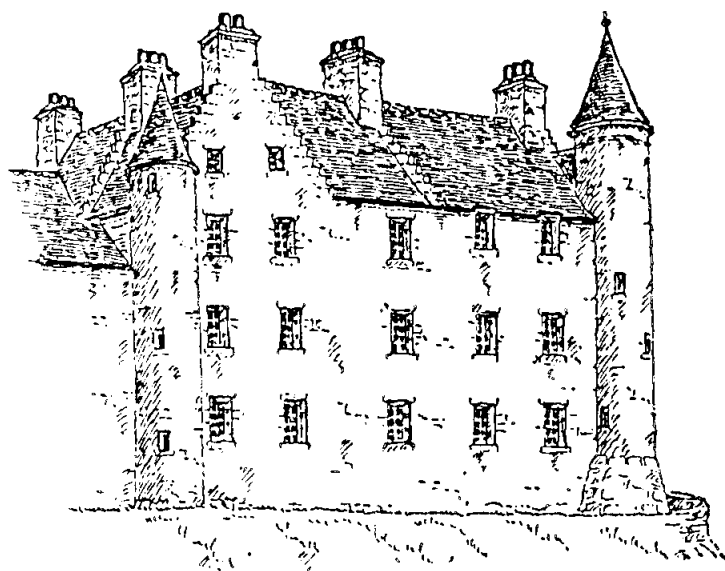


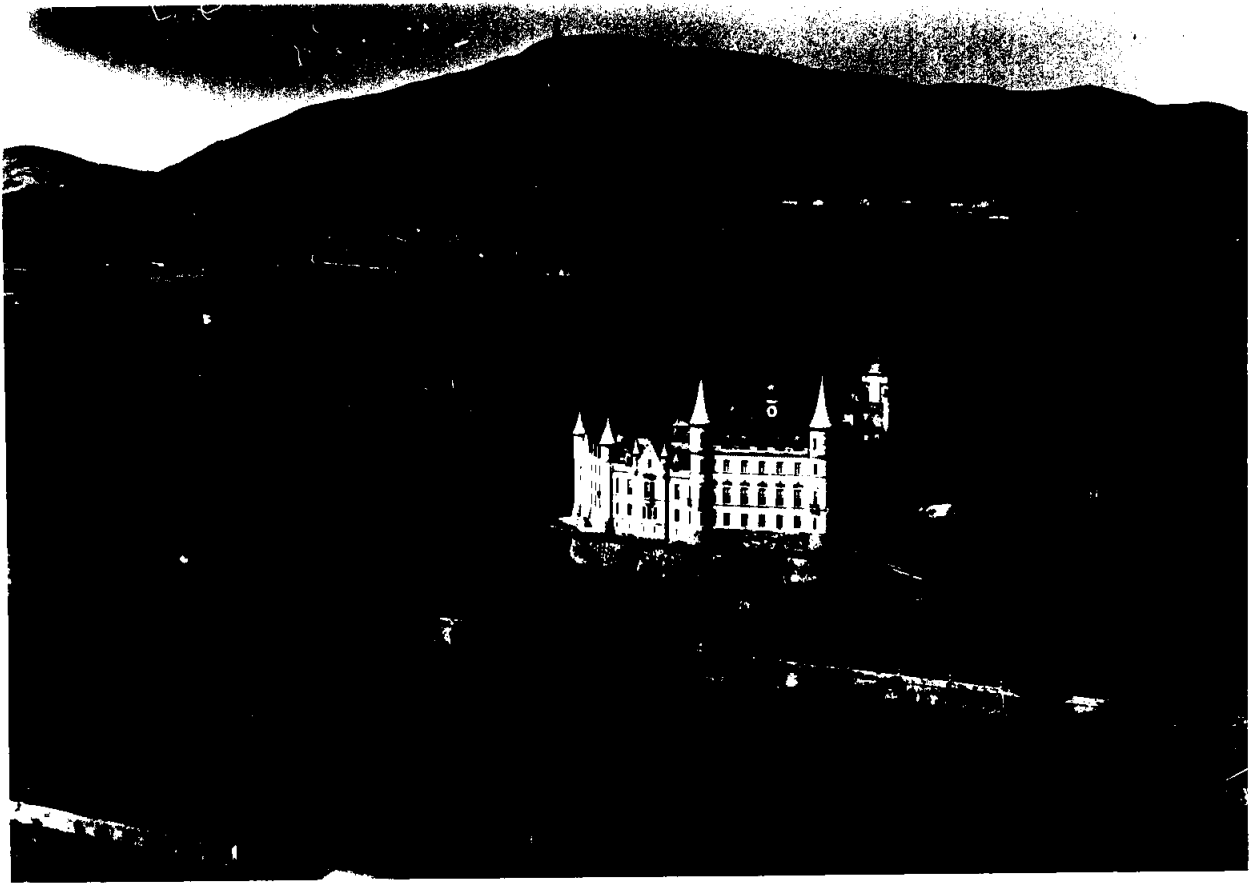
(4)

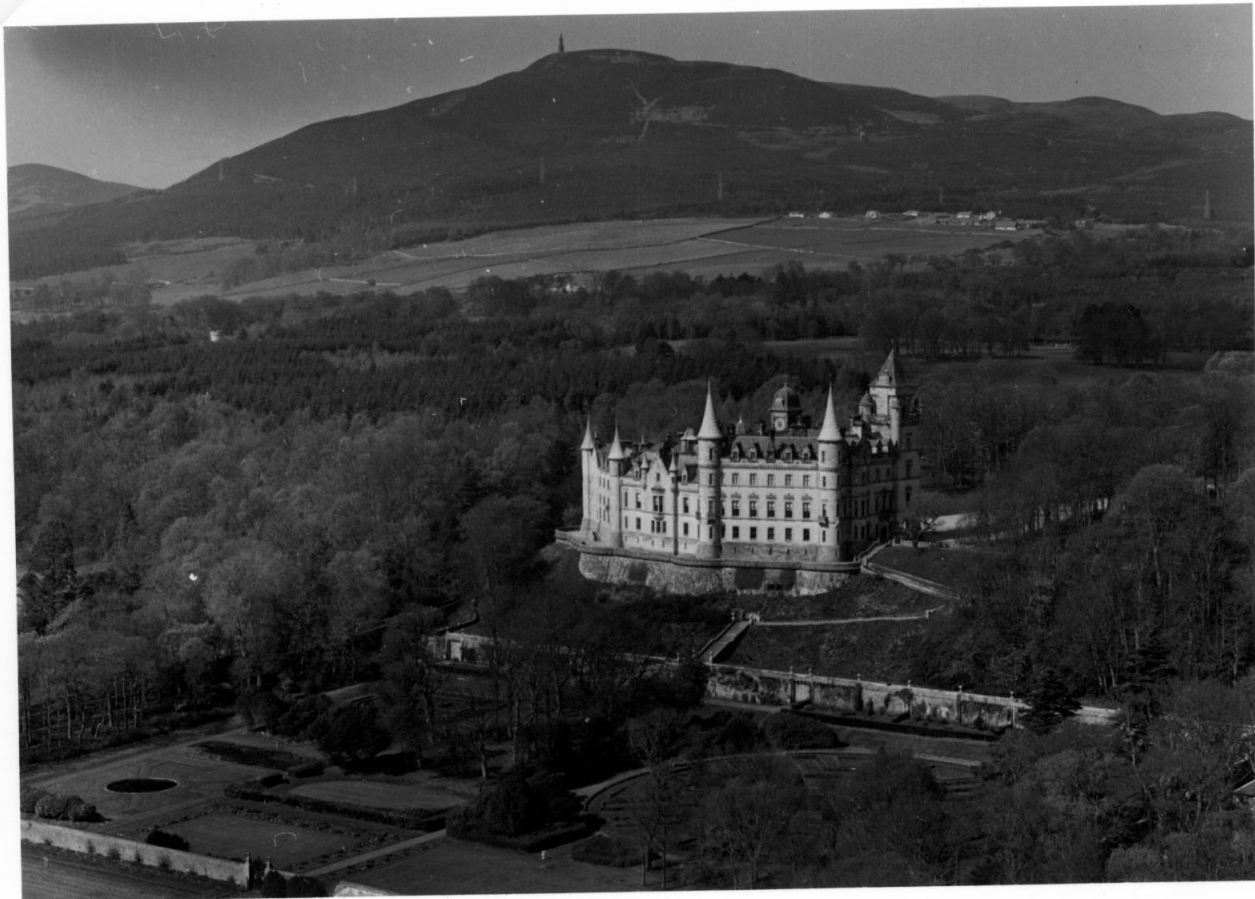
Famous for centuries as the principal seat of the great Sutherland family, Dunrobin, sited commandingly on a height above the narrow coastal plain a mile or so north-east of Golspie, at first glance looks to be an enormous 'sham castle' of the Rhineland. But closer inspection reveals that its nucleus, in the north-east angle, is a quite large 17th-century mansion of traditional Scots construction, with the usual stair-towers, corbelling and crow-stepped gables. Inspect still further and it is discovered that this again is only an extension of a still earlier nucleus, an ancient square keep, with walls over 6 feet thick, finishing in a parapet and walk with open rounds—this last being now wholly surrounded by later work. This early tower is said to date from 1401, in which case it is by no means the original stronghold, for the family was based here before the 12th century. It is vaulted on each floor, an early feature, and its iron yett is still preserved. The large 17th-century mansion was added to south and west round a courtyard measuring 50 by 25 feet, and is on an E-shaped plan of three storeys and a garret, with slender stair-towers at the outer angles, that to the south apparently having been somewhat heightened. Another and larger circular stair-tower connects this work with the old keep, and this has pedimented windows bearing the initials of John, 14th Earl of Sutherland and his Countess. The walls are harled. The later additions were erected in 1785 and 1851.

Descended from the famous Freskin of Moravia, Hugh Freskin got a grant of territory in Sutherland from William the Lion and came north to found this family. A descendant was created Earl of Sutherland in 1235. Although not of Celtic origin, they adopted the Gaelic style, and their chief became known as The Great Cat, adopting the cat as crest, allegedly on account of the prevalence of wild-cats in these parts—the origin of the name of Caithness, or Cattu-ness. The line persisted, playing a major role in Scots history for three hundred years, until it ended in an heiress, who married the second son of the 2nd Earl of Huntly, and so carried the Sutherland earldom to the Gordons. For the next two centuries the earls bore that name. Her grandson was forfeited for his share in Huntly's rebellion of 1562, and was exiled in Flanders. He came home five years later, however—but was poisoned at Helmsdale Castle by Isobel Sinclair, wife of his uncle, Gordon of Gartay, his wife with him. Their only son survived, however, but was seized at Skibo Castle by the Sinclair Earl of Caithness, still a child, and forced to marry that earl's daughter, the profligate Lady Barbara Sinclair, twice his age, Caithness meantime taking up residence at Dunrobin. However, on attaining his majority he managed to divorce the lady, and married instead the Lady Jean Gordon, whom Bothwell had just divorced in order to marry Mary Queen of Scots. Their son was the 13th earl, whose son built the 17th-century extensions. He was much involved in the religious wars, opposed Montrose in his campaigns, and with 1,000 men arrived just too late to take part in the Battle of Dunbar against Cromwell. The 18th earl died young in 1766 leaving only a year-old daughter, the greatest landowner in Britain. She it was who later married the Marquis of Stafford, and they were created Duke and Duchess of Sutherland—the instigators of the notorious Sutherland Clearances.

Today, although still in the possession of a Countess of Sutherland in her own right, Dunrobin is used as a school.







A T O U R

I N S C O T L A N D.

170

DUNROBIN.

Dunrobin Castle, the antient seat of the Earls of *Sutherland*, founded about the year 1100 by *Robert*, or *Robin*, second Earl of *Sutherland*; situated near the sea, and, as the word *Dun* imports, on a round hill. The few paintings here are, an Earl of *Murray*, an old man, on wood. His son and two daughters, by *Co. G.* 1628. A fine full length of *Charles I.* *Angus Williamson*, a hero of the *clan Chattan*, who rescued the *Sutherlands* in the time of distress. A very singular picture of the Duke of *Alva* in council, with a cardinal by his side, who puts a pair of bellows blown by the Devil into his ear: the Duke has a chain in one hand, fixed to the necks of the kneeling *Flemings*, in the other he shews them a paper of recantation for them to sign; behind whom are the reformed Clergy. The cardinal is the noted *Anthony Perrenot*, cardinal de *Grandville*, secretary to *Margaret of Austria*, Dutchess Dowager of *Savoy*, Governess of the *Netherlands*; and who was held to be the author, advancer and nourisher* of the troubles of those countries; and who on his recall into *Spain* was supposed to be the great promoter of the cruelties exercised afterwards by the Duke of *Alva*, the successor of his mistress.

(6)

The demesne is kept in excellent order; and I saw here (*lat.* 58.) a very fine field of wheat, which would be ripe about the middle of next month.

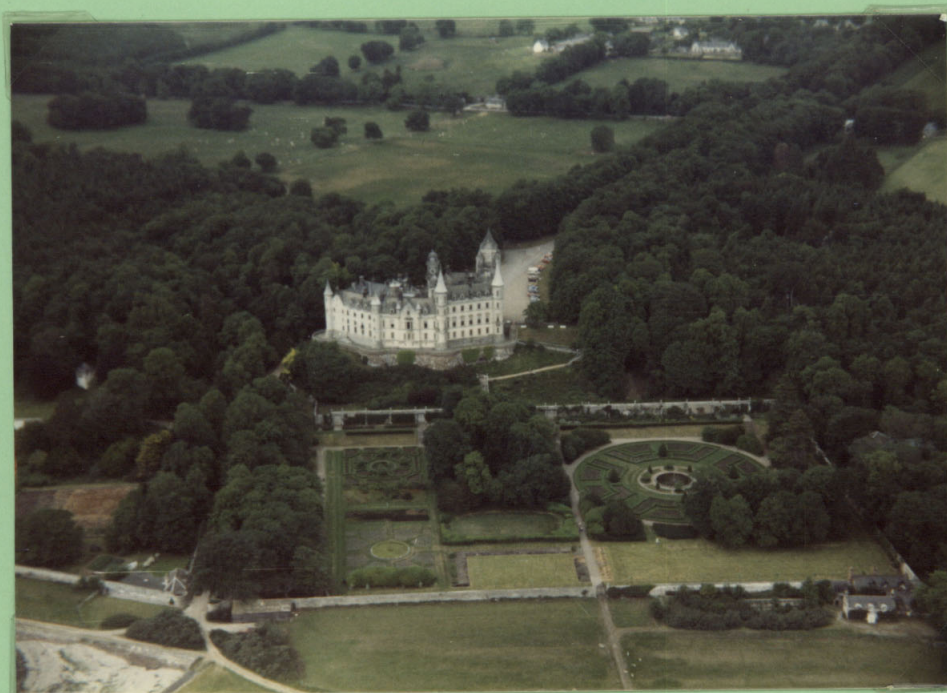
This was the last wheat which had been sown this year in *North Britain*.

Sutherland is a country abounding in cattle, and sends out annually 2500 head, which fold about this time (lean) from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* *per* head. These are very frequently without horns, and both they and the horses are very small. Stags abound in the hills, there being reckoned not less than 1600 on the *Sutherland* estate, which, in fact, is the greatest part of the county. Besides these are Roes, Grouse, black game and Ptarmigans in plenty, and during winter multitudes of water-fowl on the coast.

* *Grimston's Hist. Netherlands.* 344. 349.

52. "St John's Well is a very deep well in the courtyard of the ancient portion of the castle. No information regarding the origin of the name can be found."
(O.N.B. 1873. 23,54.).
(NC 85050081) St. John's Well. (OS. 6" 1873.).

29. 6. PENNANT,T:1769:A TOUR IN SCOTLAND 1769:W EYRES:p170
7. CLOSE-BROOKS,J:1986:EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE, THE HIGHLANDS:HMSO:pp f 57,72,
75-77



NC9.4

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

FIELD MONUMENTS



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE H N C 8 0 S E 0 0 1	
2 NGR N C 8 5 0 5 0 0 8 2 C E	
3 QUAL	
6 SITE NAME D U N R O B I N C A S T L E	
10 GENERIC TYPE CASTLE.	
14 PERIOD/DATE 15th = 19th Cent.	
15 DATING METHOD DOC	
18 SHAPE	
19 THREAT AND DATE	
4 DISTR:CT SUTHERLAND	
5 PARISH GOLSPIE	
7 AREA STATUS	
8 SITE STATUS S.D.D. LISTED. 'A'	
9 REGIONAL STATUS	
11 CONCORDANCE OS NC 80 SE 1	
12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE	
13 DIMENSIONS	
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS	
17 CONDITION COMPLETE (OCCUPIED).	
20 LAND USE LAND BUILT UPON	
21 GEOLOGY	
22 SOILS	
23 VEGETATION	
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE	
25 RELIEF SPUR ABOVE RAISED BEACH	
26 ASPECT SSW=S=SE	
27 ALTITUDE 23=30m OD	
28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)	
29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)	
1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1964: 6" MAP.	
2. RCAHMS: 1911: SUTHERLAND INVENTORY: HMSO: : pp90-91, No 269.	
3. : 1892: CASTELLATED & DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTLAND: : 4: pp300-307 (PLAN & ILLUS).	
4. TRANTER N.: 1970: FORTIFIED HOUSES IN SCOTLAND: : 5: pp174-176 (ILLUS).	
5. B.A.H.S.I. LIST: 7-3-1984: SUTHERLAND.	
30 GROUND PLAN NO.	
31 GROUND PHOTO NO. 84107101109 8410710414	
32 SLIDES NO.	
33 HR. AP. NO. 8110710112, 13 8210310210A, 17A-21A	
34 NMR. AP. NO.	
35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE M/781/11A - 12A /C1/784/4	
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	
38 SAMPLES	
39 PALYNOLOGY	
40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.	
41 SMALL FINDS	
42 MUSEUM/LOCATION	
43 OTHER	
44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER	
45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER	
46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT	
47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT	
48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS	
49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE	
50 RECORDER: DATE AM: 9.5.1985	
51 CHECK: DATE HAR: 19.6.1985	

52 TEXT

"(NC 8505 0082) Dunrobin Castle." (1).

"Dunrobin Castle, the principle seat of the Sutherland family since the 12th century, consists of a keep at the NE angle built about 1401 and vaulted on each floor - an unusual feature." (2)

"In the 17th century a large house on the plan of a central courtyard was erected to the SW of the keep and connected to it with a turnpike-stair tower. These wings were altered and added to in 1785 and in 1845-50 a huge mansion was built on the NE side." (3) (4).

"The whole was restored early in the 20th century and is in use as a school." (5).

"Dunrobin Castle (name verified) is a large and outstanding mansion still occupied and as described by previous authorities. Externally it appears to be 18th/19th century with little of the 17th century work visible, the tower house being entirely enclosed by later work. There is no evidence of any structure ante-dating the tower house. See illustration." (OSFI:JM:19.1.1976)

(over).

NEG. NO: 01-73414

SMR. NO:

COPYRIGHT: HRC

H | N | L | 3 | 0 | 5 | K | C | 0 | 1 |

SUBJECT:

DUNROBIN CASTLE & FORMAL GARDEN

LOCATION:

Glasgow, Scotland

PHOTOGRAPHER:

R. B. GORLAY

DATE: July 1984

TECHNICAL DATA:

SAKURACOLOR II

***** Record 10991 in SMR *****

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

MAP	<u>NC80SE</u>	SITE	<u>0001</u>	<u>A</u>	—	LINEAR	—
EASTINGS	<u>851</u>	NORTHINGS	<u>007</u>			QUALIFIER	

NAME	DUNROBIN CASTLE, GARDENS
OTHERNAME	
CLASS	GARDENS

PARISH GOLSPIE
DISTRICT SUTHERLAND
COUNTY SUTHERLAND

DATE _____ METHOD _____
 _____ FORM _____
 _____ CONDITION _____

SPECIFIC _____

STATUS _____ NO _____ NMR SITE 0001 1 _____

***** Record 11025 in SMR *****

=====+
| **HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD** |
+=====

MAP NC80SE SITE 0001 B LINEAR
EASTINGS 857 NORTHINGS 001 QUALIFIER


NAME DUNROBIN CASTLE
OTHERNAME
CLASS GARDEN PAVILION; WALLED GARDEN

PARISH GOLSPIE
DISTRICT SUTHERLAND
COUNTY SUTHERLAND

DATE METHOD
 FORM
SPECIFIC CONDITION

STATUS NO NMR SITE 0041

NEG/SLIDE No:	814017	10/09	DATE:	417184	NGR:	NC95050081	QUAL:	CE
DISTRICT:	SUTHERLAND	CODE:	1	PARISH:	GOLSPIE	CODE:	13	
SUBJECT KEYWORDS: DUNROBIN CASTLE								
DETAIL: FROM S.E.								
LOCATION: ADJACENT A9. N.E. OF GOLSPIE								

SMR No:	H	N	C	9	5	0	5	0	0	8	1
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD PHOTOGRAPH											
PHOTOGRAPHER:						COPYRIGHT:					
R. B. GOURLAY						H. R. C.					

