



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Property in Care (PIC) ID:	PIC029
Designations:	Scheduled Monument (SM13613)
Taken into State care:	1999 (Ownership)
Last reviewed:	2006

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

LINDSAY BURIAL AISLE



We continually revise our Statements of Significance, so they may vary in length, format and level of detail. While every effort is made to keep them up to date, they should not be considered a definitive or final assessment of our properties.

LINDSAY BURIAL AISLE

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Lindsay Burial Aisle is the only surviving part of the old parish church of Edzell. It originated as a chantry chapel before being adopted as a burial aisle. It is a simple structure, open on the north side where it joined the main body of the church, and has a crypt which is not accessible to the public.

CHARACTER OF THE MONUMENT

Historical Overview

- The earliest reference to a church at Edzell comes in 1342 but the discovery of a 9th-century cross arm (now at Edzell Castle) indicates a longer history of worship in the area. The church was probably dedicated to St. Laurence and was in the diocese of St Andrews and the deanery of Angus. It was one of the few unappropriated parishes at the Reformation.
- The aisle appears to have been added to this simple rectangular building in the mid-16th Century although this is not certain. The existence of a piscina or credence in the east wall indicates that the aisle originated as a chantry chapel and was therefore constructed before the Reformation.
- The burial vault was inserted into the building later, possibly for the 9th earl of Crawford, although the date is not known. The fitting of the grille to the S window may be related to this change in use.
- In 1818 the parish church moved to the current site in the village of Edzell and the main body of the medieval building was demolished. The survival of the Lindsay Aisle required works to the north wall to create a gable and to straighten the scars left by the removal of the church. It may be that at this time the north arch was filled with a wall which was removed shortly before 1915.

Archaeological Overview

- The area around the Lindsay Aisle has been subject to both topographical and resistivity surveys. These showed the position of the main body of the church. This also showed anomalies to the west and south of the aisle which may be building debris or, alternatively, the upcast from the excavation for the vault.
- The aisle sits in a graveyard of some antiquity. Human remains should be expected whenever there is any ground disturbance.
- The slabs of the floor of the vault have not been disturbed in recent times. While burial beneath the floor is not likely, the bedding of the slabs may contain redeposited material of archaeological value.

Artistic/Architectural Overview

- The Lindsay Aisle is a simple building with some fine details such as the ogee-topped piscina, the memorial niche beneath the S window and the fine vaulting with decorated lamp-holder in the crypt.

Social Overview

- The site is publicly accessible in the local authority burial ground.

Spiritual Overview

- As the remains of the church and a burial vault, the Lindsay Aisle has clear spiritual values. However, it no longer plays an active role as a focus for worship.

Aesthetic Overview

- The Lindsay Aisle is an attractive, if unostentatious feature in this rural graveyard.
- Closer inspection of the building reveals several attractive architectural features.

What are the major gaps in understanding of the property?

- The history of the building is understood in its generalities but we lack detailed information regarding its construction and alterations.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Key points

- The Lindsay Aisle is a good example of a 16th-century lairdly aisle. It is of particular interest in showing the changes brought about by the Reformation to forms of worship and associated buildings.
- The quality of the few architectural details adds a certain sophistication to an otherwise plain building.
- Although only the aisle is in state care, the wider site is archaeologically sensitive.
- The building is attractive if unpretentious, using traditional materials in rural setting.

Associated Properties

Edzell Castle, Skelmorlie Aisle, Lauderdale Aisle

Keywords Burial aisle, piscina, Lindsay, chantry