

Cairngorms National Park Authority

**Cairngorms National Park**  
Historic Designed Landscapes Project

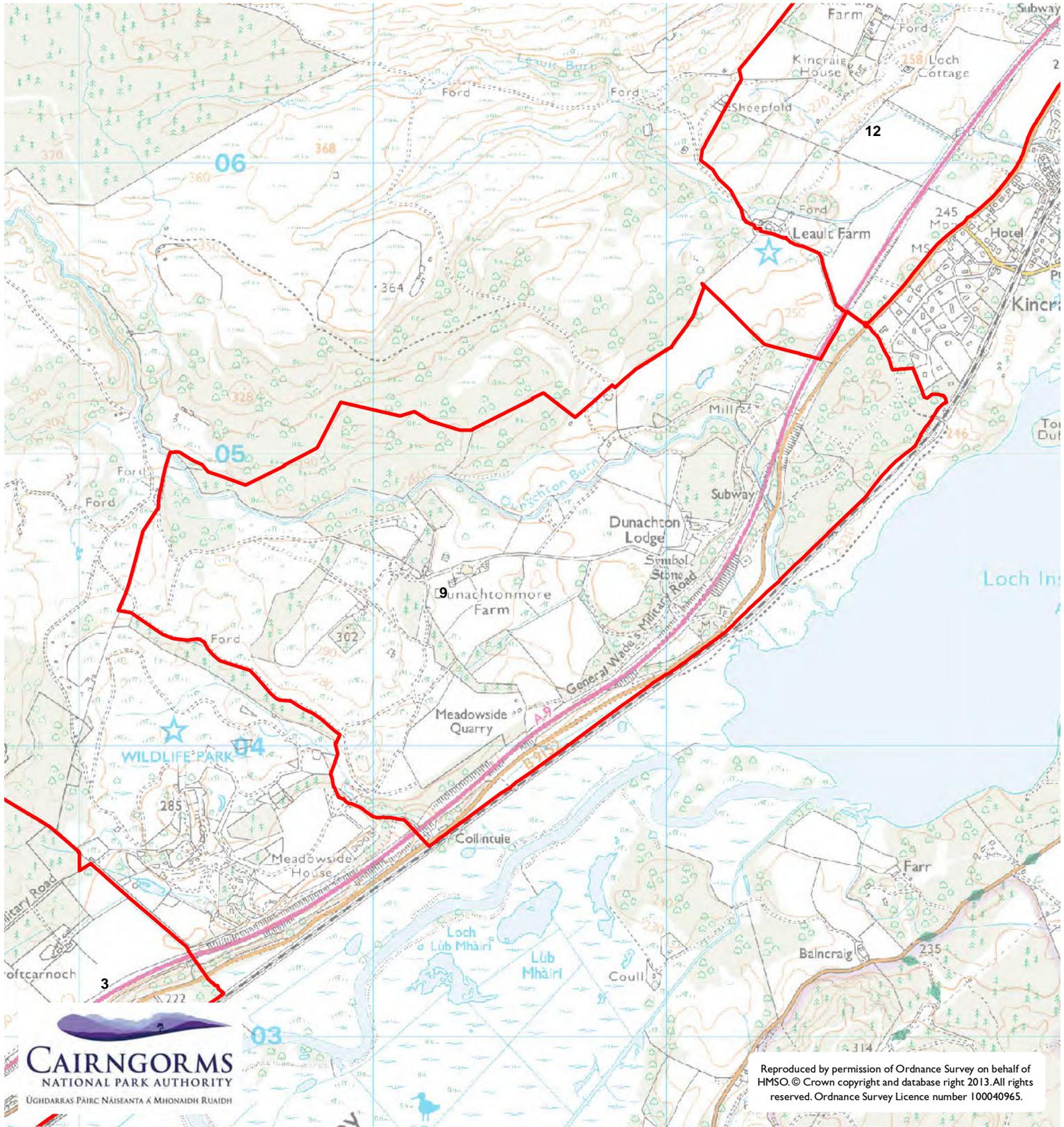
Site Research Report (draft)  
**09 Dunachton Lodge**

**Consultants**

Peter McGowan Associates  
Landscape Architects and Heritage Management Consultants  
86 Constitution Street Edinburgh EH6 6RP  
0131 261 6265 • pma@ednet.co.uk

and Christopher Dingwall

March 2013

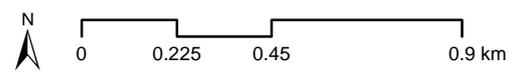


Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO. © Crown copyright and database right 2013. All rights reserved. Ordnance Survey Licence number 100040965.

- Legend**
-  Cairngorms National Park Boundary
  -  Designed landscape provisional boundary

Site 9

**Dunachton Lodge**



May 2013

## 09 Dunachton Lodge

County Inverness-shire  
Parish Alvie  
NGR NH 821 407; OS 1:25,000 Sheet 402

### DESIGNATIONS

Scheduled Ancient Monument 397 – Dunachton Lodge Symbol Stone

Listing Dunachton, West Lodge, HB 1762 – Category B

The line of General Wade's Military Road passes through the southern part of the landscape.

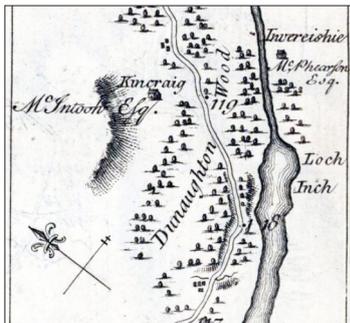
### LOCATION AND EXTENT

The Dunachton estate, with Dunachton Lodge more or less centrally placed, lies on the west side of Strathspey, approximately 2km south of Kincaig, just to the west of, and overlooking Loch Insh, from which it is separated by the line of General Wade's Military Road, the new A9, the old A9 now downgraded to the B9152, and the Perth to Inverness railway line. The Lodge is accessed by a drive from the new A9. The extent of the designed landscape is difficult to determine from map evidence alone, as the house is surrounded by a loosely structured landscape of fields and woodland. There is a small 'core' landscape comprising a walled garden and small park.

### LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

#### Map and documentary evidence

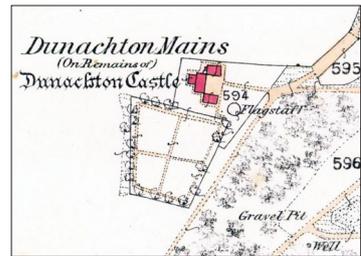
The name 'Dunnachton' only appears on Gordon (c1650). Roy (c1750) shows Dunachton as a well settled area to the west of Loch Insh, with a mosaic of unenclosed rig cultivation and semi-natural woodland, amongst which are seen the main house (old fortalice?) of Dunachton, together with the nearby farmtouns of 'Dunachtonmor' and 'Dunachtonbeg'. Thomson (1832) marks 'Dunaughton' as a high status house, with the settlement of 'Aughtonobyoch' (?) adjacent, and some indication of associated woodland. The OS First Edition (1866) Dunachton



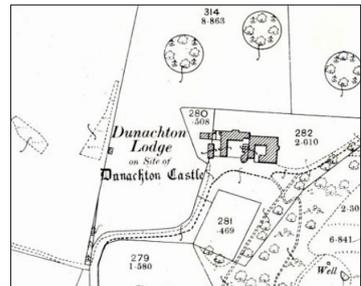
Dunachton Wood marked by  
Taylor & Skinner 1776



Roy's Military Survey c1750



Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 1st edition 1870



Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 2nd edition 1899



Dunachton Lodge, view of south front



Old Dunachton House in 1865, prior to replacement by Dunachton Lodge

Mains is marked as being built 'On the remains of Dunachton Castle'. That said, the castle does not feature in the usual gazetteers. A vignette on the title page of the book *Dunachton, Past and Present, Episodes in the History of the Mackintoshes* (1866) is presumably a representation of the old laird's house, comprising a small two-storey, three bay house with projecting wings, to the south of which was a walled garden. By the OS Second Edition (1899) this had been replaced by a new hunting lodge, plans of which date from 1869. A gate-lodge on the main road is seen to guard a curving drive which sweeps uphill to the new house round the walled garden. The same map shows a small area of parkland to the north of the house, ornamented with five circular clumps of trees in a quincunx. More recent maps and aerial photographs show that the walled garden and parkland with clumps still survive. The former gate-lodge is now cut off from the core landscape by the new A9.

### Building history and ownership

Although no account has been found of the original fortalice, mentioned in records from the 14th century, a small cellar may date from this building, reportedly burnt down by the MacDonalds of Keppoch c1689. Although originally a McNiven property, Dunachton appears to have been in the ownership of the Mackintosh family for an extended period from c1500, who can be presumed to have built the modest laird's house named on the OS First Edition as Dunachton Mains. Significantly, perhaps, Taylor & Skinner (1776) mark 'Dunaughton Wood' on their map, without a house. Ownership is confirmed by Timperley (1976), who records Dunachton, together with Kincaig and Pitourie, as being in the ownership of Mackintosh of Mackintosh. Robert Hall names Alfred D. Mackintosh as proprietor in 1885, though with a John Austen Esq. as tenant. The Dunachton estate was purchased by Sir Andrew Forbes-Leith in 1957.

## APPENDIX

### Historical notes

**OS Name Book 1866** (Alvie, Inverness-shire Book 7, p20-22) recorded "Dunachton Mains (on remains of Dunachton Castle). A neat dwelling house two storeys high with suitable offices detached, a short distance to the east, the former is slated, the latter thatched, the whole is in good repair. The dwelling house above-mentioned appears to be built on the site of the old Castle of Dunachton which is said to have been burned and destroyed to the foundation by the MacDonalds of Keppoch about 1689 ... (also) Dunachton More, a farmhouse one story high, with suitable offices attached, the whole thatched and in ordinary repair. A.E. Mackintosh Esq. proprietor".

**Groome 1882** notes that Dunachton was "passed by marriage about 1500 from the McNivens to the Mackintoshes ; and had a castle, burned in 1689 and never rebuilt".

**Robert Hall 1885** describes "the mansion house [which] is situated on a terrace overlooking Loch Insh, and commanding splendid views of the Grampians and Ben Macdui mountains ... There are stables, coach house, garden, pleasure grounds of great beauty, and two gate lodges. Proprietor Alfred D. Mackintosh Esq. Tenant John Austen Esq."

**Crerar 1910** observed that "overlooking the western end of Loch Insh, and fronting the entrance to Glenfeshie, is Dunachton Lodge, the Badenoch residence of The Mackintosh. Erected some 40 years ago, it is a fine type of a modern shooting lodge, although from the colour of the slate, when looked at from a distance, few would think the mansion is of modern construction. It is a peculiarity of Dunachton Lodge that, with the exception of the freestone

and iron, almost every article required in its construction – stone, wood, lime, slate – was obtained on the Mackintosh's own ground in the vicinity. The slate is of a dun yellowish colour, which gives to the building that appearance of age that the designers intended. An old residence of the Dunachton Mackintoshes stood on the same site, and indeed was incorporated in the new building ... Rising northwards from Dunachton Lodge the background terminates in a green eminence on no great elevation called 'The Cluanach'. This mound can be seen from the highway, and the journey to its summit can easily be accomplished in half-an-hour from the road or Kincaig Station. Insignificant in altitude although it appears to be, and actually is, it commands the finest view that can be obtained of the eastern valley of Badenoch".

---