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PROJECT: 495298 - A9 Dualling – Glen Garry to Dalraddy
TITLE: Cultural Heritage Technical Note [01] – Flood defence earthworks at Ruthven Barracks.
Historic map analysis to help determine whether earthworks are contemporaneous with the Barracks.
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1.0 Purpose of this Technical Note

This Technical Note aims to determine, through the analysis of historic mapping, whether the flood defence earthworks to the north of Ruthven Barracks at the Spey Crossing are contemporaneous with the construction and operation of the barracks, or are later additions.

The earthworks have been identified by Historic Scotland at the A9 Dualling Environmental Steering Group on 6 May 2015, as requiring analysis, to determine whether they are associated with Ruthven Barracks, and should or should not therefore be considered as related under any Scheduled Monument/ A Listed Building assessments.

1.1 Historic Maps

Historic mapping was accessed through the National Library of Scotland's online mapping resource (<http://maps.nls.uk/>).

The following maps were accessed:

- Andrews, Jelfe 1719 *A Plan of the Barrack of Ruthven in Badenoch*
- Roy Highlands Survey 1742-52
- OS Six Inch 1843-1882
- OS Six Inch 1888-1912

Andrews Jelfe, 1719: A Plan of the Barrack of Ruthven in Badenoch

Ruthven Barracks was built between 1719 and 1721, on a prominent mound that had once been the site of a medieval castle of the Comyns, and later the Gordons.

Andrews Jelfe's map of 1719 shows the barracks, with associated earthworks extending to the west and north which were likely in place to protect the western approach to the barracks. There is no evidence of the earthwork banks that form the present-day flood defences.

The land surrounding the barracks appears to have been set aside for crops, note the rig and furrow markings, and is also described as being under water, even in summer, suggesting that there were no flood defences in place.

The map dates to 1719, and as the barracks were not complete until 1721, it is possible that flood defence earthworks were constructed after 1719. The map does demonstrate that the flood defences did not form part of the original barrack complex.



Roy Highlands 1747-52: flood defences are not shown, although the scale of the map is likely to have meant that small earthworks would not have been included.



OS 6" 1843-1882: the flood defence earthworks are now in place. It is likely that they have been in place since at least 1843. Kingussie Railway station is shown at the north-west of the map, and as this was constructed in 1863 this indicates that it is possible the earthworks post-date 1843.

The earthworks that are contemporaneous with Ruthven Barracks (as shown on Jelfe's 1719 map) are still in place, with the more recent flood defence earthworks linking to them just to the south of *Spey Bridge of Kingussie*.



OS 6" 1888 – 1913: defences are still in place, and have not altered since the last OS 6 inch map.



1.2 Conclusions

Analysis of a series of historic maps, dating from 1719 through to 1913, indicates that the earthwork flood defences that are seen to the north of Ruthven Barracks today, are likely to have mid-19th century origins and did not form part of the original barrack complex.

They are also highly unlikely to have been related to the operation, and therefore the interpretation and appreciation, of the Barracks and its historical context or setting.