cutaway sketches of doocots (circular and hexagonal plan) (Fig. 2.20)

Sketches by Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, pp. 10 and 12, showing: the doocot at Duff House, Banffshire, with its internal stone column supporting the roof and incorporating nest boxes; and a, "*Cutaway drawing showing a potence or revolving ladder which would be positioned at the centre of the doocot as an aid to gathering eggs and young birds*".

in stone so as to prevent rat entry, whilst the, "... *existence of an upper floor* [normally constructed in timber] *is the main characteristic of a dual-purpose dovecote*" (see Chap. 6.3.15).[152]

Human access to nest boxes has received some attention from most writers and a widely held theory that, "*Nesting boxes were reached for the collection of eggs and birds by a revolving ladder called a potence*" (see Fig. 2.20).[153] Peterkin expanded upon Robertson's original comment that, "*It is extraordinary how the old French Norman words cling to dovecotes*", when he said, "*The word potence is still used for central revolving poles to which ladders were attached for the pigeon-keeper to climb up to the higher nest holes ... The pole is also called the arbre and the word potence was originally applied to the gallows or transverse bars which hold the ladders*" (see Chap. 6.3.16).[154] Revolving ladders were frequently recorded as being built off central masonry plinths and Cooke documents several dovecotes that have internal 'tables'.[155]

The National Trust Severn Region suggested that, "*The introduction of the rectangular or square dovecote tended to make the potence redundant, since it would have been impossible to reach the nesting holes in the corners from the revolving ladder*",[156] yet McCann's research revealed that, "*There is no record of the use of a revolving ladder in Britain before the late seventeenth century*".[157]

The general internal atmosphere of a cote has not, however, greatly captured the imagination of authors. Ariss observed that, "... *the interior walls of the dovecote were*

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[152] Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 18.

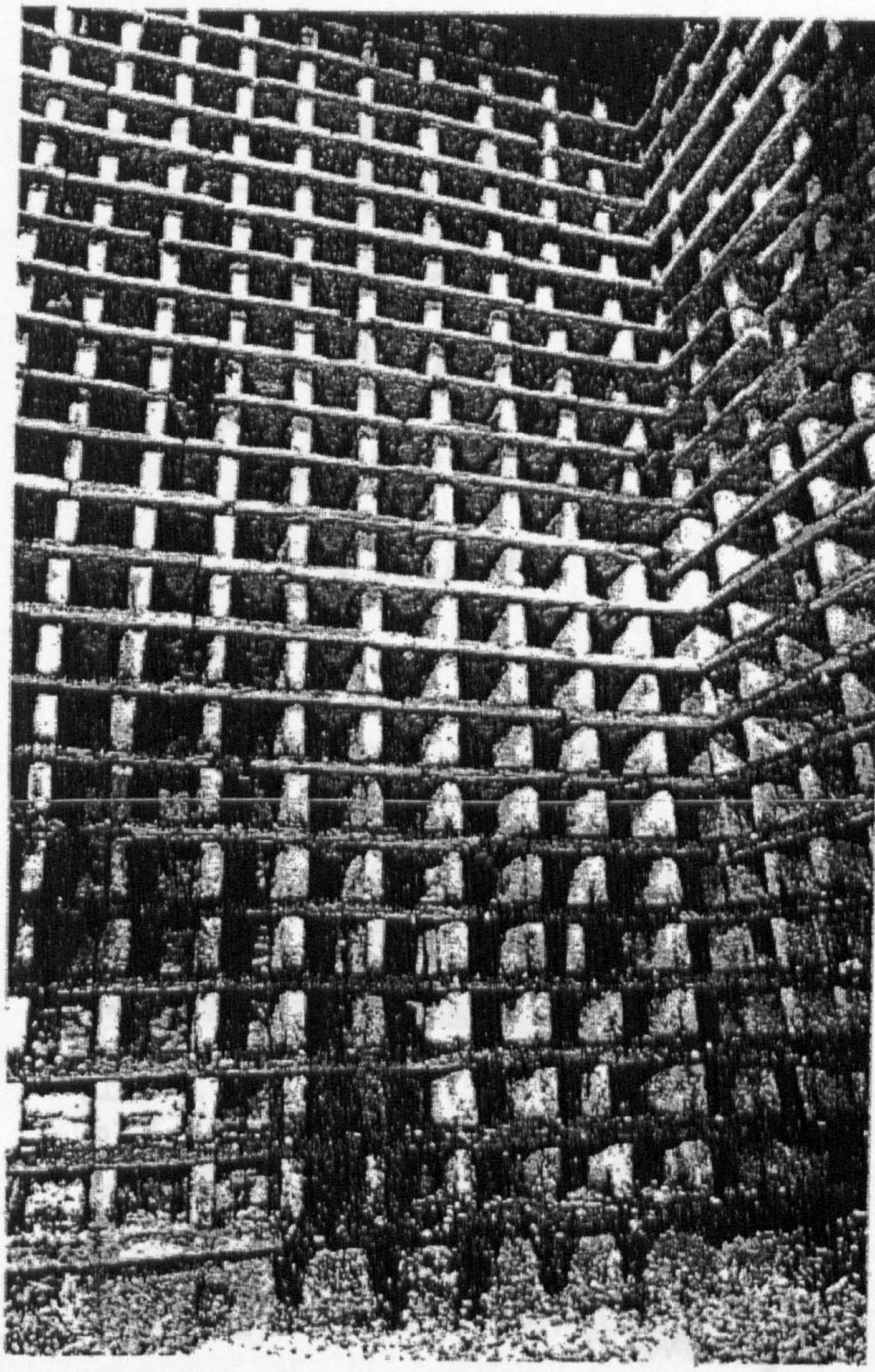
[153] Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', 1998, p. 22.
A near identical statement is found in Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 5. The term *potence* is French meaning arm.
McCann, pers.comm., 4/4/97, notes that the revolving ladder is first described in British literature by North, 1698, (but the word *potence* is Violet-le-Duc's),

[154] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 20.
Fig. 21, p. 19, illustrates two examples of revolving ladders (e.g. see Fig. 2.20).
Whitaker, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', Tranent (Church Wall), records an unusual collecting aid. "*The ladder for reaching the nests consists of an iron chain fastened to a beam in the roof*".

[155] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 103.
For example; Fulford Hall, Yorkshire; Dynes Hall and Chelmshoe House, Essex.

[156] M. Thomson, Dovecotes, (National Trust Severn Region: Cylinder Press, 1980), p. 12.
Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1930, p. 64, notes, however, that,"*This appliance was by no means universal.*" Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 103, suggests that they were, ".. *often thrown away in order to convert, reuse space*".

[157] McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p. 89.
This point was earlier touched upon by M. J. A. Beacham, 'Dovecotes in England: An Introduction and Gazetteer', TAMS (1990), pp. 85-93, (p. 89).
"*It is, in fact, rather puzzling that, according to the O.E.D. the Term potence first appeared in this context as late as 1887, in an article in the Journal of the Royal Archaeological Institute, vol. XLIV, p. 112.*"



Interior of Preston Tower, East Lothian (Plate 2.4)

Photograph used as the cover piece to Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p. (i), showing the grid iron arrangement of around 980 stone nest boxes. Note that every row has a projecting ledge and that the lowest row is part-filled by guano and debris.

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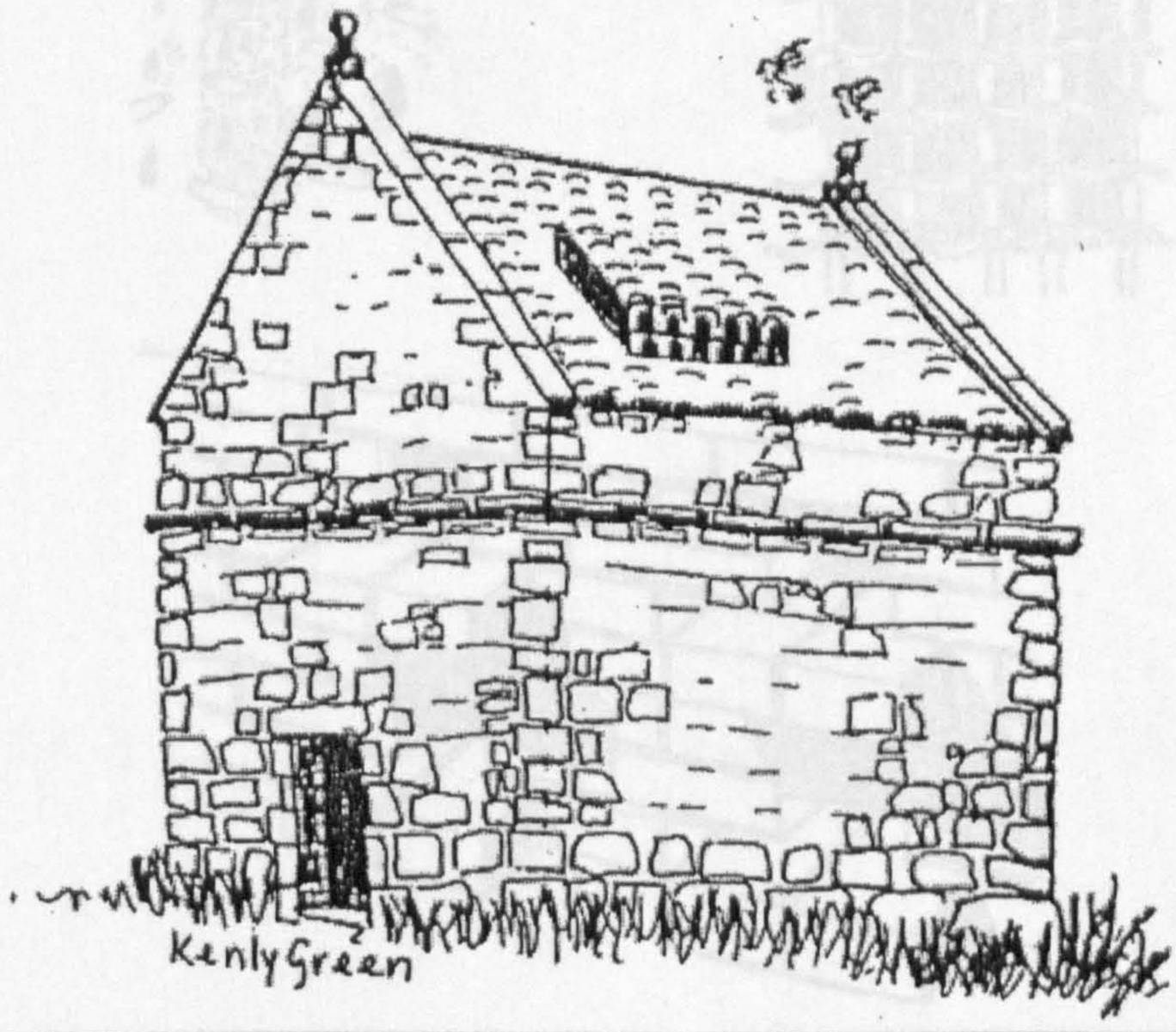
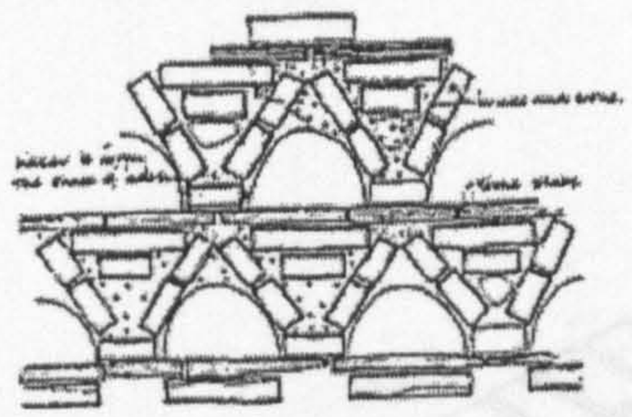
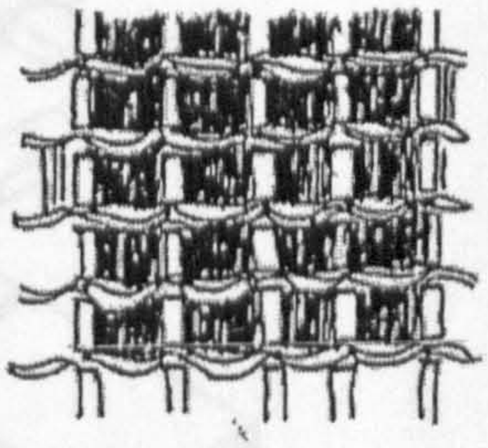


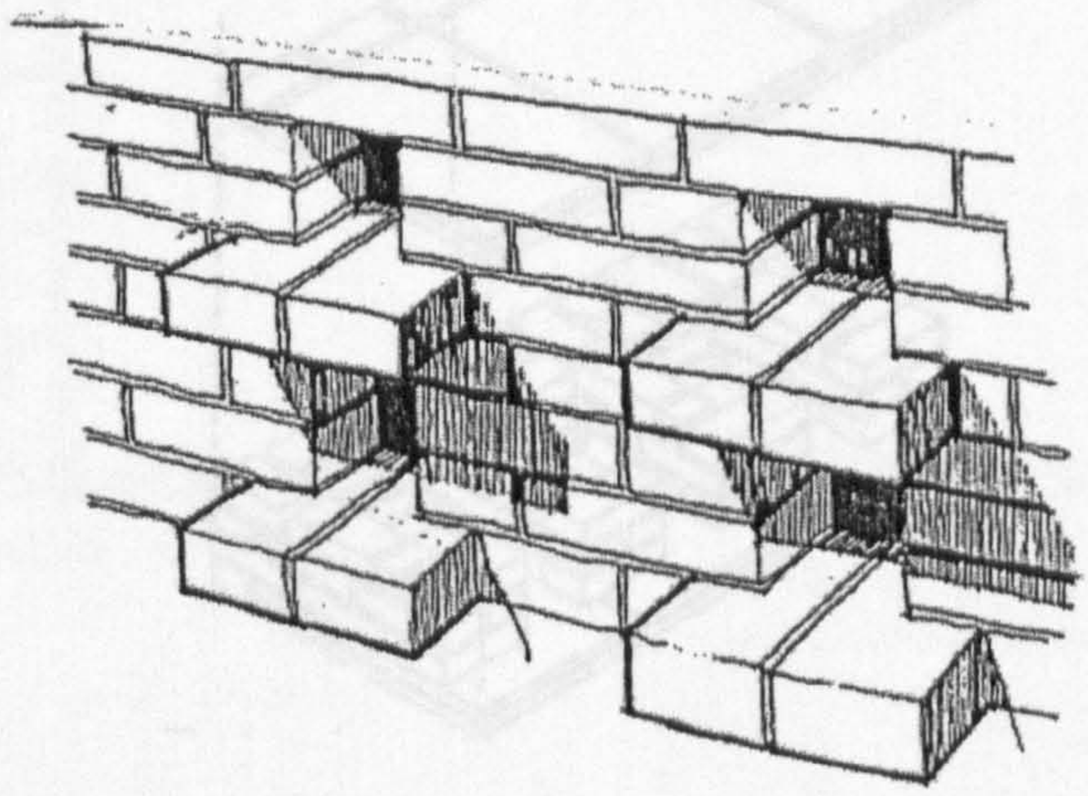
Kenly Green doocot, St Andrews (Fig. 2.21)
Drawing, by E. Proudfoot, as part of cover to leaflet by St. Andrews Preservation Trust, n.d.
"This seventeenth century gabled structure with a pantiled roof can be clearly seen from the road from St. Andrews to Crail."







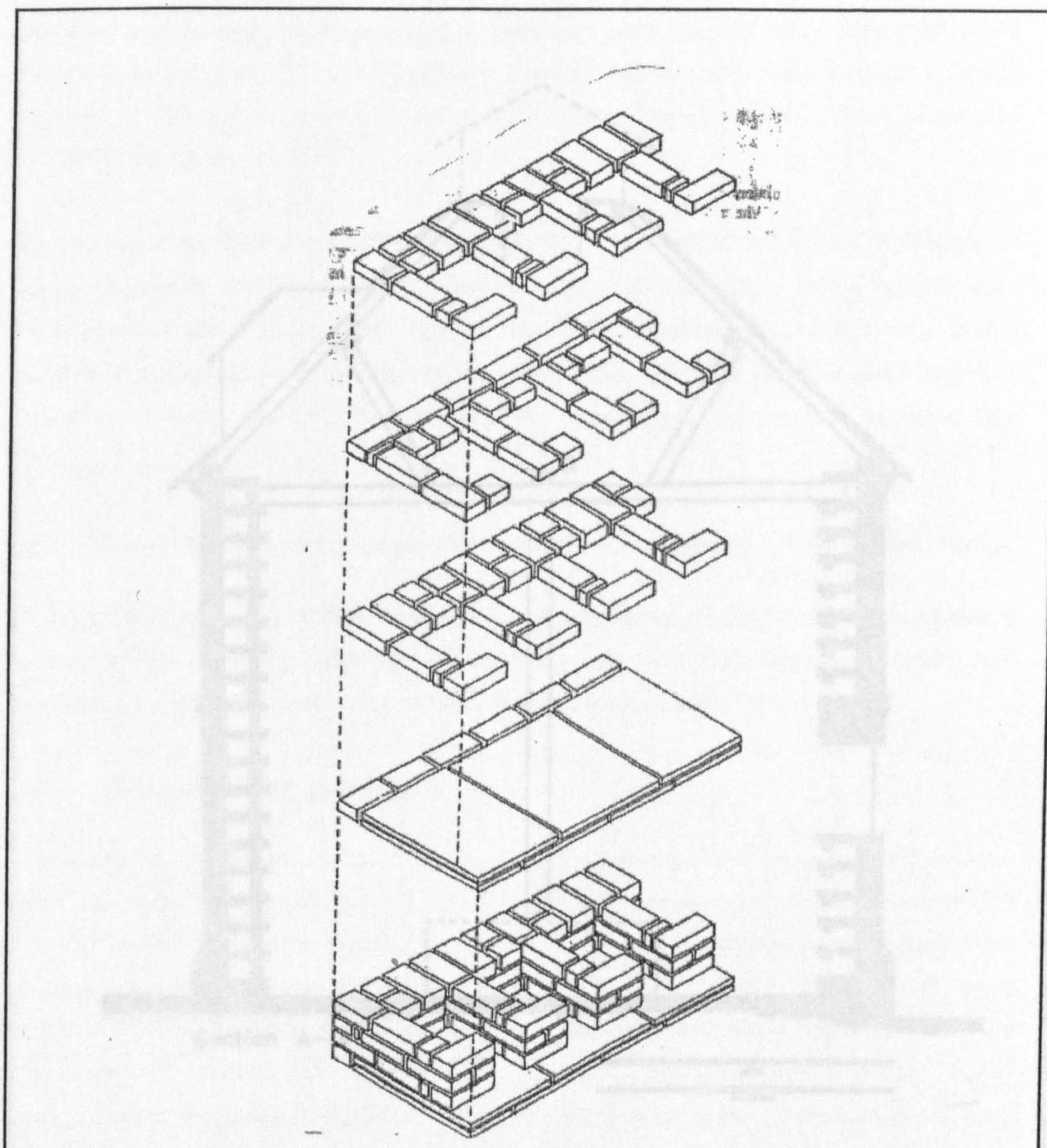




Nest box arrangements within Nottinghamshire cotes (Fig. 2.22)

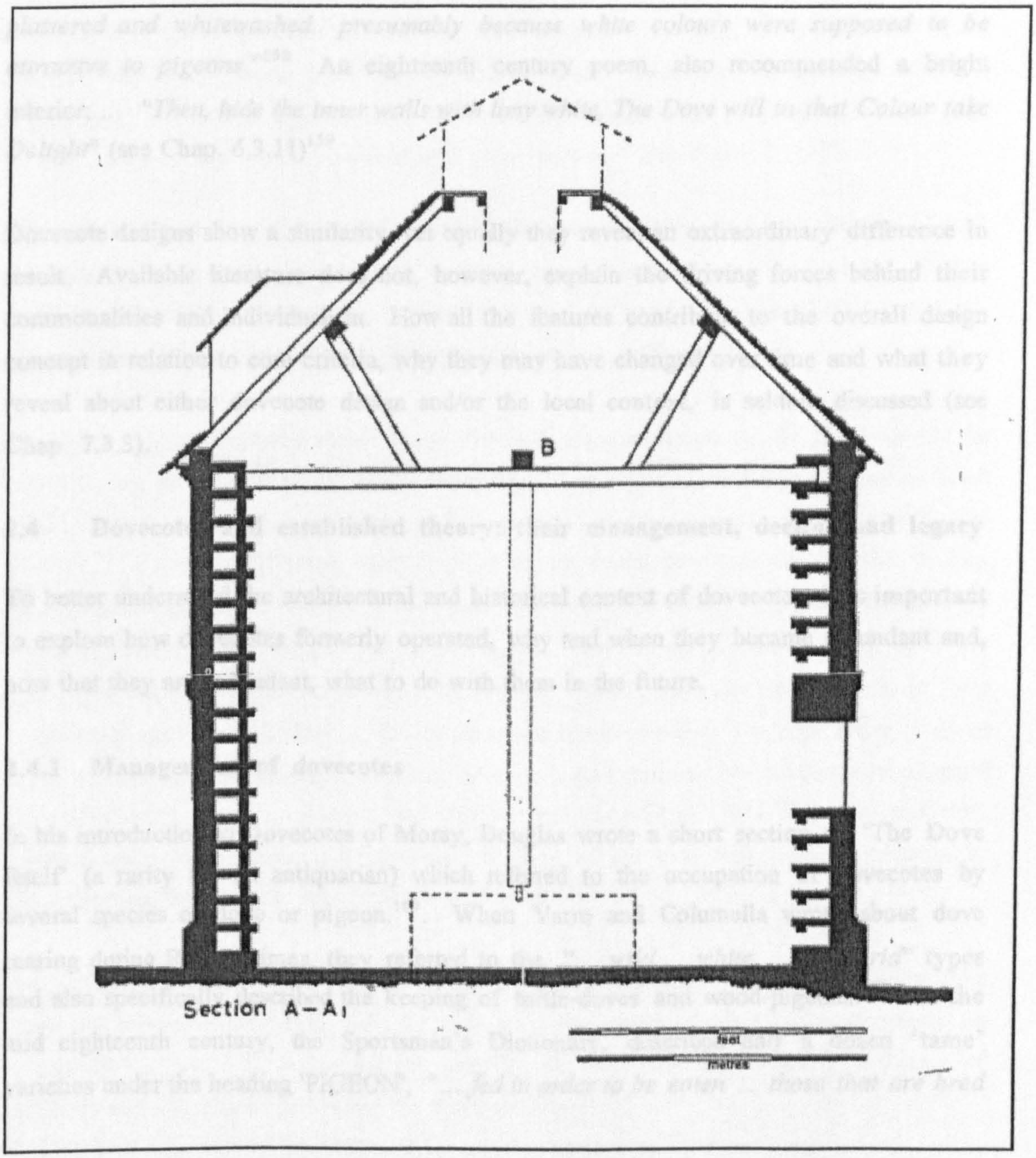
(i) top left; arrangement using brick, stone and plaster at Bulwell dovecote,
(ii) top right; projecting brick ledges at every next row at Clifton dovecote,
(iii) middle left; mud and stud construction at Cromwell dovecote,
(iv) middle right; unusual clay pantile and brick construction at Barnaby in the Willows dovecote,
(v) bottom; projecting ledges at boxes only within cote at Wollaton park.

(reproduced from Severn, Dovcotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, pp. 21-7).



Detil of brickwork nest boxes in an Essex cote (Fig. 2.23)

McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 130, *"Exploded isometric detail of an octagonal dovecote at Dowaham Hall Farm, Ewnham, Essex. Every fourth course of the nest-box structure is bonded into the brickwork of the outer walls by the use of two-thirds bats, and projects inside to form an alighting ledge."* (Drawing by J. Adams).



Cross section through dovecote at Stewkley, Buckinghamshire (Fig. 2.24)

McCann, 'Dovecote at Stewkley', 1994, p. 123, *"The pecked lines indicate the former positions of features now missing or displaced – the louver and its roof, the 'pipe' which protected the entrance against sparrow-hawks, the axis of the former potence, and the plinth of which its lower bearing was mounted."*

plastered and whitewashed.. presumably because white colours were supposed to be attractive to pigeons."[158] An eighteenth century poem, also recommended a bright interior; ... "*Then, hide the inner walls with limy white, The Dove will in that Colour take Delight*" (see Chap. 6.3.11)[159]

Dovecote designs show a similarity, yet equally they reveal an extraordinary difference in result. Available literature does not, however, explain the driving forces behind their commonalities and individualism. How all the features contribute to the overall design concept in relation to core criteria, why they may have changed over time and what they reveal about either dovecote design and/or the local context, is seldom discussed (see Chap. 7.3.3).

2.4 Dovecotes and established theory: their management, decline and legacy

To better understand the architectural and historical context of dovecotes, it is important to explore how dovecotes formerly operated, why and when they became redundant and, now that they are redundant, what to do with them in the future.

2.4.1 Management of dovecotes

In his introduction to Dovecotes of Moray, Douglas wrote a short section on 'The Dove Itself' (a rarity for an antiquarian) which referred to the occupation of dovecotes by several species of dove or pigeon.[160]. When Varro and Columella wrote about dove rearing during Roman times, they referred to the, "... *wild ... white ... or hybrid*" types and also specifically described the keeping of turtle-doves and wood-pigeons.[161] In the mid eighteenth century, the Sportsman's Dictionary, described half a dozen 'tame' varieties under the heading 'PIGEON', "... *fed in order to be eaten ... those that are bred*

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158 Arris, ibid, p. 26.

159 Anon, 'A Poem', 1740, p. 7.
The poem previously mentioned, "*But then be sure to glaze the painted house ... But yet too strong a light their Young molest, And therefore 'tis in Holes they make their nests*".

160 Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 5-6. The wood pigeon, stock dove, rock dove. "*It is unnecessary for our purpose to give further sub divisions of the family of the doves.*"
This is an interesting statement because it gives an indication, either of a distinctly partial ornithological understanding or/and a failure to see any relevance in the matter.

161 Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., Chaps. 7-8, pp. 281-9.
"... *there are usually the two kinds, one wild pigeons, or rock-pigeons as some call them ... the other kind of pigeon is less shy ... is generally white ... From the union of these two stocks comes a third mongrel which is bred for profit*".

in pigeon or dove-houses"[162]. In the mid twentieth century, Brydon stated quite catagorically that, "*These birds are, of course, wood pigeons*".[163] Recently McCann wrote that, "*Dovecote pigeons were the domestic descendants of Columba livia, rock doves ... they should not be confused with wood pigeons*" (see Chap. 4.1).[164]

Few other authors, however, debate or clarify the type of inhabitant (see Chap. 4.1) and, not surprisingly, very few modern authors pass comment on the subject of the management of the dovecotes since they have no first hand experience (see Chap. 4.5). There is therefore a need to investigate the opinions of earlier writers.

In 1844, Stephens offered three straightforward recommendations: (i) nests should be cleared away at the end of the every brooding; (ii) the cote should be examined at least once a month all summer and autumn; (iii) doves should be regularly fed along with the poultry.[165] Slightly different, more explicit recommendations were documented in The Complete Farmer which stated, "...*each pair must have two nests ... when the young ones are taken, clean out the nest, or put it in a basket ... every summer, immediately after the first flight, the dung totally taken away, as it breeds filth ... It is directed never to go into a dovecote later than midday ... it will be necessary to examine the cote every week at least* [to check for predators]... *stocking of cote is best done in two seasons; May, good condition after winter ... August, well-fed young*" (see Chap. 4.5).[166] The sixteenth century writer Herebachius indicated that stocking of the cote was made sustainable by only allowing the, "...*first breede of the year to survive*".[167]

According to a modern day author, "*Pigeons were easy to keep and they cost very little once the dovecote was built. They found their own food, feeding indiscriminately on everybody's crops*".[168] Earlier writers, probably all with first hand experience, recorded methods and occasions for feeding the birds artificially.[169]

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[162] Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, 1735, n.d., s.v. 'PIGEON', i.e. Runts, Horsemen, Leghorns, Powters, Carriers, Bastard-Bred. The paper also cites another fifteen breeds, "... they being only kept for fancy. and points out that there are many varieties of each breed. "*Of those bred in pigeon-houses, the grey pigeon, inclining to ash-colour and black, is the best*". This statement clearly implies that several types were kept in doocots.

[163] Brydon, 'Ownership of a Dovecot', 1957, p.4.

[164] McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p.79.

[165] Stephens, Book of Farm, 1844, (1898 edn.), Div. 4, p.300 and Div. 5, p158.

[166] The Complete Farmer, cited in Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p.71
Smith, p.72, also cites Parkinson & Rawlinson's, The Experienced Farmer which recommends the feeding of birds by 4 a.m.

[167] C. Herebachius, Foure Books of Husbandrie, trans. B. Googe, (London: 1577), full extract of pigeon section in Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, pp.119-26, (p.121).

[168] Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p.14.
See Appendix Section 2 for an indicator of cost in the eighteenth century.

Columella noted that, "*...for three or four months they willingly accept of food laid up in store for them; the rest of the months they feed themselves with seeds they gather in the fields*".[170] Both he and Herebachius also describe how some unfortunate doves had their legs broken and were force fed with chewed bread to fatten them up for sale - this was known as the 'art of cramming'.[171] The Romans, who keenly practised cramming, were alert to the birds' need for water and Varro even suggested that, "*There should be water flowing in for their drinking and washing*"[172], whilst Columella advised differently; "*The vessels, wherein water is given them, ought to be like those used in poultry-yards or hen-coops*".[173]

Cochrane's article on the 'Doves of Sark', p.168, notes that today, "*Sark doves live a partially wild life. They are fed every morning, to keep them from roaming too far, but they fly free round the island*".

[169] Mortimer, Art of Husbandry, 1721, p.262 mentioned the need for, "*...feeding them in Frost or Snowy Weather, when nothing is to be had abroad; and about Midsummer, before Pease are ripe*".
From J. Worlidge, Systema Agriculturae, 1669 and G. Cooke, Complete English Farmer, c.1775 (both courtesty of J. McCann), there are only two seasons necessary when to feed birds; "*.. depth of Winter.. end of June .. latter called benting time*" (due to bent grass).
Herebachius in Smith, op.cit., p.124, instructed, "*...when you give them meat* [e.g. tares, millet, maize, barley, peas etc.] *you must throw it hard by the walles: for that part is commonly cleanest from doung*".
This recommendation may, of course, be dependent on the design of the doocot.
Cran, Making the Dovecote Pay, 1931, p.43, offers three methods of feedings, "*...hoppers, broadcasting (inside or out) ... open troughs*".

[170] Columella, Of Husbandry, c.50, p.355. "*Moreover, it will be proper to scatter their food hard to the wall, because those parts of the pigeon-house are almost free from dung... the place ought to be swept and cleaned from time to time; for how much more garnished it is, so much the more cheerful and brink the fowl appears ... if a pigeon be a good breeder, she brings up young ones eight times a year, and with their prices the owners fill their coffers*".

[171] Ibid., p.358, describes the callous nature of cramming in more detail; "*... young pigeons grow more easily fat under their dams, if, when they are grown somewhat strong, before they begin to fly a little, you take away a few quills from them, and bruise their legs, that they may rest in one place; and if you give plenty of food to those that have hatched them, wherewith they may the more abundantly nourish both themselves and them*". Varro, Of Farming, c.36B.C., p.285 suggests either taking the young away from the parents and cramming with white bread, or breaking their legs and allowing the parents to continue feeding.
Herebachius, 1577, in Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p.122, writes a passage about raising sale value in which, "*.. unfruitful, naughtie or otherwise faultie*" young birds have wing feathers plucked, their legs broken and fed with chewed white bread. He says that pain of the leg break last two days and is much more effective that tying the legs, since the birds wrestle and lose weight.
The 'art' of improving birds for sale in the twentieth century is interestingly documented in J. Hornell, 'Egyptian and Medieval Pigeon-Houses', Antiquity, vol. 84, (Dec. 19470, pp. 182-5, (p. 185). "*On market days, at Luxor, many are the crates of squab pigeons brought to market. The vendors have a curious method of making the young birds appear plumper than they would be naturally ... he places his lips against the gape and blows into its throat as much water as its crop will hold. As he blows the crop visibly swells*".
p.183, Hornell describes an interesting method of collecting the manure by laying out palm-leaf mats over a timber frame.

[172] Varro, op.cit., p.283.
Unlike fowl such as geese, teal, ducks etc, Varro recognises that doves, along with others like fieldfares, peacocks and hens, can operate successfully on dry land. In footnote 1, which refers to 'Geoponica', xiv, 6, it states, "*A fairly large bathing place should be dug in the pigeon-house for the birds to bathe and drink in, so that the keeper may not have to disturb the birds frequently*". This may have led to the type of design seen at Garway, 1326, see Webb, Archaeologia, 1843.

[173] Columella, op.cit., pp.356-7, "*...which may only admit the necks of those that drink; and, because of their narrowness, not receive those that desire to wash themselves.*"
Such a vessel was illustrated in McCann's recent 'Historical Enquiry' 1991, p.41, (together with a food hopper, some dishes and a cat 'guard') and was presented in the context of, "*In winter all these things had to be made available inside the cote*".
The illustration is taken from Moore, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1785. In support of his statement, McCann cites Sportsman, Moore, Girton and Loudon as his sources. The first three are notably concerned primarily with 'fancy' pigeons, whilst the latter was a nineteenth century author, who possibly had limited first hand experience.

Mortimer further noted also that, "*There is nothing the Pigeons more affect than salt; for they will pick the Mortar out of the Joints of Stones or Brick-walls merely for the Saltness thereof; therefore many give them as often as need requires, a lump of salt which they usually call a Salt-Cat*".[174] Many keepers were conscious of their birds potentially deserting their houses in favour of another cote and they perceived the salt-cat as a lure to keep their birds content at home.

Most writers agree that ,"... *dovecots had to be cleaned at regular intervals*", although what is meant by 'regular' varies from author to author.[175] Similarly, it is generally agreed that some maintenance was required, although opinions differ on when and how often. Ferguson recorded that, "... *the interior required to be scraped and whitewashed twice a year, in November and February*"[176]

The destruction of a cote's contents would have been of obvious pecuniary and emotional upset to an owner. Apart from disease, this could occur through predation from other birds and animals, and most devastatingly, through theft by humans. "*Pigeons were usually allowed to go in and out of the building at will* [hence] *organised raiding parties of human poachers could clear dovecotes overnight*".[177] As a safeguard, the dovecote would have required supervision and surveillance by the owner and his/her employees, but little has been documented about this aspect.

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[174] Mortimer, Art of Husbandry, vol.1, 1721, p.262.
The "*salcath*" is recorded as early as 1414 in Cambridge, see Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland', 1887, p.418.
It is described in Anon, Sportsman Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'A Secret to hinder Pigeons from quitting the pigeon-house' and again in Moore, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765, p.31, as a concoction of gravel, sand, loom, lime, cummin-seed, saltpetre, urine "*...and your Pigeons will take great delight in it ... keep your own Pigeons at home.*" P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, pp.56-8 , discuss, "*...several inducements, some ancient and decidedly peculiar* [e.g. disembowelled dogs stuffed with seed, wine and honey, mummified young kestrels hung up on the walls, boiled goat's head] *used to bind the birds to their homes.*"

[175] Whitaker, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1938, p.6. He goes on to say, "*...the fact that this was more honoured in the breach than in the observance may be assigned as the main cause of the desertion of the occupants.*"

[176] Ferguson, 'Pigeons Houses in Cumberland', 1887, p.433, "*...the attendant only visited them early in the morning, otherwise the birds would never settle for the night; cleanliness was requisite. ... four gallons of wort were brought to wash the nests with, probably to kill fleas*".
Reference to the work comes from the 1546-7 accounts of Peterhouse, Cambridge, cited in Willis and Clark, Architectural History of University of Cambridge, vol. 2, p.441.

[177] Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, pp.19-20,
"*To counteract this, long metal spikes were sometimes built into the external brickwork ... Alternatively, the thieves would close the glover, collect the birds from the inside and make off ... The small door restricted the size of the object passing through and stealing became just that more difficult.*"
McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p.92 "*...they used ladders to spread nets over the louver, and tapped the door to alarm the pigeons until they flew out.*"
At Gilmerton House, Haddington, it was observed that, "*As the door opens to the turn of the key, pigeons swarm out through the small cupola that tops the dome shaped roof; through the 3 curious little windows immediately above the upper of 2 string-courses, even through the door itself, so urgent their haste.*", from Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.250.
During the famine years (1623, 1650, 1673, 1690, 1697) people in NE Scotland ate weeds, grass and seeds. Pestilence struck in 1675.

The day-to-day management of the dovecote appears to have been a male servant's duty, but this is not confirmed. By the late eighteenth to nineteenth century, "...*however unsuitable or discordant it may appear ... in some case also he* [the gardener] *has the care of the dove-house*".[178]

The ability deliberately to shut the occupant in the dovecote was, nevertheless, useful in order to cull certain birds. "*Old cocks tyrannise over the young, they should be destroyed as well as the oldest hands ... no easy matter to get hold of old pigeons to kill them in a large house ... first close up the entrance holes, and then two persons to enter the pigeon house gently, late at night, with a light ... one uses a light angler's landing-net for entrapping*".[179]

Although the meat of older birds has long been recognised as tough compared to that of youngsters, they still met the same fate:

> For when the Dove is past her vigour's Prime
> And now no longer, or but seldom lays,
> To separate her useless from the rest,
> For your Domestic no ungrateful Feast.[180]

In order to supervise, inspect and collect birds, human access to every nest was required. The commonly held view is that, "*It was in France rather than at Rome that we first hear of an internal mechanism in a dovecote called the potence. This, briefly is an arrangement* [in the form of a revolving ladder] *for gaining access to the upper tiers of*

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[178] J.C. Loudon, Encyclopaedia of Gardening, (London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown and Green, 1830), p.339. (Although 'farmyard poultry' was widely recognised as a woman's task.)
Addison, Farmhouses in the English Landscape, 1986, p. 159. "*Even when the farmer's wife and her maidservants were kept busy from dawn to dusk indoors, the farmyard fowls were their especial care.*"

[179] Stephens, Book of Farm, 1844, Div.2, pp.428-30. "*The marks of old pigeons ... are conspicuous in winter [rough scaly legs, callous soles of the feet, bright red scales on the legs, strong bills and wings, thick feathers, brilliant neck colours], when cocking a pigeon-house, as it is termed, should be executed, as no young ones will then be deprived of their parents... not repeated in the same season, as such repeated nocturnal visitations would intimidate the whole flock ... In a smaller house the birds are easily captured at night.*"
From Hancock's 'Dunster Church and Priory', quoted in Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.220,
destruction of the doocot contents could occur simply by accident. For example "... *someone shut up or forgot to open the window which gave the pigeons egress to find food for themselves and their young, and that all the occupants were starved to death*".

[180] Anon, 'A Poem', 1740, p.18. It is possible that this poem is referring to the ornamental dove, in which case, it was eaten once past its breeding best.

nests".[181] This timber device was normally raised on a masonry plinth (to prevent it from rotting in guano and to revolve freely) and was, also, sometimes designed to incorporate feeding platforms (see Fig. 2.24).[182] Occasionally masonry tables, or 'altars', were found inside where, "*It is thought it may have been provided as a place on which to deposit a basket of young birds ... may have been used for such operations as killing, plucking, and general preparations of birds for the table, or perhaps more probably of packing them for market.*"[183]

Beaton noted in Doocots of Caithness (a sister volume to Doocots of Moray) that, "*The doos were relatively simple to catch once they had come into the cote to roost and they are easy birds to pluck and prepare*", thus suggesting that the mature birds were eaten (see Chap. 7.2.4).[184]

It is not greatly documented just how birds were killed, although Stephens gives an idea of the matter-of-fact nineteenth century approach in his statement ,"...*it can be done instantly by striking the back of the head forcibly against a wall*".[185]

Earlier observations regarding management appear to be empirically based on the works of ancient authors and a *priori*, rather than on scientific knowledge. Although there is some validity to this approach, it has produced different recommendations, depending on the different circumstances experienced.

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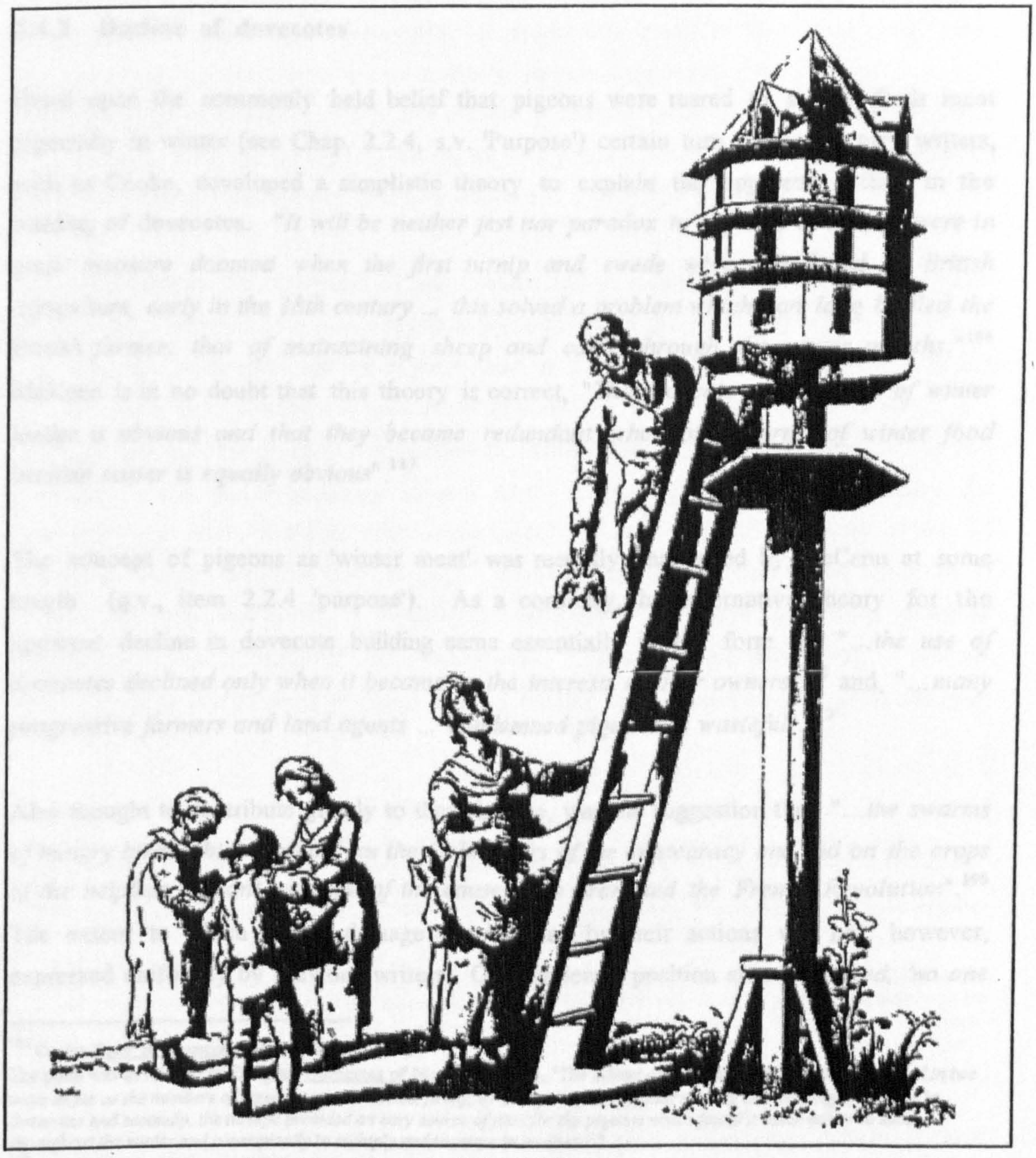
[181] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.15. He also states that, "*The potence could only be used to advantage in a round dovecote*", yet other authors, like Bailey and Tindall, think this device led to the design of the double chambered lectern (see previous section).

[182] McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p.90. "*In the nineteenth century, some pigeon-keepers chose to feed them within the dovecote and erected feeding platforms on the axis of the potence. All the platforms examined proved to be late additions*".
M. E. Taylor, 'Dovecots as Ancient Monuments': The Listener, 18/4/1957, p. 626, ".. *pigeons were kept for the larder shelf and they had to be easily caught. A simple but ingenious device made catching easy. (see Chap. 7.2.4) A long pole, or potence, was erected in the centre so that it could revolve.*"

[183] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray,1931, p.16.
The term 'altar', was first used by North, 1698 in Colvin and Newman, Of building, 1981, p. 103.
Douglas' reference to a table stems from the now-demolished cote at Smithfield, (see Chap. 5.5)

[184] E. Beaton, Doocots of Caithness, (Dundee, SVBWG, 1986), p.3. See also addendum by Beaton, 'notes on Three Nineteenth Century Caithness Dovecotes: Caithness Field Club Bulletin, vol.3, No.6, (Oct. 1983), pp.168-9, which added cotes at ;Sandslide', 'Barrock Mains Steading' and 'Westfield'.
C.Anne Wilson, food historian and author, pers.comm., 11/9/95, "*Imagine the pigeons were shot not far from the dovecot in open land where it would be easy to retrieve the bodies* (see Chaps 7.2.4 and 7.4.1)

[185] Stephens, Book of the Farm, 1844, Div.2, p.430.
In this context, it is worth remembering that Stephens is describing the operation of culling an older bird from a small-scale farm cote.
C. Anne Wilson, pers. comm., 14/6/95, "*Killing: usually done by men... Preparation: they would have been plucked and cleaned by scullery maids or scullery boys.*" (see Fig. 2.25).
Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p.96 quotes an 1850 recipe for pigeon pie in Daily Telegraph which points out that farmhouse pigeons "...*taken generally in the evening when gone to roost... never shot*".



Man collecting squabs from pole cote (Fig. 2.25)

McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 150, *"A type of pigeon-loft [terminology?] erected in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries in farmyards and inn-yards. The man is handing down squabs, which the women collect in their aprons."*

(drawing originally sourced from W. H. Pyne, Microcosm, 1805 held in British Library).

2.4.2 Decline of dovecotes

Based upon the commonly held belief that pigeons were reared to supply fresh meat especially in winter (see Chap. 2.2.4, s.v. 'Purpose') certain turn of the century writers, such as Cooke, developed a simplistic theory to explain the apparent decline in the building of dovecotes. "*It will be neither jest nor paradox to say that dovecotes were in great measure doomed when the first turnip and swede were introduced to British agriculture, early in the 18th century ... this solved a problem which had long baffled the British farmer; that of maintaining sheep and cattle through the winter months.*"[186] McKean is in no doubt that this thoery is correct, "*That doocots were a form of winter larder is obvious and that they became redundant when other forms of winter food became easier is equally obvious*".[187]

The concept of pigeons as 'winter meat' was recently challenged by McCann at some length (q.v., item 2.2.4 'purpose'). As a corollary, his alternative theory for the apparent decline in dovecote building came essentially in the form of, "...*the use of dovecotes declined only when it became in the interests of their owners*"[188] and, "...*many progressive farmers and land agents ... condemned pigeons as wasteful*".[189]

Also thought to contribute greatly to their decline, was the suggestion that, "...*the swarms of hungry birds which issued from the Columbiers of the aristocracy and fed on the crops of the helpless peasant was one of the causes that promoted the French Revolution*".[190] The extent to which serious damage was inflicted by their actions was not, however, expressed uniformly by previous writers. One intolerant position stated, "*Indeed, 'no one*

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[186] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.33.
The point was developed by Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.6, "*The advent of the turnip in this country operated in two ways as far as the numbers of pigeons was concerned, firstly, by doing away the regular rearing and keeping of pigeons in dovecotes and secondly, the turnips provided an easy source of food for the pigeons which found it much easier to subsist throughout the winter and consequently to multiply and increase in numbers*"."

[187] C. McKean, pers.comm., 28/7/94.

[188] McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.99.
"*The damage which pigeons did to the fields of others was well understood in Britain centuries before the French Revolution, and was equally resented*".

[189] Idem, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p.3,
"*All traditional dovecotes passed out of normal economic use in the nineteenth century*".

[190] Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p.355.
The British people would have been well aware of the French uprisings at the time.
Tusser, Five Hundred Good Points of Husbandry, 1577, p.179, "*The flocks of the lords of the soil, Do yearly the winter corn wrong*".
A. Hope, Caledonian Feast, (Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing, 1987), p.18 says, "*Small wonder that, when he* [John Cockburn of Ormiston] *and others wished to plant their estates with trees, the tenants objected strongly. In their eyes, the trees would but serve as more roosting-places for the birds they themselves would have liked to exterminate*". This probably refers to the Wood Pigeon (see Appendix Section 3).

who wishes to be upon good terms with his neighbours ought to keep them' and, since they were 'entirely granivorous, and within extremely voracious', those 'insatiate vermin' were estimated to consume nearly five million bushels of grain a year".[191] In contrast, "*The damage done by pigeons in the fields newly sown, though of some consideration both in the autumn and spring, is on the whole but lightly felt*".[192]

As an indicator of the timescale of this decline, Gillon recently conveyed a widely held thought that, "*The need for doocots gradually died out at the start of the 19th century as their function as an extra source of fresh food in winter time became obsolete with the introduction of new farming methods which allowed for the feeding of cattle in winter*".[193] Berkeley was more explicit in her statement, "*None were erected after 1800*",[194] as was Watkins, "...*the custom suddenly stopped in the beginning of the present century, for none appear to have been built since about 1810*".[195] Ariss said, "*The general decline of dovecotes appears to have been swift*",[196] whereas, Beaton felt that, "*The tradition of farming the birds died hard*".[197] Whitworth found that, "...*the most fascinating group of pigeon-holes ... are mostly of 19th century date*"[198] and Ferguson noted that, "*Until the railways put an end to them, the large posting houses on the north road kept numbers of*

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[191] T.C. Smout and S. Foster, eds., History of Soils and Field Systems, (Aberdeen: Scottish Cultural Press, 1995), p.105.
This information is taken from the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century writers who were part responsible for the General Views on Agriculture series.
By 1844, Loudon, Encyclopaedia of Agriculture, 1844, Sect. V. item 7533, was writing, "*Pigeons are now much less cultivated than formerly, being found injurious to corn fields, and especially to fields of peas*".

[192] Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1814, p.341.
It should be remembered that Leslie is possibly expressing a personal, or parochial, opinion. A Yorkshire farmer, however, conveyed a similar sentiment, cited in Cooke's, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.152, "*I have shot a few pigeons, and their crops are always gorged by what are probably weed seeds. In my opinion the harm done for short periods in the year is more than made up for during the longer period when they are doing good in many ways*". The farmer could, again, be referring to the Wood Pigeon (see Appendix Section 3).

[193] Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', 1998, p.22.
His view is probably based on Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.6, "*They gradually 'died out' at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries ... When the winter feeding of cattle became general by the introduction of the turnip from Sweden, dovecotes became obsolete*".

[194] Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p.337.
She earlier stated, p.334, that the dovecotes in her area spanned, "...*from 1100 to 1800*".
Peters, Development of Farm Buildings, 1969, p.205, "*In some cases the dovecote had gone out of use before 1880*".

[195] Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon Houses', 1890, p.13.
Likewise, Beacham,'Dovecotes in England', 1990, p.88.wrote "*No more dovecotes were built after the early nineteenth century*".
Also, R. Witlock, English Farm, (London: J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 1983), p.170. "*By the 1790's ... peacocks and domestic pigeons now had a very minor role in the farm economy*".

[196] Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.88.

[197] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.2.

[198] Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes', 1993, p.78, "*Few other early dovecotes are to be found in North Yorkshire ... more evidence of pigeons being kept by ordinary farmers ... the provision made for cooping them was sometimes cruder than at the manor house and was often incorporated into other buildings*".

pigeons in their stable yards".[199] In relation to universities in Cambridge, Ferguson noted that, "*In the course of the 17th century, the practice of keeping pigeons fell gradually into disuse*".[200] In Northumbria, Kempe recorded 134 dovecotes, 68 of which were, "*...19th century*".[201]

Thus evidence has been produced to debunk the 'winter meat' theory and consequently, the 'advent of the turnip' as a reason for the apparent decline, may not be appropriate. The impact of the bird upon the crops, also, seems to create a difference of opinion. Further, socio-economic changes during the nineteenth century seem to have been highly influential upon the fate of the dovecote in Britain, but the extent of the decline appears inconsistent in terms of pace and time period.

2.4.3 Legacy of dovecotes

One of the intriguing aspects of the historic dovecote is its ability to survive. Despite the loss of many associated buildings (often architecturally more 'superior') around it, "... *here as in so many other instances, it is the dovecote only which survives*".[202]

Several authors have attempted to provide reasons for this peculiarity. For instance, when investigating a dovecote in North Berwick, one author attributed its survival to superstition. "*There is no doubt about its originality, for the country folk would as soon think of 'dinging doon the kirk' as of demolishing one of these ancient landmarks ... It was a well-known prediction among them that if the dove-cot fell, the lady of the manor would die within the year.*"[203] Alternative theories began with Cooke, who presented the plausible concept that early dovecotes survived because they possessed no dressed stones

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[199] Ferguson, 'Pigeon-Houses in Cumberland', 1887, p.415, Footnote from Sussex Archaeological Collections, vol.11, p.1, "*...they afforded a ready viand for the sudden traveller*".

[200] Ibid, p.419.
Ferguson quotes Willis & Clark, Architectural History of University of Cambridge, vol.3, p.592.

[201] Kempe, 'Some Northumbrian Dovecotes', 1992, p.74.

[202] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 185. He is referring to the dovecote at Daglingworth. On p. 95, he talks of the dovecote at Kinwarton, sited near fish ponds, as the only surviving relic of a former moated grange belonging to an Abbey.
R. Oram (historian), pers.comm., 6/12/96, "*... they are quite often the only surviving indicators of the architectural pretension of many now lost or heavily altered 16th century houses*".

[203] J. Stewart-Smith, Grange of St. Giles, (Edinburgh: Thomson Brothers, 1898), p. 109.
A similar sentiment is found in Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 7; Leslie, General Review of Agriculture in Moray, 1813, p.342; and an East Lothian District Council leaflet, 'The Dovecotes of East Lothain', (North Berwick: Tantallon Press, u.d.), s.v. 'Introduction',
"*They survived because not only they are sturdy and attractive stone buildings but there is the tradition that ill-luck will befall the person who demolishes a dovecot.*"

worthy of robbing or reusing.[204] Bailey and Tindall later conveyed the thought that, "... *dovecotes, with or without pigeons ... play an important part in the landscape ... this importance has been appreciated to some extent. Some dovecots, public and private, are well maintained*"[205]. Gillon theorised that dovecotes survived, "... *possibly due to the fact that they were often converted to other uses during the nineteenth century*"[206] and Ariss added, "... *its survival from then [c.1825] to the present day has been largely dependent upon its adaptability, the inclination of the owner, or perhaps latterly, the effectiveness of legal protection*".[207] McCann's current idea is a somewhat negative one. "*They survived more through the inertia of their owners than through any particular concern for them*"[208].

Despite these various reasons for their endurance, many other dovecotess have been demolished in the past. Taylor wrote that ,"... *at the end of the eighteenth century there were 360 in the Kingdom of Fife alone* [no evidence given however]. *Today only seventy-three are recorded*".[209] Ariss observed that in his area, "*It is clear however that those standing today represent only a small population of the number once in existence,*"[210] and when Berkeley wrote of the dovecotes in her region at the turn of the century, she recollected that over one fifth of the total had been demolished or was falling into severe decay.[211]

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[204] Cooke, op.cit., p. 46.
G. Roy, 'Scottish Dovecot', Countrylife, (20/11/1953), pp. 1732-3 (p. 1732), "*Why so many of these old dovecots now stand alone is because, while all great buildings were of solid construction, the dovecots made with walls equally thick, were of small size and thus have resisted the ravages of weather better than their present buildings.*"

[205] Bailey & Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1961, p. 30.
In Beacham, 'Dovecotes of England', 1990, p. 89, "*...the size of the average dovecote is both an advantage and a disadvantage. It is small enough for the cost of repair work or restoration to be relatively low*".

[206] Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', 1998, p. 22.
N. Robertson gives a list of some of their alternative uses in 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, pp. 30-1; gunpowder store, hostel, granary, dwelling, hen house, police store, wine store, meeting place, scout hut, music room, muniments store, lovers' rendezvous.

[207] Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 6.
He begins, "*In 1825 dovecote pigeons were regarded as little more than ornamental ... consequently, the dovecote was of little value*".
Peters, Development of Farm Buildings, 1969, p. 212, expands on Ariss' point; "*Most farmsteads were the product of a series of adaptations, rebuildings and additions. Even those completely built at one period have usually been added to or altered at a later date as new techniques demanded changes; alteration was usually preferred to rebuilding if the structure were still sound*".
Ariss, p. 11, rightly points out that, "... *later alterations may mislead*".

[208] McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 89, "... *dovecotes survived in use longer in these areas* [pastoral] *than in predominantly arable regions.*"

[209] M. E. Taylor, 'Dovecotes as Ancient Monuments', The Listener, 18/4/1957, p. 626. The statement ends, "... *in the inventory of ancient and historic monuments of Fife.*"
Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p. 23 account for 12 lost in their area since 1938.

[210] Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p. 7.

[211] Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p. 338. She observed, p. 349, in Herefordshire, that almost half had been lost during her memory and urged that, "... *neither owner nor tenant must regard the demolition of these ancient dovehouses as an improvement.*".

The remaining historic structures are a finite legacy and, "*...those that still stand are small landmarks in the wide field of history, and more care and consideration would be extended to the interesting relics were their past services known to their present owners*".[212] Some feel that, "*Many of the dovecots in this country are exceedingly interesting buildings ... their walls, if they could speak, could tell us a worthwhile story*".[213] Yet, "*... having outlived their usefulness, no one bothers about these milestones in the history of our farming.*"[214] Beacham, nevertheless, rightly asked, "*Why should they be preserved when much bigger buildings desperately need time and money spent on them*".[215] Having asked this question, however, Beacham offers no clear solution.

For over a hundred years, professionals and amateurs alike have pleaded for the preservation of redundant dovecotes .[216] The same plea continues today; "*There can be no doubt that dovecotes are an attractive and irreplaceable part of our heritage, but their numbers have been decimated over recent centuries and even today they are falling down ... If this book* [Doves and Dovecotes] *does anything to foster an awareness of the need for continuing conservation, its aim will have been achieved.*"[217]

Although statutory legislation has been put in place to safeguard many structures, functional redundancy and the pace of development today (and presumably that of the future) continues to threaten, not only their future management and setting, but their very existence.[218] In relation to sustainability, the future of redundant dovecotes will remain precarious if the social and environmental attributes cannot provide the buildings with an economic viability.[219]

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[212] Yates, 'Manorial Pigeon Houses', 1943, p. 19.

[213] W. Brydon, 'Ownership of Dovecotes', Edinburgh Evening News, 16/3/1957, p. 4.

[214] Maitland, 'Doo'cots of Angus', 1964, u.p.

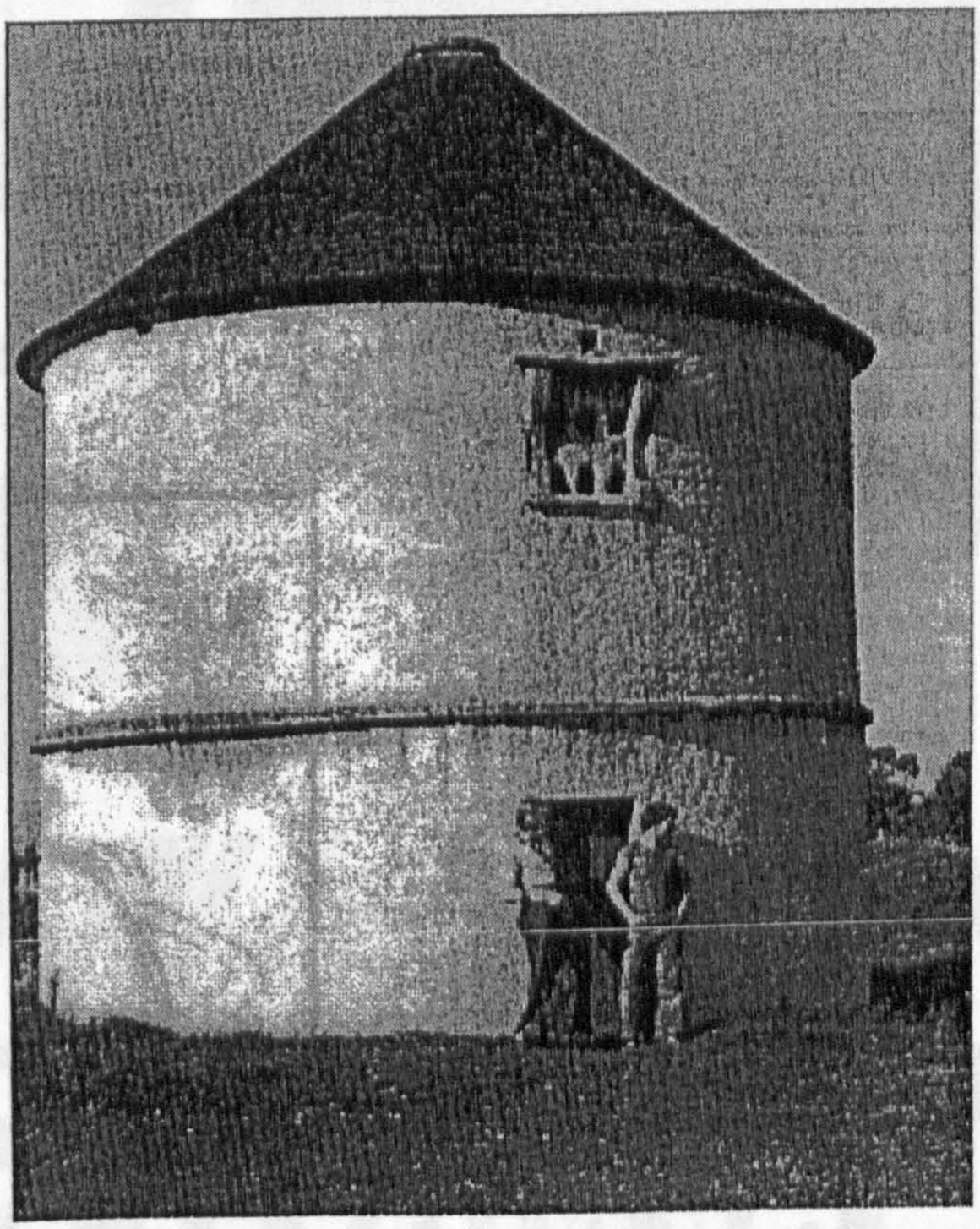
[215] Beacham, 'Dovecotes of England', 1990, p. 89.

[216] For example, Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p.349, put forward a, " .. *strong plea for their preservation. Even if they do not rank very high amongst acknowledged treasures.*"

[217] P. & J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, pp. 5-6.
McCann, 'Conservation of Dovecotes', 1994, pp. 83-7, gives excellent tips to professional conservators in relation to the retention of authentic features.

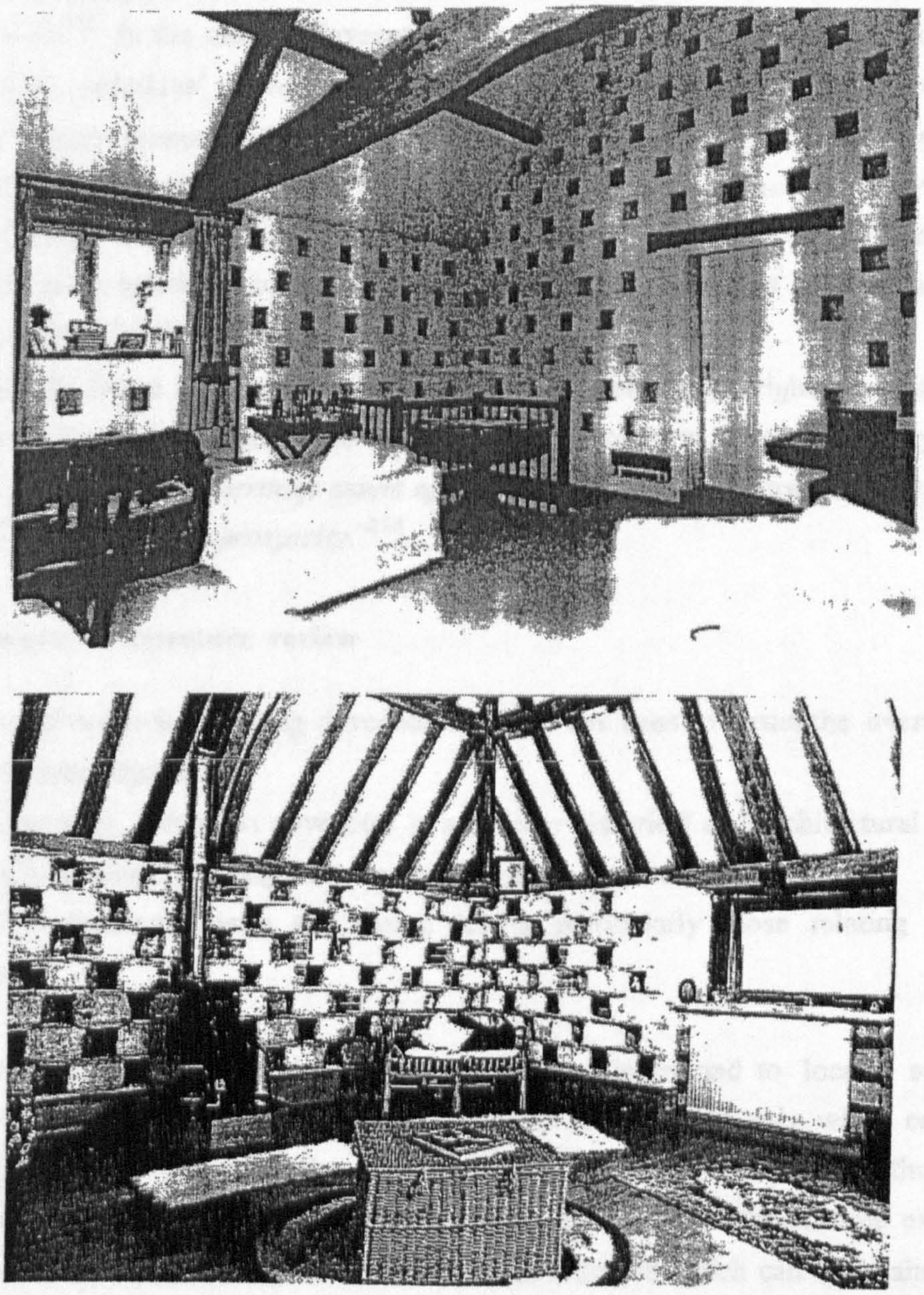
[218] M. Saunders (ed), 'Ancient Monument Society, Winter and Spring Newsletter', (1997), p.7.
recorded an application to demolish a, "... *second Lincolnshire dovecote to come under threat in 1996.*"

[219] P. Wiliams, pers.comm., 4/12/95, In relation to dovecotes in Staffordshire, "*I have references to about 400 'lost' dovecotes.*"



Exterior view of Boath doocot, near Nairn (Plate 2.5)

Early cylindrical doocot in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. Recently received another, "... *major renovation work*", according to F. McNeil, 'Old Secrets Revealed', The Press and Journal, 17/5/1999.



Photographs of doocots converted to domestic use (Plate 2.6)

Two instances where doocots have been converted to dwellings, yet still retain their nest boxes: top, Bulford dovecote, Wiltshire; bottom, dovecote at Church House, Gloucestershire.

(Reproduced from P. & J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, pp. 163 and 172).

Ideally, such buildings should be reused in such a manner which least alters original fabric (see Plate 2.5).[220] In the case of dovecotes, this is an especially difficult task and many 'unsatisfactory solutions' have been executed (see Plate 2.6).[221] Conservation philosophy rightly promotes the 'original use' as the 'ideal' form of regeneration, and even ornithologists agree that, "... *if these dovecotes are to be preserved, their interest, impact and, above all, visual attractiveness if they were re-populated with Pigeons.*"[sic] [222] Even the most optimistic of conservators would not anticipate this as being a realistic prospect for all of Scotland's listed dovecotes.[223]

The immediate future for these buildings does, however, look brighter as important commentators begin to recognise the nation's cultural reserves as a valuable, yet non-renewable, resource: "*Our heritage assets of land and culture are increasingly becoming the basis for our economic prosperity.*"[224]

2.5 Summary of literature review

The purpose of reviewing existing dovecote literature has been to assist the overall study meet its principal objectives:

(i) place existing, redundant dovecotes in a broader historical and architectural context
(ii) critically evaluate existing theories about historic dovecotes in general
(iii) identify common criteria and design details, particularly those relating to dove ecology.

The review was systematically designed to address key issues and to locate, so far as possible, every key opinion. This approach sought to identify, not only where consensus lies, but also indicate dispute and/or knowledge gaps. The review reveals that much supposition has taken place, particularly during this century. With the notable exception of the work of McCann, little academic research has emerged which can lay claim to the

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[220] As promoted by ICOMOS, the Venice Charter, the Burra Charter, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and so forth.

[221] Particularly house conversions (which normally involve significant internal and external alteration). Giles and Wade-Martins, 'Recording Historic Farm Buildings', 1994, p.26. The findings of a 1990s survey of 4500 English farm buildings, " *...questioned whether converted buildings were still worth their listing status*".

[222] D. Goodwin, pers.comm., 19/7/98.

[223] See Appendix Section 1 for details. , s.v. 'Numbers of doocots in Scotland'.
Taylor, 'Doocots of Fife', 1977/8, pp.177-8. "*The aim of the Planning Committee has been to see that at least two of every different type be preserved.*"

[224] J. M. Fladmark, Wealth of a Nation (Aberdeen; Robert Gordon University, 1994), p.2.
J. Dymock, 'SPAB in Scotland', Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Spring 1998 Newsletter, p.6., " .. *in Scotland particularly it is the low profile, vernacular buildings that are in need of protecting. These are often listed and unsung.*"

collation of primary evidence for analysis.[225] The overall result is often: mixed interpretation; factual discrepancies; incomplete survey work; anecdotal emphasis; theory based on speculation; and general regurgitation of the thoughts of earlier works.

Despite a large collection of material written on the subject of dovecotes since 1890, the literature review identifies only a handful of authors responsible for key works which are entirely relevant to this study: McCann (1991), U. Robertson (1988), the Hansells (1988), Beaton (1978), Niven Robertson (1961), Douglas (1931) and Cooke (1920). Although self-described as an, "*...hors-d'oeuvre rather than a serious course*", Cooke's work proves to have been most influential throughout the United Kingdom, although the sources of his own particular knowledge are obscure: "*No such work has yet been published ... with exception of one or two magazine articles*".[226] The works of Cooke, and later by Niven Robertson and the Hansells, are national, collective studies ("*In achieving this end, information and illustrations have been gathered from countless sources*")[227] whilst the works of Beaton and Douglas are basic field observations. This leaves McCann and Robertson with the only readily available twentieth century works which contain true analysis. The scope, therefore, for further analysis not only exists, but has become important now that McCann, by means of assiduous historical enquiry, has challenged some of the principal, established theories concerning the structures.

The need is even more pressing in Scotland, a country that has the ignominious claim to a dearth of readily available material on this subject.[228] More Scottish input into the general debate is long overdue, as is the requirement for a comprehensive measured drawing study.[229]

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[225] John McCann, a retired inspector of Historic Buildings for Essex County Council, has studied dovecotes, particularly in southern England, for several decades now and his research culminated in 'An Historical Inquiry', 1991. (He, has gone on to produce further erudite papers and publications.)
The only traceable pieces of 'formal' academic research are Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', Reading, 1992, and Collins 'Dovecotes of Northamptonshire' Northampton, 1972 (the latter unsourced).

[226] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, preface, p. (ix).

[227] Hansells, Doves and Dovecotes, 1998, p.5, "*...apart from a passing reference to France, Scotland and Ireland we are chiefly concerned with the inclusion of representative examples, both past and present, within our chosen classification*".

[228] There is even less available material relating to Ireland. This may, however, suggest low levels of distribution within this country.

[229] John Severn, an architect in Nottingham, has produced many sketches of dovecotes in his area. Also, a sporadic 'collection' of individual building surveys likely exists throughout the UK.
Notably, many of the writings on the topic are not illustrated and those which are, usually comprise a single, often inadequate, exterior photograph. Line drawings, where provided, are, more often than not, artistic sketches which do little to increase an awareness and establish a true record. As a consequence, neither the reader, nor indeed the author, is able to make a complete analysis of the building.

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF DOVECOTES

The rational and the intuitive are complementary modes of functioning of the human mind. Rational thinking is linear, focused, and analytic. It belongs to the realm of the intellect whose function it is to discriminate, measure and categorise. Thus, rational knowledge tends to be fragmented. Intuitive knowledge, on the other hand, is based on a direct non-intellectual experience of reality arising in an expanded state of awareness. It tends to be synthesising, holistic and non-linear.

Fritjof Capra, 1981.

CHAPTER 3

METHODS AND APPROACHES TO THE STUDY OF DOVECOTES

The purpose of the previous chapter, a literature review of the history and development of dovecotes, was to assist with meeting the study's objectives. These were to:

(i) place existing, redundant dovecotes in a broad, historical and architectural context;

(ii) critically evaluate existing theories about historic dovecotes;

(iii) identify common criteria and design details.

The literature review highlights the repetition of imprecise material. This chapter will therefore seek firstly to establish the processes that caused this to materialise; and secondly, to propose a methodology that will eliminate imprecision, where possible, and produce more accurate interpretations of dovecotes.[1]

3.1 Existing approaches to the study of dovecotes

At the time when dovecotes were operational and widespread, few people saw the need to document them and many theories, which still abound today, are based upon the translations from early Roman writers and/or the works of antiquarians of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These latter viewpoints have been reproduced time and again and have formed our current knowledge that has, unfortunately, grown further and further from source material and firm evidence. Many of the ideas presented are of an anecdotal nature, whilst others have been recently challenged as being fundamentally wrong. Also, their failure to address all the issues has given rise to an array of diverse theories from a variety of subsequent authors (see Appendix Section 1 as well as Chap. 2).

The repeated instances of conflicting theories appear to have several causes, emanating largely from certain investigative approaches:

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[1] It is particularly noticeable that national (generalist) theories differ from local (specific) experiences. Generalist theories are prone to produce simplistic answers to issues that, perhaps, require more complex explanation.

(i) the subject of dovecotes is generally not well documented and has been completely eschewed by great writers of high architecture. For example, the 'pattern-book' authors of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, followed by the twentieth century academics such as Blunt, Summerson, Pevsner and Bannister Fletcher, overlook dovecotes as having any great cultural relevance. 'Low', or 'vernacular', culture has never commanded the same attention as the 'high' works of the elite. Hence the production of rigorous information on dovecotes is scant;

(ii) when the subject has been tackled, it has often been the initiative of an amateur enthusiast;[2]

(iii) when the subject has been 'professionally' tackled, this has, most frequently, been the task of the architectural historian. Previous studies have invariably focused upon the 'cote', rather than on the 'dove'. In crude terms, our understanding of historic dovecotes can be graded as: (a) historically strong; (b) architecturally strong; (c) geographically weak; and (d) ecologically weak. This is, primarily, a consequence of how redundant dovecotes have been studied during the twentieth century;[3]

(iv) the lack of rigour in approach has resulted in a topic that is ill-defined at the outset. Loose parameters of any study will inevitably result in a variety of responses;[4]

(v) studies into dovecotes have either been: (a) 'individual' – describing (occasionally analysing) one building at a time; (b) 'elemental' - looking at individual architectural features; or (c) 'collective' - looking at a group of buildings. They have not, however, been fully studied in the context of all three at once[5]. As a

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[2] Mowat, Early Pigeon Houses, 1903, p.29. The subject of dovecotes is, "*...one possessing attractions not only for the antiquary and architect, but for the lover of the picturesque also*".
Although the work of the 'amateur enthusiast' should not be demeaned entirely, the nature of such studies is often anecdotal and sometimes tangential.

[3] An information retrieval system especially established to assist this research project(not included within thesis), clearly indicates that previous authors have focused their efforts upon architectural and historical aspects. Of over 165 topics documented, the most frequently occurring subjects were: decline, ledges, rats and winter meat.
Arthur Cooke, 1920, is responsible for making the parameters for dovecote study mainstream in Britain. His work, Book of Dovecotes, is, however, declared as having been influenced by late nineteenth century antiquarians Ferguson, Watkins, Markham and Berkeley.

[4] As witnessed in Chapter 2, Section 2.1

[5] Whilst this thesis was being written up, J. McCann released (in January 1999), Dovecotes of Suffolk, (Ipswich: Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, 1998). The methodology adopted is exemplary and addresses a failing of earlier works.

result: individual studies are isolated; elemental studies are entrenched in detail (which is fragmented from the overall concept); and collective studies are often shallow, because they lack the individual detail;[6]

(vi) local and national studies generally fail to act co-operatively, mainly because national studies generalise and fail to recognise regional circumstances;[7]

(vii) the inability to agree on absolute dating of individual buildings leads to a lack of chronological comprehension both at a local, and a national level;[8]

(viii) the vast majority of key writings concern redundant buildings. Most authors, do not, therefore, possess first hand knowledge of operational dovecotes;[9]

(ix) according to a number of these previous writers, the buildings appear to concern the housing of a bird which is all but extinct in this country - i.e. the Rock Dove.[10]

The findings of the literature review, therefore, indicate that, where disputes, errors and anomalies arise in theory relating to dovecotes, much of this is due to partial and incomplete studies.

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[6] Some collective studies examine groups of buildings in relation to their national or regional siting, (e.g. Cooke, Hansells, Niven Robertson), their architectural style (e.g. Buxbaum, Watkins, Whitworth) or their architectural elements (e.g. Severn, Ariss, McCann). A large proportion, nevertheless, arrange their collection as an alphabetical list (e.g. Peterkin, Beaton, Severn, Bailey and Tindall, Whitaker and the National Trust).

[7] For example, works by Buxbaum, Peterkin, Hansells.

[8] One of the reasons why it has been easier for previous authors to collate doocots into alphabetical order.

[9] Beaton, for example, has since described her contribution as the work of, "... *a kind of middle aged new girl*", pers.comm., 18/9/96.

[10] See Chapter 4, Section 4.4

3.2 Proposed approach to the study of dovecotes

In order to **place the dovecotes in a broad architectural and historical context,** more information needs to be collated. This is mainly in relation to local history and geography; but also with regard to external influences from regional and national level. The literature review, as it stands, provides essential contextualisation on an international scale over a long time-span, but it is lacking in particular in a Scottish perspective. There is therefore a the need to intensify the historical framework of study to take more account of Scottish events.

To **further evaluate existing theories,** especially relating to the elements and features of dovecotes, it will be necessary to test selected theories. This will be performed firstly against practical, quantifiable results that emanate from a detailed measured survey and secondly, against the qualitative analysis of the evidence. This will commence from a more rigorous definition of the subject matter and will be followed by an in-depth architectural analysis of all the individual buildings.[11]

Finally, all pre-twentieth century dovecotes are redundant. Therefore, **to be able to identify common details, particularly regarding dove ecology,** it will be necessary to move beyond recognised dovecote literature into ornithological material. To pursue this further, there is also some merit in studying dove behaviour and rearing practices in present day buildings[12]. Similarly, observation of doves in the wild state would assist with an ornithological comprehension.

3.3 Hypothesis to the study of dovecotes

An assessment of the literature review has established that gaps exist in knowledge relating to dovecotes. The principal factor derives from a previously predominantly **anthropocentric approach** to the topic. Consequently, the key to filling these gaps in existing knowledge, as well as meeting the study objectives, lies chiefly in an ability to build upon existing research, whilst establishing and maintaining a more dual-perspective approach to the study. That is, to examine dovecotes from both an **anthropocentric and an ornithological** point of view.

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[11] Such an analysis should be the result of a replicable process.

[12] Many imponderables could, of course, be answered if a historic building were to be re-stocked (not a practical option of this study, unfortunately).

As already indicated, it is critical to develop a greater understanding of dovecotes using the **measured data,** collated from a catalogue of buildings, as evidence to examine general theories. Similarly, it will be possible to carry out a calculated assessment of the buildings from field analysis and desktop information. The robustness of the interpretations of these findings can only be guaranteed if the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the research are drawn together in a thoroughly coherent manner. This can only be achieved if the paradigm of a more **holistic approach** towards investigation, analysis and interpretation is applied to each dovecote; then subsequently, to the entire collection.

So, by adopting a combined anthropocentric/ornithological analytical approach to a detailed study of a specific, but comprehensive, regional sample of extant dovecotes, a more complete theory can be proposed for the evolution and development of dovecotes in general.

3.4 Selecting the sample to be studied

The proposed new approach to this study suggests:

(i) an applied methodology which is more holistic in its outlook and examines dovecotes, not only as products of construction, but also as products of wider influences: architecture, national and regional and local history, ornithology, geography and geology;

(ii) the collection of firm evidence, using 'best practice' recording techniques, in order to test existing theories.

Since it is unrealistic to tackle the second part of this approach across the whole of Scotland,[13] it is decided to examine one particular area - Moray.

[13] Scotland has over 500 historic doocots (see Appendix Section1 for fuller details).

3.5 Reason for selecting the sample to be studied

To best meet the original objectives, it is intended that the scope of the sample will comprise a **complete set of redundant buildings, within a defined geographical area.** This should provide the maximum amount of information and material required for a full appraisal. The Moray area has been selected, not merely because the investigation can build upon the two previously mentioned groundwork studies (by Douglas and Beaton) but also that the area has been described as, "... *Scotland in miniature*" and still contains a wide array of surviving historic dovecotes[14]. This corpus of standing evidence provides the framework for a manageable and controllable programme of investigation that, although concentrated within a modern regional boundary, necessarily spans a wide historical period. The evidence will provide the material for analysis in the context of previous works.

Moray is small in national geographic terms and not only covers less than five per cent of Scotland's land mass, but was artificially 'created' in 1975 during the redefining of Scottish local authority boundaries[15]. Nevertheless, this geographical area is further justifiable for study: firstly, it accords with Beaton's area of study and is therefore comparative; secondly, it spans two areas that have definite cultural and physical differences, thus making the study less parochial in nature; thirdly, it links directly with present national, regional and local governmental structures; and finally it is a current administrative boundary.

Although the literature review has, in the first place, been framed to provide contextual evidence for the dovecotes of Moray, it will be the dovecotes of Moray that, in the end, will clarify previous theories. The prerequisite for this is a holistic, not linear, approach that takes due cognisance of all the key subject components: history, architecture, geography and ornithology.

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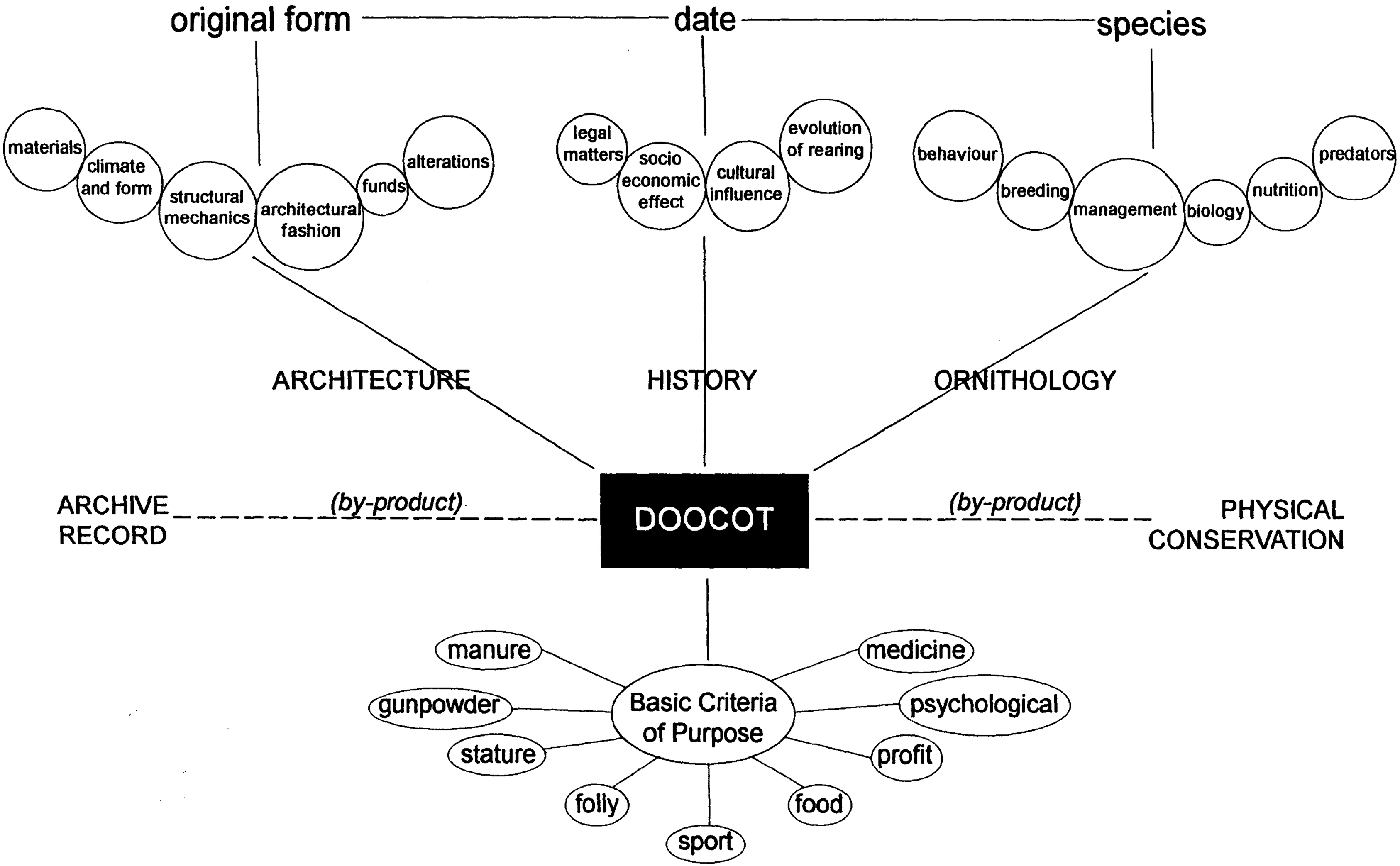
[14] E. Simpson, Discovering Banff, Moray and Nairn, (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1992), p. vii.
Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1996, p. xi, "*Together, Moray and Badenoch constitute a slice through the landscape character of Scotland*".

[15] During this reorganisation, two culturally different areas, Moray and Banffshire were part-amalgamated, whilst Nairn, despite its historic ties with Moray, was merged with Inverness to become part of the present Highland area.

DATA ANALYSIS TEST



INPUT

OUTPUT

steps 1 to 4
(review)

step 5
(catalogue)

steps 6 to 10
(analysis)

step 1 *
EVALUATE NEED AND IDENTIFY OBJECTIVES

step 2
REVIEW EXISTING LITERATURE

step 3
IDENTIFY KNOWLEDGE GAPS

step 4 *
DECIDE HOW TO SOLVE

step 5
COLLECT EVIDENCE

step 6 *
ANALYSE EVIDENCE

step 7 *
RATIONALISE FINDINGS

step 8
RE EXAMINE EXISTING THEORY

step 9
AGREE WITH EXISTING THEORY

PRODUCE ALTERNATIVE THEORY

TEST

AMEND EXISTING THEORY

step 10 *
CONCLUDE AGAINST OBJECTIVES

IDENTIFY AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

* Diagramatic stages

CHAPTER 4

ORNITHOLOGICAL BACKGROUND:

DOMESTIC DOVES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

They [pigeons] *have a certain mystery attending them because they are, in a convoluted way, human creations ... which we consider to be one of the masterpieces of nature.*

Johnston and Janiga, 1995

CHAPTER 4
ORNITHOLOGICAL BACKGROUND:
DOMESTIC DOVES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

It has been contended (in Chap. 3.2 and 3.3) that the key objectives of the study cannot be fully achieved without some essential ornithological information about the inhabitants. Consequently, the purpose of this section is to move beyond 'dovecote literature' and search the works of ornithologists, naturalists, biologists, as well as keepers and breeders, for factual information which may assist the understanding of dovecote design.

It is known that the redundant dovecotes of Moray once housed 'doves', but in order to study the ecological impact of the bird, it is deemed important to examine the biology, behaviour, management, and response to domestication. In order to do this, it is first necessary to determine the exact species and/or sub-species involved (since previous dovecote authors document different opinions).[1]

4.1 Dove species

Several different kinds of dove or pigeon are to be found in Moray: Rock Dove, Stock Dove, Turtle Dove, Collared Dove, Wood Pigeon and Feral Pigeon. Present day accounts of the Rock Dove in Britain indicate that it is barely to be found excepting, "...*pure breeds limited to north and west Scotland*".[2] Late nineteenth century naturalists observed

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[1] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 19931, pp. 5-6, referred to the occupation of doocots by several species of dove or pigeon; the wood pigeon, stock dove, rock dove. *"It is unnecessary for our purpose to give further sub divisions of the family of the doves."*
Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., Chaps. 7-8, pp. 281-9,
"... there are usually the two kinds, one wild pigeons, or rock-pigeons as some call them ... the other kind of pigeon is less shy ... is generally white ... From the union of these two stocks comes a third mongrel which is bred for profit". He also refers to the keeping of turtle-doves and wood-pigeons. In the context of assessing the doocots of Moray, the timescale difference and geographical separation (not to mention the room for error in translation and knowledge available) must be taken into consideration here.
J. Tully, pers. comm., 19/3/98, "*I have never seen the pure white dovecot variety integrated within their structure,*" due to natural selection processes.
Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, 1735, n.d., s.v. 'PIGEON', "*.. fed in order to be eaten ... those that are bred in pigeon or dove-houses*", i.e. Runts, Horsemen, Leghorns, Powters, Carriers, Bastard-Bred. The paper also cites another fifteen breeds, "... *they being only kept for fancy. and points out that there are many varieties of each breed ...Of those bred in pigeon-houses, the grey pigeon, inclining to ash-colour and black, is the best*". This statement clearly implies that several breeds were kept in doocots.
[2] H. Delin & L. Svensson, Birds of Britain & Europe, (London: Hamlyn, 1988), 1993 edn., p.154, s.v. 'Rock Dove'. Citation after citation from other references would present a similar story. A. Atha., (ed.), Scottish Naturalist - Sketches and Notes of Charles St. John 1809-56, (London: Andre Deutsch Ltd., 1982) p.109. The relationship between the wild Rock Dove and the Dovecote Pigeon was evident over a century and a half ago. "*The hardy little blue rock pigeon ... still frequents the rocks on*

that, unlike the, "*..now frequent Stock Dove ... breeding in rabbit holes*", the Rock Dove was very rare and only, "*..occasionally found* [in Moray] *in its wild state, as at the rocks of Covesea.*"[3] The Stock Dove was first recorded in Moray as recently as 1879 and is now seldom seen outside the Laich of Moray.[4] It cannot, therefore, be a contender for occupying Moray's historic dovecotes. Further, there have been only seventeen records of the Turtle Dove in Moray and a handful involving Collared Doves (which were not known in the area until the 1950's).[5] The Wood Pigeon, on the other hand, is a common, widespread resident and even in some of the highest parts of Moray during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, they were, "*...amazingly increased of late years, a pest to farmers*".[6] By the nineteenth century, the 'cushie doo' was being described as, "*...too abundant from the agriculturists' view*".[7] The Feral Pigeon, a descendant of the Rock Dove, has long been widely distributed across Scotland's built-up areas and can be found in most towns and cities[8].

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this coast, though in small numbers, and is so intermingled with the house-pigeon, which it so exactly resembles, that it would be difficult to decide now if any of the real wild birds still remain."
Ritchie, Influence of Man, 1920, p.95, "*The Rock Dove was at one time a common dweller on the sea-coast of Scotland*". There is no evidence provided for this, however.
The N. E. Scotland Bird Club's Report for 1993, (Aberdeen: Claymore, 1994), p.41 notes, "*Few records, with highest counts of four hundred plus*". It seems that the Rock Dove did not inhabit the whole of Moray, although it continues to survive in the wild along the coast near arable lands.

[3] G. Gordon, Fauna of Moray, (Elgin: J. & J. A. Watson, 1889), pp.45-6.
Stock Dove first recorded nesting in Scotland in 1877.
See also J. A. Harvie-Brown, 'Deveron Valley and its Bird Life', Transactions of Banffshire Field Club, (1896-7), pp.59-120, (subsequently published Banff: Banff Journal Office, 1897), p.101.

[4] M. Cook, Birds of Moray & Nairn, (Edinburgh: Mercat Press, 1992), p.160. Breeding at an altitude of 600m by 1892.
Harvie-Brown, 'Deveron Valley', 1897, p.101, No positive record of Stock Dove in east Banffshire.
The reason for the influx of Stock Doves in Moray in the mid nineteenth century is not detailed. There is some remote possibility that Dovecote Pigeons reverted to this natural state if originally sourced from *Columba oenas* (see Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.38).

[5] N. E. Scotland Bird Club, Report for 1993, 1994, p.41, Cook, loc.cit., and J. Edleston, 'Bird Life', in Omand, (ed.), Moray Book, 1976, Chap.4, pp. 67-77, p.73.

[6] N.S.A., 1838, s.v. 'Kirkmichael' and O.S.A., 1792, s.v. 'Kirkmichael', p.289.

[7] Harvie-Brown, 'Deveron Valley', 1897, p.101. He firstly quotes J. O. Wilson who read a paper ,'Birds of Huntly District', in Huntly, 8/3/1888. "*I have not seen the Stock Dove nor the Turtle Dove in a wild state*". Harvie-Brown secondly quotes R. Gray, 'Zoologist', Oct. 1879, p.428. "*Even in upper Banffshire, the wood pigeon was ... very abundant ... and many shot by posting guns in different woods and keeping the flights on the move - a beautiful sport... In October in three years it was recorded that no less that 20529 wood pigeons were killed in Banffshire*".
Cook, op.cit., 1992, p.7. Even today, it is recognised that, "*Wood pigeon flocks may be a problem to the farmer as wood pigeons, on average, eat 35-45g of cereal per day, 5-15g more than the Feral Pigeon*".

[8] R. F. Johnston & M. Janiga, Feral Pigeons, (Oxford: Oxford Uni. Press, 1995), p. 141. "*They are never a great distance from human agriculture ... They predominantly eat a certain set of seeds that have been characteristically important to Eurasian agriculture over the past 500 or more years.*"
B. Taylor, 'Call for Cull', Press & Journal, 13/3/96, p.1. "*Some councillors want Moray District Council to consider a culling programme which could involve shooting the birds or destroying nests and eggs*". Quotes Communit Council Chairman, "*They have taken over many derelict buildings and leave their droppings all over the place... photographer Colin Smith said it was unnecessary cruelty*".
The subject of Pest Control is a current issue in large towns and cities. (See Appendix Section 3 for further information).

During the mid-nineteenth century, much debate ensued around the concept of the 'dovecote pigeon' as an entirely separate species of the Columba genus: *Columba affinis*.[9] Darwin's research during the mid-nineteenth century found no scientific evidence to support the above claim[10]. A century later, in one of the most comprehensive documents ever written on The Pigeon, Levi wrote, "*Present-day ornithologists classify all domestic pigeons under one race Columba livia domestica. They do not differentiate between any of the domestic birds.*"[11] Contemporary ornithologist and author Derek Goodwin recently stated that, "*Though there are* [sic] *it seems, never likely to be complete agreement over where one draws the lines between species and sub-species, I do not think ... the Dovecot Pigeon can be considered as a distinct sub-species or species*".[12]

Therefore, ornithologists identify all domesticated, or semi-domesticated, doves as having their roots in the wild Rock Dove, *Columba livia*[13]. (see Figs. 4.1 - 4.3) Other possible dovecote species in Moray within the genus, that is, the Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*) and the Stock Dove (*Columba aenas*) are virtually eliminated (despite the views of Brydon expressed in Chap. 2.4.1[14]) on the grounds that they, like most other

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[9] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 37. "*Blyth (1847) designated it as Columba affinis but this classification was dropped for a number of years after Darwin advanced his theory on C. livia so convincingly ... For many years before Darwin, this was a mooted question ... Fulton and Lumley wrote subsequently to Darwin, but they do not agree with his theory*".
In the late eighteenth century, Linnaeus established the binomial system of biological nomenclature that forms the basis of modern classification. It is based on a pyramidal chain of groupings which descends from a general class of animal towards a specific breed. In the case of pigeons, they belong to the *Columbiforme* Order and the *Columba* Genus. Species (which fall below the 'genus') are generally reproductively isolated, i.e. do not breed with each other Only sub-species interbreed with each other (see Appendix Section 3). C. Linnaeus, c. 1758, Systema Naturae, (London: British Museum, Natural History, 1958 fasc. edn.) cited in J. Clutton-Brock, Natural History of Domestic Animals, (London: British Museum, Natural History, 1987), p. 26 et seq. Carolus Linnaeus was a Swedish botanist whose work now constitutes the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature.

[10] C. Darwin, Variation of Animals and Plants Under Domestication, vols. 1 and 2, (London: John Murray, 1868), pp. 180-224, p. 200, "*... resembling in all respects both the dovecot pigeon and the chequered wild variety of the rock pigeon*".
Also, p. 204, "*I could not persuade myself that they* [fancy pigeons] *had all descended from the same wild stock and that man had consequently in one sense created these remarkable modifications*".
Goodwin, pers. comm, 21/5/99, points out that, "*... cases of reversion to an ancestral type were cases of recombination of genes (inherited characteristics).*"

[11] Levi, The Pigeon, 1941, pp. 37-41, p. 37. "*It is quite possible that a number of species or varieties of wild pigeons in different sections of the world may have been the original progenitors of domestic races*". On p. 38, Levi speculates that other wild species, such as the Wood Pigeon or Stock Dove, may have, "*... possibly played a part in the origin of the domestic pigeons in some portion of the world*", but is resigned to the conclusion that, "*... the past will probably continue to retain its secret*".

[12] Goodwin, pers. comm, 4/4/98, "*... the rock pigeon* [also known as the Wild Pigeon or Blue Rock] *... ancestor of all our domestic pigeons and of the feral pigeons*".
D. Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves of the World, (New York: Cornell University Press, 1970), 1983 edn., p. 57. The Rock Dove,"*... requires cliffs, gorges or potholes with caves, hollows or sheltered ledges for nesting and roosting and open country for breeding purposes ... appears to prefer a site in semi-darkness ... it is significant that it became extinct on St. Kilda ... subsequent to the depopulation of that island*". [i.e. dependent on man's agriculture for food.]

[13] '*Livia*' is Latin for blue/grey.
R. K. Murton and S. P. Clarke, 'Breeding Biology of Rock Doves', British Birds, vol. 61, no. 10, (October 1968), pp. 429-49, p. 430. "*Arguments about what constitutes a wild Rock Dove are to a large extent semantic... It is likely that the Rock Dove in Britain has been influenced by agriculture since at least the Roman times and it becomes difficult to draw the line between fully wild and fully feral stocks ... The important point to appreciate is that the Rock Doves represent a dynamic population just as dependent on, and adapted to, their environment as any other animal*".

[14] Brydon, 'Ownership of Dovecot was Patent of Gentility, 1957, p.4.

members of the pigeon family, are typically arboreal.[15] Whether the present day Rock Doves are genuine natives, or escaped 'Dovecote Pigeons' which have naturally reverted to the pure state, will probably never be known.[16] Daniel Haag-Wacknernagel's current research (as yet unpublished) suggests that the latter is probably the case.[17] Investigations of this study indicate that Moray's 'doocot doos' were most likely brought into the area, possibly from the European low countries, but also increasingly from land-based trading with the south (which, in turn, had been supplied from Europe)[18]. These birds, according to eminent ornithologists,would have been descendants of the European Rock Dove (see Fig. 4.1).

The dovecotes of Moray can, therefore, be examined with some confidence using (i) the biological make-up of the **wild Rock Dove**, and (ii) the observable behaviour of the present day **Feral Pigeon**, as key determinants in assisting an understanding of the ecological response of the buildings.[19]

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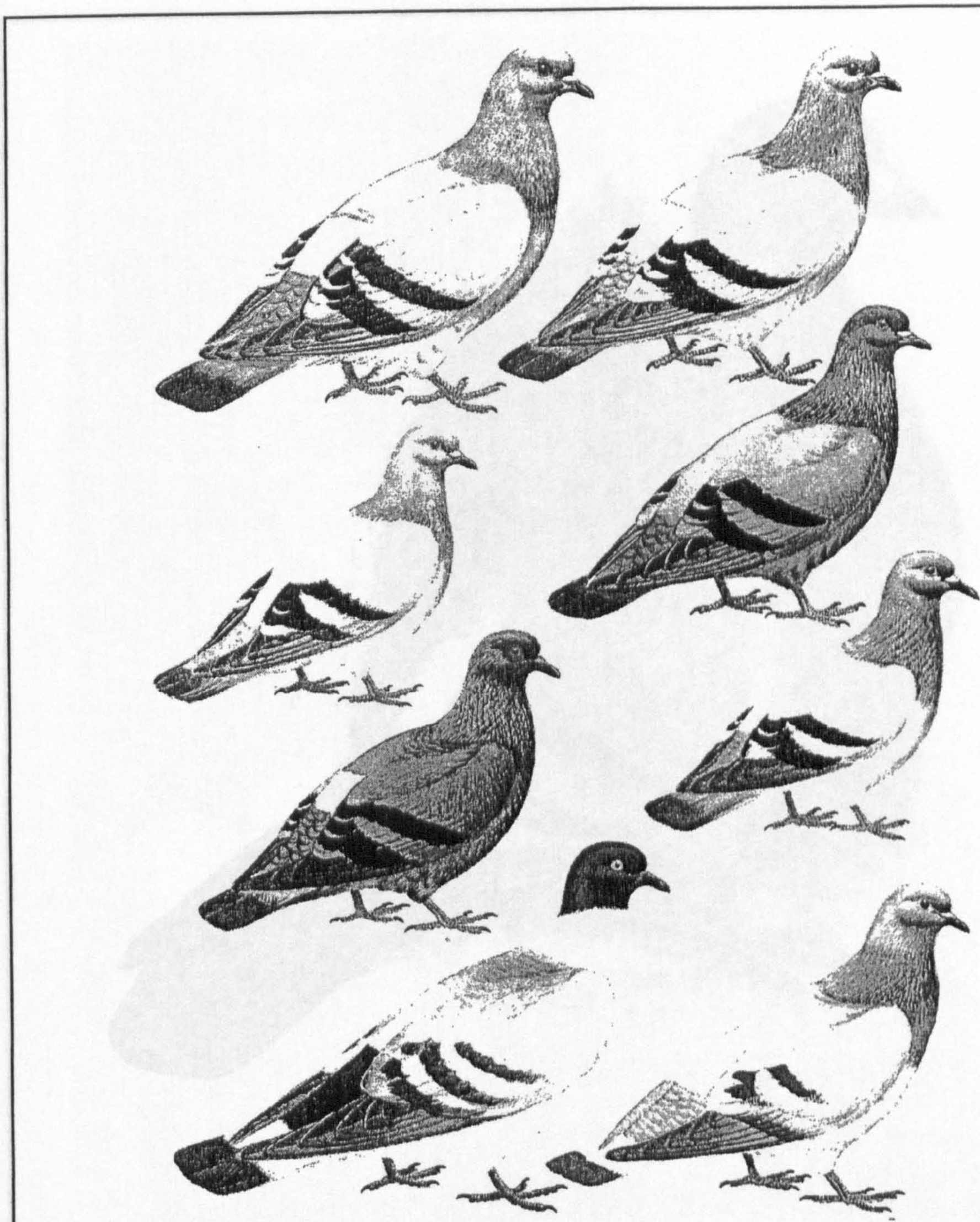
[15] J. Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, (Spalding: National Pigeon Association, 1983), p. 1, "... *the domestic pigeon is nothing to do with the wild wood pigeon*". and p. 11, "... *over six hundred varieties of Fancy Pigeon ... some breed more easily than others*". Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 53. The Wood Pigeon and Rock Dove are the two extremes within the same species group and, "... *show the greatest morphological and adaptive divergence*". The Stock Dove forms a link between the two.

[16] R. Hewson, 'Rock Doves in Scotland', Scottish Birds, vol. 3, (1964), pp.22-5, (p.22), notes that pure Rock Doves are in decline, apparently through the effect of domestic birds going wild. Those in coastal caves remain only ten per cent pure. Darwin's theory of natural reversion would imply that this figure should increase if domestic birds originate from the same wild species.

[17] D. Haag-Wackernagel, University of Basel, Switzerland, pers. comm., 16/4/98. "*My literature research demonstrates, that there were no Columba livia north of the Alps before Roman times (no palaezoological records).*"

[18] Goodwin, pers. comm., 14/4/98. "*I agree with you that it is probably Domesticated Pigeons (long kept by the Romans, Greeks etc.) were originally imported here*".
P.J. Selby, 'Pigeons', inW. Jardine, Naturalist's Library, vol.5, part 3, s.v. 'Ornithology', (Edinburgh: W.H. Lizars, 1835), p.151. "*It is under this species [Rock Dove] that we include not only the common pigeon, or inhabitant of the dovecot, but all those numerous varieties, or, as they are frequently termed, races of domestic pigeons.*"

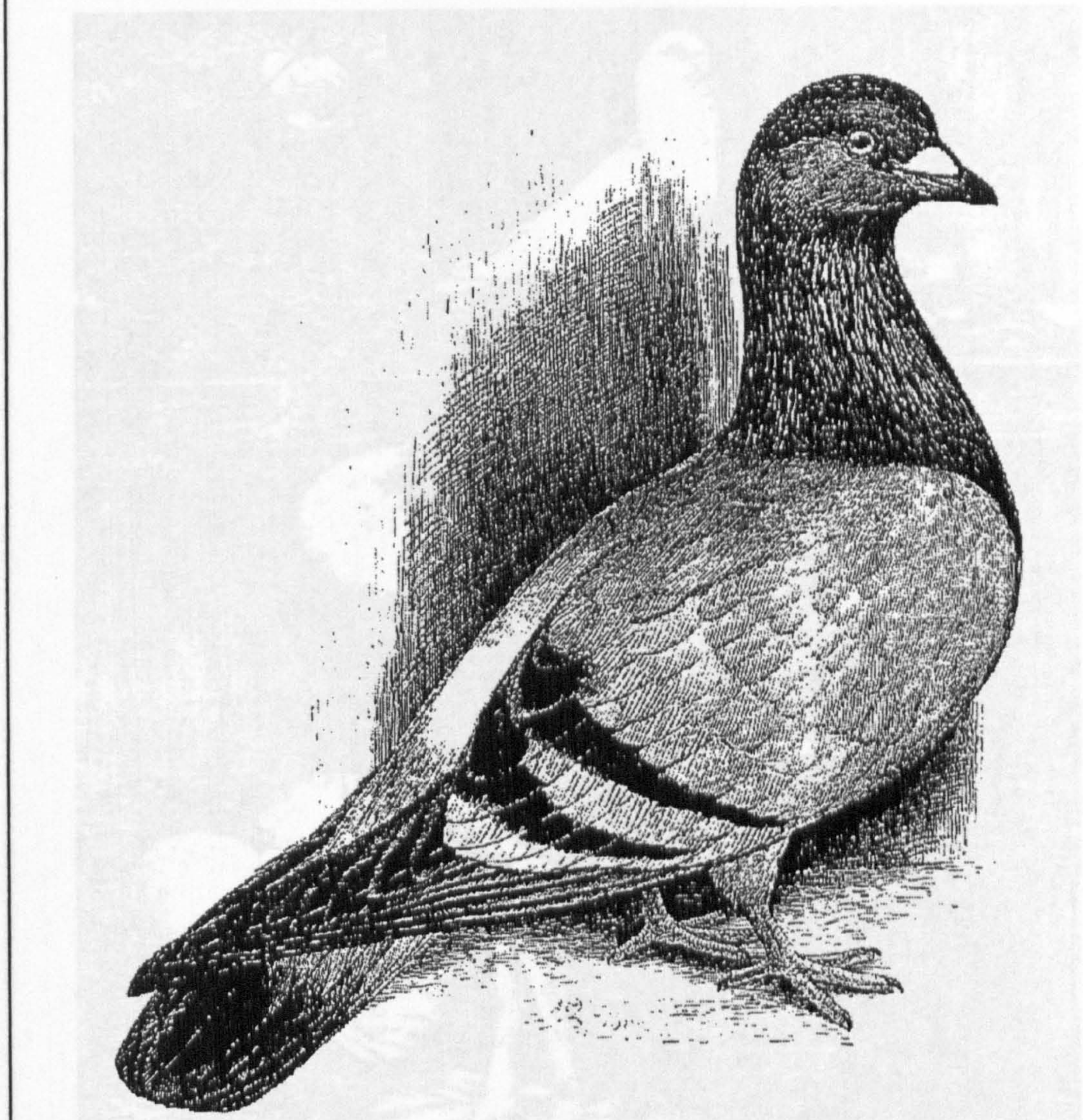
[19] Goodwin, Pigeons & Doves, 1970, p. 59. Feral Pigeon, *Columba livia*, "... *result of man's interference with nature ... probably stemmed largely if not entirely ... from old time Dovecote Pigeons. In newer times ... lost or strayed Homing Pigeons have been the main progenitors*". Fancy breeds do not last long in the wild.
The caveat, however, is that centuries of domestication (and geographical location) may have affected this make-up.
Goodwin, pers. comm., 11/8/98, "*Dovecot Pigeons ... might well differ in size in different countries, and, of course, many different breeds can be kept as Dovecote Pigeons*" and in Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 54, he states, "*Biochemical studies ... have suggested that the New World Species of Columba may be no close relatives of the Old World species in spite of their similarity to them in appearance and structure*".
Also L. F. Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, (London: Faber & Faber Ltd., 1961), 1968 second edn., p. 26, "*Each species differs from the next in form; breeds within species differ from other breeds, and individuals vary in some respects.*"
(See Appendix Section 3 for further information on species and sub-species.)



Rock Dove and other varieties (Fig. 4.1)

Illustrations of various types of dove across the world which are based on the ancient rock dove species. The pure European rock dove, *Columbia livia*, is shown top left. Note how the black bars across the wings are a common feature.

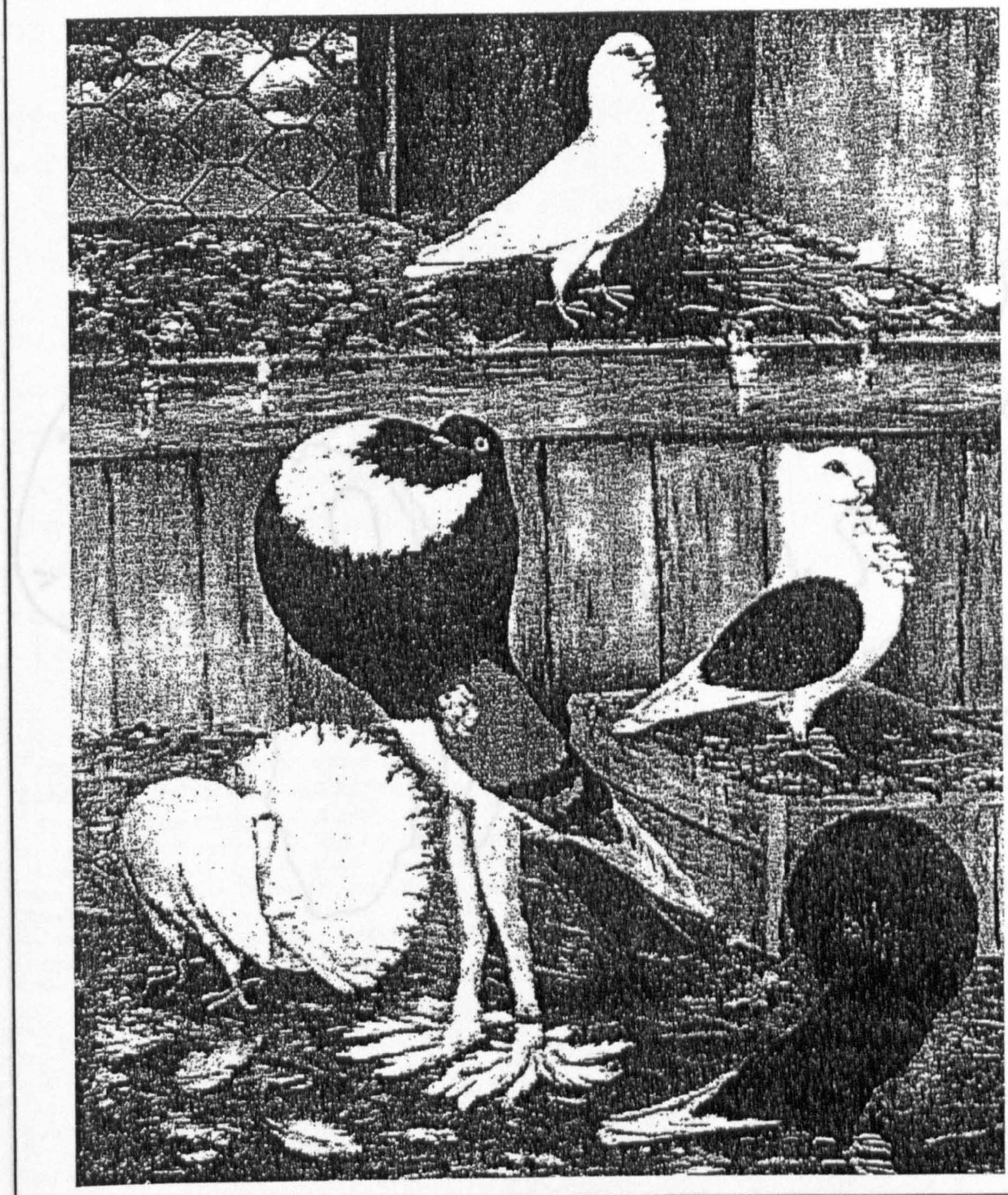
(reproduced from Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 50)



Sketch of the 'Domestic Runt' (Fig. 4.2)

Nineteenth century engraving showing one favoured domestic variety of the Rock Dove.

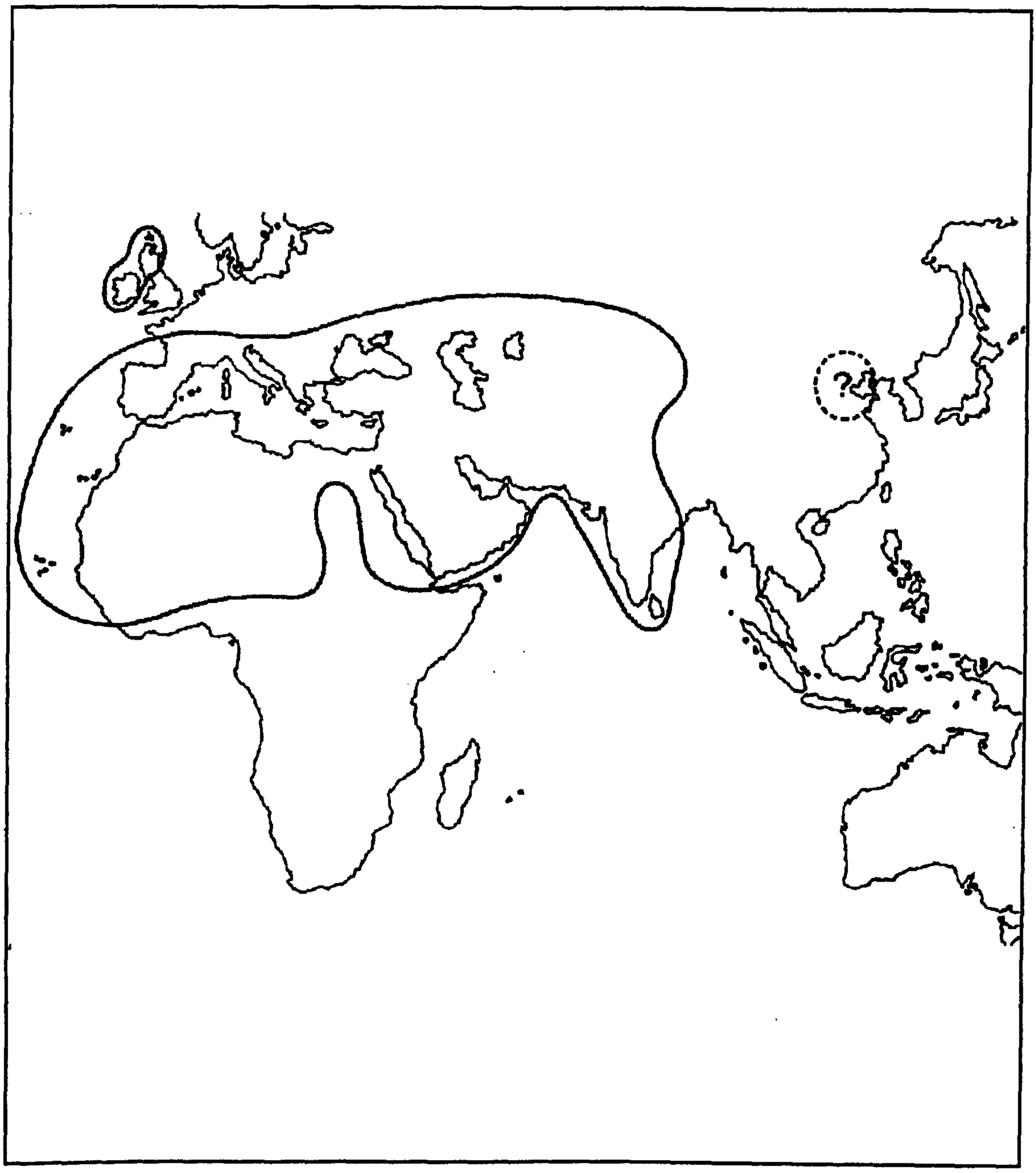
(Reproduced from Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1995, p. 60)



Sketches of some fancy doves (Fig. 4.3)

Early twentieth century painting, by F. Cook, showing some of varieties of doves resulting from artificial selection processes: croppers, powters, ruffs and fantails.

(Reproduced from Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 42).



Distribution of Rock Dove (Fig. 4.4)

Map showing the distribution of the wild Rock Dove: that is, southern Europe, north Africa, east Asia and north west Britain.

(Reproduced from Simms, Public Life of Street Pigeons, 1979, p. 18).

4.2. Biology of the Rock Dove/Dovecote Pigeon/Feral Pigeon

The Rock Dove is a bird which is on average 330cm long, 110 cm high and 100 cm wide.[20] *"Since it is the ancestor of all our domestic pigeons and of the feral pigeons ... it is found in large towns almost throughout the world"*.[21] Twin requisites for the Rock Dove's habitat are caves in which to nest and open ground on which to feed. [22]

They are mainly grain eaters, relying mostly on wheat, barley, oats, vetches and weed seeds, although Feral Pigeons have become efficient scavengers[23]. Birds will happily travel up to half a mile for food and will travel in flocks for two miles or more when required.[24] Unlike other birds such as water fowls, which require a water habitat, doves only need regular access to fresh, clean water for drinking purposes[25]. Minerals are also essential to the dove's welfare and steady sources of carbohydrate, protein and vitamins are needed.[26]

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[20] The length of the Rock Dove is written in many books, e.g. Goodwin, Pigeons & Doves, 1970, p.57 and Delin & Svensson, Birds of Britain, 1988, p.154. Information on height and width had to be gleaned from the RPRA.

[21] Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 57.
In its pure variety, it is only now resident in the Faroes, Shetland, the Hebridian Islands, parts of coastal Scotland and Ireland, the Iberian Peninsula, north west Africa and the northern shores of the Mediterranean.
See RSPB Information leaflet 'Feral Pigeons', Bedfordshire, 1995, which attributes the Rock Dove as the origin of the Feral Pigeon.
See also E. Simms, Public life of Street Pigeons, (London: Hutchinson, 1979), for 'distribution' information. The rock dove likely has its origins in central Eurasia.
Selby, Naturalist's Library, 1835, p.86, states,*"The Columbidae possess a very extensive geographical distribution, species being found in every quarter of the world, and in all its climates, except those within the frigid zones."*

[22] Goodwin, ibid.
Also Ewing, Daddy Darwins Dovecot, c. 1880, p. 36, observes a, *"Species which do not migrate, will stay as long as food and protection are available."*

[23] Murton and Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, p. 440, *"... cereal grains were overwhelmingly the most important single item of diet ... typical weed seeds of cultivated land were the next most important constituent in the diet"*.
Goodwin, pers. comm., 21/5/99, points out that the Rock Dove's diet may be limited due to availability of food.
They swallow whole, since they have no teeth, and take grit to provide minerals and grind the food up. This occurs in the gizzard. Prior to swallowing, they will shake food in an attempt to break it up.

[24] D. Goodwin in M. Abs, (ed.) Physiology and Behaviour of the Pigeon, (London: Academic Press, 1983), Chap.15, s.v. 'Behaviour', p.287. They are a very aerial species and *"... are fast fliers, skilled at gliding freely"* . They have exceptionally long wings with pointed primary feathers. RSPB book extract states that The Rock Dove/Domestic Dove travels at a mean speed of 67 km/hr. *"Homing pigeons can travel up to 90 mph"*, says D. Midgley, 'Flights of Fancy', Today, 25/3/1994, p. 7.

[25] Also unlike other birds, the dove has a unique drinking method; it can drink by means of suction and does not have to raise its head. Its water requirements is close to 2:1 of water intake to dry material consumed and ,when water is limited, food intake is also curtailed to maintain water balance. Evaporative water loss via respiration is also essential to the dove as a means of thermoregulation, since it does not possess sweat glands. Most doves drink regularly at least once, usually more often each day. See McNab, in Abs. op.cit., 1983, p.47.
RSPB, 'Feral Pigeons', 1995, s.v..... 'Behaviour'. *"They tend to feed where drinking water is readily available"*.

[26] Powell in Abs, ibid, p. 113, and Rautenberg in Abs, ibid, p. 131.
This would explain why molasses (80% carbohydrate) and 'salt cats' were employed by keepers. Also, Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 61, *"The need for lime, especially by breeding birds, prompts them to eat the mortar from buildings. This they can do only where it is already sufficiently loose or crumbled for their weak bills to detach pieces of suitable size. The idea that they are capable of harming sound buildings in this way is, of course, ludicrous."*

They have the ability to detect small pressure changes, possess good colour vision and are very light-sensitive.[27] These 'sense qualities' may partly explain their ability to 'home', although homing is based on a highly complex information-processing mechanism which is not yet fully understood.[28]

Domestic doves are strictly monogamous although, "... *their fidelity is by no means absolute*" and both sexes will soon pair up again if necessary.[29]

The Rock Dove nest is never a substantial affair, composed usually of a few twigs, bits of straw, or seaweed, and sometimes just a scraping on a cave floor[30] (see Fig. 4.7). The nesting places chosen by doves vary from species to species, according to the environment and opportunities of the individual pairs.[31]

Wild birds will produce several clutches per year (normally two small white eggs per clutch) and the seventeen-day incubation will be shared by both parents, the male during part of the day and the female in the evening or night[32]. "*Provided with suitable conditions, Rock Doves could produce eggs at monthly intervals ... If pairs bred throughout the year it would be possible for them to have twelve broods, though it seems unlikely that any did*".[33]) The potential for all-year breeding, "... *surely unique among*

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[27] Emmerton. ibid.
They have a strong ability to detect ultraviolet rays. It is not known if they have a sense of smell.

[28] Schmidt-Koenig in Abs, ibid., p. 267.
Theories for homing include use of sun, smell, magnetic fields, sight recognition, ultrasound, memory, instinctive map and compass.

[29] H. A. Carr, (ed.), Behaviour of Pigeons – Posthumous Works of Charles Otis Whitman, vol. 3, no. 257, (Washington: Carnegie Institution, 1919), p. 27, "... *and they may mate with individuals of their own sex and with members of a different species*". It appears that pigeons have difficulty with sex recognition.
Also, Aristotle, History of Agriculture, item 612, b. 30, p. 253, "*For they are neither willing to pair with more than one, nor do they abandon their partnership prematurely except through becoming a widower or widow*".
Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p.43. The pairing for life which is usual in Feral and Domestic Pigeons, " ... *is probably largely due to their being sedentary (or caged), constantly together and almost constantly in reproductive condition.*"

[30] Ibid, p. 46. "*The nests of domestic pigeons, subject to availability of materials, are generally larger and more substantial than the nests of wild birds.*"
See also Murton and Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, p.431.
More nesting material is used in colder seasons.

[31] Goodwin, ibid, p. 45. See also Johnston and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, and Simms, Public Life of Street Pigeons, 1979.
J. Whitaker, SRO GD 302/122, observed the cote at Nunraw, East Lothian, in the 1930s, and noted that the wild inhabitants only nested in the top section, "... *owing to dark interior ... almost choked with nesting material.*"

[32] Normally 44 hours lapse between each egg and the next. They are white because these birds generally nest in dark sites and no camouflage is necessary. It is incorrect that a clutch always produces one male and one female (as cited in McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p.79) "*Certainly it was widely believed when I was a boy in the 1920s and 1930s ... until I found from experience that it was all nonsense*", Goodwin, pers. comm., 15/4/98.

[33] Murton and Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, p. 435 and p. 445 . "*Melanic morphs are more likely to be continuous breeders than wild types*". Meanwhile, Carr, Posthumous Works, 1919, p. 6, noted that "*This late and regular sitting is remarkable [into October, November and sometimes December] showing that the normal period can be prolonged as a result of domestication*".

British birds", was explored by ornithological researchers and a breeding peak in May and a trough in July (due to the annual moult) was discovered (see (Fig. 4.5).[34] It was also observed that low levels of breeding activity took place in the winter period[35] (the period in which pigeons are supposed to have played a crucial role historically, q.v. Chap. 2.2.4, s.v. 'Purpose'). "*It is doubtless an exaggeration to say that all Rock Doves breed nearly the full round of the calendar.*"[36] It is, however, worthy of mentioning that great efforts are made today, often without much success, to stop Feral Pigeons multiplying in our towns and cities, such is their prolific breeding ability.[37]

The 'squab' is a young pigeon from one to about thirty days of age. A 'squeaker' is a young pigeon from about thirty days to six, or seven, weeks of age[38] (see Plate 4.1). Young birds are fed by both parents on a unique protein and fat rich diet of 'cropmilk' a, "... *baby-boosting technique*" designed to accelerate growth.[39]

The nestling period lasts around twenty-one days and it is common for a second clutch to be laid before the first clutch has fully matured[40]. Provided food is plentiful, the parents

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Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p. 21, commented, "*that a good pair will produce 14 to 16 young per annum, a poor pair 6 to 8*".

[34] J. Lees, 'All Year Breeding of the Rock-Dove', British Birds, vol. 39, (1946), pp. 136-41, (p. 140).
Also, RSPB leaflet, 'Feral Pigeons', states "*Like rock doves, feral pigeons can breed all year round if there is a good food supply. Rock Doves have two peaks in their breeding season, from April-June and August-September. Only a quarter of the population will breed in the winter*".

[35] Murton & Clarke, op.cit., p. 429, 'all-year breeding' trait partly a consequence of domestication.
Cran,op.cit., p. 46, "*All birds moult once in the year starting very early in July .. takes nearly two-and-a-half months; during that time birds do not lay.*" Feed during this period should be richer, "... *more maple peas and maize.*"

[36] Lees, 'All Year Breeding', 1946, p. 141.
There is general consensus, amongst ornithological researchers, that some Rock Doves/Domestic Pigeons/Feral Pigeons are capable of all year breeding, but actual levels are very low during November, December, January (see Figs. 4.5 & 4.6).

[37] T. Stephens, 'Practical Control of Feral Pigeons', in British Ornithologists' Union, Feral Pigeons, unpublished joint symposium report by British Pest Control Association and ADAS Central Science Laboratory, Worplesdon, 1990.
(See Appendix Section 3 for further details on Feral Pigeon control.)
Herebachius, 1577 in Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p.121, observes, "*There is no birds fruit fuller than the pigion ... none more profitable by often bringing forth young ... they breede every month, save in the dead of winter.*" Commonly eight months, sometimes ten or eleven. Breeding commences in March, or earlier if fine weather.

[38] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 270.
RSPB Leaflet, "*Squabs are ugly; they have sparse down, a swollen beak and large grey feet and legs.*" The young bird will squeak when threatened or frightened.
Lumley, Book of Pigeons, 1895 , p. 42, "*Young pigeons grow amazingly, at a rate in fact, which we believe to be unequalled, by any other family of birds*".

[39] K. Taylor, 'Pigeon and their People', BBC Wildlife Magazine, (October 1995), pp. 16-22, p. 20. (An attribute shared only by emperor penguins and greater flamingos).
Griminger, in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1983, p. 32, describes the composition of crop milk as 78% water, 13% protein, 7% fat and 2% mineral, although ratios vary with age of fledging. Morsels of soft food are given to fledglings by day four or five and, thereafter, the young will eat much the same diet as the parent Although adult doves can pair up with others, the death of either parent at this stage can prove disastrous for the chick too.
Goodwin in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1983, p. 307, "*Pigeons adapt their diet to the needs of their growing young, taking more mineral matter and animal food than at other times and, when the young are small, taking small seeds in preference to peas, maize etc.*"

[40] Carr, Post humous Works, 1919, pp. 68-9. It also has the ability to adopt nestlings under certain circumstances, such as domestication. So long as the nestlings are still featherless. Otherwise young birds are persecuted by adults. "*The young of*

soon nest again when a brood of young or clutch of eggs is destroyed, *"Hence nest predation must be very heavy indeed before it has an appreciably adverse effect."*[41]

The dove is an edible, nutrious bird and is largely defenceless. It is, therefore, subjected to many threats. *"The chief predator of the Rock Dove in Britain is undoubtedly the Peregrine"*.[42] Those who currently keep doves are also well aware of the attention of the sparrowhawk, the female of which will strike from low angles at adult pigeons and take them by surprise.[43] The most rapacious dove hunter, but no longer common in Britain, is the fiercesome goshawk which prefers some woodland cover to open ground.[44] Birds such as the kite and the gyr falcon would have been known in Moray in previous centuries, but years of persecution have significantly reduced raptor numbers in general.[45]

Other smaller birds of prey, such as owls and kestrels, are known to take young pigeons, as will crows, magpies, jays, jackdaws and gulls (which also rob eggs if opportunities arise).[46] Small birds such as sparrows and starlings, even if they do not attack doves or their young, can still alarm domestic birds simply by their presence and, *"At night they* [doves] *will, at least in many cases, fly blindly from their roosting places, if they hear another bird take wing in panic."*[47]

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any species may be transferred to foster parents, provided they are put under the foster-parents at the time the eggs of the latter are due to hatch".

[41] Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 9.

[42] Murton & Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, p. 445. The peregrine is a much-prized, and persecuted, falcon which is still found in parts of Moray (especially coastal areas).
A. Musgrove, 'Peregrines and Pigeons', BTO News, 214, (1998), p. 11. *"Numerous studies have shown that the various forms of Columba livia (the Rock Dove, the domestic pigeon and the Feral Pigeon) are a favoured prey item"*, and much tension exists today between raptor conservationists and pigeon fanciers.

[43] Anon, 'The Sparrowhawk Year', BHW, 4/3/94, pp.24-5.
The female is a significantly larger bird than the male and will continue to return to a site if successful, particularly during the winter months when other sources of food are scarce. Unlike the peregrine which favours open ground, the sparrowhawk hunts best in mixed woodland and favours small birds and rodents.
E. Dicerbo, Birds of Scotland, (Moffat: Lochar Publishing, 1991), pp.51-6 provides information on several birds of prey including the sparrowhawk.

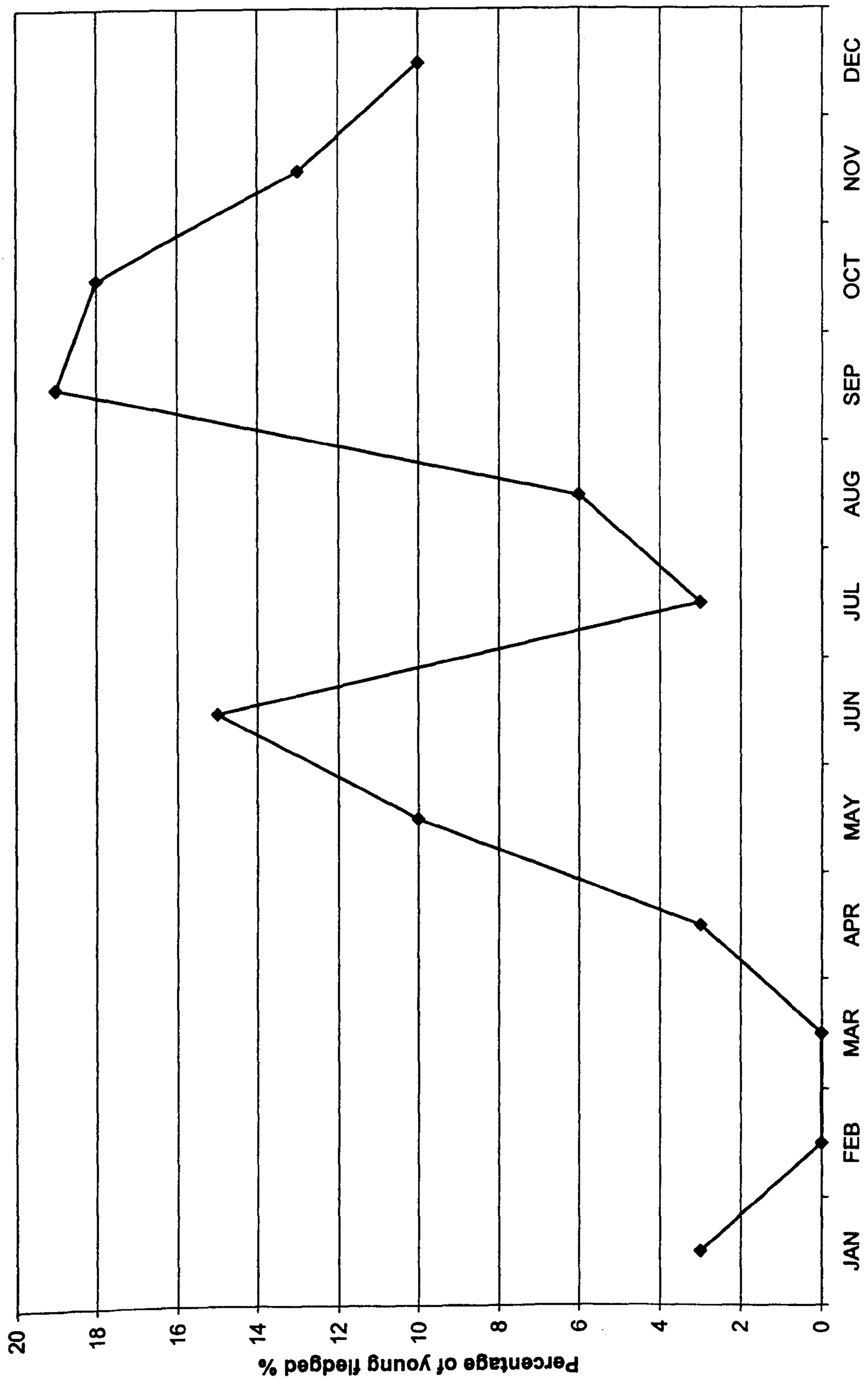
[44] The goshawk is still found in Moray, see Dicerbo supra, particularly the south west conifer woodland areas. It has a wide diet range, which includes large numbers of wood pigeon and rabbit.
P. Mentink, 'Pigeons and Raptors', BTO News, 205, (1996), p. 6. *"Pigeons are one of the Goshawk's main prey species."*

[45] Anon, 'A Poem', 1765, p.17, reminds us that doves had a wider range of birds of prey to contend with. *"But above all, Drive far the Kite away or else your Flock will soon become his Prey"*.
Persecution of birds of prey became particularly prevalent in Moray estates when game and poultry were raised for economic advantage in Victorian times. Killings, now illegal, are still reported today.

[46] RSPB Information leaflet, 'Feral Pigeons', 1995.
Most wild birds are victims of opportunist thieves.
O.S.A., s.v., 'Kirkmachael'. Although, s.v. 'Rathven', it is said that, "*Jays are the greatest enemies to the pigeon houses. In times of scarcity, they enter them and destroy the young; the old ones are not unfrequently a prey to hawkes.*"
Lees, 'All Year Breeding', 1946, p.141. Wild rock dove is sensitive to desertification of a nest following disturbance.
Heresbachius, 1577, in Smith, Dovehouse of Essex, 1931, p. 124, "... *many other adversaries, Crows, Daws and Owles ... they* [owls] *creep in at as little a place as the pigion will*" (although ironically he had an owl nesting in his dovecote). Owls will take young squabs to feed their own young.

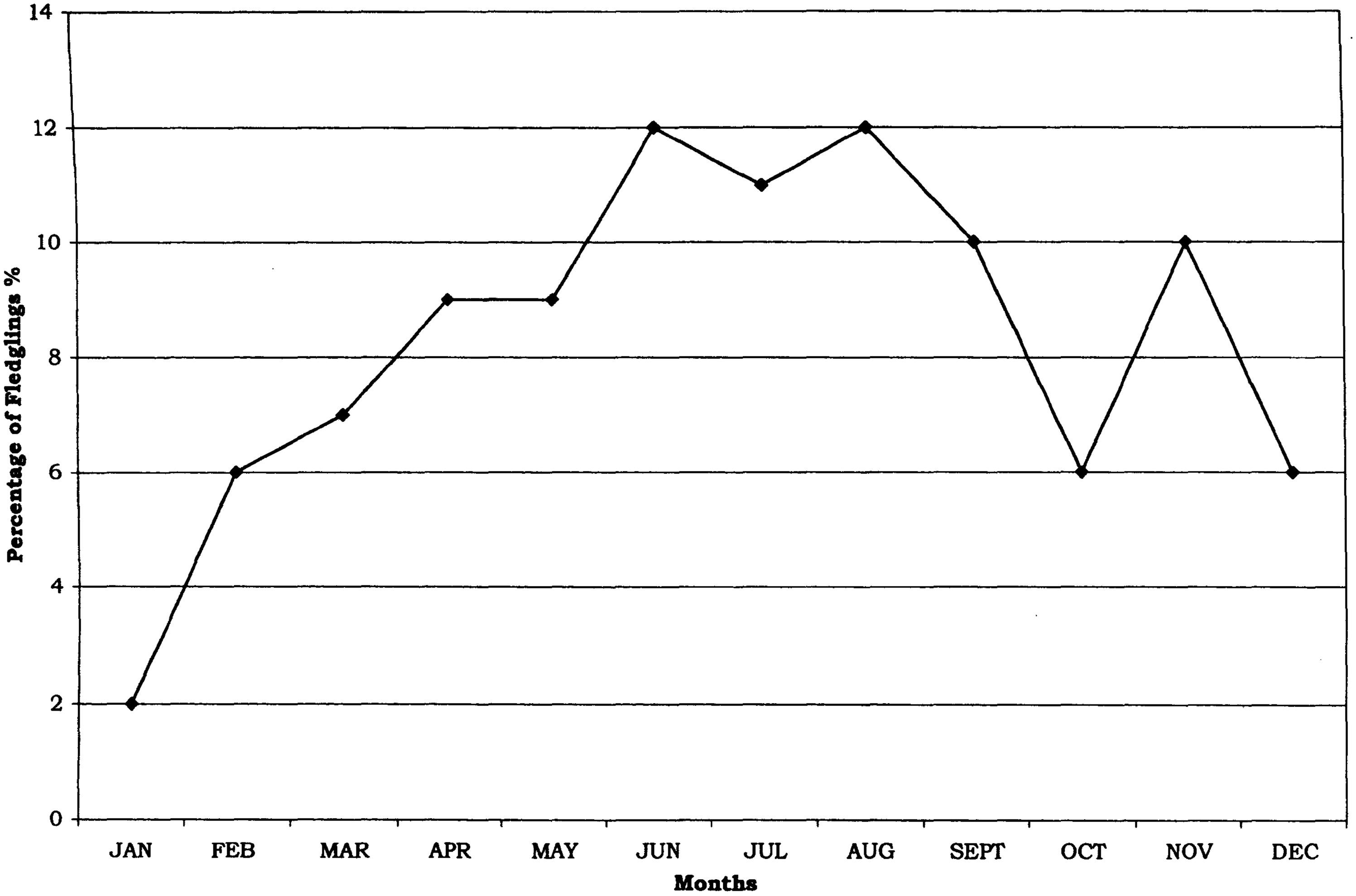
[47] Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 49.

Breeding Success Rate of Rock Dove (Fig. 4.5:)

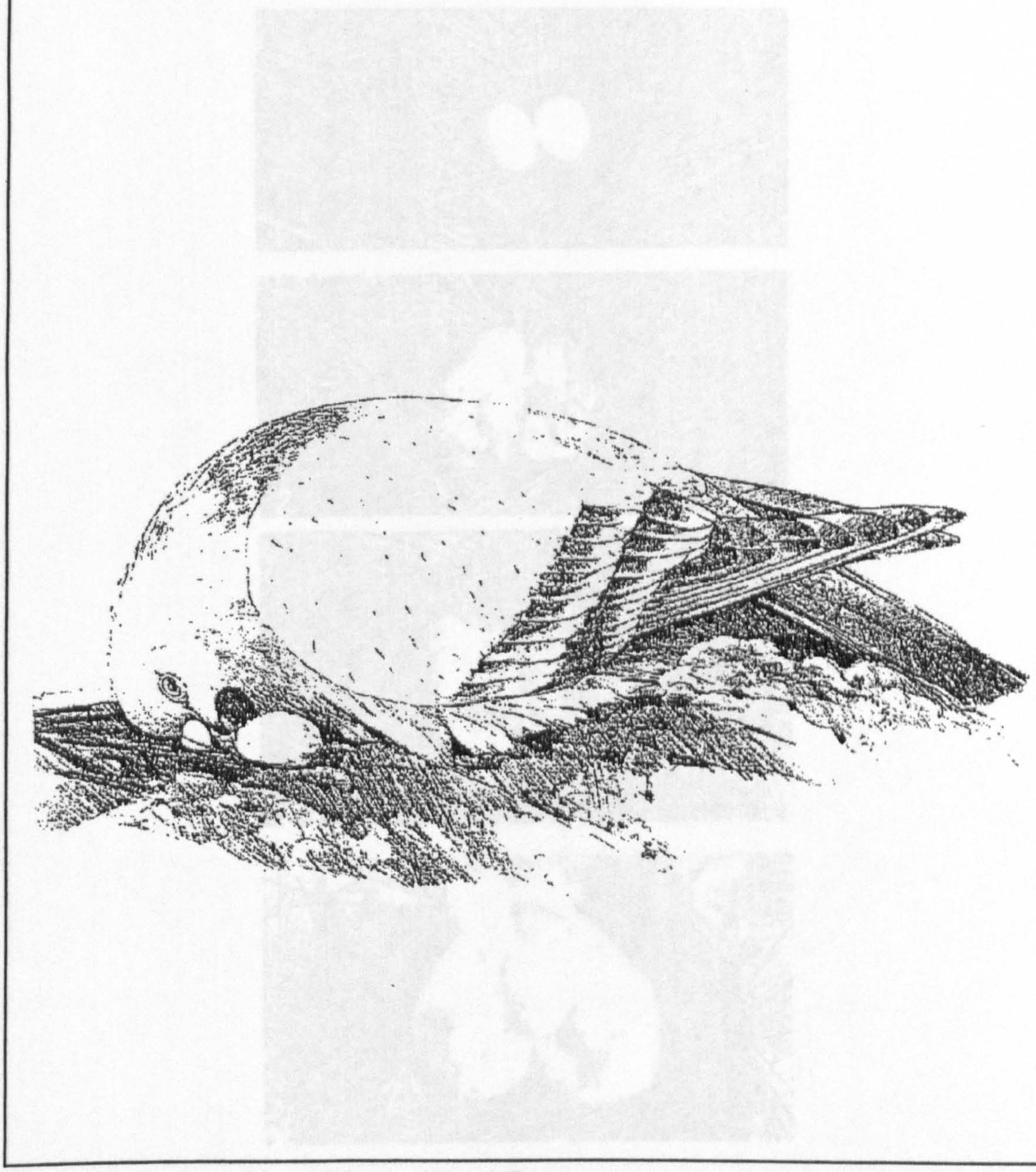


Note: Information sourced from Murton and Clarke, *'Breeding Biology of Rock Doves'*, 1968, pp. 432-4, which recorded Rock Doves breeding during 1965-7. Murton noticed that "Although eggs were laid in all months of the year, it is apparent that the majority of the Rock Doves were more seasonal and were probably restricted to the March-November period".

Breeding Success Rate of Feral Pigeon (Fig. 4. 6[illegible])



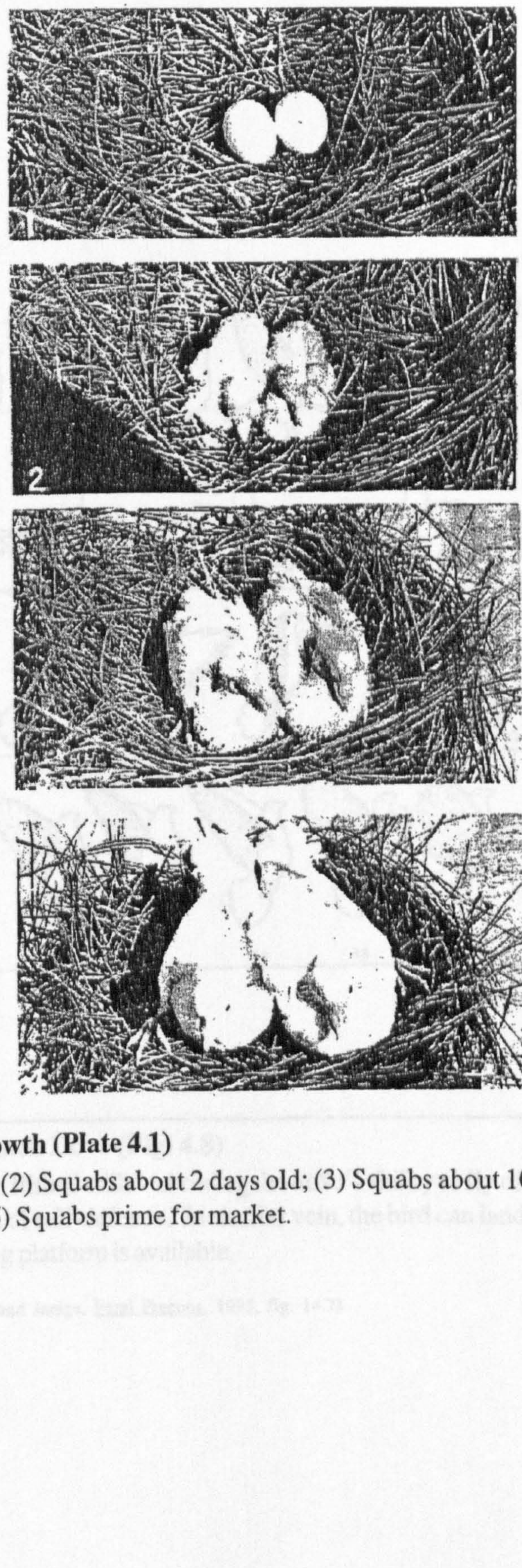
Note: Information sourced from Murton et al., *'Ecology Study of Feral Pigeon'*, No. 1, 1972, pp. 858-9. It was noted during this study, p. 857, that "The birds were most successful at hatching their eggs between July and October and least successful between November and February." It was also noted that urban pigeons reared 6% more young than wild rock doves during an equivalent period. This was attributed to food supplies, rather than breeding biology.



Nesting Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon (Fig. 4.7)

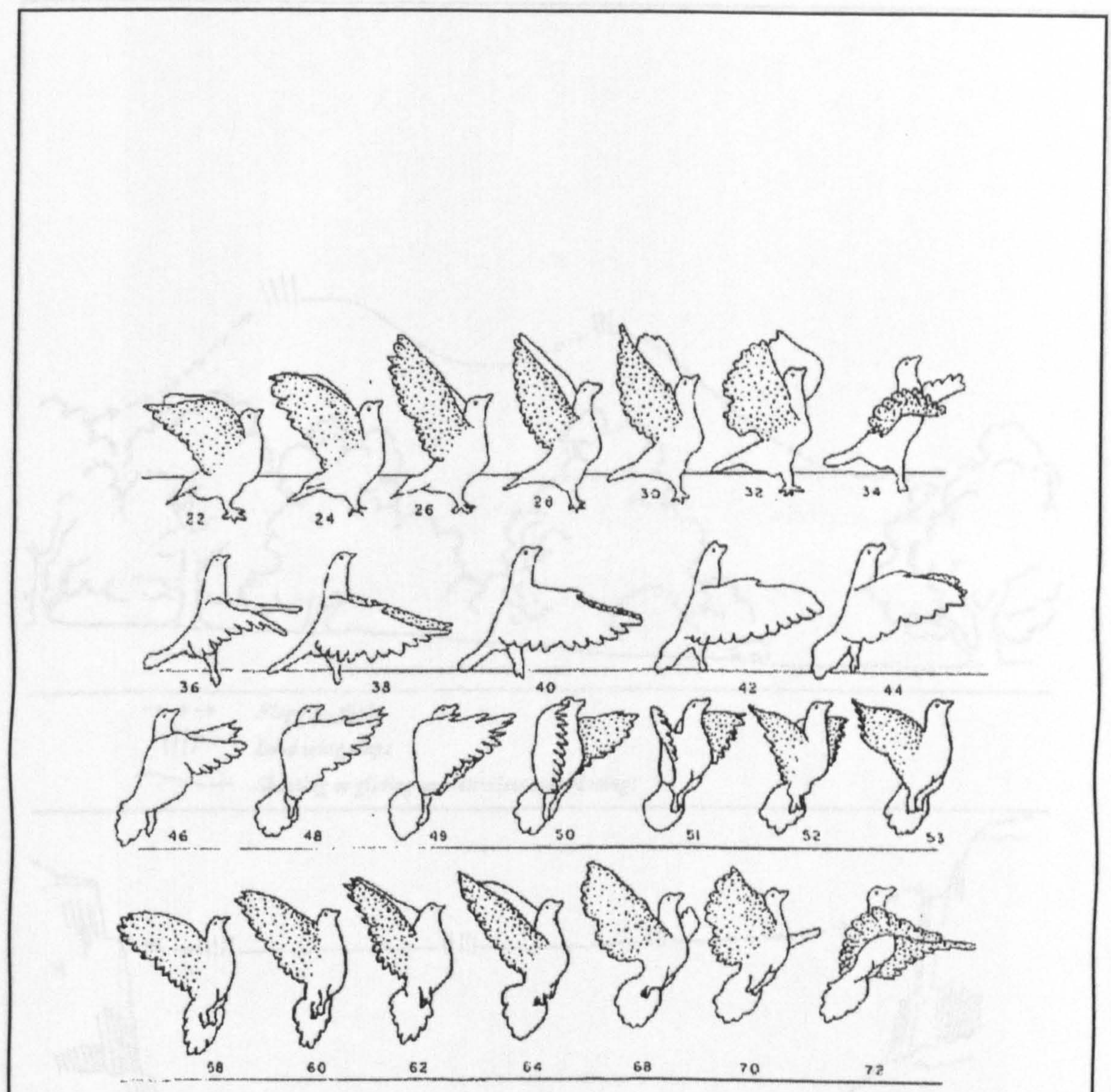
Sketch of parent bird on insubstantial nest providing first fledgling squab with crop milk.

(Reproduced from Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p. 99).



Stages in squab growth (Plate 4.1)

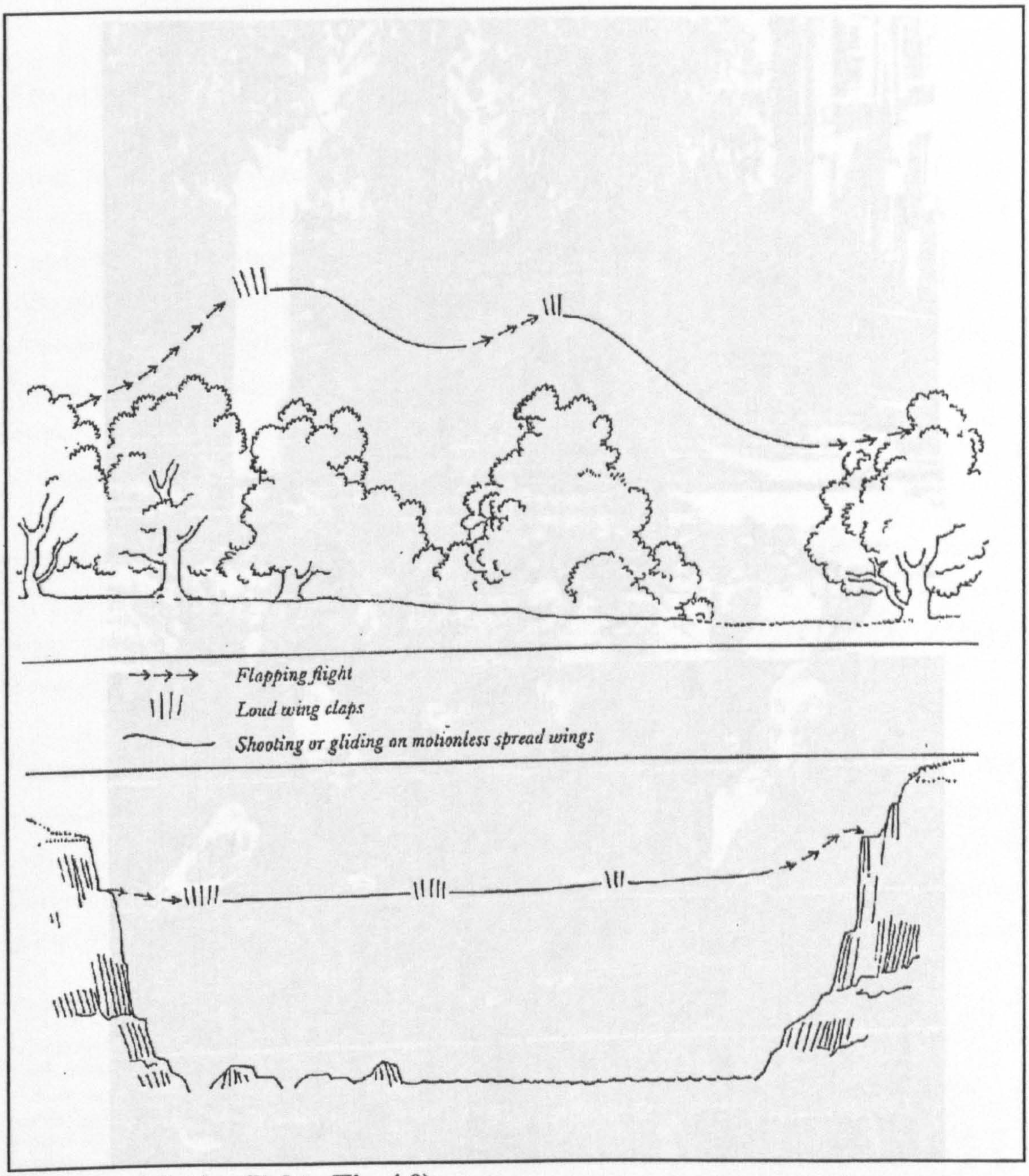
(1) Incubating eggs; (2) Squabs about 2 days old; (3) Squabs about 10 days old; (4) Squabs about 20 days old; (5) Squabs prime for market.



Flight take-off of Rock Dove (Fig. 4.8)

Illustration – based on filmed stills – showing the dove's ability to fly off in a near vertical plane as an effective means of self-defence. In similar vein, the bird can land from a steep descent, particularly if a landing platform is available.

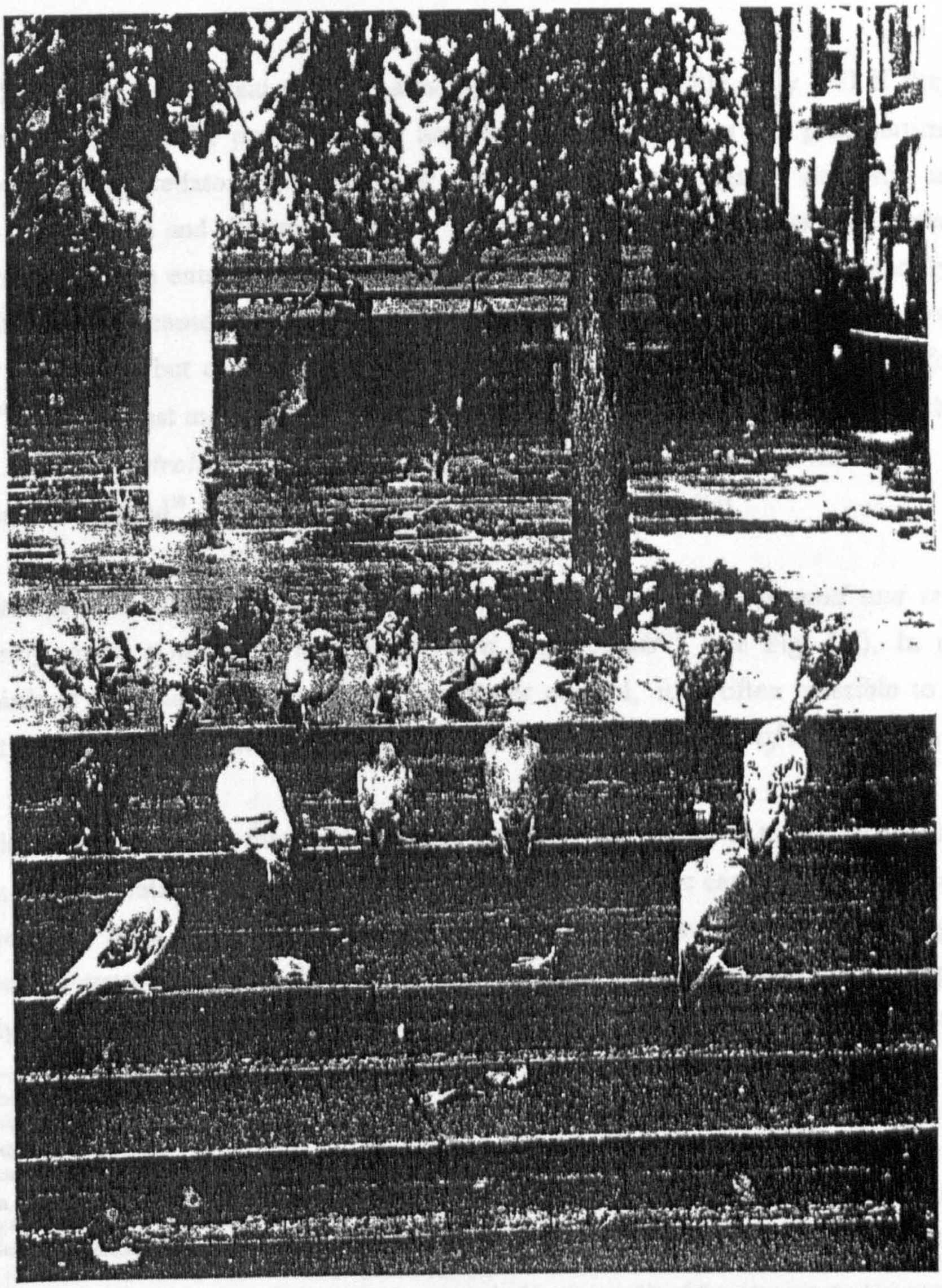
(Reproduced from Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, fig. 14.2)



Sketches of display flights (Fig. 4.9)

Diagrammatic sketches showing the undulating flight of the arboreal Wood Pigeon (top) and the more direct, glide of the Rock Dove (bottom).

(Reproduced from Goodwin, Doves and Pigeons, 1970, p. 35)



Group of feral pigeons (Plate 4.2)

A common sight in British towns: feral pigeons rest in a social group on a manmade structure awaiting new feeding opportunities. The results of many cross-breedings are evident in the different plumage shades yet the double black wing bar of the wild Rock Dove can still be

Cats and dogs can cause great damage, although cats will normally only kill if they are able to make off with the prey.[48] Stoats and weasels (also polecats and pinemartins) are small, but deadly, predators and can enter through slight openings in domestic houses close to the ground and disturb the flock, or take youngsters and eggs. Squirrels (and snakes too) can also enter through small openings and, although they will generally not kill adults, they can cause havoc in a cote and also take eggs. Mice will not prey upon the dove or its young, but can similarly disturb a cote's tranquillity and create a fouling hazard.[49] The greatest mammalian enemy is considered to be the brown rat and although once, "... *easily controlled today by poison*", can develop resistance and will return again and again if successful[50] (see Appendix Section 2 for further details).

In an attempt to avoid predation, "*A pigeon takes easily off from the ground and is able, if necessary, to do a nearly vertical flight for a few seconds*"[51] (see Fig. 4.8). In places where birds of prey and other predators are under control, it is often possible to keep doves at liberty[52] and, "... *flock habit improves the survival prospects of the individual*".[53]

Domestic doves, more so than wild doves, are also subject to a more insidious, and sometimes more catastrophic, threat - disease. Individual birds can suffer from vitamin deficiency (e.g. from lack of sunlight) and poor feeding can cause a bird to 'go light'.[54] Parasites can cause birds great discomfort and frequently kill, although these symptoms generally do not reach epidemic levels[55]. Serious diseases, which can devastate a domestic

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(It should be noted that the starling was scarce in Scotland, c. 1800.)
Baxter & Rintoul, Birds of Scotland, 1953, p. 527, "... *they* [Rock Doves] *had decreased in numbers owning to interference at their nesting place by starlings.*"
Scott, Waverley, 1814, p. 77 wrote that the doocot at Lessunden House was almost destroyed by starlings.

[48] Goodwin, ibid, p. 50, "*Domestic pigeons will often desert their loft if a cat or dog enters it ... pigeons tend to fear any place where they have been badly frightened*".
P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, pp. 57-8, almost disbelievingly, remark that cats and dogs were trained to guard dovecotes. (also cited in McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.141).

[49] Cran, Making Dovecotes Pay, 1931, p. 48, notes that the grey squirrel is also capable of disturbing and attacking sitting female doves.
Varro, On Farming, c. 36BC, p.282.

[50] L. F. Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, (London: Faber and Faber Ltd., 1961), 2nd edn., 1968, p. 219. Gordon, Fauna of Moray, 1889, p. 14. Brown rat first seen about the seaport towns of the Moray Firth around 1860. By 1889, black rat only to be found in any significant numbers in the upper districts.

[51] Aulie in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1993, p. 119.
The normal angle of attack is 30 degrees during take-off. Pigeons have powerful wing muscles.

[52] J. Delacour, Wild Pigeons and Doves, (New Jersey: T.F.H. Publications Inc., 1980), p.39.

[53] R.K. Murton, R.J.P. Thearle and J. Thompson, 'Ecological Studies of the Feral Pigeon, Columba livia Var', Part 1 and 2, Journal of Applied Ecology, No.9 (1972), pp.837-89, (p.887).

[54] Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 90.

[55] Lice - not devastating and can be controlled with cleanliness.

colony, relate to bacteria, viruses and fungi. It was recognised by the early eighteenth century that, "*Distemper will kill the young ones outright ... The whole Dove-coat are often destroyed with it*".[56] Bacterial diseases are caused by insanitary conditions (normally poor ventilation); viruses can be spread by bats, 'alien' doves and animal faeces (e.g. from a farmyard); whilst fungi results from dampness, mouldy food and can result in symptoms like thrush or canker.[57] "*Sudden changes in temperature, such as severe heat during the day and cool nights in some regions, also is probably a strain on the birds health*"[58]. Natural occurrences also influence the mortality rate of doves and thereby affect their reproductive success[59].

In summary, the Rock Dove/Domestic Pigeon/Feral Pigeon is a medium- size, predominantly grain-eating bird which is resilient and found in many countries throughout the world. It has the ability to raise its young quickly and, since it is highly susceptible to predation, is designed to withstand huge losses of offspring to ensure its continuation as a species.

4.3 Behaviour of the dove species

Doves, like many other birds and animals, like to absorb the rays of the sun as a source of warmth and vitamins, but they will seek the coolness of the shade in times of extreme heat.[60]

Tick - can be troublesome, likes warm conditions.
Pigeonfly - causes discomfort. Need to clean out nests of each clutch.
Roundworm - troublesome but can be controlled by sanitation.
Threadworm - can kill but controlled by sanitation.
Tapeworm - not usually a major problem.

[56] Mortimer, Art of Husbandy, vol.1, 1721, p.262. This is an aspect of management rarely touched upon by doocot authors, which suggests either, Mortimer is highlighting a minor issue or, more likely, previous authors had little knowledge, or interest, in management.

[57] Whitney, ibid., informs that the potential for disease spread from other birds and animals is a strong reason for containing birds to a 'flight'.
Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 61 notes that Feral Pigeons have had to adapt to modern day threats, "... *selective pressures imposed by local conditions may have been of primary importance... ability to withstand the effects of pollutants ... likely to be of more use ... than the ability to dodge a Peregrine Falcon.*"

[58] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 270.
Nevertheless, Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 42, states, "*Among birds, pigeons are remarkable for their low heat production, hunger resistance, low calorie and food utilization*".

[59] Murton et al, 'Ecological Studies', 1972, p. 887 and Murton and Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, pp. 437-8. The adults, which can have a lifespan up to 10-11 years, have an annual mortality rate of 30-35%. Approximately 10% of eggs are deserted. Around 15-25% suffer predation, mainly to crows and jackdaws (although less if the nest site is darker). The nestling mortality rate is affected by frost and food availability. The figures for domesticated birds will show significantly more success at all stages, e.g. 75-80% hatch rate.

[60] Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 63. Birds, "... *like to sun, bathe and mate nearby*".
p. 212, "*They enjoy a light, sunny, warm daytime, but a dark, warm, secure nightime.*"
Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 27. "*Nearly all pigeons ... are fond of sunning themselves*".

Despite an enjoyment of sunlight, doves dislike strong light (particularly if sudden) upon their roosting, or nesting, site and a flood of light will disturb them greatly.[61] Fear, stimulated in a variety of ways, causes the bird to fly and it takes off easily from any position.[62] All potential prey in the animal kingdom will run or fly when a predator comes within a certain distance. This is more or less a fixed length (the 'flight' or 'escape distance'), although it is possible to influence it by experience and conditioning. Aulie does not give a distance for doves, but observation confirms that it is reasonably short (within 20 m) thus allowing man the ability to have a close proximity. Since the Rock Dove species is non-arboreal, it prefers a flat area to land on.

Like many other creatures, they prefer seeking shelter during adverse weather conditions, although some birds will frequently 'rain bath' in order to remain clean and healthy, or even cool down.[63] Bathing is an activity which is regularly performed,[64] chiefly carried out on an individual basis. The dove, however, has a propensity to congregate and when not feeding, birds sit in roosting flocks[65]. If food is more than half a mile away, "... *it is usual for a group of birds to leave together and fly fast and direct*", due to the threat of birds of prey.[66] Sociability tends to be strongest when roosting, when flying for some distance, and when resting, preening, bathing or sunning[67]. Lone individuals will actively

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Johnston & Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p. 170, "... *the functions of sunning are obscure, but may include generation of vitamin B through UV irradiation*".

[61] Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 48.
The dove's eye works much like the human's, in this respect. They have good vision and hearing, but low smell and intelligence capabilities.
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 517, "... *frightened by the sudden admission of light*". Although goes on to say, "... *creatures of habit. They soon learn what harms them and what does not.*"

[62] Aulie in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1919, pp. 144-6 notes, "*If one or more doves become frightened at night or flutter ... the fright is thereby communicated ... pigeons fall asleep very quickly ... But they are easily aroused*". Johnston & Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p. 180, "... *the aerodynamics of landing are similar to those at take off*".
Carr, Posthumous Works, 1919, p. 148, "*Attitudes of fear and trust towards other birds or man are modified by experience.*"

[63] Goodwin in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1983, pp. 289-90. They, "... *commonly spend some time preening and resting in the sun on some ledge ... or building ... sheltered from the wind*".

[64] Carr, op.cit., p. 145, "... *domestic dove usually goes in out of the rain ... domestic pigeons prefer the coop to the open at night*".

[65] See Feare, 'Pigeons', 1990, pp. 3-4.
K. Taylor, 'Pigeons and their people', BBC Wildlife, (October, 1995), pp. 16-22, (p. 20).

[66] Johnston & Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p. 190. Flocking is primarily a predator avoidance technique since solitary birds are easier prey. Birds take off and land together if a predator approaches. Birds perch facing the wind ready to take off. Flocking also helps food foraging efficiency.
Feare, op.cit., p. 4, notes that doves can fly long distances for food, frequently up to 2 km trips.
Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 41. The desire to flock is a general trait of birds which fly over open country,or sea, since it facilitates the discovery of food, the pairing of individuals, the teaching of young to forage and the escape from predation.

[67] Goodwin, ibid.
Sociability depends upon species, "... *forms that inhabit forest* [such as the Wood Pigeon] *do not fly far in their everyday life and feed much on the ground, seldom tend to gather together in large numbers*".
p. 27, states, "*Preening behaviour of pigeons is generally similar to that of other birds.*"

seek the company of others, although (contrary to some of the thoughts of previous dovecote authors) there is very little general movement between flocks since each group has its own well defined, albeit quite small, territory[68]. Flock numbers are primarily determined by availability of food, along with a provision of roosting and nest sites. If these fluctuate, the flock will adjust to suit.

Although possessing characteristics of temerity and timidity, the "... *disposition to fight comes on in all pigeons at the time of mating*"[69] and displays of bullying and brutality towards inferior specimens occur frequently.[70] Compartmentalisation of nest sites means that, "... *the young are thus prevented passing from their own nest into the adjoining one, and there being literally pecked to death*".[71] "In fact, much ill-feeling and grievous fighting between the inmates are prevented by the liberal use of perches"[72] and doves like to perch fairly high above the ground where they feel safe.[73]

Once the stage of nesting arrives, the Rock Dove will, "...*nest on the cave floor if all suitable ledges or niches are already occupied*"[74] and, for a second clutch, some birds invariably seek a new location.[75] "*At night the female covers the eggs, while the male normally roosts on the perch as far from the nest as possible ... When roosting, doves defecate quite frequently, but when incubating the female allows nothing to pass ... The*

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[68] John Tully, a BTO recorder in the Birmingham area, studied 90 flocks of urban pigeons, the largest of which was 600, pers. comm. 12/8/97.
C. Waterton, Essays on Natural History, (London: Longman, Brown, Green and Roberts, 1857), p.106, "*If they determine to inhabit your dove-cot, they desert mine ... this promiscuous interchange of pigeons, is perfectly understood; approved of by all the neighbourhood, and it never seems to be detrimental to any particular cot.*"
BBC Radio Scotland, 7/5/98, 'Designer Doocots', referred to a new cot being built in Central glasgow. The name of the sport derives from the strain 'horseman', see Appendix Section 3
In Scotland, especially Glasgow and Edinburgh housing estates, this occasional interchange developed fully into a reason for keeping birds - known as 'horsemen' - the object being to entice someone else's bird.
[69] Carr, ibid., p. 13. Hierarchies exist within colonies and inferior birds are persecuted.
[70] Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p. 15.
Also, Aristotle, History of Animals, p. 255, (item 613a 15). "*They are a pugnacious animal, and harass each other, and trespass into each other's nests, though not often: for although they are less pugnacious when farther away, beside the nest they fight to the death.*"
[71] Lumley, op.cit. p. 13, "... *in order to prevent constant warfare and bullying, do not allow a platform from one hold to another*"
[72] Lumley, ibid., p. 23.
This is probably exaccerbated by confinement.
Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 17. "*Perches are not required in the squabbing loft*".
[73] Taylor, 'Pigeons and their People", 1995, p. 22.
[74] Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 58. This would only occur where there is little chance of predation.
Murton, 'Breeding Biology', 1968 , p. 432, Sometimes a nest is no more than an unlined scrape. More nesting material is utilised in winter months.
[75] Carr, Posthumous Works, 1919, p. 94.
p.21 "*It is remarkable how strong is the instinct to place the new nest in a new locality*".
The male regularly 'drives' the female to the nest away from other males. This trait occurs frequently in domestic situations.

young, when defecating, reach back just as far towards the edge of the nest as they possibly can".[76]

Despite the generalisation of these relevant aspects of dove behaviour, there will be exceptions to the rules. Each bird has its own character, the result being that some, "... *will build a careless or neat nest, near the roof of the loft, or in the lowest tier of boxes, on the ground ... some will allow absolute crowding; some want a whole loft to themselves.*"[77] It should also be remembered that, "*Under conditions of domestication the action of natural selection has been relaxed, with the result that the rigor of instinctive co-ordinations which bars alternative action is more or less reduced*".[78]

The natural behavioural traits indicate that the dove is a gregarious, yet territorial bird, which prefers warm conditions (although it is capable of withstanding extreme heat and cold). Since it is especially susceptible to predation, it is an extremely alert bird which is easily disturbed by sudden light, noise or movement. Flocking occurs due to the various benefits it accrues, but the numbers in a colony are determined by food availability and provision of nesting and roosting sites.

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[76] Carr, ibid., pp. 53-60.
The nest is safer if he stays away from it when not incubating.
Columella, Of Husbandy, c.50 A.D., p.359 recommends that, "... *their little mats must be cleaned, lest their dung burn their feet.*"

[77] Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p. 30 and p. 58.

[78] Carr, Posthumous Works, 1919, p. 160.
Johnston & Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p. 262, "... *behavioral adjustments ... can be considerable.*"

4.4 Domestication of the dove species

Domestication is defined as, " ... *the ability of man to cause an animal (or plant) to adapt to an environment in order to bring it under control.*"[79] Economic exploitation has always been the central factor behind man's desire to domesticate certain living forms, although there has always been a strong inclination to keep animals for pleasure.[80] The dove is unusual compared with other domesticated animals, principally because it is a flying animal which prefers to breed in sites above human reach and roam freely beyond its enclosure. In many respects, it compares favourably with the honey bee (bee keeping and dove rearing are ancient practices[81]).

Doves may have been domesticated in Neolithic times.[82] The process of domestication may have been gradual but is not thought to have been difficult in that, "... *the rock dove's behaviour made it a pushover for early domestication*".[83] How this process was achieved exactly may never be known, but the dove's natural behaviour, and tolerance of man, made it an inevitable attraction for domestication: "... *wherever food supplies appear, the pigeons are quick to descend*".[84]

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[79] P. Hands, (chief ed.), Collins Concise Dictionary Plus, (London: Collins, 1990), p. 369.

[80] F. E. Zeuner, History of Domesticated Animals, (London: Hutchinson, 1963), Chap. 1, passim.
Man has a strong natural inclination to keep animals for pets. This is particularly noticeable when animals are young, possibly due to a parental instinct.

[81] The honey bee, too, has a long history of domestication. Varro, On Farming, 36 B.C., p. 325, waxes lyrical about the bee as a hard working community creature. Beehives should face the rising sun, be built of wood ,or earthenware, and be sited near water.
See P. Walker, 'Bee Boles and Past Beekeeping in Scotland' in A. Fenton (ed), Review of Scottish Culture, No. 4, (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1988), pp. 105-16.
Also, J. Petrie, Scots Apiary, (Glasgow, 1769).

[82] Zeuner, op.cit., p.460
J. Ritchie, Influence of Man on Animal life in Scotland, (London: Cambridge University Press,1920), pp. 95-6.
Man's activities, e.g. deforestation, creation of man-made 'cliff faces', have therefore helped the development of the dove.
p.97, "... *it is highly probably that the first pigeon-houses were erected along the coast near the 'doo caves', like those which crest the cliffs in the neighbourhood of the famous pigeon-caves of St. Abbs or that which faces the 'doo caves' of Wemyss.*"
Johnston & Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p. 270. "*Pigeon bones have been found in caves in Israel used for dwellings by humans around 12000 to 11000 years ago.*"
p. 460, "*Their first impression on man appears to have been not as an economic proposition, but as a symbol of love and fertility ... Christianity transferred the symbol to heavenly love ... because more and more frequent in Europe, where the economic advantages of a small, self-sufficient table bird were appreciated in addition*".

[83] Taylor, 'Pigeons and their People',1995, p. 19.
Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 42. The Rock Dove (and its progeny the Domestic Pigeon) is a highly successful and adaptable commensal species and "... *among birds, pigeons are remarkable for their low heat production, hunger resistance, low calorie and food utilisation.*"

[84] D. Willis, Scottish Nature Diary, (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1990), p. 72.
Also, Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 26 observes, "... *individuals are strongly attracted by the sight of others of their own species already feeding*".

Few believe that the dove, although accepted as an easy candidate for domestication, can be truly described as 'tame': "*Pigeons can only be tamed if a hand reared bird has been much in human company*".[85] The domesticated animal changes its physical and mental make-up in response to adaptation to a new environment, although new characteristics do not arise due to domestication.[86] However it should be noted that artificial selection, which places emphasis upon variation, nevertheless, produces increasingly inferior stocks.[87]

The inter-relational link between wild and domesticated doves has been apparent for some time, but it is still not fully understood. Ritchie believes that, "... *successful efforts were made ... to bring the Rock Dove under the influence of man in Scotland. These early efforts resulted in the formation of a primitive domesticated race – the pigeon of the 'doo-cots' ... When the Rock Dove first became a 'Doo-cot Pigeon' it is impossible to say.*"[88] It was observed in the Hebrides, that when a flock of domesticated birds were being exercised, "... *often a huge number of wild rock doves would join the birds at feeding time when food was scarce.*"[89] It is known that domestic birds have, "... *rejoined wild populations for many centuries*" and that most wild populations now show signs of domestication.[90]

Numerous articles today highlight the difficulty of preventing Feral Pigeons from breeding in man-made environments and illustrate how the 'artificial' environment has been 'naturalised' by the bird to suit its own needs[91]. Even so, when Whitaker carried out

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[85] Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 42.
Jardine, Naturalists Library, 1835, p. 147. *"Where they enjoy a perfect freedom of action and are nearly dependent upon their exertions for support, they can scarcely be called reclaimed, much less domesticated."*
The dove has, however, also been long identified as a successful aviary bird (total confinement) either on its own, or along with other birds and animals. This trait has made the dove highly susceptible to the processes of artificial selection.
The ancient civilisations, e.g. the Romans, evidently kept doves confined for the purposes of pleasure, breeding varieties and/or cramming for food. They caught and fattened wood pigeons, but never fully 'domesticated' them.

[86] Darwin, Variation of Animals, 1868, p. 206.
As witnessed by the likes of E.S. Dixon, Dovecote and Aviary, (London: Murray, 1851) and Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895 and Moore, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765

[87] Nineteenth century breeders acknowledged that their doves were less robust to disease than wild varieties, e.g. W.F.Lumley, Pigeons: their Origin and Variation, their Housing and their Management, (London, Alex Comyns, 1891), p. 48.
This will be a consequence of confinement and artificial selection.
See also, Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1968, pp. 90-207.
In natural conditions, recessive genes, as confirmed in Darwin's experiments, will tend to revert and this is witnessed in domestic pigeons going feral.
Darwin, Variation of Animals, 1868, p. 200.

[88] Ritchie, Influence of Man, 1920, p. 95.

[89] B. Bennet, 'An Hour with Bernie', British Homing World, (25/3/1994), pp. 8-9, (p. 9).

[90] P. Griminger in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1983, p. 33.

[91] See Appendix Section 3.

his survey of dovecotes in East Lothian, he discovered that only around one fifth of the structures still contained birds[92]. A similar situation was discovered by Cooke in 1920, suggesting that the buildings, in themselves, do not support large natural colonies. Other factors therefore must be in place for a dovecote to be appealing to its inhabitants.[93]

The dove's general ability to survive and flourish, despite several thousand years of human exploitation, is testimony to its own sustainability and adaptability. Although domestication has altered behaviour, appearance and breeding to some extent (so much so that some nineteenth century naturalists considered the domestic bird as a separate species), natural selection has always tended to cause the bird to revert to its original form. Meanwhile, the bird's domestic characteristics have enabled it to flourish close to man in his modern cities.[94] As can be seen, "... *there are two points of view ... to every case of domestication.*"[95] The dove may, in fact, have had a much more symbiotic relationship with man over several millennia than we currently appreciate.

4.5 Management of the dove species

According to ecologists, the basic criteria for rearing doves are (i) the creation of an environment which is safe from natural threat and (ii) regular availability of food.[96] Many of the threats are countered by the actual fabric of the dovecote, especially those which seek to prevent predator access, whilst birds are further prevented from threat by an owner's intervention.[97]

Ovid, Tristia, Ex Ponto, c. 10 A.D., Ex Ponto, I, vi, 50. "*For sooner will the pigeons avoid the towers .. the cattle the grass ... the gull the waters*".

[92] Whitaker, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1938, *p. 6*, "Of the 55 dovecotes recorded in Mr Whitaker's survey only a small proportion contain pigeons".

[93] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 157, "... *although he found a colony of approximately two hundred frequenting a pair of cotes in Yorkshire*".
At Sharleton Hall Farm, "*Both stand in open fields and both are frequented by wild pigeons*".
As stated previously, regular food supplies, together with safe nesting and roosting sites, are essential.
Intensification of farming and desertion of rural areas by people has led to far less food being available for doves. Bennet, BHW 21/1/1994, p. 16. Modern day breeders, meanwhile, know that, "*Once they get the taste, the birds will quickly look forward to your presence in the loft.*"

[94] T. Soper, Bird Table Book, (Newton Abbot: David and Charles, 1965), 1992 sixth edn., p.69,
"*Rock Pigeons are now represented only by the cliffside colonies of racing pigeons which have given up the sport, and by the ubiquitous street pigeon which itself represents a hopeless mix of long-ago-escaped dovecote stock and more recent racing pigeon dropouts.*"
It is also notable that the doves of St. Kilda disappeared not long after humans vacated the island.

[95] Zeuner, Domesticated Animals, 1963, p. 57.

[96] As stated earlier, these threats are many and come in several disguises: other birds, species, various animals, man, diseases, extreme temperatures, sharp objects, even each other.

[97] L. Mascall, The Husbandlye Ordring and Gouernmente of Poultrie, (London: Thomas Purfoote, 1581), u.p., (source, J. McCann, courtesy of British Library.) '*Polecats, and Weazels that haunt your Douehouse...*', '*How to take owles that haunt your*

Keeping the dovecote safe from depredation by other human beings has been a long-standing problem, evinced in some of the penalties imposed by early Scots Law (see Chap. 2.2.3. and Appendix Section 2). Theft and vandalism have always been issues of concern and attempts to counter these involve a combination of: siting the dovecote in view of the keeper; robust construction; impenetrable door access; and regular inspection.[98] Even when access for predators has been denied, "... *pigeons fear for some days or more, any place where they have been frightened*".[99] They are alarmed by loud, unexpected sounds and will often abandon their nests if they question their safety (possibly damaging themselves if done suddenly en masse). A keeper, therefore, needs to maintain a familiar environment in which the birds are psychologically comfortable, i.e. one which has consistent levels of noise and activity.[100]

Preventing the ingress of small animals, or birds, and disease-carrying bacteria is a difficult task and modern-day keepers understand the "... *need to clean out any nests to get rid of 'vermin', and to discard infertile eggs*".[101] Earlier authors, such as Columella and Mascall, also clearly felt the need for cleanliness[102].

Douehouse' and '*To take Bozardes and Stares, that molest your Douehouse.*' (stares being a sixteenth century word for kite).
Also, Anon, 'A Poem', 1740, p. 17,
"*But above all, Drive far the Kite away, or else your Flock will soon become his Prey*".
Modern law, Wilidlife and Countryside Act 1981, now prevents the killing of such animals.
Others, meanwhile, identify the need for regular inspection inside the doocot to check for predation.

[98] This seems to have been particularly prevalent during the nineteenth century, when pigeon shooting as a sport reached its apogée.
Ewing, Daddy Darwin's Dovecote, c. 1880, p. 37, says, "*And when the old man made his way to the pigeonhouse ... he found ... that every bird was gone ... whilst he lay expecting thieves to break in and steal his money he had let them get safely off with his whole stock of pigeons*".

[99] A seventeenth century Glasgow burgess complained to the sheriff of local boys repeatedly knocking on the door of his doocot.
Goodwin in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1983, p. 293, notes that doves will desert their nests if frightened.

[100] Urban pigeons can, of course, flourish in environments which are noisy and full of activity. Unusual events will still, however, unnerve them. See E. Simms, Public Life of Street Pigeons, (London: Hutchinson, 1979). A large number living in a domestic cote will potentially panic in a frightening situation and damage themselves against the building if obstacles or sharp objects occur.

[101] Bennet, British Homing World, 1/4/1994, p. 7.
Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p. 8, notes that it is a waste of valuable time to allow the birds to sit on infertile eggs.

[102] Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, u.p., s.v., 'Of the meate and drinke for pigeons and flying abrode': "... *yee muste often clense and sweepe your Douehouse ... for the cleaner it is kept, the better they will loue that house the better, and hate all other whiche are foule kept*".
Columella, Of Husbandry, c. 50 A.D., p. 356, "... *the place ought to be swept and cleaned from time to time; for how much the more garnished it is, so much the more cheerful and brisk the fowl appears.*"
Whitney, Keep your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 207. A doocot floor, "... *deep with dung is aesthetically filthy but not necessarily medically so*"
Breathing in powdered faeces can lead to ornithosis and psittacosis in humans. Canker is a common disease in domestic birds which are kept in dirty surroundings.

Although a dovecote may be secure from external predators, it has been established (earlier in this chapter, s.v. 'Behaviour') that the doves can come under attack from each other within it.[103] Breeders who fully control their birds and guarantee their safety, by means of confinement, promote the deployment of a large double nest, "... *because they fight fiercely otherwise*"[104]. Some also advocate that nest sites are furnished with, "... *baskets in them*"[105] and are, "... *linked by a front walkway on which the parent birds can rest or walk.*"[106]

Since the domestic dove prefers to build its nest on a solid ledge and defecates within its quarters, it is important to ensure a dry environment within the cote. A damp nest site will kill the fledglings and wet guano can release noxious gases such as ammonia. Regular inspection of a cote, coupled with appropriate maintenance, is a well recognised requirement for owners and best carried out when it causes least disturbance.[107]

As stated earlier, doves need frequent exposure to sunlight and regular exercise in order to remain fit and healthy. Birds which have freedom of access and egress will require no managing in this respect, but become susceptible to predators such as hawks and falcons. Those which are not allowed freedom to fly out (fancy breeds, racing pigeons, 'crammed' pigeons) need to have a, "... *wire netting or aviary attached*", in order to provide a safe

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[103] Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p. 78. "*If the quarrelsome bird proves to be incorrigible, there is nothing for it but to wring its neck*". Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 19, observes that aggressive behaviour occurs frequently in domestic cotes. Murton et. al., 'Ecological Studies', 1970, p. 847, established that colonies of birds have their own hierarchies. Dominant birds will not suffer close neighbours.

[104] Lumley, Pigeons: their Origins, 1891, p. 29.
Also, Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p. 2. "*As a general rule, Fancy Pigeons are not allowed to fly out ... Two compartments to the loft are essential, one for breeding and the other for the babies when they are separated from their parents. It is usual too, to separate the sexes during the winter months.*"

[105] Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, u.p., s.v. 'Pigeon'.
Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 45. Nests are usually small compared to the size of the bird but domestic birds will make larger nests given a supply of materials. Wild Rock Doves have adapted to treeless environments so use few materials. See also Murton, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, p. 432.

[106] Lumley, Pigeons: their Origins, 1891, p. 22 and, A. M. Petchey, 'Squab Production: a possible diversification enterprise for egg producers', Farm Building Progress, 103, (January 1991), pp. 15-8, (p. 17) states, "... *essential that the pen contains at least one identical double nest for each pair ... the double nest allows the female to lay a second clutch before the previous brood are weaned.*" Most pigeons drive the first brood away to make room for the second clutch.
See also, Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 212.
Moore, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765, p. 3.
Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p. 15.
Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, 1735, u.p., s.v., 'Pigeon'.

[107] Hutton, Pigeon Lore, 1962, p. 151, agrees with Tusser (see Chapter 2.7) that it is best to alter or maintain a cote in January, "... *the time of year when pigeons are least easily upset*" Winter is not, however, the ideal time to implement works involving the use of lime, since the material is susceptible to frost damage during its curing period.
See Hartley, Tusser's Five Hundred Good Points of Husbandry, 1571, p. 124.
Also Heresbachius, 1577 in Smith, Dovehouses of Essex, 1931, p. 124. For regular cleaning out, enter around noon, "... *when they be abroad a feeding, and be sure to knock well before you come in.*"

flying zone.[108]. These 'flights' should be as large as possible, to permit quality exercise space, and also contain plenty of perching places.[109].

Confined birds require regular manual feeding but birds allowed their freedom can be self-sufficient during much of the year. Since feed is not easily gained at certain times, "*Be sure to feed them in hard weather, and in benting-time, which is when the corn is in the ear*".[110] The three methods of providing food for domestic birds today (dispensing hoppers, open troughs and broadcasting inside or out) do not appear to have changed much down the centuries, although a slightly more hygienic approach seems to have developed over time.[111]

The management process, however, appears to have differences relating to the primary purpose of domestication. For example, in the case of 'homing pigeons', it is, "... *uniform policy ... to separate their breeding pairs in July*"[112], so compartmentalisation of the dovecote is necessary. Similarly, those who put much effort into breeding special individuals impose confinement as a requirement. "*Few can, however, run the risk of*

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[108] Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p. 2.
See also Columella, Of Husbandry, c. 50 A.D., p. 356 and Varro, Of Farming, c. 36 B.C., p. 283.

[109] Compartmented 'flights' are needed where the birds are separated for reasons such as breeding and husbandry control. For example, in the large twentieth century American commercial squab cotes, "... *the recommended group size* [in a 'flight'] *has been much reduced to effect better husbandry control*". Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 15. American flights in the early part of this century contained large numbers of birds. See Levi, Pigeon, 1941, pp. 542-3.

[110] Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, 1735, u.p., s.v., '*Times to feede them, and so maynetain your broode*'.
Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 52, itemises the mean food richness as protein 14%, fat 2%, carbohydrate 56%, ash 1.5%, water 4%, minerals 3%. Urban feral pigeons have demonstrated an ability to survive on a wide diet, however, and will eat meat if starving.

[111] Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, u.p., s.v., 'Times to feede ', ".. *it is best therefore to feede them on hye places... in such times the best is, to feede them in the Douehouse at noone*".
Present day breeders suggest once in the early morning and again in the late afternoon.
Anon, 'A Poem', 1740, p. 14,

> *Some never in the Cote will feed the Dove*
> *Not to disturb the Young, or Dams above;*
> *But call them in the Court to take their Food,*
> *Accustom'd to a sound well-understood.*

A 'dam' is a female parent. The extract from this poem indicates how the birds adapt to an environment and can become semi-dependent on man.
See also, Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., p.284.
Moore, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765, p. 8. Widespread use of internal accessories; a grit floor, a water bottle and a meat-box, is made today.
Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p. 19, observes that doves swallow food whole since they cannot chew or bite. Grit is required to enable the grinding of food to take place in the gizzard.
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 529, states that the domestic bird, "... *follows a regular routine: first it eats its food, then it goes to the grit box for its minerals, and then for a good, long drink of water.*"
Bennet, British Homing World, 1/4/94, p. 6. "*If you value your birds, keep to clean food and water.*"
Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., p. 283. "*There should be water flowing in for their drinking and washing, for pigeons are very clean birds*" (probably a sensible idea for a large number of confined birds in a Mediterranean climate).
Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, u.p., "... *placed very nye some water ... because Pegion is a hote byrde*".
Modern day keepers give their birds clean water every day in covered dispensers, unless a natural supply is available nearby.

[112] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 287. "*Homer squabs hatched after July are usually not desired, for by reason of the cold winter*".

letting valuable birds fly, hence the provision of exercise flights".[113] The Romans kept their table birds in this way, just as Americans and Britons did earlier this century.[114]

A common requirement of all pigeon rearers is quality of stock. No breeder will want inferior or sickly birds. With regard to the initial stocking of a cote, it seems likely that domesticated birds could be purchased from an early period in history (rather than have to be coaxed from the wild, as alleged by Ritchie).[115] Cran warned about the importance of this process; "*They may decide to get cheap birds; and thereupon they will waste much time and money ... learning the lesson that good stock is everything*".[116] Although the Sportman's Dictionary noted that the process for breeding is the same for raising fancy pigeons (for display) as it is for raising squabs (for consumption) the squab breeder has always been more interested in quality of productivity.[117] *"The profitability of any squab production enterprise is sensitive to two significant items: the number of squabs reared per pair and their sale price."*[118] Breeders have little control over the externalities

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[113] Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p. 67.
As a consequence of artificial selection, special breeds are not well equipped to survive in the open environment.
[114] Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., p. 282.
Columella, Of Husbandry, c. 50 A.D., p. 355.
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 287.
Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p. 24.
[115] Ritchie, Influence of Man, 1920, p. 97, theorises (without substantive evidence) that, "*... at first Rock Doves themselves were killed in quantity for food, but that indiscriminate slaughter threatened the birds with extinction ... so in the very caves frequented by the Rock Doves, pigeon-holes were built ... As the pigeons became more and more accustomed to their artificial homes ... pigeon-houses would gradually extend along the coast ... and farther and farther inland.*"
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p. 25 identified three methods of stocking a cote: (i) purchase older birds
(ii) purchase youngsters (iii) purchase eggs.
Letter from A. Murray to Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, 1697, SRO GD 18/5641, records, "*You may remember when you oblidged me with your cairtes to help up with my doucat, you afford to help me to plenish it with some of your doves, that are said to be of a good kynd, so I have sent the bearer to warrant some pairs, which needs not be too many to plenish it since my doucat consists only of about six hundred holes.*"
[116] Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p. 73. *"The extra initial cost is a very worth-while short cut to a profitable loft"*. p. 59, *"Upon the quality of the parent flock depends the success or the failure of commercial lofts .. it is essential to blind the eyes to all questions of colour, type ... and steer for production ... the factor which will secure this is the very careful elimination of every unfit bird in the flock, whether that unfitness be want of vigour, over fatness or laziness, slow breeding, bad feeding, or even extra quarrelsomeness"*. p. 50. She also pointed out the importance of introducing 'new blood' to counter the likelihood of widespread disease, since, *"In-bred stock is always weakened stock "... it is important to keep up stamina by periodical out-crossing into fresh blood"*.
Anon, 'A Poem', 1740, p. 12,
When the new Colony you thus have chose,
Remember for twelve days the House to Close,
That so they may forget their former Seat,
To other loves indulge and better Meat.
Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, u.p., s.v., 'To replenish your Douehouse ...'
"At the beginning for to sustain your douehouse with young Doues, it shall bee thought sufficient to have two payre of yong pegions with feathers, but coming forth, for those are best; to have old doues it is a daunger, for they will retourn home agayne to their fyrst companye."
[117] Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, 1735, u.p. 's.v. Pigeon'."
Also mentions that, *"There are two seasons in the year wherein you may stock your pigeon-house, the first is in May ... Secondly, in August ... You must take care to furnish your pigeon-house according to the bigness of it."*
[118] Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 17.
See Appendix Section 3 for cost details.

affecting the sale price, so their concentration of effort must be upon squab raising. In this respect, the wild Rock Dove naturally produces three to four broods per annum but, as a consequence of domestication, the average pair is expected to produce ten squabs (five successful broods) each year.[119] Even higher figures are anticipated and, "*A pair which does not produce and raise to killing age at least 12 squabs a year should be culled or remated*".[120] Introducing warmth to the cote (e.g. incorporating heat sources such as other animals, fireplaces, sunlight) was once thought to improve the breeding rate, but this is now known to be a fallacy. Current research indicates that breeding success is affected by availability of food, extent of predation, environmental conditions, impact of disease and natural mortalities.[121] Temperature does not play a major role and it is thought that length of daylight is possibly a controlling factor.[122]

A commercial bird is expected to breed successfully for 5 to 6 years. After working out the economics of squab rearing, Petchey concluded that, "... *clearly there are opportunities within these parameters* [predicted outlay against predicted return] *to generate substantial amounts of money.*"[123] The fancy breeder is, likewise, appreciative

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[119] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 288. "*A pair which produces from 16 to 20 squabs is excellent.*" Greatest number occur April/May. Minimum occurs during moult. Another main laying period August/September.
Ewing, Daddy Darwin's Dovecote, c. 1880, p. 36. "*April was a busy month in the dovecote.*"
Murton and Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, p. 432. Generally breeding, "... *restricted to the March-November period*". Doves have the ability to foster eggs and young pre-standing birds (provided that they match reproductive cycles to accord with crop milk provision). See Carr, Posthumous Work, 1919, p. 68.

[120] Levi, ibid, p. 287. "*It is not only his task [the owner] to raise as many squabs during the year as possible, but also to ascertain the year round producers. Such birds are invaluable.*"
Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 15, records that it is possible to raise 26 marketable squabs but the upper operational average seems to be around 15. "*More realistically budgets should be built around initial performance figures of 12*".
Dixon, Dovecote and Aviary, 1851, p. 35, "... *with a decent allowance of food from you, they will, by their own industry ... increase so rapidly, and produce so large a supply of flesh*". It is suggested that the main difference between the dove and other domestic animals is its ability to feed its young quickly and efficiently.

[121] Murton & Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, passim.
Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 84, notes that it is common for a first clutch to fail (adults on winter diet leads to lack of riboflavin and other vitamins).
Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 15, notes that 10-15% of eggs are infertile, 5% of eggs break, 5% do not hatch, 5% of squabs die in first 10 days.

[122] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 288. The use of electric lights in the early morning and the late afternoon during the short autumn and winter days tends to promote greater egg production.
A. Chadwick in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1970, p. 67, notes that the breeding cycle and nest building behaviour can be reduced by a shorter day length.
See also Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p. 45.

[123] Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 18.
Anon, 'A Poem', 1740, p. 18, indicates that old birds were not put to waste and met a similar fate to the youngsters;
"*For when the Dove is past her vigour's Prime,*
And now no longer, or but seldom lays,
To separate her useless from the rest,
For your Domestic no ungrateful Feast."
Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p. 346, gives two versions of a bird's outer lifespan limit of 40 years [source Aristotle] and 20 years [source Aldromardus]. Both estimates are now known to be exaggerated. A bird can continue breeding until the age of 11 or 12, but by 6 years is considered to be past its prime.
Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p. 21. "*Parent birds do all the feeding, and so these delicious little youngsters come to our table like manna, without toil on our part. A pleasing business.*"

of the dove's productivity ability, but is more interested in the unique behavioural and physical traits of an individual, than the continuity of an entire stock.[124] All keepers must, nevertheless, have an interest in sustaining their livestock over a long term. This requires an understanding of the natural breeding and mortality cycles of the bird, the impacts of artificial losses and the level of quality control desired. Mascall had recommended that, "... *you must let your firste broode flie, to replenish your house and the peare after*".[125] This recommendation allowed for natural losses and the artificial culling of older birds, in order to promote quality control and ensure essential balancing out of the sexes.[126]

Man's intervention will vary depending upon the risks to his stock, the quality of stock, the degree of domestication and the value he places upon the enterprise. Poor quality management of stock can prove costly; an obvious concern to any owner and man has been motivated by the economics of dove rearing for millennia. Keeping birds successfully, however, also requires a sensitive approach to their basic 'wild' needs, which will be consistent in almost every case.[127] Some of the recommendations on management practices have been repeated over many centuries,[128] whilst others have been advanced by research and development. In every situation, the basic needs of the inhabitants must be met: access to food; water; minerals; light; air; exercise; safety to nest and roost. It is important, therefore, to be aware of the required managerial practices, and their development over the centuries, in order to fully understand how dovecotes functioned when operational.

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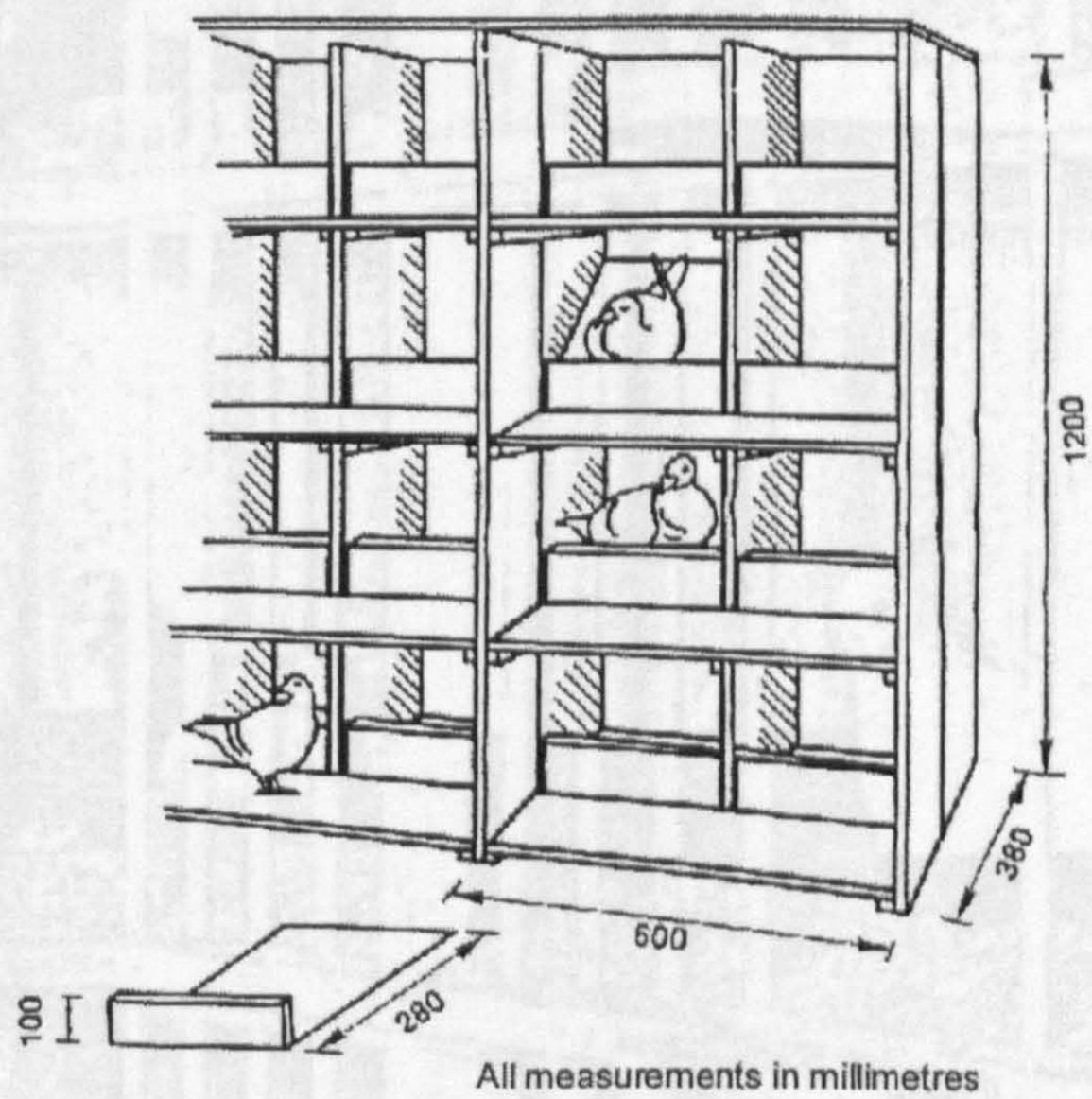
[124] In this respect, a greater degree of artificial selection is imposed and as Lumley states, "*Nature is subservient to the fancier's aim and desire, as is amply proved by the almost innumerable varieties that have been bred from dove-house pigeon.*" Pigeons: their Origins, 1891, p. 36 and p. 55, "*Pigeon culture has now developed into a vast and thoroughly established system of pigeon showing.*"
Darwin, Variation of Animals, 1868, p. 214, describes 'unconscious selection': breeders select their birds unconsciously, unintentionally and without method in the quest to breed the 'best' birds, whether the purpose is food, display, racing. 'Artificial' or 'methodical' selection is the foundation stone in the formation of new strains.

[125] Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, u.p., s.v. '... and so maynetaine your broode'. This reasonably equates with Cran's recommendation, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p. 54, to, "... *replace about twenty per cent of [domestic] stock each year. That is from each pair of pigeons, out of five years squab produce, not less than one good pair must be saved from their youngsters.... Actually in practice one will need three ... At least one-third of the young stock saved should be eliminated before the birds are nine months old. By that age a fairly accurate estimation of their worth can be arrived at*".

[126] Murton and Clarke, 'Breeding Biology', 1968, p.443.
C.J. Feare, 'Pigeons: Past, Present and Prerequisities for Management' (Session 6, Paper 1), in British Ornithologists' Union, Feral Pigeons, u.d. symposium papers, pp. 1-14, (p.4), states that wild pigeon breeding success rate, of eggs to fledgling, varies annually from 40% to 60%. The natural mortality rate of adults varies greatly from 30% to 88%.
p. 5 "*The provision of alternative supplies would probably increase the proportion of population that could breed until numbers had reached the limit allowed by the additional food*".

[127] Notwithstanding the fact that, "... *pigeons differ so greatly, and some of them require such different management from others*", Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p. 50.

[128] Much of the advice stems from the Roman writers, in which case the effects of local climate, degree of scientific knowledge and scope for translation error should all be taken into account when comparing today.

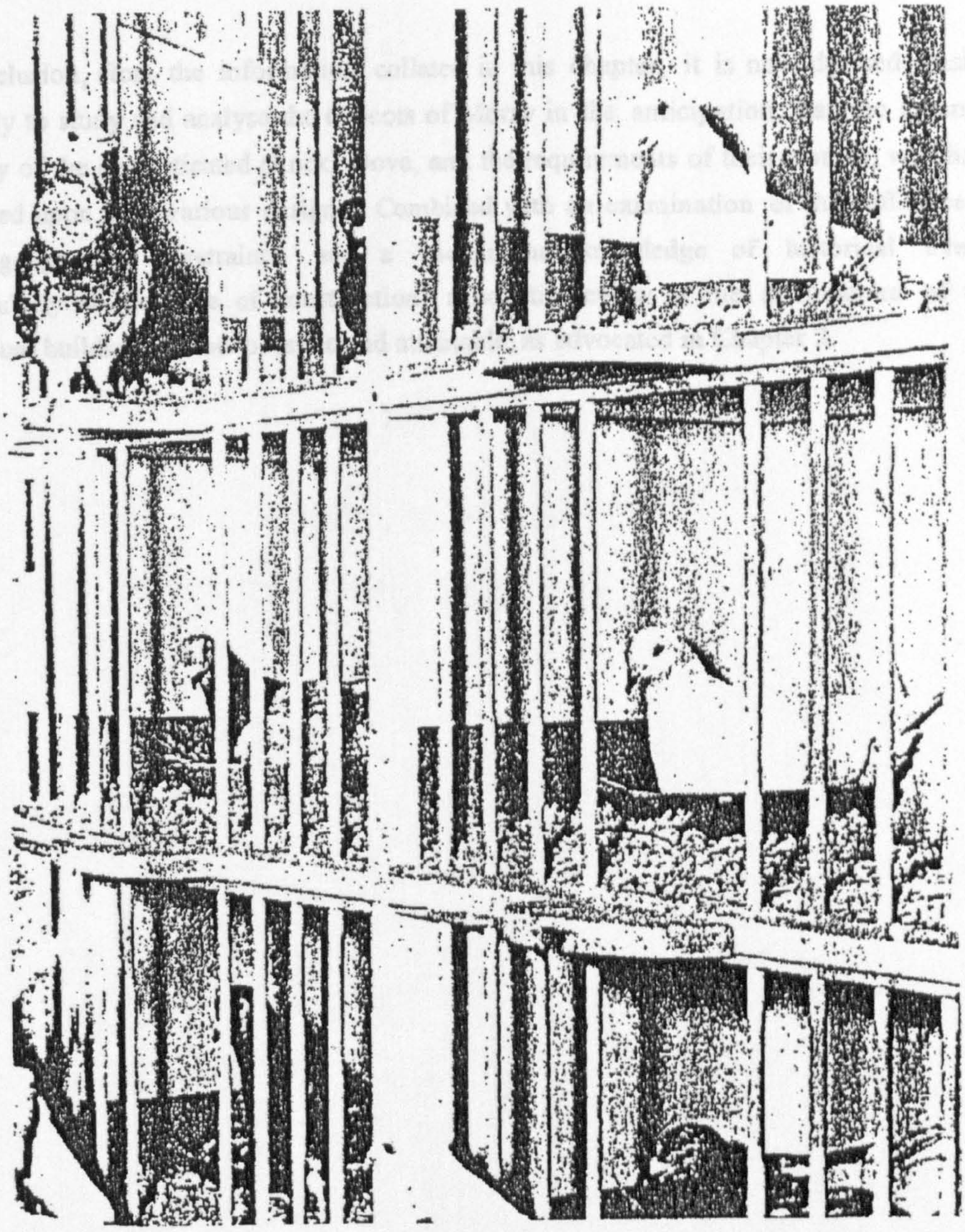


All measurements in millimetres

Drawing of modern nest site provision (Fig. 4.10)

Illustration of ideal nest box arrangement in modern squab farming cote: twin-chambered nest box with lip upstands, linking ledge, removable drawers and full division from neighbouring sites.

(Reproduced from Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 16)



Photographic illustration of nesting birds (Plate 4.3)
Copy of photograph within modern homing cote showing female birds nesting in grille fronted, double nest boxes with earthenware bowls provided in each (to give protection to eggs).

In conclusion, from the information collated in this chapter, it is now deemed feasible properly to study and analyse the doocots of Moray in the anticipation that the essential ecology of the domesticated (Rock) Dove, and the requirements of their owners, will have impacted upon their various designs. Combined with an examination of the influence of local geographic constraints, and a background knowledge of historical events (particularly at the time of construction) a holistic review of the architecture of the individual buildings is now possible and attainable, as advocated in Chapter 3.

CHAPTER 5

Note to reader:

Refer to Volume II.

CHAPTER 6

COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS OF BUILDING CATALOGUE

Once it is recognised that every building is, by definition, a work subject to the limitations imposed by the materials and building techniques at hand, and that every building must prove its stability, as well as its capacity to endure and serve the needs it was built for, it becomes clear that the aesthetic aspect alone is inadequate when we come to appraise a creative activity, difficult enough to judge in the past, rapidly becoming more complex in our own day, and destined to become more so in the foreseeable future."

Pier Luigi Nervi, 1962.

CHAPTER 6

COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS OF BUILDING CATALOGUE

The thorough examination and analysis of primary data for every doocot, past and present, in Moray has been documented in Chapter 5. It is a valuable piece of research in its own right and is able to stand alone as a catalogue, or monograph, of Moray's doocots as individual buildings.

This chapter sets out to further meet all the objectives (as set out in Chap.1) and expand the research information by examining two particular aspects of the catalogue. Firstly, it will carry out a series of examinations as a complete collection (or in some cases in sub-groups). Secondly, it will scrutinise, in isolation, the evidence collated on each of the specific elements, or features, relating to each building[1] (see Appendix Section 1, s.v. "Data and analysis methods') This should ensure that the data collated from the doocots is used to maximum effect.

Analysis and interpretation of this secondary data (especially from the standpoints outlined in Chaps. 3 and 4) should help to clarify many of the key general issues identified in the literature review (Chap. 2)[2]. These include: purpose; design criteria; design constraints; construction and materials; architectural concepts; features and styles; architectural value and distribution.[3]

6.1 Analysis of criteria

The literature review (Chapter 2) revealed an array of ideas of what previous authors consider the essential design criteria of doocots; over thirty items have been various cited. By setting out a spreadsheet of each of these items (Fig. 6.1), it is possible to identify the aspects that are common to the various design concepts within Moray (see Fig. 6.1).

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[1]In doing so, it is recognised that the quality of these latter examinations is entirely reliant upon the quality of the original field measurement and qualitative analysis of each individual building.

[2]To emphasise and expand upon the array of different ideas of others, a set of 'Theory Statements' relating to each key issue, is contained in Appendix Section 1 under the relevant headngs.

[3]Throughout this chapter, various footnotes, citing information gleaned from outwith recognised dovecote literature, will be used to underpin certain interpretations.

Name of Doocot	enclosed shelter	nesting facilities	human access	bird access	cross ventilation	daylight	plastered walls	water nearby	appropriate scale	vermin device
Gordonstoun Plewlands 1590	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	
Pittendreich 1590	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	
New Elgin 1595	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	
Quarrelwood 1595	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔		✔	
Burgie 1602	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	
Dalvey 1620	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔		✔	
Findrassie 1621	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	
Leitcheston 1650	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔		
Braga 1675	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	✔	✔	
Miltonduff 1695	✔		✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔	
Ballindalloch 1696	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	
Gordonstoun Windmill 1731	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	
Knockando 1740	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	
Pitgaveny 1740	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔				✔	
Wester Elchies 1740	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	
Rothiemay 1750	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔	
Kininvie 1757	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔	
Orton 1790	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	✔	✔	
Pitlurg Castle 1800	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔		
Grangehall 1802	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔		✔	✔	
Greenbank 1805	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔			
Lesmurdie 1820	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔				✔	
Urquhart Manse 1822	✔	✔	✔	✔						
Invererne 1832	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔				✔	
Drummuir 1859	✔		✔	✔			✔	✔		
Westfield 1862	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔				
Hazelwood 1875	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔			
Blackfriars Cottage 1900	✔	✔	✔	✔						
Cullen Schoolhouse 1900	✔		✔	✔	✔	✔				
Mains of Seafield 1900	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔					
Marypark 1980	✔	✔	✔	✔				✔	✔	
Number of Instances	**31**	**28**	**31**	**31**	**19**	**12**	**19**	**13**	**24**	**0**

Name of Doocot	flight	height	warmth	strong foundation	circular interior	free roof space	collecting aid	perching boards	draught free	water tight
Gordonstoun Plewlands 1590		✔		✔	✔	✔	✔			
Pittendreich 1590		✔		✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
New Elgin 1595				✔	✔	✔				
Quarrelwood 1595				✔		✔			✔	✔
Burgie 1602		✔		✔		✔			✔	✔
Dalvey 1620		✔		✔					✔	✔
Findrassie 1621				✔						✔
Leitcheston 1650				✔		✔			✔	✔
Braga 1675				✔						
Miltonduff 1695				✔					✔	✔
Ballindalloch 1696		✔		✔			✔		✔	✔
Gordonstoun Windmill 1731		✔		✔	✔	✔	✔			
Knockando 1740				✔					✔	✔
Pitgaveny 1740		✔		✔	✔		✔		✔	✔
Wester Elchies 1740		✔		✔			✔		✔	✔
Rothiemay 1750		✔	✔	✔					✔	✔
Kininvie 1757		✔		✔	✔				✔	✔
Orton 1790			✔	✔	✔		✔		✔	✔
Pitlurg Castle 1800		✔		✔	✔	✔				
Grangehall 1802		✔	✔	✔					✔	✔
Greenbank 1805				✔	✔					✔
Lesmurdie 1820		✔	✔	✔						✔
Urquhart Manse 1822			✔	✔		✔			✔	✔
Invererne 1832		✔		✔					✔	✔
Drummuir 1859		✔		✔				✔	✔	✔
Westfield 1862		✔		✔					✔	✔
Hazelwood 1875				✔					✔	✔
Blackfriars Cottage 1900		✔	✔	✔					✔	✔
Cullen Schoolhouse 1900		✔		✔					✔	✔
Mains of Seafield 1900				✔					✔	✔
Marypark 1980		✔		✔						

Number of Instances	0	19	5	30	8	9	7	1	22	25

Name of Doocot	in view of house	white-washed	south orientation	window	ext landing ledges	food storage	clear field of view	dark interior	comfort	architectural fashion	exercise permitted
Gordonstoun Plewlands 1590	✔			✔	✔			✔		✔	✔
Pittendreich 1590	✔		✔	✔	✔			✔		✔	✔
New Elgin 1595		✔			✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Quarrelwood 1595	✔	✔			✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Burgie 1602	✔		✔	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Dalvey 1620	✔		✔		✔			✔		✔	✔
Findrassie 1621	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Leitcheston 1650	✔	✔	✔		✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Braga 1675	✔	✔	✔		✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Miltonduff 1695	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔
Ballindalloch 1696	✔	✔	✔		✔		✔	✔			✔
Gordonstoun Windmill 1731					✔		✔	✔			✔
Knockando 1740		✔	✔		✔			✔		✔	✔
Pitgaveny 1740					✔			✔		✔	✔
Wester Elchies 1740		✔		✔	✔			✔		✔	✔
Rothiemay 1750				✔			✔	✔		✔	✔
Kininvie 1757	✔	✔			✔			✔	✔	✔	✔
Orton 1790		✔			✔		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Pitlurg Castle 1800	✔			✔			✔				✔
Grangehall 1802				✔	✔			✔	✔	✔	✔
Greenbank 1805	✔				✔						✔
Lesmurdie 1820			✔		✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Urquhart Manse 1822					✔	✔		✔	✔		✔
Invererne 1832	✔		✔		✔	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔
Drummuir 1859	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	✔
Westfield 1862	✔				✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Hazelwood 1875	✔	✔						✔			✔
Blackfriars Cottage 1900	✔	✔	✔			✔		✔		✔	✔
Cullen Schoolhouse 1900	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔			✔		✔
Mains of Seafield 1900	✔	✔			✔			✔			✔
Marypark 1980	✔	✔									✔
Number of Instances	**21**	**16**	**13**	**11**	**27**	**6**	**16**	**26**	**5**	**22**	**31**

Interpretation of the results suggests that doocot design criteria have two facets: those which are essential to the inhabitant; and those which are essential, or at least seen as important, to the human owner.

The need to provide a safe place of shelter for its inhabitants (whether or not it includes a nest box[4]) is an over-riding essential for every doocot. This aspect includes considerations for the doocot to be responsive to climate, draught free, water tight, in sight of the owner, strong at its foundations and a dark interior. Assisted by information gleaned in Chap.4.5, s.v. 'Management', interpretation of the spreadsheet suggests that access, in and out of the doocot shelter (controlled or otherwise[5]), is crucial to every design to ensure that the birds can mate, take exercise, and: have exposure to light, sources of food, water and minerals (unless fed internally)[6].

Likewise, humans require access and, in the case of some tall structures, this may result in the installation of a collecting aid. Human criteria are dependent on the purpose and nature of domestication, which affects decisions relating to appropriate scale, architectural aspiration and siting. Human resources (at the time of design and construction) are the final key factor in understanding doocot criteria, since this will affect responses to matters such as use of materials, skills, knowledge and finances.

The results of the spreadsheet also highlight that several factors (all thought by some previous authors to be important, to some extent) are, in fact, non-essential.[7] These include south-facing orientation; windows; whitewashing; clear view around structure; plastered walls; great height; warmth; circular shape; free roof space; comfort.

The low recording for 'cross-ventilation' on the spreadsheet is explained by the fact that many doocots (especially the later, smaller ones) are adequately ventilated by flight holes. The low recordings for 'daylight' and 'flights' are likewise explained by the fact that the majority of doocots surveyed allow their inhabitants free access and egress.

The analysis of the evidence of the doocots of Moray, compared with the theories of previous authors, promotes an understanding of the essential, and non-essential, criteria

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[4]There are deliberately no nest boxes in Drummuir Home Farm Doocot or Cullen Former Schoolhouse Doocot.
[5]Most modern cotes (and some early ones outside Moray, especially in England) have controllable access points for birds.
[6]Birds which do not have complete freedom of access require netted areas, or flights, in which to exercise.
[7]Scoring a mark of less than 20 out of a possible 31.

of doocot design. It is important to establish this in order to aid the subsequent understanding of the design concepts and the architectural features.

6.2 Analysis of architectural concepts

Using the statistical graph information collated from the measured survey work of all the accessible doocots of Moray, this section will seek to systematically explore various key conceptual decisions, viz; (a) siting and positioning, (b) plan form, (c) size and (d) shape, and how they all relate to the core criteria (see 6.1). The theories of other authors relating to these issues (Chapter 2.3), are further listed within this section and again in detail in Appendix Section 1 under their respective topic headings.

6.2.1 Siting: distance from the Main House

Interpretation of data

Literature research revealed a variety of thoughts and speculation about the positioning of a cote in relation to its main house (see Chap.2.3 and Appendix Section 1 s.v. 'Previous Theories').

On initial inspection, the data showing the Moray doocots' respective distance from the main house (Fig. 6.2) seems to have no distinct pattern, other than the majority (75%) of structures are found sited within a range of 10-200m of their owners. Some of the greater distances are explainable: Rothiemay and Gordonstoun Windmill are later conversions; Findrassie and Pitgaveny now relate to later mansions; and Drummuir, Invererne and Grangehill are sited within 'Main Farms'. This leaves Orton doocot in isolation.

However, the chronological display of the data does illustrate a pattern previously unnoticed. For example, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, all doocots were located in close proximity to, and in full view of, their main dwellings.[8] This would reflect the turbulent, insecure times experienced in Moray during this period (see Chap. 5.1.2 and 5.1.3). Conversely, the eighteenth century was a period of stability which saw the development of the landscape garden movement. During this period the doocots in Moray moved distinctly away from the main dwelling (as seen at Orton, Cullen, Darnaway and Brodie).[9] By the late eighteenth century, doocots were still sited away from the main house, but within, or as a part of, farm complexes[10] (to be more clearly integrated into the estate management process). Nineteenth century doocots were sited, once more, close to their owners (due to change in social class and degree of land ownership).[11]

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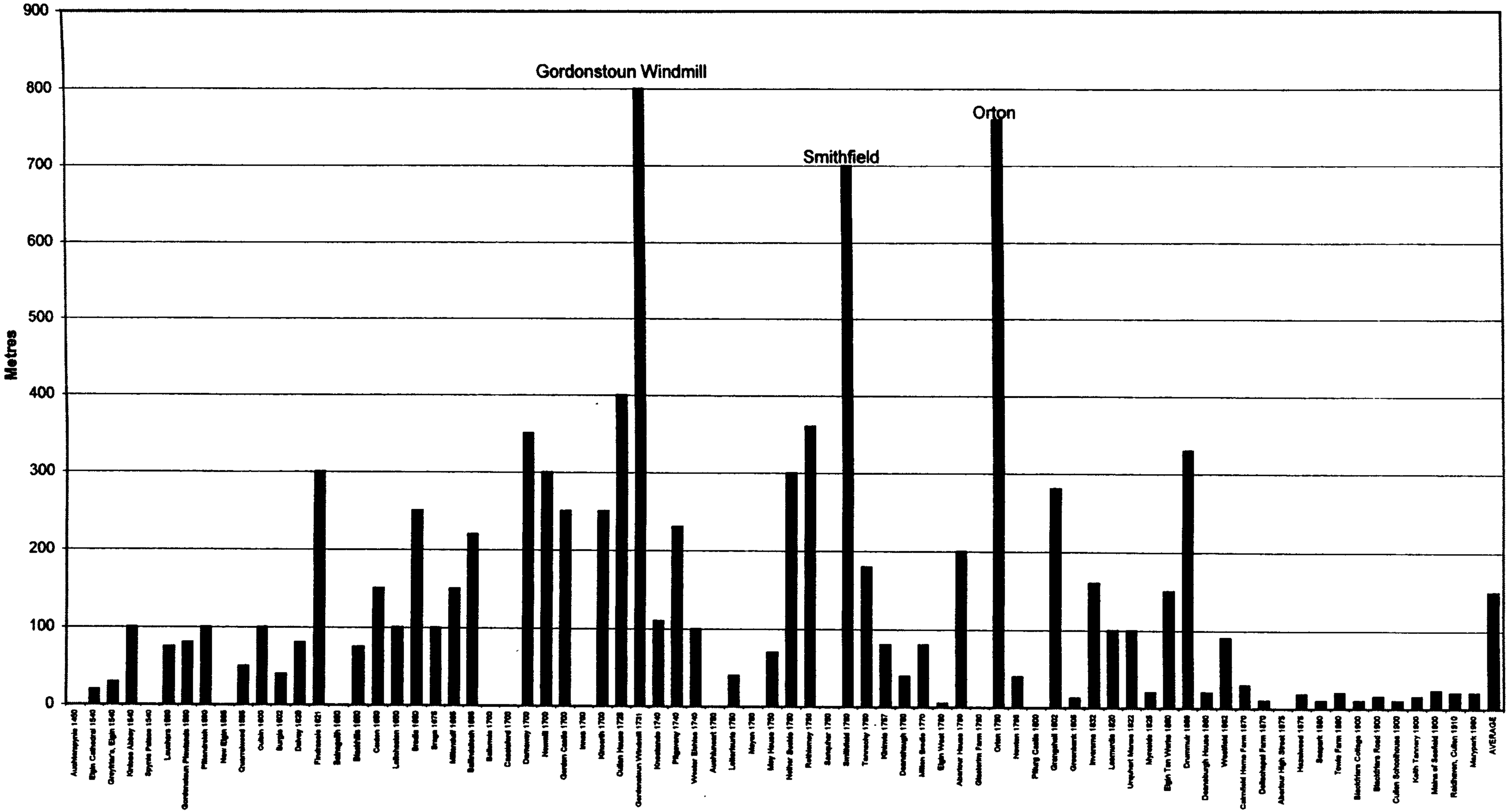
[8]Less than 100m. (Moray did not become a safe place until after the restoration - See Chap. 5.1)
The graph suggests that the original tower of Findrassie was much closer to the doocot than was the present mansion.
[9]Orton and Smithfield are the only two examples in Moray where there may have been a deliberate attempt to feed the occupants from the fields of a neighbour (see Appendix Section 2 for Smithfield lawsuit). This was a period when great landowners emerged and doocots became part of the policy collection on large estates.
In contrast, a letter by William Erskin, 13/2/1785, to an anonymous recipient, related to a change of decision to site a doocot on high ground because, "*I don't like building temples in opposition to my neighbours*", SRO GD124/15/1657.
In 16/10/1762, Sir John Clerk wrote to merchant, Adrian Watkins, "*I am far from disputing your qualifications to have a Pigeon House but sure I am you have no right in the center of the best of my fields*", SRO GD18/1409.
[10]As recommended in Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House'.
[11]Since smaller estate owners began to erect doocots.

Doocots of Moray: Siting Graph - Distance from House (Fig 6.2)



6.2.2 Siting: distance from trees

Interpretation of data

It is generally thought by historians that doocots were sited well away from trees. The graph for the doocots of Moray relating to distance from trees (Fig. 6.3) confirms that all are located at least 10-20 m away from major trees, with the majority (80%) not exceeding 100 m. First O.S. Maps confirm that some major trees were immediately adjacent to nineteenth century doocots.[12]

There is no other major trend appearing, although it is noted that the data information is limited by the knowledge of tree growth at the time when redundant doocots still operated. Despite the limitations of this aspect of research, it is obvious that doocots can be successfully sited near trees.[13] The consistent early advice from authors to site doocots in open fields is perhaps more likely associated with the birds' need for proximity to grain sources and the human requirement for viewing, rather than a fear of concealed hawks.

6.2.3 Siting: distance from water

Interpretation of data

It is currently thought that , "*Dovecotes were always sited near water* "[14] The graph of the doocots of Moray and their relative distances from water (Fig. 6.4) shows a rather random response. Around two thirds are sited in excess of 100 m from a natural source of water, although all are within a 500 m upper limit (thus relating to the birds' natural behaviour - see Chap. 4.3[15]). Of the ten doocots located in excess of 400 m from water (and indeed many of the others) it is possible that water was provided artificially using water accessories, but there are no examples of the permanent internal water supplies promoted by other authors.[16]

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[12]For example, Kinimvie, Westfield, Mains of Seafield and Hazelwood.

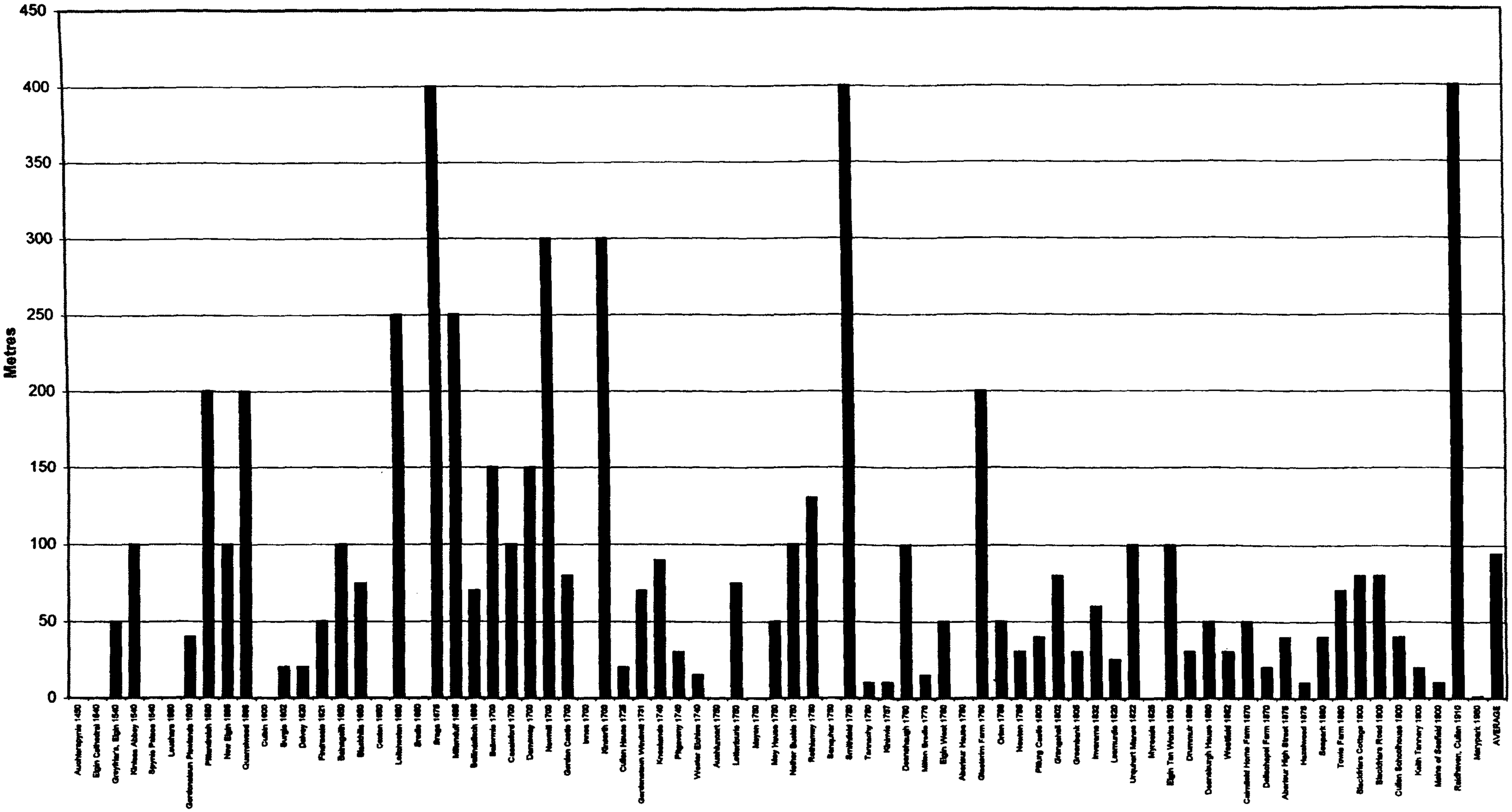
[13]Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.511, positively encouraged the placement of modern cotes next to trees since they, "*.. serve as a protection from the heat of the summer sun and the snows of winter.*" The statement should be read in the context that modern cotes usually have semi-confined birds which are artificially fed and protected from attack. This author is also reporting on an American situation.

[14]McCann, 'Dovecote at Stewkley', 1994, p.125.

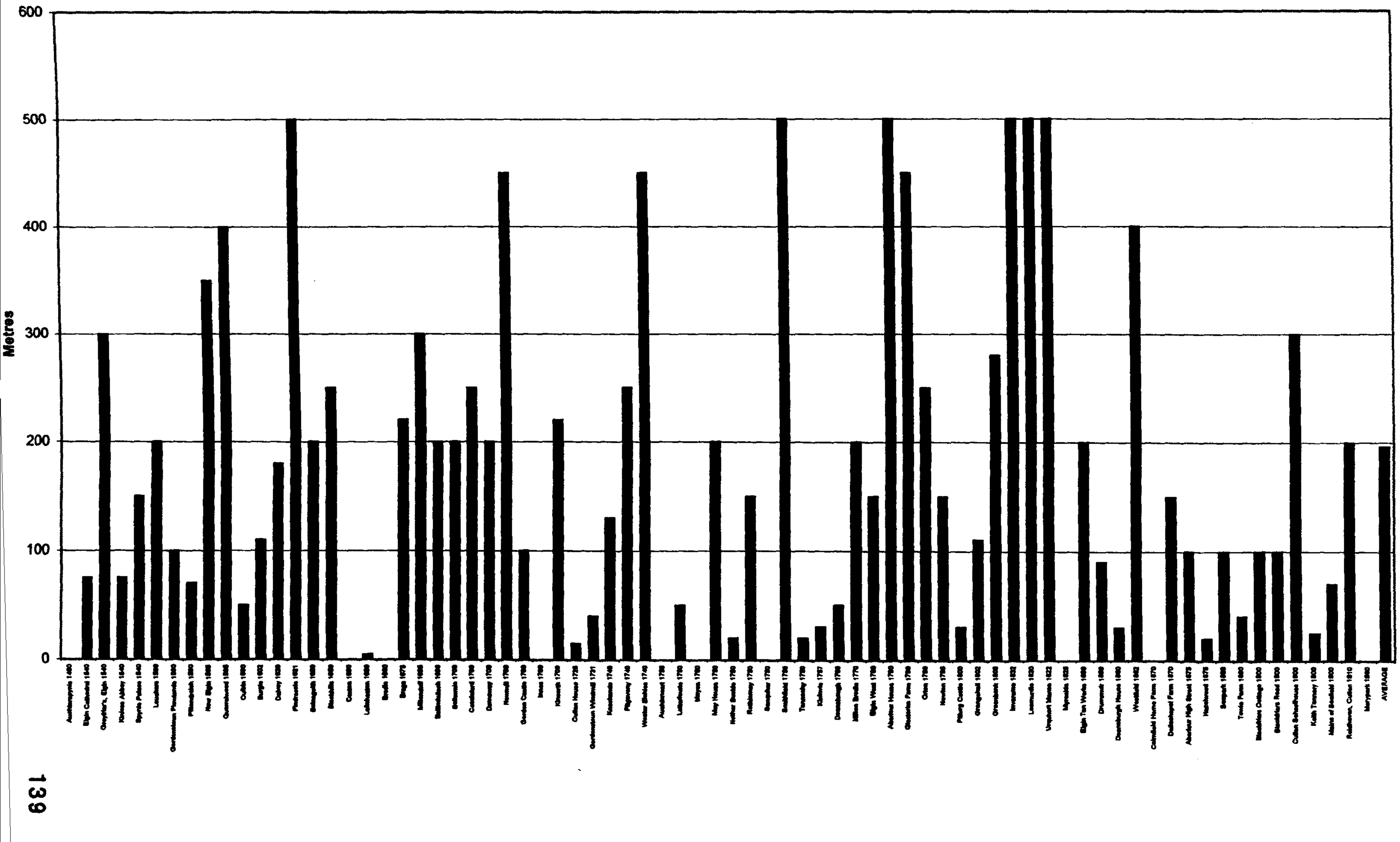
[15]Morton et al., 'Ecology', I, 1970, p.842, "*.. distances normally covered by individually marked birds were small and the species should be regarded as very sedentary under normal circumstances*", i.e. less than 1000 m.

[16]Webb, 'Archaeologica', 1844, p.194 at Garway. "*The cistern in the centre is perfect ... there is a drain to supply the cistern, also one to carry off the superfluous water.*"

Doocots of Moray: Siting Graph - Distance from Trees (Fig 6.3)



Doocots of Moray: Siting Graph - Distance from Water (Fig 6.4)



Access to water is a biological consideration, but has not been a major inhibiting factor for doocot placement in Moray. The climate and natural terrain in Moray are such that local water sources are not normally far away and birds will evidently travel several hundred metres for food and water (see Chap. 4.2). Birds that are confined, or semi-confined, need water taken to them on a regular basis.

6.2.4 Siting: orientation

Interpretation of data

The data for orientation indicates that the majority of Moray's doocots are orientated in the SE to SW zone. Given that doves enjoy the sun's rays (see Chap. 4.3) it is substantiated that the erectors of doocots have deliberately orientated their structures to suit the birds' behavioural trait of warming themselves in the sun and sheltering from northerly winds.[17] However, several doocots do not conform to this pattern and face northern directions so that they may be seen from the main house (e.g. Wester Elchies, Westfield and Mains of Seafield).[18]

Southern orientation of a doocot in Moray may have advantages to its flocks of inhabitants, but is evidently not essential.[19]

6.2.5 Plan form

Interpretation of data

The **chronological layout** of the data (Fig. 6.6) shows that the plan forms of the doocots of Moray have varied throughout the centuries. Circular, square and rectangular plans were used from an early period (e.g. at Gordonstoun, Quarrelwood and Pittendreich) but examples of all types can be found in most centuries. In some early orthogonal examples (Leicheston, Ballindalloch and Smithfield) the plan form includes internal divisions, to increase the bird number provision, a modification much more difficult to

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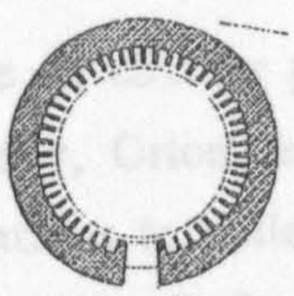
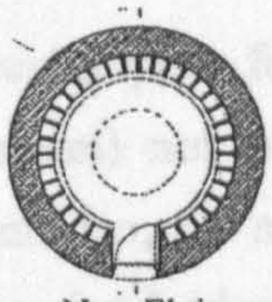
Varro, On Farming, c.36 B.C., p.283, had recommended that, "*There should be water flowing in for their drinking and washing*". He is frequently quoted by current writers. but it must be remembered that he was describing provision for semi-confined birds in a hot climate.

[17]Soper, Bird Table Book, 1965, p.113. "*A roof should keep rain off and also slope south, providing a warm place for the birds to sunbathe and posture.*"

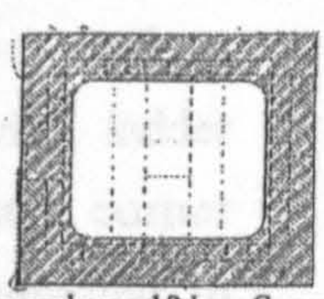
[18]The exact direction of orientation towards the sun will depend upon geographical location and will be different from country to country. In hot countries, the requirement is to provide shade, rather than exposure to the sun. See Mathey, 'Peristerones', 1980, for example.

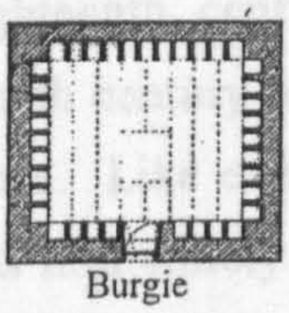
[19]C. du Feu, Nestboxes, (Norfolk: British Trust for Ornothology, 1985), 2nd edn., 1993, p.7. "*The direction that the box faces makes little difference provided that it is sheltered from the prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight.*"

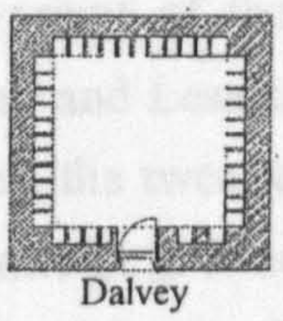

Gordonstoun Plewlands

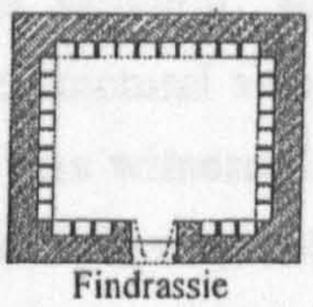

New Elgin

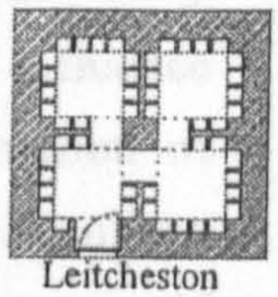

Pittendreich

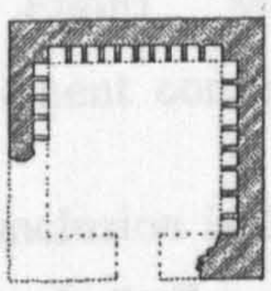

Quarrelwood/New Spynie

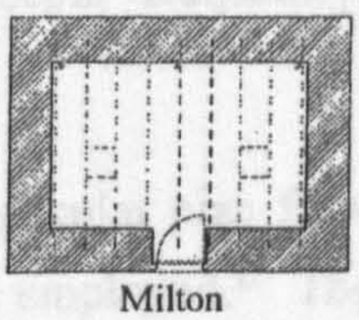

Burgie

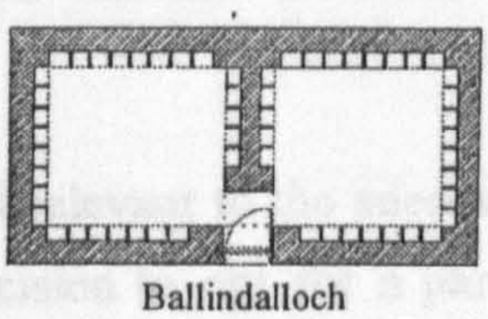

Dalvey

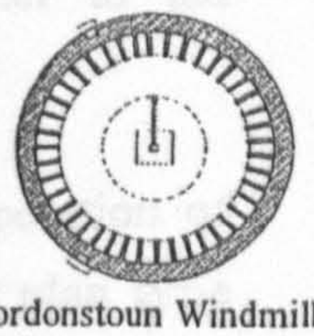

Findrassie


Leitcheston

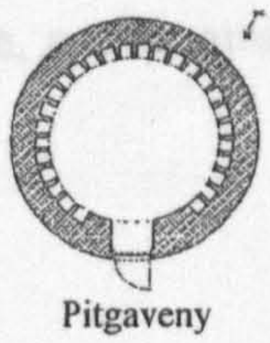

Recleitich

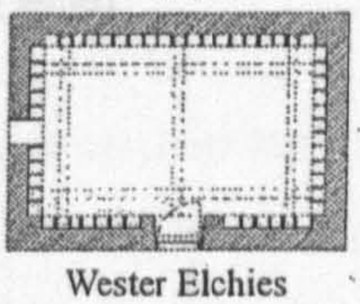

Milton

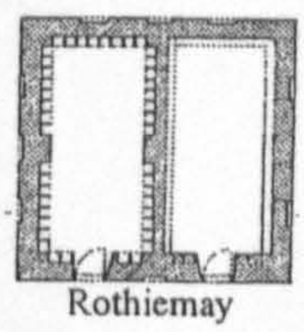

Ballindalloch

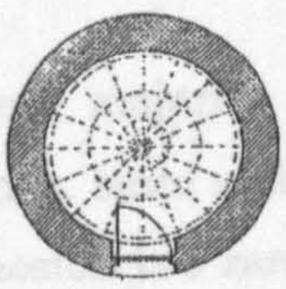

Gordonstoun Windmill


Knockando


Pitgaveny


Wester Elchies


Rothiemay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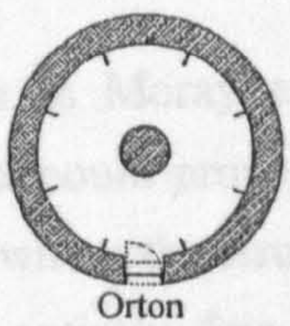
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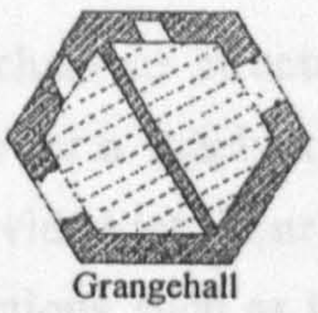
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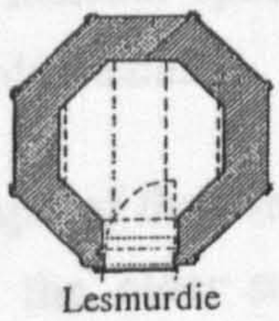
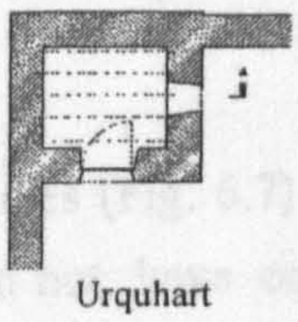
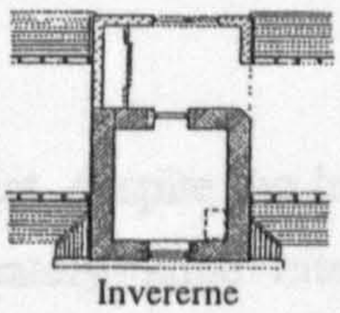
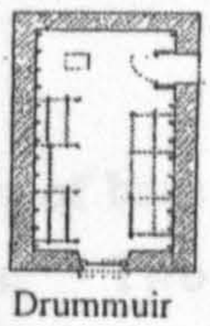
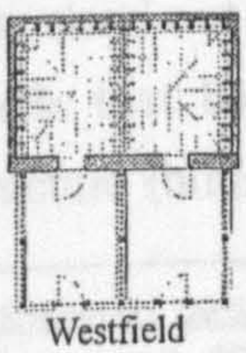
Greenbank

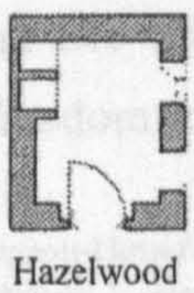

Lesmurdie

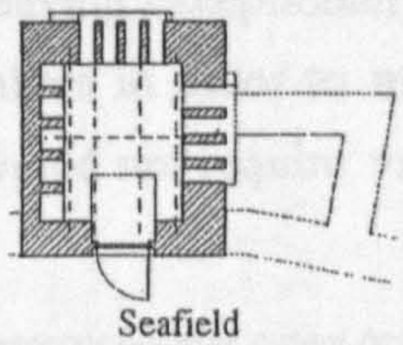

Urquhart


Invererne


Drummuir


Westfield


Hazelwood


Seafield

N.T.S.

Doocots of Moray: Plan Forms, arranged in chronological layout (Fig. 6.6)

Illustrations of the plans of measured doocots in Moray (not every doocot, particularly modern ones, was measured and drawn).

achieve in circular plans. Circular plan forms (of the single chamber type found at Pitgaveny, Orton and Gordonstoun) not only lent themselves well to revolving ladder installations to collect birds, but also, did not require the employment of costly corner stones. As a result of these perceived advantages, circular plan forms were promoted in the eighteenth century.[20] A variant of the circle, the polygon, appeared in the early nineteenth century (at Grangehall and Lesmurdie) as architectural awareness and influence increased. Like earlier centuries, the twentieth century has witnessed the construction of doocots in a variety of plan forms (e.g. Blackfriars Coach House; Marypark; Hamilton Drive, Elgin). Modern doocots frequently have internal divisions in order to aid management control.[21]

The conclusion is that the particular plan form is irrelevant to the successful operation of a doocot and all types can be employed.[22] The decision to opt for a particular plan type is determined by human choice, not an ornithological need.

6.2.6 Size: internal volume

Interpretation of data

The vast majority of doocots in Moray are single chamber structures without internal divisions, since a cluttered cote could prove hazardous for a 'maelstrom' of panicked birds. Leitcheston is a rare example where the structure is divided into four small chambers. Few have internal spaces that are entirely free of obstructions such as tie beams, ladders and scaffold beams.

A graph of their internal volumes (Fig. 6.7) shows that, despite the large numbers of birds kept, the older structures did not have commensurately large internal spaces.[23] Two doocots stand out (Ballindalloch and Smithfield) as having exceptionally large volumes. It is notable that both doocots had two internal chambers in order to maximise the use of the structure (birds given their freedom to exercise would not require vast internal spaces)

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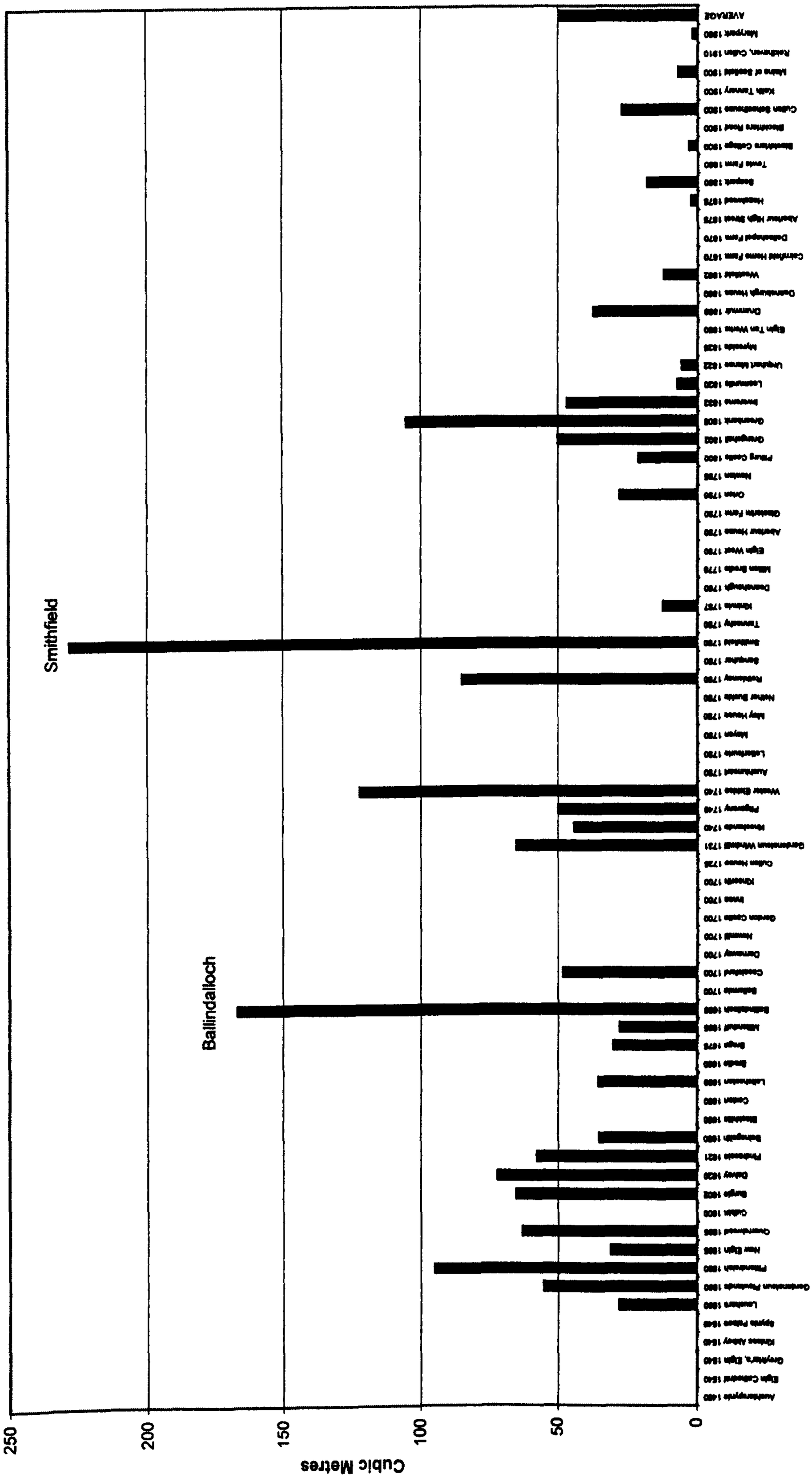
[20]Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v.. 'Pigeon-House'.
McCann, pers.comm., 28/1/95, feels that predators, "*.. could not climb a masonry building except (with difficulty) at a right-angle corner. Masonry dovecotes of round or octagonal plan were therefore proof against climbing predators.*"
[21]Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.510 notes that in the U.S.A., "*.. there is every conceivable type of pigeon-house.*"
p.537. "*There is no magic to any particular plan of individual breeding coop.*"
[22]Hutton, Pigeon Lore, 1962, p.50, observes that many modern cotes have two apartments (i) nesting, (ii) perching, (in order to keep the sexes apart for controlled breedings). Sometimes the apartments are linked, or divided, by a corridor. See also Martin, Pigeon Racing, 1983, p.9 and Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.5.
[23]That is, sixteenth and seventeenth structures. A change, evidently, came about when it was recommended in Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House', "*.. better that they should be spacious than too little.*"

Doocots of Moray: Internal Volume (Fig 6.7)



and increase flock management (see Chap.4.3). It seems improbable that they were divided so that, "... *each of a convenient size for a revolving ladder*".[24]

The late eighteenth century witnessed a marked decline in volumetric size and, with the exception of the doocot at Invererne, the doocot chambers are all less than 50m3. The parallel decline in bird number, however, demonstrates that bird welfare (in the form of space per bird) had increased slightly over time. Modern standards in spatial ratio for each bird reflect the continuation of this trend[25] (see Hamilton Drive, Elgin). Finally, pole and wall cotes (such as at Marypark and Elgin Tan Works) were nest sites only and did not possess a communal internal chamber.

The internal volume of a doocot must provide for the needs of the inhabitants (information presented in Chap. 4.3 suggests that too many birds, in too small a volume, will distress a flock to the extent that it will produce less in order to re-establish equilibrium). The extent of the provision is determined by the owner and this has been affected throughout history by purpose of domestication, and attitude to dove welfare.

6.2.7 Size: overall height

Interpretation of data

According to the data, the overall height of Moray's doocots has remained relatively consistent about 6-8 m over a period of almost four centuries (Fig. 6.8). Gordonstoun Windmill (a later conversion) and Invererne (a clear attempt to make a doocot visible from afar) stand out as two examples that are well above mean height.[26]

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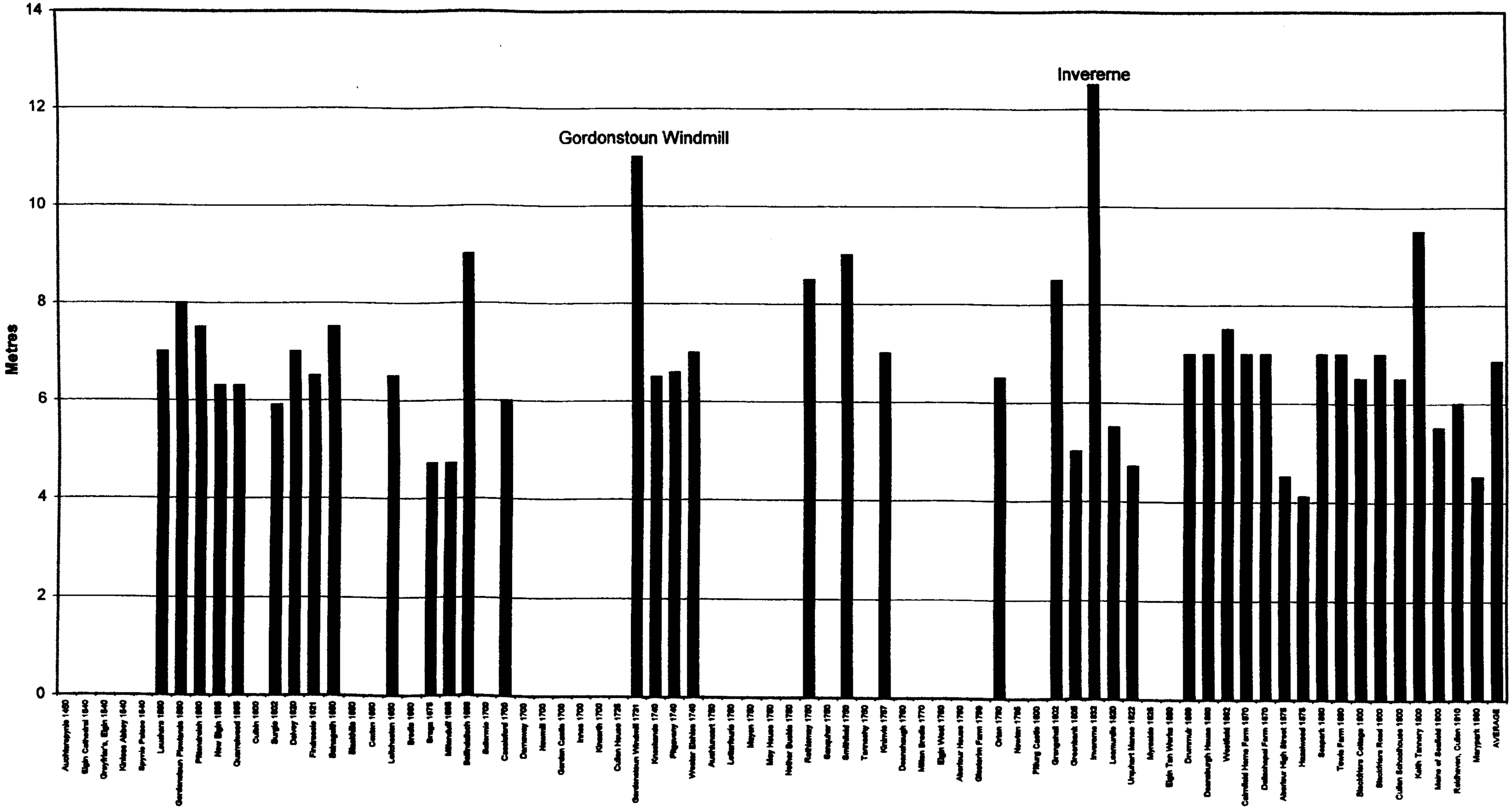
[24]Although authors, such as Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p.30, suggest that a twin plan was designed to utilise revolving ladders, Ballindalloch has a scaffold system (Smithfield is demolished so its collecting aid is unknown.)
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.509. The twin plan form seen in Scotland during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was taken to a greater extreme in American squab farms in order to increase production; "*.. identical lofts are arranged adjoining each other in a series .. might well be given the name of 'multiple loft'.*"

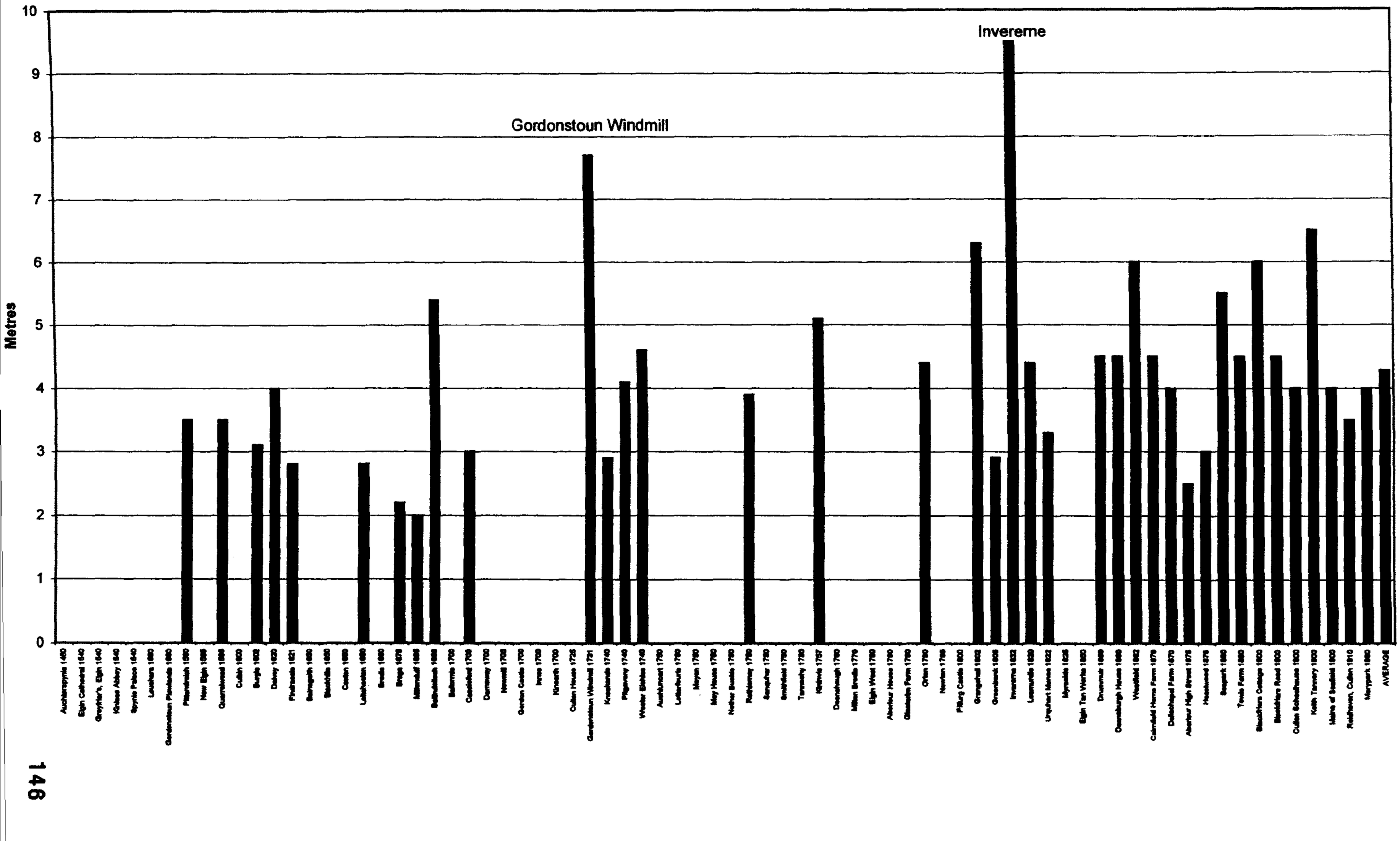
[25]Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.509. Some modern cotes need mating coops, "*...at least one cubic foot per bird is necessary.*"
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.5. "*Cubic air space per bird is influenced by things such as degree of cleanliness, ventilation and amount of liberty ... I do not think it is wise to allow less than a minimum of 21 or 28 cubic feet.*"
Whitney, Keep your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p.212, "*.. breeds spending much time on the wing need less space in the loft than the same birds kept for breeders or as prisoners.*"
Martin, Pigeon Racing, 1983, p.9, suggests that a plan of 3.6 x 1.8 m is sufficient to accommodate 12 pairs.
Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p.16, "... *necessary floor space per pair of birds varies from 0.23 to 0.36 m^2. (The necessary floor space allocation per pair varies according to the size of a pen; a pair requires far less floor space in a large rather than a small pen)*".

[26] 11 and 12.5 m respectively.

Doocots of Moray: Overall Height (Fig 6.8)



Doocot of Moray: Wallhead Height (Fig 6.9)



Wallhead heights, on the other hand, have varied considerably and display a steady rise over time (Fig. 6.9).[27] This reflects a trend in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to: firstly, site doocots above chambers used for other purposes (e.g. stores, privies and sties, as at Urquhart Manse, Mains of Seafield and Grangehall); then secondly, to incorporate doocots into other buildings (as at Invereme, Blackfriars, Keith Tannery).

The overall conclusion is that doocots were historically designed to provide security and safety using their height as a key attribute; the consequence was buildings with a vertical emphasis. Modern cotes, with their security and safety provided by semi-confinement of birds, high level supervision and more peaceful times, are deliberately low in design and, therefore, horizontal in emphasis (see Hamilton Drive, Chap. 5.7).[28] Tall doocots are only essential where the safety of the birds is threatened by a lack of height (particularly access and egress points that can be vulnerable to attack from flying predators).

6.2.8 Shape: three dimensional form

Interpretation of data

It is generally recognised that doocots take different shapes and forms, but, although frequently described in previous writings, they are little explained.

The chronological layout of the Moray data (Fig. 6.10) conveys that some of the earliest surviving doocots conformed to a bottle, or bell-shape profile, that has become known in more recent times as the 'beehive' type (a very confusing term to the modern lay person).[29] This primitive shape was probably derived from the hybrid influences of local vernacular construction[30] and ancient Romanesque/Norman designs for such structures.[31]

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[27]The wallheads of Braga and Miltonduff are noticeably low at 2m. (A wallhead height cannot be given for domed doocots due to the nature of their design)

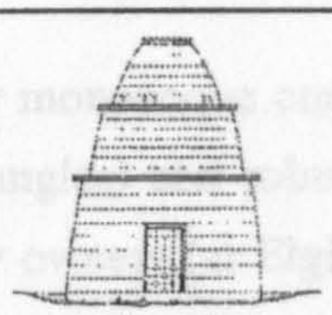
[28]Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.512. The use of nets to catch birds is, "... *never necessary if the highest point of the house and the flypen is not over over six inches above the reach of the owner or attendant.*"

[29]Early descriptions of this form include 'testudo' and 'tun-bellied'. The twentieth century use of beehive comes from a resemblance to historic, straw bee skeps.
Walker, 'Bee boles and Past Beekeeping in Scotland', 1988, p.105, ".. *beekeepers in northern Europe kept their bees in wicker or straw skeps. In Scotland there is much evidence about straw skeps.*"

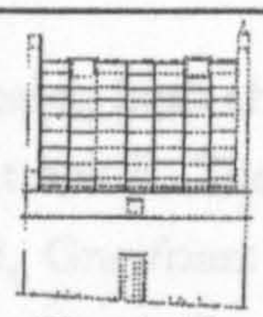
[30]Guidoni, Primitive Architecture, 1978, p.15 et seq. The circular plan, single material, domed structures occur amongst native settlements all over the world (e.g. Africa, India, Alaska, etc.).
E. William, 'Circular Corbelled Pigsties', Vernacular Building, 6. (Dundee: SVBWG, 1980), pp.106, (p.1). "*Most primitive cultures all over the world live in circular dwellings for the simple reason that they are easier to construct.*"
Addison, Farmhouses in English Landscape, 1986, p.44, described cottages in Devon with baking ovens, ".. *half circular protrusions roofed like beehives.*"
C. Thomas, 'Origins of Insular Monasticism', brochure promoting lecture to Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Edinburgh, 21/5/99, illustrated ancient 'beehive' stone huts from a monastic settlement at Skellig Michael, Co.Kerry.



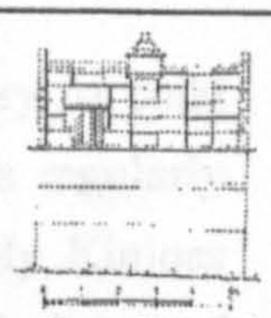
Gordonstoun Plewlands



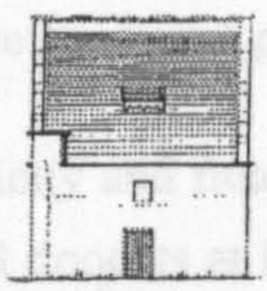
New Elgin



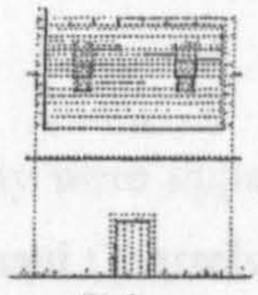
Pittendreich



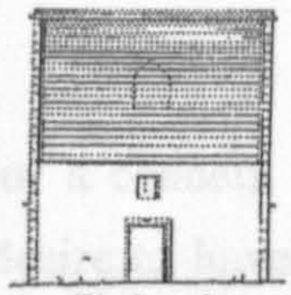
Quarrelwood/New Spynie



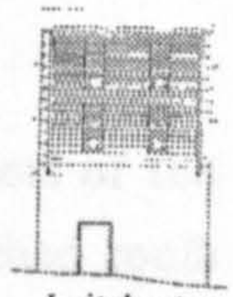
Burgie



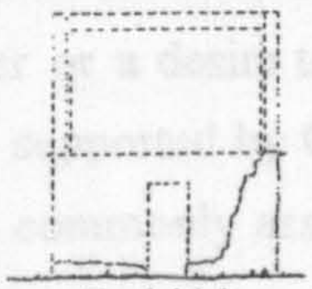
Dalvey



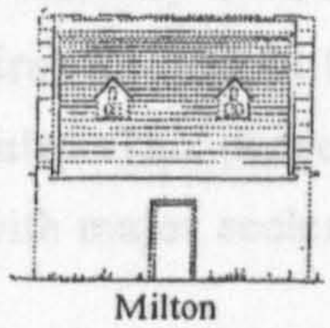
Findrassie



Leitcheston



Recleitich



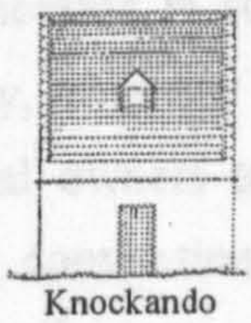
Milton



Ballindalloch



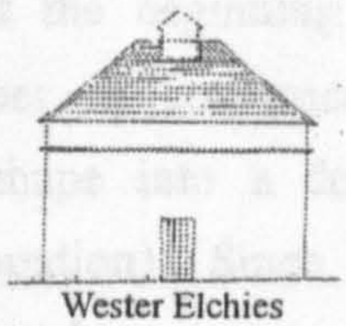
Gordonstoun Windmill



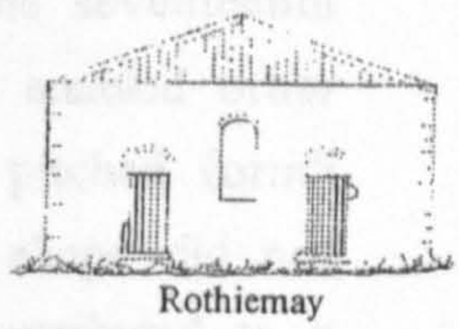
Knockando



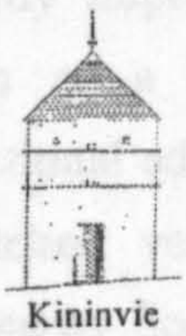
Pitgaveny



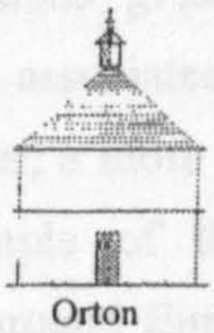
Wester Elchies



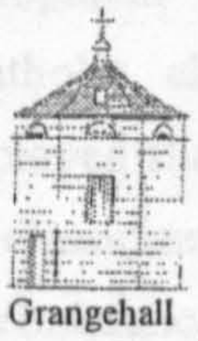
Rothiemay



Kininvie



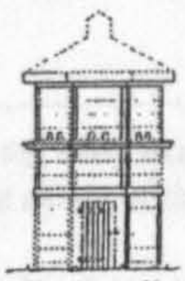
Orton



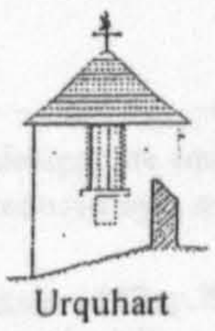
Grangehall



Greenbank



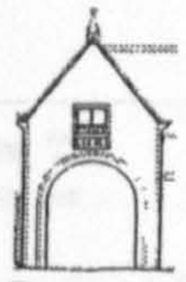
Lesmurdie



Urquhart



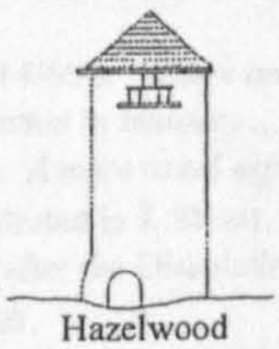
Invererne



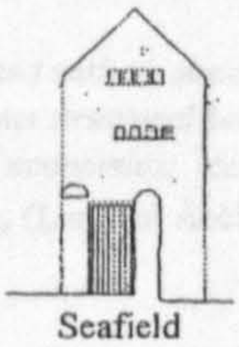
Drummuir



Westfield



Hazelwood



Seafield

N.T.S.

Doocots of Moray: Forms/Shapes (Fig. 6.10)

The principal elevations of the substantial doocots of Moray are illustrated here according to their chronology.

This was a suitable form for monocoque construction; being both cheap and easy to build (no dressed stones or right angles) and robust against attack.[32] The shape was regularly employed by medieval clergy owners (at Elgin Cathedral, Greyfriars and probably Kinloss Abbey and Spynie Palace) and its simplicity saw favour with the Scots Baronial builders of the late medieval period.[33]

Simplicity and financial frugality were apparently less of a concern to the owners of the cuboid doocots at Pittendreich and Quarrelwood. The desire to have double pitched roofs on their doocots, using only masonry construction techniques (possibly due to a lack of timber or a desire to resist fire) resulted in the employment of roofs with overseaming slabs supported by Gothic vaults. This particular construction is rare in doocot design and more commonly associated with major ecclesiastical structures.[34]

The increase in secular wealth and land ownership at the beginning of the seventeenth century, together with the developing use of timber in construction, enabled other baronial owners to advance the vaulted 'beehive' shape into a double pitched form[35] (more conventionally associated with human occupation). Since this shape did not necessarily improve bird conditions greatly, this development can be attributed to a rejection of a bygone design associated with the catholic clergy and/or a natural constructional advance. However, a more frequently employed shape at this time was the monopitched version; an example of the 'Jacobean classicism', which was strongly influenced by Scottish contact around Europe.[36] This Renaissance form, the 'lectern', as

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[31]Some of the early examples of continental designs are squatter and more open on top than Scottish domed doocots. The pronounced shape of the 'Scots beehive' is produced by a need to form a vaulted roof and enclose the structure from the elements.

[32]Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings in Britain, 1982, p.79. *"The technique requires no timber either for centering or for roof construction, requires no tools or any real mason's skills, makes use of flat stones wherever they may be quarried or picked from the fields."*
T. Day (structural engineer), pers.comm., 14/4/98. *"There are benefits associated with its structural form, and the conical shape makes it ... very suitable for construction in masonry ... There is no obvious structural benefit accruing from the diminishing wall thickness at higher levels. A more usual explanation is that of economics; less masonry, less cost."*

[33]See example at Crossraguel Abbey, illustrated in J. Slezer, Theatrum Scotiae, (London: Abel Swalle, 1693), plate 42.
Many Baronial towers were erected soon after the Dissolution.

[34]See earlier, Chap.5, s.v. 'Pre-Reformation'.
It may be a fair assumption that the lost tower-houses at Quarrelwood and Pittendreich were fine examples of medieval architecture.

[35]Also found elsewhere, for example, at Tealing, Angus; Grandhome, Aberdeenshire; Boyne, Banffshire.
Like the example in National Trust, Dovecotes, 1980, p.7, s.v. 'Hawford'.
There are no four-gabled structures in Moray. A rare Scottish example is to be found in Aberdeenshire.

[36]There are distinct similarities beween Scots and southern French lectern cotes.
Also, McCann, pers.comm., 26/10/97 observed Spanish cotes and remarked that, *"..similarities with Scottish lectern doocots were often evident."* The lectern type is less common in England, thus suggesting that Scotland was more influenced, at the time, by continental countries rather than its neighbour.

it is known (especially common in Angus and Fife) had several seventeenth century examples in Moray (at Burgie, Findrassie, Leitcheston, Braga and Milton).[37] Further examples were built in the eighteenth century (at Cassieford, Newmill, Knockando, Smithfield and Milton Brodie). Conceptually, this design was structurally flawed, unless roof-ties back to the rear wall were incorporated (see Chap. 5, s.v. 'Findrassie', for example).

A less flamboyant doocot was witnessed at the turn of the eighteenth century in Moray. This was in the form of a rectangular plan, hipped roof structure[38]. This did not last long, however, once published works reasserted the circular plan variety as 'best practice'.[39] A plainer version of this latter design emerged in Moray, in the form of the simple, cylindrical tower with conical roof (seen at Pitgaveny, Kininvie and Orton)[40] but it was not until the turn of the nineteenth century that a more architecturally expressive form, the polygonal cylinder tower, was to be seen in Moray (at Grangehall and Lesmurdie).[41]

Mature classical architecture, related to that of England and France, could be seen in northern Scotland in the late seventeenth century and professionally trained architects were engaged to design doocots throughout the eighteenth century;[42] lost Moray doocots at Cullen House, Innes House, Letterfourie House and Mayen House were possibly architect-designed. This influence resulted in the aggrandisement of established shapes, and the creation of new ones, such as the crenellated tower, the classical Greek temple and the Italianate tower.[43] Architectural pattern books had been published and classical

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Hay in Breeze, Studies in Scottish Antiquity, 1984, chap.8, s.v., 'Scottish Renaissance Architecture', pp. 196-231, (p.196), "... *tenative manifestations in the late 15th century until its emergence in fully fledged form during the Restoration period of the late 17th century*".

[37]Seen at Ballindalloch and Wester Elchies respectively.

[38]For example, North, c. 1698 in Colvin and Newman, Of building, 1981, p.101, and Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735. Society was becoming more and more educated at this time and published advice became increasingly available.

[39]Seen at Pitgaveny, Kininvie and Orton.

[40]Many elaborate, Flemish inspired, examples can be found in southern Scotland, e.g. Westburn House, Cambuslang.

[41]Hay in Breeze, Studies in Scottish Antiquity, 1984, p.221. "*It was in fact only after the Union of the Crowns that the new [Netherlandish] classicism made its appearance,*" (William Ayton at Innes House being one of Scotland's earliest examples).

[42]Cosh and Lindsay, Inveraray, 1973, p.129. Roger Morris, William Douglas and William Adam were all involved in designing an, ".. *ornamental building*" for the Duke of Argyll in 1747.
William Adam possibly featured again in the design of the hexagonal tower doocot at Duff House, Banff.
A.A. Tait, Landscape Gardening in Scotland 1735-1835, (Edinburgh University Press, 1980). Architects became landscape garden designers during the period 1735 to 1835.
Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.12. "*The most important decade in the development of the doocot as a self-consciously architectural structure was 1740-50.*"

[43]Such as the Greek temple at Amisfield, East Lothian and the Round Temple design, 1776, by Robert Mylne for the Carloonan Doocot at Inverary, supra.
Addison, Farmhouses in English Landscape, 1986, p.25. During mid 19th century, "*Eminent architects entered the field with elaborate plans. There was no limit to farmhouse aggrandisements*".

styles were widely promoted in country houses and farm buildings at the turn of the nineteenth century.[44] Architects continued to be involved in doocot designs well into the nineteenth century and fashionable styles were exploited in every case: Dutch classicism by Stark at Grangehall (1803); Italianate classicism by Simpson at Invererne (c.1815); Greek classicism by Robertson at Lesmurdie (c.1820); and oriental Victorian by A. and W. Reid at Westfield (1862). By the end of the century, doocots were no longer being built by landed gentry and simple, square-plan towers (small versions of earlier concepts) were erected by middle class citizens (e.g. at Hazelwood and Mains of Seafield).

Other doocots, incorporated into buildings of different purpose, were shaped by their placement: for example, as a gabled triangular loft (e.g. Drummuir); as a square, or polygonal, cupola (e.g. Seapark); as a square, or gabled, dormer (e.g. Blackfrairs Coach House).[45]

Twentieth century structures are, in a few cases, similar in design to the free-standing towers of previous centuries;[46] but the majority are strikingly different. Most are now used for racing and homing doves and the designs display horizontal (not vertical) emphasis with monopitch roofs sloping from front to back; this illustrates just how the different functional relationship between owner and occupier can greatly affect the architectural design.[47]

Waistell, Designs for Agricultural Buildings, 1827, p.8, complained, "*.. how can the building of palaces for animals and leaving our flesh and blood to lodge in miserable hovels be reconciled?*".

[44]Such as the various works by Lightoler (1762), Gandy (1805) and London (1830).

[45]Gable -entry lofts usually have a triangular -shaped chamber.

[46]Such as the improvised 'Horseman doocot' in inner city housing schemes within Glasgow and Edinburgh; the ornamental aviary complete with flight; or the garden pole cote.

Delacour, Wild Pigeons and Doves, 1980, p. 26. "*The aviary can be designed in several ways according to the principal aim of the owner.*"

[47]Levi, Pigeons, 1941, p.538. "*Pigeons kept in individual breeding coops are at the fingertips of the owner.*" Modern cotes are therefore low by necessity. In order to house many birds, the height restriction of modern cotes compels them to grow in width.

The need to quickly capture homing birds also results in the discouragement of perching places. Roofs therefore slope backwards away from the sun zone. A large number of modern cotes are prefabricated modules.

6.3 Analysis of architectural features

Again, using the statistical information from the measured survey work (contained in Chap.5) this section will systematically explore the various external and internal design features relating to doocots. The theories of other authors relating to these elements, are to be found in Chapter 2.3, and in detail in Appendix Section 1: 'Previous Theories'; under their respective topic headings.

6.3.1 Wall material

Interpretation of data

The data collection shows that the principal constructional material, for doocots in the Moray area during the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries, was local stone rubble (Fig. 6.11).[48] This especially represents a turbulent society (see Chap. 5.1.2 and 5.1.3) taking advantage of the wide availability of freestone in northern Moray (which was well recognised as an excellent building material)[49] and contributes greatly to the perception of these buildings as 'local products'. By the more peaceful period of the middle of the eighteenth century, timber was being used for the construction of nest boxes (at Kininvie, Orton and later at Grangehall)[50] although wall construction continued in robust, local stone rubble. Prestigious structures of the nineteenth century began to employ dressed and ashlar stone as a principal material, whilst the use of less costly brick increased during the mid-to-late nineteenth century.[51] Timber became a key structural material by the mid nineteenth century (e.g. at Blackfriars Coach House and Seapark) and continues to be a material used in modern constructions (see, for example, Hamilton Drive, Elgin).[52] It (like other locally available materials such as clay, turf and thatch) may have been a

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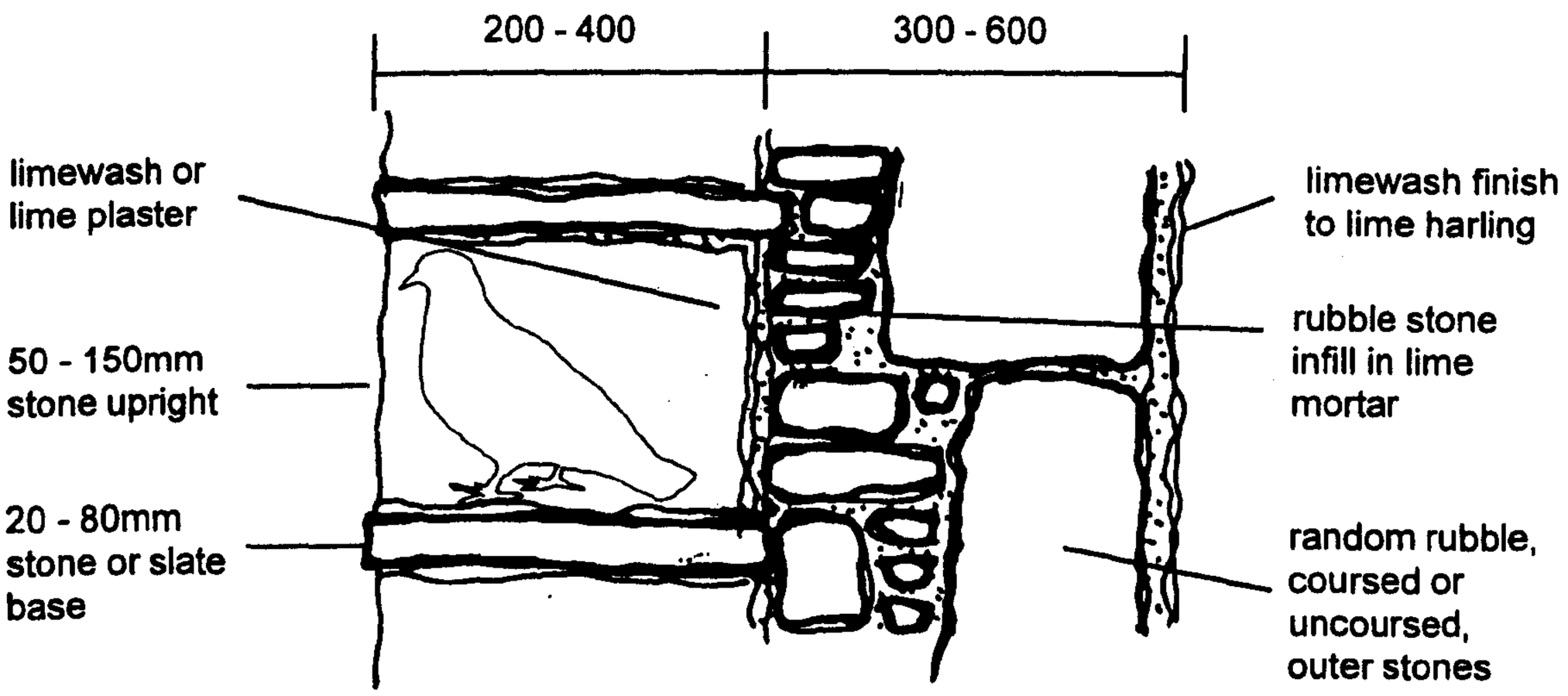
[48]The rubble stone was usually bonded using clay and/or lime mortar with a lime point and harl finish.
It is also observed that timber was a rare and expensive commodity in lowland Moray.

[49]Geological name being 'Old Red Sandstone'.
Freestone was easily worked and was used for accurate construction of nest boxes as well as margins, edges and ledges.

[50]Timber boxes could be constructed with some accuracy and regularity, and at much less cost and effort than stone. In contrast, the example at Braga, which employed a rough mixture quartz, schist and granite field stones, has highly irregular boxes.

[51]Exposed, dressed stonework is seen at Grangehall (with galleted pointing) and Invereme, whilst smooth sandstone ashlar is found at Lesmurdie. Brick examples are found at Westfield, Hazelwood and Seafield.

[52]The majority of twentieth century cotes in Moray are constructed using timber as the main material.
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.3, pointed out that cotes were built of timber on cost grounds.
Also Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.513, "... *cost of brick is usually quite in excess of wood and it is really not essential if pigeons are being raised commercially. For the breeder ... who doesn't mind the cost, brick is excellent*".



Typical, historic wall construction (Fig. 6.11)

Sketch of typical cross section through wall and nest boxes of masonry doocot.

material that was used in Moray throughout the centuries but, perhaps due to fire and/or the vagaries of the weather, no early examples remain.[53]

The general use of material in Moray indicates several trends:

(i) early buildings were bespoke manifestations of locally available materials (and crafts),[54]

(ii) early buildings responded to the circumstances of the time and were constructed in robust, durable materials capable of sustaining a high level of resistance to attack, fire, weather (in order to provide a safe home for the birds),[55]

(iii) late eighteenth/early nineteenth century structures reflect the apogee in material expense and ostentation in Moray,[56]

(iv) later buildings, in response to socio-economic changes (see Chap.5, s.v. Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries) were constructed in less expensive, but less durable, materials,[57]

(v) modern buildings take advantage of technological developments and are often prefabricated, lightweight solutions, using imported and/or man-made materials,[58]

(vi) that every doocot must be made of materials which provide a safe environment for the inhabitants.[59]

The conclusion is that a variety of materials can be used to construct a doocot and human development has increasingly liberated the choices available.[60] There appears to be no

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[53]Pre-reformation cotes may have been constructed using degradable materials such as clay, turf, thatch and timber (although there is no evidence to substantiate this). Only one clay structure remains in Moray, at Urquhart Manse.

[54]This would explain many of the vernacular aspects of historic doocots which give the buildings individual and collective character relating to their local area.

[55]This reflects both the necessity of constructing attack-proof structures, due to the violence of the times, and the high degree of investment put into doocots by owners.

[56]Land owning wealth and architectural design input was also at its peak around this period.

[57]This reflects the social change in ownership (from upper to lower classes) and the decreasing need for robustness in design due to safer times and close siting of cote to owner.

[58]In today's age of convenience, cotes can be purchased as kits by mail order. Bespoke examples continue, however, as do improvised, modern vernacular structures.

[59]As well as providing external protection, the materials employed must not possess any hazardous features such as sharp edges or tears which could cause injury or entanglement.

'ideal' material, since each has had its advantages depending upon local, and individual, circumstances.[61]

Nevertheless, it is clear (from the individual evaluations of the doocots - see throughout Chap. 5) that the long-term cultural value of a doocot is higher if the choice of material is associated with its own area since it enhances local identity.

6.3.2 External wall finish

Interpretation of data

The data on external wall finishes (see Fig. 9.3)[62] identified that the majority of Moray's doocots have had an external lime harling finish, frequently including a limewashed surface.[63] It appears that every historic doocot before the nineteenth century received such a finish, but whether this was done in response to dove ecology in order to make the cote more attractive to birds, as alluded to by several historians, is most uncertain. Limewashing thin coats of Scots harl was a common local tradition and random rubble buildings, of any type, normally received such treatment in order to provide additional weather protection and improve appearance.[64] Doves have good colour vision and with a wide field of view are capable of finding their way to cotes of any colour.[65] By the nineteenth century, cotes in Moray (particularly those subject to high levels of architectural input: Grangehall; Lesmurdie; Invererne; and Westfield) received no applied finish, preferring to expose their expensive dressed stonework for human, rather than dove, delectation.

The 'plastering' of the walls of cotes has been common in Moray[66], as has the 'whitening' of cotes using limewash, or paint.[67] However, neither is an essential requirement of the

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[60]The doocot in the loft space of Keith Tannery was constructed using old doors and milk crates.
In early times, social strife, transport and constructional constraints limited material choices significantly.

[61]Choice of material has to be weighed up in terms of cost, maintenance, life cycle in relation to function, dove welfare and threats.

[62]The consequence of detailed site analysis and investigation.

[63]Contrary to the Bailey and Tindall findings,(see Chap. 2.3) , that pointed stone rubble is he normal external finish, (although theirs may be the consequence of prima facie evidence rather than detailed observation and analysis).

[64]Walker, 'Farm Buildings in Grampian', 1981, p.40.

[65]For example, many modern cotes are unpainted, whilst others are brightly decorated.
See also Emmerton in Abs. Physiology and Behaviour of Pigeons, 1983, p.260.

[66]As recommended by Columella and Varro (and many writers thereafter) to prevent the access of vermin.

[67]Certainly painting or limewashing helps to emphasise flight hole positions.

dove's natural environment and reflect more human conditioning to traditional building techniques than dove welfare.

6.3.3 Wall thickness

Interpretation of data

A graph of the wall thickness of the doocots in Moray, crucially arranged in chronological order (Fig. 6.12), provides conspicuous evidence to substantiate previous claims that wall thicknesses have steadily declined over the centuries. This is mainly as a consequence of constructional advances.[68]

Not only does the data isolate Rothiemay (1750) as a deviant[69], and illustrate the late nineteenth century as a period of constructional transition,[70] it also confirms that the walls' thicknesses can be used with some confidence as 'date predictors'.[71]

6.3.4 Roofs

Interpretation of data

Despite its distinction as a clear element in building construction, the roof has not been subjected to any great scrutiny by previous doocot authors.

The 'roof pitch' graph of doocots in Moray (Fig. 6.13) shows that the forty-five degree roof has featured prominently in doocot design over five centuries.[72] Some of the earliest doocots (at Plewlands, New Elgin, Leuchars, Balnageith) are constructed entirely of stone

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[68]B. Cross, 'The wall of tomorrow', Specifier, Sept. 1996, p.56. "*Throughout history and up to the mid-1800s the stability of our buildings was achieved by walls of considerable thickness. But construction of these walls was costly, necessitating the search for a thinner, more constructionally efficient method. As walls became thinner, the floors and roof became part of the whole structure. This allowed walls to be reduced in section.*"
North in Colvin and Newman, Of building, c.1698, p.101 documents a great concern for solidity, promoting the use of walls that, " .. *shewed a strength which is allwais beautyfull in building.*"
J. Bond, 'Estates of Evesham Abbey: a preliminary survey of the medieval topography', Vale of Evesham Historical Society Research Papers, vol.4, (1973), p.20-30 records, for example, Bretfortan Dovecote with 1.25 m thick walls, "*.. built by the monks*" and the ancient Kinwarton Dovecote with 1.1 m thick walls.

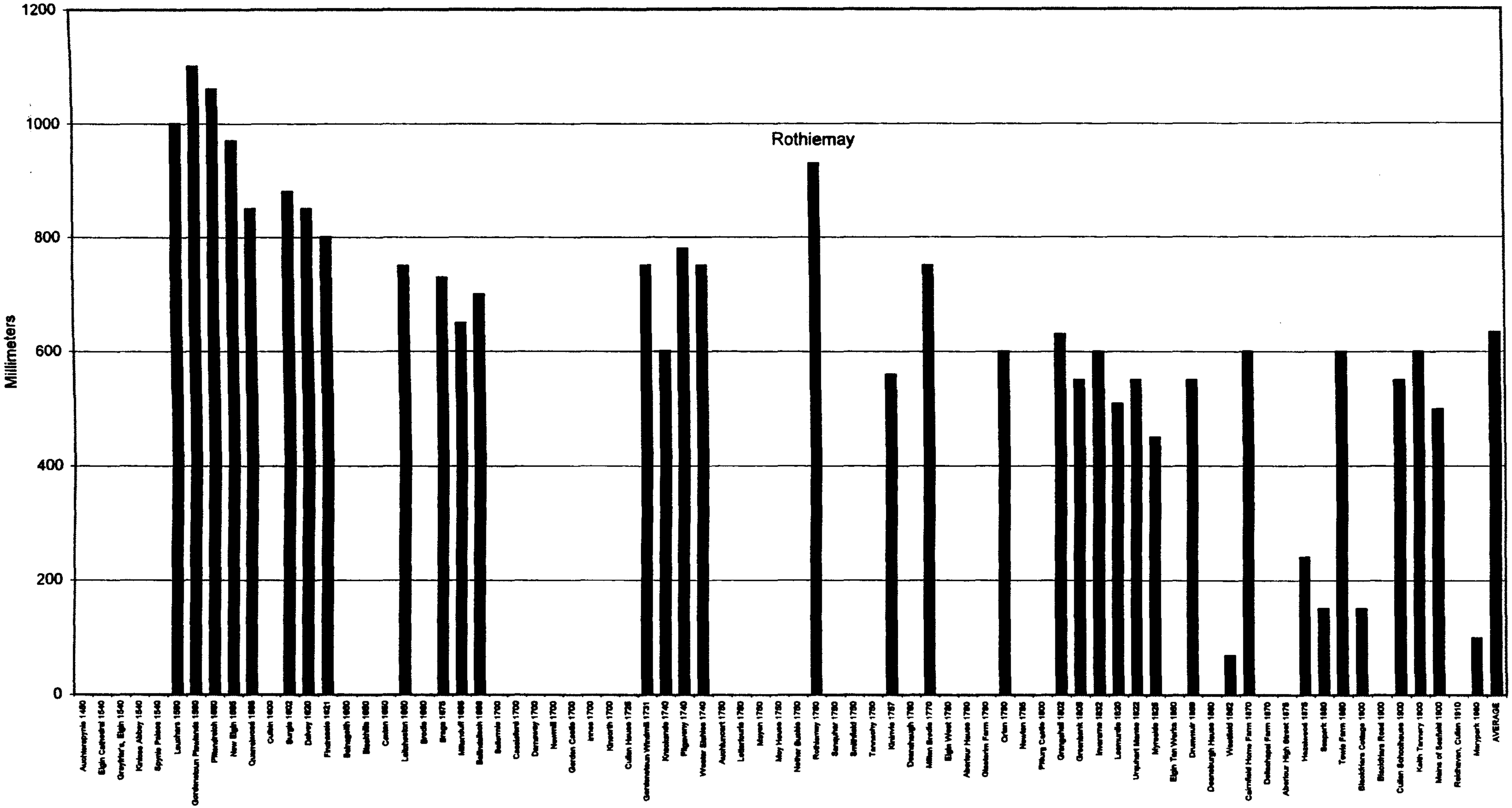
[69]The individual analysis of Rothiemay (see Chap.5) has already cast doubts on the originality of Rothiemay as a doocot.

[70]This particularly highlights the increasing use of brick and timber in cote construction.

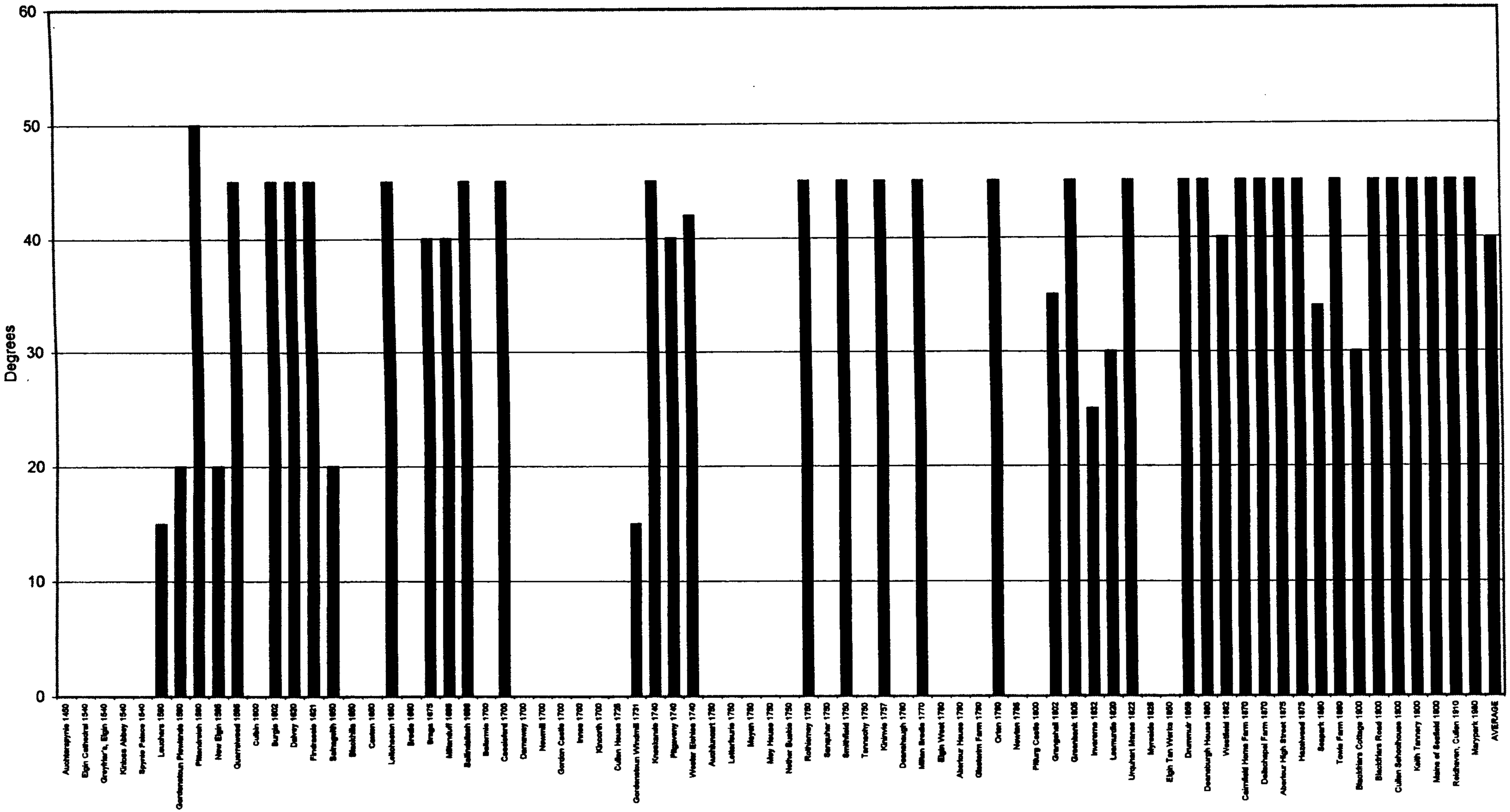
[71]It is not, however, proposed that buildings are dated purely by measuring their wall thicknesses since field and desktop analysis will always play important roles in absolute dating of buildings. Nevertheless, it is suggested that an examination of wall thickness should assist in narrowing the timeframe for consideration (and avoid some of the 'wild guesses' highlighted in the literature review).

[72]The 42-45° pitch roof was a common design solution to all buildings in the north of Scotland and continues to be employed today. Some sixteenth century buildings in Moray, e.g. Elgin High Street, have pitches of 50° and above and many Feral Pigeons roost and sunbathe on them.

Doocots of Moray: Wall Thickness (Fig 6.12)



Doocots of Moray: Roof Pitch (Fig 6.13)



with domed roofs and, thus, stand out as a distinctive group, and isolate Gordonstoun Windmill as a variant to the norm during the eighteenth century. It can be explained as a variant since it is a conversion of an earlier structure. Two other doocots, Quarrelwood and Pittendreich, are very rare examples of stone pitched roofs using ribbed vault supports and interlocking slabs.[73]

Pitched roofs were more commonly constructed in timber. These had large, local slates, or stone 'slabs', nailed or pegged to timber sarking boards (although in Moray there are very few original roofs left).[74] All are gutterless[75] and the slates extend well beyond the wallheads to project rain clear of the structure. Many seventeenth century doocots were monopitch (see Chap. 6.2.4, s.v. 'Orientation' and Chap. 6.2.8, s.v. 'Three Dimensional Form') whereas a large number of eighteenth century were hipped, pyramidal or conical; and there is no discernible pattern to the deliberate omission of internal tie beams for these designs (considered to be important by some writers - see Chap.6.2.6 s.v. 'Internal Volume'). Few, if any, have the high-sided parapets that some historians, including McCann, consider to be a strong feature of doocot design by providing shelter to birds that perch on the roof.[76]

Later structures used imported Ballachulish or, in some cases, Welsh slate to clad their roofs and, affected by technological changes and greater architectural design influence, bore witness to a new grouping of designs in the nineteenth century which employed roof pitches as low as twenty-five degrees (as seen in Moray at Invererne).[77] Modern examples are even shallower in pitch and use larger materials such as corrugated iron, profiled sheets or roofing felt.[78] Very early examples of doocots in Moray may have used

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[73]The doocots were erected c.1590 and employ a roof technique which is usually seen on major ecclesiastical structures (although it is also a vernacular technique frequently occurring on the Orkneys).

[74].Compare, for example, the existing roof at Milton doocot with its pre-'restoration' photography. This type of *construction* was common to a wide variety of buildings in Moray.

[75]Historic Scotland's 'Architect's Report', 1995, for Grangehall doocot (see Chap.5) recommended that guttering and rainwater pipes be fitted.

[76]McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p.82.
Idem, 'An Historic Inquiry', 1991, p.120.
The majority of historic doocots have skews, or crowsteps, where the walls carry up through to roof level. Although crowsteps have received some attention from English authors, and are assumed to be designed to provide perching places, it should be noted that this is a common detail in all types of building in Scotland.

[77]Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, p.65. "*A considerable proportion of the slate used in the county is imported from Ballachulish and Aisdale ... unloaded in the harbours of the Moray Firth.*
The smaller, more regular and thinner slates from these areas enabled roofs to remain sound and watertight down to roof pitches of 22 degrees. This allowed designers more freedom than previously enjoyed".

[78]Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p.2, "*.. of asbestos or corrugated iron.*"
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.518, suggested low roofs in order to keep inhabitants under human control. "*Care should be taken that the loft is so constructed that pigeons cannot perch on the roof. If this is not done, they will soon rot out the roofing material.*"

degradable materials, such as thatch for roofing but, although confirmation exists elsewhere, no conclusive evidence exists in Moray.[79] Many of the doocots that have roofs with apex points (e.g. Pitagaveny, Urquhart Manse, Lesmurie, Orton and Westfield) are like other similar pieces of architecture (turrets, bellcotes, watch towers) which are topped out with stone or metal finials and vanes in order to emphasise their grandeur.

Therefore, the roofs of Moray's doocots are a reflection of standard architectural and constructional practice in the area. This is in response to local environmental factors, rather than any specific response to dove ecology. Nevertheless, a doocot's roof often kept its inhabitants wind and watertight, safe from intrusion and safe from injury. Additionally, some roofs would provide an area for landing and perching.[80]

6.3.5 Door area

Interpretation of data

Human access to the nest boxes is, of course, an essential requirement when breeding domestic doves (see Chaps. 2.4.1 and 4.5, s.v. 'Management'). If this cannot be achieved externally, as at Marypark[81], provision to the inner chamber is necessary. Most of the doocots of Moray can be entered at ground level, although many doocots, and particularly the later types, have first floor access (for example at Grangehall, Greenbank and Blackfriars Cottage).

The doors' sizes in Moray's doocots vary and an assessment makes little sense until arranged into chronological order. When this is done (Fig. 6.14 and Fig. 6.15)), three distinct groupings appear:

(i) with the exception of New Elgin[82], doors of sixteenth and seventeenth century structures range between 1400 and 1600mm in height and 0.7- 1.3m_2 in area,

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[79]Maitland, Doocots of Angus, 1964, p.6. Photo of thatched doocot at Craig near Rossie Castle, Montrose.
Bond, 'Chapwick Manor Dovecote', 1989, p.164, "... *medieval roof had originally been of thatch.*"
North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.102. "*The covering was of reed.*"
Leslie, op.cit., p.61. "*The offices* [farm buildings in general] *are built in the same substantial manner ..... in some cases they are slated, but more generally thatched with a thick, neat cover of straw.*"
[80]Mathey, 'Peristerones', 1978, p.23. The flat roofs in Greek design demonstrate a response to climatic conditions which still satisfies the birds' needs. The birds shelter from the sun in niches formed in the facades.
[81]Many gable -end holes with direct access exist in England (some in southern Scotland).
[82]Thus casting an element of doubt over its dating of c.1600 (could be a much later, 'romantic' structure?).

(ii) doors of eighteenth century structures (including Grangehall) range between 1500 and 2000mm in height and 1.3 and 1.8m2 in area,

(iii) doors (and hatches) of nineteenth century structures range between 900 and 1000mm in height and 0.3 - 1.1m2 in area.[83]

The large openings of the eighteenth century suggest that previous notions (see Chap. 2.3.3, s.v. 'Architectural Features' and Appendix Section 1) relating to: a human being able to block the door to prevent birds escaping; maximising box numbers; and 'cutting down daylight', are all possibly misleading. Since the size of eighteenth century doors proves that there are no basic ornithological,[84] or architectural, reasons to make small doorways necessary, it is suggested that the answer lies in history and that Moray did not experience significant social stability until the eighteenth century (see Chap.5.1.3, s.v. 'Political and Civil Divisions'). Most property prior to that, including doocots, would have been vulnerable to attack. Small, solid hardwood doors would have deterred many plunderers and, where thought necessary, an iron yett was added (as at Pittendreich, Quarrelwood and Plewlands). The building standards of previous centuries, not to mention the average height of the individual, was also less than it is now.[85]

By the eighteenth century Moray society was much more stable and, combined with technological advances in construction, resulted in generally larger openings (with lighter constructed doors) in most structures, including doocots (such as at Rothiemay, Orton and Kininvie). By the nineteenth century, doocots were mostly incorporated, or combined, with other buildings. Since access was already gained into the main building elsewhere, access into the doocot chamber itself was gained via floor, or wall 'hatches', rather than doorways (as at Invererne, Westfield, Drummuir and Hazelwood).

In every case, the door opening of a doocot has had to permit the regular removal of guano,[86] (unless provision is made elsewhere in the cote, as at Drummuir which has a floor hatch).

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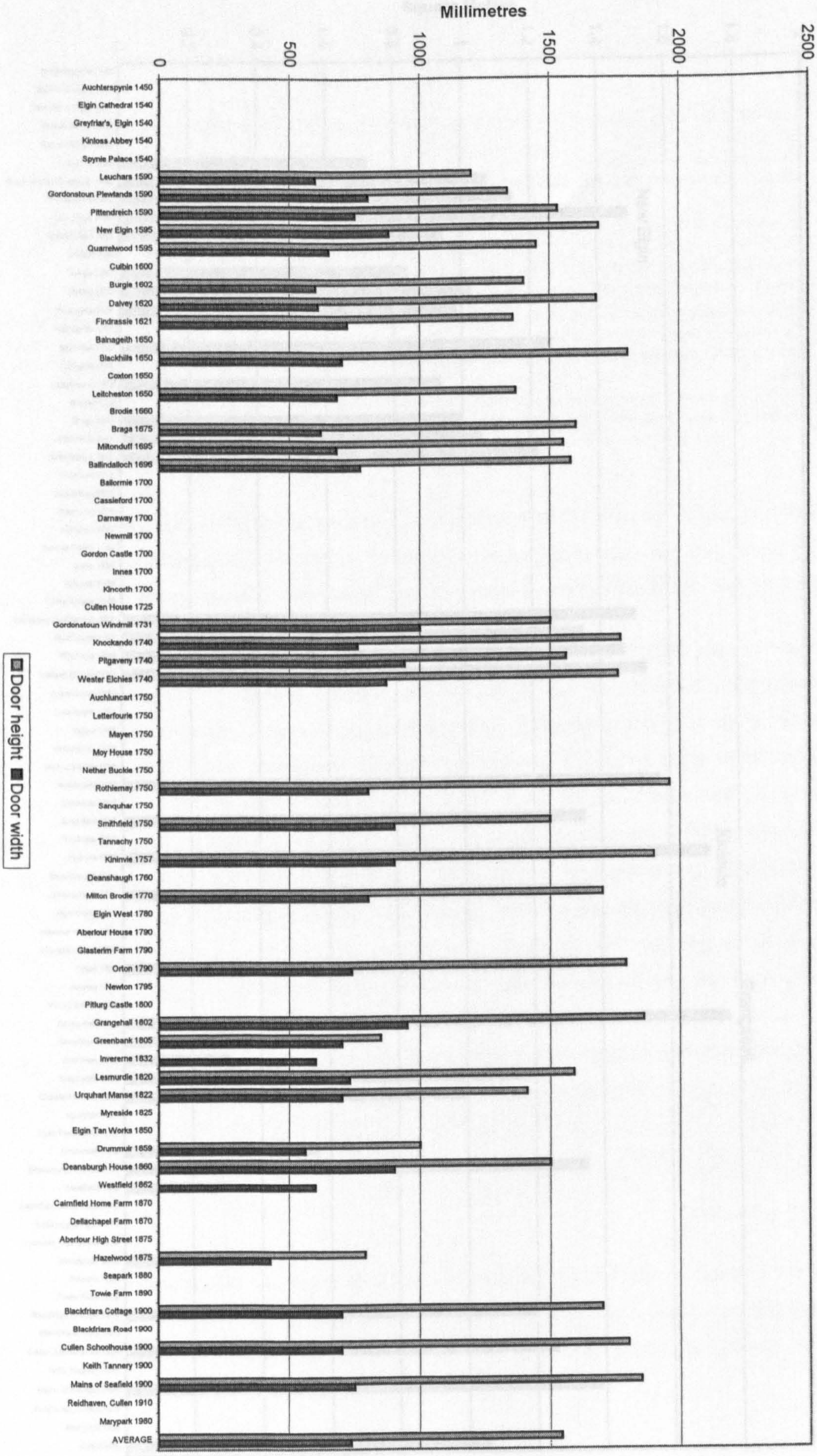
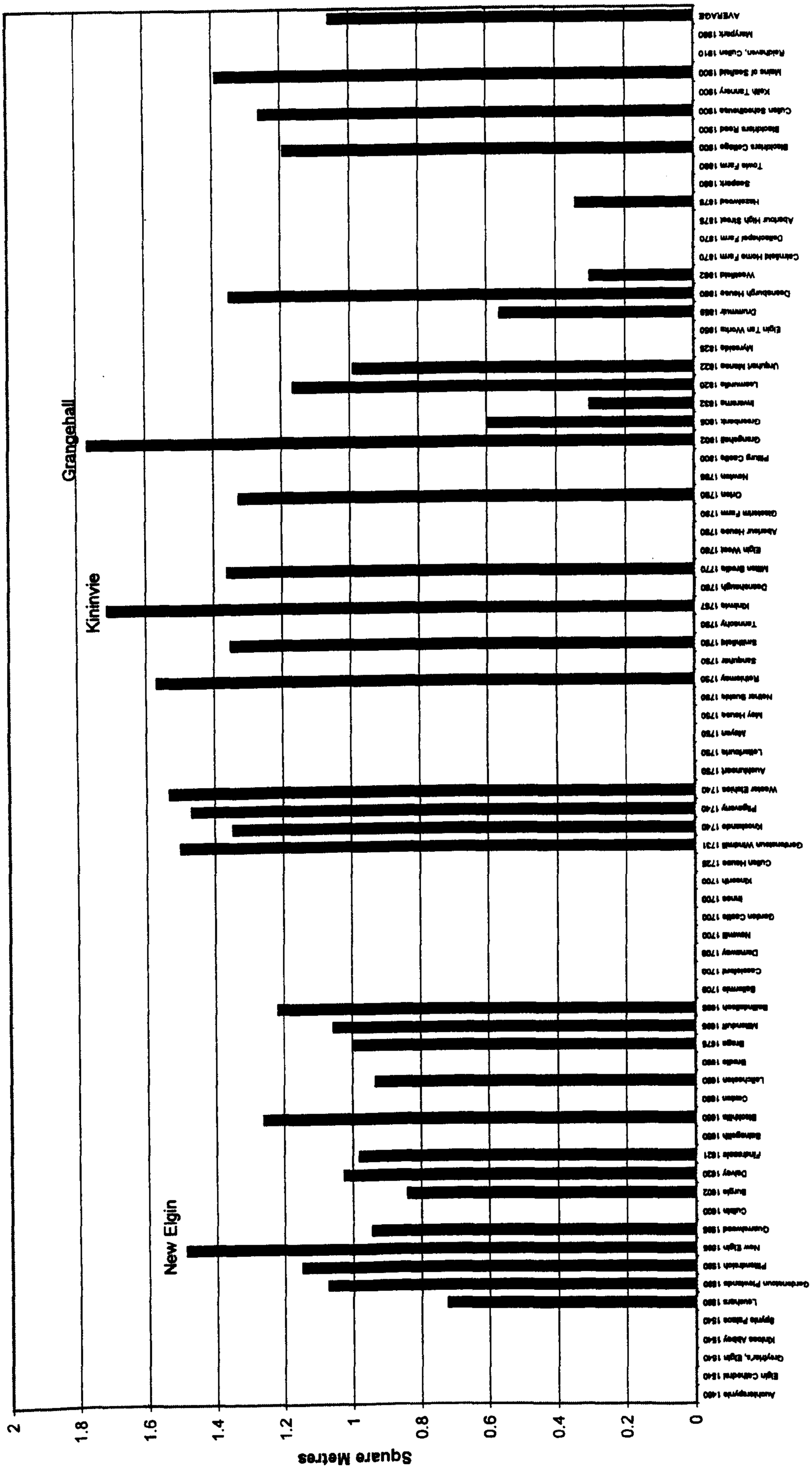
[83]The use of hatches must have caused some inconvenience for its owners, but would have been a 'dove-friendly' solution.
[84]Birds, however, will be frightened by sudden shafts of light unless they become accustomed to it, i.e. done frequently and perhaps associated with feeding.
[85]OSA, s.v. 'Birnie', p.466. *"The general size of people is supposed to be five and a half feet."* It is worth remembering here that youths, rather than adults, were likely charged with the task of collecting squabs (see comments on 'Collecting Aids' in chap. 2.3 and later in this section).
[86]E.g., at least a barrow's width.



Doocots of Moray: Door Height and Width (Fig 6.14)

Doocots of Moray: Door Area (Fig 6.15)



It is, therefore, noted that the door openings in the doocots of Moray have been designed, in various ways over the years, to ensure that the inhabitants have a safe home yet are suitably accessible for the human owners to carry out appropriate management.

6.3.6 Apertures

Interpretation of data

In the case of Moray, data illustrates (Fig. 6.16) that apertures in doocots (that is, those of dimensions greater than those required for bird access) are uncommon features. Only a few doocots possess such openings and, with the exception of four cotes from the period 1590-1650, no real pattern emerges to explain their inclusion.[87] The originality of the openings of the four surveyed from this period (Pittendreich, Plewlands, Findrassie and Burgie) is inconclusive and all may, or may not, be later insertions in relation to human requirements for ventilation and daylight.[88] Since these doocots were all built around a time when long-established families (in these cases the Douglas's, Gordons, Sutherlands and Dunbars) were proud of their genealogy,[89] there is also a real possibility that the openings in their surviving doocots all formerly contained coats of arms[90] (as is now known to be the case at Dalvey). There is also the potential that they were once used as 'controllable openings' in the same way the modern keeper, ".. *darkens his loft using shutters. This enables the birds to rest.*"[91]

None of the apertures retains evidence of the grilled lattice work found in other regions and, excepting the roof skylights at Miltonduff, Rothiemay and Grangehall, there is no use of glazing. Indeed, these features may have been counter-productive since, ".. *a*

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[87]This corresponds to the evidence in Whitaker, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1938.
The aperture graph also does not relate to other graphs which have a potential relationship, e.g.internal volume and bird number.

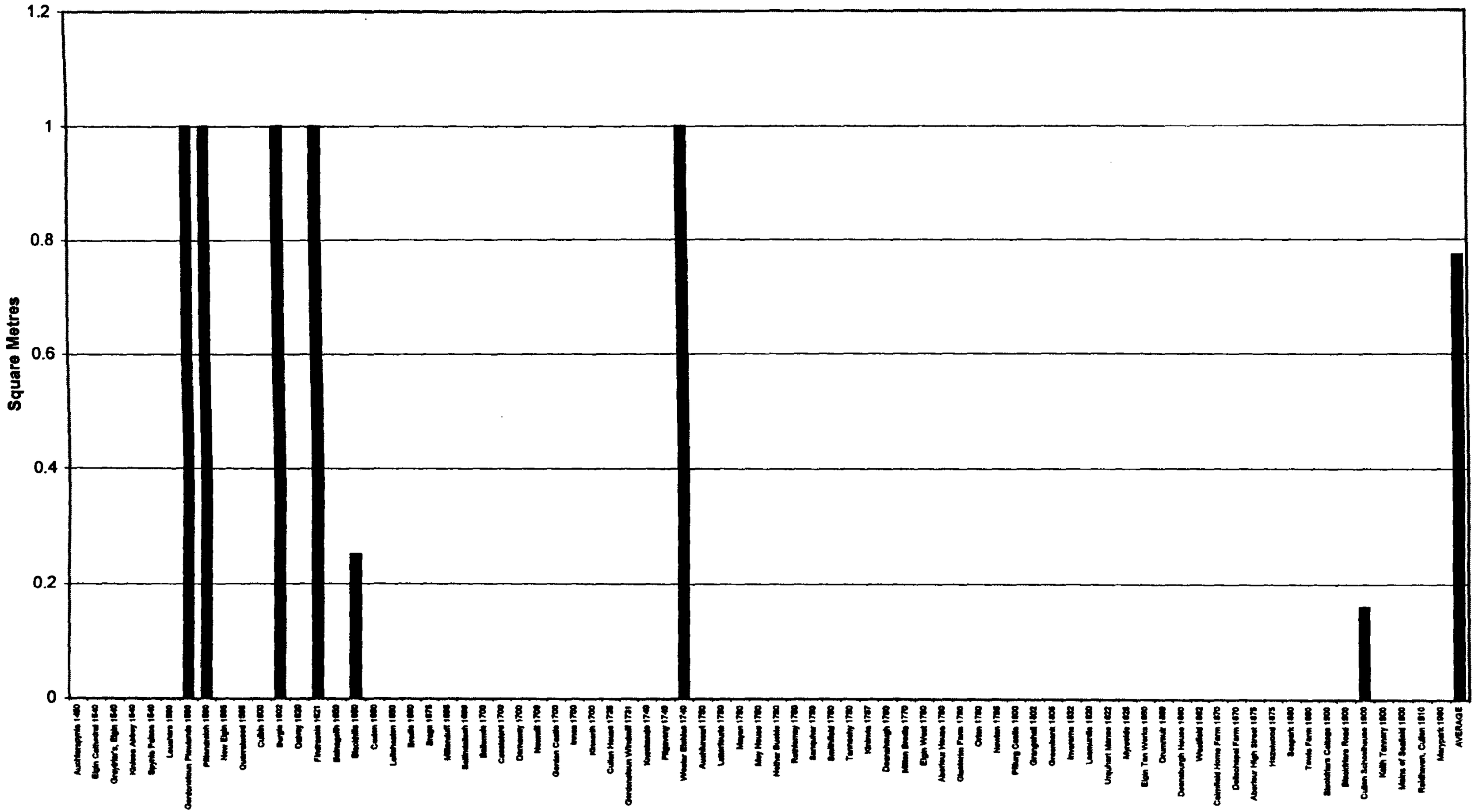
[88] The apertures within the doocots of Moray (and possibly many other doocots elsewhere) may be later additions associated with alteration, or conversion,of the doocot to improve human usage. This is certainly the case at Wester Elchies. Several openings may also have been inserted as times became more secure and safer. Apertures in the doocots of Moray all provide around $0.25m^2$ of daylight opening.
It is noted that some doocots, especially in the south, deliberately include windows in their design.

[89]The Dissolution of the Church lands led to a rapid rise of secular wealth and the emergence of a *nouveau riche* social group *without the 'pedigree' of established families. The latter*, understandably in this context, wished to display and publicise their credentials.

[90]Pittendreich is known to have had such a plaque, whilst the openings at Burgie and Findrassie each possess suitable checks in their rybats to house stone plaques.

[91]BHW, 18/3/94, p.15.
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.516. Modern pigeon-houses have," *..small windows which may be opened in warm weather, closed in winter*".

Doocots of Moray: Apertures (Fig 6.16)



pigeon will go to the brightest or greatest amount of light visible."[92] In a state of panic, large numbers of birds trying to escape the restrictive space of a doocot would head for the apertures and potentially damage themselves if the openings were glazed, wired or latticed.

Although birds need sunlight (see Chap.4.2 and 4.3, s.v., 'Biology' and 'Behaviour') the aperture, or window openings, in doocots are non-essential items for their successful operation and, moreover, could be detrimental to the inhabitants' safety and psychological well-being if detailed improperly.[93]

6.3.7 Bird access

Interpretation of data

It is obvious that unless doves are to be kept in total confinement (e.g. in aviaries) the need to provide adequate access and egress is clearly essential. The measured drawings of the doocots of Moray (see Chap.5) reveal that bird access is physically provided in a variety of ways. Domed stone doocots (as found at Plewlands and New Elgin) appear to have relied on a simple opening in the stonework at the apex point. This would have permitted several birds to descend into the cote at once and similarly vacate the cote in numbers without injury. Such an exposed opening would, however, allow rainwater (and possibly occasional and determined flying predators) to penetrate and there are indications that later measures were taken to alter the final stage of domed doocots[94] (such as a cupola at Leuchars and a dome closing at Balnageith). Further, apex 'glovers', or cupolas which provide bird access (as respectively described by McCann and Ariss[95]) can be found at Ballindalloch, Orton and Invererne. Examples, now lost, would have also occurred at Wester Elchies, Pitgaveny and Lesmurdie. The placing of such features at the

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[92]Goodwin, pers.comm., 15/4/98.
Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p.27, observed that squabs do not take kindly to being struck by shafts of sunlight and noted that some owners prefer dark cotes.

[93]Unless the inhabitants are held captive in the cote.
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.520. *"Pigeons bred for commercial purposes apparently feel much more secure when their nests do not face a door or opening."*
Johnston and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.69, *".. apparent optional nest site is sheltered and in semi darkness .. but the birds are adaptable in choosing sites".*

[94]Examples of such alterations can be found elsewhere in Scotland, e.g. in East Lothian at Nunraw Abbey, Phantassie and Drylawhill.

[95]McCann, loc.cit. and Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.22.
Johnston and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.74. *"The position of access holes in relation to nests probably plays only a secondary role in the selection of nest sites."*
Waterton, Essays on Natural History, 1857, p.109, suggested that 'glover' comes from the French word '*ouvert*'.

crowns, or ridges, of roofs make both architectural (vertical emphasis and symmetry) and ornithological (safety) sense.

Despite having geometric shapes and suitable roof designs to incorporate apex glovers, neither the doocot at Kininvie, nor at Grangehill, used them; they employed side-entry holes. These latter features are still found on many structures in Moray, for example, at New Elgin, Urquhart Manse, Seafield and Hazelwood.

Since some designs do not possess apex points, roof dormers can be employed as the preferred solution for bird access and is especially common on lectern-shaped structures,[96] such as those at Burgie, Leitcheston and Miltonduff (although similar designs are to be found at the gabled structure of Dalvey). Wallhead dormers are, meanwhile, featured at Rothiemay, Blackfriars Coach House and Cullen Schoolhouse.

In several cases, the original access features have been damaged or have decayed (most of them, with the notable exceptions of Quarrelwood and Pittendreich, are of timber construction) and some of the present structures are alterations or replacements. McCann and Ariss note the widespread use of timber slatted 'louvers' in England, but no examples are found in Moray.[97] The inclusion of 'trap' or 'pipe' devices, as recorded by previous authors, can be found in some twentieth century cotes (see Hamilton Drive, Elgin) but not in any of the historic structures.[98] These suggest regional variations in terms of sophistication in detail, use of materials and potentially different local circumstances.

Provided that safety and security is maintained for the occupants, then the siting and architectural design of the bird access is not critical to the operational success of the doocot - its contribution is mainly important to the aesthetic and overall composition of the design.

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[96]Various designs can be found, e.g. single dormers, multi dormers, hipped, pedimented or catslide dormers with equally variable flight hole solutions.

[97]McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p.83.
Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.21 (see Chap. 2, fig.2.18).
Examples may have existed in Moray at one time, e.g. Wester Elchies, but are no longer found.

[98]Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.18. Many modern doocots have to incoporate trapping devices since the aim, racing and homing, is to encourage the bird into the building but not allow it to escape thereafter.
The 'pipe', thought to be a means of channelling doves but not predators, is well documented by McCann in 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, and 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994 and also well illustrated in his Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, p.29 and p.89.

6.3.8 Flight holes

Interpretation of data

The literature review has shown that the actual spaces in which birds make their way in and out of cotes have not attracted any great attention from previous authors.

The graph of the Moray data (Fig. 6.17) shows that the number of flight holes provided tends to increase over the years. This must be interpreted in the context of rising bird numbers and the role of other openings potentially providing access (such as vent holes, window apertures and oculi) but does, in the face of the evidence, suggest a deliberate improvement in the consideration for the inhabitants' welfare[99] (an inadequate provision of holes could cause injury during times of mass exodus).

Bird access to the doocot is, of course, essential and, like the design of any other nest box, must include openings that are large enough for the intended inhabitant, yet still be small enough to prevent the entry of larger, potentially threatening, birds.[100] All birds will generally seek nest sites that provide maximum security and this is threatened if the access hole permits the entry of a larger bird or animal. This may explain a weakness in the design of domed, or 'beehive', doocots, which resulted in later alterations to their roofs (q.v., 6.3.7 'Bird Access').

Where evidence remains, the size of the access holes in the doocots of Moray generally conforms to North's recommendation ("... *slitt of 6 inches*") [101] although many are narrower in width (i.e. 4 inches or 100mm) which better correlates with the bird's body shape[102] (Fig. 6.18)(see Chap.4.2, s.v. 'Biology'). The majority have landing ledges immediately in front of the holes to facilitate access (see Urquhart Manse, Hazelwood and Mains of Seafield in particular). Where the opening is too large (as on the walls at Ballindalloch) other birds, such as owls, will enter the building.[103]

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[99]This should also be interpreted in the context of alterations and additions to original fabric.

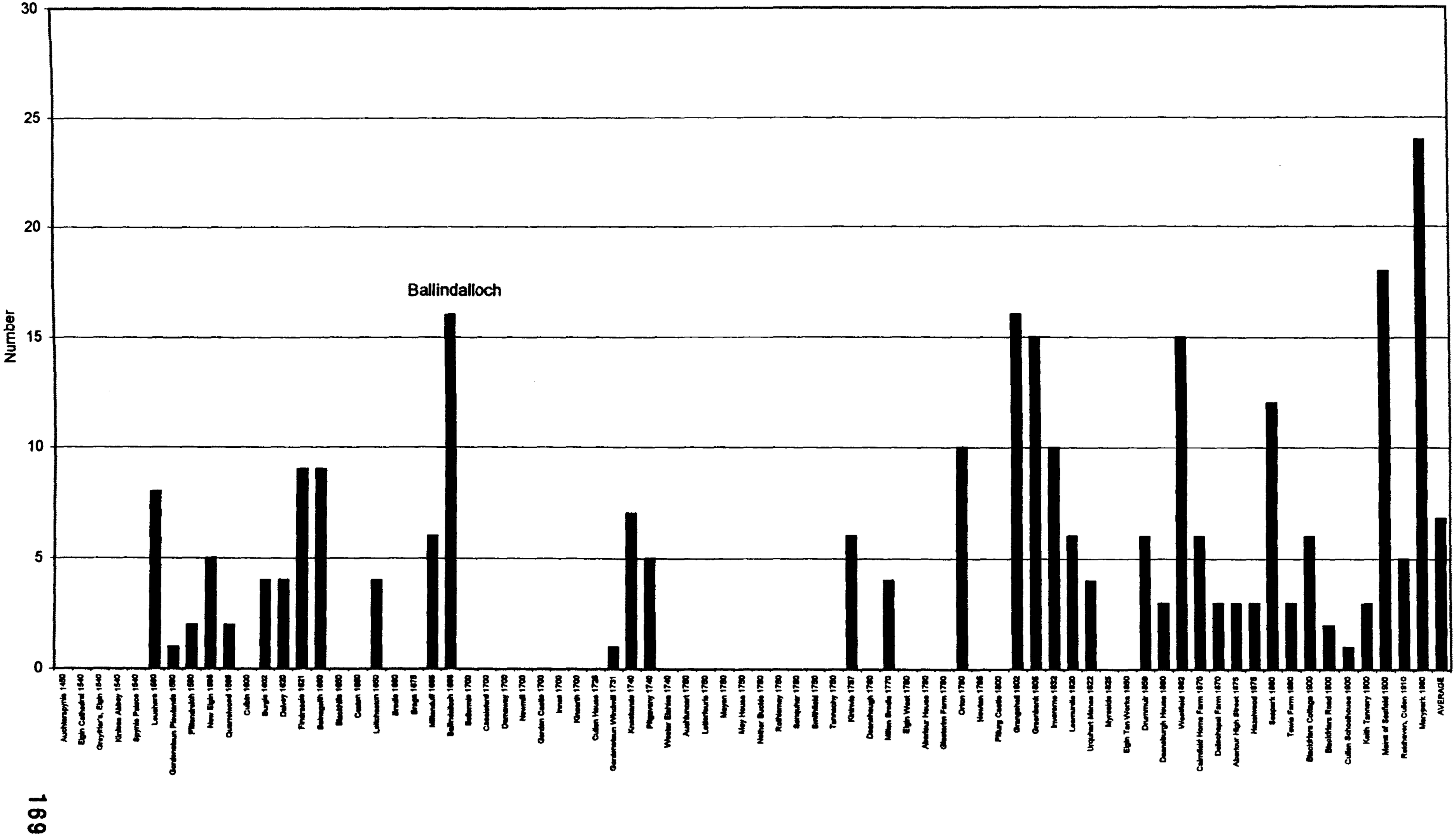
[100]Feu, Nestboxes, 1985, p.7. "*Apart from entrance hole sizes* [other] *dimensions are not critical.*"
For example, a blue tit's nest box can vary in size but the access hole must be accurately dimensioned.

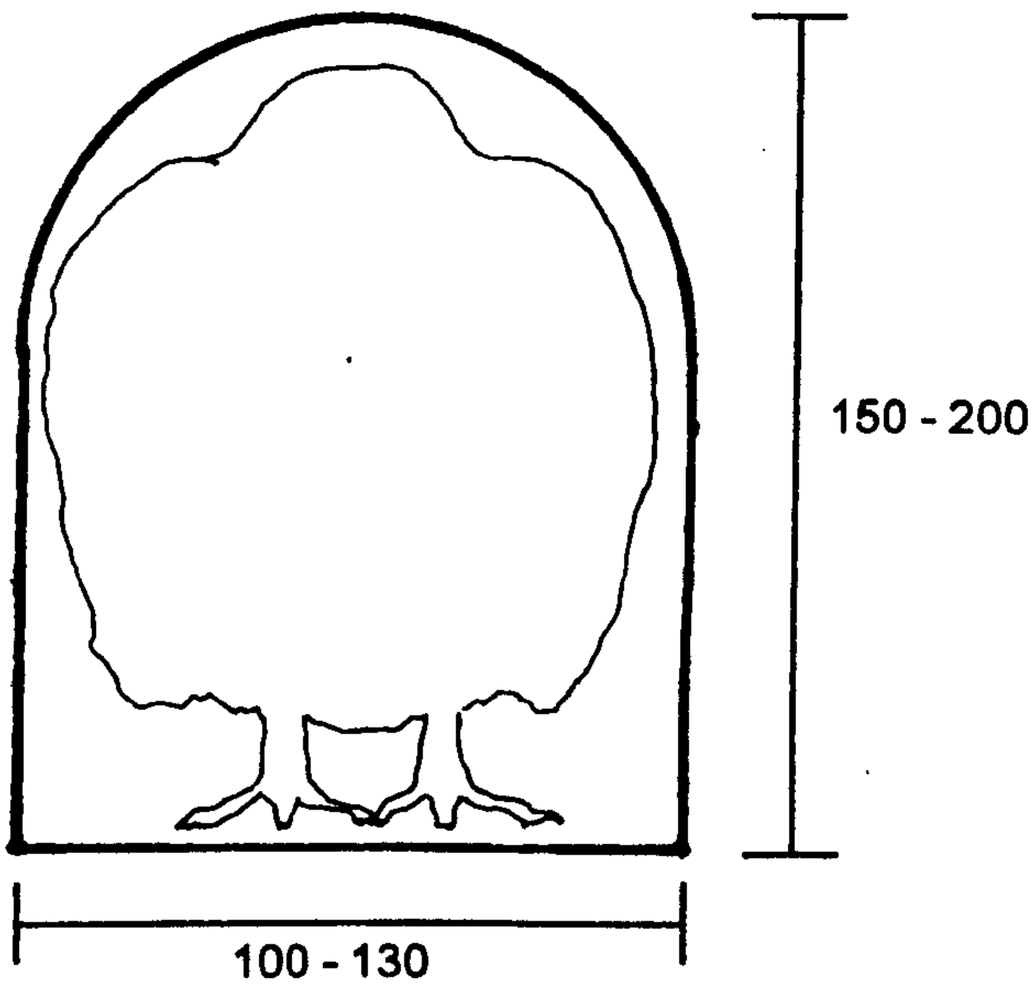
[101]North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.102.
Soper, Bird Table Book, 1965, p.113, s.v., 'Rock Dove/Domestic Pigeon', "*.. there should be a generous landing shelf outside the entrance holes (unlike Blue Tits, pigeons do like to land outside the entrance) .. with an entrance hole 6in x 6in (150mm x 150mm).*"

[102]T. Barnhart (American breeder), pers.comm., 7/1/99, remarks that domestic birds are 100mm wide x 150mm high (although no direct research by him to confirm).

[103]The doocot at Ballindalloch has two, 200mm square, openings on the front elevation and this building notably now hosts barn owls, as does the cote at Findrassie where the roof is ruined.

Doocots of Moray: Flight Holes (Fig 6.17)





Sketch of bird entering flight hole (Fig. 6.18)

Sketch showing profile of bird ducking in order to enter an arched flight hole. Note how opening and bird size produce a tight fit (thus ensuring that larger, potentially threatening, birds can not enter).

The holes through which birds enter and leave a cote are therefore extremely important from an ecological point of view and are critical to the success of a doocot.

6.3.9 External ledges

Interpretation of data

The literature review showed that 'defence against vermin' has been a long-established essential of the design of the doocot[104] and the distinctive external projecting ledge has, throughout the centuries, been consequently thought to have been a 'rat deterrent'. McCann has argued strongly against this latter notion and his most weighty piece of evidence is the late arrival of the brown rat to Britain in the mid eighteenth century (see Chap. 2.3.3, s.v. 'Architectural Features' and Appendix Section 2). The black rat, which was gradually displaced by the brown rat, is not thought to have been a major threat to doocots (for example, none of the early literature refers to the rot as being a considerable problem). Building conservation circles generally accept McCann's case for a 'perching ledge', although some still require convincing[105] (see Chap.2.3.3). The evidence in Moray supports McCann's arguments:

(i) the data reveals that most doocots possess a ledge of some kind, although the large doocot at Rothiemay has none (this, and other aspects of 'non-conformist' detailing, indicates this building as a conversion). The external ledge is therefore seen as an important element in doocot design.

(ii) between a third and a half, of doocots in Moray have ledges which do not fully envelope the structure. To be entirely secure against climbing animals, ledges would have to be continuous.

(iii) several doocots have more than one ledge (in some cases, as many as four Fig. 6.19). This would imply that, in the eyes of their designers, the lower ledges were ineffective rat barriers, or were meant for some other function.

The fear of intrusion by other birds and animals probably explains why certain redundant cotes are not frequented by wild doves.

[104]Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.2. (from Varro, On Farming, c.36 B.C.)

[105]McCann, pers.comm. 12/2/99. Whitworth, pers.comm., 31/1/96.

(iv) some ledges are not particularly wide (as little as 100mm in some instances, e.g. Braga and Plewlands) and it is thought that effective rodent barriers require to be nearer 300mm wide[106] (see Appendix Section 2).

(v) the vast majority of doocots in Moray have received a rough harling wall finish. Had climbing rodents been a primary concern, the doocots would have been better finished using a smooth lime render (a technique well known for centuries in Moray).

The notion that external ledges were 'rat deterrents' is, consequently, not supported in most cases. In the search for an alternative theory, it is observed that the ledge provision in Moray has a correlation with that of East Lothian's; a few doocots have no ledges, many have one ledge, two ledges are common, three ledges are infrequent and four are rare.[107] Contrary to McCann's statement regarding the need for height,[108] some of the ledges are as low as 2m (just above human head height) and this is a particular feature of lectern doocots (as at Findrassie, Braga, Burgie and Knockando) (Figs. 6.20, 6.21). All the ledges are found on the walls and not, as North recommended it, on the roofs also.[109] However, it is the data on the 'total length of ledge provision' (rather than ledge number) which provides the most interesting results. Firstly, analysis of 'length', compared with 'chronological development' (Fig. 6.22), indicates a general decrease in provision. This equates with (i) general decline in the number of birds contained and (ii) changes in design of doocots (initially from rounded and/or domed to orthogonal and/or pitched, then incorporated into other structures). Secondly, analysis of 'length' compared with 'nest box provision' indicates a distinct correlation. Where the two do not match, explanation can be given by the design and/or siting of the doocot (e.g. perching provision available elsewhere on the doocot or nearby structure). Both these latter findings significantly substantiate McCann's views that ledges were designed to provide doves with either somewhere to land or take off (particularly if sited at flight holes) and/or somewhere to parade, court and sunbathe.

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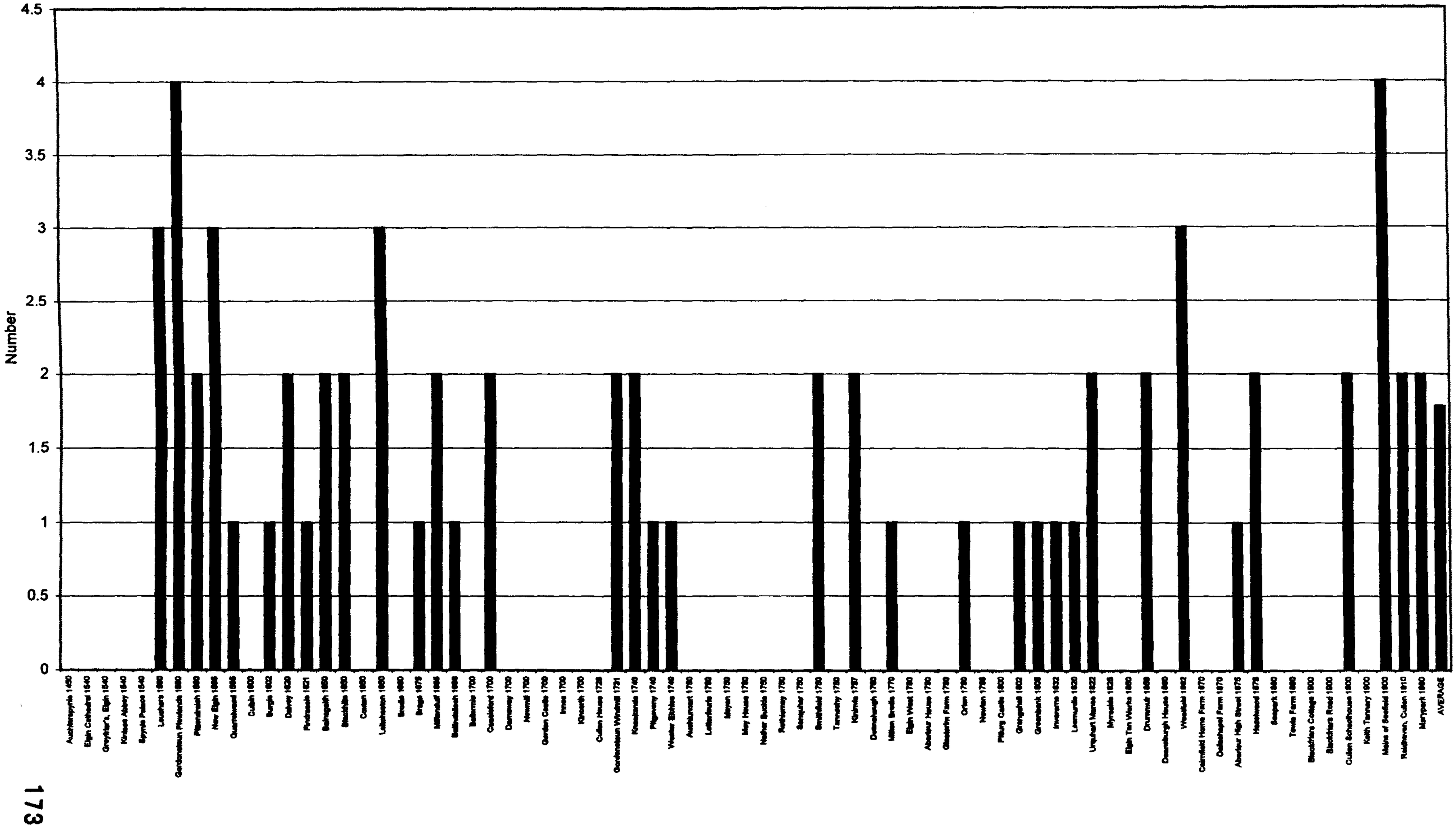
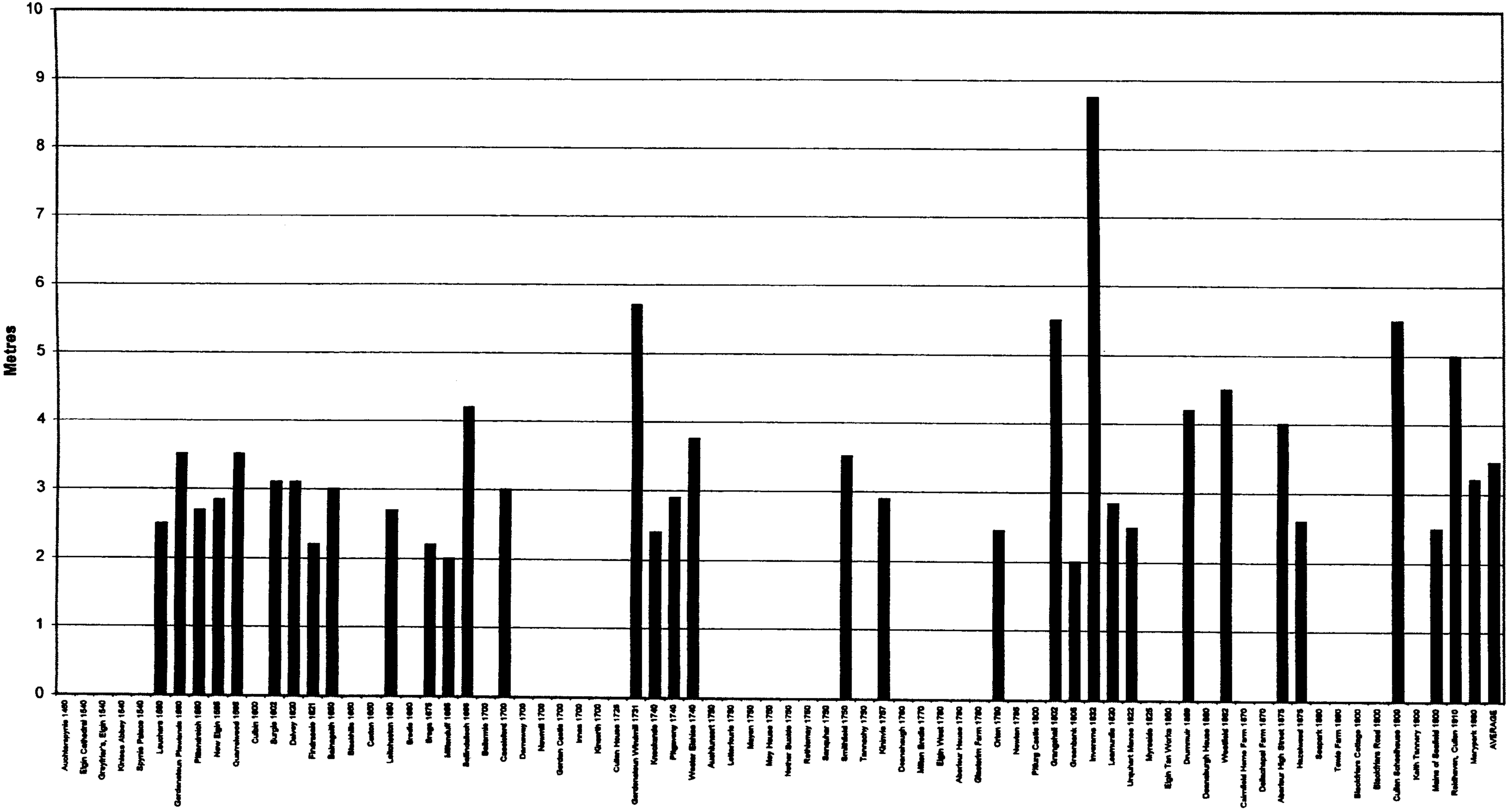
[106]According to R.Quy of MAFF, see interview inAppendix Section 2.
It seems, from the Moray evidence, that 100mm is the minimum width for a 'functioning' string course.
[107]See Bailey and Tindall, Dovecots of East Lothian, 1961, and Whitaker, 'Dovecots of East Lothian - a survey', 1938. Lightoler, Gentleman and Farmer's Architect, 1762. It is noted that band courses were commonly used by architects to signify/emphasise intermediate floor levels. This seems to occur in the cases of Lesmurdie and Invererne. (See also Inveraray, Argyll).
[108]McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.110.
[109]North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.102. A landing board on the thatch roof is suggested.

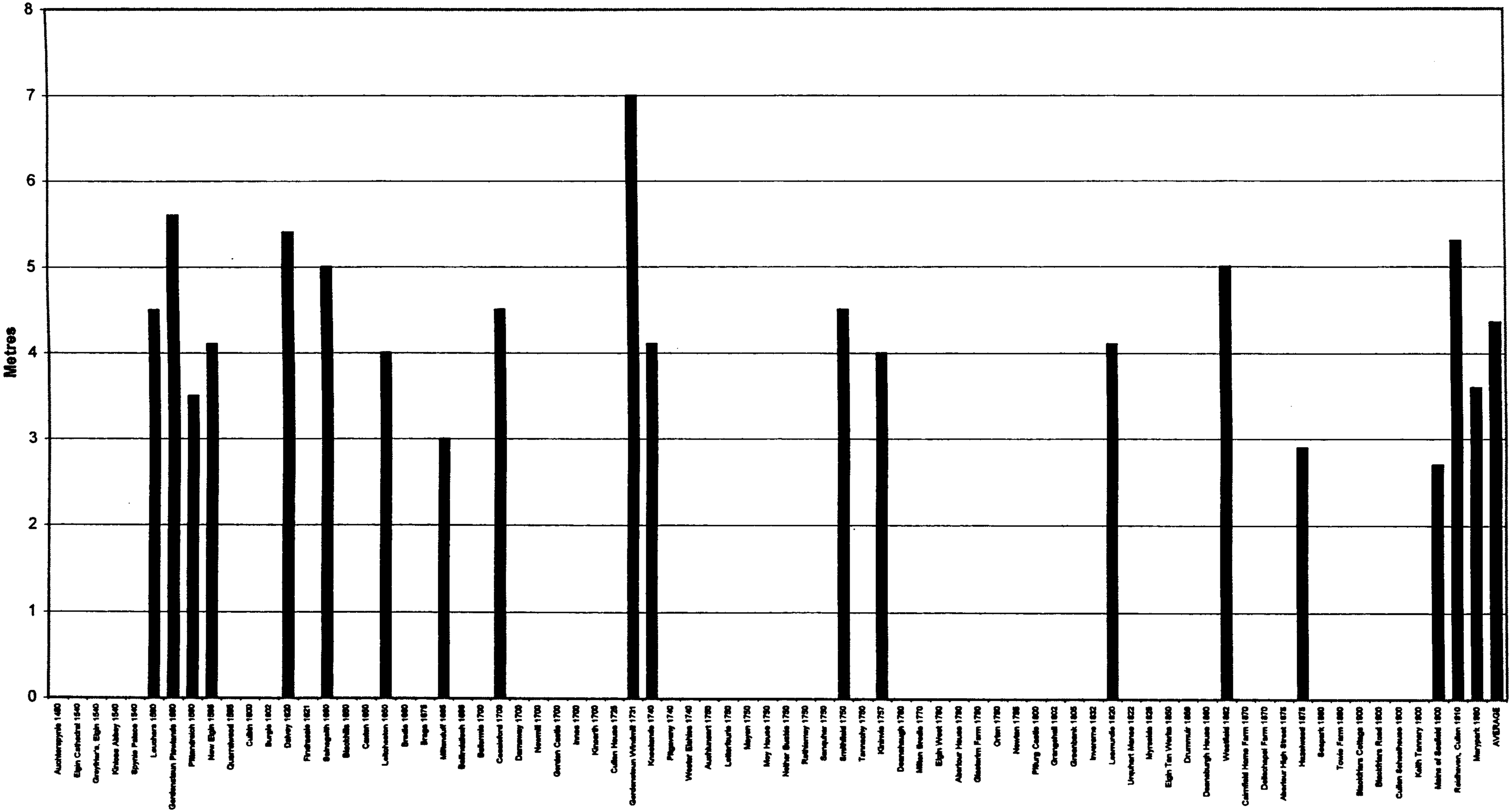
Doocots of Moray: Number of Ledges (Fig 6.19)



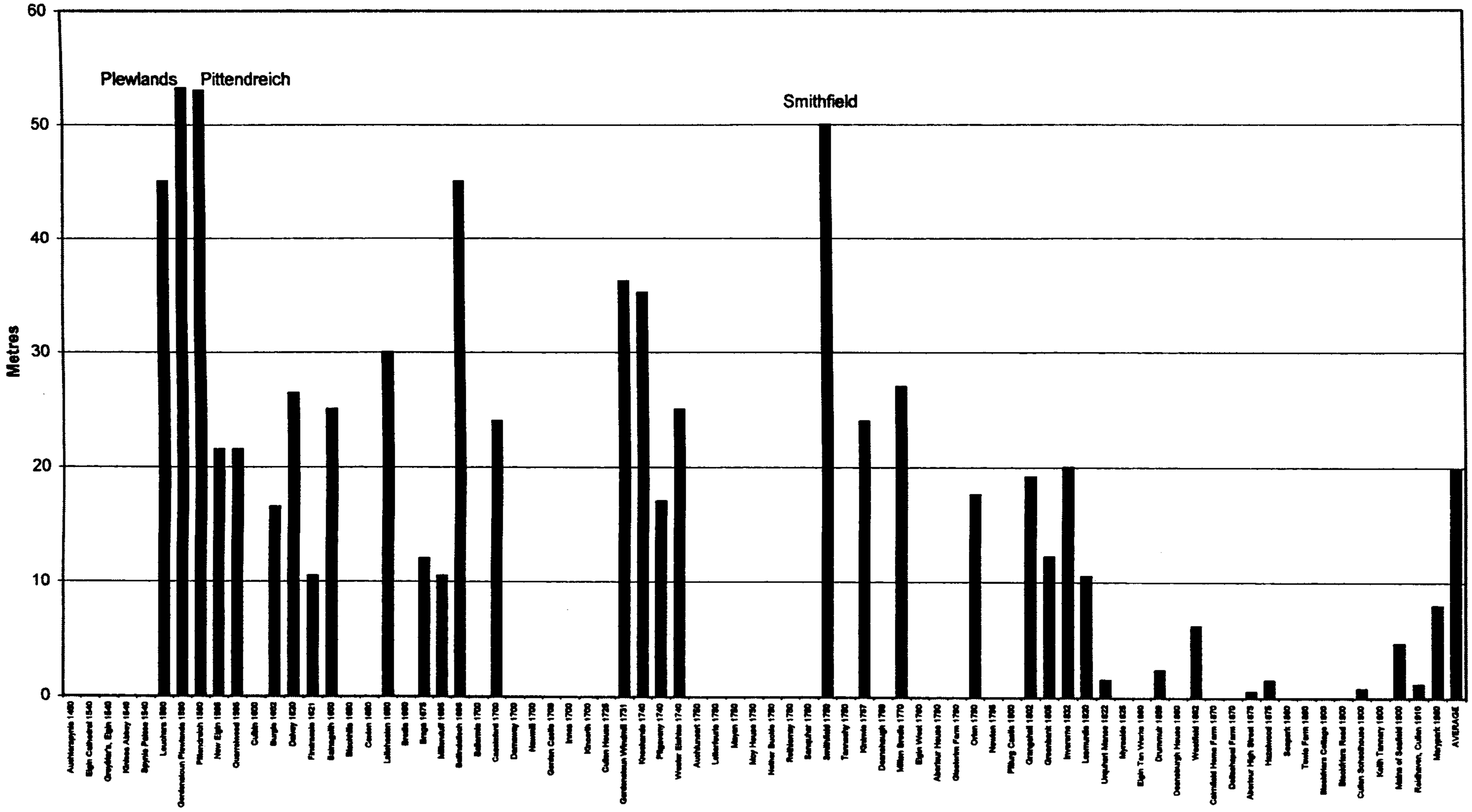
Doocots of Moray: Ledge Height - first (Fig 6.20)

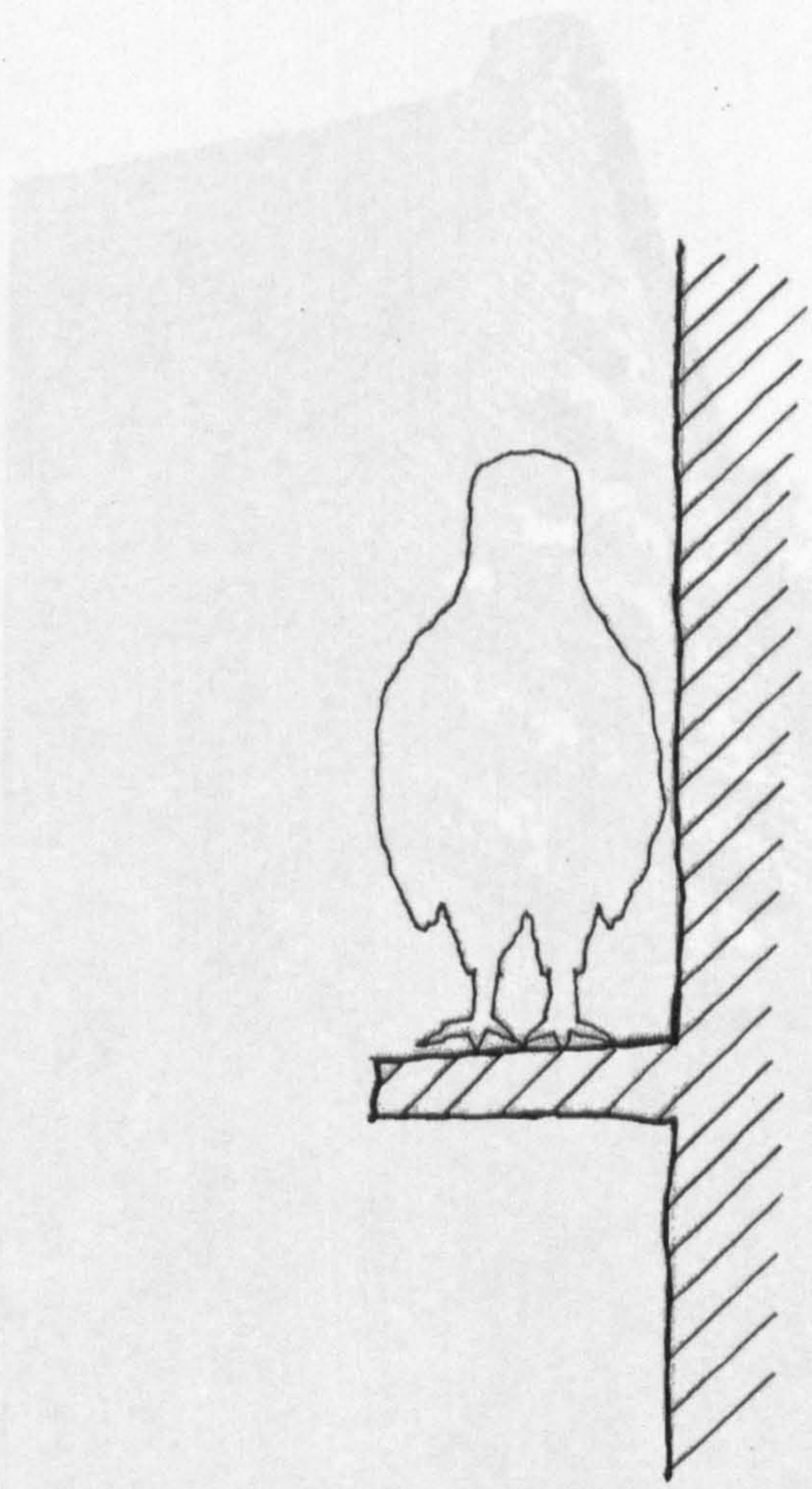


Doocots of Moray: Ledge Height - second (Fig 6.21)



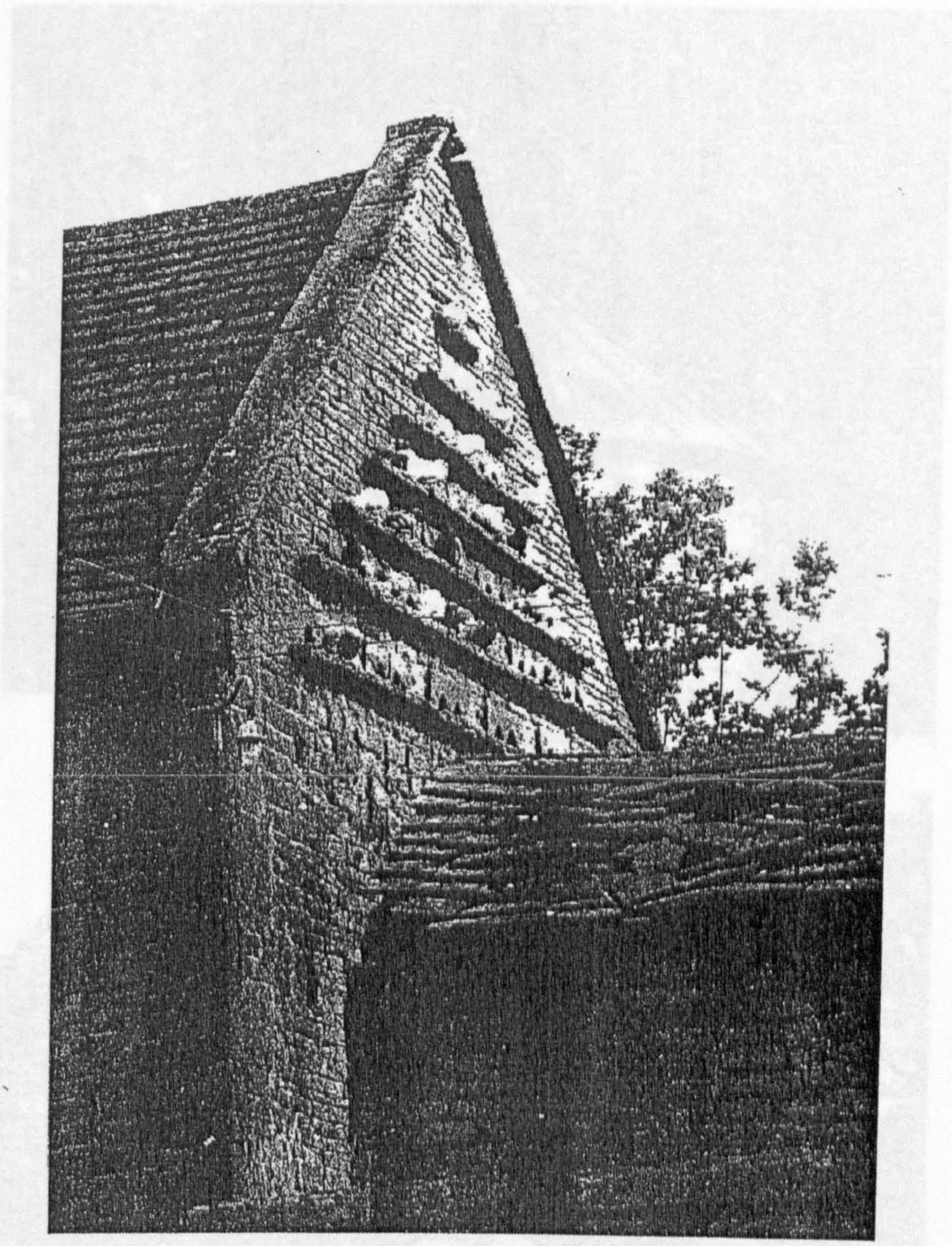
Doocots of Moray: Ledge Length (Fig 6.22)





Bird on Ledge (Fig. 6.23)

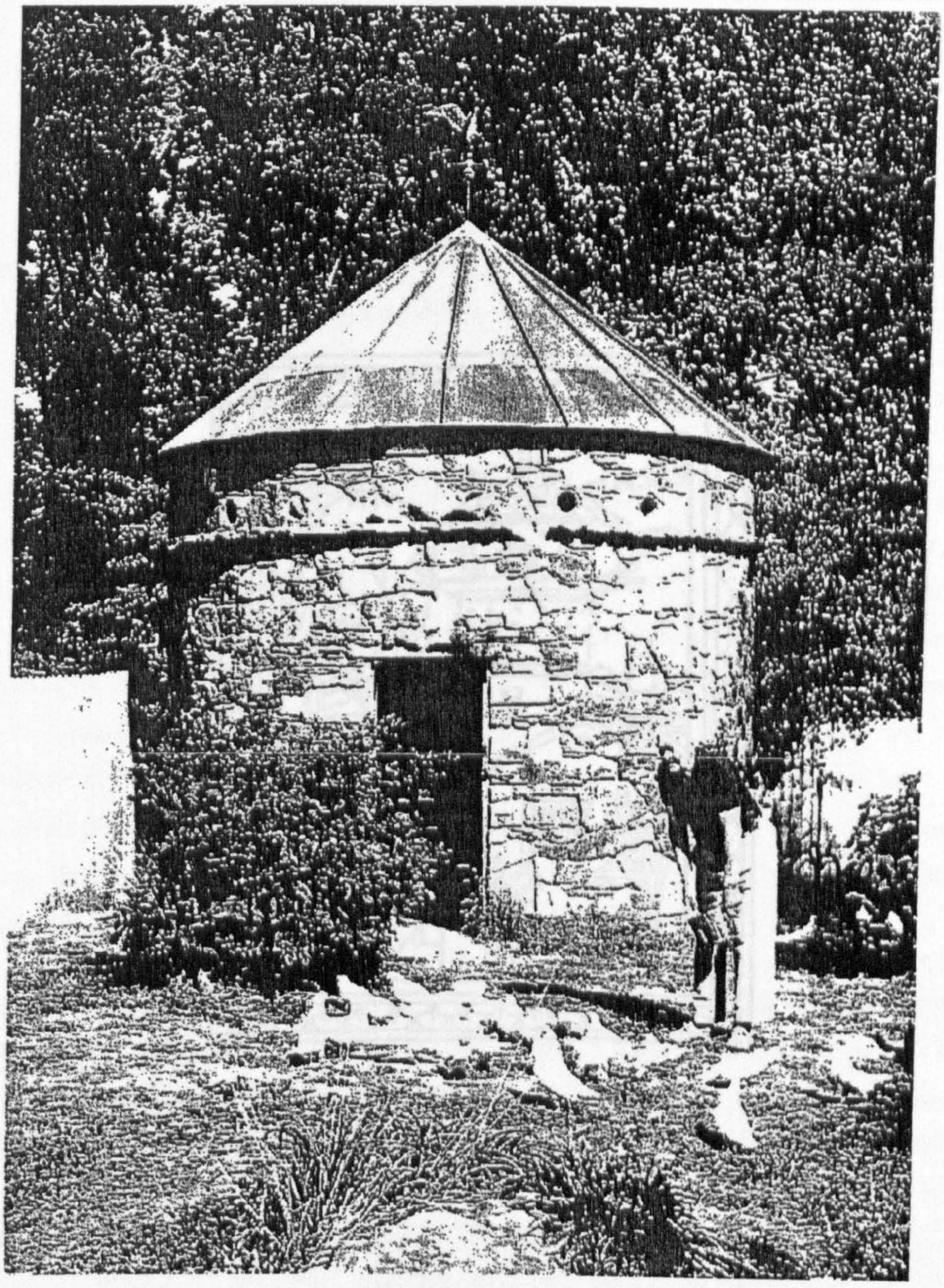
Sketch showing a bird is able to promenade a 100mm to 130mm wide ledge (external or internal).



Birds on ledges of English cote (Plate 6.1)

Copy of photograph showing a number of birds perching, mostly sideways, on several external ledges on the gable of Highlow Hall dovecote, Hathersage, Derbyshire.

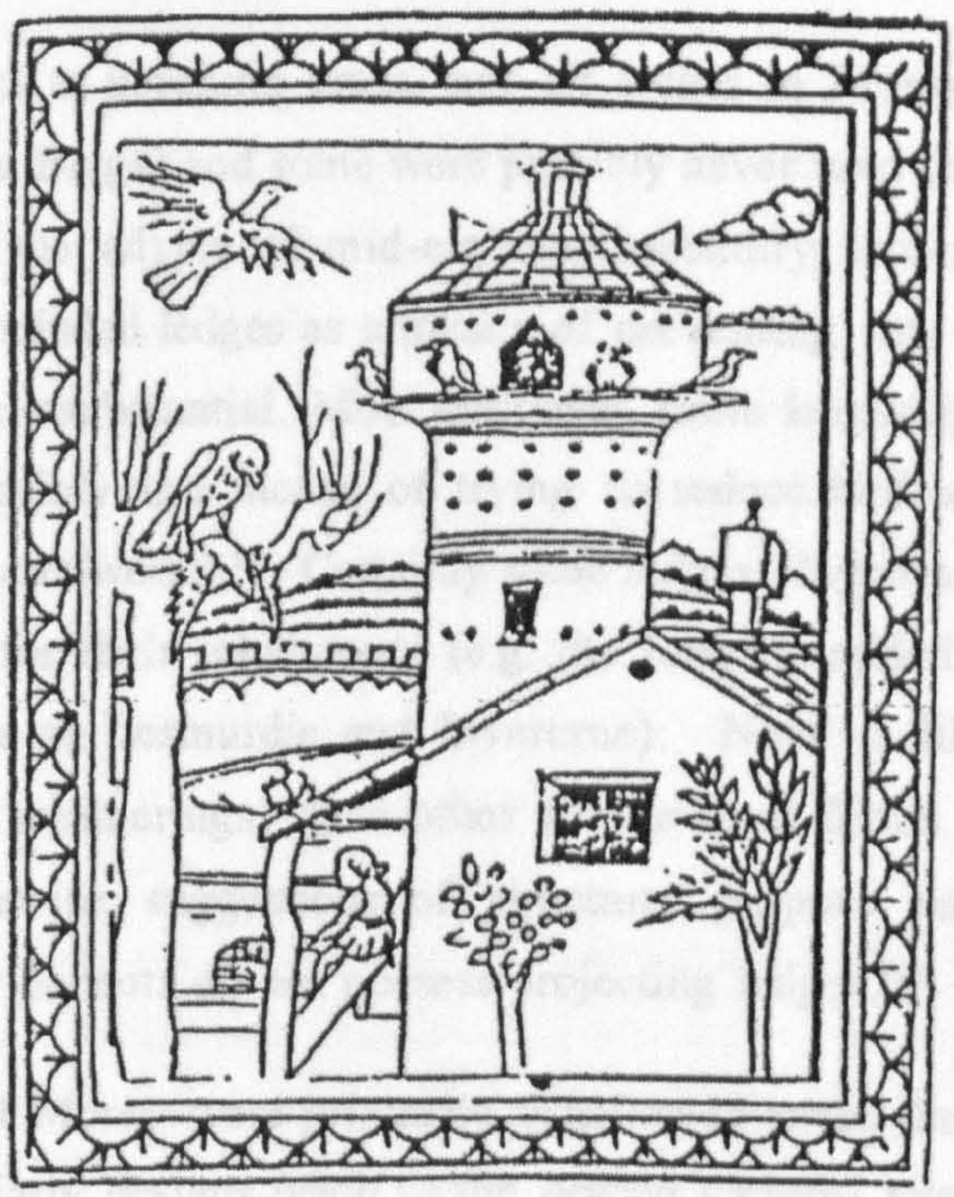
(reproduced from P. & J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p. 20)



Birds on ledge of American cote (Plate 6.2)

Copy of a photograph showing several birds perching, and flying from, a, "*... newly-built, stone dovecote in traditional style at The Plains, Virginia, USA*".

(Reproduced from P. & J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p. 104)



Birds on ledge of foreign cote (Fig. 6.24)

Sketch of "... *15th century continental dovecote*" showing several birds perching on a single, high level, cornice ledge (c.f. Invererne doocot, Chapter 5.6).

(Reproduced from P. & J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p. 86)

Sceptical of McCann's idea, Whitworth commented, *"I have never ever seen a bird perching on the rat ledge"*.[110] Unfortunately, the study of the redundant doocots of Moray cannot counter this opinion (unless one of them is restocked). A painting, nevertheless, of a sixteenth century rural scene,[111] clearly shows white and blue doves on the roof and lower ledges of an octagonal tower doocot. A modern photograph in Dovecote Heritage,[112] illustrates birds standing on a wall ledge of a circular stone doocot (Plate 6.2). These illustrations prove that doves clearly used such ledges.

If indeed employed to act as perching areas, not all ledges in Moray's historic doocots were well designed (e.g. at Braga) and some were possibly never used (e.g. lower rear ledge at Knockando). Noting the advice of mid-eighteenth-century writers, some later cote builders may well have included ledges as a means of preventing rats from climbing, but the evidence in Moray is insubstantial. Most curiously, some ledges appear to have been deliberately removed, possibly as a means of trying to reduce bird numbers (as seen at Burgie, Findrassie and Quarrelwood).[113] Certainly some ledges played a decorative role, as well as a functional one for their inhabitants (e.g. the lower moulded ledge at Plewlands and the classical cornices at Lesmurdie and Invererne). None is likely to have been consciously employed as weatherings, since other similar local forms of construction do not possess them. Likewise, suggestions of structural purpose cannot be upheld.[114] Finally, most modern-day doocots do not possess projecting ledges.[115]

Ledges on the doocots of Moray were primarily installed to meet the birds' behavioural needs (see Chap. 4.3). Early designs (such as the domed variety) sited in open fields in relative isolation, offered few landing opportunities for large flocks arriving or departing. Projecting ledges, or some other device, would have been essential and would have to equate to the numbers of inhabitants.[116] The requirement was probably estimated by the owners and builders rather than calculated. Further, as time progressed, and doocots' designs changed, the exact provision and detailing of ledges varied within certain limits.

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[110] A. Whitworth, pers.comm., 31/1/96.

[111] Hartley, (ed.), Tusser's Five Hundred Good Points, 1571, p.119.

[112] Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992, p.104. *"Newly built, stone dovecote in traditional style at the Plains, Virginia, U.S.A. In addition to providing pleasure, the White Kings are already in full squab production."*
See also, Walker, 'Bee boles', 1988, p.112.

[113] The ledges may have been removed for other reasons, e.g. vandalism, theft, weather damage, maintenance or reuse.

[114] T. Day, Structural Engineer, pers.comm., 14/4/98. *"I doubt that the ledges and the fins supporting them play any significant structural role ... if the fins and ledges were removed the* [circular domed] *doocot would not collapse."*

[115] Racing pigeon owners do not want their birds to parade outside their cotes since this can waste valuable time in a race situation.

[116] Such as the sticks projecting from the mud-constructed doocots in Asia, or later in Europe, in the form of pitched roofs, pinnacles and towers.

This indicated a rudimentary awareness for the need to provide ledges, yet still retained a degree of trial and error in their actual implementation.

6.3.10 Vent holes

Interpretation of data

The need for ventilation is clearly recognised by previous authors as essential in a doocot (see Chap. 2.3.1, s.v. 'Design Criteria') but has not been researched to any great extent.

The statistical evidence for Moray (Fig. 6.25) confirms that the requirement for ventilation was provided, in some form, for all doocots.[117] In considering vent area however, the trend of the graph (Fig. 6.26) shows a distinct and steady decline in ventilation area over time, but a correlation in the trend of bird numbers declining confirms this as a parallel consequence, rather than a change of ecological attitude. The individual vent area for Leitcheston doocot (c.1650) is strikingly high on the graph ($0.8m^3$); but the unique internal arrangement of this doocot (four internal chambers) made such a response necessary.[118] The high figure ($0.8m^3$) for Wester Elchies (c.1750), on the other hand, is explained by the insertion of a later aperture.

The exact air requirement for each bird has never been scientifically calculated, although some modern breeders have estimated spatial requirements.[119] Most breeders recognise the need for good ventilation that does not result in draughts which might threaten the welfare of nestings.[120]

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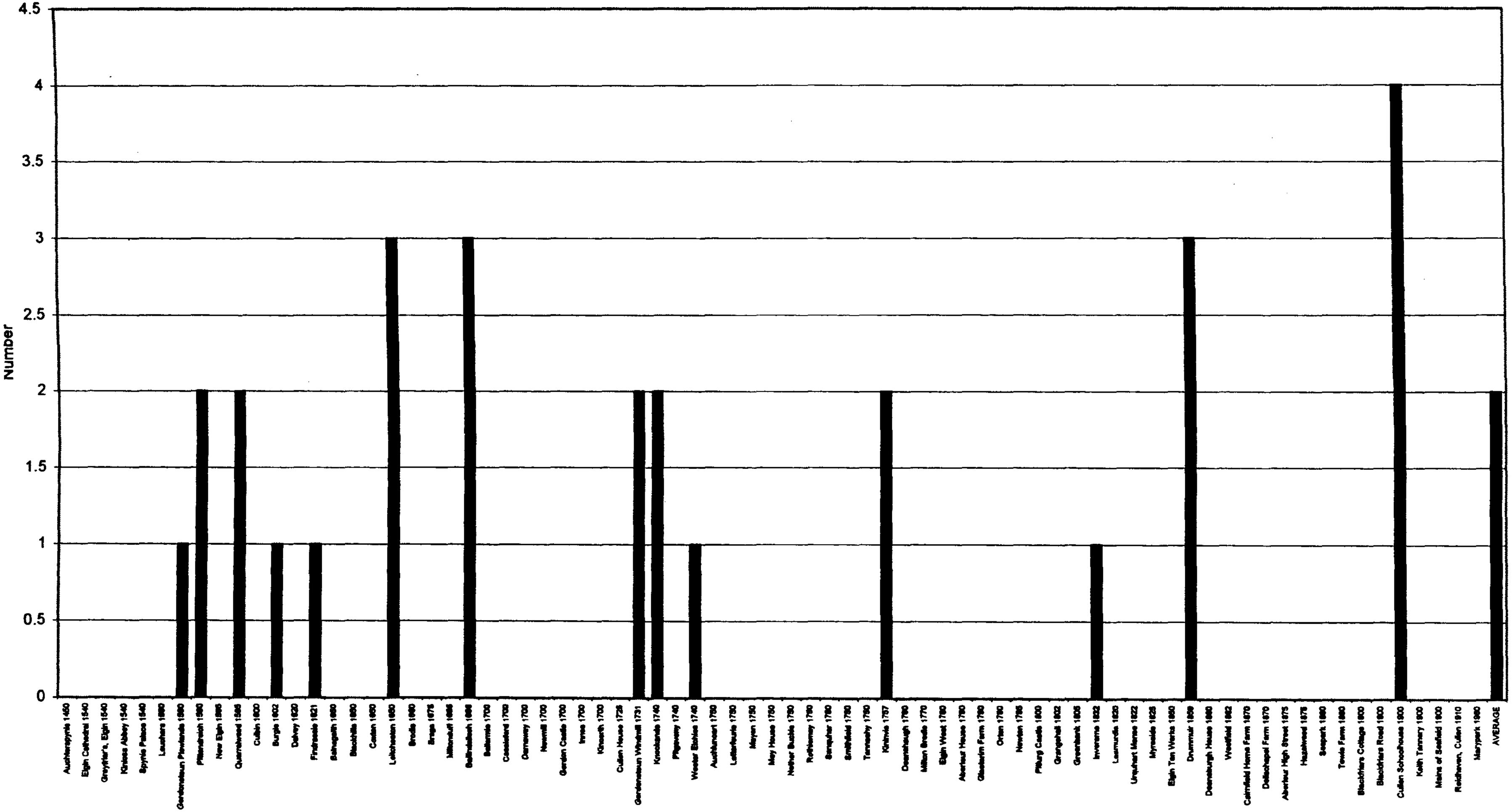
[117] The graph zero ratings for Braga, c.1690 and Rothiemay, c.1750 are misleading since the ventilation areas are 'not known' due to fabric loss. (Other zero graph readings show up because ventilation is provided by access holes only.)

[118] Leitcheston Doocot is Moray's clearest example of squab farming at its most intensive (whether it functioned well with such potential for overcrowding is a matter of doubt, however). An English equivalent is recorded by Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.112 s.v. 'Notley Abbey'. It is cited as a rare example of six internal partitions installed into a dovecote to increase numbers, in this case, to four or five thousand (Cooke's figures). He rightly questions the air quality and overcrowding effect. The bird number potential for Smithfield doocot (demolished) suggests that it would have required a vent area in the order of one square metre.

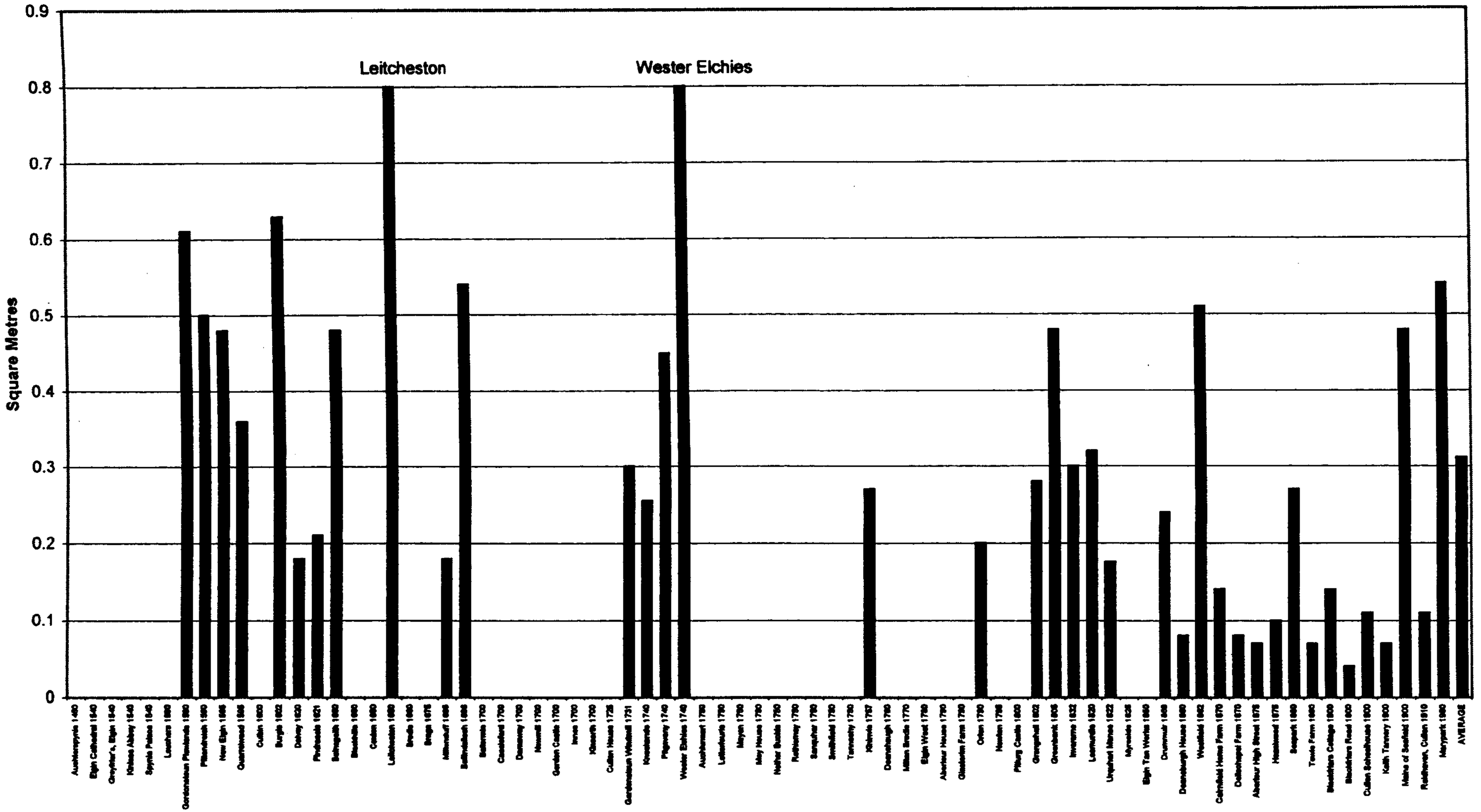
[119] Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p.211, *"... it seems that pigeons given the maximum amount of air, no matter how cold the temperature, are the healthiest ... there are no published figures to test it... There are some results showing that birds kept in lofts with no ventilation whatever were a sickly lot."*
Readers Digest, How to do just about anything, 1990, p.343, *"... each bird required 0.6 m3."*
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.5, correctly points out that the cubic air space is influenced by factors such as cleanliness, function, degree of confinement, environmental conditions.

[120] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.511. *"A plentiful supply of fresh air should always be planned for, but at the same time, draughts which may cause colds and other respiratory troubles, eliminated."*
Soper, Bird Table Book, 1965, p.113. *"The house should be draught free, but well ventilated."*

Doocots of Moray: Vent Holes (Fig 6.25)



Doocots of Moray: Vent Area (Fig 6.26)



A study of how the ventilation of the doocots of Moray is provided further reveals an aspect of doocot design that has escaped previous historians. The importance of ventilation is equated with a quality air supply and doves in high concentrations require continuous air changes. Flight holes alone in small doocots (such as Hazelwood, Blackfriars Coach House and Westfield) would achieve this but large doocots would require additional inlets and outlets. A flow of air is guaranteed by the stack effect created by heat rising and large doocots in Moray, ancient and modern, achieve this with high level outlets drawing in air from opposing, often lower, inlets.[121] Perhaps since the outlets and inlets are usually designed to permit bird access and egress also, researchers of redundant doocots have missed this point. Current breeders and ornithologists, on the other hand, have been aware of the need for cross ventilation and air movement for some time.[122]

6.3.11 Internal finish

Interpretation of data

The Roman writers Varro and Columella (see Chap. 2.3.1, s.v. 'Design Criteria') advocated the use of white plastered walls in doocots and most modern authors concur with this notion.

The data of Moray's doocots shows that the internal finishes, and hence the internal atmospheres, are somewhat variable (see data, Fig. 9.3, in Appendix Section 1). Approximately half do not employ an applied finish; internal walls and boxes, whether they be constructed in stone, brick, timber or clay, are left in their raw state. The other doocots show signs of a finish being applied (e.g. paint, plaster, limewash) either to the whole interior, or just parts of it.[123]

No real pattern emerges to identify a historical trend, as examples of both situations (painted and unpainted) can be found throughout each of the five centuries examined.

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[121] Air inlets at low levels cause predatory difficulties so modern cotes, which are not tall structures in the first place, have meshed or solid wood floors.
Martin, Pigeon Racing, 1983, p.9, suggests raising a floor in modern cotes by 300 mm above ground level to provide fresh air, keep the floor dry and free from rot.
The flight holes of historic doocots, sited halfway up the walls, gables or towards the eaves, would draw in cool air which would sink then rise within the cote as it warmed up. Vitiated air would be released at the top through dormers, cupolas or high level vents.

[122] Hutton, Pigeon Lore, 1978, p.134. *"I have found that they not only require air, but also air that is continually being changed."*

[123] Few of Moray's cotes have been entirely limewashed inside during their history, e.g. Dalvey, Ballindalloch, Drummuir, Wester Elchies and Rothiemay.

This indicates that the interior of cotes can be finished in a variety of ways and still function satisfactorily. Since ecologists observe that ,"... *pigeons are happiest in a dark chamber which recalls the cave crevices of their ancestors*",[124] the decision to whitewash a cote interior is either the manifestation of a human agenda (e.g. to lighten the space for the human eye) or the consequence of a human perception of the bird's desires.[125] In recognition that plaster, paint and limewash can provide a more hygienic and smoother (i.e. safer) internal surface,[126] certain architects, builders and owners have seen sufficient benefits to incur additional expense and effort upon cote interiors.[127]

6.3.12 Bird occupancy

Interpretation of data

The Bird Occupancy graph (Fig. 6.27) is based on a multiplying factor of the number of nest boxes found. When assessing the number of a cote's inhabitants, present day interpretation by architects and historians attributes two birds to every nest box[128], i.e. five hundred nest boxes equates to one thousand birds (see Chap. 2.4.1, s.v. 'Management'). Earlier writings, however, suggested that two birds should be allocated two boxes,[129] i.e. five hundred nest boxes equating to five hundred birds. Unfortunately, this is not a matter that can be resolved by architectural research and only actual stocking of redundant cotes would determine the numerical capability of each building.[130] Also, the nest box provision (size, shape, location) would play a role in determining occupancy;

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[124]Soper, Bird Table Book, 1965, p.113,s.v. 'Rock Dove/Domestic Pigeon'.

[125]Or possibly a combination of the two. As already seen (Chap. 2.3), the writings of Columella and Varro have greatly influenced cote design and management (although Goodwin, pers.comm. 25/5/98 comments that, "... *Romans seem not always to have been very astute naturalists.*").

[126]F. Home, Principles of Agriculture and Vegetation, (Edinburgh; Kinnaird and Donaldson, 1756), p.55, "... *water has not sensible effect* [on setting lime] *except in killing vermin in first year, when these parts are most soluble in water.*"
Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p.10. "*The regular use of disinfectants on floors and walls is recommended.*" See Appendix Section 2 for 'Costs' of maintaining a cote.
Lumley, Pigeons and their Origins, 1891, p.23. "*The inside ceiling* [of timber cote] *was composed of lath and plaster, whitewashed.*" (Maintenance was normally carried out in the winter months when the birds were at their least active.)

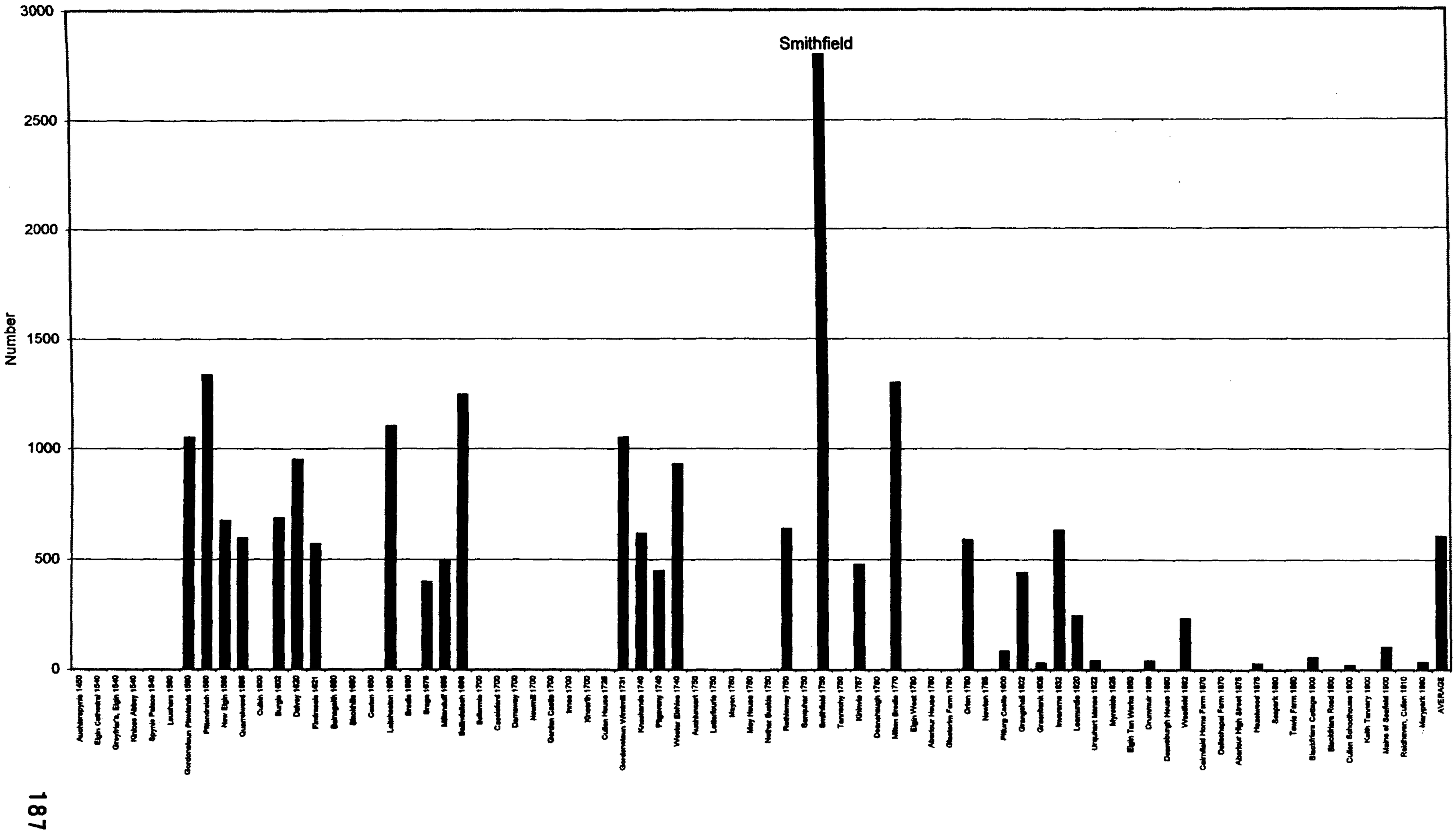
[127]Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p.179 notes that lice, ticks, pigeon fly, roundworm and threadworm can also be controlled by good sanitation in a cote.
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.291, remarked that, "*There is little doubt that the careful use of lime around the loft does reduce odours and lead towards cleanliness and hygiene. Lime, however, is a dehydrating agent - small particles settle on eggs and absorb moisture,*" thereby threatening embryos.

[128]For example, Historic Scotland's interpretation panel at Dirleton Castle Doocot, East Lothian.

[129]See earlier citations for Lumley, Sportman's, Smith, Yates. (All of which are possibly referring to pigeon rearing for reasons other than food, e.g. fancy, display, pleasure).
The provision for a double nest is concurred by Soper, Bird Table Book, 1965, p.67.

[130]I. J. Patterson, University of Aberdeen, pers.comm., 29/10/96. "*I am certain that there is no way to estimate the number of pigeons (apart from the theoretical maximum) from the number of nesting places.*"

Doocots of Moray: Bird Number (Fig 6.27)



not to mention the individual 'personalities' of birds and natural mortality factors (see Chap. 4.2 and 4.5, s.v. 'Biology' and 'Management').

Nevertheless, to compare occupancy within each cote, a reasonable assessment (based inevitably upon nest box number) must be taken.[131] Since the stock of a cote is its breeding adult population, such an assessment of bird number will disregard a potential to cater for squabs.[132] Also, since adults are largely monogamous, it will assume that nest sites are consistently occupied by two birds. Accepting that some birds will be unpaired, others will be sick, or injured, and that some nest sites will be unattractive, or alternatively occupied by cock birds, it is derived that the maximum figure of occupancy will be considerably lower than 100 per cent. On the other hand, given the owner's desire to 'cram', in many cases, this figure is judged to be higher than 50 per cent. An unscientific, but calculated ratio, is therefore set at 75 per cent occupancy, although the findings must accept the potential for error.[133]

The bird occupancy graph is, therefore, presented in direct relationship to nest box number (since the latter evidence is certain). With the striking exception of Moray's largest, and most controversial,[134] doocot - Smithfield of Gordonstoun (1751) - it shows the nesting provision in steady decline over the centuries.

6.3.13 Nest sites

Interpretation of data

If domesticated birds are to be encouraged to breed, the provision of appropriate nest sites would seem a self evident prerequisite.[135] To examine the ecological provision of nest sites within the doocots of Moray, it is necessary to explore different aspects of their design: the size, shape and construction of individual boxes; their collective arrangement; and positioning within the cotes.

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[131]For example, the nest boxes in Pittendreich could hold more squabs than, say, Orton (since they are twice as large in area).
[132]Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p.3. *"The number of boxes should correspond with the number of pairs and any spare boxes should be closed up."*
[133]Johnston and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.72. A bird's territory varies and is dependent upon the nature of the environment, ".. *when breeding is at a peak in intensity, nests are more densely concentrated in a colony*". p.204, ".. *availability of suitable nest sites is thus not a reliable predictor of numbers of pigeons*". Can be higher or lower depending on food sources, mortality rates, colony character and predation.
[134]See Chap.5 and lawsuit in Appendix Section 2.
[135] The doocot at Drummuir Mains Farm which has roosting perches, rather than nest boxes, is a notable 'deviant' in this respect.

(i) Nest size

Contrary to Douglas' statement that, "... *the size of the nests in the Moray dovecotes does not vary much*"[136], graph analysis of all the nest boxes in Moray (Fig.) shows that they vary greatly from doocot to doocot; in depth between 200 and 700 mm, in width between 190 and 350 mm and in height between 180 and 300 mm[137]. With a few exceptions (e.g. Braga and Pittendreich, which have different sizes of boxes within them) the box dimensions are consistently reproduced within individual doocots. The smallest set of combined dimensions possible is 200(d) x 180(w) x 180(h) mm, which would be inadequate to contain an adult bird, but no examples of all three of these smallest dimensions were found.[138]

The choice of materials clearly affects the nest's size; for example, at Braga the use of boulder results in irregular boxes, whereas the use of brick at Seafield and Hazelwood, creates standardised solutions relating to brick and half brick measurements. The required size of a nest box for breeding domestic doves was described by an eighteenth century naturalist as, "... *large enough for old birds to have freedom to move and feed young.*"[139] Modern breeders (whose birds are kept in semi-confinement) prefer nest sites as large as 460(d) x 600(w) x 380(h) mm, in order to contain pairs of birds and two nest bowls.[140] The tolerance permitted in box dimensioning is best summarised by two current ornithological experts. Firstly, Goodwin commented, ".. *wild Rock Pigeons do not have very precise requirements as to nest sites, unlike most species which make their own holes*"[141] and secondly, Feu wrote, "*Dimensions of boxes need not be measured to the*

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[136]Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.14.

[137]Early boxes, such as at Pittendreich, are likely to have played a structural role.

[138]The statistics illustrate that sixteenth and seventeenth century boxes were deep plan and, therefore, capable of holding both a nesting and a feeding family at the same time. The decrease in box size in later centuries could be related to eighteenth century advice to provide two boxes per pair, but is more likely associated with a desire to reduce wall thicknesses and costs. Box sizes were also influenced by the use of materials.

[139] Selby in Jardine, Naturalist's Library, vol.5, 1835, p.149, s.v. 'Pigeon'.
Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p.23 observes that, "*Ordinary sized nest boxes are too small for the heavy-breasted utility breeds.*"

[140]J. Martin, Pigeon Racing (Slough: W. Foulsham & Co. Ltd., 1983) 1992 edn., p.24, ".. *with nest fronts* [slats] *fitted*", in order to contain birds.
Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p.3 suggests, ".. *10' x 10' x 4'*, " whilst Soper, Bird Table Book, 1965, p.113 suggests 600 x 450 x 450 mm. These dimensions highlight, not only the different tolerances permitted, but also different attitudes (and uses).

[141]Goodwin, pers.comm., 11/8/98. "*This accounts, in part, for the ease with which the species has been exploited and domesticated.*"

nearest millimetre. If birds were so selective that they took only nest sites of such precise dimensions then there would be insufficient natural sites".[142]

The evidence in Moray illustrates that doocots have functioned with a variable provision of nest size per bird (see Fig. 6.30). The study has been unable to determine if the variance has been deliberate in relation to different functions, or whether it is a consequence of somewhat capricious decision-making. The better functioning doocots would, nevertheless, have been designed to ensure that the nest site provided was at least as attractive as those nearby. Thus, the site would require to respond to the birds' basic needs to: stand upright; turn around; defecate away from the nest; share the space with youngsters; and fly off and land safely.[143] Failure to do this could threaten a bird abandoning a nest or, worse still, leaving a cote altogether. The art of the squab doocot builder has therefore been to try and design a maximum nest box size from an ornithological point of view. This has generally been within the constraints of his constructional skills and source of materials, whilst not compromising the owner's desire to cram as many nest sites as possible into the structure. On the basis of the Moray evidence, the mean size is 300(d) x 250(w) x 240(h) mm (see Fig. 6.29).

(ii) Nest box construction

All of Moray's early existing doocots (see Fig. 9.3 in Appendix Section 1) have nest sites constructed using local stone (normally sandstone). In the most prestigious structures, such as Pittendreich, Plewlands and Burgie, the stone is regularly cut and dressed. Other structures, such as Braga and Seafield, use fieldstones in their construction and several (e.g. Leitcheston, Knockando and Invereme) incorporate slate to provide a smooth base for individual boxes. The boxes of older structures appear to be integral with their walls (as witnessed at exposed areas at Braga and Quarrelwood),[144] although later structures have boxes clearly constructed as separate entities (e.g. Milton, Rothiemay and Kininvie).

An example of 'nest holes' hewn into the walls, rather than having been constructed as nest boxes, can be found, not as might have been expected in an ancient structure,[145] but

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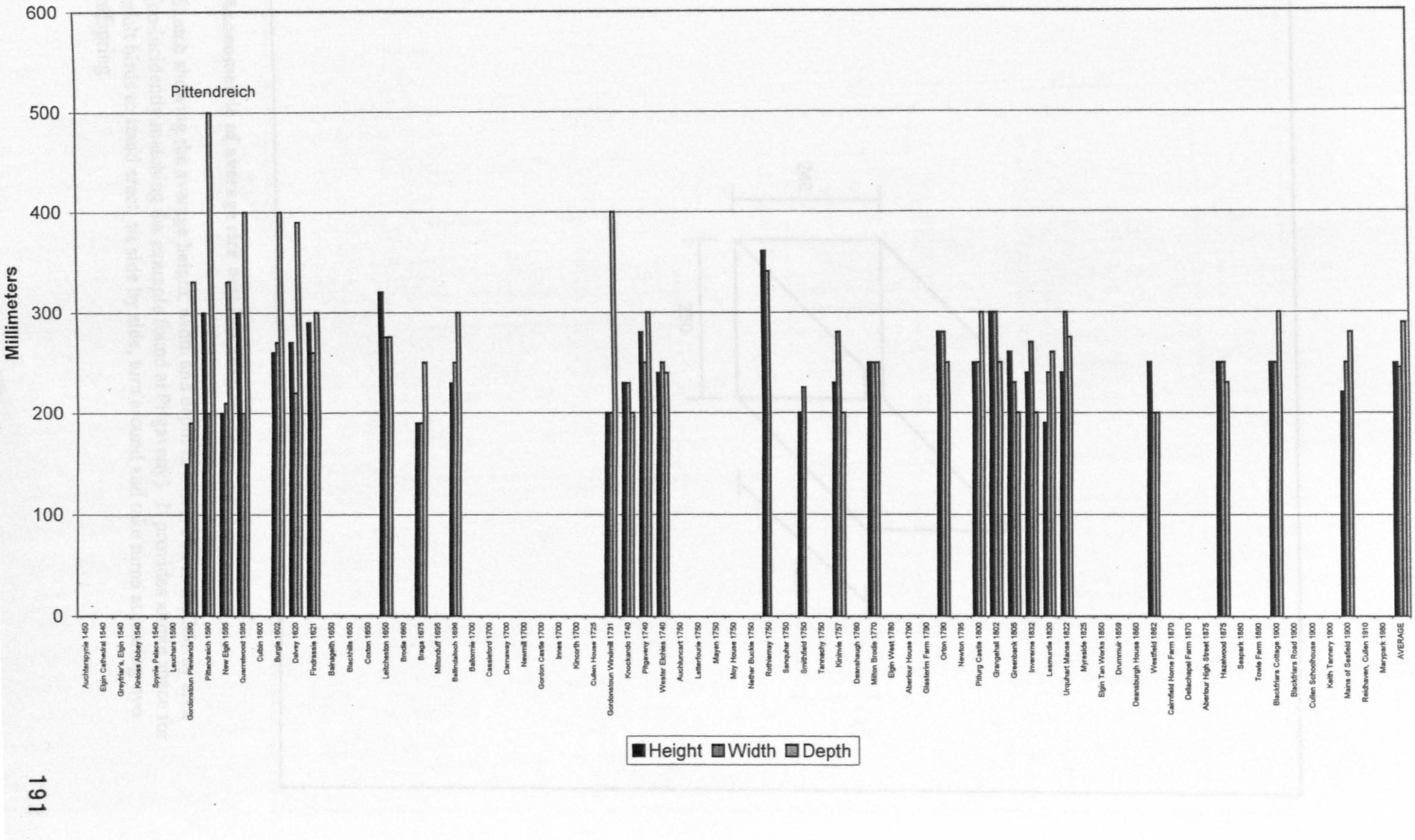
[142]Feu, Nestboxes, 1985, p.5, "*.. thus making life impossibly hard. Birds are opportunists and may take any of a wide range of nest sites. ... Dimensions of nestboxes are generally not critical and it is easier, cheaper and more effective to make boxes according to wood available rather than to adhere slavishly to precise dimensions.*"

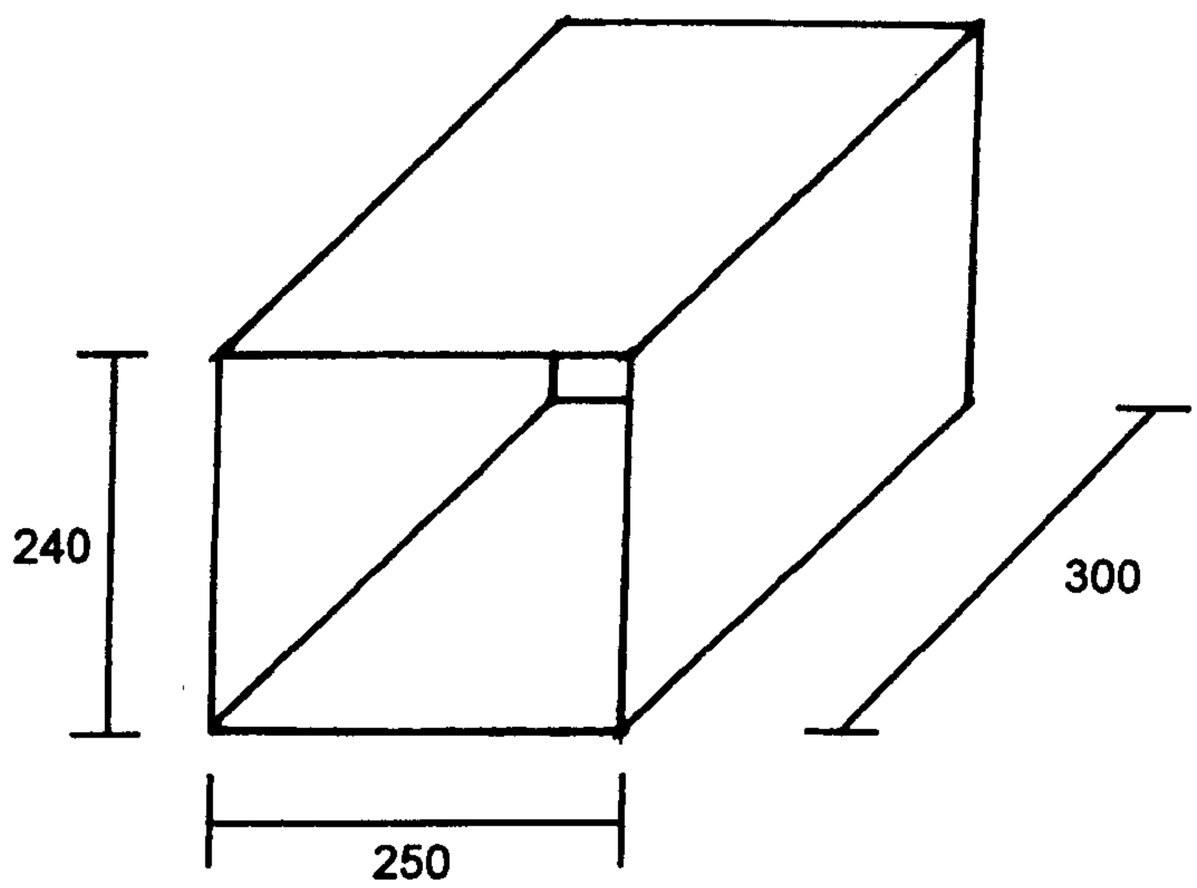
[143]Perhaps more by accident than design, nest boxes around the perimeter walls of circular plan cotes had the added advantage of being wider at the back that at the front (due to the larger radius at the rear).

[144]Due to deterioration and vandalism.

[145]'Nest holes' are sometimes found hewn into the walls of ancient fortresses and pre-Reformation ecclesiastical buildings elsewhere in Scotland, e.g. Hailes and Rothesay.

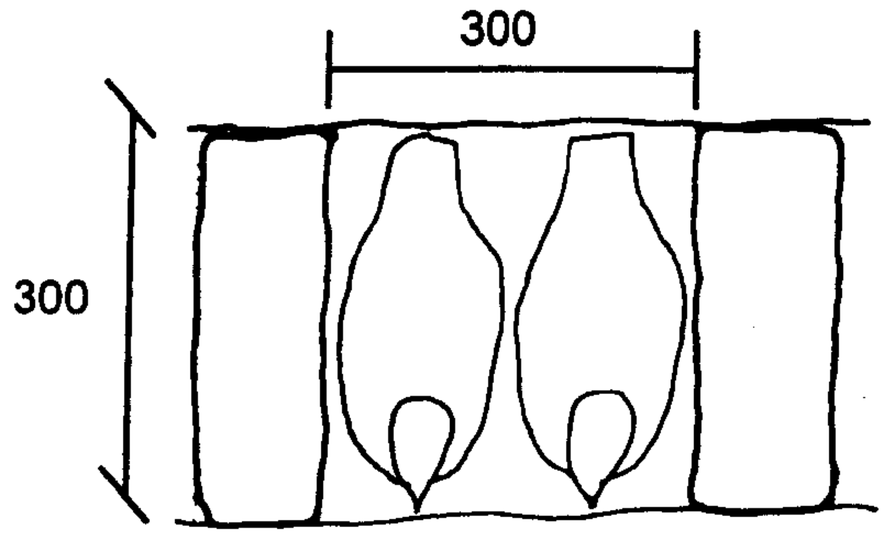
Doocots of Moray: Nest Box Size (Fig .28)



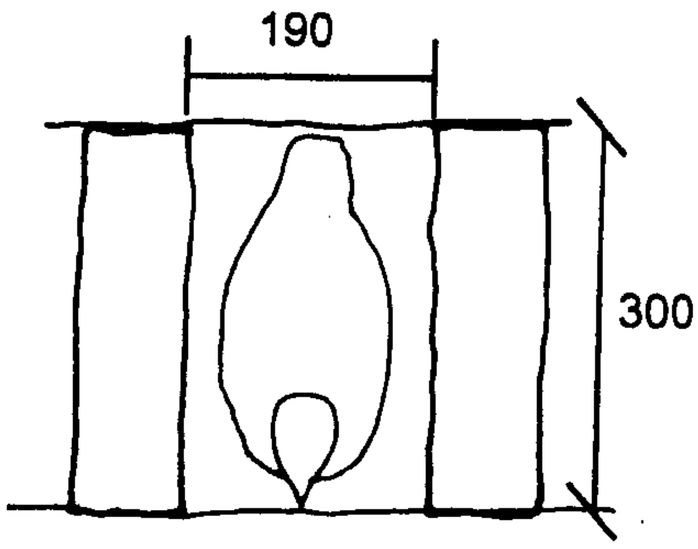


Axonometric of average size nest box (Fig. 6.29)

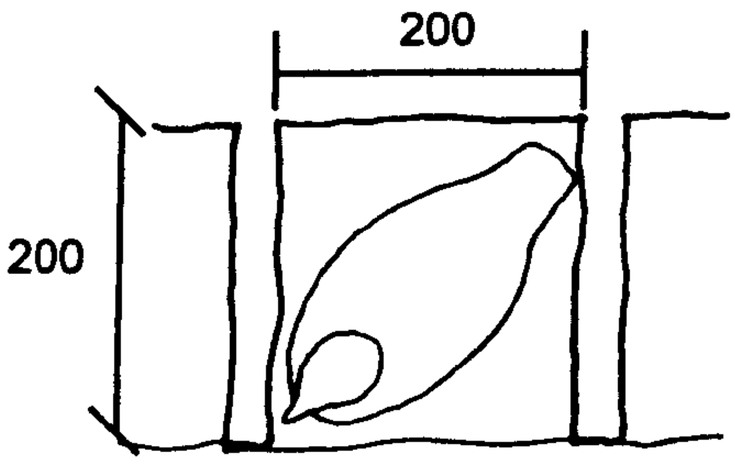
Sketch showing the average height, width and depth of a nest box in the Moray area (co-incidently matching the example found at Pitgaveny). It provides ample space for adult birds to stand erect, sit side by side, turn around and take turns at rearing two offspring.



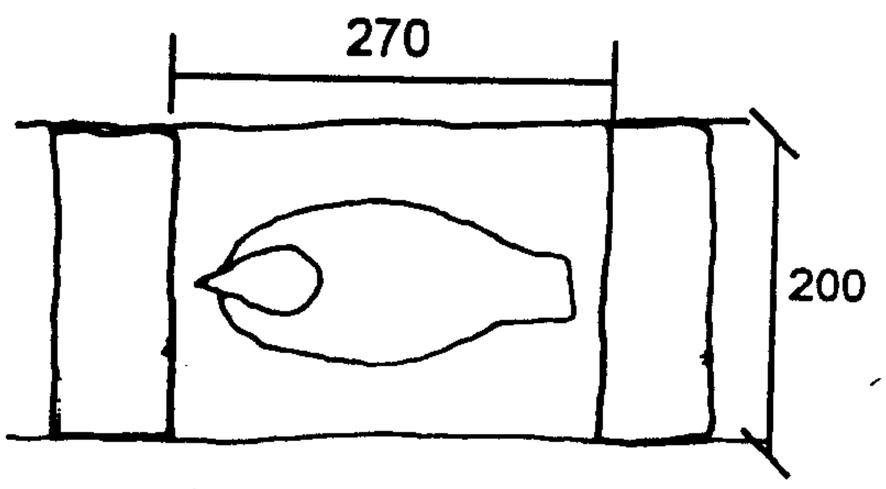
PLAN OF QUARRELWOOD



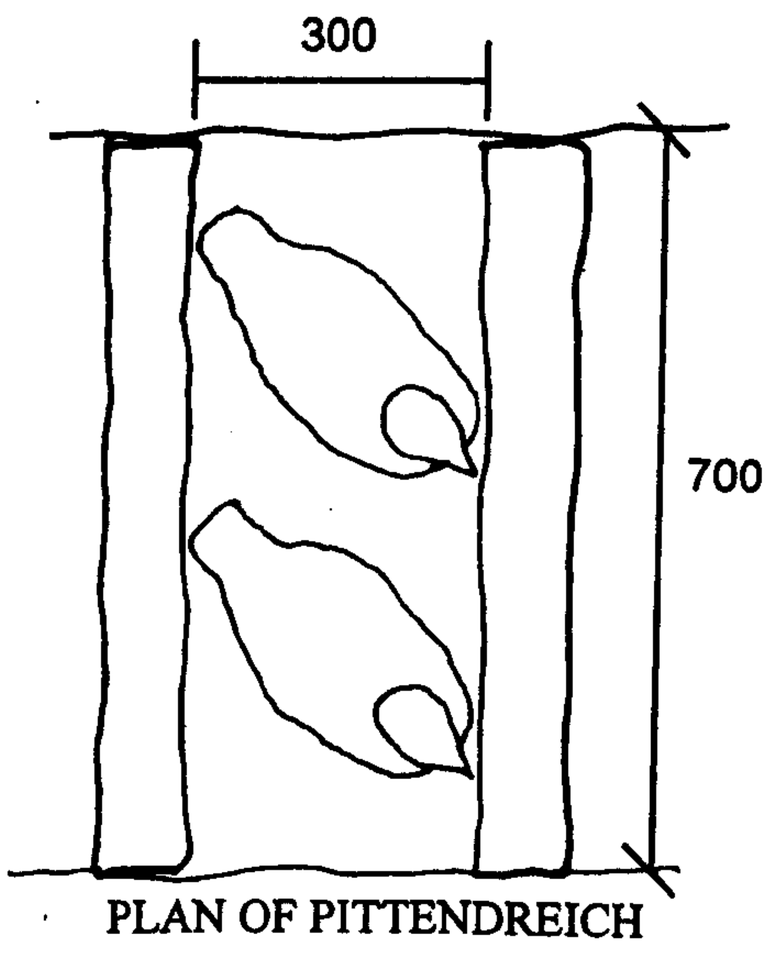
PLAN OF LESMURDIE



PLAN OF WESTFIELD



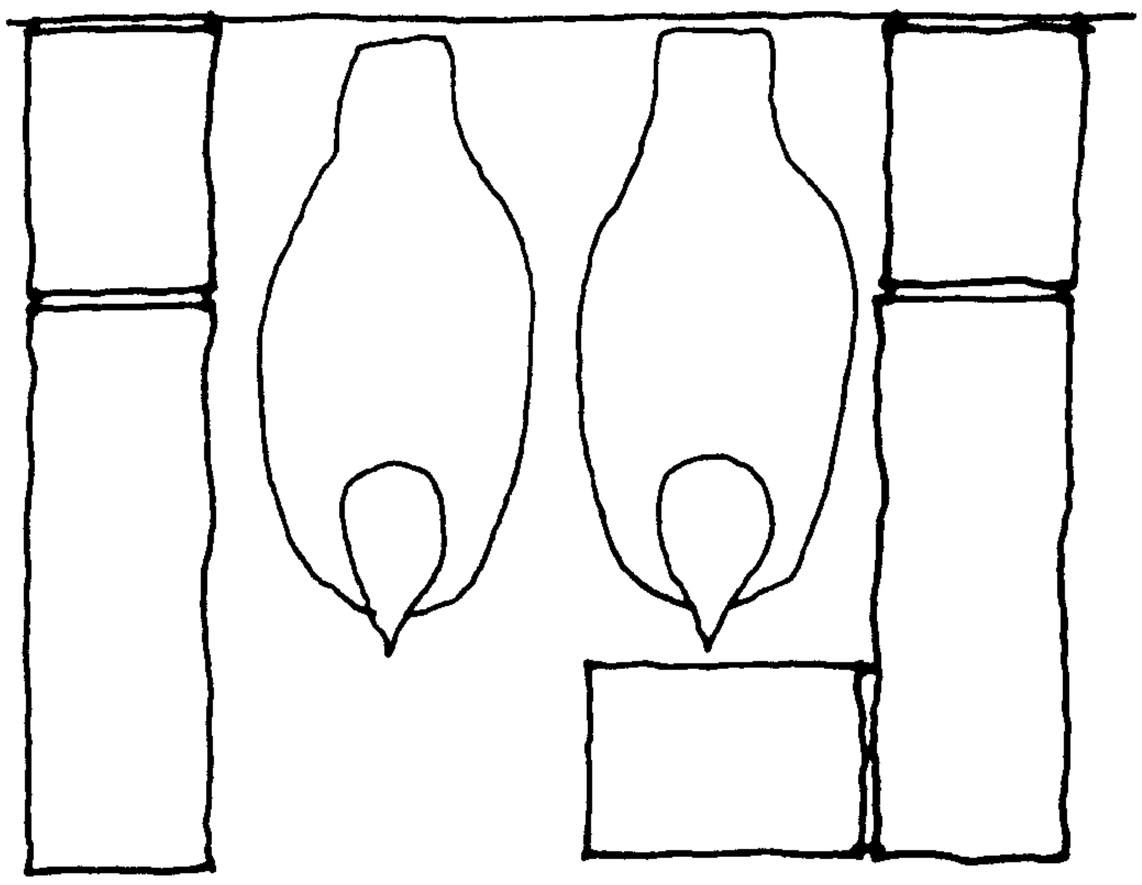
PLAN OF INVERERNE



PLAN OF PITTENDREICH

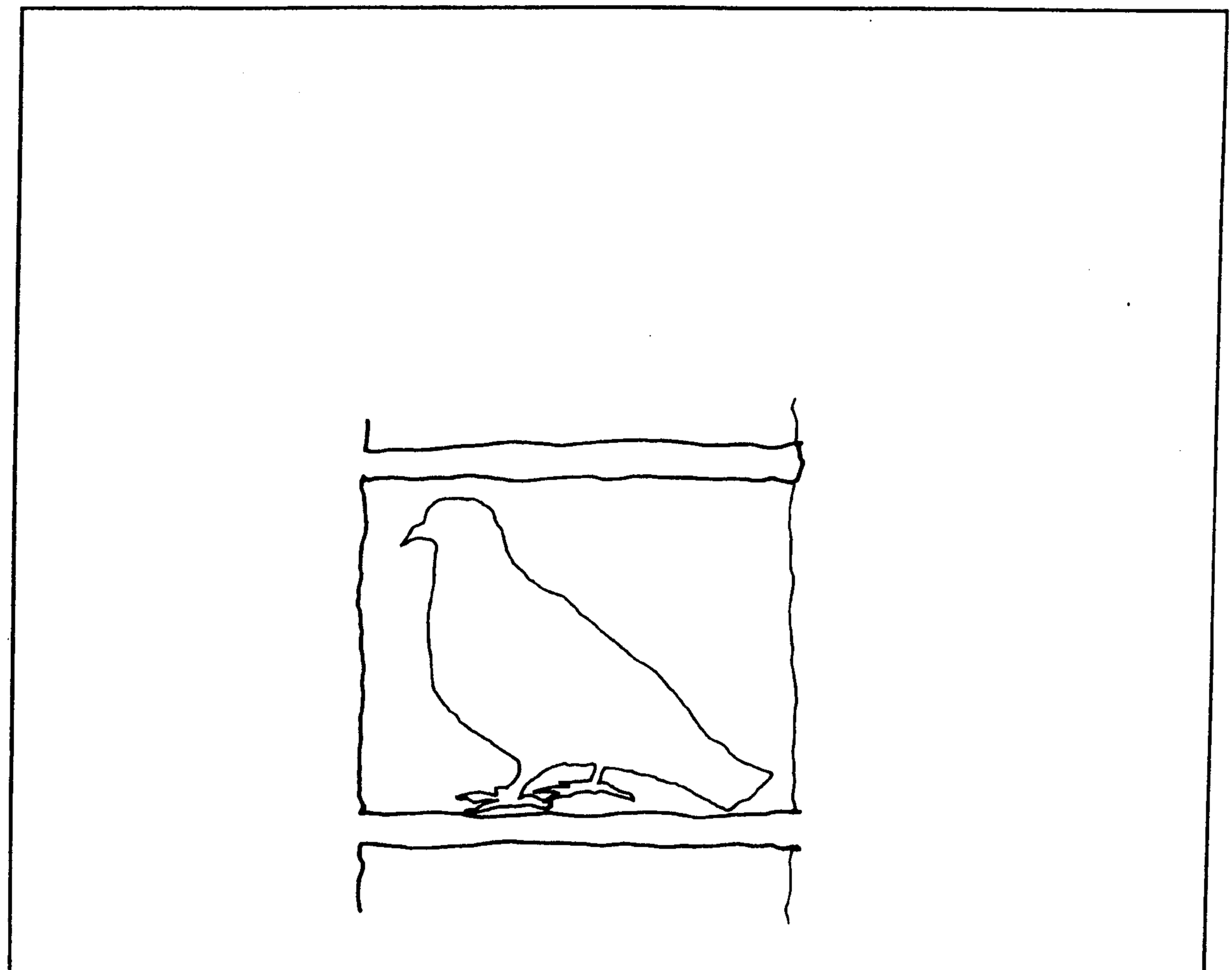
Nest box plan shapes (Fig. 6.30)

Selection of plans from nest box areas from doocots of Moray showing, not only how birds might have occupied the sites, but also the range of provision and effect on bird ergonomics.



Plan of L-shape nest box (Fig. 6.31)

Sketch of an L-plan nest box (of the type usually made of brick and found in southern Scotland and England). Note how the return leg closes down the exposure of the entrance and provides a more protected nesting area.



Cross section through masonry next box (Fig. 6.32)

Sketch showing how a historically typical nest box space, constructed in order to farm birds intensively, just contains an upright adult bird.

in the nineteenth century building at Greenbank. A similar example, using an altogether different construction technique (shuttered clay) can be found at Urquhart Manse, which is also a nineteenth century structure.

Nest sites which are constructed using masonry materials provide hard, flat surfaces with high thermal conductivity loss. In these cases, birds may have been provided with nest-making materials, or even allocated purpose-made pots or baskets.[146] Further, as well as providing warmer surfaces for adults and nestlings, these devices would have prevented eggs from rolling out of the nest.

By the nineteenth century, timber nest boxes were being mostly employed to take benefit of their lightweight construction, cold resistance, accurate sizing and low cost.[147] As witnessed at Orton, Grangehall and Kininvie, this material could incorporate an upstand at its outer edge and thus decrease the rate of egg or nestling loss (many present day cotes incorporate timber boxes with upstands or closed, slatted fronts[148] - see Hamilton Drive, Elgin for example). Brick found favour throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (e.g. at Hazelwood and Mains of Seafield) for its durability, cost effectiveness, modular sizing and relatively low thermal loss.[149]

A variety of materials has been successfully employed down the centuries for constructing nest boxes in Moray, all relating to human issues: historical circumstances (e.g. warfare); availability of materials; skills and knowledge of builder; cost to build. Since these issues have varied from place to place, it should be expected that the designs of nest boxes will reflect regional differences. Noting that all types appear to have functioned satisfactorily, there is clearly no single solution to nest box construction.

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[146]Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House' and Anon, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765, p.5 Both suggest straw baskets or earthenware pots to prevent the young falling out, aidcleaning, protect eggs, provide a warmer surface, act as an insect barrier and prevent squabs driving a hen off a nest. For all its advantages, providing pots or baskets for every box in a large cote would have been a considerable expense. The suggestion to provide a bird with material to form its own nest was more likely employed in squabbing cotes, see Lumley, Pigeons and their Origins, 1891, p.26 and Stephens, Book of Farm Buildings, 1890, Div.4, p.300.

[147]Unlike masonry boxes, they are susceptible to damage by rain, fire and animal attack.

[148]See illustrations in Levi, Pigeons, 1941, pp.519-20; Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p.5 , and Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p.64.

[149]Brick was made locally, but also easily transported after the building of the railways in the late nineteenth century. The use of brick is more common in England and southern Scotland.

(iii) Nest arrangement

All of Moray's doocots have their nest sites arranged in a linear, 'egg-crate' format,[150] and neither the L-plan nest box, nor staggered rows of boxes (both of which are reported widely in the South[151]) can be found in Moray.[152] This may reflect a lack of sophistication in design, since naturalists believe that these features had advantages for the birds; the closing of the front opening creates a darker, more secure space and protects the eggs and nestlings from falling out (see Fig. 6.31). The staggering of rows (as well as distributing the structural loading) aids nest recognition and reduces defecation on birds below by half.[153]

Although Moray's square or rectangular plan nest boxes are simpler in shape than their southern counterparts, their proliferation throughout the area implies they were undoubtedly effective (and aesthetically impressive[154]).

(iv) Nest positioning

Not surprisingly, the majority of nest sites in Moray's doocots are found built around the inside faces of the cotes' exterior walling.[155] Only the examples at Rothiemay, Leitcheston and Ballindalloch have boxes sited against internal partitions, although in each case, the boxes do not extend beyond wallhead level.[156] This indicates that the

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[150]Only in domed doocots, through necessity, do the diminishing rings of boxes overlap rows below. Some modern cotes have staggered arrangements of boxes and/or perches.

[151]Beacham, 'Dovecotes in England', 1989, p.89. *"Two shapes predominated: L-shape and oblong."*

[152]They can, however, be sometimes found elsewhere in Scotland, particularly in the south, for example, at Blackwood, Dumfriesshire.
Nest boxes which are constructed using lighter materials, such as brick, may have been formed in staggered rows for structural reasons.

[153]Hutton, Pigeon Lore, 1962, p.154, *".. it has been found that pigeons are more sensitive to the position of an object than to its size, colour or shape in that order ... the most effective way is to have entrances in neighbouring nest boxes in a different position from each other. In conjunction with this, or as an alternative, the internal layout of each nest box may be different from its neighbour on either side or above or below."*
Selby in Jardine's, Naturalist's Library, *vol.5, 1835, p.149.* "The holes or nests are best built in quincunx order, or not directly over one another."
Delacour, Wild Pigeons and Doves, 1988, p.31. Domestic pigeons prefer boxes which are low with solid sides and roofs.
Varro, On Farming, c.36 B.C., p.282. *"Each niche should be made so that the pigeon may have an opening just big enough for it to come in and out."*

[154]N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.47. *"When they extend in thirty tiers upwards, from floor to roof, they are a work of art in masonry."*

[155]The lost doocot at Elgin Tan Works is Moray's only example of boxes being built against the outer face of an external wall.
Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.506, *".. nests must be sheltered from the wind and rain on at least one side."*

[156]The demolished doocot at Smithfield would have had an internal partition (see chap. 5). An interesting example of adding box provision to the interior can be found east of Moray at Duff House, Banff, which has an internal column of boxes supporting the roof.

partitions were designed to maximise the nest box number and this is relative to the size of the structure, rather than to fully compartmentalise the inhabitants. Noting the hierarchical structures, and flocking behaviour, which exists amongst doves (see Chap. 4.3, s.v. 'Behaviour') such partitioning probably did benefit the social cohesion of the flock, however.

Contrary to Robertson's description of Scottish doocots, none of the boxes in Moray extend fully from floor to roof.[157] Most are either raised above the floor, or stop well short of the roof structure. The graph analysis (Figs. 6.33, 6.34) indicates that early doocots located their boxes close to both the floor level of the cote and the outside ground level. During the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, this height differential steadily grew, presumably as a response to several issues: boxes at, or even below ground level (as at Knockando, Rothiemay, Gordonstoun) would have been highly susceptible to damp; birds would not generally favour the lowest boxes; guano would be allowed to build up (for gunpowder or fertiliser purposes, see Appendix Section 2); and decreasing wall thicknesses would need strong bases.[158] As a consequence of some of these issues, some owners decided to block certain lower boxes within their doocots (as at Dalvey, Knockando and Leitcheston). During the late eighteenth century, the differential between ground level and lowest box level rose dramatically and can perhaps be attributed to two factors. Firstly, the arrival of the Brown Rat in Moray (or perhaps rather the arrival of published warnings about its predations[159]) resulted in several eighteenth century doocots having their boxes built at around 1m above the internal floor level (e.g. Pitgaveny, Wester Elchies and Orton). Secondly (perhaps again partly in response to the threat of brown rats[160]) doocot chambers were raised from the ground by placing them either above, into, or onto, other structures.[161] When this occurred, the lowest nest box tier in the doocot chamber was moved closer again to the floor level (e.g. at Invererne, Lesmurdie and Westfield, although not the case at Grangehall).

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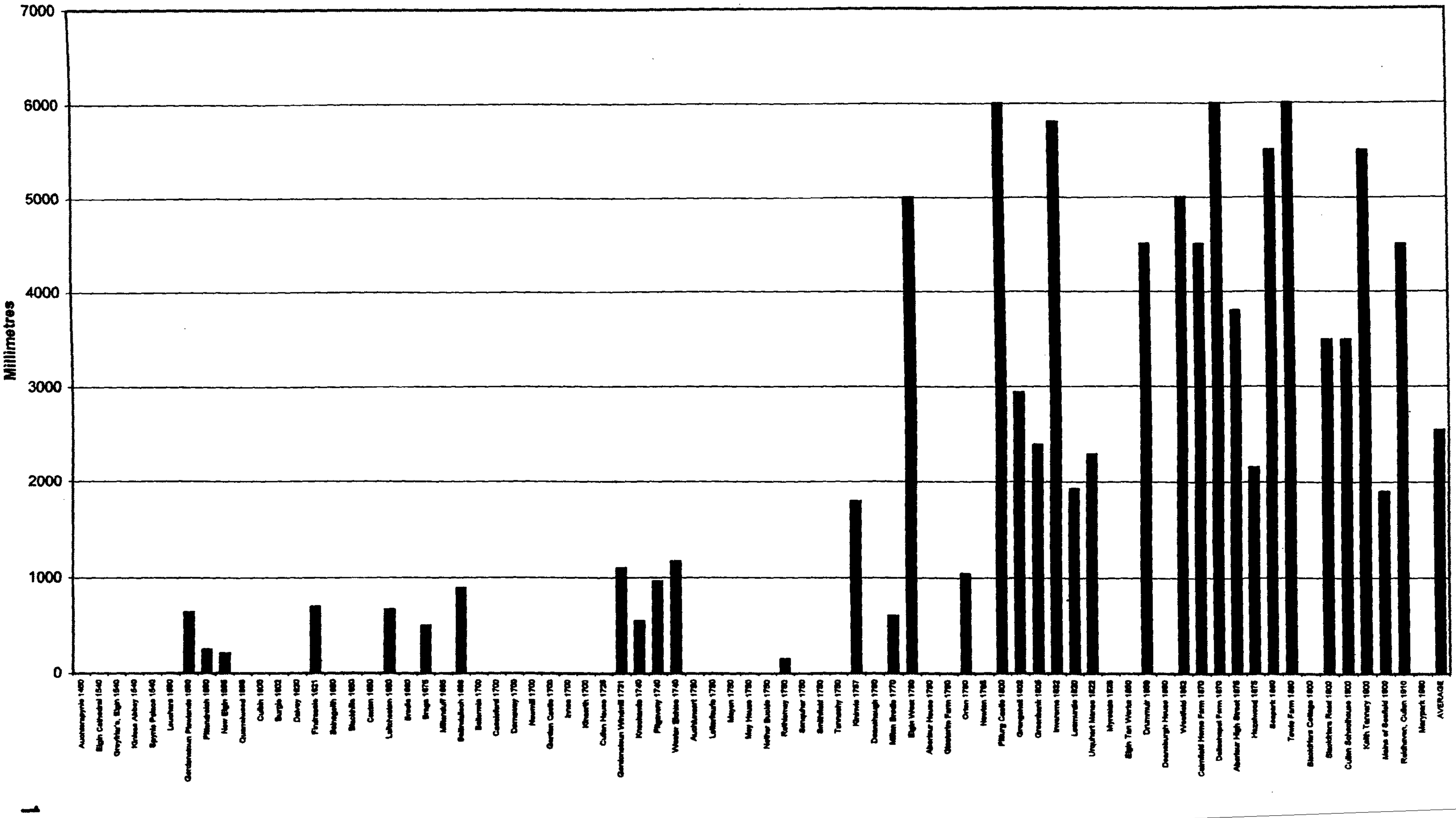
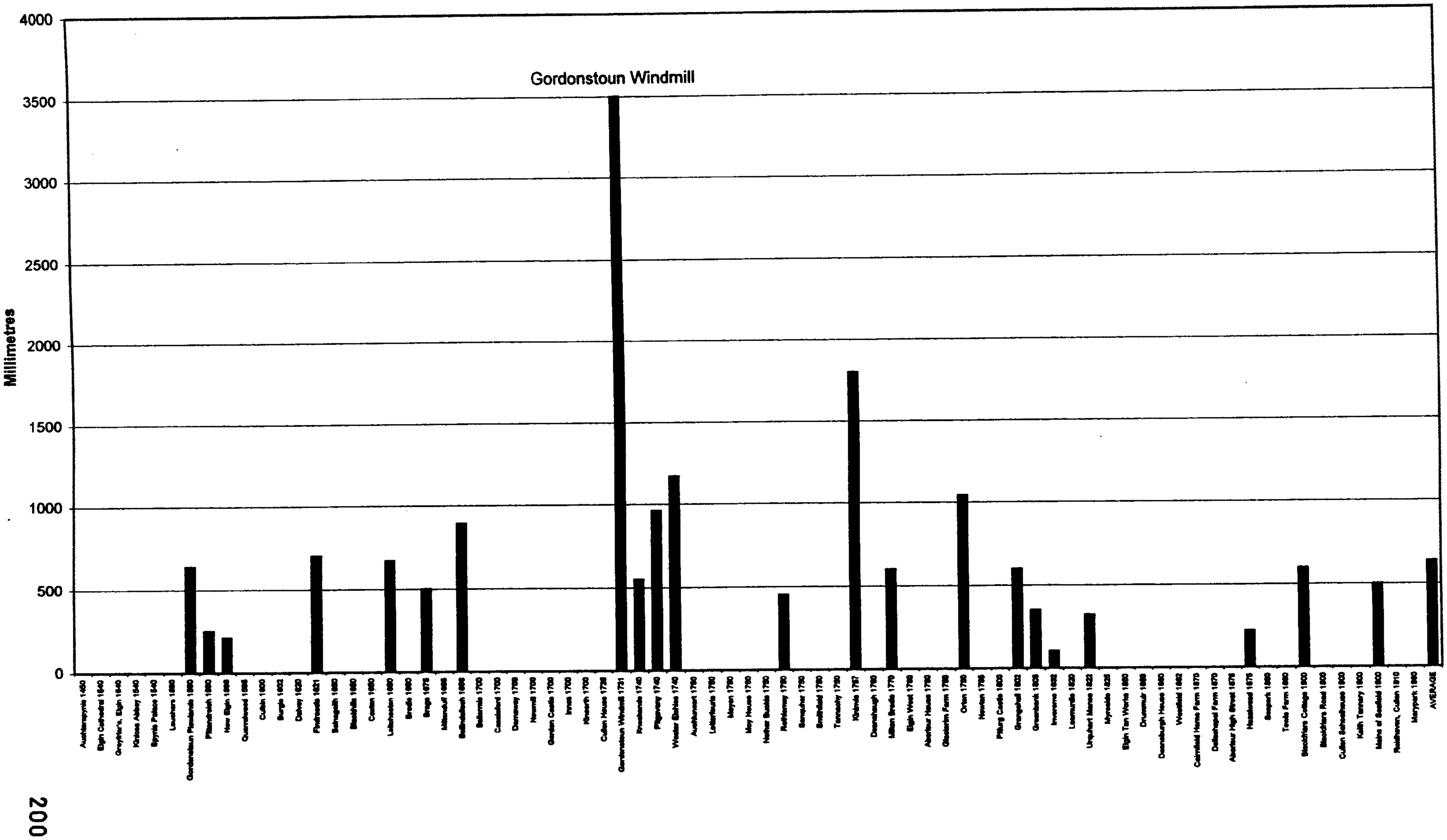
[157]N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.47, "*... from floor to roof*".
Boxes extend close to roofs where full box depths can be achieved, e.g. rear walls of lean-to's and gabled walls in general.
[158]Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.521. "*Nests should always be some little distance in the clear from the floor of the loft in order to permit ease of cleaning.*"
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.12. Lower tier boxes are raised off the floor since it provides a shelter area for youngsters which vacate the nest (from "*.. pugnacious older birds*").
[159]See Appendix Section 2. The Brown Rat arrived in Britain c.1735, but did not spread throughout until the end of the century. It displaced the Black Rat, since it was larger and much more pugnacious.
[160]Along with other matters such as architectural influence, social change, diminishing bird numbers and costs.
[161]E.g. storage chambers, hen houses, pigsties, stables, privies, etc.

Doocots of Moray: Box Height from Ground (Fig 6.33)



Doocots of Moray: Box Height from Floor (Fig 6.34)



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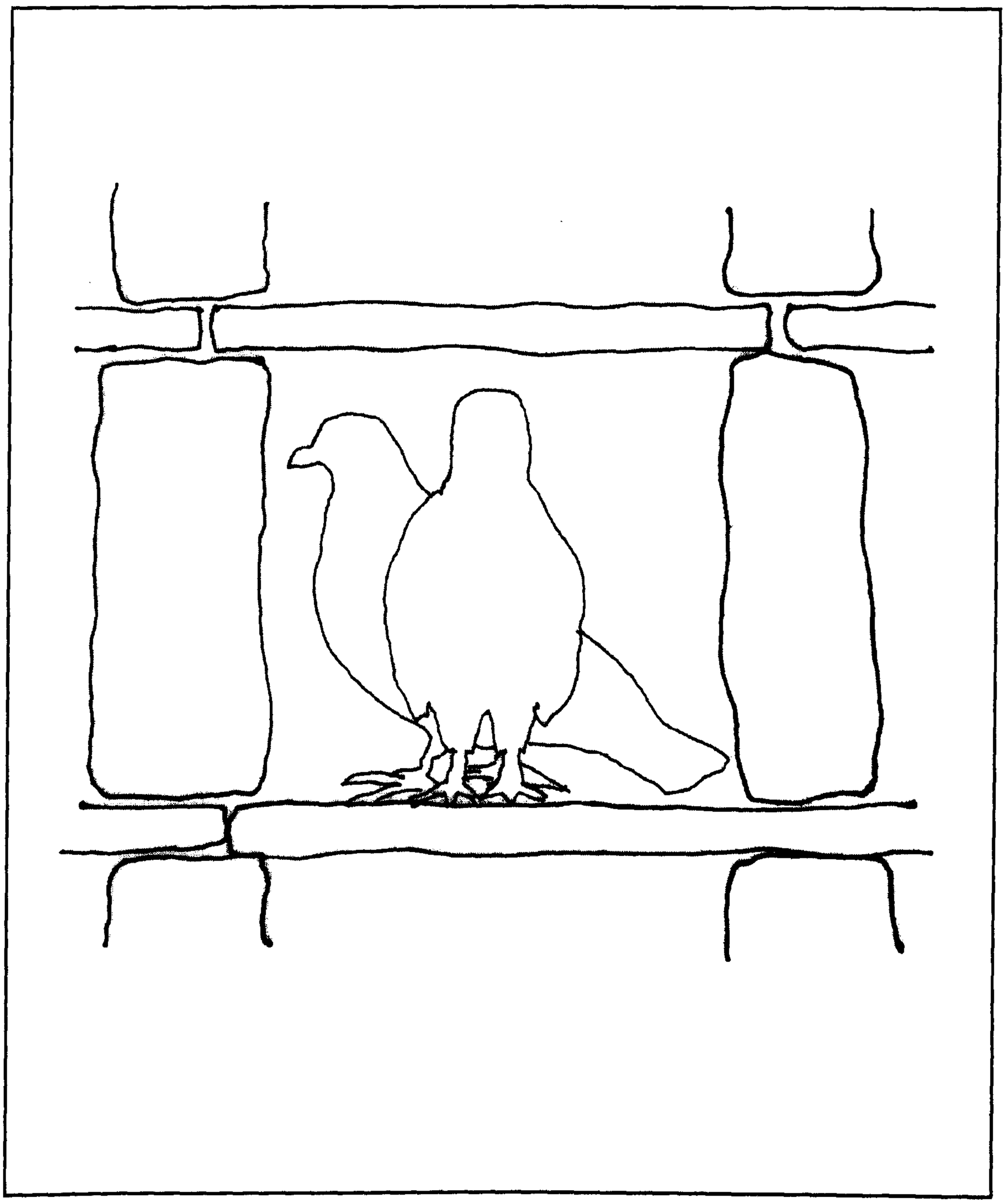

Sketch of bird pair in nest box (Fig. 6.35)

Elevation of a typical stone nest box showing female at nest and male perching in front at edge of box. In small nest areas, both adults would not be comfortable in these positions and the non-nesting bird would be forced to leave (c.f. Plates 6.3 and 6.4)

McCann's theory, that some vulnerable, early doocots had their lower rows of nest boxes blocked off,[162] has no supportive evidence (other than that reported earlier). This suggests that either: the doocots had become redundant by c.1750; these doocots were robust to entry by rats; the owners were unconcerned by the reported rat threat; or rats had not infiltrated certain parts of Moray until a late period.

The nest boxes within Moray's doocots do, however, demonstrate that they were carefully arranged to satisfy the needs of the birds (individual, dry, safe, dark cells within communal flying space) and the needs of the owners (optimum numbers, affordable, accessible and, where necessary, controllable[163]).

6.3.14 Internal ledges

Interpretation of data

Despite some considerable attention to the subject of internal ledges in doocots (especially England, see Chap. 2.3.3) it is notable that the data from the doocots of Moray reveal that internal ledges are rare features.[164] It can be readily assumed, therefore, that the provision of internal ledging is non-essential in most cases. Where birds are confined, or semi-confined, perches and sunning boards must be provided;[165] but where birds are free to roam, as in most historic cases in Moray, this requirement is less necessary.

The majority of explanations for internal ledges have, in the past, related to rat deterrence (see Chap. 2.3.3, s.v. 'Architectural Features'). Given, however, that early doocots were (i) built prior to the mid-eighteenth century arrival of the Brown Rat (its predecessor, the Black Rat, was not considered a major threat) and (ii) solid and robust structures that were capable of preventing access to most predators, it is necessary to look at other explanations. McCann, in concert with his theory for external ledging, proffers (somewhat tentatively by his standard) the provision of internal ledges as

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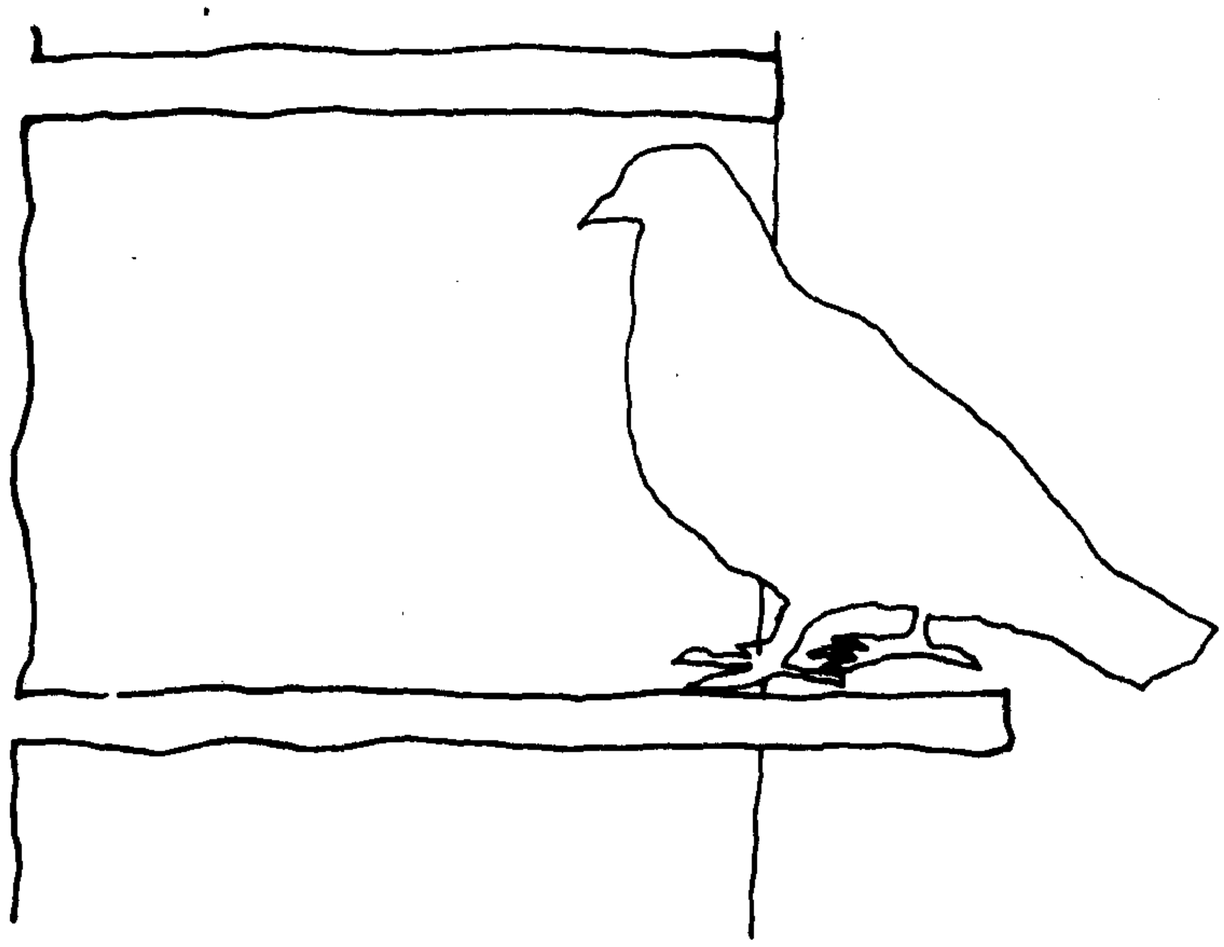
[162]McCann, pers.comm., 28/1/95. *"One effective strategy was to block the lower nest-holes of existing dovecotes to a height of four feet or more, making the vertical surface below as smooth and hard as practicable, because experience showed that rats could not climb or jump to this height."* See also Appendix Section 2.

[163] As in the case of modern cotes.

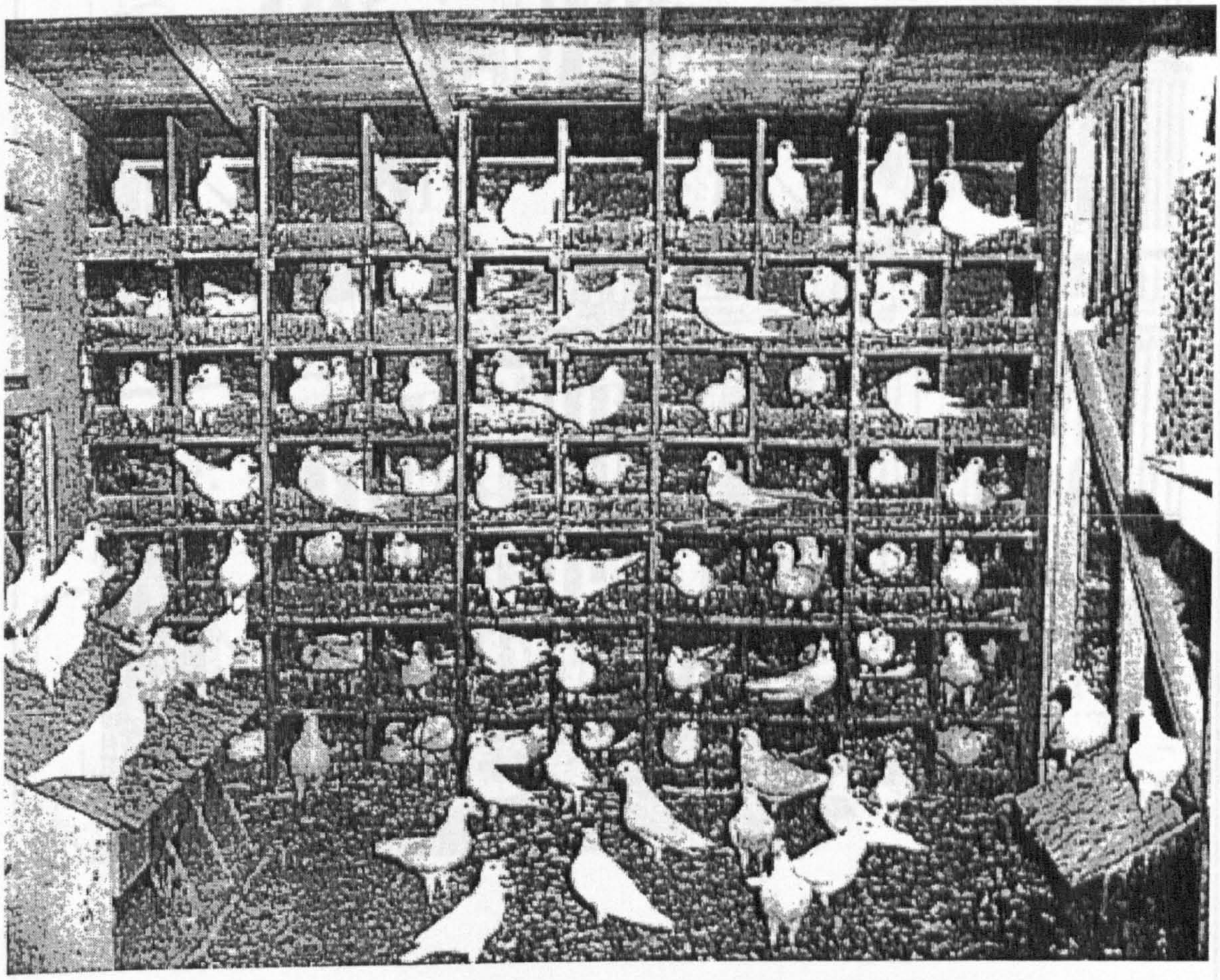
[164]See data spreadsheet in Appendix 1.

[165]Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.521, *"As with nests, perches, if used at all, should be varied according to breed... the flat perch .. is far superior .. affords the birds every comfort .. should be eight to twelve inches in width"*.
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.8. *"It is important, indeed, that all surfaces upon which pigeons can alight in a loft should be smooth, and so capable of thorough and ready cleaning."*



Sketch of box with projecting ledge (Fig. 6.36)

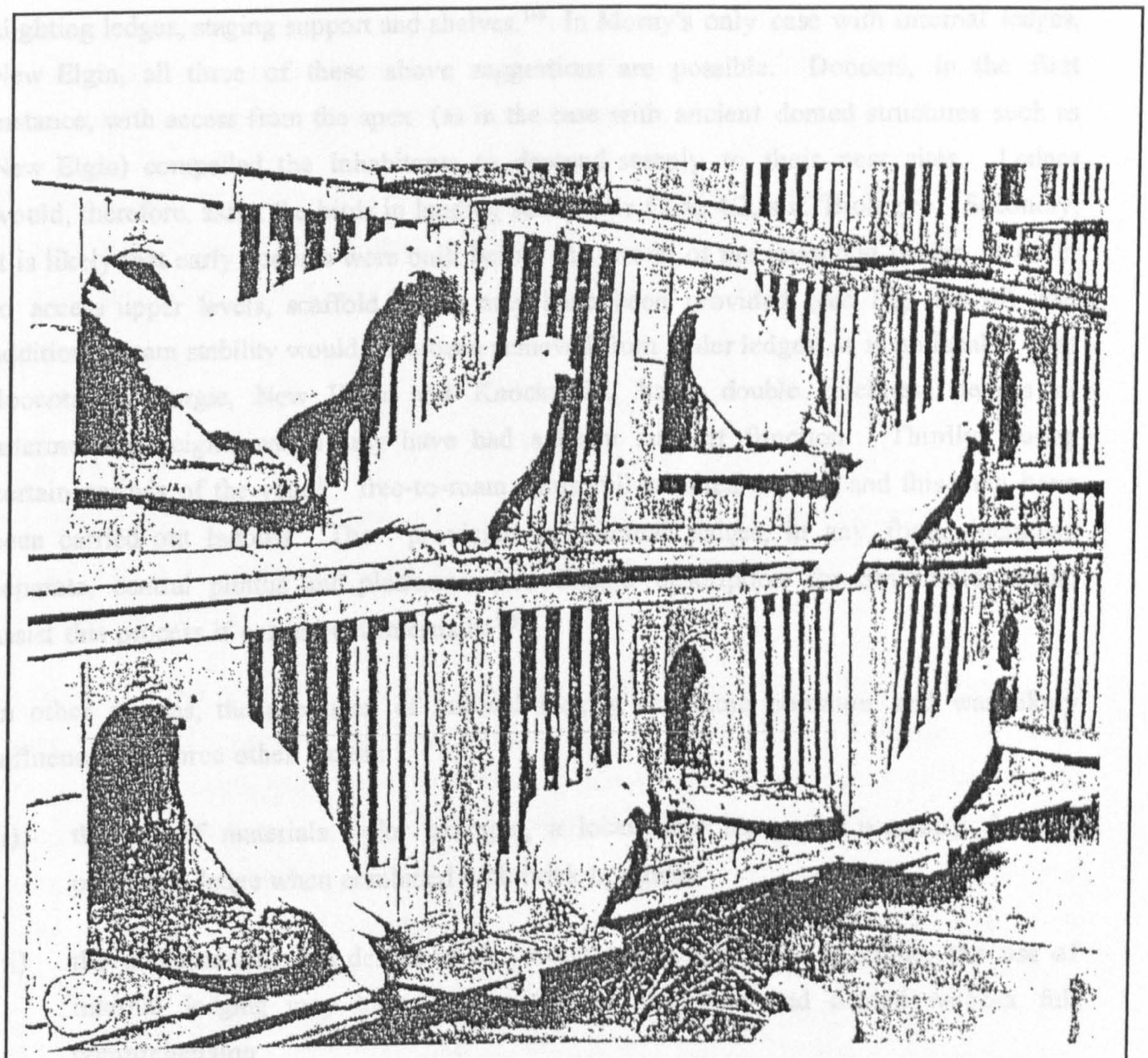
Sketch showing how a projecting ledge at a nest box, as well as permitting an improved landing platform and perching area, allows bird to defecate onto the doocot solum without soiling other birds below.



Birds occupying interior of modern cote (Plate 6.3)

Copy of a photograph showing a fully stocked cote. Most boxes are occupied by single birds; some are empty; a few have pairs. Quite a few birds occupy the floor space.

(Reproduced from Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 521).



Birds on internal ledges of modern cote (Plate 6.4)

Copy of a photograph showing pairs of birds outside their nest sites. One bird, say hen, perches on a ledge directly outside the nest; the other bird, perches to the side.

(Reproduced from Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 539)

alighting ledges, staging support and shelves.[166] In Moray's only case with internal ledges, New Elgin, all three of these above suggestions are possible. Doocots, in the first instance, with access from the apex (as in the case with ancient domed structures such as New Elgin) compelled the inhabitants to descend steeply to their nest sites. Ledges would, therefore, assist the birds in landing safely (see Chap.4.2, s.v. 'Biology'). Secondly, it is likely that early doocots were built before the arrival of the revolving ladder. In order to access upper levels, scaffold beams may have been provided (see Fig. 6.3.16) and additional beam stability would have been achieved from wider ledges; it is noticeable that doocots at Burgie, New Elgin and Knockando, have double thickness ledges at intermediate heights which may have had a beam support function. Thirdly, during certain periods of the year,[167] free-to-roam birds still required feeding and this may have been carried out indoors. The provision of internal ledges, in any form, including separate, central plinths and platforms (see Chap.5 description for Smithfield) would assist this process if carried out internally.[168]

In other regions, the provision of internal ledging was more common and was likely influenced by three other factors:

(i) the use of materials. For example, a local slate base may naturally form a projecting ledge when combined with brick uprights;

(ii) the understanding and desires of the owner and builder. For example, the use of internal ledging may have been witnessed elsewhere and copied without full comprehension;

(iii) the design of nest box access. For example, in Moray, where internal ledges are generally not employed, nest boxes are completely open fronted. In English doocots, where internal ledges are most commonly found, nest boxes often have their fronts closed down to form smaller entry holes. As a consequence, birds would have greater difficulty in landing without ledges. Also, the open fronted box would permit two birds to perch side by side. The 'closed' box would permit only one, whilst the other would be forced out onto a ledge (see Plate 6.4). In theory,

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[166]McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, p.115. *"Quite why they were so generally adopted in post-medieval dovecotes has not been satisfactorily explained."*

[167]That is, 'benting time' (July/August) and winter (December/January).

[168]Broadcasting food internally was however an acceptable feeding technique in early times (see Chap. 2.4). Ledges would be useful if the owners wished to keep food off the floor.

only alternate ledges (the type described but not understood by Watkins[169]) would be required to provide perching provision for all the inhabitants since the ledge length between entry holes would be sufficient for all non-nesting birds.

The Moray data, therefore, illustrates that regional differences in design clearly occur as a consequence of local knowledge, skills and materials, rather than any pressing ornithological requirement.

6.3.15 Floors

Interpretation of data

The floors of many doocots have not been inspected closely by previous authors. This is perhaps due to the loss of original fabric, coverings of debris and a failure to enter a cote for whatever reason.

Given the stature of Moray's earliest doocots, it seems most likely that all floors were paved using sandstone slabs (as found at New Elgin and Orton).[170] Of all the materials used on these doocots, floor slabs would have been easily removed: either deliberately to accord with statutory requirements (see Appendix Section 2 s.v. 'Other uses'); and/or re-use elsewhere on an estate; or illegally through robbing by salvage thieves. This may partly explain why several of Moray's doocots (and elsewhere) have internal floor levels slightly lower than their thresholds.[171] Since guano levels would undoubtedly build up quite quickly in large cotes, it seems that some floors were deliberately designed at low levels in order to create 'sumps' for the dung.[172] Excavating the solum would also ensure that the external walls were buried well below ground level and thereby stabilise the structure and protect it from burrowing animals. Since frequent removal of dung was necessary (otherwise the nesting birds in the lowest boxes would suffer) uplifting the material would have been facilitated by the instalment of a hard floor surface.[173]

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[169] Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon-Houses', 1890, p.10.
Alternate ledging is a technique sometimes used in southern Scotland, e.g. Tranent, East Lothian.
[170] Lumley, Pigeons and their Origins, 1891, p.15, ".. *in all cases the flooring* [of older structures] *is of stone or flagpaving.*"

[171] See data checklists in Chap.5 and data spreadsheets in Appendix Section1.
[172] I. Shepherd (Regional Archaeologist), pers. comm., 2/10/98, thinks it unlikely that humus build up is responsible for raising the ground level in consistent fashion around doocots (see McCann's theory, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p.89).
[173] Gladstone, 'Dovecote at Blackwood', 1929, p.79, records that, "*The sides of the trap opening (providing access up through the flooring) are raised six inches above the floor level on all sides* "to allow a build up of droppings. This practical and simple design detail is not found in Moray.

By the mid-to-late eighteenth century, concerns for, ".. *the floor to be good*" [174] grew with the new threat of the Brown Rat and it is likely that all ground floors of cotes were floored using solid materials.

The decision to raise doocot chambers to first floor, or loft level, in the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, removed this concern in Moray, and most were finished using timber floorboards (an exception being Grangehall[175]).

Modern cotes (once again mostly free-standing) either employ solid floor construction, or lightweight flooring suspended above the ground.[176] The requirements of the modern floor are much the same as they were centuries ago, i.e. it must be dry, be capable of deterring predators and be easy to clean.

6.3.16 Provision of a collecting aid

Interpretation of data

Human access to individual nest sites, for reasons of bird collection, maintenance and hygiene, is an essential aspect of any doocot design. Modern doocots are purposely designed to permit these human needs to occur from ordinary floor level (q.v. this section, s.v. 'Height') but where this could not be achieved in earlier doocots, some form of collecting aid was necessary.

In some cases (as at Marypark, Grangehall and Elgin Tan Works) moveable external ladders were required to provide initial access.[177] In other situations (as at Orton, Gordonstoun Windmill and Pitgaveny) ladders, which were designed to revolve conveniently around the chamber, were installed as permanent fixtures.[178] Contrary to

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[174]Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House'. Previously not an issue, since the Black Rat was not a burrower.

[175]Grangehall has slate flags on timber flooring (perhaps to facilitate the cote during cleaning or to prevent the boards from rotting).
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.8. "*The boards of the floor, too, must be smooth and thoroughly clamped together. If gaping cracks are left, dirt accumulates and cleanliness is impossible.*"

[176]Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p.65, ".. *concrete or asphalte.*"
Barker, op.cit. p.8, ".. *best raised eighteen inches or two feet from the ground .. ensures dryness, give free play for ventilation and prevents the access of vermin.*"
Cran, Making Dovecotes Pay, 1931,. p.23, ".. *must be mounted on piles from the ground to keep them rat-proof.*"
Petchey, 'Squab Production", 1991, p.16. "*The floor must be dry and is often a raised mesh floor so that faeces can accumulate beneath.*" Although a mesh floor is cheap, it does not permit the easiest cleaning solution.
Delacour, Wild Pigeons and Doves, 1980, p.14, recommends concrete to, ".. *keep out digging rodents and to afford easy cleaning.*"

[177]Commonly pitched against pole cotes and fuies.

[178]In some large doocots in other countries, permanent staircases are installed, e.g. Egypt and India.

established theory, the revolving ladder, or 'potence', was not normal practice in Moray (see Chap.5 and Fig 9.3 in Appendix Section1). Timber ladders may have been removed or destroyed, but the evidence at Ballindalloch, Wester Elchies, Findrassie, Burgie, Knockando and Pittendreich suggests that an alternative form of scaffolding, or walkway of beams, was created around the wall edges to permit human access to upper levels. A moveable ladder would have been used to access the walkway in the first place[179]. The revolving ladder was, of course, a sensible solution in circular structures and was probably used at Grangehall and Kininvie. This version was no doubt widely adopted across Scotland, both in new doocots and as a frequent addition to earlier doocots (as probably was the case at Plewlands and Gordonstoun). The 'potence' concept was clearly understood in England by the late seventeenth century, but may not have been employed in Scotland until the beginning of the following century.[180] The widespread development of the cylindrical tower design of doocots in eighteenth century Scotland, may have a distinct connection with the appearance of the revolving ladder as an ingenious access device.[181]

The evidence in Moray corroborates widely held views that revolving ladders, or potences as they have become known, were used within circular structures.[182] Judging by the detailing of the openings around the two support beams (gallows) at New Elgin and Plewlands, there is a strong suspicion that these were later insertions. Significant evidence remains in Moray to indicate that another form of collecting aid, not previously documented, has been as prevalent as the potence (if not more so); it is the scaffold beam. Either form of collection would have required a degree of agility, and noting that some revolving ladders are somewhat lightweight in construction (e.g. Orton) it is considered that young males may have been selected to carry out the task of squab collection (see Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Removal of birds').

The findings not only confirm the human need for access to the nest sites, but also indicate that some collection devices have been designed to suit the structural concept of

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[179]For example, 'Vouchers for repairs to ladders', 1729, exist for the dovecot at Dysart Kirk, SRO, GD164/1569.

[180]North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.103. The tone of his description suggests that the revolving ladder was not a new concept in England (although no author prior to North makes specific reference to it, McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, p.116).

[181]For example, the 'Accounts of Ravenscraig', SRO, GD164/569/25, s.v. 'Account of George Soan's, 14/2/1730, states, "*To making aluellel lader, and repairing two old laders to the round Doucot 16s.*"
The revolving ladder would have seemed like a neat, attractive solution to many architectural designers.

[182]This fact does not fit well with McCann's theory (from North's writings) that doocot interiors should be left free of perching places for invading birds of prey (see Chap.2.3).

their doocots, whilst some of them may have been instrumental in producing the final form of the doocot (i.e. architect-designed polygonal designs).

6.3.17 Flights (exercise cages)

Interpretation of data

It was noted in Chapter 4.5, s.v. 'Management', that some Roman cotes, and many operational cotes, had flights (exercise cages) appended to the main structures (see also Plate, 9.3, Appendix Section 1).

No evidence of this feature was found at Moray's historic doocots.[183] However, the sample operational doocot (Hamilton Drive, Elgin) provided firm evidence of flight use as a means of exercising birds in a highly controlled environment.[184]

It is clear, therefore, that birds kept historically in Moray were allowed their freedom to roam, unlike many of their present-day counterparts.[185]

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[183]The flight at Westfield is provided for hens, not doves, whilst the flight at the Cooper Park Aviary, Elgin, is largely for the benefit of smaller birds.

[184]The flights at this doocot are attached to 'nursery' pens, as opposed to the main racing cote.

[185]Of course, any historical evidence of a former flight would be difficult to trace. It may also be possible that some historic cotes had controllable traps fitted but the evidence has been lost.

6.4 Analysis of distribution.

The literature review of doocots (Chapter 2.2.2) established that their distribution is not entirely understood in Scotland.[186]

Although the geographical scope of this study is such that it cannot fully resolve this issue, it is still possible to chart the siting and location of the doocots of Moray, both past and present, as an accurate representation of distribution within a local area. Analysis of location in relation to altitude will also indicate how the distribution of doocots has been constrained (if at all) by geographical factors.[187] Comparison with other areas of Scotland (using information collated by others) will also help to meet a key objective of the study, that of contextualising Moray's doocots in a wider framework.

6.4.1 Altitude

Interpretation of data

The altitude of a doocot is a factor that has not been considered previously by other authors.

A graph is presented showing the altitudes of every doocot in Moray, arranged chronologically left to right (Fig. 6.37). The graph illustrates that between the fifteenth and twentieth centuries, a significant number of doocots has been erected in lowland Moray at altitudes below 30 m. From the mid seventeenth century to the present day, an equally significant number has been erected in upland Moray at altitudes above 110 m. This contradicts Douglas' statement that, "*In Moray one does not find dovecotes amongst the hills.*"[188] The graph also illustrates that some doocots have been erected at altitudes between 50 and110 metres.

These findings indicate that the lowland areas and glacial valleys are suitable zones for the erection of doocots. They also confirm that some higher areas (up to 250 m) also provide suitable conditions and ornithologists recognise that doves have an excellent ability to tolerate high altitudes[189] (see Chap. 4.2). The lack of doocots in the upland

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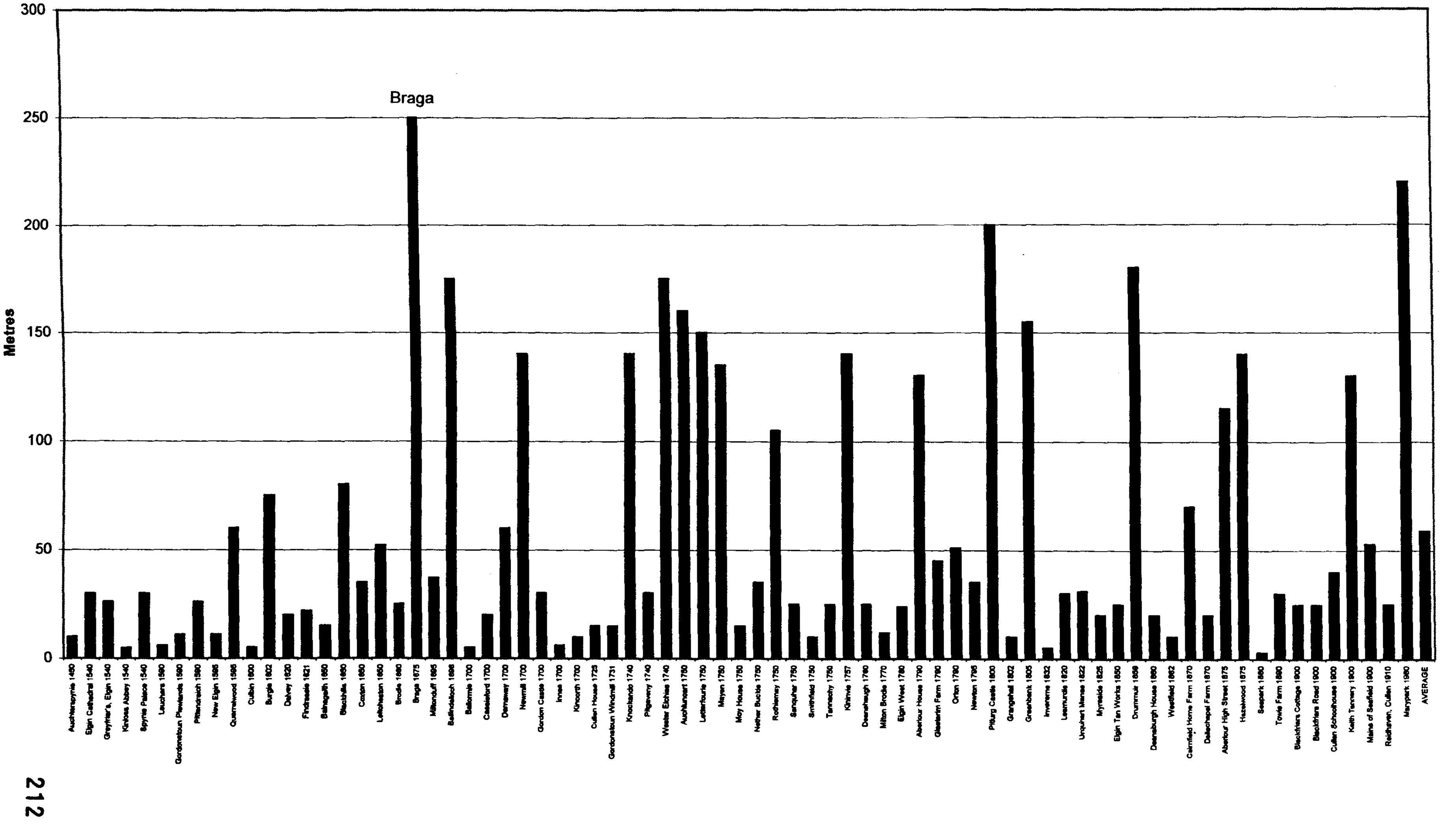
[186]Like the rest of the UK. Peterkin's gazetteer does at least list the numbers known to him during the 1970s Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes. 1980, pp. 27-65.

[187]See Appendix Section 1 for further information on the thoughts of other writers.

[188]Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray. 1931, p.17.

[189]For example, Powell in Abs (ed), Behaviour of the Pigeon. 1983, p.113, s.v. 'Respiration'.

Doocots of Moray: Altitude (Fig 6.37)



margin zones is explained by the moorland terrain that has proved to be unsuitable for human settlement and, equally so, does not provide an appropriate dove habitat.[190]

6.4.2 Estate size

Interpretation of data

Any correlation between estate size and doocot provision has been little investigated, if at all, by previous authors.

A graph for Moray's doocots compared with approximate estate size(Fig. 6.38) indicates that there is a distinct pattern with the nature of landownership.[191] The general trend shows a decline in the estate size of owners in more recent centuries and this is commensurate with the general decline in bird numbers housed. The graph pattern shows two landownership peaks - at the respective times of Reformation and the first Agrarian Revolution - and, on each occasion, this is reflected in the doocots in these estates being amongst the largest in Moray (e.g. at Ballindalloch and Smithfield).

An equally distinctive line in the graph shows a group of middle-sized estates in Moray during the period 1600-1860, and significant large scale doocots were certainly widespread throughout this time. The post-1860 period shows, however, a marked decline in estate size and this coincides with diminishing cote sizes.

It is striking that the largest estates in Moray (Darnaway, Cullen, Brodie, Gordon and Innes) demolished some, or all, of their doocots.[192]

It is concluded that the size of an estate was generally reflected in the scale of the doocot, or (in the case of Gordonstoun, Innes and Mayen) the number of doocots, erected upon it.[193]

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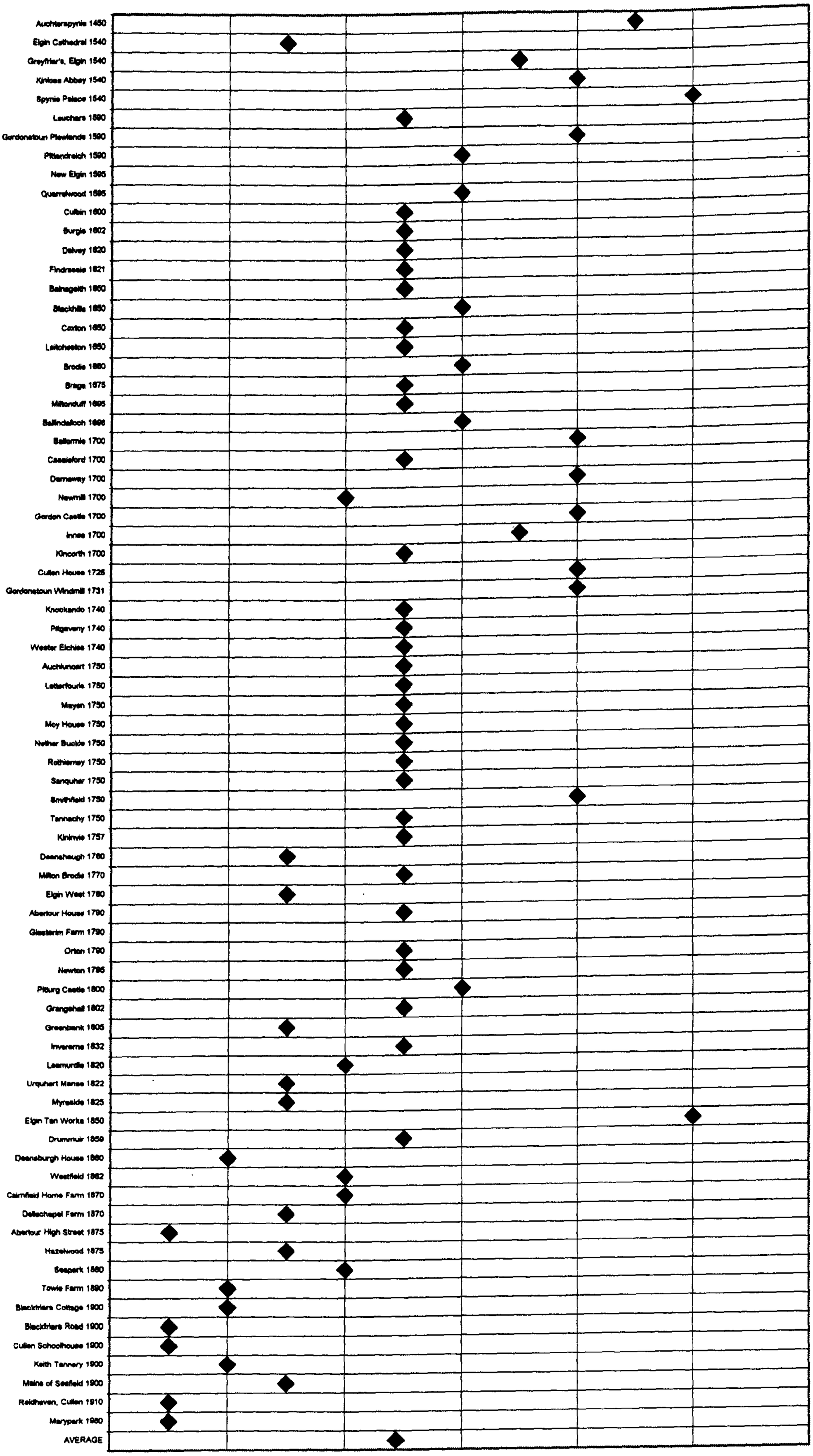
[190]The distribution correlates with the natural distribution of doves in Moray as shown in Cook, Birds of Moray and Nairn, 1992, pp.160-5, Figs. 28-9.
Lack of food sources being the major inhibiting factor.

[191]'Approximate estate size' is non-scientific and has been scaled for this study on the basis of available historical documentation.

[192]Some existing doocots may, of course, be sited on or near the locations of previous unaccounted doocots.

[193]As a caveat, it must be recorded that the value judgement upon the size of each estate is non-scientific and, in several cases, qualitatively assessed using local knowledge and early maps such as Pont (1596), Gordon (1640), Roy (1750).
A quantity of estates are accurately sized in early accounts (e.g. statistical accounts, general reviews, estate records) but many are lost.

Estate Size



Doocots of Moray: Estate Size (Fig 6.38)

6.4.3 Locational distribution

Interpretation of data

The locations of doocots in Moray (see maps in Chap.5) show a historic polarisation towards the hinterland of the ancient Royal Burghs of Elgin and Forres. Simple interpretation could assume a distinct association with royalty and/or burgh settlements. Other factors of distribution in the area (namely, historical, geographical and geological) contribute to a fuller interpretation:

(i) Elgin was the centre of the diocese of Moray that excluded the north coast of Banffshire (an area initially devoid of doocots) but included parts of Nairn and Inverness (part of the ancient province of Moray). Combined with the detailed evidence in Chapter 5, regarding individual lost doocots in Moray, it is noted that the early distribution of doocots in Moray correlates with the distribution of the higher orders of the clergy.[194] (see Chap.5.1.2, s.v. 'Ecclesiastical Divisions');

(ii) with the exception of Braga (aka Recletich) which is located in a glacial trough in Glen Rinnes, all of Moray's doocots are located below the line of the southern uplands. There is, therefore, an obvious relationship between the location of Moray's doocots and low altitudes (see Chap.5.1.1, s.v. 'Natural Divisions' and Chap. 6.2.3, s.v. 'Siting-distance from water');

(iii) the doocots in the Laich of Moray can be traced around the former sea loch of Spynie, whilst the doocots in the West can be found grouped around the mouth of the River Findhorn. Doocots in the east group around the River Isla, and doocots to the South, generally follow the line of the River Spey. There is, therefore, a distinct relationship between the siting of Moray's doocots and its major water courses (see Chap. 5.1.1, s.v. 'Natural Divisions');

(iv) the geology between Elgin and Forres is Old Red Sandstone (once a highly prized building material). Another significant seam is to be found in upper Speyside and the distribution of Moray's doocots shows a distinct clustering around these two areas (see Chap. 5.1.1, s.v. 'Natural Divisions');

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[194]There is, however, no discernible correlation with the distribution of parish churches (see chap. 5.1).

(v) early transportation was carried out by boat and the doocots in Moray are seen to relate to water courses. Later transportation took place on land but, until relatively modern times, Moray had only one major road in the North, from East to West (see Chap.5.1.1). The distribution of doocots in Moray, even in the present day, still demonstrates an association with major modes of human transport;

(vi) the southern parts of Moray are, as stated earlier, at high altitude and do not contain suitable dove habitats (see Chap. 4.2 and 5.1.1, as well as this section s.v. 'Altitude').

The maps of Moray do not, however, provide a sufficient contextual basis to enable the fuller interpretation sought by the key objectives study so further maps are presented for comparison: **Grampian**, using the Regional Archaeologist's Sites and Monuments Record; and **Scotland**, using the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland's National Monuments Record (see Figs. 6.39 and 6.40).

A simple comparison of the distribution maps of historic doocots across the rest of Grampian (Fig. 6.39) suggests that Moray is quite different from Aberdeenshire, Kincardineshire and Banff and Buchan. After further scrutiny however, this seems to be not entirely correct and there are strong similarities relating to human settlement:

(i) Aberdeen is a cathedral city, a royal burgh and a university centre. Ancient doocots were associated with ecclesiastics and burgh privileges[195] (but, in Aberdeen's case, have since been lost to modern developments);

(ii) with few exceptions, for example in the Strathdon area, the doocots of Grampian were located in the lowlands;

(iii) clusters of doocots in Grampian correlate with water courses, i.e. the Dee, the Don, the Deveron, the Ythan, the Ugie and the Esk;

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[195]N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland' 1961, pp. 7-8. Bishop's doocot at Old Aberdeen demolished in 1642. J.A. Stones (ed.), A Tale of Two Burghs, (Aberdeen: Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums, 1987), p. 19. "*An impression of a typical Aberdeen friary before the Reformation ..... In the wider area, gardens and orchards would have been cultivated by the friars or lay servants, while beehives and a dovecot provided other important sources of sustenance*". Also, p.41, Milne's 1789 map shows a 'Dove Cot' at the top of the western embankment of the Den Burn (now Union Terrace Gardens).



Distribution of historic doocots in Grampian area (Fig. 6.39)

Note how the distribution relates to the geographical land form diagrms in Chapter 5.1 and the clustered collection in the Laich of Moray area.

[Source of data: RCHAMS Inventory of Doocots in Scotland]

(iv) where Old Red Sandstone exists (between Macduff and Fraserburgh, south of Huntly and between Stonehaven and Brechin) concentrations of historic doocots can be found[196];

(v) a general line of doocots can be found along the main Aberdeen to Elgin land travel route (as well as near boat landing sites);

(vi) in the whole of Grampian (including Moray) the general distribution of doocots matches the general distribution of ancient Pictish stones. Although products of very different eras, the correlation between the two suggests a strong link between the siting of doocots and the traditional sites of human settlement throughout Grampian.

Elsewhere in Scotland, the distribution pattern is much the same:

(i) the general dispersal of ancient doocots coincides with the medieval distribution of major ecclesiastical sites;

(ii) with few exceptions, doocots were located in the rural lowlands of Scotland[197] (with particularly high concentrations in the agriculturally-productive eastern zones of Angus, Fife, the Lothians and the Laich of Moray);

(iii) doocot sitings correlate with major water courses such as the Firth of Forth and Firth of Tay;

(iv) concentrations of doocots can be found around geological sites of Old Red Sandstone (Moray, Angus, Fife, Lothian);

(v) concentrations can also be found near major land travel routes, such as Edinburgh to Dundee and Aberdeen, Edinburgh to Glasgow;

(vi) the general distribution matches the general distribution of historic human settlement (as, for example, demonstrated in the siting of tower houses - see Fig. 9.7 in Appendix Section 2).

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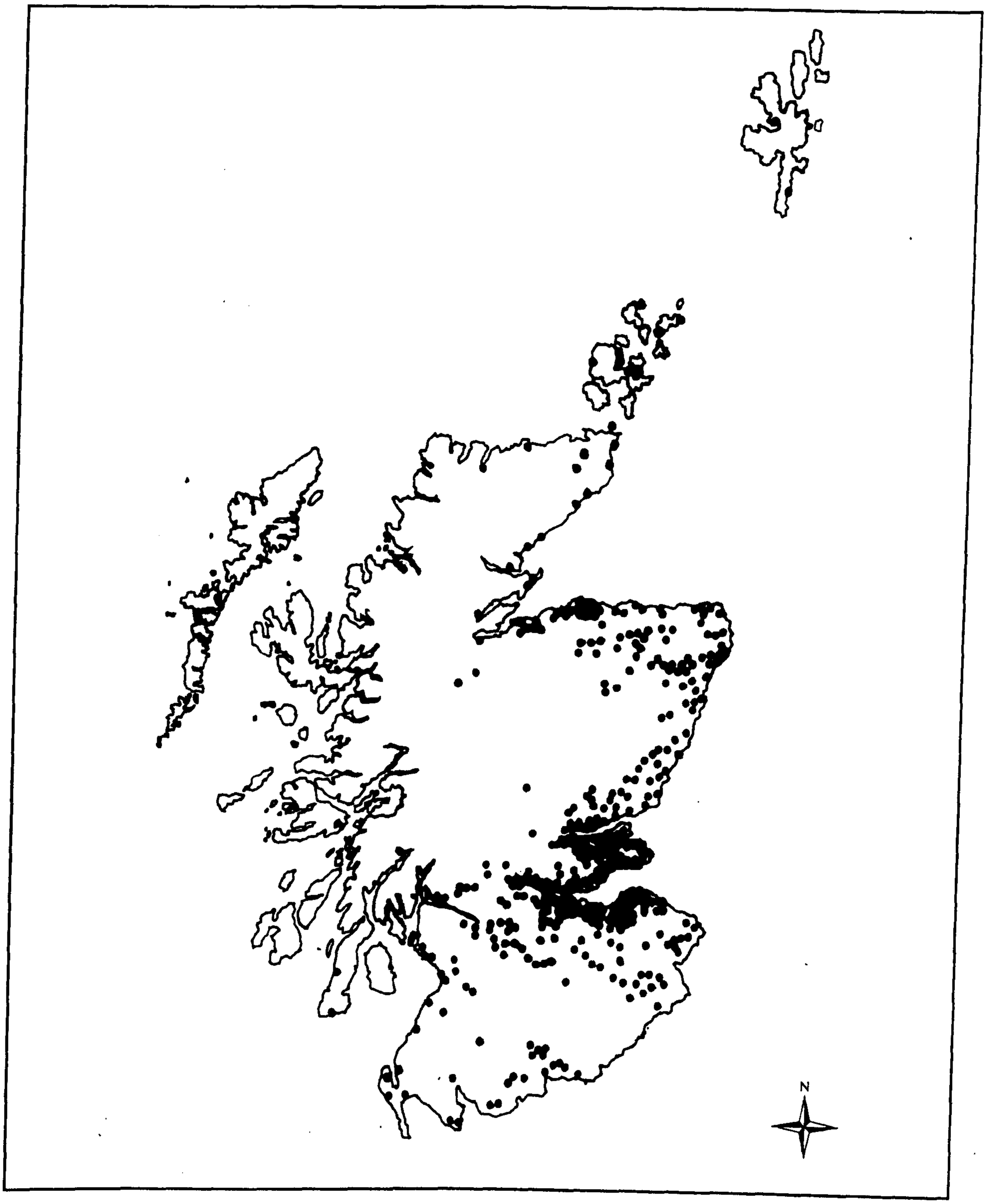
[196]It is worth remembering that some doocots may have been built in these areas using less durable materials and have been entirely lost.

[197]In other regional areas, such as north-east England, doocots have a more urban bias but are smaller in scale. See Whitworth , 'Yorkshire Dovecotes', 1993.



Distribution of historic doocots in Scotland (Fig. 6.40)

Note firstly how the distribution relates to the bioregional diagram in Chapter 5.1 and secondly, the distinct clusters around the Firth of Forth, Firth of Tay and Inner Moray Firth.

[Source of data: RCHAMS Inventory of Doocots in Scotland]

Conversely, distribution mapping also demonstrates where historic doocots are not to be found:

(i) the Glasgow area (most likely a consequence of demolition for industrial development);

(ii) the West and Southern Highlands, the Cairngorms, the Western Coast and Islands (this notably indicates that the distribution of doocots in Scotland is not necessarily related to the wild Rock Dove's natural habitats [198], as suggested by Ritchie - see Chap.4.1).

The doocots of Moray are, therefore, strongly correlated with both the natural physiography of the area and the major sites of human settlement. These, in turn, have been greatly influenced by modes of travel, access to water, soil quality for farming, climate and defence. The quality and spread of distribution was at its peak in the eighteenth century. The correlations that occur in Moray appear to be fairly typical of correlations occurring elsewhere in Scotland.

This chapter has contained quantitative and qualitative information that has been designed to examine key issues identified within the literature review (Chap.2.3): design criteria; architectural concepts; architectural features; siting and location. The research has been designed to utilise the primary, measured data from the individual doocots of Moray and compile secondary, composite sets of data from the doocots of Moray as a collection, as vital evidence to test the theories of the past (see further details in Appendix Section 1 s.v. 'Previous Theories'). Almost every conceivable aspect of doocot design has been scrutinised and the knowledge gained from the literature review, Chapter 2.3, including the geographical, historical and ornithology studies (in Chap. 4), has allowed for a fuller interpretation of the results.

[198]The north and west coasts of Scotland are still natural habitats of the rare pure breed.

CHAPTER 7

OUTCOME OF ANALYSIS

If there is a silver lining behind the cloud in the loss of an historic building, it is the surviving evidence which can be uncovered, giving an opportunity to find out additional information about how the building has evolved and the chance to take a much more educated and considered decision about how best to reconstruct.

IHBC, 1997.

CHAPTER 7 - OUTCOME OF ANALYSIS

In accordance with the hypothesis (see Chap.3.3) which advocates using research data as evidence to examine general theories, this chapter will now provide the opportunity to apply the results of the analysis from a local area. This will include a re-interpretation of the general issues raised within the literature review (see Chap.2). As a consequence, this chapter is structured similarly to Chapter 2 and key issues identified will be dealt with systematically.

7.1 Outcome of Analysis: definition, nomenclature and classification

7.1.1 Definition

In order to determine the parameters and scope of the building catalogue, the meaning of the term 'doocot' was necessarily interpreted earlier (see Chap. 5.1.5) as 'a man-made shelter for domesticated doves'. This strikingly simple definition resulted in an extensive survey including, for the first time in historic doocot studies, some nineteenth and twentieth century buildings.[1] The relevant contribution of their data to the study vindicated their inclusion and supported the definition.

Moreover, the definition aided the perception of the doocot as an evolving, pan-European concept from the Neolithic period to the present day and beyond, rather than an extinct item largely restricted to the medieval period (see later s.v. 'Historical Background'). Not only that, it helped to recognise the doocot as a particular building type, with several sub-types, and this assisted classification.

7.1.2 Nomenclature

Words encountered during the course of this study, such as 'dovecote', 'dovecot', 'ducket', 'ducat' *et alia*, are all merely spelling variations of the same term. Noting that most of these buildings are largely a product of their respective geographic localities, it is befitting that the local colloquialisms continue to be used. Likewise, foreign terms should be applied appropriately, and consistently, to foreign structures.[2]

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[1] Structures of all shapes, sizes, ages and designs fall within this general, all-encompassing term.
[2] The national development of the word is as follows: Greek *peristerone*; Roman *columbarium*; French *colombier;* English *dovecote*; Scottish *doocot.*

In the case of Moray, and the rest of Scotland, the favoured colloquialism is 'doocot'. The compound nature of the word 'doocot' allows examination in two parts:

(i) because the extension of the study into ornithological matters (see Chap.4) highlighted that the 'domestic dove' is, in all cases, deemed beyond reasonable doubt to have originated from the wild Rock **Dove**, it is appropriate to continue with the use of 'dove', or 'doo' (in Scotland).

(ii) the historical use of 'cot' as a term for 'shelter' is also appropriate for continued use since it is generic, yet expressive enough to convey a rudimentary provision of comfort offered by all doocots (i.e. those studied in Chap.5).

It is <u>not</u> agreed, therefore, that McCann's suggestion of the widespread use of 'pigeon house' is adopted. The word 'pigeon' is derived from the French word 'pigion' - which itself is from the Latin word 'pipio'- meaning 'young dove. All early accounts, whether they be from biblical, literary and/or household cook book sources (see Appendix Sections 2 & 3) refer to pigeons as young birds, not adult doves. The use of 'pigeon' may be appropriate where the use of the building for 'squabs' is assured although, since function cannot be determined exactly in some redundant structures, it is to be avoided rather than adopted wholesale.

This study has also helped to clarify that the 'wood pigeon' is <u>not</u> a domesticated bird, although some lay authors seem to have confused the issue and thus greatly misunderstood the nature of the inhabitants of doocots. Use of the term 'pigeon house' would, therefore, exacerbate this confusion. The word 'cot' is also preferred over 'house', because the latter is too 'people' orientated (see hypothesis Chap.3.3) The term also conjures up an atmosphere of comfort, or architectural importance, which may not be found in all cases.

Exploration of nomenclature in this study indicates that the building term 'loft' is also wrongly applied in numerous cases to freestanding structures. This is mainly due to historical association during the nineteenth century transition period (when doocots were sited in lofts) and it is proposed that the term 'cot' is applied to all structures (irrespective of their particular use) unless they are truly located in the loft, or attic, of another building type[3] (see also 7.1.3, s.v. 'Classification').

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[3]Lumley, <u>Fulton's Book of Pigeons</u>, 1895, p.20. This author even refers to a 'freestanding garden loft' (as, indeed, do many modern keepers). This is an architectural contradiction of terms.

7.1.3 Classification

Judging by some previous attempts, there are clearly many possibilities for classification involving site, shape, materials, purpose, ownership, architectural style and era (see Chap. 2.1.3). However, previous classifications are all generally over-simplified and do not take account of the full spectrum of 'man-made structures for domesticated doves'. Furthermore, they do not recognise that doocots, covering sub-topics within the overall subject area (i.e. architectural, historical, ornithological) can legitimately have several aspects of classification.

The term 'doocot' is the overarching term for all types and ages of such structures.[4] It is the 'genus' term for the building type, and not the confine of the ancient, redundant structures. This building genus has key 'sub-types' which initially divide, not into shape, form or style, but rather into the nature of housing from an ornithological point of view. The historical buildings are sub-groups of these which, in turn, have further sub-groups in themselves. Only then does architectural form (a manifestation of the reason and nature of domestication) play a role in taxonomy.

To rationalise the plethora of previous concepts presented in Chapter 2 and acknowledge the findings of Chapter 6, it is suggested that a form of the binomial system of biological nomenclature is used as a model system for doocot classification.[5] The expansive nature of this study, which looks at all types and ages of doocots, particularly in Moray, suggests that such a system would result in the arrangement shown (Fig. 7.1).

7.2 Outcome of Analysis: historical background, distribution, ownership and purpose

7.2.1 Historical background of doocots

An assessment of the literature review (Chap.2.2) established that there was little reason to carry out further primary research within this study in order to analyse the very early history of doocots beyond the scope of readily available material. Evidence of rearing doves from an early period has not only been extensively covered by other researchers,

[4]Even new structures on the drawing board, such as the community doocots in Glasgow (part of 'Glasgow Initiatives '99') have this terminology, P. Gallacher, pers. comm., 30/6/99.
[5]As established by Linnaeus (see Chap.4.2).

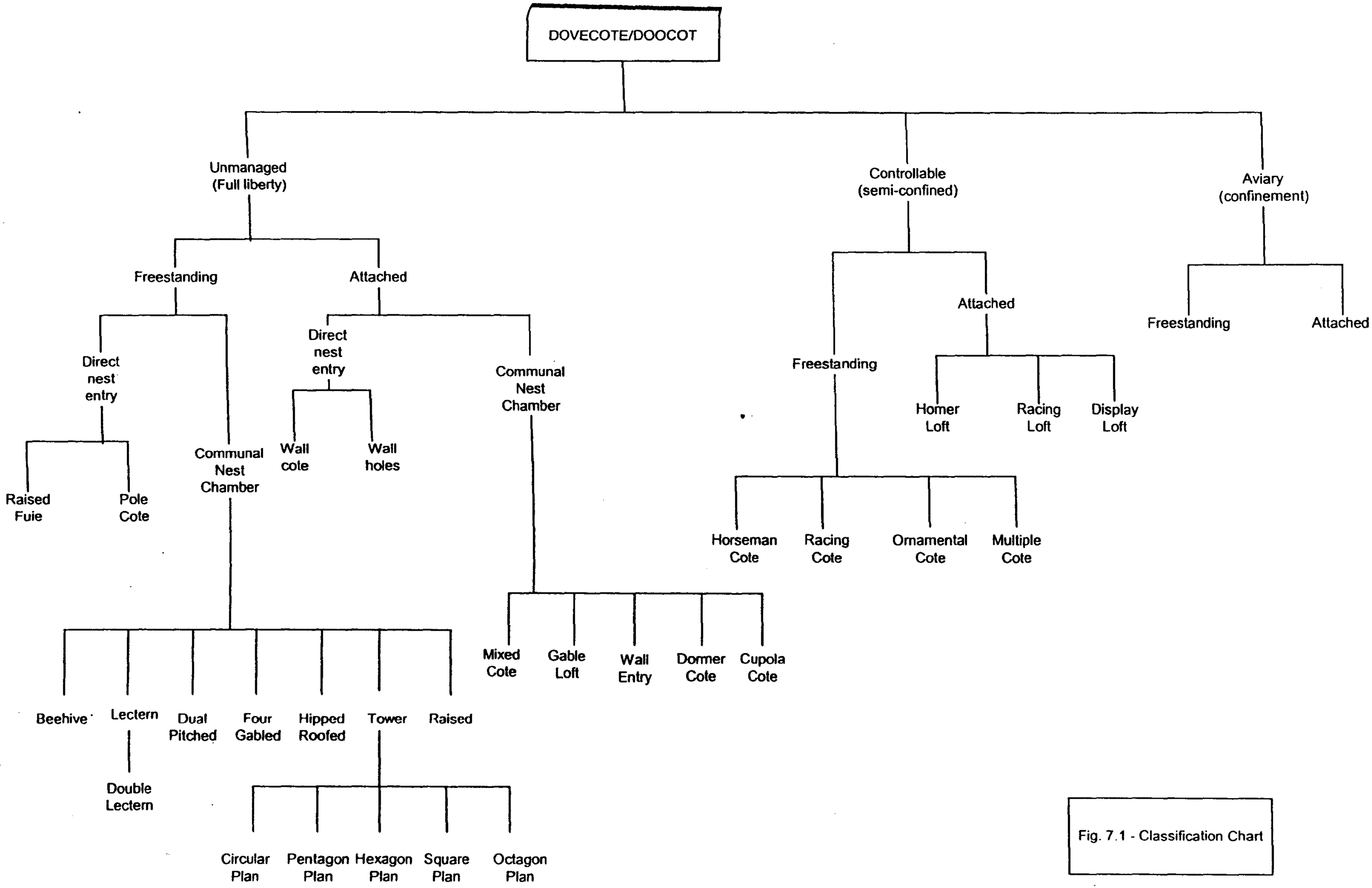

Fig. 7.1 - Classification Chart

but is also outwith the prescribed realms of this study. Less understood, yet more relevant to this particular study, is the historical development of the doocot in design terms. This will be discussed later in this chapter (see 7.3 in particular). Also important to this study is the early development of the doocot in Scotland.

The literature review concluded that the introduction of rearing practices in England, soon after the Norman conquest, is well documented by many English authors. However, the introduction of rearing in Scotland is largely uncharted, except for occasional excerpts from surviving medieval registers and seals[6] An extrapolation of historical background from the piecemeal evidence provided during this period has been given in Chapter 5.2.1, under the heading 'Pre-Reformation period', so will not be repeated here.

Little is known however, about the bird's development during this early period. Ritchie's uncontested theory for doocots entering Scotland, i.e., that native, wild Rock Doves were semi-domesticated in natural coastal caves and gradually coaxed inland through the construction of purpose-made doocots (see Chap.4.4) seems too fanciful and parochial (other than the convenient existence of a half dozen 'doo caves' along the coast [7]). It also lacks supportive evidence. Likewise, there is no clear evidence to support Buxbaum and Peterkin's suggestion of pre-historic dooholes at Skara Brae in Orkney (see Chaps.2.2 & 5.2). Enquiries to archaeologists and ornithologists during the course of this study suggest that the natives of Scotland, pre-Roman era, did not practice dove rearing. Firstly; no word exists for dove or pigeon in pagan times and secondly, "... *there were no Columba livia north of the Alps before Roman times*"[8]. Since the historical background research indicates that the Romans did not fully settle in northern Scotland (see Chap.5.1.3) domestic doves were probably an unknown factor during the early period and Pictish stones, so often richly carved, do not represent them either[9]. Relatively soon after the eleventh century invasion, the Anglo-Norman influence pervaded Scotland. Even the barbaric north was 'civilised' by King David's ecclesiastics and noble warlords (see Chap.5.1.2). These men would have brought European knowledge to the area and, subject to levels of strife and warfare, would almost certainly have introduced doos and doocots as part of the wider gamut of civilised life. Even if wild Rock Doves did frequent

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[6]For example, see N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p.8.

[7]See Kempe, 'Doo Caves', 1992. An archaeological investigation of these caves would be a worthwhile exercise to try and determine their date of construction (suspected to be sixteenth/seventeenth century at the earliest, as opposed to 'ancient').

[8]D. Haag-Wackernagal, Department of Medical Biology, University of Basel, pers.comm., 16/4/98, ".. *no palaezoological records*".

[9]Unlike Egyptian relief carvings which record them frequently.

the Scottish coasts at this time (highly likely as part of its natural spreading out from central Eurasia, see Chap.4.1) these new settlers from the south would have had easy access to, and/or travelled with, domestic birds for stocking new structures. The prolific breeding of the domesticated dove would have quickly ensured the rapid stocking of new structures provided that their biological needs could be met (see Chap.4.2). Given that the new dwellers were agricultural reformers, the association seems most probable.

The evidence collated during the course of this study, both historical and ornithological, provides some credence to the thought that the 'Scottish Rock Doves', which are still found along the coast in their pure and impure forms may, in fact, stem from introduced domestic birds (created in the first place by environmental conditioning and unconscious selection) which have escaped (or been naturally forced) and reverted to feral by the process of natural selection.[10] Such a concept is a polarised version of Ritchie's theory.[11]

The earliest piece of doocot evidence found in Moray is at Auchterspynie, 1472 (see Chap.5.2) although doocots were clearly in existence in Scotland by the time of James I's law of 1406 (see Appendix Section 2). The sophistication of early doocots in Moray, such as Pittendreich and Quarrelwood, indicates that pigeon rearing was far from a new art in the area (see Chap.5.3). Niven Robertson presented recorded evidence of a doocot erected in southern Scotland during the thirteenth century (see Chaps.2.2.1 & 5.2) whilst several authors recorded cotes existing in England from the twelfth century. There is (apparent) evidence of remains of *columbaria* in some Roman ruins in England.[12] However, the lack of evidence of cotes in the Domesday Book indicates that domestic dove rearing did not occur, at least any significant scale, in Britain prior to the Norman invasion. The time lag between Scotland and England for the introduction of doocots (c.100 years) not to mention the regional difference between south and north Scotland (a further c.100 years) indicates that Scotland, in particular the north, was slower to become 'civilised' and this **confirms** established, general historical theory about the area (see Chap.5.1). The broad historical framework of this study highlights that a direct line may be attributed between Britain and the Normans in relation to the introduction of doocots. However, the development of the doocot in Scotland should be seen in the wider context of the general movement of civilised man (and bird) stemming out from central Eurasia,

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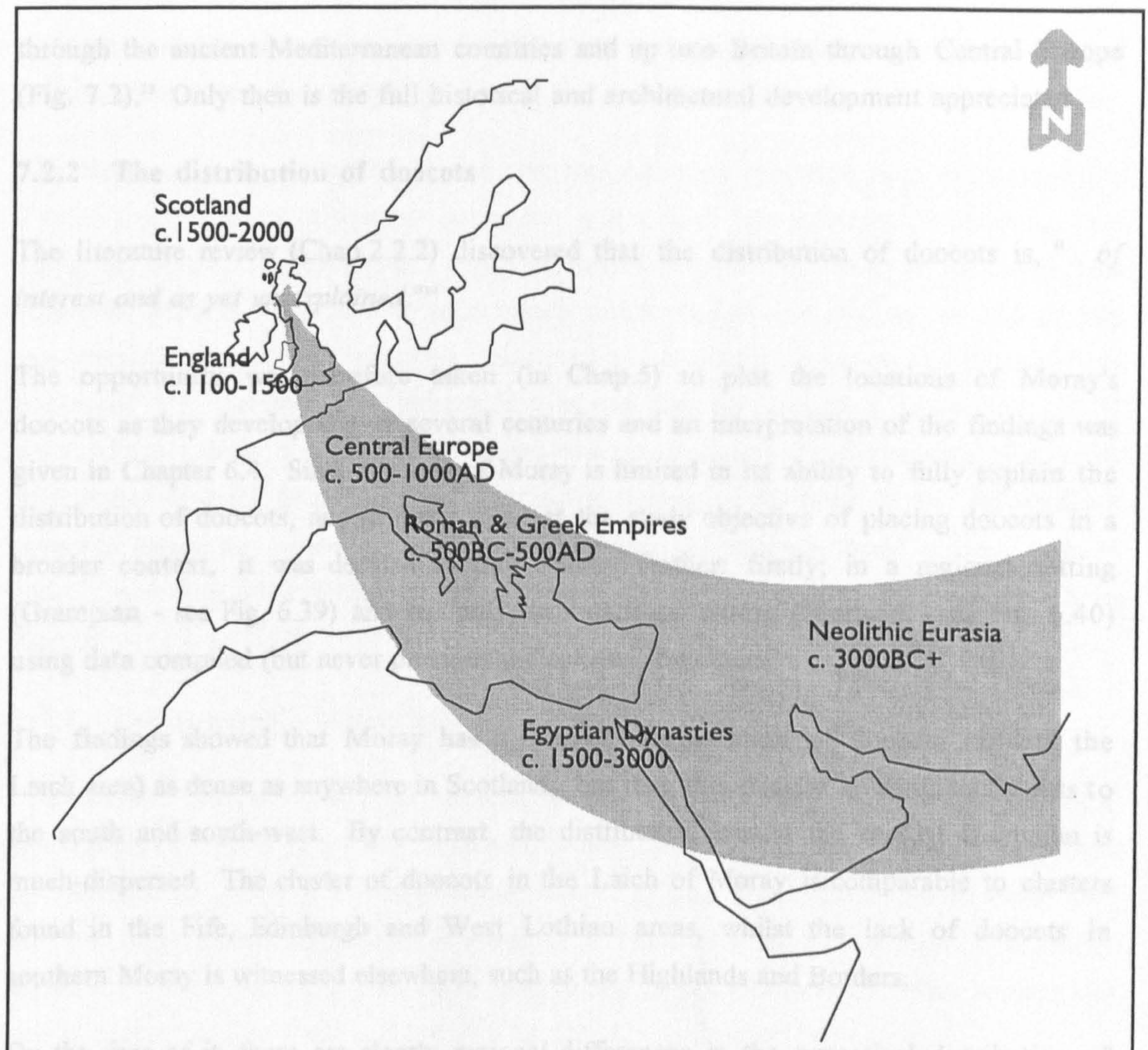
[10]Goodwin, ornithological author and researcher, pers.comm., 14/4/98, "*I agree .. that probably Domesticated Pigeons .. were originally imported here*".
[11]This study is not designed to resolve this matter (which will require specific research work by natural historians).
[12]See Chap.2.2, Chambers, 'Romano-British Dovecots', 1920.



Introduction of the doocot to Scotland (Fig 7.2)

A map of the broad, historical timeframe of domesticating doves in purpose built structures illustrates a general south to north movement over several millennia. Not surprisingly, this coincides with man's historical movement and civilisation process.

through the ancient Mediterranean countries and up into Britain through Central Europe (Fig. 7.2).[13] Only then is the full historical and architectural development appreciated.

7.2.2 The distribution of doocots

The literature review (Chap.2.2.2) discovered that the distribution of doocots is, "*.. of interest and as yet un-explained.*"[14]

The opportunity was therefore taken (in Chap.5) to plot the locations of Moray's doocots as they developed over several centuries and an interpretation of the findings was given in Chapter 6.4. Since the area of Moray is limited in its ability to fully explain the distribution of doocots, and in order to meet the study objective of placing doocots in a broader context, it was decided to plot Moray further: firstly; in a regional setting (Grampian - see Fig. 6.39) and secondly; in a national setting (Scotland - see Fig. 6.40) using data compiled (but never previously displayed) by others.[15]

The findings showed that Moray has a distinct concentration of doocots (around the Laich area) as dense as anywhere in Scotland; but that this density is significantly less to the south and south-west. By contrast, the distribution around the rest of Grampian is much-dispersed. The cluster of doocots in the Laich of Moray is comparable to clusters found in the Fife, Edinburgh and West Lothian areas, whilst the lack of doocots in southern Moray is witnessed elsewhere, such as the Highlands and Borders.

On the face of it, there are clearly regional differences in the numerical distribution of doocots throughout Scotland. The maps, in themselves, do not, however, explain the trends in Scotland. A holistic interpretation of the findings (as carried out in Chap.6.4) which relates the map results with geographic, historic and ornithological information (presented in Chap.4 and 5) has helped to convey the point that the overall distribution of historical doocots in Scotland, despite the regional differences, is unified by several factors relating to human and bird needs (see Chap. 6.4). The association with good agricultural land is a clear indicator that doocots have been historically more associated with rural Scotland, although the twentieth century distribution map (see Fig. 5.7.9) shows

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[13]With this in mind, Scottish doocots would have had some influence, not only from the Normans, but also from the Scandics, Spanish, Christians and English Crusaders.
[14]Beaton, pers.comm., 20/10/96.
[15]That is, the Regional Archaeologist (Grampian) and the RCAHMS (Scotland).

that the modern tendency is now heading more towards an urban bias (a reflection of human socio-economic change).[16]

The literature review (Chap.2.2.2) also revealed that other countries, such as England and France, had thousands of doocots during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This study has plotted Scotland (see Chap. 6.4) with just over 500 historic structures (see Appendix Section 1 for fuller details) which might suggest that the nation was greatly impoverished during these centuries. However, given Scotland's population at this time compared with England's and France's (not to mention the unsuitable nature of much of Scotland's terrain for successful cultivation) it is not surprising that the number of doocots in Scotland is much lower. Indeed, it is adduced (judging by some of the information reviewed during the study[17]) that the concentrations of doocots found in the Laich of Moray, and around the Firths of Forth and Tay, are as dense as anywhere in northern Europe.

7.2.3 The ownership of doocots

The literature review (Chap.2.2.3) determined that the ownership of doocots in Scotland has historically had a direct link with certain laws that ensured that, "*Doocots were thus the valuable property of powerful landowners*".[18] Since few authors quoted these laws verbatim, any understanding of their impact is reliant on the interpretations of these authors. A fuller exploration of Scots law relating to doocots, was therefore undertaken and is documented in detail in Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Acts of Parliament'.

The archival research carried out as part of this study confirmed a distinct grouping of ancient laws in Scotland during Jacobean times. Laws by James I and III indicate that Scotland was following the Anglo-Norman lead of domesticating doves for the benefit of 'superior classes' and that heavy legal protection was given to their doves and cotes[19]. Archival searches revealed records in Moray (Chap. 5.2) which suggested that doocots were, indeed, owned by the major nobles and clergymen by the fifteenth century, if not

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[16]'Rural birds' could be supported by grain raised in surrounding fields. 'Urban birds', on the other hand, mostly require artificial feeding.
[17]For example, Suzzoni, 'Colombiers and Pigeonniers', 1974; Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920; Beacham, ' Dovecotes of England', 1990; Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes', 1993; P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988; and McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1999.
[18]Gillon, 'Doocots in Scotland', 1998, p.21.
[19] As well as other meat sources such as deer, fowl, rabbit and fish. Since Norman feudalism was founded as a hierarchical system of deference, meat was not made widely accessible to everyone and quickly became (virtually) monopolised by the elite in Scotland.

earlier[20] (published records outside Moray indicate that some academic institutions also possessed doocots).[21] James IV's law of 1503 positively encouraged the building of cotes for the landed gentry (the only social group at the time that could afford to build, stock and run large doocots) either to reinforce them as social indicators and/or promote them as a civilised concept at a time of a flourishing European Renaissance;[22] and this is reflected in the Moray case study (Chap.5.1). A century or so later, James VI's much-recited law of 1617 restricted the building of doocots, in response to either the rise of doocot numbers due to secular wealth (see Chaps.5.1.2 and 5.4.1, s.v. 'Seventeenth Century') and/or to affirm the domestication of birds as a prerogative of the wealthy and, thus, an issue of status. It is noticeable in Moray's case that the number of secular doocots rose significantly between 1560 and 1620.

The number of doocots in Moray again rose dramatically between 1690 and 1760, yet the important lawsuit of 1751 between Gordon and Brodie (see Chap. 5.5, s.v. 'Smithfield' and verbatim account given in Appendix Section 2) was fought on the grounds of the 1617 Scots Act, thus suggesting that no other significant Act intervened. This lawsuit determined that certain landowners could have more than one doocot.[23] By the mid eighteenth century, doocots were to be found in many estates throughout Moray, although the evidence (see Appendix Section 1, s.v. 'Sites Investigated - Nothing Found') does not support the claim that, "*Wherever there is a sizeable old house, there will be found a dovecote, or the remains of one*".[24]

In England, where a slightly different legal framework operated, the restrictive Acts are thought to have been relaxed during the period of George IV, but some commentators

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[20]That is, at Auchterspynie, Kinloss Abbey, Elgin Cathedral, Spynie Palace, Greyfriars (see Chap. 5, s.v. 'Pre-Reformation'). There appears to have been no examples of church tower doocots, as found elsewhere in Scotland, e.g. Iona and Inchholm.

[21]Smith, Dove Houses of Essex, 1931, p.111, records regular entries for fifteenth century cotes at Cambridge colleges.

[22]Act of Parliament, 1503, c.19 and James IV, c.21. "*All lords and lairds to have parks with dovecots etc.*" see Appendix Section 2.
(James IV spoke eight languages and travelled extensively in Europe. He was a fanatic hawker and enjoyed large -scale banquets.)
An illegible document, SRO GD 172/1383, 'Protest by William Spittal of Leuchat over bigging a dovecote', 2/7/1574, illustrates that problems were arising by the late sixteenth century.
Doocots were also formed in church towers, burgh towns and monasteries during the sixteenth century.

[23]This lawsuit established the right to erect a doocot for every yearly rental of 10 chalders of victual (inferring that Gordon was able to support several doocots without impinging on his neighbour's rights).

[24]Paterson, 'Dowcattes', 1945, p. 373.

state that the Scots Act of 1617 is still unrepealed.[25] Due to the specific legal nature of this latter point, this study has been unable to confirm whether or not this is the case.[26]

Archival research, nevertheless, provided sufficient evidence to suggest that small scale domestication was, at times, practised by a wide range of the population (small cots were found in cottages, farms, town houses, coach-houses and inns) but was often not fully appreciated.[27] The 1617 law to erect a doocot did not stipulate details in terms of size and numbers and, since small scale operations appear to have been practised unfettered, it is possible that Scotland took the same stance as France that tolerated small cotes to around one hundred pair.[28] Tenant farmers, who on occasions rented the laird's doocot, may well have erected small doocots for themselves from an early period (Moray's evidence shows that farmers were operating doocots by the turn of the nineteenth century, e.g. Greenbank, Glasterim) but this is unlikely to have been permitted without the consent of the feudal superior.[29]

By the nineteenth century, regulations relating to the construction of a doocot were clearly relaxed (if not abolished) not only in Scotland but throughout France and the British Isles.[30] Changes in regulations, combined with a change in attitude and the primary reason for rearing, witnessed a rise in ownership by the middle classes during the nineteenth century (e.g. ministers, doctors and town burgesses) and Moray conforms to the pattern elsewhere in Scotland that, by the twentieth century, the rearing of doves had very much become a working class activity.[31] However, it would appear that in recent decades the keeping of doves has become an 'acceptable activity' across the social

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[25]However, Ritchie, Influence of Man, 1920, p.100 wrote, "*These Acts, some of which were repealed only 1906*".
See also, McCann, 'Dovecotes and Pigeons in English Law', 2000.

[26]Unsuccessful enquiries were made during the course of this study to legal historians and librarians in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. A legal researcher will, perhaps, be required to solve this matter.

[27]In a variety of paintings, sketches, records, literature, etc. For example, MacGibbon and Ross, Castellated and Domestic Architecture, vol.4, 1887, p.452, illustrates an inn with two substantial dormer cotes. D. MacMillan, Painting in Scotland, (Oxford: Phaidon Press, 1986), p.68, Plate 49. Painting of 'Claud and Peggy' by David Allan, 1789, shows rural family living with cat, hens and doves in loft near an open dormer. Also, p.140, Plate 64, Alexander Nasmyth sketch of 'Farmyard Gate', 1807, shows an independent building near the gate containing 6 holes and projecting ledges.

[28]Thus indicating a potential nuisance level?

[29]Although in Moray, Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, p.340, said, " *Very few have fallen into the occupancy of tenants, but in several cases, they have contrived a little accommodation in some gable end or otherwise about the offices.*"
In some cases, the superior's view was questioned, e.g. in 1753, Charles Hay questioned Sir William Bruce's decision to give up the key of Kinghorn doocot to a local baillie, SRO GD 29/2026.
In 'Talk of dovecot croft of Kettlestown and repairs to dovecot'; 30/5/1698, SRO GD30/414, it seems that the cote and croft in Fife was rented out and the owner entered into a repair agreement. In GD30/418, a letter refers to ".. *thoughts to repair the doucoat the ensuing summer.*"

[30]Although the restrictive right remains on the Island of Sark, near Jersey.

[31]Particularly the practice of racing and homing.

spectrum.[32] Ownership is now controlled by the powers of the Planning system in Scotland.[33]

7.2.4 The purpose of doocots

The literature review (Chap. 2.2.4) revealed that, until the challenges of Una Robertson (in 1988) and McCann (in 1991), the inveterate view of a doocot's function was thought to be the provision of food.[34]

Very clearly, the historical evidence collated during the course of the study (presented in Chaps. 2,4 and 5 and Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Pigeons as a Culinary Pursuit') in the form of household accounts, letters, agricultural reviews and cookery books, from within Moray and elsewhere in Scotland, **supports** the notion that pigeons (i.e. young birds) were intensively and extensively bred for food from an early period. The upper class pursued 'conspicuous' protein consumption, sometimes to the point of unhealthy over-indulgence. Although pigeons were clearly reared in large numbers to satiate this desire, the upper classes did <u>not</u>, however, require to eat pigeons to subsist over the winter period, as alleged by the majority of twentieth century writers. Household accounts, discovered during the course of this study, substantiate this notion (see Chapter 5.5, s.v. 'Gordon Castle' and Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Household Accounts Records'). Pigeons are not recorded as having been eaten in large quantities during winter months.[35] Moreover, this study is able to show for the first time that there is such a distinct correlation between these historical records and the bird's natural breeding cycles (see Chapter 4.2, s.v. 'Biology' and Figs. 4.5 and 4.6)) together with historical culinary knowledge (see Appendix Section 2) to state beyond reasonable doubt that (i) offspring, rather than adults (or eggs), were eaten[36] and (ii) that young pigeons were eaten as a delicacy, rather

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[32]McGillivray, pers.comm., 3/4/97. (See Interview, Appendix Section 3) Also, owners of Ballindalloch, Urquhart Manse and Grangehall are considering re-stocking restored structures (see Chap.5).

[33]Which is concerned with building size and neighbour objections. The need for a building warrant will also affect construction and materials (thus preventing the erecting of 'vernacular' structures as witnessed in central Glasgow and Edinburgh in the 1970s and '80s).

[34]U. Robertson, 'Pigeons as a Source of Food', 1988 and McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991.

[35]M. Black et al, <u>A Taste of History</u>, (London: English Heritage, 1993).
Ample sources of other food were kept by the wealthy to see them through this period.
Haldane, <u>Scots Gardens</u>, 1934, p.107. "*One thinks of the store cupboards of a great house - of the airy rooms of northern aspect where shelves were full of apples, the dried fruit and the pickles, of the cyder and all the home-brewed wines, and knows that the long winters would have few terrors three centuries ago.*"

[36]Not, therefore, as alluded to by some authors, e.g. Hume, 'Outdoor Larders, 1998, p.10.
Only culled adults would have been eaten, but this was not regarded as 'tender meat'.
Any reference to 'eggs' in cookery books, household accounts, appear to refer to hens, rather than doves.

than as fresh, or 'subsisting, winter meat'.[37] These findings entirely corroborate the challenging theories set by U. Robertson and McCann. Consumption of the adults was not only regarded as 'a last resort', due to the poor quality of the meat, but would have quickly destroyed a cote's ability to sustain itself - a point obviously not easily recognised by many architectural historians.[38]

It is, meanwhile, virtually impossible to architecturally distinguish doocots which may have contained birds for primary purposes other than food (see Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Alternative Uses'). For example, a 'food production doocot' (allegedly every doocot documented by historians, see Chap.2.2.4) cannot be clearly distinguished from one that has been designed to cultivate birds for either their fertiliser, their pleasure or sporting value (e.g. falconry, shooting practice).[39] Ornamental birds were, and still are, kept for display in cotes (e.g. Cullen Seafield Street, Blackfriars Coach House and Deansburgh) which are indistinguishable from cotes used apparently for small-scale food production (e.g. Towie Farm, Dellachaple and Cairnfield). The modern timber cote and flypen, frequently used today by homing-bird breeders (e.g. Hamilton Drive doocot) is very similar to the designs for squab-rearing food cotes of the mid twentieth century[40] (and, interestingly, not unlike the 'cramming cotes' described in Roman times by Varro and Columella[41]). In the same vein, but under contrasting circumstances, it is fair to assume that Mary Queen of Scots would have had an 'architecturally impressive' doocot (probably of stone) constructed for her ornamental doves (as at Hazelwood, Urquhart and Lesmurdie). The current monarch, Elizabeth II, has an impressive, large-scale cote re-erected at Sandringham, for racing purposes[42]. The former doocot, had it survived, would no doubt be wrongly classified today by historians as a 'food doocot'.

It is also considered (but not evidenced) given the profuse use of doves and pigeons for purposes other than food (see Appendix Section 2 for details), that certain doocots may have been erected in hospitals and by doctors as a medical resource, whilst some doocots were, perhaps, erected on farms, primarily for their guano potential rather than for their

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[37]That is not to say that adult birds were not eaten in times of hardship. Also, some birds were eaten in the form of pies during winter months.
See Chapter 2.3, s.v. 'Purpose' and Appendix Sectio n 2.
[38]Feare, 'Pigeons', 1990, p.4, "... *unlikely to sustain rates of removal of more than 35 per cent of adults without their population declining*".
[39]Even when the different uses are known; for example, the Egyptian or Persian towers which are erected for all these uses, are apparently similar in design.
[40]See various illustrations in Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931; Levi, Pigeon, 1941; Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991.
[41]Varro, On Farming, c.36 BC, p.282 and Columella, Of Husbandry, c.50 A.D., p.386.
[42]Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.33.

food supply (e.g. possibly as at Invererne and Grangehall).[43] Judging by the importance given to the landscaped policies during the picturesque movement, the primary purpose of certain doocots may have been as 'architectural follies', with food as a secondary, albeit practically tangible, function[44] (e.g. Cullen House, Innes House, Mayen and Gordon Castle). Further, some cotes were erected specifically to house birds that were bred to carry messages during war-time (see Appendix Section 2) and doocots were, possibly functioning to support the Victorian shooting-match boom.[45]

In summary, it is well established that historic, large doocots were mostly erected by the upper classes in Scotland to support their desire to eat great quantities of tender, succulent meat. The findings of this study confirm beyond all reasonable doubt that such doocots were used to breed young birds for consumption by their owners as a delicacy during much of the year, excepting winter.

However, doves and pigeons have been reared for a variety of purposes and that some of these purposes, depending upon historical circumstances, may have been primary, rather than secondary, functions. The exploration of architectural concepts and features (chapters 6.2 & 6.3) indicates that certain design issues give clues to certain purposes. A revolving ladder or scaffolding device (as Gordonstoun or Ballindalloch) would suggest a 'food production' doocot; the lack of nest boxes (as at Drummuir) would suggesta 'display doocot'; a large space for guano build-up (as at Grangehall and Pitgaveny) could suggest a 'fertiliser function'; anda 'trapping device' (as at 'Hamilton Drive') which could suggest a 'sporting function', are some examples. Nevertheless, it is not possible to be wholly sure about the primary function of redundant doocots, so it is only correct to give the overall impression that doocots were solely 'food larders' when referring to certain types[46] (i.e. the ancient large scale, cramming doocot and the modern, intensive farming squab pens).

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[43]See Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, p.388 and Agreement between John Sinclair and George Dishington, 1744, GD164/765/3.
Also, it is perhaps unlikely, but the respective cotes at Keith Tannery and Elgin Tan Works (see Chap.5.7) may have played a role in the tanning, since guano was utilised in the process (see Appendix Section 2).

[44]As also seen at Blair Atholl and Taymouth.

[45]As witnessed in Monaco in the early twentieth century. Anon, 'On this Day' The Times, 23/12/98, p.22, "*Pigeon-shooting begins again* [Dec.1922]. *Excellent birds rest in the immense pigeons houses.*"
See also SRO GD10/1615, 'Pigeon Shoots under the Ammunition Subsidy Scheme, 1952-6'.

[46]For example, Drummuir, Marypark and Hamilton Drive are all clearly 'doocots' yet it is known that they have not functioned as food larders. Also, all things considered (scale, positioning, date, etc.), Hazelwood, Urquhart and Mains of Seafield doocots (all cited in Beaton's Doocots of Moray, 1978) may not be 'food larders' like other older and larger types.

7.3 Outcome of Analysis: design criteria, architectural concepts and architectural features

7.3.1 Design criteria

The literature review (see Chap.2.3.1) revealed inconsistencies relating to the design criteria of doocots. Extrapolations of the works by previous authors indicated different responses (with over thirty factors presented) whilst others continue to rely on criteria set in Roman times.[47]

A checklist of the criteria (Fig. 6.1) was therefore formulated as part of this study to test the variety of previous theories using the doocots of Moray as a case study area (see Chap.6.1). It clarifies, beyond reasonable doubt, that all doocots should be designed and constructed from **two** points of view: human and bird.

It confirms that the **common factor** in all doocots examined is the bird's basic requirements. Further, as a consequence of the background research into biology (see Chap.4.2), and actual ecological provision (see Chap.6.1), these are listed as follows:

a) Food
b) Water
c) Minerals
d) Sunlight
e) Exercise
f) Ventilation
g) Safe place to roost and/or nest[48]
h) Access

These biological requirements unite all types of doocots, whether they be large or small, robust or lightweight, plain or ornamental.

The **variable factor** for all doocots is the intervening human element. The research of this study (Chaps. 5 & 6 in particular) indicates that architectural individuality, so often a

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[47]That is, Varro, On Farming, c.36 B.C., pp.264-311.

[48]It is understood that different breeds and varieties will possess slightly variable biological traits.
Meanwhile the requirement for a place of safety may explain why doves occupy some redundant doocots, but not others. Some are still safe (Whitaker, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian - a survey', 1938, recorded 17 out of 30 redundant doocots with some dove occupancy) but the majority are too hazardous for roosting and/or nesting. Also, a drawing by Wm. Inglis, c. 1930, SRO GD 302/120, shows doves utilising a redundant fifteenth century tower near North Berwick.

(not previously understood) trademark of doocots, is dependent upon an owner's response to the following issues and constraints:

a) purpose, and scale, of domestication (e.g. food, manure, sport, profit, medicine, sacrifice, messenger, status, pleasure);
b) level of bird control desired (e.g. total confinement, semi-confinement, complete liberty);
c) ease of access required;
d) capital and revenue expenditure available (for building, operating and maintaining);
e) location (e.g. freestanding, part of another building, placement in landscape),
f) use of materials;
g) skills and knowledge available (on domestic doves and building construction).

These anthropological factors, with scope for choice, differentiate all doocots and create the many types and variety of forms available.

7.3.2 Architectural concepts

Few theorists have given attention to the architectural context of doocots as 'complete ideas' which realise the requirements of the design brief. Many people express architectural concepts in terms of styles and shapes, which are obvious, but not wholly informative, methods of classification (see Chaps.2.1.3 and 7.1.3) and authors generally realise, but cannot explain, individualities and commonalities. Most have witnessed doocots as final, physical products (normally of a large scale) without cognisance of the intangible, conceptual stages of design. The consequence is a failure to question why, and how, similar or different, architectural concepts arise.

The analysis of the architectural concepts as a **design process** (Chap.6.2) illustrates architectural responses to the interaction between the core, ecological criteria for all doocots and the varying influences of human requirements, as affected by time and place.[49] In every case (large, small, durable or lightweight) core ecological criteria must be fulfilled; but ever-changing human forces shape and fashion the differences between doocots.

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[49]Principally being the effects of socio-economic history, architectural design and knowledge, climate and materials

In early times, when birds roamed to feed themselves, doocots were often placed in open fields far from the main house (as at Smithfield, Orton and Rothiemay). Some of the earliest doocots were primitive, circular, domed structures which were built using limited skills, knowledge and materials. Warfare, as occurred frequently in previous centuries (see Chap. 5.2 - 5.7), made it necessary for doocots to be robust, not flimsy, structures. The rounded, stone-vaulted, domed doocots (as found at Plewlands, New Elgin, Culbin, Leuchars, Blackhills and Balnageith) were manifestations of this need (see Fig. 7.3). Further influences included established construction skills, available materials and a knowledge of previous successful designs. They possessed many similarities in concept, yet still reflected local, vernacular construction. They could, however, suffer from design flaws: the open roof allowed rain, and possibly birds of prey, to enter; cross ventilation was difficult unless holes were made through the sides of the structure; and the internal volume could be confined in size depending upon the angle of vaulting.[50] Improved human expertise, in terms of construction, manufacture and knowledge, together with less turbulent times and a natural rejection of 'archaic' designs, led to several concepts of doocots with timber roofs (as at Dalvey, Burgie, Findrassie and Ballindalloch). Unlike the monocoque, vaulted stone structures, these had the flexibility to cover designs conceived in any plan shape - square, rectangular, circular, polygonal - and could be monopitched (see Fig. 7.4), dual-pitched, hipped or formed to an apex. The available combinations provided owners, and in certain periods professional designers, with scope for individuality. Orthogonal designs were also the outcomes of improved skills, knowledge and available materials, but had the disadvantage of added cost, caused by the need to use dressed corner stones (which were often later 'stolen' for re-use elsewhere).[51] Cyclindrical concepts (see Fig. 7.5) were ideal solutions because they: made maximum use of wall space; provided a consistent internal space (unlike the domed variety); could incorporate revolving ladders; could be constructed without the need for expensive stone work; and could easily incorporate ventilation at the apex.[52]

In later periods, when birds were partly fed and allowed to roam, doocots were placed within, or upon farm courts (as at Letterfourie, Grangehall and Invererne). In more recent times, when birds have been regularly fed, they have often been incorporated into other

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[50]It is noted that some of these structures had their top openings 'improved' by later additions. Cross ventilation would not have been so necessary if a top opening was large. Internal space is reduced by doming the roof, but it is a very effective means of 'cramming', since nest sites can be incorporated.

[51]There is no doubt that certain doocots have been lost because of the desire to reuse their construction materials.

[52]Mixed cotes, incorporating chambers for other uses at ground level, provided increased safety for the birds, but less convenience for human access.

buildings (as at Blackfriars, Cullen Schoolhouse and Drummuir). The appended doocot, incorporated into or onto other buildings, provided excellent safety for its inhabitants but, sometimes, this gain was offset by difficult access for its owner (see Westfield, in particular).

In many modern, freestanding buildings, where birds are kept in a state of semi-confinement, the building concept must respond to the need for a low height (to allow a keeper to catch flying birds) and provide sufficient space for an exercise flight (see Hamilton Drive, Elgin). The modern cote, easily constructed using inexpensive materials, suits an owner's financial limitations and, combined with a high level of supervision, provides a high degree of safety for its inhabitants.[53] Individuality of design is less possible today than in previous times, since cost is such a constraint to many current owners and many modern cotes are now conceived as prefabricated kits of parts.[54]

Throughout their development, doocots have always had to respond to an owner's financial capabilities and scales of doocots vary greatly. For example, although similar in overall concept to each other, the doocots at: Lesmurdie and Grangehall[55]; Milton and Smithfield; Greenbank and Pitgaveny; Deansburgh and Drummuir; Blackfriars and Invereme; are all very different in size, for human, rather than ornithological reasons.

Despite refinements in their detail design,[56] doocots have altered very little in their basic ecological provision.[57] In every respect, they are simply artificial substitutes for the bird's natural roosting and nesting (and in some cases, flying) environment. Provided the design concept can meet the bird's biological needs mentioned earlier in this section, the architectural aspects of this study illustrate that doocots can, and do, adopt any size, shape or form.

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[53]The corrugated iron cotes in central Glasgow and Edinburgh were not highly supervised and, thus, not entirely safe for the birds inside.

[54]Cost was less of an inhibiting factor in earlier times, particularly in the cases of Pittendreich and Quarrelwood, since the constraint of building entirely in stone, yet avoiding a dome, has overcome by constructing rib vaults supporting elaborate stone slabs (see Chap.5.2).

[55]Grangehall Doocot comes as close as any other in Moray to being a 'model pigeon house' (see seventeenth and eighteenth century recommendations in Chap.2.3).

[56]E.g., use of materials, doors, apertures, access points, ledges and roofs.

[57]That is: a safe place to roost and/or nest; ventilation; access to food, water, minerals, daylight and a place of exercise.

7.3.3 Architectural features

After first identifying that a large number of conflicting and speculative theories abound (Chap. 2.3.3 and Appendix Section 2), it was decided that architectural features should be individually measured and recorded in order to provide a bank of irrefutable data (see Chap.5). This information was subsequently analysed and interpreted in the previous Chapter (item 6.3) using information gathered earlier (Chaps. 2 and 4).

In the majority of cases, the evidence in Moray is sufficient to support the most plausible theories whilst on occasion refuting others. Most emphatic is the evidence that supports McCann's theory that the so-called 'rat ledge' is a misnomer (see Figs. 7.3 and 7.4). Of equal significance, is the discovery of several cases of scaffolding beams as a means of collecting birds from upper levels (see Fig. 7.6).

The examination of individual features, and the overall collection, is assisted by the historical framework of the study that explores the chronology and context of the features. In this way, the historical development of these architectural features is more appreciated (e.g. see Chap. 6.3.5 s.v. 'Door Area' and 6.3.13, s.v. 'Nest sites') and the buildings are better understood as working concepts (see Figs. 7.3-7.6).

Similarly, brief investigations of other parts of the country (e.g. Caithness, East Lothian, Angus, Northumberland, Yorkshire, Suffolk, Nottinghamshire, etc.) have aided an appreciation of the geographical effects on design. These are mainly in terms of materials, shapes, details and ornamentation.[58]

Having analysed and reported matters relating to every architectural feature normally associated with doocots (see Chap. 6.3), it is argued that there is no need to repeat the other individual findings here.

Collectively, however, all these elements can be simply explained as manifestations of two of the key requirements (referred to at the start of this section, s.v. 'Design Criteria'), namely:

i) ornithological - e.g. safe, high level access; perching/ roosting facilities; nesting facilities; daylight/ventilation provision; feeding aids, and;

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[58] Main differences are: shapes (four gabled roofs in England); materials (extensive use of timber and brick in southern England); details (use of traps, L-plan boxes, glazed windows, internal ledges in southern parts); ornamentation (more austere in northern parts).

ii) anthropological - e.g. low level access; collecting aids; use of materials; applied decoration; windows/apertures.

Yet a third, and critical, explanation is proffered: a combination of the two, i.e. the ornithological requirement as understood by the human. The whitewashing of walls; the specification of deep or wide foundations; the siting well away from trees; the fitting of anti-predator devices; and the provision of certain projecting ledges; are all examples, and consequences, of what the original owner, builder or architect (and indeed, subsequently, historian) has seen, read or heard of elsewhere. This being the case, scientific research and analysis will never be able to fully explain some of the highly individual (and often irrationally based) decisions taken by owners which create enigmatic buildings.[59].

7.4 Outcome of Analysis: management, decline and the legacy

7.4.1 The management of doocots

Few modern doocot authors (especially Scottish ones) pass comment on the subject of 'management', which suggests that it is largely disassociated from doocot design. When the issue has been raised, it has often been cited to amuse and entertain.[60] Initial thoughts would, therefore, be predisposed to the notion that an examination and analysis of the architecture of doocots will contribute little to the issue of actual management.

In order, however, to meet the original objectives of the study, and pursue a more holistic approach, particularly relating to ecological matters, the management of domestic birds was explored by: (i) researching outwith historic dovecote literature (see Chap.4.); (ii) observing operational doocots in a modern context (see interviews in Appendix Section 3); and (iii) comparing designs of modern-day doocots (where the functions and management practices are known) with doocots of a bygone era (see Chaps.5, 6.2 and 6.3).

Such investigations indicate that the biology of the Rock Dove has not changed significantly in two millennia (see Chap.4.2). Therefore, it is not surprising to note that

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[59]Such is often the beauty (and frustration) associated with vernacular buildings which frequently do not conform to conventional responses.

[60]For example, see P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, Chap. IV.

the bird's core management requirements have not changed much since the Romans first documented their needs.[61]

Interpretation of the buildings in Moray, over a wide historical framework, reveals that: the two subjects of management and design are not only inextricably related, but also allows classification of the doocots into three specific, ecologically based, types (see Chap.7.1.3, s.v. 'Classification'). These are:

Type A. Birds kept in confinement ,[62] These require firstly, a high level of care and attention (e.g. regular supplies of food, water and minerals and health care) and secondly, special architectural provision (e.g. a flight for exercise).[63]

Type B. Birds kept in semi-confinement. These require slightly less intensive management, but some special architectural provision (e.g. high level traps for controlled access).[64]

Type C. Birds allowed their liberty.[65] These naturally require less management still (e.g. winter feeding, cleansing, health checks) and simpler design features (e.g. permanent access and egress holes).[66]

Irrespective of how an owner decides to domesticate and manage the birds, the ecological criteria (see Chap.7.3.1, s.v. 'Design Criteria') must always be met, so the doocot must be responsive to the bird's constant needs and an owner's varying choices for domestication. This association between architecture and management is, therefore, considered important towards an understanding of the recommendations made by practitioners.

Moreover, the literature review (Chap.2.4.1) revealed that ancient (often brutal) managerial practices, cited respectively by Varro and Columella, were widely accepted by modern writers and used to explain the operation of redundant doocots in Britain. Likewise, the (more humane) eighteenth and nineteenth century writings of Girton,

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[61]Based upon a qualitative assessment of past and present practices.

[62]In order to display, 'cram' or artificially select birds. For example, Elgin Cooper Park aviary, American squab pens, Victorian and Roman aviaries.

[63]E.g. separation pens, exercise pens, feeding areas and accessories, perches, roost sites, sunning ledges, low number of nest boxes. See Chap.5, s.v., 'Twentieth Century'.

[64]E.g. in order to 'horse', race, breed, sell, produce squabs, display. 'Horsing' being the sport of capturing other person's birds by luring or trapping; a common pastime in the Scottish Central Belt during the 1960s and 70s.

[65]E.g. for display/ornament, squab production, fertiliser production, i.e. the majority of surviving historic doocots in Moray.

[66]E.g. single or multiple chambers, no flypen, low internal volume, higher number of boxes.
'Multiple chambers' as distinguished from 'separation pens', the latter being used to separate cocks, hens and youngsters and ill birds. (See examples throughout Chaps. 5 and 6.)

Moore, Lumley, Dixon, the anonymous 'Poem' and Sportsman's Dictionary, have also been used by modern writers to interpret redundant doocots.[67] These writers were obviously referring to doves kept in total confinement (type A); or semi-confinement (type B). Further, these Roman writers were clearly describing at least two types of doocot, one of which refers to confined birds (type A). Their direct application on doocots where birds were allowed their liberty (type C), as executed by more modern authors, is thought to be inappropriate in many instances. For example, several authors apply Varro's recommendation of the need for water running through a doocot (see Chap.2.4.1). This would be an ecological prerequisite in a hot country where the birds are confined (type A), but not a requirement in a cooler, wetter geographical area for cotes where birds are free to find their own water sources (type C).

Managerial recommendations, examined both in the context of earlier works and current practices, have been crude, callous and based originally on trial and error. They have become increasingly (but not entirely) founded upon scientific evidence and more consciously directed towards the betterment of animal welfare (see Chaps. 2.4.1 and 4.5). The study also shows that managerial choices and developments are reflected in the design of a doocot. This is witnessed in the lack of nest boxes at Drummuir and Cullen School House; and the improving space-to-nest box ratio shown in Chapter 6.3.13, s.v. 'Nest sites'. Management and doocot design are, therefore, directly linked.

7.4.2 The decline of doocots

This study corroborates the view (held by McCann and Robertson, see 7.2.4, s.v. 'Purpose') that pigeons were not eaten in winter.[68] The notion that the turnip indirectly supplanted the pigeon, by allowing other livestock to be fed over winter time, is therefore a superfluous argument. There is therefore a the need to explore McCann's alternative theory, i.e. that doocots declined because pigeon rearing was no longer in their owners' interests (see Chap.2.4.2).

The study (see Chap.5) confirms that a particular type of doocot (the freestanding, large-scale, food factory doocot owned by wealthy landowners) was erected in ever-decreasing numbers by the turn of the nineteenth century (earlier, or later, in other

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[67] McCann, in particular, has cited these sources, both in 'Historical Enquiry', 1991 and 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995.

[68] Other than in pies (or the occasional culled adult).

geographic parts of the country depending on local circumstances). The different motivating factors behind pigeon rearing (see Chaps. 2.2.4, 4.4 and 7.2.4) indicates that the reasons behind the decline of this type of doocot are more complex than previously documented. They encompass issues relating to culinary and social attitudes, as well as legal and demographic changes and developments in knowledge, perceptions and local cultures, and, most importantly, economic constraints.

More specifically:

(i) In early times, the upper classes based their diet around meat and young pigeons naturally formed part of the menu. Doocots were, therefore, perceived by some as an important part of an estate and legal steps were taken to ensure their protection. However, with the passing of time, dietary changes took place and certain birds gradually lost favour;[69]

(ii) As these dietary changes took place (at different rates throughout Britain) any prestige associated with meat eating began to decrease and the doocot's social status diminished. Restrictive legal practices towards the keeping of birds were consequently relaxed but, more critically, the financial value of birds at market decreased (see Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Costs');

(iii) Peace and stability allowed more scope for diverse farming and, beyond doubt, the agricultural revolution of the mid-to-late eighteenth century impacted greatly on the role of the doocot. On the one hand, improved grain production created extra wealth for owners and extra food for birds (i.e. conditions ripe for doocots to flourish, as they did in the early-to-mid eighteenth century). On the other hand, a new attitude to keeping livestock and husbandry generated a focus on diversification, efficiency and modern technologies. Associated with bygone days and primitive methods, the traditional doocot would have been shunned by many 'enlightened' landowners as making any major contribution to an 'improved estate'. The building of a doocot would no longer have been considered *de rigeur* (see Chaps. 5, 7.2.1 and Appendix Section 2);

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[69] In early days, all types of birds were eaten, ranging from bustards to bitterns and larks and blackbirds. By the time of the Victorians, the diet of the upper classes was much more diverse and increasingly included new vegetables (e.g. turnip), foreign foods and desserts (see Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Culinary role'). The culinary need for pigeons was therefore being gradually substituted by other foods throughout the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

(iv) Throughout the mid-to-late eighteenth century (when doocots started to be incorporated into farm buildings) the numbers of landed estates declined and were subsumed by fewer, but larger, estates. Fewer people occupied the land (see Chap. 5.1.3 and 5.5.1). In many cases, the buildings of the former estates were surplus to the requirements of the new owners, who were more interested in land for grain and tree planting than property and livestock. Apart from a period which embraced the 'picturesque' landscape movement (see Chap.5.5.1) in which case the doocot played as much an aesthetic role as a functional one, these new landowners saw no great economic role for the doocot. The scope for major economic gain no longer existed through squab sales (see Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Costs');

(v) During the preparation of the 1790's Agricultural Reviews and Statistical Accounts across Scotland,[70] selected contributors were requested 'to ascertain the impact of pigeons upon local grain growing'. This (somewhat 'loaded' question) possibly grew out of agricultural suspicion, or even as a consequence of murmurings of disenchantment from French peasants during their Revolution uprisings (see Chap.2.4.2). The outcome was citation after citation condemning 'the pigeon as a granivorous enemy of the farmer'. Many of the passages probably referred inadvertently to wood pigeons and wild Rock Doves[71] (see Chap. 4.1 and Appendix Section 3). Despite some authors even rightly crediting such birds with the consumption of weed seeds, it was firmly established that 'pigeons', (interpreted, at least by historians, as domestic doves) were perceived to be extremely damaging to agriculture (see Chaps.2.4.2 and 4.1). Since Scots law had long promoted the need for a doocot's inhabitants to feed, theoretically at least, from within an owner's estate (hence the 1617 'two mile zone') many owners would have had this perceived effect of their doves on their land brought more clearly to their attention (see Chap.2.2.3, 7.2.3 and Appendix Section 2);

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[70] A comprehensive series of books covering Scotland with contributions from local intellectuals (normally parish ministers or school teachers) on the state and condition of their area.

[71] Most of the ministers and agriculturists writing the passages were most likely unable to distinguish between the different sub-species.
The image of a laird's doves devouring the peasants' fields is easy to conjure, yet more difficult to substantiate. In this context, it should be remembered that (i) the laird would have suffered more than most since birds would feed from the nearest available source i.e. his own fields (ii) peasants' fields would have been susceptible to depredations from a whole variety of sources, including wild, rather than domestic doves, (iii) scarers could have been easily employed, e.g. low paid employees and staked animals.

(vi) Attitudes towards social welfare were also changing and the late eighteenth century Scottish Enlightenment movement [72] would have created a more sympathetic consideration of the 'plight' of the suppressed classes (see Chap. 5.5). Relationships between landlords and tenants gradually moved towards feelings of mutual respect. Perceptions of the landlord's birds eating tenants' (or neighbours') crops would create tensions which both parties increasingly sought to avoid (see Appendix Section 2);

(vii) The Napoleonic wars, at the turn of the eighteenth century, and the Corn Laws of 1815, dramatically increased the value of grain (the staple diet of domestic birds). This cost issue resulted in a decline of arable farming and this continued to be a feature of agricultural demise well into the twentieth century. The increasing inability to feed a large number of birds was now inevitable for most owners (see Chap.4.1 and 5, s.v. 'Nineteenth Century');

(viii) Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, many of the estates of the landed gentry diminished in value and the numbers employed declined. The 'conspicuous consumption' lifestyle of some of the upper classes soon followed suit and eventually many estates were sold or broken up (see Chap.5.6.1). Some doocots were either demolished, passed into the hands of citizens from lower classes, or simply allowed to decay (see Appendix Section 2);

(ix) Apart from being a supply of food, some of the other uses for doves and pigeons had also virtually disappeared (see Appendix Section 2). Falconry, for example, was a much less practised sport and medical advances in the eighteenth century increasingly displaced traditional healing methods, which had been previously founded as much upon superstition as scientific research. Doocot manure, a long-recognised valuable commodity (even by the Agricultural Review authors at the turn of the eighteenth century) was being supplanted by cheaper, and readily-available, imported fertilisers (see Chaps.5, 7.2.4 and Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Alternative Other Uses');

(x) The Victorian desire to shoot birds for sport created a great demand for live adult doves. This resulted in a spate of thefts and raids that depleted entire stocks.

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[72] Influenced by radical publications such as Paine, Rights of Man, 1792.

Although this demand would have created a need for some doocots for a short period, repeated raids caused many owners (and their birds) to abandon their vulnerable cotes altogether (see Chap. 4.2, s.v. 'Biology', 4.3, s.v.'Behaviour' and Appendix Section 2, s.v. 'Alternative Uses').

Nevertheless, far from being the end to the domestication of doves, the extended historical framework of this study (especially in Chaps.5.5, 5.6 and 5.7) highlights that the nineteenth century proved to be a period of great transition for bird and man. Changes in social structures and attitudes, along with a relaxation of restrictive practices, gave purpose to small-scale rearing amongst the middle classes (e.g. at Blackfriars and Deanshaugh, Elgin).[73] In the early part, some well-to-do owners erected significant doocots within their farm complexes (e.g. Grangehall and Invereme). In the mid century, farm doocots (for food, status and pleasure) could still be found, but on a less grand scale (e.g. at Seapark and Drummuir). The size of individual buildings, increasingly, became far smaller than in previous centuries, but, conversely, the number of owners began to increase (that is, in comparison with other centuries) particularly after the repeal of the Corn Law.

Present-day doocots are now used mainly for racing and displaying (see Chap.5 s.v. 'Twentieth Century'). The current distribution demonstrates, however, that the 'end' of the doocot (defined in the study as a 'manmade shelter for doves' - see Chaps.5.1.5 and 7.1.1 - is not as terminal as some historians would lead us to believe. Overall numbers of birds being domesticated, has not declined as dramatically in the last two centuries as might have been expected from the literature review (see chap. 2.4.2).[74] Moray is also not the best area to highlight this point; central Scotland and northern England have regions that could provide better evidence (e.g. Glasgow, Edinburgh, north-east England).[75]

If doocots are to be understood in their widest sense, there is a need to include nineteenth and twentieth century structures as part of the development of doocots in this country.

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[73]Whether or not a 'legally recognised' practice has not been ascertained by this study.
There is an assumption here that many small scale and/or lightweight structures have been lost from the nineteenth century.
[74]This notion is presented with a degree of caution since the numbers of small-scale doocots from previous centuries is not fully known.
[75]The purpose of delicate food provision is all but extinct,and certainly both the durable quality of construction, and the quantities of birds per building, is lower (due to the different needs and capabilities of present day owners) but there are still thousands of domesticated doves in Scotland and England.

Further, the creation of man-made shelters to domesticate doves has not declined in this country simply because it no longer suits a particular social group. This study therefore indicates that the nineteenth century 'decline of doocots' must either be clearly reinterpreted as (i) the decline of a specific type of doocot, or as (ii) a key transitional period for doocots (see Fig. 7.7).

7.4.3 The legacy of doocots

The study (Chap.5 in particular) has shown that doocots survive for a variety of reasons: because of family ties (as at Dalvey, Pittendreigh, Pitgaveny and Ballindalloch); having been inherited, with possible continued use (as at Quarrelwood, Milton); to enhance policies (as at Grangehall, Orton, Gordonstoun, Urquhart and Hazelwood); consideration of cost and superstition related to demolition (as at many of the early doocots); state or public ownership (as at New Elgin); connected to functioning building (as at Invererne, Drummuir, Seapark, Westfield and Blackfriars) and, in recent times, listing and scheduling (as at the majority of the larger scale doocots). Other reasons include: lack of quality materials for reuse (as at Braga); environmental and/or cultural appreciation (as at Gordonstoun); and general inertia of previous owners (as at Findrassie and Burgie). Notably, several doocots survive the original homes of their owners (e.g. Pittendreich, Quarrelwood, Dalvey, Findrassie, Leicheston, Braga, Milton, Wester Elchies and Rothiemay).

The study has also shown that for every doocot that has survived in Moray, at least one has been lost (see Chap.5). The various reasons for this include: ecclesiastical routs (as at Kinloss Abbey, Greyfriars Abbey, Spynie Palace and Elgin Cathedral); national and local warfare (as at Brodie and Ballornie); redesign and/or decline of landscaped policies (as at Cullen House, Innes House and Darnaway); collapse of whole estate (as at Nether Buckie and Tannachy); deliberate demolition by farmers (as at Newmill, Milton Brodie, Cassieford, Myreside and Glasterim); natural forces and neglect (as at Culbin, Leuchars, Recletich and Blackhills).

The collection of data (presented in Chaps. 5 and 6) illustrates that doocots that have been lost without record leave a perpetual gap in knowledge. Since the existing doocots provide hard evidence about the past and present, the study particularly highlights that the principal, long-term value of the remaining doocots, irrespective of their age or type, is their ability to contribute information in several areas:

(a) historical development (human and bird);
(b) past and present social hierarchies;
(c) economic dynamics;
(d) construction techniques;
(e) demographics;
(f) animal husbandry and agricultural practices;
(g) architectural development.

Individually, but more so collectively, doocots can fulfil an important role in shaping future knowledge on architectural origins, social development and cultural identity. Notwithstanding this intrinsic educational role, remaining doocots also possess physical values associated with:

(a) aesthetic pleasure;
(b) architectural interest;
(c) use of materials;
(d) town and country landmarking;
(e) topography and designed landscapes;
(f) reusable, recyclable materials.

Operational doocots, moreover, have the added value of providing sensory pleasure, recreational management and functional satisfaction.

There is a requirement, therefore, to establish how these attributes and the long-term value of doocots can be best preserved.

The building catalogue of this study (Chap. 5) has established that the legacy of redundant doocots can be continued in quite different ways:

(a) in record form only;
(b) in a state of semi-ruin;
(c) intact but redundant;
(d) converted;
(e) fully operational.

The statutory systems of 'listing' buildings and 'scheduling' monuments offer certain doocots a great deal of protection from demolition, but they do not cover every doocot,

nor do they prioritise efforts to record and conserve certain buildings. On the other hand, the individual data checklists and evaluation sheets, which have been specially composed to form part of the building catalogue (Chap.5) help to convey and assess more lucidly the previously subjective view that all the doocots surveyed possess some social, economic and environmental value. (see Appendix Section 1, s.v. 'Evaluation Summary'). For example, a rigorous evaluation confirms the overall importance of doocots such as Pittendreich and Quarrelwood. It also highlights the significance of the doocots at Drummuir and Westfield, neither of which is a listed building. As a tool for future conservation work, it also indicates buildings that could be altered and converted without serious loss (as at Rothiemay and Milton) and buildings that must have specific features safeguarded (such as the potence at Gordonstoun, the roof at Pittendreich and the interior perching arrangement at Drummuir).

To safeguard the social and educational value of the collection, it is essential to make a record of their complete development and make it readily available for public viewing. In many respects, this study has fulfilled this urgency, although a wider record of the current operational structures can continue to be expanded. These latter, but more ephemeral, buildings will be lost without trace, unless a record is kept.

To safeguard the established environmental contribution made by doocots of all ages, it is important: firstly, to maintain their fabric in good order;[76] secondly, to maintain authentic detailing in every respect (otherwise this will distort future information and education value); and thirdly, to maintain an appropriate setting and context for the future.[77] To safeguard any economic contribution that doocots can make, it is important to promote their cultural value, interpret their meaning to a wide audience, make them accessible to visitors and reuse them where possible (creatively if necessary). Finally, there is also a social need to make the historic structures more readily accessible.[78]

Since it is unrealistic to expect all doocots, once redundant, to merit the expense of full maintenance and conservation,[79] the study has revealed the potential for an 'evaluation

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[76]Local authorities can serve Repair Notices upon 'listed' structures but good fabric should be maintained preferably by regular maintenance, rather than costly repair programmes.

[77]Local authorities have a responsibility to achieve this within their Planning remit.

[78]A fortuitous by-product of this study is the change in attitude by some owners to making their doocots more accessible. For example, Ballindalloch, Dalvey, Grangehall are now available to public inspection during certain times of the year.

[79]Recent estimates for the repair of Findrassie Doocot, for example, are in the region of £30,000 (Scottish Lime Centre, Aug. 1998). Historic Scotland presently offers significant levels of grant aid to owners of Category A and B listed doocots but normally expects full, rather than partial, repair. This expectation often goes beyond the economic means of certain owners - as in the case of Findrassie.

checklist' that will assist in the assessment of individual worth (see Appendix Section 1). It identifies the strengths and weaknesses of particular doocots and executes a qualitative assessment of each building in a more consistent way. Further, it demonstrates how a holistic approach towards all aspects of value - social, economic and environmental - must be considered to ensure that doocots are conserved and sustained more wisely and with more assurance.

7.5 Limitation of the analysis

Before attempting to give a conclusion to the findings of the study, it is appropriate, at this stage, to recognise that this research has limitations.

To further the objectives and hypothesis of the study (see Chaps 1 and 3) an attempt has been made to catalogue an entire set of building types within a defined geographical area. Inevitably, this has not been entirely fulfilled. In the first instance, it is not possible to state with certainty that every 'lost' building has been identified.[80] Secondly, access was not gained to every existing structure (for various reasons). Thirdly, only a sample of modern, operational structures was visited (since a survey of all was deemed unnecessary and unrealistic).

Also, interpretation of parts of the analysis has relied heavily upon the ability to establish a historical framework by dating individual historic buildings accurately and, although this was ascertained by means of an assiduous archival search, in conjunction with an extensive architectural evaluation, the subjective nature of this task must cast a degree of doubt in some cases.

The Moray area, however, has been appropriately chosen, since it is so geographically diverse to merit the description 'microcosm of Scotland' (see Chap. 5.1). Nevertheless, it contains only a limited sample of the nation's doocots and, as argued within the hypothesis behind this study, has its own peculiar regional influences (for example, geographical, geological, architectural and cultural). Indeed, to assess the doocots of Moray as a viable representation on the doocots of Scotland would be to undermine the hypothesis itself. Also, since the study has been entirely focused upon Moray, regional

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[80]However, the study is primarily an architectural assessment of existing redundant buildings, rather than a pure historical search of bygone records.

comparisons with other areas have not been possible to conduct fully (the only substantial basis being other regional publications). This makes it difficult to state whether or not Moray's doocots are typical of those of Scotland.

Irrespective of the area chosen (anywhere) in Scotland, the study would still suffer from the lack of first hand experience (since all historic structures are redundant).[81] In this respect, the decision to extend the historical framework to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, together with observation of wild birds and domestic birds (the latter within a sample of present-day cotes) has proved to be valuable.[82]

Notwithstanding the above mentioned limitations, the analysis has allowed for the thorough examination of widely held theories against primary sourced data. This creates a new assemblage of findings that has a more coherent and holistic explanation than any previously presented.

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[81] As stated earlier, the re-stocking of a historic doocot would resolve many of the questions asked in the course of this study.

[82] For example, it has helped to form an appreciation of the functional, ecological and managerial context of redundant structures.

CHAPTER 8

STUDY OUTCOMES

By understanding the historic environment and our perceptions of its value, the essential first step, we can begin to decide which parts of it we wish to conserve and in what form, which parts may be less important, and which parts we may wish actively to change and enhance."

Anon, 'Sustaining the historic environment', 1997.

CHAPTER 8 - STUDY OUTCOMES

In recognition of the urgent need to record and re-evaluate doocots whilst they still remain, this study set out to achieve three key objectives (see Chap.1):

(i) place existing, redundant doocots in a broad, historical and architectural context;

(ii) critically evaluate existing theories about historic doocots in general;

(iii) identify common criteria and design details, particularly relating to dove ecology.

Having completed the above investigations, this final chapter will now summarise the overall value of this study in relation to the original objectives.

8.1 Main findings of the study

The main findings of the study are listed in the order in which they are presented in Chapter 7:

(1) A 'doocot' (not formally defined by previous authors) is best defined as a 'manmade shelter for domesticated doves'.

(2) It is deemed technically correct to continue with the use of the term 'doocot' in Scotland to describe such buildings. Other forms of colloquialisms and foreign terms are applicable in their appropriate settings. The term 'pigeon house' (advocated for widespread use by current authors) should **not** be used in every case, and the use of the term 'pigeon loft' should be discarded for buildings that are not truly sited in loft spaces. (otherwise an architectual misnomer)

(3) Doocots (previously categorised in a partial manner) should be classified in a wider context which recognises doocots of all types and ages. Their classification should relate more clearly to their ecological function, and their basic concepts, than to their eventual shape, form or style.

(4) It is deduced (in agreement with some other authors) that doocots first appeared in southern Scotland sometime in the thirteenth century - about a century after England. It is **not** agreed, with a previous author, that this was not as a consequence of native birds being domesticated and coaxed inland, but rather as a

result of direct introduction (birds, doocot designs and practices) from central Europe.

(5) The distribution of doocots in Scotland (not previously examined properly by previous authors) shows distinct concentrations of doocots in some areas and complete absences in others. Although overall numbers are historically less than other countries (such as England and France) the concentrations in certain areas - such as The Laich of Moray, Fife and East Lothian - have been as dense as anywhere in Europe at similar times.

(6) As a natural extension of a hierarchical, feudal culture, it is agreed with previous writers that the upper classes in early Scottish society controlled the rights of rearing doves on a large scale. However, the ownership of doocots also increased as time and society developed. As far as this study has been able to ascertain, no new laws were instigated to repeal the restrictions set in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, but these old laws were certainly relaxed sufficiently for the ownership of doocots to become a more egalitarian prerogative during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

(7) In earlier times, many doocots operated on a large scale in order to provide the conditions to rear young pigeons intensively for eating. Eggs and adult birds would have been eaten on occasions, but **not** as a matter of course, as suggested by others. It is agreed that young birds would have been consumed, as delicate meat, mainly between the months of March and October (importantly shown for the first time to coincide with natural breeding cycles); contrary to the long-established view (until very recent times), doocots were **not** therefore used as a method of providing winter sustenance for the wealthy. Doves have always, however, been kept for various purposes and many nineteenth and twentieth century cotes were not erected for the purpose of squab eating. Doocots have undergone a transitional period, from meat production to other purposes, during which time it is very difficult to predict a former purpose with complete accuracy. It is even possible that some of the earliest doocots were once used for primary purposes other than food.

(8) The criteria for the design of a doocot (not previously scrutinised by previous writers) have two distinct factors: ornithological and anthropological. The first

criterion sets the common agenda for all doocot design; the second creates variable responses and is, therefore, the source of individuality.

(9) A doocot can be virtually any size, shape or form, yet to understand the building products as architectural concepts, it is essential to determine the criteria that mould the final form; i.e. to perceive their designs as a process of meeting human and bird requirements, rather than as mere end products. Rarely acknowledged by previous witers, doocots are environment adapters which respond to the dynamics of time and place.

(10) The architectural features on individual doocots, so oten the subject of debate amongst previous authors, can mostly be explained by understanding the ornithological and anthropological criteria.[1] Dove ecology, for example, confirms the need for 'landing' and 'perching ledges' on certain doocots and thus discredits the existing term 'rat ledge'. The human requirements for access to the upper levels of certain doocots explain the discovery of the remains of scaffolding beams.

(11) Over a wide historical timespan, the dove's managerial requirements (not often discussed by previous authors) have remained reasonably consistent; but the human approach (caused by different purposes of domestication, advances in knowledge and changes in attitudes towards the bird) has altered considerably. Managerial decisions can affect the design criteria and thus have a direct effect on the resulting designs (and vice versa).

(12) The keeping of doves for intensive farming purposes reached its apogee in Scotland during the mid-eighteenth century. Paradoxically, the decline of large scale pigeon farming came soon after, as the key purposes for rearing pigeons (food, economic gain, status) began to wane. The decline also strongly related to agricultural improvements and the drive for increased efficiency as the pros and cons for rearing pigeons started to focus more on the disadvantages. These reasons bear little (if any) correlation with early established theory; that pigeon eating was no longer required once landowners and farmers discovered the ability to keep stock alive over winter periods. The decline in rural intensive pigeon farming had started to appear clearly in northern Scotland by the turn of the

[1] Not every feature can be explained; such is the 'beauty' (and frustration) of many vernacular buildings.

nineteenth century (and reached its nadir during its first quarter); although the interest in keeping domestic birds did not die out. Indeed, the nineteenth century (previously described by many writers as witnessing the end of doocots) became a transitional period for dove rearing in this country which witnessed changes in ownership and purpose resulting in many smaller scale doocots. The extent of domestic dove rearing during the twentieth century, albeit mostly urban and comprising small scale ventures for reasons other than food, is now likely to be as prolific, in terms of bird numbers, as it ever was.

(13) Doocots, ancient and modern, have an intrinsic, educational role to play and their legacy (thought by many previous authors to be prolonged by physical restoration) can be continued in different ways: in record form; in a state of semi-ruin; intact but redundant; converted or fully operational. All forms have validity, depending on circumstances, and assessments must be made in order to decide upon the most suitable approach, the need for statutory protection, and the identification of important fabric for conservation. In this respect, the use of an evaluation checklist is a valuable tool towards assessing the legacy of doocots.

8.2 Usefulness of findings

The findings realise several key practical outputs:

(i) general knowledge of the topic is increased, not just in relation to Moray, but also for the subject in general (particularly in Scotland);

(ii) as a consequence of the scrutiny of established theories, the ability to interpret for educative purposes is improved;

(iii) equally, the overall ability to evaluate and repair doocots for future conservation is enhanced by an increased awareness of architectural and constructional development.

By substantially fulfilling the primary objectives of this study, the findings most critically vindicate the hypothesis that promotes a holistic approach to the study of doocots. The findings freely communicate the distinct driving forces behind doocot design, that is, the human and the bird, operating within the dynamics of time and place. Indeed, achievement of the findings would not have been possible without such a holistic

methodology embracing the critical elements of; architecture, history, ornithology, and to an extent, geography.

Not least is the record of the doocots of Moray themselves. These buildings are finite phenomena which reflect the resources and construction skills available in the area during a period spanning at least four hundred years. Aside from producing the evidence to correct anomalies found in previous accounts on the doocots of Moray, this study expands the survey material and intensifies the level of analysis. The record, *per se*, will hopefully be an enduring contribution towards preserving and enhancing earlier information: and can also be used by future generations for educational instruction.[2]

8.3 Implications of findings

At a **local** level, the doocots of Moray contain information which can be used to pass comment on a significant part of Moray's history (from the time of the Reformation to the present day). To varying degrees, the analysis of each individual building adds provenance to the historical development of the respective estates, farms and properties. The updated information on doocots should now form part of local estate records and, in some cases, estate documentation will require to be amended where proven to be erroneous.[3] For certain doocots, the statutory listing descriptions will require to be updated to (i) correct anomalies and inaccuracies, (ii) consider new terminology, (iii) include the mention of important features discovered. It is implicit, also, that owners fully consider the recommendations for repair to safeguard their property (and save additional expenditure due to the need for larger repair schemes later). In this regard, the evaluation criteria and checklist material are valuable aids (see Chap. 7.4.3 and Appendix Section 1).

At a **national** level, the findings of the study have implications for existing theories. Having identified that many theories abound in relation to both key, and minor, aspects of doocots, these findings are able to <u>confirm</u> only a certain number of these. For example, the sourcing of original Acts of Parliament establishes the erection of doocots

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[2]It is also worth noting that the study process has raised awareness amongst owners and stimulated physical conservation work on a large number of doocots in Moray.
It has also been used to inform the conservation and/or recording of many other doocots throughout Scotland. For example, Meikle Pinkerton, Lothian; Sandwick, Shetland; Marchmont and Ninewells, Berwickshire; New Mills and Windmill, Clackmannanshire.

[3]Mostly later twentieth century interpretations, as opposed to original records. For example, the Burnside of Duffus documentation needs to re-classify its building as a 'game larder', rather than a 'doocot'.

as a restrictive practice in Scotland from, at least, the early seventeenth century. The findings are also able to substantiate the 'challenging' theories of others. In particular, the discovery by Robertson that eighteenth century households do not hold records of pigeons being consumed in winter, is corroborated by records in Moray (see Chap. 5.5, s.v.'Gordon Castle'). This is further substantiated when correlated with an examination of the domestic dove's breeding ability[4] (see Chap. 4.2 and Appendix Section 3). The description of doocots as being 'a source of fresh meat in winter', should, therefore, no longer be used. McCann's notion that 'rat ledges' are, in fact, 'perching ledges', is also substantiated by an examination of ratios between the ledge provision and predicted bird numbers of Moray's doocots. Although McCann's theory has been disputed in the past, the evidence of the findings of this study strongly suggests that he is correct. With the caveat that some owners may have deliberately erected rat ledges (in response to advice post *Rattus norvegicus*) the widespread use of the term 'rat ledge' should be discontinued.

In other areas, the findings refute the claims of existing theorists and open up new proposals for consideration by others. Notably, the findings question previous approaches adopted towards classification. Further, in association with a review of definition, the findings result in a radical reassessment of nomenclature and taxonomy (see chap. 7.1). Equally, the findings question the general acceptance of design criteria documented (in a translation) by the Roman author, Varro.[5] They reveal a different set of criteria which, if adopted, will aid the comprehension of designs, and provide clearer reasoning behind commonalities, individualism and archetypal solutions (see Chap. 7.3).

Moreover, the study methodology importantly creates new, potentially **transferable models** for documentation recording, collation, assessment and evaluation:

(a) the identification of thirteen key issues resulted in a rigorous new structure for documenting and describing doocots in general (see layout of Chaps. 2 and 7). Such an approach ensures that all aspects are properly addressed;

(b) the individual building catalogue developed for this study (Chap.5 and Appendix Section 1) has resulted in a standardised model (i.e. descriptive essay, desktop analysis and site interpretation, data checklist, locational map, measured sketches, photographs, measured drawings and associated buildings) recently described firstly,

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[4]U. Robertson , 'Pigeons as a source of Food', 1988.
[5]That is, Varro, On Farming, c.36 BC, pp.282-3

by McCann as a compilation, " .. *being capable of extracting every ounce of information*"[6] and secondly, by Beaton as a, " .. *prototype for dovecote recording and subsequent publication*";[7]

(c) the collective analysis (Chap. 6) has been made more meaningful by establishing a model of collation which arranges the individual buildings into chronological, rather than alphabetical, order;

(d) the precise approach of using hard evidence as a means of testing existing theory has proven to be invaluable (Chaps. 5,6 and7);

(e) the future assessment and evaluation, as part of a strategy for prioritised repair, has been facilitated by the production of an evaluation checklist based upon sustainability (environmental, social and economic) considerations (see Chap. 7 and Appendix Section 1);

(f) the comprehension of the commonalities and differences of doocot designs has been aided by the production of a new set of design criteria based upon human and bird requirements (see Chap.6.1 and 7.3);

(g) a broader understanding of the development of the doocot in Scotland has been gained by distributional mapping at local (Moray), regional (Grampian) and national (Scotland) levels (see Chap. 6.4);

(h) a greater affinity for individual doocots has been achieved through the production of measured drawings, which have also acted as tools for the exploration, and subsequent presentation, of various theories (see Chap. 5);

(i) the holistic approach, founded upon the balance of historic, architectural and ornithological input has, perhaps, been the key to all the outcomes of this study (see Chaps. 3 to7).

Depending on the level of dissemination and subsequent adoption of these new theories and methods, all of the above will impact in different ways upon the present knowledge and perceptions of a variety of people. These may include historic building inspectors,

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[6]McCann, pers.comm., 9/6/99.
[7]Beaton, pers.comm., 23/2/99

building conservators, historians, conservation officers, architects, planners, amenity bodies, owners, keepers, naturalists, ornithologists, ecologists, educationalists, dieticians, agriculturists, garden and landscape designers, archaeologists and amateur enthusiasts.

The enduring impact of the study may, however, be its ability to influence future generations. Local enquirers will be able to appreciate the value of the extensive recording exercises,[8] whilst researchers (at local and national levels) will have the opportunity to recognise the role of holistic analysis towards the study of architecture involving animals.

8.4 Issues requiring further research

Although this study has placed emphasis upon an approach that embraces all aspects relating to doocots, it has necessarily concentrated mainly upon the buildings themselves. The adopted holistic approach has been proven to be beneficial in clarifying and resolving specific issues. Conversely, it has cast up other sets of issues which highlight the need for further analysis. Some of these issues will be best tackled by researchers equipped with specialist knowledge in ornithology and/or animal biology. For example, despite its role in controlled experiments during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Rock Dove is not a well studied bird in ornithological circles.[9] In its purest form, the wild Rock Dove is found in very low numbers in Britain (Scotland's northern coasts being rare breeding grounds) and its historical development of the Rock Dove in Britain is not entirely understood.[10] Tracing this development would provide clearer information regarding the relationship with domestic pigeons and doocots. Associated research, documenting the inter-relationships and comparisons between wild and domestic birds, would also provide improved interpretation on the relationship between man and bird; by chance, this study encounters several areas of possible mutual advantage (see Chap.8.1; 'Main Findings' 2,8,9,10 and 11). Further studies, and more first hand experience of operational doocots, will greatly benefit interpretations of this relationship; as well as resolve several outstanding enigmas, such as the bird-to-nest box ratio, point of

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[8] Particularly if present day evidence is destroyed, as is anticipated.

[9] In particular, the nineteenth century studies by Darwin and Whitman and the twentieth century experiments (mainly by Americans) into genetic engineering.

[10] Murton et al. 'Ecological Studies', 1972, p.835, ".. *neglected by ornithologists.*"
Also, Tully, 'Why do we ignore the Feral Pigeon', 1998, p.10 and Baxter and Rintoul, Birds of Scotland, 1953, p.525, " .. *much diminished in numbers and, indeed, extinct at some of its old breeding places.*"
Johnston and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.280, "... *thought that the disappearance of the ancestral Rock Dove could occur as early as in the last half of the 21st century.*"

overcrowding, restocking requirements, feeding issues and so forth (see Chaps. 6.3, 7.3 and 7.4).

Contextualisation with the domestication of other animals may also enlighten knowledge on these relationships. Comparative studies could be made with the architecture found in other circumstances of animal domestication. Those pertaining to other flying animals, such as the aviary, apiary, hen-house and goose-hut, for example, could be researched.[11] Similarly, the approach promoted in this study could be applied to other studies of agricultural architecture; for example, the stable, the byre, the pig-sty and the sheep-pen.[12]

Other aspects of dove rearing in Scotland also require research in specific areas. Further, historical searches will be necessary to expand upon, firstly; more about managerial practices and attitudes towards animal husbandry,[13] secondly; more about diet and culinary practices[14] and thirdly; more about early legal issues[15] (see Appendix Section 2 and 3). More in-depth historical searches would, potentially, add material to the development of the doocot in Scotland, particularly between the twelfth and sixteenth centuries. This is a period where little is presently known (see Chap.5.2.1 and 8.1.4). Historical ornithological research may also reveal whether or not doves were kept in doocots during this period for primary reasons other than food (see Chap. 7.2.4). Archaeological studies, meanwhile, would possibly assist in this area, whereas the absolute dating of early doocots, using scientific dating methods, would resolve debate over certain buildings (see Chaps. 2.2.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 7.2.1).[16]

Nevertheless, as at the start of this century, the need for further research remains, with further regional studies to be undertaken. The record for Moray, ironically now studied for

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[11] Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings, 1982, p.88, "... *poultry ran freely, turkeys had run of a loose box ... ducks had a pond ... geese a little hutch.*"
Witlock, English Farm, 1983, p.82, "... *by the late thirteenth century many manors were keeping peacocks, swans and pigeons. The peacocks and swans were fattened in coops, while the pigeons had special dovecotes.*"

[12] Historic research may also reveal architectural, constructional or relational interest in the ancient rabbit warrens and fish ponds which were once common features on large estates and monastic houses.

[13] For example, when and how doves were fed inside cotes, who had responsibility for management, who collected birds and how they were selected. (Fowls were always the maids' responsibility but doves may have been a male duty - see Chap.2.4 and Appendix Section 2.)

[14] Wilson, Food and Drink in Britain, 1973, p.114. It is thought that Britain had quite elaborate practices in the post-Roman era, which was lost as a result of several invasions and migrations during the Dark Ages. During the Medieval period, swans were the most expensive birds (blackbirds being the most expensive of the smaller varieties).

[15] In particular, the many lawsuits thought to be in existence and the 'unrepealed' allegation of the 1617 Act (see Chaps.2.2 and 7.2). Also, comparison with English law could be illuminating.

[16] For example, archaeological assessments would clarify whether 'doo caves' pre-date land doocots, whilst the process would also clarify an aspect of the ornithological development (see Chap. 4.2).

the third time, is sufficiently complete but records elsewhere in Scotland remain scant.[17] Since the area of East Lothian has also been covered to some extent by previous studies, as have the areas of Angus and Caithness, the priority regions containing many unrecorded historic doocots are Fife and West Lothian. Activities to record such regions will also permit opportunities to test the models originated in this study (see Chap. 8.3, s.v. 'Implications of Findings').[18]

Local studies form the backbone of national assessments, and the need to establish the 'Scottishness' of doocots may prove to be important, not only to the nation's cultural psyche, but also to the long term survival of the doocots themselves. Only when this is done, can any considered inter-regional, or international, comparative studies commence with any significant meaning.[19]

An equally pressing need is the requirement to conserve doocots. It is unrealistic, however, to imagine that every doocot will be saved from decay or demolition. Faced, therefore, with a seemingly perpetuating situation of redundancy for most structures, combined with increased development pressure, it is suggested that a pragmatic conservation strategy is required for doocots (already a recognised group of 'Buildings at Risk') based upon:

(i) a specific and co-ordinated programme for recording that could possibly be a partnership initiative involving Historic Scotland, local authorities, the RCAHMS, universities, amenity or non-profit groups such as the Scottish Lime Centre, the SVBWG and a Scottish Doocot Trust.[20] Carried out within a set time, careful deposit of the material would ensure that the 'information cache' (see Chap.7.4.3) is secured for posterity;

(ii) a simultaneous programme of re-evaluation against sustainability criteria (see Chap.7.4.3 and Appendix Section 1). This would not only help to reassess buildings for listing (where not recently carried out) but would also prioritise key buildings for repair and the receipt of limited external sources of public funding. This process

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[17] Although several more present-day structures in Moray may merit recording.

[18] It may also be beneficial to carry out a testing exercise in a more urban situation, e.g. Glasgow, Edinburgh and certain northern England towns.

[19] The production of a UK distribution map would potentially be a useful first step.

[20] ICOMOS, Guide to Recording Historic Buildings, 1990, p.3. "*Buildings that pose or answer historical problems, irrespective of their architectural merits should be recorded. Some apparently ordinary structures throw much light on the economy that produced them and on the daily life of the past. Abandoned buildings must be recorded accepting subsequent deterioration.*" The formation of a Scottish Doocot Trust has been mooted by conservation architect, Robin Kent, pers.comm., 3/7/98.

would ensure that those buildings, which contribute the greatest value to the nation's social, environmental and economic well-being, are sustained for future generations;[21];

(iii) a supporting programme to raise awareness that should include articles, papers, books, internet pages, exhibitions, training, policy reviews, seminars, research and, most importantly, improved site access and interpretation.[22]

Such an overall strategy must recognise that the future for current, operational structures is equally uncertain. Although the rearing of domestic doves for recreational purposes is showing no apparent decline, it is a fact that twentieth century structures are built of cheaper, less durable materials and to lower standards of architectural refinement than their predecessors.[23] Despite this, their valid commentary on society is being steadily recognised and some have been recorded and/or listed (see footnotes in summary to Chap. 5.7.1). Most, however, will be lost completely and the case for documentation of key examples is soon to become (arguably) as important, and urgent, as it is for the older structures. Unfortunately, the current shifting attitude towards the urban feral pigeon as a 'dirty nuisance' may well prove to be the doocot's long-term downfall. Disfavour for the bird itself could well result in disfavour for 'their' buildings.[24] Conversely, another current, wider, and shifting attitude, (the general focus of conservation upon 'high cultured architecture' and a new recognition of the merits in conserving vernacular or 'lower culture buildings') may well come to its immediate rescue.[25]

Whatever happens in the future, the important issue at present, is to realise the inherent educative value of the historical doocot in Scotland and make appropriate choices from the various options available; recording, conserving, reusing or neglecting. Irrational selection will cost us dearly.

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[21] It is also anticipated that such a focused process would stimulate more creative thinking towards sustainable solutions for consolidation which more fully embrace all the historic, architectural, ornithological, social, educational and visitor experience aspects.

[22] Carried out, perhaps more effectively, in collaboration with ornithologists, naturalists and present day breeders to ensure a holistic overview.
Also, Europa Nostra's nation 'Doors Open Day' creates an opportunity for all doocots to become highly accessible to the general public, albeit for a short period.

[23] Indeed current indications suggest that the practice of keeping doves is regaining social acceptability amongst the middle classes.

[24] Johnston and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, pp.257-265, Chapter 22, s.v. 'Control of pigeon populations'. See also Appendix Section 3 of this study.

[25] The Scottish Vernacular Building Working Group, in particular, have played an important role in drawing attention to the cultural value of vernacular structures.

8.5 Conclusion

This study set out to achieve three definite key objectives relating to the subject of doocots generally:

(i) to place the existing, redundant doocots in a broad, historical and architectural context;
(ii) to critically evaluate existing theories relating to doocots;
(iii) to identify common design details.

The background to the study has explored doocots in other countries over a period of at least two millennia and this has proven vital in recognising the whole process of evolution in dove rearing. Notwithstanding this, the study has:

(i) focused upon a particular region of Scotland;
(ii) been confined largely to reviewing works in the English language;
(iii) concentrated its archival search in local and national repositories.

Therefore, the context of the study is essentially a Scottish one.

Unlike previous works, the literature review in Chapter 2 was specifically structured around the different key issues identified. It revealed some common patterns: former studies related entirely to redundant structures; research had been informally carried out mainly by architectural historians and/or enthusiastic amateurs; many studies had neglected to address all the key issues; studies were either local or national; and finally, local experiences did not, on many occasions, correlate with national findings.

This study, therefore, provided an opportunity to address these points. It discovered that most local authors, as one would expect, were correct in their own way, and to a point. National authors, on the other hand, when reporting on generalist theories, failed largely to pay due regard to the critical aspect of 'regionalism'. As a consequence, the majority of commentators missed the opportunity to perceive their respective doocot studies in the context of the dynamic process of development.

The hypothesis within this study (Chap.3.3) proposed a research approach to the study of doocots which is holistic in its nature and embraces all the key facets of; architecture, history, ornithology and geography. The subsequent findings of the study vindicated the

notion that 'animal architecture' cannot be fully interpreted without a detailed understanding of the very animal being housed - in this case, the domestic dove. It is concluded, therefore, that this holistic approach should be adopted by future studies relating to doocots.

Far from viewing doocots as a moribund set of structures, the study approach permitted the analysis of these structures in the context of a development of over two millennia. This evolutionary understanding proved invaluable in the overall perception of the redundant doocot (see Chap. 8.1, 'Main Findings', 4-12) and endorsed the emphasis placed by the study upon chronology (see Chap.5, in particular).

The application of a holistic methodology to the analytical and interpretative processes of reviewing data collected from a selected area (Moray - see Chap.5) enabled the confirmation and substantiation of several existing theories, as well as refuting others (see Chap. 8.3). It also induced the formulation of new concepts and approaches. For example, in relation to **history,** it established that the surveyed doocots of Moray are some of the oldest extant structures in the area and have played a distinctive role in shaping the social and economic character of Moray (see Chaps. 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4). From an **ornithological** viewpoint, the study established that vast numbers of birds have been domesticated over a long period of time and a true symbiotic relationship may have been at work within some of the older structures (particularly where a bird's complete freedom was permitted).[26] **Architecturally,** it has determined, through qualitative analysis, that the collection of doocots of Moray is as numerically dense, yet architecturally diverse, a compilation as almost anywhere in northern Europe (see Chaps. 5, 6.3 and 6.4).[27]

Observation of the relationship between wild and domesticated birds forces the conclusion that the man-made construction of the doocot is the point of interface between man and the wild Rock Dove and services the purpose of an 'environment adapter'; thus allowing man to impose a chosen degree of managerial control.

Finally, the intrinsic value of redundant doocots is the information they can provide about human development. Each one conveys educational messages about a society in relation to various issues, such as human skills and resources, economics, cultural and

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[26]For example, Johnston and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.205. observe that, " *..colonial nesting is a better defence against predators than solitary breeding.*"

[27]In relation to the size of land area and per head of population , Moray has a high density of doocots spanning more than four centuries. The buildings are individual, yet conformist to certain prototypes. The architecture ranges from pure vernacular to highly refined design and detailing.

environmental attitudes, recreational habits and animal husbandry. In many respects other buildings contain similar information; but the doocot is unique because of its distinct inhabitant.

Doves have been recorded as having been in existence for several thousands of years. Working together in an ever-changing relationship, man and bird have shaped, balanced, reinforced and adapted their environments to suit their own 'individualities' at different times in history. It has been a remarkable survival story and the 'humble' doocot deserves greater recognition in terms of 'architectural credibility' and national importance.

As we enter into a new millennium, and Scotland develops a 'renewed identity', it is the duty of the relevant professionals, together with the obligations of respective owners and funding agencies, to ensure that 'the doocot' survives. The study has firmly laid strong foundations for this initiative to be established.

APPENDIX SECTION

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APPENDIX SECTION 1 - (ARCHITECTURAL)
BUILDING SURVEY RECORDING TECHNIQUE

1.0 APPROACH TO BUILDING TYPE

In Chapter 5, three distinct categories of buildings were identified.

(i) Existing but redundant structures

Existing buildings are physical objects which can be photographed, drawn and measured. They can provide quantitative information using even the most basic of equipment.

Understanding a building, however, involves more than mere measurement and recording – interpretative analysis is essential.[1] The analytical approach involved qualitative assessment (based upon intuition, archival research, experience and the views of others) and, in combination with quantitative work, sought to discover: absolute (or relative) dating; ownership; logic of construction; functional logic, e.g. alterations to suit a new function; characteristics of materials; reuse of materials; evidence of demolished work; repairs; expected spaces and features; structural features.[2]

The existing building record was designed to comprise;

(a) a 'description' (to provide a written quantitative record)

(b) a 'commentary' (to provide a written qualitative, holistic analysis and interpretation)

(c) a data record (to provide an accessible data format as well as site checklist)

(d) site sketches (to provide measurement record and a condition survey)

(e) measured drawings (to provide a complete and accurate drawing record)

(f) site photographs (to provide actual appearance record)

(g) early location map (to provide accurate siting and contextual information)

(h) associated building illustration (to provide architectural and historical context).[3]

(ii) Existing and operational structures

Redundant buildings, although containing a wealth of data in their fabric and any associated documentation, cannot provide self-evident information about their operation. Included, therefore, in this study has been a sample examination of an existing, operational structure in Moray.

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[1] ICOMOS, Guide to Recording Historic Buildings, (London: Butterworth Architecture, 1990), p. 42. Since, "... *the essence of the record lies in coming to an understanding of the building and of its development and structure, and that all recording should have as its objective the elucidation and illustration of this understanding*".
p. 3 alludes that recording aids structural assessment, monitoring of long term repairs, identifying future defects and assessing exploitation. Records also throw light on economics, religious or social conditions, spreads of ideas and changes over time. People, "... *want to know about the past as it really was, and buildings are among the most eloquent artefacts that have come down to us from the past*". There is a need, therefore, for accurate and authentic information on how buildings were built, used and altered.

[2] Ibid, p. 42, et. seq.

[3] C. Giles and S. Wade Martins, (eds.), 'Recording Farm Buildings', Proceedings of the Historic Farm Building Group, (1994), p. 27, warns that, "*No one can record all that buildings reveal ... the building needs to remain for further understanding – another's knowledgeable eye will read the weathering and wearing of materials, and the juxtapositions of fittings and buildings to each other, with a different insight*".

Since a full measured survey of every operational structure is both impractical (for reasons of resources, timescale etc.) and unnecessary (operational buildings are not under threat from decay or demolition) the existing operational building survey was designed to comprise;

(a) a name record (to provide a written record of siting and ownership)
(b) a location record (to provide a distributional record)
(c) sample photographs (to provide actual appearance record)
(d) sample interviews (to provide operational procedure record).

(iii) **Lost Structures**

In order to provide a fuller perspective, it was necessary to investigate the quantity, quality and positioning of buildings which have been demolished, or allowed to decay entirely. Since the information gathered on lost buildings is, by its very nature, fragmented and inconsistent, it was not possible to document the evidence using the same approach as for existing buildings.[1]

In order, to rationalise the variable levels of information assimilated for the study, the lost building record was designed to comprise;

(a) the positive source of evidence was identified
(b) an accurate grid reference was provided, along with a location map (where possible)
(c) descriptive evidence was recorded (where applicable)
(d) illustrative evidence was included (where appropriate)
(e) background information (and sources) was given, albeit in annotated form, (in order to help contextualise each building)
(f) a 'commentary' was included (to provide a written interpretation, where necessary).

2.0 DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

(i) RESEARCH AIM

Carry out an investigation to obtain objective, reliable and valid information to substantiate hypothesis.

(ii) METHOD

(a) **Type of research - Combination of techniques aimed at yielding data relevant to problem.**

- Case study - establish background development, current conditions etc. to be observed, recorded for each building.
- Analytical - produce classes of data to be collected and studies collected.
- Historical - carry out study without bias in order to ascertain, document and interpret influences and check hypothesis.
- Comparative - assess likenesses and differences between buildings.
- Correlations - e.g. between bird and building, dates and styles.

(b) **Procedure for conducting research**

- Obtain permission from owners.
- Consult with voluntary and statutory organisation e.g. HS, AHSS, SVBWG, RCAHMS, etc.
- Establish correspondence with appropriate personnel.
- Arrange interviews with experts, enthusiasts, academics, etc.
- Arrange site visits.
- Prepare health and safety plan.
- Obtain copyrights where necessary e.g. OS maps, Estate records, etc.
- Arrange administrative support e.g. Microsoft Word File, Internet access.

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[1] For example, a title deed may provide a positive piece of evidence that a building existed, but it will not necessarily offer any descriptive information. On the other hand, an interview with someone who recalls a building demolished in this century, will both confirm a building's former existence and offer descriptive material. An archive photograph will do much the same.

(c) **Pilot Building Study (e.g. Grangehall)**

- carried out as an opportunity to establish procedural problems before embarking on full study.
- decided that drawing style appropriate but written technique should be stylised to separate unequivocal evidence from conjecture.
- original analysis sheet reviewed and expanded upon to relate more closely to techniques already established by RCAHMS.

(iii) **INSTRUMENTATION**

Aim - together data relevant to problem with minimum human error.

(a) Survey equipment and technique

- tape, rod, compass, ladder, standard 35mm and CD cameras, dictaphone, (video recorder not used due to accessibility, storage of tapes, lack of special skills)

(b) Drawing equipment and technique

- drawing board, parallel motion, metric scale ruler, set square, compasses, rapidographs, stencils
- consistent as per pilot study

(c) Analysing equipment

- calculator, computer Excel spreadsheet and graph plotting, computer image scanning device and photoshop programming
- consistent as per pilot study

(iv) **DATA COLLECTION**

(a) Obtain primary source of data relevant to problem i.e. consistent information on each building

- survey sketches (A4 paper)
- measured drawing scale 1:50 (on A2 tracing paper)
- location drawing scale 1:25,000 (on A4 tracing paper)
- site plan scale 1:1 250 (on A4 tracing paper)
- data sheets (A4 spreadsheet held on computer)
- photographic colour prints, size 150 x 100 min
- photographic colour slides, 35mm
- photographic CD slides
- Ordnance Survey map(s) 1870, 1902 and 1965 (A4 tracing paper)
- written description (approx. 1,000 words)
- 1978 description (Beaton)
- 1931 description (Douglas)
- any other references from various searches e.g. estate map, estate archives, personal communication, newspapers, military maps, title deeds, Kirk Session records, Statistical Accounts, kitchen accounts, inventories, repair books, adverts, diaries, building specifications, drawings, paintings, photographs

(b) Obtain primary source of information relevant to problem i.e. facts relating to the hypothesis i.e. the key three sub-topics: architecture (materials, structures); history (interviews, archival searches); and ornithology (interviews, observations).

APPENDIX SECTION 1 (ARCHITECTURAL)

1956 Field Survey Checklist

The following is details of an Ancient Monument Society questionnaire which was widely distributed in England in 1956. The collating and classifying of the resultant information proved too daunting at the time and was even deemed by some as being too cumbersome for practical field work.

Information on Dovecote at..... Map Reference .....

GENERAL		
1. Name and address of owner.	14. Does the building bear a date, or any incised inscription, coat of arms, etc.; if so, in what form.	28. Are the nests grouped on all sides of cote.
2. Name and address of tenant, if the cote is let separately, or let with another property.	15. Approximate date of construction.	29. Is there an alighting board or ledge for pigeons; if so, how many tiers and nest to each alighting board.
3. Proximity of cote to main building, or is cote part of another building.	16. Is the work original or much restored.	30. Are the nests reached by ladder or potence.
4. Position of cote, i.e. ground level, a hill, or mound of high ground, etc.	17. Is the cote in good repair or ruinous.	31. Is there an alighting board to potence.
STRUCTURE	18. Is the building in any danger of demolition.	32. How do the birds enter the cote, i.e., by roof louvre entrance, or holes cut in gable end, etc.
5. Type of cote, i.e., ecclesiastical, manorial, etc.	19. If the cote is ruinous, how much of the structure survives.	33. Are there doors and windows to the cote; if so, where are they situated, and at what level.
6. Of what material is the cote constructed, i.e., stone, brick, timber, etc., or combination of materials.	20. Is the building scheduled as an Ancient Monument.	34. Is there any protection revealed on the structure to prevent vermin entering the cote.
7. Shape of cote, i.e., square, octagonal, circular, rectangular, etc.	21. Is the building listed under the Town and Country Planning Acts as "a building of outstanding architectural or historic interest".	MISCELLANEOUS PARTICULARS
8. Type of floor to the cote, i.e., stone, brick, puddled clay, tile, etc.	NESTING ARRANGEMENTS	35. By what name is the building commonly known, i.e., Pigeon house, Pigeon tower, duffus, dove house, dovecote, etc.
9. Shape of roof, i.e., hipped, gabled, conical, etc.	22. The number of tiers of nests.	36. Any feature peculiar to this dovecote.
10. Roof covering, i.e., stone flags, slates, red tile, grey slate, wood shingles, etc.	23. The number of nests in each tier.	37. Has the dovecote to your knowledge been described in any printed publication. If so, please give precise reference.
11. Termination and finial of roof, i.e., gabled, louvred; also state whether surmounted by weather-vane, etc.	24. What are the nesting boxes made of, i.e., brick, stone, wood, tile, or puddled clay.	38. Are current photographs and/or drawings available.
12. External measurements of building.	25. Is the cote still used by pigeons.	39. Is there a plan available.
13. Internal measurements or thickness of walls.	26. Are the nests 'L' shaped.	40. Is there any story or legend associated with the dovecote(s).
	27. Approximate measurements of nest, i.e., 18" deep.	

(Reproduced from information within Hansells, Doves and Dovecotes, 1998, pp.234-6)

APPENDIX SECTION 1 (ARCHITECTURAL)
PREVIOUS RESEARCH INTO THE DOOCOTS OF MORAY

The doocots of Moray became a point of documentary interest as long ago as 1931, when Robert Douglas, a medical officer of health for Moray and Nairn, was asked to deliver a lecture to the London Morayshire Club. The subject he chose to present was 'Dovecotes of Moray', which was subsequently published as a monograph.[1] It includes some valuable information about buildings which are now partially or wholly lost from us today and, therefore, vindicates Douglas' decision to compose the work. *"If this lecture and the photographs, even if belated and incomplete, tend to preserve a record of the Dovecotes of Moray, then a useful purpose will be served."*[2]

Over four decades later, when local government was reformed in 1975, the boundaries of Moray were revised to incorporate a large portion of what was formerly known as Banffshire.[3] In 1978, Elizabeth Beaton, an assistant inspector with Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments for Scotland, published an updated version of the Doocots of Moray (following on from her Statutory Listings revision task of Moray) with a thirty page gazetteer and added eight Banffshire 'doocots' to Douglas' previous list.[4] Unlike Douglas' work, Beaton's gazetteer importantly included an illustration of each doocot in the form of a pen perspective by local authority architect Mike Brown. This provides interesting, albeit imprecise, information about each building whilst Douglas' largely unillustrated work leaves a lot to the powers of imagination.

The doocots of Moray have also, meanwhile, been specifically recorded by Grampian Regional Council as part of a 1970's campaign by the Regional Archaeologist to compose a Site and Monuments Record of all the historic doocots in the Grampian Region.[5] The principal list, however, for doocots in Scotland, is the Secretary of State's Statutory List for Buildings of Architectural or Historic Merit and this list offers accounts of twenty-four in Moray. Since the Statutory List for Moray was composed during Elizabeth Beaton's period as local inspector of Historic Buildings for Moray, it is not surprising to find strong similarities between the Statutory List descriptions and Beaton's booklet.[6] The same can be said for a short article referring to doocots contained in the 1976, Moray Book (a general compilation of Moray history edited by Donald Omand) since this particular contribution was also made by Beaton.[7] Elsewhere, Moray's doocots have been mentioned only sporadically. For example, at a local level, Charles McKean makes frequent, but inconsistent, reference to such structures in his 1987, District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide whilst Richard Oram, as recently as 1996, provides short descriptions of five examples in Moray and Badenoch - a historical guide.[8] Not surprisingly, McKean's reference section cites Beaton's, Doocots of Moray and Omand's, Moray Book, as does Oram, who also includes reference to McKean's work.[9]

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[1] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931.

[2] Ibid, Preface.

[3] The county of Banffshire composed of a large tract of land east of the River Spey spanning between Banff and Tomintoul.. About three quarters of it was merged with Moray in 1975, the north east quarter becoming part of Banff and Buchan (now Aberdeenshire).

[4] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978. That is, Ballindalloch, Greenbank, Hazelwood, Kininvie, Leitcheston, Mains of Seafield, Recletich, Rothiemay.

[5] Grampian Regional Council, Regional Archaeologist's Site and Monuments Record, held in Woodhill House, Aberdeen (Grampian Regional Council was subject to local authority reorganisation in 1996 and is no longer in existence. The Regional Archaeologist is now based with Aberdeenshire Council).

[6] Statutory List for Moray, compiled by Historic Scotland in 1972 and 1988 with copies held at the Moray Council, Elgin and Historic Scotland, Edinburgh.

[7] I. Brown and E. Beaton, 'Agriculture and Agriculture Architcture' in D. Omand, ed. Moray Book, (Edinburgh: Paul Harris Publishing, 1976).

[8] McKean, District of Moray, 1987, passim.
Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1996, pp. 168-70.

[9] McKean, ibid., p.171 and Oram, ibid., p.176.

The Doocots of Moray Inclusion in National Writings

The doocots of Moray feature in the three nation-wide documents produced on the Scottish doocot. The first of these, was an admirable compilation the 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', put together in 1961 by Dr. Niven Robertson (which sadly languishes unpublished in Edinburgh's City Library).[1] With particular reference to the 'dovecots' of Moray, Niven Robertson admits, "*I have personally seen few of the Elginshire dovecotes, and the following notes are mainly from the account of them written by the late Dr. Douglas of Elgin*".[2] Meanwhile, understandably despondent at Robertson' work remaining unpublished at the time of his death, Dr. Grant Peterkin, Robertson's close friend and dermatologist, succeeded in publishing a 1981 compendium entitled Scottish Dovecotes, ' Dedicated to the Memory of Dr. A. Niven Robertson'.[3] The twenty six page text within the resulting booklet, is poor justice to his friend's efforts, and Peterkin accepts that the monograph "... *is too brief to cover the subject completely*", but the gazetteer, which cites Moray doocots, is a useful, but not exhaustive, nor wholly accurate, list of Scotland's doocots.[4]

Six years after Peterkin's booklet architect and historian, Tim Buxbaum, was commissioned by Shire Publications to produce the 190th album in the well-known Shire series, entitled Scottish Doocots.[5] This short booklet attempts to demystify doocots for the lay person. Some Moray examples are included, and the short 'Further Reading' section makes reference to the previously mentioned works by Beaton, Robertson and Peterkin.

The doocots of Moray also feature twice in the wider British context. The first occasion occurred in 1988, when several Moray doocots were included in Drs. Peter and Jean Hansell's beautifully illustrated hardback, Doves and Dovecotes, which was written in an attempt to cover the "... *broad picture*".[6] How they fared at achieving their aim received a mixed reaction, however. John Severn's panegyric of 1989 in the 'Journal of the Historic Buildings Farm Group' reviewed the book as "... *the definitive publication on the subject*",[7] whereas John McCann was obviously less enamoured in his review: "*There is a real need to bring together all these separate studies, to analyse the regional differences, and to work out the most promising lines of research for the future. Regrettably, considering how much compilation has gone into it, this is not the book we are waiting for*".[8] Presumably by producing a companion volume entitled A Dovecote Heritage in 1992, the Hansell's themselves did not entirely agree with Severn's sentiments.[9]

Perhaps inspired by perceived failings on the part of the Hansells, McCann himself published an assiduously researched and illuminating paper in 1991 entitled "An Historical Enquiry into the Design and Use of Dovecotes', which involves Moray doocots at a general level for the second time.[10] In this article, the work of Elizabeth Beaton is referred to repeatedly and the doocots of Moray feature prominently in McCann's analysis. Along with McCann's own follow-up paper, a year later, entitled

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[1] A.N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961. His attempt to describe all of Scotland's old dovecots' was a quixotic, but laudable, aim and his work now remains as a key archive for any dovecot structure demolished in Scotland during the past four decades. Equally important, it also provides a solid basis for constructive discssion and further research.

[2] Robertson, ibid. This honest admission provides an indicator of how Robertson may have achieved his tome and clarifies his source of information and reasoning behind his comments for Moray.

[3] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1981, p. (ii).

[4] Ibid., p. (vi).

[5] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.29.

[6] P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, preface. They confess to making only a "... *passing reference to France, Scotland and Ireland*".

[7] J. Severn, 'Book Review', JHFBG, 1992, p.84.

[8] J. McCann, 'Book Reviews', Vernacular Architecture, 20, (1989), p.64.

[9] P. and J. Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1992. Again, McCann was unimpressed, "*While the authors usually know where to go to obtain information from others, their own work is informed more by enthusiasm than by any noticeable expertise on historic buildings*" (VA, 24, 1993, p.68).

[10] McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', pp. 89-160 and 'Dovecotes; and Addendum, TAMS, vol. 36, 1992, pp.137-9.

'The Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 'An Historical Enquiry', is the most profound, currently available material on the general subject.[1]

The doocots of Moray: impact on previous research

Investigative research of the doocots of Moray at a local level has featured prominently in the formulation of the concepts and theories of other researchers. This is not surprising given the dearth of material written about doocots elsewhere in Scotland, either at a local or regional level. Aside from Beaton's Doocots of Caithness (a sister volume to Doocots of Moray), only doocots in East Lothian have been recorded in reasonably comprehensive form and ironically, like Moray, this has been done more than once.[2] Apart from sporadic references to doocots within books and articles on other subjects, in temporary exhibitions and single building surveys by architects, students or enthusiasts, Scotland appears to have available only eleven works devoted to this subject.[3] Two of these concern Moray, a third was written by a Moravian author and the earliest of them all was Douglas' published lecture, Dovecotes of Moray.[4] Full credit must, therefore, be given to Douglas for his pioneering initiative, and likewise Beaton must be acknowledged for having the foresight, firstly to update the works when the boundaries of Moray changed in the 1970s, and secondly, to expand the local study contribution by documenting similar structures in the Caithness area.

The impact on the wider debate introduced by Douglas and Beaton, is reflected by the frequent citations in subsequent works by other authors, both at local and national level. It is crucial, therefore, that their respective work and assertions are accurate, if they are to be used as raw evidence. Hence, it is unexpected to find anomalies between the two regarding what ought to be strictly factual information. For example, in his description of Lesmurdie, Douglas records that "*There are twelve rows of nests, which approximately number 200 ... the thickness of the wall being 20 inches [50 cm]*".[5] By comparison, Beaton documents, "*...174 good stone nesting boxes ... external walls are 3 ft* [91 cm] *each*".[6] In particular, uncertainties about construction dates occur frequently; the most extreme example being Spynie (or Quarrelwood), described by Beaton as "... *circa 1600*", whereas Douglas suggests that it "*predates 1470*".[7] These anomalies are not only confusing and perhaps distort the truth, but they clearly influence later writers. Peterkin,[8] for example, in his national gazetteer adopted Douglas' version, whereas Oram preferred Beaton's.[9] Such inaccurate evidence, compiled in this case by Douglas and Beaton, could prove misleading for subsequent researchers.

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[1] McCann, 'The Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, pp.78-96.

[2] E. Beaton, Doocots of Caithness, (Dundee: Scottish Vernacular Bulding Group, 1980).

[3] These works are all referred to in chapter 2.

[4] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931.

[5] Ibid., p.42.

[6] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.18.

[7] Ibid., p.21, and Douglas, op. cit., 1931, p.39.

[8] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1981, p. 61 and Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1996, p.169.
E. Simpson, Discovering Banff, Moray and Nairn, (Edinburgh: John Donald, 1992), p. vii.
Oram, op.cit., 1996, p..xi, "*Together, Moray and Badenoch constitute a slice through the landscape character of Scotland*.

[9] McKean, District of Moray - illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p.3. The present district of Moray "... *comprises most of the old county of Morayshire and much of that of Banffshire, and offers a microcosm of Scotland: ... rich lowland farming in the Laich, a necklace of cliffs, crags and fishing villages to the east, the uplands of Dallas and Keith, and the highlands of Glenlivet and Strathavon to the south. It is one of Moray's many paradoxes that its highlands lie to the south and not - as for the rest of Scotland - to the north. All it lacks to be a complete microcosm is an industrial city*". Moray's population is still only 88,000.

APPENDIX SECTION 1 - (ARCHITECTURAL)
BURNSIDE OF DUFFUS

The following building, Burnside of Duffus, is included as an appendix. It is included in Douglas' Dovecotes of Moray and Beaton's Doocots of Moray, but is excluded from this study (Chapter 5) for the reasons cited below.

BURNSIDE OF DUFFUS
Grid Reference: NJ 170 697
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The so-called doocot of Burnside of Duffus is to be found, at an altitude of 40m, on the southern side of the main road between Hopeman and Lossiemouth, about four miles north west of Elgin and only a mile from the Moray Firth coast. It is a small, single chamber, single storey octagonal tower, sited on a fairly level section of a south sloping sea mound about 110m to the south west of the main residence, Burnside House, which is located on higher ground. The main road now truncates Burnside House and its farm offices, and this little freestanding octagonal building is sited between these two larger edifices, with mature trees planted 50m away on the north side and the farm steading a similar distance to the west.

The 'doocot's' octagonal plan is 4.5m across, each wall being 2m long, with a wallhead height of 2.75m rising to an overall height of 5.5m. The 500mm thick walls are constructed using local sandstone rubble with tooled dressings for margins and lintels with the rubble having been either flush pointed and/or sneck harled using lime mortar.

The octahedral roof is of simple construction, using eight main 150 x 50mm rafters with standard horizontal sarking and radial wallhead ties coming off each rafter to a central bridle ring, approximately 1m diameter, and is now supported by the insertion of a later iron rod. The roof is pitched at approximately 55° and is clad using 10mm thick diminishing size Ballachulish slates with lead hips on wood core rolls. These rise to meet a central octagonal cupola which has a lead covered, ogee roof and trace elements of the iron work for, "... *weathervane in the shape of an arrow of rather artistic design*".[1] The cupola is now blocked and, although there is no evidence, it may well have had louvered sides to function as a vent and/or access point.

The building has two doors with one on each side of the north east/south west axis. The south west door is a 1980 (h) x 900mm (w) vertically boarded timber door, whilst the north east door is similarly sized, and also vertically boarded, except the upper half is separately hinged and contains glazing. The north wall and west wall each contain a long, single arched, top slit window with multi-paned glazing facing the main road.

The Grampian Region Archaeologist records an, "... *octagonal cote of 19th century. No nesting boxes remain*".[2] Yet, inspection of the interior reveals twenty large nest boxes on the north east side, built directly off the floor, size 340 (w) x 350 (h) x 340 (d)mm, formed within the wall thickness in a linear arrangement of 100mm stone uprights, with 75mm straight horizontal shelves. All of the walling inside the chamber is limewashed including the uprights and insides of the boxes (shelving excluded) and there is a vertical wall line to suggest that a dividing partition wall, which once separated the chamber into two demi-octagons, has been removed.[3] There are also various wall markings and bolt eyes at different wall heights, which may indicate former shelving or racking.

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[1] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.25.

[2] Grampian Regional Council, Archaeologist's Site and Monuments Records Ref. No. NJ 16NE 23.

[3] Vertical patch lines on the walls from floor to wall head approximately 100mm wide.

COMMENTARY

Burnside of Duffus is described by Beaton as a, "... *pretty octagonal cote of 19th century date incorporated in the garden wall*".[1] Douglas suggested that it, "„, *may have been erected by the family of King who once resided there, or more likely by the Dunbar family at Duffus House, no existing dovecote being found now at Duffus House*".[2] The 1870 Ordnance Survey annotates the building "*Dovecote*" and shows the garden wall on the north side of the track between the house and offices.[3] The 1965 Ordnance Survey is also marked "*Dovecot*", but the garden wall is shown to the south of the building as it is today.[4]

There is, however, no firm site evidence to suggest that this building has been utilised as a doocot; the absence of flight holes, alighting ledges and appropriately sized nest boxes, along with the presence of obviously overly large boxes, a dividing partition wall, and the provision of glazing and the provision of door opening, seem to indicate a different use such as a hen house or game larder.[5] Although the building is not listed, it is currently in a reasonably good state of repair. However, as it is now vacant, it appears vulnerable to long-term neglect.

Written 19 August 1996

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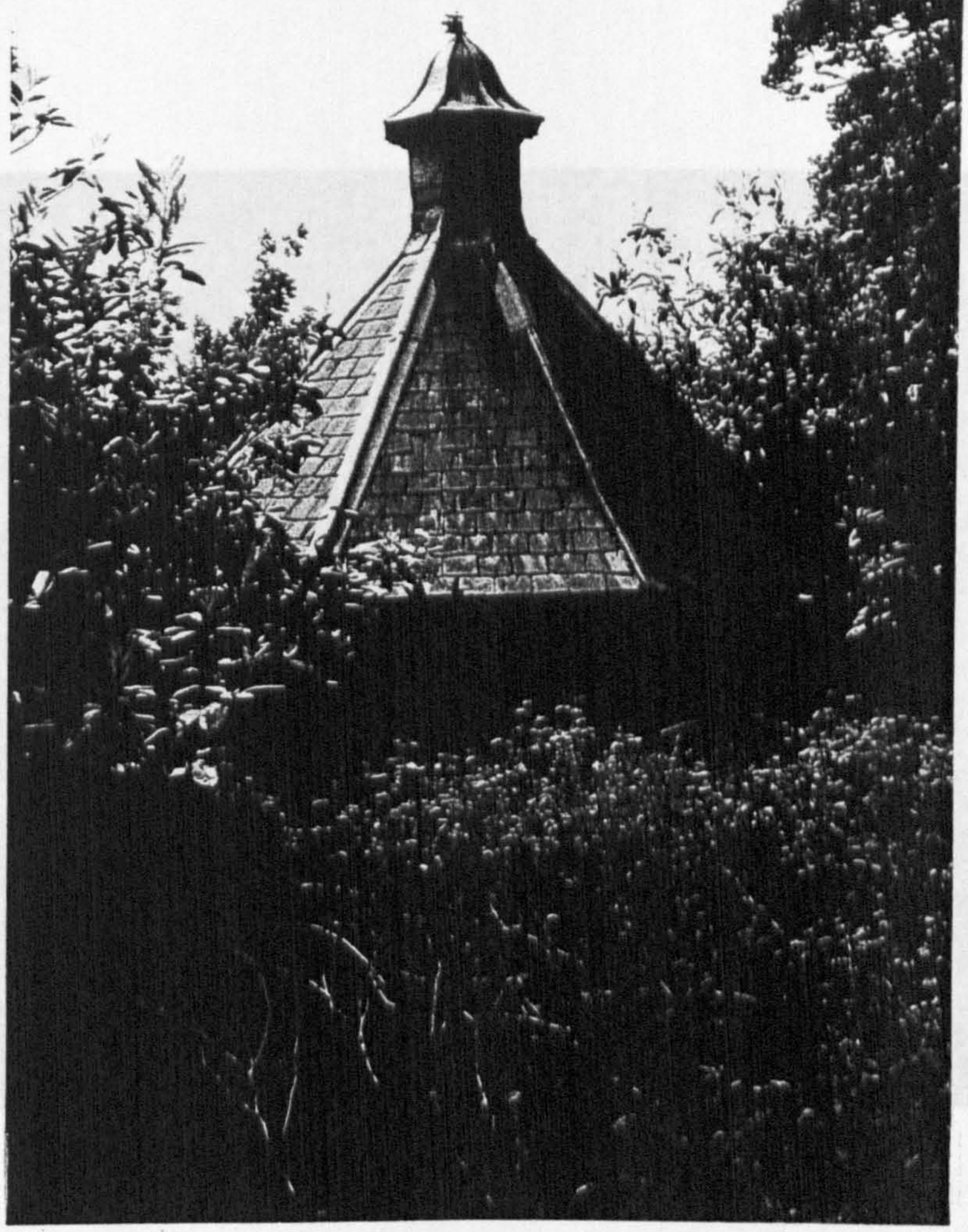
[1]Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.7.

[2]Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931.

[3]That is, the existing wall has been relocated apaproximately 5m to the south.

[4]1869 Ordnance Survey. Beaton states, pers. comm., 18/9/96, that, "*I think it must have had a few boxes in the cupola once* [sic]; *certainly it is names a dovecote on 1st ed. OS- but no more*".

[5]In a 1993 article on 'Yorkshire Dovecotes and Pigeon Lofts', Whitworth records a similar experience at Thorpe Hall, Rudston. There he describes a hexagonal cote, "... *surmounted by an elegant cupola containing the entrance holes. Interestingly, a game larder of similar design, often confused with it, also survives in the hall grounds*", p.89.



BURNSIDE OF DUFFUS 1995 (Plate 9.1.1)
View of building from north side showing most of structure now heavily overgrown. The slated roof, however, is clearly visible and reflects the octagonal plan of the building. The leaded cupola crowns the roof in decorative style and adds architectural charm to the structure.



BURNSIDE OF DUFFUS 1995 (Plate 9.1.2)
View of interior south east wall illustrating three rows of four large boxes built off of floor level and recessed into the wall thickness. The internal walls, and boxes, are entirely limewashed.

Text cut off in original

possibly slated?

WEST ELEVATION

EAST

lead cupola w. remnants of finial

ashlar dressing with coursed rubble infill panels.
- Sneck harled

steep slated roof
approx 55°.

radial ties at wallhead level.

later circular metal support

evidence of high level wall fixings

CROSS SECTION

BURNSIDE OF DUFFUS SURVEY

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2 of 2

APPENDIX (SECTION 1)

SITES INVESTIGATED (NOTHING FOUND)

Altyre House, Grid Ref: NJ 025 551 Rafford Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Rafford, Parish, Item 1, p.2 "Demolished 1962."
House description in Leslie's, General View of Agriculture, 1813 p. 54.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, pp.53-4.
Gordon Cumming, Memories, pp 34-6. No mention in description of gardens of Altyre.

Auchindoun Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 349 375 Mortlach Parish.
Built during James III reign, became sixteenth century home of Marquis of Huntly.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, 1887, vol.1, pp.314-7. Plans and perspectives of ruins showing L-plan keep with outer wall, fosse, stables, kitchen, outhouses, guard rooms etc. Referred to as "... a place of strength."
OSA, s.v. 'Mortlach', inhabited late 17th century.
Gordon, Chronicles of Keith, 1880, p. 303. Description.
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 129 Description.
Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p49. Description. Built by Cochrane.
Pont's, 'Mapp of Abernethy', c.1596 shows large fortress s.v. 'Auchindoun'. 1870 O.S. shows extensive courtyard fortification with 'fosses' but no 'dovecot.'

Asliesk Castle, Grid Ref. NJ 108 598, Alves Parish.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, 1887, vol.4, pp.610-1, "A mere fragment is all that now remains of what was up till 1799 an extensive and interesting pile." Illustrated by J. C. Nattes.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.83.
17th Century L-plan tower of Brodie family - Scant remains.
See Brodie Papers, NRA 770 (microfiche), Boxes 4, 5, 7 s.v. 'Brodie of Aslisk', 1653-1713.
Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1996, p.109, "fragmentary remains." Now a scheduled monument.

Balvenie Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 324 405, Mortlach Parish.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, 1887, vol.1, pp.386-90 plans and perspectives of ruins. Ancient fortress said to have belonged successively to the Comyns, the Douglases, the Stewarts, and the Inneses. Main tower house with courtyard buildings around quadrangle e.g. kitchen, stables, bakery etc.
Gordon, Chronicles of Keith, 1880, p. 304 Description.
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 130.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, pp.146-7.
Billings, Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities, (Engraving).

Major courtyard castle site with 'Draw Bridge,' 'Execution Tower,' 'Chapel' but 1870 O.S. shows no 'dovecot' - now a scheduled monument.
Tranter, Fortified House, 1970, pp.47-9. Description and illustration.
Cramond, Castle and Lords of Balveny, 1892.
Detail plan called 'Castle Quarter,' 1779 showing two large garden areas and associated buildings north east of Castle courtyard.
OSA, 1791, s.v. 'Mortlach,' Inhabited late 17th century but evacuated 1746.

Balvenie House, Grid Ref: NJ 324 416, Mortlach Parish.
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 140 Description.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.147.
No indication on 1779 Mains of Balvenie House plans.

Birnie Kirk, Grid Ref: NJ 206 588, Elgin Parish.
MacGibbon & Ross, Ecclesiastical Architecture, 1896, vol. 1, pp. 218-20, "... original seat of the Bishop of Moray... evidently ancient of norman workmanship."
Statutory list for Moray, Birnie Parish, Item 1, p.1.
OSA, pp.465-6.
NSA, p.85.
Moray Council, series of Archaeology leaflets, 8, 1997.

Blairfindy Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 197 286, Inveravon Parish.
Property of Gordon family, Earls of Huntly.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, pp.165-6.
Tranter, Fortified House, 1970, pp.49-50 "... substantial tower house of late 16th century. Built to command the important pass of Livet."
Pont's 'Mapp of Strath Avin', c.1596 shows tower house at 'Blairfindy'.
Statutory list for Moray, Inveravon Parish, Item 20, p21. Now also a scheduled monument.

Blervie Castle House, Grid Ref: NJ 071 572, Rafford Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Rafford Parish, Item 20, p.22. Current house built 1776. Replaced five storey castle (although much of the materials were used, part of the ruin remains standing).
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.147.
Tranter, Fortified House, 1970, pp. 118-20.
Murray, Book of Burgie, 1930, passim.
It is noted that the late 16th century castle of Blervie was owned by the Dunbar family and is remarkably similar to the nearby castle of Burgie, also a Dunbar house which possesses an early lean-to pigeon house.
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p.110 "The north-west tower of Blervie is the chief survival of a large z-plan fortress."
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, 1887, vol. 2, pp.263-4 "..probably erected in the sixteenth century."
OSA, s.v. Rafford. Valuable estate with good land.

Mason, Rafford in the Past, 1889, p.18. Estate description.

Cairnfield, Grid Ref: NJ 415 624, Rathven Parish.
1870 OS shows extensive House, Offices, Dam and Walled Garden but no 'dovecot!'
Statutory list for Moray, Rathven Parish, Item 5, p.5. Ancestral home of Gordons of Cairnfield. Earlier house destroyed 1798 (slightly to south of present) Robert Burn commissioned to design new mansion c.1800.
OSA, s.v. 'Rathven', p.387, records "Of these, [pigeon houses], there are 8 in the parish, stocked, at an average, with 150 pairs." The Account also states that the parish had 8 heritors, one of them being Gordon of Cairnfield. The present dowager, Patricial Gordon, inspected estate documentation but discovered no evidence of a former pigeon house. The existing pigeon holes in Cairnfield Steadings are of Nineteenth Century origin. The internal loft structure was removed by Patricia Gordon's husband, several decades ago.

Carron House, Grid Ref: NJ 231 412, Aberlour Parish.
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 187. House description "…. an elegant modern mansion," former Gordon residence.
Statutory list for Moray, Aberlour Parish, Item 12, p13. Built c.1865.
Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868m pp.63-4 Description.

Cathay House, Grid Ref: NJ 057 580, Forres Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Forres Parish, Item 3, p.3. Built 1887 by John Kyle who 'filled the house with fine furniture and created an exotic garden.'
House and garden described in Elgin Courant, 13/8/1907.

Dalvey Estate Farms, Grid Ref: NJ 005 590, Dyke and Moy Parish.
No mention in the various Nineteenth Century farm lease documents held in the attic of Dalvey House i.e. the farms of Grangegreen, Wellhead, Waterside, Banarch, Longley and Dalvey Home Farm. (Although the 1876 lease for the Home Farm refers to 'Dovecot park,' presumably in reference to the existing structure serving the main house).

Deskford Tower, Grid Ref: NJ 510 667 Deskford Parish. OSA, s.v. 'Deskford,' p. 135.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p136.
Built by Ogilvies (or their predecessors the Sinclairs) c. 1560 Demolished in 1830's.
Nearby orchard. Four storey tower not unlike Coxton. Fragments remain north of ruined church.
Spence, Ruined Castles, 1873.

Notes that land granted to the St. Clairs in 1381 but passed to the Ogilvys through marriage in 1437. The Ogilvys gained a lot of additional land in 1567 when the Gordon Estate was forfeited to the Crown.

Drumin Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 185 303, Inveravon Parish.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol. 4, 1887, p.134 " ....remains of an ancient keep apparently a simple castle. Anciently the seat of the Barons of Stathavon."
Pont's 'Mapp of Strath Avin', c.1596, shows tower house at 'Drymin'.
Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 68. Description.
McKean, District of Moray 1987, p.163, 'possibly 14th century.'
In possession of Alexander Stewart, Wolf of Badenoch.

Duffus Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 187 676, Duffus Parish.
Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 37.
"Surely such an ancient heritage as this would possess a dovecote. That was actually situated to the north-west side of the Castle in a field on the left of the service road leading to the Castle and to the farm of Old Duffus. I scanned a map of 1874 and saw its position distinctly marked and the word 'Dovecote'. This one also has been entirely demolished. I could find no trace of stones to mark it. At the supposed site the grass grew luxuriantly, probably as the result of the highly manured mould which had been formed at its foundation".
GRC's Archaeologist's SMR Ref No. NJ 16 NE 37 states, "supposed site was taken from a map of 1874; no trace and no further information."
OSA, s.v. Duffus, p. 505.
Young, Notes on Burghead, 1868, p.84. Detailed note explaining that castle a defensible fort, not a place of domestic comfort. (Not mentioned s.v. 'Sutherlands of Duffus', pp. 61-4).
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol.1, 1887, pp.279-80. Plan of site and keep.
Castle with ditch, drawbridge, orchard, garden and houses within ditch.
Castle sold to Seafield 1754. Rebuilt 1857.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.95. Twelfth century castle " ...abandoned in the late 17th century for Duffus House."
1870 O.S. no indication of doocot.
No mention of doocot in Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, pp. 30-1.
No mention in Young, Burghead, 1868, pp. 61-4.
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, pp.115-8, "....unmistakably a fortress of a leading member of the new colonial aristocracy planted in Moray by David I."

Duffus House, Grid Ref: NJ 175 685, Duffus Parish.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.91.
Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p. 48, "... a handsome new built dwelling."

Possibly the location of Sir Robert Gordon's fifth doocot referred to in the 1751 lawsuit by Brodie (q.v. 'Duffus' in 'Lost Doocots of Moray' section).
MacGibbon & Ross, Ecclesiastical Architecture, vol.1, 1896, p90 1799 Nattes illustration of Duffus Manse.
Inventory and Effects of Duffus House in R. Young, Notes on Burghead, 1871, pp.81-9. Highly detailed including references to stables, garden chamber, brewhouse, etc. but no doocot.

Dunphail House, Grid Ref: NJ 010 480, Edinkillie Parish.
OSA, s.v. 'Edinkillie.'
Statutory list for Moray, Edinkillie Parish, Item 13, p16.
"Earlier 19th century octagonal garden pavilion with piended roof at SW."
Former castle of Dunbar family near current house. Record on Pont's 'Mapp of Murray', c.1596, s.v. 'Dunfaill'.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.50. "1828, William Playfair."
Ruins of 14th century castle of Dunphail to north west belonging to Comyns.

Easter Elchies, Grid Ref: NJ 280 443, Knockando Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Knockando Parish, Item 6, p.6.
House description, Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p.79.
House of Grant Family.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol.4, 1887, p609, "An old Scottish house but we are inclined to think it must be older" [than 1700]. (vol.5 p86 shows the Elchies town house in Elgin).
Pont's, 'Mapp of Abernethy', c.1596 records small castles at 'Elchis' and E. Elchies'.
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 111 description.
Faint writing on 1869 O.S. could say 'dovecot.'
Statutory list for Moray, Knockando Parish, Item 6, p. 6 "largely remodelled in 1985."
Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 54. Description.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p. 155. c. 1700.
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, pp. 118-9. Description.

Edingight, Grid Ref: NJ 516 561, Grange Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Grange Parish, Item 2, p. 2. John Innes, 5th laird of Edingight is thought to have built house in 1681.
NSA, s.v. 'Grange', "...only mansion in parish."
Innes of Edingight owned one sixth of the parish. Parish almost naked of trees except at Edingight House.
1870 O.S. Shows no 'dovecot.'
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p. 137. c. 1559. Illustrated.

Elgin Castle, Grid ref: NJ 211 628, Elgin Burgh

Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, pp. 119-20, "...established here in the reign of David I."
Abandoned and decayed by 15th century. Fragmentary remains.

Findochty Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 455 675, Rathven Parish.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol. 4, 1887, p. 608, "formerly at the west end of a small loch... little is known of its history."
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p. 125, c. 15th century L-plan tower.
1870 O.S. Castle in ruins.
Statutory list for Moray, Rathven Parish, Item 12, p. 15 "probably 16th century."

Forres Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 035 588, Forres Parish.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p. 65. Middle age Royal Castle with "...poor remains;" by 1750.
Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, p. 37, refers to castle but no mention of pigeon house.
Dunbar of Westfield Papers, NRA(s) Survey 3094, item 197, refers in 1577 to the "...manor place and fortalice called the Castlehill of Forres".

Gauldwell Castle Grid Ref. NJ 311 452, Boharm Parish.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p. 145.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol.4, 1887, p. 609, now reduced to mere foundations.
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p. 120 Description.
1870 O.S. – Castle plan shown, but no doocot.

Greshop House, Grid Ref: NJ 025 591, Forres Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Forres Parish, Item 7, p.7.
Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p.245.
18th century property of Gordons of Edintore, passing to Grant Peterkin of Grange Hall in 19th century.

House of Achanacy, Grid Ref: NJ 457 495, Keith Parish.
Gordon's Chronicles of Keith, 1880, p.159.
Identified on Straloch's, 'Map of Moray', c.1640.
Built c.1738 Demolished c.1820. "The Architecture was superior for the time... Surrounded with Stately Trees and having a luxurious Garden to the South."

House of Achoynanie, Grid Ref: NJ 413 484, Keith Parish.
Gordon's Chronicles of Keith, 1880,p.154.
'...conspicuous for miles around.'
Ogilvy property sixteenth century.

Gordon property seventeenth century, Seafield ownership nineteenth century.
Small mansion identified on Straloch's, 'Map of Moray', c.1640.

House of Grange, Grid Ref: NJ 485 525, Grange Parish.
(Castle of the Abbots of Kinloss).
OSA, s.v. 'Grange.'
Country residence of monks. Feudal Barons.
Extract from 'The Rentall of the Abbey of Kynlos (A.D. 1574)' in Gordon's Chronicles of Keith, 1880, p. 377.
"Item, the mains and landis of Straithylay, with tour, fortalice, and orchard of the samyn."
Ruinous by 1791. By late 19th century, "there now remains nothing but a heap of rubbish."

Inverugie House, Grid Ref: NJ 153 686 Duffus Parish.
Classically designed house of mid 19th century.
Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p. 48.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.90. c.1864.
Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp.92-3.
Statutory list for Moray, Duffus Parish, Item 10, p11.
Young, Notes on Burghead, 1868, pp. 59-60, says Earl Marshal Keith returned from Spain in 1764 to find ".. his castle of Inverugie in ruins".

Kilmachlie House, Grid Ref: NJ 181 320 Inveravon Parish.
Statutory List for Moray, Inveravon Parish, Item 35, p.40. "Late 16th century."
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, pp. 197-8. "... the house and its accompaniments, though somewhat in decay."
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol.4, pp.128-9 illustrated 'An old mansion, now a farm house.'
Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 64.
"...once a part of the estate of Alexander Stewart, Lord of Badenoch and Strathaven. The house was formed out of the remains of an old Gothic castle, of which one tower was still almost entire."
Pont's, 'Mapp of Strath Avin', c.1596, shows small tower at 'Kilmachly'.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.163.
Tranter, Fortified House, 1970, p61, "..attractive small laird's house."
OSA, s.v. 'Inveravon', owned by cadet of Grants of Ballindalloch in 1790's.

Kinermony House, Grid Ref: NJ 253 420, Aberlour Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Aberlour Parish, Item 17, p.19, "..a site of some antiquity. Medieval knights Templar settlement. Home of Innes of Kinermonie in 18th Century."
House shown on 1870 OS.

Logie House, Grid Ref: NJ 007 508, Edinkillie Parish.
Sinclair, OSA, s.v. 'Edinkillie.'
Statutory list for Moray, Edinkillie Parish, Item 21, p.26.
Contains four acres of fruit trees.
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p.54.
Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp.106-7.
Owned by Cumming (branch of Altyre) in 1790's.

Mains of Drummuir Grid Ref: 407 449, Botriphine Parish.
Tranter, Fortified House, 1970, pp. 56-7, "...early predecessor of the great modern Drummuir Castle, small, roughly - built L-shaped house of probably the early 17th century."
Statutory list for Moray, Botriphine Parish, Item 7, p.9. "Small laird's house." See also 'Banffshire Herald,' 9/8/1902.

Milton Tower, Grid Ref NJ 429 511, Keith Burgh.
Refer to Welsh, Keith and its Lairds, (Keith; John Mitchell & Son 1958).
Various references within Part 1, 'Milltown of Keith', pp. 7-27 to Milton Tower & Fortalice' still standing as late as 1725 but no mention of pigeon house. Illustration of 'Milton Castle 1795' on p. 27.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.141, 16th century three storey seat of the Ogilvies. Once an Oliphant stronghold.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol. 4, 1884, p388 "..ruins of a single tower."
Statutory list for Moray, Keith Burgh, Item 59, p.68.
Groome, Gazetteer of Scotland, vol. 4, p.340.

Pluscarden Abbey, Grid Ref: NJ 144 576, Elgin Parish.
Founded in 1230 by King Alexander II as a Vallisculian Priory. Became Benedictine in mid 15th century.
Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, pp. 24-28 refer to Abbey but no mention of pigeon house.
Dunbar, Documents Relating to Moray, Chap XI, pp. 115-6.
Statutory list for Moray, Elgin Parish, Item 9, p10.
General Thomas McKenzie became proprietor of Pluscarden in 1633 and married Jean, widow of William Sutherland of Duffus.
MacGibbon & Ross, Ecclesiastical Architecture, vol.2, 1896, pp.146-60.
OSA, s.v. 'Elgin', p. 606.
In 1793, 'the Glen of Pluscarden, after passing thro' the hands of many proprietors, has become the property of Lord Fife.'
Rhinds, Sketches of Moray, 1839, p. 23, remarks that the monks were strictly confined to the monastery and ".. in their diet, they were restricted from flesh."
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, pp.62-4, Illustrated.
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, pp.99-100.
Grose, Antiquities of Scotland, vol 2, 1791, p.278.
Revenue of Priory 1583 says "... poultrie, etc. omitted."

Keillar, Cathedrals, Abbeys and Priories, ud., s.v. 'Pluscarden.'

Portknockie Caves, Grid Ref: NJ 497 685, Rathven Parish.
1870 O.S. marks the rocks south east of the Bow Fiddle as 'Dovat Cave.' This was probably not a pigeon house as such, more likely a natural cave occupied by true Rock Doves (which can still be found in small numbers along the Cullen coastal zone).
A similar inland example can be found at a waterfall along the Burn of Kinminitie near Guilyknowes Farm which was termed on the 1870 OS map as 'Doo's Craig.'

Relugas, Grid Ref: NJ 008 497, Edinkillie Parish.
OSA, s.v. 'Edinkillie' under Cumming ownership in 1790's.
The mansion of the Dick-Lauder family is referred to in Smith, The Grange of St. Giles, 1898, Chapter 24, pp. 316-27 but no mention of pigeon house. (Although 'dovecots' at other Dick-Lauder homes are featured, particularly in Edinburgh area). No mention also in Rock's 'Relugas and the Dick Lauder Family,' 1995 which includes paintings, sketches and 1830 estate plan.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.50. Relugas was another seat of the Comyns. By marriage it became the home of Sir Thomas Dick Lauder. All that remains are the rusticated gatepiers.

Rothes Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 277 490, Rothes Parish.
Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 42. Leslie fortalice. Tall vaulted keep with wall enclosure, ditch and drawbridge.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.152. Largely demolished by 1660.
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p.126. Surviving remains are those of a substantial 13th century hall-house.

Sparrow Castle, Grid Ref NJ 134 635, Alves Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Alves Parish, Item 10, p.12.
"Dated 1776." Possibly a Russell house ('castle' is slight misnomer).

Springfield House, Grid Ref: NJ 046 598, Forres Parish.
Statutory list for Moray, Forres Parish, Item 12, p.13.
History of Springfield is obscure. Thought to be 18th century house belonging to Dunbar family (q.v. Chapter 5, Burgie, Dalvey, Grange Hall, Blervie).

Tor Castle, Grid Ref: NJ 124 530, Dallas Parish.
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.59. Built c.1400 by the Comyns of Altyre. Single gable remains.
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p.131. Description.

Tower of Grange, Grid Ref: NJ 484 523
Keillar, Cathedrals, Abbeys and Priories, ud., s.v. 'Urquhart Priory.'
Cramond, W. Parish of Grange, (Banffshire Journal Office, Banff, 1895).
p.7. Tower erected 1525 by Abbot Crystall.
p.9. In 1574, there existed a 'Mains of Strathisla, with tower, fortalice and orchard.'
Smith, Grange Octocentum, 1996, p.11-2, includes illustration of abbey in 1660's.

Urquhart Priory, Grid Ref: NJ 297 630, Urquhart Parish.
Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 44.
"Near it [village of Urquhart] in ancient times stood the Priory of Urquhart. But we are not engaged on the description of the ancient church buildings of Moray, but of dovecotes."
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 324.
"Liberally endowed with land. The Chartulary is lost, and there is no account of its revenues."
Sellar, Moray Province and People, 1993, p. 33 states that "David I.. founded the Benedictine Priory of Urquhart in 1136AD."
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p108 'By the late 18th century the ruins could be discovered only with difficulty.'
Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p.102.
Keillar, Cathedrals, Abbeys and Priorities in Moray, u.d., No. 293631.
W. Cramond, Church and Priory of Urquhart, (Elgin: Courant and Courier, 1899).
p.8 "... There is not known to be in existence, now at least, a single product of the pen of the monks."
OSA, s.v. Urquhart. By 1654, most of the materials used to build Garmouth granary and repair the manse and churchyard.

Westerton House, Grid Ref: NJ 133 565, Elgin Parish.
1870 OS shows house with extensive policies, pond, walled garden, offices, mill etc. but no 'dovecot.'
McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.62 c.1820, demolished. 'Castellated symmetrical manor.'

APPENDIX SECTION 1 (ARCHITECTURAL)

Measured data information and analysis methods (Chapter 6)

Collective analysis -Stage 1

In order to commence collective analysis, the individual data sheets for all the doocots recorded by Beaton in Doocots of Moray (found throughout Chapter 5) were composed into one spreadsheet[1] using the method generally used in previous studies: that is, the list of doocots is arranged **alphabetically**[2] (see overleaf, s.v. 'Original Survey').

Collective analysis - Stage 2

Noting that the above mentioned survey was incomplete and not fully revealing (see Chapter 3) it was decided to extend the survey and include information from later structures and lost doocots.[3] Investigations were then carried out to try and date each structure in order to provide data of merit towards an understanding of historical development.[4] This research results in a new spreadsheet which contains additional data and is arranged **chronologically** (see overleaf, s.v. 'Extended Survey'). This new arrangement was critical to all the next steps of analysis and interpretation (see Chap.6) and has been essential progress to help place the doocots in Moray in a broader, historical context.

Collective analysis - Stage 3

The individual doocots of Moray had their respective data arranged in the spreadsheet along 'horizontal fields'.[5] The various aspects of information, which are common to the majority, were arranged in vertical columns and analysed and interpreted in isolation from the other information. This exercise was particularly valuable in the critical evaluation of existing theories relating directly to the various architectural **elements** of doocots.[6]

Collective analysis - Stage 4

The previous step involved the collective analysis of each architectural elements of information pertaining to the doocots of Moray. In some cases, the analysis and interpretation was not entirely revealing. The next step, therefore, was to analyse **combinations of elements** to see if any correlation existed, e.g. box number and ledge length. This part of the analysis was particularly important to aid the identification of common details, particularly relating to dove ecology.[7]

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[1]Using Microsoft Excel Programme.

[2]For clarity, lost doocots are distinguished from existing by a lack of shading in column 1 'Name of Doocot'.

[3]That is, where it is known to have some accuracy, e.g. OS maps and photographs.

[4]A rearranged spreadsheet is able to collate three and a half centuries of information in a meaningful order.

[5]'Field' is a computer term referring to the placement position of individual data.

[6]Depending upon the nature of the data information, analysis of this section (see Chaps. 6.2 and 6.3) involved both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Quantitative information, such as measured data, particularly lent itself towards the use of standard statistical models. Hence, where possible, line graphs and bar charts were employed to assist the visualisation and analysis of information.

[7]Consequently, interpretation of the information relied heavily on the literary study carried out in Chapter 4.4., under the heading 'Ornithology'.

Name of Doocot	Date	Listing	Distance (m)	Orientation	Water distance (m)	Trees distance (m)	Altitude (m)	Architect	Present use	Previous use	Condition	Wallhead (m)
Auchterspynie 1450	1450						10					
Elgin Cathedral 1540	1540		20		75		30					
Greyfriar's, Elgin 1540	1540		30		300	50	26					
Kinloss Abbey 1540	1540		100		75	100	5					
Spynie Palace 1540	1540				150		30					
Leuchars 1590	1590		75	SW	200		6		ruin	doocot		
Gordonstoun Plewlands 1590	1590	B	80	E	100	40	11	not known	monument	doocot	3	n/a
Pittendreich 1590	1590	A	100	S	70	200	26	not known	monument	doocot	2	3.5
New Elgin 1595	1595	B	not known	SW	350	100	11	not known	monument	doocot, cattle store	3	n/a
Quarrelwood 1595	1595	B	50	NW/SE	400	200	60	not known	redundant	doocot, water cister	4	3.5
Culbin 1600	1600		100		50		5					
Burgie 1602	1602	B	40	NW/SE	110	20	75	not known	redundant	doocot	4	3.1
Dalvey 1620	1620	B	80	SE	180	20	20	not known	monument	doocot	7	4
Findrassie 1621	1621	B	300	SSE	500	50	22	not known	redundant	doocot	8	2.8
Balnageith 1650	1650			S	200	100	15			doocot/garden store		
Blackhills 1650	1650		75	SW	250	75	80		folly	doocot		
Coxton 1650	1650		150				35					
Leitcheston 1650	1650	A	100	SE	5	250	52	not known	monument	doocot	3	2.8
Brodie 1660	1660		250				25					
Braga 1675	1675		100	SE	220	400	250	not known	redundant	doocot	9	2.2
Miltonduff 1695	1695	C(s)	150	SSE	300	250	37	not known	redundant	doocot	4	2
Ballindalloch 1696	1696	A	220	NW/SE	200	70	175	not known	monument	doocot	3	5.4
Ballormie 1700	1700			SW	200	150	5					
Cassieford 1700	1700			SE	250	100	20					3
Darnaway 1700	1700		350		200	150	60					
Newmill 1700	1700		300	SE	450	300	140					
Gordon Castle 1700	1700		250		100	80	30					
Innes 1700	1700						6					
Kincorth 1700	1700		250	SE	220	300	10					
Cullen House 1725	1725		400		15	20	15	Peter May?				
Gordonstoun Windmill 1731	1731	B	800	NW/SE	40	70	15	not known	monument	windmill, doocot	2	7.7
Knockando 1740	1740	B	110	S	130	90	140	not known	redundant	doocot, play house	4	2.9
Pitgaveny 1740	1740	B	230	N	250	30	30	not known	monument	doocot	1	4.1
Wester Elchies 1740	1740	B	100	N/S	450	15	175	not known	redundant	doocot	6	4.6
Auchluncart 1750	1750						160					
Letterfourie 1750	1750		40	SE	50	75	150					
Mayen 1750	1750						135					
Moy House 1750	1750		70	SW	200	50	15					

Name of Doocot	Date	Listing	Distance (m)	Orientation	Water distance (m)	Trees distance (m)	Altitude (m)	Architect	Present use	Previous use	Condition	Wallhead (m)
Nether Buckie 1750	1750		300	SE	20	100	35					
Rothiemay 1750	1750	C(s)	360	NW/SE	150	130	105	not known	redundant	summer house	5	3.9
Sanquhar 1750	1750						25					
Smithfield 1750	1750		700	SE	500	400	10					
Tannachy 1750	1750		180	SE	20	10	25					
Kininvie 1757	1757	B	80	S	30	10	140	not known	redundant	doocot	4	5.1
Deanshaugh 1760	1760		40	SW	50	100	25			doocot		
Milton Brodie 1770	1770		80	SSW	200	15	12					
Elgin West 1780	1780		5	SW	150	50	24					
Aberlour House 1790	1790		200	SW	500		130					
Glasterim Farm 1790	1790	250		SE	450	200	45					
Orton 1790	1790	B	760	SE	250	50	51	not known	monument	doocot	1	4.4
Newton 1795	1795		40	SE	150	30	35			doocot/farm stone		
Pitlurg Castle 1800	1800	B		SW	30	40	200		redundant	doocot, castle towe	8	
Grangehall 1802	1802	B	280	S	110	80	10	William Stark	monument	doocot (hen house)	7	6.3
Greenbank 1805	1805	B	12	SW	280	30	155	not known	redundant	doocot (hen house)	6	2.9
Invererne 1832	1815	B	160	NW/SE	500	60	5	Archibald Simp	store	doocot (steading)	3	9.5
Lesmurdie 1820	1820	C(s)	100	S	500	25	30	William Roberts	redundant	doocot, garden stor	6	4.4
Urquhart Manse 1822	1822	B	100	NNW/SSE	500	100	31	not known	redundant	doocot, garden stor	4	3.3
Myreside 1825	1825		20				20					
Elgin Tan Works 1850	1850		150		200	100	25					
Drummuir 1859	1859	C(s)	330	SW	90	30	180	William Smith	redundant	doocot (steading)	4	4.5
Deansburgh House 1860	1860	C(s)	20	SW	30	50	20		redundant	doocot/outhouse	5	4.5
Westfield 1862	1862		90	NW	400	30	10	George Petrie	redundant	doocot, hen house	3	6
Cairnfield Home Farm 1870	1870	C(s)	30	SW		50	70		redundant	doocot	4	4.5
Dellachapel Farm 1870	1870		10	SW	150	20	20		house	steading	2	4
Aberlour High Street 1875	1875			SW	100	40	115		store	doocot	2	2.5
Hazelwood 1875	1875		18	NNW/SSE	20	10	140	not known	redundant	doocot (hen house)	2	3
Seapark 1880	1880	C(s)	10	SW	100	40	3		redundant	doocot	4	5.5
Towie Farm 1890	1890		20	SE/NE	40	70	30		redundant	doocot/store	5	4.5
Blackfriars Cottage 1900	1900		10	S	100	80	25		redundant	doocot/coach house	4	6
Blackfriars Road 1900	1900		15	SW	100	80	25		wild pigeons	doocot/outhouse	7	4.5
Cullen Schoolhouse 1900	1900		10	SE/SW	300	40	40		fancy pigeons	doocot	2	4
Keith Tannery 1900	1900	B	15	SW	25	20	130		redundant	doocot/attic	7	6.5
Mains of Seafield 1900	1900	C(s)	23	NW	70	10	53	estate surveyor?	stores	gf hen house(privy)	3	4
Reidhaven, Cullen 1910	1910		20	SE	200	400	25		redundant	doocot/store	4	3.5
Marypark 1980	1980		20	N/E/S/W		1	220		fancy pigeons	fancy pigeons	2	4
AVERAGE	1749		149.3		195.8	94.5	59.1				4.2	4.3

Name of Doocot	Overall Height	Material	Thickness (mm)	Finish	Roof Pitch	Roof finish	Door (mm)			Door siting		Ledges	Ledge Height	Second Ledge	Third Ledge
							height	width	area						
Auchterspynie 1450															
Elgin Cathedral 1540															
Greyfriar's, Elgin 1540		stone													
Kinloss Abbey 1540															
Spynie Palace 1540															
Leuchars 1590	7	stone rubble	1000		15	slates	1200	600	0.7	SW		3	2.5	4.5	6
Gordonstoun Plewlands 1590	8	random rubble	1100	cement mor	20	stone slabs	1340	800	1.1	E		4	3.5	5.6	6.7
Pittendreich 1590	7.5	sandstone rubble	1060	wet dash ha	50	sandstone slabs	1530	750	1.1	S		2	2.7	3.5	
New Elgin 1595	6.3	sandstone rubble	970	lime harl	20	concrete lid	1690	880	1.5	SW		3	2.85	4.1	6.3
Quarrelwood 1595	6.3	sandstone rubble	850	lime harl	45	sandstone slabs	1450	650	0.9	SW		1	3.5		
Culbin 1600		stone													
Burgie 1602	5.9	sandstone (and lime)	880	lime harl	45	local slate	1400	600	0.8	S		1	3.1		
Dalvey 1620	7	rubble and sandstone	850	lime harl	45	local slate	1680	610	1.0	SE		2	3.1	5.4	
Findrassie 1621	6.5	rubble and sandstone	800	lime harl	45	local slate	1360	720	1.0	S		1	2.2		
Balnageith 1650	7.5	stone rubble		lime harl	20	stone slabs				S		2	3	5	
Blackhills 1650							1800	700	1.3	S		2			
Coxton 1650															
Leitcheston 1650	6.5	sandstone rubble	750	lime/cemen	45	Banffshire slate	1370	680	0.9	SE		3	2.7	4	5.4
Brodie 1660															
Braga 1675	4.7	random stone	730	lime harl	40	local slate	1600	620	1.0	SE		1	2.2		
Miltonduff 1695	4.7	stone rubble	650	wet dash	40	stone slabs	1550	680	1.1	S		2	2	3	
Ballindalloch 1696	9	rubble and sandstone	700	lime harl	45	local slate	1580	770	1.2	SE		1	4.2		
Ballormie 1700															
Cassieford 1700	6	stone		lime harl	45	slates				S		2	3	4.5	
Darnaway 1700															
Newmill 1700															
Gordon Castle 1700															
Innes 1700															
Kincorth 1700															
Cullen House 1725															
Gordonstoun Windmill 1731	11	stone rubble	750	wet dash ha	15	stone slabs	1500	1000	1.5	NW	SE	2	5.7	7	
Knockando 1740	6.5	granite and stone	600	cement poir	45	local slate	1770	760	1.3	S		2	2.4	4.1	
Pitgaveny 1740	6.6	sandstone rubble	780	lime/cemen	40	sandstone slates	1560	940	1.5	N		1	2.9		
Wester Elchies 1740	7	stone rubble	750	lime harl	42	Ballachulish	1760	870	1.5	E		1	3.75		
Auchluncart 1750															
Letterfourie 1750															
Mayen 1750															
Moy House 1750															

Name of Doocot	Overall Height	Material	Thickness (mm)	Finish	Roof Pitch	Roof finish	Door (mm)			Door siting		Ledges	Ledge Height	Second Ledge	Third Ledge
							height	width	area						
Nether Buckie 1750		stone rubble													
Rothiemay 1750	8.5	stone rubble	930	lime harl	45	slates	1960	800	1.6	S		0			
Sanquhar 1750															
Smithfield 1750	9	stone rubble		lime harl	45	slates	1500	900	1.4	S	W	2	3.5	4.5	
Tannachy 1750															
Kininvie 1757	7	stone rubble	560	lime harl	45	Welsh slate	1900	900	1.7	S		2	2.9	4	
Deanshaugh 1760															
Milton Brodie 1770			750	lime harl	45	slates	1700	800	1.4	S	S	1			
Elgin West 1780															
Aberlour House 1790															
Glasterim Farm 1790															
Orton 1790	6.5	sandstone rubble	600	lime harl	45	local slate	1790	740	1.3	SE		1	2.45		
Newton 1795		stone rubble													
Pitlurg Castle 1800				lime point					0.0						
Grangehall 1802	8.5	sandstone (and lime)	630	lime pointin	35	Ballachulish	1860	950	1.8	NE		1	5.5		
Greenbank 1805	5	stone rubble (and lime)	550	lime harl	45	Ballachulish	850	700	0.6	SE		1	2		
Invererne 1832	12.5	sandstone, granite	600	lime pointin	25	Ballachulish	n/a	600	0.3	hatch		1	8.75		
Lesmurdie 1820	5.5	sandstone (and lime)	510	coursed san	30	Ballachulish	1590	730	1.2	S		1	2.85	4.1	
Urquhart Manse 1822	4.7	stone rubble	550	lime harl	45	Banffshire slate	1410	700	1.0	N		2	2.5		
Myreside 1825		,	450							S					
Elgin Tan Works 1850															
Drummuir 1859	7	sandstone	550	lime harl	45	Ballachulish	1000	560	0.6	NE		2	4.2		
Deansburgh House 1860	7	stone rubble		lime harl	45	Ballachullisg	1500	900	1.4	E					
Westfield 1862	7.5	brick	70	lime pointin	40	zinc or lead	n/a	600	0.3	hatch		3	4.5	5	5.5
Cairnfield Home Farm 1870	7	stone/timber	600	lime harl	45	Ballachullish									
Dellachapel Farm 1870	7	stone		cement poir	45	Ballachullish									
Aberlour High Street 1875	4.5	stone rubble		lime sneck	45	Ballachulish						1	4		
Hazelwood 1875	4.1	brick	240	lime harl	45	local slate	790	430	0.3	E		2	2.6	2.9	
Seapark 1880	7	timber,slate	150	slate	34	Ballachullish									
Towie Farm 1890	7	stone/timber	600	lime pointin	45	Ballachulish									
Blackfriars Cottage 1900	6.5	timber	150	timber	30	Ballachulish	1700	700	1.2						
Blackfriars Road 1900	7	stone rubble		lime point	45	Ballachulish									
Cullen Schoolhouse 1900	6.5	stone rubble	550	wet dash ha	45	Ballachulish	1800	700	1.3			2	5.5		
Keith Tannery 1900	9.5	granite and sandstone	600	lime pointin	45	Ballachullish									
Mains of Seafield 1900	5.5	stone rubble (and lime)	500	lime harl	45	slates	1850	750	1.4	NW		4	2.5	2.7	2.9
Reidhaven, Cullen 1910	6	stone rubble		lime pointin	45	slates			0.0			2	5	5.3	
Marypark 1980	4.5	timber	100	timber	45	timber						2	3.2	3.6	
AVERAGE	6.9		634.1		39.9		1541.9	737.94	1.1			1.8	3.4	4.4	5.5

Name of Doocot	Fourth Ledge	Ledge Length	Apertures	Vent Holes	Flight Holes	Vent Area(m2)	Box material	Nest Boxes	Box size (mm) width	height	depth	Box Height off floor(mm)	Box Height off ground	Alighting Ledges
Auchterspynie 1450														
Elgin Cathedral 1540														
Greyfriar's, Elgin 1540														
Kinloss Abbey 1540														
Spynie Palace 1540														
Leuchars 1590		45			8		stone							
Gordonstoun Plewlands 1590	7.6	53.2	1	1	1	0.61	sandstone	750	150	190	330	640	640	every row
Pittendreich 1590		53	1	2	2	0.5	sandstone	834	300	200	500	250	250	
New Elgin 1595		21.5			5	0.48	sandstone	482	200	210	330	210	210	4
Quarrelwood 1595		21.5		2	2	0.36	sandstone	425	300	200	400			
Culbin 1600														
Burgie 1602		16.5	1	1	4	0.629	sandstone	492	260	270	400	0	0	
Dalvey 1620		26.4			4	0.18	sandstone	678	270	220	390	0	0	
Findrassie 1621		10.5	1	1	9	0.21	sandstone	408	290	260	300	700	700	
Balnageith 1650		25			9	0.48	stone	650						
Blackhills 1650			0.25				stone							
Coxton 1650														
Leitcheston 1650		30		3	4	0.8	sandstone and slate	716	320	275	275	670	670	
Brodie 1660														
Braga 1675		12	not known	not kno	not kno	not known	stone	250	190	190	250	500	500	
Miltonduff 1695		10.5			6	0.18	not known	350						
Ballindalloch 1696		45		3	16	0.54	stone	890	230	250	300	890	890	
Ballormie 1700														
Cassieford 1700		24												
Darnaway 1700														
Newmill 1700														
Gordon Castle 1700														
Innes 1700														
Kincorth 1700														
Cullen House 1725														
Gordonstoun Windmill 1731		36.2		2	1	0.3	sandstone	750	200	200	400	3500	1100	
Knockando 1740		35.2		2	7	0.255	stone and slate	440	230	230	200	550	550	
Pitgaveny 1740		17			5	0.45	sandstone	320	280	250	300	960	960	
Wester Elchies 1740		25	1	1	n/a	0.8	stone	664	240	250	240	1170	1170	
Auchluncart 1750														
Letterfourie 1750														
Mayen 1750														
Moy House 1750														

Name of Doocot	Fourth Ledge	Ledge Length	Apertures	Vent Holes	Flight Holes	Vent Area(m2)	Box material	Nest Boxes	Box size (mm) width	height	depth	Box Height off floor(mm)	Box Height off ground	Alighting Ledges
Nether Buckie 1750														
Rothiemay 1750		0					stone and slate	456	360	340		450	150	
Sanquhar 1750														
Smithfield 1750		50					stone	2000	200	225				
Tannachy 1750														
Kininvie 1757		24		2	6	0.27	rough timber	340	230	280	200	1800	1800	
Deanshaugh 1760														
Milton Brodie 1770		27			4		stone	900	250	250	250	600	600	
Elgin West 1780													5000	
Aberlour House 1790														
Glasterim Farm 1790														
Orton 1790		17.6			10	0.2	rough timber	420	280	280	250	1040	1040	
Newton 1795							stone							
Pitlurg Castle 1800							stone and slate	60	250	250	300		6000	
Grangehall 1802		19.2			16	0.28	rough timber	316	300	300	250	600	2935	
Greenbank 1805		12.2			15	0.48	stone	20	260	230	200	350	2380	
Invererne 1832		20		1	10	0.3	sandstone and slate	452	240	270	200	100	5800	
Lesmurdie 1820		10.5			6	0.32	stone	174	190	240	260	0	1925	
Urquhart Manse 1822		1.5			4	0.176	clay dab, wood, slate	30	240	300	275	320	2280	
Myreside 1825														
Elgin Tan Works 1850														
Drummuir 1859		2.4		3	6	0.24	timber slats	0					4500	
Deansburgh House 1860					3	0.08								
Westfield 1862		6.2			15	0.51	rough timber	166	250	200	200	0	5000	
Cairnfield Home Farm 1870					6	0.14							4500	
Dellachapel Farm 1870					3	0.08							6000	
Aberlour High Street 1875		0.55			3	0.07							3800	
Hazelwood 1875		1.5			3	0.1	brick	20	250	250	230	220	2150	
Seapark 1880					12	0.27							5500	
Towie Farm 1890					3	0.07							6000	
Blackfriars Cottage 1900					6	0.14	timber	40	250	250	300	600		
Blackfriars Road 1900					2	0.04							3500	
Cullen Schoolhouse 1900		0.8	0.16	4	1	0.11							3500	
Keith Tannery 1900					3	0.07	timber						8500	
Mains of Seafield 1900	3.7	4.7			18	0.48	stone and brick	74	220	250	280	500	1900	
Reidhaven, Cullen 1910		1.2			5	0.11							4500	
Marypark 1980		8			24	0.54	timber	24						
AVERAGE	5.65	19.9	0.8	2.0	6.8	0.3		442.2	249.3	245.2	289.26	639.2	2618.9	4.0

Name of Doocot	Internal Limewash	Bird no.	Collecting Aid	Internal volume	Estate Size	Plan Form	Shape	Accessed
Auchterspynie 1450					9			
Elgin Cathedral 1540					3			
Greyfriar's, Elgin 1540					7			
Kinloss Abbey 1540					8			
Spynie Palace 1540					10			
Leuchars 1590				28	5	circular	domed	
Gordonstoun Plewlands 1590	partial	1050	Potence	55	8	circular	domed	Y
Pittendreich 1590	partial	1335		95	6	square	gabled	Y
New Elgin 1595	0	674		31		circular	domed	
Quarrelwood 1595		595		63	6	square	gabled	Y
Culbin 1600					5	circular	domed	
Burgie 1602	joints only	688		65	5	rectangular	lectern	Y
Dalvey 1620	yes	950		72	5	rectangular	gabled	Y
Findrassie 1621	partial	570		57.6	5	rectangular	lectern	Y
Balnageith 1650				35	5	circular	domed	
Blackhills 1650					6	circular	domed	
Coxton 1650					5			
Leitcheston 1650	no	1102		35.3	5	rectangular	lectern	Y
Brodie 1660					6			
Braga 1675	no	400		30	5	square	lectern	Y
Miltonduff 1695		490		27.8	5	rectangular	lectern	
Ballindalloch 1696	yes	1246	Scaffold	167	6		hipped	Y
Ballormie 1700					8	square		
Cassieford 1700				48	5	rectangular	lectern	
Darnaway 1700					8			
Newmill 1700					4	rectangular		
Gordon Castle 1700					8	rectangular		
Innes 1700					7			
Kincorth 1700					5	square		
Cullen House 1725					8	circular		
Gordonstoun Windmill 1731		1050	Potence	65	8	circular	cylinder	Y
Knockando 1740	yes	616		44	5	rectangular	lectern	Y
Pitgaveny 1740	no	448	Potence	50	5	circular	cylinder	Y
Wester Elchies 1740	yes	930	Scaffold	122	5	rectangular	hipped	Y
Auchluncart 1750					5			
Letterfourie 1750					5	circular		
Mayen 1750					5			Y
Moy House 1750					5	rectangular		Y

Name of Doocot	Internal Limewash	Bird no.	Collecting Aid	Internal volume	Estate Size	Plan Form	Shape	Accessed
Nether Buckie 1750					5	rectangular		
Rothiemay 1750	yes	638		85	5	rectangular	hipped	Y
Sanquhar 1750					5			
Smithfield 1750		2800		228	8	rectangular	lectern	
Tannachy 1750					5	square		
Kininvie 1757	partial	476		12.3	5	circular	cylinder	Y
Deanshaugh 1760					3	rectangular		
Milton Brodie 1770		1300			5	rectangular	lectern	
Elgin West 1780					3	rectangular		
Aberlour House 1790					5			
Glasterim Farm 1790						rectangular		
Orton 1790	partial	588	Potence	27.6	5	circular	cylinder	
Newton 1795					5	rectangular		Y
Pitlurg Castle 1800	no	84		21.2	6	circular	cylinder	Y
Grangehall 1802	partial	442	Potence?	50	5	hexagonal		Y
Greenbank 1805	yes	28		105	3	circular	cylinder	Y
Invererne 1832	joints only	632		46.8	5	square	hipped	Y
Lesmurdie 1820	partial	244		7.3	4	octagonal	octagonal	Y
Urquhart Manse 1822	no	42		5.5	3	square	hipped	Y
Myreside 1825					3	square		
Elgin Tan Works 1850					10	circular		
Drummuir 1859	yes	40		37.2	5	rectangular	gabled	Y
Deansburgh House 1860					2	rectangular	triangular	
Westfield 1862	no	232		12	4	square	hipped	Y
Cairnfield Home Farm 1870					4		triangular	
Dellachapel Farm 1870					3		triangular	
Aberlour High Street 1875					1		triangular	
Hazelwood 1875	partial	26		2.3	3	square	gabled	Y
Seapark 1880				18	4	square	cube	
Towie Farm 1890					2		triangular	
Blackfriars Cottage 1900	no	56		3	2	square	tower	Y
Blackfriars Road 1900					1			
Cullen Schoolhouse 1900	yes	20		27	1	rectangular	triangular	Y
Keith Tannery 1900					2	rectangular	triangular	
Mains of Seafield 1900	yes	104		6.8	3	square	gabled	Y
Reidhaven, Cullen 1910					1	rectangular	triangular	
Marypark 1980		34		1.8	1	octagonal	octagonal	
AVERAGE		603.9		49.7	4.9			

APPENDIX SECTION 3 - ARCHITECTURAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name:	Grid Ref:

	Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution • Historic Value • Accessible to public • Unaltered fabric • Provenance established • Educational Merit • Cultural Integrity													
Economic Contribution • Reusable • Tourist Value • Partnership funding • Capital costs • Maintenance costs • Revenue potential													
Environmental Contribution • Physical appearance • Landscape prominence • Original setting • Use of Materials • Features of interest • Condition • Interior													
												TOTAL	

Other contributing factors

- Listed
- Ownership
- Architect
- Archive material
- Future developments
- Risk Assessment

Summary Comments:

Final Assessment:

\\EDP3\DEVTYPE\confidential\hazel\Doocots\99-592.doc

APPENDIX SECTION 3 - ARCHITECTURAL

DOOCOT EVALUATION CHECKLIST - (ZERO VALUE BASELINE CRITERIA)

Social Assessment

1.	Historic Value	-	100 years old (positive if older)
2.	Accessible to public	-	public can view exterior without special permission (positive if more accessible).
3.	Unaltered fabric	-	fabric not detrimentally altered from original use (high figure if completely unaltered).
4.	Provenance established	-	association understood (high figure if entirely understood).
5.	Educational merit	-	building can be interpreted (high figure if information level high).
6.	Cultural identity	-	building has local identity (high figure if national identity qualities).

Economic Assessment

1.	Reusable	-	can be put to static use (high figure if dynamic use).
2.	Tourist value	-	attraction for occasional visitor (high figure for high visitor potential).
3.	Partnership funding	-	two parties willing to contribute (high figure if numerous partners).
4.	Capital costs	-	£5,000 estimated (high figure for low costs to outlay).
5.	Maintenance costs	-	£500 p.a. estimated (high figure for low costs to outlay).
6.	Revenue potential	-	£500 p.a. estimated (high figure for high potential).

Environmental Assessment

1.	Physical appearance	-	aesthetically neutral (positive if appealing).
2.	Landscape prominence	-	clear view 50 m in all directions (positive if larger distance).
3.	Setting	-	setting not detrimentally altered from time of original use (high figure if completely unaltered).
4.	Features of special interest	-	possesses standard features (high figure if quality or quantity of features high).
5.	Condition	-	normal state of decay/repair (high figure if pristine condition)
6.	Interior	-	standard building space (positive if of spatial merit).

Other contributing factors

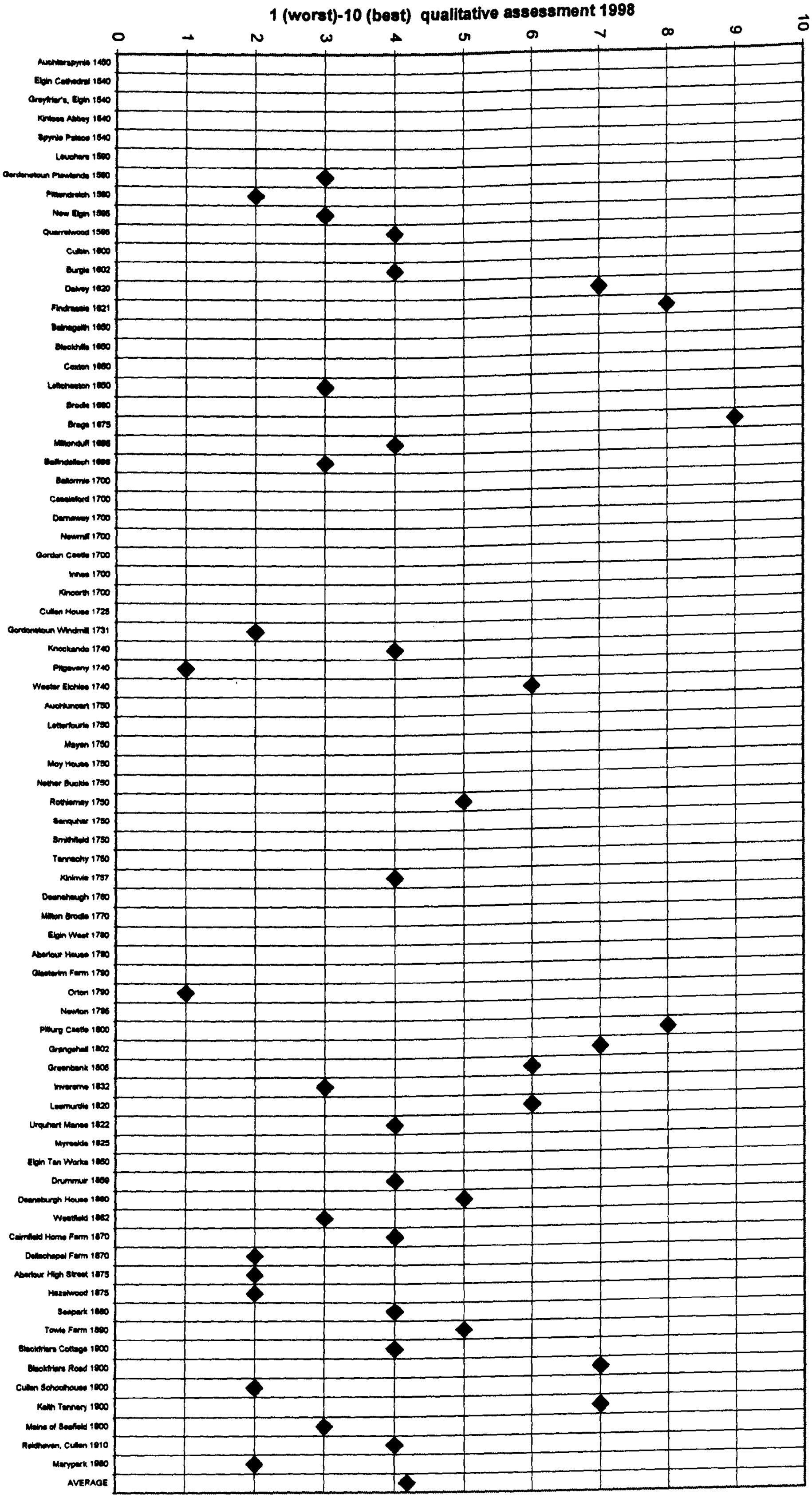
- Listed - yes/no, give category.
- Ownership - public, private individual, trust.
- Architect - give name where possible.
- Archive material - e.g. maps, documents, photographs, drawings.
- Future development - e.g. change of ownership, change of setting.

Summary Comments

Weighing-up notes.

Final Assessment

e.g. High/low priority for long-term retention; high/low priority for repair; high/low priority for recording; high/low priority for listing.



Doocots of Moray: Condition (Fig 9.4)

Appendix Section 1 (Architectural)

Summary of Evaluation

1	Pittendreich	57
2	Plewlands (Gordonstoun)	50
3	Ballindalloch	45
4	Grangehill (Dalvey)	42
5	Grangehall	41
6	Leitcheston	40
7	Burgie	39
8	Orton	39
9	Quarrelwood (New Spynie)	39
10	Invererne	39
11	Drummuir	39
12	Westfield	39
13	Pitgaveny	38
14	Miltonduff	38
15	New Elgin	35
16	Gordonstoun Windmill	35
17	Urquhart Manse	34
18	Rothiemay	34
19	Seafield	34
20	Knockando	33
21	Lesmurdie	33
22	Kininvie	33
23	Hazelwood	33
24	Greenbank	30
25	Wester Elchies	30
26	Findrassie	25
27	Braga (Recletich)	11

This summary sheet evaluates a subjective assessment of the 'sustainability' of Moray's historic doocots. The severely ruined, and relatively isolated, doocots at Findrassie and Braga receive strikingly low marks and may be doomed long term unless benevolent owners are found. Pittendreich, on the other hand, stands out as Moray's supreme doocot.

The majority of doocots score within a narrow band range (only 6 points separate 16 doocots). It is likely to be these which need to compete for funding for future maintenance.

It is interesting to note that, of these, three of the highest scoring (Invererne, Drummuir and Westfield) have not been recorded in previous doocot studies.

APPENDIX SECTION 1 - (ARCHITECTURAL)

Numbers of Recorded Historic Doocots in Scotland (by others)

1	**Held in records of RCAHMS in 1996** (Generally derived from OS records)	**590**
2	**'Listed' by Historic Scotland in 1997** Category A - 79 Category B - 449 Category C - 17	**545**
3	**Recorded by Niven Robertson in 1961[1]**	**553**

Edinburgh	20	Stirlingshire	23
Midlothian	36	Fifeshire	131
West Lothian	21	Kinrosshire	4
East Lothian	65	Clackmannan	6
Angus 39		Aberdeenshire	25
Kincardine	11	Banffshire	9
Moray 22		Nairn 3	
Inverness	4	Ross-shire	20
Sutherland	1	Caithness	5
Orkney	5	Perth 27	
Glasgow	1	Lanark 18	
Renfrew	5	Dumbarton	5
Ayr	7	Berwick	15
Roxburgh	9	Peebles	7
Selkirk	2	Dumfries	3
Bute · 1		Kirkubright	1
Wigtown	1	Argyll 1	

4	**Recorded by Grant Peterkin in 1980[2]** (Expansion of work of Niven Robertson)		**856**

Wigtonshire	11	Kinross	4
Kirkcudbrightshire	15	Fife	149
Dumfriesshire	28	Perthshire	65
Roxburghshire	10	Angus 70	
Selkirkshire	3	Kincardineshire	20
Peeblesshire	11	Aberdeenshire	93
Berwickshire	21	Banffshire	22
East Lothian	68	Morayshire	23
Mid Lothian	38	Nairnshire	4
Edinburgh	22	Inverness-shire	8
West Lothian	25	Ross-shire	20
Lanarkshire	29	Sutherland	1
Ayrshire	17	Caithness	7
Renfrewshire	7	Argyll 3	
Glasgow	1	Inner & Outer Isles	4
Dunbartonshire	9	Orkney	12
Stirlingshire	29	Shetland	1
Clackmannan	6		

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[1]Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', XDA 375, Scottish Library, Edinburgh Public Library, 1961. (Note: Moray is now amalgamated with Banffshire.)

[2]Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, pp.27-65. The above list is presented in the order it is written in Peterkin's gazetteer.

APPENDIX SECTION 1 (ARCHITECTURAL)
HOUSING CRITERIA - some additional notes

- Christ de Feu, Nestboxes, BTO Guide 23, Norfolk, 1985, 2nd edn. 1993, p.5 "must be secure from predators and weatherproof".

- Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.3 "... pigeons appear to suffer no ill-effects from any reasonable amount of cold, provided always that it is not associated with dampness".

- Pigeon loft spec. pp. 5-18

- Lumley, Fulton, p.27 ".. must have some fair amount of flying exercise to keep them in really good health and condition". Internal space must be larger if birds confined.

- Dixon, Dovecote and Aviary, Wm. S. Orr, London, 1851,p.26 ".. accommodation provided for pigeons in ancient times could not have widely differed from those of the present day".

- Feare, 'Pigeon Control: towards a humane alternative', Env. Health Mag. (June 1990), pp. 155-6, p.155 - able to boom in towns because of (i) nests, (ii) foods "*Sympathetic architects have in the past provided a wealth of roosting and breeding areas, stimulating the cliff ledges upon which the ancestors of feral pigeons bred .. the main attraction .. is undoubtedly food*".

APPENDIX SECTION 1 - (ARCHITECTURAL)
Specification for 20th century squab producing doocot

- *".. for those who have no adaptable barns or sheds handy we advise the American plan of wooden lofts 12ft x 14ft x 7ft high to the eaves (not the ridge). This will take not more than thirty pairs. Around the inside walls are built nest-boxes, each with two compartments, a foot square each compartment."*

- *"They must be mounted on piles from the ground to keep them rat-proof."*

- *"Inside these houses is a long continuous corridor keeping the birds safe by wire netting on one side. There is a door of netting to each section."*

- *"There is a large window in each section out of which the birds fly into their commodious flight pens which should be fitted with running water, bath bowls and a structure of planks rather like the grandstand at a race-meeting."*

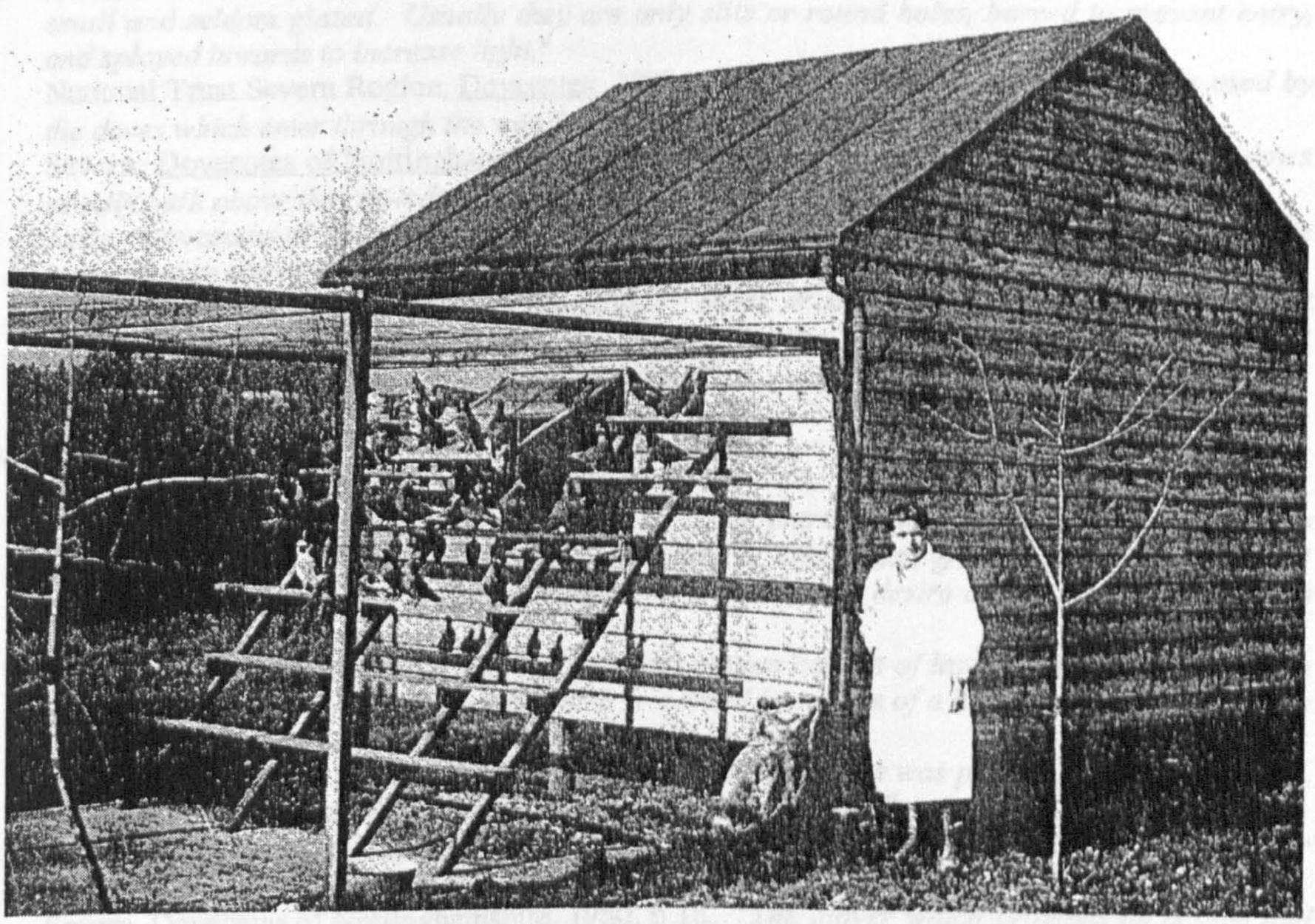
- *"The roof of every loft must be absolutely sound, the loft itself well ventilated, but with no through draughts."*

- *"The best aspect is east by south. This allows protection from the prevailing south west winds and rains, and gives the birds the benefit of the early morning sunshine."*

- *"The flying pen itself ... should be well drained and with approximately a foot of rough gravel and overlaid with sand."*

- *"The question of light or dark lofts is interesting: an open question."*

(extracted from Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1935, pp.23-8.)



Twentieth century squabbing cote with flight (Plate 9.3)

Early 1930's photograph showing simple, dual pitched wooden cote with south facing flight which is equipped with, "... a structure of planks rather like the grand stand at a race meeting."

(extracted from Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p.24, courtesy of 'The Feathered World').

APPENDIX SECTION 1 - (ARCHITECTURAL)
Previous theories on architectural features of doocots

The following is a collection of statements made by various authors and commentators which have been grouped into the topics explored in Chapter 2 'History and Development of Dovecotes' and Chapter 6, 'Analysis of Catalogue'. The topics are arranged alphabetically for ease of location.

Apertures

- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1963, p.27. "*Windows, if there are any, are small and seldom glazed. Usually they are only slits or round holes, barred to prevent entry, and splayed inwards to increase light.*"
- National Trust Severn Region, Dovecotes, 1980, p.5. "*The lantern is apparently little used by the doves which enter through the wooden grills in the openings in either gable.*"
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p.20, "*...some dovecotes also have windows usually built above the rat-ledge.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.11, " .. *windows added upon redundancy of the pigeon-house conversion to some other use.*"
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.133. "*Most, or perhaps all, later dovecotes have at least one aperture in addition to the entrance-hole for the birds, originally protected against predators by a wrought-iron grill or wooden lattice*".

Bird Access

- Lumley, Pigeons and their Origins, 1891, p.15. "*The entrance to the house by the pigeons is effected through an opening at the centre of the roof.*" This author goes on to describe how a, " .. *simple contrivance*", i.e. a trap, is utilised, " .. *should you desire at any time to confine the pigeons to the dove house.*"
- Watkins, 'Ancient Dovecots', 1896, p.15. "*Most pigeon houses of later days are fitted up with an inside trap in the apex of the roof, which is worked by means of a hanging cord, and enables the owner to catch the birds to replenish his larder.*"
- Mowat, 'Early Pigeon Houses', 1903, p.30. "*Every pigeon-house was provided with a trap-door, or some other contrivance for preventing the escape of the birds.*"
- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.10, " .. *the roof was open, with a round hole for admitting pigeons. This was not continued later than the 14th century.*"
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1980, p.18. "*The glover which provides an access and exit for the birds .. often gives a clue to the identification of a dovecote. Being situated on the ridge of pitched roof, or at the apex of a pyramid or conical roof, they appear similar to a ventilation louvre... This access in the roof allowed for the full wall space to be given over to nesting boxes.*"
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.133. "*There are certainly physical difficulties for the recorder in reaching the top of a beehive cote, but it is a regrettable omission in the modern literature that no one has published a measured section of the pigeon-entrance.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1991, p.22. "*Dovecote turrets were always built over the highest point of the roof and only one was provided for each building.*"
  p. 23. "*As with the windows, it would have been necessary to close the turret opening during times of culling. This would normally have been done internally by means of trap door either operated by a pulley and cord from inside at ground level, or reached by ladder from the upper stages.*"
- McCann, 'Conservation of Historic dovecotes', 1992, p.80. "*At most dovecotes the pigeons entered by a turret on the roof called a louver.*"

Bird occupancy

- Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon', " .. *each pair of pigeons must be sure to have two nests.*"
- Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1874, p. 371, "*Care must also be taken that the pairs of birds are somewhat less than half the number of nesting-places, since each pair requires two, and any quarrelling will diminish the produce most seriously; in a large cote a hundred pairs of birds will be ample for three hundred holes.*"
- Smith, Dove Houses of Essex, 1931, p. 71, ".. *each pair of pigeons must have two nests.*"
- Whitaker, 'Ancient Dovecots of East Lothian', 1938, p.8. Re. Bourhouse Doocot, "*...although the number of nests is now 946, no fewer than 456 have been built up. Accordingly the structure at one time was capable of accommodating 1402 pigeons.*"
- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 521. "*At one time it was thought essential that every loft should have extra nests, that is to say, each loft should have more pairs of double nests to the pen than there were pairs of birds. This is incorrect. It is not necessary. A pair of pigeons will breed better and retain its own nest with greater ease when there are no extra nests ... with extra nests there is, therefore, more fighting than when each pair is settled to a particular nest.*" [note that Levi is referring to pairs of double nests].
- Yates, 'Manorial Pigeon Houses', 1943, pp. 16-7, " .. *it* [Cluniac Priory doocot] *contained 4000 nesting holes. If but 2000 pairs were accommodated ... the pigeons of this cote would account for 8000 bushels a year.*"
- Hewson, 'Rock Doves in Scotland', 1964, p. 24, "... *if the laird was limited as to the number of his dovecotes he made the most of not being limited as to size.*"
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1980, p. 21, " .. *object of the dovecote was to provide as many nesting facilities as possible within the smallest practicable space.*"
- Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, 1982, p. 87. "*The number of nesting boxes in a typical dovecot was enormous .... Most had between 500 and 700 double-sized boxes and around 1200 nests.*"
- Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, p. 17. "*It is essential that the pen contains at least one identical double nest for each pair.*"
- Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes', 1993, p. 85, " .. *the cote is fitted out with over 1500 brick nest boxes, capable of holding upwards of 3000 birds.*"

Distribution

- North, 1698 in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.100. "*They thrive best in the corn champain countrys.*"
- U. Robertson 'Pigeons as a Source of Food', 1987, p.90. "*The majority of dovecots in Scotland seem to have been built in the central and southern areas.*"
- Whitworth, 'Dovecotes and Pigeon Lofts in Calderdale', 1987, p.20. A distribution map illustrates a cluster around Halifax and other towns. Few are to be found in the rural areas.
- Whyte, Changing Scottish Landscape, 1991, p.45. "*Doocots epitomise the old feudal order in the countryside.*"
- Kempe, 'Some Northumbrian Dovecotes', 1992, p.74, '".. *majority of duckets are concentrated .. following the relatively flat coastal arable belt.*"
- Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes', 1995, p.75. 'Beehive' dovecotes found here. "*All these are not dissimilar to a group found in the wilds of Cornwall and a large number dotted around the Scottish landscape*".

Door Area

- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p.25. "*Doors are small. It is usually necessary to stoop on entering, so blocking the opening and making it impossible for pigeons to fly out.*"

- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.11. "*It is regarded as very necessary that the doves should be protected against the cold east and north winds.*"
  p.14. "*In the Scottish dovecote doorways were often small and low.*"

- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.47. "*Many old Scottish dovecots were provided with double doors.*"

- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.135, " *..their heights exhibit a definite cluster about 4 feet 7 inches. The widths vary randomly from 2 feet to 3 feet, 3 inches. ...Doorways are usually small if original, although many have been enlarged later when the buildings were converted to other uses.*"

- Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, 1982, p.87, " *..doorways were low in order to discourage birds from flying out.*"

External Ledges

- C. McWilliam, Buildings of Scotland-Lothian, (London: Penguin, 1978), p.55. "*Their external characteristic is the stringcourse to prevent the entry of vermin.*"
- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p.27, " .. *bonding courses in the rubble construction.*"
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.110, " .. *external ledges occur, always high on the structure.*" p.114, " .. *where ledges were present .. they were provided for pigeons to alight and perch on, and that was their only function.*"
- McCann, pers.comm. 28/1/95. Thinks crowsteps designed to create additional perching places. Additional ledges on Scottish doocots due to harsh climate (shelter from wind).
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.20. Alludes that ledges for rat prevention, alighting, perching, decoration, structural, weathering protection.
- Beaton, pers.comm., 20/11/96, " .. *were they also structural as band or through courses? And surely some were ornamental as well?*"
- A. Whitworth, Dorset Dovecotes, (Portland: Culva House Publications, 1988), p.9, " .. *with a rat ledge at first-floor level to prevent rodents from climbing the outside stone walls and ravaging the birds and eggs.*"
- Beaton, Doocots of Caithness, 1980, p.4, " .. *encircled with protruding stone or flag slabs called 'rat courses' which were primarily designed to keep away rats, though they also provided alighting and resting places for the birds.*"

External wall finish

- Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House', "... *they must be hard plaistered, and white-washed within and without, that being the colour most pleasing to the pigeons*".
- Stephens, Book of Farm Buildings, 1890, Div.II,p.429. "The pigeon-holes in the gable should be of stone and kept bright with white paint."
- Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p.336. "*M. Voillet le Duc describes them* [in Dictionnaire de l'architecture] *as whitened so that pigeons should see them from afar.*"
- Carr, Posthumous Works, 1919, p.134. "*It is astonishing how easily the common pigeon may fail to find its home even under favourable circumstances and when the field of search is limited to a space not over 20 by 30 feet.*"
- Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.20, "... *whitewashed externally, with a view to making it conspicuous to its inmates on their homeward flight ... a practice forbidden England ... as being likely to attract a neighbour's birds.*"

- Douglas, Dovecots of Moray, 1931, p.10. "*The exterior of the dovecote was often white so as to enable the birds to recognise the dovecotes from a distance by means of vision, their usual mode of recognition.*"
- Whitaker, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1938, p.6. "*Dovecots were frequently painted white, that colour being attractive to pigeons as well as helping to retain them when a new structure was erected.*"
- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.47. "*The walls of Scotland's doocots are usually of stone, most often rubble, sometimes ashlar, but the coign stones are usually rectangular or square blocks of sandstone, and occasionally in pilaster form. In older cotes we sometimes see oyster shells gleaming in the mortar.*"
- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p.26. "*In almost all the dovecotes, of whatever type, walls of random rubble with dressings.*"
- Spandl, 'Exploring roundhouse of doves', 1998, p.7, "*... doves are attracted by white surfaces.*"
- McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, p.17. "*No one knows why pigeons are attracted to whitened places, but one might speculate that in nature the accumulations of white guano round well-established nesting sites led rock doves to associate a whitened area with security.*"

Flight

- Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p.2. "*Fancy pigeons are not allowed to fly out but spend all their time inside sheds or buildings which are called pigeon lofts. Sometimes these have a wire netting flight or aviary attached.*"
- Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1935, p.24. "*There is a large window in each section* [squab pens] *out of which the birds fly into their commodious flight-pens which should be fitted with running water, bath bowls, and a structure of planks rather like the grandstand at a race-meeting, where they can gossip, preen and sun themselves to their heart's content. These flight-pens should average 15ft. x 12ft. and 8ft high.*"
- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, pp. 510-39.

Flight Holes

- North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.102, " *.. a slit of 6 inches was left next to the foundation of this superfabrick for the doves to enter.*"
- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.46. "*The number of dove entrance holes to one dovecote varies much. Circular cotes have usually a circular opening in the apex of the roof, by which the pigeons enter.*"
- McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1992, p.85. "*Louvers with flight holes of inverted U-shapes usually prove on examination to be modern replacements, formed of machine-sawn softwood or plywood.*"
- Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p.15. "*Entrance holes for the birds differed greatly.. pigeons entered the beehive type by a louvre*".
- Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes', 1995, p.80. "*In most instances, the holes are square in profile*".

Floors

- Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, u.p. "*Make your house sure at the foundation, and wel plastered within, and with smooth stone couched close in the bottom, for feare of their dongue do not corrupt the place which must be fayre and even within*".
- Webb, 'Archaeologica', 1844, p.194. "*The floor* [at Garway 1396] *has been paved, part of which remains.*"
- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.14. "*The level of the floor may be below the surface level of the ground outside ... but may have been gradually excavated when the dovecotes were being cleaned out.*"
- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1963, p.27. "*Floors are frequently below the levels of thresholds.*"

- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1980, p.21, "*.. quite a number had floor levels lower than the ground levels outside.*"
- Brunskill, Traditional farm Buildings of Britain, 1982, p.87, "*.. there was usually a step down to floor level to allow for some accumulation of manure.*"

- McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p.89. "*In the most ancient dovecotes the floor level now is usually well below the outside ground level, but this may be more because humus has built up outside, than because the interior level was deliberately sunk ... some dovecotes were paved with stone in the eighteenth century for protection against tunnelling by brown rats, but many dovecotes were never paved.*"

Internal Finish

- Columella, Of Husbandry, c.50A.D., p.356. "*But the whole place and the pigeon-cells themselves, might be polished with white plaster, because this kind of fowl is exceedingly delighted with this colour.*"
- Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, s.v. 'To replenish your Dovehouse...'; "*.. your house and holes ought to be made white, for that colour pleaseth them well.*"
- Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p.19. Avoid "*.. so roughly as to give insects harbour in the walls. This is easily prevented by smoothing all inside work off, painting the nest-boxes and pans and occasionally white-lining the interior of the loft itself.*"
- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.10. "*The outer and inner walls were treated with smooth cement.*"
- McCann, 'Dovecote at Stewkley', 1994, p.121. "*In accordance with traditional practice the interior has been limewashed.*"

Internal Ledges

- Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland', 1887, p.421. "*In the quadrangular the attendant gets at the nests by climbing along the ledges in front of them, and holding on with his hands.*"
- Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon-Houses', 1890, p.10. "*An alighting ledge of stone projects underneath each alternate tier of holes, the intermediate tier of holes being without alighting ledges. I cannot guess at the reason for this, but I find these alternate ledges copied in pigeon houses of many styles for several centuries.*"

Internal volume

- Anon, 'Ancient Larders', 1947, p.30. "*Many of the rectangular type were constructed with two chambers separated by a partition, so that the nests on one side could be searched without disturbing the birds on the other.*" (as suggested by Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.239).

- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1963, p.30, "*... the interiors are often of the greatest beauty, a product of the volume enclosed, of the calm repetition of nests and of glancing light from the roof or window slits*".

- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.132. "*The pigeon-keeper could put hawks and owls which penetrated to the interior at a disadvantage by ensuring that there were no branch-like timbers on which they could perch ... Ideally this required that the roof should be built without internal tie-beams or other free-standing timbers.*"

- McCann, 'Dovecote at Stewkley', 1994, p.125. "*Owners of dovecotes wanted the roof space to be free of tie beams and other projections, partly to allow the pigeons free circulation space, but primarily to avoid providing perching places for any bird of prey which might penetrated the interior.*"

- Spandl, 'Exploring the round houses', 1998, p.7. "*It is the interior of a dovecote, however, which, if preserved in anything like its original form (unfortunately rare) offers the most interesting insights into the function of these buildings*".

Materials

- Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon Houses', 1890, p.12, "... *square buildings became the rule; for timber work does not lend itself to circular forms. The square shape is in the majority.*"
- Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.237. "*Everything* [use of materials] *points to the great value placed upon the birds as food - a point of view easily understood when we recall the comparative poverty of Scotland.*" (p.83. Notes many timber cotes in Worcestershire and thatched dovecotes at Clifton Reynes, Northampton; Burham Abbey, Buckingham; Stoke Rivers, Devon).
- Smith, Dovehouses of Essex, 1931, p.4. "*Essex is rich, not so much with outstanding examples ... but with the variety of building material and the variety of shape.*"
- Maitland, 'Doocots', 1959, p.4. "*Practically all are stone.*"
- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.41, "... *in Scotland stone is much the most frequent material employed.*"
  p.46, "*walls, usually of stone, most often rubble, sometimes ashlar.*"
- National Trust Severn Region, Dovecotes, 1980, p.12. Hill Croome dovecote, Upton Upon Severn, "... *could well be the only cruck-framed dovecote in the country.*"
- Brunskill, Traditional Farm Building, 1982, p.87. "*Construction might be of timber frame, brick, stone, flint, cobble or even clay, with roofs of thatch, slate, plain tiles or stone tiles.*"
- Kempe, 'Some Northumbrian Dovecotes', 1992, p.73. "*Virtually all Northumbrian examples are built of stone.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.16. "*Every known dovecote in the Cotswold region ... are of stone.*"
- McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, rear cover. "*They are built of all materials.*"

Nest box - size

- Varro, Of Farming, c.36B.C., p.282, "... *an inside diameter of three palms (one foot).*"
- Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon House', "... *they should be rather too big than too little*".
- Watkins, 'Ancient Dovecots', 1893, p.10. Re. Garway Dovecote, "... *holes are about six inches square, and they recede about fourteen inches into the substance of the wall.*"
- Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.72, s.v. 'Shipton Hall'. An Elizabethan octagon plan dovecote with 325mm deep boxes with rounded backs for, "... *additional comfort to the birds ... when time and trouble were nothing*".
- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.14, "*The size of the nests in the Moray dovecotes does not vary much.*"
- Whitaker, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1938, p.6, "*Each cell was constructed to hold a pair of pigeons.*"
- Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, 1982, p.87, " ... *about eight inches (203 mm) wide and tall and fifteen inches (380 mm) deep, but some craftsmen, more in England than Scotland, favoured a larger and shallower box with an eight inch square (203 mm square) opening and a more completely enclosed nesting place.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.27, " ... *virtually all, 6" wide by 6" high, give or take half an inch either way.*"

Nest box construction

- Stephens, Book of Farm, 1890, Div.4, p.300. "*They make their own nests, which are of the simplest materials and rudest construction, sticks and straw laid down indiscriminately.*"
- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.47, "... *usually of sandstone... When they extend in thirty tiers upwards, from floor to roof, they are a work of art in masonry and are an impressive sight to anyone beholding them for the first time.*"
- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1963, p.31 et.seq., includes several examples of nest boxes constructed using bricks or tiles.
- Beacham, 'Dovecots in England', 1989, p.89, "...*nest holes, arranged in tiers around the internal walls were either of stone, clay, chalk or occasionally of wood.*"

- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.137. "*In the earliest dovecotes the nest-holes are deeply recessed in the fabric of the walls.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1991, p.29, " ... *the external skin of masonry and interior network of nest-holes were built up simultaneously.*"
- Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes and Pigeon Lofts', 1993, p.82, " ... *nest boxes were fashioned within the wall itself.*"

Nest box arrangement

- Watkins, 'Ancient Dovecots', 1893, p.10, "*.. the nest holes of one tier enlarge to the right hand, the tier above enlarges to the left; this plan of construction seems to be almost invariably in stone and brick buildings.*"
- Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.71, "*.. when the direction does not change with each tier, the turn is to the right.*" [re. L-plan boxes]
  p.48. "*This shape, seldom seen in Scotland, afforded the birds greater seclusion and more space.*"
- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.520. "I*n all lofts except commercial ones, the nesting problem is not a serious one. In commercial lofts, the type of nest is most important. The double nest is the type for maximum production. Before that time single nests were used. This type of nest usually had no front and required a nest bowl of some sort .. an additional and unnecessary expense.*"
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1980, p.21, "*.. object of the dovecote was to provide as many nesting facilities as possible within the smallest practical space.*"
- Bond, 'Somerset Archaeology', 1989, p.163. "*The diagonal spacing* [of nest boxes] *is a device commonly used to avoid weakening the wall more than necessary.*"
- Beacham, 'Dovecotes of England', 1989, p.89. "*Two shapes predominated: L-shape and oblong.*"
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.141. "*The breeding-cycle of pigeons required two nest-boxes to each pair of pigeons, for the hen would start incubating one clutch of eggs while the previous pair of squabs was still unfledged. For this reason, Moore, Girton, Loudon and Priest favoured double nest-boxes with a semi-partition between, but they are rarely found.*"

Nest boxes - positioning

- Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House', "*.. must always be four foot distance from the ground .. the rats may not be able to get in.*"
- Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.48. "*The lowest tier is often a few feet from the floor level, to prevent vermin climbing up, and, occasionally, we find a broad ledge below the bottom row for the same purpose.*"
- Bond, 'Shapwick Manor Dovecote', 1989, p.163, "*.. begin at a height of c.1.4m from interior ground level.*" [a circular cote of "*.. comparatively early date*"]
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.133. "A*ll the earliest dovecotes in Britain .. have nest-holes from ground level ... this practice continued ... until it became desirable to raise the lowest tier four feet above ground level for protection against Rattus norvegicus.*" p.110, "*.. nest-holes raised four feet from the ground ... which could have told him* [i.e. Ferguson] *that it was built after 1735*". [i.e. post-*Rattus norvegicus*].
- McCann, 'Dovecotes: an Addendum', 1992, p.137. "*Where a dovecote was strongly built of hard materials it was proof against penetration .. and there was not real need to sacrifice capacity by raising the lowest tier of nest holes four feet above the ground .. only protection required was a foundation deep enough to resist undermining .. dovecotes in which the lowest tiers of nest-holes have been blocked after the original construction .. the alteration can be dated to the arrival of the new* [rat] *species.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1972, p.27, "*... the pigeons' natural instinct for high places would have unnerved them from nesting at ground level. Consequently, in most dovecotes in Gloucestershire, the nest-holes start at least 18' above ground level.*"
- McCann, 'Dovecote at Hedingham Castle', Trans. Essex Society for Archaeology and History, vol.28, 3rd series (1997) pp.294-8 (p.297). "*An effective defence against them [rats] was to remove the lower tiers of nest-boxes to a height above which they could not jump or climb.*"

Overall height

- Lumley, Pigeons and their Origins, 1891, p.16. "*They are seldom under twenty feet.*"
- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p.43. "*The gable walls are extended as a rule higher than the sloping roof, so that they, and the high back wall above the roof, can act as a screen for the birds on the roof.*"
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1980, p.18, "... *structure is generally quite tall for a single storey bu*ilding in comparison to its ground dimensions and with a steeply pitched roof."
- McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, p.19, "... *those who owned or built historic dovecotes ... observed that pigeons naturally choose to perch on the roofs of tall buildings, so they built dovecotes high*".
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.125. Regarding an identified 'need' for height, it is observed that the doocot, " .. *often it is sited on the highest ground available.*"
- London, Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture, 1833, p.393. "*The only essential requisite is, that it must be at some distance from the ground.*"

Orientation

- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.43. "*Most rectangular dovecotes have a 'lean-to' roof, sloping to the south.*"
- Mathey, 'Peristerones', 1980, p.18, "... *highly decorative show fronts face the valley ... while the bare rear walls are orientated towards the mountains ... orientation is chosen to enable the best view of the particular facade*".
- McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.125, ".. *requirement is perching space which combines shelter from the wind with exposure to the sun.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.20. "*Most of the original doorways face the parent house, the reason being because the owners or their household could then keep a watchful eye.*"
- Suzzoni, 'Columbiers et pigeonmers', 1974, p.17, "... *most* [French] *pigeon houses face the rising sun to the east.*"
- Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.3, "*Care was always taken to orientate doocots to the south*".

Plan form

- Beacham, 'Dovecotes in England', 1990, p.89. "*Plan type, however, varies with dates.*"
- Anon, Sportman's Dictionray, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House', "... *the round is to be preferred before the square ones*".
- Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, p.342. "*They are generallay square buildings*".
- Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon Houses', 1891, p.13. "*Octagon is the most modern shape*".
- Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p.337. "*The bulk of existing pigeon-houses were built in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They were square, with either stone or brick walls, or were half-timbered.*"
- Chambers, 'Romano-British Dovecots', 1920, p.190. "*After Norman times octagonal or rectangular dovecots are common.... The reason of the preference originally shown for the circular form was no doubt because it facilitated access to nests*" [by employing a revolving ladder].
- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.10. "*The round dovecote .. was difficult to build and did not lend itself very well to an ornamental style.*"
  p.17, "*Dovecotes of two compartments are rare in England. They are regarded as much more frequently found in Scotland.*"
- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.42. "*Dovecotes may be circular, (beehive or cylindrical), square, rectangular, pentagonal, hexagonal or octagonal..*"
- National Trust Severn Region, Dovecotes, 1980, p.2. "*The introduction of the rectangular or square dovecote tended to make the potence redundant, since it would have been impossible to reach the nesting holes in the corners from the revolving ladder.*"

- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p.18. *"The free-standing dovecote can be circular, polygonal, square or just rectangular."*
- Kempe, 'Some Northumbrian Dovecotes', 1992, pp.73-4. *"The earliest type is circular in plan .. The rest are usually square or rectangular."*

Provision of a collecting aid

- Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland', 1887, pp.421-1. *"In the quadrangular the attendant gets at the nests by climbing along the ledges in fron of them, and holding on with his hands..... But the circular ones were provided with a revolving machine, called a potence, by which all the nests could be conveniently got at in turn. This is admirably described and beautifully illustrated by M. Viollet-le-Duc."* [*Dictionnaire de l'architecture*].
- Taylor, Dovecots as Ancient Monuments', 1957, p.626. *"A long pole, or potence, was erected in the centre, so that it could revolve. Attached to this were arms to which one or two ladders were fastened, so that the catcher could reach any nest and catch all the birds needed without climbing up and down several times. This was only possible if the building was circular."*
- Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.89, suggested that builders put revolving ladders into square or rectangular cotes without thinking!
  p.202. Notes at Penmon Priory, Wales, a central stone pillar fitted with steps to aid collection.
- National Trust, Dovecotes, 1980, p.2. *"The great advantage of the circular dovecote was that one could reach each nesting hole by means of the potence. This was a central pole pivoted at the top and bottom from which two or three horizontal beams projected, each a little in advance of the other. At their outer edge these supported a ladder enabling the keeper in charge to reach any nest with ease."*
- Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.5. *"In the centre of the chamber of some beehive doocots and most of the later varieties a revolving ladder provided access to the nesting boxes so that eggs and birds could be easily gathered."*
- Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, 1982, p.87. *"Nesting boxes were reached simply by a ladder or, more commonly, the dovecot was equipped with a potence .. rectangular dovecots had to be double square or rather less on plan to allow two potences to be used."*
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.145, " .. *frequent occurrence of revolving ladders in square dovecotes in Scotland."*
- North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.103. *"On the inside is intended to make an altar of holes round, and upon the center pitch an axis, which shall turne upon that and the middle cross pieces of the lover. This axis is to carry two ladders, within eight inches of the walls, and to be opposite to each other, so as two persons may search the house at once, with the same movements."*
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p.23, " .. *no potence remains in a dovecote in this country."*
- McCann, pers.comm., 30/9/96, " .. *no evidence of revolving ladders in Britain earlier than 1698."* [see North, supra]
- McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, p.13. *"The modern term for a revolving frame which supported a ladder, allowing the pigeon-keeper to search the nesting places without descending. The word was introduced into English in 1887 by R.S. Ferguson, quoting from Viollet-le-Duc's description of French dovecotes".* p.116, ".. *potences are common in square dovecotes in Scotland".*

Roofs

- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.11. *"Many of the walls have corbie stones on the top, a characteristic common in Scottish dovecotes. These would be ledges for pigeons alighting."*
- Maitland, 'Doocots', 1959, p.4. *"All face south: most have walls carried higher than the roof so as to shelter birds."*
- Robertson, Old Dovecotes of Scotland, 1961, p.45. *"The roofs of Scottish dovecotes are usually of slate, but sometimes they are made of the native stone slabs. Red pantiles were also used."*
- Beacham, 'Dovecotes in England', 1990, p.89. *"Roof type is influenced by plan. Square dovecotes have mostly pyramidal roofs, although some hipped and ridge types are found; circular and octagonal ones have conical roofs. Earlier examples had stone slate roofs, later ones ... had tailes; a few were thatched."*

- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1991, p.16. *"In the Cotswolds, the original use of limestone slates for covering the roofs of dovecotes, and their turrets, is almost as frequent as is the employent of stone for walls."*
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p.9. *"From observation in the county, we know that: circular cotes had conical roofs; square cotes had pyramidal roofs; rectangular cotes had pitched roofs, either hipped or gabled."*
- McCann, pers.comm., 28/1/95, *"...surfaces pitched at more than 50 degrees are too steep for perching."* p.132. *"The pigeon-keeper could put hawks and owls which penetrated to the interior at a disadvantage by ensuring that there were no branch-like timbers on which they could perch. ...Ideally this required that the roofs should be built without internal tie-beams or other freestanding timbers."*
- McCann, Dovecotes of Suffolk, 1998, p.19. *"They* [owners and builders] *saw that in windy conditions pigeons try to get out of the wind, so they provided sheltered perching places..... The ideal roof for a dovecote has inclined surfaces facing in all directions, so that at all times of a day part of it is facing the sun, and in all wind conditions part of it is in shelter."*

Siting

- Waistell, Design for Agricultural Buildings, 1827, p.11. General advice for such buildings: not on flat or steep ground; central situation; away from maian road; dry groound; easy access; near track or road; eyeshot of house; near running water.
- Mowat, 'Early Pigeon Houses', 1903, p.30. *"The pigeon-house was generally placed in a sunny, sheltered position, with the entrance easily seen from the adjoining dwelling-house."*
- Watkins, 'Ancient Dovecotes', 1903,p.14. *"Pigeon houses were usually close to the house."*
- Smith, Dovehouses of Essex, 1931, p.70 (cited from Ellis, Complete Farmer), suggests placing cote in, *".. middle of a spacious courtyard .. at no great distance from water."*
- Peters, Development of Farm, 1969, p.205. *"Two types of dovecote have survived ... free-standing dovecotes and gable entry, where the dovecote itself is a small boarded loft."*
- M.Taylor, 'Doocots of Fife', Countryman, (Winter 1997/98), pp. 174-8, (p.175), *".. many doocots were built on the edge of the laird's estate [because pigeons]... would fly out at dawn and descend like locusts on the fields."*
- McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.125. *"Most early dovecotes were sited on the edge of the manorial complex."*
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.15, *"... the building was also of sufficient distance from human activity to prevent disturbance, but close enough to protect the birds of prey."*
- Spandl, 'Exploring the round houses', 1998, p.6, *"... some were built on purpose away from the main habitation, usually in the patter period, as prominent and picturesque features of the landscape within country estates or to keep the doves away from corn stores."*

Siting - Distance from Main House

- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.14, *" .. majority of buildings are sited to the rear or side of the main dwelling house ... on edge of formal garden ... several adjoin the kitchen garden. Never are they more than about 60 yards from the house and often much less ... only (one) dovecote to be physically attached ...generally kept away from woodland, surrounded by open space .. usually located within near sight of other buildings .. where possible, the building would be built on higher ground."*
- McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.125, *"...observation suggests that the optimum distance from the domestic complex for protection for hawks, combined with absence of disturbance, was between twenty and one hundred yards."*
- McCann, 'Eighteenth-Century dovecote at Stewkley', 1994, p.125. *"Whenever practicable, dovecotes were sited well away from other buildings and large trees so that the pigeons could see birds of prey approaching."*
- North, c.1698 in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.100. *"And it is for that reason* [hawks] *not to pitch their houses too far from company, but in a mediocrity. If they are among too much business and noise, they will be frighted. If retired, the hawks will be too saucy; the passing of men to and fro frights them"*
- McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p.80, *".. it was sited where it would be seen from the main approach road."*

- Taylor, 'Doocots of Fife', 1977/8, p.175, "... *many doocots were built on the edge of the laird's estate*".
- Watkins, 'Ancient Dovecotes', 1903, p.14. "*Pigeon houses were usually close to the house.*"

Siting - Distance from trees

- North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981, p.100. "*Woodlands harbour hawkes, the desperate enimys of these poor birds that inhabite with us.*"
- Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p.346. "*Plant the Pigeon-House in the middle of a courtyard, near enough to the house that the master of the family may keep in awe those who go in or come out, but as pigeons are of a fearful disposition, you must make their houses with much care, and a great deal of reason, at such a distance that the rushing noise of the trees shaken by the wind, and the over-murmurings of the water may not affright them.*"
- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.10, "... *dovecotes were often found situated in the open, away from trees which would more or less prevent the birds finding their way home.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1992, p.15. "*An often clear field of view from the dovecote and comparatively high ground position also helped to protect the birds from their natural predators, usually hawks.*"
- McCann, 'Dovecote at Hedingham Castle', 1997, p.295. "*As contemporary writers made clear, trees could not be allowed to grow near a dovecote in use, because they provided concealment for birds of prey.*"

Siting - Distance from water

- Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, s.v. 'Government of Poultrie'. " *Let us then for the easement of the farmer have a Dovehouse from the grounde made and set in a place neete and hye for it, by his house, or over his house in a tower, or touret .. and placed very nye some water, because a Pegion is a hote byrde.*"
- Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Pigeon-House', ".. *care should be had that the pigeon-house should be placed at some small distance from water.*"
- Anon, 'Poem', 1740, p.4. "*Nor must you with less Providence remove Their Dwelling from the River and the Grove; For oft within the Grove's deceitful Shade The Hawk his Prey is ready to invade .. The Sound of neighb'ring waters breaks their Rest, And fills with mighly Fears their tim'rous Breast.*"
- Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p.346. "*Care should be had that water should be near that the pigeons may carry it to their young ones.*"
- McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p.143. "*It seems possible that other early dovecotes in Britain were built in the Mediterranean tradition, and that originally they had an internal water supply like Garway; if so they have not been reported in the literature. If present originally the channels would have been blocked later to prevent the ingress of* Rattus norvegicus, *and the evidence concealed by accumulations of humus.*"
- McCann, 'Dovecote at Stewkley', 1994, p.125. "*Dovecotes were always sited near water because the adult birds had to carry water to their young in their beaks.*"

Three dimensional forms

- R. Dutton, English Garden, (London: B.T. Batsford, 1937), Chap.5. 'Features and Follies'. "*The more usual form, however, consisted of a square, octagonal or circular building rising to a tiled roof surmounted, perhaps, by a small cupola, with the interior walls honeycombed with innumerable rows of pigeon holes.*"
- Whitaker, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1938, p.6, ".. *usually built in the shape of a large testudo with a vaulted roof.*"
- Bailey and Tindall, "Dovecotes of East Lothian', 1963, p.26. "T*he distinctive feature is the roof, which slopes only in one direction, almost always to the south.*"
- Maitland, 'Doocots of Angus', 1964, p.2. "*They are, except a very few, of the French type, a lean-to shape.*"
- C. McWilliam, Buildings of Scotland, (London; Penguin, 1978) p.55. "T*he latter type, usually of two chambers with the flight-holed roof pitched towards the south, is called a 'lectern' and usually given an 18th century date.*"

- Brunskill, Traditional Farm Buildings of Britain, 1982, p.86. "*The beehive dovecot ... opening often being crowned by a largely decorative cupola .... The lectern ... access openings in the roof, as a sort of unglazed clerestory, or immediately underneath the eaves .... The tower ... access for pigeons was by a dormer in the roof or by a glover (i.e. a covered opening) at the apex of the roof, or by openings near the top of the walls.*"
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p.18. "*The shape of the building will often give a clue to its use.*"
- Bailey, 'Doocots in Falkirk', 1991, pp.35-6. "*Much more efficient than the beehive design, or the early rectangular buildings with pitched roofs rising to a central ridge, were the 'lectern' doocots of the seventeenth century.... The lectern type is the most common form of doocot in Scotland.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1991, p.9. "*... many fine square, four-gabled dovecotes of this period* [16th and 17th centuries] *throughout the county.*"
- McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1994, p.81. "*The exterior of the dovecote can be considered as a man-made substitute for a cliff.*"
- Severn, pers.comm., 7/6/94. "*Your dovecotes are different from ours* [England] *in their design, usually beehive or lectern shaped, whereas ours are more mundane.*"
- Spandl, 'Exploring the round houses', 1998, p.6, "*... can at first glance be mistaken for a small house.*" (an ironic statement given the title of the article)

Vent holes

- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.12. "*In the dovecotes at Knockando and Spynie a pigeon opening was found in each gable.*"
- Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecotes of East Lothian'. 1963, p.27. "*Windows, if there are any, are small and seldom glazed. Usually they are only slits or round holes, barred to prevent entry, and splayed inwards to increase light. They give more light than might be expected, and, of course, improve ventilation.*"
- McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, pp.133-4. "*Most, or perhaps all, later dovecotes have at least one aperture ..... In addition to apertures for access and ventilation, glazed windows were used at an early date.*"
  p.147. "*There must have been an upper limit beyond* which the over-crowded internal air space would cease to be attractive to pigeons."

Wall thickness

- Watkins, 'Herefordshire Pigeon Houses', 1890, p.13, "*.. the thickness of wall is a rough criterion of the age of a pigeon-house.*"
- Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.11. "*A fair, sound, general rule is that the thicker the walls the older the dovecote.*"
- Ariss, 'Dovecotes of Gloucestershire', 1991, p.9. "*It is generally believed that the thicker the walls, the older the building.*"
- McKean, pers.comm., 27/7/94, "*... wall thicknesses diminished as structures became more sophisticated.*"

APPENDIX SECTION 1 (ARCHITECTURAL)

Further reading list for architectural information (not cited in Bibliography)

Alexander, P. 'Ancient Dovecotes', Cheshire Life, March 1936, pp. 18-21.

Jeevar, P. Dovecotes of Cambridgeshire, Oleander Press, Cambridge, 1953.

Leron-Lesur, P. Colombiers et Pigeonniers en France, Editions Ch.Massin, Paris, 1986.

Long, G. 'Old English Dovecotes', The Morris Owner, September, 1935, pp. 640-1.

Lugar, R. Country Gentleman's Architect, 1807.

Nicolle, E.J. Les colombiers de Jersey; Bull Society de Jersiase, 1928, pp. 90-4.

Pridham, J.C. Dove and Pigeon Cotes in Worcestershire, Worcester Country Council, Worcester, 1974.

Roberts, S. 'Dovecotes in the Grand Manner', Country Life, 10/2/1977, pp. 322-3.

Whitaker, J. Descriptive List of Medieval Dovecotes in Nottinghamshire, Mansfield Reporter, Nottingham, 1927.

SECTION 2 - HISTORY

- Biblical references
- Acts of Parliament
- Gordon v. Brodie lawsuit
- Pigeons in Household Account records
- Pigeon as a culinary pursuit
- Alternative historic uses of Pigeons
- Costs of pigeon rearing
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APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

Old Testament

Genesis	viii, 6-12
Genesis	xv, 9
Leviticus	1, 14
Leviticus	xii, 6
Leviticus	xv, 14, 29
Numbers	vi, 10
Isaiah	ix, 8
Jeremiah	xlviii, 28

New Testament

Matthew	iii, 16
Mark	i, 10
Luke	11, 24

APPENDIX SECTION 2 - (HISTORICAL)

ACTS OF PARLIAMENT

The following are relevant extracts from T. Thomson & C. Innes, (eds.) Acts of Parliament Scotland, (Edinburgh, 1424-1707). Some of the more significant acts are quoted verbatim. Others are quotes from the General Index, vol. 1, (A-H), s.v. 'Dovecot', p. 449 and vol. 2, (I-Z), s.v. 'Pigeon'.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1424 c 10 JAMES I

ITEM it is ordanyt tht the Justice Clerk inquyr at the resaving of the Indictments of thai tht be nycht stelis grenewode or pelis the barks of treys distroyande wodds And quha fa be comuickit befor the Justice of sik trespass thai pay XLS to the King for the unlaw assithe the pty scathyt And also the said clerk shall inquyre of brekars of meis orchards steyllars of fruyt and distroyars of conygars and of dowcotts the qwhilks sable punyst as is ordanyt of the steillars of grene wode.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1474 c 16 JAMES III

"ITEM tht na ma sla dais nor Rays nor deir in tyme of storm or snaw or sla ony of pair kydde quhill thaj be a ther aulde word the payn of x li and tht to be a poynt of dittay and in likems that na ma huvnt schut nor sla der nor Rais in wpis close nor pke or tak out cunynge out of wpis cunygarthis or tak ony foulis out of wthis dowcotte or fliche out of wpis pulys or stanke but speciale licence of the awnare wnd the payne of dittay ande to be punyst as thift".

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1503, C. 12 JAMES IV, 242

Breaking of 'dowcats' to be a point of dittay, the unlaw to be £10, with amends for the damage; parents of children committing the offence to be fined 13s. 4d., or to give up the children to the judge to be beaten.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1503, C. 19 & C. 21, JAMES IV

All lords and lairds to have parks with 'dowcats' etc.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1535, C. 11 JAMES V, 344

Breakers of dovecotes to be punished as thieves; the act extended to those giving assistance to the misdoers.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1555 c 36 JAMES V

Reinforces that the stealing of "Halkis Hundis Pertrikis Dukis and slauchter of Dais Rais huting of Deir taking of cuningis and foulis" be punishible by execution!

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1567, C. 17 JAMES VI, 26

Shooting 'dows' with gun or bow forbidden under pain of forfeiture of moveables, or for the first fault forty days imprisonment, for the second loss of the right hand.

ALSO 1579 ACT OF PARLIAMENT, C. 22, JAMES VI

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1597 c37 JAMES VI

It is not lesum to slay deir Rais hares wylde foules or dowes.

"OURE SOVERANE LORD and estaitis of this present Parliament Ratefeis apprehis and confermis be actis lauis and constitutioris maid be his hienes andhis predicessouris of worthie memorie of befoir aganis the schutting and slaying of deare Rais hareis wyldfowllis and douis with hagbuttis hand gunis croce boues and pistolattis and taking of thame with girnis and nettis and ordanis the same to be put to dew executioun in all tyme heirefter with this additioun That it salbe lesum to every shreff steuart baillie and barroune w'in his awin boundis to slay all lying doggis qlk the foullaris vsis for slauchter of the said wyld foullis and tak and apprehend the saidis foulleris thame selfis and put thame in stockis and detene thame parin for the space of 48 houris als oft as thai be apprehendit."

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1607, C. 6, JAMES VI

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1617, C. 8 & 9, JAMES VI, 537

Justices of the Peace ordained to put the acts of parliament in execution against breakers of 'dowhouses', the punishment to be a pecurvial sum.

ACT OF PARLIAMENT 1617 – C. 19 JAMES VI
ANENT DOWCATIS

OURE SOVERANE LORD w'aduyfe and consent of the estaittis of this presnet Parliament considdering the gryit inconvenientes susterit by the liegis of this realme Throw the frequent building of doucattis by all maner of personnes in all the pairtis thairoff statutes declairis and ordanis that heirefter no persoun nor persounes salhave power libertie or privilledge to build a doucat upoun ony landis w'in this realme rather win bur' nor in the Cuntrie except tha persoun buildar of the doucatt have landis and teyndis pertening to him extending in yeirlie rent to ten chalderis victuel nixt adiacent to the said doucatt at the least lying wi'in tua myillis to the same And als declairis that it fall nowayis be lauchfull to the peroun foirsaid worthe in yearlie rent the foirsaidis ten chalderis victuel to builde moe doucattis upoun and withnthe boundis forsaide except one doucate onlye.

ALSO 1655, JAMES VI
AND 1661, C. 338, JAMES VII

Note: Since the legal research work of this study did not extend beyond the Union of Parliaments in 1707, there is still a requirements to ascertain any differences since that date in Scotland law, relating to doves, to that of England (noting that the latter is well covered in McCann, 'Dovecotes and Pigeons in English Law', 2000).

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

GORDON V BRODIE LAWSUIT

The following is the detailed account of the important lawsuit dispute relative to the Smithfield doocot on the Gordonstoun Estate of Sir Robert Gordon (see Chap. 5.5). His neighbouring proprietor Brodie, Lord Lyon, took umbrage at Gordon for firstly, erecting a fourth doocot on his estate and secondly, siting it so close to their mutual boundary. The case was principally formulated around the 1617 Act of James VI. It is sufficiently informative, and, interesting, to merit inclusion in verbatim.

Information
for
Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonston, Charger,
against
Alexander Brodie of Brodie, Suspender.

Sir Robert Gordon, the Charger, stands heritably infeft in sundry lands and baronies within the Shire of Elgin, particularly in the lands and barony of Gordonston at the Manor place whereof the Charger resides, and in the lands and barony of Drainie.

Upon these lands of Gordonston there happens to be two pigeon-houses, which are so incommoded by birds of prey and other noxious creatures sheltering themselves in the policy and plantations of Gordonston as renders them of little value or use, and as the Charger is possest of no other pigeon house except a very small and inconsiderable one situated within the lands of Ballormie on the north side of the Loch of Spynie was advised for the use and advantage of his family to erect one more commodious and beneficial; and accordingly chose out as the properset situation the Barony of Drainie, which pays in yearly rent above 46 chalders of victual.

The Charger set about building the same in the form ordinarily practised with a partition in the middle, which made it consist of two squares, each about twelve feet or thereby; and when the walls were nearly finished, he was served with a bill of suspension at the instance of Mr Brody, which the charger cannot omit, in passing to observe, was rather untimely, as the Suspender should not have suffered his neighbour to have laid out the greatest part of the expense, and almost finished his work without any challenge, when he had a view of distressing him by this process.

The Bill of Suspension contained several learned arguments such as, that the building of this pigeon-house was a breach of the privilege of Parliament, which the Charger admits he did not comprehend; and therefore shall not enlarge upon it, especially as the debate at discussing the reasons of suspension before the Lord Elchies, turned chiefly upon the import of the 19th Act, p. 22, James VI. Upon advising whereof his Lordship, 4th July last, repelled the reasons of suspension. But the Suspender not chusing to acquiesce in this judgment, preferred a representation, to which answers having been given in, his Lordship took the cause to report, and appointment informations to be given in.

And as the question depends upon the construction of the Statute, Sir Robert Gordon the Charger begs leave to set down the words themselves, and then to submit a few observations.

Our Sovereign Lord, with advice and consent of the estates of this present parliament, considering the great inconvenience sustained by the lieges of this realm, through the frequent building of dovecotes by all manner of persons in all the parts thereof, statutes declares and ordains, that hereafter no person or persons shall have power, liberty, nor privilege to build a dovecot upon any lands within this realm neither within Burgh nor in the country, except that person builder of the dovecot have lands and teinds pertaining to him extending in yearly rent to ten chalders victual, next adjacent to the said dovecot at the least lying within two miles to the same. And then the Act proceeds and declares. That it shall nowise be lawful to the person foresaid, worth in yearly rent the foresaid ten chalders victual, to build more dovecots upon and within the bounds foresaid, except one dovecot only.

And 1 mo. In the Charger's apprehension, it is evident, that the evil intended to be remedied by this law arose from persons of little or no substance building dovecots, the pigeons whereof necessarily preyed

upon other men's grounds and therefore the law statutes and declares what persons only shall have right or privilege to build dovecotes.

2 do. It fixes the qualification of those persons at ten chalders victual of yearly rent, considering the lands out of which so great a rent was paid as fully sufficient to maintain the pigeons.

And 3 tio. As the law considered this ten chalders of victual of rent, as sufficient to intitule to a dovecot, so, on the other hand, it wisely declares, that there only should be one dovecot within the bounds producing to the heritor ten chalders of yearly rent, which was no doubt a very proper restriction upon the plan of the Act of Parliament.

But 4 to. There is not one word in the Statute which limits a heritor, possest suppose of 50 or 100 chalders of victual from building more than one pigeon-house upon so large an estate, because a person possest of so great a property had, according to the supposition of the law, sufficiency for maintaining several pigeon-houses, seeing the bounds of 10 chalders rent were accounted sufficient to maintain one.

And indeed with submission, it seems absurd that 10 heritors each of ten chalders victual yearly rent, should be intitled to ten pigeon-houses, and that one heritor of 100 chalders yearly rent as sufficient bounds for the maintenance of a dovecot, no greater inconvenience arises to the lieges in the one case than in the other. Proprietors of such great estates were nowise in the view of the legislature, which intended only to remedy the inconveniences arising from dovecots being built by persons possest of small incomes, leaving heritors of opulent estates in the same situation that they were before the Act of Parliament; that is to say, that liberty to erect dovecots upon such corners of their estates as they should think best, providing always they allowed the bounds of ten chalders yearly rent, which the Act fixed as sufficient for maintaining a dovecot.

The Suspender laid the great stress of the argument upon the words of the Statute, ten chalders victual next adjacent to the said dovecot at the least lying within two miles to the same, which words again he endeavoured to connect with those of the last paragraph of the Statute . Forbidding any person of the foresaid rent of ten chalders victual to build more dovecots upon, and within the bounds foresaid, except one dovecot only.

To this it was answered, that when the strain or connection of the Act of Parliament is attended to it is clear, that the two miles are mentioned only to soften or explain the former part of the same clause, requiring 10 chalders victual to the next adjacent to the dovecot; which was thought too hard, and therefore it was declared sufficient, if the ten chalders happened to be within two miles but then the two miles has not the least connection with what follows anent the number of dovecotes, which is a clause entirely separate, and distinct therefrom, and declares indeed, that no person worth ten chalders victual of yearly rent should build more than one dovecot upon the bounds foresaid, that is to say, upon the 10 chalders of vitual, to which only the words can by any rule or construction be referred, especially as it is impossible to give a good reason why the two miles should be here attended to, or why a person should be intitled to as many dovecots, as he had ten chalders of victual of rent, providing only they be discontiguous, and yet another person having double the property, should be intitled only to one because his estate happened to ly contigue and compactly together.

As the issue of the cause is now put upon the construction of the Act of Parliament the Charger shall not take up your Lordships' time in refuting any extraneous matter that was thrown out before the Ordinary, only he must observe, that it is not fair in the Suspender to allege that the pigeon-house, as he has within a mile or little more near fifty chalders of victual, whereof the laboured lands begin within a few yards of his pigeon-house. Upon the whole therefore it is humbly hoped that your Lordships will repel the reasons of Suspension and find the letters orderly proceeded.

In respect whereof, etc.,
Ro. Dundas.

28th January, 1751

Information for Alexander Brodie, Esquire, Lord Lyon, in the suspension of his instance against Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun.

The Parish of Kinneddar is wholly the property of Sir Robert Gordon and Lord Lyon. Sir Robert's lands in that parish are about 60 chalders yearly rent; Lord Lyon's estate in that parish pays about 30 chalders,

being perhaps as good corn land as is in Scotland, generally producing wheat, barley, pease, and beans. Betwixt the two estates there lyes a barren muir, of a pretty large extent, belonging to Sir Robert Gordon and Lord Lyon, but distinctly divided and marched.

Sir Robert has already three pigeon-houses in the Parish of Kinneddar, viz., one at his house of Gordonstoun, another at a windmill about half a mile distant from the former and a third at Ballormie, which is not above 5 or 600 yards from the best of Lord Lyon's corn fields, where the pigeons daily haunt, being the nearest cornfield to that pigeon-house.

Not satisfied with these three pigeon-houses and a fourth in the Parish of Duffus at no great distance from the others, Sir Robert has thought fit lately to gein the erection of a large double pigeon-house of 36 feet long and 18 feet wide containing about 2000 pigeon holes; and the place he has chosen for its situation is remarkable. It is erected upon the farther end of the barren muir above mentioned close to Lord Lyon's march and to his corn fields, at least a full half mile, excepting only some new piece of ground lately taken off the muir by poor people, Sir Robert's tenants, of which the rent is no more than 14 bolls and 16 L Scots.

Sir Robert has no Mansion House or policy within a mile of this new erection; and the whole circumstances of the case make it evident that the place of this new pigeon-house is purposely chosen, in order that the pigeons may be wholly maintained out of the Lord Lyon's corn fields. Having this view of the matter, the Lord Lyon thought it necessary to bring a bill of suspension of this new building, founding upon the 19th Act, P. 1617 prohibiting any person to build a dovecote unless he has 10 chalders victual of yearly rent and where one dovecote is already built, prohibiting the proprietor to build another within 2 miles thereof. The Bill was past, and the suspension coming to be discust before the Lord Elchies Ordinary, his Lordship is to report the debate and by his appointment this information is humbly offered in behalf of the Suspender.

The Suspender shall only further observe in point of fact, that the new intended pigeon-house above mentioned situated within the same parish, viz., the pigeon-house at Gordonstoun, that at the windmill, and that at Ballormie; and therefore in his apprehension is expressly prohibited by the above mentioned Statute. In the preamble of that Statute is set forth the great inconvenience sustained by the lieges of this realm thro' the frequent building of dovecotes by all manner of persons in all the parts thereof. To remedy this inconvenience, two things are ordained. 1 mo. That none build a dovecote except the builder have lands and tiends pertaining to him extending in yearly rent to 10 chalders victual, next adjacent to the said dovecote at the least lying within two miles of the same. The second thing ordained: that it shall noways be lawful to the person foresaid, worth in yearly rent the foresaid 10 chalders victual to build more dovecotes upon and within the bounds foresaid except one dovecote only.

The sense of these regulations is sufficiently clear. It being the intention of the Legislature to repress the multiplicity of dovecotes it is enacted 1 mo: That no person shall be allowed to build who has not at least 10 chalders of victual within two miles of the dovecote. And 2 do: That no person tho' he has ten chalders of victual shall be allowed to build two dovecotes within 2 miles of one another. By this rule Sir Robert Gordon cannot have the authority of this court to proceed in his building because he has already three pigeon-houses within 2 miles of the one projected.

The procurators for Sir Robert endeavour to give a different construction to the Statute. They contend that for ten chalders of victual rent Sir Robert is intitled to build a pigeon-house; and therefore that he is intitled to build no fewer than 6 pigeon-houses upon the lands he has within the parish, the rent of which is 60 chalders of victual. They deny, that one is prohibited to build 2 pigeon-houses within 2 miles of one another; but only that he is prohibited to build above one pigeon-house within the bounds of the particular ground which pays him 10 chalders of victual. And accordingly they interpret the prohibitory clause: to build more dovecotes upon and within the bounds foresaid except one dovecote only to mean not the bounds foresaid of two miles but the bounds foresaid of ten chalders of victual. But this ingenious contmment will never pass for 1st mo. The prohibition to build within the bounds foresaid cannot relate to the estate, which pays ten chalders of victual, because the Statute does not require that the dovecote be built within the bounds of the estate but only that it is built within the bounds of the estate but only that it is built within 2 miles of it. 2 do. If the bounds here related to the ground paying 10 chalders of victual, it would provide no regulation at all for suppressing the multiplicity of dovecotes. The reason is obvious; for if the limitation reached only to prohibit the building more than one dovecote within the bounds of the ground, which pays 10 chalders of victual, then it follows that if a man has a Barony or tenement which pays him 10 chalders of victual and afterwards makes a purchase of any small bit of ground he may build one dovecote within the bounds of the 10 chalders and 50 more if he please upon his new purchase. This

cannot be the sense of the Act; and therefore the Suspender's construction must be embraced; which is agreeable both to the spirit and letter of the Law.

The first prohibitory clause is of itself sufficient to restrain the building of more than one dovecote upon an estate which pays 10 chalders of victual rent; so that the second clause if it mean anything must mean something different, which is plainly this that if a dovecote is once erected in virtue of the qualification in the Statute, the proprietor of that dovecote cannot build another within two mile of it.

It was observed on behalf of Sir Robert, that it would be an unreasonable construction to give a man who has 30 or 40 chalders of victual no more liberty of building dovecotes than he who has only ten. But the obvious answer is, that it is impossible to square matters of this kind by strict mathematical rules. The intention of the Statute was to put a stop to the growing nuisance of multiplying pigeon-houses without end, which is done in a rational manner by the two regulations above mentioned. If pigeons could be confined within the bounds of the proprietor's lands the argument would be solid. But when pigeons cannot be confined, the only way to repress the multiplicity of dovecotes is to prohibit them to be built within certain distances of one another.

There is a separate consideration drawn from the peculiar circumstance of this case which appears to be a sufficient ground for the suspension abstracting altogether from the Statute. For how does the case come out? A gentleman who has 60 chalders of victual rent, chuses to erect a pigeon-house, not within his own corn fields but at the greatest distance from it, with the sole view, that his pigeons should be entirely a burden upon his neighbours. This is a nuisance which is fit to be represt by law. A land holder who builds a dovecote near his dwelling house or in the middle of his corn fields cannot prevent his pigeons from preying sometimes upon his neighbours, and this must be suffered if pigeon-houses are at all allowed. But it is a very different case to situate a pigeon-house so as to free the proprietor of the burden of maintenance, and to lay the whole upon his neighbours. This is certainly a wrong which ought to be represt by law. It cannot be controverted that Sir Robert has many spots to build more commodious for his pigeons, where his own corn fields ly all around; instead of which he builds upon the extremity of a barren muir where he has only some spots of tilled ground lately torn out and which probably will not long bear oats worth the labour or paying rent for; and if this should happen his pigeons will not have a single grain to pick but upon the Suspender's fields.

In respect whereof, etc.,
HENRY HOME.

Extracted from R. Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp.29-35.

Sir Robert Gordon won the case on the basis that a landowner could erect a doocot for every yearly rental of 10 chalders of victual he possesses.

An account held in the Aberdeen University Special Collections library indicates that Gordon fell out with his other neighbours only two years later; 'State of the process Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun, Bart. Against William, Lord Braco, and Archibald Dunbar of Newton, 2 July 1753', Ref. In pi f 347911 Con 14. See also Brodie Papers, NRA 770 (microfiche), Box 26, Bundle 3 for Kinneddar papers '1750 erection of Smithfield'.

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

PIGEON AS A CULINARY PURSUIT

The following are extracts from a variety of published sources relating to pigeon as a source of food from culinary perspective.

The extracts are important since they demonstrate that,

i) pigeons were a source of food from early times,
ii) pigeons were only a part of wider meat eating diet for the upper classes,
iii) all types of other birds were eaten at one time,
iv) meat eating was once a status symbol,
v) pigeons were a luxury poultry food, but not considered a gaming 'delicacy',
vi) eggs do not appear to have been eaten,
vii) young pigeons were always preferred,
viii) pigeons were sometimes daily fare and usually used to boost banqueting occasions,
ix) a great variety of recipes existed, although roasting remained the most common method,
x) dietary changes occurred, albeit slowly, throughout the centuries leading up to the agricultural revolutions, urbanisation, industrialisation and large scale importing,
xi) the meat-eating diet altered dramatically in the nineteenth century.

- From O. Geddes, The Laird's Kitchen, (Edinburgh, HMSO, 1994):

Chapter 1 - **Extracts from Account of the Earl of Angus' Household**, 1608'

p.1, In mid sixteenth century, Italians led the way in culinary expertise, although French not far behind.

p.4, Lairds eating copious amounts of meat by seventeenth century. Poultry eaten on a daily basis. Most meat cooked by roasting, although inferior meat boiled in a cauldron. Could be preserved by pickling, drying, salting, smoking.

p.7-10, "*Chickens and capons ... standard fare for the family. When there were visitors, a much greater variety of fowl was served ... rabbits also a luxury ... luxury food made acceptable gifts.*" (Luxury foods also often used as medicines).

Chapter 2 - **'Extracts from the Sutherland Papers 1683-1712"** NLS, Dep. 313/503, Dunrobin.

p.25, "*Game was served seasonally at Dunrobin, and then only rarely ... Much more common are the pigeons from the doocot and the rabbits from the links brought in by the tenants. Treated as delicacies, as in the Earl of Angus' Household in 1608, these asmilas were usually served roasted.*"
Greater English influence after 1660 ... new foodstuffs, more adventurous cooking methods, more sophisticated eating implements.

Chapter 3 - **'Extracts from Fletcher of Saltoun Papers 1688-1716'**, NLS, MSS 17854-5.

p.35, Mentions family buying pigeon pies from an Edinburgh baker, "*stewed pigeons, preferably tame, were 'soberly' simmered for an hour and a half in a sauce of claret, bacon, onions and spices thickened with breadcrumbs*".

Chapter 4 - **'Extracts from Murray of Ochtertyre Papers 1737-39'**, NLS, MS 21106

p.50, "*In the early autumn of 1738, the Ochtertyre doocot provided numerous meals. During September and October over a hundred and eighty pigeons were received with the comment 'from the doocot'. Pigeon pie, requiring no fewer than twelve pigeons for each pie, was a favourite served weekly. Highly seasoned with nutmeg and cloves as well as salt and pepper, these pies were sealed with butter to aid preservation. Between pies, pigeons appeared on the table variously roasted, boiled or potted.*"
Wealthy estates had ice houses by the eighteenth century.

p.55, Ochtertyre, in Perthshire, seems to have been a "... *well-to-do, but not extravagant, Scottish Baronial household*". Poultry of one sort or another on the table every day. Delicacies, e.g. partridge, woodcock, were served, but not on a daily basis. Servants were not served good meat.

Chapter 5 - **Extract from various Edinburgh accounts 1752-8.**

Although city dwellers did not have direct access to livestock, the diet of the well-off Scottish town dweller remained meat dominated.

Chapter 6 - **Extracts from Malcolm of Burnfoot Papers 1782-1813**, NLS, Acc.6684/4.

p.80, The oven recipe books, "... *show very little interest in either fish or game*".

p.83, Sings of an influx of foreign foods and "... *innovations in eating habits in Scotland at the turn of the eighteenth century*".

Chapter 7 - **Extracts from Walker of Bowland Papers 1836-60,** NLS, MS 14051

Meat still important (but no record now of pigeons). Meat easily available from butcher shops and/or markets. Vegetables, fruits, desserts increasingly important to the diet.

Chapter 8 - **Extracts from Andrew Stewart's Scottish Cookery Book,** (Edinburgh and Glasgow), 1878.

p.104. "*The nineteenth century was an era of considerable change in food habits ... as in so many other aspects of British life and culture. Dining habits had been relatively static for centuries.*"

• O. Geddes, pers. comm., 3/8/95. "*I came across numerous references to pigeons from the doocot in estates archives ..... Food had a symbolic significance.*"

• From C. Anne Wilson, Food and Drink in Britain, from Stone Age to Recent Times, (London: Constable, 1973).

p.120, "*The dinners of the nobility and gentry, who kept large households and entertained guests, were served in two main courses, each made up very largely of meat dishes, unless it was a fasting day. The menus that have survived show that it was rare for the meat of any type of animal to appear more than once in a course, or indeed in a meal. By serving birds in all their diversity, it was possible to avoid any hint of repetition. Even at everyday meals in a household of moderate size, foul were usually part of the fare*". Just about any bird type eaten, mosted roasted.

p.121, Referring to the day book of Dame Alice de Bryene, May 1413, "*At her house pigeons appeared on the menu on almost every meat day during the summer, as they did at all manors which had their own dovecotes*".

p.126, "*The medieval dependence upon birds for food waned as fresh animal meat became more plentiful, better in quality and above all, a regular item of diet through the winter months ... the less palatable of the wild birds were gradually abandoned.*"

p.128, "*Pigeons were still eaten in great numbers, though not perhaps on quite the same scale as in the medieval manorial household.*"

p.134, "*Pigeons were always popular and appeared in different guises. By the eighteenth century they could be braised, fricasseed, jugged, boiled with bacon, in a hole (i.e. in a batter pudding, like toad-in-the-hole), and transmogrified, which meant that each bird was tucked inside a large hollowed cucumber, with its head and legs sticking out each end, and a bunch of barberries in its bill by way of decoration. More simply, pigeons and sparrows too, were rolled up in paste and boiled as dumplings. Pigeon dumplings were a well-loved dish in Scotland ... When potting became fashionable in the mid seventeenth century, pigeons were among the first birds to be chosen for the new treatment. Sir Kenelm Digby's recipe, "To bake pigeons (which are thus excellent, and will keep a quarter of a year) or teals, or wild-ducks, has them baked in a pot for eight to ten hours in claret wine and butter, and then butter-sealed in their pot" .*"

p.135, "*Perhaps pickling was a safer way to preserve fowls ... pickles of a different kind were made from sparrows, squab-pigeons or larks.*"

"*Fowls were baked in pies to be eaten both hot and cold. The hot pies, most often of chickens or pigeons, followed in the medieval tradition, and the birds were well spiced, moistened with butter or marrow, and accompanied by fruits.*"

• C. Anne Wilson, pers. comm., 11/9/95, "*Obviously the adults would have been eaten in winter* [i.e. culled birds]".

• From I. Beeton, Book of Household Management, 1861, (1954 edn.), p.598, s.v. 'Poultry'.

Pigeon pie	2/3 pigeons	for 6-8 persons
Compote of pigeon	3 pigeons	6-7 persons - stewed - 1/2 hours cooking
Curry of pigeon	2 pigeons	4-5 persons - curry sauce - 1/2 hours cooking
Cutlets	3 pigeons	5-6 persons
Duchess	3 pigeons	5-6 persons
Grilled	2/3 pigeons	4-6 persons - 20 mins
Jugged	4 pigeons	4-6 persons
Potted		
Roasted	1 pigeons	2 people - 30 mins
Stewed	3 pigeons	5-6 persons - 35 mins
Olive	2 pigeons	4 persons - braised - 1 hour

p.87, Avoid "... *large dark legs being a sign of an old bird*".
Pigeon available all year, but best between March and September, i.e. squab. Usually roasted.
Average weight 5 ozs.
Time a bird can be kept before eating depends on (i) personal taste, (ii) weather, (iii) age of bird (but better sooner than later). Older birds kept longer but need more cooking.

• From M. Berry, Cookery Course, (London: Piatkus Ltd., 1991), p.81, "*When I was researching for a good pigeon recipe I found no less than 18 of them in an 18th century book called The Art of Cooking Made Plain and Easy. In those days they were plentiful and extremely popular. Most of the recipes start off by stuffing the 'belly' with fresh sweet herbs then slow roasting or casseroling them ... The cooking time will be much less if they are young birds*".

• From M. Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931.

APPENDIX SECTION 1 (ARCHITECTURAL)

LOST DOOCOTS OF MORAY

Errata

1.0 GRC SMR Ref: NH 212 702 states 'Site of a Dovecot'. This grid reference is to be found in the lottoral area of the Moray Firth.

2.0 Dalvey and Grangegreen

"... *good pigeon house, well-stocked. Mansion house has an extensive view of the Moray Firth, and the town and harbour of Findhorn*".

(Source: Niven Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p.381).

Although cited as a separate structure, this refers to Grange Hill (Dalvey) which is described by Robertson, s.v. 'Morayshire'.

APPENDIX SECTION 1 (ARCHITECTURAL)

Sites Investigated (Nothing Found)

This section contains notes pertaining to 41 sites which have been investigated for lost doocots, but no substantial evidence has been discovered.

The sites have been examined because at some time in their period, they were all part of the property of a significant landowner (generally, therefore, sites of former and existing castles, abbeys, monasteries, mansion houses and model farms).

This element of research was carried out for two reasons; firstly to complete the search for lost doocots in the Moray area, and secondly, to explore the statement that, in historic times, "*... every manorial estate in Europe maintained a loft to provide young birds for food*".[1]

Judging by the evidence within this Appendix Section, this assessment is a clear over-estimation. Even in the probable event that some of the sites within this section did, in fact, contain a doocot of some sort (and the research has simply failed to uncover the information) it is highly unlikely that every estate in Moray retained doves (doocots were generally deemed worthy of recording as part of the estate; e.g. maps, wills, deeds, sale adverts).

The investigative work, although it does not add positive data to the doocots of Moray, is included as an Appendix in order to provide information for future researchers regarding the extent of search already carried out.

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[1] Murton et. al., 'Ecological Studies', 1972, p.835.
Also, N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.7, stated, "*A dovecote was a feature of practically all ancient abbeys and monasteries in Scotland*" and p.11, "*It is very probable that in the past every Scottish castle possessed a dovecote*".
Paterson, 'Dowcattes', 1945, p.373, "*Wherever there is a sizeable old house, there will be found a dovecote, or the remains of one*".
Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland', 1887, p.417, stated, "*Almost every religious house must have had one*".

p.12 "*The choice of varieties in a flock of table-pigeons is not large ... there are three well known and proven sorts: Maltese, Mondains and Carneaux ... utility pigeons are thick set birds, having great breadth across the chest and width across the shoulder; bred to breed fast and continuously, extremely hard; solid stayers at home.*"

• N. Lewis, 'Extracted from: The Ornithology of Francis Willughby (1678); BHW, 19/4/93, p.66, "*Pigeons are far harder to concoct than chickens and yeild a melancholy juice ... To us, it seems most savoury, and if we may stand to the verdict of our palate, comparable to the most esteemed*".

- Further reading as cited by above authors:

The Account Book of Sir John Foulis of Ravelston 1671-1707.
A. Allardyce, Scotland and Scotsmen in the 18th Century, 1888.
Dr. Boorde, A Dyetary of Helth, 1542.
C. Brown, Scottish Regional Recipes, Glasgow, 1981.
E. Cleland, New and Easy Method of Cookery, Edinburgh, 1755.
J. Colville, ed. The Ochtertyre House Booke of Accompts 1737-39, Scottish History Society, Edinburgh 1907.
K. Digby, The Closet Opened, 1669, 1910 edn.
M. Dod, The Cook and Housewife's Manual, Edinburgh, 1826.
F. J. Furnival, The Boke of Nurture, Early English Text Society.
C. Geissler and D.J. Oddy, eds., Food, Diet and Economic Change Past and Present, Leicester and London, 1993.
H. Glasse, Art of Cookery, London, 1747.
A. Hope, Caledonian Feast, Mainstream, Edinburgh, 1826.
N. Lyon, Chicken and Game, Faber, 1964.
S. MacIver, Cookery and Pastry, 1782, third edn.
I. Macleod, Mrs McLintock's Receipts for Cookery and Pastry-Work of 1736, Aberdeen University Press, 1986.
A. H. Millar, ed. Glamis Book of Record, Scottish History Society, 1799.
H. D. Renner, The Origins of Food Habits, 1944.

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

ACCOUNTS FROM HOPETOUN HOUSE (NEAR EDINBURGH) HELD IN SRO

Table recording the number of pigeons supplied per week between 1718-1813.

	1718-9	1754-5	1755-6	1784-5	1812-3
J1					
8					
15					
22					
29					
F5					
12					
19					
26					
M5					
12					
19					
26	12				
A2	52		24		
9	76		13		
16	42	19	110	18	
23	2	29	49	72	30
30	30	64	72	24	16
M7	72	220	48	30	
14	42	42	66	41	8
21		28	76	84	24
28	16	132	84	88	8
J4	10	42	66		24
11		86	36	18	
18		66	6	48	
25				30	
J2				54	
9				24	
16				12	
23					
30	7				
A6	12				
13	5			6	
20	72			13	
27	32	13		12	24
S3	13	52		84	12
10	109	168		23	20
17	42	23		18	36
24	10	26	71	17	24
O1	42	29	180	36	
8		68	42	127	
15	16	68	17	36	
22	32	57			
29		76	18		
N5			66		
12			42		
19					
26					
D3					
10					
17					
Totals	717	1308	1086	932	226

The table illustrates a concentration of pigeons eaten around May and again around September. No birds are eaten between November and March and few are eaten around July.

The totals for each year indicate a peak period in the 1750's, with a rapid tailing off in the early nineteenth century.

Source: Hopetoun House records, SRO

1718-9, MS: Vol. 233
1754-5, MS: Vol. 234
1755-6, MS: Vol. 232
1784-5, MS: Vol. 357
1812-3, MS: Vol. 362.

(Monthly figures also published in Robertson's, 'Pigeons as a Source of Food', 1988, pp. 97-8)

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

ACCOUNTS FROM CLAREMONT HOUSE, ALLOA, HELD IN SRO

Account book of eating, "... *sheep, cattle, porkers, fouls, pigeons and game ... from the farm*".

Pigeon Accounts

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
1830	0	0	0	130	68	61	8	50	104	62	57	0	478
1831	0	0	0	52	99	60	0	82	108	117	20	0	426
1832	0	0	0	78	119	40	3	89	159	145	19	0	652
1833	0	0	0	58	107	64	0	70	102	111	20	0	502
1834	0	0	0	61	77	34	7	92	141	96	0	0	510
1835	0	0	1	97	87	14	5	27	137	130	43	0	328
1836	0	0	0	18	81	73	8	29	97	34	20	0	360

The above table shows that virtually no pigeons were eaten during the winter months of December, January, February and March. Numbers are low again in July.

Meat Accounts

	Sheep	Cattle	Porkers	Fowls	Pigeons
1830	45	14	9	290	478
1831	42	13	8	220	426
1832	41	13	10	256	652
1833	19	8	11	268	502
1834	26	15	15	269	510
1835	26	11	15	275	328
1836	37	3	19	255	360

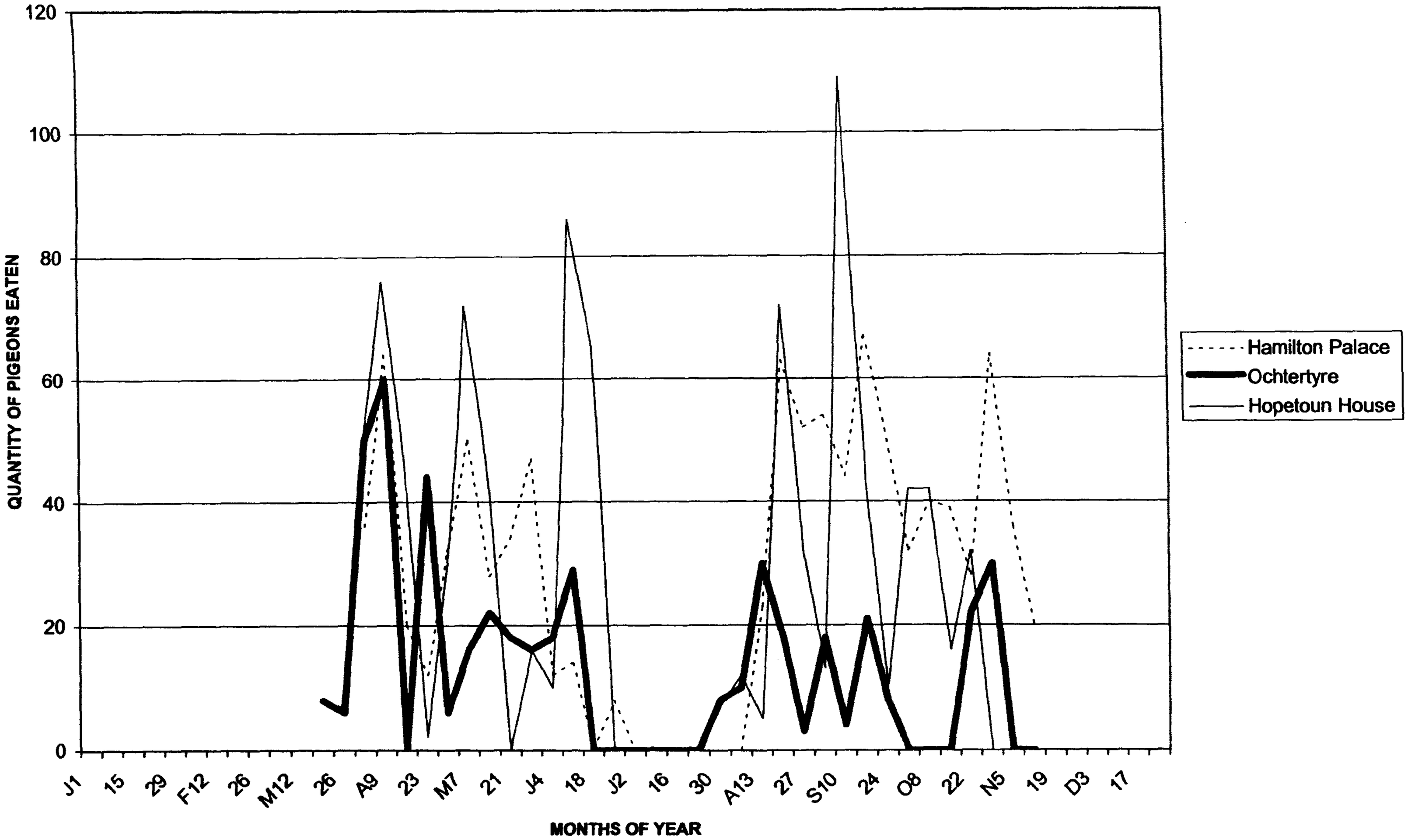
The above table shows that almost twice as many pigeons as chickens eaten annually by the household, until a sharp decline in the mid 1830s (coinciding with an increase in pork).

Game eaten mostly beginning of year and end - no intake during April to June - fouls generally steady all year (layoff June/July). Ditto rabbits.

Source: Erskine, Earls of Mar and Kellie, Claremont House, Alloa, SRO GD/24/17/427

(So far as ascertained, the above information has not bee previously published)

Table of number of pigeons supplied per week during 1702-39 to households of three important landowners in Scotland (Fig. 9.7)



APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

ALTERNATIVE HISTORIC USES OF DOVES AND PIGEONS (other than for food)

Literary evidence reveals that doves and pigeons were kept for a variety of reasons other than food. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, various husbandry writers, such as Henry Stephens, John Sinclair, John Claudius Loudon and William Elllis, commented upon the value attached to pigeon dung as a source of **fertiliser**. Thomas Hitt was another who praised its merits in his recommendation that "*...a pigeon house would be of great advantage upon a farm of barren land; their dung makes very great improvement*".[1] In earlier times, pigeon dung was exploited creatively for all its worth: Buxbaum noted that it was used, "*...in dyeing cloth and as part of the leather **tanning process***";[2] it was mixed with earth and lime to form saltpetre for making **gunpowder** (and a Charles I law forbade owners "*...to pave any pigeon houses.. or to floor them with anything other than good mellow earth*"[3]); Berkeley documented some of the work of physicians, who used pigeon dung in a variety of concoctions, to cure fevers, baldness and headaches. Some of the concoctions described by Berkeley as, "*...fearful... and strongly exhibiting the cruel superstitions of the time*",[4] appear today as somewhat anecdotal, but the sixteenth century author Dr. Boorde declared that, "*...the chefe physycke .. doth come form the kytchyn*".[5] Francis Willughby also documented that the pigeon itself was well-utilised for **medicinal purposes,** often in an apparently gruesome manner, for such cures and defences against ills such as the plague, palsy, fevers and poisons.[6]

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[1] T. Hitt, Treatise of Husbandry, (London: Richardson & Webb, 1760), p. 146. The use of doves and pigeons for fertilising the soil was, meanwhile, the primary purpose for keeping them in Persia and Egypt. See J. Hornell, 'Egyptian & Medieval Pigeon Houses', Antiquity, 84, (Dec., 1947), pp.182-5. Much the same can be said for parts of Greece, for example, the island of Tinos still has 1,000 pigeon houses scattered amongst the fields and some, with their flat roofs, whitewashed walls and array of triangular niches, are "... *more elaborate than the modest dwellings of their owners*", Konstantin Mathey, 'Peristerones', Architectural Association Quarterly, vol. 9, No. 4 (1979), pp. 15-25, (p. 16).
See also 'Pigeon Towers' on www.anglia.ac.uk. "*They are found in vast numbers in Isfahan... all built for the sake of dung .. used to grow melons and cucumbers.*"

[2] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 5. The dung was used to remove hair from pelts and also "*...to bring on a slight degree of putre faction in skins that are to be used for making soft leather; for this purpose the dung is diffused through water*". J. C. Loudon, Encyclopaedia of Gardening, (London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown & Green, 1830), p.240.

[3] N. Suffield-Jones, 'Dovecotes and Gunpowder', Surrey Architectural Collections, vol. 3, (1966), pp. 175-6, (p. 176). This activity was not prolonged since saltpetre was soon to be imported on a large scale from the Middle East.
See also, Moore, Columbarium, 1735, p.24.

[4] Berkeley, 'Dovecotes of Worcestershire', 1903, p. 348. For example, "*The manure of the birds beaten up with watercress is good against megrins and apoplexies, the falling of hair, and discusseth diffusion on the knees*".

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[6] J. Ray, Ornithology of Francis Willughby, London, 1678. Although Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', p. 29 observed in 1961 that '*such beliefs have not died out*' in the Mediterranean regions. Twentieth century use of doves and pigeon for medicinal purposes have generally confined it to the scientist's laboratory (particularly to research the field of genetics).
N. Lewis, 'Extracted from: The Ornithology of Francis Willughby (1978)', 1993, p.66.
"*They say that the eating of pigeon's flesh is of force against the plague; insomuch that they who make it their constant orordinary good are seldom seized by pesilential diseases. Others commend it against the palsie and trembling. Others write, that it is of great use and advantage to them that are dim-sighted or have weak eyes. The flesh of young pigeons is restorative and useful to recruit the strength of such as are getting up, or newly recovered from some great sickness. The dung is very hot from the nitrous faculty (wherewith it is indued) and therefore burns and makes the skin red by attracting the blood. Hence it is in common use in cataclasms and plasters that purifie. Beaten and sifted and laid on with watercres seeds, it is good against old disease such as are the gout, megrim, turn-sick (vertigo or dizziness), old headache and pains in the sides, colics, apoplexies, lethargy, etc. It discusseth strumaes and other tumours (laid on with barley flour and vinegar) and cures the falling of hair (anointed) and colic (inclysters) and discusseth defluxions on the knees (applied with salt and oil). Inwardly it breaks the stone and expels urine. Give from a seruple to two seruples.*"
Yates, 'Manorial Pigeon-Houses', 1943, p.18 (probably quoting Willughby) states; "*A certain part of a live pigeon applied to the biting of a serpent, viper or rattlesnake, draws away the poison, and cures the sick, being renewed as often as the Pigeon dies..... The blood put warm into the eyes allways pain, cures blear eyes, and also green wounds ... Even the ashes of the feathers mixed with other weird ingredients in stated quantities. It stops bleeding in any part, being applied.*
Letter from Lord Haddington to Lord Ogilivy, SRO GD 16/34/132, "*.. it was not possible to get the pigions sooner otherrways they should have been sent this day, I have likewise sent a small quantity of a syrupe for your cold.*"

Despite these macabre applications, throughout the centuries doves have been kept for more **pleasurable purposes** and as early as Roman times, Pliny observed that, "*Many go to absurd extremes as pigeon-fanciers*".[7] Pre-reformation Monks were known to breed **fancy pigeons**, as was Mary Queen of Scots,[8] and nineteenth century parish ministers were especially fond of them: at least three wrote important works concerning pigeon keeping.[9] As a justification for keeping pigeons, the introduction to the Reverend Lumley's, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, is worth quoting in full:

> *It is the cultivation and pursuit of ideal beauty in its highest forms; it is the constant effort to approach a standard of perfection, impossible of attainment; it is progress, ever approaching completion, yet never completed, towards a beautiful shadow which ever and anon seems within reach, yet which is never grasped. It thus presents all the encouragement of success, with all the stimulus of failure; all the desire for greater perfection yet to be accomplished.*[10]

As well as fancy breeding, some have kept pigeons for reasons of **companionship**. "*In his loneliness .. with all that he ought to have had gone from him, the pigeons became the business and pleasure of his life*".[11] Others took pleasure from the pigeon's ability to 'home' and the sport of **racing** pigeons has occurred since the early days of domestication.[12] For example, "*Pigeon racing was well recognised in Palestine around 200-220 A.D. and bets were made upon the outcome of races*".[13]

The pigeon's ability to fly well and return to its original base featured frequently during Roman times at a time of celebration. Great events at the circuses and amphitheatres were opened with the **symbolic** release of doves, and spectators apparently dispatched pigeons home with the results of major races. Along with this, the homing ability of, "...*the pigeon has long been known to military strategists as one of the most effective means of liaison*"[14] and almost all early civilised races used it to further there martial efforts. Not surprisingly, the Roman legions relied heavily on pigeons for communications and it is also known that they were widely used as **messengers** during the Crusades, the Franco-Prussian War and the Great Wars of the twentieth century.[15] Moreover, until relatively recent advances in electronic communications, pigeons were employed in large numbers for postal communications during peacetime.[16]

Other reasons for keeping doves were the less humane activities of **owling, hawking and shooting** Owling was a pastime, "..*which enjoyed a brief vogue in the eighteenth century, [and] exploited the tendency of birds such as pigeons to mob owls in daylight*"; hawking, using pigeons in the field and dovecote pigeons as bait, was an ancient sport which remained popular with the British aristocracy until the end of the seventeenth century (and is still popular in the Middle Eastern countries); whilst the, "*introduction of*

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[7] Pliny the Elder, c. AD75, Natural History, p. 146.

[8] Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 33. Monks apparently developed many breeds of Toy pigeons whilst Mary Queen of Scots bred Barbs.

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[10] Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p. 1.

[11] J. H. Ewing, Daddy Darwin's Dovecote, (London: Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, c. 1880), p. 27.

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firearms in the seventeenth century made possible the wholesale shooting of every type of bird ... pigeon shooting matches in which the birds were released in one way or another became popular at the end of the eighteenth century ... this sport depended upon a steady supply of dovecote birds, often six to ten dozen being required for each match".[17]

Although the symbolic attributes of the dove itself were evidently embraced by various ancient civilised races, the British nobility also sought to exploit the legal right to keep them as much as anything else. The potential of the dove house itself, as a potent symbol of superiority, did not go amiss: "*In the sixteenth century its possession and its position marked the status of the family*"[18] and "*There was another class of tenants who had separate feus by themselves, for whom it was prescribed that they must have an 'honest mansion' ... and provide substantially built offices - barn, byre and dovecot*".[19] Eating copious amounts of flesh had become an indicator of wealth and status.[20] This aspect of **status** was further developed during the mid eighteenth to mid nineteenth centuries landscape garden movement and doocots were used as principal follies in manmade settings by eminent designers for important clients. For example, "*The contract for the erection of the first of two small ornamental buildings in the policies* [of the Dukes of Argyll] *... one was a dovecot a mile from the castle, centred on the oak walk and the old castle*".[21] Perhaps this need to reinforce domination in society also led to the rise of various **superstitions.** Such an allegation came from Leslie in 1814, when he suggested that those with the legal right to erect a doocot "*...interposed the terrors of superstition*" to prevent others erecting doocots and "*...cunningly laying hold of the advantage it may be presumed of some accidental circumstance to impress the belief which is not yet wholly effaced, that building of a dove-cot must occasion the landlady's death within the same year*".[22] Linked with superstition and folklore, the sixteenth century English author Gervase Markham highlighted an unusual, but practical, reason for keeping pigeons. Under his chapter entitled "*How the Husbandman shall judge and fore-know all kinde of weathers*", he wrote, "*.. if Pigeons shall come home late to the Dove-House ... certaine signes of raine, which will patiently follow*".[23]

Money has always, however, been a prime motivating factor behind the keeping of doves and pigeons. In Roman times, the financial value of pigeons was well-recognised with Varro and Columella referring repeatedly in their treatises to the profits to be made.[24] In sixteenth century England, the parishioners of Littleton Church in Worcester granted the minister authority to keep a 'columbarium' in the churchtower,

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in order to utilise the **profit** to fund the church's books.[25] Meanwhile, in eighteenth century Scotland, John Sinclair of Dysart decided to lease one of his doocots, ".. *ye square one for ye Tack Duties of twentie five shillings a year*", (although he noticeably reserved the dung for his own use).[26] The 1790's Statistical Account for Moray has repeated accounts of pigeons for sale at market for "*2d per pair*", which at the time was half the daily earnings of a female labourer.[27] The world record for a bird, however, was established in 1992 when £110,000 was paid for a homer.[28]

The over-riding impression given by historians, nevertheless, is that doves and pigeons were formerly kept for food. By 1903, Berkeley had established that "*In the growth of feudalism they grew, in the rise of the yeoman class they flourish, they give you an insight into the worth of these places as a means of subsistence*".[29] Brunskill's well-respected work on vernacular architecture revealed that "*Before the improved feeding stuffs simplified the problem of fattening stock through winter, pigeons and doves were considered a useful source of fresh meat*".[30] By the 1980s, Grant Peterkin felt that the matter was quite unequivocal: "*Of course the main reason for keeping pigeons was ro provide food for the wealthier people all year round, but especially in the winer months, when poor people often starved*" (see counter evidence in Chaps. 2.2.4 and 7.2.4).[31]

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[1] T. Hitt, Treatise of Husbandry, (London: Richardson & Webb, 1760), p. 146. The use of doves and pigeons for fertilising the soil was, meanwhile, the primary purpose for keeping them in Persia and Egypt. See J. Hornell, 'Egyptian & Medieval Pigeon Houses', Antiquity, 84, (Dec., 1947), pp.182-5. Much the same can be said for parts of Greece, for example, the island of Tinos still has 1,000 pigeon houses scattered amongst the fields and some, with their flat roofs, whitewashed walls and array of triangular niches, are "... *more elaborate than the modest dwellings of their owners*", Konstantin Mathey, 'Peristerones', Architectural Association Quarterly, vol. 9, No. 4 (1979), pp. 15-25, (p. 16).

See also 'Pigeon Towers' on www.anglia.ac.uk. "*They are found in vast numbers in Isfahan... all built for the sake of dung .. used to grow melons and cucumbers.*"

[2] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 5. The dung was used to remove hair from pelts and also "*...to bring on a slight degree of putre faction in skins that are to be used for making soft leather; for this purpose the dung is diffused through water*". J. C. Loudon, Encyclopaedia of Gardening, (London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown & Green, 1830), p.240.

[3] N. Suffield-Jones, 'Dovecotes and Gunpowder', Surrey Architectural Collections, vol. 3, (1966), pp. 175-6, (p. 176). This activity was not prolonged since saltpetre was soon to be imported on a large scale from the Middle East.
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APPENDIX SECTION 2 - HISTORICAL

COSTS OF PIGEON REARING

- Extract from 'Book of Petty Disbursements and of Particular Branches of the Family Expenses from June 1735', Monymusk Paper Section 1, item 43, cited in Hamilton, Life and Labour, 1946, p.19, s.v. 'An account of Poultry'.

To the Doves	*1st Dec 1735 to 1st Jan 1736*	*Bolls 0 Firlots 2 Pecks 2*	*4s 10 1/2d*
To the Doves	*1st Jan 1736 to 12thApril 1736*	*Bolls 1 Firlots 2 Pecks 2*	*12s 7 1/2d*
To the Doves	*April 1736 to Jan 1736*	*Bolls 1 Firlots 0 Pecks 0*	*7s 9 1/2d*

This information confirms that, on this north east estate, (i) birds were artificially fed, (ii) this occured for most of the year, (iii) additional feed was provided at the height of winter.

- OSA, s.v. 'Birnie', p.466. *"Pigeon 1d = 2 haddock".*
  s.v. 'Drainy', p.486. *"I have often thought that the destruction of grain by pigeons was much greater than commonly supposed. There are 4 pigeon houses here; each of which, at a moderate computation, consumes 20 bolls of corn annually."*
  s.v. 'Aberlour', p.61. *"Market price at Banff in 1748, 3 halfpence and in 1798, 6d".* (Cost of approx half day's labour for woman but price falling compared to other products, e.g. hen, haddock, goose.)
- Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, pp. 341-2, *".. the expense of building a pigeon house may be in the general estimated at nearly £50".* Previously Leslie had stated that birds, *".. sometimes sold in the market for about 3 pence or 4 pence per pair".*
  P. 341, *"... one gentleman feeds his pigeons in winter to the amount of nearly three quarters of barley, and he occasionally covers the floor of the dove-cot with a pretty thick layer of chaff."*
- Waterton, Essays on Natural History, 1857, p.109. *"Many farmers in this neighbourhood, by means of selling pigeon manure at eighteen pence per bushel, and by supplying the markets with young birds, realised a sum of twenty-five points sterling in the course of the year."* Waterton's father erected a new cote in the centre of his building complex yielding *".. 93 dozen of young pigeons in the course of one year".*
- G. Cooke, Complete English Farmer, c.1775 (courtesy of J. McCann) stated that feeding, *".. only necessary at the severest days of winter: for the pigeon is, at the most, but a small expence, and that for a very short time."*
- Cosh and Lindsay, Inveraray, 1970, p.128. *"The pigeon house to be built at the end of the Oak walk ..... For which, he is to be paid fourty Eight Pounds Ster."* [in 1747]
- Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p.12 gives detailed 'Expenses in building my Dovecot [William Shipman] at Bulcote - 1738' totalling around £50.
- Webb, 'Preceptory at Garway', 1844, p.191. *".. the work of a religious order* [Knights Templar]. *It is a Dove-cote of ample dimensions and peculiar constitution, in which no expense had been spared."*
- Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1935, p.94. Advert for squabs, 2/6 each. Breeders 25/- per pair from the Wharfdale Squab Farm, Coventry. *"We supply young squabs one of the finest table delicacies obtainable - they are delicious - have you tried them? Succulent, rich and tender suitable for dinner parties, excellent jellied for picnics, very nutritious for invalids."*
- N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.11. "*The rent of the old doocot on Glasgow Green in the 16th century was 5/8."*
- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.541 comments on American squab raising. *"For a number of years, they continued to be a delicacy which only the rich could afford ... until the great depression, 1929-1935, when squab prices dropped ... the outbreak of World War II had its natural impact upon the squab market."*
  p551, Levi worked out that, c.1950, average profit per pair was less than 5 dollars per annum.
- See H. Gordon-Slade, 'Doocot: Grandhome, Aberdeenshire', Vernacular Building, vol.14, (Edinburgh: SVBWG, 1990), pp.30-4 for a detailed 'Accompt of Money debursed in building the Dovecot 1709', extracted from the uncatalogued Paton of Grandhome papers.

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

REMOVAL OF BIRDS

Part of the ancient process of dove management includes removing birds (not their eggs[1]) from their abodes for various reasons; e.g. artificial selection, pairing, nursing, racing, displaying, culling, selling and eating. In the case of squab farming, this involves regular 'predation' of young birds for human consumption.[2] In the tall, vertical structures of old, temporary or permanent ladders were necessary to reach upper levels (some massive, foreign buildings have staircases) whilst twentieth century squabbing cotes are no higher than 2m to allow all nest sites to be easily accessed.

The young pigeons were probably collected in sacks or baskets. Whether they were killed on site or elsewhere is not clear, but it would have happened quickly after collection. "*Pigeons are better drawn directly they are killed. They are birds that do not improve by keeping*".[3] They did not, also, improve with age; "*As a pigeon grows old, so proportionately does its flesh become dryer and more solid, harder of digestion, and so fit to produce gross and melancholy humours.*"[4] The young birds, however, produce tender, succulent meat and have been highly regarded as luxury food, cooked in a variety of ways.[5] In earlier times, if a doocot produced surplus to the dietary requirements of the owner, he or she could take, "... *advantage of a not inconsiderable source of meat, by sending some of it to market.*"[6]

In the early decades of this century, "*Various methods are employed for killing, such as placing in a funnel ... and piercing the brain ... or dislocating the neck*".[7] The latter is, undoubtedly, a centuries'-old technique.

Birds would then have been taken for sale in baskets as livestock, but twentieth century progress allowed the birds to be killed, prepared and packed in ice for transportation by road or rail.[8] Nineteenth century adult birds would have been transported to shooting clubs in air-permeable sacks or baskets and released from traps, in pairs, to meet their fate.[9] Nowadays, racing pigeons are taken to their starting destinations in large transporter lorries and released simultaneously in their thousands, in the hope that they will find their way back quickly to their present owners.[10]

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[1] That is, unless they were broken or unhatched.
Herebachius, 1577, in Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p.121 explains the , "... *profit emanating from the pigeons themselves, not their eggs like hens*".

[2] The process of cramming has already been discussed (Chap. 2.5), and Mascall, Husbandlye Ordring, 1581, u.p., s.v., '...*flying abrode*', Chap. 60, described how in sixteenth century Britain, "... *some pluckes their feathers, some breakes their legges ... and some both bynde their legges [in order to fatten them and prevent them from flying off]... them yee must feede well their dams that they may nourish well their yong*". See also 'Of Turtle Doues', Cap. 70, re. cramming.
Cran, Making Dovecotes Pay, 1931,

[3] I. Beeton, Book of Household Management, (London: Ward, Lock & Co. Ltd., 1861), 1954 edn., p. 649. This suggests that birds progressed from the doocot to the table in a relatively short time.
p. 563, "*The pigeon fattens and wastes in the course of a few hours.*"

[4] Moore, Treatise of Domestic Pigeons, 1765, p. 45, quotes Lemery's, Treatise of Foods, n.d.
C. Waterton, Essays on Natural History, (London: Longman, Brown, Green and Roberts, 1857), p. 109, agreed that, "... *old pigeons were not in repute for the table*".
Yates, 'Manorial Pigeon-Houses', 1943, p. 18, wrongly asserted that most writers from the eighteenth century, "... *agree that it was not the most digestible meat*". He is probably confusing their notes on older birds with the squabs. p. 19. He also alleged that, "... *not only were the birds and their eggs desideratum, but the excrement was exceedingly available as a fertilizer*". There are, however, apparently no records of dove eggs being eaten. Unless otherwise stated (e.g. plover, quail etc.), 'eggs' in account books generally refer to those of hens.

[5] Robertson, 'Pigeons as a Source of Food', 1988, p. 92. "*The earlier eighteenth-century books included the more obvious methods of cooking pigeons such as roasting* [the most common technique], *stewing, boiling, pickling, potting, or baking in pies ... As the century wore on, the repetoire developed ... marinated, ... jugged ... in jelly ... into pottage*". In the main, servants did not receive squab meat. p. 89, notes that never any reference to 'dove pie', always pigeon (possibly since French 'pigon', from Latin 'pipio', means young dove)
M. Black, A Taste of History, (London: English Heritage, 1993), p.250, contains a recipe for '*jugged pigeons*'. "*The process of jugging goes back to medieval times when several pots and puddings would be economically cooked together in a large cauldron of boiling water.*"
Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p. 101 mentions that there are many early accounts to show pigeons as a luxury food forming part of the menu at banquets and Holy Day feasts.
See Appendix Section 3 for more details.

[6] J. Thirsk, Alternative Agriculture: History from the Black Death to Present Day, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997), p. 13, Footnote 32, p. 276, adds that, "... *in February pigeons fetched three or four times the price received in March.*"

[7] Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, pp.65-6.
p.65, "*.. squabs fit for killing varies from twenty five to fifty days*".
p.66, "*After killing, the birds must hang head down that all the blood may drain away ... Once the art is acquired a squab can be caught, killed and plucked clean, without any great mess, within five minutes ... best plucked while still warm .. thrown into a large vessel full of cold water.. helps whiten the skin and removes all dirt.. the head and lower half of the neck are not plucked. It is absolutely necessary to remove all squabs from the nest after the feeding hour on the afternoon previous to the killing. This allows the crop to be empty in the morning.*"
Anon, How to do just about anything, 1988, p.352. Plucking poultry best immediately after killing while still warm. (Whereas plucking game best after hanging for seven to ten days).

[8] Cran, Ibid. In the 1930s, squabs were selling at a bottom price of two shillings per squab. p.18 Believes that professionally fattened or 'crammed' squabs are not as delicate as parent-fed.

[9] For example, at the Hurlingham Club, London, an advert in Rules of Hurlingham Club (London: Horace Cox, 1888), for A.C. Offer, Pigeon Merchants of Hammersmith "*Imports the Best Lincolnshire Blue Rocks and other pigeons for shooting*". Two birds are let out at once in double shooting. Pigeons can be shot on the ground but 'no bird' is declared if one falls outside the boundary (normally 80-90 yards from trap). Shot birds were collected by dogs.

[10] Midgley, 'Flights of Fancy', 1994, p.7. "*If they do manage to return to the coop, it's an occasion for some rejoicing ... a bird belonging to fancier William Pope flew 5,500 miles to Beijing in China rather than 500 miles to his coop in Somerset*".

APPENDIX SECTION 2 - (HISTORICAL)

SUPERSTITIONS

- Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 196It was on 10th January, 1642, that the bailies of Old Aberdeen ... caused masons throw down to the ground the bishop's dovecot [the Bishop's Palace, St. Machar Cathedral] .. *while some thought was not sacrilegious, but yet evil was done, as others thought."*

  p.24 *"It was an old superstition and belief that, if the owners of a dovecote destroyed it, his wife would die within a year .. it was also believed that, if one built a new dovecote, the builder thereof would die within a year."*

  p.26 *"It was a prevalent belief ... that a person could not die easily if there were any pigeon feathers in the pillow or bolster of the bed."*
- Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813,p.342. *"It may be conjectured that in aid of this restraint the clergy during that period* [sixteenth century] *had interposed the terrors of supersitition, cunningly laying hold of the advantage it may be presumed of some accidental circumstance to impress the belief which is not yet wholly effaced, 'that building a dove-cot must occasion the landlady's death within the same year'."*
- Stewart Smith, Grange of St. Giles, 1898, p.109. *"It was a well-known prediction among them that if the dove-cot fell, the lady of the manor would die within the year."*
- P. and J. Hansell, Doves and Dovecotes, 1988, p.56, *"... several inducements, some ancient and some decidedly peculiar, were used to bind the birds to their home. Various herbs and spices were not only hung around the door and scattered inside the dovecote, but were also applied to the birds themselves. Another unsavoury and equally supersititious idea was to mix the boiled head and feet of a goat into an unpleasant mess which the birds were said to like."*
- Hansell, Pigeon in History, 1998, p.154, *"... a strange white pigeon hovering around a house was supposed to herald a death in the family .... On a more cheerful note the arrival of a strange bird in the dovecote was believed to bring good luck... A common belief held that those who slept on pigeon feathers would live to a ripe old age."*

APPENDIX SECTION 2 - (HISTORICAL)

EFFECT OF DOVE AND PIGEON ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Pigeon-hole construction	-	*"To save bricks in the cross walls, and also to admit of the free transmission of heat from one division to another, they might be built in what is called the pigeon hole manner, viz. each stretching course having alternate vacancies, by leaving out every other brick."* J.C. Loudon, Encyclopaedia of cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture, p.189.
Flap in the doocot	-	Scots expression for consternation. Similar to 'cat amongst the pigeons'.
Dove-eyed	-	having eyes expressive of meekness, tenderness or affection.
Dove's-foot	-	common native plant, so called because of its leaf shape resembling a dove's foot.
Dove-tail	-	manner of fastening timbers together by letting one piece, in the form of a dove's tail, spread into a corresponding cavity in another, so that it cannot be drawn out.
Dove-like	-	like a dove; innocent; simple.
Columbarium	-	sepulchre for the ashes of the dead consisting of recesses formed in walls; so called from the resemblance to dovecote nest recesses.
Pigeon-breasted	-	having a breast like a pigeon, caused by the curvature of the vertebral column forwards.
Pigeon-hearted	-	timid, easily frightened.
Pigeon-hole	-	a little compartment or division. (McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.105 refers to the Earl of Huntly pursuing Bishop Davie of Spynie and threatens to, "... *pull him from his pigeon-hole*").
Pigeon-livered	-	mild in temper, soft, gentle.
Pigeon-toed	-	having the toes turned in.
Pigeon-wing	-	a dance step performed by jumping and clapping the feet together.

Sources:
J. Ogilvie, Imperial Dictionary of the English Language, vols. 1-4, (London: Blackie and Son Ltd., u.d.).
Reader's Digest, Universal Dictionary, (London: Reader's Digest Association Ltd., 1986).
P. Hanks, (ed.), Collins Concise Dictionary Plus, (London: Collins, 1990).
G. Pride, Glossary of Scottish Building, (St. Andrews: Famedram Publishers Ltd., 1975) and revised edn. Dictionary of Scottish Building, (Edinburgh: Rutland Press, 1996).

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

NOTES FROM INTERVIEW NO. 1 WITH E. BEATON (AUTHOR OF DOOCOTS OF MORAY, 1978) ON 25/1/94

1.0 Professor Fenton says doocots an index of vernacular construction.

2.0 Cattle did not survive winters - not enough hay - beasts killed in October, salted and kept.

3.0 Turnips came late eighteenth century.

4.0 Doos were fresh meat but not for survival - Prerogative of landowners but no doubt surreptitious goings-on.

5.0 Older birds perhaps stewed but not put on best table.

6.0 1503 - law to encourage production - times of starvation - few written references - thatch a possibility, cave conversions etc. crude.

7.0 1617 - birds obviously causing a problem.

8.0 1751 - lawsuit in Laich of Moray - a wealthy agricultural land area.

9.0 Interest in cotes due to individualism, vernacular, agricultural, use of materials.

10.0 Not sure when (or if) cotes no longer vernacular - Grangehall perhaps built by literate tradesmen.

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

NOTES FROM INTERVIEW NO. 2 WITH E BEATON ON 14/2/94 - (REGARDING INTRODUCTORY PAGES OF DOOCOTS OF MORAY)

1.0 Norman introduction → definitely

2.0 Pigeons for sport → mid nineteenth century - illegal to shoot because dangerous? Ox. Dict.?

3.0 Consult Reading Poultry Bookshop.

4.0 Showed beeskep - Old practice of bee boles - south facing entrances on east - compare construction - same except ledges and oculus.

5.0 Pittendreich and Spynie - same builder, medieval - unique in her eyes - possibly deer park - King's brother - Darnaway association? Who occupied Spynie at the time? - comparable with North Berwick Abbey and Tantallon.
- Moray is ancient and arable.

6.0 Lectern - lends itself to slate - French influence, south not north - Auld Alliance throughout seventeenth century.

7.0 Eighteenth Century Rothiemurcus estate woods flourishing - floated down Spey.
- plenty wood in district throughout nineteenth century
- always wood for Royalty, e.g. Darnaway Hall
- plenty stone at all times throughout
- mechanised sawing → advent of timber boxes?
- nineteenth century - people travelling

8.0 Size of doors - waste room if large.

9.0 Suggest finding a payroll to repair doocot, i.e. when and how.
- says contradictory to keep pigeons in a farm block designed to farm grain, e.g. Invererne (only in Moray?) also Aden, Mountblairy, Hatton, Aberdour, c1800, Auchintool - brick boxes.

10.0 Thinks size of boxes related to limits of materials - not birds?

11.0 Stepping of ledges common (why?) in early lecterns, e.g. Haddo, Gight, Ackerdale.

12.0 See Beaton's Grampian Region field notes c1972/73.

13.0 Says grid references are accurate but check against listings.

14.0 Cavetto and bolection moulding on Craigston, Turriff.

15.0 Is diamond ventilation peculiar to Knockando and Leicheston (repaired 1973 by Banff Council).

16.0 Lesmurdie - 1832 stable range farm.

17.0 Orton - fairly original potence - restored 1987.

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

NOTES FROM INTERVIEW WITH R. QUY, CENTRAL SCIENCE LABORATORY, YORK, 30/7/98; SUBJECT – RAT DEVELOPMENT IN BRITAIN

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1. Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*)

Probably in Britain from Roman period c. AD 100 – originated from S. E. Asian forests. Prefers fruit, seeds, grain although will eat animal matter. Prolific climber, (arboreal creature, tends to occupy roof spaces if entering buildings). Can jump up to 150 cm diagonally upwards. Virtually extinct in Britain due to displacement by Brown Rat (found on one or two offshore islands).

2. Brown Rat (*Rattus norvegicus*)

Entered Britain circa 1730. Recorded in England 1728, London 1731 – originated from grass covered steppes north of Caspian Sea – spread through Britain via main ports. In most parts of England, by 1750's. First appeared in Scotland 1764. More of a true omnivore, well known to eat eggs, chicks and adult birds. Prolific burrower, voracious, larger than black rat. Can jump over 75 cm vertically, 120 cm horizontally, but primarily ground creatures.

3. Threat to Pigeons

Either would certainly enter doocot. Unlikely to be put off by human presence both nocturnal. (Black rat more easily disturbed by humans than Brown rat). Both would disturb birds, eat eggs. Brown rat would return repeatedly to doocot if any easy source of food (would probably damage actual doocot if built of clay, straw, timber).

4. Possible Deterrents

Very smooth plaster finishes. Ledge (at least 230 mm wide and 50 mm deep) around whole perimeter. Foundations at least 600 mm deep (returned at right angles out also by 300 mm). Doors at least 1 m above ground level. Building raised on legs. Cats and dogs.

5. Bibliographical References

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Harris, S. et al. — Review of British Mammals, JNCC, Peterborough, 1995.

Jenson, A. G. — 'Proofing of buildings against rats and mice', Technical Bulletin 12, HMSO, London, 1965.

Meehan, A. P., — Rats and Mice: their biology and control, Rentokil Ltd., East Grinstead, 1984.

McCann, J. — 'The Influence of Rodents on the Design and Construction of Farm Buildings in Britain to the Mid-Nineteenth Century', Journal of the Historic Farm Building Group, vol.10, 1996, pp.1-28.

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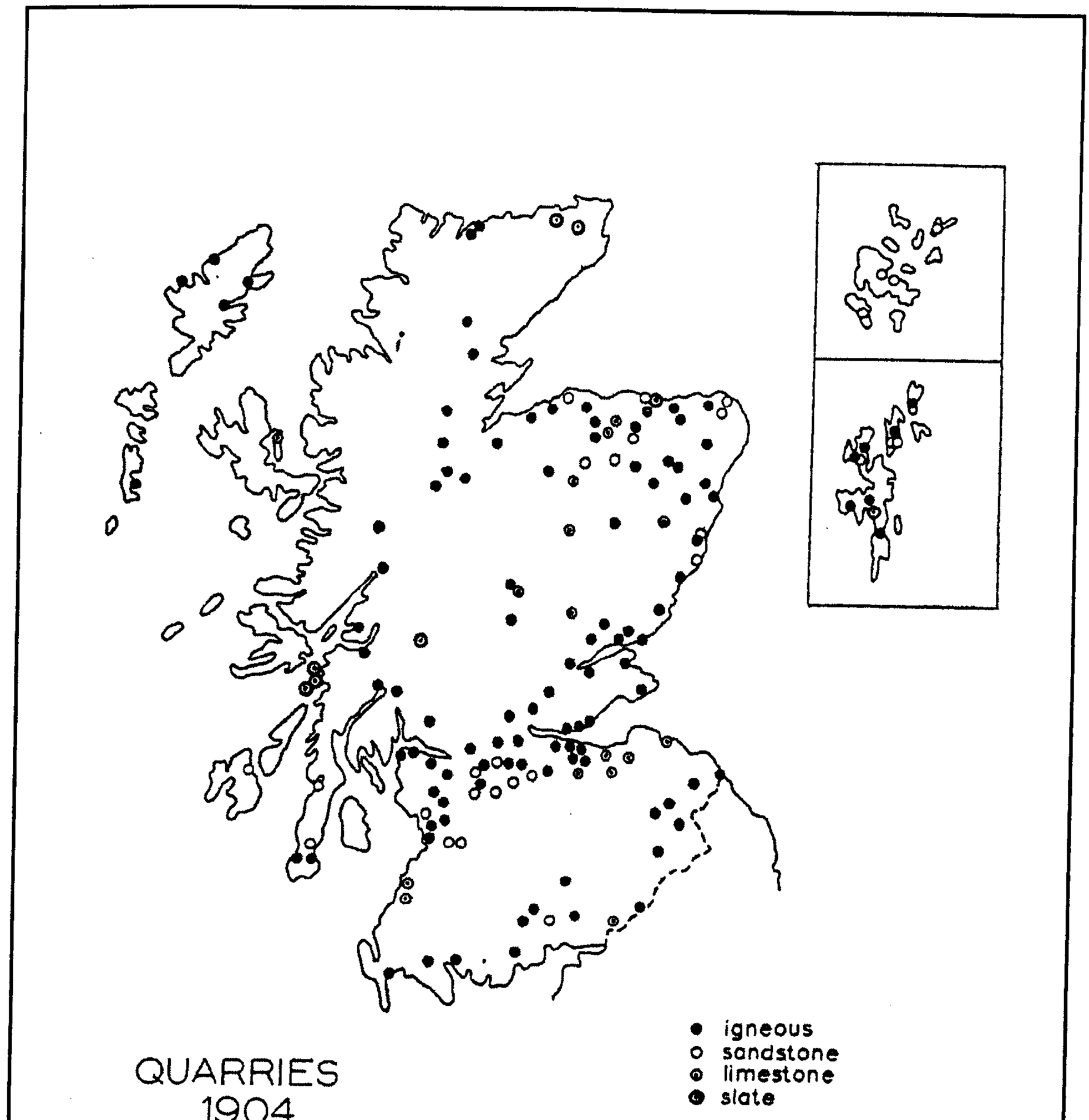
see Chaps. 2.3.3, 4.5, 6.3.9, 6.3.14, 7.3.3 and Appendix Section 3 s.v. 'predators'

APPENDIX SECTION 2 (HISTORICAL)

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS AND STRUCTURES IN SCOTLAND

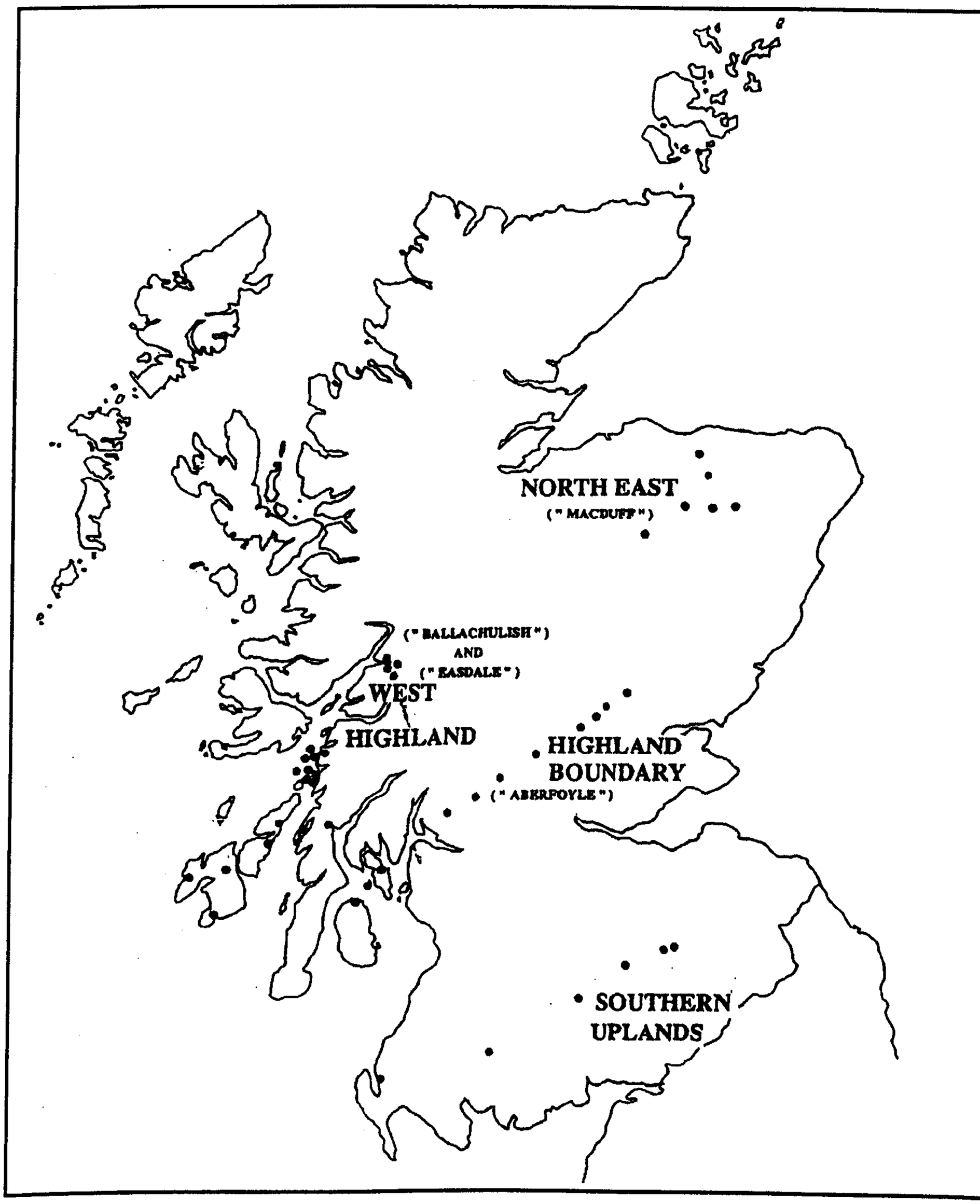
The following section includes several maps and illustrations which show the distribution of various materials and structures in Scotland, e.g. stone and slate quarries, bee boles and tower houses. These are presented alongside Scotland's bioregional zones and are included to supplement the information contained in Chap. 5.1 and support some of the interpretation within Chaps. 6 and 7.



Quarries of Scotland in 1904 (Fig. 9.5)

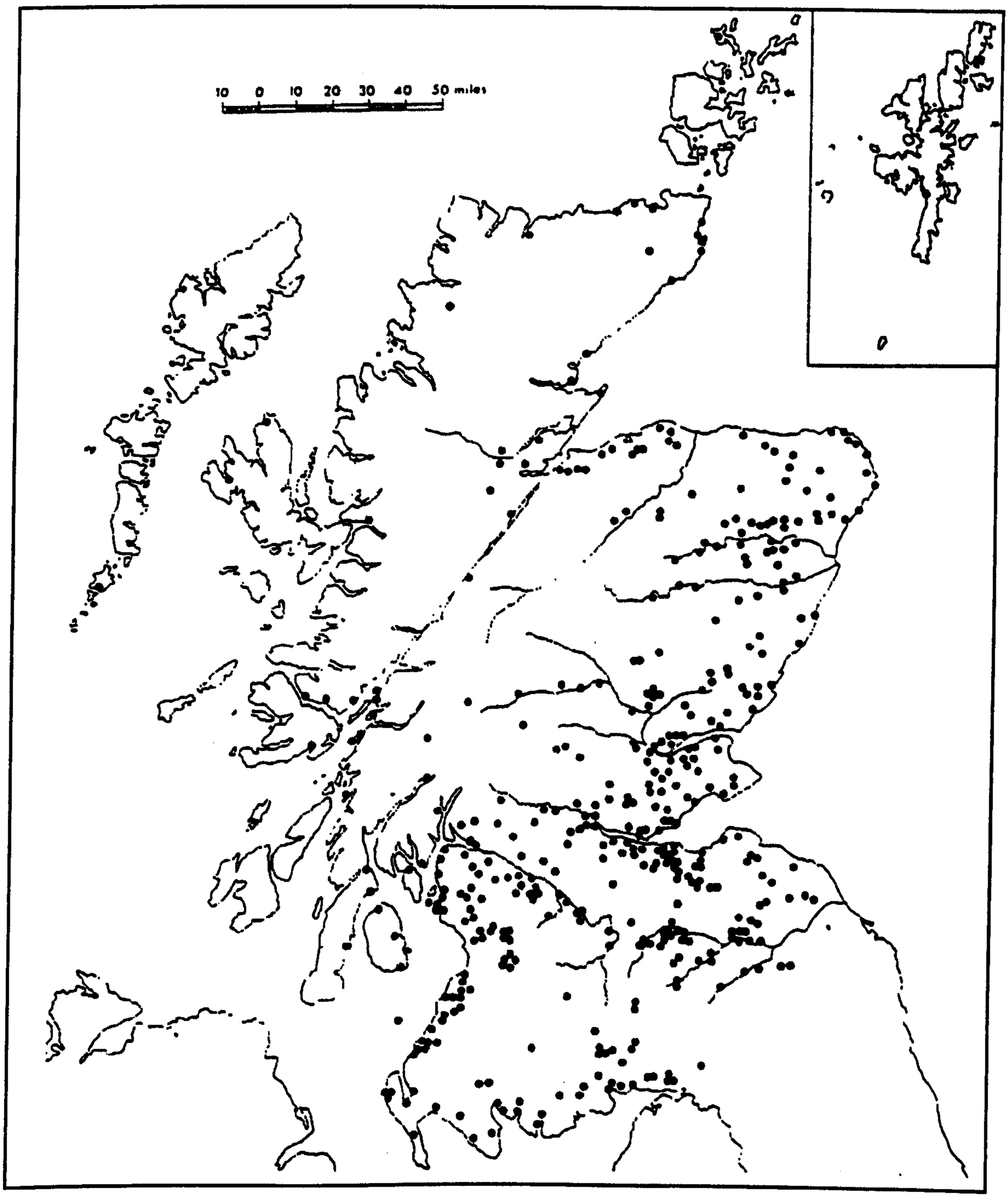
Map of Scotland showing surviving stone and slate quarries at the turn of this century. Even at this late period, Moray still contained a high proportion of sites, particularly sandstone, compared to other parts of Scotland.

(Source: Anon, Mining, Quarrying and Allied Industries, 1970, p. 96).



Scottish Slate Quarries (Fig. 9.6)

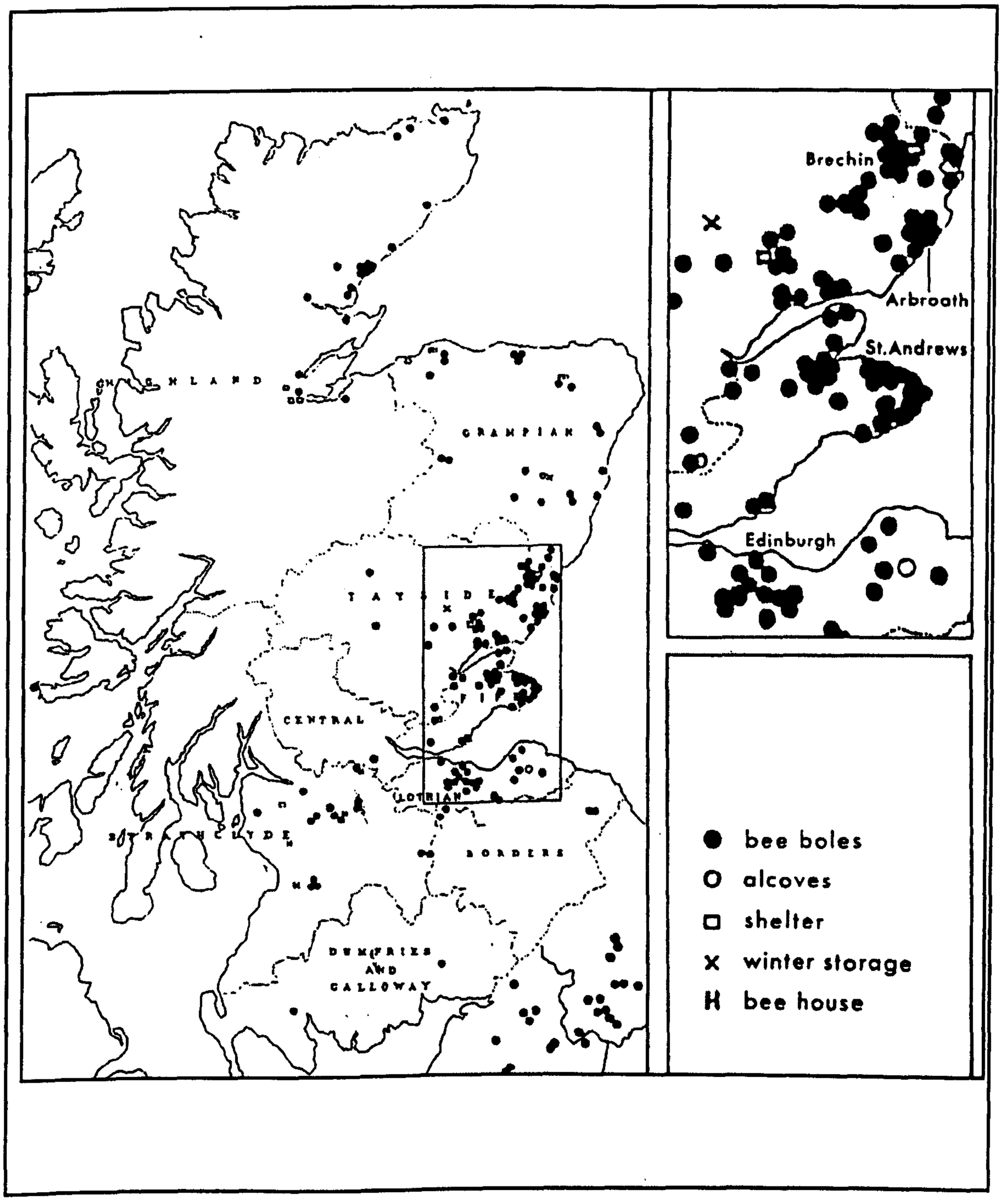
Map of Scotland showing the main sources of slate during the nineteenth century.
R Kent, 'Traditional Building Materials; Scottish Slate', Context, vol 5.2, (1997), pp 23-25, (p23). *"Throughout the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries over 200 quarries produced a wide variety of types and colours, from four main areas: the west coast quarries of Ballachulish, the 'Slate Islands'...., the 'slate Belt' and the slate outcrops of Banff/ Macduff."*



Distribution of Tower Houses in Scotland (Fig. 9.7)

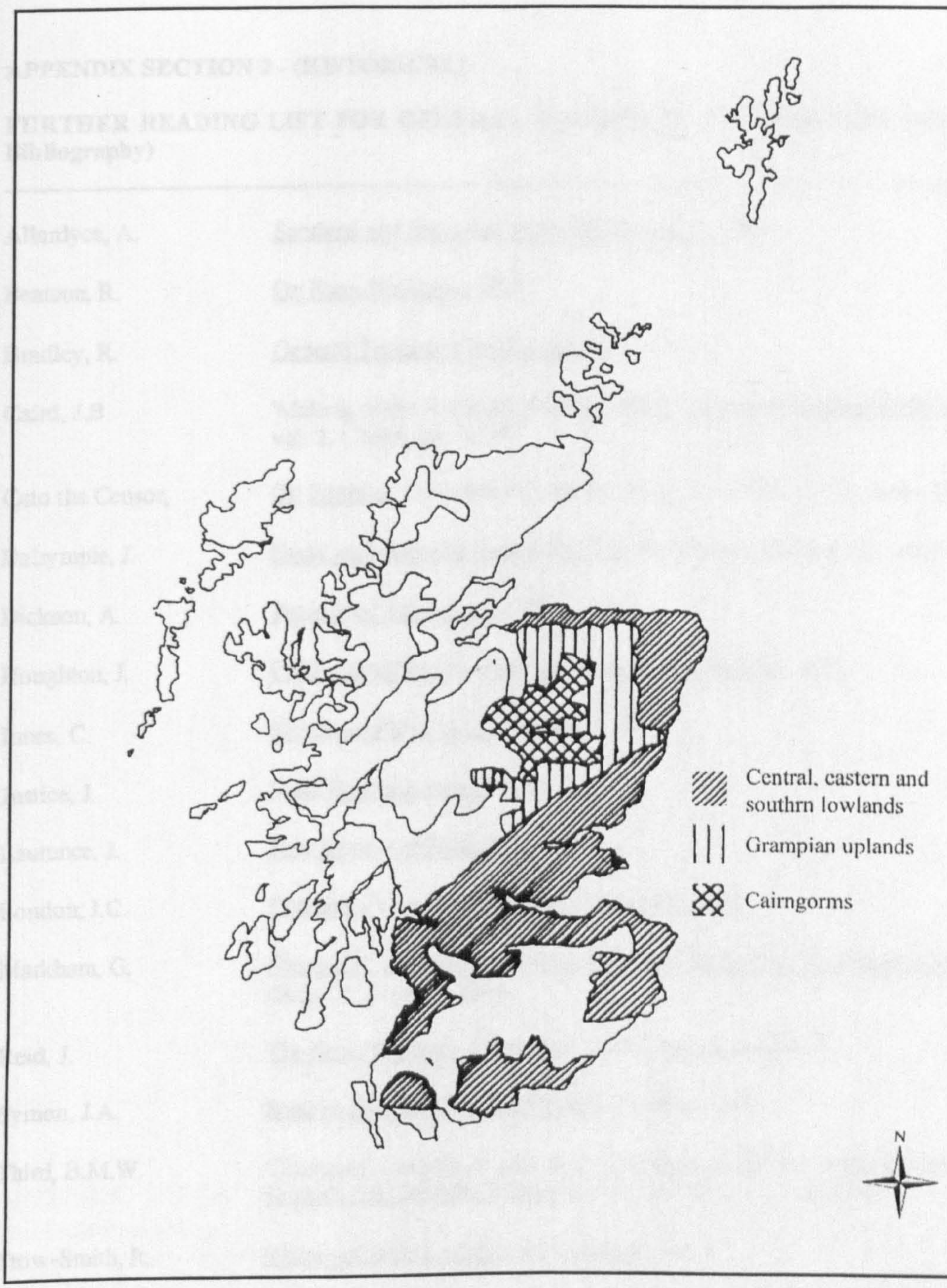
Site of tower houses recorded in MacGibbon and Ross, Castellated and Domestic Architecture, 1887-92 (extract from 'An historic Atlas of Scotland c. 400-1600', University of St. Andrews, 1975).

Compare with distribution of Scottish doocots. (see Chap. 6.3)



Distribution of Bee Boles in Scotland (Fig. 9.8)

Map showing location of bee boles and other beekeeping structures in Scotland (extract from P. Walker, 'Beeboles and past Beekeeping in Scotland, 1988, p.107).
Compare with distribution of Scottish doocots. (See Chapter 6.3)



Biogeographic Zones of Scotland (Fig. 9.9)

The bioregional areas of Moray relate to many parts of Scotland but not all. Although only a small geographic area of Scotland, Moray has a variety of bioregional characteristics: coastal, lowlands, uplands and highlands.

[Source of data: Scottish Natural Heritage]

APPENDIX SECTION 2 - (HISTORICAL)

FURTHER READING LIST FOR GENERAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION (not cited in Bibliography)

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SECTION 3 - ORNITHOLOGY

- Interview with M. Baxter, Biologist
- Interview with A. Mutch, Keeper
- Interview with A. MacGillivray, Keeper
- Dove/Pigeon Species
  - Rock Dove
  - Feral Pigeon
  - Wood Pigeon
  - Stock Dove
  - Turtle Dove
  - Collared Dove
  - Domestic Breeds
- Breeding
- Effects of domestication
- Dove and Pigeon predators
- Management
- Pest Control of Feral Pigeons
- Further reading list

APPENDIX SECTION 3 (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

The following section contains notes compiled from interviews with various experts; architectural historians, keepers of doves, biologists and ecologists. The notes are included because they provide thoughts and substantive evidence for some of the research directions and subsequent findings of the study (some of which are not to be found elsewhere within publically accessible materials such as books, journals, periodicals, etc. on the subject of doocts).

The remainder of the section includes information, specific to certain species and sub-species within the dove and pigeon world, which supports text in the thesis relating to biology, ecology and ornithological development (especially Chaps. 4.1, 6 and 7).

APPENDIX SECTION 3 (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

NOTES FROM INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL BAXTER, BIOLOGIST (FORMERLY CENTRE FOR RURAL BUILDING) ON 21 AUGUST 1995

1.0 Very likely that practices in management have changed over the years but would be similar world wide.

2.0 Breeding cycle can be effected by light. Must be kept constant for as much as 14 hours per day. Heat does not have the same effect although it is important to keep birds, eggs and fledglings warm. Heat affects colouring and feathering.

3.0 Reasonable to expect that the bird itself changed. Likely to have got larger by as much as 2% per year by genetic selection. Artificial selection was in by 1780. Became quite scientific by 1850.

4.0 Birds have a high fear response. Will take off as individuals after 'bobbing' to signal no danger. Will fly as a flock if one flies without bobbing. Will also land as a flock. Optimal foraging. They are socially collective when the food is clustered. Ultimate resource is being fed. Could be less than 50% feeding is required to keep them 'domesticated'. Large flocks = large food cluster.

5.0 Birds require grit (e.g. soluble eggshells, or insoluble river gravel) to help them digest grain.

6.0 Would definitely need a perch to land on due to size of bird, elevation of descent, collision with other birds exiting (racing birds different). Also if perch available, access hole can be tightly sized around pigeon which would walk in rather than fly in. Means larger birds could not occupy or enter cote (Although pigeon would not have much competition from other birds wanting to nest).
Could be that birds can land on or access through a diamond shape easily.

7.0 Pigeons have monocular vision, i.e. incredibly short-sighted but possess brilliant long range and colour perception. Cotes could therefore be whitewashed to assist final homing in. Probably also solar reflection, owner's pride, hygiene, building practice, vermin.

8.0 Possible cote could be established and/or replenished simply by stealing wild squabs and rearing in domestic environment.

9.0 Almost certain that birds would have "preferred boxes". Hens occupy (i) upper boxes, (ii) end boxes, (iii) ground boxes. Often left middle boxes unoccupied, preferring to lay on the ground rather than in an "unpreferred box".
Possible that pigeon house had $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{5}$ boxes unoccupied. Could explain why some were blocked up.

10.0 Important that eggs and fledglings kept dry and warm. Birds would prefer timber boxes to stone due to thermal properties. Bound to have made their own nests within box for thermal reasons.

11.0 Squabs and eggs certain to have fallen out if no form of containment.

12.0 Birds would not foul nest box. Could well seek same nest site more than once.

13.0 Critical that boxes permit full turning circle of pigeon. Deep boxes might emulate 'cavelike' nesting sites.

14.0 Not wholly necessary to have internal flying space if birds able to be put out. Perches and landing ledges would help, particularly in large cotes with steep descent but otherwise cote should be free from obstructions which would cause accident problems in a rush. Birds are disturbed by sudden change or the unfamiliar.

15.0 Reasonable to think that old cotes would contain birds breeding anything between 4 to 8 squabs per pair. Depends on management. Prolific breeders can suffer from decalcification.

16.0 Ventilation essential to decrease chances of disease spread, suffocation. Disease is a risk when avian species are combined, e.g. pigeons, hens, geese etc.

17.0 Unlikely that adults would be individually marked and culled in a large cote. More likely that stock would be replenished wholesale although annual selection a possibility.

18.0 Likely that a large cote would need significant food store, particularly if sited away from any other storage area. e.g. likely necessary to have at least 1 week's storage (if not six month) .

19.0 Unlikely that stock would welcome 'strangers'. Adolescents get 'chucked out'. Birds need daylight to identify strangers so maybe strangers are encouraged.

20.0 Stock would relate to amount of control/labour. Stock would equilibrate but might explain blocking of boxes.

21.0 USA, France, Germany sell from butchers. UK meat via supermarket. Also cultural attitude in Britain towards meat is quite different.

Cross refer with Chaps. 4 and 6

APPENDIX SECTION 3 (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

NOTES FROM INTERVIEW WITH ALEXANDER MUTCH, EX-PRESIDENT OF ELGIN AND DISTRICT RACING PIGEON CLUB, 17 MAY 1994

1.0 Both birds sit on nest and feed. Male during day, hen sits all night.

2.0 Squeaker is totally dependent on parents - Crop milk only for first few days. Always 2 eggs. Can breed 4 or 5 clutches.

3.0 Bird would use same nest box for next clutch provided there is room for 2 nests. Next eggs are laid before fledglings away. (maybe young were taken away in time to leave free box?).

4.0 Strongest birds prefer highest nest site but some would even nest on the floor - occasionally they will use the same nest again but normally a new one.

5.0 Pigeons are easily disturbed but quickly get used to regular sights and sounds. They feel more secure in the dark, out of view.

6.0 They require $\frac{3}{4}$ oz per day of grain but will eat anything if hungry. The need water every day. (Won't eat meat unless starving).

7.0 Are they tame? - No.

8.0 Predators - Peregrine singles out, sparrow hawk surprises and if successful keeps coming back, goshawk, weasels (through tiniest of holes) rats and owls not a problem today.

9.0 Door size thoughts - infrequent, surreptitious access. Have to be well fitted.

10.0 Ventilation needs - lack of air and overcrowding encourages disease. Birds are healthier if they get a chance to fly off.

11.0 Whitewash - probably done for hygiene - they can detect shades, not colours. Also smooth surface for rodents.

12.0 Noisy - yes. Smelly - yes if guano wet. Traumatic - yes, chaos if disturbed and outlets limited.

13.0 Birds would probably make small nest but eggs and young would likely fall out with no lip to box. Young could be put back soon if found even to adopted parents but could easily perish.

14.0 L-shaped box - could be for above reason. Security also. Comfort.

15.0 Staggered boxes - stop fledglings excreting on one another.

16.0 Birds can travel 6 or 7 hundreds miles.

17.0 Surely stone floors or else easy for burrowing animals.

Cross refer with Chaps. 4 and 6

APPENDIX SECTION 3 (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

NOTES FROM INTERVIEW WITH ALEC MACGILLIVRAY, VP OF ELGIN AND DISTRICT RACING PIGEON CLUB ON 8 AUGUST 1994

1.0 Can pigeons land and/or take off without a perch provision?
Yes. Cocks sits 9-4. Hen sits all night. Good parents, can adopt.

2.0 Will flocks land and/or take off together?
Possibly - more likely a steady stream.
- definitely sunbathe on building.
Safer on ground from peregrine
Safer in air from hawks. Young easily succumb.

3.0 Do they have a preference for any boxes?
Definitely - Cock claims same box year after year. If hen claims another box, cock will also defend it to the death.

4.0 Will they nest in every box?
Highly unlikely - stronger, older birds will prefer highest boxes - probably that numbers would be self regulating.

5.0 Why landing cills inside?
No theory.

6.0 Why deep boxes?
Deep boxes to ease breeding - narrow boxes for roosting.

7.0 Will squabs fall out?
Definitely if small box with no sill. Although birds will make a nest (even of nails!).

8.0 Why L-shaped boxes?
Enhance security - also sitting hen at back with fledglings at front. A deep box sideways in other words - Shooting theory a possibility.

9.0 Why staggered boxes?
Dropping theory a possibility.

10.0 What provision of daylight required?
Low levels only. Love dark, security. Sit easy in dark, upset by rush of light.

11.0 What provision of ventilation?
A lot required to reduce risk of disease. Hate draughts however. Love warmth.

12.0 What size of flight hole required?
100 x 125 - check actual size of Rock Dove (smaller than racing pigeon).

13.0 Why small access doors?
Keep daylight to a minimum?

14.0 Why whitewashed?
Internally for hygiene- reduce feather parasites etc. Externally? possibly to deter wild birds.
Brightly coloured buildings would not be attractive. Eggs also used for cuisine.

15.0 How much of a task is management?
Food and water needed every day - very simple winter management - lot of work in summer.

16.0 Are birds tame?
Some more than others. Only wild bird capable of domestication but retains ability of choice to go if desired. - can fly 700 miles in a day. Homing instinct not understood.

17.0 What disturbs them?
Anything unfamiliar. Will get used to anything and will settle down, e.g. humans, cats, dogs, plastic owls etc. e.g. Burghead maltings.

18.0 What are predators?
Female sparrowhawk, peregrine, goshawk, cats (RSPB protection a current thorn in fanciers' flesh) owls, kestrels, squirrels, etc. will upset only.

19.0 How close to man can they be?
Virtually immediate if looked after. Security a key factor. The food. Tame pigeons will use loft if not fed. Wild pigeons wont use. Pittendreich was occupied by wild in 70's - Derelict closes in Elgin full of birds.

20.0 Can man increase number of broods?
No, nothing other than to increase hours of daylight artificially, i.e. extend breeding season (contradicts item 10.0).

21.0 Can manure be allowed to build up?
Only if kept dry - ammonia and disease risk if wet.

22.0 What effect would wild birds have?
Risk of disease, fighting.

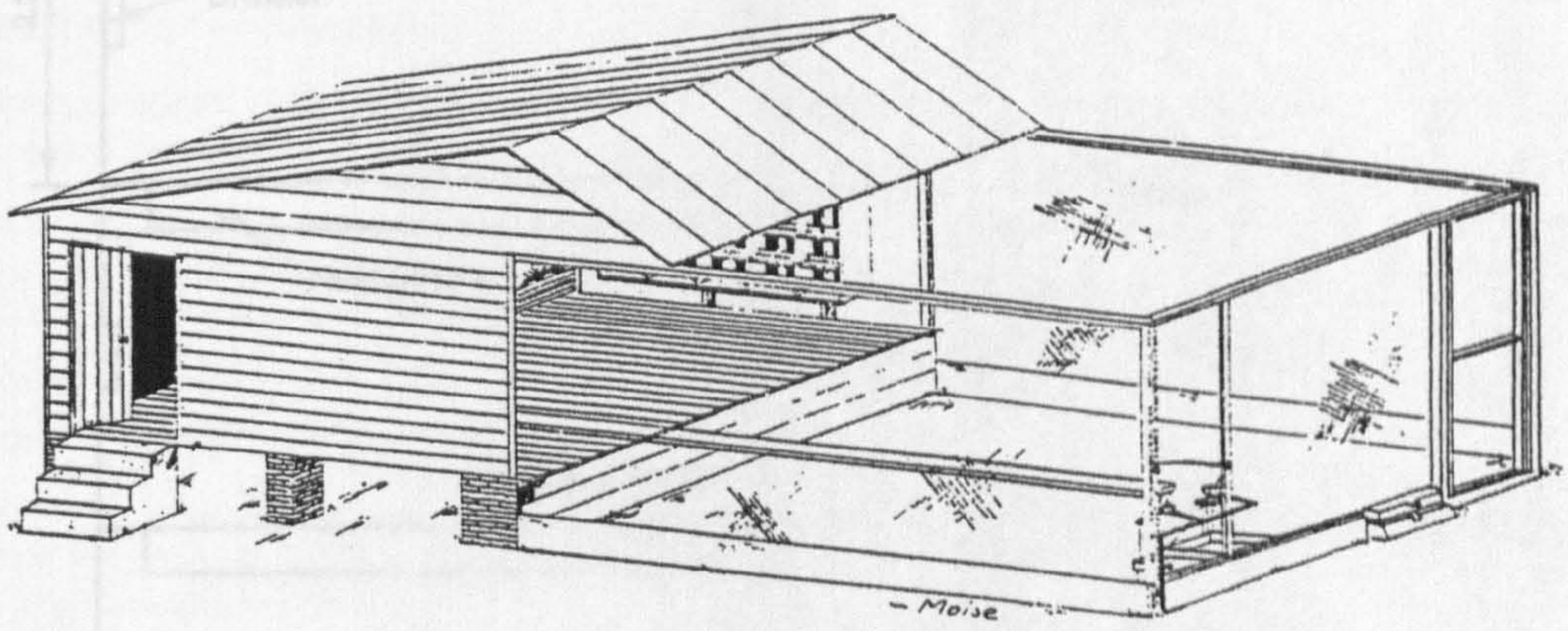
23.0 Would food storage be required?
A lot for continual feeding (e.g. 300 birds would need a garage full).

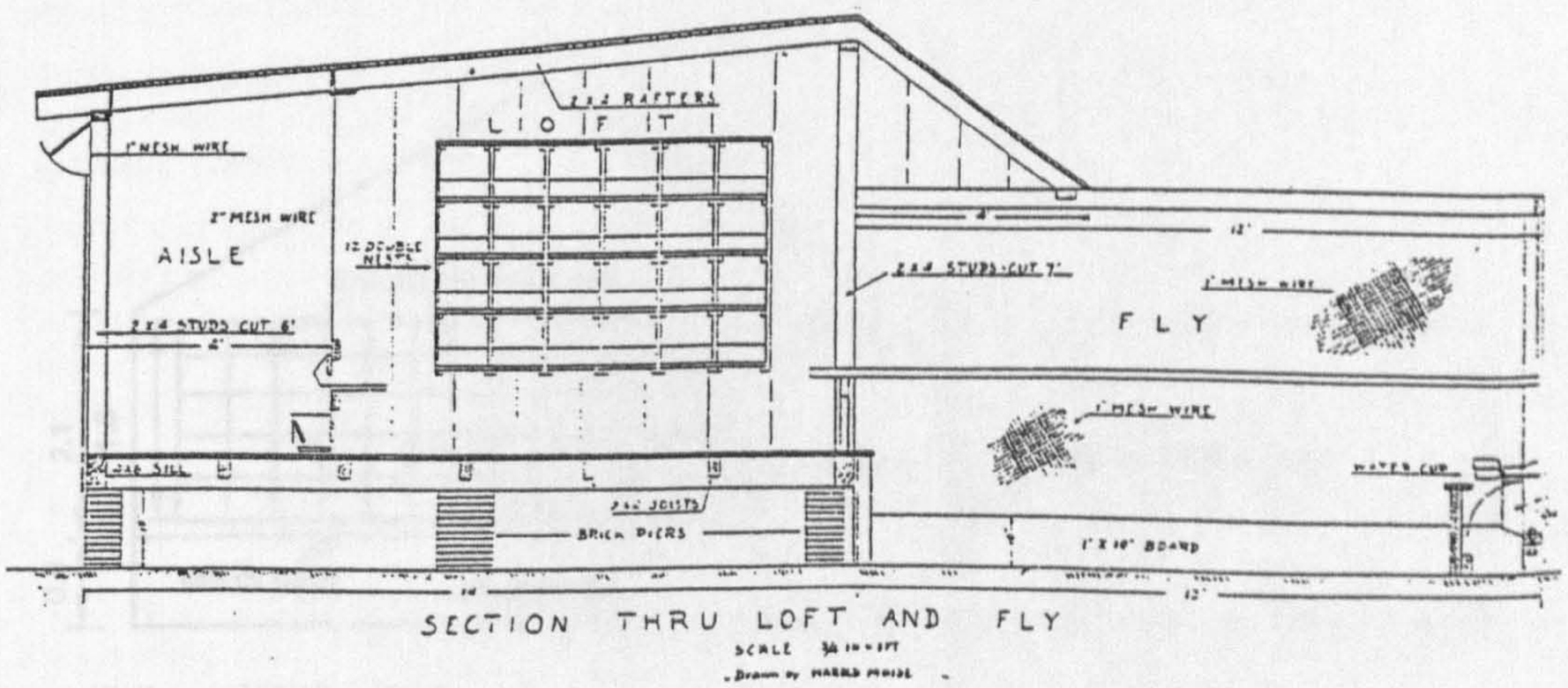
24.0 What image does pigeon racing have?
Was working class - poor man's sport - cheap - industrial towns - now changing to anyone who is interested.

25.0 Are modern cotes different to historic?
Yes - birds are discouraged from perching externally so that they can be timed in the cote, therefore steep roof, no ledges, only access via doors which are opened and closed - separate compartments to control breeding - long and low as opposed to tall and vertical. Raised off ground - droppings pass through grille. Sometimes aviary - controlled outside flight - south facing.
Breeding boxes quite large. Nest bowls provided - were they in bygone?

26.0 How is the stock sustained?
Young can breed when 3 months old.
Possible for final brood to be allowed to live and adults culled over winter months
Highly possible for a cote to be decimated by disease.

Cross refer with Chaps. 4 and 6





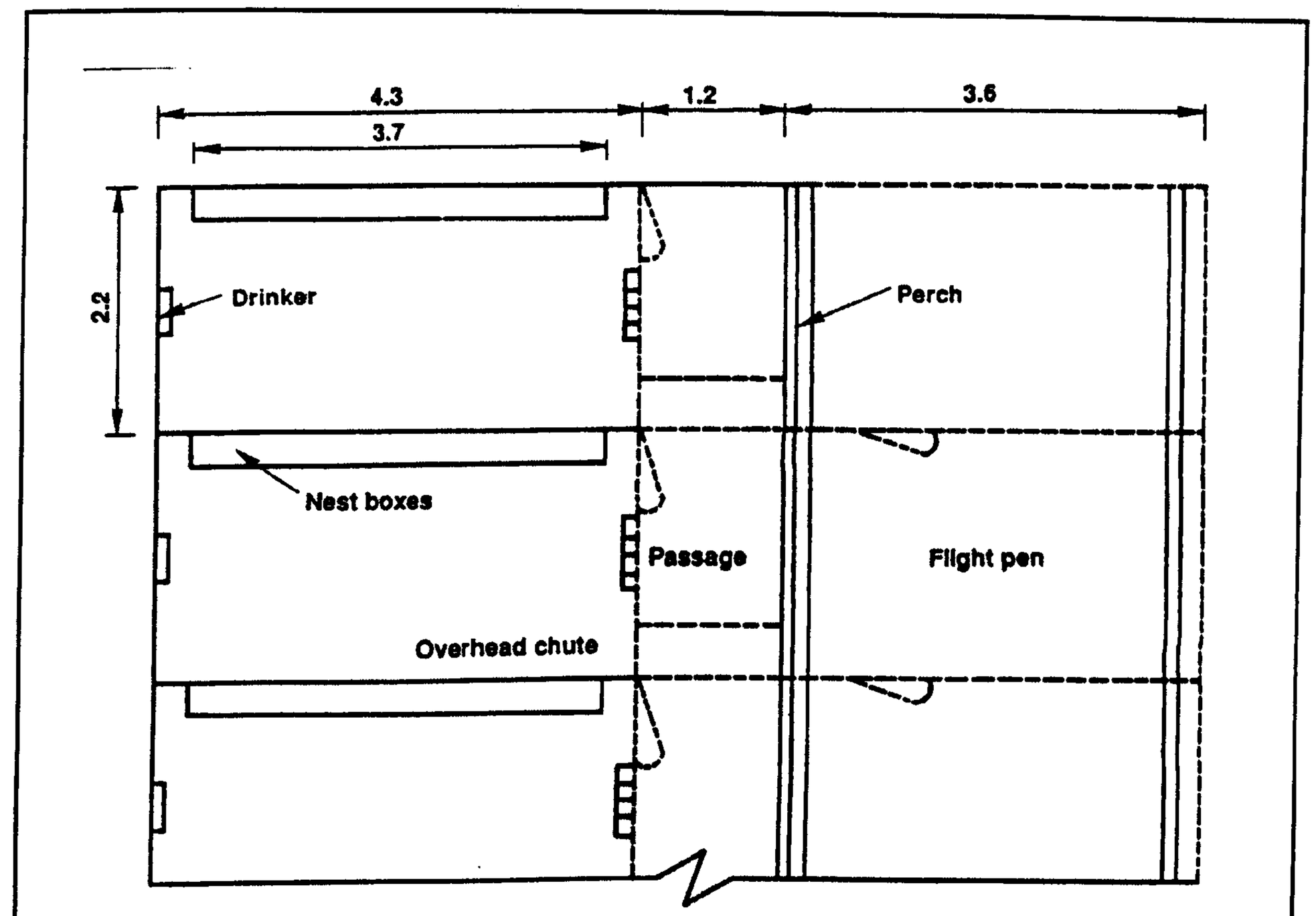
SECTION THRU LOFT AND FLY

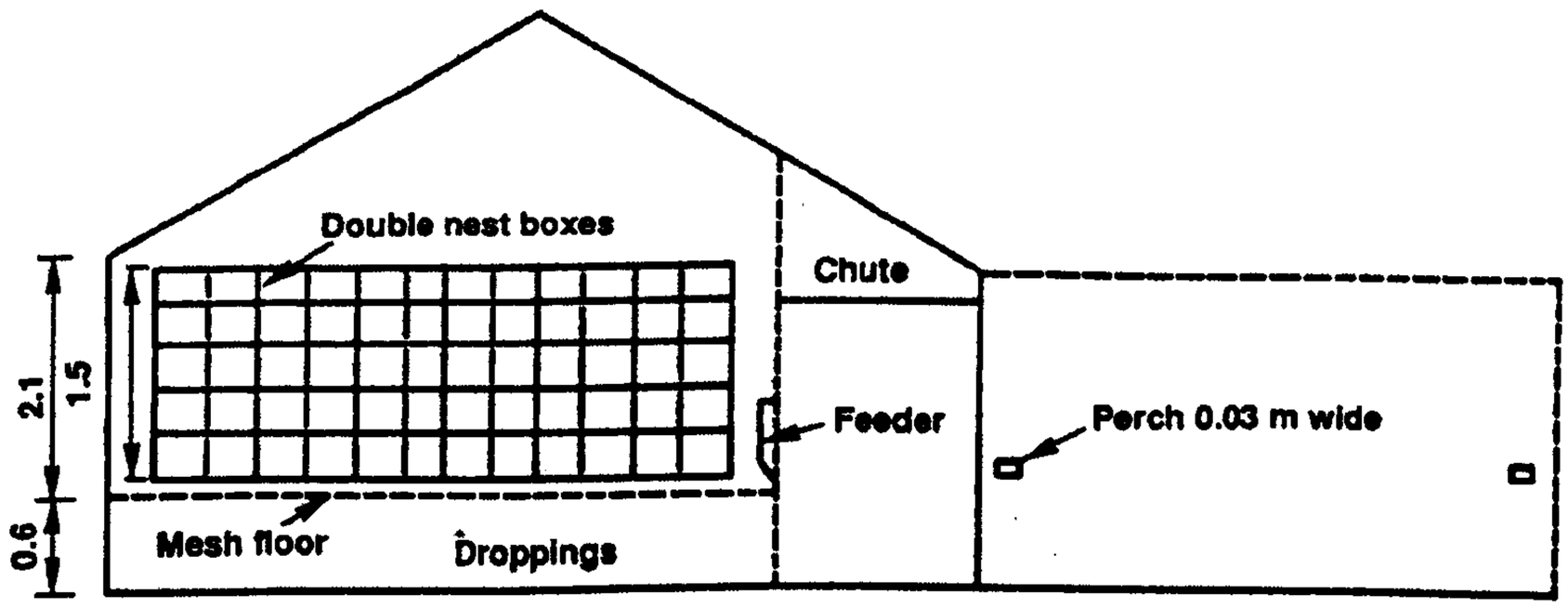
SCALE ¾ IN = 1 FT

Drawn by HAROLD MOISE

Diagrams showing construction of wooden cote with attached flight (Fig. 9.11)
Perspective line drawing and cross section through a 'typical' twentieth century cote for pleasure use or squabbing. It is shown containing a 'loft', a 'flypen' and an 'aisle'. Note that the 'loft' contains 'double nests' and the 'fly' contains a water dispenser.

(extracted from Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.514)





All dimensions in metres

Plan and Section through a modern cote (Fig. 9.12)

Illustration of a multiple, squab production cote showing the repetition of plan form: nest box chamber; passage; perch; flight pen. Note how the section of today's cote varies little from that of the 1930's and 1940's (see fig. 9.11 and Plate 9.3)

(extracted from Petchey, 'Squab production', 1991, p. 18)

APPENDIX SECTION 3 (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

DOVE/PIGEON SPECIES - some additional notes [cross refer with Chap. 4.1]

The Rock Dove *Columba livia*

- Feare, 'Humane Control', 1990, p.9, "*. absence of ledges, crevices, cornices etc. denies the birds nest sites and perches.*"
- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.41. "*Pigeons and doves immerse the beak in water up to the nostrils and drink in one long, continuous draught, after the fashion of the horse. No other bird is apparently known which drinks in this fashion..... Why this distinctive difference, our ornithological authorities are unable to answer.*"
- Darwin, Variation, 1868, p.132. Dislikes perching in trees.
- Delacour, Wild Pigeons and Doves, 1980, p.131. Ancestor of domestic and feral breeds. Inhabits rocky crags but feeds on ground. Require plenty of room. Aviaries should be spacious and high. Not often kept by amateur aviculturists.
- Delin and Svensson, Birds of Britain and Europe, 1988, p.154. "*Now restricted to west coast of Ireland and Scotland ... flight very fast ... 33cm long.*"
- Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p.59. "*Beak to tail - 13", shoulder width 3 1/2*"
- Hewson, 'Rock Doves in Scotland', 1964, pp. 22-5.
- Jardine, Naturalist's Library, vol.5,1835, p.147, " .. *better known to our readers as the inhabitant of the pigeon-house or, as it is frequently called, the dove-cot, buildings erected expressly for the purpose of containing colonies of these birds.*"
- Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.68. "*Taxonomically, Rock Pigeons, Columba livia, include domestic pigeons and free-living feral pigeons, as well as the wild Rock Pigeons. This is an enormous biogeographic entry.. the feral pigeon, a creature of both wild and domestic ancestors that has, in a sense, become the best of all possible pigeons, with capabilities transcending those of either ancester... they have a certain mystery attending them because they are in a convoluted way human creations .... which we consider to be one of the masterpieces of nature... the origin and evolution of the Rock Pigeons, domestic pigeons and feral pigeons, a process that has occurred over the past 5,000 to 10,000 years.*"
- Lees, 'All the Year Breeding of the Rock-Dove', 1946, p.140, "*The doves on this coast* [Inner Firth] *are not to any appreciable extent mixed with feral domestic stock.*" p.136, "*.. sites they occupied were deep fissures and holes, usually in the roofs of the caves.*"
- Murton and Clarke, 'Breeding Biology of Rock Doves', 1968, pp. 429-48, " *..the distinction of having the most extended breeding season of all British birds.*"
- Cook, Birds of Moray and Nairn, 1995, p.156. "*Common resident breeder. In the mid nineteenth century true wild Rock Doves apparently bred on the cliffs at Covesea [Lossiemouth] and perhaps elsewhere. Since that time the wild population has lost its identify through extensive interbreeding with domestic doves. The resulting Feral Pigeons are today common in towns, around farms and maltings and along the coast.*"
- Baxter and Rintoul, Birds of Scotland, 1953, pp.524-28, "*.. the numerous caves which occur all round the coast affording suitable breeding places at the proper season, as well as secure retreats from the storms of winter.*"
- Lumley, Pigeons and their Origins, 1891, pp. 68-90. "*Though much like* ['rock dove' and 'dovecote pigeon'] *in shape and size, are yet most dissimilar in their habits and plumage. I shall venture,*

therefore, to call each a separate breed and not a variety of one breed". Alludes that Rock Dove is wild, lays only two eggs and stays away from man. "*Leopard can't change its spots, neither will the instinctively wide and shy Blue Rock pigeon ever cast aside its abhorrence of the wiles and fetters of domestication .... It is, indeed, the stock pigeon from which many of our Toy and less cultural varieties are probably descended*" (see next section and Chap. 4.1). Also, see R. Fulton, Illustrated Book of Pigeons, (London: Cassell and Co., 1895), p. 59, s.v. 'Origins of Fancy Pigeons'.

- Goodwin, pers. comm., 21/5/99, "*The wild Rock Dove is shy and frightened of man where it has been much persecuted*".

- I. L. Manson, (ed.), Evolution of Domesticated Animals, (London: Longman, 1984), p.351. "*The names 'pigeon' and 'dove' are synonymous ... there is no scientific distinction ... some would consider this bird to be a self-domesticating species which seeks out human fields and settlements ... the dovecote pigeon became so well-established that it was considered by early writers as a separate species (C. affinis) ... there was no biological reason for this distinction and the name has since been disregarded.*"

- Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p.16. Pigeons are typically arboreal . "*Some pigeons have become adapted to roosting and nesting in caves, cliffs, rock holes and similar places. This has enabled them to establish themselves in relatively treeless areas. Most of the species that do this are ground feeders. Typically, they inhabit rather barren, open country and mountainous districts*".

- p.34. Display flights are employed to make a bird conspicuous and advertise the presence of a bird in reproductive condition. "*A sexually active male Domestic Pigeon will commonly display when about to alight at, or near, his home after having been away foraging*". The male usually takes the lead in selecting a nest site and will 'drive' the female (often relentlessly) to the nest and/or away from other males. Not surprisingly, such behaviour, ".. *occurs regularly in Domestic Pigeons ... in a relatively crowded pigeon-loft or aviary*", where the male cannot drive the female far away from competing males. As a general rule, the male pigeon searches for material and carries it back to the nest site where the female does the building. Also, the pigeon is prone to 'nodding' at a time of sexual arousement (also used to convey submissiveness, aggression, acknowledgement). The mating period lasts six or seven days.

  p. 39, "*Usually motivated by sexual jealousy*". Cock birds can be highly aggressive during this period.

  p. 58. Building sites are, ".. *the obvious substitutes for the natural cave and ledge sites*". Birds reared in confined environments do not survive long if later given their freedom. Those that do survive, quickly regress to feral characteristics.

- pp.59-62. Other names; Common Pigeon, Town Pigeon, Park Pigeon, Field Pigeon, Rock, Blue Rock, Link, Skinnum.

- Microsoft, 'Encarta Encyclopaedia', CD format, Microsoft Corporation, 1994, s.v. 'Pigeon', "*The best-known species is the common pigeon, whose wild ancestor, native to Europe and Asia, is called the Rock Dove... the more than 200 domestic breeds as well as the variably coloured street or feral pigeons are derived from this species. It is bluish grey above, with black markings on the wings and a whitish rump; below, it is purplish on the breat and bluish on the abdomen. The sides of the neck, especially in males, are iridescent*".

- Unsourced book extract from RSPB, s.v. 'Rock Dove-Feral Pigeon', p. 113, "*No other wild pigeon has two thick black stripes on the inner rear half of the wing or a white rump ... a pure white underwing is the mark of a truly wild Rock Dove, but may be seen on Feral Pigeons*".

- Baptista in Abs, Behaviour of Pigeon, 1983, p. 323 and Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p.29. "*Its communication skills are restricted to four basic calls - an advertising coo, a display coo, a distress call and an excitement cry. The juveniles squeak and also develop a feeding call.*" Fledglings squeak when excited or threatened (hence name 'squeaker').

- Anon, 'Poem', 1740, p.24. "*Tis pleasant to observe, with what soft Air He makes his Courtship to the modest Fair:Sometimes he hopes be cooing to prevail, Sometimes by the spread Wing, and Sweeping Tail*".

- Whilst accepting the important ancestry of the Rock Dove, in the context of 'doocot doves' and their impact on building design, it is also worth being aware of several other facts:

  (i) over five hundred known species of wild pigeons and doves exist,

  (ii) large numbers of varieties can be artifically selected,

  (iii) artificial selection can alter the size, colour and behaviour,

  (iv) the characteristics of the 'dovecote pigeon' were thought to differ sufficiently from the wild Rock Dove for some nineteenth century authors to consider it a different species,

  (v) antiquarians have, generally, not considered species to be of any significance in building assessment,

  (vi) doves are capable of significant environmenal adaptation. Adaptability is most needed when the bird is kept in total (or semi) confinement.

Feral Pigeon ***Columba livia***

- Delin and Svensson, Birds of Britain and Europe, 1988, p.154, "... *330mm long. Nests in towns and cities, having escaped from dovecotes. Lives in towers, garrets, lofts and in niches ... fearless ... many broods.*"

- Feu, Nestboxes, 1985, p.47. Entrance 100mm square. Landing platform or ledge below the entrance. Site at a medium height. Colony boxes with several chambers are acceptable.

- RSPB, 'Feral Pigeons', Info. leaflet, 1995. Nest; loosely built of assorted materials, often with an accumulation of droppings. Eggs; 2, white. Breeding season may extend throughout the year.

- Murton, et al, 'Ecological Studies of the Feral Pigeon', 1972, p.835, ".. *evidence will be presented in this and subsequent publications to show that these two populations exhibit a genotypic and phenotypic diversity which is an adaptation to their present-day habitat rather than a legacy of their ancestry.*"

- J.Tully, 'Why do we ignore the Feral Pigeon', BTO News, 214 (Jan.-Feb.1998), p.10, " .. *very low profile with ornithologists.*" and "*I estimate that it needs 67 humans to support one Feral Pigeon.*"

- Taylor, 'Pigeons and their People', 1995, p.21, ".. *widespread in lowland Britain.. despite being common and easily recognised, very few ornithologists have studied feral pigeons. ... Feral pigeons like to breed in groups, often using church towers, bridge supports and deserted upper floors of buildings as colony sites ... come in a great variety of colours ... white birds, being very obvious, seem to be more vulnerable to attack by the city's peregrines.*"

- Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.160. Found that the blue bar plumage feral is more a rural bird than the urban melanic. Prefers smaller colonies, better fliers, less diverse diet. "*Current research supports the hypothesis that blue bars like the life of dovecote pigeons more than do melanics.*" More subject to diseases, however.
  p.141. Average bird consumes 70g food per day and needs 30 to 50g water per day (moving sources in winter important).
  p.196. Average day composed of: first flight early morning; first feed late morning; afternoon of food digestion, preening, sunning, resting; second feed mid-afternoon.
  Schedule correlates to sharing of incubation duties.
  Not migrants - once a food source established, flocks tend to stay put.

Wood Pigeon (or Ring Dove) ***Columba palumbus***

- Delacour, Wild Pigeons and Doves, 1980, p.135. Wood pigeon is destructive to garden and field crops. Not domesticated, avoids buildings. Tree dweller.

- G. Montagu, Ornithological Dictionary of British Birds, 1831, (courtesy of N. Lewis) stated, *"We have been at considerable pain to endeavour to domesticate this bird; and though we have tamed them within doors, so as to be exceedingly troublesome, yet we never could produce a brood, either by themselves or with the tame pigeon."*

- W. Yarrell, History of British Birds, 5 vols., 1882-84 (courtesy of N. Lewis), *".. states that he has several time reared young birds from eggs placed under a common Pigeon, and in these cases they maintained a quiet habit, mixing freely and tamely with their domestic neighbours; but in only one instance did he know of a Ring Dove breeding in confinement."*

- W. MacGillivray, History of British Birds - Indigenous and Migratory, vol.1, 1837 (courtesy of N. Lewis), cites N. Wood, 'Naturalist Magazine'. *"The impossibility of taming this bird and of domesticating it, in the manner of the Rock Pigeon, has often been mentioned, but I should imagine this statement has either been copied from other authorities, or the experiment has not been properly tried."*

- N. Lewis, pers.comm., 30/10/94, *"The Ring Dove is known from Pleistocene (probably 1-2 million years ago) records, from caves of Derbyshire and the south-west.".* It does not of course (necessarily) follow that they were breeding (or even frequenting) caves at that time.

- Delin and Svensson, Birds of Britain and Europe, 1988, p.154. Size 400mm long. Farmland and parks, found in flocks of considerable size.

- Jardine, Naturalist's Library, vol.5, 1835, pp.137-9. Large bird, 16' to 17' long. *"Various attempts have been made to domesticate the Ring Pigeon, but hitherto without success."*

- Mascall, 'Husbandlye ordring....', 1581, s.v., The nature and profite of wood pegions, culvers and rough-footed doves, *".. ye may fat woode culvers, but they are more ravenars and eaters than the other, and verye harde to make tame."*

- J. Eddelston, 'Bird Life', in Omand, Moray Book, 1976, p.73, *".. very common especially in winter when flocks of continental birds visit."*

- Cook, Birds of Moray and Nairn, 1995, p.154, *"Common resident breeder .. often abundant .. breeding widely over the lowlands and well up the glens.... In winter, especially in hard weather, huge flocks assemble... flocks of 1000 - 2000 are not unusual, 5000 - 6000 were at Duffus."*

- I.J. Patterson, pers. comm., 29/10/96. *"It is highly unlikely that woodpigeons were involved, since they are treenesters which do not usually nest inside an enclosed space."*

- Bailey, 'Doocots in Falkirk', 1991, p.39, cites a curious oservation, P. Graham, General View of Agriculture of Stirlingshire, 1812, p.307, *"In 1812 the Board of Agriculture noted a tradition that the pigeons of Stirlingshire were larger than elsewhere in Scotland, probably from the idea of the superior quality and quantity of their food."*

Stock Dove ***Columba aenas***

- In earlier times was confusingly referred to as the Wood Pigeon. Named so because it nests in holes in the stocks (trunks) of trees.
- Gurney, Early Annals of Ornithology, 1921, Chap.VIII, s.v. 'English Household Account of the Sixteenth Century', p.135, "*Stockdoves, or as is also spelled Stockedoves, are brought in now and then, in one place associated with two cygnets and a 'brid pye'.... These, it is most likely, were either young Stockdoves or Woodpigeons taken from the nest, domestic Pigeons being distinguished as 'pyggens'. Certainly where Pigeons of store are names, tame Pigeons bred upon the farm must be intended.*"
- Delin and Svensson, Birds of Britain and Europe, 1988, p.154. Not common in Scotland, 330mm long.
- Harvie-Brown, 'Deveron Valley and its Bird Life', 1897, p.101, " .. *occupying Laich of Moray since about 1886.*"
- Feu, Nestboxes, 1985, p.47. Entrance diameter 150mm. Site at upper medium height. Landing platform or ledge below the entrance. The box should be placed in a tree or outbuilding near to open fields which have an ample supply of weed seeds.
- N.E.S. Bird Club, North East Scotland Bird Report, 1994, p.41. Widespread resident in small numbers.
- Jardine, Naturalist's Library. vol.5, 1835, p.142. Confined to southern and middle England. Entirely arboreal.
- J. Eddleston, 'Bird Life' in Omand (ed.), Moray Book, 1976, p.73, ".. *once a common bird in Moray, is now much reduced in numbers.*"
- Cook, Birds of Moray and Nairn, 1995, p.156, "*Numerous resident breeder, formerly common .. first recorded in Moray c.1879 in the Forres area ... By 1892 Stock Doves were literally swarming all along ... the plain of Moray ...now seldom seen outside the Laich of Moray.*"
- Baxter and Rintoul, Birds of Scotland, 1953, p.524, "*Rabbit burrows are also very favourite nesting places ... They have also been known to nest in the debris at the base of cliffs, in ruined castles, in unoccupied buildings, in pigeon houses and nesting boxes*".

Turtle Dove ***Streptopelia turtur***

- Delin and Svensson, Birds of Britain and Europe, 1988, p.154. Shy summer visitor, Size 270mm.
- Harvie-Brown, 'Deveron Valley and its bird life', 1897, p.101, quotes Dr J.O. Wilson. "*I have not seen the Stock Dove nor the Turtle Dove in a wild state* [in Banffshire]"
- N.E.S. Bird Club, North East Scotland Bird Report, 1994, p.41. Scarce passage migrant. Only singles recorded.
- Dixon, Dovecote and Aviary, 1851, p.27. "*The attempt to breed Turtles is superfluous: for that genus neither lays nor hatches in an aviary* .[c.f works by Columella and Varro].. *The fatting places for them are not, as for Pigeons, lockers or hollow cells; but brackets, fixed in a line along a wall.*"
- Mascall, 'Husbandlye ordring ..", 1581,s.v. 'Of Turtle Doves', describes how to confine and fatten birds.
- Cook, Birds of Moray and Nairn, 1995, p.160. "*Rare visitor on passage.*"
- Baxter and Rintoul, Birds of Scotland, 1953, p.528, " .. *first definite record is .. of 1814 or 1815.*"

Collared Dove ***Streptopelia decaocto***

- Delin and Svensson, Birds of Britain and Europe, 1988, p.154. In Britain by 1955. Not common. Size 320mm long.

- N.E S. Bird Club, North East Scotland Bird Report, 1994, p.41, Common resident, only one record involving more than two birds.
- Dixon, Dovecote and Aviary, 1851, p.13. Suggested that man should utilise this dove which, " .. *makes itself so much at home, and breeds so freely whilst in captivity to man.*"
- J. Eddleston, 'Bird Life', in Omand (ed.), Moray Book, 1976, p.73, " ... *unknown until the late fifties, has increased rapidly in lowland areas.*"
- Cook, Birds of Moray and Nairn, 1995, pp.158-9, "*... common resident breeder.. first Scottish breeding .. took place at Covesea* [Moray] *in 1957.*"

APPENDIX SECTION 3 (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

Domestic Breeds of Columba livia - some additional notes [cross refer with Chap.4.1]

Background statements:

- Darwin, Variation, 1868, p.211, "... *nearly all the chief domestic races existed before the year 1600*".
- Mason, Evolution of Domesticated Animals, 1984, p.351. "*Domestic forms of the rock pigeon occur in every country except at the polar caps*".
- Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1968, p.234. "*For thousands of years, the fancy breeds have been evolving away from the original rock dove and into such exotic forms as we know them today*".
- E. Hardy, A-Z Pigeon Guide, (London: Burke, 1951), p.58. "*Their breeding* [fancy] *needs infiitely more care and patience than the breeding of ordinary pigeons of the rock-dove stock... The y take much longer to get used to their surroundings than do dovecote pigeons ... best kept in large wire aviaries, with the windwards side solid and draught-resisting... If nest boxes are used at all, most of them will require a very different type from dovecote pigeons - namely, an open , uncovered box, or even a hanging basket ... like dovecote pigeons, they will fight for their nesting territories at the breeding season, and aviaries should not be overcrowded.*"
- see Levi, Pigeon, 1941, Chapter 2, s.v. 'Breeds and VArieties, pp. 37-238 which provides detailed desdriptions for 67 breeds and a further 50 varieties.
- Microsoft (R) 'Encarta Encyclopaedia', 1994, s.v. Pigeon.
- See also www.angelfire.comm/oh [American Internet site] for domestic breeds.

The Almond Tumbler
Anon, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765 (1949 edn.) p.59, "*small ... their beauty far surpasses all description*".
Described by Darwin, Variation, 1868, p.136 as *Columbia livia* Group 3, Race 7.
The Tumbler
Anon, Treatise, p.68, "*very small .. homing device affected by fog.*"
Described by Darwin, Variation, 1868, p.136, as *Columbia livia* Group 3, Race 7.
The Carrier
Anon, Treatise, p.75, "*from Persia .. frequently made use of to carry a letter ... referred to in Ovid and Willoughy .. quite large .. 15 inch length .. long neck .. firm flesh .. esteemed by the gentleman of the fancy, as the King of Pigeons*".
Lumley, Fulton's Book, 1895, p.64, requires special lofts because very quarrelsome - need widely spaced nest boxes due to poor eyesight.
Anon, 'Encarta CD Encyclopaedia', s.v. Pigeon. "*Tall, erect form with large wattle around the eyes and base of bill .. ruffled appearance.*"
Dixon, Dovecote and Aviary, 1851, p.19. "*During the last few years, the invention of the Electric Telegraph has done more to bring Carrier Pigeons into partial disuse than had been effected ain the first three thousand years previous.*"
The Horseman
Described by Darwin, Variation, *Columbia livia*, Group 2, Race 2. Existed at least by 1670. Anon, Treatise, p.87. "*Resembles carrier but smaller ..... These are the sorts of pigeons that are chiefly made use of in England for the carriage of letters.*"
The Dragon
Anon, Treatise, p.89, "*Bastard of horseman and tumbler.*"
Osman, Pigeons, 1985, p.88. Good table bird "*one of the benefits of being a pigeon fancier is that the surplus stock of any variety can be turned to account for the table*".
The Dutch Cropper
Anon, Treatise, p. 91 "*Short, thick bodied .. large crop*".
Anon, Sportsman, p. 4 ".. *by attracting air, blow up their crops to an extraordinary bigness ... this sort is more valued according as it can swell up its crop to the larger size.*"

The English Powter
Anon, Treatise, p.93. "*Mix of horseman and cropper .. long, up to 20 inches .. esteemed for features, length of body, leg, crop, carriage .. these pigeons appear very noble in the outside of a house.*"
p.101 Refers to auction sale accounted in London Daily Advertiser, 2.1.1761, regarding pair of birds selling for £16 16s
Described by Darwin, Variation, *Columbia livia* Group 1, Race 1.

The Parisian Powter
Anon, Treatise, p.103 "*Like English version*".
Existed at least by 1600
Described by Darwin, Variation, *Columbia livia*, Group 1, Race 1.

The Uploper
Anon, Treatise, p. 104 "*Smaller than English Powter .. bred in Holland*".
Decribed by Darwin, Variation, *Columbia livia*, Group 1, Race 1.

The Pouting Horseman
Anon, Treatise, p. 106 "*Bastard of Horseman and Cropper*".
Described by Darwin, Variation, Columbia livia, Group 1, Race 1.

The Leghorn Runt
Anon, Treatise, p.108, "*Quite large .. not common .. I have killed of their young ones, which, when on the spit, were as large as middling spring fowls*".
Described by Darwin, Variation, *Columbia livia*, Group 2, Race 3.

The Spanish Runt
Anon, Treatise, p111, "*longest of all .. up to 23 inches*".
Anon, Sportsman, p.4, ".. *much esteemed being the largest sort of pigeon, but are sluggish*".

The Friesland Runt
Anon, Treatise, p.112, "*Middle sized - few in England .. to these may be added the common runt, which are kept purposely for the dish, and generally in locker-holes in inn yards, or other places, and are well known to everybody*".
Existed at least by 1600.
Described by Darwin, Variation, *Columbia livia*, Group 2, Race 3.

Toy Pigeons
Anon, Treatise, p.112, "*The following sorts of pigeons are genrally deemed and called Toys by the gentleman fanciers*":

Jacobine - Interbred with the Ruff. Favourite pet of Queen Victoria - Described by Darwin, Variation, *Columbia livia*, Group 3, Race 9. Existed at least by 1600.
- Anon, Sportsman, p.4, " .. *so called on account of certain featuers which turn up about the back part of the head. Some of this sort are rough-footed*".

Ruff -
Capuchine -
Crested -
Nun - (White with black head and tail) established in UK by 1600.
Owl - (Small, hook beak, easily disturbed).
Laced -
Turbit - (the type kept by Daniel Girton). Described by Darwin, Variation, *C. livia*, Group 3, Race 6.

Broad tailed shaker or fantail
Described by Darwin, Variation, C. livia, Group 3, Race 5. Existed at least by 1600.

Narrow tailed shaker, or fantail
Anon, Sportsman, p.4, "so called, because they are almost constantly wagging their heads and necks up and down".

Spot - Described by Darwin, Variation, *C. Livia*, Group 4, Race 11.
Laughter - (due to noise like soft laughter)
Trumpeter - (due to noise like trumpet)
Described by Darwin, Variation, *C. livia*, Group 4, Race 10.
Helmet - (due to head plumage)
Roman -

Turner -
Finnikin -

The Homer
Anon, 'Encarta', s.v. 'Homing Pigeon'.
"*Breed of rock pigeon that is specially trained to return swiftly to its home .. includes teaching it how to enter its loft and familiarising it with the area surrounding the loft. The bird is taken further and further away from home, each time being released to find its way back*".
Vary in colour but bred for navigational abilities, not plumage characters.
Anon, 'Encarta', s.v. 'Animal Behaviour'.
"*.. now known to use the sun as their compass .. the secondary compass is magnetic. Pigeons surpass bees in having a map sense as well .. the nature of this map sense remains one of ethology's most intriguing mysteries.*"
Normally smaller in size than table birds.
Taylor, 'Pigeons and their people', 1995, p.20, " .. *two main kind of racing pigeons. Sprinters .. Spurred on by desire if he is allowed to pair up, then separated ... Long distance racers can be fuelled by jealousy from a glimpse of a strange male in their box as they leave home on the big day. ... There could be 100,000 pigeon racers in Britain alone, with millions of birds in their lofts. In Belgium, pigeon racing is almost a national sport with tens of millions of birds in lofts*".
Anon, How to do just about anything, 1988, p.344. Pigeons raced at distances up to 800 miles. Either 'widowhoos systems' - hen stays at home, or 'natural system' - both sexes raced. Almost quarter of a million pigeon fanciers in UK. Contact Royal Pigeon Racing Association, Reddings House, The Reddings, Nr. Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL51 6RN.
The Passenger
Anon, 'Encarta', s.v. 'Passenger Pigeon', "*Common name for an extinct migrating bird .. native of the eastern half of North America from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico .. at the beginning of the 19th century millions of passenger pigeons migrated north in the spring in flocks large enough to darken the sky .. the first settlers to move west found the passenger pigeons an endless source of meat, fat and feathers .. many persons became professional pigeons hunters. By 1880 the devrease in numbers had become irreversible .. the last died in 1914*".
Estimated that 10,000 million existed (source, Royal Museum of Scotland exhibition).
The Dovecote Pigeon
Murton, 'Ecological Studies', I, p.835, ".. *fairly closely approximated to the wild type in apperance*".
The Mondain
Osman, Pigeons, p.88. Best bird for the table (remove young at 28 days and kill immediately for pie, roast or stew, ".. *a nice young pigeon is a luxury.*")
Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1931, p.12 cites the Mondain, the Maltese and the Carneaux as the best table birds. The Mondain is the largest, with dark flesh and is descended from the Roman Runt. (Carneaux: a delicate, well-flavoured descendent of French Runt).
The Barbary
Anon, Sportsman, p.4, ".. *short and thick*".
Darwin, Variation, 1868, p.197. Uniformly dark, established in Britain at least by 1676. In Europe pre-1600.
The Smiter
Anon, Sportsman, p.4, ".. *shake their wings as they fly, and rise commonly in a circular manner in their flight*".



Father and son with domestic doves (Plate 9.4)

The appeal of rearing domestic doves continues today, and is especially strong amongst working class males.

APPENDIX SECTION 3 - (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

BREEDING - some additional notes [cross refer to Chap. 4.2]

- E. Frost, RSPB, pers.comm., 8/7/96, "*... pigeons are known to breed throughout the year so I would have thought that, in the comfort of a dovecote, they would happily continue to produce year round.*"

- R. Wright, National Pigeon Association, pers. comm., 4/7/96, "*... they would probably breed all the year round living in close proximity to each other.*"

- Petchey, 'Squab Production', 1991, P.15. "*Pigeons... do not lay whilst in moult*".

- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.538. "*Experience has shown that the more liberty a bird is given, the less thought it gives to year round breeding.*"

- Anon, Sportman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v. 'Secret to hinder Pigeons'. "*Pigeons will live eight years, but they are only prolific for the first four.*"

- Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995.
  p.81. Eggs are small and white; no need for camouflage and helps orientation in dark sites.
  p.109. Generally first egg is male. Second egg thought to an insurance egg against predation or infertility of first.
  p.121. Squabs fed crop milk in first week, three to four times a day.
  Adults, it seems, cannot identify their own young, preferring to identify the nest site.
  Fledgling occurs between 25-35 days; aproximate weight 300g.
  p.133. Squabs reach reproductive maturity after six months. Only birds that hatch in March/April form pairs in the same year.
  p.205. Annual reproductive success varies considerably between two and ten fledglings per year depending on: physiology, food quantity and quality, weather, security of nest site, population density, age of parents (i.e. too young or too old). Worst success found in, "*... the smallest loft and in which the density of breeding pairs was very high.*" Success rate average of three is required to meet popilation dynamics.
  p.223. The smaller the distance, the greater the chance of aggressive behavioural disoperation among both the adults and squabs. These fights apparently cause significant mortality to the young.
  p.226. 'Compensatory Mortality' (or how a population stabilises). In overcrowding, high levels of desertification; in predatory conditions, high levels of sitting tight. Able to cope with up to 70 per cent predation.

- Carr, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1919, p.43. Usually two eggs, sometimes one, exceptionally three. First egg laid in afternoon, second egg, morning or afternoon (influenced by length of day).
  p. 47. Male occupies nest during day. Female sits on nest two thirds of day before laying (which is quite painful). Young hatch in morning. Adults rest midday and much of afternoon.
  p.63. Young can leave nest after two weeks. New cycle can begin at this stage. Male takes over feeding of first young. Female incubates and first young are driven away from nest when second hatch is produced.

APPENDIX SECTION 3 - (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

EFFECTS OF DOMESTICATION [cross refer to Chap. 4.4]

- F. Galon, 'First Steps Towards the Domestication of Animals', Transaction of the Ethological Society of London, vol. 3, (1865), pp. 122-38, as cited in J. Clutton-Brock, Natural History of Domesticated Animals, (London: Cambridge University Press for British Museum, Natural History, 1987), p.10.
  By the mid nineteenth century, six, "... *conditions under which animals may become domesticated*" were identified. They should: (a) ".. *be hardy*," [i.e. ability to adapt to new environment], (b) "... *have an inborn liking for man*" [i.e. a social animal which will tolerate proximity of man and accept dominance], (c) "... *be comfort loving*" [i.e. not highly adapted for instant flight], (d) "... *be found useful to saves*" [i.e. food, clothing, pleasure, etc.], (e) "... *breed freely*" [i.e. colonise and sustain themselves in], (f) "... *be easy to tend*" [i.e.placid, versatile, gregarious].
  The effects of domestication have been examined by ethnologists who confirm that: (a) size of body always decreases [although body can be increased by artificial selection], (b) appearance alters [e.g. coat, plumage], (c) internal organs change [e.g. smaller brain, layer of fat], (d) submissive behaviour, (e) generally no longer breed with wild ones [although not the case with Feral pigeons].

- Goodwin in Abs, Behaviour of the Pigeon, 1983, p.302. *"Driving occurs ... It is very noticeable in Domestic Pigeon ... she may be injured ... Such pathological results of driving never occur under natural, or even semi-natural conditions."*

- Bennet, B.H.W., 21/1/1994, p.16. *"Once they get the taste, the birds will quickly look forward to your presence in the loft."*

- Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p.42. Noticeable that, "... *more lightly-bred varieties are bad feeders"*, some have to be artificially reared.

- Goodwin, Pigeons and Doves, 1970, p.59. *"The more highly bred and artificial Fancy Pigeons seldom live long or breed successfully in a feral state."*

- Hutton, Pigeon Lore, 1962, p.47. *"Changes in environment are liable to bring changes in behaviour ... although can resort back to original instinct ... rarely possible to easily touch a bird ... almost always walks away."*

- Hewson, 'Rock Doves in Scotland', 1964, p.25. *"The effect on the pigeons of the sea caves of recruitment from displaced dovecote pigeons must have been considerable."*

- Ovid, ExPonto II, ii, 35. *"In fear of the hawk a bird on trembling wings ventures in weariness to come to man's protection."*

- Murton et al, 'Ecological Studies', 1972, p.430, "... *not chance collections of individuals recently escaped from captivity, but instead are composed of those birds best fitted ecologically to occupy the urban niche."*

- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.299, "... *as there is an increase in numbers, there is a struggle for existence.. and that the fittest survive, the unfit perish;if conditions or environment change, a new standard is set, resulting in a new set of survivors and eventually in a change in species."* In first generation offspring, dominant characteristics come through. Recessive characteristics only come through in second and third generations.

APPENDIX SECTION 3 (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

DOVE AND PIGEON PREDATORS [cross refer with Chap. 4.5]

- B. Lironi, 'A race against time', Daily Mail, 6/1/98, p.49, "*Pigeon fanciers say their sport will die unless protected hawks are culled .... Losses to hawks have drive 1 500 Scots out of pigeon racing altogether, claim the fanciers.*"

- A. Musgrove, 'Peregrines and Pigeons (again!)', BTO News, 214, p.11. "*The conflict between the Peregrine and the pastime of keeping and flying domestic pigeons is an old and familiar story.*"

- P. Mentink, 'Pigeons and Raptors', BTO News, 205, p.6. "*Goshawks do not target lofts near their breeding grounds. Most of the Homing Pigeons taken by Goshawks in the study area are those that have become lost.*"

- Anon, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765 (1972 reprint), p.2, " .. *where proper care should be taken to fence off the cats, who are sworn enemies to Pigeons.... Notwithstanding the cats are natural enemies to Pigeons, it is a very common thing to see one in most pigeon-lofts, which are put in there when very young, and by proper methods being used with them, such as sometimes beating them with a dead Pigeon .... and they are extremely necessary in a loft, by keeping it clear of rats and mice, which are full as destructive to the Pigeons.*"

- V. Lough, 'Peregrine Falcon', Scotland's Own (Broxburn: Scottish Country Press, 1992), pp.27-30 (p.29), "... *during World War Two the use of carrier pigeons, the peregrines were shot on sight.*"

- J. White, 'So how do the rats plead', Independent, section 2, 14/6/95, p.4. "*They* [rats] *are major predators of pigeons, eating eggs, babies in nests, even, when given the opportunity, fully-grown birds ... Brown rats are ground rats. They can only climb walls if the surface is rough enough to give a toe-hold.*"

- Anon, 'Pigeon Fanciers bigger killers than falcons', Scotsman, 8/9/99. Estimated that raptors take about 225,000 pigeons per annum which is thought to be about 3 per cent of UK stock. Average cote has around 50 birds and a keeper will kill around 100 per annum in order to maintain high quality stock.
  Scotland has approximately half the UK peregrine population.

- See Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1968, pp.219-33 for detailed information on various animals which are injurious to doves and pigeons.

- Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.183, noted that pigeons, ".. *use routes away from the buildings that lead between mature trees*" in order to escape from falcons.

APPENDIX SECTION 3 - (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC DOVES - some additional notes

[cross refer to Chap. 4.5]

- Most authors seem to appreciate the threat to a doocot stock caused by overcrowding and the link with hygiene is increasingly apparent in writings produced since the 1850s. "*However perfect the buildings, they will not keep away disease if the birds are overcrowded*"[1] and "... *one of the most dangerous mistakes that can be made in the management of pigeons is the overcrowding of a loft*".[2] Overcrowding is a more serious issue in a confined situation (birds with freedom have the opportunity to escape and stabilise their numbers) since it will create not only competition for mates, nest sites and roosts, but will also increase the risk of disease and reduce air quality. Doves create high levels of carbon dioxide in the breeding season and a good level of ventilation is identified as crucial: "... *some results show that birds kept in lofts with no ventilation were a sickly lot*".[3] One author stresses the need for regular air changes, although draughts (particularly cold ones) must be prevented from threatening the featherless youngsters.[4]

- Ferguson, 'Pigeon Houses in Cumberland'. 19988, p. 418 cites Willis and Clark, Architectural History of University of Cambridge, vol.2, p.441, 'Expenses of the dovehouse 1414-5', "*Item pro remuneracion portatorum columbarum ad columbare iiijdussen iiijdob. It pro una salcath vd ob.*"

  Also, p.433, s.v. 'Account of Peterhouse', "... *in 1546-7, four gallons of wort were brought to wash the nests with, probably to fill the fleas*".

- Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p.141. Birds especially require minerals when breeding and are noted for seeking calcium from plaster walls and decorations.

- Carr, Behaviour of Pigeons, 1919, p.135. "*A home is particular only as a definite place or position. A home may mean food, safety, companions, mate, nest and young, or a place to roost ... a birds removed from home does not respond to a home stimulus, nor does it seek a return because of the resultant satisfaction. The bird reacts negatively to the present situation rather than positively to the home environment. The motivating stimulus is hunger, not food; loneliness, not companionship; fear not safety, etc... the social or gregarious instinct is considered of prime importance... the failure of wild pigeons to return is a case of homing, for these birds seek and return to an environment which they instinctively prefer. They react against confinement and too close proximity to man.*"

- R. Richards, pers. comm., 4/8/94. "*It would appear that little consideration was* [historically] *given to the comfort of the birds. A racing pigeon loft would have much fewer birds. Overcrowding would promote disease.*"

- Anon, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765 (1972 reprint), p.28, "... *for though Pigeons love salt, yet too much is very pernicious.*"

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[1] Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons 1895, p.27. He points out that, "... *rarely find disease amongst birds which are allowed to fly at large*".

[2] W.E.Barker, Pigeon Racing. A Practical Guide to the Sport, (London: Racing Pigeon Publishing Company Ltd., 1913), p.5. This statement is referring to birds which are chiefly kept in confinement.
Moore, Treatise on Domestic Pigeons, 1765, p.3 says that, "*the loft, or room, should be sufficiently spacious to accommodate the number of pigeons you propose to entertain.*" No size is suggested.

[3] Whitney, ibid. Regarding ventilation rates, the author notes that, "*No positive answer can be given ... no published figures*".
Anon, How to do just about anything, (London: Reader's Digest Association Ltd., 1988), p.344, states that a pigeon house should be dry and well ventilated, facing south or south east, with a volumetric provision of 0.6^3 per bird.

[4] Barker, op.cit. p.10
Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p.211, says that squabs will suffer if wind blows through a cote. He does, however, state that good ventilation is much more important than the avoidance of cold temperatures.

p.31, The 'Salt Cat', a concoction of gravel, sand, loam, lime, cummin-seed, salt-petre, urine, ".. *and your Pigeons will take great delight*". Gravel helps digestion, loam helps discharge crop milk, lime helps harden shell of egg, salt and urine is a great provocative to drink, cummin-seeds will keep your pigeons at home.

- Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.527. "*Fresh, clear, clean water is one of the fundamental requirements of pigeon raising.*"

- p.528, ".. *a source of constant, abundant, fresh clean water ... is a great time-saver. In sub-freezing weather, it* [vessel] *must be placed in the loft proper .. the necessity for baths for pigeons is uncertain .. derive a keen psychological pleasure from so doing.*"

- Whitney, Keep Your Pigeons Flying, 1961, p.209. Change drinking water once a day.
Pigeons drink by suction, not by gravity, as do other birds, and therefore need a water source of a depth in the order of at least 25 mm (see pp. 52-89 for more details).

APPENDIX SECTION 3 - (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

PEST CONTROL OF FERAL PIGEONS

- Urban Environment, Nov./Dec. 1995, p.8, recorded that Westminster City Council fixed plastic eagle owls to buildings in central London to stop feral pigeons roosting.

- Press & Journal, 13/3/96, p.1. Elgin Community Council calls for cull of feral pigeons in town centre.

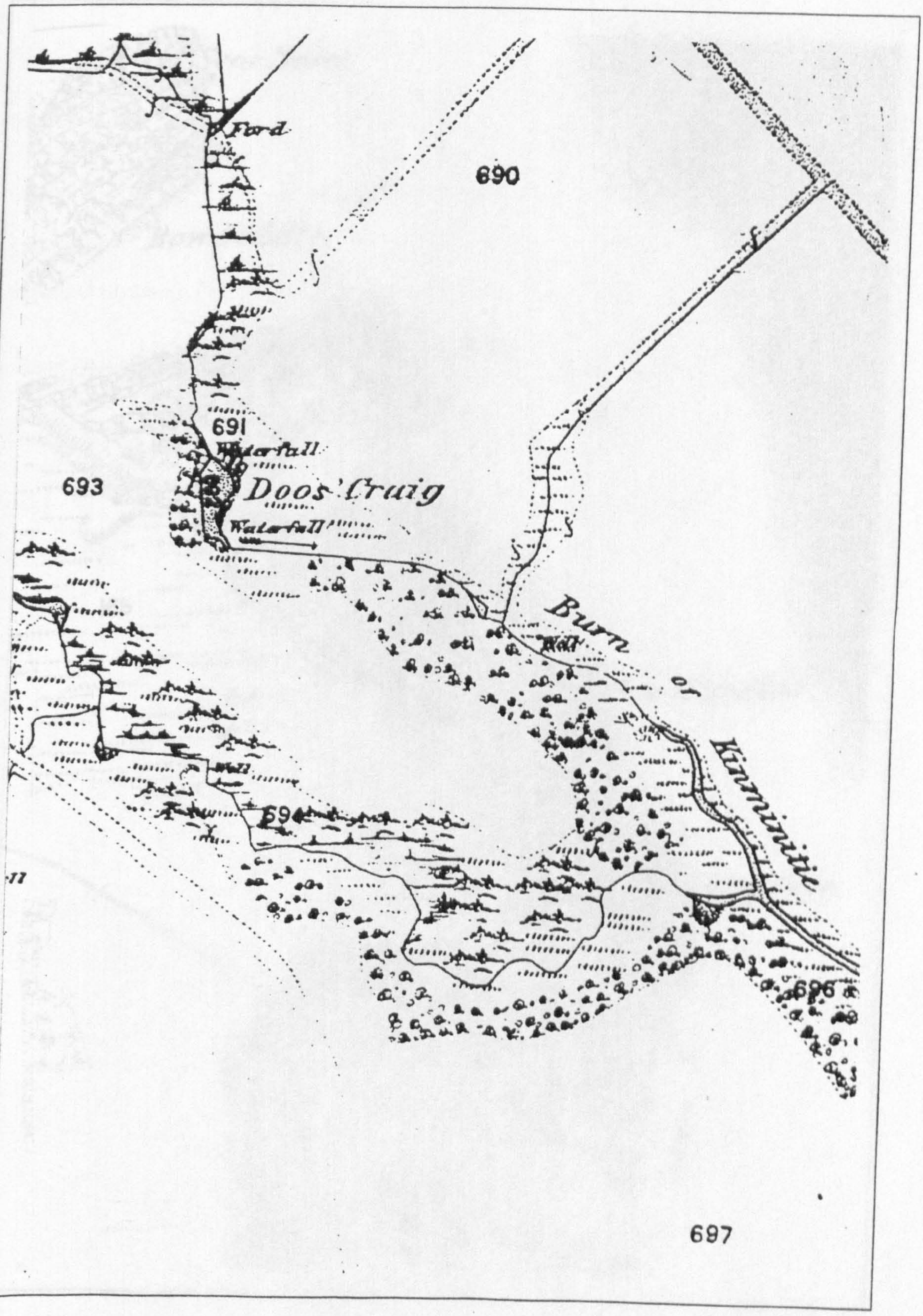
- What's New in Building, December, 1993, advert for "*Pestgo Pinnacle Gel - keep pigeons ... away from your property and stop mess, noise and nesting*".

- RSPB, 'Feral Pigeons', leaflet, 1995. "*Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, feral pigeons may be killed or taken by authorised persons ... an offence under the Criminal Damage Act 1971 intentionally to kill a racing pigeon .... local authorites have the power to take action.... Three methods are used: 1. Traps baited with food, 2. Grain treated... which stupefies the birds...., 3. Shooting.*"

- S.V. Vynck, 'My Birds', Architects' Journal, 20/4/1994, p.50. Article about company, "... *which uses birds of prey to scare pests such as pigeons ... from buildings.*"

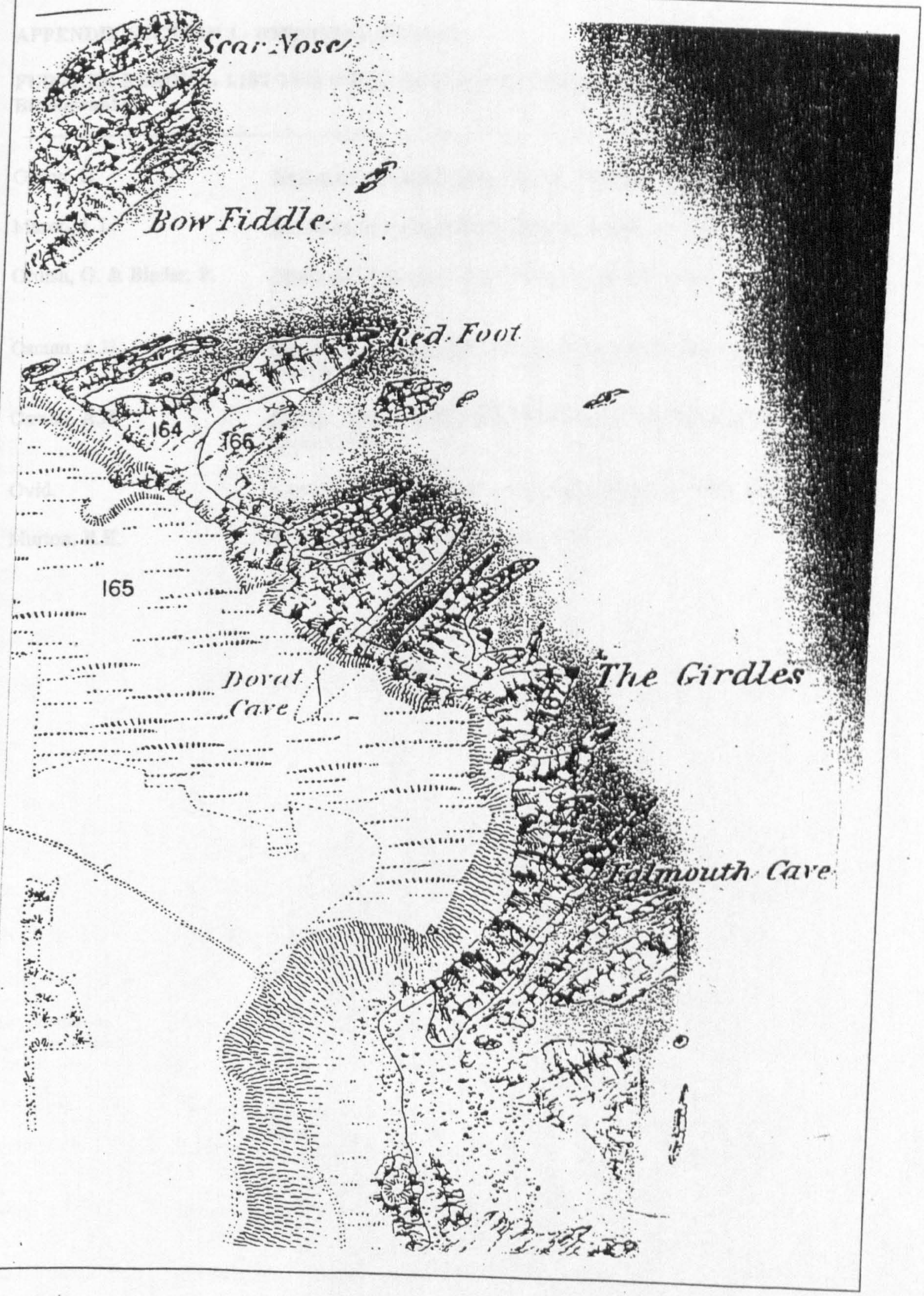
- Johnson and Janiga, Feral Pigeons, 1995, p. 257, s.v. 'Control of pigeon populations', "... *if a programme of control of a feral pigeon population is envisioned, the aim should be to reduce or eliminate pigeon resources - food and shelter*" [i.e. reversal of production].
  p.258. Factors which were once positive for breeding, now seen as negative. "*Factors that have been identified as important in becoming a pest ... (a) granivory, (b) an alimentary storage crop, (c) high reproductive capability, (d) capacity for colonial breeding, (e) group foraging behaviour and (f) communal roosing and information exchange.*"
  p.167. "*The popular imagination considers feral pigeons to be 'dirty' and infested... This is overly imaginative and inaccurate, for a dirty bird is probably a sick of otherwise impaired bird.*"

- See C.J. Feare (ed.), 'Feral Pigeons, Biology-Problems-Control', Proceedings of British Ornithologists' Urban Symposium, 11/10/1994 for comprehensive details.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Natural nesting site near Keith (Fig. 9.13)



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Natural doo cave at Portknockie (Fig. 9.14)

APPENDIX SECTION 3 - (ORNITHOLOGICAL)

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The Robert Gordon University
Faculty of Design

The Doocots of Moray: A Holistic Approach to their Evolutionary Development

Volume II (Part 1)

NICHOLAS A BROWN

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Robert Gordon University for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Date: August 2000

Awarding Establishment:	**The Robert Gordon University**
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Volume II (Part 1)

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CHAPTER 5

INDIVIDUAL BUILDING CATALOGUE

In order to improve the quality of decision making in listed building work it is necessary to understand the building in advance of making a decision ... more properly called <u>building analysis</u> .... Observation is a valuable skill to acquire. Photographing buildings does not aid that skill but a measured drawing or even sketching will.

Paul Dadson, 1997.

5.1 Background to the Moray area

5.1.1 The natural divisions of Moray
5.1.2 Ecclesiastical divisions in Moray
5.1.3 Political and civil divisions in Moray
5.1.4 The fauna of Moray

CHAPTER 5

INDIVIDUAL BUILDING CATALOGUE

This chapter concentrates mainly on the **architecture** of the individual doocots of **Moray** (as advocated in Chap. 3.2). Moray is one of the few areas in Scotland where past studies into doocots have been carried out and full details of these are given in Appendix Section 1. In order, however, to place the buildings in a broader context and enable a fuller interpretation and analysis, it is considered important to present an outline of the Moray area and also develop a methodology for field recording which will assist the original objectives.

The purpose of this chapter is to begin to **apply a more holistic methodology** of study to the area selected for investigation by identifying possible external influences in relation to doocot construction and design: architecture, history, geography, geology and, since it has been largely neglected in the past, ornithology. It is argued that a rudimentary understanding of all these factors, especially the latter, is essential for a fuller interpretation and analysis of doocots.

5.1 Background to the Moray area

In the nineteenth century, Lachlan Shaw perceptively identified three types of 'division' in Moray society: natural, ecclesiastical and political.[1]

5.1.1 The natural divisions of Moray

The 'plateau of Banffshire' is one of four distinct bioregions in present day Moray; the other three being the 'Laich of Moray', the 'Upland Hills', and the 'Cairngorm Mountains'[2] (see Fig. 5.1.2). Geologically, it is mostly composed of Dalradian sedimentary stone, although a large seam of hard, igneous rock runs through the centre of the zone. Banffshire's location

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[1] L. Shaw, History of the Province of Moray, vol. 1, (Glasgow: Thomas Morison, 1882), p. 7. It should be remembered that, at the time of Shaw's writings, Moray did not extend east of the Spey.

[2] Ecological Design Unit, 'Specify Benign' leaflet, (Aberdeen: Robert Gordon University, 1996) A bioregion is defined as a distinct geographical region that has a continuity of watersheds, land forms, climate, form, fauna and other natural characteristics.

north east of the River Spey on the leeside of the Highlands, gives it protection from the prevailing south west winds, but it has a climate which is dry and cool in comparison with much of Scotland[3]. "*The relief is far from monotonous ... the monotony lies in the lack of trees and the uniformity of agricultural activities*"[4] (which may explain the area's lack of doocots).

This contrasts greatly with the Laich of Moray since, "*In the northwest lie the fertile lands of Moray .... Of all the lowland areas, Moray shows the most marked individuality and to cross the Spey is almost to cross into another world*"[5]. Geologically, the Laich is composed mainly of Upper Old Red Sandstone.[6] The area also contains the site of a former sea loch, which was of historic, strategic significance and only drained as late as the mid nineteenth century.

The upland hill bioregion is an east-to-west belt of land at altitudes between 150 and 250 m. Geologically, it largely consists of granulites, although rocks such as gneisses, schists and quartzites can be found, particularly in the east[7]. Much of the land comprises unproductive quantities of heather moor with poorly draining soil on mixed igneous rock[8]. The eastern side once contained a significant source of slate for building purposes and the Banff/Macduff zone is cited as being formerly one of Scotland's four main slate areas.[9]

---

[3] M. Paris, 'Map of Britain', c. 1250, (Plate 1, Lynch, Scotland, 1992), includes the Spey as an important landmark. The River Spey, second largest river in Britain, is the major dividing line between east and west and has been a recognised line in Scotland throughout recorded history.

[4] K. Walton in The British Association for the Advancement of Science [BAAS], The North East Scotland, (Aberdeen: Central Press,1963), p. 30. Chap. 3, s.v., 'Geomorphology', and Chap. 5, p. 44, s.v., 'Soils'. A scientific survey of the area during the 1960's revealed that a significant proportion of Banffshire was, nevertheless, agriculturally, "... *some of the poorest land in the region*".
D. Souter, General View of Agriculture of County of Banff, (Edinburgh: Sherwood, Neely and Jones, 1812), Sect. VII, p. 266. "*There are not many dove-cotes in the county of Banff ... The severity of the climate in winter ... must forever prevent this stock from being a profitable concern, however much esteemed as an article of luxury at the tables of the opulent.*"

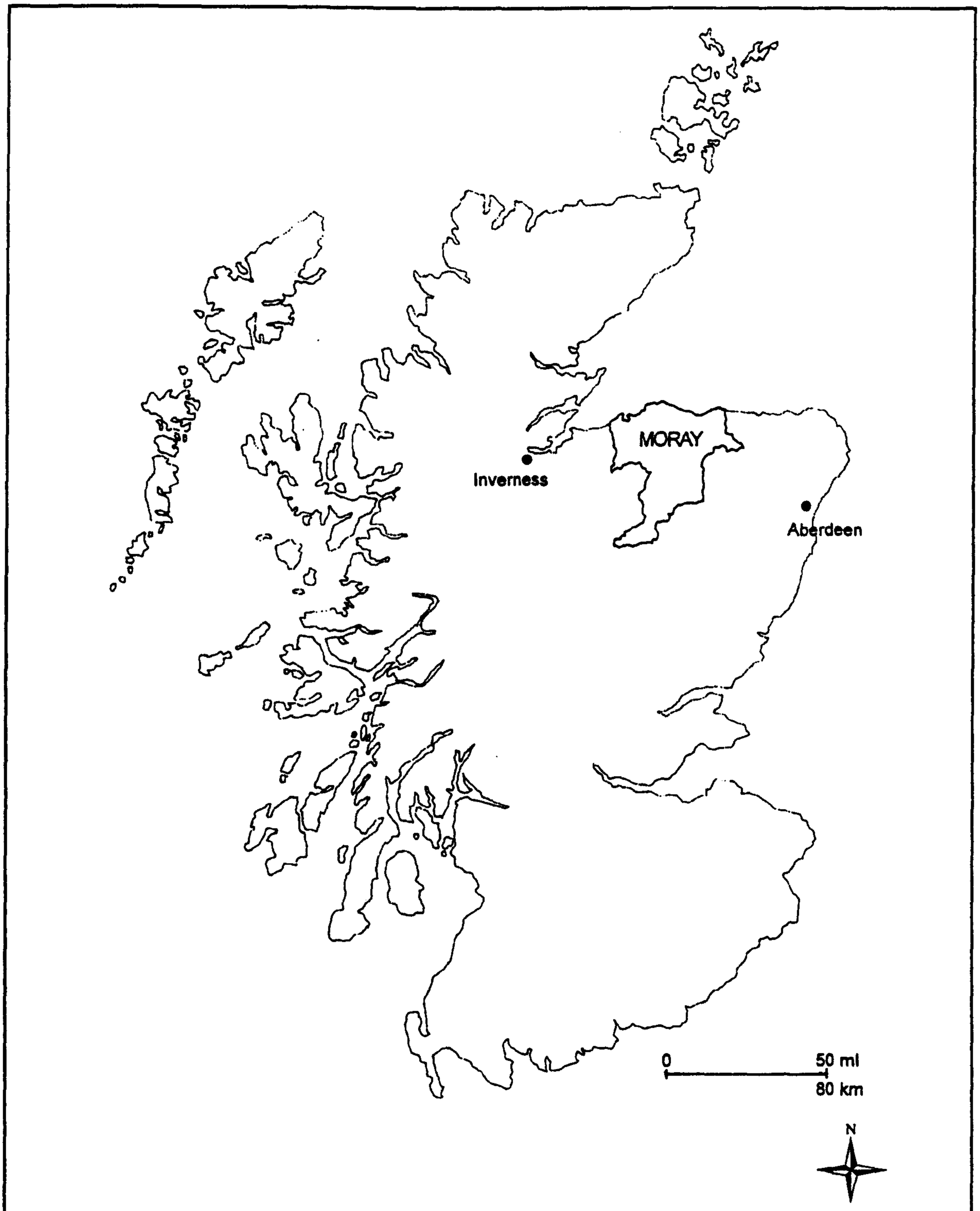
[5] BAAS, ibid, Chap. 3, p. 31, s.v., 'Geomorphology' and Chap. 4, p. 36, s.v. 'Climate'. "*The low rainfall has, however, long made this an important cereal growing area in Scotland ... referred to as the Riviera of the north*".

[6] OSA, p.477, s.v. 'Drainy', "... *hill quarries abound with excellent white and yellow freestone.*"
p.599, s.v. 'Dyke and Moy', "... *two freestone quarries and limestone.*"
p.688, s.v. 'Spynie', "... *freestone quarry at Quarrywood*".

[7] C. Gillan, in Sellar (ed.), Moray Province, 1993, Chap. 1, s.v. 'Geology and Landscape of Moray'.

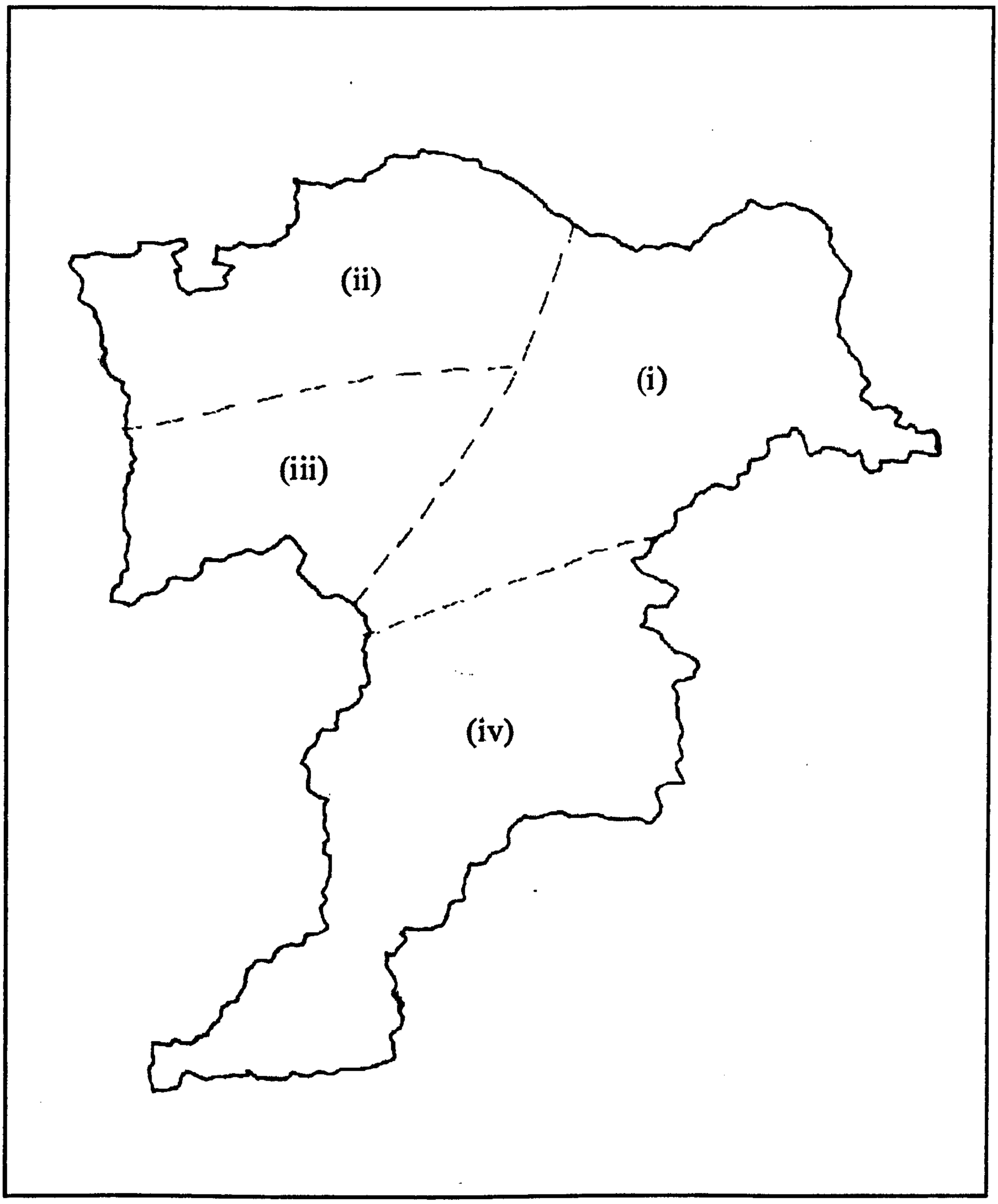
[8] Although pine roots and bog oak recovered from peat show that forest extended over much more of the area and to higher elevations than at present.

[9] R. Kent, 'Traditional Scots Slating', Context, 1997, p. 15.
See also A. Riches & G. Stell (eds.), Materials & Tradition in Scottish Building, Regional & thematic studies No. 2, (Edinburgh: SVBWG, 1992), p. 53 s.v., "*Sources of Slate in Banffshire...*".



Location of Moray in Scotland (Fig. 5.1.1)

Moray is located in northern Scotland on the Moray Firth Coast between Aberdeen and Inverness. The southern part extends into the Cairngorm Mountain Range. It is currently one of Scotland's smaller local authority areas.



BIOREGIONS OF MORAY (Fig 5.1.2)

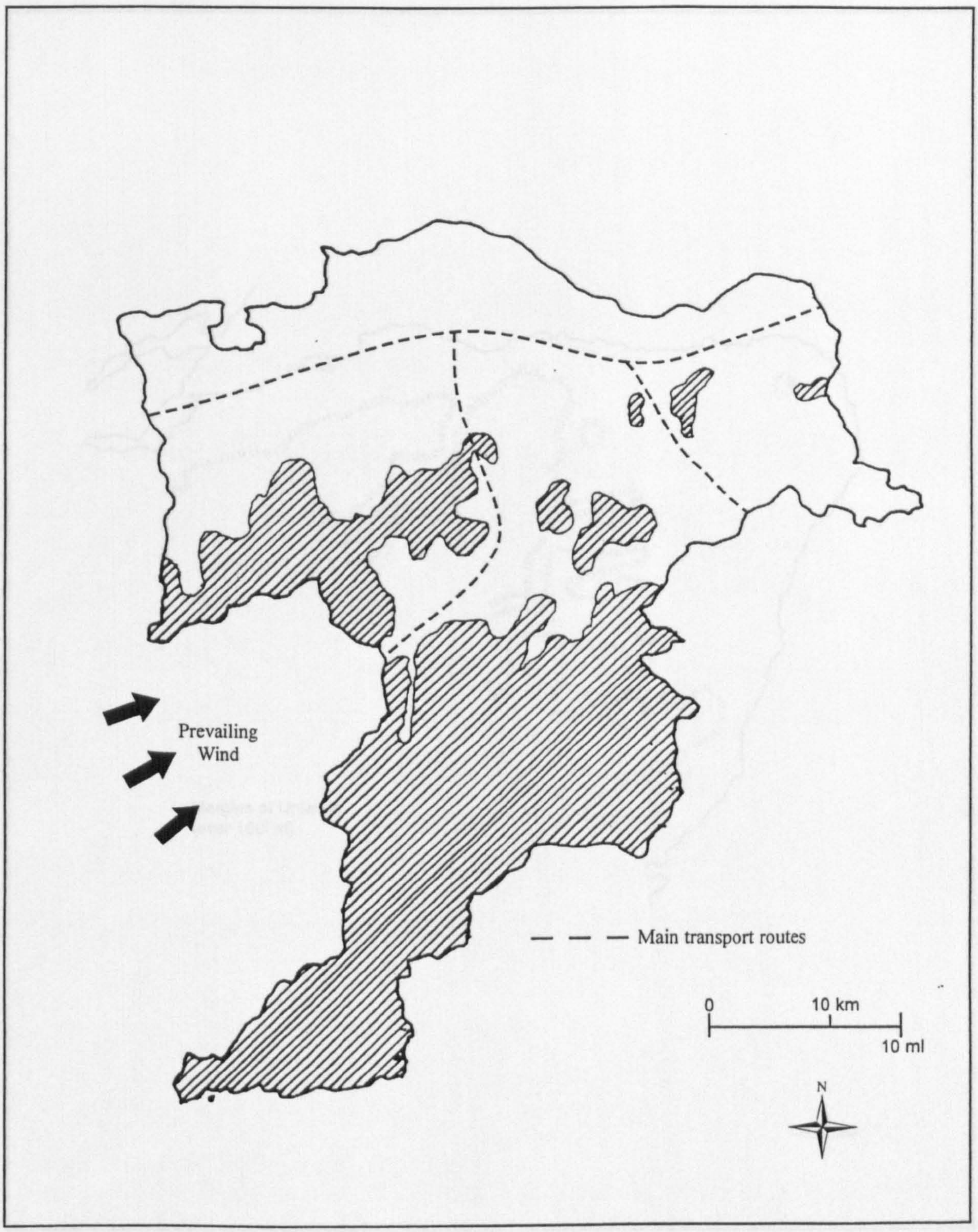
Approximate outline of Moray's distinct bioregions:

(i) Banffshire Plateau

(ii) Laich of Moray

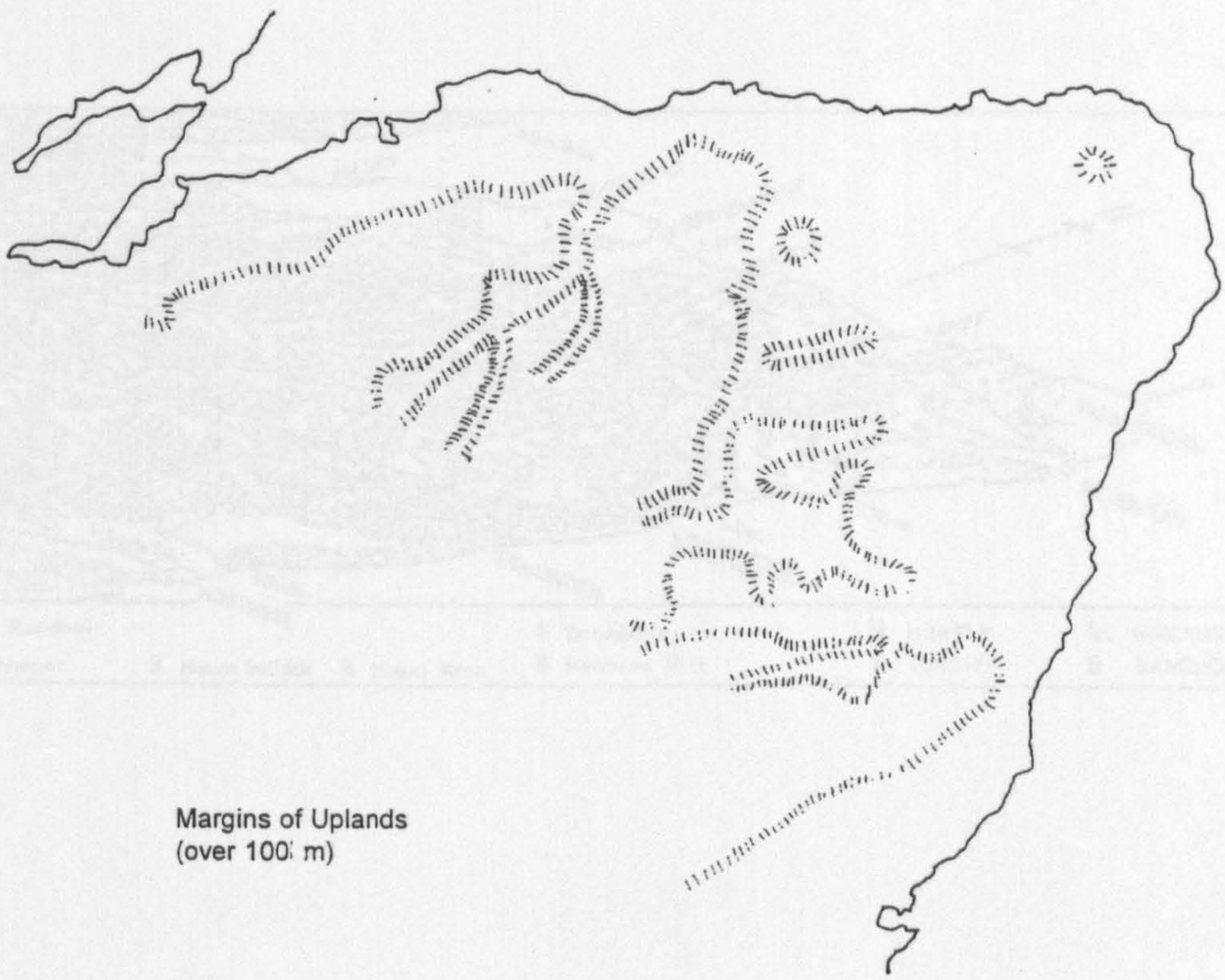
(iii) Upland Hills

(iv) Cairngorm Mountains



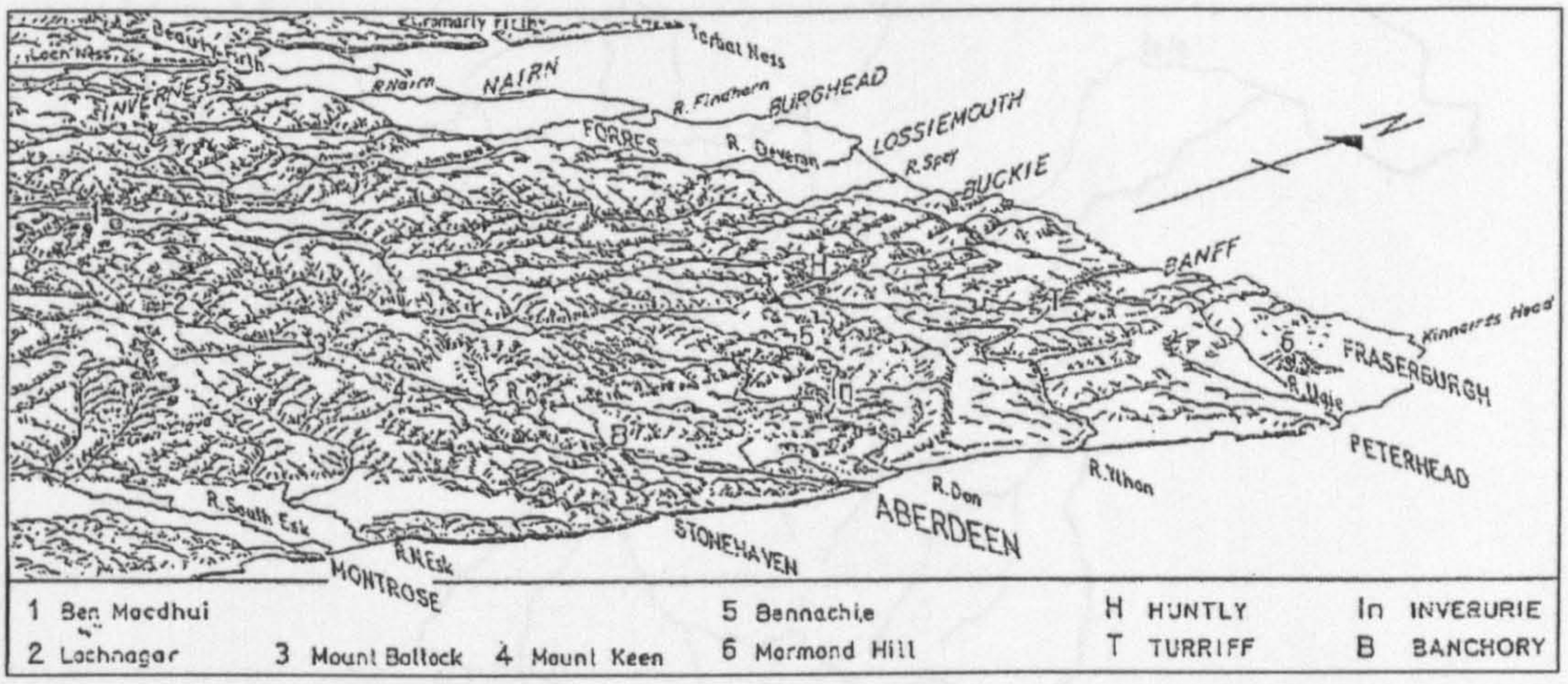
Land in Moray over 250m (Fig. 5.1.3)

Observe how Moray has approximately half of its area devoted to near impenetrable highlands (to the south, south west with parts in 'Banffshire' in the north east).



Landform pattern of North East Scotland (Fig. 5.1.4)

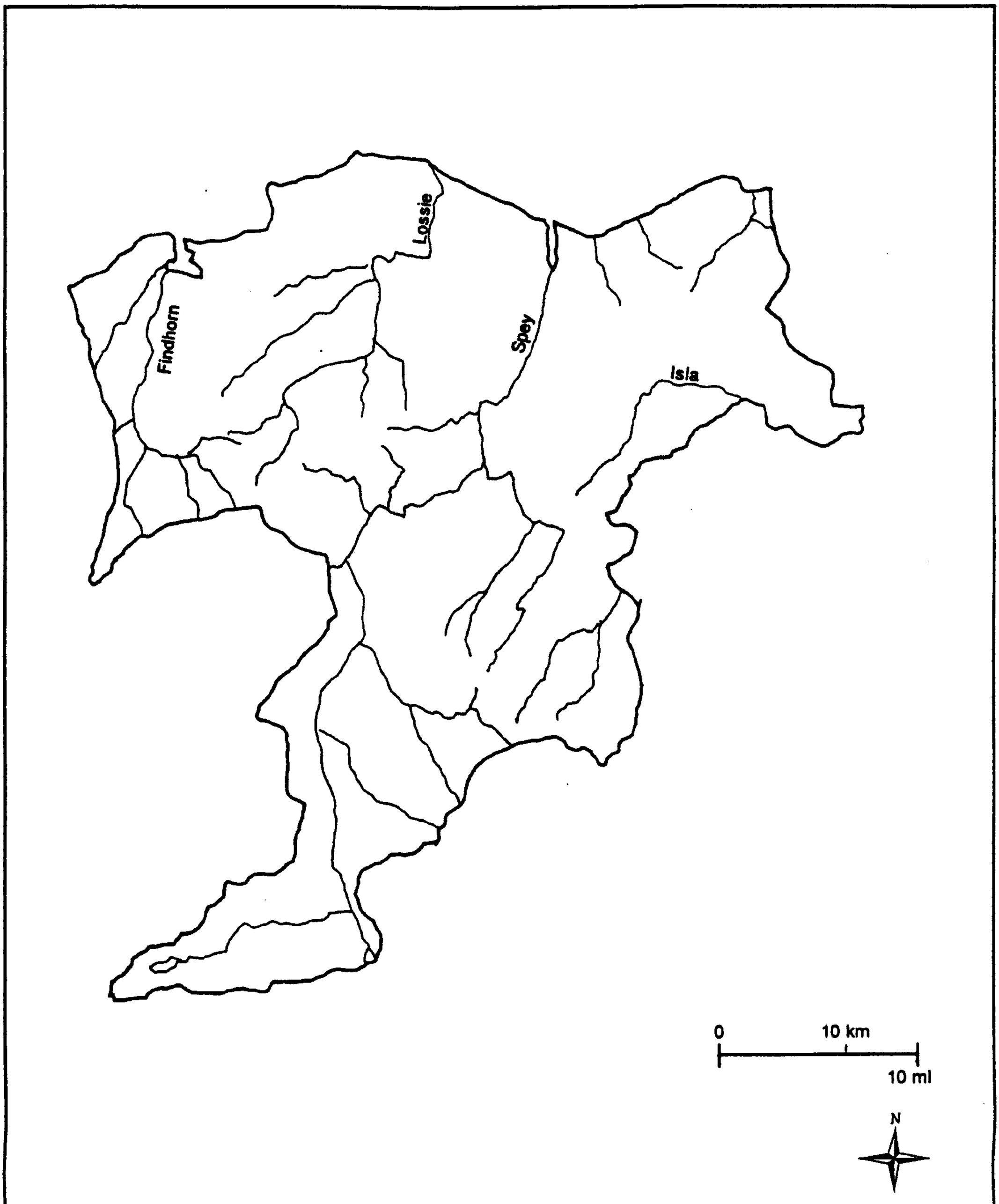
Note the extent of the coastal lowlands along the Moray Firth and around Buchan. See also how the Moray uplands are penetrated by the River Spey and its spurs.
(c.f. Distribution diagrams in Chapter 6.4)
[Source of data: BAAS, North East Scotland, 1963.]



PHYSIOGRAPHIC DIAGRAM (Fig 5.1.5)

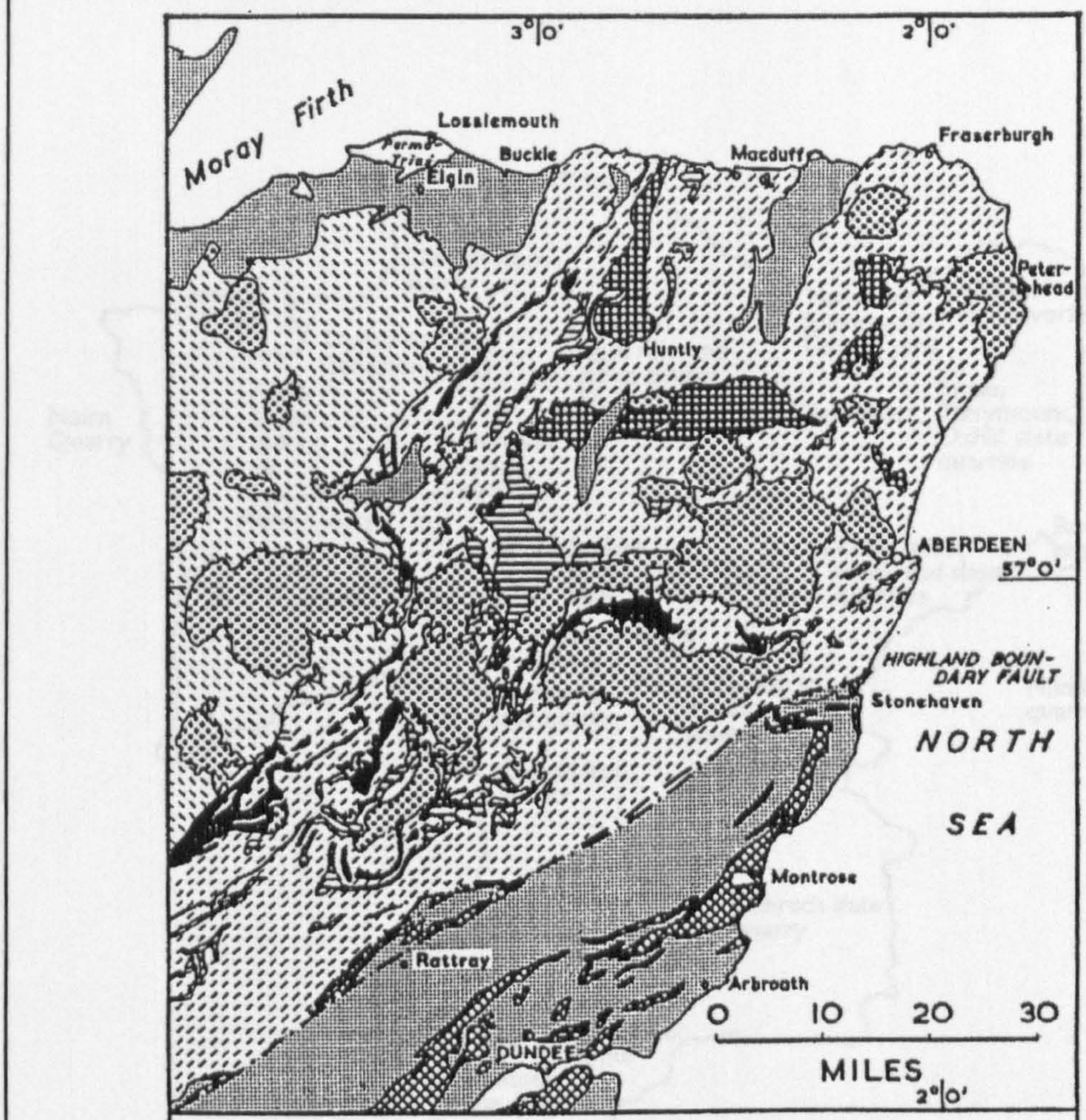
Three dimensional illustration of the North east of Scotland between Montrose and Inverness. The 'Laich of Moray', a flat plain shown between Buckie and Inverness, is a striking lowland feature amongst otherwise rugged terrain.

(reproduced from: B.A.A.S., North East Scotland, 1963)



The Drainage of Moray (Fig 5.1.6)

Moray is drained by three significant rivers which discharge into the Moray Firth; the Findhorn, the Lossie and the Spey. The estuaries of each have been sites of ancient settlement and much of Moray's human history has occurred in the landed areas between the tips of the Findhorn and the Spey.
[Source of data: Sellar, Moray Province, 1993]

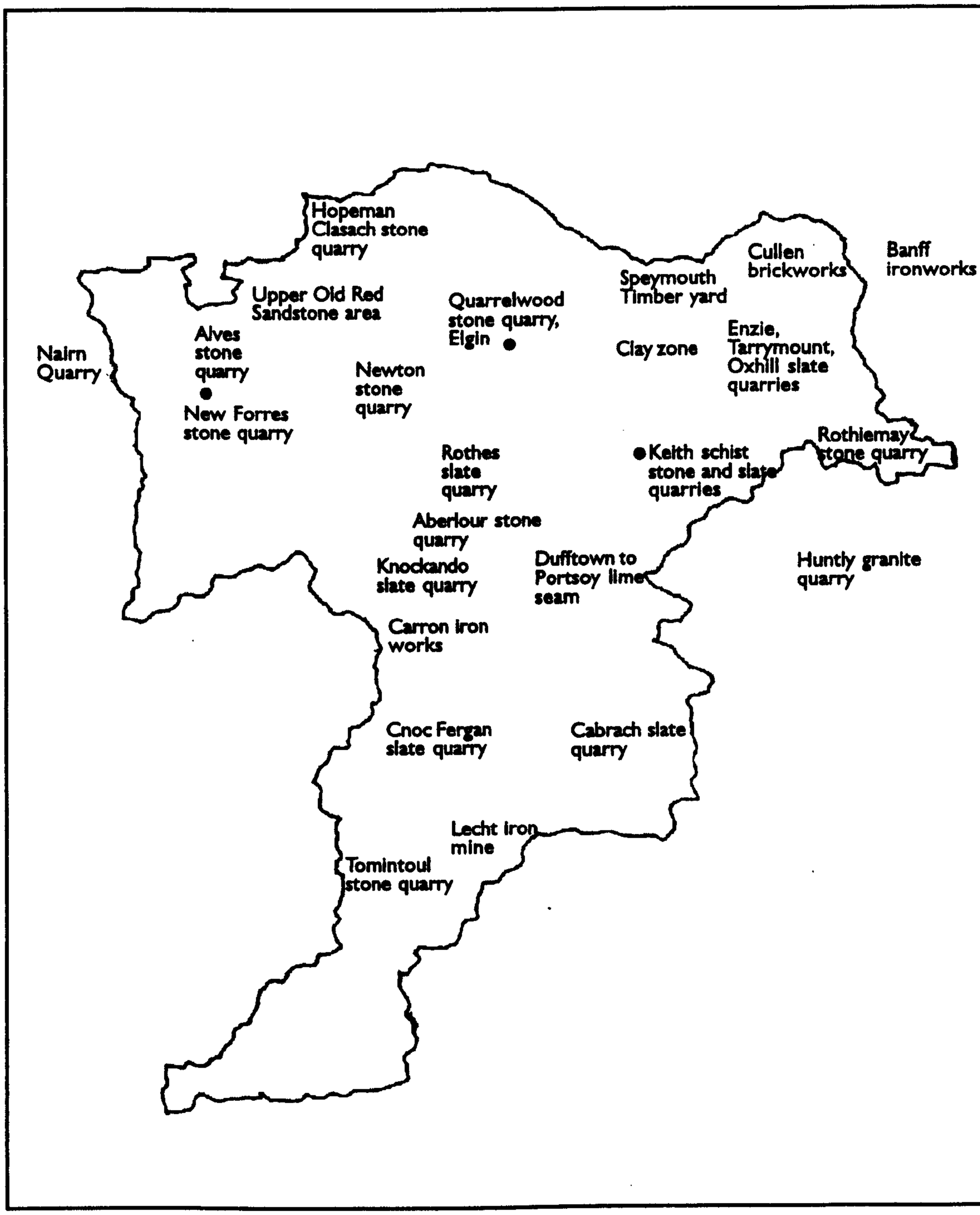


GEOLOGY OF NE SCOTLAND (Fig 5.1.7)

Map showing geological pattern of north east Scotland.

Note: (i) preponderance of Old Red Sandstone in Laich of Moray (and also in Angus area);
(ii) the precious, thin seam of limestone extending SW to NE through Banffshire; and
(iii) the east west split in Moray of Highland granulites and Dalradian rock.

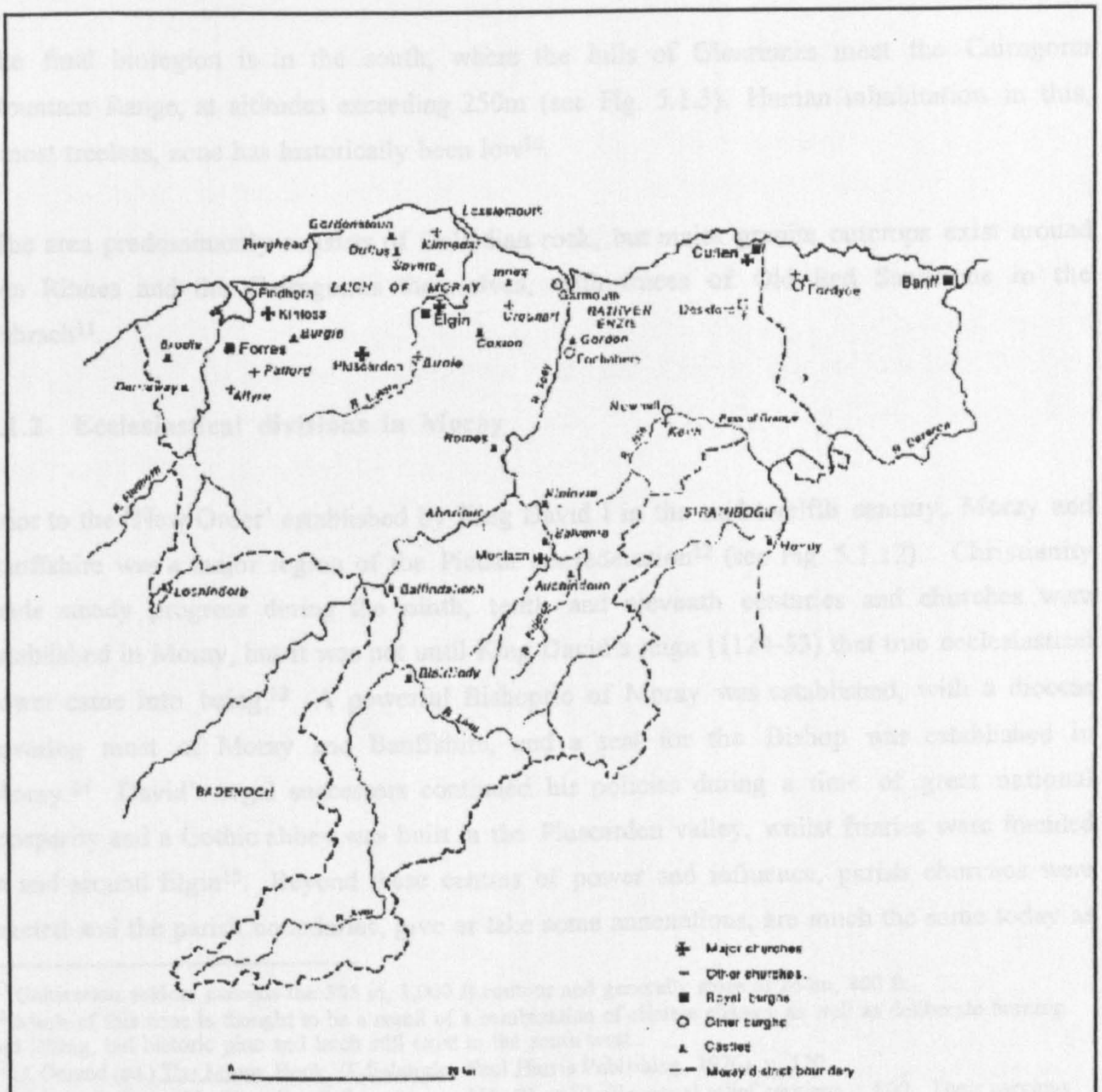
(reproduced from: B.A.A.S., North East Scotland, 1963)



DISTRIBUTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS (Fig 5.1.8)

Outline of Moray showing some of the known sites of natural materials used historically for building construction.

(Compiled from various sources)



MEDIEVAL MORAY (Fig 5.1.9)

Map Moray showing major churches, burghs and castles during the medieval period. Note the concentration around the Laich of Moray area.

(reproduced from:Omand, The Moray Book, 1970, p. 127)

The final bioregion is in the south, where the hills of Glenrinnes meet the Cairngorm Mountain Range, at altitudes exceeding 250m (see Fig. 5.1.3). Human inhabitation in this, almost treeless, zone has historically been low[10].

The area predominantly consists of Dalradian rock, but major granite outcrops exist around Ben Rinnes and the Cairngorms themselves, with traces of Old Red Sandstone in the Cabrach[11].

5.1.2 Ecclesiastical divisions in Moray

Prior to the 'New Order' established by King David I in the mid twelfth century, Moray and Banffshire was a major region of the Pictish confederation[12] (see Fig. 5.1.12). Christianity made steady progress during the ninth, tenth and eleventh centuries and churches were established in Moray, but it was not until King David's reign (1124-53) that true ecclesiastical power came into being.[13] A powerful Bishopric of Moray was established, with a diocese covering most of Moray and Banffshire, and a seat for the Bishop was established in Moray.[14] David's regal successors continued his policies during a time of great national prosperity and a Gothic abbey was built in the Pluscarden valley, whilst friaries were founded in and around Elgin[15]. Beyond these centres of power and influence, parish churches were erected and the parish boundaries, give or take some annexations, are much the same today as

---

[10] Cultivation seldom exceeds the 305 m, 1,000 ft contour and generally stops at 244m, 800 ft.

[11] Much of this zone is thought to be a result of a combination of climate change, as well as deliberate burning and felling, but historic pine and larch still exist to the south west..

[12] D. Omand (ed.) The Moray Book, (Edinburgh: Paul Harris Publishing, 1976), p. 120.
Class I symbols c. 400, Class II relief carvings c. 650, Class III allegorical relief carvings c. 800. Their carvings indicate that they were keen flesh eaters. Unfortunately, not much is known about the Picts in Moray, but they were likely to have been a race of people quite individual to the North East of Scotland, with artistic connections elsewhere in Europe.

[13] For example, at Mortlach, Keith and Aberlour.

[14] Initially operating between the Church of the Holy Trinity, Birnie and Kinneddar before finally settling at Elgin (at the time, Elgin Cathedral was widely known as the 'lantern of the North' and was regarded as one of the finest buildings in Britain). A magnificent home for the Bishop was founded (at Spynie Palace overlooking the former sea loch to the north) whereas in 1134, a Benedictine priory was founded at Urquhart (east of Elgin) and in 1150, the Cistercian Abbey of Kinloss was established in Romanesque style east of the River Findhorn.

[15] That is, Greyfriars, Blackfriars and Knights Templar. A Carmelite Friary was also established near Banff. (A university was never established in the area however). By this time, religious hospitals had also been established at Elgin and at Rathven in Banffshire.
Monks of this period were academics, painters, craftsmen, architects, builders, philosophers, travellers, farmers and inventors, so their influence, particularly in the Laich of Moray during this period, should not be underestimated.

they were in the medieval period[16] (See Fig. 5.1.11). Disenchantment with the Catholic Church, however, swept across Europe in the mid-sixteenth century[17] and this resulted in an unsettled period in Scotland[18]. The dissolution of the Church resulted in a great filip for certain members in secular society at the end of the sixteenth century,[19] yet Moray (especially Banffshire) was particularly slow to change to the new Protestant faith.[20]. The engrained resistance to the new Church (and local support for both Charles I and II) resulted in further outbreaks of civil and religious strife in the north during the Covenanting Years.[21] Although Moray did not readily accept the Reformed Church, the ecclesiastical divisions which had operated in Moray (indeed throughout Scotland) for four and a half centuries were significantly altered, both literally and metaphorically.[22]

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16 Parishioners were responsible, both for maintaining these buildings and, for paying their priest's stipend (although funds were also often appropriated to the monasteries, friaries and bishoprics).

17 Due to varying degrees of pluralism, hypocracy and extravagance amongst clergymen. The Reformation of the Church is recognised to have taken place in Scotland c. 1560. (Proscription of mass by Scottish Parliament in this year).

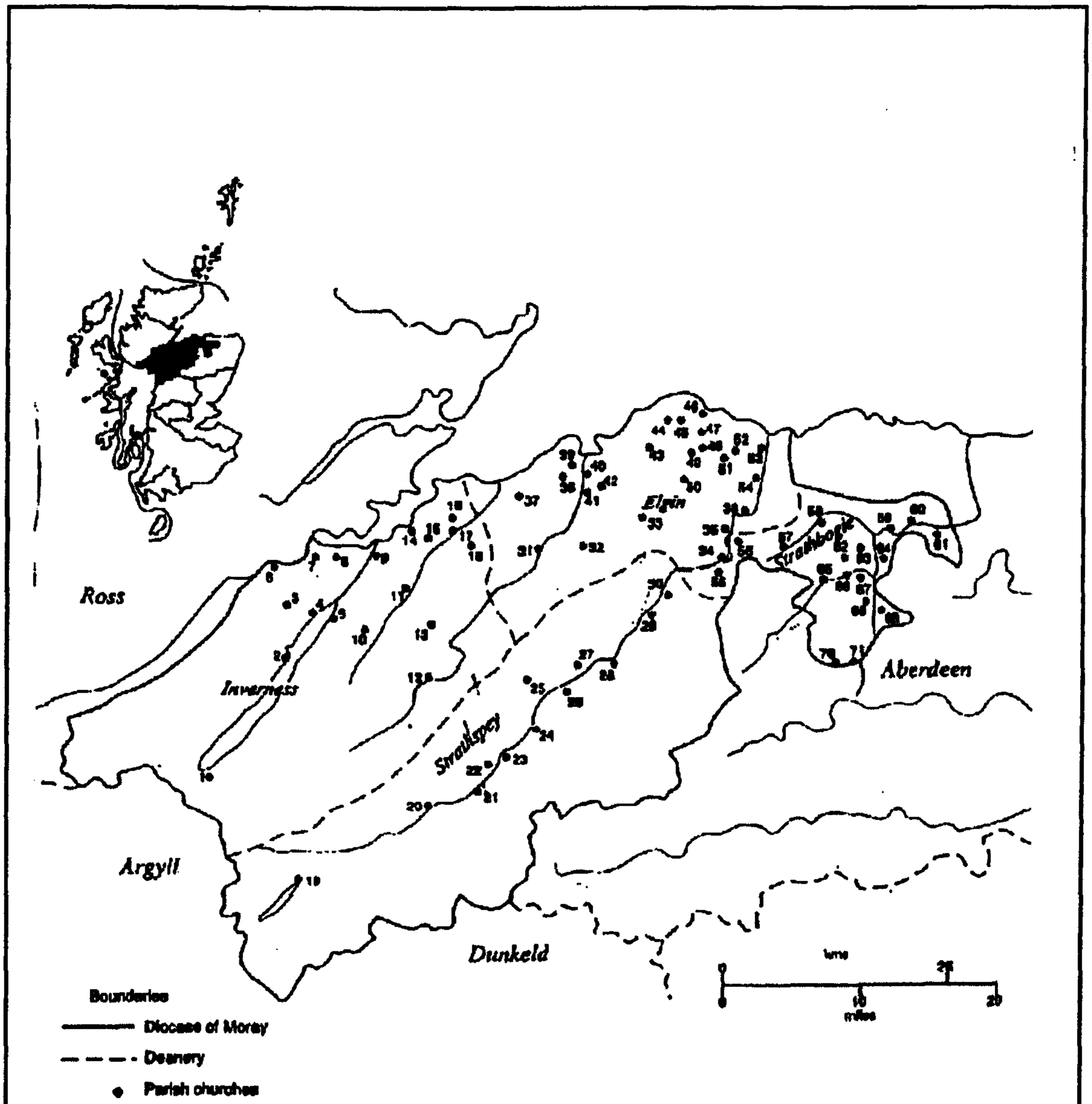
18 Moray's historic Royal connections played an important role during this period of instability and insecurity.

19 Prior to 1559, very few feuings had taken place within Church lands, although some had taken place in the decades just beforehand, perhaps in anticipation of events to come. Things had changed significantly by the mid seventeenth century and disputes over land broke out in secular society with some frequency.

20 Owing much to the presence of the most powerful Catholic family in Scotland, the Gordons, Earls of Huntly. For example, the 6th Earl of Huntly slew the 'Bonnie' Earl of Moray and defeated Argyll's royal force at the Battle of Glenlivet. The Gordons and their allies clashed repeatedly, not only with local families, but also with national armies.

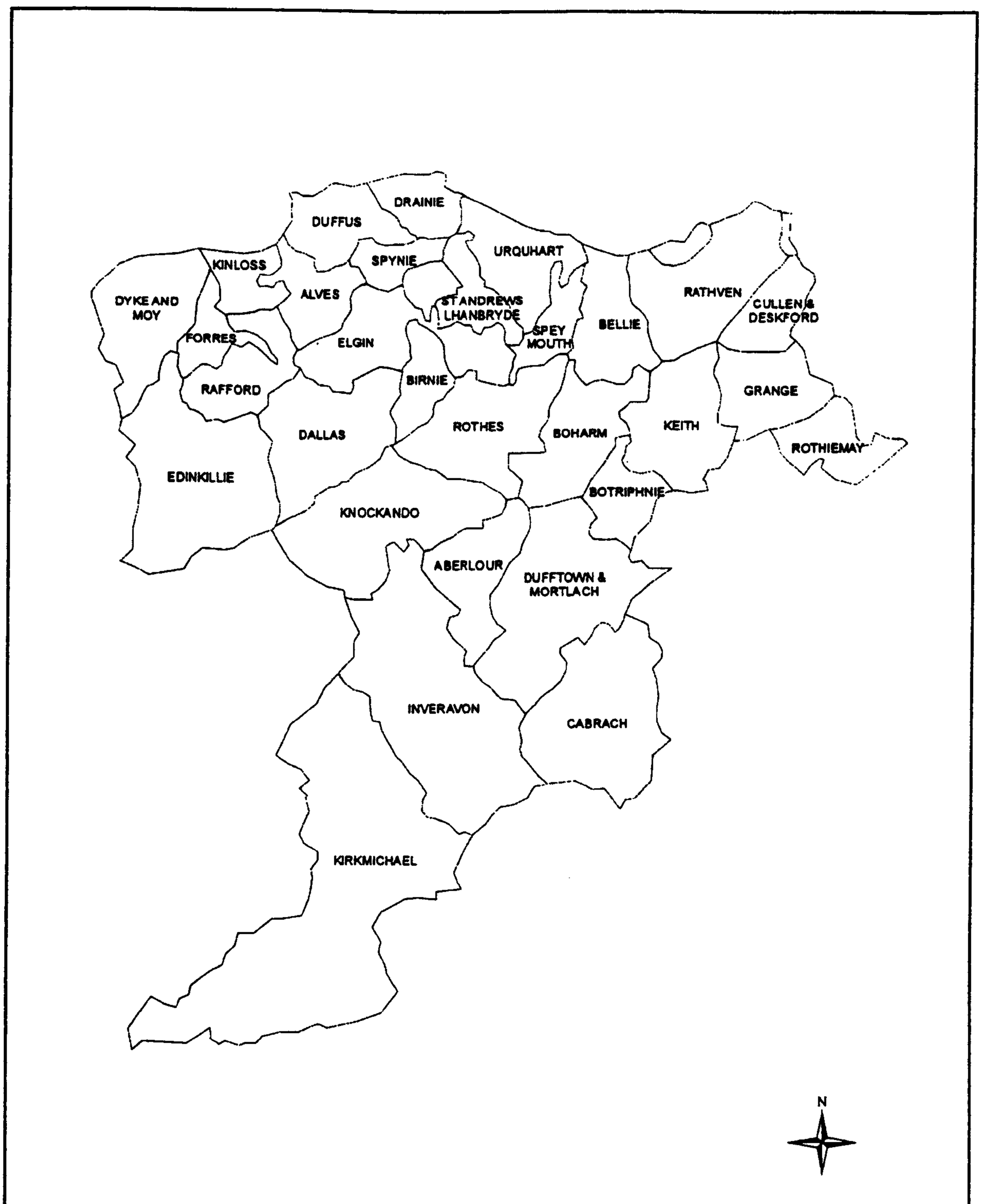
21 Charles II landed at Speymouth in 1650.

22 The ostentatious structures and contents of the Catholic abbeys and cathedrals were either destroyed or allowed to decay and the subsequent places of worship were simple, austere structures run by presbyteries. Protestant ministers were appointed by church patrons (normally local landowners) until the formation of the Free Church in 1843, which established an alternative church allowing presbyteries to appoint their own ministers.



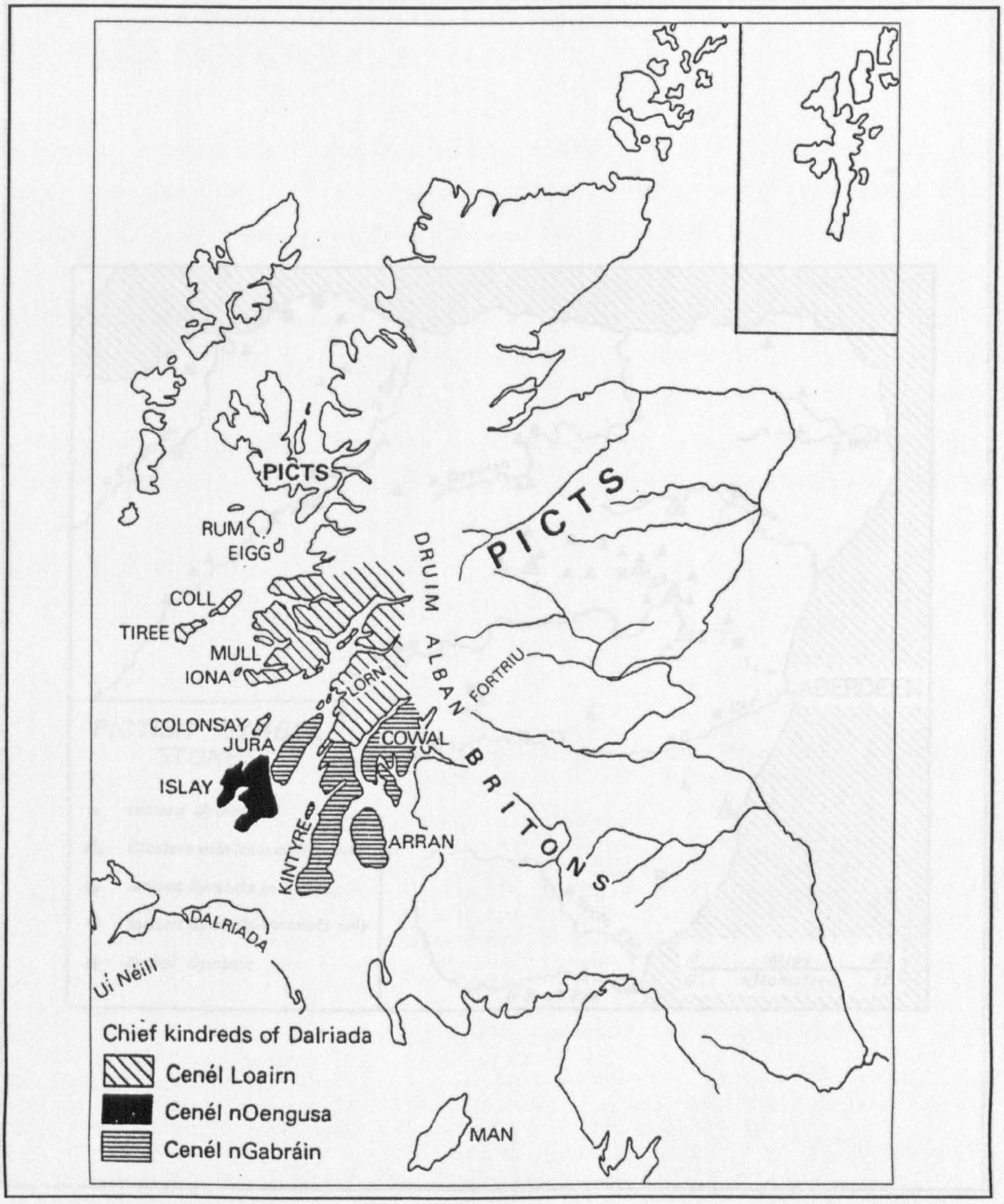
PARISH CHURCHES WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF MORAY (Fig 5.1.10)
Map showing the extent of the Diocese of Moray – betweew Huntly, Easter Ross and Lochindorb – along with the respective Deaneries of Elgin, Strathbogie, Inverness and Strathspey. Parish church locations are also shown.

(reproduced from:McNeill and MacSween, Atlas of Scottish History to 1707, p. 355)



Parish Boundaries of Moray (Fig. 5.1.11)

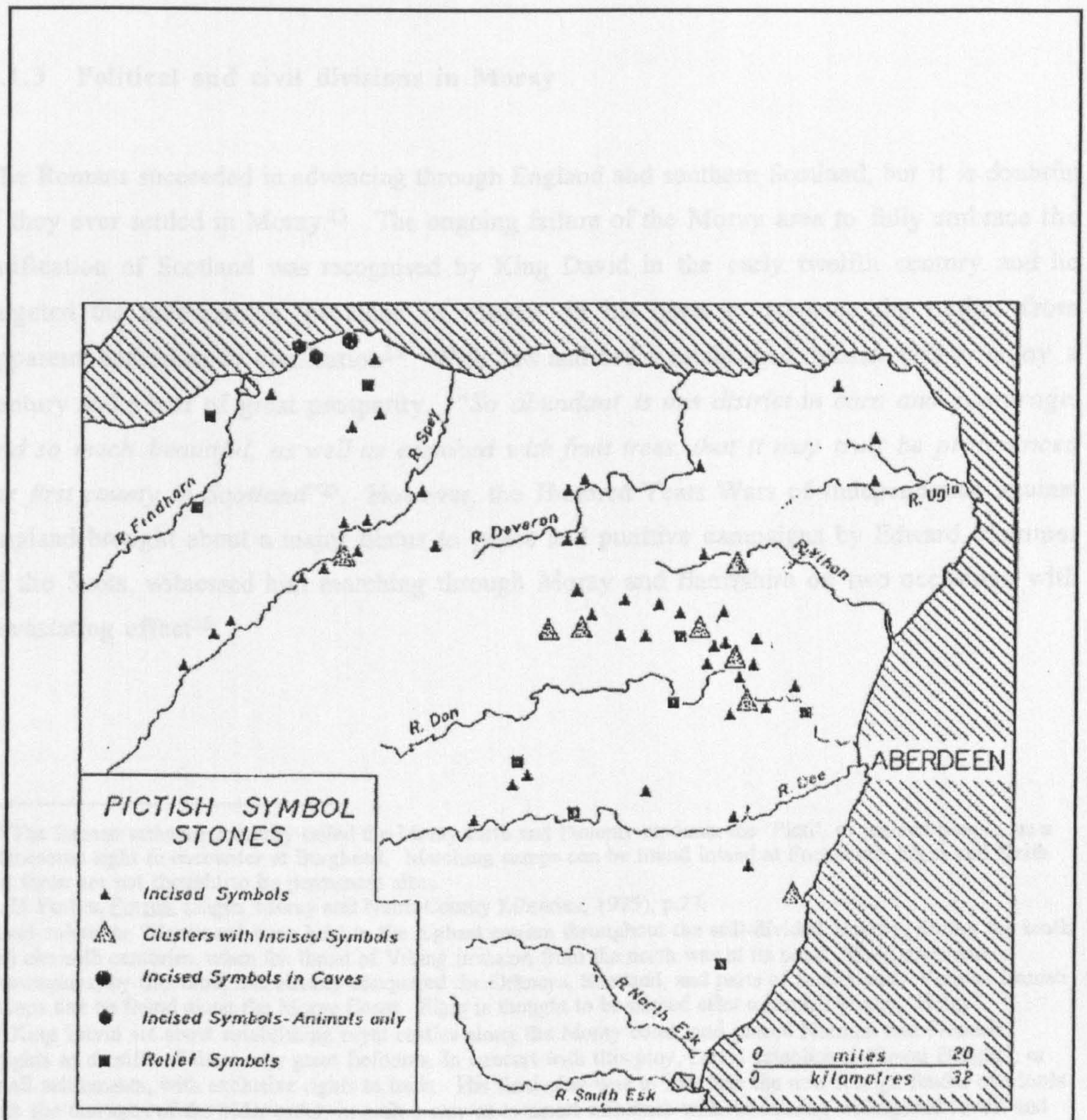
The parish boundaries of Moray have changed little over many centuries. Not surprisingly, a cluster of parishes can be found in the Laich of Moray with fewer distributed to the south.
[Source of data: The Moray Council]



Map of Dark Age Scotland (Fig. 5.1.12)

Illustration of how Scotland has divided during the first millennium.
Moray was the heartland of the Picts.

(extract from Lynch, Scotland – new history, 1992, p.18)



PICTISH SYMBOL STONES IN NE SCOTLAND (Fig 5.1.13)

Map of north east Scotland illustrating known sites of Pictish symbol stones. This pattern conveys the nature of human settlement in this early period.. In the case of Moray, concentrations appear at the Laich of Moray and the Rivers Spey and Findhorn.

(source: B.A.A.S., North East Scotland, 1963, page 78)

5.1.3 Political and civil divisions in Moray

The Romans succeeded in advancing through England and southern Scotland, but it is doubtful if they ever settled in Moray.[23] The ongoing failure of the Moray area to fully embrace the unification of Scotland was recognised by King David in the early twelfth century and he targeted the autonomous 'province of Moray' in his quest to advance the nation from apparent barbarism to civilisation[24]. With law and order established, Moray was to enjoy a century and a half of great prosperity. "*So abundant is this district in corn and pasturage, and so much beautiful, as well as enriched with fruit trees, that it may truly be pronounced the first county in Scotland*"[25]. However, the Hundred Years Wars of Independence against England brought about a major hiatus to peace and punitive campaigns by Edward, Hammer of the Scots, witnessed him marching through Moray and Banffshire on two occasions with devastating effect[26].

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[23] The Roman armadas certainly sailed the Moray Firth and Ptolemy recounts the 'Picti', or painted people, as a fiercesome sight to encounter at Burghead. Marching camps can be found inland at Fochabers, Elgin and Keith but these are not thought to be permanent sites.
A. H. Forbes, Forres, (Elgin: Moray and Nairn County Libraries, 1975), p.27.
Local rulers, or 'Mormaers' were held in the highest esteem throughout the still-divided country, during the tenth and eleventh centuries, when the threat of Viking invasion from the north was at its peak. The Danes and Norwegians, by this time, had already conquered the Orkneys, Shetland, and parts of Sutherland. Various Danish Camps can be found along the Moray Coast. Elgin is thought to be named after a Danish prince, 'Helgy'.

[24] King David set about establishing royal castles along the Moray coast, and placed Norman and Flemish knights as sheriffs of these new great fiefdoms. In concert with this ploy, David established 'Royal Burghs', or small settlements, with exclusive rights to trade. His final ploy was to interlace the new foreign feudal overlords with the thanages of the older order, in such a way as to assert influence without causing widespread revolt and disruption. Moray's national importance in the sphere of civil government had diminished measurably by 1150, once David had succeeded in annexing the earldom to the Crown.
BAAS, The North East of Scotland, 1963, Chap. 8, p. 81. "*The Normanisation of Scotland was not achieved without vigorous protest from certain of the old Celtic provinces, in particular the province of Moray, beyond the Spey, bitterly resisted the centralising and Normanising policy of the House of Canmore.*"

[25] Sixteenth century quotation of Buchanan cited in Young's, Parish of Spynie, 1871, p. 192, and E.S. Haldane, Scots Gardens in Older Times, (Edinburgh: Alexander Maclehose and Co., 1934), p.104.

[26] Resulting from the untimely death of Queen Margaret, Maid of Norway, in 1290. The north was still seen as a potent force, and Moray was to play a significant part in re-establishing national independence. This helped Moray regain its autonomy to some extent and successive Earls were allowed virtual 'home rule' between 1329 and 1424. Thomas Randolph was Earl of Moray and built the Great Hall at 'Tarnaway'. He became Regent in the 1320's and established House of Stewart presence in Moray. This was to prove a great advantage during years of royal instability and allowed the House of Douglas/Stewart to establish itself as a major noble family. The Gordons originally came from Berwick and had seats at Huntly and Bog O Gight, near Fochabers.

By the mid sixteenth century Moray was again described as, "... *a cuntrey alane by all the rest commendet with ws for baith plentie and pleasure.*"[27] Building programmes continued apace throughout the century, particularly at the religious houses and the royal residences, and much contact took place with the low countries of northern Europe.[28] The Reformation brought about another period of civil war and the two great northern families at Darnaway and at Huntly clashed again with bloody outcomes[29]. King James successfully re-established a modicum of law and order, but small outbreaks of skirmishes between various local families continued in Moray until the 1680's.[30]

The eighteenth century witnessed the Union of Parliaments in 1707, the emergence of great entrepreneurial landowners, and the beginnings of agricultural improvement. Changes in the countryside, from the feudal system of infield and outfield to a new system based on field enclosures and rotation of crops, soon began to follow.[31] The landscapes of the estates of

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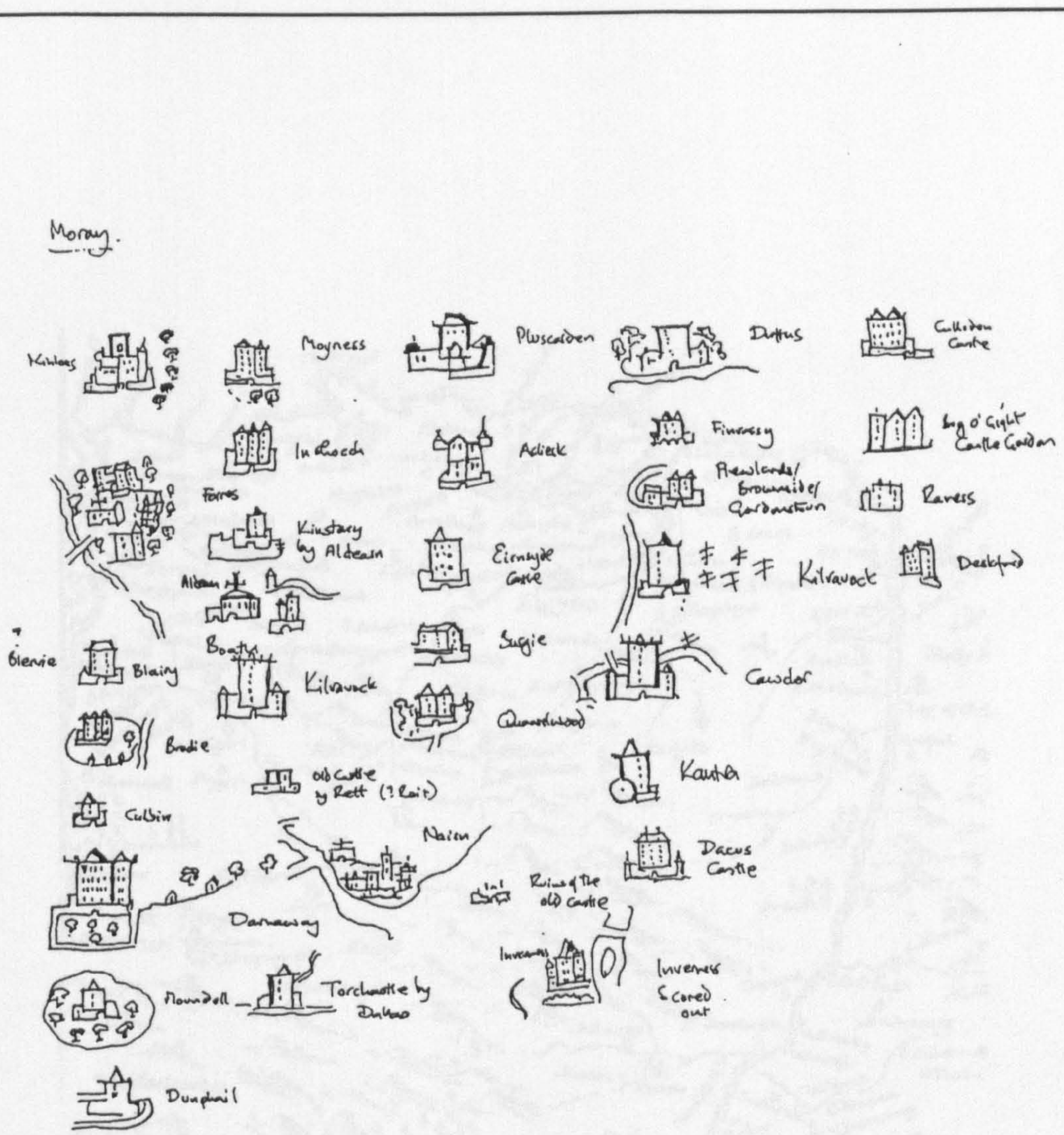
[27] Bishop Leslie, quoted in Haldane, Scots Gardens, 1934, p. 24.

[28] Peace during James VI's reign brought economic prosperity and Scotland traded extensively with the Baltics and the Dutch in particular. Under the influence of imported continental craftsmen, examples of exuberant Renaissance architecture could be seen throughout the country and education, and the arts, became increasingly important to the upper classes.

[29] Other main families in Moray (such as the Brodies, Dunbars, Cummings, Innes', Leslies, Grants and Ogilvies) all took sides in the religious battles which were compounded by the avaricious quest for acquisition of Church lands following the Dissolution. The Church Dissolution resulted in a major shift in political and civil power and in Strathisla, in south east Moray for example, the area where the Abbots of Kinloss had once held a major fortalice and grange had become by 1650, "... *peppered with little tower houses of the portioners and bonnet lairds*", from M. H. B. Sanderson, 'Feuing of Strathisla', in Northern Scotland, vol. 2, no. 1 (Aberdeen: Centre for Scottish Studies, 1974-5), pp. 1-11, (p. 11). Thirteen lairdships had been created where the Abbot, a century earlier, had ruled supreme and, although not entirely typical of the area, it does indicate the flourishing of the secular society in the seventeenth century. Despite this, by the beginning of the next century, most of this land at Strathisla was back in the hands of the single owner, Lord Braco (later to become the Earl of Fife).

[30] T. C. Smout, History of Scots People, (London: Collins, 1969), p. 106.
Alongside Highland raids which lasted throughout the century, "*The shores of the Moray Firth were potentially among the most productive lands in all of Scotland, but they lay in a dangerous situation, and it was to be many years before their inhabitants were left to farm them in peace*". (Despite this, many inter-marriages occurred amongst members of the nobility.)
It is noted that the Gordonstoun library records have no accounts of any building taking place during these years of strife, c. 1635-85.

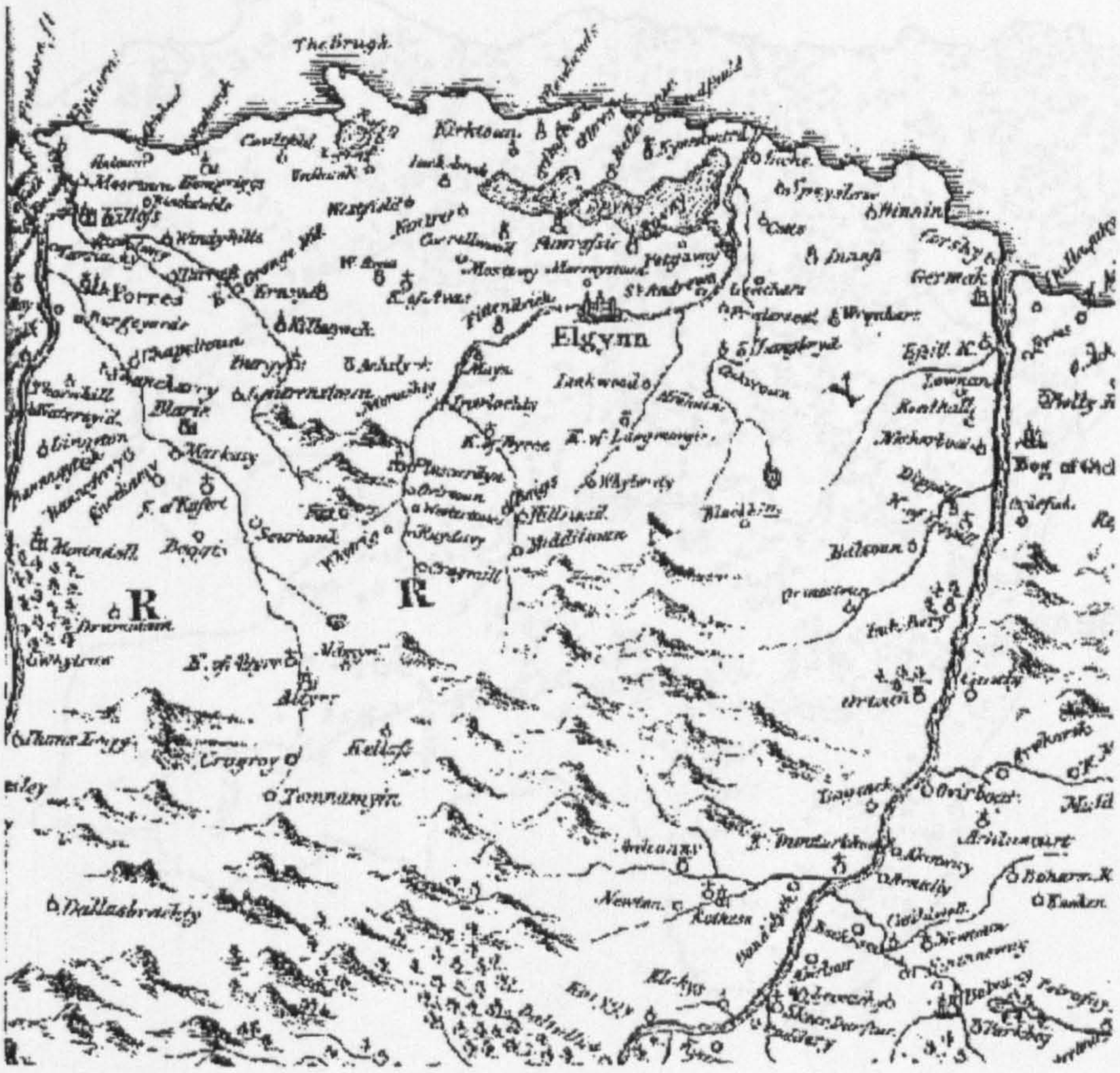
[31] Forbes, Forres, 1975, p. 27.
Forbes reminds us that, "*The sixteenth century still bore the rude manners of a former age, despite a veneer of French urbanity. The Country's institutions were rudimentary, its Parliament a feudal assembly where personal aims came before the interest of the nation*".
The signing of the Union of Parliaments was carried out by Lord Seafield [of Banffshire] who was Lord High Chancellor at the time. Together with Braco, Lord Moray and the Duke of Gordon, Seafield became known as one of the area's 'great improvers'.



SKETCHES OF FORTIFIED HOUSES IN MORAY C.1595 (Fig 5.1.14)

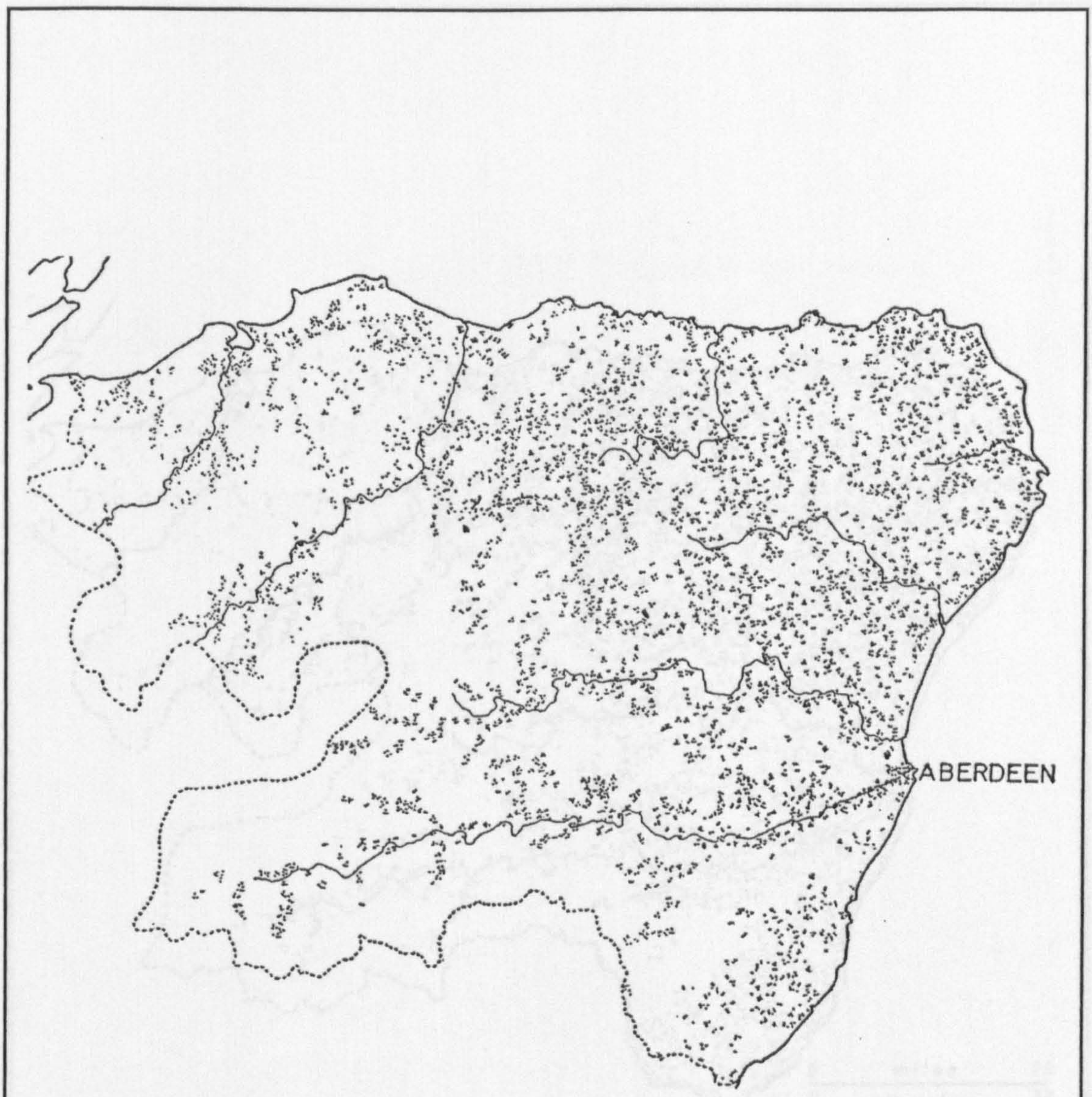
Tracings taken from T. Pont's maps of Moray and Nairn showing the range of fortified houses in and around the Laich of Moray at the end of the sixteenth century.

(Reproduced from C. McKean, 'Re-evaluation of Scots Renaissance Architecture', Architectural Heritage, vol. 6, Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, 1996, page vi).



THE LAICH OF MORAY c.1640 (Fig 5.1.15)

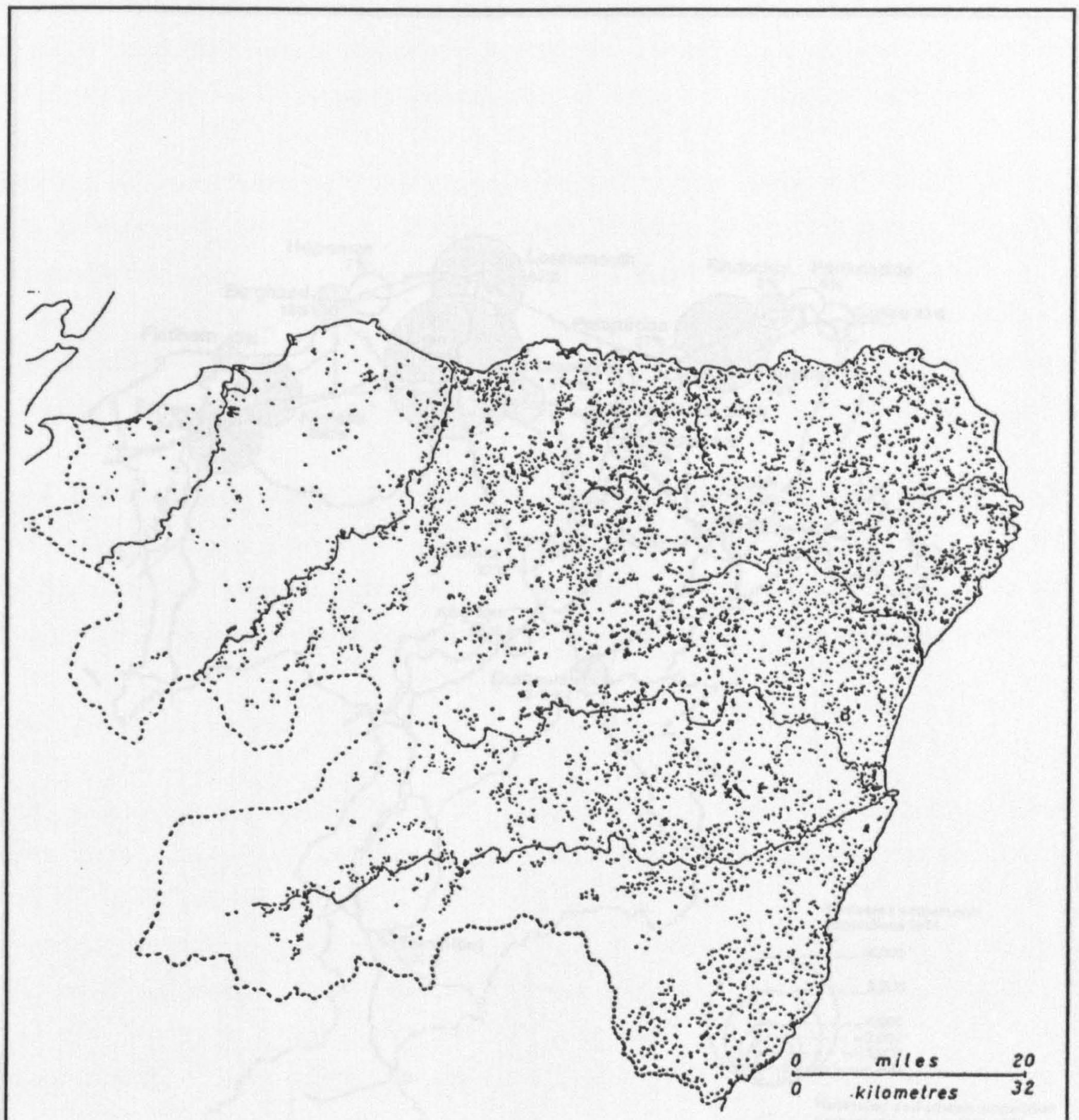
Map of Moray from 'various drawings by Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch', showing the concentration of estates between the Rivers Spey and Findhorn. Note the extent of the sea lochs at Roseisle and Spynie which were drained by the mid nineteenth century.



SETTLEMENT PATTERN IN NE SCOTLAND c.1750 (Fig 5.1.16)

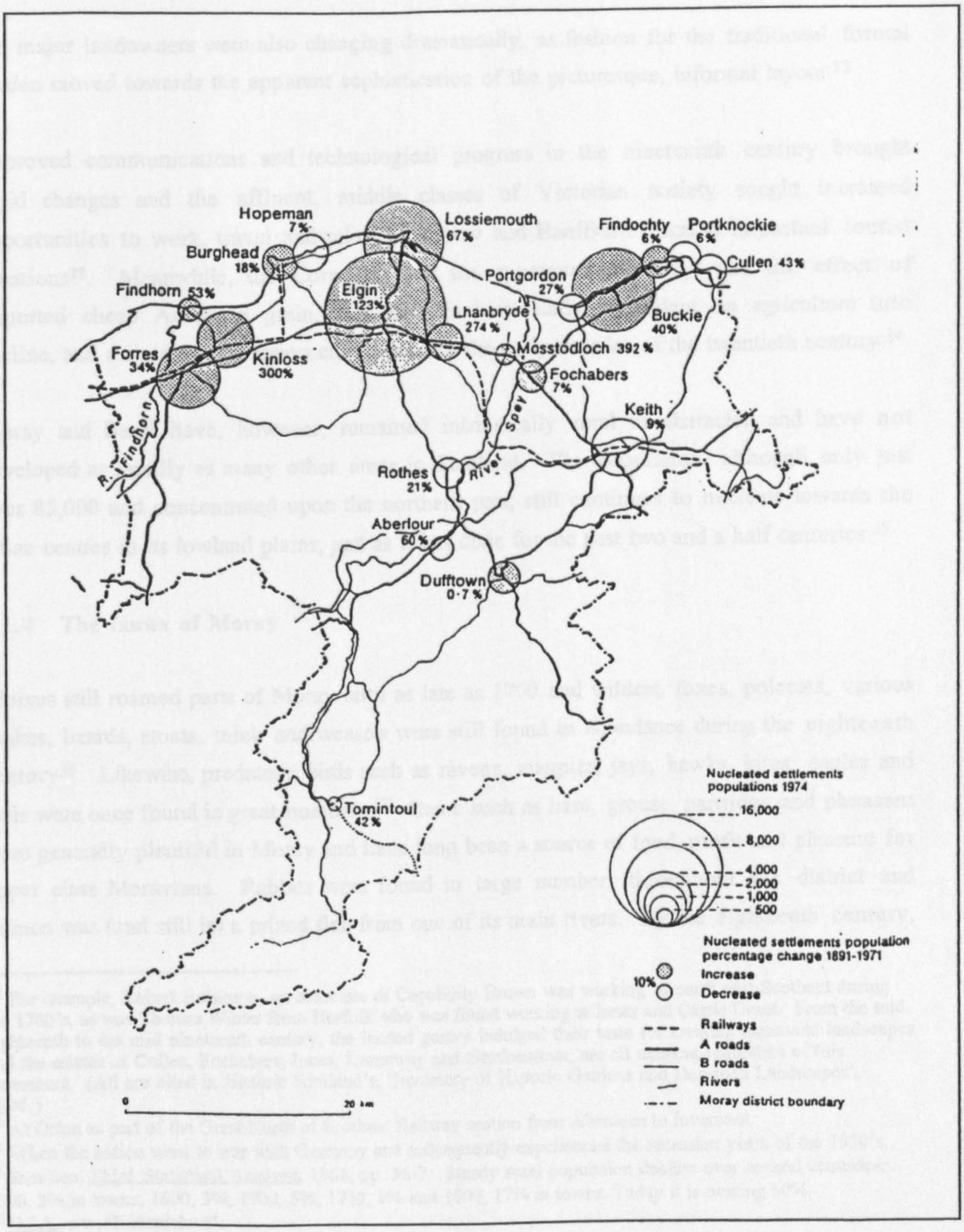
Information from General Roy's military surveys, in the mid eighteenth century, shows the extent of the predominantly rural population spread out along the coastal lowlands and up river valleys.

(reproduced from: B.A.A.S., North East Scotland, 1963, page 90)



SETTLEMENT PATTERN IN NE SCOTLAND c.1830 (Fig 5.1.17)
Information from the atlas by James Thomson, 1828, show a pattern of rural decline in Moray, especially west of the River Spey (c.f. Fig 5.1.16)

(reproduced from: B.A.A.S., North East Scotland, 1963, page 91)



Modern demography of Moray (Fig. 5.1.18)

Map of Moray showing population trends since the late nineteenth century. Note the concentration on a few settlements in the Laich of Moray zone, particularly Elgin. Prior to the agrarian revolution of the mid to late eighteenth century, Moray had a predominantly rural population. The centralisation process towards urban living has continued steadily ever since.

the major landowners were also changing dramatically, as fashion for the traditional formal garden moved towards the apparent sophistication of the picturesque, informal layout.[32]

Improved communications and technological progress in the nineteenth century brought rapid changes and the affluent, middle classes of Victorian society sought increased opportunities to work, travel and relax; so Moray and Banffshire became important tourist locations[33]. Meanwhile, the Corn Laws of the nineteenth century, and the effect of imported cheap American grain, sent an area historically dependent on agriculture into decline, and a state of depression continued into the early decades of the twentieth century.[34]

Moray and Banff have, however, remained intrinsically rural in character and have not developed as rapidly as many other areas in Scotland. The population, although only just over 85,000 and concentrated upon the northern part, still continues to nucleate towards the urban centres in its lowland plains, just as it has done for the past two and a half centuries.[35]

5.1.4 The fauna of Moray

Wolves still roamed parts of Moray until as late as 1700 and wildcat, foxes, polecats, various snakes, lizards, stoats, mink and weasels were still found in abundance during the eighteenth century[36]. Likewise, predatory birds such as ravens, magpies, jays, hawks, kites, eagles and owls were once found in great numbers.[37] Game such as hare, grouse, partridge and pheasant were generally plentiful in Moray and have long been a source of food, profit and pleasure for upper class Moravians. Rabbits were found in large numbers throughout the district and salmon was (and still is) a prized fish from one of its main rivers. By the eighteenth century,

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[32] For example, Robert Robinson, an associate of Capability Brown was working in north east Scotland during the 1760's, as was Thomas Winter from Norfolk who was found working at Innes and Castle Grant. From the mid eighteenth to the mid nineteenth century, the landed gentry indulged their taste for creating manmade landscapes and the estates of Cullen, Fochabers, Innes, Darnaway and Gordonstoun, are all existing reminders of this movement. (All are cited in Historic Scotland's, 'Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes', 1994.)

[33] At Orton as part of the Great North of Scotland Railway section from Aberdeen to Inverness.

[34] When the nation went to war with Germany and subsequently experienced the recession years of the 1920's.

[35] Hamilton, Third Statistical Account, 1961, pp. 36-7. Steady rural population decline over several centuries: 1500, 2% in towns; 1600, 3%; 1700, 5%; 1750, 9% and 1800, 17% in towns. Today it is nearing 60%.

[36] O.S.A., s.v., 'Kirkmichael'.

[37] Ibid, s.v., 'Grange'.

hens were being kept on most farms and bee-keeping was popular throughout the district, particularly in the south.[38]

Due to a general lack of lochs in the south, wild fowl were, and still are, predominantly found in the north, where duck, geese, gulls, swans and plovers bred in large numbers along the coast and at river mouths.[39] The coast line of Moray and Banff is still a refuge for small numbers of pure Rock Dove which breed in the caverns of the cliffs and the much-persecuted Peregrine Falcon has struggled to survive over the years within this habitat zone. By the late nineteenth century, the large and rapacious Goshawk was almost extinct and the common Sparrowhawk was, "*... steadily kept in check by keepers*".[40]

Despite historic persecution of wildlife, an expanded human population and increased development, Moray remains one of Britain's most biodiverse areas.[41]

5.1.5 The proposed methodology: recording and field research

To carry out a complete survey of the Moray area, it is first necessary to clarify the parameters of the term 'doocot'. On the basis of the information gleaned in Chapter 2.1, ('definition, nomenclature, and classification') and in Chapter 4 ('ornithological background') the term 'doocot', or dovecote, is freely used, not only by antiquarians whilst describing ancient structures, but also by contemporary writers and keepers when describing different kinds of modern structures. Taking this into account, together with the stated original objective of setting doocots in a broader, historical and architectural context, this study defines a doocot simply, but lucidly, as a '*manmade shelter for domesticated doves*'. Thus, any redundant structure in Moray that meets this definition is included in the survey. A single, modern and operational structure is also included for a sample comparison.

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[38] J. Durkacz, 'Bee-keeping in the Tomintoul Area'; Scottish Beekeeper Association, vol.68, (June 1990), p. 117.
[39] The northern lochs (former sea lochs) at Spynie and Calcotts did once, "*... abound with trout, eel and pike, with a great variety of wild ducks, and at one season of the year with wild geese and swans; but neither the proprietors, nor their tenants, avail them in any degree whatsoever of these advantages*". These sites are today protected by European Natura 2000 designations - RAMSAR wetland sites of natural heritage value.
[40] J. A. Harvie-Brown, 'Deveron Valley and its Bird Life', Transactions of the Banffshire Field Club, 1896-7, pp. 59-120, (p. 92).
[41] Joint report of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils, 'Local Biodiversity Audit for NE Scotland', 4 vols.,1998.

As well as fulfilling the urgent need to provide a thorough **record** of the structures (as identified in Chap.1) the purpose of carrying out a building survey is to provide a vehicle towards the attainment of hard, irrefutable evidence which will, in turn, inform the original objectives of the study. This must be as objective as possible and is designed to provide a full array of quantitative, and qualitative, information that is accessible, accurate, balanced and clearly presented. Since this level of study has not been carried out before on doocots, the opportunity arises to create a transferable model for recording and documenting such structures. Various 'best practice' techniques have been employed in (i) field recording, (ii) site analysis, (iii) off-site research and analysis, combined with a knowledge of the issues and features presented in Chapter 2. The resulting model is unique to doocots, yet is a recognised methodology for documenting a set of buildings - a *catalogue raisonee* (details of which are outlined in Appendix Section 1).

Through (i) the proposed, simple definition of 'doocot'; (ii) the desire to meet broad objectives (chap.1); and (iii) the need to thoroughly investigate a selected geographical area, there is scope in the study to survey all types of doocots and of all ages, including current operational buildings. Since this would set an impossible target (given the time scale and resources of this study) it is decided to expand upon the survey work of others. Yet, the effort will be rationalised by carrying out a programme of investigation that will be achievable and further the aims of the study. These provide:

(i) a detailed investigation of the doocots of Moray as previously identified by Beaton (1976)[42] and Douglas (1931);[43]

(ii) a detailed investigation of all significant historic doocots in Moray not previously recorded;[44]

(iii) an investigation of all minor, redundant doocots in Moray (subject to accessibility);[45]

(iv) identification of all operational doocots in Moray;[46]

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[42]Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1976.
The core of the survey material for this study is the twenty five buildings identified in Beaton's booklet, since both studies cover the same geographical area.

[43]Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931.

[44]For example, Invererne Home Farm Doocot, Westfield Poultry House and Doocot, Drummuir Home Farm Doocot.

[45]For example, lofts, gable cotes, garden cotes, dormer cotes.

[46]That is, for racing, fancy, display, homing, etc.

(v) a detailed record of at least one operational doocot in Moray;[47]
an archival record of lost doocots in Moray.[48]

This new and unique programme falls into three distinct building categories, each of which demands a slightly different survey method: (i) existing but redundant; (ii) existing and operational; (iii) lost.
A full record of existing buildings is compiled with the aid of a data checklist (specially developed for this study) which has been described by McCann as, "*...able to extract every ounce of information*".[49] (Details of the checklist, survey methods and rationale are given in Appendix Section 1). Where access has not been gained to existing buildings (particularly smaller cotes incorporated in other buildings) the record is still accurate, but less complete. Similarly, the information relating to 'lost buildings' is inevitably inconsistent, since the degree of detail attainable is highly variable[50] (despite the research approach being consistent).

Collectively, these avenues of research will provide comprehensive information relating to the doocots of Moray over a period of five centuries. This will be collated in their entirety, for the first time in a doocot study, into strict chronological order to help chart their broad, historical development.[51] The information gained will be used, thereafter, to test existing theories about doocots in general.

This chapter also presents the opportunity to apply a more holistic approach, not only to the study of the subject, but also to the buildings individually. As well as applying architectural thinking to each structure, knowledge gleaned from history, together with

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[47]Present day buildings are not, meantime, 'Buildings at Risk', so the urgency to record does not exist to the same extent as for older, redundant structures..
[48]Also, a list of 'Sites investigated but nothing found' is detailed in Appendix Section 1 in order to assist future researchers.
[49]J. McCann, pers.comm., 4/4/96.
Although the checklist is novel to this study, the concept is not a new one. Many fieldwork *aide memoires* have been produced for other building types, including doocots (see Appendix Section 1 for 1956 example). The checklist for this study was developed with the kind assistance of G. Stell, Head of Architecture, RCHAMS. Since modern buildings are included in the survey, and measurements are taken using up-to-date equipment, the metric system is employed (rather than the imperial).
[50]Ranging from full description to mere mention of 'dovecot', or similar.
[51]It is accepted that this relies heavily on the ability to date each doocot accurately.

ornithological research from Chapter 4 will, where possible, also be applied in order to improve the assessment and interpretation of each structure.

The catalogue is laid out in sections relating to the different centuries in which the doocots are determined to have been built. However, since the earliest doocots have proven difficult to date absolutely, the first section simply looks at the doocots in Moray that were erected prior to the 1560 Reformation, a pivotal moment in Scottish and European history.

5.2 Pre-Reformation doocots

5.2.1 Auchterspynie
5.2.2 Blackfriars, Elgin
5.2.3 Elgin Cathedral
5.2.4 Greyfriars, Elgin
5.2.5 Kinloss Abbey
5.2.6 Spynie Palace
5.2.7 Historical Summary

5.2.1 AUCHTERSPYNIE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 180 650, Duffus Parish

Altitude around 10 m mark.

Positive Reference(s)

Charter by King James IV, 14 August 1472, held at Gordonstoun, grants a third part of Duffus in favour of James Douglas of Pittendreich, *"... cum curiis et earum exitibus, herezeldis, bludewitis, et merchetis mulierum, cuniculus, cunicularis, columbis, columbariis, silvis memoribus, hortis, pomariis, ac cum omnibus aliis et singulis libertatibus."* (The reference to 'doves' and 'dovehouses' may, however, have been part of standard legal phraseology at the time).

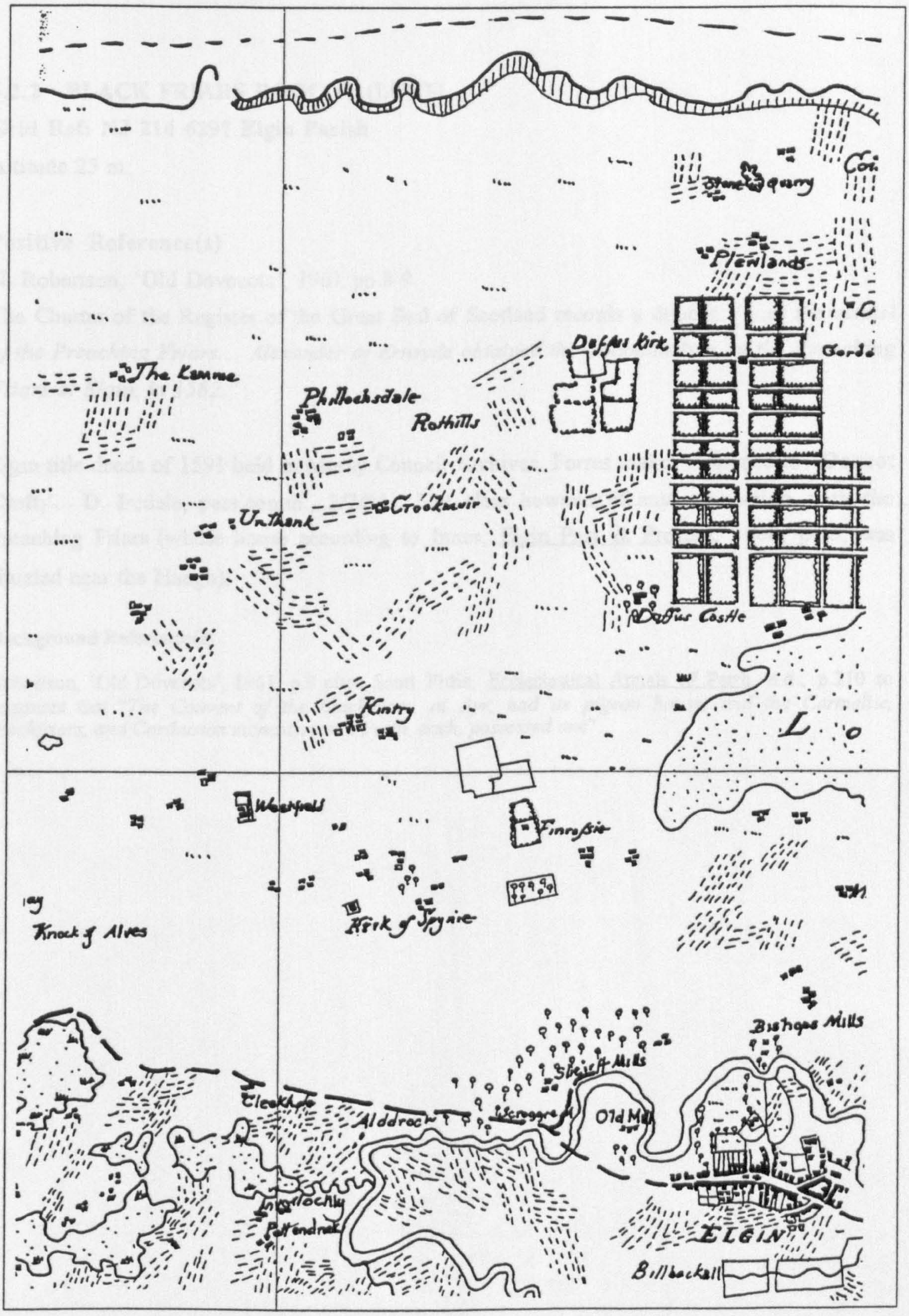
A later disposition (1631) of a third part of Duffus and Sheriffmill lands from William Earl Marischal to the Sutherlands of Duffus, however, makes no reference of a doocot.

Background Reference(s)

'Dunbars of Westfield papers' – NRA(S) Survey 3094 held in SRO (microfiche only). Family held major tract of land between Elgin and Forres in fifteenth century. The seat was found at the west end of Spynie Loch (not far from the seat of Sutherland of Duffus). The Westfields were the Sheriffs of Elgin. James Douglas de Pettindrecut became Sheriff of Elgin on 15th February, 1469. In 1467, a licence was granted to build a tower house with barmkin at Westfield (see survey item 32).

R. Young, Parish of Spynie, (Elgin; James Black, 1871), p.298.

The ancient family of Douglas held lands in Pittendreich, Duffus, Sheriffmill and St. Andrews.



Approximate location of Auchterspynie Doocot (Fig. 5.2.1)

Extract from Roy, Map of Moray, c. 1750

5.2.2 BLACK FRIARS DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 214 629? Elgin Parish

Altitude 25 m.

Positive Reference(s)

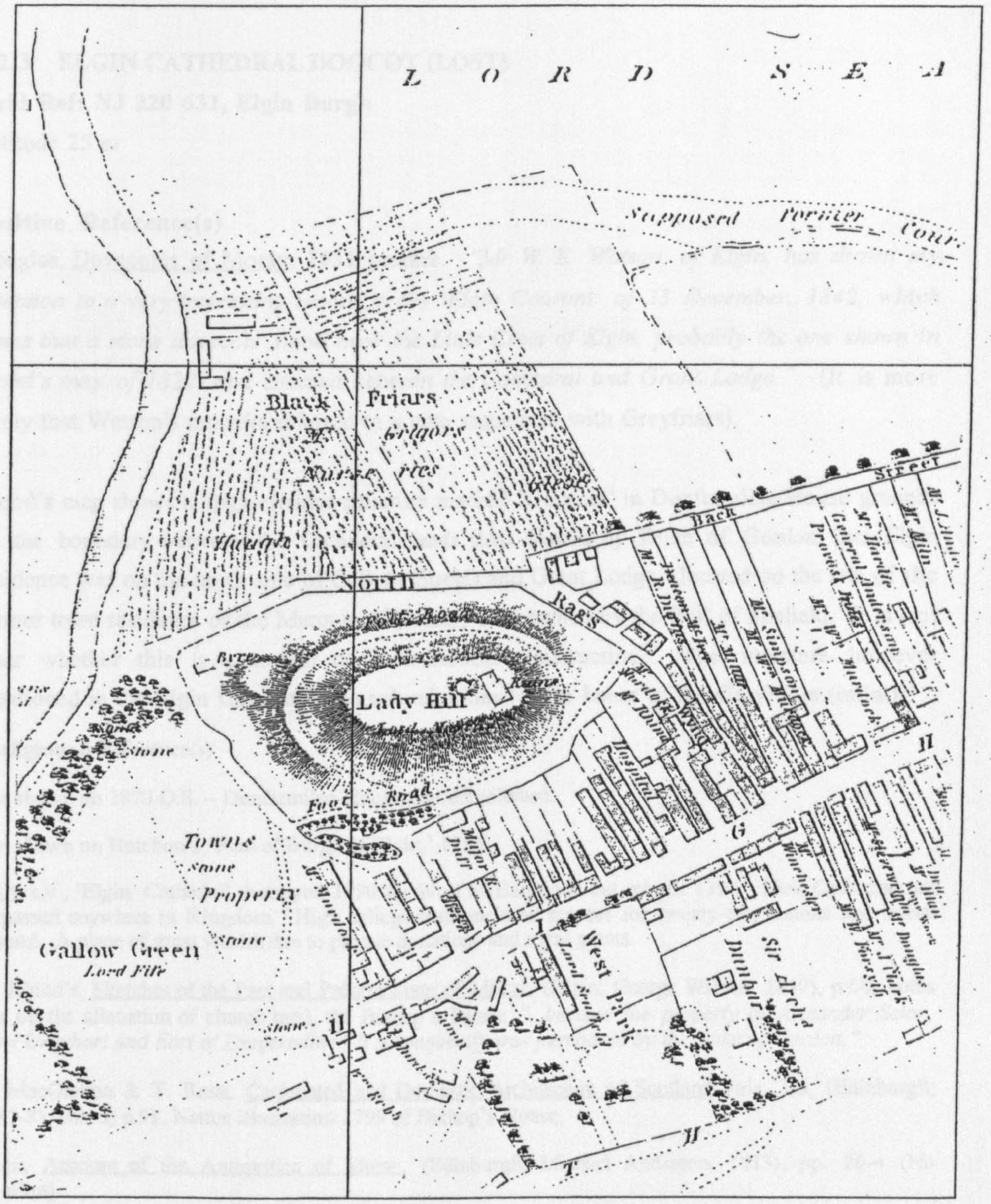
N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', 1961 pp.8-9.

The Charter of the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland records a doocot *"....at the vennel of the Preaching Friars.... Alexander of Ernsyde obtained the columbarium of the Preaching Friars at Elgin, in 1582."*

Elgin title deeds of 1591 held in Moray Council Archives, Forres makes reference to 'Doocot Croft;'. D. Iredale, pers.comm., 3/7/94. Not clear however if any connection with the Preaching Friars (whose house according to Innes, Elgin Past & Present, 1860, p.35, was situated near the Haugh).

Background Reference(s)

Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', 1961, p.8 cites Scott Fittis, Ecclesiastical Annals of Perth, n.d., p.210 to comment that *"The Convent of the Blackfriars, at Ayr, had its pigeon house, and the Carmelite, Blackfriars, and Carthusian monasteries at Perth, each, possessed one"*.



BLACKFRIARS DOOCOT (Fig. 5.2.2)

Extract from Wood's 1822 map of Elgin showing the former site of the Black Friars convent. Noting that Black Friars elsewhere possessed doocots (e.g. Perth & Ayr) and the Great Seal of Scotland refer to a doocot at the 'Preaching Friars of Elgin', it seems likely that a doocot was once found on this site during the sixteenth century.

5.2.3 ELGIN CATHEDRAL DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 220 632, Elgin Burgh

Altitude 25 m

Positive Reference(s)

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931 preface. *"Mr W. E. Watson, of Elgin, has drawn my attention to a very interesting record in the 'Elgin Courant' of 23 December, 1842, which states that a stone dovecote stood near the Little Cross of Elgin, probably the one shown in Wood's map of 1822, and situated between the Cathedral and Grant Lodge."* (It is more likely that Watson's remarks referred to a cote associated with Greyfriars).

Wood's map shows a large circular structure marked 'Dovecot' in Dunfermline House grounds on the boundary between the Cathedral lands then owned by Duke of Gordon (his Elgin residence was on the north side of College Street) and Grant Lodge, (located on the site of the former town residence of the Marquis of Huntly) then owned by the Earl of Seafield. It is not clear whether this is a secular or ecclesiastical construction. The structure however mentioned in the Elgin Courant is the columbarium for the house of the Greyfriars (infra.)

Background Reference(s)

Not shown on 1870 O.S. – Dunfermilne House also demolished.

Not shown on Hutchon's 'Plan of Burgh of Elgin,' 1855.

OSA, s.v., 'Elgin' Cathedral destroyed 1390 by Wolf of Badenoch but rebuilt 1397. New Cathedral not surpassed anywhere in Kingdom. High college wall enclosed manses for twenty-two canons and burial ground. A place of great wealth due to private donations and royal grants.

W. Rhind's, Sketches of the Past and Present State of Moray, (Elgin; George Wilson, 1839), p.68, notes that on the alienation of church land, the Bishop's Palace *"...became the property of Alexander Seton, Lord Urquhart and Earl of Dunfermline. It subsequently was purchased by the Duke of Gordon."*

D. MacGibbon & T. Ross, Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland vols. 1-5, (Edinburgh; 1887-8), vol. 5, p.91. Nattes illustration 1799 of Bishop's House.

Anon, Account of the Antiquities of Moray, (Edinburgh; Michael Anderson, 1813), pp. 20-4 (No mention).

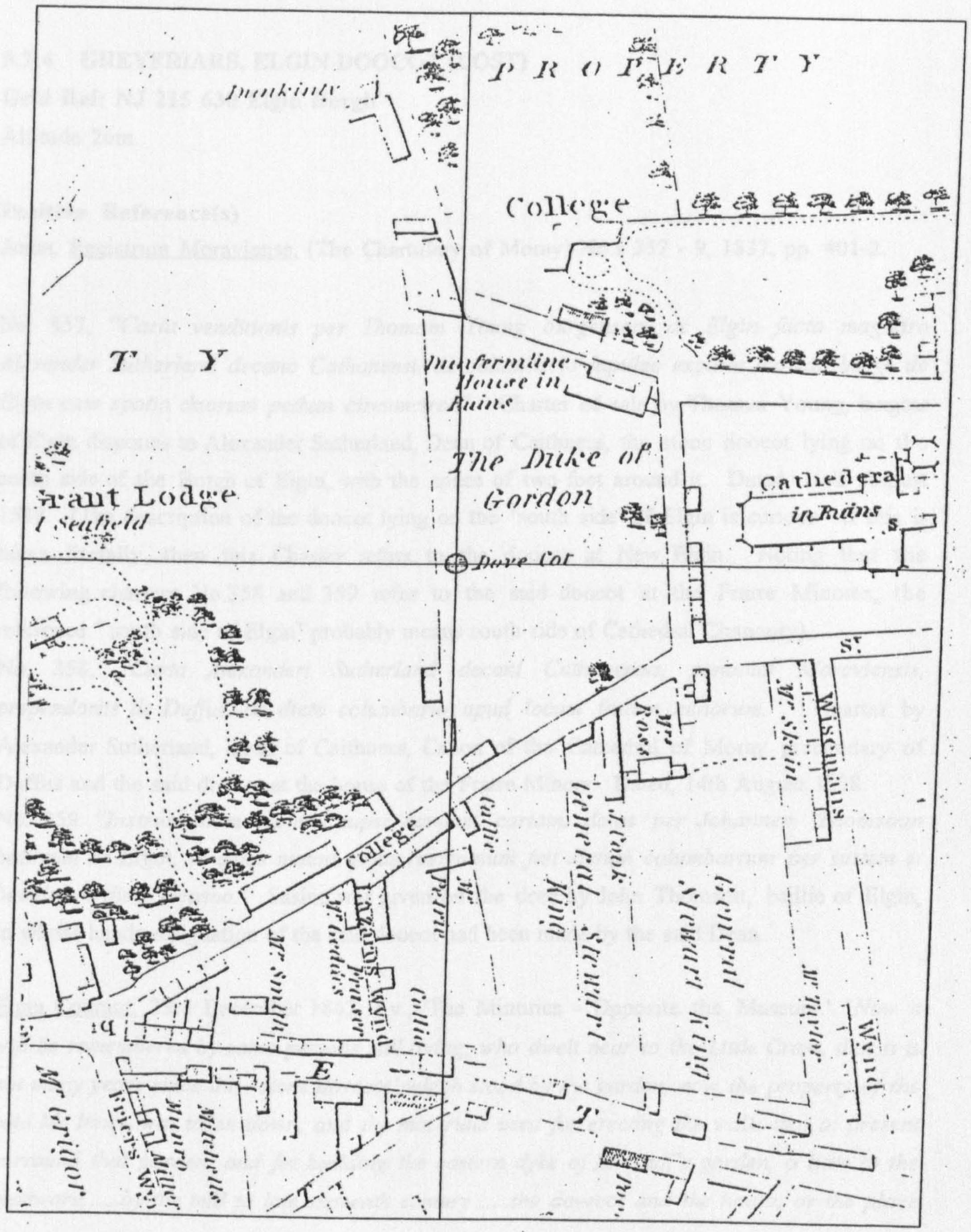
R. Oram, Moray & Badenoch, (Edinburgh; Birlinn Ltd, 1996), pp.87-93.

F. Grose, Antiquities of Scotland, vol.2, (London; Hooper, 1791), pp. 273-7, refers to poultry being accepted in the revenues of the Bishopric during sixteenth century.

L. MacIntosh, Guide to Elgin, (Elgin; Courant and Courier Office, 1892), pp.11-25. The buildings in and around Elgin pertaining to the Bishopric composed of the Cathedral itself, the aedifices of the Grey, White and Black Friars respectively, the Maison Dieu (hospital or nunnery institute), the Bedemen's Houses, Pluscarden Abbey, Spynie Palace, the Bishop's Town house, the Dean's House (North College), the Chancellor's Town House (South College) and the twenty-two houses, gardens and glebes of the Canons. The Cathedral wall itself probably enclosed 20 acres. The nineteenth century Seafield policies of Grant Lodge were owned by several proprietors in the eighteenth century; James MacKenzie of Pluscarden (NW), Marquis of Huntly (SW), Dunfermilne (E), Innes (N). A 1788 'Plan of House & Garden at Elgin', held within Seafield Papers, SRO GD 248, RHP 9022 does not show the doocot (outwith garden boundary).

Fawcett, Elgin Cathedral, ud. Description.

I. Keillar, Cathedrals, Abbey and Priories in Moray, (Elgin; Moray Field Club, n.d.)., s.v. 'Elgin Cathedral.'


PROPERTY
College
Dunfermline House in Ruins
The Duke of Gordon
Cathedral in Ruins
Dove Cot
Grant Lodge
Seafield
College
Wood's Square
Wood's Square
Wood's Square

5.2.4 GREYFRIARS, ELGIN DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 215 630 Elgin Burgh

Altitude 26m.

Positive Reference(s)

Anon, Registrum Moraviense, (The Chartulary of Moray) No.s 357 - 9, 1837, pp. 401-2.

No. 357, *"Carta venditionis per Thomam Young burgensem de Elgin facta magistro Alexander Sutherland decano Cathanensi, de columbario lapideo exparte australi burgi de Elgin cum spatio duorum pedum circumcirca".* Charter of sale by Thomas Young, burgess of Elgin dispones to Alexander Sutherland, Dean of Caithness, the stone doocot lying on the south side of the Burgh of Elgin, with the space of two feet around it. Dated, 10th August 1538. (The description of the doocot lying on the 'south side' of Elgin is curious - if this is taken literally, then this Charter refers to the doocot at New Elgin. Noting that the following charters No.358 and 359 refer to the said doocot at the Fratre Minores, the reference ' south side of Elgin' probably means south side of Cathedral Chanonry).

No. 358, *"Carta Alexanderi Sutherland decani Cathanensis, canonici Moraviensis, prependariis de Duffus, de dicto columbario apud locum fratum minorum.".* Charter by Alexander Sutherland, Dean of Caithness, Canon of the Cathedral of Moray prebendary of Duffus and the said doocot at the house of the Fratre Minors. Dated, 14th August 1538.

No. 359 *"Instrumentum sasinae super eandem cartam, datae per Johannem Thomsoun ballivum de Elgin, in cujus mauns prius resignatum fuit dictum columbarium per sustem et baculum a dicto Decano."* Sasine was given on the deed by John Thomson, baillie of Elgin, in whose hands resignation of the said doocot had been made by the said Dean.

Elgin Courant, 23rd December 1842, s.v., 'The Minories - Opposite the Museum.' *"Now it will be remembered by some persons still living, who dwelt near to the Little Cross, that it is not many years since this 'stone dovecot' which stood by the garden, now the property of the said Mr Innes, was taken down, and the materials used for erecting the walls that at present surround that garden, and for building the eastern dyke of Mr Duff's garden, a little to the westward .....by the mid to late sixteenth century .....the dovecot and the house, or the place*

of the Grey Friars, as to ownership had possibly been neglected and ceased to be regarded as a private property." It evidently became abandoned and ruinous.

Background Reference(s)

The place of the Fratre Minors is thought to have been built over entirely during the building of Dunfermline House. This in turn was demolished and the site is now occupied by a supermarket. The Church of the Greyfriars still remains to the South.

No mention of this site is made in W. Cramond, Records of Elgin, 1234-1800, vol. 2, (Aberdeen; New Spalding Club, 1908).

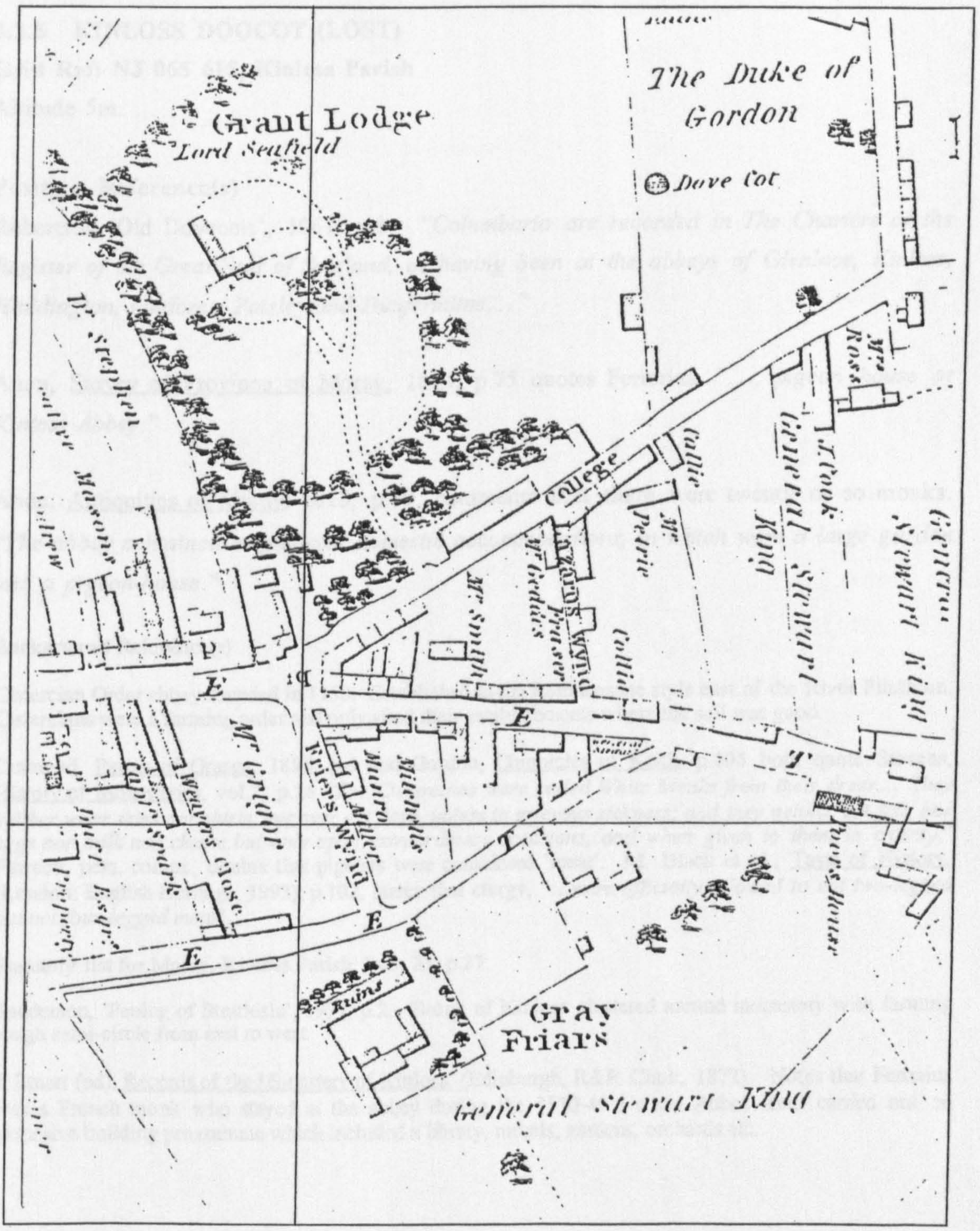
No mention of doocot within description of site in Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, p.19.

Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, pp.94-5.

Statutory List of Moray, Elgin Burgh, Items 1 & 2, pp.1-2.

MacKintosh, Guide to Elgin, 1892, pp.29-33. Description and illustration of church only.

Keillar, Cathedrals, Abbeys and Priories, ud., s.v. 'Greyfriars'. (See later reference to the PREACHING FRIARS).



Greyfriars Doocot (Fig. 5.2.4)

Extract from Wood's 1822 map of Elgin showing the complex of the Grey Friar's Abbey to the south of the High Street and Friars Wynd. Although the map contains no record of a doocot, it seems that one was sited near the top of Friar's Wynd on 'Mr Grigor's land' and was demolished c.1800.

5.2.5 KINLOSS DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 065 615, Kinloss Parish

Altitude 5m.

Positive Reference(s)

Robertson 'Old Dovecots', 1961, p.8. *"Columbaria are recorded in The Charters of the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, as having been at the abbeys of Glenluce, Kinloss, Haddington, Lindores, Paisley and Dunfermline...."*

Anon, Survey of Province of Moray, 1814, p.75 quotes Ferrerius, *"..... pigeon house at Kinloss Abbey."*

Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, p.39, comments that there were twenty or so monks. *"The abbey contained magnificent domestic accommodations, in which were a large garden and a pigeon-house."*

Background Reference(s)

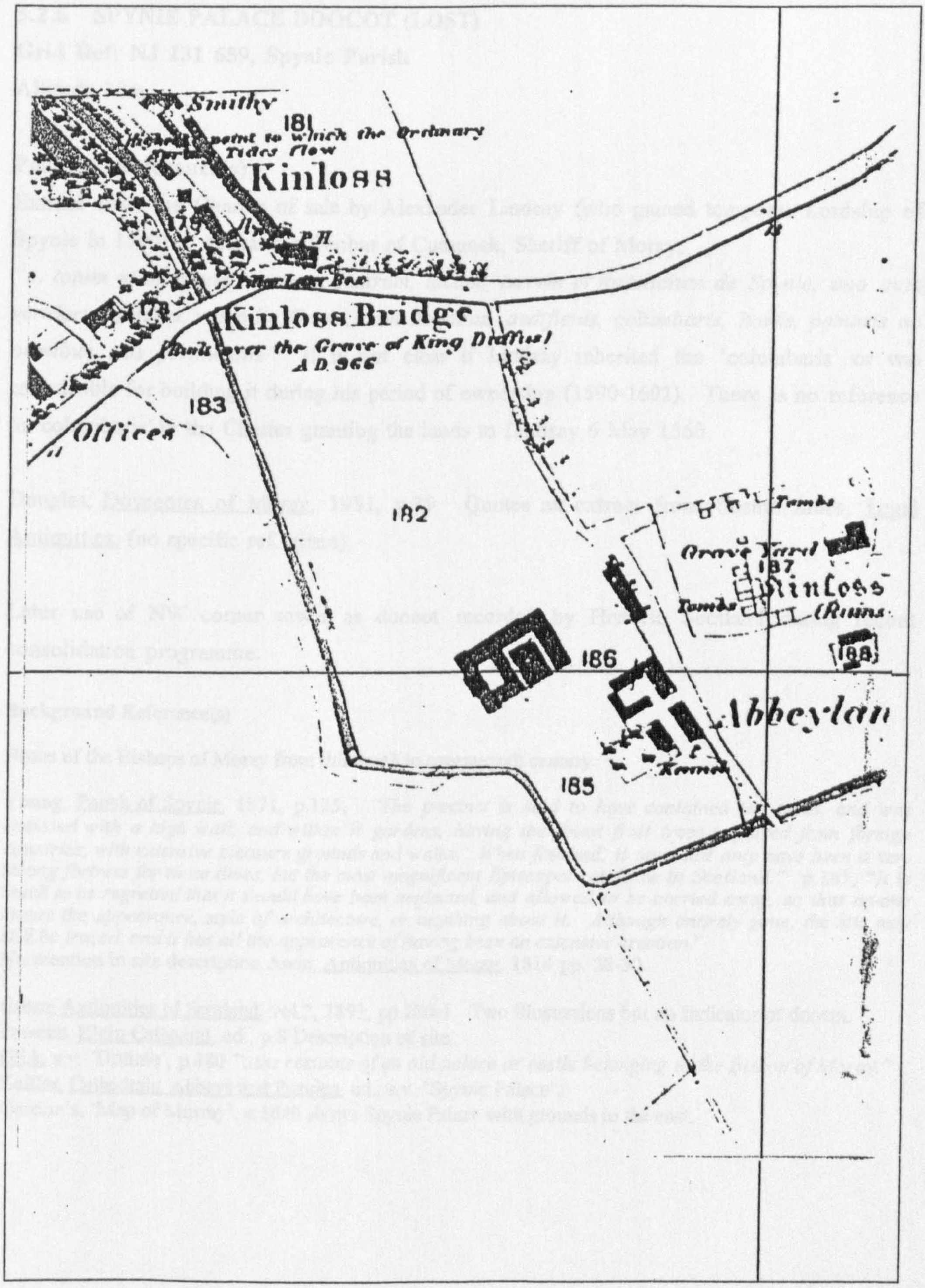
Cistercian Order abbey founded in 1150. Established in the Romanesque style east of the River Findhorn. Cistercians were a farming order and only sited their establishments where the soil was good.

Cramond, Parish of Grange, 1895, p.6 and Gordon, Chronicles of Keith, p.405 both quote Stevens, History of Monasteries, vol.2, p.26 *"The Cistercians were called White Monks from their dress.... They neither wear skins nor shirts, nor ever eat flesh, unless in grievous sickness; and they neither eat fish nor eggs nor milk nor cheese but only upon extraordinary occasions, and when given to them in charity."* Fawcett, pers. comm., doubts that pigeons were considered 'meat'. M. Black et al., Taste of History, (London: English Heritage, 1993), p.102, states that clergy, *"...were officially allowed to eat two-legged but not four-legged meat"*.

Statutory list for Moray, Kinloss Parish, Item 25, p.27.

Sanderson, 'Feuing of Strathisla', 1974, p.2. Burgh of Kinloss clustered around monastery with farming rough semi-circle from east to west.

J. Stuart (ed), Records of the Monastery of Kinloss, (Edinburgh, R&R Clark, 1872). Notes that Ferrerius was a French monk who stayed at the abbey during the 1530-40's when Abbot Reid carried out an extensive building programme which included a library, murals, gardens, orchards etc.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Kinloss Abbey Doocot (Fig. 5.2.5)

5.2.6 SPYNIE PALACE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 231 659, Spynie Parish

Altitude 30m.

Positive Reference(s)

Extract from the Charter of sale by Alexander Lindsay (who gained temporal Lordship of Spynie in 1590) to Alexander Dunbar of Cumnock, Sheriff of Moray,
"... totum et integrum, nostrum castrum, lacum, turrem et fortalicium de Spynie, uno cum veridaris ejusdem, vulgo lie Green, cum domibus, aedificius, columbaris, hortis, pomaris ac omnibus suis pertinentiis" It is not clear if Lindsay inherited the 'columbaris' or was responsible for building it during his period of ownership (1590-1602). There is no reference to 'columbaria' in the Charter granting the lands to Lindsay 6 May 1560.

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.39. Quotes an extract from Cosmo Innes, Legal Antiquities, (no specific ref. given).

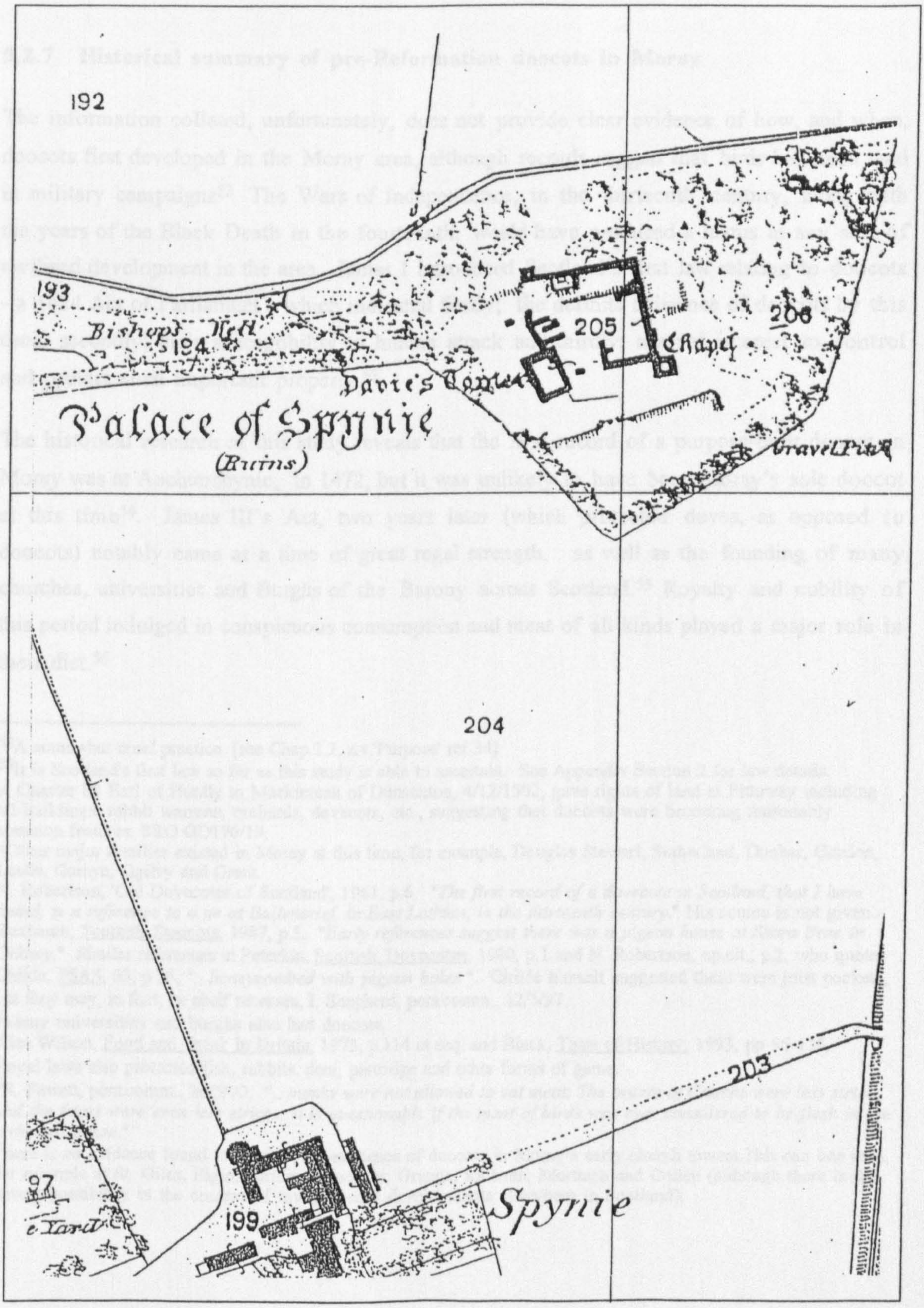
Later use of NW corner tower as doocot recorded by Historic Scotland during recent consolidation programme.

Background Reference(s)

Home of the Bishops of Moray from thirteenth to seventeenth century.

Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, p.125. *"The precinct is said to have contained ten acres, and was enclosed with a high wall, and within it gardens, having the finest fruit trees imported from foreign countries, with extensive pleasure grounds and walks. When finished, it must not only have been a very strong fortress for these times, but the most magnificent Episcopal residence in Scotland."* p.167, *"It is much to be regretted that it should have been neglected, and allowed to be carried away, so that no-one knows the appearance, style of architecture, or anything about it. Although entirely gone, the site may still be traced, and it has all the appearance of having been an extensive erection."*
No mention in site description Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1814 pp. 28-30.

Grose, Antiquities of Scotland, vol.2, 1891, pp.280-1. Two illustrations but no indicator of doocot.
Fawcett, Elgin Cathedral, ud., p.8 Description of site.
OSA, s.v. 'Drainie', p.480 *"..the remains of an old palace or castle belonging to the Bishop of Moray."*
Keillar, Cathedrals, Abbeys and Priories, ud., s.v. 'Spynie Palace'.
Gordon's, 'Map of Murray', c.1640 shows Spynie Palace with grounds to the east.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Spynie Palace Doocot (Fig. 5.2.6)

5.2.7 Historical summary of pre-Reformation doocots in Moray

The information collated, unfortunately, does not provide clear evidence of how, and when, doocots first developed in the Moray area, although records suggest that birds had been used in military campaigns[52] The Wars of Independence, in the thirteenth century, along with the years of the Black Death in the fourteenth, would have produced a hiatus in any sort of civilised development in the area. James I introduced Scotland's first law relating to doocots - a 1424 Act of Parliament - which indicated firstly; the definite existence of doocots by this time, secondly; their susceptibility to human attack and thirdly; a royal interest to control and protect such important property.[53]

The historical research of this study reveals that the first record of a purpose-built doocot in Moray was at Auchterspynie, in 1472, but it was unlikely to have been Moray's sole doocot at this time[54]. James III's Act, two years later (which protected doves, as opposed to doocots) notably came at a time of great regal strength, as well as the founding of many churches, universities and Burghs of the Barony across Scotland.[55] Royalty and nobility of this period indulged in conspicuous consumption and meat of all kinds played a major role in their diet.[56]

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[52]A somewhat cruel practice. [see Chap.2.2, s.v.'Purpose' ref 34]

[53]It is Scotland's first law so far as this study is able to ascertain. See Appendix Section 2 for law details.
A Charter by Earl of Huntly to Mackintosh of Dunachton, 4/12/1502, gave rights of land at Pittoway including all buildings, rabbit warrens, orchards, dovecots, etc., suggesting that doocots were becoming reasonably common features. SRO GD176/19.

3Other major families existed in Moray at this time, for example, Douglas Stewart, Sutherland, Dunbar, Gordon, Leslie, Comyn, Ogilvy and Grant.

N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.6. "*The first record of a dovecote in Scotland, that I have found, is a reference to o ne at Ballencrief, in East Lothian, in the thirteenth century.*" His source is not given.
Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.5. "*Early references suggest there was a pigeon house at Skara Brae in Orkney.*" Similar references in Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p.1 and N. Robertson, op.cit., p.2, who quotes Childe, PSAS, 63, p.25, ".. *honeycombed with pigeon holes* ". Childe himself suggested these were joist pockets, but they may, in fact, be shelf recesses, I. Shepherd, pers.comm., 12/5/97.

[4]Many universities and burghs also had doocots.

5See Wilson, Food and Drink in Britain, 1973, p.114 et seq. and Black, Taste of History, 1993, pp 96-136.
Royal laws also protected fish, rabbits, deer, partridge and other forms of game.

[6]R. Fawett, pers.comm., 26/5/90, ".. *monks were not allowed to eat meat. The orders of Canons were less strict and the friars were even less strict .. it is questionable if the meat of birds was ever considered to be flesh in the technical sense.*"

[T]here is no evidence found to confirm the existence of doocots in Moray's early church towers,This can bee seen, for example at St. Giles, Elgin; Birnie; Kinneddar; Grange; Rathven; Mortlach and Cullen (although there is the strong possibility in the context of tower doocot developments elsewhere in Scotland).

Clearly, by this period (if not much earlier) the ecclesiastical sites in Moray (Elgin Cathedral, Spynie Palace and Kinloss Abbey) all possessed large doocots. It seems equally possible that the disused sites, at Greyfriars, most) of the area's major ecclesiastical sites, but this was soon to end as the feeling of discontent with the Roman Catholic Church spread rapidly across Blackfriars, the Knights Hospitalers, Urquhart Priory and Pluscarden Abbey, also possessed doocot structures.[57]

The doocots of Moray had an undoubted early association with many (if not Europe during the mid sixteenth century.

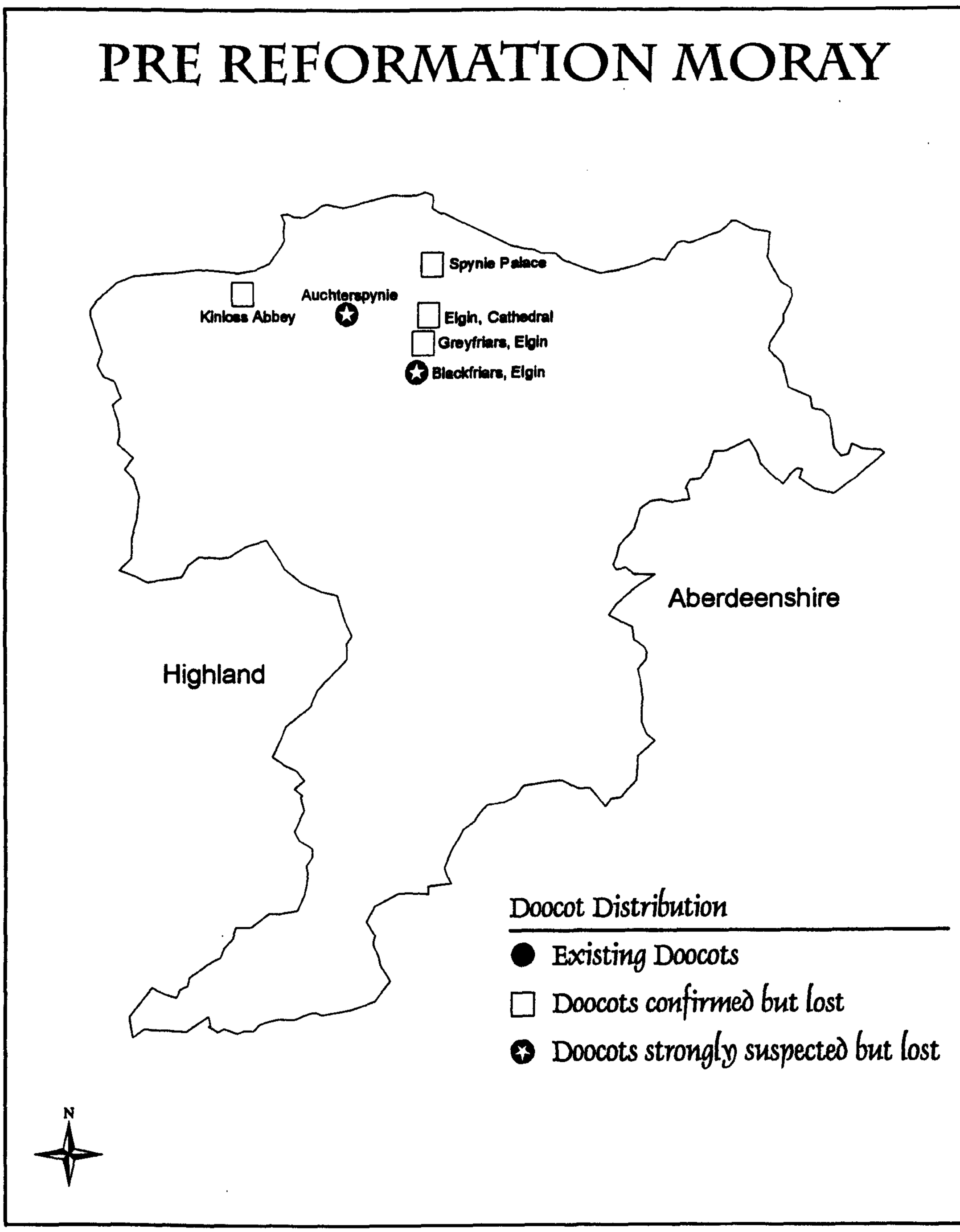


Fig 5.2.7

Probable distribution of Moray's doocots before 1560. Note concentration in Laich of Moray, particularly around Elgin

5.3 Late sixteenth century doocots

5.3.1 Leuchars
5.3.2 Plewlands (Gordonstoun)
5.3.3 Pittendreich
5.3.4 New Elgin
5.3.5 Quarrelwood (New Spynie)
5.3.6 Historical Summary

5.3.1 LEUCHARS DOOCOT (RUINED)

Grid Ref: NJ 259 648, Urquhart Parish

Altitude 6m.

Positive Reference(s)

Leuchars House Statutory List for Moray, Urquhart Parish, Item 49, p.50.
"*Collapsed in 1963*".

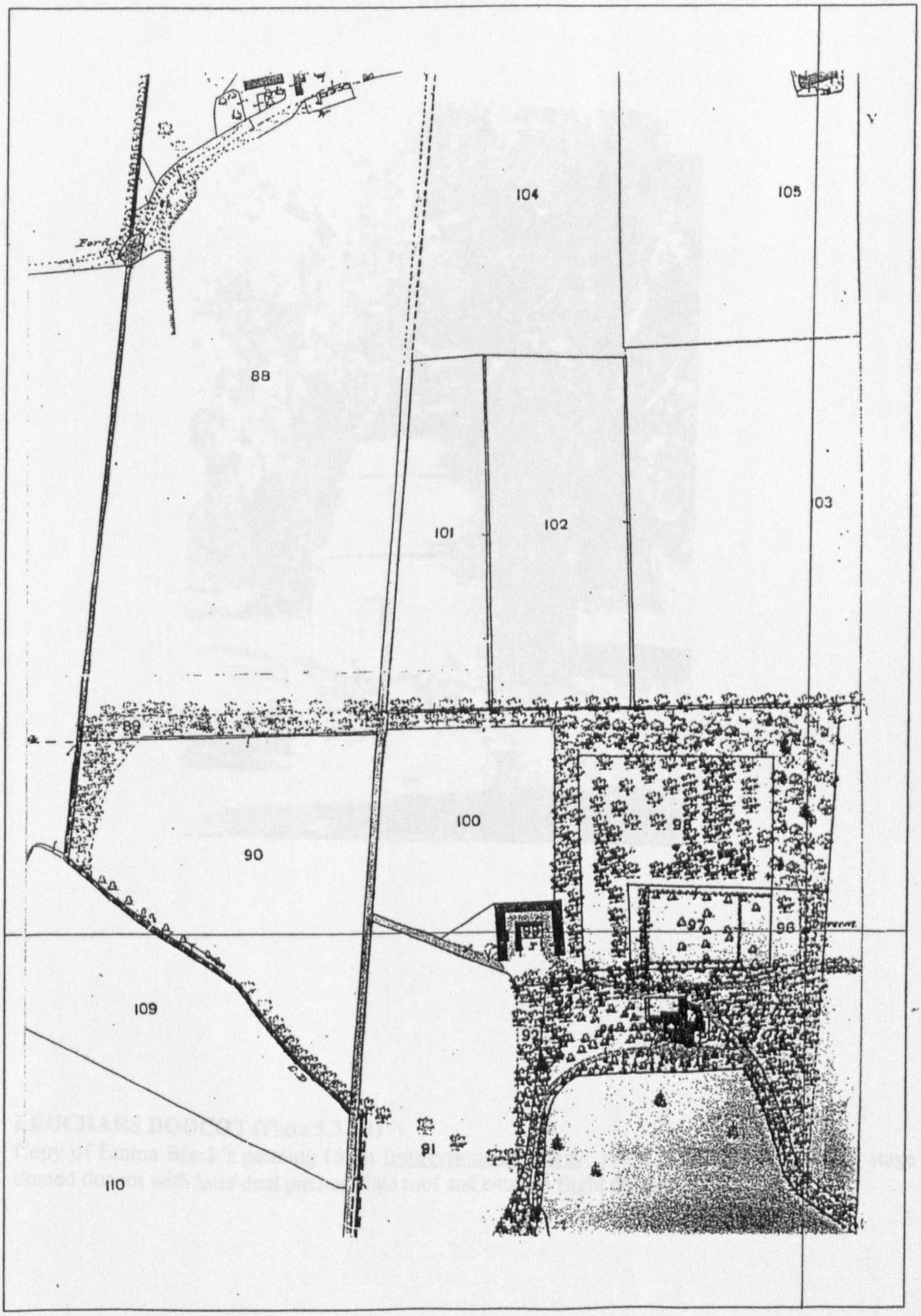
GRC SMR Ref: NJ 26 SE1. *"Dovecot - dated 1583, the interior is now filled with debris but a few pigeon boxes can still be seen. Walls 3m dia. And 1m thick".*

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.12, "...*decorative and elaborate set of [pigeon] entrances*". p.13, *"The cupola on the Leuchars dovecote is a somewhat curious crown and would appear to have been an addition to the circular type".* p.14, *"The Moray dovecote with the smallest door appears to be Leuchars, viz, height of door, 4 feet; width of door, 2 feet". p.23, "This opening [i.e. aperture above door at Burgie] resembles others found in the Findrassie and Leuchars dovecotes".* p.44 full description of doocot.

N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', 1961, p.377, *"...circular, with three string courses all round, and has the entrance in the west. The cote just out in front and behind and has four crowsteps on each side of the cupola. There are two rows of four dove holes, with a ledge to each row. It is dated 1583".*

Black, Impressions of Moray, 1931, p.27. Painted illustration. *"I am very fond of our own one at Leuchars, which we find it wiser not to fill with doves in the interest of our own farm and garden and the crops of our neighbours".*

'Dovecot' shown on 1870 O. S. to north-east of house at a distance of about 75m.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Leuchars Doocot (Fig. 5.3.1)



LEUCHARS DOOCOT (Plate 5.3.1.1)

Copy of Emma Black's painting (from Impressions of Moray, 1931, p.27) showing a three stage domed doocot with later dual pitched slate roof and catslide flight dormer.



LEUCHARS DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.3.1.2)

Photograph taken from the similar position as Black's painting. The outline of the former door opening is just visible in amongst the crumbling remains.

5.3.2 PLEWLANDS (OR GORDONSTOUN BEEHIVE) DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 183 690, Drainie Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Plewlands Doocot, in the parish of Drainie, is a very fine example of a free-standing four-stage, single-chamber, beehive doocot, described by Robert Douglas as looking "*like a well built stack of straw*"[58]. It is located centrally in the Laich of Moray about one mile inland of Covesea on the Moray Coast and also about one mile north of the former sea loch of Loch Spynie. Sited about 100 m west of the current main house of Gordonstoun, (formerly known as Plewlands), it is to be found "*standing on a small mound*"[59] which is approximately 650 mm high and extends several metres around the immediate vicinity of the building. There is a gentle topographical slope from north to south but otherwise the area around the doocot is fairly level so it is likely that this mound is artificial.

The circular plan of the building is 6.3 m diameter and the doocot rises to a height of 8 m above ground level. It is constructed in four stages using a reasonably consistent mix of local sandstone rubble bonded together with lime mortar including tooled stringcourses and dressings around the door opening. The 1100 mm walls (including the nest boxes) are unusually thick and are flush pointed and lined out in cement mortar although Elizabeth Beaton recorded in 1978 that there were "*traces of harling*"[60]. Some of the lower areas, particularly around the doorway, show signs of outward bulging and three narrow iron straps encircle the structure in an effort to contain the movement. Each stage of the building curves progressively inward toward the apex until the final stage which is pitched more acutely at approximately 20°. The domed roof of the final stage is topped with large stone slabs but these are mostly covered with a later concrete capping which offers some protection to the 700 mm diameter oculus although a large proportion of fern growth can be witnessed as an undesirable but somewhat amusing topping to the building.

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[58] R. Douglas Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 26
Beehive doocots are so-called because of their resemblance to the straw skeps which were once commonly used to house bees.

[59] Grampian Regional Council Regional Archaeologist's Site Index Reference No. NJ 16 NE 8

[60] E. Beaton Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 11

Four ledges, at respective heights 3.5, 5.6, 6.7 and 7.6 m above ground level, are to be found at each stage and all are heavily weathered. The first is described in the Secretary of State's listing as "*concave underside to 1st rat course*"[61] and projects 150 mm beyond the wall of the bottom stage and is mortar filleted by 200 mm back onto the second stage.[4] The second ledge is to be found at the top of this second stage and is flat topped 280 mm wide with a 110 mm steeply angled underside. The third course is similarly detailed to the second in that it is made of 50 mm deep stone and is flat topped 440 mm wide with a 140 mm shallow angle on its underside. The final ledge is to be found as a covering to the final stage and is flat topped 700 mm wide with a 100 mm flat underside projection. The four ledges provide a total linear length of almost 54 m.

Elizabeth Beaton refers to a "*single bird entrance over 1st rat ledge on south side*"[62] and although a 45 mm deep by 480 mm wide stone ledge projecting 120 mm beyond the wall face and angled at approximately 20° is to be found on the second stage south elevation, no further evidence can be traced either externally or internally to establish the size and detailing of this aperture.[63]

The east facing door, size 1340 high x 800 mm wide, has a later replacement metal sheet door to provide present day security to the building but timber dooks about 200 mm into the wall face suggest an earlier timber door frame and the 50 x 50 mm rebates, together with the chases hewn out of the door rybats at about mid level, clearly suggest the existence of an outward opening door or yett.

The 250 mm wide stone threshold which is flush with the ground level of the mound presently steps down 320 mm into the pigeon chamber which now has an asphalt floor finish but was described in the listing as having a "*paved floor.*"[64] The chamber contains approximately 750 nest boxes, arranged in diminishing numbers of concentric rings of partially squared sandstone boxes with 70-100 mm uprights and 50-80 mm deep horizontal

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[61] Secretary of State Statutory List for Moray, Drainie Parish, Item No. 7, p. 9.
[62] E. Beaton Loc. cit.
[63] A small aperture is visible on a drawing produced by Eka Gordon Cumming in 1870, published in Brereton's, Gordonstoun, 1968, p. 81.
[64] Secretary of State Loc. cit.

slabs, some of which are up to 1 m long and span four or five nest boxes. The boxes, which show no signs of limewash, begin 640 mm above the floor level and are 150 wide x 190 high x 330 mm deep excluding the projecting ledge of 100-130 mm which is to be found on every one of the 21 rows. Robert Douglas made the curious observation in 1931 that these projecting ledges "*may be an optical illusion.*"[65] Fortunately however, Robert Douglas was in a position to record the revolving ladder which is no longer extant; "*...in this dovecote there is a potence present. It has lost the support at the top and in consequence cannot be revolved. The table platform on which the end of the potence rests is higher than the other two in Moray where we find the potence. (Orton and Gordonstoun Windmill) The table platform measures about 4 to 5 feet in height and is of considerable size otherwise.*"[66]

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[65] Douglas Loc. cit.
[66] Douglas Loc. cit.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Bog of Plewlands belonged to Ogston, steward to Walter de Moravia of Duffus at a time when the fortification stood on the south edge of a sea island.[67] The estate was purchased by the Innes family in 1473 but was sold in poor condition to George Gordon, the first Marquis of Huntly in 1616 following a long standing feud between the Innes' and the House of Stewart. Huntly was fifty -four at the time and probably looking to retreat to Plewlands but the 'Cock o' the North' was one of the great builders of his age and used his amassed fortune to aggrandise the existing fortified tower with large flanking symmetrical pavilions.[68] It seems unlikely therefore that Huntly, who only possessed the estate until 1638, would have built a doocot in a style which was associated with early times. It seems also unlikely that the Innes' were able to instigate any building programme after their Royal feud began so the beehive doocot at Gordonstoun probably pre-dates 1590[69]. Several writers[70] suggest that Sir Robert Gordon, the fourth Baronet of Gordonstoun, (1704-1772) built four doocots in an attempt to "*get rid of his wife with whom he had quarrelled permanently.*"[71] It was a common belief at that time that the building of a doocot would be followed by a death in the family.

It is testimony to the robustness of the structure that it survived the mid eighteenth century marauding described in 1746 by Sir Robert Gordon "*The Rebels destroyed my pigeons at Gordonstown by shooting the doves, and in the evening, when it was presumed the doves had entered the dovecott, they first stoped the dovecott that the pigeons could not get out, then broke open the door, and entering the dovecott destroyed the doves within.*"[72]

The unusual round square mains farm sited some 50 m to the south of the doocot is late seventeenth century and the mature plantation 40 m to the west is part of the late eighteenth century landscaped policies laid out during the improvements of Sir Robert Gordon. The buildings are sited at an altitude of only 10.5 m and the doocot has a small single door on its east side which faces towards the main house. Although the pleasantly landscaped policies now have a pond nearby, the original source of water for birds would have been the sea loch which was not finally drained until 1860.

Niven Robertson recorded in 1961 that the "*dovecot at Gordonstown*" has "*a thousand nests, and has a potence.*"[73] Perhaps the depression in the slab centred in the floor of the chamber indicates the presence of a former plinth to support a revolving ladder. Despite examination there is no evidence of pockets for the cross beam and it may have been that these were contained within nest boxes sited immediately below the 2 m long splayed oculus tube. Douglas said in 1931 that the building was still "*...occupied by pigeons*" but since this was said in the context of a structure which was "*....completely covered in ivy,*" these were probably wild rather than domestic birds.[74]

Nevertheless, Gordonstoun Doocot is still a nationally important building of its type which merits its Grade B listing as an individual building and its Grade A for Group status when combined with the House and Mains

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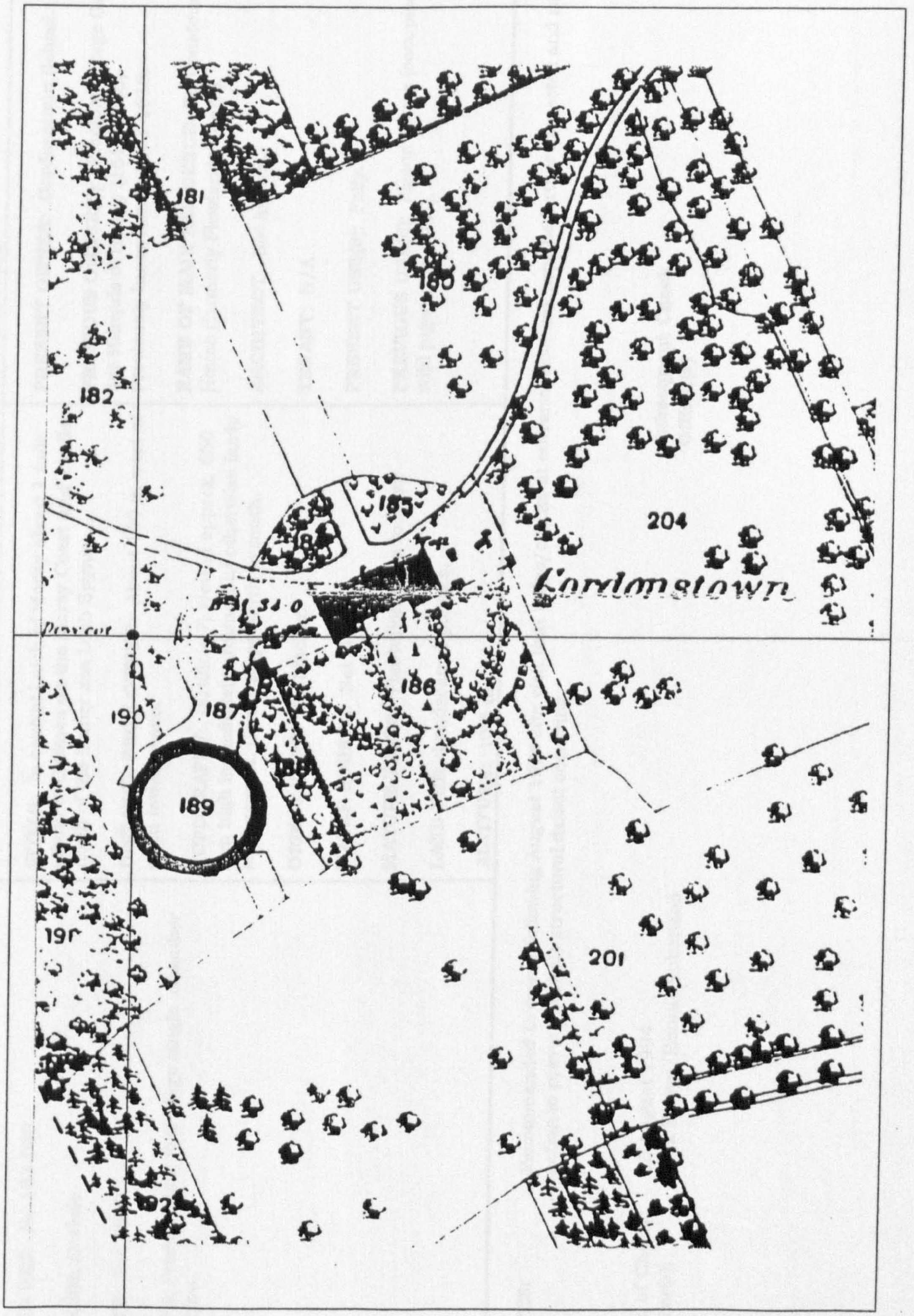
[67] R. Young Parish of Spynie, 1871, p. 36
"The House of Gordonstoun was formerly very damp and wet, and within our recollection, one of the cellars was half filled with water .... the house was originally built in the Bog of Plewland (no doubt as a place of defence)".
[68] Timothy Pont's 1590's Map of Moray suggests that Plewlands was an L-plan fortalice with a barmkin wall and outbuildings.
[69] Robert Innes of Innermarkie became labelled a murderer after his involvement in the killing of the Bonnie Earl of Moray in 1591. He was later executed and the estate was burned. The doocot is therefore possibly a remarkable survivor.
[70] For example, C. McKean, District of Moray - Illustrated Guide, p.97, R. Douglas, op. cit, p. 28, Brereton, op. cit, p. 97.
[71] A. Keith Parish of Drainie, 1975, p. 45
[72] R. Gordon "Memorial", 1746 cited in Brereton, op. cit., p. 102
[73] A. Niven Robertson "Old Dovecots of Scotland," 1961, p. 378. Brereton, op. cit. p. 98 also makes reference to the 'potence' existing as late as 1968.
[74] Douglas Loc. cit.
This may be a wrong assumption, in which case the doocot (and potence) could have been still functional at this time.

Farm. It is important therefore that the owner continues to act responsibly towards its repair and maintenance and the bulge around the doorway caused by the separation of the outer wallface from the main core work must be corrected in order to prevent serious loss of the bottom stage. When this is remedied, along with some other minor maintenance work (such as the removal of vegetation), the doocot at Gordonstoun should continue to function as a historic monument for some time to come.

Written: 18 September 1996



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Plewlands Doocot, Gordonstoun (Fig. 5.3.2)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 183 690 **PARISH**: Drainie **DATE**: Pre 1590 **TYPE**: Freestanding four stage single chamber beehive.	**SITING**: In central Laich of Moray about 1 mile inland of Covesea on the Moray Coast and 1 mile north of the former sea Loch Spynie. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: About 100 m west of main tower house. **TOPOGRAPHY**: (Artificial?) Mound approx. 650 mm high immediately around but otherwise fairly level ground. Gentle slope north to south. **ORIENTATION**: East facing. **WATER SOURCE**: Not clear. **MATURE TREES**: Plantation 40 m to west. **LAND USE**: Landscaped policies. **ALTITUDE**: 10.5 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Gordonstoun School. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Possibly George Gordon, 1st Marquis of Huntly (1616-1636). Previously Innes family 1473-1616. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Gordonstoun House (formerly Plewlands Castle). **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: N/A. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Folly. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Pigeon house (occupied by wild pigeons in 1931).

NOTES: Recommended to owner following August 1994 site visit that bulge/cracks at entrance doorway area be further inspected and remedial action to prevent serious structural defect occurring.

Date of Check: 23 August 1994
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check Officer(s)

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Reasonably good.

REPAIRS:
- 3 metal restraining straps around each stage.
- coursed cement pointing externally 1979.
- asphalt floor (on concrete?)

ALTERATIONS:
- Metal door installed.
- Oculus concreted over.
- southern aperture blocked?

FUTURE RISK: Failure to arrest bulging at lower level will result in serious structural failure.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Circular

PLAN SIZE: 6.3 m dia.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: n/a

OVERALL HEIGHT: 8 m.

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Random rubble and lime mortar built in stages.

WALL MATERIAL: Reasonable pure mix of local sandstone rubble with tooled string courses and dressings around openings.

WALL THICKNESS: 1100 mm (including boxes).

WALL FINISH: Later flush pointed and lined cement mortar.

ROOF FORM: Staged dome.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION:

ROOF PITCH: Final stage approx 20°.

ROOF FINISH: Stone slabs with later concrete cap.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: metal sheet (later). Timber dooks indicate earlier frame?

OUTER DOOR TYPE: 50 x 50 mm rebate and holes in rybats indicate outer yett.

DOOR SIZE: 1340 (h) x 800 mm (w).

DOOR SITING: East (facing house).

LEDGES: 4, one at each stage, all heavily weathered
1st is ovolo moulded 150 wide and mortar filleted
2nd is flat topped 280 wide with 110 angled underside
3rd is flat topped 440 wide with 140 angle underside
4th is flat topped 700 wide with 100 flat underside.

LEDGES HEIGHT: 3.5, 5.6, 6.7 and 7.6 m above ground level.

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 53.5 m

APERTURES: Possibly one on south side 480 mm wide just above 1st course now blocked.

VENT HOLES: No evidence.

FLIGHT HOLES: 700 mm dia. Oculus at top of dome.

TOTAL VENT AREA: say oculus and square aperture - 0.38 + 0.23 = 0.61 m².

LIMEWASH: Traces (some stones are whitened either by wash or by harling).

DORMERS: N/A.

SKEWS: N/A.

FINIALS: N/A.

WEATHER VANE: No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Yes - 250 mm wide stone flush with ground level with 320 mm step down.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Diminishing numbers of concentric rings of reasonably squared sandstone boxes with 70 to 100 mm uprights and 50 to 80 mm deep (x up to 1 m long) horizontal slabs.

NEST BOX NUMBER: Approx 750 (in 21 rows)

NEST BOX SIZE: 150 (w) x 190 (h) x 330 mm deep (excluding ledge).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 640 mm

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: 100 to 130 mm wide on every row.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Possible traces on all surfaces.

COLLECTING AID: No clear remaining evidence - dip in centre of floor marks plinth site?

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 750 x 2 x 0.7 = 1050

INTERNAL VOLUME: Circa 86 m^3

OTHER: splayed oculus tube 2 m long.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- is mound artificial?
- purpose of ovolo ledge.
- details of aperture.
- details of ladder.

ESTATE INFORMATION:

J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp 86-89
I. Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798 (1984 ed), pp 41, 118
Rev. Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, pp. 47-8.
O.S.A., s.v. Drainie, Duffus.
R. Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, p. 13 et seq.
A. Keith, Parish of Drainie, 1975, pp. 44-5.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp 2, 11
R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp 26, 29, 32
G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, pp 13, 61
A. N. Robertson, The Old Dovecotes of Scotland, 1961, pp 375, 378-9.
C. McKean, The District of Moray - an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p 97
T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p 30.
H. Brereton, Gordonstoun, 1968, pp 97-9
J. McCann, "An Historical Enquiry," 1991, pp 111, 120

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Drainie Parish Item No 7, p 9, Category B, 1971 (A Group).

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index Ref No NJ16 NE8

MAPS: 1870, 1905, 1965, OS Maps.
- Timothy Pont's 1590s Map of Moray held in National Library for Scotland.
- General Roy's 1750's military Map of Moray held in Elgin Library. et al.
- Sir William Gordon's 1783 map of Loch Spynie held in the Gordonstoun School library.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER: Referred to in lawsuit between Sir Robert Gordon and Alexander Brodie, Lord Lyon, 1751 (see R Douglas Op. cit., pp 32-33).
1870 Drawing by Eka Gordon Cumming published in Brereton's, Gordonstoun, 1968, p. 81.



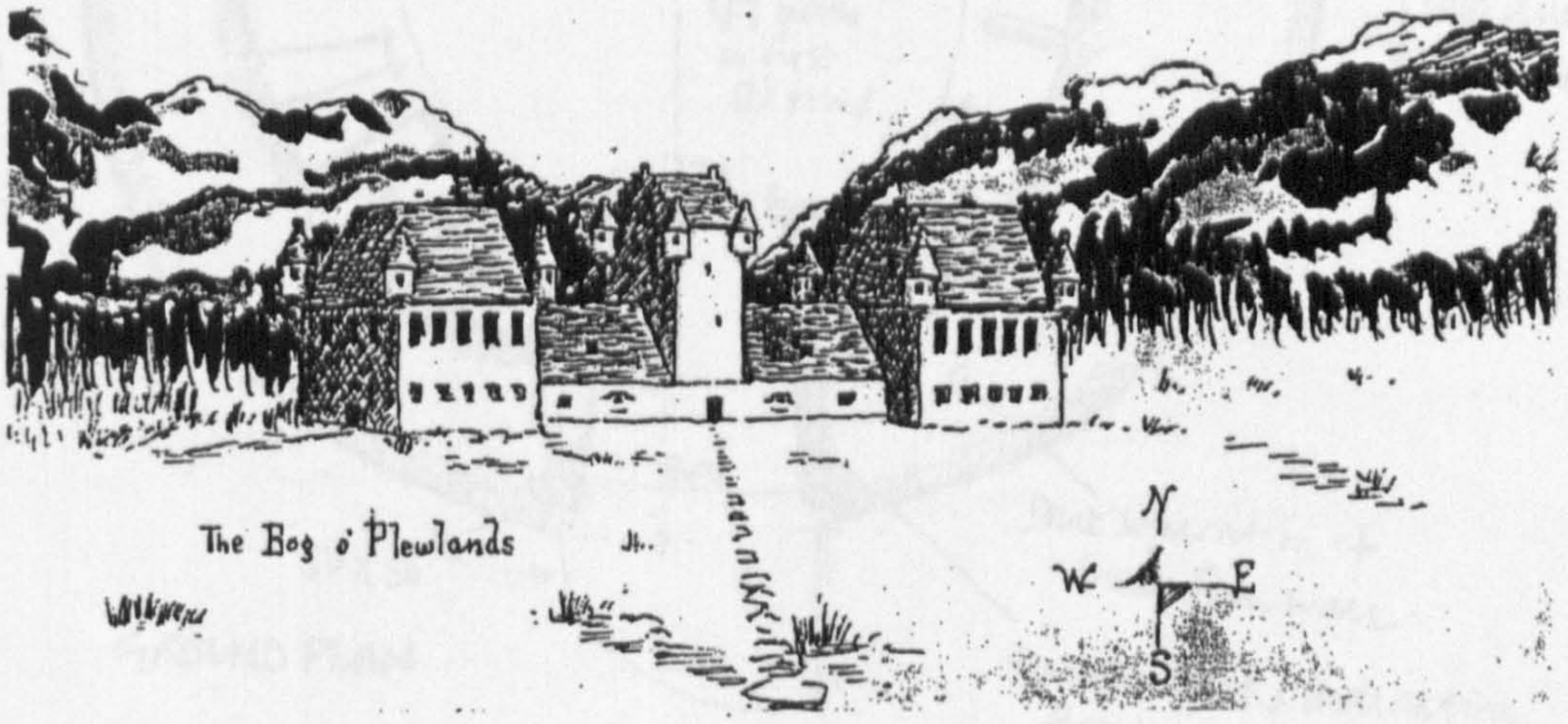
GORDONSTOUN PLEWLANDS DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.3.2.1)

Shortened view from Gordonstoun House showing this large, primitive, but well-preserved, doocot resting upon a small mound within an otherwise flat plain. The backcloth of trees is recent to the building and now screen it from the western driveway to the house. The small ledge, of the now blocked southern aperture, is just visible halfway up the structure to the left of picture.



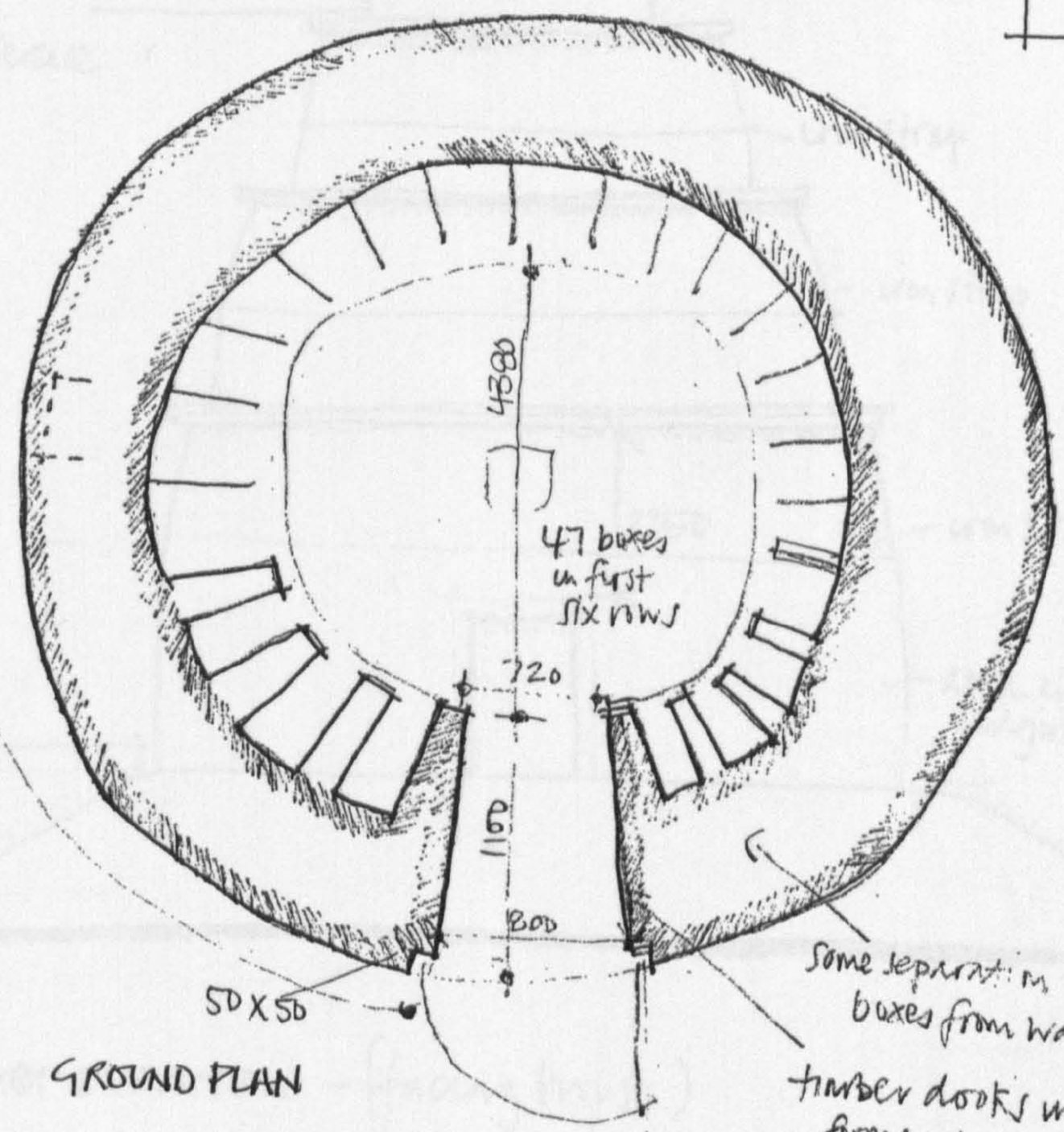
GORDONSTOUN PLEWLANDS DOOCOT, 1994 INTERIOR (Plate 5.3.2.3)

View of interior looking up to oculus at top of picture. Concentric rings of sandstone boxes diminish in number as the structure domes towards a 'throat' which funnelled the birds in and out. Cement pointing now obscures most of the evidence of limework and the white marks on the stonework is probably salt efflorescence, rather than limewash. Evidence of the side flight hole(s) and the gallow pockets for the revolving ladder is no longer discernible.

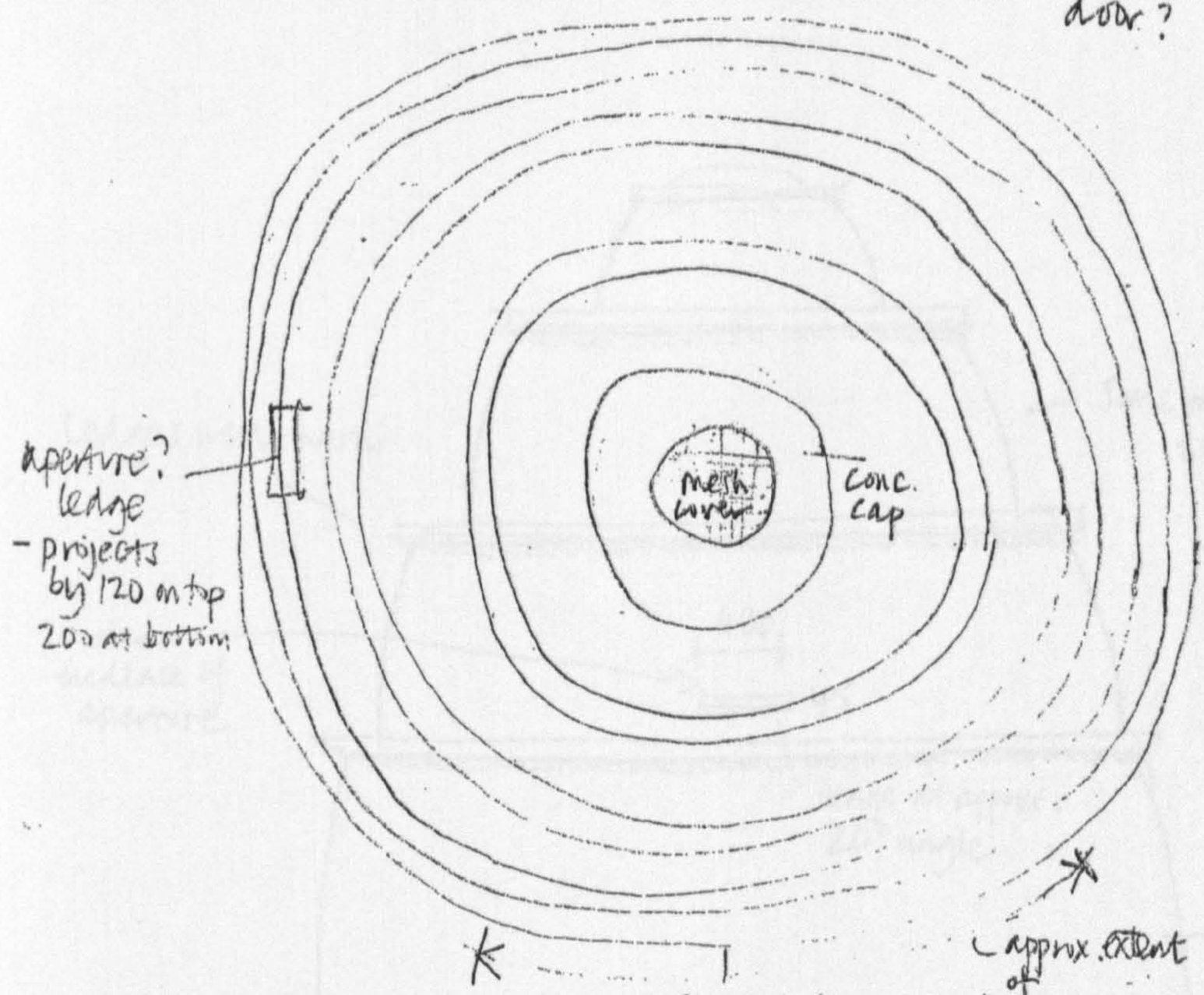


PLEWLANDS CASTLE, C.1640 (PLATE 5.3.2.4)
Drawing from Brereton's, Gordonstoun, 1968, showing *Huntley's Bog o'Plewlands* as it may have appeared when Sir Robert Gordon bought it in 1638. It had such shape as this until his great-grandson gave it its present appearance 100 years later. The central tower is the earliest portion of the castle which, according to Pont's 1590s maps of Moray, was likely to have been an L-plan fortalice. The doocot would have been just out of the picture to the left.

GORDONSTOUN BEEHIVE
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 23/8/94



GROUND PLAN

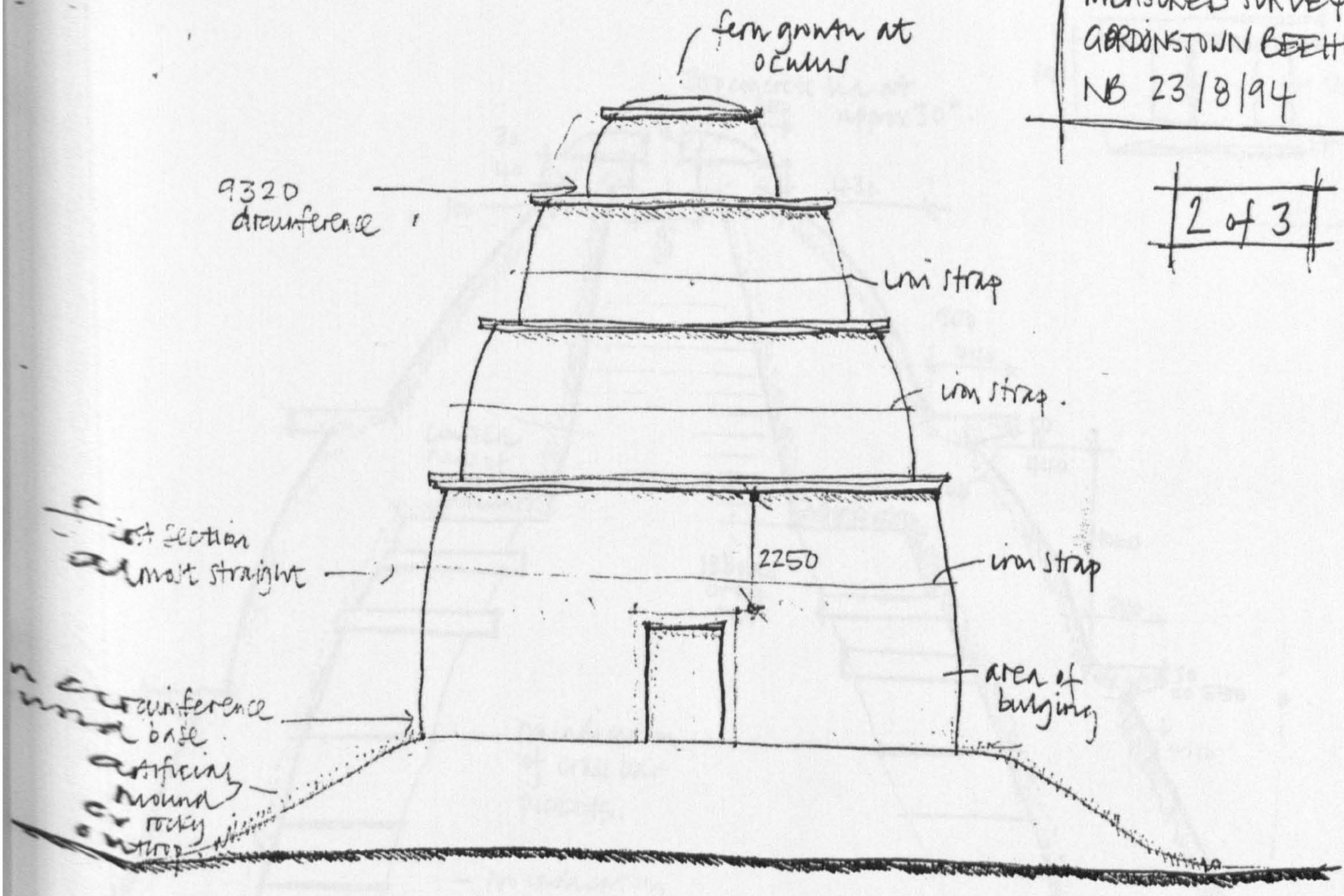


ROOF PLAN

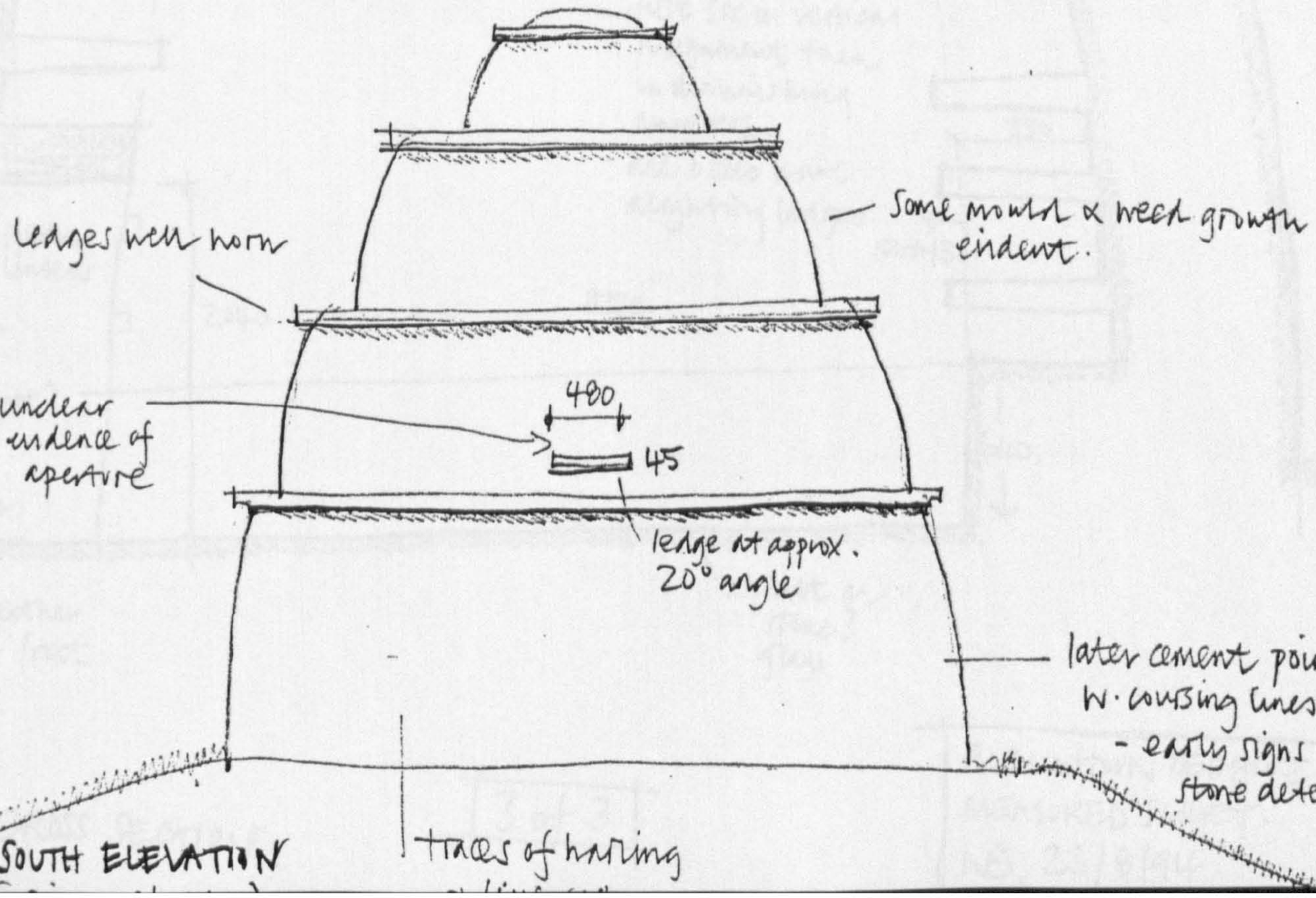
1 of 3

MEASURED SURVEY
GORDONSTOWN BEEHIVE
NB 23/8/94

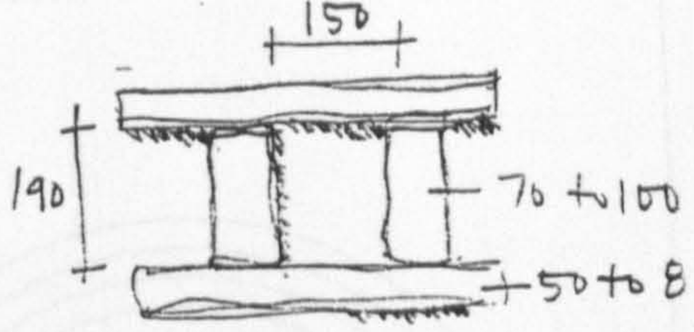
2 of 3



EAST ELEVATION - (facing house)



SOUTH ELEVATION
(facing house)
traces of harling



200 concrete lid at approx 30°.

350

30
40

430

100

600

900

440

50 to 440

145

1060

280

30
20 350

110

CORBEL rows of pointed formwork

18 boxes in top row

- no indication of cross bar pockets.
- no indication of internal aperture formation

47 boxes

21 rows in total.
- first six in vertical alignment then in diminishing numbers.
- all boxes have alighting ledges

330

100 to 130

8230

2040

1660

320

640.

later mortar fillet

oval mouth

stone skew

timber lintel

for yett?

ledge either side of front door.

asphalt or stone? flags

CROSS SECTION.

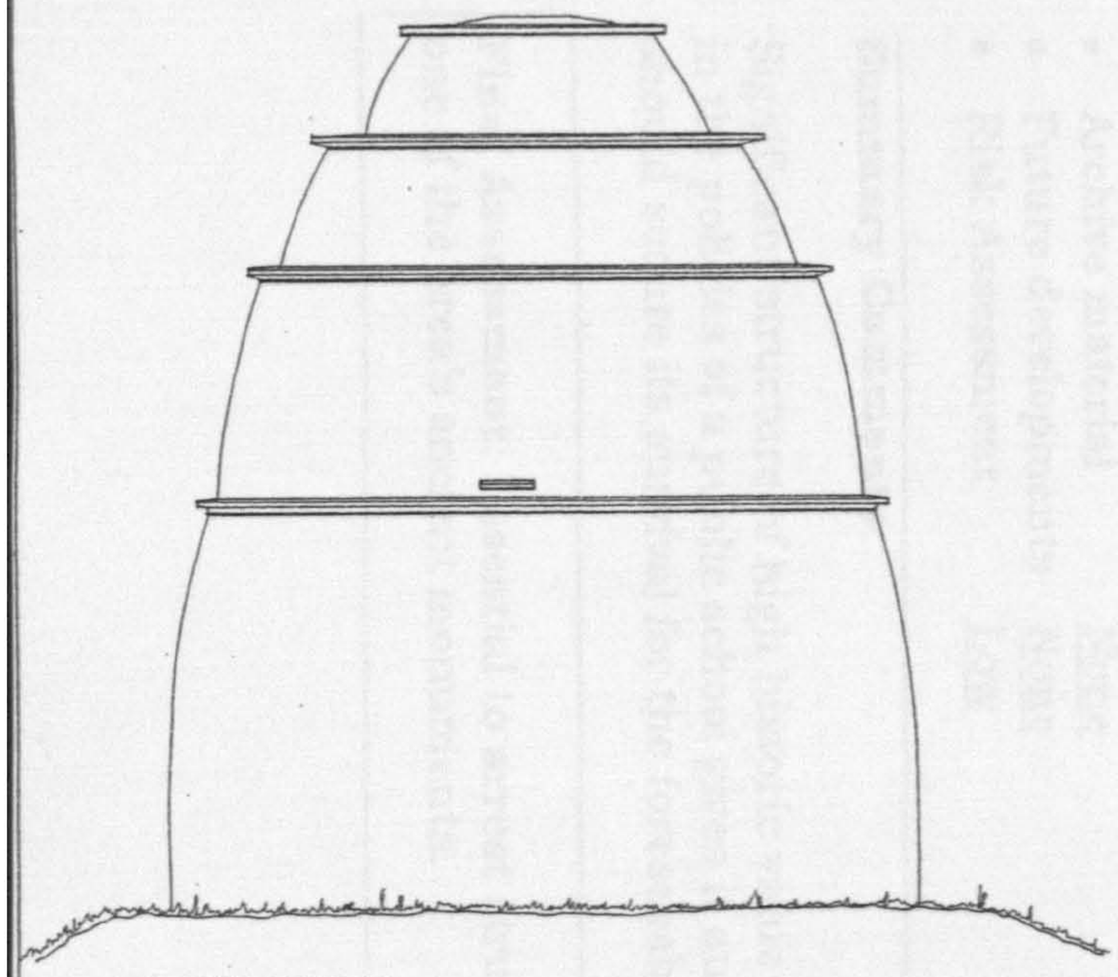
3 of 3

GORDONSTOUN BEEHIVE
MEASURED SURVEY.
NB 23/8/94

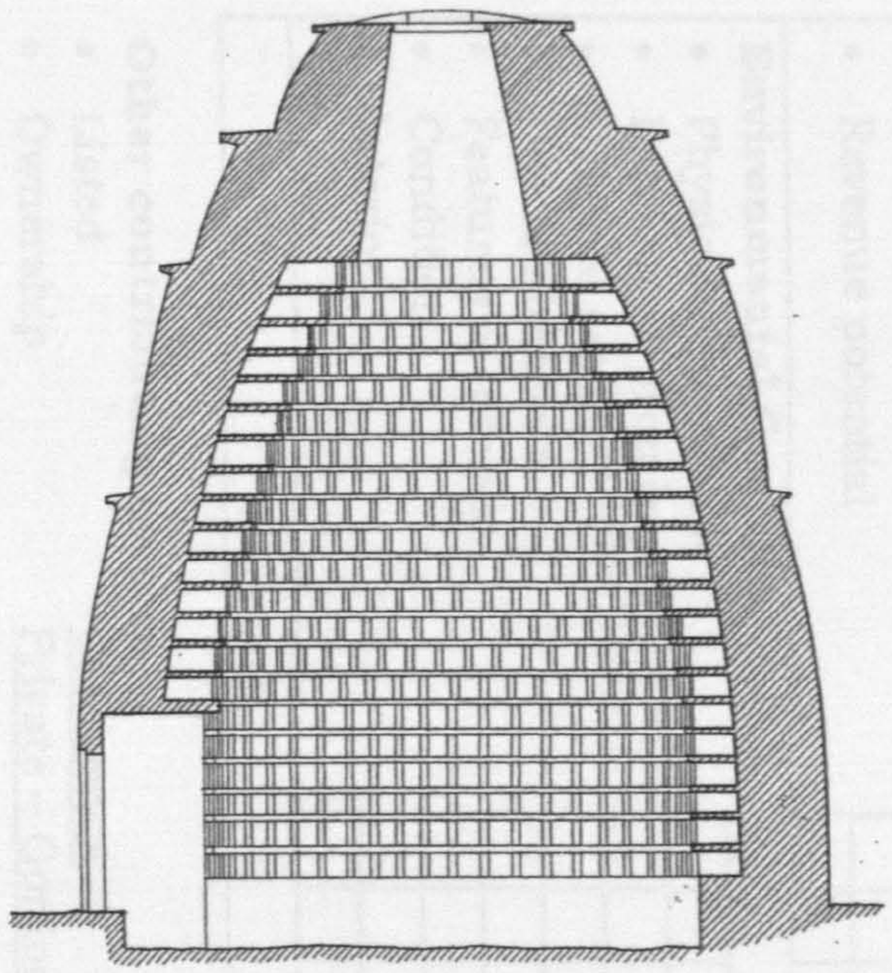
74

0 1 2 3 4 5m

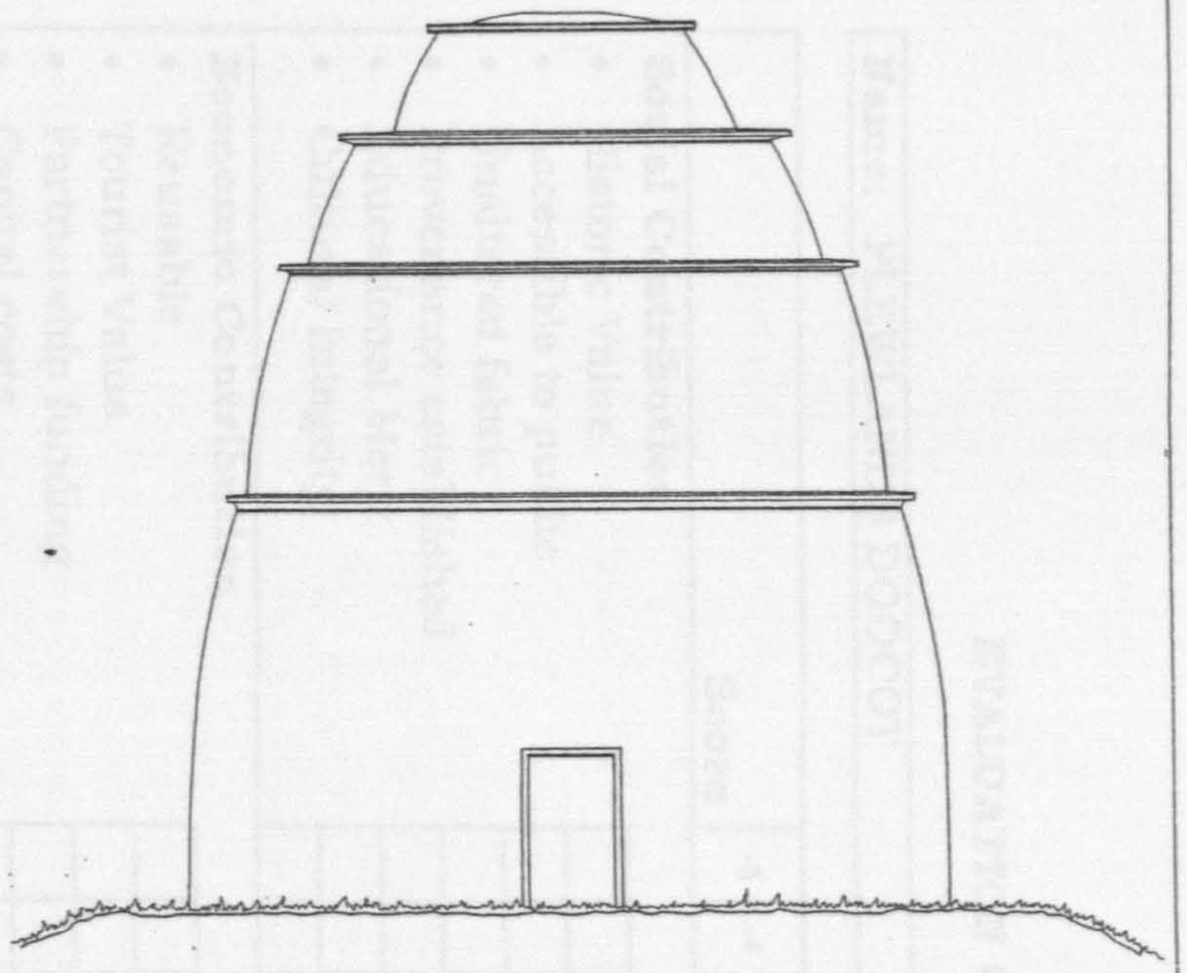
Gordonstoun Beehive Doocot



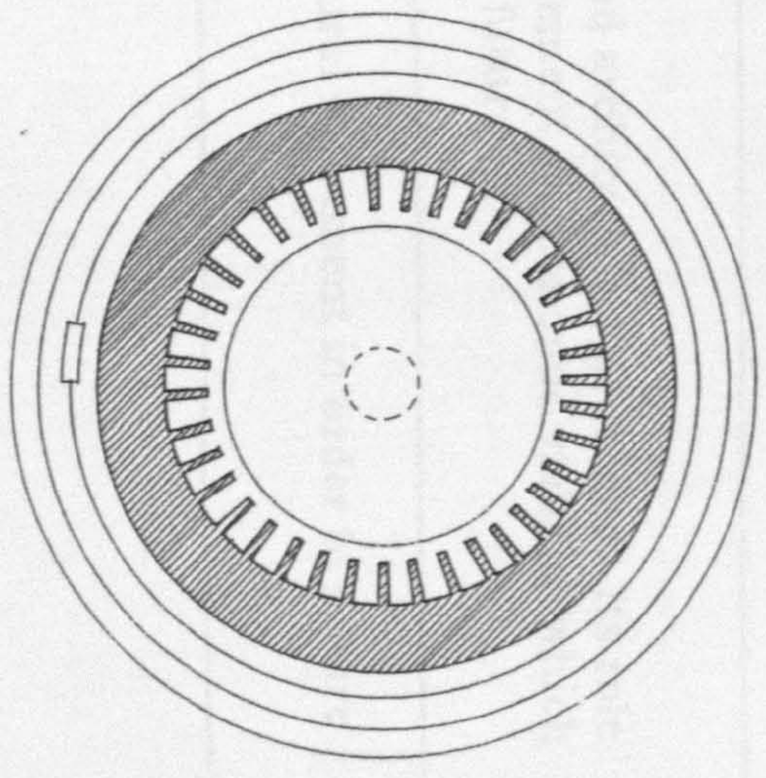
SOUTH ELEVATION



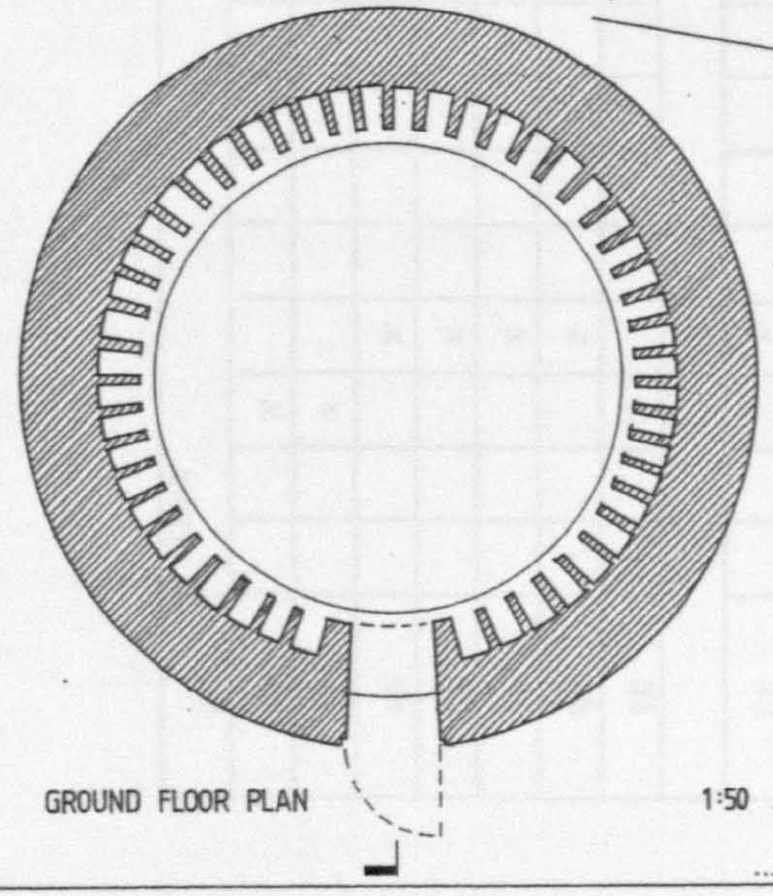
SECTION AA



EAST ELEVATION



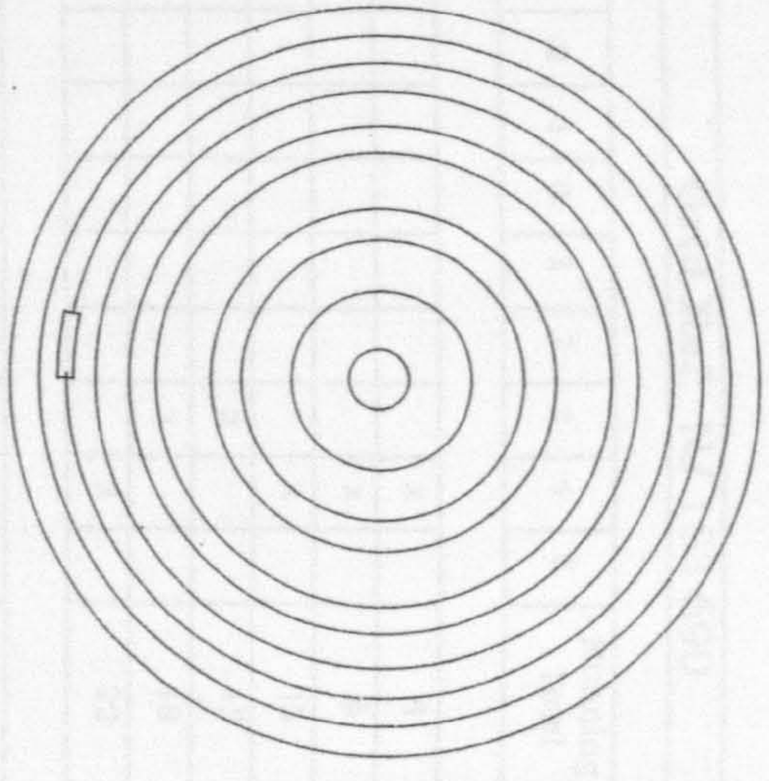
UPPER STAGE PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

N

1:50



ROOF PLAN

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: PLEWLANDS DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 183 690

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value										x		4
• Accessible to public										x		8
• Unaltered fabric										x		12
• Provenance established									x			15
• Educational Merit									x			18
• Cultural Integrity										x		22
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					23
• Tourist Value								x				25
• Partnership funding								x				27
• Capital costs								x				29
• Maintenance costs								x				31
• Revenue potential								x				33
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									x			36
• Landscape prominence								x				38
• Original setting								x				40
• Use of Materials								x				42
• Features of interest								x				44
• Condition									x			47
• Interior									x			50
											TOTAL	50

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category A
- Ownership — Private – Gordonstoun School
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Significant structure of high historic value and architectural presence. Its role in the policies of a public school gives it an element of economic viability which should secure its survival for the foreseeable future.

Final Assessment: Essential to arrest structural movement in order to secure one of the area's ancient monuments.

5.3.3 PITTENDREICH DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 195 613, Elgin Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Pittendreich Doocot is an example of a large, freestanding single chamber, single storey, dual pitched doocot with a slabbed roof. It is found at an altitude of 26 m at the eastern end of the Pluscarden Valley, about one mile south-west of Elgin and about two miles east of the Priory at Pluscarden. It is sited 80 m south of the Pluscarden Road, on gently sloping ground which leads down to the Black Burn 70 m to the east. The doocot currently forms part of the agricultural policies of Easter Pittendreich Farm which was built 60 m to the north-east in the nineteenth century.

Pittendreich Doocot is almost identical to the smaller cote at Quareelwood Castle in Spynie Parish and together they form a nationally unique pair. Both are built entirely of stone and are thought to be of some antiquity.[75] The Regional Archaeologist's records suggest that the building is, "... possibly late 15th century or 16th century"[76], whilst Beaton suggests a, "... date from about 1600".[77] Douglas, on the other hand, wondered if Pittendreich was as ancient as Quarrelwood, which he suggested is "... probably 1478 AD".[78]

There is, however, no physical evidence of a medieval property in the immediate vicinity, so the doocot's association is somewhat puzzling and requires investigation. McKean (without reference), confidently states that, "Pittendreigh [sic] Doocot built by the Douglas family in the 16th century"[79] and it is noted that Pont's map, c.1596, records a small castle or mansion on the site of 'Pindryich'[80]. Young documented that David Douglas of Pittendreich

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[75]Like other similar structures at Rosyth in Fife, Tantallon and North Berwick Abbey in East Lothian and Tealing in Angus. Access to Rosyth doocot (MacGibbon and Ross, Castellated and Domesticated Architecture, vol. 1, p.294) only with MOD permission, whereas Tantallon and Tealing in State Care and therefore publicly accessible at most times.

[76]Regional Archaeologist, Sites and Monuments Record Index Ref. No. NJ 16 SE 2.

[77]Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.24.

[78]Douglas, Op.cit., p.39. Douglas was referring to a fifteenth century charter between the King and the Bishop of Moray granting lands in Spynie.

[79] McKean, The District of Moray-an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p.64.

[80]Pont's 'Map of Murray' No.8, c.1596 held in the National Map Library. Gordon's 'Map of Murray' 1640, also held in the NML, records 'Pindrech' on the site, although it appears as rather a small estate compared to others in the Moray area.

preceded Archibald Douglas who fell heir in 1573. Archibald is stated to have been, "... *of high character and ability*" but had no family, so the Estate of Pittendreich and other lands fell to a collateral branch c.1603[81]. By 1625, when James Douglas served heir to the lands of Mains of Pittendreich, "...*the family would appear to have been for some time in a declining state and verging to ruin*".[82] The Earl of Moray redeemed the lands in 1683 and has since possessed the estate.[83] It seems, therefore, that the doocot was indeed built by the Pittendreich branch of the great House of Douglas, some time before the lands changed hands in 1603 and the estate spiralled into decline.[84] Noting that the Douglases would have been benefactors of church lands during the dissolution years,[85] a post reformation date appears most likely. Douglas claimed in 1931 that, "... *we know that if* [the south facing aperture] *contained the family coat of arms was taken to Darnaway for preservation purposes, as the weather was tending to destroy all the outline*'"[86] Young's account of 1868 substantiates Douglas' claim; "*No trace of them* [the Douglas family] *is now existing on the estate except a few venerable ash and plane trees of large size, which still cotinue to flourish, and the ancient dove-cot, well stocked with pigeons, on which, if we mistake not, the Douglas arms, although much obscured by time and copious coverings of lime-wash, may still be seen*".[87] The mature trees referred to by Young, may also be those illustrated to the rear of the doocot in

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[81]Young, Notes on Burghead, 1868, pp.55-8.

[82]Ibid.

The lands of Pittendreich (including the site of Pluscarden Abbey) all previously felll under the Earldom of the Dunbars of Westfield.

[83]Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 edn.), p.136.

[84]The building, by employing a slabbed roof, has distinct antiquarian character. This construction technique seen predominantly in ecclesiastical structures of the medieval period e.g. the Muckle Kirk, Elgin (see Innes, Antiquities of Moray), Roslin Chapel (Slezer, Theatrum Scotiae, 1693, p.54), St. Magnus Cathedral, Orkney/Fearn Abbey, Easter Ross.

[85]although it is noted that Dame Elizabeth Douglas, Lady Pittendreich was reverting lands of Westfield to Archibald Douglas of Westfield in 1567 and again in 1583. (Dunbar of Westfield Papers, NRS(s) Survey No. 3094, Item 194 held in microfiche form only in the SRO)

[86]Douglas, op.cit. p.40.

There is clear evidence of a former aperture sited above the door on the south facing wall between these two ledges, similar to the apertures at Burgie, Findrassie. q.v. It would have provided a 500 mm square tunnel through to the pigeon chamber but there is insufficient evidence to determine whether this opening was part of the original building or not. It does, however, seem likely.

[87]Young, op.cit., p.58.

Shaw's History of Province of Moray, 1882, vol.1, p.353 provides a remarkably similar account: "*No trace of these Douglases now exists. The old trees probably define the spot where the mansion of the proprietors once stood. A venerable dovecot still stands, having the bloody heart (the crest of the Douglas family), much obliterated, yet decipherable*".

Emma Black's 1931 watercolour.[88] Her drawing shows doves in flight, two large gable finial pieces and the semblance of a gable vent and crow steps near the ridge - the Secretary of State's listing refers to, "... *flat skews maybe later replacement*".[89]

The doocot at Pittendreich is not under any serious risk, although failure to keep the joints of the roof slabs watertight will eventually cause localised weathering of some of the interior. The building is in excellent condition, which is largely due both to its quality of construction and the maintenance programme of the 1920s and 1970s. The saddest aspect of this building is, however, the fact that few people are granted the opportunity to experience its remarkable interior. This could be partially remedied by including the doocot within Scotland's Doors Open Day.[90] It is Moray's largest and most sophisticated doocot and is clearly seen as a historic landmark by the public using the Pluscarden Road. Together with Quarrelwood, the pair posses an architectural and historic quality as great as anywhere in Scotland. Pittendreich Doocot, therefore, fully merits the decision made by the Secretary of State in 1987 to upgrade the categorty of listing to A after having first listed it in category B in 1971.[91]

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[88]Black, Impressions of Moray, 1931, p.27.
They could also be those shown on the 1869 O.S. to the west, or even those adjacent to both farms.
[89]Sec. of State, loc.cit.
(The doocot at Quarrelwood, by the way, has single vents similarly located in each gable as shown in Black's sketch but now obscured on the present building).
[90]Doors Open Day is a national event organised by the Scottish Civic Trust (et al.) whereby buildings which are not normally accessible are made open to the public on a chosen day.
[91]Sec. of State, loc.cit.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Pittendreich doocot is square in plan (size 6.5 x 6.5 m) with a wallhead height of 3.5 m and an overall height of 7.5 m. Its remarkably thick walls (1060 mm including boxes) appear to be constructed of random "... *rubble and clay mortar*" with tooled freestone dressings around the openings.[92] The external angles are likely to be constructed of tooled dressings too, but the modern cementicious white wet dash harling denies any opportunity of interpretation.[93]

The roof is dual pitched at about 50° and comprises an unusual arrangement of eight horizontal rows (each side) of 30 mm thick interlocking sandstone slabs, equally sized at 900 mm wide x 560 mm long and laid out in seven vertical rows. Three rows span the gaps between the massive gable walls and the two internal gothic arch stone vaults (which themselves are 700 mm wide x 300 mm deep), spean the doocot from north to south and are braced by two stone purlins. A further four vertical rows of interlocking sandstone slabs overseam the bottom three by about 50 mm, with lime mortar providing weather tightness.[94] One or two of these slabs have been replaced and most display many signs of weathering. This weathering does not, however, fully efface the skilful dishing of each slab in order to direct water away from each joint. The lines of roof slabs rest at their base on an eaves putt which, in turn, sits on a 50 mm deep sandstone ledge projecting 175 mm beyond the external wall face at a height of 3.5 m. This ledge runs around all four sides of the building, as does the lower ledge at a height of 2.7 m. It has a flat underside in near pristine condition but a greatly weathered angled top.

The vertically boarded wooden door, centred on the south wall immediately below a 500 mm square sandstone dressed aperture, is relatively modern (possibly 1977) but may be based upon an early design. The 60 x 45 mm rebate in the jamb stonework, with crudely gouged holes in the rybats, suggests the former location of an outward swinging iron yett, size 1530 mm high x 750 mm wide.

The roof of the doocot is made watertight at its gables by 325 mm wide x 30 mm deep flat stone slabs (approximately five number each corner) supported off 530 mm high skewputts and diminishing in size towards the apex. The apex of the eastern gable still displays part of the two ball finials (one on each gable) which are visible in record photography.[95] The ridge of the roof is crowned by two 900 mm wide x 600 mm high stone dormers sited on the east and west sides of the rib vaults respectively. Presently, each has an open hole approximately 500 mm square, but there is some possibility that these would have been capped in a similar fashion to Quarrelwood.

(See following essay No 11.0)

A modern concrete kerb at the entrance is the only remaining form of door threshold leading into a chamber which contains 834 nest boxes lining every wall. These boxes, size 300 wide x 200 high x 600 to 800 mm deep, are formed in a near-perfect arrangement of twelve well-constructed lines and rows of 100 mm squared sandstone

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[92]Secretary of State, Statutory List of Moray, Elgin Parish, Item 7, p.4.

[93]A survey carried out in 1977 (not sourced) prior to improvement may have photographic records of the stonework before being harled over.

[94]Much of this is now missing and during the 1977 repair work, a Historic Scotland architect insisted, in the Grant Assessment Report, that these joints remain unpointed since "... *a doocot does not require to be wind and water tight*". This is, of course, a misinformed claim. "*Every squab farmer should, in fact, be ever on guard against signs of damp*", Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1930, p.44 and "... *a loft which is actually damp is entirely unsuitable for pigeons*", Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.13.

[95]Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.41.
During 1977 a ball finial was removed for copying. Cash was apparently paid out to contractors without checking that they were replaced ... which they never were. Beaton, pers. comm. 11/12/99.

uprights with 70 to 100 mm random length sandstone horizontals.[96] They are raised 200 to 300 mm above a floor level lwhich is composed of earth and cobbles, and it may be that flagstones have been removed. Only half a dozen nest boxes, at the apex of each gable, have been blocked up for maintenance reasons but otherwide the boxes are remarkably intact, particularly noting that they actually support the weight of the two rib vaults. Two pieces of timber, 210 x 160 mm in section, span each of the rib vaults, but show sign of wet rot where they pierce the stonework. They are described in the Secretary of State's listing as, "... *later tie beams*".[97] Whether these beams had any form of function as collecting aids, is not altogether clear.

Written: 19 August 1996

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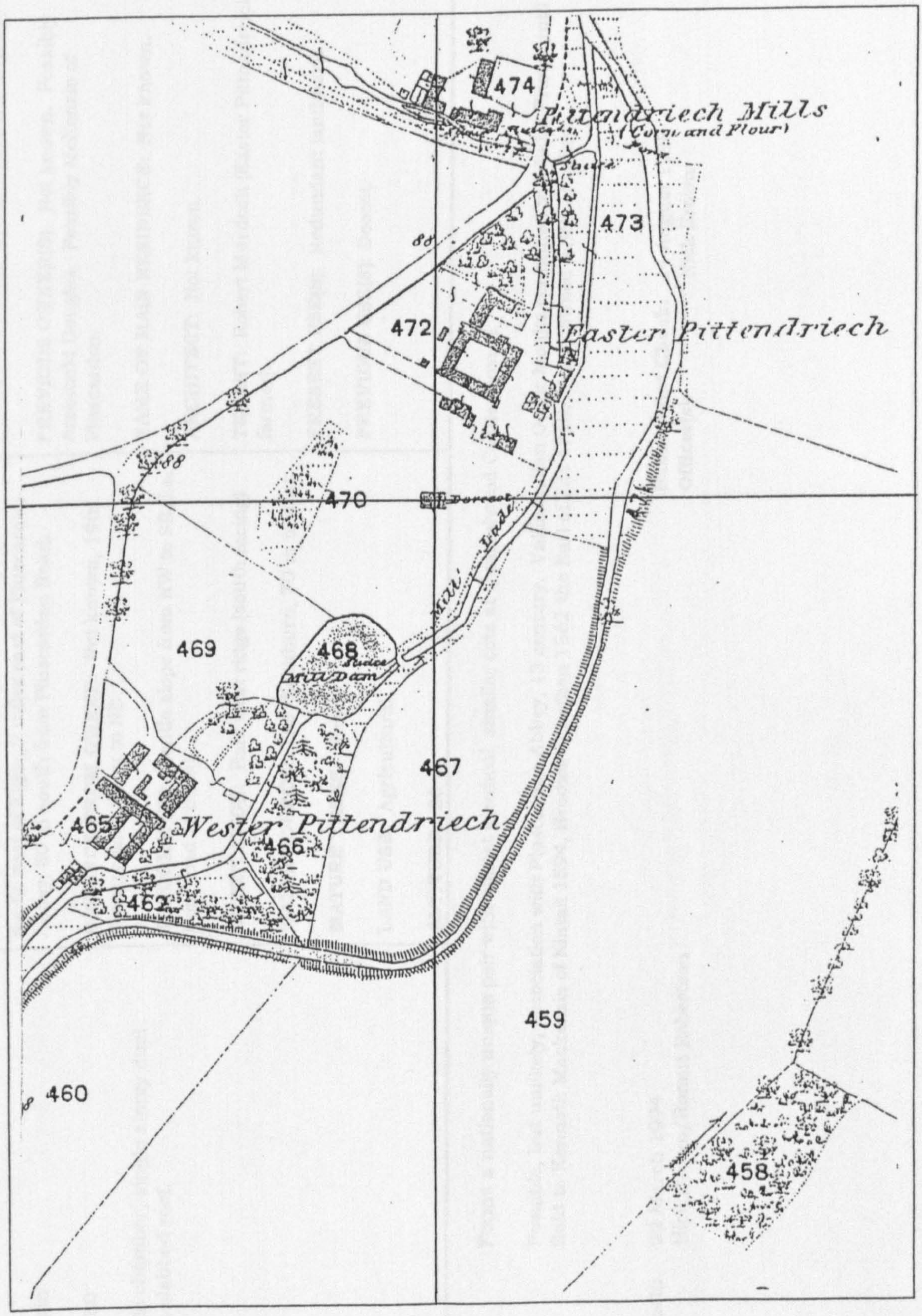
[96]The 12 x 12 x 12 arrangement may have some deliberate significance? Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.180 noted that Fyfield Manor, Pewsey, Wiltshire, was one of several dovecotes containing 365 boxes. The Knights Templar Dovecote at Garway, Herefordshire, dated 1326, contains 666 boxes.
[97]Sec. of State, loc.cit.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Pittendreich Doocot (Fig. 5.3.3)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 195 613 **PARISH**: Elgin **DATE**: c. 1580 **TYPE**: Single chamber, single storey dual pitched with slabbed roof.	**SITING**: East end of Pluscarden Valley, 1 mile south west of Elgin, 2 miles east of Pluscarden Abbey, 80 m south from Pluscarden Road. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: Not known, 19th century farm 60 m to NE **TOPOGRAPHY**: Gentle slope from NW to SE (i.e. from road to burn). **ORIENTATION**: East west ridge (south facing) **WATER SOURCE**: The Blackburn, 70 m to east. **MATURE TREES**: None. **LAND USE**: Agricultural. **ALTITUDE**: 26 m	**PRESENT OWNER**: Moray Estates, Darnaway. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Not known. Possibly Archibald Douglas. Possibly McKenzie of Pluscarden. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Not known. **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: Robert Murdoch (Easter Pittendreich - farmer). **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant landmark. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Doocot.

NOTES: Forms a nationally unique pair with almost identical, smaller cote at Quarrelwood Castle, Spynie.

Possible, but unlikely, association with Pluscarden Abbey, 13 century. Valliscaulian Order Monks continued to inhabit Priory until 1590. Sold to Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail 1594, Brodies of Lethen 1662 the Earl of Fife 1710. Priory owned whole of valley.

Date of Check: 22 March 1994
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent

REPAIRS: Reputedly restored in 1920 and 1927. Further repairs in late 1970's.

ALTERATIONS: Aperture above door blocked. Yett and finials removed.

FUTURE RISK: Failure to keep joints of roof watertight will cause localised weathering of interior.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Square

PLAN SIZE: 6.5 x 6.5 m

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 3.5 m

OVERALL HEIGHT: 7.5 m

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Thought to be random rubble with clay mortar (stone vaults supported off boxes).

WALL MATERIAL: Sandstone rubble with tooled freestone dressings around openings.

WALL THICKNESS: 1060 mm (including boxes).

WALL FINISH: Later cement wet dash harling.

ROOF FORM: Dual pitch.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: Overseamed slab roof supported off gable walls on two 300 x 700 mm Gothic arch stone vaults (lateral support provided by 2 high level stone struts).

ROOF PITCH: 50°

ROOF FINISH: Unusual arrangement of 8 horizontal rows each side of 30 mm interlocking sandstones slab size 900 x 560 mm laid in 7 lines with 4 lines overseaming bottom 3.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Later vertically boarded wooden door (possibly 1977).
OUTER DOOR TYPE: 60 x 45 mm rebate in stonework with markings for fixing suggests former location of iron yett swinging outwards.
DOOR SIZE: 1530(h) x 750 mm (w).
DOOR SITING: Centred on south facing wall.
LEDGES: Two 50 mm sandstone ledges projecting 175 mm with flat undersides (pristine condition) and angled tops (weathered).
LEDGES HEIGHT: 2.7 and 3.5 m respectively.
TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 53 m.
APERTURES: Possibly above door between ledges, 500 mm square with freestone dressings and chamfered edged. (blocked for some time, presumably for coat of arms).
VENT HOLES: No
FLIGHT HOLES: 500 x 500 mm openings in top of ridge dormers.
TOTAL VENT AREA: Allowing for glovers and opening above door = 0.5 m^2
LIMEWASH: Not clear.
DORMERS: Two 900 (w) x 600 mm (h) stone dormers at ridge with flat slab open top roofs.
SKEWS: Yes - 325 mm wide flat slabs (approx. 5 number each corner) diminishing in size towards apex.
FINIALS: Yes - two stone ball finials crowning each gable. One altogether missing, the other broken in part (balls stored within doocot).
WEATHER VANE: N/A.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Not clear. Concrete kerb at present.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: n/a.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement of well constructed rows of 100 mm squared sandstone uprights and 70 to 100 mm sandstone horizontals.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 834

NEST BOX SIZE: 300 (w) x 200 (h) x 600 to 800 mm (d)

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 300 mm (possibly as a result of floor loss however).

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: 2 at apex of west gable. 4 at apex of east gable.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Only at doorway.

COLLECTING AID: Possible function of later timber tie beams? 210 x 160 mm.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 834 x 2 x 0.7 = 1168.

INTERNAL VOLUME: Approx. 130 m^3.

OTHER: Floor finish of earth and cobbles (possible base for flags?)

8.0 CONTEXT

ENIGMAS:
- date

Notes:

- R. Douglas thinks Douglas family in possession between mid 15th and mid 16th century
- Monimail Trust leaflet, 1994, says that "Sir James Balfour of Pittendreich, esteemed lawyer takes ownership of tower and executes much work" (1564).
- Moraysbire Described p. 66 refers to portrait of "Sir James Balfour and his daughter, who was a Countess of Moray", Coincidence?
- Moray Estates/Historic Scotland retain John Knight's 1970's report.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 3, **24.**

E. Black, Impressions of Moray, 1931, p. 27 (illustrated painting).

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 11, 12, 14, 15, 23, 24, 38, 39, 40, **41, 42.**

C. McKean, The District of Moray - An illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 64.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, pp. 13, 61.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p 375, **380.**

R. Young, Notes on Burghead, 1868, p. 58.

Anon, Old Moray, 1948, pp. 18, 26 (illustrated).

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Elgin Parish Item No 7, p 4, Category A, 1971 (upgraded B to A, 9/11/87).

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index, Ref. No. NJ 16 SE 2.

MAPS: 1870, 1905, 1965, OS Maps (not revealing).
- Pont, 'Mapp of Murray', No. 8, c. 1596.
- Gordon, 'Map of Murray', c.1640 held in National Map Library of Scotland.
- Roy, 'Military Map of Moray', c. 1750 held in Grant Lodge, Elgin.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Douglas, op. cit., p 41 (shows ball finials in place).

Anon, op. cit., p. 26 (appears to show coat of arms still in-situ).

OTHER: Background Information see;

I. Forsyth, Survey of the Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 edn.), p. 136.

C. Innes, Elgin Past and Present, 1860, p. 20.

L. Shaw, Historic of Province of Moray, 1882, vol. 1, pp. 352-3.

R. Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, pp. 11, 206, 298.

Idem, Notes on Burghead, 1868, pp. 55-8.

Earl of Moray papers, NRA(s), Survey No. 217, vol. 10, boxes 26-33.

Dunbar of Westfield Papers, NRA (s), Survey No. 3094, Items 32, 194, 211.



PITTENDREICH DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.3.3.1)

Distant view from the west (c.f. E. Black's sketch painting) showing this large scale dual-pitched doocot sunlit on its southern elevation. The setting of this ancient building is now somewhat diminished by the encroachment of the nineteenth and twentieth century farm buildings from the north, but its dignity is largely retained on three sides. It is not known where the former house of Pittendreich once sat - the farm developments of both Easter and Wester Pittendreichs may obliterate any signs of this ancient Douglas seat.



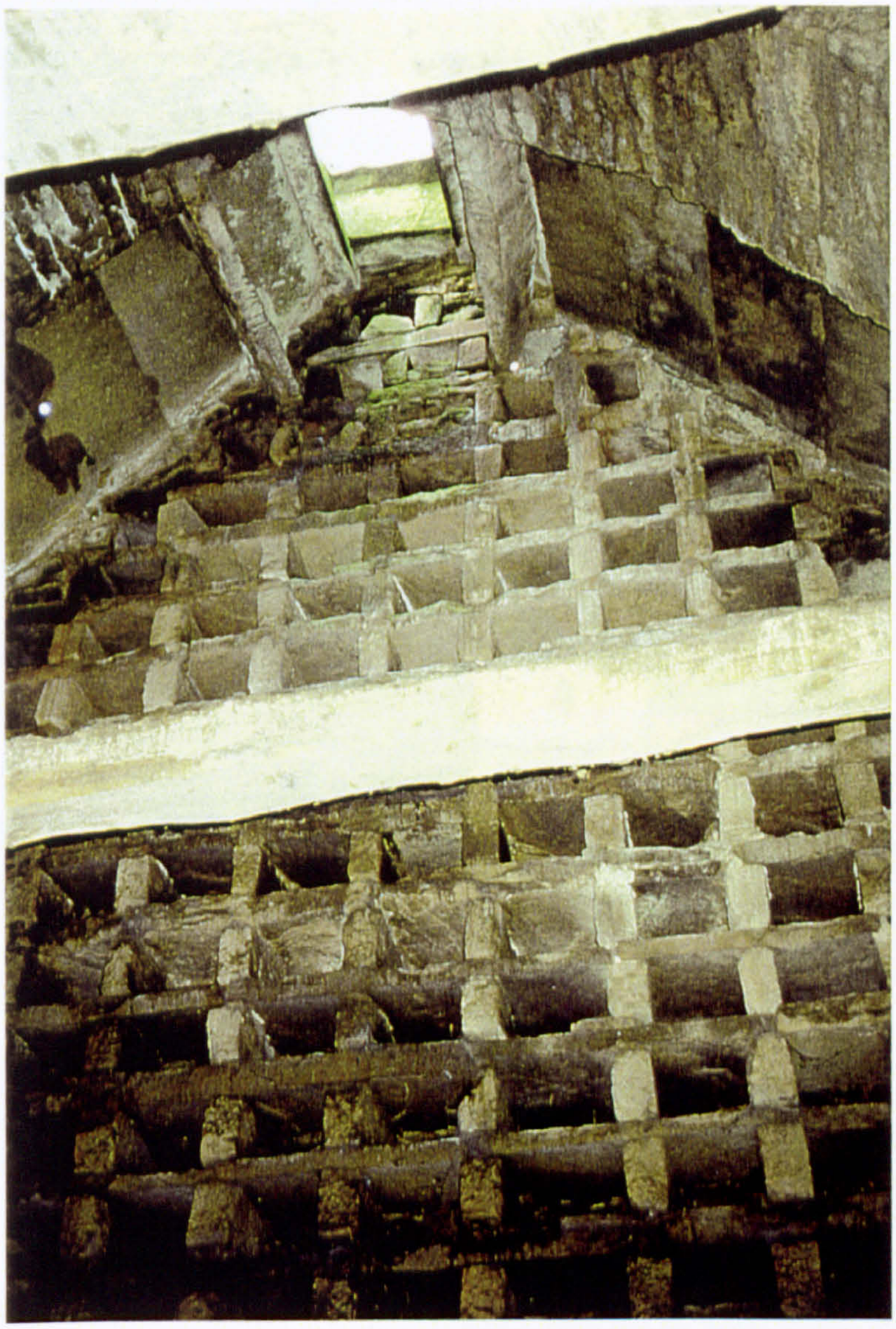
PITTENDREICH DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.3.3.2)

View of the principal elevation from the south west illustrating the key architectural features: central timber door (outer yett having been removed) central aperture, two string courses and the unusual, but sophisticated, slabbed roof.
Note also that the current owner has wisely fenced around the structure to prevent animals and/or farm machinery undermining or otherwise damaging the building.



PITTENDREICH DOOCOT,1994 (Plate 5.3.3.3)

Close up of the impressive slab roof (c.f. Quarrelwood, Spynie) clearly demonstrating the over and underseaming nature of the construction. The two outermost overseaming slabs rest on the gable walls, whilst the two central overseaming slabs rest on vaulted rib arches - the underseams span between walls and ribs. The two access 'flues' at the apex are not conspicuous (they may have lost their cover slabs and supporting stones) and the gable finials also have both been lost in recent decades.



PITTENDREICH DOOCOT, 1994 INTERIOR (Plate 5.3.3.4)

Photographs of interior showing arrangement of stone nest boxes at gable. Only a small number, near the roof access point, have been blocked. The roof structure, stone ribs and purlins, is just visible at the top of the picture supporting the seamed slabs which cover the roof.
A pair of timber cross ties are clearly seen which possibly served a dual function; structural and collecting aid.



PITTENDREICH DOOCOT (Plate 5.3.3.5)

Extract from Emma Black's, Impressions of Moray, p. 27 showing her 1930's painting of the doocot from the south west. The building is seen in a romantic setting compared with today and doves in flight hint that the structure was still occupied earlier this century. There is also a suggestion of crowsteps on the upper sections of the west gable and the 'chimneyhead' finials are evident on both ends.

PITTENDREICH DODCOT
SURVEY
NB. 22/3/94

1 of 4

60X45

6550

3630

2880

← Slope (gentle)

140X45

recess for outer door

recess for wooden bar of inner door.

1060

5

2

5

445

260

12

1840

6590

12

12

4360

6520

12

GF PLAN

6510

Seam to be multiples of 3

12 by 12 by 12 cant? grips?

aperture between courses

560

700

300

slabs - 900mm wide

length to joint

slabs butt jointed w. upper higher

- all slabs deliberately 'dished' and interlocked at corners

200

finial balls in dovecot

← Support still at east apex.

8 full no. slabs

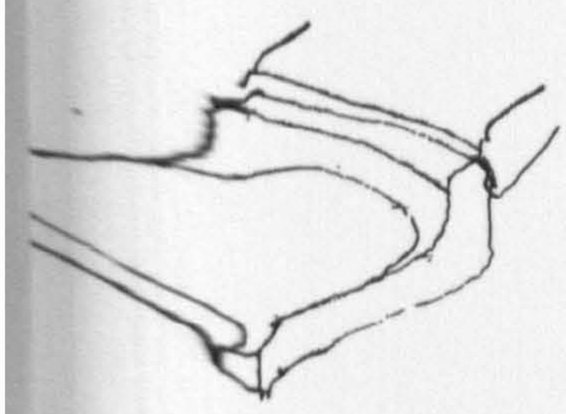
roof slab

wallplate slab

nail

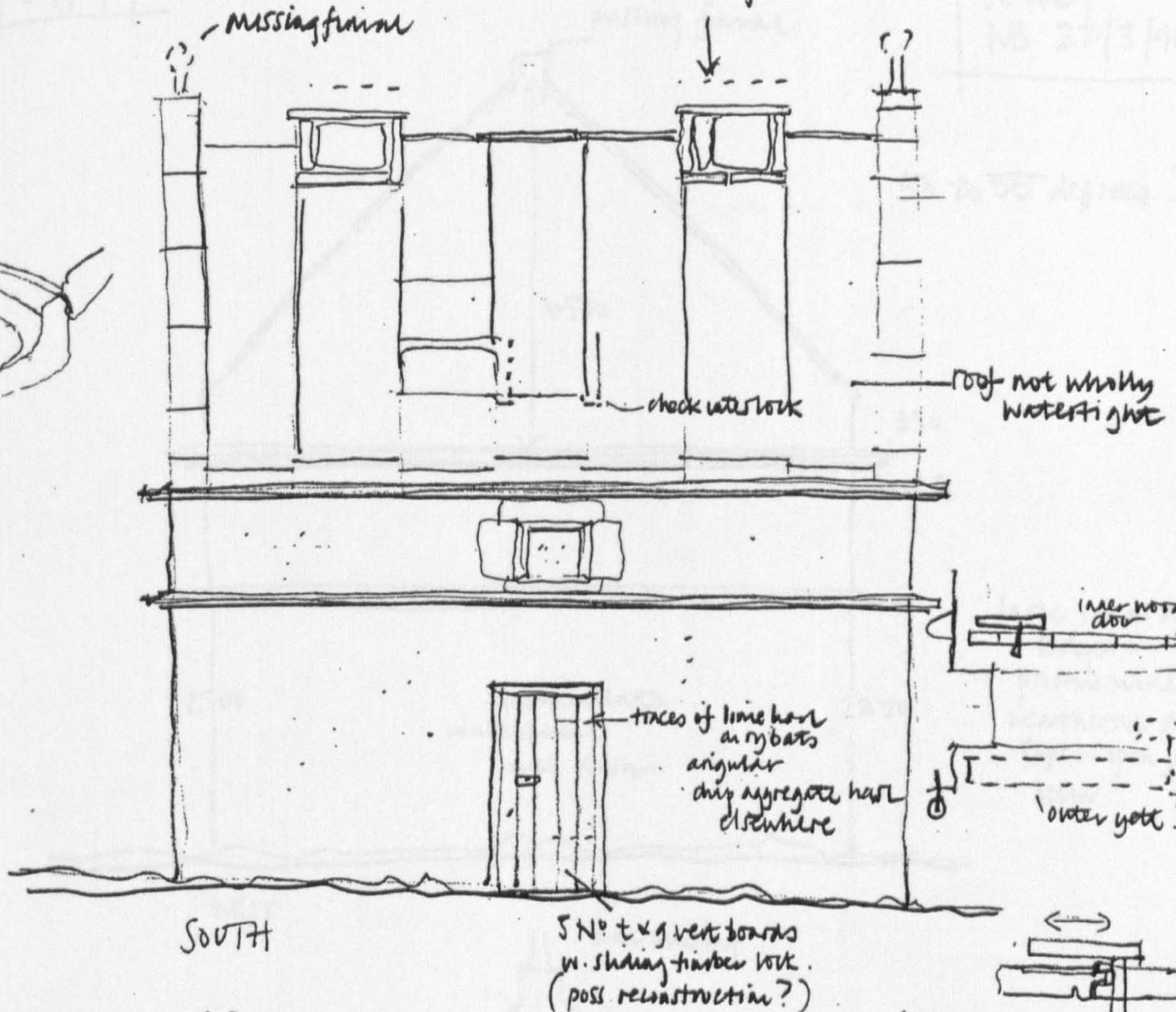
ledge

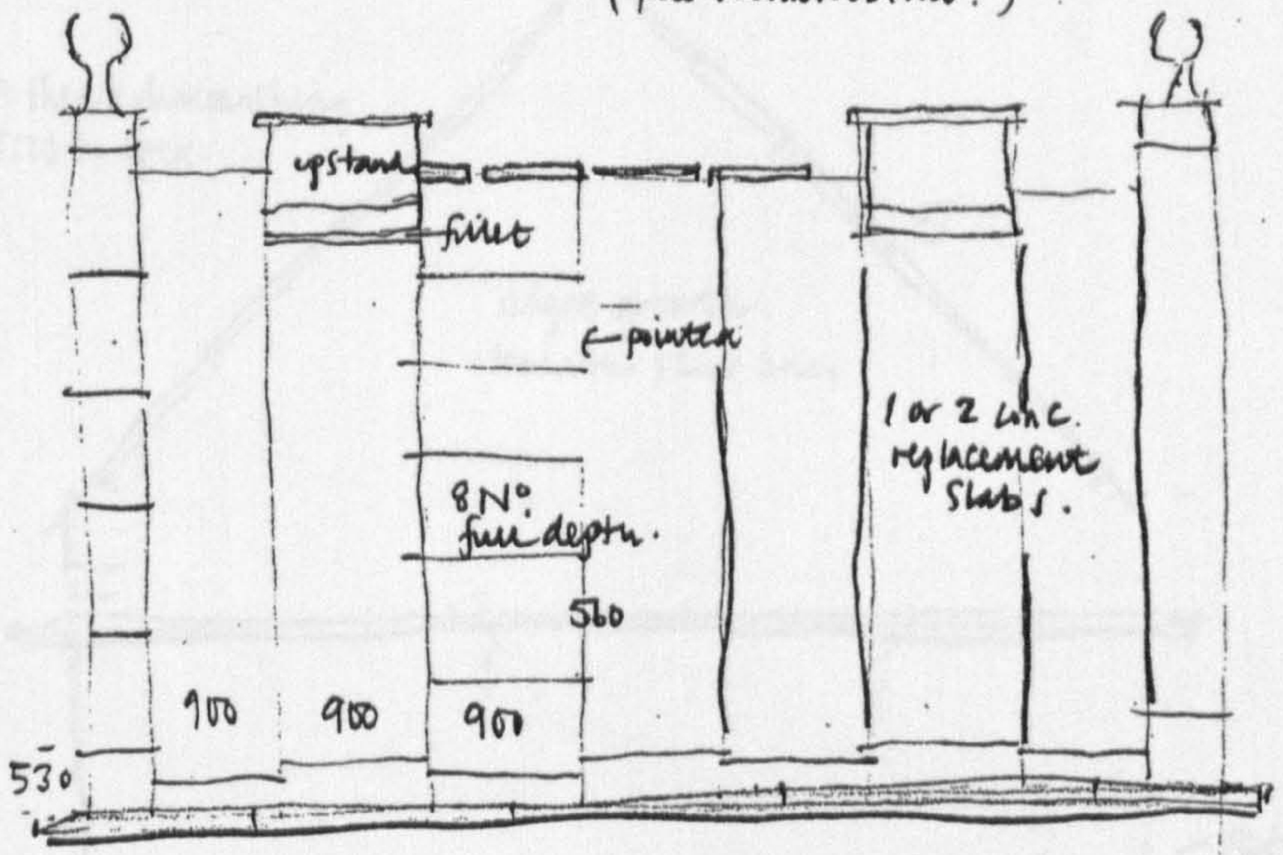
ROOF PLAN

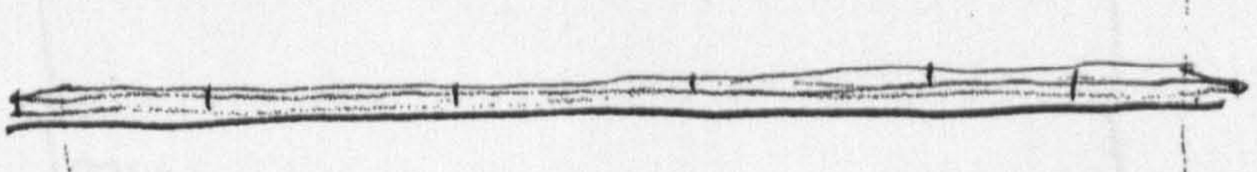


missing finial

missing cover ?







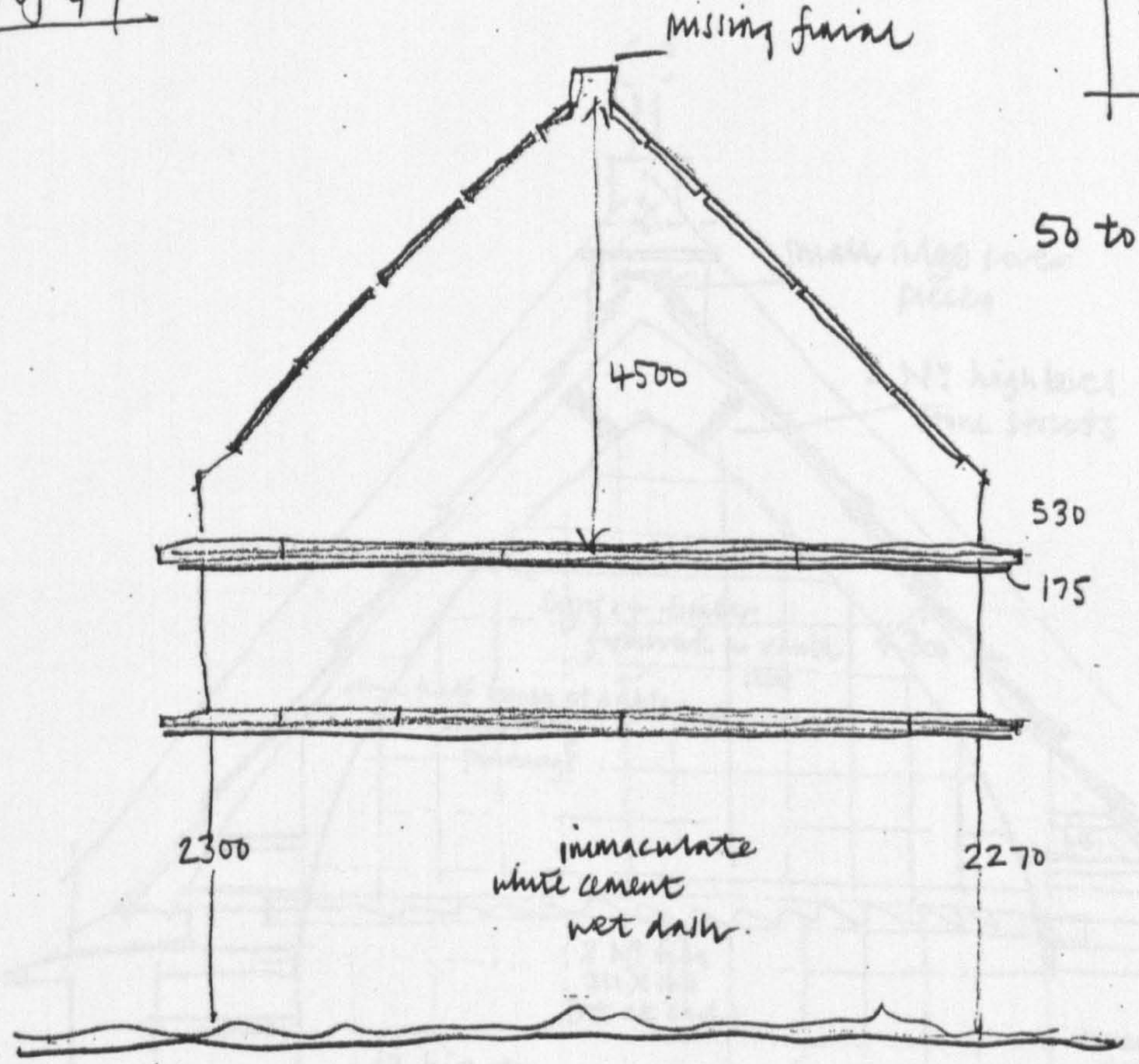
NORTH

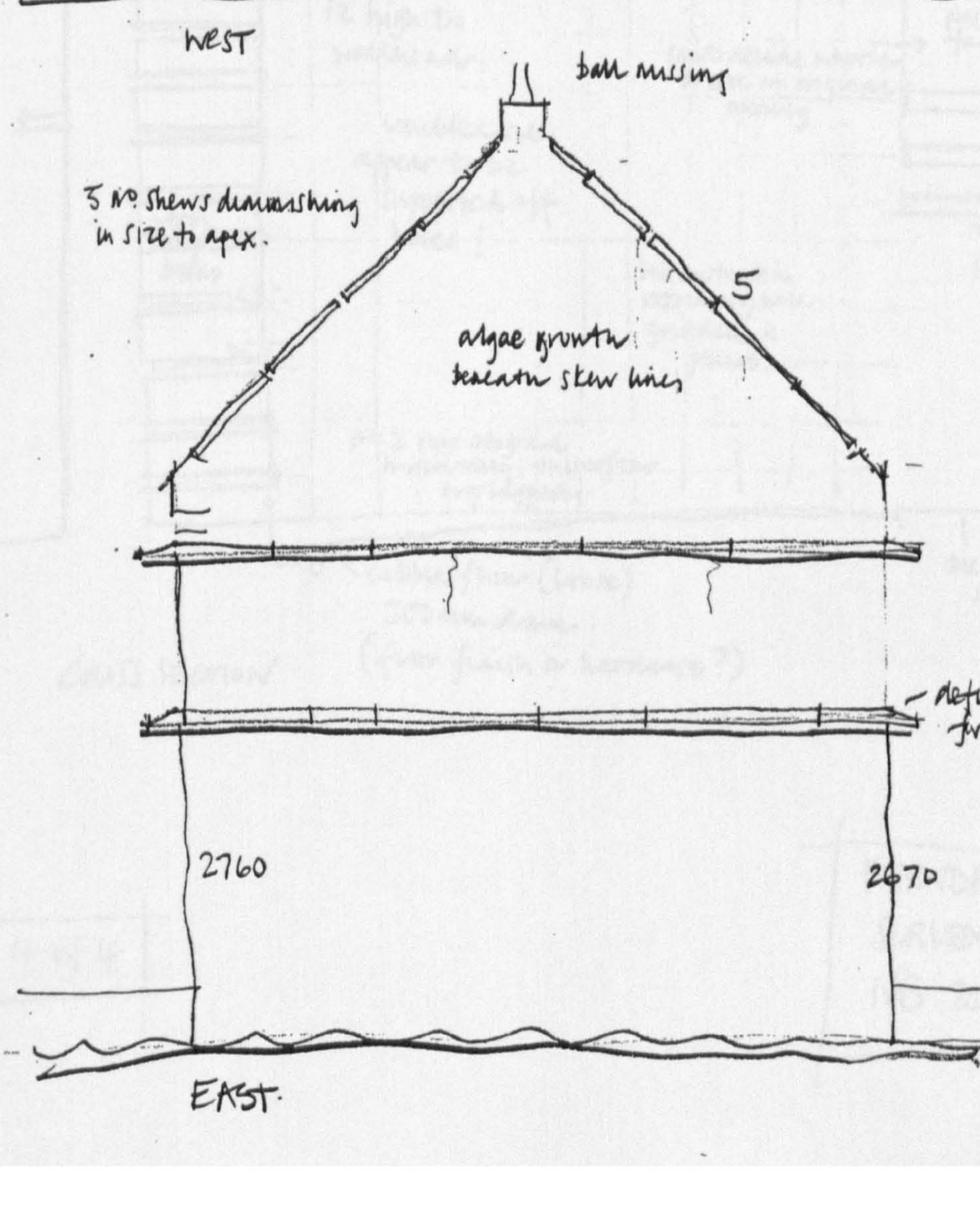
PITTENDREICH
DOOCOT
SURVEY
MB 22/3/94

2 of 4

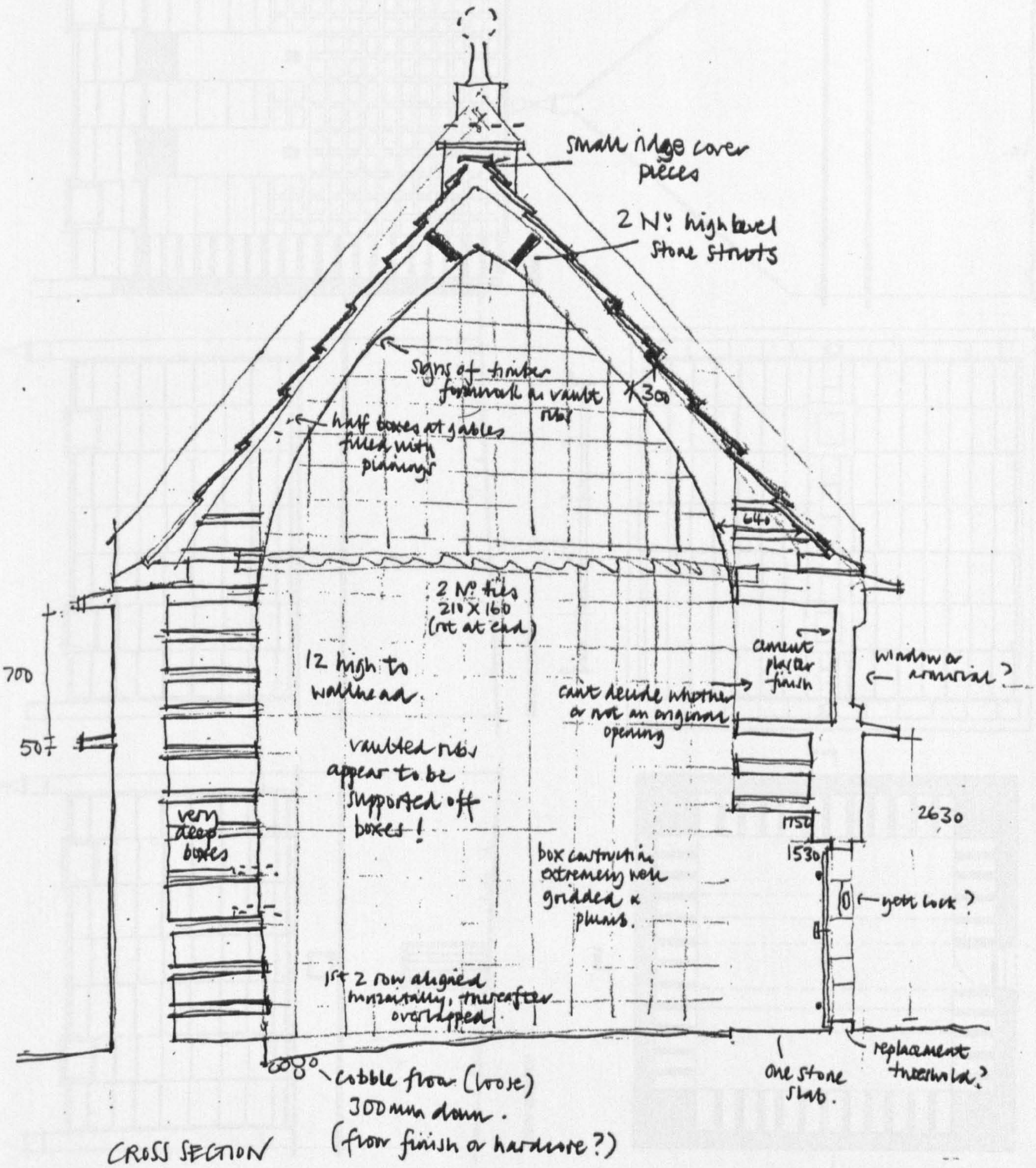
3 of 4

PITTENDREICH DOOCOT
SURVEY
NB 22/3/94





50 to 55 degrees ?

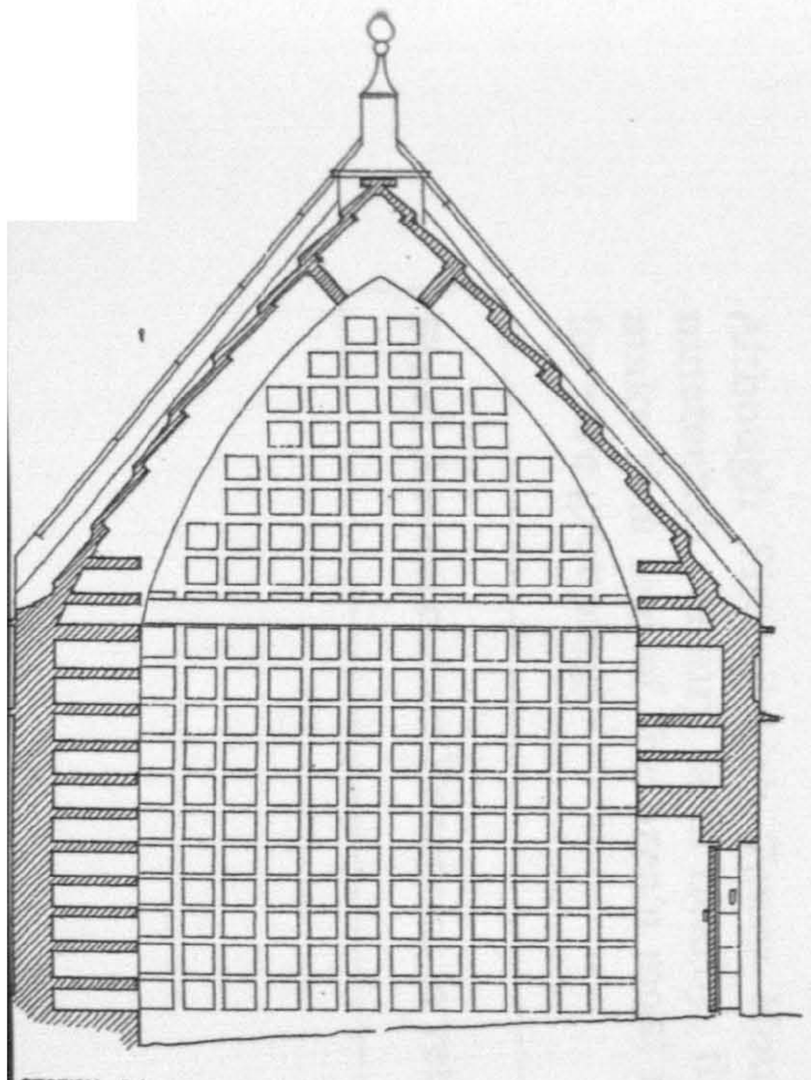


CROSS SECTION

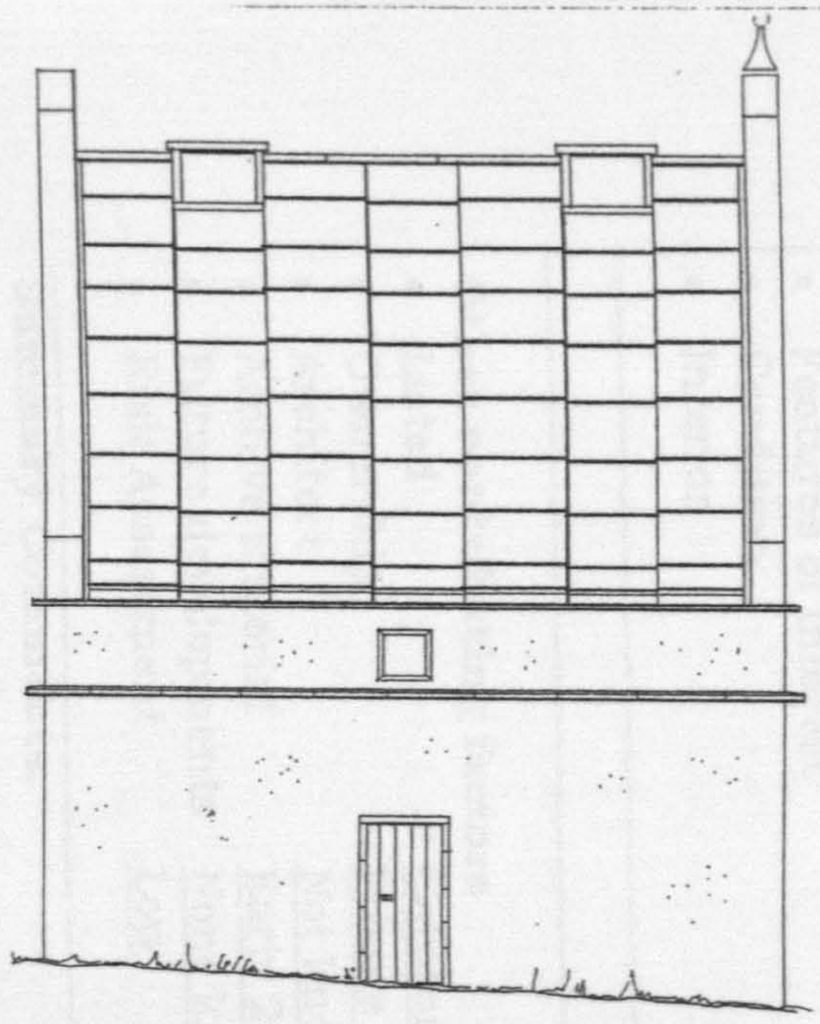
4 of 4

PITTENDREICH DOOCOT SURVEY.
NB 22/3/94

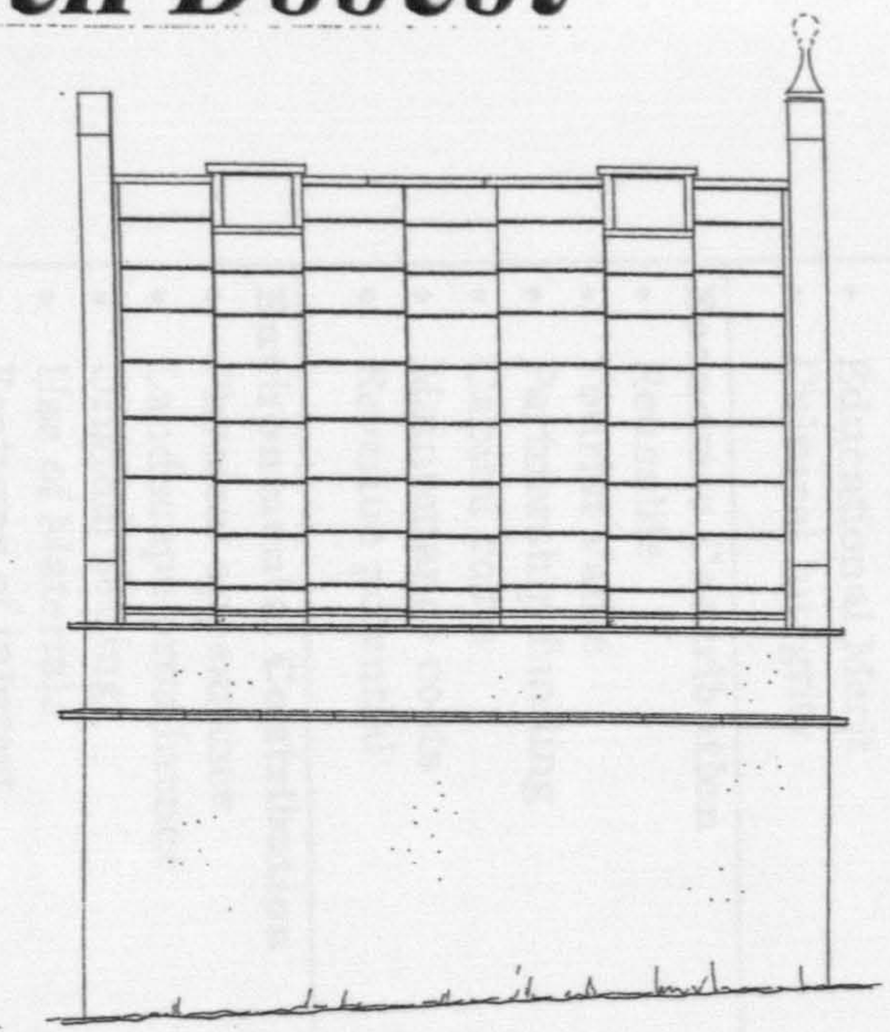
Pittendreich Doocot



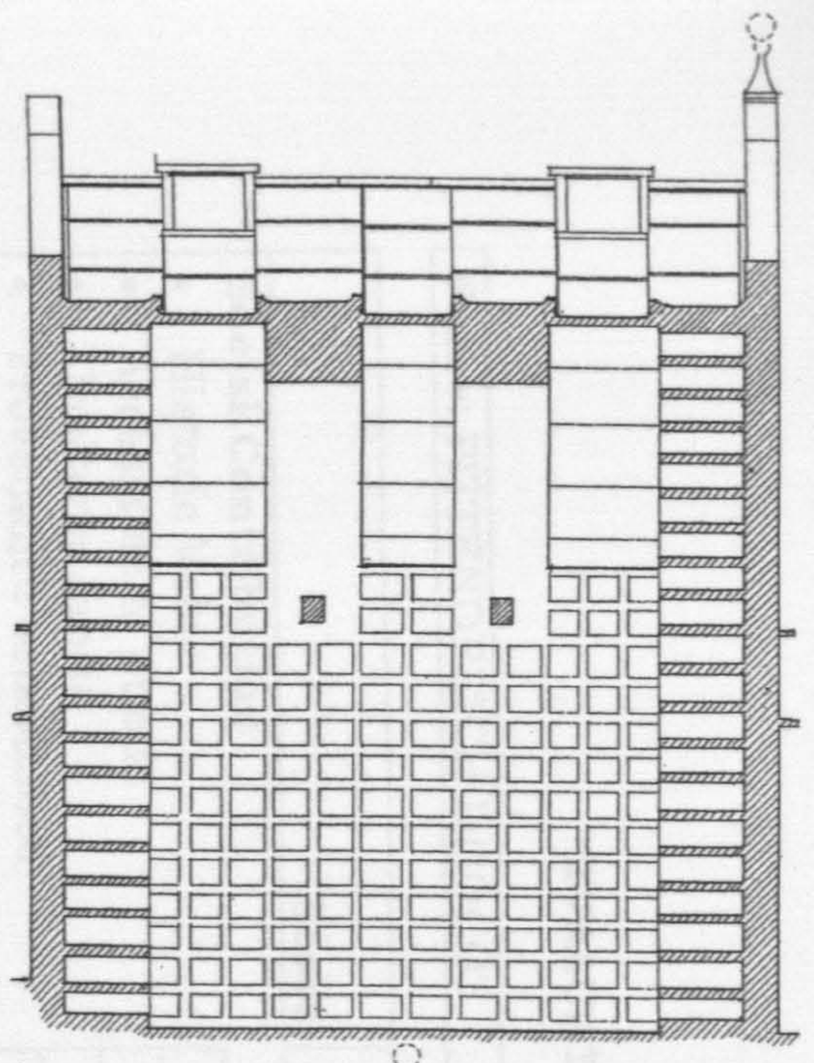
SECTION AA



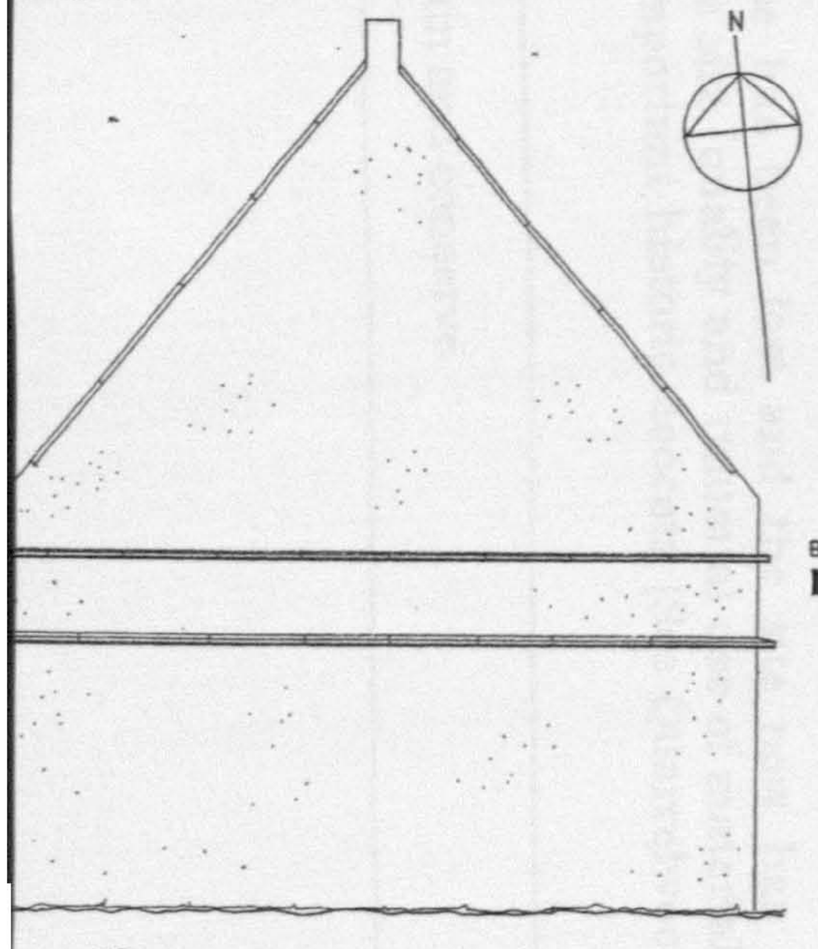
SOUTH ELEVATION



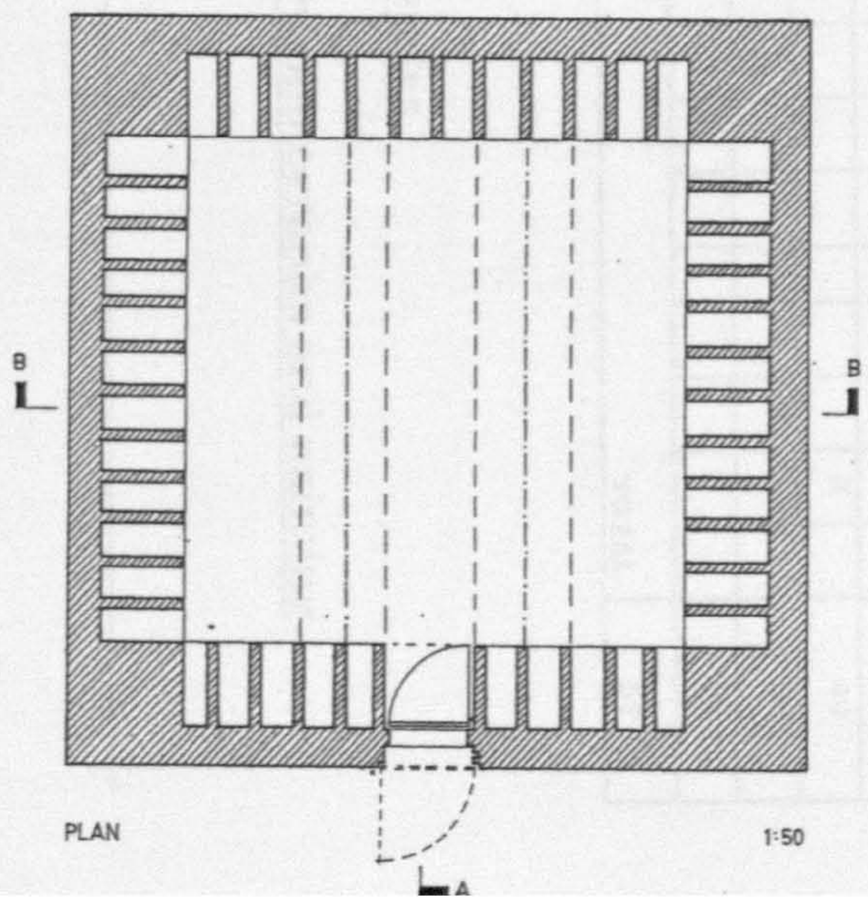
NORTH ELEVATION



SECTION BB

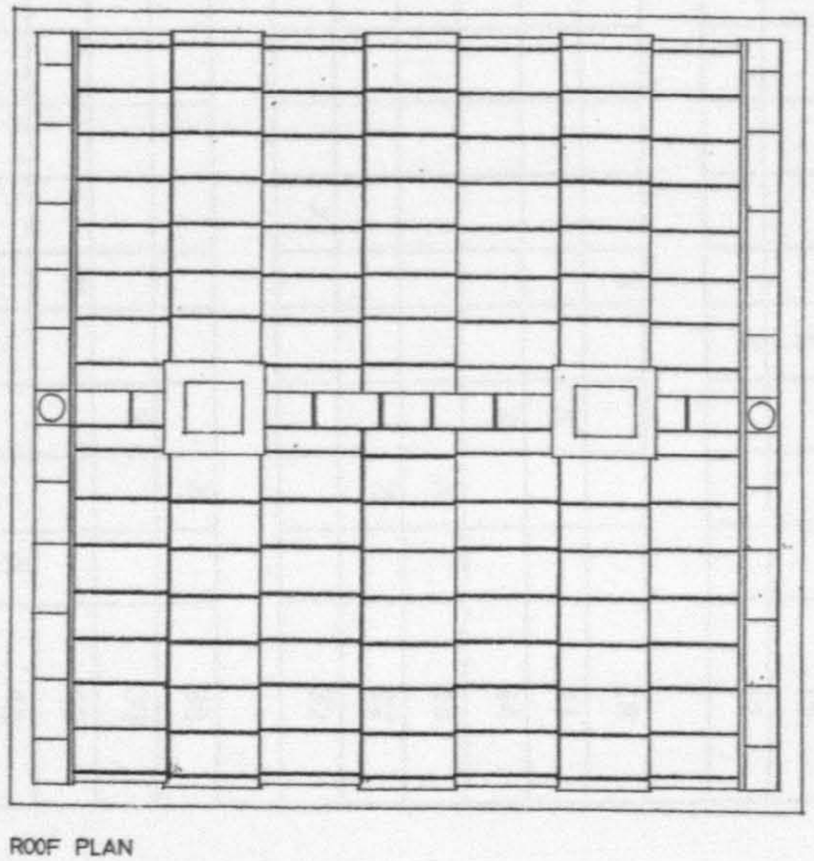


WEST ELEVATION

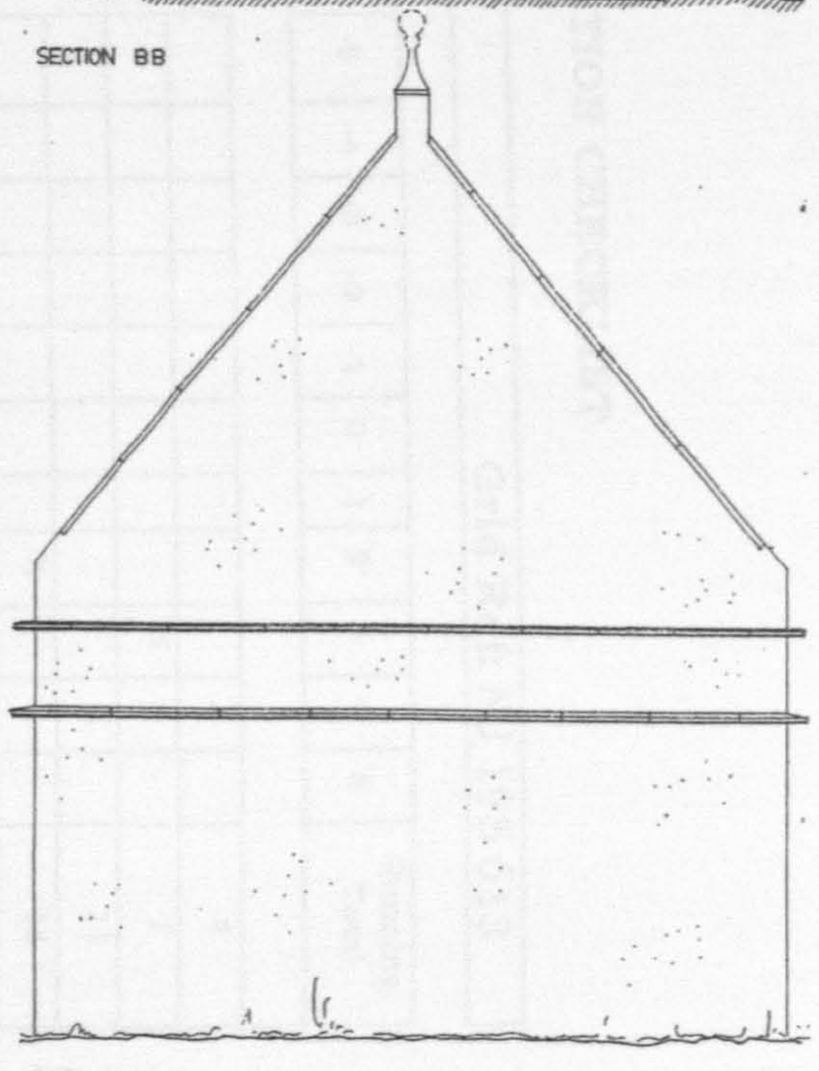


PLAN

1:50



ROOF PLAN



EAST ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: PITTENDREICH DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 195 613

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value										X		4
• Accessible to public									X			7
• Unaltered fabric										X		11
• Provenance established								X				13
• Educational Merit								X				15
• Cultural Integrity								X				17
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							X					18
• Tourist Value									X			21
• Partnership funding									X			24
• Capital costs										X		28
• Maintenance costs										X		32
• Revenue potential						X						32
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance										X		36
• Landscape prominence									X			39
• Original setting							X					40
• Use of Materials											X	45
• Features of interest										X		49
• Condition										X		53
• Interior										X		57
											TOTAL	57

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category A
- Ownership — Private - Moray Estates
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — Early 20th Century photographs and painting
- Future developments — None known
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Although Pittendreich Tower House has been lost and the site now has a nineteenth century farm nearby, the size, quality and unusual use of materials make this one of the area's most important historic doocots (See Quarrelwood for rare grouping).

Final Assessment: Essential to retain and conserve.

5.3.4 NEW ELGIN DOOCOT

GRID REFERENCE: NJ 220 618, Elgin Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

New Elgin Doocot is an example of a freestanding, medium size single storey, single chamber, "*...17 century three-stage, circular Doocot with rat-ledge*"[98]. It is sited in central north Moray about 1 mile south of Elgin town centre and only 100 m to the north of the nineteenth century village of New Elgin (now part of the town of Elgin).

At an altitude of only 11m, it is located on very flat ground (so flat that the doocot now bounds a football park) which may have once formed part of the Tyock Burn flood plain since it is only a few hundred metres to the north. The 1869 Ordnance Survey records the building as sitting in the middle of an agricultural field but there is no documentary evidence to confirm the building's association with any nearby property[99].

The Secretary of State's (now superseded) 1981 description for 'New Elgin Dovecote' suggests that it was, "*...once the property of Thunderton House*?"[100] which was the King's lodgings in Elgin during the early medieval period. The doocot is presently owned by The Moray Council, who inherited it from the Town Council for the Royal Burgh, so there may be some long-term association between the building and the town.[101] There is also no indication of a former major building nearby on any of the sixteenth and seventeenth century maps of the area, although Roy's 1750's map does illustrate two large rectangular enclosures along the Tyock burn entitled 'Billbackall' with rigs to the north and east[102]. (The doocot would have

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[98] McKean, District of Moray - an illustrated guide, 1987, p. 39.

[99] 1869 OS held in Elgin Local Studies archive. Emma Black's 1931 painting published in Impressions of Moray, p. 29, shows a thick belt of mature trees about 50m to the north.

[100] Secretary of State, op. cit., n. 4.
Thunderton House became the town house of the Dunbars of Westfield then the Lords Sutherland âof Duffus. It is now a hotel located about one mile north of the doocot.

[101] Mair, Mercat Cross & Tolbooth, 1998, p. 67.â
"Doocots were more often found on private land, but some did exist in burghs, usually owned by individual people rather than by the community as a whole."

[102] Pont's "Mapp of Murray", c. 1590's, Gordon of Straloch's "Map of Murray", c. 1640's, Blaeu's 'Map of Murray', 1654 and Roy's Military Map of Moray c. 1750 (all held in the National Map Library of Scotland).

been located just south of these enclosures). The probability that the doocot belonged to a town burgess (or burgesses) is slightly increased by statements from Antiquities of Moray and the Statistical Account which respectively note that Elgin was a town, "*...of great consideration ..... with the morass of Strathcart guarding its lands to the south*" and had various owners around the town with small land ownerships.[103] A 1933 Feu Disposition records that the District Council acquired the building from the Northern Farmers Co-op, thereby further suggesting the potential historic link with former burgesses of Elgin who once owned tracts around the town.[104] The Statistical Account of the 1790's records that sixty-four burgesses received arable lands west of Elgin and this may have been an extension of burgess lands already held in the south.[105]

Such speculation means that the doocot's provenance is not fully understood, but it is obviously a building of some antiquity, only comparable in Moray today to the larger late sixteenth century beehive structure of Plewland's Castle (now known as Gordonstoun House).[106] Unlike Plewlands, however, New Elgin doocot did not possess an outer door, or yett, and this is surprising judging by the structure's vulnerability to attack.[107] The use of coursed sandstone blocks, as opposed to random rubble, is also unusually extravagant, since the structure was intended to be finished in harling (as trace evidence confirms). It is shown as a stone finish structure in Emma Black's twentieth century painting which also records the flight holes on the south side of the upper stage immediately above the top stringcourse.[108] Niven Robertson noted, "... *the doveholes are 5 over the course*" during his 1950's survey, but a 1979 Moray District Council Repairs Contract identified these as causes of (or opportunities for) vandalism and instructed the contractor to, "*...block approximately 9 No.*

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[103] Anon., Antiquity of Moray, 1813, p. 18 and O.S.A., 1790, p. 600.

[104] "Disposition by Central and Northern Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited in favour of The District Council of the District of Elgin in the County of Moray of part of Dovecot Park, New Elgin, Elgin, for use as Recreation Park", made by Elgin solicitors Jamieson, McGhie and Munro in 1933, feu superior Caroline, Countess Dowager of Seafield, MDC Ref. ZDMm A4 EL 138/1.
(In 1933, the Northern Co-op had its registered office at Central Mart, Kittybrewster, now demolished).

[105] O.S.A., op. cit., p. 605.
The land to the west was awarded in compensation to families whose men had fallen in battle.

[106] Other beehive structures appear to have existed in Moray at Blackhills, Culbin, Leuchars and Waterside. A very similar sixteenth century beehive can be found at Findlater Castle, just east of Moray on the coast between Cullen and Portsoy.

[107] O.S.A., op. cit., p. 600.
Notes that Elgin suffered troubled times during the reigns of James VI , Charles I and II.

[108] Black, loc. cit.

small holes".[109] Without further details, it is difficult to comment if these repairs (and a subsequent phase) altered the internal throat of the structure, thus causing Elizabeth Beaton to conjecture the seatings for a cross beam acting as a gallow for a revolving ladder.[110] Meanwhile, Douglas' observation from the 1930's that, "... *cattle used the dovecote as a shelter*" is presumably the reason that the ground has such a depression around the structure's doorway.[111]

The building is now in good structural condition having received comprehensive repairs during the mid 1970's and the mid 1980's by the District Council - but sadly the doocot's suburban location makes it vulnerable to continued vandalism. In recent years the doocot has been the subject of much graffiti and stone damage, particularly around its lower stage, door lintel and soffit. New Elgin is the only public-owned doocot in Moray with a public footpath skirting it and its accessible location may make it a viable site for interpretation, which in turn could mitigate the vandalism problem.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

New Elgin doocot is circular in form and is constructed wholly of stone in three stages; the base stage being 4.8 m diameter, the second stage being 3.8 m in diameter and the third and final stage being only 2.7 m diameter. The 970 mm thick walls rise to an overall height of 6.3 m and are constructed in clay and lime mortar with a rubble core faced with regular courses of approximately 450 x 250 mm sandstone blocks. These are now pointed in a cement mortar but still display slight evidence of a thin coarse lime harling with traces of limewash showing. The walls diminish in size at each stage and increasingly taper inwards, (i.e. stage one at approximately 5°, stage two at approximately 10° and stage three at approximately 20°) to form the final dome roofing which is only pierced by a 600 mm diameter oculus. The oculus is now covered in a 50 mm thick concrete lid with a glazed section resting on 12 equally spaced bricks, thus providing permanent ventilation beneath[112]. The only opening now presently visible on the exterior is the 1690 high x 1880 mm wide south west facing door opening which has dressed stone margins incorporating a 50 mm plain chamfer. The stone margins form a 100 mm rybat for checking against the door and, although the opening now has a modern metal grilled door, the stone rybat still carries signs of the original recesses for the door's double bolt system.

The first stage of the building ends with a 60 mm deep sandstone ledge which projects 200 mm beyond the wall face of stage one but returns 440 mm on its upper face at a height of 2.85 m. The second ledge at a height of 4.1 m

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[109] Robertson 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 377 and Moray District Council Repairs Contract, 1979, Schedule of Works. A subsequent Repair Contract 1987 says ,"... block approximately 13 voids".

[110] Beaton, loc. cit., n.6 and main text.

[111] Douglas Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 42.
Ironically a colony of bees was found hibernating in the building during a November 1997 inspection!

[112] Exact details are recorded in Moray District Council's uncatalogued Schedule of Works, Item 2.5, 1979.
Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 239 observes that Corstorphine Doocot, Edinburgh, another domed doocot, also receives "...a slight set-back", above each of the two lower stringcourses.

is located between stages two and three and is constructed in two layers of 25 mm overlapping stone slabs which project only 100 mm from the face of stage two and return 380 mm to stage three. The third stage shows no sign of a ledge although an early statutory listing reference to a, "*...circular stone cope to entrance at apex*"[113] suggests the former existence of a final ledge or platform.

A later concrete step of 200 mm at the entrance door (around which the ground level is significantly eroded) leads into the impressive chamber which has a ground floor constructed in random sandstone flags of unknown thickness. Curiously, some flagstones are also visible externally to the south east[114]. A central depression in the internal floor could indicate the former existence of a collecting aid yet, "*No potence remains but holes in masonry below pigeon entrance suggest seating for cross beam which would have held the top of the revolving ladder in place*"[115].

There are approximately 482 nest boxes, sized 170-230 wide x 200-220 high x 320-340 mm deep, raised 210 mm above the floor and constructed in diminishing rings of 50 - 100 mm reasonably squared stone uprights and 40-70 mm random length curved sandstone slabs built in parts into the rubble core. The horizontals project as alighting ledges by 75 mm at rows 1, 4, 9 and 14 respectively and none of the boxes have been blocked and few are damaged[116]. The stones show signs of white marking particularly at high level and, although this may indicate limewashing, is more likely salt efflorescence caused by long term water penetration through the oculus. At a lower level, many of the boxes are blackened, as a result of recent fires lit by vandals. At the base of the oculus throat, which extends almost the length of stage three, are two deep recesses approximately 300 mm square sited diagonally opposite one another on the north south access. At the same level in height, but more to the west, there appears to be a further two recesses which have been blocked at a later date.

Written: 10 September 1996

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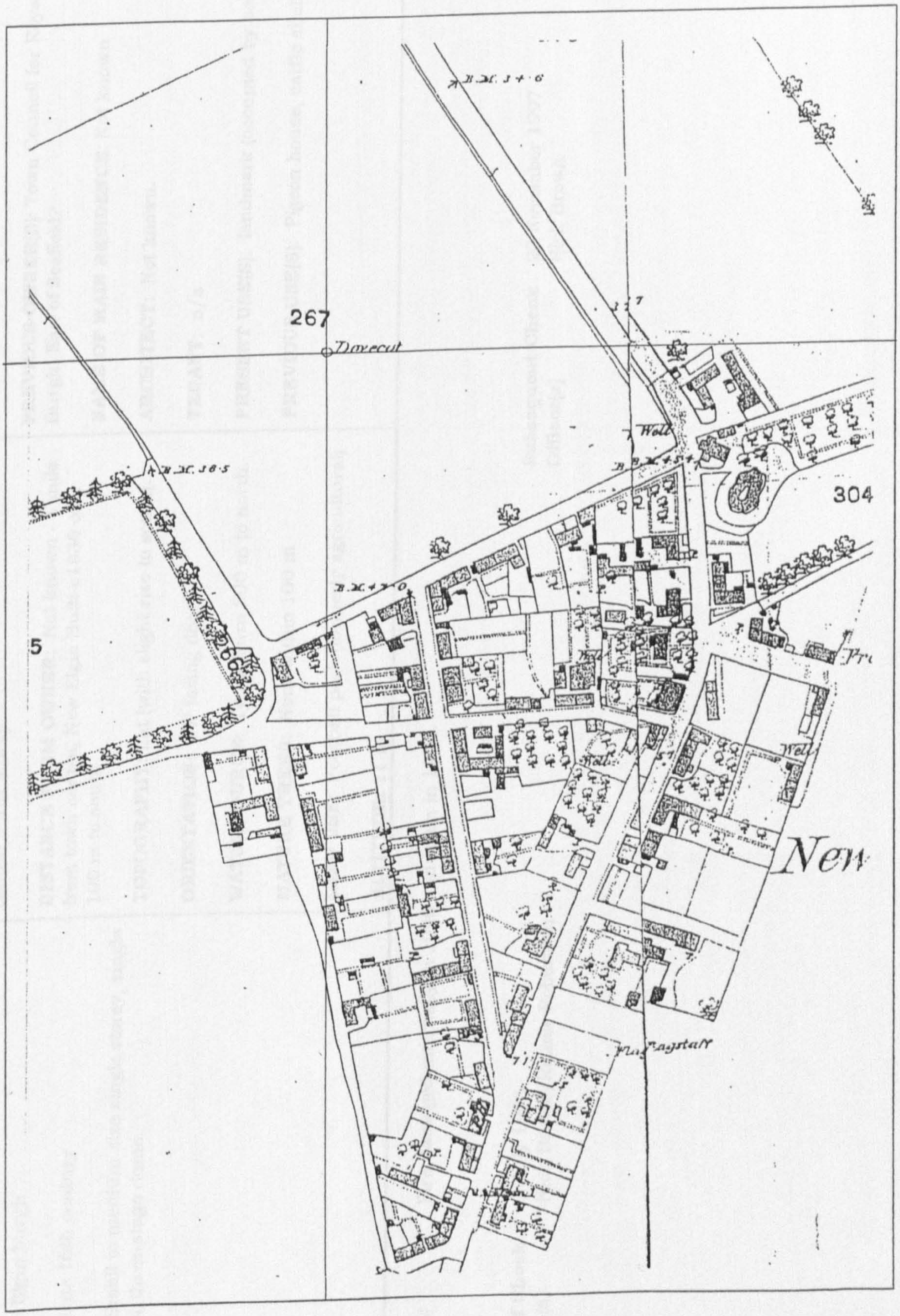
[113] Now uncatalogued and undated Secretary of State's former listing description, possibly 1981, more likely 1972 (measurements are imperial).

[114] Black's painting indicates an indistinguishable object seemingly lying against the doocot in this vicinity which could be a public seat.

[115] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 22.

[116] McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 142, "Some of these features may have been intended to support staging; others sound more like shelves on which containers could be placed to feed and water the birds in winter."



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of New Elgin Doocot (Fig. 5.3.4)

DATE CHECKLIST 1996

NAME: NEW ELGIN DOOCOT

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 220 618 **PARISH**: Elgin burgh **DATE**: Late 16th century **TYPE**: Small to medium size single storey, single chamber three-stage dome.	**SITING**: One mile south of Elgin town centre, central north Moray. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: Not known - 1 mile from town centre, New Elgin Built c1830 only 100 m to south. **TOPOGRAPHY**: flat (with slight rise to south). **ORIENTATION**: SW facing door. **WATER SOURCE**: Tyock Burn 500 m to north. **MATURE TREES**: None within 100 m **LAND USE**: Football park (formerly agricultural) **ALTITUDE**: 11 m	**PRESENT OWNER**: Moray Council **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Town Council for Royal Burgh, Earl of Seafield? **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Not known **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: n/a **PRESENT USE(S)**: landmark (occupied by bees). **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Pigeon house, cattle shelter.

NOTES: Fire damaged internally in 1996 and again in 1997.

Date of Check: 9 July 1996
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check 20 November 1997
Officer(s) Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Good

REPAIRS: Full repairs during 1979 and 1987 by Moray District Council.

ALTERATIONS: Concrete capping, cement pointing, metal door, blocking of flight hole apertures.
(all probably occurring in 1979).

FUTURE RISK: - continued vandalism, e.g. stone damage, graffiti, fire damage.
- failure to repair damaged lintel in door soffit.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Circular

PLAN SIZE: Stage 1 (base) - 4.8 m dia
Stage 2 (base) - 3.8 m dia
Stage 3 (base) - 2.7 m dia.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 6.3 m

OVERALL HEIGHT: 6.3 m

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Tapered courses of stone blocks and lime and clay mortar.

WALL MATERIAL: Large sandstone blocks approximately 450 x 250 mm with rubble core.

WALL THICKNESS: 970 mm

WALL FINISH: Traces of thin but coarse lime harling.

ROOF FORM: Dome.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: Walls diminish in size at each stage and increasingly taper to form final dome.

ROOF PITCH: Stage 1 - 5° approx.
Stage 2 - 10° approx.
Stage 3 - 20° approx.

ROOF FINISH: Modern 50 mm thick concrete lid with glazed section covering oculus and resting on 12 equally spaced bricks providing permanent ventilation beneath.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: modern metal yett (signs of previous double bolt).

OUTER DOOR TYPE: n/a

DOOR SIZE: 1690 (h) x 880 mm (w) - (Stone margins including 50 mm chamfer).

DOOR SITING: South west facing.

LEDGES: 1st ledge - 60 mm sandstone ledge projecting 200 mm with 440 mm landing ledge. 2nd ledge - 2 layers of 25 mm overlapping stone slabs projecting 100 mm with 380 mm landing ledge.

LEDGES HEIGHT: 2.85 m, 4.1 m

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 21.5 m (excluding oculus capping)

APERTURES: none evident.

VENT HOLES: None (other than oculus).

FLIGHT HOLES: None (although documentary evidence suggests 5 above first ledge).

TOTAL VENT AREA: say 5 flight holes 200 mm square and 600 mm dia oculus ≈ 0.48 m²

LIMEWASH: Trace evidence remains on harling patches.

DORMERS: n/a

SKEWS: n/a

FINIALS: n/a

WEATHER VANE: n/a.

OTHER: some large stone flags at floor level at base of building south side only.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Concrete step up to 200mm

PARTITION WALLS: n/a

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Random sandstone flags

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Diminishing rings of 50 to 100 mm reasonably squared stone uprights and 45 to 70 mm random length curved sandstone slabs built in parts in rubble core.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 482

NEST BOX SIZE: 170 to 230 (w) x 200 to 220 (h) x 320 to 340 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 210 mm

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None

ALIGHTING LEDGES: four at rows 1, 4, 9 and 14 respectively

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Possibly not (white marks at high level may be efflorescence)

COLLECTING AID: No evidence (possible central depression in floor)

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 482 x 2 x 0.7 = 674

INTERNAL VOLUME: approx 31 m^3

OTHER: Two 250 mm square apertures visible in throat of oculus on N & S sides (indication of 2 other blocked on W side).

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- Association
- Why no outer yett?
- Why different type of ledges?
- Why documentary evidence of 5 holes and only 2 visible internally?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 2, 22.

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 42.

C. McKean The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 39.

D. Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181-5.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

A.N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, pp. 375, 377.

J. McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1992, p. 120.

E. Black, Impressions of Moray, 1931, pp. 28-9. Painted illustration.

R. Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1996, p. 169.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Elgin Burgh Item 161, p 162, Category B, 1981.

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index Ref No NJ 26 SW 13

MAPS: 1869, 1902, 1965 OS maps

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER:
- Moray District Council repairs contracts February 1979 and May 1987.
- 1933 Disposition by Central and Northern Farmers' Co-op in favour of Moray District Council, MDC Ref. ZDMm A4EL 138/1.



NEW ELGIN DOOCOT, 1996 (Plate 5.3.4.1)

Photograph of the three-stage doocot from the south west looking face on to the small doorway opening. The ground has been eroded all round, particularly around the doorway and stone slabs are revealed at floor level right of picture (see Emma Black's painting plate 5.10.4). The metal door is a modern replacement and was probably originally of timber construction.



NEW ELGIN DOOCOT, 1996 (Plate 5.3.4.2)

Rear or north east view of the doocot illustrating the continuing issue of vandalism. The building is sited in a public park next to a footpath, left of picture, which links the built-up areas. Various phases of cement mortar repairs are obvious and the concrete capping to the oculus is easily seen. These alterations however to not detract from the structure's striking form which is accentuated by its projecting ledges located at each change in construction stage.



NEW ELGIN DOOCOT, 1996 INTERIOR (Plate 5.3.4.3)

Internal view of doocot looking up towards beginning of entrance/exit of throat. The diminishing numbers of concentric rings of hewn stone next boxes dome overhead and create a remarkable cavernous space. Some of the boxes are blackened, presumably by fire damage, and others have white patches, either being traces of limewash or possibly efflorescence caused by water penetration prior to the roof capping.



NEW ELGIN DOOCOT (Plate 5.3.4.4)

Reproduction of Emma Black's original painting published in Impressions of Moray. A number of birds are shown flying around the roof although this may be artistic licence. A seat is possibly placed against the south wall and flight holes on the top stage (now blocked) are clearly visible.

2900

modern manhole position

indications that boxes integral with wall core

some signs of internal fire damage

bottom row ledge projects

oculus line

random stone flag floor

7 base slabs in ground

sign of repair - inside near door?

sign of repair at base

970

GROUND.

depressed ground level at doorway

w -34

- 16

boxes

100.

130

50

DOOR CHAMFER

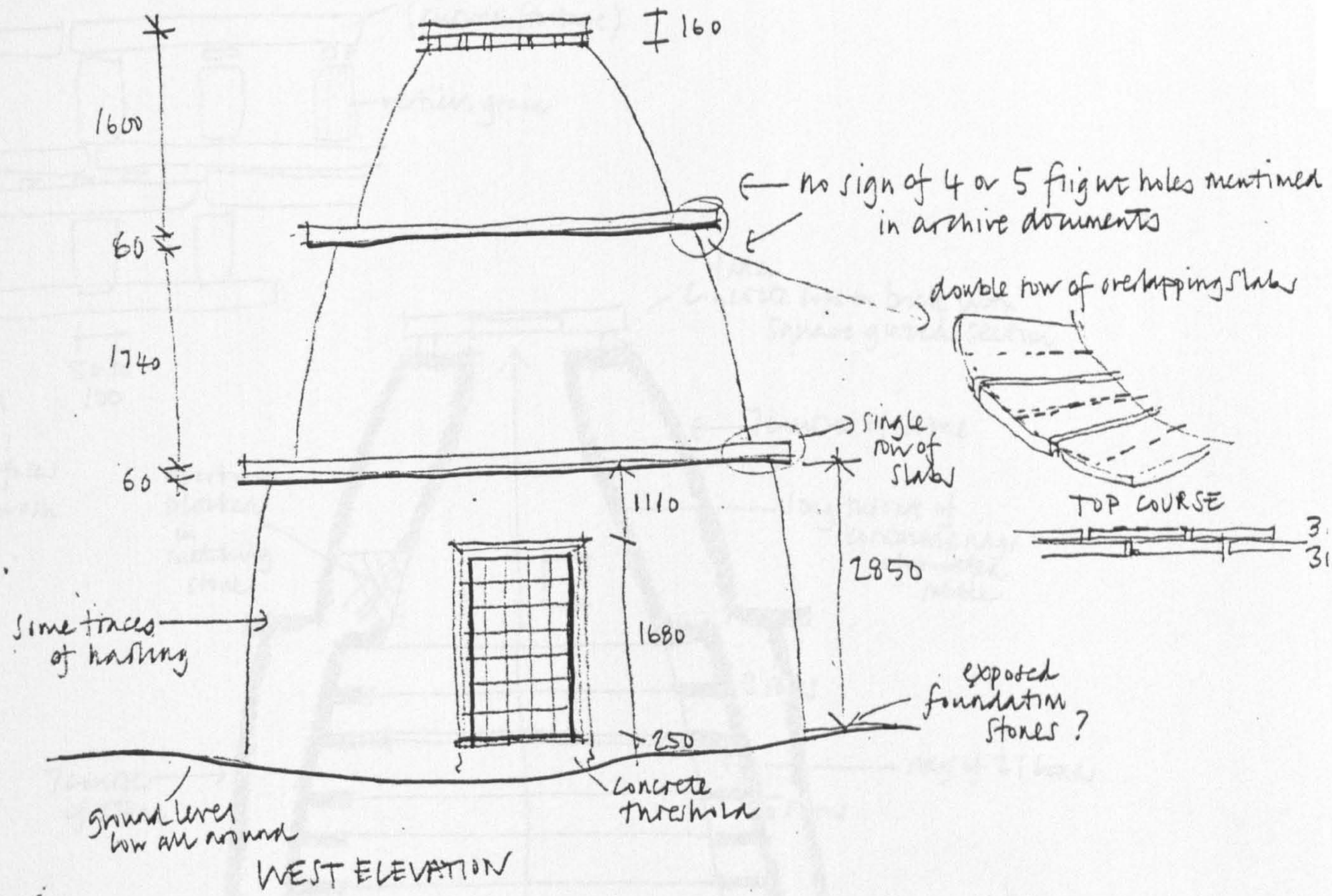
- 2 existing flight access holes in oculus throat (or former gallows pockets)
- at least two other holes blocked up internally

ROOF / THIRD STAGE PLAN

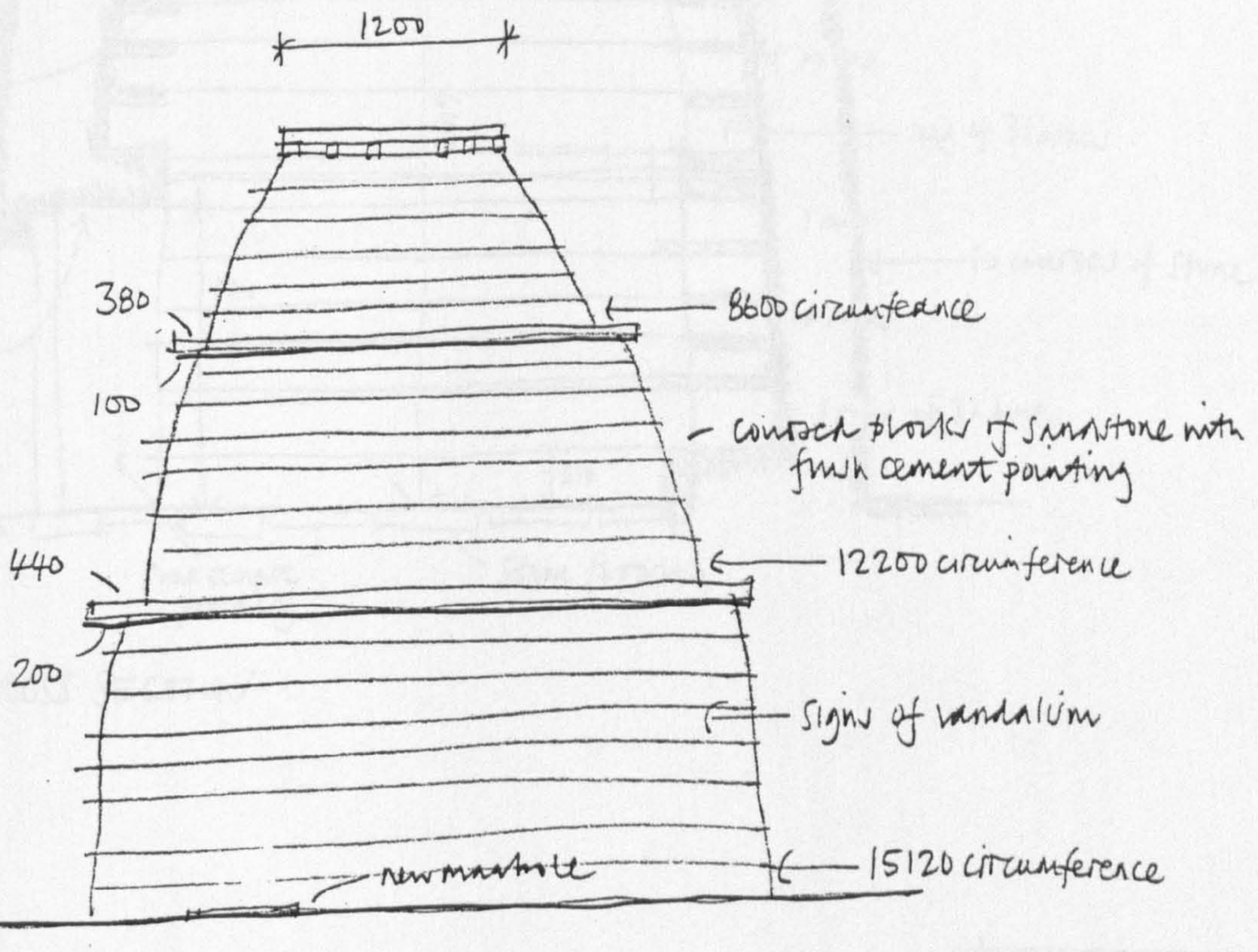
1 of 3

NEW ELGIN DO~~1009~~

SURVEY NB 9/6/194



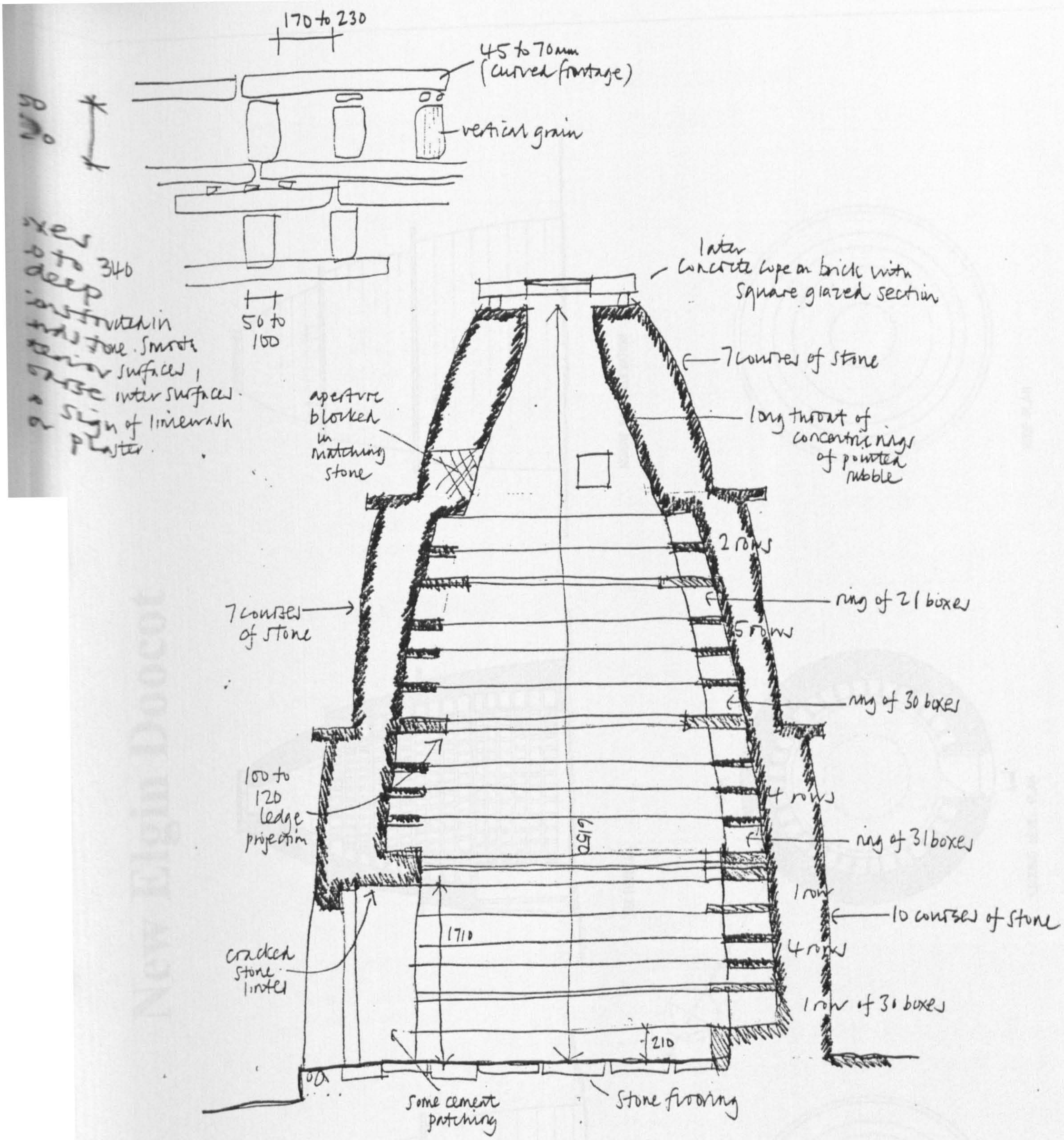
WEST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION

2 of 3

NEW ELGIN DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 9/6/94

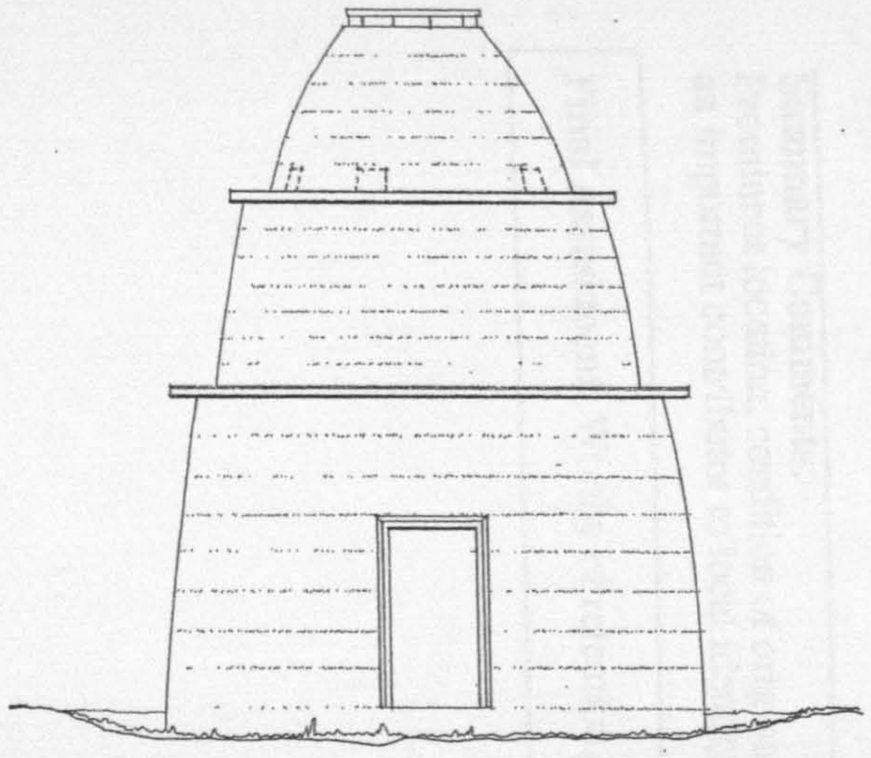


CROSS SECTION

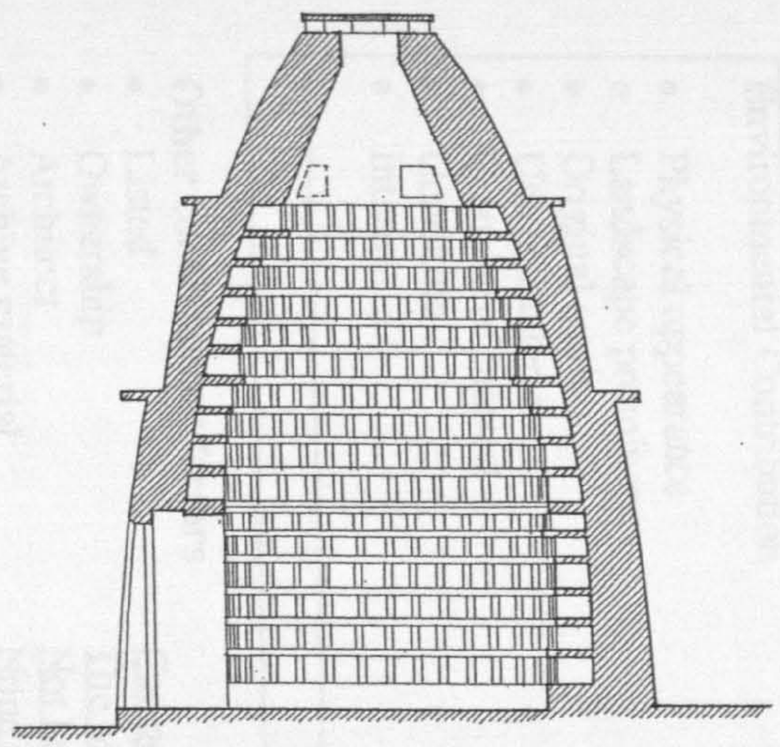
3 of 3

NEW ELGIN DOCLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 9/6/94

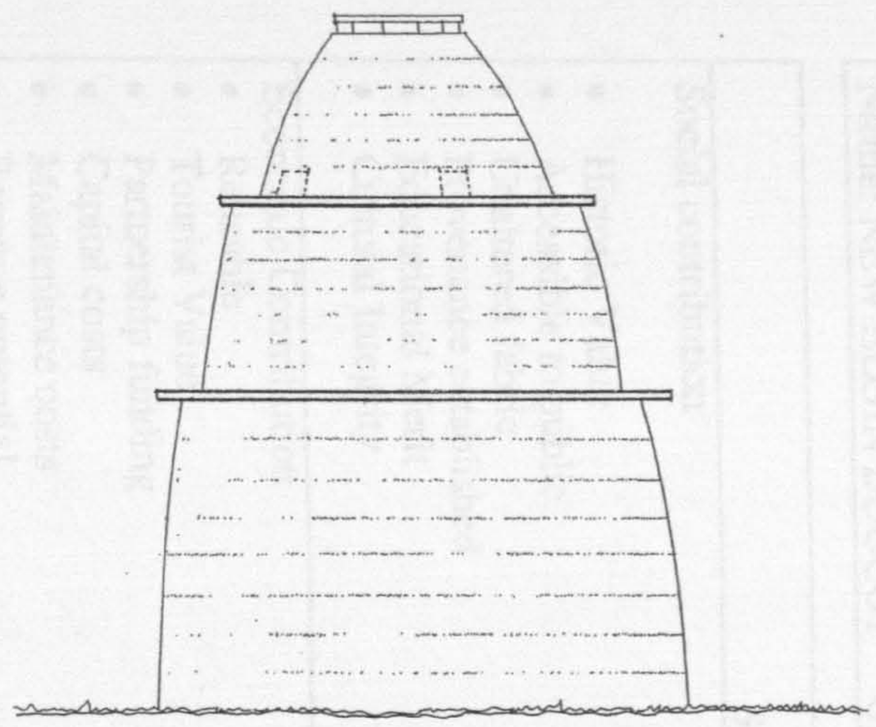
New Elgin Doocot



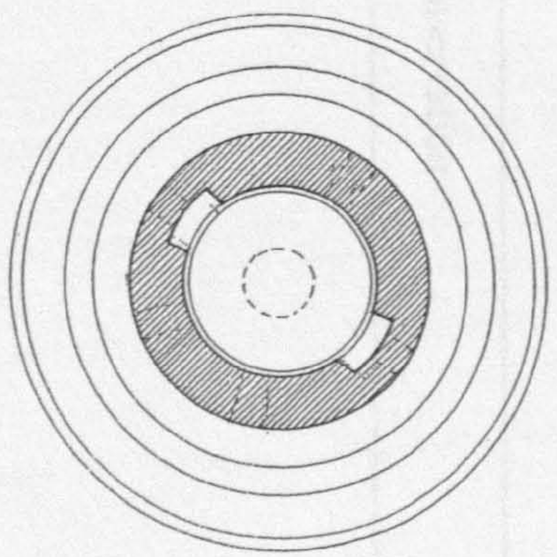
SOUTH WEST ELEVATION



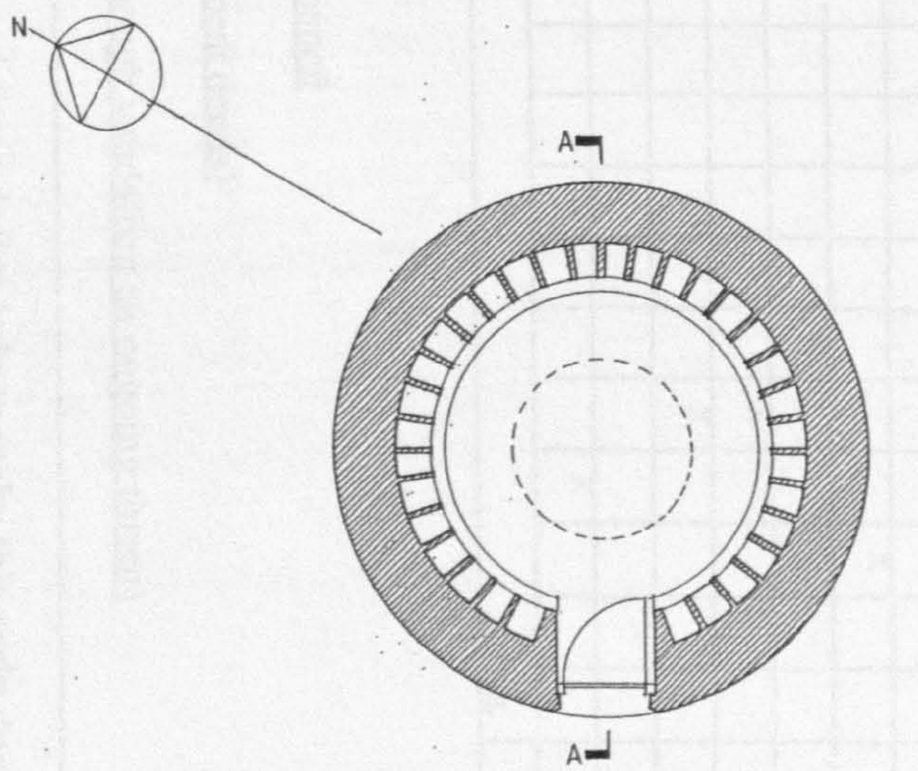
SECTION AA



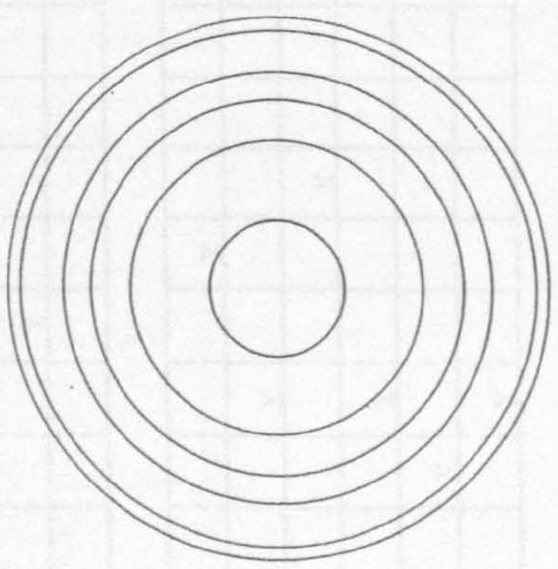
NORTH EAST ELEVATION



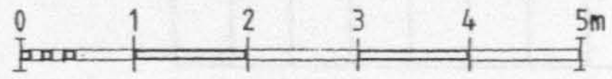
UPPER LEVEL PLAN



GROUND LEVEL PLAN



ROOF PLAN



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: NEW ELGIN DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 220 618

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									X			3
• Accessible to public										X		7
• Unaltered fabric									X			10
• Provenance established						X						10
• Educational Merit									X			13
• Cultural Integrity							X					14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable		X										10
• Tourist Value								X				12
• Partnership funding								X				14
• Capital costs										X		18
• Maintenance costs										X		22
• Revenue potential				X								20
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance										X		24
• Landscape prominence									X			27
• Original setting						X						27
• Use of Materials							X					28
• Features of interest							X					29
• Condition										X		33
• Interior								X				35
											TOTAL	35

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — The Moray Council
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None (only recent deeds)
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Very low (although vandalism an ongoing threat)

Summary Comments:
Prominent location, condition of original fabric and dome design help to make this early doocot an important contributor to local identity in central Elgin.

Final Assessment: Worthy of retention and long-term conservation

5.3.5 QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT

GRID REFERENCE: NJ 181 642, Spynie Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Quarrelwood Doocot, or New Spynie as it is known today, is an example of a freestanding, single chambered, single storey dual pitched doocot with an unusual overseamed slabbed roof. It sits in relative isolation in an arable field some 50 m to the east of the small eighteenth/nineteenth century community of Quarrywood in Spynie Parish. The doocot is sited at an altitude of 60 m on the northern slope of Quarrywood Hill, some two miles north west of Elgin and overlooking the former sea loch, Loch Spynie, or 'Laich of Moray' as it is now known. The building is orientated on the north west/south east axis in line with a steady slope to the north. An overgrown copse some 50 m to the north is reputed to have been the former site of Quarrelwood Castle and the Secretary of State claims that, "*...it is this castle that the cote served*"[117]. The cot is very similar in design to, although smaller than, Pittendriech Doocot which is found three miles away to the south. Both doocots are just east of Elgin (Quarrelwood to the north and Pittendriech to the south) and together they form a nationally unique pair.

Historians however have failed to agree on the exact date of construction; Niven Robertson said, "*...probably a 15th century cote*"[118], the Regional Archaeologist recorded a, "*style indicative of 17th century*"[119], whilst Robert
Douglas tentatively suggested that, "*it predates 1470*"[120]. The unknown date and full provenance of this building can perhaps be solved by some historical analysis.

A Danish camp and henge, at Quarryhill, just south of the doocot, once looked down from the highest point in the parish over what is thought to have been part of the Earldom of Moray in ancient times. In 1226, an agreement was made to split the parish of Spynie in two

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117 Secretary of State, Statutory List, Moray District, Spynie Parish, Item 7, p. 6.
118 Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 379.
119 Grampian Regional Council, Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record, Site Index Ref. No. NJ16 SE6.
120 Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 39.
He refers to a 1470 Royal Charter of the Barony of Spynie which includes a grant "*...cum columbis et columbariis*". In all likelihood, this refers to Westfield's Auchterspynie or Spynie Palace, not Quarrelwood Castle.

and Leggat, Kintrae, Westfield and Quarrywood became royal lands whilst the remainder was assigned to Bishop de Moravia. This bipartite agreement remained intact until the Reformation reaped radical changes in ecclesiastic structures, much to the benefit of secular heritors. "*In the year 1588, the lands of Duffus, Quarrelwood, Grieshop, Brightmony, and Kinsteary, were all erected into the barony of Duffus, by Crown precept in favour of William Sutherland [of Duffus]*"[121]. Timothy Pont's 1590's map includes, "*...reasonably reliable indications of the appearance of those buildings at that time*"[122] and his map of Moray illustrates an L-plan castle at 'Quarrelwoode' with a barmkin wall and gardens. An important building is again recorded under 'Correllwood' on Robert Gordon's 1640 map of Moray[123]. Around 1700, Quarrelwood Castle was occupied by William Sutherland of Roscommon, son of Lord Duffus and Helen Duff, sister of the Earl of Fife. By 1705, Lord Duffus had debt difficulties and the estate of Quarrelwood was forfeited soon after William joined the 1715 rebellion. Lady Roscommon, eldest daughter of William Duff of Dipple, "*...long survived her husband, lived in the Castle of Quarrelwood.*"[124] "*She was alive in 1736, and may have lived many years after that time. After her death, the Castle of Quarrelwood was permitted to go to decay, and was at last converted into a quarry, its materials being used for erection of farm houses and other buildings.*"[125] General Roy's map of 1750 accords with this and makes no recording of a castle or estate, and by this time, the lands had come under the auspices of the voracious landowner, the Earl of Fife. In 1736, the Parish Church and manse were moved from the eastern extremity of the parish near Spynie Palace to the place where they are found today, (just east of the doocot) and it is possible that materials from the castle were used in their construction[126]. "*The foundations [of the castle] were only finally removed about thirty years ago [1840s]*"[127] and it begs the question why the doocot survived such

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121 Young, Parish of Sypnie, 1871, p. 66.

122 McKean, "Re-evaluation of Scots Renaissance Architecture", p. 1
The Timothy Pont maps (c. 1588-96) are held in the National Map Library of Scotland.

123 A map of Moray was produced by Leith and Smith, Lithographers, Hanover Street, Edinburgh from the various c. 1640 drawings by Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch and is held in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.

124 Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 164.
Title deeds from 1664-1846 in the Aberdeen University Special Collections Library, MS 3175/M/12 make no mention of the doocot or castle. A plan by W. Urquhart shows a 'well' about 25 m SE of the 'dovecote'. The field immediately to the west was tenanted at that time by Mr. Paterson.

125 Young, op. cit., p. 116

126 O.S.A., 1791, p. 695.
The current manse is a nineteenth century rebuilding. p. 690, "Within 4 miles of each other, there are 9 pidegon houses well stores; a sign of good grain of the parish."

127 Young, op. cit., p. 116.

depredations. The building may have continued to function for its new owner or the parish church and people. Perhaps superstitions persisted to ensure its retention. Judging by the doocot's design and construction, it is of undoubted antiquity and pre-dates the forfeiting of the estate in the mid-eighteenth century. Two options for its origin therefore arise;

(i) the building was inherited by the Sutherland's in 1588 (as suggested by Douglas and Niven Robertson, supra)

(ii) the building was constructed during the Sutherland reign at Quarrelwood Castle 1588-1736.

Despite Douglas' claim that the building could be associated with Spynie Palace, there is no evidence found to support his theory, particularly noting that Quarrelwood was sited on royal, rather than ecclestiastical, ground from 1226 to 1588. There is also no reason to indicate a monarch's inclination to build a doocot in such a location so the latter option, 1588-1736, is the more likely. Certainly the bird occupancy of the doocot (around 425 boxes) shows a compatibility with the size of the castle indicated on Pont's map, thus the Secretary of State's assertion of association with Quarrelwood Castle is probably true. The architecture of the doocot also indicates a building of the sixteenth century. Aside from Pittendreich, similar structures (i.e. heavy slabbed roofs of stone vaulting) are to be found at the ancient castle doocots of Rosyth in Fife and Tantallon in East Lothian. Another vaulted doocot can be found at the ruined abbey of North Berwick. Further ecclesiastical construction references can also be found on ancient churches around the country such as at Fearn Abbey, Easter Ross and St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall. Various pictorial evidence shows that the medieval St Giles Church in Elgin utilised a similar roofing method[128]. Taking the architecture and history into account, it seems deducible that this particular structure was constructed some time after the 1560 Reformation, but before the turn of the sixteenth century. The transference of land from the King to William Sutherland in 1588 was undoubtedly an important moment in Quarrelwood's history which resulted in a building

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128 Rhind, Sketches of Moray, 1839, p. 43.
"The roof was vaulted, and covered with heavy hewn stone instead of slate."
R. Fawcett, pers. comm., 9/3/98, comments that ecclesiastical masons had to look for work soon after the Reformation.

programme of castle, enclosing wall and gardens. The doocot can therefore be attributed to this date, or very soon after.

It is found today in reasonable condition although now deteriorating due to lack of maintenance and vandalism, particularly at its lower levels. The District Council's Local Plan for 1993-1998 has earmarked the area around the doocot for housing, in order to allow for the development of the rural community, and a cordon sanitaire of 20 m has been drawn around the building in order to protect part of its setting. Undoubtedly the setting of the building will be seriously compromised (noting that part of this was already lost when the church and glebe was resited in the 1760's) but the arrival of new housing with the doocot as a central focal point will at least provide the opportunity to secure and repair what is both a nationally important historic building and a remarkable survivor of a medieval fortified house.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Quarrelwood Doocot is almost square in plan (5 x 5.6 m) with a wallhead height of 3.5 m rising to an overall height of 6.3 m. The 700 mm thick walls (including boxes) are constructed using random sandstone rubble with tooled free stone dressings. The walls are finished with thin coats of coarsely textured lime harling and limewash which, judging by its make up, application and weathering, is contemporary with the turn of the century conversion to a water cistern. Both the narrow iron straps, which partially circumvent the building, and the 65 mm diameter cast iron overflow on the north wall are associated with this conversion.

The roof is dual pitched at 45° with its ridge on the north east/south west axis and an unusual arrangement of six horizontal rows (each side) of 30 mm interlocking sandstone slabs, size 750 wide x 600 mm long, are laid in seven vertical lines. The bottom three slabs span the gaps between the gable walls and two, 700 wide x 300 mm deep, gothic arch stone rib vaults which span the building from north to south. These three lines of slabs are in turn covered by a further four slabs which overlap by some 50 mm and are, thereafter, pointed using lime mortar to provide wind and watertightness. They do not, however, appear to have the sophistication of the Pittendriech slabs (q.v.) which are both interlocking and dished to shed the water away from the joints. As at Pittendreich, the vertical lines of slabs are individually checked into a series of 180 mm eave stones, built upon a single 60 mm thick sandstone ledge, which projects 175 mm beyond the wallface and continues all around the building. At the north and south walls, the joints of this projecting ledge are each covered with 35 mm slabs of random length in order to further protect the wallhead. At a height of 2.5 m, approximately 1 m below the eaves level, is the suggestion of another ledge which has been removed, referred to by Beaton as a, "*...second rat ledge*"[129]. There are no apertures evident on the external walls, other than two small 250 high x 200 mm wide vent holes centred on each gable just above the projecting ledge, both of which retain iron grilles.

The wallheads of each gable are protected by eighteen 170 wide x 260 mm high stone crow steps with four simply curved 560 mm high skew putts projecting 150 mm beyond the wall plane at eaves level. (Crowning crowsteps may be missing from both gables.) The ridge of the roof is topped with a single, 1000 wide x 800 deep x 700 mm high, centrally located stone dormer for dove access with a coping slab platform projecting 150 mm all around. A further flat 600 mm square cover slab elevated above the platform by two 100 x 600 mm stone blocks forms the protected dove access. The whole dormer is crowned with a simple, central, cube finial block which is probably in place to hold the top cover slab down (although Douglas suggests that it, "*...may have had a weather vane or some ornament*")[130]. In a recent publication, Oram describes this central dormer as a, "*..peculiar chimney-like vent.*"[131]. Human access to the chamber is now provided at wallhead level through a 1100 high x 750 mm wide, vertically boarded, timber door sited within a later eyebrow dormer on the south facing elevation second vertical row of slabs from the left. Traces of the former entrance door, centrally located on the south western elevation, were recorded in 1931 by Douglas who said that, "*...the door, which is now built up, appears to have been about 2 foot wide and 4 foot 9 inches in height, closely resembling Pittendriech. The metal ring for holding the bar lock is still there.*"[132] The Secretary of State's listing records that the door has, "*... chamfered margins*"[133] and if true, this detail may preclude the possibility that it contained an outer yett grille of similar fashion to Pittendriech.

Access to within the chamber is somewhat restricted but it can be noted that the interior is now lined with a waterproofing material. A vandalised area around the west gable, however, refutes the Secretary of State's comment that, "*no nesting boxes survive*"[134] and it can be seen that the concrete lining for the water cistern was shuttered with the nest boxes still insitu. From the scant evidence available, it appears that the boxes were constructed in a linear arrangement of 100 mm stone uprights with similarly sized smooth stone horizontals, probably of random length. The detailing appears similar to Pittendriech and the boxes are approximately 300

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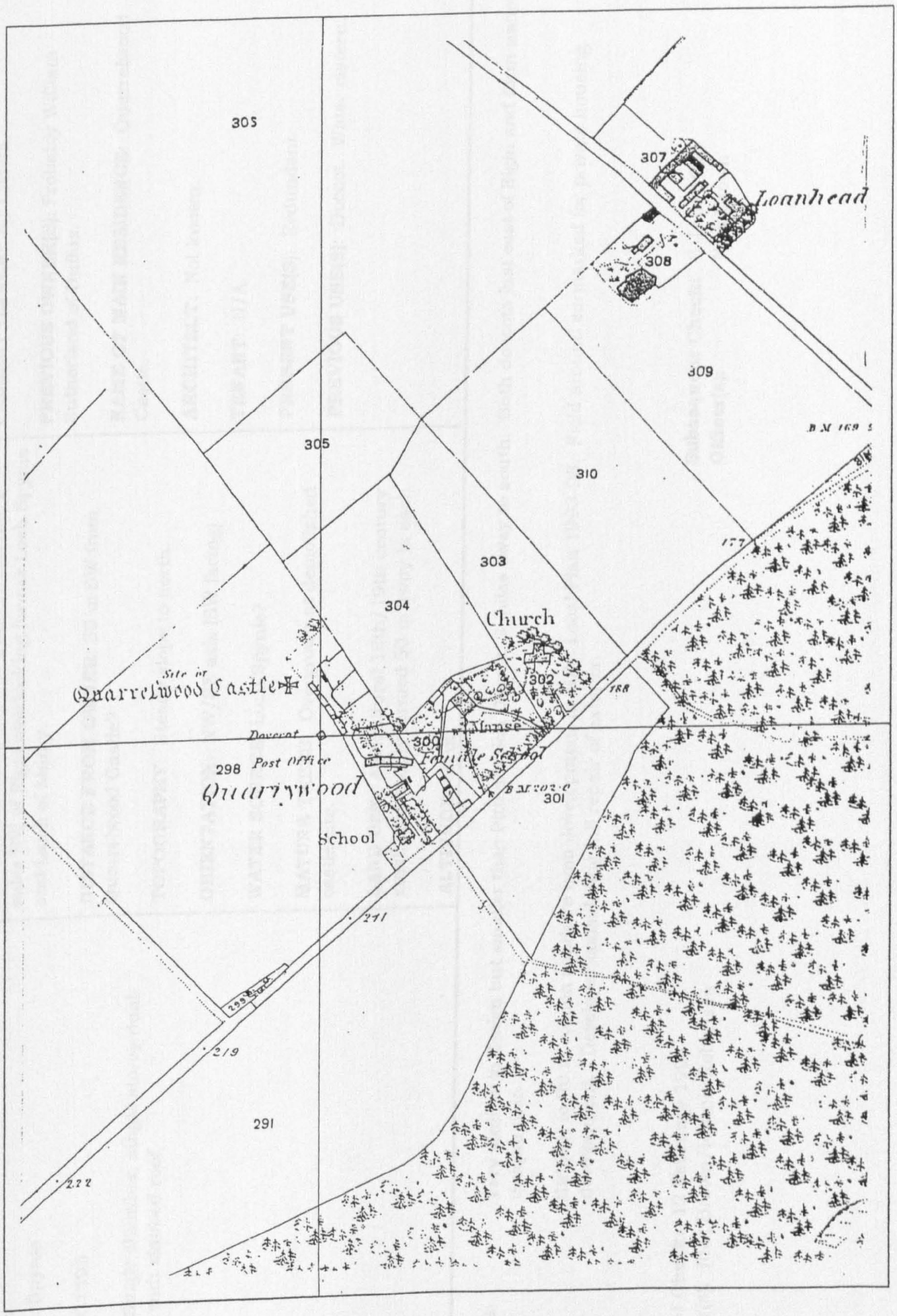
[129] Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1931, p. 24.
[130] Douglas, op. cit., p. 38.
[131] Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1996, p. 170.
[132] Douglas, op. cit., p. 38.
[133] Secretary of State, loc. cit.
[134] Secretary of State, ibid.

wide x 200 high x 400 mm deep (although this could be deeper depending on the amount of concrete shuttering). Boxes are still evident in both gables above the cistern level but all have been blocked up. It is not known if the boxes are raised off the floor or whether some of them were blocked during use and there is also no evidence to substantiate the existence of internal alighting ledges, limewash, lime plaster or a collecting aid.

Date: 19 August 1996



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Quarrelwood Doocot (Fig. 5.3.5)

THE DOOCOTS OF MORAY — DATA CHECKLIST 1996 — NAME: QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 181 642 **PARISH**: Spynie **DATE**: C1595 **TYPE**: Single chamber, single storey dual-pitched with slabbed roof.	**SITING**: On north slope of Quarrywood hill, 2 miles NW of Elgin overlooking former Loch Spynie and Laich of Moray. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 50 m SW from Quarrelwood Castle? **TOPOGRAPHY**: Steady slope to north. **ORIENTATION**: NW/SE axis (SW facing) **WATER SOURCE**: Loch Spynie? **MATURE TREES**: Overgrown at demolished castle site. **LAND USE**: Agricultural 18th/19th century small community formed 50 m away to east. **ALTITUDE**: 60 m	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mr Civiera. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Probably William Sutherland of Duffus. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Quarrelwood Castle. **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: N/A **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Doocot. Water cistern.

NOTES: Very similar in design but smaller than Pittendreich Doocot, 3 miles away to south. Both doocots just east of Elgin and form nationally unique pair.

Subject to 20 m cordon sanitaire from development in MDC Local Plan 1993-98. Field around earmarked for private housing development. Developer considering full repair of exterior.

Date of Check: 12 February 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 3 June 1996
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Reasonable (but *deteriorating).*

REPAIRS: None evident.

ALTERATIONS: Converted to water cistern circa 1905.

FUTURE RISK:
- continued vandalism.
- setting soon to be further compromised by development.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: almost square.

PLAN SIZE: 5 x 5.6 m

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 3.5 m

OVERALL HEIGHT: 6.3 m

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Random rubble with clay and lime mortar.

WALL MATERIAL: Sandstone rubble with tooled freestone dressings.

WALL THICKNESS: Approx. 800 mm (including boxes).

WALL FINISH: Thin coats of coarse texture lime harling.

ROOF FORM: Dual-pitched.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: Overseamed slab roof supported off gable walls and two Gothic arch stone vaults.

ROOF PITCH: 45°

ROOF FINISH: Unusual arrangement of 6 horizontal rows each side of 30 mm thick interlocking sandstone slabs size 750 (w) x 600 mm (l) laid in 7 vertical lines with 4 top lines overseaming bottom 3.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Not known (blocked)

OUTER DOOR TYPE: Not known, possibly iron yett. Single iron pin remains.

DOOR SIZE: Possibly 1450 (h) x 650 mm (w)

DOOR SITING: Centre of SW facing wall.

LEDGES: One 60 mm sandstone ledge projecting 175 mm beyond wallface at eaves level. Continuous all round. Indications of a lower ledge all round removed.

LEDGES HEIGHT: 2.5? and 3.5 m respectively

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: Confirmed - 21.5 m
Possible - 43 m.

APERTURES: None evident.

VENT HOLES: Two number 250 (h) x 200 mm (w), (one centred on each gable above eaves ledge).

FLIGHT HOLES: Yes, two 500 (w) x 150 mm (h) stone apertures on top of dormer on north and south.

TOTAL VENT AREA: 0.36 m²

LIMEWASH: Only traces.

DORMERS: One 1000 (w) x 800 (d) x 700 mm (h) stone dormer centred on ridge with coping projecting 100 mm all round. Flat cover slab to dormer supported on two 100 x 600 mm stone blocks with central cube finial block on top.

SKEWS: yes - 9 stone crowsteps to each corner - 170 (w) x 260 mm high with simple curved skew putt projecting 150 mm beyond wall plane.

FINIALS: Rectangular stone block on top of dormer.

WEATHER VANE: n/a.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Not known.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Not known

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: n/a

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement of 100 mm roughly hewn sandstone uprights with 50 to 70 mm sandstone horizontals.

NEST BOX NUMBER: Not known. Possibly 425.

NEST BOX SIZE: Not fully known. Possibly 300 (w) x 200 (h) x 400 mm (d)

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: Not known.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: yes - by cistern lining. Some still visible but blocked with stone and lime in both gables above eaves height.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: Not known.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Not known.

COLLECTING AID: Not known.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 425 x 2 x 0.7 = 595.

INTERNAL VOLUME: Approx. 63 m^3

OTHER: - Two 50 mm iron restraining straps around walls.
- Cast iron overflow pipe on north wall.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- date
- why door SW facing?
- why ledge apparently removed.
- similarity with Pittendreich.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 3, **24**.

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 12, **38**, 39, 41.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 105.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 7, 30.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, pp. 375, **379**.

R. Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1996, pp. 169-70.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Spynie Parish Item 7, pp. 6-7, Category B, 1971.

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index Ref No NJ 16 SE 6.
According to Regional Archaeologist, Quarrelwood Castle was ruinous by 1750 and removed piecemeal thereafter.

MAPS: 1870, 1905, 1965 OS (not revealing).
See Timothy Pont's map of Moray c1590 held in National Library of Scotland showing small sketch elevation of Quarrelwood Castle.
See Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch's map of Moray c. 1640 held in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.
1785 Plan of Lands of Kintrae, William Urquhart held in Aberdeen Special Collections, RHP/31465/1/2.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Oram, Op. cit., plate 15.

OTHER:

R. Young, The Parish of Spynie, 1871, pp. 62-71 et passim.

L. Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 164.

O.S.A., pp. 685-95.

NOTES: All nest boxes may still be in place behind cistern concrete lining. Possibly now composite with cistern.



QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.3.5.1)

View from the south west showing the building with a wooded area behind it as the likely siting of the former castle. The later settlement of New Spynie is to the right of picture and the low-lying fields to the left mark the western edge of the former sea loch.

The interesting slabbed roof can be appreciated from this view and is pierced centrally by an original stone ridge dormer which provided access and egress for the birds. The eyebrow dormer with the wooden door is an early twentieth century alternation to provide human access to the converted water cistern.



QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.3.5.1)

View from the south west showing the building with a wooded area behind it as the likely siting of the former castle. The later settlement of New Spynie is to the right of picture and the low-lying fields to the left mark the western edge of the former sea loch.

The interesting slabbed roof can be appreciated from this view and is pierced centrally by an original stone ridge dormer which provided access and egress for the birds. The eyebrow dormer with the wooden door is an early twentieth century alternation to provide human access to the converted water cistern.



QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.3.5.2)

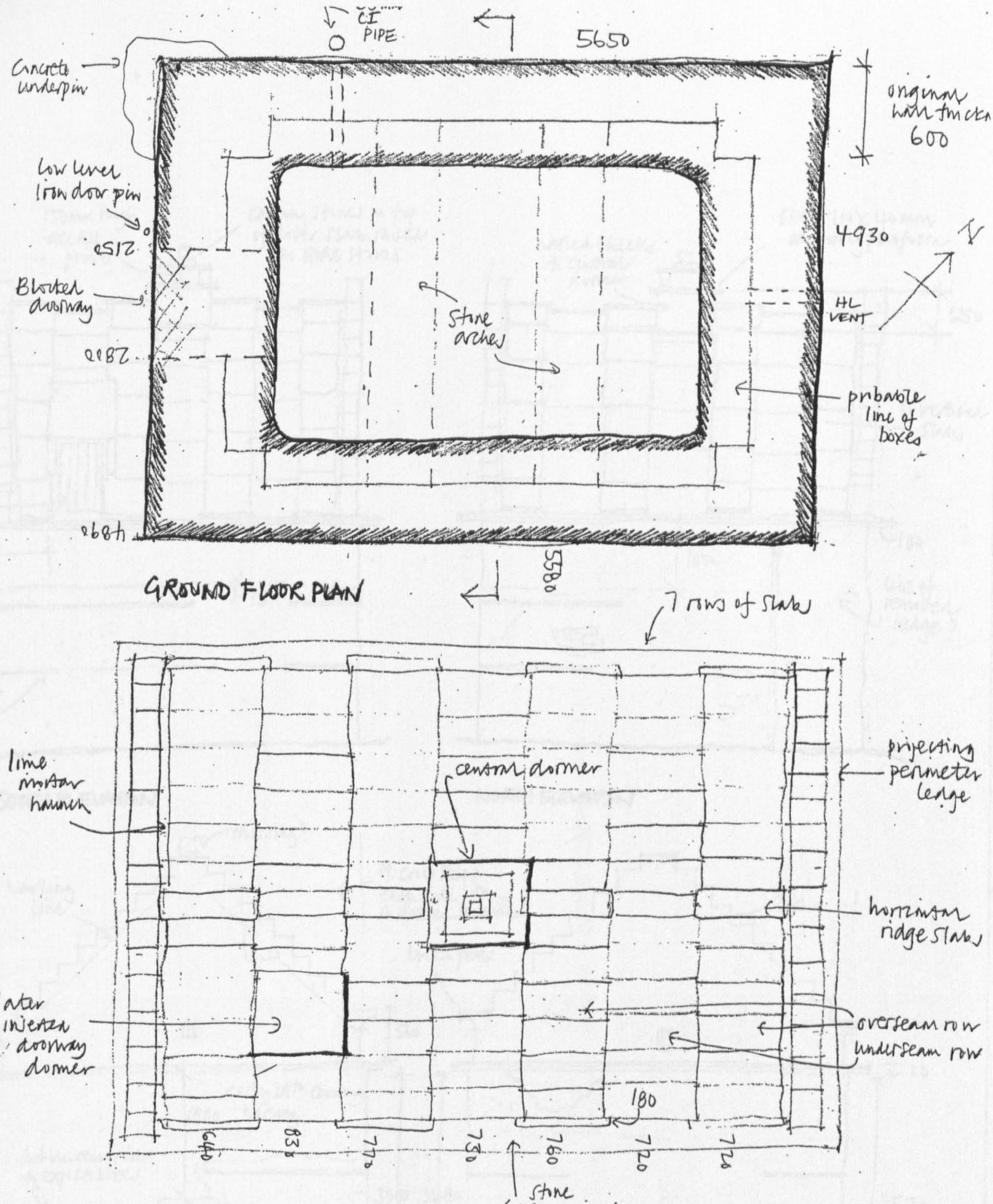
View from the west showing the outline of the crow-stepped gable. The two (or three) coat lime harl is possibly early twentieth century and has fallen off near the later iron straps which may be a response to combat outward thrust by the later conversion to a water cistern.

The outline of the small original doorway is plainly seen in the centre of the gable with a small solitary ventilator sited just above the string course.



QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.3.5.3)

Close-up of the west gable where the wall has been opened up by vandals. The removal of stones reveals the construction of the building and indicates that the boxes were not removed during conversion, although the concrete of the cistern lining seems to have encroached into each box. The gritty texture, layering and patching of the external harl is also visible in this picture.



1 of 3

QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY.
NB 12/3/93

150mm high access point

capping stones on top of cover slab raised on side stones

later hinged boarded timber door in dormer

stone thickness 600

75

iron ladder on straps

SOUTH ELEVATION

800 x 700 x 40mm elevating platform

harled cheeks to central dormer

650

6 vertical slabs

180

1000

line of removed ledge?

missing?

harling line

9 crow steps each side in dressed sandstone

560

1980

early 20th century harling

rubble removed to expose boxes

3300

1450(h) x 650(w) outline of door visible beneath harling

WEST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

260

brick gable

60

3480

3520

EAST ELEVATION

2 of 3

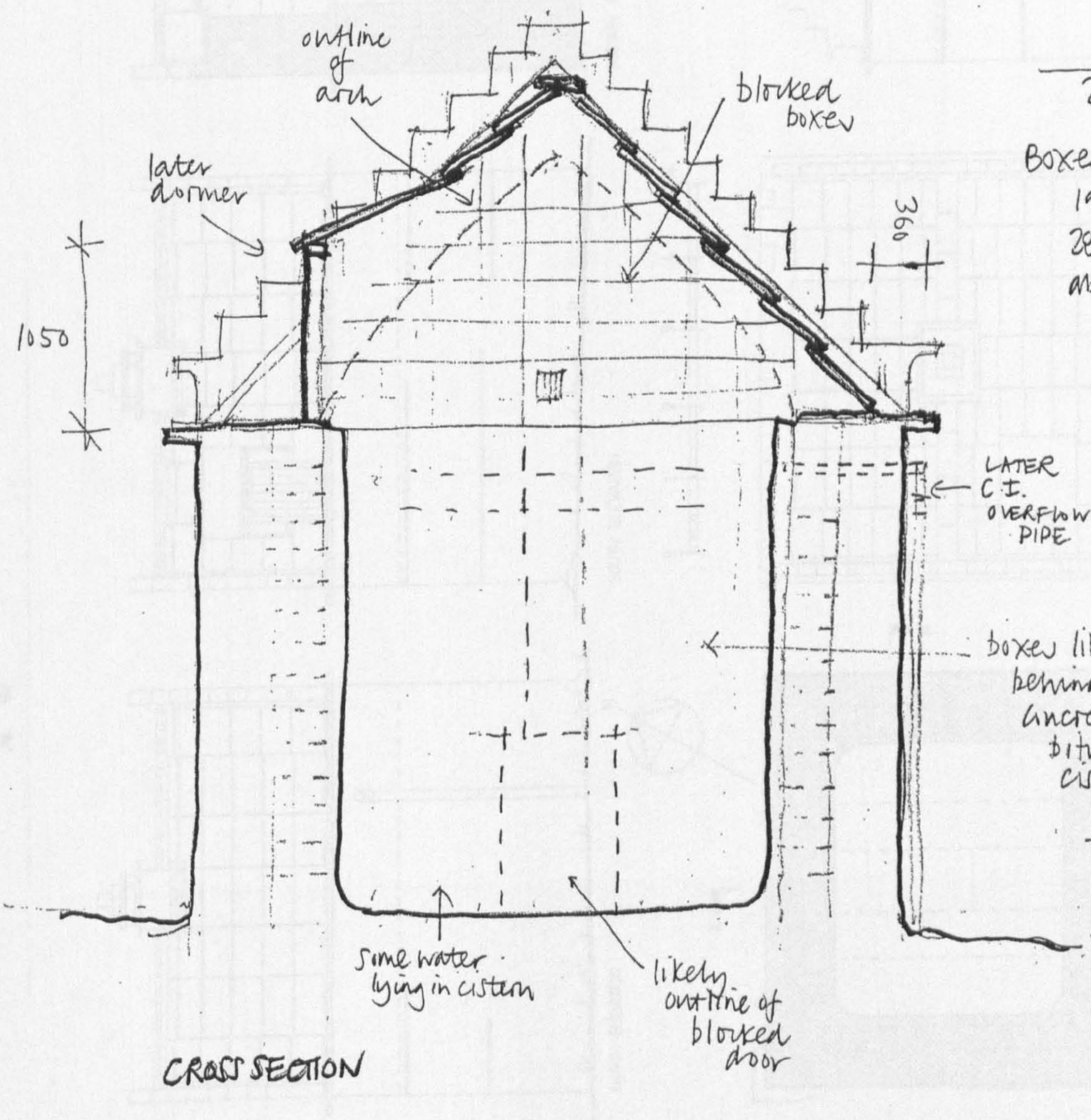
QUARRELWOOD DOOCOTT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 12/3/93

- Thick aggregate lime hair (1906?) with less coarse original? lime mortar dawbing
- Stones bonded with clay mortar
- Random rubble mixtures, mainly sandstone
- Coursed stones at angles ~~etc~~.

Expected No. of boxes.

11 X 10 = 110
11 X 10 = 110
11 X 8 = 88
(11 X 8) - ~~15~~ = 73
22
22
245

Boxes
190 to 200 high
280 to 300 wide
about 400 deep

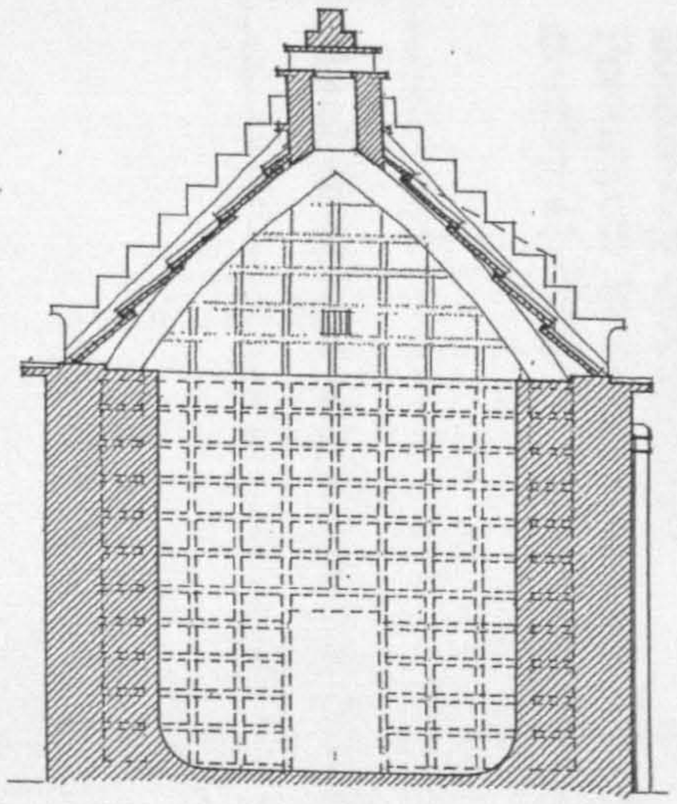


CROSS SECTION

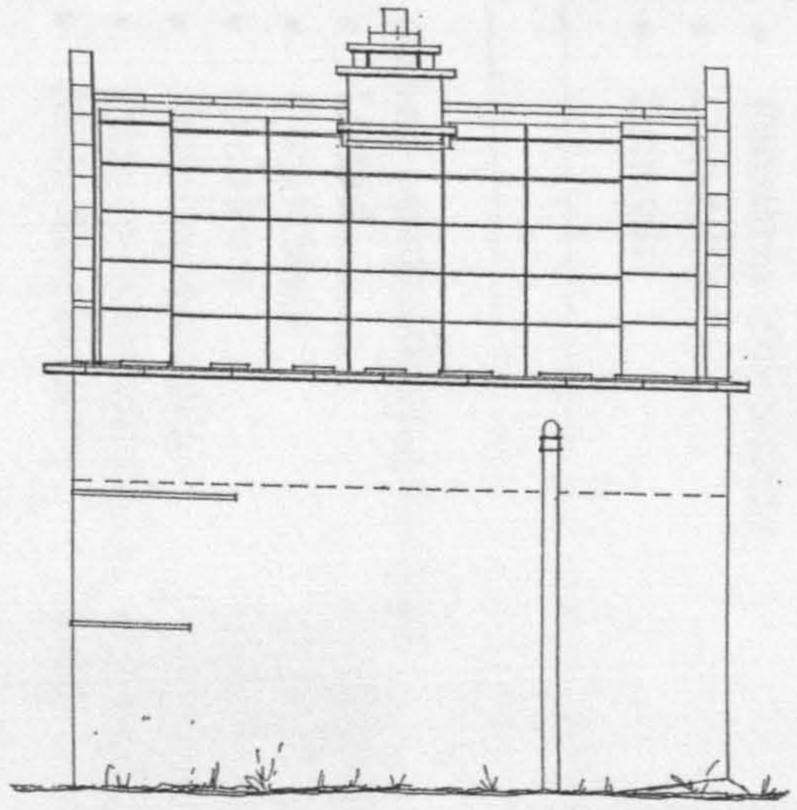
3 of 3

QUARRELWOOD DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 12/3/93

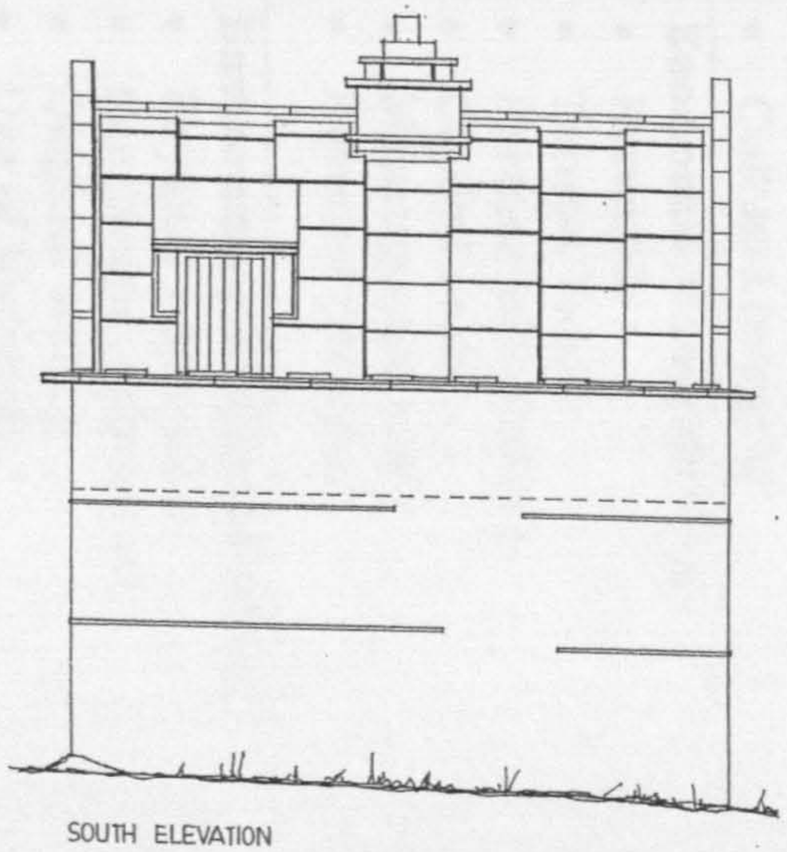
New Spynie Doocot



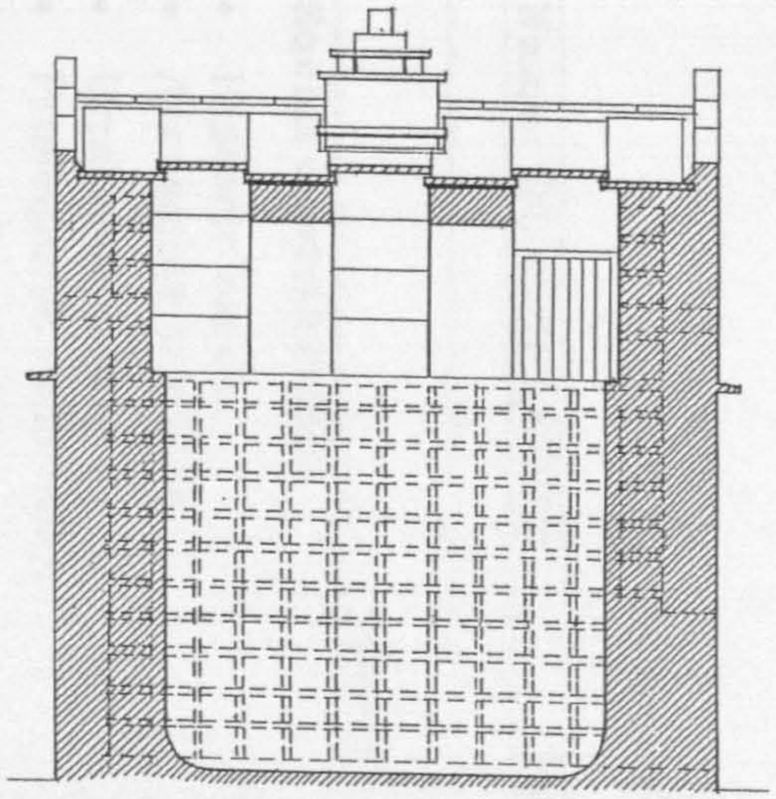
SECTION A A



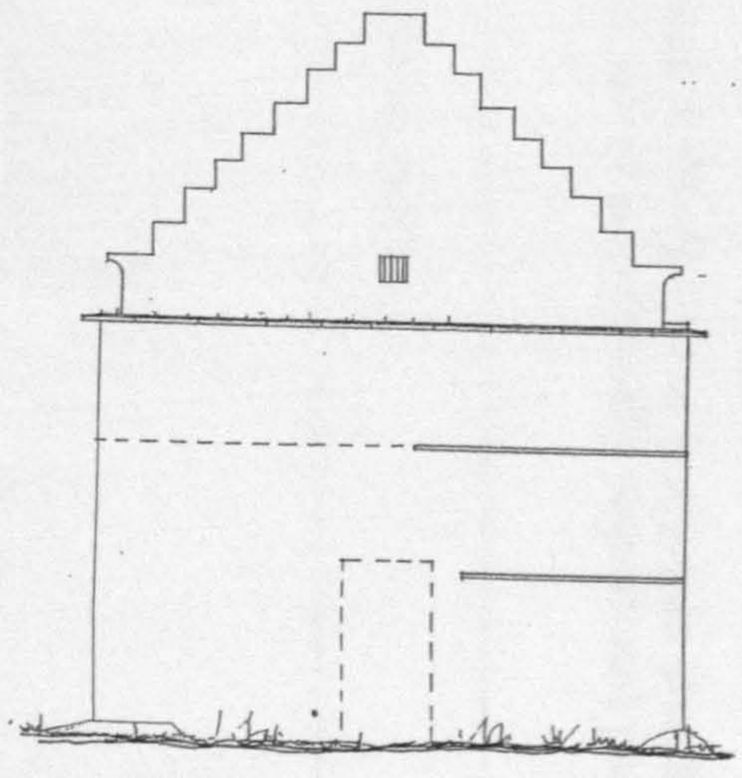
NORTH ELEVATION



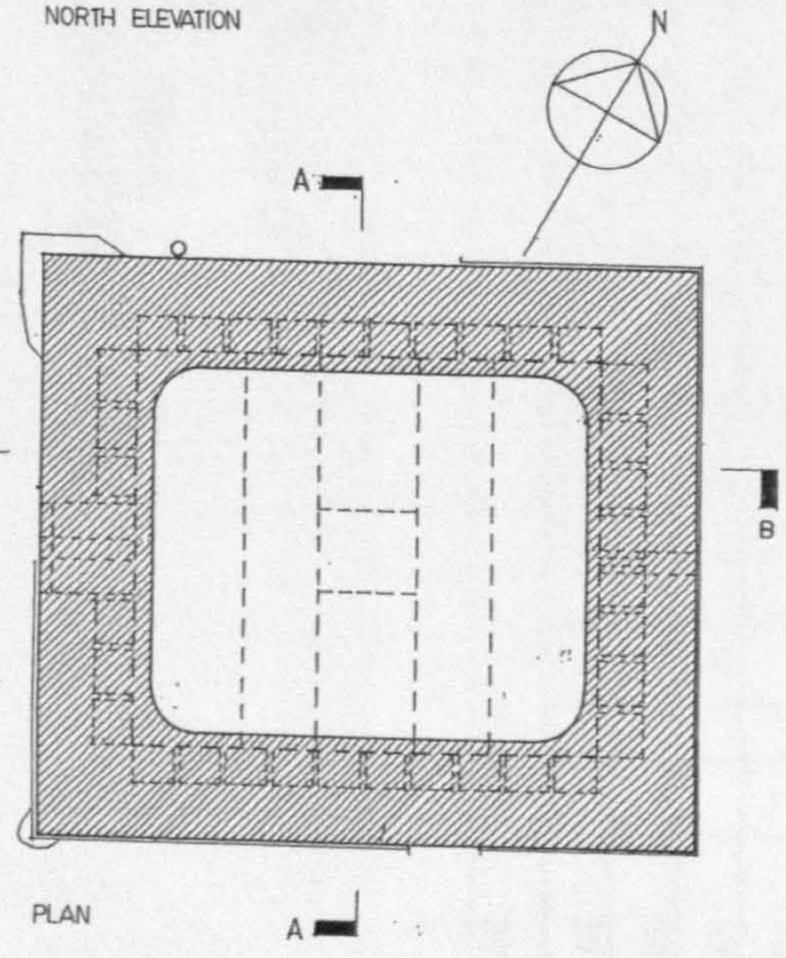
SOUTH ELEVATION



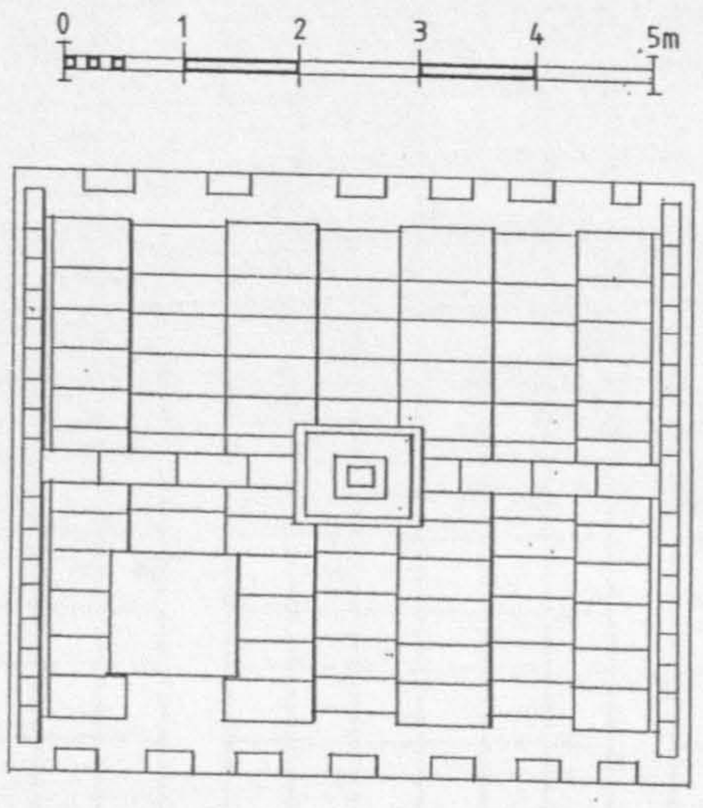
SECTION B B



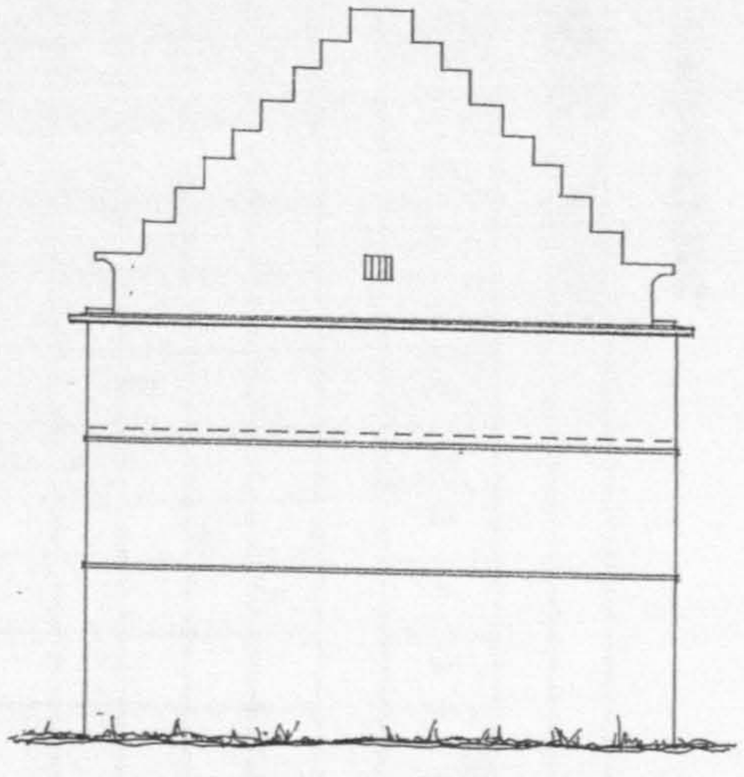
WEST ELEVATION



PLAN



ROOF PLAN



EAST ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: QUARRELWOOD **Grid Ref:** NJ 181 642

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value										X		4
• Accessible to public									X			7
• Unaltered fabric							X					8
• Provenance established								X				10
• Educational Merit								X				12
• Cultural Integrity								X				14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable						X						14
• Tourist Value								X				16
• Partnership funding								X				18
• Capital costs								X				20
• Maintenance costs									X			23
• Revenue potential				X								21
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									X			24
• Landscape prominence									X			27
• Original setting								X				29
• Use of Materials											X	34
• Features of interest									X			37
• Condition								X				39
• Interior						X						39
											TOTAL	39

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private - Mr Civiera
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None (only maps)
- Future developments — Adjacent housing development
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:
Prominent location, condition of fabric and striking use of materials (duplicated nearby at Pittendreich) make this doocot one of a nationally significant pair.

Final Assessment: Essential to retain and conserve.

5.3.6 Historical summary of late sixteenth century doocots in Moray

The Reformation of the Catholic Church was slow to take hold in Moray, but by the end of the sixteenth century, great ecclesiastical buildings such as Elgin Cathedral lay redundant and decaying.[135] In the late 1580s, James VI distributed former Church lands amongst the feudal aristocracy and fuelled by avarice and jealousy, religious and family feuds began in Moray in the 1560s.[136] Some stability was found around Elgin and the Laich of Moray and this is reflected by the concentration of doocots in this area.[137] Some secular owners inherited doocots directly from the Church and the doocots that were built in the Laich at the end of the century all show clear signs of ecclesiastical influence.[138] Plewlands, New Elgin and Leuchars are all of the bell-shape, or 'beehive', variety,[139] whilst Quarrelwood and Pittendreich possess sophisticated roof designs more commonly found elsewhere on ecclesiastical property. Town burghs (particularly Royal ones) throughout Scotland were known to possess doocots at this time and the one at New Elgin may be an early example in Moray.[140]

Meanwhile, the introduction of the printing press encouraged publications that could be widely read and, in the latter quarter of the century, several authors penned thoughts on rearing doves[141]. Even by this early period, the disadvantages of keeping such birds were generally known. *"Pigeons, now an hurtful foule by reason of their multitudes, and number*

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[135]Pluscarden Abbey was commendated by Alexander Seton; likewise Spynie Palace by Alexander Lindsay.

[136]See Vol. 1, Chap. 4.1, s.v. 'Political and Civil Divisions in Moray'.
Bain, Lord Brodie, 1904, p.3 suggests that Brodie Castle, for example, " .. *would doubtless have been one of the grim square keeps, with round towers, caphouse, moat and drawbridge - the type of castle common to that turbulent period in the Province of Moray.*"
The lack of doocots in these areas may be explained by the ongoing strife. N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 12, "*Most of the dovecotes of the larger Scottish castles have disappeared, due to the havoc of war and the pilfering of their stones.*"

[137]The aged Huntly took refuge at Plewlands, for example.

[138]As at Elgin Cathedral, Kinloss Abbey, Greyfriars, etc.

[139]Compare with the likes of Crossraguel Abbey in Ayrshire.
Even by the early nineteenth century, this ancient style still commanded respect from some observers, e.g. Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, p.342, ".. *but the most approved form is a circular tower, having the roof contracted into the form of the frustrum of a cone, so as to require no timber, and to be wholly covered by one rounded flag.*"

[140]For example, Glasgow Green, Hawick, Haddington, Crail, Linlithgow, Stirling.
Also see SRO, GD30/328 for 'Contract between Captain Wishart and a burgess to take possession of dovecot and yard on north side of the sea gate of burgh of Dundee'.

[141]Heresbachius, Foure Books of Husbandry, 1577.
G. Markham, English Husbandman-Second Booke, 1568, (London: Garland Publishing Inc., 1982 edn.).
Tusser, Five Hundred Good Points of Husbandry, 1571.

of houses daillie erected for their increase which the bowres [farmers] *of the countrie call in scorne almeshouses and dens of theeves.*"[142] Clearly, by this period, the number of cotes being erected in Britain was on the increase.

Further, the legal position in Scotland during the sixteenth century indicated a strong desire by the nobility to control meat sources and a further law, preventing the killing of doves, was put in place at the end of the century.[143]

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[142]W. Harrison, Description of England, 1577, (courtesy of N. Lewis).
[143]James VI, 1597. (See Appendix Section 2).

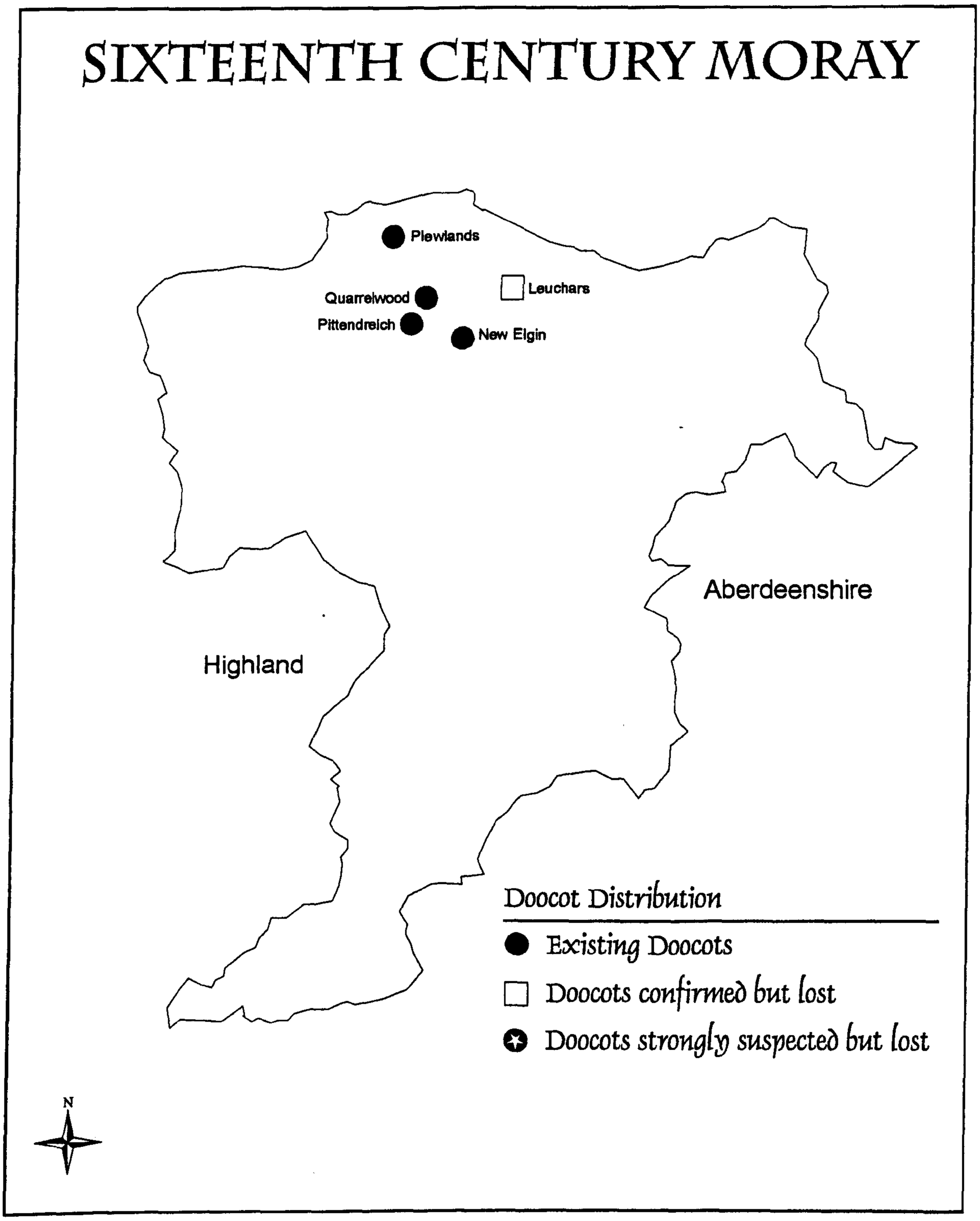


Fig 5.3.6

Distribution of doocots in Moray between 1560 - 1600, still concentrated in the Laich of Moray.

5.4. Seventeenth century doocots

5.4.1 Brodie
5.4.2 Culbin
5.4.3 Burgie
5.4.4 Grangehill (Dalvey)
5.4.5 Findrassie
5.4.6 Ballormie
5.4.7 Balnageith
5.4.8 Blackhills
5.4.9 Coxton
5.4.10 Leicheston
5.4.11 Braga (Recletich)
5.4.12 Milton (Miltonduff)
5.4.13 Ballindalloch
5.4.14 Historical Summary

5.4.1 BRODIE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 978 578, Dyke & Moy Parish

Altitude 25M.

Positive Reference(s)

Destroyed 1645 (but probably replaced soon thereafter by doocot further away to NW).

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.18. Lord Lewis Gordon of Strathbogie is reputed to have attacked and burned to the ground the *"... mansion house and mains, barns, stable & dovecote."*

A 1770 estate map, SRO RHP 14271, shows the site of a likely replacement, also now demolished.

Background Reference(s)

House description in Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p.51.

Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, pp.43-5.

MacGibbon and Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol. 4, 1887, pp.63-4. Castle part illustrated.

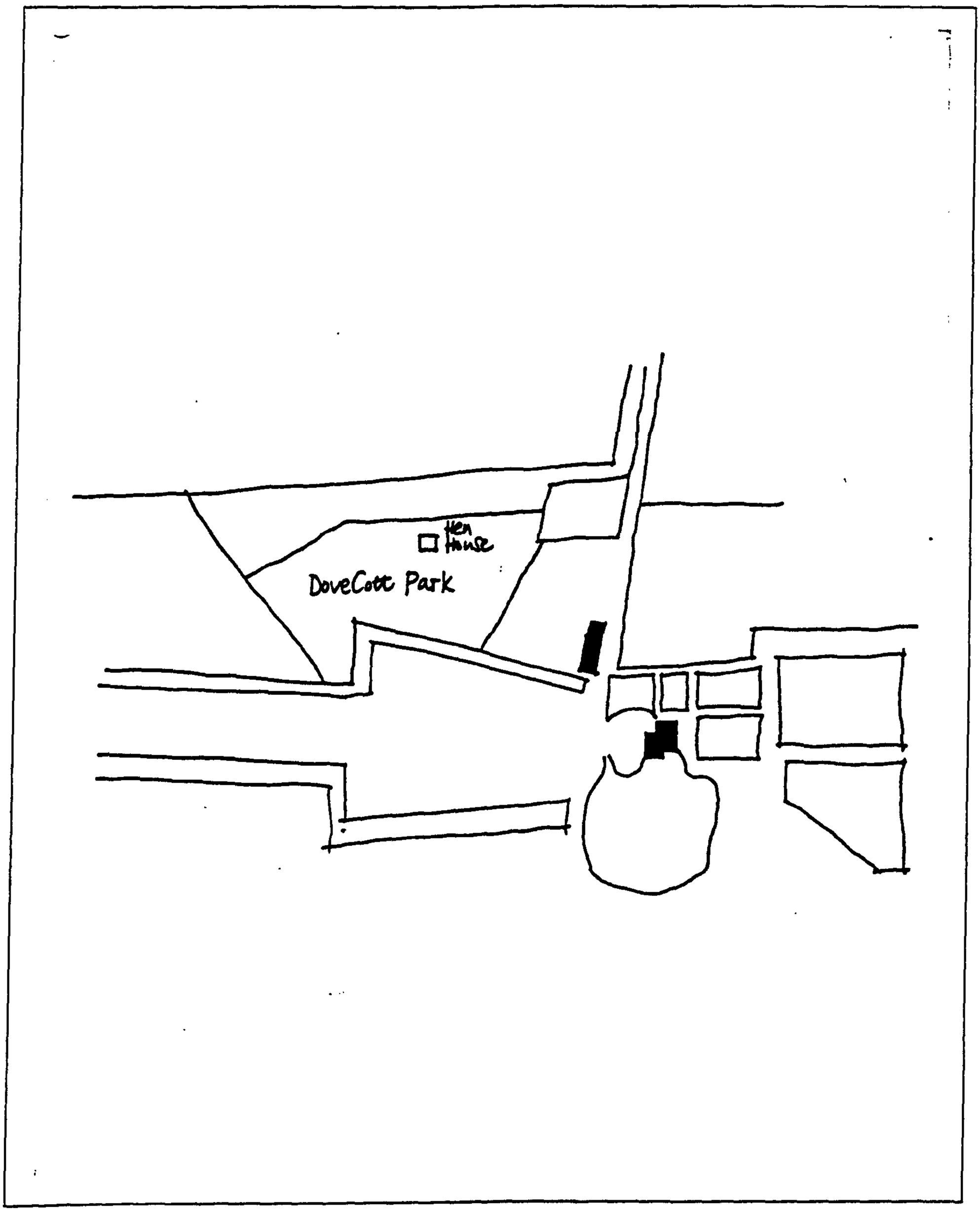
Statutory List for Moray, Dyke and Moy Parish, Item 4-8, pp.5-10

NSA, 1845, pp.221-2.

National Trust, Brodie Castle Guide Book, 1983.

No mention of doocot in Bain, Lord Brodie, 1904, despite being based upon Brodie's own 1617-80 diaries.

OSA, 1791, s.v. 'Dyke & Moy', p.559 refers to five doocots in parish (Moy, Grangehill, Kincorth, Culbin, Brodie?)



Brodie Castle (Fig. 5.4.1)

Tracing of 1770 estate map by G Brown held in SRO Brodie Papers, RHP 14271 showing 'Dovecott Park located about a quarter mile to the west of the castle. Although the 'dovecott' itself appears to have gone by this time, a hen house is still marked as existing within the park.

(Copyright law prevents the reproduction of the original map).

5.4.2 CULBIN DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NH 000 630? Dyke & Moy Parish

Altitude 5M.

Positive Reference(s)

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931. *"It stood not very far distant from the mansion house and was of the circular and dome-shaped type". According to Douglas, Hugh Miller recorded that, "An antique dovecote, in front of a huge sand wreath continued to present the top of its peaked roof [?] over the sand until 1760".*

G. Bain, Culbin Sands, (Nairn; Nairnshire Telegraph, 1922) p.22 et. seq. *"The estate of Culbin was the finest and the most fertile in Moray. In the centre of it stood the mansion house - a large square building of dressed stones, embowered amongst rows of tall shady trees, with a beautiful garden, a fruitful famous orchard and a spacious lawn. They had their round dove-cot set on a little eminence; they had their church close by..... The dovecot and the chapel also reappeared [after the sandstorm] and their ruins supplied stores for neighbouring farm buildings".*

Background Reference(s)

Owned by Kinnaird family since 1460. Owned by Walter Kinnaird in early seventeenth century. Known apparently as 'The garden & granary of Moray'. Estate buried in severe sand drift of 1694. Estate passed to Duff of Drummuir in 1698 then sold to Colonel Hugh Grant in 1733. The Sands of Culbin were planted by Grant of Kincorth in 1839.

No mention made of doocot in Black's 'Archaeological Excavation of the Culbin Sands', 1891.

Family history of ten articles written over three month period in 'Forres, Elgin & Nairn Gazette', beginning 7/9/1938.

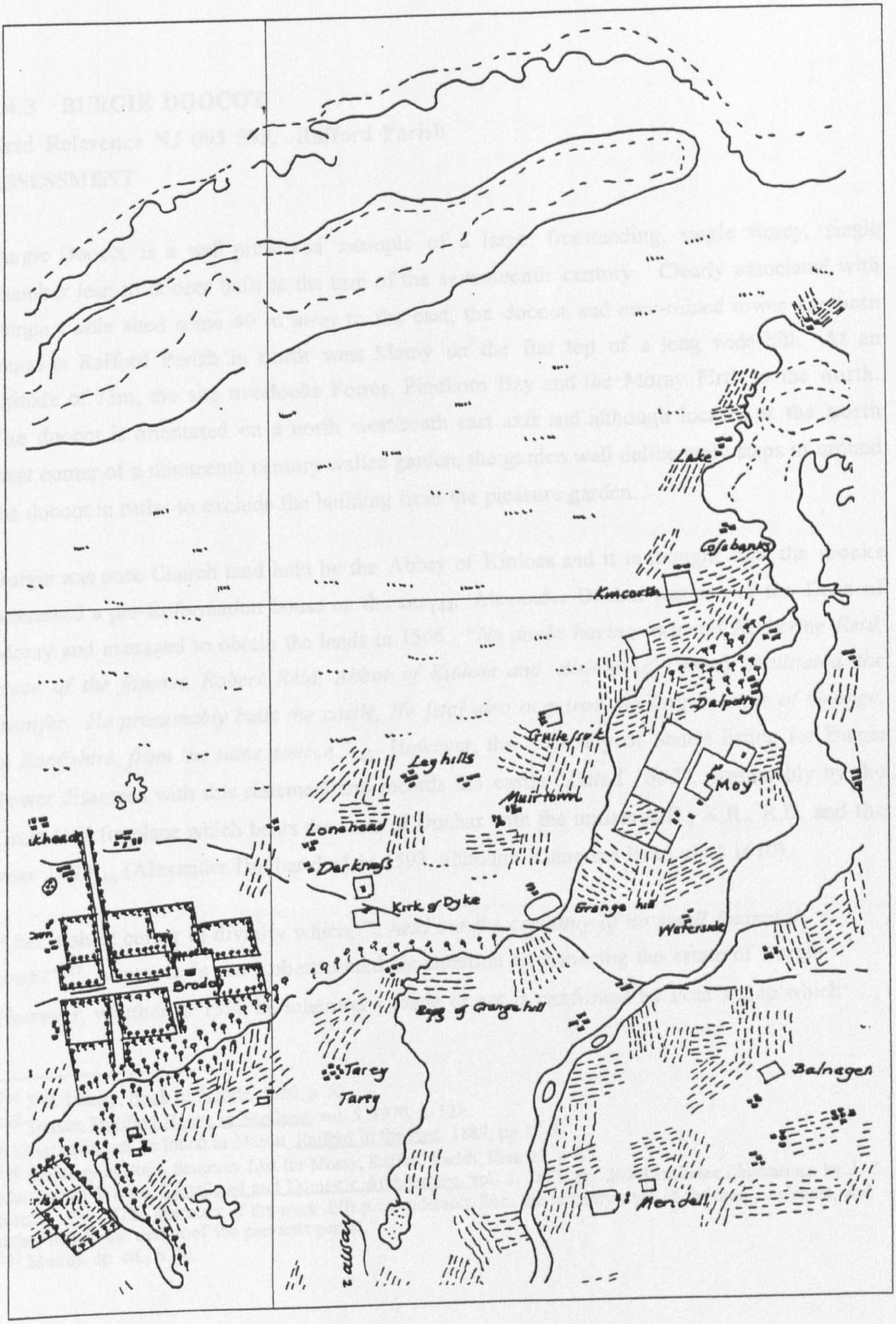
Description of house only in C. F. MacKintosh, 'Lost House of Culbin', Antiquarian Notes, (Inverness: 1865). Description of sand drifts in Omand, Moray Book, 1976, p.18.

Straloch's 'Map of Moray', c.1640 - no indication of site.

1870 O. S. - no indication of site.

No mention of pigeon house in Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, pp. 40-1.

No mention in S. Ross, Culbin Sands - Fact & Fiction, (Aberdeen: Centre for Scottish Studies, 1992) s.v. 'The Boundaries of the Old Culbin Estate', pp.116-8. See also Ross in P. Sellar, Moray Province & People, 1993, Chap. 10, s.v., 'Culbin Sands: A Mystery Unravelled', pp. 187-204.



Approximate location of Culbin Doocot (Fig. 5.4.2)

Extract from Roy, Map of Moray, c. 1750

5.4.3 BURGIE DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 093 593, Rafford Parish

ASSESSMENT

Burgie Doocot is a well preserved example of a large, freestanding, single storey, single chamber lean-to doocot built at the turn of the seventeenth century. Clearly associated with Burgie Castle sited some 40 m away to the east, the doocot and now-ruined tower are both found in Rafford Parish in north west Moray on the flat top of a long wide hill. At an altitude of 73m, the site overlooks Forres, Findhorn Bay and the Moray Firth to the north. The doocot is orientated on a north west/south east axis and although located at the north west corner of a nineteenth century walled garden, the garden wall deliberately steps in around the doocot in order to exclude the building from the pleasure garden.

Burgie was once Church land held by the Abbey of Kinloss and it is thought that the monks possessed a pre-Reformation house on the site[144]. Alexander Dunbar was son of the Dean of Moray and managed to obtain the lands in 1566. "*No doubt having married Katherine Reid, niece of the famous Robert Reid, Abbot of Kinloss and Bishop of Orkney facilitated the transfer. He presumably built the castle, He [sic] also acquired the larger estate of Grange, in Banffshire, from the same source.*"[145] However, the Secretary of State's listing for Burgie Tower disagrees with this statement and records the castle "*Dated 1602*", presumably by the Great Hall fireplace which bears the arms of Dunbar with the initials A.D., K.R., R.D. and the year 1602[146] (Alexander Dunbar died in 1593, although Katherine lived until 1610).

After a short career in divinity which, "*...held out the certainty of no small financial profit*"[147], Alexander's son Robert turned his attention to managing the estate of Burgie. However, whether in 1598 he inherited a castle or not is confirmed by Pont's map which

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144 J. G. Murray, Book of Burgie, 1930, p. 52.

145 Tranter, Fortified House in Scotland, vol. 5, 1970, p. 121.
A description can be found in Mason, Rafford in the Past, 1889, pp.18-9.

146 Secretary of State, Statutory List for Moray, Rafford Parish, Item 23, p. 15.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated and Domestic Architecture, vol. 2, 1887, pp. 260-3 includes illustrations by J. C. Nattes, 1799. "The character of the work differs considerably from the ordinary style of the time ... elegant, and rather recalls the design of the previous period."

147 Murray, op. cit., p. 20.

depicts a large fortified house at Burgie with barmkin wall.[148] Robert endured neighbourly feuds with the Roses of Kilravock as well as long family disputes with the Dunbars of Blervie and of Grange. He married twice and died in 1640 and the doocot is almost certainly of his making.[149] If the doocot was built at the time of Robert's 1598 inheritance, it will be one of the earliest lectern or lean-to in Scotland. Both Beaton and the Grampian Region Archaeologist state that the doocot is, "... *probably late 16th century*"[150], which suggests that they either disagree with the Secretary of State's dating of the castle, or that they consider the doocot was associated with an earlier house. Judging by the history of the site and architecture of the doocot, this latter assertion seems unlikely.

The longstanding feuds of Robert Dunbar took their toll and by 1668 the estate of Burgie had gone into liquidation.[151] Although a tower house was recorded at 'Burgy' on Gordon's 1640's map of Moray[152], the family's covenanting exploits resulted in the plundering of the estate by Montrose.

The estate was held by the Dunbars of Grange from 1668 to 1827 but by the 1790's, Burgie was not considered such a valuable estate.[153] In 1802, the castle was all but demolished to provide building materials for a new mansion to the west. Ancient titles and papers, which may have provided the doocot with some provenance, were kept in the old tower at Burgie but by 1830 were, "...*in a bad state of preservation... utterly illegible, and worthless to any person*"[154]. The castle became part of a pleasure garden for the new house and the 1869 Ordnance Survey shows the corner of the walled garden returned around the doocot in order to deliberately exclude it from the garden.[155] Either the doocot was still in use and required

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148 Timothy Pont's maps c. 1588-96 are held in the National Library of Scotland.

149 That is 1598-1640. (The doocot at Findrassie is remarkably similar in design [1621] and it is noteworthy that Robert Dunbar's sister Margaret married Robert Leslie of Findrassie.)

150 Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 6 and GRC Archaeologist's Site Monuments Records ref. NJ 0932 5930.

151 E. Dunbar Dunbar, Documents Relating to Moray, 1895, p. 127 et seq.

152 Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch's Map of Moray c. 1640 is held in the Advocates Library, Edinburgh.

153 O.S.A., s.v., 'Rafford', p. 631.
Also General Roy's military map of 1750 shows only a small estate around 'Bingy Castle'

154 Murray, op. cit., p. 89.

155 1869 OS held in Elgin local reference library.

easy access from the new Mains Farm only 200 m due west, and/or the building was perceived as spoiling the Victorian pleasance.

Rubble indentations on the south west and north east corners of the doocot, at a height higher than the current garden wall, indicate an alteration such as the downtaking of an earlier wall, for example the barmkin of the castle.

The curious roof platform is described by the Regional Archaeologist as, "...*unusual buttress on south west corner*"[156], whilst the Secretary of State's listing says, "... *the angle platform at the SW is unusual and its use not known; possibly as a stand for a water receptacle or merely as an alighting ledge*"[157]. The 1869 OS indicates the presence of the Den Burn, a potential source of running water for birds, about 110 m to the west of the doocot and the 1965 OS also indicates the presence of a well adjacent to the castle. The Den Burn has now been removed from the estate by some means so it is difficult to comment on the level of provision by this burn.

It is noticed that the eleventh row of the nest boxes in the doocot has a deliberately thicker horizontal slab (possibly for bearing some form of scaffolding framework) and three timber cross beams 175 x 75 mm can be found decaying on the doocot floor.

By 1930, the doocot held little esteem. "*The most notable object in the gardens, apart from the tower, is a great sycamore, or unknown antiquity*".[158] Although the building is currently redundant, it is in reasonably good condition and is a very fine early example of the lean-to doocot in Scotland which, moreover, has not been altered much in recent times. It is important therefore that the cracking which is now evident on the front wall is soon stitched and that a routine maintenance programme is established to prevent the technically weak detail of the south west platform becoming a rainwater problem and also to ensure that the self-seeded trees, around the base of the structure, do not eventually undermine the building's foundation.

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156 GRC, loc. cit.
157 Secretary of State, loc. cit.
158 Murray, op. cit., p. 122.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Burgie doocot is almost square in plan (5 x 5.7 m) and rises on the front southern face to a height of 3.1 m, whilst the taller rear of the building rises to 5.9 m. The 880 mm thick walls, including the nest boxes, are constructed using good quality random rubble sandstone bonded using lime mortar, with the likelihood that the stone was sourced around the estate[159]. The walls still retain many areas of lime harling which itself appears to have been limewashed and all of the stonework would have been covered except the finer sandstone dressings around the external angles and openings[160]. The monopitch roof, of approximately 45° pitch, is of early, if not original, construction using nine rafters of 175 x 75 mm at 500 centres with no ties but clad in sarking boards in order to receive diminishing courses of 15 mm thick local stone slates[161]. The roof contains a single 1100 mm wide centrally located catslide dormer which provides four horizontally aligned, 150 mm square arch topped, wooden flight hole entrances to the pigeon chamber within. This dormer does not possess an alighting ledge. The skews of the roof extend 400 mm above the slates and are unusually constructed using an alternating pattern of five skewputt stones built into each gable wall and 50 mm thick by 250 mm wide plain skew slabs supported off them[162]. These meet the rear wall which rises similarly above the slates and is detailed like the other lean-to doocots in Moray (at Leitcheston, Miltonduff and Findrassie) in that the wallhead has two rows of capping slabs with the topmost row staggered to cover the joints of the row below. On the western gable, the skews descend onto a puzzling, 760 x 650 mm platform which extends 720 mm above the front eaves in line with the front wall plane. The platform is merged with the vertical riser of the single 50 mm stone string course which projects 150 mm around all four sides of the building at a height of 3.1m, acting as the eaves stone on the southern face. This course is stepped and raised also at the north east corner, possibly simply to clear the height of an earlier wall.

Close study indicates the interesting possibility of another string course at a lower level, about 900 mm below the existing string course. Peterkin is quite assertive about this when he says, "... *2 string courses, lower one almost gone*"[163]. In certain areas, particularly on the east elevation, there are slight indications that this course could have stepped up and down almost in the form of long crenellations at a height of only 2.2 m above the ground. This course would have run between the centrally located, south facing, entrance door and aperture. The existing inward opening, vertically boarded, ledged and braced wooden door is of early construction but is unlikely to be the original and is fitted into an opening, 1400 high x 600 mm wide, which is formed using rough ashlar dressings with chamfered edges. A 500 mm wide threshold stone steps 50 mm down into the chamber. The 550 x 480 mm wide aperture, found above the door and 400 mm below the eaves, is now covered over with timber boards but evidence of the 20 mm deep check can just still be seen[164]. There is another similarly sized aperture high on the western gable and it is divided by a stone grille of six sections[165].

Internally the single chamber contains 492 nest boxes, well constructed on all sides, in a linear arrangement using good quality sandstone blocks and slabs of random thickness, between 50 and 100 mm, to form reasonably regular sized nest boxes of 260 wide x 270 high x 400 mm deep. These are located directly off the

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159 Forsyth, Survey of the Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed.)
It is stated that, "there is a fine quarry of free stone on the estate of Burgie".

160 See plate 5.14.4.

161 Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 23.
"This dovecote was repaired and reroofed by Mr. Alex Thomson after he acquired the estate of Burgie. The slates are the old stone slabs".

162 Ibid., p. 11. "Sometimes the walls of the dovecotes were higher than the roofs to allow for shelter. We have one example of this in Moray at Burgie". This statement should be viewed in the context of (i) most buildings in Moray have similar skew detailing, (ii) Burgie Doocot may have been originally covered in much thicker roof slabs than they are today.

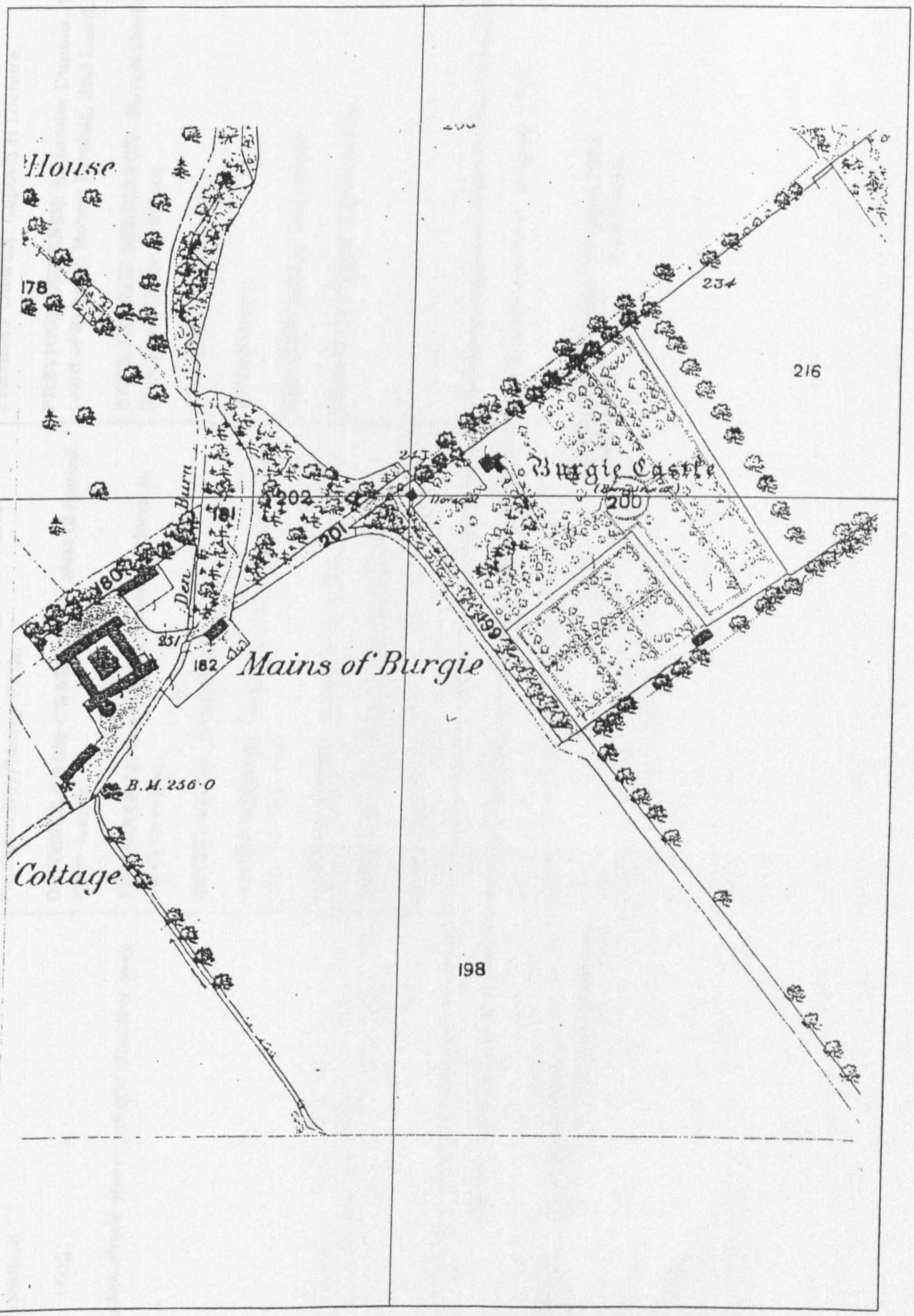
163 Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1981, p. 60.
Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 378, reinforces this claim. "The walls are three feet thick, and have two string courses".

164 Murray's photograph (n. 2) shows the aperture before it was blocked up and the check in the stone reveal is most evident.

165 Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1995, p. 168.
"In the west gable is a large opening containing two tiers of three openings for the pigeons".

floor level and rise on the back wall to a height of 16 rows and diminish down each gable to only 9 rows on the shorter front elevation. The boxes are jointed using lime mortar but are otherwise devoid of evidence of ever being plastered. The eleventh row of the rear and gable walls employs notably thicker stone base material, possibly to withstand scaffolding or prop a ladder for collection from the top-most boxes. The earthen floor may be the original finish or may have had slabs removed explaining the small step down at the threshold slab.

Written: February 1996



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Burgie Doocot (Fig. 5.4.3)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 093 593. **PARISH**: Rafford. **DATE**: c. 1602. **TYPE**: Large single storey, single chamber lean-to.	**SITING:** Top of hill overlooking Forres and Findhorn Bay/Moray Firth. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 40 m west of ruined tower house. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Undulating generally down in north direction. **ORIENTATION:** NW/SE axis. **WATER SOURCE**: Denburn 110 m to west. Well near castle to east. **MATURE TREES**: A few 20 m to SW. **LAND USE:** Landscaped policies/agricultural.. **ALTITUDE:** 75 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Captain H Lochore. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** Alexander Dunbar, 1st Laird of Burgie?, Robert Dunbar, 2nd Laird. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Burgie Castle (now partially demolished). **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT:** n/a. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Pigeon house.

NOTES: Owner cut down thick vegetation and semi-mature trees growing around structure following site inspection. (August 1992)

Date of Check: 10 August 1994.
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 13 June 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Reasonably good. **REPAIRS:** None evident other than early re-roofing. **ALTERATIONS:** Blocking of front aperture, possible removal of lower ledge, removal of barmkin wall? Replacement door, floor slabs removed? **FUTURE RISK:** Failure to stitch crack on front wall, undermining of foundations by tree roots, lack of routine maintenance behind SW roof platform.	**PLAN FORM:** Almost square. **PLAN SIZE:** 5 x 5.7 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 3.1 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 5.9 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Good quality random rubble. **WALL MATERIAL:** Sandstone and lime mortar. **WALL THICKNESS:** 880 mm (including boxes). **WALL FINISH:** Limeharling and sandstone dressings. **ROOF FORM:** Monopitch. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 9 rafters 175 x 75 mm at 500 mm centres with no ties (later replacement). **ROOF PITCH:** 45°. **ROOF FINISH:** Diminishing courses of 15 mm thick local stone slates.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Inward opening vertically boarded ledged and braced wooden door (later replacement). **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** n/a. **DOOR SIZE:** 1400 (h) x 600 mm (w). **DOOR SITING:** Centred on south front wall. **LEDGES:** One remaining, one possibly removed. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 2.2 (removed?) 3.1 m (remaining). **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 16.5 m (remaining). **APERTURES:** South wall - 550 (h) x 480 (w). **VENT HOLES:** west wall - 550 (h) x 500 (w) (divided into 6 using stone slabs). **FLIGHT HOLES:** 4 in wooden fronted dormer - 150 mm square. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** 0.629 m^3. **LIMEWASH:** Yes - traces. **DORMERS:** Yes - one central slated catslide. 1100 (w) x 300 mm (h). **SKEWS:** Unusual alternating combination of skew putts and skew slabs. **FINIALS:** No. **WEATHER VANE:** No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Yes - 50 mm down

PARTITION WALLS: No

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: n/a

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement of quality 75 to 100 mm sandstone blocks and 50 to 75 mm slabs.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 492.

NEST BOX SIZE: 260 (w) x 270 (h) x 400 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: No.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: No.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Only at joints.

COLLECTING AID: 3 No., 175 x 75 mm timber beams - scaffold device?

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 492 x 2 x 0.7 = 688.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 73.9 m^3

OTHER: 11th row nest box slab thicker than others

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:

- function of SW corner roof platform
- lower ledge existed?
- connected to barmkin wall?
- water source
- thicker nest box slab to support collecting scaffolding?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 6.
R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 11, 14, **23**, 24.
A. N. Robertson, "The Old Dovecotes of Scotland", 1961, pp. 375, **378**.
G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1981, p. 60.
D. Omand (ed.), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181, 185.
R. Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p. 168.

ARTICLES:

J. McCann, "Historical Enquiry", 1991, p. 111.

LISTING: Rafford Parish Item No. 24, p. 16, Category B 1971.

SMR: NJ 0932 5930

MAPS: 1870, 1902, 1965 OS Maps.

- Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch's map c. 1640 held in the Advocates Library, Edinburgh.
- Roy's map of Moray, 1750 held by Regional Archaeologist and National Map Library.
- Timothy Pont's map c. 1590's held in the National Map Library of Scotland.

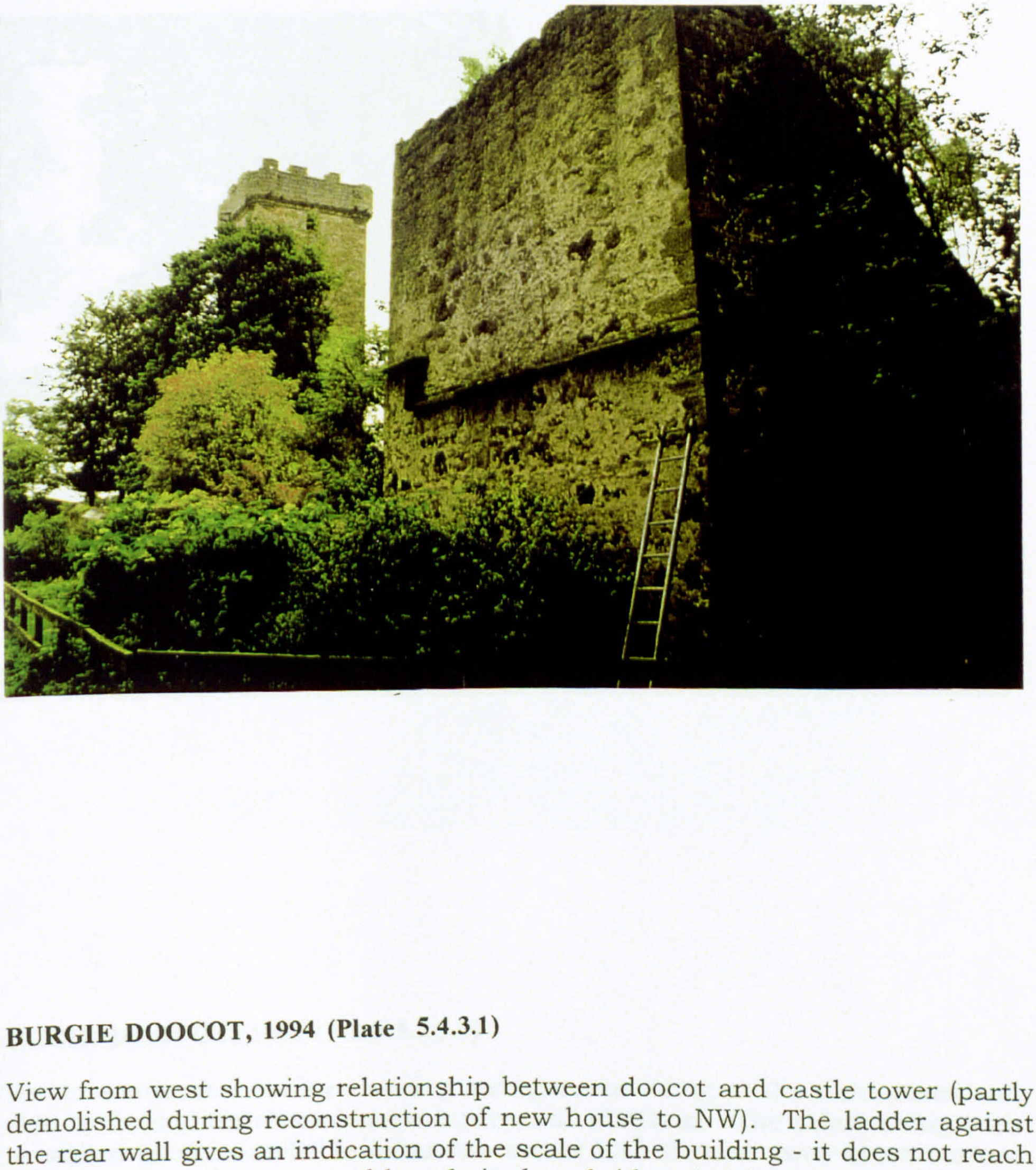
PHOTOGRAPHS:

J. A. Murray, The Book of Burgie, 1930, p. 52.

OTHER: ESTATE INFORMATION

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 83.
I. Forsyth, Survey of the Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 edn.), pp. 161-3.
J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, (1983 edn.), pp. 36, 55.
E. Dunbar Dunbar, Documents Relating to Moray, 1895, pp. 127-42.
MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated & Domestic Architecture, vol. 2, 1887, p. 260.
O.S.A., s.v. 'Rafford', p. 630.
N.S.A., s.v. 'Rafford', p. 248.
E. Simpson, Discovering Moray, 1992, p. 98.
N. Tranter, Fortified Houses in Scotland, vol. 5, 1970, pp. 120-2.
W. Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, pp. 53-4.
T.L. Mason, Rafford in the Past, 1889, pp. 18-9.

NOTES: Remarkably similar ruined castle nearby at Blervie (but no doocot).



BURGIE DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.4.3.1)

View from west showing relationship between doocot and castle tower (partly demolished during reconstruction of new house to NW). The ladder against the rear wall gives an indication of the scale of the building - it does not reach the stepped stringcourse although it does bridge the (just) visible line of a possible removed course.



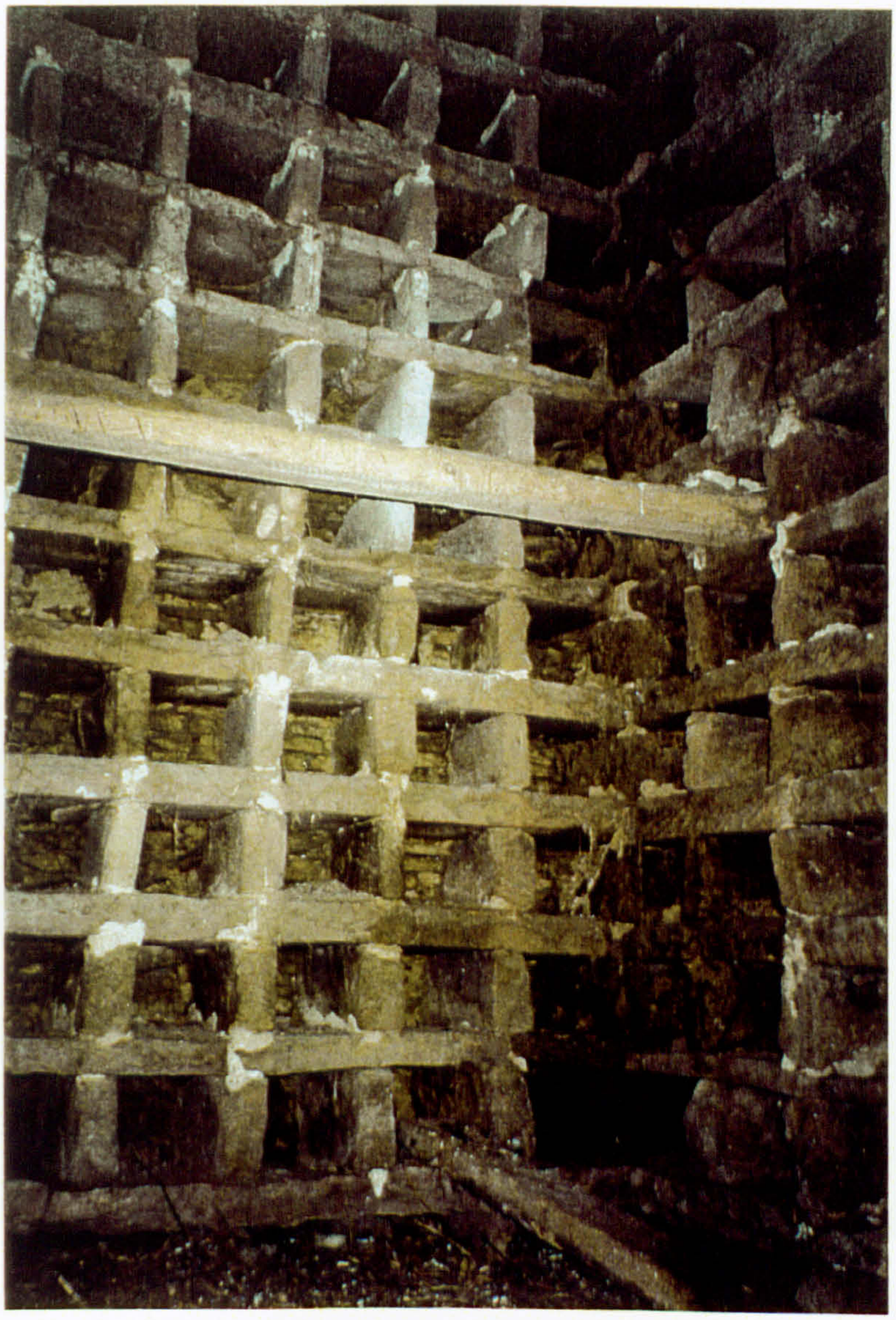
BURGIE DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.4.3.2)

View to south west corner showing stringcourse rising at the front eaves and gable to form the unusual skew buttressed platform. The relationship with the walled garden is visible (after the owner had cleared away some mature vegetation) as is the front door, central aperture and single catslide roof dormer.



BURGIE DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.4.3.3.)

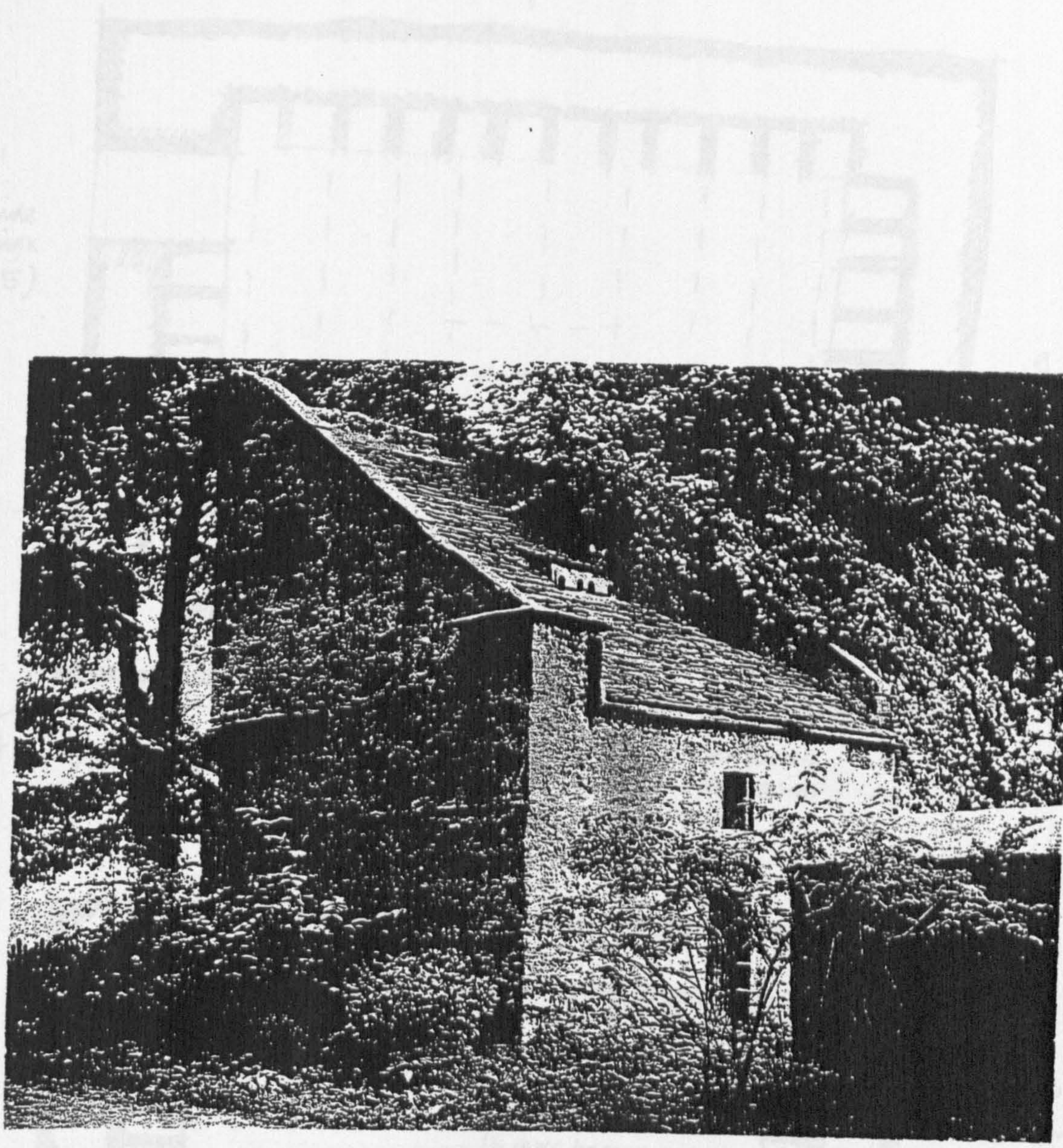
View of north east corner showing front eaves stringcourse continuing along gable and rear but stepping up at corner. Note how dressed corner stones are missing below the course height to suggest (i) they have been deliberately removed, (ii) a patch repair has occurred at an alternation - such as the removal of a barmkin wall. Patches of harling are still visible over the whole structure.



BURGIE DOOCOT, 1994 INTERIOR (Plate 5.4.3.4)

Interior of doocot showing quality of sandstone boxes which begin at ground level - guano debris has, however, started to cover the bottom row.

A horizontal timber beam inserted into nest boxes still spans the back wall at about mid height whilst another beam lies collapsed on the floor. Together, these beams possibly provide some sort of scaffolding to aid management/ collection of birds.

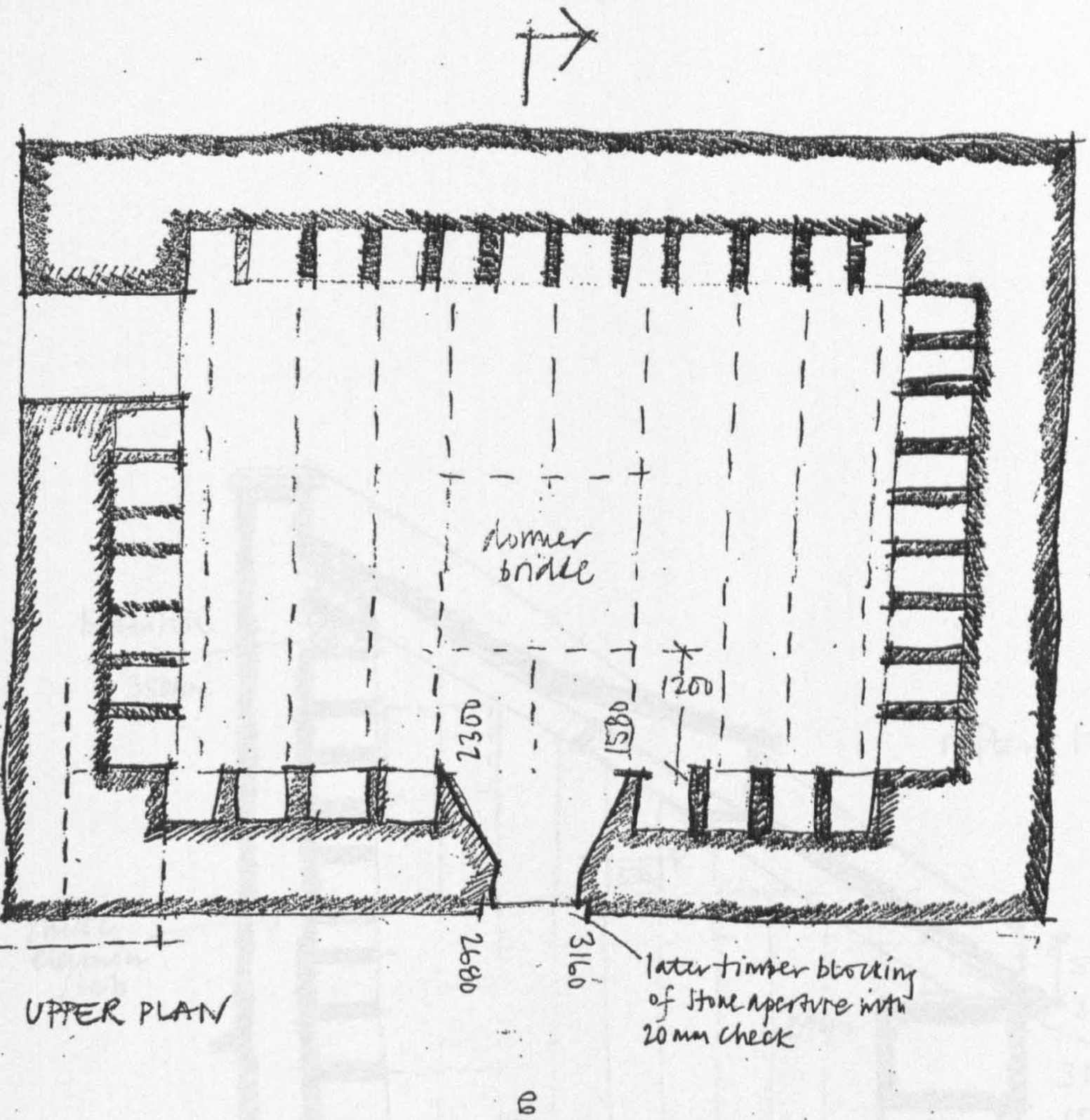


BURGIE DOOCOT 1930 (Plate 5.4.3.5)

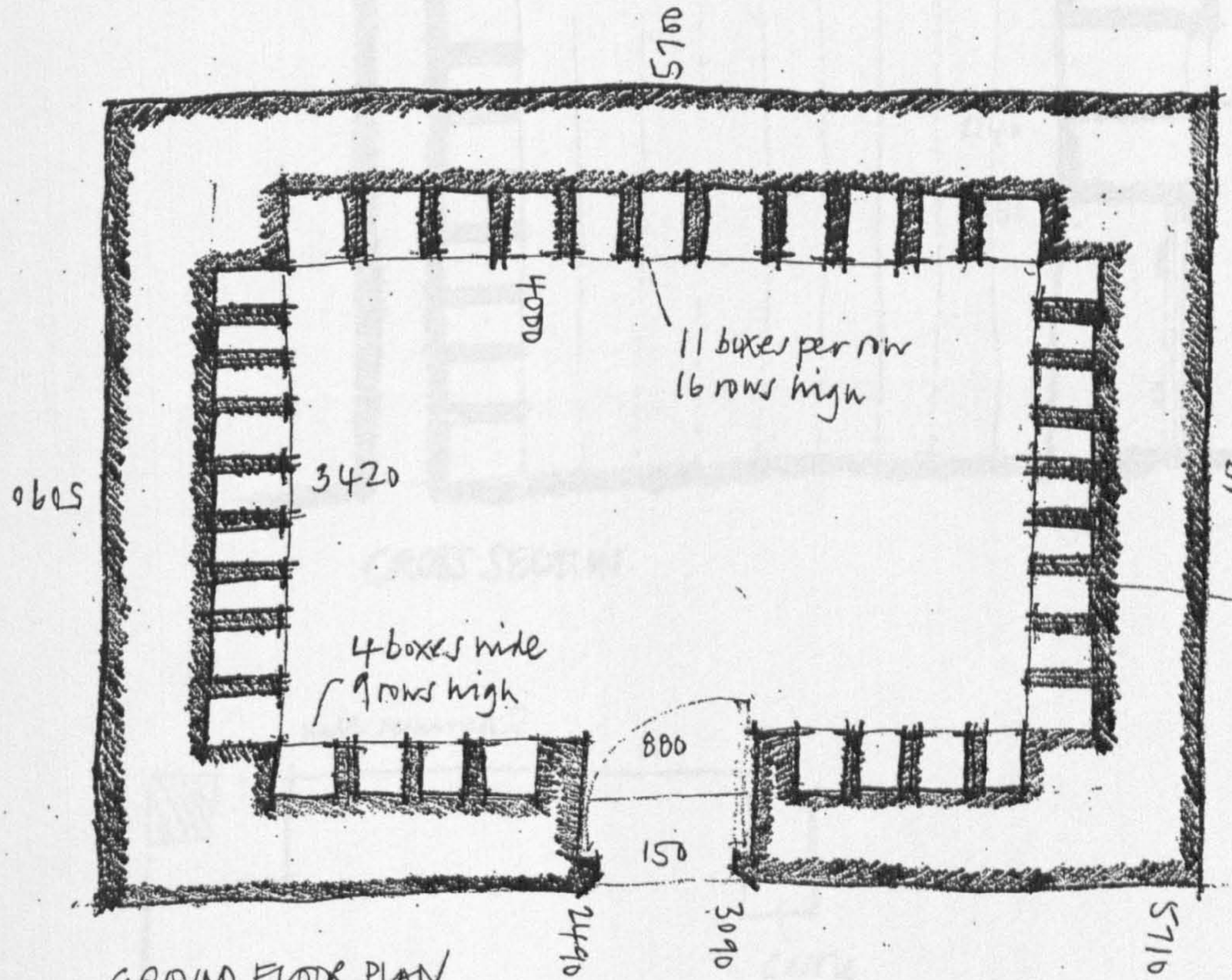
Photograph of south-west corner extracted from Murray's, Book of Burgie, p.52 (c.f. plate 5.4.3.2).

The building has deteriorated little since the photograph was taken, although the harling is less evident today. A third 'removed ledge' however is apparent at a curiously low level, which would make this a highly unusual doocot if proven to be the case. In absence of substantial evidence, the horizontal lines should perhaps be treated more as 'construction lifts' which are a common-place feature in masonry building.

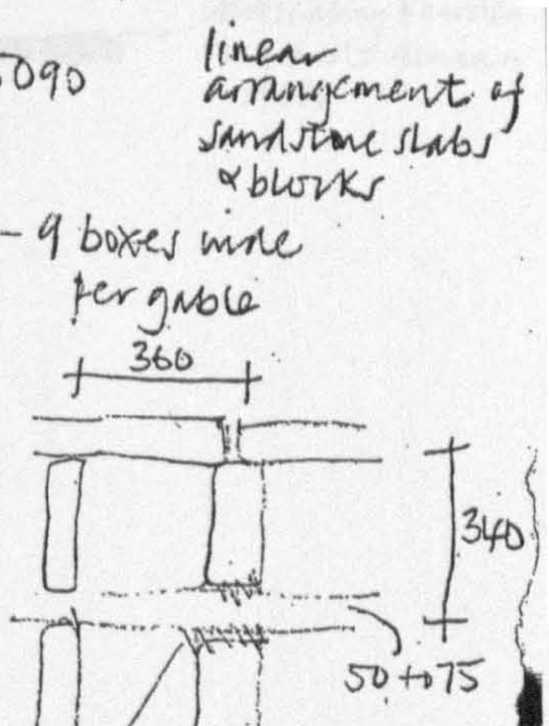
high level aperture.
- 2 boxes wide
2 boxes high
(row 14 & 15)



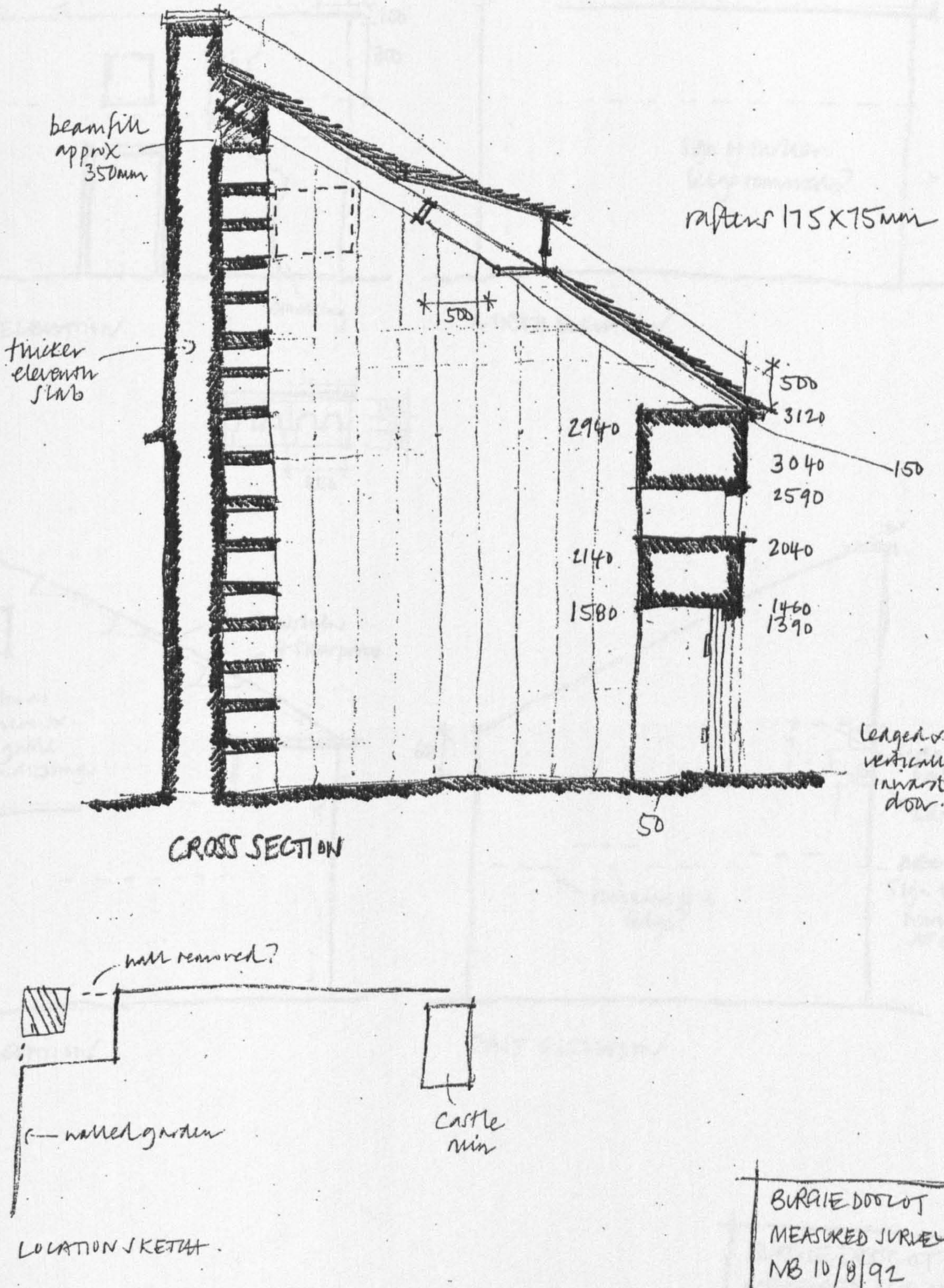
- 9 rafters at 50 mm cts.
- no ties
- dormer bridle spa 2 rafters.



boxes 400(d) x 260(w) x 270(h)



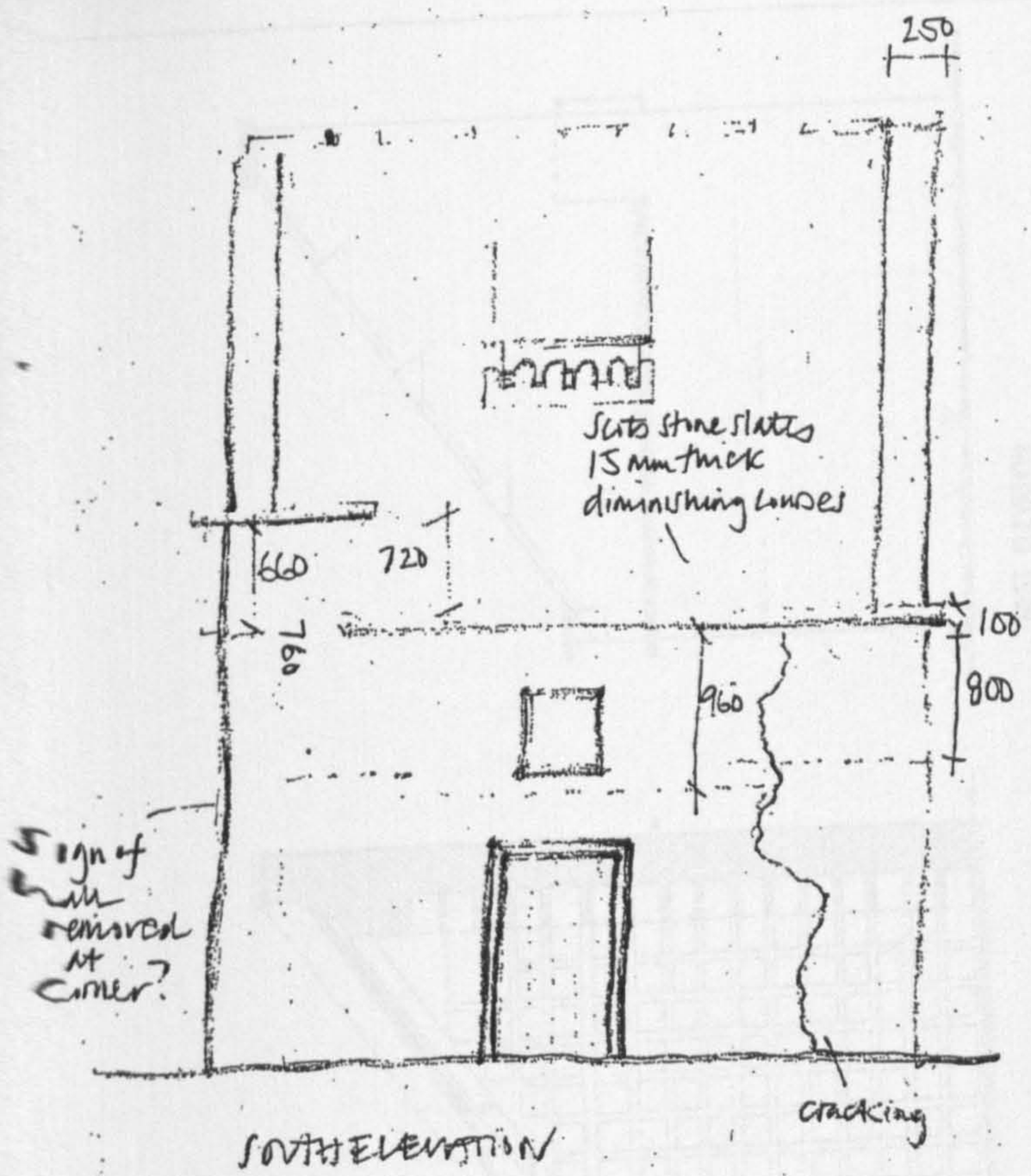
BURGIE DOOLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 10/8/92



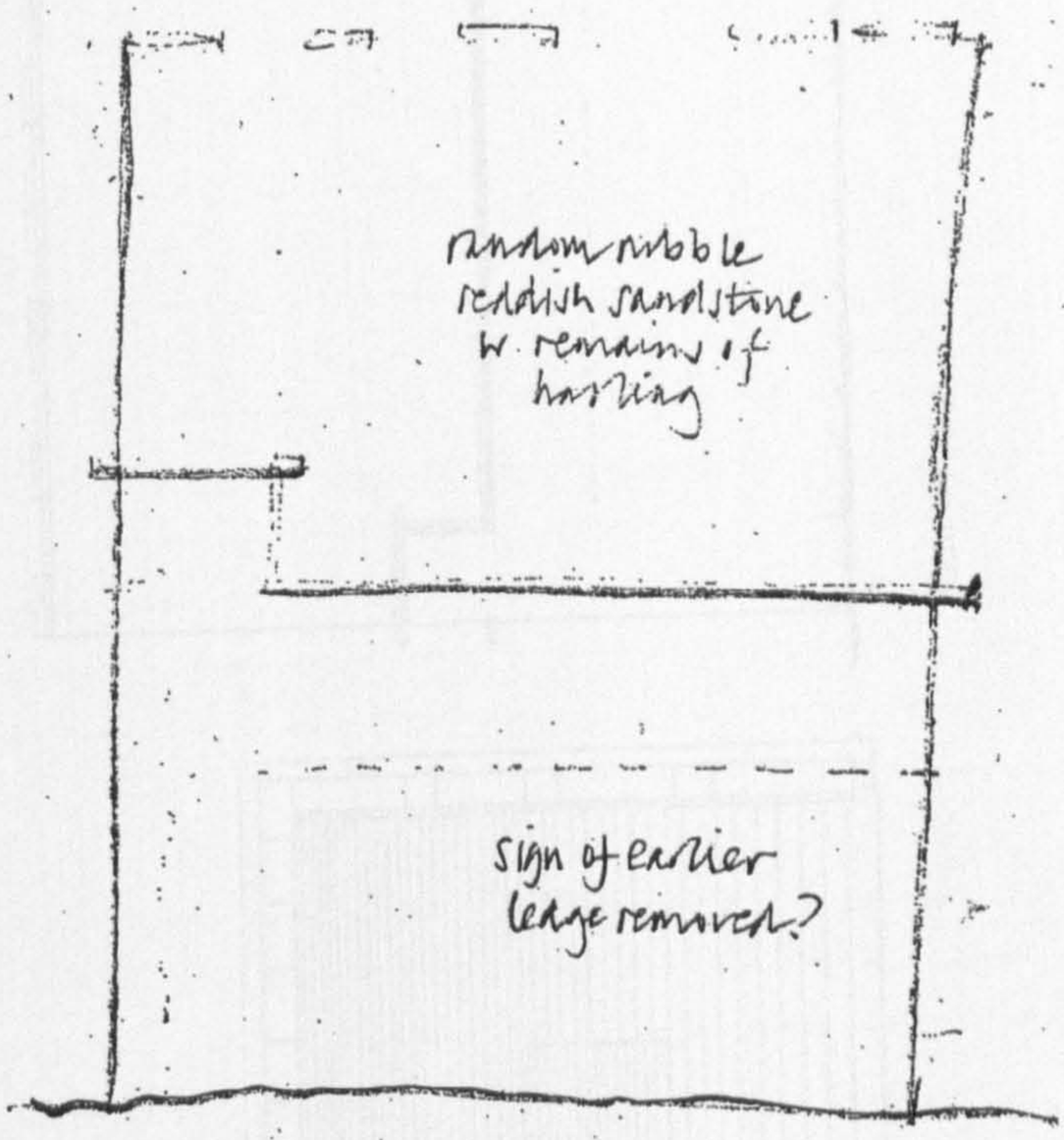
CROSS SECTION

LOCATION SKETCH.

BURGIE DOOLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
MB 10/8/92



SOUTH ELEVATION



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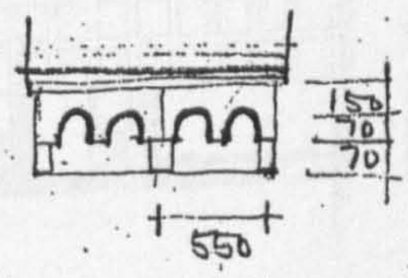
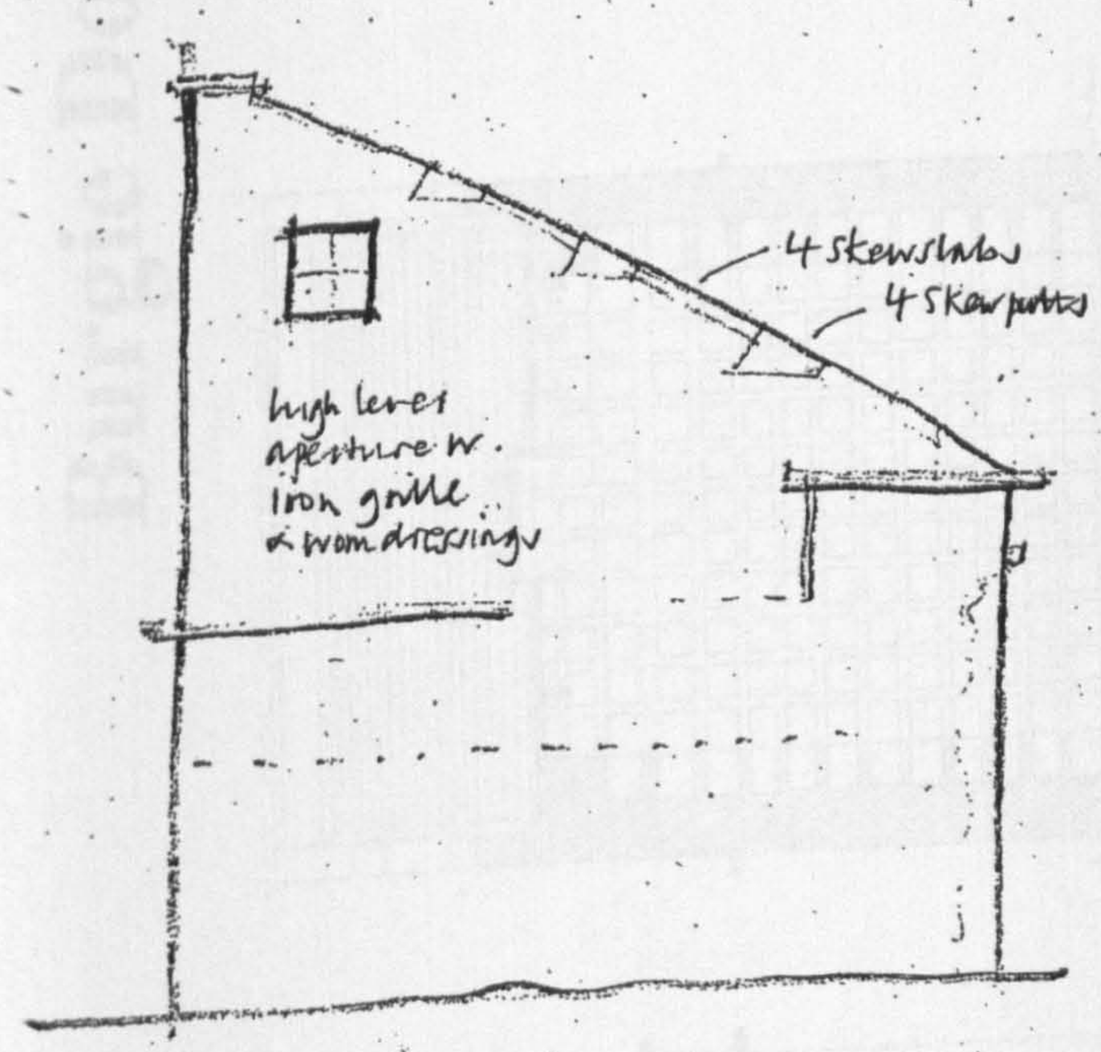
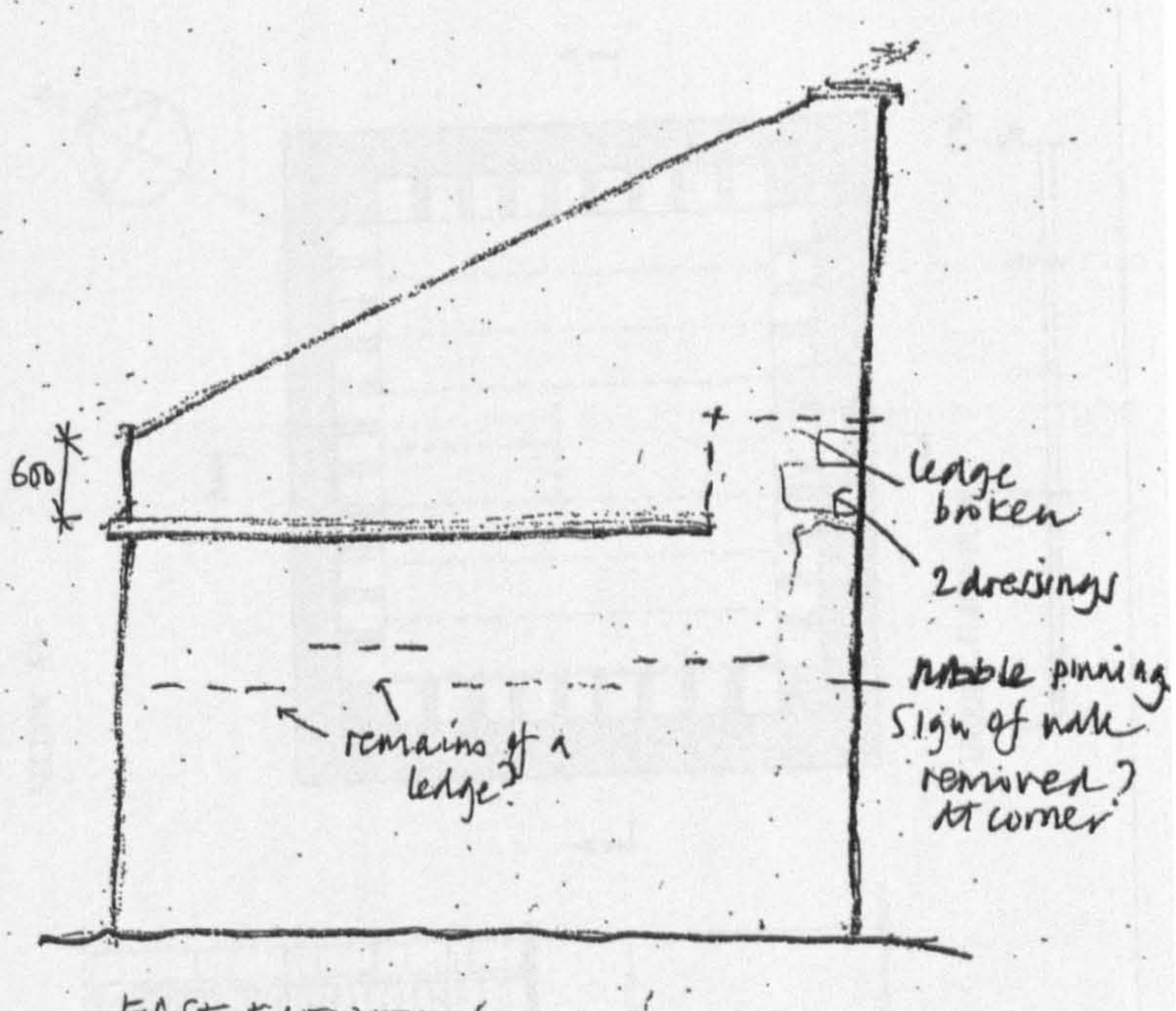




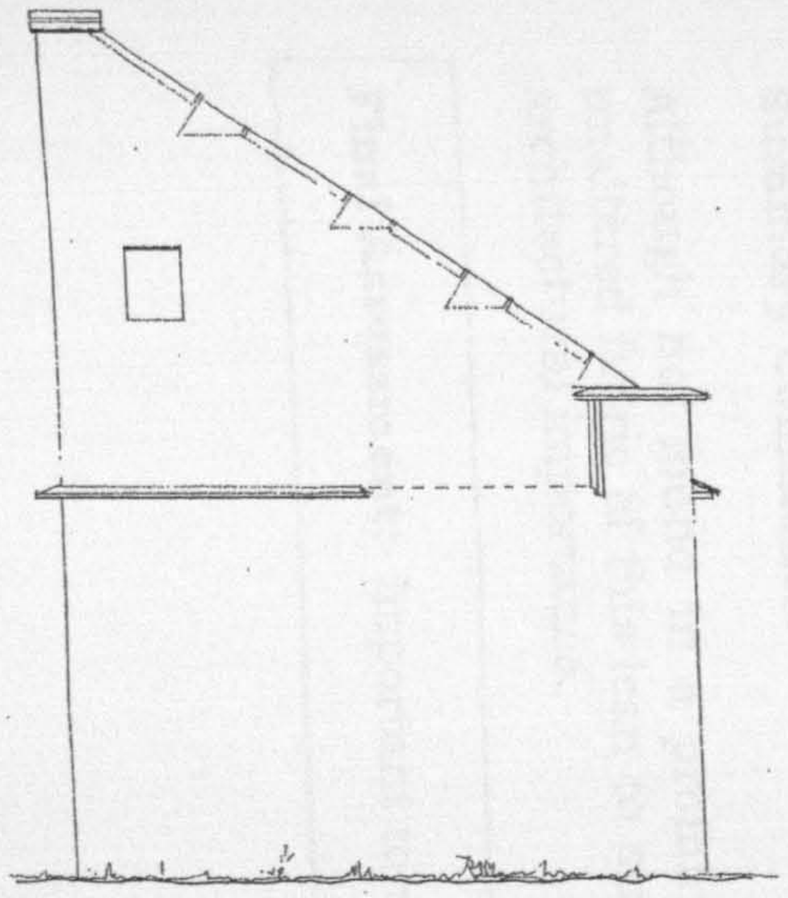
WEST ELEVATION



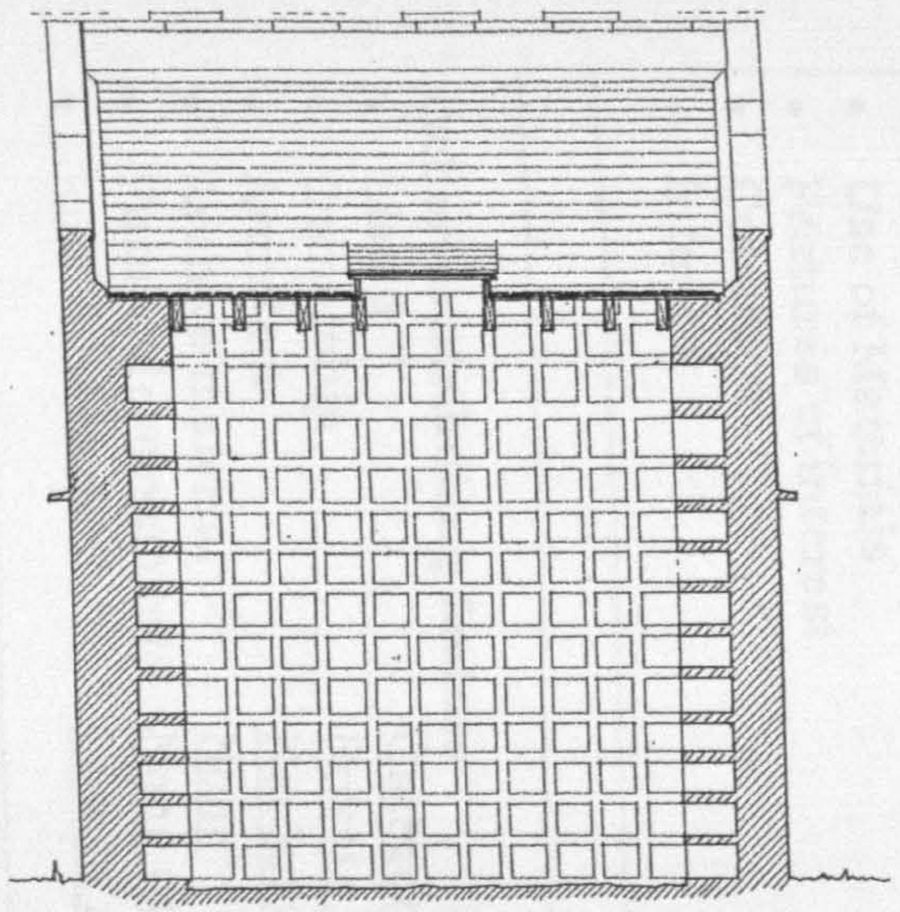
EAST ELEVATION

BURGIE DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 10/8/92

Burgie Doocot



EAST ELEVATION



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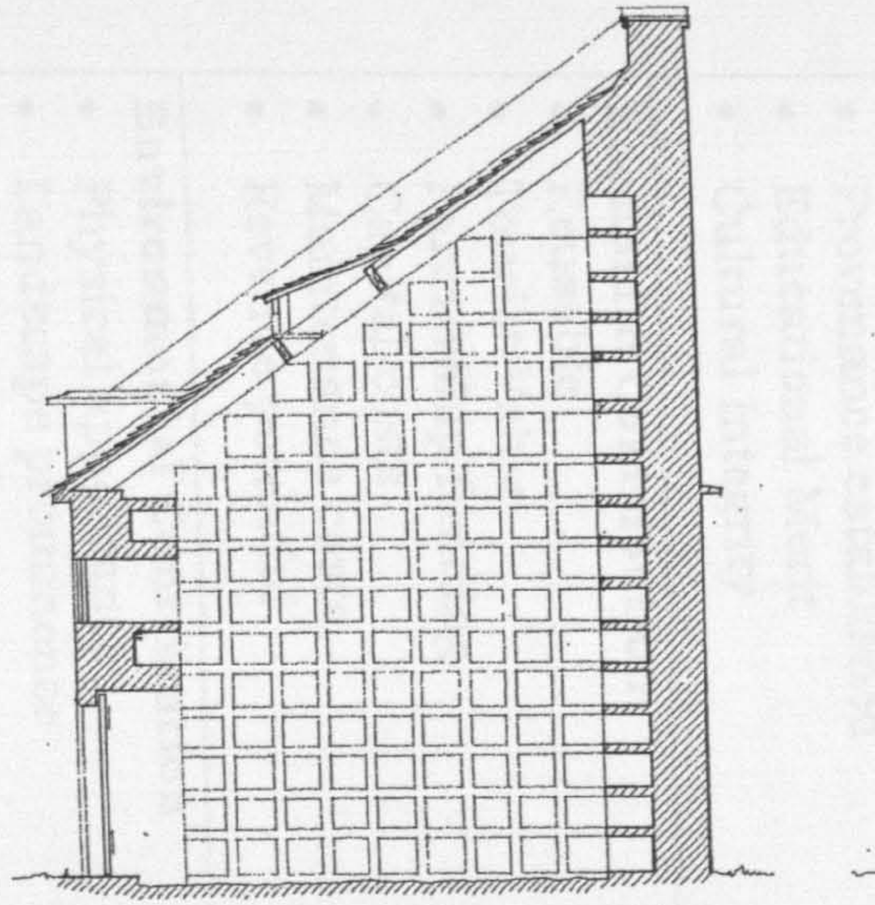

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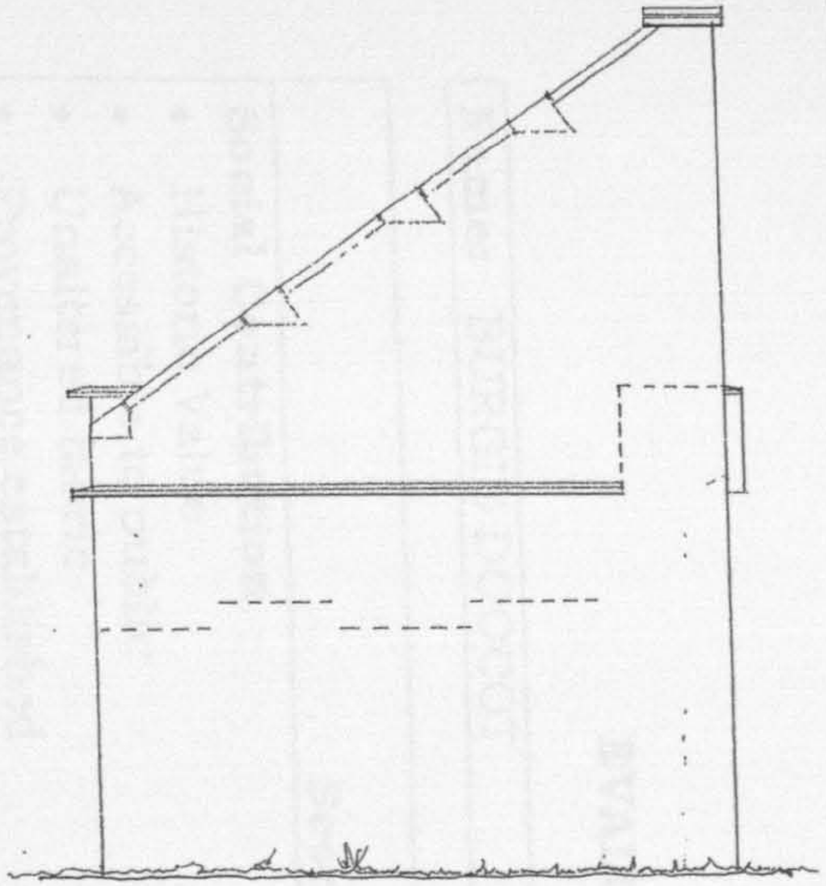
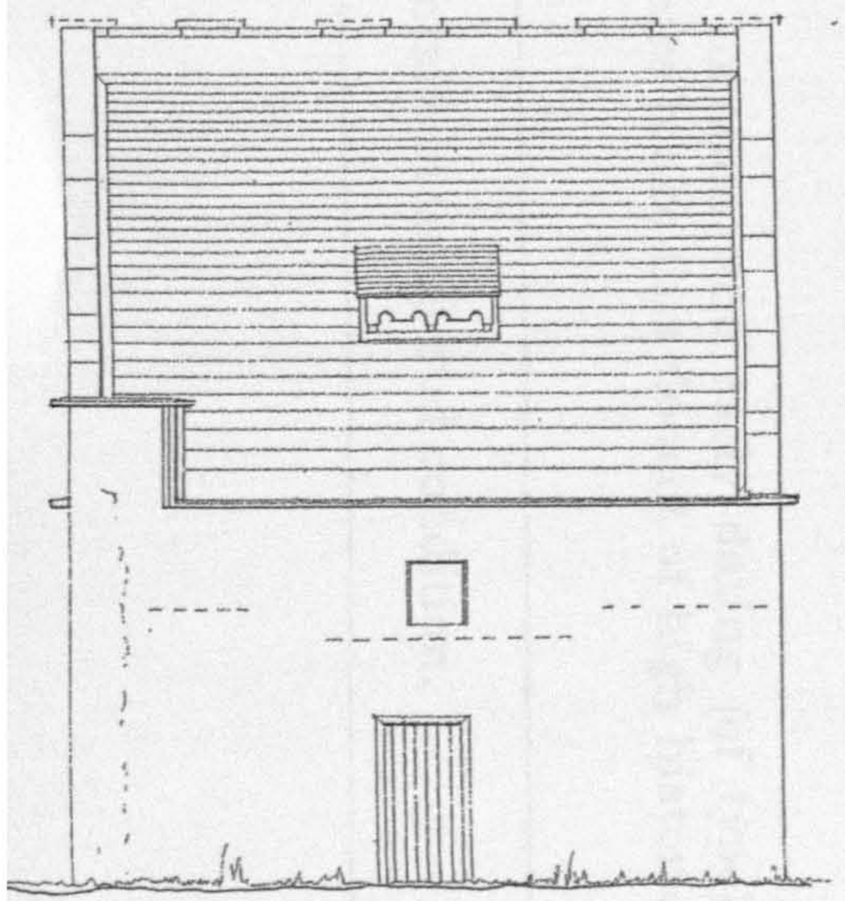


WEST ELEVATION



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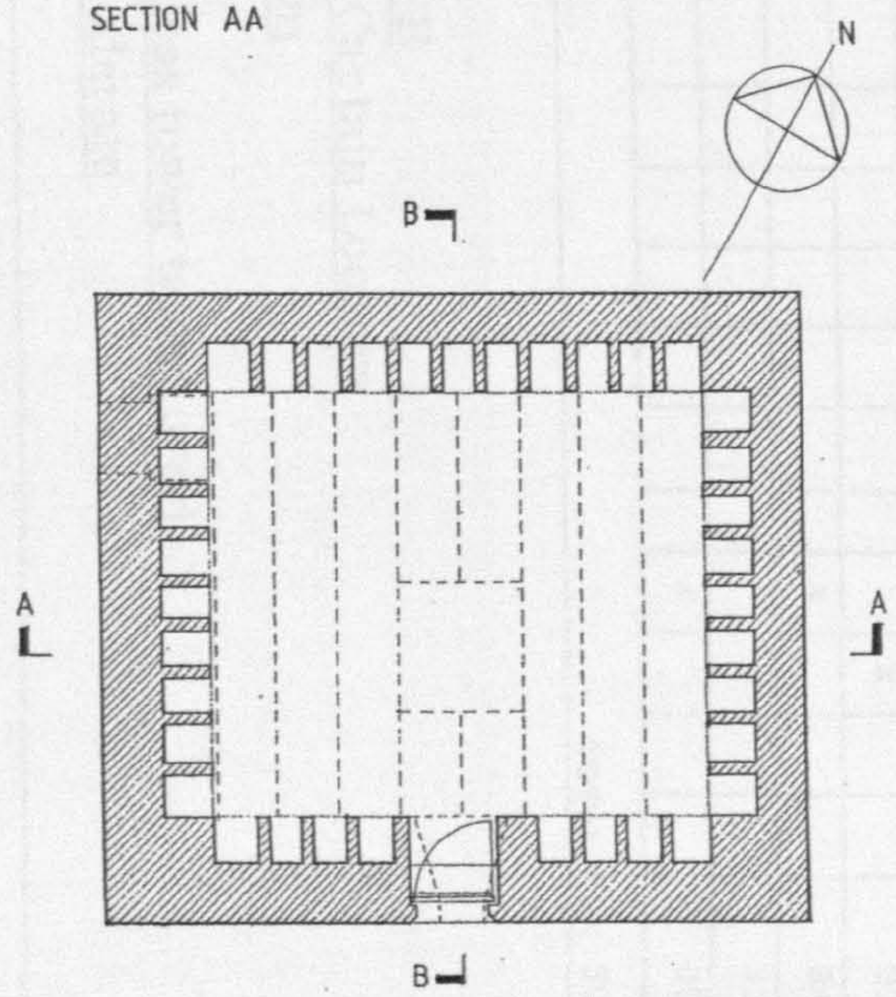
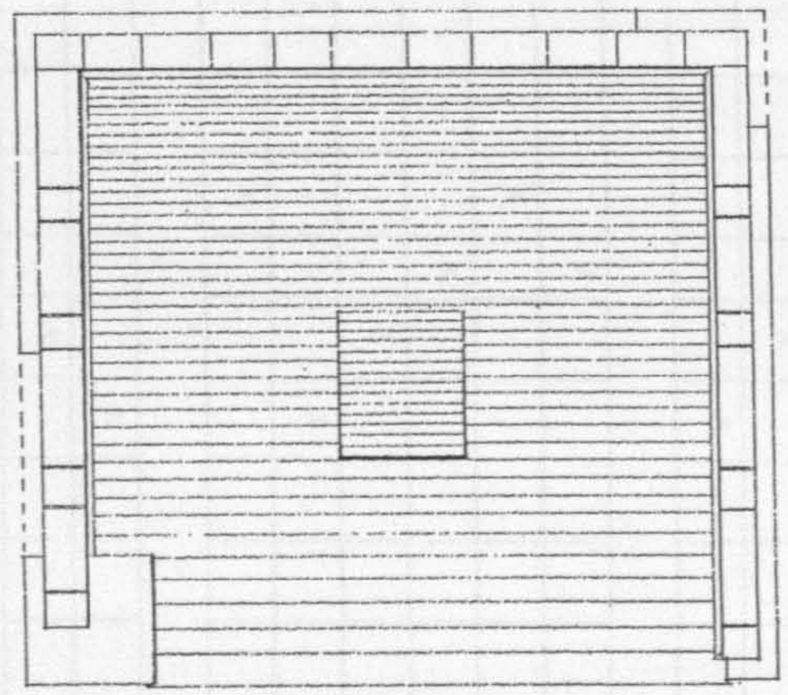
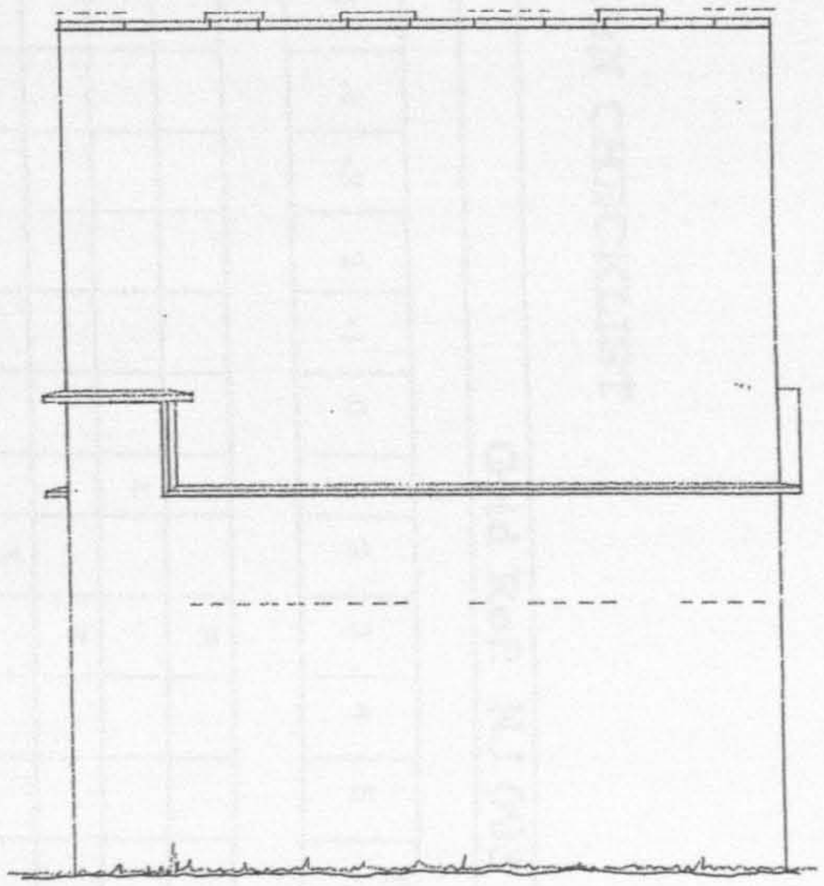


GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1 50

0 1 2 3 4 5m



ROOF PLAN



NORTH ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: BURGIE DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 093 593

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public							x					4
• Unaltered fabric									x			7
• Provenance established								x				9
• Educational Merit								x				11
• Cultural Integrity									x			14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					15
• Tourist Value						x						15
• Partnership funding							x					16
• Capital costs								x				18
• Maintenance costs									x			21
• Revenue potential						x						21
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									x			24
• Landscape prominence								x				26
• Original setting									x			29
• Use of Materials									x			32
• Features of interest								x				34
• Condition									x			37
• Interior								x				39
											TOTAL	39

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private - Captain Lochore
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None (unless tower taken over)
- Risk Assessment — Low to moderate

Summary Comments:

Although not found in a prominent location, the early dating (of type) and unaltered fabric of this lean-to structure make this doocot of high historic and architectural importance.

Final Assessment: Important to maintain in unaltered condition.

5.4.4 DALVEY (OR GRANGE HILL) DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 004 586, Dyke and Moy Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Dalvey Doocot is an unusual example of a freestanding, large, double-pitched, single-chamber tower built in the early to mid seventeenth century. It is sited in the western plain of the 'Laich of Moray' 20m above sea level near the Findhorn Bay in the parish of Dyke and Moy, with the Royal Burgh of Forres only one and a half miles to the east. The doocot sits 80 m north-west of a classical mansion which was built for Captain Alexander MacLeod when he took ownership of the estate around 1798 and his new house was described by J & W Watson in 1868 as one which, "*...stands on a gentle eminence, with a fine southern exposure. The grounds around the mansion are laid out with the greatest taste and care, while the garden, with its orchard, greenhouse, vinery, etc. may vie with the richest palatial residence in the Kingdom.*"[166]

The doocot is south-east facing towards the present mansion but its relationship with the former 'castle of Grange Hill' is not known. The Muckle Burn, which provided a continuous water source for birds, is situated 180 m away to the south east, whilst a well nearby (thought to have served the priory monks of Pluscarden in the sixteenth century), still supplied the present mansion during this century. Since the nineteenth century, the doocot has formed part of the landscape policies and has been surrounded by selectively planted mature trees.

The estate was formerly known as 'Grangehill' and Millar's map described by Forsyth as, "... *the most accurate Map of the Province of Moray is offered to public notice*", shows the estate marked Dalvey but indicated as being a '*habitable castle*'[167]. The nearby estates of Moy and Kincorth, however, are shown on the map as '*gentlemen's seats*' and are later described, in the survey by Reverend Lesley of Darkland, as being '*modern structures*'[168]. This suggests that Captain MacLeod probably took over the former castle and doocot from Sir Alexander Grant of Dalvey who had purchased the Grange Hill estate from the Dunbar family in 1749

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166 J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p. 72.

167 Forsyth, Survey of the Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed.), p. 173.

168 Ibid, the book contains a fold-out map of the Province produced by Mr William Millar, Engineer of the Sutherland Coal Work. Forsyth credits Millar within his "Advertisement", p. (ii).

and proceeded to change its name. The Dunbar family are thought to have purchased the lands in 1608 from the Earl of Dunfermline who became commendator of the lands after the Reformation dispossessed the priory of Pluscarden, "... *where a detachment of their brotherhood resided*"[169].

There is a coat of arms sited on the south-western gable of the doocot which was placed there at the beginning of this century by Colonel MacLeod during the reconstruction of the present mansion's kitchen. The Secretary of State's listing conjectures that the coat of arms is that of Sir Robert Dunbar and his wife Christian Learmonth who owned the Barony of Durris in 1569[170]. Their son Mark Dunbar is reputed to have purchased Grange Hill in 1608 and it may be that the doocot was built around this time, or when his son Ninian began running the estate in the 1620's. Mark Dunbar sold his barony of Durris and, "*With the money received from this transaction he proceeded to invest in landed property on both sides of the Findhorn*"[171]. The Regional Archaeologist dates the doocot "*17th Century*?"[172], whereas Douglas suggests that it may have been, "... *erected about the period of Sir Robert Dunbar*"[173]. The building was, "... *a good pigeon-house, well-stored*" in 1790 which might explain why it survived the rebuilding programme of the main house.[174]

This listed building is at present sadly under threat of partial collapse if the roof is not soon made watertight and the rear wall is repaired. This condition would lead to great loss of the upper section and particularly to the gables and nest boxes. It is therefore hoped that the current owner is able to secure successful funding to enable the repair of what is the oldest structure on the Dalvey Estate and the last remaining trace of the former Castle of Grange Hill.

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169 Ibid, p. 173.
170 Secretary of State, Statutory Listing for Moray, Dyke & Moy Parish, Item 10, p. 13.
171 W. J. Murray, The Dunbars of Grange Hill, u.d., p. 7.
172 Grampian Regional Council, Archaeologist's Site Monument Records, Ref: NJ 05 NW 26.
173 Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 19, i.e. period between 1569 and 1608.
174 Edinburgh Evening Courant, 15/2/1790, p. 4.
Murray's, Book of Burgie, 1930, p. 33, also highlights the building as having survived an earlier threat; "Montrose plundered, burnt and spoilized their houses and lands, the place of Grange Hill pertaining to Ninian Dunbar".

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Dalvey doocot is square in plan, 5 x 5 m, with a wallhead height of 4 m rising to an overall height at its ridge of 7 m. Its 850 mm thick walls are well constructed in uncoursed random rubble masonry, bonded with coarse lime mortar, including reddish sandstone dressings at the angles and around the door opening, with smaller stone pinnings carefully inserted between the rubble work. The walls are covered with a reddish tone lime harl which appears to have been limewashed.

The double pitch roof at 45° has been reconstructed, possibly during the late nineteenth century, using eight pairs of machine-sawn, 150 x 60 mm, rafters at 450 mm centres with matching section ties approximately one third of the way up the rafter, thus forming an A-type truss clad with standard-sized sarking boards. The roof is covered with diminishing courses of blue/grey and moss-covered Ballachulish slates, although remnants of earlier thicker stone slates can still be seen around the skews and wallhead areas where the roof has collapsed and the construction exposed.

A wooden door, composed of four vertical boards and two horizontal braces, is hinged to swing inwards and is of an early design but not original. The door is 1680 mm high x 610 mm wide centred on the south facing wall. Sited a further 1680 mm above is a single continuous 40 mm sandstone ledge projecting 200 mm beyond the wall face. Another ledge is to be found 2.3 m above this ledge but only on the upper sections of each gable. The coat of arms is sited between these courses on the western gable, with the slight possibility that it may have been inserted into an earlier aperture. There are no vent holes other than the total of four louvered openings in the two 350 mm wide eyebrow dormers which are centrally located on the south east facing roof. The openings are each 300 mm wide x 150 mm high constructed in wood with slate cheeks and it is not clear whether these are original designs. The roof is protected at its gables, by eleven weathered, light-grey, sandstone crowsteps at each of the four gable sides although the top crowsteps are now missing.

There is a 150 mm threshold step down into the doocot but it is not possible to make an assessment of the floor construction due to the collapsed debris. There are approximately 678 nest boxes lining all four walls to roof level. They are constructed in a linear arrangement using highly regular, 100 mm sandstone uprights with 700 to 1000 mm stone slabs which are 50 to 100 mm thick[175]. The nest boxes are 270 mm wide x 390 mm deep x 220 mm high and, although it is not clear whether or not they are raised off the floor, it can be seen that some of them, at low level and around the doorway, have been blocked up at a later date. There is clear evidence of plastering and/or limewashing on the boxes on all surfaces except their ceilings.

Written: February, 1996

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175 Beaton records however in the Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 8 that the doocot possesses "... 889 nesting boxes of stone - the largest number in Moray".

ADDENDUM

Restoration work on the building commenced October 1996 (Contractor, Bruce Hay of Forres). The existing roof was repaired in its entirety and stone slates, salvaged from the Seafield Estate, Cullen, were used as a best match to the sample of original slate found in the rear wallhead. Structurally unsound nest boxes were reconstructed, as was the timber door. The floor was excavated of debris to find a cobbled surface below. The repair, costing about £9,000, was supported by Historic Scotland and The Moray Council.

An armorial panel bearing the initials 'MD' and 'IF' was an exciting discovery beneath the harling on the west gable and immediately below the previously known armorial. The panel was found in excellent condition and may be explained by quoting the Murray's, Dunbars of Grangehill, *"On 18 May, 1607, the King granted, and gave of new to Mark Dunbar and Isobel Falconer, his spouse, the lands of Greshop..... Finally in 1608 he bought the lands of Grangehill from the Earl of Dunfermline"*[176]. If the armorial is original to the doocot, and it appears to be so, then the building would have been probably erected sometime between 1608 and 1620.

Having been restored using public money, Dalvey Doocot should be made more accessible to the public, for example during Doors Open Day.

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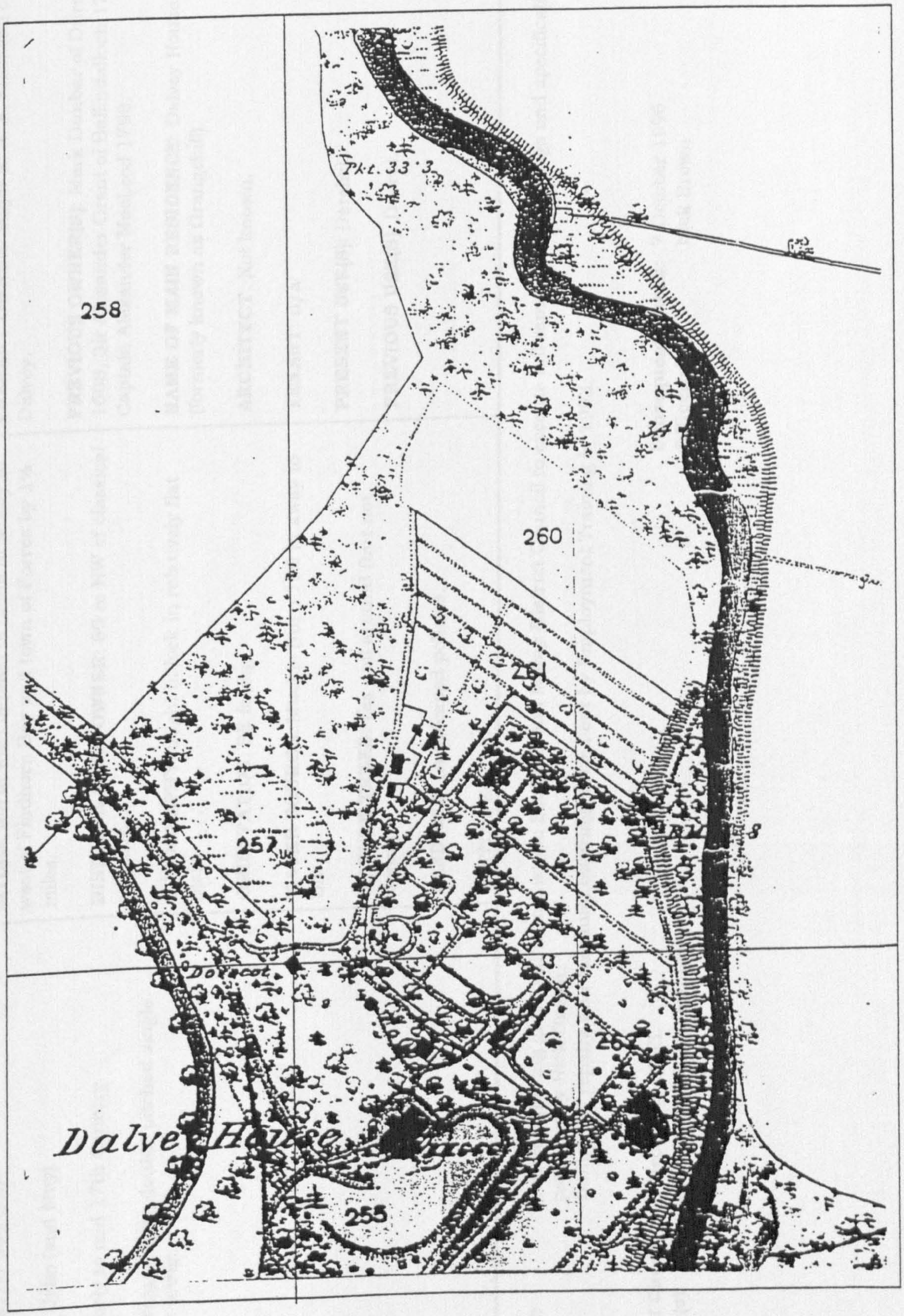
[176] Murray, loc. cit.



Location of Dalvey Doocot (Fig. 5.4.4)

Extract from 1st Ordnance Survey

1.0 IDENTIFICATION

GRID REF: NJ 004 586

PARISH: Dyke (and Moy)

DATE: Early to mid 17th Century

TYPE: Freestanding double pitched single chamber tower.

2.0 CONTEXT

SITING: North west of plain of Laich of Moray to west of Findhorn Bay and town of Forres by 1½ miles.

DISTANCE FROM OWNER: 80 m NW of classical mansion.

TOPOGRAPHY: Slight hillock in relatively flat plain.

ORIENTATION: SE facing.

WATER SOURCE: Muckle Burn 180 m away to SE.

MATURE TREES: Yes - all around (but not dense).

LAND USE: Landscaped policies.

ALTITUDE: 20 m.

3.0 HISTORY

PRESENT OWNER: Major R. N. A. MacLeod of Dalvey.

PREVIOUS OWNER(S): Mark Dunbar of Durris 1608, Sir Alexander Grant of Ballindalloch 1749, Captain Alexander MacLeod 1798.

NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE: Dalvey House (formerly known as Grangehill).

ARCHITECT: Not known.

TENANT: n/a

PRESENT USE(S): Derelict.

PREVIOUS USE(S): Doocot.

NOTES: Owner pursuing grant aid from Historic Scotland and Moray District Council to execute full repair using drawings and specification prepared by Nick Brown.
Temporary repairs and tarpaulin covering carried out by Employment Training in 1993.

Date of Check: 5 December 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Stuart Ranford.

Subsequent Check: 7 October 1996
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Under threat of partial collapse. (Roof and Rear Wall). **REPAIRS:** Re-roofed circa 1920. **ALTERATIONS:** Coat of arms sited on gable c. 1920. **FUTURE RISK:** Failure to make roof water tight and repair rear wall could result in partial collapse leading to great loss of upper sections and nest boxes.	**PLAN FORM:** Square. **PLAN SIZE:** 5 x 5 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 4 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 7 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Uncoursed random rubble sandstone bonded with coarse lime mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Reddish sandstone dressings at angles and around door opening to random stone masonry wall with stone matching pinnings. **WALL THICKNESS:** 850 mm (Including boxes). **WALL FINISH:** Reddish tone lime harling (probably lime washed). **ROOF FORM:** Double pitched with central ridge. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 8 machine sawn 150 x 60 mm rafters at 450 mm centres with matching ties forming 'A type' trusses. (later construction). **ROOF PITCH:** 45°. **ROOF FINISH:** Diminishing courses of blue/grey moss covered Ballachulish slates (although remnants of earlier stone slates to be seen at skews and wall heads where opened up at roof failure areas).	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Ledged and braced wooden door comprising of 4 vertical boards and 2 braces. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** n/a. **DOOR SIZE:** 1680 (h) x 610 mm (w). **DOOR SITING:** Centred on SE facing wall. **LEDGES:** 2 - one continuous 40 mm weathered, sandstone ledge projecting 200 mm sited 1680 mm above door. - one (on each gable missing in parts). **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 3.1 and 5.4 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 26.4 m. **APERTURES:** None (could coat of arms cover former opening?) **VENT HOLES:** None. **FLIGHT HOLES:** 4 No Louvered openings 300 (w) x 150 mm (h) (2 per dormer). **TOTAL VENT AREA:** 0.18 m². **LIMEWASH:** Yes - traces. **DORMERS:** Yes - 2 (not original?). **SKEWS:** Yes - 11 crowsteps on each of four corners. - (top crowsteps missing). **FINIALS:** No. **WEATHER VANE:** No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Yes - 150 mm step down.

PARTITION WALLS: No

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: n/a

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangements of highly regular 100 mm sandstone uprights with long (700 to 1000 mm) horizontal stone slabs 50 to 100 mm thick.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 678

NEST BOX SIZE: 270 (w) x 390 (d) x 220 mm (h).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: Not clear.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: Yes - at low level and around doorway.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Yes - clear evidence of plaster in boxes and limewash on all surfaces.

COLLECTING AID: none evident.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 678 x 2 x 0.7 = 950.

INTERNAL VOLUME 72 m^3

OTHER:

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- date of construction.
- siting of Grangehill Castle.
- why survived 1800 rebuilding of mansion.
- Sixteen boxes of uncatalogued documents (e.g. leases, wills, receipts, inventories, letters etc.) mainly from the late nineteenth century, are to be found in the attic of Dalvey House. Although once stored by Moray District Council, these papers were handed back to the estate in the mid 1980's. The only reference found in relation to the doocot was the various leases for the Home Farm which included "Dove Cot Park".

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 8.
R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 18, 19.
G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.
A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 375, **377**.
D. Omand (ed.) The Moray Book, 1976, p. 181.

ARTICLES:

'Evening Express', Aberdeen, 16/4/96, p. 3.
'Edinburgh Evening Courant', 15/2/1790, p. 4.
J. McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1992, p. 111.

LISTING: Dyke and Moy Parish, Item 10, p. 13, Category B, 1971.

SMR: NJ 05 NW 26.

MAPS: 1870, 1905, 1965 OS maps.
Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, Map of Moray, c. 1640 held in Advocates Library, Edinburgh.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Current owner possesses photo album showing three photographs of the doocot in the 1890's (re-roofed but decaying).

OTHER: Estate Info.

L. Shaw, History of the Province of Moray, 1775, p. 99.
Wotherington & Grant, The Statistical Account, Chapter 20, 1798, (1982 edition), p. 540.
J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p. 72 - 73.
I. Forsyth, Survey of the Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 facsimile ed.), p. 173.
W. Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p. 51.
O.S.A., s.v., 'Dyke and Moy Parish'.
W. J. Murray, Book of Burgie, 1930, p. 33.

NOTES: Survey of Province of Moray p 176 describes "the northern quarter of the parish" as "the granary of Moray" during the 17th and 18th centuries.



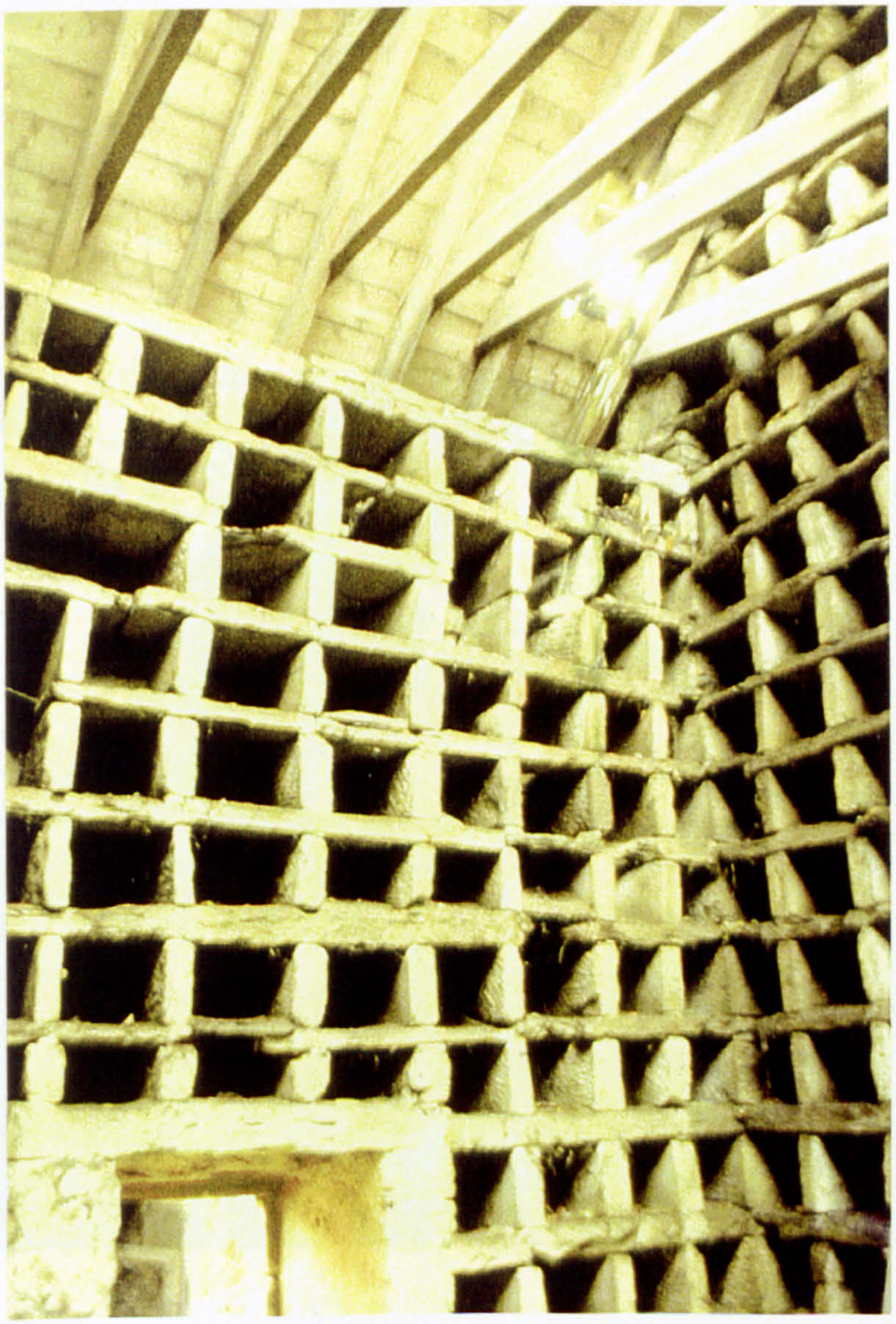
DALVEY DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.4.1)

View from the south east showing the doocot's main elevation which faces the present mansion. The two catslide dormers, which provide bird access, are strong features on the roof (although noting that the roof has been reconstructed, they may not be original). The deterioration of the building is most evident from the dip in the ridge line and the spalling of the harling.



DALVEY DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.4.2)

View from the rear showing the extent of dilapidation. Much of the roof covering has collapsed and water and vegetation now penetrate the gable and rear wallhead. The centre section of the rear wall is badly cracked and bulging and under threat of collapse.
A coat of arms plaque is just visible right of picture between string courses.



DALVEY DOOCOT, INTERIOR (Plate 5.4.4.3)

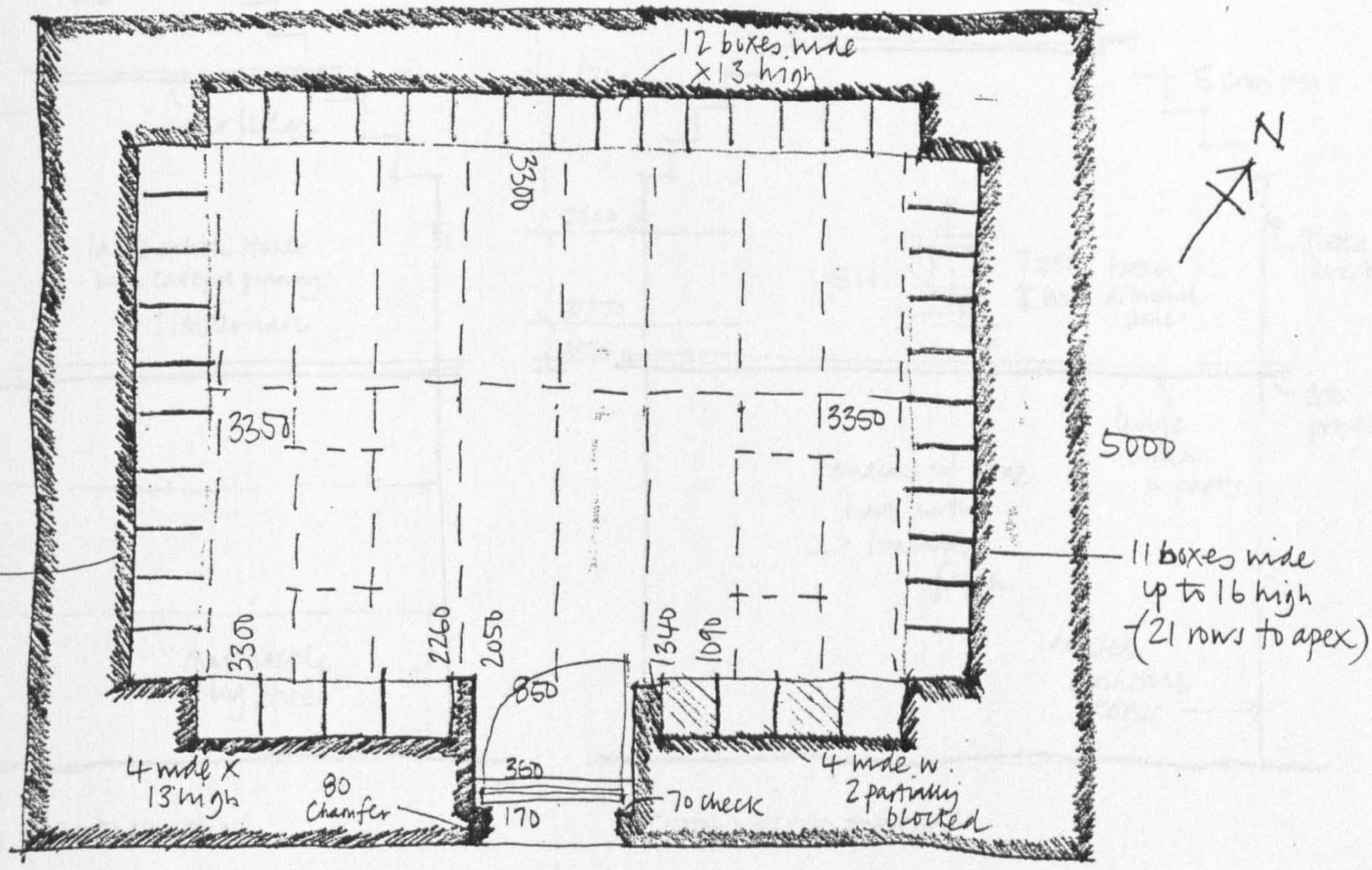
Interior photograph looking back to doorway and showing both the nesting and roof construction. The sandstone boxes are well constructed in a linear format and are of original design, but the roof is a later replacement.

Note how a pair of boxes (just below the right hand rafters) are double height. This may be the consequence of accidental damage but may be deliberate to form a bird access/vent hole. (c.f. plate 5.4.41 – see two dark patches just above string course).

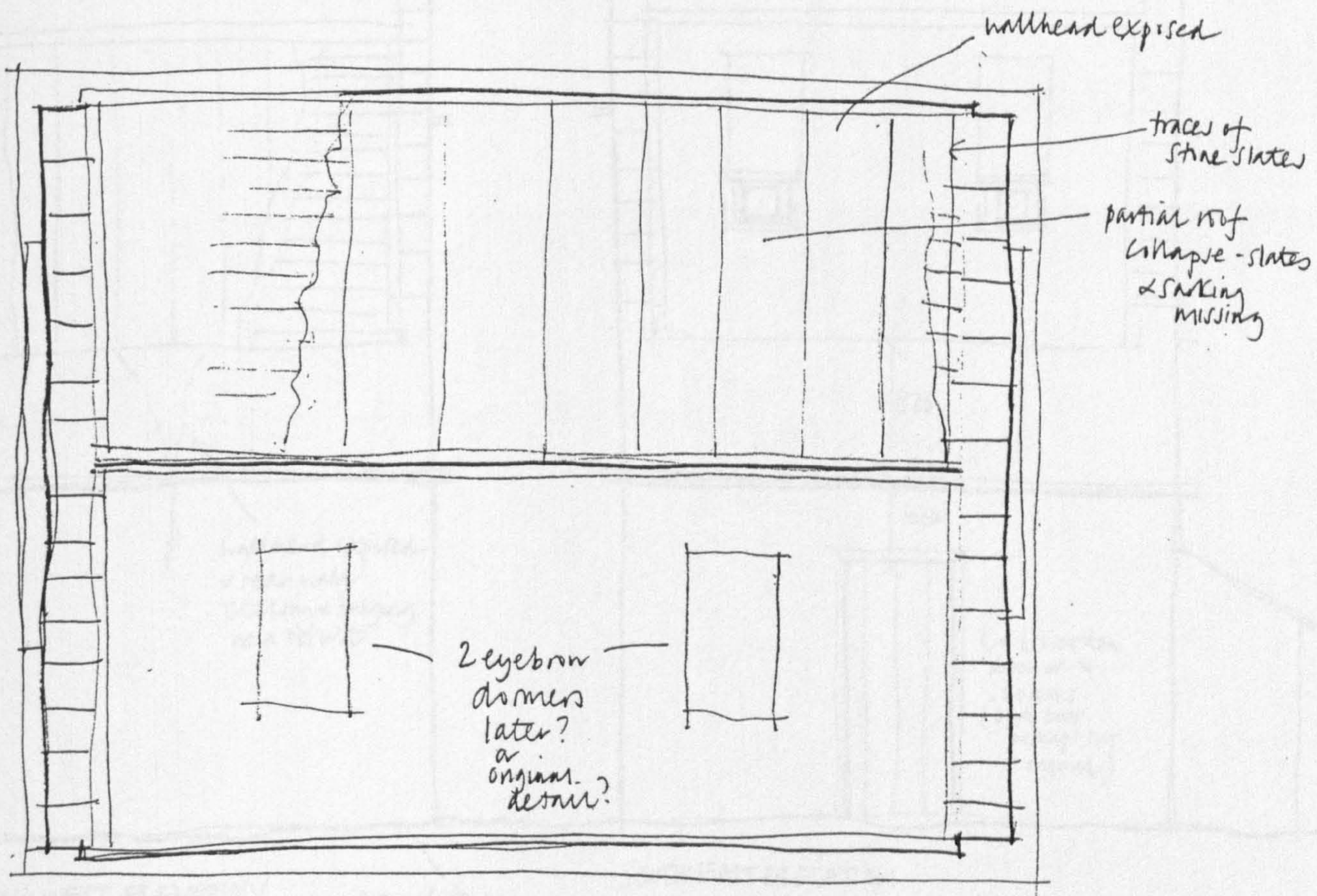


DALVEY HOUSE, 1993 (Plate 5.4.4.4)

Side elevation of the present neo-classical mansion taken from the south west. The doocot is a small distance away to the left of the picture.

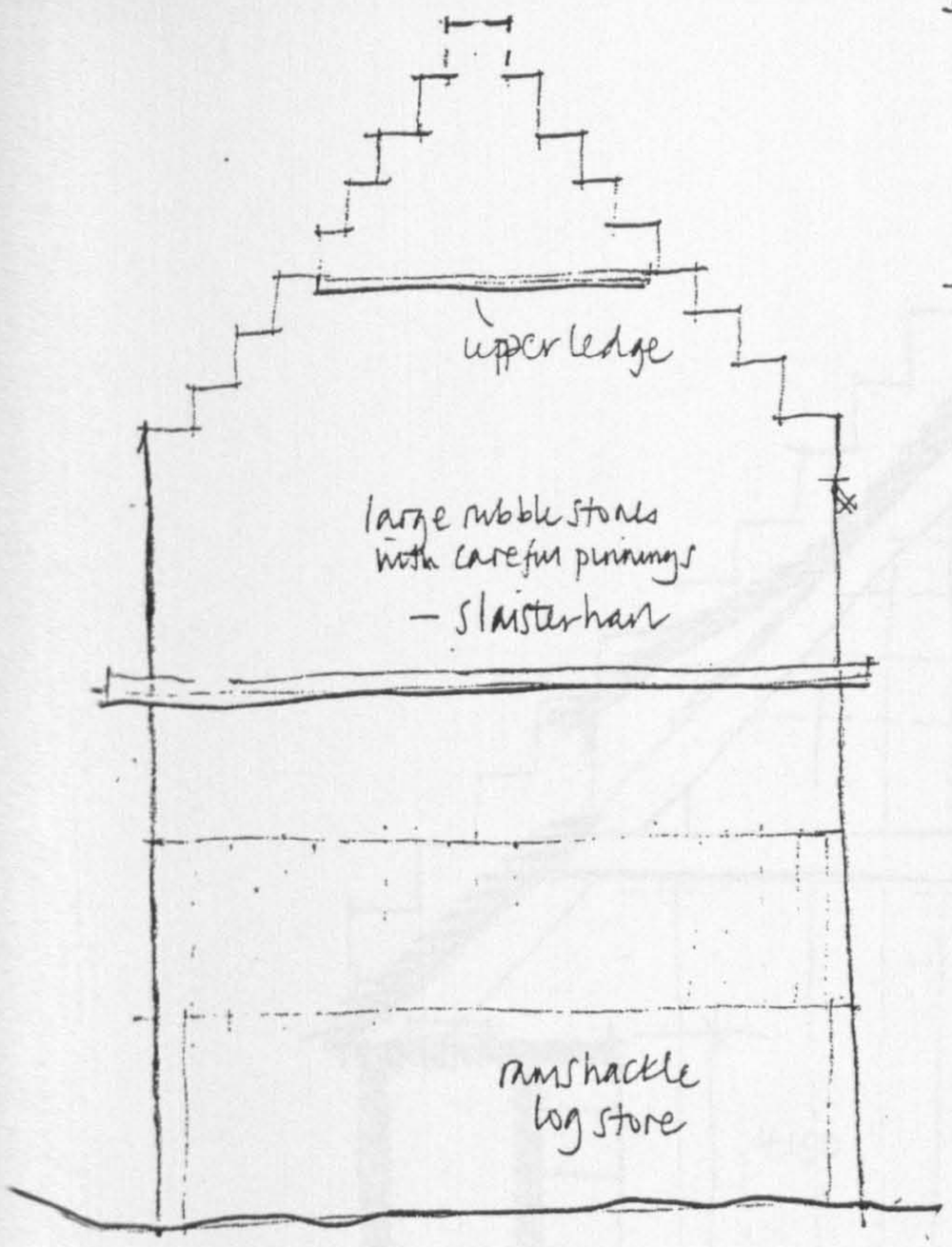


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

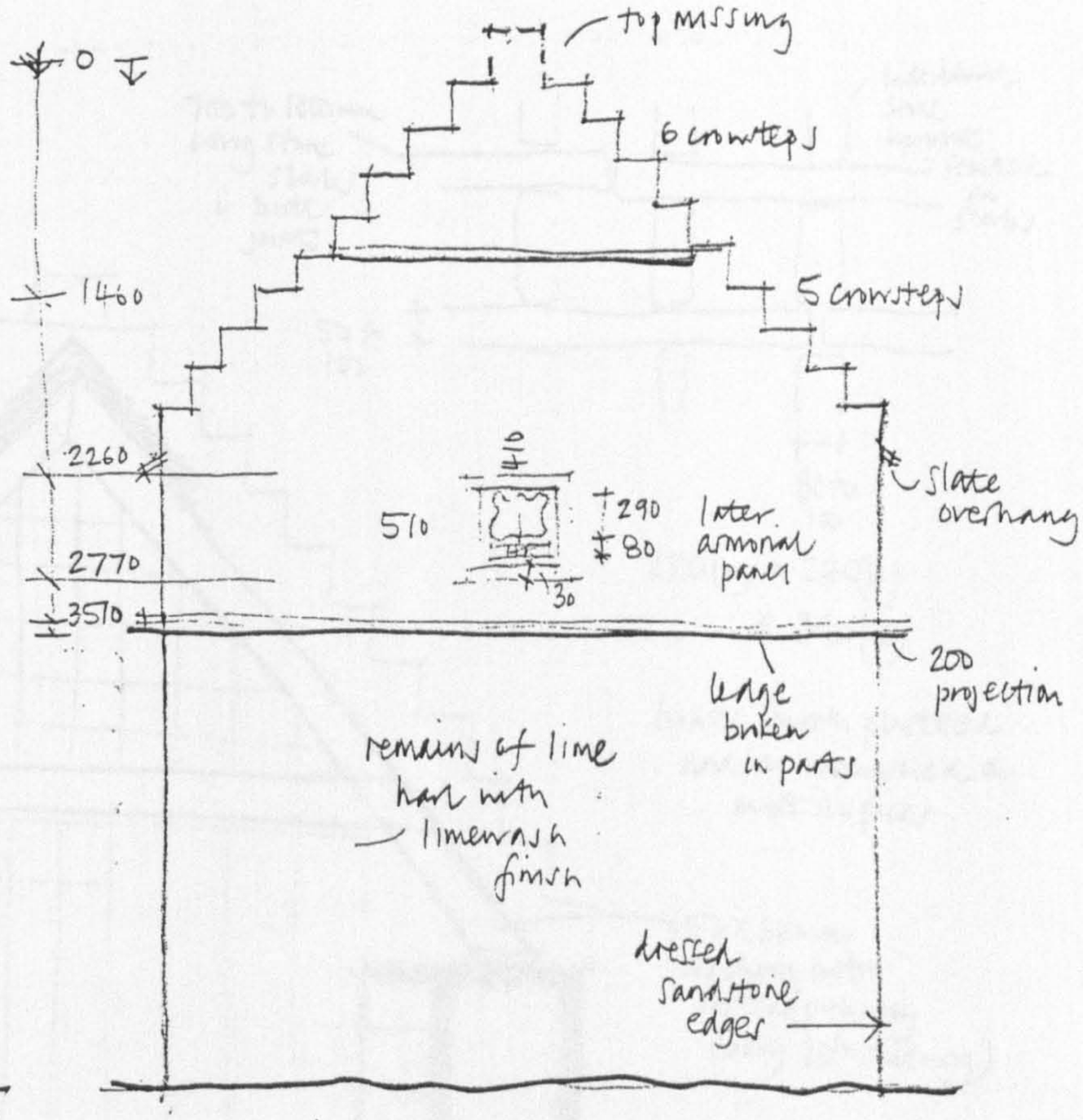


ROOF PLAN

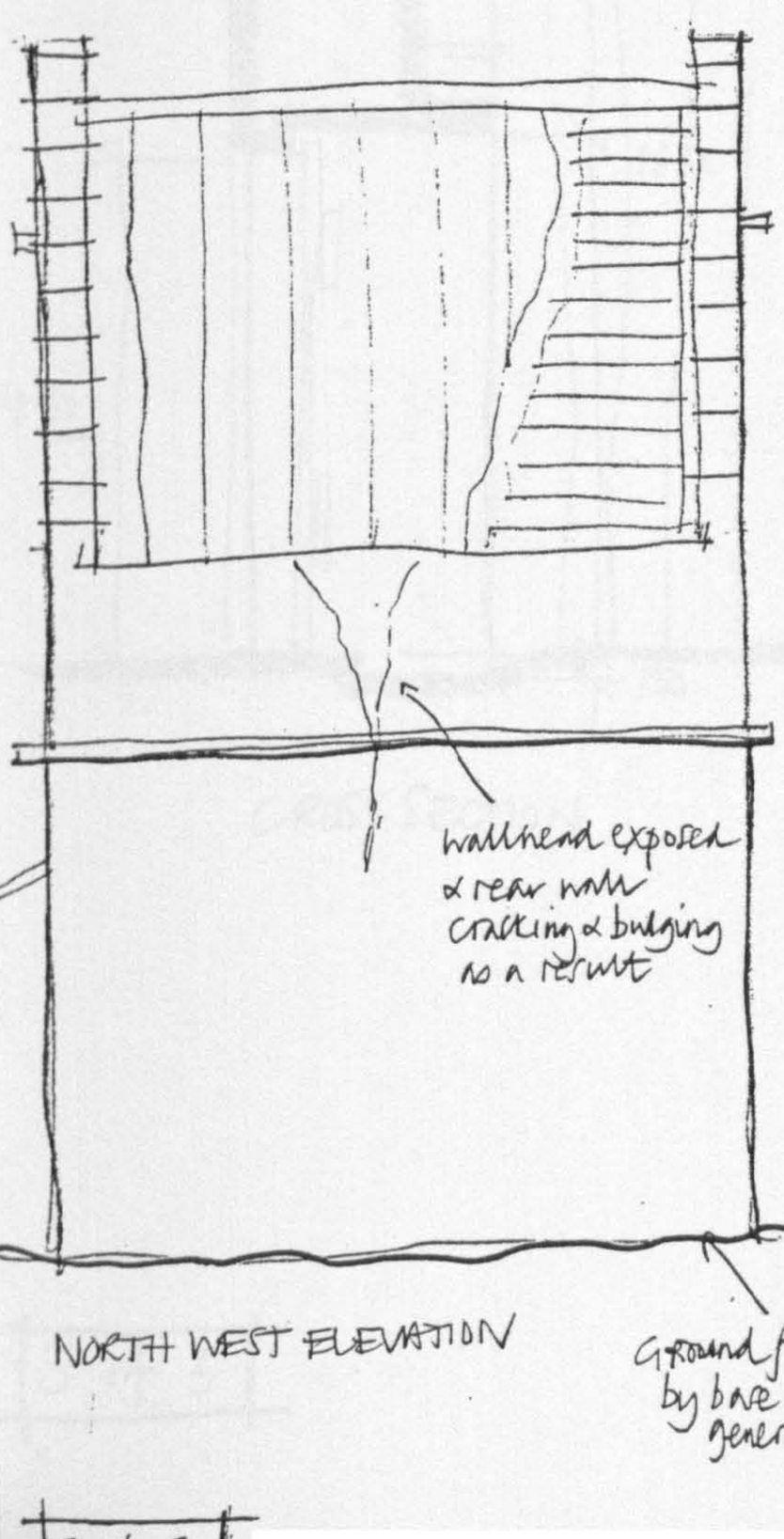
DALVEY DOOLIT
MEASURED SURVEY 1/2
NB 5/12/93



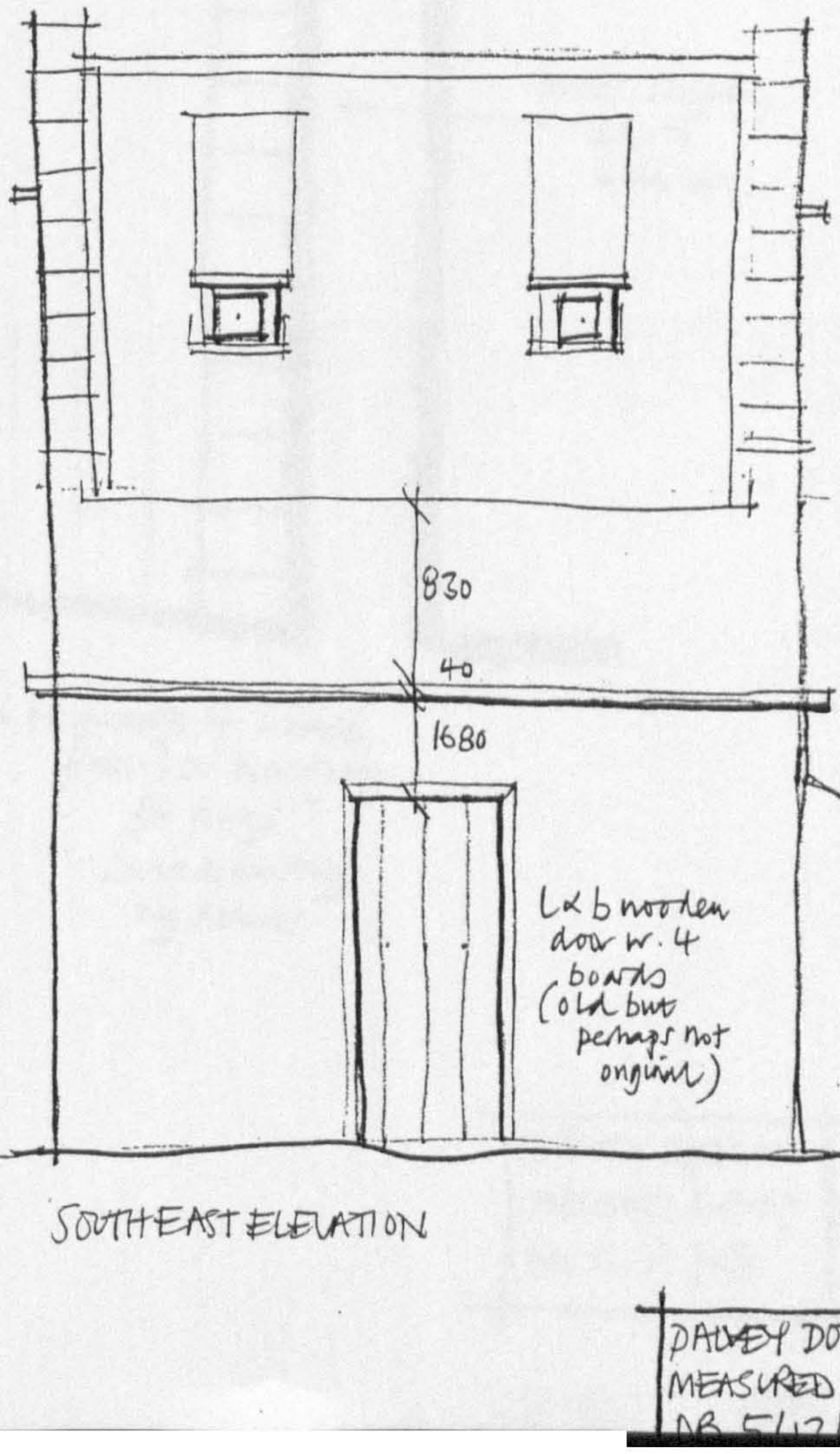
NORTH EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH WEST ELEVATION



NORTH WEST ELEVATION



SOUTH EAST ELEVATION

DALKEY DOOLOT 173
MEASURED SURVEY
DB 5/12/03

2 of 2

700 to 1000mm long stone slabs w. butt joints

individual stone upright stacked as slabs

50 to 100

80 to 100

220(w) x 270(h) x 390(d)

boxes smooth plastered and/or limewashed on most surfaces

150 x 60 mm machine cuts rafters (probably early 20th century)

4150

1830

1490

150

boxes slightly tied to wall core

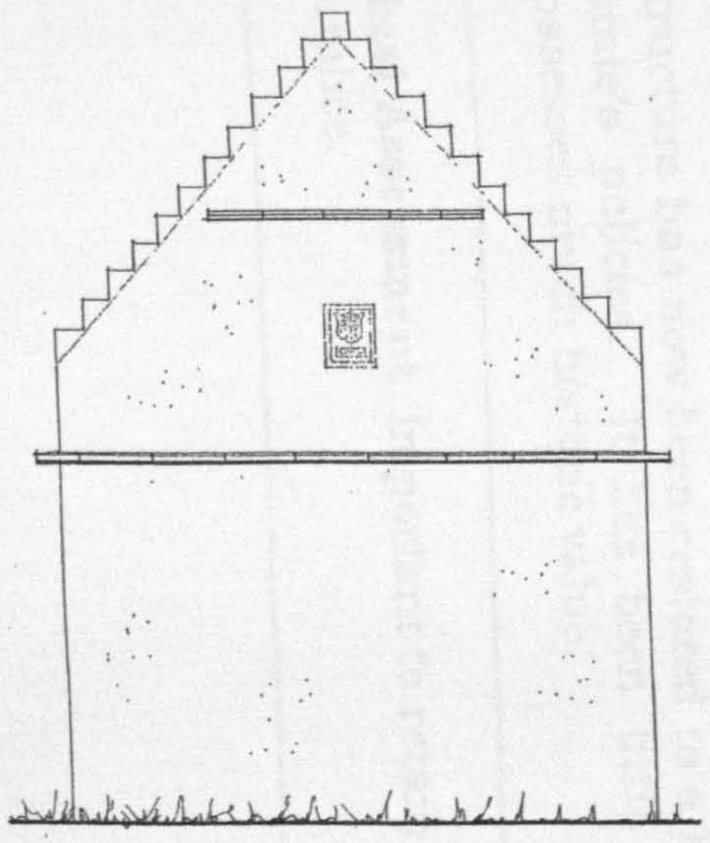
remnants of cobble floor? or hardcore for flags?
- covered mostly by debris

CROSS SECTION

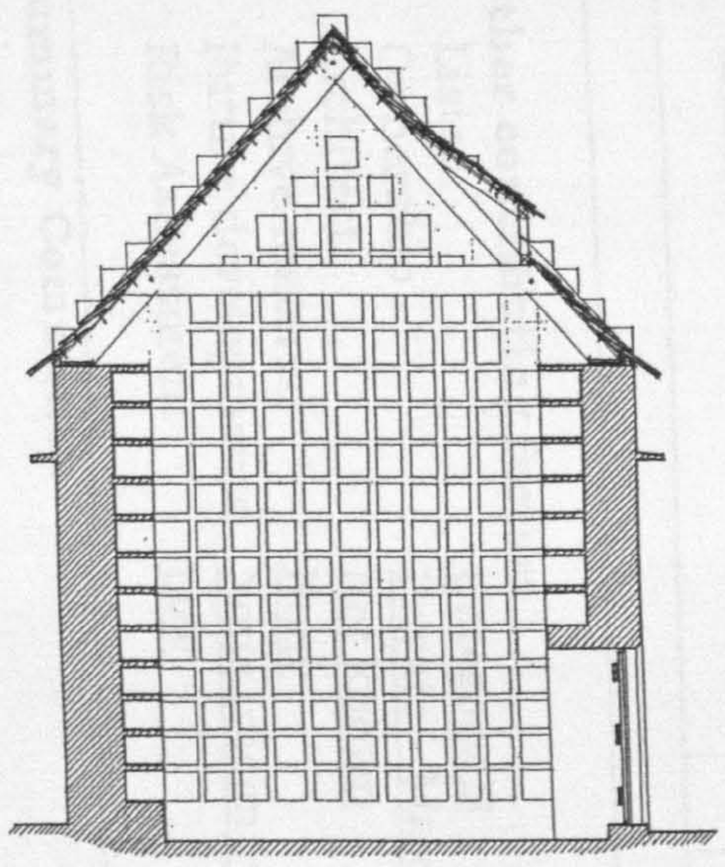
DALVEY DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 5/12/93

3 of 3

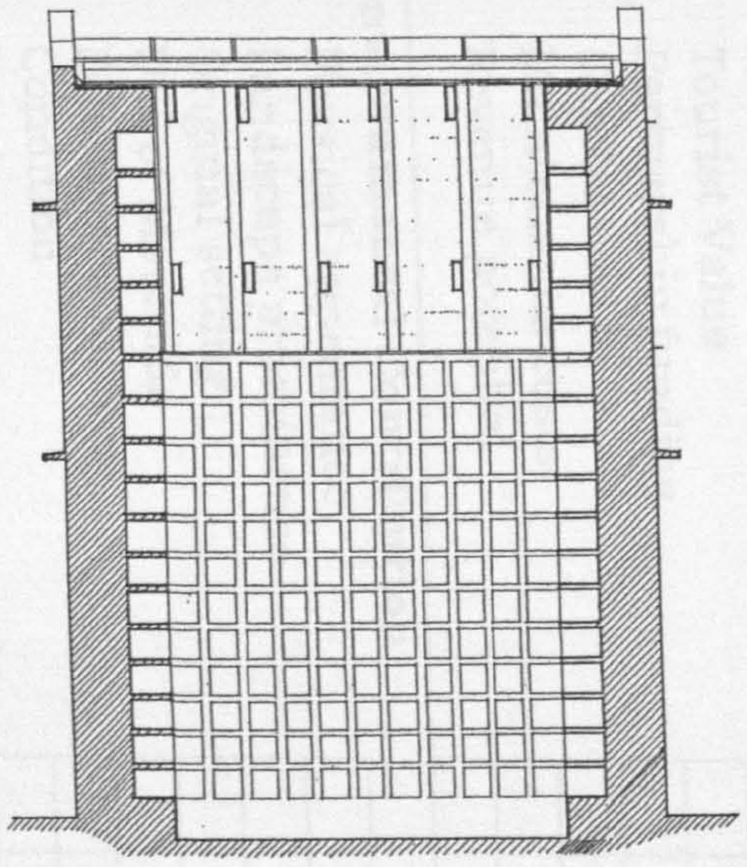
Dalvey Doocot



SOUTH ELEVATION



SECTION A A



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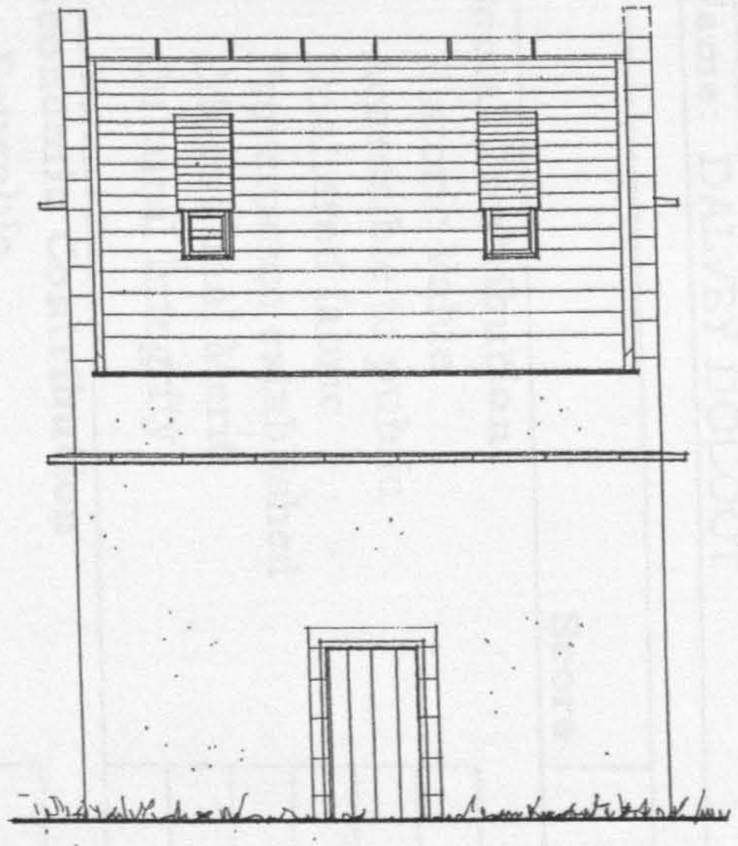
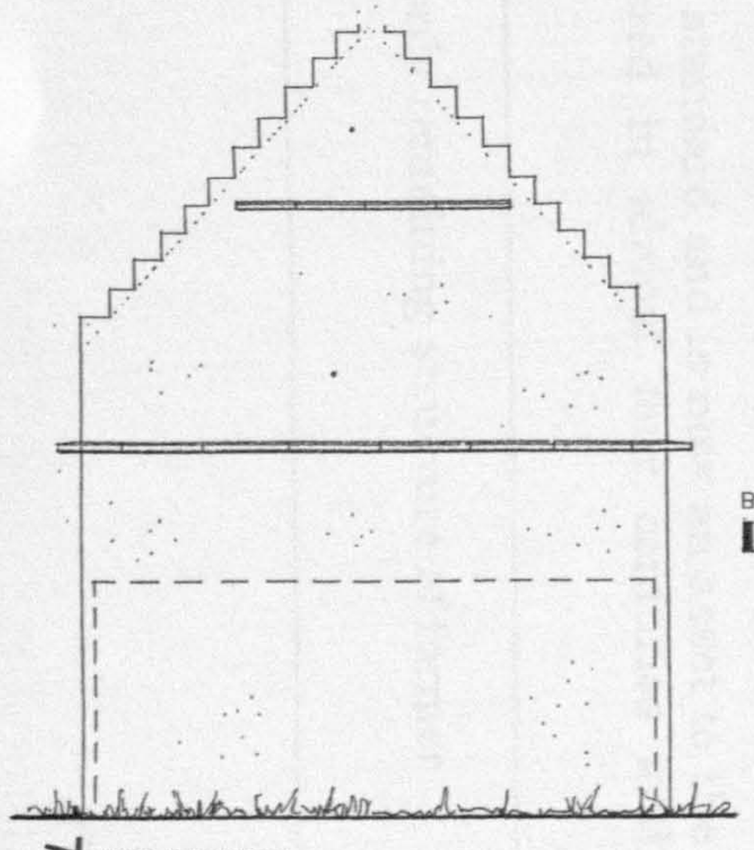
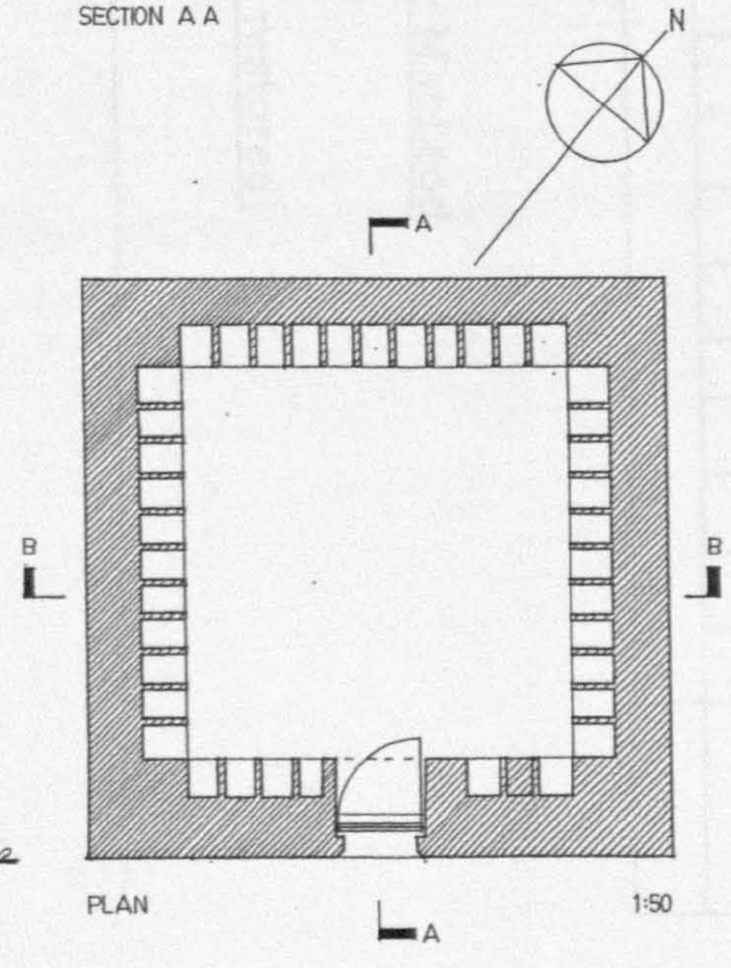


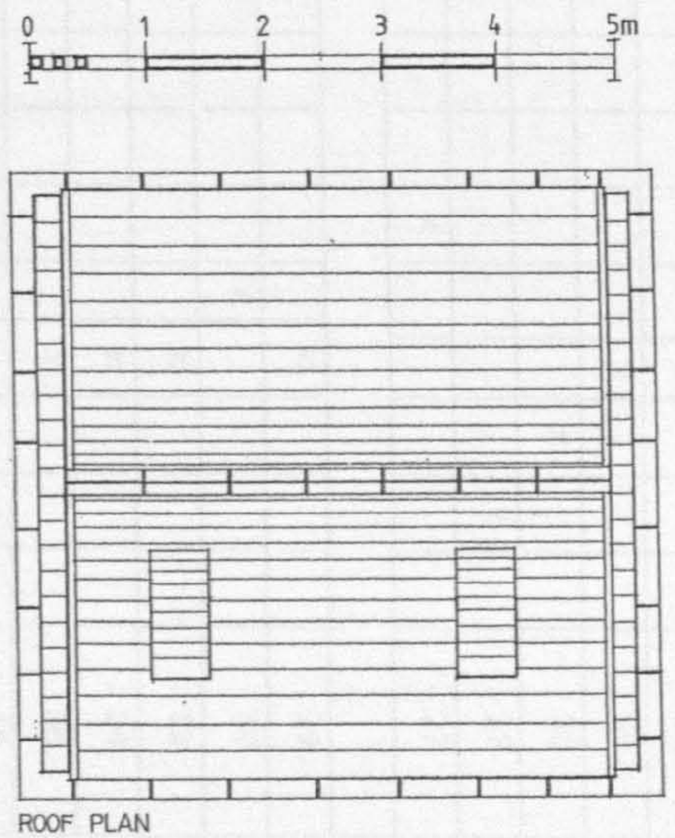
EAST ELEVATION



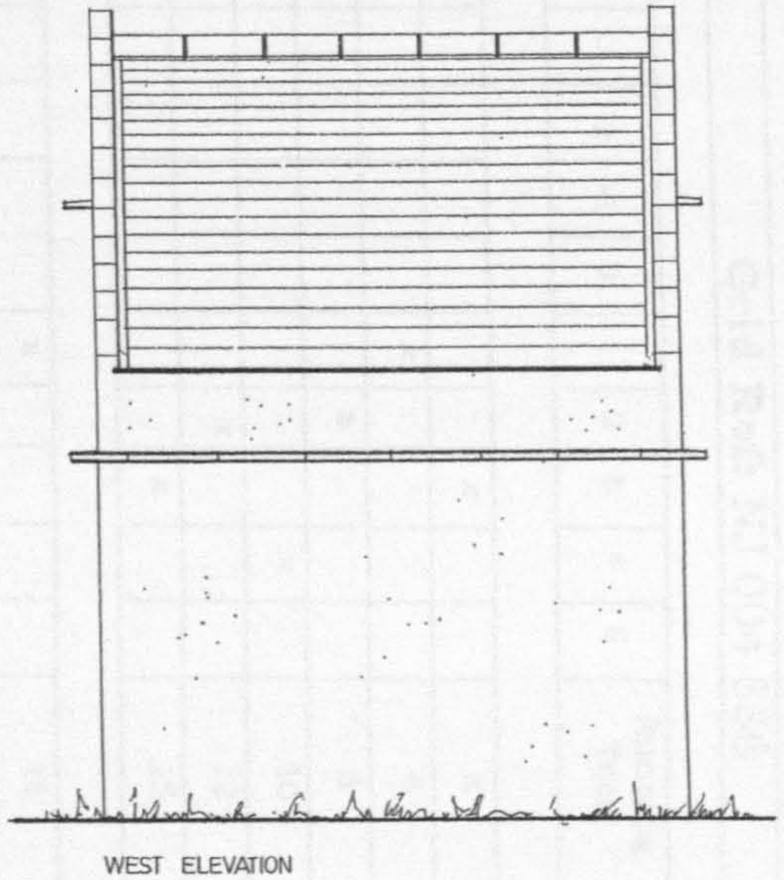
NORTH ELEVATION



PLAN 1:50



ROOF PLAN



WEST ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: DALVEY DOCOOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 004 586

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public							x					4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established										x		10
• Educational Merit								x				12
• Cultural Integrity									x			15
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					16
• Tourist Value								x				18
• Partnership funding								x				20
• Capital costs									x			23
• Maintenance costs										x		27
• Revenue potential						x						27
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				29
• Landscape prominence							x					30
• Original setting								x				32
• Use of Materials								x				34
• Features of interest								x				36
• Condition										x		40
• Interior								x				42
											TOTAL	42

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private - Major MacLeod
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None (recently restored)
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Structure has now been restored to a high standard and is now an asset to the estate's policies. It has been little altered in almost four centuries and possesses much historic value.

Final Assessment Important to retain as only remaining structure of former fortalice.

5.4.5 FINDRASSIE DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 194 654, Spynie Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Findrassie Doocot is a typical example of a freestanding medium-sized, single storey, single chamber, lean-to doocot built in Scotland during the early seventeenth century. It was once associated with the original Findrassie tower which was demolished and replaced in the 1790's, and if it can be assumed that the existing Findrassie House is on the same site as the tower about two miles north west of Elgin, then the doocot would have been sited in an open field some 300 m away from it to the north north west at an altitude of 22 m[177]. Now located immediately next to the narrow track leading to the Lower Mains farm some 100 m to the north, the doocot would have possibly looked towards the original house, turning its back on a northern panoramic view over the Laich of Moray and the now-drained sea loch of Spynie - an obvious water source for domestic birds sited only 500 m away at the bottom of the north sloping hill[178]. The present predominance of agricultural land use around the landscaped policies of Findrassie House is much the same as that shown in the nineteenth century OS map, except the walled garden laid out between the Lower Mains and the doocot is no longer in existence.

The carved date of 1631 is to be found on the doocot's stone doorway lintel and several publications, not surprisingly, record this building as "*Dated 1631*".[179]

Pont's 1590's map of Moray shows that a small L-plan castle, complete with barmkin wall, existed on former church land at 'Finrassy' soon after it had been feued to Robert Leslie, son

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177 Secretary of State's Statutory listing, Spynie Parish, Item 4, p. 4, and J. & W. Watson, Moravshire Described, 1868 (1983 ed.), p. 80.

178 Sir William Gordon's 1783 'Map of Loch Spynie', held in the Gordonstoun Library and published as an appendix in H. Brereton's, Gordonstoun, 1968, shows the 'waterymains' of the loch with an outline only a few hundred metres north of the estate. The great Norman Sutherland family of Duffus Castle is directly opposite Findrassie on the north side of the loch.
Noted also that present owner, Mr. Laing, discovered an old well site to the south east of the walled garden.

179 For example, E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 9, R. Douglas The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 38, G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61 and R. Oram, Moray and Badenoch, 1966, p. 169.

of the Earl of Rothes.[180] Robert Leslie married Margaret, sister of Robert Dunbar of Burgie, and was lord of the estate between 1598 and 1640.[181] Margaret would have been aware of the 'new' doocot at Burgie and the architectural similarities in design at Burgie and Findrassie are too strong to be coincidental - it might reasonably be assumed that Margaret must have influenced the Findrassie building (which perhaps commemorated her marriage to Robert?). The front aperture above the doorway is similarly positioned to Burgie and both possess checks in the stonework where Douglas thought, "*..in all probability there was inserted a coat of arms.*"[182] The design of modern dove houses suggests that these apertures possibly possessed wooden shutters: "*In colder areas, it [the shelter area] should be separated from the open flight by a solid partition with windows and doors which can be shut during inclement weather.*"[183] If Findrassie's aperture contained a coat of arms, then essential ventilation and daylight for the inhabitants would only have been available through the roof dormer.

There is discernible evidence of a line continuing along the gables and frontage of the building which passed just below the front aperture in a manner akin to the line(s) traced on Burgie Doocot. Beaton seems more certain by saying, "*...remains of rat ledge with hollow moulding on underside*"[184], whilst Douglas recorded, "*... it appears as though this course had been continuous all round but had broken off.*"[185] Like Burgie, these lines could indeed be broken courses or no more than construction lifts. Why such a course might be partially removed is far from clear.

The collapse of the roof has removed any evidence of bird flight hole access, although Niven Robertson recorded in 1961 that the "*...pigeons entered by a dormer, which has nine dove holes*".[186] (The collapse has allowed the doocot to be occupied by a nesting barn owl). If

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[180] Timothy Pont's 'Mapp of Moray', c. 1590, held in the National Map Library of Scotland, shows that a fortalice was constructed on the site not long after the Reformation. Prior to this, Findrassie would have church lands associated with Spynie Palace.

[181] J. G. Murray, The Book of Burgie, 1930, p. 18.

[182] Douglas, loc. cit.

[183] Delacour, Wild Pigeons and Doves, 1980, p. 18.

[184] Beaton, loc. cit.
The hollow moulding referred to is not obvious.

[185] Douglas, loc. cit.

[186] Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 379.
Also, p. 36, "It is not uncommon to find old ruinous doocots occupied by owls."

emulation of the Burgie design was sincere, then a catslide dormer with a single horizontal row of flight holes may have been found, but noting that the Findrassie roof is a later replacement, there can be no certainty that the dormer referred to in Robertson's description was original to the seventeenth century design.[187]

Roy's mid-eighteenth century military map of Moray denotes a small estate at 'Findrassie', which is shown in more detail in Gordon's 1783 map of Loch Spynie as sandwiched between acquired lands of two of Moray's great eighteenth century landowners, the Earls of Fife and Findlater[188]. Having been valued at £1,607 (Scots) in 1644, the estate by that time had significantly diminished to £327 and by 1870, under the ownership of Hugh Tod, had further devalued to only £317.[189] Despite this downturn, the immediate policies continued to be ornamentally landscaped and a walled garden near the 'Dovecot' is shown both on the 1869 OS and an 1892 plan of the estate.[190]

Sadly Findrassie Doocot has been subject to complete neglect during the past three decades and is now one of Moray's most threatened doocots. John McCann's passage on some common building defects of dovecotes, explains part of the problem:

> *It is common to find that tie beams were omitted in the original design, and forms of roof construction were adopted that would not have been used in other contexts. Many roofs were inadequately tied against expanding forces, and have begun to fail. Tie beams or extra supports were introduced to deal with this fault, but because they were an afterthought new strains were applied to other parts of the*

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187 Douglas, loc. cit.
Refers to a ".. dormer - shaped window with 9 openings for pigeons", which sounds more as if the dormer was pedimented.
Also, p. 12, "... decorative and elaborate set of entrances at Leuchars [q.v.] and Findrassie".

188 General Roy's, 1750, 'Military Map of Moray' held in Elgin Library (et. al.) and Sir William Gordon's map. (n. 2).
The Earl of Fife held the 'lands of Kintrae' to the west, while the Earl of Findlater (later Seafield) held the 'lands of Mireside to the east'.

189 R. Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, pp. 342-349.
Land valuation tables showing estate figures in 'Scots' pounds.

190 1869 OS and 1892 Plan of Estate of Findrassie held in Elgin Library RHP 3324. The main house is show sited centrally within the 760 acre estate which is orientated on a NNW/SSE axis, in accordance with the natural contours of the hill down to the loch. The walled garden, like the doocot, is located to the rear of the present house and therefore did not feature as part of the entrance driveway route.

structure - and sometimes the orignial fault was not cured. The modern conserver may inherit this sequence of design faults. This is also the reason why the present roof is often found to have been rebuilt.[191]

The advice to modern keepers may also part explain this weak form of design: "*Care should be taken that the loft is so constructed that pigeons cannot perch on the roof. If this is not done, they will soon rot out the roofing material*".[192]

Unless the present owner is prepared to tackle the difficult task of repairing this Grade B listed structure, it is expected that much, if not all, of the fabric will be lost in the near future. Noting that the doocot is the only, "*...survivor from the older fortalice on this site*"[193], the loss of this structure would remove the estate's current tangible link with its early foundation.

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191 J. McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, pp. 94-5.
192 Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p. 518.
193 Oram, loc. cit.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Findrassie doocot is almost square in plan (4.8 x 5.4 m) and rises at the front to a wallhead height of 2.8 m with an overall height to the rear of 6.5 m. The 800 mm thick walls (including the boxes) are constructed using Laich of Moray sandstone of reasonable quality, bonded with lime mortar and the walls still have some evidence of the limewashed harling extending up to the finer sandstone dressings at all of the angles and openings.

The monopitch south facing roof, of about 45° pitch, is constructed using 160 x 50 mm rafters at 600 mm centres with no ties and is clad in sarking to receive fairly uniform 10 mm thick Ballachulish slates, which are probably not original to the building. The roof has now collapsed in the centre and has been deteriorating at least since Beaton's survey in 1978.[194] The total collapse of the roof is now imminent and can be associated with the separation of the front wall from the rest of the structure, clearly apparent in the 50 mm wide vertical cracks on each gable elevation.

The front wall itself has two smaller cracks around the centrally-located door and aperture above (which perhaps surprisingly face uphill). The door itself is now missing but there is ironmongery evidence in the stone ingo to indicate a left-hand inward opening door which checked against the 50 mm chamfered rybat dressings of the 1360 x 720 mm wide opening. Between the door and the projecting eaves stone is a 400 wide x 530 mm high, single aperture with splayed ingoes to increase the opening on the inner face to 750 mm wide. The opening has been partially blocked in an unrefined manner using stone rubble and pinnings with a single 10 mm diameter vertical iron bar to its left side, although a check of 30 mm in the stonework remains visible.

A single, steeply-angled ledge projects 140 mm from the building at a height of just above 2 m on the rear wall and partially along both gables. The roof collapse has exposed the tops of the nest boxes and the 500 mm thick upstand of the rear wall is finished with rubble infill containing a two stone thick course projecting 75 mm to receive the roof. The back wall is protected by two layers of overlapping stone slabs, whilst the gables are each covered by fifteen dressed crowsteps resting on curved projecting skewputts at the eaves.

A step down of 70 mm into the doocot chamber may be deliberate, or may indicate the removal of a stone floor, but the fallen debris and accumulation of guano prevents a full assessment. A total of 408 nest boxes fill the chamber to the roof on all four sides. They are constructed in a linear arrangement of good quality, 100 mm sandstone blocks and 50 mm slabs to provide 280 wide x 260 high x 300 mm deep nest boxes beginning 700 mm above the floor level. Only a few at ground level and around the door and aperture are blocked and it is only these which retain some evidence of lime plastering. There is no evidence of a collecting aid.

Written: February 1996

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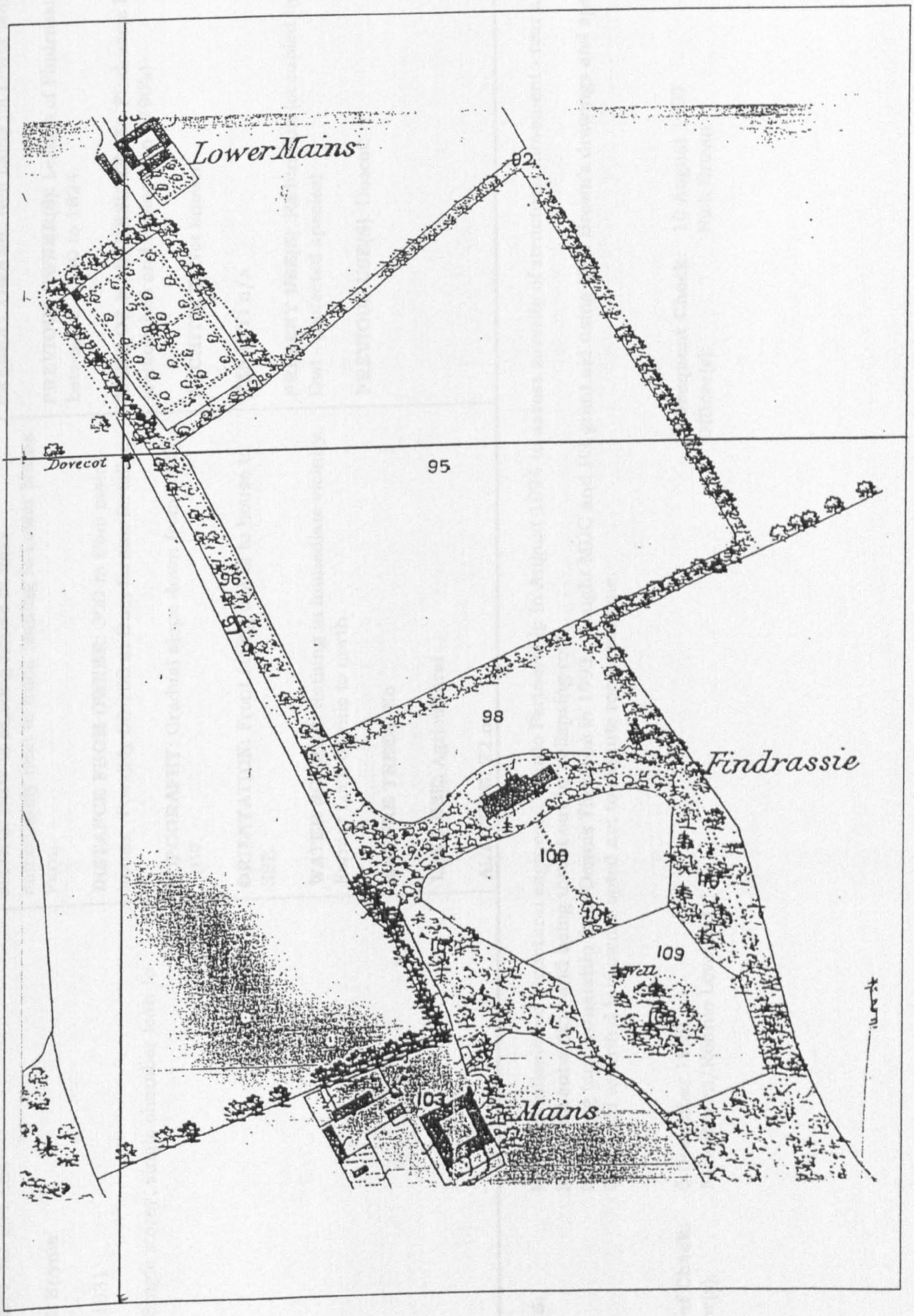
194 Beaton, loc. cit., records the doocot in "... poor condition".



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

DATA CHECKLIST 1995

NAME: **FINDRASSIE DOOCOT**

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 194 654 **PARISH**: Spynie **DATE**: 1631 **TYPE**: Single storey, single chamber lean-to	**SITING:** NNW of existing house in field immediately next to track leading to Lower Mains Farm. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 300 m from main house. Possibly 50-100 m from former fortalice. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Gradual slope down from SSE to NNW. **ORIENTATION:** Front facing uphill to house to SSE. **WATER SOURCE**: Nothing in immediate vicinity. Former Loch Spynie to north. **MATURE TREES**: No **LAND USE:** Agricultural **ALTITUDE:** 22 m	**PRESENT OWNER**: Neil Laing (of Lower Mains). **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** Leslie's of Findrassie between c. 1590 to 1824. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Findrassie House (demolished and replaced in 1790's) **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT:** n/a **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant (occupied by Barn Owl - protected species) **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Doocot.

NOTES: MDC commissioned structural engineer Dinardo Partnership in August 1994 to assess severity of structural movement - rear stable, but front wall subsiding and being thrust out by collapsing roof.
Neil Laing took ownership from Dennis Thomson in 1993. Sought MDC and HS grant aid using Nick Brown's drawings and specification. Grant aid awarded but owner opted not to execute repair scheme.

Date of Check: 5 November 1992
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Loveland

Subsequent Check: 10 August 1997
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Under threat of collapse. **REPAIRS**: Some mortar patches to cracks. **ALTERATIONS:** Replacement roof and slates, partial blocking of front aperture, removal of front ledge? **FUTURE RISK:** Failure to arrest structural movement, remove tree growths, and repair roof.	**PLAN FORM**: Almost square. **PLAN SIZE**: 4.8 x 5.4 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 2.8 m (front). **OVERALL HEIGHT**: 6.5 m (rear). **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Local random rubble with lime mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Sandstone. (probably from Quarryhill). **WALL THICKNESS:** 800 mm (including boxes). **WALL FINISH:** Limewashed harling with sandstone dressings at angles. **ROOF FORM:** Monopitch. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 160 x 50 mm rafters at 600 mm centres with no ties. **ROOF PITCH:** 45°. **ROOF FINISH**: 10 mm thick Ballachulish slates (fairly uniform grade).	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION**: Now missing. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** No. **DOOR SIZE:** 720 (w) x 1360 mm (h). **DOOR SITING**: Centred on south wall. **LEDGES:** One (on rear and part on both gables). **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 2 to 2.5 m (depending on ground level). **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH**: 10.5 m. **APERTURES**: One of south wall above door 400 (w) x 530 (h). **VENT HOLES**: No. **FLIGHT HOLES**: No evidence (except documentary). **TOTAL VENT AREA**: 0.41 m^2 (aperture). **LIMEWASH**: Yes - all sides. **DORMERS**: No evidence (except documentary). **SKEWS**: 15 crowsteps each side (2 missing). **FINIALS**: No. **WEATHER VANE:** No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Yes - 70 mm down.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Not known.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement of good quality 100 mm sandstone blocks and 50 mm slabs.

NEST BOX NUMBER: approx 408.

NEST BOX SIZE: 290 (w) x 260 (h) x 300 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 700 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: a few at lower level.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Only at blocked boxes and around doorway.

COLLECTING AID: Cross scaffolding?

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 408 x 2 x 0.7 = 570.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 57.6 m^3.

OTHER: Elderberry trees and ivy now growing within structure and from front wallhead.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- purpose of check in front aperture.
- indication of line at ledge level on front elevation.
- siting of former mansion (possibly near well SE of walled garden).

9.0 REFERENCES

Books:

E. Beaton, The Doocots Of Moray, 1978, p. 9.

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes Of Moray, 1931, pp. 12, 23, 37, **38**.

C. Mckean, The District Of Moray, 1987, p. 105.

A. N. Robertson, 'Old Scottish Dovecotes', 1961, pp. 375, **379**.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

D. Omand (ed.), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181, 185.

R. Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p. 169.

Articles:

J. McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 111.

Listing: Spynie Parish, Item 4, p. 4, Category B, 1971.

SMR: NJ 1931 6531.

Maps: 1869, 1902, 1965 OS Maps.
Plan Of Estate 1892, SRO Ref RHP 3324.
Timothy Pont's 1590's 'Mapp of Murray', held in the National Library for Scotland.
General Roy's 1750's military 'Map of Moray' held in Elgin library.
Sir William Gordon's 1783 'Map of Loch Spynie' held in the Gordonstoun School library.
Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch's 1640 'Map of Moray' held in Advocates Library, Edinburgh.

Photographs:

Other:

J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, (1983 edn.) p. 80.

I. Forsyth, Survey of the Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 edn.), pp. 42, 43, 128.

R. Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, passim.



FINDRASSIE DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.5.1)

View of south elevation showing setting of building and collapse of (later) roof exposing nest boxes. The ground slopes gently down towards the structure and the former sea loch of Spynie would come within about a quarter mile of the rear of the doocot. Remains of walled garden can just be seen right of picture.



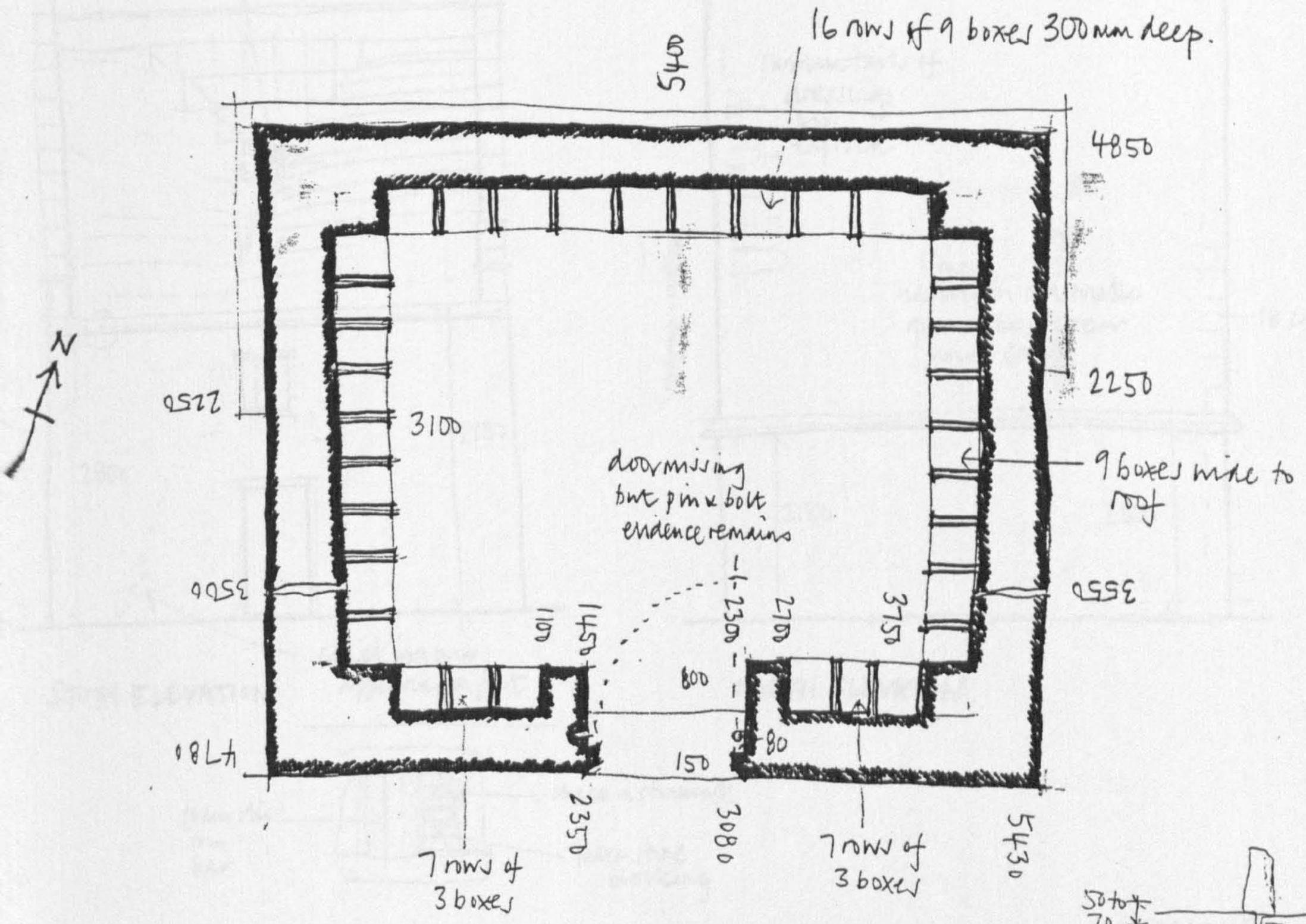
FINDRASSIE DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.5.2)

View of north west of doocot showing the separation of the front wall from the rest of the structure. Note how the ledge is relatively low and only extends partly along the gable (although a faint line indicates it may have continued all round - see previous plate also). The present Findrassie House is surrounded by trees, some of which are just seen on the right. The former fortalice may have been sited near a well which is not far from the doocot, left of picture.

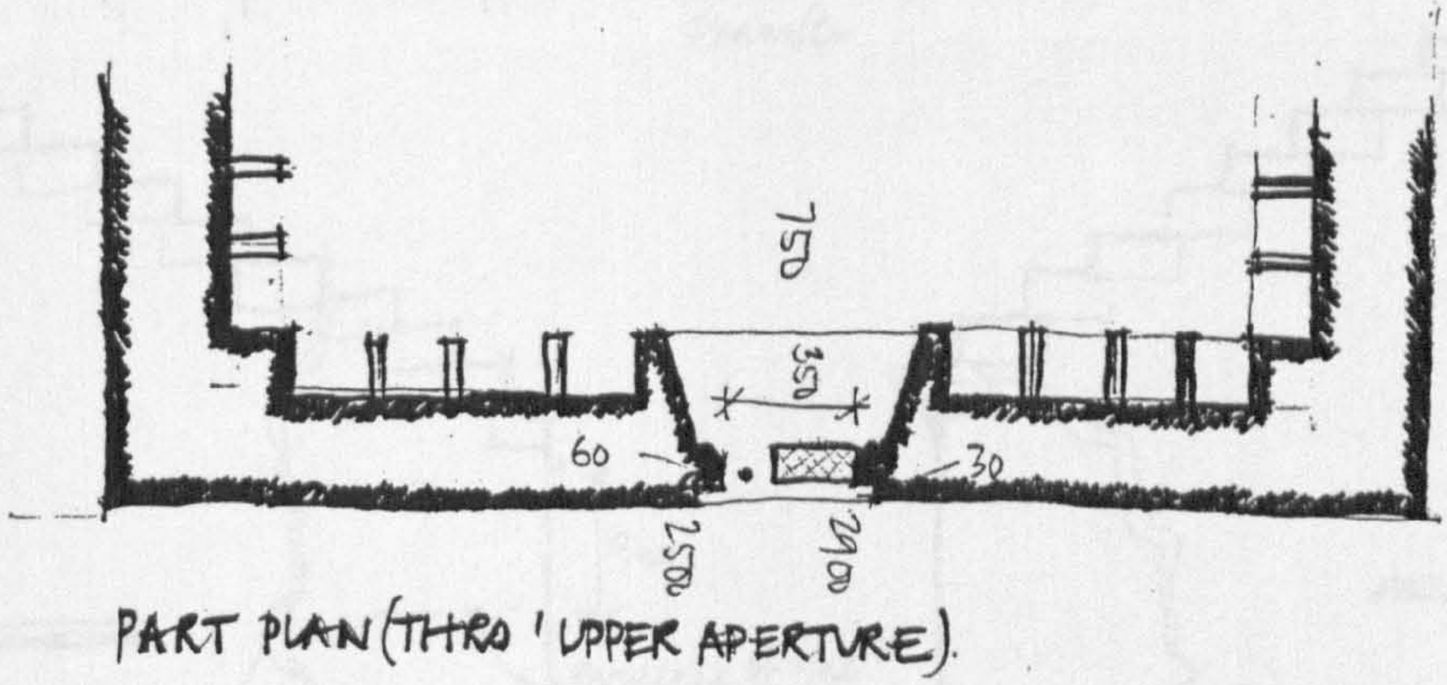


FINDRASSIE DOOCOT, 1993 INTERIOR (Plate 5.4.5.3)

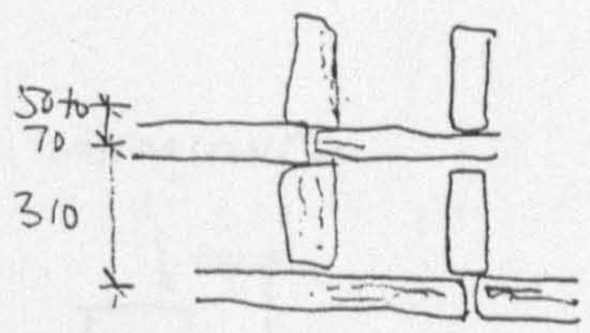
Interior view of doocot showing stone boxes in NW corner. The timbers are from the collapsed roof which has resulted in young tree growth within the building, aided by the guano which has accumulated in height to the first nestbox row (three of which have been blocked for no obvious reason). The building is currently used by barn owls which will explain the lack of occupation by other birds.

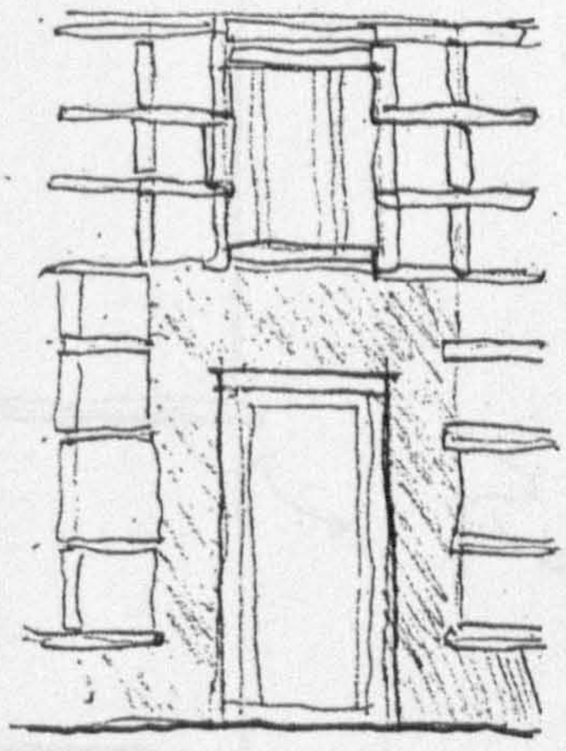


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PART PLAN (THRO' UPPER APERTURE).

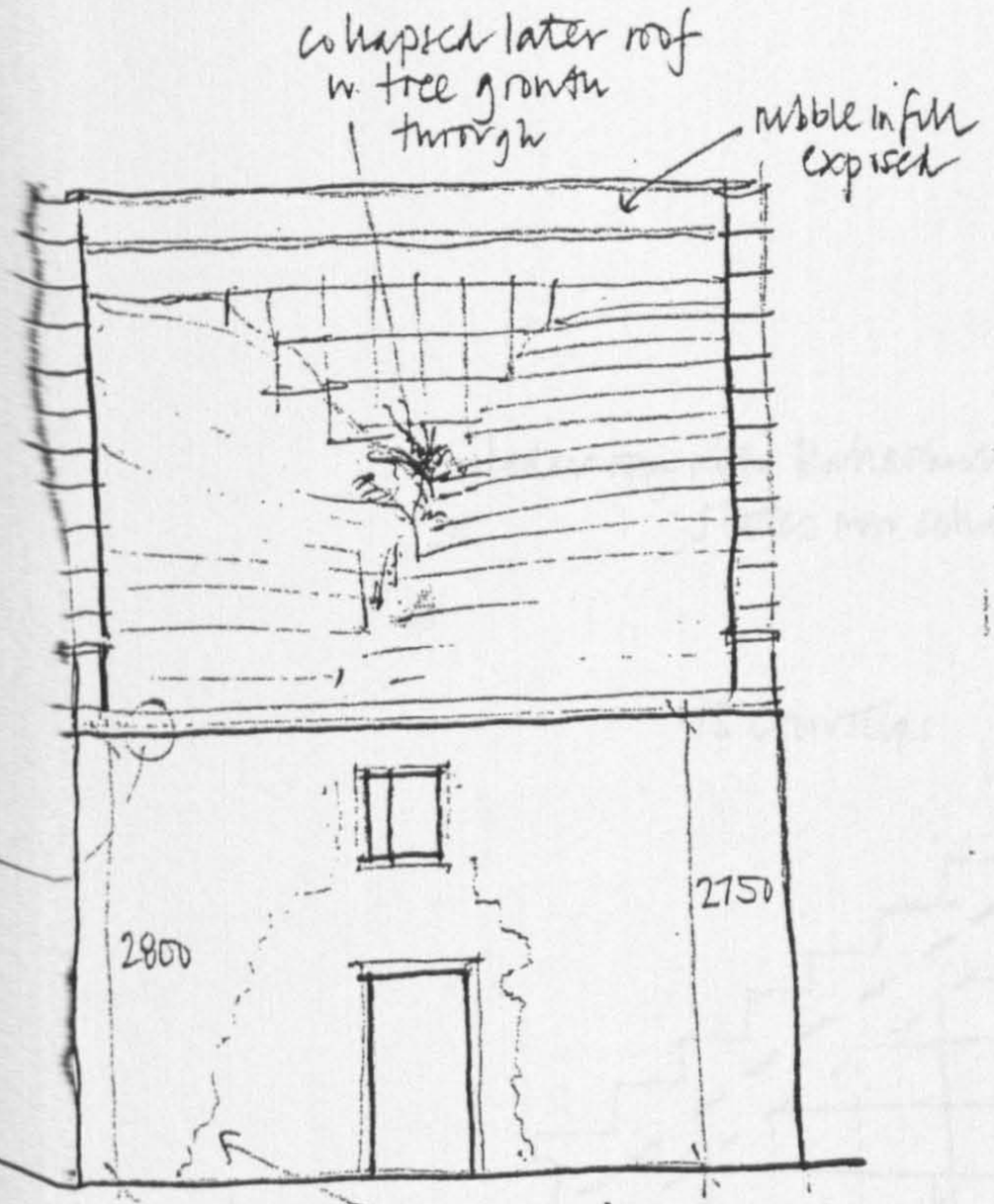




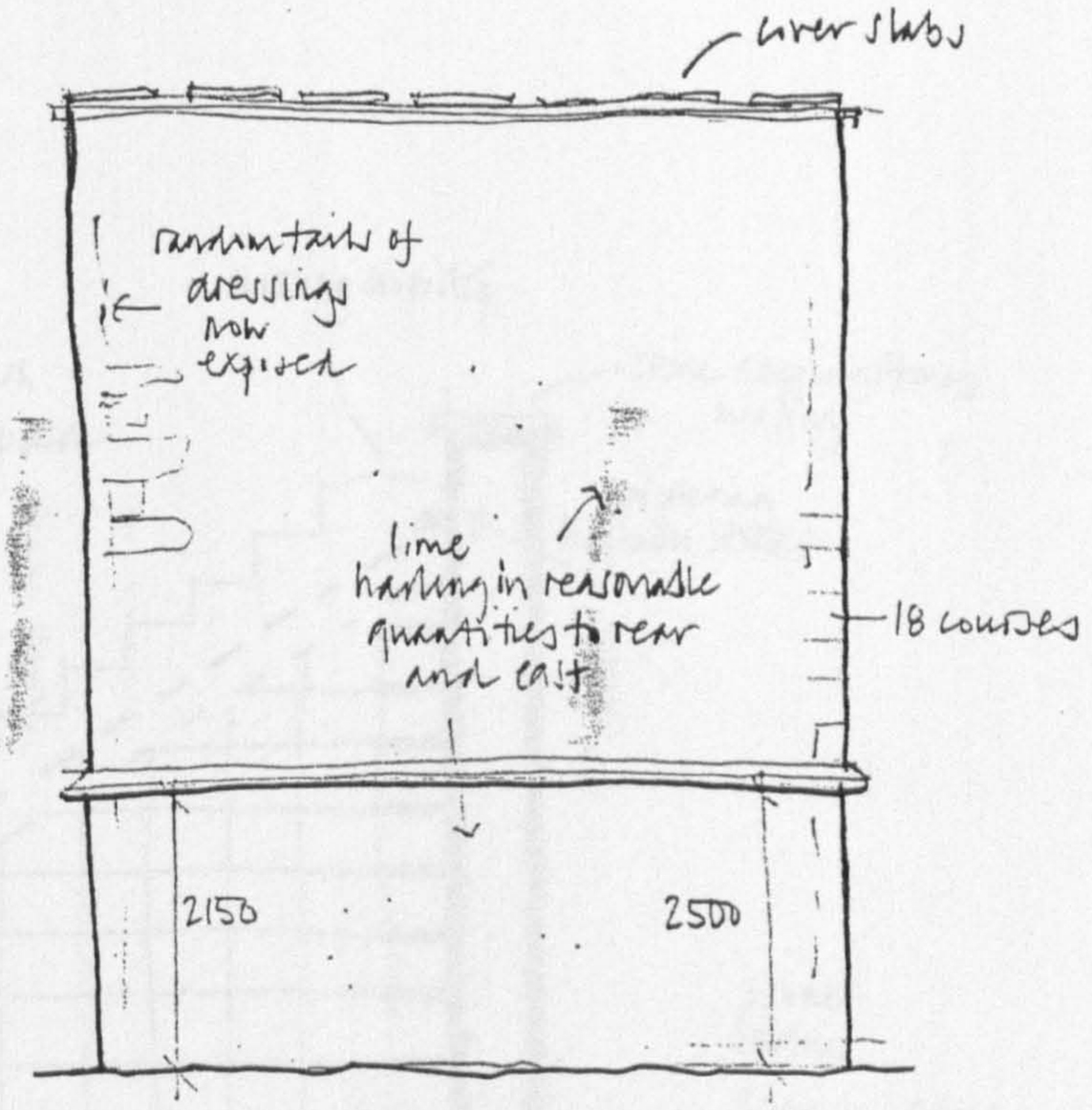
INTERNAL DOOR & WINDOW ELEVATION

FINDRASSIE DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 5/11/92

189



SOUTH ELEVATION



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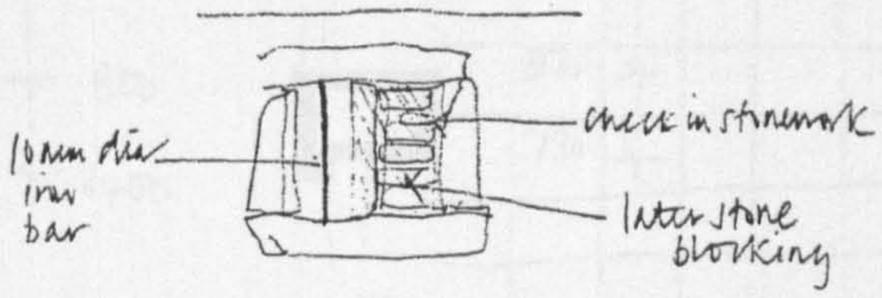
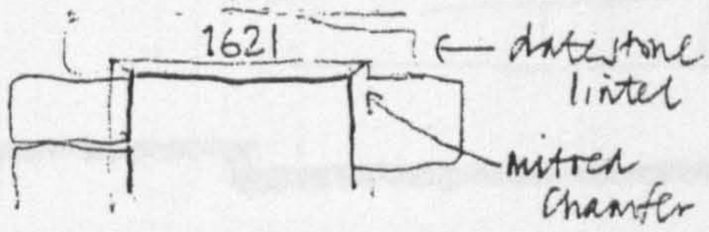
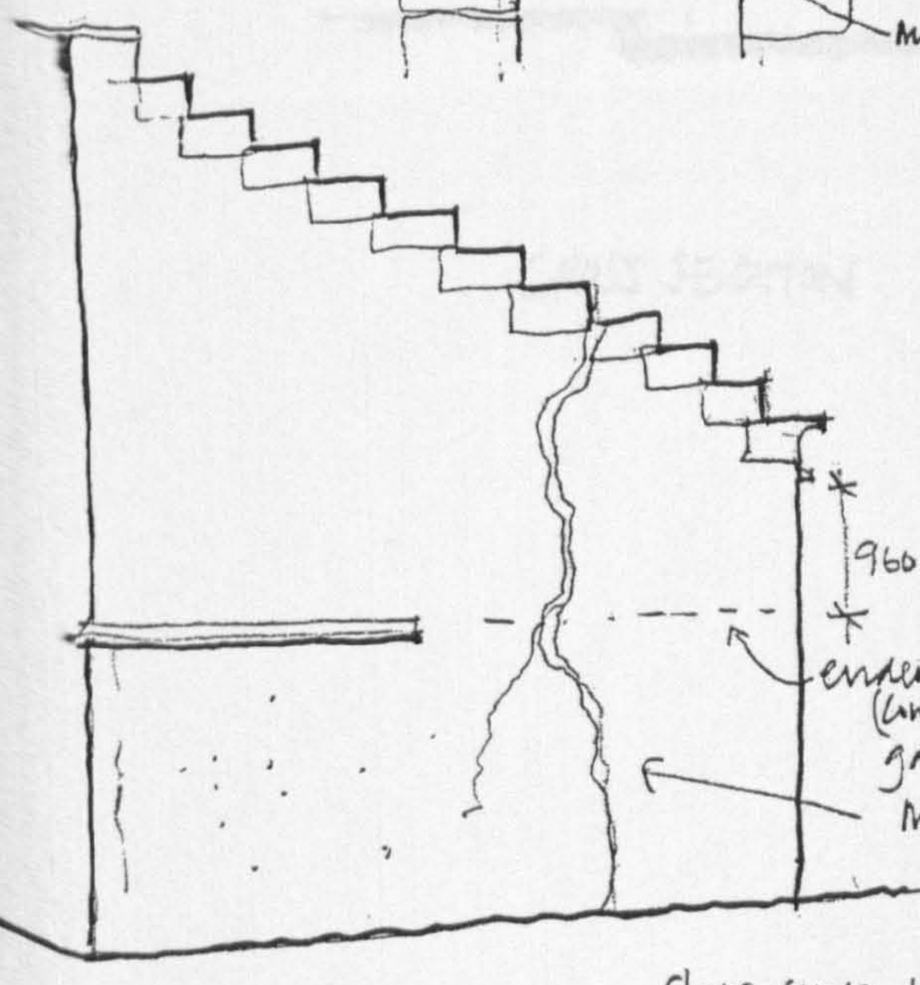
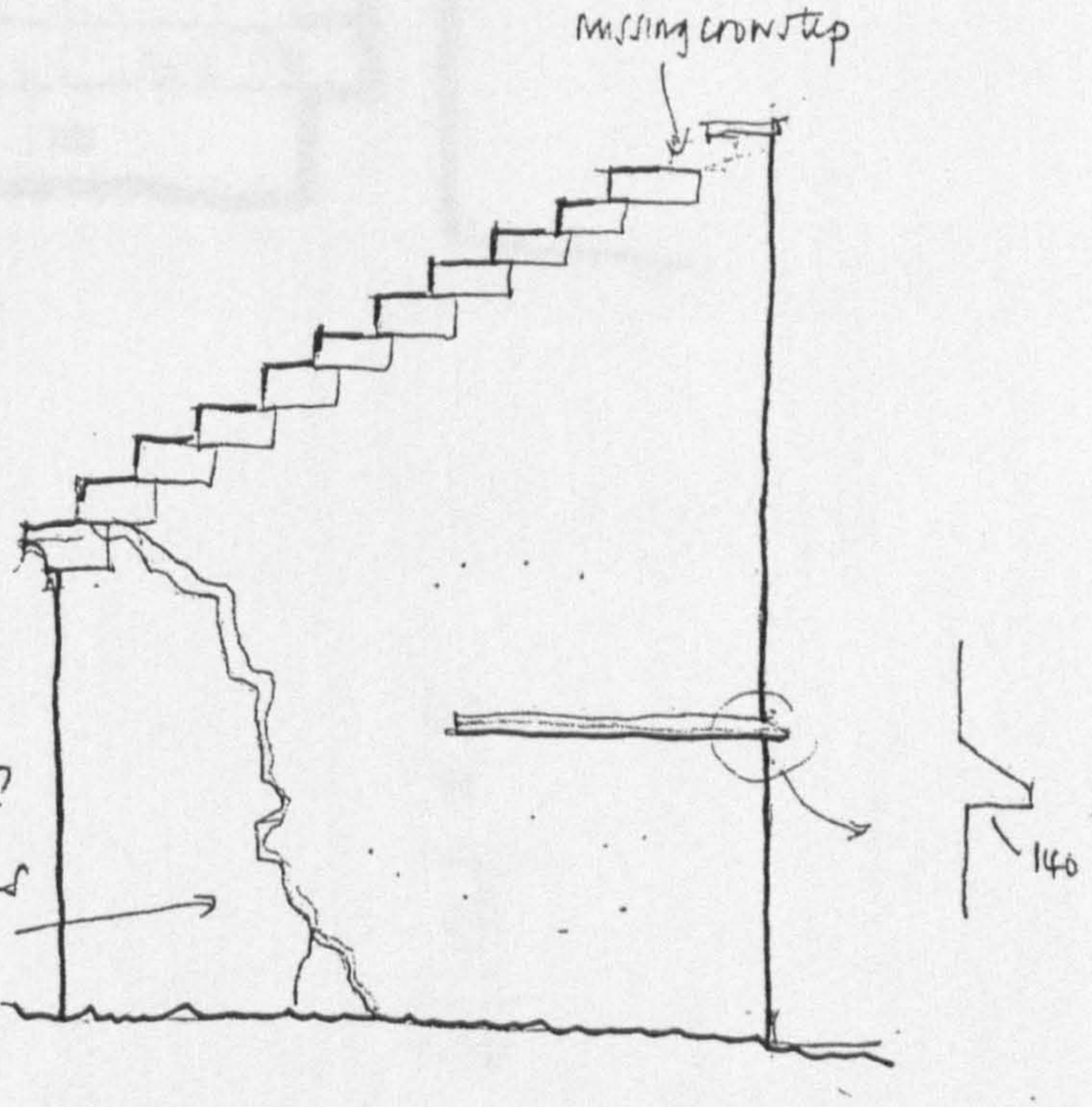






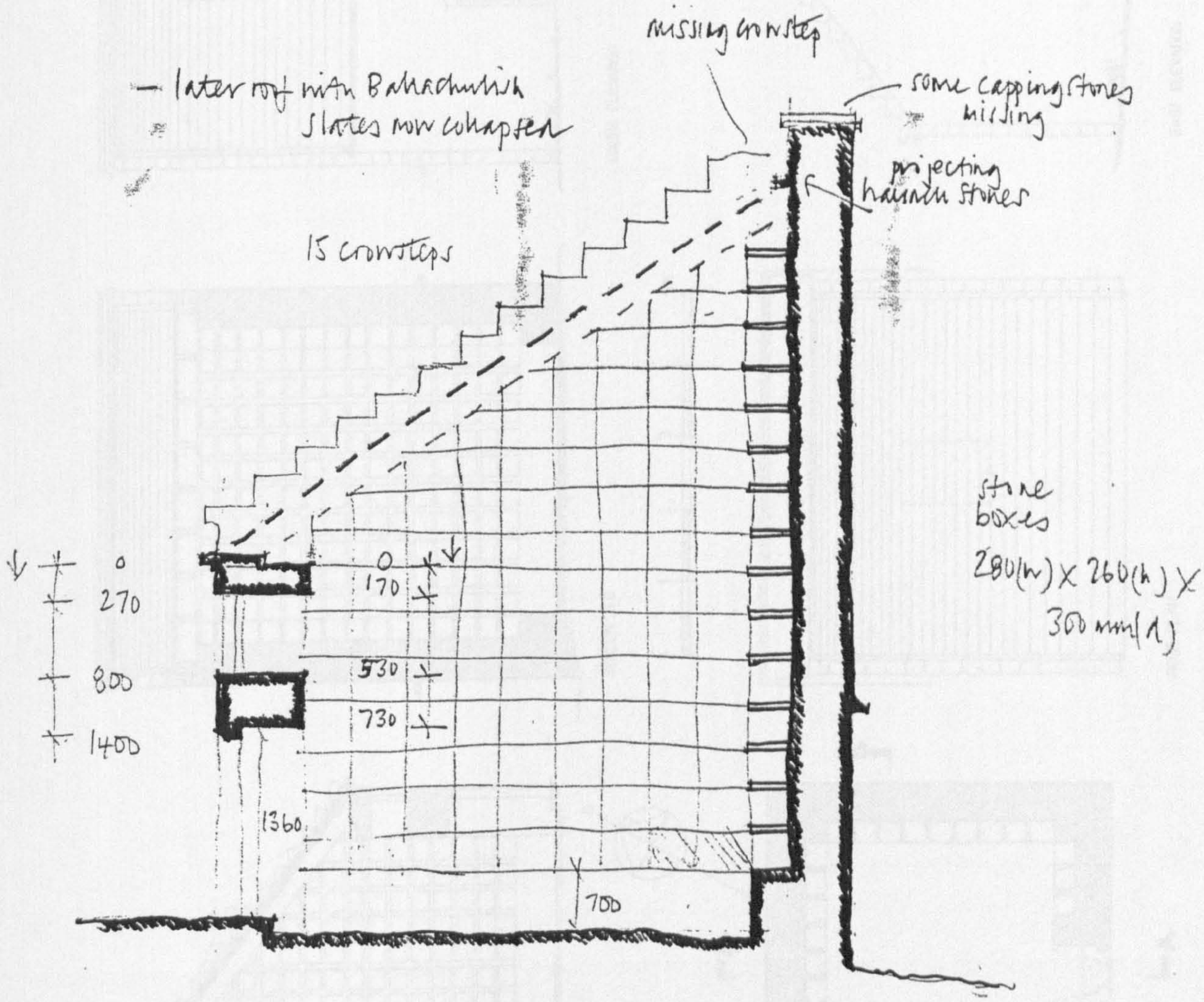
WEST ELEVATION

slope south to north



EAST ELEVATION

FINDRASSIE DOOCOT	
MEASURED SURVEY	190
NB 5/11/92	



CROSS SECTION

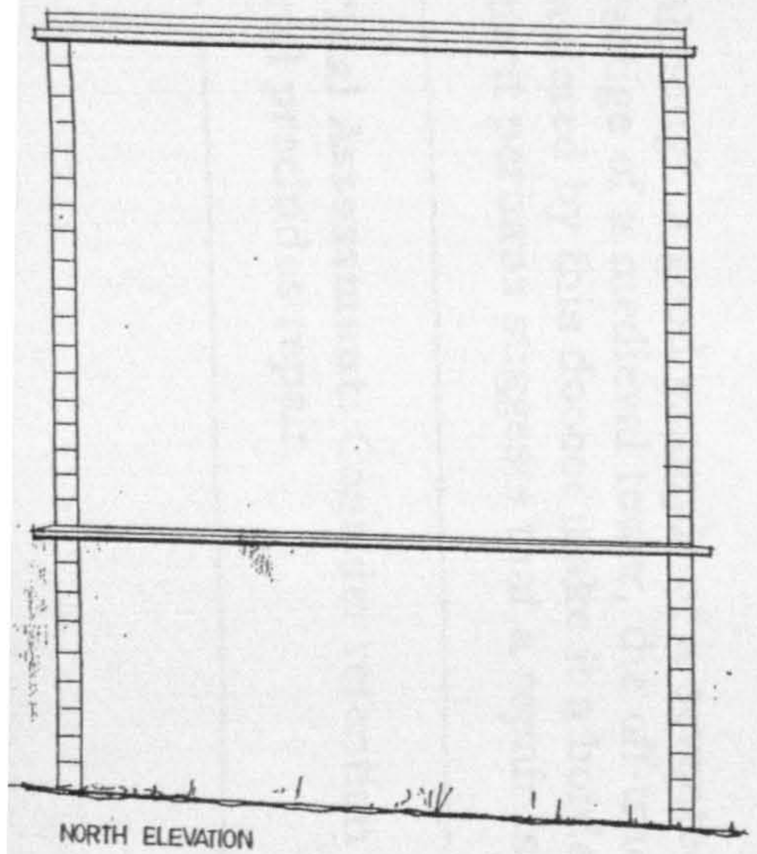
108
108
144
42
6
408

3 of 3

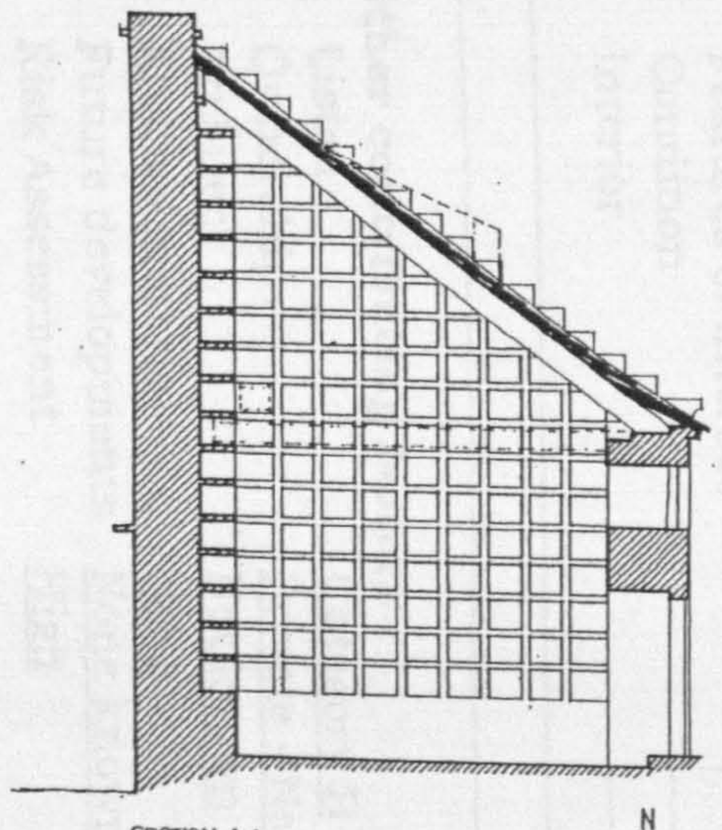
FINDRASSIE DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 5/11/92

191

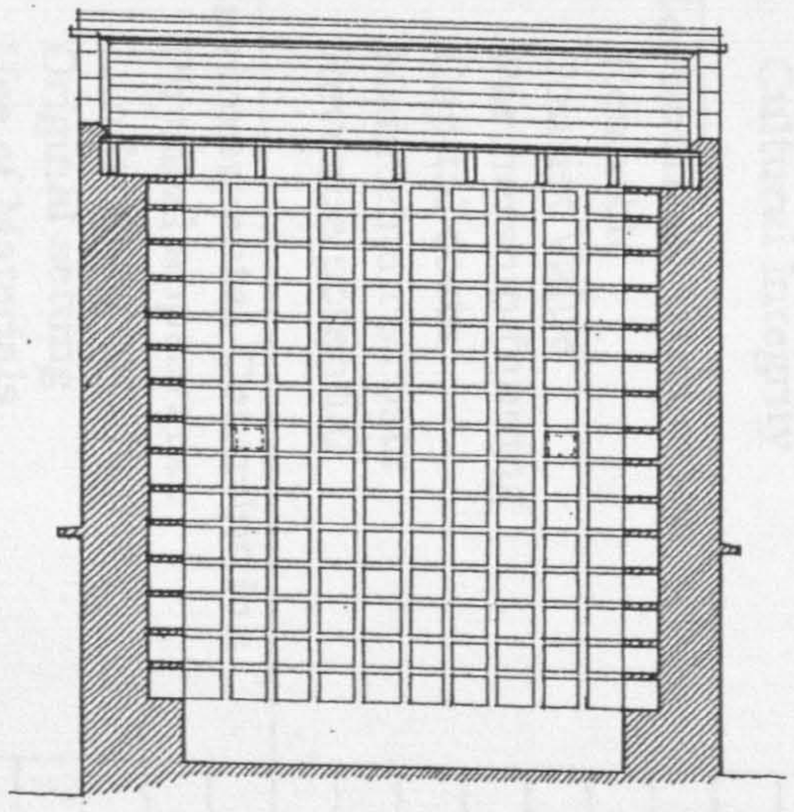
Findrassie Doocot



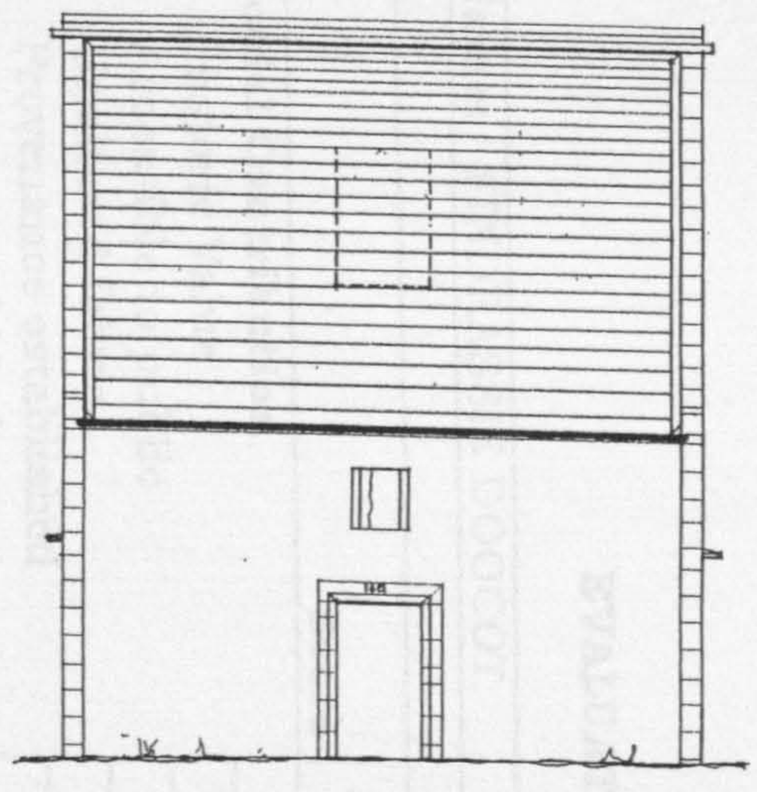
NORTH ELEVATION



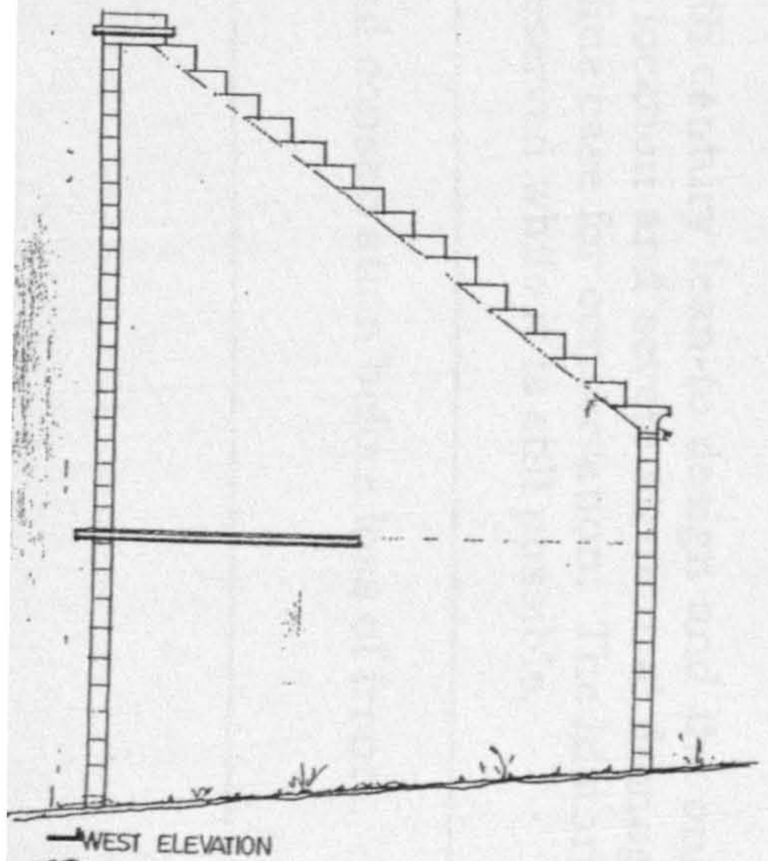
SECTION A A



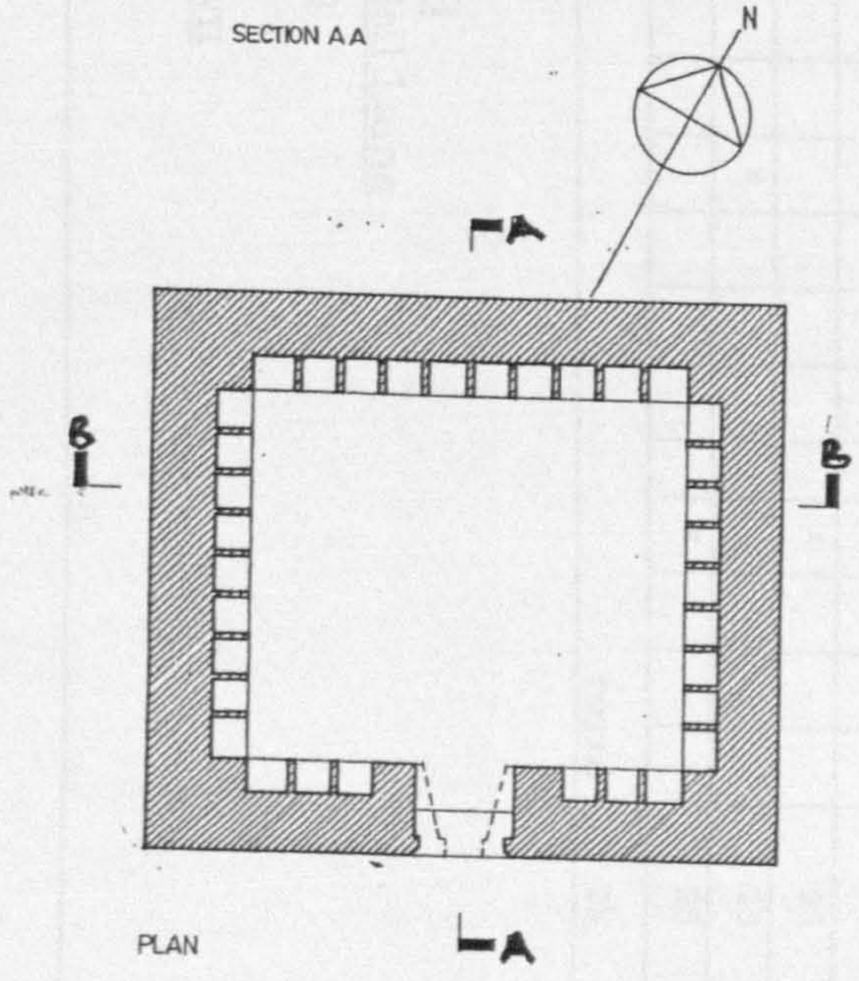
SECTION B B



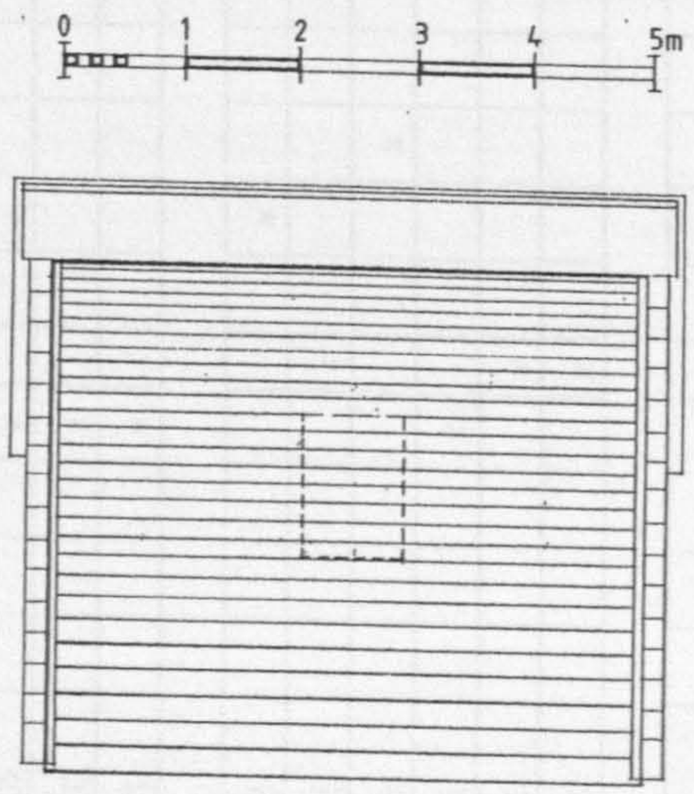
SOUTH ELEVATION



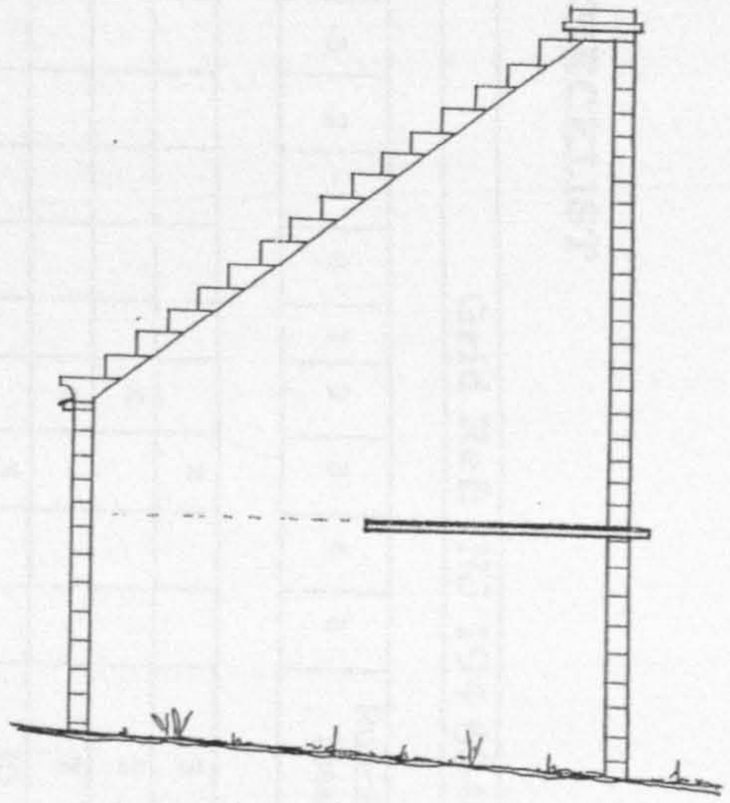
WEST ELEVATION



PLAN



ROOF PLAN



EAST ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: FINDRASSIE DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 194 654

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public								x				5
• Unaltered fabric								x				7
• Provenance established									x			10
• Educational Merit								x				12
• Cultural Integrity								x				14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					15
• Tourist Value							x					16
• Partnership funding								x				18
• Capital costs				x								16
• Maintenance costs							x					17
• Revenue potential					x							16
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				18
• Landscape prominence								x				20
• Original setting								x				22
• Use of Materials								x				24
• Features of interest								x				26
• Condition			x									23
• Interior								x				25
											TOTAL	25

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private - Neil Laing
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None known
- Risk Assessment — High

Summary Comments:

Although a good example of a seventeenth century lean-to design and the only vestige of a medieval tower, the off-track location and severe structural damage suffered by this doocot make it a border line case for conservation. The historic merit perhaps suggests that a repair is deserved while it is still possible.

Final Assessment: Consider retention and conservation before loss of front wall precludes repair.

5.4.6 BALLORMIE DOOCOT, GORDONSTOUN (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 213 680, Drainie Parish

Altitude 5M.

Positive Reference(s)

GRC SMR Ref: NJ 26 NW4. "Destroyed 1746 (probably rebuilt by 1751)... *"No remains of any building were seen on the ground and there has been no structure at this spot since 1927".*

Further referred to in Douglas, 'Dovecotes of Moray', 1931. Comprehensive citation of lawsuit between Robert Gordon and Alexander Brodie in 1751 (See Appendix Section 2).

p.30, *"... a very small and inconsiderable one situated within the lands of Ballormie on the north side of the Loch of Spynie".* p.32, Brodie's lawyer refers to Gordon's third doocot *"at Ballormie, which is not above 5 or 600 yards from the best of Lord Lyon's corn fields, where the pigeons daily haunt, being the nearest cornfield to that pigeon house".* p.36, Douglas quotes a writing by Sir Robert of 1746 recording a Jacobite raid on the estate *"They also destroyed my dovecot of Bellormy [sic]".* Obviously the doocot was re-functioning by the time it was cited in the above-mentioned lawsuit six years later. It is documented as the 'Dovecot of Bellormy', sited halfway between North Bellormy and South Bellormy, on Sir William Gordon of Gordonstoun, 1783, 'Map of Loch Spynie' held in the Gordonstoun Library and reproduced in Brereton, Gordonstoun, 1968. Once served Ardivot House, a 'Remarkable House' located about half a mile to the S.E.

Background Reference(s)

Straloch's, 'Map of Moray' c.1640 refers to site as 'Bellormie'.

1870 O.S does not refer.

Roy's 1750's map shows a small settlement at 'Ballormy' on SE edge of the huge Gordonstoun estate.

Brereton, Gordonstoun, 1968, p.32. Robert Gordon (1638-56) set about building up the estate and c.1640, he bought the King's third at Duffus and Burghead, Salterhill, Ettles, Covesea and the Drainie Estate with its mansion. The Ballormie Doocot was probably, acquired during these rounds of purchases.

5.4.6 BALLORMIE DOOCOT, GORDONSTOUN (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 213 680, Drainie Parish

Altitude 5M.

Positive Reference(s)

GRC SMR Ref: NJ 26 NW4. "Destroyed 1746 (probably rebuilt by 1751)... *"No remains of any building were seen on the ground and there has been no structure at this spot since 1927".*

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p.30, *"... a very small and inconsiderable one situated within the lands of Ballormie on the north side of the Loch of Spynie".* p.32, Brodie's lawyer refers to Gordon's third doocot *"at Ballormie, which is not above 5 or 600 yards from the best of Lord Lyon's corn fields, where the pigeons daily haunt, being the nearest cornfield to that pigeon house".* p.36, Douglas quotes a writing by Sir Robert of 1746 recording a Jacobite raid on the estate *"They also destroyed my dovecot of Bellormy [sic]".* Obviously the doocot was re-functioning by the time it was cited in the above-mentioned lawsuit six years later. It is documented as the 'Dovecot of Bellormy', sited halfway between North Bellormy and South Bellormy, on Sir William Gordon of Gordonstoun, 1783, 'Map of Loch Spynie' held in the Gordonstoun Library and reproduced in Brereton, Gordonstoun, 1968. Once served Ardivot House, a 'Remarkable House' located about half a mile to the S.E.

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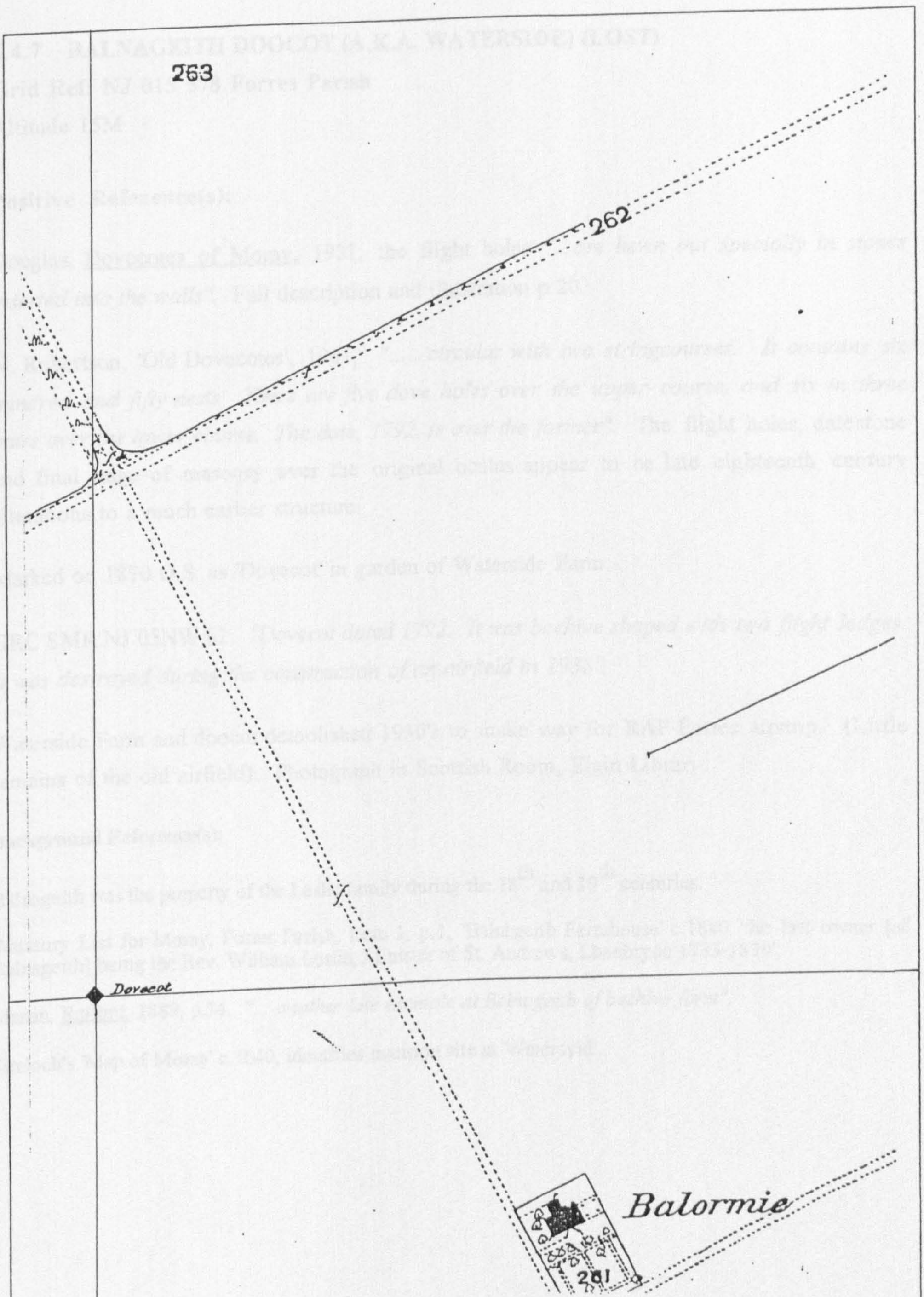


Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Ballormie Doocot (Fig. 5.4.6)

5.4.7 BALNAGEITH DOOCOT (A.K.A. WATERSIDE) (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 015 578 Forres Parish

Altitude 15M

Positive Reference(s):

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, the flight holes *"...are hewn out specially in stones inserted into the walls".* Full description and illustration p.20.

N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes', 1961, *"..... circular with two stringcourses. It contains six hundred and fifty nests. There are five dove holes over the upper course, and six in three pairs over the lower course. The date, 1792, is over the former".* The flight holes, datestone and final stage of masonry over the original oculus appear to be late eighteenth century alterations to a much earlier structure.

Marked on 1870 O.S. as 'Dovecot' in garden of Waterside Farm.

GRC SMR NJ 05NW 62. *"Dovecot dated 1792. It was beehive shaped with two flight ledges. It was destroyed during the construction of an airfield in 1938".*

Waterside Farm and doocot demolished 1930's to make way for RAF Forres airstrip. (Little remains of the old airfield). Photograph in Scottish Room, Elgin Library.

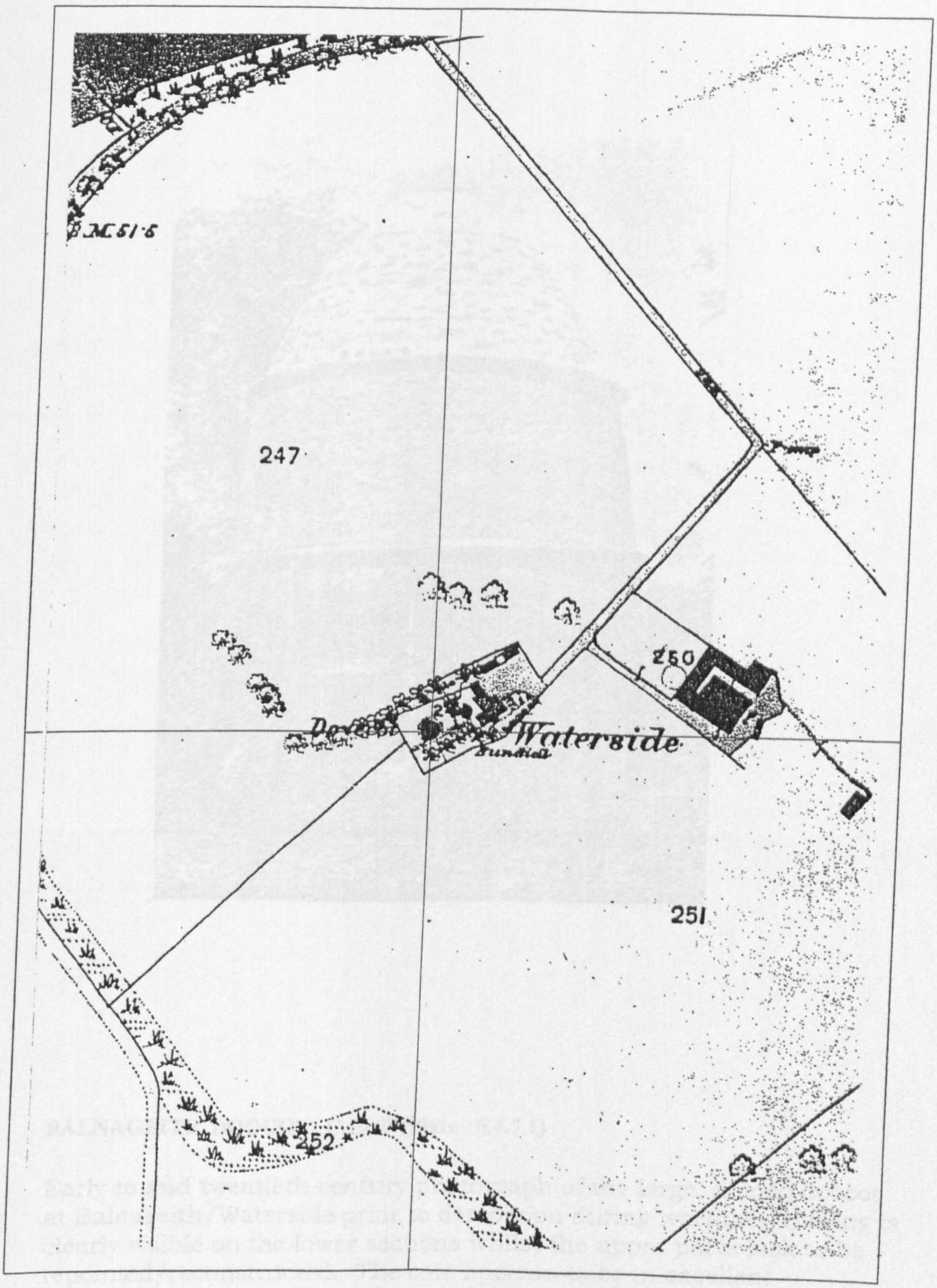
Background Reference(s);

Balnageith was the property of the Leslie family during the 18th and 19th centuries.

Statutory List for Moray, Forres Parish, Item 1, p.1, 'Balnageith Farmhouse' c.1840 'the last owner [of Balnageith] being the Rev. William Leslie, Minister of St. Andrews, Lhanbryde 1783-1839'.

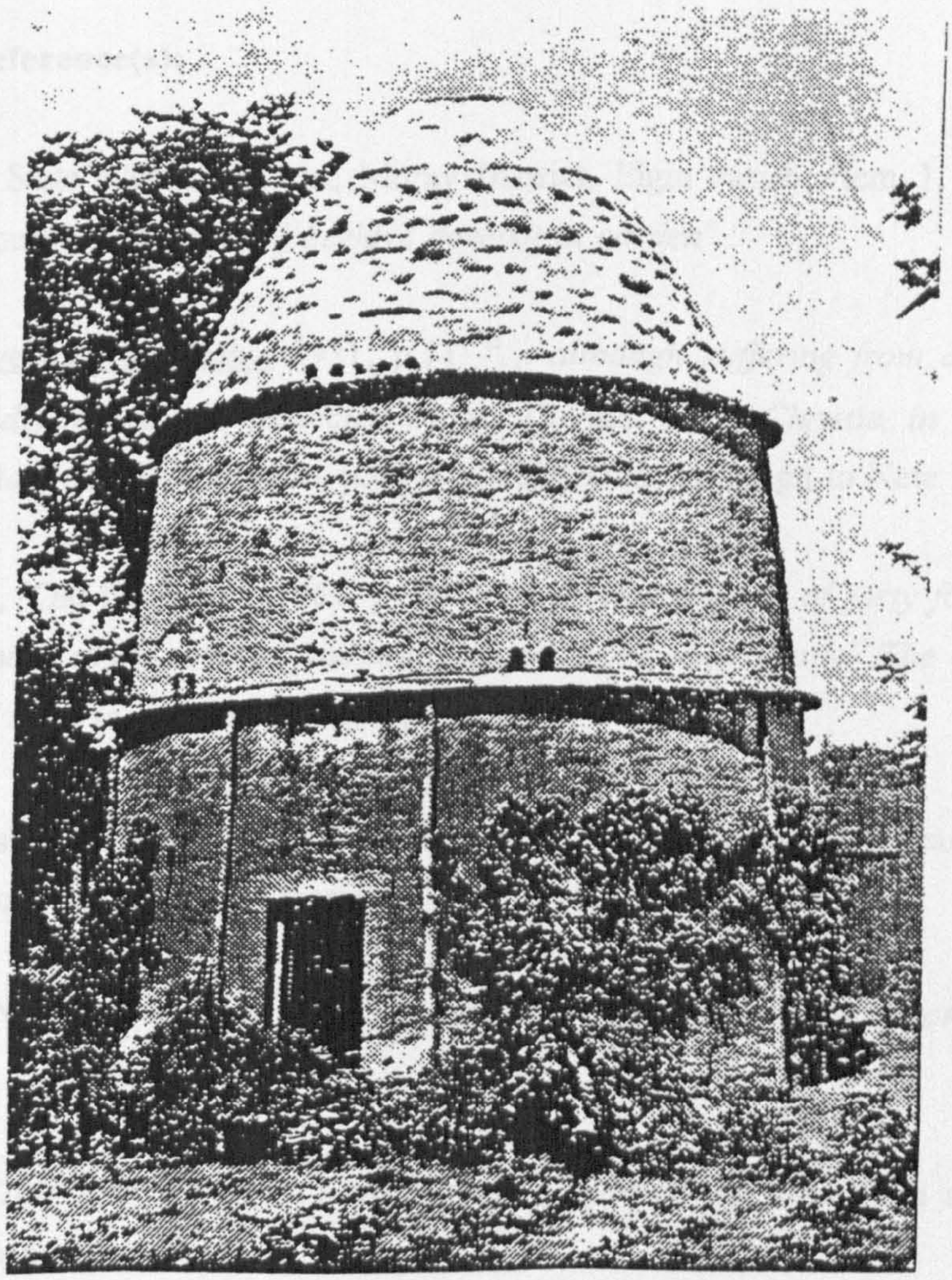
Mason, Rafford, 1889, p.34. *"... another late example at Balnageith of beehive form".*

Straloch's 'Map of Moray' c.1640, identifies mansion site at 'Watersyid'.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Balnageith Doocot (Fig. 5.4.7)



BALNAGEITH DOOCOT, C.1930 (Plate 5.4.7.1)

Early to mid twentieth century photograph of the large, domed doocot at Balnageith/Waterside prior to demolition during wartime. Harling is clearly visible on the lower sections whilst the upper parts look to be repointed/reconstructed. The cote appears to be in excellent condition.

(Extract from Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1930, p20)

5.4.8 BLACKHILLS DOOCOT (RUINED)

Grid Ref: NJ 271 586, Elgin Parish

Altitude 80M

Positive Reference(s):

Secretary of State's Statutory List, Moray District, Elgin Parish, Item 1, p.1 under heading 'Blackhill House'. "*Remains of beehive dovecot in garden*".

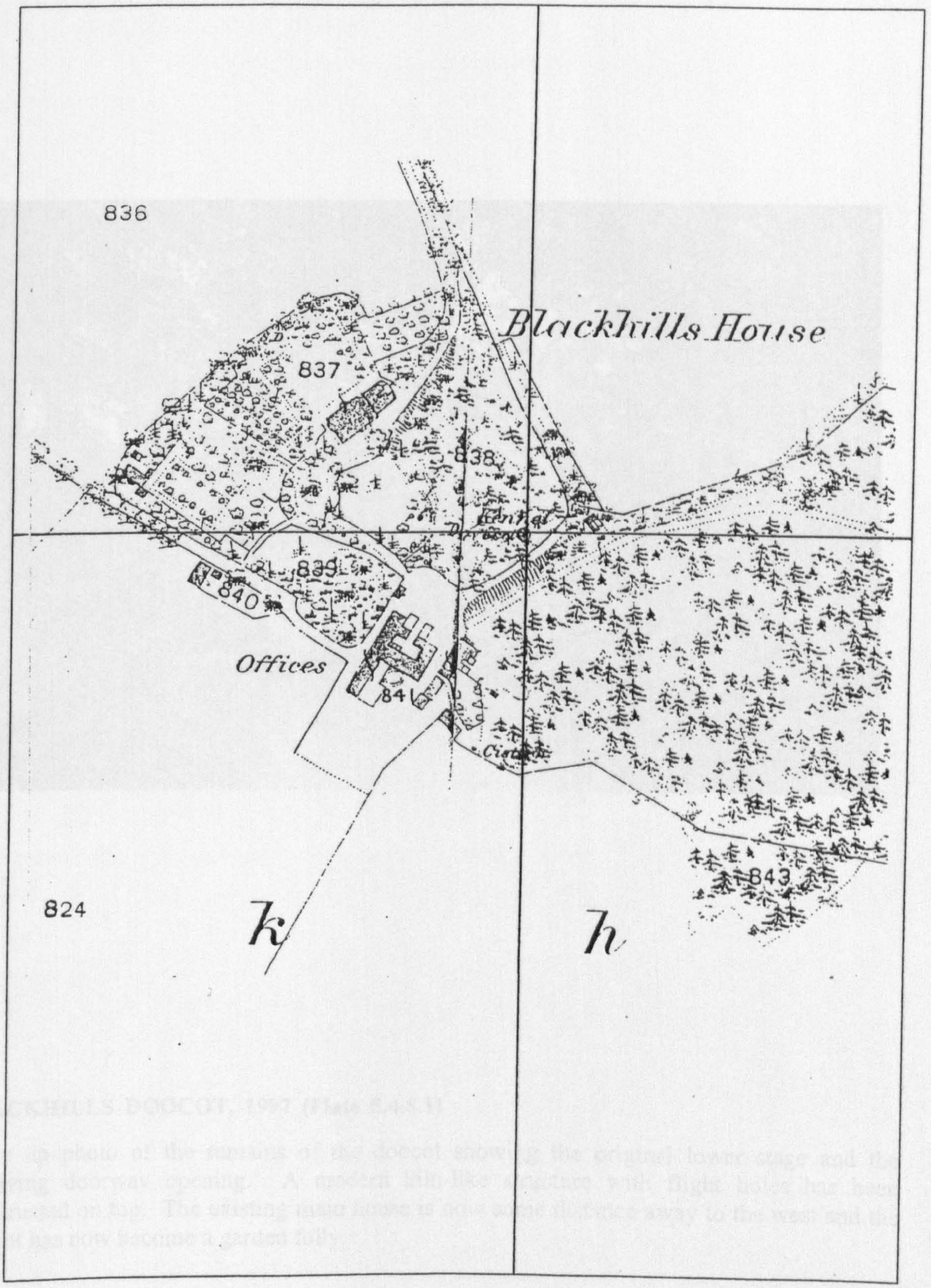
Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.11. "... *although suffering from cracks in the walls, will be carefully nursed and protected by Mr Thomas North Christie, in whose garden the dovecote stands*". Full description, p.45 – (not dissimilar in design to New Elgin doocot).

N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', 1961, p.380, "... *a circumfeence of forty five feet. The walls have two circular string courses, and are recessed above each course. The entrance is on the east side, and there is a window in the west wall*".

Partly demolished in 1960s. Only bottom stage remains (with modern 'cairn' on top) small SW facing door with chamfered margins.

G R.C. SMR NJ 25 NE6, "*Remains of Dovecot. Now collapsed and is an ornamental garden feature*".

Marked on 1870 OS as 'Dovecot', near 'Kennels', in woodland some 75m south east of 19th century replacement.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Blackhills Doocot (Fig. 5.4.8)



BLACKHILLS DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.4.8.1)

Close up photo of the remains of the doocot showing the original lower stage and the surviving doorway opening. A modern kiln-like structure with flight holes has been constructed on top. The existing main house is now some distance away to the west and the doocot has now become a garden folly.

5.4.9 COXTON DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 266 608, St. Andrews & Lhanbryde Parish

Altitude 35M

Positive Reference(s)

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.44.

"At Coxton and Innes dovecotes may have existed and may have fallen in disrepair and have disappeared".

Area 125M to east of tower is still known as 'Doohill.' (Area to south west 'Gallowhill').

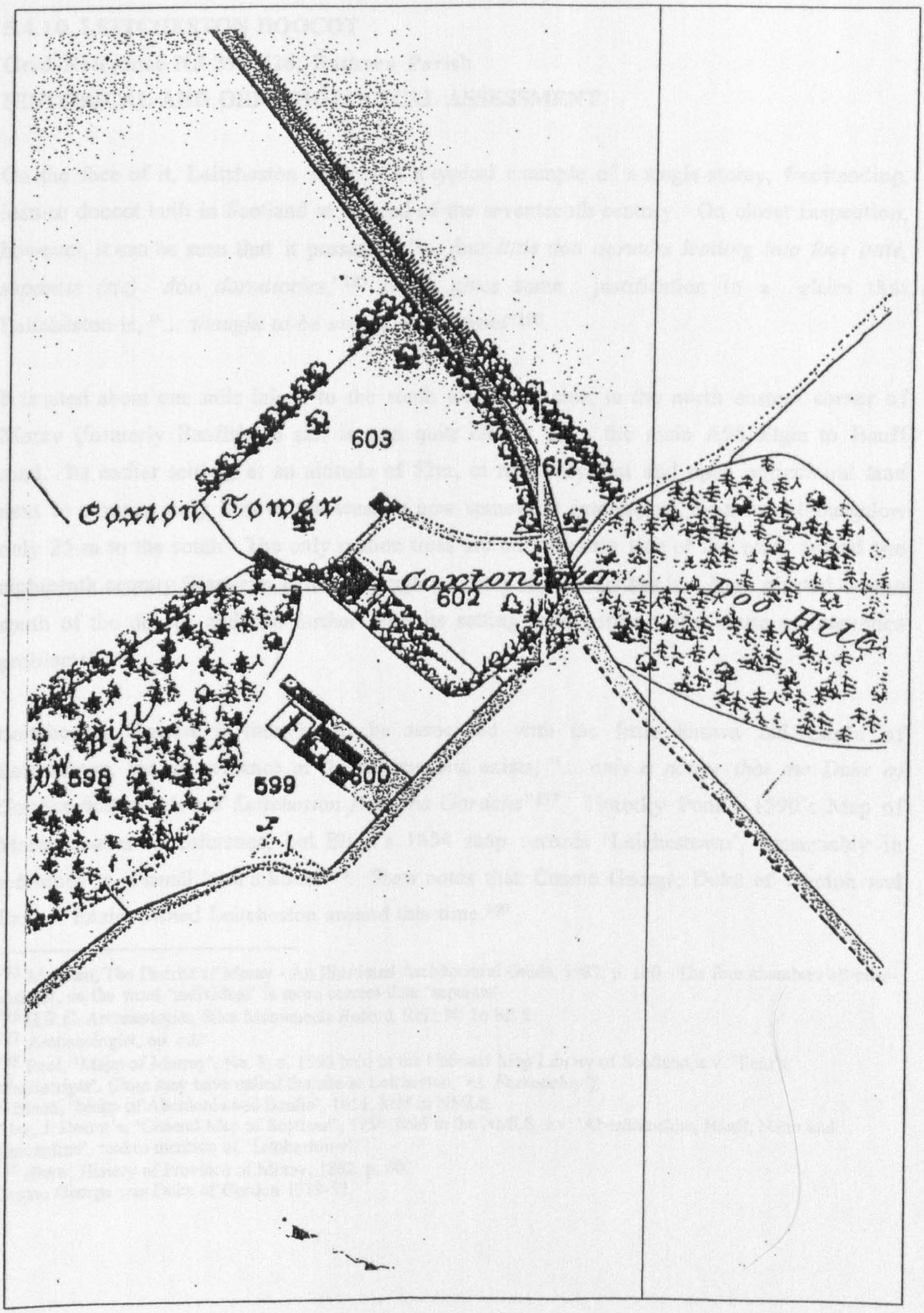
Aberdeen Special Collections, Library, MS RHP/31002. Tower and garden marked on 1771, Plans of lands and barony of Coxton, by George Taylor but no doocot recorded.

Background Reference(s)

Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, pp.328-9. *"The burly lairds of Coxton were sufficiently expert in vindicating their feudal rights of pot or pit and gallows."*

MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, 1887, vol. 2, p.23, *".. one of the most remarkable buildings of its class in Scotland. Although well provided with shot-holes, it has not been intended for a strong fort, but was rather a manor house sufficiently strong to resist sudden attack."* Belonged to Inneses of Invermarkie, then Earl of Fife. Empty c.1875.

Statutory List for Moray, St Andrews and Lhanbryde Parish, Item 2, p.3.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Coxton Doocot (Fig. 5.4.9)

5.4.10 LEITCHESTON DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 399 626, Rathven Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

On the face of it, Leitcheston Doocot is a typical example of a single storey, freestanding, lean-to doocot built in Scotland at the end of the seventeenth century. On closer inspection, however, it can be seen that it possesses, "... *four little doo dormers leading into four little, separate (sic) doo dormitories,*"[195] which gives some justification to a claim that Leitcheston is, "... *thought to be unique in Scotland*"[196].

It is sited about one mile inland to the south west of Buckie, in the north eastern corner of Moray (formerly Banffshire) and is seen quite clearly from the main A98 Elgin to Banff road. Its earlier setting, at an altitude of 52m, in relatively flat and open agricultural land next to a spring only 3 m to the west, is now somewhat interrupted by a recent bungalow only 25 m to the south. The only mature trees are on the north side of the road, around the eighteenth century Glasterim Farm, although a cluster of saplings has just been planted to the south of the doocot and will further alter its setting (and perhaps also cause maintenance problems).

Leitcheston Doocot is thought to be associated with the little known old Castle of Leitcheston, yet no evidence of the ancient site exists, "... *only a notice that the Duke of Gordon had purchased Leitcheston from the Gordons*"[197]. Timothy Pont's 1590's Map of Moray makes no reference, but Blaeu's 1654 map records 'Leichestown', presumably in reference to a small laird's house[198]. Shaw notes that Cosmo George, Duke of Gordon and Earl of Enzie, owned Leitcheston around this time.[199]

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[195] McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 120. The four chambers all inter-connect, so the word 'individual' is more correct than 'separate'.

[196] G.R.C. Archaeologist, Sites Monuments Record, Ref., NJ 36 SE 9.

[197] Archaeologist, op. cit.

[198] Pont, 'Mapp of Murray', No. 8, c. 1596 held in the National Map Library of Scotland, s.v. 'Pont's Manuscripts'. (Pont may have called the site at Leicheston, '*O. Faernochty*').
J. Blaeu, 'Mapp of Aberdonia and Banfia', 1654, held in NMLS.
Also, J. Dorret's, 'General Map of Scotland', 1750, held in the NMLS, s.v. 'Aberdeenshire, Banff, Nairn and Kincardine', makes mention of '*Litchestown*'.

[199] Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, p. 60.
Cosmo George was Duke of Gordon 1719-52.

Judging by the simplistic nature of the detailing, this doocot is a relatively early example of the 'lectern' type doocot and, early to mid seventeenth century. The sub-division of the interior is rare and may be a later alteration in order to increase the bird numbers. If this increase succeeded, Leitcheston Doocot is an example of dove breeding at its most intense in Scotland, but it is likely to have caused severe overcrowding, a lack of fresh air and potentially poorer quality produce.[200]

It appears from exposed core work at the top of the rear elevation, that much of the wallhead of Leitcheston Doocot has been lost. Although this is likely, it is difficult to be certain; there is some relative uniformity to the exposed rubble and there is a slight suggestion that the external angle stones follow the line of the rake.

Some of the detailing of the doocot is fairly typical of this period, and McCann, in his description of the lectern cote at Forse in Caithness, provides some enlightenment on the use of crowsteps and ledges which may apply here: *"The side walls have stepped parapets, each providing twelve flat perching-places for use in calm conditions or north winds, and two stepped ledges on each for use in east or west winds. The high north wall is unusual in having three ledges, and the low south wall has one ledge; together these ledges provide an abundance of sheltered perching-space which the pigeons could use in strong winds from any direction."*[201]

Leitcheston Doocot was fully repaired around 1973 by the County Council of Banffshire[202] and its condition is still good today, except for some slipped slates and the re-opening of a

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G. Hutcheson, Buckie and District in the Past, (Buckie: Banffshire Advertiser, 1887), p. 79, *"The Enzie used to abound with small lairds, at one time no less than about 20 existing in the partish of Rathven ... At Leichestown a tower was once in existence."*

200 Had this design been truly successful, it would undoubtedly have been copied elsewhere.

201 McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 120.
It is further suggested that crow steps were not, "... *adopted on dovecotes wholly for reasons of architectural assertiveness; they have the practical merit of providing many high perching-points, and many pockets of shelter from the wind"*. Crowsteps are, of course, a common feature of the Scottish vernacular and are to be found on most buildings of this period.

202 Beaton, 1994, pers. comm.

crack on the centre of the front wall just below the eaves. The building is not under any imminent threat, but it is
important to monitor the movement on the front wall and make sure that the newly planted trees do not cause a serious maintenance problem when they become fully grown.

As, "... *the only survivor of an old Gordon Manor hereabouts*"[203] and a rare, but well maintained, example of a seventeenth century building in a prominent landscaped position, Leitcheston Doocot, although redundant, undoubtedly justifies its case for retention and conservation.

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[203] McKean, loc. cit.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Leitcheston doocot was listed Category B, by the Secretary of State, in 1972 but this was changed to Category A in 1989, possibly due to its, "... very unusual plan form."[204] The plan shape is square, size 4.5 x 4.5 m, with an, "... interior divided into 4 small inter-communicating compartments".[205] The front wallhead terminates at 2.8 m, although the rear extends to an overall height of 6.5 m. The walls are 750 mm thick, including the boxes, and are constructed of uncoursed, "... rubble sandstone and hard blue stone"[206] (with some red sandstone intermingled). Both types of stone are used as tooled dressings at the external angles and openings. The stonework is bonded using coarse lime mortar but recent lime/cement heavy flush pointing hides much of the original material on the outside, except for some undisturbed traces of original lime harling on the upper areas.

The monopitch, south east facing roof is constructed at 45° using ten rafters, of 175 x 70 mm section, at 450 mm centres without the use of ties and clad in standard softwood sarking boards. The roof is finished using 15 mm thick diminishing courses of Banffshire slates, possibly extracted from the nearby Enzie quarry. The four eyebrow dormers, arranged in a 'dice formation' on the roof, are 500 mm wide and 1300 mm apart, each clad, on their tops and on their sides, in matching roof slates. Two of them (top left and bottom right) retain their 175 x 20 mm projecting alighting ledge and all retain their wooden framework for the 300 mm high flight hole openings (probably each missing an intermediate slat). The slates of the roof are haunched over in fresh mortar, where they meet the weather-beaten crowstepped skews, and although only twelve remain on each side, it is more likely that each had fifteen (the top skews are now missing). They project 500 mm above the slate line and meet the rear wallhead which only projects about 200 mm. A 40 mm thick stone projecting ledge is to be found immediately below this exposed rubble which runs the whole length of the rear and returns 900 mm along both gables. A further two ledges, which project 150 mm, are to be found 1.3 m and 2.6 m respectively below the topmost course and each of these return the full length along both gables. One 200 mm square, "... lozenge shape hole"[207] is to be found sited on the gable immediately above the middle ledge, whereas two, "... diamond shaped vents"[208] are symmetrically composed on each gable immediately above the lower-most ledge. This lower ledge of the, "... 3 rear rat courses"[209], coincides with the eaves at the front and returns beneath the skews, with some possibility that it originally extended along the front face.

The front wall is devoid of detail, except for the squat, 1370 high x 680 mm wide, left-of-centre door opening, which is formed using roll-moulded ashlar dressings. Careful analysis of the front elevation provides a faint suggestion that this door may have been moved from a central position, but this is speculative. An inward opening, vertically boarded door checks against the 120 mm stone door jamb and is fixed using iron pin hinging and bolts. A stone threshold step fills half of the depth of a door entrance which opens out into a tiny chamber containing 116 nest boxes within a floor area of only 1.44 square metres. The boxes are constructed in a linear arrangement, using 75 to 100 mm, roughly hewn sandstone uprights with 40 to 70 mm slate horizontals. The whole doocot appears to provide a total of 716 boxes, which are 320 wide x 275 high x 275 mm deep raised 670 mm above the floor.[210] "Access between the chambers is provided at floor level through 670 x 600 mm ... inter-connecting doorways (almost tunnels!)"[211], much of which are covered by thick layers of guano, courtesy of the few dozen wild pigeons who still inhabit this doocot. The two stone partition walls form a cruciform internal plan but do not extend full height. Together, they contain a total of 328 boxes and therefore almost double the overall provision of the structure.

Written February 1996

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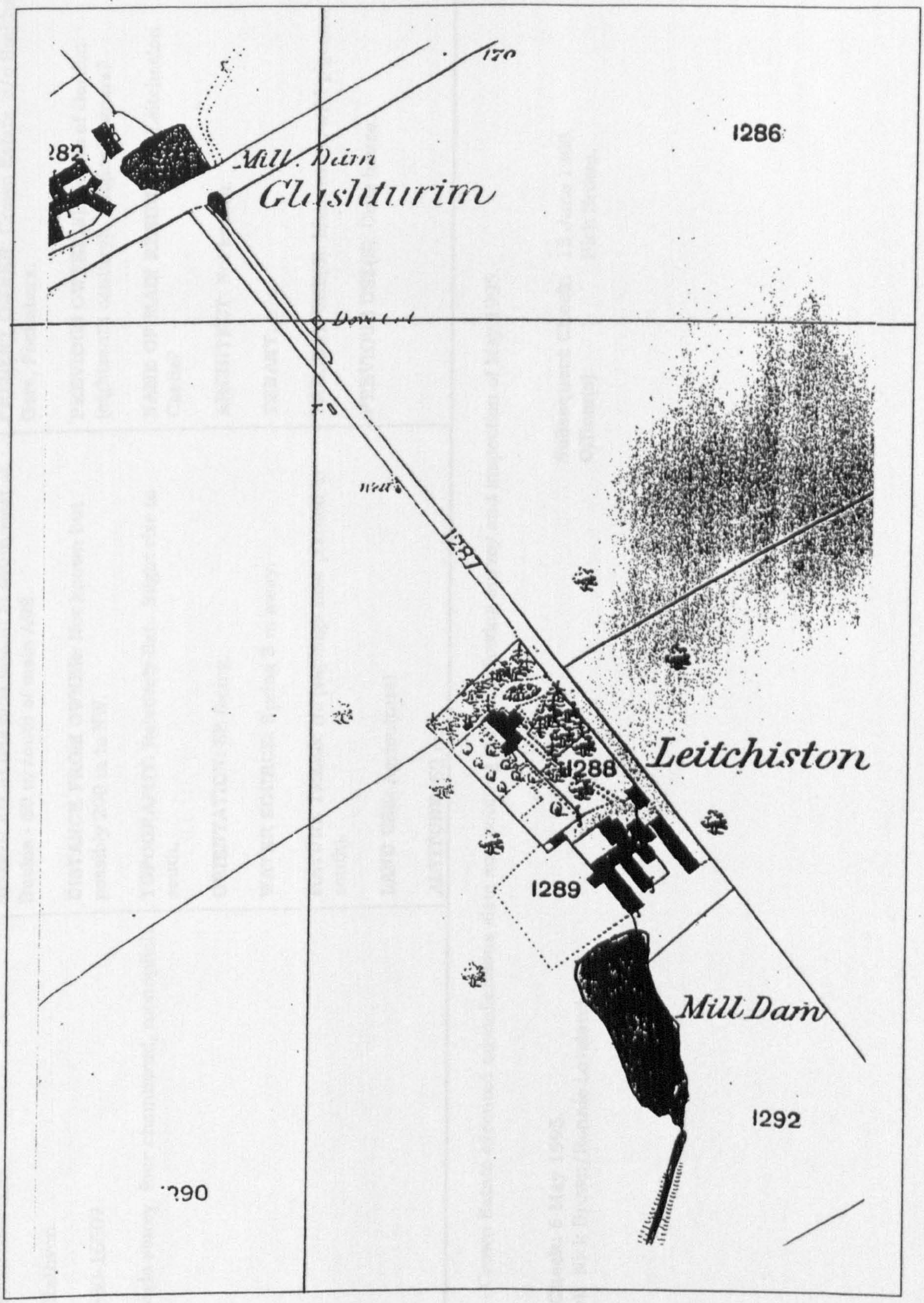
[204] Secretary of State, Statutory List for Moray District, Rathven Parish, Item 15, p.
[205] N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 372.
[206] Sec. of State, loc. cit.
[207] Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 17.
[208] Sec. of State, loc. cit.
[209] Beaton, loc. cit.
[210] The Secretary of State listing states, "... *660 stone nesting boxes overall*".
[211] Beaton, loc. cit.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Leitcheston Doocot (Fig. 5.4.10)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 399 626. **PARISH**: Rathven. **DATE**: 1630-1650? **TYPE**: Single storey, four chambered, monopitch.	**SITING**: About one mile inland to south west of Buckie - 60 m south of main A98. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: Not known but possibly 200 m to NW. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Relatively flat. Slight rise to south. **ORIENTATION**: SE facing. **WATER SOURCE**: Spring 3 m away. **MATURE TREES**: No (saplings now planted to south). **LAND USE**: Agricultural. **ALTITUDE**: 52 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Crown Estate, c/o Smiths Gore, Fochabers. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Dukes of Gordon (eighteenth century). Original owners? **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Leitcheston Castle? **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: n/a. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Monument, wild pigeons. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Dove house.

NOTES: - Crown Estate executed miscellaneous slate and pointing repairs following survey and inspection of May 1995.

Date of Check: 6 May 1995.
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Loveland.

Subsequent Check: 13 June 1998.
Officer(s): Nick Brown.

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Good. **REPAIRS**: Full repair, circa 1973, by County Council of Banffshire. **ALTERATIONS**: Internal walls? Entrance door moved? Eaves ledge at front removed? **FUTURE RISK**: Disturbance when trees fully grown. - Failure to stitch crack below eaves in centre of front wall.	**PLAN FORM**: Square. **PLAN SIZE**: 4.5 x 4.5 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT**: 2.8 m (front). **OVERALL HEIGHT**: 6.5 m (rear). **WALL CONSTRUCTION**: Uncoursed random rubble with tooled dressings. **WALL MATERIAL**: Grey sandstone rubble, with some red sandstone, bonded using lime mortar. **WALL THICKNESS**: 750 mm (including boxes). **WALL FINISH**: Recent lime/cement flush pointing although earlier harl traces remain at upper levels. **ROOF FORM**: Monopitch. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION**: 10 rafters 175 x 70 mm at 450 centres (with no ties) and sarking cladding. **ROOF PITCH**: 45°. **ROOF FINISH**: 15 mm thick diminishing courses of Banffshire slates (possibly from Enzie quarry).	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION**: Not known. **OUTER DOOR TYPE**: n/a. **DOOR SIZE**: 1370 (h) x 680 mm (w). **DOOR SITING**: Off centred (west) facing SE. **LEDGES**: 3 on rear and gables (removed from front?). **LEDGES HEIGHT**: 2.7 m, 4 m, 5.4 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH**: 30 m. **APERTURES**: No. **VENT HOLES**: 3 diamond shape 200 mm square on each gable above lower two ledges (2 on lowest ledge). **FLIGHT HOLES**: 300 mm square opening in each dormer. **TOTAL VENT AREA**: 0.8 m². **LIMEWASH**: Traces on stonework. **DORMERS**: 2 rows of 2 eyebrow dormers 500 mm wide and 1300 mm apart. **SKEWS**: 12 weathered crowstep skews remain, some at top appear missing. **FINIALS**: No. **WEATHER VANE**: No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Yes (although internal floor may have been removed).

PARTITION WALLS: Yes - cruciform plan internally created by two stone partitions containing boxes.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: n/a.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement of 75 to 100 mm roughly hewn sandstone uprights with 40 to 70 mm slate horizontals.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 716.

NEST BOX SIZE: 320 (w) x 275 (h) x 275 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 670 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: None.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: No clear evidence.

COLLECTING AID: None apparent.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 716 x 2 x 0.7 = 1002.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 35.3 m^3.

OTHER: Internal partition walls do not extend to roof.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- why need for 4 chambers?
- location of old castle.
- accurate date.
- rear wall capping - eroded or deliberate batter?
- internal partitions - original or not?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 17.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 120.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60.

T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, pp. 7, 30.

OSA, s.v., 'Rathven', pp. 387-8.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, pp. 368, **372**.

D. Omand (ed.), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181, 185.

ARTICLES:

A. C. Huie, 'The Banffshire Journal Annual', 1970, p. 53.

J. McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1992, p. 111.

LISTING: Rathven Parish, Item 15, p. 11, Category A, 1972 (changed from B to A in 1989).

SMR: NJ 36 SE 9.

MAPS: 1869, 1905, 1965 OS maps.
- No indication of castle or mansion on Pont's 'Map of Murray', No. 8, c. 1596.
- 'Litchestoun' recorded as an estate on J. Dorret's, 'General Map of Scotland', 1750 held in the NMLS.

PHOTOGRAPHS: RCAHMS (showing crack in front wall before 1975 repair)

OTHER:

Plan by S. Ross, in Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 30.

L. Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, p. 60.



LEITCHESTON DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.4.10.1)

Distant view from the south east (which is also possibly the view once appreciated from the former manor house). The recently planted trees in the foreground will, of course, soon cut off this view of the doocot with its unusual profusion of eyebrow dormers. The main A98 road now passes between the doocot and Glasterim Farm, which can be seen to the rear.



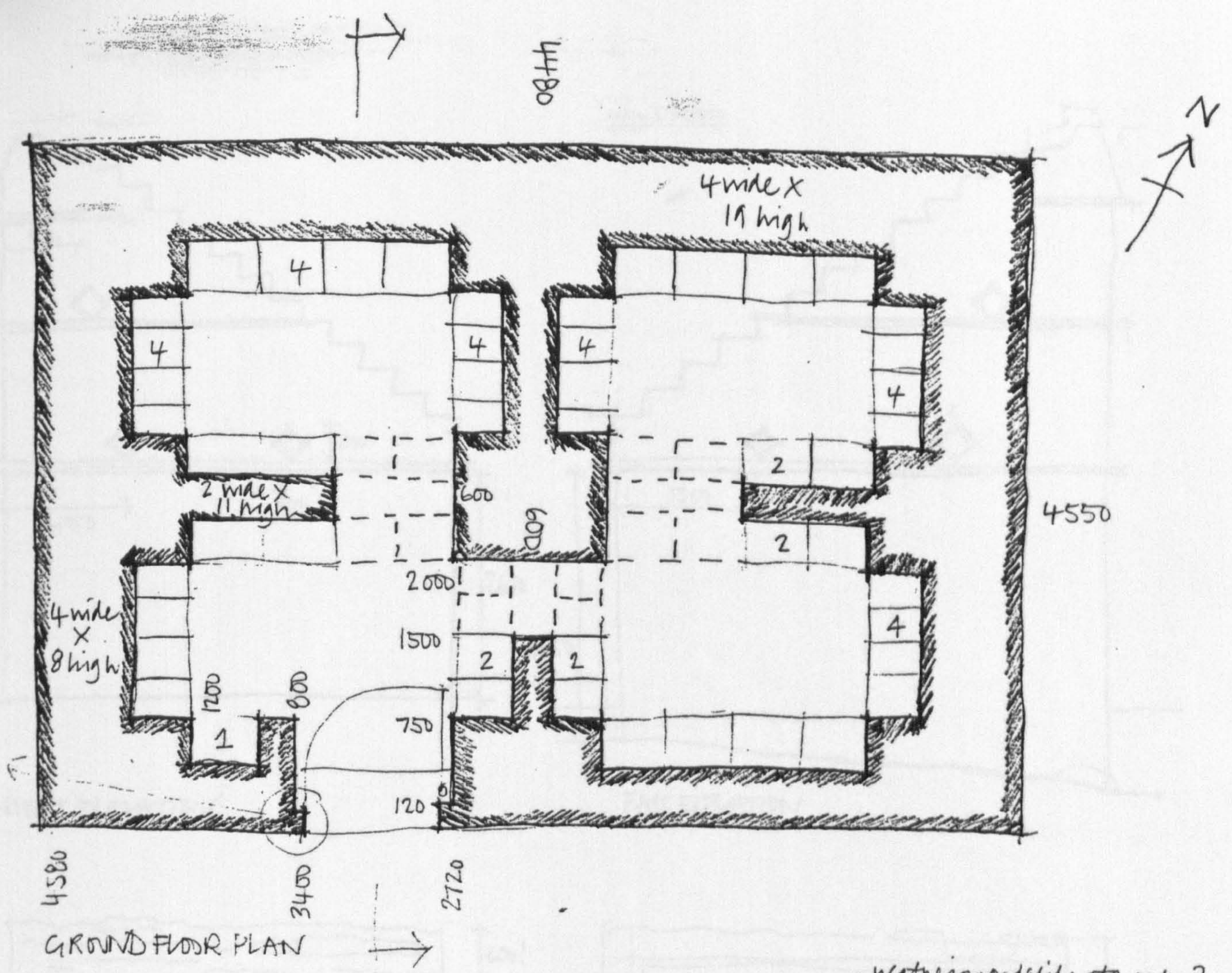
LEITCHESTON DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.4.10.2)

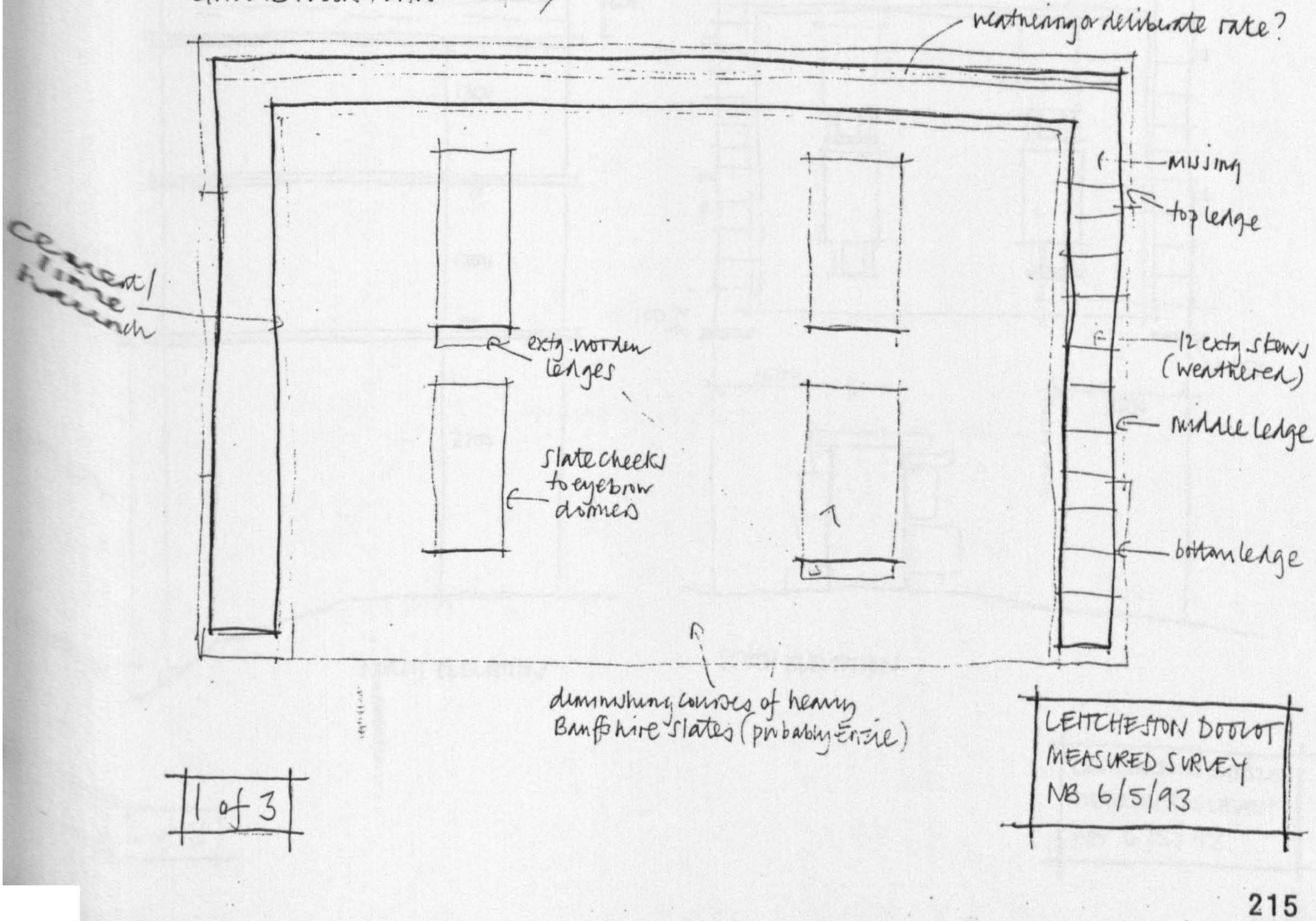
Close up view of north east corner, clearly illustrating the three string courses and the diamond-shaped ventilation holes in the gable. Note the erosion of the upper section of the rear wall leaving the rubble corework exposed and the upper most crowsteps missing.



LEITCHESTON DOOCOT, 1995 INTERIOR (Plate 5.4.10.3)

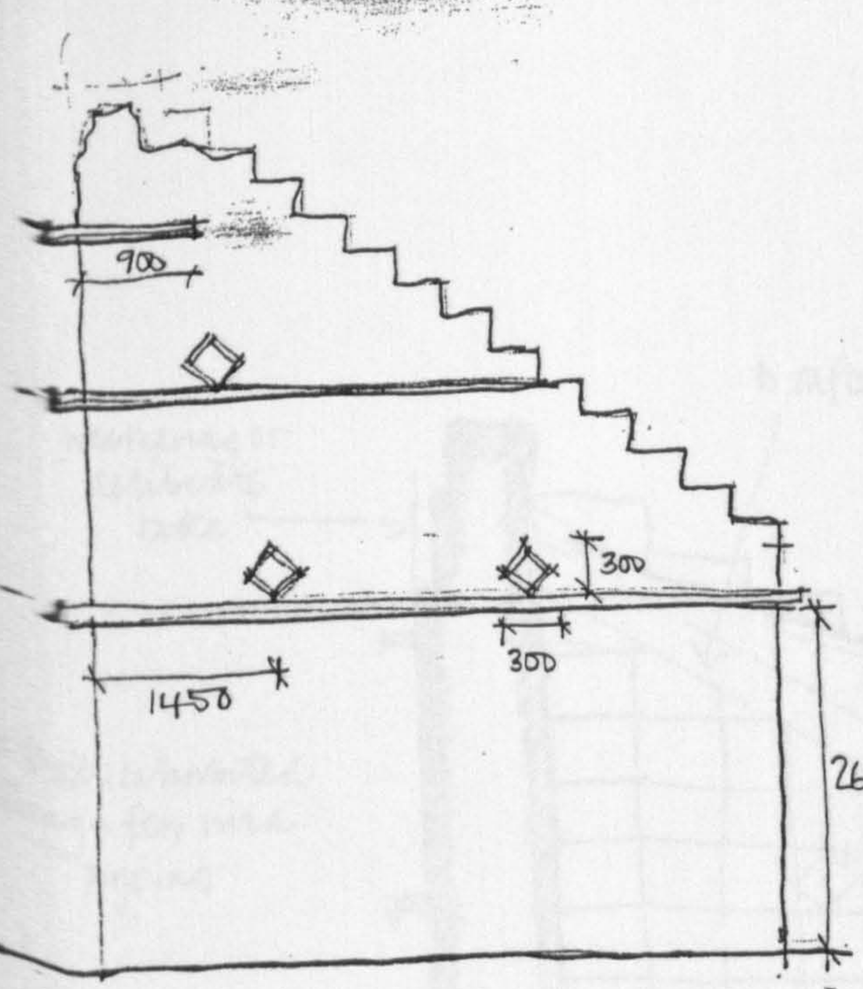
View of interior chamber showing the intersection of the internal partition walls, which have red sandstone and blue slate nest boxes on both sides. The low level access doorways provide crawling space only into adjoining chambers and are now partially filled with droppings.





LEITCHESTON DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 6/5/93

1 of 3



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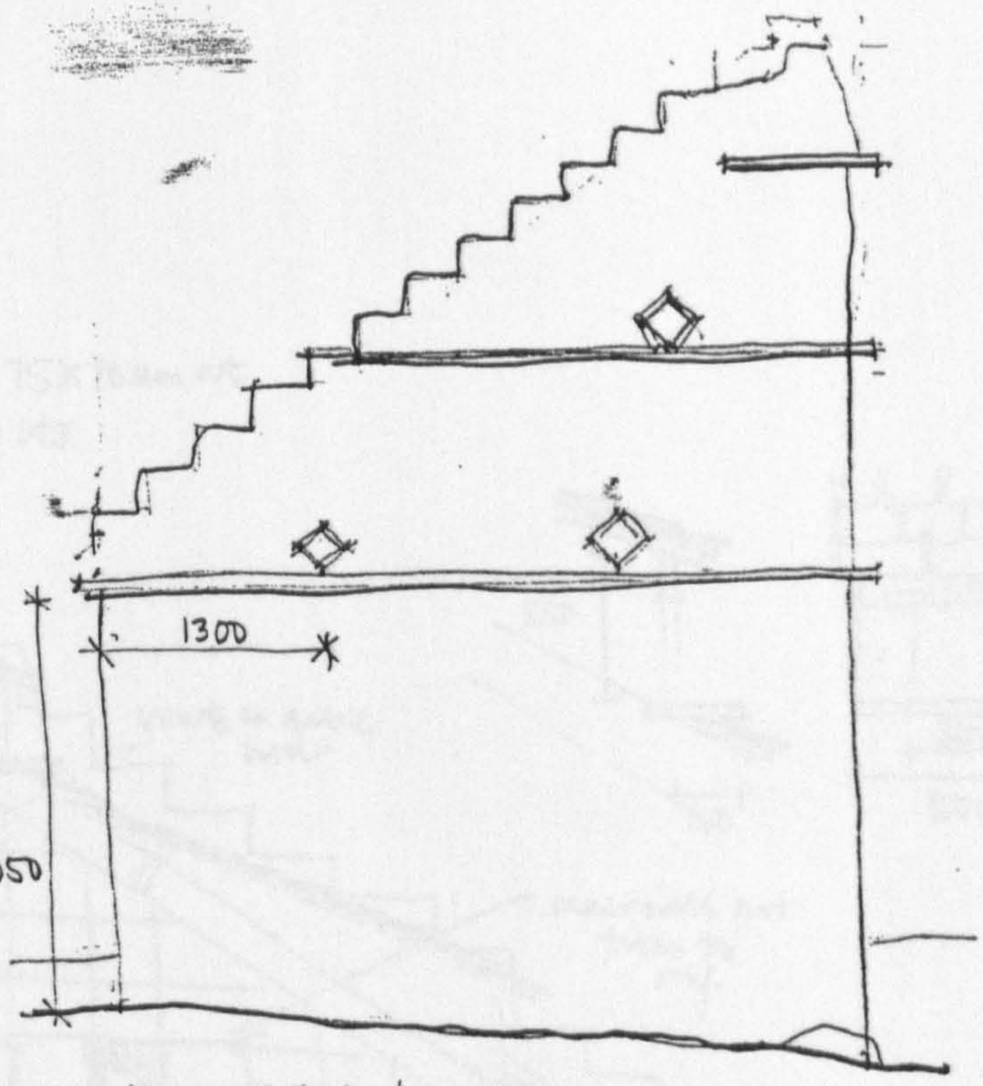

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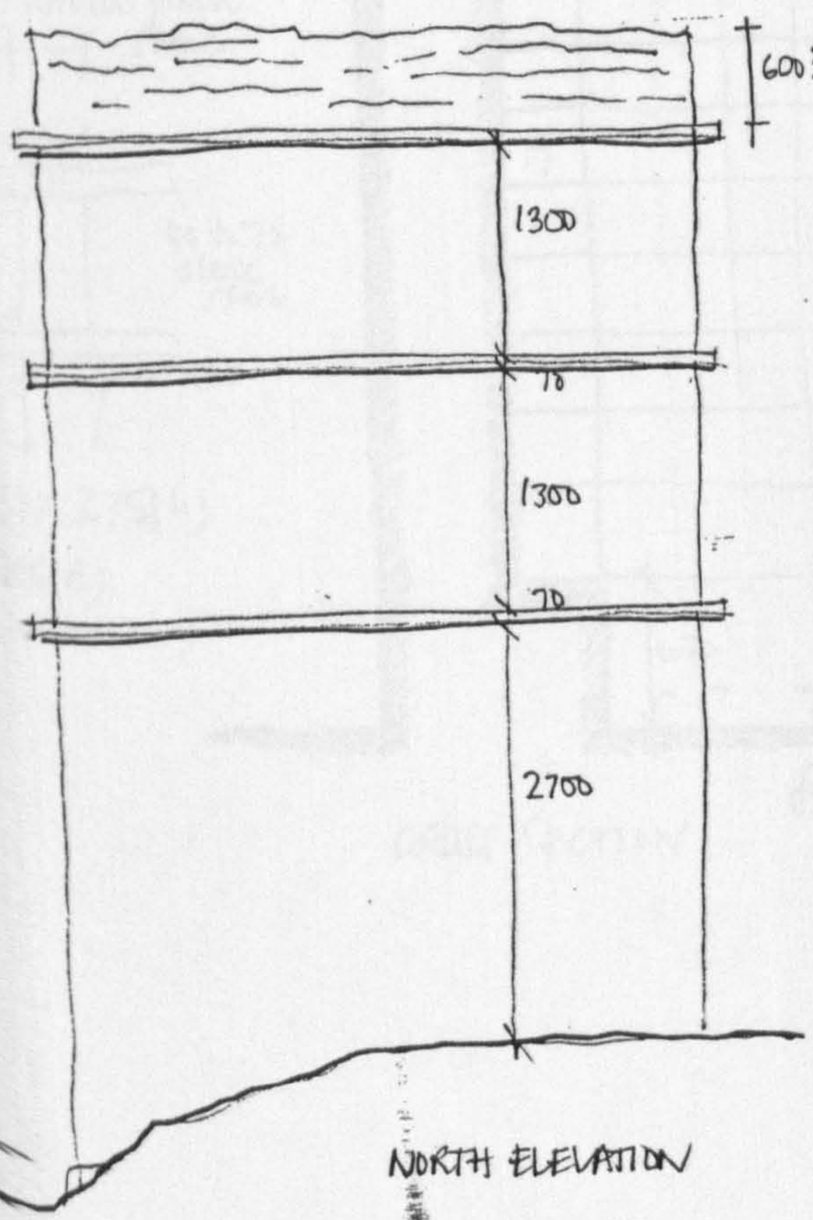

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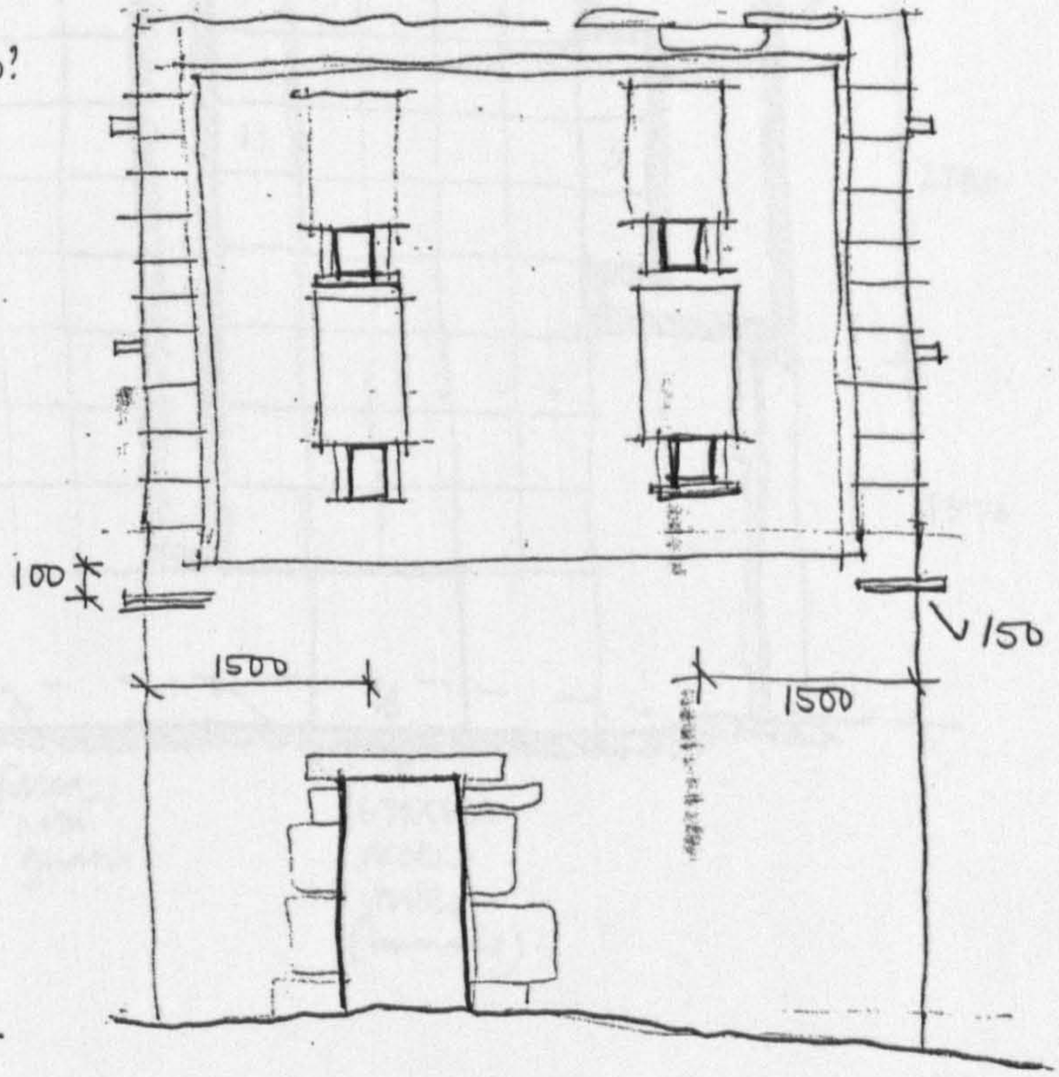
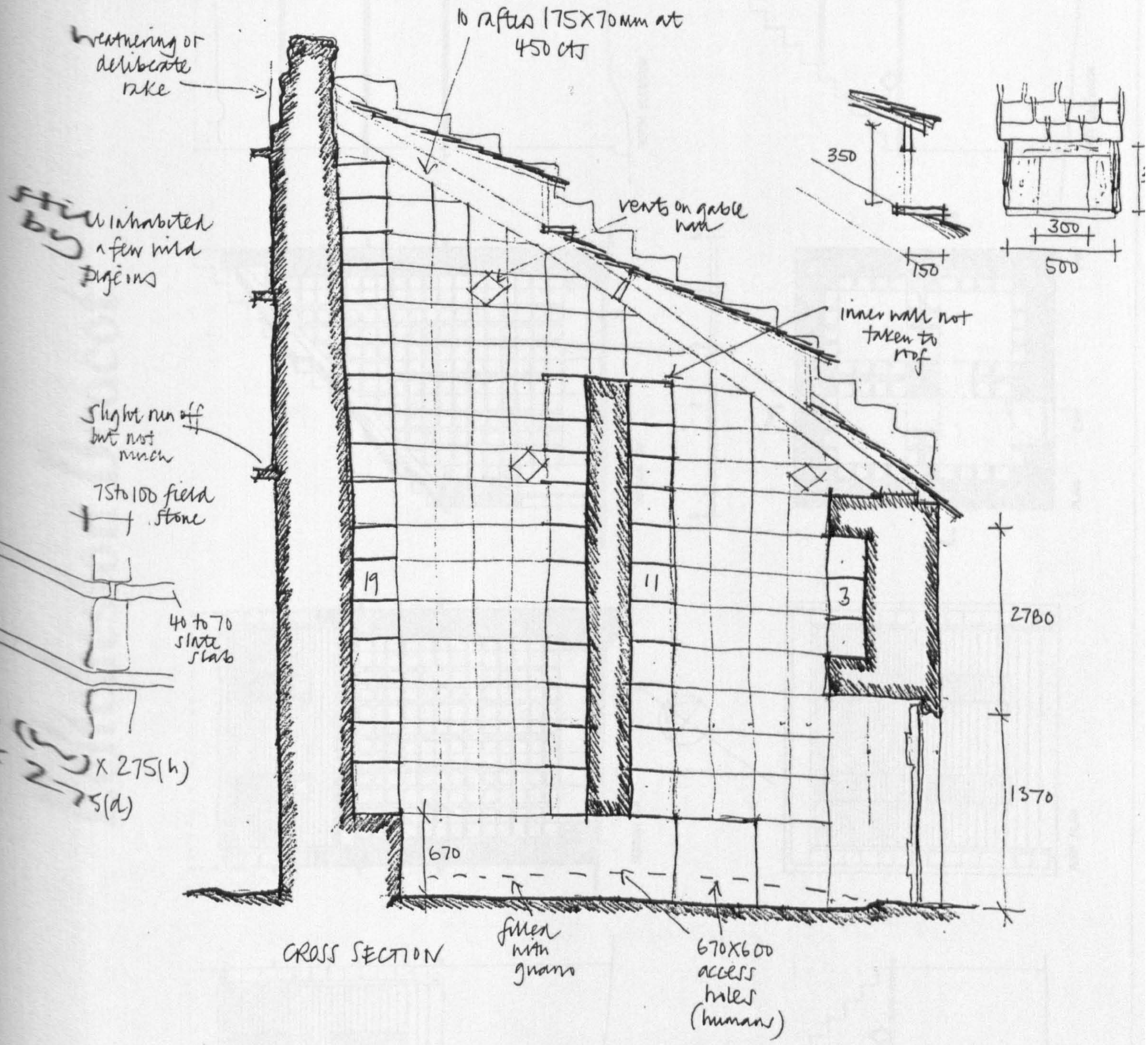


SOUTH ELEVATION

LEITCHESTON DOOLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 6/5/93

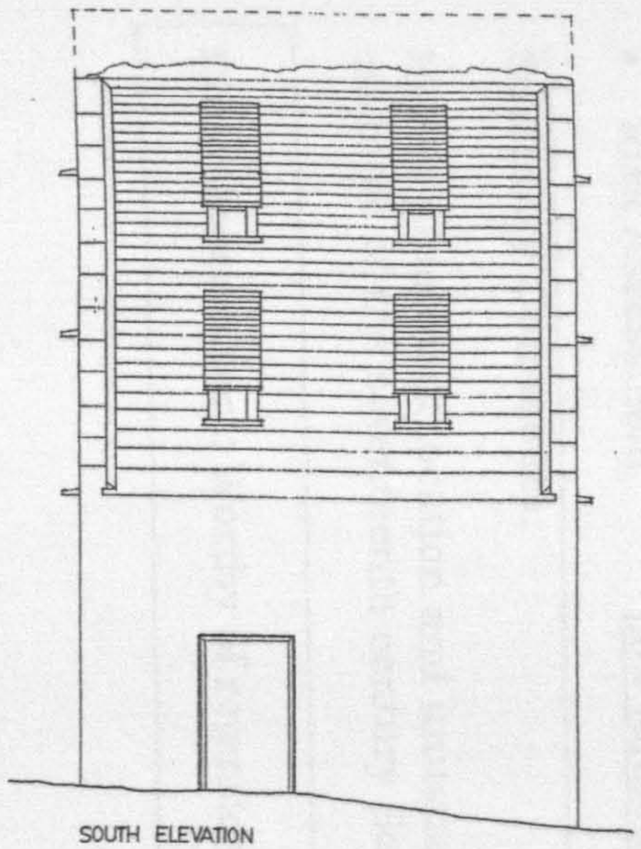
of 3



3 of 3

LEITCHESTON DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 6/5/93

Leitcheston Doocot



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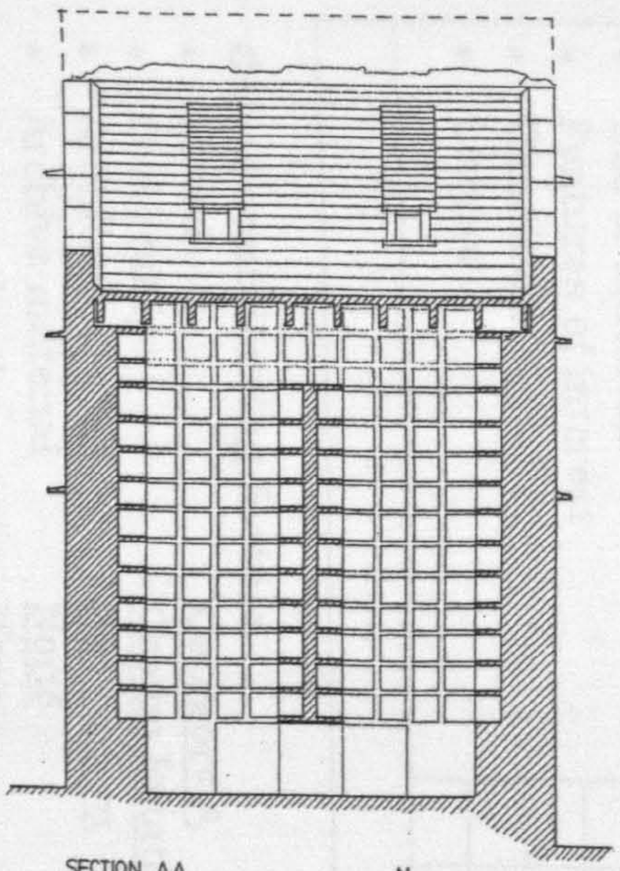

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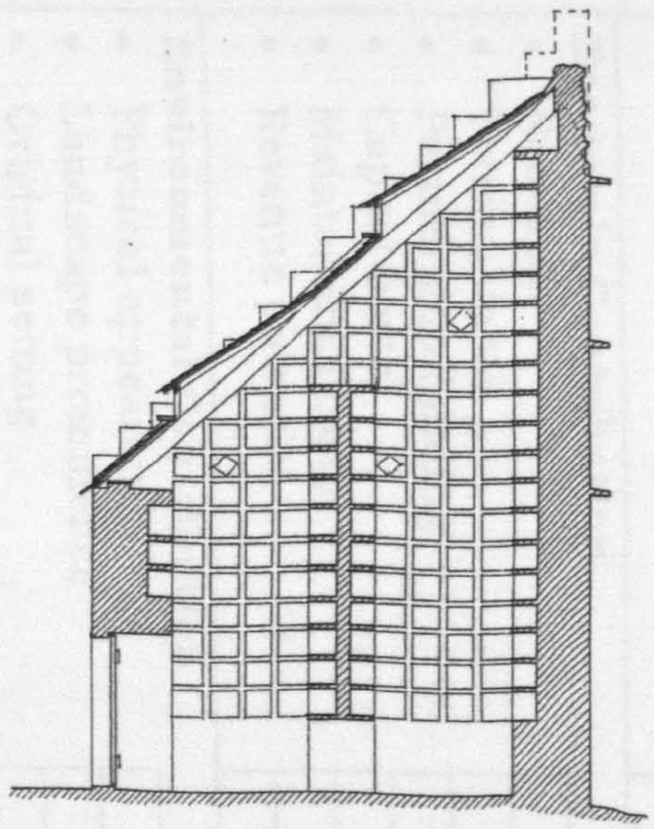

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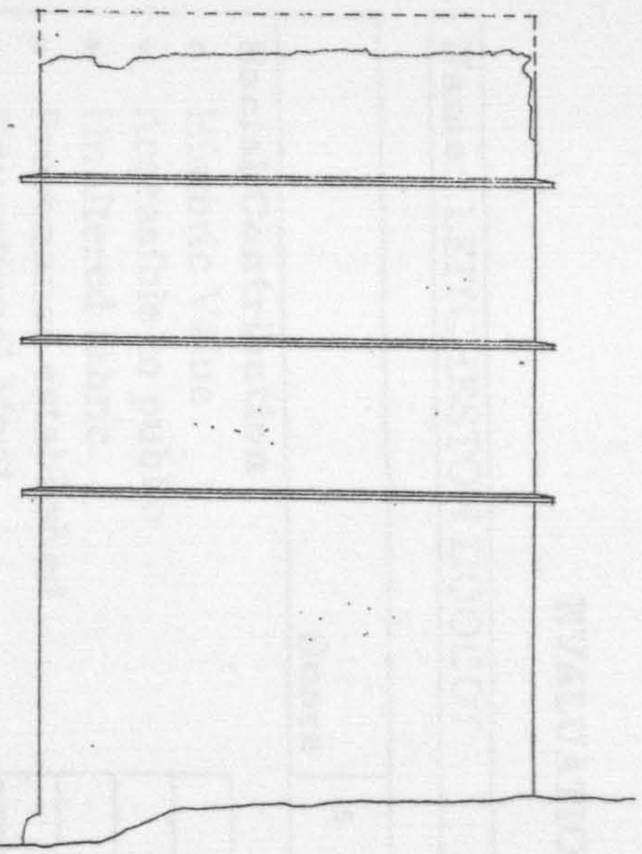
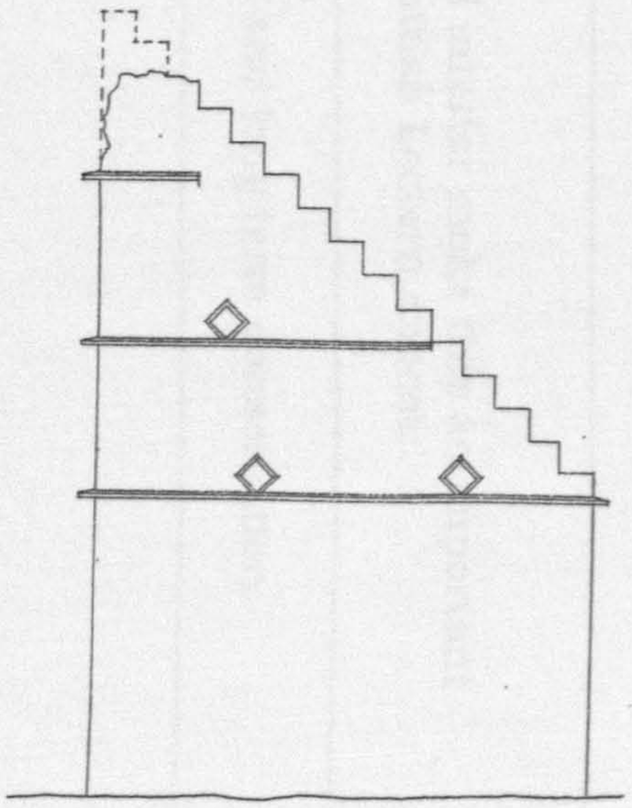
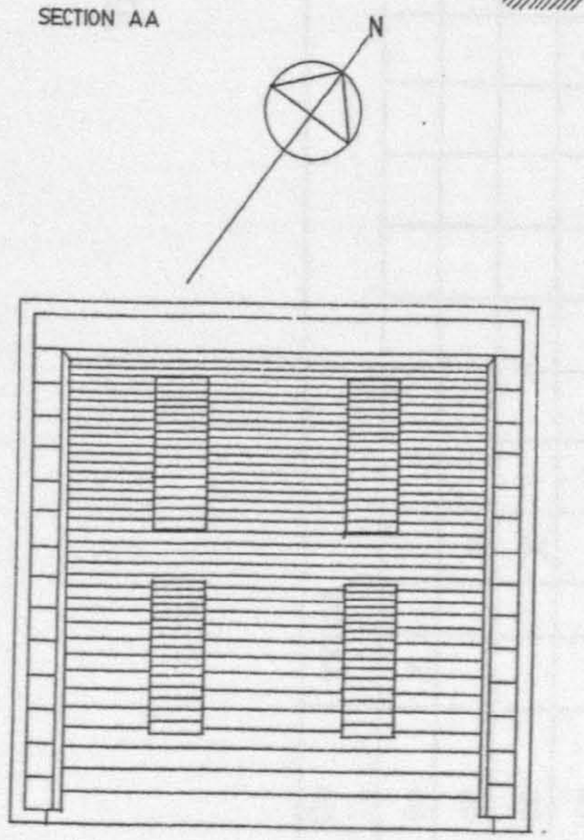


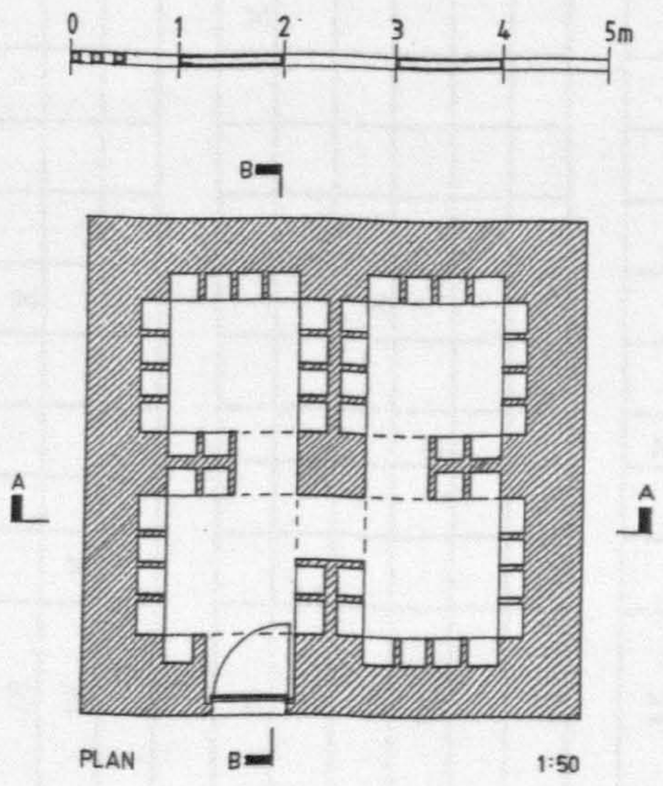
NORTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



ROOF PLAN



PLAN

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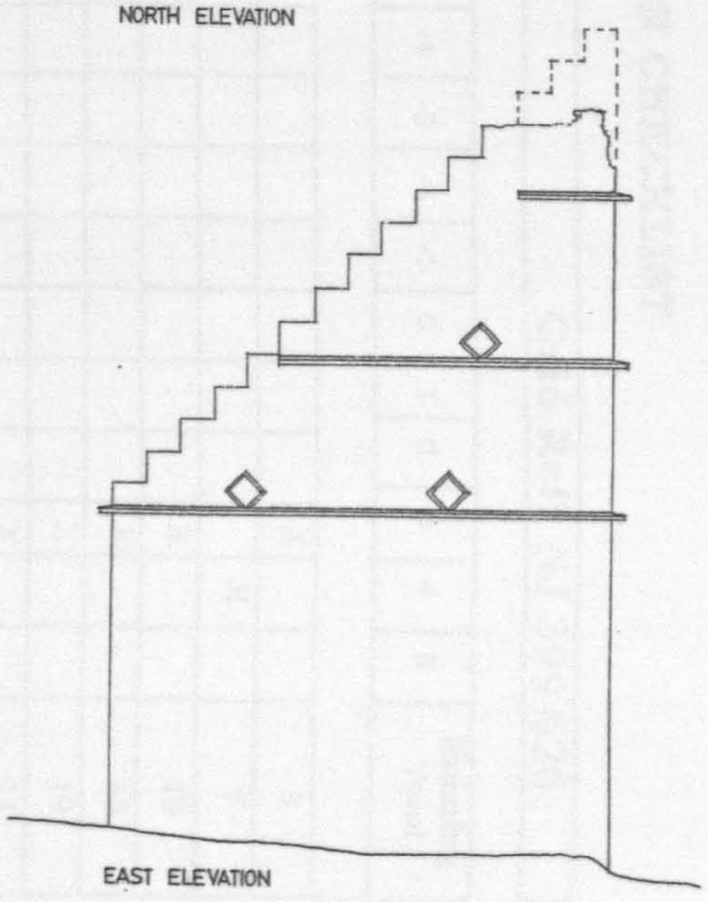

EAST ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: LEITCHESTON DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 399 626

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value									X			3
• Accessible to public										X		7
• Unaltered fabric									X			10
• Provenance established									X			13
• Educational Merit									X			19
• Cultural Integrity									X			21
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable		X										17
• Tourist Value						X						17
• Partnership funding									X			20
• Capital costs							X					21
• Maintenance costs						X						21
• Revenue potential			X									18
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									X			21
• Landscape prominence											X	26
• Original setting							X					27
• Use of Materials								X				29
• Features of interest									X			32
• Condition									X			35
• Interior											X	40
											TOTAL	40

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category A
- Ownership — Crown Estate
- Architect — Not Known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low (although trees could threaten in future)

Summary Comments:

Highly prominent location and unusual interior make this an important example of the seventeenth century Scottish Lectern doocot.

Final Assessment: Worthy of retention and long term conservation.

5.4.11 RECLETICH (or BRAGA) DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 286 347, Mortlach Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Recletich Doocot, a freestanding medium sized, single storey, single chamber lean-to, is the district's furthest inland doocot. It sits in the glacial plain of the mountainous Glen Rinnes valley, about 6 miles down the south-west road from Dufftown to Glenlivet, in south-east Moray. A Dark Age fort, sited on the top of the nearby 'Little Conval', looks down into Glen Rinnes to the east, a desolate, but beautiful, spot.[212] The doocot turns its back on the mountain of Ben Rinnes (which dominates the area and beyond) and faces south east overlooking the Corryhabbie burn, which is deep in a valley cutting only 220 m away to the east. Although much of the valley is used for agriculture and forestry, there are no mature trees in the immediate vicinity, except for a small quantity around the nineteenth century farmhouse situated some 40m to the north.

The 1869 Ordnance Survey shows the Recletich Doocot only about 5 m to the south of a large rectangular building (approximate size 30 m long by 8 m deep) with the site of a *'kings grave'* marked only 20 m away to the south[213]. Judging by the style and construction, the ruinous doocot at Recletich appears to belong to the seventeenth century and may have at one time been the property of the Duke of Gordon who held extensive lands in Glenrinnes during the eighteenth century[214]. Several early maps of Moray confirm the former existence on the site of the little known castle of 'Braga', which was a ruin by the start of the nineteenth century.[215]

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212 McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural - Guide, 1987, p. 151, "... *where there is never occasion to complain for want of rain*".

213 1869 O.S. indicates that this grave was found in the centre of a courtyard site. GRC, Archaeologist Site Monuments Record, Ref: NJ 23 SE. "... *3 rough stones supposed to mark the burial place of an ancient king. No trace and no local knowledge*", but there may be some connection with the battles King Malcolm had with the Danes throughout the Mortlach Parish during the eleventh century
Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, p. 132.

214 Shaw, ibid, p. 128.
Formerly south side of Glen Rinnes valley part of Lordship of Deskford but purchased by Gordon in 1535.

215 In particular, J. Robertson's, 'Topographical and Military Map of the Counties of Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Kincardineshire; 1822, illustrates 'Ruins of a Castle', to the north east of the doocot site. Pont's, 'Mapp of Abernethy and ye draught of Spey', c. 1596, identifies a small mansion at 'Bragach'.

Little of the upper section of the doocot remains, but it can be conjectured that the roof was monopitched, possibly at 40°, constructed using local slates carried on a timber roof. Since there is no evidence of bird access through the remnant walls, it is likely that the building met the doves' access and egress requirements by some form of dormer access (singular or perhaps multiple) through the roof. It may also have had crowstepped gables if materials for skew slabs were not locally available, although the 1798 survey of the Province of Moray says of Mortlach Parish that, "... *there is everywhere plenty of stone for building, and some quarries also of pretty good slate, of a grey colour, and over all the country exhaustless treasures of limestone*"[216].

There is also a possibility that an aperture was sited above the door (if this doocot is to conform to the monopitch designs found at Burgie and Findrassie, q.v.) and it may be conjectured that the projecting slate ledge, still evident on the rear and gables, continued along the front elevation.

Sadly, Recletich doocot has a somewhat ignominious setting amid a twentieth century farm and is inconspicuous in a remote Highland setting. It is entirely ruinous and under daily threat of collapse arising from continued neglect. However, it is testimony to the building's forbearance that it has not been cleared away during any of the agricultural improvements during the last three centuries. The building has no future, other than a memento of seventeenth century social history, but it would be a sad loss to Moray if this non-listed building was extirpated, since it is one of Scotland's highest located doocots. (Altitude 250m) It is therefore desirable that the current owner and tenant farmer, working with the assistance of the Local Authority, successfully manage to care for this ruin, so that the building is, at the very least, safely handed over to the next generation.

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216 Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 edition), p. 292.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Recletich, or Braga, doocot is entirely ruinous and now surrounded by modern farm buildings but the almost square plan form (3.9 x 4.1 m) can still be discerned, with a probable front wallhead height of 2.2 m rising to a rear height of around 4.7 m. The walls are 730 mm thick, including the boxes, and are constructed using highly irregular, uncoursed random field rubble (of mixed stones) bonded with lime mortar and incorporating very roughly-squared dressings around the external angles and door openings. There are plenty traces to indicate that the exterior received a lime harling and there are some markings to suggest that this too was limewashed. The gables and rear wall possess a single 120 mm projecting 5 to 10 mm thick slate ledge which is missing in parts and even tipping upwards in sections, thus encouraging water back towards the structure.

No evidence of the door remains, although foundation stones indicate an opening width of 620 mm centred on the south east facing wall (the design of the doocot suggests a door height in the order of 1600 mm). Fallen rubble makes an assessment of the floor and door threshold difficult but there is plentiful evidence to indicate a linear, but crude, arrangement of nest boxes. These are constructed using 50 to 150 mm wide, roughly-squared rubble uprights, with two layers (sometimes one or three) of random, overlapping slate horizontal pieces, varying from 50 to 190 mm thick. About 185 boxes still exist, randomly sized, but averaging out at 190 wide x 190 high x 250 mm deep and all raised approximately 500 mm above floor level. Collapsed areas of boxes reveal that they were made integral with the core work of the exterior walls and may have totalled to 250 when the building was intact.[217] Beaton records that "... *200 nests of dry stone construction in rough material out of which regular coursing is miraculously achieved*",[218] but some dabs of lime mortar remain deep in the boxes so it is likely that much of the mortar has been washed out over the years during which the building has been exposed to the elements.

Written: February 1996

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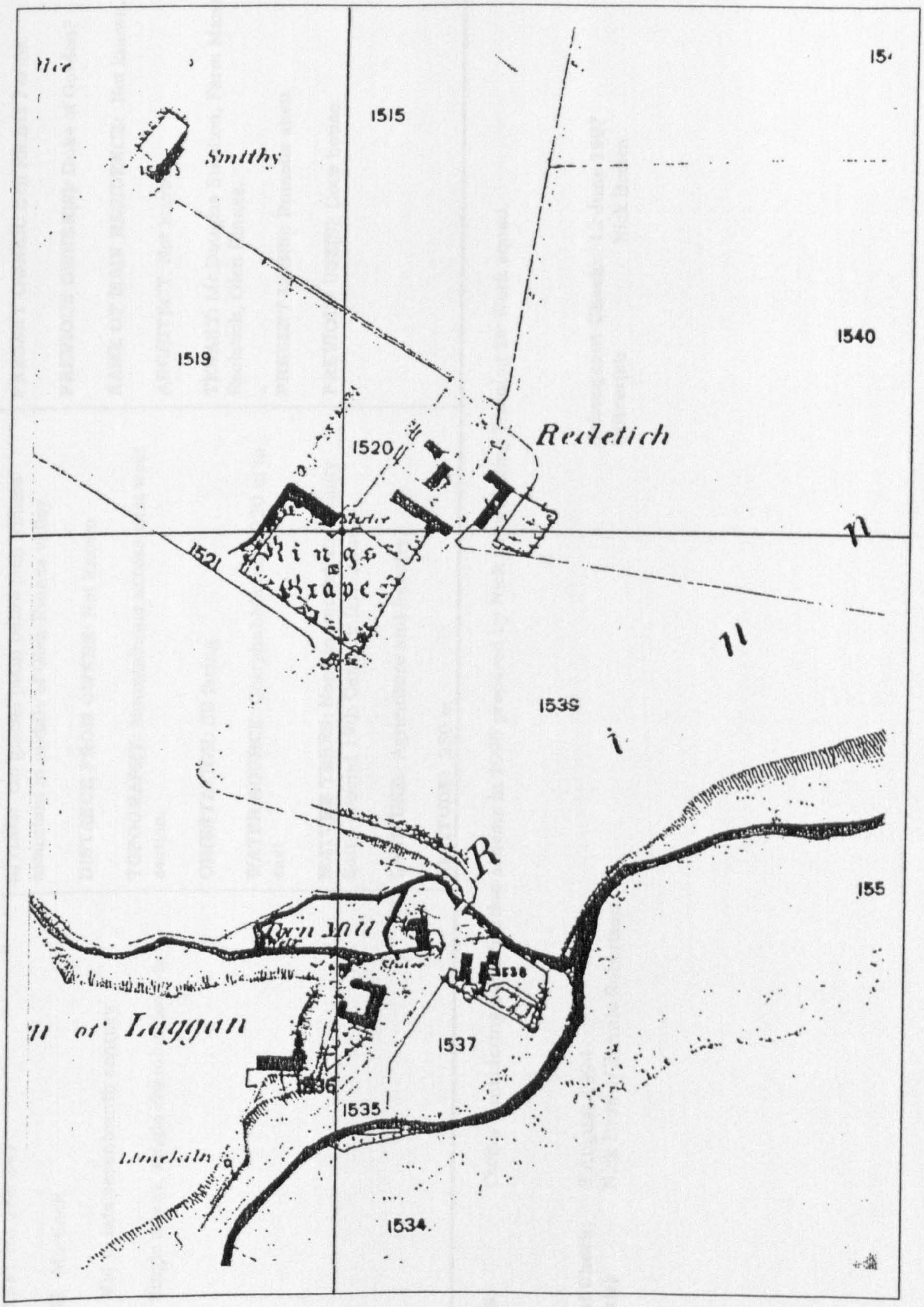
[217] Assuming a lean-to structure with nest boxes on all four sides.
[218] Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 26.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Braga Doocot (Fig. 5.4.11)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 286 347 **PARISH:** Mortlach **DATE:** Mid to late seventeenth century **TYPE:** Single storey, single chamber lean-to	**SITING:** On glacial plain below Ben Rinnes mountain in middle of Glen Rinnes valley. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER:** Not known **TOPOGRAPHY:** Mountainous across east west section. **ORIENTATION:** SE facing. **WATER SOURCE:** Corryhabbie burn 220 m to east **MATURE TREES:** None in immediate vicinity. Some around 19th Century farmhouse. **LAND USE:** Agriculture and forestry. **ALTITUDE:** 250 m	**PRESENT OWNER:** Ben Rinnes Farms. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** Duke of Gordon? **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Not known. **ARCHITECT:** Not known. **TENANT:** Mr Douglas Stephen, Farm Manager, Recletich, Glen Rinnes. **PRESENT USE(S):** Ruinous shell. **PREVIOUS USE(S):** Dove house.

NOTES: Owner considering consolidation scheme in 1996 prepared by Nick Brown using Training for Work squad.

Date of Check: 8 August 1994
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 12 June 1997
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Ruinous. Possible subsidence also now occurring. **REPAIRS**: None. **ALTERATIONS:** None **FUTURE RISK:** Total collapse and/or demolition arising from continued neglect. Not protected by statutory listing.	**PLAN FORM**: Almost square **PLAN SIZE**: 3.9 x 4.1 **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** Probably 2.2 m **OVERALL HEIGHT**: Probably 4.7 m **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Uncoursed random stones bonded with course lime mortar **WALL MATERIAL:** Rough quality random field rubble with slightly squared dressings at angles **WALL THICKNESS:** 730 mm (including boxes) **WALL FINISH:** Plenty traces of lime harl remain **ROOF FORM:** Probably monopitch **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** Probably timber rafters **ROOF PITCH:** Possibly 40° **ROOF FINISH**: Probably local slate	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION**: Not known **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** n/a **DOOR SIZE:** 620 (w) x 1600 mm? (h) **DOOR SITING**: Centred on SE facing wall **LEDGES:** One continuous? butt jointed 15mm thick slate piece ledge projecting by 120 mm (broken in parts) **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 2.2 m **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH**: Probably 12 m **APERTURES**: Not known **VENT HOLES**: Not known **FLIGHT HOLES**: Not known **TOTAL VENT AREA**: Not known **LIMEWASH**: Traces on harling **DORMERS**: Probable, but not known. **SKEWS**: Not known, possibly crowstepped **FINIALS**: No **WEATHER VANE:** No

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES	8.0 COMMENT	9.0 REFERENCES
THRESHOLD STEPS: Not known (concealed by rubble) **PARTITION WALLS**: No Ground Floor - Not Known **FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION**: N/A **NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION**: Linear arrangement of 50 to 150 mm wide roughly squared rubble uprights with two layers (sometimes one or three) of random overlapping slate horizontal pieces 50 to 190 mm thick. **NEST BOX NUMBER**: Estimated original total of around 250 - about 185 still exist. **NEST BOX SIZE**: Randomly sized, but averaged out at 190 (w) x 190 (h) x 250 mm (d) **NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR**: Approximately 500 mm (mostly concealed by rubble) **NEST BOXES BLOCKED**: No **ALIGHTING LEDGES**: No **LIMEWASH/PLASTER**: No **COLLECTING AID**: No evidence **BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL**: Say 250 x 2 x 0.7 = 350. **INTERNAL VOLUME**: Say 30 m^3 **OTHER**: Many boxes containing nests of small birds	**ENIGMAS**: - Date - Why ledges appear to fall inward - deliberate or not? - Dove access design.	**BOOKS**: E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 26. G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60. D. Omand (ed.), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181, 185. **ARTICLES** **LISTING**: Not listed **SMR**: NJ 23 SE **MAPS**: 1869, 1905, 1965 OS maps. T. Pont, 'Mapp of Abernethy', No. 6, c. 1596, held in NMLS. R. Gordon, 'Map of Moray', c. 1640, held in Advocates Library, Edinburgh. Roy's Military Map of Moray c. 1750. J. Robertson, 'Topographical Map', 1822, held in NMLS. J. Thomson, 'Aberdeen and Banffshire Map', 1826 held in NMLS. J. Thomson, 'Nairn and Moray Map', 1830, held inn NMLS **PHOTOGRAPHS**: **OTHER**:



RECLETICH DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.4.11.1)

View from the south showing the current setting of the ruinous doocot amongst modern farming implements and products. The front wall and roof is entirely lost and a partial collapse of the boxes against the rear wall has already taken place.



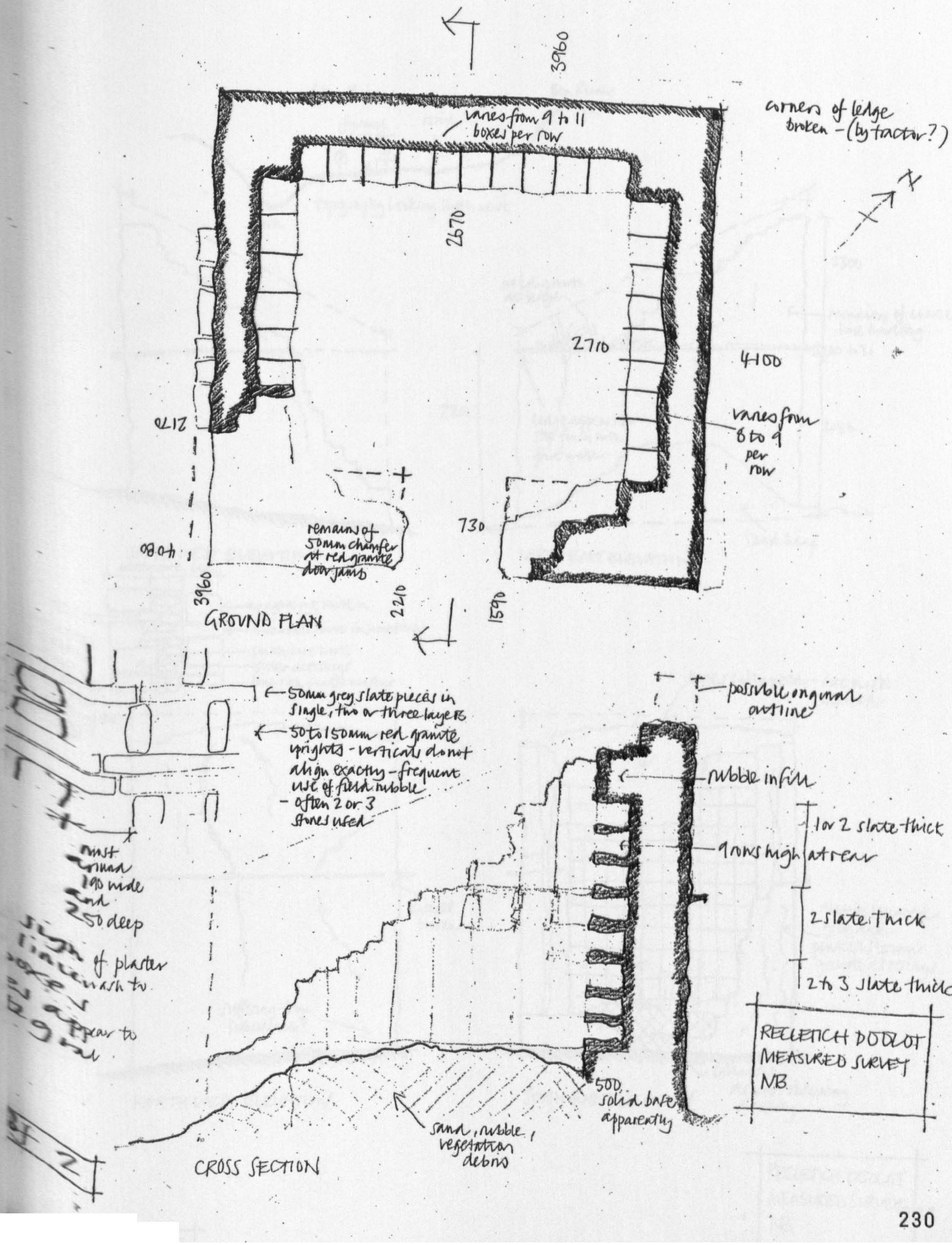
RECLETICH DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.4.11.2)

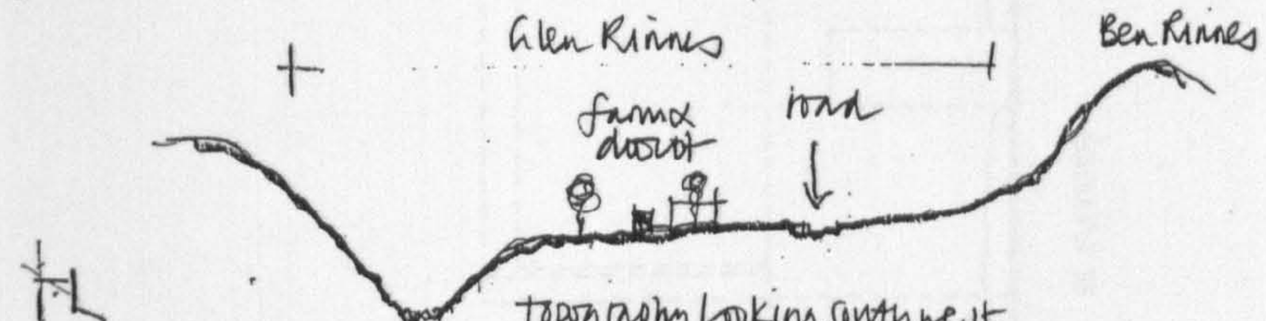
The rear and side wall of the doocot are featureless except for a single continuous slate projecting course (which probably aligned with the top of the front wallhead). The roughly square corner stones are apparent against the rubble work elsewhere and traces of harling can be seen, particularly on the lower section of the gable. The close proximity of a modern agricultural shed can be seen right of picture.

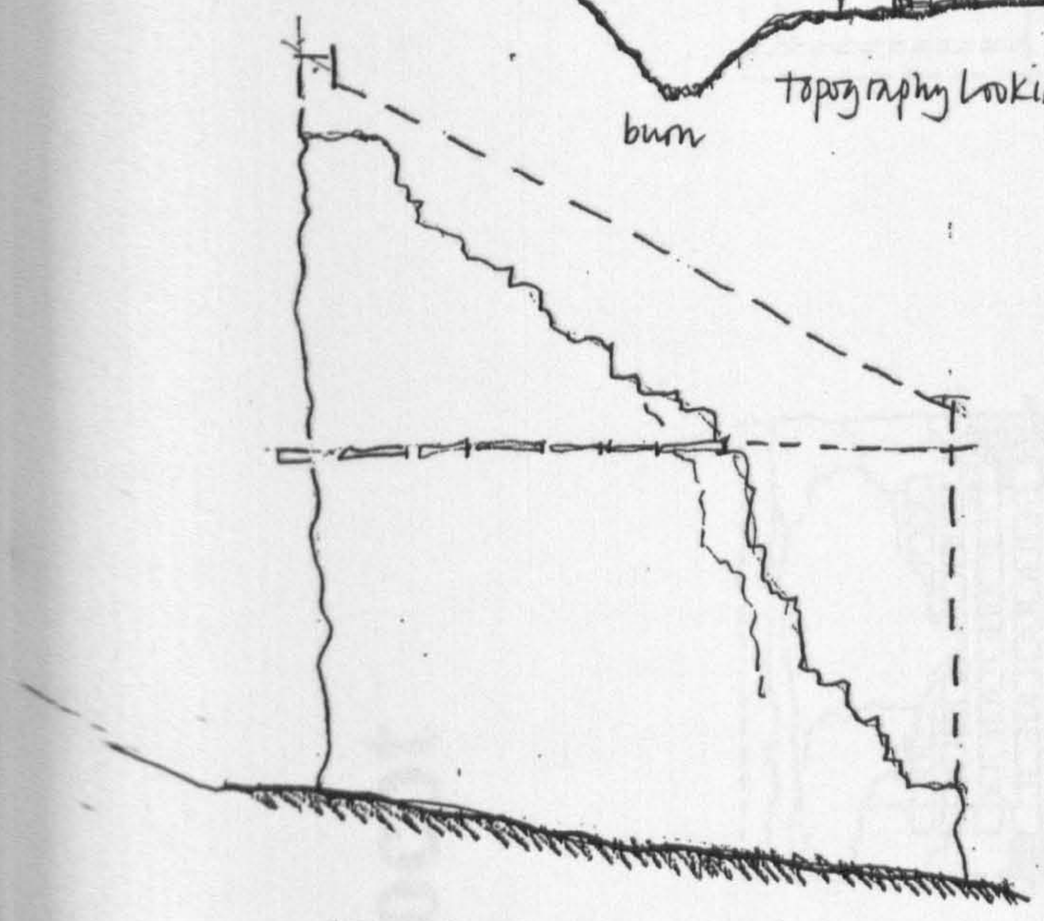


RECLETICH DOOCOT, 1994 INTERIOR (Plate 5.4.11.3)

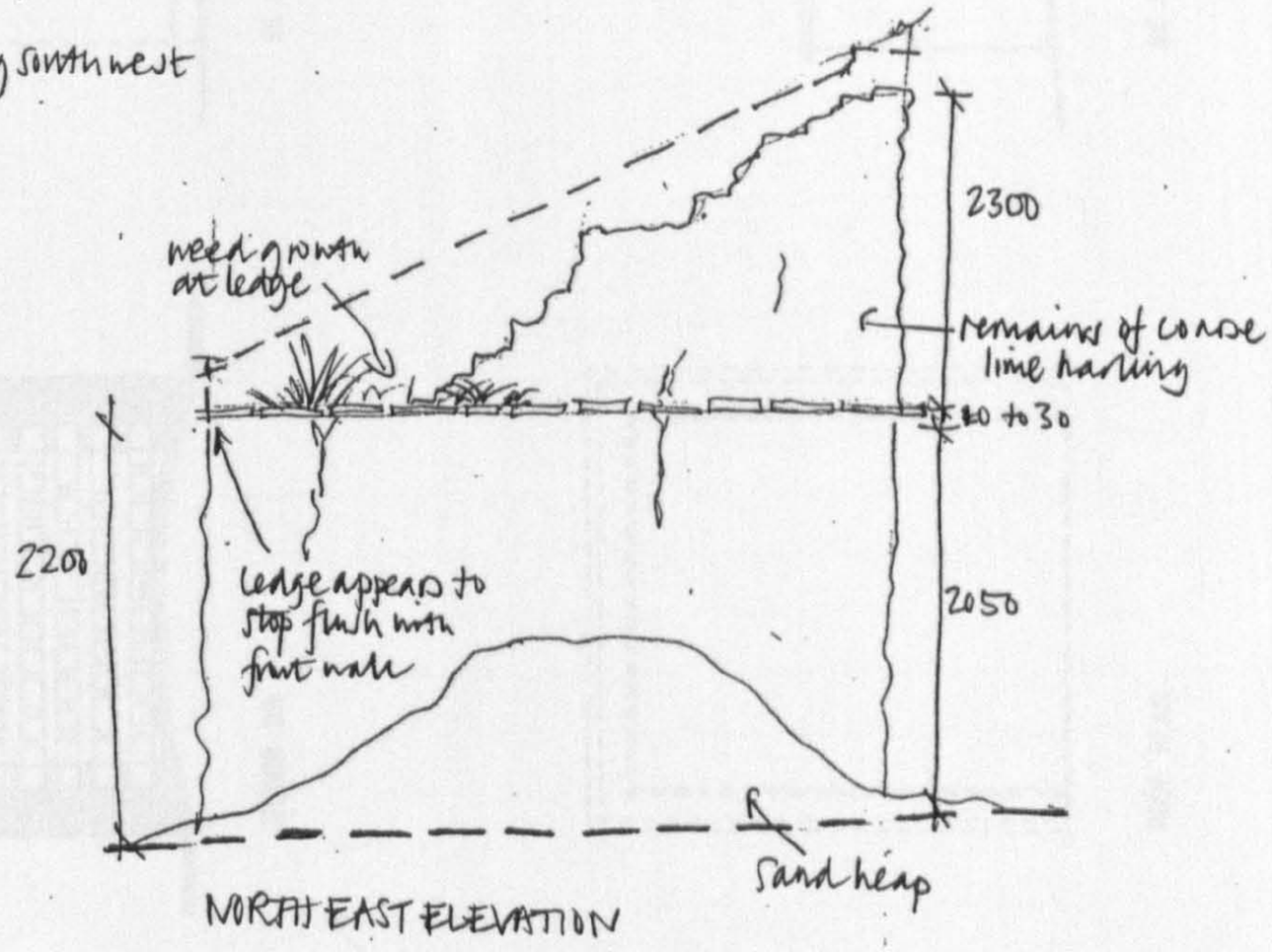
A close up photograph taken from the remains of the front wall clearly illustrates the vernacular aspect of the construction of the nest boxes. Layers of irregular slate have been used to form the horizontal lines of the boxes, whilst highly irregular boulders form the uprights. The use of mortar appears minimal although this has probably been washed out during years of exposure.


3960
varies from 9 to 11 boxes per row
2670
2710
4100
corners of ledge broken - (by tractor?)
varies from 8 to 9 per row
730
1590
2210
2170
remains of 50mm chamfer at red granite door jams
GROUND PLAN
50mm grey slate pieces in single, two or three layers
50 to 150mm red granite uprights - verticals do not align exactly - frequent use of field rubble - often 2 or 3 stones used
possible original outline
rubble infill
9 rows high
1 or 2 slate thick at rear
2 slate thick
2 to 3 slate thick
500 solid base apparently
sand, rubble, vegetation debris
CROSS SECTION
RECLETICH DODLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB

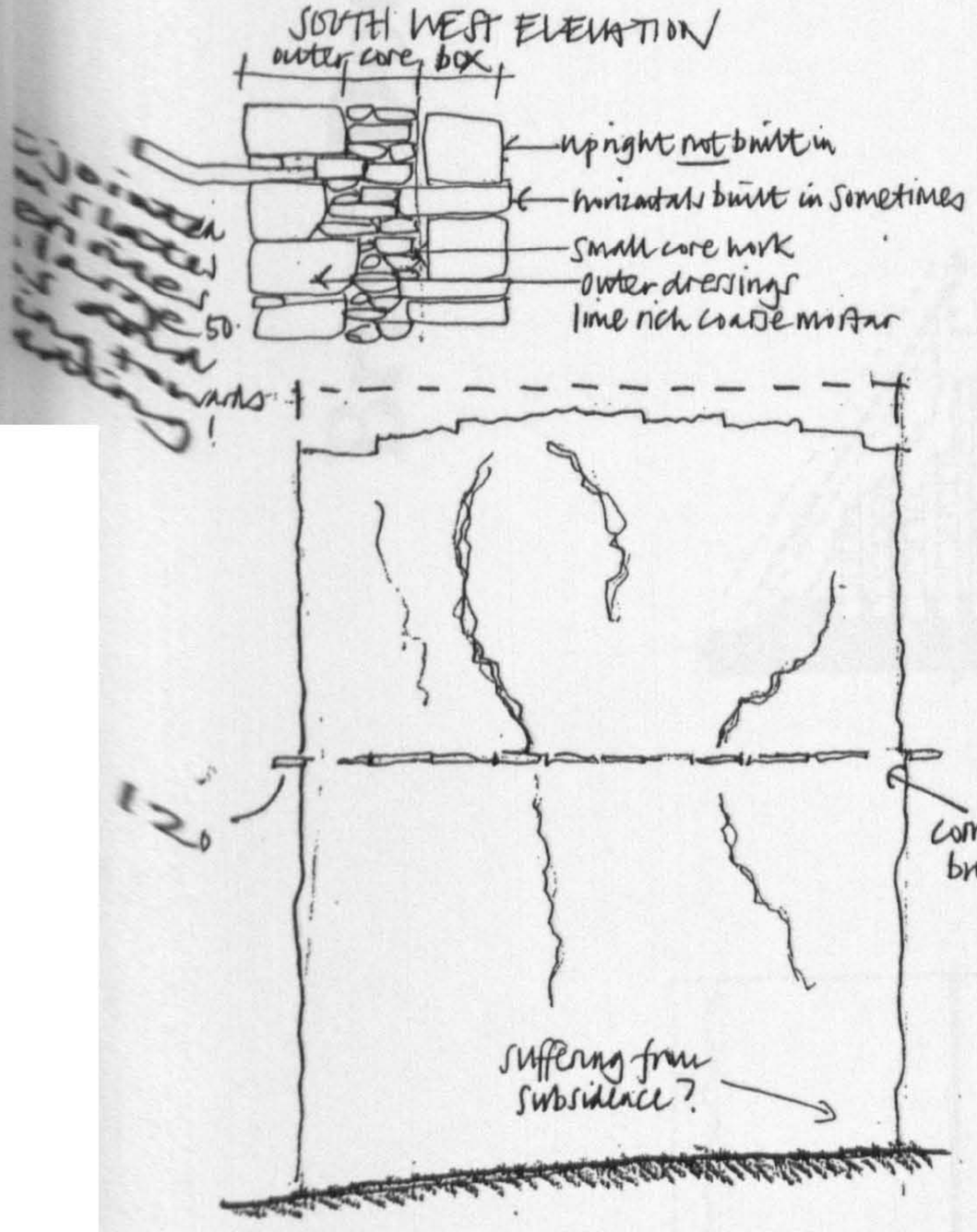




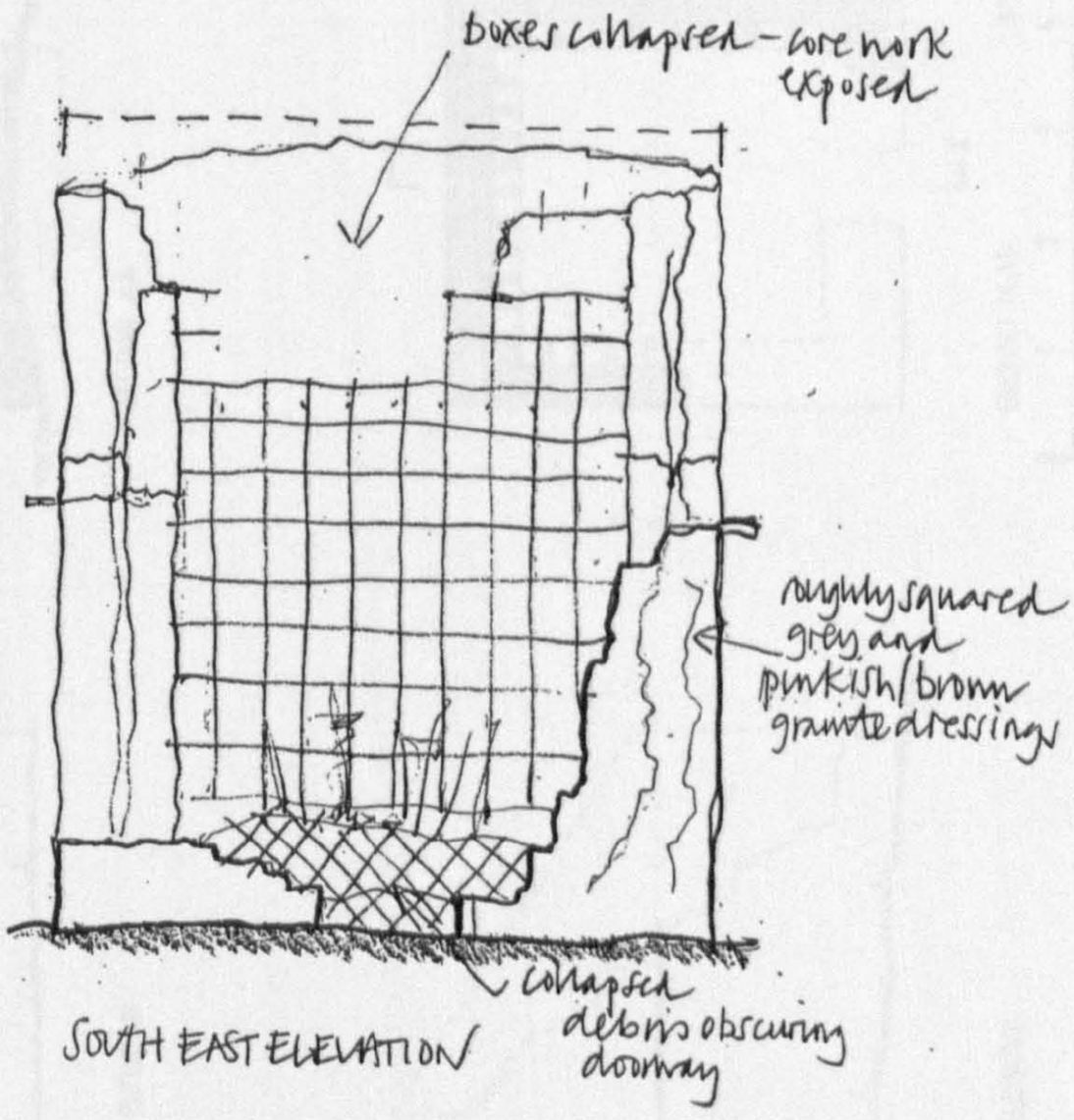
SOUTH WEST ELEVATION



NORTH EAST ELEVATION



NORTH WEST ELEVATION



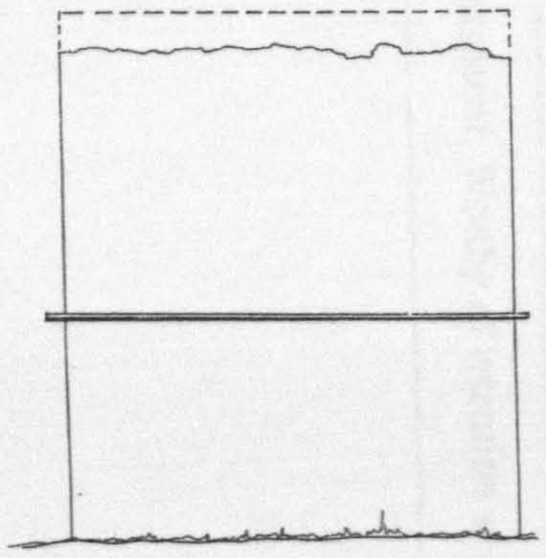
SOUTH EAST ELEVATION

RECLETICH DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB

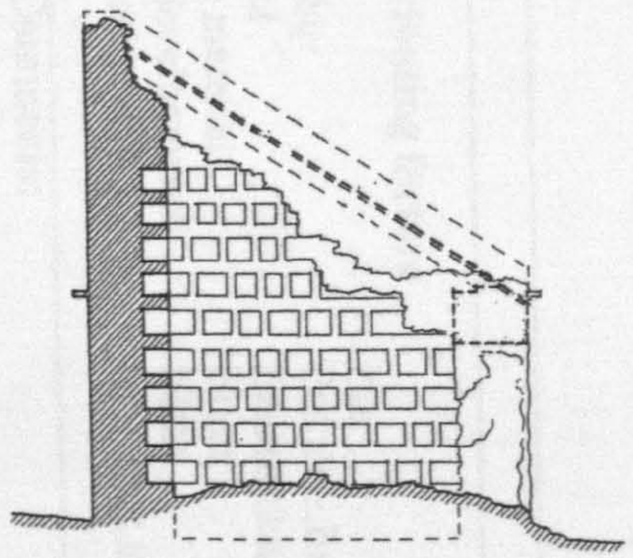
231

2 of 2

Braga Doocot



NW ELEVATION



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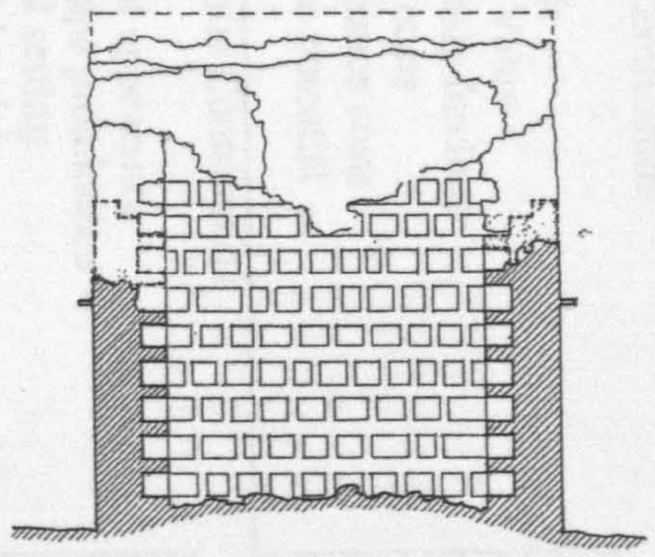

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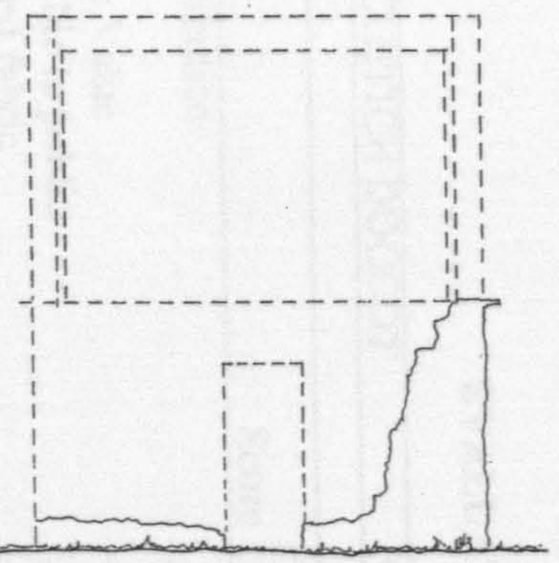
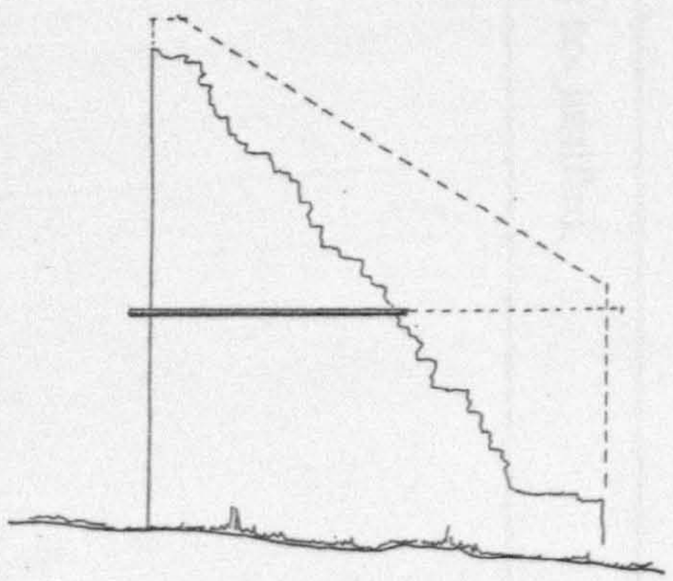
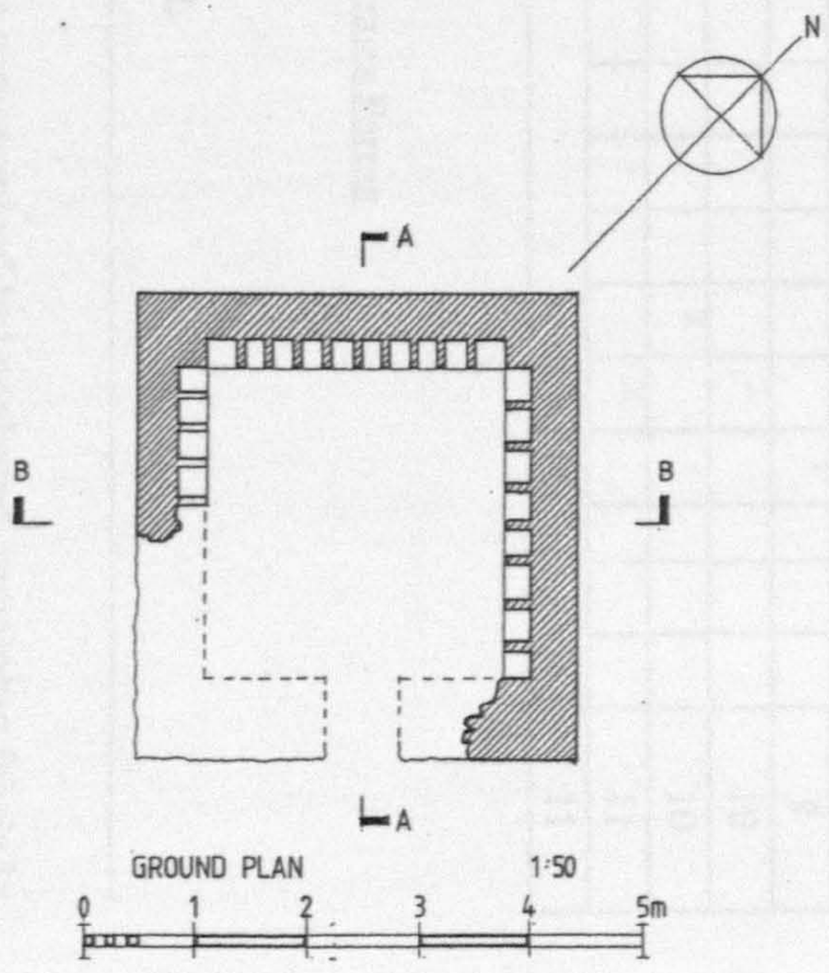


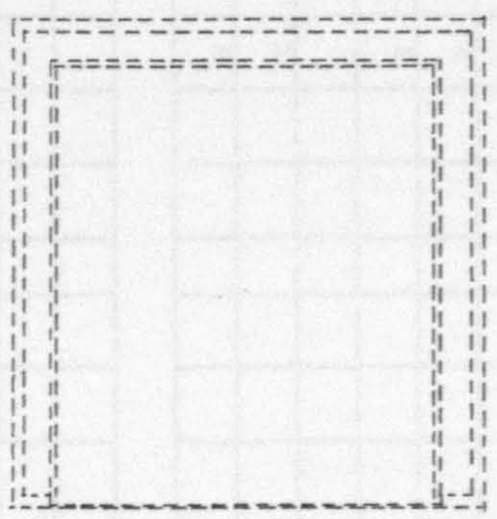
SE ELEVATION



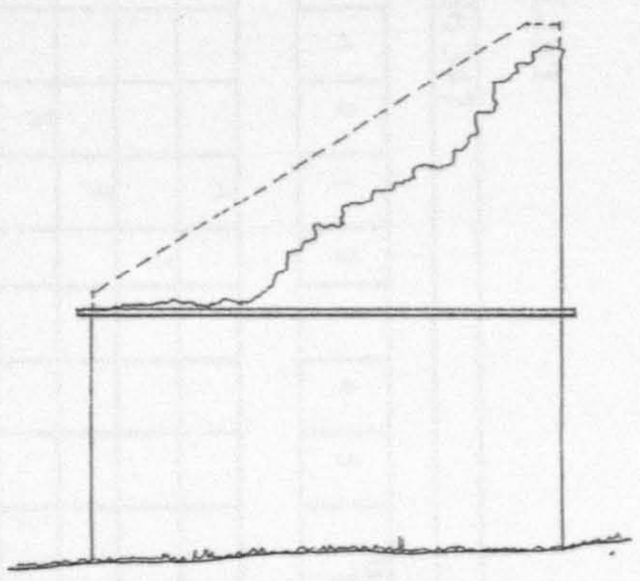
SW ELEVATION



GROUND PLAN 1:50



ROOF PLAN



NE ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: RECLETICH DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 286 347

	Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution													
• Historic Value								X					1
• Accessible to public									X				3
• Unaltered fabric								X					4
• Provenance established							X						4
• Educational Merit								X					5
• Cultural Integrity								X					6
Economic Contribution													
• Reusable							X						6
• Tourist Value							X						6
• Partnership funding							X						6
• Capital costs						X							5
• Maintenance costs							X						5
• Revenue potential							X						5
Environmental Contribution													
• Physical appearance													6
• Landscape prominence													7
• Original setting							X						7
• Use of Materials									X				9
• Features of interest								X					10
• Condition							X						10
• Interior								X					11
												TOTAL	11

Other contributing factors

- Listed — No
- Ownership — Private - Ben Rinnes Farms
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Moderate to high

Summary Comments:

Structure is ruined beyond full repair. Setting is compromised but unaltered, remaining fabric is of some interest and sufficient to interpret scale and form of original building. Possible survivor of an early tower house.

Final Assessment Worthy of retention as a ruin. Full repair not justified.

5.4.12 MILTON(*DUFF*) DOOCOT

GRID REFERENCE NJ 182 603, Elgin Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Milton Doocot is a small scale, but typical, example of the single storey rectangular lectern doocot being built throughout Scotland in the seventeenth and eighteenth century, which is probably the reason Beaton selected it for the cover of her booklet [219].

The building is constructed 37 m above sea level and is currently sited on open agricultural ground facing to the south-east, midway along a gentle, but gradual, slope from the north-west woodland to the south-east burn some 300 m away. The building is currently completely redundant, although Douglas states that it was, "... *used as a cattle shed*"[220] by the neighbouring farmer in the early twentieth century.

Milton Doocot is currently situated about 160 m to the north-west of the Miltonduff Distillery (its present owner) and 120m south-west of the former Miltonduff Farm, the site of the previous owner which was demolished a few decades ago. The doocot, however, is unlikely to have an original association with either of these, almost certainly belonging to the seventeenth century house of Milntoun which was owned by the Brodies of Lethan. Yet, as McKean states, of the,"*Old House, c1640, sold by the Brodies to Duff, Lord Braco in 1730, only the restored, crow-stepped, early 18th century doocot survives*"[221]. There is a possibility that the doocot was built to coincide with the change of ownership, but there is uncertainty amongst historians as to the exact date. The Statutory listing describes the building as, "... *mid 18th century*"[222], whilst the Regional Council's archaeological site and monuments record states that the building is, "... *probably 17th century*"[223]. Roy's map shows a small manor at Milton (approximately where the crossroads is today, west of the

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219 Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978.
Front cover, line sketch by M. Brown.
220 Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 40.
221 McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 64.
George Brodie of Milton moved to Windyhills where he built a similar style but grander doocot in 1769.
Perhaps he grew up knowing the lectern doocot of Milton. (The name Windyhills was changed to Milton Brodie).
222 Secretary of State, Statutory Listing, Moray District, Elgin Parish, Item 6, p. 64.
223 GRC Archaeologist's Sites and Monuments Record, Ref. No. NJ 16 SE 1.

doocot) but much earlier maps by Blaeu, Pont and Gordon do not mention a castle, or otherwise, on this site.[224]

A photograph taken by the owner before the 1970 restoration works shows that the roof was covered using large-scale, stone slates which clearly oversailed the front wall eaves and progressed up the roof in diminishing courses to a height of about 350 mm below the wall capping of the back wall. A skylight opening was also located below the westernmost dormer.[225] The pre-restoration photograph also shows two dormers about midway up the roof and Douglas refers to, *"...2 window openings for pigeons and 2 holes in each"*.[226] The dormers are also spaced closer to each other than the pre-1970 dormers.

Miltonduff Doocot has lost much of its integrity by the removal of the boxes, the pouring of the floor in concrete, and the wholesale re-roofing of the building in a manner which has not been wholly faitfhful to the original. Nevertheless, the structure is a significant, albeit small, landmark in the open fields of Miltonduff to the south-west of Elgin. As the only surviving remnant of the old house of Milntoun, the doocot deserves to be maintained and cared for, and it could be that the Distillery will guarantee its future by incorporating it into their plan for visitor attraction to their complex. At the very least, the building urgently requires protection from soil erosion by grazing animals which is currently undermining the foundations. This will ensure that the building does not suffer severe structural movement or even partial collapse.

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224 General Roy's Military Map, c. 1750, held in Elgin local studies shows a small rectangular enclosure at 'Milntoun'. Neither T. Pont's 'Mapp of Murray', c. 1596, R. Gordon's map c. 1640, nor J. Blaeu's 'Map of Moravia' c. 1654, make mention of 'Milntoun'. (All held in the National Map Library of Scotland).
225 See n. 11.
226 Douglas, loc. cit.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Milton doocot is rectangular in plan, being 5 m wide x 3.8 m deep, with a front wallhead height of 2 m rising to an overall rear height of 4.7 m. The walls are of substantial thickness (650 mm excluding boxes) and are constructed using a mix of local fieldstone rubble, randomly bonded with clay mortar, with very roughly dressed stonework at all external angles, except the entrance door which has half round freestone rybats (but a rough lintel and it is unclear if either the rybats or lintel are later insertions).

The roof has been completely replaced and reconstructed using nine, 150 x 50 mm, rafters at 450 mm centres with new sarking board but no tie members. The roof is finished using 5 to 10 mm blue and green slates, which may be a combination of Ballachulish and Westmorland (possibly salvaged from another building) and they do not overhang the wallhead to any great extent.[227] The previous dormers have been replaced during the 1970 restoration by two squatter, and wider apart, dormers which now have plywood facings each containing three flight holes, slate cheeks and roof, clay ridging, and a lead flashing.[228]

The door opening on the southern wall is 550 high x 680 mm wide but unfortunately the door is now missing (although Mike Brown's sketch in Beaton's booklet shows the doocot with a vertically boarded timber door [229]). The check in the door jamb, along with the remains of hinges, indicates that the door opened inwards.

The building displays two ledges on the outside which run at respective heights of 2 m and 3 m along the whole length of the back wall. The lower ledge continues 1 m along the western gable but only 400 mm along the eastern gable, whilst the uppermost ledge does not return along either gable. The lower ledge is at the same height as the front wallhead course but, now that the building has been entirely re-rendered in a modern wet dash, it is not possible to ascertain whether or not the front and rear were ever continuous. The rear ledge only projects 80 mm from the ground wallface and returns back 125 mm to permit the wallface to check back (and therefore the wall thickness to diminish) and this happens to a lesser extent on the uppermost ledge.

The wall and slate junctions are protected by 10 regular, but highly-weathered, sandstone crowsteps, approximately 300 (w) x 300 mm (h), which are supported at the bottom by large, but simple, curve mould skewputts. They step to the top to meet a, 400 mm wide, rear wall capping which rises 250 mm beyond the roof and itself is covered using a double row of stone slabs, seven of which cover the topmost jointing.

Internally, the building is severely altered since the original floor has been replaced with solid concrete and all of the nest boxes have been removed. Douglas suggested that "*...it would appear as though the nests may have been formed from wood, as there are upright wooden poles still present, although no horizontal ones or any evidence of nests otherwise*"[230]. The wooden posts referred to by Douglas are still in place and it is not clear what purpose these served. They do not have the appearance of being particularly old and it could be that they have an association with the building when it was being used for some purpose other than pigeon rearing (e.g. cattle store) or they may have been put in to provide some sort of structural support to the roof. There are, however, some high level pocket holes in the rear wall which may be connected with a scaffolding device to act as a collecting aid to the upper boxes.

Written: March 1996

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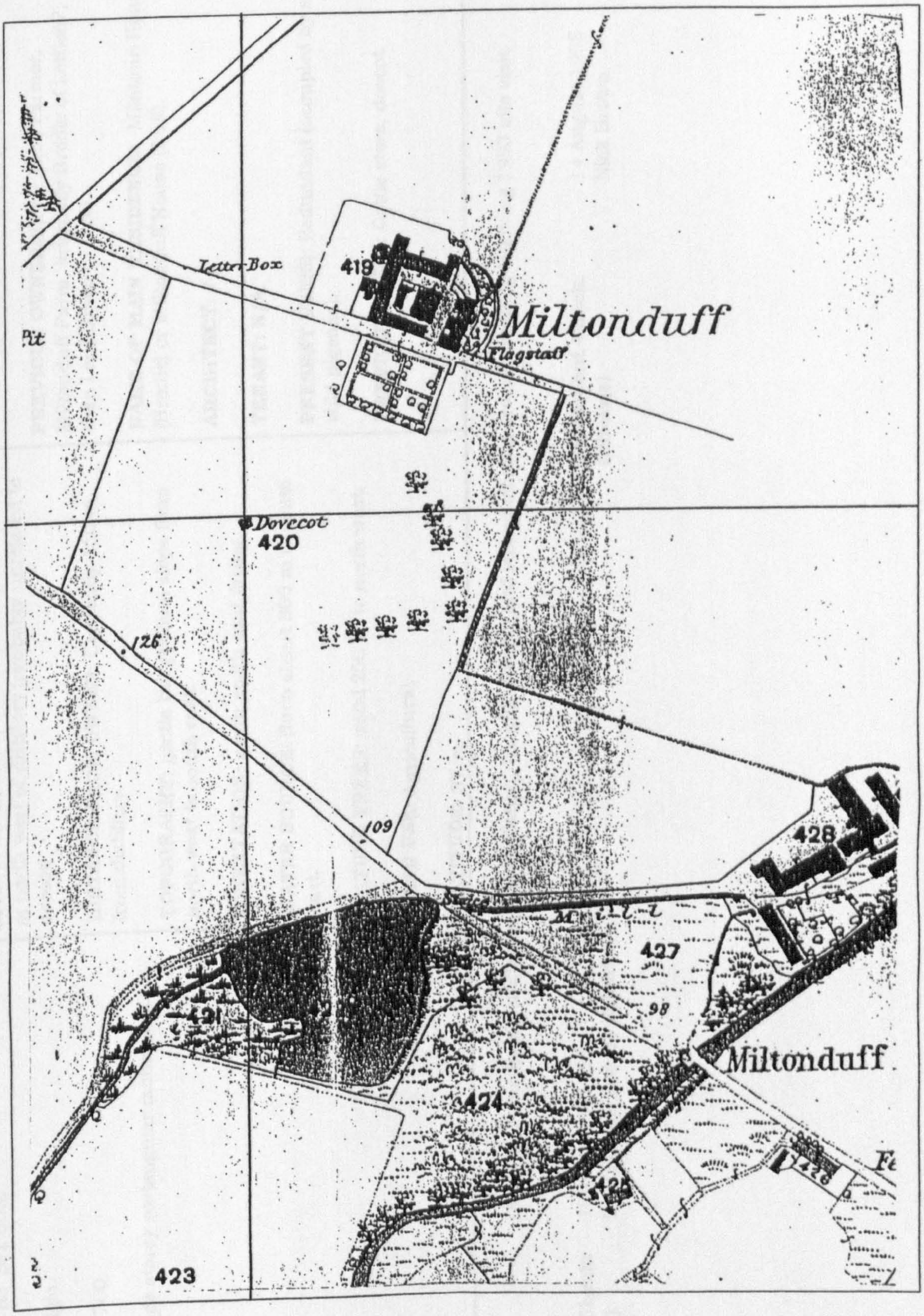
227 Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61,
"... re-roofed with slates in 1970".
228 Compare with uncatalogued black and white photograph taken by owner 1970.
229 Beaton, loc. cit.
230 Douglas, loc. cit.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Milton Doocot (Fig. 5.4.12)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 182 603. **PARISH:** Elgin. **DATE:** c. 1700. **TYPE:** Single storey rectangular monopitch.	**SITING:** 120m south west from farmhouse, 160 m north west of distillery (probably unrelated to doocot). **DISTANCE FROM OWNER:** Currently 160 m from distillery. **TOPOGRAPHY:** gentle but gradual slope from north west to south east. **ORIENTATION:** south south east facing. **WATER SOURCE:** Burn about 300 m to south east. **MATURE TREES:** wood 250 m to north west. **LAND USE:** Agricultural. **ALTITUDE:** 37 m.	**PRESENT OWNER:** Miltonduff Distillery. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** Mr Yool, Farmer, Miltonduff Farm, originally Brodie of Lethen?, then Lord Braco c. 1730. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Milntoun House (Brodie) or Miltonduff House (Duff). **ARCHITECT:** ? **TENANT:** N/A. **PRESENT USE(S):** Redundant (occupied by some wild pigeons). **PREVIOUS USE(S):** Cattle store, doocot.

NOTES: Distillery immediately underpinned foundation, backfilled earth and fenced off area around building following 1993 site visit.

Date of Check: 10th August 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Good. **REPAIRS:** Roof repaired wholesale, harling all renewed. **ALTERATIONS:** Concrete floor, slate roof finish, new flight holes, boxes all removed, skylight removed. **FUTURE RISK:** Failure to prevent undermining (by cattle eroding ground levels).	**PLAN FORM:** Rectangular. **PLAN SIZE:** 3.8 x 5 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 2 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 4.7 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Clay mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Random rubble with roughly squared external angles. (Carved ashlar chamfers at entrance door jambs). **WALL THICKNESS:** 650 mm (excluding boxes). **WALL FINISH:** Modern wet dash harl. **ROOF FORM:** Monopitch. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 9 No 150 x 50 mm rafters at 450 mm centres with no ties and new sarking board cladding. (c.1970). **ROOF PITCH:** 40°. **ROOF FINISH:** Mixture of modern slate (possibly Ballachulish and Westmorland) - replaced earlier roof of larger, heavier stone slates laid in diminishing courses.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Now missing - possibly vertically boarded timber opening inwards. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** N/A. **DOOR SIZE:** 1550 (h) x 680 mm (w). **DOOR SITING:** Central on south facing wall. **LEDGES:** Two number on rear wall. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 2 m and 3 m respectively. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 10.5 m. **APERTURES:** None. **VENT HOLES:** None. **FLIGHT HOLES:** Currently 2 x 3 No = 6. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** 0.18 m². **LIMEWASH:** Only traces. **DORMERS:** 2 No (half way up roof). **SKEWS:** 10 crowsteps (excluding wallcap and curve moulded skew putt). **FINIALS:** None. **WEATHER VANE:** N/A.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: No.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Later concrete.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: N/A.

NEST BOX NUMBER: N/A (all removed) - potential for around 350.

NEST BOX SIZE: N/A.

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: N/A.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: N/A.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: N/A.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER:

COLLECTING AID: N/A.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 350 x 2 x 0.7 = 490.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 27.8 m^3.

OTHER: - Pocket holes on rear wall. - Timber frame on rear wall.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- Date of construction
- Nest box construction
- Extent of lower ledge along gables/frontage.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 19 and front cover piece.

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 14, **40**.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 64.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, pp. 375, 379,**380**.

J. McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1992, p. 111.

ARTICLES:

'Northern Scot', 1/5/1971, p. 5 (illustrated).

LISTING: Elgin Parish, Item 6, p. 7, Category B, 1971, changed to C(s) 1987.

SMR: NJ 16 SE 1.

MAPS: 1869, 1925, 1965 OS maps.
Roy's Military Map c. 1750.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Black and white Distillery owned pictures before and after 1970 restoration.
- Uncatalogued black & white local authority photographs c. 1971.

OTHER:
Mike Brown's sketch for Beaton's, Doocots of Moray, is featured again in P & J Hansell's, Doves & Dovecotes, 1988, p. 112.



MILTON DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.12.1)

Distant view from the south showing the setting of the doocot in an open field sloping gently down to the burn. The woodland to the rear is the site of the former, but unrelated, Miltonduff Farm. The manor house or castle of Milton appears to have been sited left of picture.



MILTON DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.12.2)

Close up of front (south east) elevation showing the recent re-roofing using modern slates. The dormers are also reconstructions and the harling is of the same period. With the exception of the skew putts, the crowsteps are original pieces of fabric, as are the rear parapet slabs.



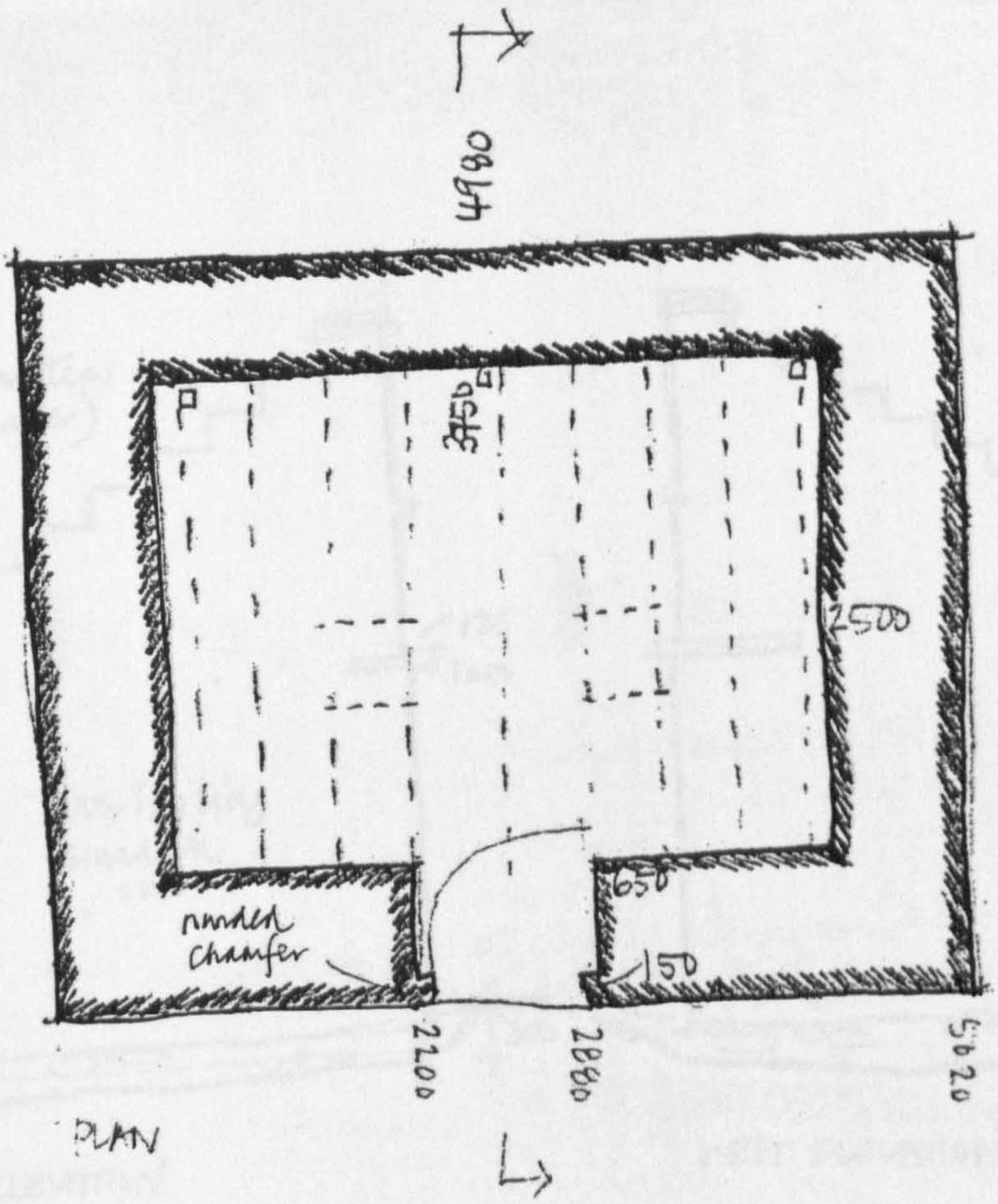
MILTON DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.12.3)

Northern gable clearly illustrating the crow stepped profile of the structure. Note also how the rear wall diminishes in thickness by stepping in at the stringcourses. The patches on the harling suggest that it may be cementitious, whilst the finish line at ground level shows the extent of soil erosion caused by grazing animals during recent decades.

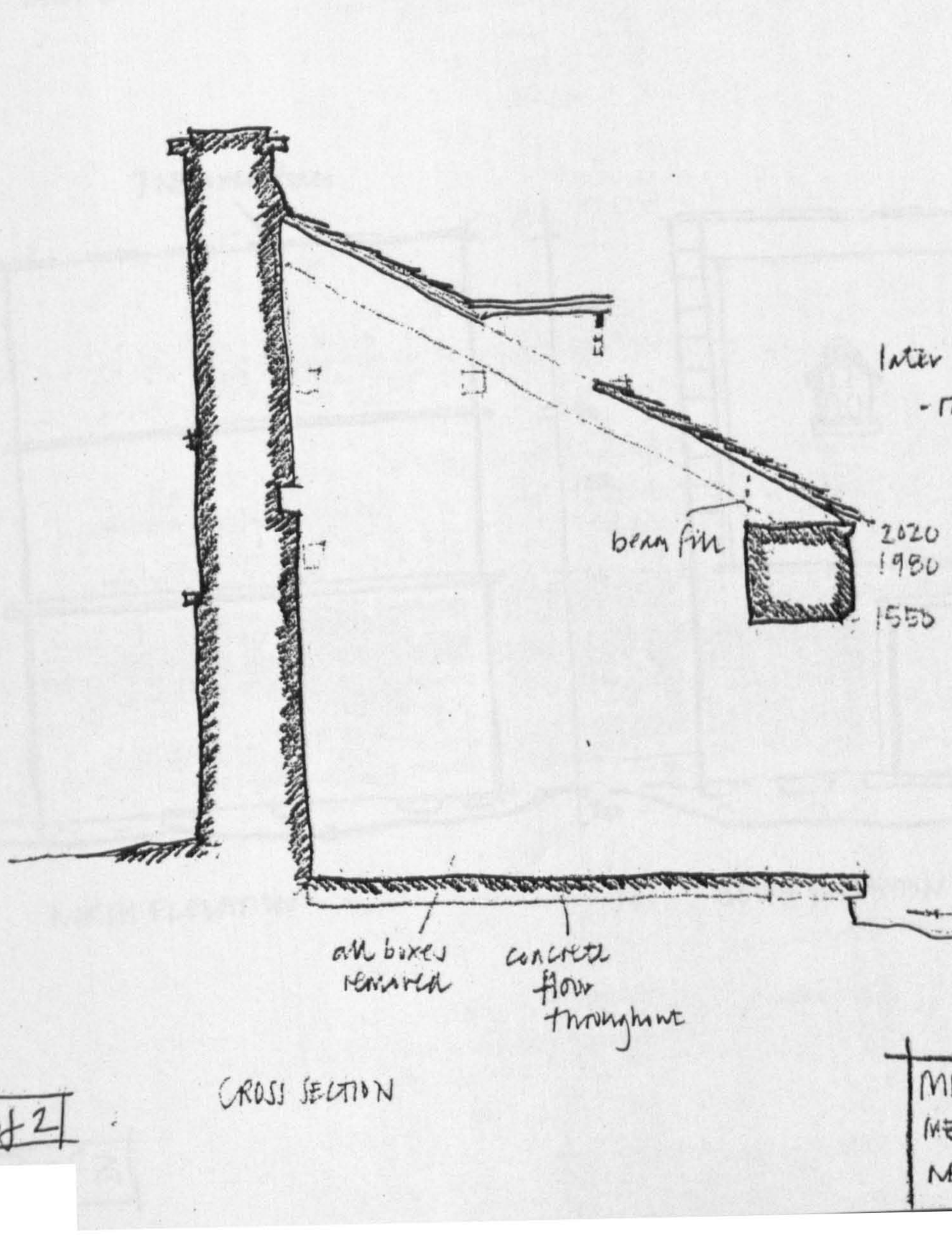


MILTON DOOCOT, 1970 (Plate 5.4.12.4)

Black & white photograph of south east elevation just prior to restoration. The local stone rubble construction, with remnants of a coarse texture lime harl, is evident and the heaviness and overhang of the local slates contrasts greatly with those employed in the restoration. Compare also the location and detailing of the flight hole dormers before and after restoration and note the outline of a skylight below the left hand dormer (not incorporated in the reconstruction).



replacement roof
–
9 rafters each
150x50mm at
450mm ctrs



later slates - poss. second hand
- random light grey slates
(Inverkeithing ?) with slight
diminishing course
- not much overhang

some erosion undermining all around

CROSS SECTION

1 of 2

MILTONDUFF DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 10/8/93

10 crowsteps (marked over)

later harling - sound all over

125

1600

300

EAST ELEVATION

300

300

1920

200

WEST ELEVATION

7 No. cover stones

1900

40

1000

60

1660

300

NORTH ELEVATION

cement harling

450

450

Single piece of plywood holes cut into - clay ridge lead flashing

2000

SOUTH ELEVATION

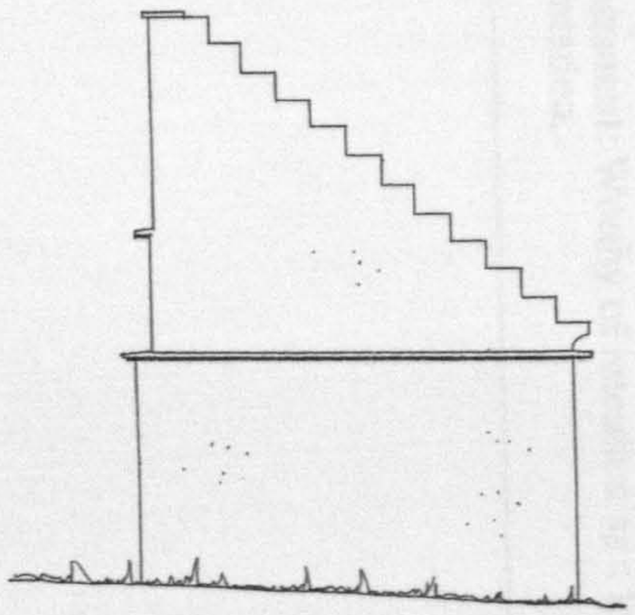
MILTONDUFF DODLOT

MEASURED SURVEY

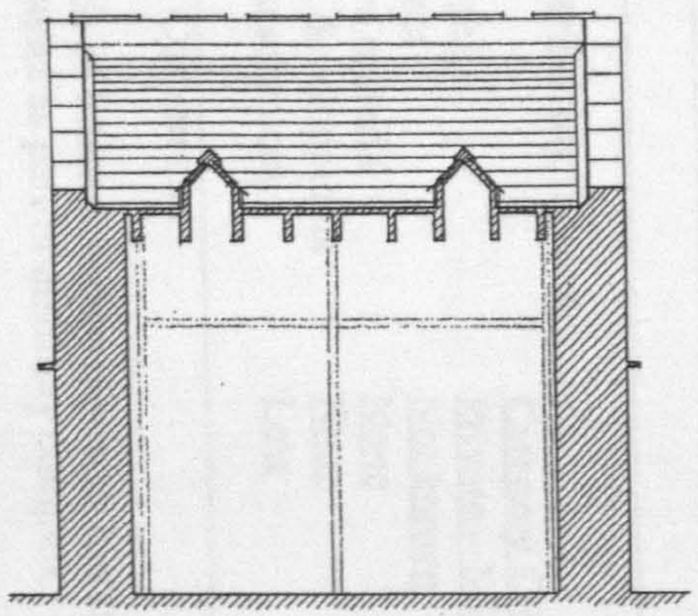
NB 10/8/93

2 of 2

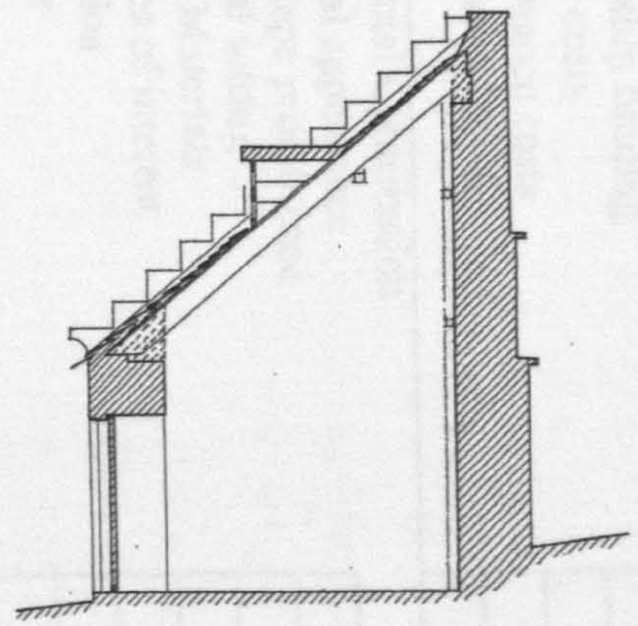
Miltonduff Doocot



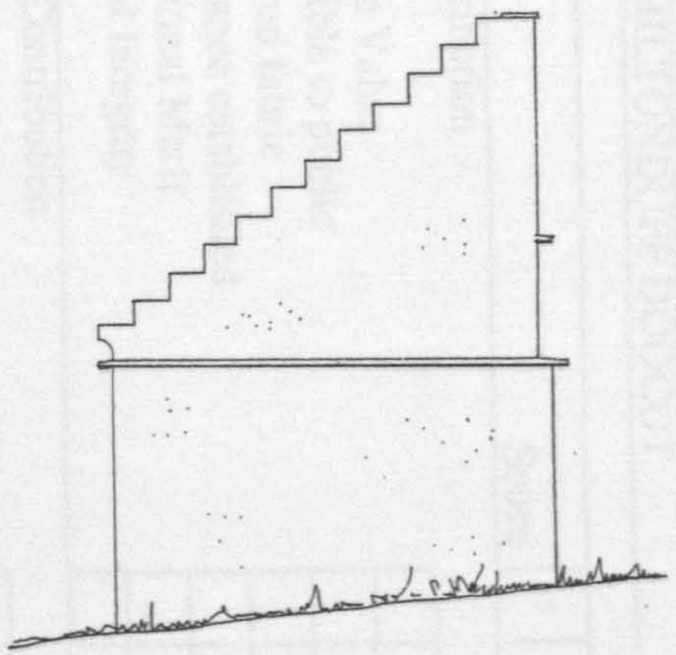
SOUTH-WEST ELEVATION



SECTION AA



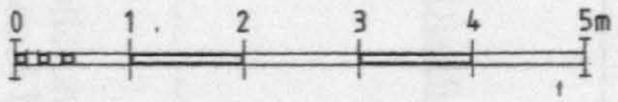
SECTION BB

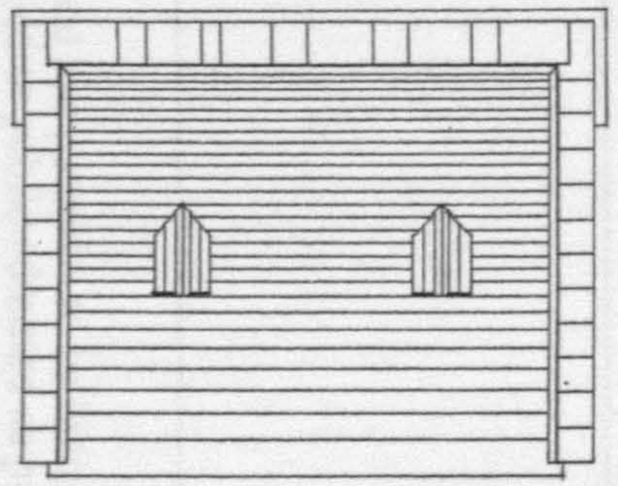


NORTH-EAST ELEVATION

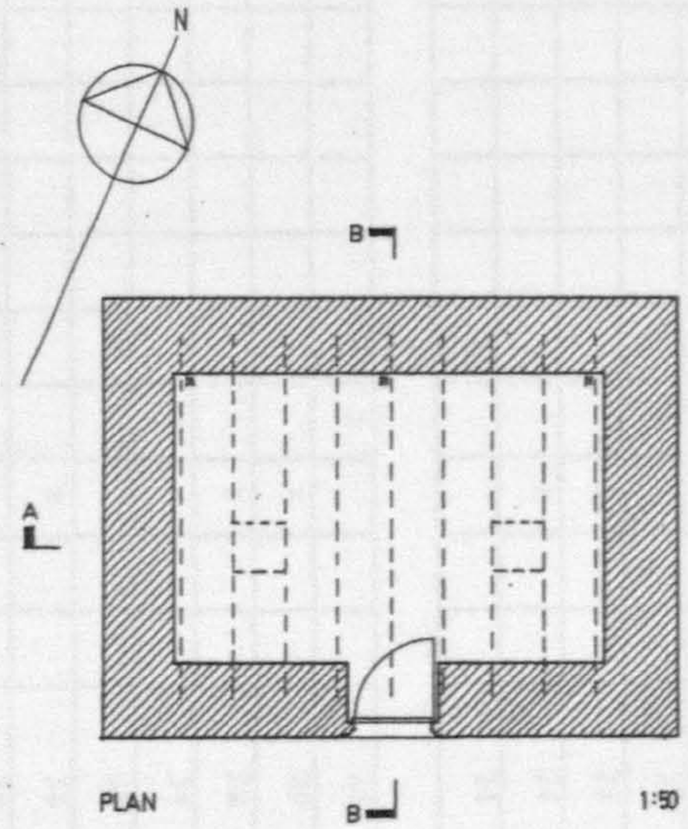


SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION

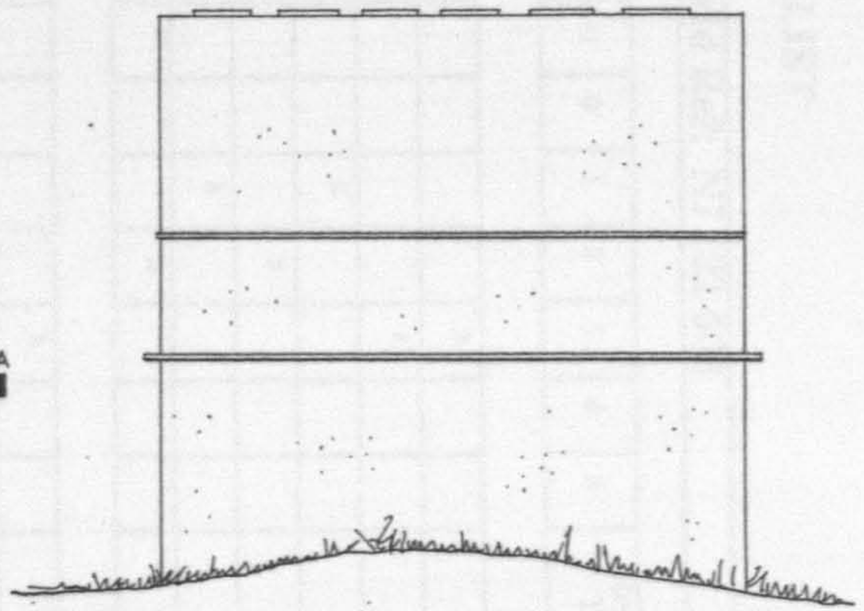




ROOF PLAN



PLAN 1:50



NORTH-WEST ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: MILTONDUFF DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 182 603

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public									x			6
• Unaltered fabric							x					7
• Provenance established								x				9
• Educational Merit							x					10
• Cultural Integrity								x				12
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable									x			15
• Tourist Value									x			17
• Partnership funding								x				19
• Capital costs									x			21
• Maintenance costs									x			24
• Revenue potential							x					24
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				26
• Landscape prominence									x			29
• Original setting									x			32
• Use of Materials								x				34
• Features of interest							x					35
• Condition									x			38
• Interior						x						38
										TOTAL		38

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category C(s)
- Ownership — Private – Miltonduff Distillery
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Despite lack of internal features, doocot has strong public profile and has potential to be indirect economic asset as part of distillery complex. Interior could be reused or public admitted as part of trail.

Final Assessment: Worthy of retention as a local, historic landmark with improved public access and interpretation.

5.4.13 BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 178 367, Inveravon Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Ballindalloch doocot is a freestanding, twin-chambered, single storey, rectangular pavilion structure. It is to be found in the north-west part of Inveravon Parish in the Haugh of the Spey, some 25 miles inland at the confluence of the rivers Avon and Spey. Surrounded by hills, particularly to the east and the west, the building sits at the relatively high altitude of 175 m on the banks of the River Avon and would have been flooded along with Ballindalloch Castle when the river burst its banks in the mid nineteenth century[231].

A panel above the door of the doocot is inscribed 1696 suggesting (but not necessarily confirming, since panels can be moved from building to building) that it was built by John Grant of Ballindalloch who was laird between 1680 and 1721.

A horizontal line is evident around the building at a height of 2.2 m above ground level where a 100 mm step in the wall plane occurs in order to diminish its thickness. It is not clear if this is contemporary with the existing building or whether this indicates an upper extension, a rebuilding stage or an earlier foundation building.[232]

There is a curious diamond pattern area of sixteen slates just above the eaves on the south-east-facing roof and these may be purely decorative or, since the glover is almost certainly later, may indicate the covering over of an earlier structure[233].

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231 J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p. 49 states that the castle policies were flooded in 1829. Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 75 says *"The waters of the flood of 1829 rose three feet in the rooms of the ground floor and rushed through the vaulted passages. They filled the garden four feet deep with sand."* Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 edn.), p.278. *"Similar to many of the seats of ancient families, the house was originally placed in the vicinity of very swampy ground, which has been completely laid dry by a number of costly but perennial drains"*

232 Cooper, Inventory of Ornamental Garden Buildings, vol. 6, 1996, s.v. 'Ballindalloch' states, "*...upper rat course (lower course missing).*"

233 J. McCann, 'Eighteenth Century Dovecote at Stewkley', Record of Buckinghamshire, vol: 36, (1994), pp. 120-8, (p. 125).
"It is not surprising that the original louver has decayed and has not been replaced for it is the part of a dovecote which is most exposed to the weather and least accessible for maintenance. Most of the louvers or cupolas one sees on dovecotes which are open to the public are modern replacements and those which are original are usually in poor condition."

In his 'Historical Enquiry into the Design and Use of Dovecotes', John McCann is confident that dovecotes which have their boxes raised for four feet above floor level are of a date later than c. 1740, since this would co-incide with the introduction of the Brown Rat to Britain and published advice on how to counter its predations. This could reason Ballindalloch Doocot as a mid-eighteenth century structure built upon a late seventeenth century edifice.[234]

Despite its few blemishes, the doocot is currently in very good condition and is soon to become the focal point near a new visitor's car park area associated with the opening of the castle and the grounds to the public. At the time of survey, it was interesting to discover that the building was occupied by a barn owl, which is a protected species, although the owner expressed an interest in re-establishing the building for "...*tumblers and rollers*"[235]. This would be a useful development, not only to give the building more purpose, but also bear witness to the building functioning ecologically. Such proactive steps by the owners will ensure that this historic building has a safer future.

The building is Category A listed having been upgraded from B in 1987 (the reason for this is not documented) and the building is under no immediate threat. A white painted picket fence now surrounds the building and has protected it to some extent from animals and humans without diminishing its setting. It is evident therefore that Ballindalloch Doocot is seemingly likely to survive for some time.

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[234] McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 100. Although since McCann notes that the Brown Rat did not penetrate parts of rural Moray until the early nineteenth century, there is a possibility that the doocot's date stone can be taken as accurate.
[235] Mrs. Oliver Russell, owner of Ballindalloch, 1993, pers. comm.

ARCHITECTURL DESCRIPTION

Ballindalloch doocot is about 220 m north west of the existing castle which dates from the mid-sixteenth century[236]. The doocot is orientated on a north-west/south-east axis sited on level ground some 200 m to the east of a river which would have provided ample source of fresh water for birds. The building stands in splendid isolation in the middle of the landscaped policies and is presently viewed from the castle with a backdrop of mature trees some 80 m to the north and 70 m to the east. A walled garden is further north than the home farm which is found to the east of the doocot.

The doocot itself is rectangular in plan (8.7 x 4.5 m) with a wallhead height of 4.5 m and rising to an overall height of 9 m. Its 700 mm thick walls (including the nest boxes) are constructed using uncoursed random rubble field stone bonded with lime mortar. The external angles have tooled and roughly squared dressings with chamfered ashlar sandstone around the doorway. Aside from some areas which have received modern cement pointing, the walls are finished in thin coats of finely textured lime harling but there is no evidence of limewash.

The roof is piended on all four sides and is probably a later roof construction true to the original design[237]. The present structure comprises 150 x 65 mm rafters at 500 mm centres with cross ties halfway up and standard sarking boards parged with lime on the undersides. Pitched at 45°, the roof is finished in 10 mm thick dark grey local slates with uniform width and slightly diminishing courses[238]. The ridge and hips of the roof are protected with lead flashings dressed over wood core rolls and cast iron gutter brackets on the frontage indicate that the building once had rainwater goods in the late-nineteenth and/or twentieth century.

The existing white painted, vertically boarded, wooden door is likely a later remake to fit the original 1580 high x 770 mm wide door opening which is centred on the south east facing wall. A 300 (h) x 210 mm (w) sandstone datestone is sited almost immediately above the doorway and contains the still legible date of 1696 with the capital letter B centred above it. A continuous ledge 2150 mm above the door lintel and 1200 mm below eaves level is found all around the building. It is 50 to 75 mm deep and projects 75 to 100 mm on its lower side and 130 mm on its upper side thus indicating that the wall thickness steps in at this point. There are three later openings located at the upper level described in the Secretary of State's listing as "*...pair square flight holes above upper rat course (lower course missing).*"[239] These holes are 250 mm wide x 350 mm high, two of which are symmetrically sited above the ledge on the south east wall and the third is sited left of centre above the ledge on the south west gable.

The doocot is crowned by a white painted timber clad glover which is almost 1 m cubed with a piended slate roof and lead hip flashings all to match the main roof.[240] The cheeks of the dormer are horizontally boarded on three sides with the south east facing elevation containing sixteen 100 x 150 mm arched topped holes laid out in four rows of four, each row with its own 100 mm projecting timber alighting ledge.

The internal space is not instantly revealed upon entry since the entrance door leads immediately onto the blank gable of a 900 mm wide masonry partition which divides the building into two equal chambers each containing just under 450 boxes[241]. This central partition does not extend to the roof level but does continue to wallhead height and is lintelled at doorway level to provide nine full rows of boxes above.

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236 The castle was originally entered from the north side before it was extended in 1718 so the doocot would have been viewable during approach. The castle is now entered from the south.

237 The roof members have a relatively fresh appearance and appear to be machine cut.

238 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 5. Describes the slates as possibly sourced from a quarry nearby at Tomintoul.

239 Secretary of State Statutory List for Moray District, Inveravon Parish, Item 5, p. 5.

240 Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 59, describes the doocot as having a,"*...slated ridge roof with central louvre*" and Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 3, has an annotated illustration which refers to the doocot, "*...with an unusual timber glover*". McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p. 85, comments that, "*Louvers with flight holes of inverted U-shapes usually prove on examination to be modern replacements, formed of machine-sawn softwood or plywood.*"

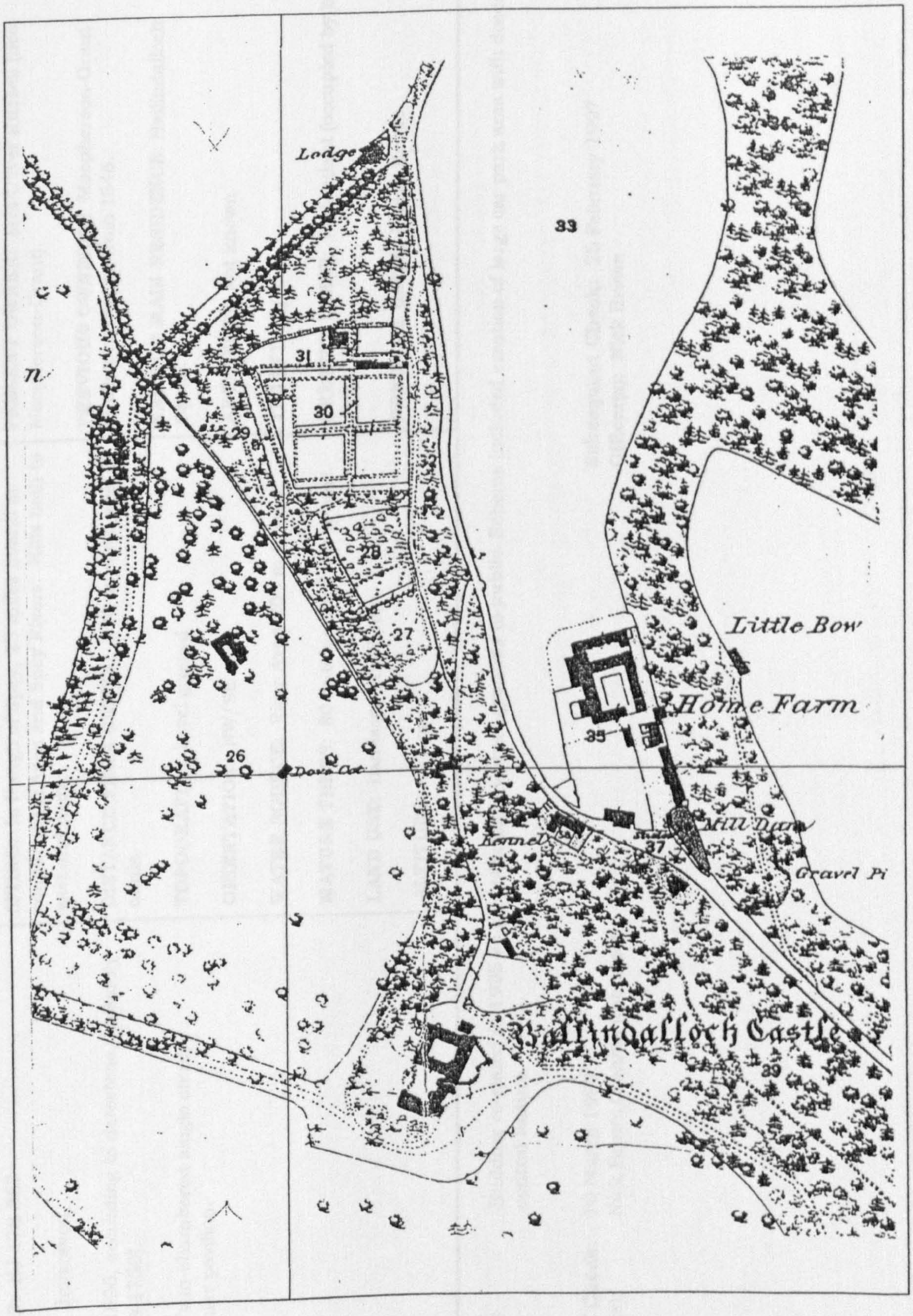
241 A. N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 373.

The boxes themselves are arranged in a linear arrangement of 100 mm stone uprights (which are sometimes composed using two or three stones) and 75 mm stone horizontals. They are 230 (w) x 250 (h) x 300 mm (d) and are raised 890 mm above ground level. Few of the boxes are blocked except for around doorways but all show signs of plastering particularly on the uprights and at the backs of the boxes.

Perhaps, however, the most valuable feature of this doocot is the tangible remains of 200 mm square timber beams which are inserted into boxes approximately half way up the walls and along the faces on the boxes on all four sides (to provide permanent access as a collecting aid to the upper sections of each chamber).

Written: 13 September 1996

Records the, "*...total number of nests is six hundred and ninety five.*"



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Ballindalloch Doocot (Fig. 5.4.13)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 178 367 **PARISH**: Inveravon **DATE**: 1696, according to datestone, (possibly as late as 1750). **TYPE**: Twin-chambered single storey rectangular pavilion.	**SITING**: In Haugh of Spey, 25 miles inland at confluence of Avon and Spey Rivers. Hills both to east and west. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 220 m north west of castle. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Level ground **ORIENTATION**: NW/SE axis **WATER SOURCE**: River Avon 200 m to west. **MATURE TREES**: 80 m to north, 70 m to east. **LAND USE**: Landscaped policies. **ALTITUDE**: 175 m	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mrs Oliver Russell (nee Macpherson-Grant). **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Macpherson-Grant family occupation from 1546. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Ballindalloch Castle. **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: N/A. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant (occupied by barn owl) **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Pigeon House.

NOTES: Building re-slated in 1995 as part of scheme to open grounds to public. Scheme included creation of large car park area with doocot as central feature.

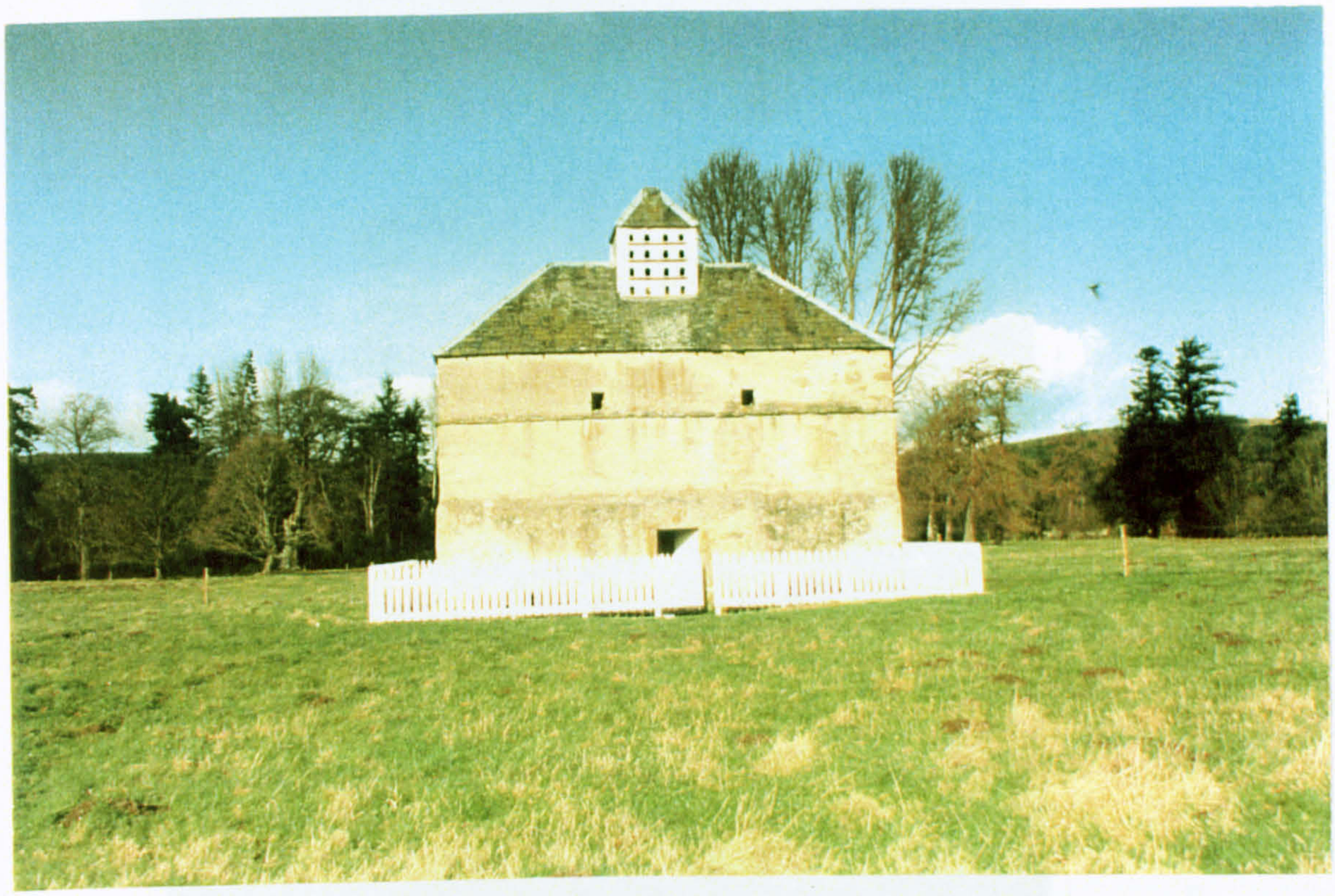
Date of Check: 10 March 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 25 February 1997
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Very good. **REPAIRS:** Cement pointing of external walls **ALTERATIONS:** 3 vent holes. Datestone? Modern glover? Upper two thirds of stonework and entrance door possibly eighteenth century alterations to earlier structure. **FUTURE RISK:** No immediate threat.	**PLAN FORM:** Rectangular **PLAN SIZE:** 8.7 x 4.5 m **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 5.4 m **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 9 m **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Uncoursed random rubble with lime mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Rubble field stone, tooled angles and a sandstone dressings with chamfer at doorway. **WALL THICKNESS:** 700 mm (including boxes) **WALL FINISH:** Thin coat of finely textured lime harling. **ROOF FORM:** Piended all 4 sides. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** Possibly later roof of 150 x 65 mm rafters at 500 mm centres with cross ties halfway up and parged sarking boards. **ROOF PITCH:** 45° **ROOF FINISH:** 10 mm thick dark grey local slates with uniform width and slightly diminishing courses (Diamond pattern area of 16 slates in front of glover) and lead hip flashings with wood core rolls.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Painted wooden later door with vertical boarding. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** n/a **DOOR SIZE:** 1580 (h) x 770 mm (w) **DOOR SITING:** Centred on SE facing wall. **LEDGES:** One 50 to 75 mm wide stone ledge projecting 100 to 130 mm all around at 1210 mm below eaves level. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 4.2 m **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 45 m **APERTURES:** None. **VENT HOLES:** 3 (probably later) 240 (w) x 340 mm (h) - 2 symmetrically sited above ledge on SE wall, 1 left of centre above ledge on SW gable. **FLIGHT HOLES:** 16, 100 x 150 mm arched top holes in SE face of timber glover. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** 0.54 m² **LIMEWASH:** No evidence. **DORMERS:** Yes - white painted timber clad cube centred on roof ridge with piended slate roof. **SKEWS:** n/a **FINIALS:** n/a **WEATHER VANE:** No (possibly missing) **OTHER:** 210 (w) x 310 (h) stone panel above door divided in two (top half with capital B, lower half with 1696 carving).

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES	8.0 COMMENT	9.0 REFERENCES
THRESHOLD STEPS: Yes - 300 x 50 mm **PARTITION WALLS**: Yes - 900 mm wide containing nest boxes on both sides and dividing cote into 2 equal chambers. **FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION**: n/a **NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION**: linear arrangement of 100 mm stone uprights (sometimes in 2 or 3 pieces) and 75 mm stone horizontals. **NEST BOX NUMBER**: 890 **NEST BOX SIZE**: 230 (w) x 250 (h) x 300 mm (d) **NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR**: 890 mm **NEST BOXES BLOCKED**: Some around doorways **ALIGHTING LEDGES**: No **LIMEWASH/PLASTER**: yes - uprights plastered entirely - evidence of backs of boxes likewise. Some around doorways **COLLECTING AID**: Remains of perimeter scaffolding half way up boxes - 175 mm square beams. **BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL**: say 890 x 2 x 0.7 = 1246. **INTERNAL VOLUME**: 199 m^3 **OTHER**:	**ENIGMAS**: - whether or not lower portion on earlier building. - dividing partition original or not. - whether datestone belongs to existing structure, earlier structure or unrelated structure on estate.	**BOOKS**: E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 5, 30 C. McKean, The District of Moray - an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 163 G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 59 A.N. Robertson, "Old Dovecotes of Scotland", 1961, pp. 368, 372-4. S. Cooper, Inventory of Ornamental Gardens, 1993, u.p. **ARTICLES**: **LISTING**: Inveravon Parish Item 5, p 5, Category A, 1972, upgraded B to A 1987. **SMR**: GRC Archaeological Site Index Ref No NJ 13 NE 11. **MAPS**: 1870, 1905, 1965 OS Maps Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch's Map c. 1640 Timothy Pont's Map of Moray c. 1590 General Roy's Military Map 1750. **PHOTOGRAPHS**: T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p3. Cooper, Ornamental Garden Buildings, 1996, u.p. **OTHER**: Plan by Sinclair Ross in Beaton's, The Doocots of Moray, p. 30 Estate information J. & W. Watson Morayshire Described, 1868, pp. 49-51 I. Forsyth Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed.), p. 25, 278 MacGibbon & Ross The Castellated and Baronial Architecture of Scotland, vol. 6, 1892, pp. 61-3. L. Shaw History of Province of Moray, vol. 1, 1882, pp. 204-5. O.S.A. s.v. "Inveravon". N. Tranter Fortified House, vol. 5, 1970, pp. 45-7. J. Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, pp. 73-5.

NOTES: Sir Robert Gordon's map records the tower house of "Ballindalloch"
Roy's map indicates a fairly large estate called "Ballindalloch". This estate was to be found quite centrally positioned in the earldom lands of the Grant family who had its seat at Castle Grant, Freuchie about 15 miles west of Ballindalloch.



BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.13.1)

Shortened view of south elevation from Castle. The outline of the thicker base wall is most apparent here, as is the slate alteration in front of the later cupola or glover. The fence is also a sensible recent addition to protect the walls and foundations of the structure from grazing animals.



BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.13.2)

View of western gable showing extensive harling/mortar repairs, profile of external walls and additional flight and/or ventilation hole off centred above the single stringcourse.



BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.13.3)

Close-up of small commemorative date stone above doorway containing the letter B and the date 1696. Although dates on buildings are to be looked upon with some caution, the design detailing and construction of this structure is not inconsistent with this date.



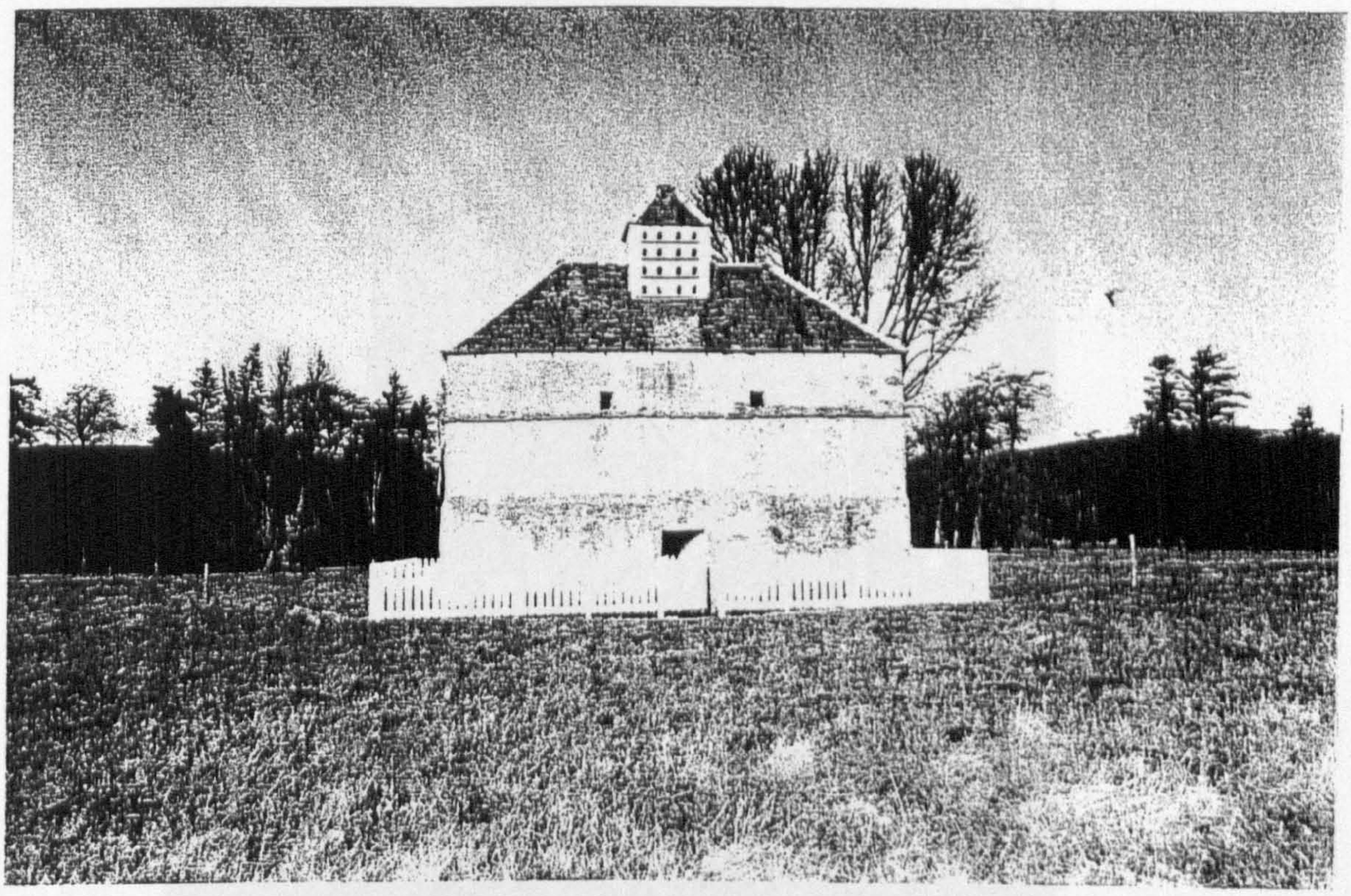
BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT, 1993 INTERIOR (Plate 5.4.13.4)

Interior photograph showing the pairs of scaffold beams inserted into boxes to provide human access to the uppermost tiers of nest boxes.



BALLINDALLOCH CASTLE, 1997 (Plate 5.4.13.5)

Southern elevation of baronial castle with sixteenth century tower to right of picture. The doocot can just be discerned to the north within the landscaped policies left of picture.



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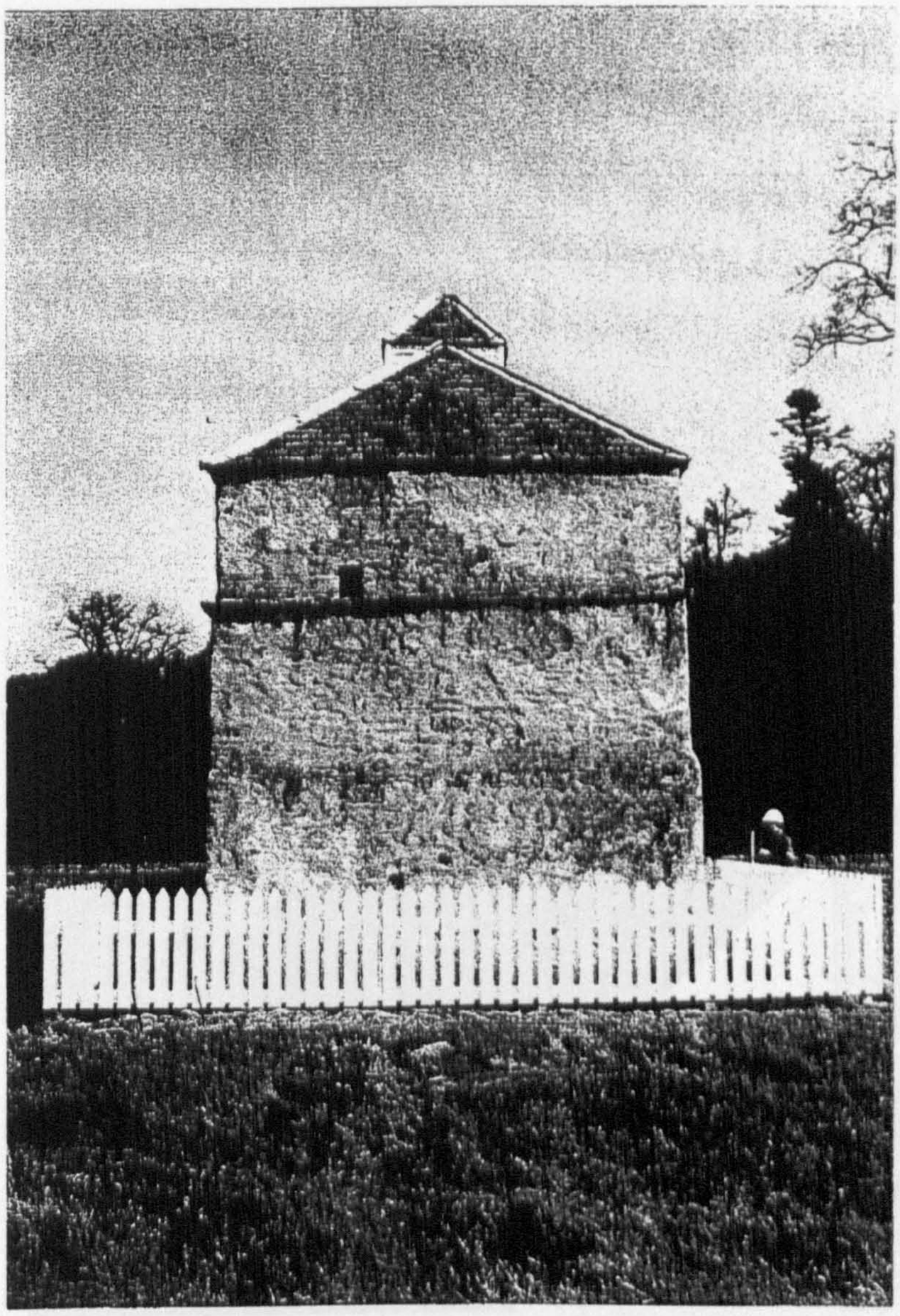
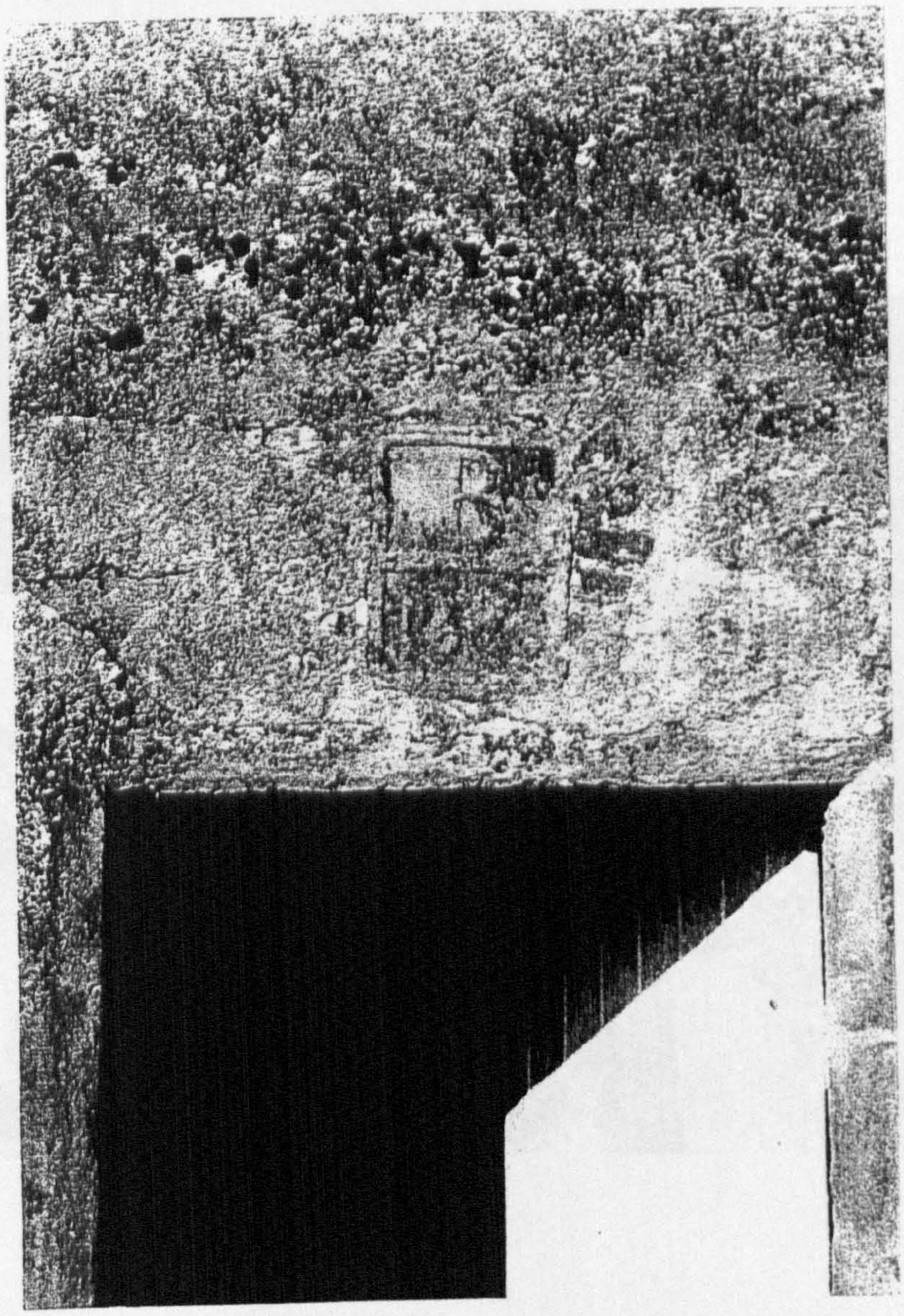


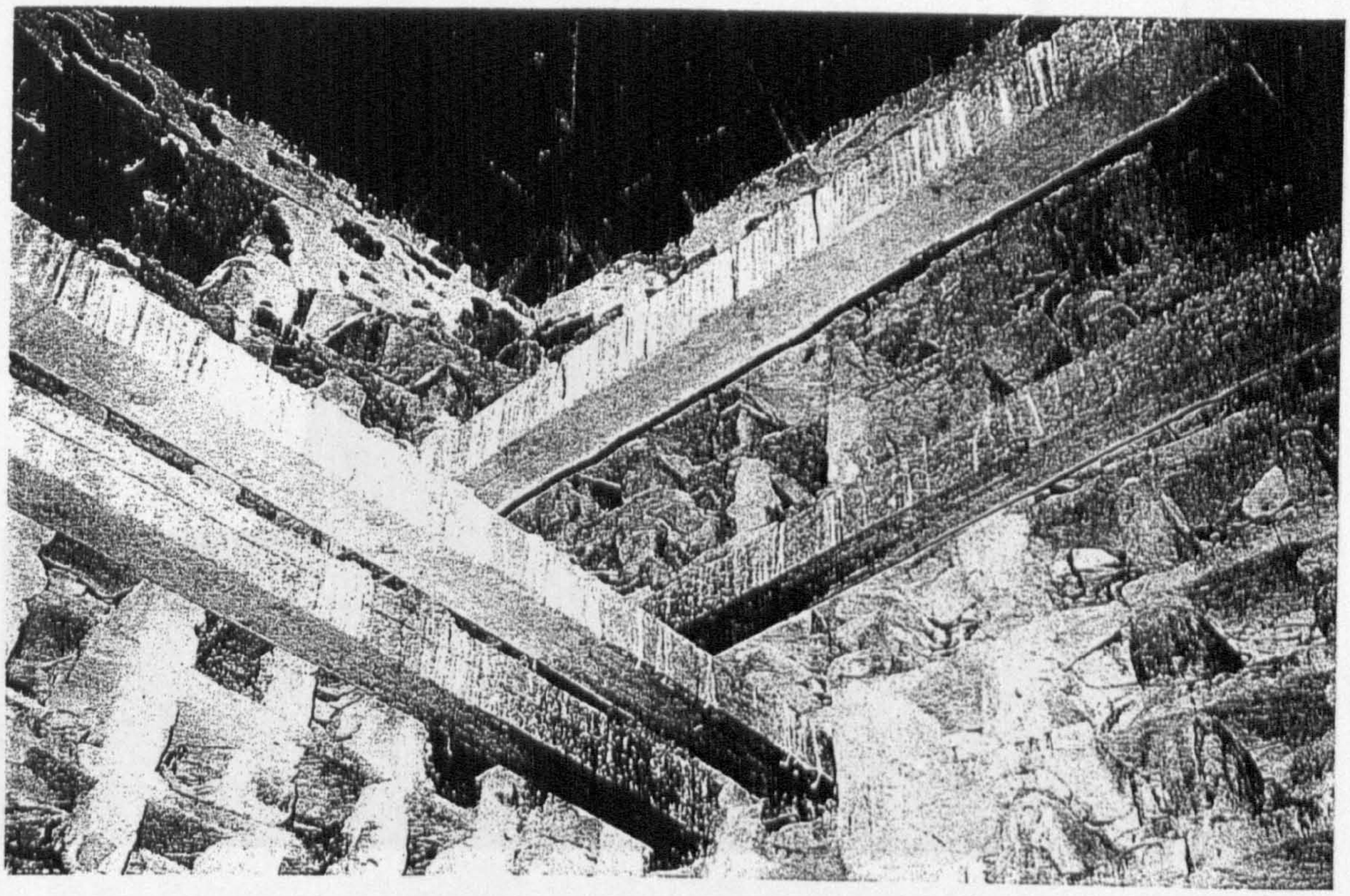
BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.13.2)

View of western gable showing extensive harling/mortar repairs, profile of external walls and additional flight and/or ventilation hole off centred above the single stringcourse.



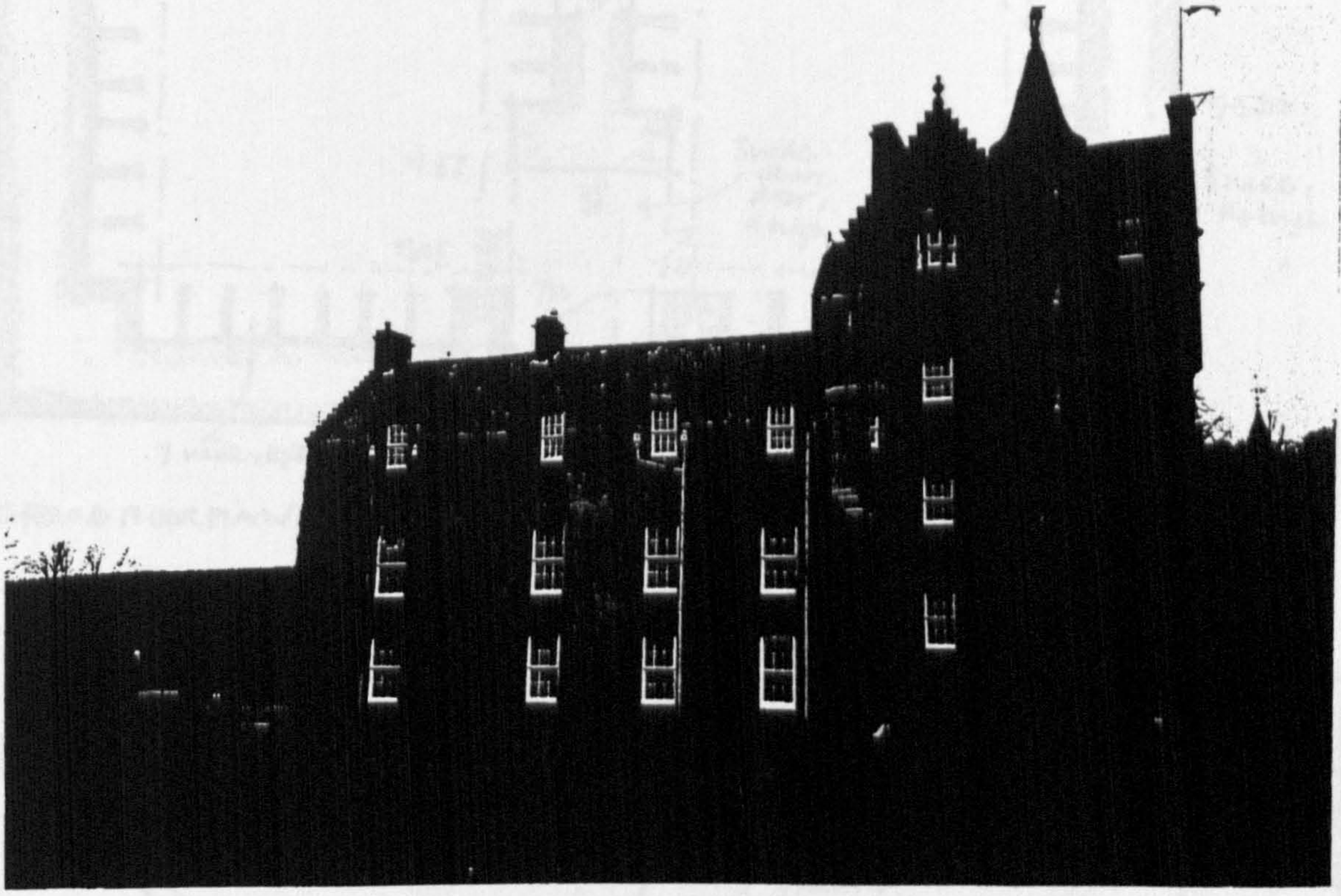
BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.4.13.3)

Close-up of small commemorative date stone above doorway containing the letter B and the date 1696. Although dates on buildings are to be looked upon with some caution, the design detailing and construction of this structure is not inconsistent with this date.



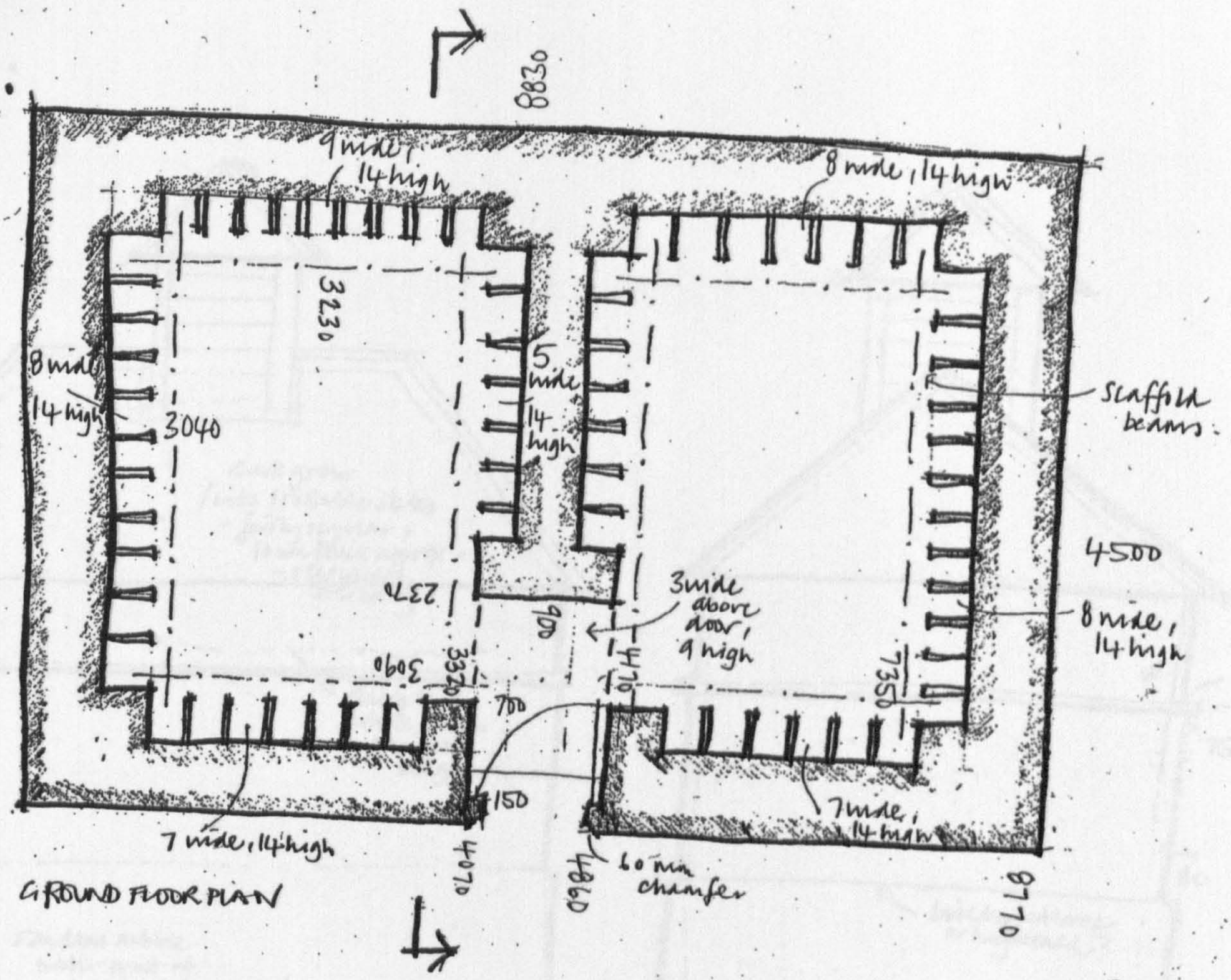
BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT, 1993 INTERIOR (Plate 5.4.13.4)

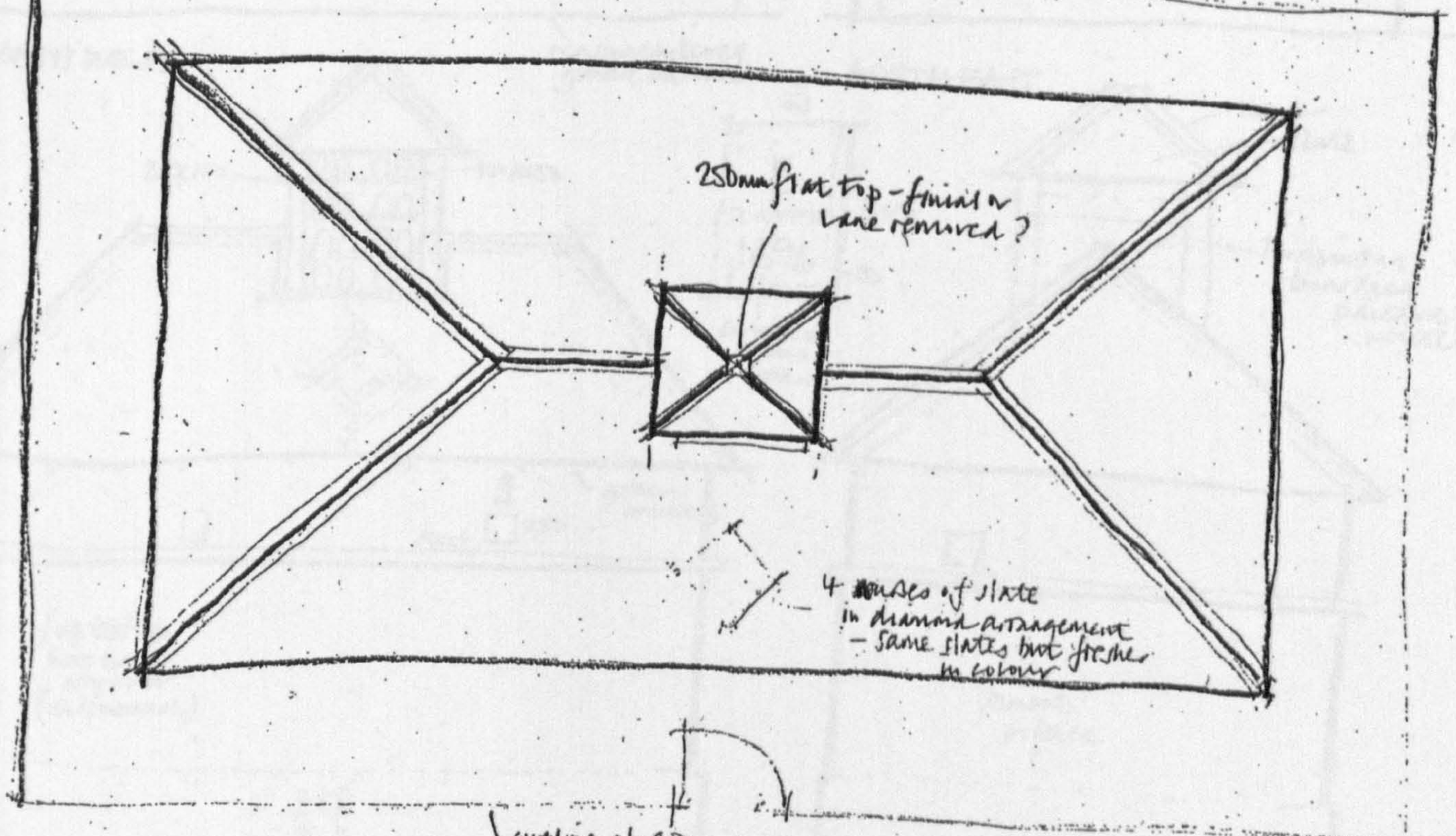
Interior photograph showing the pairs of scaffold beams inserted into boxes to provide human access to the uppermost tiers of nest boxes.



BALLINDALLOCH CASTLE, 1997 (Plate 5.4.13.5)

Southern elevation of baronial castle with sixteenth century tower to right of picture. The doocot can just be discerned to the north within the landscaped policies left of picture.





1 of 3

BALLINDALLOCH DOOLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 10/3/13

dark grey
Slate / Sizeable slates
- fairly regular /
10 mm thick approx.
- reasonable
overhang

damp line
whole length
above
ledge

random rubble
wall - most of
harling
missing

reasonably level
ground around

NORTH WEST

NORTH EAST

12

75

80

building altered
or heightened?

lead

slate

horizontal
boarding
painted
white

20X10

10X15

B

210

300

1696

30

covered in
orange
lichen

28

gutter
bracket

100

250

fine texture
lime harl
all over
(whitewash)

area
cement
pointed

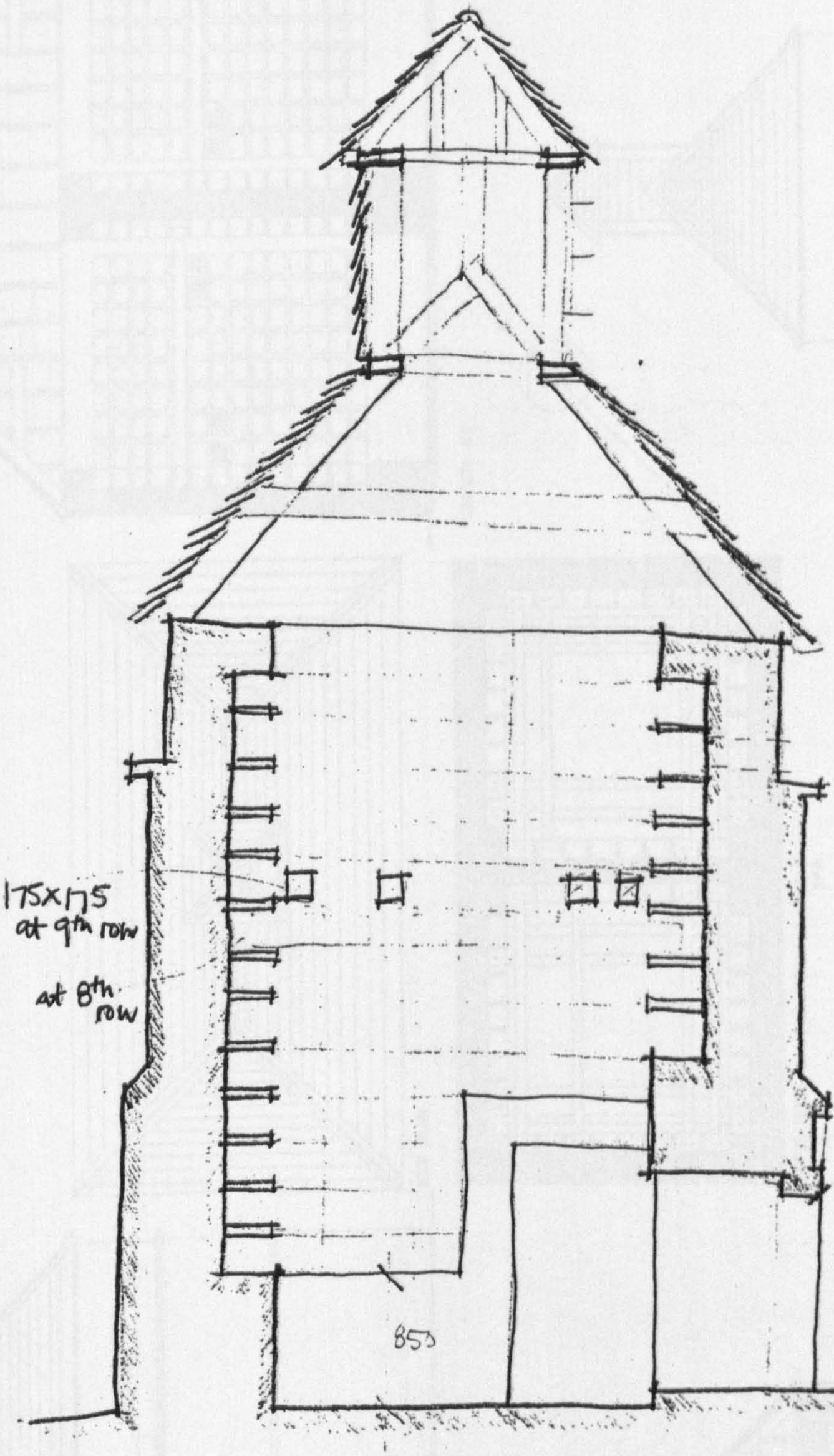
harling up to
chamfer

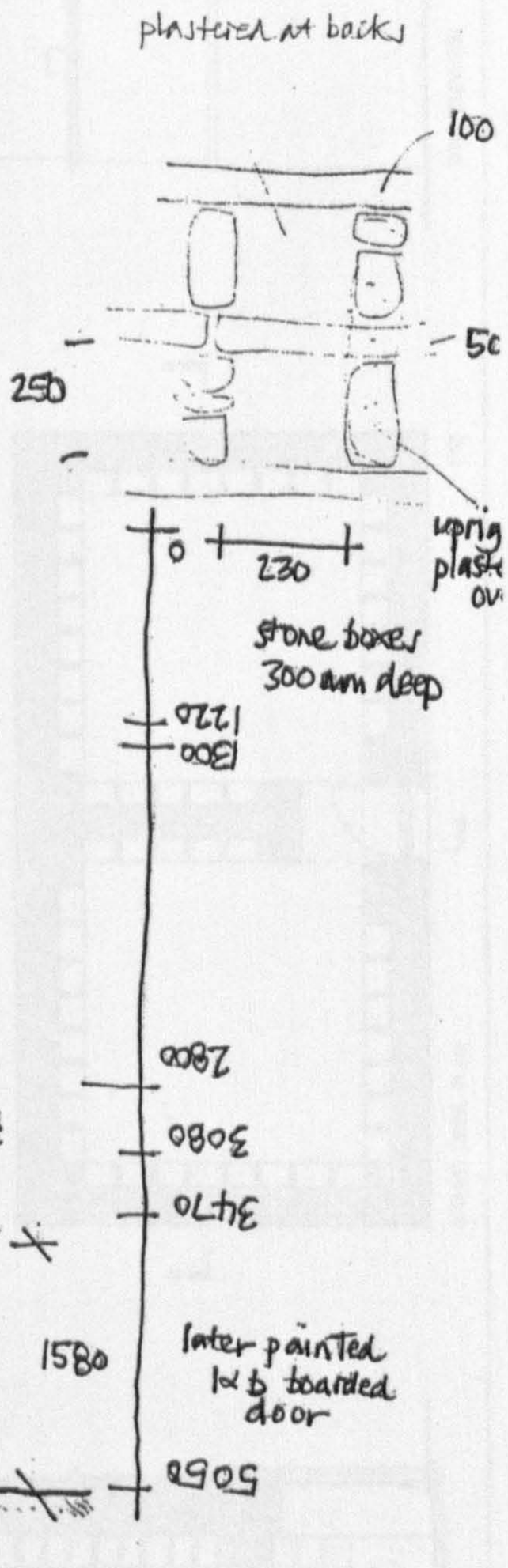
SOUTH EAST ELEVATION

SOUTH WEST

BALLINDALLOCH CASTLE
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 10/2 193

2 of 3



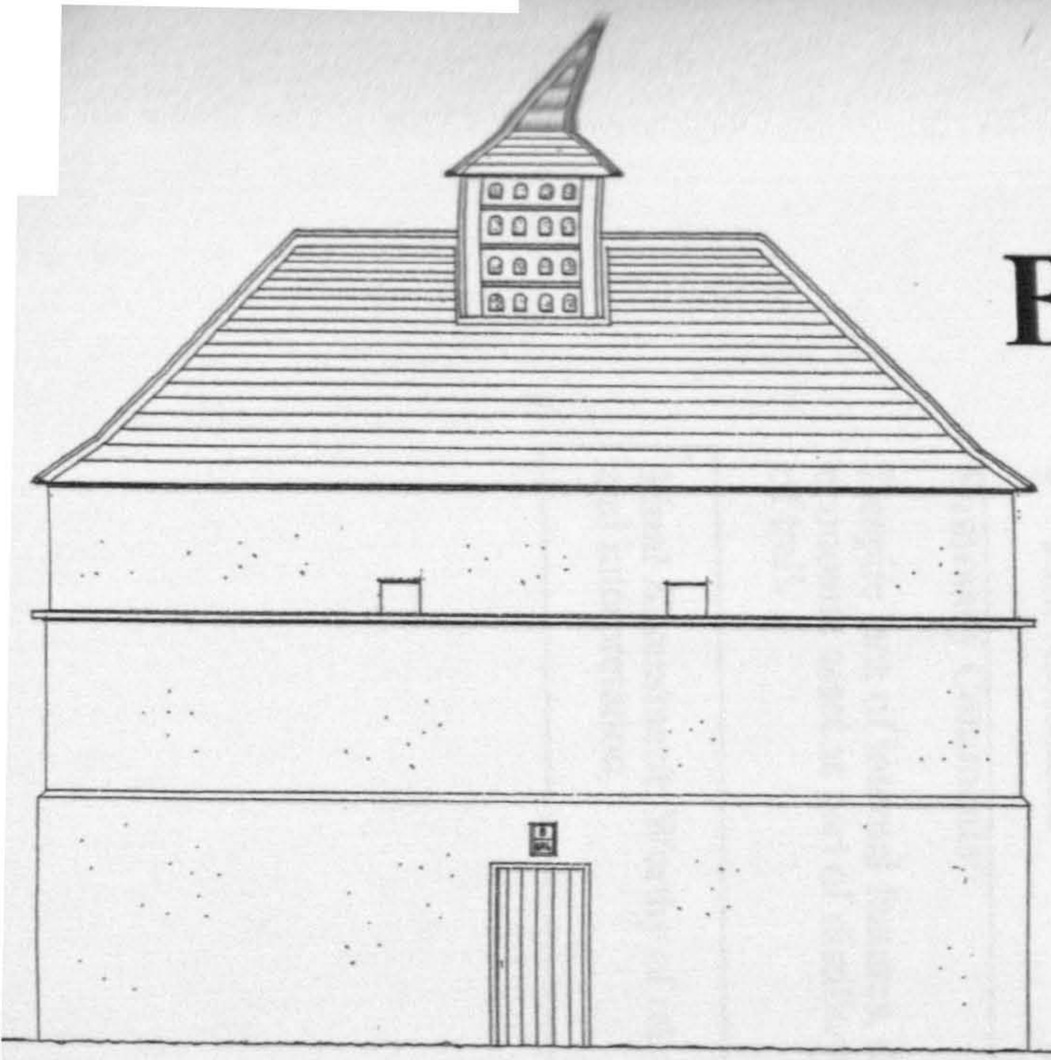


CROSS SECTION

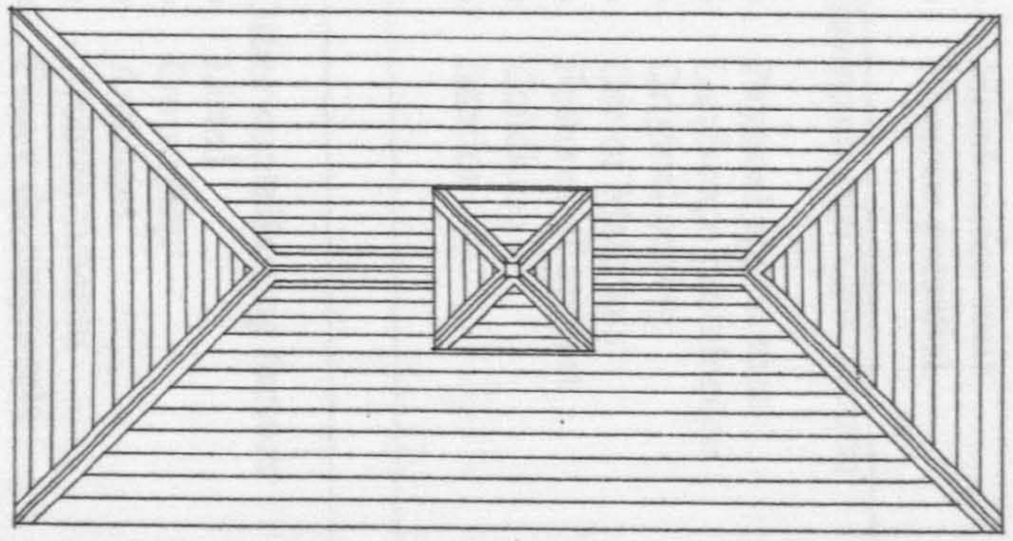
3 of 3

BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 10/3/93

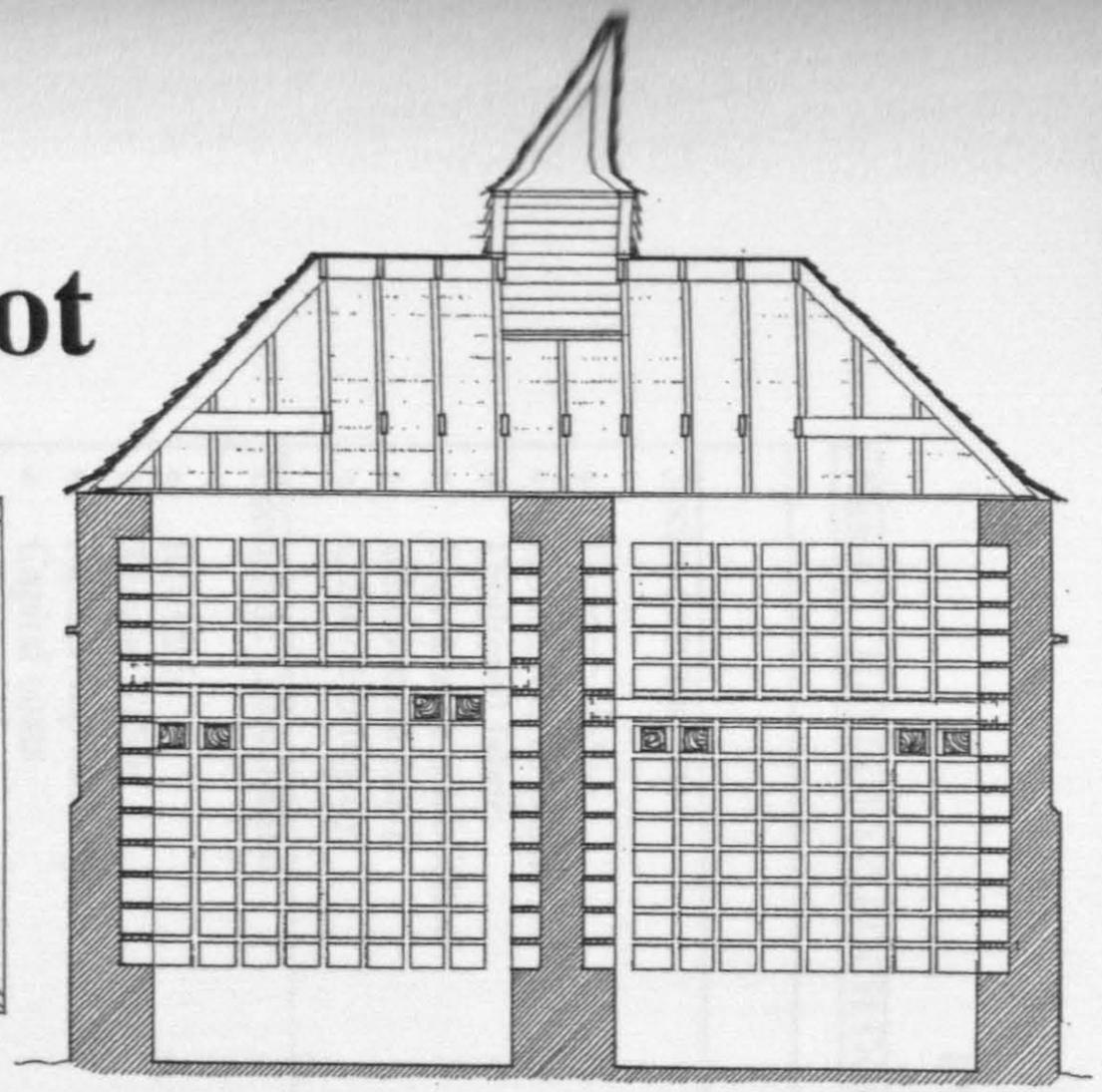
Ballindalloch Doocot



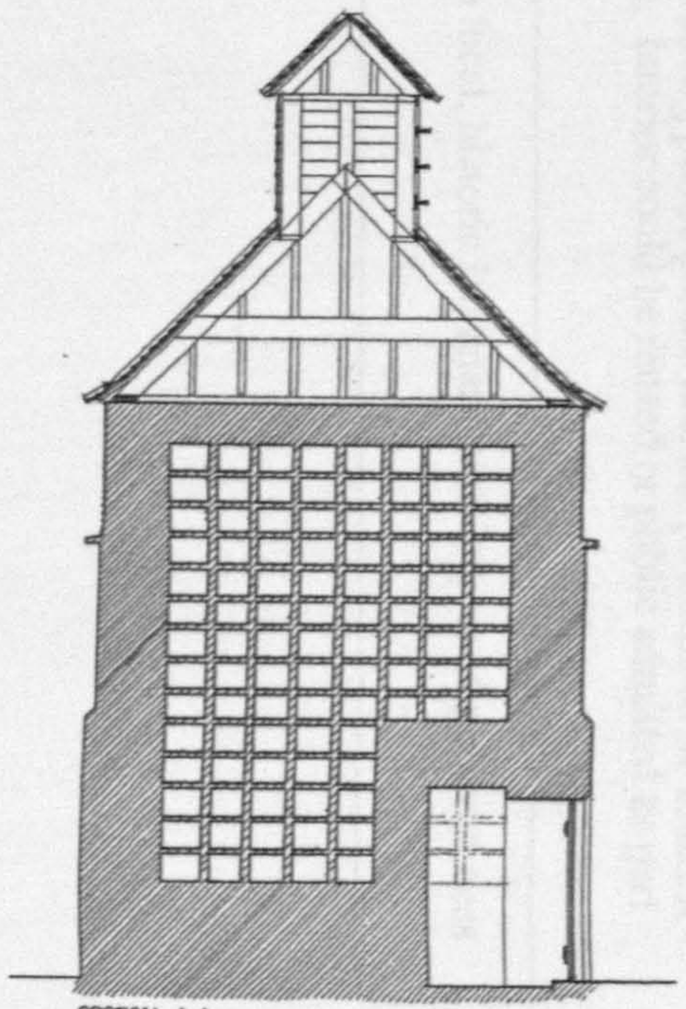
SOUTH ELEVATION



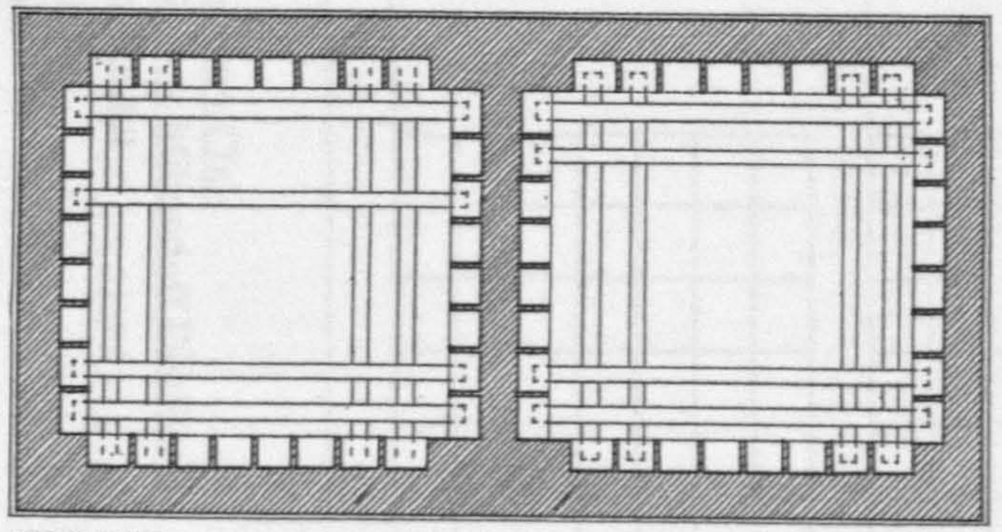
ROOF PLAN



SECTION B B

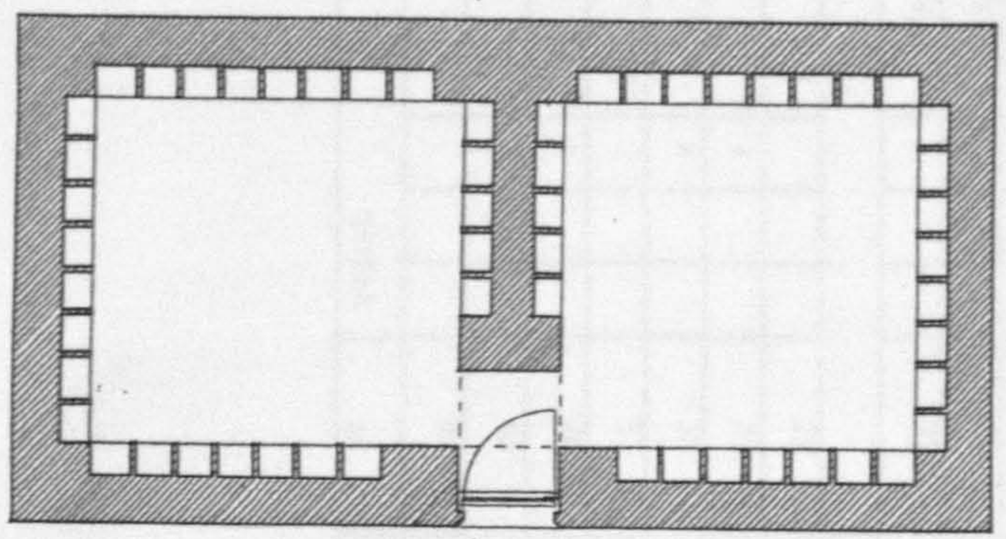


SECTION A A



UPPER LEVEL

A



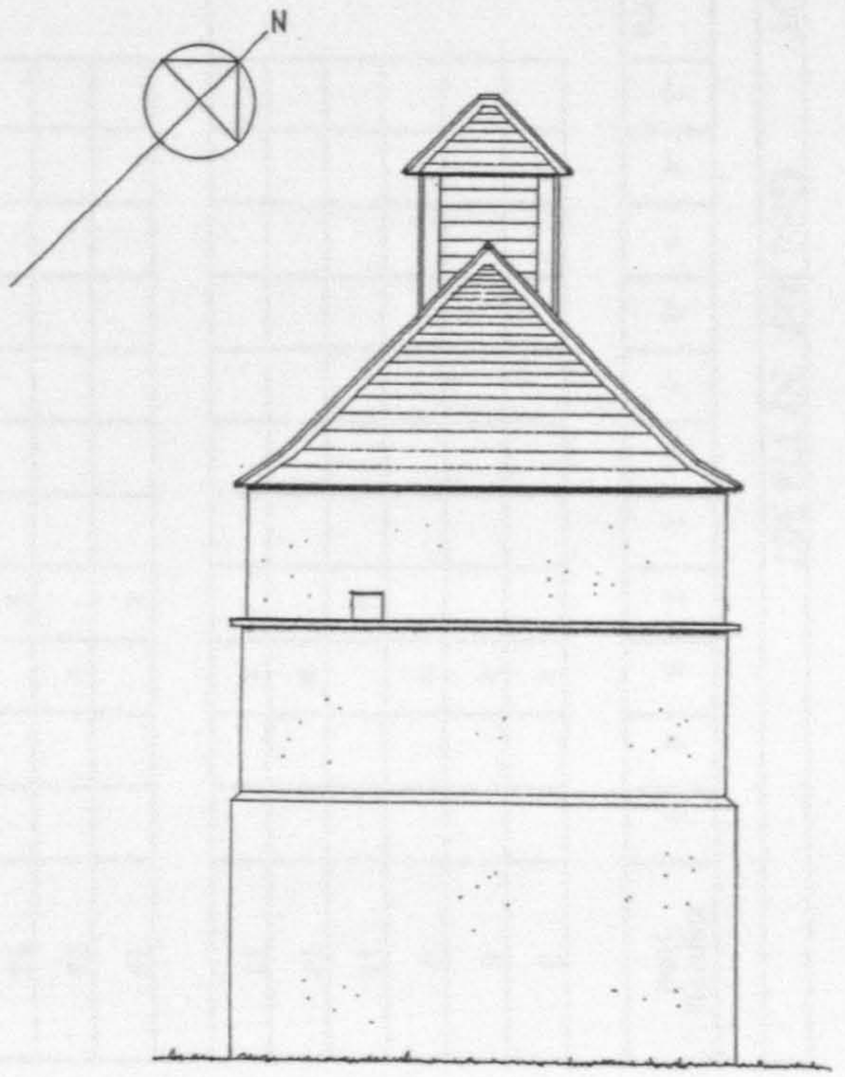
B

B

A

GROUND LEVEL PLAN

1:50



SIDE ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: BALLINDALLOCH DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 178 367

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public									x			6
• Unaltered fabric									x			9
• Provenance established								x				11
• Educational Merit									x			14
• Cultural Integrity									x			17
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable								x				19
• Tourist Value									x			22
• Partnership funding								x				24
• Capital costs							x					25
• Maintenance costs							x					26
• Revenue potential							x					27
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				29
• Landscape prominence									x			32
• Original setting									x			35
• Use of Materials								x				37
• Features of interest									x			40
• Condition									x			43
• Interior								x				45
											TOTAL	45

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category C(s)
- Ownership — Private – Miltonduff Distillery
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Despite lack of internal features, doocot has strong public profile and has potential to be indirect economic asset as part of distillery complex. Interior could be reused or public admitted as part of trail.

Final Assessment: Worthy of retention as a local, historic landmark with improved public access and interpretation.

5.4.14 Historical summary of seventeenth century doocots in Moray

Moray started the seventeenth century in a state of relative peace and its secular society continued to prosper from the break-up of Church lands. Ecclesiastic sites, such as Elgin Cathedral and Kinloss Abbey, became quarries and local power shifted greatly towards an array of 'bonnet lairds'[242]. Stability resulted in a building boom (much of it in Scots Baronial style) and, as a reflection of wealth distribution, the doocots of this period were increasingly erected away from the traditional 'Laich of Moray' territory.

Elsewhere in the country, certain universities, colleges and more and more town burghs possessed doocots.[243] Early accounts also support the notion that doves were kept in town houses, inns and crofts throughout Britain.[244] Clearly the quantity of dove rearing was rapidly increasing and as a method of controlling numbers, as well as creating an opportunity to reinforce land owning supremacy, James VI's law in 1617 restricted the right to build a doocot to those persons possessing a certain amount of land.[245] This law no doubt had the converse effect in places, since it reinforced the doocot as a status symbol and driven by (amongst other things) the, " ... *receptiveness of lowland Scotland to the new ideas and discoveries of the Renaissance*",[246] soon led to the erection of new structures. Some of the earliest medium-size estates to erect doocots (e.g. Culbin and Blackhills) followed the previous ecclesiastical, bell-shape, or 'beehive', model. Increasingly, however, more sophisticated Jacobean orthogonal designs were adopted and the 'lectern' variety emerged

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[242]Sanderson, 'Feuing of Strathisla', 1975, p.11, observes that Strathisla had 13 lairdships by 1650. Military strongholds increasingly became baronial tower houses.

[243]For example, Trinity College, Edinburgh (demolished 1677 to become part of Physic Garden) and the burghs of Irvine, Peebles and Lanark.

[244]Herebachius, 1577, cited in Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1930, p. 123, talks of 'tame' pigeons, commonly kept in cities, kept in the highest places of houses using a grid of boards kept on south facing walls containing earthen pots. *"But the houses for the other wilder kind [described as bluish and roam to feed] because they contain great numbers, are built after a more handsome order, although under the eves [sic] of houses, and in steeples of churches, you shall have thousands breeding."* MacGibbon and Ross, Castellated and Domestic Architecture, vol.4, 1887, p.452, illustrates the White Horse Inn, Canongate, Edinburgh with two substantial loft dormer cotes, presumably for feeding customers. Some doo holes survive in houses; in West Bow, Edinburgh, for example.

[245]See Appendix Section 2 for full details (note that this law does not define a doocot).

[246]D. Howard et al, Architecture of the Scottish Renaissance, (Edinburgh: RIAS, 1990) p.5, ".. *promoted by three main phenomena: the richness of court culture, the growth of the educated merchant class and the effects of the Reformation*".

strongly in Moray (e.g. at Burgie, Findrassie, Leitchestoun and Braga) during the more secure period of the early part of the seventeenth century.

A hiatus in the erection of doocots (and indeed other buildings) occurred in the mid seventeenth century and this would seem to coincide with the years of civil and religious strife, referred to earlier in this chapter under 5.1.3, s.v. 'Political and Civil Divisions'.[247] The century ended, however, on more stable ground (despite several crippling harvests in the 1690s) and a mature, classical architecture, relating to that of England and France, became more noticeable (as seen particularly at Innes House). Scottish fortified houses were now becoming mansions, albeit almost a century behind neighbouring England, and doocot designs were soon to reflect these changes.

[247]That is, 1638-88. Period of Cromwell rule and the Covenanting years. Several Moray towns and estates pillaged.

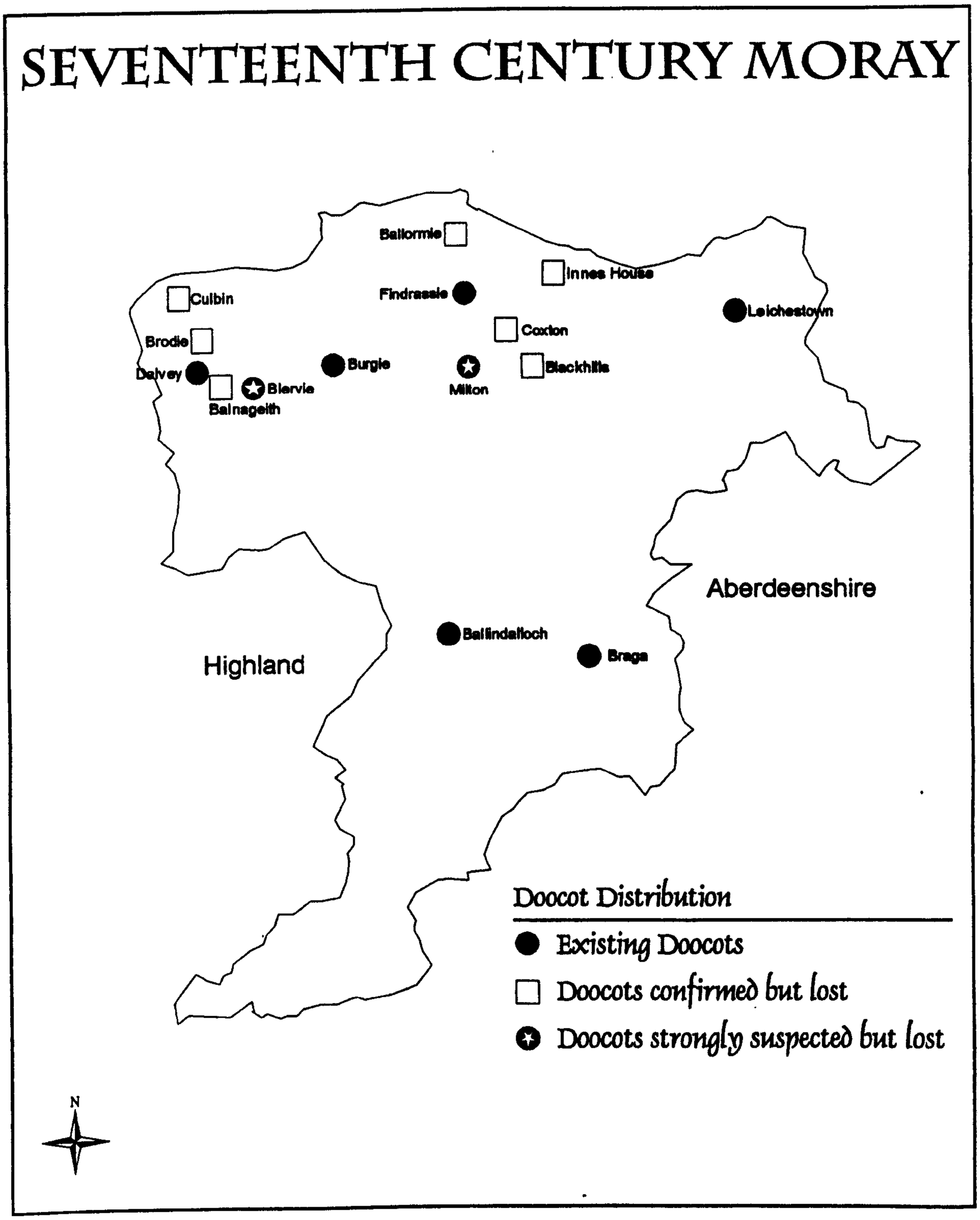


Fig 5.4.14

Distribution of doocots in Moray during the seventeenth century. Note how previous concentration around Elgin area now extended along the northern coastal zone.

5.5. Eighteenth century doocots

5.5.1 Cassieford
5.5.2 Cullen House
5.5.3 Darnaway
5.5.4 Newmill
5.5.5 Gordon Castle
5.5.6 Innes
5.5.7 Kincorth
5.5.8 Gordonstoun Windmill
5.5.9 Knockando
5.5.10 Pitgaveny
5.5.11 Wester Elchies
5.5.12 Auchluncart
5.5.13 Letterfourie
5.5.14 Mayen
5.5.15 Moy
5.5.16 Nether Buckie
5.5.17 Rothiemay
5.5.18 Sanquhar
5.5.19 Smithfield
5.5.20 Tannachy
5.5.21 Kininvie
5.5.22 Deanshaugh
5.5.23 Windyhills (Milton Brodie)
5.5.24 Elgin West
5.5.25 Aberlour House
5.5.26 Glasterim Farm
5.5.27 Orton
5.5.28 Newton
5.5.29 Historical Summary

5.5.1 CASSIEFORD DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 050 597, Forres Parish

Altitude 20M.

Positive Reference(s)

Not unlike Milton Brodie design. Sited near Sueno's Stone. Demolished pre-1930.
See Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.21 under heading 'Forres'.
See colour postcard (E. Beaton, pers. collection).

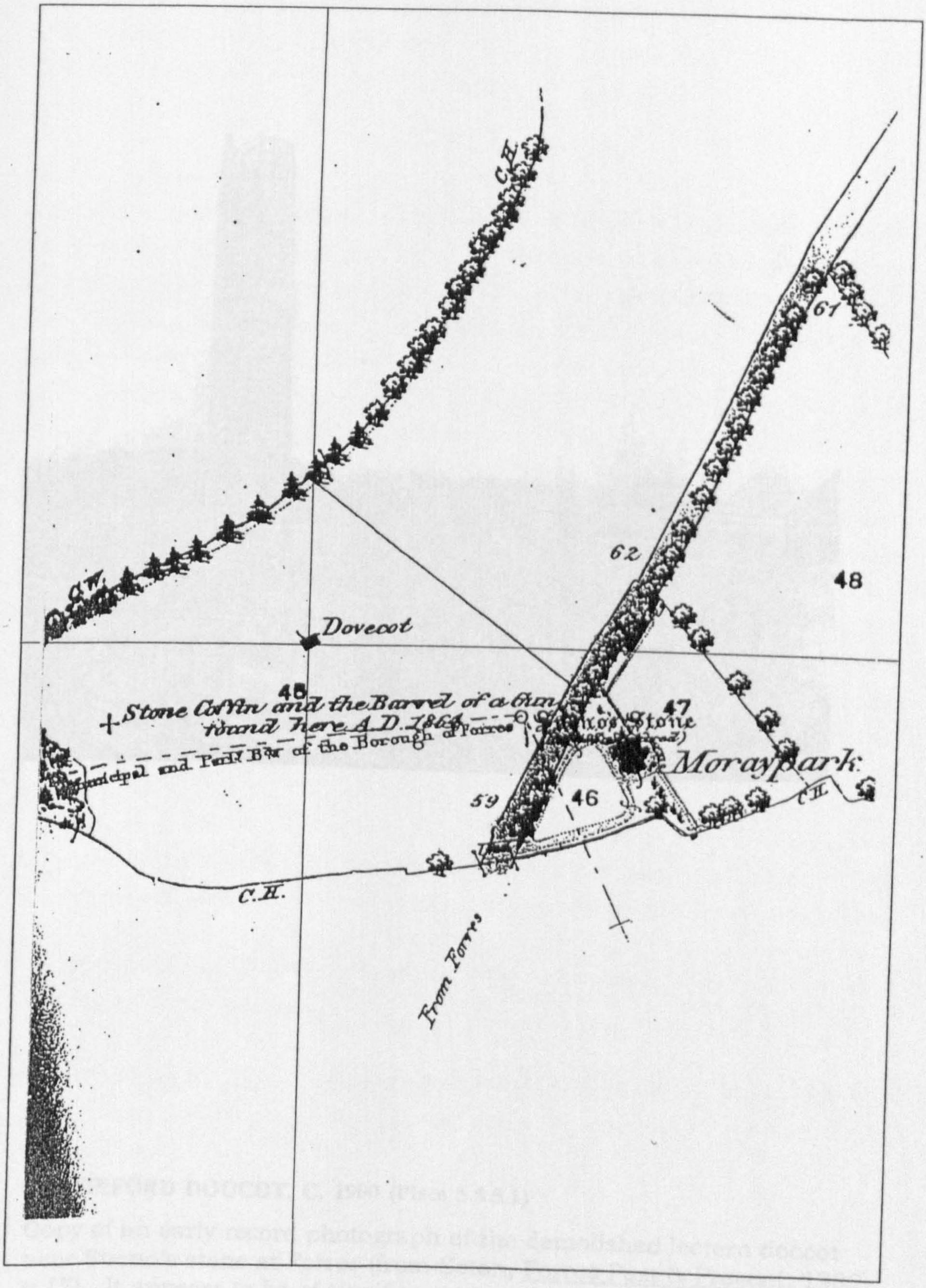
Oblong structure marked 'Dovecot' on 1870 O.S. appears to have been sited just out side the nineteenth century 'Municipal and Parliamentary boundary of Forres'. Possibly a 'town doocot' or belonging to Drumduan House, now demolished.

Seton, Forres Past & Present, 1982, p.17 contains a photograph. *"The Cassieford Dovecote probably belonged to the Bogton Estate and was of the oblong type with the door facing south. In its latter days it was owned by the Earl of Moray but rabbits apparently undermined the walls and consequently it was razed to the ground".*

Background Reference(s)

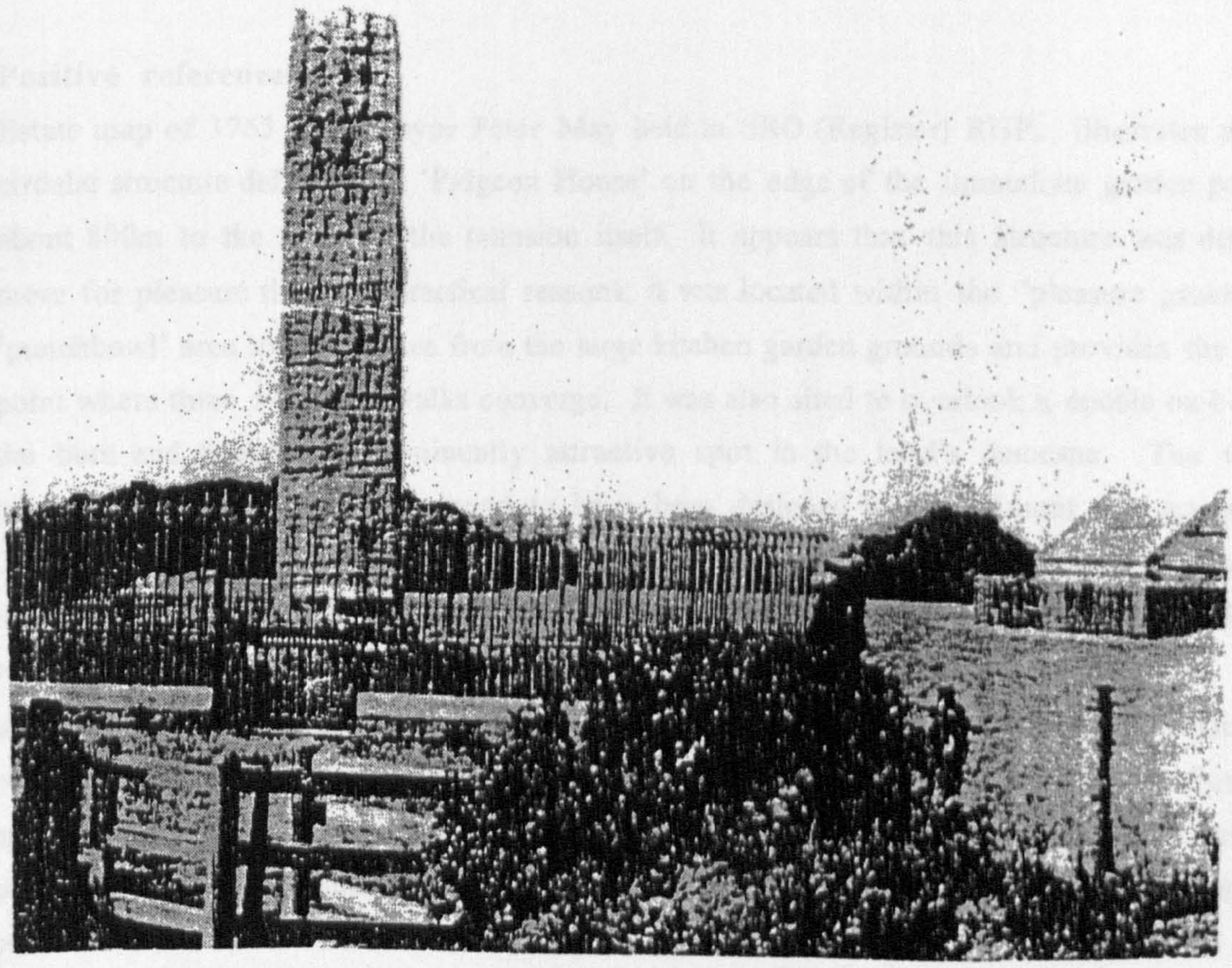
Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, p.36 states that Sueno's stone on Earl of Moray's land.

Forbes, Forres, 1975, p.45 states that, *"...the Grants controlled the town for most of the eighteenth century".*



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Cassieford Doocot (Fig. 5.5.1)



CASSIEFORD DOOCOT, C. 1900 (Plate 5.5.5.1)

Copy of an early record photograph of the demolished lectern doocot near Sueno's stone at Forres (from Seton, Forres Past & Present, 1982, p.17). It appears to be of significant size with two stepped stringcourses, plain skews and a catslide, central dormer flight hole. A single central doorway is just visible behind the encircling picket fence.

5.5.2 CULLEN HOUSE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref.: NJ 506 662 Cullen Parish

Altitude 15M.

Positive reference(s)

Estate map of 1765 by surveyor Peter May held in SRO (Register) RHP... illustrates a large circular structure defined as a 'Pidgeon House' on the edge of the immediate garden policies about 800m to the south of the mansion itself. It appears that this structure was designed more for pleasure than for practical reasons; it was located within the 'pleasure ground' or 'punchbowl' area some distance from the large kitchen garden grounds and provides the focal point where three woodland walks converge. It was also sited to overlook a double ox-bow of the burn and therefore an eminently attractive spot in the laird's demesne. The Cullen pigeon house, can hence be assumed, to have been designed to compliment the grounds of Cullen house during the picturesque landscape movement in Scotland. (May's map also records part of the old town centre of Cullen, now demolished, to the east of Cullen House where a property is referred to as 'dovecroft,' c.f. Cramond, Annals of Cullen, infra. This implies that either doves were kept within this property, that the old burgh once retained a pigeon house in this vicinity or that a former Seafield pigeon house was located in this area and possibly managed from 'Dovecroft' on the laird's behalf. Since a mid-eighteenth century pigeon house is to be found further away in the garden policies, the latter concept has strong possibilities).

Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', 1961, p.368. *"The country has two big castles, Gordon Castle, and Ballindalloch Castle. Its splendid mansions are many, Duff House, Cullen House, Rothiemay, Mayen, Mountblairy, Forglen, Muiresk, Netherdale, Kinmvie, and others. The dovecotes remain at some of these mansions, and at others they are demolished."* Although Robertson suggested that a doocot existed at Cullen House, it appears that he was speculating rather than being certain.

Cramond's, Annals of Cullen, 1904, passim, makes frequent reference to a house in the old town of Cullen called 'Dovecroft.' An estate map also refers to ground near the old town as 'Dovecote Park.'

Background reference(s)

The Ogilvy family had a beehive doocot at Findlater Castle, near Sandend which is 3 miles east of Cullen House and was the former family sent before moving to Cullen in or around 1600. This fine doocot at Findlater still exists and was restored by Banff & Buchan District Council in 1991. A 1761 'Plan of Barony of Finlater', held with Seafield Papers SRO GD248, RHP 12887, records 'Dovecott Hillock' at the ruined castle.

McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.133 refers to Cullen as, *"...one of the grandest houses in Scotland"*.

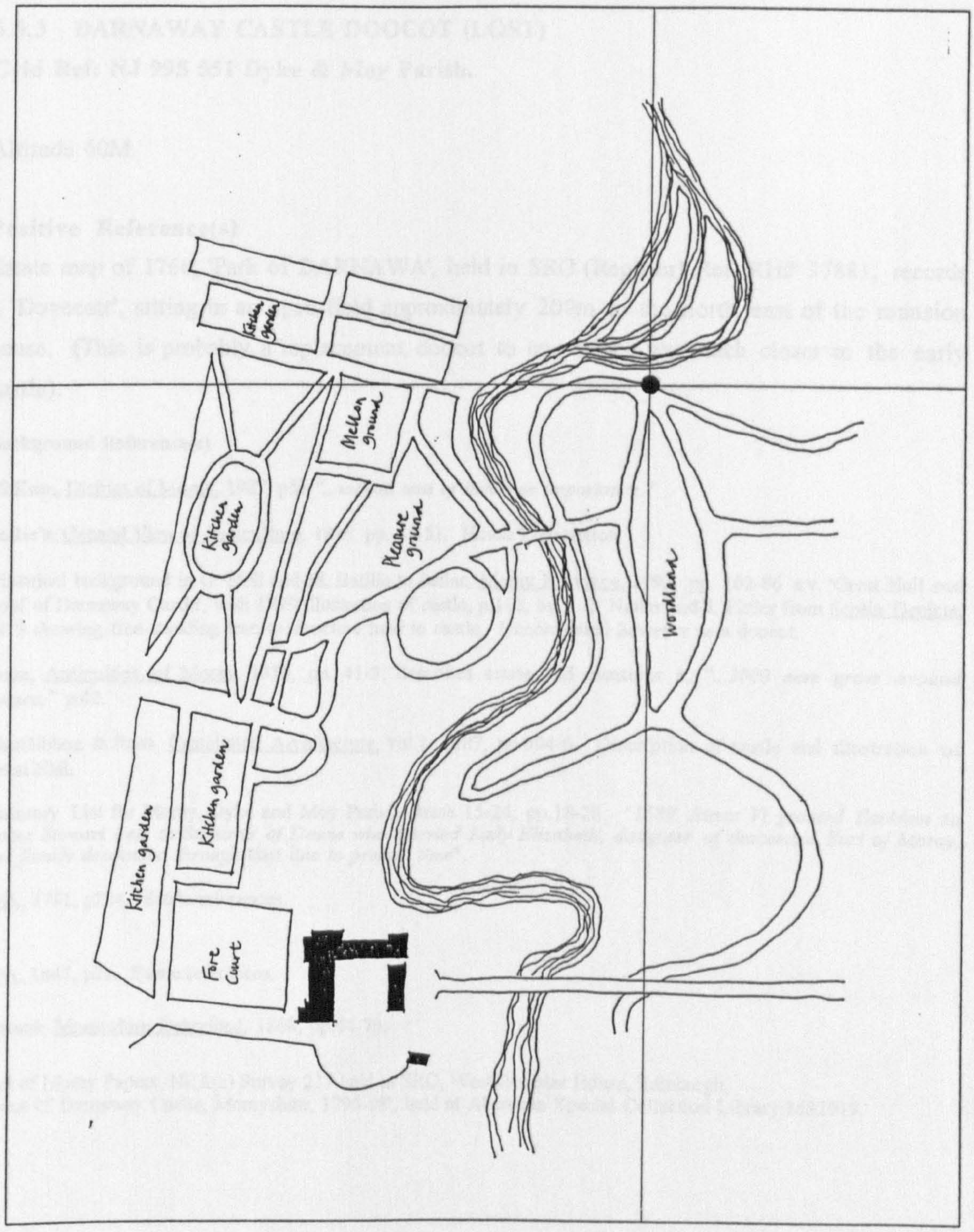
Doocot not shown on 1869 O.S.

Statutory List for Moray, Cullen Parish, Items 2-13, pp. 4-16. *"Various generations of wealthy Earls of Seafield commissioned the best architects of their day to change and add to the mansion"*.

MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol.4, 1887, p.294, *"...a great mansion on the hollow square plan in the Scottish Baronial style"*.

'Seafield Household Account Book', 1728, Ref: SRO GD 248/1164, records hens, ducks, poultry, fish, beef, pigs etc. being eaten throughout the year but makes no mention of pigeons.

See also 'Handlist for Seafield Muniments deposited in the Scottish Record Office by the Countess of Seafield, SRO 1967;, held in Aberdeen University Library, Dept of Special Collections, Ref. Dynix 417.



Cullen House Doocot, 1765 (Fig. 5.5.2)

Tracing of estate map held in SRO (Register) GD 248 RHP 12887, showing the 'Pigeon House' sited a considerable distance from the mansion house, as the nodal point of three woodland walkways on the west side of the Cullen Burn.

(Copyright law prevents the reproduction of the original map).

5.5.3 DARNAWAY CASTLE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 995 551 Dyke & Moy Parish.

Altitude 60M.

Positive Reference(s)

Estate map of 1760, 'Park of DARNAWA', held in SRO (Register) Ref. RHP 37881, records a 'Dovecott', sitting in an open field approximately 200m to the north east of the mansion house. (This is probably a replacement doocot to one which was much closer to the early castle).

Background Reference(s)

McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p51 *"..ancient seat of immense importance."*

Leslie's, General View of Agriculture, 1813, pp. 49-51. House Description.

Historical background in G. Stell and M. Baillie in Sellar, Moray Province, 1993, pp. 162-86 s.v. 'Great Hall and Roof of Darnaway Castle', with 1799 illustration of castle, p.162, by J. C. Nattes and J. Fittler from Scotia Depicta, 1819 showing free-standing lean-to structure near to castle. Unconfirmed however as a doocot.

Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, pp. 41-3, describes estate and mentions a, *"...3000 acre grove around palace,"* p.42.

MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol.1, 1887, pp.304-6. Description of castle and illustration of Great Hall.

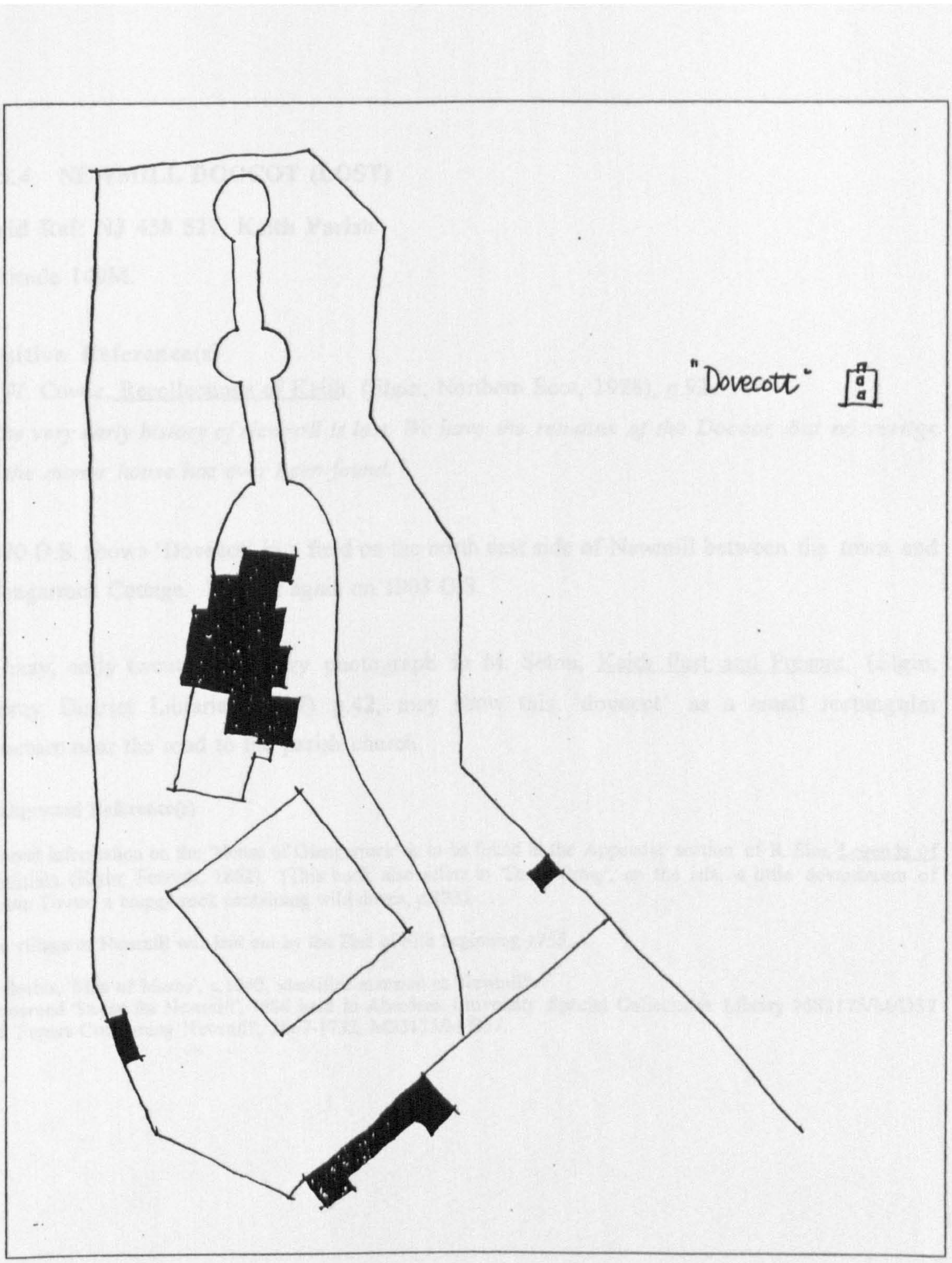
Statutory List for Moray, Dyke and Moy Parish, Items 15-24, pp.18-28. *"1580 James VI granted Earldom to James Stewart heir to Stewarts of Doune who married Lady Elizabeth, daughter of descended Earl of Moray, and family descended through that line to present time".*

OSA, 1791, p224. Estate references.

NSA, 1845, p22. Estate references.

Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp.64-70.

Earl of Moray Papers, NRA(s) Survey 217 held at SRO, West Register House, Edinburgh,
'Plans of Darnaway Castle, Morayshire, 1796-98', held at Aberdeen Special Collection Library MS2919.



DARNAWAY CASTLE (Fig. 5.5.3)

Tracing of estate map held in SRO (register) RHP 37881 showing the 'Dovecott' located outwith the immediate garden policies of the mansion. It is assumed that the doocot is shown more as a symbol than a true representation of the building's design.

(Copyright law prevents the reproduction of the original map).

5.5.4 NEWMILL DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 438 527, Keith Parish

Altitude 140M.

Positive Reference(s)

J. W. Cowie, Recollections of Keith, (Elgin; Northern Scot, 1928), p.92.
"The very early history of Newmill is lost. We have the remains of the Doocot, but no vestige of the manor house has ever been found."

1870 O.S. shows 'Dovecot' in a field on the north east side of Newmill between the town and Glengarrack Cottage. Evident again on 1903 O.S.

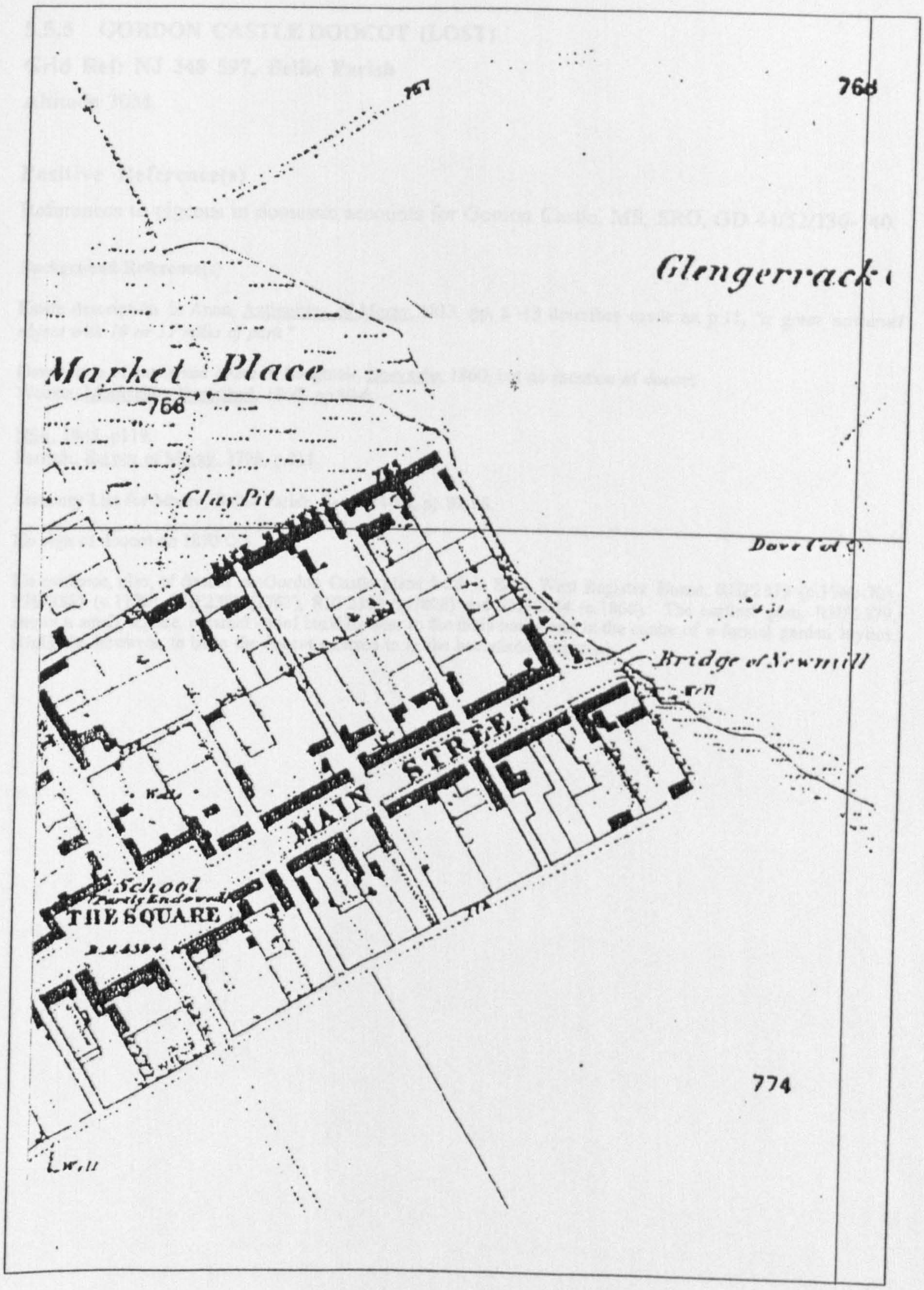
A hazy, early twentieth century photograph in M. Seton, Keith Past and Present, (Elgin; Moray District Libraries, 1987) p.42, may show this 'dovecot' as a small rectangular structure near the road to the parish church.

Background Reference(s)

General information on the 'House of Glengerrock' is to be found in the Appendix section of R. Sim, Legends of Strathisla, (Elgin; Forsyth, 1862). (This book also refers to 'Doos Craig', on the isla, a little downstream of Milton Tower, a craggy rock containing wild doves, p.133).

The village of Newmill was laid out by the Earl of Fife beginning 1755.

Straloch's, 'Map of Moray', c.1640, identifies mansion at 'Newmill'.
Unsourced 'Sasine for Newmill', 1686 held in Aberdeen University Special Collections Library MS3175/M/D37 and 'Papers Concerning Newmill', 1667-1732, MS3175/M/D37.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Newmill/Glengarrock Doocot (Fig. 5.5.4)

5.5.5 GORDON CASTLE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 348 597, Bellie Parish

Altitude 30M.

Positive Reference(s)

References to pigeons in domestic accounts for Gordon Castle, MS, SRO, GD 44/52/130-140.

Background Reference(s)

Estate description in Anon, Antiquities of Moray, 1813, pp. 5 -13 describes castle as, p.11, *"a great national object with 10 or 12 miles of park."*

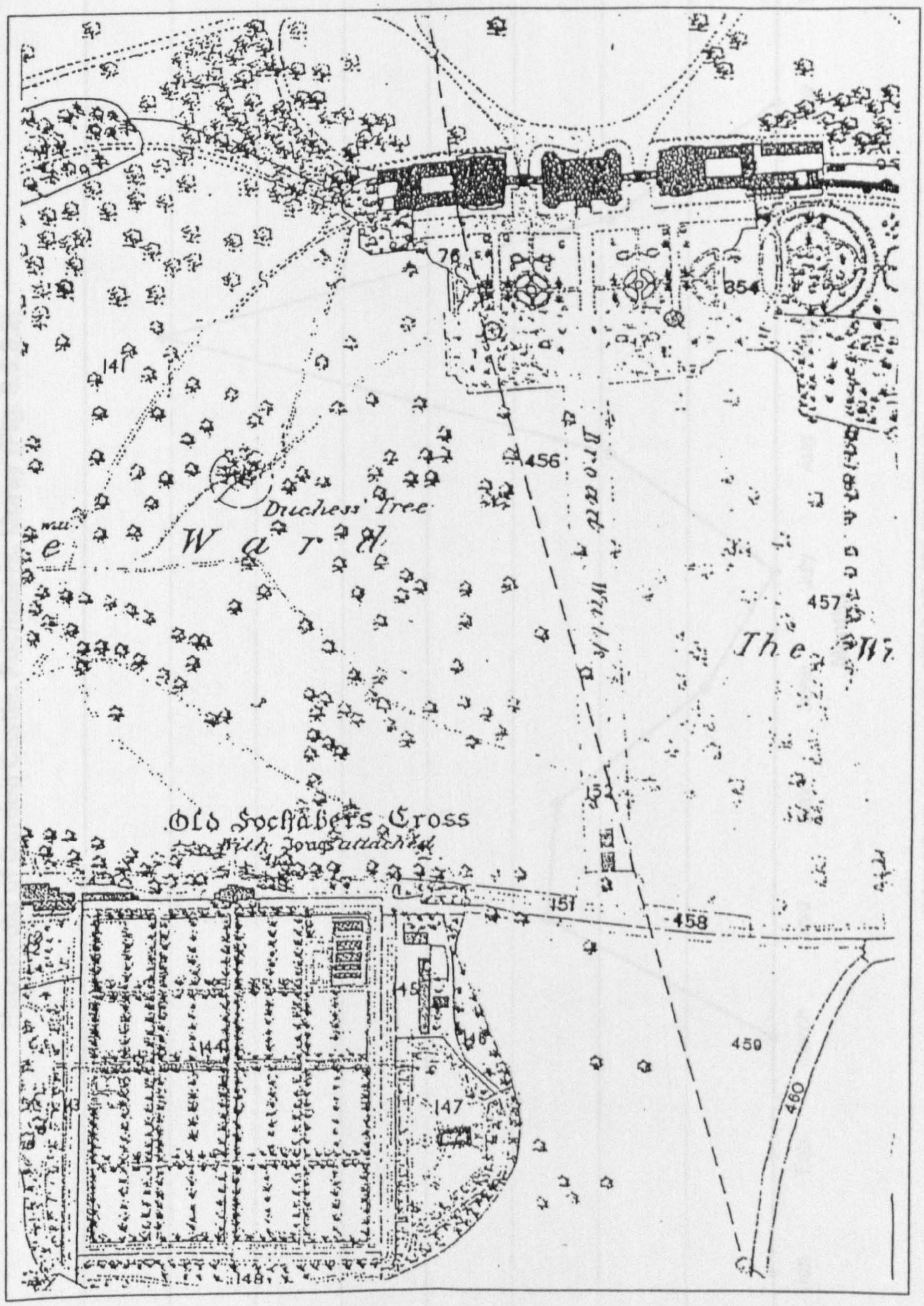
Description of castle and estate in Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, but no mention of doocot.
Watson, Morayshire Described, 1860, pp.80-6.

NSA, 1845, p119.
Forsyth, Survey of Moray, 1798, p.311.

Statutory List for Moray, Bellie Parish, Items 74-88, pp.82-98.

No sign of doocot on 1870 O.S.

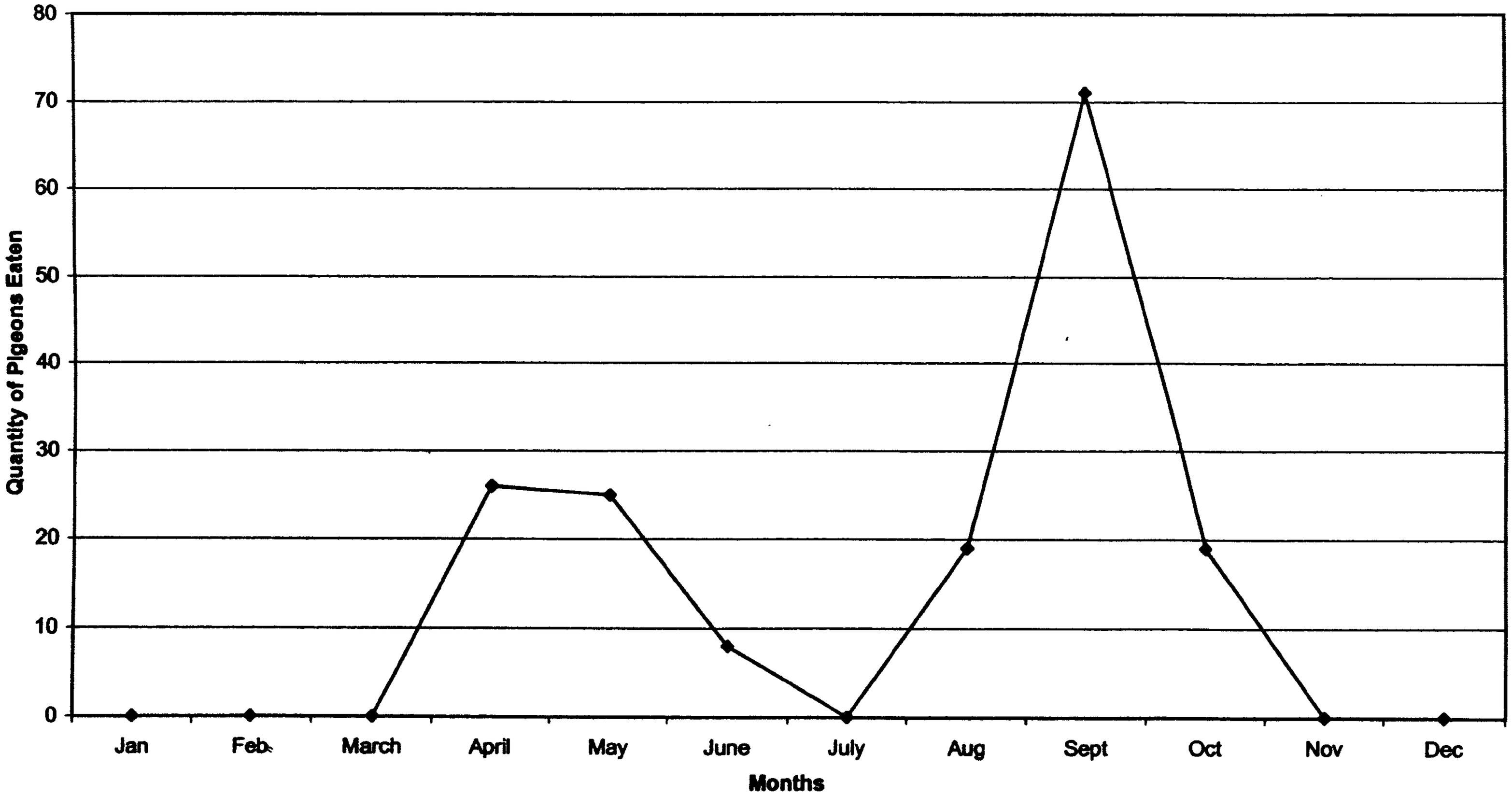
No evidence, also, of doocot on Gordon Castle plans held in SRO, West Register House, RHP2379 (c.1760-70), RHP2381 (c.1770), RHP2382 (1763), RHP2383 (c.1808) and RHP2384 (c.1860). The earliest plan, RHP2379, shows a small, square, pyramid - roof building near to the main house and at the centre of a formal garden layout. (Unlikely, however, to be to the doocot referred to in the household accounts).



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Gordon Castle Doocot (Fig. 5.5.5.1)

Number of Pigeons supplied Per Month (During Year 13 December 1727 to 12 November 1728) to Household of Gordon Castle, Fochabers, Moray (Fig. 5.5.5.2)



Notes: 1 Gordon Castle records, 1727-8, MS: SRO.GD44/52/130A
(Monthly figures also published in Robertson's, 'Pigeons as a Source of Food', 1988, pp. 97-8)

5.5.6 INNES DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 279 650, Urquhart Parish

Altitude 6M.

Positive Reference(s)

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.44. *"At Coxton and Innes dovecotes may have existed and may have fallen in disrepair and have disappeared".*

'Caledonian Mercury', 24 July - 28 August, 1765.
Repeated advert for sale of Innes house on January 1766. *"The whole barony and estate of INNES, comprehending therein the lands of Upper and Nether Mefts... There is an excellent mansion house, and offices on the premises, lately fitted up for a large family, with a remarkable good garden and fruitery of several acres, and two thriving pigeon houses."*
Then owner Sir James Innes, Bart.

(Source: N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', p.381).

Background Reference(s)

Innes House – Statutory List for Moray, Urquhart Parish, Item 29, p.30.

Estate description in Leslie's, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p.46.

Estate bought by Earl of Fife 1767.

1870 OS shows various small buildings which no longer exist within extensive landscaped policies but none are marked 'dovecot.'

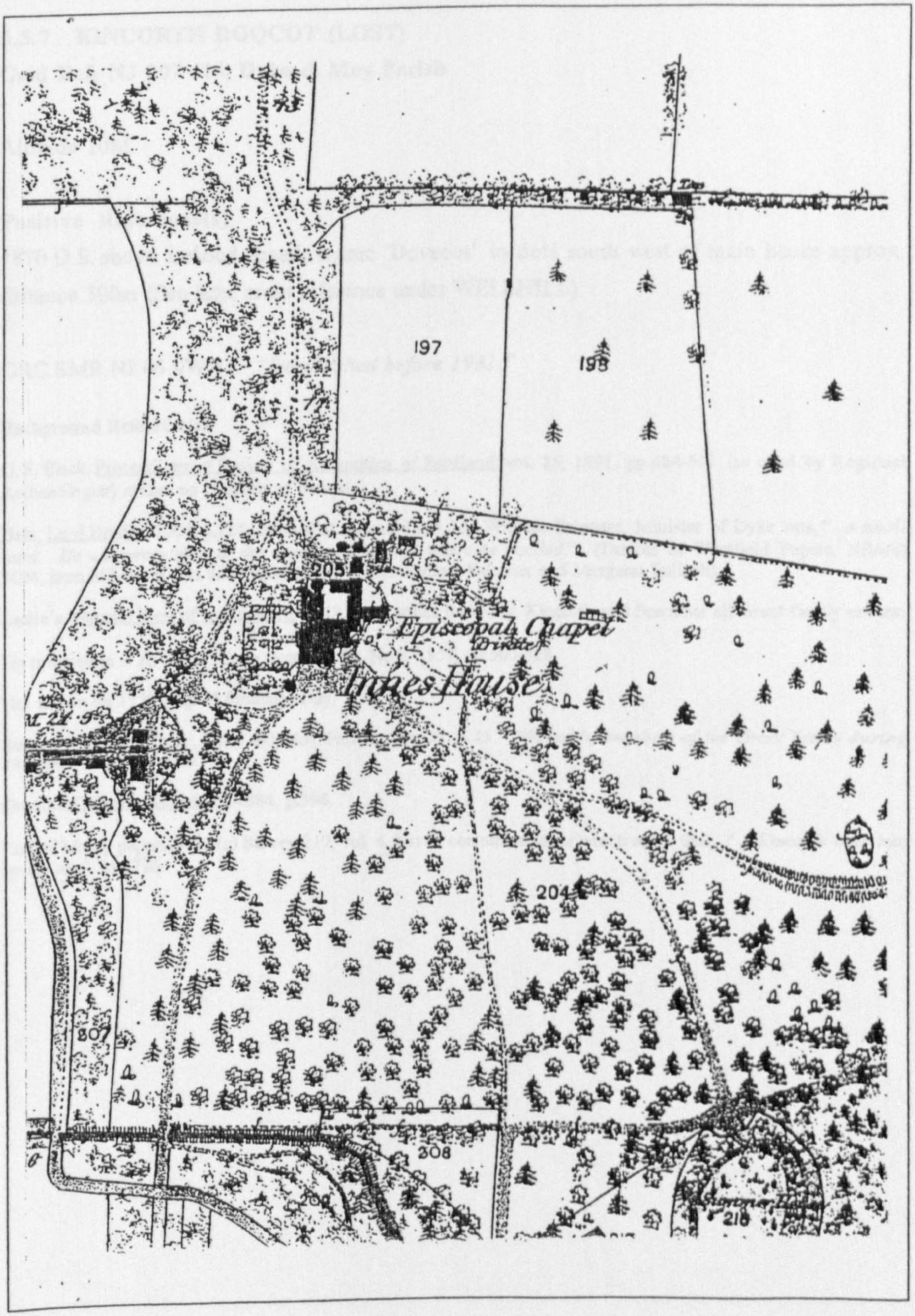
No mention of doocot in description of House in Anon, Antiquities of Moray, pp.15 - 16.

House description in Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, pp.321-2. Built in 1640's.

MacGibbon & Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol. 2, 1896,pp.202-3. Illustrations and description of main house.

No evidence found during 1994 search by Joseph Innes of Innes Clan Centre Association, "... *information is rather scarce, especially during the Innes and Duff tenures*", pers. comm., 1/12/94.

Household accounts from 1772, held in the Aberdeen University Library Department of Special Collections MS3175, record a 'Mary Woodhouse' regularly buying pigeons on behalf of Earl of Fife.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Innes House Doocots (Fig. 5.5.6)

5.5.7 KINCORTH DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 007 614, Dyke & Moy Parish

Altitude 10M.

Positive Reference(s)

1870 O.S. shows isolated, small, square 'Dovecot' in field south west of main house approx. distance 300m (See later cross reference under WELLHILL).

GRC SMR NJ 06 SW 43. *"Demolished before 1931."*

Background Reference(s)

G. F. Black, Proceedings of Society of Antiquities of Scotland, vol. 25, 1891, pp.484-511 (as cited by Regional Archaeologist) makes no mention of doocot.

Bain, Lord Brodie, 1904, p.124, states that around 1650 Mr. William Falconer, Minister of Dyke was, "*...a small laird. He was proprietor of the estate of Kincorth where he resided.*" (Dunbar of Westfield Papers, NRA(s) 3094, item 303 notes that the owners in 1617 were Samuel Falconer and Margaret Tulloch).

Leslie's, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p.52, states that Moy, Kincorth and Sanquhar all Grant family estates.

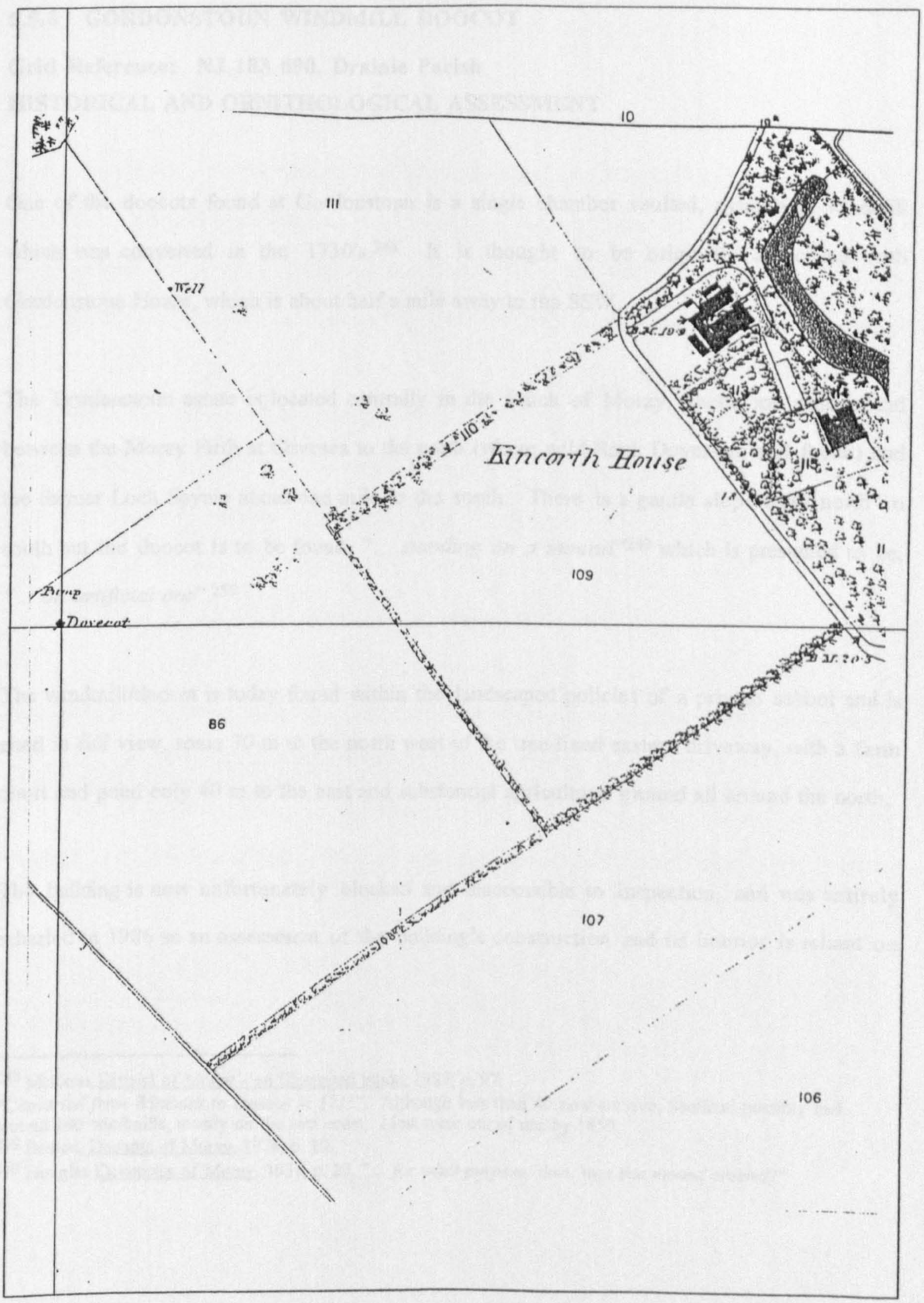
No mention in J. A. Steers 'Geog. Journal,' 90, No.6, 1937, pp.500-528.

Not shown on 1758 Map of Findhorn Bay.

Statutory List for Moray, Dyke and Moy Parish, Item 30, p.35. *"Owned by members of the Grant family during 18th and 19th centuries."*

Groome, Ordnance Gazetteer, 1884, p.396.

Earl of Moray papers, NRA(s) Survey 217, vol. 4, box 8, contains a paper which states that, *"... Kincorth over run by the sea"*, in 1716.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Kincorth Doocot (Fig. 5.5.7)

5.5.8 GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 183 690, Drainie Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

One of the doocots found at Gordonstoun is a single chamber vaulted, cylindrical windmill which was converted in the 1730's.[248] It is thought to be originally associated with Gordonstoun House, which is about half a mile away to the SSW.

The Gordonstoun estate is located centrally in the Laich of Moray, about one mile inland between the Moray Firth at Covesea to the north (where wild Rock Doves are still found) and the former Loch Spynie about one mile to the south. There is a gentle slope from north to south but the doocot is to be found, "... *standing on a mound*"[249] which is presumed to be, "... *an artificial one*".[250]

The windmill/doocot is today found within the landscaped policies of a private school and is sited in full view, some 70 m to the north west of the tree-lined eastern driveway, with a farm court and pond only 40 m to the east and substantial agricultural ground all around the north.

The building is now unfortunately blocked and inaccessible to inspection, and was entirely reharled in 1986 so an assessment of the building's construction and its interior is reliant on

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248 McKean, District of Moray - an Illustrated guide, 1987, p. 97.
"*Converted from Windmill to Doocot in 1731*". Although less than 40 now survive, Scotland possibly had around 100 windmills, mostly on the east coast. Most were out of use by 1850.

249 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 10.

250 Douglas Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 27, "... *for what purpose, then, was this mound erected*?"

the documentary statements of others (an ecological assessment of this building is also difficult without internal access).

Sir Robert Gordon, 4th Baronet of Gordonstoun, is probably responsible for converting the windmill to extend his pigeon breeding capacity on the estate (he already possessed at least two others at this time, i.e. Ballormie and Plewlands). This would coincide with a building programme which included the centrepiece of the main house, the water tower and the estate kirk.[251] The windmill building is shown as part of a courtyard farm complex on Gordon's 1783 map, adjacent to the former road between Duffus and Lossiemouth. However, the 1869 Ordnance survey denotes the 'Dovecote' at 'Windmill Cottage' located next to the eastern driveway which sweeps down to the main house.[252] Roy's earlier map of 1750 shows a huge estate at Gordonstoun with orthogonally arranged policies and 'Dreny Castle' near the windmill site (although there is almost certainly no association)[253].

Exactly when the windmill was first built remains unclear, although Butt provides an indicator in Industrial Archaeology; "... *earliest survivals date from the seventeenth century and are tower mills of fairly crude type built over an arched underground cellar which acted as a receiving and dispatching room. They consist of a roughly built stone tower surmounted by*

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251 Brereton, Gordonstoun, 1968, p. 89.
There is a possibility however that the conversion took place during the 5th Baronet's short reign, 1772-5 since according to Young, Notes on Burghead, 1868, p. 71, he was a, "... *most promising, accomplished gentleman, having travelled much abroad.*" The 6th Baronet, "... *a gloomy, eccentric, strict economist*", stopped his brother's improvement programme when he fell heir.
252 Sir William Gordon's 1783 'Map of Loch Spynie', held in the Gordonstoun Library, and 1869 OS held in Elgin Local Studies Library.
253 General Roy's 1750's 'Military Map of Moray', held in Elgin Local Studies Library (inter al).

a wooden cap which supported the windshaft, sails and gearing. Examples can be seen at ... Gordonstoun (Moray)"[254].

The reason for its conversion also remains unknown, although many Scottish windmills were in a poor state by 1750, possibly as a result of poor construction, mismanagement and strong winds.[255]

The former windmill doocot at Gordonstoun is now well preserved, although there is still the risk of further collapse of the vaults if water penetration is allowed to eventually wash out the mortar. The blocking of the ground floor, and the covering of it with earth, certainly stabilised the building further and now protects it to a degree from vandalism and weather decay. Nevertheless, one of the major historic contributions of this buildings is its (reputed) surviving revolving ladder and great care should be taken to ensure that it is conserved. If the building is now blocked, to the extent that inspection is no longer permissible yet the roof oculus remains open, the revolving ladder will undoubtedly deteriorate and disintegrate. Such is the rarity of surviving ladders, not only in Moray but throughout Scotland, that its loss would be significant. Measures should therefore be taken to make the roof of the building watertight in order to preserve its future.

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254 Butt, Industrial Archaeology, 1967, p. 35 (illustration p. 36).
Other windmills such as Sauchie, Balgone Barns, near North Berwick and Melville in Fife were also converted into doocots. Hume, 'Our outdoor larders', 1997, p. 11.
255 Sinclair Systems of Husbandry, 1812, p. 81.
Both Sinclair & Butt, make mention of windmills having been introduced to Scotland from England and Holland.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Gordonstoun Windmill Doocot has a 5 m diameter circular plan and rises to a height of 5.7 m above the raised ground level. It is at this level that a track for the wheels of the windmill sails would have been located but, during its conversion to a doocot, it was, "*...extended by 2.2 m with a stepped masonry top which has a 60 cm diameter hole in the centre*" which raises the building to an overall height of 11 m[256].

Beaton observed that there is, "*... a blocked doorway just visible under worn harling on the west side*" and part of this is still visible today[257]. She states that the walls are constructed of "*... rubble stone*" and it is likely that these are bonded using lime mortar[258]. According to the Wittet drawing, and the statements of Douglas, the wall thickness varies between 750 and 900 mm including the boxes[259]. The 1980's harling is of a soft pink wet dash without limewash which covers all of the building, except for the tooled chamfered dressings around the crudely blocked north west opening and the string courses at the two stage roof which is angled inwards at 15 to 20° pitch. It is not clear how the roof is finished today, but is does appear from the Wittet survey and the photographic illustration in Peterkin's Scottish Dovecotes that a small final stage has been removed (which might explain why Niven Robertson refers to, "*... three string courses*"[260]). The remaining two string courses project about 120 mm, but have upper widths of about 250 mm and 350 mm respectively (and it is possible that the final string course was wider yet and therefore of similar design to the older beehive doocot adjacent to the house).

There are two strangely sited 200 mm square apertures on the north-west and south-east walls respectively, only 2.5 m above ground level, each with two top and bottom rough stone ledges projecting about 100 mm but both now blocked. The north west aperture truncates the lintel of the former window or doorway (which may have given access directly to an intermediate floor within the windmill).

The ground floor vaults are only just traceable today but were recorded by the Regional Archaeologist; "*... around its base is a circular mound, which covers two vaults, one on N side and one on S side. The roof of the latter has fallen in. Vaults are of arched masonry. Entrance is through the stone vaults beneath it, which are now filled in and grassed over, rendering the interior of the structure inaccessible*"[261]. These vaults were fortunately recorded by William Wittet in 1928 in the form of a scale drawing and again by the RCAHMS in 1978[262].

It appears that the vaults were orientated on a north west/south east access with small doorways, possible size 1500 (h) x 1000 mm (w) providing access to the ground floor. The Wittet drawing shows a single access door to the ground floor of the doocot with a vertically boarded outward opening south facing door set in a coursed masonry opening.[263] Hume, who carried out a survey of Scottish Windmills in the late 1970's, suggests that these passages were to ,"*...allow access to Mill while sails turning and perhaps for storage*". He also stated that, "*... top of passage, used as platform to set sails*" and Douglas recorded the, "*... flat top surface of the mound*", which is not wholly evident today[264].

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256 G. Douglas et al., Scottish Windmills, 1984, p. 16.

257 Beaton, loc. cit.
This would have been the former upper storey entrance and wind door to allow the chaff to escape from the hopper and grinding machinery chamber of the windmill.

258 Beaton, loc. cit.

259 Wittet drawing, op. cit. and Douglas, op. cit., p. 28.

260 Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 21, and Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 375.

261 G.R.C., Regional Archaeologist's Sites and Monuments Record Index Ref. No. NJ16 NE9.

262 Measured drawing 1928 in Wittet collection held in Moray Council Record Office, Elgin, Ref. DAWP133 and RCAHMS "Scottish Industrial Archaeology Survey" drawing No. 112 by Graham Douglas.

263 Wittet Drawing, op. cit.

264 G. Douglas et. al., loc. cit. and R. Douglas, op. cit., p. 28.

The Wittet drawing fortunately includes a plan and a cross-section illustrating the contents of the doocot and the Secretary of State's listing records that its, "... *interior lined with stone nesting boxes*". Wittet records a plan showing 44 boxes and a section containing 21 rows diminishing as they reach the domed roof with its 2 m splayed tube leading up to the previously referred to oculus[265]. The nest boxes appear to begin 3.5 m above floor level (possibly coinciding with the first floor of the windmill) and may be 200 high x 200 wide x 400 mm deep possibly amounting to an approximate total of 750. There do not appear to be any projecting ledges and there is no indication of any of the boxes having been blocked. The revolving ladder shown on the plan and section is also well recorded by Douglas;

> *there is a potence in working order in this dovecote, the lower end of the pole being placed on a stone-built pedestal about 2 foot square. The ladder steps stand horizontally out for 3 foot - an unusual arrangement. The steps are 1 foot apart. There are 26 steps in the ladder. The steps are on average about 2 inches in diameter. The ladder, therefore, is approximately 30 foot in length. The central support is about 6 inches in diameter. This potence must have been built with the dovecot and probably placed in position from the top before completion of the mason work.*[266]

Written: September 1999

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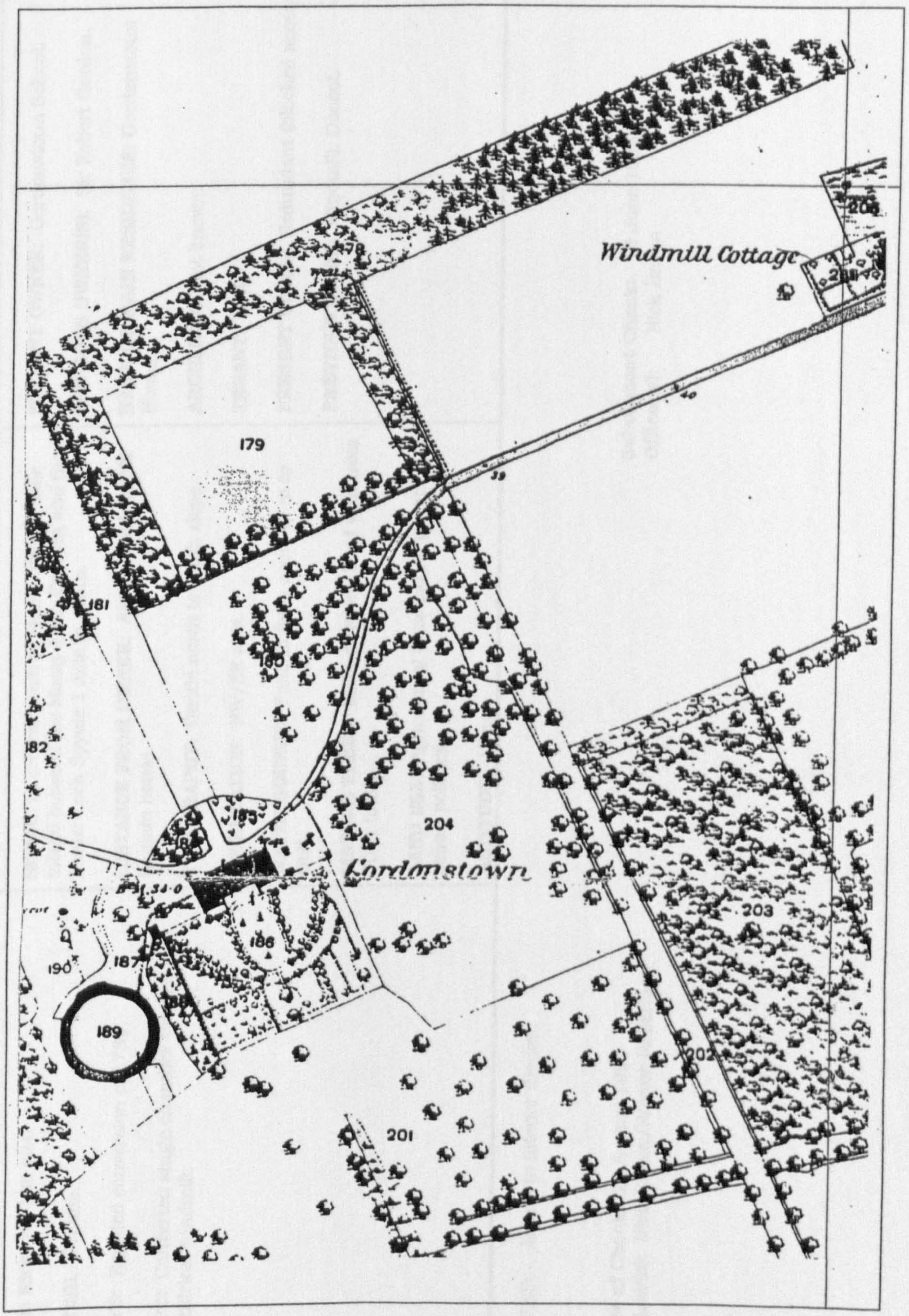
[265] Secretary of State Statutory Listing of Moray, Drainie Parish, Item 9, p. 11 and Wittet drawing, op. cit. The listing also refers to ,"... small mural flight holes".
[266] Douglas, op. cit., p. 28.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Gordonstoun Windmill Doocot (Fig. 5.5.8)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 188 694. **PARISH:** Drainie. **DATE:** Reputed conversion c. 1731. **TYPE:** Converted single chamber vaulted cylindrical windmill.	**SITING:** In central Laich of Moray about 1 mile inland between the Moray Firth Covesea and the former Loch Spynie 1 mile to south. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER:** About ½ mile to NE to main house. **TOPOGRAPHY:** Gentle north to south slope. **ORIENTATION:** NW/SE axis. **WATER SOURCE:** Pond in farm court 40 m to east. **MATURE TREES:** Main driveway lined with trees 70 m to SE. **LAND USE:** Agricultural (Now part of private school policies). **ALTITUDE:** 15 m.	**PRESENT OWNER:** Gordonstoun School. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** Sir Robert Gordon. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Gordonstoun House. **ARCHITECT:** Not known. **TENANT:** N/A. **PRESENT USE(S):** Redundant (blocked access). **PREVIOUS USE(S):** Windmill, Doocot.

NOTES: - Access to interior denied.

Date of Check: 23 August 1994
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 13 June 1998.
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Well preserved. **REPAIRS:** Entirely reharled in 1986. **ALTERATIONS:** Entrances blocked. Vaults covered over. Upper sections extended at time of conversion? **FUTURE RISK:** Potential further collapse of vaults due to eventual washing out of mortar.	**PLAN FORM:** Circular. **PLAN SIZE:** 5 m dia. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 7.7 m from ground level. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 11 m overall. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Not clear. Possibly random rubble and lime mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Not clear. Possibly sandstone with tooled dressings at openings. **WALL THICKNESS:** Not clear. Circa 750 to 900 mm (including boxes). **WALL FINISH:** Later soft pink wet dash harl.. **ROOF FORM:** Two stage dome. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** Not clear. Probably same as lower wall. **ROOF PITCH:** Curving at about 15°. **ROOF FINISH:** Not clear. Probably stone slabs.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Not clear. Reputed to be in south vault. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** Not clear. Reputed to be one in each vault. **DOOR SIZE:** Apparently 1500 (h) x 1000 mm (w) (Douglas, p. 28). **DOOR SITING:** NW & SE respectively. **LEDGES:** Two at each stage of roof. Projecting 120 mm with upper width of 300 mm. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 5.7 and 7 m above ground level respectively. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 36.2 m. **APERTURES:** Not clear. **VENT HOLES:** two at 2.5 m above ground level facing NE & SE respectively. **FLIGHT HOLES:** Oculus at top of roof and possibly two 2.5 m above ground level. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** Say oculus 600 mm diameter x side vents = 0.3 m^2. **LIMEWASH:** No evidence. **DORMERS:** N/A. **SKEWS:** N/A. **FINIALS:** No. **WEATHER VANE:** No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Not known.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Possibly diminishing rows of stone.

NEST BOX NUMBER: Possibly 750.

NEST BOX SIZE: Possibly 200 (h) x 200 (w) x 400 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: Possibly 3.5 m.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: Not known.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: Not known (possibly not).

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Not known.

COLLECTING AID: Possibly revolving ladder (see R. Douglas, p. 28).

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 750 x 2 x 0.7 = 1050.

INTERNAL VOLUME: c. 82 m^3

OTHER: Interior blocked so inspection not possible. Information therefore dependent on Wittet drawing.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- Date, purpose and curious location of NW & SE 'flight holes'.
- How revolving ladder constructed.
- How nest boxes hewn into existing walls.
- Is potence still well preserved?

OTHER:
G. Douglas, Scottish Industrial Archaeology Survey' - North West Elevational Survey drawing No 112.
The William Wittet Collection - Measured drawing, c. 1928, MDC Record Office Elgin Ref. DAWP133.
Lawsuit between Sir Robert Gordon and Alexander Brodie, Lord Lyon 1751, (see R. Douglas, pp. 32, 33).

Estate Information:

J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described 1868, pp. 86-9.
I. Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed.), pp. 41, 118.
O.S.A., s.v. 'Drainie', 'Duffus'.
W. Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, pp. 47-8.
R. Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, p. 13 et. seq.
Idem, Notes on Burghead, 1868, pp. 65-72.
A. Keith, Parish of Spynie, 1975, pp. 44-5.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 4, 10.
R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp 16, 27, 28, 32, 33.
G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p 21, 61.
A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 375.
C. McKean, The District of Moray - an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p 97.
G. Douglas, M. Oglethorpe & J. Hume, Scottish Windmills - A Survey, 1984, pp. 11, 16, 17.
J. Butt, Industrial Archaeology, 1967, pp. 35, 333.
H. Brereton, Gordonstoun, 1968, pp. 97-9.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Drainie Parish, Item 9, p 11, Category B, 1971.

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index Ref No NJ 16, NE 9.

MAPS: 1869, 1905, 1965, OS Maps
General Roy's 1750's military 'Map of Moray' held in Elgin library (inter al.).
Sir William Gordon's 1783 'Map of Loch Spynie' held in the Gordonstoun School library.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

R. Douglas	op. cit., p. 27.
G Peterkin,	op. cit., fig. 26.
G Douglas et al,	op. cit., plate 10.
H. Brereton,	op. cit., p. 81.



GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.5.8.1)

View of doocot from the south showing the relationship of the two flight holes at surprisingly low level on the east and west sides respectively. The structure has been harled in recent years and the construction 'lifts' are clearly visible on the bottom section. The depressed ground area in the foreground is the location of the former doorway which gave access to the windmill's basement and, in all likelihood, the vaulted structure lies intact been the earthworks.



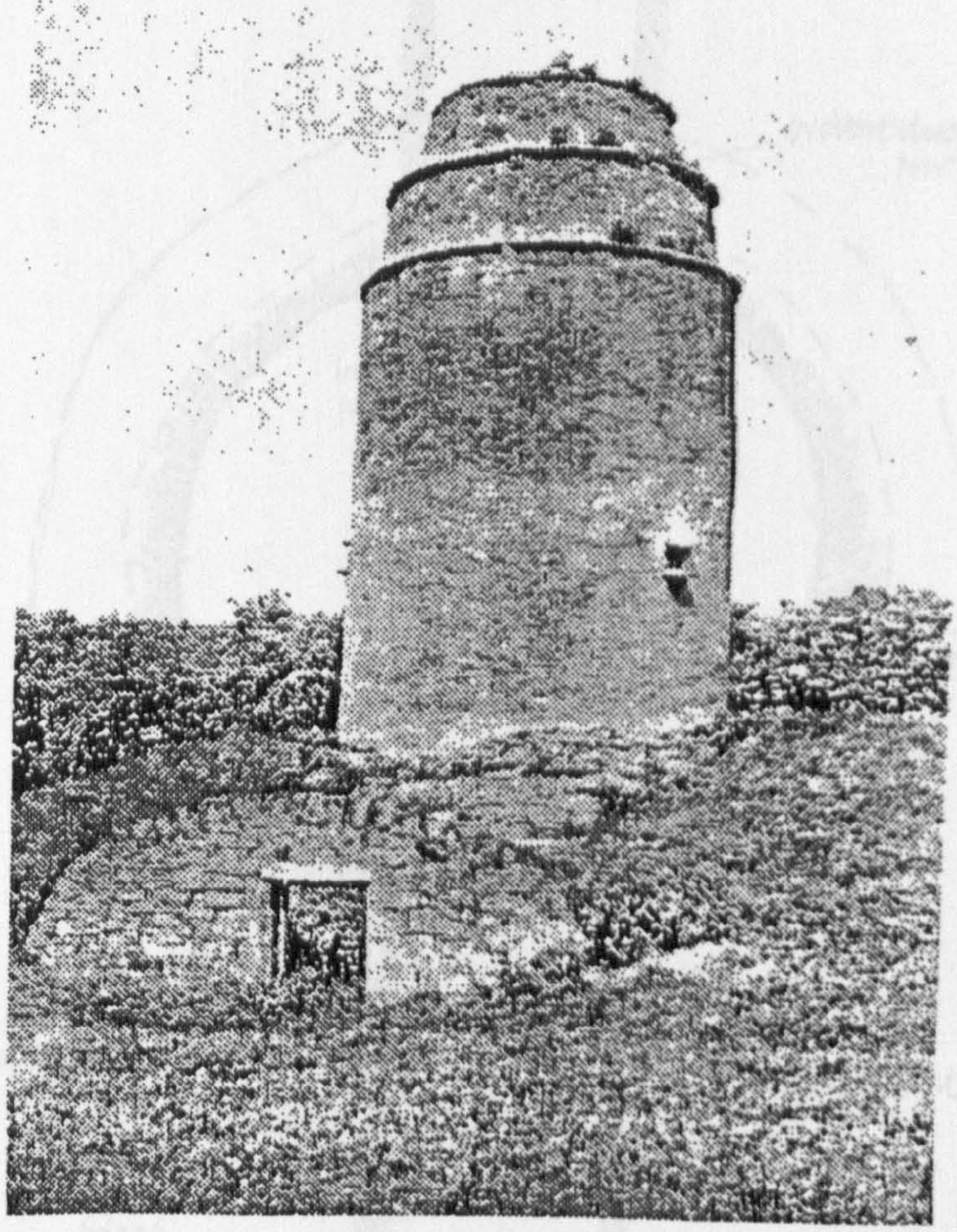
GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.5.8.2)

The contours of the artificial mound surrounding the former windmill (to provide it with greater stability) are clearly apparent in the view from the east. Although the structure continues through the mound to contain a basement, the nest boxes in the doocot are thought only to be found in the upper level. The ladder propped against the structure gives a good indication of its scale - it is thought that a wooden ladder used to collect the pigeons is still to be found inside the blocked up building.



GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.5.8.3)

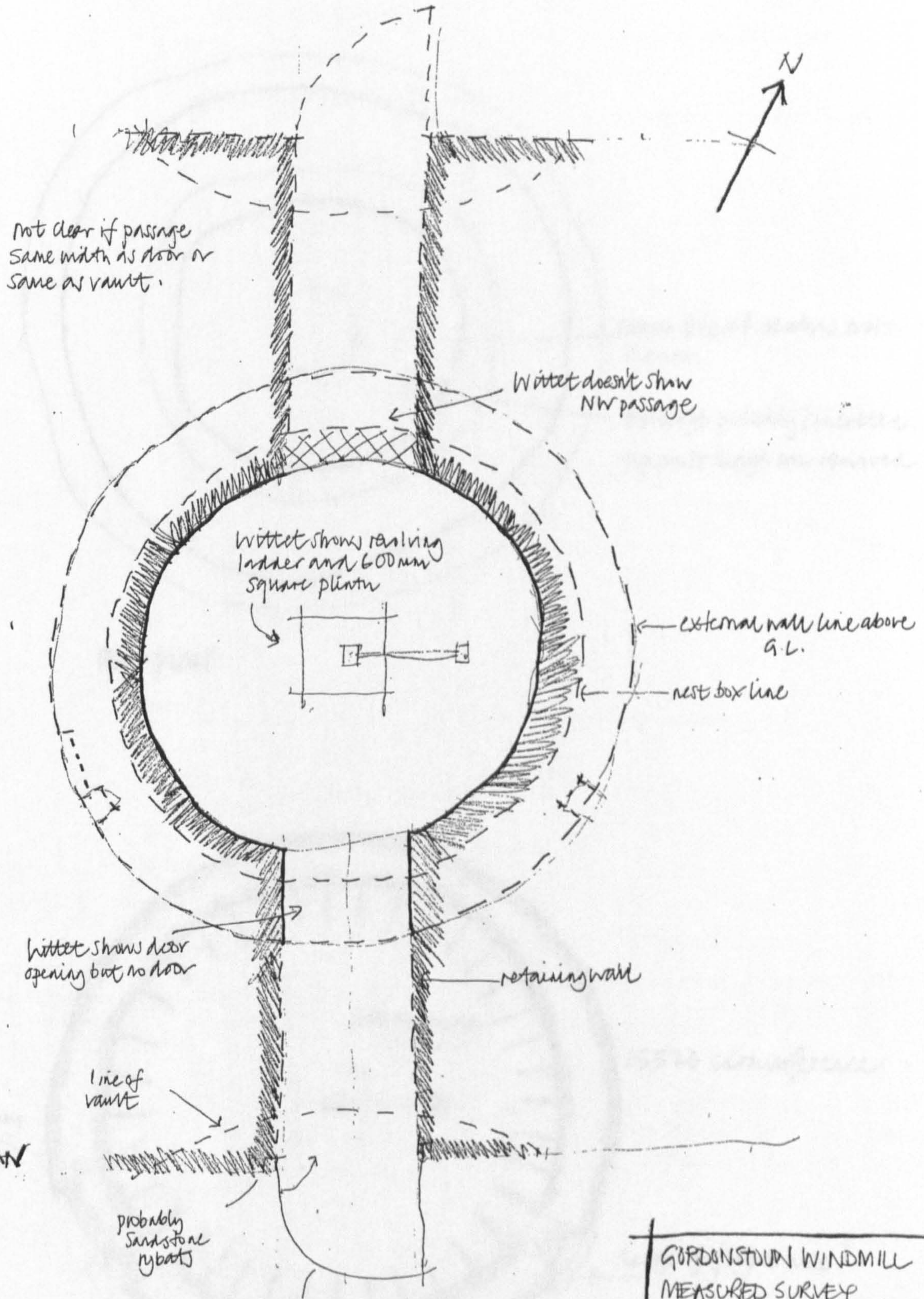
Close up of the first floor window which is now blocked up with reused sandstone blocks. The chamfered ashlar rybats have been left un-harled and the absence of a cill suggests that the opening was once a doorway giving access to the first floor of the windmill. The later flight hole inserted through the lintel is a baffling decision on the part of the owner or his builder. Perhaps access in the future to the interior might resolve this enigma.



GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL DOOCOT, C. 1930 (Plate 5.5.8.4)

Early to mid twentieth century photograph of large, vaulted, cylindrical cote on an artificial mound. The vaulting of the windmill's cellar is clearly visible but is wholly covered up today. The three-stage structure projecting above the mound has altered little since.

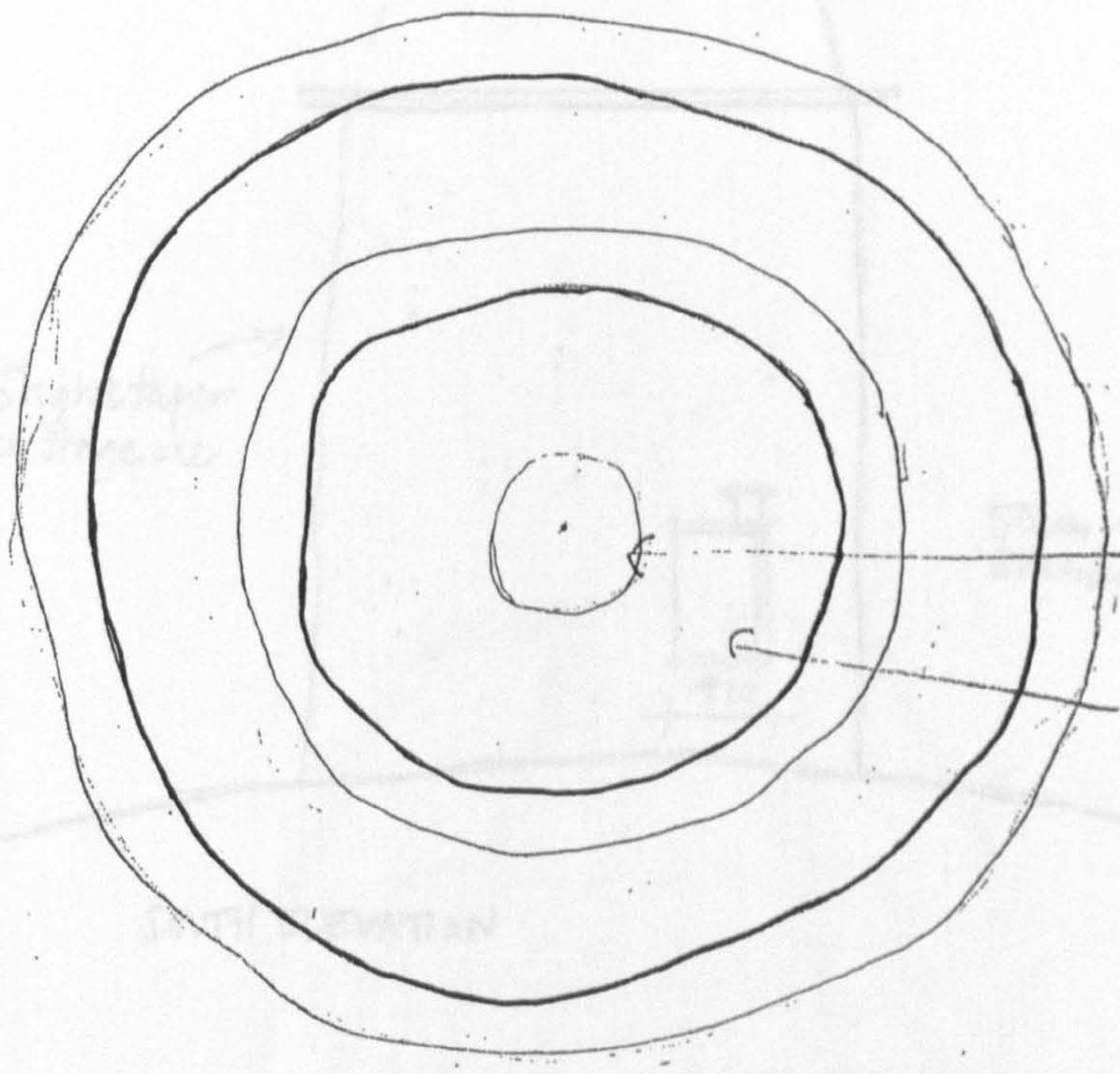
(Extract from Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1930, p27)



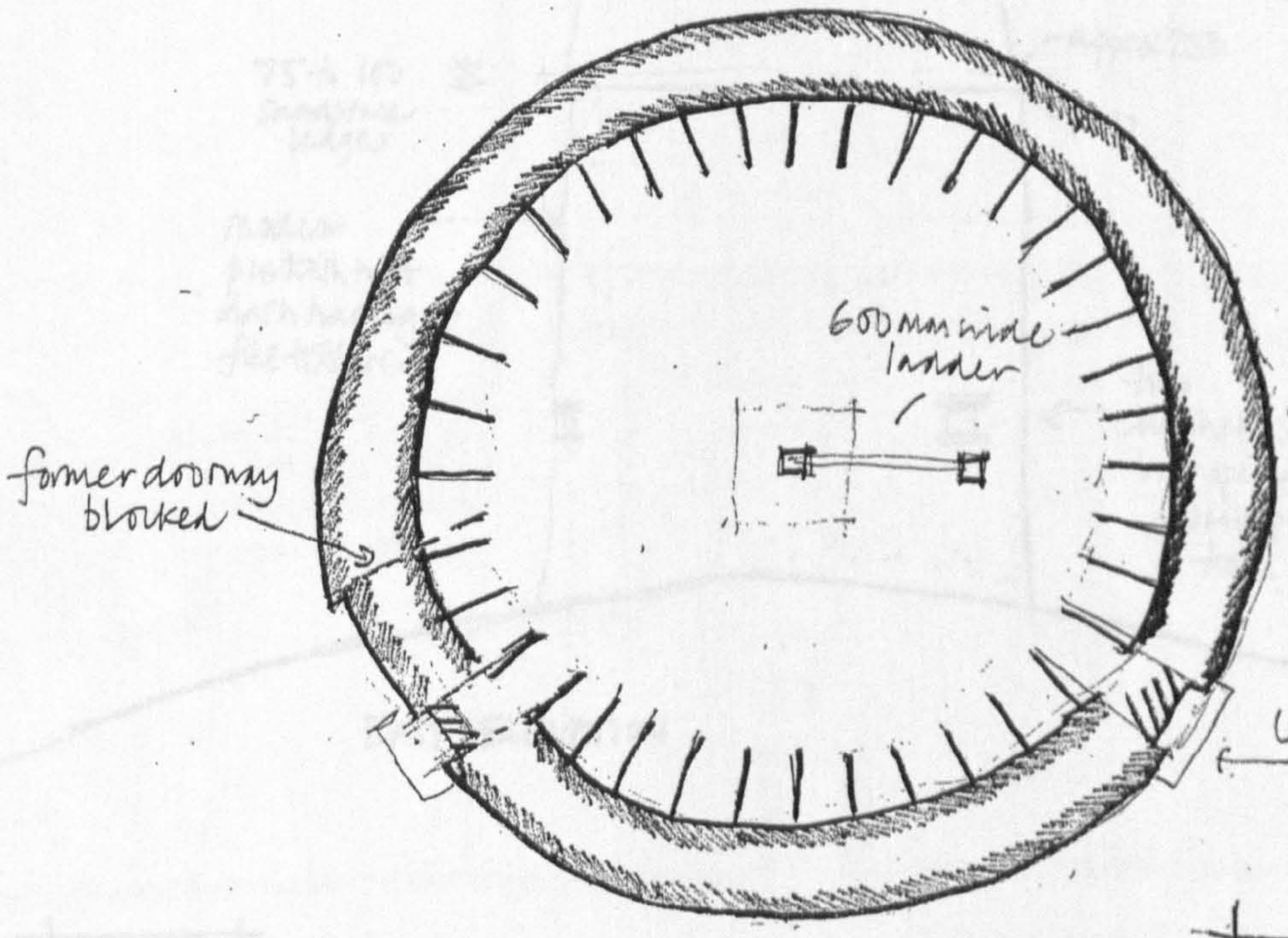
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

1 of 4

GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL
MEASURED SURVEY
(BASED ON WITTET SURVEY 1928
NB



ROOF PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

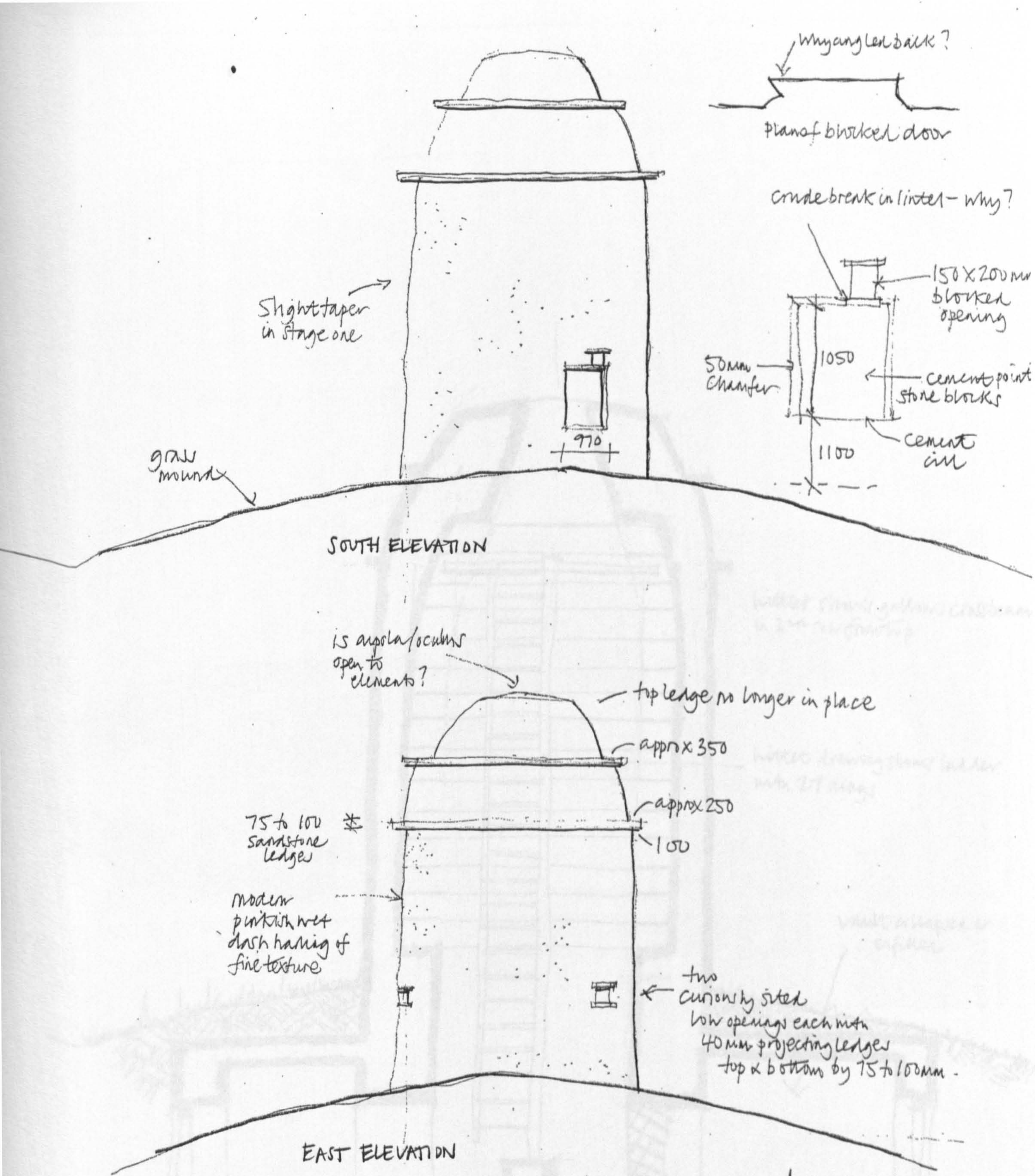
GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL
MEASURED SURVEY
(BASED ON WITTET 1928 SURVEY)
MB

2 of 4

Why angled back?

Plan of blocked door

Crude break in lintel – why?



SOUTH ELEVATION

is angola/oculus open to elements?

top ledge no longer in place

approx 350

approx 250

100

75 to 100 sandstone ledges

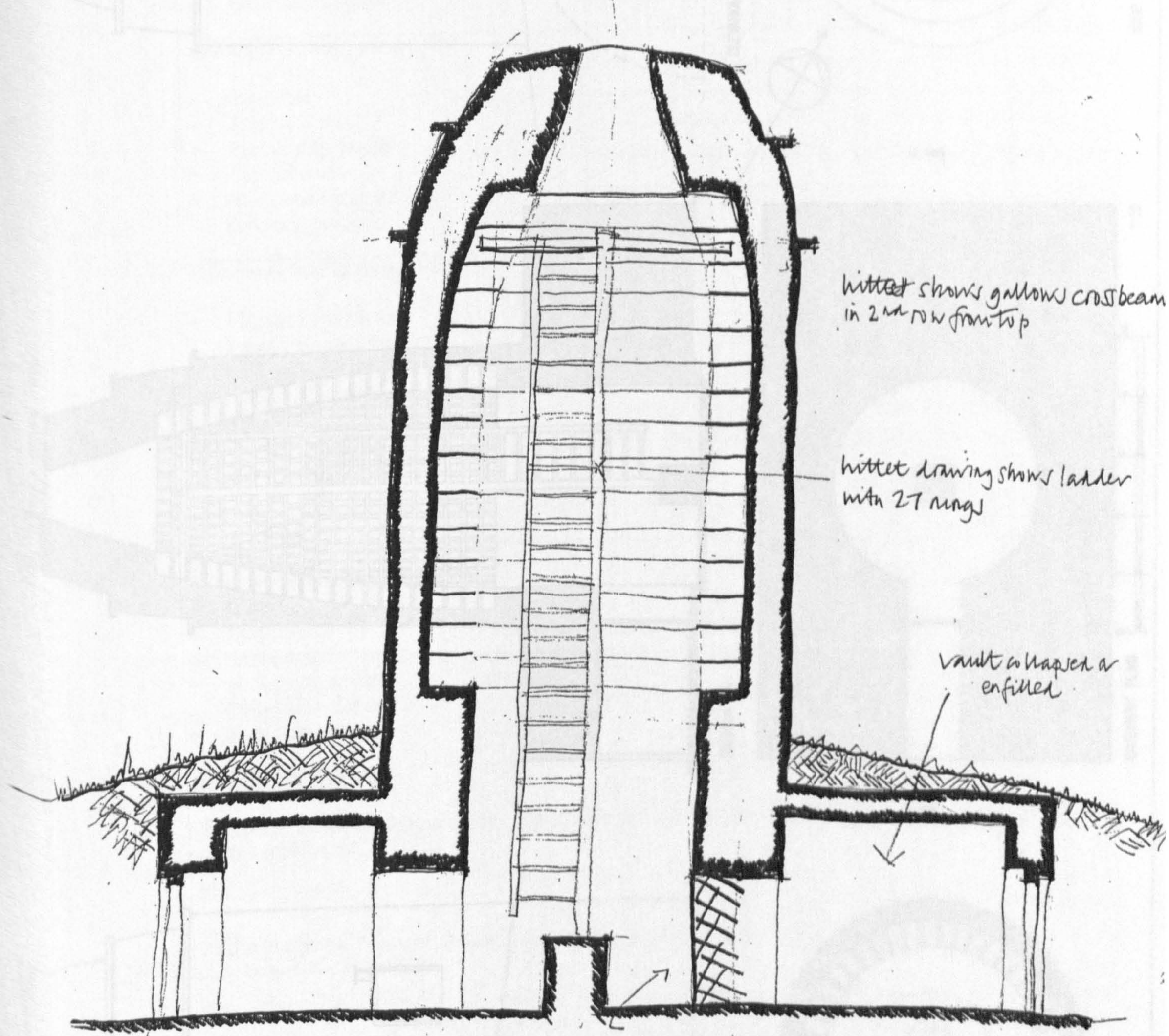
modern pinkish wet dash having of fine texture

two curiously sited low openings each with 40mm projecting ledges top & bottom by 75 to 100mm.

EAST ELEVATION

GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL
MEASURED SURVEY
BASED ON WITHEY 1928 SURVEY
NB

3 of 4



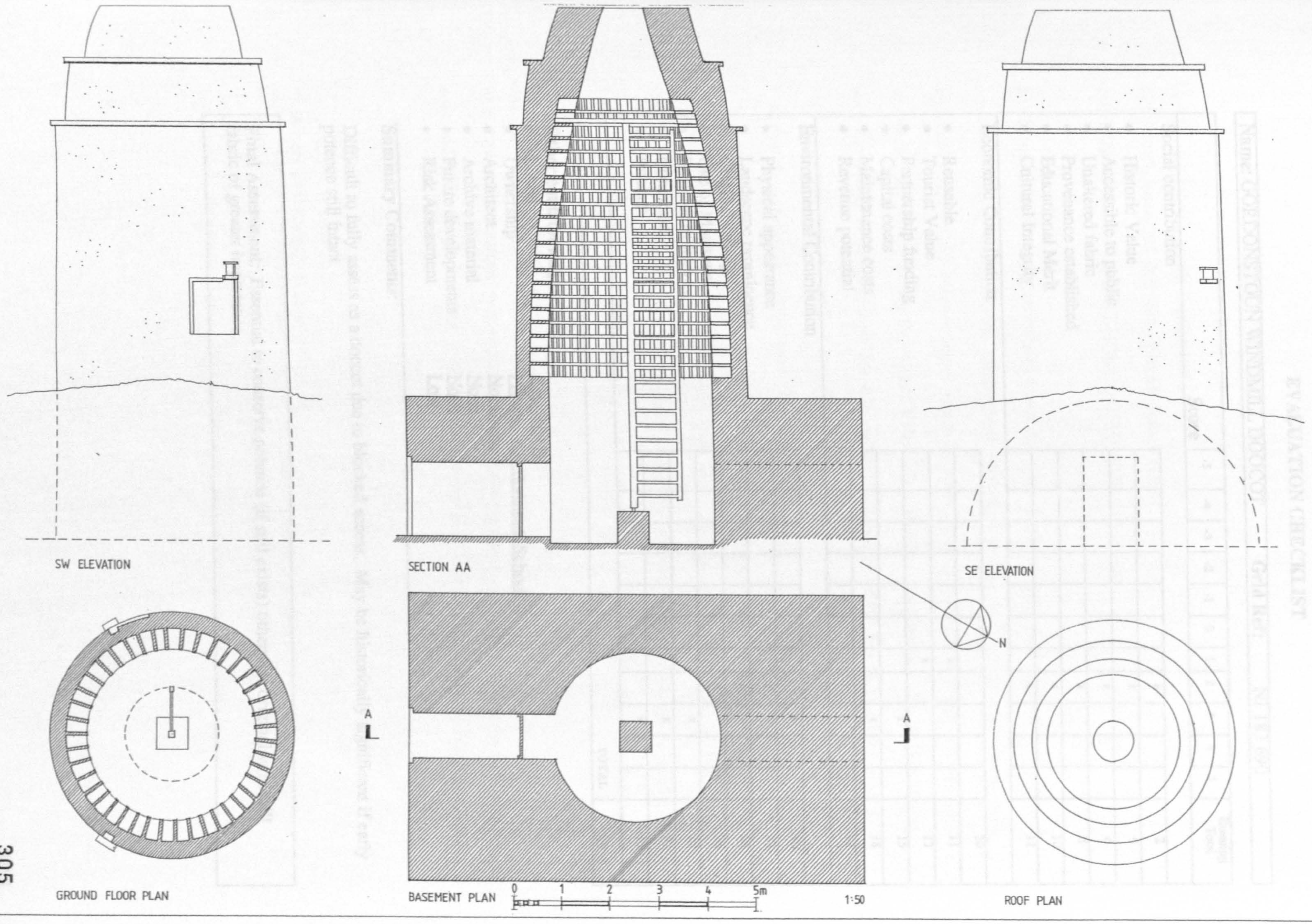
CROSS SECTION

Assumed that north vault doorway blocked during conversion

4 of 4

GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL
MEASURED SURVEY
(BASED ON WITTET 1929 SURVEY)
NB

Gordonstoun Windmill Doocot



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: GORDONSTOUN WINDMILL DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 183 690

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value								x				2
• Accessible to public								x				4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established								x				8
• Educational Merit								x				10
• Cultural Integrity								x				12
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable				x								10
• Tourist Value							x					11
• Partnership funding							x					12
• Capital costs									x			15
• Maintenance costs									x			18
• Revenue potential					x							17
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									x			20
• Landscape prominence								x				22
• Original setting								x				24
• Use of Materials								x				26
• Features of interest									x			29
• Condition									x			32
• Interior									x			35
											TOTAL	35

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private - Gordonstoun School
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Difficult to fully assess as a doocot due to blocked access. May be historically significant if early potence still intact.

Final Assessment: Essential to conserve potence (if still exists) otherwise original windmill fabric of greater importance.

5.5.9 KNOCKANDO DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 205 424, Knockando Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Knockando Doocot is an example of a medium size, single storey, single chamber monopitch structure, which was common throughout Scotland during the seventeenth and early eighteenth century. It is to be found about 25 miles from the mouth of the River Spey (on its western side) overlooking the Carron Valley. Douglas has recorded that, "... *in Moray one does not find Dovecotes amongst the hills except in Knockando*"[267] and at an altitude of 140 m, Knockando Doocot is indeed one of Moray's highest doocots, second only to Recletich in Glenrinnes. Knockando is sited on a plateau of a hill, which descends steeply south-eastwards to the river valley below, and despite the growth of conifers quite near the doocot today, it is here, on the hill, that the only mature trees are to be found about 100 m to the south. Although now sited within the landscaped policies, the doocot originally sat in an open field with the Ballintomb Burn 130 m to the east, as shown in the nineteenth century Ordnance Survey.[268]

The doocot is associated with the main house of Knockando which is reputed to have been built in 1732 by Ludovic Grant of Grant, a direct relation of the Grant family, who also had

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[267] Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 17.
Recletich was not recorded in Douglas' study since it is located in former Banffshire.

[268] 1870 O.S.
The map also shows mature trees in existence all over the hill below with a footpath leading down to the ferry-boat over the Spey.
Roy's earlier Military Map of Moray, 1750, shows the small estate of 'Knockendon' on the present site.

property nearby in the parish at Wester Elchies and Easter Elchies, as well as the Castle seat at Grantown.[269]

Why McKean describes the, "... *nearby doocot, 17th century*"[270] and Beaton records it as, "... *probably 17th century*"[271] is not altogether clear, since the assertion here must be that Knockando Doocot precedes the building of the house. Although the architectural style of the doocot is more associated with an earlier period, the Regional Archaeologist rationally suggests that the building, "*Probably though dates with the house, i.e. 1732*"[272]. Since research does not reveal an earlier Laird's house on the site, this latter assumption seems a fair one. This being the case, Knockando Doocot would be a late example of the 'lectern' type doocot in Scotland.

The building is sited 110 m away on the eastern side of the main house, and well away from the north-west access road and the mains farm. Like the main house itself, the doocot is south facing and, since they are both sited on a similar building line and orientation, they sat side by side, rather than one facing the other. This may have arisen if both house and doocot were intended to have been viewed from the valley below since it was cited, in 1868, that Knockando, "...*from the elevated position, commands one of the most extensive and romantic prospects on Speyside*"[273].

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269 Forsyth, Survey of the Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed), p. 284 and Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, vol. 1, p. 112. Ludovic's son Alexander purchased Grangehill (Dalvey) in 1749 from the Dunbars using merchant money. Like the Elchies properties, it too had a doocot within its policies.

270 McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p. 156.

271 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 16.
Since the house was significantly added to by A & W Reid in 1851 and again in 1887, the architecture of the house and doocot do appear discrete. Even in 1860, Longmuir, Speyside, 1,860, p. 54, described Knockando as "... a good house of modern architecture, which is beautifully situated, and surrounded by woods."

272 GRC, Archaeologist's Sites and Monuments Record, Index Ref. NJ 24 SW 5.

273 Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, (1984 ed), p. 103.

A 1931 photograph appears to illustrate the doocot's roof dormer as having seven arched top flight holes for dove access.[274] Whether this dormer is true to the original construction is not clear. The blocking of the seventh row of boxes may be connected to Douglas' statement that, "... *the pigeons now occupy the upper storey, a dividing floor of wood being erected at a level somewhat higher than the top of the door... this ground floor is used as a play-house for children.*"[275]

The doocot is now redundant and despite some cracking showing along the front wall, particularly at its connection to the gables, it can be described as being in 'reasonable condition' and, therefore, not under any imminent threat. It is protected by its Grade B listing status and is presently under the aegis of a watchful owner. Nevertheless, failure to arrest the structural movement and/or permit the unchecked growth of trees around the base, may cause the building some serious displacement in the future. Also, the inadequate overhang of the slates to the replacement roof is causing the accelerated weathering of the front ledge and water run-off back towards the wall face will cause saturation and long term decay (original slates would probably have been large, gradeable stone slates sourced locally). It is, therefore, important that continual monitoring of this building is carried out if it is to survive in its current state.

Almost beneath are the railway and the river, at the depth of several hundred feet with the Drum of Carron on the opposite side, and the distance Convals to the east, forming an appropriate background".

[274] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 156.

[275] Ibid.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Knockando doocot is rectangular in plan (4.9 m x 4.1 m), with a wallhead height at the front of 2.9 m and an overall height at the rear of 6.5 m. Its 580 mm thick walls are constructed using an uncoursed, random combination, of local granite and sandstone rubble, bonded with coarse lime mortar including buff granite dressings at the external angles and around the chamfered door opening. The outer face of the walls are today flush pointed in cement mortar, but a 1931 photograph clearly shows the building lime harled and possibly limewashed.[276]

The forty five degree monopitch roof has been reconstructed, during the twentieth century, using eight machine-sawn rafters of 175 x 50 mm section, at 550 mm centres, with 125 x 50 mm high level ties and two vertical corner posts. The roof is clad with 150 x 20 mm sarking boards and gradually diminishing courses of 10 mm thick, regular width, dark grey slates (possibly from Tomintoul) fixed directly to the sarking using iron nails.

A later, timber boarded door secures the 1770 (h) x 760 mm (w) door opening which is centred on the ground floor of the south facing wall. McKean refers to the building as having "... two rat ledges"[277]; a continuous 60 mm deep stone ledge, projecting 140 mm beyond the wall face, is to be found 620 mm above the door lintel although it is broken in parts, particularly on the western gable; another similarly detailed ledge is to be found above it at a height of 4.1 m, although this ledge only runs around the rear wall and 2 m along each gable, just stopping short of the skews. There are no apertures in the walls, although two 150 mm wide diamond-shaped vent holes can be found sited immediately above the second ledge of each gable. Douglas says, "... *in the dovecotes at Knockando and Spynie a pigeon opening was found in each gable*"[278], but Beaton's description of, "... *one diamond shaped ventilation hole on each gable*"[279], is more correct.

The roof contains one central pitched roof dormer which is slated on top but has wooden cheeks and a frontage including a 400 mm square opening. The roof itself is crowned, in the words of Peterkin, "... *with steep crow-stepped gables*"[280] and, unfortunately, some of these are now missing and most of them are slightly weathered. Like the other monopitch doocots in the area, the rear wallhead is crowned with overlapping coping stones, but it still does not rise much beyond 150 mm above the slate line.

Although the original ground floor material has been lost internally by the insertion of a concrete slab, the original boxes, totalling to 440, are still intact and constructed on all four sides in a reasonably linear arrangement of fairly regular, 100 mm wide hewn stone uprights with 50-75 mm deep slate horizontals. They are raised 550 mm off the ground floor level and part of the bottom row to the rear wall has been blocked, as has most of the seventh row. The boxes themselves are 230 (w) x 230 (h) x 200 mm (d) and almost all of them show very clear signs of plaster and limewash, both on their external faces, and interior linings. It is, therefore, difficult to properly investigate whether or not the boxes are an integral part of the wall construction. The thinking behind the whitewashing of the interior can be determined from a mid eighteenth century poem;

Then, hide the inner walls with limy White,The Dove will in that Colour take Delight;
Whether that Colour suits a candid Mind,Or in the Cleanliness they Pleasure find.[281]

Written: March 1996

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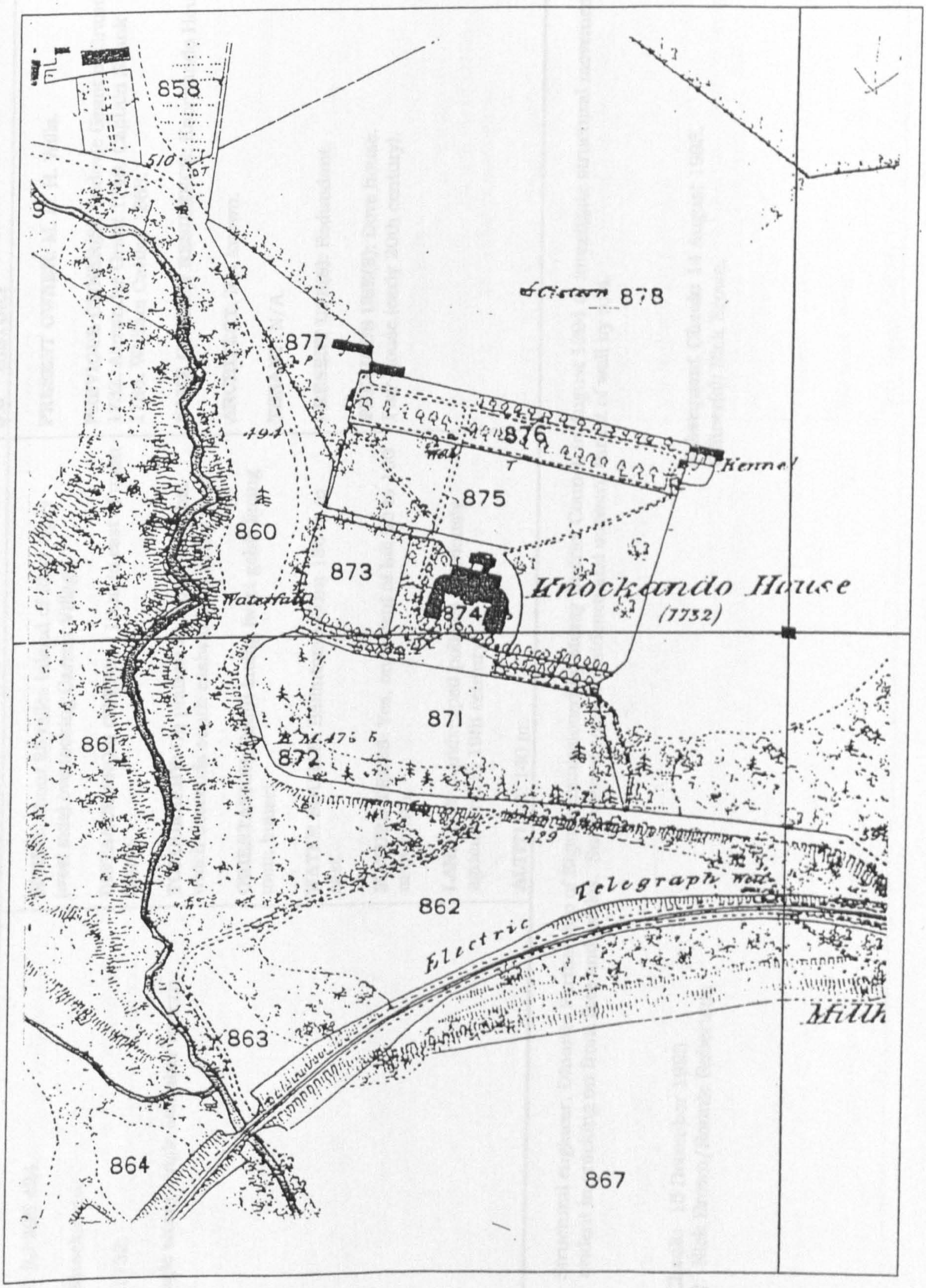
276 Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 48.
277 McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 156.
278 Douglas, op. cit., p. 12.
279 Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 16.
280 Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1981, p. 61.
281 Anon, 'The Dove-Cote', 1740, p. 7.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Knockando Doocot (Fig. 5.5.9)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 205 424. **PARISH**: Knockando. **DATE**: c. 1732. **TYPE**: Single storey single chamber lectern.	**SITING**: About 25 miles inland of River Spey (west side) overlooking Carron Village. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 110 m to east of main house. **TOPOGRAPHY**: On plateau at top of steep hill which descends south eastwards to valley river. **ORIENTATION**: South facing (west gable facing main house). **WATER SOURCE**: Ballintomb Burn 130 m to east. **MATURE TREES**: Yes, on ascent of hill 90 to 100 m to south. **LAND USE**: Landscaped policies (previously agricultural in 19th century). **ALTITUDE**: 140 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: M. D. H. Wills. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Ludovic Grant of Grant 1732, Alexander Grant 1749, Captain Shank 1786, William Cattley 1868. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Knockando House. **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: N/A. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Dove house. Play-house (early 20th century).

NOTES: - Structural engineer, Dinardo Partnership of Elgin, commissioned by Moray District Council in August 1994 to investigate structural movement evident in cracking on front face and gables. Suspicion of some subsidence and outward thrust of wall by roof.

Date of Check: 15 December 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998.
Officer(s): Nick Brown.

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Reasonable.

REPAIRS: External pointing, re-roofing.

ALTERATIONS: Concrete floor, some boxes blocked?, harling removed.

FUTURE RISK: Failure to arrest structural movement, and unchecked growth of trees around base causing undermining by roots.

Inadequate overhang of slates causing weathering of ledge and continual saturating front wall.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Rectangular.

PLAN SIZE: 4.9 x 4.1 m.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 2.9 m (front).

OVERALL HEIGHT: 6.5 m (rear).

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Uncoursed random rubble bonded with lime mortar.

WALL MATERIAL: Mix of local granite and sandstone rubble with buff granite dressings at angles and openings.

WALL THICKNESS: 580 mm.

WALL FINISH: Cement pointed. Formerly lime harled.

ROOF FORM: Monopitch.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: Later roof of 8 sawn rafters of 175 x 50 mm at 550 mm centres with standard sarking cladding and high level ties with 2 vertical 75 mm struts on rear wall.

ROOF PITCH: 45°.

ROOF FINISH: Gradual diminishing courses of 10 mm thick and regular width dark grey local slates, possibly from Tomintoul.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Later wooden vertically boarded door.

OUTER DOOR TYPE: n/a.

DOOR SIZE: 1770 (h) x 760 mm (w).

DOOR SITING: Centre of south facing wall.

LEDGES: 2 No projecting 140 mm.
- one continuous 60 mm deep stone ledge continuous 620 mm above door, broken in parts.
- one similar section on rear and upper gables only.

LEDGES HEIGHT: 2.4 m and 4.1 m.

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 35.2 m.

APERTURES: None.

VENT HOLES: 2 No. 150 mm diamond-shaped holes above 2nd ledge of each gable.

FLIGHT HOLES: (Formerly) 7 arched top openings in wooden fascia of dormer.

TOTAL VENT AREA: 0.255 m² (including dormer).

LIMEWASH: Slight traces.

DORMERS: 1 centred in roof. Slate top, wooden cheeks and frontage, lead flashing, 400 mm square opening in front.

SKEWS: 12 slightly weathered granite crow steps.

FINIALS: None.

WEATHER VANE: N/A.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: No – new concrete floor.

PARTITION WALLS: None.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: N/A.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangements of fairly regular 80 to 100 mm hewn stone uprights with 50 to 75 mm slate horizontals of approx 500 mm length.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 440 (including blocked boxes).

NEST BOX SIZE: 230 (w) x 230 (h) x 200 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 550 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: Part of bottom row and most of seventh row.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: None.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Yes - very clear on most boxes, outer face and interior.

COLLECTING AID: None evident.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 440 x 2 x 0.7 = 616.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 51.5 m^3.

OTHER: modern timber framing on rear wall.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- was roof reconstruction true to original?
- why is doocot thought to be earlier than the house?
- why not facing house?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 4, **16**, 30.

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, **47**, **48**.

J. McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1992, p. 111.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 156.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 375.

V. Steele (ed.), Vernacular Building, 19, 1995, pp. 67-9.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Knockando Parish, Item 9, p. 7, Category B, 1971.

SMR: NJ 24 SW 5.

MAPS: 1870 OS, 1902 OS, 1965 OS.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 48.

OTHER: Estate info:

J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp. 103-4.

J. Sinclair (ed), The New Statistical Account, Chap 18, 1835, p. 70.

J. Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 54.

NOTE - Ludovic Grant's brother Alexander purchased Grangehill (Dalvey) in 1749 from Dunbars using merchant money.
- Douglas refers to twentieth century intermediate timber floor forming play house area – might explain blocking of boxes.



KNOCKANDO DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.9.1)

Close view of south east corner of doocot which encaptures its overall shape and features. Harling is highly visible on the gable where protected by the projecting ledges but this has been removed across the front wall, (where cracking), to reveal the random rubble construction. The protective solidity of the envelope is only compromised where necessary to permit ground floor human access, high level dove access and side ventilation.

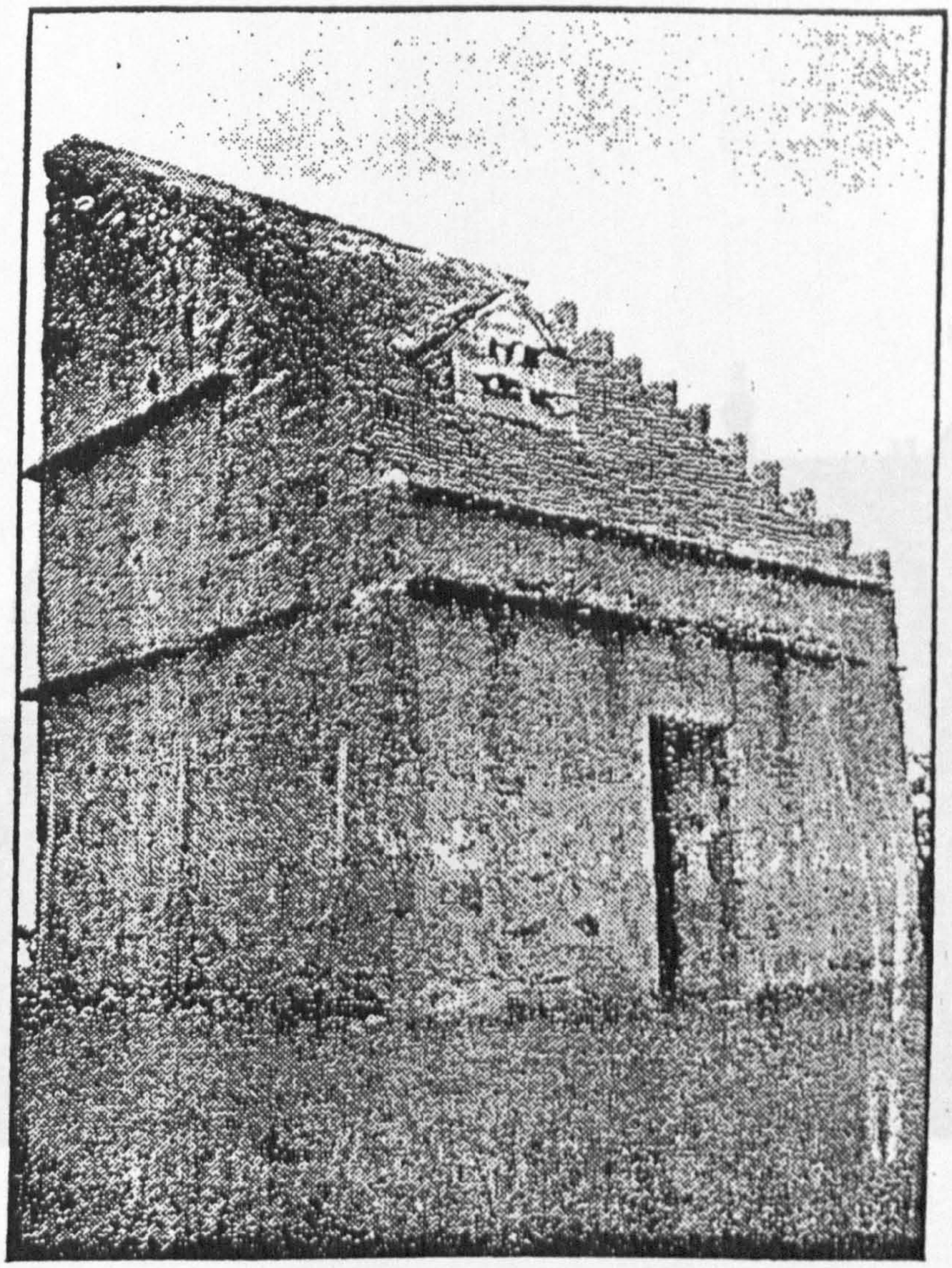


KNOCKANDO DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.9.2)

View of rear of doocot as approached from the present mansion. The tops of the mature trees beyond the doocot illustrate the building's elevated geographical position in relation to the Spey valley. The gable crowsteps and the two projecting ledges are notable features on an otherwise plain building.



KNOCKANDO DOOCOT 1993 (PLATE 5.5.9.3)
Interior photograph showing a linear arrangement of lime plastered stone nest boxes. An entire row, bottom picture, has been blocked, possibly in relation to the insertion of an early twentieth century floor. A pair of wooden lintels and blocked boxes surround the high level gable ventilator. The reasonably good condition of the lintels suggest a later repair or alteration. The roof is clearly a modern replacement.



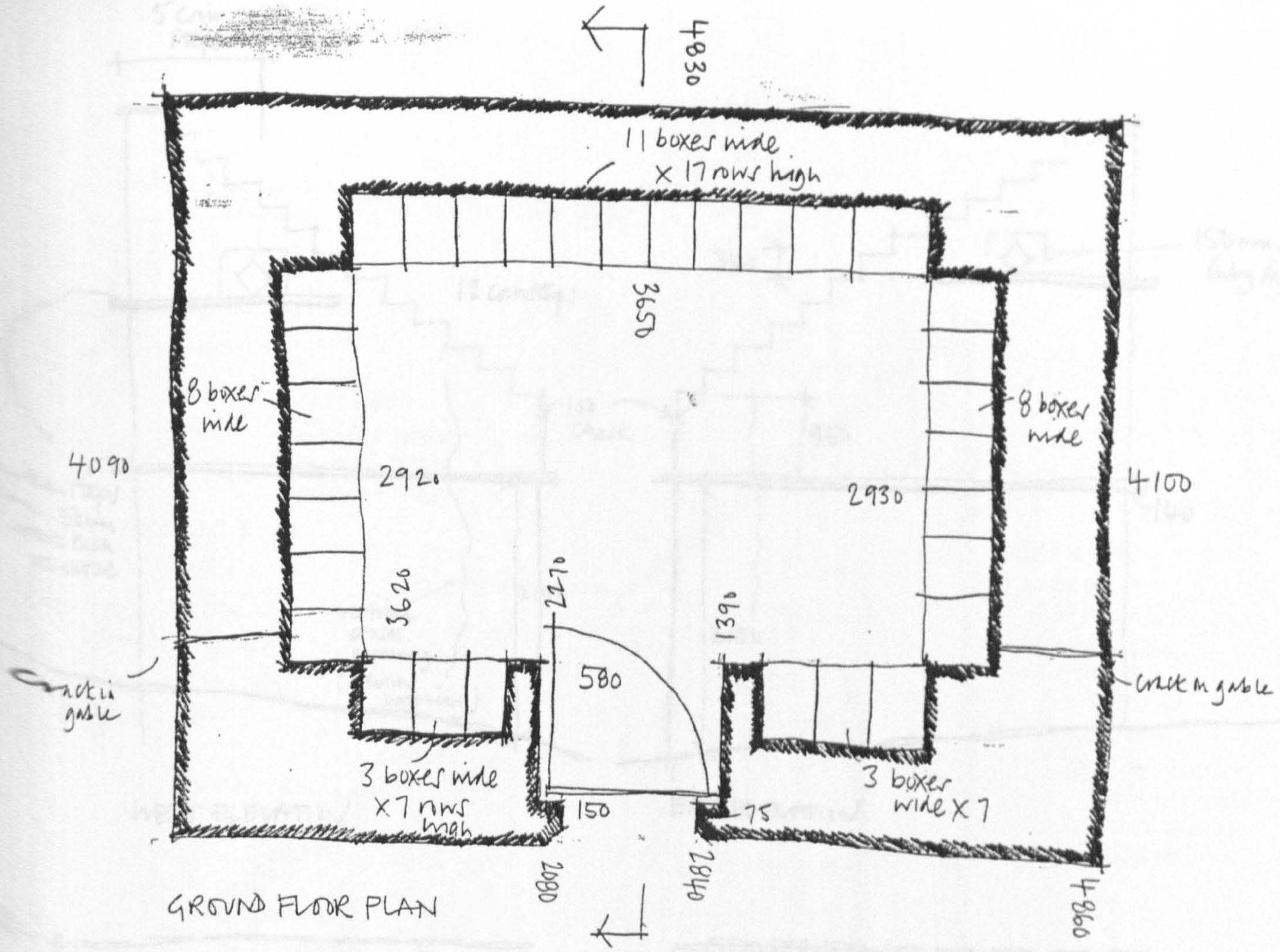
KNOCKANDO DOOCOT, C.1930 (Plate 5.5.9.4)

Copy of photograph from Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 48, showing the doocot from the south west prior to the repointing of the front wall and replacement dormer. This earlier dormer is wider than the present and incorporates two rows of dove flight holes; the dormer today is open fronted and large enough to permit entry by birds of prey.

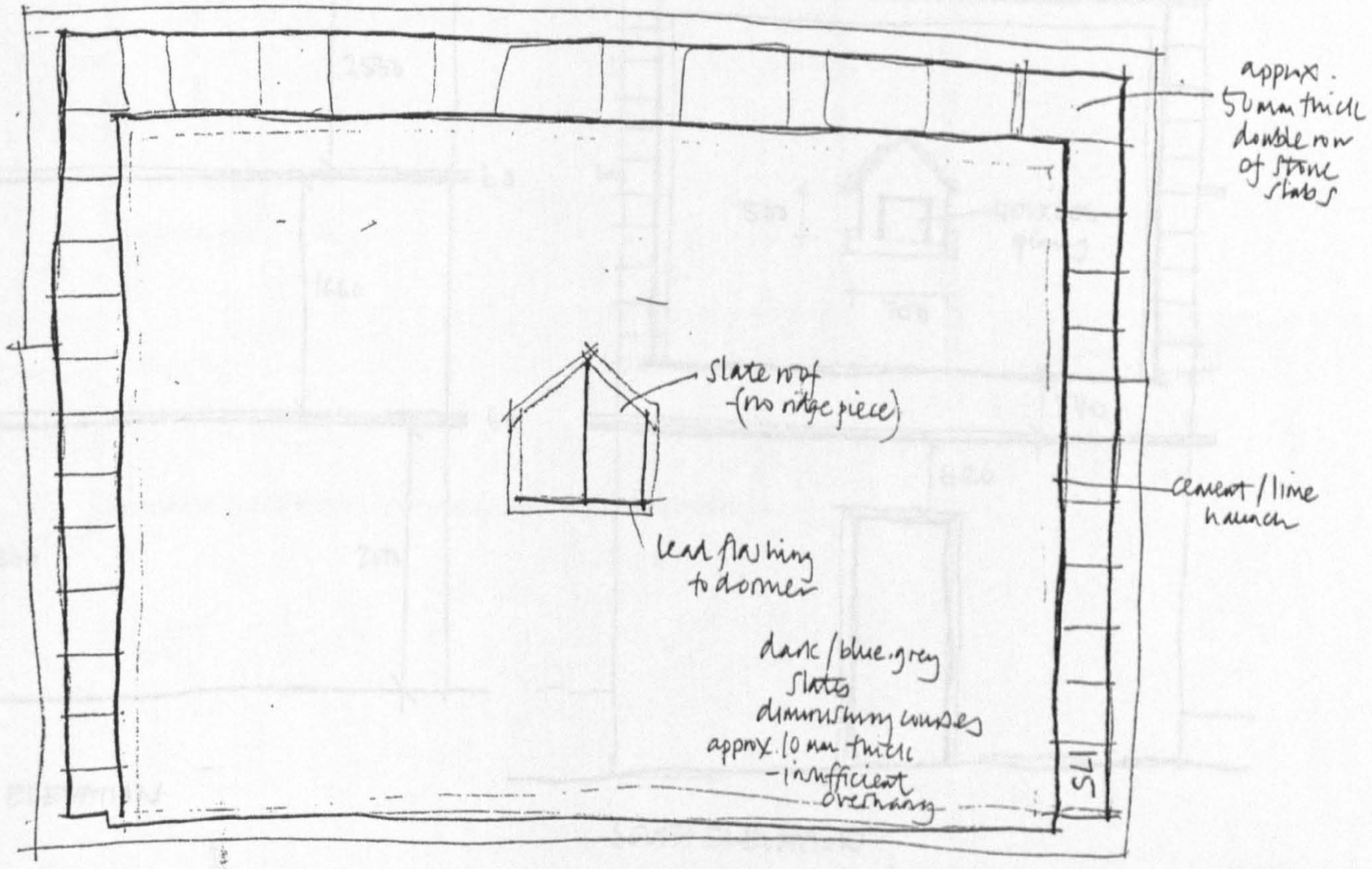


KNOCKANDO HOUSE, 1997 (Plate 5.5.9.5)

Photograph of southern aspect of Knockando House, a plain two storey classical mansion erected in 1732. Later additions have been added to formulate a substantial property. The doocot, meanwhile, is sited over 100m right of picture. Similarities in design features between the two buildings can be found with the use of granite dressings and dormer detailing.



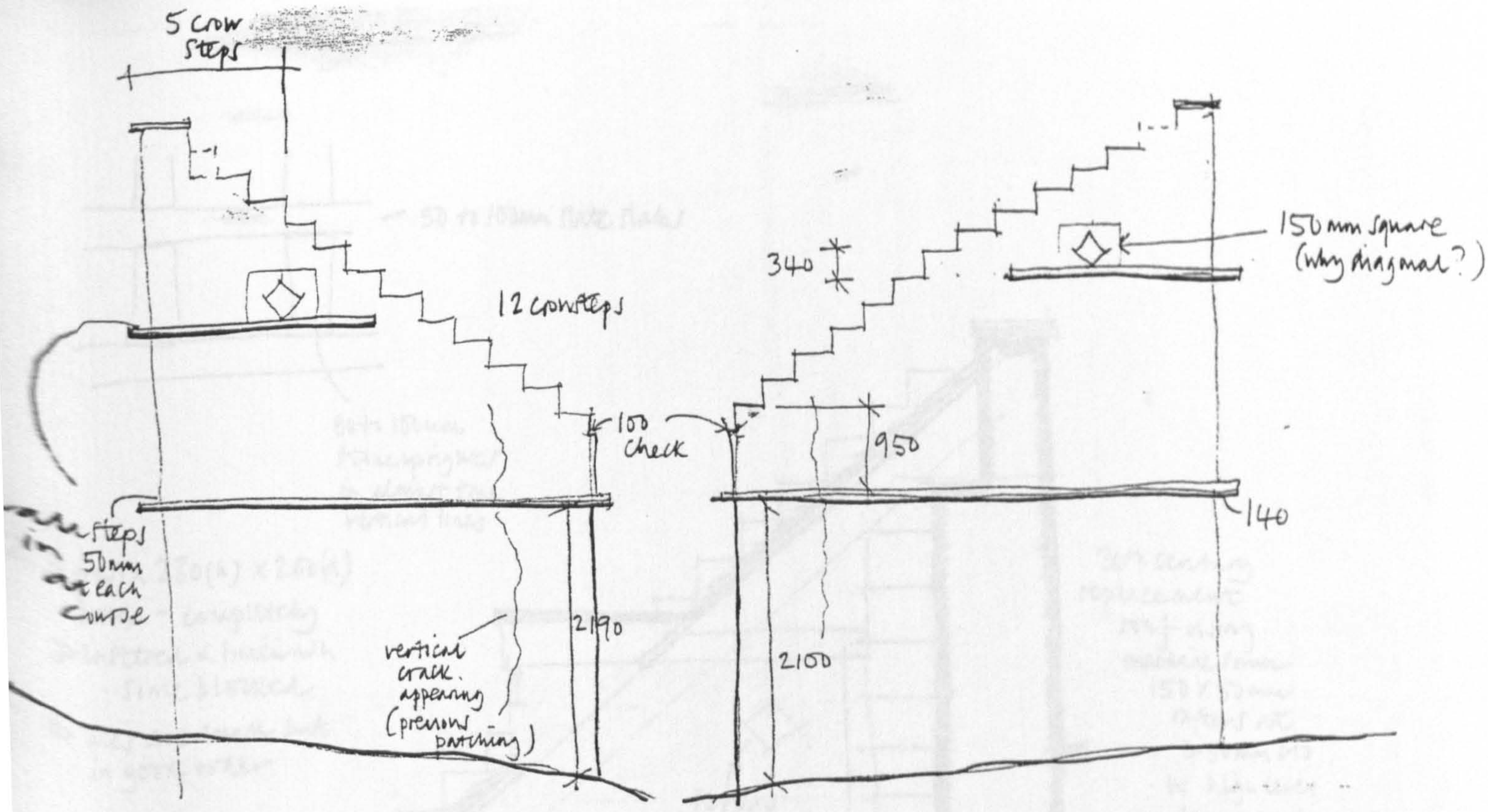
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



ROOF PLAN

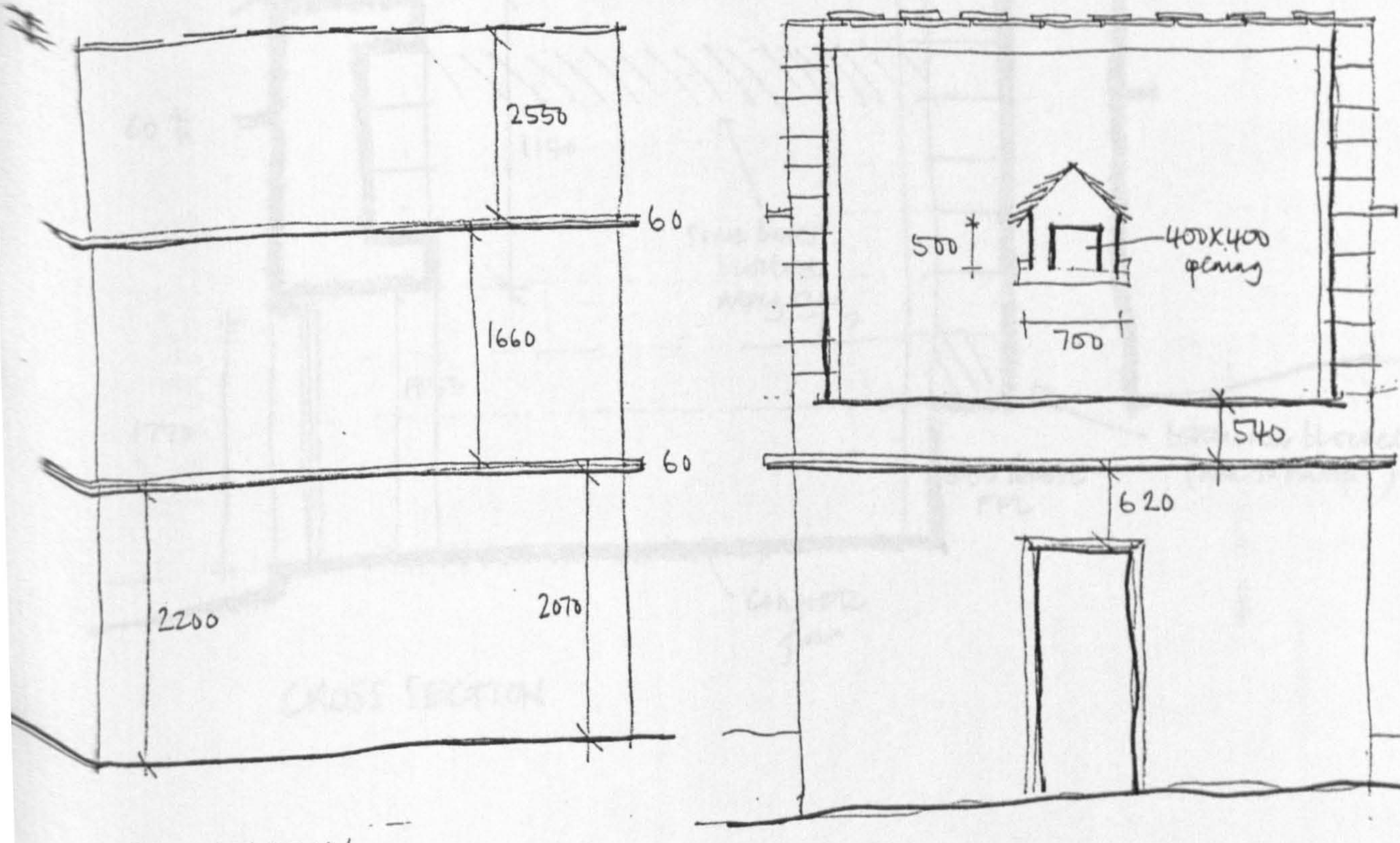
KNOCKANDO DOOLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 15/12/93

1 of 3



WEST ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION

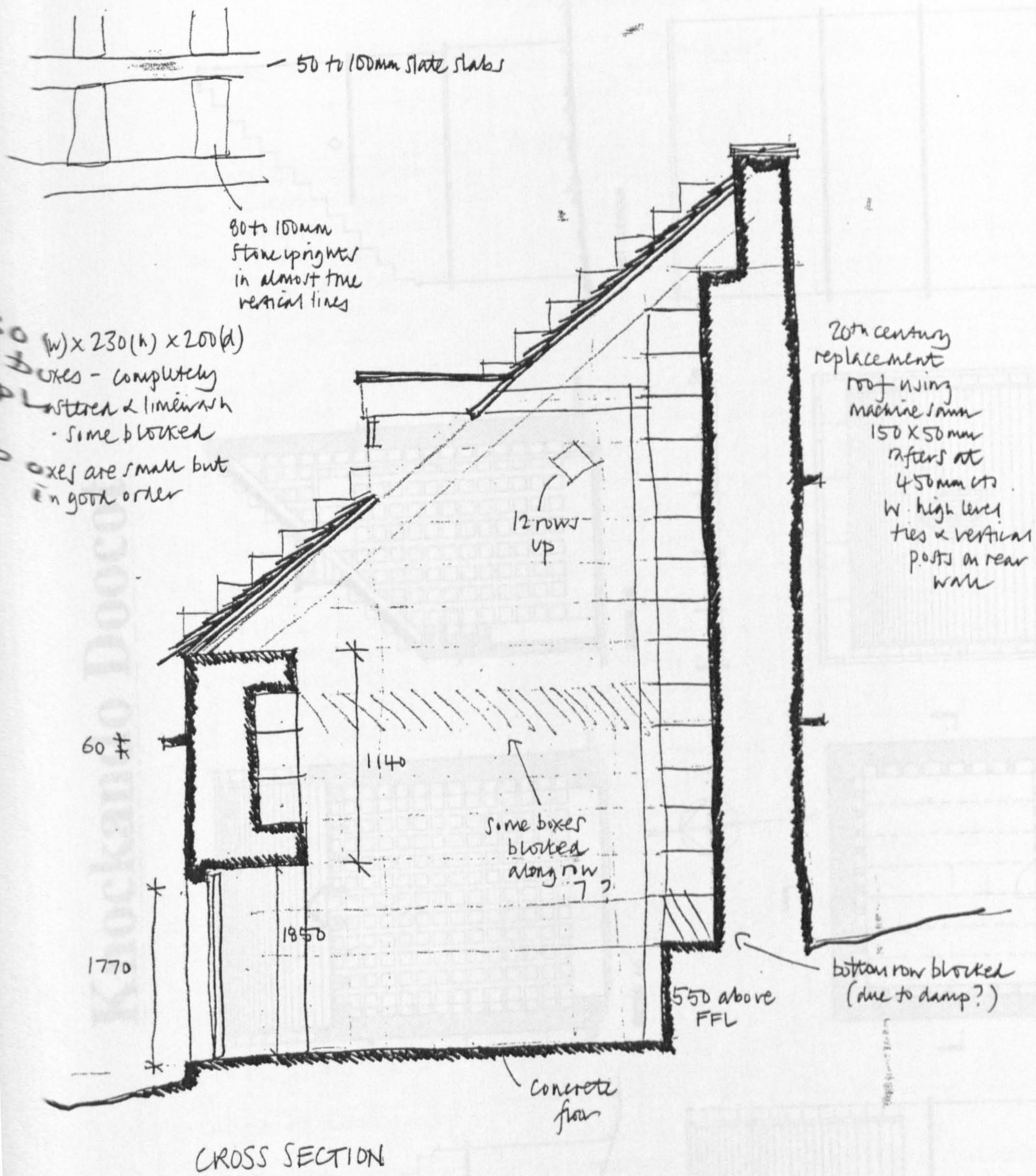


NORTH ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION

2 of 3

KNOCKANDO DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 15/12/93

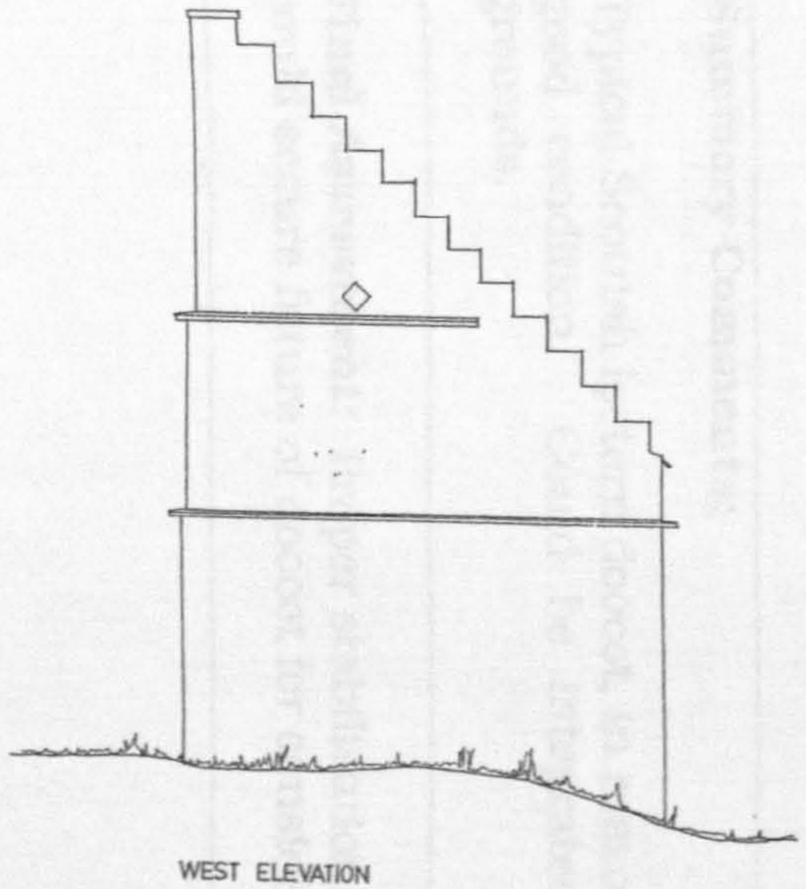


CROSS SECTION

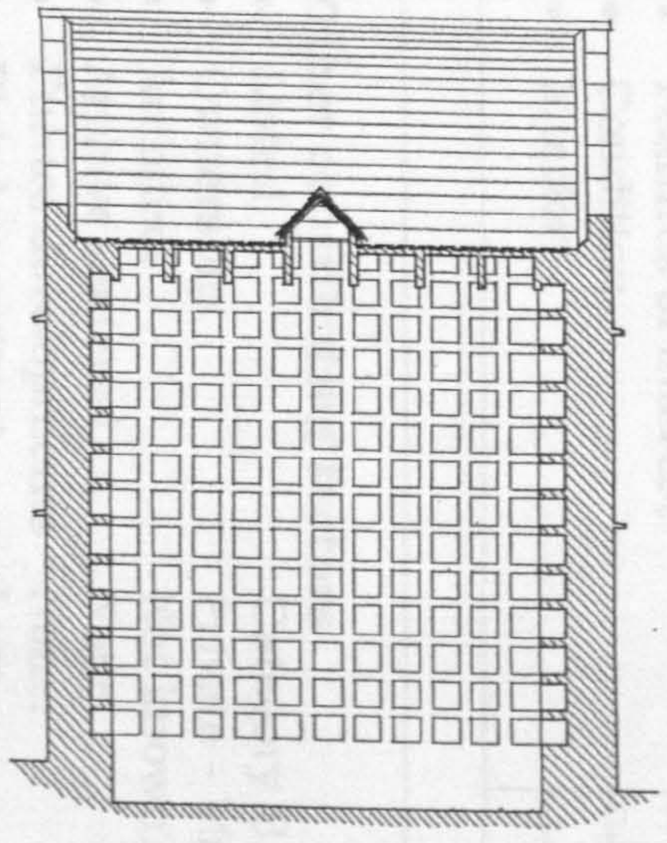
3 of 3

KNOCKANDO DOOLOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 15/12/93

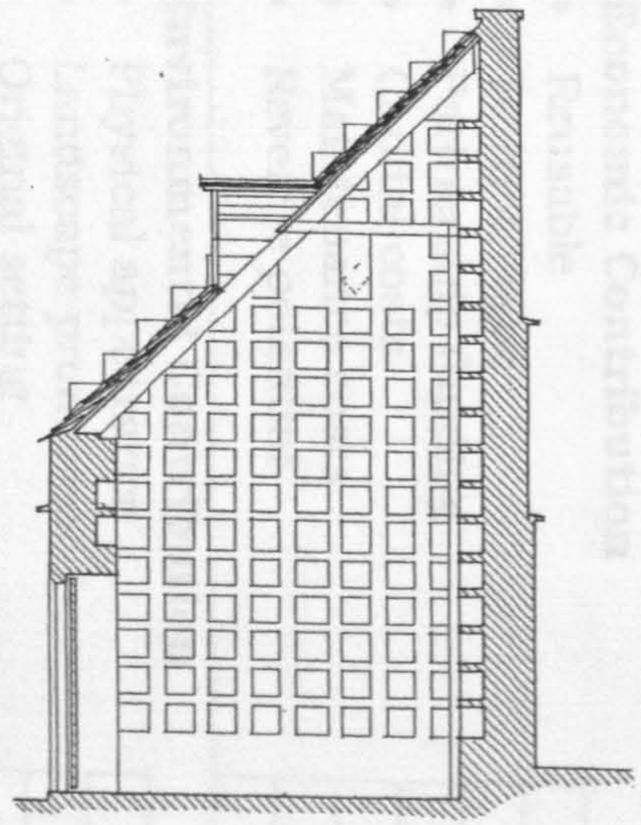
Knockando Doocot



WEST ELEVATION



SECTION AA



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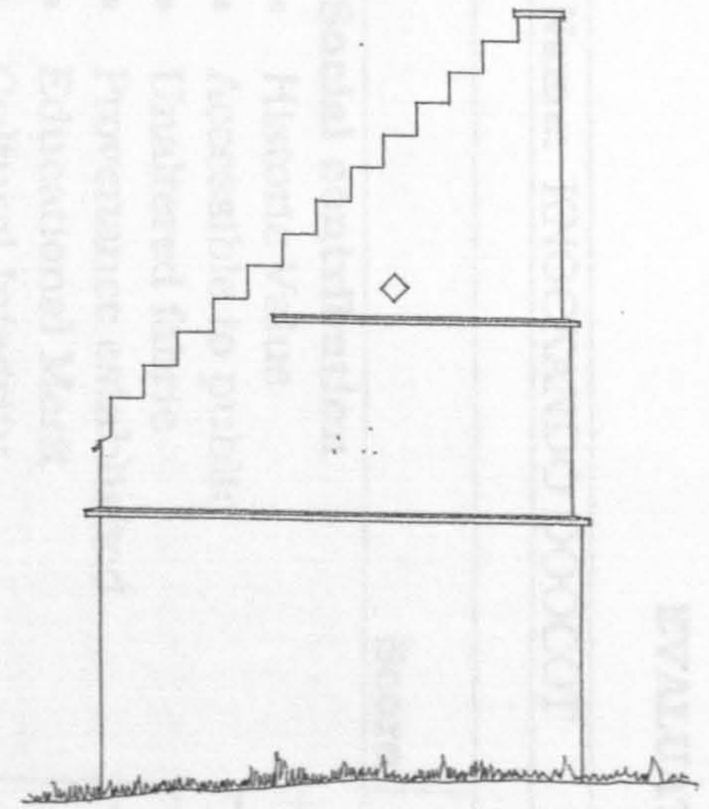
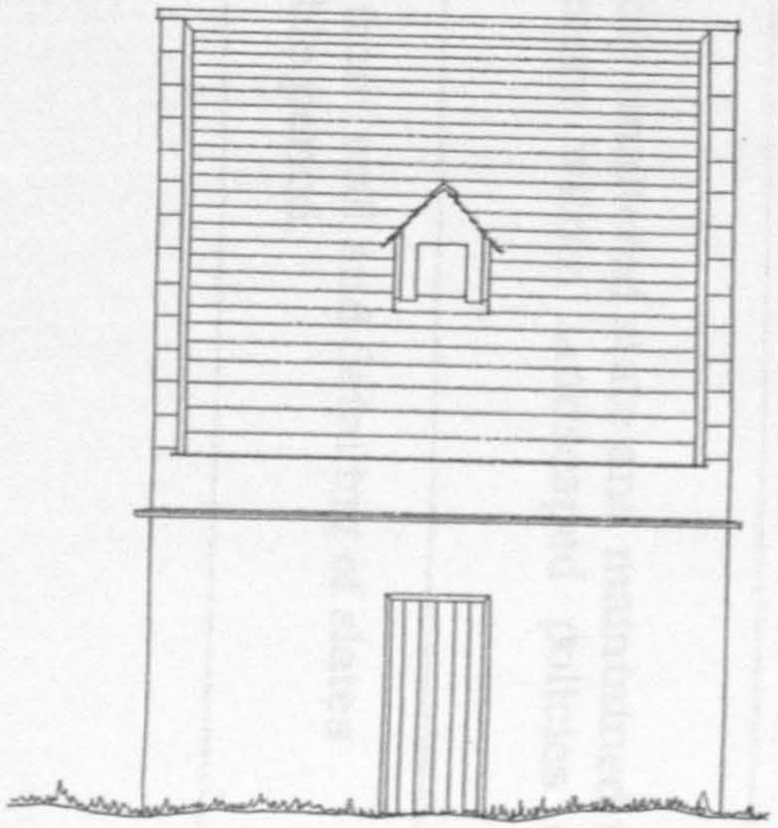
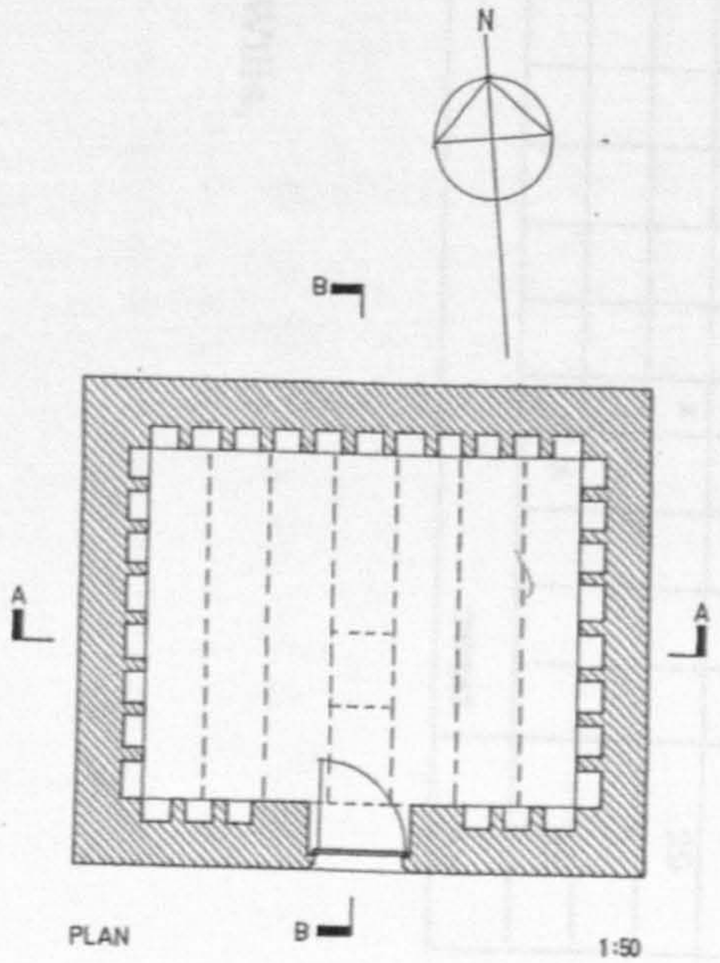


EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



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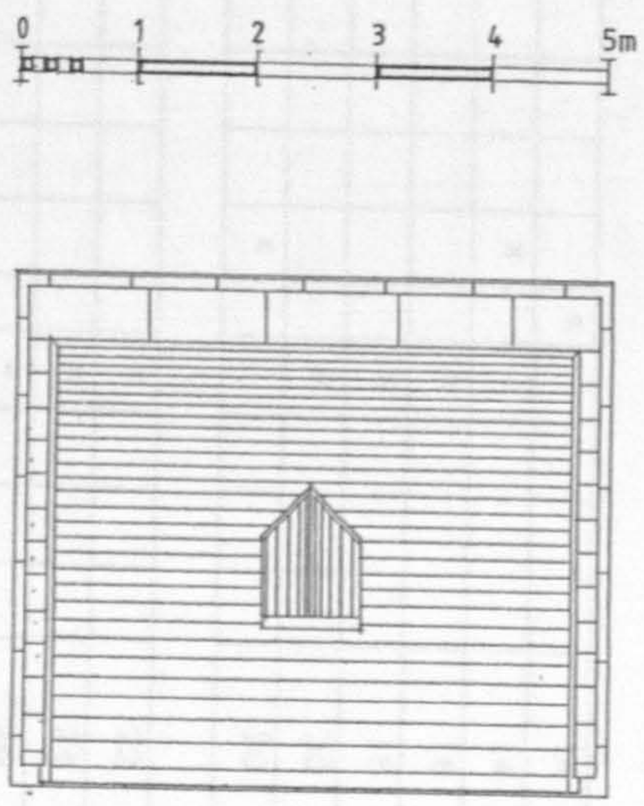
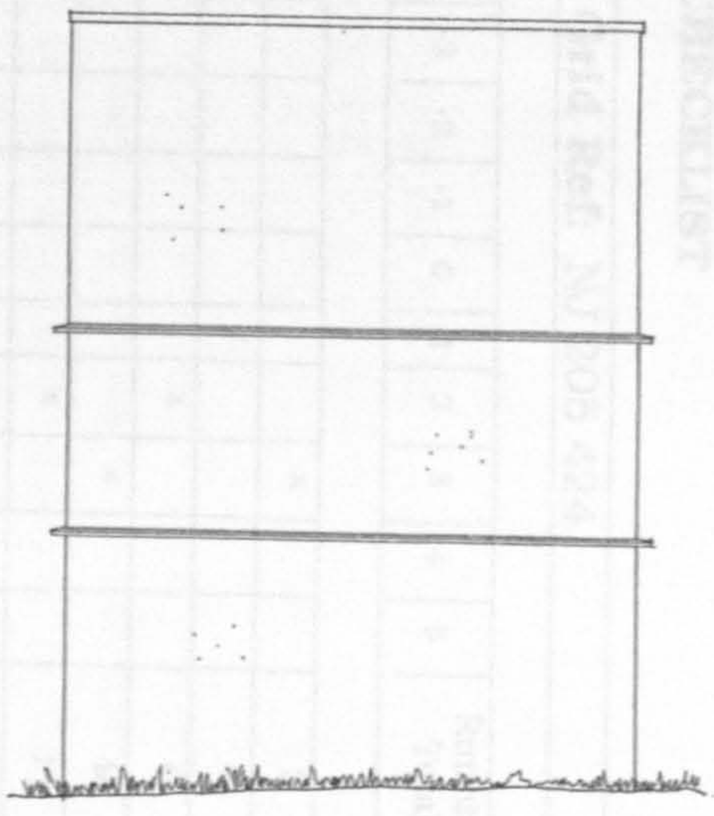


ROOF PLAN



NORTH ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: KNOCKANDO DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 205 424

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public							x					4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established									x			9
• Educational Merit								x				11
• Cultural Integrity								x				13
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					14
• Tourist Value						x						14
• Partnership funding								x				16
• Capital costs								x				18
• Maintenance costs								x				20
• Revenue potential						x						20
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				22
• Landscape prominence								x				24
• Original setting								x				26
• Use of Materials								x				28
• Features of interest							x					29
• Condition								x				31
• Interior								x				33
											TOTAL	33

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B.
- Ownership — Private - Mr. Wills.
- Architect — Not known.
- Archive material — None.
- Future developments — None.
- Risk Assessment — Low.

Summary Comments:

Typical Scottish lectern doocot, in reasonably unaltered state and maintained in good condition. Could be integrated more within landscaped policies of grounds.

Final Assessment: Proper stabilisation of front wall and detailing of slates could secure future of doocot for considerable period.

5.5.10 PITGAVENY DOOCOT

GRID REFERENCE: NJ 239 651, St. Andrews and Lhanbryde Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Pitgaveny Doocot is a well preserved example of a medium sized, single storey, single chamber cylindrical tower. The estate of Pitgaveny is located approximately three miles north-east of Elgin, overlooking the former Loch Spynie and the Laich of Moray to the north-west. It has extensive views also of the St. Andrews and Lhanbryde Parish to the east and south-east, although the main house itself is surrounded by a thick wood. The doocot is sited on a gentle south facing slope, at an altitude of 38 m, looking back up the hill towards the Pitgaveny mansion house which is situated some 230 m away to the north-east.

The present mansion house of Pitgaveny is dated 1776 and was built by the merchant James Brander. He purchased the estate from Portsoy merchant Alexander Brebner in 1765,[282] who in turn, had acquired Pitgaveny from the Brodies of Lethen in 1747[283]. It was inherited by Brander's son, John, around 1800, at the time when Pitgaveny was the only family seat in the parish (despite having eight proprietors) and it boasted that, "....*a wide extent of the richest corn-field lies every-where around, enlivened by neat farm-steads, herds and plantations*".[284] John's son, Lieutenant Colonel James, possessed the estate from about 1824 until his death in 1854 when he was succeeded by his sister Mary Brander, who had married Sir Archibald Dunbar as his second wife[285].

The Secretary of State's listing of Pitgaveny Doocot dates it, "... *at 17th/early 18th century*,"[286] which consequently associates the doocot with an earlier house on the site. Douglas evidently thought that it was a much older structure when saying, "... *it is probably an old erection and may date from the time when the Brodies were in possession of these*

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[282] Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, p. 208.
Young states that the estate was held by the Douglas family in 1599. Previously the lands were part of the Bishopric of Moray.

[283] Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, (1983 ed), p. 115.
These authors state that Brander purchased the estate from the Brodies of Lethen.

[284] Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed), p. 109.

[285] She was succeeded by her son, and he by her grandson Captain James Brander Dunbar who, in 1969, bequeathed it to the present owner, Alexander Dunbar.

[286] Secretary of State, op. cit.

lands, or it is possible that it may have been erected to serve the Palace of Spynie"[287]. Omand noted that, "...*cylindrical doocots at Greenbank, Pitgaveny and Orton date from the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century*"[288] and Roy's map clearly records a well-established, but small, estate at 'Pitgaveny' by the mid eighteenth century.[289] The doocot at Pitgaveny has a simplicity of design to suggest that it predates the present classical mansion and was probably associated with a previous house (which was probably nearer to it).[290] The history of the estate's ownership indicates that merchant Alexander Brebner may have been responsible for erecting the building soon after his purchase in 1747, or more likely that the Brodies of Lethen, who bought Pitgaveny about 1630, built the doocot several decades earlier.[291]

Emma Black may have felt that the doocot was a building of some antiquity when she painted it, (c. 1930), alongside the sixteenth century structures at Leuchars, Pittendreich and New Elgin; and this illustration shows the
doocot complete with its apex cupola.[292] Douglas previously noted however that, "... *there is a pigeon entrance also at the top, which has a covering of corrugated iron*"[293]. Niven Robertson witnessed in the 1950's that, "*The dove entrances are one in the south wall, and one in the top of the roof, which is of stone slabs*".[294] A closer survey of the building today

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[287] Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 42.
Association with the Palace of Spynie is most unlikely. Such a doocot would have been sixteenth century, if not older, and found nearer the Palace (see this chapter, s.v. 'Spynie Palace').
[288] Omand, The Moray Book, 1976, p. 181.
Greenbank and Orton, (see later) are both later doocots.
[289] General Roy's Military Map of Moray, c. 1750, held in the National Map Library of Scotland.
Although a well established estate, Shaw's History of Province of Moray, 1882, p. 109, noted that the value of Pitgaveny at "L. 341" was only less than one tenth of the parish at "L. 4222". Perhaps the Brodie of Lethan Estate was more significant in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries since the family inherited former church lands.
[290] Finding the site of the previous mansion might help to explain the unusual location of the doocot (with its ground floor door which faces both north and slightly uphill).
[291] That is, c. 1710. The Brodies of Lethen were a significant family who held large tracts of land, particularly in north western Moray. One would expect such a family to possess a large doocot. David Brodie of Pitgaveny died in 1703. (the present farmhouse has a 1703 date stone which is probably reused from an earlier house).
[292] Black, Impressions of Moray, 1931, p. 29.
Her painting shows doves in flight around a structure which has a south east facing aperture in its walling just above the string course and a cupola (approx. 1 m diameter and 700 mm tall) complete with lead roof, small finial and 6 to 8 access points. The general standard of Black's paintings suggest an accurate account of the structure was taken at the time. The cupola may not, of course, be original to the building.
[293] Douglas, loc. cit.
Probable that the corrugated iron was a cheaper repair to an original covering of lead, zinc or slate.
[294] N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 380.
Robertson's survey work would have been carried out in the 1950's, if not before.

reveals that the structure once had five, 300 x 300 mm, flight holes, equally-spaced around the perimeter above the string course (also acting as vent holes) which splayed out internally in order to widen access to the interior.[295] A depression in the centre of the floor suggests the possible former location of a central pole to function with a revolving ladder as a bird collecting aid.[296]

The north facing door, aside from avoiding the prevailing south westerly wind, is perhaps explained by a mid-eighteenth century adviser; "... *the door should be always placed in sight of the dwellinghouse, ... though you are obliged to make the door to open on the north side, from whence the wind that blows is very incommodious to the pigeons, because the matter of the family may keep in awe those that go in and come out of the pigeon-house*".[297]

Pitgaveny Doocot is protected by the Secretary of State's Category B listing and the current owner, Alexander Dunbar, responsibly carried out a wholesale restoration in 1977 which has undoubtedly secured the future of this building for many years to come.[298] It is not therefore under any imminent threat, although ongoing maintenance would be required and the growth of self-seeded trees around the base of the building require to be checked and removed. If the owner does continue to monitor the building, and execute maintenance work as required, there is nothing to suggest that this building will not survive well into the next century.

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295 Inexplicably, two of the five apertures have straight internal ingoes, i.e. not splayed.

296 Certainly a revolving ladder would have functioned well in a cylindrical doocot and the present owner recollects that remnants of a ladder existed prior to the 1977 restoration, pers. comm., August 1993.

297 Anon, Sportsman's Dictionary, 1735, s.v., 'Pigeon-House'.

298 A. Dunbar, letter to Moray District Council, 28/6/1976, p. 2, requests grant aid, "*I have not got the capital to spend on a building which produces no return financially. Nevertheless, the building is attractive architecturally ... It should be restored for its own sake*". The Council declined to offer grant.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Pitgaveny Doocot is circular in plan, with a diameter of 5.25 m, and a wallhead height of 4.1 m rising to an overall height of 6.6 m at its roof apex. Its 780 mm thick walls (including boxes) are constructed using several courses, or lifts, of large random rubble built using lime mortar. It is faced externally with stugged local sandstone rubble and roughly dressed margins around the openings. As a consequnce of a 1977 repair programme, the walls are finished externally with a flush point of lime/cement mortar between the stonework, although traces of earlier lime harling remain visible on some of the stones. The single, north facing, door opening is 1560 high x 940 mm wide and contains a later outward opening, vertically boarded, ledged and braced timber door. A, "... *single rat course which serves as an alighting ledge*"[299], projects 100 mm around the perimeter of the building at a height of 2.9 m and constructed in 60 mm thick stone. Five, equally spaced, 300 x 300 mm square, flight holes are to be found immediately above this ledge, three of which are now carefully blocked to the extent of being almost indistinguishable on the exterior. Douglas noted that there were only, "... *2 chief entrances for the pigeons [which] are on the south side*"[300].

The wallhead terminates externally with a 60 mm deep dressed sandstone eaves course, which projects 70 mm and forms a slight bellcast for the diminishing courses of 15 mm thick sandstone slates. The roof terminates at a, "... *circular apex hole now sealed*"[301] with a cone of lead sheet incorporating some ventilation provision beneath. The 40 degree roof is a 1977 reconstruction using sixteen, 125 x 50 mm rafters, tied with two rows of 100 x 50 mm sections at the wallhead and midway heights respectively. All of this is open to the inner chamber, thus exposing the five annular purlin rings and the firred, or tapering, vertical sarking boards.

A small step up of 50 mm at the entrance door levels through with the stone cobbled and earth floor. The walls are lined to wallhead height, in a linear arrangement of 100 mm roughly hewn sandstone uprights with 50 mm sandstone horizontal slabs (some of which are built into the wall core) to provide 320 nest boxes, size 280 wide x 250 high x 300 mm deep, beginning 960 mm off of the floor level. None of the boxes is blocked or contains alighting ledges and there is no clear evidence of the use of limewash or lime plaster. The rows of the boxes are complete except around the entrance door and the five former flight holes. Three flight holes are now blocked and are splayed internally in two directions to increase the opening size, whilst the two remaining open flight holes possess only one splayed ingo.

The doocot is now hidden from view from the house by trees and a, "... *dramatically crowstepped farm-steading*"[302], which is only 15 m away to the north-east, sited between the doocot and the late eighteenth century/early nineteenth century L-plan walled garden. The 1869 Ordnance Survey map shows the doocot much as it is today, sited at the western edge of the landscaped policies with mature trees beginning 30 m to the south and 50 m to the east, whilst the area to the immediate west of the doocot is open agricultural land.[303] The southern approach road to the present mansion is 150 m away to the east.

Written: April 1996

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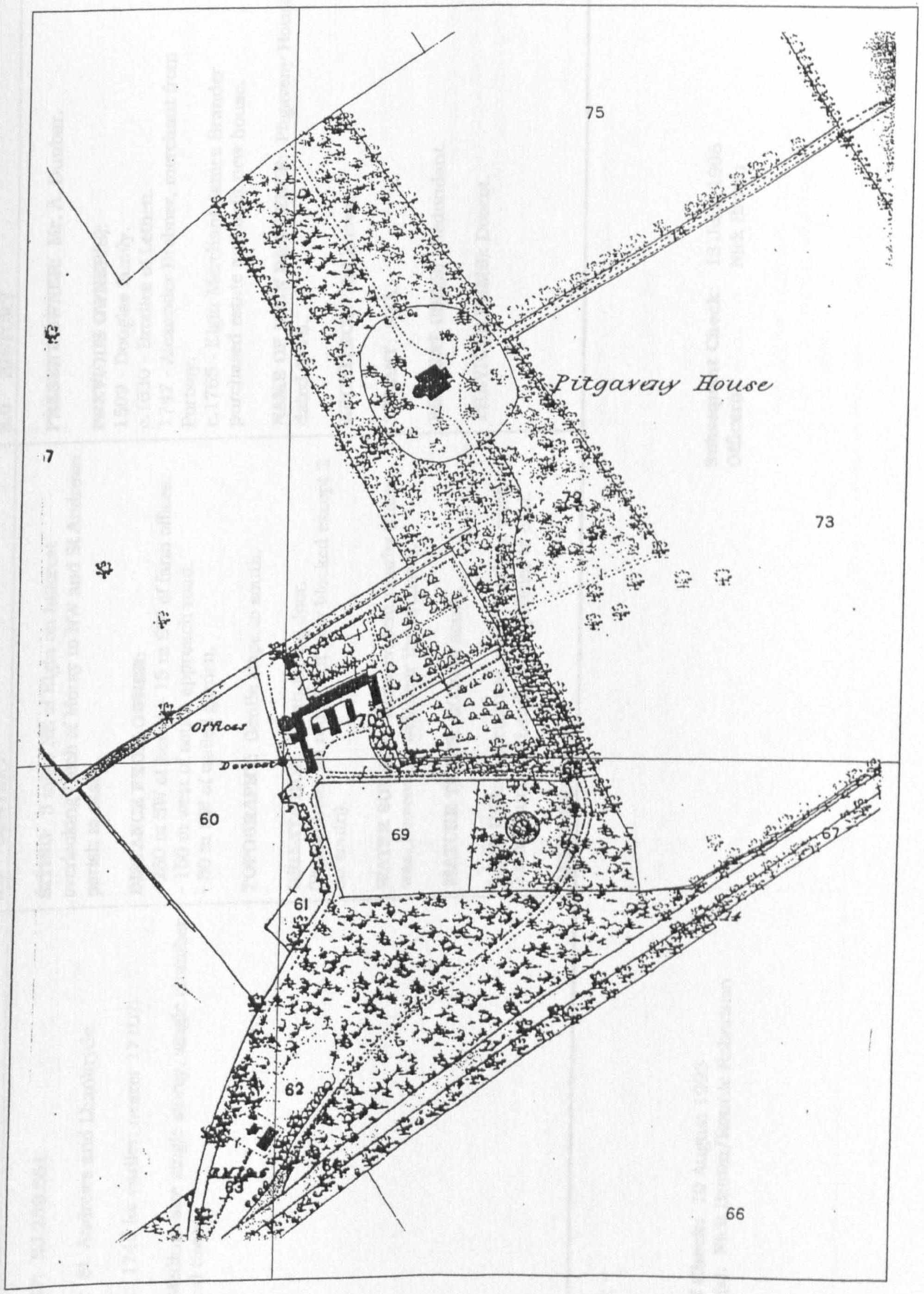
299 Secretary of State Statutory Listing, Moray District, St Andrews and Lhanbryde Parish, Item 14, p. 15.
300 Douglas, loc. cit.
301 Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 25.
302 McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 106.
303 1869 O.S. kept in Grant Lodge, Elgin (also found in the National Map Library of Scotland).



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Pitgaveny Doocot (Fig. 5.5.10)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION

GRID REF: NJ 239 651.

PARISH: St. Andrews and Lhanbryde.

DATE: c. 1745 (or earlier; nearer 1710?)

TYPE: Medium size single storey, single chamber cylindrical tower.

2.0 CONTEXT

SITING: 3 miles NE of Elgin on hillcrest overlooking Laich of Moray to NW and St Andrews parish to east.

DISTANCE FROM OWNER:
- 230 m SW of house - 15 m SW of farm offices.
- 150 m west of south approach road.
- 80 m SW of walled garden.

TOPOGRAPHY: Gentle slope to south.

ORIENTATION: North facing door.
(Pigeon holes all round but now blocked except 2 on south).

WATER SOURCE: None evident nearby (there was, however, a well near the orchard).

MATURE TREES: 30 m to south.

LAND USE: Agricultural immediately to west; Farm Court and Landscaped policies to east.

ALTITUDE: 38 m.

3.0 HISTORY

PRESENT OWNER: Mr. A. Dunbar.

PREVIOUS OWNER(S):
1599 - Douglas family.
c.1630 - Brodies of Lethen.
1747 - Alexander Brebner, merchant from Portsoy.
c.1765 - Elgin Merchant James Brander purchased estate and built new house.

NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE: Pitgaveny House dated 1776.

ARCHITECT: Not known.

TENANT: N/A.

PRESENT USE(S): Redundant.

PREVIOUS USE(S): Doocot.

NOTES: -

Date of Check: 10 August 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 13 June 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent. **REPAIRS:** Restored in 1977, at a cost of £3,500. **ALTERATIONS:** Possibly harling removed. Flight holes blocked. Cupola removed? Later door. **FUTURE RISK:** Not under imminent threat (some young elderberry trees growing at building base however).	**PLAN FORM:** Circular. **PLAN SIZE:** 5.25 m diameter. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 4.1 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 6.6 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Courses of large random rubble built using lime mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Stugged sandstone rubble with rough dressings around openings. **WALL THICKNESS:** 780 mm. **WALL FINISH:** Flush pointed later lime/cement mortar (although traces of harling remain on some stones). **ROOF FORM:** Conical. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 16 rafters 125 x 50 mm with row of 100 x 50 mm ties at wallhead and midway height respectively. **ROOF PITCH:** 40 degrees. **ROOF FINISH:** Diminishing courses of 15 mm thick sandstone slates projecting 100 mm beyond wallface (at 60 mm stone eaves bandcourse) fixed to firred vertical sarking pieces.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Later outward opening vertically boarded ledged and braced timber. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** N/A. **DOOR SIZE:** 1560 mm (h) x 940 mm (w). **DOOR SITING:** North facing. **LEDGES:** One 60mm thick stone ledge around perimeter projecting 100 mm. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 2.9 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 17 m. **APERTURES:** None. **VENT HOLES:** Only flight holes (and possibly former cupola). **FLIGHT HOLES:** 5 equally spaced 300 x 300mm holes (one centred above door) immediately above ledge - 3 blocked, 2 southerly holes still open. All splayed internally. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** Say 5 flight holes = 0.45m². **LIMEWASH:** No clear evidence. **DORMERS:** No. **SKEWS:** N/A. **FINIALS:** No. **WEATHER VANE:** No (lead sheet now acts as apex capping with small ventilation provision beneath).

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Stone step up 50 mm.

PARTITION WALLS: None.

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Flat topped stone cobbles.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement all round to wallhead using hewn 100mm sandstone uprights and 50 mm sandstone slabs (some built into wall core).

NEST BOX NUMBER: 320.

NEST BOX SIZE: 280 (s) x 250 (h) x 300 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 960 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: None.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: No clear evidence.

COLLECTING AID: None (although depression in centre of floor suggests central pole).

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL:
say 320 x 2 x 0.7 = 448.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 18.6 m^3

OTHER:

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:

- Date – Earlier than present mansion, probably between 1630 and 1747. Location of previous house.

- Why door facing north and slightly uphill? Wind and rain?

- Former existence of cupola?

- Why straight ingoes to 2 remaining flight holes and splayed for other 3?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1970, p. 25.

R. Douglas, The Dovecots of Moray, 1931, pp. 11, **42, 43**.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, pp. 375, **380**.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecots, 1981, p. 61.

D. Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181, 185.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p 106.

E. Black, Impressions of Moray, 1931, pp. 28-9, illustrated.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: St Andrews & Lhanbryde Parish, No. 14, p. 15, Category B, 1971.

SMR: NJ 26 NW 12

MAPS: 1869, 1902, 1965 OS.
General Roy's Military Map of Moray c. 1750
Sir William Gordon's Map of the Loch of Spynie, 1783, by Hugh Kinnaird held in Grant Lodge, Elgin.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER: Estate info:-

J. & W. Watson, Moray Described, 1868, (1983ed), pp. 115-6.

I. Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed), pp. 108-9.

W. Leslie, General Review of Agriculture for Nairn and Moray, 1813, p. 47.

L. Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, vol. 1, pp. 332-3.

R. Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, pp. 206-8 and pp. 223-9.



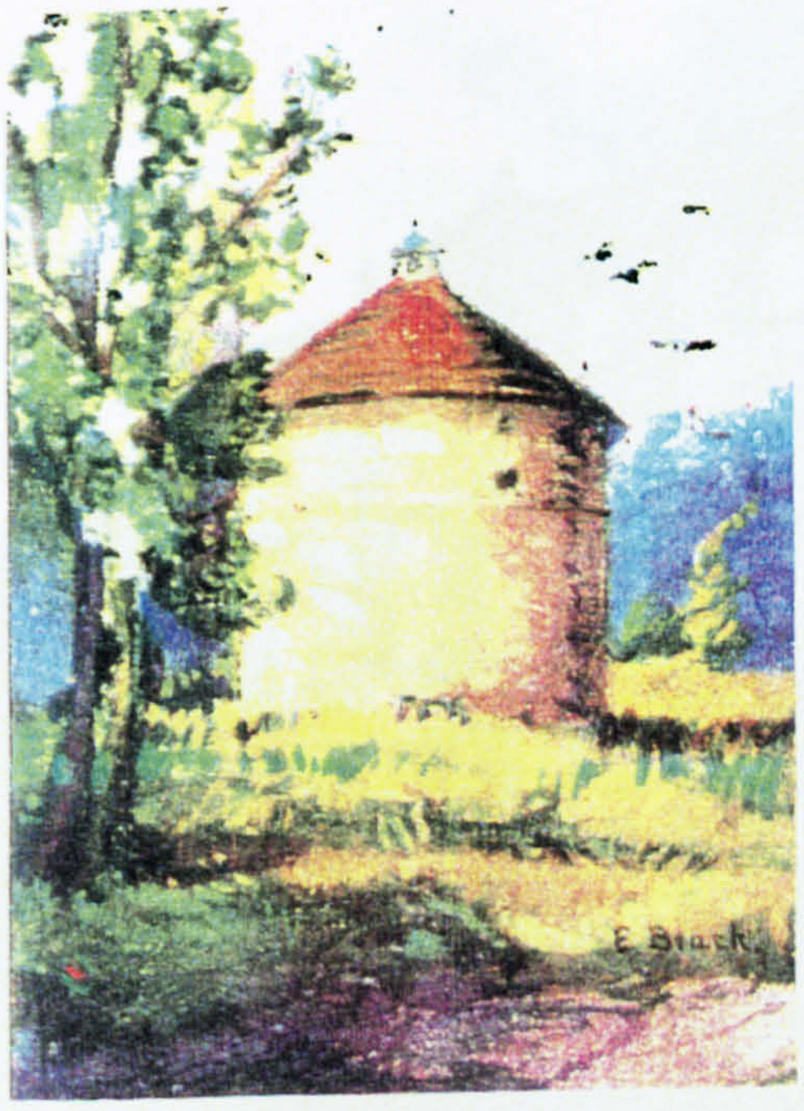
PITGAVENY DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.10.1)

View of doocot from the north showing the squat cylindrical stone structure sited just next to a farm track. The Home Farm Block is found on the other side of the track, left of picture.

The small entrance door at ground level faces north, possibly to protect it from the prevailing wind and/or to look towards an earlier tower house. A blocked flight hole is just visible above the string course centre picture.



PITGAVENY DOOCOT 1993 (Plate 5.5.10.2)
View of doocot from the south east showing the two remaining square flight holes which are positioned immediately above the single stringcourse. The walls are well built of sandstone rubble and the reconstructed conical roof uses diminishing courses of sandstone 'slates'.



PITGAVENY DOOCOT C. 1930 (Plate 5.5.10.3)

Reproduction of Emma Black's 1931 water-colour of the doocot, apparently from the south east. The walls are light and probably demonstrate a former lime harling finish (although the effect of strong sunlight must be taken account of). The painting illustrates a small, open cupola at the apex of the roof, and judging by the general accuracy of Black's other works, it is assumed that such a feature did exist.



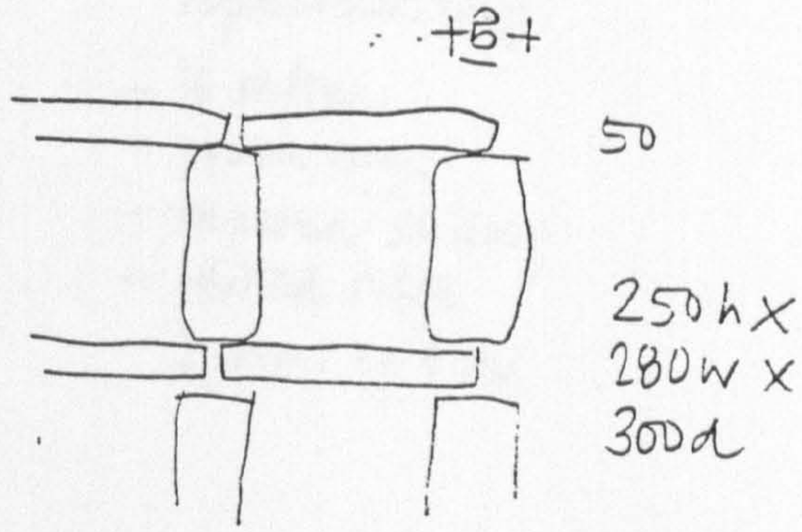
PITGAVENY HOUSE, 1997 (Plate 5.5.10.4)

Front elevation of the present mansion as viewed from the east. This classic cube was built for James Brander in 1776 (and has been recently subject to an extensive repair programme).

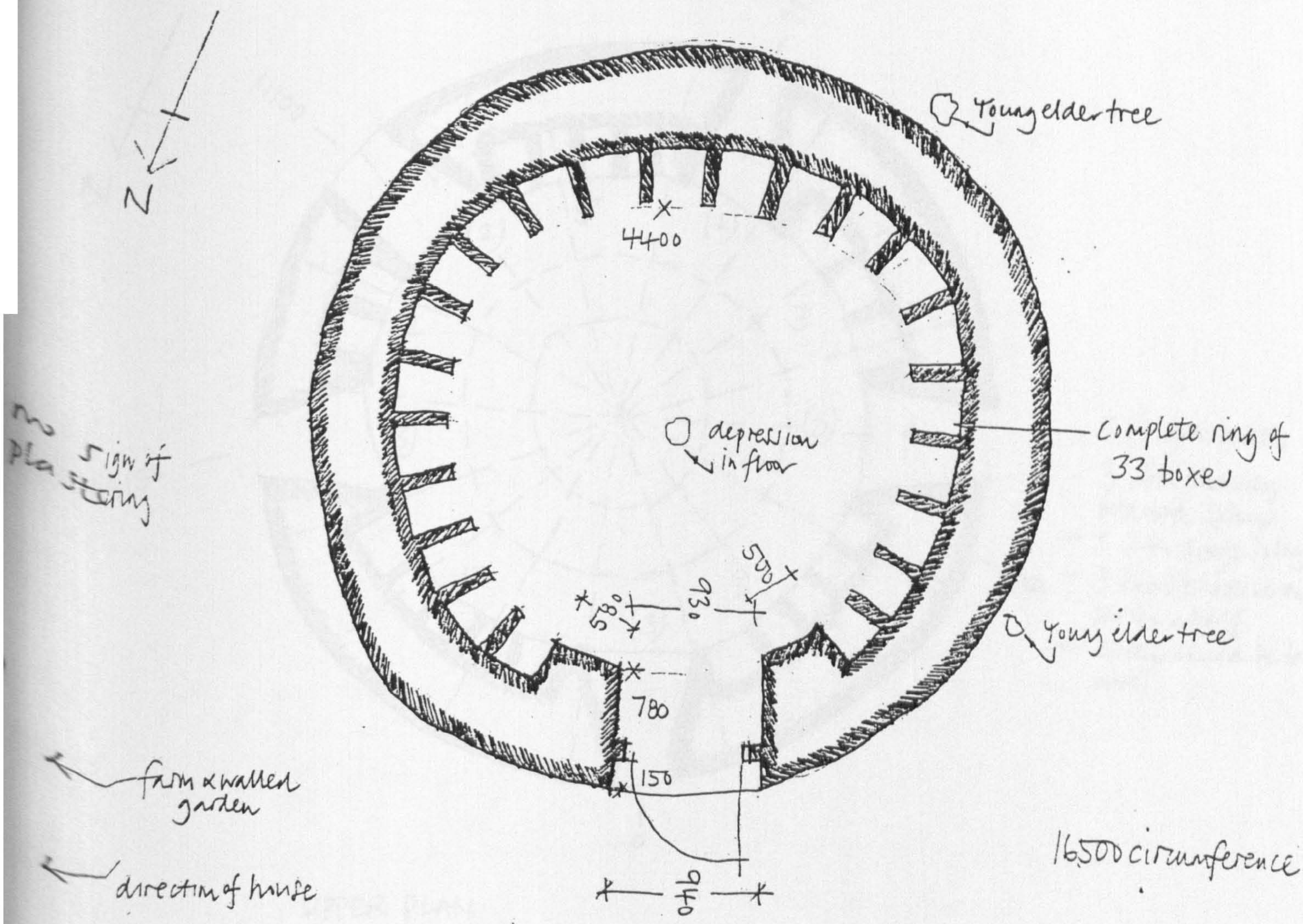
The doocot, which is most likely earlier than the mansion, is located about 200 m away left of picture.

Box number

Rows	1 & 2	= 54
	3 & 4	= 61
	5, 6 & 7	= 99
	8, 9	= 40
	10, 11	= 66
		320



Sandstone boxes

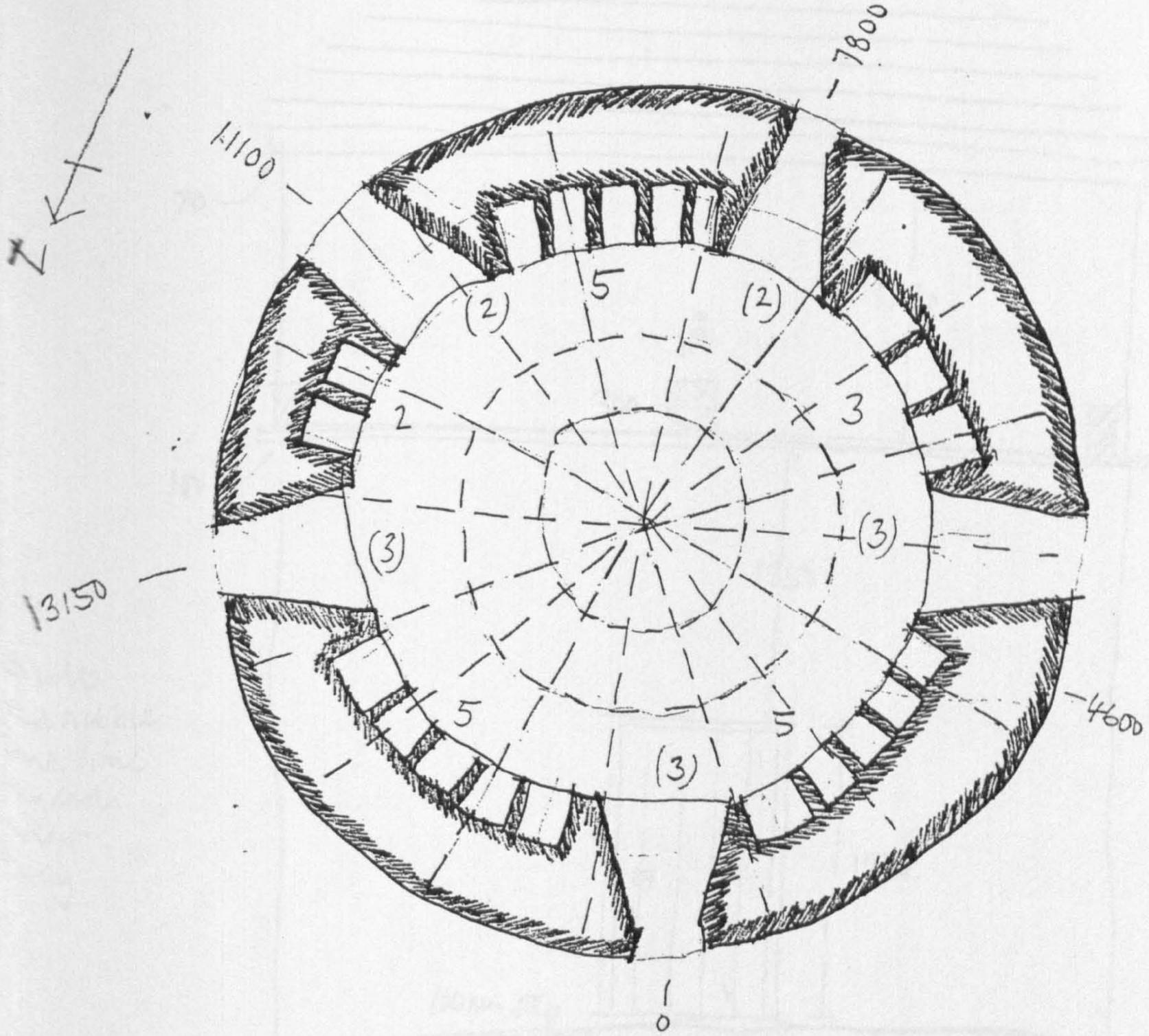


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

1 of 4

SURVEY OF
PITGAVENY DOOCOT
NB 10/8/93

replacement roof
- 16 rafters
- purlin rings
- tapered sarking
- vented ridge
- 2 rows of tiles

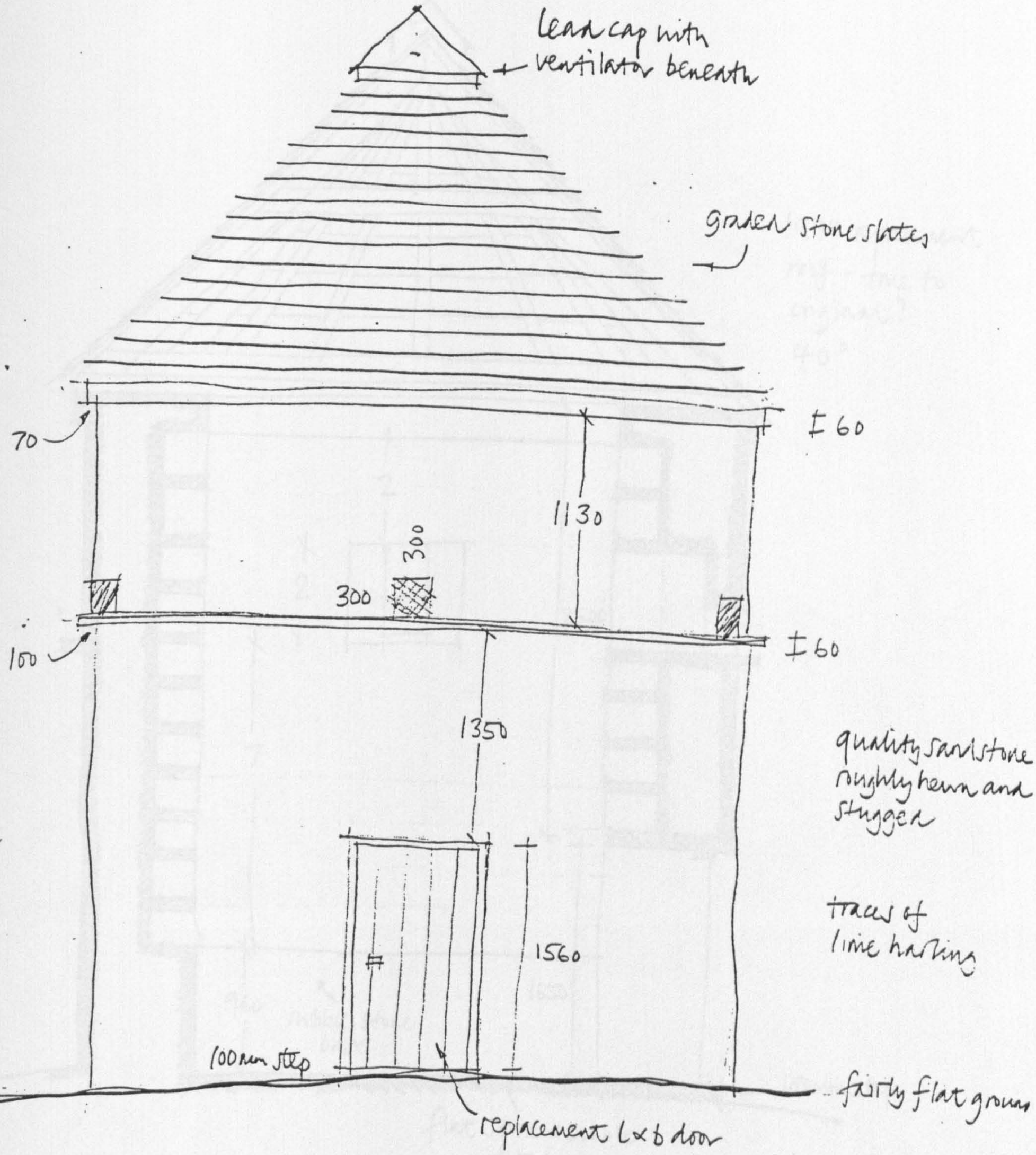


- 5 flight holes
- 3 with two way internal splays
- 2 with single splays
- 3 holes blocked on northern half
- splays could be later work

UPPER PLAN

2 of 4

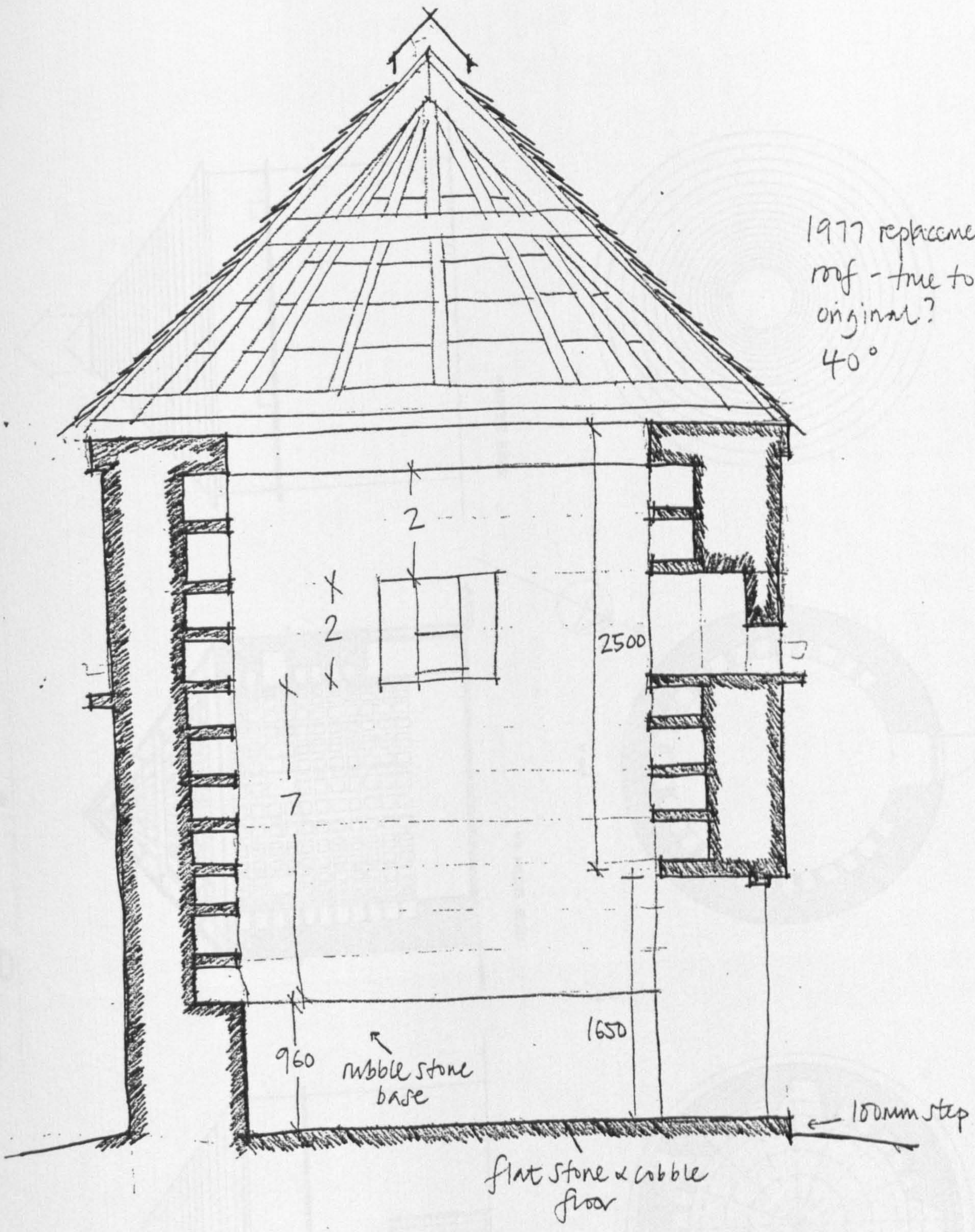
SURVEY OF
PITGAVENY DOOCOT
NB 10/8/93



NORTH ELEVATION

3 of 4

SURVEY OF
PITGAVENY DOOCOT
MB 10/8/93

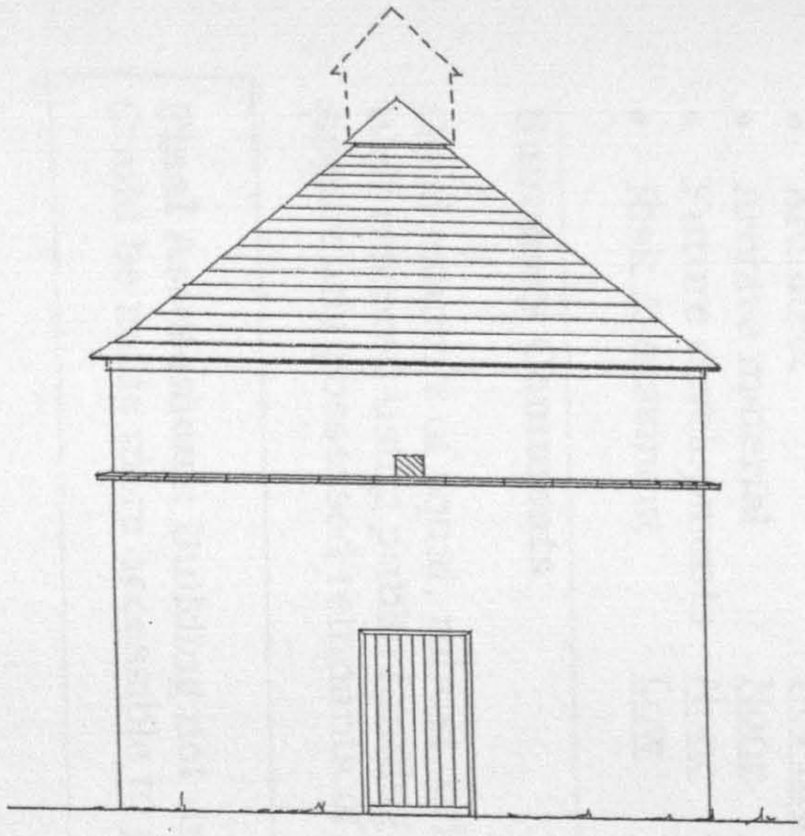


CROSS SECTION

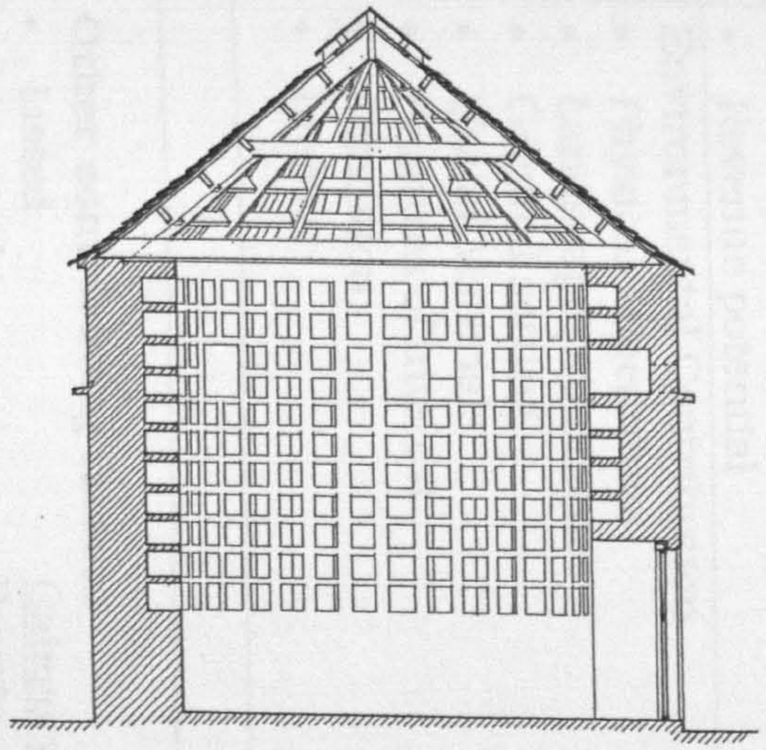
SURVEY OF PITGAVENY DOOCOT
NB 10/8/93

4 of 4

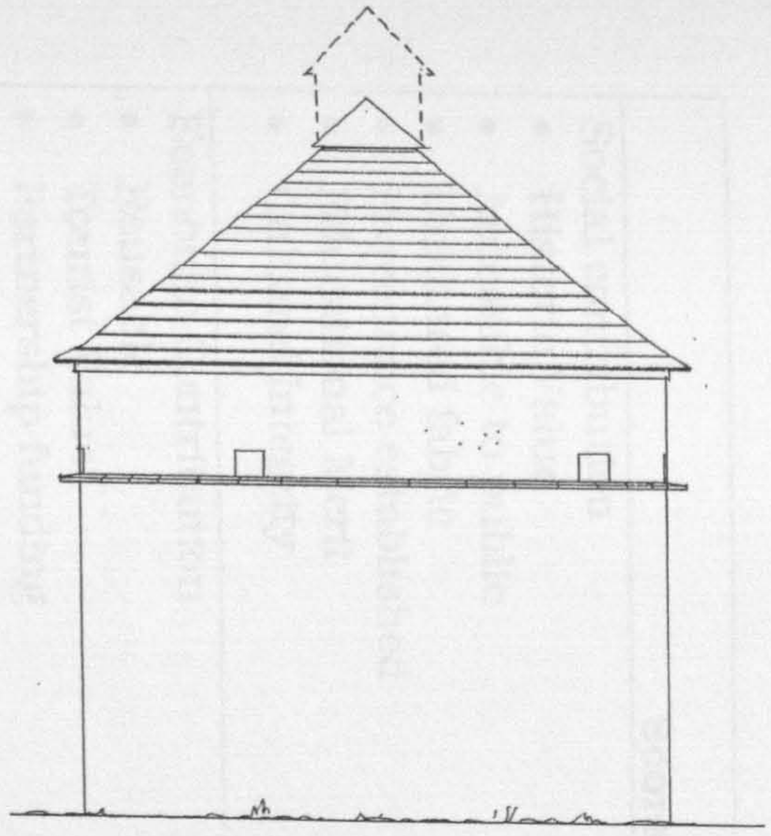
Pitgaveny Doocot



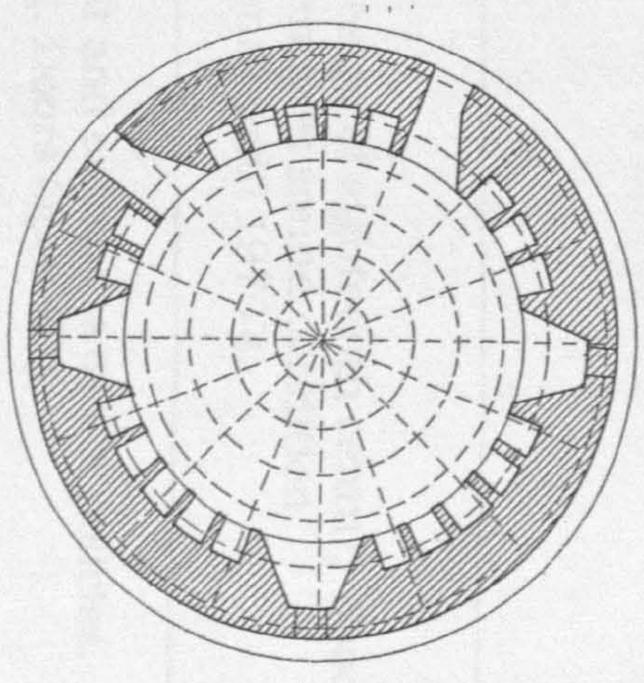
NORTH ELEVATION



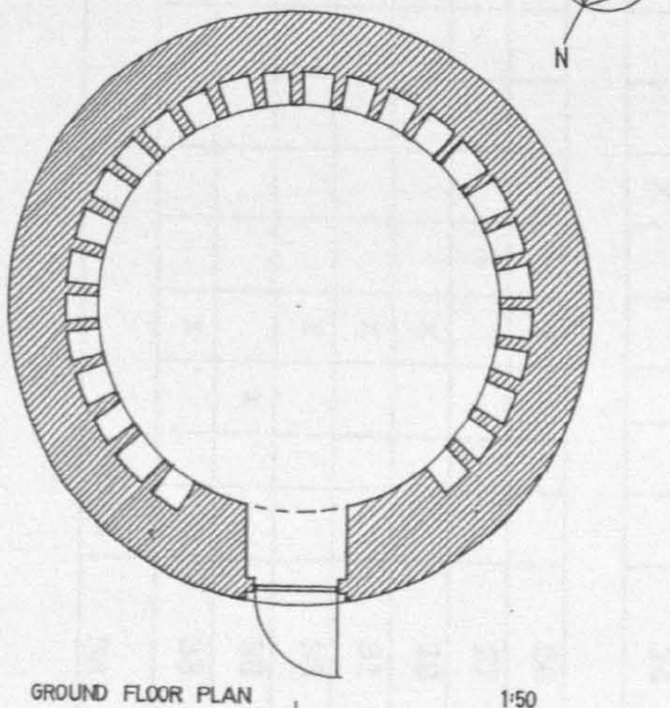
CROSS SECTION AA



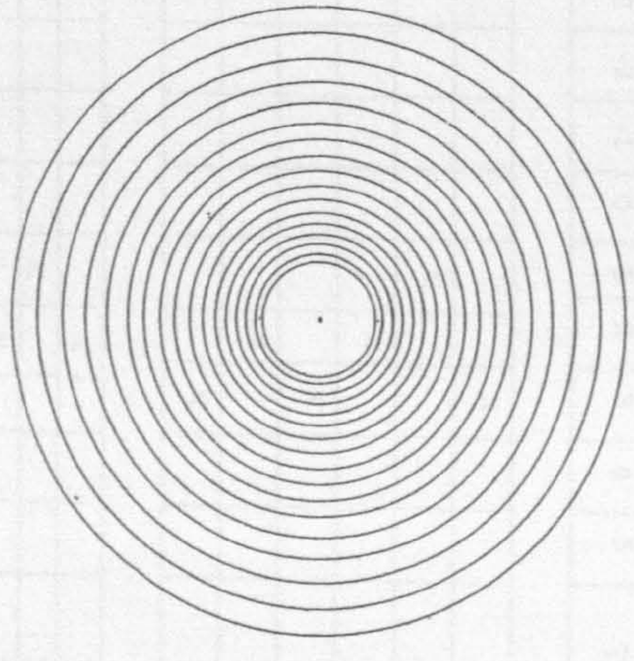
SOUTH ELEVATION



UPPER FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50



ROOF PLAN

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: PITGAVENY DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 239 651

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public							x					4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established									x			9
• Educational Merit								x				11
• Cultural Integrity									x			14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable								x				16
• Tourist Value							x					17
• Partnership funding								x				19
• Capital costs								x				21
• Maintenance costs									x			24
• Revenue potential						x						24
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				26
• Landscape prominence							x					27
• Original setting								x				29
• Use of Materials								x				31
• Features of interest								x				33
• Condition									x			36
• Interior								x				38
											TOTAL	38

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private – Mr. A. Dunbar
- Architect — Not Known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Good example of squat, robust, cylindrical design of eighteenth century doocot.
Well restored using public funding and presently in sound condition.
Apparently possessed remnants of early potence until 1970's.

Final Assessment: Building not under threat and enhances estate policies.
Could be made more accessible to public, e.g. Doors Open Day.

5.5.11 WESTER ELCHIES DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 256 430

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Wester Elchies Doocot is an unpretentious example of a large, freestanding, single chamber and single storey, rectangular pavilion doocot. At an altitude of 175 m, Wester Elchies is one of Moray's highest doocots. It is located about seventeen miles up the River Spey on a north-west ridge, overlooking the Spey Valley to the south-east, and was associated with the now demolished Wester Elchies House, built in 1681 by the Grant family as, "... *an outpost of Castle Grant.*"[304]

The doocot stands alone about 100 m due south of where the castellated mansion once stood. It is orientated longitudinally on the north/south axis and, since it follows the slope down to the River Spey 450 m away to the south, and therefore, "... *contrary to usual custom the cote has its shortest sides facing south and north....*"[305]. One of four access roads (two to the north, one to the west, one from the south) lead up to the former mansion and the doocot is sited only 10 m away from the southern access roadway. The north-west corner of the walled garden is only 20 m to the east of the doocot and mature trees now divide the two. There was once an observatory sited between the mansion and the doocot, but not in a way which would obscure the line of view and the home farm is only some 200m to the west. The doocot, therefore, was an integral part of the nineteenth century landscaped policies with agricultural land to the immediate west and south providing, not only feed for the inhabitants but also, an unspoilt prospect of the valley beyond.

It is known that the Grant family still had possession of the house in the nineteenth century and the late eighteenth century owner, Robert Grant, a cadet of the Ballindalloch family who had a similar doocot at Ballindalloch Castle, thought to be dated 1696. Despite acknowledgement of the rationale behind Wester Elchies Doocot's, "... *seventeenth century*"

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304 J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p. 77. Castle Grant was the seat of this significant family.

305 Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 29.
It is more commonplace for main elevations to be southerly facing. This doocot may be orientated to face down the entrance driveway.

dating,[306] the architecture is plainer and less baronial than the seventeenth century tower house, "... *a castellated building, standing upon a picturesque elevation*"[307], and may therefore belong to the eighteenth century. Its striking similarities with the larger structure further up the Spey at Ballindalloch suggests that Wester Elchies doocot could have been built, "*At the end of the eighteenth century [when] it passed into the hands of ... Robert Grant being a scion of Ballindalloch nearby who had made a large fortune.*"[308] It is, however, recorded within an Edinburgh newspaper of 1764 as forming part of the estate 'to let' so is at least accredited with a mid eighteenth century dating.[309] John McCann, suggests that dovecotes with the nest boxes raised "*four feet*" above the floor level have been constructed after around 1735-40[310]. He also suggests a possible prototype design for the missing 'cupola' referred to earlier by Douglas.

> At most dovecotes the pigeon entered by a turret on the roof called a *louver* ... the most common form of louver has a rectangular turret with sets of parallel boards inclined at 45 degrees on two or four sides. The boards allowed pigeons to alight and pass through, but were so spaced as to prevent the larger birds of prey from penetrating to the interior. The interval between them was therefore critical – between 152 and 156 mm ... The louver tends to be the most decayed part of the structure, because it is the most exposed to weather and the least accessible for maintenance.[311]

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306 Beaton, loc. cit.

307 Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, vol. 1, p. 111.

308 Tranter, Fortified House in Scotland, 1970, vol. 5, p. 126.
Although Ballindalloch doocot has a datestone1696, the building has almost certainly been altered in the eighteenth century, so either the datestone belongs to the foundation fabric, or has been reused from elsewhere.

309 Caledonian Mercury, 16/5/1764 held in The National Library of Scotland, s.v.
'To LET, THE MAINS OF WESTER ELCHIES',
"*The MANSION HOUSE OF WESTER ELCHIES, Garden, Hot-House, Pigeon-House, Washing-House, and whole other conveniences ... nearly 300 acres of arable or pasture land.*"
The advert goes on to record the rich game life in the area,
"*If a respectable candidate appears for the whole premises, he will have the privilege to fish for salmon and trout in the Spey, for several miles on both sides, and to shoot over all the proprietor's estates and moors, which are of vast extent, and aboundwith grouse, ptarmigan, wood-cock, red deer and roe, and all other kinds of moor and field game.*"

310 J. McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 110. These dates coincide with the entry of the Brown Rat to Britain and the publication of advice, e.g., Anon, Sprtman's Dictionary, c. 1735, to counter its predictions. McCann, however, notes that the Brown Rat did not make in-roads into some parts of rural Moray even in the early nineteenth century.

311 J. McCann, 'Conservation of Historic Dovecotes', 1995, p. 83.

Douglas stated that, "... *inside the building there are 4 cross beams*"[312] and it could be assumed that these were the basis of some form of scaffolding device to act as a collecting aid to reach the upper sections of the boxes. Douglas also said, sixty five years ago, that, "... *trees also have established their roots and are growing from the walls from the string course. If something is not done to preserve this erection it will soon be in ruins.*"[313] Fortunately for this, "... *probably late eighteenth century*"[314] building, action was taken to cut down these trees, but not before significant cracks had opened up, particularly in the west wall including some displacement of the masonry. Although the doocot was previously reported in the 1970's by the Regional Archaeologist as being in good condition[315], the trees are, nevertheless, still alive, so the current owner has recently taken steps to poison the stumps. Failure, however, to completely remove these defiant trees, stitch the cracks and repair the roof, will increasingly direct this doocot towards the point of collapse.

Nevertheless, as a solitary vestige of the seventeenth century Z-plan fortified house, it is naturally hoped that steps are taken to ensure that the original fabric of this Category B listed building is maintained in good order and it may be that some future reuse can be established to make the repairs more economically justifiable.

It should, however, be rememebered that McCann's experience of dovecotes is primarily restricted to southern England.

312 Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 47.

313 Ibid.

314 Ibid.

315 Grampian Regional Council Archaeologist's Sites and Monuments Record No. NJ 24 SE11.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Wester Elchies doocot is rectangular in plan, 7.3 x 5.2 m, with a wallhead height of 4.6 m and an overall height of 7 m. Its 750 mm thick walls, including the nest boxes, are constructed in random rubble, built in vertical lifts of about 600 mm, with fairly uniform use of dark coloured granite and sandstone which is pinned with smaller slate or stone pieces. It has reasonably-squared corner quoins and the Secretary of State's listing records that it has, "... *some re-used dressings*"[316] around its doorway. Still good evidence exists to confirm that the walls were coated in two thin coats of reddish-coloured harling with a white limewash finish.

The roof is piended on all four sides and is a twentieth century replacement, possibly true to the original design, using machine-cut, 150 x 65 mm, rafters at 500 mm centres. Similarly sized cross ties are located half-way up and the roof structure is clad externally using 20 mm sarking boards. It is pitched at 42° and is finished using blue/grey, 10 mm thick, Ballachulish slates, of uniform grade and gauge, with lead hip flashings on wood core rolls. The slates do not project sufficiently far enough beyond the wall plane to clear rainwater from the 70 mm thick single, "... *slab rat course*"[317], which projects 140 mm all around the building 820 mm below eaves level. This suggests that the original roof supported much larger heavier slates. Douglas recorded in 1931 that, "... *there is a square wooden cupola on the top with entrances for the birds but this has now been removed and slated over.*"[318] The former presence of a central ridge cupola, approximately 600 mm square, is still evident today (by the slight difference in detail and colour around a patched area of slate).

A single, generously proportioned, vertically boarded timber door, 870 wide x 1760 mm high, is to be found centred on the east facing wall. This looks down the south access road which approaches, either from the neighbouring estate of Easter Elchies or, from the former public ferry across the Spey. The doorway appears to be the only original opening in the wall masonry although a later, 450 wide x 600 mm wide opening is now to be found 2 m above ground level and centred on the south-facing wall, just below the projecting ledge[319]. This opening now provides daylight and ventilation for an inner chamber which contains a reasonably linear arrangement of 664 boxes. These are constructed on all four walls to wallhead height using 80-100 mm, roughly-squared, stone uprights with 50-80 mm stone horizontals, which frequently include a thin slate piece to provide a smoother surface for the box.[320] The boxes are 240 wide x 250 high x 240 mm deep and are raised 1170 mm above the floor level, although none appears to be deliberately blocked except a few around the doorway. The joints are bonded using lime mortar and there is sufficient evidence to show that the rears of the boxes, if not the sides too, had been plastered and limewashed. Two timber cross beams are to be found intact and are inserted about half-way up into the boxes, with a further beam having fallen to the floor.

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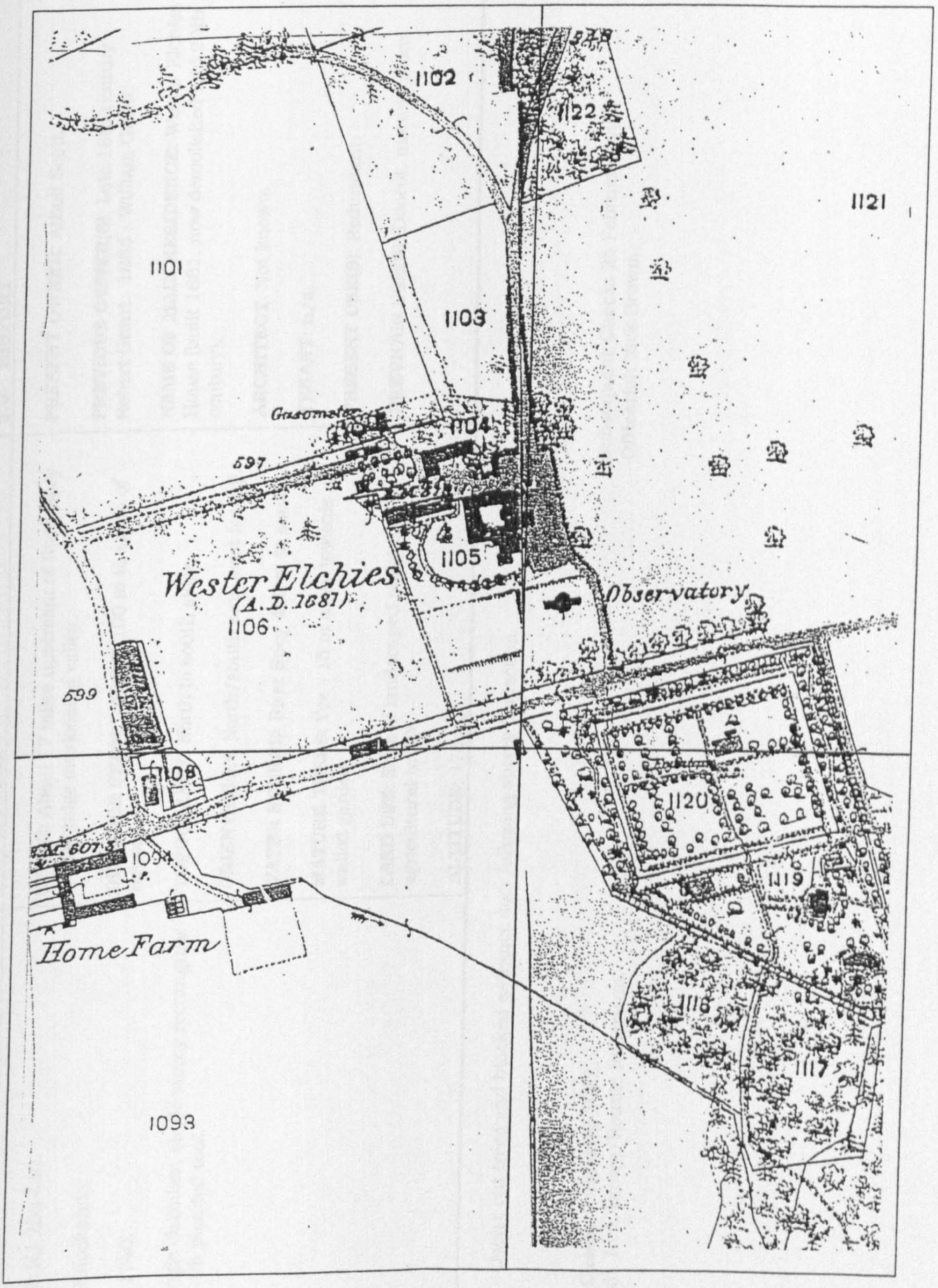
316 Secretary of State, Statutory List, Knockando Parish, Item 12, p. 12.

317 Sec. of State, Ibid.

318 Douglas, loc. cit.

319 J. Severn, Dovecotes of Nottinghamshire, 1986, p. 20 observes that "*some dovecotes also have windows usually built above the rat-ledge; those now having windows below have probably been altered to provide other uses at a later date.*"

320 The Sec. Of State, op. cit., states, "... *594 stone nesting boxes*", whereas GRC, op. cit., records around, "*950 nest-holes*". The latter is probably a typing error which should read 590.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 256 430. **PARISH**: Knockando. **DATE**: c. 1740. **TYPE**: Single chamber, single storey rectangular pavilion with piended roof.	**SITING**: About 17 miles upstream of River Spey on NW ridge overlooking valley. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 100 m to south of house. **TOPOGRAPHY**: North to south slope. **ORIENTATION**: North/south axis.(east facing). **WATER SOURCE**: River Spey 450 m to south. **MATURE TREES**: Yes - 15 m away towards walled garden. **LAND USE**: Edge of landscaped policies - agricultural to SW. **ALTITUDE**: 175 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Atholl Scott. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Late 18th century - Robert Grant. 1865 - William Grant. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Wester Elchies House (built 1681, now demolished mid 20th century). **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: n/a. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Doocot, manure store.

NOTES: - Owner cut trees and blocked entrance door following survey inspection.

Date of Check: 7 January 1993.
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson.

Subsequent Check: 25 February 1996.
Officer(s): Nick Brown.

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Rapidly deteriorating. **REPAIRS:** Re-roofed early 20th century. **ALTERATIONS:** South aperture, types of slates, glover removed. **FUTURE RISK:** Continued neglect, failure to remove tree growth and stitch cracks, continued vandalism etc. may soon result in significant loss.	**PLAN FORM:** Rectangular. **PLAN SIZE:** 7.3 x 5.2m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 4.6m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 7 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Pinned random rubble, built in lifts of about 600 mm. **WALL MATERIAL:** Fairly uniform use of granite with granite, slate and sandstone pinnings. **WALL THICKNESS:** 750 mm. **WALL FINISH:** 2 thin coats of reddish harling with top coats of white limewash. **ROOF FORM:** Piended on all 4 sides. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** Replacement roof using machine cut 150 x 65 mm rafters at 500 mm centres with cross ties halfway up and mixture of varying widths of 20 mm sarking boards. **ROOF PITCH:** 42°. **ROOF FINISH:** Later blue/grey 10 mm thick Ballachulish slates of uniform grade and gauge with lead hip flashings on wood core rolls.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Vertically boarded ledged door with wooden frame (early but not original). **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** N/A **DOOR SIZE:** 1760 (h) x 870 mm (w). **DOOR SITING:** Centred at east facing wall. **LEDGES:** One - 140 x 70 mm perimeter stone ledge 820 mm below eaves. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 3.75 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 25 m. **APERTURES:** 600 (h) x 450 mm (w) later opening in centre of south wall. (below ledge). **VENT HOLES:** None. **FLIGHT HOLES:** Evidence removed. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** Say cupola with 0.8 m^2. **LIMEWASH:** Yes - white. **DORMERS:** Appears glover removed. (No documentary evidence available). **SKEWS:** N/A - lead hips. **FINIALS:** No. **WEATHER VANE:** No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS:

PARTITION WALLS: None.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Reasonably linear arrangement of 80 to 100 mm stone uprights with 50 to 80 mm stone horizontals (sometimes including thin slate piece to provide even base).

NEST BOX NUMBER: 664 (some collapsed at upper levels).

NEST BOX SIZE: 240 (w) x 250 (h) x 240 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 1170 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: Only around door.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Yes - at rear of boxes and around joints.

COLLECTING AID: Remains of timber scaffolding?

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 664 x 2 x 0.7 = 930.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 122 m^3.

OTHER: Remains of 3 cross beams half way up boxes.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:

- why door east facing?
- purpose of later aperture?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 3, **29.**

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 12, 14, 15, **47.**

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p. 375, **381.**

D. Omand (ed.) The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 182, 185.

ARTICLES: Advert 'for let' in the Caledonian Mercury, 16/5/1764 held in The National Library, Edinburgh.

LISTING: Knockando Parish Item 12, p. 12 Category B 1971.

SMR: NJ 24 SE 11.

MAPS: 1870, 1905, 1965 OS Maps.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER: Estate information:

J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp. 77-78

I. Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed.) pp. 27, 284.

MacGibbon & Ross Castellated & Domesticated Architecture, vol. 2, 1869, p. 610.

N. Tranter, Fortified House in Scotland, vol. 5, 1970, pp 125-6.

H. Cochrane,et al. Memories of Wester Elchies, 1986, pp. 1-6.

J. Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, pp. 53-4.

W. Leslie General View of Agriculture, 1813, p. 55



WESTER ELCHIES DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.11.1)

Distant view from the south showing the building sited on the flat of a hill which eventually slopes down to the River Spey. The former mansion was beyond the structure to the north and the walled garden is just out of picture to the right. The vehicular track, to the east of the structure, is not historic.



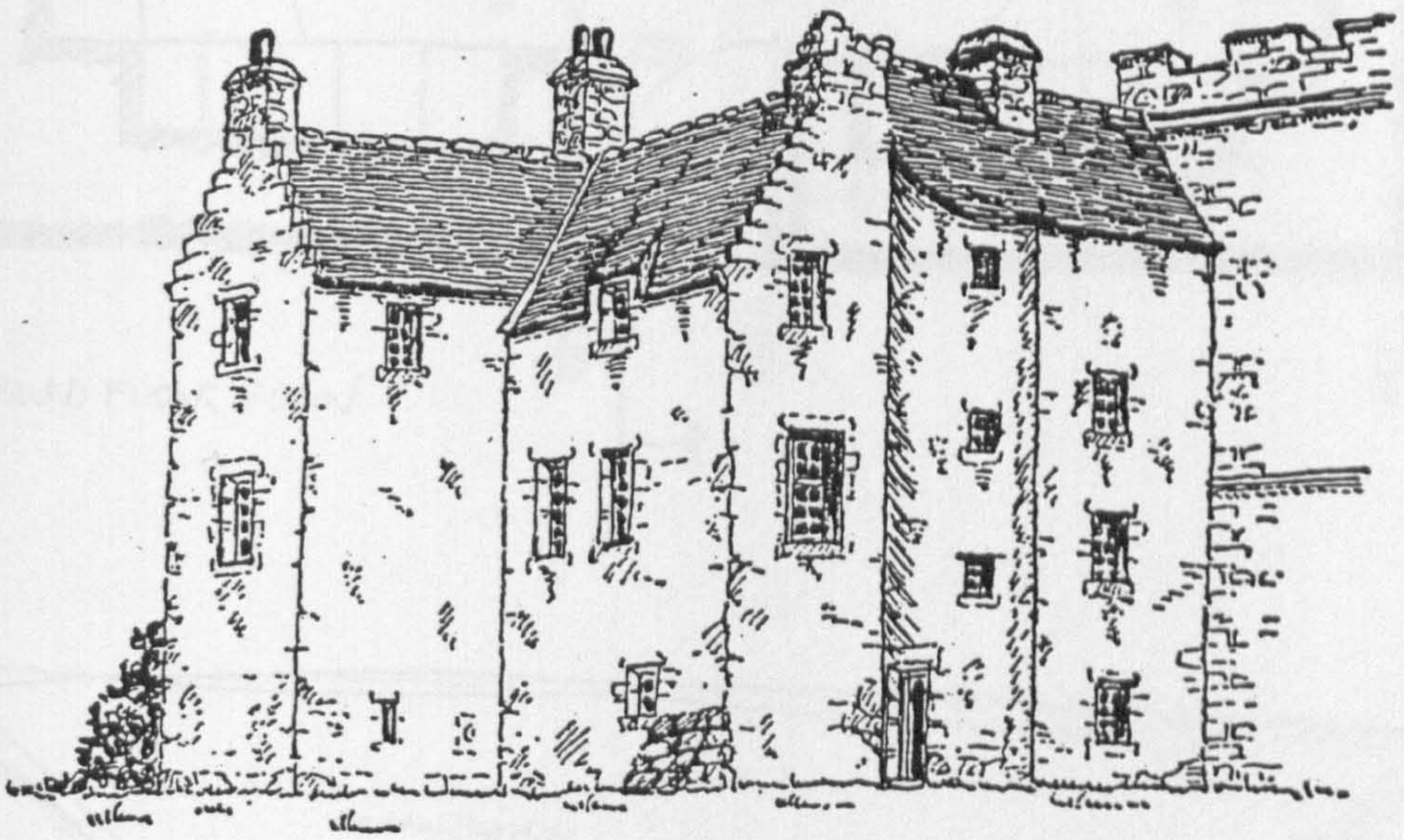
WESTER ELCHIES DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.11.2)

View from the east showing the only wall openings of the building; a central located ground floor door on the long east elevation (incorporating reused masonry rybats) and a small square, later, opening half way up the southern gable. The vegetation growth along the single projecting string course indicates that water is not being properly shed from the structure.



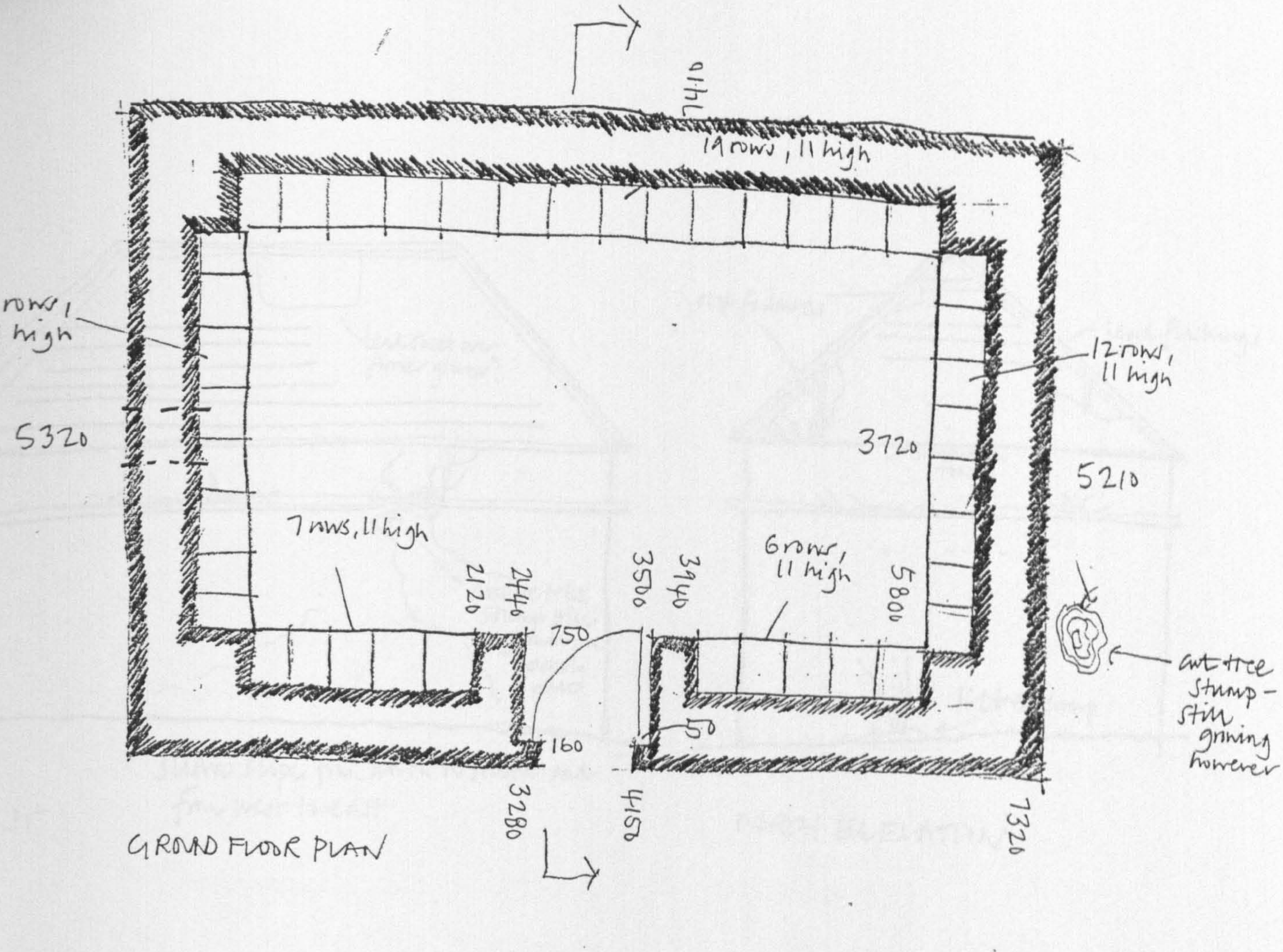
WESTER ELCHIES DOOCOT, 1993 INTERIOR (Plate 5.5.11.3)

Interior photograph illustrating the linear nest box construction using relatively slender uprights. Evidence of limewash/plaster is most evident in bottom right of picture and the timber rail, which is located into two opposing nest boxes, may form part of a collecting aid to upper levels.

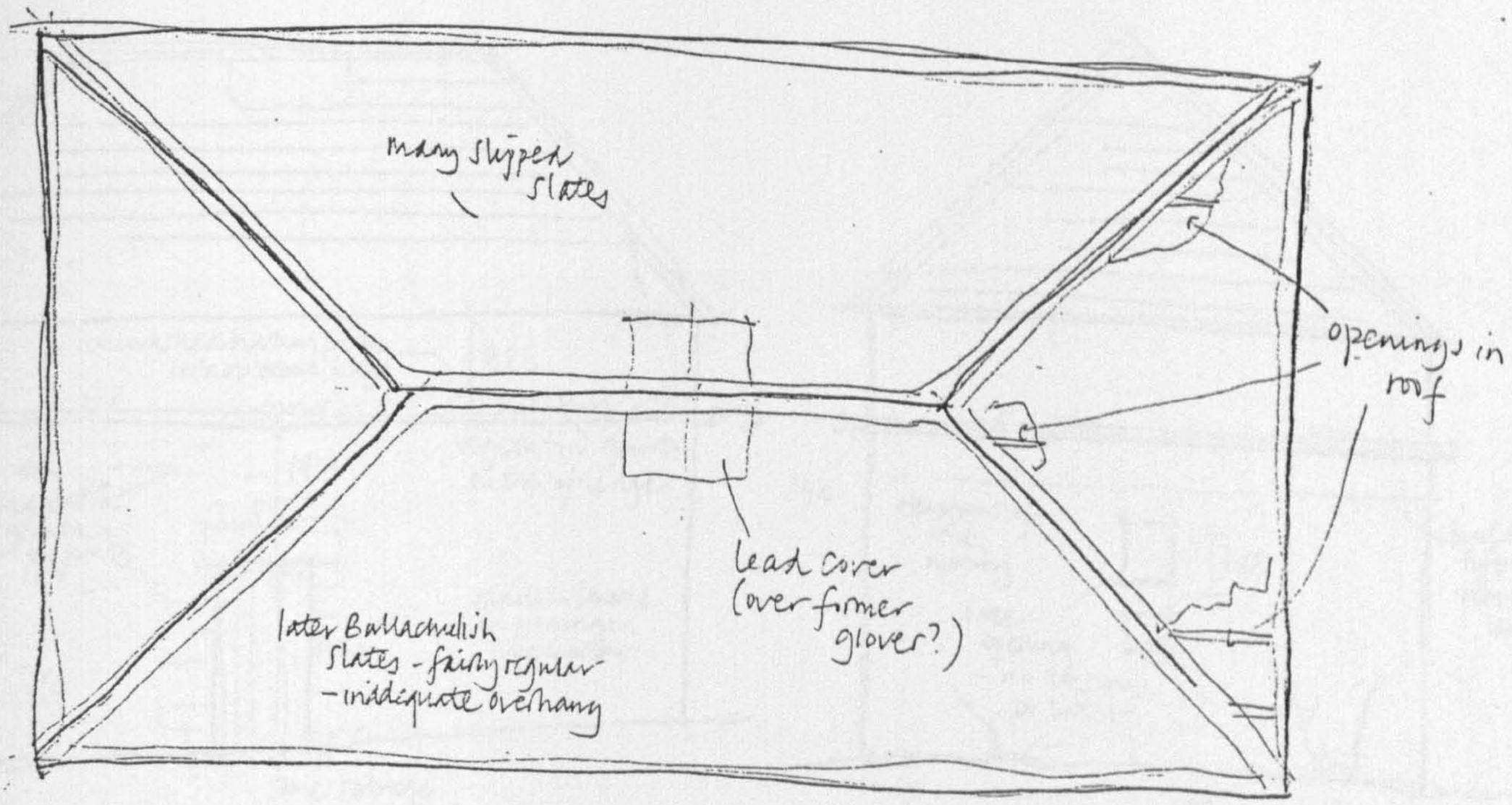


WESTER ELCHIES HOUSE, C. 1685 (Plate 5.5.11.4)

Sketch of former Z-plan tower house c. 1685 (extracted from Tranter's, Fortified House, 1970, p. 125).



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

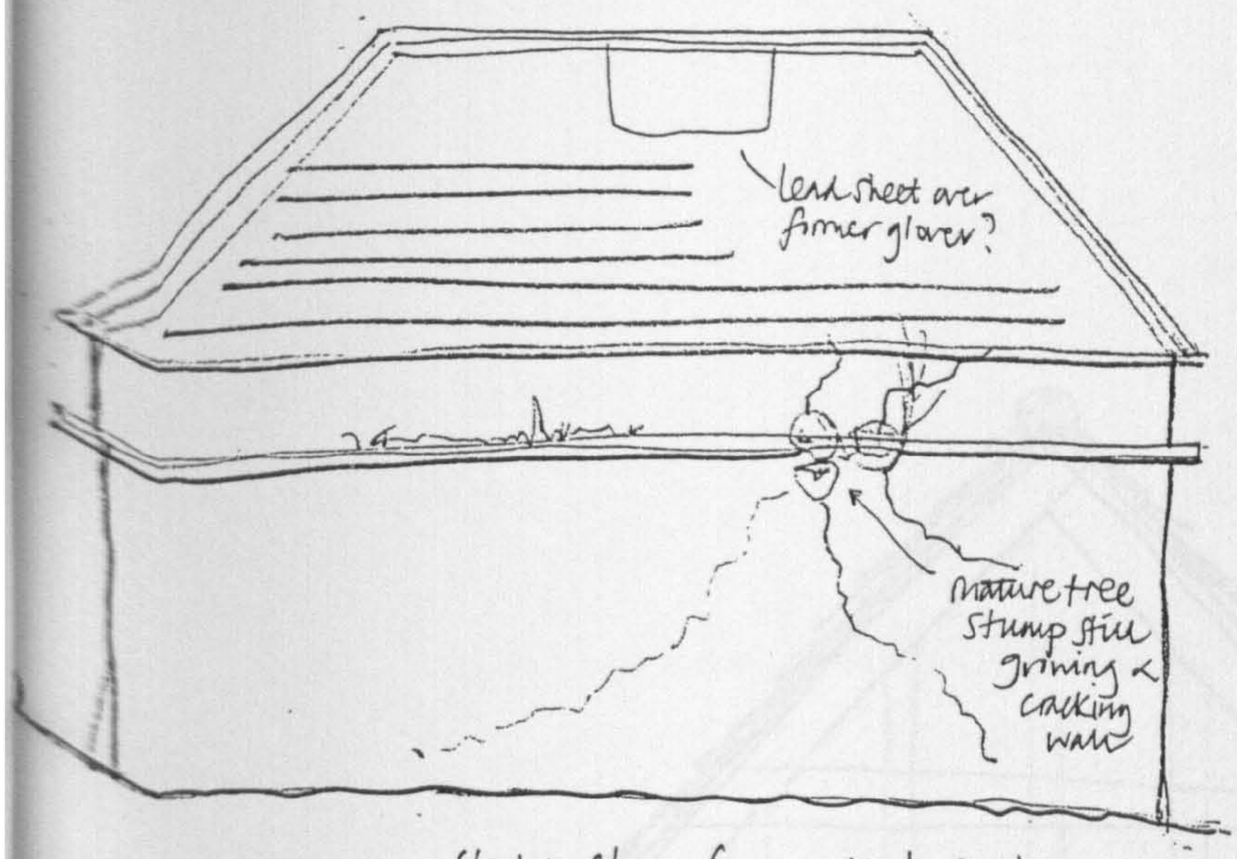


ROOF PLAN

N

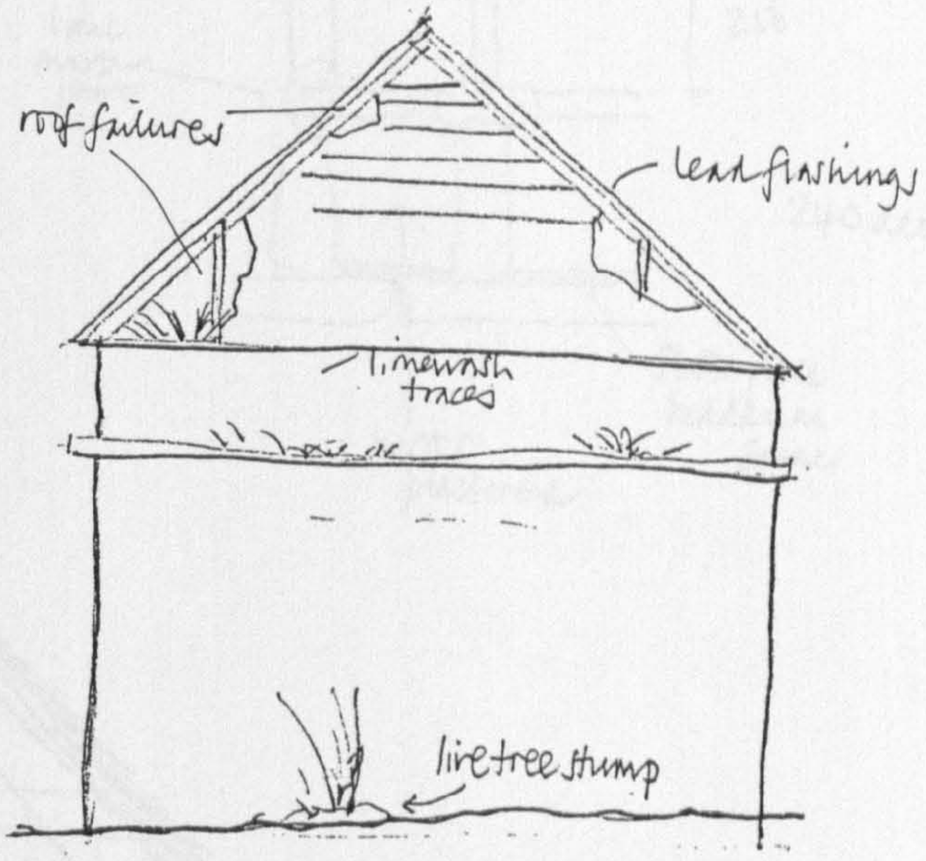
1 of 3

WESTER ELCHIES DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 7/1/93 355

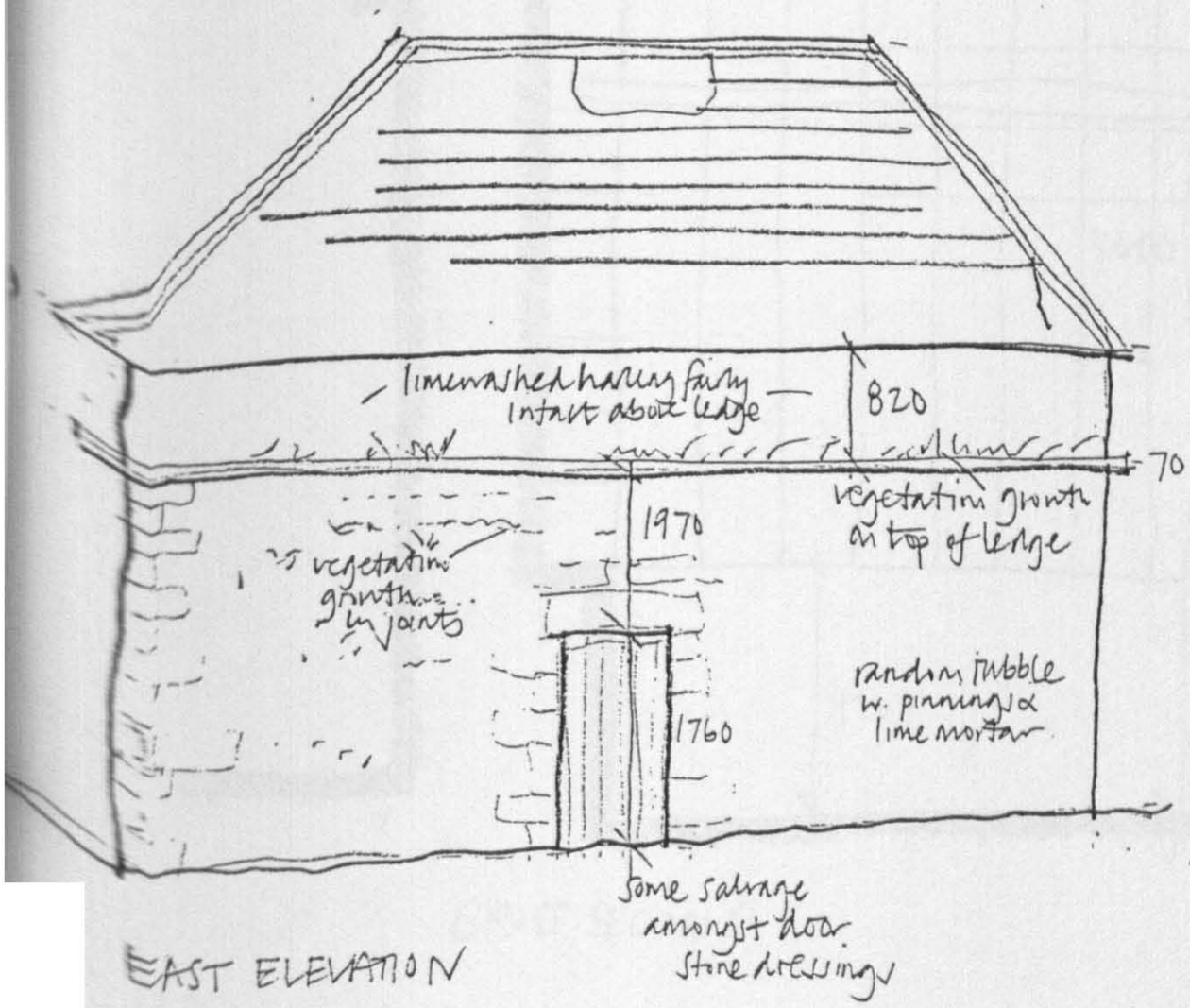


Slight slope from north to south and from west to east

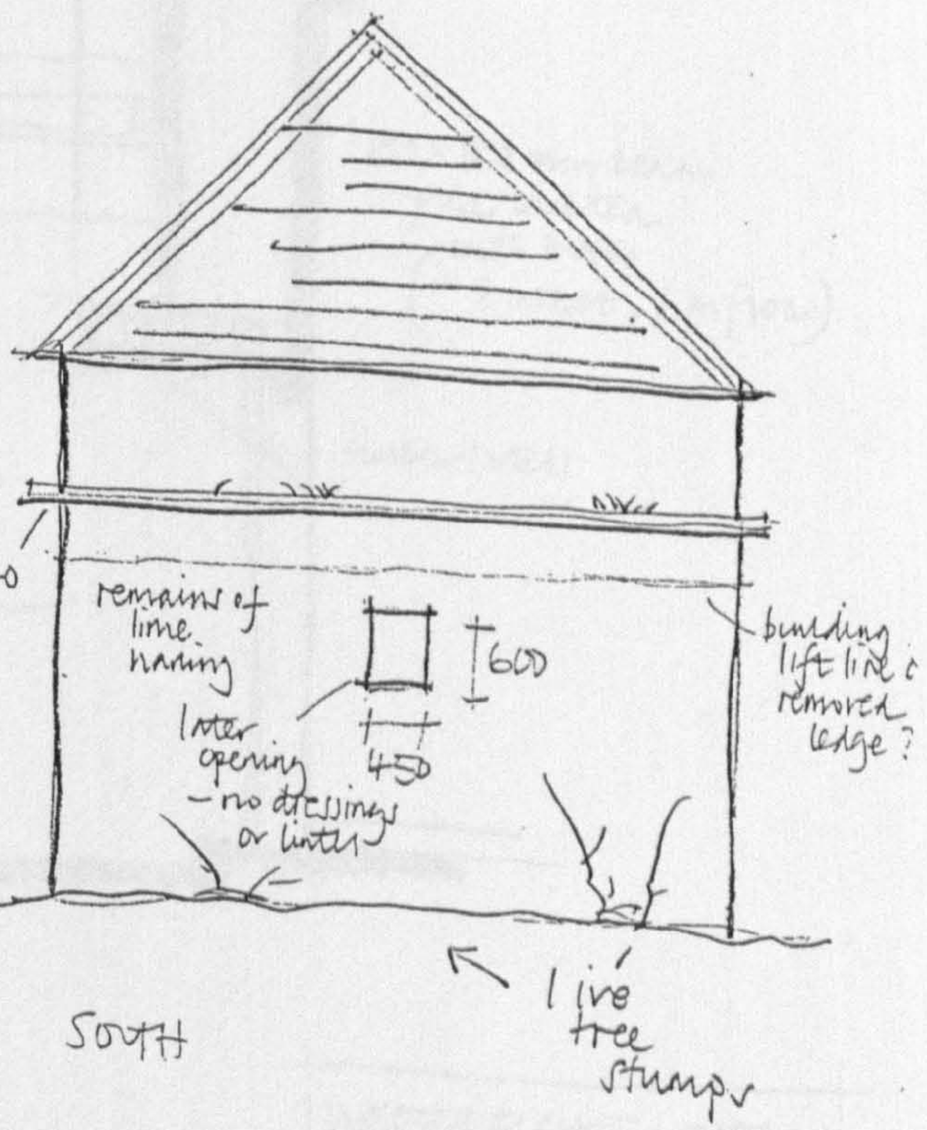
WEST



NORTH ELEVATION



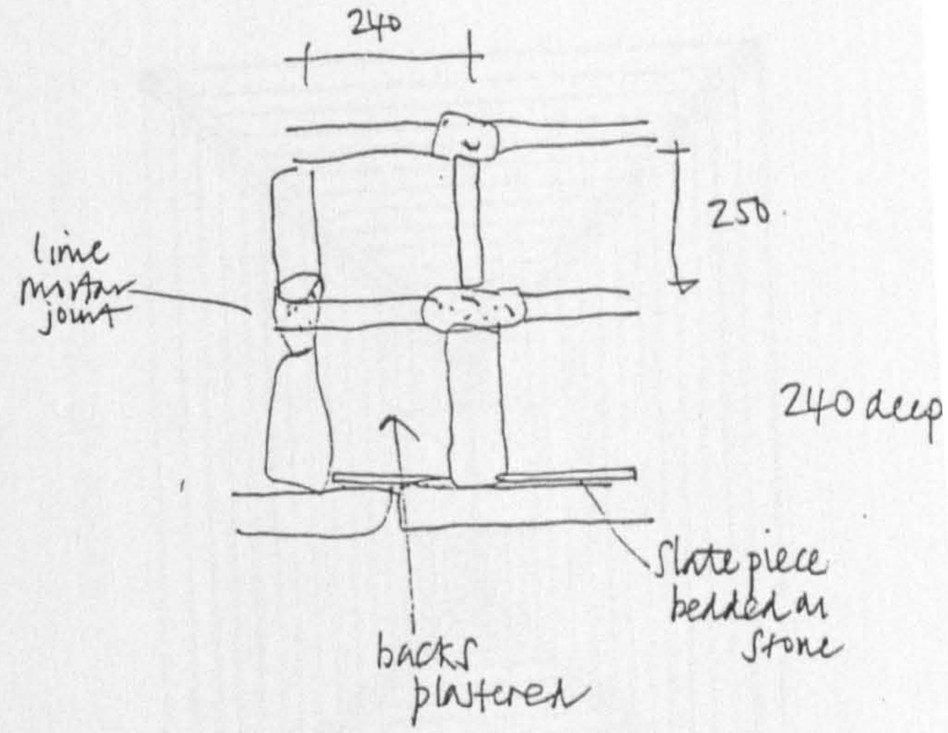
EAST ELEVATION

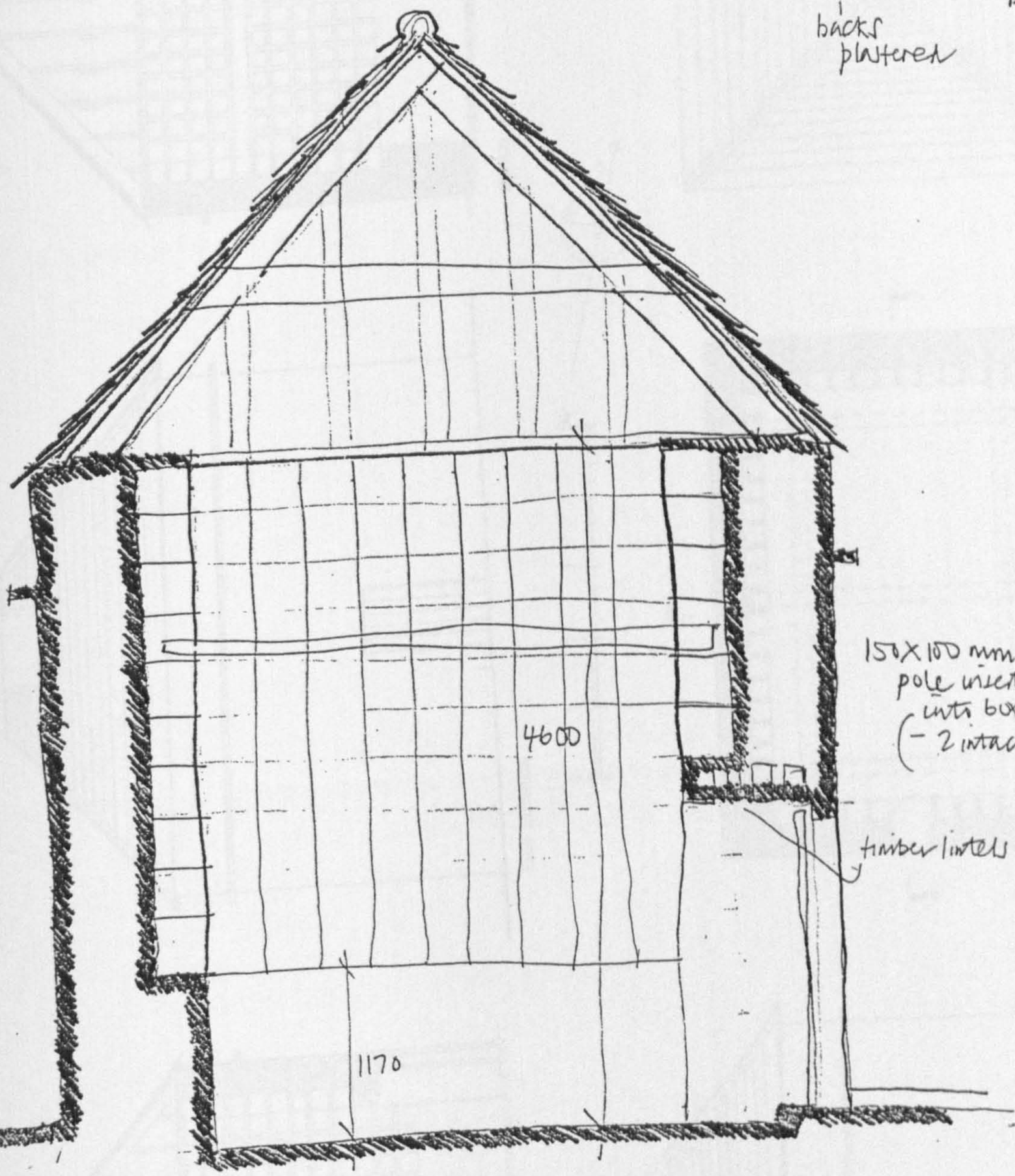


SOUTH

2 of 3

WESTER ELCHIES DOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NE 7/1/13



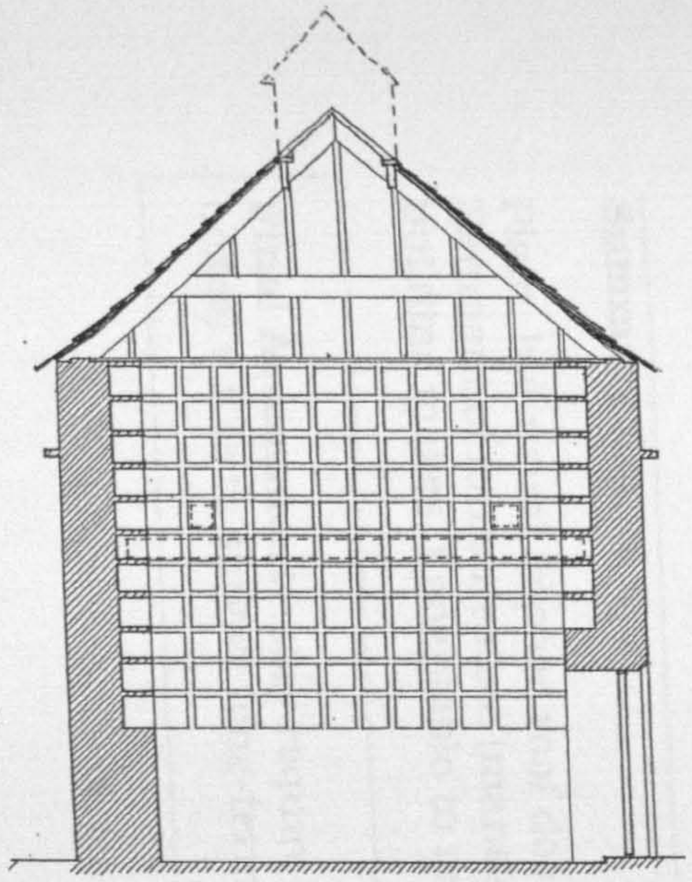


CROSS SECTION

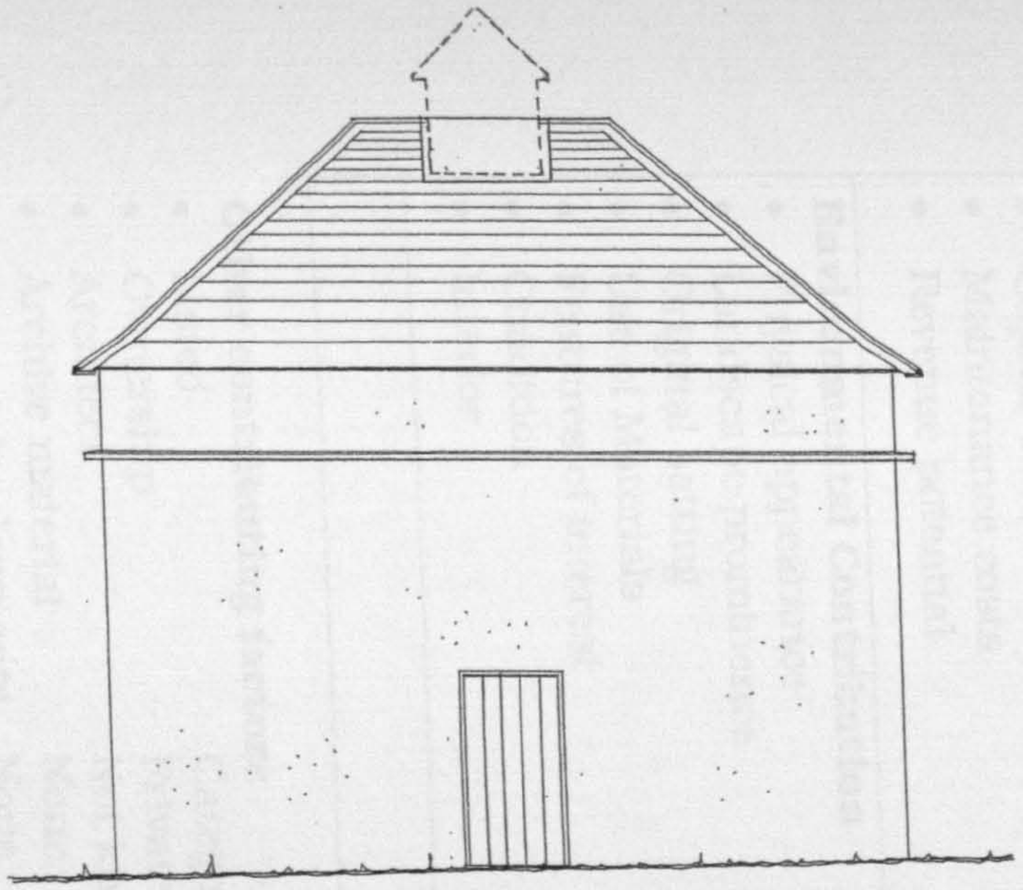
WESTER ELCHIES DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY.
NB 7/1/93

3 of 3

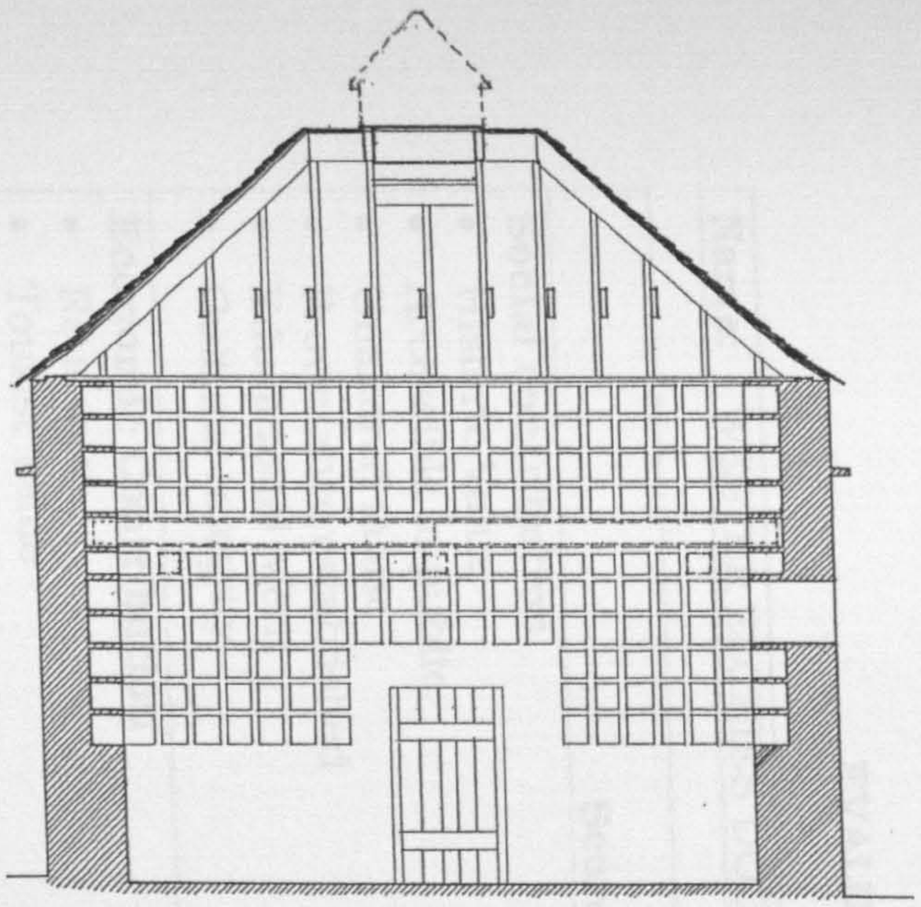
Wester Elchies Doocot



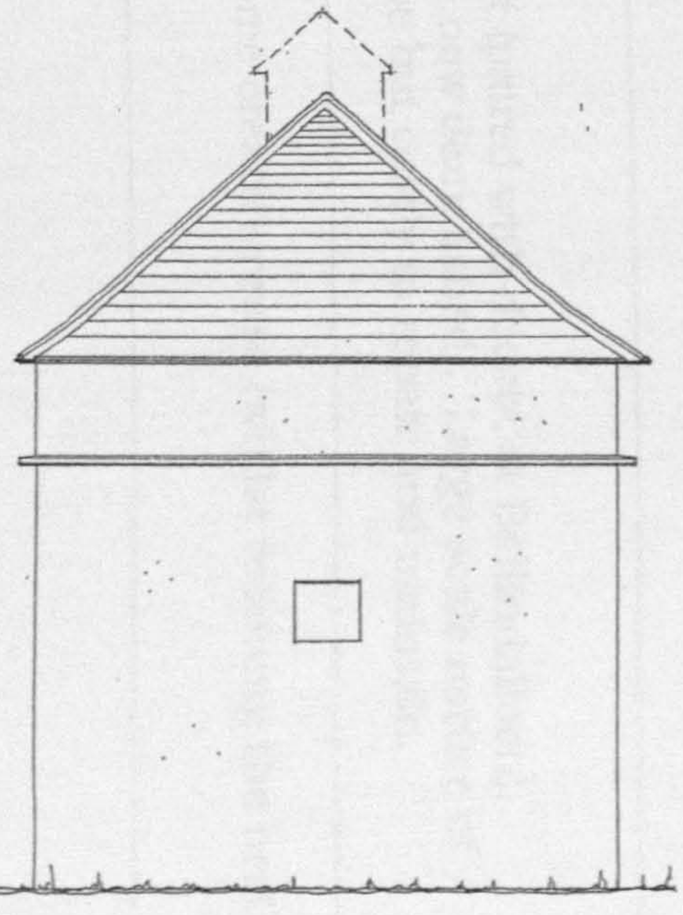
SECTION AA



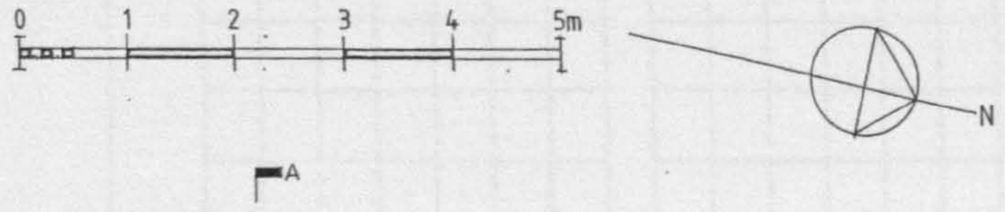
EAST ELEVATION



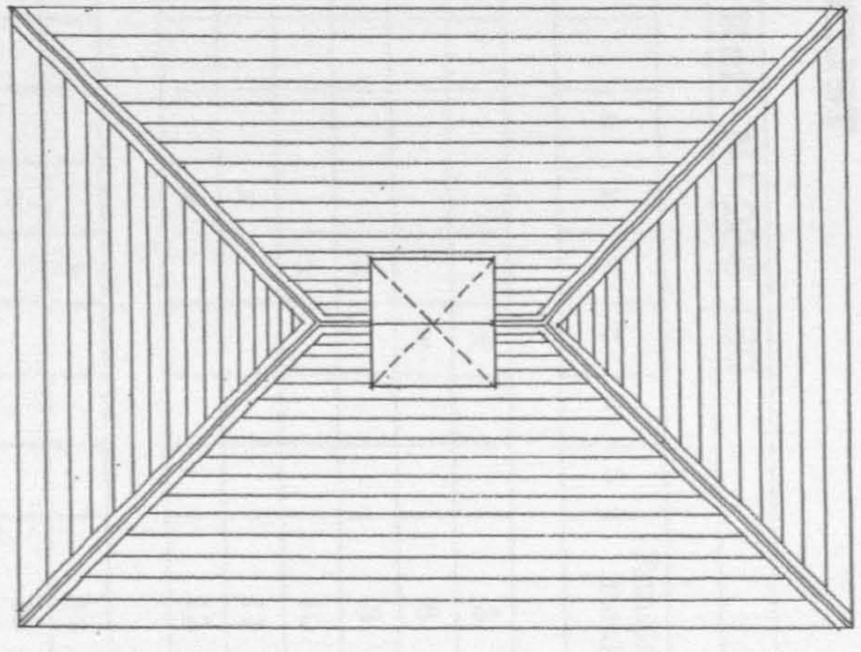
SECTION BB



SOUTH ELEVATION



PLAN 1:50



ROOF PLAN

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: WESTER ELCHIES DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 256 430

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public									x			6
• Unaltered fabric								x				8
• Provenance established								x				10
• Educational Merit							x					11
• Cultural Integrity							x					12
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable								x				14
• Tourist Value							x					15
• Partnership funding								x				17
• Capital costs						x						17
• Maintenance costs							x					18
• Revenue potential							x					19
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance							x					20
• Landscape prominence							x					21
• Original setting									x			24
• Use of Materials							x					25
• Features of interest								x				27
• Condition							x					28
• Interior								x				30
										TOTAL		30

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B.
- Ownership — Private – Mr Scott.
- Architect — Not known.
- Archive material — None.
- Future developments — None.
- Risk Assessment — Medium to high.

Summary Comments:

Plain, but usual, hipped roof doocot (paired with doocot at Ballindalloch). Remnant of former estate (mansion now demolished). Large scale nature of building makes it adaptable to reuse but costly to repair and maintain.

Final Assessment: May require some creative reuse (whilst retaining the nest boxes) if it is to survive long-term.

5.5.12 AUCHLUNCART DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 345 485, Boharm Parish

Altitude 160M.

Positive Reference(s)

"... in parishes of Boharm and Boatrisnie [sic] Commodious genteel house of eleven fine rooms, with good pigeon house."

Extract from the 'Edinburgh Evening Courant', 25 August 1765, held in Edinburgh City Library.
(Source: N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', p.374).

Background References

Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, vol.1, p.121. Mansion house is a 'large tame erection' built by a branch of Innes c1750.

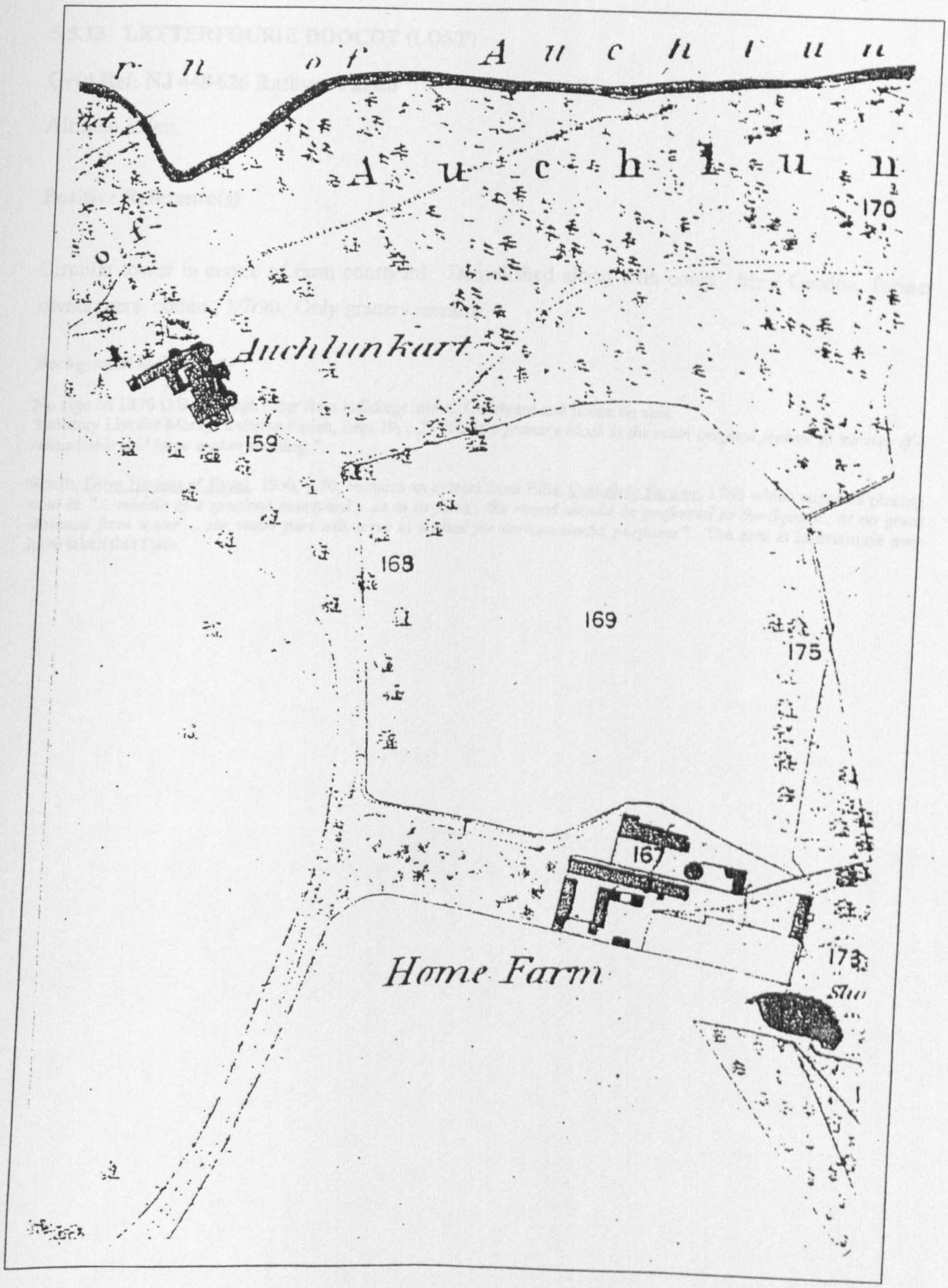
OSA, s.v. 'Boharm', p.90. Owned by Stewart of Auchluncart and Tannachy in 1790's.

1870 O.S. does not refer.

Statutory List for Moray, Boharm Parish, Item 4, p.5.

Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, p.47.

NRA, Gordon of Cairnfield Papers, Bundle 211.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Auchlunkart Doocot (Fig. 5.5.12)

5.5.13 LETTERFOURIE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 448 626 Rathven Parish

Altitude 150m.

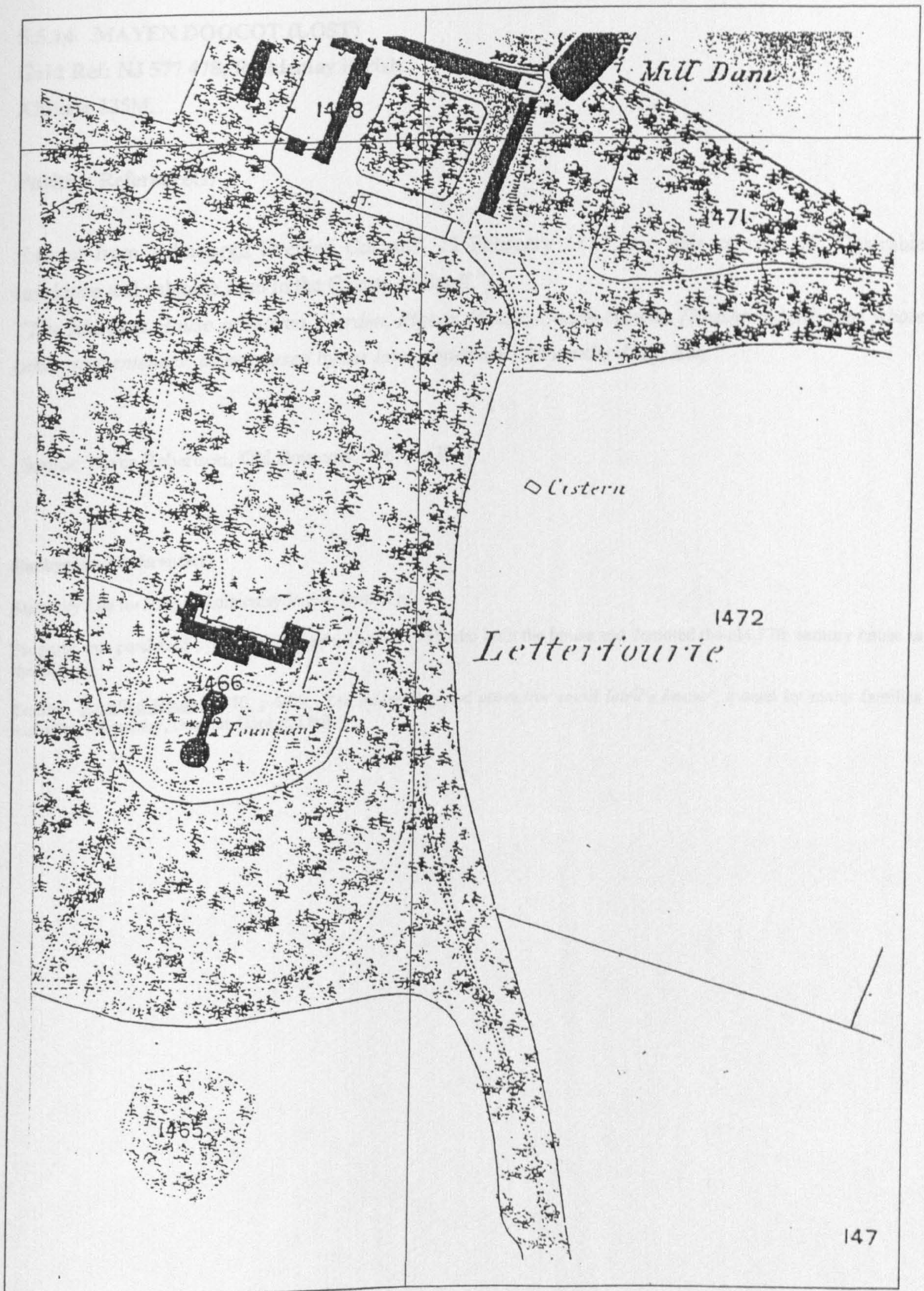
Positive Reference(s)

Circular tower in centre of farm courtyard. Demolished along with court. Mr J Gordon, former owner, pers. comm., 1/7/90. Only granary remains.

Background Reference(s)

No sign on 1870 O.S. although other farm buildings intact. Courtyard and house on axis.
Statutory List for Moray, Rathven Parish, Item 19, p.23 *"Centre granary block is the main original feature to survive of a remarkable and large u-plan steading."*

Smith, Dove Houses of Essex, 1930, p.70, contains an extract from Ellis, Complete Farmer, 1766 which suggests placing cote in *"... middle of a spacious courtyard... as to its form, the round should be preferred to the Square.. at no great distance from water.... the under part will serve as a shed for various useful purposes"*. The cote at Letterfourie may have taken this form.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Letterfourie Doocot (Fig. 5.5.13)

5.5.14 MAYEN DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 577 478, Rothiemay Parish

Altitude 135M.

Positive Reference(s)

Extract from 'Edinburgh Evening Courant', 22 February 1817, s.v. sale or rent of "Desirable residence and valuable farm in the County of Banff."

"The Mansion House of Mayen, Garden, Pigeon-House, Coach-House, Thrashing Mill, and whole other conveniences, as possessed by the late proprietor , Alexander Duff, Esq."

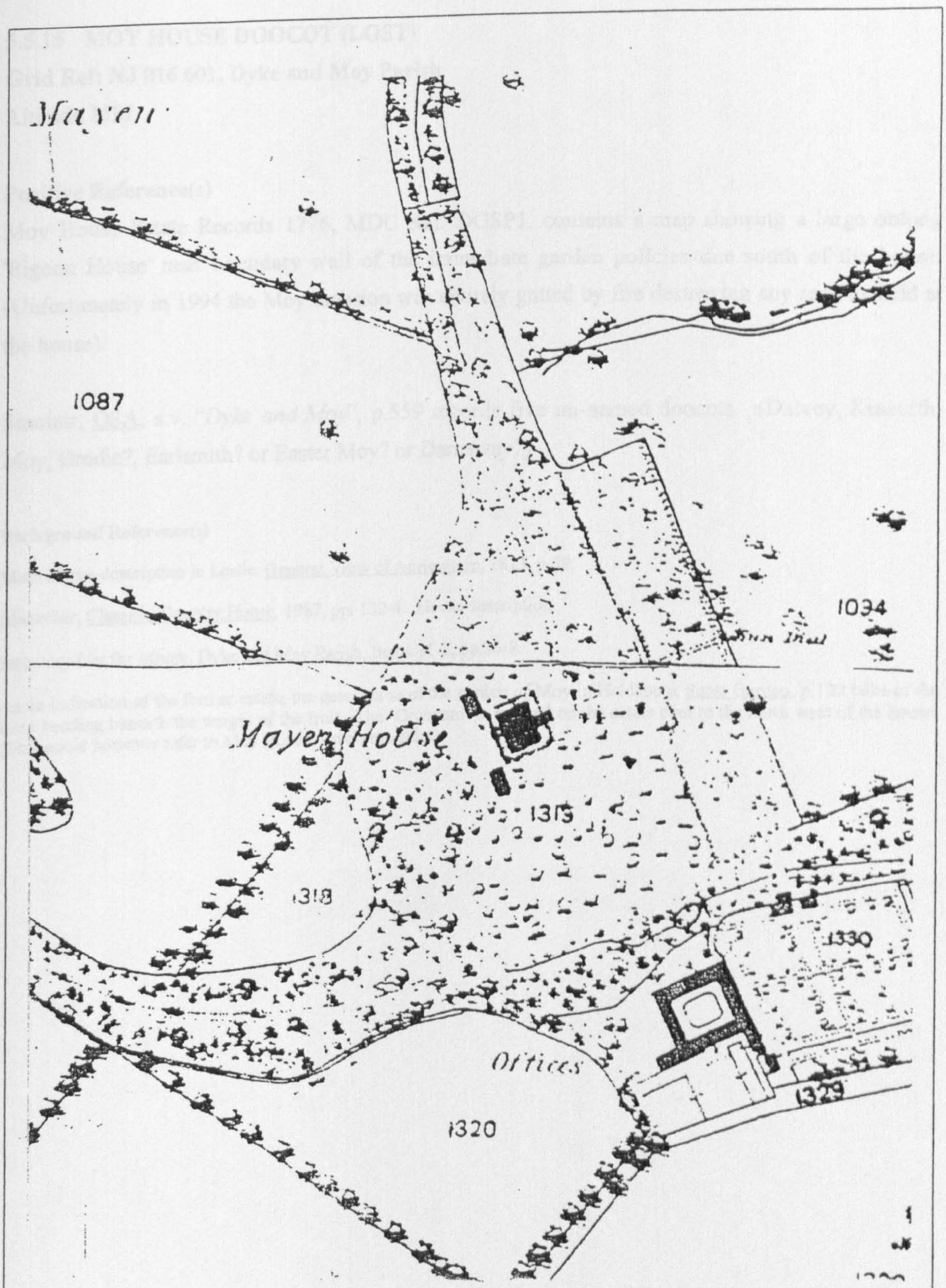
(Source: Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecots', 1961, p 374).

Background Reference(s)

Statutory List for Moray, Rothiemay Parish, Item 2, p.2.

Property was purchased by Major Alexander Duff in 1785 who built the house and demoted the old 17th century house as the Mains.

Tranter, Fortified House, 1970, p.66-8. *"An interesting and attractive small laird's house"*, owned by many families including Abernethy, Gordon, Hacket, Duff.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Mayen Doocot (Fig. 5.5.14)

5.5.15 MOY HOUSE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 016 601, Dyke and Moy Parish

Altitude 15M.

Positive Reference(s)

Moy House Estate Records 1776, MDC Ref. DGSP1, contains a map showing a large oblong 'Pigeon House' near boundary wall of the immediate garden policies due south of the house. (Unfortunately in 1994 the Moy mansion was entirely gutted by fire destroying any records held at the house).

Sinclair, OSA, s.v. "*Dyke and Moy*", p.559 records five un-named doocots. (Dalvey, Kincorth, Moy, Brodie?, Earlsmith? or Easter Moy? or Darnaway?)

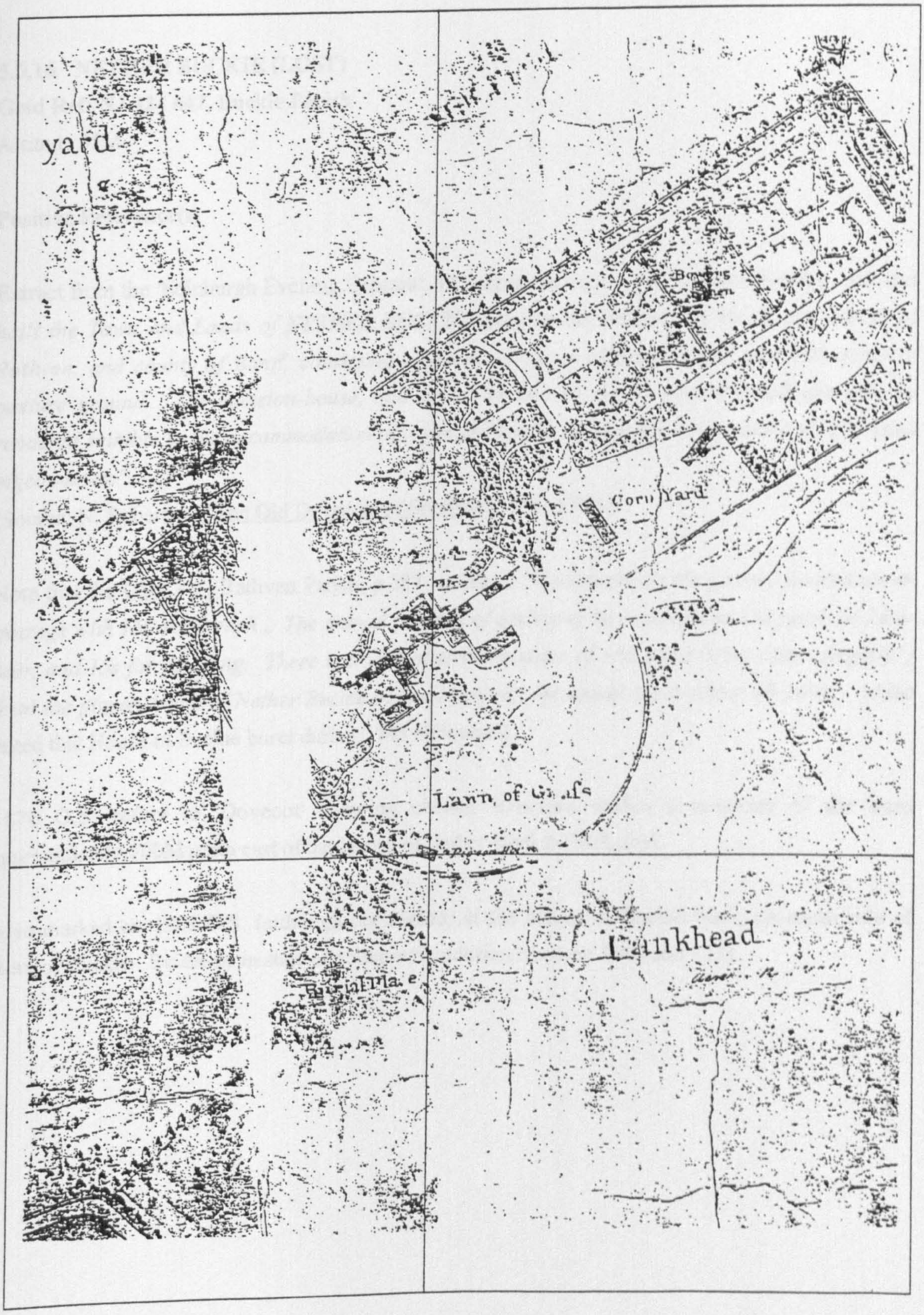
Background Reference(s)

Main House description in Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p.52.

Macaulay, Classical Country House, 1987, pp. 132-4. House description.

Statutory List for Moray, Dyke and Moy Parish, Items 31-2, pp.36-8.

As an indication of the former estate, the description of the garden of Moy in Haldane's, Scots Garden, p.122 talks of the trees bending beneath the weight of the fruit. The 'Orchyard' is marked on the estate plan to the north west of the house. (This could however refer to Moy House, Inverness-shire).



Location of Moy Doocot (Fig. 5.5.15)

Extract from 1776 estate map

5.5.16 NETHER BUCKIE (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 424 647, Buckie Parish

Altitude 35M.

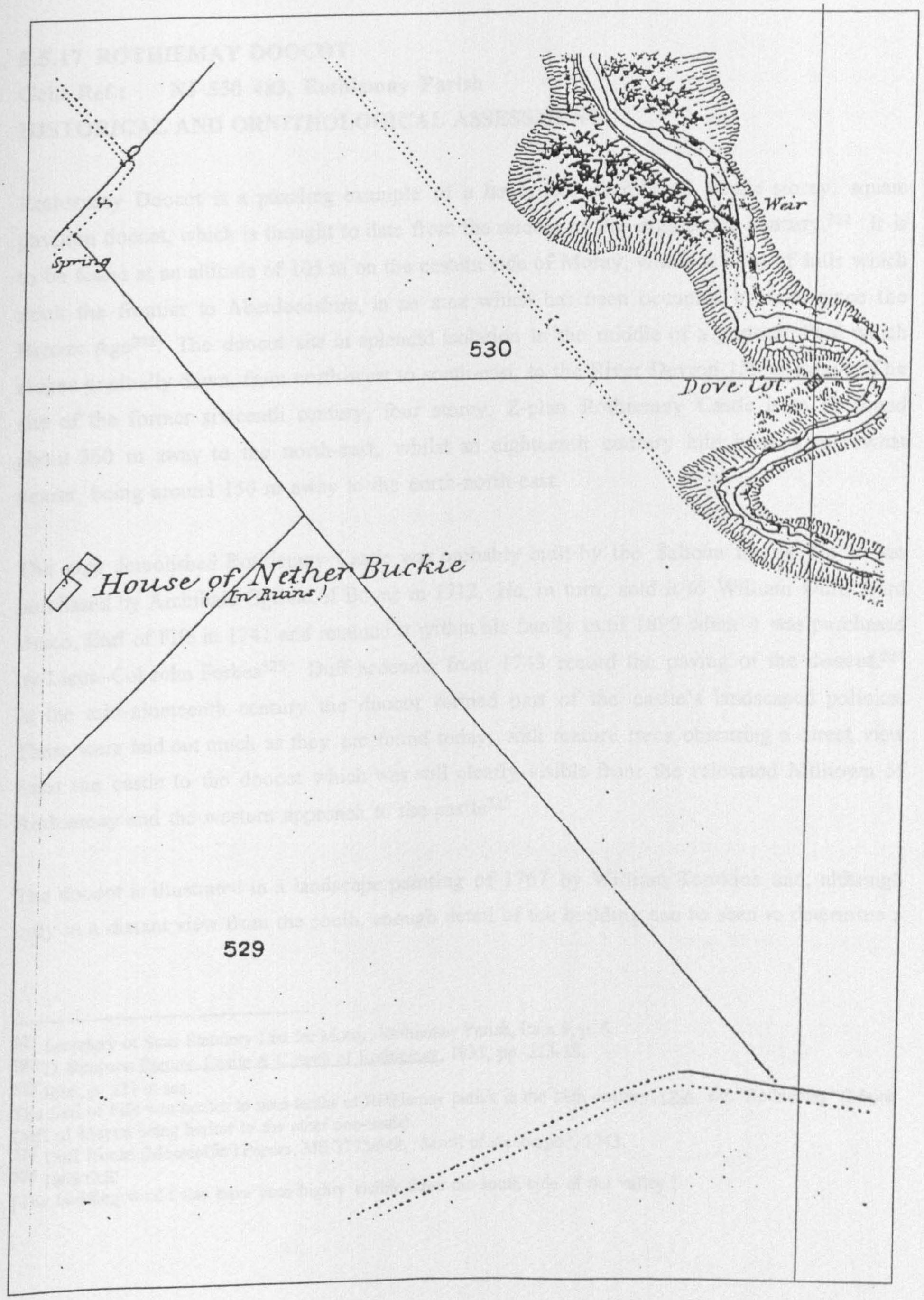
Positive Reference(s)

Extract from the 'Edinburgh Evening Courant', 18 August 1810, p.4, s.v. 'Nether Buckie,' *"All and haill the Town and Lands of NETHER BUCKIE, lying in the lordship of the Enzie, parish of Ruthven, and county of Banff, consisting of about 20 acres of arable land, and 100 acres of pasture ground... The mansion-house, and a Garden of two acres, may at small expense, be rendered suitable to the accommodation of a genteel family, to which there is also a well stocked pigeon-house".*
(Source: N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland',1961, p.374).

Note that the OSA s.v., Rathven Parish, p.387 refers *to "8 [doocots] in the parish, stocked, at an average with 150 pairs each... The annual produce of each may be reckoned at 150 pairs, at 2d a-pair, and 15s for the dung. There is a well attested instance of 160 pairs being taken [legally?] from the pigeon-house of Nether Buckie at one harrying; the usual run is about 30 pairs".* (Also noted that House of Buckie burnt during 1745 civil wars).

1870 O.S. refers to 'Dovecot' showing oblong structure within a meander of the burn approximately 300M north east of the House of Nether Buckie (In Ruins).

Also marked on 1905 O.S. (although not named) at the Mains of Buckie farm, on south side of Burn of Buckie. Evidently in state of collapse/demolition between 1905 and 1931.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Nether Buckie Doocot (Fig. 5.5.16)

5.5.17 ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT

Grid Ref.: NJ 550 483, Rothiemay Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Rothiemay Doocot is a puzzling example of a large, two chambered, single storey, square pavilion doocot, which is thought to date from the middle of the eighteenth century.[321] It is to be found at an altitude of 105 m on the eastern side of Moray, within a bowl of hills which mark the frontier to Aberdeenshire, in an area which has been occupied by man since the Bronze Age[322]. The doocot sits in splendid isolation in the middle of a pastoral field which slopes gradually down, from north-west to south-east, to the River Devron 150 m away. The site of the former sixteenth century, four storey, Z-plan Rothiemay Castle is to be found about 360 m away to the north-east, whilst an eighteenth century kiln barn is somewhat nearer, being around 150 m away to the north-north-east.

The now demolished Rothiemay Castle was probably built by the Saltoun family but it was purchased by Archibald Ogilvie of Boyne in 1712. He, in turn, sold it to William Duff, Lord Braco, Earl of Fife in 1741 and retained it within his family until 1890 when it was purchased by Lieut.-Col John Forbes[323]. Duff accounts from 1743 record the paving of the doocot.[324] In the mid-nineteenth century the doocot formed part of the castle's landscaped policies. These were laid out much as they are found today, with mature trees obscuring a direct view from the castle to the doocot which was still clearly visible from the relocated Milltown of Rothiemay and the western approach to the castle[325].

The doocot is illustrated in a landscape painting of 1767 by William Tomkins and, although only in a distant view from the south, enough detail of the building can be seen to determine a

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321 Secretary of State Statutory List for Moray, Rothiemay Parish, Item 9, p. 6.
322 D. Simpson Barony, Castle & Church of Rothiemay, 1935, pp. 223-28.
323 Ibid., p. 231 et seq.
The Earl of Fife was heritor to nine-tenths of Rothiemay parish in the 18th century, OSA, s.v. 'Rothiemay' (Major Duff of Mayen being heritor to the other one-tenth).
324 Duff House (Montcoffer) Papers, MS 3175/648, 'Scroll of Accompts', 1743.
325 1869 O.S.
[The building would also have been highly visible from the south side of the valley.]

swept pavilion slate roof culminating in a lantern, or louvre[326]. Two skylights are just visible on the southern roof plane, perhaps indicating that the building was separated, full height, into two chambers[327]. Simpson noted in the 1930's that the building had, "*...evidently been cut down and rearranged,*"[328] and the original roof was probably replaced around the turn of the century, at a time when the then owner of Rothiemay was known to have, "*...rebuilt in his time everything that needed rebuilding and modernising*"[329]. This roof is recorded in a photograph in Simpson's manuscript and a timber-wallhead, pitched-roof dormer is clearly evident, above the east door, containing nine flight holes with landing ledges between each of the three rows[330]. Niven Robertson stated in 1961 that the, "*...east chamber has now no nests, and has been used as a cattle shed, but it has six tiers of wooden nests above a wood ceiling*"[331].

Clearly Rothiemay Doocot has undergone radical and repeated alteration work during its lifetime, and as a result, some of its present features are not entirely explicable. For example, there are no obvious reasons for the blind recesses around the structure, particularly the single recess at mid height on the south wall[332]; the partition wall is just off-centred and does not extend to wallhead height[333]; the east chamber has remnant signs of two intermediate floors which would have interfered with the former openings on the east wall[334]; and the building appears to be harled on three sides rather than four[335].

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326 W. Tomkins, 1767, watercolour 'View of Rothiemay House', illustrated in Holloway & Errington's, Discovery of Scotland, 1978, p. 7. The pagoda roof shown is of the type now associated with distilleries.
327 A three pane skylight was discovered in the floor debris during the 1993 survey and is likely one of those shown in Tomkins' painting.
328 Simpson, op. cit., p. 241.
329 J. Foster Forbes, Castle and Place of Rothiemay, 1948, p. 35. The author's father owned the estate at the turn of the century and died in 1914.
330 Simpson, op. cit., p. 242.
331 A. N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 371.
332 The mid recess is not shown on Tomkins' painting (n. 6). The recesses on the east wall, facing the former house, once penetrated through into the east chamber and the central high level opening (now blocked) coincides with an intermediate floor level.
333 The wall may be later than the original structure, the nest boxes may be hewn into the wall (in which case the wall is centred) and the wall may have been lowered during the downtaking of the original roof.
334 The higher floor was supported on a scarcement and the lower floor in joist pockets.
335 This may simply be a case of all traces of harling having been lost from the southern elevation (although south facing walls tend to be well protected in comparison to others due to their orientation).

Nevertheless, the building has undoubtedly been subjected to architectural rigour during part of its history (if not originally) which would explain Cooper's description of Rothiemay as a, "... *large classical dovecot*"[336]. Unlike other authors, Robertson discerningly noted that, "*It does not look like a doocot, but pigeons still use it*"[337] and certain operational features (or lack of them) add credence to the concept that the building was not originally constructed as a doocot. The omission of stone ledges, the lack of evidence of a collecting aid, the unusual thickness of external walls and the step up of 150mm at each door threshold, all suggest that a former building has been converted[338]. The building may have been a former brewery, grain store or even a summer house. Its conversion to a doocot may have been the consequence of the Earl of Fife deciding to demolish a more ancient doocot near the castle. Once converted, however, Rothiemay Doocot (assuming both chambers and a full height partition were fully utilised for boxes) would have been one of Moray's largest doocots[339].

Rothiemay doocot is protected by the Secretary of State's 1976, Category C(s) listing and is in a reasonable state of repair as a result of its re-roofing around 1970.[340] Failure, however, to find an appropriate new use may result in total neglect and the continual erosion of the ground level around the foundations, by animals using the field, may eventually undermine these foundations - unless prevented by some form of protection such as fencing. The building has evidently been subject to much alteration during its lifetime and, of all the doocots in Moray, Rothiemay is perhaps one of the few which could accept adaptation without seriously losing either its structural, architectural or historic integrity.

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336 S. Cooper, Ornamental Garden Buildings, vol. 6, 1996, u.p.
337 Robertson, loc. cit.
338 The walls are not unusually thick for the eighteenth century if the nest boxes are excluded. It is notable that the east chamber is unblemished, despite being stripped of its nest boxes (i.e. the boxes were never integral).
339 Possibly containing approximately 1300 boxes.
340 The much-altered condition of the building and its unknown provenance perhaps makes the Statutory Listing slightly questionable.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Rothiemay Doocot, although described as, "... *long rectangular*"[341], is square in plan, size 8.3 x 8.3 m, with a wallhead height of 3.9 m rising to a current overall height of 5.5 m[342]. The 930 mm thick walls are constructed in a mixture of medium sized local field boulders, uncoursed, and roughly pinned using angular stones bonded in lime mortar. Where the joints are particularly wide, notably on the southern face, they are very carefully pinned with smaller stones, almost to the extent of creating a galleting effect. Clear remnants of lime harling can be found on all four sides and evidence that the building had a limewash finish is most obvious on the western elevation. Each elevation has three openings which are composed in such a way as to give the building a, "... *classical appearance*"[343]. On the south face the building has a central, 1500 high x 750 wide x 100 mm deep, blind recess, sited 1540 mm above ground level, with a shallow trimmer arch top. The recess has been harled and limewashed but it possesses no cill or margin dressings and it appears that a flat lintel is missing. It is flanked either side by two, 1,960 high x 800 mm wide, door openings which are constructed using (reused) red sandstone dressings, some of which have 50 mm chamfered edges. Each door opening has a vertically boarded ledged and braced timber door hinged to swing inwards and both are replacements (which may have been reused from elsewhere). The three other walls of the doocot, that is, the west, north and east elevations, all possess approximately, 1,850 high x 720 wide x 100 mm deep, blind recesses at a similar level above ground level (noting that the ground level changes greatly around the building). The only exception is the central recess on the eastern elevation which is facing the castle and blocked flush with the exterior wall using horizontal slate pinnings and boulders (but indicating that the opening extended to the present wallhead level). All of the recesses are now arch topped but it is clear from the harling and washing that lintels have been removed at some time. The proportioning and impression given by the openings undoubtedly give rise to Beaton's statement that the exterior is, "... *decorated with blank arcades*"[344]. Curiously, the recesses do not possess the granite dressings which are to be found at the four corners of the building, nor do any possess any form of stone cill.

The present roof is shallow pitched, at about 20°, with a central ridge and gables on the north and south elevations. It is constructed in timber and finished with corrugated iron, "... *which replaces slated hipped roof blown off some years ago*"[345]. The replacement roof is probably the reason why the Regional Archaeologist described the exterior as having a, "... *comparatively modern appearance*"[346].

Unusually for a doocot, the building possesses no projecting ledges. It is also unclear why Peterkin described the building in 1980 as having, "... *tall dormer windows*" since none is evident[347].

Internally Rothiemay doocot is as enigmatic as it is externally. A north to south, slightly off-central, partition (which stops short of wallhead height by 400 mm) divides the building into two chambers, with the western chamber retaining a linear arrangement of 456 nest boxes constructed of 100 mm roughly squared stone uprights and 50-75 mm slate horizontal slabs. The boxes begin at a height of 450 mm

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341 C. McKean, District of Moray - illustrated guide, 1987, p. 138.

342 According to a 1769 landscape drawing by artist William Tomkins, Discovery of Scotland, 1978, the original height of the building was possibly 8 to 9 m. (The roof has been reduced to its current height).

343 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 27.

344 Ibid.

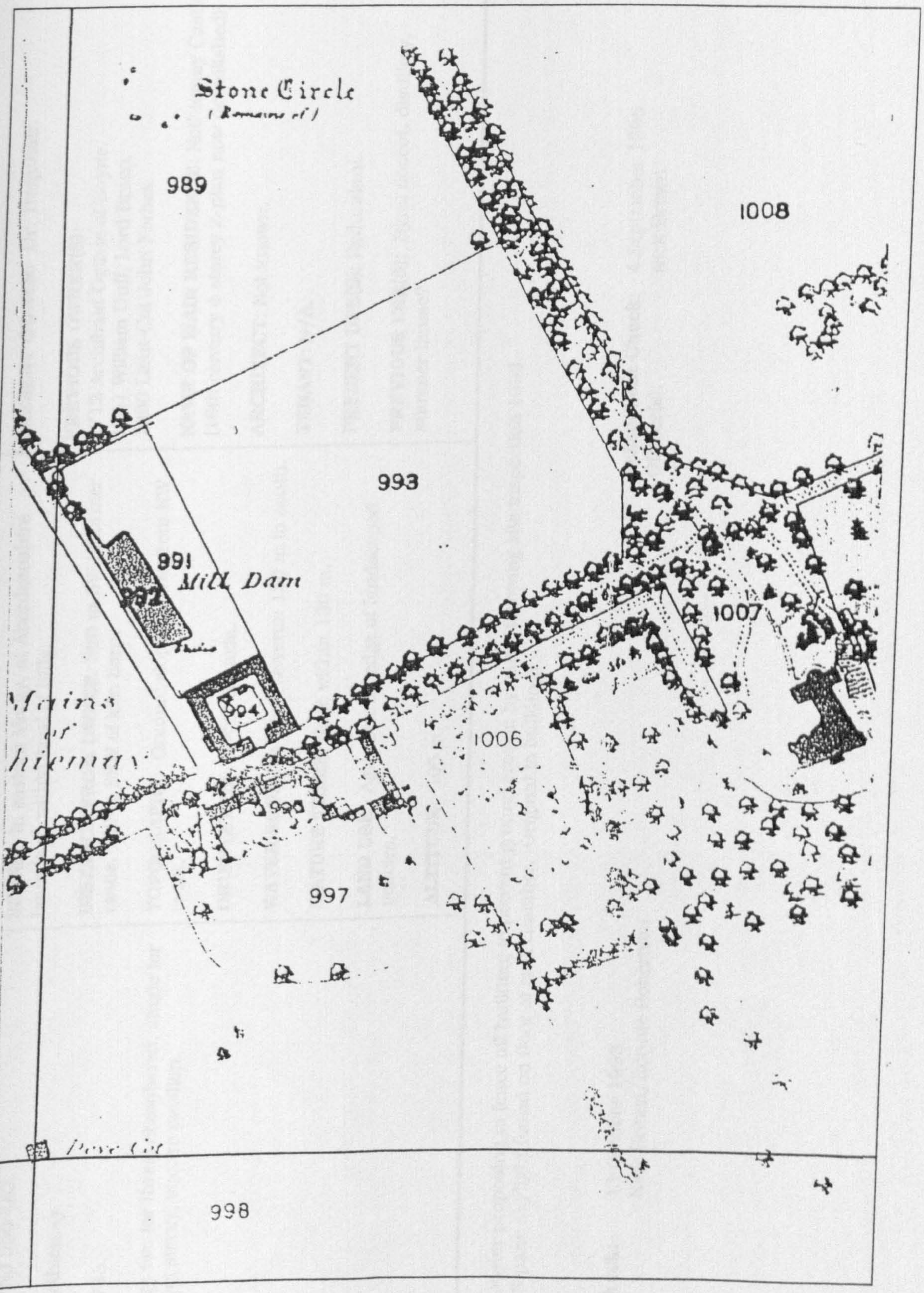
345 Moray District Council, Report by Director of Planning, 6 June, 1996.

346 Grampian Regional Council Archaeologist's Site Index, Ref. No. NJ 54 NE 10.
Cook, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 78, states in reference to Rowton Hall Dovecote, Brosley, Shropshire, "*The present roofing material is corrugated iron, surely the last indignity that such a building can be called upon to bear*".

347 G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60.
Does this suggest that Peterkin did not view the structure or is perhaps relying on an earlier description?

above floor level (which is much covered by debris) and continue in 10 rows up to the wallhead level in six bays of eight boxes wide. There is one bay on the north wall; one bay on the south wall; and two bays on each of the east and west walls separated midway by 1 m long piers. The 360 wide x 340 high x 300 mm deep boxes are all plastered and limewashed on all surfaces, making it virtually impossible to determine whether or not the external recesses continued at one time through into the chamber. The eastern chamber, on the other hand, does not contain nest boxes other than those which are blocked up either side of the entrance door. Reasonably clear evidence can be seen to confirm that the eastern recesses did in fact penetrate into the building, although it is not clear if the same can be said for the northern recesses. The bases of the east and north walls project 250 mm up to a height of 450 mm suggesting the possibility of having supported rows of nest boxes. However, the base does not continue along the partition wall, which instead possesses a 150 mm scarcement 2.3 m above the floor level with several 150 x 50 mm joists at 550 mm centres, thereby suggesting a former intermediate floor. At a lower level, only 1.7 m above floor level, there are pockets in the walls and remnants of 175 x 75 mm joists imply the remains of an earlier floor which interestingly correlates with (the almost discernible) cill of the central, blocked opening on the east elevation. The eastern chamber has now been cleared of debris for use as a cattle shelter, but a three-pane skylight can still be found inside and may be original to the building.

Written: September 1996



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Rothiemay Doocot (Fig. 5.5.17)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 550 483. **PARISH**: Rothiemay. **DATE**: c.1743. **TYPE**: Large two (or three) chambered, single (or probably two) storey, square pavilion.	**SITING**: In eastern Moray, at Aberdeenshire boundary, within bowl of hills. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 360 m SW of former castle, 150 m SSW of kiln barn. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Gradual slope to river from NW to SE. **ORIENTATION**: NW to SE axis. **WATER SOURCE**: River Deveron 150 m to south. **MATURE TREES**: None within 130 m. **LAND USE**: Agricultural, edge of landscaped policies. **ALTITUDE**: 105 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Dr. Traquhair. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: 1712 Archibald Ogilvie of Boyne. 1741 William Duff, Lord Braco. 1890 Lieut-Col John Forbes. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Rothiemay Castle (16th century 4 storey Z-plan now demolished). **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: N/A. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Byre, doocot, distillery, summer house?

NOTES: - Owner proposing to fence off building to prevent ground erosion by cattle following site inspection 1993.
- 3 pane skylight found on floor of east chamber. Original to building?

Date of Check: 13 October 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 4 September 1996
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Reasonable. **REPAIRS:** Corrugated iron roof, c.1970. **ALTERATIONS:** - Roof replaced at least twice. - At least one floor inserted in east chamber. - Internal partition? - Creation of blind recesses? - Blocking of windows? - Inserting door margins. - Blocking of central east high level opening. - Blocking of boxes. - Removal of flight dormer from east corner. - Insertion of nest boxes? - Removal of recess lintels? **FUTURE RISK:** - Failure to find new use resulting in total neglect. - Undermining of foundations by animals eroding ground level away.	**PLAN FORM:** Square. **PLAN SIZE:** 8.3 x 8.3 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 3.9 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** not known (possibly 8 to 9 m?). **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Uncoursed, random rubble stone, pinned using stone and lime mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Mixture of medium size field boulders and smaller angular pinnings and granite or sandstone dressings. **WALL THICKNESS:** 930 mm. **WALL FINISH:** Traces of lime harling on all sides. Cherry caulking most evident on south side. **ROOF FORM:** Dual pitch (formerly hipped on all sides?). **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** Currently timber trusses (formerly built-up trusses?). **ROOF PITCH:** 20° (formerly 45°?). **ROOF FINISH:** Corrugated iron (formerly slated?).	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Vertically boarded ledged and braced timber doors with pin fixings (reused?). **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** N/A. **DOOR SIZE:** Each 1960 (h) x 800 mm (w). **DOOR SITING:** Both south facing. **LEDGES:** None. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** N/A. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** N/A. **APERTURES:** None. **VENT HOLES:** None evident. **FLIGHT HOLES:** None remaining. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** Not known. **LIMEWASH:** Evidence on west wall. **DORMERS:** Former dormer in SE corner with 9 holes (See Simpson, Rothiemay, 1935, p. 242). **SKEWS:** N/A. **FINIALS:** Not known. **WEATHER VANE:** Not known.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: 150 mm up.

PARTITION WALLS: Yes - 400 mm lower than wallhead, central (slightly off). Boxes on west side only.

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Not known.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Timber joist (with timber boards?).

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement of 100 mm roughly squared stone uprights and 50 to 75 mm slate horizontal slabs.

NEST BOX NUMBER: West chamber - 456
East chamber - not known.

NEST BOX SIZE: 360 (w) x 340 (h) x 300 (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 450 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: Yes - in east chamber at low level around entrance door.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Yes - all boxes plastered and limewash on all surfaces.

COLLECTING AID: No evidence.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL:
West chamber say 456 x 2 x 0.7 = 638
East chamber - not known.

INTERNAL VOLUME: Each chamber (excluding roof) = 85 m^3.

OTHER:

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- Built as a doocot or converted?
- Sequence of alteration.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 27, (includes plan by S. Ross, p. 30).

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60.

D. Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1979, pp. 182-5.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 138.

J. Holloway & L. Errington, The Discovery of Scotland, 1978, p. 7, (incl. illustration).

W. D. Simpson, The Barony, Castle and Church of Rothiemay, 1935, p. 241. (incl. illustration p. 242).

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, pp. 368, 371, 372.

S. Cooper, Ornamental Garden Buildings, vol. 6, 1996, u.p.

ARTICLES:

W. Cramond, 'Rothiemay House', Banffshire Journal, 1900.

LISTING: Rothiemay Parish, item 9, p. 6, Category C(s) 1976.

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index, Ref. No. NJ 54 NE 10.

MAPS: 1869, 1902, 1965 OS Maps.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Simpson, op. cit., p. 242.

OTHER:
- 1767 pencil landscape drawing by artist William Tomkins.
- MDC Report by Director of Planning 6 July 1976.
- J. Foster Forbes, Castle & Place of Rothiemay, 1948.
- Papers of Tayler Family, Rothiemay, Banffshire, 1803-96, held in Aberdeen University Special Collections Library, MS 3356.

NOTES: Estate records held at Aberdeen University - special collections - MS 3175 Duff House (Montcoffer) Fife Papers, e.g. Rothiemay Accounts, MS 3175/566 & 588



ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT 1993 (PLATE 5.5.17.1)

Distant view from north (near Kiln Barn) illustrating the building's isolated position in a field which slopes down to the Deveron river. Despite this, the building sits well in the contours and the use of local materials helps to make the building a 'product of the land'. The sets of triple blind recesses are just visible on each elevation. The former castle location was at a considerable distance away left of the picture and the village of Rothiemay is to the right.



ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.17.2)

Close up view of south elevation showing the ground floor access doors to the integral chambers and the central blind recess at mid height. The doors have reused sandstone rybats and lintels which contrast with the granite external angles and the ground level appears to be significantly lower than the door threshold. The corrugated iron roof is relatively modern.



ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT, 1993 INTERIOR (Plate 5.5.17.3)

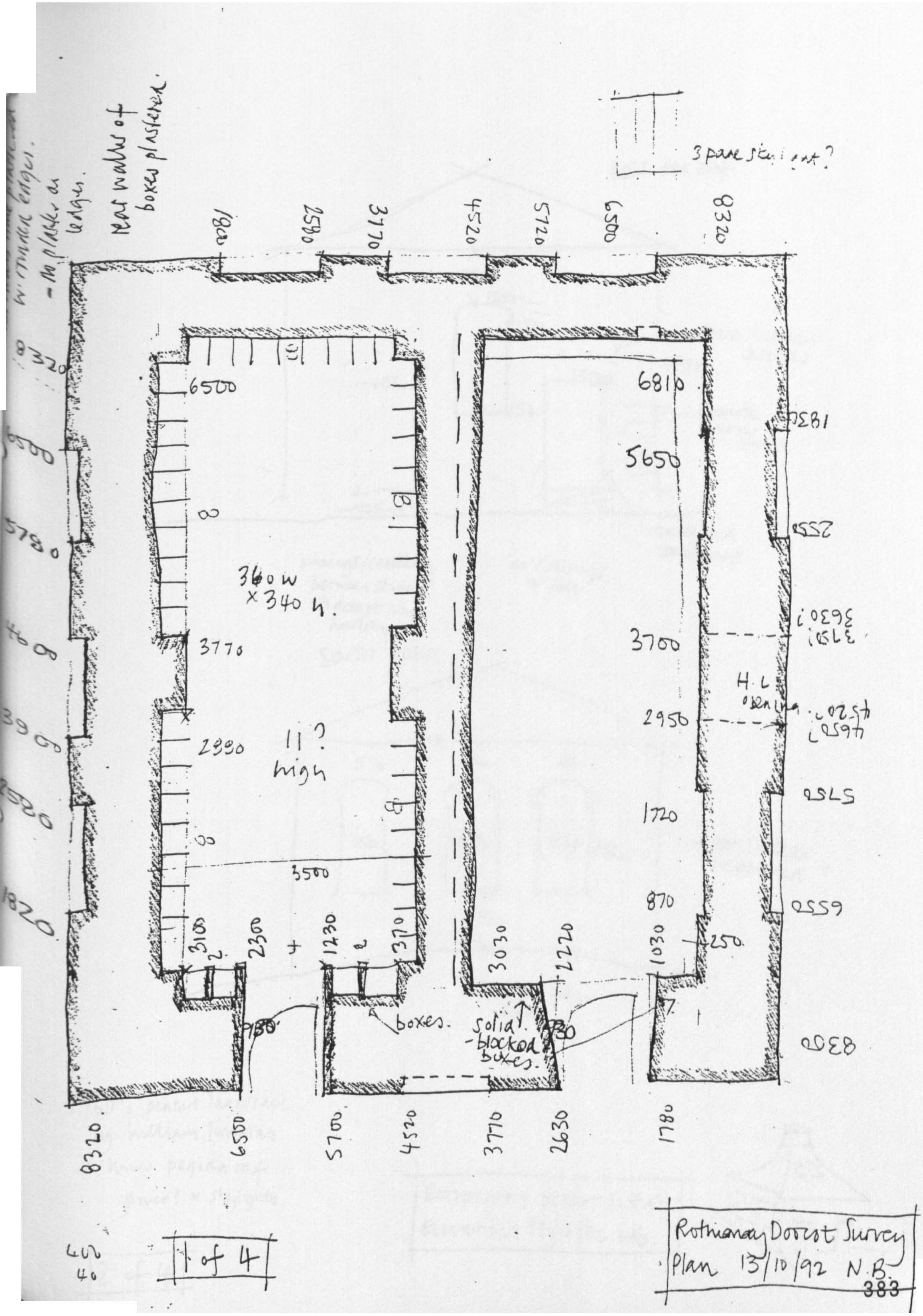
Interior photograph of the western chamber showing a largely intact arrangement of sand stone nest boxes with plaster finishes. The wall on the right is a dividing partition and now supports the trussing of a modern roof. It is not clear if top rows of nest boxes have been removed to allow this re-roofing to take place.

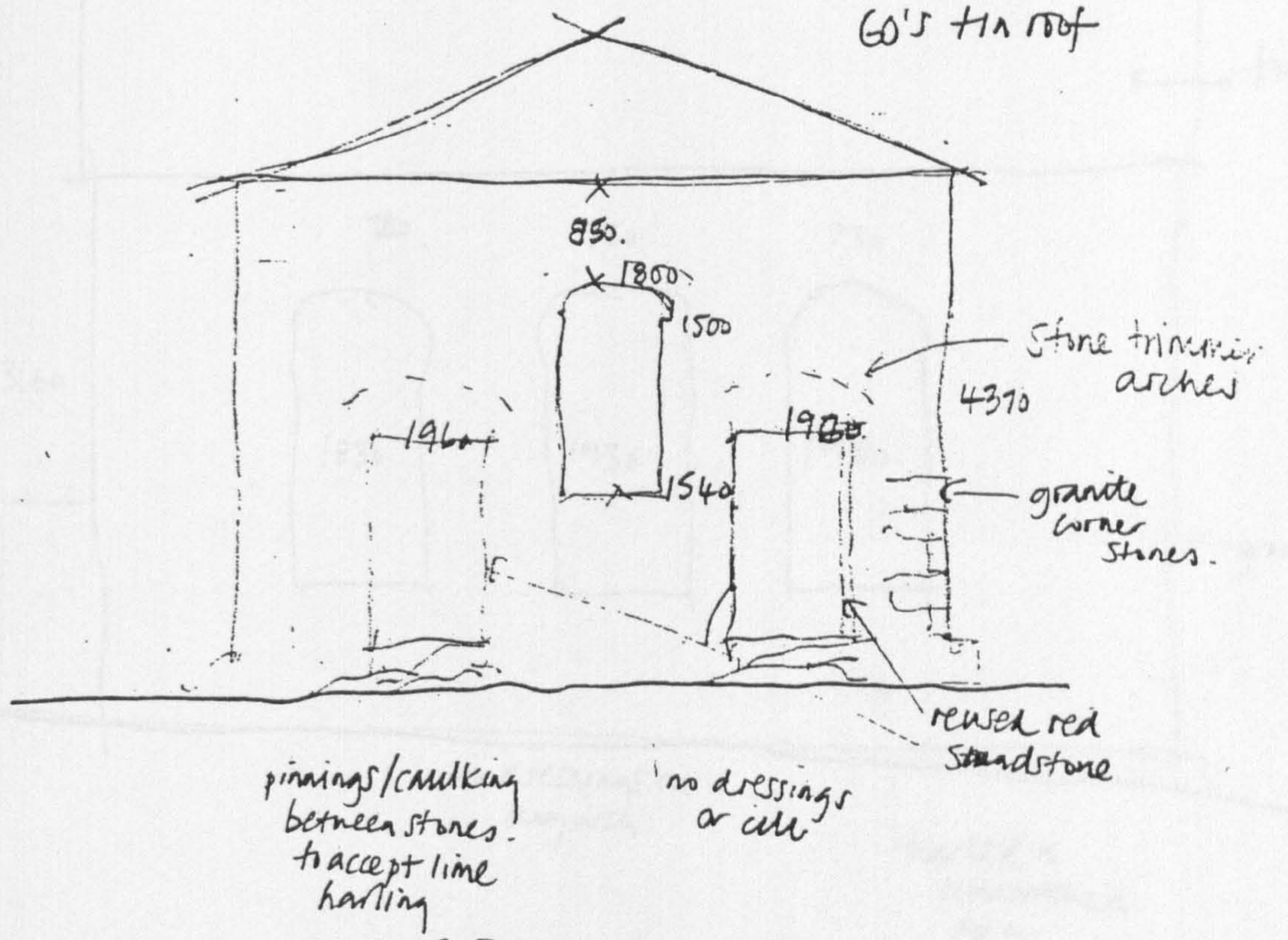


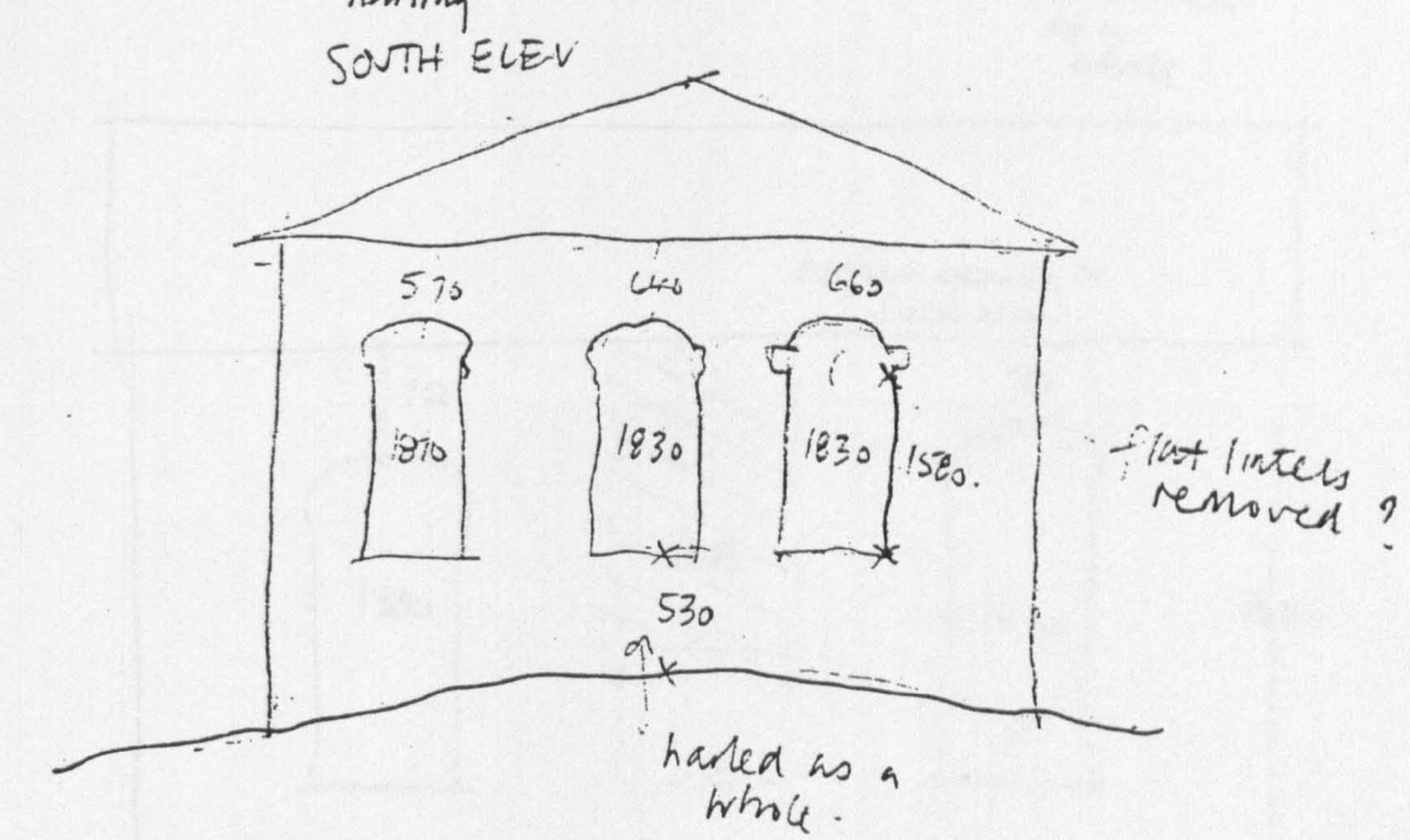
ROTHIEMAY HOUSE, C. 1900 (Plate 5.5.17.4)

Turn of the century sketch of remodelled façade of main House prior to demolition in the 1950's.

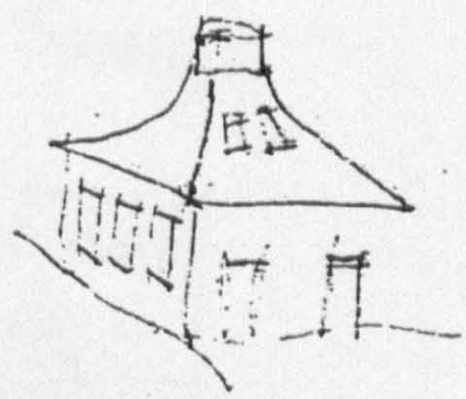
(Courtesy of The Moray Council's Photographic Archive)


Rothwell Doorset Survey
Plan 13/10/92 N.B.
383
1 of 4
8320
6500
5700
4520
3770
2630
1780
boxes.
solid - blocked boxes.
360 w x 340 h.
11? high
3 panel stairs?
H.L. open



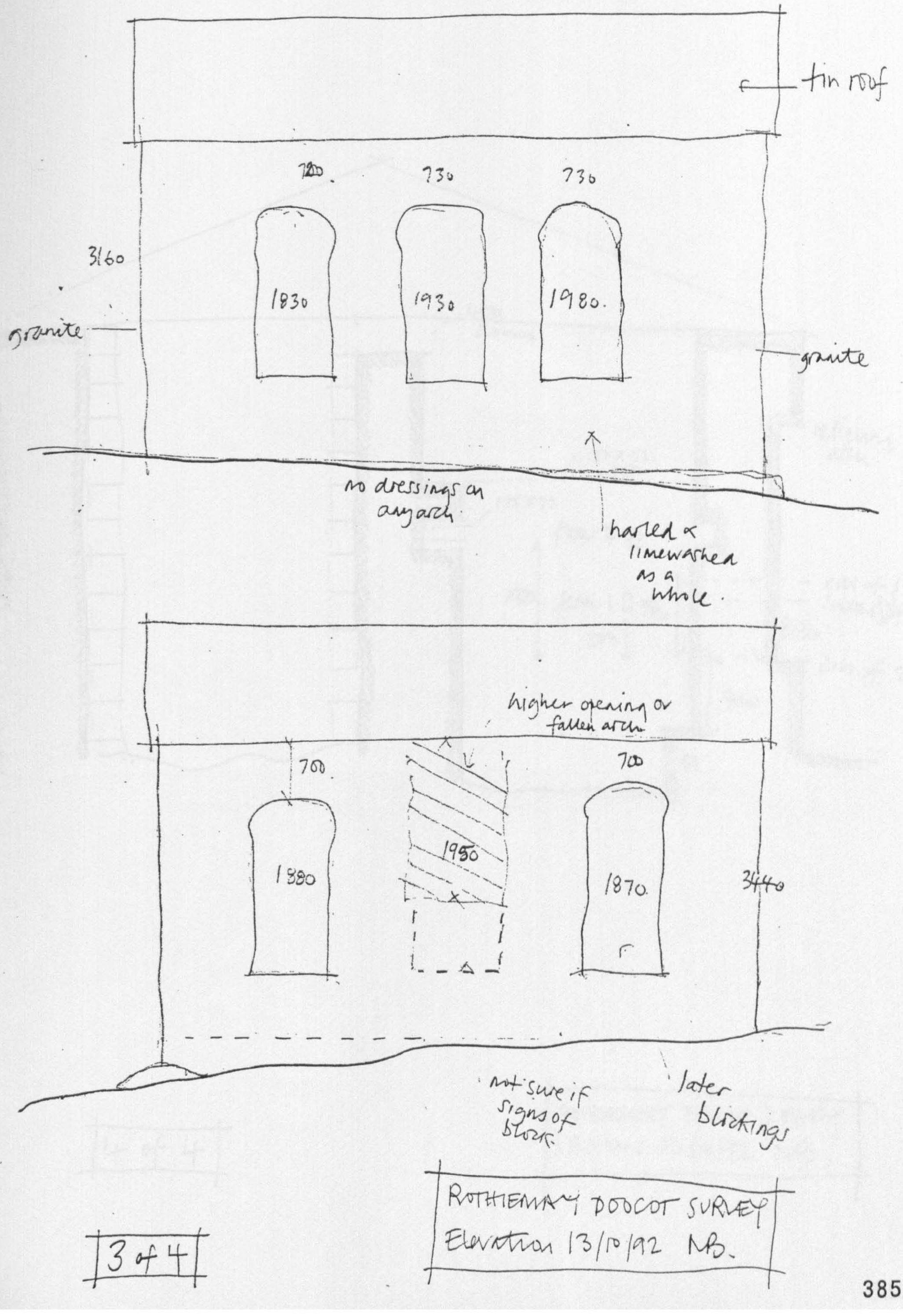


1760's pencil landscape by William Tomkins shows pagoda roof gloucester? & skylights



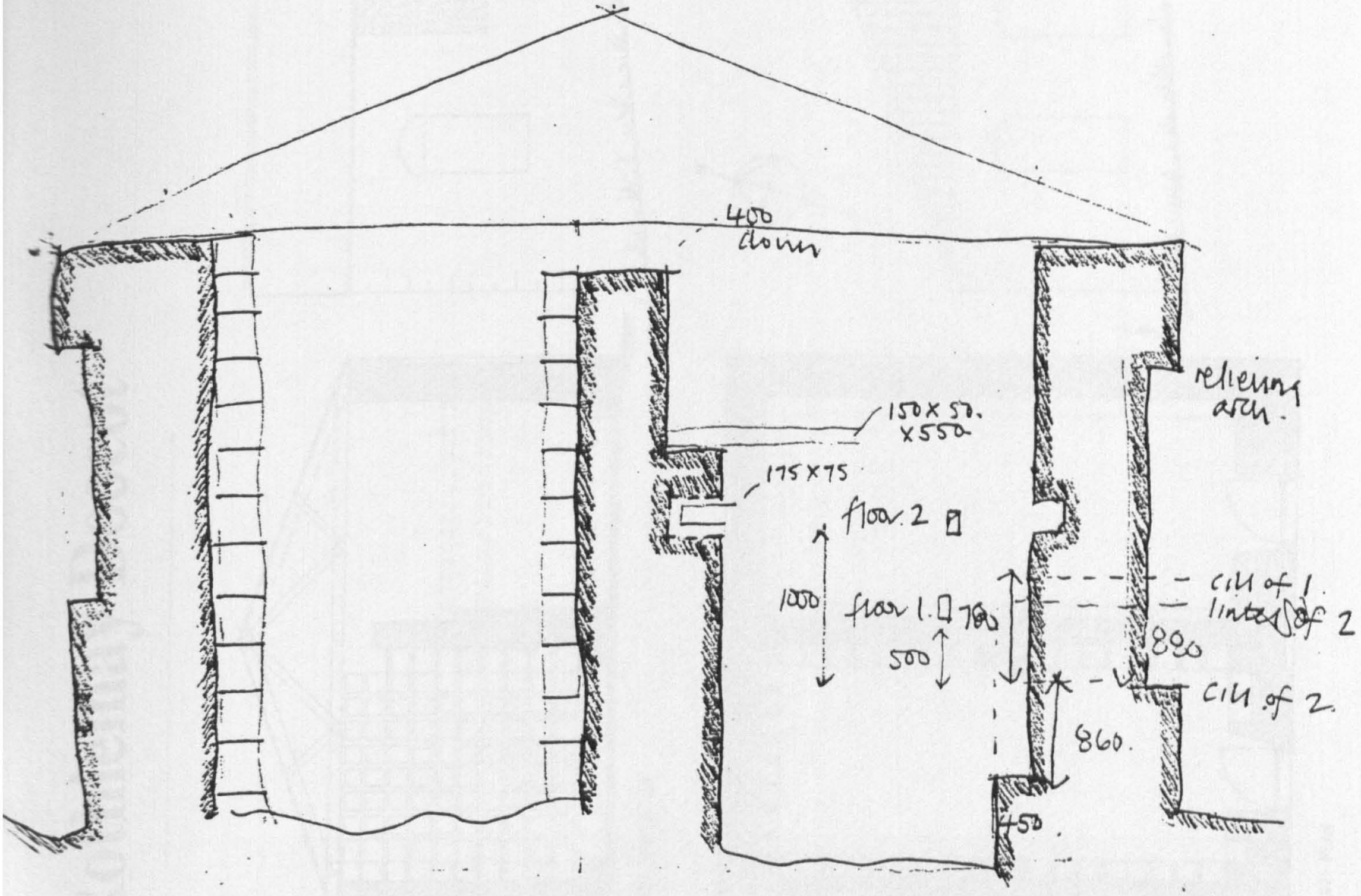
ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT SURVEY
Elevations 13/10/92 MB.

2 of 4



ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT SURVEY
Elevation 13/10/92 NB.

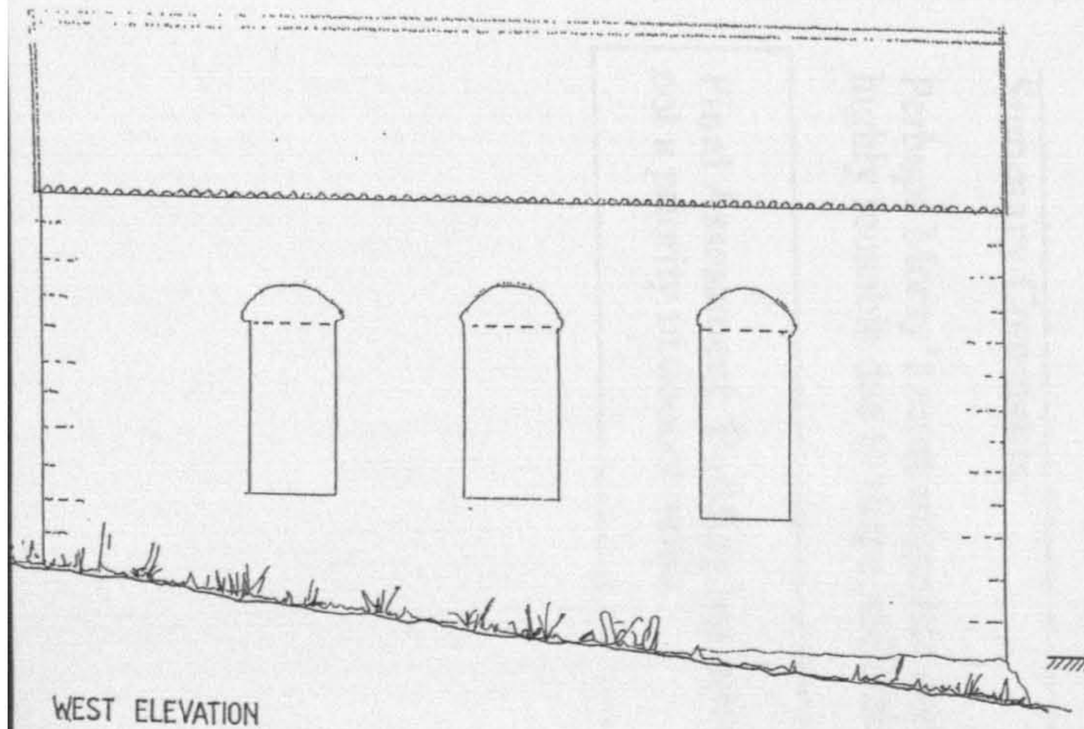
3 of 4



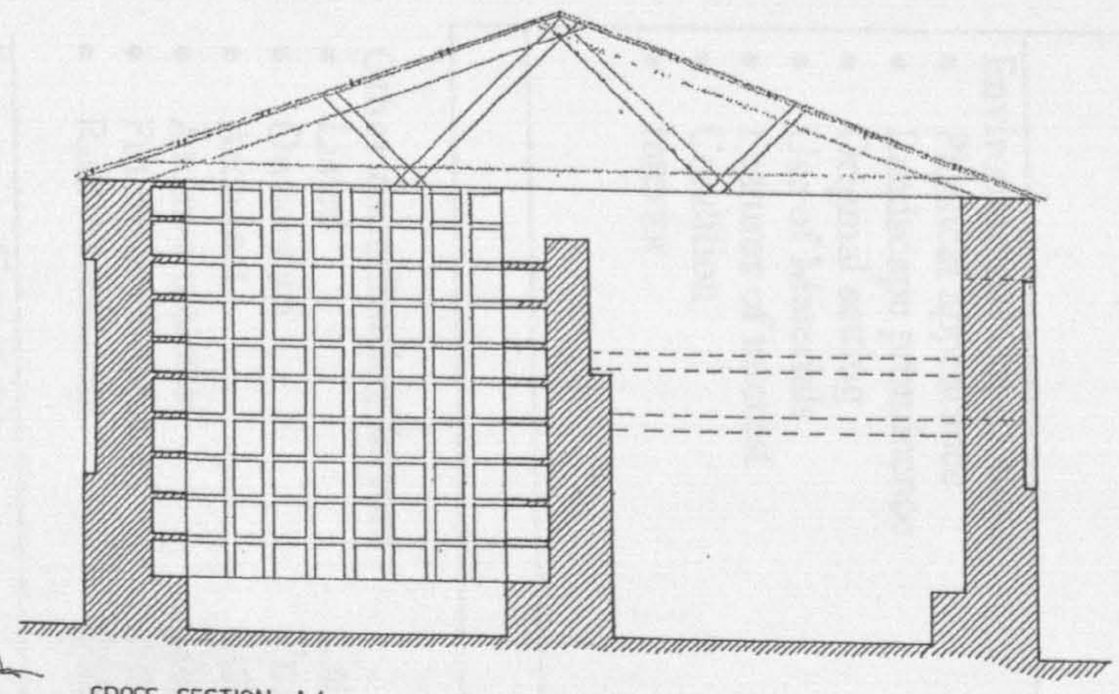
4 of 4

ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT SURVEY.
SECTION 13/10/92 MB.

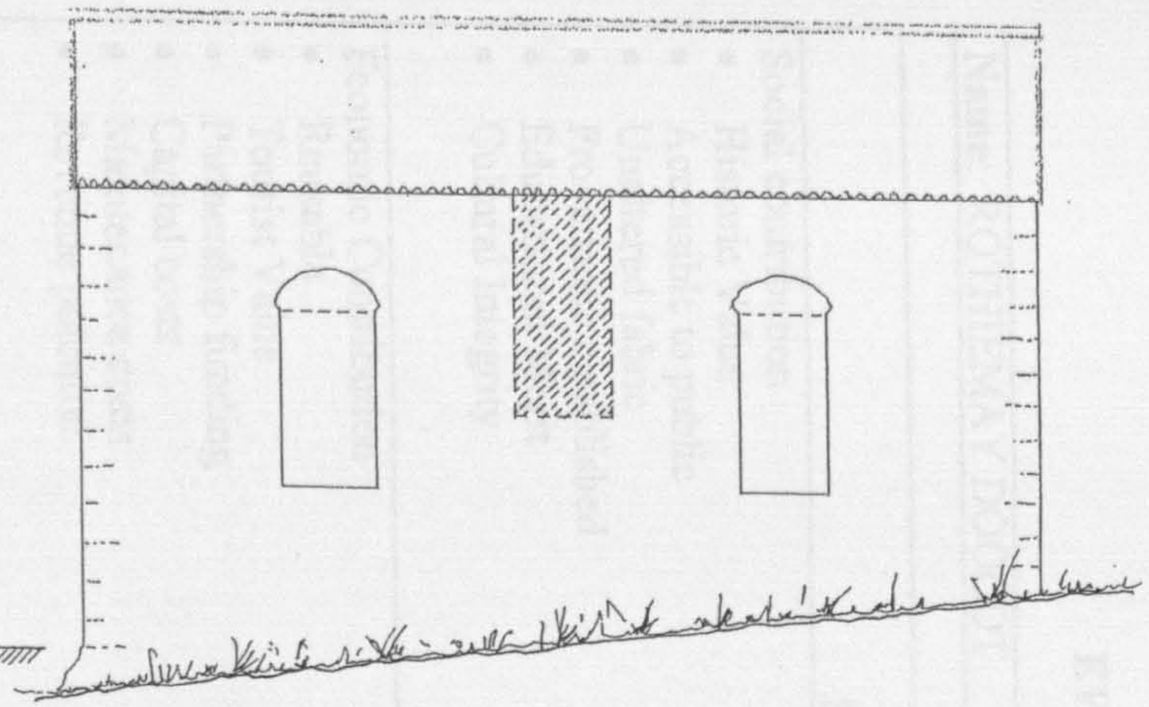
Rothiemay Doocot



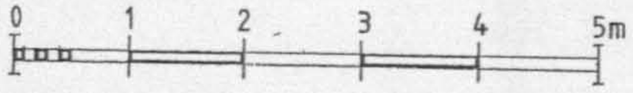
WEST ELEVATION

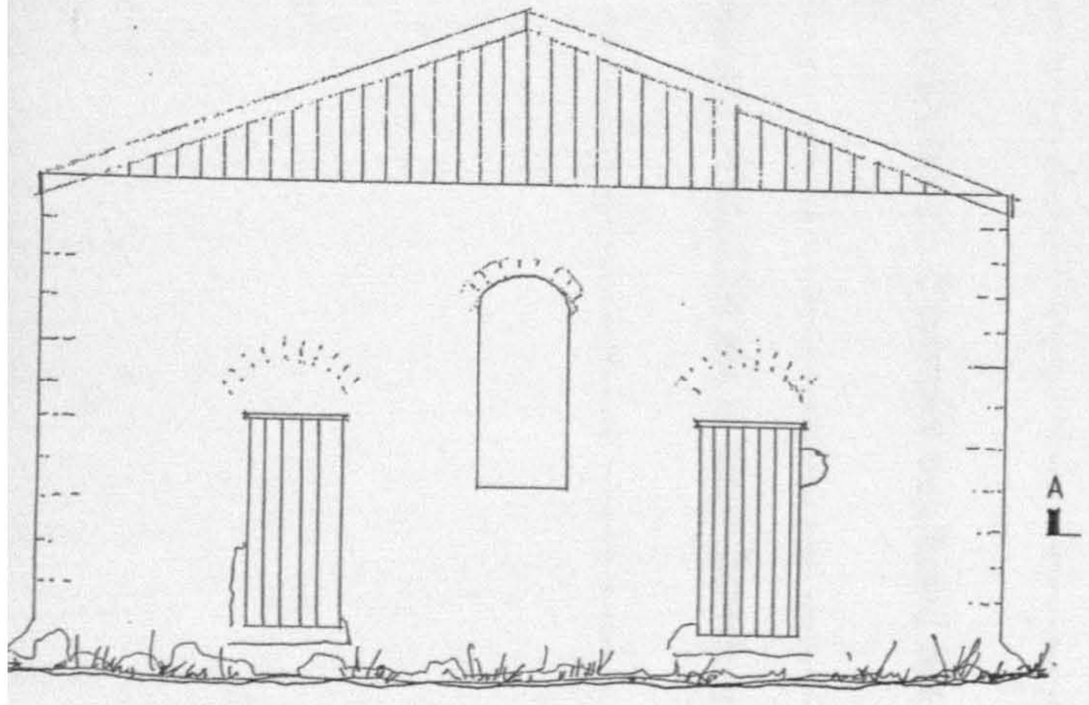


CROSS SECTION AA

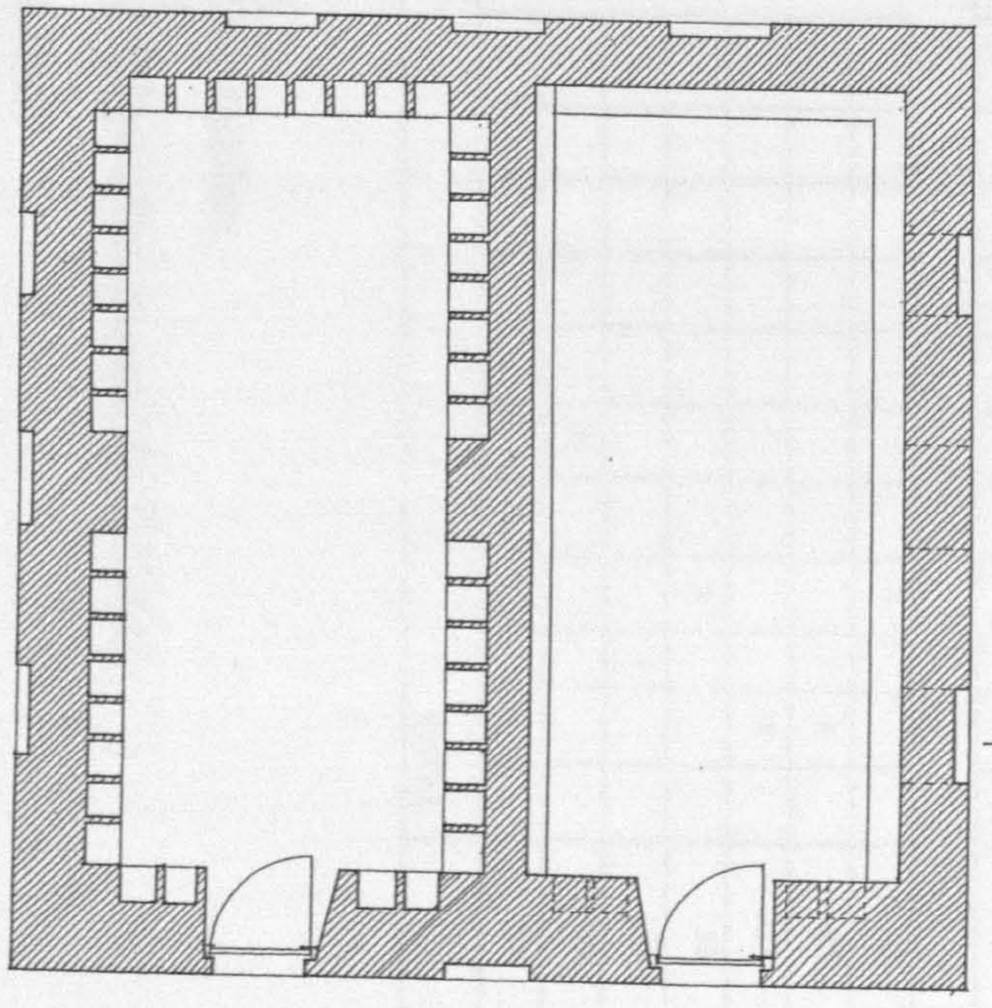


EAST ELEVATION

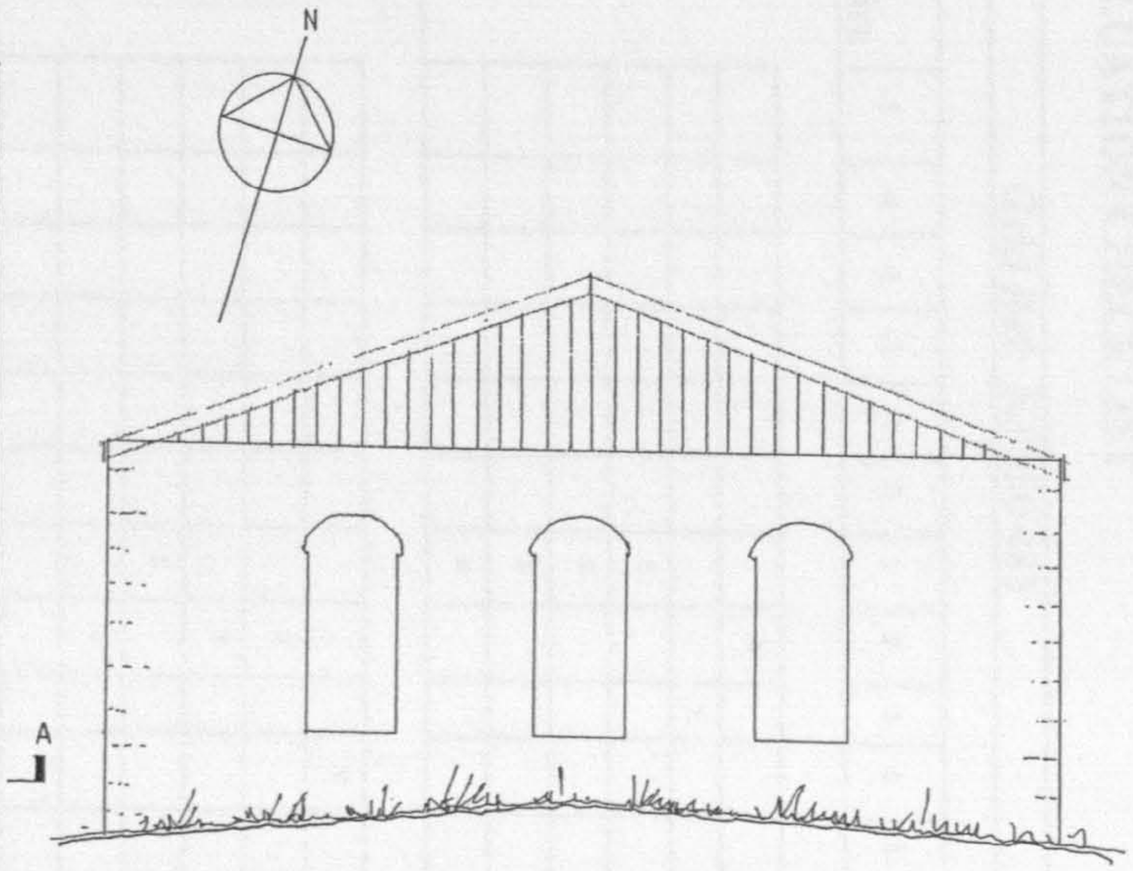




SOUTH ELEVATION



GROUND PLAN



NORTH ELEVATION

387

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: ROTHIEMAY DOOCOT **Grid Ref**: NJ 550 483

	Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution													
• Historic Value									x				2
• Accessible to public										x			5
• Unaltered fabric								x					6
• Provenance established								x					7
• Educational Merit								x					8
• Cultural Integrity								x					9
Economic Contribution													
• Reusable											x		13
• Tourist Value									x				15
• Partnership funding									x				17
• Capital costs								x					18
• Maintenance costs									x				20
• Revenue potential													
Environmental Contribution													
• Physical appearance									x				22
• Landscape prominence											x		25
• Original setting											x		28
• Use of Materials									x				30
• Features of interest										x			33
• Condition							x						33
• Interior								x					34
	TOTAL												34

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category C(s)
- Ownership — Private – Dr. Traquhair
- Architect — Not Known
- Archive material — Duff House (Montcoffer) Papers MS 3175/648
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Medium to High

Summary Comments:

Perhaps Moray's most enigmatic doocot (most likely a conversion). Currently neglected but highly reusable due to shape and history of alterations.

Final Assessment: Building has merit as a landscape feature. Could be put to reuse however but not a priority in doocot terms.

5.5.18 SANQUHAR DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 040 579, Rafford Parish

Altitude 25M.

Positive Reference(s)

'Edinburgh Evening Courant', 22 August 1768, s.v., 'The Mansion House of Sanquhar',

"...lies within a short mile to the south of Forres, ... with a good Pigeon-house, a large garden, an orchard of thriving trees of various kinds, properly laid out, and of about 70 acres of arable and pasture ground."

(Source: Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p 381).

(Not marked on 1870 O. S.)



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Sanquhar Doocot (Fig. 5.5.18)

5.5.19 SMITHFIELD, GORDONSTOUN DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 210 700, Drainee Parish

(Twin chambered lean-to).

Altitude 10M

Positive Reference(s)

Thought to have been erected in 1751. Subject of interesting lawsuit (see Appendix Section 2).

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931.

p.12, *"There is at the Smithfield dovecote a single opening below the eaves in addition to the larger opening in the roof".* p.14, *".. the largest number* [of nest boxes] *in Moray being in the Smithfield dovecote with approximately 1000 nests in each end, the dovecote being divided by mason-built wall.... The Smithfield nests are 8 inches by 9 inches approximately".* p.16, *".. at Smithfield - there is a stone-built erection or table..... this stone erect ion measure on the top flat surface 2 feet by 3 feet. I think it is very likely that this table formed the bottom of a support for a ladder when nests were being searched".* p.17, *".. party wall as at Smithfield is carried right up above the roof".*

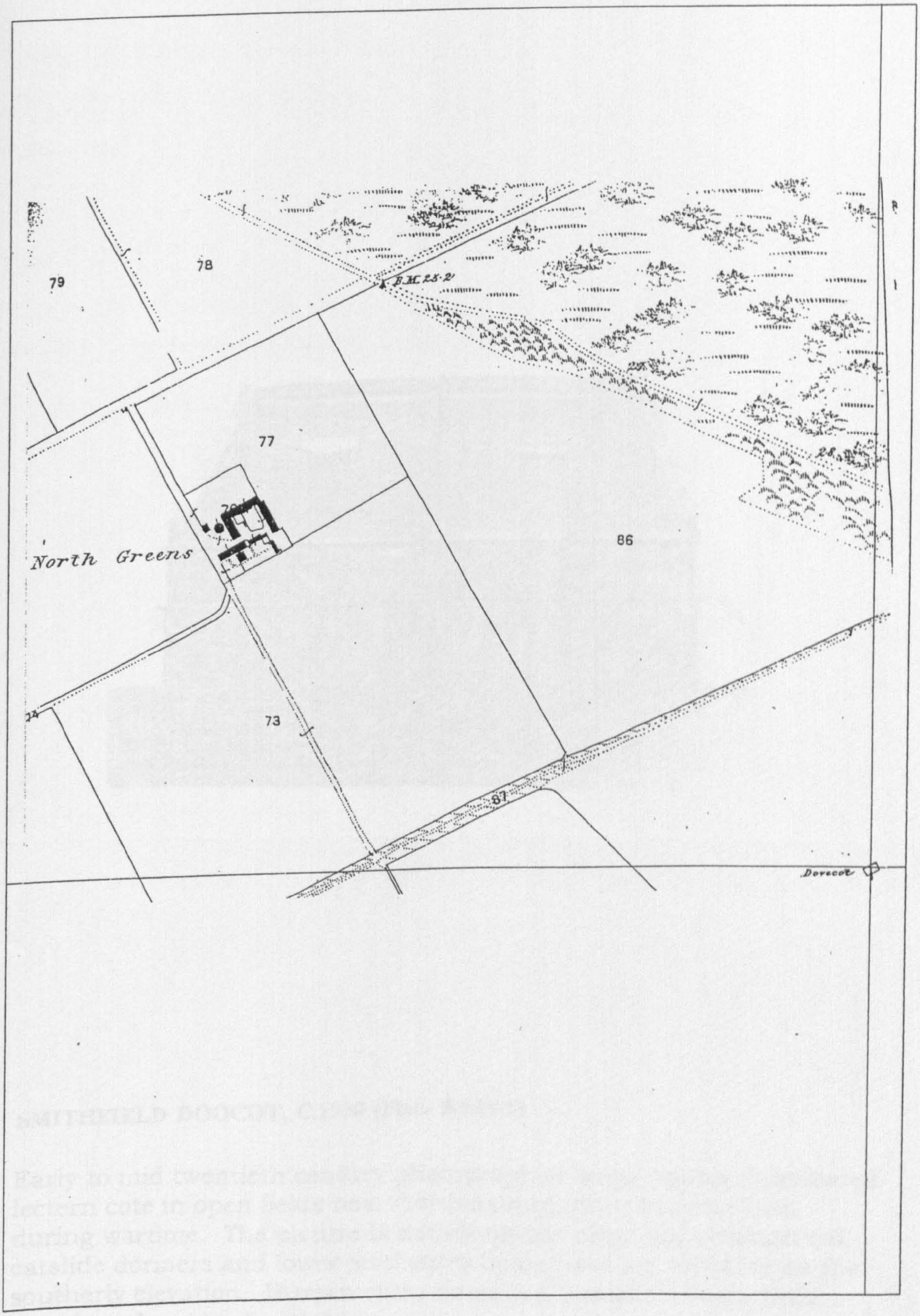
Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, p.341. Mentions that "*...the parish of Drainy ... where there are 4 pigeon houses*". This probably refers to Gordonstoun Beehive, Gordonstoun Windmill, Ballormie and Smithfield.

'Dovecot' on 1869 O.S. near North Greens farm. (Not shown, however, on Kinnairds, 'Map of Loch Spynie', 1783).

1903 O.S. shows large rectangular 'Dovecot' about 200M S.E. of North Greens farm.

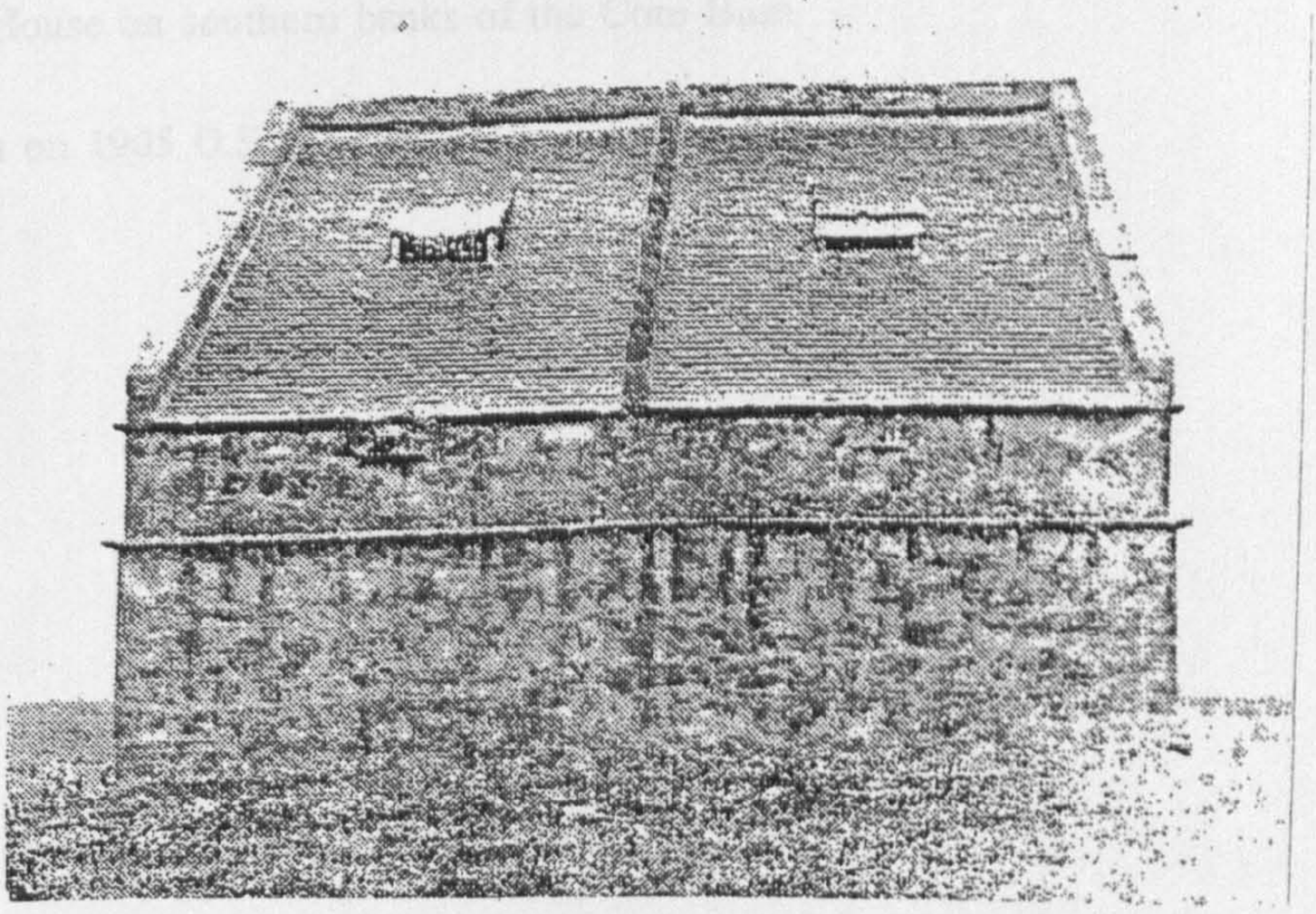
Background Reference(s)

Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p.243, notes the compartmentalising of some doocots with separate doors (and often outer yetts). *"Clearly the Scottish doocot was regarded as a treasure to be held secure".* He plausibly suggests that buildings were compartmentalised in order to (i) legitimately raid without disturbing all the birds and (ii) to make life harder for thieves. A third reason may have been improved bird management in terms of maintenance, stocking, hygiene, disease control, flock behaviour etc. whilst Bailey and Tindall, 'Dovecots of East Lothian', 1963, pp.31-2. observes that the double lectern dovecots at both Betton and the Beil are *"... some way from the mansion".*



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Smithfield Doocot (Fig. 5.5.19)



SMITHFIELD DOOCOT, C.1930 (Plate 5.5.19.1)

Early to mid twentieth century photograph of large, double chambered lectern cote in open fields near Gordonstoun, prior to demolition during wartime. The picture is not altogether clear but symmetrical catslide dormers and lower level entry holes/vent are viewable on the southerly elevation. Human entry doors are thought to have been found on the side elevations.

(Extract from Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1930, p29)

5.5.20 TANNACHY DOOCOT (LOST)

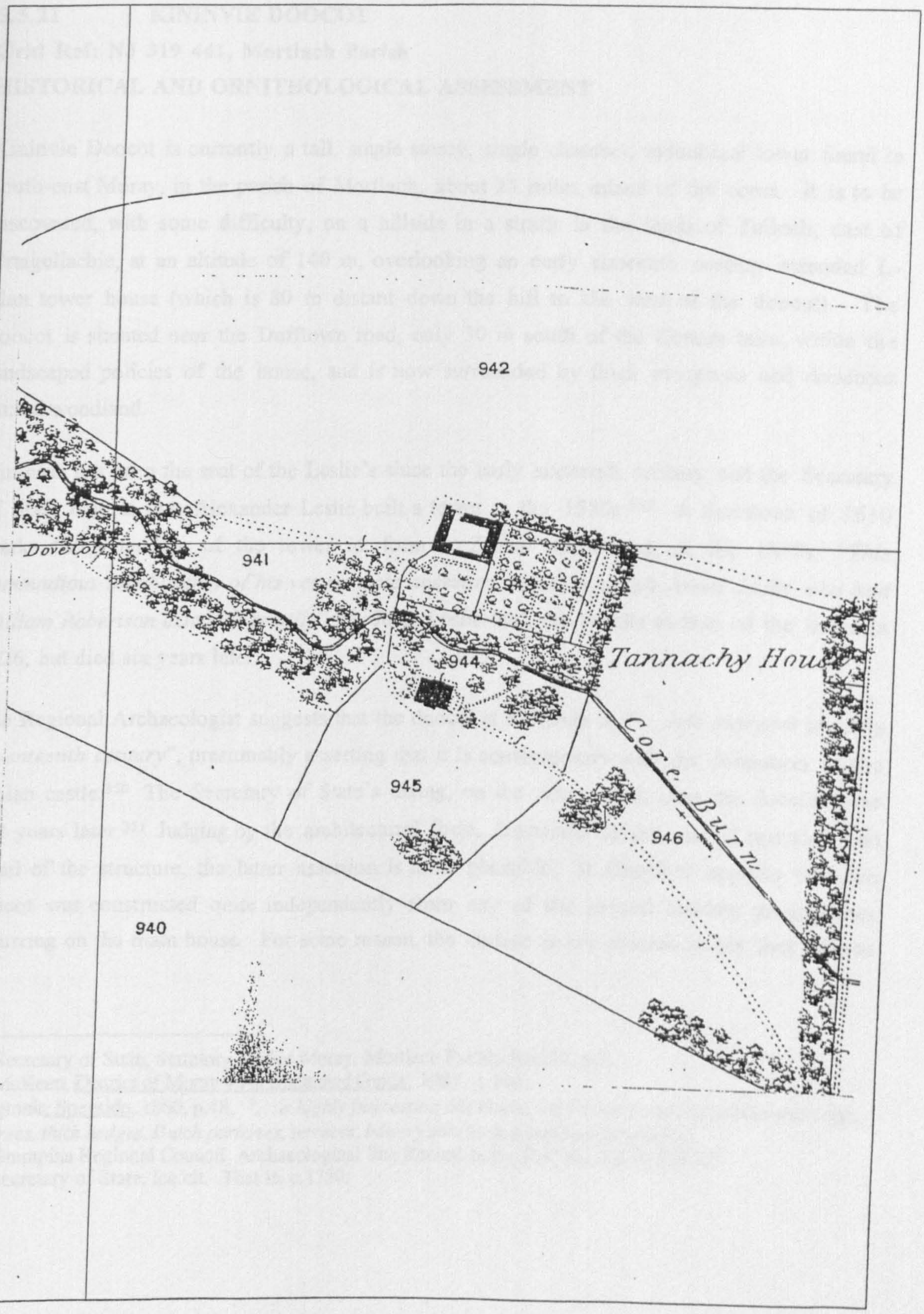
GRID REF: NJ 390 635, Buckie Parish

Altitude 24M

Positive Reference(s)

Sec 1870 O.S. - between Portgordon and Enzie. Small square structure about 180M east of Tannachy House on southern banks of the Core Burn.

(Not shown on 1905 O.S.)



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Tannachy Doocot (Fig. 5.5.20)

5.5.21 KININVIE DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 319 441, Mortlach Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Kininvie Doocot is currently a tall, single storey, single chamber, cylindrical tower found in south-east Moray, in the parish of Mortlach, about 25 miles inland of the coast. It is to be discovered, with some difficulty, on a hillside in a strath in the lands of Tulloch, east of Craigellachie, at an altitude of 140 m, overlooking an early sixteenth century extended L-plan tower house (which is 80 m distant down the hill to the west of the doocot). The doocot is situated near the Dufftown road, only 30 m south of the Cottars burn, within the landscaped policies of the house, and is now surrounded by thick evergreen and deciduous mixed woodland.

Kininvie has been the seat of the Leslie's since the early sixteenth century and the Secretary of State reports that Alexander Leslie built a tower in the 1530s.[348] A datestone of 1610 marks the extending of the tower to form a Z-plan castle and, in the 1840s, "*This commodious inhabitation of his very remote ancestors failed to satisfy James Leslie who had William Robertson extend it prettily*".[349] John Leslie built the middle section of the house in 1726, but died six years later.

The Regional Archaeologist suggests that the doocot at Kininvie is, "... *late sixteenth or early seventeenth century*", presumably asserting that it is contemporary with the formation of the Z-plan castle.[350] The Secretary of State's listing, on the other hand, cites the doocot some 150 years later.[351] Judging by the architectural form, functional layout, use of materials and detail of the structure, the latter assertion is more plausible. It therefore appears that the doocot was constructed quite independently from any of the several building programmes occurring on the main house. For some reason, the doocot is not evident in the first edition

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348 Secretary of State, Statutory list for Moray, Mortlach Parish, Item11, p.7.
349 McKean, District of Moray – An Illustrated Guide, 1987, p.146.
Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p.48, "... *a highly interesting old house, with towers and old gables and roofs, old trees, thick hedges, Dutch parterres, terraces, bowery shrubs and intricate labyrinths*".
350 Grampian Regional Council, Archaeological Site Record Index Ref. No. NJ 34 SW 32.
351 Secretary of State, loc.cit. That is, c.1750.

OS (although unlikely, could the doocot possibly be post 1870?) but is marked 'Dovecot' on both the later 1902 and 1965 versions.

By failing to include Kininvie in his descriptive list, Niven Robertson inferred, in 1961, that the doocot had been demolished when he included Kininvie in his list of Banffshire mansions but stated, "... *the dovecots remain at some of these mansions, and at other they are demolished*"[352] (he went on to provide descriptions of the 'existing' dovecots but excluded Kininvie).

The timber boxes within the structure appear to be of nineteenth century date and they include internal ledges associated with the two later flight holes insertions within the upper section of the south elevation.[353] An intermediate floor, diving the building into a ground floor store and a first floor doocot, probably rested on the stone scarcement which occurs at the level of the entrance door lintel (thus making Kininvie Doocot an upper chamber with a store below) and the boxes now 'float' uneasily above the scarcement. This is the only apparent defect in an otherwise architecturally pure structure, which Buxbaum described as "*Pavilion type*", presumably as a reaction to the conical roof structure, rather than the circular plan form.[354] Although an architectural stereotype in form and design, Kininvie Doocot was constructed in local materials: nineteenth century writers observed that Kininvie was, "... *environed with natural wood*" and, "... *there is every-where plenty of stone for buildings, and some quarries also of pretty good slate, of a grey colour, and all over the country exhaustless treasures of lime*"[355]. The Welsh slates on the roof are a nineteenth or twentieth century alteration.

The building is now redundant (except for a resident owl) but is still presently in good condition, owing much to the ongoing limewashing and harling, as well as the later reslating of the roof.[356] The slating, however, with lighter and thinner slates, does not possess an adequate roof overhang and, in the long term, will result in water damage to the ledging and

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352 A.N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland, 1961, p.368.
353 These flight holes are the only 2 (out of a total of 8) located about 200 mm above the external ledges and are constructed with slate pieces rather than stone.
354 Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.31.
355 Shaw, History of Province of Moray 1882, vol.1, p.127 and Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, p.292.
356 The present limewash is pale yellow but underlayers are in white.

harling. The building is also very much out of sight and will eventually be threatened by the undermining of the foundations by tree roots, unless carefully monitored and acted upon. Although the short term future of Kininvie Doocot seems relatively secure, it would benefit the building and possible the landscape policies of Kininvie, if some tree felling was executed to permit the doocot to be viewed from the house as originally intended.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Kininvie doocot is circular in plan, with a diameter of 3.8 m, and a walhead height of 5.1 m rising to an overall height of 7 m. Its 560 mm thick walls are built in a series of construction lifts, using a mixture of local rubble stone and lime mortar, with roughly squared margins around the openings. The external walls retain several layers of coarse lime harling of different texture, thus suggesting at least one re-harling phase. The south-facing door opening, of stone with harled margins, has an early, vertical boarded, ledged and braced timer door, size 1900 (h) x 900 mm (w), including a later vent insert and a small glazed opening.[357]

Two 50 mm thick "... *local slate rat courses encircle building*"[358] which project 150 mm beyond the wallface, except at the six flight holes where they are extended to project 230 mm across a width of 400 mm. The first ledge is to be found at a height of 2.9 m and there are three, 180 mm square, flight holes immediately above it to the south-east and west respectively. Likewise, there are a further three flight holes formed in slate above the top ledge which is found at a height of 4 m. On the south-facing portion of the building, at a height 200 mm above this top ledge, there are a further two 200 mm square openings.[359] The eight openings are carefully composed to maintain symmetrical balance, yet the listing refers to them as, "... *random square flight holes*"[360]. Curiously, there are small cast iron pins to be found at the sides of two of the lower holes.[361]

The conical roof appears to retain its original structure of sixteen, 125 x 50 mm, rafters with one midway tie and three annular purlin rings. It is pitched at 45° and is slated with later, 5 to 10 mm thick regular gauge, Welsh slate, nailed to vertical firred sarking boards, which are visible from within. A 250 mm diameter lead ball finial, and flashing, which crowns the apex along with a flat metal directional arrow, is described by Beaton as "*weather vane*"[362] and is connected through the roof using a 20 mm diameter cast iron rod fixed to the midway roof tie.

A 30 mm high granite step checks down on to a hardcore floor, which implies the removal of an original floor finish such as stone slabbing. The open internal chamber contains a linear arrangement of softwood boxes which are hung from the walling using metal vine eyes. They do not (surprisingly) rest on the 100 mm stone scarcement which projects at a height of 1.8 m above floor level. The vertical boards of the boxes are fixed at the top to the roof structure and the 11 rows provide a nest box number of 340, each with a size of 230 (w) x 280 (h) x 200 mm(d). The Secretary of State's listing suggests that "*originally the inner walls would have been lined with boxes from ground floor up*"[363] None of the boxes contains alighting ledges, although all include a 30 mm wooden upstand along the fronts. There is no clear evidence of any former collecting aid but the limewash to the rubble walling is still evident, as is the plastering of the door ingo.

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357 Secretary of State, Statutory list for Moray, Mortlach Parish, Item 11, p.7. The list refers to the "*doorway at east*".

358 Ibid.

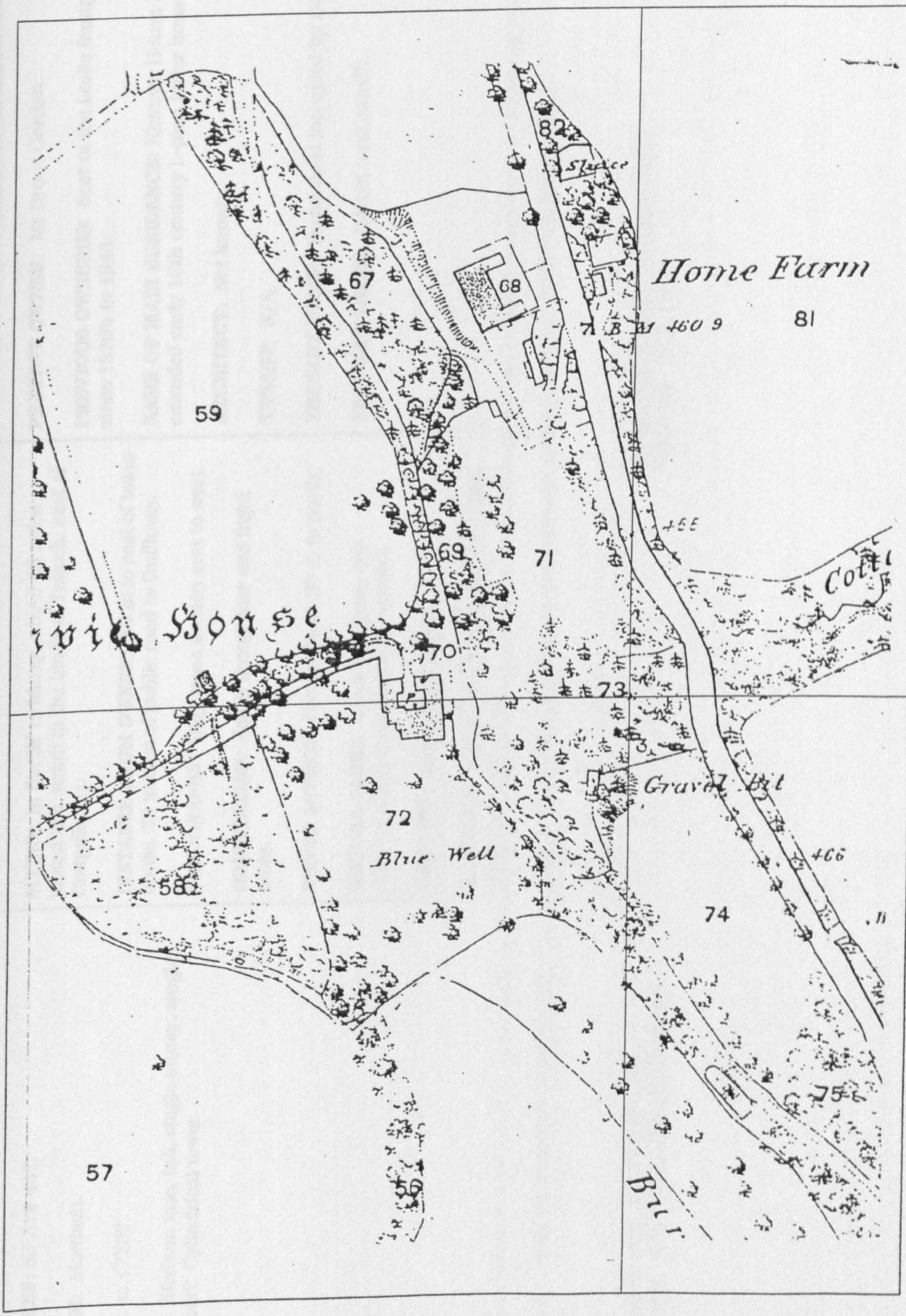
359 Unlike the others, these further openings now have curved internal wooden ledges suggesting their use as flight holes. They may, nevertheless, at one time have been mere vent holes since they are later openings formed in slate rather than stone.

360 Secretary of State, loc.cit.

361 Anon, 'Ancient Larders', 1947, p.30. "*In many of these dovecotes* [incoporated] *iron hooks are ound below the entrance holes; these were for attaching the nets which were used to capture the birds*".

362 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.15.

363 Secretary of State, loc.cit. Without firm evidence, this theory is speculation and more likely incorrect.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Kininvie Doocot (Fig. 5.5.21)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 319 441. **PARISH**: Mortlach. **DATE**: c. 1775? **TYPE**: Medium size, tall, single storey, single chamber? Cylindrical tower.	**SITING**: In the SE of Moray, about 25 miles inland in a strath in the lands of Tulloch, east of Craigellachie. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 80 m to east of tower house, 30 m west of public road to Dufftown. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Hilly cross section east to west. **ORIENTATION**: South facing door and flight holes. **WATER SOURCE**: Cottars Burn 30 m to north. **MATURE TREES**: Thick evergreen and deciduous mix immediately all around. **LAND USE**: Landscaped policy. **ALTITUDE**: 140 m (doocot at higher level than house by about 15 m).	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mr Bruce Gordon. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Seat of the Leslie family since 1530's to 1943. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Kininvie House (an extended early 16th century L-plan tower house). **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT**: N/A. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant (occupied by Owl). **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Doocot (and store?).

NOTES: - Building is difficult to photograph due to surrounding woodland (although some selective felling carried out between survey checks).

Date of Check: 12 October 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Good. **REPAIRS:** Ongoing limewashing, harling. **ALTERATIONS:** Reslating using lightweight slates. **FUTURE RISK:** - Inadequate roof overhang causing long term saturation of external wall and erosion of ledges. - Building hidden from view therefore not continually monitored. - Undermining of foundations by tree roots.	**PLAN FORM:** Circular. **PLAN SIZE:** 3.8 m diameter. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 5.1 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 7 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Lifts of random rubble & lime mortar. **WALL MATERIAL:** Mixture of local stone rubble with square margins at openings. **WALL THICKNESS:** 560 mm (ground). **WALL FINISH:** Layers of lime harling (different periods). **ROOF FORM:** Conical. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 16 rafters 125 x 50 mm with one midway tie and three annular purlins. **ROOF PITCH:** 45°. **ROOF FINISH:** Later regular gauge 5 to 10 mm Welsh slate (with inadequate eaves overhang) nailed to firred or tapered vertical sarking boards exposed internally.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Early vertically boarded ledged and braced timber door with small later vent and glazed opening. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** N/A. **DOOR SIZE:** 1900 (h) x 900 mm (w). **DOOR SITING:** South facing. **LEDGES:** Two number 50 mm thick stone ledges around perimeter projecting 150 mm except at flight holes where they project 230 mm. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 2.9 m and 4 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 24 m. **APERTURES:** None. **VENT HOLES:** Possibly 2 on south face of third stage each 180 mm square, 200 mm above top ledge. **FLIGHT HOLES:** 6 (or possibly 8) 3 above each ledge respectively on east, west and south, 200 mm square. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** 0.27 m². **LIMEWASH:** Present is pale yellow in colour. Earlier wash is white. **DORMERS:** No. **SKEWS:** N/A. **FINIALS:** Lead ball finial fixed through roof by iron rod connected to roof tie. **WEATHER VANE:** Flat metal directional arrow.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: 30 mm high granite step.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Stone hardcore (floor finish removed?).

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Linear arrangement of softwood boxes hung from walling using metal vine eyes (not resting on 100 mm stone scarcement at bottom) with vertical boards fixed to roof structure. Boxes include 30 mm lip upstand.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 340.

NEST BOX SIZE: 230 (w) x 280 (h) x 200 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 1.8 m.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: No.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Door ingo plastered. Rubble walls limewashed.

COLLECTING AID: No clear evidence.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 340 x 2 x 0.7 = 476.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 12.3 m^3.

OTHER:

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS: - was there ever a floor at scarcement level?

- purpose of pins at lower ledge flight holes?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 3, 15.

T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 31.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 368.

D. Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1976, p. 185.

S. Cooper, Ornamental Garden Buildings, vol. 6, 1996, u.p.

N. Tranter, Fortified House, vol. 5, 1970, p. 63.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Mortlach Parish Item 11, p 7, Category B, 1972.

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index Ref. No. NJ 34 SW 32.

MAPS: 1869, 1902, 1965 OS Maps.
T. Pont's 'Mapp of Murray', No. 8, c. 1596 held in NMLS records small mansion at 'Kininvy'.

J. Blaeu's 1654 'Map de Moravia', also held in NMLS notes a tower house at 'Kininoway'.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER: Estate information

C. McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 146.

I. Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed.) p. 289.

L. Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, vol. 1, pp. 140-2.

J. Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 48.

R. Young, Kings of Newmill, 1904, pp. 21-2.

C. MacGibbon & T. Ross, Castellated Architecture, vol. 4, 1892, pp. 394-5.



KININVIE DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.21.1)

The doocot is now barely visible when viewed from either the mansion or eastern B-class road to Dufftown. Although many of the trees are relatively young, OS maps since the late nineteenth century have indicated that the doocot has been surrounded by trees for some time.



KININVIE DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.5.21.2)

Close up view from south west illustrating the extent to which the buildings is now hemmed in by trees. The two stringcourses are clearly seen with damp patches above and below thus signifying the building's inability to shed water and/or dry out quickly. The patches of white and pink harling and limewash can just be seen on the lower stage and a flight hole or vent can be made out on the upper stage of the cylinder.



KININVIE DOOCOT, 1993, INTERIOR (Plate 5.5.21.3)

Interior photograph showing the arrangement of the remaining wooden boxes which appear to 'float' from the walls. A small scarcement in the stonework can just be made out below the boxes and probably indicates the removal of a former intermediate floor.



KININVIE HOUSE, 1993 (Plate 5.5.21.4)

View of main house from the edge of the woodland around the doocot demonstrating the difference in height between the two structures. Were some trees to be removed, the doocot would be clearly visible from upper levels of the house in particular. The original tower house roof can just be seen centre rear whilst nineteenth century additions occur foreground left with sensitive twentieth century additions foreground right.

N

2550

hardcore floor - poss. slab finish?

rubble stone w. lime mortar

brook about 50 yards away

house about 200 yards on lower ground

560

ingo is plastered

granite threshold

GFP

1680

800

350

- 32 boxes around per row

32 boxes

single tie

8640

2300

400 slab at entrance

8760

2050

V6 rafters 3 rings of purlins radial sarking

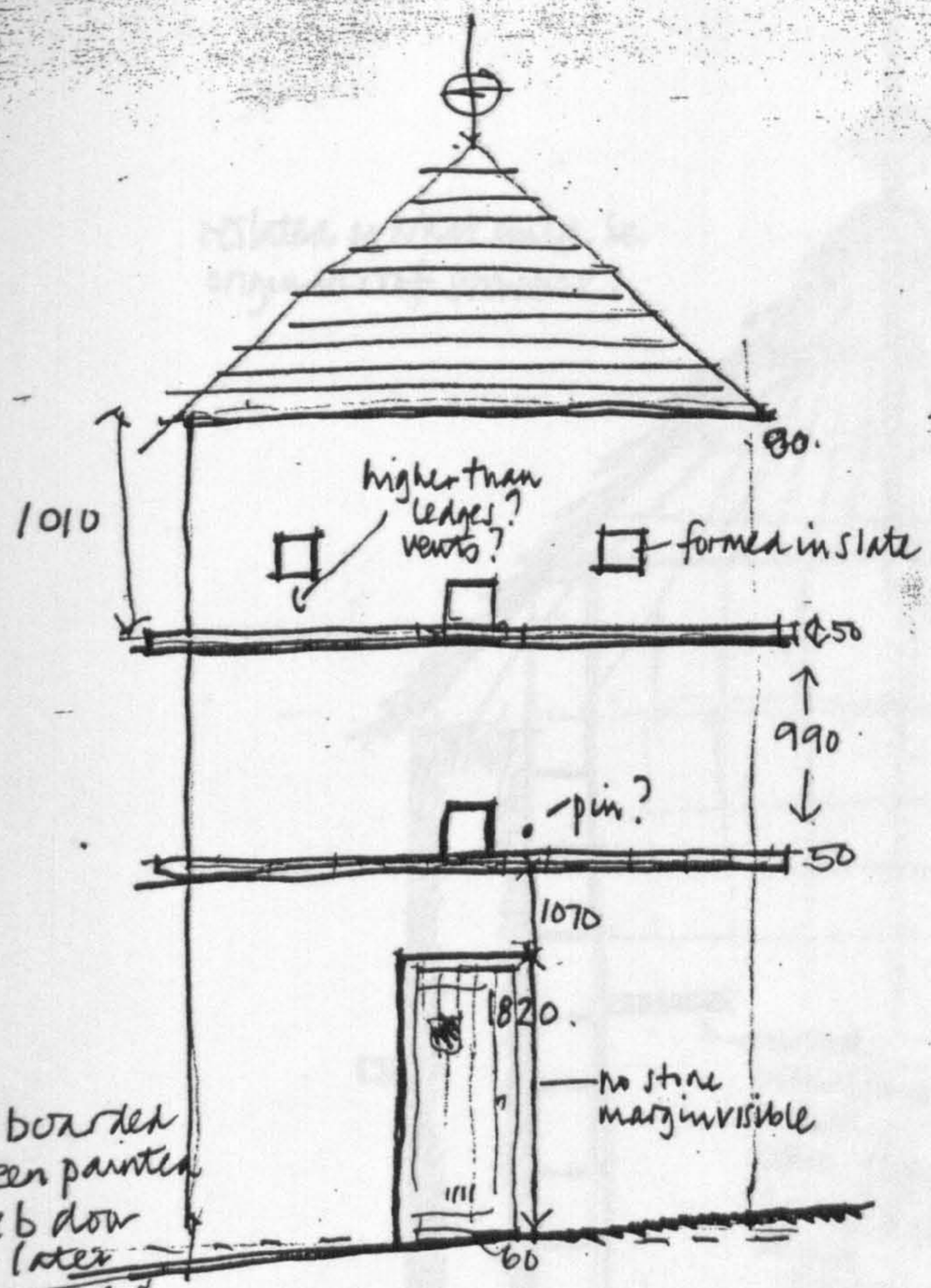
1430

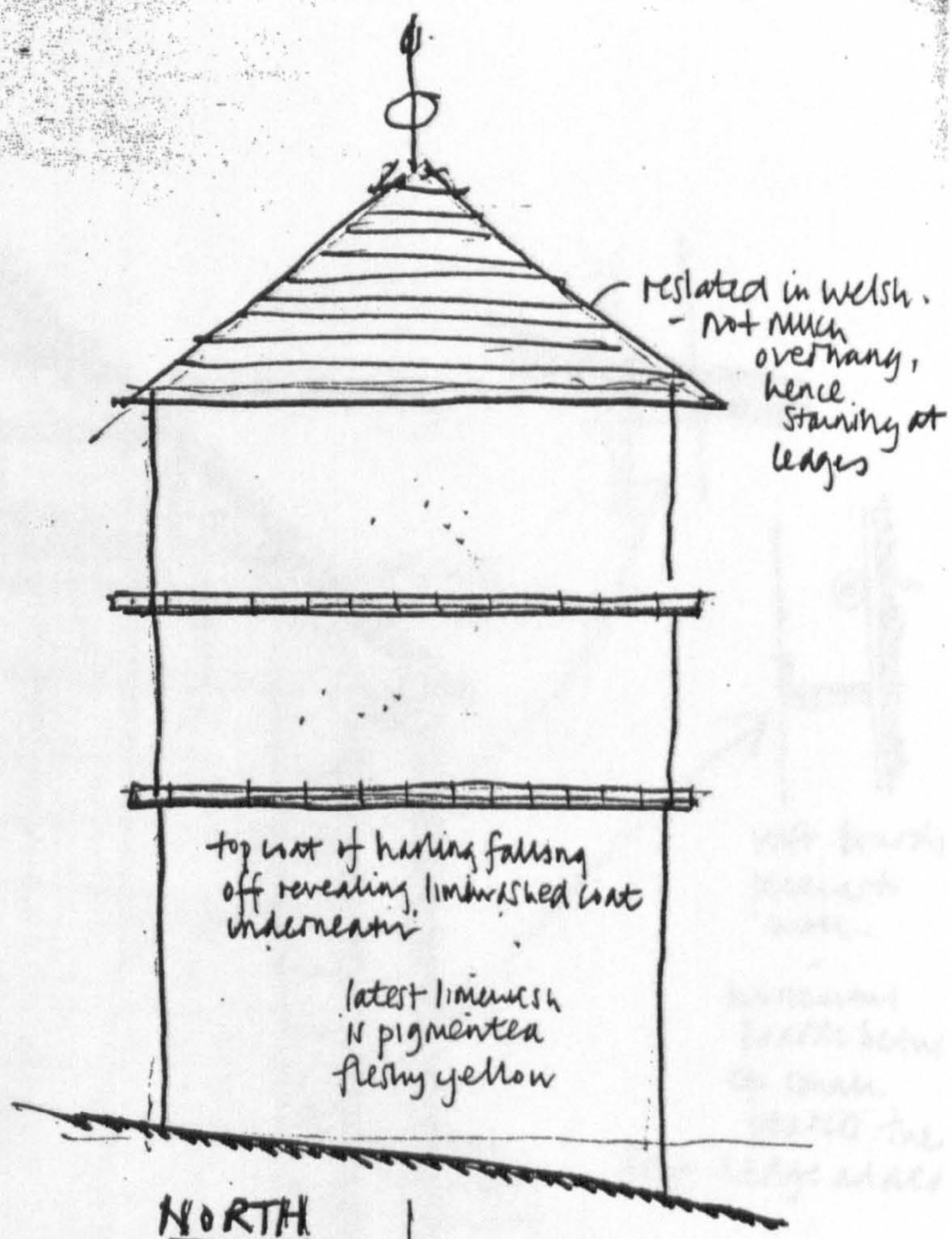
1130

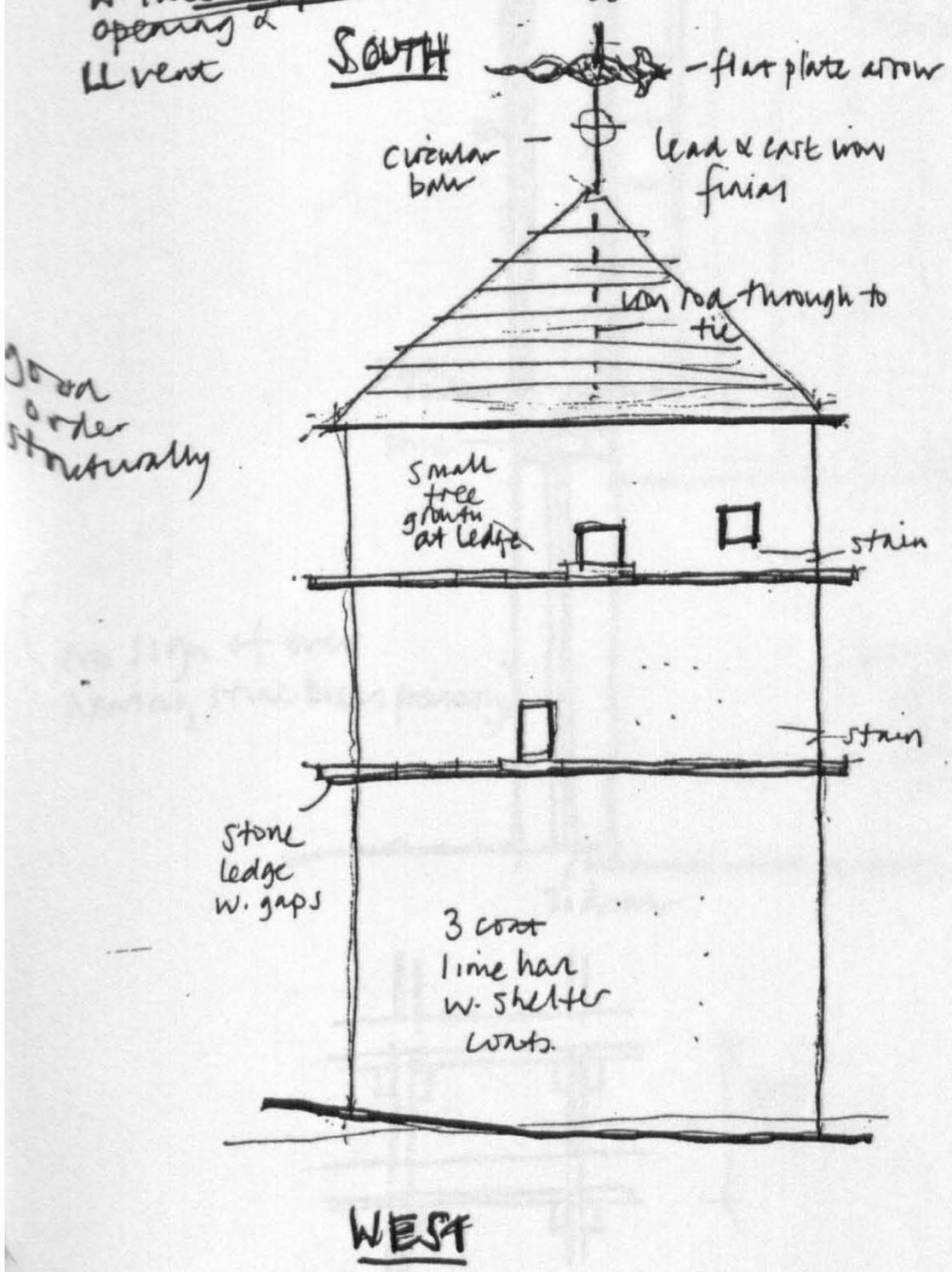
FIRST F.P.

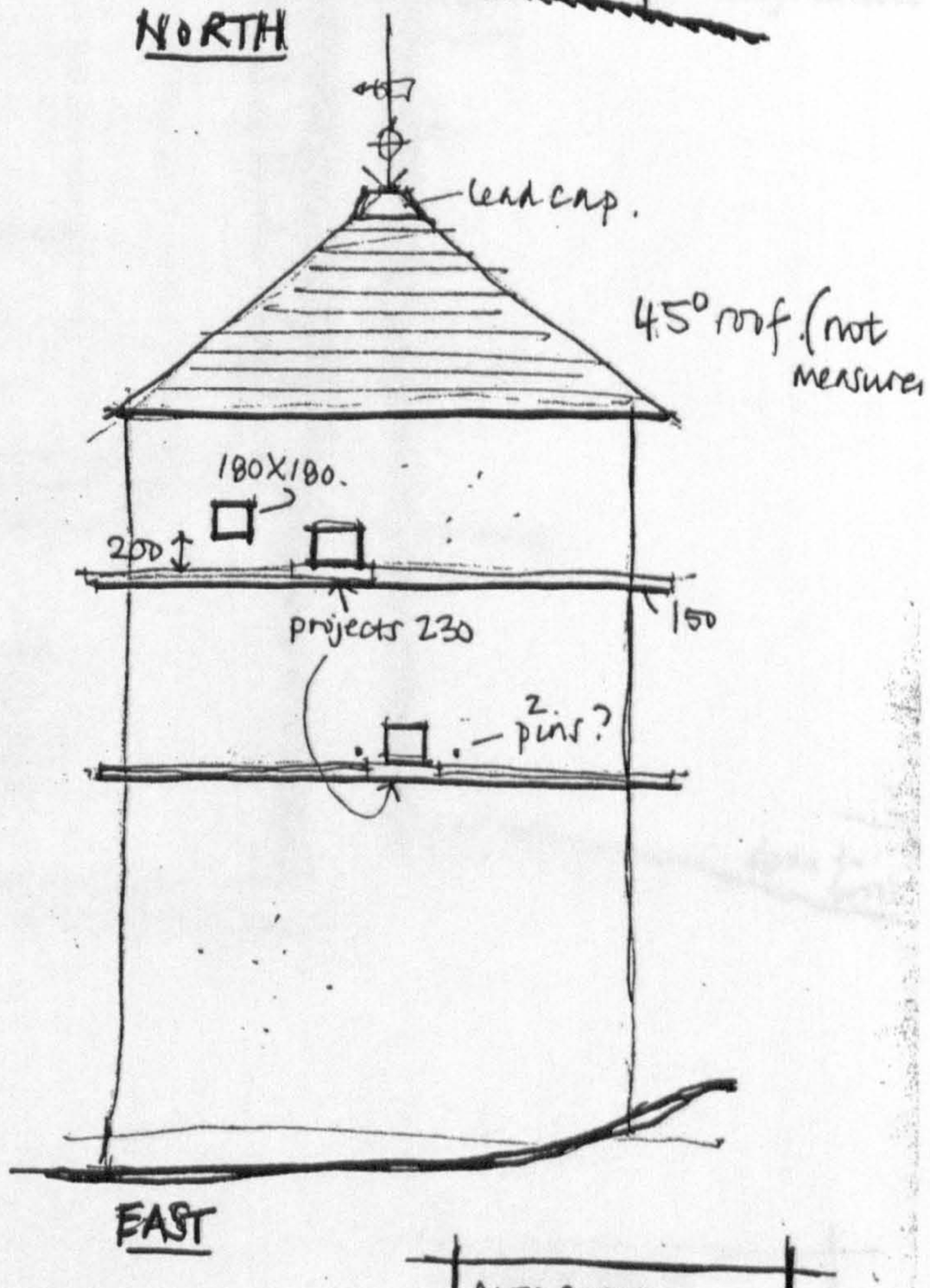
SURVEY OF KININVIE DOOCOT
NB 12/10/93

1 of 3









WEST

EAST

MEASURED SURVEY OF KINIVIE DOOCOT NB 12/10/93

09

reslated in what could be original roof structure.

1 m. tie only

rafters tie w. bolt holes at base.

verticals meet. sarking

vert. boards pinned to wall.

horizontal boards between small bearers. the front ledge added

pine eyes hang boxes from walls.

current inner ledge at two 'extra' flight holes? boxes above removed?

11 high

2 No. timber

stone

all cut away from scarcement?

scarcement.

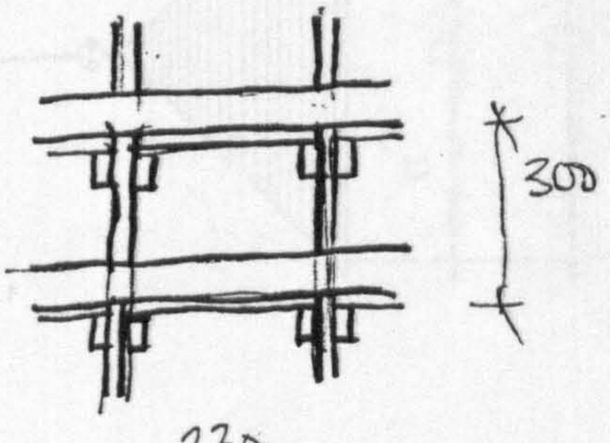
no sign of ever having stone boxes previously

limewashed random rubble well built w. lime

down to brook

3. down

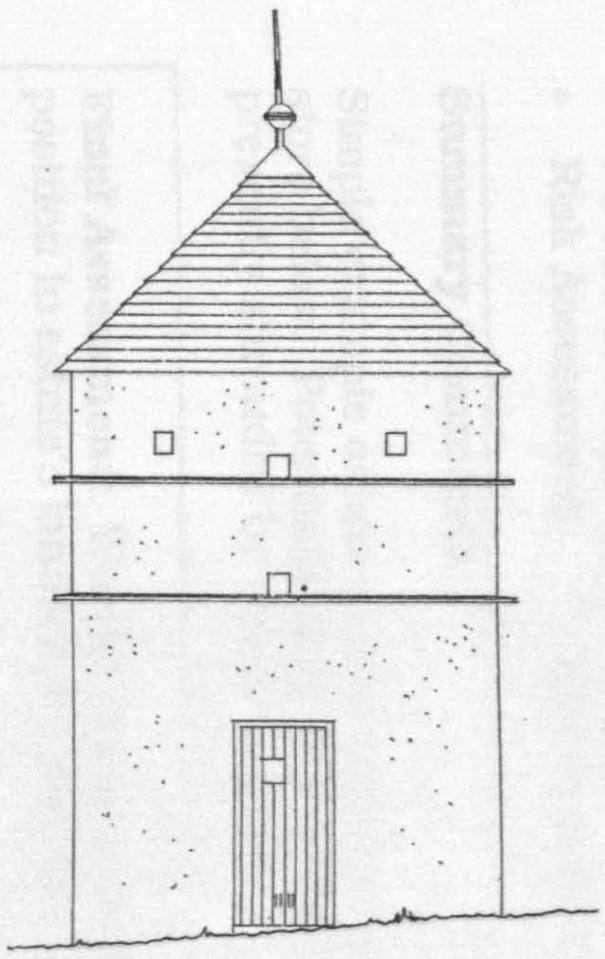
hardcore (to take slabs?)



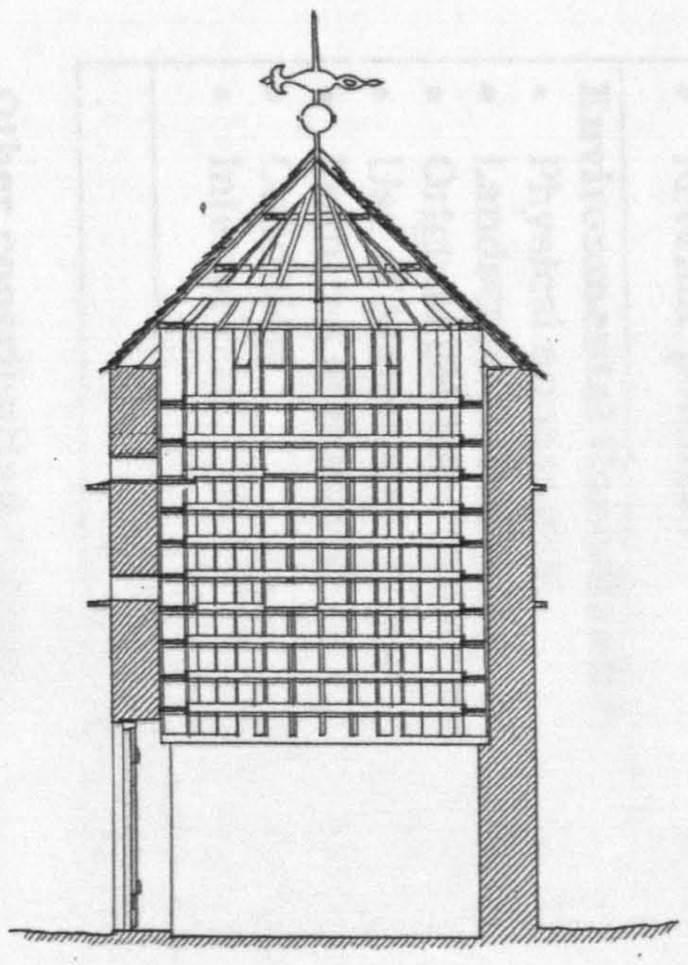
3 of 3

MEASURED SURVEY OF KININVIE DOOCOT 12/10/93. NB 410

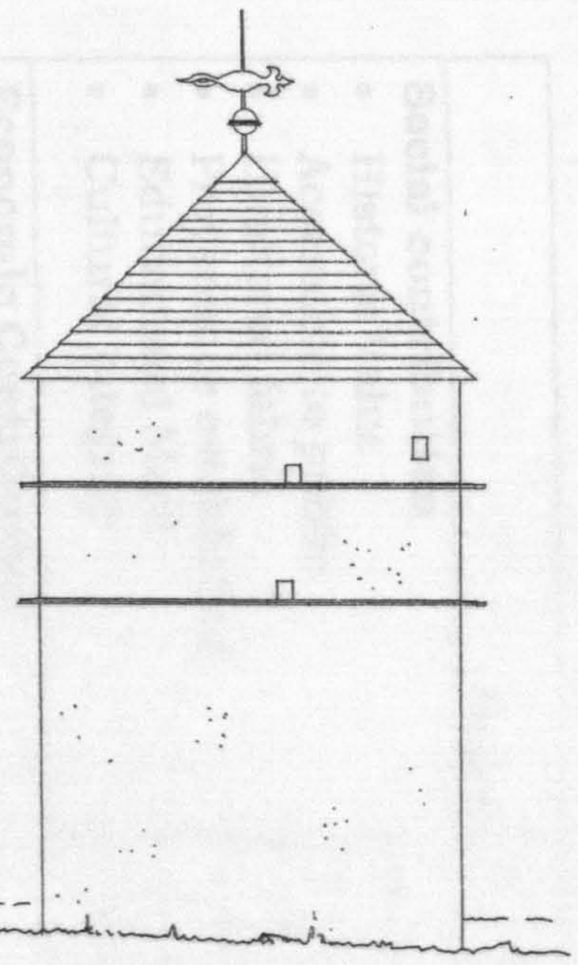
Kininvie Doocot



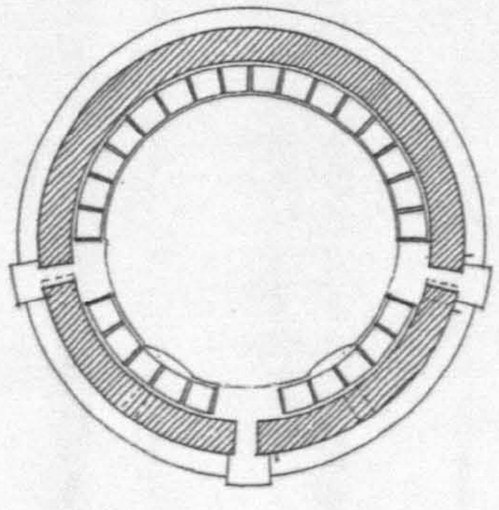
SOUTH ELEVATION



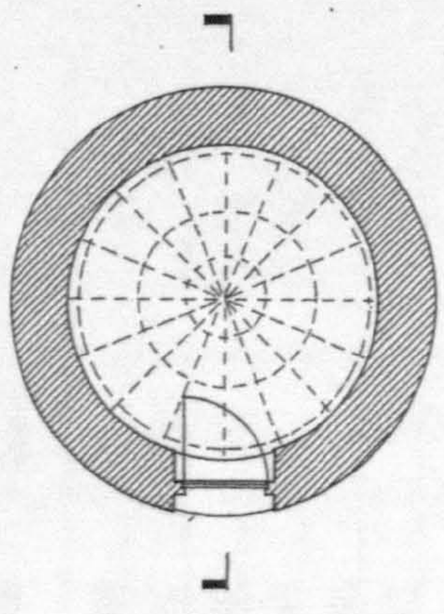
CROSS SECTION



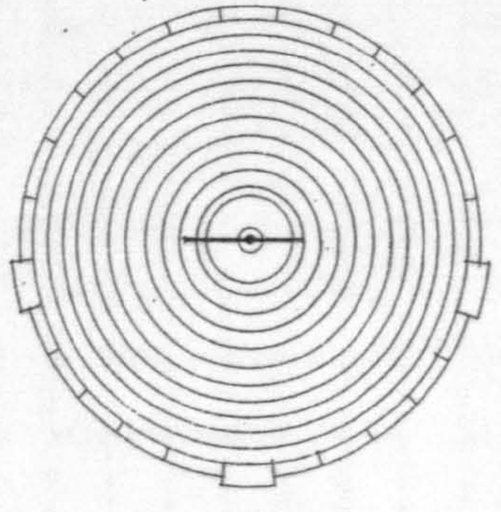
WEST ELEVATION



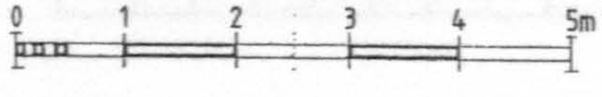
UPPER FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50



ROOF PLAN



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: KININVIE DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 319 441

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public						x						3
• Unaltered fabric								x				5
• Provenance established									x			8
• Educational Merit								x				10
• Cultural Integrity								x				12
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable								x				14
• Tourist Value						x						14
• Partnership funding							x					15
• Capital costs								x				17
• Maintenance costs								x				19
• Revenue potential						x						19
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				21
• Landscape prominence								x				23
• Original setting								x				25
• Use of Materials								x				27
• Features of interest								x				29
• Condition								x				31
• Interior								x				33
											TOTAL	33

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B.
- Ownership — Private - Mr. B. Gordon.
- Architect — Not known.
- Archive material — None.
- Future developments — None.
- Risk Assessment — Low to moderate.

Summary Comments:

Simple example of late to mid eighteenth century cylindrical tower doocot with store below. Potentially high profile elevated position in landscaped but presently shrouded by conifer trees.

Final Assessment: Worthy of repair and site works to re-establish striking position in estate's landscaped policies.

5.5.22 DEANSHAUGH BLEACHFIELDS DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 221 633, Elgin Burgh

Altitude 25m

Positive Reference(s)

Shown on John Wood's map of Elgin town, 1822 marked 'Dovecot.' Appears to be square in plan and sited in field on General Stewart King's land about 100M north east of the Deanshaugh Bleachfields.

Background Reference(s)

Brereton, Gordonstoun, 1968, p.45, states that at the turn of the seventeenth century, William King [factor at Gordonstoun] was a well educated man who did well for himself, buying lands of Newmill, manses at the Cathedral, croft at Spynie, and the Mansion house of Greyfriars. Twice Provost of Elgin, made money by developing trade between Moray and Holland. Died 1715.

Statutory List for Moray, Elgin Burgh, item 162, p.163. Alexander Johnston leased Newmill from Joseph King in early nineteenth century and built extensively to develop the woollen mill probably resulting in the doocot's demolition.

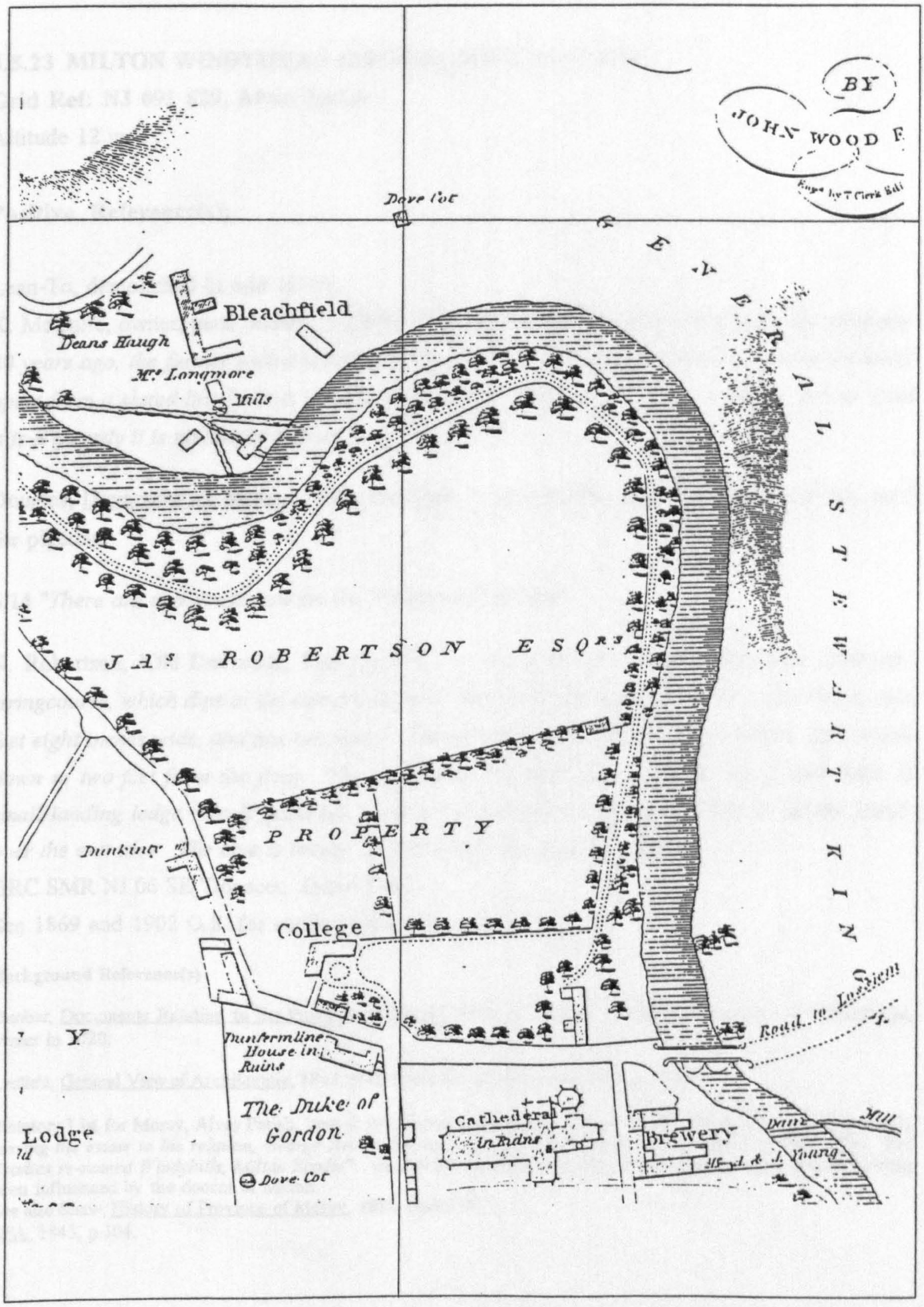
Not shown on 1870 O.S. but appears to have been on boundary of Deanshaugh Cottage and Dean's Crook. Also not shown on 1799 'Survey of Bleachfield of Deanscrook', within Seafield Papers, SRO GD248, RHP 9027 (probably just off map area).

Hutchon's 'Plan of Burgh of Elgin', 1855 (framed copy held in Grant Lodge, Elgin) shows oblong doocot on Lord Seafield's land in Parish of New Spynie. Nearest building about 150M away.

Innes, Elgin Past & Present, 1860, p.35. *"The lands of Deanshaugh, with the Dovecot, were of old attached to the Deanery".*

Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p.360 The Cathedral Deanery and manses had a 20 acre garden. The land was held from 1560 to 1760 by the Dunbars of Burgie. Much of the area then acquired by King who probably built the doocot.

See also Cant and Lindsay's, Old Elgin, 1970, p.13.



Location of Deanshaugh Doocot (Fig. 5.5.22)

Extract from Wood Map of Elgin, 1822

5.5.23 MILTON WINDYHILLS (BRODIE) DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 091 629, Alves Parish

Altitude 12 m

Positive Reference(s);

Lean-To, demolished in mid 1960's.

K. Metcalfe, owner, pers. comm., 23/8/94. *"To our horror, just after we bought the property 30 years ago, the farmer pulled it down. It was too late to stop him and there is now no trace apart from a slated lintel which we incorporated into a low wall. It was a lovely doocot and it is a tragedy it is no longer with us"*.

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, describes, "*...a partially closed*" entrance in the roof for pigeons.

p.14 "*There are two doors now on the Windyhills dovecote*".

N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecots, 1961', p.378, "... *walls two and a half feet thick, with one stringcourse, which dips at the corners in front. The entrance is five feet four inches high, two feet eight inches wide, and has two doors. The nests are nine hundred in number, and reach down to two feet from the floor. The dove holes are four, in the 'lean-to' roof, and have a small landing ledge. Each gable has a stone ball ornament. The date, 1769, is on the lintel, over the entrance. The cote is twenty six and a half feet by fifteen feet*".

GRC SMR NJ 06 SE 'Dovecot. Dated 1769'.

See 1869 and 1902 O.S. for confirmation of location.

Background Reference(s)

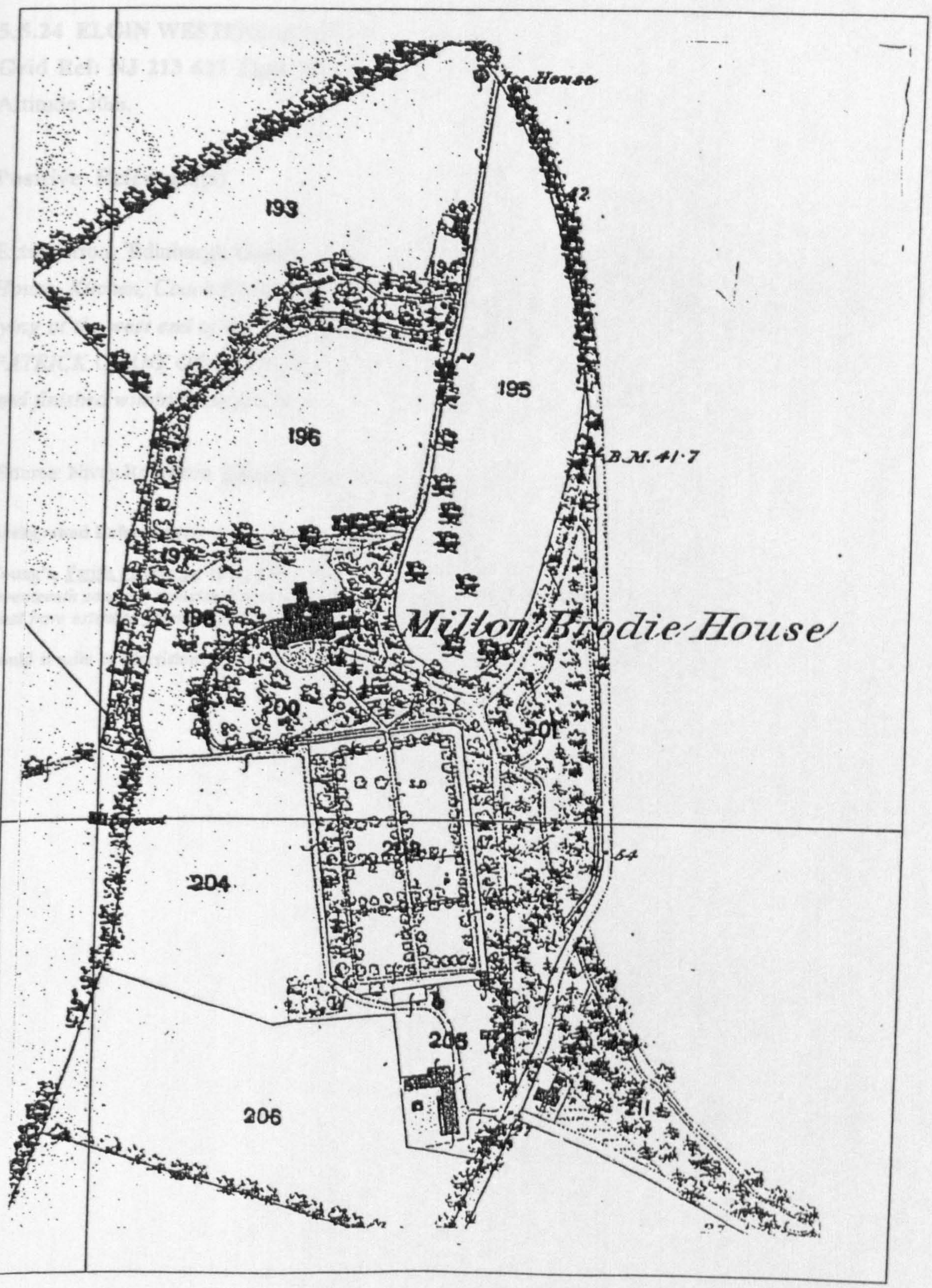
Dunbar, Documents Relating to the Province of Moray, 1895, p.33 refers to Alexander Brodie of Windyhills, owner in 1720.

Leslie's, General View of Architecture, 1813, p.49, states that there are few trees on estate.

Statutory List for Moray, Alves Parish, Item 4, p.4, House description. *"James Brodie of Windyhills died in 1741, leaving the estate to his relation, George Brodie whose father had sold his estate of Milton to the Duffs... the Brodies re-named Windyhills, Milton Brodie"*. George Brodie therefore likely built Milton Brodie doocot having been influenced by the doocot at Milton.

See also Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, pp.86-77.

NSA, 1845, p.104.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Milton Brodie/Windyhills Doocot (Fig. 5.5.23)

5.5.24 ELGIN WESTEND DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 213 627 Elgin Burgh

Altitude 30m.

Positive Reference(s)

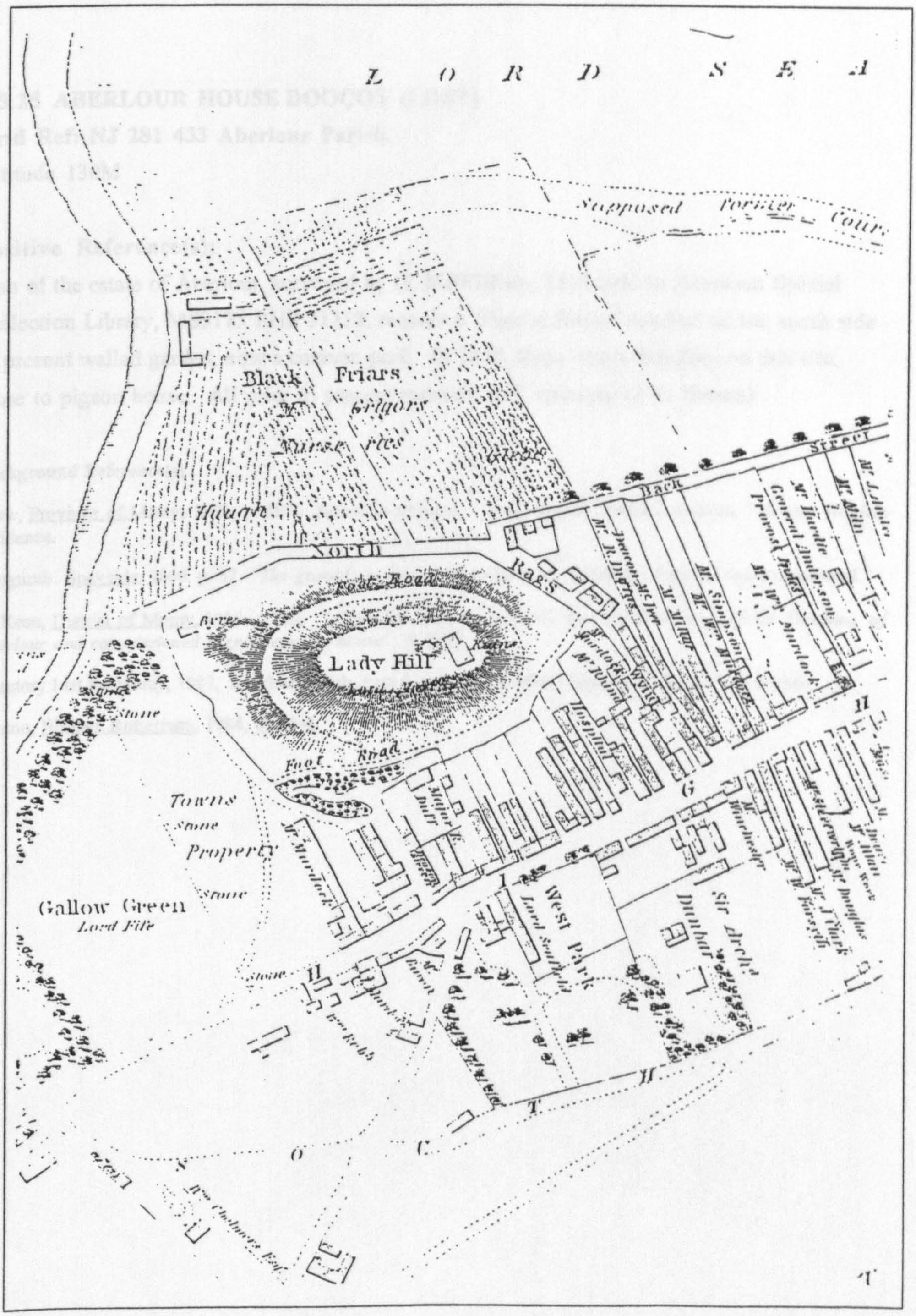
Extract from 'Edinburgh Evening Courant', 25 November 1790, under heading "*Dwelling House, Kitchen, Coach House and Offices with the Green Park, Garden and Pigeon-House, lying at the west end of the town of Elgin, which belonged to and were lately occupied by PATRICK GRANT OF ROTHIEMURCUS. The dwelling house and offices having been built and finished within these few years.*"

(Source: Niven Robertson, 'Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p.381).

Background Reference(s)

Young's, Parish of Spynie, 1871, p.89, refers to Robert Martin, Elgin Burgess who "*...erected his [mid - seventeenth century] mansion house, at the west end of the Burgh of Elgin, which, with gardens and stables, must have extended from Lady Lane downwards. There are still some remains of the house.*"

Could it refer to Morriston?


L O R D S E A
Supposed former Cour
Black Friars
Burgors
Burgh Lees
Thunder
North
Road
Lady Hill
Foot Road
Foot
Road
Stone
Towns
Stone
Property
Stone
Gallow Green
Lord Fife
Stone
Mr Murdoch
Miller
Burn
Mr Miller
Mr Thomson
Mr Simpson
Mr Wm Miller
Mr Wm Miller
Mr Anderson
General Anderson
Mr Wm Miller
Mr Wm Miller
Mr Wm Miller

5.5.25 ABERLOUR HOUSE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 281 433 Aberlour Parish.

Altitude 130M

Positive Reference(s);

Plan of the estate of Aberlour, surveyed by G. McWilliam, 1834 held in Aberdeen Special Collection Library, MS3175 RHP 31358, records a 'Pigeon House' marked on the south side of present walled garden, now a caravan park. In 1834, there was a distillery on this site, close to pigeon house. All prior to present mansion (ref. courtesy of E. Beaton).

Background Reference(s)

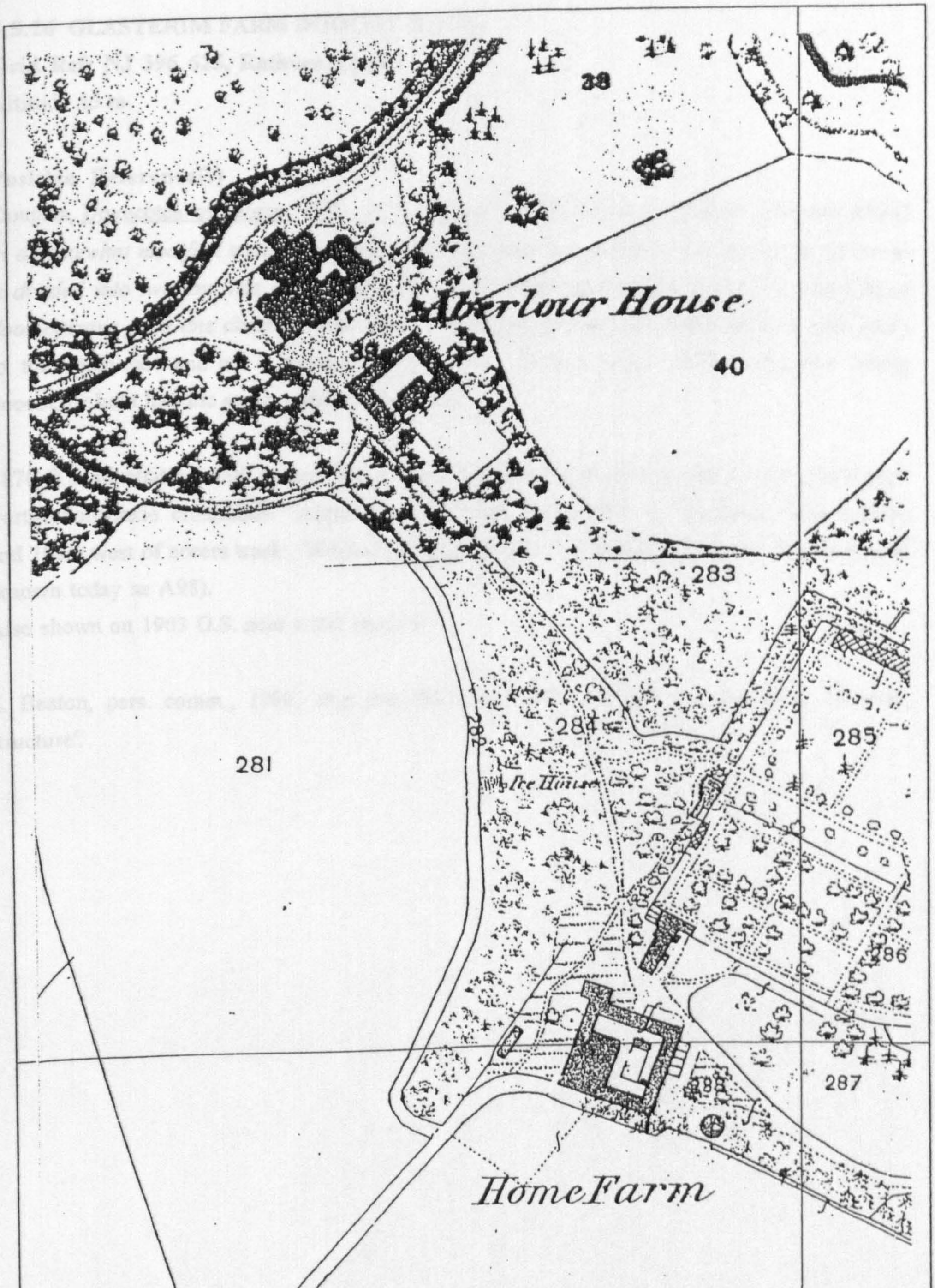
Shaw, Province of Moray, 1882, p. 187. House description *"...an elegant modern mansion,"* former Gordon residence.

Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 52. *"The grounds in front of the house are tastefully disposed and ornamented."*

McKean, District of Moray, 1987, p.160. *"Alexander Grant purchased the ancestral seat of the Gordons of Aberlour and commissioned a great country house"*, in 1838.

Statutory List for Moray, 1987, Aberlour Parish, Item 5, p.5. The Walled Garden, item 10 p.11, is C.1840.

Beaton, William Robertson, 1984, pp.21-4.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Aberlour House Doocot (Fig. 5.5.25)

5.5.26 GLASTERIM FARM DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 396 625, Rathven Parish

Altitude 45 m

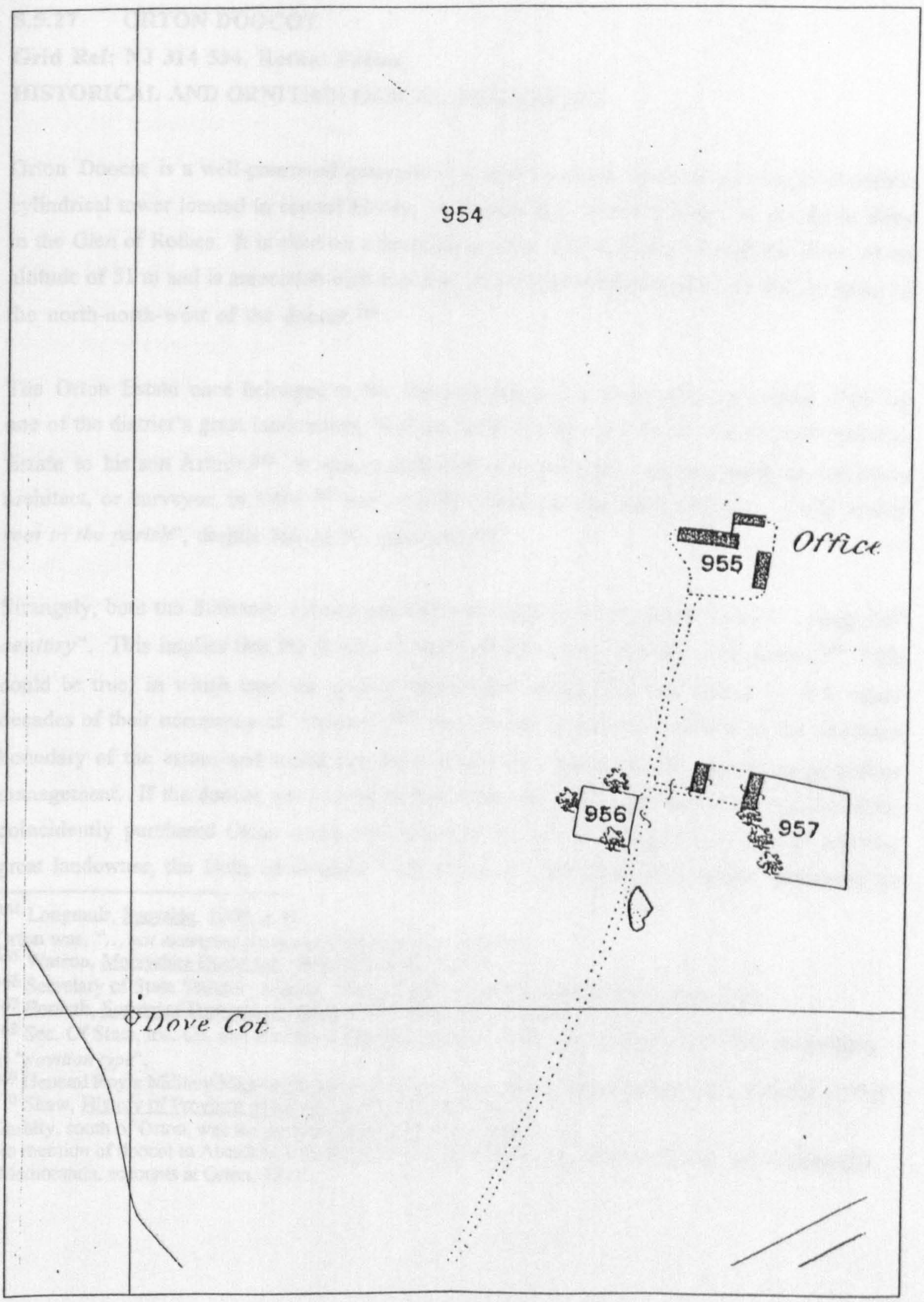
Positive Reference(s)

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.15, "*I have found this arrangement [internal walls] in a somewhat modified style in one of Banffshire dovecotes at Glasterim where the dovecote is divided into two, but has one outside door only, the second division being reached by a door opening from one division to the other*". (Leicheston Doocot is only about a mile away to the south-east and has a similar arrangement. Douglas may be describing the wrong doocot, or both had the same, unusual plan form.

1870 O.S. illustrates small, square 'Dove Cot' on south-east/north-east axis in open field near Portgordon/Enzie crossroads. Approximately 200m south west of Glasterim Farm offices and 100m west of access track. Would have been clearly visible from the main east/west road (known today as A98).

Also shown on 1903 O.S. near water reservoir.

E. Beaton, pers. comm., 1992, says that the local farmer remembers the 'small, lean-to structure'.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Glasterim Doocot (Fig. 5.5.26)

5.5.27 ORTON DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 314 534, Rothes Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Orton Doocot is a well-preserved example of a medium sized, single storey single chamber, cylindrical tower located in central Moray, approximately 10 miles inland of the River Spey in the Glen of Rothes. It is sited on a flood plain, some 250 m to the east of the river, at an altitude of 51 m and is associated with the mansion of Orton House which is 760 m away to the north-north-west of the doocot.[364]

The Orton Estate once belonged to the Dunbrek family but was purchased around 1750 by one of the district's great landowners, William Duff, the Earl of Fife, who soon conveyed the Estate to his son Arthur.[365] It was probably he who built the mansion using an unknown architect, or surveyor, in 1786 [366] and in 1798 Orton was described as the, "... *only family seat in the parish*", despite having six proprietors.[367]

Strangely, both the Statutory Listing and Buxbaum classify Orton Doocot as, "... *early 18th century*". This implies that the doocot is significantly earlier than the main house.[368] This could be true, in which case the doocot was erected by the Dunbrek family in the latter decades of their occupancy of 'Ortown'.[369] The doocot is, however, located at the southern boundary of the estate and would not have been very convenient for regular usage and/or management. If the doocot was erected before 1750, then the great landowner, Earl of Fife, coincidently purchased Orton estate with a doocot closely bounding the grounds of another great landowner, the Duke of Gordon.[370] It would not, however, be altogether surprising to

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364 Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p.34.
Orton was, "... *not exempted from a visit of the flood of 1829*".
365 Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, (1984 ed.), p.114.
366 Secretary of State Statutory Listing, Moray District Council, Rothes Parish, Item 5, p.7.
367 Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1983 ed.), p.326.
368 Sec. Of State, loc. Cit. and Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.31. (Buxbaum describes the building as "*pavilion type*".
369 General Roy's Military Map of Moray shows a reasonably large L-shaped estate called 'Ortown' c.1750.
370 Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, vol.1, p.82.
Garbity, south of Orton, was the property of the Duke of Gordon.
No mention of doocot in Aberdeen University Special Collections Library Duff archive, MS 3175/M/G91, 'Memoranda, accounts at Orton, 1777'.

discover that Fife built a new doocot soon after his arrival at Orton near the boundary in order to agitate his neighbour.[371]

The 1869 Ordnance Survey map shows the building some 270 m to the east of the Rothes/Elgin road and hard on the boundary fence of two cropped fields. There is a 10 m backdrop of trees immediately to the west, but is otherwise exposed fully to the east, north and south within the context of the estate. The building is isolated and the existing vehicular track, which now skirts the building, is not shown on the nineteenth century map, so how the building was previously accessed is not altogether clear. A large walled garden is sited between the doocot and the main house, whilst the home farm and sundry other buildings are located even further to the north.

Orton Doocot is protected by the Secretary of State's Category B listing and the present owner, Peter Millar, has responsibly safeguarded its immediate future by executing a wholesale restoration during the late 1980s (although it does not appear that the reconstruction was entirely true to the original[372]). The building is now a folly on the estate and is in view to anglers travelling to and from the private fishing beat at the river's edge, so it is unlikely that the building will be neglected in the foreseeable future. Regular ongoing maintenance will ensure that the building remains in excellent condition.

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[371] See Gordonstoun, Smithfield Doocot, dispute between Sir Robert Gordon and Lord Brodie, c.1751, extensively cited in Douglas', Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp.29-35.
[372] For example, Douglas, loc.cit., recorded 450 boxes in 1931. There are now only 420. Perhaps every row originally had 5 boxes per bay?

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Orton doocot is circular in plan, with a diameter of 5.5 m and a wallhead height of 4.4 m rising to an overall eight at its apex of 6.5 m. the 600 mm thick walls are constructed using random sandstone rubble, bonded together using coarse lime mortar, with well dressed sandstone blocks around the door opening. The walls are finished externally using a reasonably thick, coarse lime harl, which covers the stone dressings around the door. The door opening, of 1790 mm high and 740 mm wide, faces the south-east and has a replacement vertically boarded, timber door which includes three narrow vertical glazed vision panels. There is, "... *a continuous rat course encircling building above doorway*"[373], constructed using 40 mm thick stone, which projects 180 mm from the wall plane. There are no other features to the external walling.

The conical roof, pitched at 40°, is constructed using sixteen 125 x 50 mm rafters with eight 100 x 50 mm midway ties and five annular purlin rings of similar section. The roof is open to the internal chamber and it can be seen that the structure is clad using firred, or tapered vertical, sarking pieces which receive slightly diminishing courses of 10 mm thick blue/grey slates, mostly of regular width and probably locally sourced.[374] The building was, "... *re-roofed around 1900 and it is remembered how hard it was to get the glover back in position*!"[375] The glover referred to is a 500 wide x 650 mm high, replacement wooden box structure mounted at the apex of the cone with five, 100 wide x 150 mm high, arch topped flight holes cut into the wooden panels on the south and west sides only (the north and east sides being blank). A 1930s photograph, taken from the east, shows it with a blank south face and an eastern face containing five rows of circular holes arranged in a triangular formation (one on the top row and five in the bottom row), each row possessing a small alighting ledge.[376] Described by Beaton as a, "... later addition fitted over the original apex hole to shield it from birds of prey",[377] the structure was observed by Robertson as merely a, "... *cupola of wood, which is adorned by a ball*".[378] The lead ball is still in place, approximately 200 mm in diameter, with a 300 mm high metal rod projecting vertically from it to complete the crowning of the building.

A 400 mm wide sandstone threshold slab rises 30 mm above the internal floor level, which is finished using randomly laid, sandstone flags of approximate size 600 long x 450 mm wide. The nesting boxes within, described by the Regional Archaeologist *in the* 1970s as, "... *partially collapsed*",[379] have been reconstructed during a 19888 repair in seven bays of 280 wide x 280 *high* x 250 *mm* deep, boxes using 20 mm softwood.[380] Each bay is supported off a 20 mm base plate with doubled-up *vertical boards* supporting alternating rows of staggered boxes, i.e. one row is five full boxes width whilst the next row is four full boxes and two end halves, the bottom-most row beginning 1040 mm above the ground level.

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373 Sec. Of State, loc.cit.
374 Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p.23. The roof is described as possessing "*Tomintoul slates*".
375 Idem, ibid.
376 Douglas, loc.cit.
377 Beaton, loc.cit.
378 Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.381.
379 GRC Regional Archaeologist, Sites and Monuments Records Ref. NJ 35 SW 4.
380 Sec. Of State, loc.cit.
Describes, "... *all woodwork in pine*". Although the boxes were wholly constructed in 1988, Scott Cooper's Ornamental Garden Buildings, survey of 1995 still records, "... *wooden resting boxes in poor condition*".

The wooden racking is fixed to the whitewashed walls and the boxes do not possess any lip upstand at their frontages, nor do they possess alighting ledges.

The most striking feature of this doocot is its (reconstructed) revolving ladder, the original of which may have been observed by Douglas – "The potence is still found in working order. It has a solid wooden pole length of 12 feet between the stone table support and the eaves. The outward projecting wooden bars are at right angles to the upright pole and are 6 feet in length. The table supporting the potence is stone built about 2.5 feet high and 2.5 feet in diameter. The bars of the potence are 9 inches apart and 9 in number"[381] The plinth referred to is 1 m in diameter, raises the ladder 770 mm above the floor level, and is constructed in whitewashed stonework.

Written May 1996

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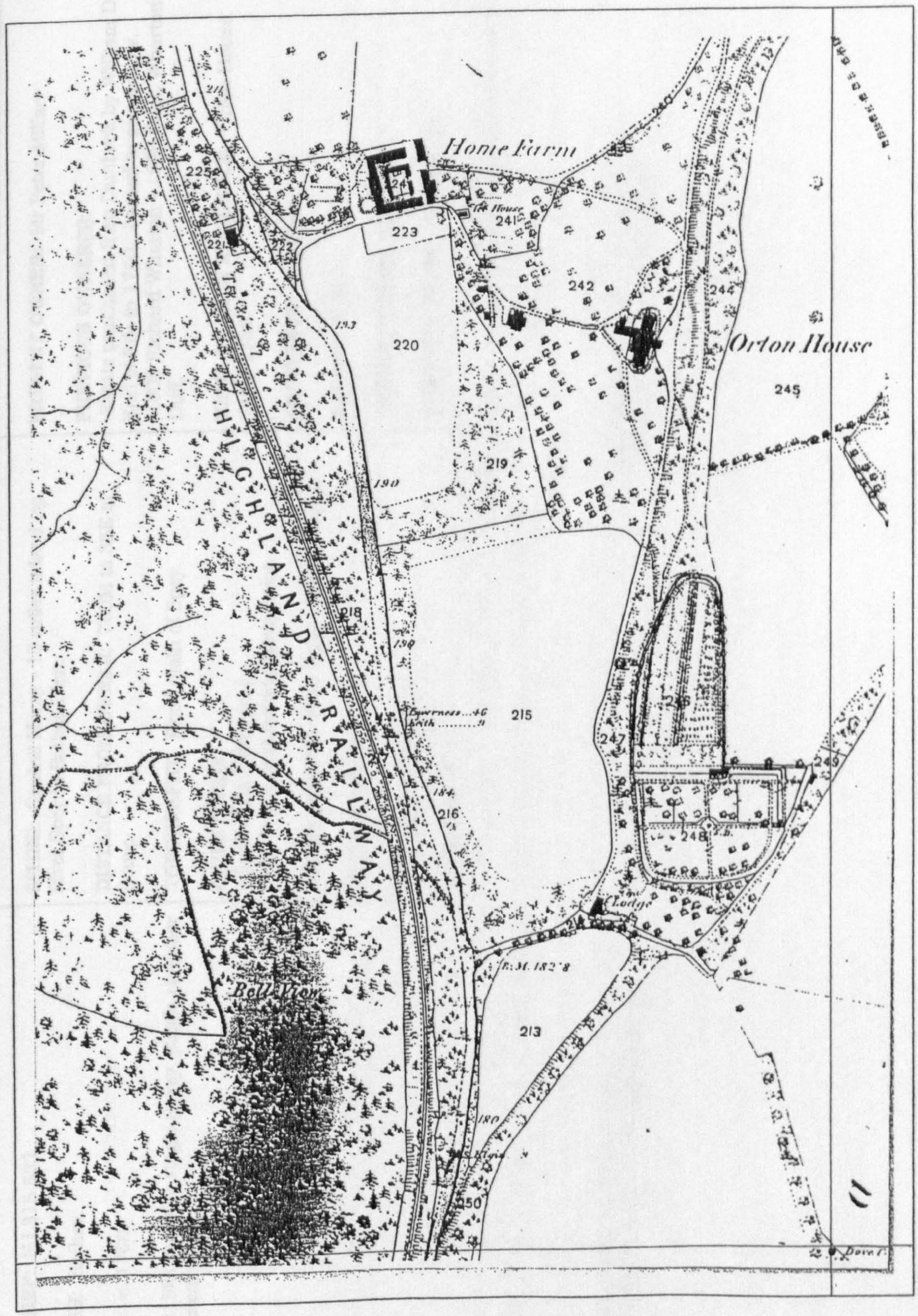
[381] Doouglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.47.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Orton Doocot (Fig. 5.5.27)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 315 532. **PARISH:** Rothes. **DATE:** c. 1760. **TYPE:** Medium size single storey, single chamber cylindrical tower.	**SITING:** Central Moray - 10 miles inland up River Spey in Rothes Glen. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER:** 760M to SSE of house. **TOPOGRAPHY:** Flood plain of Spey. **ORIENTATION:** - South east facing door. - South and west facing pigeon holes. **WATER SOURCE:** River Spey - 250M to east. **MATURE TREES:** None. **LAND USE:** Agricultural. **ALTITUDE:** 51 m.	**PRESENT OWNER:** Mr Peter Millar. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** -Estate purchased from Dunbrek by William Duff, Earl of Fife in 1750. Passed to son Arthur. -1805 Richard Wharton - 1868 Capt. Wharton Duff. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Orton House dated 1786. **ARCHITECT:** Unknown. **TENANT:** N/A. **PRESENT USE(S):** Redundant. **PREVIOUS USE(S):** Pigeon house.

NOTES: - Present owner has early painting of estate showing doocot at southern end of policies.

Date of Check: 4 October 1994
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent.

REPAIRS: Restored 1988.

ALTERATIONS: Pigeon hole detail of glover timber amended or probably not original detail.

FUTURE RISK: No imminent threat.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Circular.

PLAN SIZE: 5.5 m diameter.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 4.4 m.

OVERALL HEIGHT: 6.5 m.

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Random rubble and lime mortar.

WALL MATERIAL: Sandstone rubble mostly (amongst other stones) with sandstone dressings.

WALL THICKNESS: 600 mm.

WALL FINISH: Lime harling (including covering of stone dressings).

ROOF FORM: Conical.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: 16 rafters 125 x 50mm with 8 midway ties 100 x 50mm and 5 purlin rings 100 x 50mm.

ROOF PITCH: 45 degrees.

ROOF FINISH: Slightly diminishing 10mm thick blue/grey slates of regular width (probably local, possibly salvaged from original) nailed to firred vertical sarking pieces.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Vertically boarded later timber door with 3 narrow vision panels.

OUTER DOOR TYPE: N/A.

DOOR SIZE: 1790 (h) x 740 (w) mm.

DOOR SITING: South east facing.

LEDGES: One 40mm stone ledge projecting 180mm (broken in places).

LEDGES HEIGHT: 2.45 m.

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH : 17.6 m.

APERTURES: None.

VENT HOLES: None (other than at cupola).

FLIGHT HOLES: Yes - 10 in cupola, 5 each side cut into wooden panes. 100 (w) x 150mm (h) with arch tops - no alighting ledges.

TOTAL VENT AREA: 0.2 m^2.

LIMEWASH: No clear evidence.

DORMERS: None.

SKEWS: N/A.

FINIALS: Lead ball finial.

WEATHER VANE: None.
Cupola - 500(h) x 650(w) mm replacement wooden box structure mounted at cone apex with holes on s and w sides only - (see early photograph 1930).

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: 400mm wide sandstone slab 30mm above FFL.

PARTITION WALLS: None.

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Randomly laid sandstone flags approx. 600 x 450 mm.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: 7 bays of 12 rows of 20mm softwood boxes fixed to wall (staggered arrangement of rows of 4 and 5). No upstand at fronts.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 420.

NEST BOX SIZE: 280(w) x 280(h) x 250(d) mm.

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 1040 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: None.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Plinth and walled whitewashed.

COLLECTING AID: Nine runged revolving ladder raised 770 mm on 1 m dia. Stone plinth.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 420 x 2 x 0.7 = 588.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 27.6 m^3

OTHER: Series of 50 x 50 mm pockets around wall perimeter at height of 500 mm – holes for original framing?

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
Siting in isolation so far from house, main farm and walled garden.

OTHER: Estate info:

J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, (1983 (ed)), pp. 113-4.
I. Forsyth, Survey of Province of Moray, 1798, (1984 ed), p. 326
W. Leslie, General Review of the Agriculture of the Counties of Nairn & Moray, 1813, pp. 54-5.
J. Sinclair, The New Statistical Account, xiii, (1842), p. 321.
C. McKean, The District of Moray - An Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 152.
J. Longmuir, Speyside, 1860, p. 34.

Papers of Duff Family, Braco, Banffshire, and Wharton-Duff Family, Orton, Elginshire, 1665-1869, Aberdeen University Special Collection, The Montcoffer Papers, MS 2727/1-6.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 4, 23, 31 (includes sectional illustration by Sinclair Ross, p. 31)
R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 13, 14, 45-7.
G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1981, p. 61.
T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 31.
A.N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, pp. 375, 380-1.
D. Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181-5.
S. Cooper, Ornamental Garden Buidlings, vol. 6, 1996, u.p.

ARTICLES:

Elgin Courant, 8 Jan. 1915, p. 6.

LISTING: Moray, Rothes Parish, Item No. 5, p. 7, Category B, 1971.

SMR: NJ 35 SW4

MAPS: 1869, 1902, 1965 OS Maps
General Roy's Military Map of Moray, c. 1750 held in the National Map Library of Scotland.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Douglas, op. cit., p. 46.



ORTON DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.5.27.1)

View from the south west showing the circular building sitting in isolation on an alluvial plain of the River Spey (its riparian line of trees visible in the background). The Orton mansion is located some distance away left of picture. Although fully repaired in 1988, the doocot is already showing considerable staining above and below the stringcourse, probably caused by continual wetting from rainwater off a roof which has an insufficient overhang to cast water clear.



ORTON DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.5.27.2)

Close up view of entrance door which faces south east. The door itself is a 1988 replacement and incorporates vision panels (it is not fully established if panels were incorporated into the door when the building was functioning). The lime harling is still in good condition and has only spalled off in patches to reveal local sandstone rubble as the predominant construction material.



ORTON DOOCOT, 1994, INTERIOR (Plate 5.5.27.3)

Interior photograph providing a close up view of the central, stone plinth which supports the reconstructed revolving ladder. The wooden nest boxes around the wall perimeter are also reconstructed (to an improbable pattern).



ORTON HOUSE, 1994 (Plate 5.5.27.4)

View of existing house from northern approach. This classical country house has been a shell for many years and is being currently restored. The walled garden and doocot are a considerable distance away left of picture.

MEASURED SURVEY OF ORTON DOOCOT NB 4/10/94

regular sandstone flags

5 boxes per segment

4250

20mm base plate

2150

1460

double board

single board

390

450

50

150

1723D

1645D

PLAN

ral plinth circumference 2360

arbre

ADDER BASE

8 No. vertical supports w. 5 No. full boxes between - alternative rows have 4 full boxes & 2 halves

BOXES

no lip at front.

(TO HOWE APPROX. ½ MILE)

5 holes

5 holes

R. Spey approx ¼ mile

ROOF

door faces south east

SOUTH

4 2

MEASURED SURVEY OF ORTON DOOCOT NB 4/10/94

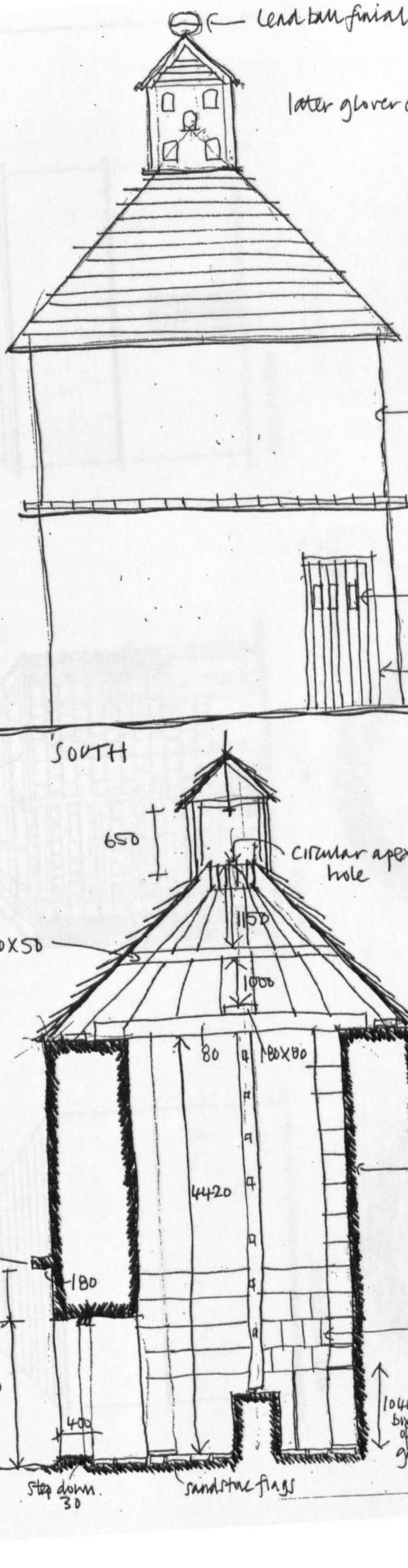
435

MEASURED SURVEY
OF ORTON DOOCOT
NB 4/10/94

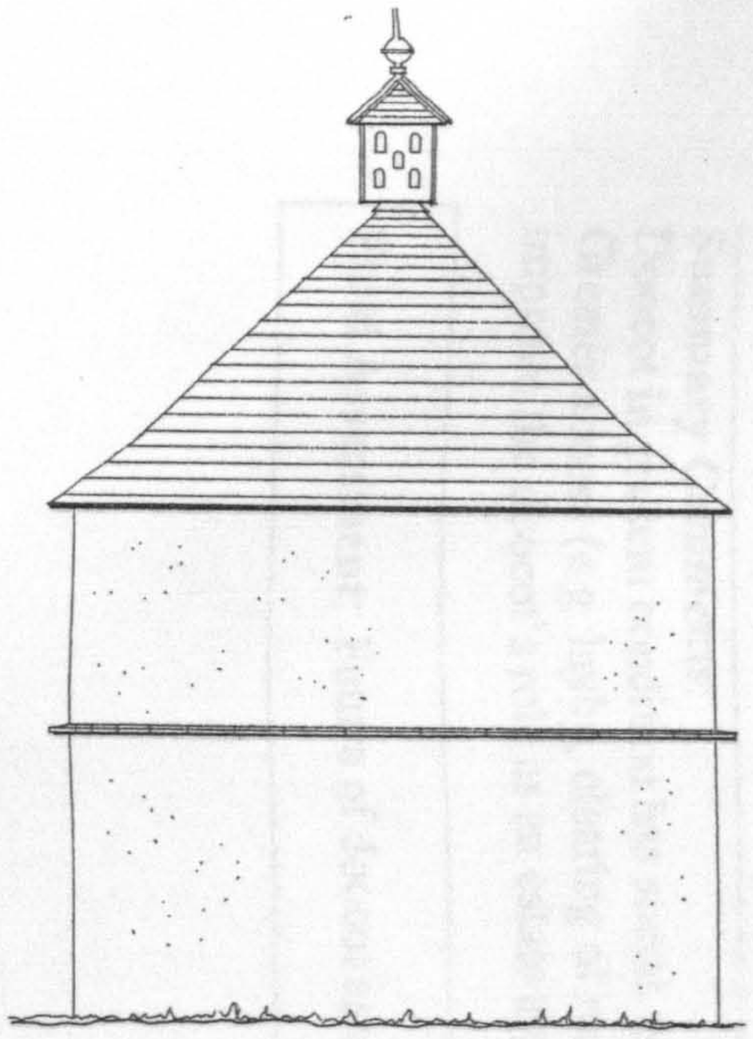
2 of 2

lead ball finial -

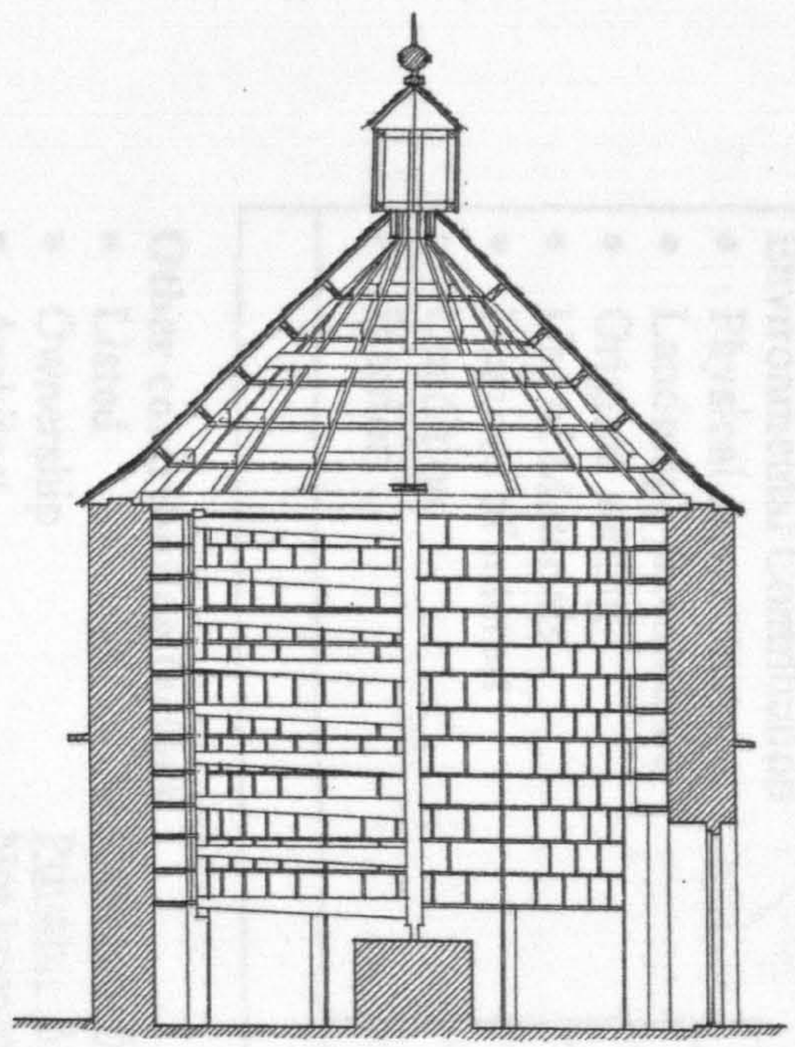
later glover or replica?



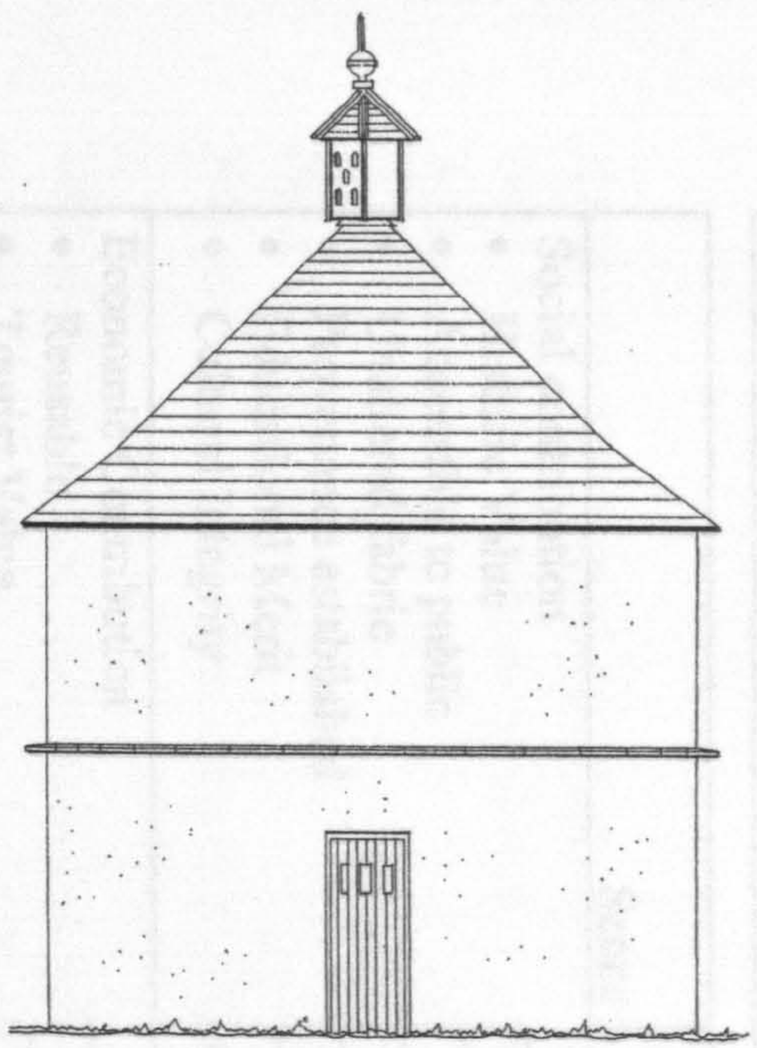
Orton Doocot



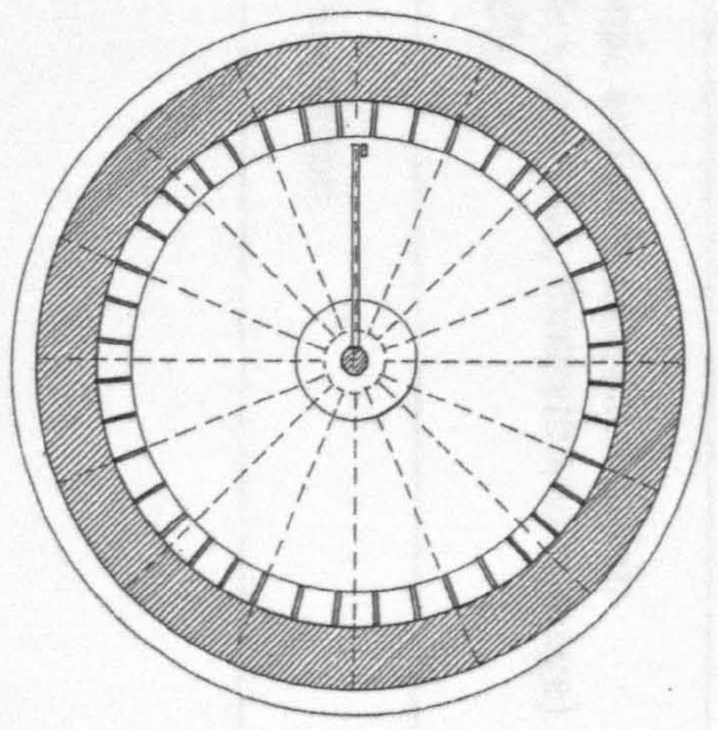
SOUTH WEST ELEVATION



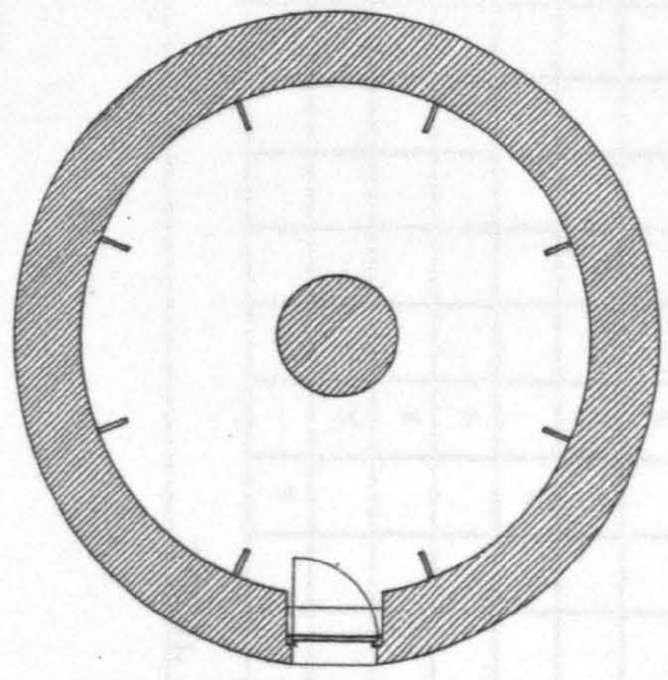
SECTION AA



SOUTH ELEVATION

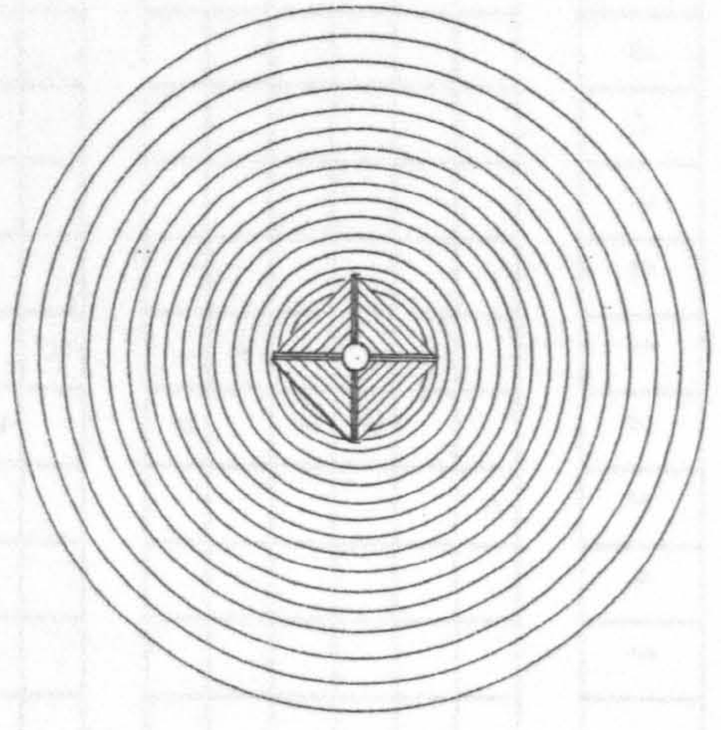


UPPER PLAN

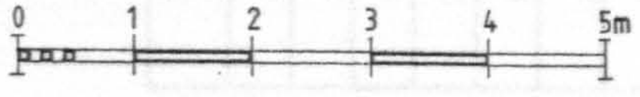


GROUND PLAN





ROOF PLAN



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: ORTON DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 314 534

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public							x					4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established								x				8
• Educational Merit							x					9
• Cultural Integrity								x				11
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					12
• Tourist Value								x				14
• Partnership funding								x				16
• Capital costs									x			19
• Maintenance costs									x			22
• Revenue potential							x					23
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				25
• Landscape prominence								x				27
• Original setting									x			30
• Use of Materials								x				32
• Features of interest								x				34
• Condition								x				36
• Interior									x			39
											TOTAL	39

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private – Mr P Millar
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:
Doocot in present condition has social, economic and environmental merit.
Greater access (e.g. layby, clearing of roadside vegetation, footpath and signage) could improve the doocot's role as an estate asset/folly.

Final Assessment: Future of doocot assured meantime.

5.5.28 NEWTON DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 163 635, Alves Parish

Altitude 35m

Positive Reference(s)

Full description by Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p.39.

GRC SMR NJ 16 SE4. *"Oblong dovecot, walls appear to have been rebuilt. It is roofless and has a modern doorway, and on the wall next to the garden, of which it practically forms a part, are still to be seen the cross stones and upright stones of the nests. The blocked up pigeon nests in the west wall are all that remains to indicate a former dovecot. A large wooden door is in the south wall and manure is stored within the Dovecot walls".*

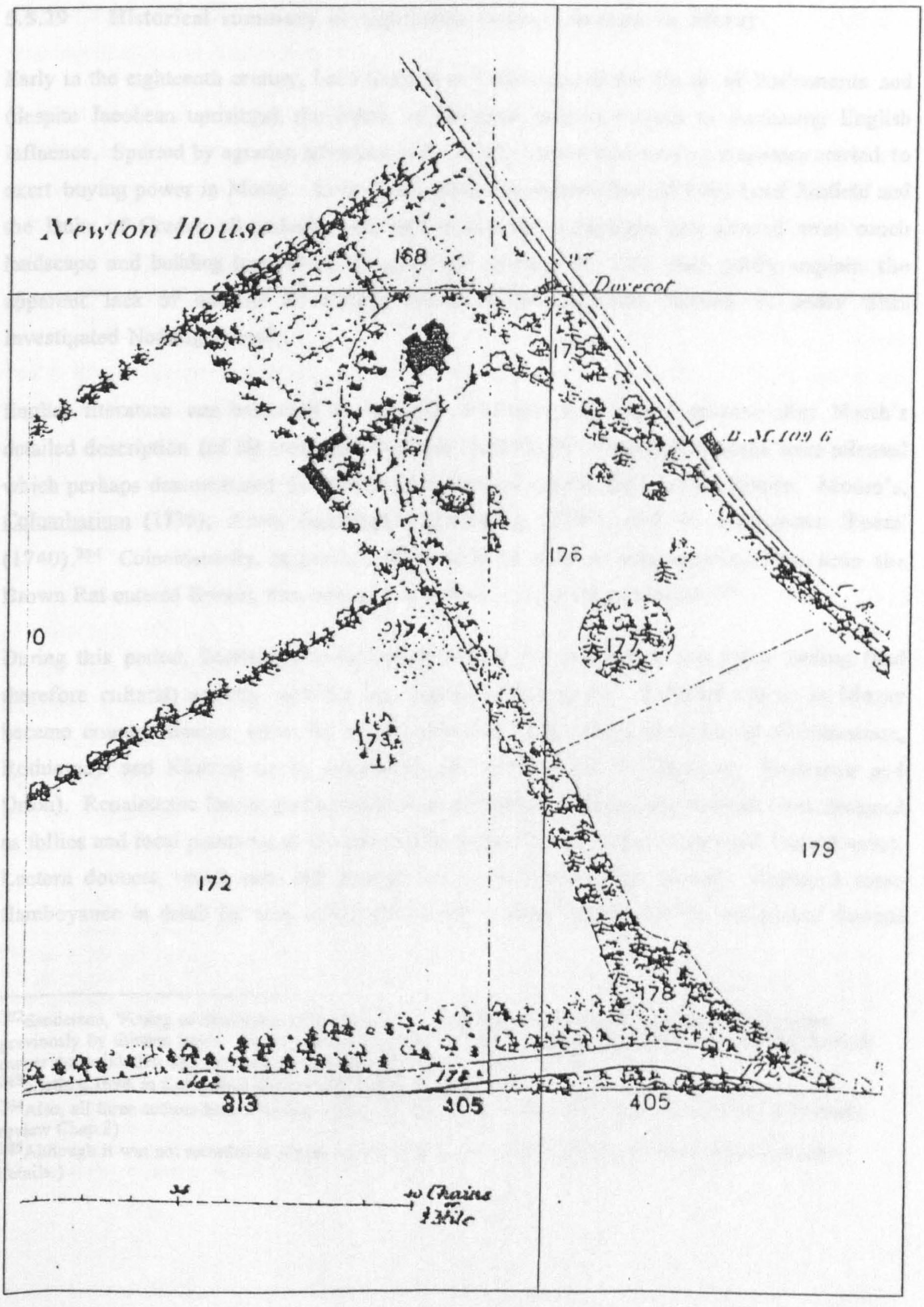
1870 O.S. records 'Dovecot' north-east of house immediately next to main road to Burghead. Ruinous by 1930.

Background Reference(s)

Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, p.49 refers to ,"..*thriving plantations*" at Newton.

Statutory List for Moray, Alves Parish, Item 6, p.7 *"Newton House built by George Forteath in 1793."*

Forsyth, Survey of Province, 1798, p.146 description of house.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Newton Doocot (Fig. 5.5.28)

5.5.29 Historical summary of eighteenth century doocots in Moray

Early in the eighteenth century, Lord Seafield of Cullen signed the Union of Parliaments and (despite Jacobean uprisings), the North of Scotland became subject to increasing English influence. Spurred by agrarian advances in the South, certain land owning magnates started to exert buying power in Moray. Lord Braco (soon to become Earl of Fife) Lord Seafield and the Duke of Gordon all embarked on land acquisition campaigns and cleared away much landscape and building legacies of the previous century.[382] This may partly explain the apparent lack of doocots on certain estates. (see Appendix Section 1, under 'Sites Investigated Nothing Found').

English literature was becoming increasingly available and, several decades after North's detailed description (of his own dove house in Norfolk),[383] three publications were released which perhaps demonstrated the contained growth of dove rearing across Britain: Moore's, Columbarium (1735); Anon, Sportman's Dictionary (1735); and an anonymous 'Poem' (1740).[384] Coincidentally, or perhaps deliberately so, all were released around the time the Brown Rat entered Britain, thus posing a new threat to domesticated birds.[385]

During this period, Scotland also looked to Europe for inspiration and much trading (and therefore cultural) activity with the low countries took place. Fortified towers in Moray became country houses, either by radical alteration and enlargement (as at Gordonstoun, Rothiemay and Kinivie) or by demolition and renewal (as at Pitgaveny, Findrassie and Orton). Renaissance formal gardens became picturesque landscapes and doocots were designed as follies and focal points (as at Gordon Castle, Cullen House, Innes House and Letterfourie). Lectern doocots, which were still popular in the first half of the century, displayed some flamboyance in detail (as seen at Windyhills, aka Milton Brodie) but the cylindrical doocot

---

[382]Sanderson, 'Feuing of Strathisla', 1975, p.11. By 1700, Braco had acquired all the land held fifty years previously by thirteen lairds. Buying up small feus was echoed throughout the country as a first step towards owner consolidation and agricultural intensification.

[383]North, c.1698, in Colvin and Newman, Of Building, 1981.

[384]Also, all three authors have a distinct 'Fancy Pigeon' element to their work. (See fuller details in literature review Chap.2)

[385]Although it was not recorded in Moray until several decades later. (See Appendix Section 2 for further details.)

found favour (at Pitgaveny, Orton and Kinivie) possibly as a response to published recommendations in favour of circular plans.[386]

Doocots flourished in Moray during the mid-eighteenth century (the apogee in their overall development being the early to mid-seventeenth century) and some of the largest known structures in the area were built (that is, Ballindalloch, Wester Elchies and Smithfield) reflecting both the increasing sizes of individual estates (with their ability to provide feeding habitats for the bird stock) and the growing desire to profit and impress from the breeding of pigeons.[387] Some were likely built as replacements to older, 'out-of-date' structures, either on new sites or on identical positions. By the mid-century, a clear majority of estates in Moray had a doocot as part of their policies (or in some cases, more than one doocot, e.g. Gordonstoun, Innes and Mayen).

Around this time, however, discontent with the destructive eating habits of doves grew concomitant with the promotion of new ideas in agricultural improvement.[388] Legal challenges were soon made by aggrieved 'crop victims' throughout Scotland and the James VI law of 1617 proved to be a highly contentious decree. This was due to its lack of clarity (as, for example, it did not identify what constitutes a doocot; it offered no limitation to the size of building nor the number of birds housed; and it did not address the matter of inheritance). It was only a question of time before this became an issue and, in Moray, two great landowners, Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun and Alexander Brodie, Lord Lyon, clashed in a costly lawsuit that resulted in Gordon being allowed to keep his fourth doocot[389]. The judge's verdict for this case gave confirmation to owners to erect additional doocots on condition that they possessed a commensurate amount of land, i.e. bigger estates such as Gordonstoun, could have several doocots.

---

[386]That is, Moore, Sportman's and Poem, supra and main text.

[387]Larger estates could both afford to erect large doocots and provide the grain required to feed large numbers of birds. The mention of a doocot became almost standard practice in conveyancing clauses: "*All and hail that part of the lands .. with houses, biggings, yards, orchards, tofts, crofts, doves, dovecots and hail pertinents of the same.*"
By this time, exotic recipes for cooking pigeons developed rapidly. Previously, recipes were generally plain.

[388]Despite the promotion of doocots in early husbandry books.
Ellis, Agriculture Improved, 1745, p.137. "*This Pigeon Mischief, I, and Thousands more, have Reason to complain of, from the great Flocks that Gentlemen keep: Yet these do not so much provoke us, as the many House-Pigeons, kept by Inferior Persons.*" (cited in U. Robertson, 'Pigeons as a Source of Food', 1988, p.91).

[389] The lawsuit is cited in detail in Appendix Section 2

Elsewhere, "...*several persons* [of lower class status in the East Lothian area] *dared to question the right*" of doocot ownership and successfully petitioned their Justices of the Peace[390]. The East Lothian cases in the mid-eighteenth century, amongst others[391], determined that the changing of hands did not mean that a doocot had to be demolished, even if the new owner did not have the requisite amount of land. The cases, however, established that ruinous cotes could not be rebuilt, restored or restocked by non-qualifying owners. It was observed that by the late eighteenth century, "...*the deterioration of passing years has automatically settled what was once a contentious subject*".

Society was still, meanwhile, highly divided, but towards the end of the century (in line with developments in northern Europe[392]) the enlightenment years promoted the rise of the depressed classes. This movement heightened disenchantment with all aspects of feudal life, such as the status doocot (which overtly promoted class division).[393]

By the end of the century (as reflected in the distribution of doocots along its northern coast) lowland Moray had adopted the modern agrarian practices, although elsewhere in Moray it was still in its infancy.[394] Medieval reliance on meat was waning and a new mercantile society was emerging in the growing burghs of Forres and Elgin and the new planned towns at Keith, Aberlour, Lossiemouth and Buckie.

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[390]T. C. Martine, 'Ancient Dovecotes of East Lothian', Transactions of East Lothian Antiquaries and Field Naturalists Society, vol. 12, (1970), pp. 22-7. (See also Morrison's, Dictionary of Decisions, 318, p. 7600, for further cases). They petitioned on three grounds: firstly, that they had inherited or purchased pre-1617 structures; secondly, that they possessed structures which had been originally constructed by persons who had full rights; thirdly that some of them had owned their doocots for up to forty years without complaint.

[391]See Kinloch v Wilson, 1731, M. 3601, for example.

[392]That is, the French Revolution. It is notable that prior to this period, inter-family marriages regularly took place amongst the upper classes and the ready transfer of local knowledge and experience took place through this activity.

[393]Moray, at this time, still only had one main road east to west. Most of southern Moray was still inaccessible and unenclosed.

[394]K. Spandl, 'Exploring the round houses of doves', British Archaeology, (June 1998), pp. 6-7, (p.6), talks of the effect of change at this time when saw the advent of, "*.. a new type of tenant with a greater individual investment in his land, less prepared to tolerate the damage that pigeons and doves did to their crops.*"

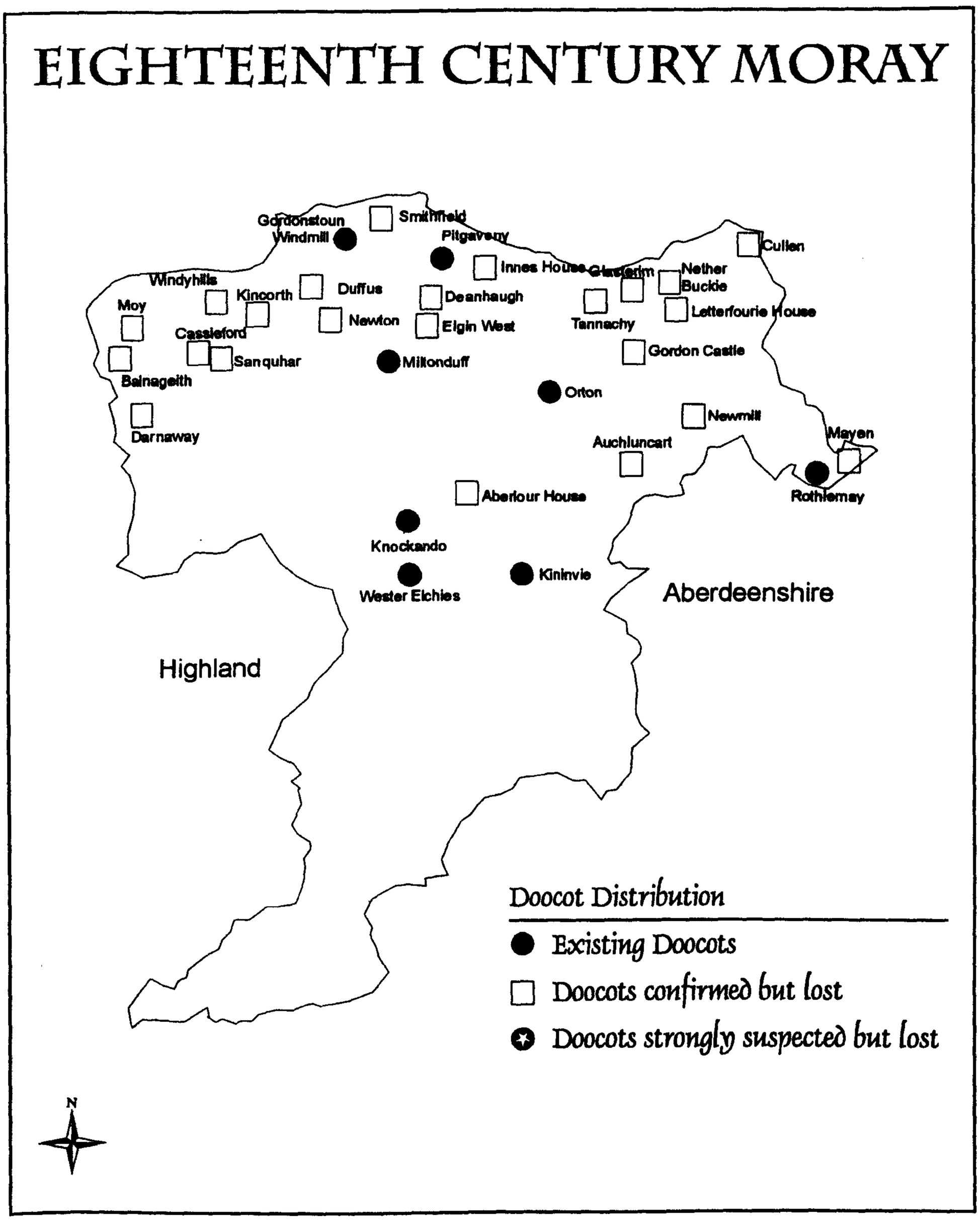

Fig 5.5.29

Distribution of doocots in Moray during the eighteenth century showing an even spread along the north and sporadic development towards the central east.

The Robert Gordon University
Faculty of Design

The Doocots of Moray: A Holistic Approach to their Evolutionary Development

Volume II (Part 2)

NICHOLAS A BROWN

A thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Robert Gordon University for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Date: August 2000

Awarding Establishment: The Robert Gordon University
Collaborating Establishment: The Regional Archaeologist, Aberdeenshire Council (formerly Grampian Regional Council)

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Volume II (Part 2)

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5.6 Nineteenth century doocots

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5.6.17 Towie Farm
5.6.18 Mains of Seafield
5.6.19 Historical Summary

5.6.1 PITLURG TOWER DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 436 455, Keith Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Pitlurg Tower Doocot is an example of a small scale doocot being built into the decaying remnants of a castle tower. It is sited about 100m west of the nineteenth century farm Mains of Pitlurg, in the south of Keith Parish, at an altitude of 200m.

The 1870 OS shows appendages of Pitlurg Tower to the south of its drum, but these are no longer evident on site. The Regional Archaeologist speculates that the castle was a,"... *probable 'L' or 'Z' shaped building. This is now unroofed and has been utilised as a dovecot.* [Although they have freedom of access, wild pigeons do not appear to occupy the tower]. *Traces of building footings to the S of the tower where two rectangular buildings are shown on O.S. 25 inch - probably the remains of modern farm buildings".* [395] The doocot was very possibly built around the same time as these structures in the early to mid nineteenth century and the original west window of the drum chamber was blocked up in order to house the doves.

Building doocots into redundant castles was not a common trait in Scotland but examples can be found. *"After Hailes Castle, East Lothian, was abandoned as a residence nesting boxes were build into one of the towers and some still survive"*[396]

Although Pitlurg Tower is a scheduled monument (more for archaeological reasons than architectural) the upstanding remains seem destined to decay further, probably reaching the point of collapse in the not too distant future. Since the doocot element forms an insignificant part in the Tower's history, and is not of architectural interest in its own right, the requirement to physically safeguard this particular doocot is minimal.

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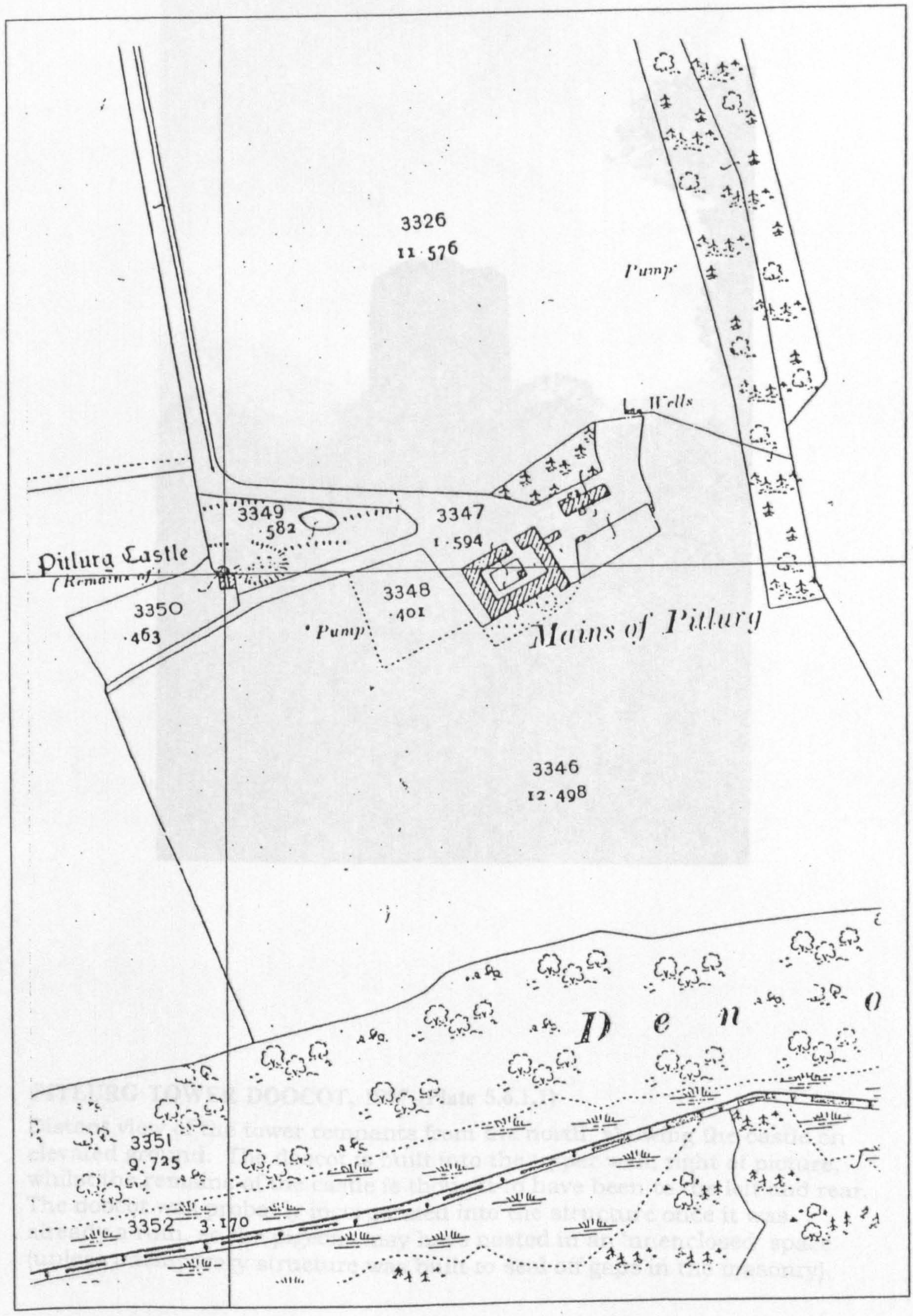
[395] Grampian Regional Archaeologist SMR Ref. NJ 44 NW1, *"...there has been a substantial structure to the E, since quarried away".*

[396] Gordon of Straloch's map, c.1640, shows 'Pitlurg' as a decent sized castle. See also Hume, 'Our outdoor larders of the Past', 1998, p.11. Another example can be found at Rothesay Castle, Bute.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The roofless two storey stone drum is all that remains of the former L-plan castle and the doocot is found in a single chamber on the upper floor.

A linear arrangement of nest boxes is built against the west wall, using a combination of field stones for uprights, and roofing slates for horizontal bases. The boxes, now heavily overgrown with vegetation and covered with fallen debris, appear to number around 40, size 300mm cube.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Pitlurg Castle Doocot (Fig. 5.6.1)



PITLURG TOWER DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.6.1.1)

Distant view of the tower remnants from the north, showing the castle on elevated ground. The doocot is built into the upper wall, right of picture, whilst the remains of the castle is thought to have been to the left and rear. The doocot was probably incorporated into the structure once it was already a ruin, so the pigeons may have nested in an 'unenclosed' space (unless a temporary structure was built to seal off gaps in the masonry).

5.6.2 GRANGE HALL DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 062 608, Kinloss Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Grange Hall Doocot, near Forres in north west Moray, is a striking example of a mixed-use, hexagonal pigeon tower. There is no other with its plan form in the district; its closest comparison is the octagonal structure at Lesmurdie, north of Elgin. Hexagonal companions elsewhere in Scotland are limited and rare examples are to be found at Sandyhills, Banff, Megginch, Perthshire and Redhall in Edinburgh.[397]

Although sited on former church land, the cot is not connected with Kinloss Abbey, as alleged both by Douglas[398] and a former owner,[399] since the Abbey was a quarry by the 1660's.

The doocot at Grange Hall was built for John Gordon Peterkin of Grange and Greshop in the first decade of the nineteenth century. This was at roughly the same time as the building of his new, classical, two storey mansion (built on the site of an earlier house) possibly by the talented young Edinburgh architect William Stark. The nearby steading block was likely erected along with the doocot to form an integrated group and an 1802 document held at Grange Hall suggests that they are contemporary; "*John Laing, mason in Elgin, and James Petrie, mason in Forres called and chosen by James Peterkin of Grange and James Nicol Mason at Woodhead to measure the mason work done this season at the Square of Grange*

---

397 G. A. G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 15.
Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 63, described Hay Dovecote, Herefordshire as, "...*hexagonal, a form which we shall rarely find in any part.*"
Varro, On Farming, c. 36 BC., p. 325, "*From them [bees] we learn to work, to build and store up food ... each cell is hexagonal ... geometers prove that when regular hexagons are used to fill a circular figure the largest possible amount of space is thus utilised*".

398 Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 24.
In this passage, Douglas suggests that the doocots of Grangehill, Grangehall and Burgie may all have been, "... *erections belonging to the Abbey of Kinloss*".

399 G.R.C., Site Index Ref. NJ 06 SE 3. This document records that, "... *the owner believes both the farm and the dovecot to have been associated with Kinloss Abbey*".

(including) Pigeon House 154 yards, 3' 1" inside partition of pigeon house, 6 yards 3' 9" excluding pavement in the ducat, Belt [stringcourse] in the same".[400]

The steading bisects the view between the house and doocot. It can be reasonably concluded that the cot was designed to be aesthetically appreciated, not only by the resident owner but also, by the traveller between Kinloss or Forres, or by some visitor approaching the house from the north (noting however that the North Lodge was not built until 1858). The owner's desire to display the doocot is also supported by the 1869 O.S. which shows the doocot and farmyard being partly screened by a tree belt from the private estate road, but otherwise exposed to the main road.

Although it appears that the shell of the doocot was completed in 1802, the owner and/or designer might have felt that the building was lacking somewhat, since an 1804 account from William Anderson of Elgin records the, "*Scaffolding the Pidgeon House for putting on the weather cock.*"[401]

The extant boxes in the upper chamber may not, of course, be assumed to be original and could have replaced earlier stone or brick boxes. However, with no evident support below through to ground, it can safely be assumed that the boxes were deliberately of lightweight construction. As a result, human weight could not have been applied directly by foot, so the likelihood of the doocot requiring a revolving ladder device would have been high. Certainly much of the other evidence points to the existence of a collecting device:

(i) Taking a ladder into the first storey each and every time would have been troublesome.

---

[400] Uncatalogued, but neatly bundled, papers held in boxes at the current Grange Hall mansion contain an extract, 14 December 1802, which refers to the owner commissioning a local tradesman to measure recently completed work (independent assessment by tradesmen who did not do the work was the contemporary method of assessment).
Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1913, p. 53. "*The offices form a handsome slated square court, at a little distance, on the north side of this splendid mansion; they contain neat accommodation for all the exigencies of a large establishment .... A great extent of fertile corn-field, sufficiently enclosed, and covered by thriving plantation, bespeaks the residence of opulence conjoined with the most accurate taste.*"
[401] Grange Hall Papers (n. 4) extract from account submitted by house carpenter William Anderson of Elgin, 5/10/1804.

(ii) The ground floor masonry wall could have supported a central load such as a ladder pole.

(iii) The hexagonal design would have suited the use of a revolving ladder and many other polygonal structures throughout the country still contain such a device.

(iv) The building has been designed with an architectural consciousness which would likely have embraced the best practice and ideas of the day.

(v) A revolving ladder and pole would have been built in wood and, could either have deteriorated completely, like the majority of the nesting boxes, or could have simply been removed to create some farm storage space when the chamber became redundant for doves.

The current state of the property makes investigation into the former presence of a central plinth, a tie crossing, and an apex connection for a ladder, quite impossible but some further site investigation if scaffolding is ever erected to dismantle the roof may provide a final opportunity to prove, or disprove, such speculation.

A more curious and deliberate inclusion to the roof structure is the use of skylights. Only one remains fully intact, but the locations of local roof collapses suggest that three once existed and were sited directly above flight hole points. This differs with Beaton's reference to only two,[402] but does nevertheless accord with Douglas' account[403]. The intact skylight, approximately 500 mm long x 350 mm wide, contains a single fixed pane of glass set in a timber frame flashed with lead. These skylights would have provided a considerable amount of permanent daylighting into the pigeon chamber, not to mention a huge potential for solar gain. This is the only remaining example of glazing a doocot in Moray (although see Miltonduff and Rothiemay records, q.v.) and it is not clear if it has been a deliberate attempt to warm the chamber in the false hope that breeding may be increased as a result. Moreover,

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[402] Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 12.
[403] Douglas, op. cit., p. 21.

according to an early twentieth century author, "*...pigeons appear to suffer no ill-effects from any reasonable amount of cold ... I regard excessive heat in summer as being a very decided drawback.*"[404]

Two 20 mm diameter, horizontal iron pins remain on the south wall in the cill below the large first floor access door and both Beaton[405] and Douglas[406] state that these were for holding a ladder in place. Since the pins are 950 mm apart, with a third pin curiously sited at much lower level, this ladder (if it was indeed a ladder) must have been a substantial piece of equipment to move regularly. Even so, the pins suggest an unusually safety-conscious approach to accessing the loft regularly without the security risk of a permanent stair. Noting that the ledged timber door to the loft is unusually large compared with earlier cots (1700 x 980 mm) and that the boxes are raised quite significantly off the flagstone floor, it may be possible that a key function of this building was the accumulation of guano for agricultural use and therefore the pins may have some sort of association with the collection of droppings[407]. Such an exercise would only be carried out periodically, unlike the requirement for regular inspections and the size of the door suggests that more importance was put on human comfort than fear of birds escaping. Such a large door sited within the view of nearby farmyard workers could also well be utilised to ventilate the chamber in times of severe overheating by creating a stack effect to the higher flight holes.

Smaller blocked openings (350 x 300 mm) at low level in the ground chambers are viewable only from the external face, since the inner face is now covered with plaster. These can be traced on the two northern walls, indicating the (possible) former locations of drainage outlets for slopping out, or a low level entry point for small animals. It is not clear if these are original openings, but they may indicate that the chambers once contained pigs or birds,

---

[404] Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p. 3.
It should be noted that frost conditions can be harmful to doves, particularly their eggs and young.
[405] Beaton, loc. cit.
[406] Douglas, op. cit., p. 21.
[407] Another alternative is the use of pins to secure a net around the door opening in order to capture birds for culling, treating adults.
Maitland, 'Doocots', 1959, p. 4, "*Occasional hooks are to be seen round the door [doocot in Angus]. These were for a 'clap net' to catch birds as they flew out*".

such as geese, hens or ducks. If they were original openings for the chambers, then this indicates later internal plaster work.

Collectively, the physical evidence and the circumstances of its situation indicate that Grange Hall is a veritable, multi-functional building which maximises the inclusion of pigeon rearing as an act of husbandry on the estate. Clearly dove keeping was seen primarily as a farming function, hence its siting in the farmyard rather than near the mansion. The requirement to provide the doves with security is achieved by raising the pigeon chamber, and utilising the space below for some other purpose, perhaps for animals or storage of some kind[408]. Thus the lower rooms, and the apparent attempt at collecting guano, indicate that this building was more than just a doocot built to rear birds for food. Moreover, the architectural refinement of concept and proportioning is unsurpassed by the other freestanding doocots of Moray, so a display of wealth, sophistication and social position, was very much part of the brief at the time of design.

Grange Hall Doocot is therefore of some national importance and its Category B listing is well justified: firstly; because of its rarity as a hexagonal plan cot and secondly; as testimony to the changing attitudes at the turn of the 18th century towards pigeon rearing (which was concurrent with changing attitudes to agriculture in general). Throughout the country, dove chambers were now being incorporated into the attic spaces of other buildings and particularly above the pends of model farm steadings. However, at Grange Hall the cot is still a freestanding structure. Since the estate was being composed as a state of the art entity (i.e. mansion, steading/stable, kennel, fountain, landscaping etc.) this structure, largely devoted to the breeding of pigeons, was evidently still viewed as an essential element in an estate's panoply. Grange Hall Doocot is consequently an excellent example of the pigeon's swansong with the landed gentry in northern Scotland.

ADDENDUM:

The doocot was fully restored in 1996/7 as a partnership between the private owner, Moray District Council and Historic Scotland. It was included in the Moray Council's 1999 'Doors Open Day' programme and was visited in significant numbers.

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[408] The advantage of siting pigs below, for example, would be to allow their body heat to rise through into the pigeon chamber during times of frost.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Grangehall doocot is situated at the boundary wall line of the home farm complex on the northern side of a natural mound which slopes gently down, at an altitude of about 10 m, to the main Kinloss/Forres road some 200 m away to the north west. The steading block is sited to the immediate south-east of the cot, whilst the mansion itself is 280 m away, also to the south-east.

Douglas records this doocot as, "... *peculiar also in being the only one in Moray with a lower storey or part devoted to some other purpose than for pigeons*"[409]. Undoubtedly doves would not have occupied the lower storey which is divided into two small demi-hexagonal chambers, each with its own external doorway to the south-west and north-east respectively. These doorways are quite generous in size (1840 x 950 mm) and give easy unrestricted access for a human to enter lower chambers which are plastered, whitewashed spaces lit by comparatively generous apertures halfway up the walls to the north and the north west. Now blocked on the exterior face, these later blockings currently obscure any evidence that these openings contained any forms of glazing, grilles or louvers. The ceilings of both chambers have exposed, untreated timber joists, which run parallel with the access doors, but they are at right angles to the 400 mm thick masonry dividing wall with the 25 mm thick floorboards showing between joists. The ground floor of each chamber is consolidated earth and farm debris and it is unclear if this is the finished floor material.

The upper storey still contains about 120 nest boxes, constructed of untreated softwood, although the full complement was likely to be 316[410]. The boxes are shallow in depth (225 mm) but are more generous in height (300 mm) and width (300 mm) and all are provided with a 30 mm softwood upstand, applied to the inner face of the box floor, to prevent egg loss. The boxes are raised 600 mm above the 35 mm deep flagstone floor and this, in turn, is bedded in lime mortar on top of floorboards. They extend to wallplate level, although evidence of higher bracket supports suggest that they could have extended virtually to the roof level[411]. Built of simple wooden construction, the boxes are regular and linear in pattern and lightweight in load. Fixed top and bottom by vertical members (in the same vein as Orton Doocot near Rothes, q.v.) the boxes on each wall face are discrete rack units, as evidenced on the stone rubble internal walls which have been whitewashed before the final fitting of the boxes.

Now nearing the point of collapse, the hexahedral timber roof with its swept bellcast eaves (mistakenly referred to in the statutory list description as an octagonal roof[412]) is fairly typical of other polygonal structures throughout the country and it is common for them to be crowned by a decorative iron or lead feature. In the case of Grange Hall, an iron weathervane, with the four cardinal points, projects out of a stone mushroom cap finial and both Douglas[413] and Beaton[414] noted the now-missing weathercock which once crowned the structure at a height of around 9.5 m. The roof structure itself is a straightforward design solution with six main hip rafters, angled at about 35 degrees between apex and wallplate, each with tie beams halfway along their lengths and four secondary rafters at regular intervals. Small, graded, high quality slates, transported probably from Ballachulish, are nailed directly to regular sarking boards, which themselves are nailed at right angles to the rafters (as viewable from within the open roof structure). The hips are protected using lead dressed over a wood core roll. Remains of an iron gutter and downpipe can be found on the north side: however, the use of the stone projecting eaves bandcourse; the absence of a

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[409] Douglas, op. cit., p. 21.
A strange assertion when he later describes that the ground floor of Urquhart, "... *had been utilised as a summer house or a tool house*".
[410] That is, ten rows high, 6 boxes per wall, less 44 boxes to permit door and flight access.
[411] It seems likely that the upright sections were prefabricated with shelf brackets fitted along their whole length at the prescribed intervals, but this is no guarantee that the shelves were also fitted.
[412] Secretary of State, Statutory List, Moray District, Kinloss Parish, Item 20, p. 12.
[413] Douglas, op. cit., p. 22.
[414] Beaton, loc. cit.

dressed check in the perching ledge; the apparent absence of a soakaway and the exceptional use of rainwater goods on such structures; all suggest that these iron remains are much later additions[415].

In the event of overheating, the only means of permanent ventilation seems to be the sixteen round-top flight holes, which are elegantly cut into four, semi-circular, blind recessed ashlar lunettes on the four walls and face the daily sun path route. Each has an internal and external crescentic, dressed, 100 mm deep sandstone alighting platform. The two central, 100 mm wide, flight holes within each lunette are about 75 mm taller than the outer two, perhaps to accommodate larger birds, but more likely to relate externally to the curve of the lunette and its supporting stone voussoirs (internally the opening is carried on flat timber lintels). The horizontal alighting platforms extend to 300 mm beyond the wall plane but curve back to 125 mm, where they integrate with a dressed sandstone single ledge which encompasses the whole structure at respective heights of 5.5 m and 850 mm below the eaves.

The 630 mm thick outer walls, of this 5.9 m diameter structure, are impressively built using squared and coursed sandstone rubble, with roughly dressed quoins, at the external angles and around the access doorways. Despite the squaring of the stones, the joints of lime mortar still vary from 25 to 100 mm (the wider joints tending to be vertical ones bonded using large, flat, stone pinnings). All the narrower horizontal joints, and many of the vertical ones, contain carefully inserted horizontal small stone pinnings which tighten the mortar into the joints[416]. No traces of harling or limewash can be found to suggest that these pinnings were not to be appreciated as final decoration. Despite their obvious quality of construction, the walls currently display signs of severe movement and top-to-bottom cracks show on several walls, probably caused by undermining of the foundations combined with the thrust of the failing roof[417].

Written: November 1995

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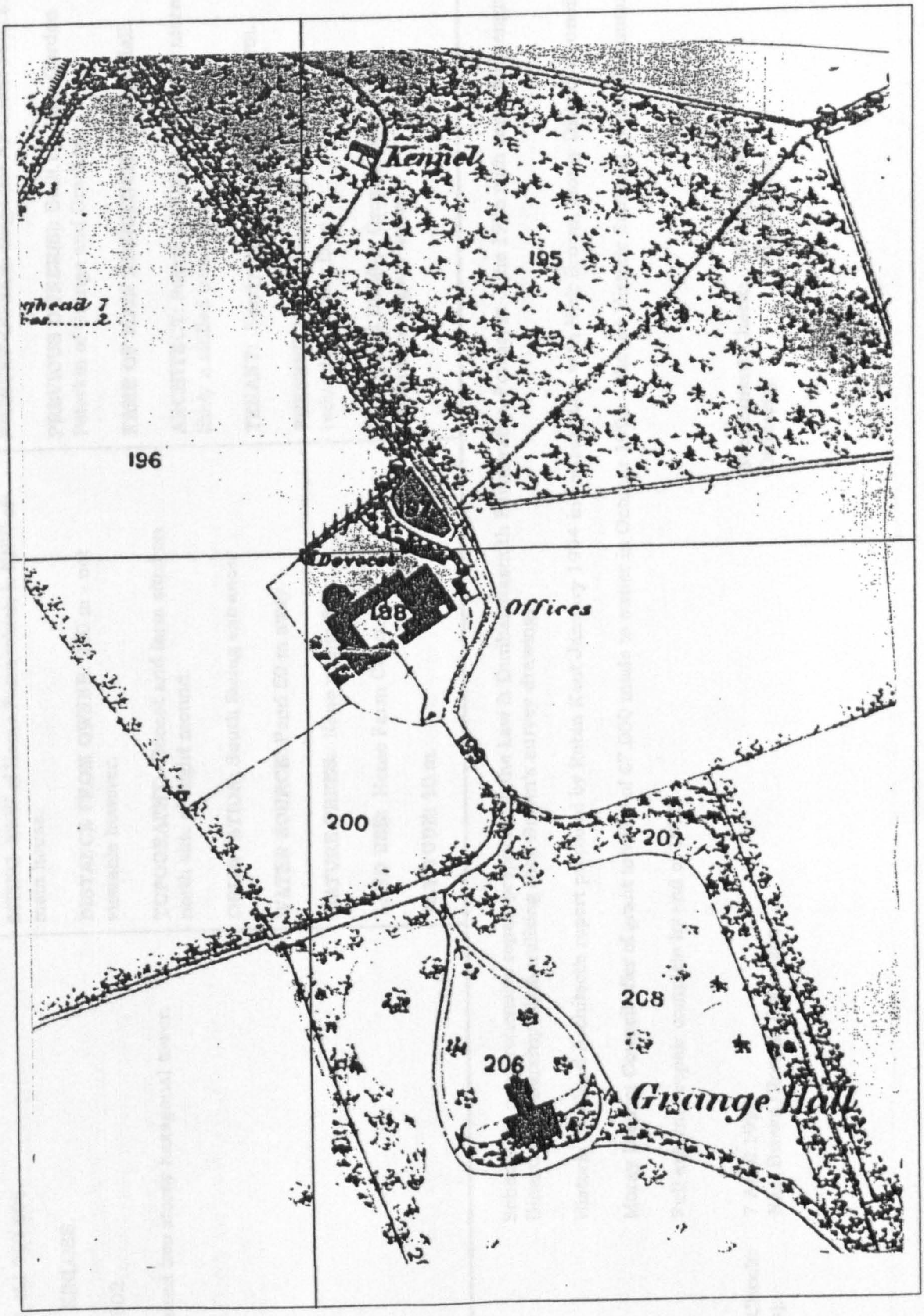
[415] It may be that the concentration of rainwater discharging to the north side of the structure has accelerated the present undermining of the foundations.

[416] This galletting or cherry caulking technique is a common feature in prestigious stone construction in Scotland but this is the only example witnessed in a doocot in Moray.

[417] G.R.C., op. cit.
It can be noted that this movement has been rapid in development since the G.R.C. site Index reference records the building in, "... *excellent condition*" and, "...*still occupied by doves and pigeons*".



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Grangehall Doocot (Fig. 5.6.2)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF NJ 062 608. **PARISH**: KINLOSS. **DATE**: 1802. **TYPE**: mixed two storey hexagonal tower.	**SITING** NNW of Home Farm which is NNW of main house. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 280 m - not viewable however. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Doocot and farm sited on north side of slight mound. **ORIENTATION**: South facing entrance. **WATER SOURCE**: Pond 50 m away. **MATURE TREES**: None within 80 m. **LAND USE**: Home Farm Court. **ALTITUDE**: 10 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Brigadier AP Grant-Peterkin. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Built by John Gordon Peterkin of Grange and Greshop. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Grange Hall. **ARCHITECT**: Possibly William Stark but more likely a skilled tradesman. **TENANT**: Sandy Taylor, Grange Hall Farm. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Ground floor stores, redundant upper floor. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Ground floor stores, upper floor pigeon house.

NOTES: Scheme for comprehensive repair prepared by the Law & Dunbar-Nasmith Partnership, Forres, in June 1995 with consulting engineers Dinardo Partnership Elgin utilising Nick Brown's survey drawings.

Historic Scotland Architect's report prepared by Robin Kent January 1994 in consultation with Nick Brown, Moray District Council.

Moray District Council offer of grant to value of £7,000 made to owner in October 1995. Phase I Historic Scotland grant offer imminent

Full external repair complete by end of 1996

Date of Check: 7 April 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 23 July 1996
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Under serious threat of collapse.

REPAIRS: 4 fabric tension steps currently fitted around walls - previous pointing of vertical cracks.

ALTERATIONS: Blocking of ground floor openings. Probable addition of cast iron guttering and downpipe. Addition of modern pen area to south west.

FUTURE RISK: Failure to arrest structural decay could lead to total loss.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Hexagonal (ground floor split into 2 equal chambers).

PLAN SIZE: 5.9 m across externally.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 6.3 m.

OVERALL HEIGHT: 8.5 m (excluding vane).

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Stone and lime.

WALL MATERIAL: Irregular, but roughly squared coursed sandstone with lime mortar.

WALL THICKNESS: 630 mm.

WALL FINISH: Squared sandstone rubble with roughly dressed quoins and fine stone galletting.

ROOF FORM: Piended with bellcast eaves.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: 6 primary timber rafters with 24 secondary.

ROOF PITCH: Approximately 35°.

ROOF FINISH: Small graded Ballachulish slates with lead core rolled flashings.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Timber framed with ledged and braced vertical boarding.

OUTER DOOR TYPE: n/a - iron pins on wall supposedly for ladder fixing.

DOOR SIZE: Ground - 1860 (high) x 950 mm (wide).
First - 1700 (high) x 980 mm (wide).

DOOR SITING: Ground - north east and south west. First - south.

LEDGES: One (850 mm down from ashlar eaves band). 125 mm wide, 100 mm deep in dressed sandstone.

LEDGES HEIGHT: 5.5 m.

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 19.2 m.

APERTURES: None - 3 skylights in roof (2 fallen).

VENT HOLES: None (other than flight holes).

FLIGHT HOLES: 16 in 4 ashlar arched lunettes.

TOTAL VENT AREA: 0.28 m² excluding door.

LIMEWASH: None visible.

DORMERS: n/a.

SKEWS: n/a.

FINIALS: stone (mushroom) at crown of roof.

WEATHER VANE: Remnants of metal vane (cock disappeared) through finial.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: No.

PARTITION WALLS: Yes - ground floor only, 400 mm masonry with plaster finish.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: 35 mm slate slabs bedded in mortar on top of timber floor.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Rough sawn untreated softwood timber.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 316 (only approx 120 remain).

NEST BOX SIZE: 300 (h) x 300 (w) x 250 (d) with 30 mm lip.

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 600 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: Only at flight apertures. Crescentic in sandstone to match external platform.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Limewash on first floor rubble stonework, plaster and limewash on wall plaster of ground stores.

COLLECTING AID: Possibly revolving ladder - no evidence.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 316 x 2 x 0.7 = 442.

INTERNAL VOLUME: Ground floor 25.1 m^3. First floor 62.7 m^3.

OTHER

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS: Function of external iron pins.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 3, **12**.

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 11, 12, **21**, **22**, **24**.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 59.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, pp. 15, 61.

Anon, Old Moray, 1948, p. 34.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Kinloss Parish, Item 20, p. 12, Category B, 1989.

SMR: NJ 06 SE 3.

MAPS: 1869, 1902, 1965 OS.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 22 (showing weather cock still extant).

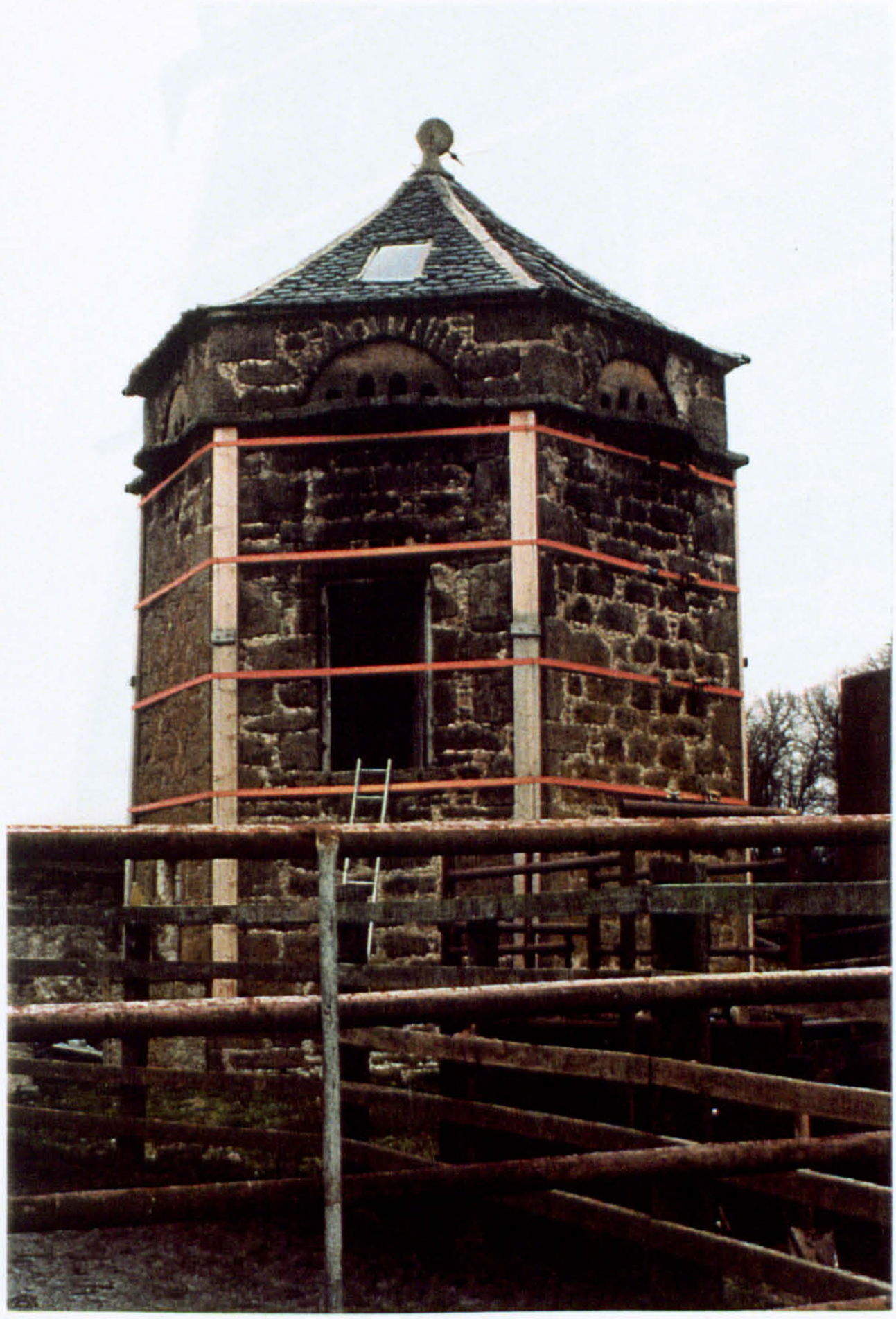
E. Beaton, personal collection, slide also showing weathercock, 1973.

OTHER:

Uncatalogued Grange Hall papers held in neat bundles at main house (refer to years 1802-04 for relevant extracts).

ESTATE INFORMATION:

W. Leslie, General View of Agriculture, 1813, pp. 52-3.



GRANGEHALL DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.2.1)

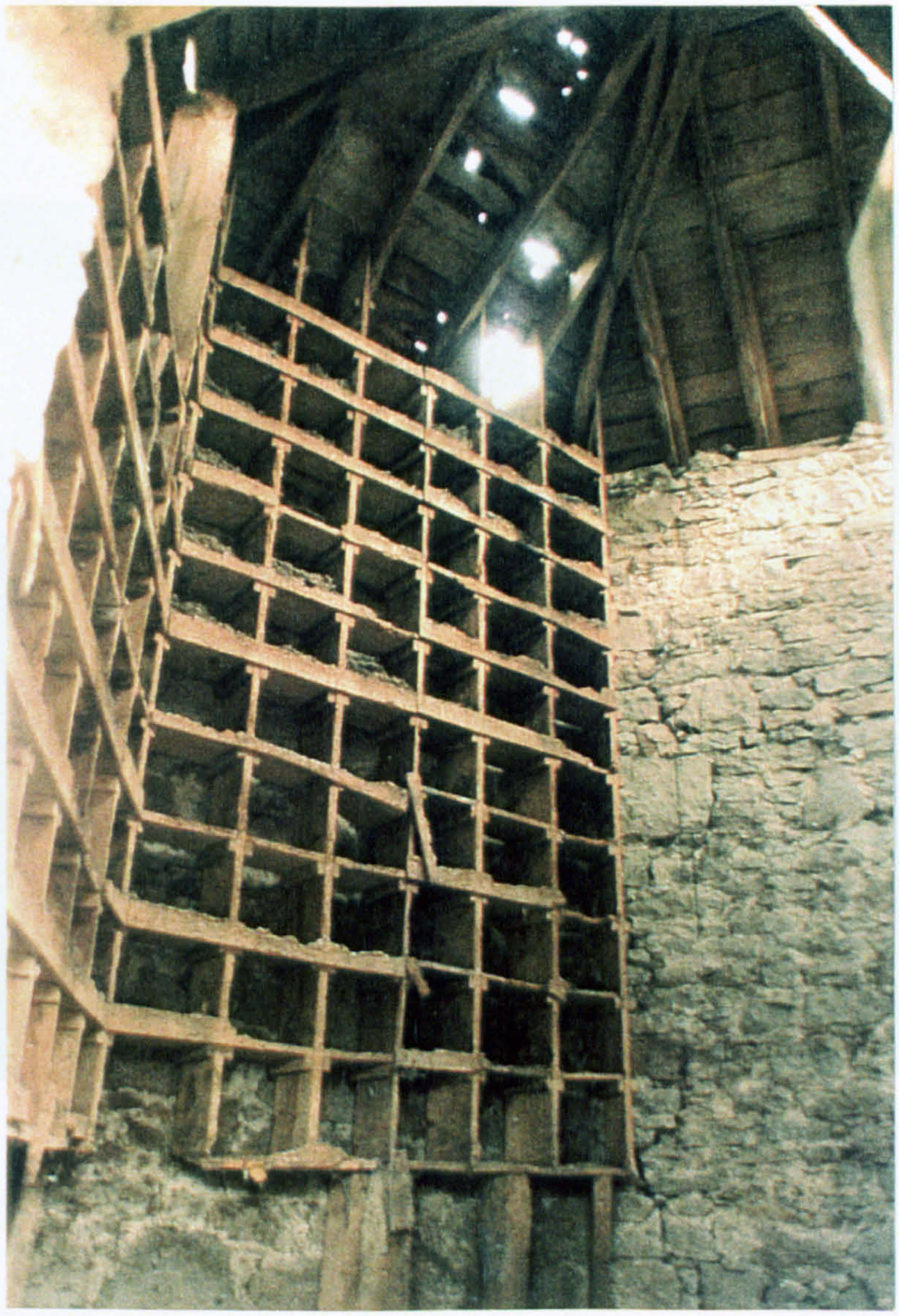
View from the courtyard showing south facing first floor door opening, flight holes to south, south east and south west and roof skylights.

Note damage to finial and temporary strapping around structure.



GRANGEHALL DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.2.2)

Close up view of first floor doorway giving access to pigeon chamber. Note two pins in door threshold (particularly in relation to scale of aluminium ladder) and galleting detail in mortar joints.



GRANGEHALL DOOCOT, 1993, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.2.3)
Internal view of first floor showing remains of timber nest boxes raised considerably above floor level. Note whitewashed wall finish.



GRANGEHALL HOUSE, 1993 (Plate 5.6.2.4)

Front elevation of main house (with later mansard roofs). The doocot and farm complex is some distance away to the rear.

openings blocked externally

door missing - temp. wooden prop supporting stone lintel

whitewashed plaster walls

GROUND

6 boxes per side
10 rows high

whitewashed random rubble walls

remains of rough sawn softwood boxes

severe cracking in all walls

SURVEY OF
GRANGE HALL DODCOT
NICK BROWN 7/4/93

1 of 4

FIRST

N

broken stone finial and vane

fully collapsed around former skylight

Boxing on skylight here

Collapse around skylight opening

Lead cove roll w. slight sweep at eaves

Small grade blue/grey slates slightly diminishing to top

75 x 65 mm main rafters at hips

with four 50 x 65 mm secondary rafters at about 450 cts.

50 x 65 mm ties across rafters.

100 mm stone platforms

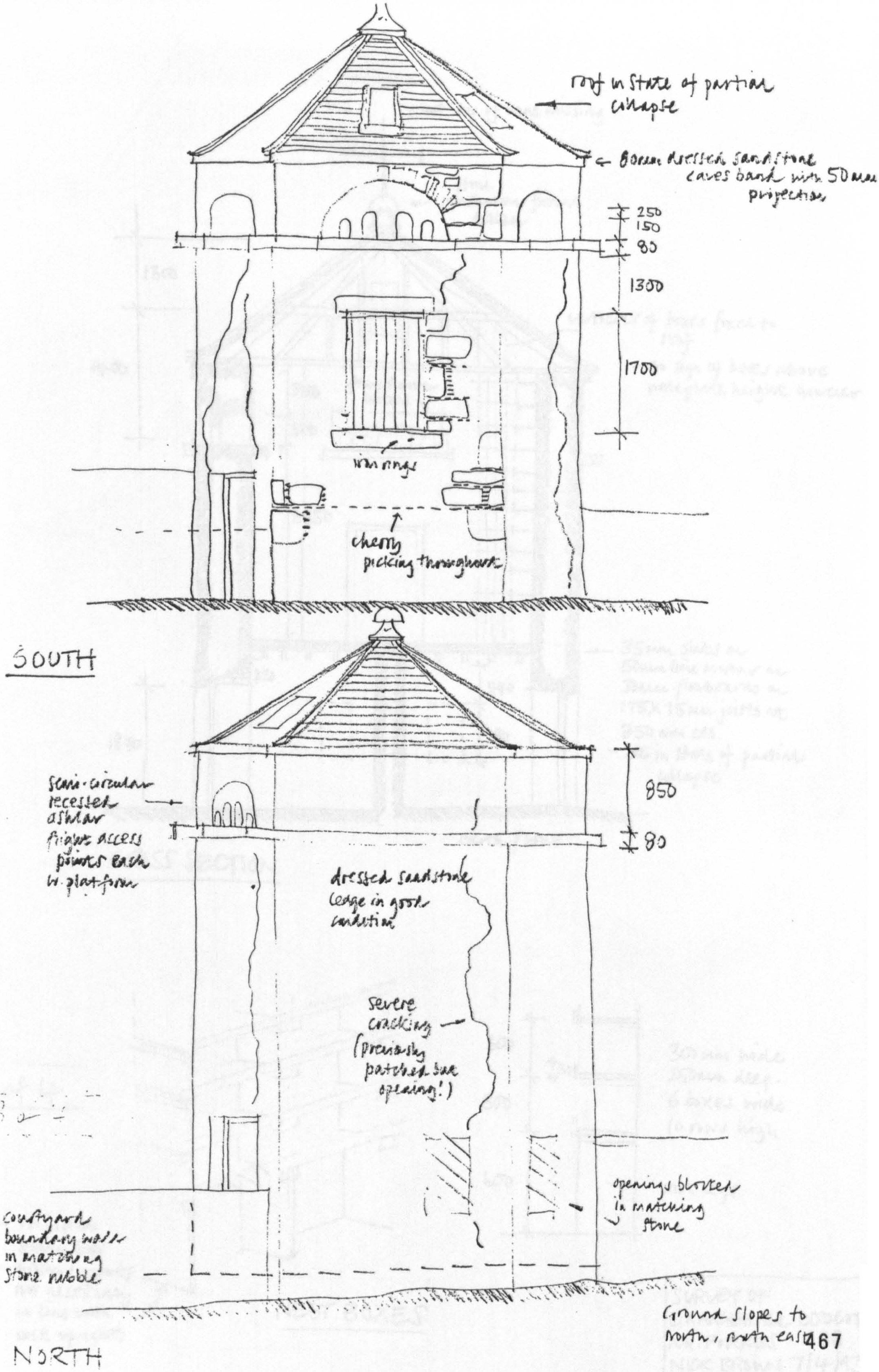
175

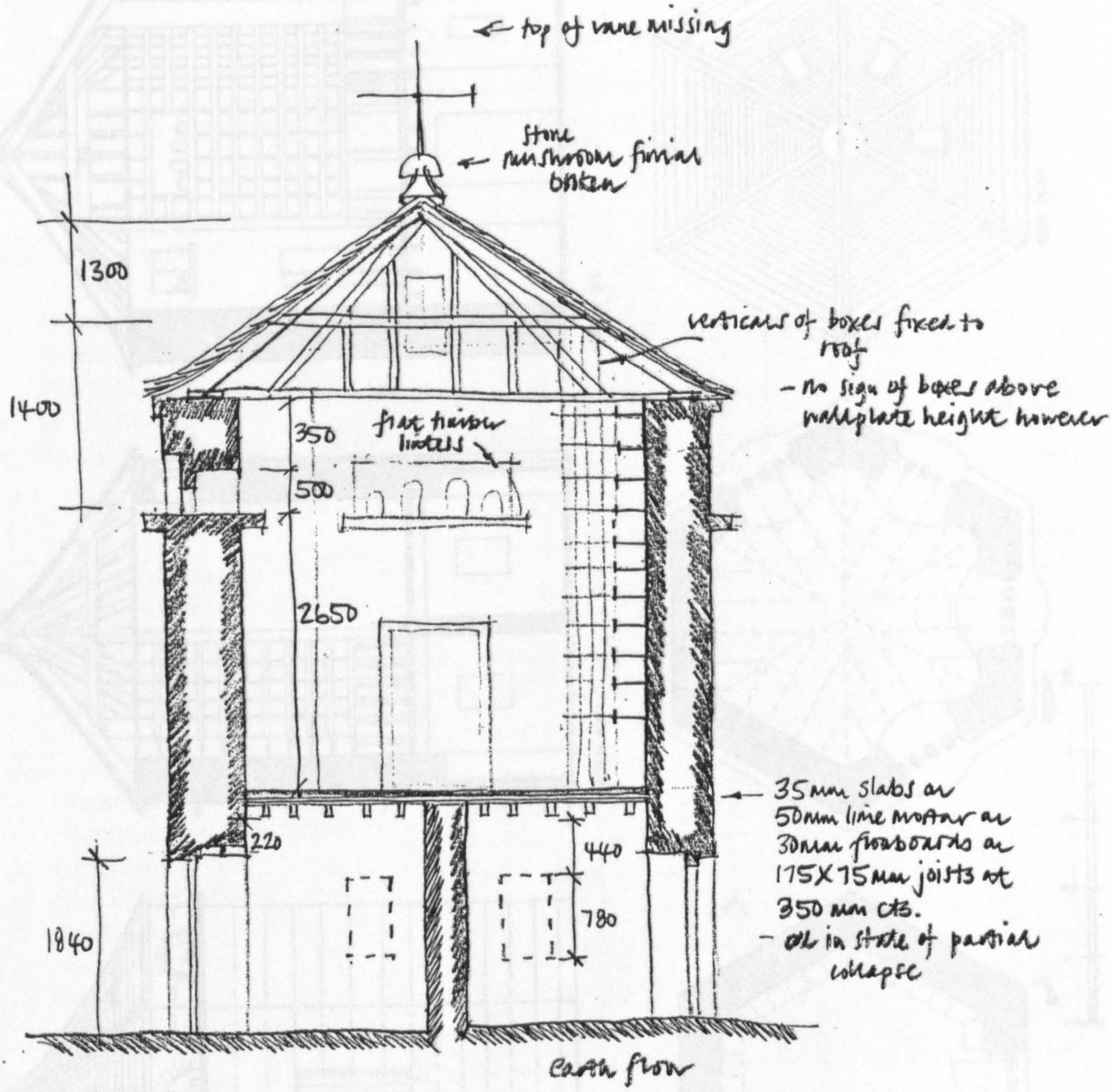
320

whitewashed timber safe lintels

2 of 4

SURVEY OF
GRANGE HALL DOOCOT
NR. FORRES 466
NICK BROWN 7/4/93


roof in state of partial collapse
dressed sandstone
250
150
80
1300
1700
iron rings
cherry picking throughout
SOUTH
850
80
semi-circular recessed ashlar flight access points each w. platform
dressed sandstone ledge in good condition
severe cracking (previously patched but opening!)
courtyard boundary wall in matching stone rubble
openings blocked in matching stone
Ground slopes to north, north east
NORTH



CROSS SECTION

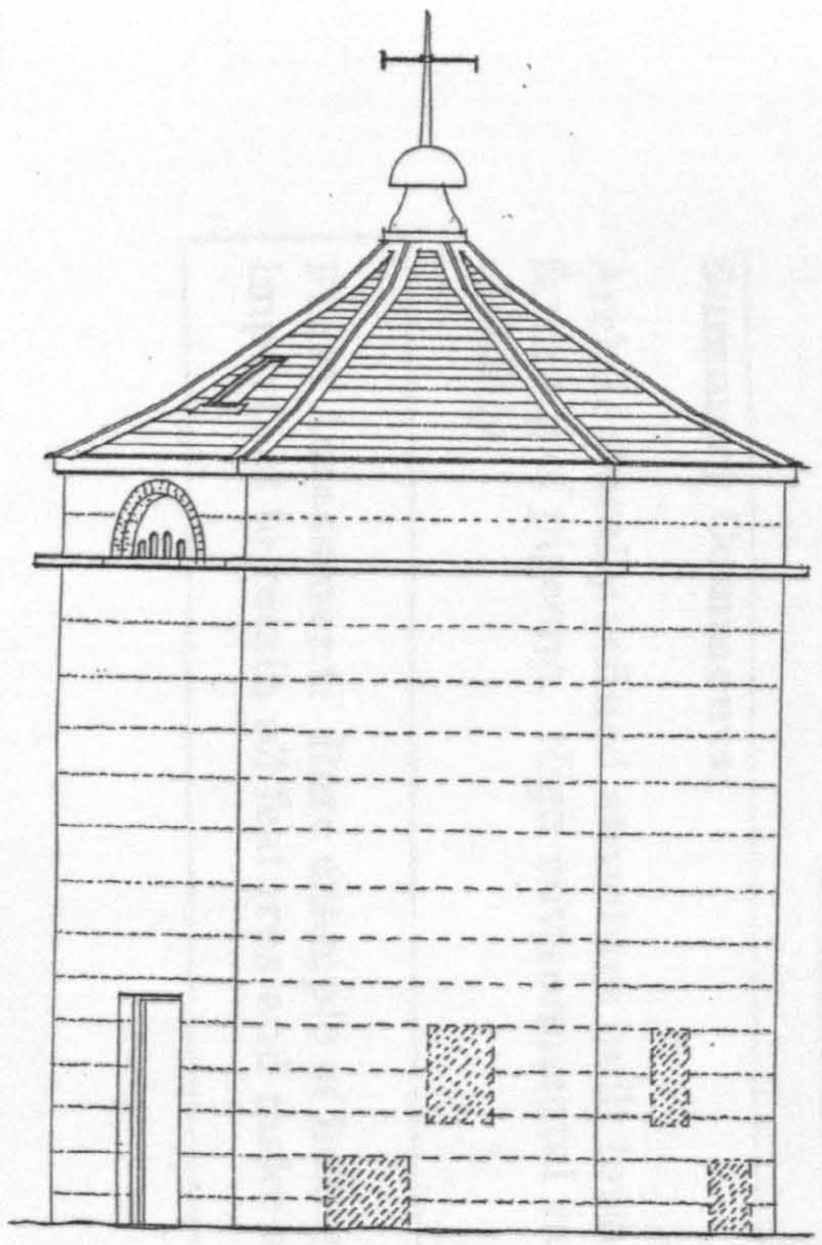
4 of 4

- no lip on bottom box
- bottom supports not necessarily in line with rack uprights

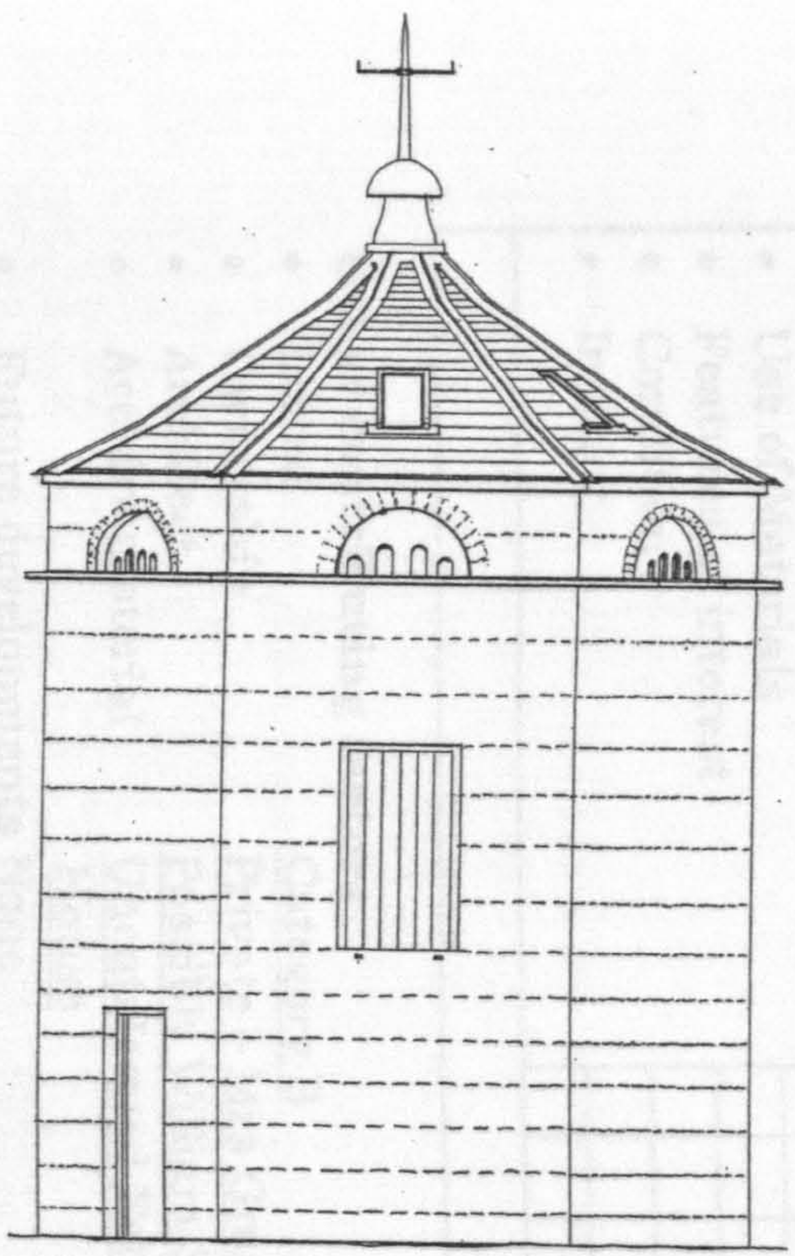
NEST BOXES

SURVEY OF
GRANGEHALL DOOCOT
NR. FORRES 468
NICK BROWN 7/4/93

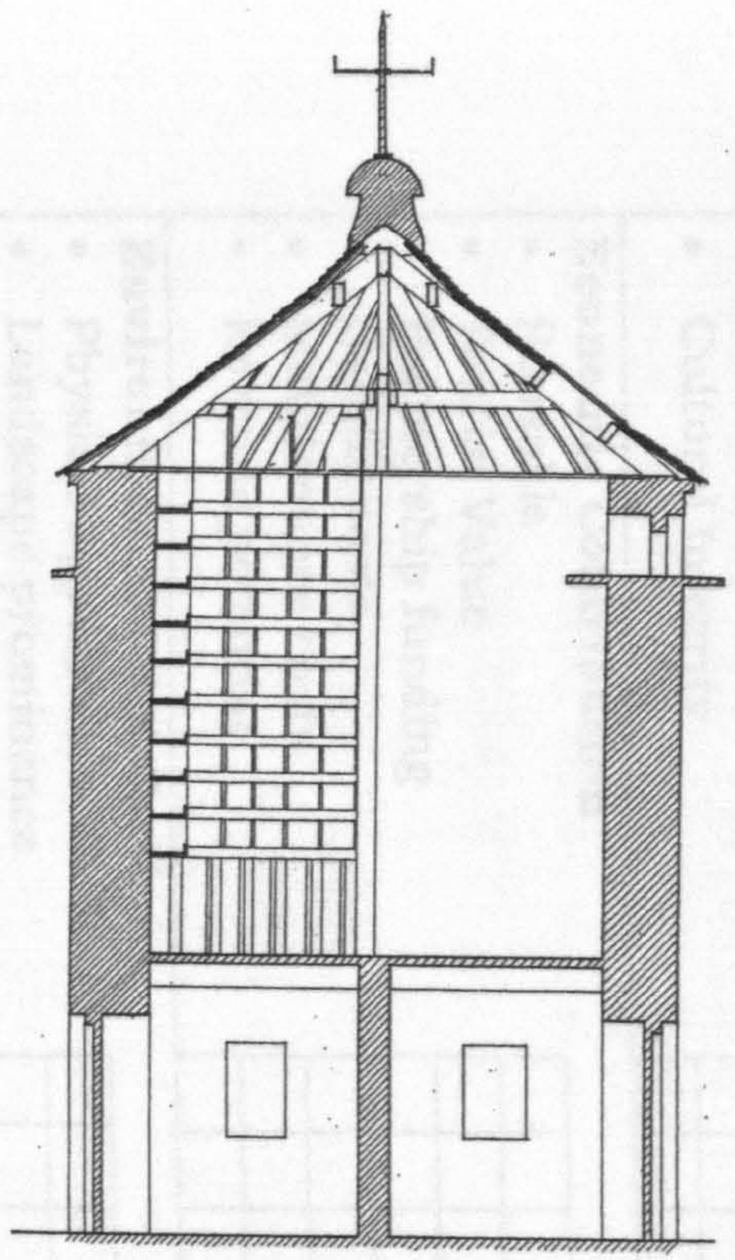
Grangehall Dovecot



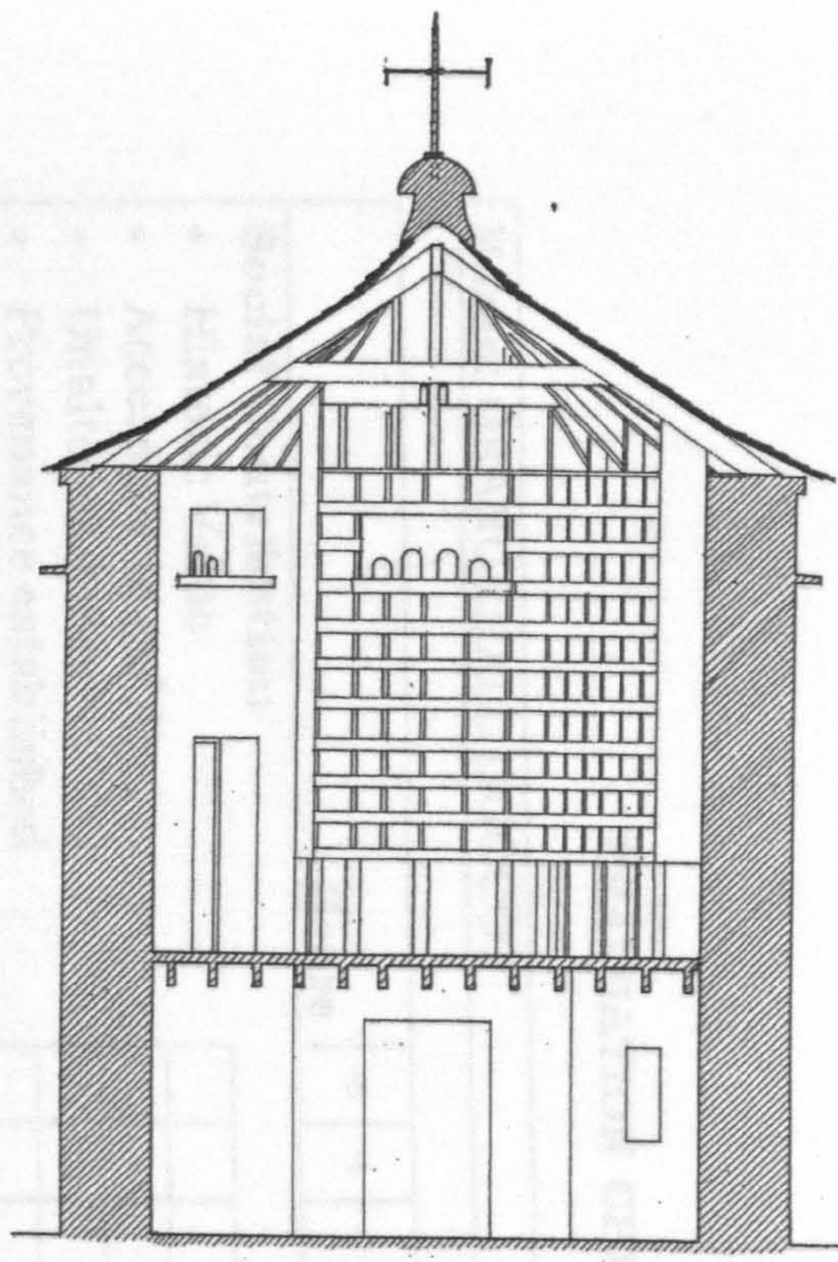
NORTH ELEVATION



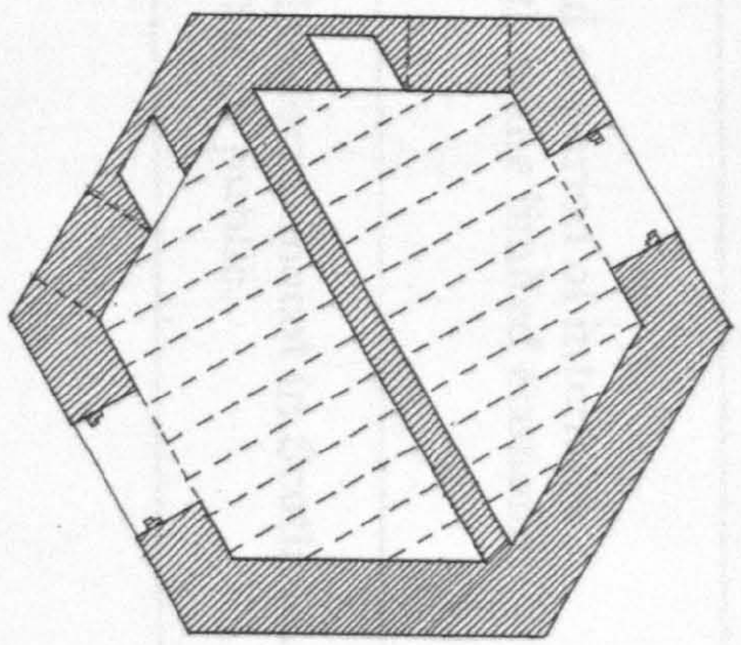
SOUTH ELEVATION



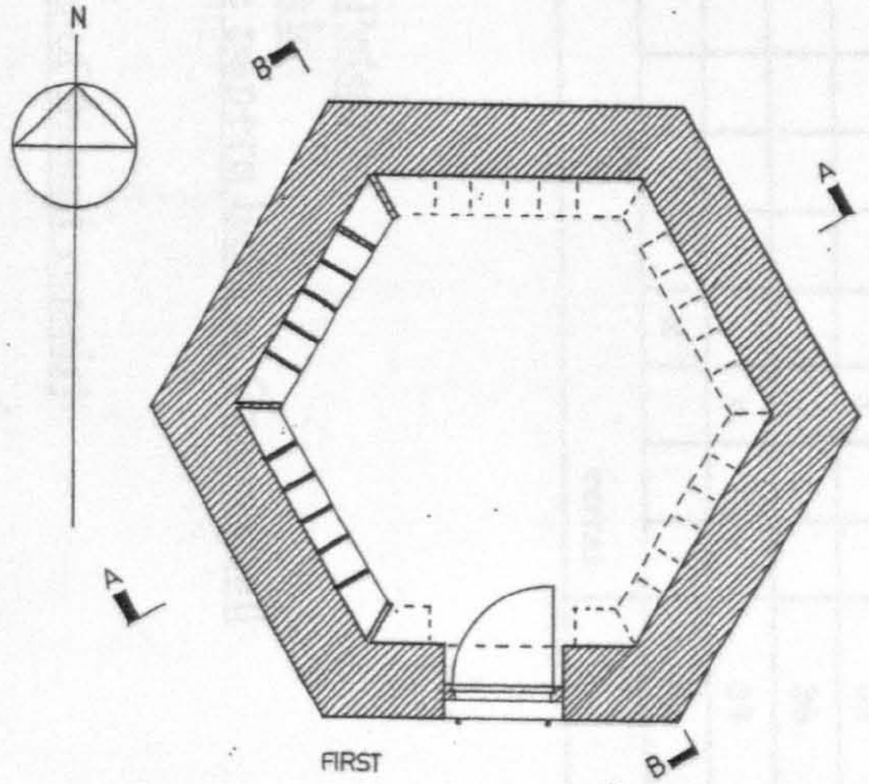
SECTION AA



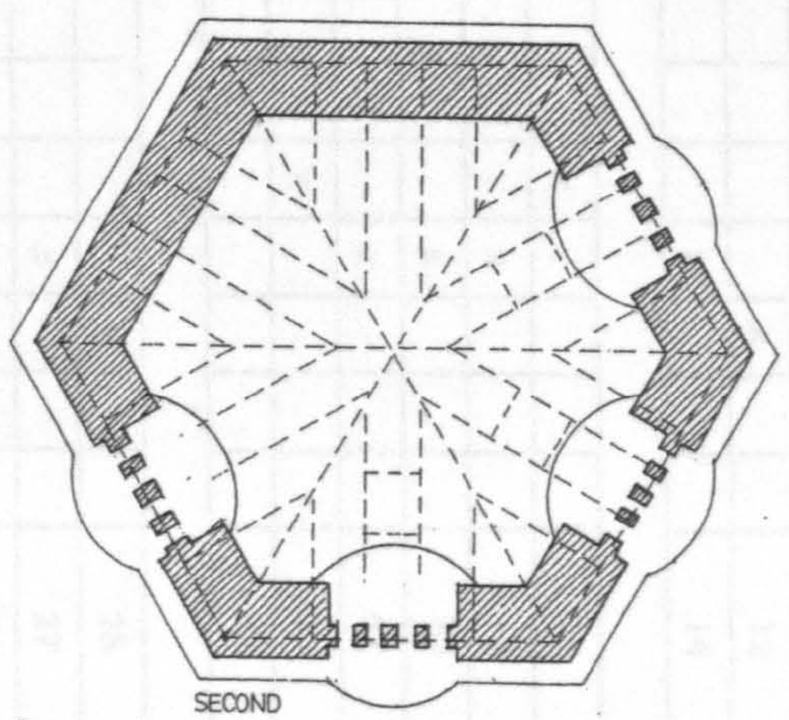
SECTION BB



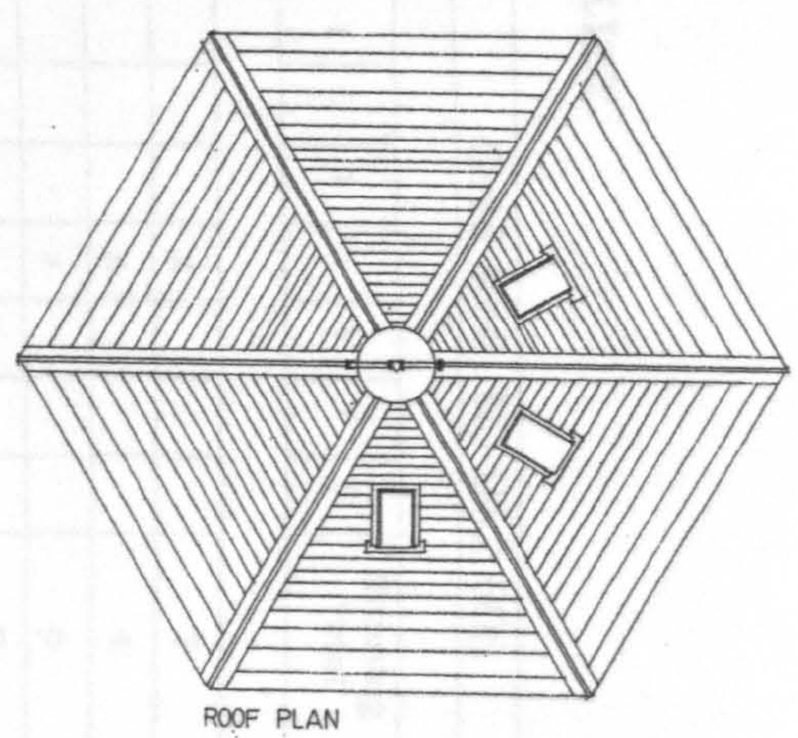
GROUND 1:50



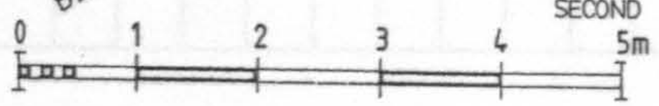
FIRST



SECOND



ROOF PLAN



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: GRANGEHALL DOOCOT **Grid Ref**: NJ 062 608

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value								x				2
• Accessible to public								x				4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established									x			9
• Educational Merit									x			12
• Cultural Integrity								x				14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					15
• Tourist Value								x				17
• Partnership funding								x				19
• Capital costs								x				21
• Maintenance costs							x					22
• Revenue potential						x						22
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									x			25
• Landscape prominence								x				27
• Original setting								x				29
• Use of Materials									x			32
• Features of interest										x		36
• Condition									x			39
• Interior								x				41
											TOTAL	41

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private – Mrs Grant-Peterkin
- Architect — Possibly William Stark
- Archive material — Uncatalogued Estate papers held at Grangehall House
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low (as consequence of recent repair)

Summary Comments:

Architecturally refined structure built towards end of period of intensive farming of pigeons. High environmental value with some limited economic viability.

Final Assessment: Rare example of hexagonal plan form doocot in Scotland. Important to retain all features and make accessible to public.

5.6.3 GREENBANK DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ 442 613, Rathven

HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT

Greenbank Doocot is an interesting example of a squat, two storey, mixed circular tower, located in the Parish of Rathven in the north-eastern corner of Moray, formerly known as Banffshire[418]. The building is associated with a farmhouse sited only 12 m away to the north-west and is described by McKean as "*Greenbank, late 18th century, is a large, harled, T-plan house with a contemporary circular doocot.*"[419] Peterkin agrees with this dating in his gazetteer, Scottish Dovecotes[420].

The small building complex of farmhouse, garden, doocot and courtyard steading (the latter sited some 40 m away to the south-west) is set high on a hill overlooking the lands of Buckie to the north and Letterfourie House (situated on the other side of the valley) to the north east. The terrain is generally hilly and falls away steeply from the complex to the north and north-west, and gradually away to the south-east down to the Burn of Whitefield some 280 m away to the south-east. Except for some riparian trees all of the ground around Greenbank is agricultural.

The ground floor chamber of the building is described in the Secretary of State's listing as having, "... *hen house accommodation in lower portion*"[421], is currently used as a firewood store whilst the upper half formerly utilised to accommodate doves is now entirely redundant.

The lower chamber of the structure has no access other than the large timber door for human entry suggesting that the hens were allowed out each day only at determined intervals.

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[418] Since Banffshire was a separate county from Moray before 1975, Greenbank doocot is not included in Douglas, Dovecotes in Moray, 1931.

[419] McKean, The District of Moray - An illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 124.
Sinclair, Accounts of the Systems of Husbandry, 1812, pt. II, p. 114, observed that "In a period of 35 years, farmers were universally risen above the class of mere peasants, in knowledge, education and manners, closely approaching to the character of country gentlemen."

[420] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60.

[421] Secretary of State, Statutory Listing Moray District, Rathven Parish, Item 14, p. 10. Although how hens accessed the chamber (other than the door provided for human access) is not evident.

(Although it is possible for an original access to have been blocked up and hidden beneath the harling repair). Peters, Development of the Farm, explains the options available to hen owners; "*Hens and other fowls were kept for their eggs and meat, either running free and only being shut up at night, or being kept shut up all the time*".[422]

Greenbank Doocot is not only an interesting mixed structure in terms of animal husbandry, but it is also a curious hybrid of architectural finesse, evident in the composed balance of the over-provision of flight holes, and true vernacular considerations of practical use of materials, changing functional requirements and available skills and funding. In this respect, it has similarities with the other small, nineteenth century, mixed structures in Moray (such as those at Mains of Seafield, Cullen; Urquhart Manse; and Hazelwood, near Dufftown - see later) all of which are elegant 'adjustments' to their respective demesnes, as opposed to integrated items of a deliberately composed estate group. Every effort should be made to arrest the structural movement and stitch the visible vertical cracks now appearing to ensure that this Grade B listed building survives for some time to come. It seems strange that if the stringcourse or ledge was intended to serve the function of a rat defence barrier[423], that part of it should be deliberately removed and that a major opening to the pigeon loft should extend below it. The cill piece of this aperture, however, is extremely crude in execution and there are signs of significant deterioration of the masonry immediately below so there is the possibility that this aperture has been altered. If the cill level of the opening originally coincided with the ledge level, then the internal floor level would have been lower than it by approximately 100 *mm*. If this were the case, then it would have been difficult to regularly clean out the cote and utilise the manure for fertiliser around the farm. Perhaps the need to fulfil this function with ease was far more important a consideration than the original aesthetic beauty of the cote and the defence needs of the pigeons. Likewise the blocking of the flight holes must have had a functional need over-riding the visual balance of the structure. Why so many flightholes were originally provided in relation to the quantity of boxes can only be explained in aesthetic terms.

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[422] Peters, Development of the Farm, 1969, p. 201.
He later observed, p. 211, that "The design or layout for the buildings might be produced by the farmer, the owner or his agent, the builder or an architect ... The use of professionally trained men seems to have been largely a late development ... Within the area, the position of the designer only becomes apparent during the early 19th century."
[423] As alluded to by Beaton and the Secretary of State.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Greenbank doocot is circular in plan, with a 3.9 m diameter and a wallhead height of 2.9 m above ground floor level, rising to an overall height of 5 m at its apex. The 550 mm thick walls are constructed using a mix of field stones which are bonded together, in a random manner, using clay and lime mortar with roughly squared stones at the openings. The outer walls are covered in a thin, medium texture, lime harling, much of which is intact and the covering up of some original flight holes indicates that the harling is not original. The 45° conical roof is unusually constructed by fixing down eight main 180 x 60 mm, equally-spaced rafters to a bark covered wallplate which is bedded in lime onto the wallhead. The rafters are tied about halfway up using four 170 x 60 mm cross ties and the entire frame is strutted out using two annular purlin rings sited between each rafter. The timber frame is clad using bark-covered firring pieces which form the sarking and the conical roof is covered using diminishing courses of 15 mm thick natural slates, possibly sourced from the nearby Enzie, or Hill of Maud,[424] quarries. The apex is capped with a small lead cloak and there are traces of iron work, suggesting that the building was either topped with a small finial or, more likely, with a small weather vane. There is no documentary evidence of this however, so this item must have been missing from the building for some time[425].

The ground floor chamber is entered on the south-west side through a 1580 high x 890 mm wide, ledged, vertically boarded, timber door which is possibly original but surprisingly faces uphill. There is a small step down of about 150 mm into the ground floor chamber which contains several traces of lime plaster and possibly lime wash over all of its walling. Two rows of large holes, 340 high x 325 wide x 300 mm deep, are still visible near the ground floor with the bottom row having twelve holes still open whilst the second row, which does not align with the row below, contains a further eight boxes with four wholly blocked up.

What appear to be five original, but crudely cut, floor joists, approximately 100 mm square in section, are still visible from the ground floor chamber inserted at right angles to the entrance door (the Secretary of State's listing records that "... *no ceiling survives to separate hens from pigeon loft*"[426]). These joists are set into the walls immediately above a 75 mm masonry scarcement which has been formed to carry the intermediate floor, but it is not clear if these timbers have been inserted after the date of the listing in 1972. Certainly the construction of the intermediate floor is curious, in that the 25 mm thick floorboards over the western half have been lifted to expose part of the upper chamber directly to the ground floor, yet erected at an angle of about 20° to provide a sloping dividing wall across part of the upper chamber.

Credibility of the accuracy of the Listing's description is jeopardised when it remarks that ,"... *pigeon loft probably provided with wooden nesting boxes no longer in situ*"[427]. There is still ample evidence within the upper chamber to distinguish that it contained a single circular row of twenty nest holes , "... *scooped out of thickness of wall*,"[428] with both slate lintels and bases, size 230 high x 260 wide x 200 mm deep, sited directly above a row of fifteen 140 wide x 230 high flight hole openings, seven of which have been deliberately blocked on the northern side. The first floor chamber has many traces of lime plaster with a limewash finish and there are plenty remains to establish that the sides and back of the boxes received a similar treatment. The flight holes are almost equally spaced around the whole perimeter of the building. Each would give access directly from the 30 mm thick slate ledge at 2 m above ground level, which projects 150 mm beyond the wall face, and was described by Beaton as, "... *rat ledge which served also for alighting.*"[429]

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[424] The Hill of Maud quarry belonged to the Letterfourie Estate.
[425] At least since the 1972 listing survey.
[426] Secretary of State, loc. cit.
[427] Ibid.
[428] Ibid.
[429] Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 13.

Close examination of the stonework around the 850 (h) x 700 mm (w) southern first floor aperture indicates that it could be an original opening , "... *which must have had wooden door and gave access to pigeon loft*"[430]. Curiously this aperture extends below the ledge immediately adjacent which has been deliberately broken off on both sides of the aperture for a length of about a metre.

The building is deteriorating, possibly due to some disturbance by tree roots, along with several local failures in the roof and there are now nine cracks displaying some structural movement which requires to be arrested in order to prevent significant loss of the structure.

Written: February 1996

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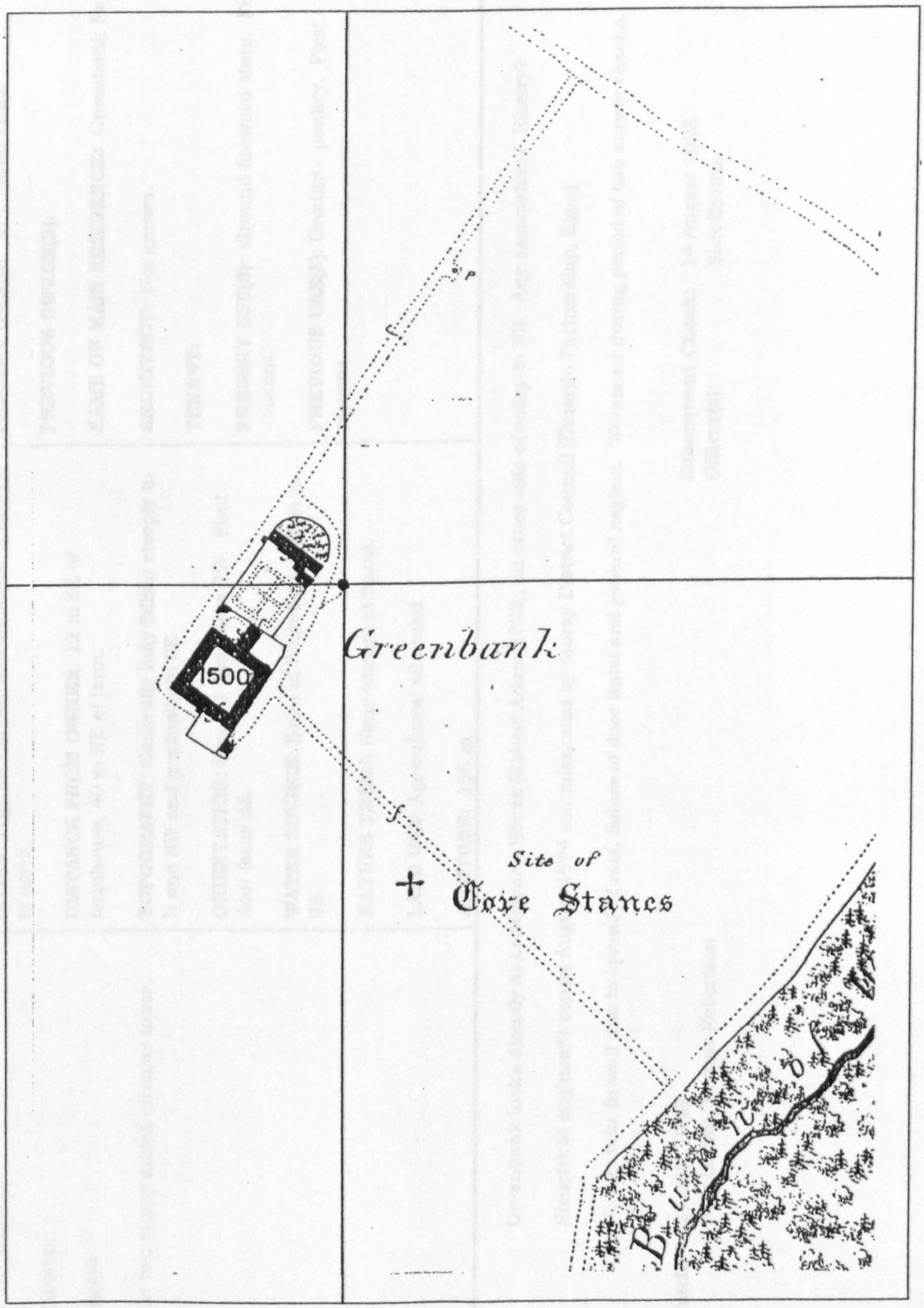
[430] Ibid.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Greenbank Doocot (Fig. 5.6.3)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 442 613. **PARISH**: Rathven. **DATE**: c. 1800? **TYPE**: Squat two storey mixed circular tower.	**SITING:** High on hill overlooking lands of Buckie to north. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 12 m SE of farmhouse, 40 m NE of farm. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Generally hilly falling steeply to N and NW and gradually to SE. **ORIENTATION:** Ground door faces SW. First door faces SE. **WATER SOURCE**: Burn of Whitefield, 280 m to SE. **MATURE TREES**: None (except at burn). **LAND USE:** Agricultural all round. **ALTITUDE:** 155 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mr Charles Gray. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Greenbank Farm. **ARCHITECT**: Not known. **TENANT:** **PRESENT USE(S)**: Ground firewood store. First - vacant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Ground - poultry. First - pigeons.

NOTES: Greenbank looks directly at Letterfourie House (Robert Adam 1773), on other side of valley to NE. Any association? Rivalry?

Structural engineer's report August 1994 commissioned by Moray District Council (Dinardo Partnership, Elgin)

Nine cracks in wall due to spread of roof, failure of door lintel and general neglect. Worsened during period of two survey checks.

Date of Check: 29 July 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown.

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Deteriorating.

REPAIRS: Possibly been re-harled.

ALTERATIONS: Separating floor curiously part raised, blocking of 6 northern flight holes, possibly first floor door (new or lowered), some hen boxes blocked in row 2.

FUTURE RISK: Failure to arrest structural movement and missing slates could result in severe loss of original fabric.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Circular.

PLAN SIZE: 3.9 m dia.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 2.9 m.

OVERALL HEIGHT: 5 m (excluding vane).

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Random rubble with clay or lime mortar with no dressings.

WALL MATERIAL: Field stones and mortar.

WALL THICKNESS: 550 mm.

WALL FINISH: wet dash harling.

ROOF FORM: conical.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: 8 main 180 x 60 mm rafters to apex, clad with bark firring pieces - 2 ties and 2 purlin rings.

ROOF PITCH: 45°.

ROOF FINISH: Banffshire slates - Enzie quarry?

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Ground - possibly original ledged vertically boarded timber door. First - none remaining.

OUTER DOOR TYPE: N/A.

DOOR SIZE: Ground - 1580 (h) x 890 mm (w). First - 850 (h) x 700 mm (w).

DOOR SITING: Ground - SW (uphill!). First - SE.

LEDGES: Yes - one around circumference broken only at SE opening.

LEDGES HEIGHT: 2 m above ground level.

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 12.2 m.

APERTURES: None except first floor door.

VENT HOLES: None except flight holes.

FLIGHT HOLES: Originally 15 (7 blocked).

TOTAL VENT AREA: Originally - 0.48 m². Currently - 0.26 m² (excluding door).

LIMEWASH: Several traces.

DORMERS: No.

SKEWS: No.

FINIALS: Possibly lost.

WEATHER VANE: Possibly lost.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Ground - step down approximately 150 mm.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Ground - unclear. First - timber boards on irregularly sized joists.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Hewn into wall with slate bases and lintels.

NEST BOX NUMBER: Hens - 20 (two rows). Pigeons - 20 (one row above flight holes).

NEST BOX SIZE: Hens - 340 (h) x 325 (w) x 300 mm (d). Pigeons - 230 (h) x 260 (w) x 200 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: Ground - none. First - 350 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: Ground - four in second row. First - some near doorway.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: None.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Ground - traces of plaster and washing. First - traces at walls and boxes plastered and washed.

COLLECTING AID: None.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: say 20 x 2 x 0.[illegible] = 28.

INTERNAL VOLUME: Ground - 13.42 m^3. First - 13.41 m^3.

OTHER: Random row of 7 No. 75-100 mm stone projecting ledges around ground floor chamber at height of 1,200 mm.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- Why so many flight holes? Why blocked?
- Ground door facing up hill.
- Purpose of first floor alteration.
- Why first floor door breaks ledge.
- Access for hens.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, pp. 3, **13**.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 124.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60.

D. Omand, (ed.) The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 181-5.

ARTICLES: B. Walker, 'Farm Buildings of Grampian', GRC, 1979, p. 42.

LISTING: Rathven Parish, Item 14, p. 10, Category B, 1972.

SMR: GRC, Archaeological Site Index, Ref. No. NJ 46 SW 9.

MAPS: 1870, 1902, 1966 OS.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER:



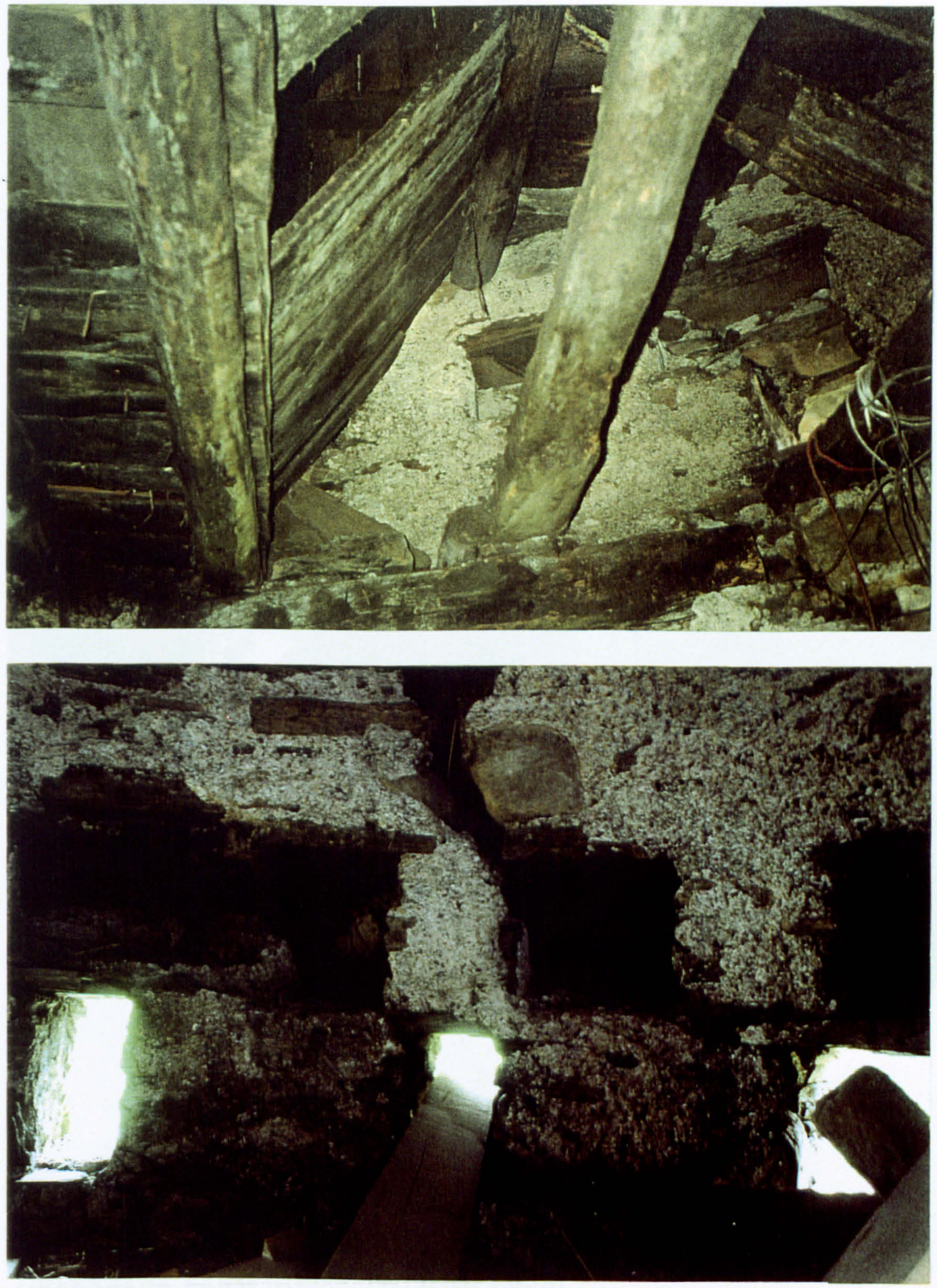
GREENBANK DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.3.1)

Photograph of doocot, from the north west towards farmhouse and court, showing siting of doocot near farm housing policy boundary. The aluminium ladder demonstrates the small scale nature of the building and falling slates and wall cracks highlight a building in a state of decay. The structure has however been re-harled during the course of its history and this harling now covers over some of the flight holes, which are all sited immediately above the single ledge.



GREENBANK DOOCOT, 1993, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.3.2)

View of interior lower chamber showing two rows of blocked recesses. The layout and size of the recesses suggests their former use for hens which either, accessed the chamber on a daily basis via the timber door also constructed for human access, or though a wall opening now blocked up and obscured by the later harling. The walls of the chamber contains traces of a sneck harl and/or a limewash finish.



GREENBANK DOOCOT, 1993, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.3.3)

Internal view of the upper chamber. The top picture, taken from the lower chamber, shows the crudeness of the intermediate floor joists with the floorboards partly raised in order to diminish the size of the pigeon chamber and/or increase the headroom and storage volume of the lower chamber. The bottom picture meanwhile illustrates the relationship between the flight holes and the nestholes.

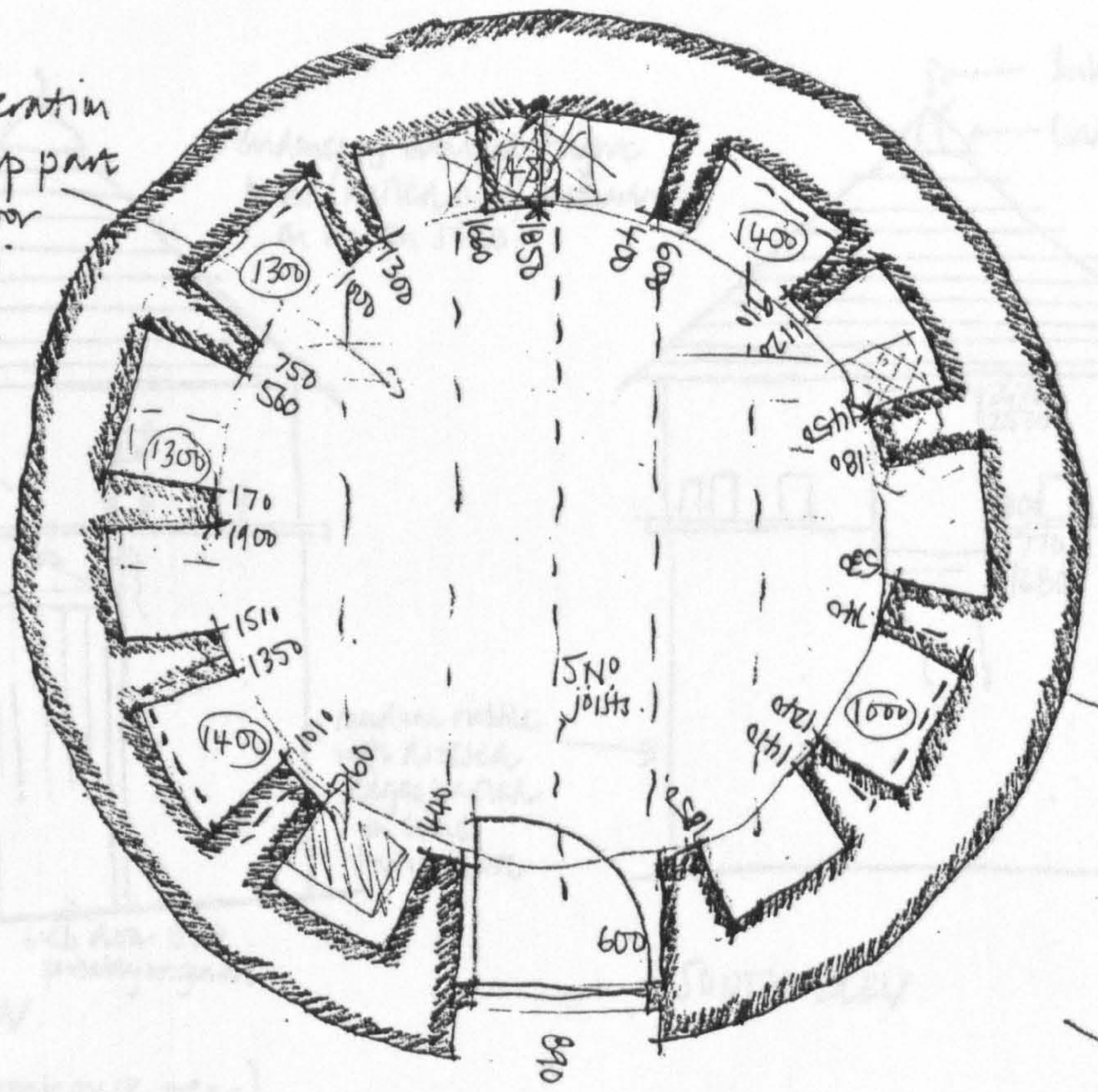


GREENBANK FARM HOUSE, 1997 (Plate 5.6.3.4)

View from the east showing the relationship between the doocot building, on the left, and the (altered) main farm house nearby. The rounded, 'organic' architecture of the doocot contrasts with the orthogonal, linear architecture of the house.

later alteration to open up part of first floor boards to hallmead level

hen holes? directly off ground - 12 No. in bott. row.
4 No. in second row not blocked above numbers 2, 5, 8 and 11.
holes are - 300(d) x 340(
x 325(w) approx.
4 No. in second row all blocked above numbers 1, 3, 6, 9



WALLS lime plastered interna

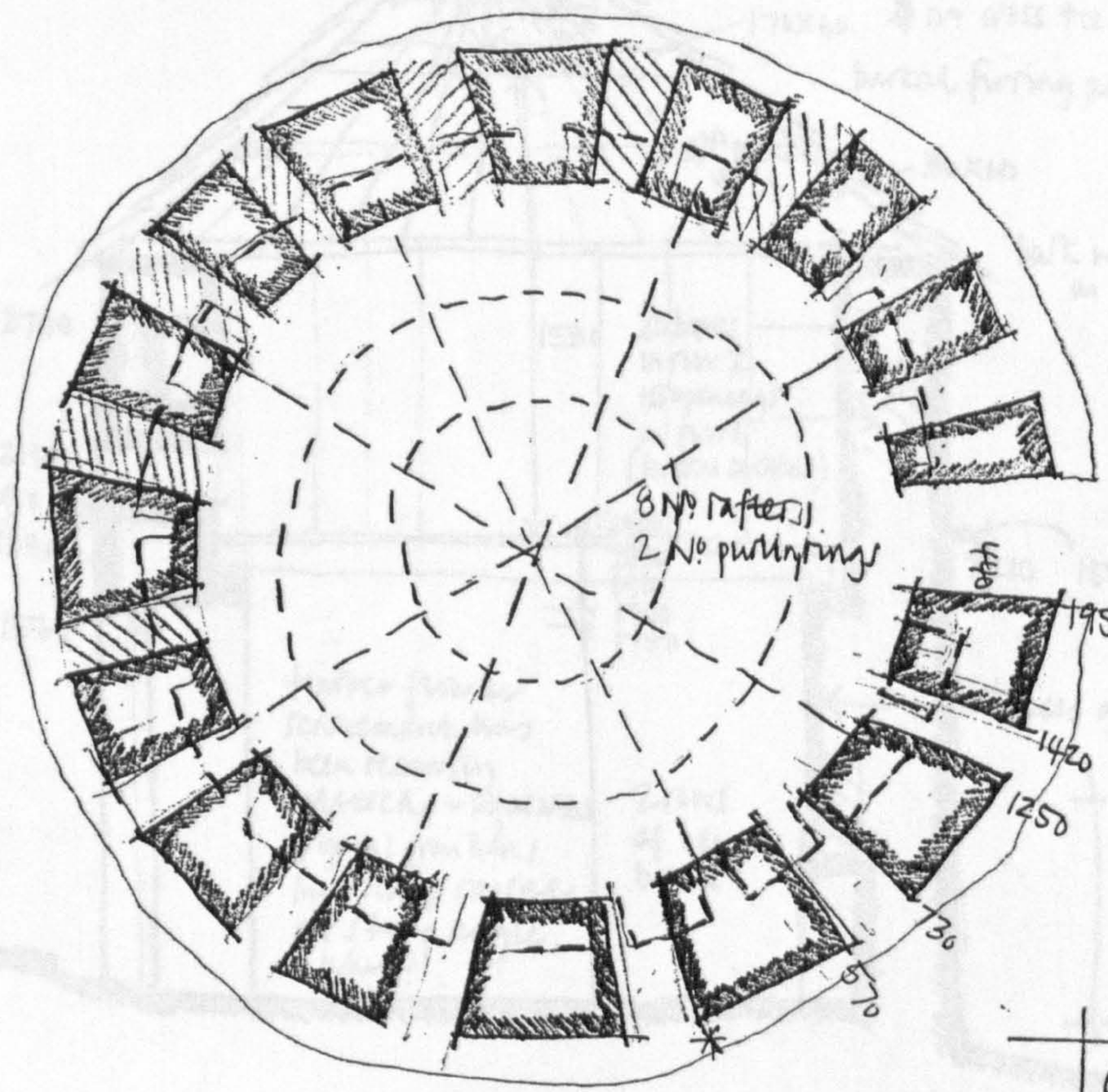
circumference 12320

appears to have clay mortar core

GROUND

SOUTH.

← cut tree growing dangerously close by



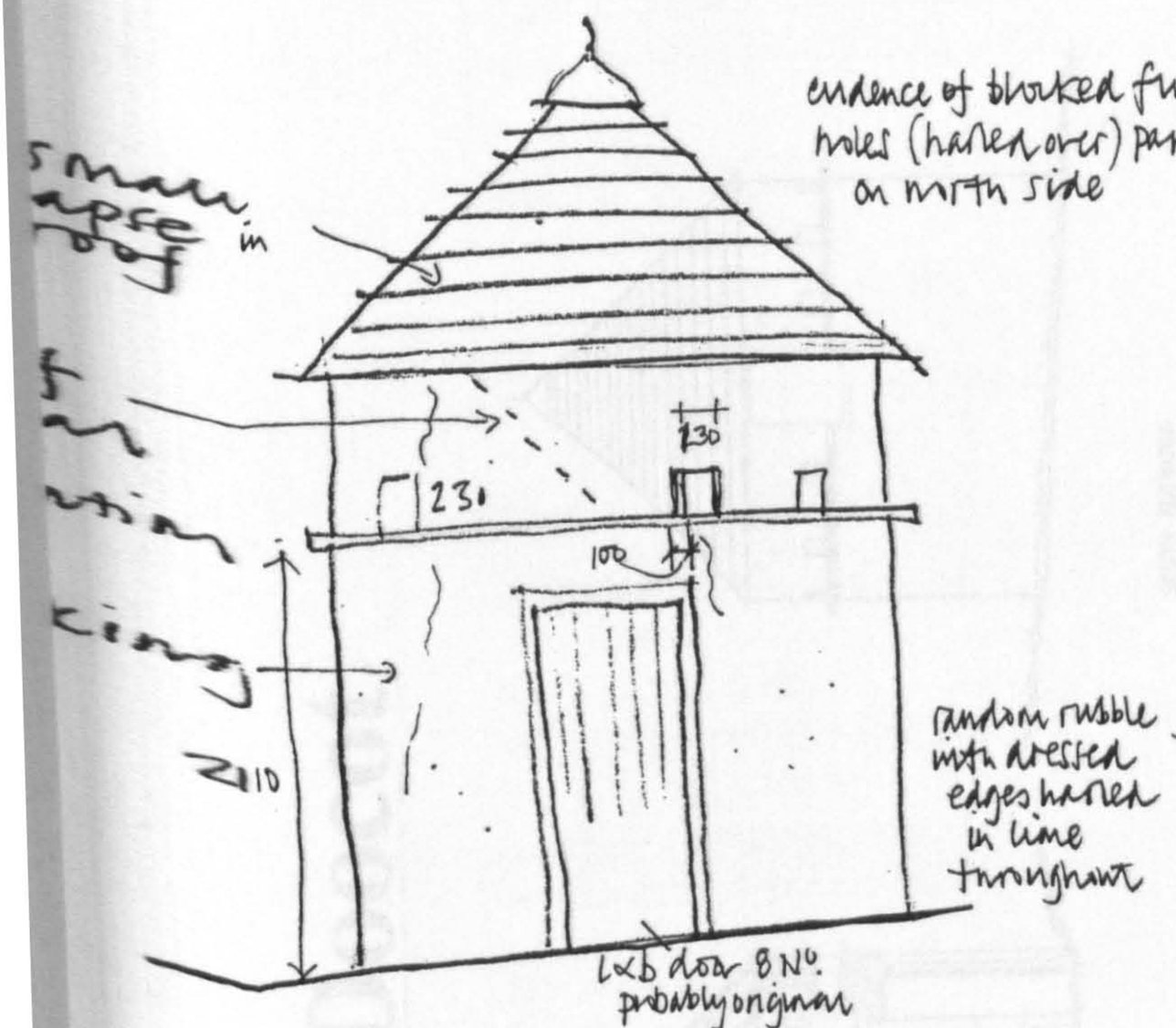
flight holes (some blocked)
nest boxes above

← southern apertu (appears original n door missing)

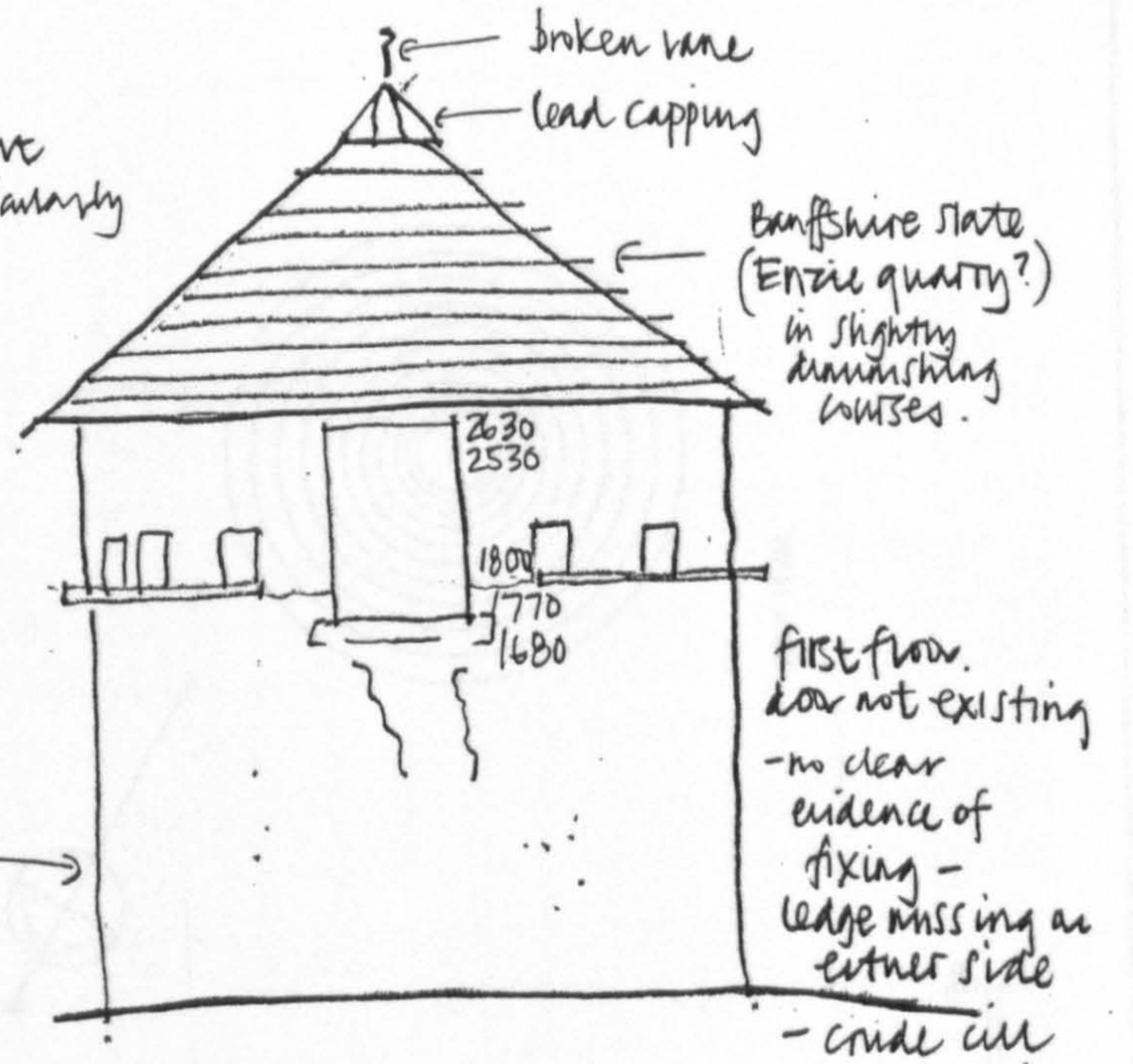
1 of 2

GREENBANK 405
LETTERFOURIE SURVE

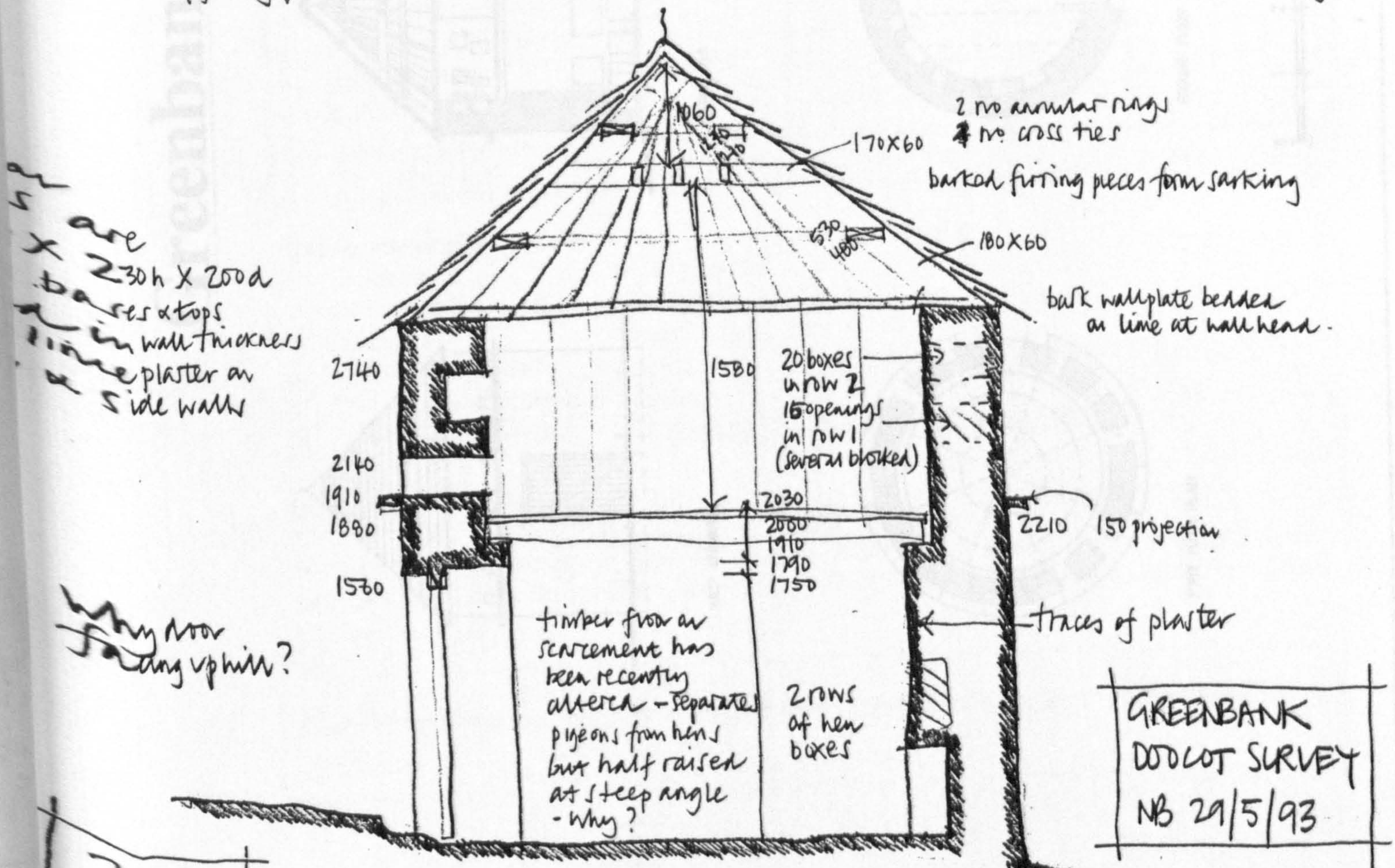
FIRST.



WEST ELEV.
(facing farmhouse rear)

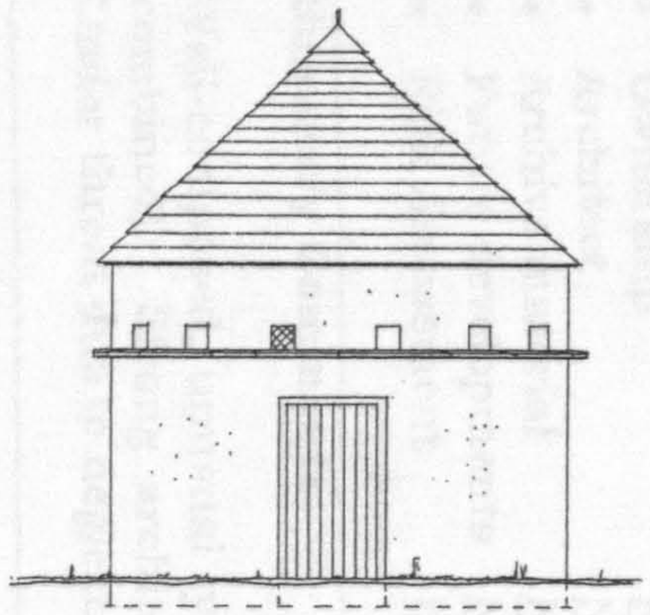


SOUTH ELEV.

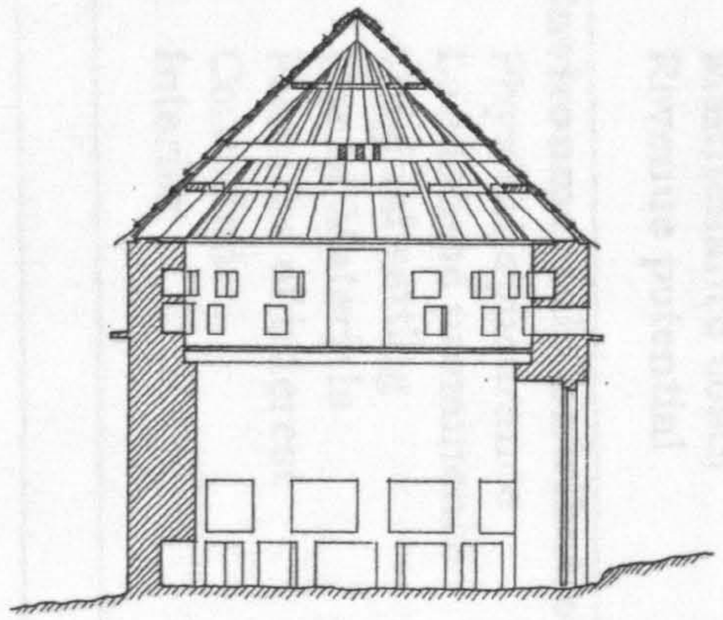


SECTION

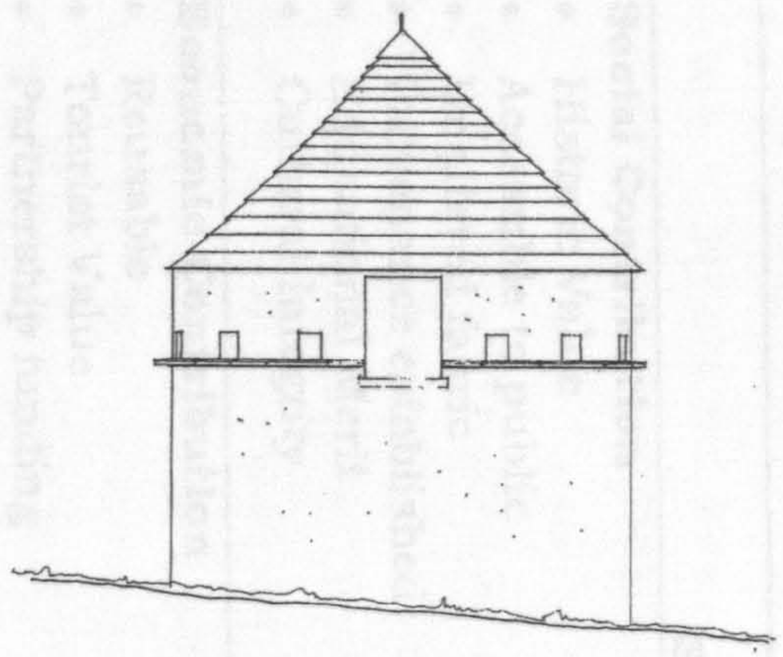
Greenbank Doocot



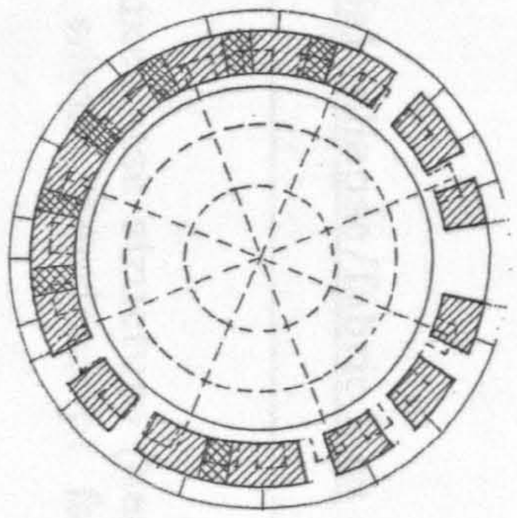
WEST ELEVATION



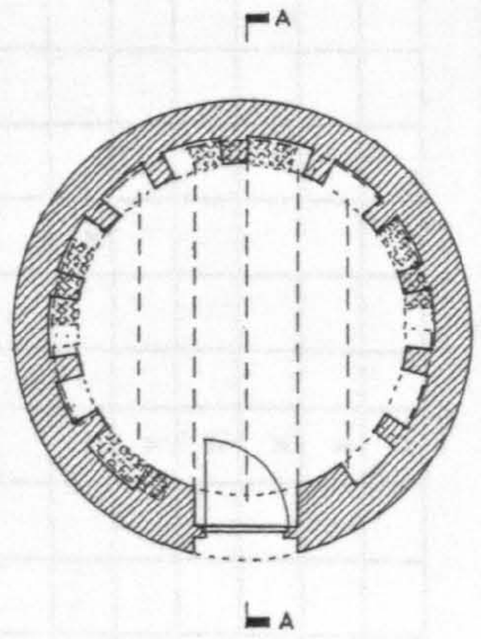
SECTION AA



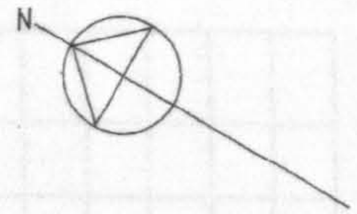
SOUTH ELEVATION

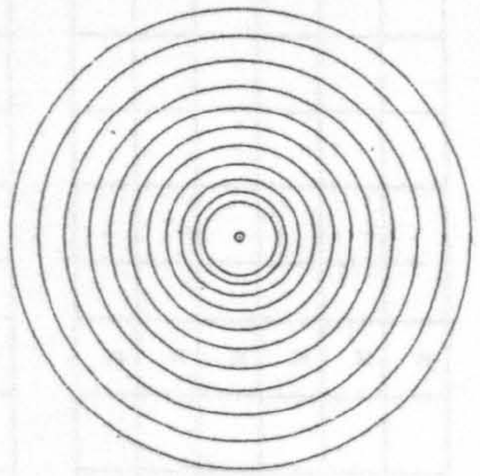


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

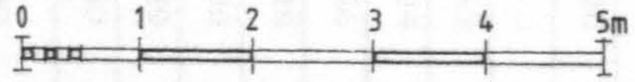


GROUND FLOOR PLAN





ROOF PLAN



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: GREENBANK DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 442 613

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value								x				2
• Accessible to public								x				4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established								x				8
• Educational Merit								x				10
• Cultural Integrity								x				12
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable								x				14
• Tourist Value							x					15
• Partnership funding								x				17
• Capital costs							x					18
• Maintenance costs								x				20
• Revenue potential						x						20
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				22
• Landscape prominence								x				24
• Original setting								x				26
• Use of Materials								x				28
• Features of interest								x				30
• Condition					x							29
• Interior							x					30
											TOTAL	30

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private - Mr. Gray
- Architect — Not known
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — High risk to partial collapse/fabric loss

Summary Comments:

Well-composed, unusual type of simple, mixed use structure (hens and doves combined). Strong architectural feature within nondescript farm complex. Under threat due to neglect.

Final Assessment: Worthy of repair and reuse (perhaps as a single chamber store).

5.6.4 INVERERNE HOME FARM DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 031 605, Forres Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The doocot at Invererne near Forres in Moray is an illustrious example of a two storey tower built above the central pend of a steading/carriage house range[431]. The, "... *steading [is] presumed to have been built by General William Grant at the same time as he built Invererne House*"[432], when he purchased the estate and former house called 'Tannachy' from an American owner, Alexander Urquhart, who in turn had acquired the estate from the Tulloch family in 1772. Peterkin is more emphatic about the age of the building and refers to Invererne Doocot as 'Dated 1818'[433] whereas, McKean is non-committal when saying, "... *the farm Square is curious: pedimented at the centre and wings, the flanks between have odd pointed windows; the tall central tower - cum - doocot like an Italian campanile*"[434].

The single storey courtyard steading is situated approximately 160 m away to the west of the main house and the doocot is partly screened by trees which are planted 60 m to the east of the steading range. The range forms part of the Invererne House landscaped policies, all of which are situated at an altitude of only 5 m on very flat ground which forms part of the ancient River Findhorn flood plain. (The river was perhaps the primary water source for the pigeons who may also have used courtyard farm troughs.) The principal entrance to the main house is approached from the south-west road from Forres and the steading range would not feature prominently in this approach. The two storey neo-classical tower on the other hand would increase the landscape value by rising from the farm block above the hedgerows and shrubbery to be viewable from the entrance drive, the main house, the walled garden and possibly the contiguous estates of the Moy, Kincorth and Grange Hall gentry.

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[431] Such carriage ranges were built to enhance the architectural and landscape value of the policies but more importantly they reflected improved communication; roads and bridges were improving and more comfortable carriage transport development in tandem.

[432] Secretary of State, Statutory List for Moray, Forres Parish, item 9, p. 6.
This statement is debatable as highlighted in the commentary.

[433] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.
The author is incorrect if he is inferring that the building has a date stone.

[434] McKean, The District of Moray - An illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 3.

A closer, more analytical examination, however, of the doocot and the farm block indicate that the two are probably not contemporary, as explained below:

(i) the doocot is constructed using stone materials of slightly better quality and finish than the steading block[435];

(ii) the architectural detailing of the doocot is more refined than the main steading block;

(iii) the architectural style of the doocot has a Greco - Italian air (influenced by turn of the century 'Grand Tour' studies) whereas the advanced base of the courtyard E-block conveys a late eighteenth century early classicism and the bay flanks display late eighteenth century Gothic Revival;

(iv) the marriage between the base of the doocot and the central, advanced pediment is not altogether convincing and the awkward
relationship between the doocot tower and the main stable ridge appears more accidental than measured;

(v) despite appearing to be built of superior construction, the building displays some signs of cracking suggesting that the tower has overloaded the carriage block;

(vi) within the block (in the unconverted west area) a clear difference in the masonry construction of the stable and the doocot lower chamber can be witnessed at the mutual cross wall.

Should it be proven that the doocot and the steading are not contemporary then it must be concluded that either;

(a) General William Grant inherited the steading/carriage block from Alexander Urquhart and built the doocot on his arrival in 1818 or,

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[435] There is much use of imported grey granite blocks.

(b) General William Grant built the carriage block around 1818 and the doocot was added later, possibly in 1825 when he built the walled garden, or possibly as late as 1832 when Colonel Peter Grant took over the estate and married Mary Ann Peterkin of Grange. It is not improbable that the classical revival Aberdeen architect, Archibald Simpson, (who operated extensively throughout the north east at this time) was somehow involved in the design of the doocot.

If architectural styles hold the key to this question, then the former theory is more likely[436]. Weight to this argument is added by estate papers which refer to repairs being executed to the 'Square' both in 1822 and 1823 and one would not expect this to happen only four years after construction, unless it was the final stage of the completion of the inner court[437]. However, without substantive documentary evidence, the exact date of the construction of these buildings remains a slight mystery.

Looking at the concrete blockwork, which is exposed within the upper area of the western coach house, it does appear that the attic space of the carriage block would have once been one large open space with corridor access around the doocot structure on the northern side. A dormer window, or wallhead doorway, was possibly sited on the rear courtyard wall to give good access to, and from, both the doocot and the attic of the coach house.

The east wing conversion alterations are more clearly understood by comparison with the unaltered western wing but the difficulty of interpreting the access to the doocot, caused by the intervention of the catslide dormer, is a particularly good example of the need to record existing situations in historic buildings before alterations are made.

The conversion of the doocot's lower chamber to a bedroom makes it difficult to read in the context of a working doocot. However, the absence of any fixed features: the high level glazing on the north side; the window opening on the south side; and the comfortable

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436 Peters, Development of Farm Buildings, 1969, p. 110. Describes that hackney carriage trap steadings took three forms depending on age, i.e. c. 1770-1805 whereby horse right angled to door, c. 1805-1815 horse facing door and c. 1815 onwards with loose boxes.
The various evidence at Invererne suggests that the steading underwent all of these evolutionary stages.
437 Grant of Tannachy Papers 1822 and 1823 held in Moray Council Record Office Ref. ZBF.ZT.

doorway access on the north side all indicate that the chamber was for human use to perhaps store food, kill birds, treat birds, and/or extract guano. The wall and ceiling finishes of the lower chamber were renovated during the conversion work and the flooring of the doocot has been extensively patched on top of the former floor, thereby making it very difficult to investigate. It is suspected, however, that the original hatch between chambers may have been sited in the centre, since this present hatch would have opened up directly against several nest boxes and would have been most disturbing to some of the nesting birds.

The cupola, which rises from the apex of the chamber, is now slated over to replace former louvers; these may have provided access and egress for the doves and/or through ventilation along with the small rear vent in the north roof plane. The small lead flat, at the base of the cupola, was probably intended as a landing platform since it is not a common design detail to piended roofs. The exposure of the rafter ends is, however, a more commonly found detail in Italianate design (although the exposed ends may be a later decision).

In summary, the doocot at Invererne may be a later addition to aggrandise an earlier carriage block (and possibly even earlier steading) and it is located in such a way so as to visually enhance the block, rather than diminish its architectural qualities[438]. Failure by previous architectural historians to question the doocot as a later addition indicates both that the design and execution of the tower was appropriate to the building and that the positioning of the tower (centrally located on the roof of the home farm) was fairly typical throughout Scotland during this historical period. Whatever the arguments, the result at Invererne is a building of great architectural and historic interest and it is hoped that the partial conversion of the steading complex generates sufficient income to arrest the signs of structural movement and therefore the long term safeguarding of the B-listed building.

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[438] It is notable that a doocot was selected for this purpose, since pigeon rearing on this scale was beginning to enter its period of apparent decline; a simple bell or clock tower could have provided an equivalent statement (as was deployed at Moy House nearby).

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Invererne Home Farm doocot is square in plan, size 4.3 x 4.3 m, with a wallhead height of 9.5 m rising to an overall height of 12.5 m excluding the weather vane. Since it is sited on top of a single storey steading with a loft, the uppermost pigeon chamber is effectively at third storey level.

The eastern wing of the former carriage block was converted in 1947 into flatted accommodation. As a result the lower chamber of the doocot has been converted at loft level into a bedroom and entered by (what is assumed to be) an original doorway opening, size 1950 high x 900 mm wide. This is centred on the northern, rear wall and above it are three equally-spaced, horizontally-proportioned, 600 x 300 mm, high-level window which would have faced the rear court. Fragmentary evidence, in the much-altered stonework on the north courtyard wall of the coach block, indicates the cill, or threshold, of an opening, in the order of 1.2 m wide, coinciding with the attic floor level. Evidence of how this was fully utilised has been somewhat eroded by the formation of a modern catslide dormer which spans the width of the doocot and interferes with the high level window apertures (two of which have been blocked). During the conversion of the eastern wing, several other alterations have taken place to the coach house such as: the blocking of the first floor windows; blocking of the eastern carriage door; blocking of the central store-room door and the formation of attic dormers; and a larger window opening in the central pediment.

Currently the access into the pigeon chamber of the doocot is through a hatch, which is 750 long x 600 mm wide and situated in the south-east corner of the intermediate timber boarded floor. The chamber is now utilised as a water storage tank area which is sited in the north-east corner and there are several pipe runs coming from the tank which pass through the doocot floor. Apart from the water tank insertion, the upper chamber remains intact and is a lofty space. It is filled to the wallhead, on all four sides, with 452 nest boxes which are 270 high x 240 wide x 200 mm deep. These boxes are constructed using horizontal slate pieces, 50 to 70 mm thick, and roughly hewn sandstone uprights, 700 to 100 mm thick, laid between the slate and jointed using lime mortar[439]. The boxes begin only 100 mm off the floor and none has been blocked, except those required around the four groups of flight holes.

The roof to this chamber is exposed and is constructed using, 160 x 75 mm, timber rafters at 500 mm centres which rise off a 150 x 90 mm timber ring beam; this beam runs around the inner face of the 600 mm thick masonry walls (including boxes). The rafters are without ties and rise at a 25° pitch to meet a bridle ring beam constructed using 150 x 75 mm members. This bridle ring supports a simply constructed, square cupola, 750 mm wide by 1500 mm high, with a swept piended roof which is terminated by a 2 m high iron weather vane complete with arrow, cardinal point, cockerel and lead ball capping at its apex. The roof of the doocot tower is finished in dark blue/grey uniform, but small, slates (possibly Ballachulish) which appear to match the other roof areas of the carriage block. A small flat roof area is formed at the base of the cupola and this is protected with lead, or zinc, which continues down the four hips of the piended roof to provide weather protection on lead core rolls. The four upright walls of the cupola are currently clad in timber and slated over (with slates which are both different and larger than the roof slates).

On each of the four elevations of the upper areas of the doocot, there are seven, 150 wide x 200 mm high, arch-top flight holes carved into granite dressings. Only a total of ten of these (seven on the south and three on the west) provide direct access to the chamber, with the other eighteen being blind recesses serving no other purpose than symmetrical balance to the overall composition. These flight holes are located only 600 mm below the exposed rafter ends of the roof, which sprocket out 500 mm from the previously mentioned wallhead ring beam. This enables water to be shed clear of the stone ledge, which runs around the perimeter of the building immediately below the flight holes in the form of a 400 mm wide, highly

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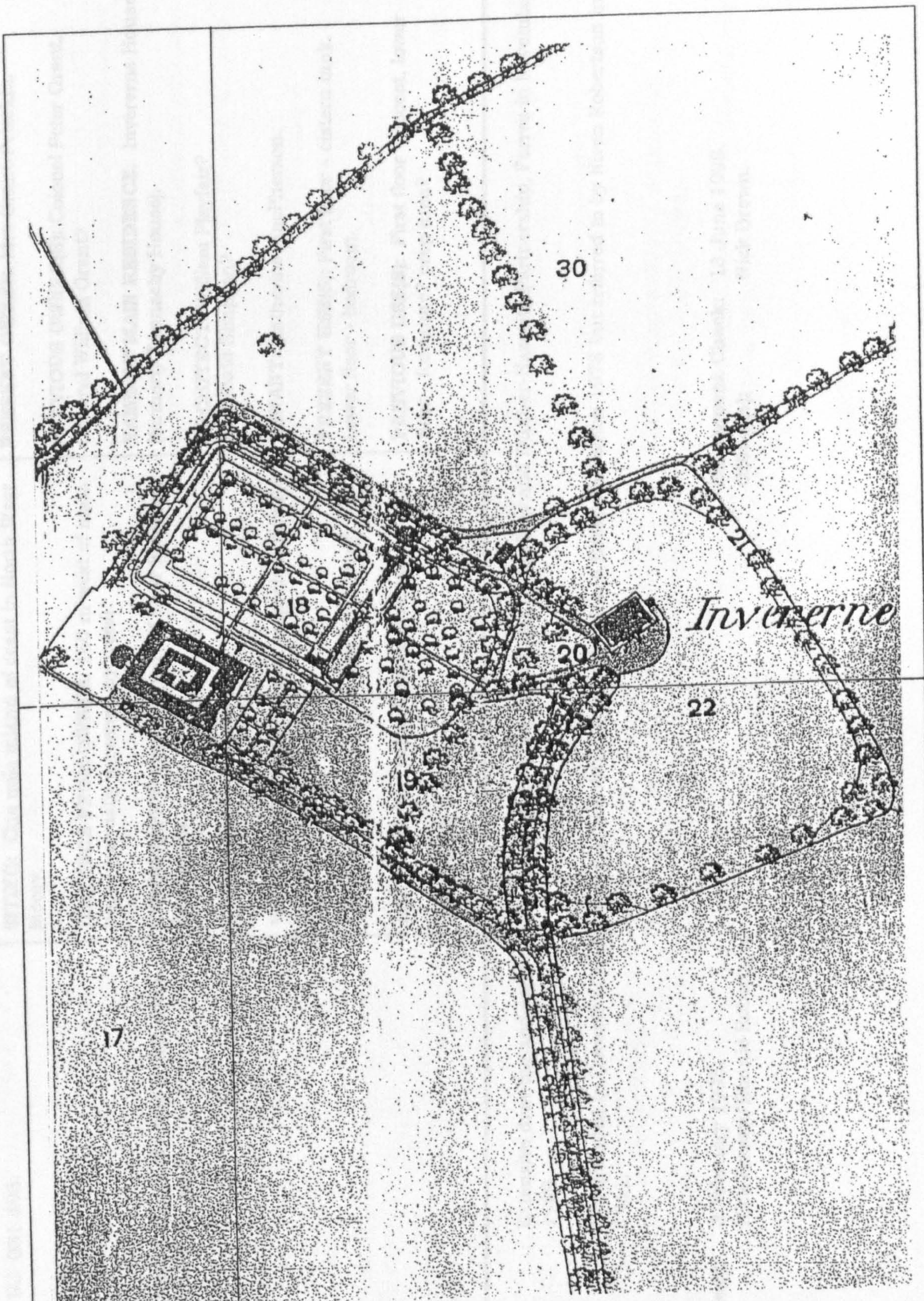
439 N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, p. 375.
"*There is said to be about two hundred and sixty nest holes*". Evidently Robertson was misinformed.

moulded, projecting cornice. It is supported (metaphorically) on all four corners by doric pilasters. The bases of the pilasters begin at a 200 mm deep, dressed bandcourse which also runs the perimeter of the building and externally demarcates the inner floor level. The rear, southern face of the doocot is, on the other hand, constructed with a core of random rubble, using lime mortar, but is faced with regular blocks of coursed and flush pointed sandstone with fine slate galleting. The east, west and north sides are faced with coursed, but irregular blocks and stone pinnings which are flush pointed with a coarse lime mortar (possibly as a sneck harl, or even a former complete lime harl). There are some signs in the stonework, particularly on the western side, to indicate structural movement and this is also evident in some of the plaster work in the converted bedroom and in the storage chamber.

Written January 1996



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Invererne Home Farm Doocot (Fig. 5.6.4)

NAME: INVERERNE HOME FARM DOOCOT

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 031 605. **PARISH**: Forres. **DATE**: c. 1815. **TYPE**: Two storey, classical tower in loft above steading/stable block pend.	**SITING:** One mile inland of coast in North West Moray. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 160 m west of main house (partially screened by trees). **TOPOGRAPHY**: Very flat (part of River Findhorn flood plain). **ORIENTATION:** NW/SE axis. **WATER SOURCE**: Nothing in immediate vicinity (possibly farm troughs). **MATURE TREES**: Only to east 60 m away. **LAND USE:** Part of landscaped policies. **ALTITUDE:** 5 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mrs Grant-Peterkin. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** Colonel Peter Grant, General William Grant? **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Invererne House (formerly Tannachy House). **ARCHITECT**: William Playfair? Archibald Simpson? **TENANT:** Katherine MacPherson. **PRESENT USE(S)**: First floor – cistern tank. Lower floor - bedroom. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: First floor - doocot, lower floor - foodstore? prep area?

NOTES: Extensive drawing and condition survey of whole block carried out by the Law and Dunbar-Nasmith Partnership, Forres in November 1989.

Not included in Doocots of Moray surveys by Robert Douglas 1931 and Elizabeth Beaton 1978 but referred to by Niven Robertson in 1961.

Date of Check: 3 February 1995.
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson.

Subsequent Check: 13 June 1998.
Officer(s): Nick Brown.

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Good (although some movement signs developing).

REPAIRS: Pointing of cracks on west wall.

ALTERATIONS: Slating over of cupola, exposure of rafter ends?, Conversion of lower chamber to bedroom during 1947 flat conversion by the then owner, Miss Walsh.

FUTURE RISK: Failure to arrest structural movement.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Square.

PLAN SIZE: 4.3 x 4.3 m.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 9.5 m.

OVERALL HEIGHT: 12.5 m (excluding vane).

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Coursed masonry bonded using lime mortar.

WALL MATERIAL: Sandstone, slate and granite.

WALL THICKNESS: 600 mm (including boxes).

WALL FINISH: Regular sandstone blocks with slate galleting to south elevation. Random but coursed sandstone blocks to rear and side elevations. Granite ashlar dressings and band courses.

ROOF FORM: Piended on all 4 sides.

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: 150 x 75 mm rafters at 500 mm centres off of 150 x 90 mm wallhead ring beam to 160 x 75 mm bridle square.

ROOF PITCH: 25°.

ROOF FINISH: Small uniform grade blue/grey slates mailed to standard sarking boards (possibly Ballachulish) with lead or zinc flashings at hips.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Evidence of lower chamber door removed during conversion?

OUTER DOOR TYPE: Evidence removed by conversion?

DOOR SIZE: Lower chamber - 1950 (h) x 900 mm (w). Upper chamber - 750 (l) x 600 mm (w) floor hatch.

DOOR SITING: Lower chamber - to inner court.

LEDGES: One around tower (a 400 mm deep classical stone cornice).

LEDGES HEIGHT: 8.75 m (just below overhanging eaves).

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 20 m.

APERTURES: Lower chamber - 3 at high level on north wall above doorway. Upper chamber - one on rear roof plane?

VENT HOLES: One on rear roof plane? (Shown on L & DNP survey).

FLIGHT HOLES: 10 (7 on south, 3 on west) 18 others blind.

TOTAL VENT AREA: 0.3 m^3 (excluding rear vent shown on L & DNP survey).

LIMEWASH: No evidence (could sides and rear have been harled?).

DORMERS: One cupola (piended).

SKEWS: n/a.

FINIALS: No.

WEATHER VANE: Yes - complete with lead ball, metal cockerel, cardinal points and arrow.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: No.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: 25 mm thick tongue and groove on 175 mm joists with plastered underside. Timber boards.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Horizontal slate pieces 50 to 70 mm thick. Roughly hewn sandstone uprights 70 to 100 mm thick.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 452.

NEST BOX SIZE: 270 (h) x 240 (w) x 200 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 100 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: Only around flight entrances as necessary.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Yes - but only around joints.

COLLECTING AID: No.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 452 x 2 x 0.7 = 632.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 46.8 m^3.

OTHER

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS: Date of construction, sequence of construction, method of access.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 3 (no sketch or description however).

C. McKean, The District of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 58.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp. 98-100.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Moray', 1961, p.p. 375, 376.

ARTICLES

LISTING: Forres Parish item 9, p. 6, Category B, 1989.

SMR:

MAPS: 1869, 1905 OS maps

PHOTOGRAPHS:

ESTATE INFO:

OTHER: Grant of Tannachy papers, Moray District Council record office ZBF.ZT (1822 and 1823).



INVERERNE HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.4.1)

Front elevation of steading block, viewed from the south west, showing the doocot as a dominating, but complementary, structure rising from the roof of the central bay. The detailing of the cupola, the pavilion roof with overhanging eaves and the articulated projecting cornice all combine to add grace to an otherwise 'brutal' addition.



INVERERNE HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.4.2)

Courtyard elevation showing rear of doocot and modern catslide dormer. Note the relationship of the doocot tower and the main roof ridgeline (see also previous plate 1) and the stone cill, or threshold, just below the twin sash windows. A single horizontal slit opening is also just visible below the band course where the catslide roof meet the doocot wall.



INVERERNE HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1995, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.4.3)

Internal photograph of pigeon chamber illustrating the relationship between the nest boxes, constructed in stone and slate with mortar joints, and the triple set of flight apertures on the southern wall. The timber ring beam of the pavilion roof is just visible above the stone wallhead and rafter ends can be seen.



INVERERNE HOUSE, 1995 (Plate 5.6.4.4)

Front elevation of existing classical, early nineteenth century country house, which may be contemporary with the doocot, or thereby. The home farm and doocot is sited at a considerable distance to the rear of the house.

Freestanding courtyard cattle block (not measured)

later stone extension to house (unaccessed)

west wing converted into house – (unaccessed)

blocked doorway

blocked window w. salvaged dressed work.

evidence of alteration work at joint

evidence of blocked doorway at low level

empty timber lean-to store (not measured)

timber lining

evidence of wall removed

whitewashed rubble walls

blocked vent slits

STORAGE AREA

evidence of cobbled floor

4950

first floor removed

curvus recess. detail

600

2440

whitewashed plaster walls

3100

South east block converted into house – (not measured)

east wing converted into house – (unaccessed)

680

620

1010

1780

2830

4710

5580

6610

1680

4710

5840

1680

5850

4470

SURVEY OF INVERERNE
STEADING, DOOCOT
NB 3/2/95
GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF FRO

The Law & Dunbar-Nasmith Partnership Architects

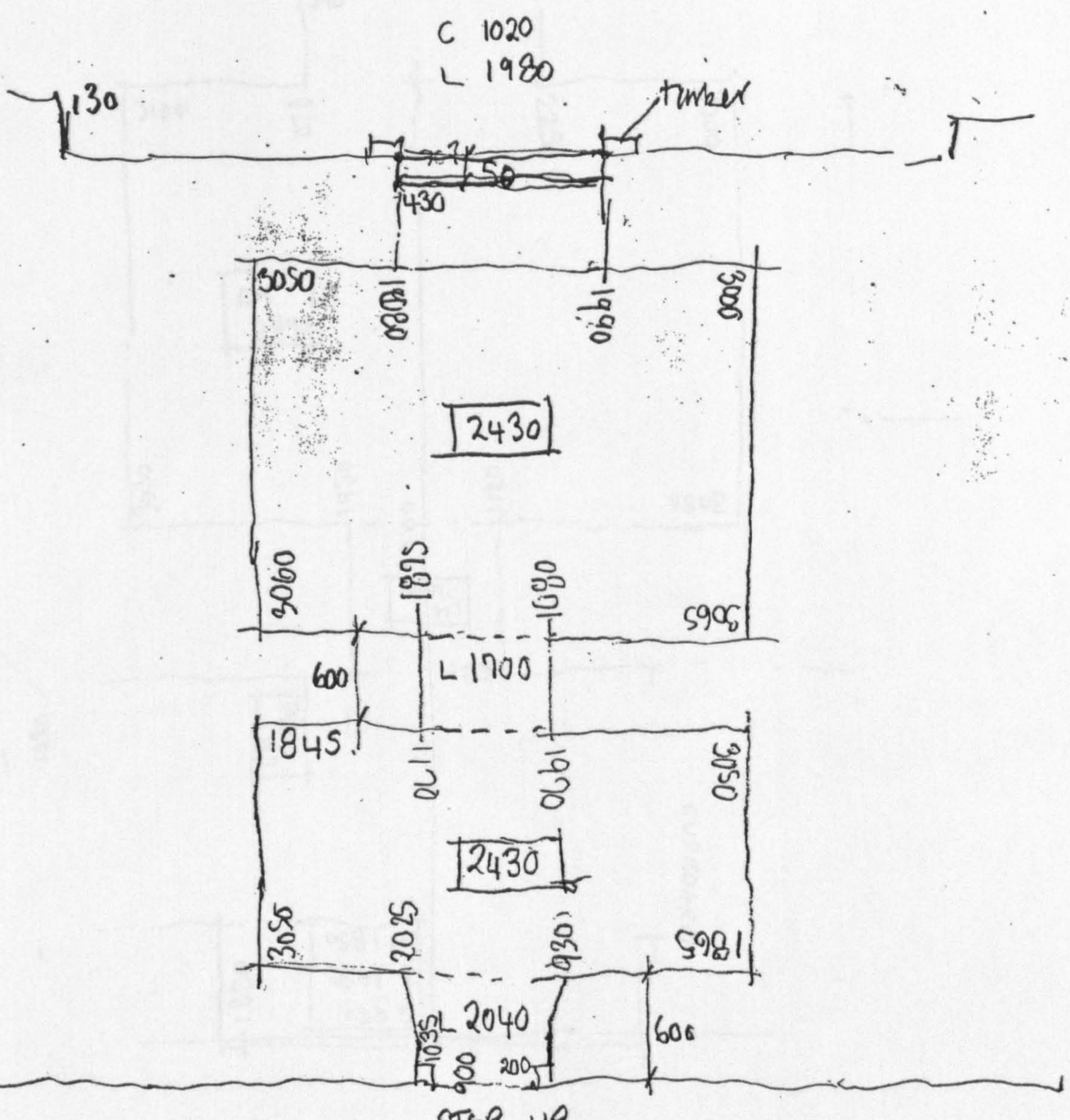
16 Dublin Street Edinburgh EH1 3RE Tel. 031-556 8631 Fax. 031-556 8945
130 High Street Forres IV36 0NP Tel. 0309 73221 Fax. 0309 76397

Date 20 DEC 89

Client

Job Reference F8924

GROUND FLOOR PLAN.



STEP UP
40mm

The Law & Dunbar-Nasmith Partnership

Architects

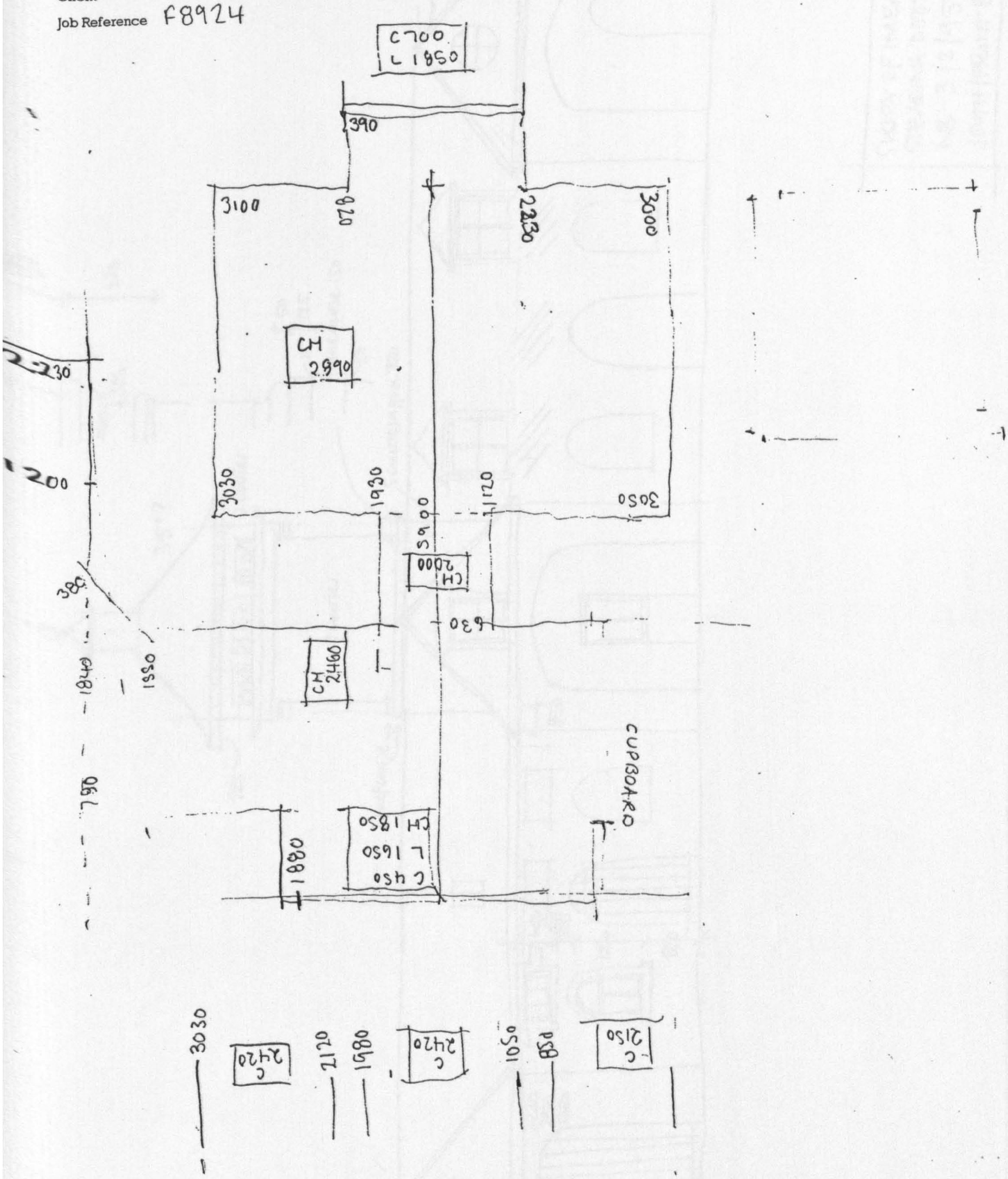
16 Dublin Street Edinburgh EH1 3RE Tel. 031-556 8631 Fax. 031-556 8945
130 High Street Forres IV36 0NP Tel. 0309 73221 Fax. 0309 76397

2/7

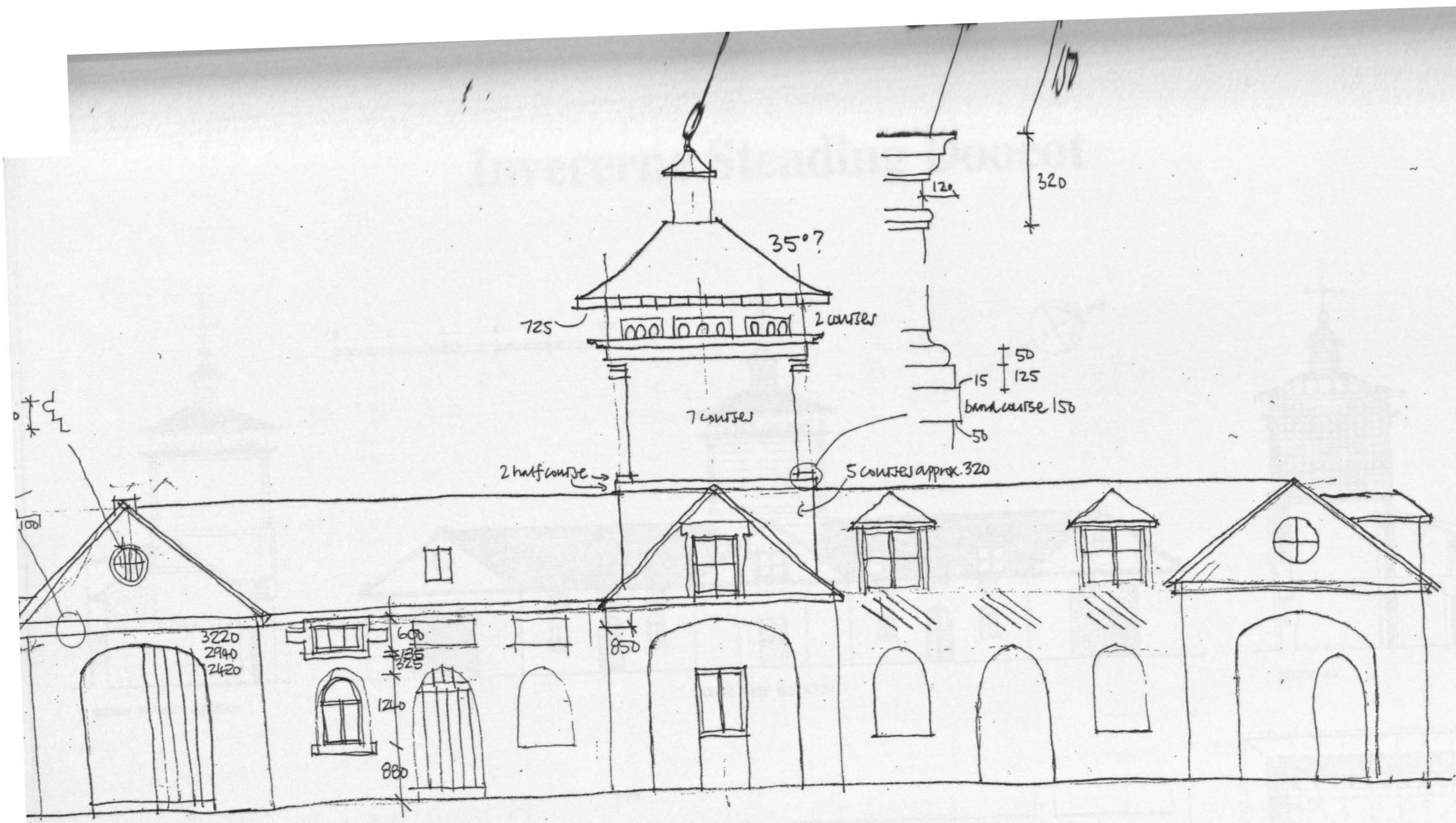
Date 1 NOV 89

Client

Job Reference F8924

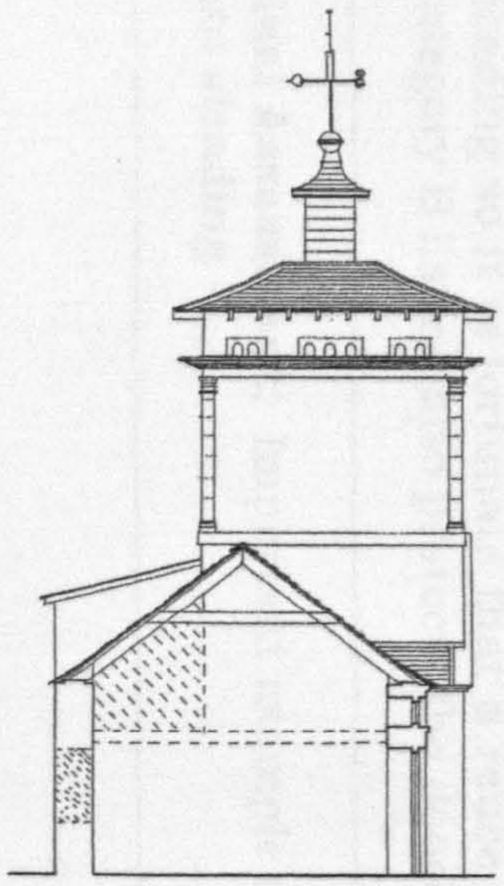


FLOOR PLAN OF ROOMS UNDER DORMER

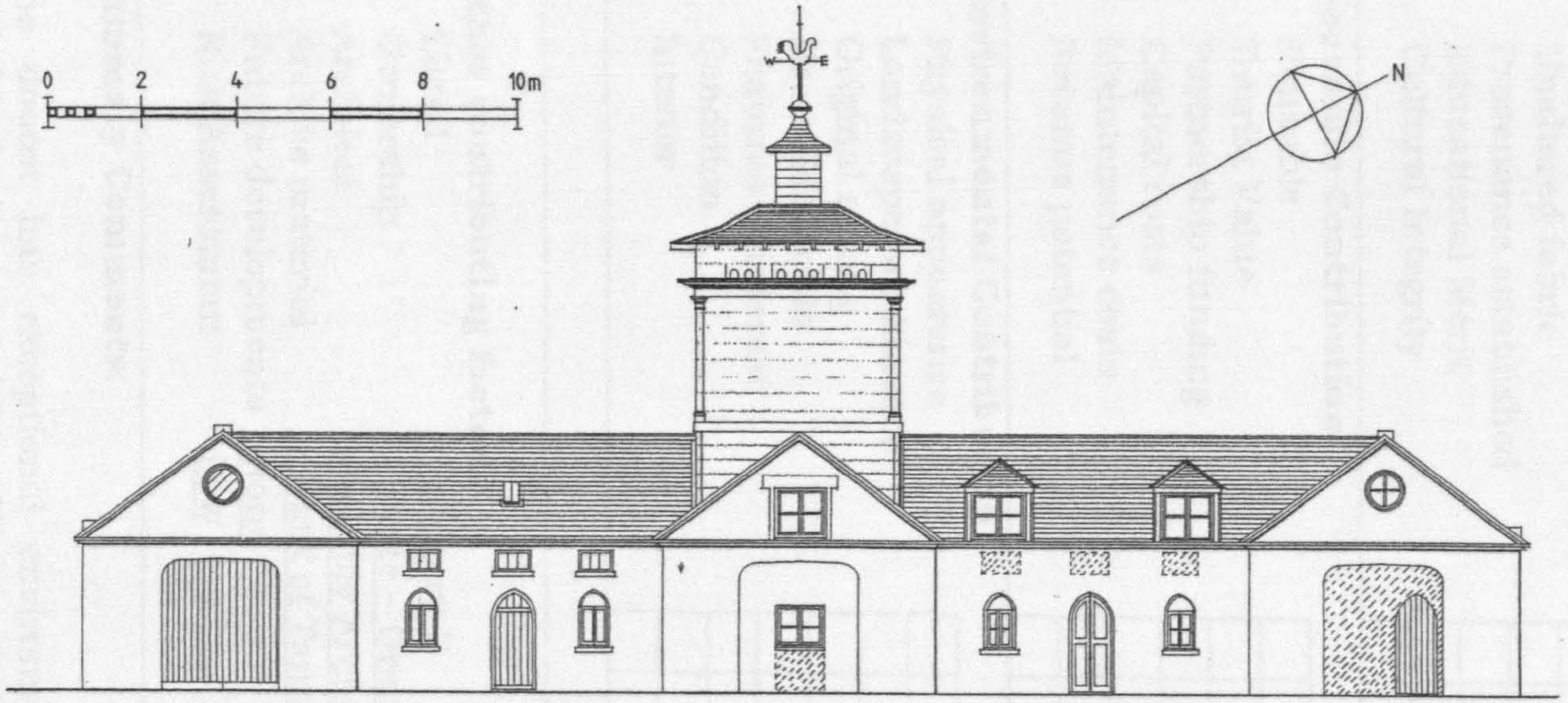


SURVEY OF INVERERNE
STEADING DOOCOT
NB 3/2/95.
SOUTH/FRONT ELEVATION

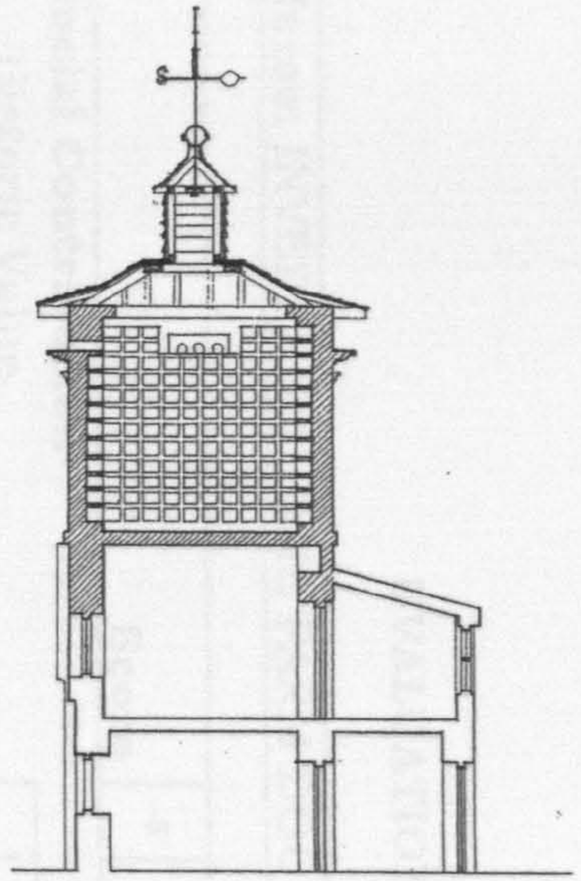
Invererne Steading Doocot



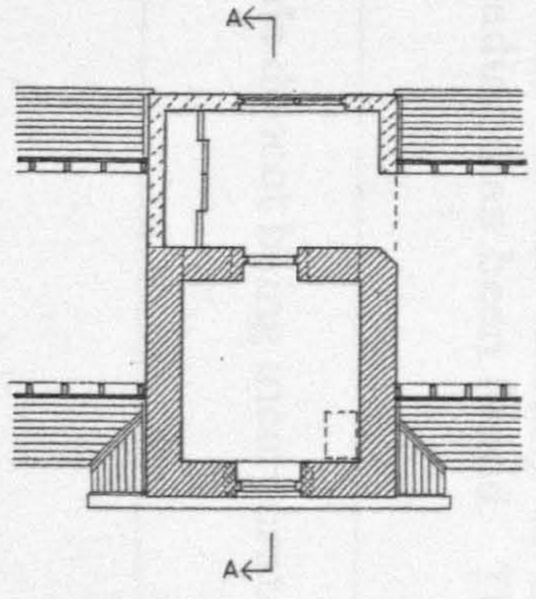
SECTION BB/WEST ELEVATION



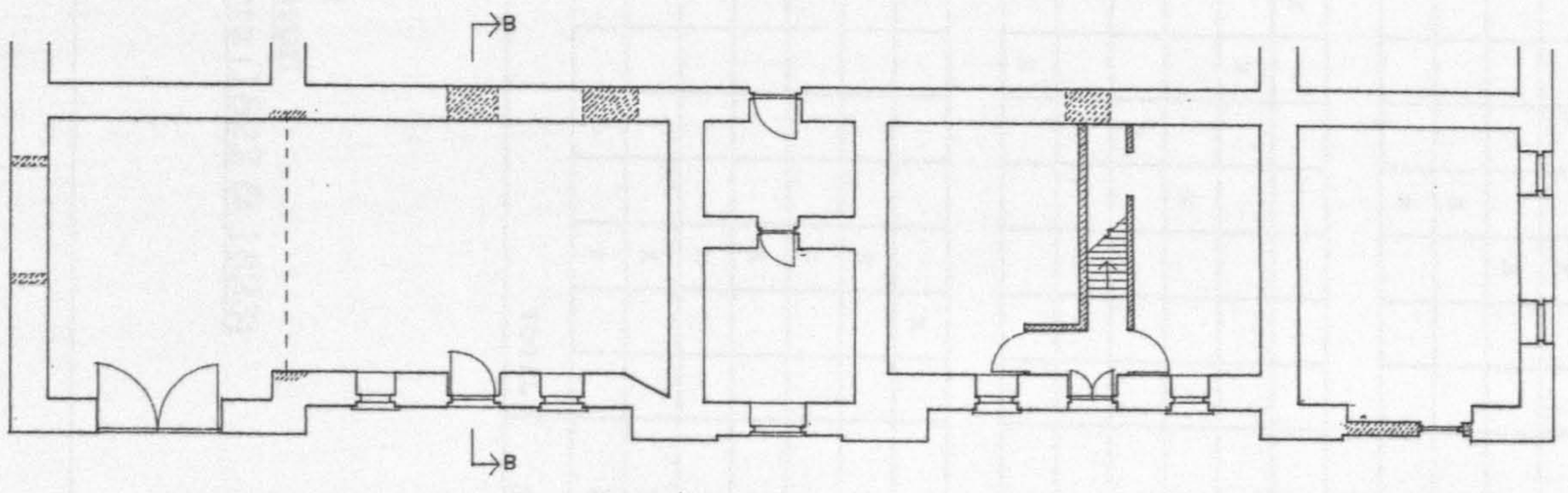
SOUTH EAST ELEVATION



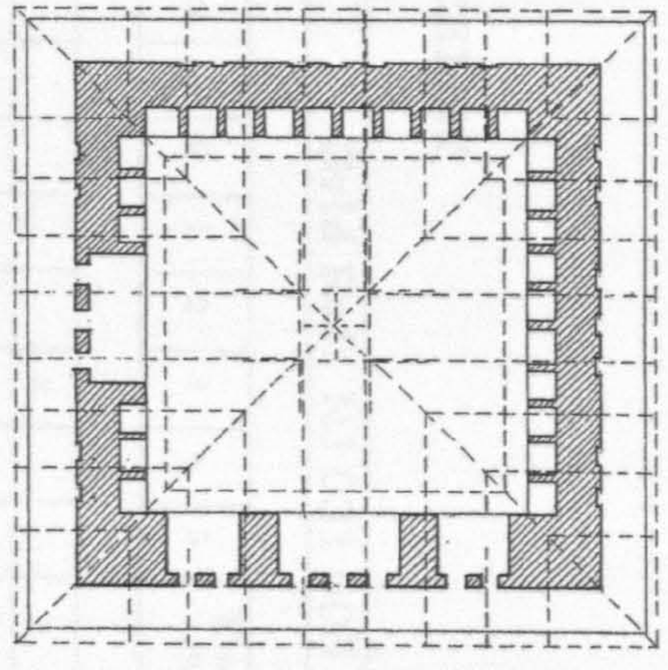
SECTION AA



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:100



SECOND FLOOR PLAN 1:50

505

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: INVERERNE HOME FARM DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 031 605

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value									x			3
• Accessible to public							x					4
• Unaltered fabric									x			7
• Provenance established									x			10
• Educational Merit								x				12
• Cultural Integrity								x				14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable					x							13
• Tourist Value						x						13
• Partnership funding								x				15
• Capital costs							x					16
• Maintenance costs							x					17
• Revenue potential						x						17
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance										x		21
• Landscape prominence									x			24
• Original setting									x			27
• Use of Materials									x			30
• Features of interest									x			33
• Condition									x			36
• Interior									x			39
											TOTAL	39

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B
- Ownership — Private – Grant-Peterkin
- Architect — Possibly Archibald Simpson
- Archive material — Grant of Tannachy papers (1822 & 1823)
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

The doocot has exceptional environmental qualities but is economically unviable in its own right. Its survival is dependent on the viability of the steading so it is fortunate that a reuse for the steading has been found. The Category B listing also protects the doocot.

Final Assessment: Important example of large scale doocot being incorporated into steading.

5.6.5 LESMURDIE DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 255 636, Elgin Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Lesmurdie Doocot is an architecturally-refined example of a mixed-use, two storey, octagonal tower. There is no other having its plan form in Moray with its closest comparison being the larger, hexagonal structure at Grangehall, near Forres (and the mis-named 'doocot at Burnside of Duffus'[440]).

Octagonal doocots were often the fruits of the architectural development of the circular doocot in Scotland, during the eighteenth and into the nineteenth centuries in Scotland, and fine examples are to be found at Culloden in Inverness-shire, Mounthooly near Fraserburgh and Cambo House in Fife[441]. It is, however, surprising that the small, and relatively unknown doocot at Lesmurdie should feature as an illustration in Buxbaum's chapter on 'Farm Courts and Offices' within Scottish Doocots, a small booklet comprising only 25 pages of text[442].

Lesmurdie Doocot appears on the 1869 Ordnance Survey, so it is clearly an earlier structure than the present Lesmurdie House which was transformed from an earlier building by architect William Kidner in 1881. Lesmurdie House, which was known (probably euphemistically) as Lesmurdie Cottage before 1881, is located 100 m to the south-east of the doocot on the top of undulating agricultural land which is due to be developed for housing as Elgin expands to the north. In the nineteenth century, the cote built at an altitude of 30 m, would have been visible from both the Cottage and the farm/steading complex as well as from the Elgin/Lossiemouth main road which passes nearby on the western side. This once prominent structure is now obscured by twentieth century conifer hedging forming a high rectangular enclosure around the doocot, possibly to create some form of kitchen garden during the early part of this century.

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[440] Omand (ed.), The Moray Book, 1976, p. 185.See Appendix 1 - now thought to be a hen house/game larder.
[441] Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 44, et seq.
[442] Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p.23.

Local records state[443] that Joseph King of Newmill was the owner of Lesmurdie in the early nineteenth century and he passed the lands to his grandnephew, Captain James Stewart, upon his death in 1836. It may therefore be that the building of the doocot coincides with this change of ownership, or it may indeed be contemporary with the adjoining steading which is thought to be dated 1830[444]. Should either be the case, then there is a distinct possibility that the architect of this doocot may have been the local classicist William Robertson, or one of his protégés, since the style of the doocot is clearly ordered and architecturally detailed in the classicist tradition. The building is described by Buxbaum as, "... *of severe appearance*"[445] and, conversely, by Douglas as, "...*pretty*"[446], yet it is doubtful whether the architect would have been enamoured with either of these descriptions.

There is no doubt that the upper chamber of this building was occupied by pigeons but Douglas creates some uncertainty on the use of the lower chamber when he recorded Grangehall Doocot as, "... *being the only one in Moray with a lower storey or part devoted to some other purposes than for pigeons*"[447]. Furthermore, he suggested that Lesmurdie Doocot contained twelve rows of nests, whereas the structure currently contains only eight. Since there is no sign of rows having been removed, it seems strange that Douglas should be so inaccurate when carrying out his research. The Secretary of State's list for Lesmurdie House Dovecote however notes that, "... *the ground floor area of dovecote probably intended as hen house*"[448] and Buxbaum's photograph, from the mid twentieth century, certainly indicates that hens and ducks were contained within some form of yard sited in the immediate vicinity of the lower chamber.[449] This yard is not evident in Douglas's 1931 photograph which shows an unkempt grass area surrounding to the doocot with immature hedging to the rear,[450] whereas the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland's photograph, also from the mid twentieth century, shows mature hedging above the height of the doocot and with the yard area turned over for vegetable growth to include a

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443 Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p. 191.
444 Sec. of State, Statutory Listing for Moray, Elgin Burgh, Item 143, p.144.
445 Buxbaum, loc. cit.
446 Douglas, loc. cit.
447 Idem, ibid.
448 Sec. of State, loc. cit.
449 Buxbaum, loc. cit.
450 Douglas, loc. cit.

footpath leading up to the entrance door[451]. The intended original use of the ground floor chamber is, therefore, not wholly clear since it is unlikely that hens would have utilised a structure which was originally free-standing in an unenclosed field and does not appear to have any access at low level. There is also no sign of an opening to provide either access, ventilation, or daylighting, to the ground floor chamber and this must cast doubt on the theory that the chamber was originally designed for animal use. The chamber, however, contains remnants of a sneck plaster finish, possibly with traces of limewash, so there may have been a requirement during the development of this building for a use which required good hygiene. It may be fair to comment that the lower chamber of Lesmurdie Doocot served several functions during its lifespan and that change of use is part of its historic development.

The building is hence another of the many examples of doocots which are becoming redundant, left vacant and allowed to deteriorate almost to a point of irrevocable repair. The quality of Lesmurdie doocot's stonework is such that it will survive for some years to come as a masonry shell but there is sufficient site and documentary evidence to premit reconstruction of the roof to its original state and place it in a far more secure position at relatively little cost.

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[451] McKean, loc. cit.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Lesmurdie Doocot's 510 mm thick walls[452] are constructed using rubble sandstone and lime mortar to form an octagonal plan (not a hexagonal plan as referred to in the Secretary of State's listing[453]) 2.8 m across rising to a wallhead height of just under 4.5 m. The outer walls are faced with roughly cut blocks of coursed, stugged sandstone set back 15 mm from the tooled, ashlar dressings which are located around the openings and at all external angles with 5 mm flush lime mortar joints. There is a 145 mm deep ashlar bandcourse around the building at first floor height, whilst a 275 mm wide projecting moulded stringcourse, described in the listing as a "*rat course*"[454], also surrounds the building at a height of 2.85 m immediately below the six arch-topped flight holes. These are located on three of the walls which face south (two centrally located per wall). The ledge would have been protected from the rain, and also architecturally balanced, by large overhanging eaves which are no longer intact but fragments of a once-painted 170 mm deep fascia board, with a plastered soffit on the underside of the roof, now hang precariously. The projection is sadly all that remains as tangible evidence of the piended roof which apparently terminated with a small cupola and weather vane and, by 1931, was "... *somewhat out of order and incomplete*"[455]. A photograph published in the same year provides fortunate evidence of what appears to be a shallow-pitched, pyramid roof of approximately 25°, finished in slate, with the hips protected by leadwork dressed over a wood core roll[456]. The remains around the eaves level indicate that the roof was finished in 10 mm thick blue/grey Scots slates (possibly Ballachulish) laid in diminishing courses. The cupola is, "... *of wood and having pigeon entrances*"[457] and it appears from the photograph that it may have incorporated eight entrances to coincide with the plan form of the structure itself. It is not clear whether the cupola itself was piended, or domed. Buxbaum's photograph[458], along with that of the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland[459], shows the cupola and weathervane removed so these items were evidently taken down during the mid twentieth century. The design of the weather vane is not altogether clear, although Douglas says that it, "... *may be representative of an arrow*"[460].

The interior of the pigeon chamber demonstrates the same quality of masonry construction as the exterior with the boxes being constructed very neatly using a regular, linear, vertical arrangement of 100 mm blocks of dressed sandstone with three boxes to a bay, eight rows high, and six boxes omitted around each of the three flight access holes giving a total of 174 boxes. The nest boxes themselves are 240 high x 190 wide x 260 mm deep, starting off at first floor which still displays its 40 mm check for timber boarding supported on four, 170 x 70 mm, joists laid at right angles to the ground floor door opening. There are no alighting ledges incorporated into the box design, and although none of the nest boxes has been blocked, some boxes do display some evidence of plastering along their backs. The pigeon chamber is quite small so it is unlikely that it would have required a collecting aid and there is no present evidence of one. The chamber

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452 Grampian Regional Council's Archaeological Sites and Monuments Record Ref. No NJ 26 SW 36 says that the walls are 910 mm!

453 Sec. of State, loc. cit.

454 Sec. of State, ibid.

455 Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 43.
Cooper, Ornamental Garden Buildings, vol. 6, 1996, u.p., s.v. 'Lesmurdie', says "*Hexagonal pyramidal slate roof [surveyed 1995!] ... 174 nesting boxes ... deep moulded rat-course.*"

456 Douglas, ibid.It is not clear why R. Oram, Moray and Badenoch, p. 169, wrote as recently as 1996, "*The roof is a slated octagonal pyramid of shallow pitch, carried out on widely over-sailing eaves*".

457 Douglas, ibid.

458 Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 23.

459 McKean, The Dovecotes of Moray - an illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 43.
The photograph included in this book is credited to the RCAHMS

460 Douglas, loc. cit.

was probably accessed via a trap door in the floor leading from the ground floor chamber and regular inspections would have been necessary to prevent the build up of guano[461].

The roof structure was likely composed of eight main rafters springing from the converging angles of the octagon and, from the remains of the collapsed roof, it appears that the structure was tied at wallhead level by 150 x 65 mm members and the iron rod of the weather vane was probably affixed to these. The open cupola at the apex, together with the six flight holes within the masonry wall structure would have provided cross ventilation, but not a great deal of daylight. There is no evidence either on site, or from archive documents, to indicate that there was any provision for a daylighting aperture or roof skylight.

The floor of the ground floor chamber is now a combination of earth, straw and sand at a level of 110 mm lower than the door threshold, which deliberately steps 60 mm down into the chamber. The second 50 mm step could be explained by the possible later removal of a flag stone. The ground floor chamber is still in good condition since it is currently, if temporarily, protected from the elements by the remains of the intermediate floor. Unprotected however, this intermediate floor will undoubtedly collapse in the near future and thereby pose a threat to the entire structure.

Although described by Elizabeth Beaton in 1978 as being in, "*excellent condition*"[462], the structure is currently ruinous and the roof has now entirely collapsed leaving the structure open to the elements. There are no obvious signs of repair ever having been carried out to the structure and the only visible alteration is the replacement and boarded timber front door located on the outer face of the 730 (w) x 1590 mm (h) door opening. The crude repair around the iron pin fixings to the ashlar stonework testify to it being later work, whereas the internal remains of iron pins, masonry jamb door check, and bolt recess all indicate an earlier inward-swinging door. The reason for removing this door, and replacing it with an outward opening door, is not altogether clear. This outer door is still intact and presently provides security to the building but its continued neglect will result both in the collapse of the stone nest boxes and the rapid deterioration of the masonry walls which, at this moment in time, are currently in good condition.

Written: January 1996

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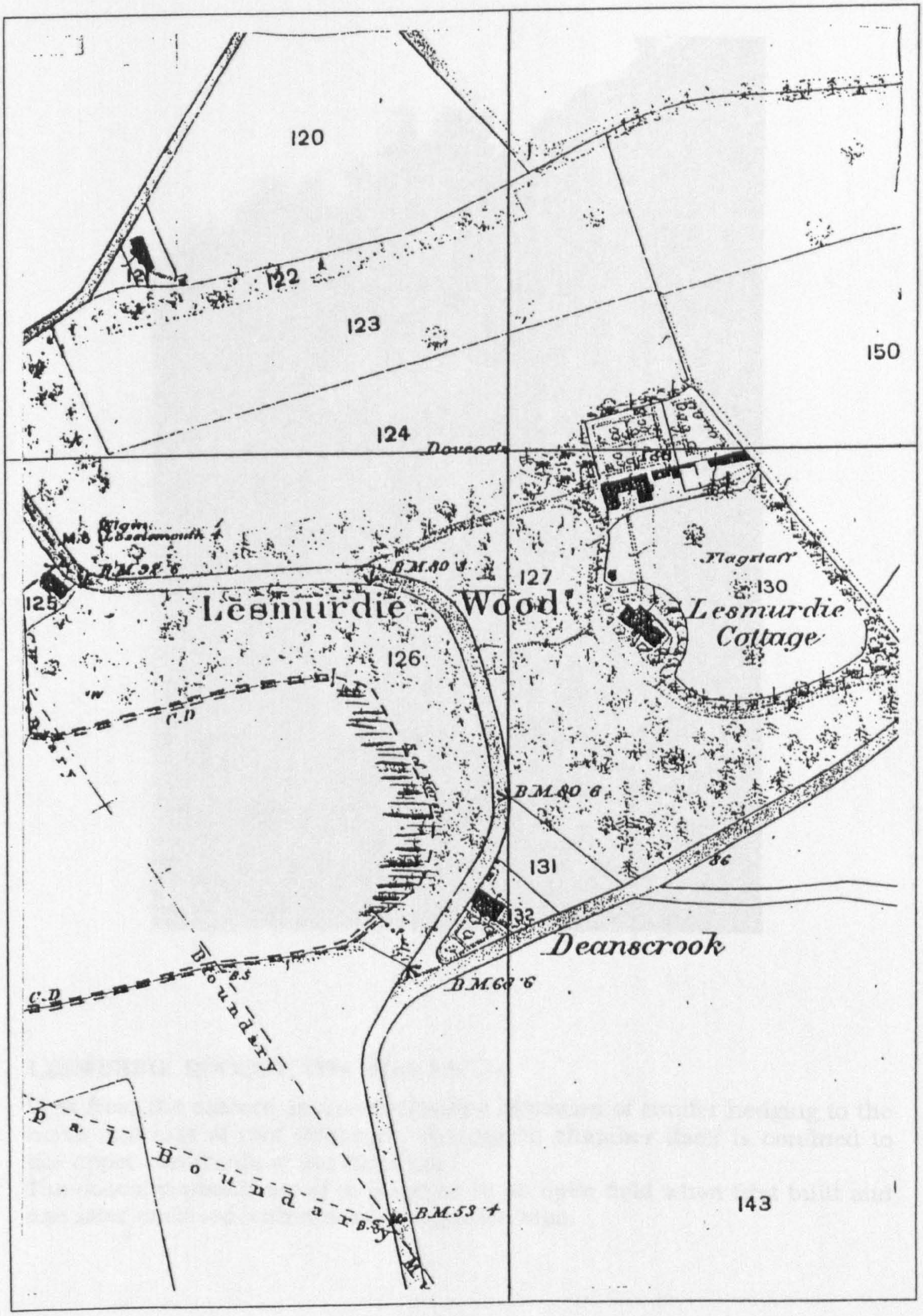
[461] Beaton, pers. comm. 18/9/96, recalls a visit in the early 1970's. "*I think I crawled up a ladder to the nesting chamber in the first floor*".
[462] Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 18.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Lesmurdie Doocot (Fig. 5.6.5)



LESMURDIE DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.6.5.1)

View from the eastern approach showing intrusion of conifer hedging to the north and loss of roof structure. The pigeon chamber itself is confined to the upper two-thirds of the structure.
The doocot probably stood in isolation in an open field when first built and was later enclosed within a kitchen garden area.



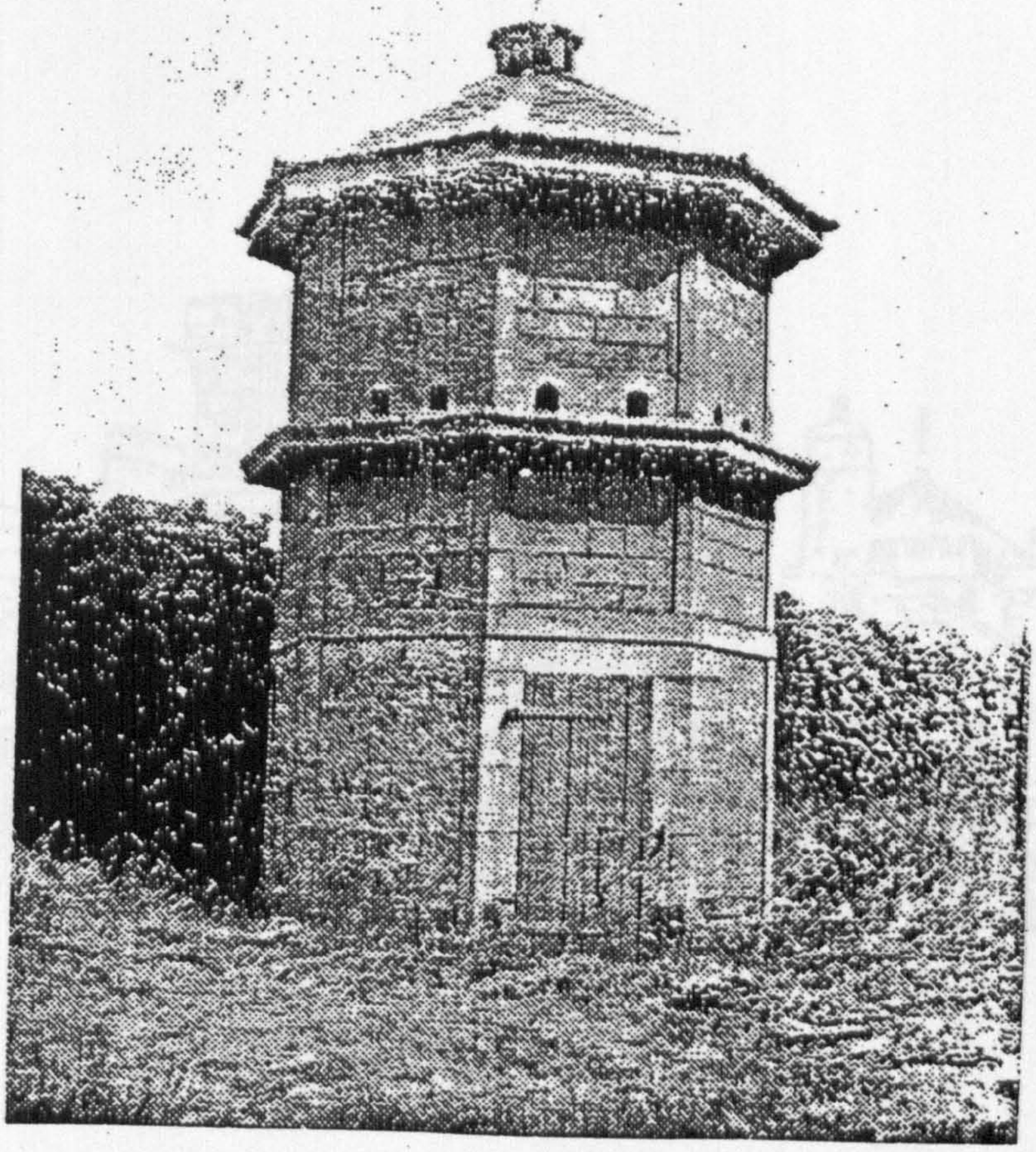
LESMURDIE DOOCOT, 1994 (Plate 5.6.5.2)

Close up of south west external angle showing detail of freestone masonry next to doorway. Note quality of jointing, particularly between tooled ashlar sandstones and the more subtle craftmanship of the tooled and stugged stonework within the rebated wall panel. Such work obviously demonstrates great attention to detail over and above the purely functional needs of the bird. (The young ash tree now growing near the front door will undermine the foundations of the structure if permitted to grow to maturity.)



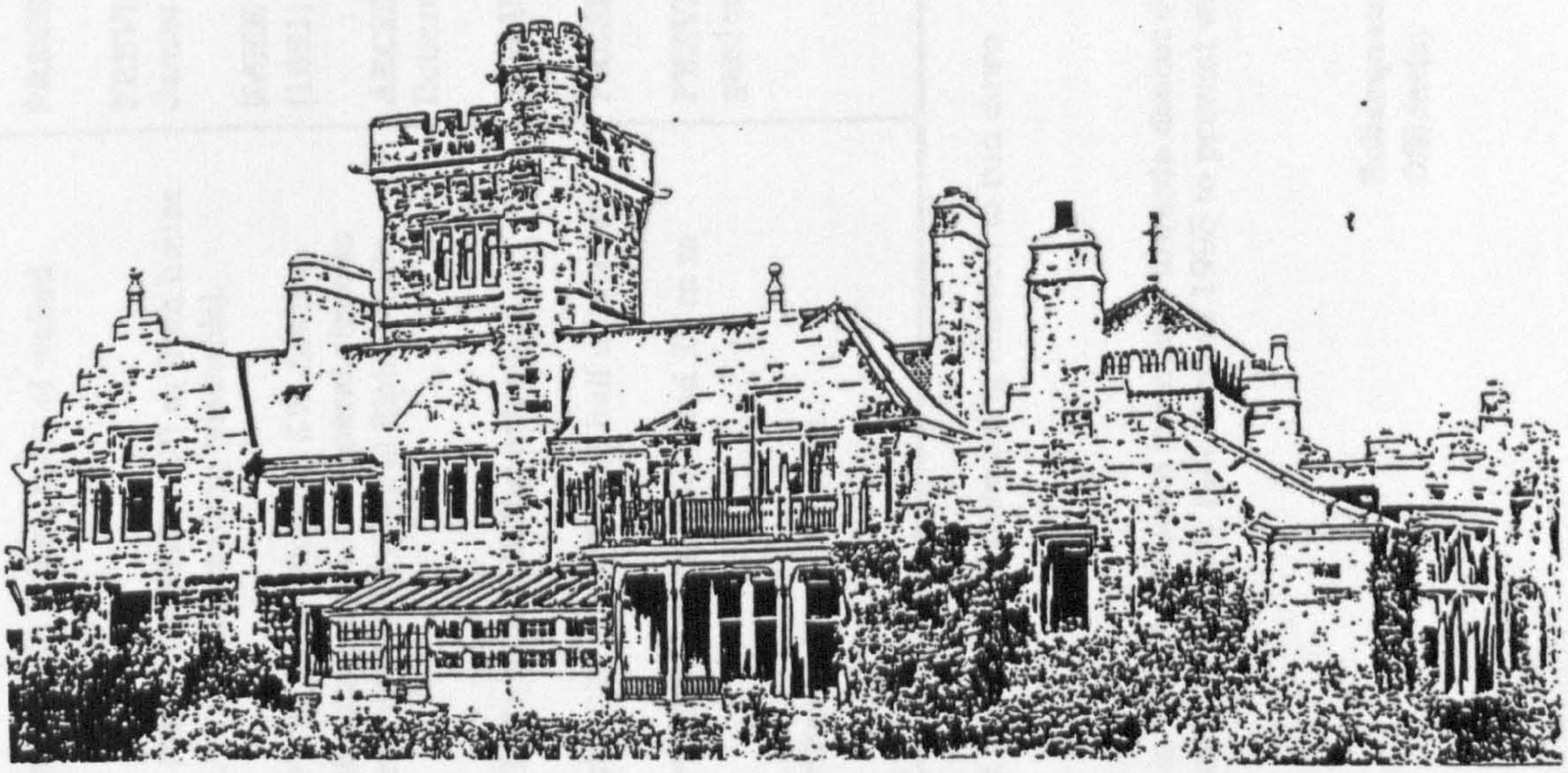
LESMURDIE DOOCOT, 1994, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.5.3)

View of interior showing relationship between lower chamber, intermediate floor and pigeon chamber. The care of the architectural masonry is continued internally with the generous boxes being constructed using smooth slabs of sandstone in true alignment. The rubble wall in the lower chamber appears to have been sneck harled and/or limewashed. There are no markings on the underside of the timber joists to suggest it ever had a ceiling.



LESMURDIE DOOCOT, 1930 (Plate 5.6.5.4)

Copy of photograph of doocot in early 1930's showing slated roof and door intact. Note small cupola and weathervane crowning the structure.
(extract from Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 43).



LESMURDIE DOOCOT 1916 (Plate 5.6.5.5)

Principal view of existing, mainly single storey, house from the south-east. This picture was taken in the early part of this century and the house has sadly deteriorated in recent years. The doocot is a reasonable distance away to the rear.

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 225 636. **PARISH**: Elgin Burgh. **DATE**: c. 1830. **TYPE**: Mixed two storey octagonal tower.	**SITING**: NW of main house, west of walled garden and steading. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 100 m from house (viewable), 50 m from steading (viewable). **TOPOGRAPHY**: Steep slope to SW down to Elgin/Lossiemouth B road. General slope to south towards river and central Elgin 1 mile away. **ORIENTATION**: South facing entrance. **WATER SOURCE**: River Lossie half mile away. **MATURE TREES**: Lesmurdie wood 25 m to south.. **LAND USE**: Agricultural to north. **ALTITUDE**: 30 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Robertson's of Elgin. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: Joseph King C1830. James Stewart (King's grandnephew) 1836. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Lesmurdie House (1881) formerly Lesmurdie Cottage. **ARCHITECT**: Not known. Possibly William Robertson. **TENANT**: N/A. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Vacant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Ground floor - possibly garden store or hens, upper floor pigeon house.

NOTES: Recently acquired by local developer around 1990 after Estate being allowed to run down. Part of deal to develop surrounding fields.

Main house in different ownership.

Moray District Council requested developer in 1995 to indicate intentions towards doocot due to concern about lack of repair. Owner intends to make focal point of housing scheme. Temporary roof fitted in 1995 to prevent water ingress. Site overgrown during second survey check.

Date of Check: 22 November 1994
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown.

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Ruinous roof collapsed. **REPAIRS**: None obvious. **ALTERATIONS:** Possibly replacement outer door. **FUTURE RISK:** Continued neglect resulting in collapse of nest boxes and deterioration of masonry walls.	**PLAN FORM**: Octagonal. **PLAN SIZE**: 2.8 m wide. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT**: 4.4 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT**: Possibly 5.5 m (excluding cupola and vane). **WALL CONSTRUCTION**: Rubble sandstone faced with cut sandstone. **WALL MATERIAL**: Sandstone and lime. **WALL THICKNESS**: 510 mm. **WALL FINISH**: Cut blocks of coursed, stugged sandstone with tooled ashlar dressings with flush course lime mortar. **ROOF FORM**: Piended to apex point. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION**: 8 main rafters to point (size 150 x 65 mm) not clear if ties incorporated - possibly 8 at wallhead level. **ROOF PITCH**: 30°? **ROOF FINISH**: Diminishing grade 10 mm thick blue/grey Scots slate possibly Ballachulish. **OTHER**: See archive photo (Douglas) showing cupola at apex - timber? - painted 170 x 20 mm fascia and plastered soffit to projecting eave.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION**: No inner door remains but evidence of hinging and fixing in ingo. **OUTER DOOR TYPE**: later painted timber ledged and braced door with 6 vertical boards fixed to outside plane with heavy pin ironmongery. **DOOR SIZE**: 1590 (high) x 730 mm (wide). **DOOR SITING**: South facing. **LEDGES**: one moulded projecting 275 mm, some damaged (also one bandcourse at 1st floor level). **LEDGES HEIGHT**: 2.85 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH**: 10.5 m. **APERTURES**: None apparent. **VENT HOLES**: None apparent. **FLIGHT HOLES**: 6 arched top holes 210 x 130 mm carved in ashlar (generally south facing). **TOTAL VENT AREA**: 0.16 m^2 (excluding cupola). **LIMEWASH**: Only internally in ground chamber. **DORMERS**: None apparent. **SKEWS**: N/A - lead rolls. **FINIALS**: Not existing (see archive photos). **WEATHER VANE**: Not existing (see archive photo evidence).

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: Yes - stone - 310 wide, 60 mm own.

PARTITION WALLS: None.

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: No clear evidence. - mixture of earth, sand and straw.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: 170 x 90 mm joists at 450 mm centres (with check in stonework for timber floorboards?).

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Regular stone blocks overlapped and stacked (do not appear integral with walls).

NEST BOX NUMBER: 174.

NEST BOX SIZE: 240 (h) x 190 (w) x 260 mm (d)

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: No.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: No.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: signs in ground floor of both. Evidence at backs of boxes.

COLLECTING AID: No evidence.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 174 x 2 x 0.7 = 244.

INTERNAL VOLUME: Ground - 4.6 m^3.
First - 7.3 m^3

OTHER: Roof structure probably exposed, i.e. no ceiling.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- if ground floor for hens, how accessed.
- how upper chamber accessed and cleaned? trap door?
- how upper floor lit? cupola?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 18.
R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 13, 22, **42**, **43**.
T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 23.
C. McKean, The District of Moray - an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, pp. 43-4.
R. Oram, Moray & Badenoch, 1996, p. 169.
P. & J Hansell, Dovecote Heritage, 1988, p. 21.
S. Cooper, Ornamental Garden Buildings, vol. 6, 1996, u.p.

ARTICLES:

LISTING: Elgin Burgh, Item 143, p 144, Category C(s) 1981.

SMR: GRC, Archaeological Site Index, Ref. No. NJ26 SW35.

MAPS: Ordnance Survey 1869, 1920, 1965.

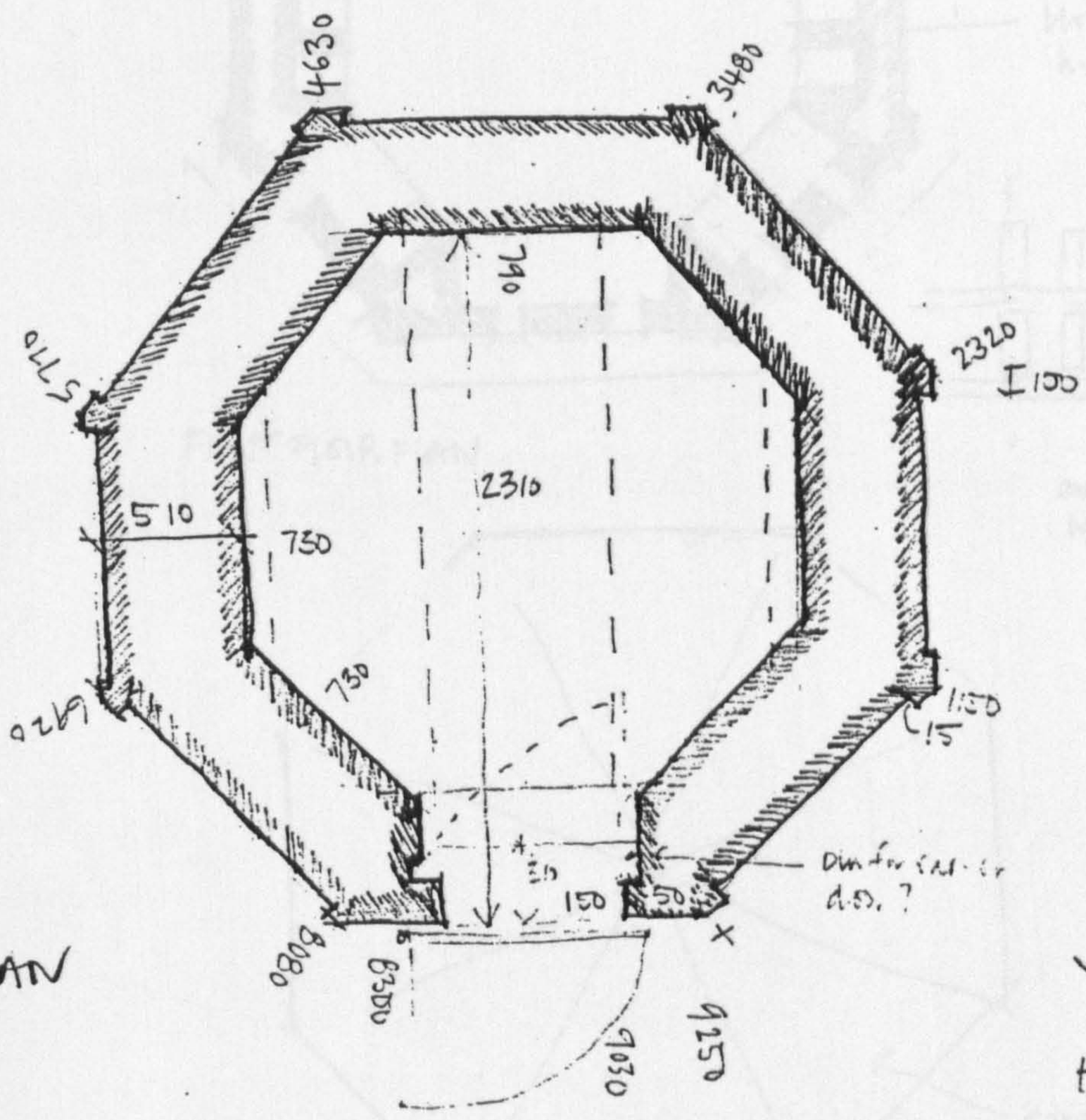
PHOTOGRAPHS:

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 43, (showing cupola and weather vane).
T. Buxbaum, Scottish Dovecotes, 1987, p. 23 (showing hens and ducks outside).
C. McKean, The District of Moray - an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 43 (RCAHMS copyright).
MDC Planning Department, Elgin Burgh, Item 21, Neg. B - F125/6, 1981.
E. Beaton, Personal slide collection, 1969.

OTHER:

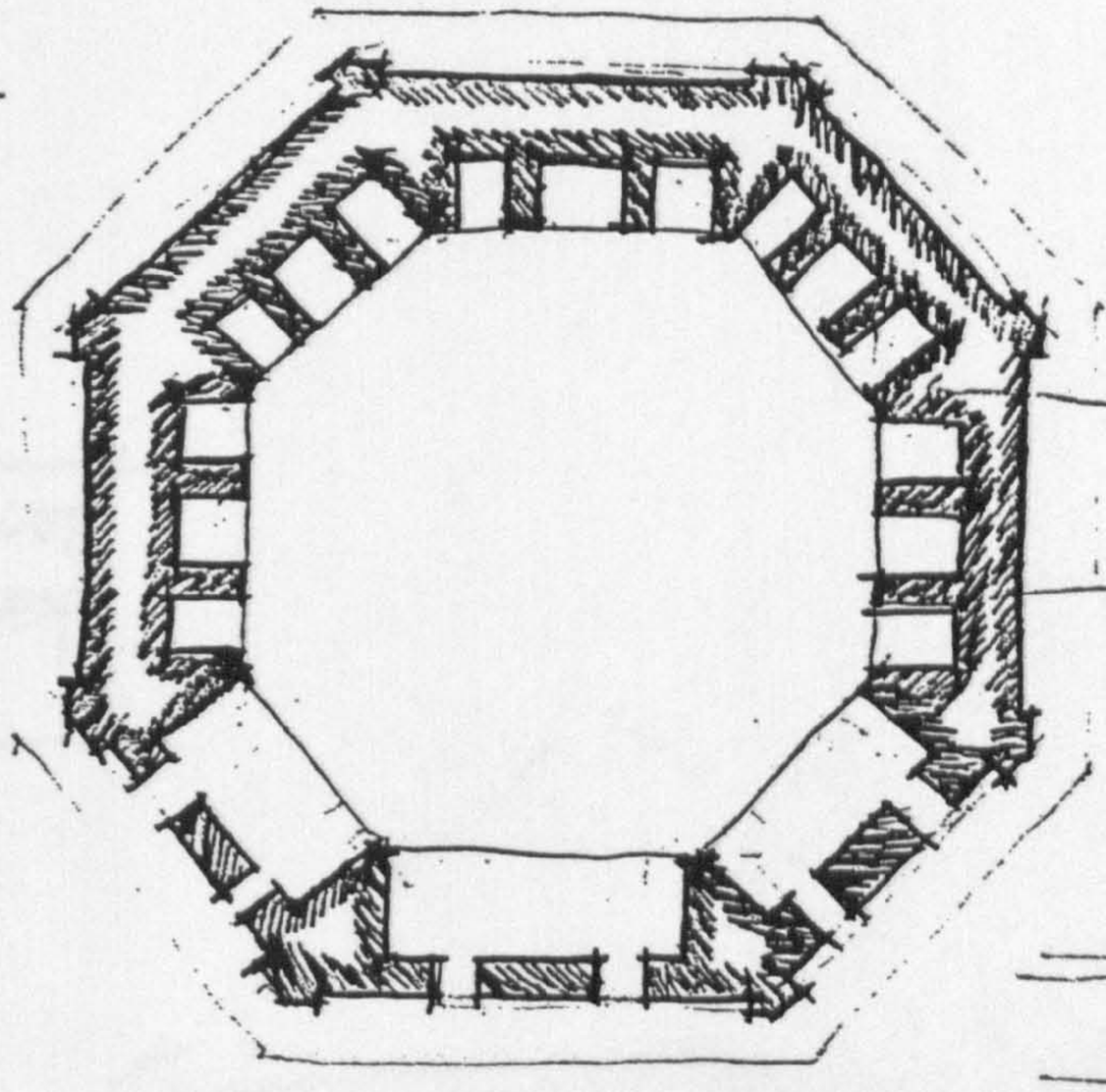
1 of 4

LESMURDIE DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY.
NB 22/11/94.

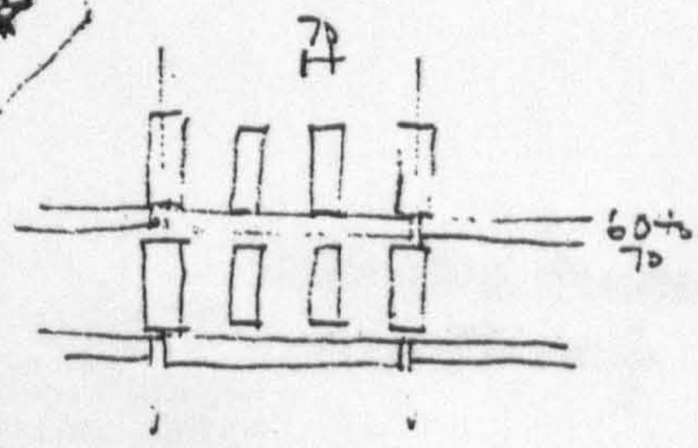


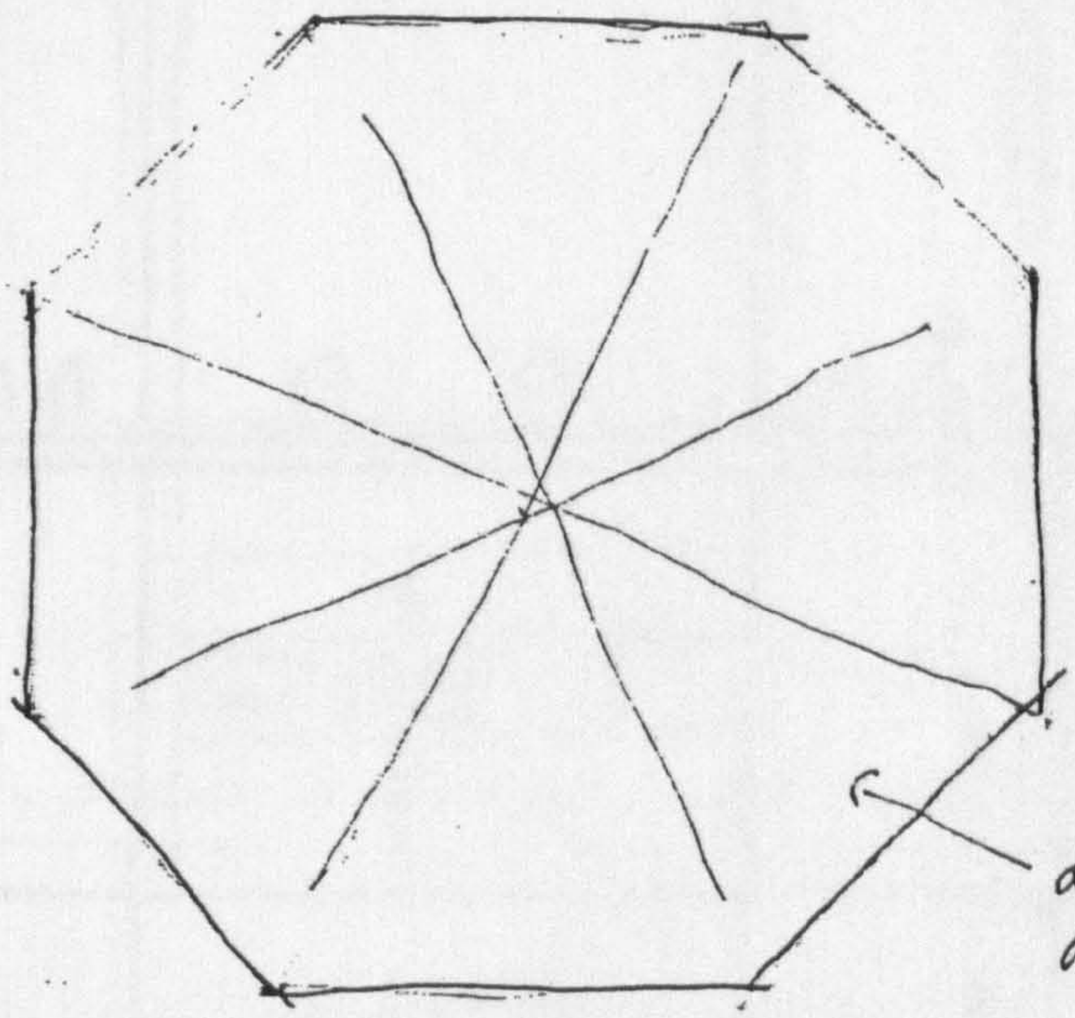
LESMURDIE DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 22/11/94

2 of 4



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

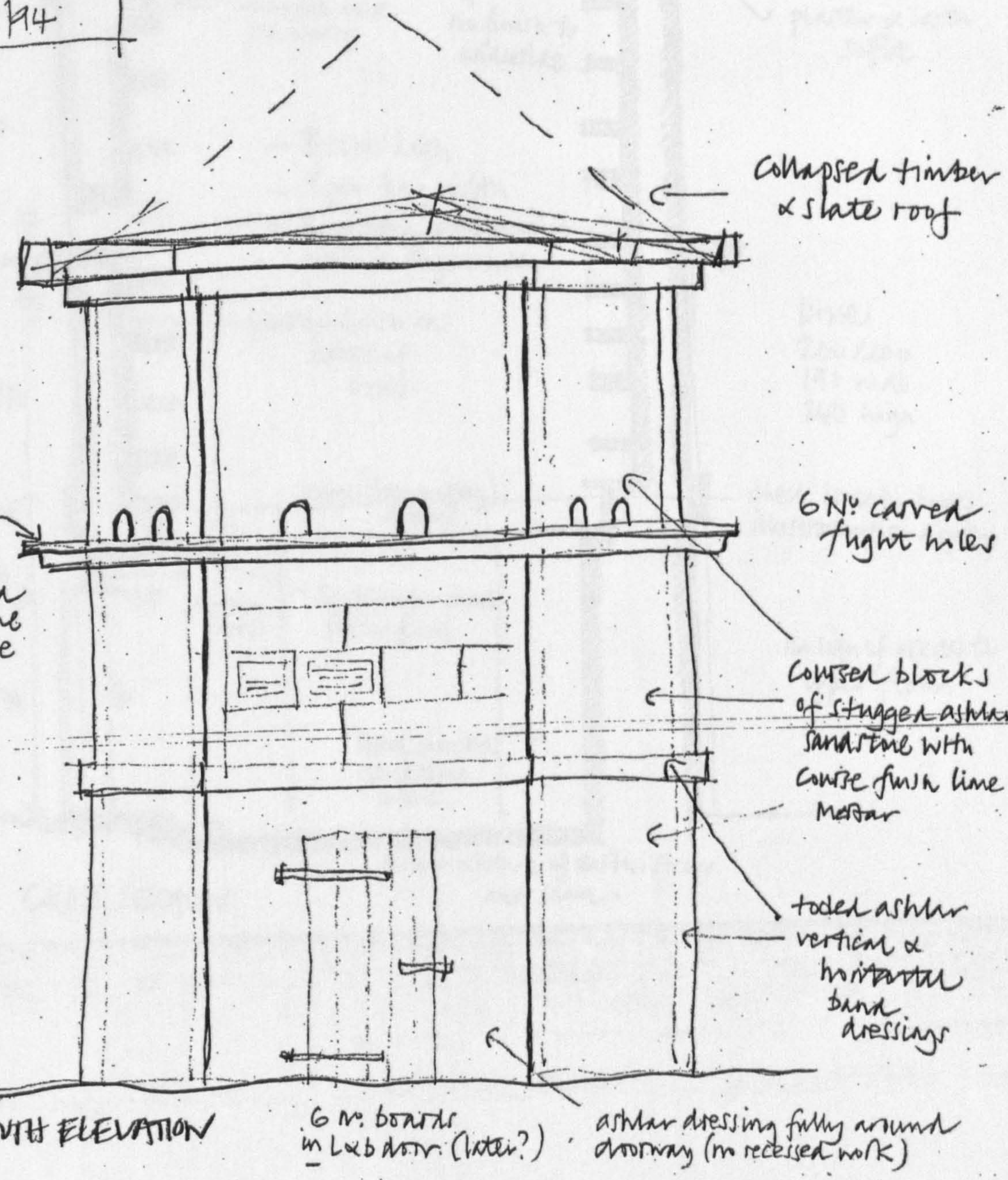




ROOF PLAN. (entirely collapsed)

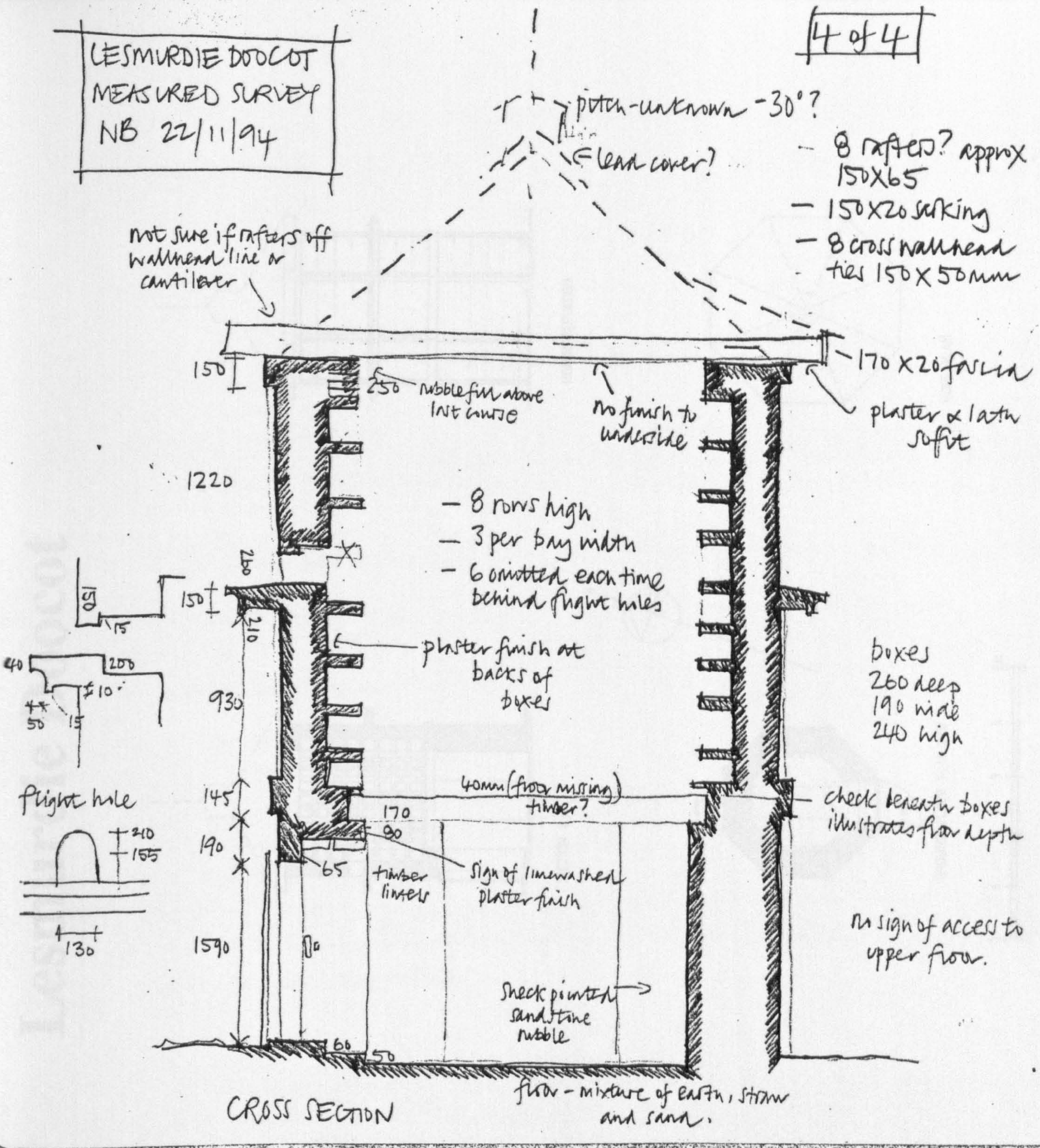
LESMURDIE DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY.
NB 22/11/94

3 of 4

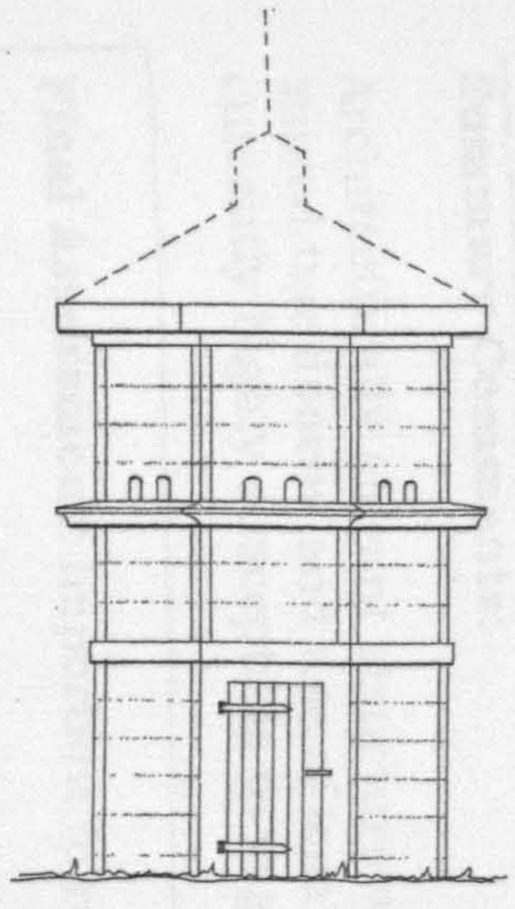


SOUTH ELEVATION

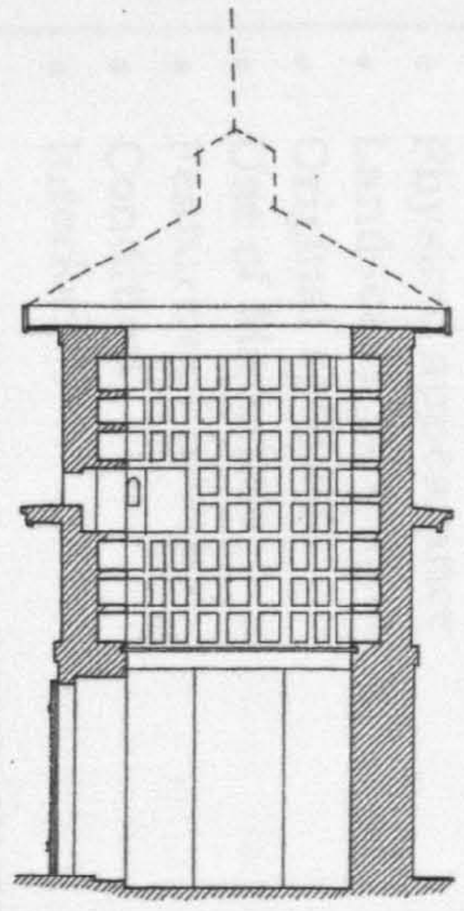
LESMURDIE DOOCOT
MEASURED SURVEY
NB 22/11/94



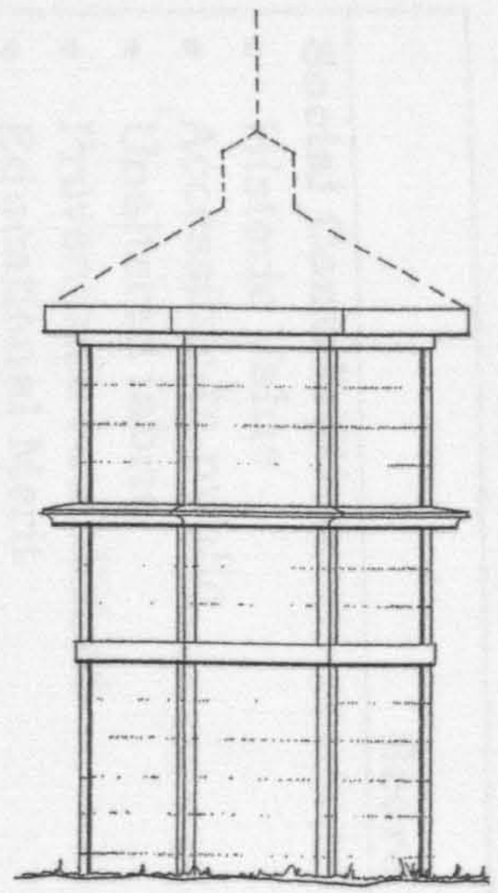
Lesmurdie Doocot



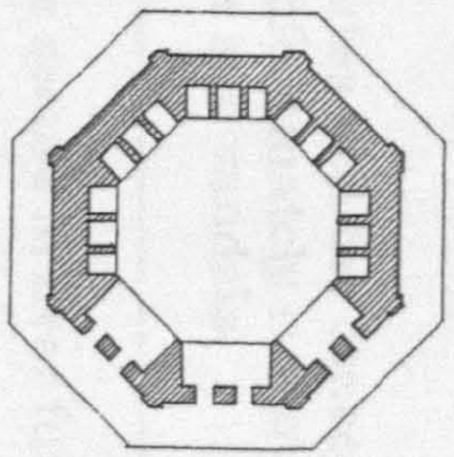
SOUTH ELEVATION



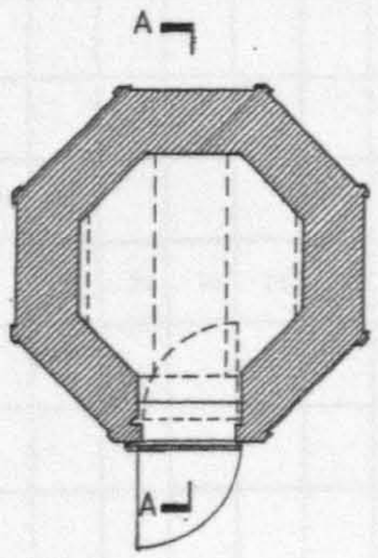
SECTION AA



NORTH ELEVATION

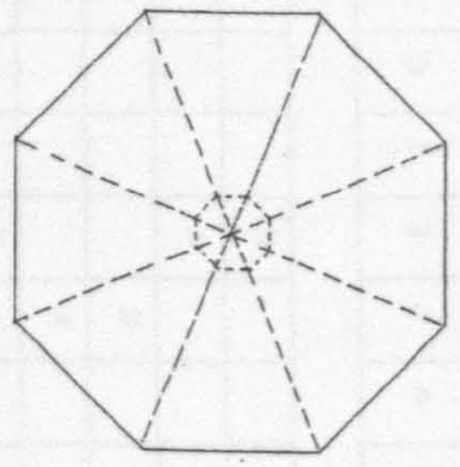


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

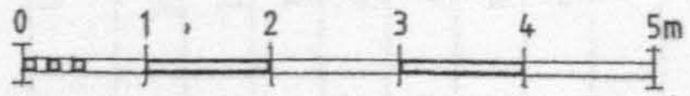


GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50





ROOF PLAN



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: LESMURDIE DOOCOT **Grid Ref**: NJ 255 636

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social Contribution												
• Historic Value								x				2
• Accessible to public								x				4
• Unaltered fabric									x			7
• Provenance established									x			10
• Educational Merit								x				12
• Cultural Integrity								x				14
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable							x					15
• Tourist Value							x					16
• Partnership funding								x				18
• Capital costs							x					19
• Maintenance costs								x				21
• Revenue potential						x						21
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									x			24
• Landscape prominence							x					25
• Original setting								x				27
• Use of Materials								x				29
• Features of interest								x				31
• Condition							x					32
• Interior							x					33
											TOTAL	33

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category C(s)
- Ownership — Private – Robertsons of Elgin
- Architect — Possibly William Robertson
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — Housing scheme immediately adjacent
- Risk Assessment — High

Summary Comments:

Architecturally elegant structure which demonstrates well the concept of the 'mixed use doocot' and use of local sandstone. Unfortunately ruinous and currently highly susceptible to vagaries of weather and vandals.

Final Assessment: Important to re-roof and make secure in near future.

5.6.6 URQUHART MANSE DOOCOT

Grid Reference NJ283 626, Urquhart Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Urquhart Manse Doocot is an unusual example of a small, mixed, two storey square tower doocot, described by the Secretary of State in his statutory listing as the, "... *only clay and dab doocot in north east of Scotland*"[463]. At an altitude of 31 m, it is sited on gently undulating land immediately to the west of the village of Urquhart, in the eastern side of north Moray about 7 miles from Elgin. It is located in the south-west corner of a walled garden at a distance of around 100 m due south of the Urquhart Manse (built for the Urquhart parish church by Elgin architect William Robertson in the early nineteenth century). "*The Manse was built about 1825 and the dovecot appears to be of the same date*"[464]. Mature trees at the house driveway, between the house and the doocot, now block out the view from one to the other but the doocot is still visible across agricultural land from the Elgin/Urquhart road 90 m away to the south. Prior to later development, it was probably once most prominent when viewed from the main street of the village.

The dove chamber itself is located at first floor level by being raised above a small, storage chamber. The unusual clay and straw mud construction must have provided warm and attractive nest sites for the birds, particularly when combined with a high thermal resistance material such as timber for the shelf, but it is strange that there was a need, or desire, to also utilise slate, since both materials appear to be contemporary. (Vernacular buildings such as this are frequently the outcomes of practical decision making, which often puzzle architectural minds, and it may be that Urquhart doocot falls into this category.) Equally, there may be an elusive, practical answer for the formation of the large, north first-floor doorway and the small aperture immediately below. However, without first-hand experience or documentary evidence, it can perhaps be conjectured that the northern openings were formed to develop the building, and furhter utilise it, when its use as a doocot had discontinued. Supporting the theory that both the northern doorway and northern aperture

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[463] Secretary of State, Statutory List for Moray, Urquhart Parish, Item 55, p. 25.

[464] Grampian Regional Council, Archaeologist's Sites and Monuments Record, Ref. No. NJ 26 SE 15. No sign of the doocot on the 1870 abd 1902 OS maps, however, throws previous historians' consensus opinion of an early nineteenth century date into serious doubt.

are mid-twentieth century alterations, Douglas records, "*The door looks to the east. To the north, and apparently utilised for lighting purposes, was a window opening. No window is now there.*"[465] This being the case, one would have to assume that the upper chamber of the doocot was reached by a trapdoor somewhere in the intermediate flooring. It is presumed, also, that the first-floor dove chamber would have been open to the roof structure. This may have originally included ties to provide roosting places but there is currently no sign of dove use, despite the flight holes still being open to them.

Urquhart Manse doocot appears to have fulfilled several functions:

(a) it would probably have provided food to the owner (but this is unconfirmed from the evidence at hand).

(b) there appears to be a deliberate decision to site the doocot in a position where all the villagers could view it. It is therefore highly possible, with the building of the new Parish Church and new Manse, that the Minister of the time was utilising the doocot to make a social statement.[466]

(c) the doocot is sited within the corner of a walled garden, which is not only sizeable enough to grow vegetables, fruit, herbs, etc., but also provide space for pleasure and the flight of doves would likely have formed part of this function of the garden.[467]

(d) the evidence suggests that the ground floor chamber would have been used for storage, not only for the likes of bird grain, but more likely garden tools and other equipment.[468]

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[465] Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, p. 45.

[466] Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 148, proclaims, "*...where can one come upon a dovecote more agreeably situated than within the bounds of an old garden?*"

[467] Douglas, op. cit., p. 45, says, "*... it would appear as though the under part of the building had been utilised as a summer house or a tool house*".

[468] It is not self evident why this particular corner of the walled garden was chosen, nor is it obvious if the doocot and wall are contemporary (if the doocot harling is ever stripped away, the relationship with the wall may become more obvious).

(e) although the building would only have contained about 40 to 50 birds, the raising of the nest holes, some 320 mm above the intermediate floor, would have allowed the build up of some guano which would have been put to good use in the kitchen garden.

Urquhart Manse is therefore a good example of doves being used for several functions; not to mention its variety of a vernacular tradition of construction.[469] In architectural and social history terms, Urquhart Manse Doocot deserves to be protected and cared for and it is reassuring to find the Category B listed structure in reasonably good condition. Nevertheless, ongoing maintenance will be an essential requirement for the building, since clay and bool construction are particularly susceptible to rapid decay if allowed to become saturated. The owner should, therefore, be encouraged and assisted towards safeguarding this interesting, and curious, structure for future generations.

Having been re-roofed at some time during this century, together with ongoing harling patches and door repairs, the doocot at Urquhart Manse is in reasonably good condition and is currently not at serious risk. It is, however, important that the owner continues to monitor and repair the building as necessary since failure to keep the building water tight could cause a serious problem to the clay construction.

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469 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 28. "*Unique because of its building fabric*".
Although Shaw, History of Province of Moray, 1882, vol. 1., p. 303, notes, "*The walls of the greater number of the houses in this village [Urquhart] are composed entirely of clay, made into mortar with straw*".
Walker, Farms Buildings in Grampian, p. 21, observes that Urquhart is a clay area and that clay and bool construction is peculiar to the coast. The walls, which have a similarity with 19th century construction in France, should be 550 mm wide. See also Walker, 'Claywall', in Riches and Stell, Materials and Traditions, 1992, pp. 48-51.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Urquhart Manse Doocot is square in plan, size 2.7 x 2.7 m, with a wallhead height of 3.3 m and an overall height of 4.7 m to its apex (excluding the weather vane). The 550 mm thick walls are, "... *built of round boulder stones held together by clay and straw, indicating a building of some age*"[470]. The walls are finished in a roughly textured lime harling which has been extensively patched over the years but still retains some impression of having been limewashed at some period.

The roof, which is piended on all four sides, has been reconstructed during the twentieth century using machine-cut, 125 x 50 mm, rafters without ties but with standard, 250 x 20 mm, horizontal sarking boards which are exposed to the inner chamber. The roof is pitched at 45° and is clad externally using 15 mm thick Banffshire slates, which are reasonably regular in width and laid with a slight diminution of course towards the top with neatly executed mitred hips. It is topped out by a lead capped weather vane which includes a cardinal pointer and a crude metal bird in flight.

The single ground-floor chamber is entered through an inward opening, east facing door, 1650 high x 790 mm wide, which is secured by an untreated timber framed ledged door with vertical boarding (a later replacement). The opening is supported by a timber lintel which is in urgent need of repair. The first floor door, on the other hand, has both a stone lintel and cill forming an opening of 1410 high x 700 mm wide. A similarly detailed, vertically boarded door opens inward but it is now clad externally by a sheet of plywood. A 600 high x 400 mm wide aperture is sited immediately below the north doorway and has been executed, somewhat crudely, as a later addition. This aperture may be the reason why the statutory listing suggests that, "... *ground floor originally the hen house*"[471].

The upper dove chamber would have been accessed by birds through four 260 high x 225 mm wide flight holes, two of which are centred on the south facing wall just below the eaves, and two are centred on the south-west facing wall. Both pairs have a 30 mm thick stone ledge, which projects 125 mm beyond the wall face at a height of 2.5 m and extends only 75 mm beyond each flight hole. Thirty-two nest holes, size 240 high x 300 wide x 275 mm deep, can be found within the first floor dove chamber (12 on the east wall, 10 on the south wall, and 10 on the south west wall) built 320 mm off the first floor level. They are constructed as an integral part of the wall using 280 mm wide clay, stone and straw uprights with 25 mm horizontal wooden boarding, or 30 mm slate shelving, which overlaps at each corner where it meets another row[472]. None of the holes is blocked, or contains alighting ledges, and all are in good order except for the immediate area around the south-west flight hole pair. The intermediate floor, which would have separated the two chambers, is now missing except for the two end timber joists. Whilst it is assumed that the joists would have been floored with timber boarding, it is noted that the floor level is slightly higher than the foot of the north doorway, thus preventing its inward opening (unless the floor was bridled in some

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[470] Douglas, op. cit., p. 44.

[471] Sec. of State, loc. cit. The aperture appears too crude to be original and the earth level adjacent seems to be artificially high (perhaps not deliberately so however).

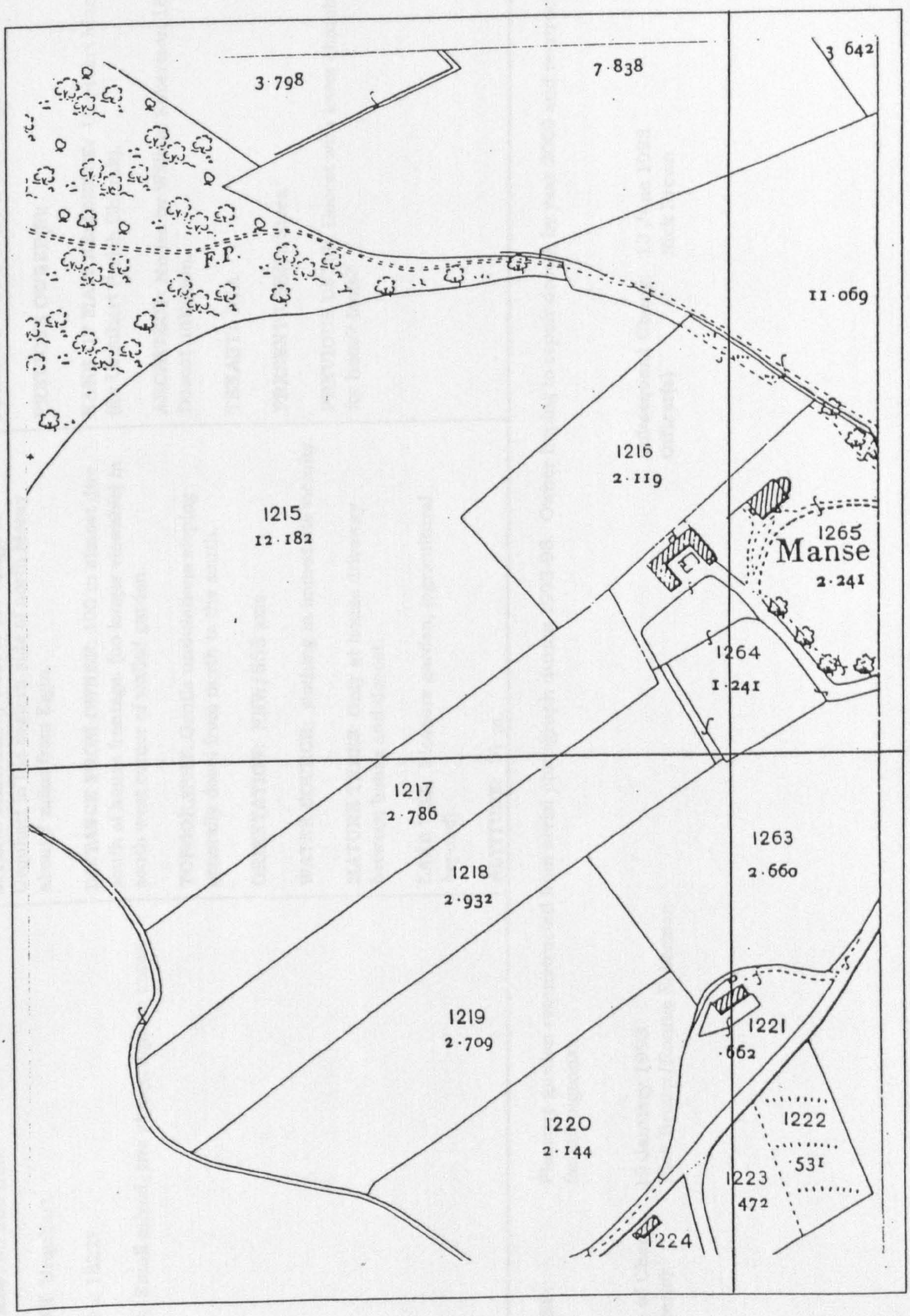
[472] J. McCann, 'Origin of Clay lump in England', Vernacular Architecture, vol. 28, (1997), pp. 57-67, (p. 57) quotes J. Laurence, New System of Agriculture, (London, 1726), p. 153, "*Earth of Clay mixt with straw ... made a warmer Habitation for the Pidgeons than any other sort of Building made with Brick and Stone ... the Pidgeons prosper'd to a Wonder*" and regarding construction, "... *Whilst the Walls were a little greenish, with a coarse Chisel I ordered a proper Number of Holes to be cut out square; which was done with a great deal of Ease, the Walls being, as I said, not quite dry. The Holes were made (as they should be) a little dipping backward, and about Fourteen Inches deep.*"
J. McCann, pers. comm., 28/1/95, "*Dovecotes of cob (in its various forms) were also penetrable by rats. Present-day builders frequently find that the walls of cob farm buildings are completely honeycombed by rat tunnels ... some cob buildings have a high masonry footing which would give similar protection if high enough*". There are no signs of rat tunnels in this case and the external harling and internal plaster prevents a full assessment of the foundations.

way). The floor of the ground floor chamber, on the other hand, is constructed (without a threshold step) in solid concrete and the walls are finished in limewashed plaster. Other than the later aperture opening on the north wall, the interior of this chamber is featureless and since there are no marking on the joists to suggest a ceiling finish, the joists and floor boards above must have been exposed.

ADDENDUM

The garden within the walled area was restored, from aerial photography, after the original site survey. As part of this restoration programme, the owner hopes to eventually include a repair of the doocot.

Written: 17 September 1996



Map extract from 1903 Ordnance Survey

Location of Urquhart Manse Doocot (Fig. 5.6.6)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 283 626. **PARISH**: Urquhart. **DATE**: c 1822? **TYPE**: Small mixed, two storey, square tower.	**SITING**: Immediately west of the village of Urquhart in the eastern side of north Moray about 7 miles from Elgin. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 100 m almost due south of house frontage. (no longer viewable) in south west corner of walled garden. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Gentle undulations sloping generally down from north to the south. **ORIENTATION**: NNW/SSE axis. **WATER SOURCE**: Nothing in immediate vicinity. **MATURE TREES**: Only at house driveway between house and doocot. **LAND USE**: Pleasure garden, (agricultural beyond). **ALTITUDE**: 31 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mr & Mrs Sugden. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Urquhart Manse (for Urquhart Parish Church). **ARCHITECT**: Manse by William Robertson 1822, Doocot unknown. **TENANT**: N/A. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Store. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Doocot with lower chamber for hens? tools?

NOTES: Pleasure garden reconstructed from aerial photograph during 1993-98. Owner hoping to repair doocot by year 2000 and re-strock with fantail pigeons.

Date of Check: 19 January 1993
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 13 June 1998
Officer(s) Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Reasonably good. **REPAIRS**: Re-roofing during mid 20th century, renewal of ground floor door. Harling patches. **ALTERATIONS:** Possible creation of new openings on north elevation. **FUTURE RISK:** Currently not at risk. Failure to keep building watertight would however cause a serious problem to the clay construction.	**PLAN FORM**: Square. **PLAN SIZE:** 2.70 x 2.67 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 3.3 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT**: 4.7 m (excluding vane). **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Shuttered mixture of clay, stone and straw. **WALL MATERIAL:** Random boulder stone. **WALL THICKNESS:** 550 mm. **WALL FINISH:** Lime harling (with later cement patches). **ROOF FORM:** Piended on all four sides. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** Reconstructed using standard sarking on 125 x 50 mm rafters (no ties). **ROOF PITCH:** 45°. **ROOF FINISH**: 15 mm thick reasonably regular Banffshire slates laid with slight diminish of course towards top with mitred hips.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION**: Two untreated, timber framed, ledged doors with vertical boarding (later replacements). **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** N/A. **DOOR SIZE:** Ground – 1650 x 790 mm First - 1410 x 700 mm. **DOOR SITING**: Ground - facing east First - facing north. **LEDGES:** 30 mm thick stone ledges projecting 125mm (only at both flight holes). **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 2.5 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH**: 1.5 m. **APERTURES**: None (but see Douglas p. 44). **VENT HOLES**: Only flight holes. **FLIGHT HOLES**: Four number (2 centred facing south, 2 centred south west), size 260 (h) x 225 mm (w). **TOTAL VENT AREA**: 0.176 m² (i.e. flight holes excluding later aperture). **LIMEWASH**: Impression given but no clear evidence. **DORMERS**: None. **SKEWS**: N/A. **FINIALS**: No. **WEATHER VANE:** Yes, possibly a recent replica of original which includes cardinal pointer, metal flying bird and lead cap, dressed over apex.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: No.

PARTITION WALLS: No.

GROUND FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Later concrete.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: Signs of five 150 x 50 mm timber joists (which presumably had timber boarding floor).

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: Clay, stone and straw uprights, 280 mm wide, forming integral part of wall with 25 mm wooden board, or slate, horizontal shelving overlapping at each corner.

NEST BOX NUMBER: 30 (Beaton and Douglas say 32).

NEST BOX SIZE: 240 (h) x 300 (w) x 275 mm (d).

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: 320 mm.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: None.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: None.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Not in pigeon chamber but throughout ground floor.

COLLECTING AID: None.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Say 30 x 2 x 0.7 = 42.

INTERNAL VOLUME: Ground - 5.2 m^3
First - 5.47 m^3.

OTHER:

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:

- Relationship with walled garden, i.e. contemporary earlier or later?
- Door opening and aperture on north wall - mid 20th century slappings? If so, why?
- Not included in early OS Maps.

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1948, pp. 3, **28.**

R. Douglas, The Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, pp. 44-5.

C. McKean, The District of Moray - ah Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 108.

G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 61.

A. N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, pp. 375, 377.

D. Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1976, pp. 182, 185.

T. Buxbaum, Scottish Doocots, 1987, p. 32.

ARTICLES:

J. McCann, 'An Historical Inquiry', 1992, p. 111.

LISTING: Urquhart Parish, Item 55, p. 25, Category B, 1981.

SMR: GRC Archaeological Site Index, Ref No. NJ 26 SE 15.

MAPS: 1869, 1905, 1965 Ordnance Survey Maps (not annotated as such).

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER:



URQUHART MANSE DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.6.1)

View from south side showing full extent of flight hole access and relationship with walled garden (now overgrown but in line for restoration). The pigeon chamber is only found in the upper part of this structure - the lower part having been a store of some kind. The Manse itself is located beyond the distant mature trees on the right.



URQUHART MANSE DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.6.2)

View of doocot and stores from within walled garden, showing the ground floor door access on the eastern facing wall and the upper chamber door access on the northern facing wall (with a later aperture immediately beneath). The deterioration of the ground floor timber lintel and extent of patching to the harling is also evident.



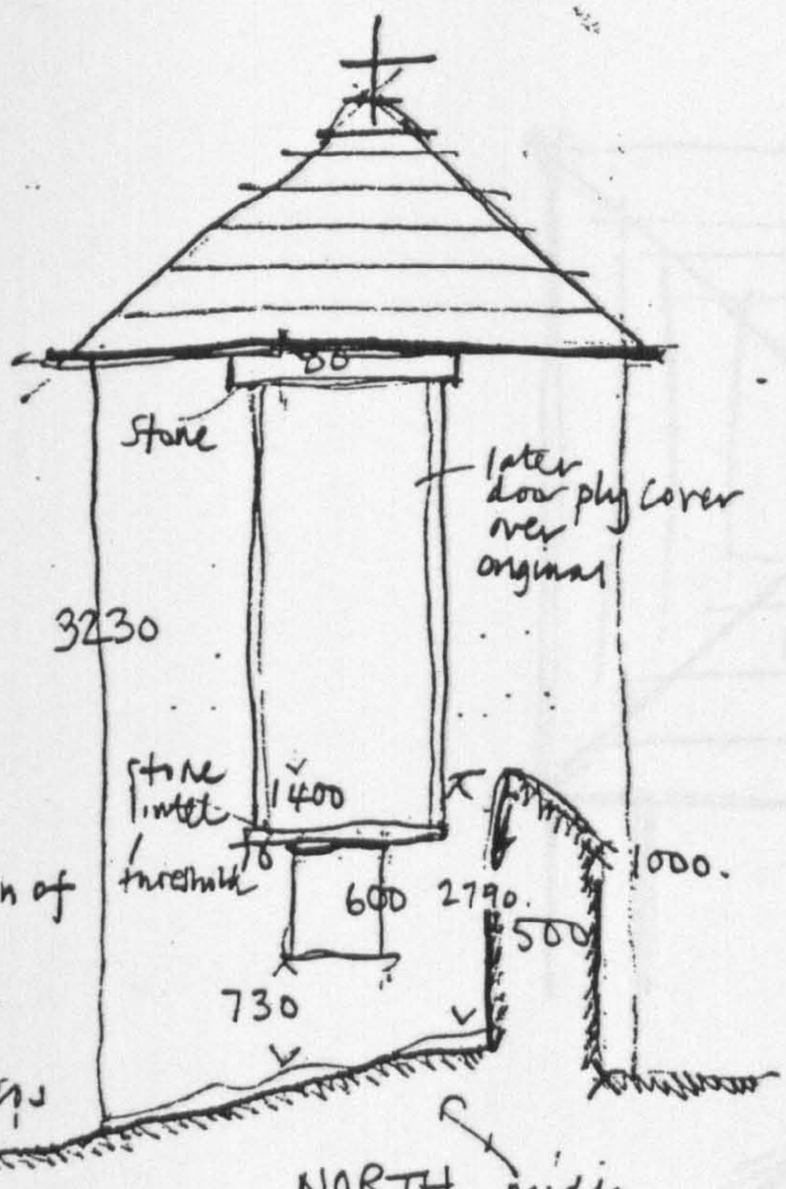
URQUHART MANSE DOOCOT 1993, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.6.3)
Internal view of corner of first floor chamber, showing boxes constructed as part of a shuttered wall construction which utilised both timber and slate as a material for the horizontal shelving. The shelves overlap each other where the rows meet at the corner angles. Note also the condition of the roof structure, which is thought to have been reconstructed during the mid twentieth century.

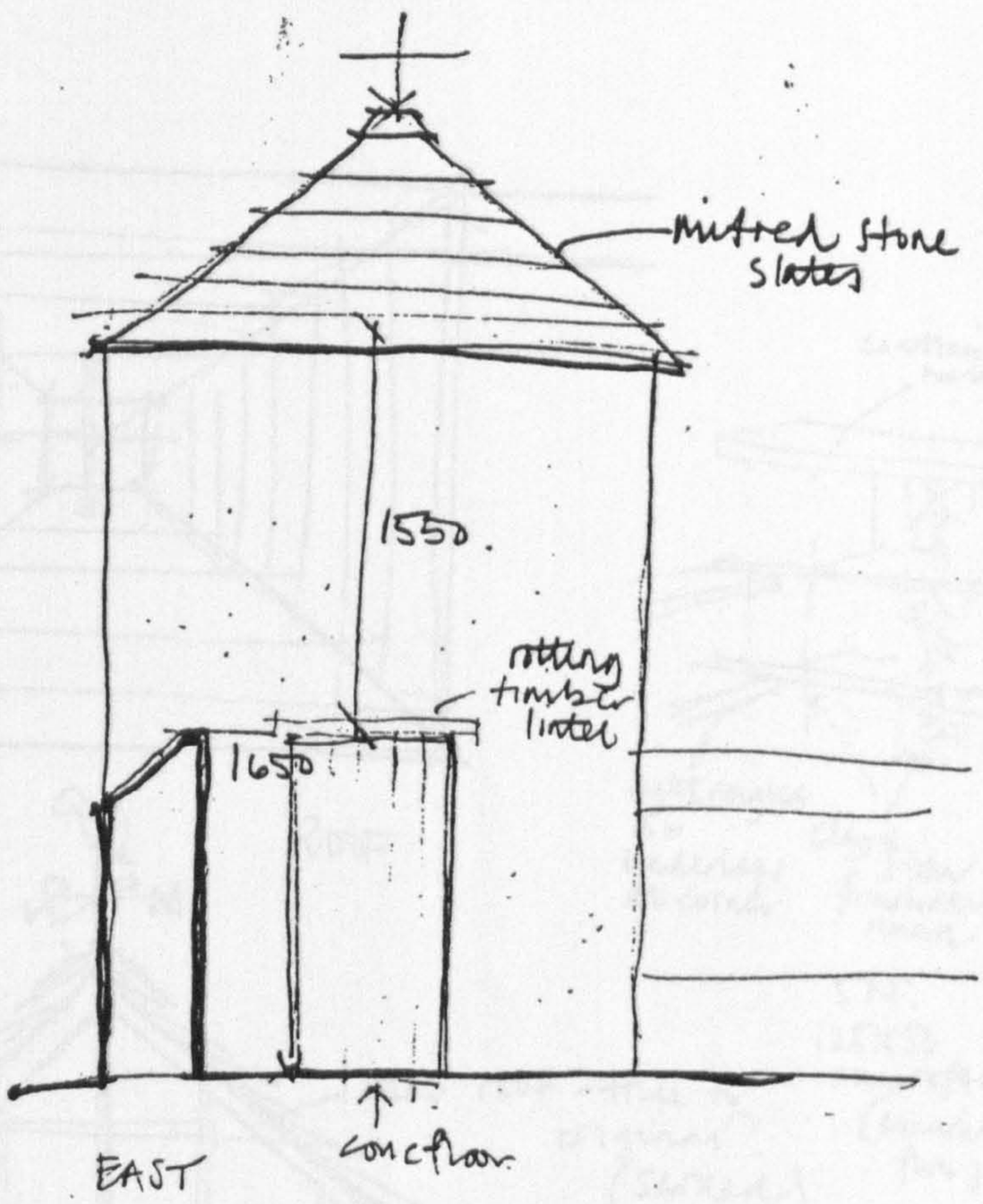


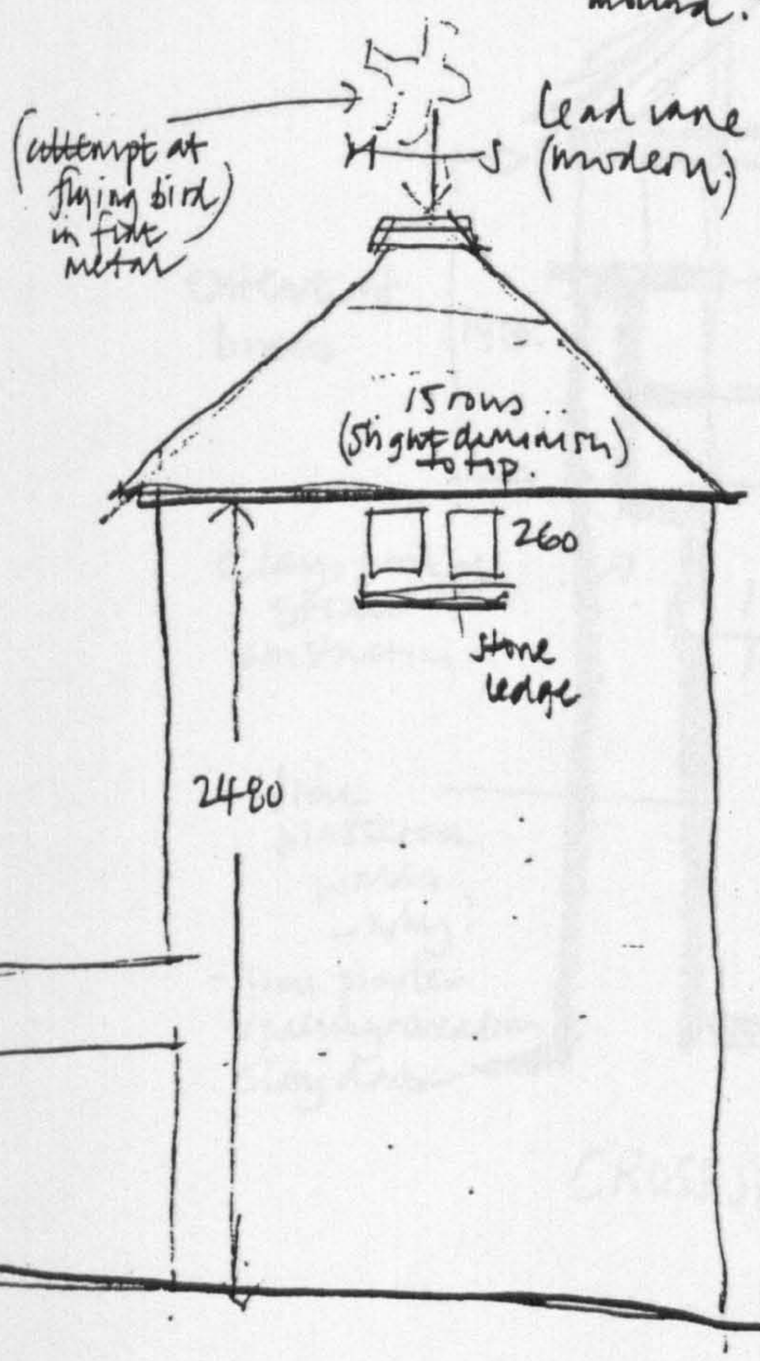
URQUHART MANSE, 1993 (Plate 5.6.6.4)

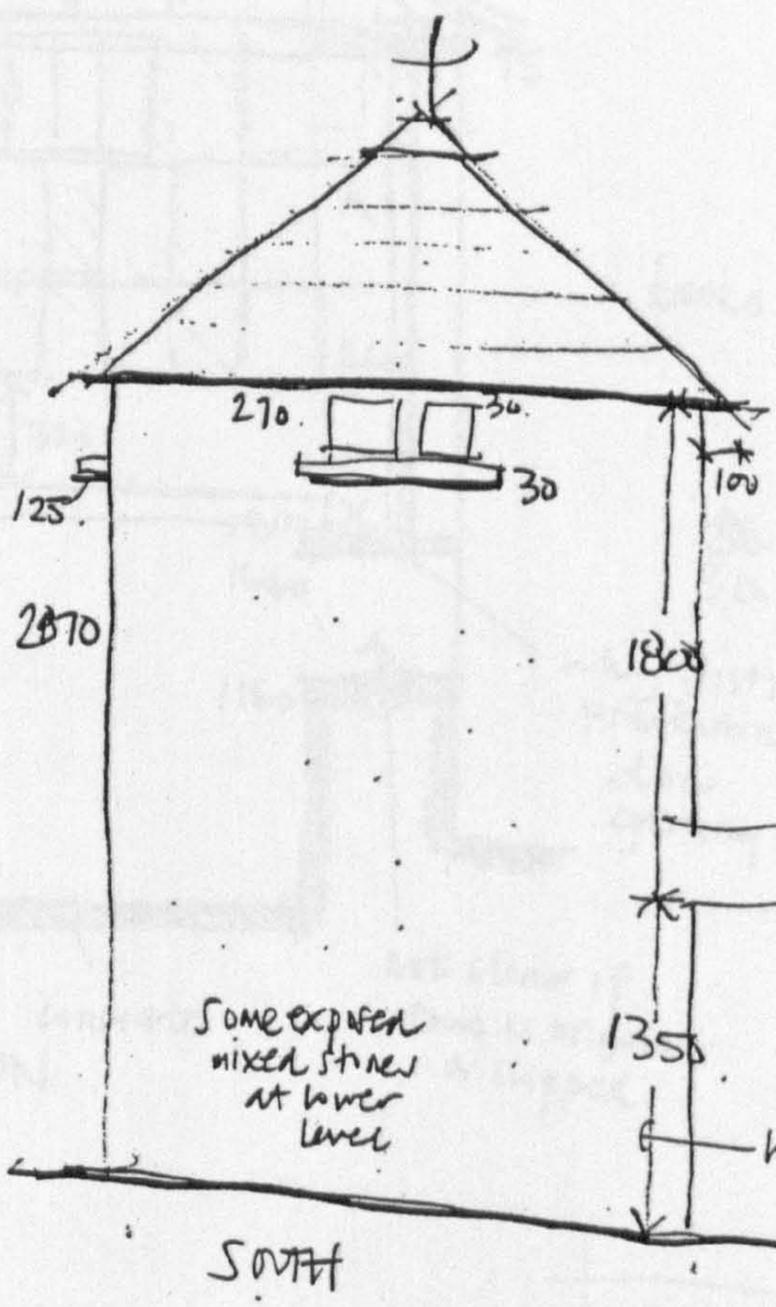
Front elevation of classical, early nineteenth century manse, probably designed by architect, William Robertson. The driveway in the foreground leads towards the walled garden and doocot.

1020
1830
2380
2920
was wall ever rendered?
2 No. timber nooks for door frames
420
1250
1910.
later Lab door
1130
A
A
later concrete
1530
original or later opening?
1910
2170
render - perhaps limewashed render
- later drydash & cement plastering
South side
was doocot associated with original manse? was it pre-garden wall? or post?
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
sign of ruins? stone footing?
2700
4 rows
smooth finish new clay & straw
joist
overlap of horizontals - (to give strength?)
1560
928
boxes → horizontals constructed in stone & timber.
- verticals in clay & boul.
joists removed
was joist bridged?
4 rows
joist
Lab door.
3 & 4 boards (original?) arnt
check - why?
FIRST PLAN
1220
1850
2000
URQUHART MANSE DOOCOT SURVEY.
NB. 17/1/93
540







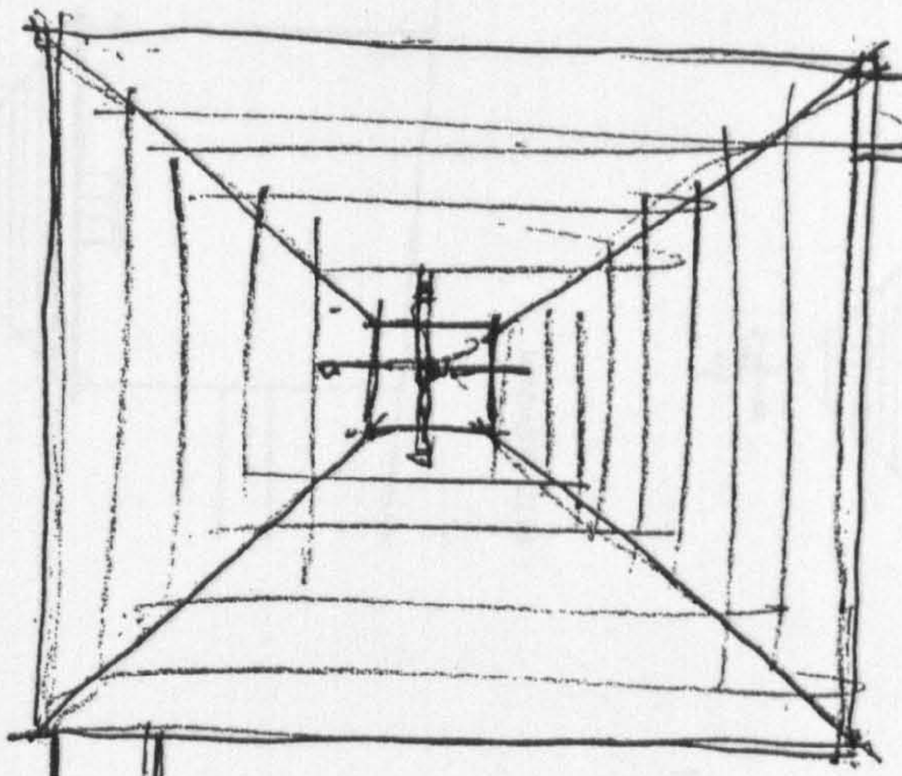


m clear sign of access to 1st floor. ie: ladder, timber steps etc

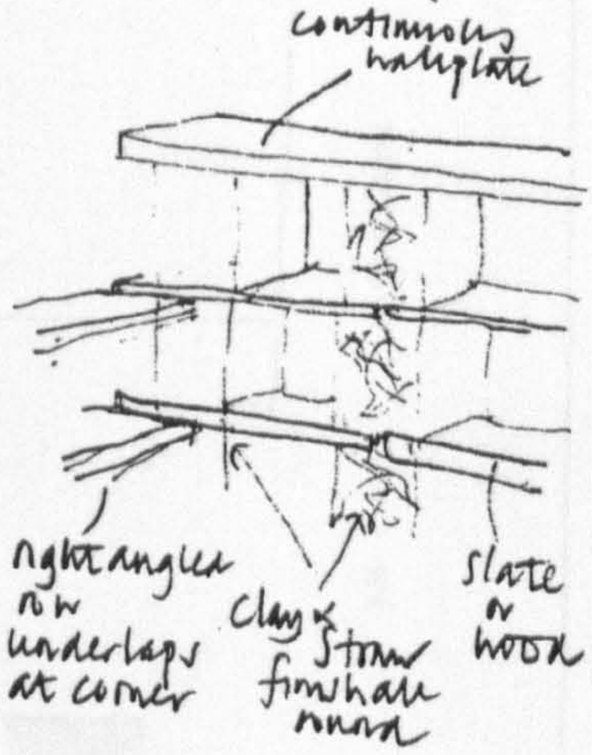
2 of 3

ELEVATIONS

URQUHART MANSE
DOOCOT SURVEY.
NB 19/1/93
541

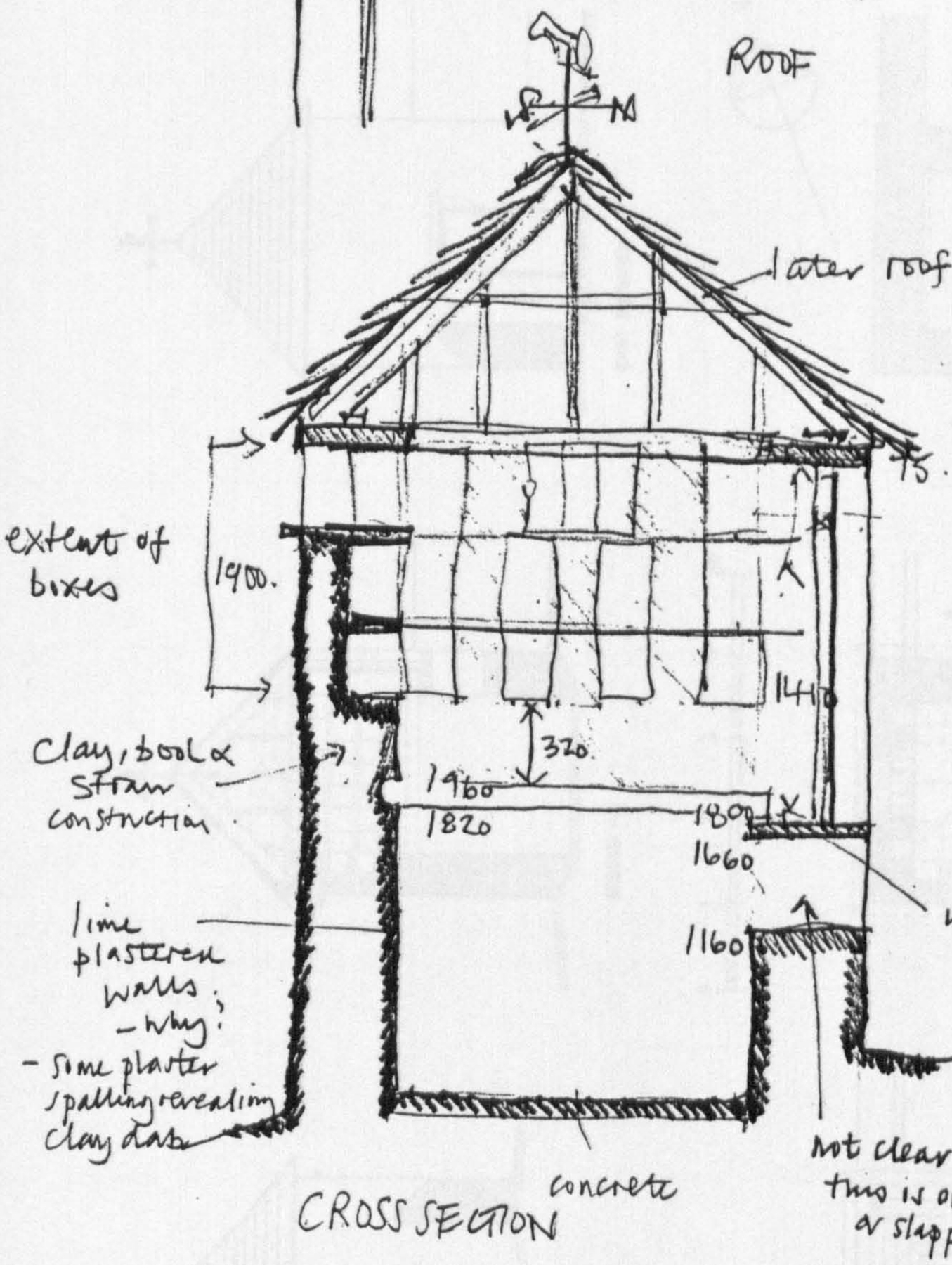


ROOF



5N:
125X50
mm rafters
(coincide with floor joists)

later roof - true to original? (sarked)



CROSS SECTION

boxes - 240 h.
300 w
~~295~~ d.
275

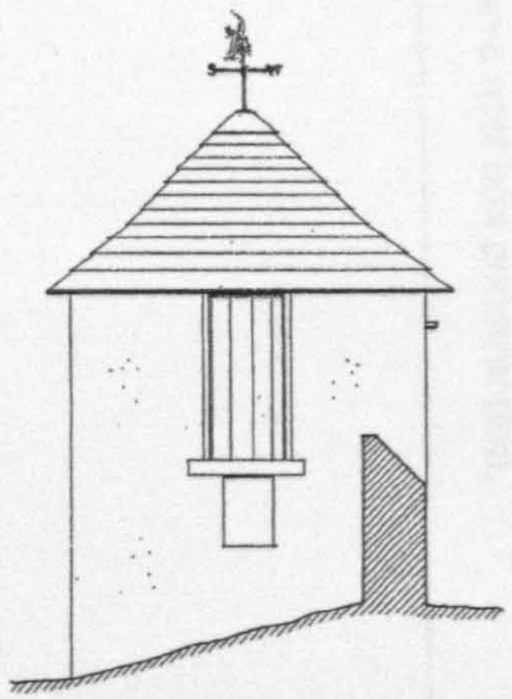
~~38~~ boxes
30.

3 of 3

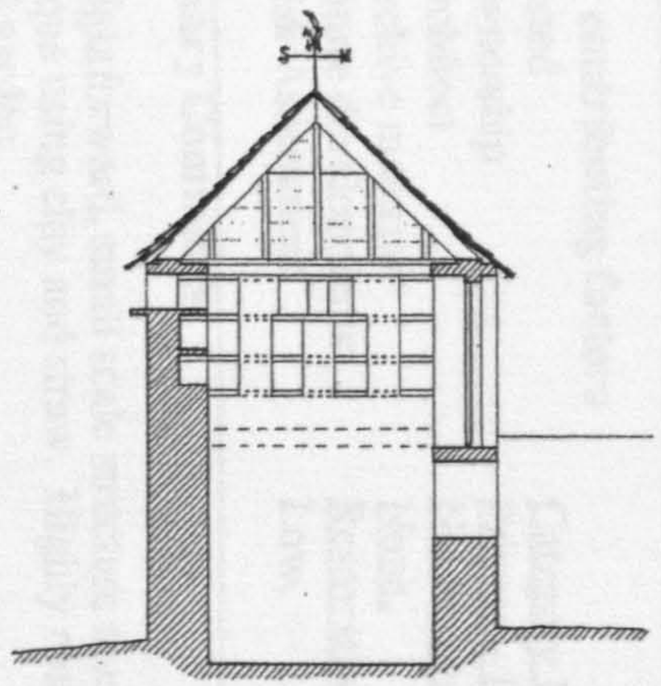
URQUHART MANSE
DOOCOT SURVEY.
NB 19/1/93

542

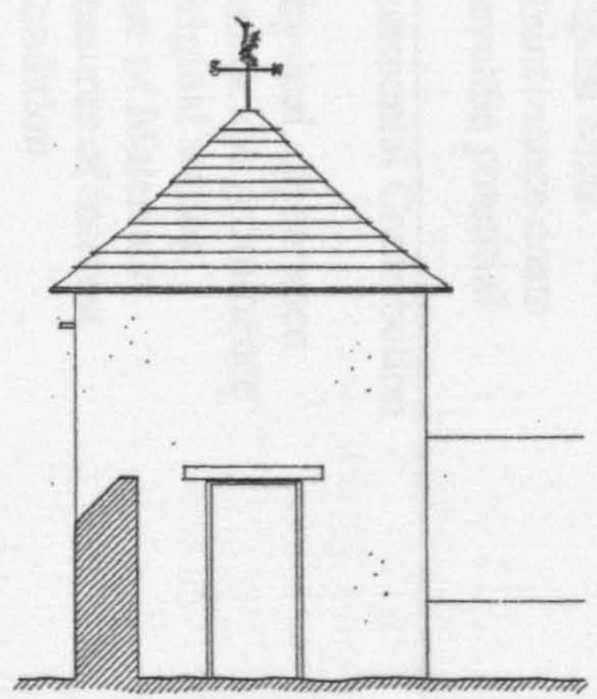
Urquhart Manse Doocot



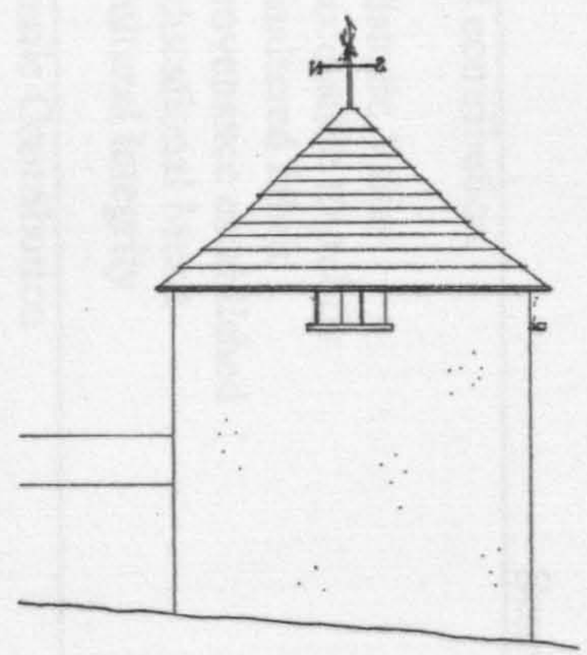
NORTH ELEVATION



SECTION AA

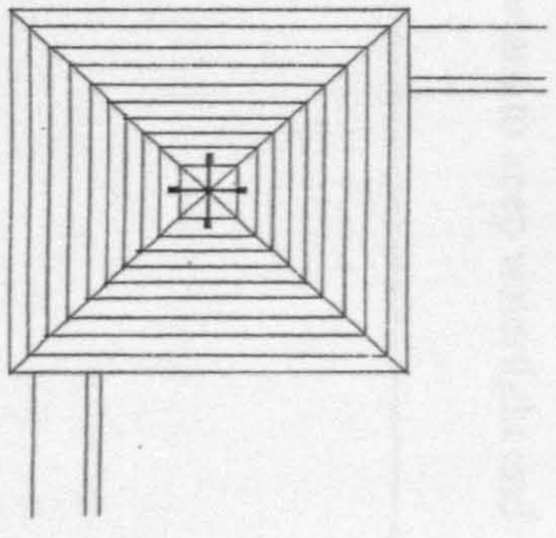


EAST ELEVATION

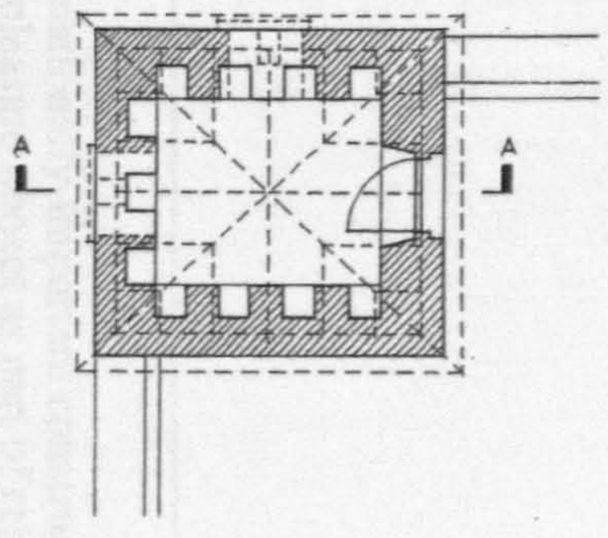


WEST ELEVATION

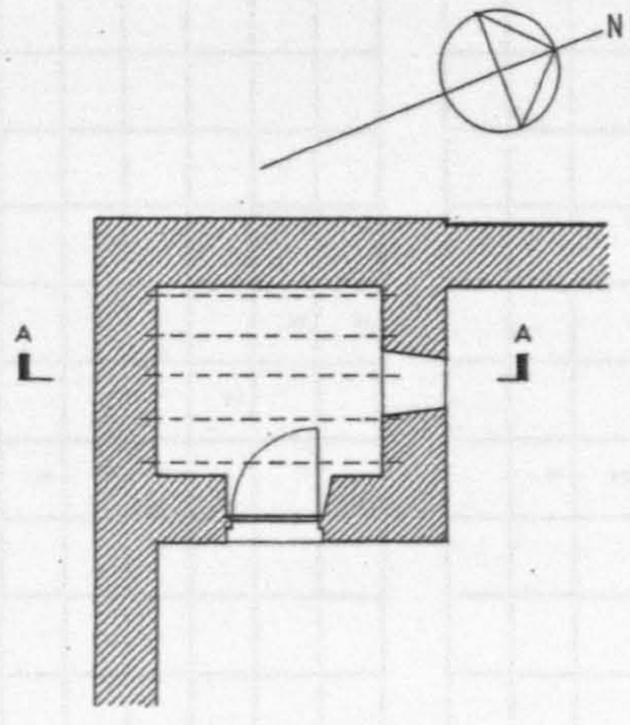
0 1 2 3 4 5m



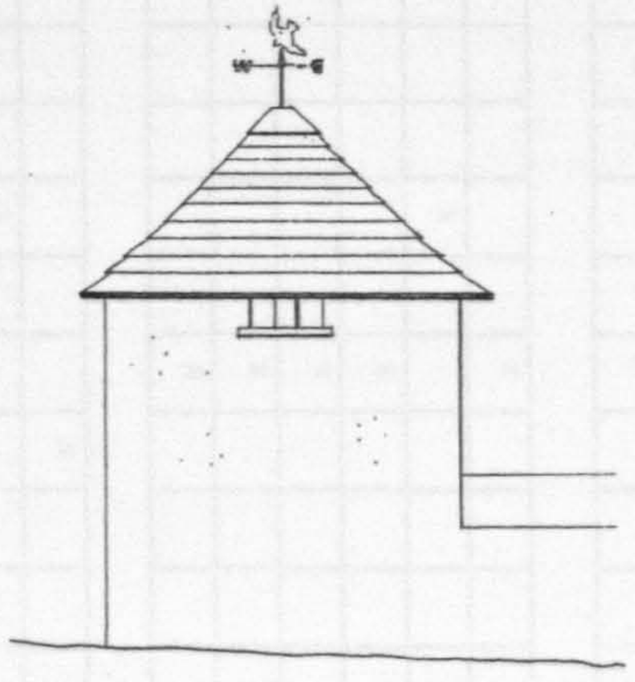
ROOF PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50



SOUTH ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: URQUHART MANSE DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 283 626

	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value								x				2
• Accessible to public						x						2
• Unaltered fabric								x				4
• Provenance established								x				6
• Educational Merit								x				8
• Cultural Integrity								x				10
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable									x			13
• Tourist Value						x						13
• Partnership funding							x					14
• Capital costs									x			17
• Maintenance costs									x			20
• Revenue potential						x						20
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance							x					21
• Landscape prominence							x					22
• Original setting								x				24
• Use of Materials									x			27
• Features of interest								x				29
• Condition									x			32
• Interior								x				34
											TOTAL	34

Other contributing factors

- Listed — Category B.
- Ownership — Private – Mrs Sugden.
- Architect — Not known.
- Archive material — None.
- Future developments — Restoration of walled garden.
- Risk Assessment — Low.

Summary Comments:

A straightforward, small scale structure made interesting by its nationally-important construction technique using clay and straw. Highly reusable as a store and pleasure doocot as part of restored walled garden.

Final Assessment: Not highly significant as a doocot but important to keep watertight and conserve nest box construction.

5.6.7 MYRESIDE DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: 215 650, Spynie Parish

Altitude 20m

Positive Reference(s)

Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, p.37, *"The Myreside dovecote or what still remains of it is situated in a field on Woodlands farm and to the north of the farm steading".* See fuller description, p.37, under heading 'Woodlands'.

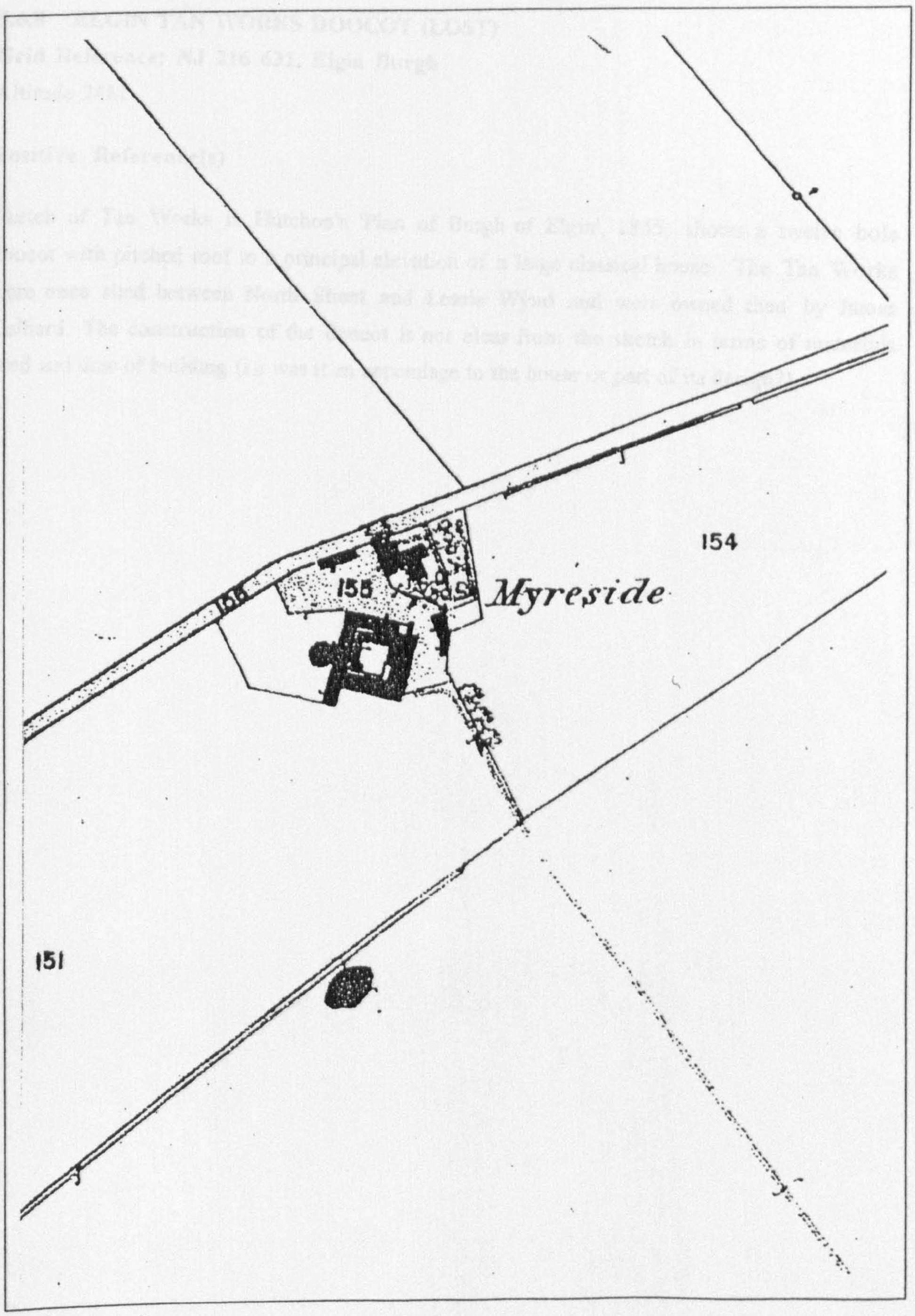
Background Reference(s)

Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, pp.49-53.

Originally Church land then handed over to Earl of Moray 1606. In possession of John Sutherland of Greenhall by 1700 then Earl of Findlater by 1770. Estate was mostly moorland but extensively planted by Findlater. Tenanted by Lawrence Sutherland of Greenhall c.2790 then by Hugh Tod.

p.526. *"Since that time, the farm has been well enclosed with substantial stone dykes, and formed into neat and convenient lots adopted for modern husbandry".*

(Not evident on 1870 O.S.)



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Approximate location of Myreside Farm Doocot (Fig. 5.6.7)

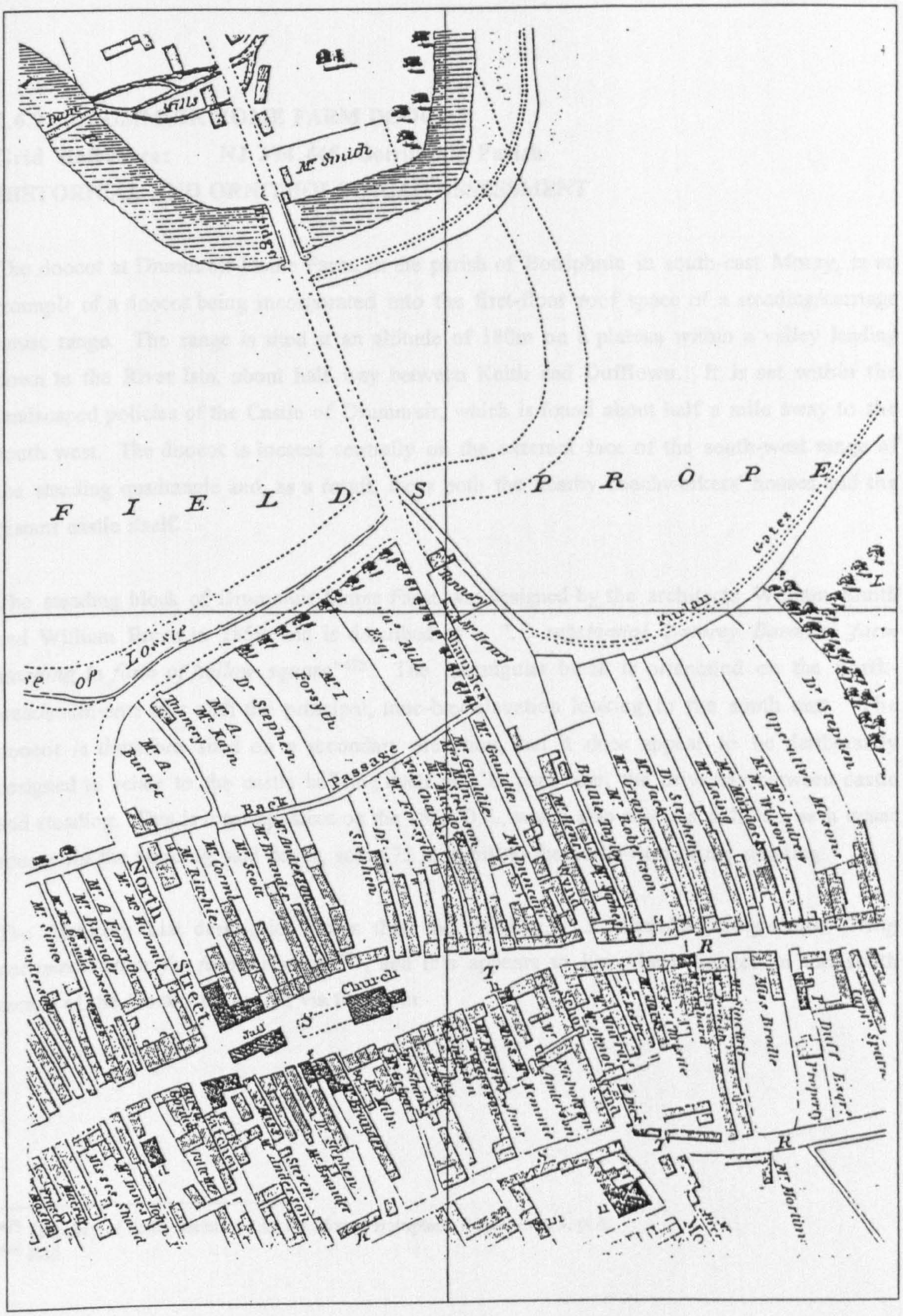
5.6.8 ELGIN TAN WORKS DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Reference: NJ 216 631, Elgin Burgh

Altitude 24M

Positive Reference(s)

Sketch of Tan Works in Hutchon's 'Plan of Burgh of Elgin', 1855, shows a twelve hole doocot with pitched roof to a principal elevation of a large classical house. The Tan Works were once sited between North Street and Lossie Wynd and were owned then by James Culbard. The construction of the doocot is not clear from the sketch in terms of materials used and date of building (i.e was it an appendage to the house or part of its design?).


Mr Smith
FIELDS
PROPE
Mr Gauldie
Mr Forsyth
Mr Brander
Mr Anderson
Mr Scott
Mr Ritchie
Mr Cormack
Mr Forsyth
Mr Brander
Mr Wilson
Mr Sime
Mr A. Burnet
Mr A. Mc Kain
Tunnery
Mr A. Forsyth
Mr Brander
Mr Wilson
Mr Sime
Mr Gauldie
Mr Duncan
Mr Henry
Mr Taylor
Mr Graut
Mr Robertson
Mr Jack
Mr Laing
Mr Mc Andrew
Mr Mc Pherson
Mr Mc Andrew
Mr Mc Pherson
Dr Stephen
Dr Stephen
Dr Stephen
Dr Stephen
Mr Mc Kenzie
Mr Anderson
Miss Brodie
Miss Brodie
Mr Forsyth
Mr Forsyth
Mr Stephen
Mr Stephen
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Mr Stephen
Mr Forsyth
Mr Forsyth
Mr Forsyth

5.6.9 DRUMMUIR HOME FARM DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 374 445, Botriphnie Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The doocot at Drummuir Home Farm, in the parish of Botriphnie in south-east Moray, is an example of a doocot being incorporated into the first-floor roof space of a steading/carriage house range. The range is sited at an altitude of 180m on a plateau within a valley leading down to the River Isla, about half way between Keith and Dufftown. It is set within the landscaped policies of the Castle of Drummuir, which is found about half a mile away to the south west. The doocot is located centrally on the external face of the south-west range of the steading quadrangle and, as a result, faces both the nearby coachworkers' houses and the distant castle itself.

The steading block of Drummuir Mains Farm was designed by the architects William Smith and William Bruce in 1859 and is described as a, "... *substantial 2-storey Baronial farm steading in form of hollow square*"[473]. The rectangular block is orientated on the north-west/south-east axis with the principal, nine-bay elevation looking to the south east. The doocot is therefore sited on a secondary elevation, but it does appear to be deliberately designed to relate to the castle building itself and, in particular, the driveway between castle and steading. This is most apparent on the 1869 O.S., which also shows a mill dam as a water source for the steading, and doves, some 75 m uphill to the north-west of the steading.

The Statutory List description notes that the steading, "... *formally incorporated living accommodation for farm servants*"[474], and this appears to have been located in the south corner of the block with access via the drum

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[473] Secretary of State, Statutory List for Moray, Botriphnie Parish, Item 3, p. 4.
[474] Ibid.

tower[475]. A later slapping, through a first floor partition, suggests that access to the doocot was not achieved by its present means and was more likely gained by more direct access from the room immediately below the doocot door. A later staircase is sited in an appropriate area but the room has been significantly altered, thus making interpretation difficult.[476] The steps leading up to the doorway of the doocot indicate how the doocot floor has been raised in height in relation to the main range first floor, apparently in order to provide higher clearance through the pend area. This does, nevertheless, reduce the capacity of the loft space, although clear headroom is still achieved.

The presence of perching racks and complete lack of nest boxes, meanwhile, indicates that the birds were not being kept in order to breed (unless removable nests were employed, as occurs at times in modern practice) and a late nineteenth century author recommended providing perches for adults in a loft, "*...half foot from side walls ..... one foot apart at least*"[477]. Another late nineteenth century author described a pigeon loft as a room, or chamber, which can be closed and opened at an owner's will, but this particular doocot does not have this facility – birds would have been able to come and go as they pleased[478]. It can safely be assumed, that the birds were not kept for the purpose of providing food for the main house, nor were they kept to breed for commercial sale at food markets.

The hatchway in the floor would have allowed for regularly cleaning the loft space out and no doubt the guano would have been utilised for fertiliser after having been dropped into a waiting cart below. The whitewashing of the interior of the loft space indicates that a high level of hygiene was desired[479] and the lock on the doocot door indicates that only entrusted individuals could access the loft space. Without mates, and nests with young, to attract the doves back into the loft space, some other attraction such as regular feeding would have been

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475 Prideaux, 'Pigeons', in Jardine, Naturalist's Library, 1835, p. 154.
"*Fancy breeds were kept attached to or near the house of the breeder, in order that they may be regularly and easily fed, cleansed and duly attended to*".

476 The staircase, however, may be found in its original location.

477 Lumley, Pigeons: their Origin and Variation, 1891, p. 17.
J. Elsdon, Fancy Pigeons, (Lincoln: National Pigeon Association, 1983), p. 3, states, "*Nest boxes should be placed in the breeding compartment of the loft. These may be fixed but are better if removable*".

478 Dixon, Dovecote and the Aviary, 1851, p. 36.

479 Lumley, Fulton's Book of Pigeons, 1895, p. 19, "*Avoid constructing lofts ... so roughly as to give insects harbour in the walls. This is easily prevented by smooting all inside work off, painting the nest boxes and pans, and occasionally white-lining the interior of the loft itself*".

necessary and a galvanised metal feeder can still be found within the first floor of the south west range[480].

The evidence points to the fact that the doves at Drummuir were kept mainly for pleasure purposes in order to aggrandise the steading and, perhaps, breeds such as white rollers and tumblers were used to adorn the setting. The doocot at Drummuir Home Farm is, therefore, an example of an architect and an owner designing in a feature to enhance an individual property and its landscape policy.

Sadly, the whole steading range is now redundant and has been deteriorating for some time, but the building is not currently under threat of collapse and was listed in 1988 as a category C(s) structure. The current owner recognises that the long term viability of the range will be achieved by reuse, although this could result in the interior of the doocot being stripped out for conversion. Although the exterior of the building may survive, it is the interior of the doocot which is the most interesting feature, since it is a rare example of the transient period for doocots on large estates during the nineteenth century. Should the loft fabric be lost, then the decision to record the structure will have been fully vindicated.

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[480] Elsdon, op. cit, p. 4 includes an illustration of a 'grit hopper', similar to the accessory found on site.
Whitney, Keep your pigeons flying, 1968, p. 85.
"*Pigeons use stones in their gizzards to grind the food which the fluids in the crop have softened*". Two to four ounces of grit are required each month. Food accessories are provided for ease and hygiene.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Drummuir Home Farm doocot is regular in plan size, 5.6 x 3.4 m, and has a wallhead height of 4.5m, rising to an overall height of 7m. Its walls are 550 mm thick, constructed using random rubble (of mainly sandstone, but some whin) and is finished with coats of finely-textured lime harling and tooled, ashlar sandstone margins. The roof of the doocot is dual pitched, at 45°, and since it is designed at right angles to the main roof of the south west range, its gable faces outward from the range side elevation. The doocot roof is constructed using 160 x 65 mm rafters at 450 mm centres, with similarly sized high level ties and wall-to-floor struts at the rafter ends. The roof appears to be of original construction and is finished using Ballachulish slates which are nailed to sarking boards, with lead flashings at the valleys and stone ridging at the apex. Bird access is permitted from the south west, via six flight holes which are set within a vertical rectangular opening. One horizontal set of three, 250 mm x 250 mm flight (or vent), holes is constructed in stone at the bottom of the opening and possess a 90 mm dressed sandstone ledge which projects 120 mm from the wall face[481]. An identical ledge is sited above these holes, whereupon another horizontal set of three, 150 (h) x 120 mm (w) arch-topped, flight holes is constructed within the timber framing of a two pane fixed window of size 900 (w) x 850 mm (h). This window and flight hole opening is centrally located immediately above an arched pend, which gives access through the south west range into the quadrangle courtyard. Like the window opening, the archway has 100 mm dressed sandstone ledges. The now bossed and flaking harling meets sandstone skews which rise off moulded skewputts and terminate at a stone finial (part of which is now missing).

The doocot is accessed, first by climbing the stairway in the turret located in the south east corner of the quadrangle range, and thereafter, passing through three rooms on the first floor of the south west range before reaching the doocot door itself in the north east corner. Two steps give rise from the first floor of the range into the doocot, via a lockable, vertically-boarded and braced, 1000 (h) x 560 mm (w) timber door with a painted finish. The door opens inwards to a whitewashed roof space which contains no nest boxes[482]. There are, however, two sets of painted wooden perching, or roosting racks, located along both longtituadonal walls, which are constructed using various timber sections and angled at around 20° back to a dwarf wall at a height of about 750 mm. The racks begin at a height of 550 mm above the floor level, whilst a clear space of 1500 mm between the racks runs down the centre of the loft space. The floor is constructed of 30 mm tongued and grooved flooring, of varying thicknesses, and a 400 (w) x 520 mm (l) hinged door is found in the floor of the loft at the north west corner. The roof space, above tie level, is not limewashed and is fenced off using chicken mesh wire.[483]

Written April 1996

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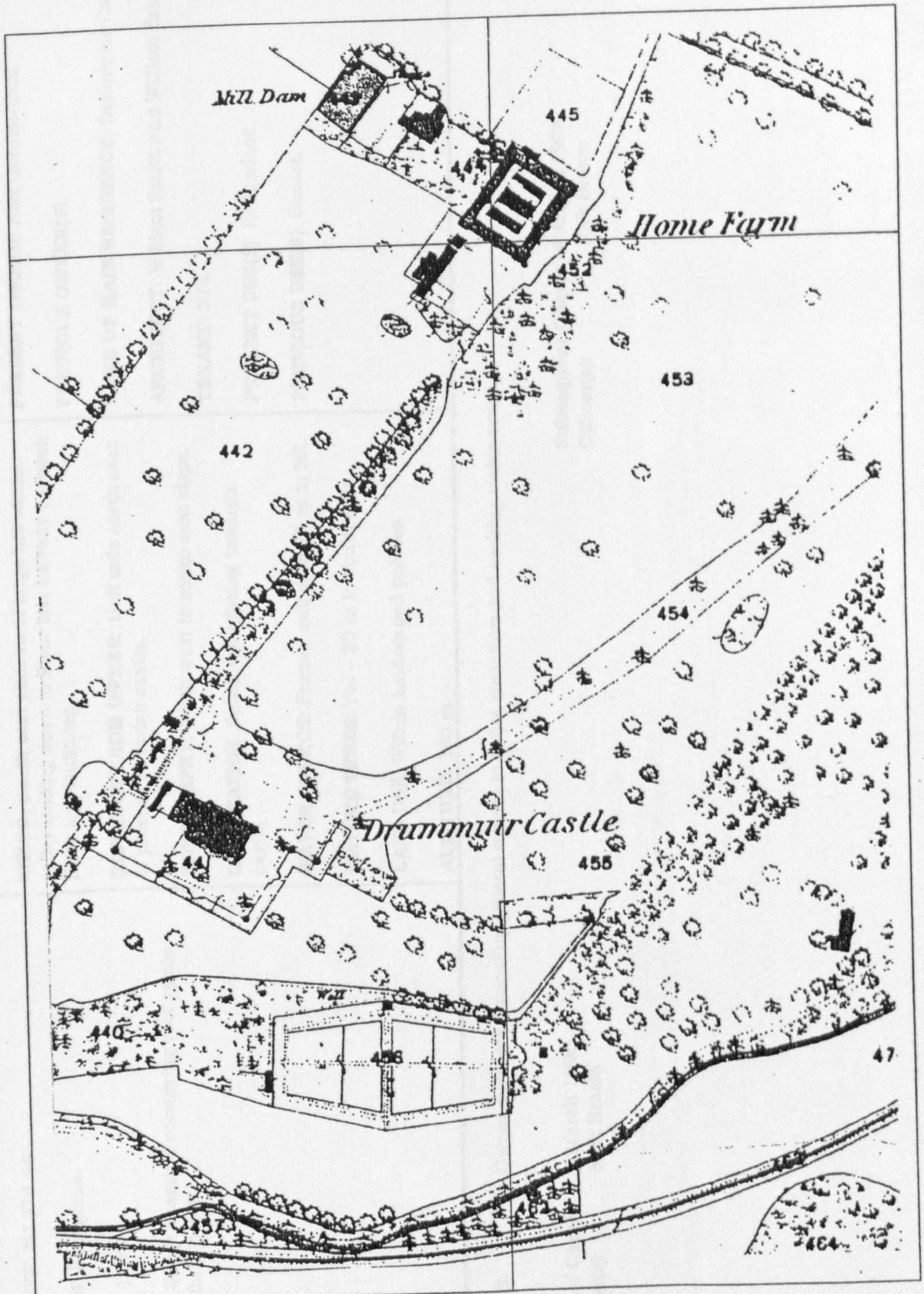
[481] The lower set of holes are, surprisingly, quite sizeable for doves and would not have prevented other larger birds, such as owls, from entering the doocot (unless meshed over).

[482] Anon, 'The Dovecote, or Art of Breeding Pigeons, a Poem', 1740, p. 7.
"*Then, hide the inner walls with limy White,*
The Dove will in that Colour take Delight;
Whether that Colour suits a candid Mind,
Or in the Cleanliness they Pleasure find."

[483] Eldson, op. cit., p. 2, (Lincoln: National Pigeon Association, 1983), "*The head room inside the loft should not be more than two metres (7') high and if the existing ceiling is higher than this, a false roof of netting should be fitted at that height. Similarly too big an area makes it difficult to catch the birds and to keep them tame*".
Barker, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p. 10. Recommends that birds should not be permitted access to roofspaces (due to exposure to draughts; air quality; and easy handling) and such spaces should cut off by netting or lathing.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Drummuir Home Farm Doocot (Fig. 5.6.9)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 374 445. **PARISH**: Botriphnie. **DATE**: 1859. **TYPE**: Single chamber occupying roof space above farm pend.	**SITING**: South east plateau of large hill within valley leading down to River Isla halfway between Keith and Dufftown. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: Half mile north east of present Victorian castle. **TOPOGRAPHY**: North west to south east slope. **ORIENTATION**: South west facing towards castle. **WATER SOURCE**: Former mill dam 75 m to NE. **MATURE TREES**: Yes – 30 m to south east. **LAND USE**: Within landscaped policies. **ALTITUDE**: 180 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Alex Gordon-Duff. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S)**: - **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE**: Drummuir Castle. **ARCHITECT**: William Smith and William Bruce. **TENANT**: N/a. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Redundant. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Doocot.

NOTES: Owner currently executing general repairs to entire structure and seeking viable reuse.

Date of Check: 5 March 1996
Officer(s): Nick Brown

Subsequent Check: 4 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Reasonably good. **REPAIRS**: None evident. **ALTERATIONS:** Only to rooms neighbouring pigeon house. **FUTURE RISK:** Continued neglect or removal of features due to future conversion.	**PLAN FORM**: Rectangular. **PLAN SIZE**: 5.6 x 3.4 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT**: 4.5 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT**: 7 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION**: Random rubble with tooled ashlar sandstone margins. **WALL MATERIAL**: Mainly sandstone but some whin. **WALL THICKNESS**: 550 mm. **WALL FINISH**: Two or three coats of finely textured lime harling. **ROOF FORM**: Dual-pitched. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION**: 160 x 65 mm SW rafters at 450 centres with similar sized high level ties and wall to floor posts at rafter feet. **ROOF PITCH**: 45 . **ROOF FINISH**: Blue/grey 10 mm thick slates, (probably Ballachulish) of uniform grade with lead flashings and stone ridging.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION**: Lockable, vertically boarded, braced timber door with painted finish. **OUTER DOOR TYPE**: N/a. **DOOR SIZE**: 1,000 (h) x 560 mm (w). **DOOR SITING**: North east corner (leading from adjoining first floor room). **LEDGES**: Two – both at southern access point in 90 mm dressed sandstone projecting 120 mm. **LEDGES HEIGHT**: 4.2 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH**: 2.4 m. **APERTURES**: One – 1,450 (h) x 1,000 mm (w) in centre of southern gable. **VENT HOLES**: See below. **FLIGHT HOLES**: One horizontal set of 150 (h) x 120 mm (w) arched top flight holes constructed in wood above one horizontal set of 250 mm sq. flight or vent holes constructed in stone. **TOTAL VENT AREA**: 0.24 m^2. **LIMEWASH**: None apparent. **DORMERS**: None. **SKEWS**: Plain sandstone (other gables are crowsteps). **FINIALS**: Yes – stone with missing ball. **WEATHER VANE**: No.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES

THRESHOLD STEPS: 680 mm step up into loft via 2 wooden stairs from adjoining room.

PARTITION WALLS: None.

FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION: 30 mm tongue and groove flooring of varying thickness at 200 mm joists with plaster and lath underside to open pend.

NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION: N/a – two sets of painted wooden perching/roosting racks located along both longitudinal walls constructed using various timber sections and angles at around 20 .

NEST BOX NUMBER: N/a.

NEST BOX SIZE: N/a – first perching rack begins 550 mm above floor level.

NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR: N/a.

NEST BOXES BLOCKED: N/a.

ALIGHTING LEDGES: None.

LIMEWASH/PLASTER: Yes – all wall and timber finishes up to high level tie.

COLLECTING AID: N/a.

BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL: Not known.

INTERNAL VOLUME: 37.2 m³.

OTHER: 400 (w) x 520 (l) hinged hatch door in floor of loft at north west corner.

8.0 COMMENT

ENIGMAS:
- principal function.
- why floor hatch off-centred?
- why racks preferred to nest boxes?

9.0 REFERENCES

BOOKS:

ARTICLES: Aberdeen Journal, 23/2/1859. Advertisement for tender.

LISTING: Statutory List for Moray, Botriphnie Parish, Item 3, p. 4, Category C(s), 1988.

SMR:

MAPS: 1869 O.S.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

OTHER: Original plans and drawings by architect William Bruce, 1858 held by Drummuir Estate.

Estate Info:

A. & H. Taylor, Book of Duffus, vol. 2, 1914, p. 365.

F. Groome, Ordnance Gazetter, vol. 1, 1882, p. 181.



DRUMMUIR HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1996 (Plate 5.6.9.1)

View of the south west range from the approach driveway showing the doocot left of picture. It can be seen that the range has undergone some obvious alterations in the past but is now redundant.



DRUMMUIR HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1996 (Plate 5.6.9.2)

Close view of the doocot itself, sited immediately above the round-arched, south west pend, which is seen leading through to the quadrangle courtyard. The doocot roofspace merges with the storey and half wing to the east and provides the break point for the west wing to become single storey. Three flight holes, constructed in stone between the two projecting ledges, signify the dove access point, although a further three flight holes are less obvious with the window frame immediately above.



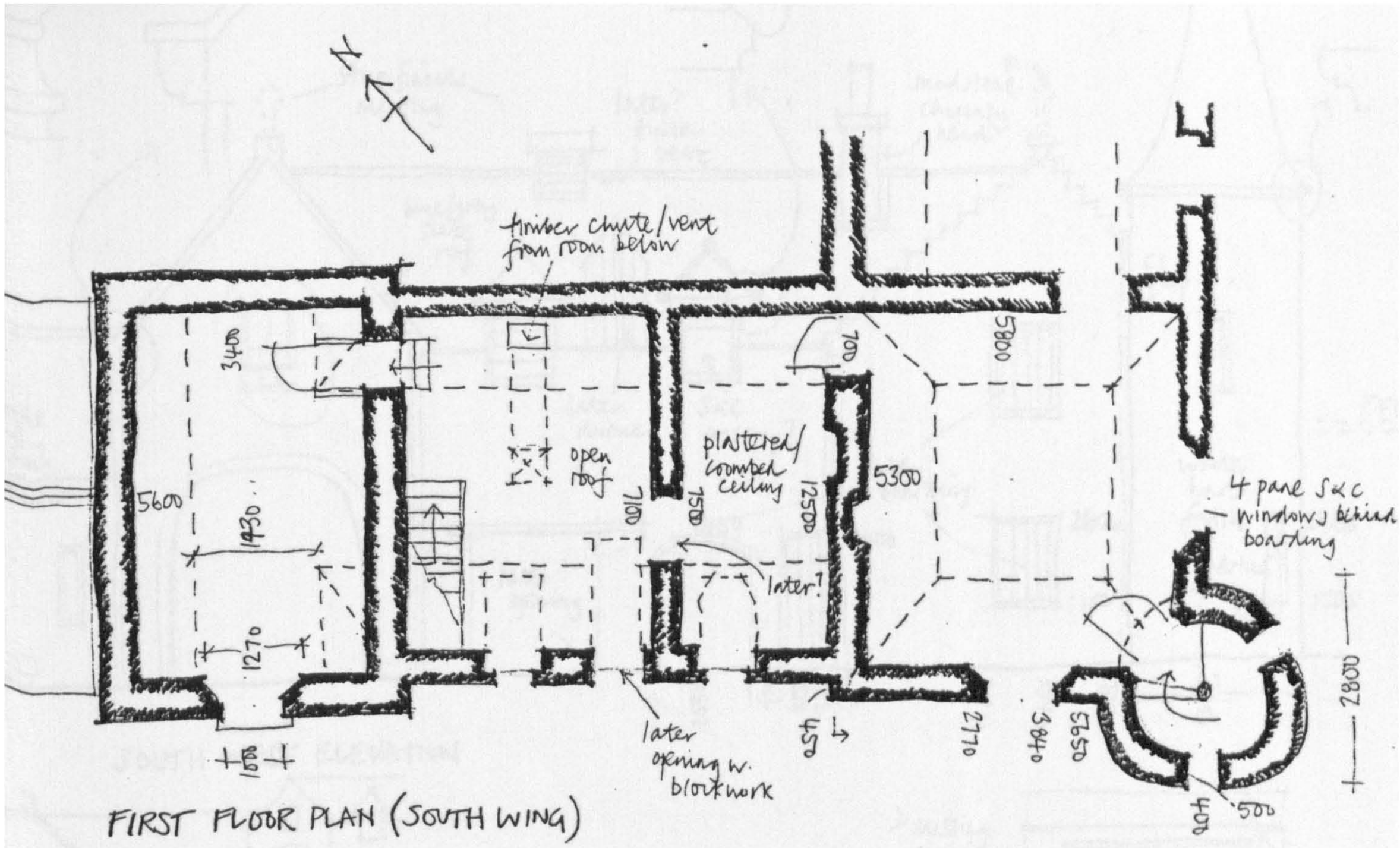
DRUMMUIR HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1996, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.9.3)

The architecturally prosaic, but historically interesting, interior of the doocot showing a whitewashed roofspace with perching spars, as opposed to the more usual array of nestboxes. The room is now in a state of decay but all the original features still remain. For example, the two pane window, with its incorporated row of pointed, arched top flight holes, is still insitu and the door (although removed from its hinges) lies on the floor just out of picture.

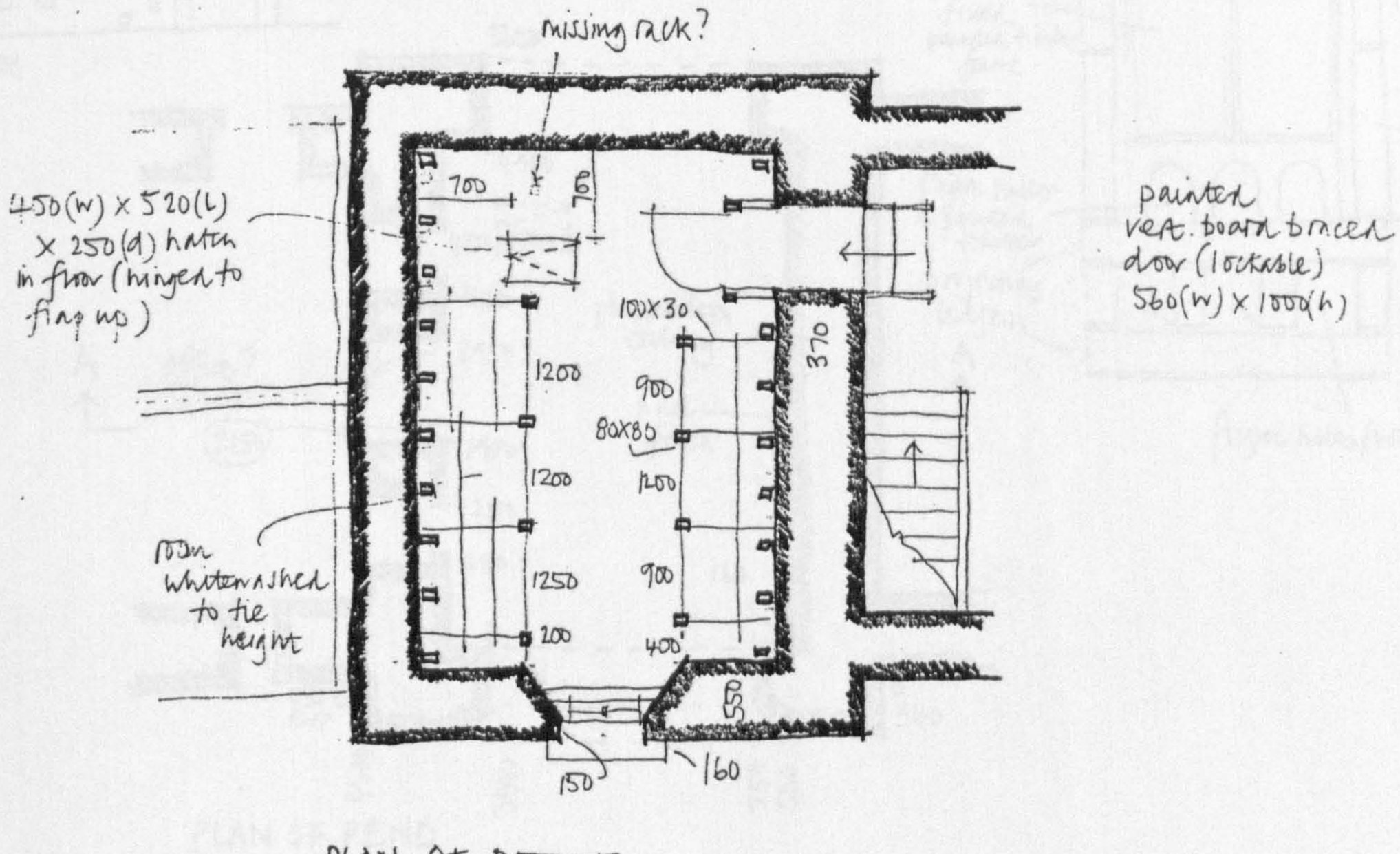


DRUMMUIR HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1996, ACCESSORY (Plate 5.6.9.4)

Photograph of a metal food dispenser found lying in a first floor room of the south west range, near doocot. The dispenser is about 300 (d) x 400 (w) x 500 mm (h) and appears to have been treated with limewater.



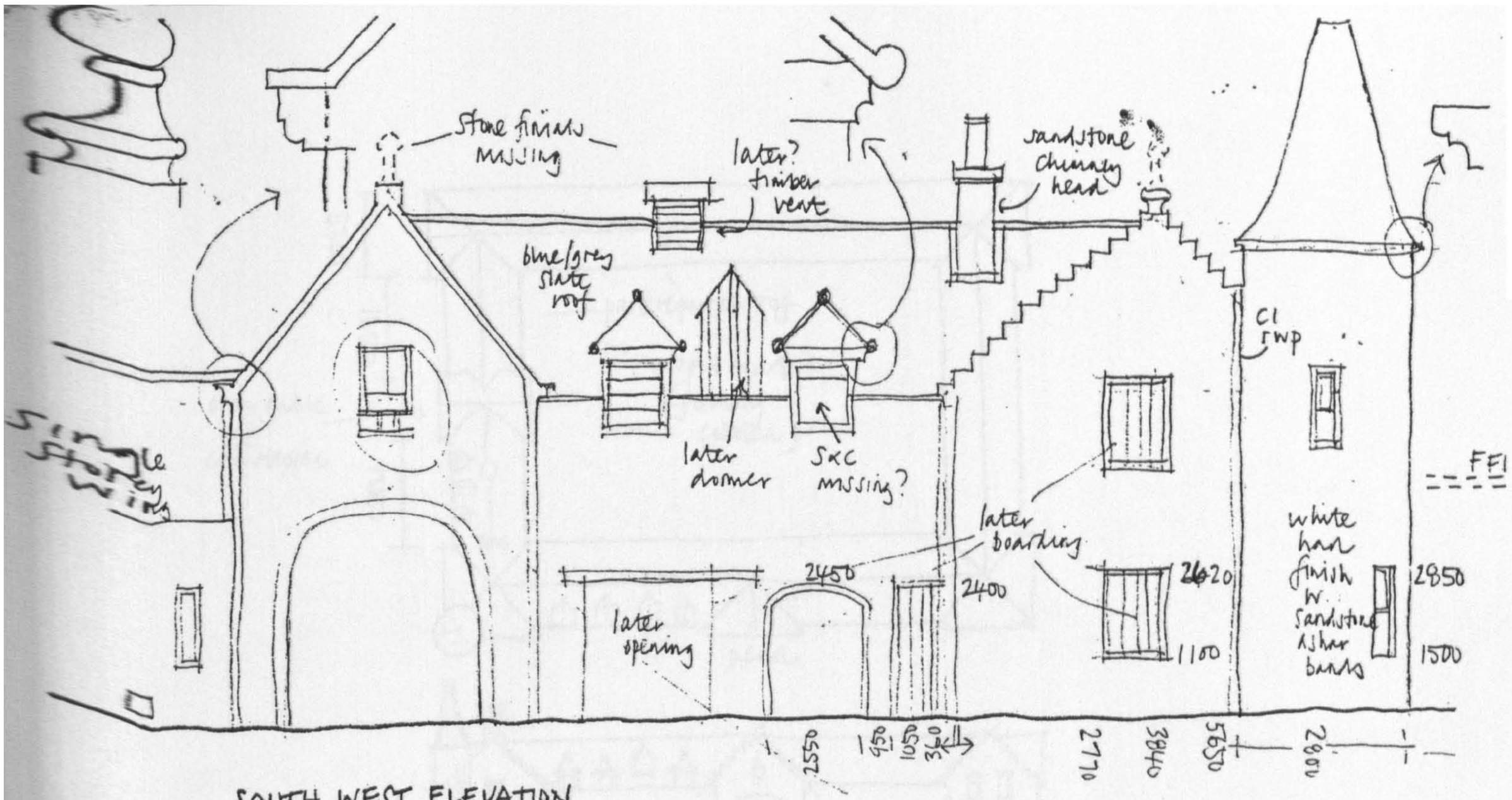
FIRST FLOOR PLAN (SOUTH WING)

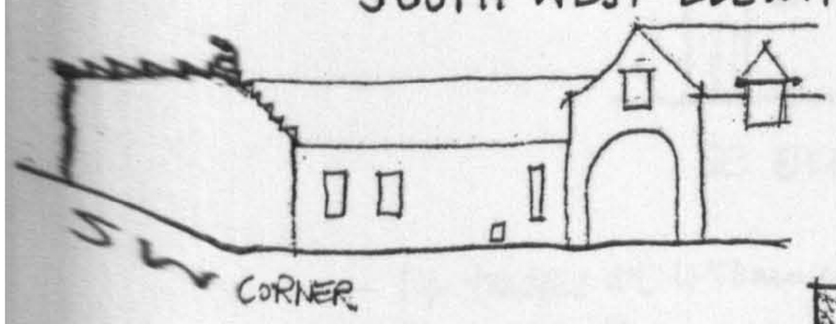


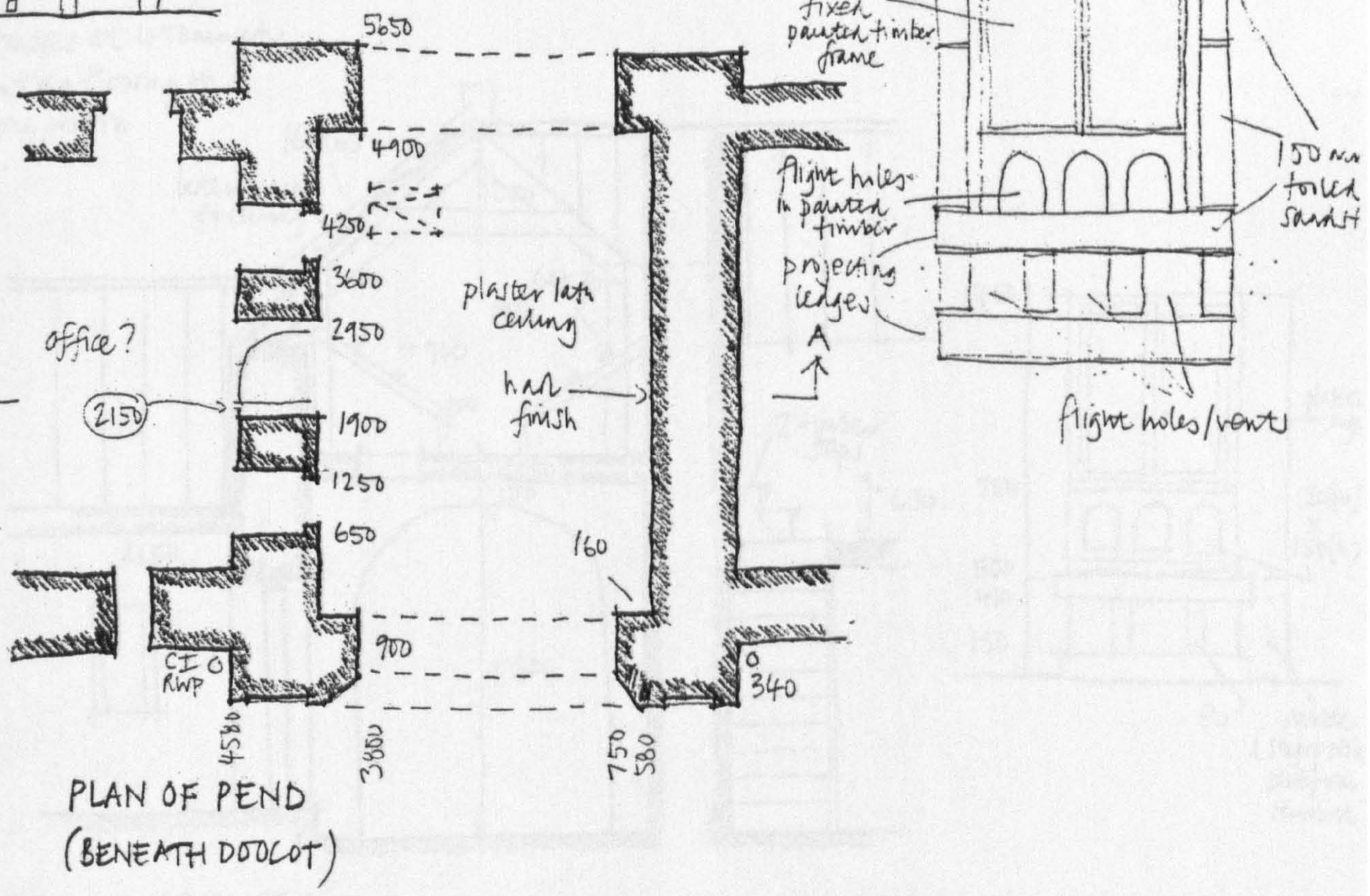
PLAN OF DOOCOT

1 of 3

DRUMMUIR MAINS FARM
MEASURED SURVEY OF DOOCOT
NB 5/3/96
561



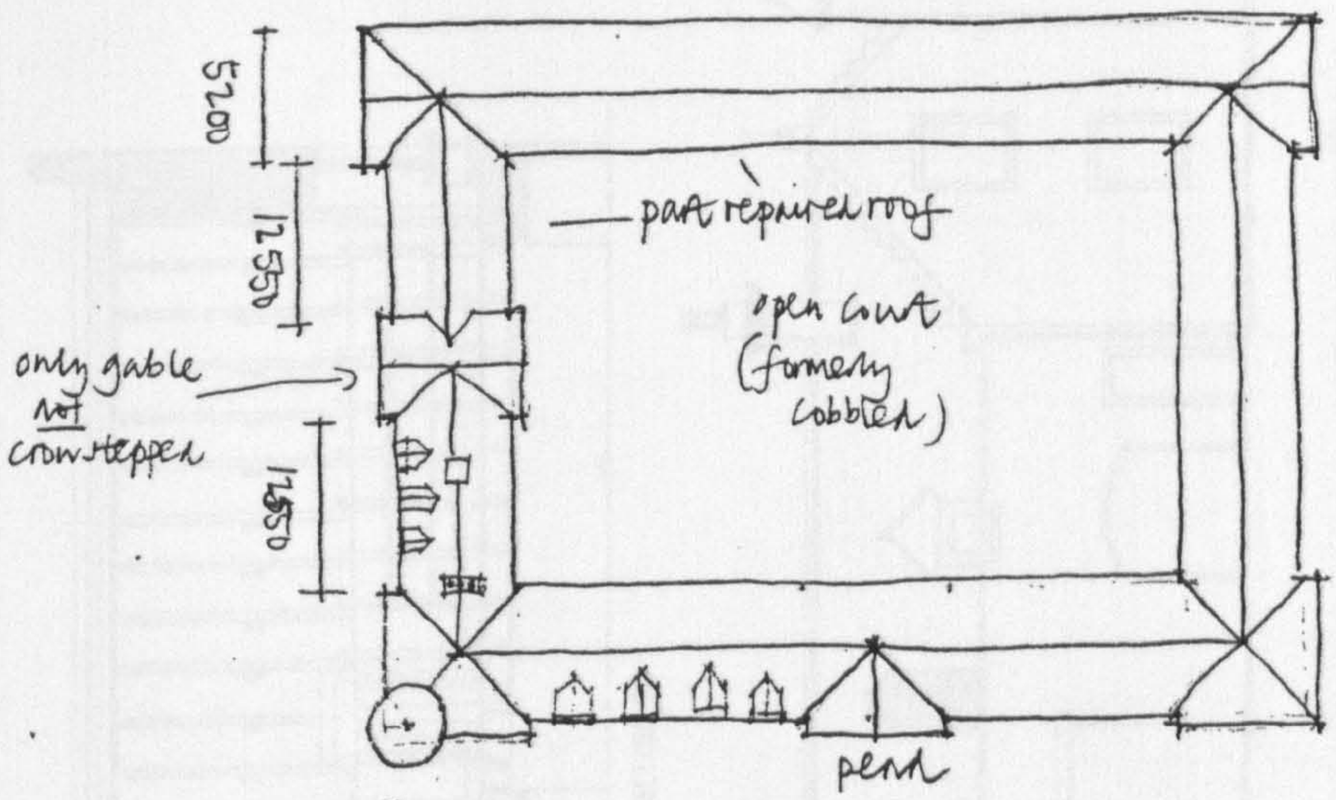


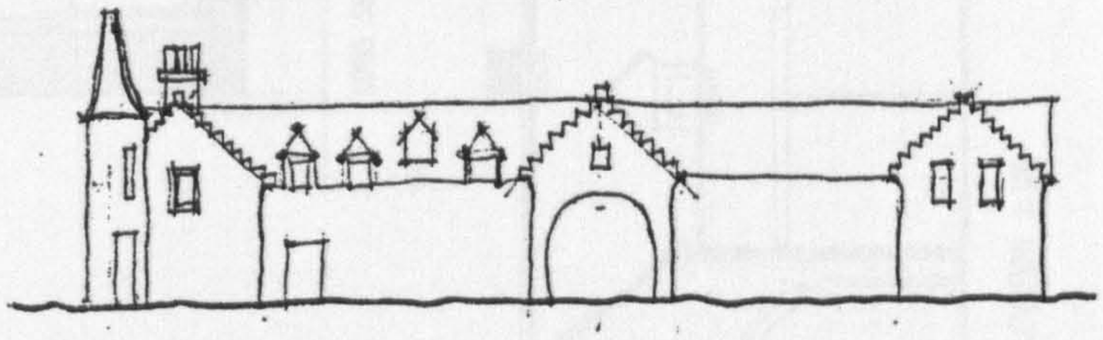


PLAN OF PEND
(BENEATH DOOCOT)

DRUMMUIR MAINS FARM
MEASURED SURVEY OF DOOCOT
NB 5/3/96

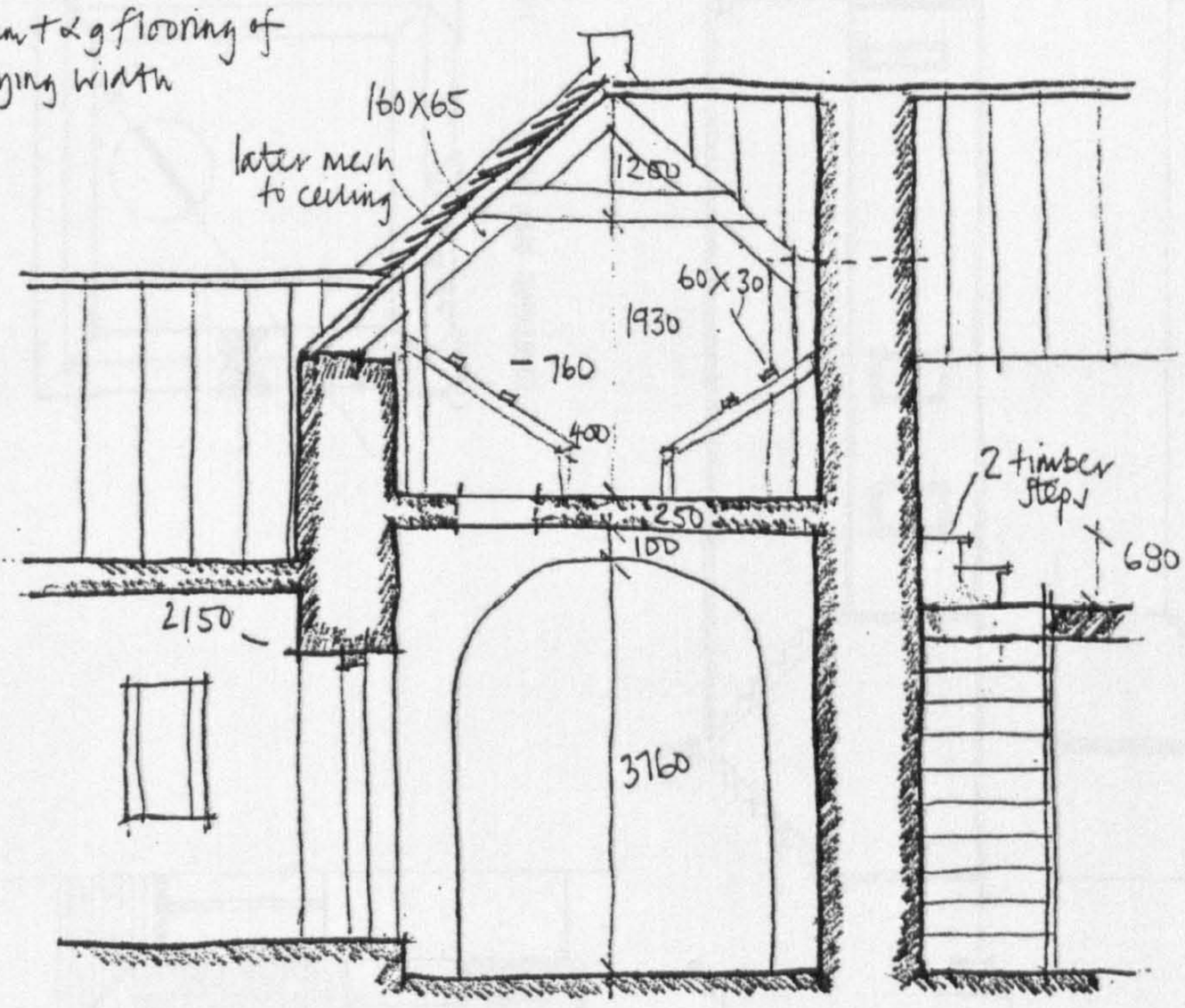
2 of 3

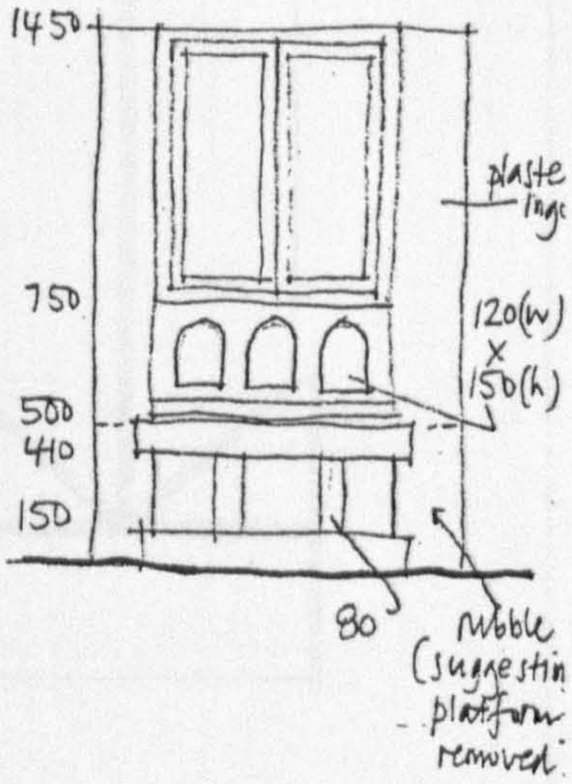




SE ELEVATION

- 14 trusses at 450mm ctrs.
- 30mm t&g flooring of varying width



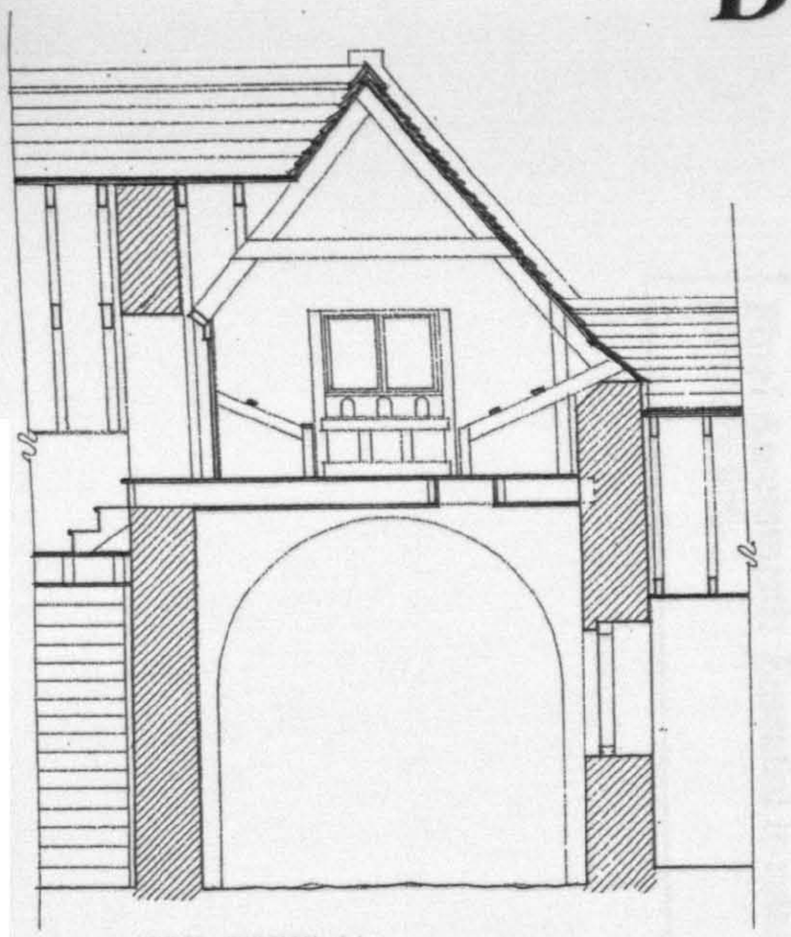


CROSS SECTION AA

3 of 3

DRUMMUIR MAINS FARM
MEASURED SURVEY OF DOOCOT
NB 5/3/96

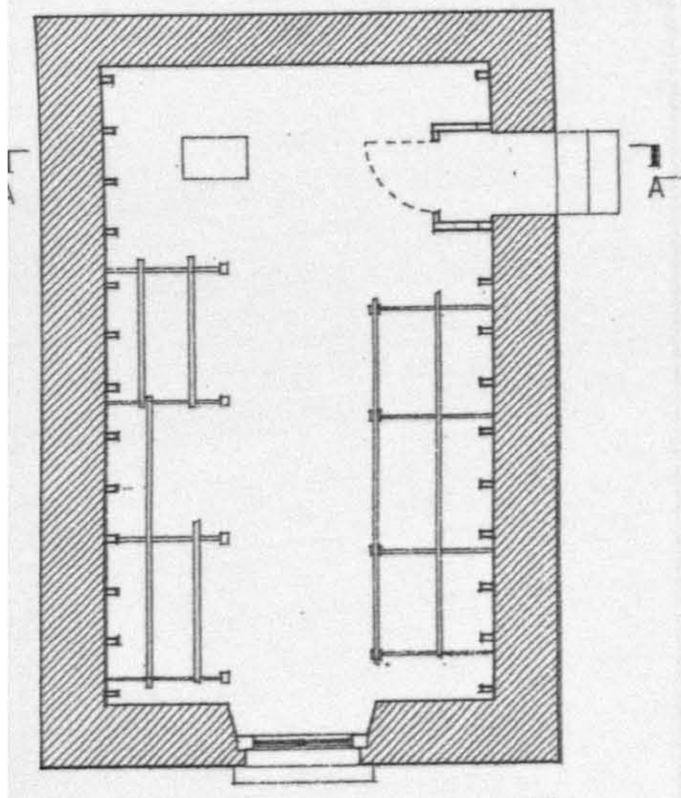
Drummuir Mains Farm Doocot



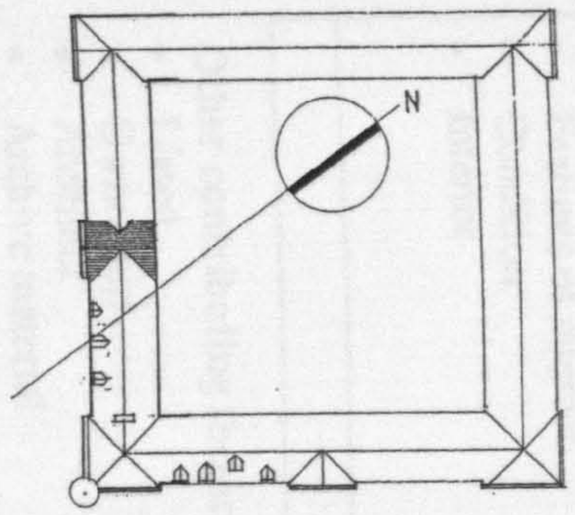
CROSS SECTION AA

0 1 2 3 4 5m

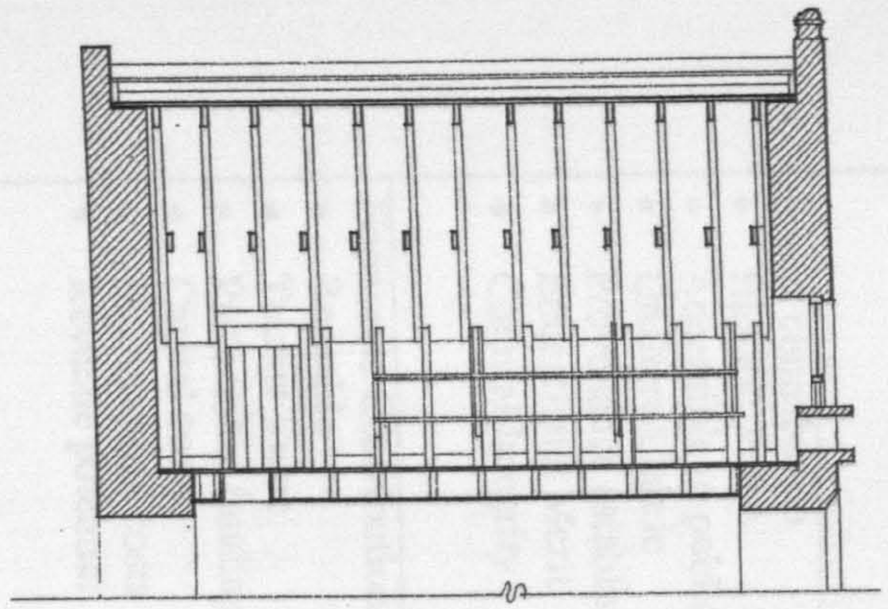
B



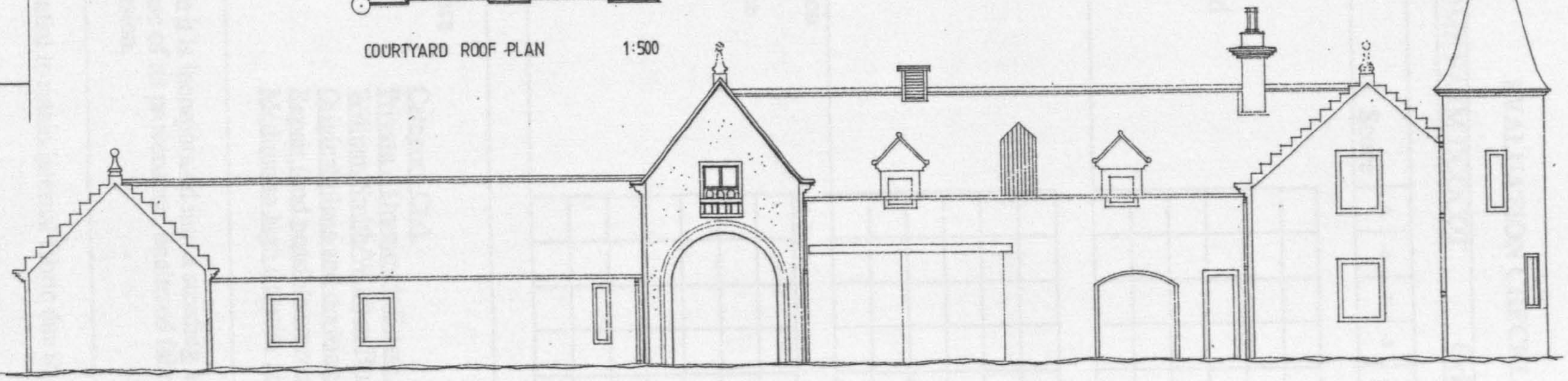
FLOOR PLAN 1:50



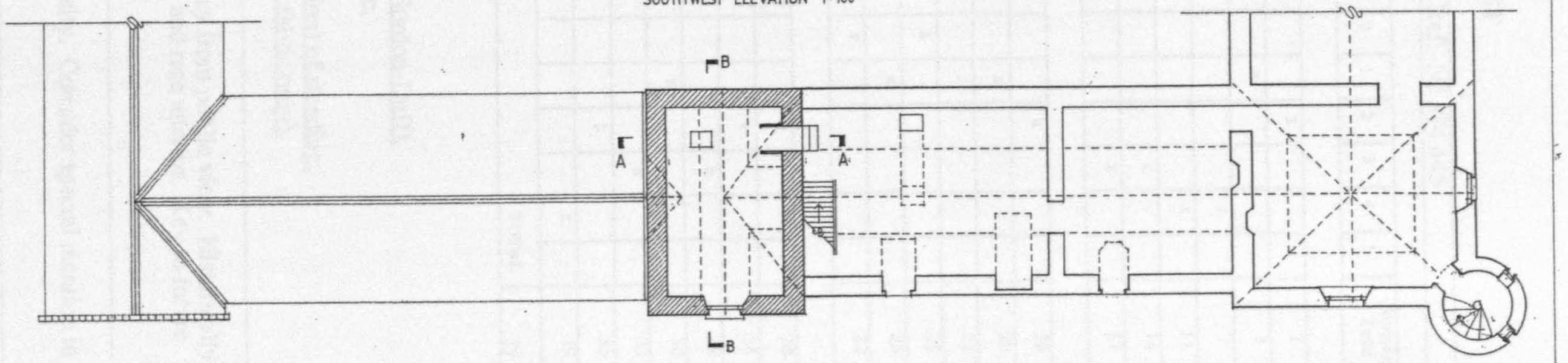
COURTYARD ROOF PLAN 1:500



LONG SECTION BB



SOUTHWEST ELEVATION 1:100



PARTIAL FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:100

564

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: DRUMMUIR HOME FARM DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 374 445

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value								x				2
• Accessible to public							x					3
• Unaltered fabric										x		7
• Provenance established										x		11
• Educational Merit									x			14
• Cultural Integrity									x			17
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable								x				19
• Tourist Value							x					20
• Partnership funding							x					21
• Capital costs						x						21
• Maintenance costs							x					22
• Revenue potential						x						22
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				24
• Landscape prominence								x				26
• Original setting									x			29
• Use of Materials							x					30
• Features of interest									x			33
• Condition								x				35
• Interior										x		39
											TOTAL	39

Other contributing factors

• Listed	Category C(s).
• Ownership	Private – Drummuir Estate (Gordon-Duff).
• Architect	William Smith/William Bruce.
• Archive material	Original plans and drawings.
• Future developments	Repair (and possible conversion) of steading.
• Risk Assessment	Medium to high (interior and fabric only).

Summary Comments:
Little known doocot since it is incorporated into a steading away from public view. Historically important however because of its provenance, unaltered fabric and rare interior. Key to future will be a sensitive conversion.

Final Assessment: Essential to retain internal fabric due to rarity. Consider special mention in statutory list.

5.6.10 DEANSBURGH HOUSE DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 218 636, Elgin Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Deansburgh House Doocot is an example of a small scale chamber, located in the first floor of a plain, two storey outbuilding. It is associated with Deansburgh House, an early nineteenth century, classical style, two storey Elgin town house, sited on the northern banks of the River Lossie at an altitude of 20m. The square-shaped harled outbuilding, found at the front of Deansburgh House, is orientated on a south-west to north-east axis and is almost parallel to the main house.

The site at Deansburgh was previously occupied by the Deansburgh Mills and Bleachfield, and Wood's 1822 map shows several lades passing through the south of present garden policies.[484] The Bleachfield had disappeared by the 1870's and the first OS refers to 'Deanshaugh Cottage'.[485] The listing of Deanshaugh House attributes a date circa 1810 and the outbuilding may be a legacy of the former Mills complex.[486]

Since the flight hole stonework is slightly different in character and finish to the quality of the remainder of the outbuilding, the function of the upper chamber as a doocot is most likely a later alteration, possibly to make good use of the masonry structure.

Access to the doocot is not presently attainable (since Deansburgh House is unoccupied[487]) so it cannot be judged if the doves were kept for the purposes of food. It is self evident, nevertheless, that the birds were encouraged to access and egress their chamber in a position where they would be seen from both the house frontage and the garden driveway.

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484 John Wood, 'Plan of the Town of Elgin', Edinburgh, 1822 held in the Moray Local Heritage Library, Grant Lodge, Elgin. The map records the site belonging to 'Mrs Longmore'.

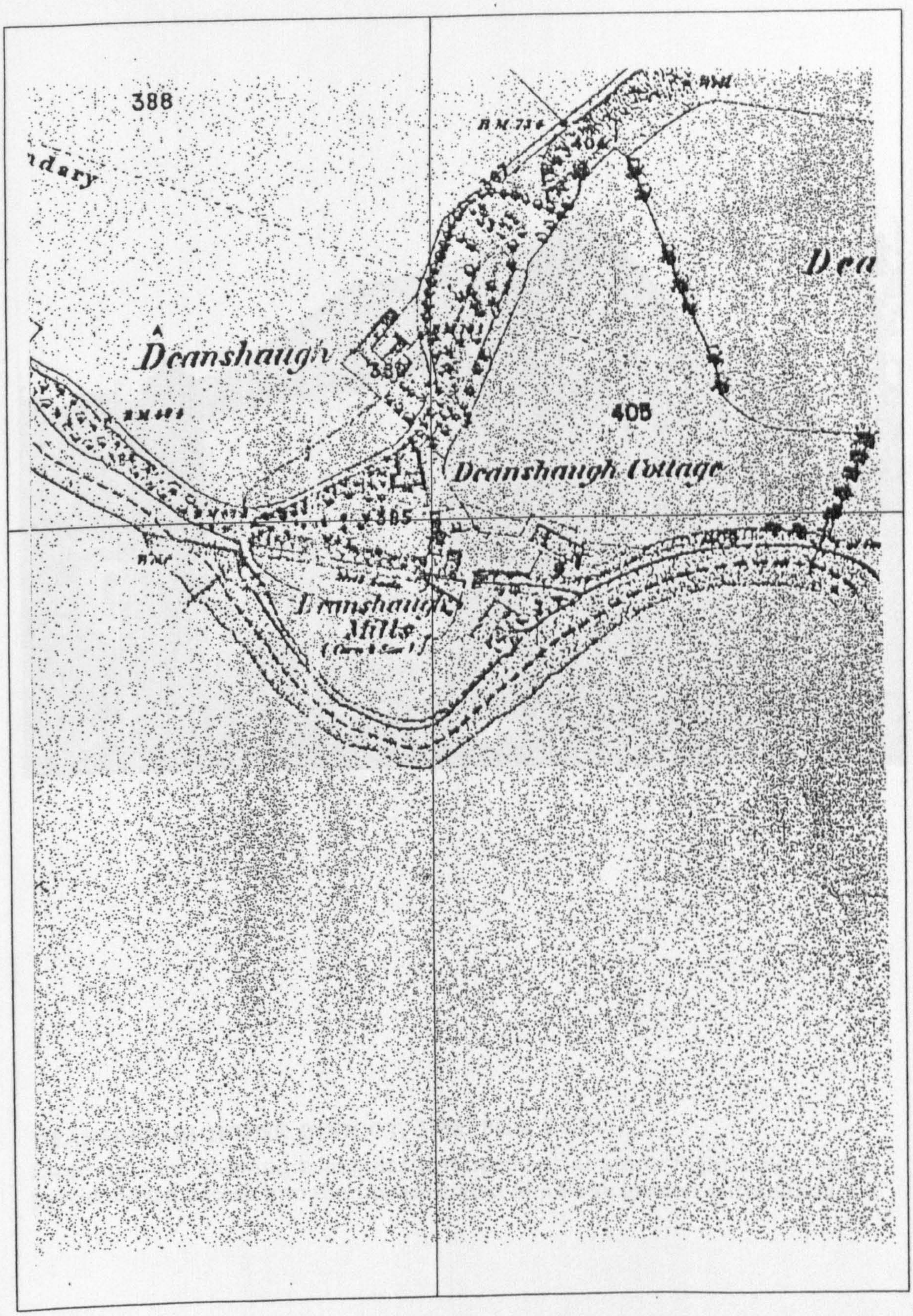
485 1869 O.S. The map shows several changes to the Mills complex previously illustrated by Wood.

486 Secretary of State, Statutory/Listing for Moray, Elgin Burgh, Item 22, p.22, s.v. 'Deanshaugh. Deansburgh House and Outbuilding'. Wood's map does not support the claim that Deansburgh House was built by 1810. In present layout, however, on Ray's map of Elgin of 1838. See also 1981 photograph held by Moray Council Neg. No. B-F125/6.

487 The site was vacated in 1997 during the severe summer flood. Although the complex is listed Category B, the buildings are rapidly falling into a state of decay and may soon be classified 'at risk'.

Architectural Description

The doocot appears to be presently accessed by humans via a door on the north-east gable and this leads initially into the ground floor (there are, however, signs of a first floor access door and aperture also on this gable). The outbuilding's 45°roof is simple in design and covered with Ballachulish slates, except at the south facing cast iron skylight which provides daylight into the doocot chamber. The doocot has six arch type flight holes, size 125 x 175 mm, carved into a triangular arrangement in an ashlar block. The holes are centred on the south-west gable, and together with a 150 x 40 mm sandstone projecting ledge, face the main house driveway.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey



DEANSBURGH HOUSE DOOCOT, 1998 (Plate 5.6.10.1)

Close up view showing triangular arrangement of stone flight holes which provided bird access into the upper section of a large garden outbuilding.



DEANSBURGH HOUSE DOOCOT, 1998 (Plate 5.6.10.2)

View from garden driveway showing the masonry garden outbuilding with its triangular arrangement of flight holes centred at the first floor of the south west gable. The main house is visible on the left whilst the River Lossie is just out of picture to the right.

5.6.11 WESTFIELD POULTRY HOUSE AND DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 163 653, Spynie Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The large model farm of Westfield, approximately 4 miles north-west of Elgin, in the parish of Spynie, contains a mixed, single storey, rectangular poultry house with a small scale doocot projecting from its roof. Original drawings, now retained by the owner, indicate that the building was designed in 1862 by George Petrie, of local architects A. and W. Reid, for Hugh Maclean who was owner at the time. (He having purchased the estate from Patrick Sellar, also in 1862). Bruce Walker, wrongly remarked recently that, "*The whole aesthetic of this complex differed considerably from the surrounding farms and was obviously the result of a designer being 'imported' for this particular commission*"[488].

The buildings are sited on fairly level ground, at an altitude of 10 m, although there is a slight fall away to the south-east to the rear of the poultry house. The area is surrounded by agricultural land, except for a substantial woodland immediately to the south-west of the farm and there is no obvious source of water nearby.[489] The 1869 Ordnance Survey shows that one of the main entrances to the farmhouse approached from the north-east, so the poultry house and doocot would not have been appreciated from this entrance. Another entrance, however, from the south-east, shows the access to the house cutting between the principal elevation of the farm and the facing doocot. Unlike the farm elevation, the doocot could be clearly seen from the main house which was located 90 m away to the north.[490]

Westfield poultry and doocot is a highly architectural building and was evidently admired at its time of construction: "*Adjoining the boil house there is also a poultry yard and poultry*

---

488 B. Walker,'Farm Buildings in the Grampian Region: An historical explanation' (Aberdeen: Grampian Regional Council), 1979, (p. 47). It is also noted that Elgin architect William Robertson designed a series of farm buildings for Westfield before the Reid brothers took over the Practice.
Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, p. 78. It is noted that the estate was consolidated in 1860 to only four farms from a number of small holdings. The final result was obviously impressive; "*In short, the estate is a model one, and no property in Scotland can be in better condition, or more highly improved*".Land valuation tables, pp. 342-9, illustrate that whilst neighbouring estates were declining between 1667 and1870 (Sherrifmill, Myreside, Findrassie, Quarrelwood) Westfield had become the most valuable estate in the ancient parish.
489 That is despite the Westfield Estate being located on the former marshlands of the Spynie sea-loch.
490 The 1869 O.S. does, however, show some thin tree landscaping between the mansion and the poultry house (these are now mature and partially block the view).

house; on top of which there is a pigeon box, surmounted with a brass finial, a piece of artistic display, which adds very materially to the elegance and light airy appearance of the whole buildings"[491]. It was erroneously described by Walker as, "*.... at the entrance to the farm yard from the mansion house was a doocot over dog kennels,*"[492] but it is clearly designed to have principally housed hens, with doves as a secondary function. "*If a man has to scramble up a cat-ladder, and through an opening about a foot square, ... he will need to be endowed with more than an average share of enthusiasm*"[493]. The visitor to the farmyard, using either of the entrance routes, was presumably meant to view and admire both the hens and the doves, which were consciously displayed rather than hidden from sight; certainly the doves, if not the hens, would have been almost permanently visible from the house.

The architectural exuberance of the building and the quality of the detailing is undoubted, and the apparent effort to provide for the hens may suggest that the house was used for some sort of selective breeding purpose[494]. Noting that the farm was established for the purpose of breeding horses and that the poultry house and poultry yard was strictly controlled by two chambers, it is highly possible that prize birds were being housed. This may also be the case with the doves, since they would have been difficult to get to regularly if they were required for food or manure purposes. It is, therefore, possible that the doves were also bred for prize and/or ornamental purposes, but since the structure is evidently geared towards the raising of hens, it is perhaps more likely that the doocot was employed to exploit the hen house building by providing an additional source of pleasure, as well as signalling the status and culture of the owner.[495]

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491 Courant, loc. cit.

492 Walker, loc. cit. Although Walker refers to the 'doocot', previous authors (Beaton, Douglas, Niven Robertson) have not recognised Westfield as a 'Doocot of Moray'.

493 W. E. Barker, Pigeon Racing, (London: Racing Pigeon Publications Co. Ltd.), 1913, (p. 2).

494 Varro, On Farming, c. 36 B.C., Chap. IX, s.v. 'Of Poultry', pp. 289-304. The poultry house appears to have been built in accordance with Varro's recommendations written in Roman times; "*.. you must give them an enclosed space, and have two hen-houses built in it close together .. there must be numerous perches reaching across it .. In front must be an enclosed court .. all around in the walls are the hens' nests*", p. 294.

495 Young, loc. cit. It is not only a healthy, but a useful employment, for gentlemen residing in the country, to have some land in their own possession, for the purpose of occupation or amusement, and to provide themselves with the various articles which their families may require. Perhaps those articles might often be purchased fully as cheap at market ... but it would be highly unpleasant for any gentleman, to have the servants of another, over whom he could have no control, working constantly near his own house, and to have scarcely a spot he could call his own, on which he or his family could take air or exercise.

Sadly, the ground floor of the building is currently only used for junk storage, whereas the upper chamber containing the dove boxes is completely redundant. In order to provide maximum storage within the poultry house, the internal central dividing partition shown on the Petrie drawings, has been removed but markings on the plaster work of the internal walls indicate its former position. The formation of the opening to the rear to insert a twelve-pane sash and case window may be contemporary with the downtaking of the internal partition and the texture of the external pointing and the concrete window cill are further pointers to this window as a later insertion.

Other than these relatively minor alterations, the building remains very much in the spirit of the original design and it is somewhat surprising that a building of such interest, quality and age has no statutory listing to ensure its protection. Without legislation and grant monies to aid its survival, it is presently a matter of some importance that a satisfactory use is found for the structure which will generate the finances to make the care and repair an economic viability for the owner. Perhaps the answer lies in a return to the breeding of hens?

Also, Loudon, Encyclopaedia of Agriculture, 1825, s.v. item 7533, "*Pigeons are now much less cultivated than formerly, being found injurious to corn fields, and especially to fields of peas; they are, however, very ornamental. A few may be kept by most farmers, and fed with the common poultry; and some who breed domestic fowls on a large scale may, perhaps find it worthwhile to add the pigeon to their number*".

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The single storey poultry house at Westfield is rectangular in plan, size 8.4 x 5.3 m, with a wallhead height of 3.3 m. Prior to the insertion of a later 700 (w) x 1200 mm (h) rear window, it would have had no other openings except for the, 900 wide x 1950 mm high, doorways on the west walls which provided central access into each of the two poultry chambers.

The building's 550 mm thick walls are constructed in neat courses of random local sandstone (freestone from the Newton quarry) with dressed margins around the openings and at the external angles[496]. The 40 degree pitch roof of the poultry house is piended on all four sides and is constructed using a series of built-up, king-post trusses at 450 mm centres, each with two 150 x 50 mm strut members and 175 x 65 mm rafters, which sail significantly over the wallhead and provide deep, exposed eaves. The trusses are clad with regular, 200 x 20 mm, sarking boards which are visible from within the chamber and finished on top with uniform 10 mm thick Ballachulish blue/grey slates, including cover protection at the hips and ridge using lead dressed over a wood core roll. Internally, the poultry house has an asphalt floor finish (presumably over concrete) whereas all the wall finishes are plastered and the roof structure is exposed to view. The north and south internal walls of the poultry house have a series of wall markings (small holes, approximately 50 x 50 mm, about 750 mm apart rising up the wall from west to east at an angle of about 45°) and since these are noted on the cross section of the original drawings, it is likely that they indicate the presence of some form of lightweight framework, or lattice, to form perching bars for the hens to roost upon[497]. The majority of the hen boxes are still intact (size 300 (h) x 550 (w) x 300 mm (d)) and would possibly have numbered 88 when the original dividing partition was in place. The boxes are two rows high on three of the four walls, the exception being the west wall, and are raised about 150 mm off the ground. The vertical members appear to be constructed in freestone, whilst the horizontal pieces are laid using very regular cut slate. All surfaces of the poultry house have been whitewashed. Neither of the two poultry house chambers seems to have contained any form of permanent ventilation, other than a series of perforations through each of the outward-opening, vertically timbered access doors. These lead out into a completely enclosed poultry yard which is divided into two equal chambers, thus coinciding with the original drawn layout of the poultry house.[8]

The design of the poultry house trusses has been part altered, in a form of crown-post construction, in order to support the centrally located square doocot which projects out of the poultry house roof[498][499]. Unlike the stone poultry house, however, the 2.7 m square doocot is chiefly constructed using single skin 70 mm brick and built using lime mortar in a stretcher bond method, with 350 mm wide vertical ashlar sandstone columns at each corner. The whole structure is supported off a, 225 x 75 mm, timber ring beam sited on top of the uppermost tie of the crown-post truss. Access to the house is via a small, 500 x 600 mm, trap door in the floor of the cote leading off of the northern chamber of the poultry house. (Although the original Petrie drawing indicates an access from the southern chamber). The dove chamber is currently blocked off by mesh, but the original drawing records at least two alighting ledges projecting, about 125 mm, beyond the three west facing rows of five, 150 (w) x 225 mm (h) arched-topped flight holes. The

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[496] Elgin Courant, 24/6/1864, p. 5.Newspaper article contains diagram of complex showing the 'poultry house' and 'boil house', facing the U-shaped 'cart sheds', 'cattlecourts' and 'turnip shed'. The article also notes that the lands of the home farm of Westfield extend to 380 acres.

[497] Peters, Development of the Farm, p. 203. "*A sloping rack was to be provided for the hens and turkeys to roost on ... lofts were never well lit*". Perching bars were in-situ in a hen house near the doocot at Pitgaveny, Beaton, pers. comm., 11/2/99.

[498] Loudon, Villa Architecture, 1836, p. 408, "*..the poultry yard... should be divided into the breeding, rearing and fattening yards.*"

[499] Waistell, Designs for Agricultural Buildings, (London; Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown & Green), 1827, (p. 70). Illustrates two examples of twin-tie strutted trusses not dissimilar to Westfield. (Figs. 1 & 2). It is possible that Petrie was familiar with this agricultural pattern book.

original drawing shows that the top two of these projecting ledges had continuous runs of decorative drops (possibly constructed in wood in either a pierced scallop or leaf motif). A local newspaper article of 1864 confirms some of the detailing; "*... the pigeon house, 9 feet square, a very neat and tastefully built with white stone pillars at the corners and pinned ... it were with red bricks ... in front of pigeon holes are broad shelves with curved edges.*"[500] The roof design of the doocot continues the design theme of the poultry house with its large overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends supported on scrolled wooden brackets, but a deliberate attempt was made to change the roof material of the doocot to lead in order to employ the decorative effect of a 25 degree, swept, piended roof with a series of wood core roll ends. The crowning of the doocot begins at a height of about 7.5 m using an, almost 2 m tall, ornate weathervane comprising of a lead ball, two pairs of metal scrolled volutes, an arrowhead at the top and a midway revolving arrow. The highly decorative nature of the building is completed at the four corners of the eaves at a height of about 6 m, using four drop finials carved in timber to a curved leaf design below a cornice mould.

The doocot contains 160 boxes, size 250 (h) x 200 (w) x 200 mm (d), although the original drawings indicate 198 nest boxes for pigeons. The boxes are constructed in wood to a simple eggcrate design, with no lip upstand, and begin flush with the floor level. The external alighting ledges appear to have projected a similar distance externally, and internally, as well as being integral at the end with every second row of the boxes. The small roof space of the doocot is exposed and there is no sign of any limewash, or plaster, finish throughout the chamber and none of the boxes has been cut out or blocked up. The floor, which has a large covering of guano, appears to be constructed using 25 mm tongue and groove floorboards.

The poultry yard, is built using a 400 mm thick dwarf stone wall to match the poultry house construction up to a height of 500 mm. It is, thereafter, constructed in painted timber using 150 x 150 mm loadbearing posts (three for the north, south and dividing walls with an additional four on the western wall at the doorways each with decorative wooden console brackets at the eaves) and the intermediate non-structural spaces are filled using 40 mm diamond-section, vertical slats at 100 mm centres. The shallow pitch roof of the yard, at only 10 degrees, is currently clad in corrugated iron (although the original drawings appear to have intended zinc or lead) and falls away from the poultry house. The two entrance doors to each of the chambers to the poultry yard align with the two entrance doors into the poultry house itself and open inward with two panels of timber up to the height of the dwarf wall. They are, thereafter, constructed in diamond slatting to match the walls of the yard. Internally, the yard has an asphalt floor like the poultry house and it too has whitewashed walls.

Written February 1996

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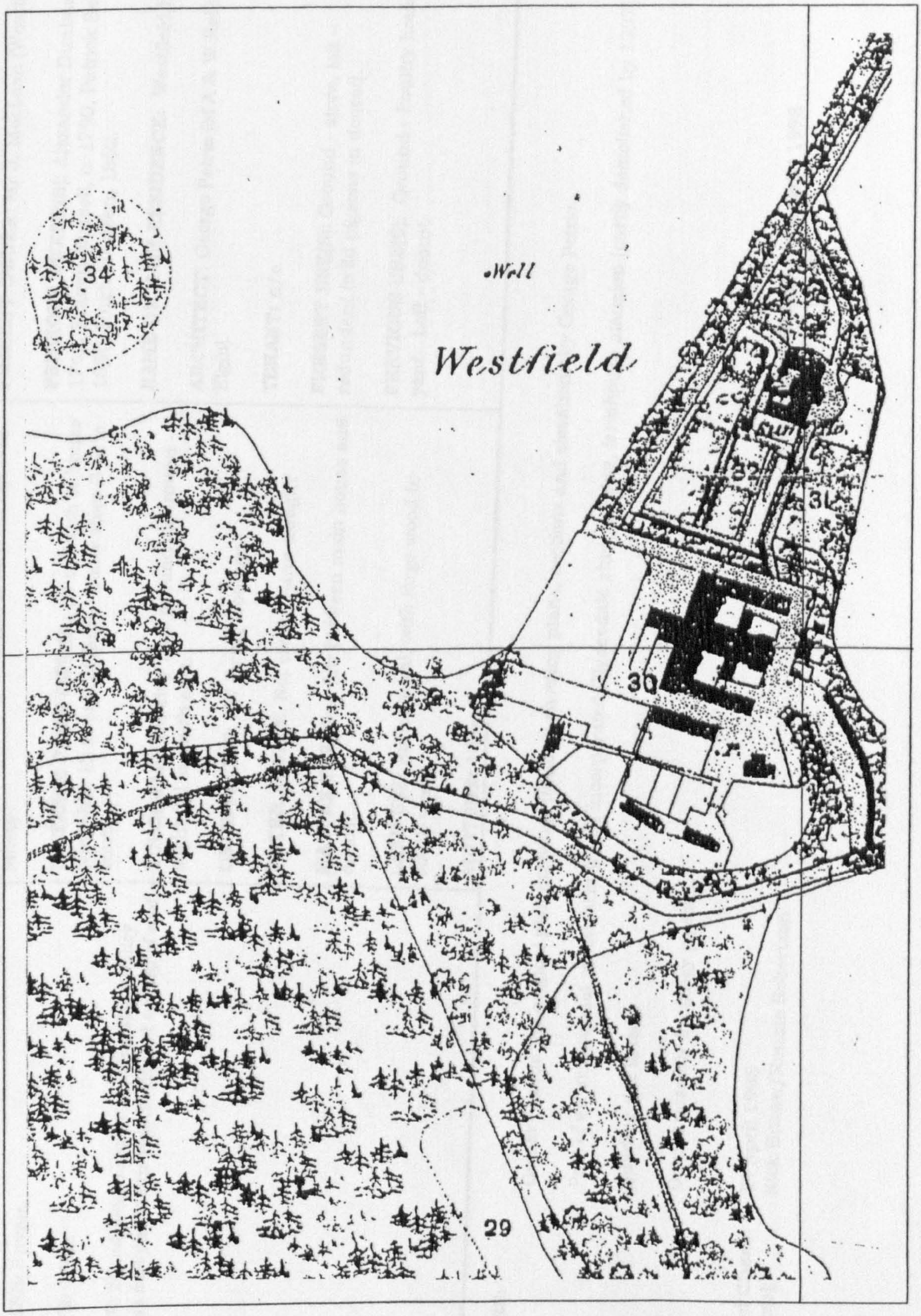
[500] Banffshire Journal, 21 June 1864, p. 6. The article records that, "*The new steading is built on the site of a former one*". It also records that the poultry and pigeon house was built by separate tradesmen.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Westfield Doocot (Fig. 5.6.11)

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 163 653. **PARISH**: Spynie. **DATE**: 1862. **TYPE**: Mixed single storey rectangular poultry house and yard with square doocot on top of roof.	**SITING:** 3 miles NW of Elgin in heart of Laich of Moray. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 90 m south of house (viewable) 15 m east of farm. Boiler store 3 m to south. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Fairly level ground all around - slight fall to south east. **ORIENTATION:** NW facing frontage. **WATER SOURCE**: Not clear. Farm trough? **MATURE TREES**: A few between main house and doocot. **LAND USE:** Agricultural, with large wood to south west. **ALTITUDE:** 10 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mr J. MacLean (Westfield). **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** Alexander Dunbar, c. 1740, Francis Russell, c. 1790, Patrick Sellar c. 1850, Hugh Maclean, 1862. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Westfield House. **ARCHITECT**: George Petrie (of A & W Reid, Elgin). **TENANT:** n/a **PRESENT USE(S)**: Ground - store, loft – redundant (wild pigeons in doocot). **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Ground - Poultry house with yard. Loft - doocot.

NOTES:

Owner retains the original plan drawings (framed) showing plans, sections and elevations by George Petrie.

Part of an exceptional model farm which incorporated Clydesdale stud, smiddy, farmhouse mansion (partly demolished by 1997).

Building not listed.

Doocot possibly for fancy pigeons.

Date of Check: 14 April 1995
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 14 August 1998
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Good (but not maintained). **REPAIRS:** Possibly hen run area re-roofed in corrugated iron. **ALTERATIONS:** Rear window added, internal partitioning removed, wooden dove landing ledges removed and flight holes meshed over. **FUTURE RISK:** No statutory protection. Failure to find new use resulting in continued neglect.	**PLAN FORM:** Poultry house - rectangular. Dove house - square. **PLAN SIZE:** Poultry house - 8.4 x 5.3 m. Dove house 2.7 x 2.7 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** Poultry house - 3.3 m. Dove house - 6 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 7.5 m (excluding vane). **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Poultry house - sandstone & lime. Dove house - red clay brick. **WALL MATERIAL:** Poultry house - neat courses of cut sandstone with dressed margins. Dove house - stretcher bond brick with sandstone dressings. **WALL THICKNESS:** Poultry house - 550 mm. Dove house - 70 mm. **WALL FINISH:** Flush pointed gritty lime mortar. **ROOF FORM:** Poultry house - piended on 4 sides. Dove house - piended with swept eaves. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 2 types of built truss with sarking cladding. **ROOF PITCH:** 40°. **ROOF FINISH:** Poultry house - 10 mm regular slates (Ballachulish?) of uniform course. Dove house - zinc or lead with core rolls.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Poultry house - outward opening, vertically boarded, timber vertical vent slits. Dove house - timber floor hatch. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** 2 inward opening slatted painted timber doors to poultry yard with 2 solid base panels. **DOOR SIZE:** Poultry house - 1950 (h) x 900mm (w). Dove House hatch - 500 (w) x 600 mm (l). **DOOR SITING:** Poultry house - 2 into NW yards. Dove house - floor of cote. **LEDGES:** Removed from flight holes? **LEDGES HEIGHT:** 4.5 to 5.5 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 6.2 m. **APERTURES:** Poultry house – later rear window. Dove house - none. **VENT HOLES:** Poultry house - only small slots in entrance doors. Dove house - only flight holes. **FLIGHT HOLES:** Yes - 15 No. 150 (w) x 225 mm (h) constructed in brick with arched tops. **TOTAL VENT AREA:** Flight holes provide 0.51 m^2 **LIMEWASH:** No. **DORMERS:** No. **SKEWS:** N/A. **FINIALS:** Yes - lead part of vane and also wooden drop leaf finials at four corners of cote roof overhang. **WEATHER VANE:** Yes - 1.9 m tall and ornate with ball, arrow and two pairs of volutes.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES	8.0 COMMENT	9.0 REFERENCES
THRESHOLD STEPS: No **PARTITION WALLS**: Poultry house - yes, one (removed). Dove house - no. **FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Poultry house- asphalt (on concrete). Dove house - 25 mm tongue and groove floorboards. **NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION**: Poultry - stone and slate. Dove - wooden (simple eggcrate design using 20 mm boards - no lip upstand). **NEST BOX NUMBER:** Poultry - possibly 88. Dove - 166. **NEST BOX SIZE:** Dove house – approx. 250 (h) x 200 (w) x 200 mm (d). **NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR**: None. **NEST BOXES BLOCKED**: None. **ALIGHTING LEDGES**: None. **LIMEWASH/PLASTER:** Poultry house - Limewashed plaster throughout. Dove house - none. **COLLECTING AID**: None. **BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL**: Say 166 x 2 x 0.7 = 232. **INTERNAL VOLUME:** 11.95 m^3 **OTHER**: Original drawings indicate 198 nest boxes for doves and hatch access on south side.	**ENIGMAS**: - How access to doocot made more convenient.	**BOOKS**: B. Walker, 'Farm Buildings in Grampian, Grampian Regional Council,' Aberdeen, 1979, pp. 47, 51. D. Omand, (ed.) The Moray Book, 1976, p. 185. **ARTICLES:** Elgin Courant, 24/6/1864, p. 5. Banffshire Journal, 21/6/1864, p. 6. **LISTING**: n/a. **SMR**: **MAPS:** 1869, 1905 and 1966 OS maps. **PHOTOGRAPHS**: E. Beaton - personal collection, reference 86/27/EB/2. **OTHER:** Background Information: O.S.A., s.v. 'Spynie'. R. Young, Parish of Spynie, 1871, pp. 72-9. J&W Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp124-5.

NOTES: The Wittet Collection contains an unexecuted design for Westfield by local architect William Robertson.



WESTFIELD POULTRY HOUSE AND DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.11.1)

View of the north west, 'front' elevation which faces the courtyard farm complex. The brick and sandstone doocot, with its oriental style lead roof, projects boldly from the piended slate roof of the ground floor hen house. The flat roof structure in the foreground, with slatted timber walls, forms the twin-chambered poultry yard.



WESTFIELD POULTRY HOUSE AND DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.11.2)

View from the south showing the rear and side elevation of the hen house and doocot. The stonework and pointing of the rear clearly indicate that the window is a later insertion. The 'boil house' is left of picture and the main house is just out of shot beyond the trees to the right.



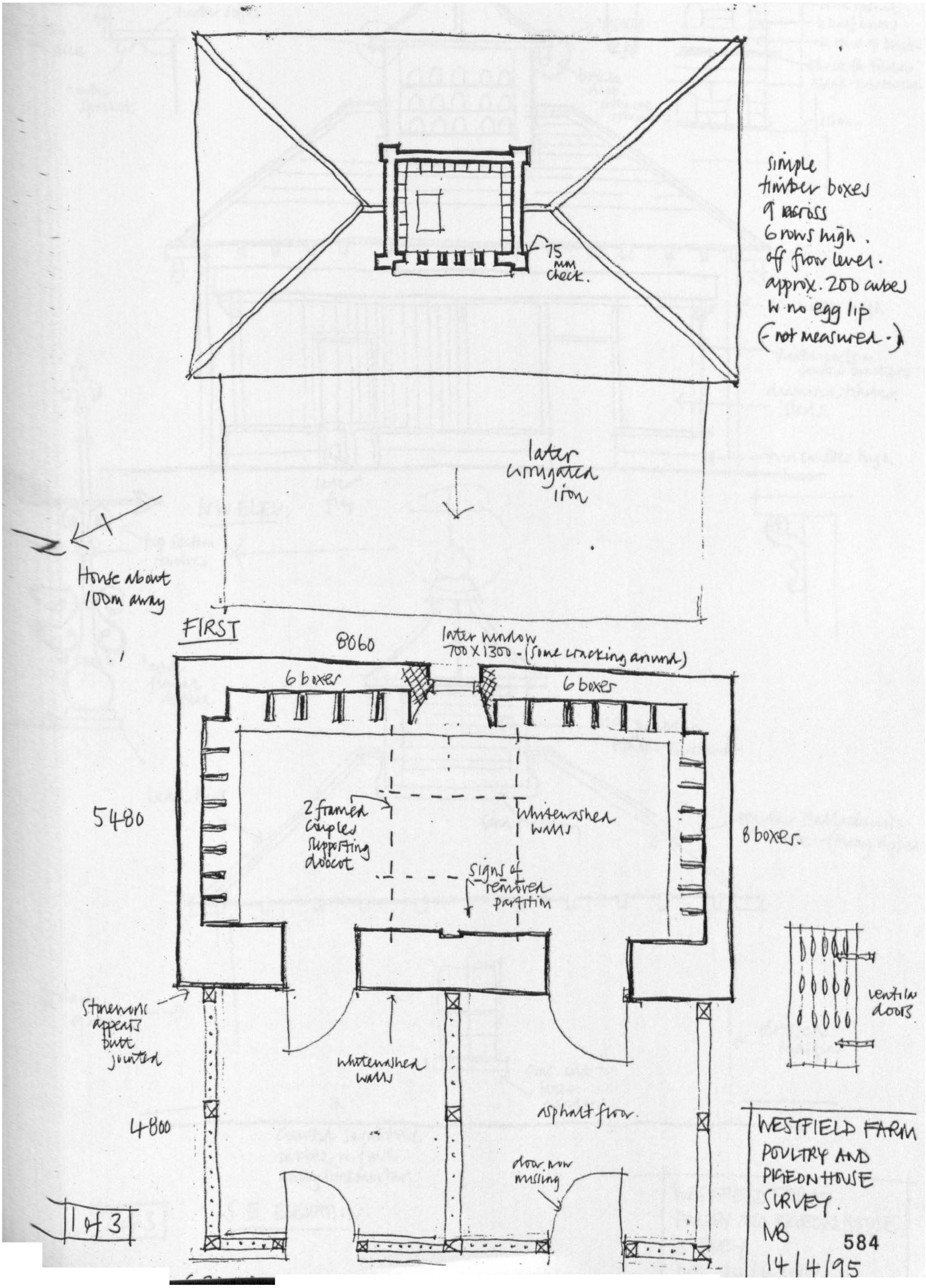
WESTFIELD POULTRY HOUSE AND DOOCOT, 1995, INTERIOR (Plate 5.6.11.3)

Interior view from the hen house looking up to the base of the doocot (centre picture). The two stronger king post trusses, which support the doocot, are just visible between the standard crown/queen post trusses. The bridle forming the floor hatch to the doocot can also just be seen. The vertical line on the plaster wall, meanwhile, marks the position of a former central dividing partition.



WESTFIELD HOUSE AND DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.11.4)

Distance view of the Westfield House policies from the south east. The relationship between the hen house/doocot to the left and the main house to the right is self-evident. Note how the red brick of the doocot stands out in the landscape.


simple timber boxes 9 across 6 rows high. off floor level. approx. 200 cubes w no egg lip (- not measured -)
75 mm check.
later corrugated iron
House about 100m away
FIRST
8060
later window 700 X 1300 - (some cracking around)
6 boxes
6 boxes
8 boxes.
5480
2 framed couples supporting dovecot
whitewashed walls
signs of removed partition
ventilating doors
Stonework appears butt jointed
whitewashed walls
asphalt floor.
door now missing
4800
WESTFIELD FARM
POULTRY AND PIGEON HOUSE SURVEY.
MB 584
14/4/95
1 of 3

timber soffit

timber sprocket

broken drop - only one remains

brick special
2 half bricks
2 rows of bricks
check for timber ledge - now missing
15 mm.

10 courses high

timber posts w. console brackets

diamond timber slats

two courses high

later flap

NW ELEV.

top section revolves

lead finial detail

lead hips

lead flashing

brick panel w. ashlar surround

regular Ballachulish slate - (many slipped)

plain gables

dressed margins

conc. cill to later window

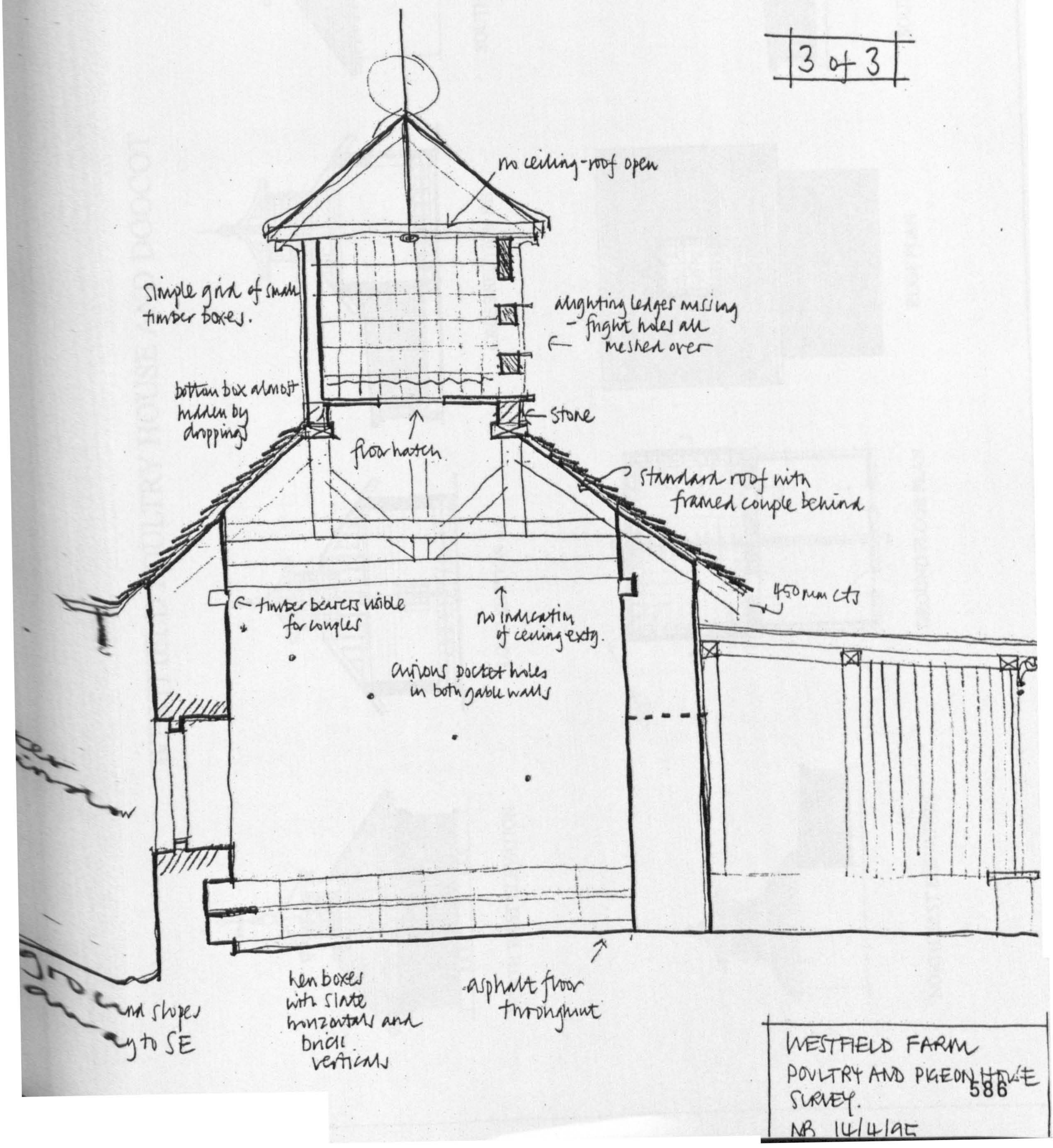
coursed sandstone rubble w. flush gritty lime mortar

S.E. ELEVATION

2 of 3

WESTFIELD FARM
POULTRY AND PIGEON HOUSE
SURVEY.
585
MB 14/4/95

3 of 3

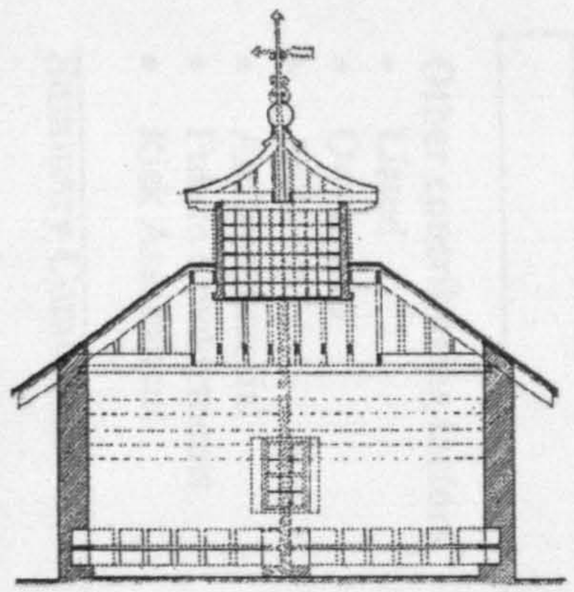


WESTFIELD FARM
POULTRY AND PIGEON HOUSE
SURVEY.
NB 14/4/95

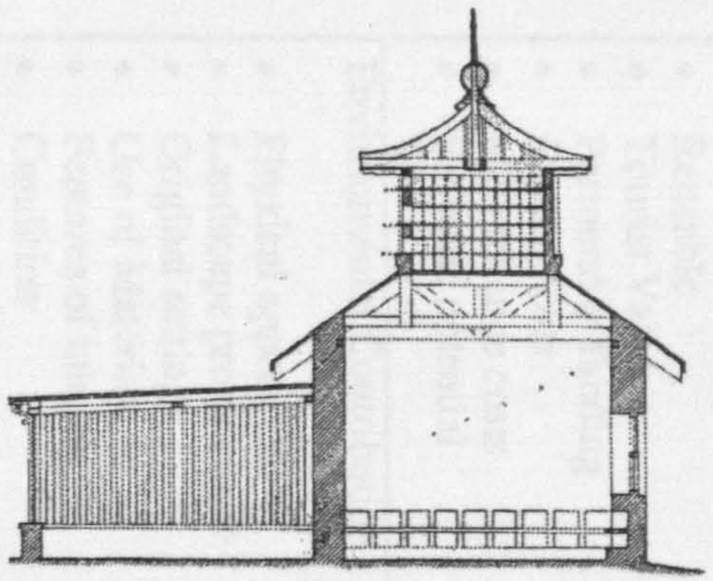
WESTFIELD POULTRY HOUSE AND DOOCOT



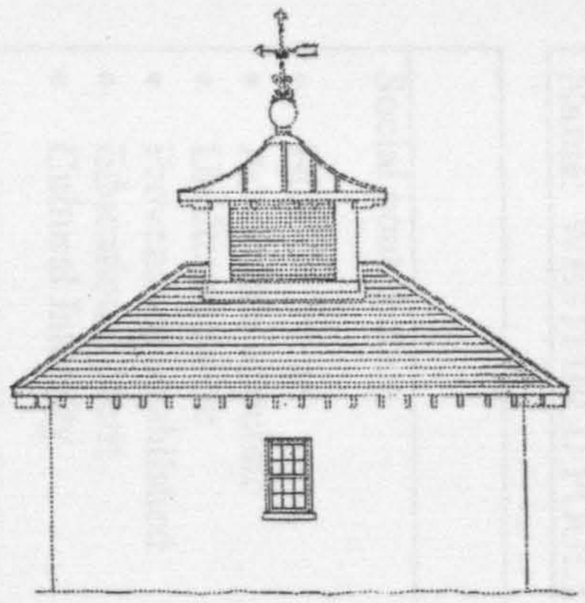
NORTH WEST ELEVATION



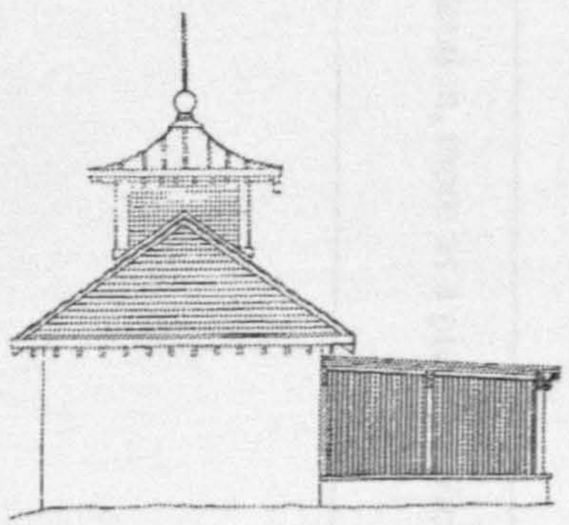
LONG SECTION AA



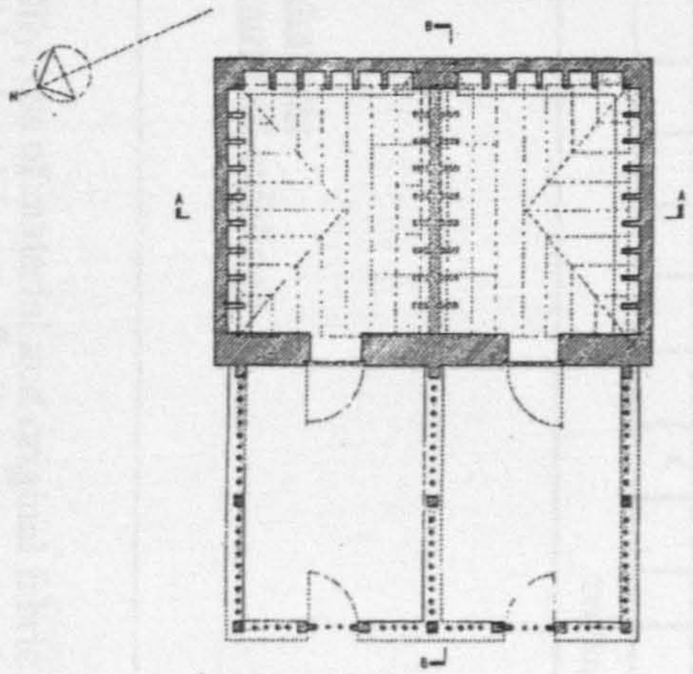
CROSS SECTION BB



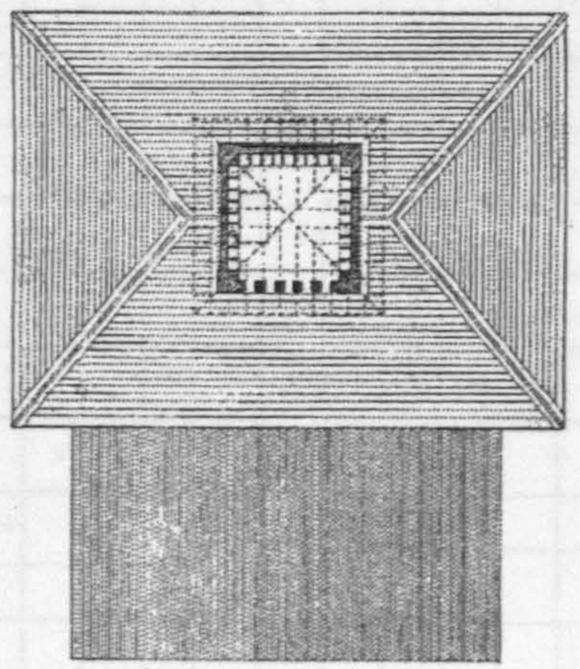
SOUTH EAST ELEVATION



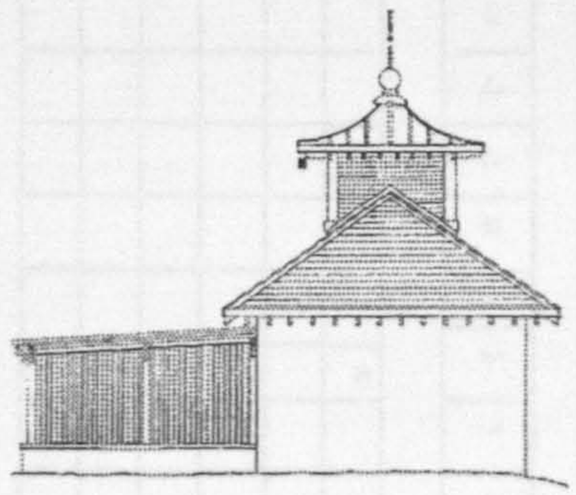
NORTH EAST ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



ROOF PLAN



SOUTH WEST ELEVATION

EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: WESTFIELD POULTRY HOUSE & DOOCOT Grid Ref: NJ 163 653

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value								x				2
• Accessible to public							x					3
• Unaltered fabric									x			6
• Provenance established										x		10
• Educational Merit									x			13
• Cultural Integrity									x			16
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable									x			19
• Tourist Value						x						19
• Partnership funding							x					20
• Capital costs							x					21
• Maintenance costs							x					22
• Revenue potential							x					23
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance										x		27
• Landscape prominence							x					28
• Original setting								x				30
• Use of Materials								x				32
• Features of interest									x			35
• Condition								x				37
• Interior								x				39
											TOTAL	39

Other contributing factors

• Listed	No
• Ownership	Private estate
• Architect	George Petrie
• Archive material	Original design drawing
• Future developments	Demolition of courtyard buildings
• Risk Assessment	Medium

Summary Comments:

Building scores high in terms of architectural quality, use of material and original fabric but low in terms of economic value. Long term future will be dependent on finding an appropriate reuse unless building becomes protected by listing.

Final Assessment: Capable of reuse and worthy of retention, more as a piece of Victorian architecture, than as a hen house/doocot.

5.6.12 CAIRNFIELD HOME FARM DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 416 623, Rathven Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Cairnfield Home Farm Doocot is an example of a single chamber doocot, built into the first floor of a courtyard farm steading. It is associated with Cairnfield House, a late eighteenth century 'replacement' mansion, sited 300m north-west of the steading at an altitude of 70m.[501] The harled farm steading is orientated on a north-east, south-west axis and is parallel to the main house. The doocot at Cairnfield Home Farm is unusually understated, given the status of the estate. Cairnfield House was, however, entirely rebuilt in 1799 and an (unconfirmed) original doocot may have been demolished at this time.[502]

The present structure is unpretentious, despite its central position in a complex of buildings which once formed the estate's offices' in the nineteenth century.[503] The steadings continue to function as storage for agricultural purposes, although the scale of operations appears to be diminishing. Unless the steadings are demolished (they have no statutory protection), the doo holes may continue to survive as a nineteenth century feature and add interest to a relatively plain group of buildings.

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501 Secretary of State, Statutory Listing for Moray, Rathven Parish, Item 5, pp.5-6 Ancestral home of Gordons of Cairnfield until 1980's. "*Earlier Cairnfield House on land now occupied by the Home Farm was destroyed by fire in 1798*", p.6.

502 A new house was designed in 1799 by Robert Burn. (See also Shaw, Province of Moray, p.187 and Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, pp.63-4).
The present dowager, Patricia Gordon, inspected estate documentation but discovered no evidence of a former pigeon house. OSA. Sc. 'Rathven', p.387, however, records "*Of these, [pigeon houses], there are 8 in the parish, stocked, at an average, with 150 pairs*". The Account also states that the parish had 8 heritors, one of them being Gordon of Cairnfield. See 1870 O.S. A large group of buildings is located between the mansion and the walled garden.

503 The interior was removed by Patricia Gordon's husband, pers. comm, 1997.

Architectural Description

The doocot, within the steading, appears to occupy the whole of the first floor with storage immediately below. Access for doves was gained through the south-west-facing masonry gable via a series of six flight holes, neatly arranged in a triangular pattern. Each hole is 150(h) x 124mm (w) constructed in stone (with triangular clay tile tops) including 100 x 30mm projecting slate ledges.[504] They are widely spaced, at approximately 1m centres, and a solitary ledge is enigmatically located off symmetry to the south of the flight holes. Access to the pigeon chamber was not gained.

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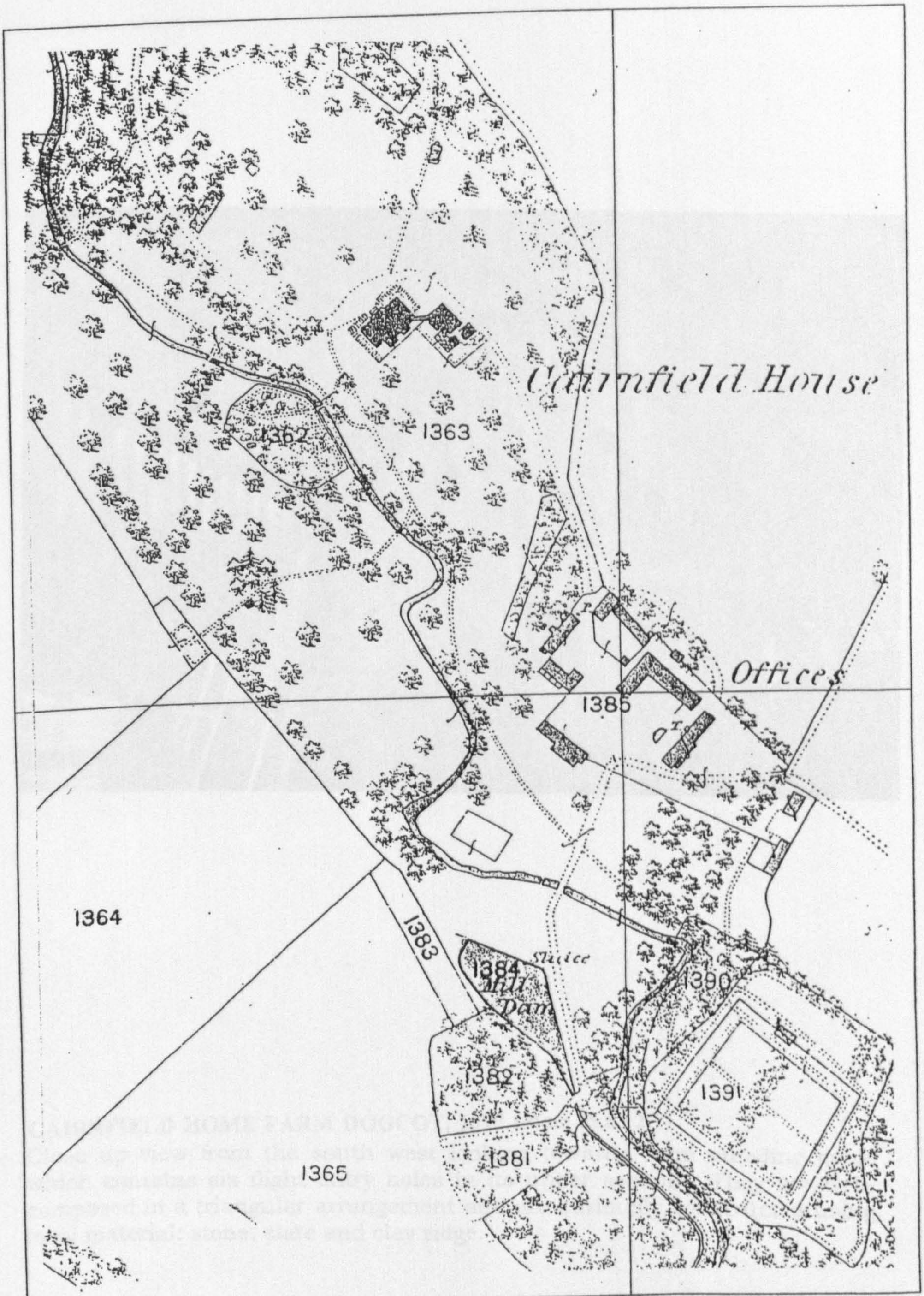
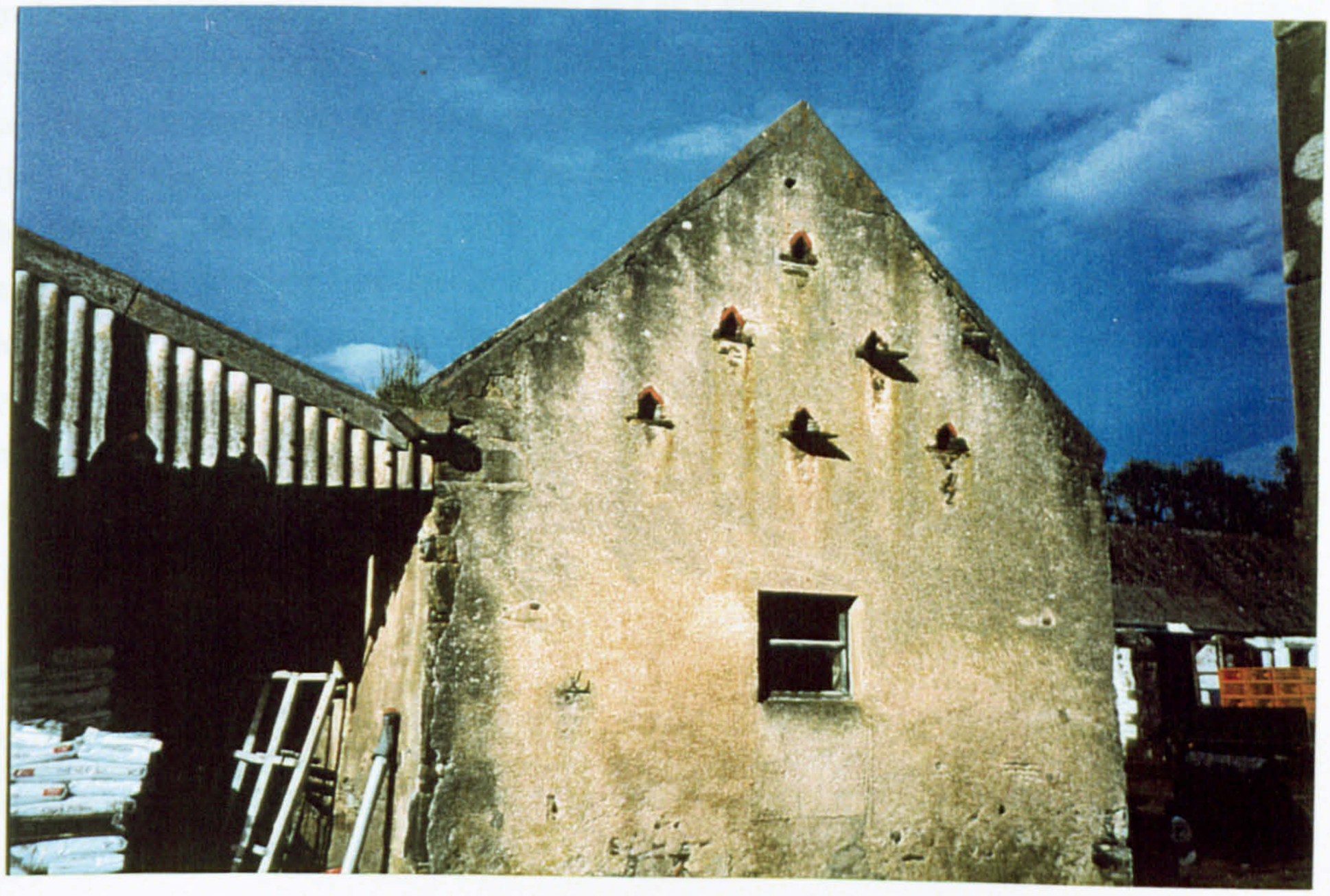
504 Loudon, Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture, 1836, p.363, states that, "The openings for the birds may be in the roof, or in the highest part of the side walls, with shelves before the holes for the birds to alight on; and the walls of the interior may be lined with boxes, divided into square holes, for the birds to make their nests in".



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Cairnfield Home Farm Doocot (Fig. 5.6.12)



CAIRNFIELD HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate (5.6.12.1)

Close up view from the south west looking towards farm steading gable which contains six flight entry holes in its upper section. They are well-composed in a triangular arrangement and are curiously constructed using local material: stone, slate and clay ridge.

5.6.13 DELLACHAPLE STEADING DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 337 647, Urquhart Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Should it be proven to be a doocot, Dellachaple Steading 'Doocot' may be an example of a small scale loft incorporated into the gable end of a farm steading.[505] The latter is associated with an early nineteenth century villa, Dellachaple House,[506] and can be found just outside the village of Garmouth, in Urqhuart Parish, near the River Spey mouth at an altitude of 20m. It is sited immediately adjacent to a main road and faces a westerly direction. The absence of a landing ledge may signify that the 'doo' holes at Dellachaple Steading are mere ventilators. However, the location of the holes, near the former entrance gates to Dellachaple House, [507] and the linear arrangement and positioning of the holes, suggest a former doocot use; *"..the main features can still be observed to this day, that is single entrance holes, often arranged in a linear manner, and no alighting ledges. Sadly though, gone are the internal features, as in all cases the loft has been incorporated into the house at a later stage".*[508]

Architectural Description

The three centrally located 'flight holes', arranged in a single horizontal row, 3.5m above ground level, are between 125-150 mm (w) by 150 mm (h) but have no landing ledge provided.[509] The property has recently been converted to a dwelling house and access has not been gained to confirm its previous function.

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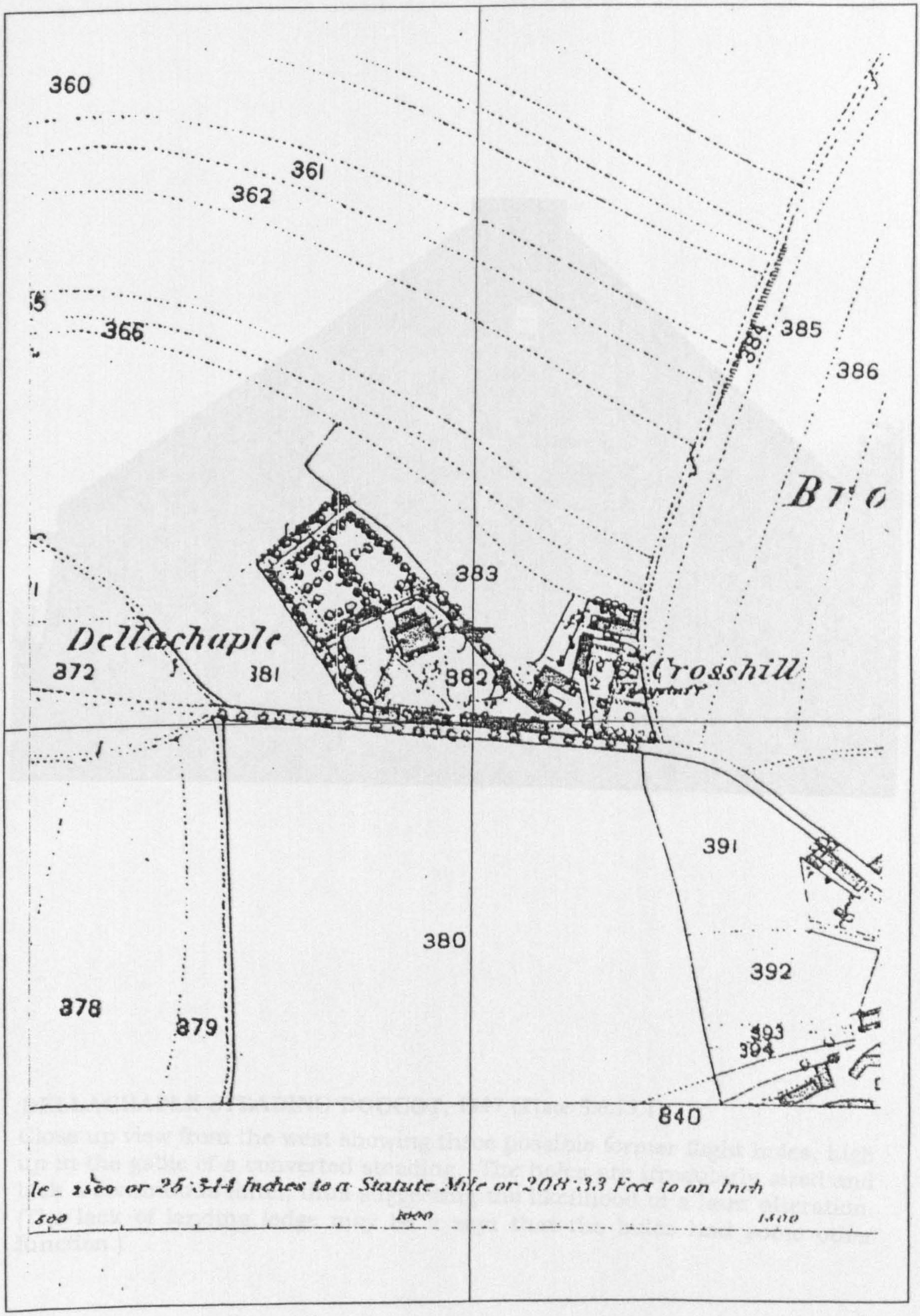
505 The function of this loft remains unconfirmed.

506 Secretary of State, Statutory list for Moray, Urquhart Parish, Item 14, p.15. Dated 1820-30. (Stables not included in list).

507 The 1896 OS shows the present building as a stable near the house entrance. It appears that the steading may have been reduced in size since that date.

508 Whitworth, 'Dovecotes and Pigeon Lofts in Calderdale', 1988, p.15.

509 Not all the holes are the same size, perhaps suggesting a later alteration.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Dellachaple Steading Doocot (Fig. 5.6.13)



DELLACHAPLE STEADING DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.6.13.1)

Close up view from the west showing three possible former flight holes, high up in the gable of a converted steading. The holes are irregularly sized and lack a continuous lintel, thus suggesting the likelihood of a later alteration. (The lack of landing ledge may be a sign that the holes had some other function.)

5.6.14 ABERLOUR HIGH STREET DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 269 431, Aberlour Parish

HISTORICAL ASSESSMENT

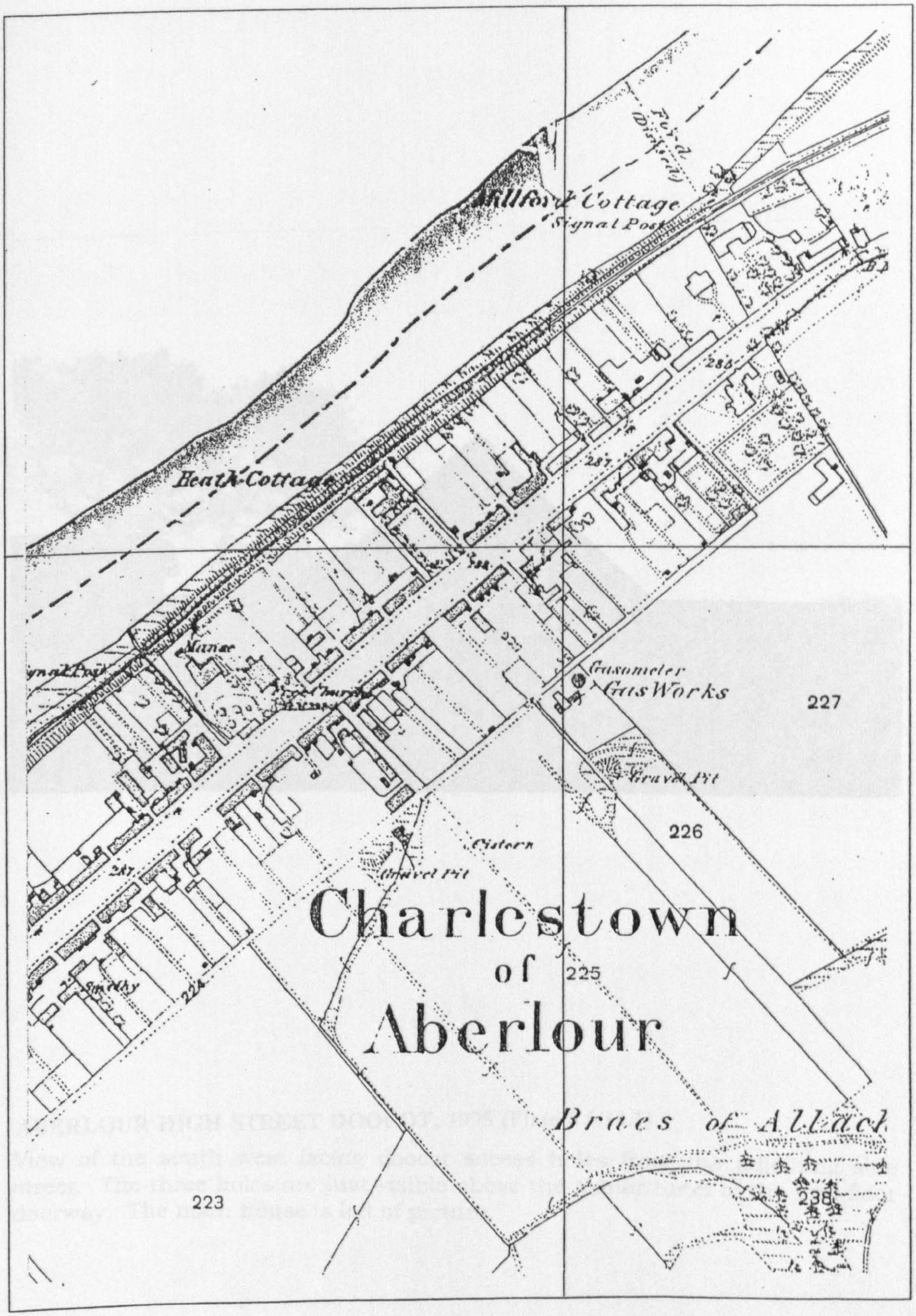
Access was not gained to this small doocot and it was, therefore, not surveyed.

Since the human size door is located below the flight holes, it is assumed that the doocot is not a large one i.e. confined to the roof's apex.

It is also predicted that the doocot was formed during the original constructing of the outbuilding, in which it would be of a late Victorian, early Edwardian date.

Architectural Assessment

Aberlour High Street Doocot is an example of a small doocot built into the roof space of a garden outbuilding. It is sited to the rear of number 13 High Street, in the north-east end of the planned town of Aberlour, at an altitude of 115m. The garden outbuilding is parallel to the main house and street and orientated on a north-east/south-west axis. The doocot itself is found at the south-west end and three, 125 (w) x 150mm (h) arch-topped flight holes are found in a single row near the random stone gable apex. The three arches are carved from freestone but are supported on red clay brick and a single continuous 50mm deep sandstone ledge projects 125mm immediately below the flight holes. A large opening, approximate size 1750 (h) x 750mm (w), with a vertically boarded timber door, is found directly below the flight holes to provide human access to the first floor.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Aberlour High Street Doocot (Fig. 5.6.14)



ABERLOUR HIGH STREET DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.14.1)

View of the south west facing doocot access holes from the adjoining side street. The three holes are just visible above the ashlar lintel of the first floor doorway. The main house is left of picture.

5.6.15 HAZELWOOD DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 318 446, Mortlach Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Hazelwood Doocot is part of a curious, and tiny, example of a mixed-use, three storey, rectangular tower. It is to be found immediately adjacent to the north side of the east-facing, Neo-classical, Hazelwood House which is only a matter of 18 metres away. This early 19th century house, described by McKean as, "*in the manner of Archibald Simpson*"[510], is to be found a quarter of a mile on the north side of the earlier Kininvie House which is a sixteenth century tower house built for the Leslies of Kininvie. The Secretary of State's listing records that Hazelwood is, "... *said to have been property of Leslies of Kininvie and built for two Leslie sisters*"[511] and dates the classical house circa 1830, in the style of Elgin architect William Robertson.

Situated in Mortlach parish, the Kininvie/Hazelwood estate is found south- east of Dufftown in east upland Moray. Hazelwood, and its close neighbour Kininvie, possess two of the most elevated doocots in the area at an altitude of 140 metres. Hazelwood Doocot is positioned on a relatively flat plateau with a north-west-south-east orientation, which may either be due to its relationship with the boundary hedge of the house or, more likely, influenced by the steeply sloping ground to the north down to the burn of Calternach (although the predominant slope is from the north-east to the south-west down to the burn of Lagachro).

The building is still in excellent condition and there has been obvious attention paid to the structure, as evidenced by the harling patches and slate repairs. The apex of the roof, however, has an incomplete lead capping and there is a possibility that the curiously placed and elaborate weather vane, currently found on the motorhouse to the east, was once to be found upon this doocot. In Book of Dovecotes, Cooke noted the, "...*great diversity displayed by these useful terminals*"[512].

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510 McKean, The District of Moray - An illustrated architectural guide, 1987, p. 146.
511 Secretary of State, Statutory list for Hazelwood House, Moray, Mortlach Parish, Item 9, pp. 5-6.
512 Cooke, Book of Dovecotes, 1920, p. 57.

Only 400 mm above the floor, at a height coinciding with the low level openings, a shelf appears to have been removed (evident by a check in the plasterwork). This may have been a perching shelf as part of some nest box construction, or some separation device which required the installation of two external openings for hens. Columella tells us that hen lofts,"...*ought to be illuminated by small windows from the east, one for each cell; which same windows may afford a passage for the fowls to go out by the morning into the poultry-yard, as also an entry into the cells in the evening. But care must be taken that they be always shut at nights ..... Below the lofts let greater windows be opened, and let them be fortified and secured with grates or crossbars, that noxious animals may not be able to creep in.*"[513]

Beaton suggests that the ground chamber was used for, "... *hens to lie in during day*"[514] and this may indeed be the case. It may also be possible that this lower chamber was used as a food store, or even by a larger animal (such as a goat or pig) to provide further self-sufficiency for this remote house and also to generate body heat which would convect upwards throughout the structure to the benefit of the birds above[515].

The burn of Calternach is only 20 metres away from the doocot so this would obviously have been a source of fresh running water for the birds. However, the ground surrounding the burn is composed of natural woodland with only minor human intervention, so it is likely that the doves would have been under frequent threat from hawks which could conceal themselves within this woodland.

Cooke's comment is based mainly upon observations in England and Wales but the remark is also true of some of the later Scottish structures.

513 Columella, Of Husbandry, 65 A.D., (1745 trans.), p. 344. The openings at Hazelwood face north, not east as Columella recommends.

514 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 14.

515 If this were so, then Hazelwood could be described as a tiny version of the multi-functional example at Chartham in Kent. S. Wade Martins, 'Old Farm Buildings', 1991, p. 10, "*Some buildings are wonderfully ingenious such as a Kentish example on a steep bank. It is a dovecote on the top floor, a hens' coop on the middle floor and a pigs' sty at the bottom*". Another similar example is a nineteenth century tower of yellow brick at Dove House Farm, Dovercourt, Essex.

The doocot at Hazelwood demonstrates the development of pigeon rearing in Moray and the current owner Mrs Janet Roberts can recall, "... *the fantail pigeons*"[516] when she first moved to the house in 1932. The building served a variety of functions to the owner and may have contained at least two, if not three, types of animal despite its small size. The boundary hedge currently deviates around the structure to make it part of the formal garden policies, but it may be that this hedge was originally designed to continue past it, or that the doocot was built outwith this boundary. If this were so, then the hens (and another animal such as a pig or goat) would be able to roam around in an enclosed area virtually obscured from the main entrance and house by the existing hedge, whereas the dove, (and possibly the arrowed weather vane), would have been viewable to the resident owner and all viewers alike by projecting above the hedge within a clearing of the woodland.

The building is a true vernacular structure which is so unpretentious in its size, and location and use of materials, that it verges on the whimsical and it is surprising to discover that it survives as a folly for such a sophisticated and elegant neo-classical Villa, with which it is clearly not contemporary. Despite this, the doocot at Hazelwood is a notable omission from the Secretary of State's list of protected buildings: its unusual combination of three storeys; its use of brick construction "... *perhaps from the old brickworks at Craigellachie*"[517]; its interesting reuse of materials, probably from the house; its relatively unaltered state; and finally, its overall good condition, would all provide a case for meriting a Grade C(S) category of listing. Although there is currently no risk to this structure, the lack of protection makes it potentially vulnerable, and in order to ensure that it is safeguarded for the future, it may be in the best long term interests to give Hazelwood Doocot statutory protection.

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516 Interview with the owner, Mrs Roberts, during site inspection.
517 Beaton, loc. cit.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Hazelwood Doocot has a slightly rectangular plan of 1.7 x 2.1 m and, despite the building's overall composition of three storeys, it only rises to a wallhead height of 3 m off ground level and an overall height of 4.1 m to the crown of its roof[518]. Its 240 mm thick walls are unusually constructed, using regular red clay bricks,[519] built off a stone base which may be part of a rocky outcrop, or a former building since one corner of the building bellcasts for no apparent reason[520]. The bricks are covered over on both the ground and middle chambers, but the uppermost chamber for keeping doves reveals that the outer skin is reduced to only one brick thick (i.e. approx. 75 mm including harling) so it is remarkable that this structure shows no sign of structural defect. Externally the walls are finished with a thick lime harling which still contains traces of lime washing. The roof is piended on all four sides and is constructed using a series of approximately 140 x 65 mm timbers which have been salvaged and reused, along with a miscellany of timbers for tying purposes, in conjunction with new sarking boards[521]. The roof is pitched conventionally at 45° and is protected by eleven rows of slates sourced, "... *probably from Dufftown*"[522] with mitred hips and an overhang at the eaves. A short length of open-ended guttering is fitted to catch water immediately above the flight holes, thus demonstrating some sensitivity towards the welfare of the birds.

The base chamber of this structure is approximately 300 mm below ground level and is only about 750 mm high with a single, 450 wide x 500 mm high arched-top, brick opening, thereby making human access most uncomfortable, if not verging on the impossible. The walls of this base chamber appear to be substantially constructed in stone and have received coats of limewash - unlike the slate 'ceiling' slab which has been left with a natural finish.

The Secretary of State's listing for Hazelwood House contains a reference note which says that an, "... *unusual small hen house with pigeon loft at rear of House*"[523] exists and there does appear to be evidence to substantiate that the middle chamber was utilised for hens. It is accessed by man on the east side, at a height of about 360 mm above ground level, via a 1790 (h) x 680 mm (w) central, painted, three field-panelled timber door with decorative ironmongery, all of which appears to have been re-used (e.g. a window or cupboard shutter) whilst the hens would have accessed the chamber on the north side, via two timber lintelled, centrally balanced, 440 high x 380 mm wide, apertures which still contain framing and hinging markings to suggest that they once had controllable shutters or doors. Above these apertures, slightly to the east, is a 250 mm square opening with wooden slats and mesh to suggest that it was inserted to act as a ventilator, along with a 50 mm diameter clay pipe inserted at a similar height on the opposite wall. The floor of this chamber is built using an impressively large single slab of slate of about 50 mm thickness. At a high level, in the south-west corner of this chamber, there can also be found four boxes or compartments which appear to be more for human than bird convenience, but it is not obvious whether these would have been used for housing tools, or implements, or live or dead poultry. What is clear however, is that these boxes, which are constructed with slate ledges and brick uprights, are remarkably cantilevered out from the wall and are recessed in such a way as to reduce the outer thickness of the wall to only a single brick. Since these shelves require the structural support of the external wall, it

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518 Grampian Regional Council Archaeologist's Record, rather surprisingly, describes the cote as being "tall" - SMR Ref No NJ 34 SW 15. Perhaps this description relates more to the proportion of the structure rather than its actual size.

519 Hazelwood is the only doocot in Moray constructed using bricks although others, i.e. Westfield, Mains of Seafield, utilise the material for nest boxes only.

520 The 1870 Ordnance Survey strongly suggests that a group of small buildings formerly existed on the site.

521 There are plaster lath nails on various members of the roof to indicate that they have been reused from elsewhere.

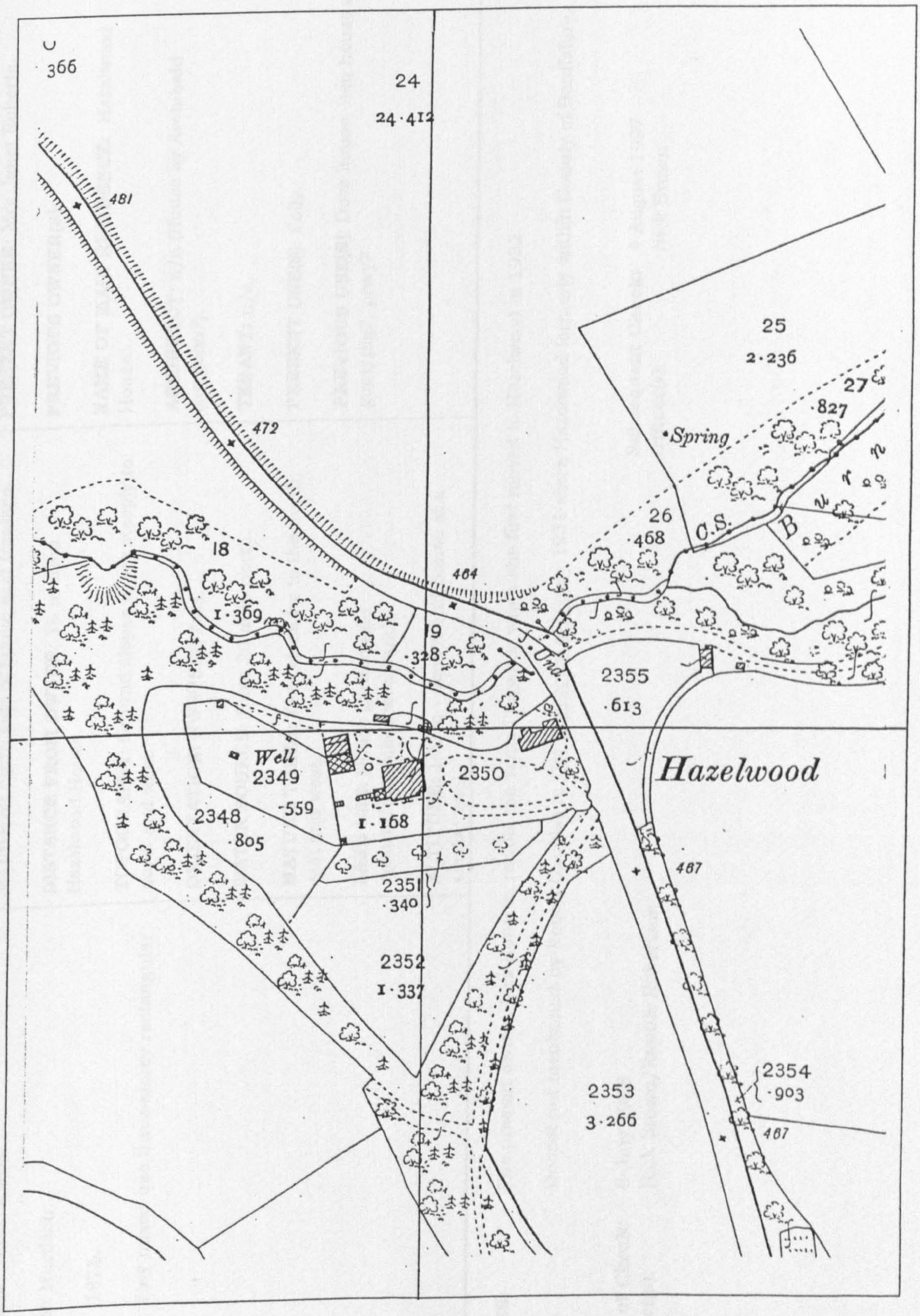
522 Beaton, loc. cit.

523 Secretary of State, op. cit.

can be readily assumed that these four boxes were contemporary with the building of the structure and were not later insertions.

The dove chamber itself, on the uppermost storey, is accessed by man also on the east side through a small, 790 high x 430 mm wide, single field-panelled and painted, wooden door sited immediately above the door to the middle chamber. Doves gained access on the opposite side through three, 125 wide x 200 mm high, flight holes which were centrally located, immediately below the westernmost eaves, in a triangular arrangement of one hole above another two and separated by a small 15 mm thick slate alighting ledge which projects by about 110 mm. The alighting ledge of the lower two flight holes is formed with a much more substantial slate, which projects 190 mm beyond the wall face and is counterbalanced by projecting a similar distance into the pigeon chamber itself. The tiny dove chamber contains 20 nest boxes on two walls, size 250 high x 250 wide x 250 mm deep, raised 220 mm off the single slab floor and constructed using thin slate ledges in association with standard brick uprights. Each of the boxes show signs of plastering and/or limewashing to the sides of the boxes and none has been blocked up. It is difficult, but not altogether impossible, for a person to enter this chamber (suggesting perhaps that young pigeons were not regularly taken for food).

Written: January 1996



Map extract from 1903 Ordnance Survey

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 318 446. **PARISH**: Mortlach. **DATE**: 1875. **TYPE**: Tiny mixed use three storey rectangular tower.	**SITING**: on north side of house east frontage. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 18 m from Hazelwood House. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Ground slopes down steeply to north and west. **ORIENTATION:** NWW/SEE Axis. **WATER SOURCE**: Burn 20 m to north. **MATURE TREES**: Yes - close by to the north, east and west. **LAND USE:** House garden and natural/manmade woodland. **ALTITUDE:** 140 m - doocot and house at a similar level.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Mrs Janet Roberts. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Hazelwood House. **ARCHITECT**: n/a (House by Archibald Simpson?). **TENANT:** n/a. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Folly. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Dove house, hen house and goat/pig?, privy?

NOTES: The present owner, Mrs Roberts, recalls the 'fantail pigeons' when she first moved to Hazelwood in 1932.

Doocot not mentioned by Robert Douglas in The Dovecotes of Moray 1931 since Hazelwood formerly within County of Banffshire.

Date of Check: 6 July 1995
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson

Subsequent Check: 4 August 1997
Officer(s): Nick Brown

4.0 CONDITION

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent.

REPAIRS: Some cement patching to harling.

ALTERATIONS: Shelf removed from middle chamber. Weather vane removed?

FUTURE RISK: None evident. Building not listed.

5.0 CONSTRUCTION

PLAN FORM: Rectangular.

PLAN SIZE: 1.7 x 2.1 m.

WALLHEAD HEIGHT: 3 m (from ground level).

OVERALL HEIGHT: 4.1 m (excluding vane).

WALL CONSTRUCTION: Outer row of stretcher bond, inner row of header brick.

WALL MATERIAL: Brick (on stone foundation).

WALL THICKNESS: 240 mm.

WALL FINISH: Lime harling.

ROOF FORM: Piended (on 4 sides).

ROOF CONSTRUCTION: Second hand 140 x 65 mm timbers with single cross tie and standard sarking cladding.

ROOF PITCH: 45°.

ROOF FINISH: 11 rows of (Dufftown?) slate with mitred hips and eaves overhang.

6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES

DOOR CONSTRUCTION: Second - central painted 3 field panelled timber (reused?) Third - central painted single field panelled timber (reused?).

OUTER DOOR TYPE: n/a.

DOOR SIZE: second - 1790 (h) x 680 mm (w) Third - 790 (h) x 430 mm (w).

DOOR SITING: East facing.

LEDGES: Two - (only outside flight holes).

LEDGES HEIGHT: 2.6 to 2.9 m (above ground level).

TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH: 1.5 m.

APERTURES: None (except 2 'doors' at low level of middle chamber and one at ground level of ground chamber).

VENT HOLES: None (except one 250 x 250 mm opening and one 50 mm diameter pipe at high level of middle chamber).

FLIGHT HOLES: 3 No - one above two, 150 (w) x 200 mm (h).

TOTAL VENT AREA: 0.1 m^2 (flight holes only).

LIMEWASH: yes - traces.

DORMERS: n/a.

SKEWS: n/a.

FINIALS: No - (lead cap missing).

WEATHER VANE: Possibly removed and repositioned on motor house.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES	8.0 COMMENT	9.0 REFERENCES
THRESHOLD STEPS: No (middle chamber 360 mm above ground level). **PARTITION WALLS**: No. **FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:** single slate slab (thickness unknown - approx 50 mm). **NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION**: linear arrangement of standard brick uprights with 10 mm slate ledges. **NEST BOX NUMBER:** 20. **NEST BOX SIZE:** 250 (h) x 250 (w) x 230 mm (d). **NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR**: 220 mm. **NEST BOXES BLOCKED**: None. **ALIGHTING LEDGES**: No. **LIMEWASH/PLASTER:** Ground - all walling. First - all surfaces except floor. Second - sides of boxes. **COLLECTING AID**: No. **BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL**: say 20 x 2 x 0.8 = 32. **INTERNAL VOLUME:** Ground - 1.24 m³. First - 3.5 m³. Second - 2.34 m³. **OTHER:** 700 mm high ground chamber approx. 300 mm below ground level with a single 450 (w) x 500 mm (h) arched top opening on bottom left of west elevation.	**ENIGMAS**: - use of ground chamber. - date.	**BOOKS**: E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 14. G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60. D. Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1976, p. 185. **ARTICLES** J. McCann, 'An Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 111. **LISTING**: **SMR**: GRC, Archaeological Site Index, Ref. No. NJ 34 SW 15. **MAPS**: 1870, 1905, 1965 OS. **PHOTOGRAPHS**: **OTHER:** House info: C. McKean, The District of Moray - an Illustrated Architectural Guide, 1987, p. 146.

NOTES: 1870 OS may show earlier building(s) on site.



HAZELWOOD DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.15.1)

View of structure from the west showing the arch topped entrance to the base chamber and the three flight holes with landing ledges to the upper doocot chamber. The irregularities in the harling finish at ground level indicate the extent of the structure constructed in stone with the more true brick built structure above. The main house is just out of picture to the right.



HAZELWOOD DOOCOT, 1995 (Plate 5.6.15.2)

View of structure from the east showing the narrow doors to the middle and upper chambers (open and closed respectively). Early map evidence from 1872 and 1902 suggests that the boundary hedge once shut this building (or an earlier one) off from the main house, but this photograph illustrates the hedge now stepping around it.

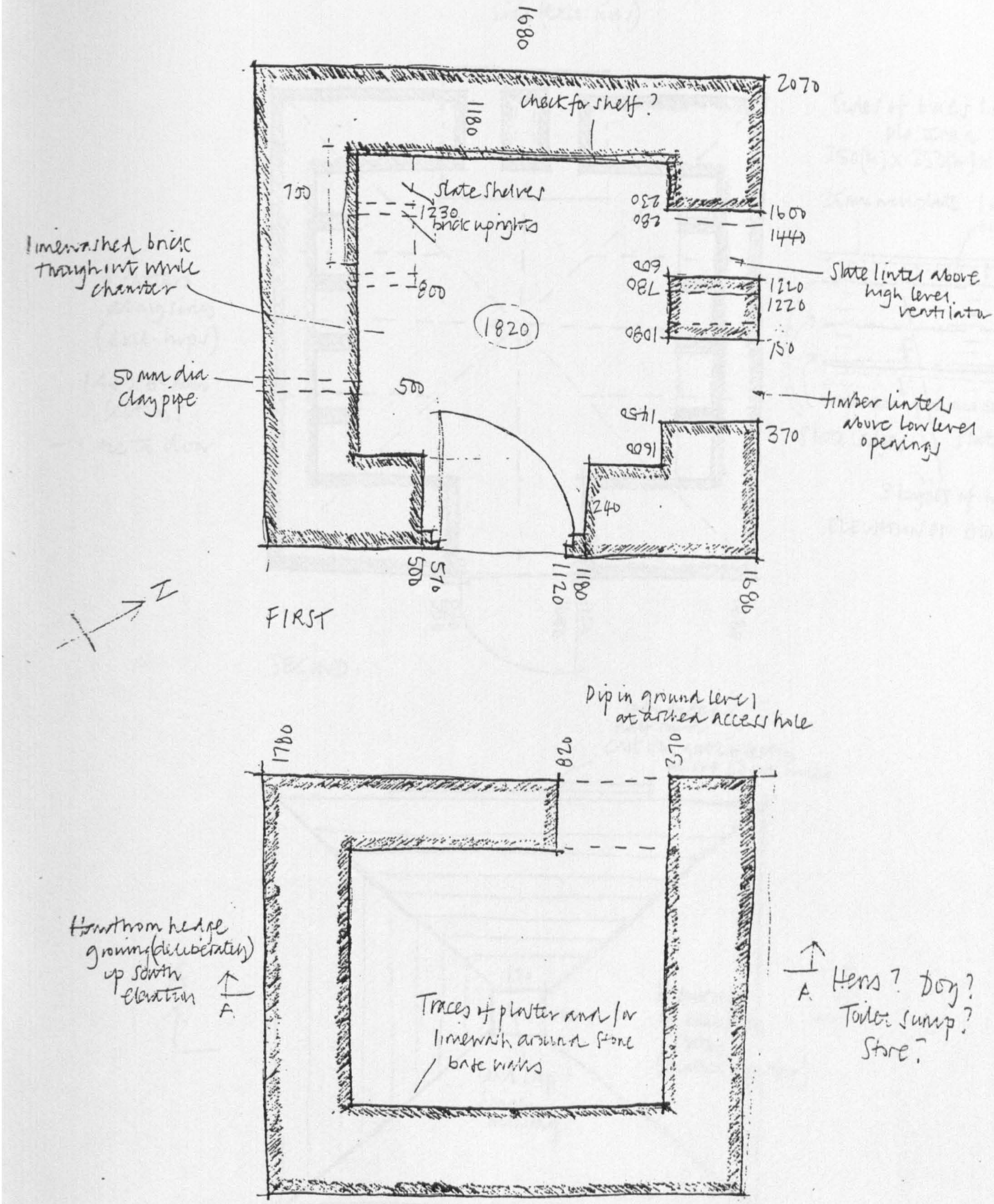


HAZELWOOD DOOCOT 1995 (Plate 5.6.15.3)
Interior photograph of the uppermost chamber, the doocot itself. The space is small and the floor is constructed of one slate slab while the walls are only one brick thick. The nest sites are formed using a combination of brick and slate with lime plastered cheeks.
Although the chamber is still accessible, the lack of guana indicates the doves do not inhabit the doocot (the cot and its environ therefore do not provide the proper conditions to make birds feel secure).



HAZELWOOD HOUSE, 1995 (Plate 5.6.15.4)

Front elevation of existing house (which makes the house deceptively small). The doocot structure is just out of view to the right of picture.

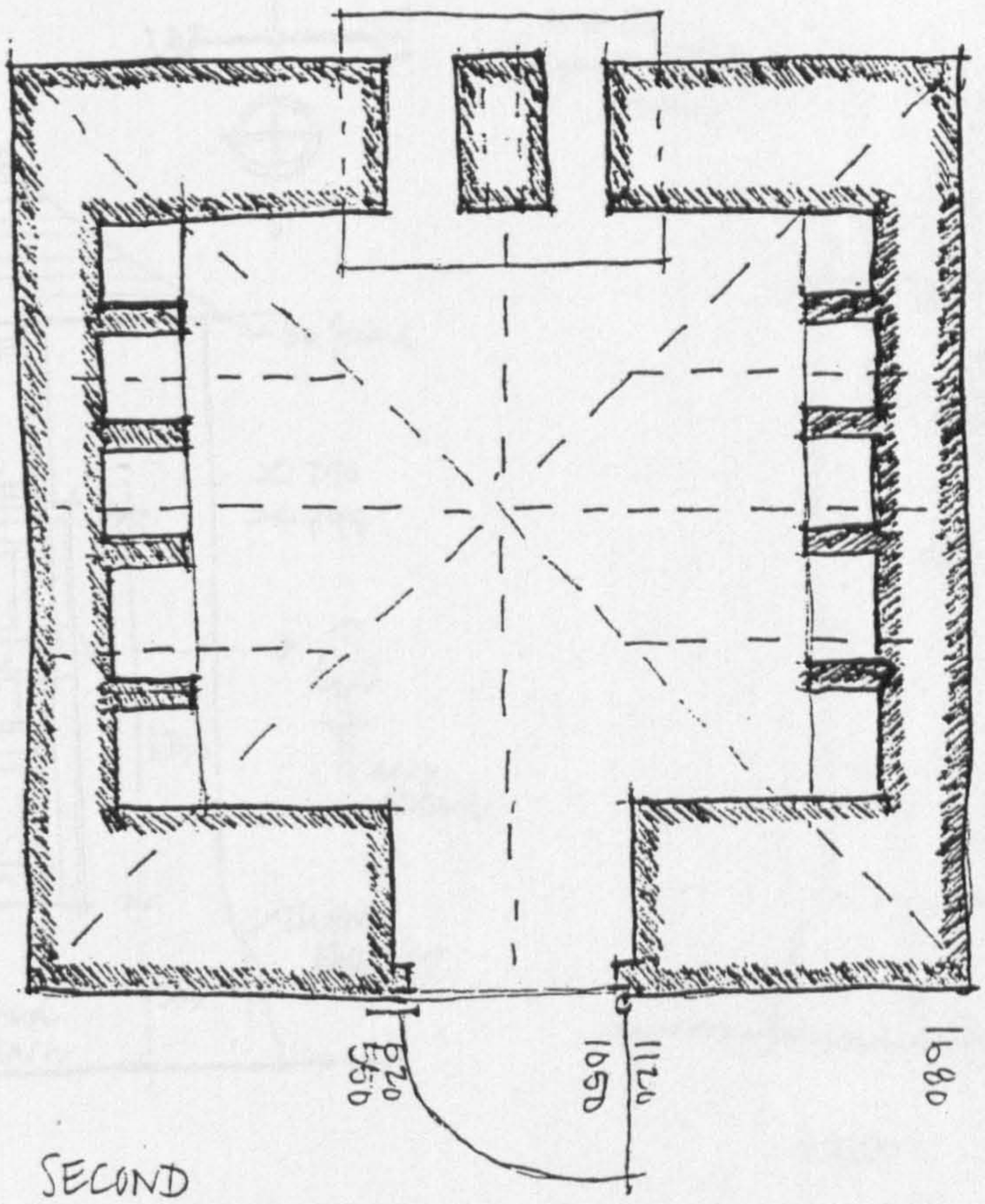


1 imperial brick throughout wall chamber

1 of 3

SURVEY DRAWING OF HAZELWOOD DOOCOT 1B

1 rafter along short side (excl. hips)



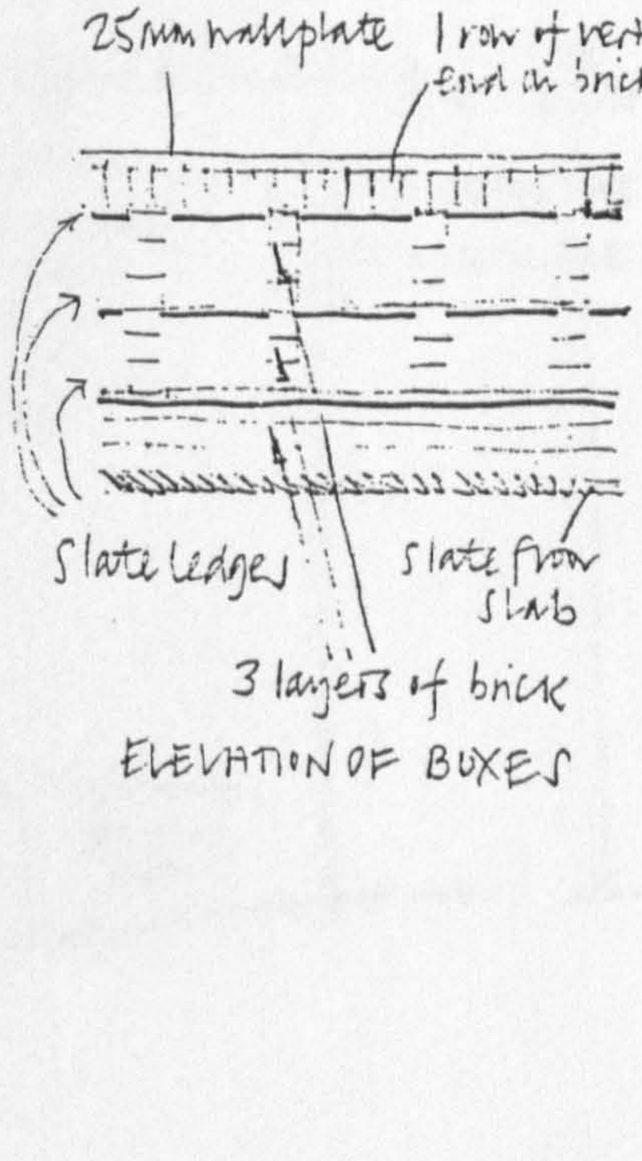
3 rafters along sides (excl. hips)

146 X 65 mm sections

- 1 tie to door

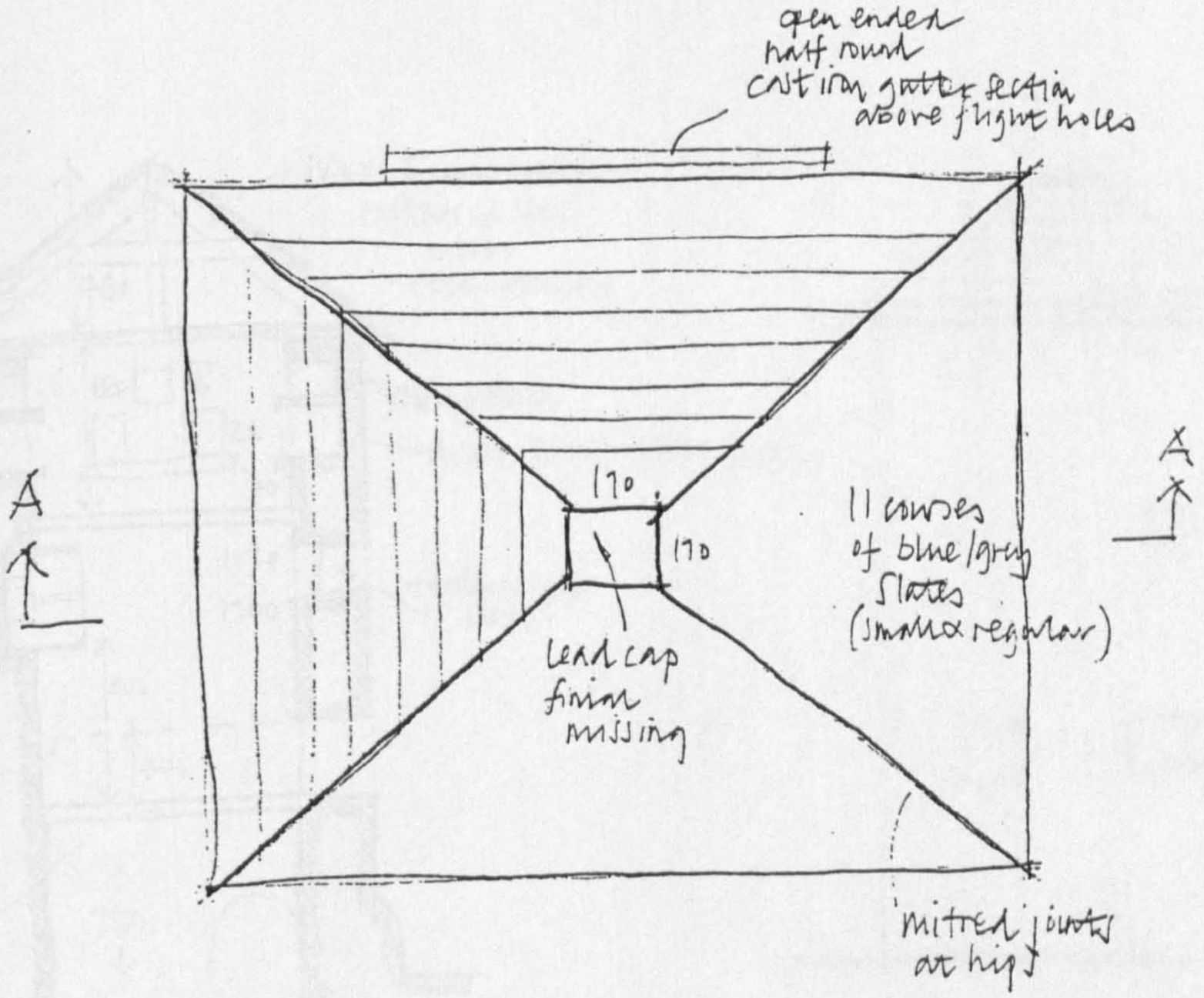
Sides of boxes have plasterer

250(h) x 250(w) x 230(d)



ELEVATION OF BOXES

SECOND



ROOF PLAN

2 of 3

SURVEY DRAWING OF HAZELWOOD DOOCOT NB

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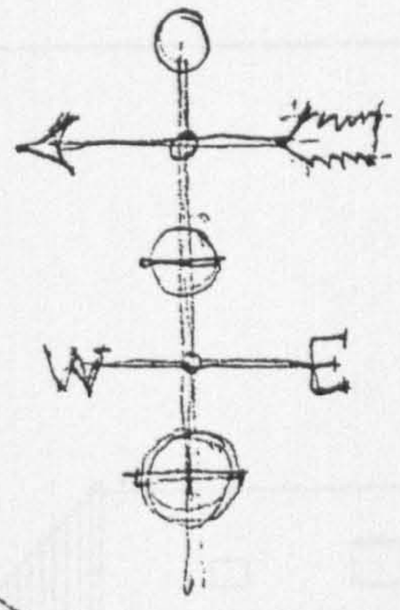
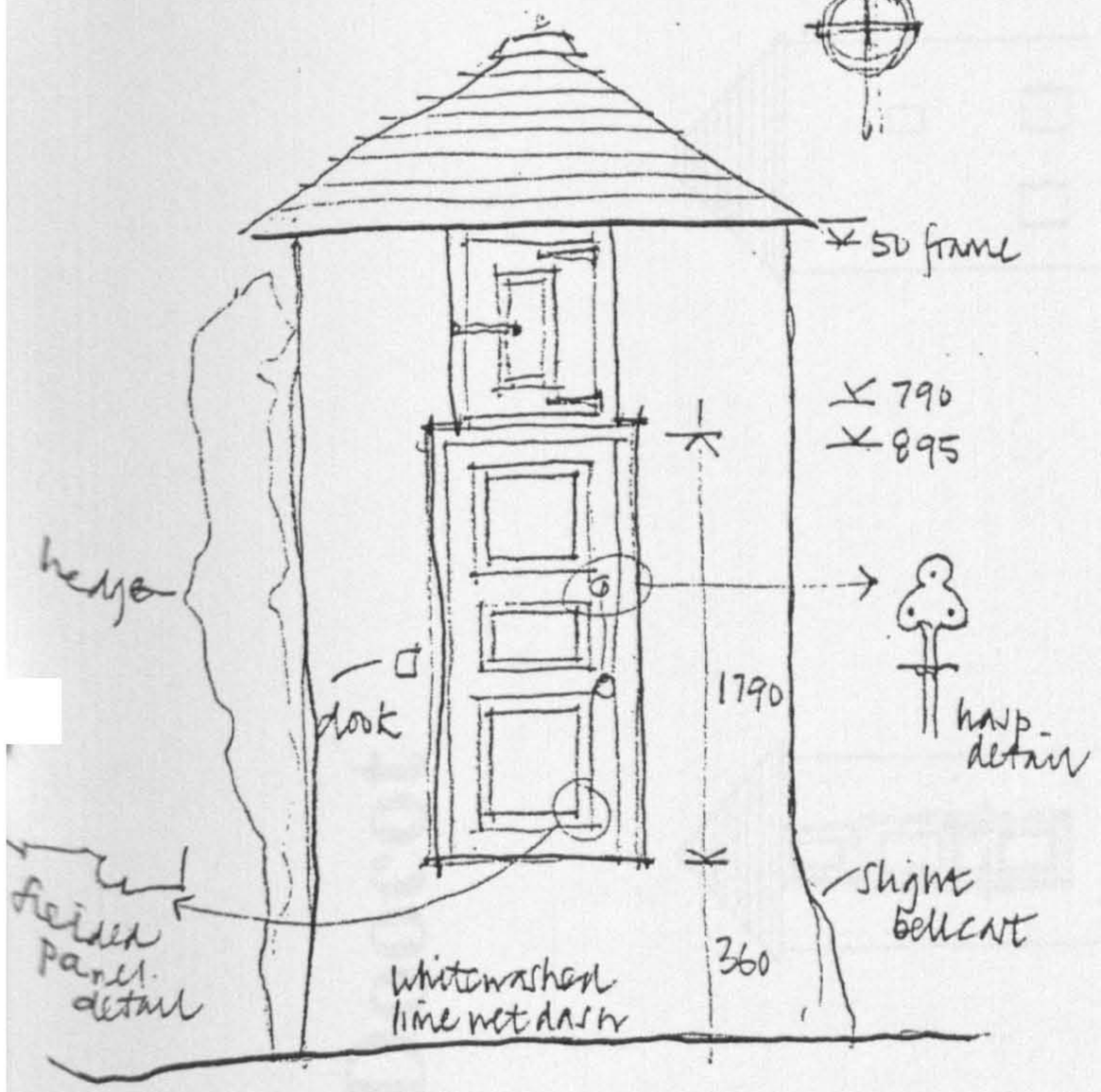
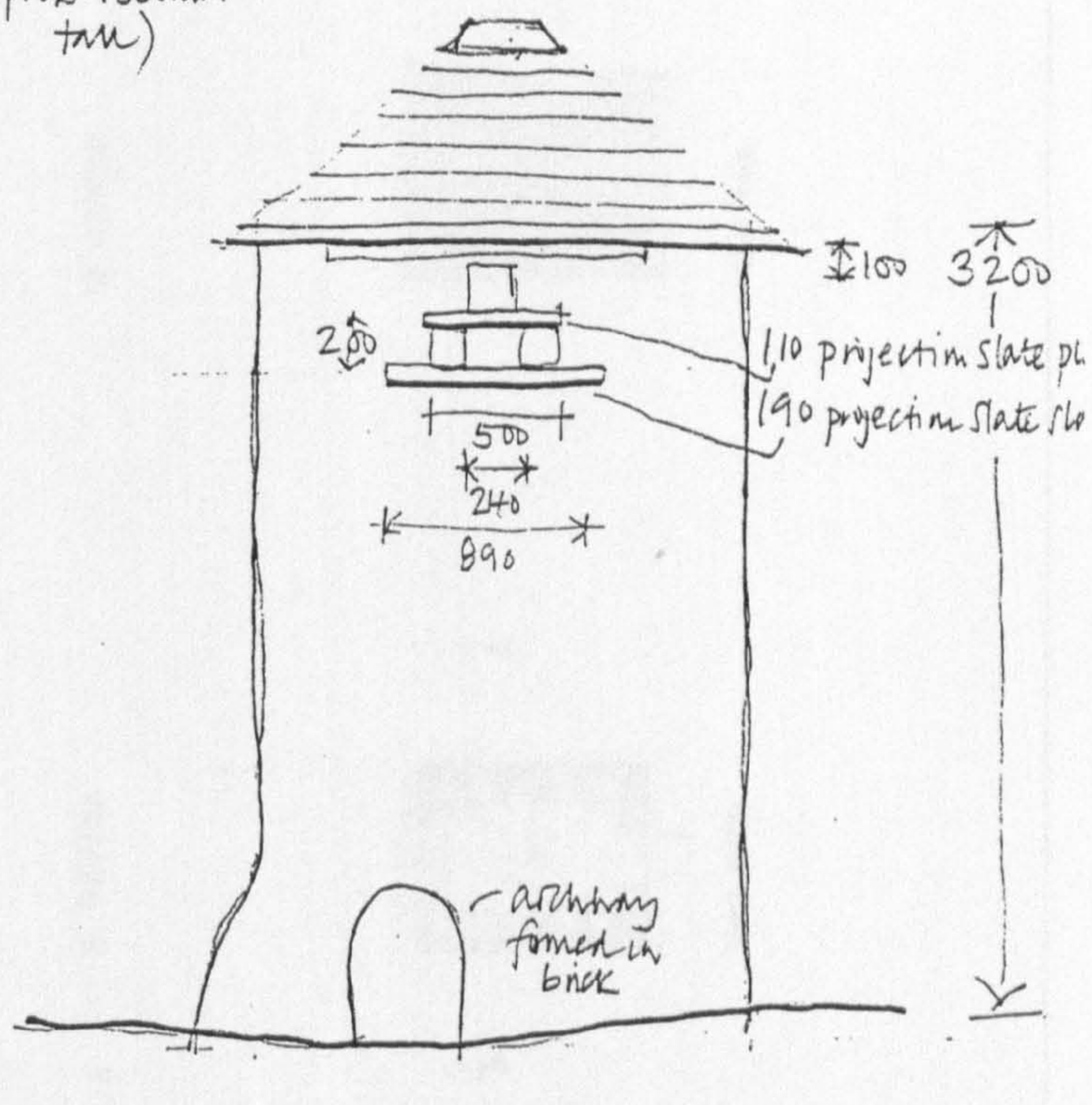
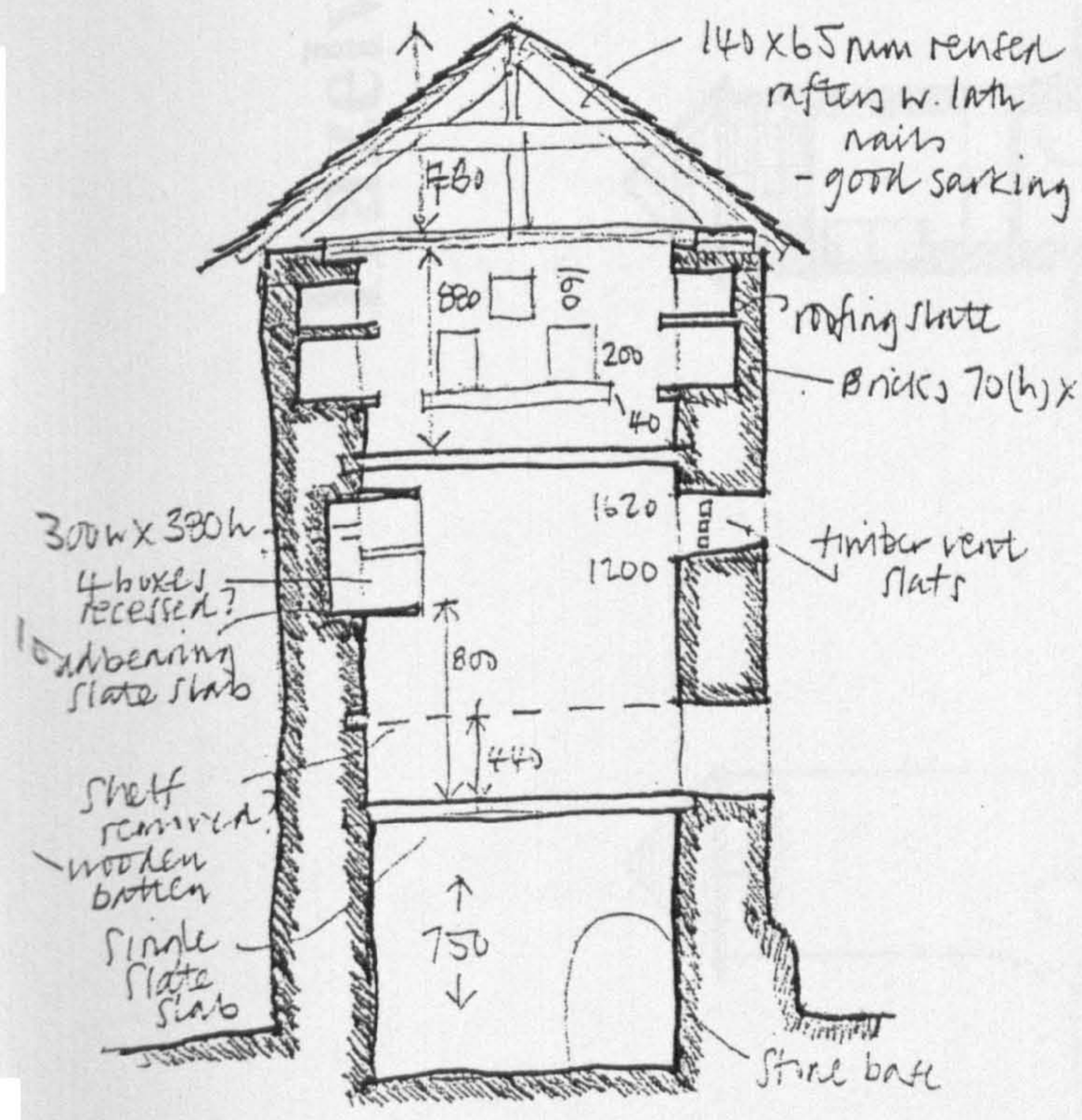
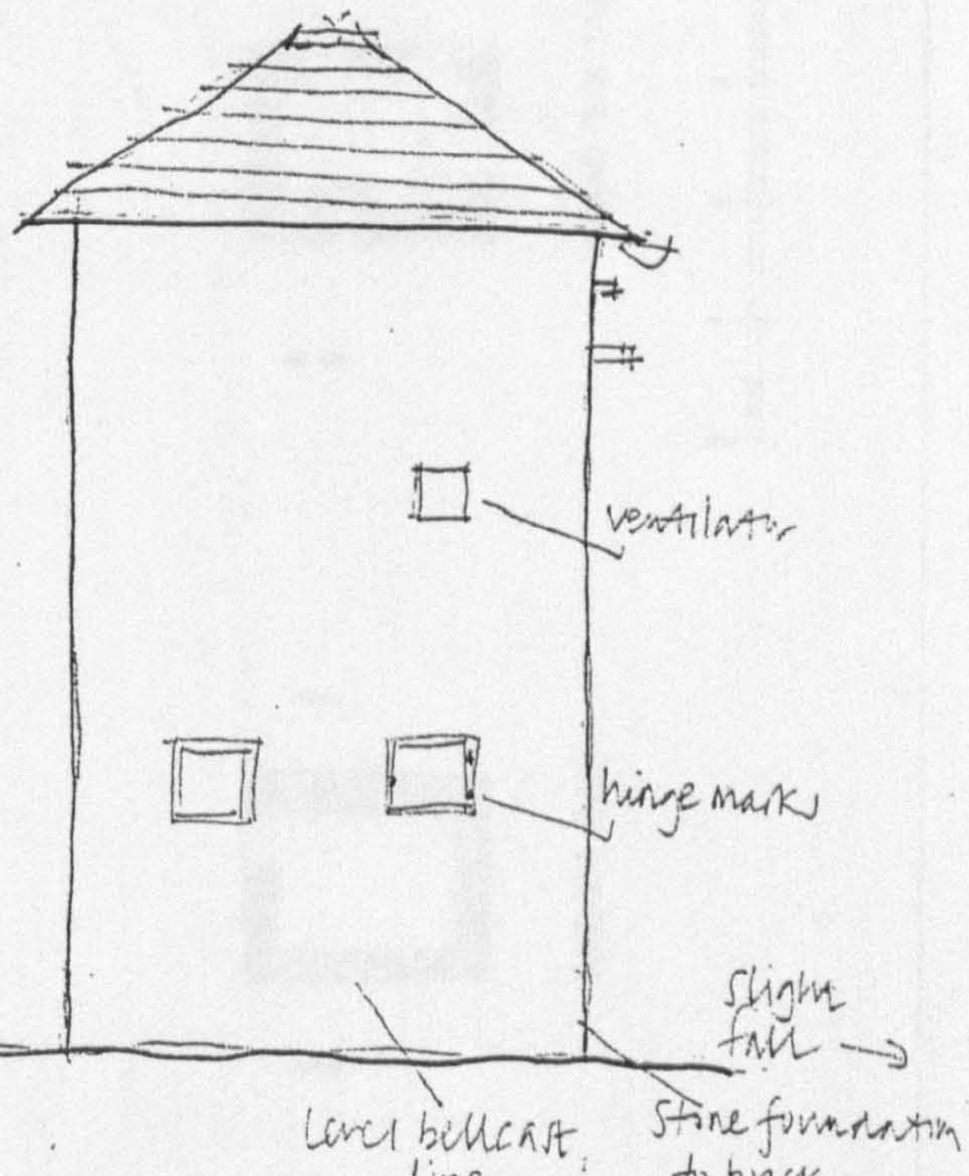


Sketch of vane on motor house (approx. 1500mm tall)





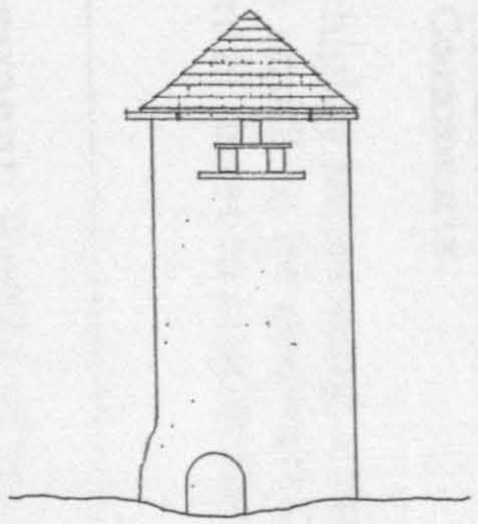




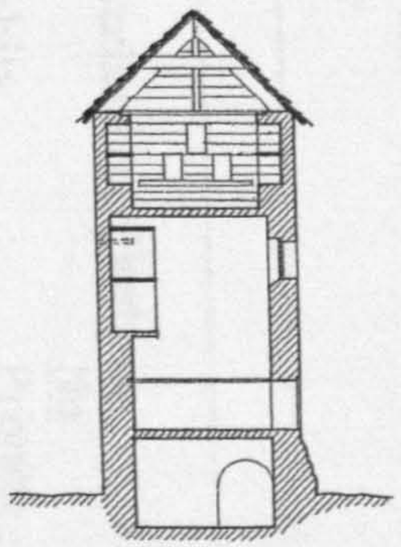
SURVEY DRAWING OF HAZELWOOD DOOLOT 615
NB

3 of 3

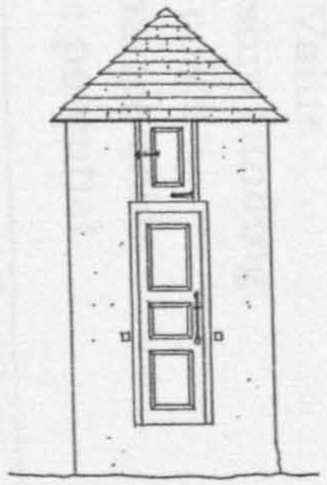
Hazelwood Doocot



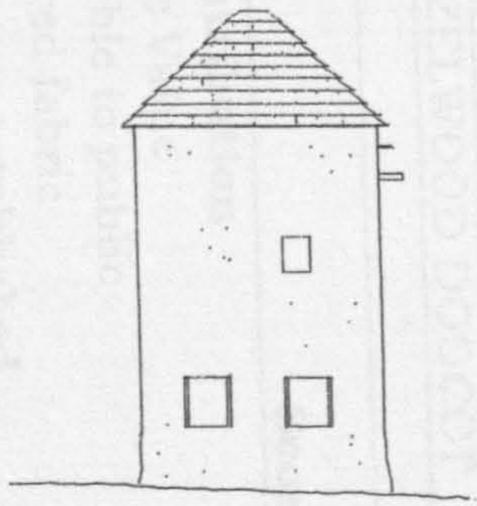
NW ELEVATION



SECTION AA



SE ELEVATION



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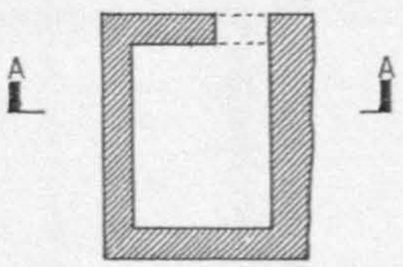
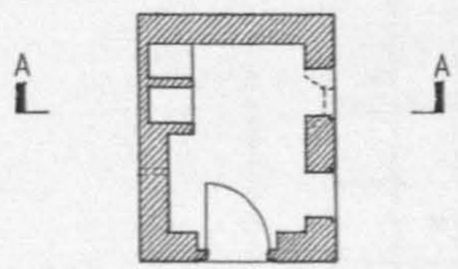
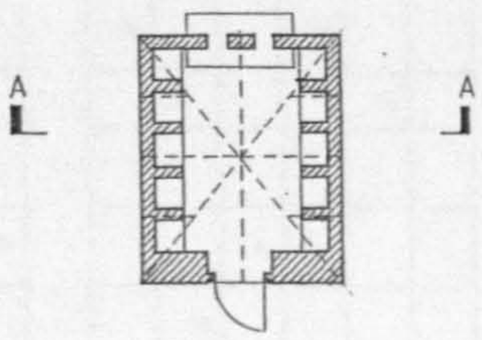


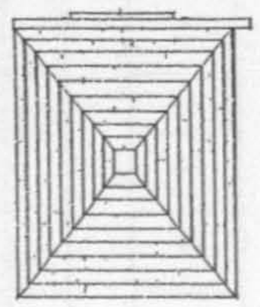
BASEMENT PLAN



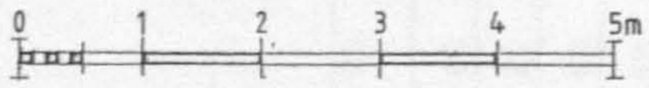
GROUND PLAN 1:50



FIRST FLOOR



ROOF PLAN



EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: HAZELWOOD DOOCOT **Grid Ref**: NJ 318 446

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value							x					1
• Accessible to public							x					2
• Unaltered fabric									x			5
• Provenance established								x				7
• Educational Merit								x				9
• Cultural Integrity								x				11
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable				x								9
• Tourist Value							x					10
• Partnership funding						x						10
• Capital costs									x			13
• Maintenance costs										x		17
• Revenue potential						x						17
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance									x			20
• Landscape prominence							x					21
• Original setting								x				23
• Use of Materials									x			26
• Features of interest									x			29
• Condition									x			32
• Interior							x					33
											TOTAL	33

Other contributing factors

- Listed — No
- Ownership — Private - Mrs Roberts
- Architect — Not known (unlikely)
- Archive material — None
- Future developments — None
- Risk Assessment — Low

Summary Comments:

Small, but highly interesting, structure. More 'vernacular', than 'architectural', value. Too small to be converted but could easily be restocked to function as an ornamental asset to landscaped policies.

Final Assessment: Worthy of consideration for listing by Historic Scotland.

5.6.16 SEAPARK HOME FARM DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 062 616, Kinloss Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Seapark Home Farm Doocot is an example of a single chambered square box, projecting from the roof of a one and half storey courtyard steading block. It is associated with Seapark House, an early nineteenth century mansion sited 110m away to the north-west, and both are found in Kinloss Parish in north west Moray on the Findhorn flood plain at an altitude of only 3m.[524] The doocot is orientated towards the south-west, at right angles to the steading roof which runs along a north-west/south-east axis. The open end of the steading courtyard faces immediately onto the main Kinloss to Forres road, whilst the Gothic revival façade of the steading looks back towards the main house. This ornate steading block was built around 1868 in the castellated Gothic style using mainly masonry construction and an ashlar clock tower is to be found diametrically opposite the doocot on the other side of the courtyard. The location, and form, of the doocot is in character with the rest of the steading, but its lightweight nature suggests that the doocot could be a later addition. A newspaper article of the time makes no mention of it: *"And what are these handsome buildings to the east, lofty and battlemented like unto the house itself, with a lofty tower containing bell and clock? Why, stables, coach-houses, harness-rooms, gun-room, dairy, poultry-yard, houses for servants, and last (not least) a large and excellent hall".*[525]

Although the doocot is redundant, the structure is in reasonable condition. The doocot could, therefore, be of mid to late nineteenth century date and was presumably incorporated into the steadings design to impress the public passing nearby and add quality to the ambience of the Seapark policies.

Since the steading block at Seapark is listed, the future of the doocot is relatively secure.[526]

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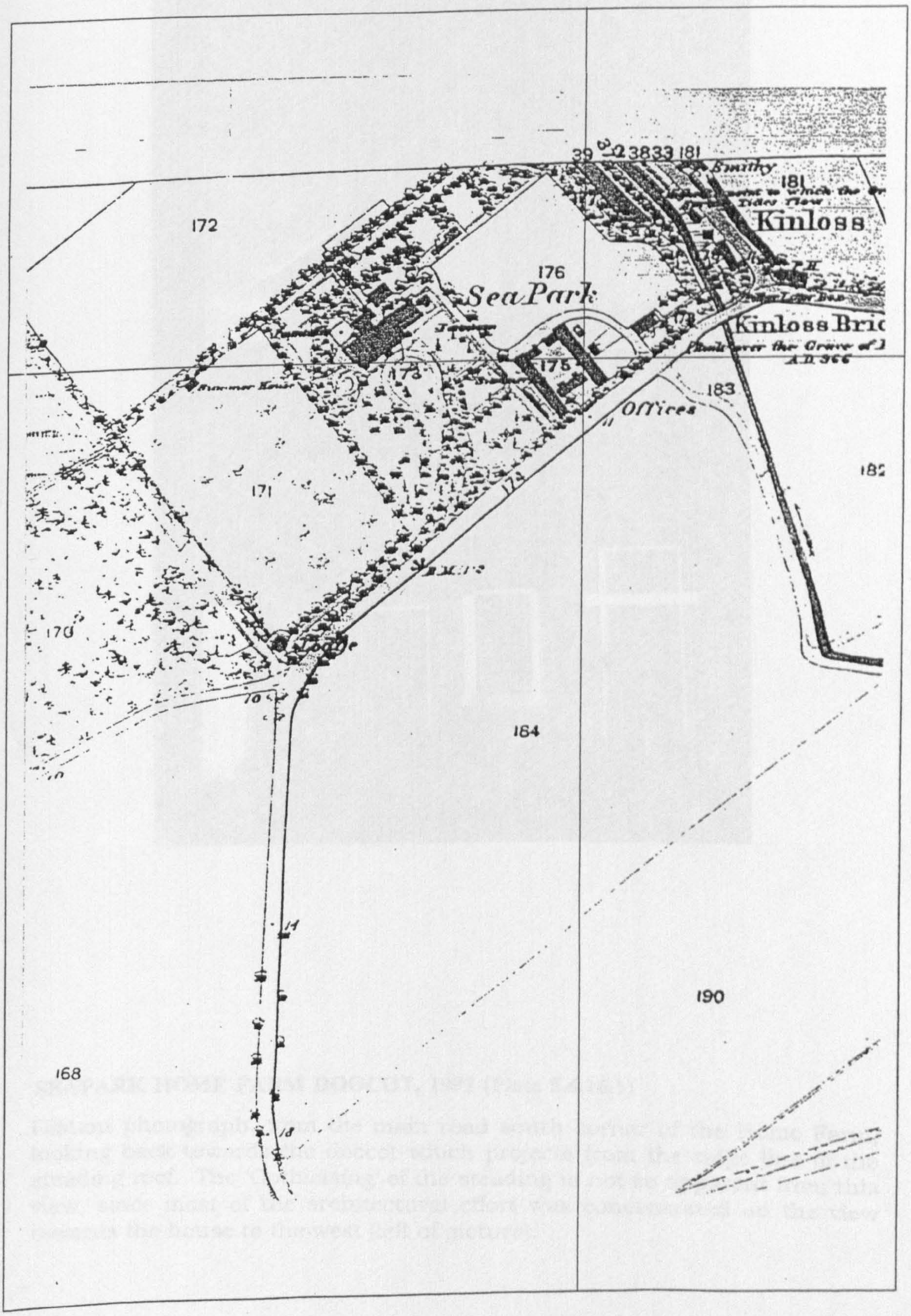
524 J. & W. Watson, Morayshire Described, 1868, p.120-1.
John Dunbar bought the house from Frederick Suter in 1838 and soon enlarged it and "*much improved the pleasure grounds*".
525 'Elgin Courant', 29/9/1871, p.6, s.v. 'Seapark'. Article provides description of the improved house and policies.
526 Secretary of State, Statutory List for Moray, Kinloss Parish, Item 31, p.33.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Seapark Home Farm Doocot is square in plan (approx. 3x3m) and rises from the roof by about 2m to its eaves at an overall height around 7m. The walls are constructed in timber and are clad on the south-west face using 150mm wide vertical boarding, whilst the other three sides are covered in Ballachilish slates (the upper courses having been specially dressed to form a fish-scale pattern). Where the vertical slates meet the timber cladding at the external angle of the frontage, a terracotta, (or painted timber) decorative moulding has been skilfully employed to enhance the structure's aesthetic appeal. The vertical timber clad façade contains two rows of blocked flight holes, each row possessing six arch-topped holes approximate size 125 (w) x 150mm (h) and markings on the boarding suggests that a landing ledge beneath each row has been removed.

The roof of the doocot is pyramidal and pitched at around 35 degrees. It is slated in similar fashion to the main steading roof and has lead flashings at its hips dressed over wood core rolls. The swept eaves project by about 300mm and are supported by decorative timber console brackets at 200mm centres giving the eaves a dentilled appearance from a distance. The pyramid roof is crowned with a 1m tall decorative timber (or metal) finial.

(Since access to this doocot was not provided, the interior has not been inspected and a measured survey was not carried out. Judging by the volume of the doocot, it may have contained over 100 nest boxes).



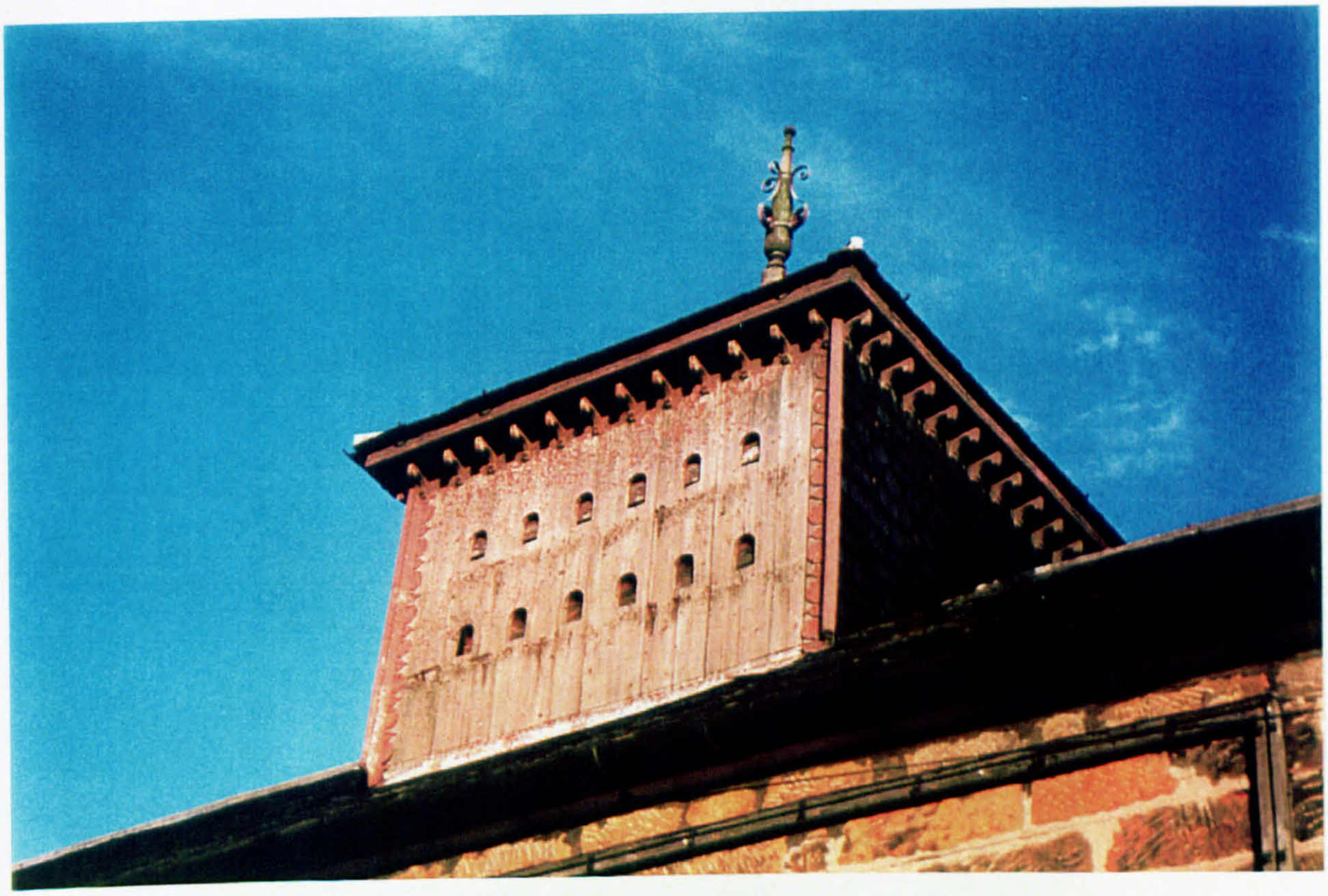
Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Seapark Farm Doocot (Fig. 5.6.16)



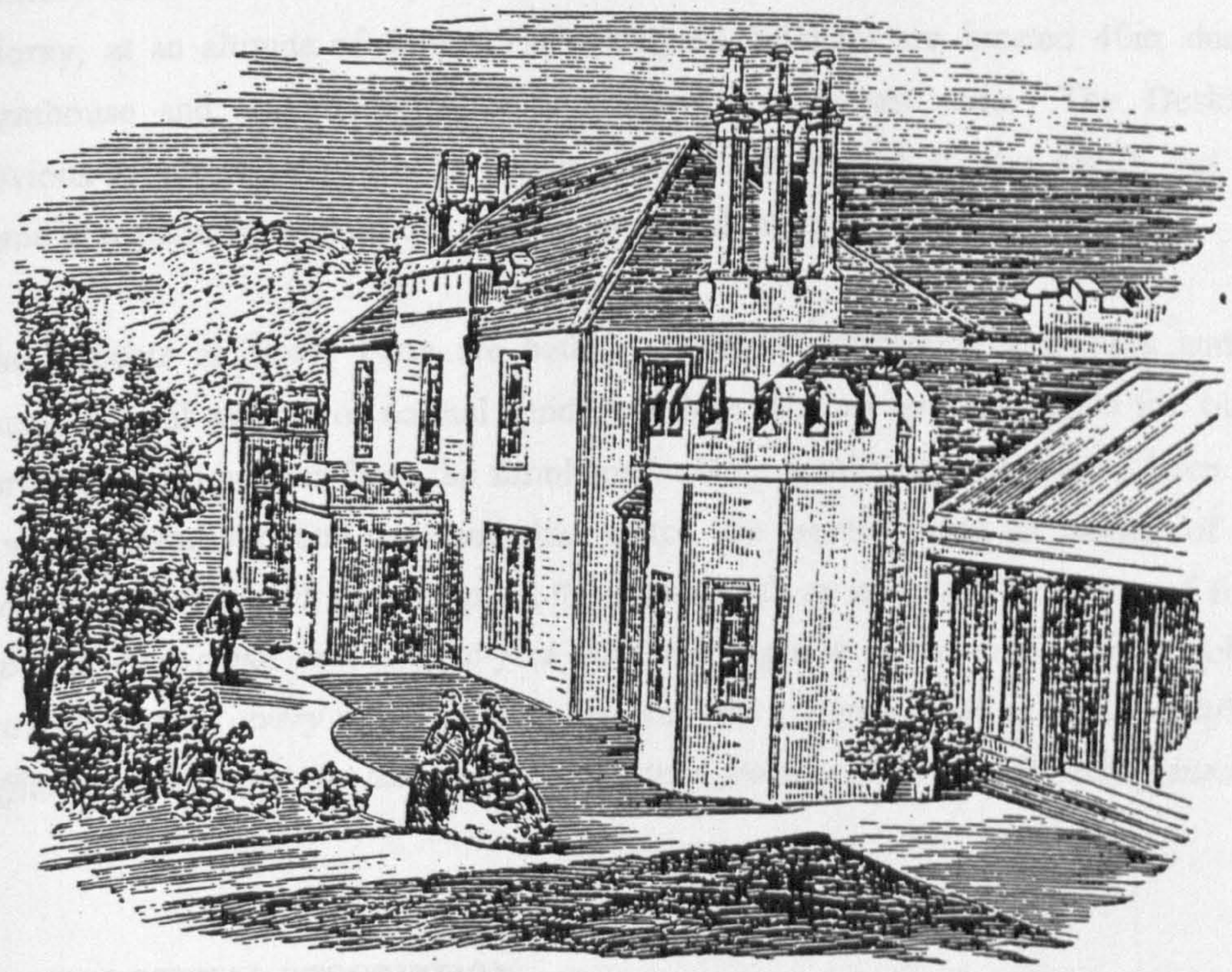
SEAPARK HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.6.16.1)

Distant photograph, from the main road south corner of the Home Farm, looking back towards the doocot which projects from the ridge line of the steading roof. The 'Gothicising' of the steading is not so apparent from this view, since most of the architectural effort was concentrated on the view towards the house to the west (left of picture).



SEAPARK HOME FARM DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.6.16.2)

Close up view of the south elevation illustrating the boarded frontage with two rows of flight holes (with missing landing ledges and support brackets). The detailing of the finishes such as the slates, corbel brackets, angle moulds and finial, all demonstrates work of some precision.



SEAPARK HOUSE (Plate 5.6.16.3)
Illustration of south east frontage of house as documented in J. & W. Watson's, Morayshire Described, 1868, p. 120.

5.6.17 TOWIE FARM DOOCOTS

Grid Ref: NJ 524 648, Cullen Parish

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Towie Farm Doocots are examples of small scale doocots built into the lofts of courtyard outbuildings. They are associated with the farmhouse of the Mill of Towie, a nineteenth century farm and mill complex tenanted from the Earl of Seafield near Cullen, north-east Moray, at an altitude of 30m. The courtyard buildings are located 40m due south of the farmhouse and are orientated on a north-west/south-east axis. The Deskford Burn, an obvious source of water for the doves, runs a further 70m to the south, but a former lade came alongside the complex in its days as a working corn mill.

The doocots at Towie Farm are both examples of vernacular responses and their designs 'break' several aspects of normal guidance: there are no landing ledges for birds; one faces north-east; and neither faces the farmhouse. They would, however, have been clearly visible from the nearby public road and thus match the nearby farm at Mains of Birkenbog.[527] Moreover, they would have supplied the farmer with an adequate provision of food. *"We had a pigeon-house not exceeding 6 feet cube in the gable of the cow-byre, which yielded 150 pairs of pigeons every season... with ordinary care, pigeons being very prolific breeders, a sufficient number for the table may be obtained from four pairs of breeding birds".*[528]

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The doocots are located at the two 'open ends' of the courtyard (both found in its north-east corner) and were each built into the apex of the respective roofs. The vestiges are the two groupings of flight holes sited high in each gable. These are very simply constructed, using three 150mm inverted, U-shape, clay drainpipes[529], arranged in a triangulated format (one hole above two). The bases of the entry holes are also made of clay, but do not project beyond the wall face.

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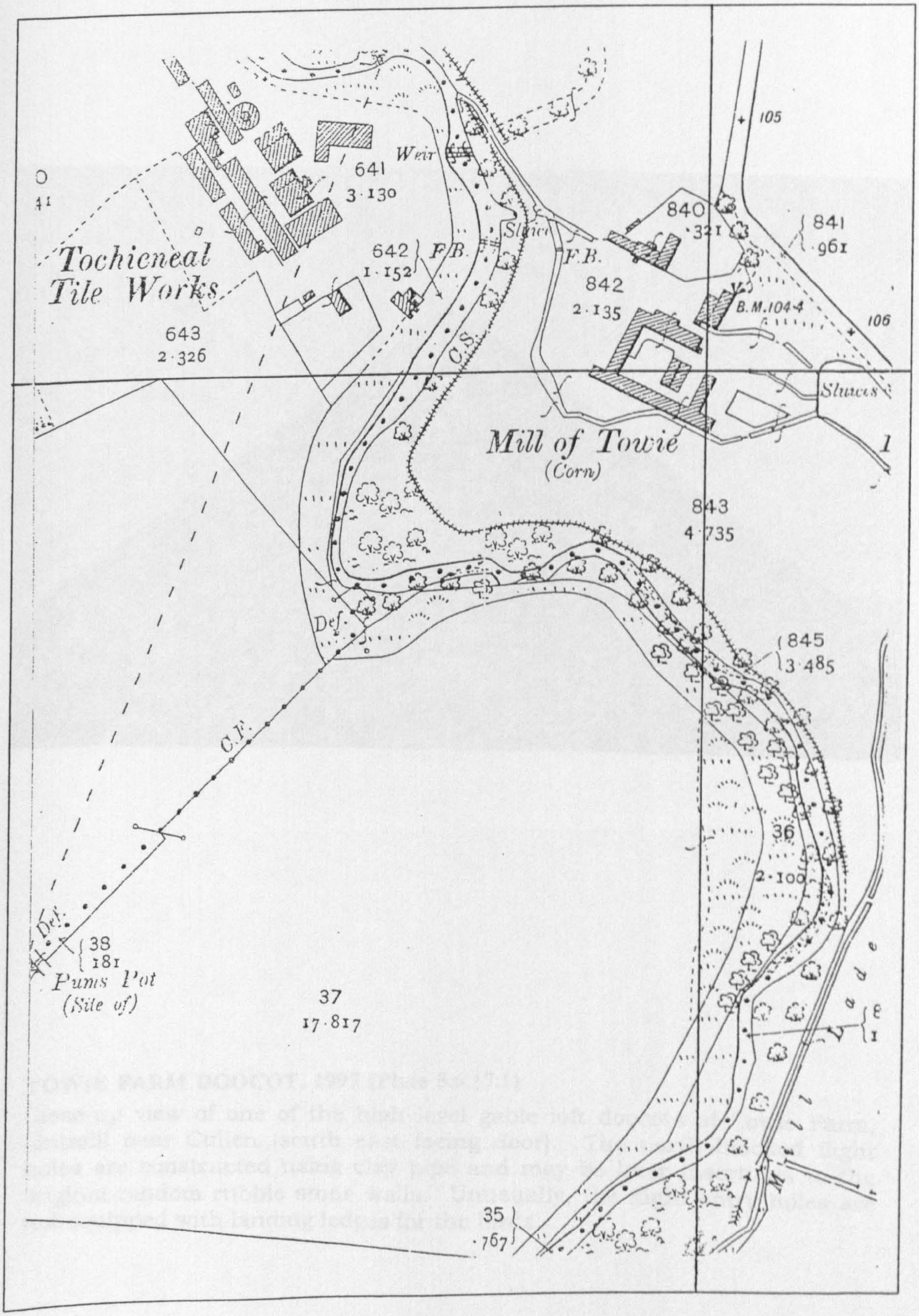
527 Just located within the 'Banffshire' boundary.

Peters, Development of the Farm, 1969, p.205. Although referring to farms in a survey of central England, Peters' comment is relevant here. *"The second type was the commonest... it contains all those with a gable entry where the dovecote itself is a small boarded loft, usually triangular in section, occupying part of the roof space over another room".* Peters gives a further description of several examples which are too lengthy to quote here.

528 Stephens, Book of the Farm, 1848, Div II., p.429.

529 Known colloquially as 'mogs'. The clay tile works, a large industrial complex, was once operational next to the mill, about 100m away to the west.



Map extract from 1903 Ordnance Survey



TOWIE FARM DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.6.17.1)

Close-up view of one of the high level gable loft doocots at Towie Farm, Lintmill near Cullen (south east facing door). The partly-blocked flight holes are constructed using clay pipe and may be later insertions to the original random rubble stone walls. Unusually, the flight entry holes are not equipped with landing ledges for the birds.

5.6.18 SEAFIELD FARM DOOCOT

Grid Reference: NJ 517 667, Cullen Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Seafield Farm Doocot is a curious, but plain, example of a small, mixed use, two storey square tower with a dual-pitched roof (similar to those found at Urquhart Manse and Hazelwood House in Speyside, q.v.). Its form is simple, and other examples of small scale structures can be found throughout the agricultural lowlands of Scotland. It is situated on the southern side of the farm court boundary wall, which is approximately 25m to the east of the present farmhouse and about 15 m to the south of the present farm buildings.

The farm complex of steadings, byres and courts is located on a reasonably level platform, which first dips, then rises gradually to the east towards the Crannoch Hill, and rolls gently down to the west to meet the main entrance road to Cullen on the Aberdeen side. The doocot faces north-west and is parallel with the boundary wall, but the flight holes are located on the south-west and south-east elevations and are clearly seen from the main A98 road some 90 m away, (save for some partial obstruction by the lower branches of the mature trees to the immediate south of the doocot[530]). The building is only about 53 m above sea level, which is less than a mile to the north. With the Crannoch Hill about half a mile to the east containing a small loch and the Cullen Burn to the west, also about half a mile away, the birds would not have had to travel far for water. It is also highly possible that they obtained further supplies from the nearby farm court troughs which are shown on the nineteenth century O.S.[531].

Seafield Farm Doocot was probably built for a tenant farmer of the Earl of Seafield at the turn of this century, perhaps coinciding with the resiting of the farm house itself[532]. Despite the Secretary of State's listing stating that this structure dates from the early nineteenth

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530 These trees do not appear on the 1870 O.S. Map.

531 The map is annotated with the word 'Troughs'. C. Waistell, Designs for Architectural Buildings, 1827, p. 48 observes that, *"The pigeon-house or dove-cote, may be placed over almost any building, as the coal-house, cheese-press-house, workshop, store-room etc. but if the water collected from the roofs be used for culinary purposes, pigeons ought not to be kept, as they dirty it."*

532 Hamilton, Third Statistical Account, p. 252, *"... the only sizeable farm is Seafield with 330 acres. Seafield is proprietor over the whole parish. No farmer owns his holding."*

century, the 1870 Ordnance Survey map shows a different building on the present site[533]. It does not appear to have definite architectural order, or detail, so it may have been designed by the estate's own surveyor or indeed merely built by the tenant farmer as to his desires and wishes. The upper half of the structure (the doocot chamber) is clearly visible from the rear of the present farmhouse but would not have been seen from the original farmhouse, which was located on the northern side of the substantial farm complex.

The doocot is located to the east of Cullen in Banffshire, so it does not feature in Douglas' account of the Dovecots of Moray, which drew its eastern boundary at River Spey[534]. It is also missing from Niven Robertson's survey of Banffshire in, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', with the implication being that it was not considered 'old', not considered as a 'dovecot', or was simply undiscovered.[535] Omand, perhaps, suggested another reason when stating that, "... *later cotes, like .... the tall, rectangular one at Mains of Seafield are, in effect, pigeon lofts*"[536].

Since the building is not allowing water into wallheads, the structured movement may have been caused by subsidence. The site of the doocot itself was previously occupied by buildings[537] and it is possible that some of the materials were used to build the current farmhouse and doocot itself on top of an existing court boundary wall; certainly the rubble used to construct the doocot is not unlike the rubble within the boundary wall. Further, half of the doocot's roof discards water towards the north west and over the years this may have washed out the fines around the foundation of the base wall. Therefore, it is not surprising that the doocot (or rather the garden wall) would subside and display cracks along its gables if it is an additional load to a former garden wall. The north east elevation appears to butt-join the boundary wall and is currently partially covered from view by a shallow pitch lean-to storage shed (which has been erected comparatively recently and is therefore unlikely to have any historical association with the doocot). The decision, however, to lean the roof structure

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533 The 1870 O.S. shows a small rectangular building about 7 x 4 m running parallel with the present garden wall.
534 Douglas, The Dovecots of Moray, 1931.
535 N. Robertson, 'The Old Dovecots of Scotland', 1961, pp. 368-74.
536 Omand (ed), The Moray Book, 1976, p. 182.
537 Beaton, Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 20.

towards the garden wall, and therefore discharge rain water towards it, has again perhaps added to the wall's current loss of structural stability.

The roof is clearly a later replacement, but may be true to the original construction design. The roof's slates are thin, and may be Welsh, since the product was transported in the area in large quantities with the arrival of the railway to Cullen in the 1890's. The small projection of the skew stones, suggests that original slate, or stone, skews were removed during the overhaul of the roof; it is unclear, but likely, that the roof would have had a similar finish to the one it has today.

The southernmost flight hole, on the stone-constructed bottom row of the south-west elevation, has been blocked up using bricks. However, the Secretary of State's list of 1976 records, "... *2 rows each of 4 brick flight holes fronted by slate alighting ledges, in SW face.*"[538] If this is accurate, it can be assumed that the flight hole has been blocked since that date, perhaps in response to making a repair to the cracking on this face.

The building does not possess a ledge running around the whole perimeter of the building, and if such ledges were indeed intended to deter vermin such as rats, it does appear strange that a doocot sited on a large farm complex would not possess one. The first floor door is surprisingly tall, and may have been slightly increased in height at the time of the re-roofing, yet there is no sign around the stonework to suggest any significant alteration. If there are additional boxes, hidden behind the panelling which protrudes into the chamber, then there may be two more rows (thus increasing the number of boxes by about thirty to a total of near 100). If, however, this is not the case, then the boxes were sited approximately 500 mm above the original floor level and would thus permit the accumulation of guano for use as a fertiliser on the farm. The different type of nest box material, coupled with the insertion of the timber floor which all but separates the upper chamber into 2 sections, adds an enigmatic feature to an otherwise straightforward building.

Seafield Farm doocot appears to be one of, if not the, youngest of its type in the Moray area, and yet it has been subject to change throughout its relatively short lifespan. The

538 Sec. of State, loc. cit.

construction and subsequent alterations confirm that it is a vernacular building which has been subject to the vagaries of local whim, materials, social and economic change, rather than the overwhelming influence of architectural consciousness. Perhaps in order to survive, the doocot at Seafield Farm should, possibly, be allowed to continue its development to ensure that it fulfils a useful function, rather than being made entirely redundant. At the very least, the subsiding garden wall should be underpinned to arrest the movement; and the cracking showing in the upper areas of the wall should be stitched in order to stabilise the upper section. With this in place the doocot will survive for, at least, another generation. Should future generations ever decide to strip the privy lining boards, then a full study of the walls beneath ought to be made in order to resolve the puzzling sequence of alteration and full number of nest boxes.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Seafield Farm doocot is almost square in plan (2.3 x 2.6 m) and only extends to an overall height of 5.5 m to its ridge. The 500 mm thick walls are constructed using a melange of fieldstone rubble which is used in an irregular manner and bonded by coarse lime mortar. Roughly squared stones are incorporated at the external angles and around door openings. The roof structure appears to be a later replacement of four, 150 x 150 mm, timber trusses at 45 degree pitch with similarly sized ties half way up the rafters. Standard horizontal sarking, which is viewable from the inside chamber, supports uniformly graded, 5 to 10 mm thick, blue/grey slates. The roof is finished with buff clay ridging and the skews are capped with a concrete casting, which also forms a direct haunch onto the slates.

Four sets of 160 mm rectangular flight holes (three constructed in brick and one of stone) appear at heights varying from 2.5 to 3.7 m on the exterior. Two sets of four can be found on the south-west elevation whilst one set of four, above one set of six, are located on the south-east elevation. All of the four flight rows possess a 50 mm thick slate alighting ledge, which projects about 120 mm from the face of the building.

Although the statutory listing refers to ,"... *brick flight holes*"[539], the lower row of holes on the south-west elevation is constructed in stone and is taller than those constructed in brick by about 50 mm. The lower row of six holes, on the rear south-east elevation, is supported using a timber lintel; as is the 300 mm high x 460 mm wide opening at ground level, on the left side of the north-east gable, and it may be in both cases that the use of timber indicates later insertions. There are no apertures or openings, other than the flight holes, to provide ventilation and/or daylight.

A central (and tall) wooden framed, ledged door, 1880 high x 750 mm wide, with painted vertical boarding, opens outwards on hasp hinges to provide generous first floor access to the upper chamber. The pigeon chamber itself contains a perplexing combination of nest boxes which are constructed in the lower half using red clay engineering bricks (likely to have come from the Tochieneal tile works some two miles away) and overlapping wooden shelving, whereas the upper portion is constructed using stonework and slate. The brick boxes still wear signs of plastering and are slightly smaller than those constructed in stone (i.e. brick - 230 high x 270 wide x 280 mm deep; whilst stone - 250 high x 220 wide x 280 mm deep) so there are six brick nest boxes in a row compared to only five in stone. The different construction techniques are separated by a 25 mm timber plank floor which is integral with the brick nest boxes and otherwise unsupported, except by posting where it is cut short to allow access at the entrance door. There appears to be three rows of brick boxes in the lower segment of the upper chamber, one of which is partially obscured by the framing out of the lower chamber, and it is not altogether clear if there are further rows extending to what might have been the former floor level.

Both the upper and ground floor chambers have been used as material stores, yet there is no doubt that the upper chamber served as a small pigeon house (presumably for food, but possibly simply for pleasure) whereas the lower chamber served some other purpose. Peterkin describes the lower chamber as a, "... *garden store*"[540], yet there is clear evidence of its use as a privy; the walls strapped and lined, using 100 mm wide varnished tongued and grooved vertical boarding with a simple 50 mm moulded wooden coving, and the height of this chamber has evidently been raised to make its use as a privy more comfortable[541].

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539 Secretary of State, Statutory Listing, Moray District, Cullen Burgh, Item 24, p. 11.

540 Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1981, p. 60.

541 As Whitworth, 'Yorkshire Dovecotes', 1993, p. 80 records, combinations of pigeons and privies are not unknown elsewhere, "*A most interesting dovecote survives at Old Dunsa Bank. Here the pigeons sat above the privy. Above this outside toilet are some 50 or so nest boxes. Access to the birds was through an upper external door by way of a ladder.*"

The raising of this ceiling has undoubtedly created the need to block off five of the six south east flight holes whilst leaving the sixth central flight hole open as a permanent ventilator for the privy. Cross ventilation in the privy is achieved by three vertical ventilator slits, which open through to the upper chamber within the specially-constructed reveal of first floor door, and initial access to the south-west wall of the doocot is achieved by a break in the garden wall. The area between this garden wall opening and the door to the lower chamber of the doocot building is enclosed by another portion of right angled high walling, which is parallel to the doocot along one plane and right angled to the garden wall along another. It is likely that this enclosure was erected later in order to provide some privacy to the tenants of the farm when using the privy. Access to the ground floor chamber is through a comfortably sized door (1830 high x 850 mm wide) sited on the left side of the south-west gable.

In 1978, Beaton described the structure as being in, "... *good condition*"[542] yet an examination of the exterior of the building shows that the structure has suffered from structural movement and this is evident from the cement patching of several cracks which appear mainly on the south west elevation.

Written: January 1996

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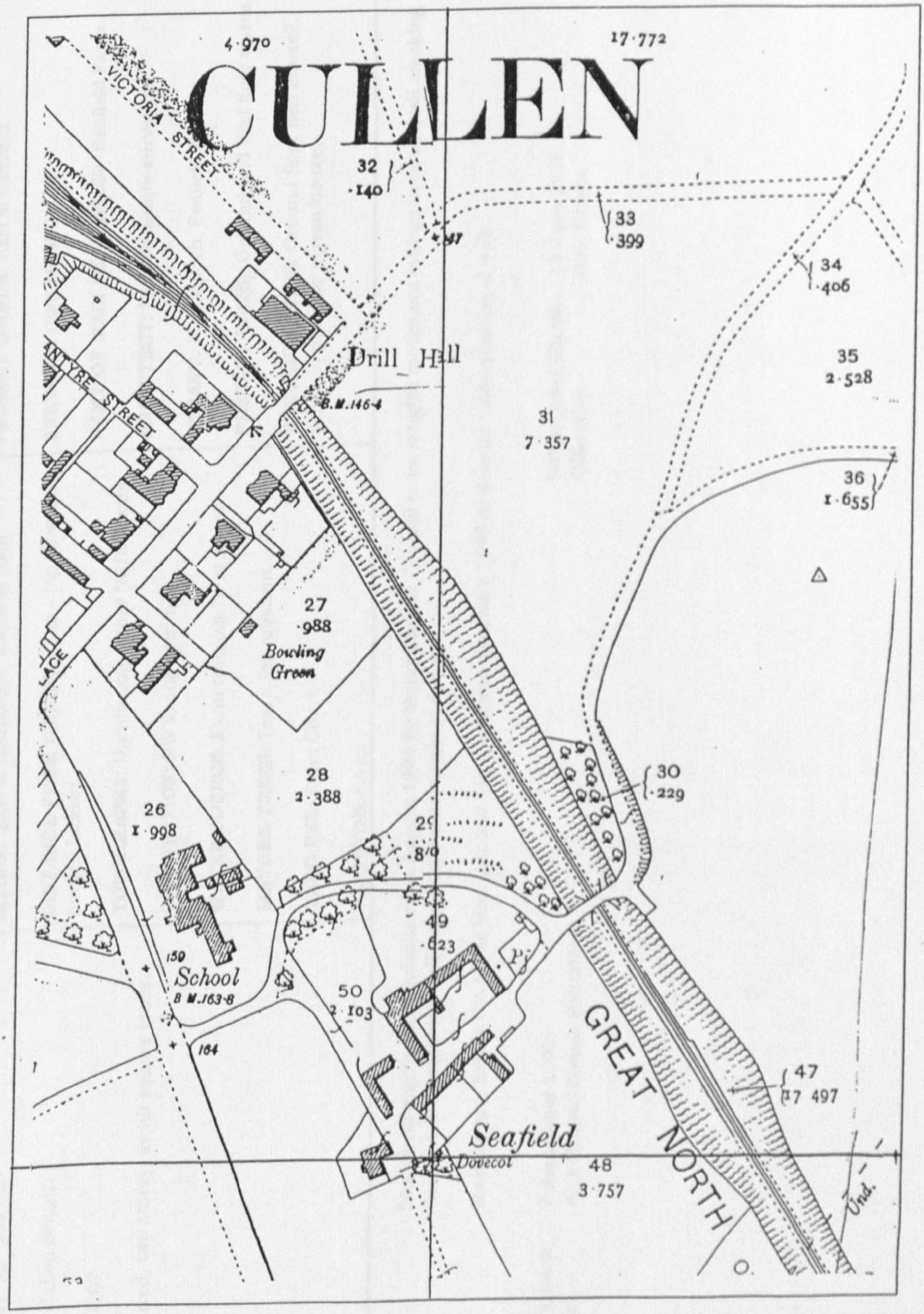
542 Beaton, loc. cit.



Map extract from 1903 Ordnance survey

1.0 IDENTIFICATION	2.0 CONTEXT	3.0 HISTORY
GRID REF: NJ 517 667. **PARISH**: Cullen Burgh. **DATE**: 1900? **TYPE**: Mixed, two storey, small square tower.	**SITING:** East of farmhouse, south of farm. **DISTANCE FROM OWNER**: 23 m - top viewable, bottom hidden. **TOPOGRAPHY**: Undulating across NE/SW axis. **ORIENTATION:** NW facing entrance. **WATER SOURCE**: Farm troughs 70 m away. **MATURE TREES**: Yes, a few adjacent. **LAND USE:** Farm Court. **ALTITUDE:** 53 m.	**PRESENT OWNER**: Earl of Seafield. **PREVIOUS OWNER(S):** None. **NAME OF MAIN RESIDENCE:** Seafield Farm. **ARCHITECT**: Possibly estate surveyor. **TENANT:** Mr Riddoch, Seafield Farm. **PRESENT USE(S)**: Ground and first floor stores. **PREVIOUS USE(S)**: Ground floor hen house?, privy, upper floor pigeon house.

NOTES: Structural engineer commissioned in August 1994 by Moray District Council to investigate movement evident in outer wall cracking. Concluded that garden wall subsiding due to weight of doocot.

Meeting with Estate Contracts Manager and Nick Brown on February 1995 to discuss underpinning of wall.

Date of Check: 7 September 1993.
Officer(s): Nick Brown/Ronnie Robertson.

Subsequent Check: 13 June 1998.
Officer(s): Nick Brown.

4.0 CONDITION	5.0 CONSTRUCTION	6.0 EXTERNAL FEATURES
PRESENT CONDITION: Threatened by movement. **REPAIRS:** Cement patching to all cracks. Roof possibly re-slated. **ALTERATIONS:** Raising of ground floor and lining out to form privy. Concrete skews. Slates and ridge? **FUTURE RISK:** Failure to arrest structural decay could lead to serious loss. Unchecked growth of large trees nearby. General lack of commitment to repair.	**PLAN FORM:** Almost square. **PLAN SIZE:** 2.3 x 2.6 m. **WALLHEAD HEIGHT:** 4 m. **OVERALL HEIGHT:** 5.5 m. **WALL CONSTRUCTION:** Stone and lime. **WALL MATERIAL:** Irregular, fieldstone rubble and lime mortar. **WALL THICKNESS:** 500 mm. **WALL FINISH:** Thin lime harl. **ROOF FORM:** Double pitch front to back. **ROOF CONSTRUCTION:** 4 A-trussed rafters with standard sarking boards nailed directly. **ROOF PITCH:** 45°. **ROOF FINISH:** Uniformly graded thin blue/grey slates possibly Welsh.	**DOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Outward opening, painted timber, framed with ledged and braced vertical boarding. **OUTER DOOR TYPE:** N/A **DOOR SIZE:** Ground 1830 (high) x 850 mm (wide). First 1880 (high) x 750 mm (wide). **DOOR SITING:** Ground - South West facing First - North West facing. **LEDGES:** Only at each of 4 flight holes rows. **LEDGES HEIGHT:** Varying between 2.5 m to 3.7 m. **TOTAL LEDGE LENGTH:** 4.7 m. **APERTURES:** None (no skylights also). **VENT HOLES:** None (except for at privy). **FLIGHT HOLES:** 18 (six blocked). **TOTAL VENT AREA:** Originally 0.48 m². **LIMEWASH:** No evidence. **DORMERS:** N/A. **SKEWS:** Concrete, apparently later. **FINIALS:** No, unless removed. **WEATHER VANE:** N/A.

7.0 INTERNAL FEATURES	8.0 COMMENT	9.0 REFERENCES
THRESHOLD STEPS: No. **PARTITION WALLS**: No. **FIRST FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:** Ground - concrete. First - Timber. **NEST BOX CONSTRUCTION**: Curious combination of stone and brick with timber shelves. **NEST BOX NUMBER:** 38 stone and 36 brick (some hidden). **NEST BOX SIZE:** Stone - 250 (h) x 220 (w) x 280 mm (d). Brick - 230 (h) x 270 (w) x 280 mm (d). **NEST BOX HEIGHT OFF FLOOR**: Appears to have been 500 mm. **NEST BOXES BLOCKED**: None apparent. **ALIGHTING LEDGES**: None. **LIMEWASH/PLASTER:** Traces of plaster on brick boxes. **COLLECTING AID**: None. **BIRD NUMBER POTENTIAL**: Say 74 x 2 x 0.7 = 104. **INTERNAL VOLUME:** Ground (originally) - 3.75 m^3, First (originally) - 6.8 m^3 **OTHER** Timber plank floor, midway up first floor volume.	**ENIGMAS**: - Previous use of ground floor chamber. - Sequence of alteration. - Combined use of stone and brick for next construction.	**BOOKS**: E. Beaton, The Doocots of Moray, 1978, p. 20. G. Peterkin, Scottish Dovecotes, 1980, p. 60. McCann, 'Historical Enquiry', 1991, p. 111. **ARTICLES:** **LISTING**: Cullen Burgh Parish, Item 24, p. 11, Category C(s), 1976. **SMR**: Grampian Regional Council Archaeological Site Index, Ref. No., NJ 56 NW21. **MAPS:** Ordnance Survey 1869, 1902, 1965. **PHOTOGRAPHS**: **OTHER:**



SEAFIELD FARM DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.18.1)

View of upper chamber from the west overlooking the garden wall and later corrugated outbuildings (which hide the entrance to the ground floor privy). The trees to the south are quite contemporary with the doocot and now partially envelope the roof area.



SEAFIELD FARM DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.18.2)

Close up view from the north showing the upper pigeon chamber accessed by ladder through a reasonably large, outward opening, timber door. The ground floor privy lining is just visible within the chamber (note the relationship between the privy ceiling and the original floor level of the upper chamber) and the impression of the doocot having been built ion top of a garden wall is quite clear.



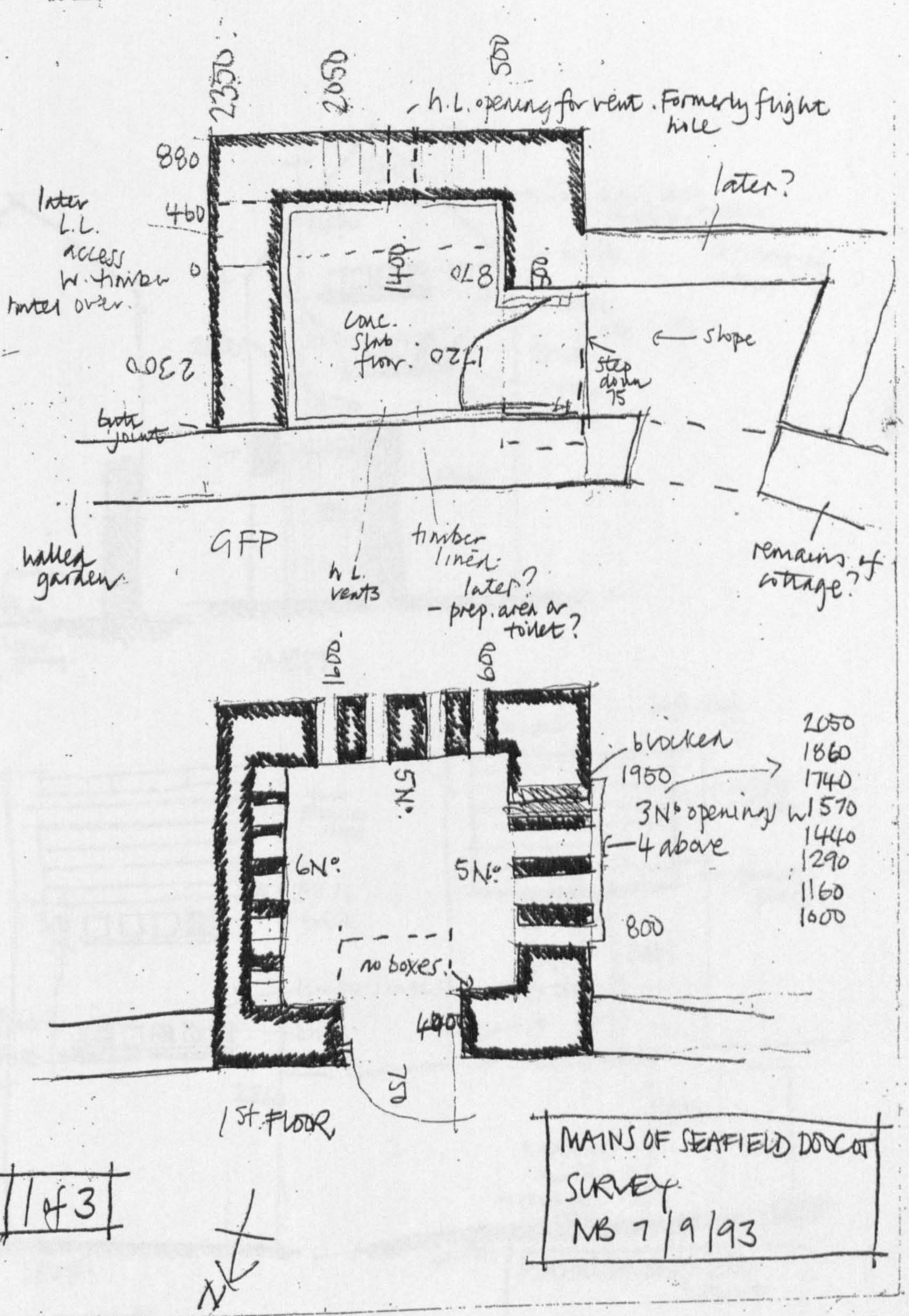
SEAFIELD FARM DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.18.3)

Close up view from north west elevation illustrating the two series of flight holes on the west gable. Both are curiously off-centred and constructed in different materials - upper holes using brick and lower holes using stone. The relationship with garden wall is apparent, as is the diagonal structural cracking (superficially repaired with cement pointing over the lime harling).



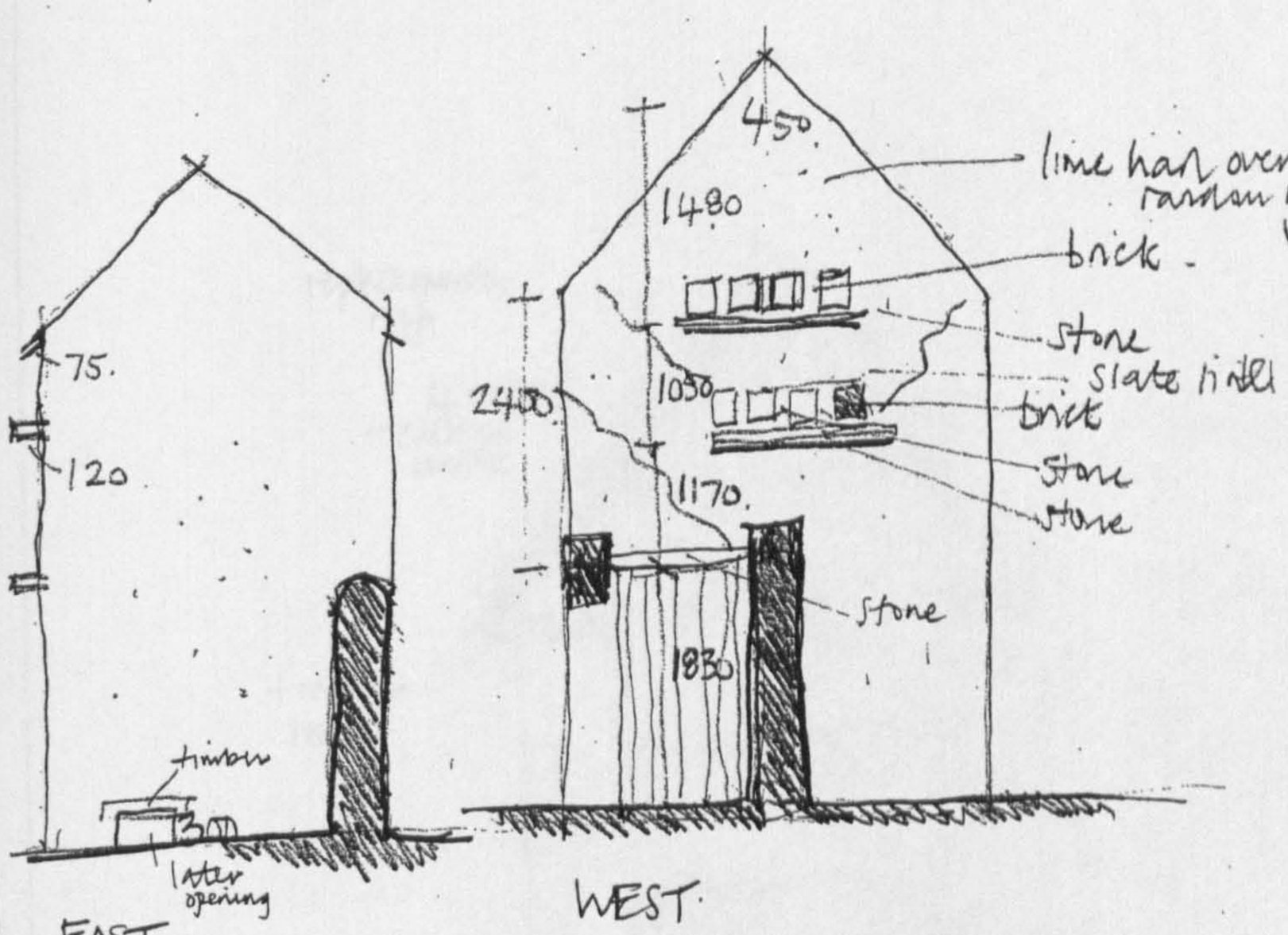
SEAFIELD FARMHOUSE AND DOOCOT, 1993 (Plate 5.6.18.4)

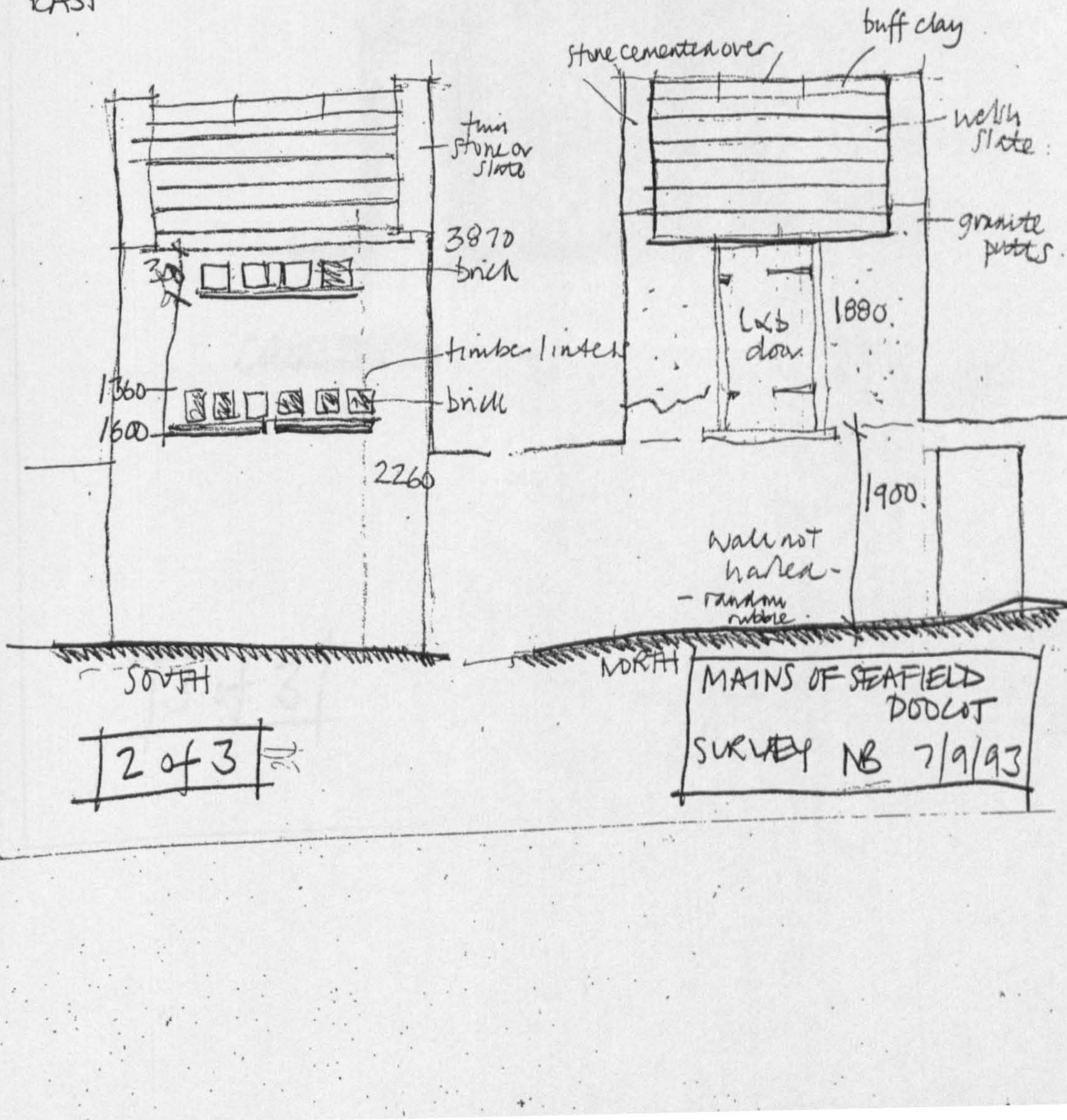
View from main A98 road looking north east towards the main elevation of the present farmhouse. The doocot is hidden in the shade of the mature tree on the right.

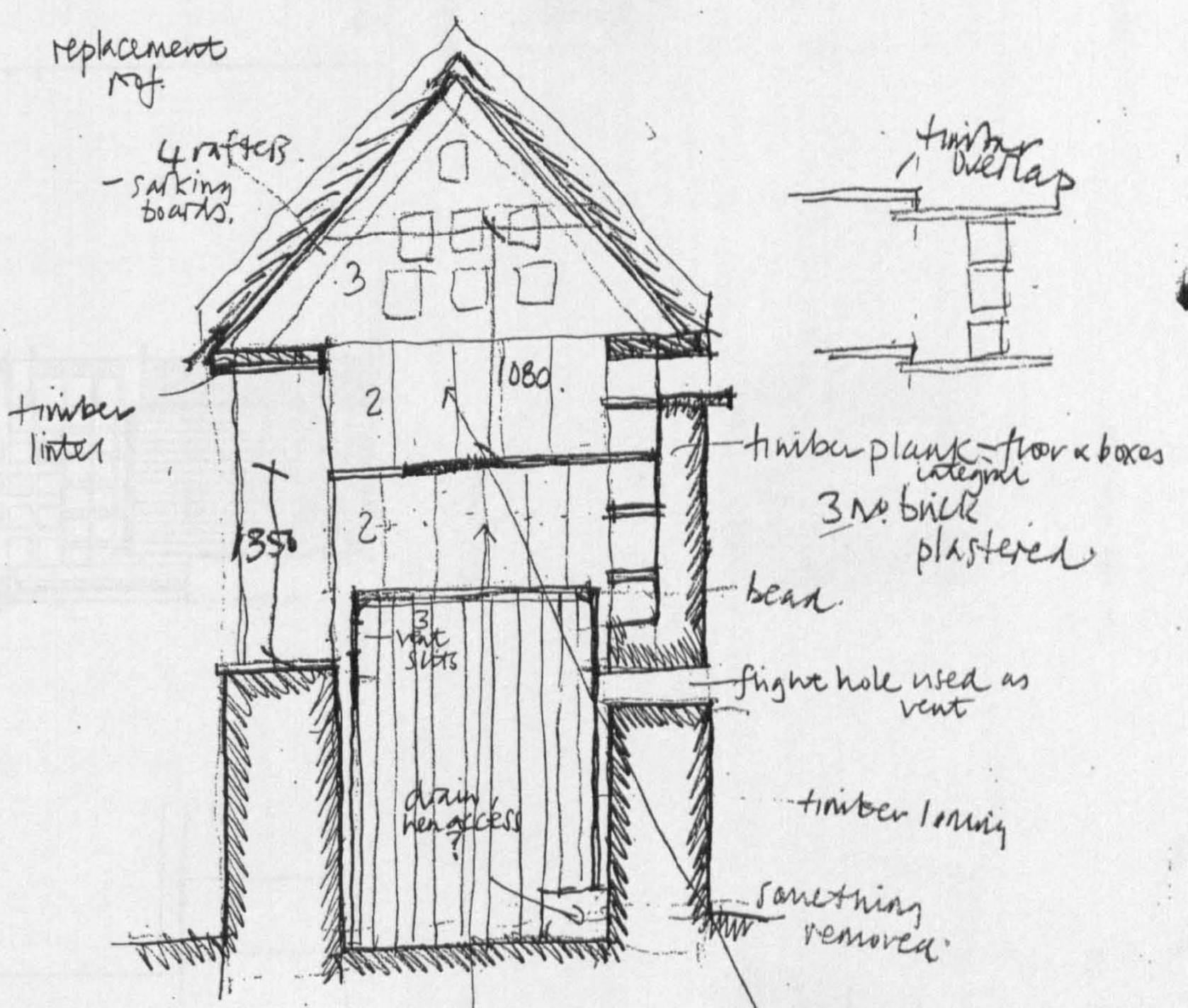


MAINS OF SEAFIELD DOOCOT
SURVEY
NB 7/9/93

1 of 3


75.
120
timber
300
later opening
EAST
450.
1480
2400
1050
1170.
1830
lime hair over random rubble.
brick.
stone
slate lintel
brick
stone
stone
stone
mixture of whin.
WEST.

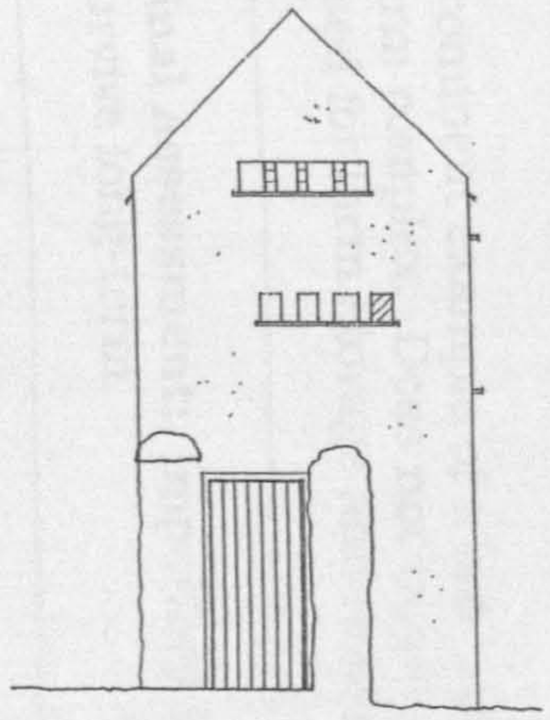

twin stone or slate
3870
brick
timber lintel
brick
1360
1600
2260
SOUTH
buff clay
stone cemented over
welsh slate
granite posts
1880.
1900.
wall not harled - random rubble
NORTH
MAINS OF SEAFIELD
DOOCOT
SURVEY NB 7/9/93
2 of 3



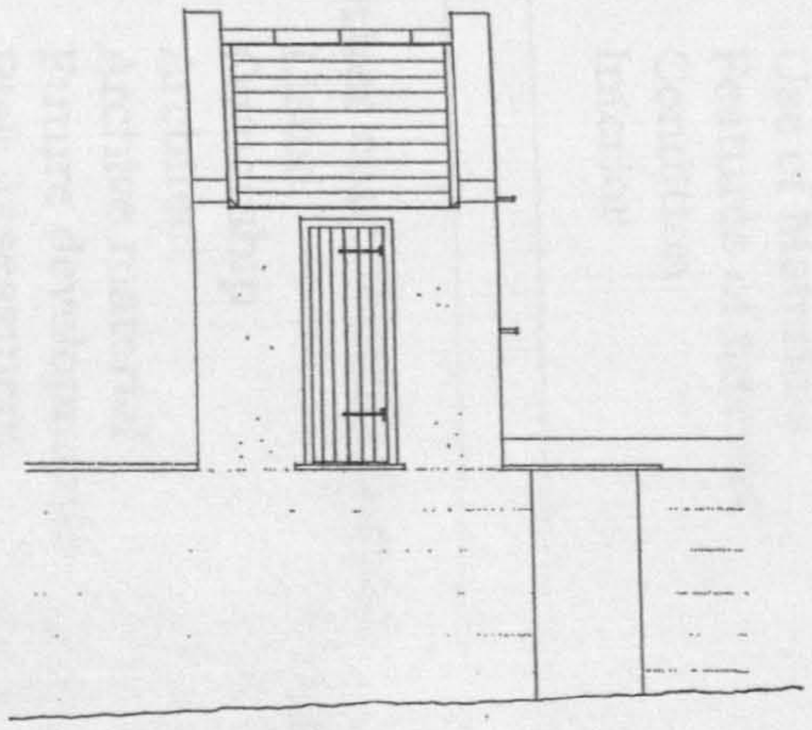
3 of 3

MAINS OF SEAFIELD DOOCOT
SURVEY NB 7/9/93

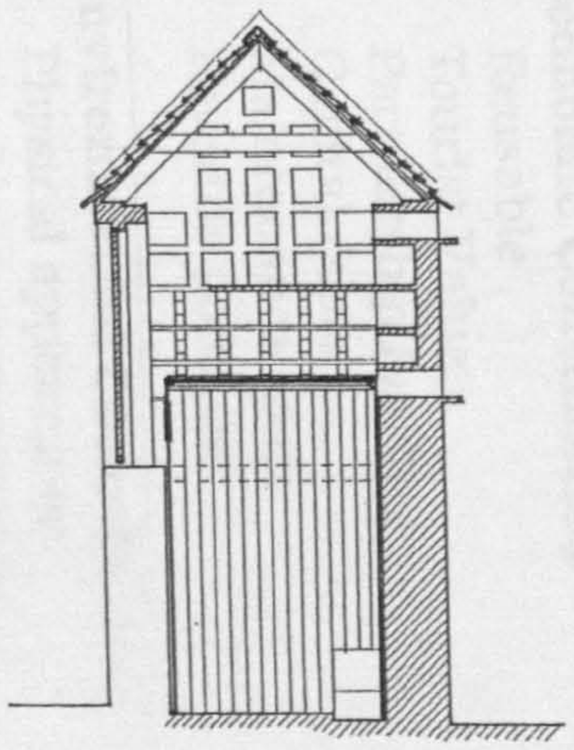
Mains of Seafield Doocot



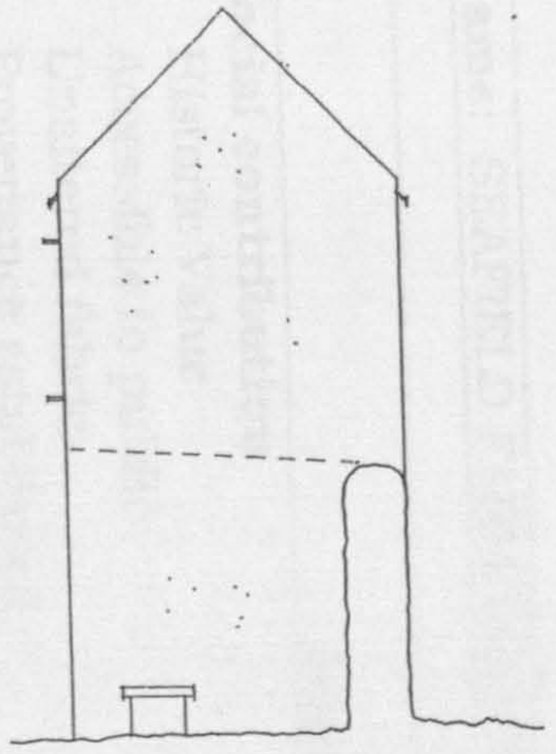
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION



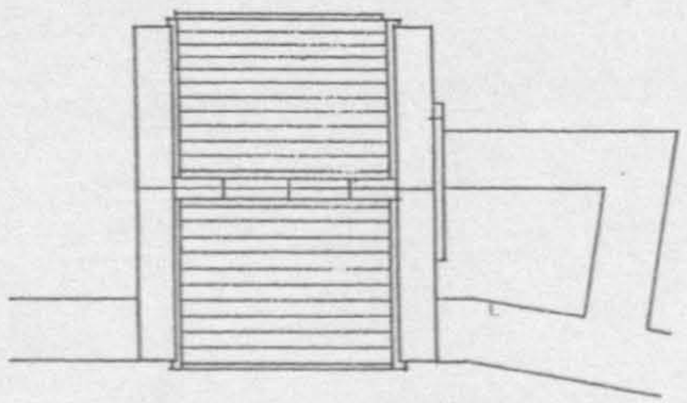
NORTHWEST ELEVATION



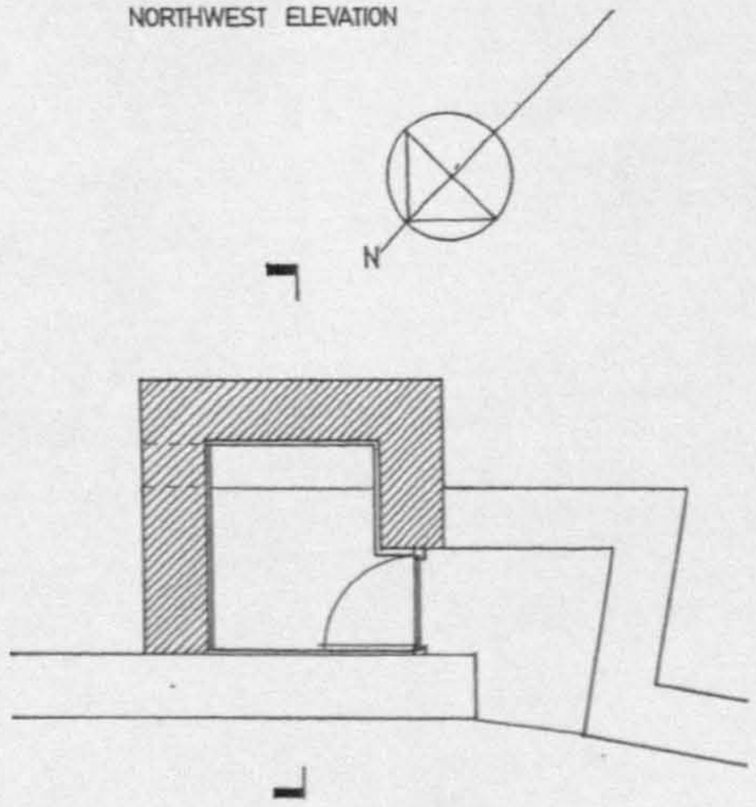
CROSS SECTION



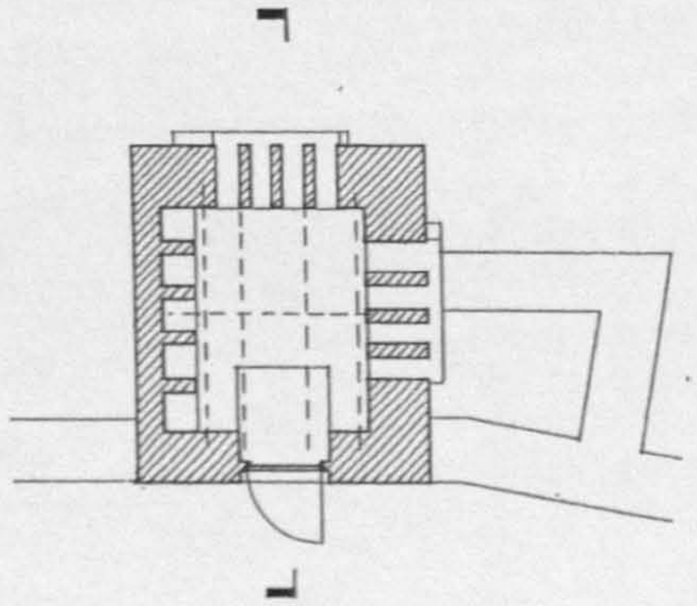
NORTHEAST ELEVATION



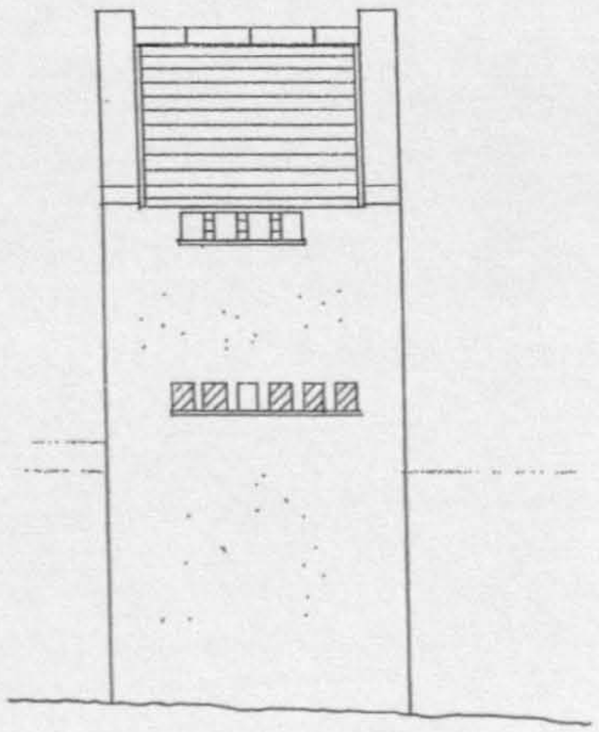
ROOF PLAN



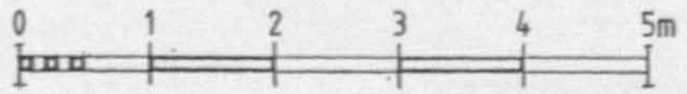
GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:50



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SOUTHEAST ELEVATION



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EVALUATION CHECKLIST

Name: SEAFIELD FARM DOOCOT **Grid Ref:** NJ 517 667

Score	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3	4	5	Running Total
Social contribution												
• Historic Value							x					1
• Accessible to public									x			4
• Unaltered fabric								x				6
• Provenance established							x					7
• Educational Merit								x				9
• Cultural Integrity								x				11
Economic Contribution												
• Reusable								x				13
• Tourist Value							x					14
• Partnership funding							x					15
• Capital costs								x				17
• Maintenance costs								x				19
• Revenue potential							x					20
Environmental Contribution												
• Physical appearance								x				22
• Landscape prominence								x				24
• Original setting								x				26
• Use of Materials									x			29
• Features of interest								x				31
• Condition								x				33
• Interior							x					34
											TOTAL	34

Other contributing factors

- Listed Category C(s).
- Ownership Seafield Estates.
- Architect Probably Estate Surveyor.
- Archive material None.
- Future developments None.
- Risk Assessment Low.

Summary Comments:

Prominent example of a late, small-scale, mixed use structure incorporated into farm complex. Does not require major funds to repair and maintain. Could be used for farm storage and made more prominent by whitewashing.

Final Assessment: Important to remedy structural movement if building is to survive long-term.

5.6.19 Historical summary of nineteenth century doocots in Moray

At the start of the nineteenth century, the growing number of publications by agricultural sympathisers would have cast serious doubts over the economic merit of pigeon breeding when offset against an assessment of crop damage.[543] Such influential 'propaganda' would have been readily available and, indeed, the last significant, free-standing doocot to be erected in Moray is found at Grangehall (1803). As had happened elsewhere in Scotland, the doocot in Moray became more physically associated with an estate's 'Home Farm' than the main house and, in several cases, it is incorporated into the farm buildings themselves (for example, at Inverene, Drummuir and Seapark).[544]

As stated earlier in this chapter, s.v. 'Political and Civil Divisions', Moray's agricultural difficulties during this century created economic concern and estates were run as increasingly tight, business ventures. The picturesque garden movement came to an end and, by 1830, industrialisation was well on its way to establishing itself, moreover helping to empower the lower classes. The concept of feudalism was now scorned, the divide in society was closing and relations between landlords and tenants were constantly improving in favour of the tenant.[545] The siting, scale and type of doocot found in Moray during this century mirrors the transition. For example, the doocots at Westfield, Greenbank and Myreside reflect the growth of the 'gentleman farmer', whilst those at Lesmurdie, Urquhart and Elgin town houses, all signify the rising status of the middle class.

Although the Corn Laws were repealed in the mid 1840s, the breakdown of upper class society had sufficiently progressed to prevent the building of any new major doocots. However, small scale breeding of pigeons continued and Mrs Beeton's works in 1861, confirm

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[543]In the preparation of the OSA, 1791 and the General Reviews of Agriculture, c.1810, authors were specifically requested by their respective commissioning bodies, to ascertain the destructive extent of birds on crops.
Leslie, General Review of Agriculture, 1813, p.341, "*.. yet in a pecuniary point of view, this species of stock is of little value, the principal advantage being derived from the dung*".
Responses ranged from very high to low impact, depending upon the views (and presumably prejudices) of the authors.

[544]Doocots often became centrepieces in model farms, as at Letterfourie, Banffshire or Aden (in Buchan).

[545]Sinclair, Accounts of the Systems of Husbandry, 1812, pp. 157. "*The nature of the connexion, between the landlord and the tenant, has greatly altered.*"

that rearing pigeons as a source of food was still practised;[546] but doocots were now sited within existing structures (such as the tower at Pitlurg) and especially in gable ends (as seen at the farms of Dellachaple, Cairnfield and Towie).

By 1860, doocots were built for fancy purposes, using birds initially thought to be imported from Europe.[547] Darwin's seminal work, Origin of Species, reflected a period of great interest in the natural world[548] and (despite a short spell in which birds were bred for shooting matches[549]) by the late 1880s, doves were kept primarily for fancy and/or display purposes. The doocots at Hazelwood, Cullen, Deansburgh and Aberlour are those which appear to best represent this development in Moray.

546Beeton, Book of Household Management, 1861 (1954 edn.), p.87. Pigeon available all year but best between March and September (i.e. young birds). Usually roasted, average weight 5oz.

547Notably several decades behind England, Eldson, Fancy Pigeons, 1983, p.2, notes that birds kept in England during 1830s in large numbers. Some said to stock 100 strong, surplus used for food.
Levi, Pigeon, 1947, p.43. *"Belgian birds became particularly popular in England after the Franco-Prussian War. First they were used for racing or working purposes only, and then, ... their owners felt the urge to exhibit their star performers."*

548Darwin, Origins of Species, 1859. The work of this author shows a remarkably keen interest in the artificial selection process.

549There is no evidence of organised shooting matches occurring in Moray, however.

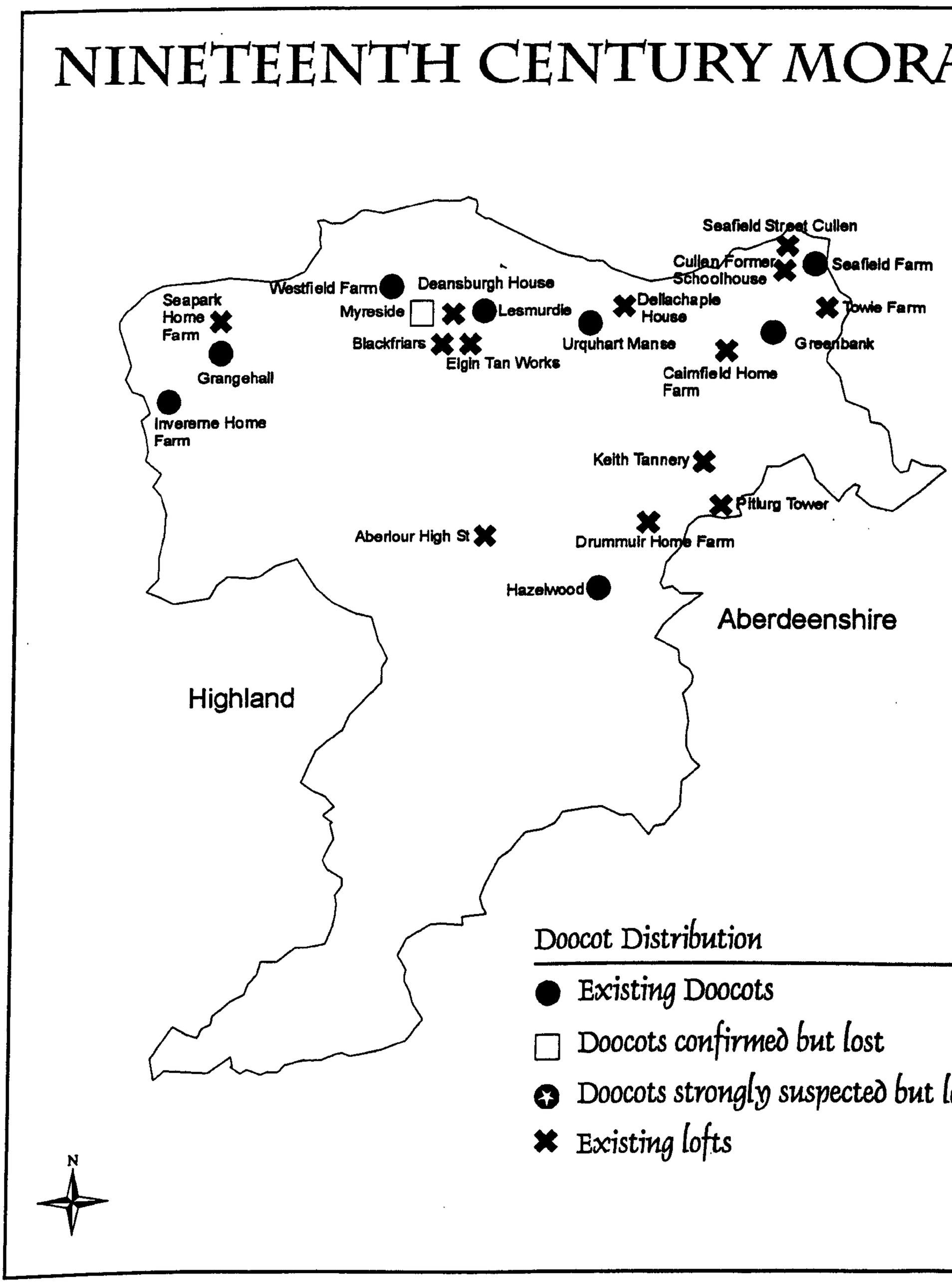

Fig 5.6.18

Distribution of doocots in Moray during the nineteenth century showing even spread of development across northern and central Moray with a profusion of small-scale 'lofts' emerging.

5.7 Twentieth century doocots

5.7.1 Blackfriar's Coach House
5.7.2 Blackfriar's Road
5.7.3 Cullen Schoolhouse
5.7.4 Keith Tannery
5.7.5 Mains of Seafield
5.7.6 Cullen Seafield Street
5.7.7 Marypark
5.7.8 Hamilton Drive, Elgin*
5.7.9 Historical Summary

* operational sample

5.7.1 BLACKFRIAR'S COACH HOUSE DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 214 630, Elgin Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Blackfriars Coach House Doocot is an example of a small scale, single chamber structure, projecting from the roof of a one and a half storey former coach house and store. This coach house is associated with Blackfriars Cottage, a two storey mid nineteenth century town house, sited at an altitude of 25m, immediately to the east of the coach house and fronting onto North Street, Elgin. The rectangular shaped coach house, found at the rear of Blackfriars House, is orientated on a west to east axis and is therefore parallel to Blackfriars Road, but the doocot is at right angles to the coach house and, faces the street.

The doocot at Blackfriars Coach House projects from the roof of a substantial stone outbuilding which was built for a Town Burgess c.1855.[565] An eighteenth century book on husbandry provides a possible reason for its association with horses when stating, *"... the under part will serve as a shed for various useful purposes; if a stable or cow house, the better, as it will have a tendency to keep the pigeons warm in winter, which is material to their breeding early in the spring when they are of most value in the market".*[566]

The doocot itself, however, is of lightweight construction and slightly disturbs the architectural composition of the masonry structure. The upper floor ante-room, which provides access to the doocot, is also awkwardly composed and it is surmised that the doocot is not contemporary with the original structure. A late nineteenth century date is thought most likely. It is, however, clear that the doocot was intended to face the public road and possibly reinforce the Burgess' status in the town. There is insufficient evidence within the structure of the doocot to judge whether the birds were kept for ornamental or culinary purposes.

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565 Mrs Townsend, current owner, pers. comm., 20/5/98

566 Extract from The Complete Farmer, cited in D. Smith, Dovecotes of Essex, 1931, p.70. Barker, in his more recent publication, Pigeon Racing, 1913, p.2 gives an entirely different opinion *"... a loft over a stable in which horses are actually kept is one of the least desirable, for owing to the ammoniacal vapours with which the air is constantly laden under these circumstances, it is difficult to tune birds up to the high standard of condition... still not an insuperable one if all the necessary precautions are then taken in regard to ventilation".*

Although the doocot is not listed and lacks statutory protection, the present owner values the historic nature of the structure and intends to repair the fabric and reveal the blocked pigeon holes.[567]

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The doocot itself is square in plan (approx. 1.3x1.3m) and rises as a dormer from the rubble sandstone wallhead of the coach house's south elevation. The doocot's walls are constructed in 125x60mm timber stud, clad externally with white painted sheeting, and rise by 1.8m to an eaves height of almost 6m. The roof is piended on all four sides, with diamond shape Ballachulish slates embellishing a structure which is crowned by a metal weathervane. The roof junctions are protected by lead flashings on wood core rolls and the eaves project by 200mm around all four sides, including white painted wooden fascias and soffits.

The doocot is accessed firstly, via a steep central staircase leading off the ground floor coach house, then secondly, by entering a tiny store located in the south-west corner of the hayloft. The store room measures approximately 1.2x1.8m, but does not possess full head room since it is built within the coomb space. Some partial shelving can be found on the north wall and a boarded door seals the space off from the rest of the hayloft. The doocot chamber itself is accessed by humans through a bridled opening in the roof rafters, just above wallhead level, and opens up into a small vertical space which contains approximately 40 wooden nest boxes. These are only located on the east and west walls respectively and are arranged in linear fashion with horizontal rows of five boxes. The north wall is blank and the south wall contains two rows of three rectangular flight holes (which are not visible externally). The simple roof construction, four hipped rafters with standard sarking boards, is exposed to the interior of the chamber.

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567 Mr Townsend, current owner, pers. comm., 20/5/98



Location of Blackfriars Coach House Doocot (Fig. 5.7.1)

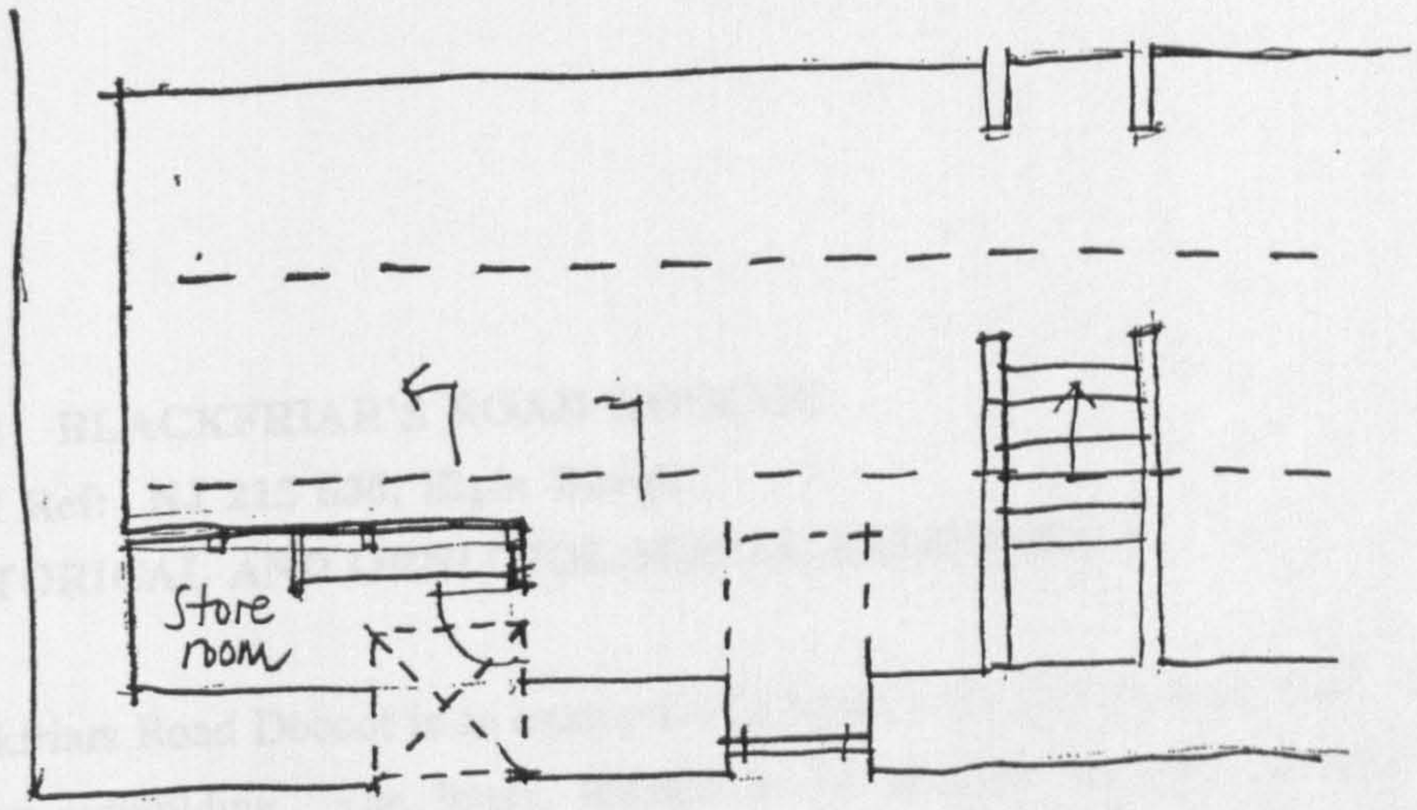
Extract from Wood, Map of Elgin, 1822



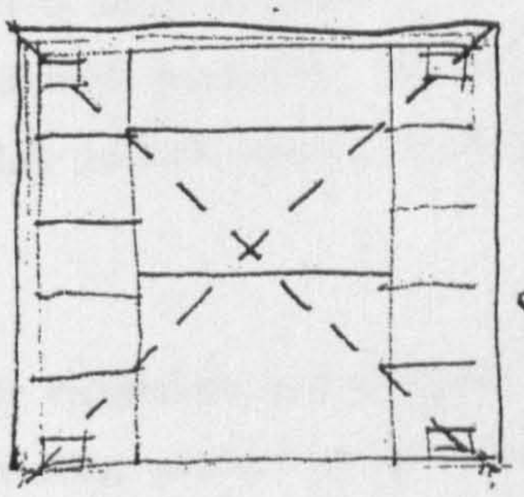
BLACKFRIARS COACH HOUSE DOOCOT, 1998 (Plate 5.7.1.1)

View from public road of the white painted timber doocot projecting from the southern roof space of the masonry outbuilding. The scale, siting, use of materials and detailing all suggest the doocot as a later addition.

Since the former flight holes are now blocked over, the structure's previous function as a doocot is not evident today.

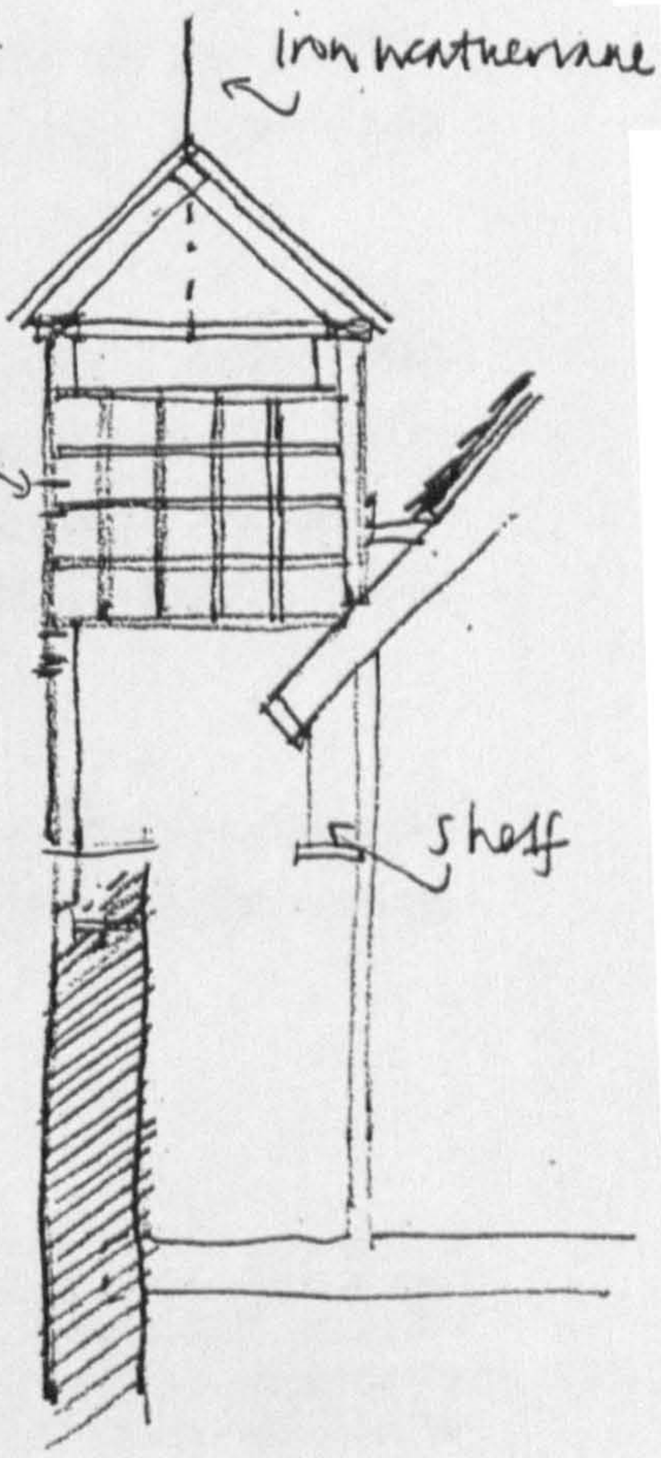


FIRST FLOOR COACH HOUSE



PLAN

ROOF



CROSS SECTION

1 of 1

BLACKFRIARS COACH HOUSE DOOCOT
SITE SKETCHES
NB 20/5/98

5.7.2 BLACKFRIAR'S ROAD DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 215 630, Elgin Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Blackfriars Road Doocot is an example of a small scale loft incorporated into a large, disused garden outbuilding. The latter, located at an altitude of 25m, is now associated with a Victorian town house in central Elgin sited 30m to the west (but may at one time have been part of a larger 'slaughterhouse' complex immediately to the east[568]).

Since the original outbuilding at Blackfriars Road is late nineteenth century, it is likely that insertion of the later doocot is early twentieth century. It is clearly designed to be viewable, primarily to its owner, although passers-by would catch a fleeting glimpse. The lack of ostentation suggests that this doocot was not installed as a status symbol, rather as a food source or a casual hobby.

The outbuilding is presently redundant and a significant number of feral pigeons occupy the loft space.[569] They do, however, access and leave the property at a different point - a high level broken panel high up in the southern gable.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

A main road is located close to the south, but the doocot entry holes are inconspicuously sited in the west elevation of the random sandstone building about 3m above ground level. The masonry opening, a virtual lone feature in a blank wall, may be original, but the lack of sandstone dressings suggest otherwise.[570] The three arched topped flight holes themselves, each approximately 110(w) x 150mm(h), are carved into a painted wooden panel which fills the masonry opening. The panel is set back by 150mm, sufficient to create a landing ledge within the opening.

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568 As shown on the 1869 OS.

569 The whole property, including the dwelling house, is currently vacant and earmarked as part of a city centre major redevelopment site during 2000.

570 The quality of the rest of the building implies that any opening would have had sandstone margins.



Location of Blackfriars Road Outhouse Doocot (Fig. 5.7.2)

Extract from Wood, Map of Elgin, 1822



BLACKFRIARS ROAD DOOCOT, 1998 (5.7.2.1)

Distant view of entry aperture of doocot, taken from main road. The painted timber framework incorporates arch-topped flight holes which provide access to the upper floor of a large outbuilding.

5.7.3 CULLEN FORMER SCHOOLHOUSE DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 514 673, Cullen Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Cullen former Schoolhouse doocot (now known as No. 23 Reidhaven Street) is an example of a single chamber doocot located in the roofspace of an outbuilding. The schoolhouse was built at the turn of the century and the outbuilding once functioned as a coach house on the ground floor with the doocot and store above it. The buildings are found in central Cullen, a small coastal town in eastern Moray, and the schoolhouse overlooks the main square from the north east. The outbuilding is further to the north east, to the rear of the schoolhouse, at an altitude of 40m, and is a rectangular structure orientated on a north-west/south-east axis.

The dwelling was constructed at the turn of the century and was occupied by the town's schoolmaster and later a local doctor. Both men would have held some status and a coach house with doocot would have reinforced this. *"Lofts over stables or old barns are large and airy; they offer excellent opportunity for erecting nest-boxes and thus space which has hitherto been overlooked and entirely wasted can become an amusing and profitable feature of the garden".*[571]

The absence of internal features suggests that the original doocot was possibly fixed to the internal gable immediately behind the gable holes. The provision of four holes, however, does suggest the keeping of several dozen birds which could have had more space provided (much as it is today).

Whether the original owner kept the pigeons for food or ornament (or both), is clearly not discernible from the surviving evidence. It may, however, be worth comparing to a Yorkshire dovecote recorded by Alan Whitworth, *"The most spectacular series of pigeon-holes in Halifax are undoubtedly those on a former coach-house... noticeable that these are adjacent*

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571 Cran, Making the Dovecote Pay, 1935, p.21.

to a school site of 19th century foundation. Consequently it may be in this instance that the pigeons housed here were indeed for food".[572]

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The doocot is rectangular in plan (approximately 4.5x3m) and now occupies about a third of the floor space of the first floor. Access is gained by a stair to the north-west and a simple modern timber partition separates the doocot from the rest of the roofspace. There are no special internal features, other than a few removable nest boxes and food hoppers.

The original south-east gable holes, constructed in clay pipe, are still visible with their slate landing ledges, but are now blocked up and partially obscured by a mature sycamore tree.

Bird access to the doocot is presently provided by a single 125mm square hole, with a landing ledge inserted in a south-west facing, first floor, pedimented doorway which also has a 400mm square glazing panel. The building is still used for ornamental white doves.

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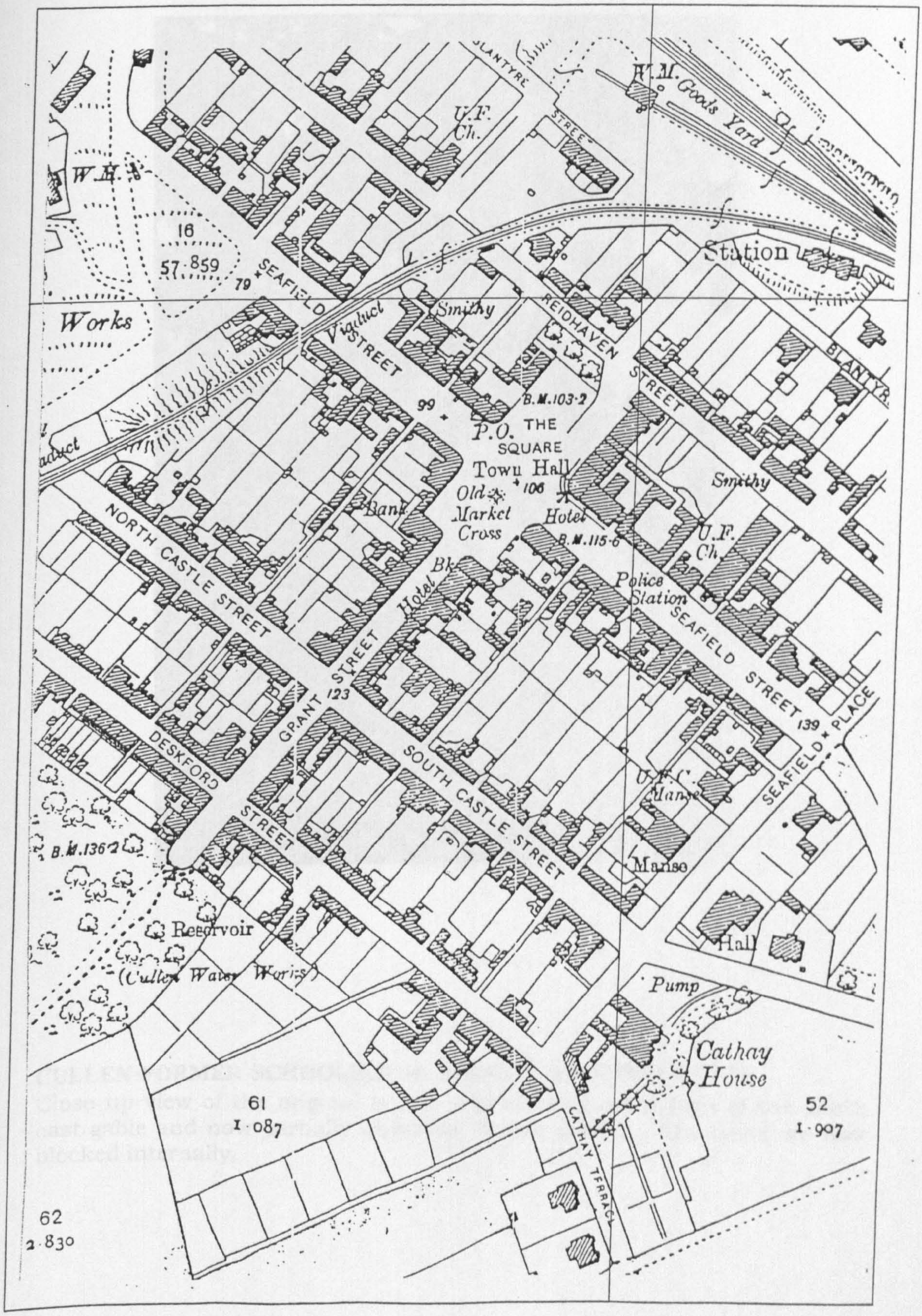
572 Whitworth, 'Dovecotes & Pigeon Lofts in Calderdale', 1987, pp.16-7. *"..rather than for 'romantic' rural associations or continuity of architectural tradition which I believe is the function of most of the 19th century Halifax centre pigeon-holes".*



Map extract from 1903 Ordnance Survey

Location of Cullen Former Schoolhouse Doocot (Fig. 5.7.3) 660



CULLEN FORMER SCHOOLHOUSE DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.7.3.1)
Close up view of the original holes, now blocked, sited high of the south east gable and now partially obscured by tree growth. The holes are now blocked internally.



CULLEN FORMER SCHOOLHOUSE DOOCOT, 1997 (Plate 5.7.3.2)

Photograph of south west elevation which faces the rear of the house. The stone pedimented first floor wallhead dormer (possibly a former window?) now contains a timber door complete with an opaque daylight panel and a single flight hole with landing ledge. Around 20 white fantails currently occupy the doocot.

5.7.4 KEITH TANNERY DOOCOT (LOST)

Grid Ref: NJ 430 508, Keith Burgh

Altitude 130 m

Positive Reference(s)

Three access holes in south gable of former early nineteenth century tannery attic. The nest box structure was a makeshift affair, located in the apex of the roof space at the south west end.

Moray District Council, Planning Department, Drawn survey, 1992 (no reference number).

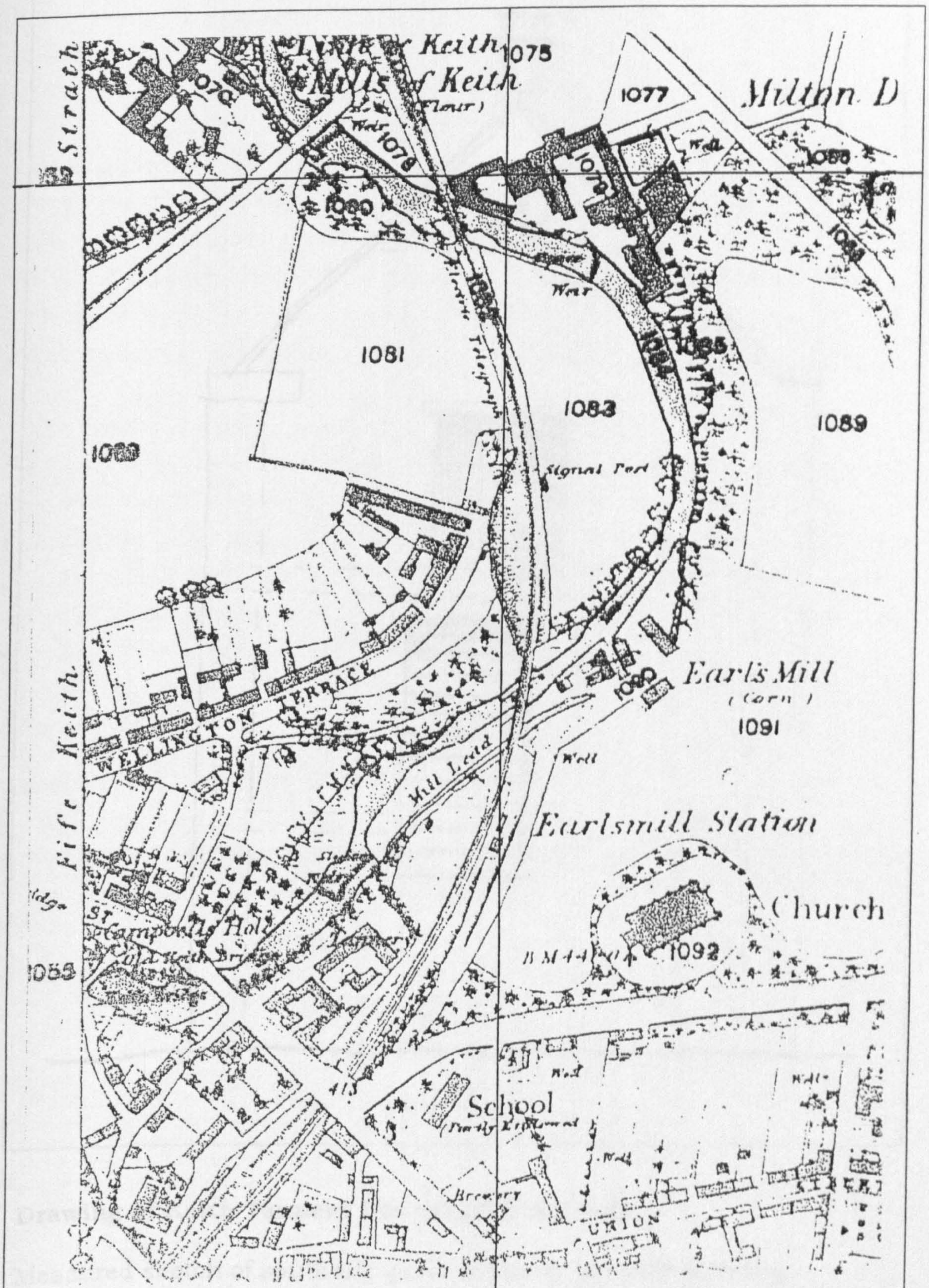
Demolished 1994, during reconstruction programme.

Background Reference(s);

Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.512. *"Any outbuilding on the premises will do. The roof should be rain-tight and a few nests supplied. Even empty orange crates placed under the shelter will suffice for preliminary experimentation. Such a conversion may be made at a small cost, and the pigeons will probably be better protected than those nesting on public buildings. This, of course, is a makeshift arrangement and should only be used by the novice... while he delves into 'pigeon culture' on a small scale".*

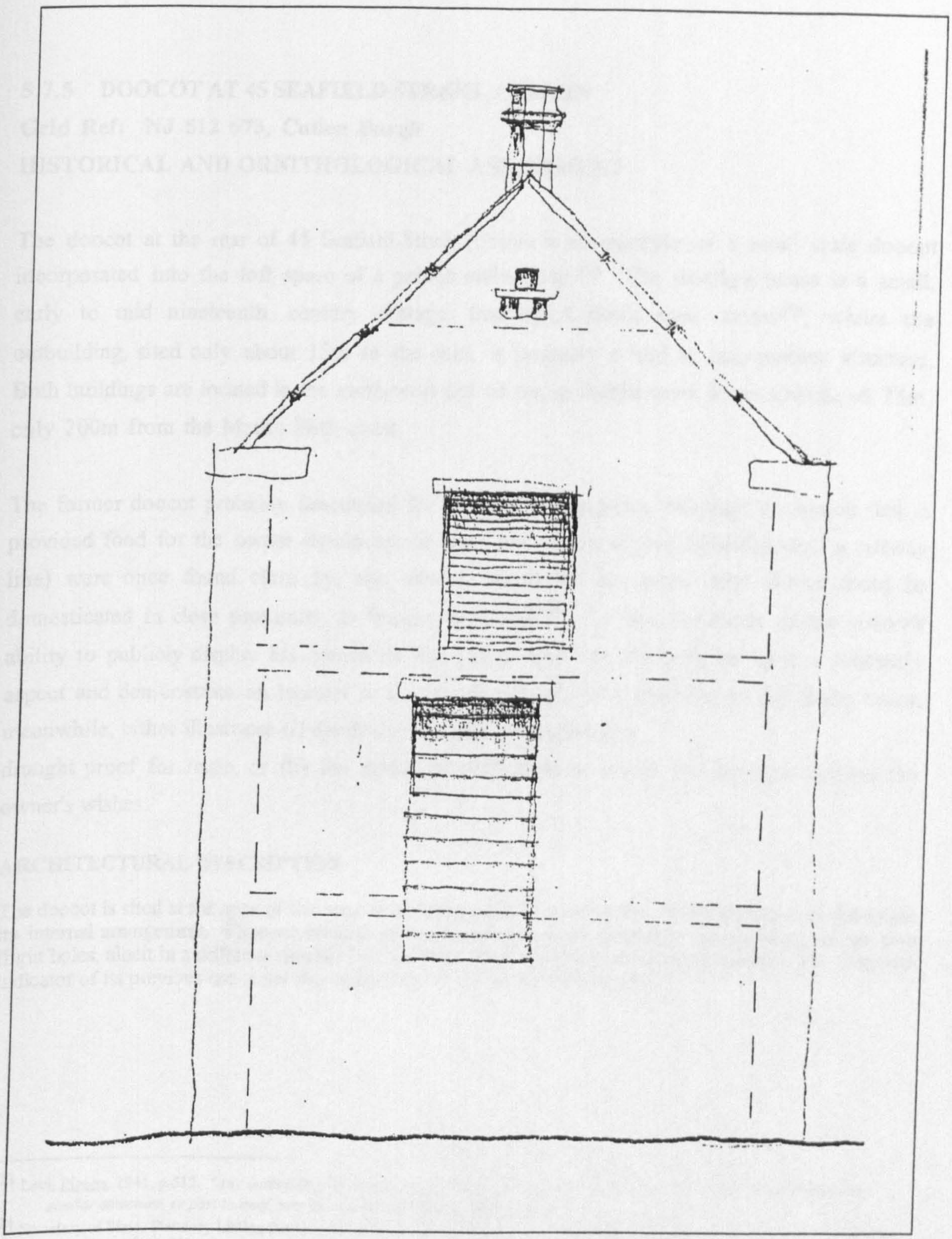
See also Hay and Stell, Monuments of Industry, 1986, pp.3,19.

No mention of holes in Statutory List, Keith Burgh, Item 9, p.13.



Map extract from 1869 Ordnance Survey

Location of Keith Tannery Doocot (Fig. 5.7.4.1)



Drawing of Keith Tannery Doocot (Fig. 5.7.4.2)

Measured sketch of southerly gable of former tannery showing tripartite arrangement of flight entry holes in the apex of gable (just above the roof collar).

(Sketch by Moray District Council 1993)

5.7.5 DOOCOT AT 45 SEAFIELD STREET, CULLEN

Grid Ref: NJ 512 673, Cullen Burgh

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The doocot at the rear of 45 Seafield Street, Cullen is an example of a small scale doocot incorporated into the loft space of a garden outbuilding.[573] The dwelling house is a small, early to mid nineteenth century cottage fronting Cullen's main street[574], whilst the outbuilding, sited only about 15m to the rear, is probably a mid to late-century structure. Both buildings are located in the north-west end of the grid-plan town at an altitude of 25m, only 200m from the Moray Firth coast.

The former doocot probably functioned for recreational purposes, although the notion that it provided food for the owner should not be ruled out. Since several buildings (and a railway line) were once found close by, this doocot illustrates the point that doves could be domesticated in close proximity to human activities.[575] To the detriment of the owner's ability to publicly display his doocot to the public road, the flight holes have a southerly aspect and demonstrate an interest in the doves' welfare. The blocking of the flight holes, meanwhile, either illustrates (i) the desire to make the outbuilding

draught proof for reuse, or (ii) the desire of 'wild' birds to utilise the structure against the owner's wishes.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The doocot is sited at the apex of the south-east facing gable but access has not been gained to determine its internal arrangement. Exposed evidence of the former doocot is reduced by the blocking of the five flight holes, albeit in a different material (i.e. red brick within a random rubble stone gable). The only real indicator of its previous use is the two projecting, 30mm thick, landing ledges.

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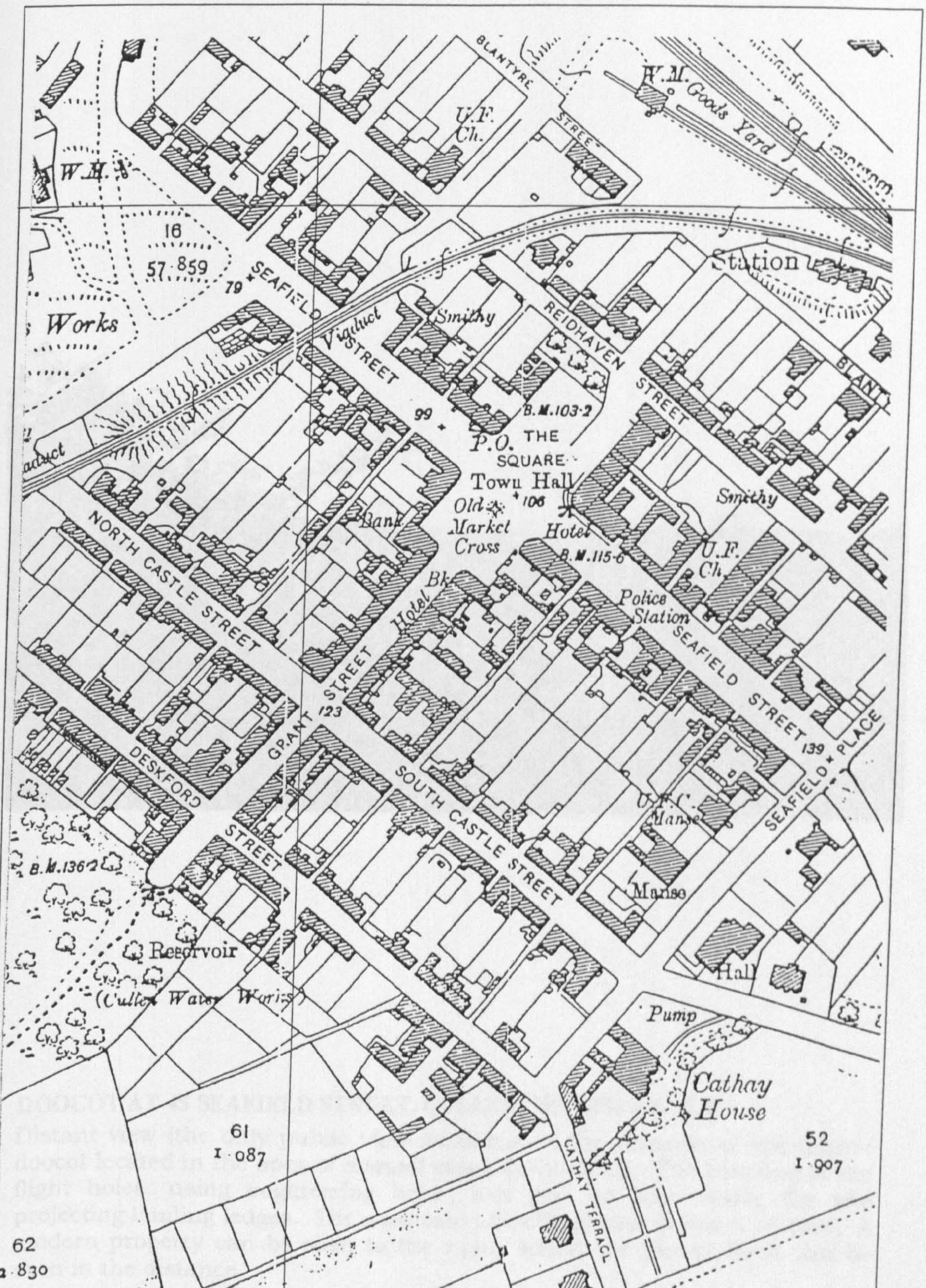
573 Levi, Pigeon, 1941, p.512. *"Any outbuilding on the premises will do: a section of the barn, garage, stable, chicken house or similar structure, or part thereof, may be converted into housing space".*

574 Secretary of State, Statutory Listing for Moray, Cullen Burgh, Item 40, p.43, Category C(s), *"Earlier 19th century"*. The cottage is now used for holiday lets.

575 See 1903 OS. The building immediately to the south-east is not longer in existence and the railway line is now closed.



Map extract from 1903 Ordnance Survey

Location of Doocot at 45 Seafield Street, Cullen (Fig. 5.7.6)



DOOCOT AT 45 SEAFIELD STREET, CULLEN, 1997 (Plate 5.7.5.1)

Distant view (the only public view available) of the remains of the former doocot located in the apex of a small stone outbuilding. The blocking of the flight holes, using engineering brick, can just be seen above the two projecting landing ledges. The associated dwellinghouse is left of picture. A modern property can be seen to the right, whilst the Moray Firth can be seen in the distance.

5.7.6 PARKHEAD, MARYPARK DOOCOT

Grid Ref: NJ 207 388

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Parkhead Doocot is an example of a small scale, wooden doocot built around the trunk of a mature pine tree.[576] It is sited in a garden of a modern cottage, about 20m to the rear of the dwelling in the parish of Inveravon, in southern Moray, near Marypark, at an altitude of 220m.

The doocot at Parkhead, Marypark is most likely to have been erected in the 1980s for ornamental reasons, but no longer functions.[577] This cote is not thought significant enough to be a landmark object and does not appear on any previous records, including the current OS (1997). It is very similar to any example shown in an article on Greek doocotes which is classified as, "*..not suitable for dung production or meat supply*".[578]

If the writings of some previous authors are to be believed, the siting of this doocot amongst mature trees would have made the inhabitants highly vulnerable to predation by hawks and falcons (unless the closeness of humans acted as a guard). Whatever the case, the doocot at Parkhead illustrates that even a slightly improvised approach will suffice, provided the essential ornithological requirements are met. *"Pigeons were ideal candidates for domestication, with undemanding food requirements, an easily satisfied specification for nesting places, an easy-going disposition and tolerance of man".*[579]

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The cote is octagonal in plan, approximately 2m across, and is raised half way up the tree trunk about 3m above the ground.[580] There are 2 rows of 12 nestboxes (i.e. a total of 24) and each row alternates between a single box and a double box due to the octagonal nature of the plan.[581] Each box has a separate, arch-topped, flight hole entry on the white-painted exterior, size 100(w) x 150mm(h), and black-painted continuous ledges project on brackets by 100mm around both rows of holes. The roof is simply constructed using 'backs' which are angled at 45° from the trunk to a slight overhang at the eaves.

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576 It is effectively an unusual example of a polecote.

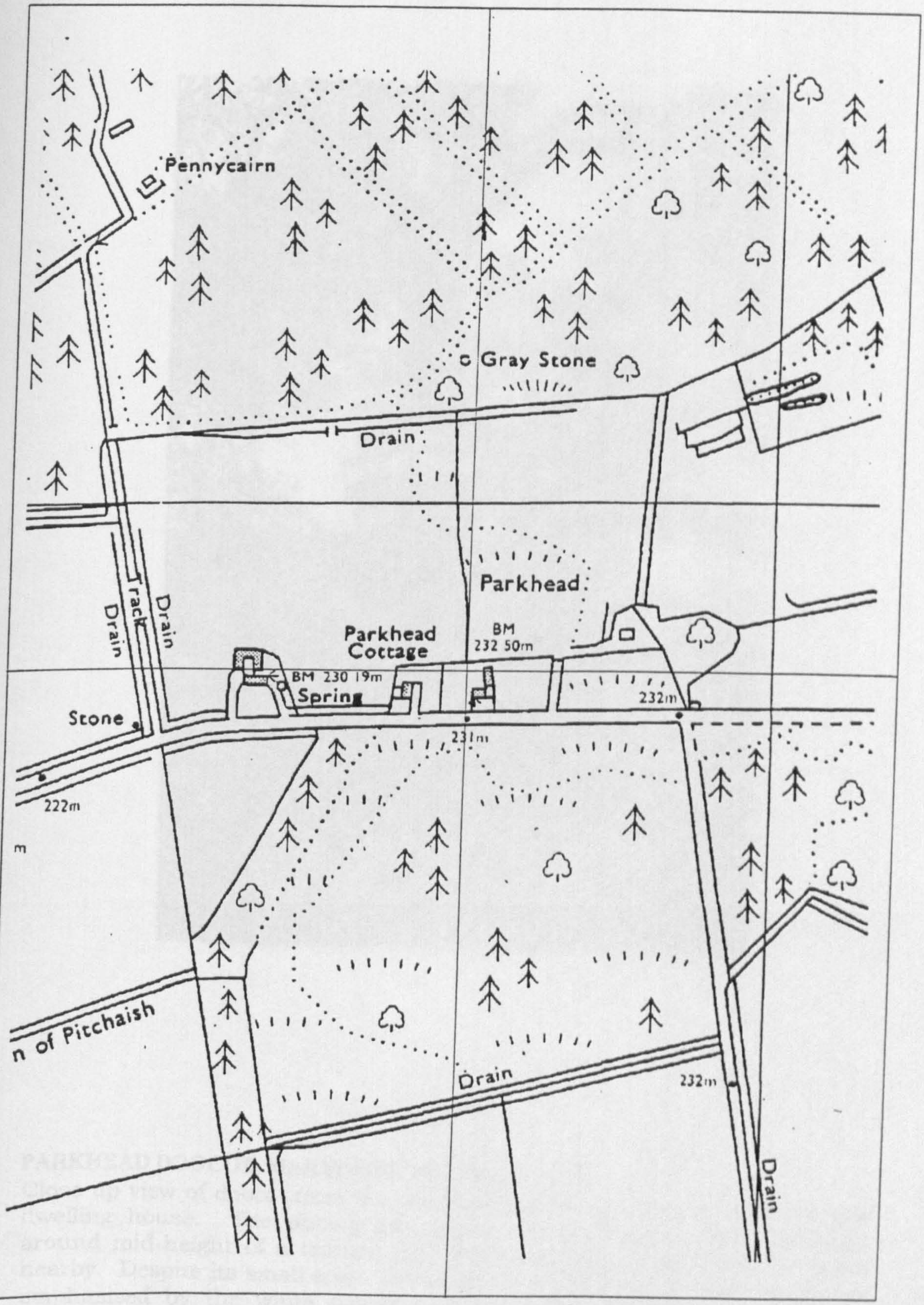
577 Discussions have not taken place with the present owners.

578 Mathey, 'Peristeriones', 1978, p.25. (In this statement, Mathey demonstrates a link between the architecture of doocots and different functions).

579 Soper, Bird Table Book, 2965, p.65.

580 There is an octagonal plan wooden seat also encircling the tree at its base.

581 Otherwise insufficient space would be provided internally as each part of the octagonal had two boxes each.



Location of Parkhead, Marypark Doocot (Fig. 5.7.7)

Extract from current Ordnance Survey



PARKHEAD DOOCOT, MARYPARK, 1997 (Plate 5.7.6.1)

Close up view of doocot from the south which faces the rear of the modern dwelling house. The photograph shows the octagonal doocot wrapped around mid-height of a mature pine tree with several other similar trees nearby. Despite its small scale, the series of external flight holes which are emphasised by the white painting of the walls, makes the structure a striking one.

5.7.7 HAMILTON DRIVE DOOCOT, ELGIN

Grid Ref.: NJ 550 483

HISTORICAL AND ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Hamilton Drive Doocot, Elgin is an example of a medium size, freestanding cote, complete with auxiliary facilities. It is sited within the rear garden of 40 Hamilton Drive (a two storey, early twentieth century classical house), on the north side of Elgin, at an altitude of 35m.

The cote buildings are just over two decades old and were erected by the current owner, Alexander Mutch, for the purposes of racing.[582] Birds are kept, in a highly controlled manner for breeding, within the main doocot at the end of the garden which is divided into a series of pens.[583] Auxiliary buildings and structures are used as: nursery areas (for sick or young birds); flight trainers; separation of cocks (in preparation for racing or due to aggressive behaviour); a decoy for predators. Although lacking in architectural merit, the doocot arrangement at Hamilton Drive is an excellent example of the building management of birds at the end of the twentieth century and thus merits recording.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Hamilton Drive Doocot is rectangular in plan, approximately 10m long and 3m wide, with a wallhead height of 3m and an overall height of 3.5m. It has a shallow, dual pitched roof section which is split off centre to form a clerestorey of south facing traps (used to control access of birds to and from the cote).

The internal plan comprises a corridor which runs approximately 1m wide along the southern side, and six rooms: three alternating 2 x 2m bird pens; and three association 2 x 1.3m stores. The dividing partitions, like the external fabric are constructed in timber, although the floor and upper portion of the pens' south walls are built using steel mesh. Doors to the stores are hinged, whilst doors to the pens are sliding. The pens contain five rows of three sets of nest boxes which are 450(w)x300(h)x 300mm(d) and constructed with timber slatted fronts complete with landing perches. Each pen has around a dozen inverted, V-shaped perches on east and west walls as well as a single feeding shelf along the south side.

The timber structure is raised to a height of approximately 1m above ground level, on a series of stone or brick piers and two sets of open tread timber steps lead directly up to doorways on the south elevation. The structure is clad externally in painted, 125mm, horizontal boarding and bituminous roofing felt. A nearby pair of nursery sheds, between the main house and main cote, are also constructed and clad in timber and each has its own meshed exercise flight appended on their south and north sides respectively. The small predator decoy is also a meshed contraption.

Written November 1998

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582 Mr Mutch is a Past President of the Elgin District Pigeon Racing Association.

583 Between 50 and100 birds are kept at one time.



Map extract from current Ordnance Survey

Location of Hamilton Drive, Elgin, Doocot (Fig. 5.7.8)



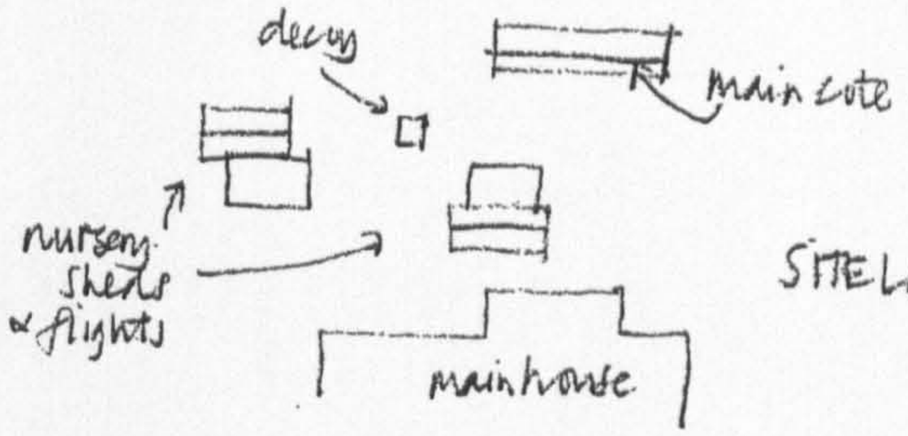
HAMILTON DRIVE DOOCOT, ELGIN, 1997 (Plate 5.7.7.1)
View of south elevation of modern doocot in central Elgin. Note horizontal emphasis and combination of stone base and timber frame. A single corridor runs the front length of the structure and birds are kept in a series of compartments or pens.



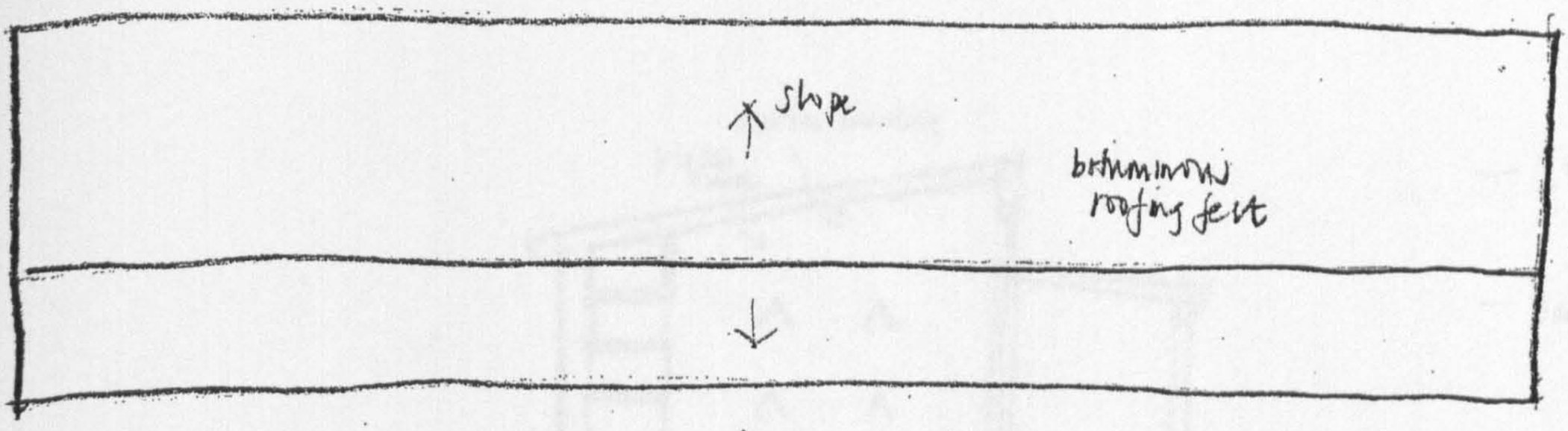
HAMILTON DRIVE DOOCOT, ELGIN, 1997 (Plate 5.7.7.2)
View from doocot looking back to main house. A decoy bird sits in a trap device for predators (foreground) whilst a training flight pen and separation cote is found nearer the house.



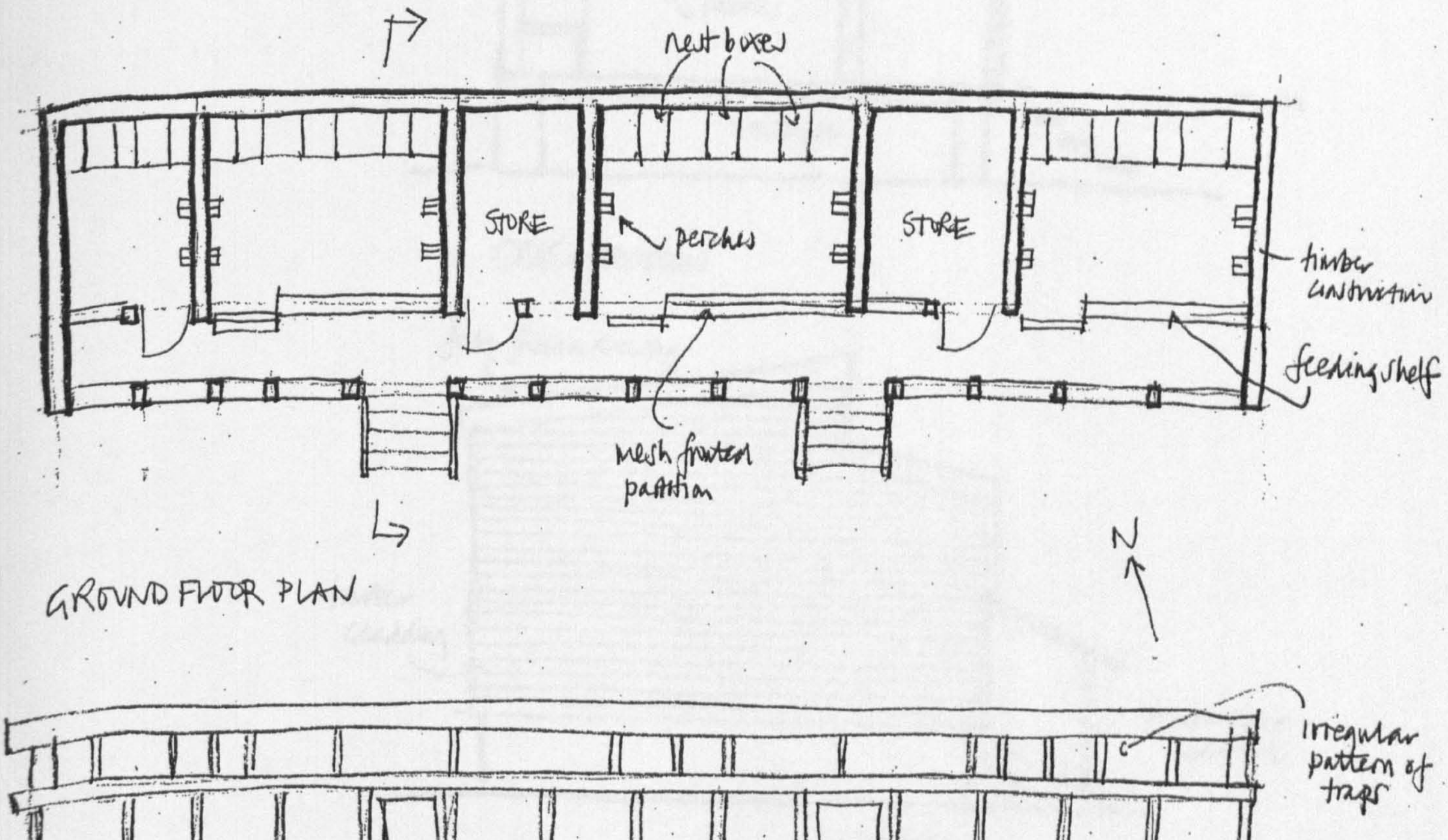
HAMILTON DRIVE DOOCOT, ELGIN, 1997, INTERIOR (Plate 5.7.7.3)
Internal photographs showing one of the three breeding pens. Note how the female birds sit on their nests, or the ledges at the nest entrance, whilst the cocks opt for either their triangular perches or the front cill.



SITE LAYOUT



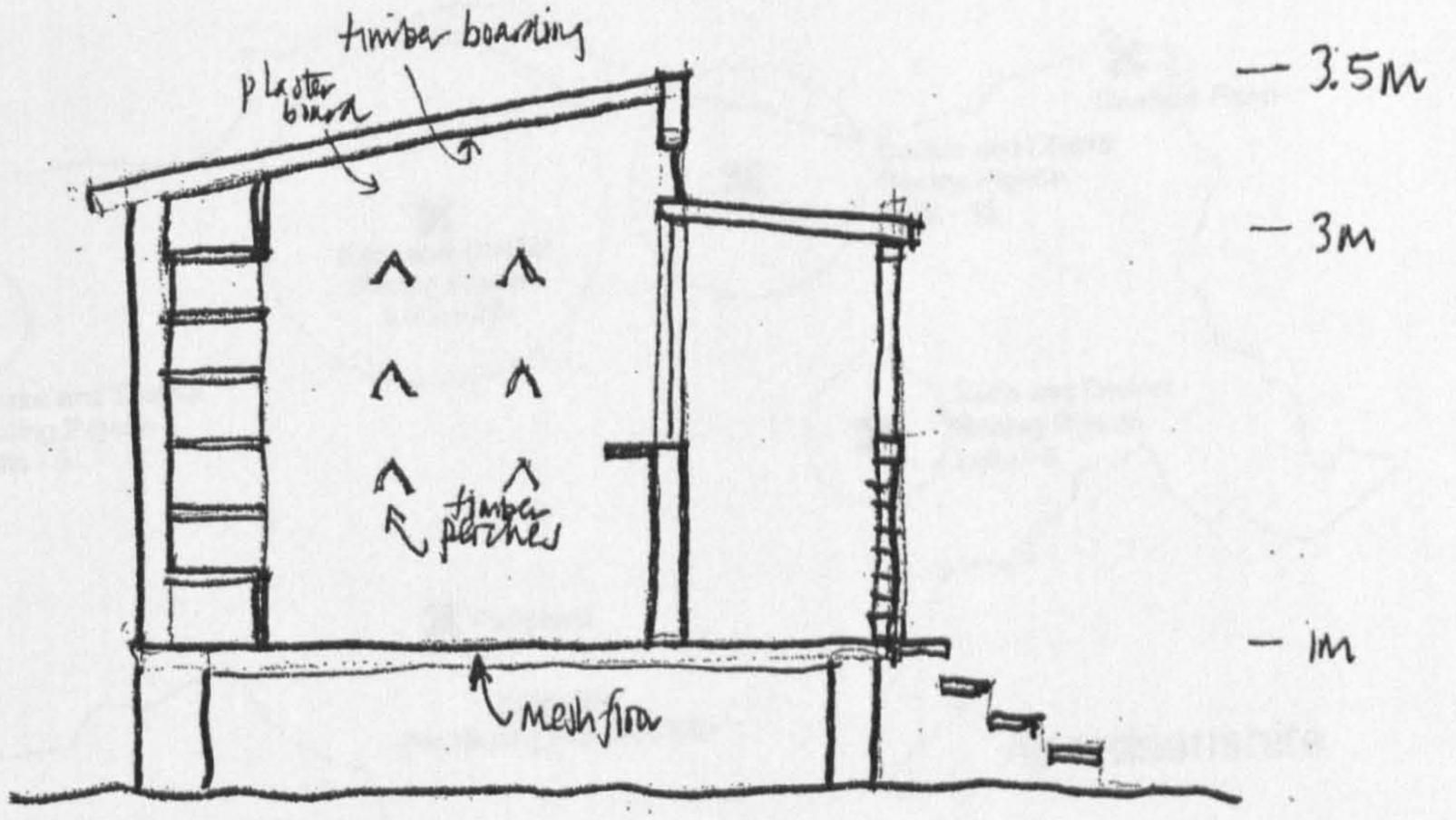
ROOF PLAN



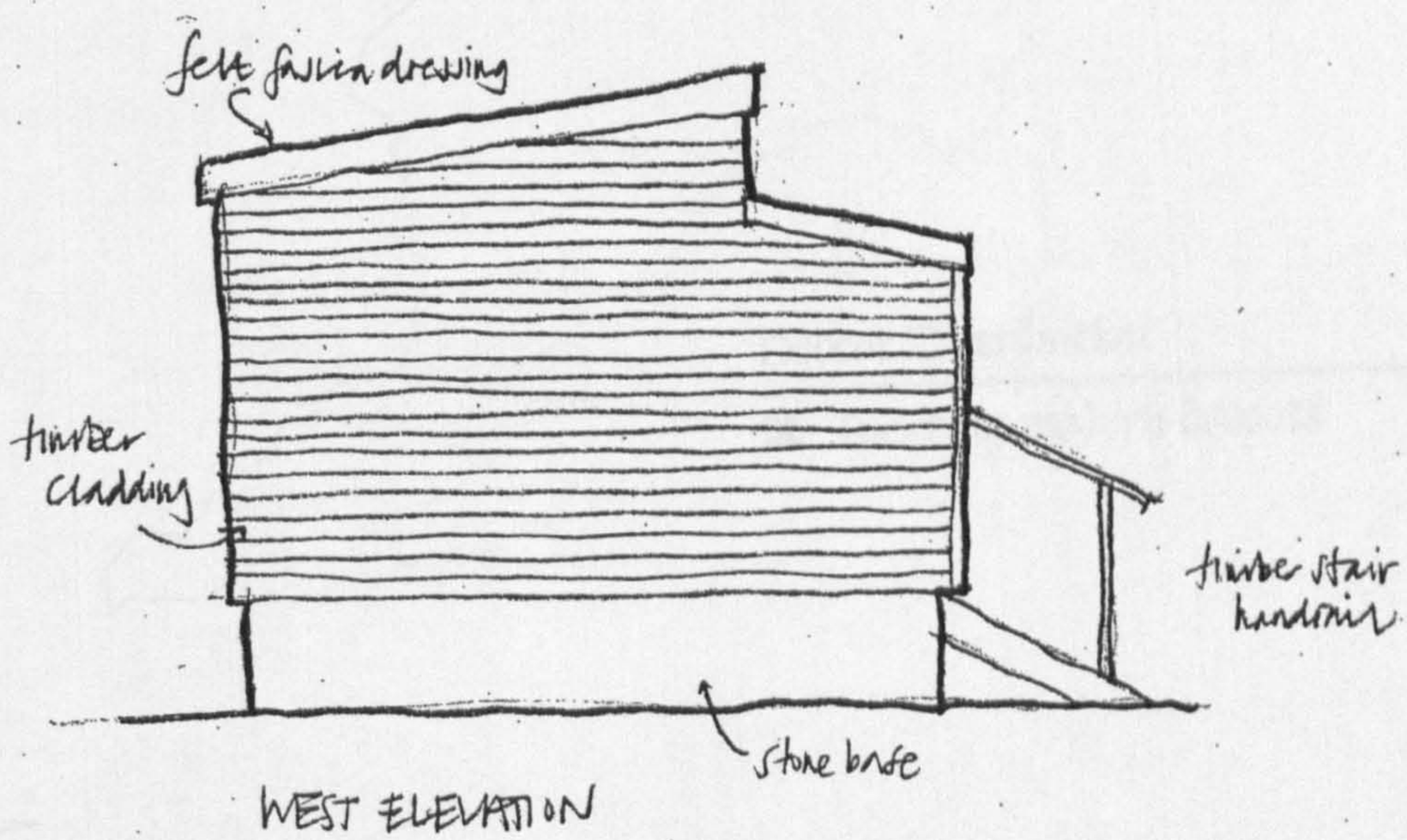
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

SOUTH ELEVATION

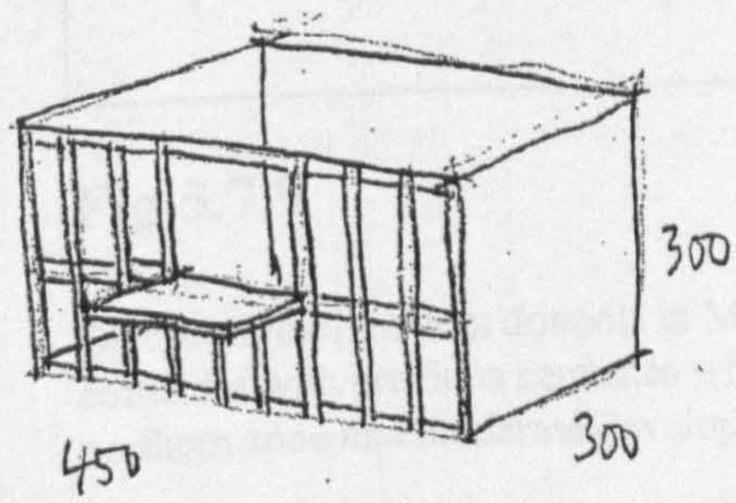
HAMILTON DRIVE DOOZOT, ELGIN SURVEY NB	677



CROSS SECTION



WEST ELEVATION



SKETCH OF NEST BOX showing timber slatted frontage

HAMILTON DRIVE
DOOLOT, ELGIN
SURVEY NB
3 MARCH 1998

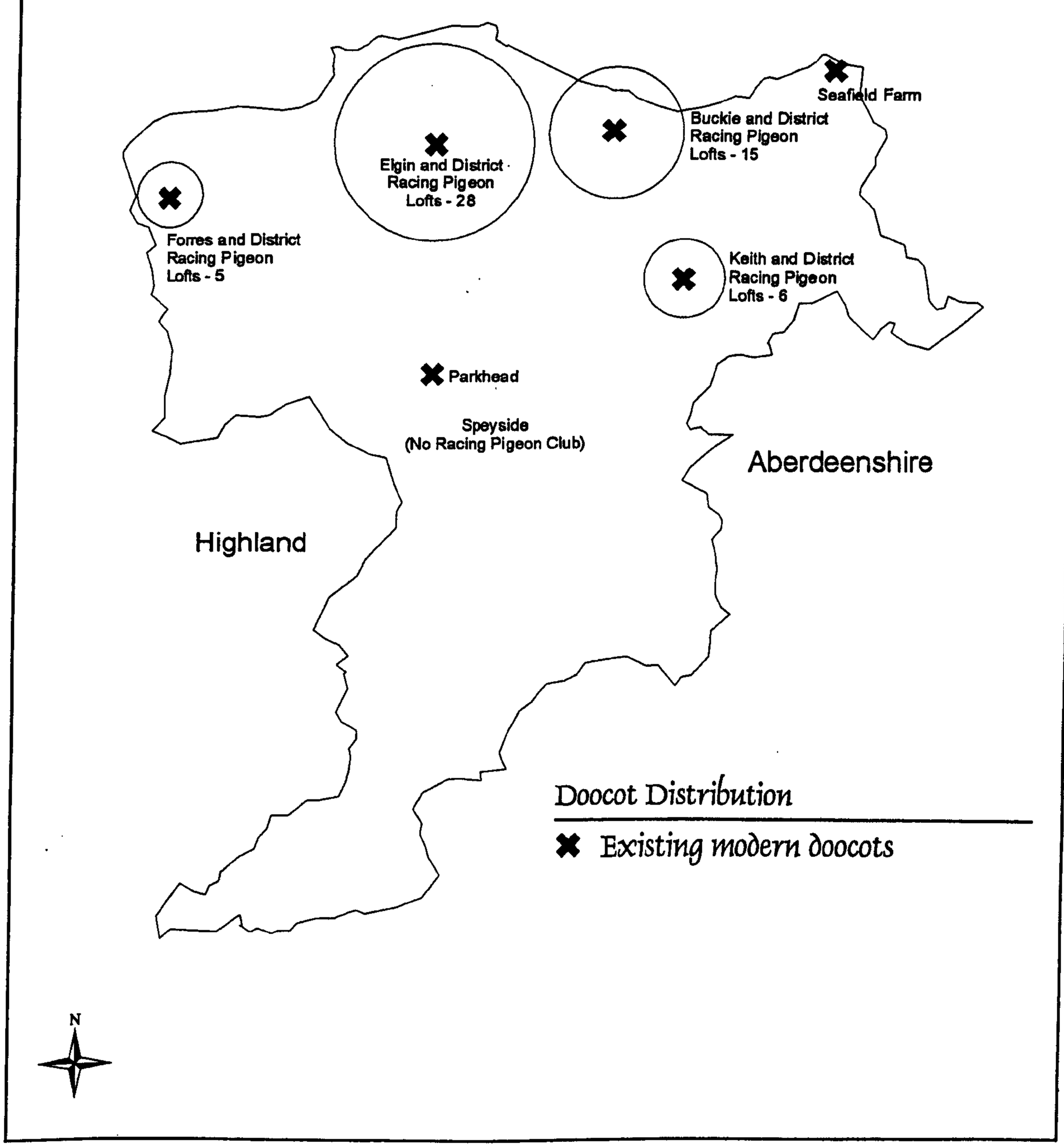


Fig 5.7.9

Distribution of modern doocots in Moray, whose owners are registered with local clubs. The pattern coincides with previous centuries with a concentration around Elgin, reasonable distribution across the northern zone and moderate development to the central east (and no activity in the far south).

5.7.8 Historical summary of twentieth century doocots in Moray

Although there is no firm evidence in Moray, it is known that homing pigeons were used extensively at the turn of the century for carrying postal messages[584] (in similar vein to the method employed two thousand years previously[585]). This attribute was to become useful during the first World War, although Britain did not exploit homing pigeons to the same extent as other countries.[586]

Agricultural decline in Moray, continuing from the turn of the previous century and combined with increasing quantities of imported food and fertilisers, meant that the economic market and functional requirements for rearing pigeons no longer existed[587]. Yet, commercial farming flourished at this time in America[588] (due to the general lack of game) and Cran attempted to promote 'the squabbing business' in Britain.[589] The second World War, however, intervened and British doves became useful 'messengers' for British military purposes.[590] In Moray, airfields were built at Kinloss, Lossiemouth, Forres and Dallachy, which caused the demolition of the historic doocots at Smithfield and Balnageith.

After the War, the dove was held in high regard and this led to the increased development of racing and homing birds for sport and pleasure, especially amongst the male working classes - but no remaining examples have been confirmed in Moray from this period.[591] Ancient

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[584]Levi, Pigeon, 1941

[585]See Chapter 2.5. s.v. 'Purpose', which describes the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans use of birds as messengers.

[586]Levi, op.cit. p.41. Such as the French and Germans. *"The Germans, as soon as they occupied Belgian or French territory, ordered all pigeons destroyed."*

[587]'Decline in Arable Farming', Forres, Elgin and Nairn Gazette, 2/2/1938. Article records a 25 per cent reduction between 1885-1935.
Even Beeton, Book of Household Management, 1861, noticed that, *"It will surprise many to see ... how very costly most of the small birds are when the actual loss in cooking is taken into consideration."* A pigeon is a medium to small size bird by twentieth century standards.

[588]Cran, Making Dovecote Pay, 1930, p.11. *"In America squabs are a national dish - every family expects to have one squab meal per week."*

[589]Cran, ibid.

[590]As described in Chap.2.5. Also, Levi, op.cit. p.7. *"Nowhere else in recorded history can such profitable usage of them be found .... The use of pigeons there was so extensive as to beggar the imagination."* Some birds performed above expectation and became local heroes.

[591]Although, English Heritage agreed to 'spot-list' a row of 1920s painted timber 'lofts' in Sunderland, in order to protect the group from demolition as part of a new housing proposal. The decision was reported on national BBC news in April 1998 as a 'victory' for local owners since they were, ".. *.part of the area's working class culture*." See also Anon, 'News in Brief', Planning, 3/4/98.

doocots were all redundant and knowledge regarding their purpose had all but disappeared. The demise of the country estate, and all its possessions, continued as a series of inheritance taxes took effect. By the 1930s, concern for the future of Moray's historic doocots was mounting.[592]

Moray was not subject to the rapid post-war inner city growth experienced in the central belt of Scotland and, consequently, it does not retain any examples of the so-called 'horseman' doocots which were built within the housing estates of Glasgow and Edinburgh.[593] Moray does, however, possess a wide variety of doocots used for the purposes of homing, racing, displaying, fancy and general pleasure (other historical reasons for keeping doves such as food, medicine, shooting and manure, being no longer applicable - see Appendix Section 2). These present- day doocots, like their historic ancestors, are generally found in the northern lowlands of Moray[594] but, unlike their predecessors, these doocots are generally built by working class people and are less durable and much closer to human habitation.[595] Their architectural detail is generally not refined, although the overall concepts are well conceived (and not unlike the buildings described by the ancients[596]). McCann states, "*For the historian of farm buildings there is little to study after the nineteenth century except lightly built lofts.*"[597] Modern-day doocots are increasingly custom built and Niven Robertson was, in this respect, somewhat prophetic when four decades ago he wrote, " ... *we shudder to think what dovecotes would be like .... Possible they would be all prefabricated, erected in sections, and all of the same dull monotony ..... Each cote would be registered and licensed*"[598].

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[592]Douglas, Dovecotes of Moray, 1931, preface, p.1 and Black, Sketches of Moray, 1930, both reveal Moray's doocots as, ".. *erections which have served their day*". Even by the 1890s, knowledge regarding the workings of historic doocots had gone. (See Literature Review, Chap.2. which discusses works by Webb, Ferguson and Watkins.)

[593]Edwards, 'Flights of Fancy', 1983, pp. 20-1. These tower doocots were built of corrugated iron (and other cheap materials) to attract 'horseman pigeons' from other owners.

[594]Where four 'area pigeon clubs' now actively operate

[595]Although there are some doocots in southern Moray, the population is sparse and disperse. This might explain the lack of a formalised racing club.

[596]Some of the houses described by Varro and Columella seem to have had similar operation, i.e. captivity control using flights, aviaries, separation chambers and feeding accessories.

[597]J. McCann, pers.comm., 24/5/98. "*For the historian of farm buildings there is little to study after the nineteenth century except lightly built lofts.*"

[598]N. Robertson, 'Old Dovecotes of Scotland', 1961, p.50, "... *but in all probability they would have up-to-date methods of water supply, by which the floors, pigeon holes and landing ledges could be hygienically cleansed.*" Robertson was correct to anticipate 'registration' - the 'right' to erect a doocot is now controlled by planning law, building regulations and environmental health.

This chapter has, where possible, examined the historical, ornithological and architectural aspects of 77 examples of doocots to be found in the Moray area.

The opportunity was taken, firstly, to revisit the 25 doocots that were documented by Beaton in 1978 and one of those, Burnside of Duffus (see Appendix Section 1) was found to be an 'impostor'. It has then extended the survey by recording a further 15 doocots of various sizes, type and age: Pitlurg, Invererne, Deansburgh, Cairnfield, Westfield, Drummuir, Dellachaple, Seapark, Towie, Aberlour, Blackfriars Road, Blackfriars Coach House, Cullen Schoolhouse, Cullen Seafield Street and Marypark.

It has also sought to broaden the data search and include 38 lost buildings, six of which have not been previously accounted for: Auchterspynie, Darnaway, Moy, Cullen, Tannachy and Aberlour House.

Six doocots have been renamed to reflect their provenance: Dalvey becomes Grangehill; Gordonstoun becomes Plewlands; Milton Brodie becomes Windyhills; Miltonduff becomes Milton; New Spynie becomes Quarrelwood; and Recletich becomes Braga.

Finally, it has incorporated the sample study of a present day, operational doocot as a way of providing a contextual comparison and completing the full spectrum of the building genre in Moray.

The next chapter will seek to analyse the data collected from the extensive survey.

CHAPTER 6

Note to reader::

Refer back to Volume I