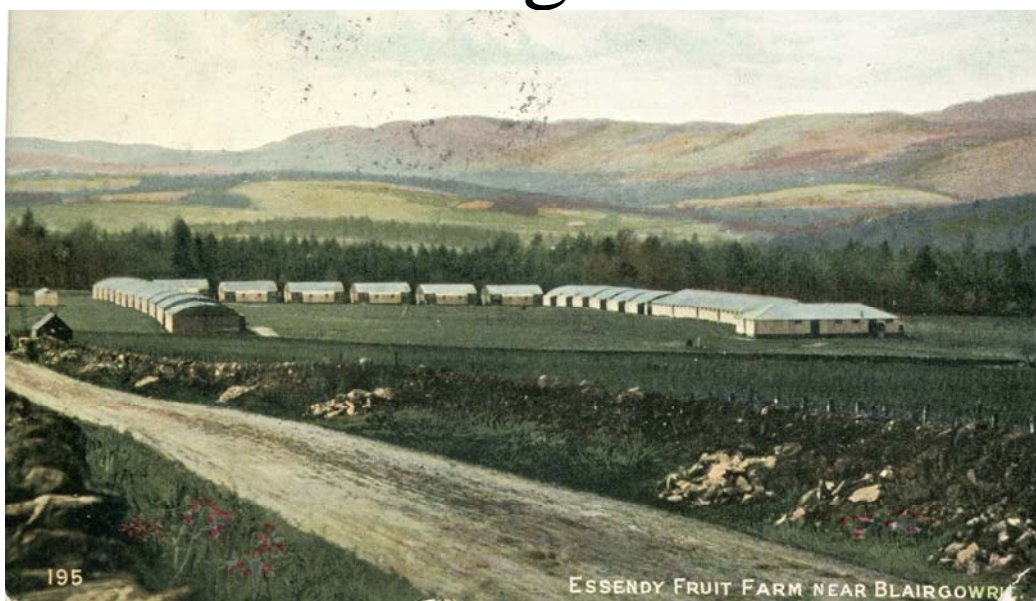


Some notes on

‘Tin City’

(Berry pickers’ accommodation)

formerly located at
Wester Essendy,
Blairgowrie



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Disclaimer. These notes on ‘Tin City’ have been assembled in good faith; no assertion is made as to their accuracy.

CHAPTER 1 - 'TIN CITY' – A SCOTLAND'S RURAL PAST PROJECT

From circa 1905 to the 1960s a permanent accommodation camp (Figure 1) for seasonal berry pickers existed at Wester Essendy, Blairgowrie, Perthshire. The camp was known by various names including: Tin City, Model Fruit Farm, The Essendy Experiment, Essendy Colony, Essendy Fruit Farm and Essendy Dormitories. The camp was finally demolished in the 1970s.

These notes aim to record physical evidence from the site as found during 2008-2011 field walking



Figure 1 - Essendy Berry Pickers Accommodation, Wester Essendy (Source unknown)

and survey, along with reference to contextual historical information as part of the Scotland's Rural Past project.

The camp is referred to as Tin City throughout these notes simply because that was the name first heard applied to the camp.

A Little History.

In his book *Raspberry Growing in Scotland*, Hodge (1921) tells us that the main business of Blairgowrie had, following the demise of the local hand-loom business, been fruit-growing and in particular strawberries. However, by the early 1900s focus had, due to dominant competition, switched from strawberries to raspberries that were particularly suited to the local climate and soil conditions and Blairgowrie had become 'the centre of the raspberry industry' (1921: 1).

In late 1902, the 450-acre estate of Drumellie and Essendy (aka Wester Essendy Estate) – 'including 2 farms, 2 pendicles¹ and a smithy' - located 3-4 miles west of Blairgowrie came on the market. Two local businessmen, Messrs Keay and Hodge, solicitors, formed the new company Blair Estates Company Ltd (Figure 2) to purchase the estate (Blairgowrie Advertiser 1903: 6, reproduced at Annex A, Figure 1) for £7,000 with an entry date of Martinmas 1903, when the price had to be paid.

Of the original 450 acres, arrangements were made to sell 201 acres of the land unsuitable for berry growing to a local land owner for £4,475 who wanted access to the adjacent Loch Marlee. Most of

¹ Pendicle: (Scottish) A small property that is a subsidiary part of a larger estate.

the remaining land was divided into small holdings of 5 to 25 acres (Figure 3) with a fixed price of £50 per acre (Weathers 1913).

Arrangements were that for a small (unspecified) down payment, purchasers could pay the balance in 10-yearly instalments with 4% interest on the outstanding balance (Hodge 1921: 12). Around this time, as the Blairgowrie Advertiser (1903: 6) newspaper notes ‘the liability of proprietors to pay compensation under the Market Gardeners’ Compensation Act has made proprietors unwilling to let ground for fruit-growing ...’.

“BLAIR ESTATES CO., LTD.” has been registered (office, 13 Albert Square, Dundee), to carry on the business of fruit-growers, market gardeners, &c. The capital is £12,000, in shares of £10 each. The signatories to the formation of the Company are:—A. M’Kay, C.A., 13 Albert Street, Dundee; W. Low, Belbo, Cupar Fife, wholesale merchant; J. M. Hodge, Blairgowrie, solicitor; William Keay, do., solicitor; A. Simpson, Dundee, musicseller; W. M. Keay and James A. Keay, Dundee, ironfounders.

Figure 2 - Registration of Blair Estates Co Ltd
Blairgowrie Advertiser 28 Nov 1903, 4

By the entry date of 1903, 156 acres of the small-holding land had been re-sold to ‘men of various crafts – an engineer, a joiner, a plumber, a dyker, a clothier, a shop assistant, and a lady from the West, attracted to the scheme because the glamour of social reform had been thrown over it (Hodge 1921: 13).

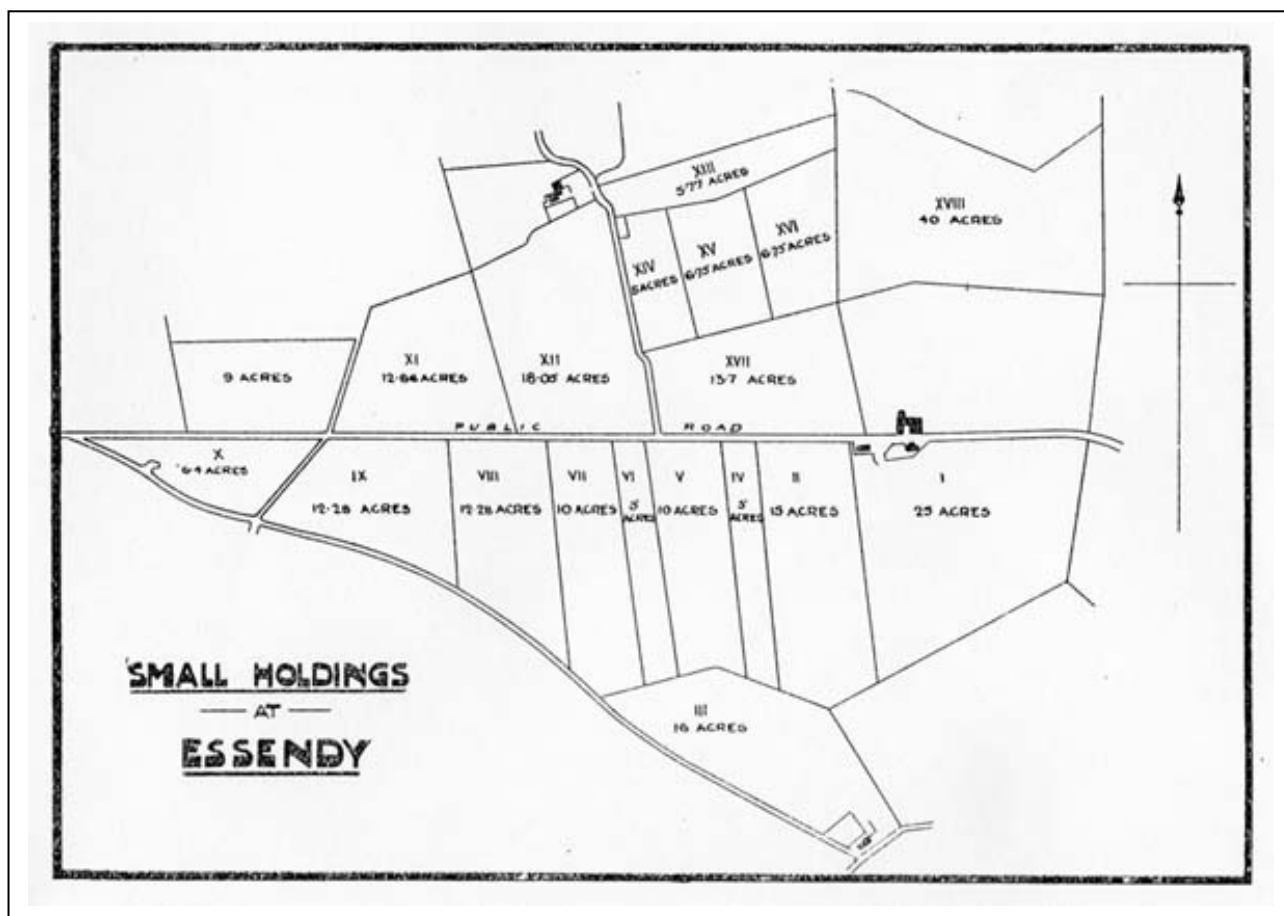


Figure 3 - Wester Essendy Small Holdings (Hodge 1921: 13)

According to the Blairgowrie Advertiser (1903: 6) 'the buyers are bound to lay down at least part in fruit ...'. Judging by the newspaper article at Figure 4 the growers, following land entry at Martinmass 1903, immediately set to work on planting raspberries.

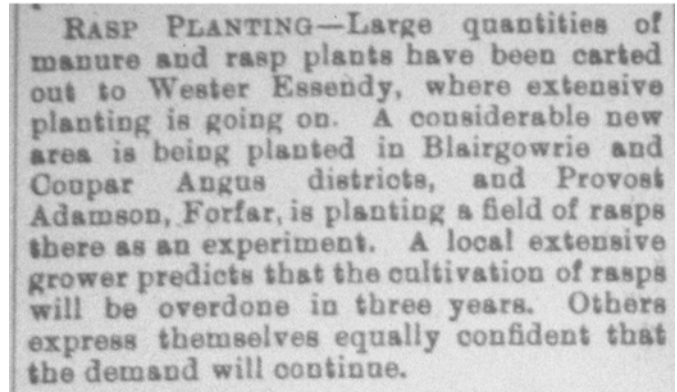


Figure 4 - Initial Raspberry Planting at Wester Essendy (Blairgowrie Advertiser 28 Nov 1903, 4)

Hodge (1921: 14) notes that following the 'disastrous years 1909-10, when raspberries averaged a lower price than they had ever done before, would have swept some of them out of the colony if the [Blair Estates]

Company had not come to their assistance, postponing the payment of instalments, and advancing money to work their holdings.' The small holders succeeded and repaid all monies.

Berry Pickers Accommodation.

As fruit growing got underway in the Blairgowrie area, the requirement for berry pickers were met by the local population and those within commuting distance, hence there was no need for specific berry-picker accommodation. However, as fruit-growing expanded the local villagers were no longer sufficient in number and berry pickers from afar were required and this created a need for accommodation. Hodge (1921: 16) tells us that 'Mr James M. McDonald, for long farmer and fruit grower ... was the first to recognise the need for housing.' He erected corrugated iron buildings, fitted with wooden beds, and supplied with straw and blankets. Other fruit-growers followed suit and 'the fields became dotted with the more or less respectable sheds for the housing of the pickers' (Hodge 1921: 16).

In 1905, the Essendy growers faced the housing problem.

CHAPTER 2 - TIN CITY BERRY PICKERS ACCOMMODATION: THE SITE

Berry Picker Accommodation Requirement.

With increased fruit growing more berry pickers were required during the picking season; this demand exceeded local supply and non-local pickers were employed. These temporary non-local berry pickers needed accommodation. To that end fruit growers throughout the region erected various accommodation buildings on their land. In 1905, the requirement for temporary accommodation for berry pickers at Essendy needed to be addressed.

Accommodation Site.

The solution was to create a settlement suitable for the ‘respectable picker’ on ‘a moor at the west end of the [Essendy] holdings’.

By comparing the known location of the Tin City settlement with Hodge’s (1921: 13) hand-drawn map of the Essendy small-holding (Figure 1) we can see that he is referring to the 9-acre land parcel shown on the west (left) side of the map. Hodge does not say who owned this 9-acre land parcel.

By comparing the shape of the 9-acre land parcel in **Error! Reference source not found.** with field survey, modern map overlays and text from the 1913 dispositions discussed below we observe that the Essendy Settlement comprised some 7 acres on the eastern side of the 9-acre plot.

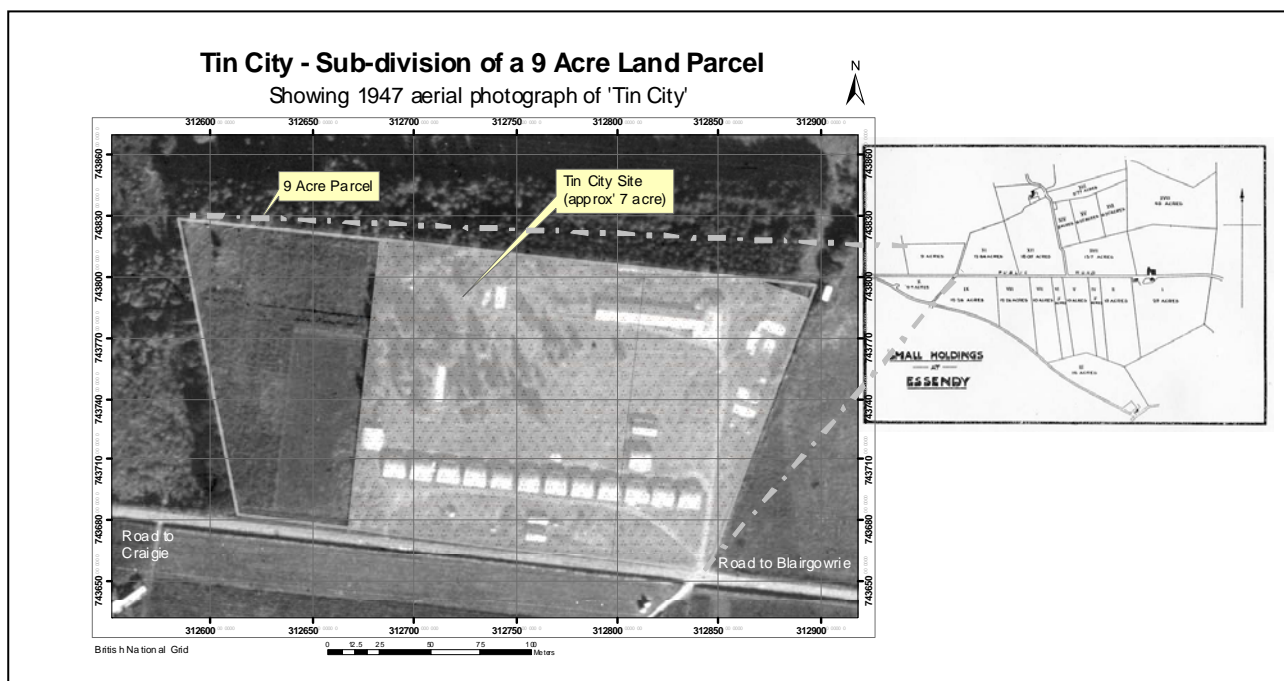


Figure 1 - Location of Tin City Site at Wester Essendy. Aerial Photo RCAHMS.

Tin City 1905-1913.

Hodge (1921: 18) tells us that “much thought was given at the outset” to the development of the Essendy berry pickers accommodation and that ‘the plan once agreed upon was adhered to until the holdings were in full bearing and houses adequate to the needs of the community had been erected’ and that ‘progress of the operations may be gathered from the money expended year by year: 1905, £733; 1906, £1,927; 1907, £731; and 1908, £50’.

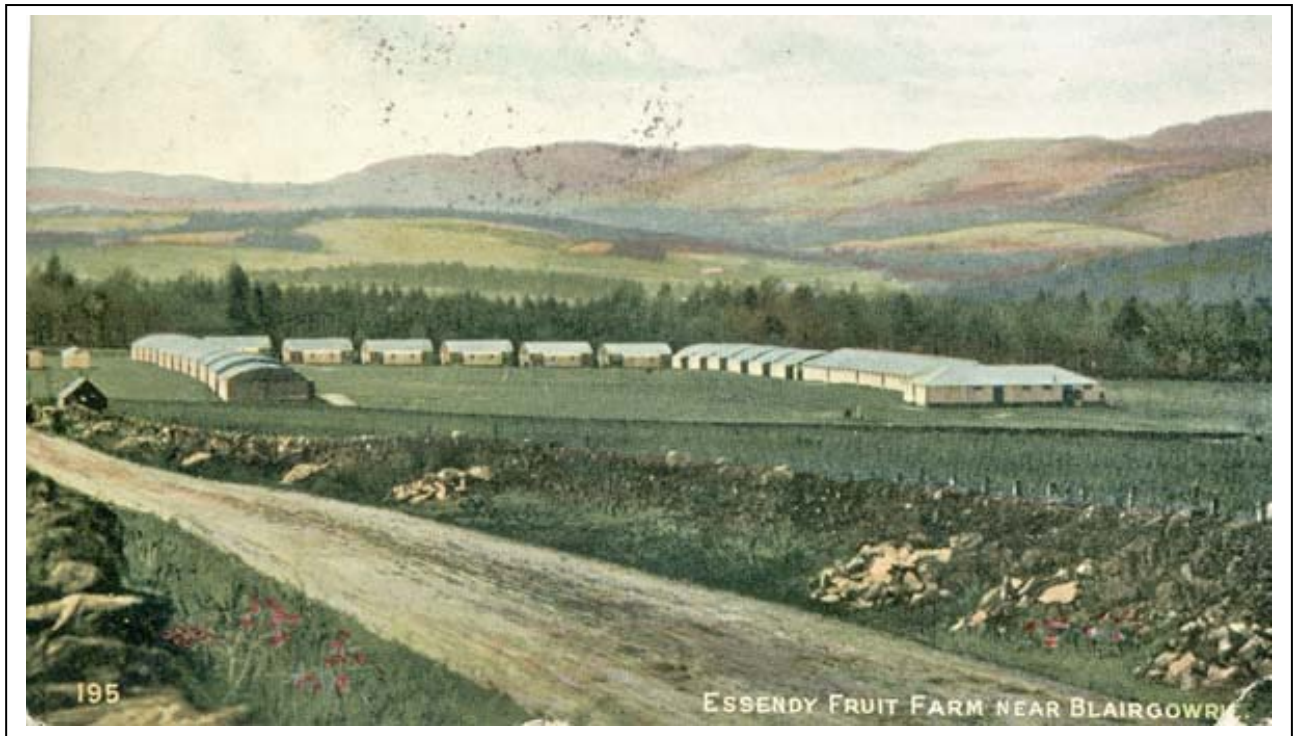


Figure 3 - Tin City Site pre-1913. Source unknown

When completed, presumably 1908 from above, Hodge (1921: 18-19) says that the buildings consisted of: 2 kitchens, 3 spacious dining rooms, 48 dormitories, drying sheds, and lavatories. Hodge also says that ‘within the gates’ there were a grocer’s shop, a stationer’s shop and a post office.

Hodge also tells us that ‘the settlement housed the pickers of all the growers on co-operative lines, each grower having a *pro indiviso* interest in the buildings in proportion to the acreage of ground he owned; ...’. Whether Hodge was referring to ownership of the Settlement ground or other ground is not known. Similarly, Weathers (1913) notes that the Essendy fruit growers ‘erected substantial accommodation, on a co-operative basis, with the financial assistance of the Blair Estates Company’ with each grower agreeing ‘to pay a share of the expenses in proportion to the number of pickers he employed.’

<u>Poles</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Price paid</u>
181.4	1.1338	£31-12s-0d
37.7	0.2356	£6-11s-0d
150.6	0.9413	£26-4s-0d
112	0.7000	£19-10s-0d
112.07	0.7004	£19-10s-0d
75.5	0.4719	£13-3s-0d
75.5	0.4719	£13-3s-0d
75.5	0.4719	Unknown
75.6	0.4725	Unknown
221.82	1.3864	Unknown

Figure 2 - Prices paid (1914) per Tin City land parcel

Figure 2 shows a postcard image of the Tin City settlement; the postcard, with stamp, is postmarked June 1913.

A recruitment poster seeking berry-pickers for the 1906 picking-season (Annex B) describes the accommodation available at Wester Essendy.

Tin City 1913 Onwards.

Although the Tin City settlement was seemingly fully operational by 1908 (operational expenditure above) we see from land dispositions (1914) that the Blair Estates Company Ltd sold the land comprising the Essendy Settlement site as 10 various-sized near-rectangular land parcels (Figure 4) to 9 individuals and, in one case, their partner.

Ownership of a 10th non-rectangular parcel at the eastern edge of the Settlement seems to have passed to a growers trust.

In all cases, the land parcels, comprising several different widths (west to east) extended fully from the northern site boundary to the southern public road.

Prices paid per parcel (left to right in Figure 4) are shown in Figure 3. Prices approximate to £28 per acre.

The dispositions relating to the 3 western land parcels and hence the purchase price have not been identified.

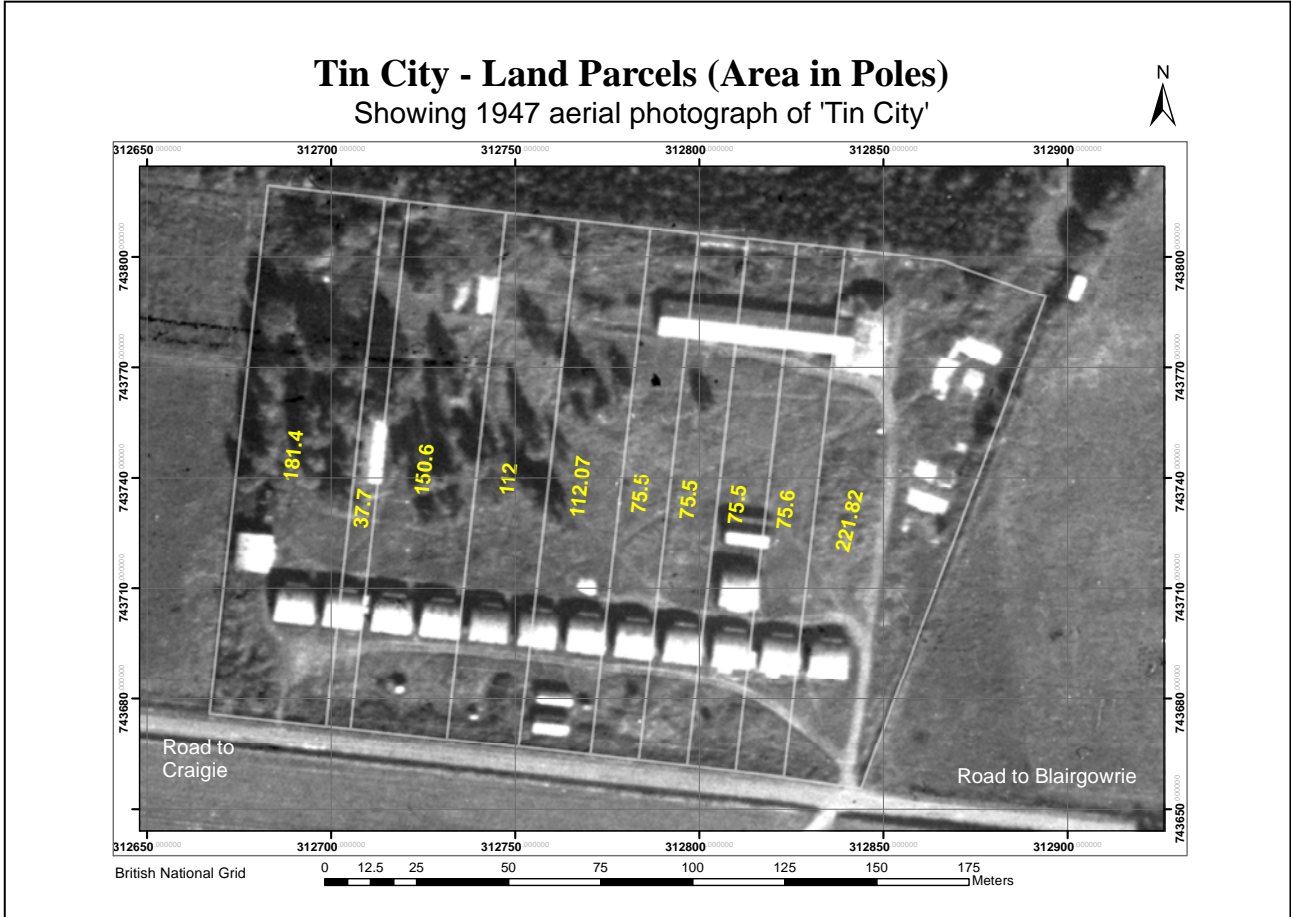


Figure 4 - Tin City Land Parcels Map (Peet 2011; Aerial Photograph RCAHMS)

The 7 dispositions relating to the western plots state ‘With entry as at the term of Martinmas, nineteen hundred and thirteen’ although in all cases the dispositions appear to have been signed 10 December 1914 and were registered at Perth (General Register of Sasines) on 16 December 1914.

Note: a Pole, or more correctly a Square Pole equals 0.00625 acre or 25.29m²([Wikipedia Poles](#)).

CHAPTER 3 - TIN CITY – LIE OF THE LAND

Why was Tin City built where it was?

Hodge (1921: 12) tells us that not all of the land of the former estate of Essendy and Drumellie was suitable for fruit-growing and that 201 acre of the poorest land was immediately sold off by the end of 1903. Moreover, by 1905 - when it seems that work on building Tin City began – the 9 acre land parcel at the western edge of the Wester Essendy small-holdings, on which Tin City was built, had not been sold as a small holding for fruit-growing. This suggests that this 9-acre was also poor land.

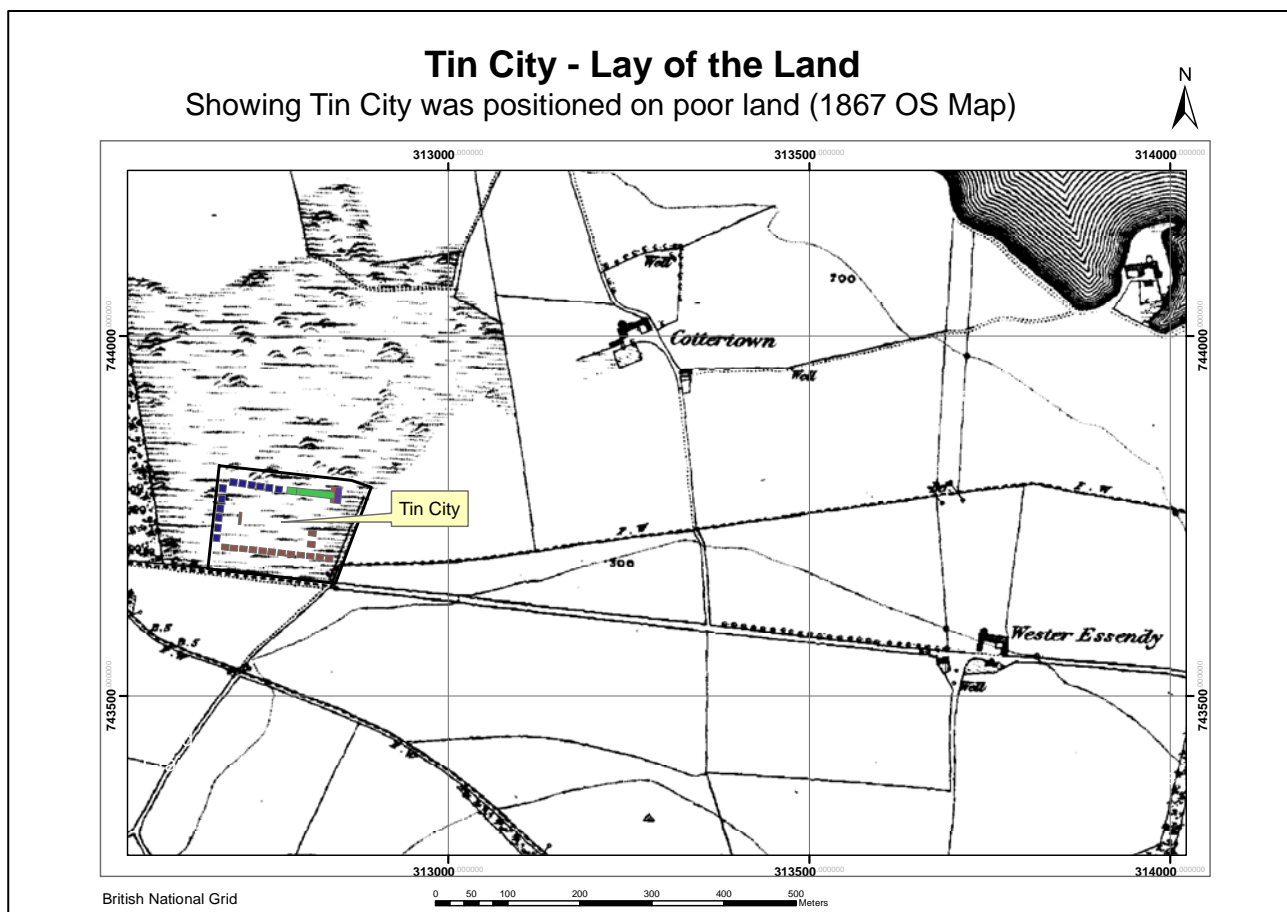


Figure 1 – Tin City Site Location – (Peet 2011, Ordnance Survey 1867 Map (EDINA 2008))

The black-and-white Ordnance Survey 1867 map (Figure 1) shows the Tin City site as being located on rough scrub land and possibly boggy land as well. Certainly the 1867 map does not suggest the area was utilised as agricultural land.

In 2011, during periods of wet weather the central region of the Tin City site rapidly becomes water logged. Figure 2 shows the areas of water logging along with the raised path and track areas.

It's worth a speculation that the builders of Tin City were aware of the lie of the land in terms of water logging and elected to build around those areas; thus leaving the centre area clear of buildings. Whether the land they built on was naturally slightly higher – the site warrants no contour lines on modern OS maps – or whether buildings simply followed the edges of the site is unknown. The 'raised' paths are in places edged by stone and contain a significant amount of aggregate. Whether, over time, the builders simply added aggregate to paths to generally improve

them or whether there was deliberate action to raise the paths above any water –logging is unknown. See report section on paths and tracks.

It's noted that the accommodation building (TC-16) located more centrally was apparently a wooden construction on stilts.

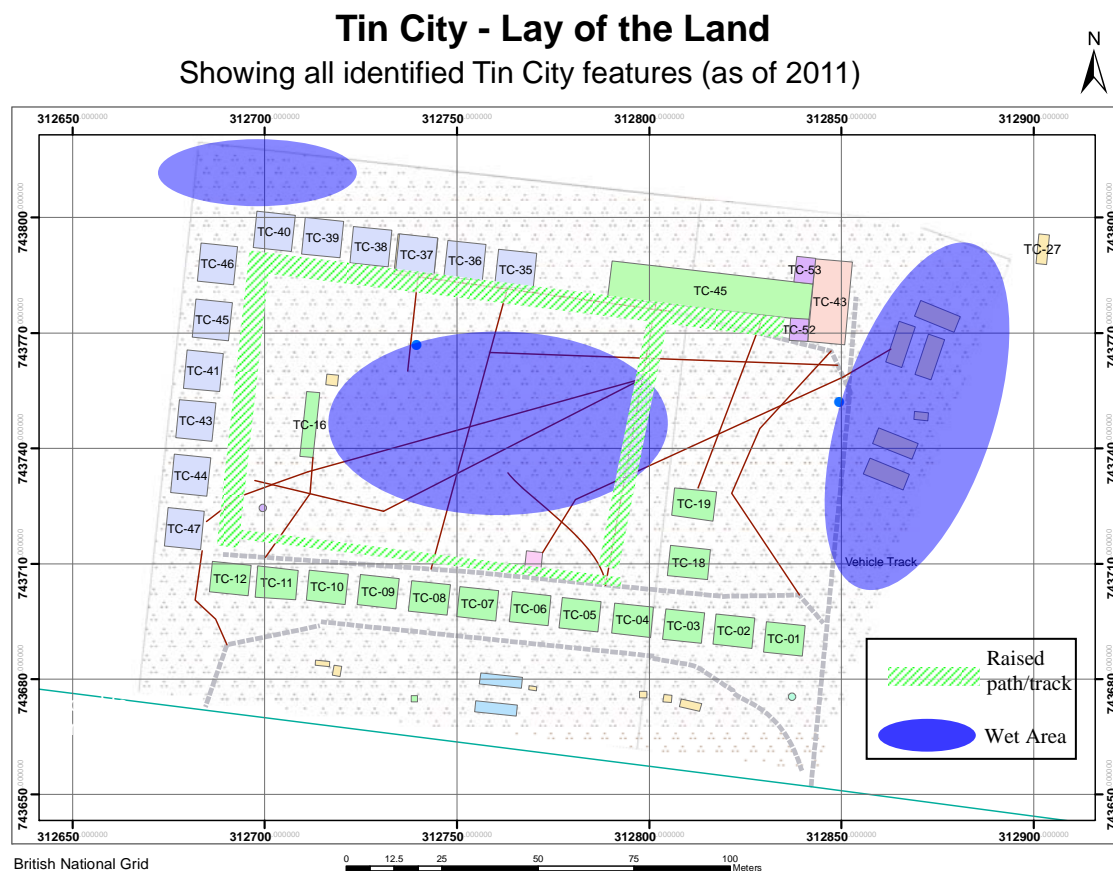


Figure 2 - Map of water logged and raised area 2011 (Peet 2011)

Local comment¹ also suggests that fruit growers experimented with growing on the land to the west of the Tin City site – an area that formed part of the original 9-acre land parcel on which Tin City was built - but despite installing (pot) field drainage pipes the land was found to be too wet for berry growing.

Figure 3 shows water logging (13 Feb 2011) in the central area of the site.

¹ 'Local comment': this refers to a verbal source without citation. Someone, somewhere, sometime said something.



Figure 3 - Water-logged Land at Tin City (Peet 2011)

CHAPTER 4 - TIN CITY – INFRASTRUCTURE – BUILDINGS TIMELINE

Buildings on the Tin City site changed over time. The following discussion attempts to place the limited number of available site-wide images of Tin City into chronological order and establish, for the purpose of these notes, some notional phases for the site. From each image a geo-referenced map is derived.

Phase 1 - The Start.

As mentioned previously, Hodge (1921) in his book *Raspberry Growing in Scotland* tells us that the Essendy Settlement's (Tin City) buildings, when completed, comprised: 2 kitchens, 3 spacious dining rooms, 48 dormitories, drying sheds, and lavatories. Hodge also says that 'within the gates' there were a grocer's shop, a stationer's shop and a post office.

Whilst Hodge does not say explicitly in what year the buildings were completed (obviously prior to the 1921 book publication) the context of his writing relating to 'progress of operations' expenses:

- 1905, £733.
- 1906, £1,927.
- 1907, £731.
- 1908, £50.

This suggests that the buildings he refers to had been completed by 1908.

Figure 1 shows an undated postcard image of the Essendy Settlement with the 48 (24 double) dormitories. The large dining room complex is shown on the right.

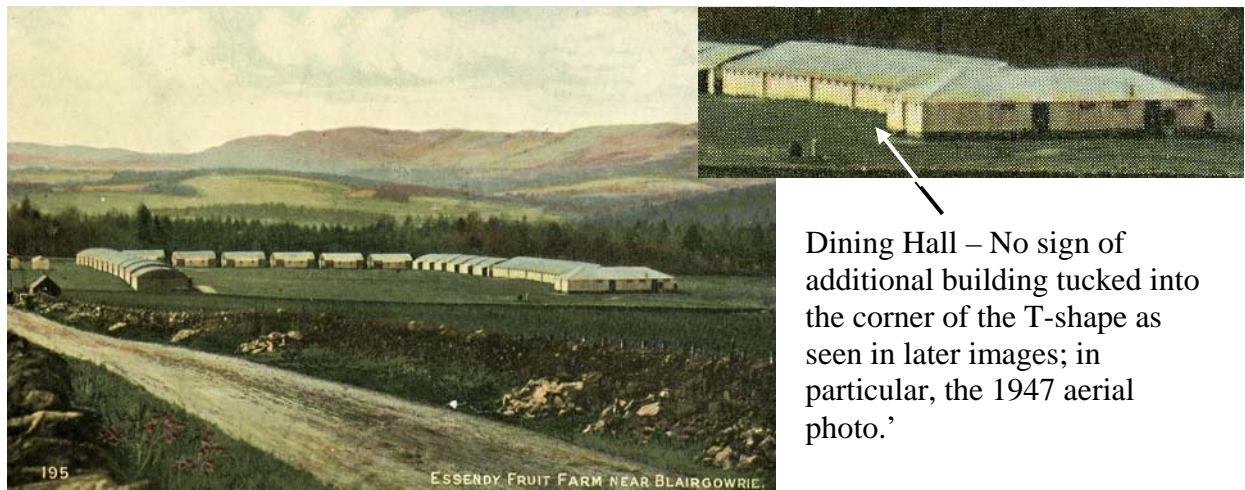


Figure 1 - Essendy Settlement
(Source unknown, dated prior to 7 Aug 1911)

Whilst the postcard carried no written date, a stamp (Figure 2) on the reverse gives a good clue to the postcard's date – but alas, not the date the picture was taken. The stamp is a George V Halfpenny; this $\frac{3}{4}$ head view stamp was issued 22 June 1911 (Coronation Day) and was replaced 1 January 1912. The postmark appears to be dated 7 Aug (Murthly post office). Given the short in-service period of the stamp we might speculate that the postcard was therefore posted 7 Aug 1911; obviously, the picture of Tin City was taken sometime before this date. This image appears in Hodge's 1921 book.

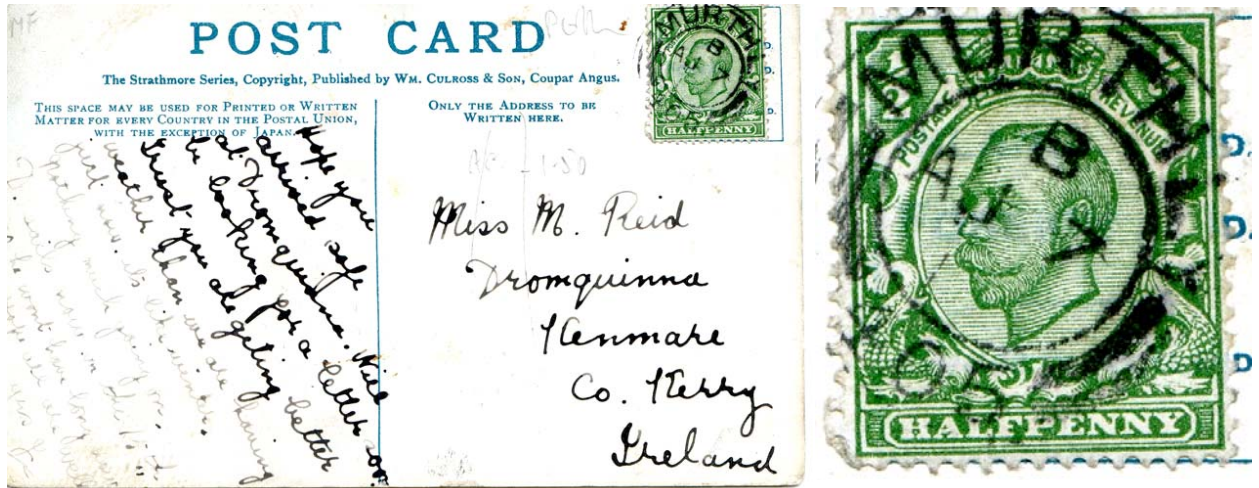


Figure 2 - Reverse of Postcard showing Postmarked Stamp (Source Unknown)

For our note purposes we shall call Phase 1 the 1905-1911 period.

From observation of structures in Figure 1 we are able to derive the following Figure 3 map.

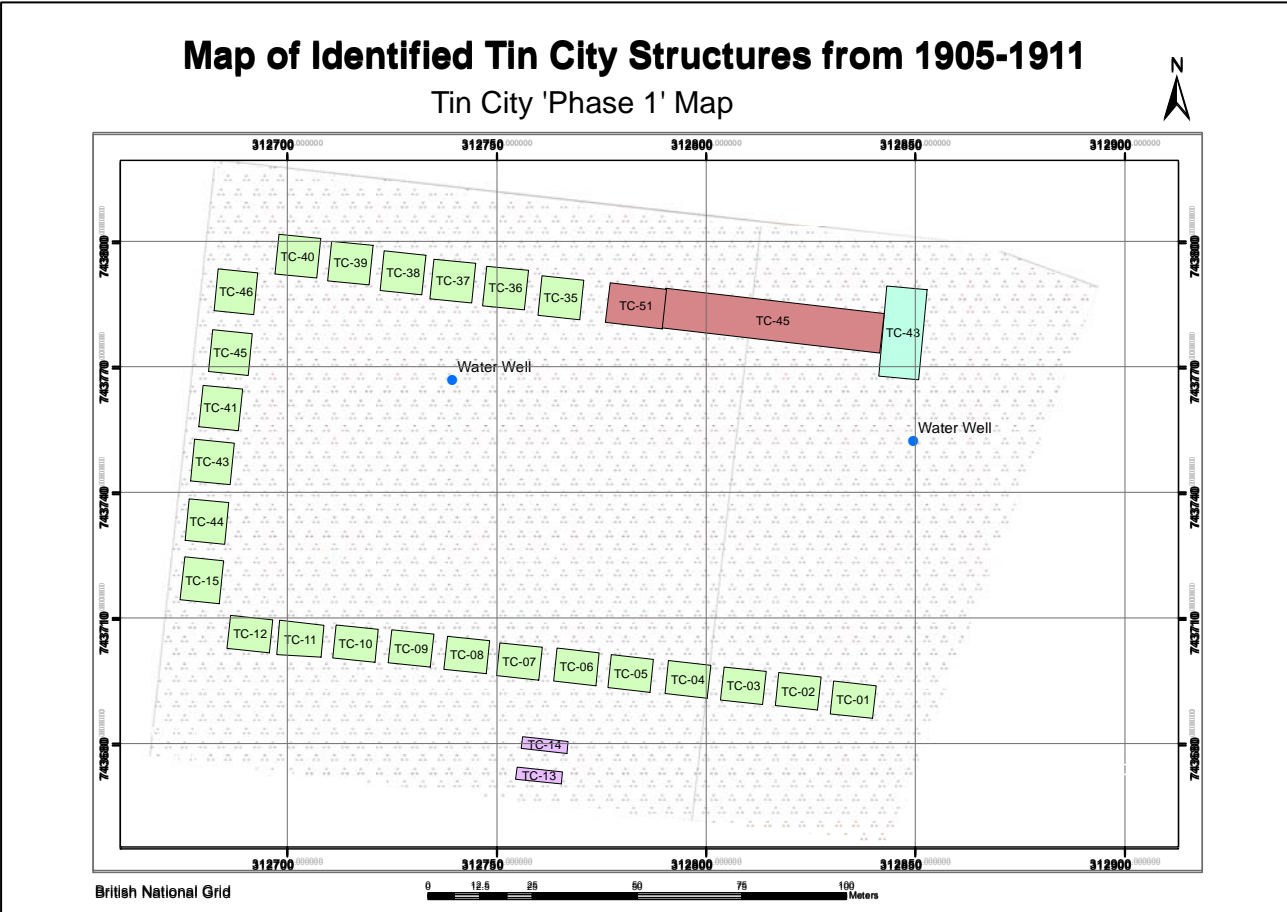


Figure 3 - Map of Tin City Site - Early Years (Peet 2011)

In the 'Phase 1' map, south-side dormitories are positioned from geo-referenced aerial photographs; the west and north dormitories positioned by estimation. Interestingly, including the speculative

dining hall addition (TC-51) makes the spacing between the north-side dormitories more like the known south-side spacing; the dormitories Figure 1 and Figure 4 photo's appear equally spaced.

Phase 2.

Figure 4 below shows little change on site except for the addition of the small extension to the dining hall complex.



Figure 4 - Dining hall with Small Extension (Source unknown)

We haven't produced a separate map for such a small change as the dining hall extension.

Phase 3 – Removal of Dormitories.

At some point, the 11 dormitory buildings (22? dormitories) along the western and northern edges of the site were removed. Since Hodge's 1921 book talks of 48 dormitories we can assume the dormitories were removed after his time of writing, if not book publication. Local comment

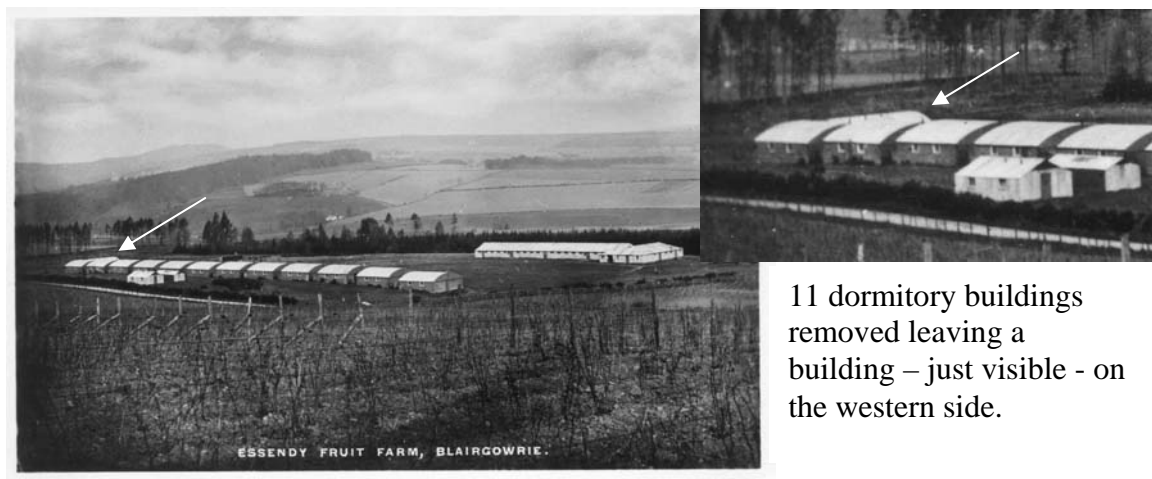


Figure 5 - Tin City - Some Dormitories Removed (Source unknown)

suggests that the distance from the site to the fields was too far for some of the growers and therefore they dismantled the huts and relocated them nearer to, or on, their own small holdings. Figure 5 shows the addition of the dining hall complex small corner extensions but the removal of the 11 dormitories. No date evidence identified for Figure 5 image.

One clue to when the dormitories were removed is the OS map ‘Sheet 56 - Dunkeld & Pitlochry’ [National Library of Scotland, 2011] revised 1925-26 and published 1927; this one-inch scale map appears to show that the north- and west-side dormitories have been removed.

The map may also be showing the addition of dormitories TC-16 ‘The Silver Birches’ and TC-18 as shown in Figure 10 below.



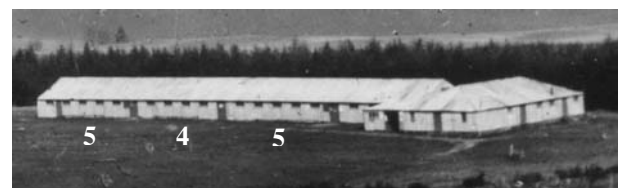
Figure 6 - OS Map Published 1927 Showing Tin City (NLS 2011)

Dining Hall Gets Shortened?

Moreover, by comparing the dining hall complex in Figure 5 with the dining hall in Figure 1 and Figure 4 it would appear that along with the 11 dormitory buildings a section of the dining hall was also removed.



‘Phase 2’ Dining Hall



‘Phase 3’ Dining Hall

Figure 7 - Comparison of Dining Hall Size (Image source unknown)

Figure 7 shows a close-up of the supposedly different dining halls. Counting the number of windows between the doors it appears that 5 windows and a door have been lost from the right (west) side of the dining hall building in the Phase 3 image as compared to the dining hall in the Phase 2 (and indeed Phase 1) images. What appears to be a door on the left side of the Phase 3 dining hall – between the left 2 windows - is actually thought to be too narrow for a door; maybe a repair in progress? Moreover, in Figure 7 the left image appears to show the western (left) end of the dining hall complex with a sloping (Hip) roof the same as the 2 ends of the kitchen complex; however, in right image the left end of the dining hall does not have a sloping roof at its western end.

Thus we can derive the Phase 3 map in Figure 8 below, which includes a shortened dining hall.

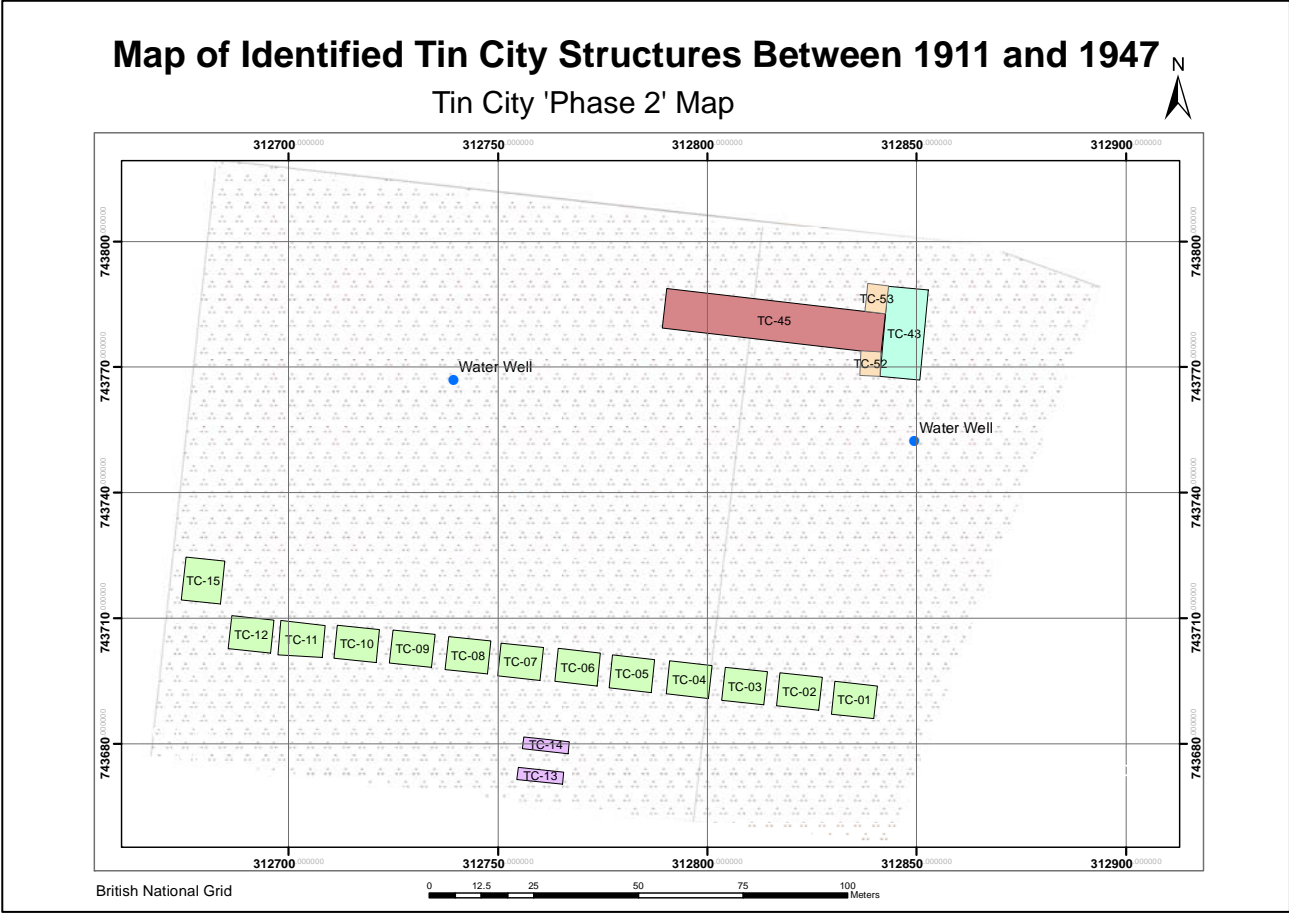


Figure 8 - Map of Tin City Post 1911 and Pre 1947 (Peet 2011)

Tin City 1947.

A high resolution vertical RAF aerial photograph dated 26 September 1947 gives us a fairly good view of Tin City structures. In particular, it gives us a good view of foot paths and vehicle tracks that crisscross the site.



Figure 9 - Tin City Site - Aerial Photograph 26 Sep 1947 (RCAHMS 2008)

From the 1947 aerial photo' – supported by field survey circa 2011 - it is apparent that a number of buildings had been erected post our 'Phase 2' map above but subsequently demolished apart from their remaining concrete bases by the time of the photo'.

This gives us the option for 2 'Tin City 1947' maps: one map (Figure 11) showing the distinctly present but disused foundation slabs and another without the slabs showing just seemingly active buildings. Foot paths and vehicle tracks are included to give a sense of how people were moving throughout the site. Interestingly, there do not appear to be any tracks leading to the 2 buildings (ref TC-13 and TC-14) at the bottom of the maps identified by local comment as being toilet blocks; this seems strange.

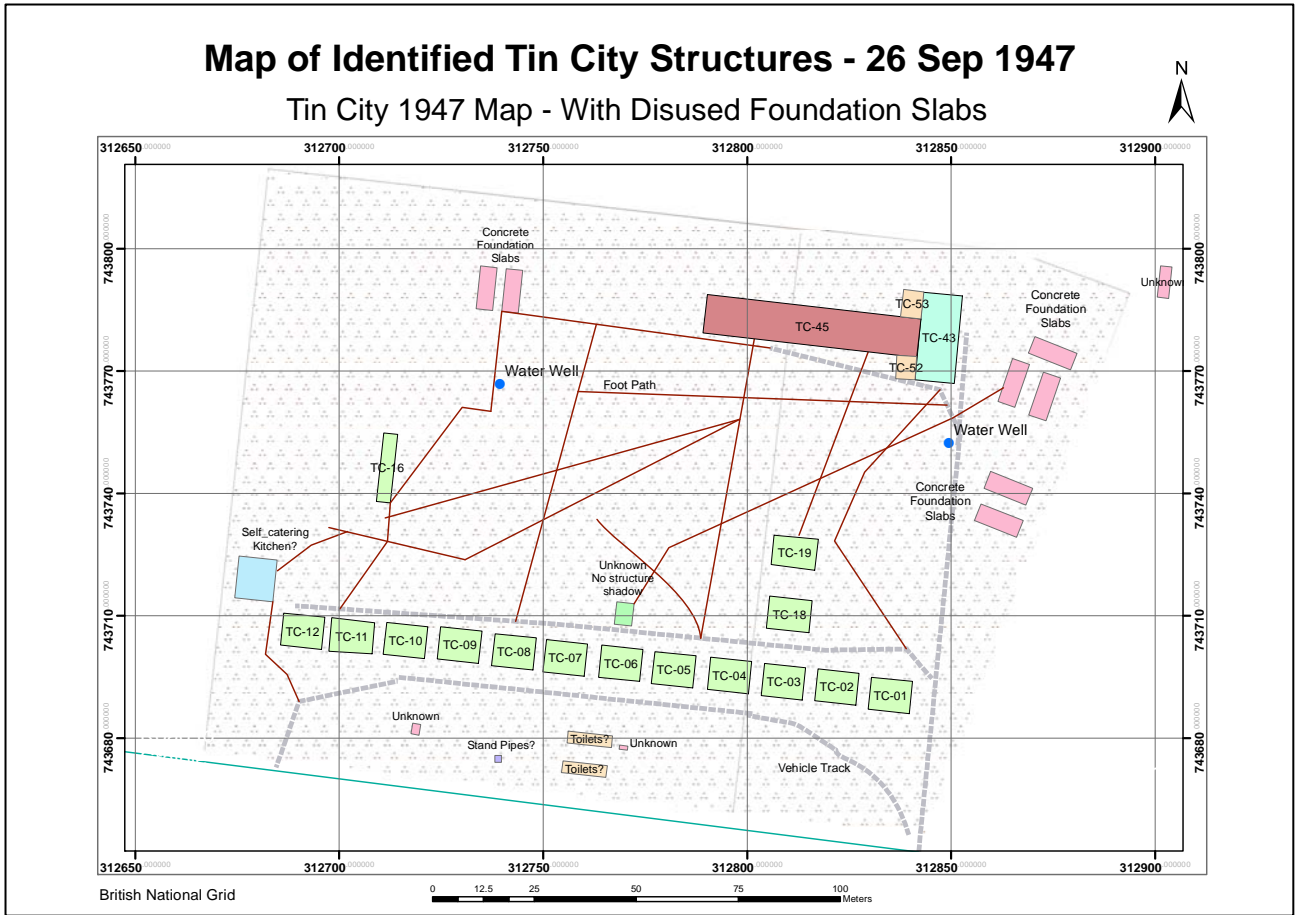


Figure 11 - Tin City Structures as of 1947 including Disused Concrete Foundation Slabs (Peet 2011)

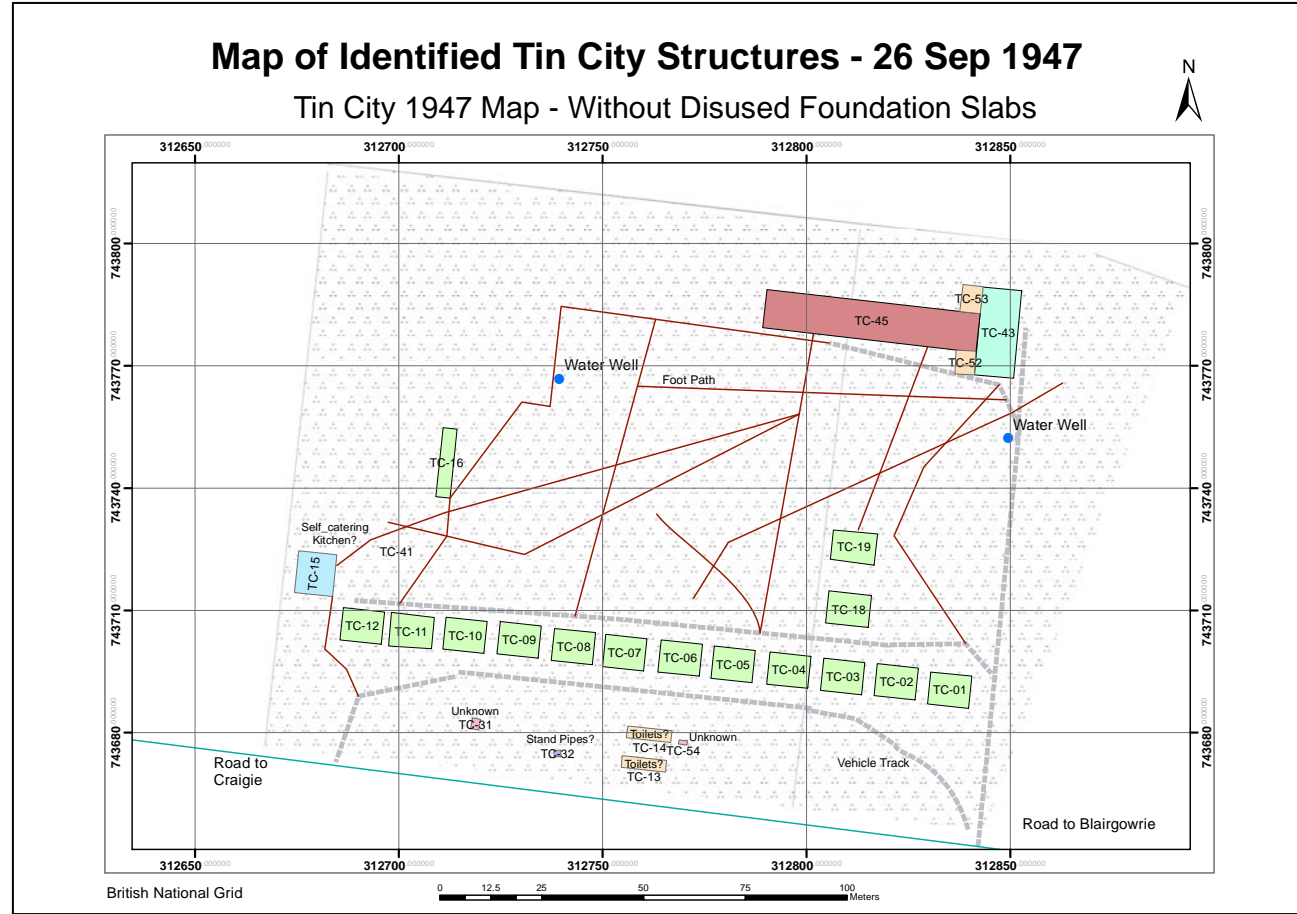


Figure 10 - Tin City Map of 1947 without Disused Concrete Foundation Slabs (Peet 2011)

Tin City 1973.

By 1973, local comment tells us that the Tin City camp was no longer in operation as a berry pickers' accommodation site; when the site closed has not yet been determined. To that point, another RAF aerial photograph (Figure 12) dated 12 August 1973 shows that the dining hall complex had been removed with the area being overgrown. Similarly, the 2 dormitory buildings in



Figure 12 - Tin City Site - Aerial Photo' 12 Aug 1973 (RCAHMS 2008)
the south east corner have also been removed along with the toilet blocks; in all cases with the ground again being well overgrown. Overall, the site has significantly more tree cover than in the 1947 aerial photo'.

From the 1973 aerial photo' we can similarly derive a map (Figure 13) for the remaining buildings.

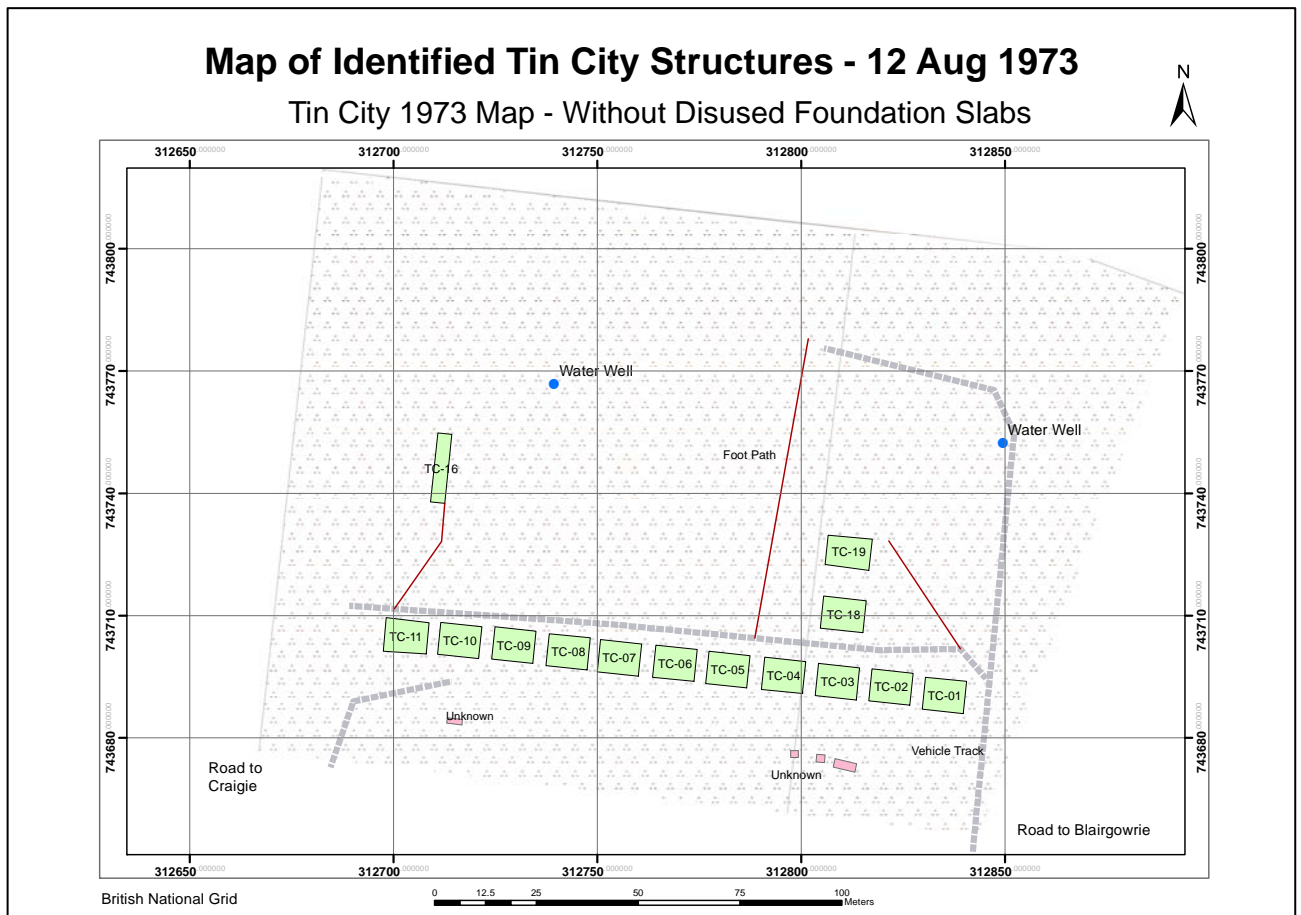


Figure 13 - Tin City Map 12 Aug 1973 (Peet 2011)

Tin City 1977.

Although by 1973 above Tin City was disused for berry pickers accommodation, by 1977 the site was in the last throws of being demolished; showing dormitories TC-01 to TC-03 to the fore. Photograph dated via a manual image text tag.



Figure 14 - Tin City Demolition 16 Oct 1977 (Source unknown)

Tin City 2007.

Finally, once Tin City was demolished, the camp site was divided into residential land parcels.



Figure 15 - Aerial photo' of Tin City site circa 2007 (Source unknown)

The 3 residential buildings and their associated land exactly cover the original 9-acre plot created on the western edge of the former estate lands of Drumellie and Essendy. The Tin City site is now occupied by, in Figure 16, the lower of the 2 properties and associated land. The sole remaining building from the Tin City era is the former accommodation building TC-19. Outlines of the concrete foundation slabs are just visible in the north-east corner of the lower property. Figure 17 gives the 2011 Tin City map.

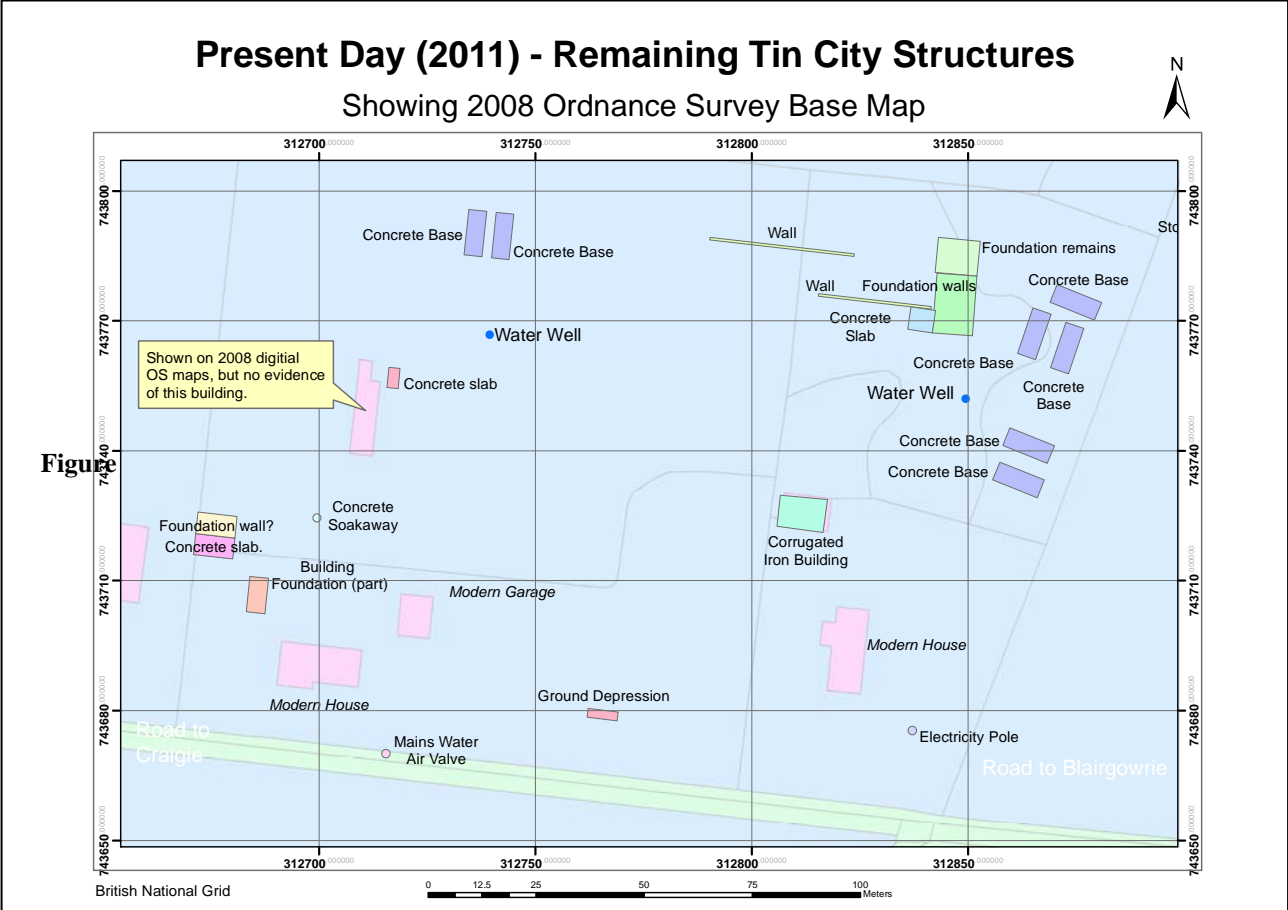


Figure 17 - Tin City 2011 - Map of Visible Structures (Peet 2011)

Finally, just because, Figure 19 shows are a map of all structures etc identified so far from all era of Tin City. Similarly Figure 19 and Figure 20 show, respectively, visible remains as of 2010 and the footprints of former Tin City buildings overlaid on a circa 2006 aerial photo’.

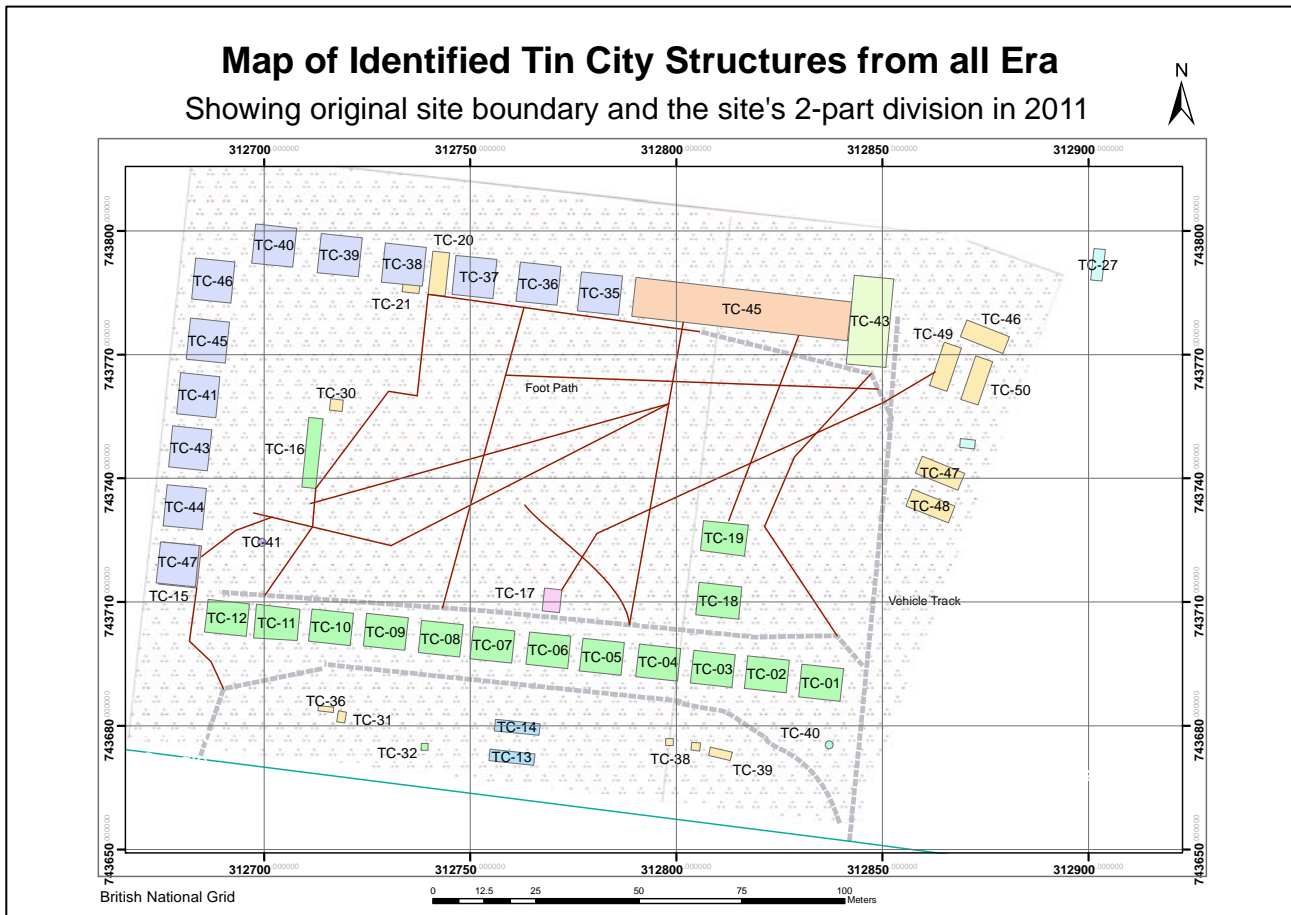


Figure 19 - Structures etc from all era (Peet 2011)

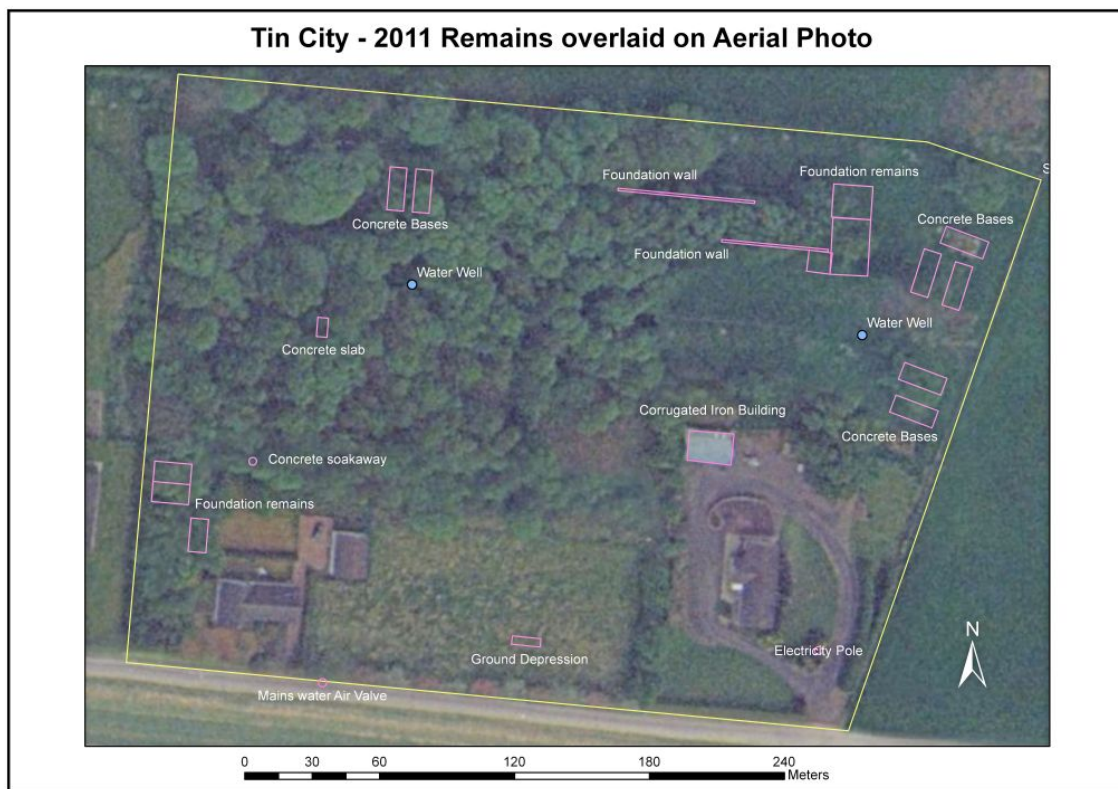


Figure 18 - Remains Overlaid on circa 2007 Aerial Photo (Aerial Photo' Source unknown)



Figure 20 - Outline of Former Tin City Buildings Overlaid on Aerial Photo (Aerial photo' source unknown)

CHAPTER 5 - TIN CITY - DORMITORIES

Background.

Tin City provided temporary living-accommodation in the form of dormitories for berry pickers during the soft fruit picking season.

Hodge (1921) tells us that, at the time of his writing, the site included 48 dormitories that from Figure 1 we can conclude consisted of 24 actual buildings arranged in a U-shape along the southern, western and northern edges of the site. Each dormitory Hodge tells us could hold 20 people giving a maximum berry picker population of nearly 1,000.

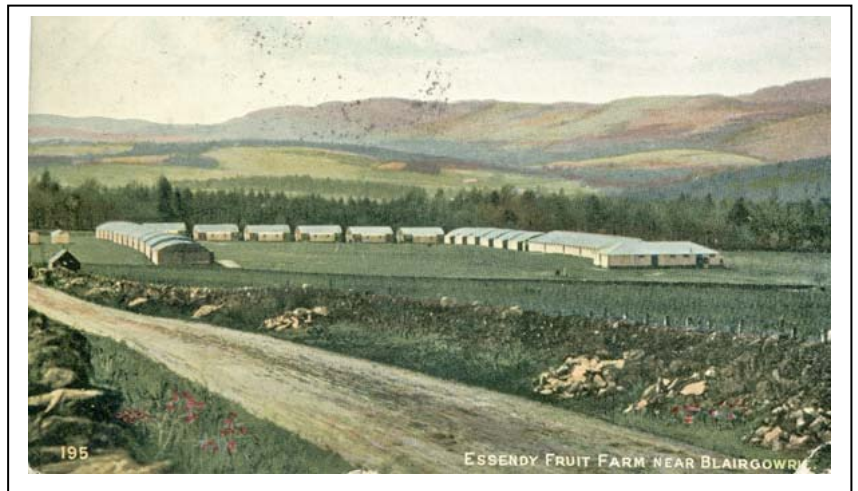


Figure 1 - Tin City Site - Postcard Pre-1913 (Source unknown)

Construction.

Wilson (n.d.) in his 'diary' and referring to 1906 tells us that the dormitories 'were stone built with wooden floors and corrugated iron roofs'. Local comment tells us the dormitories had so-called Belfast Roofs – roofs formed from bowstring shaped roof trusses with a lattice reinforcement. This roof design appears to be supported by Figure 2 which shows the last 4 standing dormitories and by the roof truss just visible in Figure 4.

The dormitory internal view of Figure 4 shows corrugated iron walls rather than stone as suggested by Wilson (n.d).

From geo-referenced aerial photographs the double-dormitory buildings are estimated to have measured 10m frontage with a 9.75m roof span.

The 1906 recruitment poster also tells us that the accommodation was 'well-lighted and ventilated'.



Figure 2 - Tin City Dormitory being Demolished (Source unknown, dated 16 Oct 1977)

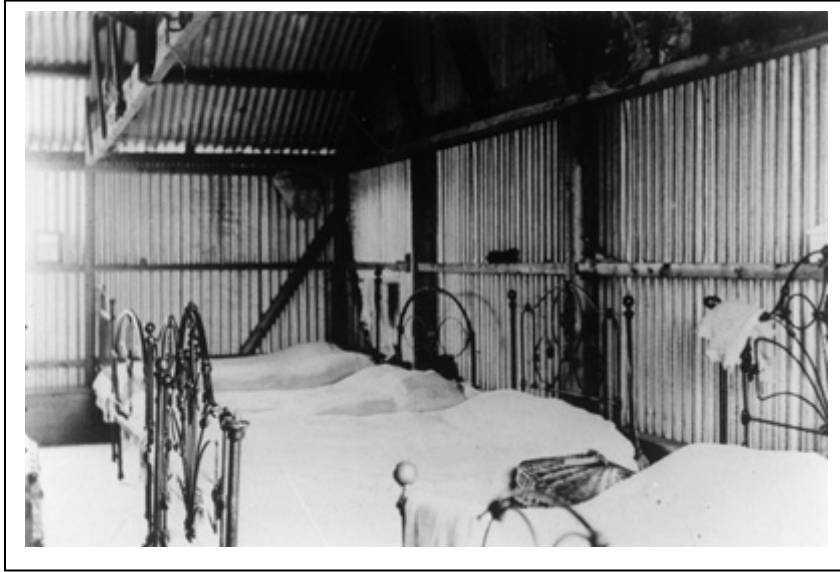


Figure 4 - Essendy Dormitory - Internal View (AK Bell Library, Perth)

Typically, a 4-foot wide bed is referred to as a small double; a traditional English double being 4'6". Maybe the "large double iron beds" weren't quite so large.

Hodge says that 'adjoining' the dormitories were drying sheds and lavatories'; the 1906 recruitment poster tells us that 'there is accommodation for washing and drying clothes' and 'there are lavatories, toilet basins, boot brushes, blacking and mirrors.' It's not known what was included in/with each dormitory and what was part of a separate building although local comment suggests that the lean-to visible on each dormitory contained slatted shelves for holding wash basins.

Figure 4 suggests a dormitory with corrugated iron walls. This construction differs from Wilson's reference to the dormitories being stone built with iron roofs as per Figure 2; this suggests there may have been at least 2 types of dormitory construction.

Accommodation costs.

The workers were only charged one shilling a week in 1906 for accommodation.

Dormitory Furnishing.

Each dormitory was furnished with 'large double iron beds' (Wilson n.d.) and 'such bedding as you would find in a working-man's house' (Hodge: 19); each bed accommodated 2 people and Wilson quotes "this, according to one lady reporter was no problem as 'good girl chum is easily to be picked up'." However, with regard to "large beds", whilst - as of 2011 - several rusty bed-heads had been found buried on-site none were wider than the 4-foot (118-120cm) version in Figure 3.



Figure 3 - Bed Head found at Tin City Site (Peet 2011)

Off-Season.

Local comment tells us that at the end of the berry picking season the dormitories were tidied and made ready for over-wintering.

One job was apparently to empty the bed mattresses of straw and burn the straw. Thin wire – as used to support the raspberry canes – was then strung between the roof trusses in each dormitory and the empty mattress covers (bags) were hung over the wires such that the covers were both off the ground and some 2 feet in from the edge of the wire; apparently, mice could not traverse the thin wire. In preparation for the new season, the mattress covers were “dusted with a disinfectant powder” and refilled with straw.

From the berry pickers poem (Annex C) we might presume that the straw mattresses weren't to everyone's liking.

CHAPTER 6 - TIN CITY – DORMITORIES – PRESENT DAY 2011 REMAINS

Only 4 accommodation-related structures shown in the 1947 aerial photo (Figure 1) have a visible above ground presence in 2011: the 2 initial-build dormitory buildings in the south-west corner (Ref TC-15¹ and TC-12) and 2 post initial-build dormitories, Ref TC-19 on the western edge and TC-16 on the left of centre; each is discussed below.

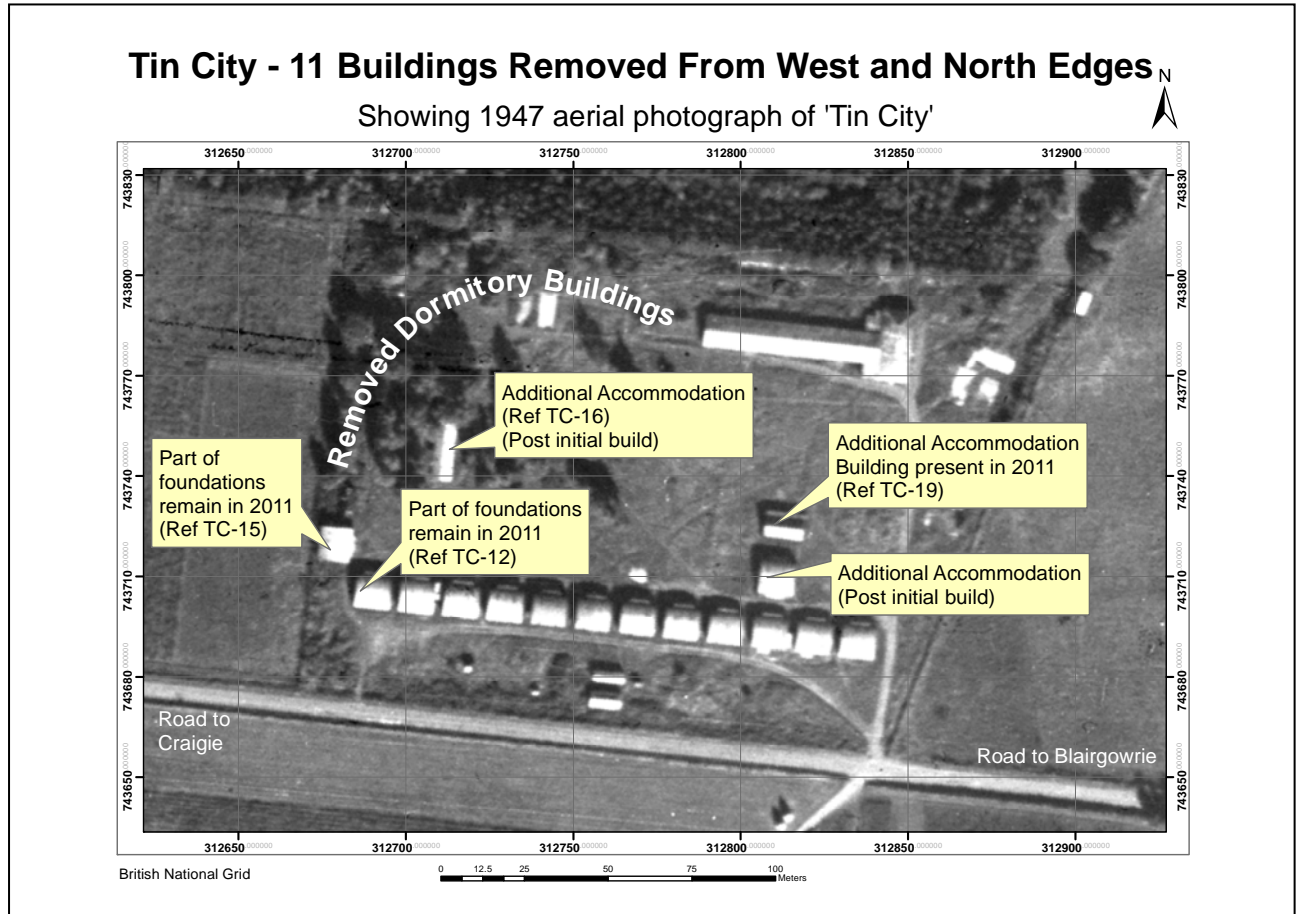


Figure 1 - Tin City Dormitories - Remains Map (Peet 2011; aerial photo' RCAHMS)

Dormitory Building (Ref TC-15).

Local comment suggests that building (TC-15) was not a dormitory but a self-catering kitchen. However, early references, eg Hodge (1921), talk of their being 48 dormitories implying – given the number of buildings visible in photograph Figure 1 – that this building was a dormitory; that said, Hodge also states that there were 2 kitchens, so if one kitchen was in the dining hall that begs the question where was the other kitchen? We note that this building was still present in 1947 when all other buildings on the western edge had already been removed suggesting some form of difference.

This building had been demolished by the time of the 1973 aerial photograph (Figure 6).

¹ For project reference, eg structure on the Tin City site has been given a unique identity number, eg TC-15 – TC simply stands for Tin City and 15 for the fifteenth structure so identified.

Present Day (2011).

In 2011, the foundation remains of structure TC-15 are in 2 parts. Figure 2 shows the 2 parts (ref's W-03² and W-05) positioned by field survey on a geo-referenced 1973 aerial photograph.

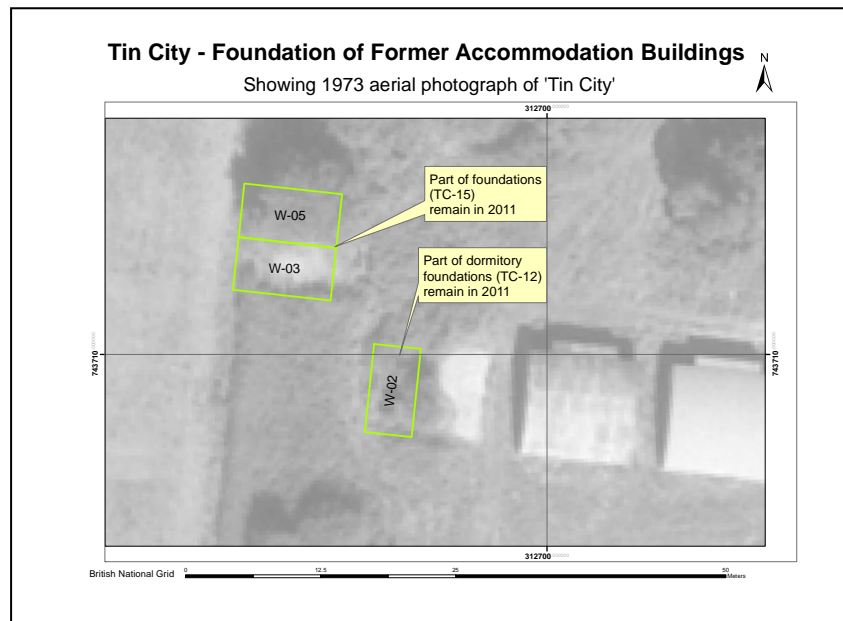


Figure 2 - Dormitory Foundation – Visible Remains

Remains W-03.

The southern half of the TC-15 remains, ref W-03, is a concrete slab (Figure 3). The concrete slab is just visible in the aerial photograph (Figure 2).

By field survey the dimensions of the W-03 concrete slab are: West-east: 9.1m; North-south: 4.9m.



Figure 3 - Dormitory/Kitchen Foundation Remains (Peet 2008)
Ref Structure TC-15; Remains W-03; Looking west

Remains W-05.

The northern part of the remains (ref W-05) of structure TC-15 is exposed earth surrounded by the remains of a small wall (Figure 4). Trees are growing within the remains; the surrounding wall is approx' 30cm wide and 20cm above ground.

By field survey the dimensions are: West-east: 9.1m, North-south: 5m



Figure 4 –Dormitory/Kitchen Foundation Remains (Peet 2008)
Ref Structure TC-15; Remains W-05;
Looking south-west

² Structural remains found at Tin City have been recorded in a database; each record has a unique primary key of the form W-nn. (And we've forgotten where the 'W' came from.)

Dormitory Building (Ref TC-12).

Dormitory building (ref TC-12) is present in the 1947 aerial photo (Figure 1) but has clearly been demolished by 1973 (Figure 2).

Present Day (2011).

In 2011, the remains (ref W-02) shown in Figure 5 of dormitory (TC-12) appear to be about half of the original foundation. Mainly visible is a surrounding wall comprising part natural stone and part brick.



Figure 5 - Dormitory Foundation Remains (Peet 2008)

Structure TC-12; Remains W-02;
Looking NNE

Field survey dimensions of remains:

West-east: 4.35m

North-south: 8.2m

Note: From Figure 2, the remains appear to represent the full north-south dimension of south-side dormitory buildings.

Dormitory Structure (Ref TC-19).

Just one actual building from the Tin City complex remains as of 2011. Local comment suggests that building, ref TC-19 in Figure 1 and Figure 6, was originally a 4-unit dormitory with a lean-to attached on the north side.

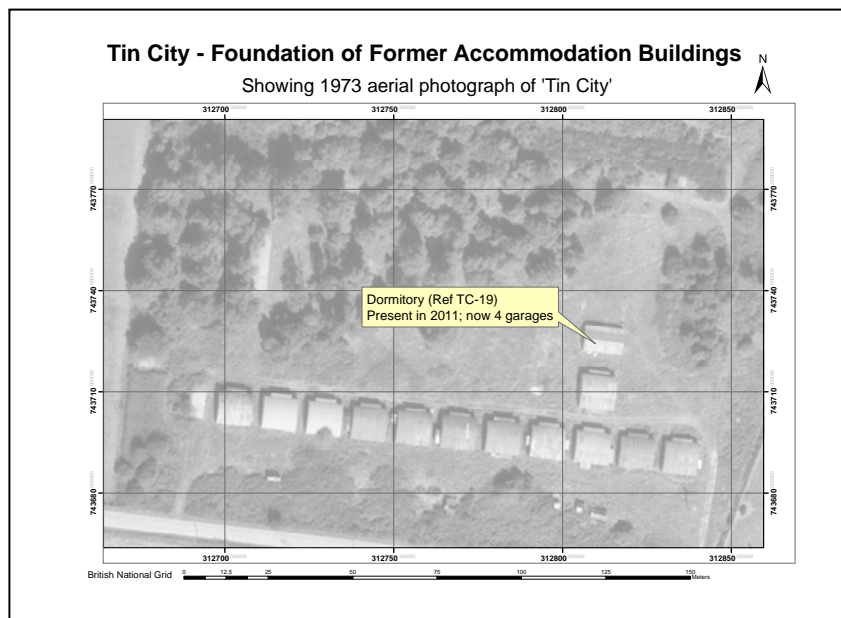


Figure 6 - Tin City Additional Accommodation Map (Peet 2011, aerial photo' RCAHMS)

Present Day (2011).

In 2011, building TC-19 was configured as a 4-unit garage (Figure 8 and Figure 7).



Figure 8 - Tin City Dormitory (TC-19) South and East Faces (Peet 2011)
Looking north-west



Figure 7 - Tin City Dormitory (TC-19) North and East faces (Peet 2011)
Looking south-west

Internally, 4 separate single-width doors lead from the main building into the north-face lean-to supporting the suggestion that the building was 4 accommodation units. Field survey measured the building's north face at 11.4m.

Figure 9 shows the inside of the north-side lean-to. The central double doors on the right led to the outside; externally, in 2011 these doors had been covered with corrugated iron (Figure 7). The 4 doors to the main building are fitted in the left wall (doors not visible in image).



Figure 9 - Dormitory TC-19 north-side Lean-to. Internal view. (Peet 2011)
Looking west



Figure 10 - Dormitory Door Sign – Occupancy (Peet 2011)

Within the lean-to, each of the 4 doors leading into the main building is stencilled (Figure 10) with the sign “Permitted No’ 6”; suggesting a maximum occupancy. That the sign is stencilled on the lean-to side of the door suggests that the lean-to was an entrance-exit route to the accommodation.

'The Birches' (ref TC-16).

Local comment suggests that there was an accommodation building - located in the position shown as TC-16 in Figure 12 - known as 'The Birches' or 'The Silver Birches' that was wooden in construction and mounted on stilts. No image of the building as been identified. The Tin City site is wooded with silver birch trees.

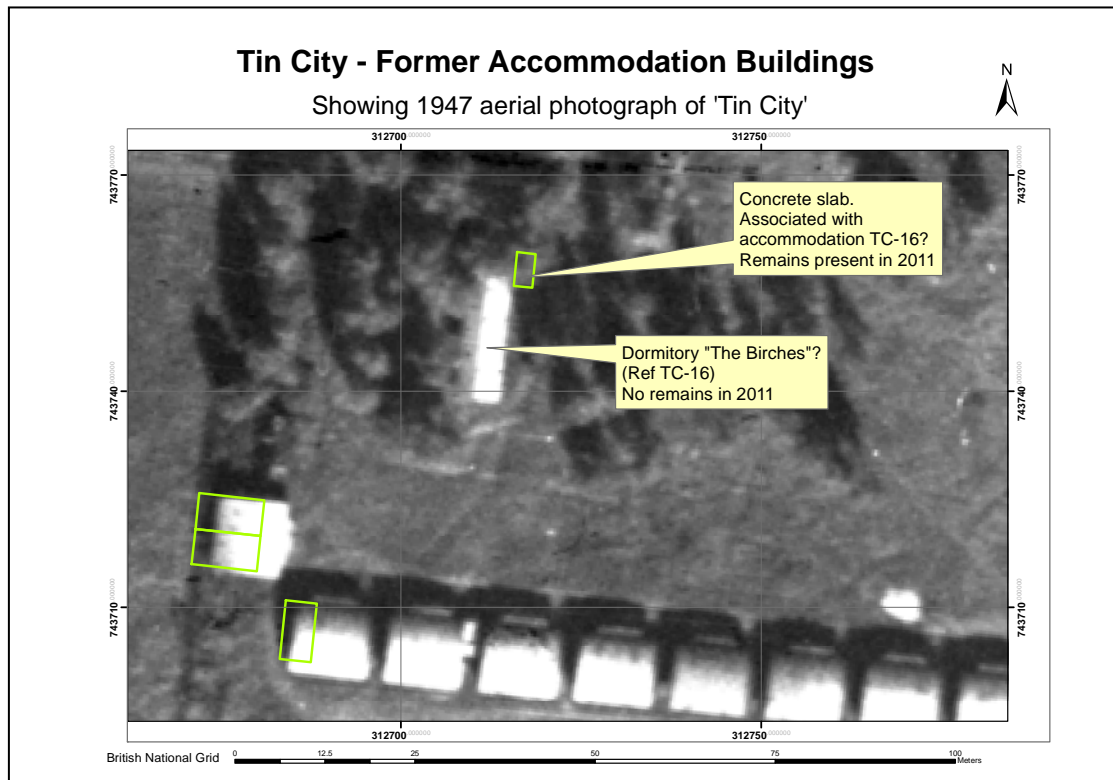


Figure 12 - Tin City Dormitory? "The Birches" (Peet 2011, aerial photo' RCAHMS)

Present Day (2011).

Whilst, the aerial photographs of 1947 and 1973 clearly show the presence of some structure, and possible foot tracks leading to the building, nothing but a 4.7m x 2.6m concrete slab (Figure 11) remains in 2011. This slab is much smaller than the structure in the images that is, from image measurement on the geo-referenced aerial photographs, some 17m north-south and 4m west-east.

Positioning of the concrete slab by field survey sets the slab slightly east of the structure in the geo-rectified aerial photographs. Interestingly, whilst something about the structure is clearly reflecting sun light in both the 1947 and 1973 aerial photo's, there appears to be no shadow being cast in either photo' suggesting a structure with little or no height.



Figure 11 - Concrete Slab (W-11) at Tin City. Remains of Dormitory (TC-16) (Peet 2008) Looking north

What Happened to the Dormitory Buildings?

Local comment suggests that not all removed dormitory buildings were scrapped. Comments suggest that some of the removed dormitories, particularly those removed in the early years from west- and north-sides of the site, were simply relocated to other small-holdings as accommodation. Yet other dormitories, or at least the roofs of, were utilised by growers as utility buildings and the like.



Figure 13 - Close of Tin City Dormitory (source unknown, c1977)



Figure 14 - Shed on a Wester Essendy Farm (Peet 2011)

Local comment suggests that the roof on the farm building in use as of 2011 (Figure 14) was originally from a Tin City dormitory. Internal inspection of this shed reveals latticed 'Belfast Roof' style roof trusses as used on Tin City dormitories; the shed dimensions of 9.2m truss-wise and 10m length correspond to the dormitory dimensions. The roofs of Figure 14 and Figure 13 certainly look similar.

CHAPTER 7 - TIN CITY – DINING HALL BUILDING

Background.

The Dining Hall Building (DHB) was located in the north east corner of the Tin City site. Local comment and Hodge (1921: 18) suggests that the building comprised: 3 dining rooms, kitchen, owners' hall and a shop/post office. The building was arranged in a 'T' shape with the 'head', on the east side, aligned north-south. Local comment also suggests the various functional areas of the building were arranged as per the image below. The recreation room was a dining room during the day.



Figure 1 - Tin City Dining Hall – Location (Photo# source unknown)

Figure 1 shows the dining hall complex after a section – presumably a dining room - on the west side had been removed, possibly along with the west- and north-side dormitories; see the Buildings report section for discussion. In comparison, Figure 2 shows a map of the dining hall complex complete with the 'missing dining room' but without the addition of the small building (large black 'doorway') shown immediately to the left of the 'Shop' in Figure 1.

Speculation on why the dining hall was located in the north-east corner of the site could include that it was down-wind of the predominantly south-westerly winds and therefore that smells, sounds and indeed potentially the risk of fire spreading to the dormitories would be reduced.

The following discusses each of the dining hall components in turn followed by a review of the hall remains circa 2011.

Recreation Room.

Interestingly, the 1906 recruitment whilst espousing the camp accommodation does not mention a recreation room; yet Hodge (: 19) writing in 1921 tells us that one of the dining rooms, which was equipped with a piano, was, of an evening, turned into a recreation room. Concerts were, Hodge reports, 'held on week nights, and religious services on Sundays.' This dining-room conversion

probably took place during WWI where Hodge (1921: 78) - bemoaning the attitude of many women land army workers - notes that 'one young lady demanded a recreation room, apart from the dining-hall, a piano, which by the way we provided, lounges, easy chairs, small tables, and a wooden floor for dancing parties.'

Grocer's Shop/Post Office/ Stationer's Shop.

Seemingly, the growers liked to keep a tight rein on the berry pickers for Hodge (1921: 19) tells us that 'so there might be no need and no excuse for the pickers to make pilgrimages to Blairgowrie – three or four miles distant – a grocer's shop, a stationer's shop, and a Post Office' were provided.

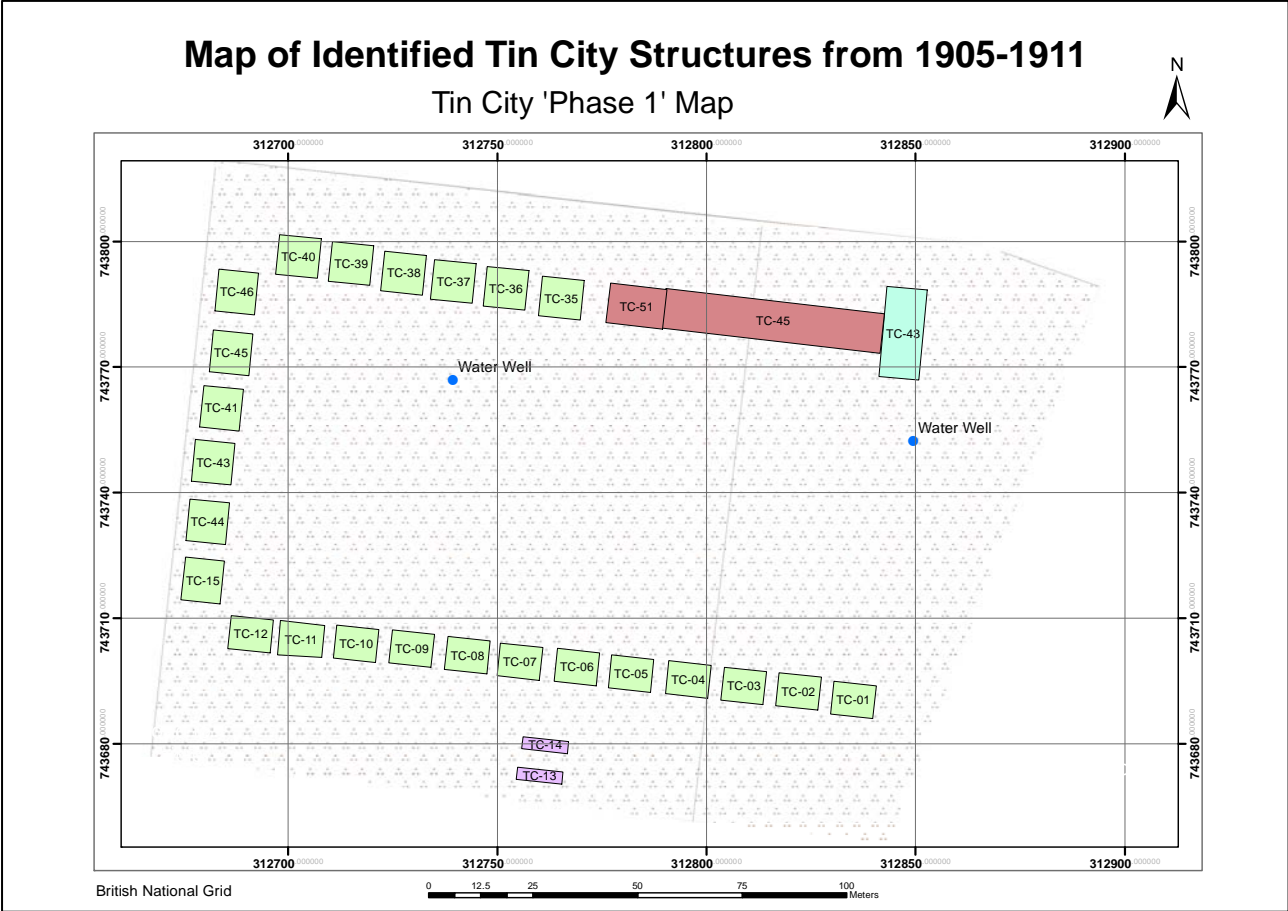


Figure 2 - Location of Dining Hall circa 1905-1911 (Peet 2011)

Owners' Hall.

Local comment suggests that the berry farmers (owners) would take meals in the owners' hall as a means of monitoring the quality of meals being served.

Dining Hall.

The 1906 recruitment poster gives the following Bill of Fare:

BILL OF FARE.	
Councillor Jas. Alston, Glasgow, of wide experience is caterer. The following is his Bill of Fare—	
Meat or Mince and Potatoes, 3d	Porridge and Milk, 1½d
Soup, 1d	Tea or Cocoa, per cup, ½d
Pudding, 1d	Bread and Butter, per slice, 1d and ½d
Ham Sandwich, each, 1d and 2d	Plate of Cold Boiled Ham, 2d
Cheese, Milk, Cakes, etc., also on sale.	

Figure 3 - Tin City Catering - Bill of Fare from 1906 Recruitment Poster (Poster 1906)

Kitchen.

Comment suggests the kitchen occupied the north east corner of the building.

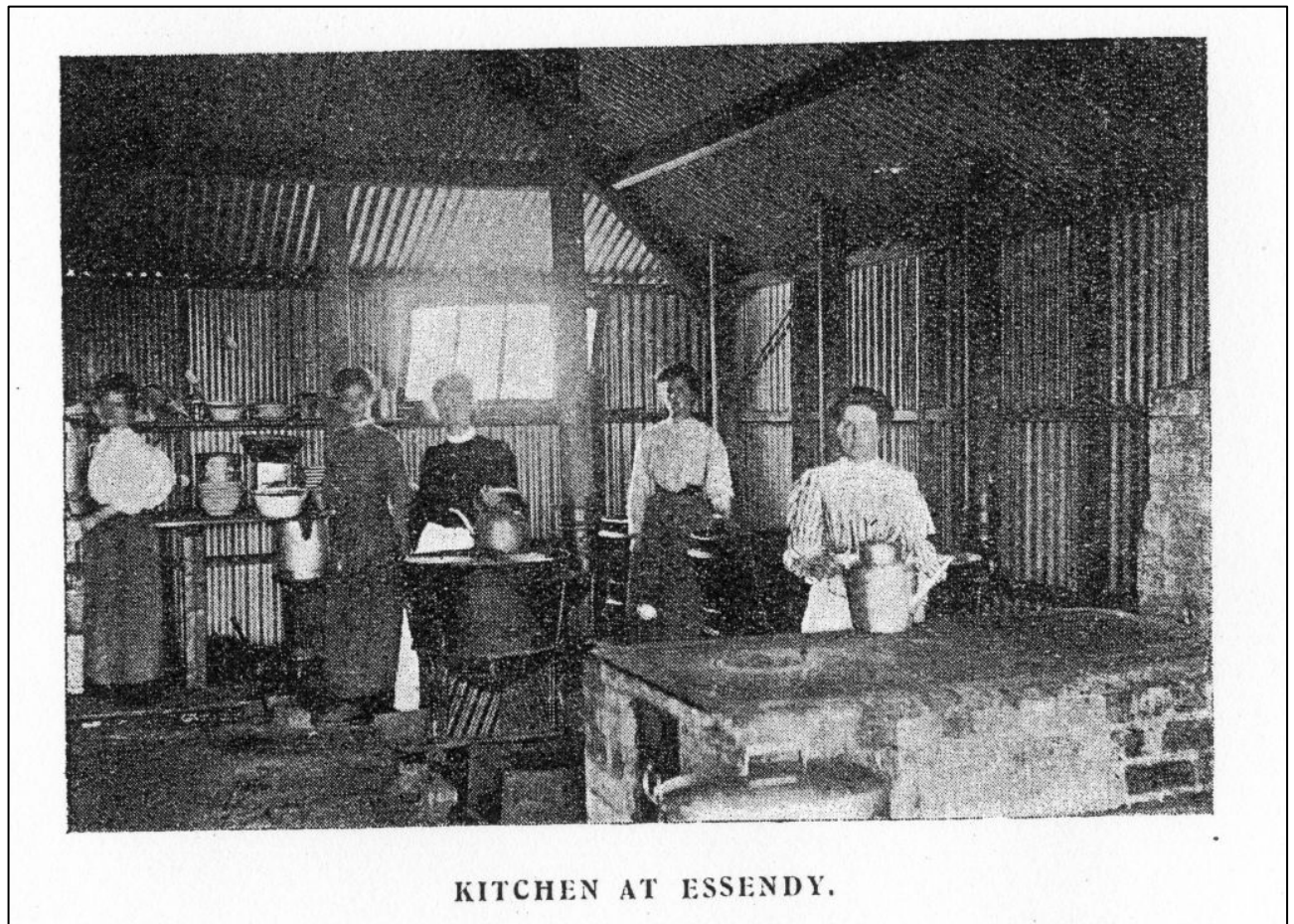


Figure 4 - Tin City Dining Hall Kitchen (Hodge 1921: 20)

Hodge (1921: 79) writing about women land army workers used for berry picking during WWI notes:

‘But the catering gave more offence than the housing. I can remember the time when a hot plate put at the disposal of the pickers settled the catering question ... We decided the first year we had war workers to throw the responsibility of the catering on themselves. In a week the camp was in the throes of a rebellion. The servants we were told, were insolent and useless. The tea was like dish-water, both in appearance and taste. The food was insufficient in quantity, inferior in quality, badly cooked, and exorbitantly priced. We had to step in to save the situation.’

Note: it’s not explicit whether Hodge is writing about Tin City or another camp or camps.

Present Day (2011).

As of 2011, there is very little evidence of the dining hall complex except for the outline remains of a few foundation walls and some concrete steps. Figure 5 shows a map with the remains overlaid on a 1947 aerial photo of the dining hall.

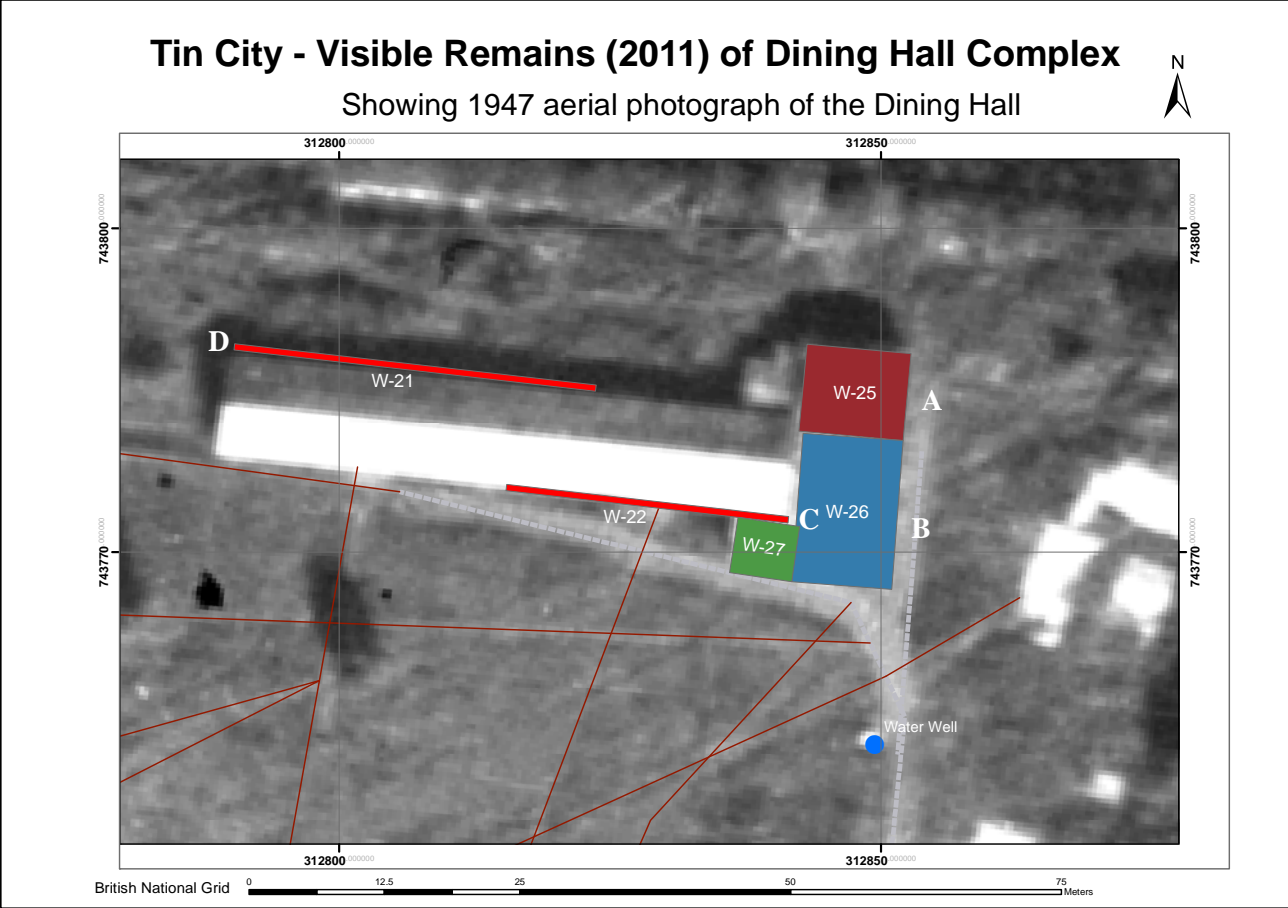


Figure 5 - Map of Remains of Tin City Dining Hall (Peet 2011, aerial photo’ RCAHMS)

Local comment suggests that the dining hall was dismantled and the components taken away to farms for re-use in order to avoid the payment of property taxes.

Kitchen Remains (W-25).



Left image shows the remains of some concrete steps as of 2011. These steps are located at 'A' in the above image.

Field survey: steps 1.15m wide and 3.1m from right edge of building.

Figure 6 - Kitchen Remains (Peet 2011)

Figure 6, looking west, shows the steps – probably the most dominant remaining feature of the dining hall complex. The 'A' marker in Figure 5 shows the Figure 6 view in context.

From a field survey, the believed kitchen area had outside wall measurements of circa 8.1m (north-south – the face with the steps) and 9.2m west-east. There are remains of walls on all 4 sides.

Comparing Figure 4 with Figure 6 and considering all the chimneys and door, the Figure 4 viewpoint must, we conclude, be looking towards the north-west corner of the kitchen.

Shop etc Remains (W-26).

Apart from another set of quite deteriorated concrete steps the portion of the complex (W-26) understood to have held the grocer's shop, Post Office, stationer's shop and a growers' dining room is poorly defined with only a vague presence of wall remains. The steps in this section correspond with the point 'B' in Figure 6.

Dining Hall - Foundation Wall Remains (W-22).



Figure 7 - Dining Hall - South-side Foundation Wall Remains (Peet 2011)
Looking west

An approximately 26m section of the remains of the south-side dining hall foundation wall is visible above ground (no digging); the wall is approx' 0.6m wide. Figure 7 shows the wall looking west; the tape measure is positioned on the wall's north side, ie, inside the dining hall. Probably most noteworthy is how several trees have grown in a line directly adjacent to the wall on its north side (in side the dining hall area) but not on the 'outside' south side. Viewpoint shown as point 'C' in Figure 5.

The green shed in Figure 7 is standing on a concrete base corresponding to remains W-27 in Figure 5.

Dining Hall – Foundation Wall Remains (W-21).

An approx' 33m section of the northern foundation wall is quite pronounced at ground level (Figure 8). This wall is some 0.6m wide.



Figure 8 - Remains of Dining Hall North-side Foundation Wall (Peet 2011)
Looking east

Viewpoint shown as point 'D' in Figure 5.

Again, interestingly, many self-sown trees have grown inside the area of the dining hall (right side of wall in Figure 8) as opposed to outside.

The western end of these remains (survey pole in Figure 8) corresponds, using a GIS map, to the north-west corner of the dining hall shown as TC-45 in Figure 2.

CHAPTER 8 - UTILITIES

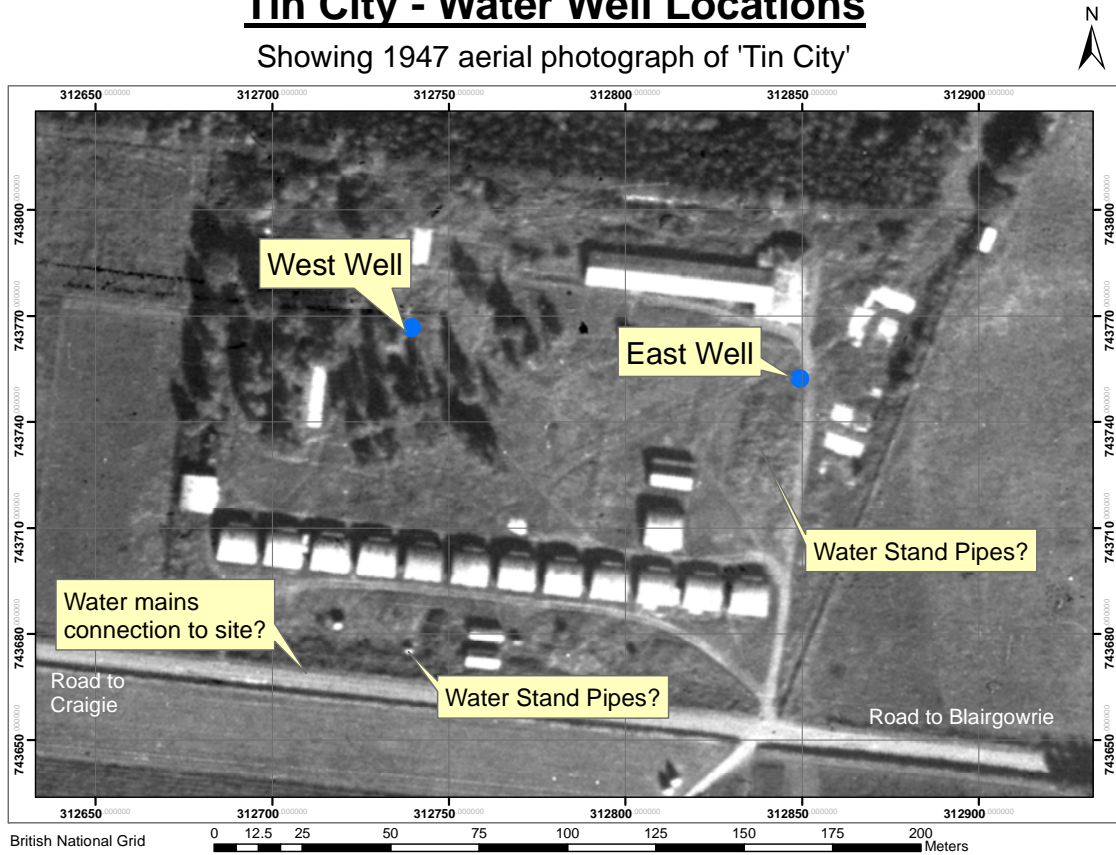
Utilities identified at the Tin City site.

Water.

The Tin City site holds 2 former water-wells both of brick construction.

Tin City - Water Well Locations

Showing 1947 aerial photograph of 'Tin City'



Local comment suggests that the wells sit on an underground stream that runs east-west heading north into the Lunan valley. Apparently, other (unidentified) wells, off-site, sit on the same stream. The well sites were reportedly located using water-divining with the water table being found, as the water-diviner predicted, some 12 feet below ground level.

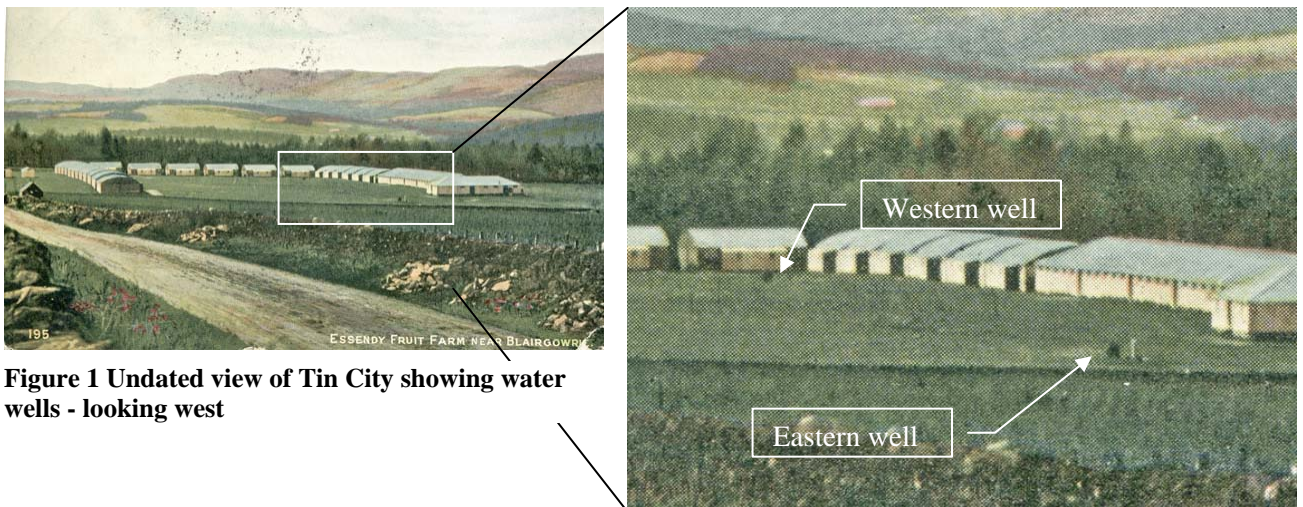


Figure 1 Undated view of Tin City showing water wells - looking west

An article in the Blairgowrie Advertiser newspaper of 8 August 1903 tells of a water-diviner locating 3 wells at Wester Essendy. The water-diviners prediction of the depth of wells required at Wester Essendy differs somewhat between the newspaper article and, at least in the case of the Tin City wells, local comment; assuming – noting the reference to Messers Keay and Hodge - the Tin City water-wells are the same as those referred to in the article.

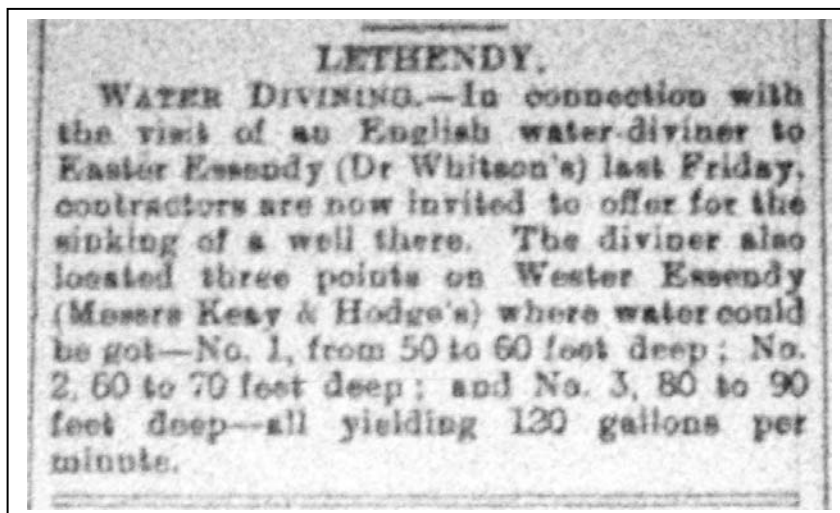


Figure 2 - Water-divining at Wester Essendy

As of 2010, both wells were present and capped with concrete covers with approx' 30cm square steel access hatches.



Figure 3 Western water-well - looking east (Peet)



Figure 4 Eastern water-well - looking east (Peet)

Mains water was reportedly laid down the public Essendy-Craigie road in 1954 at which point the well-water was deemed or declared unfit for human consumption. How and where mains water was connected to the site is not known. However, an Air Valve (AV) on the mains water pipe is located off-site on the public road verge; an underground water pipe, with tap, from the mains pipe is co-located alongside the AV and runs into the Tin City site. Comment suggests that there were (mains?) water stand pipes located near to the road and near to the eastern water well.

Water supplies to the toilet blocks are unknown.

Another, differently located, water pipe/tap feeds the modern bungalow on site.

Gas.

There was and is (as of 2010) no mains gas in the Wester Essendy/Tin City area.

Local comment suggests that 'bottled gas' was used on the Tin City site for lighting.

Comment suggests that during WWII evacuees from Scottish cities were temporarily housed at Tin City whilst awaiting dispersal to local residencies and farms. However, the city-folk were apparently not happy about the lack of 'proper' lighting and therefore gas lighting was installed over the period of one weekend.



Figure 5 Unidentified Gas(?) component found on Tin City site (Peet)



Figure 6 - Another unidentified gas component (Peet 2011)

Electricity.

Use of electricity on the Tin City site is unknown.

Aerial images from 1947 and 1973 suggest that the current (2010) electricity supply was introduced to the area between those dates. In the 1973 aerial photo, electricity poles are visible (see pole shadows) along the public road plus one pole inside the site. The poles are not apparent in the 1947 photo. The electricity poles, apart from those replaced by Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE) during 2010, are dated 1955.

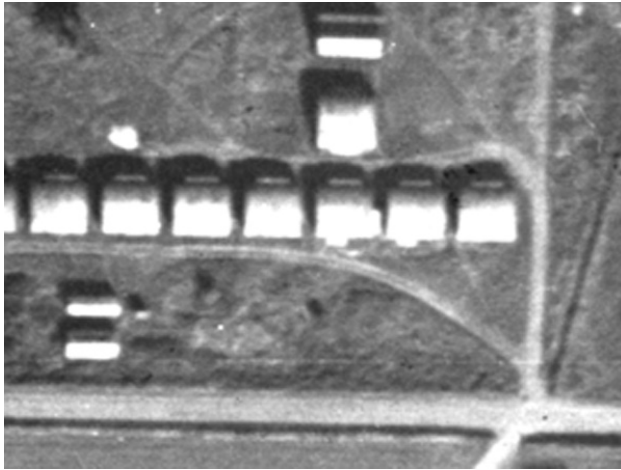


Figure 8 Aerial Photo 1947 - No electricity poles apparent

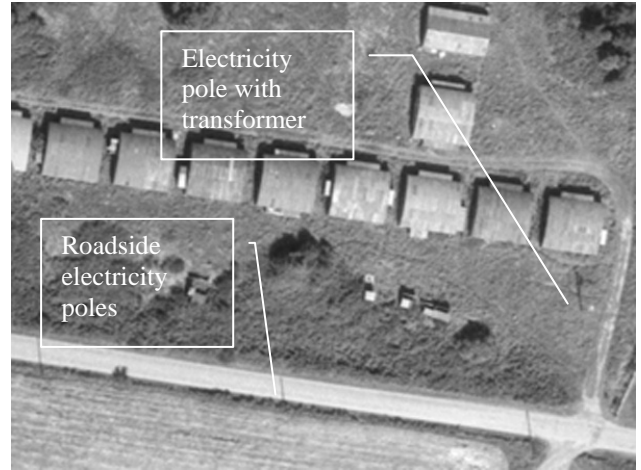


Figure 8 - Aerial Photo 1973 - Electricity poles apparent

Electricity wires come in from the north to the transformer mounted on the pole in the Tin City site; from there the wires head west and east along the public road.

Sewage.

Tin City sewage arrangements are unknown. As of 2010 the area has no mains sewage; properties use septic tank(s).

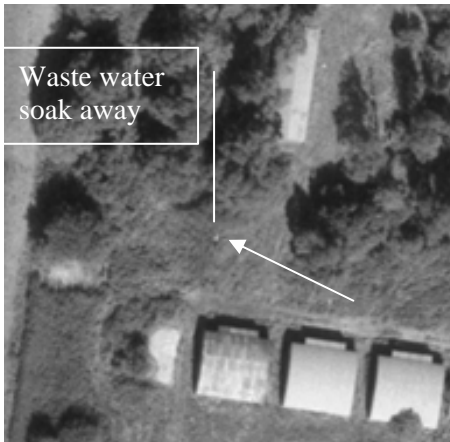


Figure 9 1973 aerial photo - small waste water soak away.

A single waste water soak away has been found on-site at the western end of the southern accommodation row. Very small white spot at tip of arrow in adjacent image.

The soak away comprises an approximately one metre square concrete/cement shape bowl set in the ground with a circa 10cm central hole.

CHAPTER 9 - TIN CITY – TRACKS, PATHS AND FENCES

Fences.

Local comment¹ suggests that the Tin City site was surrounded by a ‘high’ security fence with large metal gates. The only visible evidence remaining, in 2011, of the original fence are - local comment assures - the rusty metal upright fence supports with distinctive angled top addition that form the present-day western fence-line of the site.



Figure 1 - Tin City Site Boundary Fence (Peet 2011)

Although several of the metal uprights were, circa 2008, located buried on the site; there is no visible evidence of the original fence along the north, east and southern site boundaries.

No evidence of any large gates has been identified.

Vehicle Tracks.

The aerial photographs and, to a much lesser extend, images of Tin City show various footpaths and vehicle tracks. Figure 3 shows that the vehicle tracks lead from the public road to and along the dormitories and dining hall complex.

Present Day (2011).



Figure 2 - Former Tin City Vehicle Track? (Peet 2011)

Evidence of the vehicle tracks in the present day is mainly visible in the form of firm ground as opposed to the somewhat wetter and looser surrounding land. The absence of trees is also a good indicator of former vehicle tracks. Attempting to dig where a vehicle track was reveals a thin layer of aggregate bounded on either side by larger stones. Larger stones also appear in the aggregate. The tracks are certainly are not roads. Figure 2 looking north from the TC-47 (Point A) towards Point D in Figure 3, shows what presumably was a vehicle track in front of the western-

¹ ‘Local comment’: no citation; a story heard from someone, somewhere, at sometime.

side dormitories. The dormitories would, in the photograph, have been on the left side of the track.

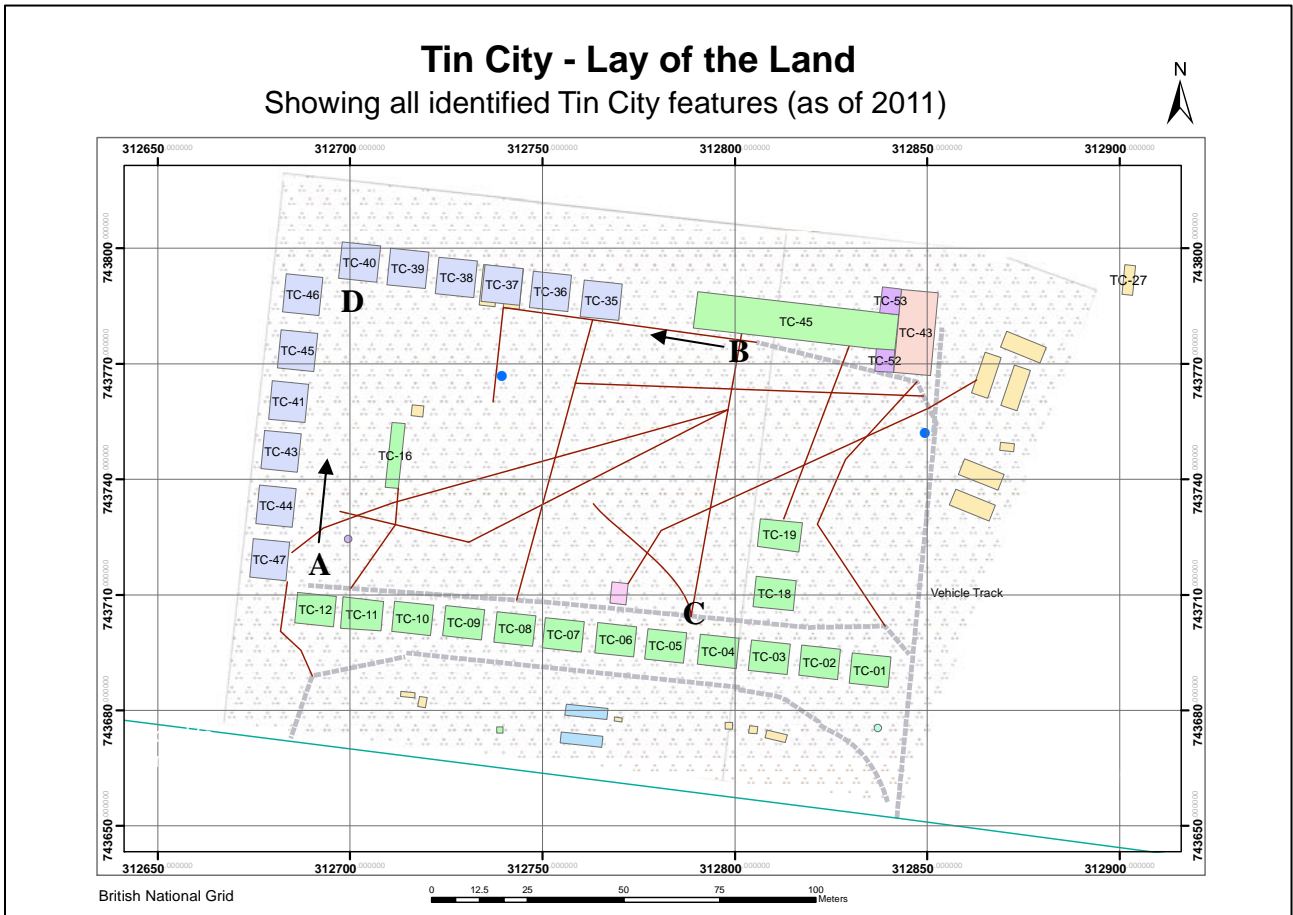


Figure 3 - Tin City Vehicle Tracks and Footpaths (Peet 2011)



Figure 4 - Former Tin City Vehicle Track ((Peet 2011)

Figure 4 shows the former vehicle track leading west from the front of the dining hall; looking from Point B to Point D in Figure 3. When discovered in 2006, the track was devoid of self-sown trees that had set themselves either side. The ground either side of the track is wet and soft throughout the year. The track was originally located – before the site’s relationship to Tin City was even known about - simply because of its firmness underfoot. Only overhanging branches needed to be cleared; no ground clearance was necessary to reveal the track.

Foot Paths.

Only one of the many Tin City footpaths identified from aerial photographs is visible on the ground in 2011. In Figure 3, the Point B to Point C footpath running north-south from the dining hall complex to the south-side dormitories was constructed from stone and aggregate. The assumption is that this 1.7m wide path was raised to give clearance above the often water-logged land in the centre of the site.



Figure 5 - Footpath from Dining Hall to Dormitories (Aerial RCAHMS; Peet 2011)

CHAPTER 10 - TIN CITY – DRYING SHEDS AND LAVATORIES

Hodge (1921: 19) tells us about the dormitories and that ‘adjoining were drying sheds and lavatories.’

It’s considered highly unlikely that Hodge’s comment refers to the lean-to that can be seen on the ‘front’ of each dormitory; therefore the adjoining buildings must, we assume, have been stand alone. Actually, an internal view of a dormitory (see Dormitories section) appears to show an internal view of the lean-to where it seems to contain a simple bench with wash basin along with the external door.

Referring to the various images and derived maps only 2 buildings are deemed to be candidates for the drying sheds and lavatories: TC-13 and TC-14 in Figure 1.

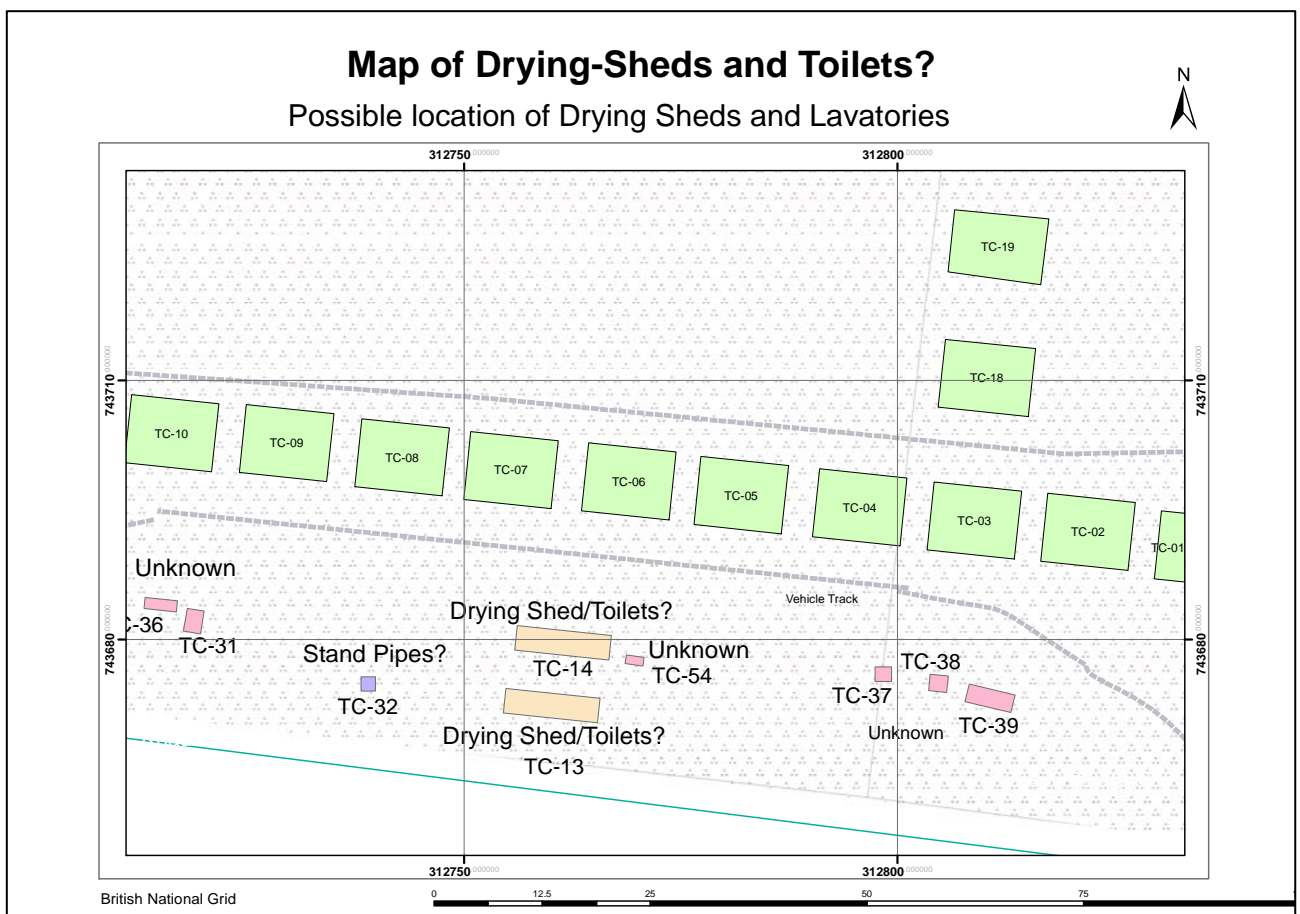


Figure 1 - Tin City Map - Possible location of Drying Sheds and Lavatories (Peet 2011)

The function of the various structures to the left and right of our candidate drying sheds and lavatories is unknown. The possible drying sheds and toilets are visible from the earliest photographs through to, and including, the 1947 aerial photo’. The structures have been removed by the 1973 aerial photo’.



Figure 2 - Possible Tin City Drying Sheds and Lavatories (Source unknown)



Figure 3 - Close up of Possible Tin City Drying Sheds and Lavatories (Source unknown)

Figure 2 places the 2 candidate building in context and Figure 3 provides a close up. Whilst the 2 buildings appear very similar in size they are clearly configured (or orientated) differently.

On reflection this appears to be an odd position to site a common facility such as drying sheds and toilets. When all 48 dormitories were present in the early years – when these buildings were also present – it would seem logical to position such common use buildings more central to the site.

There would also be an argument for not positioning lavatories particularly close to the dormitories (smells etc) and not to position them immediately up wind (predominantly winds from the south west) as these building are.

Also, see section on tracks and paths, there is no evidence, particularly in the 1947 aerial photograph, of any foot paths leading to these buildings; the expectation would have been for very well-worn paths.

Were these 2 buildings the drying sheds and/or toilets?

Present Day (2011).

Figure 4 and Figure 5 show, from different viewpoints, a single depression in the land that a field survey places at the location of former buildings TC-13 And TC-14.



Figure 4 - Possible location of Tin City Drying Sheds and Lavatories (Peet 2010)
Looking south-east



Figure 5 - Possible location of Tin City Drying Sheds and/or Lavatories (Peet 2010)
Looking west

In Figure 5 the depression is in front for the small tractor.

After Tin City (post late 1970s), this land was reportedly used for cultivation.

CHAPTER 11 - TIN CITY – INFRASTRUCTURE – CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS

Seven rectangular concrete foundation bases exist across the Tin City site whose function is unknown. Figure 1 shows the location of the 7 bases (W-12 etc) relative to the (shortened) dining hall complex and paths and tracks.

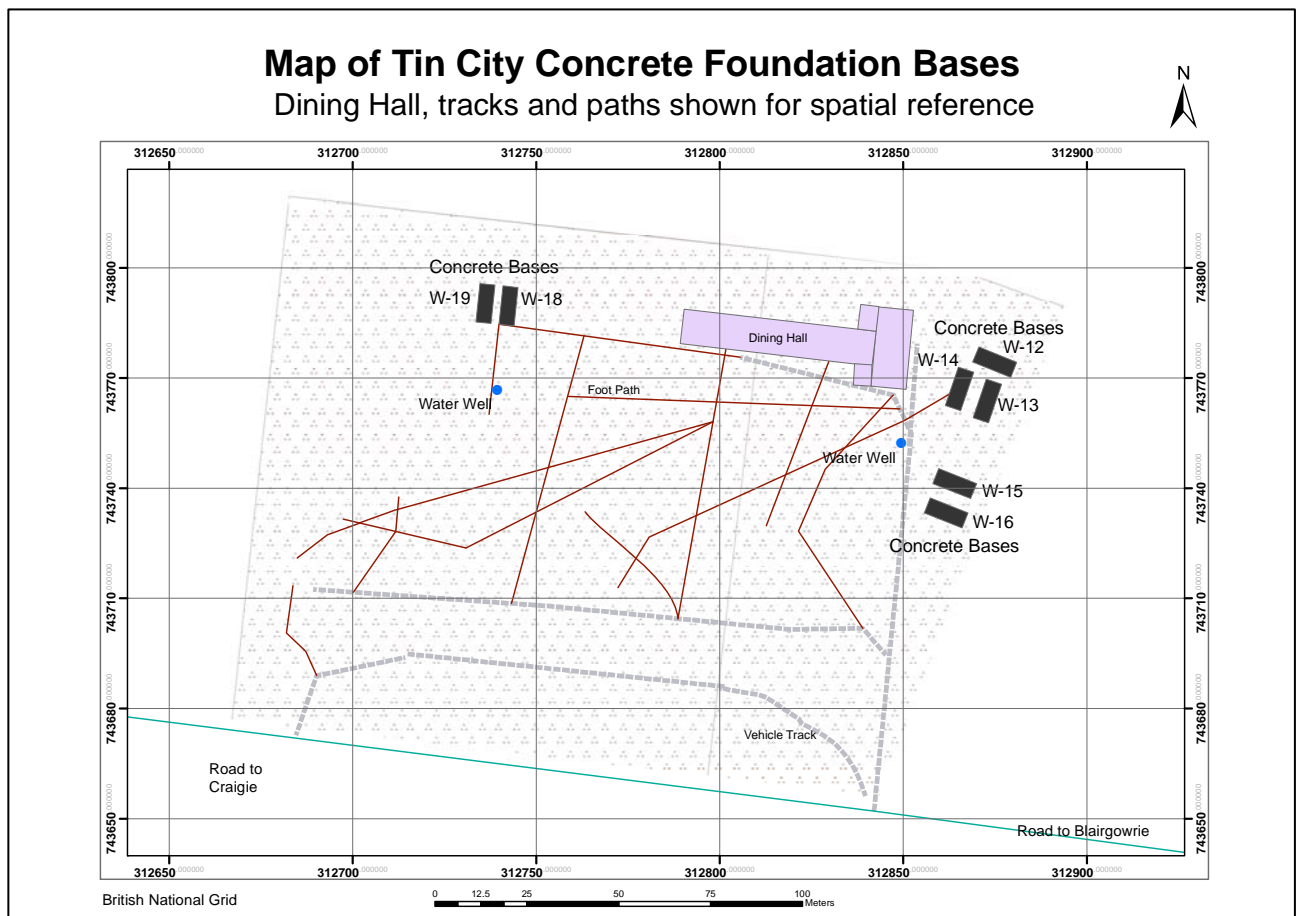


Figure 1 - Tin City Unidentified Concrete Foundations (Peet 2011)

The concrete bases are first visible in a 1947 aerial photo' in which they are already showing signs of being covered by vegetation. Two of the bases (W-18, W-19) are positioned where the north-side dormitories buildings once stood implying the bases post-date removal of those dormitories. The bases were still present in 2011 albeit some of them, mainly W-19, were deteriorating somewhat.

The shaping of the concrete bases round their edges suggests the building foundations performed 2 functions: support for building walls, and acting as a building floor. One of the bases shows evidence of, at least, one of the walls being constructed from corrugated iron.

Without knowing the function of the buildings that presumably stood on the foundations it's difficult to speculate on the buildings positioning. It could be, for example, the availability of land space for building; access to the adjacent vehicle track or the adjacency of the dining hall complex. Figure 2 shows the concrete foundation slabs, albeit abandoned, in relation to Tin City as of 1947.

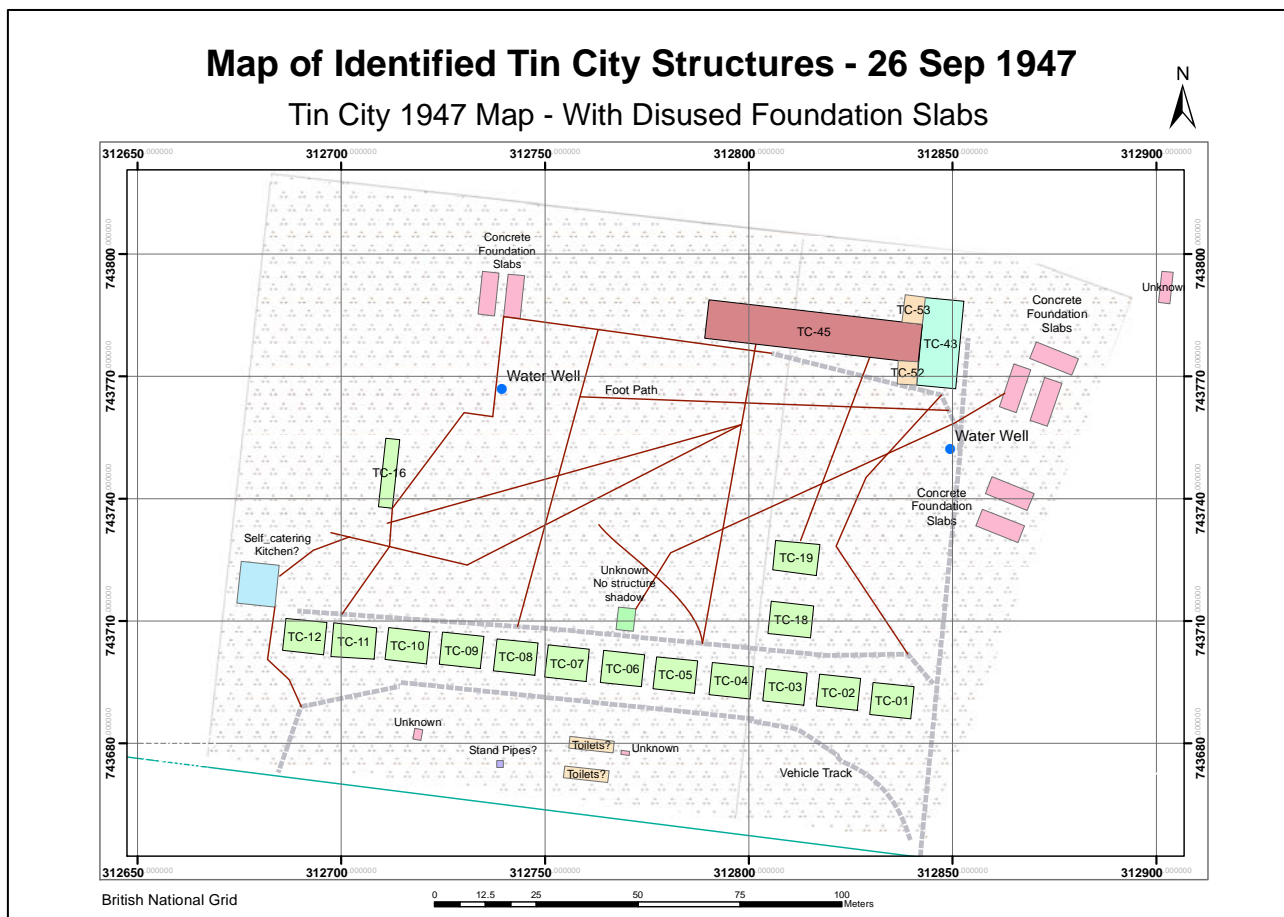


Figure 2 - Map of Tin City Based on 1947 Aerial Photo (Peet 2011)

Present Day (2011).

Inspection and field survey of the concrete foundation slabs in 2011 reveals that they are not identical: the dimensions differ slightly but are all approximately 11.2m by 4.8m +/- 0.3m; in addition, the shaping of the foundation edges, presumably for the building walls varies slightly in width and height (recess).

With reference to Figure 1:

Remains W-19.



Figure 4 - Concrete Foundation W-19 (Peet 2011)
Looking north



Figure 3 - Concrete Foundation W-19 - Edge Shaping for Walls (Peet 2011)
North-west corner; looking ESE

Remains W-18.



Figure 5 - Concrete Foundation W-18 (Peet 2011)
Looking north

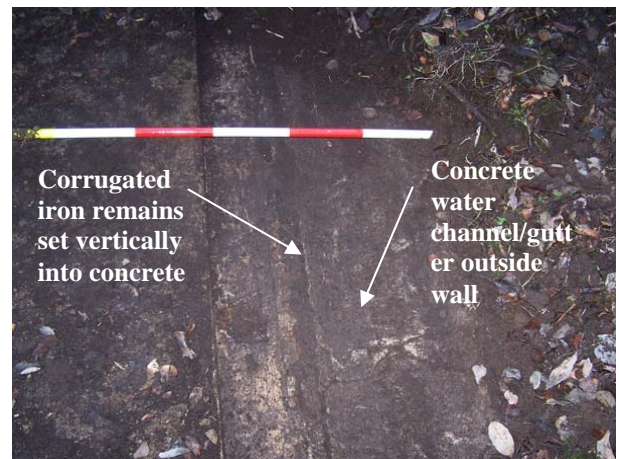


Figure 6 - Concrete Foundation W-18 – Eastern-edge Shaping (Peet 2011)

Remains W-12.



Figure 7 - Concrete Foundation W-12 (Peet 2011)
Eastern end of slab; looking north

Remains W-13.



Figure 8 - Concrete Foundation W-13 (Peet 2011)
Looking north

Remains W-14.



Figure 9 - Concrete Foundation W-14 (Peet 2011)

Remains W-15 and W-16.



Foundation W-15 in the foreground and W-16 beyond the electricity pole (pole dated 1955).

Figure 10 - Concrete Foundations W-15 and W-16 (Peet 2011) Looking SSW

QUESTIONS

- What was the function of the buildings that apparently stood on the concrete bases?
- Who, when, why built the bases/buildings?
- Of what were the buildings constructed?
- When, why, who removed the building from the slabs?

CHAPTER 12 - TIN CITY – STAFF

Hodge (1921: 19) tells us that ‘a matron and thirty servants, under the control of a superintendent, were engaged to cook and serve the food and look after the comfort of the workers.’

Figure 1 seemingly shows 24 of the staff in front of the south-east corner of the Tin City dining hall building.

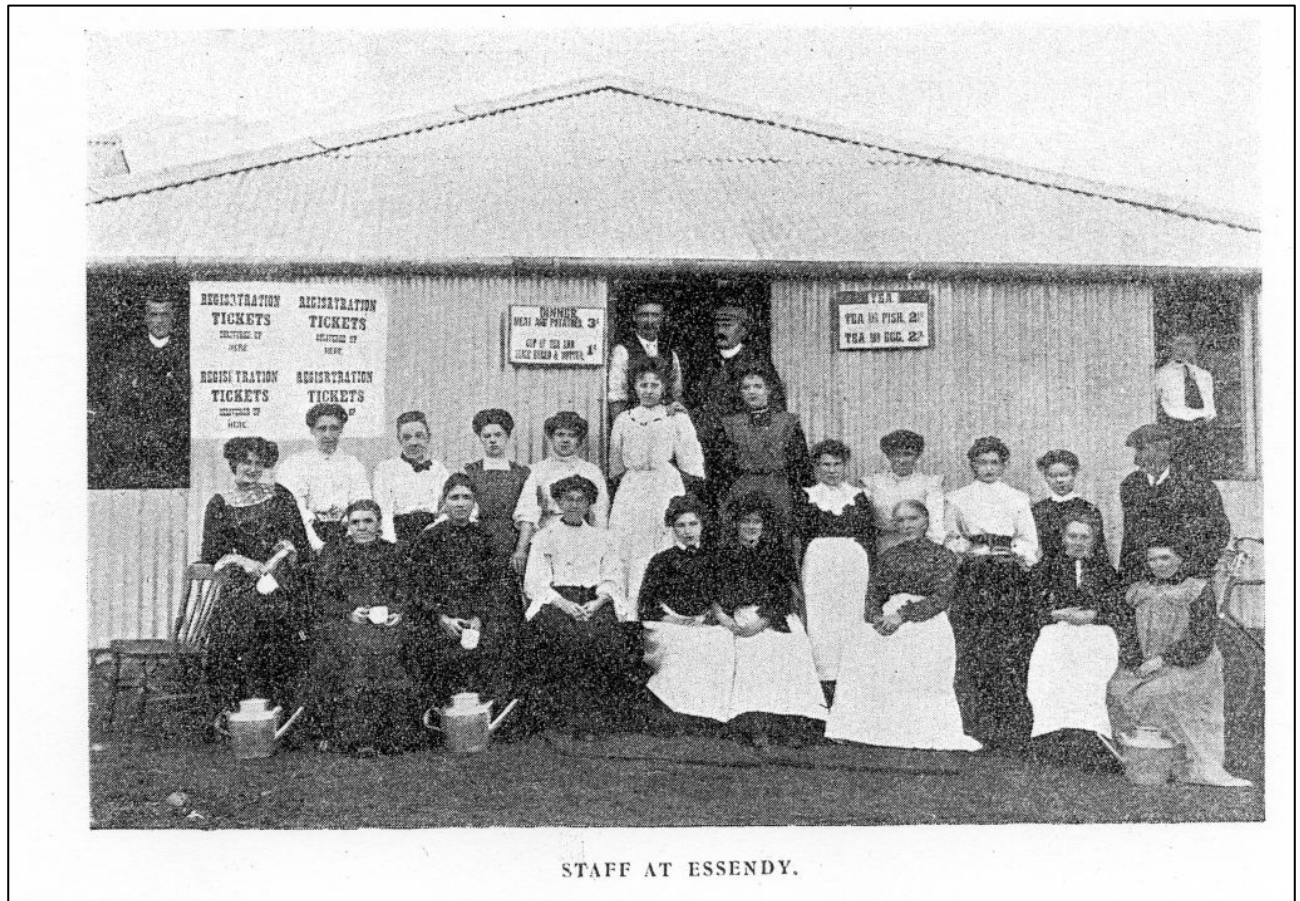


Figure 1 - Tin City Support Staff (Hodge 1921: 22)

Hodge (1921: 19) also reports that:

‘The services of a doctor were retained to keep pickers well – a duty so successfully performed, or so unnecessary, that in fourteen years there had been no epidemic of any kind, and no case of serious illness, except when the patient brought the illness with her, and no case of death, except that of an old woman who had reached the allotted span, and died of heart failure.’

The 1906 recruitment poster mentions that ‘An Isolation Ward is provided.’

In addition, there was Hodge (:20) reports

‘A cleansing officer was kept to look after the sanitation of the camp, and a policeman was kept, not so much to maintain order as to protect the pickers from the attentions of the amorous young men of the district.’

The statement above probably reflects, as we see from the recruitment poster for 1906 season at Annex B, that the berry pickers employed at Tin City in the early years were all 'respectable' females who could provide references.

Finally, a salesman was appointed by the colony for selling the colony's produce (Hodge 1921: 20).

Alas, Hodge does not mention whether the staff were local people or visiting seasonal workers; likewise, no mention is made of whether the staff lived on site or locally in the community. That said, the 1906 recruitment poster (Annex B) states 'the entire arrangements are under the supervision of our experienced Manager and his wife, who are resident on the farm.'

QUESTIONS

- How did the number of support staff vary over the years and when did the provision of such staff come to an end?

CHAPTER 13 - TIN CITY - THE BERRY PICKERS

For a detailed insight to berry pickers in the Blairgowrie area in early 1900s see Hodge (1921: 67-103).

Pre-World War One.

For the purposes of giving context to the Tin City facility a few of Hodge's observations on berry pickers are copied below.

'In the early years of the [fruit] industry in Blairgowrie the villagers reaped the crop. Subsequently, when they were no longer equal to the work, the tramp came and took the community by surprise. We made no provision for his reception and he slept, as was his custom, on the roadside and in the woods, sometimes under rags stitched together and dignified with the name of tent, more frequently under the sky with nothing to shelter him from the storm and the rain.' (:67).

Apparently, the arrival of the migrant 'tramp' berry picker did not go down well with the local community and therefore some of the local fruit growers sought alternative berry pickers. It was realised that the cities held an untapped source of worker. During the summer holiday period many of the cities respectable female workers could not afford to go on holiday and were 'slack' at a time when berries needed picking. The idea then was to offer these women a working holiday in the country.

Hodge (1921: 69) tells us that after some initial bureaucracy problems the Scottish Council for Women's Trades was able to facilitate the provision of some 100 or so city women to the Essendy small holders. The workers included: waitresses, servants, shop assistants, factory girls and industrial school children. However, as the fruit canes matured the Essendy colony needed 1,000 pickers; this was too much for the Scottish Council and they withdrew. The job was taken up by the Essendy colony superintendant whom, Hodge suggests, did an excellent job until his death in 1912. After which the task was passed to the new Labour Exchanges. Timeline-wise, the recruitment poster (Poster 1906) for the 1906 season clearly states that 1,000 berry pickers are being sought and refers to the work as a 'Month in the Country'.

Nonetheless, Hodge reports that it was often necessary to expend the time and effort of engaging some 1,500 workers knowing that a third or more would never actual turn up. Moreover, because so many of those who did arrive found they didn't like the job it became necessary for the camp superintendant to retain the workers return railway ticket – 'each worker is supplied with a Coupon, which on presentation at [sic] railway station booking office, entitles holder to travel to Blairgowrie at a greatly reduced rate' - until the end of the season. Even so, many workers apparently came up with elaborate excuses, eg sick mother, to return home.

All this seems to support the notion that in the early years Tin City was exclusively used to accommodate women only.

In short, Hodge records that 'it was found impossible to secure, year in year out, more than seven or eight hundred respectable women workers from the towns of Scotland. The shortfall was presumably met by the 'tramp' berry picker.

World War One.

Land Army Women as Berry Pickers.

During the war years many of those who normally undertook berry picking became unavailable and the land army was deployed. Hodge (:74) notes:

‘On the horizon it appeared an imposing army. As it drew near it was a cosmopolitan crowd, consisting of women belonging to all professions and none, with little in common save this – and is it not a great deal, for they say it is the main qualification for many a Government job – that they did not know anything about the work they were to do.’

Hodge also notes of the land army that ‘their services at first were accepted with some hesitation, for it was thought that the rough and tumble life of a picker, even where the most elaborate camp arrangements had been made for their comfort, would not suit them.’

Hodge’s writing goes on to suggest the growers’ misgivings had grounds given that:

- Many did not turn up for work.
- Many thought they were taking money from the poor by denying them a job; alas, not realising that the growers would much have preferred the poor ‘normal’ worker if they could have hired them.
- ‘They were a poor substitute for the real thing.’
- They demanded an increase in wages for they said ‘without it we cannot keep body and soul together.’
- Some left without paying their accommodation bill.
- They complained about the catering. See the report section on the dining hall.

And still there were not enough berry pickers.

Institutional Children as Berry Pickers.

Having deemed school children, apart from local children, to be too irresponsible and Boy Scouts too unreliable attention focused on reformatory and industrial schools, ‘because experience in pre-war days had taught us that institutional children were at least disciplined.’ The use of such children was, Hodge (:86) tells us was a great success and ‘in the second year of their sojourn in the [sic] fruitfields they had become so important as to constitute a kind of back bone to our to our picker population, and we were throwing out feelers to find out whether, when the war was over, they would come back again.’

Since Hodge (:25) includes a photograph entitled ‘industrial school children arriving at Essendy’ we can assume with some confidence that such children were housed at Tin City sometime during WWI.

German Prisoners of War.

Whilst some German POWs were used to pick berries they apparently had their own camp and were not housed at Tin City.

Post World War One.

Unknown.

QUESTIONS

- Who were the berry pickers Post WWI?
- When were males allowed to use Tin City?
- When was the last year berry pickers used Tin City?
- {Insert some pictures from SCRAN. Search term: Essendy }

CHAPTER 14 - TIN CITY – WORLD WAR II EVACUEES USE OF TIN CITY FOR TEMPORARY EVACUEE ACCOMMODATION

In Scotland, the Department of Health had spent the early period of 1939 preparing for the evacuation of unaccompanied children, mothers with children under school age, blind people and invalids from vulnerable areas. People from Glasgow were to be sent, among other places, to Perthshire. At 11:07 on 31 August 1939 the order to ‘Evacuate Forthwith’ was given and some 120,000 children left Glasgow within 3 days; however, by Christmas 1939 the German blitzkrieg had not materialised three-quarters of the evacuees has returned home (Scotland’s History).

Local comment suggests that the Tin City dormitories were used as temporary (period unknown) accommodation for evacuees until pending allocation of lodgings; berry picking, sans polytunnels, would likely have wound down by the end of August.

No direct evidence of evacuee arrangements for Tin City has been identified. However, Figure 1, an article from the Blairgowrie Advertiser newspaper of Friday 1 September 1939 states that financial assistance to evacuees in need would be dispensed at ‘Essendy Dormitory’; presumably a reference to Tin City.

The Blairgowrie Advertiser newspaper of 8 September 1939 reports that “over 2,000 evacuees were received in Blairgowrie and District last week-end” and that the Clunie contingent was taken directly to Essendy in buses.”

Assistance to Evacuees.
The Government, through the Ministry of Labour, are to make payments to those adult evacuees who are in need.
They are asked to take their billeting form with them, and to be ready to state how much money they have in their possession. They should go to the payment office nearest to their address.
The Blairgowrie Employment Exchanges have made arrangements for the following payment offices:—
Blairgowrie Y.W.C.A. Hall—Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Alyth School—Tuesday, 9.15 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Couparr Angus School—Saturday, 10.15 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
Kirkmichael School—Sunday, 9.15 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Ballintuin School—Sunday, 3.15 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.
Blackwater School—Sunday, 4.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m.
Glenshee School—Sunday, 5.45 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.
Meikleour School—Sunday, 2.45 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.
Kinloch School—Sunday, 9.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.
Butterstone School—Monday, 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Strone of Cally School—Monday, 11.45 a.m. to 3.15 p.m.
Gothens Dormitory, Carsie—Monday, 3.45 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Clunie School—Tuesday, 1 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.
Essendy Dormitory—Tuesday, 2.45 p.m. to 6.15 p.m.
Rosemount Golf Club House—Tuesday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Kettins School—Saturday, 4.45 p.m.

Figure 1 – ‘Assistance to Evacuees’ (Blairgowrie Advertiser 1 Feb 1903)

CHAPTER 15 - COIN FINDS

As of 2010, some 70+ different small denomination coins had been located within the Tin City site.

The vast majority of the coins were located either by metal detecting or digging (gardening).

As of 2010, coin finds were concentrated in 2 clusters. Metal detecting identified circa 50 coins in an area roughly 10 by 2 metres located some 17 metres SSE of the western water well; this is the only area where metal detecting had so far taken place. Digging in the present-day (2010) vegetable garden located some 7 other coins. Coins had been located throughout the site.

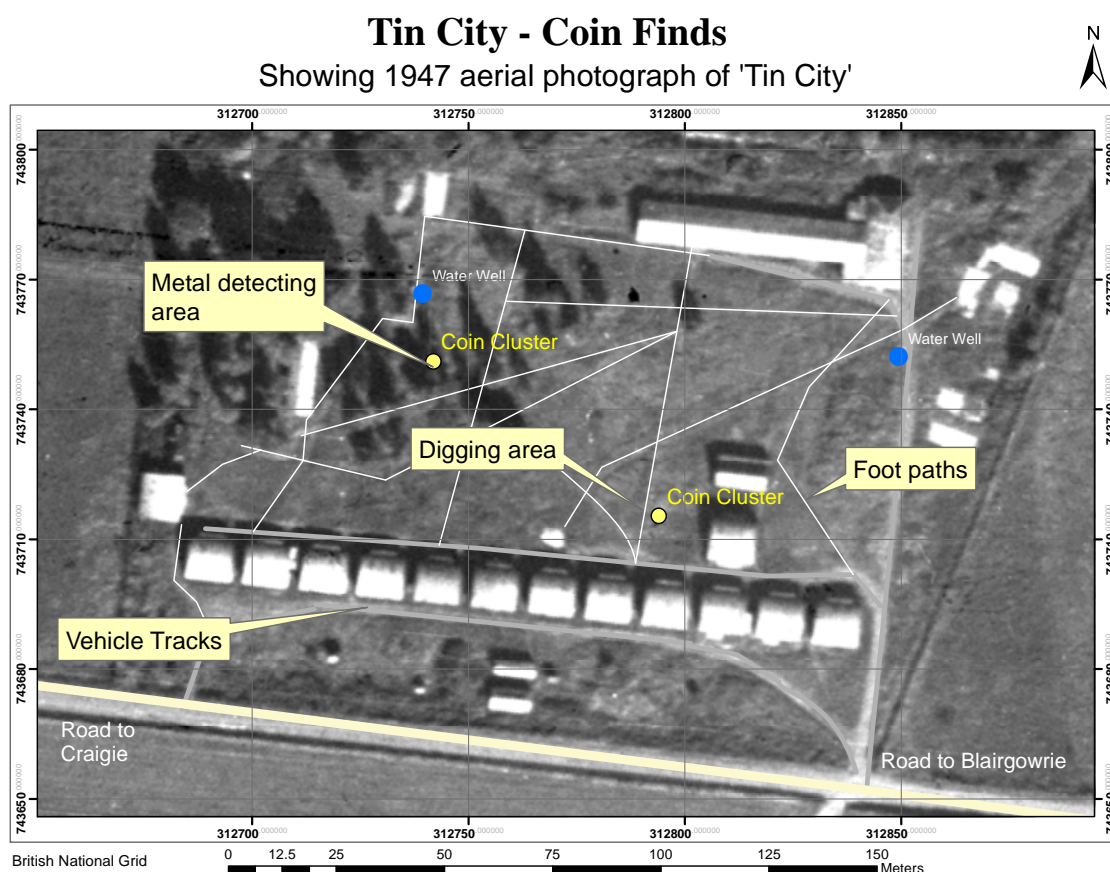


Figure 1 Map of Tin City Coin Finds

Summary of Coin Finds.

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>Count</u>
Farthing (0.25d)	1
Half Penny (0.5d)	23
Penny (1d)	34
Threepence (3d)	11
Sixpence (6d)	4
Shilling (12d)	3
Half Crown (30d)	1
Total finds	<u>77</u>

For example, table shows that the most common coin found was the one penny piece: 27 found.

Figure 2 Summary of Tin City Coin Finds

Oldest and Youngest Coins.

Oldest coin identified: 1893 Half Penny.

The oldest penny – the most common coin found – identified was a 1901 Queen Victoria penny.



Figure 3 Queen Victoria 1901 penny

Youngest coin identified: 1967 Penny

Discussion.

The cluster of coins found a few metres south-east of the western water-well remains a mystery in that there is no apparent reason why the cluster should be there; for example, there was – according to the aerial photos - no nearby building. That the coins were spread over several square metres suggest they were not lost/discarded all at once. Moreover, there is no evidence, from the aerial photo's of 1947 and 1973 that any of the many foot-tracks directly passed the coin cluster area.

Presumably, there is an argument that coins found by digging in the west coin cluster were either lost by persons walking the path towards the dining-hall building or that they were thrown out with any waste discarded from the adjacent accommodation huts that faced north onto this area.

That a 1967 coin is the youngest found, anywhere on the site, suggests that human activity on site after this date. The following graph shows that, for example, 15 coins have been found with a date of manufacture within the 5-year period 1940 and 1944 inclusive.

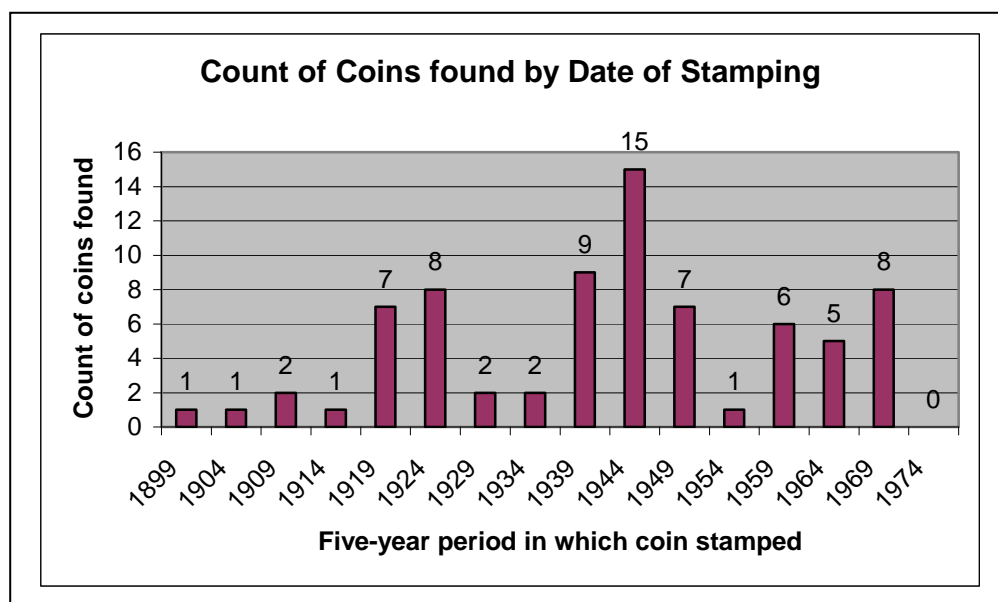


Figure 4 Count of coins found by Date

That there appears to be an increase in coins lost with dates of manufacture within and immediately after the 2 world wars raises interesting although there is, of course, no evidence on when these coins were actually lost.

QUESTIONS

- Why the cluster of lost coins near the site centre?

CHAPTER 16 - TIN CITY – ARTIFACTS

Many artefacts from an earlier era have been found across the Tin City site. Here we mention those artefacts not recorded elsewhere in these notes. Primarily artefacts are used where possible to provide dating information about Tin City.

Bottles. See next chapter.

Glacier Fruits Sweet Wrapper.

A one shilling wrapper from Glacie Fruits:

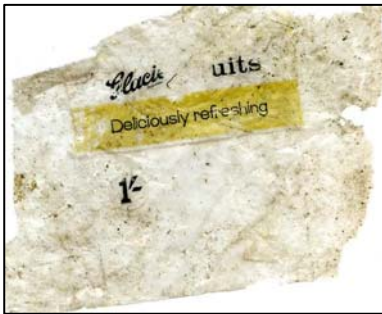


Figure 1 - Sweet Wrapper (Peet 2011)

Fox's Glacier Fruits were launched in 1956 (Fox's 2011).

Toffee Treats Sweet Wrapper.

A 6d Toffee Treats wrapper:



Figure 2 - Toffee Treats 6d Wrapper (Peet 2011)

The slogan 'Melts in your mouth, not in your hand' was trademarked in 1954 (Mars 2007).

Lawson of Dyce



Figure 3 - Lawson of Dyce Sausage Wrapper

The central (red) logo in the image is that Lawson of Dyce, a meat and sausage company, established near to Aberdeen circa WWII.

Although no longer active, Lawson of Dyce was clearly active when visited by Margret Thatcher (Thatcher 1978) on 6 Jan 1978.

There is a group page for Lawson of Dyce on the Friends Reunited website.

CHAPTER 16A - TIN CITY – ARTIFACTS - BOTTLES

Literally, many hundreds of intact empty glass bottles of numerous designs have been located buried across the Tin City site along with the broken remains of countless others. A few bottles have been located in what was probably a midden along with a liberal and seemingly random spread across the site.

Whilst many of the bottles carried no embedded-glass inscription – none had any remaining paper labels – a few were branded. These are detailed below.

Bottles - Unbranded.

A sample of the many unbranded bottles located buried at Tin City including at least one marked poisonous.



Figure 1 - Unbranded glass bottles found at Tin City (Peet 2011)

Bottles - Branded

Figure 3 shows a general image of some of the branded bottles – by branded we mean a name, logo etc appears in glass on the bottle. Identifying some of the bottles gives a little date history.

Left to right in Figure 4 shows bottles tagged as:

- Dundee Pasteurised Milk (D.P.M) – formerly located at Dundee Pasteurised Milk Co Ltd., 62 Main Road, Dundee was incorporated 17 Nov 1923. Clearly, operational in the mid-1950s but apparently closed (dissolved) in the 1970s. References [accessed 10 Feb 2011]: See
 - <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/bygone/jul1953/>
 - <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/bygone/mar1956/>
 - <http://retrodundee.blogspot.com/2010/01/unicorn-reform-street.html>

- <http://www.edinburgh-gazette.co.uk/issues/19920/pages/1043/page.pdf>
 - <http://ukdata.com/company/SC012905/DUNDEE-PASTEURISED-MILK-COMPANY-LIMITED>
- G&P Barrie Ltd – Apparently a Dundee-based company, founded in 1830 by George and Peter Barrie, supplying amongst other things, aerated water and beer etc. References [accessed 10 Feb 2011]: See
 - <http://www.theglasgowstory.com/image.php?inum=TGSE00421&t=2&urltp=search.php%3Fstart%3D0%26end%3D20%26what%3D%26where%3D|Pollokshields%26who%3D%26period%3D%26collection%3D%26search%3D99>
 - <http://www.themcmanus-dundee.gov.uk/content/collections/database/gp-barrie-ginger-beer-bottle>
 - Thomson (Falkirk, Dysart, Blairgowrie) - University of Glasgow archives (<http://www.archives.gla.ac.uk/sba/sbacolls/jc.html> [10 Feb 2011]) record that the company 'James Calder & Co (Brewers) Ltd' registered in 1920 acquired "George Thomson & Son Ltd, bottlers of Falkirk; Blairgowrie, Perthshire and Kinross; and Dysart, Fife, in 1950"

Syrup of hypophosphites.

Figure 2 gives us a bottle of "syrup of hypophosphites" that was, according to a 1895 book, apparently useful in treating the "Affections Incidental to Women." Ref: < <http://www.antiqubook.com/boox/uh/010344.shtml> > [10 Feb 2011]



Figure 2 - Bottle of 'Syrup of Hypophosphites' (Peet 2011)



Figure 3 - Sample of Branded Bottles from Tin City (Peet 2011)



Figure 4 Tin City Bottle Finds (Peet 2011)

Thomson Craik (Perth)



Figure 5 - Tin City Bottle - Thomson Craik Co Ltd (Peet 2011)

The brewing archives of the University of Glasgow tell us that

“In 1886 William Thomson erected a new brewery and maltings at Blackford, Perthshire, Scotland. Whilst the brewery was under construction William died, and so the work was completed by his Trustees. In July 1898 the business became a limited liability company under the name W B Thomson Ltd. The company added maltings to the brewery and began to manufacture aerated water.

By the early 1900s W B Thomson had run into financial difficulties, which was partly a consequence of a slump being suffered by the brewing industry in general. The aerated water and bottling sides to the business were separated from the brewery, the former merging with John Craik & Co of Perth, Perthshire and Kinross to form Thomson Craik & Co Ltd. W B Thomson Ltd went into liquidation and brewing ceased in March 1915 after finally being crippled by economic conditions induced by a country at war.” (<<http://www.archives.gla.ac.uk/sba/sbacolls/glm.html>>[10 Feb 2011])

And

“In 1952 Thompson, Craik & Co, bottlers and aerated water manufacturers, Perth, Scotland, became a wholly owned subsidiary of John Wright & Co Ltd. “ <<http://www.archives.gla.ac.uk/sba/sbacolls/jw.html>> [10 Feb 2011]

Cochrane & Tasker (Meigle)



Noteworthy for not being identifiable on a Google search.

Figure 6 - Bottle 'Cochrane & Tasker Meigle' (Peet 2011)

Garton HP Sauce. According to Wikipedia

Probably the oldest bottle discovered so far.

“The original recipe for HP Sauce was invented and developed by Frederick Gibson Garton, a grocer from Nottingham. He registered the name H.P. Sauce in 1895. Garton called the sauce HP because he had heard that a restaurant in the Houses of Parliament had begun serving it.[4] For many years the bottle labels have carried a picture of the Houses of Parliament. Garton sold the recipe and HP brand for the sum of £150 and the settlement of some unpaid bills to Edwin Samson Moore.[4] Moore, the founder of the Midlands Vinegar Company (the forerunner of HP Foods) subsequently launched HP Sauce in 1903.” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HP_Sauce>[10 Feb 2011]

Windolene

A glass 'Windolene' bottle bearing the slogan 'wipe it on – wipe it off'.



Figure 7 - 'Windolene' glass bottle (Peet 2011)

CHAPTER 17 - SRP PROJECT – OTHER STUFF

Theatre Production.

There is a theatre production entitles “The Fields of Essendy” that seemingly deals with life at Tin City.

(Play script to be identified.)

Poem.

Annex C lists a poem about Tin City.

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SALE OF WESTER ESSENDY ESTATE
BLAIRGOWRIE ADVERTISER NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

**THE ESTATE OF WESTER ESSENDY
TO BE CUT UP INTO SMALL
HOLDINGS.**

WHEN the estate of Wester Essendy was a few weeks ago reported as having been sold by Messrs Pantou, Noble, & Young, agents for the late Mr Thomas Spalding's trustees, to Messrs Mackay & Irons, Dundee, "for a client," there were various conjectures as to who was purchaser. One report was that the enterprising firm of Messrs Keay & Hodge, solicitors, Blairgowrie, were the buyers, and this turns out nearly correct. They have taken the leading part in forming a syndicate who have bought the estate with the object of dividing it into small allotments for fruit-growing. The estate consists of two farms, two pendicles, and a smithy on a small detached portion at west of Rae Loch. Of a total area of 450 acres, 390 are arable. The rents, considered very moderate, amount to £260, and the leases of the two farms, tenanted respectively by Messrs Andrew Spalding and James Niven, expire at Martinmas, 1903.


The plan of disposing of the ground in allotments is to spread the period of payments over a term of years, and it is understood several parties are purchasing on a system of paying a sum annually for ten years, the ground purchased extending to 140 acres on the farm occupied by Mr Spalding, whose steading one of the buyers will occupy. The buyers are bound to lay down at least part in fruit, and it is probable a large area will be planted as soon as the ground is available. The liability of proprietors to pay compensation under the Market Gardeners' Compensation Act has made proprietors unwilling to let ground for fruit growing unless at higher rents than hitherto, some being, it is reported, leased on the Rairay side at £10 an acre, which is higher than hitherto paid, except fields close to Blairgowrie rented at £12.

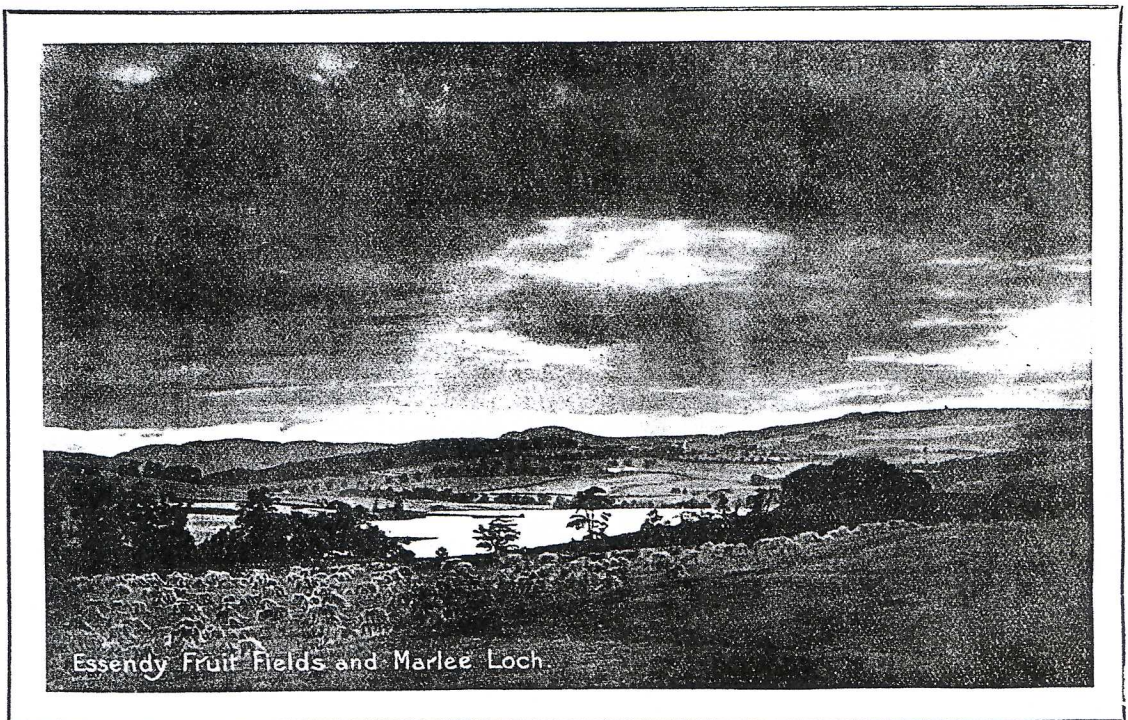
The growing of fruit in the neighbourhood is very successfully done by Mr Chapman Anderson on the neighbouring farm of Aikenhead, where fruits of various kinds are grown on a considerable scale, including apples, pears, and plums, as well as raspberries and strawberries.

Figure 1 - Sale of Wester Essendy Estate
Source: Blairgowrie Advertiser Newspaper
Saturday 7 February 1903, Page 6

Month in the Country

... FOR WORKING GIRLS ...

ESSRS KEAY & HODGE, FRUIT GROWERS, in the Blairgowrie district of Perthshire, offer employment in Raspberry Gathering on their Model Fruit Farms of Westfields and Essendy, to 1000 respectable women and girls for about one month during the season 1906.



The farms are situated in one of the loveliest districts of the Perthshire Highlands, and the river Erich flows through the Westfields grounds; the air in both places is particularly pure and bracing. The Essendy estate lies between the beautiful Lochs of Marlee and Clunie, and is surrounded by fine hill scenery. On Saturday afternoons, the workers are encouraged to organise expeditions to the famous Beech Hedge, Meikleour, and to other places of interest in the neighbourhood.

On week nights concerts are held in the Dining Hall. This year special entertainments are being arranged for Friday evenings.

1126

The Scheme was started in the summer of 1903 by Messrs Keay & Hodge with the object of improving the conditions of work, and attracting a superior class of women to an important and growing industry. It offers a delightful, pleasant, profitable, and bracing country holiday to village, town, and city working girls and women. Hundreds have availed themselves of the opportunity of thus spending a month in the country. The results of the experiment have been very gratifying to all concerned, and the gain in health and strength to the workers very marked indeed.

LODGINGS.

These are provided by the firm to the workers at a charge of 1/- per week. The workers are lodged in buildings specially erected for them. These comprise a large Dining Hall, well-lighted and ventilated Dormitories, containing iron bedsteads with comfortable bedding. The beds accommodate two persons each; there is accommodation for washing and drying clothes. There are also lavatories, toilet basins, boot brushes, blacking, and mirrors.



THE DINING ROOM.

WAGES.

The fruit is picked at 1/2d per lb. The wages may run, with favourable conditions of the weather and crops, to 3/- or 4/- a day, or even more. First-class pickers make over 5/- a day. Wages are to be paid daily.

BILL OF FARE.

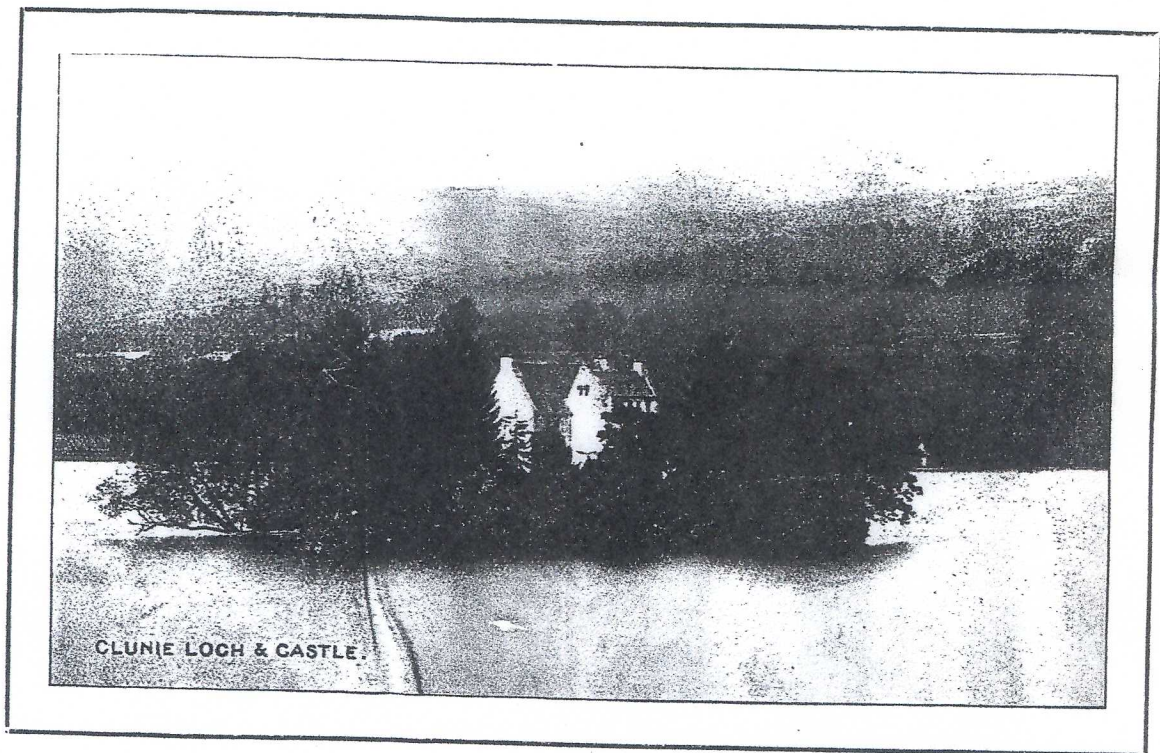
Councillor Jas. Alston, Glasgow, of wide experience is caterer. The following is his Bill of Fare—

Meat or Mince and Potatoes.	3d	Porridge and Milk.	1 1/2d
Soup,	1d	Tea or Cocoa, per cup.	1/2d
Pudding,	1d	Bread and Butter, per slice.	1d and 1/2d
Ham Sandwich, each,	1d and 2d	Plate of Cold Boiled Ham.	2d

Cheese, Milk, Cakes, etc., also on sale.

ARRANGEMENTS.

The entire arrangements are under the supervision of our experienced Manager and his wife, who are resident at the farm. In cases of serious sickness that cannot be dealt with by the Manager's wife, the services of a Doctor has been specially retained for the workers' benefit. An Isolation Ward is provided. For the convenience of workers, postage stamps, post cards, etc., will be on sale each evening from 7 till 9 at office.



ENROLMENT.

Those wishing to enrol are invited to fill up accompanying Application Form, and return it at the very earliest, as the applications will be dealt with in the order received. Address:—"Manageress, Isla Cottage, Blairgowrie." As it is the desire of Messrs. Keay & Hodge to maintain, in the interest of the workers themselves, a high standard of character and conduct, only women of guaranteed respectability will be engaged. A satisfactory reference from a clergyman (either Protestant or Catholic), an employer, or some other well-known person, must be given.

It has been found to be a pleasant and suitable arrangement for a mother and daughters, sisters, or a group of friends to go together. In no case will young children be allowed to accompany their mothers. Girls under 16 years of age will not be taken unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

RAILWAY FARES.

Each worker is supplied with a Coupon, which on presentation at railway station booking office, entitles holder to travel to Blairgowrie at a greatly reduced rate. On their arrival at Blairgowrie conveyances are provided by the firm to drive the workers and their luggage to the farms.

TIME FOR STARTING.

The time for starting is usually about the *third week of July*, this is determined very much by the weather.



TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT.

The Application Form enclosed must be carefully filled up and the number of weeks the worker can remain, clearly stated in the spaces provided for that purpose. On receipt of registration fee the worker is supplied with Railway Coupon, Regulations, and Registration Ticket, which must be presented at Blairgowrie before entering the conveyances. The duplicate half is given up to Superintendent on arrival at Farms. The worker retaining the other half during residence. It is delivered up on departure.

CLOTHING.

Workers are advised to provide themselves for working purposes with cotton blouses, sun bonnets or straw hats for good days. These, however, are not suitable for showery weather, and pickers should, whatever else they bring with them, bring a thick woollen skirt with thick bodice, strong boots or clogs, old jackets or waterproofs. Old gloves, and stockings from which the feet have been cut are very necessary for protecting the hands and arms from the thorns of the bushes. A few pairs will be found most useful.

A POEM ABOUT TIN CITY (PRESUMABLY)

A Berry Good Song

Maurice Fleming gives the background to the comic verses below.



The "Tin City". Pickers from Dundee and other towns and cities were housed here during the fruit season.

In the 1950s the fruit fields around Blairgowrie and Rattray became a happy hunting ground for folksong collectors. They tracked down singers amongst the travelling people who camped on the farms for the duration of the season.

Also here for "the Berries", and often able to rase a song, were families from Dundee and other towns and cities.

Farmers provided them with accommodation such as the famous "Tin City" at Essendy.

Local traditional singer Belle Stewart painted an unforgettable picture of life at Berrytime in her great song "The Berryfields o' Blair". Another song, apparently written by a disgruntled picker, has never been in print till now.

What more appropriate place for its first appearance than the Games Programme? Bogle's Field, after all, the site of the Games, lies on the road to Essendy from which the unhappy picker was so Desparate to escape.

Try singing it to

"The Barnyards o' Delgaty".

As I cam in the road tae Rettrey,
Rettrey fowk tae gang an' see,
I was stopped by a berry fairmer
Aff the Braes of Essendy.
Says he tae me, "Ye'll mak yer fortune,
Puin fruit for canneries,"
If I'd a'kent whit I was in for,
I'd a' gien him raspberries.

(Chorus)

Berrypickin's no ma hobby,
Berrypickin's no for me.
Berrypickin's no ma hobby,
Tak me back tae dear Dundee!
He said he'd gie me sheets and blankets
A bed tae lay ma heid intae,

When I went tae the huts at nicht
He threw tae me a 'bag o' strae.
Says he tae me "There's bonnie lassies,
You will hae your fling a'richt."
But I've seen bonnier weemen staunin
In the Overgate at nicht.

(Chorus)

He telt me that Maclennan's buses
Rin tae Blair near every oor,
I've been staunin here since daybreak,
Aa I've seen is clouds o' stoor.
Whaur's ma pay and whaur's the lavvies,
Whaur's the road that gangs tae Blair;
Keep yer hut and keep yer berries,
Ye'll never see me here nae mair.

(Chorus)

Figure 1 A Berry Pickers Poem (Blairgowrie & Rattray Highland Games Programme 2007: 21)