



# **A Report on Scotland's Rural Past Easter Aviemore Inverness-shire**



**A Report on Scotlands Rural Past  
Easter Aviemore  
by  
Members of the North of Scotland  
Archaeological Society**

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## Contents

	page
<b>Introduction and Methodology</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Location</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Historical background</b>	
Timeline	3
Map Regression	4
Farming	11
Housing	17
Social Conditions	22
Roads and Railways	23
Hardship and Danger in the 1800's	24
<b>Archaeological description</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	
i NAS GD 248/371/4/53 Petition of Alexander Harvey	34
Society Schoolmaster at Aviemore May 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1767	
ii NAS GD 248/483/2 item 120 Aviemore Inn agreement	36
iii NAS E326/10 The Farm Horse Tax rolls, 1797-1798, volume 11.)	38
iv RHP 13927 1809, Contents.	38
v Slater's Royal National Commercial Directory & Topography of Scotland 1860 (extract)	39
vi Black's Morayshire Directory 1863 (extract)	40
vii Tenants of Aviemore Lots, from Plans, Census and Valuation rolls	41

## Introduction and Methodology

The purpose of the survey was to discover if anything was left of 'Easter Aviemore' and record any features found. Daily walks with a dog along the 'Orbital Path' had shown remains of rigs in the fields, and vague lines of walls maybe? A corn kiln was also noticed adjacent to the path.

Further exploration was indicated and the survey began, as a solo effort by the author. The initial survey was by walk over, followed by a field sketch of ephemeral walls and field boundaries, and plane table survey of structures found, after Anne Wilson and Edwin Wakeling, had been recruited to help. A lot of the research involved estate maps, and study of the aerial photos. The newspaper index of Highland Council's bilingual history and culture website, Am Baile was consulted, and copies of relevant articles obtained through Inverness Library.

## Location

The survey area is at the northern end of the modern village of Aviemore, which lies in Strath Spey, on the flats bordering the River Spey, between the Monadhliath mountains to the west, and Cairngorms rising to over 4000ft to the east. The



Highlands, to the east , and so Wester is upstream and Easter is downstream, as is the case here.

## Historical background

### Aviemore Timeline

1725 Aviemore Inn built.

1750 Avimore & Avemore shown on Roy Military survey.

1765 Inn of Aviemore re-built, old inn becomes stables.

1767 Petition of Alexander Harvey Schoolmaster at Aviemore, requesting a supplement to his annual SSPCK salary of £5.

1768 "Theres four hunder ston of hay sold to John Grant vintner in Aviemore at five pence per ston the best hay and three pence hay that was partly damaged of Crompt 1768." Five loads carted from Dunachton between "8<sup>th</sup> Novr., and ffebruary 7<sup>th</sup>" (Grant 1924/1981, 184)

1770 Field sketch of the Davoch of Aviemore, shows Easter Aviemore in run-rig

1772 "Ane account of Oak Bark sent to Aviemore for Mr Thom's Accot. July 10<sup>th</sup>. Our six horses being weighed at sight of John Grant Aviemore each cart containing fifteen ston and  $\frac{3}{4}$ " A total of 42 Bolls were sent from Dunachton. (Grant 1924/1981, 194)

1781 Minute of Tack John Macgregor of the Inn of Aviemore, 27<sup>th</sup> December.

1780's Famines: wise landowners bought meal not grain, as the mills were all frozen.

1789 Tay bridge disaster, huge storm throughout the Highlands.

1797 The Farm Horse Tax rolls list 3 Aviemore farmers and Alex Grant, Founder there.

1809 Plan by George Brown, of Bulladern, Aviemore and Grenish, setting out lots in Easter Aviemore and Milton.

1829 The Great Moray Flood: widespread devastation, crops destroyed.

1845 County boundary change: Aviemore moved from Elginshire to Moray.

1846 Highland Potato famine.

1849 Copy of 1809 plan by Alexander Duncan, showing the marches according to which the farms were let in 1847.

1850 Russell's Morayshire Register of fairs, cattle-markets and trysts in Scotland:

Kingussie, (12 miles) and Grantown (15 miles), were the nearest.

1851 Population of Duthil parish rose by 293 between 1801 and 1851.

1860 Plan by G. Mackay shows Easter Aviemore lots with boundaries straightened.

1863 Highland Railway built: Aviemore has a station.

1863 Aviemore has a sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, toll-keeper, shoemaker, sawyer, carter, miller, 6 farmers, gamekeeper and the Innkeeper.

1864-66 Boundaries of the Easter Aviemore lots were straightened.

1867 1<sup>st</sup> Edition O.S. map (Inverness-shire 1875, sheet lviii) shows Easter Aviemore township with five unroofed, twenty-one roofed buildings and six enclosures; and Milton township comprising two unroofed, one partially roofed, two roofed buildings one of which is a corn and barley mill, and two enclosures.

1869 Farmer at Braes of Aviemore killed by falling stone.



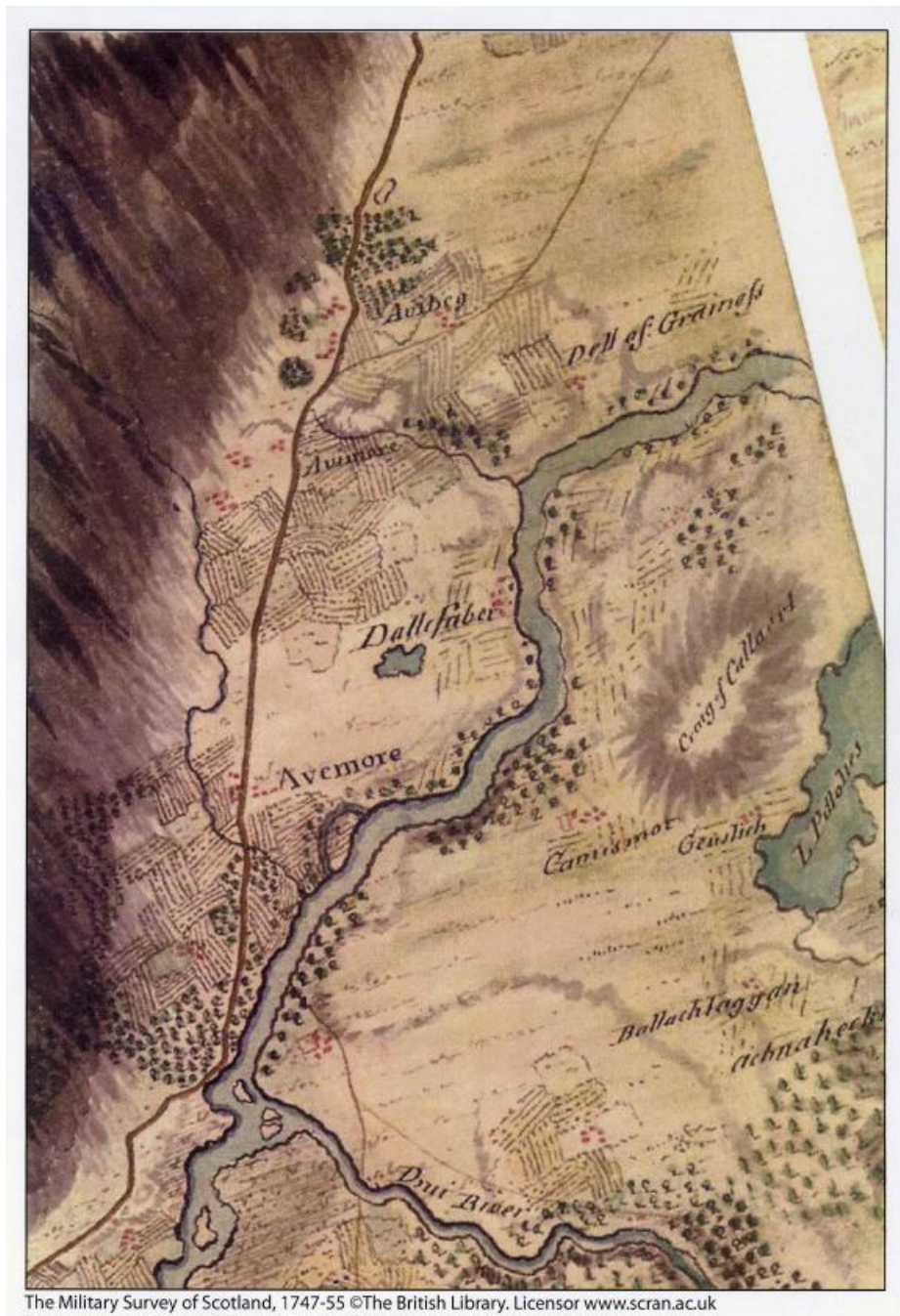
- 1870 County boundary change: Aviemore transferred to Inverness-shire.
- 1883 Napier Commission set up.
- 1886 Crofter's Holdings Act passed.
- 1890 Pressure from crofters on Mr Fraser MacKintosh M.P. towards a Crofters' Commission visit to Aviemore.
- 1892 "Aviemore a station on the Highland railway in Duthil parish, NE Inverness-shire, 12 ½ miles from Grantown. Here is a Post Office with money order, savings bank and telegraph departments; and 3 furlongs to the N is Aviemore House. The Carrbridge section of the new through line from Aviemore to Inverness, was opened in July 1892." (Groome, 1895)
- 1898 Aviemore Railway station becomes Aviemore Junction with building of direct line to Inverness.
- 1899 New Hotel to be built at Aviemore.
- 1901 Opening of Mission Church at Aviemore.

## Map Regression

Timothy Pont, Strath Spey, c1583-96 © National Library of Scotland  
[www.nls.uk/maps](http://www.nls.uk/maps)



Pont's map of Strath Spey, c1583-96, shows Aviemore ('Auymoir') as two distinct settlements lying close together on the W bank of the River Spey, with Belladyrin, to the S, at the foot of Kraig Elachie. Their position relative to each other and neighbouring settlements is very schematic.



Roy's Military Survey of Scotland, 1748-55, also shows two settlements ('Avimore' to the N and 'Avemore' to the S) with extensive open fields and woodland around them. General Wade's military road, runs in a N-S direction through their arable land and a small settlement called Dallifaber lies between them, close to the river bank. There is also an unnamed township on the east side of a small lochan to the S, now part of the modern Aviemore. The S-most settlement appears to correspond with the area occupied by Wester Aviemore and Aviemore House on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS survey, and the N-most settlement corresponds with the area occupied by Easter Aviemore and Milton.



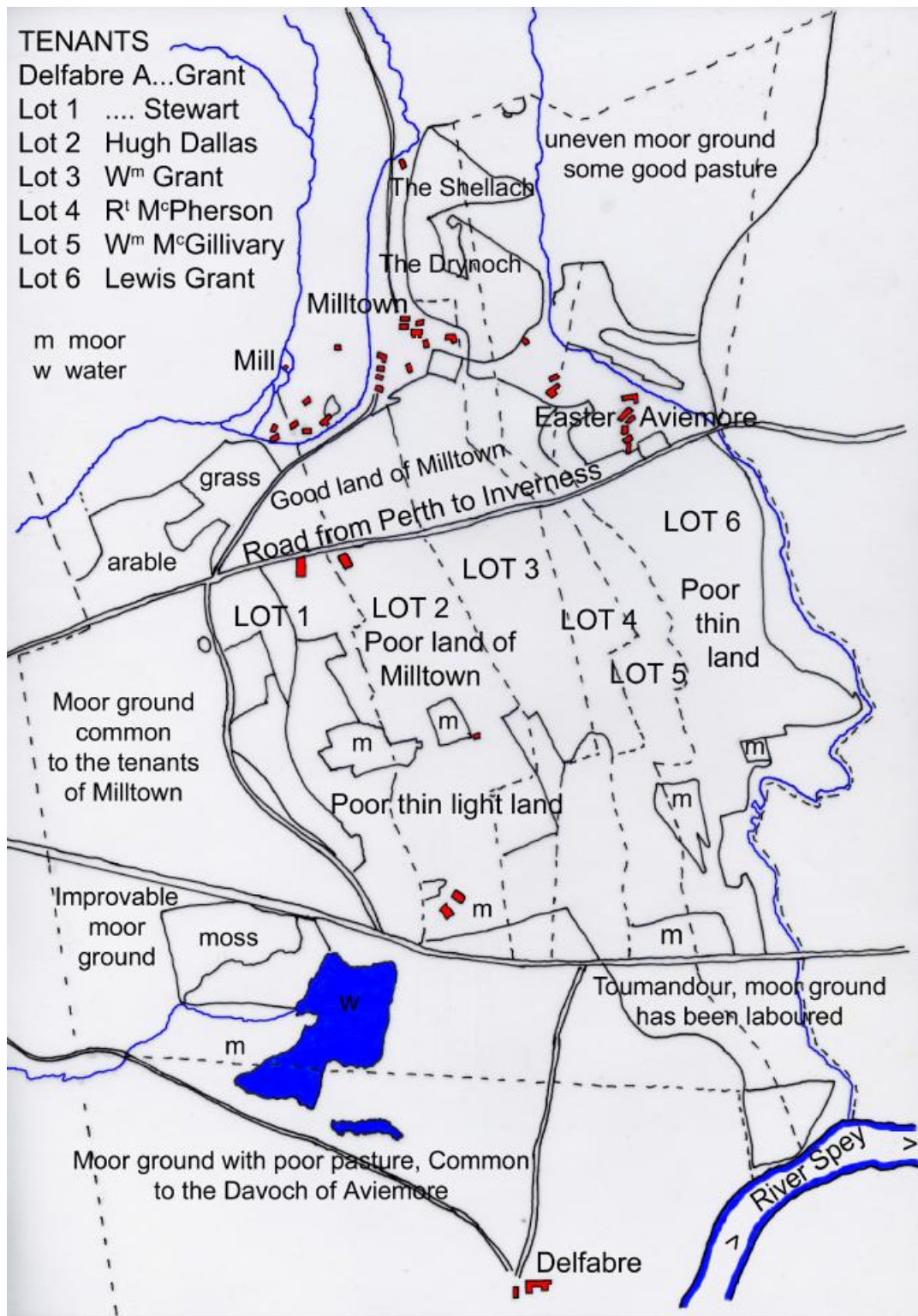
### Sketch plans of davoch of Aviemore, 1770 (NAS RHP98363)



A 1770 field sketch of the Davoch of Aviemore, (NAS RHP 98363) shows the lands of Milton and Easter Aviemore beside The Black Burn in run-rig, with very narrow strips divided amongst the tenants, whose houses and barns are scattered in a line west of the road. The land to the east of the road is divided into larger areas, possibly representing the amalgamation of earlier rigs. Six tenants and three cottars are named: the tenants names are assigned to both the narrow and amalgamated rigs, and to groups of buildings, whilst the cottars names are assigned only to buildings.



**Plan of Pulladern, Aviemore and Granish, surveyed by George Brown in 1809 (NAS RHP13927)**



In George Brown's Plan of Pulladern (Bulladern), Aviemore and Granish (Grenish), 1809 (NAS RHP 13966) the run rigs have been swept away and the fields divided into six lots, formed from the two settlements of Milton and Easter Aviemore. The six lots have very convoluted boundaries, recognisable from the earlier plan, and are annotated with the quality of the land, such as 'improvable moor', or 'poor thin land'. The tenants names added later are hardly legible.

**Plan of Pulladern, Aviemore and Granish, 1809, copied by Alexander Duncan in 1849 (NAS RHP13966)**

The 1809 plan was copied by Alexander Duncan in 1849 and the new survey (NAS RHP13966) annotated to show 'the marches according to which the farms were let in 1847.' This may suggest the reorganisation of neighbouring farms or renewal of leases at this time. The croft boundaries appear to be the same as in 1809

**John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland, 1832**

Nairn and Elgin, Edinburgh : J. Thomson & Co., 1820.

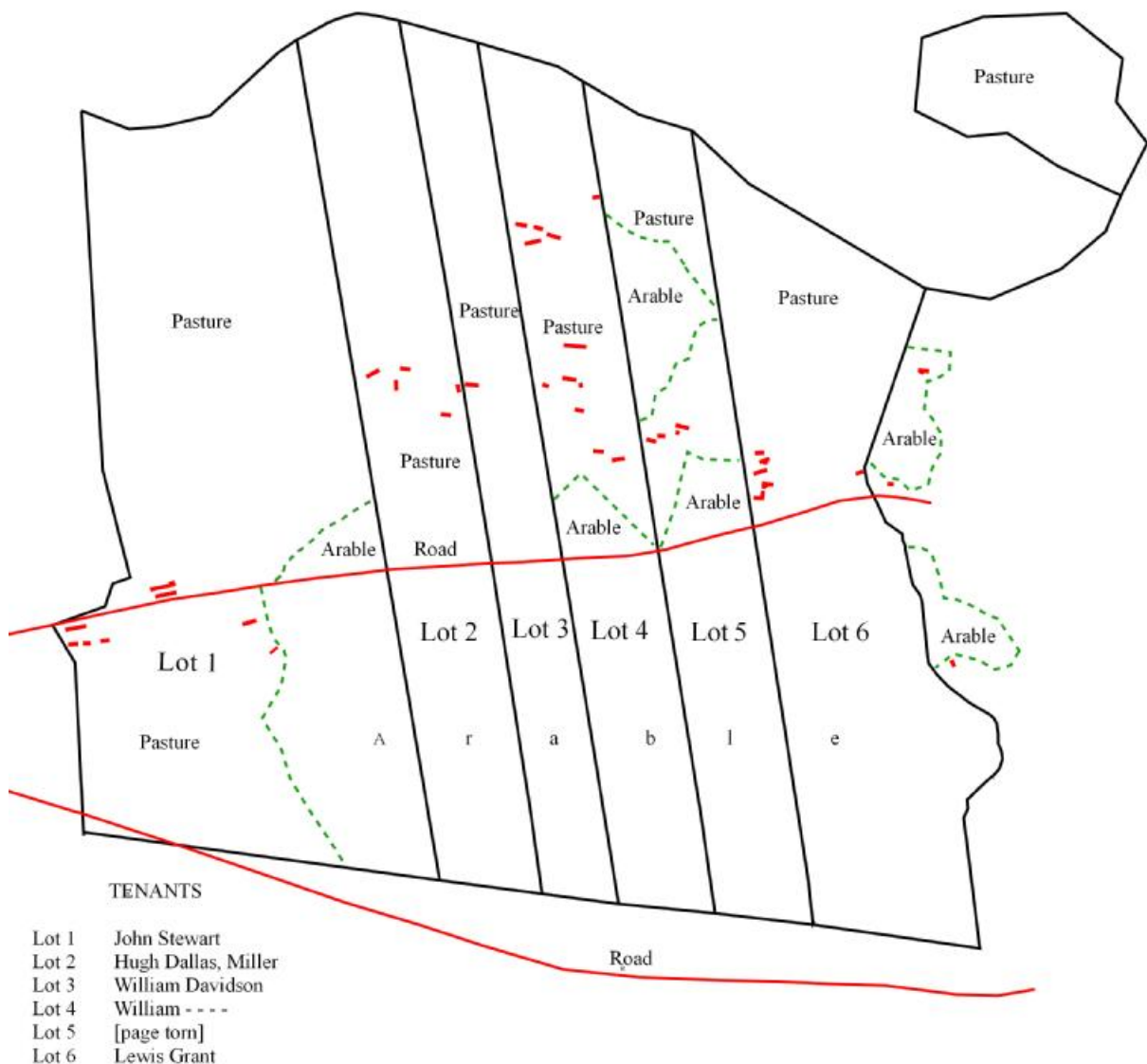


Aviemore is in Elginshire, Aviemore, Aviemore Inn and Craie Ullachie are named, and the Morlich burn enters the River Spey opposite the county boundary. At Aviemore Inn the road divides, one branch going to Duthel, the other to Grant Town, between Aviemore Inn and Avielochan the road divides again to Inchluin and Bridge of Carr.

<http://maps.nls.uk/atlas/thomson/566.html>

In the same atlas is a map of the Northern Part of Inverness Shire, Southern Part, which shows the same ground, the county named is coloured and has contour hatching, while areas of the neighbouring county are plain, and sometimes easier to read, so both maps are useful. <http://maps.nls.uk/atlas/thomson/487.html>

**Plan of Dalfaber, Milton of Aviemore, and Easter Aviemore: [1860s] (NAS RHP14030)**

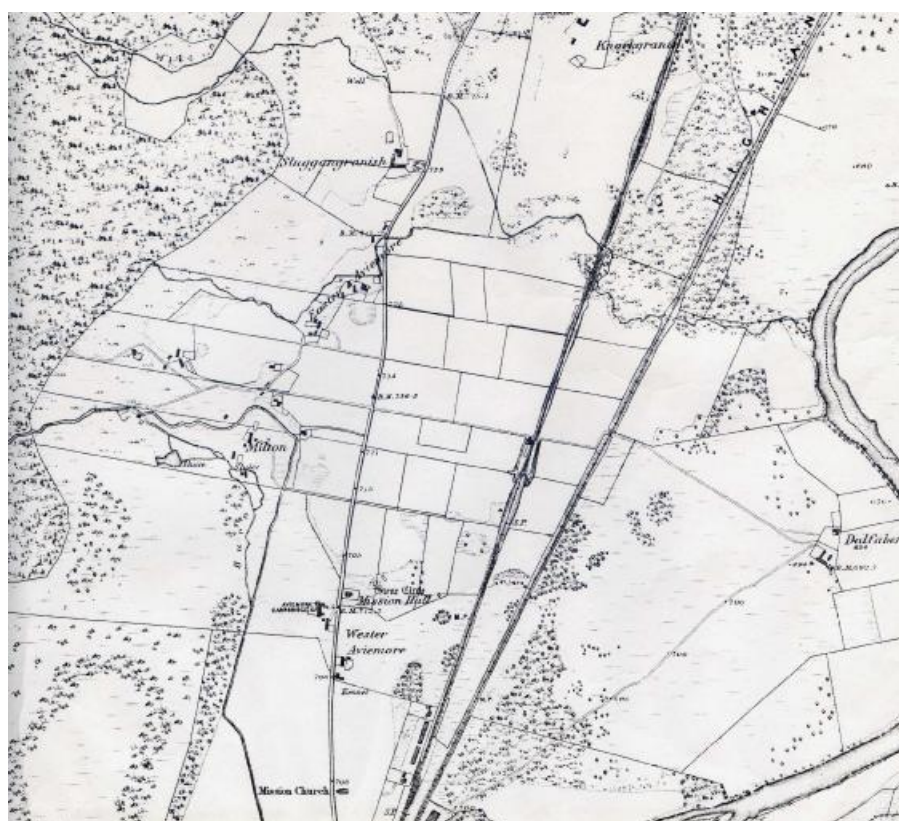


The Plan of Dalfaber (Delfabre), Milton of Aviemore, and Easter Aviemore in the 1860's, shows the croft boundaries straightened, but a plan is a proposal, not proof of it having been done, it seems likely the boundaries were not straightened until several years later. It shows the extent of arable and pasture land possessed by each croft. A later amendment notes land taken for the two railway lines of 1863 and 1898. A list of tenants is given, and three of the tenants are the same families as in 1809. (NAS RHP 14030).



**1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1875, sheet lviii)**

The 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1875, sheet lviii) shows five unroofed, twenty-one roofed buildings and six enclosures at Easter Aviemore.



**2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the OS 6-inch map (Inverness-shire 1875, sheet lviii)**



It would appear from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition that only remnants of the croft field system survives, but all six lots are shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. The survey was done in 1867-9 and the marches of the Lots were straightened in 1864-66 (Napier:Bruce 3005). This could explain why the Aviemore Lots are not shown fully on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition as the new fences were probably yet to be built.

The associated name book describes the settlement as “two farm houses and several small dwelling houses, one storey high, thatched and in fair repair”, (lots 5 and 6). Neighbouring Milton (Lot 2) has two unroofed, one partially roofed, two roofed buildings, one of which is annotated as a corn and barley mill, and two enclosures. The name book describes it as “a dwelling house and mill, one storey high, the former thatched, the latter slated. Barley and oats are the only ... ground here.” Lots 3 and 4 have buildings on them, but are not named, Lot 1 is Wester Aviemore, and is described as “several small dwelling houses, a mill, and small farm, all one storey high with a few offices attached, the whole thatched, and in good repair.”

An Aerial photo (RCAHMS Aerial Photo B0245\_4059, July 1948 ) show the land was still cultivated in 1948, some crofts were still worked in the 1950's (A.Glen, pers. comm) and Valuation rolls list the Aviemore Lots as agricultural land up to 1955, when the details recorded changed. (Highland Archives, Inverness).

In 1986 fourteen roofed buildings were shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map, but by 2011 there are well over two hundred, and an industrial estate between the two railways, spreading over the arable fields of the former Aviemore Lots.

The development of Aviemore as a holiday resort from the 1960s – 1980s, was initially focussed to the south of the old Aviemore townships, The Station Hotel and garden, Aviemore House, and Wester Aviemore, but during the 1990s, the town spread northwards and has now also largely consumed the townships of Easter Aviemore and Milton.

## **Farming and the Aviemore crofts**

Along the rivers Dulnain and Spey rich alluvial soils are found which give the best arable fields, but the higher ground – on which the crofts are situated, is stony thin soil based on fluvio glacial sand and gravels. “The cold season commences early in November, and comes to an end in May” (Grant 1834-45), so there is a short growing season, and a harsh climate, particularly so during the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when there were frequent famines.

The earliest estate plan, (RHP 98363), a Field Sketch of 1770, shows the area in run-rig, with very narrow strips divided amongst the tenants, whose houses and barns are scattered west of the road. Neighbouring the six crofts is ‘Grenish’, where Alex<sup>r</sup> Dingwall pays £3.10.0 [Scots], may keep four cows, and has the worst part of the Land of Grenish. John and Donald Grant pay for three -?- of Grenish £6 Scots, may keep three cows each, and have the best of the Land in Grenish. The six tenants of Easter Aviemore are named on the sketch, and paid £1.10.4 each Scots. How many cows could they keep?

Some 20 years later, The Rev. Patrick Grant, writing in the First Statistical Account in 1791-99, tells us the arable ground runs on both sides of the River Dulnan, (from Tuil, Gaelic, flood. Dwelly 1977, 979), but Aviemore, in the extreme south of the parish, is on thin stony soil.

The arable ground is nearly all under corn and potatoes, with a little under cabbage, turnip and sown grass. There are few enclosures in the parish, cattle roam free, except in summer when crops are in the ground. Regarding farm horses, he tells us that:

“some of the horses are of the large labouring species. The Highland garrons, though not sufficient for labour, are more adapted for the lower class of people, easily supported, by running out in the fields most part of winter.”

He is very disparaging of the recently introduced Linton breed of sheep, as the sheep here used to be fine woolled:

“This country, once stored with the finest woolled kind of sheep, has for some years been over-run by the coarse Linton breed, which ought to be extirpated from every country.” (Grant 1791-99, 309-10)

He notes that the people are industrious, but are resistant to any improvements. The only exports are black cattle and sheep, which would have been driven to market, or taken south by drovers. Some small improvements have taken place in the last 20 years and the parish normally supplies itself with provisions, but in 1782-83 the frost set in as early as August and there was famine, and had Sir James Grant not brought in supplies, the poor would have perished. He also suggests that earlier sowing of the crop might save the situation, but that is not practical here as:

“the ground is bomb-proof until the middle of March, and mere puddle for some time after that” (Grant 1791-99, 309-10)

In ‘Everyday life on an Old Highland Farm 1769 – 1782’, I.F. Grant examines the account book of William Mackintosh of Balnespick. He held a tack for “three nineteen years” of the Davoch of Dunachton, worked by his sub-tenants. Dunachton is 7m south of Aviemore, and sits at a height of 250m, the Aviemore crofts are at 230m. Balnespick supplied the Inn of Aviemore with hay in 1768-1769

“Theres four hunder ston of hay sold John Grant Vintner in Aviemore at five pence per ston the best hay and three pence per ston hay that was partly damaged of Cropt 1768”, the total being 408 stones, delivered in five loads between 8<sup>th</sup> Novr., and ffeby 7<sup>th</sup>. In 1769 a further 334 stones were delivered, “...hay from the midow 12<sup>th</sup> August – 105 stones”, some loads were very small, “hay out of the burn – 30 stones”, and occasionally he notes the weather, “said day not good”. (Grant.I.F. 1981,184)

As well as hay, Oak bark was supplied, probably for tanning, in 1772 :

“Ane account of Oak Bark sent to Aviemore for Mr Thom’s Accott. Jully 10<sup>th</sup>. Our six horses being weighed at sight of John Grant Aviemore each cart containing fifteen ston and  $\frac{3}{4}$ . “

The total of 33 cart loads was 42 Bolls, 0 firlots, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  peck. (ibid.194)

From the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century until the late nineteenth century, recurrent crop failures were a central feature of Highland life.

**“The worst year in terms of weather this country has known since the 1690’s came in 1782 and was followed by another famine, with Highlanders dying in the fields and the first Government food subsidies arriving to supplement the chief’s private relief operations.”**

**Wise landowners bought meal not grain, as the mills were all frozen.**

**“Crisis came at the turn of the century, when the crops failed repeatedly..**

**Recurrent climatically-induced famines were a feature of much of 19<sup>th</sup> century Highland existence.”**

**(Dixon,G.A. in Strathspey and Badenoch Herald 20 Dec 1990)**

**The Farm Horse Tax rolls (NAS E326/10) list the owners and number of horses and mules used in husbandry or trade in 1797-1798.**

**“John Grant, Aviemore (Inn), kept 5 horses, and paid tax on 4 of them, of £1-9s-6d, Alex Grant, Wester Aviemore had 3 and paid tax on all of them, John MacDonald, Aviemore, had two, and paid tax on both, of 10s-8d, as did Alex Grant, Founder there.” A ‘Founder’ implies some kind of industrial metal work.**

**The estate plan of 1809 (see page 7) lists the tenants and gives the acreage’s of the crofts as between 9 and 23 acres arable, and 5 to 17 acres woods & pasture, giving totals between 14 and 41 acres. The six lots have very convoluted boundaries, the arable land is distinguished from pasture and moor. The lots are divided by the “Road from Perth to Inverness” (now B 9152) with the good land and the townships to the west of it, and poor land on the east towards the Spey. Running up beside the “Allt na Vullen”, the Mill burn, is the “Moss road” leading to the “Moss of Aviemore partly cast up”, and “Mossy ground partly cast up for Turfs and Fir”, where the people dug their winter fuel. (RHP 13927)**

**The fuel used is wood and peat. (Grant 1791-99, 309-10)**



**Tools at the Highland Folk Park, a Cas-chrom, or bent spade for digging, toirsgian, or peat iron to cut peats, and flaughter spade for cutting turves.**

In November 1822 a meeting of Local Government Heritors in Nairn reported that:  
“Agricultural distress had reached an alarming crisis.”  
(Inverness Journal, 15<sup>th</sup> Nov 1822.) If things were bad for people in Nairn, on the coast, how much worse must it have been in the upland districts ?

In 1829 the Great Moray flood affected the entire catchment area of the Rivers Spey, Nairn, Findhorn, Don and Dee. The deluge which fell on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of August on the Monadhliath and Monadhruadh (Cairngorms) mountains not only destroyed crops, but in many cases took away the soil as well. Records kept by the Duke of Gordon's gardener show three and three quarter inches of rain fell in 24 hours, or one sixth of the annual rainfall. That record was near the coast, so the amount falling in the mountains must have been much more.

Sir Thomas Dick Lauder describes the devastation river by river:

“An entire river poured itself over the rugged and precipitous brow of the hill of Craigellachie, converting its furrowed form into one vast and diversified waterfall. The garden of the inn at Aviemore was flooded as high as the upper wall. Mr Mackenzie, the innkeeper, lost two oxen and several sheep. ... Several sheep were found alive on the tops of the trees at the foot of the garden, having scrambled into them when they were bent down by the pressure of the water. The greatest damage on this part of the Spey is in the agricultural produce destroyed.”

He noted that

“Loch Inch, 3 miles long by 1 mile broad, was raised between 7 and 8 feet an astonishing accumulation for so wide an expanse of water.”  
(Lauder, 1873, 94-96)

By the time of the Second Statistical Account in 1838, the Rev William Grant is reporting a great change since the previous report 40 yrs ago, when crops did not meet the needs of the people, and the deficiency was supplied by the proprietor, the late Sir James Grant of Grant. The crops grown then were

“bere, or big on dunged land; rye; black oats; brocked oats; and a few patches of white oats. ...At the period alluded to there were scarcely any turnips sown ... except a few ridges raised by the clergyman; and so unacquainted was he with the use of them, that he generally sold them to the poor, who used them as food.” (Grant, 1834-45, 133)

“Since 1827 till 1834 the higher grounds have, under the joint influence of favourable seasons and an improved system of husbandry, yielded excellent crops of oats, bear, barley, turnips and potatoes.” (ibid 124)

In these seasons grain was exported, however, the crops of 1837-38 were injured by early frosts and mildew, many of the tenants along the Dulnan did not get enough grain to save for seed. (ibid 134)

Rev William Grant states that he was the first person to use compost of farm yard dung and moss-earth and lime, and introduce regular rotation of cropping. A five-shift system is generally used;

“1<sup>st</sup>. green crops, potatoes & turnips, 2<sup>nd</sup>. barley or oats with clover & rye-grass seeds, 3<sup>rd</sup>. a crop of hay, 4<sup>th</sup>. pasture, and last oats. The only objection is the soil has not sufficient time to rest. Bone dust has been used of late



years, with good results and a quantity of waste ground has been brought into culture. ... The general duration of leases is nineteen years." (ibid.134)

Improvements seem to be beginning to happen, but it was a slow process. The railway came in 1863, and would have led to a fall in droving the animals as they could be transported by rail. Campbell Slimon, a Laggan farmer, says drovers travelled 12 miles a day:

"Steamships started shifting cattle and sheep down the East coast from the Northern Isles, Caithness and Inverness in the middle of the century, so that, along with the coming of the railway ...meant the end of the long droves South. The railway was more expensive than droving, so it was a few years before it finished altogether. The time was incomparable, thirty hours by rail as compared to thirty days droving, for the journey from Badenoch to the South of England. The last long droves over the Corrieyariack were for horses in 1892, for sheep in 1899 and cattle in 1900." (Slimon, 2007,81)

Droving continued locally for some time, as Campbell has photos of "Droving on the Great North Road 1930's" (ibid. 81), and "Droving in Glen Banchor 1930's" (ibid. 82), but road transport took over eventually.

The newspapers have provided a wealth of evidence on farming practise during the mid-late 19<sup>th</sup> c. Local fairs and trysts and the weather are frequent topics.

The first lamb fair was held on the Muir of Alvie in August 1849, and proved very popular with buyers and sellers. Although many of the lambs were of inferior quality the prices averaged 3s to 4s 6d. A cattle tryst is expected to be held at the end of the month. (Inverness Advertiser, 21 August 1849)

The Inverness Advertiser Friday, 18 October 1878 reported on a Sale of Highland Cattle at Grenash near Aviemore.

"One of the most successful sales of Highland stirks ever held in Strathspey came off at Grenash, on Monday last. The stock which was purchased early in the season, belonged to Mr Duncan Cameron, farmer and merchant, and realised extremely high prices ..... the stock was pure bred and well grazed, the extraordinary high prices were owing chiefly to the universal respect in which [Mr Cameron] has been held in Strathspey and Badenoch for many years. There was a large attendance of farmers from all the neighbouring districts the bidding was spirited throughout. Upwards of forty head were put through the ring, at prices ranging from £8 to £10.10s, average £8.15s. The principal purchasers included Mr Dallas, Aviemore (Lot 2, the Mill); and Mr Lewis Grant, Aviemore (Lot 6). At the conclusion of the sale, Mr Cameron entertained a large party to a sumptuous and well served luncheon." (Inverness Advertiser Friday, 18 October 1878)

The vagaries of the weather often caused problems, the Inverness newspapers reporting good weather in early June 1878, and crops making good progress, but owing to the previous poor season most farmers had to purchase seed, as theirs was injured by frost. It was a good season for peat cutting, as peats cut in early May were ready to be used.

However despite the generally good weather,

“On Friday morning we had a sharp touch of frost and about Grantown and other places potato shaws were much blackened.”

(Inverness Advertiser 4 Jun 1878)

Later in the month a report from Duthil says the larger farms were doing very well, but smaller tenants had to sow oats of their own seed, and it looks thin and would give a poor yield. Sheep farmers were looking forward to good prices at the fair next month. (Inverness Advertiser 18 Jun 1878)

During the winter with heavy snow, sheep and cattle could not feed and day-labourers could not work for weeks at a time. Hares, rabbits, and grouse were found dead from sheer starvation. It was hoped that the strong gale blowing would clear the snow from all but the deepest drifts, and work could be resumed. (Inverness Courier 16 Jan 1879)

The thaw and further rain in February brought more problems, leaving the ground sticky and unworkable, and growth of vegetation checked by prolonged wintry weather. (Inverness Courier 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1879)

Harvest time in October 1879 had good weather, and farmers were getting their crops in as quickly as possible. A recent frost, most severe in the lower part of the Strath, had damaged the oat crop though, and there was now no hope of getting any gathered in full maturity. The potato crop was expected to be excellent, and no disease had been found. (Inverness Courier 9 Oct 1879)

Evidence given to the Napier Commission (1883) says that tenants in Aviemore (and elsewhere) had lost their hill grazing when the estate made plantations, over the previous 20 – 30 years, (c 1830's to 1860's). There does not seem to have been any lessening of the rent to compensate them for the loss of grazing. The Marches to the lots were straightened 1864-66 (Bruce 3005), and when the crofts were re-lotted about 1863, 19 year leases were given (Bruce 3008)

The Scottish Highlander of 13 March 1890 reports pressure from crofters on Mr Fraser MacKintosh MP, for a Crofter's Commission visit to Aviemore,

“...crofters ... are urging upon their Parliamentary representative to press upon Lord Lothian the necessity of visiting these places at an early date.”

His Lordship's reply told Mr Fraser-Mackintosh that:

“the applications from these various localities are admitted to be pressing and urgent, and that they will be kept in view and, if possible, taken up before the end of the year.”

The article continues:

“Mr Fraser-Mackintosh will press Lord Lothian strongly for a week of the Commission in Inverness before the end of this year. ...One week in Inverness to hear cases would put a stop to a lot of the mischief now being committed clandestinely by some of the proprietors, several bankruptcies and evictions having already been carried out.”

Ann Glen, geographer, economic historian and author of *The Cairngorm Gateway*, talking to the Badenoch and Strathspey Local History Group in November 2009,

said the farmers in used a rotation of grass > oats > turnip >potatoes >grass for hay. The oats were undersown with grass to come up when the oats were reaped. In the 1950's The Shieling, (Easter Aviemore Lot 5), where she spent childhood holidays, kept beehives, sheep, a horse, hens and cattle. They used a cart with extending sides for taking in the hay and bracken was used for animal bedding. The crofts lost their hill grazing when the Estate took it over for forestry.

Farming can be a hazardous occupation when all tasks are done by manual labour, as this article in the Inverness Advertiser, 28 May 1869 illustrates:

“W Davidson, Braes of Aviemore, farmer, killed by falling stone.”

Mr William Davidson held Lot 3 in 1869. One Friday evening he went out to dig a hole to bury a large stone in one of his fields. Unfortunately he undermined it, and it tumbled in on top of him, crushing his legs and inflicting severe internal injuries. A child gave the alarm and the neighbours carried him to his house, “where he lingered in great pain till 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, when death put an end to his sufferings. Mr Davidson was in the prime of life, and his untimely death has cast a gloom over the whole district, where he was much respected. He leaves a widow and family, mostly grown up, to lament his loss.” Inverness Advertiser, 28 May 1869

## Housing



The township, Highland Folk Park 1999

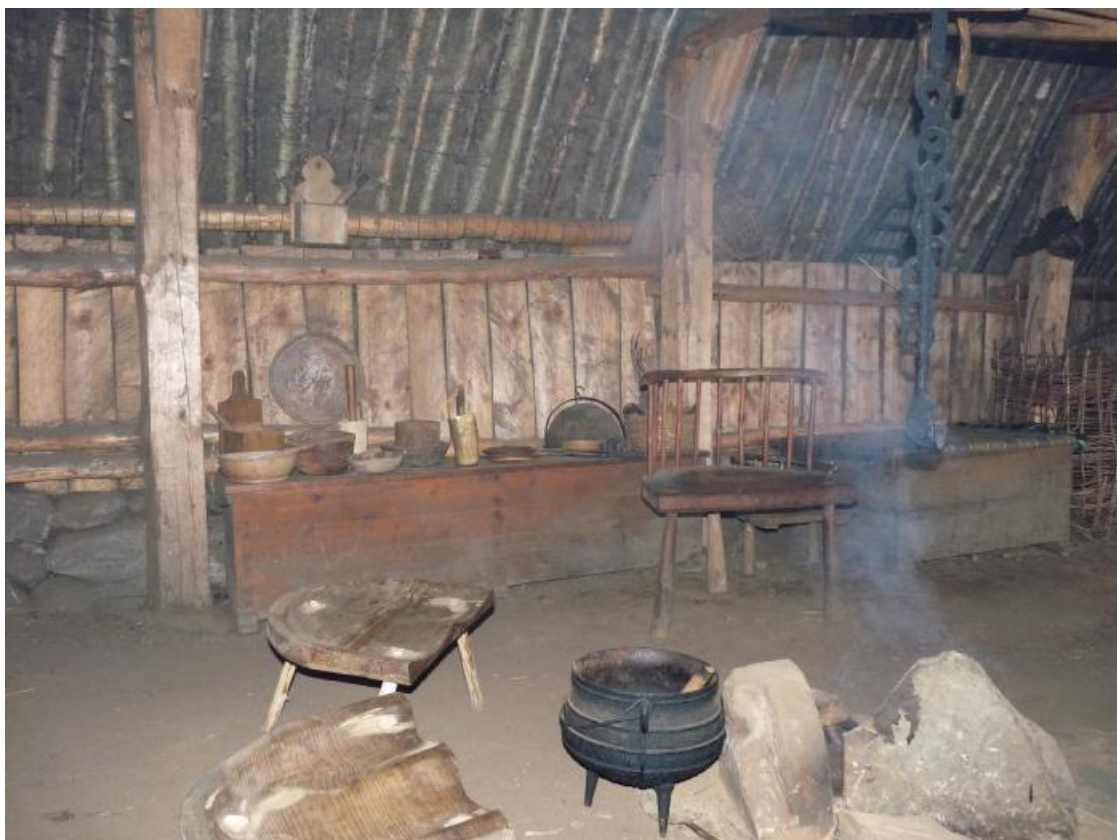
Edmund Burt was a military engineer working on Highland Roads and Bridges, in the 1730's. He was not impressed with the standards of accommodation he was offered when travelling the country. He refers to houses resembling 'a fuming dunghill', as the smoke of the fire escapes from them, and recounts an incident where his servant stuffs up a hole with straw – which is plucked out – and on going outside finds a hungry cow sheltering there. He also mentions the roof-tree (ridge) being out of all proportion to the rest of the house - to save the house being blown away. (Burt 1998, ix,170,172,180) Some of the houses he stayed in probably leaked – sooty drops, 'snighe' in Gaelic means,

“Rain coming through the roof of a house” (Dwelly 865)



**Roof detail showing a jointed cruck, roof spars and purlins with turf divots on top.  
Highland Folk Park 1999**

The turf built farm huts are fast disappearing, and succeeded by stone and lime cottages , whose white-washed walls and straw-thatched roofs afford a pleasing contrast with their dingy predecessors. (Grant 1834-45,134)



**Interior of the “Tacksman's’ house” Highland Folk Park 2011**



Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus in 1812 speaks of Major Shaw living in a turf house, 'a black peat bothy', no better than those of his tenants, except it was larger, containing three rooms, two were wainscoted,

'they looked neat within and were extremely warm'. 'The kitchen fire was as usual, a stone on the floor and a hole in the roof.'

This type of house was falling out of use then. (Grant E.1898, 144)

I.F.Grant describes the eastern mainland houses, using couples of naturally bent limbs planted in the foundations of the drystone walls. The couples would be bound together at the top, and the walls carried up to 6 or 7 ft around them. Sometimes drystone walls were bonded with clay, and sometimes the upper layers were turf. The roof-tree was added and vertical and horizontal rods made it into a sturdy construction. The rods were then covered in divots and thatched, the weight of the roof being carried by the couples embedded in the foundations. She tells us 'To your roof-tree' was an old Highland toast. (Grant 1981, 141-166)



The barn with a plough, showing the wall footing with cruck slot, and the wattle wall to allow ventilation, and part of turf walling on the right.

Highland Folk Park.

The Interim Report on the excavations at Easter Raitts similarly describes the houses, adding that the walls were generally thick and built with a broad batter, and were not load bearing. "The thatched roof was supported by timber couples or crucks, ...and supported the 'roof-tree', ...which formed the apex of the roof" as shown in the photo below, taken in 1999 during construction of the township.



**Under construction, Highland Folk Park. 1999**

**This style of building utilised the materials available locally. It was easily renewable, and “had the advantage of creating fertiliser, in the form of smoke-permeated roofs and turf walls for the fields.” (Lelong 1997 Section 2) The plan of Easter Raitts (reversed to fit the site) and the results of the excavations were used in the construction of the township at the Highland Folk Park, Newtonmore, which is well worth a visit.**



**The Weaver's House, Highland Folk Park.**

**The turf built farm huts are fast disappearing, and succeeded by stone and lime cottages , whose white-washed walls and straw-thatched roofs afford a pleasing contrast with their dingy predecessors. (Grant 1834-45,134)**

The first inn at Aviemore was a rough affair built of rubble with a roof of heather thatch; it was single storied and had garrets above. (Glen 1996, 620) It was replaced in 1865 by a stone and lime building, vastly superior to any of the tenants turf houses in the area. There were problems getting the stone required for lintels and facings as the tenants horses were too weak after the winter to carry heavy loads up from the quarry at Kilravock in the coastlands of Nairn. The terms of the leases of the Strathspey tenants required 'Long carriages' such as these. (Dixon in Strathspey & Badenoch Herald 7 February 1991)



Sketch of Aviemore Inn by Edwin Wakeling

In 1781 a Minute of Tack was drawn up with a new innkeeper, who had been a waiter at Kinross, and took a lease of the Inn and Farm of Aviemore previously possessed by John Grant. The lease was for 21 years, "should the said John McGregor live so long", and to commence at Whitsunday 1782. There were several requirements, amongst which he was to

"Inclose a garden, to the extent of two acres, a Kitchen with a Grate and Oven, Suitable to the Exigencies of the Inn, Stalls in the Stable, and a Cart Road to the Peat Moss." (G.D.248/483/2)



Sleeper House, 1995, and 1997, roof blown off and turves exposed.

After the railways came, and railway men could obtain used sleepers cheaply, "sleeper houses" were built in the area. In the sleeper house (above) the scalloped



shape of the curves can be seen, and the bolt marks of the rail plates were visible in the interior. 1890's newspapers filled in gaps and lined the walls. There was a high fire risk, as the sleepers would have been permeated with tar-oil to preserve them, but some are still lived in today. (2011) The house (below) was built in 1927 as a two apartment cottage, and extended in 1948. It is of total sleeper construction including the partition walls, and is in very sound condition.



Sleeper house, built 1927, extended 1948

## Social Conditions

In 1767 the SSPCK schoolmaster Alexander Harvey sent a petition to James Grant of Grant, requesting a supplement to his salary of £5 per annum, which was intended to have been supplemented by the parents of his pupils, but 'the place being so poore', even from those who are willing to contribute to his upkeep, the amount is insufficient. He points out that many of the people come to adulthood unable to read or write because of the distance from any school – Aviemore is at the extreme south of the parish of Duthil – and there is no other school nearby. His pupils are making good progress, and gradually learning English, as they are not allowed to speak Gaelic in school. Mr Harvey, writing in May says he has been in his post since last February, and he has a wife and five small children who are unable to join him as he has no place prepared for them, and

“...the Necessaries of Life so Dear, and far distant from this place, That all I see yet would not support myself alone in Bread and Clothing, without a Family”. (GD 248/371/4/53)

In 1849 the Inverness Advertiser reported the return home of Donald Macgillivray after 21 years service in the army. He was astonished to find his old acquaintance engaged in the same work, with the same horse, and in the very same place where he left him twenty-one years before!

“Ubh Alaster, a' fada a gabhail i bliadhna har fichead”

The yoke is a very long one, Sandy, Twenty-one years. Gaelic was still the common language of the people in Duthil in 1849. The same issue noted that Her grace the Duchess of Bedford arrived in the Doune of Rothiemurchus, on Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, and a report on the grouse shooting said there were heavy showers of rain at



intervals on the 12<sup>th</sup>, but “there was some good sport, Captain Hood levelled about 40 brace on the Aviemore moor.” (Inverness Advertiser 21 August 1849)

The following year a report on the Free Church School examination at Aviemore mentioned the method of teaching, “as highly creditable to the teacher, and beneficial to the pupils under his charge”. (Inverness Advertiser 3 September 1850)

In January 1879 there were hard times, the Earl of Stamford & Warrington gave orders for his tenants & poor to receive venison, and Mr Little, lessee of the Aviemore shootings, gave orders that the most needy of the poor on his shooting grounds should be supplied with a quantity of oatmeal, and Lady Grant gave a donation of nearly ten tons to the Aviemore Coal Fund. (Inverness Courier 16 & 23 January 1879)

In 1880 three Kingussie School pupils won MacPhail (Gaelic) Grammar School bursaries, for the annual value of about £18 for two years, secured at an examination conducted by the SPCK. One was John MacKenzie, son of Police Sergeant MacKenzie, Aviemore. (Inverness Advertiser 14 December 1880)

Eight years later there was a new Police Constable James Fraser in place. He had to deal with Donald Mackintosh who was very drunk while in charge of a horse and cart at Aviemore Station. While endeavouring to take him home he was assaulted by the son. Sheriff Blair found the charge against Donald not proven, and John was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of 40s, or go to prison for one month, his lordship remarking that policemen must be protected in the execution of their duty. (Scottish Highlander 29 November 1888)

## Roads and Railways

So what were the roads like? There is the famous couplet often quoted –  
If you'd seen these roads before they were made,  
You'd lift up your hands and Bless General Wade.

The initial survey and building of the roads was done by General Wade, 1725 to 1733, and Major Caulfeild followed on from 1732-67, establishing a network of military roads, to enable the swift movement of troops to any trouble spots. Aviemore lay on the Great North Road, and after the roads were made, inns were established along the routes, and people gathered around them to supply the needs of travellers, and to trade.

The road from Grantown to Aviemore was repaired in 1799 to a width of 24 ft, (formerly 12 ft), but

‘9 miles of this road in the southern part of the parish is of no material advantage to the people of this country, chiefly accommodating the public.’ that is, through travellers, and indicates the isolation of the south end of the parish where Aviemore lies, however the only inn is at Aviemore, which indicates there must have been considerable passing trade. (Grant 1791-99)

The landowner, Sir James Grant made these improvements using ‘statute labour’ supplied by his tenants. This road is shown on Thomson’s map of 1832 (see p.8)

The roads were upgraded by Telford and Mitchell in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. (Dixon in Strathspey & Badenoch Herald 12/4/90 & 26/4/90) A stage coach ran three times a week from Inverness to Perth, which was a 17 hour journey, and travellers took a welcome break at the Inn of Aviemore. (Glen 1996, 621)

Inverness Journal reports give notice of Toll bars being erected for the collection of dues levied on the Badenoch Road in 1833, and an 1841 notice for the roup of tolls "at AVIEMORE within the Inn there, on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, at twelve o'clock noon". They included Dalwhinnie, let for £129 the previous year, Newtonmore (£70), Bellville (£62), Aviemore (£61), and Bridge of Carr (£40). Terms and conditions applied, and successful applicants had to give £2 as surety for the upkeep of the Toll House. (Inverness Journal 1831,1841)

A Post office telegraph was opened at Aviemore, Inverness-shire, on 23d August. (Inverness Advertiser, 25 August 1871)

The Highland Railway came in 1863, and in 1898 The Inverness Courier of 25<sup>th</sup> October, reported the opening of the direct line to Inverness. Aviemore had become a Railway Junction.

With the coming of the railway tourism was increasing, and a new hotel was planned for Aviemore. The site is on rising ground at the foot of Craigellachie, with extensive views over the forests and have a magnificent view of the Grampians and the Spey Valley. "The plans..... provide for one hundred visitors, and include six suites each containing a double bedroom, a dressing room, sitting room, bath room and private lobby." It will be lighted throughout with electricity, and have all the modern appliances. A golf course and tennis court are to be added, as "Aviemore is yearly becoming a resort for health-seekers". (Inverness Courier, 8 September 1899) The Hotel was opened in June 1901

The Inverness Courier of 12 Mar 1901 reported the opening of the Mission Church at Aviemore, by the Right Reverend Dr Norman McLeod, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, who conducted a special service. He said there were "villages springing up all over the country and these must be provided for. He had a strong idea that Aviemore would be one of the most attractive spots on the highland line. Nowhere did he know of scenery more attractive, nor where there was a finer air, and he was sure people would flock in great numbers to the place. In order to provide for them and the growing population of the district, it was necessary to provide churches of that kind. He prayed that the blessing of God might rest upon the new church."

## **Hardship and Danger in the 1800's**

Old newspapers tell of the hardships and dangers of life in the 1800's. Coach accidents seem to have occurred fairly often, and frequently resulted in broken bones and severe bruising to the passengers. Wheels came off – coachmen got drunk – horses became restive and could not be controlled.

Some were lucky though – "A child was precipitated from the arms of its parent down a declivity of nearly thirty feet, into a deep dell, without receiving any apparent injury." (Inverness Journal Friday, 21 April 1826).

The Caledonian Coach was overturned at Slochdmuic due to "furious driving", the coachman "drove at a hard gallop" despite the passengers protests. Nearing the dangerous entrance to Slochdmuic the guard warned him to drive more moderately.

"Heedless of these injunctions the infatuated man renewed the application of the whip to the horses already at full gallop down the hill, and the coach was in a few seconds overturned, with great violence."

All the passengers were severely injured, the guard leapt off and was unhurt. It could have been worse for

"had the coach turned towards the other side of the road, it would have been precipitated down a precipice, and the passengers would have paid with their lives for the coachman's stile of driving".

The report ends by saying there should be regulations against coachmen taking drams in every public house, often incautiously offered by the passengers. Was this a case of drunken driving? (Inverness Journal, 21 April 1826)

A little south of Aviemore, the horses of The Duke of Wellington, Perth and Inverness coach, got so completely beyond the control of the driver, that the coach was overturned, and the five or six passengers injured.

"A lady had her arm broken, a gentleman two ribs fractured, and another seriously hurt. One of the horses had two of its legs broken, and the vehicle was so much destroyed that another had to be obtained to convey the passengers to Perth." (Inverness Advertiser, 18 September 1849)

After heavy rain a burn had flowed over the road, and the coach was not kept in the middle of the road, so the wheel got into a rut and the coach overturned in 5 or 6 feet of water. The passengers received a thorough drenching however, but there were no injuries. (Inverness Advertiser, 18 September 1849)

Widow Stewart's house on the Muir of Aviemore was destroyed by fire in July.

"The cottage being built of wood, and the wind high at the time, it was entirely consumed. Notwithstanding the exertions and personal risk of many of those present, the fire communicated with two of the adjoining houses, and did considerable damage."

(Inverness Advertiser Friday, 23 July 1869)

With the coming of the railways came more accidents. A young man who was a carter at the sawmills of South Kinrara was killed at the level crossing at South Lynwulig farm. He was found "shockingly mutilated lying on the line", there was heavy snow falling and it was thought he did not hear the approaching goods train owing to the stormy night.

(Inverness Advertiser Tuesday, 6 April 1869)

On 27 October 1887, as reported by the Scottish Highlander there was a serious and alarming railway accident at Aviemore when the afternoon express from Inverness left the rails.

The express train with 2 engines and 13 vehicles was crossing the points when the second engine was derailed with all the other carriages.

*"The saloon carriage, ... filled with northern farmers going to the Highland Society's Show at Perth was knocked over and dragged along on its side, for about 200 yards. The other carriages were well filled with people*

*going to the Perth Show, and Glasgow and Edinburgh excursionists returning home”*

The train was a particularly heavy one, two of the 13 vehicles being wagons with fish, three luggage vans, and eight carriages. A train with the accident staff, a crane and ‘medical men’ was sent from Inverness.

”A special train was sent from Blair Athole, and all the other passengers went on to Perth where special trains took them to Glasgow and Edinburgh. There were 200 passengers on the train, and considering the speed it was going, and the manner in which the train was wrecked, it is surprising that so few were injured.” (Scottish Highlander, 28 July 1887)

In October came the result of the enquiry into the accident. “SPEED TOO HIGH FOR SAFETY.” The train had entered the station too fast, and concluded that the time allowed is too short to run the train safely. (Scottish Highlander, 27 October 1887)

## Archaeological description

### General

Grampian road runs to the east of the township of Easter Aviemore, it was formerly General Wade’s Military road then the Great North Road or the old A9, now the B9152



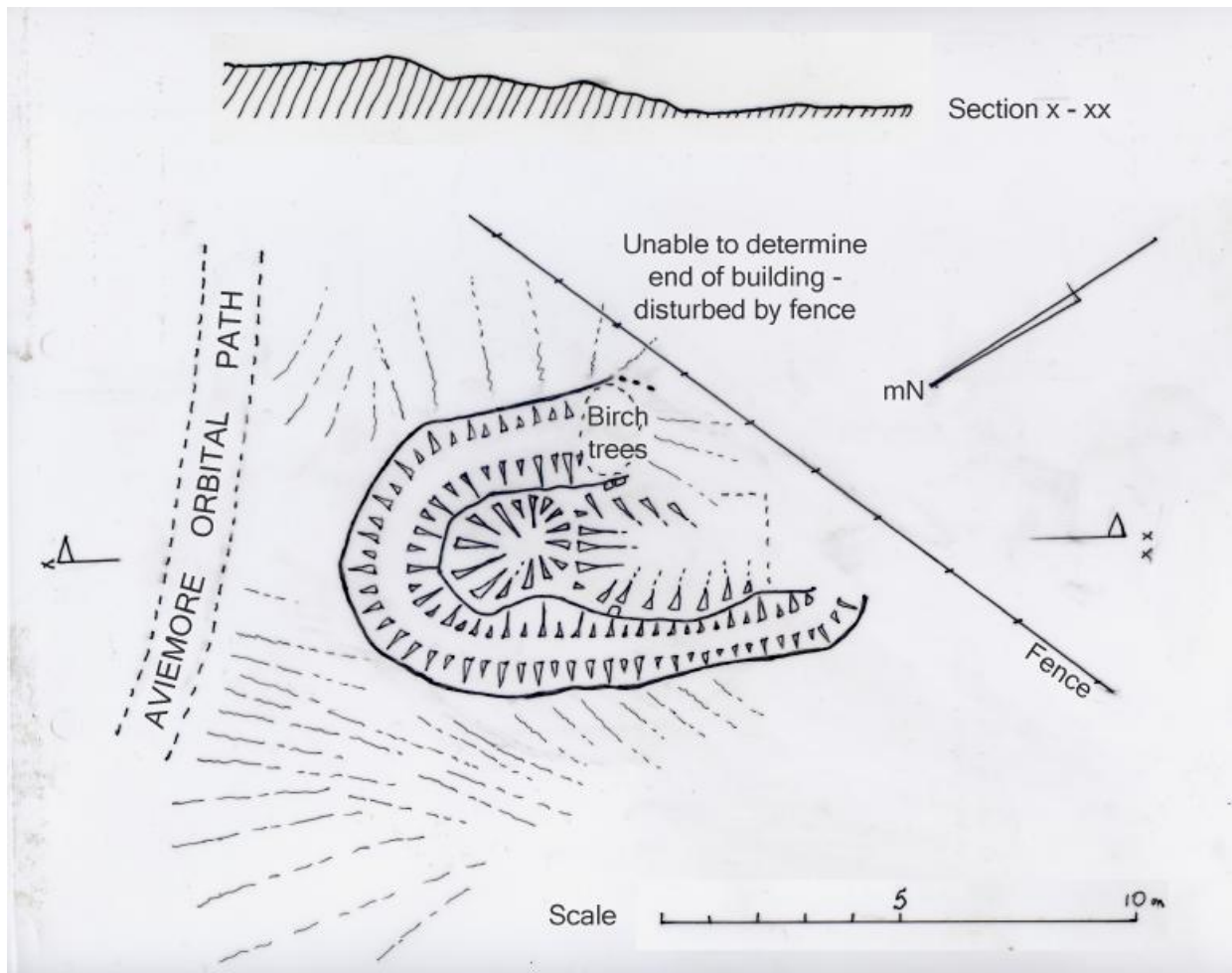
Easter Aviemore and Orbital Path, looking S to “The Sheiling”, left of centre, field walls visible below the modern houses.

The original settlement, set on a low ridge, is completely obscured by modern housing comprising two parts, the Shieling to the south, and Lairig View on a hillock to the north. A little further north and adjacent to the Aviemore Orbital path are the low grassy footings of a corn kiln and a building beside a small arable patch. These have been planned at 1:100. Some traces of field walls remain in fields to the west, the fields to the east extended to the line of the Highland Railway, built 1863, but are now covered by recent housing developments. (2009)





Easter Aviemore in winter, the rigs showing clearly in the snow.



**The Aviemore Orbital path, corn kiln and building**

The orbital path crosses the B9152 to the south of Achantoul (SNH) and runs westward, climbing gently to a viewpoint overlooking the township fields, and south to Aviemore, with good views of the Cairngorm hills.

**The corn kiln, NH 89666 14265, lies c 70m W of the B9152, on the south side and below the orbital path in a hollow with grass and moss, among scattered birch trees. A clump of birch is growing on the edge of the kiln, and there is a heather slope above the orbital path.**



**Orbital path and Corn Kiln looking SE**

**The south end of the corn kiln is truncated by a fence and Shetland ponies graze in the field beyond, which is very boggy near the burn beside the road. The kiln is cut into the bank, very few construction stones were seen, grassed over walls are all that remain, though it is possible to see the position of the bowl which is now infilled with soil and vegetation, and produces a good crop of nettles in season. The firebox was facing to the south-west, which would have ensured a good draught. It is 3m E-W and approx 9m N- S internal, it was not possible to determine the end of the kiln barn without excavation, owing to the disturbance caused by the fence. An area of possible paving was noted in the kiln barn.**

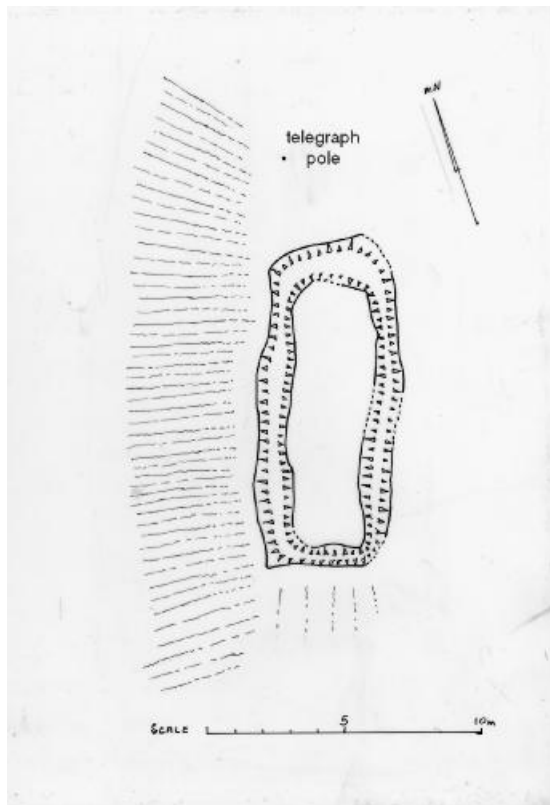


**Kiln barn NH 89666 14265**





**Footings of small building, and houses of modern Easter Aviemore  
NH 89592 14274**



After a further 75m, the grassed footings of a small building, NH 89592 14274, lie about 25m to the north of the path, at the foot of the viewpoint slope, which would have sheltered it from the west. The viewpoint slope is heather, moss and bracken, with many large boulders at the northern end. The footings are 9.50m N-S, and 3m E-W internal.

Beside the footings there is a small area of grassy ground, which has been cultivated, rabbits are casting up sand and small stones; a slate pencil and ceramic fragments

have been found. In some places there is good loamy soil, otherwise thin and stony. On the O.S. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6" map [Inverness-shire lviii, 1867] it is shown as an unroofed building with another building 200m away to the north-east. There is no trace of this other building, it is probably under the road or was removed when Achantoul was built in 1906.

## Conclusions

Aviemore has gone from being a remote collection of townships to a busy bustling large village, or is it a small town now? The pace of change was very slow at first with people entrenched in their old habits and reluctant to try new ways of doing things – new ways of farming, new crops, or improving their houses so the cattle were not under the same roof as the people.

Transport has gone from a wide network of foot ways, cart tracks and drove roads to the development of major roads through the Strath. Improvements in the early 1800's allowed stage coach travel, and in the 1830's there were toll bars to pay for the upkeep of the roads – and horrific accidents, some due no doubt to drunken driving. Cattle and sheep were driven to market, the last droves may have continued until 1900. Sheep were being driven locally in Badenoch up to 1930, until the development of motor vehicles for moving animals led to the decline of droving, as did the coming of the railways in 1863 and 1898.

Passing trade has always been important, as shown by the building of the Aviemore Inn 1765, and now tourism is the life blood of the area. Grantown and Kingussie were 18<sup>th</sup> c. planned villages, Aviemore was not, it simply grew when the railway came. The speed of change became more rapid, and modern development has obliterated evidence of earlier structures. Building goes on apace. (2011)

There are still many questions to answer - did poor Alex. Harvey get more money to support his wife and 5 small children, when did his school fail? Did the Napier Commission revisit Inverness? One person said the mill 'dried up' because the railway took the water. The 1863 railway ran along the E boundary of the crofts, but the 1898 line went through the crofts, and some ground was cut off, which must have made life difficult for them.

The estate probably took the hill grazing from the crofters 1830 – 1860, which would have meant they were unable to keep their herds of cattle or flocks of sheep, and that would have had a severe economic effect on them. They would have no further need of the shielings along the Lurgy Burn, but did they then cut peat on the moor above the shielings because their peat mosses had been planted over?

It would appear from the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition that only remnants of the croft field system survives, but the new fence lines of all six lots are shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. The associated namebook gives evidence of three farmhouses, and the mill and several small dwelling houses in Easter and Wester Aviemore (Lots 1 – 6). Lot 5 and 6, named as Easter Aviemore are described as “two farm houses and several small dwelling houses, one storey high, thatched and in fair repair”, Lots 3 and 4 have buildings on them, but they are not named, Lot 2, Milton is described as “a dwelling house and mill, one storey high, the former thatched, the latter slated. Barley and oats are the only ... ground here.”, Lot 1, Muirton Farm is named as Wester Aviemore, and is described as “several small dwelling houses, a mill, and small farm, all one storey high with a few offices attached, the whole thatched, and in good repair.” It would seem from this that the mill is described twice.



Development really took off in the early 1960's with the Aviemore Centre, new shops and the Council houses of Milton Park (1968) and the school (1970). In the early 1980's houses were built on Lot 1, Muirton, and by 1986 fourteen roofed buildings were shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10,000 map, but by 2011 there are well over two hundred, and an industrial estate between the two railways, spreading over the arable fields of the former Aviemore Lots. The development of Aviemore as a holiday resort from the 1960s – 1980s, was initially focussed to the south of the old Aviemore townships, on The Station Hotel and garden, and Aviemore House, and Wester Aviemore but during the 1990s, the town spread northwards and has now also largely consumed the townships of Easter and Wester Aviemore and Milton.

### Acknowledgements

The Easter Aviemore Survey was carried out with kind permission from Reidhaven Estate and Highland Council. Photo by Edwin Wakeling of Weaver's House (20) and sketch of Aviemore Inn, (21). All other photos by Ann Wakeling.

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## Appendix i

NAS GD 248/371/4/53      *[uncertainties in italics]*  
Petition of Alexander Harvey Society Schoolmaster at Aviemore  
May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1767

To James Grant of Grant Esq<sup>r</sup>.,  
Member of Parliament,  
Castle Grant.

The Petition of Alexander Harvey School Master at Aviemore Honorably Sheweth  
~~ That as the inhabitants of Aviemore and the country that lays about that place, is at such a distance from any school, that they can receive no benefits of instruction to their children by any schools around them, and consequently many of them are come to be men and women and know not a letter, which is to be lamented, And when taken into Consideration Cannot But Excite sympathy and compassion, the place being so poore and those who are sensible of the loss are willing to Contribute a part of their living for the subsistence of schoolmasters, but all they can do is not sufficient for that purpose. Therefore they have applied to some gentlemen, who in their behalf have petitioned the Honourable the Society in Scotland for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, who being sufficiently convinced of the need of a school have Complied to give Five pounds Stir. per annum for a Help to maintain a School in the place, Requiring that the Inhabitants Should Contribute for the Subsistence of their Schoolmaster. ~~~ And in the Course of Divine Providence, your petitioner was sent by the Society February last to Aviemore to teach said school, where I have punctually attended my charges since ~~~ And through the blessing of God the schollars are making a considerable progres, The Parents of the Children and others who have visited the school have found the scholars proficiency were Such that they were Surprised and Comforted with the progress of the young ones, in So Short a time, And Considering none of Them could speak English they require unwearied and Extraordinary Dilligence, to profit. And as they are not allowed to speak Irish in school, they are also learning English by degrees ~~~~ But Notwithstanding This {*Ribliek? reflects?*} benefits and blessing unless the Supervisor Espouse the cause of the *publieks*, whose interests and Influences Can Make it good, and give orders that the Inhabitants Shall Contribute to the Subsistance of Their School Master Mutually, a Small proportion Each, and however Small when put together will be a help ~~~~

[*cont. over page*] and as a School Master can do nothing else for himself or Family but Attend his Charge, he must have his peats Caste and Carried as is Usual in all places where these Schools are, as many as are *necessary* which he Cannot profitably live without ~~~~ But unless the Superior take a concern in the Mater, and give orders In the Way Proposed or any other way The Superior sees fit, to Settle some help to the School Masters Subsistance for the Public good All the scheme will be obstructed, and the Schools Removed, as the Greater number of the Inhabitants would never be Determined [ torn ] To Contribute any part Tho for their own benefit~~~~ And as your Petitioner has a Family, a wife and five small Children, and has no way yet prepared for them in Aviemore, it would be necessary to Look how they are to be provided before removing them, As the place is so very poor, and the Necessaries of Life so Dear, and far distant from this place,



That all I see yet would not support myself alone in Bread and Clothing, without a Family~~~~ I Beg all Those Circumstances may be taken into your Serious Consideration, and orders given to Contribute Something for the good of the publik and [ torn ] *subsistance* that I *cause oes* among them, and to carry my Peats Seasonably, that nothing may hinder me from attending my Charges, and Your Petitioner,

Shall Ever Pray

Alex

r. Harvey

Aviemore May 12<sup>th</sup> 1767

## Appendix ii

GD 248/483/2 Item 120

Minute of Tack  
John Macgregor  
of the Inn of Aviemore  
27<sup>th</sup> December  
1781

General conditions of agreement betwixt us, Sir James Grant of Grant, and John McGregor waiter at Kinross, as to a Lease of the Inn, and Farm of Avimore, possessed by John Grant, as appertaining to the said Inn – The Lease for Twenty One years [*margin note*: provided the said John McGregor lives so long] commencing at Whitsunday next, One Thousand seven Hundred and Eighty Two, at which Term, John McGregor's Entry is to be –

The Rent / Public Burdens, and all other dues, obligations, and prestations, as payable and prestable, by John Grant for the first five years. Ten Pounds sterling additional rent from that Time to the End of the Said Lease, of Twenty one years, from John McGregor's entry, at Whitsunday next.

John M                    cGregor is to be free to give up the Said Lease, at the end of Nine Years, Upon Half a years warning, before Whitsunday – to have Additional Miliration for Inclosing a Garden, to the Extent of Two acres, being placed an lined out with the proprietors approbation, and for a Kitchen with a Grate and Oven, Suitable to the Exigencies of the Inn, a pump or pipe, as shall be found most proper, a Necessary House, Stalls in the Stable, a Cart Road to the Peat Moss - John McGregor to free and relieve the Proprietor of all milirations, payable to Mr John Grant, the present outgoing Tennant, being repaid for all Buildings, and Inclosing as they shall be worth at the Expiry of the Said John McGregor's Lease

But in Consideration of his having full use of the Furniture so purchased from John grant, to have no allowance for them, - To have right and priveleges as now posest by John Grant, as Tacksman of the Inn of Avimore, - - At Tack or Minute to be Extended with all.

James Grant    -    John M

cGregor

[page 2]

The General, Necessary, and Usual Clauses, as Contain'd in the Other Tacks and Minutes of Strathspey, given this year by the proprietor, and any other Special Clauses Necessary to the said Inn or Farm, which Mr McGregor Factor of Strathspey, may Judge particularly requisite for the Benefit of either party –

James Grant  
John M

cGregor

## Appendix iii

The Farm Horse Tax rolls (NAS E326/10) list the names of the owner and number of horses and mules used in husbandry or trade in 1797-1798. In some rolls the tax inspectors made repeat visits to track down non-payers, which explains why some parishes and burghs are repeated. The listing below is that of the original rolls. The National Archives of Scotland (E326/10)

<b>Farm Horse Tax 1797-1798, Volume 11</b>					
1797 Vol 11, p24 (76)					
Image Reference: E326/10/11/76					
Masters & Mistresses names & designations	Nº of horses	Nº liable	not liable	DUTY	20%
		2/3d / 9mth		£ s d	£ s d
John Grant, Kinchurdy	4	2	2	4s-6d	10s-8d
John Grant, Aviemore	5	4	1	9-	£1-9s-6d
Alex Grant, Wester Aviemore	3	3		6s-9d	£1-4s-2d
Peter Cumming, Inchtomak	1	1		2s-3d	5s-4d
John MacDonald, Aviemore	2	2		4s-6d	10s-8d
Alex Grant, Founder there	2	2		4s-6d	10s-8d
Donald Grant, Granish	1	1		2s-3d	5s-4d
John MacBean, Avielochan	2	2		4s-6d	10s-8d
Donald M'Gregor, Avielochan	2	2		4s-6d	10s-8d
John Calder there	2	2		4s-6d	10s-8d
Peter Grant, Kinvechie	2	2		4s-6d	10s-8d
PARISH TOTALS	107	90	17	£10-2-6d	
Farm Horse Tax 1797-1798, Volume 04 (E326-10/04)					
Image Reference: E326/10/4/226					
1797 Vol 04 p24 (226)					
John Grant, Kinchurdy	4	2	2	4s	
John Grant, Aviemore	4	3	1	8s	
Alex Grant, Wester Aviemore	3	3		6s	
Peter Cumming, Inchtomack	1	1		2s	
John MacDonald, Aviemore	2	2		4s	
Alex Grant, Founder there	2	2		4s	
Donald Grant, Granish	1	1		2s	
John MacBean, Avielochan	2	2		4s	
Donald M'Gregor, there	2	2		4s	
John Calder there	2	2		4s	
Peter Grant, Kinvechie	2	2		4s	
PARISH TOTALS	107	90	17	£9 0s 0d	



## Appendix iv

### RHP 13927, 1809, Contents.

Contents	Arable	Woods	& Total acres	Tenant
land				Pasture
Bulladern	87-0-30	265-2-38	352-3-34	
Delfabre	20-2-26	-3-36	21-2-22	A? Grant
Aviemore	Lot 1 <sup>st</sup>	14-1-10	7- 0-24	21-1-34 xx Stewart
Aviemore	Lot 2 <sup>nd</sup>	19-3-39	3- 1-00	23-0-39 Hugh Dallas, Miller
Aviemore	Lot 3 <sup>rd</sup>	17-2-36	3- 0-00	20-2-36 Wm. Grant
Aviemore	Lot 4 <sup>th</sup>	9-1- 7	5-12-15	14-3-22 R <sup>t</sup> McPherson
Aviemore	Lot 5 <sup>th</sup>	13-1- 0	3- 0-00	16-1-00 Wm M <sup>c</sup> Gillivary
Easter Av, Lot	6 <sup>th</sup>	23-3- 6	17- 2-20	41-1-26 Lewis Grant
Sluggan Grenish	24-0-16	65- 3-26	90-0- 2	Jas. Cameron
Knock Grenish	23-0- 7	106- 3-19	129-3-26	Geo. M <sup>c</sup> Donald
Common hill	2371-0-2	2371-0- 2		
& moor				
TOTAL	253-1-23	2850-0-20	3101-2- 3	

## Appendix v

Slater's Royal National Commercial Directory & Topography of Scotland, 1860

Elginshire, Duthil.

### DUTHIL, ROTHIEMURCHUS, CARR-BRIDGE, AND NEIGHBOURHOODS.

**DUTHIL**, with which is incorporated **ROTHIEMURCHUS**, is a parish lying partly in this county and partly in that of Inverness; the river Spey is the divisional line here between the two districts, and the river Dalman intersects that part of the parish situated in Moray, for nearly thirteen miles, when it falls into the Spey. **ROTHIEMURCHUS** (now defined as a township), lies between the Cairngorm mountain and the Spey, a short way further up that river than the greater part of Duthil; jointly they extend in length twenty miles, by a breadth of seventeen. The whole

is generally highland in its character; game is plentiful, and there is a considerable quantity of natural wood. The name of Grant is remarkably prevalent in this district. The parish church stands about six miles from Grantown, and 24 from Inverhaven; and there is a Free church erected, and a manse in course of erection. **CARRBRIDGE**, or, as it is commonly called, the "Bridge of Carr," is a small village in this parish, 19 miles from Kingussie, and 25 from Inverness.

**POST OFFICE**, William M'Gregor, *Post Master*.—Letters from **EDINBURGH** and all parts south arrive at half-past eight in the evening, and are despatched at twelve minutes past eight in the morning.

Letters from **INVERNESS** and all parts north arrive at twelve minutes past eight in the morning, and are despatched at half-past eight in the evening.

Letters from **GRANTOWN**, &c. arrive at five minutes past eight in the evening, and are despatched at twelve minutes past eight in the morning.

*Money Orders granted and paid at this office.*

#### GENTRY AND CLERGY

Allan Jas. jun. Esq. Easter Duthil  
Cumming Alexander, Esq. Benanach  
Cumming Mrs. Mary, Docharn  
Dunbar Lewis, Esq. Tullochgriban  
Grant Rev. William, A.M. Duthil  
Logan Rev. John, Carr Bridge  
M'Bain Mrs. Eliza, Auchterblair  
M'Gregor Alex. Esq. Kinchardy  
M'Gregor Mr. —, Inverlaidnan

#### INNKEEPERS & VINTNERS.

Dunbar James, Stockmuck  
M'Gregor Alexander, Drumullie  
Menzies Donald, Carr Bridge Hotel  
(family, commercial, and posting  
house), Carr Bridge  
Phillips Charles, Aviemore  
Shaw James, Carr-Bridge

#### SHOPKEEPERS & TRADERS.

Allan George, farmer, Muckrach  
Allan William, farmer, Clury  
Anderson James, wood merchant,  
Graluish [Carr-Bridge  
Cameron Alex. boot & shoe maker,  
Cameron Duncan, blacksmith, Avie-  
more [Bridge  
Cameron John, blacksmith, Carr-

Clark Wm. shopkeeper, Drumullie  
Cumming James, schoolmaster, Kin-  
vechie

Ferguson Hugh, tailor, Carr-Bridge  
Grant Alexander, wood merchant,  
Lorgie burn [Carr-Bridge

Grant Alex. & Robert, carpenters,  
Grant Donald, tailor, Carr-Bridge  
Grant Donald, farmer, Mulchard

Grant Donald, farmer, Tullochgorom  
Grant John, wood merchant, Ellan  
Grant John, shoe maker, Carr-Bridge

Grant Peter, boot & shoe maker,  
Ellan

Loban John, wright, Carr-Bridge  
Loban John, draper & grocer, Carr-  
Bridge

M'Bain James, weaver, Carr-Bridge  
M'Donald Alex. boot & shoe maker,  
Lochannahilly [Bridge

M'Donald John, shopkeeper, Carr-  
M'Donald Thos. boot & shoe maker,  
Drumwhellie [Bridge

M'Gregor Alex. shopkeeper, Carr-  
M'Gregor James, cartwright, Carr-  
Bridge [Bridge

M'Gregor Jas. boot & shoe mkr. Carr-

M'Gregor William, draper & grocer,  
and distributor of stamps, Carr-  
Bridge

M'Lennan Robt. wright, Carr-Bridge  
Oswald Andrew, wood merchant,  
Dalnahanich [Grainish

Pearl Joseph, wood merchant,  
Robertson John, parish school-  
master, Duthil [Bridge

Robertson Wm. draper & grocer, Carr-  
Ross James, tailor & clothier, Carr-  
Bridge

Ross John, boot and shoe maker,  
and inspector of poor, Carr-Bridge

Shaw Robert, black-mith, Carr-  
Bridge  
Urquhart Wm., baker, Carr-Bridge

**ESTABLISHED CHURCH**, Easter Duthil  
Rev. William Grant [Logan  
**FREE CHURCH**, Carr Bridge—Rev. John

#### COACH

To **DUNKELD**, the *Royal Mail* (from In-  
verness), every morning, from Carr  
Bridge at twelve minutes past eight,  
and on returning to Inverness, at a  
quarter to nine at night

## Appendix vi

### 1863 Black's Morayshire Directory.

Extracts from Parish of Duthil, relating to Aviemore and vicinity.

Anderson, Donald, farmer,  
Knockgranish  
Anderson, George, farmer,  
Knockgranish  
Anderson Wm., weaver, Kinveachie  
Anderson Alex., Cottage, Dellgranish  
Calder, John, farmer Avielochan  
Cameron, Wid. Ann, Laggan-tighe-  
gown  
Cameron, Duncan, sub-postmaster  
Easter Aviemore  
Cameron, Margt., farmer,  
Knockgranish  
Campbell, Alex, shoemaker, Aviemore  
Cumming, Donald, farmer, Croft,  
Kinveachie,  
Cumming, Wid. Ann, farmer,  
Avielochan  
Dallas, Hugh, miller, Milton,  
Aviemore  
Davidson, Wm., farmer, Milton,  
Aviemore  
Grant, Alex, farmer, Delfaber  
Grant, Donald, gamekeeper,  
Aviemore  
Grant, John, farmer Kinveachy

Grant, John, gamekeeper  
Knockgranish  
Grant, Widow, farmer, Avielochan  
Grant, Lewis, farmer, Braes of  
Aviemore  
Grant, William, farmer Braes --  
Grant, William, farmer Braes --  
M'Bean, John, farmer, Avielochan  
M'Gillivray, Wm., farmer, Avielochan  
M'Intosh, Alex, farmer, Avielochan  
M'Pherson, Robt., Braes of Aviemore  
M'Pherson, John, schoolmaster,  
Easter Aviemore  
Phillip, Charles, Aviemore  
Robertson, Alex., schoolmaster,  
Kinveachie  
Ross, George,. Sawyer. Easter  
Aviemore  
Sutherland, Andrew, farmer,  
Kinveachy  
Stewart, John, carter, Milltown,  
Aviemore  
Smith, Peter, sawyer, Granish  
Wilson, Lachlan, toll-keeper,  
Aviemore

Township	Wester Aviemore	Milton	Easter Aviemore			
Crofts	Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3	Lot 4	Lot 5	Lot 6
Modern			High Burnside		The Shieling	Lairig View
1770 Davoch	John McBain	Robert Grant	John Grant	James Stuart	Donald Stuart	Donald Robertson
1809 Plan	.... Stewart	Hugh Dallas	Wm Grant	? Rt.McPherson <---->	? Wm. McGillivray	Lewis Grant
1841 census	John Stuart	Archibald Dallas	Wm Davidson	William McGillivray	Robt Macpherson	Duncan Grant
1860 Plan	John Stewart	Hugh Dallas, miller	William Davidson	William ....	[page torn]	Lewis Grant
1861 census	John Stewart 12ac.	Hugh Dallas, 9ac.	Wm.Davidson 9ac.	William McGillivray 13 ac	Robert Macpherson 13 ac	Lewis Grant, 13 ac
1870 V	James Stewart	Hugh Dallas	William Davidson	John Macgillivray	Robert Macpherson	Lewis Grant
Value	£12	£13	£13	£17	£19	£18-10-0
1871 census	James Stuart 20 ac ar.	Hugh Dallas, wid.	Catherine Davidson Wid Fmr 15 ac arable	John Macgillivray 25 ac	Robt.Macpherson wid. 24 ac	Lewis Grant 21 ac arable
1881 census	Christina Stewart wid 40/15ar	Hugh Dallas	Donald Davidson 30/15ar	John McGillivray 32/26ar	Robt.Macpherson 27ac/24ar	Lewis Grant, 78, 32 ac/21ar
1891 census		Wm Dallas, fmr & miller	Donald Davidson fmr.	John McGillivray wid. fmr	Hellen McPherson fmr.	Mary Grant, 71, fmr.
1896-7 V	reps.of James Stewart	Wm. Dallas	Donald Davidson	John Macgillivray	heirs of Hugh Macpherson	William Grant
Value	£7-11-10	£9-8-0	£5-16-0	£11-6-0	£8-10-0	£10-10-00
1920-21 V	Reps. wid Christina Stewart	Wm Dallas	Donald Davidson 3 & 4		Mrs Margt Macpherson or Maclean	William Grant
1938-39 V	Reps. wid Christina Stewart	John C.Dallas	Donald Noble Lots 3 & 4		Mrs Mgt Maclean	Mary Grant, Spinster
	Agricultural use	Agricultural use	Agricultural use		Agricultural use	Agricultural use
1949-50-V	Muirton Lot 1	Milton Lot 2	Burnside Lots 3 & 4		The Shieling, Lot 5, Mrs Mgt	Lairig View, Lot 6
	P.M. Stewart	John C.Dallas	James Munro		Maclean and A. Macdougall	Jessie Murray, spinster
Value	£7-09-6	£8-9-0	£37-0-0		£10-12-5	£10-16-9
1955	? Vacant	John C.Dallas	James Munro		Mrs Mgt Maclean, and C & G Macpherson, spinsters	Jessie Murray, spinster
1974-5 V			James Munro, Burnside and 4 caravans		Adam MacDougall	reps of Miss J.Murray



