



FOUNDATIONS for RECOVERY

APPENDIX B DUNURE CASTLE

- .1 Archaeology
 - .1 T Addyman 1996
 - .2 T Addyman 2000
 - .3 WOSAS Site report 1
 - .4 WOSAS Site report 2
- .2 Structural Report
- .3 Archive reference



UK Government



Site Report

WoSAS Pin 54536

WoSASPIN 5515

(NS 2522 1581) Dunure Castle (NR) (remains of)
OS 6" map (1970)

(NS 2526 1583) Dovecot (NR)
OS 6" map (1970)

Dunure Castle, property of the Kennedies, occupies a rocky coastal promontory. It consisted of two parts, a probable 13th century keep of irregular shape on top of a rock, and a range of buildings, 15th century and later, at a lower level. Vaults in the basement are still fairly well preserved, but the superstructure is almost completely demolished, apart from a fragment of the NW wall. A detached piece of wall, which possibly contained a gateway, lies to the NE.

Also nearby is a circular, beehive type (16th century) dovecote, in good preservation (SDD List 1963).
D MacGibbon and T Ross 1889

Castle and dovecote are generally as described above. The detached piece of wall to the NE seems to be a large mass of masonry fallen from the castle. To the NW of the keep are the probable remains of a courtyard wall contemporary with the keep.

Visited by OS (JLD) 13 December 1955 and (RD) 3 March 1967

The remains of the castle are in an unstable and dangerous condition. The 1976 excavation trenches are evident along the external W wall. Revised at 1:2500.

Visited by OS (JRL) 9 July 1977

This castle is situated on a rocky coastal promontory 240m SW of Dunure harbour. The earliest identifiable portion comprises a tower and courtyard of probable late 14th-century date; the tower was oblong on plan, measuring 11.3m by 6.1m within walls 1.5m thick. During the late medieval period, the remains of this earlier castle were incorporated in a building of three principal storeys; on the SSW, a wing of two principal storeys (11m by 8.5m within walls up to 1.2m thick), with a corbelled machicolation, was added, and during the 16th century this was extended by the addition of a kitchen wing (11.2m by 5.6m within walls 1.1m thick) provided with a corridor on its ENE

side. The subsequent addition of these service ranges may obscure the original entrance/gatehouse arrangements which are known to have existed. A bailey on the precipitous seaward side of the promontory is partially defined by the remains of a wall 1.5m thick. A well-preserved 16th century beehive dovecot stands on a knoll 33m ENE of the castle (NS 2526 1584). There are no visible remains of a chapel which is said to have stood in the vicinity of the entrance to the castle. The castle was the property of the Kennedys, Earls of Cassillis.

RCAHMS 1985, visited (IMS) April 1985.

In 2002/3 this site was examined as part of the Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of the Firth of Clyde (GUARD/CRG for HS, Firth of Clyde Forum and the SCAPE Trust). The site was visited on 06/01/2003 its location was/is '<50m from the coast' The sites condition was noted as 'Good' and the erosion class of the coast at this point is noted as 'Eroding or Stable' (HS defined erosion classes) Further action recommended by GUARD/CRG for this site is 'Monitor' .

A70. A well preserved Doocot situated c. 80 m to the NE of Dunure Castle. It is still roofed and contains well preserved internal stone work.

Sneddon, D., 'Coastal Zone Assessment Survey: Firth of Clyde', GUARD, 2003

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