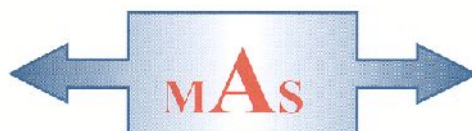


**ELLON CASTLE GARDEN**  
**ABERDEENSHIRE**  
**Historic Garden Survey**



Carried out July-August 2016  
by  
**Murray Archaeological Services Ltd**



**Report No: MAS 2016-24**  
by  
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# **ELLON CASTLE GARDEN**

## **ABERDEENSHIRE**

### **Historic Garden Survey**

- 1 Background
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- 4 The Site
- 5 Brief Historical Background
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- 9 Plants and layout
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Appendix 1 Gazetteer of Features

Appendix 2: Photographic Catalogue

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# ELLON CASTLE GARDEN

## ELLON

### ABERDEENSHIRE

#### Historic Landscape Survey

## 1. Background

- 1.1 An historic garden survey of the Ellon Castle Garden and a standing building survey of the related structures was required for the Ellon Castle Garden, Aberdeenshire, prior to the restoration of the garden by the Ellon Castle Garden Trust.
- 1.2 Murray Archaeological Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work by the Ellon Castle Garden Trust as part of a wider review of the future of the garden being undertaken by Acanthus Architects Ltd.

## 2. Methodology- the documentary sources

- 2.1 A search was carried out in the Sites and Monuments Record, Archaeology Service, Aberdeenshire Council and in the Sites and Monuments Records of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (now HES) through Canmore and Pastmap.
- 2.2 The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps were consulted.
- 2.3 Archives were consulted at the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland (now HES) and Haddo House Estate and through on-line catalogues for the Scottish Archive Network (<http://catalogue.nrscotland.go.uk/scancatalogue>), the National Records of Scotland (<http://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/nrsonlinecatalogue>), the National Library of Scotland ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)) and Aberdeen University Library Special Collections ([www.abdn.ac.uk/library](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library)).
- 2.4 The archive for George Washington Wilson print collection of Aberdeen University was accessed on-line at [www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/Online\\_collect.shtml](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/Online_collect.shtml)

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and the Valentine post-card archive at St Andrews University was accessed on-line at <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/.../specialcollections/collections>

- 2.4 Newspaper archives for UK were searched through the British Newspaper Archive at <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> .

### 3. Methodology- the survey

- 3.1 A detailed survey and photographic recording of all existing and visible elements of the garden was undertaken in June- August 2016.
- 3.2 A standing building survey was undertaken for all structures. Plans, elevations and photographs have been used to record the structures in detail. These have been linked to the available historical documentation. The plans and elevations of the old castle and the garden house have been supplied by Acanthus Architects Ltd and annotated by MAS Ltd.
- 3.3 In June 2016, Rose Geophysical Consultants were contracted to undertake a detailed geophysical survey of the lower garden, the upper terrace and the strip of ground between the castle ruin and the drive. The full report of the Geophysical Survey is presented separately (Ovenden 2016). The results are incorporated in this discussion.
- 3.4 A full catalogue of photographs taken for the survey is in Appendix 2 of the report. A full set of photographs will be supplied to the Aberdeenshire SMR in Aberdeen, to the National Sites and Monuments Records at HES and to the Ellon Castle Garden Trust.

### 4. The Site

The garden lies on a series of natural terraces between c 15 and 25m OD which lie c 200m to the N of the N bank of the river Ythan. The Ellon Castle Garden as it now exists comprises c 1.6 hectares of walled garden, with a further 0.33 hectares on an upper terrace and an area of woodland further up the hillside to the N of the driveway. The A920 runs between the Castle grounds and the river, with playing fields, formerly the Deer Park, between the garden and the road.

Parish:Ellon

NGR (centre of whole area) NJ 95980, 30743

Centre of walled garden 395998, 830660

The garden and the castle ruin comprise a Scheduled Monument SM7333.

*Aberdeenshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR):* Ellon Castle: NJ93SE0001

Ellon Castle Park wall: NJ93SE29

*National Sites and Monuments Record (NMRS) (Historic Environment Scotland):*

NJ93SE 29

*Listed Building status*

Ellon Castle (Old) Category B. LB31104

Ellon Castle (New) Category B. LB31109

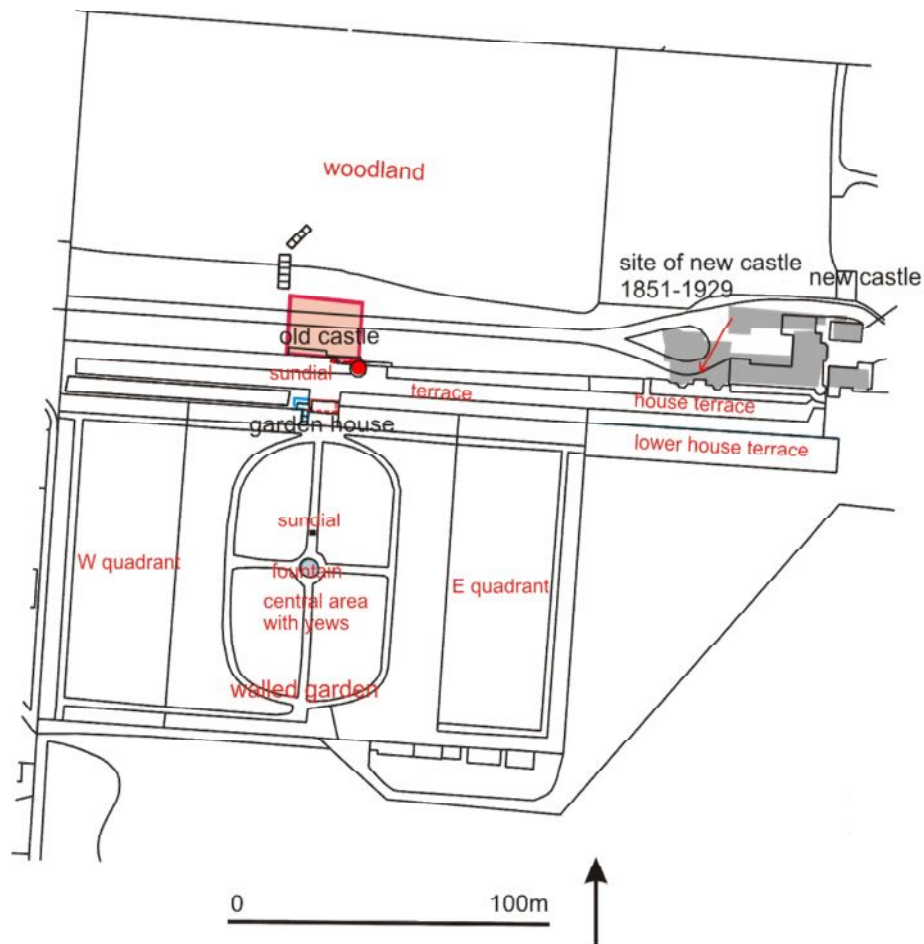
Ellon Castle Park, Wall or Deer Dykes. Category B. LB31103

Ellon Castle (Old) Walled Garden. Category B. LB31107

Ellon Castle (Old) Sundial at Central Avenue of Garden. Category A. LB31108

Ellon Castle (Old) Garden House and stairs from terrace to garden. Category B  
LB31106

Ellon Castle (Old) Sundial in front of, on terrace. Category B. LB31105



Illus 1 Key plan of Ellon Castle Garden. Based on OS. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2012. License No 0100031673)

## 5 Brief Historical background

A detailed and very useful historical summary of the garden was written by Christopher Dingwall in 2007 so only an outline will be presented here.

### **1413 (?) – 1652 Kennedy of Kinmuck family**

The old castle at Ellon is thought to have been built by the Kennedy's of Kinmuck. A moated site is recorded at Mains of Kinmuck, near Toll of Birness (NMRS No: NJ93NE 12) and the OS Name Book (1867) relates that it was demolished and the stones were used to build the old castle at Ellon. Thomas Kennedy, who owned Kinmuck in 1413, is considered to have built Ellon castle between 1413 and 1500 (Gordon, 1958, 61). The Kennedy coat of arms is built into the wall of the existing ruin with a now worn inscription recorded by Simpson (1958, 54) as: JO KENEDY COSTABLE OF ABERDEEN ISOBEL CHEYNE HIS LADY 1635.

### **1652-1706 Moir and Forbes**

In the mid 17<sup>th</sup>-century the Kennedy family forfeited the land and castle at Ellon, which was owned successively by Moir (1652-1688) and then Forbes (1688-1706), before being sold to Baillie James Gordon of Edinburgh.

### **1706-1752 Baillie James Gordon and family**

Baillie Gordon (b. 1665.) bought the property in 1706 and the layout of the garden has been attributed to him on the basis of the 1715 datestone over the door in the W end of the S wall of the garden (although it is argued below that the datestone is not in its primary position). Two of Baillie Gordon's sons were murdered in Edinburgh in 1717 and he himself died some years later. His widow sold the property in 1752.

### **1752-1801 George Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen**

In 1752 Ellon was bought by George Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen (b.1722 d. 1801), who also owned Haddo House although he did not live there (Wright, 2005, 14) and, from 1787, Gight House, both near Methlick- roughly 10 miles from Ellon. Between 1781 and 1787 the Earl had the house extended by the architect John Baxter and established there one of his mistresses, a young girl, Penelope Dering from Sussex. As

their oldest child, a son called Alexander, was born in 1783 (they also had a younger daughter), it would seem likely that the 1781-87 alterations correspond to Penelope's residence.

## 1801-1845 William Gordon

George Gordon died in 1801 and Ellon became the property of Hon William Gordon until his death in 1845. On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 1808 an advertisement appeared in the *Aberdeen Journal* for the sale of materials from a proposed demolition of Ellon castle. (William appears to have had little interest in old houses- in 1805 he had bought Rudding Park House in Yorkshire, demolished the original house and commissioned the building of a new house, selling the property in 1824 before the building was complete). However the demolition of Ellon castle was stopped by a legal challenge by Alexander Gordon, William's half brother, who was one of the heirs named in the entail. The Court of Session ruled in 24<sup>th</sup> January 1811 that, under the terms of the entail, William could not demolish the castle. (*Alexander Gordon and others v William Gordon of Ellon*. Sandford 1842, 281; Court of Session, 1813, 161-66).

**ELLON CASTLE.**

Upon Monday the 30th of May cur. and the three following Days, there will be sold by public roup upon the spot.

**T**HE MATERIALS of that NOBLE MANSION called ELLON CASTLE. This extensive and grand Building consists of the Main Body of the House, Two Wings, and a Tower, all four stories high, and of very large dimensions.

The ROOF, which is new, is pavilioned, covered with Lead and Slate; and with the FLOORS, contains an immense quantity of valuable Foreign Wood, fresh and in good order.

There are a great number of DOORS substantially and neatly finished, with Brass Locks; about Ninety WINDOWS of different sizes; several capital STAIR-CASES, principally of well dressed Stone, and partly of Oak, with Mahogany and other Rails; Three beautiful Marble, and a great many other CHIMNEY PIECES; a multitude of PARTITION WALLS, PRESSES, &c. &c.; LEADEN SPOUTS, &c.; a considerable quantity of IRON WORK, with an IRON GATE, and a variety of other particulars. There is a great quantity of SLATES and LEAD upon the Roof, and valuable Materials in the Mason Work, great part of which consists of well dressed Moray Stone.

These subjects merit the attention of Noblemen and Gentlemen desirous to erect any elegant building, and also of every Tradesman who can use them.

If the premises are not sold in One Lot, they will be exposed in different lots, for the accommodation of purchasers.

Application for further particulars may be made to Mr John Cuning near the Castle, or Andrew Davidson, Advocate in Aberdeen. Credit will be given.

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Illus 2 Extract from The Aberdeen Journal Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 1808  
<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>

For the remainder of William's ownership, the property, presumably including the gardens, appears to have been neglected. In 1841 the *Statistical Account* for Ellon (Robertson 1841, 905) describes 'Ellon Castle, although, with the exception of the walls, is now in a condition utterly ruinous.....The present proprietor, who resides abroad, and who has not for many years visited his property in this part of the country...'

### **1845-1873 Alexander Gordon**

In 1845, William's half brother, Alexander Gordon, who had been brought up at Ellon castle, succeeded to the property. During Alexander's ownership, the old castle was demolished (presumably now beyond repair as Alexander had challenged the demolition proposed in 1808) and a new mansion, designed by Mackenzie & Mathews was built in 1849-51, at the old stables, to the east of the old castle. During this period great changes were made to the gardens, partly adapting it to the changing fashions in garden design, but also re-orientating it with a new focus of access from the new castle.



**Illus 3 The new castle of Ellon built 1851. painting c 1870s on enameled box Haddo House (Photograph MAS Ltd courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen)**

## **1873-1918**

As Cosmo Gordon recalls (1958, 66-7), the expense of all Alexander's changes and the agricultural depression of the late 1860s caused financial difficulties and the castle was not occupied between 1873 and the early 1880s when his grandson Arthur John Lewis Gordon succeeded to the estate. By 1913 the estate was resigned to trustees and was sold in 1918.

It is unlikely that there was any development of the garden in this period.

## **1918-1929 Sir Frederick Becker**

During this period the 1850s 'New Castle' was demolished in 1927 and the stables etc reconverted to a smaller dwelling.

## **1929–1972 Sir Edward Reid**

When the estate was bought by Sir Edward Reid the 'new Ellon castle' comprised the converted 18<sup>th</sup>-century stables. Sir Edward Reid, who was a merchant banker with Baring Brothers in London, would often have been away from Ellon, but local newspaper accounts show that he continued traditions such as holding the Ythan Farmers Club shows in the Deer Park. In 28<sup>th</sup> August 1941 his wife hosted a garden fete at the castle in aid of the Red Cross, with 1000 people attending- and with a pipe band on the terrace and stalls (*Aberdeen Weekly Journal* <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>).

During the Reid's ownership there was clearly some improvement and maintenance in the garden, with replacement greenhouses in the 1950s and tree tags on the fruit trees showing new plantings between 1947 and 1959.

## **Gardeners at Ellon**

Sadly the names of the gardeners are often lost. However in the course of this research a few have been found, often by chance.

### 18<sup>th</sup> Century

*John Dean 1787*

Baptismal record of Susan Dean b. 11 Nov 1787, baptised 18 Nov 1787- father described as 'Mr Dean gardener at Ellon Castle'. *Ellon Parish records*.

[www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk) . John Dean appears to have been a gardener at Ellon Castle during the period of the massive 18<sup>th</sup>-century redevelopment of the house and gardens while Penelope Dering was living there as mistress to George Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century

*John Murray* 1849- 1854 (at least)

Head Gardener to Alexander Gordon and named in prize lists for Ellon Horticultural shows. *Aberdeen Journal* and *Aberdeen Herald and General Advertiser* between 1849 and 1854 (<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>). John Murray was the gardener who worked with Alexander Gordon to restore the gardens from c1845, including the period of major upheaval that would have occurred when the old castle was demolished c1851 and the new castle built, with the huge changes this would have made to the focus and structure of the gardens. The newspaper accounts of the plants displayed during this period at the newly established Ellon Horticultural Society give an impression that John Murray was in touch with the new plants, including greenhouse plants, then becoming available in Britain. Under gardeners named

1851 A Davidson

1853 George Reid

1854 Mr Sutherland

### 20<sup>th</sup> Century

*George Gibson* (1870-1947)

Head gardener 1903- c 1947 (except 1920s) (reference in Cosmo Gordon, 1958, 71-2, who relates that much of time he had only one apprentice). George Gibson would have been gardener to Sir Edward Reid

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century

*Catrina Robertson*. Present gardener

## 6. Map evidence

The available map evidence is primarily limited to the Ordnance Survey maps. No detailed estate maps have been found.

### 6.1 *Pont 10. (Buchan) imprint c 1583-96* ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk))

Ellon marked. Castle not specifically marked or named.

### 6.2 *Robert Gordon (1580-1661). Part of Aberdeen Shyre. Imprint [ca. 1636-52]* ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk))

Ellon marked. Castle not specifically marked or named.

### 6.3 *Blaeu, Joan, (1596-1673) Imprint 1654. Duo Vicecomitatus Aberdonia & Banfia, una cum Regionibus & terrarum tractibus sub iis comprehensis / Auctore Roberto Gordonio à Straloch* ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk))

Name Ardgicht (sic) marked. No detail.

### 6.4 *Roy's Military Map of 1747/55* ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk))

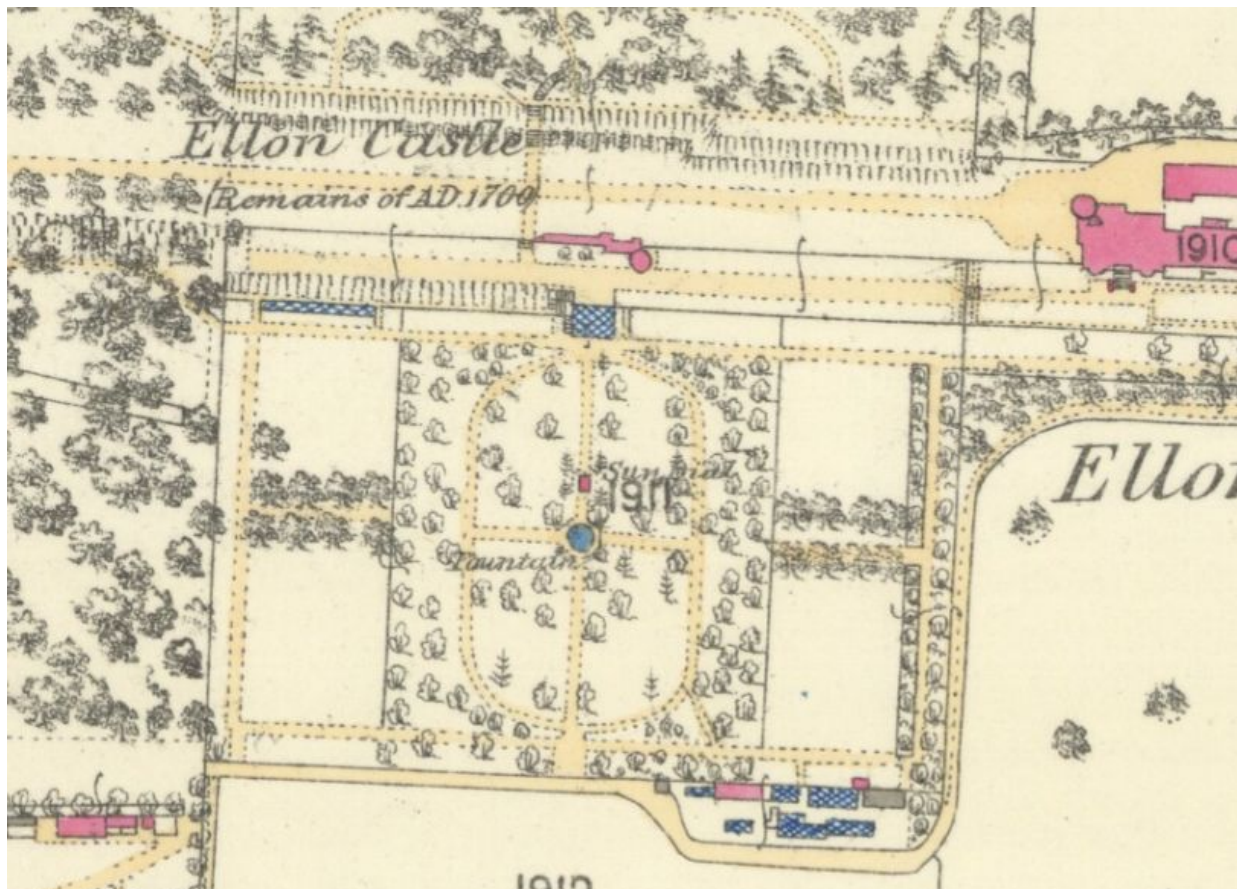
Roy depicts Ellon Castle set in a largely wooded and irregularly shaped walled enclosure N of the public road and N of the River Ythan. The S part of the enclosure (roughly the position of the Deer Park and the garden) is shown as open ground.

### 6.5 *1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25"/mile maps* ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk))

Sheet: Aberdeen sheet xxxviii.16 (Ellon) 1867 (pub 1871).

Shows Old Ellon Castle as ruins with the New Castle to E. In lower garden, the central area, bordered by hedges is shown as heavily planted with trees and shrubs. The central circular path, fountain and sundial are shown. The W quadrant of the garden is shown bisected by E/W path bordered by trees, the W border is open. There is a glass frame or lean-to greenhouse along part of the inner face of the W end of the N wall, with small paths to either end of it. The E quadrant of the garden is also bisected by an E/W path bordered by trees, the E border is shown with trees along inside of wall, and shrubs/bushes along the W side of the E path. The upper terrace is shown as a wide walkway with grass or borders on either side. Greenhouses and related structures lie to the S of the S wall, with a small

building within the garden. A wide area of glass is shown across the full site of the garden house.



Illus 4 Detail of Aberdeen sheet xxxviii.16 (Ellon) 1867 (pub 1871). [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

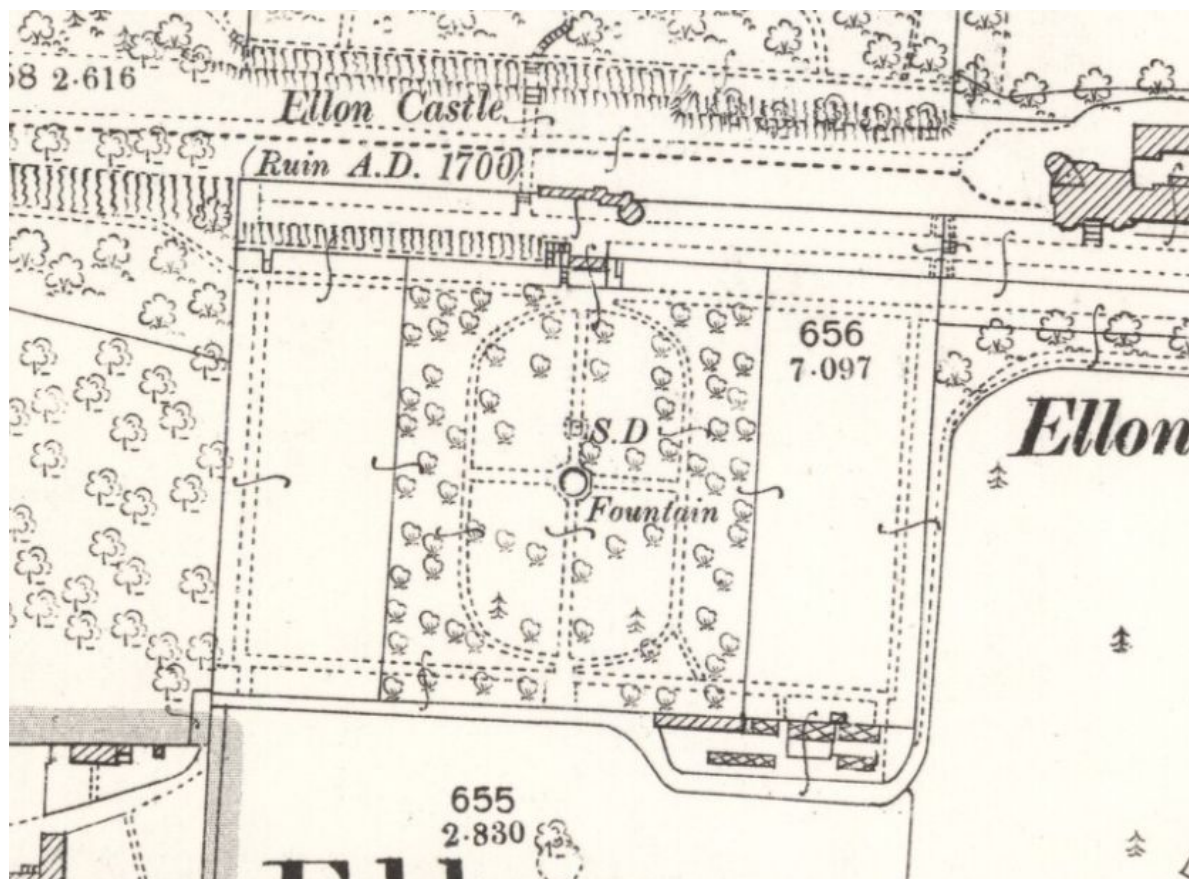
#### 6.6 Sketch map of the Yews in the lower garden 1890

A plan of the circular pathway in the lower garden with 15 yew trees, sundial and fountain. Measurements of trees taken in 1852. Published by Hutchinson in 1890 (1890, 386) and reproduced by Gordon (1957, 77-8) in 1957 with updated measurements.

#### 6.7 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25"/mile maps ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk))

Aberdeenshire 038.16 (includes Ellon) 1899 (pub 1900)

The central part of the lower garden is unchanged with sundial and fountain still marked. However in both the E and W quadrants, the E/W paths have been removed. The glass house by the W end of the N wall has been removed and the garden house is shown on its present ground plan.

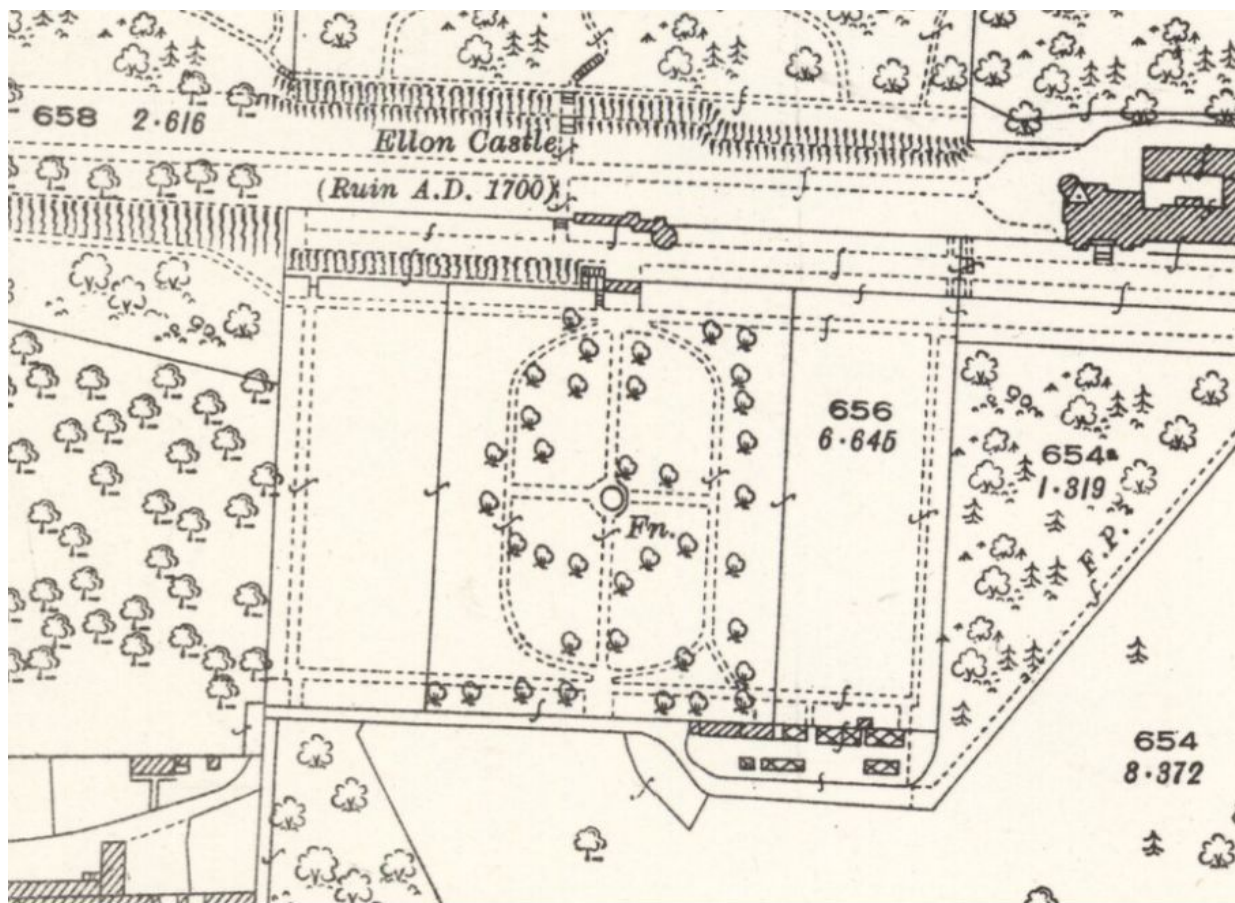


Illus 5 Detail from Aberdeenshire 038.16 (includes Ellon) 1899 (pub 1900) [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

6.8 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey 25"/mile maps ([www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk))

Aberdeenshire 038.16 (includes Ellon) 1924 (pub 1926)

In the central part of the garden, only the fountain is shown, with no symbol or other indication of the sundial. The shrubbery in the central portion has been largely reduced with what would appear to be the English Yews. A line of standard trees (presumably the limes) extends N/S between the E side of the circular path and the E hedge. No cross paths are shown in the E and W quadrants.



Illus 6 Aberdeenshire 038.16 (includes Ellon) 1924 (pub 1926) [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

## 7 Other illustrations or documentary sources

Date	Source	Content summary	Features shown
1781	NMRS ABD/175/3- ABD/175/7	Copies of photographs of 1781 plans of castle by Baxter. Rooms identified	castle plan and elevations
1783	Eleanor Vere Boyle (nee Gordon). 1900, 215-234. Accessed at <a href="https://archive.org/stream/sevengardensand01boylgog">https://archive.org/stream/sevengardensand01boylgog</a>	Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle gives detailed description of lady sitting on seat below yews in a pastel drawing dated 1783	Yews, seat
1782-6	Paper volume of building accounts of Ellon Castle 1782-6 and some vouchers. NRAS55/8/2 Haddo Estate . Viewed courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen	Accounts and receipts for building materials for castle and for stables etc. only 1 reference to ironwork for garden wall.	wall
1820s?	NMRS ABD/175/2 Attributed to a Gordon child aged c12 years old	Elevation of W front of castle with 2 lodges and wall between. Gate on N side. Drive along N side of old castle. Grass between castle and lodges.	Old castle
1841	Statistical Account of 1834-45, p 905. Ellon parish account dated	'Ellon castle, although with the exception of its walls, it is now in a condition utterly ruinous,	

	1841. <a href="http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Aberdeen/Ellon/12/905/">http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1834-45/Aberdeen/Ellon/12/905/</a>	cannot be classed as an ancient building, the greater part of it having been erected about 1780, by the late Earl of Aberdeen, the father of the present proprietor. ...at the time of his death in 1801, left the castle, with the gardens and grounds, in a state of repair and order befitting the rank and wealth of their former occupant'.	
1841	Watercolour by James Giles (Haddo House, NTS. Viewed courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen). Also published in Giles, 1936	View from garden of Old Castle S face and garden house.	Old Castle S front; garden house; sundial; yews
1845/ 1848	NMRS ABD/175/9. Sketch attributed to Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle	Shows lodges and W front of old castle. Drive on N side.	Old castle
C1850	NRMS PA 4/39V/2 Photograph. 'Terrace, Ellon Castle'. PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM NO 4: INNES OF COWIE ALBUM On-line Digital Image <a href="https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1348335">https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1348335</a>	View looking W along upper terrace from the terrace just E of present boundary. Shows wide central path. To N: border with circular plantings with ? gravel surround. Kerb (extant) to N border. Shrubs against wall. To S of path, beside terrace wall roughly rectilinear beds. Metal railing along top of N garden wall, E end. W end of garden N wall with urns. Woman walking along pathway. Urns on N wall of terrace between terrace and drive.	Upper terrace. Top of garden house. N wall; urns; possible stone bench
C1850	NRMS PA 4/39V/1 'Tree at Ellon Castle, the old Laird.' PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM NO 4: INNES OF COWIE ALBUM On-line Digital Image <a href="http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1348334">http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1348334</a>	Seat. Alexander Gordon	
c1862	NMRS PA 4/41V/2 'Pleasaunce, Ellon Castle'. PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM NO 4: INNES OF COWIE ALBUM On-line Digital Image <a href="http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1348338">http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1348338</a>	Central area of garden, looking W or WNW. Fountain and sundial (complete) both with small columnar trees (? conifers) at margins. Part of ?N wall in background. Shows mature deciduous trees behind yews within walled area	Fountain Sundial Small seat?
C1864	NMRS B37394 Post card.	View looking W from 1850s new castle	Terrace
1849- 1870	Aberdeen Journal Aberdeen Herald and general advertiser British Newspapers Archive <a href="http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/">http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/</a>	Detailed notes on plants exhibited in Ellon Horticultural show. 1849 was first show. In 1869'the centre of the hall was filled,as usual, with fine plants from Ellon Castle gardens, amongst which a fine orange tree ,laden with fruit, a very large bird-nest fern, a sago palm, and	Evidence of plants grown, greenhouses and greenhouse plants exhibited, names of some

		two plants of <i>humea elegans</i> ..’ The same year the Castle got prizes for cherries, raspberries, strawberries, red, green and yellow gooseberries, red and black currants, peas, potatoes, turnips, carrots, onions and cabbage- giving an indication of the range of fruit and vegetables then being grown in the garden. In 1871 no entries were sent from the castle ‘in consequence of the death of Miss Boyle’.	gardeners
C1870	Enamelled painted panels on box at Haddo House, NTS. Viewed courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen	Looking W to Old Castle ruin. Railing along S of Terrace. Urns with red flowers at E and along N wall. Driveway. Top of Garden House	Old castle, Garden House, Terrace, walls 5, 6 & 22
C1870	Enamelled painted panel on box at Haddo House, NTS. Viewed courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen	Central area with yews	Yews, fountain, sundial, seat
C1870	Enamelled painted panel on box at Haddo House, NTS. Viewed courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen	New castle	New castle
1892	MacGibbon & Ross, 1892, 444-445	Drawing and discussion of sundial which MacGibbon and Ross date as late 17 <sup>th</sup> C.	Sundial complete
1900 (published)	Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle., 1900, 215-234. Accessed at <a href="https://archive.org/stream/sevengardensand01boylgog">https://archive.org/stream/sevengardensand01boylgog</a>	Essay of memories of the garden from 1847 when her father (Alexander Gordon) inherited it until at least 1888 (p220)	Garden house, terrace plantings, yews, terrace steps, lime alley, both sundials, fountain, seat
1900 (published)	Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle 1900, 215-234. Accessed at <a href="https://archive.org/stream/sevengardensand01boylgog">https://archive.org/stream/sevengardensand01boylgog</a>	Drawing of sundial by Arthur Gordon	Sundial
1853-1908	George Washington Wilson photograph Aberdeen University <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm</a> GB 0231 MS 3792/C2552 Ref 12629 In 1904 catalogue. Ardgight Castle, Ellon	View looking NNW, showing NW end of central area of garden. Rhododendrons in flower in border below N wall. Large espalier fruit on S face of N wall. 1 English Yew visible with seat below it. Parapet on garden house. Fenestration of garden house visible in detail.	E end of N wall, garden house and castle ruin
By 1904	George Washington Wilson photograph	View looking E along terrace, with old and new castles in background. Part of N side of lower	W end N wall. W wall garden

1853-1908	Aberdeen University <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm</a> GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553 Ref 12630 In 1904 catalogue. . On the Terrace Ellon Castle:	garden Old castle. W upper terrace parapet with urns. W side garden house. Lower garden N side-yew hedges and some of central yews.	house with door to steps. W parapet. urns Gate 21.
1853-1908	George Washington Wilson photograph Aberdeen University <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm</a> GB 0231 MS 3792/F51682 Ref 14776. Ellon Castle.	View from fields centered on New Ellon Castle, looking N. Shows espalier trees on lower terrace in front of house.	
1853-1908	George Washington Wilson photograph Aberdeen University <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm</a> GB 0231 MS 3792/C2205 Ref 12625 Ellon Castle.	View from garden up to castle. Looking NE from E quadrant of lower garden to New Castle Part of E wall with espalier fruit trees, currant bushes (by leaves magnified) in front and 3 or 4 drills for ? potatos. Wall of lower terrace to E of gate 21 with espalier fruit trees. E/W path with freestanding fruit trees N and S of it.	E wall, gate 21, E/W path.
1853-1908	George Washington Wilson photograph Aberdeen University <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm</a> GB 0231 MS 3792/D0946 Ref 90 E.G. Old Ellon Castle.	View up to castle ruins from garden. From E side of W yew hedge looking NNE. Centered on old castle ruin. Inner face of brick W end of N wall with very young espalier fruit trees. Seats below central yews. Garden house with functional door from stair.	Old castle, garden house, seats, terrace W end and urns. W end N wall.
1853-1908	George Washington Wilson photograph Aberdeen University <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm</a> GB 0231 MS 3792/E3313 Ref 2125. Ellon Castle from St Mary's Chapel.	Long view- shows dominance in landscape.	
1853-1908	George Washington Wilson photograph Aberdeen University <a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm">http://www.abdn.ac.uk/historic/gww/index.htm</a> GB 0231 MS 3792/F5167 Ref 14773.	Long view- shows dominance in landscape. Deer dyke wall and gate.	Tops of 2 greenhouses.

	Ellon Castle and manse		
Late 1940s – probably 1945-49	Concrete Greenhouse Ltd. Marlow. Museum of English Rural Life, Reading. Ref: TR AMD/P2/B1055	Advertising leaflet for Concrete Greenhouses Ltd, Marlow. Included photograph showing curved ribs and glazing method.	Greenhouses 26 & 28 made by this manufacturer.
1948	Sortie CPE/Scot/UK/0374, frame SFFO_0136, 0137, 0149 <a href="http://www.ncap.org.uk/">www.ncap.org.uk/</a>	Air photographs	layout
1958	Valentine & sons. Postcard. JV-D-3346 University of St Andrews photographic collection <a href="http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk">www.st-andrews.ac.uk</a>	View W along upper terrace. Wide path bordered by grass. Urns along N wall of terrace by drive and on W end of N wall of garden.	Terrace; urns

## 8 Gazetteer and details of specified sites

All the features in the Gazetteer are fully described in Appendix 1 at the end of this report, with tabulated reference to the changes on each of the maps consulted. A number of features where there is significant surviving evidence are described further in this section. Feature numbers refer to the Feature Nos in the Gazetteer in Appendix 1 and on the map Illus 142, also in Appendix 1.

### 8.1 Old Ellon Castle (*Gazetteer No 1*)

The old castle relates to the garden in two ways. From at least the late 16<sup>th</sup> century until 1851, it was a dwelling that looked down on the gardens and for which the gardens provided not only a leisure area but also fruit and vegetables. After the demolition of the castle in 1851 and its replacement by the new mansion to the E (later reduced to its present footprint in 1929), the garden continued to provide both leisure and vegetables but the old castle became a romantic ruin that formed a deliberate part of the backdrop to the garden.

#### The old castle as dwelling

The castle appears to have been built c1413 by the Kennedy family. Simpson (1958, 54) regarded some of the vaulting as 15<sup>th</sup>-century masonry with the lower part of both the round tower, the square tower and the S wall of possible late 16th-century

construction, with the 18<sup>th</sup>-century reconstruction above. The earlier stonework of buff coloured boulders in the lower wall is in marked contrast to the blue-grey split stonework of the higher 18<sup>th</sup>-century work (illus 7). An attempt has been made on the annotated S elevation (illus 10) to mark the different stages of work.



**Illus 7 S facade of old castle. Arrow shows the change in stonework**

Not enough of the castle remains to show the plan of the earlier stages of the building's development. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was partly rebuilt for Ballie James Gordon, and later for George Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen by the architect and contractor John Baxter in 1781-87. It is not possible to distinguish what belongs to each of these 18<sup>th</sup>-century developments. A set of drawings of the plan and elevations dated 1781 by the architect Baxter (NMRS ABD/175/3- ABD/175/7) give the internal layout at that date, with useful identification of the functions of the different rooms. Sadly they do not distinguish between existing and new work- for example the square and round towers and the cellars, which are known to be much earlier, are not depicted differently. One stair at the attic level is annotated 'old stair' but this is an exception.

Manuscript accounts dating between 1782 and 1786 (NRAS55/8/2) relating to purchase of materials and work undertaken were examined; most were simply receipts or bills. However a letter from Baxter dated 27 July 1783 regarding roofing timber

gives an insight into the degree of work being undertaken; ‘...an order for two hundred pounds which the wood for the roof of the old part of the house will amount to... I have given orders that the roofing shall be attended to, so far as to cover in above what is the present drawing room which will put us out of danger..’ This reference appears to imply that a fairly considerable amount of the existing castle was being retained and indeed lived in during the building work.

By the end of these 18<sup>th</sup>-century developments, the castle was a four-storey mansion with two slightly projecting wings on either side of a central door on the W facade and two projecting rounded bays on either side of the E facade. The drive lay N of the present drive, through an archway at the N side of the house.

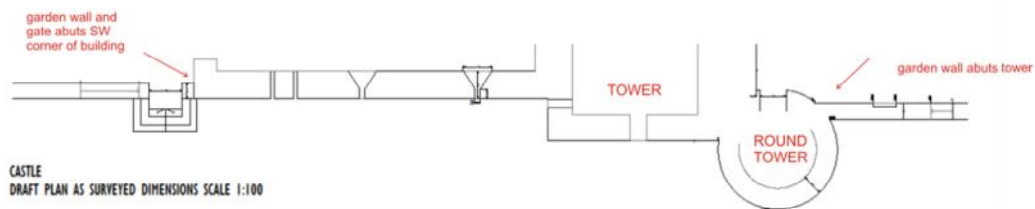
The drive led to the stables and farm offices which the Accounts (NRAS55/8/2) also refer to, indicating that Baxter’s work included modernising the farm offices in keeping with the beginnings of Agricultural Improvement in the North-East (Glendenning and Wade Martins, 2008, 48-51)



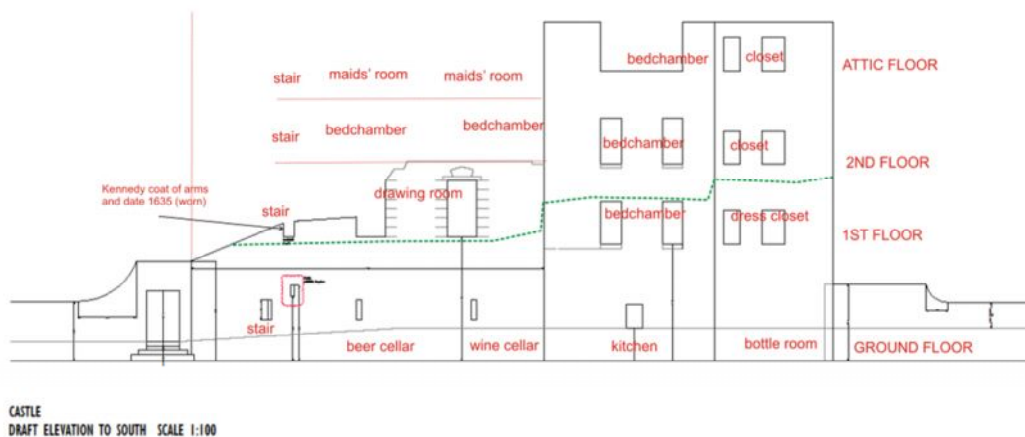
**Illus 8 Giles 1841 (Photograph MAS Ltd courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen)**

When the old castle was demolished in 1851, only the S facade was left. However, a painting by Giles (Haddo House, Aberdeenshire; Giles, 1936) dated 1841 shows the S elevation from the garden and two sketches dated 1820s and 1845/48 both show the

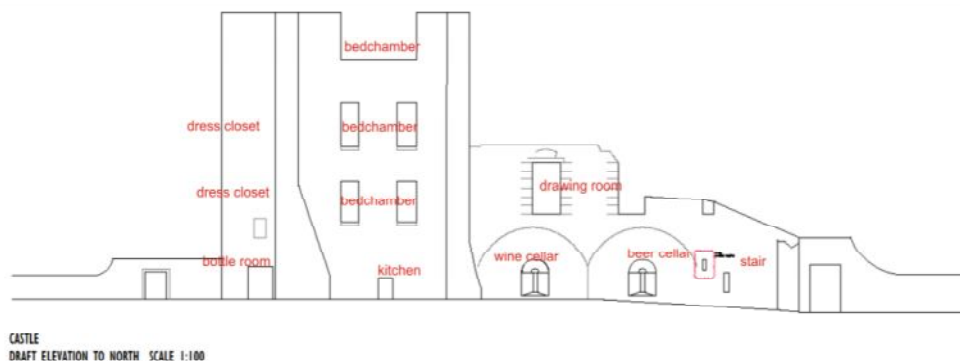
W facade. The modern plan and elevations of the surviving portion have been annotated on the basis of Baxter's drawings to identify the function of those rooms in the S facade that would have overlooked the garden. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor rooms on this S side of the building were the drawing room and the main bedchamber, which would have had excellent views over the roof of the garden house directly down the N/S axis of the garden which is centred on this part of the castle. [These are the lowest range of windows in the Giles painting].



**Illus 9 Plan of castle ruin courtesy of Acanthus Architects Ltd, annotated by MAS Ltd**



**Illus 10 S elevation of castle ruin courtesy of Acanthus Architects Ltd, annotated by MAS Ltd. Green dotted line roughly indicates the change in masonry**



**Illus 11 N elevation of castle ruin courtesy of Acanthus Architects Ltd, annotated by MAS Ltd**

### The old castle as romantic ruin

In 1851 the old castle was demolished with only the S wall and towers deliberately left standing, often since then ivy clad in keeping with the image of a romantic ruin. This would have had a particular resonance for Alexander Gordon as he had been born and partly brought up in the old castle.

## **8.2 Garden walls**

The walls of a walled garden both form the framework of the layout at any stage and also provide functional assets such as privacy, plant support, shelter, heat retention and supporting terracing.

The earliest indication of walled enclosures around the castle is on Roy's *Military Map* of 1747-55 (Roy 1747); this shows the policies around the house enclosed by a wall, with wooded ground N of the house and more open ground within the wall to the S and directly W of the castle. There is a possible indication of an avenue from the W. The lack of detailed garden layout is unsurprising as, although he depicts some gardens, Roy's aim was the mapping of potential military information. Pitmedden, for example, with a known 17<sup>th</sup>-century garden is mapped in a similar way.



**Illus 12 Detail of Roy's Military map of 1747-55** <http://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy>

It is generally considered (Walker and Woodworth, 2015, 171) that the datestone over the W gate in the S wall dates the construction of the walled garden to 1715, during the ownership of Baillie Gordon.

The walls have been examined in detail with analysis of the type of stone, the construction of the walls and any additions or changes to the walls. The internal faces of the walls were examined for early nails which would mark the position of former espalier trees- however, only a very small number of blacksmith-made nails could be seen- and it would appear that early nails were removed during re-pointing. The 20<sup>th</sup>-century trees are fixed to wires with modern nails.

A geophysical survey was also undertaken by Rose Geophysical Consultants to try and define any earlier line of the S wall. The full geophysical survey is in Ovenden 2016 but the results relating to possible walls are incorporated into the discussion following a detailed description of each section of the wall.

Walled garden (*Gazetteer Nos 11,12,15,19, 22*)

N wall W of the Garden House (11)



**Illus 13 N wall W of Garden House**

This section of wall is c. 3.5m high, built as a retaining wall against the S side of the terrace, which had presumably been cut back to form an almost vertical face. Two areas of collapse are useful as they show the wall structure. It has an inner (S) face of brick (bricks 230 x 110 x 80mm) built against an existing stone wall. The stone wall appears to have been c2.5m high, above this level the wall is freestanding brick, 230mm wide with a stone coping 330mm wide and 120mm high- this freestanding part of the wall projects c 650-660mm above the ground level of the slope to the N.



**Illus 14 Detail of N wall W of Garden House. Red arrow marks line of tie-in bricks between inner brick facing and outer stone wall.**

At the break points it is possible to see where a line of bricks have been set lengthwise into the stone wall just below its topmost course to tie in the inner face of brick. There is no void between the inner and outer faces of the wall and no evidence that it was heated. The brick however would have retained more warmth than the stone and it is likely that this was a deliberate secondary lining, built c 1851 to provide a warm S wall face for delicate fruit. Brickworks were functioning in Aberdeen by 1773 and later, by 1882 there were brick works at Cruden Bay; it would be valuable if during any restoration of the walls, bricks were checked for brick marks and any marks recorded as this might indicate the source and possibly the date of the bricks (Scottish Brick History <http://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/seaton-brick-tile-co-limited-and-clayhills-brick-and-tile-works-aberdeen-and-other-minor-brick-works/>)

The only wall nails were modern.

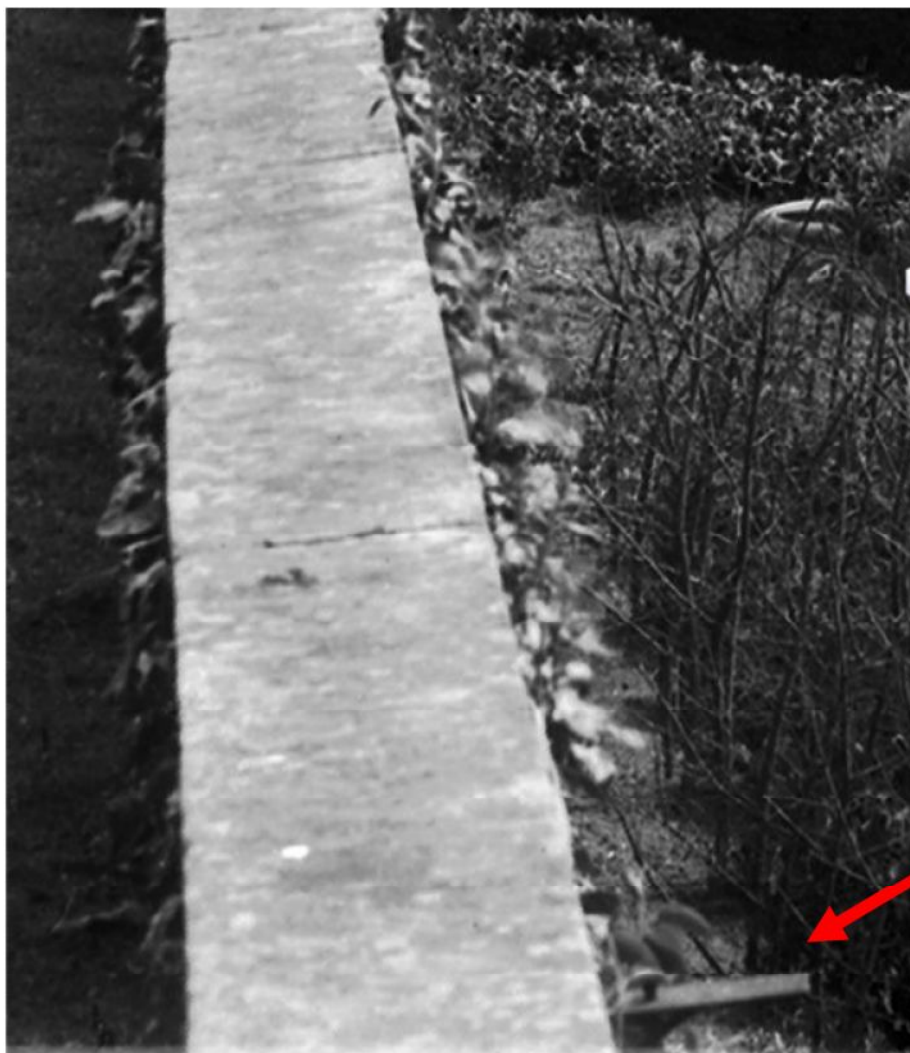
A photograph c 1862 (Innes of Cowie Album Cat DP 160499) shows the top of this wall from the Terrace with the stone coping and urns. A George Washington Wilson print c 1880/1900 (GB 0231 MS 3792/D0946) shows the S side of this wall, with the bricks and stone coping. Two urns stand on the coping. Very young fruit trees are visible against the wall face, with a slight difference in the lower 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the wall suggestive of older bricks or possibly bricks that had been white washed.



**Illus 15 Detail of W end of N wall. George Washington Wilson c1880/1900 (GB 0231 MS 3792/D0946) <http://digitool.abdn.ac.uk/R>**

In 1867, the 1<sup>st</sup> OS map shows a glass structure, probably a narrow, lean-to glasshouse built against the W end of this wall; this had been removed by the 1899 OS map.

A George Washington Wilson print (GB 0231 MS 3792/ C2553) shows what may be a remnant of the metal tie in for this greenhouse. Two of these brackets remain visible- there may be more behind the ivy.



**Illus 16 Detail of W end of wall 11 from George Washington Wilson photograph (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553) Red arrow marks possible fixing for greenhouse removed by 1899.**  
<http://digitool.abdn.ac.uk/>

N wall E of the Garden House (22).

This section of wall is c. 6.4m high, built as a retaining wall against the S side of the terrace, the upper 850mm is a later addition. On the Terrace side the wall stands c 850mm above ground level. The main wall to a height of c. 5.5m to ground level at the terrace is built of flat-faced split blue-grey stones with small flat pinnings. The upper 850mm is a later addition, built using smaller stones. The continuation of the

wall line to the E of the E wall of the walled garden, along the side of the House Terrace, is also of smaller rubble stones.



**Illus 17 NE corner of walled garden at junction with E wall and showing differences in wall structure (red arrow). Note also the different structure to the E on the retaining wall of the House Terrace.**

On the inner S face there are two buttressed areas (illus 18), each projecting 480-500mm at the base and tied into the wall face higher up. The W end of the wall abuts the wall of the Garden House. The only wall nails were modern.

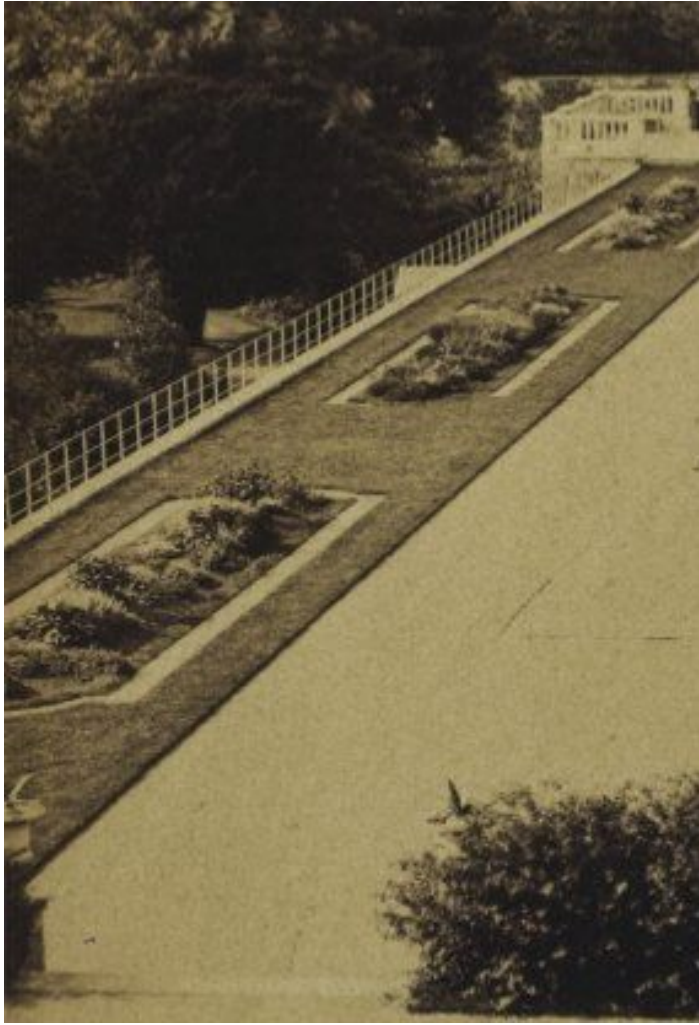


**Illus 18 N wall E of Garden House, looking W, detail of buttress**

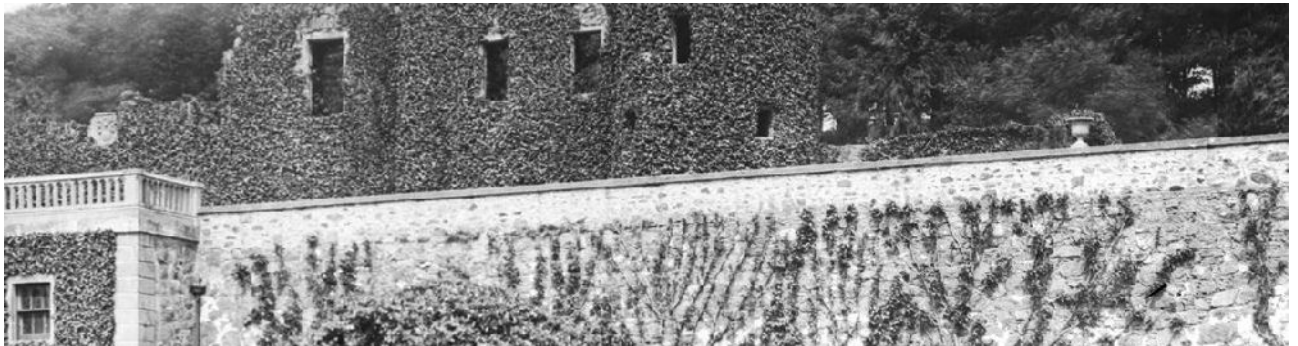


**Illus 19 N wall E of Garden House, looking W**

There is a sandstone coping with a flat edge on the garden side, and a rolled moulding 30mm high on the Terrace side. Along the 2.15m at the E end, the coping is slightly higher. One surviving concrete urn, part of a broken urn base and the scar of an urn are visible. Iron fixings for a railing also run along the top of the wall, cut flush with the top of the coping. A photograph dated c 1850 (Innes of Cowie Album Cat DP 160499) clearly shows the railing along this wall, with regular uprights and three horizontal rails. The painted box from Haddo House c 1870 also shows the railing. By c 1880/1900 a George Washington Wilson photograph (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2552) shows this wall from the S side with espalier fruit trees on the face up to the top of the original wall and the stone coping on the added parapet. The railing has been removed and an urn is shown on the wall. The photographic evidence shows that the railing was part of the 1851 design but that it was removed by c 1880/1900. Comparison of the level of the ground on the Terrace side suggests that the additional wall height was built on the wall when the railing was removed- with the original capstones (with the scars of the railing) being re-used.



**Illus 20** Detail of c1850 photograph showing railing on top of wall 22 (Innes of Cowie Album 847369 PA 4/39V/2) <https://canmore.org.uk/>



**Illus 21** Detail of George Washington Wilson photograph of wall (22) c 1880/1900 after railing removed (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2552) <http://digitool.abdn.ac.uk/>



**Illus 22 Top of wall 22 in 2016**



**Illus 23 Wall 22. Detail of urn. Railing scars visible on wall top.**

*S wall (Gazetteer No 15)*

The S wall has a general height of 3.5m. To the W of the central gate there is an internal capping of a single line of bricks and an angled stone batter to the top of the wall on the outside - as with the W wall. This part of the wall is heavily rendered

internally and externally. There is only one door in this section (13) with a possibly re-sited datestone inserted above it.

On either side of the central gate, there is a clear break where the wall has been rebuilt to accommodate the gate piers (c. 1m to E and c. 4m to W)



**Illus 24 S wall E of central gate. Red line indicates break in construction**



**Illus 25 S wall W of central gate. Red line indicates break in construction**

To the E of the central gate, the wall has been raised in several places to give additional height for the greenhouses which are built against its S side. It is perhaps significant that beside greenhouses 24 and 26, the top of the wall was raised with brick, whereas the section of wall beside the large wooden greenhouse (27) is stone to 5m. Internally, apart from the raised sections, the wall is mainly built of flat-faced split blue-grey stones with small flat pinnings. An area between gate 18 and the shed 17 may have been rebuilt or repaired. Externally, the top of the wall between the E pier of the central gate and the greenhouses has the same external batter as the W section of the S wall.



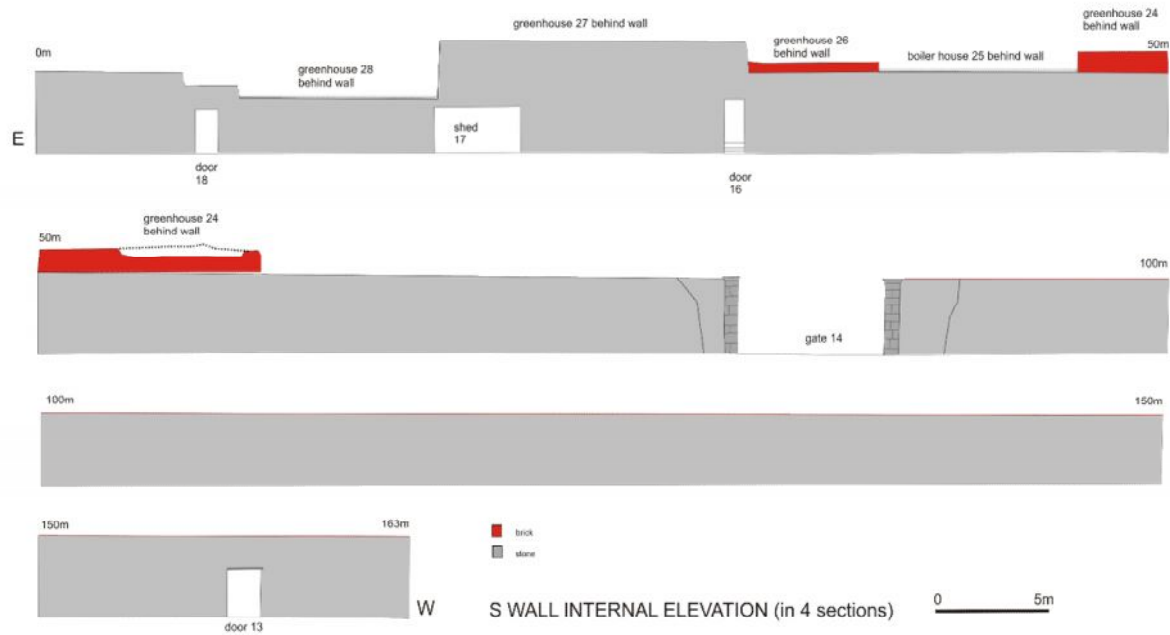
**Illus 26** W end of S wall, looking E



**Illus 27** W end of outside of S wall, looking W to SW corner and door 13 (with datestone). Note heavy external batter at top of wall



**Illus 28 Detail of S wall showing wall top raised for the greenhouses on outside.**



**Illus 29 Elevation of S wall internal face.**

E wall (Gazetteer No 19)

The E wall is generally 2.95-3m in total height. The lower c 2m is built of flat-faced split blue-grey stones with small flat pinnings; the upper 1m is a later addition built of smaller, more mixed stones. There is a stone capping. This construction was consistent for the whole length of the wall from gate 21 to the SE corner.

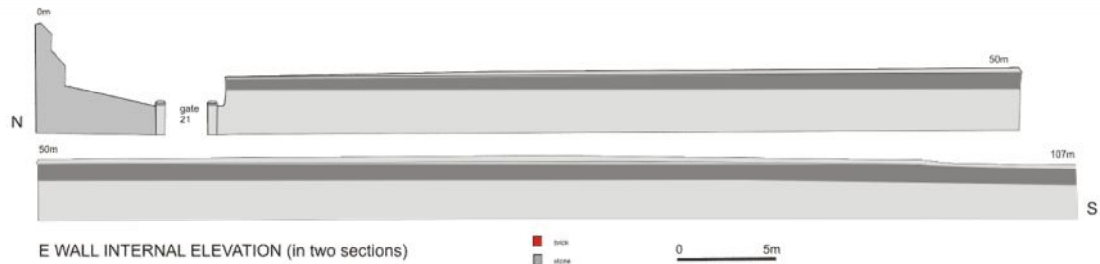


**Illus 30 Detail of E wall interior showing change in stonework (red arrow)**

At the N end the height is reduced rather clumsily to c 1.5m at the S side of gate 21. To the N of gate 21 it is stepped up to 5.5m to meet the height of the (raised) N wall of the garden; this section of wall lacks any of the blue-grey split stone. The only wall nails were modern, supporting the existing c 1950s trees.



**Illus 31 E wall looking N**



**Illus 32 Elevation of E wall internal face. Different shades of grey indicate differences in stonework**

W wall (*Gazetteer No 12*)

The W wall is between 3.08m and 3.35m in height depending on the soil level in the border beside it. The inner face of the wall is very obscured by heavy render but no breaks or changes of construction were observed. At the soil level, there were a few patches where blue-grey split stone could be observed. On the outer face of the wall there was only render at the S c15m; the remainder of the wall was clearly built of flat-faced split blue-grey stones with small flat pinnings. There was no evidence of any break in the wall. The capping on the inside is formed of a single line of bricks. On the outside the top c1m of the wall has an angled batter, comparable to the outside of the S wall- this may reflect a raising of the wall comparable to that observed on the E wall although there is no obvious indication of this on the inner face.

The W wall is pierced by a single doorway (33) at the N end.



**Illus 33 W wall looking N**



**Illus 34 Elevation of W wall internal face**

### Terrace and Terrace N, E and W walls (*Gazetteer Nos 2, 4, 5, 6*)

The N wall of the Terrace is built of flat-faced split blue-grey stones with small flat pinnings. The W wall of the Terrace is of similar construction to its central column, to the S of this it is of smaller rubble stones (illus 35).



**Illus 35 W wall of Terrace**

The E wall, on either side of the wide steps leading between the main Terrace and the upper House Terrace is of smaller rubble stone construction. It is different from the raised upper section of the N wall of the garden which borders the S side of the Terrace.



**Illus 36 E Terrace wall**



**Illus 37 SE corner of Terrace showing difference in structure between E wall and the upper part of the N garden wall bordering the S side of the Terrace. Note the raised part of this wall is over the differently constructed retaining wall of the lower House Terrace**

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### Discussion of the garden walls

The Terrace N wall, part of the Terrace W wall, the lower part of the N garden wall E of the Garden House, the lower 2m of the E wall, the S wall- most clearly E of the central gate and the W wall ( as observed externally) are all of the same construction. The flat-faced split blue-grey stone with small flat pinnings used in these areas is the same stone and style of building as the upper parts of the Old Castle above the first floor- in other words those parts built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century- either in 1715 for Baillie Gordon or in 1781-87 by Baxter for George Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen. This is a strong argument that the walls of the garden and Terrace as specified – and including the S wall- are of 18<sup>th</sup>-century date.

If the datestone on the W gate of the S wall (gate 13) is the date of the garden, albeit the door itself may have been rebuilt (see below), then the walls – including that portion of the S wall of the castle itself- were built in Baillie Gordon's time. It is significant that the building accounts for the years 1782-6 (NRAS55/8/2) have no references to stone for the garden walls or labour on them; only one bill dated 1785, for blacksmith's work lists, '*to apellen [sic] the garden wall £2.17.10*'- this clearly proves the walls were standing by 1785 and is another argument in favour of the 1715 date for their construction. The exact item of ironwork that was being paid for is unclear- possibly fixings for espalier trees.

By the 1st OS map of 1867, the present wall lines had been established.

There is a reference by Cosmo Gordon (1958, 71) to an extension of the garden by 30 yards to the south in c. 1850. The reference reads, '*As originally planned, the Yew Garden was **probably, so Mr A R G MacKenzie points out, rather smaller, with the sundial as the central point. At a later time, probably about 1850, the south wall was moved some thirty yards further out. The replanned garden was then made to centre on the intersection of the present crossing paths about 14 yards south of the sundial and a fountain with a scallop-edged basin was placed there***'. This appears to be an account of a speculation by Mr MacKenzie, with no first hand or direct family knowledge reported by Cosmo Gordon. However any such replacement of the south wall should be evident in either changes in structure of the S 30m of the E and W walls, and in any below-ground indications of wall foundations or robbed out foundations of an earlier south wall.

There is no physical evidence in the structure of the walls to indicate that the E and W garden walls were extended to allow the S wall to be rebuilt 30m to the S. There is no sign of a break or join in the internal or external wall structure of the E and W walls. The upper part of the N garden wall E of the Garden House, the brick facing of the N garden wall W of the Garden House, the apparent raising of the E wall and the E and part of the W Terrace walls are all of later construction and are most likely to be part of the 1850s redevelopment which changed the focus of the garden towards the new castle.



**Illus 38 Resistivity survey being undertaken (Photograph courtesy of Rose Geophysical Consultants)**

The geophysical evidence is intriguing. The resistivity survey (illus 39 and Ovenden, 2016, para 3.3.12) shows a short area of high resistance lying E/W across part of the centre of the garden c 30m N of the present S wall line. This may represent an earlier wall line (which can be tested by excavation) but it does *not* appear across the full width of the garden which makes it unconvincing as the line of the S wall up to 1851, linking to the existing E and W walls. It may however be a far earlier wall- or some

other feature such as a path and is one of a series of geophysical anomalies which should be investigated with small archaeological test pits.

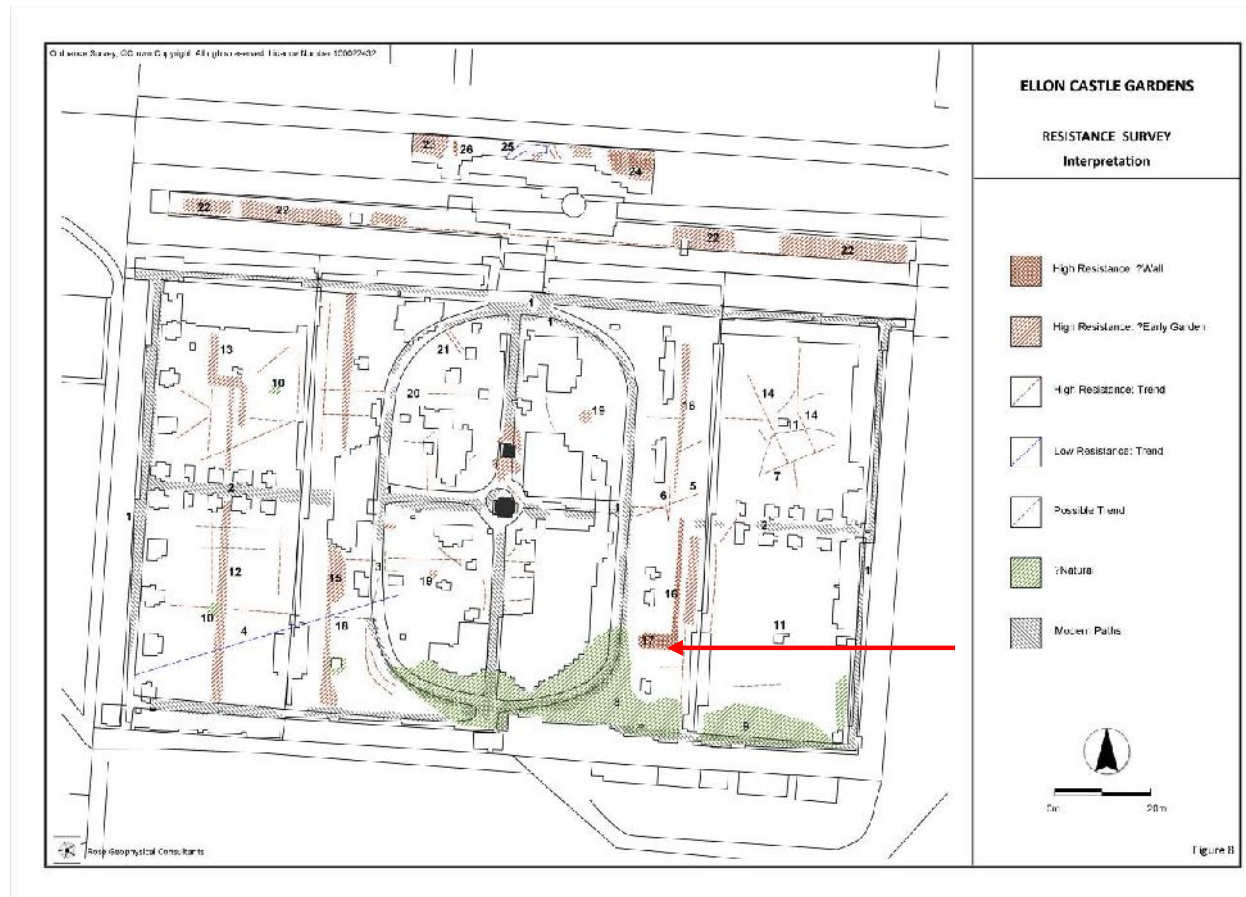
A number of changes to the wall can be attributed to the changes made by Alexander Gordon in c 1851. This includes the brick lining of the W end of the N wall of the walled garden, the raising of the E end of the N wall of the walled garden and at some point the replacement of a railing by the slightly raised wall with urns along it. The E wall was raised by 1m in height, with the section N of the gateway into the lower House Terrace, being also of 1851 construction- as is the reveting between the upper and lower House Terraces. There is no clear evidence whether the W wall was also raised.

The S wall, although predominantly of 18<sup>th</sup>-century construction had been breached to insert the piers for the central gate, probably for one or both garden doors to the greenhouses and the top of the wall had been raised in places to allow greater height for the lean-to greenhouses against the outer face- as two of the greenhouses were replaced in the 1950s, these raised sections are likely to have been added on a number of occasions. The W garden door, towards the village also has some appearance (on the inside) that it may have been a replacement; the 1715 datestone is on a lintel for a narrower doorway, inserted above the present lintel.

The N Terrace wall appears to be of 18<sup>th</sup>-century construction, although the doorway W of the old castle ruin was built or rebuilt after the 1851 demolition and the door E of the old castle, which may be early, appears to have been blocked c 1851.

The Deer Park wall, which was certainly in existence by Roy's map of 1747-55 also appears to have been rebuilt to some extent at this period, possibly as unemployment relief.

In summary, the walled garden walls and the N wall of the Terrace are of 18<sup>th</sup>-century date with some minor modifications c1851. The walls between the upper and lower House Terraces are likely to have been built in 1851 when this area became a more important focus for the new castle.



**Illus 39** Interpretation of results of resistivity survey reproduced from Ovenden 2016, fig 8. Red arrow shows possible line of earlier 'S' wall or other feature.

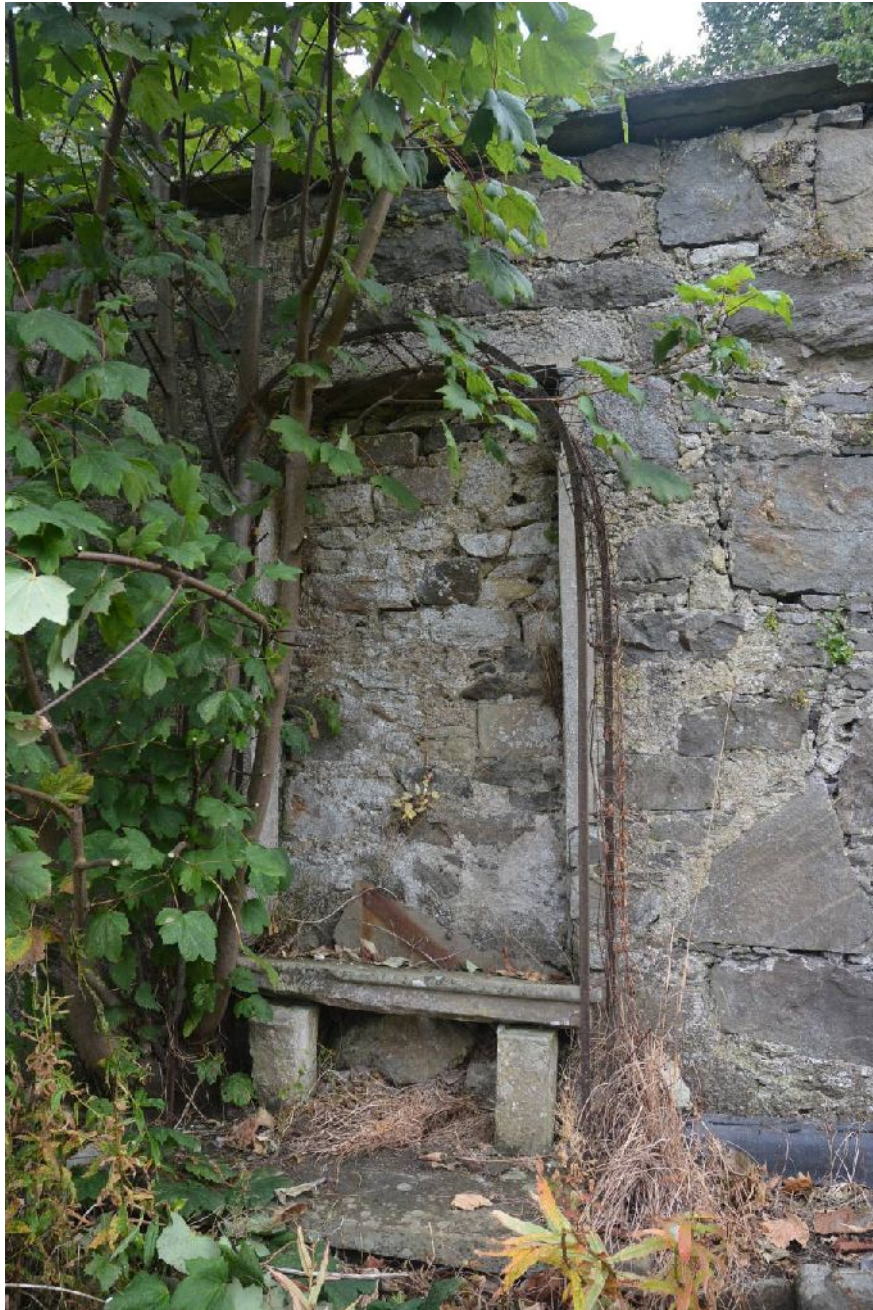
### 8.3 Gates and garden doors

*(Gazetteer Nos 3, 39 in Terrace wall; 13, 14, 16, 18 in S Garden Wall; 21 in E Garden Wall; 33 in W Garden Wall. Illus 142)*

The gates and garden doors through the walls are not only important in terms of their structure but also in relation to how people were approaching and moving about the garden and as such can give an indication of changes in layout.

With the exception of door 39, all the gates and doors into the garden can be supposed to have been in use by 1867 as paths lead to each of them on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS map of that date. Door 39 however is not shown and has no related path on the 1867 or subsequent MAS maps and can be assumed to have been blocked by that date. It can be convincingly argued that this door was blocked c 1851 as part of the area of the garden beside the old tower designed by Albinia Gordon, wife of Alexander Gordon (Boyle, 1900). This would suggest it was part of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century layout, possibly as a door between an enclosed court between the 18<sup>th</sup>-century castle and the related stables

and other buildings further E on the site of the present 'New Castle'. It is perhaps significant that the external lintel and rybats are all of chamfered sandstone. This contrasts with the far rougher margins of the W door (3) from the Terrace to the driveway to the W of the Old Castle ruin. Door 3 was clearly built after the castle had been demolished c1851, with a lintel of re-used moulded stone almost certainly salvaged from the castle.



**Illus 40** Garden door 39 internally



**Illus 41 Garden door 39 externally**



**Illus 42 Garden door 3 internally, with re-used stone as lintel**

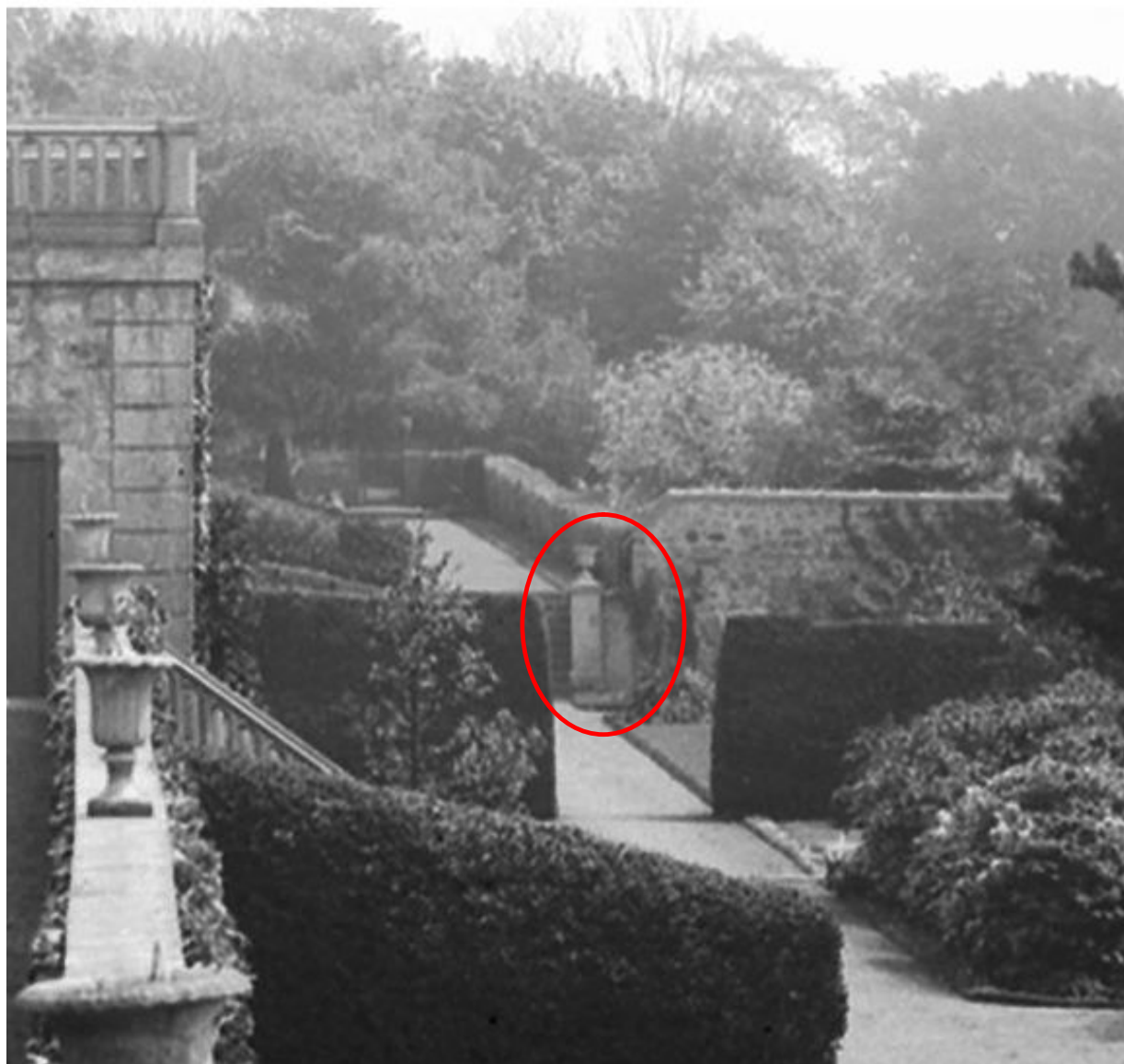


**Illus 43 Garden door 3 externally**

The gateway (21) in the E wall of the walled garden also has to be part of the c1851 works as it leads from the walled garden to the lower House Terrace to the S of the 'New Castle'. A late 19<sup>th</sup>-century George Washington Wilson photograph (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553 Ref 12630) shows one of the gate piers with an ornamental urn on the cap; both piers have remains of metal pins on the caps that would have held urns. This emphasises this gateway as part of a decorative 'promenade' from the house.



**Illus 44 Gate 21 internally from walled garden to lower terrace of new castle**



**Illus 45** Detail from George Washington Wilson photograph showing gate 21 with urn on S pier. (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553. <http://digitool.abdn.ac.uk/>)

Although it is believed that the S wall of the walled garden is predominately an 18<sup>th</sup>-century construction, the construction of several of the doors and the possible replacement of the central gate in the S wall are part of the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century works. All exist by 1<sup>st</sup> OS map of 1867. The central gateway (14), with its wrought iron carriage and pedestrian gates would appear likely to be part of the mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century restructuring and it is clear that the wall was breached to build the gate piers. There is no evidence as to whether this was a replacement of an earlier gateway. It appears to have been designed to be seen both externally from the Deer Park, and internally as part of the central axis of the garden focussed on the c1850 fountain. It opened onto a driveway that ran along the outside of the S wall, skirting the enclosure around the

glasshouses and leading up to the stables and the E of the New Castle.



**Illus 46 Gate 14 externally from Deer Park**

The door (13) at the W end of the S wall is also intended to be approached from the village and seen from the outside. Internally it has fairly plain margins; externally it has a sandstone lintel and rybats with an upper lintel carved with the date '1715'. This does not however necessarily date this door as it appears to be a lintel re-used from a narrower doorway reinserted above this one. [A note of caution regarding the re-use of dated stones in different contexts is sounded by the repositioning of 1785 and 1851 stones in the present Ellon castle].



**Illus 47 Garden door 13 internally**



**Illus 48 Garden door 13 externally**

The two doors through the S wall to the greenhouses (16, 18) are also likely to be of mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, being functional doors for access between the garden and glasshouses. They are slightly different in both size and structure; it is unclear if this denotes a slight difference in date or if one was intended for the garden staff and the other for the castle owners.

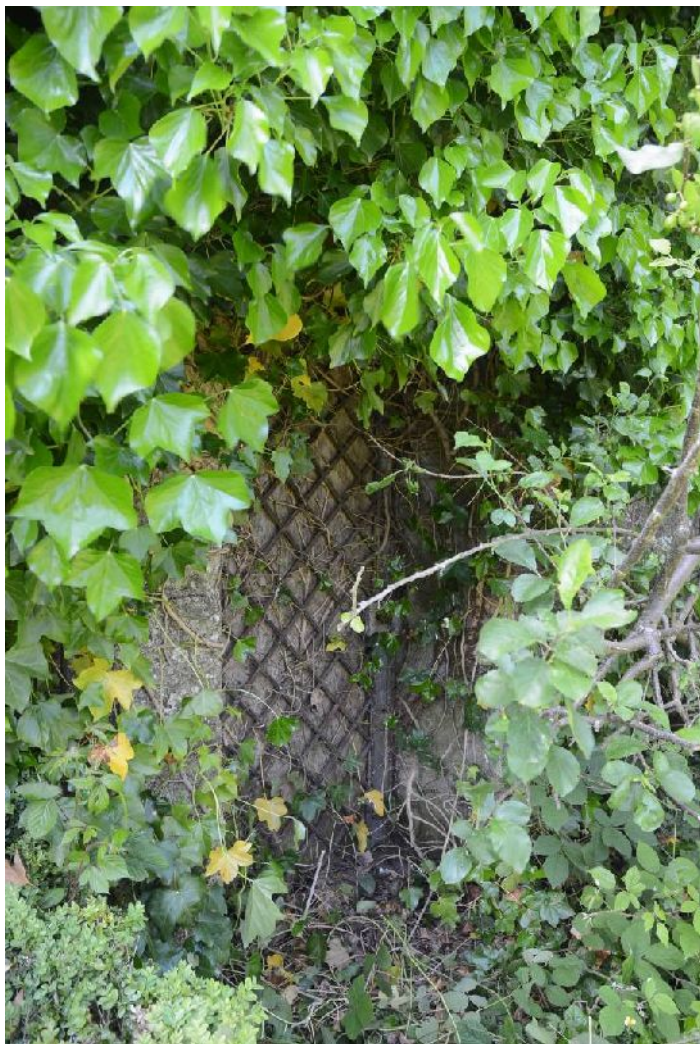
The door (33) through the N end of the W wall of the main garden also appears to have been primarily functional, possibly giving access towards the ice house.



**Illus 49 Garden door 16 internally**



**Illus 50 Garden door 18 internally**



**Illus 51** Garden door 33 internally

**Garden House and steps** (*Gazetteer Nos 7 & 10*)

The Garden House stands on the line of the N wall of the walled garden, facing south along the central axis.

It is first depicted in the Giles painting of 1841 as three storeys (ie ground floor and two upper floors) in height but otherwise very similar in to its present appearance, with the central door with architrave in the ground floor flanked by long windows on the ground floor (E shown) and small almost square windows on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (central and E shown). The 1<sup>st</sup> floor windows are hidden. The detailing of the stonework at the corners is as it can be seen today. The walls appear harled. The roof appears flat or at most very shallow single pitch. It is worth noting that the garden wall to E does not appear above the level of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor.



**Illus 52 Detail of Giles 1841 (Photograph MAS Ltd courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen)**

Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 281) describes it; *‘Just in front of the tower there was once a garden pavilion of the old French style in vogue two hundred years ago. A flight of stone stairs led down through the pavilion into the yew-garden. The upper pavilion room, or parlour, has long since disappeared, and the stairs are now outside, overhung with ivy’.*

Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle would have known the Garden House from 1845 when her father, Alexander Gordon, inherited the property, prior to the alterations undertaken for him by architect James Mathews in 1851. So reading this description as applying to the building depicted by Giles, it would appear that the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was entered from the ground level on the Terrace, with steps within the building leading down to the ground floor at the walled garden level. It would also appear that part of the building was used as a parlour. This would be fully in keeping with the use of freestanding pavilions or buildings in French or French-influenced gardens of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which were essentially for leisure, eating or even entertainments (DeLorme, 1996). In considering her account it is worth remembering that Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle, as well as being a distinguished artist, wrote books on gardens and garden design. The Garden House in its original form can therefore be seen as part of the

18<sup>th</sup>-century building works, built either by Baillie Gordon c 1715 or perhaps by George Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen, in 1781-87.

A possible clue to the date may be given by the graffiti on the W side of the ground floor door into the Garden House. One reads, 'WM 1759', another 'Robert Pratt (?) 17[59?]'. (Sadly an on-line search through *Scotland's People* did not give any birth/death information for a Robert Pratt in Ellon parish!) A superficial examination suggests that the letters and numbers are consistent with an 18<sup>th</sup>-century date and graffiti of this date are not uncommon, perhaps one of the best known examples being those at Braemar Castle dated 1757 (NMRS No: NO19SE 4 ). If genuine, these date to the first few years after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen, George Gordon had bought the property and before the major building works of 1781-87; this would imply that the garden house was more likely to have been part of Baillie Gordon's works. In this 18<sup>th</sup>-century context it can be seen as a pleasure house and a focal link between the Old Castle (then in use) and the garden.



**Illus 53 Graffiti to W of garden house door.**

In 1851 the upper floor was removed and the present parapet built around the top of the building, and a new stair, with matching balustrade, was built down the W bank, outside the building on its present plan. This fits with Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle's description of her father's changes to the garden house. It is most likely that at this

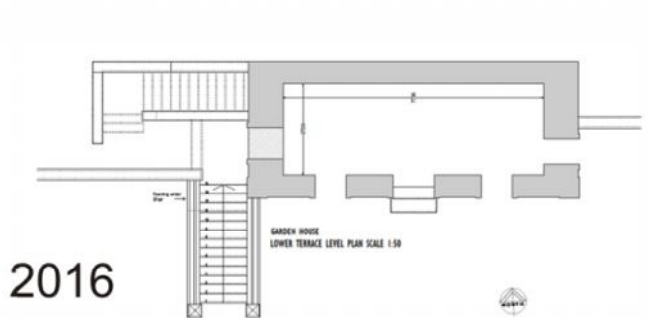
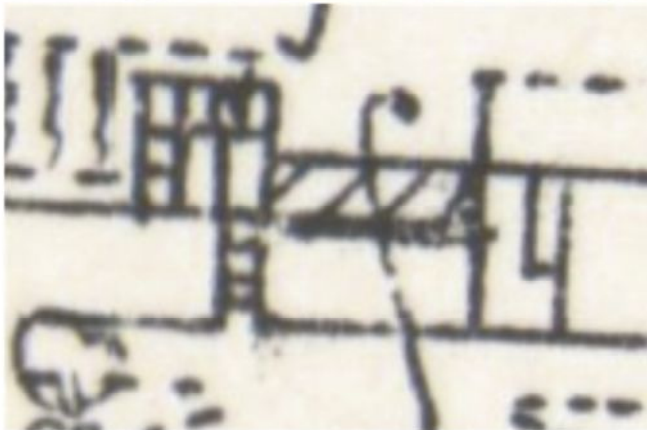
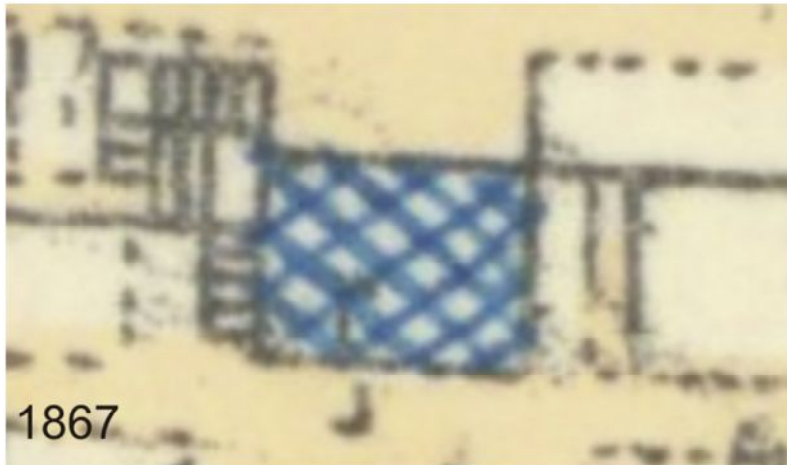
stage the N, E and W walls were lined in brick, with the N wall having a double skin with a hot air heating system.

The 1<sup>st</sup> OS map of 1867 is however confusing as it shows the present layout of the steps and upper parapet, but with a glass (blue) structure extending over the footprint of the garden house and forward to the S end of the steps. This might suggest that a lean-to glass structure had been attached to the front of the Garden House, as a conservatory but the only evidence might be the heating system within the building. It is possible that at this point the building was in use as an orangery. The *Aberdeen Journal* (Wed 25<sup>th</sup> August 1869. ) describes the Ellon Horticultural Society show, ‘*The centre of the hall was filled, as usual, with fine plants from Ellon Castle gardens, amongst which a fine orange tree, laden with fruit...’*.

By 1899, the building has been reduced to its existing line, in line with the top of the first flight of steps. The Robin Hood boiler, if it was used in this building, could have been introduced at this stage (post 1888).

This 19<sup>th</sup>-century change in use to some sort of conservatory, or possibly orangery, coincides with the new function of the garden house in the landscape as part of the backdrop to the walled garden, and at roof level as a viewing platform from the Terrace walk from the New Castle.

Subsequently the door to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor was blocked and the internal floor removed. Horizontal raggles suggest there may have been shelving- possibly an apple store, although its S facing position would appear less than ideal. The most recent use of the structure is as a tool store.



Illus 54 Modern plan of garden house (courtesy of Acanthus Architects Ltd) compared with 1867 and 1899 OS maps. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

## 8.4 The Garden House

Externally the Garden House is 9.83m E/W and 2.32m wide. However, it is cut back into the slope of the Terrace so internally it is 7.73m and 2.72m wide. As it stands today it is a two-storied building with a flat roof which is hidden by the paved area at ground level with the Terrace which is enclosed at the front by a concrete balustrade.



**Illus 55** Top of the garden house at Terrace level.



**Illus 56** S facade of garden house.

The external walls (Th: 680mm) are of rubble stone, generally buff in colour, with noticeably squared blocks on the basal course. The corner rybats are sandstone, forming pilasters projecting slightly from the wall face. The front facade has a central

door at ground floor level, opening into the walled garden. The door margins are sandstone (D1: W: 1.21m. H: 2.52m) with rolled moulding on the rybats, lintel and architrave. Graffiti (see above) cut into stonework to W side of door. The door itself is of two wooden leaves with 3/3 panes of glass, now covered in metal.



**Illus 57 Central door (D1)**

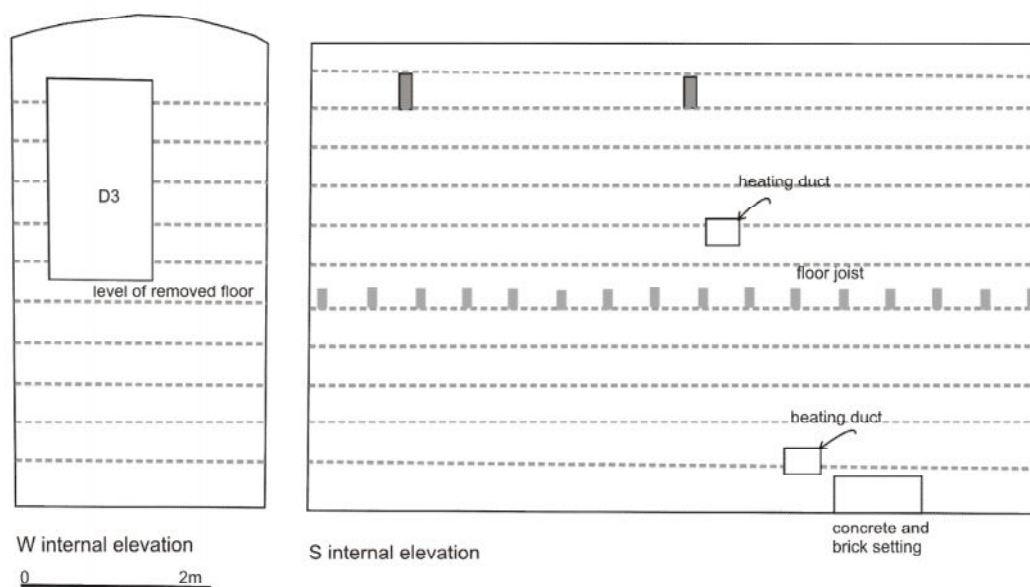
This is flanked by two windows with sandstone margins (W1, W2. Each W: 0.91m externally, flared internally. H: 1.81m Sash windows 6/6 panes. Now with external metal grid) The three windows at 1<sup>st</sup> floor level also have sandstone margins (W3-W5. W: 0.91m. H: c.1m Glazing varied). A door opens from the ground floor through the E wall (D2. W: 0.76m. H: 1.90m sandstone margins with chamfer). A matching (blocked) door in the W wall (D4) is not visible from inside the building but can be seen from blow the steps (Below p 65, illus 72)



**Illus 58 Garden House E door (D2)**

A door in the W wall at 1<sup>st</sup> floor level opened out onto the landing of the steps but is filled in with grey granite blocks (D3.W:1.08m H: 2.12m. Sandstone margins- not chamfered).

Internally the S wall stonework is visible but the other three walls have been lined with brick (Bricks 230 x 80mm). The ground level floor is concrete. The floor of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor has been removed but blockings in the brickwork at c. 2.30m above ground indicate the position of the former joists- the actual floor raggle being at 2.4m above ground level (illus 59).



**Illus 59 Internal elevations of Garden House. The dotted lines are c 50mm wide bands of grey cement- possibly showing where shelves have been removed.**

The ceiling of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, which would have been introduced when the building was reduced in height in 1851, is arched and plastered, with three iron ties running N/S between the back wall and through the front wall above windows W3-W5. Brick arches over W3-W5 date to the same restructuring and there are some, possibly later, repairs to the internal sides of W2.

An opening in the brick of the N wall at 400mm above floor level extends 330mm into the wall, showing another brick wall behind. (H: 310mm. W: 400mm) Another opening 300 x 300mm is visible in the brickwork 2.8m above floor level. These features appear to be the remains of a heating system for the back wall, presumably with hot air moving between the inner and outer skins of the wall from a boiler positioned near the ground level opening. There was no indication that water pipes had existed.

A cast iron cover found in the Garden House is the door from a Robin Hood boiler (H: 300mm W: 380mm excluding hinge. It bears lettering: ROBIN HOOD. GENERAL. (HORTL). Robin Hood boilers were water heating boilers made by The Beeston Foundry Company, Nottinghamshire (later the Beeston Boiler Co Ltd), which began in 1888, and was incorporated in 1893, being initially established to make heating systems for glasshouses (<http://www.beeston-notts.co.uk/pearson.shtml>). Although the boilers were made over a considerable period, it cannot be earlier than 1888, which perhaps gives an earliest possible date for the heating system- although clearly the boiler could be a replacement of an earlier example.



**Illus 60 Boiler cover found in garden house**



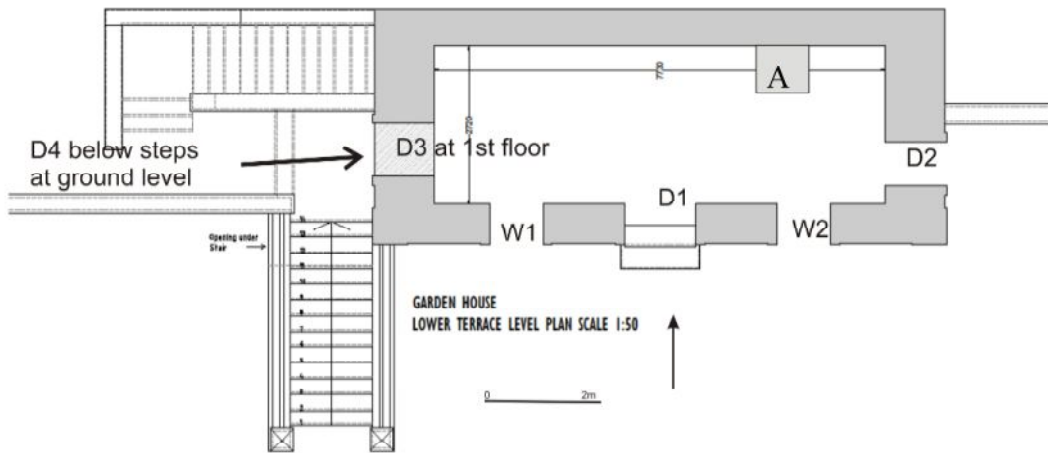
**Illus 61 Detail of lower vent in N wall. The grooved metal bar at back may have held a shutter to direct the hot air either sideways or upwards**



**Illus 62** Detail of interior of garden house N wall. Arrows indicate openings to heating system. Note the grey lines of concrete infilling which may indicate former shelves.



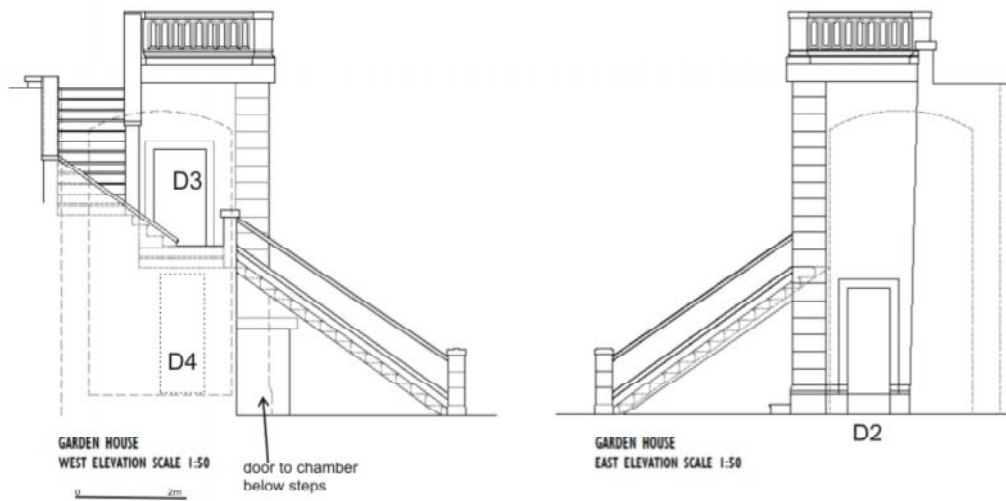
Illus 63 1903 advertisement for the Robin Hood boiler <http://www.beeston-notts.co.uk/pearson.shtml>



**Illus 64** Plan of the garden house (annotated by MAS Ltd) courtesy of Acanthus Architects Ltd. A= concrete and brick platform (H: 400mm, 900 x 800mm); this may have held boiler but looks relatively recent so may be unrelated.



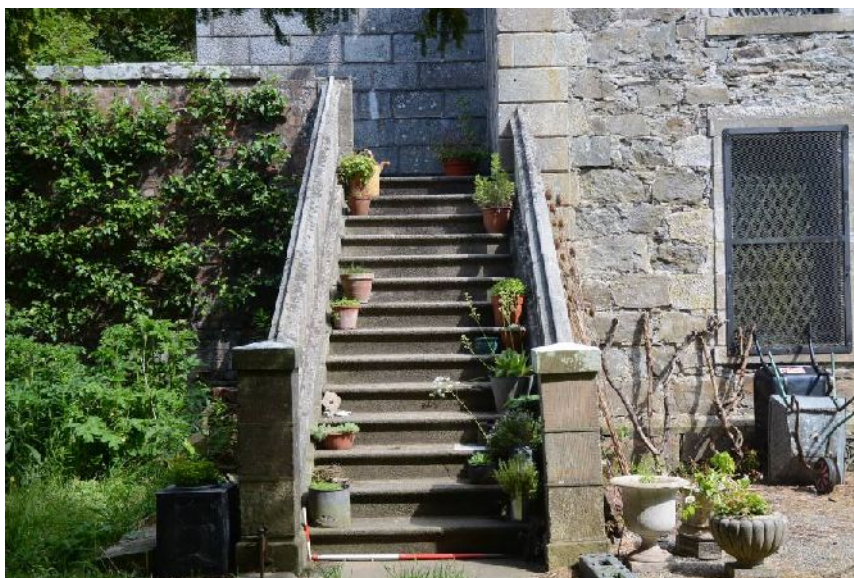
**Illus 65** S elevation of the garden house (annotated by MAS Ltd) courtesy of Acanthus Architects Ltd



**Illus 66 E and W elevations of the garden house (annotated by MAS Ltd) courtesy of Acanthus Architects Ltd**

### The steps and below the steps

The steps from the walled garden up to the Terrace are part of the development of the garden undertaken by Alexander Gordon c. 1851 and described by his daughter Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900) as replacing stone steps within the original garden house. There are 14 steps to a half-landing, 3 steps on the turn and a further 12 steps to the Terrace.



**Illus 67 Steps from walled garden**

The base of the steps is flanked by two pillars (300 x 300mm. H: 1.21m to top) of sandstone dressed with fine horizontal lines [Note: the same dressing occurs on the upper 4 or 5 stones of the rybats on the corners of the garden house, suggesting these were replaced or re-dressed when the top floor was removed- also in 1851].



**Illus 68** E side of steps. Detail of dressing on stonework of pillar



**Illus 69 E side of steps**



**Illus 70 Upper flight of steps and 'viewing platform' on roof of garden house**

The width of the steps is 1.36m between the pillars, with reinforced concrete steps 1.42m wide with a rolled front edge and with a rise of 190mm. The E side of the steps is of red brick (illus 69) with concrete rendering to resemble stone and with sandstone capping stones which hold a concrete balustrade on the same pattern as the one around the ‘viewing platform’ at the top of the garden house at Terrace level.

The S side of the landing has a brick wall with sandstone capstones and a sandstone pillar. A George Washington Wilson photograph (GB 0231 MS 3792/D0946) shows an urn at the corner of this wall. The upper flight of steps has a granite wall with sandstone capstones.

A doorway (W:0.92m H: 1.15m) on the W side of the stairs gives access to an L-shaped space below the lowest flight of stairs and the first landing halfway up the stairs.



**Illus 71 W side of steps showing doorway giving access to under-stair chamber**

Within this space there is a stone-blocked doorway (D4) that would have given access to the W side of the ground floor of the garden house – this cannot be seen from the inside as it is covered by the secondary internal brickwork. The doorway (W: 0.76m H: 1.9m), which has a sandstone lintel and rybats matches the doorway on the opposite E side of the garden house. This would have been part of the original garden house design, blocked in 1851 when the steps were built. The garden house wall

beside this doorway cannot be seen as there is a modern brick supporting wall below the steps.



**Illus 72 Blocked doorway (D4 marked by red arrow) below steps- this would have opened to ground floor of W end of garden house**

Also visible from this space is the back of the original stone wall of the part of N wall to the W of the garden house, now covered on the front by the secondary brick wall. The ground level of this space was full of debris but there appears to be a stone-capped channel (W: 1.18m) running N/S below the steps; this may be related to the water supply to the garden.



**Illus 73 Arrow shows channel below steps**

The roof of the space was partly brick arches, but below the landing of the steps there were N/S granite slabs between the N wall and the side of the landing. Between the slabs there are timbers and iron bars tying the structure together.



**Illus 74 Roof of chamber below steps. Blocked door into garden house visible on RHS**

## 8.5 Greenhouses and related structures

*(Gazetteer Nos 24-29) and shed (Gazetteer No 17)*

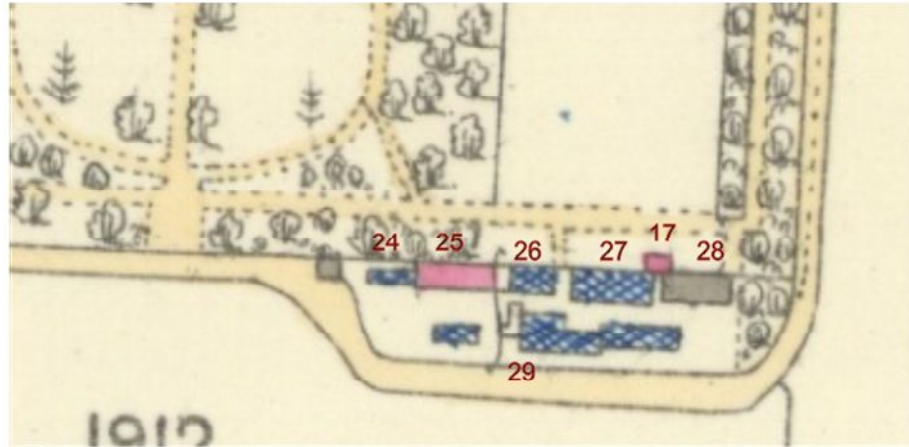
Three greenhouses, a boiler house and the foundation of another building survive S of the S wall, no glazing remains intact.



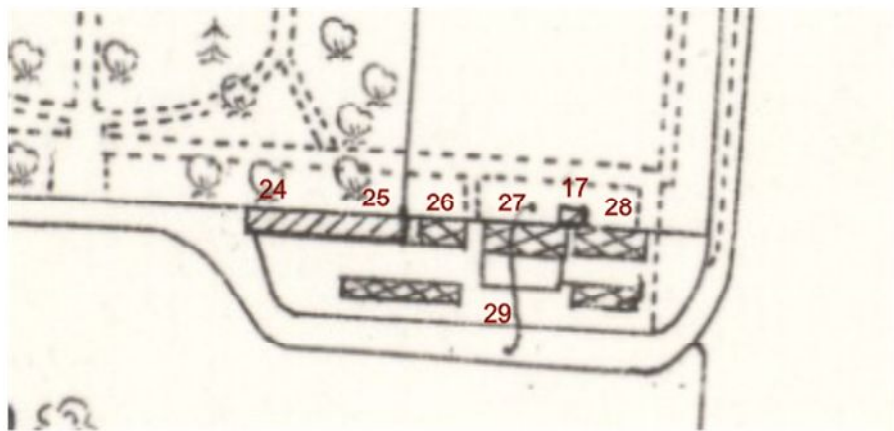
**Illus 75 View of greenhouses from L to R: 24,25,26,27,28**

The OS map of 1867 shows a complex of greenhouses within an enclosure S of the E end of the S wall, with paths leading to 2 doors between the main garden and the greenhouses (doors 16, 18). A small building (17) on the inside of the S garden wall appears to be part of this complex. In 1867 there were 3 greenhouses and two other buildings against the S side of the S wall, with three other freestanding glass structures (greenhouses or cold-frames) to the S. The basic layout alongside the wall continues in the later OS maps of 1899 and 1924, but with changes in the freestanding structures, which no longer exist (Wall 29 may be on the line of these features). Greenhouses 26-28 remain on the footprint of the structures shown in 1867- although at that time, 28 appears to be unroofed. By 1899 all three are shown glazed.

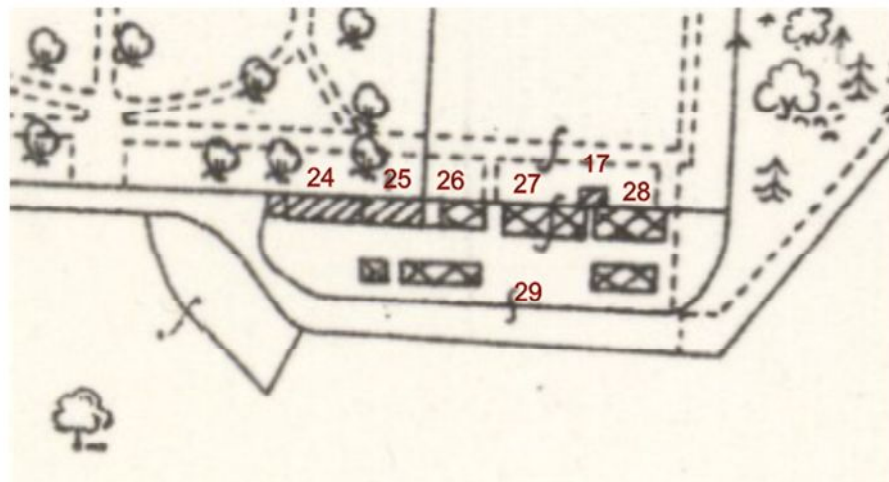
1867



1899



1924



Illus 76 Development of greenhouses shown on OS maps 1967-1924. Red nos denote Gazetteer nos of buildings existing in 2016. [www.nls.ac.uk](http://www.nls.ac.uk)

Inside the walled garden, a separate glass house/cold frame was shown on the 1867 OS map on the inner face of the W end of the N wall of the garden; this had been removed by 1899 and the only possible evidence are remaining brackets (pp 24-25 above). The area in front of the Garden House was also shown glazed (see above: Garden House).

Clearly by 1867 there was a complex system of greenhouses. The most probable period for their construction is during the ownership of the property by Alexander Gordon from 1845. This would also reflect the growing enthusiasm for glasshouses in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century- encouraged in 1851 by the construction of the Crystal Palace for the Great Exhibition of 1851 (Ikin, 2012, 37) and made affordable after the repeal of the Glass Tax in 1845.

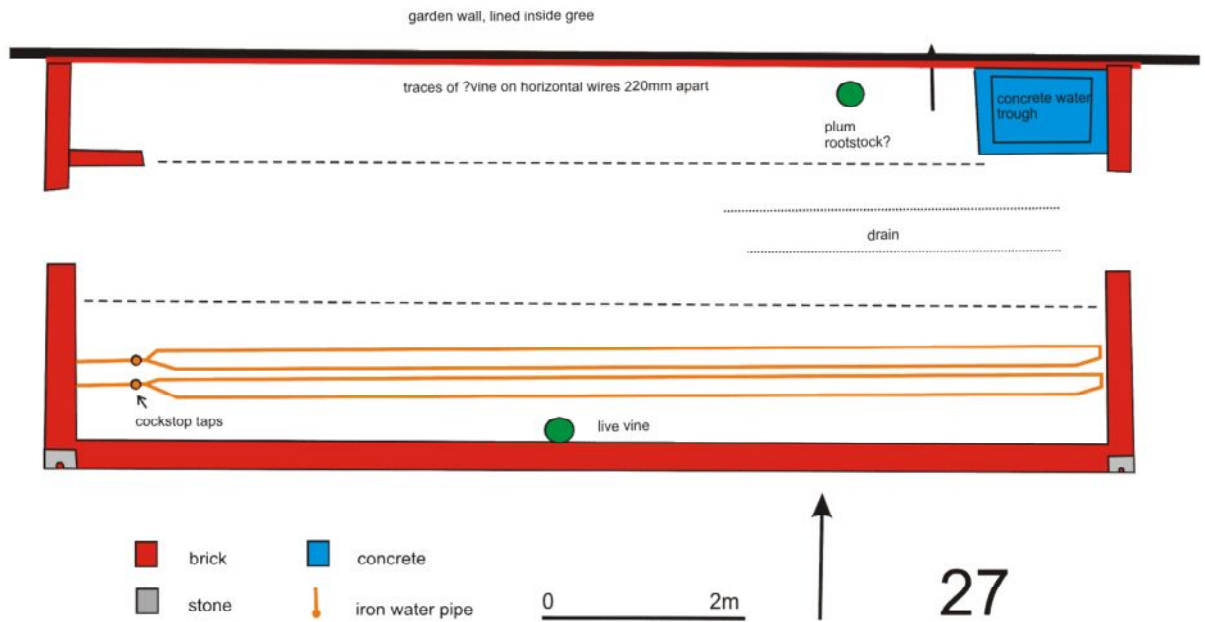
Some confirmation of the dating comes from the newspaper accounts of the prizes at Ellon Horticultural Society shows; although the first show was in 1849, the Ellon Castle gardener, then Mr Murray, began to get prizes for greenhouse plants from 1851. The evidence of the OS maps suggests that the greenhouses continued in use throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The partial rebuilding of greenhouses 26 and 28 can be dated to c1950.

### Greenhouse 27

The largest greenhouse (27) is a timber-framed structure, lean-to against the garden wall. The timber framework is set on a concrete-rendered brick foundation 600mm high with sandstone at the corners and slate along the top of the brick wall. Brick was also used to line the garden wall for additional warmth. It is 10.75m (35'3") x 3.96m (13'), comprising 10 bays, each 1.05m wide and comprising a vertical window 920mm high, with two panels of glazing on the slope of the roof. All the vertical windows opened with a surviving winding mechanism at each end (illus 80).

Internally there was a central passage with a drain with a bed along the N side against the garden wall, and heating pipes with stopcocks along the S side. A concrete water tank stood in the NE corner and there were hooks along the underside of the roof timbers, to hold wires for vines. Despite the derelict condition of this greenhouse, a vine survives, growing up through the open roof (illus 82).

This greenhouse is of fairly simple design and it could be the 19<sup>th</sup>-century original



Illus 77 Plan of greenhouse (27)



Illus 78 Greenhouse (27) Looking N



**Illus 79 Greenhouse (27) W end**



**Illus 80 Greenhouse (27) SW corner showing stonework and winding mechanism**



**Illus 81 Greenhouse 27 showing water pipes and stopcocks.**



**Illus 82 Greenhouse (27). Live vine surviving.**

Greenhouses 26 and 28                      Greenhouse 26 and 28 both comprise earlier foundations, probably of 19<sup>th</sup>-century date, with replacement upper glazed sections c. 1949/50 set in a framework of curved concrete arches. The concrete structures both bear the name of the maker ‘ *Concrete Greenhouses Ltd, Marlow, Bucks* ’. An advertising leaflet for this company dated 1949 survives in the English Museum of

Rural Life (TR AMD/P2/B1055) – this stresses the longevity of the concrete arches and a photograph shows an example. The glass was held in position against the concrete arches by ‘sheradised’ (a form of galvanising) steel bolts and brass nuts. In both these greenhouses, partial frameworks have been used to adapt the structures to the existing site and foundations, greenhouse 26 being a half-span and greenhouse 28 being a three-quarter span.



**Illus 83 Greenhouse 26. Maker's name on door lintel**

Greenhouse 26, which abutted the E wall of Boiler House 25, had an original stone base wall, which had been raised with several courses of brick to a height of c1.5m. Vents in the side wall had been blocked with brick. 10 bays with concrete arches, 70mm wide and 100mm thick, were built on the base wall. They were generally 600mm apart, but 470-480mm apart at the ends- presumably to adapt to the existing base wall. Iron rings on the under side of the arches would have held wires for plant support. The door, (H: 1.18m W: 700mm) was in the centre of the E end. The maker's name was on the lintel. Internally there was a central passage with raised staging on either side (1.20m wide and 600mm high with a concrete edging resting on brick and slate). Heat pipes from the Boiler House ran below the staging. A smaller water pipe (65mm in diameter) ran along the top window side of the S bench with mister fittings at either end. Catriona Robertson (pers.comm) has suggested that the misters would indicate this was a propagating greenhouse. A slate and brick water tank (900 x 600mm) was situated in the NW corner. Ventilation of this secondary structure appears to have been between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> bays from the W end, which had the framework for opening windows. Two metal rods against the back wall also suggest upper vents near the roof apex. There was a concrete gutter along the wall top with a metal lip at the SW corner.



**Illus 84 Greenhouse 26 from S**



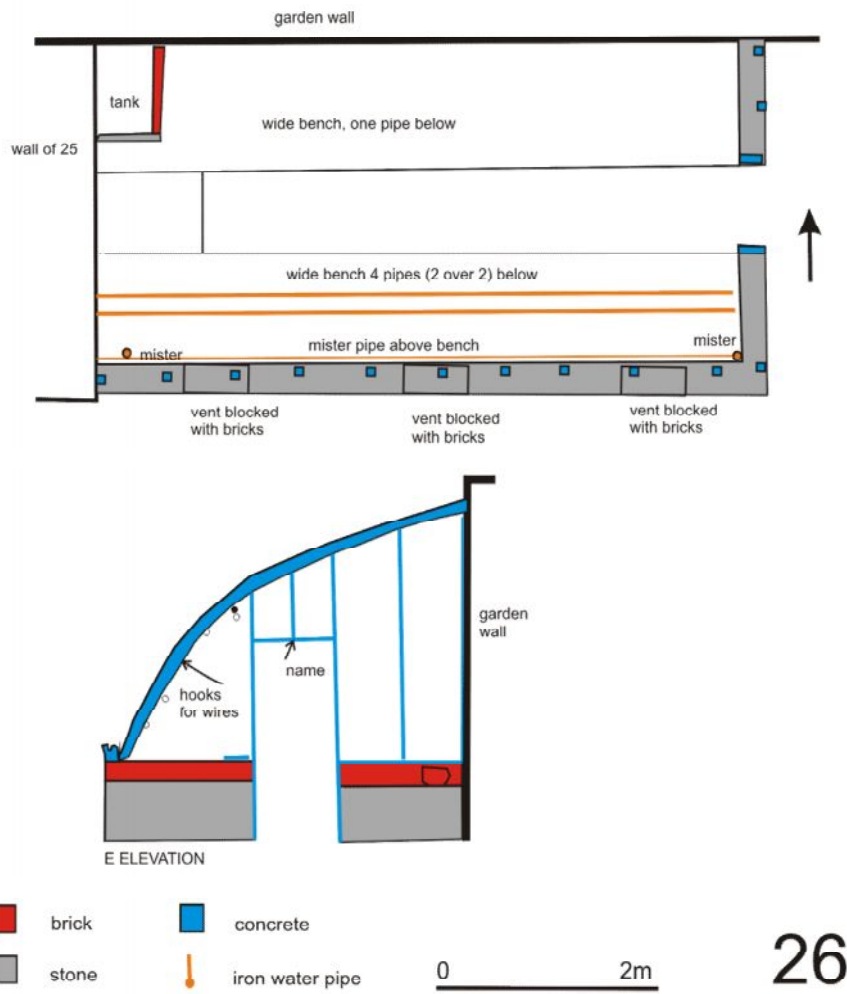
**Illus 85 Greenhouse 26 E end**



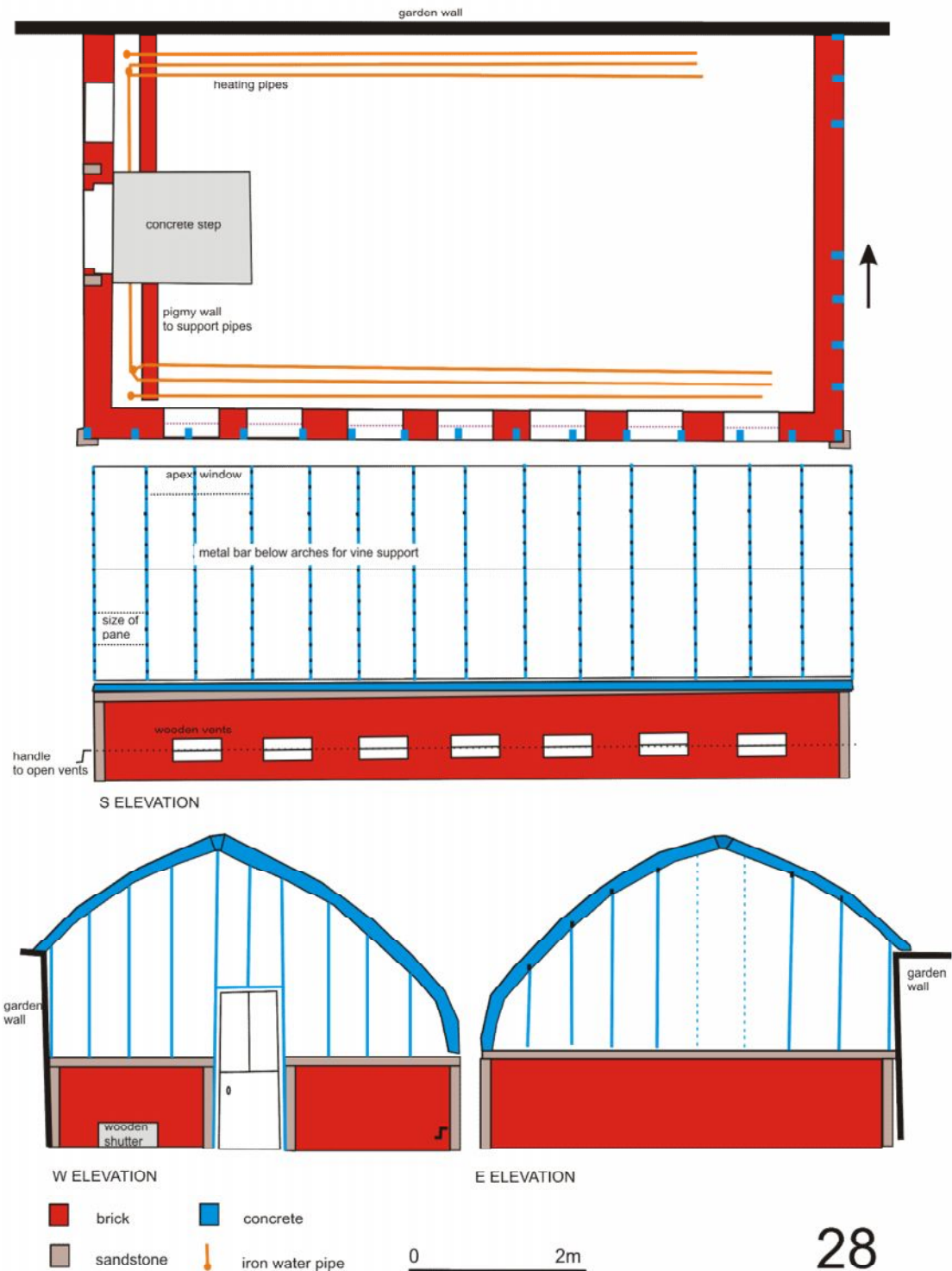
**Illus 86 Greenhouse 26 interior looking W**



**Illus 87 Greenhouse 26, detail of mister fitting**



Illus 88 Greenhouse 26 Plan and E elevation



**Illus 89 Greenhouse 28 Plan and S, E, and W elevations**

Greenhouse 28 is essentially very similar in construction to greenhouse 26. In this building, the original base was of concrete rendered brick with sandstone at the corners and along the top of the wall. The original vents in the side walls had been retained and still have their wooden shutters operated by an iron rod running the length of the wall, through clay pipes, and bolted onto each shutter. The winding

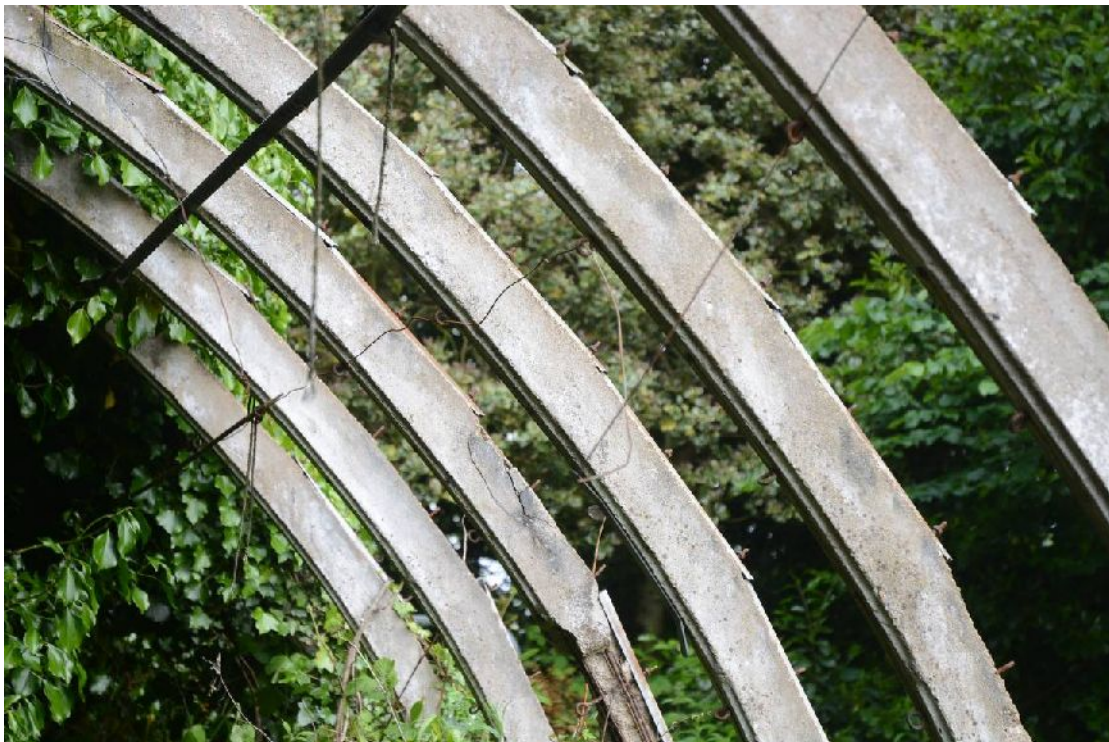
handle survives at the W end. Fourteen bays with concrete arches had been built on this earlier base wall, the reinforced concrete arches being 620mm apart. Each arch has metal threaded bolts through it, 185mm apart, with hexagonal brass nuts holding fixing bars for the glass. No glass remains but it is possible to see that the panes were flat, and 380 x 620mm, the wider dimension being across the arches. The door (H: 1.85m W: 900mm), which was galvanised with glass above, was in the centre of the W end. The maker's name was on the lintel. Internally there appears to have been a central passage with cast iron heating pipes along either side, presumably below staging although none survives. Apart from the vents in the base wall there was evidence of at least one opening window frame near the apex.



**Illus 90 Greenhouse 28 from the S**



**Illus 91 Greenhouse 28, detail of glazing bars and fixings**



**Illus 92 Greenhouse 28, below the arches showing the angled line of arch to allow for flat glass panes. Note bar under arches to hold wires for plants**



**Illus 93 Greenhouse 28. Heating pipes and scar on back wall indicating height of staging**



**Illus 94 Original wooden vents. Winding handle visible on LHS**

### Building 24

Building 24 only exists as a brick foundation with a tumble of rubble. It abuts boiler house 25 and was therefore built after it. The extension of the structure on this footprint between 1867 and 1899 suggests this was built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It appears to have been a tall lean-to with the garden wall raised to allow

maximum roof height (illus 95, 96). There is no existing evidence of glazing and, with the exception of the smaller structure on the site in 1867, the OS maps do not indicate glazing (not cross-hatched). It did not appear to have had heating pipes and it may have been a more general purpose building such as a potting shed. The roof may have been slated as there is considerable slate in the rubble.



**Illus 95 General view of building 24 from the S.**

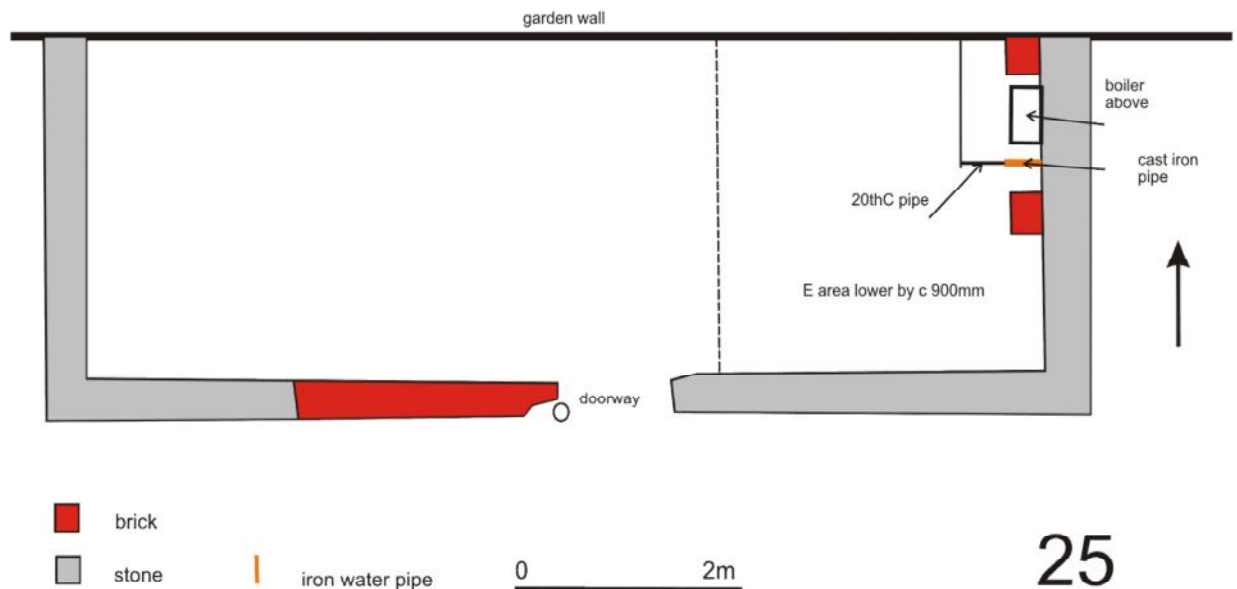


**Illus 96 Detail of NW corner of building 24 with garden wall raised to give additional height.**

### Boiler House 25

The Boiler House is shown from the 1867 OS map and the pipework from it runs E through greenhouses 26, 27 and 28. Both greenhouse 26 and building 24 were built after the Boiler House and abutt it.

The walls were mainly of stone, 350-450mm wide. In the centre of the S wall there was a brick blocking, possibly of a wider doorway, with a smaller doorway inserted into the blocking. The interior was divided in two, the E end, c3m being at a lower floor level; the depth was in excess of 900mm but could not be measured as it was full of rubbish and debris. Pipework, including both cast iron pipe and more modern replacements was visible at the E end. Brickwork at the E gable suggests a chimney had existed at that end, with an apparently later tank set above.



Illus 97 Boiler House 25



**Illus 98 Boiler House 25, general view from S**



**Illus 99 Pipe work in lower floor area at E end of Boiler House 25**

### Wall 29

Wall 29 is granite with iron fittings along the top. It may have been the surrounding wall shown on the 1867 OS map, but it may also have been used for cold frames which are visible here in 1948 on an aerial photographs ([www.ncap.org.uk/](http://www.ncap.org.uk/) Sortie CPE/Scot/UK/0374, frame SFFO\_0136, 0137).



**Illus 100 wall 29 looking E**

Shed 17

Although shed 17 is on the other side of the garden wall from the greenhouses, its proximity suggests it was also one of the functional structures related to the garden. While the greenhouses, on the S facing side of the wall and with heating from the Boiler House, were designed to trap and use heat, shed 17 was built against the cold N facing side of the wall, possibly to keep the contents cool. The interior elevations show that it had originally had three shelves filling much of the interior and it is

possible that it had been used as a store- possibly for tree fruit- but also possibly for bulbs ( we are grateful to Catriona Robertson for this suggestion).

The floor was 450mm below the outside ground level (which would also have aided cooling), with 4 steps at the door. A window on the E side is interesting as the lintel is a piece of moulded stone, probably re-used from the old castle. Scars on the inner wall faces indicate the former position of three wide shelves running around the N and E sides of the building and taking up most of the internal space. The shelves were at c.0.83m, 1.04m and 1.47m above the floor level and were c.800mm wide with c. 350mm of clearance between shelves.

This building is shown on the OS maps from 1867 and is likely to be one of Alexander Gordon's developments.



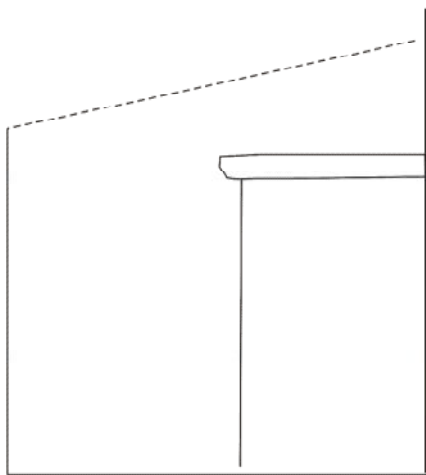
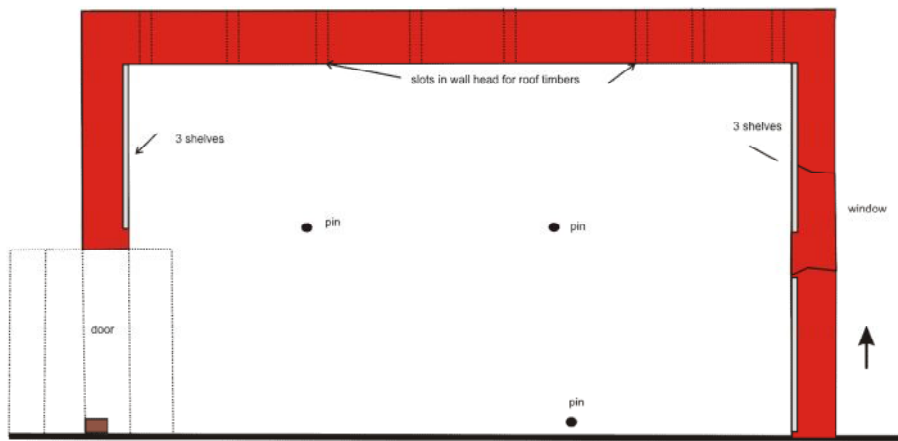
**Illus 101 Building 17, W end**



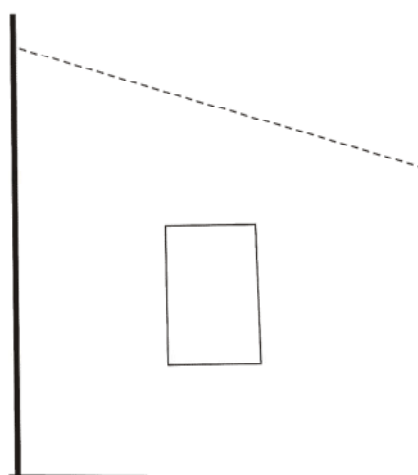
**Illus 102 Building 17, E end**



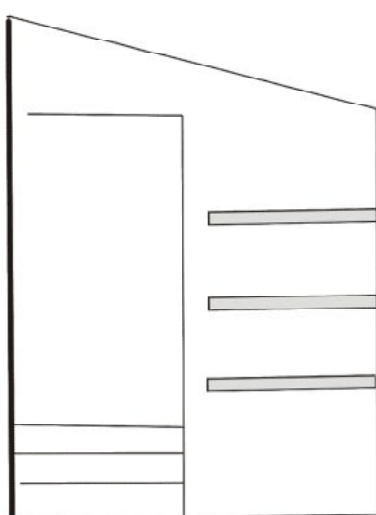
**Illus 103 Building 17, inside of W wall showing scars of shelves.**



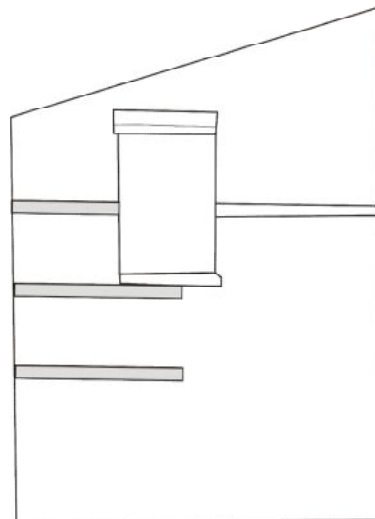
W ELEVATION EXTERNAL



E ELEVATION EXTERNAL



W ELEVATION INTERNAL



E ELEVATION INTERNAL

- brick
- concrete
- stone
- iron water pipe

0 2m

17

Illus 104 Plan and elevations building 17

## 8.6 Sundials (*Gazetteer Nos 9 & 50*)

There are two sundials in the garden, one on the central axis of the lower garden (at the time of the survey only the base and column were *in situ*, the finial with the actual sundial being in storage in the garden house), and one at present in storage on the Terrace, near the ruins of the old castle. Both are mentioned by Eleanor Vere Boyle (1900, 220, 230) so were clearly in position in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when she knew the garden, although only the central sundial (9) is marked on the 1867 and 1899 OS maps. Neither is shown on the 1924 map.

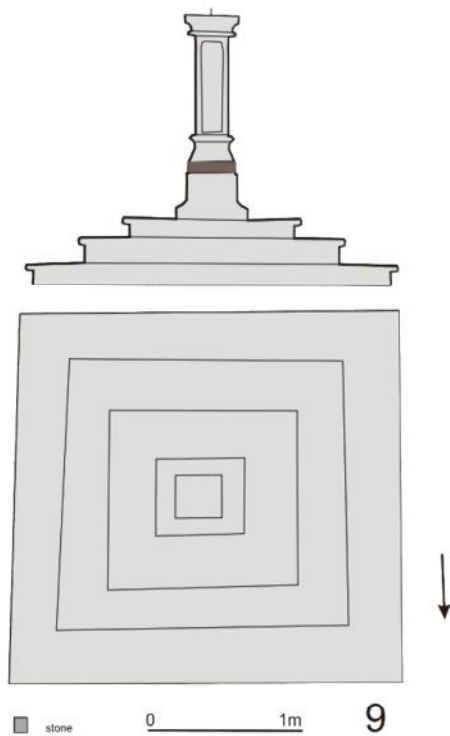
### Central sundial (*Gazetteer No 9*)

The sundial stands on a stone plinth with 3 steps, the plinth is off square as the stones have shifted slightly, the sides at the base are between 2.4 and 2.5m. A band of concrete c 200mm wide around the base of the plinth had apparently been added to stop further shifting of the base stones. The steps are 170mm high with rolled moulding, 20mm deep at the front edges. The column tapers from a square base 550mm to a shaft 200mm square with a carved panel 600mm high on each face. An iron band has been added near the base of the column for support. Each panel on the shaft is decorated with carving in high relief, projecting out from the face of the stone. Each depicts a mask like head with large ears and an open mouth. A ring hangs from the mouth holding two bunches of fruit (?) one above the other. An iron pin and traces of lead at the top of the shaft are the remains of the fixing for the dial itself. The top of the shaft is c 1.74m above ground level.

At the time of survey the dial and the finial ball were in storage in the Garden House.



Illus 105 The central sundial (9) looking S with fountain behind



Illus 106 The sundial pedestal (carving not shown) as recorded 2016. The asymmetry is as observed.



**Illus 107 Detail of the N face of the column of the central sundial (9)**

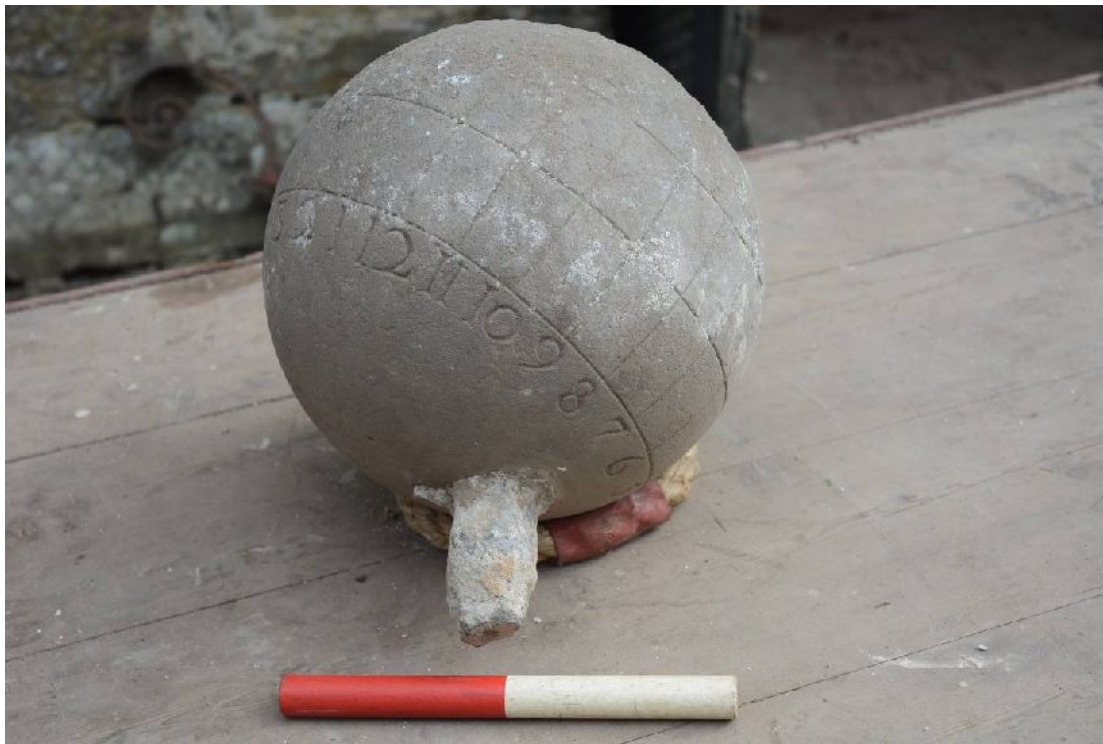
The dial is multi-faceted with a total of 24 small dials set in 3 tiers of hollows cut into the stone. At either end there are 4 square hollows (180 x 180mm), separated by

triangular hollows. Each has numbers incised down the sides and a small copper gnomon. The central tier has 8 circular hollows (145mm diameter) cut into square facets (200mm across). Each has a copper gnomon and numbers along the edge. An iron band has been used to strap the stone together. Part of the moulded base that would have attached to the shaft remains but the lower part is broken off (fragments not observed). An iron pin at the upper end would have fixed to the pyramidal mouldings shown on the drawings of the complete sundial (fragments not observed).



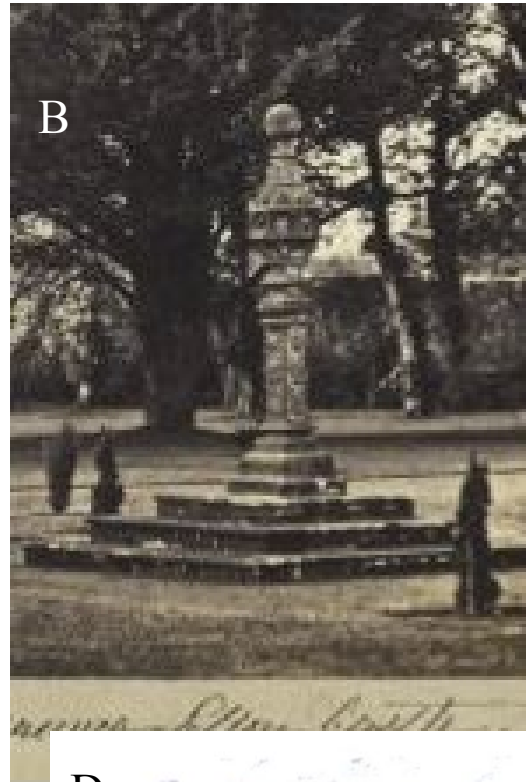
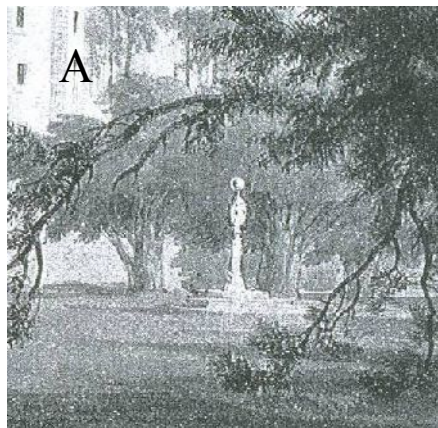
**Illus 108 Sundial (9) with gnomens as photographed in storage in Garden House 2016**

The top ball finial remains, it is c240mm in diameter with numbers and a grid of rectangles incised on it. An iron pin (30mm square, 70mm long) in the lower side would have fixed to the missing pyramidal moulding.



**Illus 109 Ball finial of sundial (9)**

This sundial lies on the N/S axis of the garden, in line with the central door of the Garden House. It is N of the centre of the present extent of the garden (one of the arguments used to suggest that the garden was extended to the S in c1851: Gordon, 1958) ; nevertheless, in its position on the central axis, this sundial would have been a dominant focus of the pre-1851 layout. At the time of the survey the podium and shaft were *in situ* in the garden but the sundial itself was in storage in two pieces in the Garden House (Note: the tapering moulding that had been between the faceted part of the dial (illus 108) and the ball finial (illus 109) was not observed). The sundial is visible in the grass among the yews in the foreground of Giles' painting of 1841 and is shown on a photograph of c1862, flanked by two small vertical trees or shrubs (illus 110).



**Illus 110 Historic views of sundial (9). A: 1841 Giles (from Giles 1936); B: c1862. Innes of Cowie Album (NMRS PA 4/41V/2); C: c 1892 MacGibbon & Ross 1892,446); D: c1900 Frontispiece of Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle 1900)**

It is described in detail by Eleanor Vere Boyle (1900, 220), ‘*In an open space in the centre of the garden is the fine old sundial of James the Second’s time, which, with its three lichen-mottled steps, its dials, and its sculptured column, is supposed to have been brought hither from sunny France. The eight-sided top, or head, is so managed, with twenty-four little gnomens in twenty-four circular recesses,- as to show the hour in every quarter of the globe!*’

MacGibbon and Ross (1892, 445-6) date this sundial to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, with a very close parallel at Pitmedden, although that has a far simpler shaft (the garden at Pitmedden is dated to 1675 by datestone over gate) They list two other parallels both

multi-faceted but simpler in design, in Aberdeen at Duthie Park (dated 1707) and Rubislaw Den (now in Schivas: HES Listed Building LB15983. Originally in the Earl Marishal's town house in Aberdeen, moved to Rubislaw c. 1789 and later to Schivas). Somerville (1987, 234, 251) dates the floruit of the multi-faceted sundials in Scotland to between 1623 to c1731 and suggests they are a particularly Scottish fashion. Reid (nd) in a discussion of the science behind the multi-faceted sundials makes the interesting point that a sundial has to be made for a specific latitude, which does give added weight to argument that the Pitmedden and Ellon sundials might have been made by the same mason- which would possibly place them in the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

HES Scheduling Document dates the shaft and podium of the Ellon sundial to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but suggests the dial itself is more likely to be of late 17<sup>th</sup> century-date. If accurate, this allows the possibility that the sundial had originally been on a different column elsewhere in the garden and was remounted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as part of garden changes in relation to the changes to the castle in c 1715 or c 1781-7. As the example of the Rubislaw Den sundial shows, sundials were moved, not only around gardens but, on occasion between properties. There is some evidence that this sundial had in fact been moved during the ownership of the property by Sir Frederick Becker. Somerville (NOTES MS5741/6/16) spoke to Miss Joanna Gordon in Edinburgh in 1978 who told him that when her father sold Ellon Castle (to Sir Frederick Becker) that the new owner 'sold the sundial' which was subsequently bought back and restored to Ellon by Sir Edward Reid after he bought the castle in 1929; this would explain the absence of the sundial on the 1924 OS map. It is possible that the shaft and base were left *in situ*.

#### Terrace sundial (*Gazetteer No 50*)

This sundial was examined in a storage box where it had been placed for protection. The dial was separate from the shaft. The shaft, which is 980mm high, is of grey granite, square in section (280mm sq.) with a square base (400mm sq.) and a smaller square top (300mm sq.).



**Illus 111 Terrace sundial (50) as photographed 2016.**



**Illus 112 Terrace sundial (50). Detail of cuboid dial from 'front', with gnomens in front and LHS faces**



**Illus 113 Terrace sundial (50). Details of 'front' faces**



**Illus 114 Terrace sundial (50) seen from above, showing faceted corner at 'back'**

The sundial is roughly carved from a light buff cuboid stone block, 270-275 square, with a total height of c 550mm, formed of a square base 330mm high with one of the corners chamfered. Copper gnomens survive on two of the faces of the base. There is no evidence of gnomens or fixings on either of the other faces (but see Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle description below with three gnomens). The top of the base is carved

into four segments each of which bears a simple 3-dimensional head with clear, albeit weathered, features and an impression of the hair between the heads. The heads are of unequal sizes, the two larger heads being opposite the chamfered side of the base, the smallest head being over the chamfer.

This would appear to have been originally intended to have been set in a corner, possibly built into a low wall, with the chamfered side and the smallest head in the corner. The column is clearly later but can be seen on the George Washington Wilson photograph of c.1888/1900 (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553) and appears to have been in this position when described by Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle so the dial may have been moved from its original position during the 1850s alterations. [Note that Shepherd, 2006, 193 and HES Listed building reference LB31105, both wrongly describe this dial as having 3 heads].

Described by Eleanor Vere Boyle (1900, 230) as '*On the smooth turf beneath the windows stands an ancient sundial. It is coarsely hewn rather than carved, in coarse granite, and represents four children's heads turned in opposite directions, the three gnomens standing out from the base*'. It is perhaps of interest that she does not refer to any traditions regarding the identity of the heads. Shepherd (2006, 193) dates the sundial as c.1717, and records the story that it was placed there in memory of the murder in 1717 of the two elder sons of Baillie Gordon by their tutor, Robert Irvine. A contemporary broadside dated 30<sup>th</sup> April 1717 gives an account of the trial of Robert Irvine and describes him as chaplain to Baillie (James) Gordon and relates how he took the two boys for a walk near Stockbridge (Edinburgh) and slit their throats <http://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/broadside.cfm/id/15600/transcript/1>. A contemporary letter from Rev Wodrow to his wife describes Irvine as a tutor to the boys and also writes that '*he attempted to have cut off two other sons of Bailie Graham (sic) that are elder*' (McCrie, 1843, 253). The murders were said to be in revenge for the boys having reported that Irvine was having a dalliance with their mother's maid. Somerville (1867, 242), quotes the later, secondary source, *Chamber's Traditions of Edinburgh* as the basis for the story (1868, ed, 385.) but this makes no reference to the sundial. Somerville queries the link between the sundial and the story of the murders as he notes two parallels to this sundial at Fergie, Elgin (with two heads- originally a sundial built into a corner of a wall, also now on a later column (MacGibbon and Ross, fig 1664) and at Philorth House (three cherubs heads) and suggests it was

simply a local style of dial (1987, 242). The detailed examination of the Ellon sundial indicates that the Forgue parallel is particularly close in overall form- including the distinctive sweep of hair between the heads.



**Illus 115** Detail of George Washington Wilson photograph of Terrace sundial in situ c. 1880-1900. GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553 <http://digitool.abdn.ac.uk/R>

## 8.7 Fountain (*Gazetteer No 8*)

The fountain appears to be part of the garden developments in the period 1845-73 when Alexander Gordon lived at Ellon Castle. It is shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> OS map of 1867 as the centre piece of the paths in the central section of the garden. A photograph of c1862 (Innes of Cowie album. 860942 PA 4/41V/2) shows it with water issuing from the central urn, at this point there are several small vertical shrubs, possibly evergreens around it. Eleanor Vere Boyle (1900, 220), probably referring to the period 1845-1888 describes it as '*picturesque with reeds and water lilies*'.



**Illus 116 Fountain and central sundial c 1862 (Innes of Cowie Album (860942 PA 4/41V/2)**  
<https://canmore.org.uk/>



**Illus 117 Fountain and central sundial 1870s on enameled box Haddo House (Photograph MAS Ltd courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen). Note the increased size of the small conifers beside the fountain and sundial.**

It is a fairly plain octagonal structure 4.14m across with a concrete base and two courses of granite, 230mm wide with a slightly rounded chamfer, forming a surrounding kerb 0.51m high above the internal base. An octagonal central granite pedestal, 510mm across and originally 475mm high was overturned at the time of survey, with the broken remains of the concrete urn that it supported. A copper water pipe 10mm in diameter, entered from the base of the N end of the pond, protected by a concrete cover; this originally went into an iron pipe 40mm in diameter which ran vertically up through the pedestal into the urn. There was an outlet drain plug at the S end of the base and an overflow pipe through the kerb at the S end 350mm above the base.



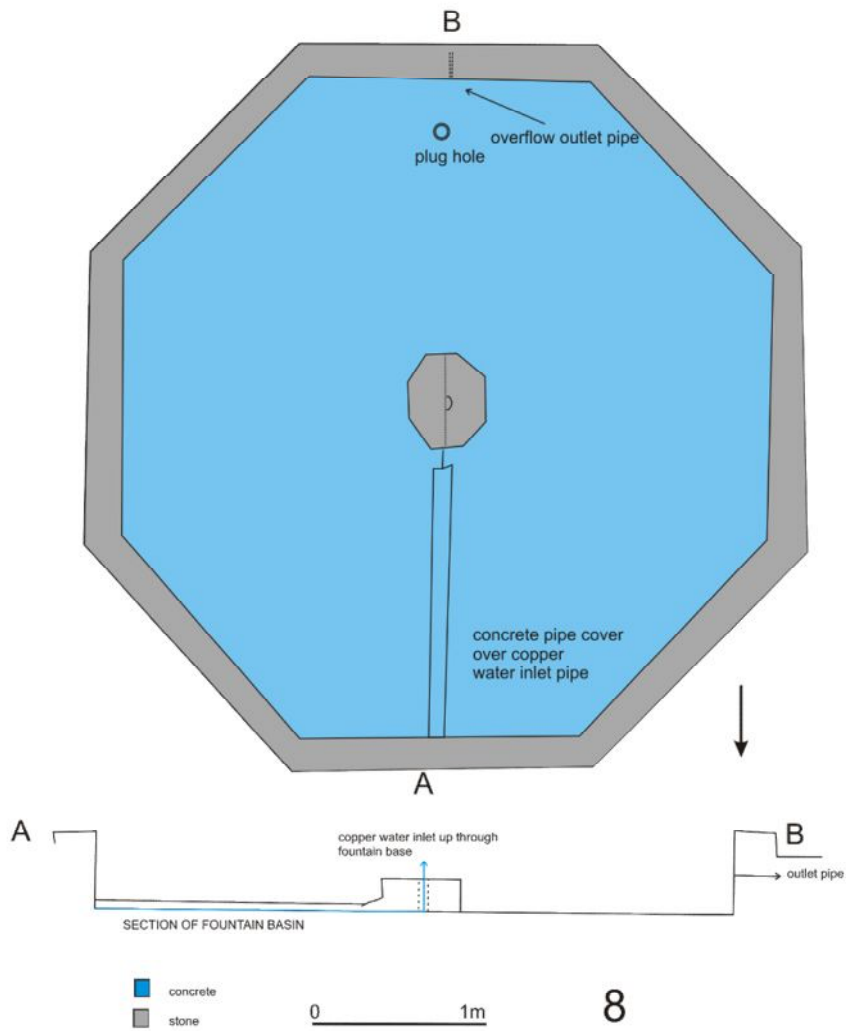
**Illus 118 Fountain (8) in 2016, looking S**



**Illus 119 Fountain (8) showing detail of water pipe (foreground LHS) Small ranging rod indicates outflow.**



Illus 120 Fountain (8). Detail of outflow and drain.



Illus 121 Plan and section of fountain (8)

## 8.8 Seats (*Gazetteer Nos 30, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40*)

Eleanor Vere Boyle (nee Gordon) in her essay, *Autumn Sessions in a Buchan Garden: The Garden of Ellon Castle*, published in 1900, but written earlier, describes a seat below one of the yews ‘*Here also stood, under the broad shadow of a yew, a green seat. I know that it had been there a hundred years or more; for in the castle drawing-room hangs a crayon portrait, of the date 1783, of a lady dressed in soft white Indian muslin, with powdered hair. She leans her hand, holding a blue glove, on the back of that same green garden-seat. I believe it had never received even a new coat of paint since those days! Yet in 1888 it still remained staunch and whole.*’ (Boyle, 1900, 220).

The only 19<sup>th</sup>-century photographs of garden seats at Ellon Castle are from the Innes of Cowie Album (NMRS 384545 PA 4)), dating to the 1850s-60s. One shows a small almost square seat (?) near the fountain (860942 PA 4/41V/2). The other, a photograph of ‘The Old Laird’ – presumably Alexander Gordon, shows him seated on an L-shaped wooden bench with a cast iron end piece (illus 122). The bench is built around a deciduous tree and looks as if the photograph was taken outside the garden, possibly in the woods to the N of the drive (847370 PA 4/39V/1).



**Illus 122 Detail of ‘The Old Laird’ on wooden bench. Innes of Cowie album (847370 PA 4/39V/1)**  
<https://canmore.org.uk/>

There are five fairly simple stone benches (30, 32, 38, 40, 51), each comprising a stone slab set on plain stone blocks. Seat 40 was clearly made using a re-used building stone, probably from the ruin of the old castle. Two (30, 32) were set respectively at the mid points of the E and W walls of the lower garden, with a clear view along the E/W paths towards the central fountain. Seats 38, 40 and 51 were all on the Terrace.

Eleanor Vere Boyle (nee Gordon) mentions a stone seat on the Terrace, placed there c1847-48 as part of a special area of the garden, beside the old tower, designed by her mother, Albinia Elizabeth Cumberland Gordon, who died at Ellon in 1848 (Boyle, 1900, 231-2). A photograph dated c.1850 (Album No 4: Innes of Cowie Album . NMRS PA 4/39V/2) shows what appears to be a stone seat (51) just in front of the gate (39) E of the old castle ruin. This is also visible in a George Washington Wilson photograph of c 1900 (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553). The evidence suggests therefore that the stone seats were part of the redevelopment of the garden by Alexander Gordon after his succession to the property in 1845 and using stone from the old castle.



**Illus 123 Seat 40. Upper Terrace, E end.  
garden**



**Illus 124 Seat 32. Centre W wall main**

The ends of at least three cast-iron and wooden seats (35, 36, 37) have been stored near the Garden House. One (35: illus 125) is a skeuomorph of a bamboo seat. The other two have vine decoration (illus 126-127). They are of fairly common 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>-century types. A cast iron seat is shown near the Old Castle ruins on the Terrace on a George Washington Wilson photograph of c 1900 (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553).



**Illus 125 Seat 35**



**Illus 126 Seat 36**



**Illus 127 Seat 37**

## 9 Plants and layout: the historical evidence

This discussion only includes the area of the Ellon Castle garden which is owned by the Ellon Castle Garden Trust. The garden beside the New Ellon Castle is not discussed in any detail.



**Illus 128** The yews

### 9.1 *The yews*

Dating of yews is notoriously hard. Girth measurements, which exist for the Ellon yews from 1890 and 1956 (Hutchinson, 1890; Gordon, 1957), are often the only viable option for dating, but the calculations are controversial (Bevan-Jones 2002, 13-23) and cannot take account of variables created by position, soil or climate.

Following the rough guide provided by Bevan-Jones (2002, 22), the Ellon trees would be in the range of 350-500 years old. Bob Davies suggests they could be far older (ECG newsletter, March 2016).

Dendrochronological dating (tree rings) would give an absolute date but the examples cited by Bevan-Jones indicate that there are considerable practical difficulties in coring because of the extremely hard wood. The multiple trunks of many of the Ellon yews are also likely to pose difficulty. However as there has been considerable recent work done on dendrochronology in Scotland by Dr Anne Crone, it would be worth asking specialist advice. For example, large girth oak trees at Drum castle,

Aberdeenshire were considered to be of medieval date, but dendrochronological coring showed they had been planted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Mills & Crone, 2012, 24). C14 dating would also give a date (although with an error margin), but is only really possible with a felled/fallen tree. The sample would have to come from the earliest (ie core) wood. It has been attempted with some hollow trees but by their nature these have lost the earliest wood so this would appear a flawed method. There is no archaeological evidence of any early church or well site associated with the yews.

### *The garden before 1706*

Mair (1876, 150-1) quotes part of the agreement of sale of Ellon by Forbes of Waterton to Baillie J Gordon in 1706; the property is described in some detail including ‘*the tower and fortalice of Ardight, now and in all time coming to be called Ellon; the yards and orchards thereof.*’ This appears to be the only contemporary description of the courts and gardens beside the castle before Baillie Gordon’s ownership.

Both the sundials (though not their present shafts) are of probable late 17<sup>th</sup>-century date and may have been part of a formal court beside the old castle.

The yews *may* have existed at this point but before the revetting of the Terrace, which probably took place in the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century, it is hard to see any evidence for a formal garden on the lower slope of the river terrace on the present walled garden site. They may have been part of general plantings.

### *9.2 The 18<sup>th</sup>-century garden*

At present there is no known contemporary documentary evidence to give detail of the garden, with the exception of a single reference to some ironmongery made for the ‘garden walls’ in accounts dating to 1785 (NRAS55/8/2). There is however considerable information derived from the structural analysis and some possibilities indicated by the geophysical survey. In general it is not possible to distinguish between work that was done for Baillie Gordon between 1706 and 1752 and that done for George Gordon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen between 1752 and 1802- as a result they are considered together.

The garden walls have traditionally been dated to 1715 on the basis of the datestone now over the W door in the S wall (garden door 13); however the datestone is on a

narrower lintel than that of the present door (above which it is placed) and may therefore have been moved – albeit possibly from a door in the same position. Nevertheless the walls ( apart from minor alterations) can be positively dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century as both the stone and the method of construction are the same as the upper, 18<sup>th</sup>-century portion of the surviving S wall of the old castle.

The N wall of the garden is of considerable interest as, in order to build it, there would have been considerable amounts of earth moved to cut a straight edge in the natural river terrace and to cut out the N side of the footprint for the garden house. With this revetment in place, the strip of ground between the N garden wall and the castle became the Terrace. There is no evidence to indicate if there was any formal planting on the Terrace at this stage. It is possible that the sundial with the heads, which stood on the Terrace in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, may have been on the Terrace in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its form indicates that it had originally been built into a wall and it is possible that it was moved here later (possibly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from a wall of the demolished castle).

The walled garden is placed symmetrically on a perpendicular axis to the S facade of the castle, following the advice of John Reid in the *Scots Gard'ner* (1683), *'If you would work right, beginne orderly, that is, find the central line by erecting a perpendicular on the middle of the House-front, to extend as farr both back and fore as requisite: hence you may draw parallels, Measure and Stake out your Avenues, Gardens, etc as you please: ever minding to Measure alike at both sides of the Central line'*. The garden at Ellon is laid out so that the central part of the garden is in line with the windows of the drawing room and main bedchamber of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century building.

From the Terrace, access to the walled garden below was down steps that led through the Garden House. At this stage the Garden House had three floors- the upper floor being entered at the Terrace ground level, the lowest entering on to the central axis of the walled garden in front of the yews.

The central sundial lies on this central axis and the probable 18<sup>th</sup>-century date for the base and column of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century sundial suggests that it may have been moved to this position in the 18<sup>th</sup> century- possibly from an earlier court to the E of the castle. The present path obscures the line of an earlier central path, but it is likely that one existed. The geophysical survey (illus 141; Ovenden 2016, fig 8: features 15 and 16) shows two N/S lines of high resistance symmetrically each c3.5m either side of the

central line, with a third N/S line (illus 141; Ovenden 2016, fig 8: feature 12) bisecting the ground on the W side of the garden. There are various interpretations of these geophysical anomalies and archaeological test pits are necessary to establish what they are but a good possibility is that these are the lines of 18<sup>th</sup>-century paths. They do not correspond to any known later features.

The yews, whatever the date of their planting, were certainly part of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century garden. The 1841 painting (illus 129) and even the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century photographs (illus 116) show them as mature (although far smaller than today) so they would have been considerably smaller in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 220) describes a painting, dated 1783, of a lady on a seat under the yews.

Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle also mentions avenues of mature limes- long gone when she wrote in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but clearly remembered from her girlhood c 1845- and therefore probably part of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century plantings ‘ *There were once two narrow avenues of limes flanking the yews on either hand. But these were felled a score of years ago* ’ (1900, 219). In the suggested garden layout (illus 138) these have been placed on either side of the possible paths shown on the geophysical survey. If this is true, the remaining limes in the garden today appear to be the limes from the W side of the original E lime walk. It is however also possible, though far less likely, that they were flanking the yews at right angles- in which case they might have been the trees shown on the 1867 OS map flanking the E/W axial paths, but removed before the 1899 OS map and since replaced by the Irish yews.

### 9.3 *The early 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden: 1801-1845 - neglect under Hon William Gordon*

The only visual evidence of the garden at this period is the Giles painting of 1841, which shows the N part of the centre of the walled garden. The yews, considerably smaller than today (2016), are shown growing in grass. The sundial is shown but there is no suggestion of paths.



Illus 129 Giles 1841 (Photograph MAS Ltd courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen)

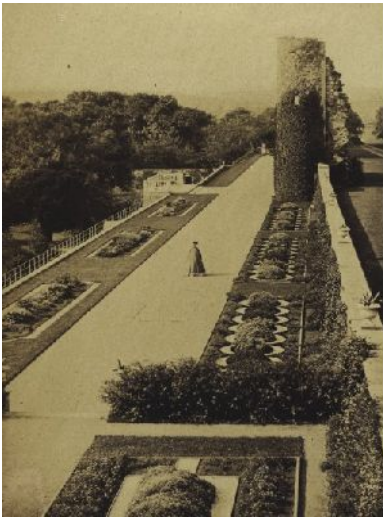
#### 9.4 *The late 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden: 1845 onwards- the 19<sup>th</sup> century garden of Alexander Gordon*

From 1845 the garden was restored and redeveloped by Alexander Gordon. At this period there were considerable changes resulting from the demolition of the old castle and the building of the new castle in 1851.

The increasing use of photography, the survival of more family drawings and memoirs and the increase in public documentation such as the Ordnance Survey maps and newspaper accounts, allows far more detailed understanding of the garden at this period.

##### The Terrace

Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 218) describes the Terrace in autumn, '*the terrace is brilliant at this time with clumps and long borders **within box-edgings**, of varied tints of scarlet and orange and blue*'.



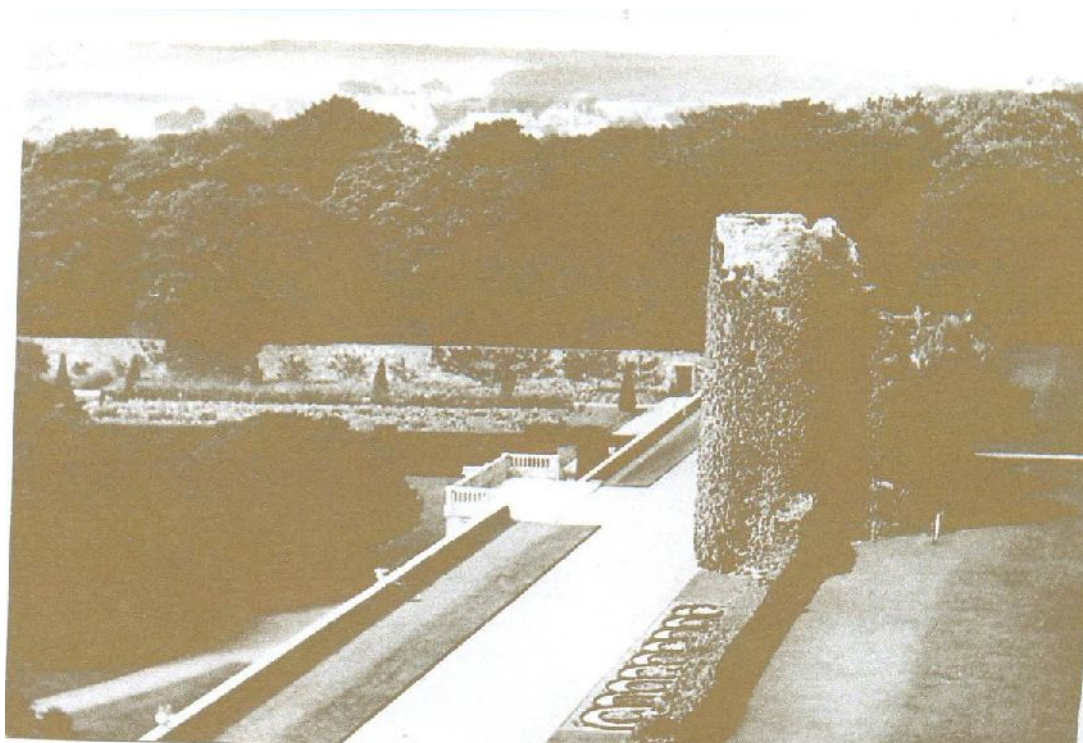
Illus 130 The Terrace 1850 (NRMS PA 4/39V/2) <https://canmore.org.uk/> Detail of N beds.



Illus 131 The Terrace 1870s on enameled box Haddo House (Photograph MAS Ltd courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen)

This description is mirrored in the 1850 photograph (NRMS PA 4/39V/2) which shows a broad central walk, flanked on the N by rectangular beds with concrete edging (still surviving), containing grass with lines of smaller, circular beds, possibly outlined by pale gravel. A border alongside the N wall of the terrace had a concrete

edging (still surviving) and taller plants against the wall. Urns on the wall have plants in them. To the S of the walkway, there was a wide band of grass with sub-rectangular beds, again apparently edged in pale gravel. The view of the Terrace on the painted box at Haddo House, is almost exactly the same- the flowers in the urns are red, possibly geraniums and there is a hint of what may be box edging beside the N border and around the beds S of the path. An undated post-card shows the circular beds N of the path, with what may be box edging on either side of the pale gravel. The beds to the S have been grassed over.



**Illus 132 Undated post-card of Terrace (donated to ECGT by member of public)**

The OS maps from 1867 to 1924 show the central walk along the full length of the terrace with borders but no details of the bedding. Oddly the 1867 OS map shows two small trees in the grass in front of the castle ruin. By a 1958 Valentine post card (JV-D-3346) the borders on both sides had been grassed over. In 2016 the central path is also grassed over although the geophysical survey (Ovenden, 2016, fig 8) shows high resistance on the path line from remaining gravel. The N border, concrete edging and box edging survive; since recent pruning it is clear that the box edging follows the lines of the small circular beds; these therefore are a survival of the 1850s planting. In all the historic images it appears that the ornamental beds only extended on either side of the path as far as the ‘viewing platform’ on top of the garden house and the steps to the walled garden. This would have been the main focus of a walk from the

new castle to the old castle ruin and down into the walled garden. To the W of the castle, the S side grass sloped down to the top of the garden wall and on the N side a border extended from the gate W of the castle to the W wall.

#### The walled garden

By the 1867 OS map, the N/S yew hedges (if not earlier) had been planted, dividing off the central two thirds of the garden. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (GWW C2553) a George Washington Wilson photograph shows the hedges as well- clipped and c 2m tall by comparison with the N wall of the garden.

The area around the yews was in grass with a new oval path centred on the central N/S axis, but focussed on the new fountain, S of the sundial with E/W cross paths radiating from the fountain. These cross paths can just be distinguished on the 1862 photograph (Innes of Cowie album 860941 PA 4/41V/1) which also shows a number of small (c.1m high) column shaped shrubs (possibly conifers) beside the fountain and sundial. The same column-shaped shrubs are shown on the enamelled box at Haddo House, dated c 1870s (illus 133). Oddly, a drawing of the sundial (Boyle, 1900. frontispiece) shows small standard trees, or possibly roses, at four points around the sundial.

The Haddo House box also depicts a seat under the yews; Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle wrote, *'Here also stood, under the broad shadow of a yew, a green seat.....'* (1900, 220).



**Illus 133 Details c1870s on enameled box Haddo House (Photograph MAS Ltd courtesy of the Marquess of Aberdeen). The red circle indicates a seat.**

The 1867 and 1899 OS maps show the sides of the area between the oval path and the yew hedges as planted quite thickly with trees or shrubs, which have been removed by the 1924 map.

Two of the George Washington Wilson photographs (GWW D0946 and C2553) show the NW corner of this central area- in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Both show the yews, considerably smaller than at present, in grass with the paths shown on the 1867 OS map. Roughly triangular areas of shrubs are visible outside the NW angle of the oval path. Young standard deciduous trees are shown in the grass between the oval path and the W yew hedge.

Another photograph (GWW C2552) shows the NE curve of the oval path with rhododendrons (identifiable in magnified photograph on line) in the equivalent position- and in the grass just inside the curve of the path.

There is less information about the two quadrants of the garden outside this central area. The 1867 OS map shows E/W axial paths, flanked by trees, bisecting these areas and continuing the line of the E/W path in the central area. It has been suggested (above) that the lime avenues mentioned by Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 219) flanking the yews, may have been alongside N/S paths in the 18<sup>th</sup>-century garden. However it is also possible, although less likely, that they might have been the trees flanking these E/W paths. The paths had been removed before the 1899 OS map and more recently replaced, flanked by the Irish yews. The N part of the E quadrant is shown on a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century George Washington Wilson photograph (GWW C2205) with espalier fruit trees on the inner faces of the E and N wall and some standard fruit trees between the N path and the N border. Along the W side of the E path are bushes, which appear from the leaves to be currants; this line of bushes is also shown on the 1867 OS map. W of the bushes are a series of N/S cultivated drills- possibly for potatoes.



Illus 134 Detail of George Washington Wilson photograph C2205. <http://digitool.abdn.ac.uk/>

Only a small corner of the N end of the W quadrant is shown on George Washington Wilson print C2553, possibly showing fruit bushes or canes in the N border and supporting stakes (? pea sticks) just S of the path.

It would appear therefore that both the outer quadrants may have been predominantly kitchen gardens, although probably with flower borders, as described below, in front of the espalier fruit trees.

The greenhouses outside the S wall and, the small functional shed (17) inside it, were accessed from the E quadrant, also suggesting that this was very much the working part of the garden.

### The N woodland

Also at this period, steps were built up into the higher ground N of the drive, giving access to walks in the woodland. A series of memorials dating between 1852 and 1911 are said to be the memorials to horses owned by the Gordon family in that period. Horse, or more often dog, memorials are common – a nearby example being the dog burials at Haddo House.

### Plants in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden

Apart from plants that have been identified from photographs, the two main sources for the range of plants grown in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden are the memories of Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle and the accounts of the Ellon Horticultural shows between 1849 and 1870.

Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle describes the flowers in the borders in September. '*In one there is blue monkshood (Aconitum autumnale) full six feet high, like pillars of blue fire, alternate with golden-rod (Solidago), sun-flushed Bocconia, and feathery spikes of Acloea serpentaria*'. Elsewhere there had been *Geranium pratense* earlier in the year, followed by phlox, Japanese anemones, and Autumn crocus. Other plants she mentions are Tritoma (not then in flower), snap-dragons, blue, pink, white and purple cornflowers, *Hyacinthus candicans*, gladioli, Gazania, dwarf larkspur, clarkia, candytuft, *Actaea rubra*, St John's wort, yellow tree-potentilla and rhododendrons. In one area white clarkia grew in drifts between apple trees. Elsewhere *Tropaeolum speciosum* was climbing through a shrub and honeysuckle flourished. She also refers to single dahlias in rows and (less to her taste) long rows of yellow calceolaria and

china aster. Among bedding plants she praises blue lobelia and scarlet and variegated geraniums- although she clearly does not enjoy bedding out.

Up on the Terrace, near the old castle, flowers that her mother liked had been planted from her former home in England, including lilies of the valley, yellow briar rose, honeysuckle, crimson moss roses and white geranium and a border of gentian and tiny white campanula – by the time Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle was writing this area had clearly become overgrown and some of the plants lost.

A different perspective on the garden during the same period is given in the prize lists for plants produced at Ellon Castle and shown at the Ellon Horticultural Society. Of course these would be limited to species in flower/ripe at the time of the show.

Vegetables included onions, carrots, cucumbers, peas, cauliflower, beet, red beets, cabbages, turnips and potatoes (white and kidney). Fruits included cherries, plums, apricots, strawberries, blackcurrants, red currants, gooseberries (green, red and yellow), green fleshed melon, and even oranges.

Among flowers that won prizes, many are listed as ‘6 hardy annuals’ or ‘6 greenhouse plants’ – however, named plants included cockscombs, roses, French marigolds, Fibrous and bulbous iris, pansies, stocks, china asters, geraniums, ranunculuses, antirrhinums, phloxes, penstemons, verbenas, hollyhocks, fuschias (including named varieties ‘Pearl of England’ and ‘Kendall’s Crimson King’), pinks, and dahlias. Significantly there is considerable overlap with Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle’s descriptions.

Apart from some of the fruit that would have been grown under glass, the role of the greenhouses is emphasised by prizes for greenhouse plants. Generally the account just lists ‘6 greenhouse plants’ but in 1853, there was a special reference to 3 sets of greenhouse plants: 1: *Tetradlea Verticillata*, *Pimelia Decussata*, *Silago Gilesii*.

2. *Dracophyllum Gracile*, *Cuphea Platycentra*, *Pimelia Hispida*

3. *Torenia Asiatica*, *Gardenia Radicans*, *Erica Ventricosa*

(*Aberdeen Journal* 13 July 1853). It is beyond the scope of this report to research all the plants but it is of interest that *Pimelia decussata* was listed in 1839 (Graham, 1839, 193) as a recent addition to then rare plants in the Edinburgh Botanic Garden. In 1869, apart from the orange tree, there was also a large bird-nest fern, a sago palm and two plants of *humea elegans*.

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### 9.5 *The 20<sup>th</sup> -century garden to the present*

The 1924 OS map shows the layout of the garden as in 1899, with two main differences. In the central quadrant, the area outside the oval path is almost clear of trees and shrubs, with the exception of a N/S line of trees E of the oval path, which can be identified with the limes surviving in 2016. The central fountain is still marked but the sundial is no longer shown; Somerville (MS5741/6/16) related a story that it was sold c 1919 and bought back by Reid after 1929; this would explain its absence on the 1924 map. It is likely that it was only the dial that was moved as the column appears to be in its original position.

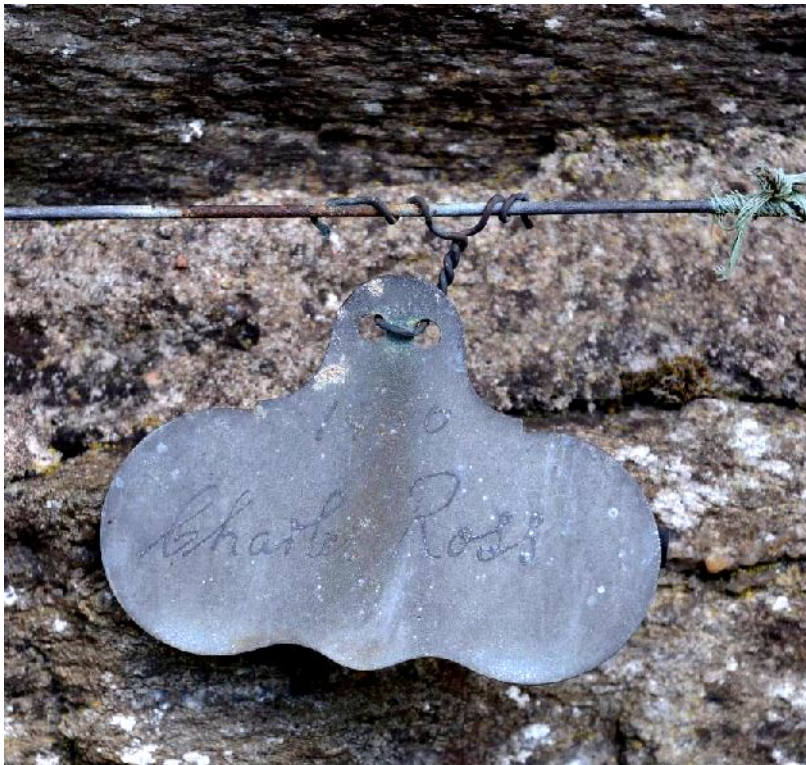
Since 1924 the E/W paths in the outer quadrants, as seen in 1867, have been reintroduced, flanked by Irish yews. An aerial photograph of 1948 ([www.ncap.org.uk/Sortie CPE/Scot/UK/0374](http://www.ncap.org.uk/Sortie/CPE/Scot/UK/0374), frame SFFO\_0149 ) gives a mid-century view of these paths and the Irish yews, which appear to be c. 2m tall, on a level with the yew hedges. The yew hedges are shown cut with a squared top, and regular squared 'pillars', either side of the paths and at intervals along their length.

In 1948 the E and W quadrants have regular blocks of cultivation, suggestive of vegetables. Fruit trees can be seen along the walls. On the Terrace, there is an indication of the sections of border alongside the N wall of the Terrace.

In 2016 the inner faces of the E, N and S walls bear espalier fruit trees. Many of these, especially those on the E wall, have metal tags bearing the variety and date of planting (see table below). These are all trees that would have been planted when Sir Edward Reid owned the garden. Most are mid or late 19<sup>th</sup>-century varieties. A few such as Stirling Castle, Bramley's Seedling or Cox's Orange pippin are varieties that could also have been used in the garden when Alexander Gordon revived it in the 1850s but there is nothing to suggest any of the trees are of this date.



**Illus 135** Fruit trees and border along E wall



**Illus 136** Fruit tree tag '1950 Charles Ross'

**Table 1 Existing fruit trees and label information.**

Location	Variety	Date on label	Wire	Individual nails	History of variety <a href="http://www.keepers-nursery.co.uk/">http://www.keepers-nursery.co.uk/</a>
<b>East wall from South to North</b>					
	Stirling Castle	1949	*		Scotland 1820 cooker
	Monarch	1949	*		Essex 1888
	Stirling Castle	1949	*		Scotland 1820 cooker
	Rev Wilks	1949	*		Berkshire 1904 cooker
	Lord Derby	1949	*		Cheshire 1862 cooker
	Rev W Wilks	1949	*		Berkshire 1904 cooker
	Lord Derby	1949	*		Cheshire 1862 cooker
	? no visible label			*	
	? Worn label			*	
	? no visible label			*	
	Peasegood Monarch	1950	* galv nails		Monarch from Peasegood Nonsuch Essex 1888
	? no visible label		*		
	? no visible label		*		
	? no visible label		*		
	? no visible label		*		
	James Grieve	1949	*		Scotland 1893 Dual
	Charles Ross	1950	*		Berkshire 1890 Dual
	Peasegood Monarch	1950	*		Monarch from Peasegood Nonsuch Essex 1888
	? no visible label		*		
	Newton Wonder	1953	*		Derbyshire 1870 Cooker
	Howgate Wonder	1959	*		Isle of Wight 1915 Cooker
	? no visible label				
<b>Gate</b>					
	? no visible label		*old wire on Fe nails		
	? no visible label		*old wire on Fe nails		
<b>North wall East of Garden House from East to West,</b>					
	? no visible label			*	
	Bramley's Seedling	1948		*	Nottinghamshire 1809
	? no visible label			*	
	Bramley's Seedling	1949		*	Nottinghamshire 1809
	? no visible label			*	
	? no visible label			*	
	Laxton Superb	1947		*	Bedfordshire 1897 Desert
	? no visible label. Small tree W of buttress				
<b>Garden House</b>					
<b>Brick wall West of Garden House</b>					
	Laxton's Fortune	1962	*		Bedfordshire 1904 Desert
	Cox's Orange pippin	1954	*		Buckinghamshire 1825 Desert
	? no visible label		*		

	Ellison's Orange	1959	*		Lincolnshire 1904 Desert
	Cox's Orange Pippin	1950			Buckinghamshire 1825 Desert
	Worcester Pearmain	1940	*		Worcestershire 1873 Desert
	Worcester Pearmain	1947		*	Worcestershire 1873 Desert
	Worcester Pearmain	1947		*	Worcestershire 1873 Desert
	? no visible label				
	? plum - no visible label				
	? plum - no visible label				
	? plum - no visible label				
	? plum - no visible label				
	Czar	1950			Hertfordshire 1871
<b>West wall from North to South</b>					
	? plum - no visible label				
<b>Gate</b>					
	Young tree no label				
	? no visible label			* old wire Fe nails	
	? no visible label			*	
	Grenadier	1953	*		England 1862
	? no visible label		*		
	Grenadier	1953	*		England 1862
		? no visible label	*		
	Edward VII	1935?			Worcestershire 1902 Cooker
<b>Seat</b>					
	? no visible label				
	? no visible label				
	? no visible label				
	? no visible label				
<b>Big gap</b>					
	Small tree ? no visible label			*old wire	
	? no visible label				
	? no visible label small tree				
	Newton Wonder	1954? Or 1964			Derbyshire 1870 Cooker

The greenhouses were also clearly still in use in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the two concrete frame greenhouses dating to c. 1950. Aerial photographs of 1948 show cold frames alongside the S side of the greenhouses ([www.ncap.org.uk/](http://www.ncap.org.uk/) Sortie CPE/Scot/UK/0374, frame SFFO\_0136, 0137).

At some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the inner floor of the Garden House must have been removed, leaving it as now, open to the roof.

## 10 Summary of the historical development of the garden

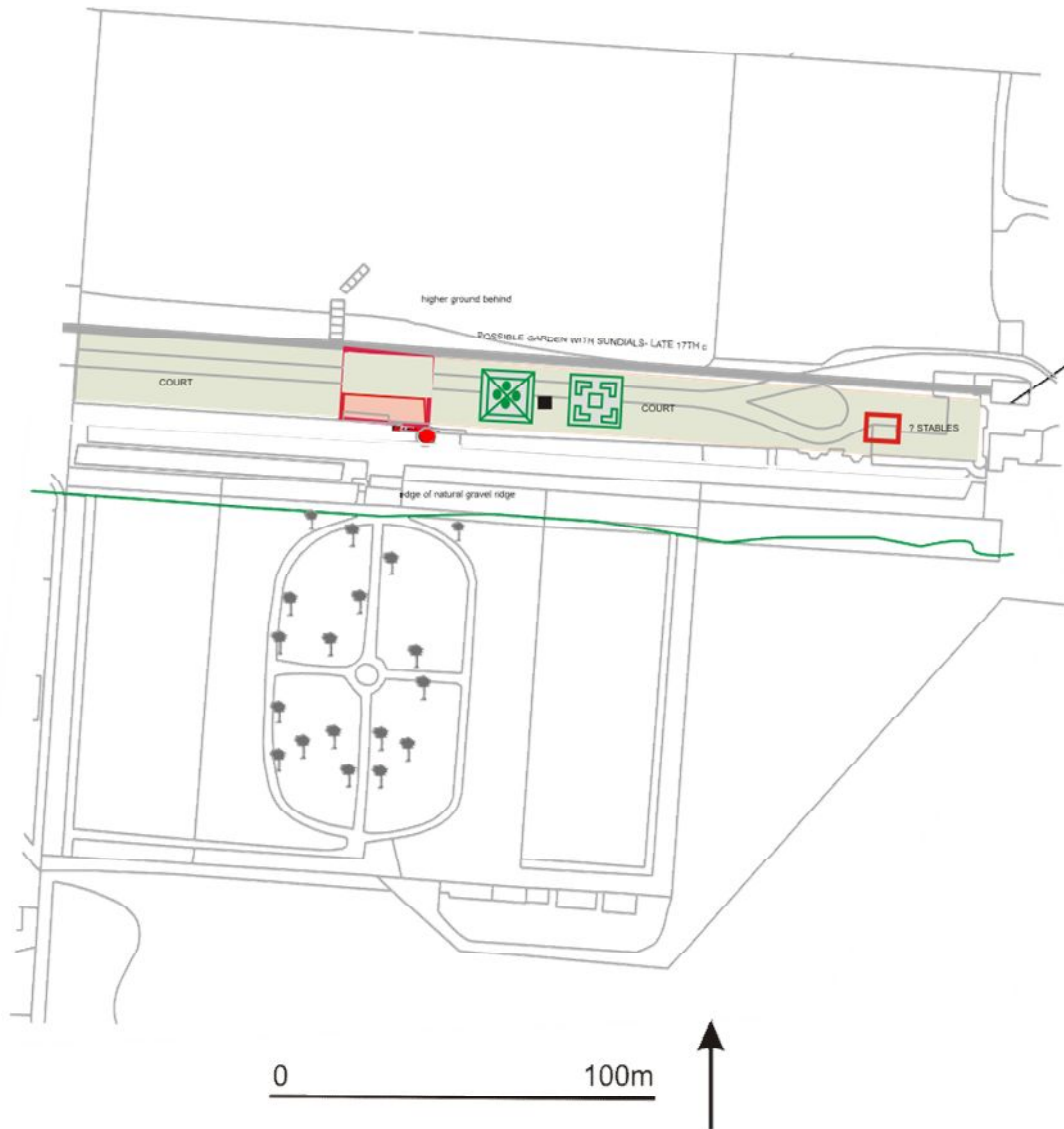
This discussion is based on the detailed evidence described in the last section and schematic layouts have been drawn to illustrate the main changes considered to date to each period.

### *10.1 The garden before 1706*

The probable late 17<sup>th</sup>-century date of the two sundials suggests that by that date there was some degree of a formal layout. Sundials were a fashionable feature of 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup>-century Scottish gardens (Brown 2012, 187-93), not only providing a focal point but also emphasising the owner's erudition.

There is no other direct evidence about the garden at this period but formal parterres would be in period.

It is possible to suggest that, prior to the cutting back and revetting of the S edge of the slope below the castle (the line of the N wall of the walled garden), there may have been enclosed courts with formal parterres along the ridge on which the castle stands, between the old castle and the stables etc to the E.



**Illus 137** Suggested pre-18<sup>th</sup>-century layout. The yews and the present layout are shown in grey. The parterres are hypothetical as any evidence would have been destroyed by the modern drive; their pattern is based on examples in Edinburgh drawn in 17<sup>th</sup> century by Gordon of Rothiemay (Brown 2012, 200-201).

## 10.2 The 18<sup>th</sup>-century garden: 1706-52 Baillie James Gordon

: 1752-1801 George Gordon 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Aberdeen

The evidence strongly supports the dating of the main layout of the walled garden and the Terrace to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most probably during the ownership of Baillie James Gordon in the earlier part of the century. Baillie James Gordon was married in Canongate parish in Edinburgh in 1691; a glimpse of the gardens of houses on the Canongate some years earlier is given on Gordon of Rothiemay's plan of 1647, which shows formal parterres, groupings of trees and vegetable or herb plots (Brown, 2012, 199-202). Both Baillie Gordon and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl would have been aware of garden fashions of the time and are likely to have known the nearby terraced gardens at

Pitmedden, dating from 1675. Brown (212, 337) argues that at least to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, there was conservatism in Scottish garden design, which retained a fairly formal layout as seen at Ellon.

By chance the name of one gardener of this period at Ellon survives; John Dean was gardener for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl in 1787, and could therefore have been instrumental in developing or continuing the development of the new gardens.

At this stage the focus of the garden was looking down from the prestige rooms of the old castle- the drawing room and main bedchamber. The garden stretched away from the S facade of the house, with views across the walled garden and beyond across the Ythan valley. This symmetry in relation to the house is an embodiment of the design principles described by Reid in 1683.

The access to the walled garden at this period was down steps through the Garden House on a central path leading through the yews to the sundial.

Some impression of this is given by the 1841 painting by Giles, some 100 years later, after the garden had been neglected. Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 218) refers to a 'parlour' in the garden house and it is quite probable that part of this building was used for sitting in, or even entertaining.

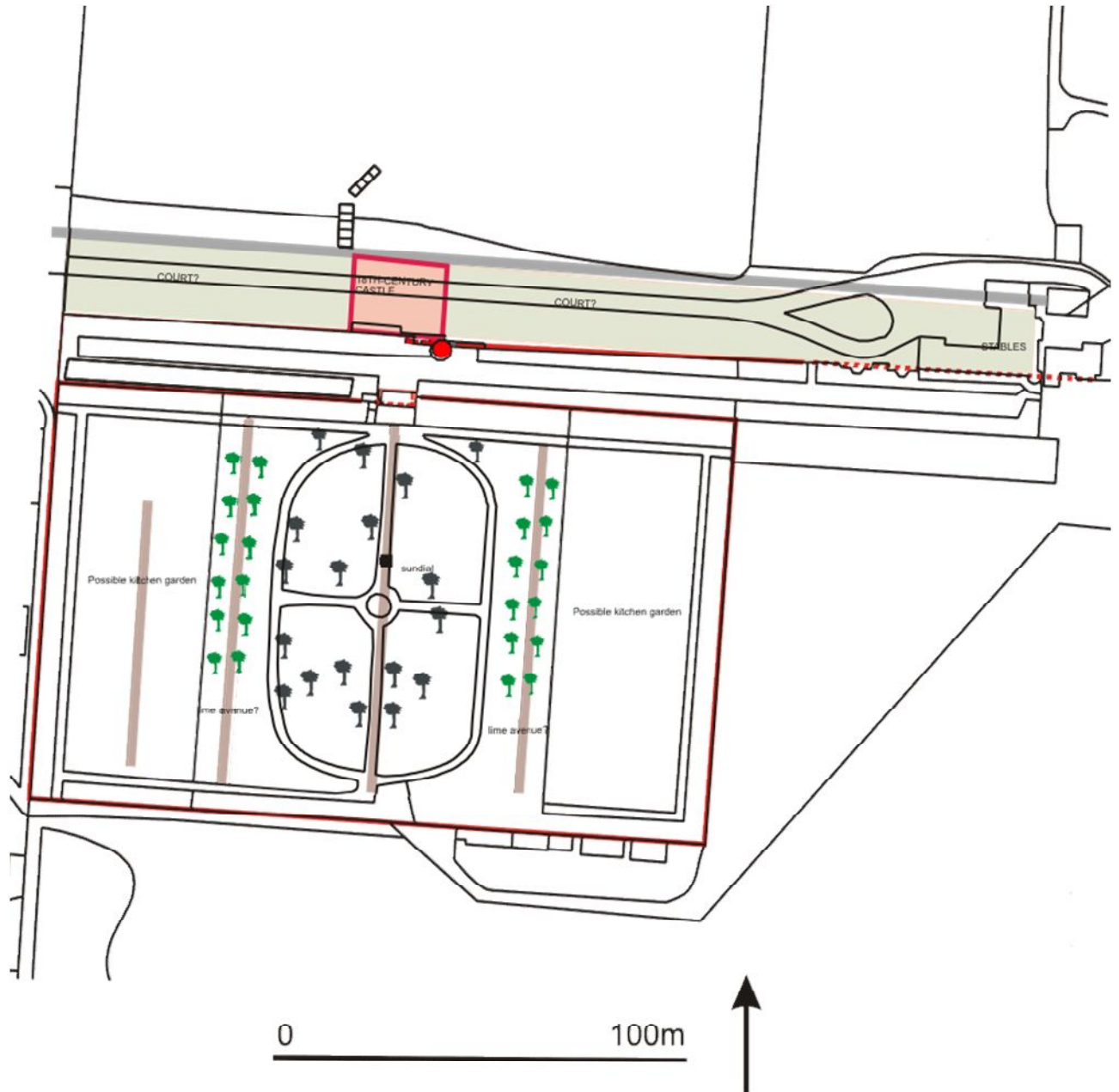
The use of part of the garden house as an 'outdoor room' was fashionable in the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with elaborate examples surviving, for example the pavilion at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire dated to 1709-11 (Anthony, 1997, 26). A garden house recessed into a terrace was built at Culross in 1674 (Brown 2012, 221) and, by 1719, Hatton House, SW of Edinburgh had three two-storied pavilions in the walls, two of which appear to have had doorways to upper and lower terraces (Brown, 2012, 232-3), reminiscent of the Garden House at Ellon.

It is important to remember that at this stage the yews would have been considerably smaller, with more light around them.

In the hypothetical layout (illus 138) it is suggested that the garden was divided by a series of N/S path, those flanking the central area, possibly being laid out as lime avenues- although as discussed above the limes may have flanked the later E/W paths. The yew hedges may also have existed at this period but are not shown on the layout plan.

It is suggested that the outer quadrants may have been used for fruit and vegetables; the production of food for the household was an important part of a garden at this period. A Mss diary of 1733 written by the gardener at Niddry Castle, Lothian

describes rows of vegetables including parsnips, peas, spinach, turnip, onions, radish and lettuce ([www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk) SCRAN 000-000-578-102) and gives an indication of the range of vegetables that may have been grown at Ellon Castle in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.



Illus 138 Suggested 18<sup>th</sup>-century layout

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### *10.3 The 19<sup>th</sup> century garden: 1801-1845 neglect under Hon William Gordon*

No development likely to have occurred in this period. It is probable that trees and shrubs became overgrown. In a sense the neglect at this period saved much of the earlier layout, avoiding the fashion for sweeping away terraces and formal gardens with open landscaping up to the house- as happened for example at Drum Castle where the terraced 17<sup>th</sup>-century gardens were demolished in 1779 (Murray & Murray, 2008, 4, 28) or at Castle Fraser where the 17<sup>th</sup>-century garden was dismantled in 1796 (Murray & Murray, 2010, 3).

### *10.4 The 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden: 1845- 73 Alexander Gordon*

Alexander Gordon, who had been partly brought up at Ellon Castle, and his gardener, John Murray, inherited a garden that had been neglected for some 45 years. They also had to recreate the garden in a way that enhanced its approach along the Terrace from the new castle to the E, with some emphasis on looking down on the walled garden from above.

They were recreating the garden at a time when large numbers of new plants were being introduced from all over the world (Ikin, 2012,49-54, 57-60) and it was Mr Black, the land steward at Ellon Castle, who had suggested the establishment of the Ellon Horticultural Society in 1849 (*Aberdeen Journal* 19<sup>th</sup> September 1849), no doubt with Alexander Gordon's blessing. The abolition of the Glass Tax in 1845 and technical advances in glass production, as well as enthusiasm spurred by the Crystal Palace in 1851, had led to a huge interest in glasshouses. The Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, for example, had built their Tropical Palm House in 1834, then the largest in Britain. Glasshouses were an important part of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Ellon Castle garden- as both the structural and plant information demonstrates.

The restructuring of the garden house and its new steps, the importance of the Terrace with its brightly coloured bedding, the balustrade around the 'viewing platform', the use of urns and the fountain all reflect the Italianate style of gardening which became popular in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Ikin, 2012, 76-87).

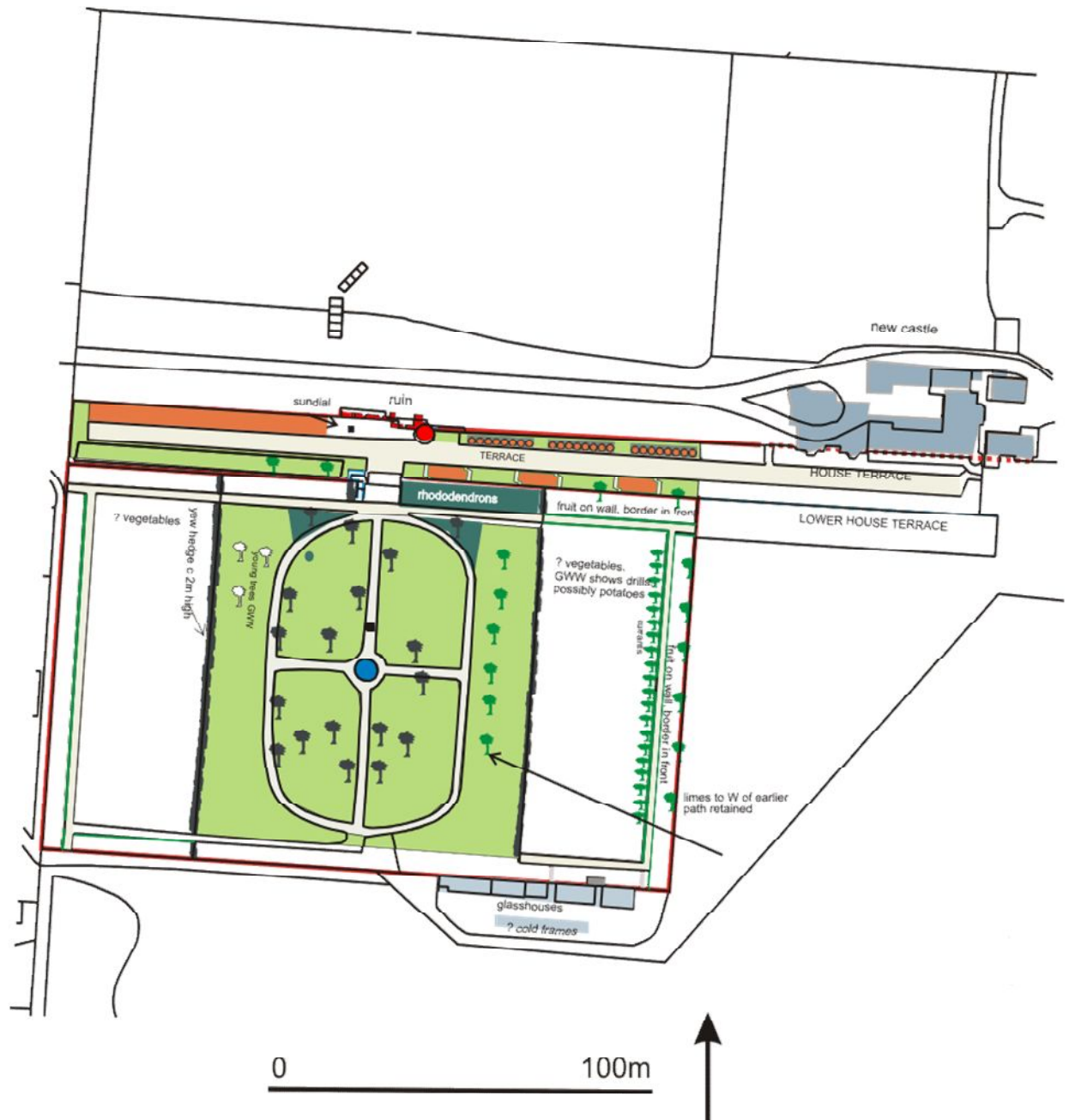
At Ellon Castle, this was somewhat softened by the incorporation of the existing yews in the central part of the walled garden. It is almost certainly at this stage that the oval path was constructed around the yews as it is centred on the new fountain, S of the

sundial. An interesting parallel to Ellon's yew garden can be seen at Owlpen, Gloucestershire (Mander & Mander 2006, 22-25) where yews thought to have been planted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as small trees in a parterre subsequently grew to a considerable size and have been described as , 'secret rooms of yew' (Vita Sackville-West, 1941). The N/S yew hedges at Ellon (which may date from the earlier garden- or may have been planted at this period) also divide the garden into a central 'room' flanked by the outer areas; this may have been to some extent a division between the practical kitchen gardens and the less formal central area.



Illus 139 Suggested layout 1845- c 1867 (1<sup>st</sup> OS map). The 1851 castle and new sections of wall are coloured blue. Orange has been used to show the planted beds on the Terrace. Green lines denote box hedging

The OS maps show changes in the garden between 1867 and 1899, such as the removal of the E/W paths across the outer quadrants (illus 140).



Illus 140 Suggested layout by c 1899 (2<sup>nd</sup> OS). The 1851 castle and new sections of wall are coloured blue. Orange has been used to show the planted beds on the Terrace.

### 10.5 The 20<sup>th</sup>-century garden

Since 1929, for much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the garden was maintained more or less on its Victorian plan during the ownership of Sir Edward Reid.

## 11 Suggestions for future archaeological work

11.1 As the garden is a Scheduled Monument, any structural works or excavations beyond normal garden work, require Scheduled Monument consent. It is suggested that it should be anticipated that any such work, including stabilisation of walls etc, would require the presence of an archaeologist to record any revealed structural details.

11.2 The geophysical survey (Ovenden 2016) indicates a number of anomalies that may be interpreted as earlier paths- or possibly walls. It is recommended that a series of small test pits (maximum 1 x 2m) should be excavated by hand to establish the nature of these anomalies. Scheduled Monument consent would be required for this work. The suggested location of these trial pits is shown in illus 141.



**Illus 141** Interpreted results of geophysical survey (Ovenden 2016, fig 8) with suggested test pits shown in red with red numbers 1-6.

11.3 During garden work and restoration it would be worthwhile to note any manufacturer's stamps noted on any bricks from the walls etc as these may aid in establishing which brickworks were used- and possibly the date of specific constructions.

11.4 It is suggested that the potential of dendrochronological coring and dating of the yews might be discussed with Dr Anne Crone, AOC Archaeology, Edinburgh,

## Acknowledgements

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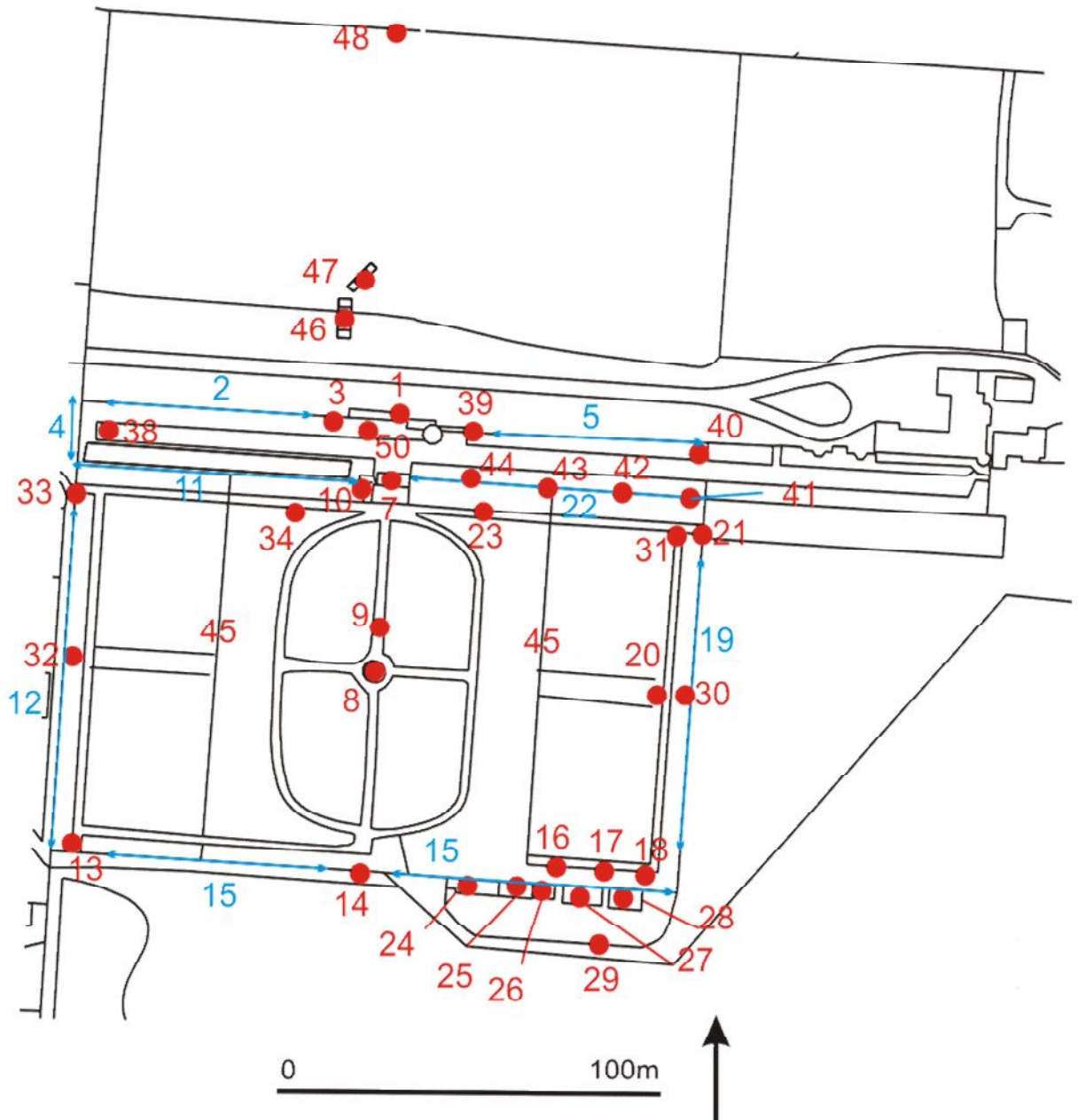
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## Appendix 1 Plan of features in Gazetteer



Illus 142 Key plan of features in Gazetteer. Ellon Castle Garden. Based on OS. Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital map data, © Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. 2012. License No 0100031673)

## Gazetteer of Features

No	Keyword	GPS	Documentary reference before 1867	1 <sup>st</sup> OS 1867	2 <sup>nd</sup> OS 1899	3 <sup>rd</sup> OS 1924	Other documentary references	Survey 2016
1	Ellon (old)castle	396009,830721	Giles painting. 1841					See text for discussion.
2	Wall of Upper Terrace W of castle	From 395990,830724 to 395925,830728						See text for discussion. H:2.35m, raises up over gate 3. W: 600mm. Coping flat thin stone slabs. Abuts Old Castle beside gate 3.
3	Garden door in N wall of terrace.	395990,830724		Shown with steps leading from terrace to drive	As 1867	As 1867	C1900 GWW GB0231 MS 3792/D0946. Shows this as solid timber door with vertical planks, hinged on W.	H: 1.96m W: 1.28m. Internal lintel moulded sandstone. Wall line sweeps up over lintel-as shown in GWW photograph.
4	W wall of Upper Terrace	From 395925,830728 to 395923, 830720						See text for discussion. H: 2.10m at NW corner, slopes down to 0.90m at central pillar , and to 0.77m at S pillar. Pillars sandstone 590 x 670mm.
5	Wall of Upper Terrace E of castle	From 396024,830721 to 396086,830718						See text for discussion. H: 2.10m, rises to 3.10m above door 39. Abuts old castle wall.
6	E wall of Upper Terrace	From 396086,830718 to 396085,830708						See text for discussion. H: 870mm.low wall either side of 3 wide shallow stone steps leading up to terrace beside 'New Castle'. Steps flanked by stone pillars with urns.
7	Garden House	396002,830708	Giles painting. 1841 shows 3 storied with central door in frontage.	Shown extending to front of gravel area, shown as glass	On existing footprint	On existing footprint	Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 218) GWW GB0231 MS3792/C2552. Shows front and E elevation. 2-storied with palisade on top. Upper windows 3/3 paned sash. Lower windows 6/6 paned sash. Door 2 leaves with glass panes over wooden panel	See text for discussion.
8	Fountain	395997,830658					Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 220)'	See text for discussion.
9	Sundial	396001,830669	Photograph Album				Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle	See text for discussion.

			No 4:Innes of Cowie Album.c.1862				(1900, 220) includes drawing of sundial by Arthur Gordon	
10	Steps to terrace	395997, 830709		On existing footprint	On existing footprint	On existing footprint	Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900) says replaced steps inside garden house GWW GB 0231 MS 3792/D0946 GWW GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553	See text for discussion
11	Garden N wall W of garden house	From 395999,830714 to 395922,830712					GWW GB 0231 MS 3792/D0946 shows S face of wall, urns on top. GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553 urns on top of coping. Possible bracket from removed greenhouse	See text for discussion.
12	Garden W wall	From 395922,830712 to 395915,830612						See text for discussion.
13	Garden door in S wall	395923,830616		Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position		Datestone 1715.H: 2.10m W: 1.34m. Externally chamfered grey sandstone rybats. Datestone above appears to be from a narrower doorway. Internally granite lintel and 1 granite rybat. Partly blocked with wrought iron gate and corrugated iron sheeting.
14	Gate in S wall	395996,830607		Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position		H: 2.39m W: 6.3m. Grey granite gate pillars with slightly-flared moulded caps. Wrought iron gates with central double carriage gates, each 1.79m wide, flanked by pedestrian gates 0.91m wide. Buttressed wrought iron supports between.
15	Garden S wall	From 395915,830612 to 396077,830601						See text for discussion.
16	Garden door in S wall from garden to greenhouses	396048,830604						H: 1.96m (to sill) internally 3 steps up from garden H: 2.08m to bottom step. W: 0.81m/ Granite lintel and sides internally. Remains of metal gate. Concrete blocked.
17	Shed	396058,830604		Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint		3.7 x 2.06m externally. Lean-to against N face of S garden wall. H: 2.15m at apex. Walls double skin brick 460mm wide,

18	Gate in S Garden door wall from garden to greenhouses	396069,830605		Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position		H: 1.88m W: 1.05m. Internally granite lintel Sandstone rybats. Concrete blocked.
19	Garden E wall	From 396077,830601 to 396085,830708						
20	Water cover	396073,830652						
21	Gate in E wall from garden to lower terrace in front of 'New' castle	396083,830695		Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position	GWW (GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553; GB 0231 MS 3792/C2205 Ref 12625)	W: 2.23m. H 1.55m (gate piers to base of cap). Gateway. Square granite gate piers (440 x 450mm) with angled caps. Metal rods in centre of caps indicates former position of finials. GWW GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553 ) shows urn finial. Plain iron gate H:1.52m W:2.11m. Granite steps up to terrace to E. Boot-scrape to N pillar.
22	Garden N wall E of garden house	From 396085,830708 to 396009,830708	Innes of Cowie Album NMRS PA 4/39V/2 shows railing c1850				Haddo House Painted Box c 1870 shows railing GWW GB 0231 MS 3792/C2552 shows urns, no railing	
23	Water tap	396027,830700						
24	Building	396025,830601		Smaller glazed building on part of footprint	Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint		13.5m x 4m. Wall 250mm thick ( two bricks width). Brick walls. May have been slate-roofed as much slate in rubble.
25	Boiler house	396036,830601		Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint		Lean-to against S side of S garden wall. 9.2m x 3.25m. Interior divided in 2 with E 3m having lower floor level by 900mm+
26	Greenhouse	396045,830599		Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint		6 x 3.5m . H at apex 3.5m.Details see text
27	Greenhouse	396053,830598		Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint		10.75 x 3.96m. Details see text.
28	Greenhouse	396060,830597		Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint	Building on present footprint		8.5 x 4.6m. Details see text.
29	Wall	396059,830588 (centre)		Wall on present line	Wall on present line	Wall on present line		W: 300mm. H: 400mm. Granite block wall with iron fittings for a railing along the top.
30	Seat	396078,830652						Stone seat at centre of E wall in main garden. As 32
31	Stone socket	396079,830695						On S side of path to gate 21, 2.42m W of gate. Stone 300mm sq. with central Fe inset socket 130mm sq. to hold upright.
32	Seat	395921,830662						Stone seat at centre W wall. Top 1.28m x 400mm. Total H: 350mm. Top 150mm thick with rolled moulding, set on 2 rectangular

								blocks.
33	Garden door in W wall	395921,830706		Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position	Path leads to gate position		H: 2.28m. W: 1.18m. Set 500mm deep in wall. Granite surround.
34	Water cover	395979,830701						Water stop-cock cover
35	Seat	-						Cast iron seat /seat end stored outside Garden House
36	Seat	-						Cast iron seat /seat end stored outside Garden House
37	Seat	-						Cast iron seat /seat end stored outside Garden House
38	Seat	395929,830721						Stone seat at W end Upper terrace. As 32. Not photographed.
39	Blocked Garden door in N wall of terrace	396024,830721		No path to gate	No path to gate	No path to gate	Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle memoirs (1900)	In Terrace N wall. H: 2.20m W:1.02m Internally granite lintel, margins outlined in concrete render. Externally sandstone lintel and rybats. Blocked on outer aide with stone, creating a shallow alcove on inner side with stone seat 51 on a stone step.
40	Seat	396084,830717						Stone seat by N wall Terrace, E end. As 32 but re-using worked sandstone- possibly from Old Castle
41	Quern	396083,830704						Rotary quern. At present set on top of N garden wall.
42	Urn	396064,830705						Broken base of concrete urn on top of E section of garden N wall. Not photographed.
43	Urn	396045,830707						Concrete urn on top of E section of garden N wall
44	Urn	396025,830708						Fixing for concrete urn on top of E section of garden N wall. Not photographed.
45	Yew hedge	From 395962,830709 (N) to 395954,830610 (S)						Overgrown N/S yew hedge, between W quadrant of garden and central area.
46	Steps to N of drive	395990,830748						Double flight of stone steps up terraced slope to N of drive. W:1.7m including sides. Step W: 1.23m. Step H: 170mm. W of tread: 280mm
47	Upper steps to N of drive	395991,830757						Narrower higher set of stone steps up terrace to N of drive.. W:650mm, W of tread: 260mm. H: 170mm.
48	Memorials set in outer N wall N of	396004,830825						Stone memorials to horses set in S face of wall. From R to L: <i>Grit</i> 1895-1911 square stone set in wall

	drive							<p><i>Pinkie</i> (date lost) square stone set in wall  <i>Priah Hanover</i> 1858 square stone set in wall  <i>Whimsie</i> faithful and true. Ottava (?) 1894 square stone set in wall  <i>Old Charlie</i> 1859  <i>Young Charley</i> 1868  <i>Muff</i> 1874 All on rectangular stone with rounded top, fallen from wall  <i>Charly</i> 1852 small stone set in wall  <i>Ythan</i> 1858 semi-circular stone set in wall  <i>Maesie</i> 1875 square stone set in wall</p>
49	Yew hedge	From 396045, 830706 (N) to 396039, 830611						Overgrown N/S yew hedge, between E quadrant of garden and central area.
50	Sundial		Giles painting 1841				Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle (1900, 230) GWW photograph GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553 shows it standing to W of square tower of Old Castle.	See text for discussion.
51	Seat	396024,830721	C 1862. Photograph Album No 4:Innes of Cowie Album NMRS PA 4/39V/1.				Probably referred to by Eleanor Vere (Gordon) Boyle, 1900, 232) GWW photograph c. 1888-1900 GB 0231 MS 3792/C2553 shows edge of seat	In front of gate 39. Stone seat with rolled moulding on front edge set on two rough blocks. Stands on wide stone step. Metal rose trellis over.

Photo number	Feature No	Subject
001	7	Garden House. Interior. E wall
002-003	7	Garden House. Interior W wall
004-006	7	Garden House. Interior. S wall.
007-010	7	Garden House. Interior. N wall
011-012	7	Garden House. Interior looking E
013-015	7	Garden House. Interior. Looking W
016-019	7	Garden House. Graffiti to W side of door D1
020-029	35	Cast iron set ends
030-033	9	Ball finial of sundial
034-038	9	Sundial (in Garden House in 2016)
039-044	9	Sundial shaft looking S
045-046	9	Sundial shaft N face
047	9	Sundial shaft W face
048	9	Sundial shaft S face
049-050	9	Sundial, looking N to Garden House
051-052	9	Sundial looking S to main gate
053	9	Sundial shaft E face
054-056	-	Boiler door
057-059	7	Garden House. Interior. Detail of heating flue
060-064	7	Garden House. S elevation
065-067	7	Garden House. S elevation. Central door (D1)
068	7	Garden House. S elevation. Upper window
069-070	7	Garden House. S elevation. Ground floor window.
071-072	7	Garden House. Balustrade
073-074	7	Garden House. E elevation.
075	7	Garden House. E elevation. Ground floor door. (D2)
076-077	7	Garden House. W elevation from steps. 1 <sup>st</sup> floor blocked door (D3)
078		Cast iron seat
079		Cast iron seat
080	10	Steps looking N
081	10	Detail of pillar to E of steps
082	10	Detail of boot-scrape to W of steps at S end
083-085	10	E elevation of steps
086-088	10	W elevation of steps
089	10, 7	Below steps. Blocked door into Garden House (D4) in centre.
090-092	10	Below steps- ceiling/base of steps and landing
093	10, 7	Below steps. Blocked door into Garden House (D4) in centre.
094-095	10	Below steps. S end. Possible channel
096-097	10	Below steps. Ceiling/base of steps and landing
098-099	10	Below steps, looking form opening in W elevation
100-101		Geophysical survey by Rose Geophysical Consultants
102	10	Steps. Lower landing looking W
103		Geophysical survey by Rose Geophysical Consultants
104-105	10	Steps. 2 <sup>nd</sup> landing, looking N
106-107	10	Looking down steps from terrace to 2 <sup>nd</sup> landing, looking N
108	7	Garden House. Viewing platform and balustrade on roof.
109-113	3	Garden door in N wall of terrace
114-115	2	N wall of terrace, W of old castle. Looking W
116-118	4	W wall of terrace
119	1, 5, 39	N wall of terrace. E of old castle. Looking W
120-121	39	Garden door in N wall of terrace
122-123		Looking E along terrace to new castle
124	40	Looking N along E end of terrace to seat 40
125	5, 1	Looking W along N wall of terrace to old castle
126	40	Seat detail
127		Looking E along terrace to new castle
128	41, 22	Quern on top of N wall of garden 22
129-130	22	Top of N garden wall, looking W
131	43	Urn on N garden wall 22

132-133		Walled garden. Looking S in E quadrant.
134-135	19, 21	Walled garden. E quadrant, looking SE along wall 19. Gate 21 on LHS
136		Walled garden. E quadrant, looking SW towards lime trees
137		Walled garden. Central yews from terrace
138-139		Walled garden. W side of central area. Yews to LHS, overgrown yew hedge to RHS
140-141		Walled garden. W quadrant looking S. overgrown yew hedge LHS, Irish yews across centre and RHS
142	10	Steps. Upper flight showing reinforced concrete
143	8	Fountain. Looking S
144	8	Fountain. Detail of broken central urn
145-146	8	Fountain. Water pipe in concrete cover from LHS. Small measure at back shows drain position
147	8	Fountain. Detail of outlet drain
148	11	Walled garden. N wall (W). Looking W
149-150	11	Walled garden. N wall (W). Detail of structure at broken areas
151-152	11	Walled garden. N wall (W). Looking W
153	11, 1, 7, 10	Walled garden. N wall (W). Looking E to Garden House
154-155	11	Walled garden. N wall (W). W end with fruit trees
156-158	33	Walled garden. Garden door
159	12	Walled garden. W wall. Looking S with box edging
160-161	12	Walled garden. W wall. Looking S. Irish yews
162	12	Stone seat 32 by wall 12
163	12	Walled garden. W wall. Looking N
164	13	Walled garden. Interior of garden door 13
165-166	15	Walled garden. S wall looking E (W end)
167-168		Walled garden. Yew hedge dividing W quadrant
169-170	14	Walled garden. Gate to Deer Park from garden inside view.
171-173	14	Walled garden. Gate to Deer Park from garden view from outside
174	13	External view of garden door with datestone above. Note date is on narrower lintel
175-176	13	Detail of datestone above door 13
177	15	External view of garden wall and gate 13, looking to SW corner.
178	15	Walled garden. Looking E along inside of S wall, E of gate 14
179	16	Walled garden. Blocked door to greenhouses in wall 15
180-181	18	Walled garden. Blocked door to greenhouses in wall 15
182	19	Walled garden. E wall. Looking N.
183		Walled garden. Looking W along central cross path with Irish yews
184	19	Walled garden. Sample tree tag from apple on E wall.
185-186	21, 19	Walled garden. Gate in E wall to lower garden terrace.
187	31	Post fitting?
188		Walled garden looking S along E path; box edging
189	20	Water stop cock cover
190	22	Walled garden. View NNW up E path to N wall (E)
191	22, 1	Walled garden. N wall (E). Looking W
192-193	22, 7, 10	Walled garden. N wall (E). Looking W to Garden House. Buttress
194	17, 15	Walled garden. Shed 17 against S wall. Looking SE
195	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. W wall external
196-197	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. N wall external
198	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. E wall external
199	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. E wall external, detail of window with re-used stone as lintel
200	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. W wall internal; shelf marks
201-202	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. E wall internal; shelf marks
203	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. Floor; cast iron glass frames
204-205	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. W wall internal; shelf marks
206	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. Floor; cast iron glass frames
207	17	Walled garden. Shed 17. roof slates at junction to wall 15
208	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28 looking NE

209	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28 W wall, SW corner
210-211	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28 W wall. Maker's name
212	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28 W wall. Door
213-214	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. SW corner. Vent winder
215-216	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. S wall. Vents
217-218	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. Detail of fixings for glass
219	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. S wall
220	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. gutter
221-223	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. E wall, looking W through greenhouse
224	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. Junction with S garden wall
225-231	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. Details of heating pipes and traces of bench supports
232-233	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. Details of hooks for support wires.
234	28	Outside garden. Greenhouse 28. Gutter
235-237	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27. S wall
238	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27. E wall and vent winding gear
239-241	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27. Detail of winding gear
242-244	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27. Living vine growing through roof
245-246	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27. Winding gear W end
247-248	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27 W wall
249-251	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27. Interior heating pipes
252-253	27	Outside garden. Greenhouse 27. Junction with S wall of garden. Interior brick lining
254-255	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. S wall
256	26, 25	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Junction with SE corner of 25
257	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Blocked primary vent
258	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Gutter and metal spout drain at SW corner
259-260	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. E wall
261	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Maker's name
262-264	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Looking W along interior
265-266	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Mister pipes
267	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Interior S wall
268	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Interior N wall
269	26	Outside garden. Greenhouse 26. Interior W wall
270-271	25	Outside garden. Boiler House. S wall.
272-273	25	Outside garden. Boiler House. W wall, junction with 24. Interior
274-276	25	Outside garden. Boiler House. E end interior and pipes
277-278	24	Outside garden. Building 24. S wall
279-280	24	Outside garden. Building 24. E wall interior, junction to 25
281-282	24	Outside garden. Building 24. W end
283	29	Outside garden. Wall 29. Looking E
284-287	24-28	Outside garden. Greenhouses looking NE
288-289	7, 10	Walled garden. Garden House. W elevation. Door D3
290-292		Walled garden. Looking S along W quadrant. W border
293-295		Walled garden. Looking S along W quadrant between Irish yews and yew hedge
296-298	1	Kennedy coat of arms on old castle
299-300	1	Terrace. Looking E along S facade of old castle
301-303	1	Terrace. Old castle detail S wall
304	1	Terrace. Old castle . detail of tower. S aspect
305-308	3	Driveway. Garden door to terrace, external
309-312	39	Driveway. Garden door 39. External
313-314	1	Old castle ruin. Back of S wall. Looking SW
315-317	1	Old castle ruin. Back of S wall. Looking SE
318-322	46	Woodland. Steps. Looking N
323-324	47	Woodland. Steps. Looking N.
325	46	Woodland. Looking S down steps to drive
326-344	48	Woodland. Memorials in N wall.
345		Woodland. Looking down to drive, showing terracing

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346-348	39	Terrace. Garden door 39. Interior.
349	22, 41	Terrace. E end of N wall of walled garden from terrace
350	15	Walled garden. Detail of S wall
351-352		Walled garden. E quadrant. Looking NNE with Irish yews pruned
353	19	Walled garden. Detail of difference in construction E wall.
354	22	Walled garden. Details of wall construction at NE corner
355-356	15, 14	Walled garden. Repair of S wall by gate 14
357-371	50	Sundial with heads in storage box