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**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND  
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

# **DOUNE CASTLE AND ROMAN CAMP**



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# HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

## DOUNE CASTLE

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# 1 Summary

## 1.1 Introduction

Doune Castle is on a promontory between the River Teith and the Ardoch Burn. An impressive curtain-walled castle set within a picturesque rural landscape, it was a major residence of the earls of Menteith. The present structure dates mostly from the time of Robert Stewart (c.1340-1420), duke of Albany. However, the fabric incorporates significant portions of a late 13th-century castle, and the surrounding earthworks almost certainly pre-date Albany too. Following Albany's death and that of his son, the castle was seized by the Crown, and was used mostly as a royal hunting-lodge.

During the 1745/6 Jacobite Rising it was occupied by the Jacobites and used as a prison for captured government troops. Thereafter it fell out of use. It was restored to its present state by George Philip Stuart, 14th earl of Moray<sup>1</sup> in the 1880s, and entrusted into state care by Douglas John Stuart, 20th Earl of Moray<sup>2</sup> in 1984.

The area under state care includes Doune Roman Fort and a large amount of ground, with a car park for about 25 cars and a cottage that serves as an office and toilets for the castle.

There is a comprehensive audio tour, narrated by Terry Jones and Sam Heughan, and other graphic interpretation around the site. There is a small shop.

There were about 38,000 visitors in 2013/14.

## 1.2 Statement of significance

The strategic use of the promontory on which Doune Castle stands may well reach back into prehistory and very likely predates the existing castle, demonstrating the continuity of use of such sites.

The discovery of 13<sup>th</sup> century fabric within the late 14<sup>th</sup> century buildings also demonstrates this continuity and suggests that building on greenfield sites was less common than previously thought. It also demonstrates the ability of standing building surveys to add substantially to our knowledge and understanding of monuments, even where documentary sources are limited or absent.

The builder of the present castle, Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany and governor of Scotland from 1406 to 1420, was the most powerful figure in the Scotland of his day. The design and quality of the architecture of Doune represents Albany's ideas of what was appropriate for his status as second in line to the throne and reflects his royal ambitions. In essence, Doune

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<sup>1</sup> Debrett's Peerage, 1985, p. 853

<sup>2</sup> Debrett's Peerage, 1985, p. 852

represents one of the earliest surviving examples of a planned royal residence in Scotland.

Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, Doune served as an important rural retreat for the Stewart dynasty, serving both as royal hunting lodge and dower house for several queens.

The 1880s restoration of the great hall and duke's hall represent a significant watershed in the castle's history as a monument in the landscape. It also allows us to understand 19<sup>th</sup> century attitudes towards monuments and their restoration.

The popularity of Doune Castle as a filming location demonstrates the role the historic environment can play in the wider economy. The significant increase in visitor numbers following *Outlander's* use of the castle as a location also highlights that history/archaeology may not always be the primary motivation for visiting such places.

## **2 Assessment of values**

### **2.1 Background**

#### **Roman fort**

The strategic importance of Doune at the meeting of the River Teith and Ardoch Burn was appreciated by the Romans, who built a fort there in around 80 AD. Its remains were identified, just north of the castle, as crop marks in 1983 and it has been excavated several times since. It would have been built by Agricola during his invasion of northern Britain and was one of a series of forts along the Gask Ridge. It was in operation for fewer than 10 years and there is archaeological evidence that it was carefully dismantled to render it useless as a defensive position.<sup>3</sup> It has been identified with *Tamia*, on Ptolemy's map. Its primary role was likely to guard a crossing on the river Teith as a 'route-blocker'.<sup>4</sup> It has its own statement of significance.

#### **After 100 AD**

The name Doune likely derives from the Scottish Gaelic *dùn* that means 'castle' or 'fort'.<sup>5</sup> It is likely, therefore, that there was some kind of fortification on the site well before the 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle. Geophysical survey of the surrounding site to the castle indicates the presence of medieval or earlier buildings and earthworks and analysis, of the nature of the ground the castle sits upon, from later excavations indicates there may have been an earlier man-made mound there.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The inner ditch has been deliberately filled in Maxwell, 1984, p. 217.

<sup>4</sup> Maxwell, 1984, p. 218

<sup>5</sup> Darton, 1990, pp. 103, 106

<sup>6</sup> O'Grady, Doune Castle Geophysical Survey Pt I, 2011, Addyman Archaeology, 2011

### **13<sup>th</sup>-century castle**

In around 1261, the earldom of Menteith, including the estate of Doune, was acquired through marriage by Walter Stewart. It is thought the oldest parts of the castle date from around this time. In particular there are clear remains of the 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle in the base of the gatehouse and kitchen tower. The tusks on the kitchen tower and clear vertical break in the east curtain wall may indicate that an original curtain wall had a slightly smaller footprint than that today. There are also the possible remains of an early east range on the north side of the courtyard.

### **14<sup>th</sup>-century castle**

While there is a substantial amount of 13<sup>th</sup>-century fabric the castle, as it survives today, is largely the work of Robert Stewart (c.1340–1420), Duke of Albany and de facto ruler of Scotland for much of the period between 1388 and 1420.

As rebuilt by Albany the castle is roughly quadrangular except for the dog-legged range that contains the kitchen tower and a postern gate. The main range of accommodation was along the north, where the great hall and gatehouse tower are located. The latter contains what are thought to be the lodgings of the duke and duchess and the main point of entry for the castle.

Another interpretation of the tussing visible on the kitchen tower, along with the large windows piercing the south wall, is that west and south ranges were built and lost or were intended but never built. Due to the size and nature of the windows in the south wall it is thought that the range would have included a chapel.

The rectangular gatehouse tower would have been of four storeys and the drum tower of five. It contains, on the ground floor: a possible pit prison, two cellars and the entrance gateway. The first floor: the Duke's Hall and Duke's study. The second floor: the upper hall, or bed chamber; an antechamber and oratory. The third floor may have been the duchess's bedroom. It is not known what the third and fourth floors of the drum tower were. It would have been the tallest part of the castle

The Kitchen Tower consists of three storeys. The ground floor has a basement. The first floor: the kitchen and servery adjoining the great hall. The second floor: a high-status bedchamber and two closets.

### **16<sup>th</sup>-century changes**

After Albany's death in 1420 the castle and estate went to his son Murdoch. However, James I's return from England in 1424 led to Murdoch's execution in 1425 and the castle became a crown possession. It then acted as a royal hunting retreat and was a dowager castle for numerous queens. A series of royal keepers were appointed, along with income from its lands in order to keep up the castle. However, by the late 1500s the castle was in poor repair and James VI instructed the keeper to repair it. Under the mason Michael

Ewing the parapets were corbelled and round turrets constructed.<sup>7</sup> Inside the courtyard a corbelled turret stair was inserted from the first to second floor in the Kitchen Tower.

### **19<sup>th</sup>-century Restoration**

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the castle was alternately garrisoned by government and then Jacobite forces and used as a prison. However, it appears no substantial building changes were made. Subsequently the castle fell out of use and became ruinous and a tourist attraction. The Stirling Observer noted in 1859 that 'scarcely a day passes without large parties of travellers surrounding it, and every nook and corner of the building is pregnant with strange historical reminiscences'.<sup>8</sup>

In 1883, the owner – the fourteenth Earl of Moray – appointed the architect Andrew Kerr to restore the castle. This was done in a manner to be sympathetic to the medieval fabric and was largely successful in this by the standards of the time.

The most heavily restored area is the Duke's Hall.

## **2.2 Evidential Values**

Doune Castle is one of the largest and best preserved 14<sup>th</sup>-century castles in Scotland. Although it contains substantial portions of an earlier castle, its present form is largely due to one phase of construction, which has remained largely unmodified. This preponderance of a single phase allows us to learn a great deal about castle construction, layout and what was considered appropriate for a great noble in this period.

The completeness and lack of major modification has also preserved evidence for the earlier castle in the brown sandstone used for quoining, entrance surrounds and arrow slits, distinct from the grey-cream stone used by Albany. The fishtailed arrow slits also provide clear evidence of a late 13<sup>th</sup>-century structure incorporated into the existing structure.

The relative completeness of the castle preserves evidence for the design of the castle. Tusking on the south face of the Kitchen Tower and large windows in the south curtain wall suggest the presence (or planned presence) of further accommodation ranges along the west and south curtain walls. There is debate as to whether these ranges were actually built. See 0 2.3

Architectural and Artistic Values for a more detailed discussion.

It is possible that evidence of the earlier castle and also its later period survives in buried archaeology as well. Unrecorded clearance work during the 1880s may have removed some of this evidence.

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<sup>7</sup> (M. Works Acc. i, pp. lx, 307)

<sup>8</sup> (Stirling Observer, 1859)

Excavations in 1986 and 1998 revealed cobbled surfaces just under the turf of the courtyard, and showed that there was no well in the basement of the gatehouse tower, as previously thought.<sup>9</sup>

Small-scale excavation by Addyman Archaeology in 2011 attempted to answer some of the questions posed during a standing building survey in 2010. The results were inconclusive, but seemed to rule out the possibility that the surviving round tower at the main entrance was part of a double-towered gatehouse, as at another Stewart castle, Dundonald.<sup>10</sup>

The castle's courtyard and well-defined ditches are likely to contain deposits and archaeological features relating to the construction, occupation, use and abandonment of the site. For example, the courtyard has high potential to establish the extent of Albany's building programme: excavations in 1999 revealed that archaeological layers are preserved below the surface.<sup>11</sup> There is also likely to be evidence for the dates at which non-extant buildings were built, used, re-used, abandoned and demolished.

Buried soil and datable environmental remains were found in the 2011 excavation, though they have not yet been fully investigated. This evidence could inform our understanding of the contemporary environment and landscape within which the castle was built.

The earthworks to the south of the castle have archaeological potential. They could help us ascertain whether the site was occupied in the prehistoric or early historic periods, and to enhance our understanding of how the grounds outwith the curtain wall were used in medieval times. For example, they may indicate the use of this area for more formal gardens from the mid-15th century when we know that a gardener was in place at Doune Castle during the reign of James II.<sup>12</sup>

The timber draw-bar at the main entrance could provide a useful date through dendrochronology.

The potential for important archaeological evidence to survive within and around the castle is thus very high.

The restoration of the 1880s can provide an insight into the attitudes and ideas of Victorians towards both medieval castles and to the process of restoration.

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<sup>9</sup> (Cannell, 1986)

<sup>10</sup> (Addyman Archaeology, 2011)

<sup>11</sup> (Kirkdale Archaeology, 1999)

<sup>12</sup> Seeds ordered for Doune in 1488 (Exchequer Rolls V, pp. 304, 479), records for 'gardener' and 'park-keeper' in (Exchequer Rolls VI, pp. 285, 639).

## 2.3 Historical Values

### **Associative values**

#### **Albany c.1340–1420<sup>13</sup>**

The castle is most strongly associated with Robert, Duke of Albany. He was the third son of Robert II and the younger brother of Robert III. He was guardian of Scotland during the reign of his father, brother and nephew, James I, and it could be argued that he was the de facto ruler of Scotland between 1388 and 1420.<sup>14</sup> The traditional view was that the castle was built for him on a fresh-field site between 1361 and 1381. Although recent research has shown that this was not the case and that there are the remains of an earlier 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle, the association with Albany is clear. The first references to Doune Castle occur in letters issued from 'Dwne in Meneteth' dated 1381.<sup>15</sup> The castle was used often by the duke. Acting in his capacity of Governor of Scotland, he was resident there from February 1407 and held court there, often attended by several men of high status.<sup>16</sup>

#### **Royalty**

After Albany's death and his son Murdoch's execution, the castle became a royal possession and was used as a dower castle and royal hunting retreat. Mary of Gueldres, Margaret of Denmark, Margaret Tudor and Mary of Guise all had Doune in their tocher lands. James II, III, IV & VI used Doune as a hunting retreat.<sup>17</sup>

#### **Prisoners**

During the Jacobite rising of 1745, Doune Castle was held by John MacGregor of Glengyle for the Jacobites. It was used as a prison for government troops including several captured at the Battle of Falkirk in 1746. These included John Home, who would become an eminent minister and playwright, and John Witherspoon, who emigrated to America to take up the presidency of what was later to become Princeton University and became a signatory to the Declaration of Independence. It may be that he was aware of the Declaration of Arbroath and it influenced his contribution to the Declaration of Independence. John Home wrote of their dramatic escape from the castle using knotted sheets to form a rope to climb down the battlements.<sup>18</sup> It is not clear if Witherspoon also escaped or waited to be released.

#### **Film associations**

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Doune Castle became a place of pilgrimage for Monty Python fans. The 1975 film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* filmed several scenes at the castle. Doune was the setting for several different locations: Swamp Castle, Castle Anthrax and Camelot scenes were all produced here.

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<sup>13</sup> (Boardman, 2004)

<sup>14</sup> (Hunt, 2009)

<sup>15</sup> (Fraser, 1879, p. 237) in (Oram & Addyman Archaeology, 2010, p. 34)

<sup>16</sup> (Oram & Addyman Archaeology, 2010, p. 34)

<sup>17</sup> (Oram & Addyman Archaeology, 2010, pp. 35–37) & (Exchequer Rolls V, p. 225)

<sup>18</sup> (Home, 1822)

To some visitors this is the main cultural significance of the castle, rather than the earlier history. This has also been somewhat embraced by Historic Scotland, which has held several Monty Python events and provides a themed audio tour narrated by Terry Jones.

Others have also found Doune to be a good setting for location filming. The US network HBO filmed the pilot for *Game of Thrones* here in 2009, using the courtyard, kitchen, great hall and the duke's hall as Winterfell. Based on a series of books by George R. R. Martin, the series follows seven families as they fight for control of the mythical land of Westeros.<sup>19</sup> In 2013 the series *Outlander*, based on the books by Diana Gabaldon, used Doune Castle as the fictional Castle Leoch. Both series have become very popular and, in particular for *Outlander*, have led to increased numbers of visits to the castle.

## **Illustrative values**

### **Continuity**

The discovery of the 13<sup>th</sup>-century fabric in the castle perhaps indicates that building on fresh sites in the 14<sup>th</sup>-century was rarer than previously thought. This could be for a combination of two reasons: 1) The additional costs required for a new site – not only the foundations and building material at the site itself but setting up the new communication networks. 2) The importance of location symbolically, in addition to the benefit of an existing network.

### **An administrative centre**

Doune would have been important before and during Albany's period as the administrative centre for the Menteith estates. For Albany, who received hereditary keepership of Stirling Castle in 1372, it was ideal as a base and retreat that was fully under his control and within easy reach. And it appears to have been a favoured residence for him.

There is a tension between the extent of the extant castle and the documentary evidence for the people and retinues that stayed there in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Albany was certainly one of the most powerful men in Scotland in the later 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> centuries and this surely influenced the building at Doune Castle. The accommodation surviving at the castle is of a similar quality to any major royal castle of the time but there does not appear to be enough of it, for the number of high status guests that are recorded as staying there.

It seems inconceivable that Albany, who was described as 'a big spender' by Bower, would have been content with entertaining with the layout as it survives today.<sup>20</sup> Richard Oram is explicit in stating 'Such gatherings could not have been accommodated comfortably and with the dignity expected of men of their status in the limited space which the visible remains represent'.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> IMDB

<sup>20</sup> (Bower, 1987, p. 135)

<sup>21</sup> (Oram & Addyman Archaeology, 2010, p. 34)

### **Religious life**

The rare survival of the oratory in an upper floor of the gatehouse tower (putatively the duke's bedchamber) indicates both a desire for more privacy, compared to previous generations, and the importance of religion to the duke and duchess of Albany. It faces east, and the surviving sacrament house (for storing the chalice and patten), piscina (for ritually cleansing the chalice and patten and priests' hands) and niche (for reverently storing the consecrated host) highlight the importance of the Catholic mass. The Albanys, and their royal successors, stood in the oratory, whilst an opening in the wall to a chamber behind may have been for senior members of their household to view the mass (although it is arguably too small for this purpose), the dominant moment of which, for them, was seeing the priest elevate the host, but not the much more personal consumption by the Albanys of it. There was a larger chapel – dedicated to St. Fillan – elsewhere in the castle for more general use and for more public religious ceremonies; the chaplain of the chapel is mentioned numerous times in records of the 1400s and 1500s, but where it was located is not known.

### **Relegation to one among many**

After Murdoch, Albany's son, was executed in 1425, Doune Castle became a royal possession. Thereafter its proximity to the forests of Glenfinglas and the Braes of Menteith meant it was used often as a hunting lodge. Doune was also regularly granted to Scottish queens as part of their dower lands. The chamberlain's accounts refer to royal expenses at Doune Castle and mention the king's fisher, gardener, park keeper, sergeant and jailer. However, the accounts only make reference to repairs; no substantial new building takes place. This relegation of the castle from being the main house of a powerful noble family to being just one of many royal castles is perhaps reflected in how the castle appears to be relatively unchanged since the 14<sup>th</sup>-century.

## **2.3 Architectural and Artistic Values**

The traditional view of Doune Castle is that it is a halfway house between the 13<sup>th</sup>-century 'keep-gatehouse' castles, such as Dirleton and Caerlaverock, and the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>-century 'courtyard-houses' and 'palaces' such as Linlithgow, Falkland and developments at Edinburgh and Stirling Castles.<sup>22</sup> Despite the 13<sup>th</sup>-century material evident in the castle the majority of the form still seems to be of 14<sup>th</sup>-century construction thus this view holds true.

### **13<sup>th</sup>-century castle**

Until recently, Doune Castle had become widely regarded as almost entirely the work of one man, Robert Stewart, duke of Albany. However, as a result of the standing building survey work of 2010, it is apparent that substantial elements of its late 13<sup>th</sup>-century predecessor survive embedded in the late 14<sup>th</sup>-century fabric.

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<sup>22</sup> (Dunbar, 1966, p. 47)

The evidence is principally the use of brown sandstone for quoining, entrance surrounds and fish-tail arrow-slits, as distinct from the pale grey-cream sandstone used in Albany's rebuilding, which bear signs of neat diagonal tooling. Though the dressed stones are not themselves datable, some of the architectural features they form are – most notably the tall, narrow, fish-tailed arrow slits (some incorporating crosslets), which are of a type favoured in the late 13th-century (e.g. Brodick and Skipness Castles in Scotland and the Edwardian castles in north Wales).

Those parts of the castle incorporating late 13th-century elements include: much of the lowest part of the gatehouse tower, up to and including part of its first floor; the latrine tower along the east wall; the lower part of the west end of the great hall; and the lower half of the kitchen tower.

### **14<sup>th</sup>-century castle**

While the survival of late 13th-century fabric might change our perception of the castle, it remains incontrovertible that much of what remains today dates from the time of the duke of Albany a century later. Thus the architecture of Doune Castle can be seen as a reflection of Robert's royal ambitions – an example of what a man of his power and status expected and required in a castle.

The layout of the extant portions of the castle indicate that Albany was aware of and participating in what is perceived as the increasing desire for privacy and luxury evident among nobility in this period (i.e. more smaller rooms). The great hall was becoming less important in daily use, with the duke and his closest retainers using the duke's hall and the other chambers within the gatehouse tower in preference. This fits into the traditional view of Doune as being a courtyard castle where the 'specifically military functions of the castle were beginning to decline': as the towers do not particularly stick out beyond the wall, thus not providing cover, so the defence is limited to the wall-walk.<sup>23</sup>

### **Courtyard buildings**

The four windows in the south curtain wall and stone tusks projecting from the kitchen tower leave us with a puzzle as to the south and west ranges. There are three explanations. 1) The walls have always been in the current layout; south and west ranges were planned but never built. 2) There was a smaller original courtyard but the walls have been moved further south and west and the ranges never built. 3) The ranges were built but subsequently destroyed and neatly cleaned up.

Documentary evidence would seem to indicate that the ranges were built – Albany was frequently in residence and had visits from other nobles, who would have brought extensive retinues with them.<sup>24</sup> There are also references

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<sup>23</sup> (Dunbar, 1966, pp. 46–47)

<sup>24</sup> For instance Oram hammers the point home: 'on 10 February 1407 Albany was attended at Doune by the Chancellor of Scotland, Gilbert Greenlaw, bishop of Aberdeen, his son, John Stewart, lord of Buchan, Sir William Graham, Sir John Stewart of Lorne, Sir William Airth,

to chaplains and chaplainries within Doune Castle from the mid-1400s.<sup>25</sup> This almost certainly indicates the presence of a separate chapel within the castle as distinct from the oratory in the Duke's Bedchamber. A possible location is indicated by the larger two windows in the south curtain wall.

Limited excavation in 2011 investigated the ground immediately adjacent to the tusks of the kitchen tower but this was inconclusive – no foundations were found, but the trench went no deeper than a layer of cobbles that were near the surface.<sup>26</sup> Only further excavation of the courtyard is likely to fully answer the question of the south and west ranges.

## 2.5 Landscape and Aesthetic Values

When viewed from the exterior, the castle appears grim and forbidding, the perfect stereo-type of a medieval castle in that it dominates, emotionally and physically. Immediately on entering, that feeling is reinforced by dark passages and gloomy vaulted spaces. However, these contrast with the brighter attractive internal spaces further into the complex, particularly the impressive roofed great hall and the warmer colours of the 'duke's hall' beyond.

The castle's landscape setting, on a promontory between the River Teith and the Ardoch Burn, gives it a commanding aspect on almost every approach. There are impressive views of it from a distance, most notably perhaps the view from the west, via the bridge carrying the A84 Stirling - Callander road over the River Teith. The views out from the castle battlements are also splendid, including especially those to the west, towards the Trossachs and the peak of Ben Lomond.

The large area in care around the castle provides pleasurable walks, through trees and along the river bank. The low-lying ground at the confluence of the Ardoch Burn with the River Teith is particularly attractive, with seating and a wonderful view of the broad river rushing eastward and onward towards Stirling.

Scottish Water operates a sewage treatment works a short distance to the SSE of the castle. It is largely camouflaged by trees so is not particularly visually intrusive. It can sometimes provide an intrusion regarding smell.

## 2.6 Natural Heritage Values

With twenty recorded habitat types Doune is one of the best sites for nature conservation in Historic Environment Scotland's estate. Of particular importance are the larger areas of unimproved and semi-improved neutral grassland, some of which are particularly rich in herb (flowering plants) species.

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Archibald Cunningham, Michael Airth and his secretary, Andrew Hawick.' (RMS i, p. no. 890) in (Oram & Addyman Archaeology, 2010, p. 34)

<sup>25</sup> (Oram & Addyman Archaeology, 2010)

<sup>26</sup> (Addyman Archaeology, 2011)

The woodland is mainly new plantation however there are some areas of semi-natural ancient woodland. All the woodland contributes to the network of wildlife corridors.

The River Teith is a Special Area of Conservation a European Designation for a site with important species, namely River/Brook/Sea Lamprey and also Salmon.

## 2.7 Contemporary/Use Values

Doone Castle has strong social associations with Monty Python, due to its use in location filming for *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975). Events have been held at the castle in connection with the film, and many visitors question where and how the castle was used during filming. The current audio tour draws its inspiration from the film.

In 2009, Doone Castle was used to film an HBO (Home Box Office Inc.) pilot, *Game of Thrones*, based upon a popular fantasy series by George R.R. Martin. (For the series itself, filming of Winterfell was moved to Ireland.)

In 2013 *Outlander*, based on the books by Diana Gabaldon, used Doone Castle as the fictional Castle Leoch. Both series have become very popular and, in particular for *Outlander*, have led to increased numbers of visits to the castle.

The castle is closely linked to the town of Doone nearby, of which it has become an icon - on signs, literature and the website. A local writing group and art group are among the societies that use the castle for inspiration. The walking trails developed through and around the town, courtesy of Kilmadock Development Trust, make good use of Doone Castle. The riverbank along the River Teith is popular with fishermen.

It is also popular for filming and weddings. Doone Castle draws significant visitor numbers. There were about 38,000 visitors in 2013/14 and there has been a significant increase of 21% on this in 2014/15. For June – August 2015 the castle saw a rise of 44% on the previous year. It is now in the top ten of sites for income generation for Historic Scotland.<sup>27</sup> We have no data as to whether the castle is an economic generator for the locality, beyond the employment of site staff, but as the site does not have much food on offer it is likely cafes in the town benefit.

The castle has particularly strong ties to Doone Primary School, who supply junior guides and use the castle for their end-of-term assembly.

Doone Castle has the potential to be a model for best practice in how we facilitate film requests at our sites.

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<sup>27</sup> (Martin, 2015)

### 3 Major Gaps in Understanding

What existed at the site prior to the building of the present castle? The place-name suggests an Iron-Age or early medieval origin, and the presence of an important Roman fort close by (see separate Statement of Cultural Significance) attests to the location's strategic significance.

When was the first castle built? Archaeological excavation alone can determine the date(s) of the outer earthworks. Standing building archaeology has demonstrated that the existing fabric retains significant elements of a late 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle.

What was the full extent of Albany's scheme for Doune, particularly regarding the south range?

The precise use of the rooms in the gatehouse tower.

What records survive of the 1880s restoration, particularly regarding the great hall and so-called duke's hall prior to their restoration?

### 4 Associated properties

- (*other associated places locally*): **Doune Roman Fort**; Doune Market Cross.
- (*other places associated with the earls of Menteith*): Brodick Castle; **Inchmahome Priory** and Inchtalla; **Skipness Castle**.
- (*other places associated with the duke of Albany*): **Dundonald Castle**; **Dunfermline Abbey**; Falkland Castle; Paisley Abbey; Rowallan Castle; **Stirling Castle**.
- (*other Scottish locations associated with the filming of Monty Python and the Holy Grail*): Castle Stalker.
- (*other Scottish locations (non-exhaustive list) associated with the filming of Outlander*): **Aberdour Castle**; **Blackness Castle**; Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway; Culross Palace; Glencorse Old Kirk; **Linlithgow Palace**; Preston Mill & Phantassie Doocot.

### 5 Keywords

Earthworks, tower, great hall, yett, chapel, Menteith, Stewart, Albany, Jacobite.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Timeline

- **c.1261** – the earldom of Menteith, including the estate of Doune, is acquired through marriage by Walter Bulloch Stewart, though his questionable claim to the title is only confirmed in 1285. The oldest parts of the castle fabric presumably date from his time. At his death c.1293, Walter is buried at Inchmahome Priory.
- **1361** – Robert, third son of Robert Stewart (future Robert II), is created earl of Menteith pending his forthcoming marriage to Margaret Graham, heiress of Menteith.
- **1381** – Doune Castle first appears in historical records.<sup>28</sup>
- **1388** – Earl Robert replaces his elder brother John (future Robert III) as guardian of the kingdom, governing on behalf of their enfeebled father, Robert II (1371-90).
- **1393** – Earl Robert ceases to serve as guardian three years into his elder brother's reign as Robert III (1390-1406).
- **1398** – Earl Robert is created Duke of Albany, and his nephew, David, the heir to the throne, Duke of Rothesay. By this date, Albany has probably already begun rebuilding the castle to the form that survives
- **1399** – Albany co-ordinates the coup against Robert III that results in Rothesay becoming lieutenant of the realm.
- **1401** – Albany has Rothesay arrested and imprisoned first in St. Andrews Castle and thereafter Falkland Castle, where the latter dies in mysterious circumstances in 1402. Albany becomes lieutenant until Robert III's death in 1406, and thereafter governor (James I being a prisoner in England) - king in all but name.

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<sup>28</sup> (Fraser, 1879, p. 237) in (Oram & Addyman Archaeology, 2010, p. 34)

- **1420** – Albany dies in Stirling Castle and is buried in Dunfermline Abbey. He is succeeded by his son, Duke Murdoch, who proves less able than his father.
- **1425** – soon after James I's return from England, Murdoch is arrested and beheaded at Stirling, and his estates, including Doune, are annexed to the Crown. Thereafter, the castle becomes a favoured hunting-lodge for the Stewart court, being close to the forests of Glenfinglas, near Callander, and the Braes of Menteith, near Aberfoyle. The castle is managed by royal keepers. It also becomes a dower house to successive queens - Mary of Gueldres (James II), Margaret of Denmark (James III) and Margaret Tudor (James IV).
- **1525** - the keeper, William Edmonstoun of Duntreath, refuses Margaret Tudor access for her retinue, offering to provide accommodation only for herself and her gentlewoman. Margaret subsequently engineers (1527) Edmonstoun's removal from office, replacing him with her brother-in-law, Sir James Stewart of Beath.
- **1567** – Sir James's son, also James, who succeeded as keeper in 1544, is ordered to forfeit Doune, having been accused of supporting Mary Queen of Scots following her abdication. He refuses and Regent Lennox despatches an army to besiege Doune – the first, and only, recorded siege in the castle's history. Stewart surrenders after three days. During the civil war that follows, Doune is used as a state prison; inmates include Sir Walter Scott of Branxholm, William Erskine, commendator of Paisley Abbey, and Archibald Stewart, provost of Edinburgh.
- **1570** – Sir James is reinstated as keeper and also created Lord Doune. His son's marriage to Elizabeth Stewart, heiress of Moray, results in him becoming 2nd Earl of Moray (the 'bonny earl'). His descendants have remained owners of Doune Castle ever since.
- **1580** - James VI visits 'for our pastyme' but, finding the castle in a parlous state, instructs that substantial repairs be carried out. The work, supervised by Michael Ewing, stonemason, includes a new parapet and attractive rounded corner turrets atop the curtain wall.
- **1593** - A plot against James was discovered, and the king is said to have surprised the conspirators, who included the Earls of Montrose and Gowrie, at Doune Castle.<sup>29</sup>
- **1745** – early in the Jacobite Rising, the castle is held for Prince Charles Edward Stuart by McGregor of Glengyle and a garrison of 25. After the Jacobite victory at Falkirk early in 1746, McGregor's men take delivery of 150 redcoats, six of whom subsequently escape from the kitchen tower by knotting bed-sheets together and lowering themselves down from a window.
- **1883/6** - the 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Moray commissions Andrew Kerr, architect, to carry out major renovations, including restoring the great hall and so-called duke's hall.
- **1974** – The castle is used in location filming for *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

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<sup>29</sup> (Langman, 1902, p. 125)

- **1984** - the 20th earl leases the castle to the state, following which a major conservation programme is put in hand.
- **2009** – *Game of Thrones* pilot filmed at the castle
- **2011 (Sept)** – a memorial service for the 20th earl is held in the castle.
- **2013** – Doune Castle is used as the fictional Castle Leoch for *Outlander* TV series.

## Appendix 2 Summary of archaeological investigations

<b>Date</b>	<b>What</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b>1986</b>	Trenches north-east of castle – no archaeology; gatehouse tower basement – pit of unknown purpose, no evidence of well; north-east corner of courtyard – cobbled surface at shallow depth.	Cannell, J. (1986). <i>Excavations at Doune Castle</i> . For Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments). Unpublished.
<b>1998, January</b>	Clearance of window embrasures and mural chambers off second floor hall. Evidence of late medieval repairs.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (1998). <i>Doune Castle</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>1998, February</b>	Trenches on south side of kitchen tower for settings for scaffold. One trench revealed footings of tower – slabs of local red sandstone.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (1998). <i>Doune Castle II</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>1999, March</b>	Trench on north side of courtyard in preparation for laying grass bars. Revealed cobbled surface less than 150mm below top level. Old batteries in fill indicated it had been covered within the late 20 <sup>th</sup> century.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (1999). <i>Doune Castle Inner Courtyard</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.

<b>1999, May– August</b>	Trenches for sewer replacement: along driveway north of castle and in the vicinity of Roman Fort. The trench closest to the castle revealed possible evidence for a denuded earthen bank or platform.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (1999). <i>Doone Castle Watching Briefs</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>1999, November</b>	Trenches in preparation for laying slabs for path. In same area as March excavation. Cobbles were revealed, cleaned and recorded before being covered with slabs.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (1999). <i>Doone Castle Inner Courtyard : November 1999</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2001, February</b>	Trench for fresh water pipe to service toilet in car park. No man-made structural elements found. Possible evidence of landscaping in the form of cleared natural and infill around the access road.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (2001). <i>Doone Castle : Archaeological Monitoring of Pipe Trench Excavation</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2002, September</b>	Trenches within the visible wall footings of a building against the east curtain wall. Several earlier wall remains were found. A trench against the curtain wall revealed either a thickening of the wall or further buildings.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (2003). <i>Doone Castle : Minor Excavations, September 2002</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2003, September</b>	Trench north-east of castle for water pipe. Nothing of archaeological interest found.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (2004). <i>Doone Castle : Archaeological</i>

		<i>monitoring of minor excavation. For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.</i>
<b>2005, August</b>	Trenches for pipes and cables in south-east corner of car-park. Nothing of archaeological significance was found.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (2006). <i>Doone Castle : Archaeological monitoring of excavations August 2005.</i> For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2005, November</b>	Watching brief of reconstruction of 18 <sup>th</sup> -century wall. There was little ground disturbance and nothing of archaeological significance found.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (2006). <i>Doone Castle : Archaeological monitoring November 2005.</i> For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2007, May</b>	Monitoring of replacement pole for telephone line. Nothing of archaeological significance seen.	Kirkdale Archaeology. (2007). <i>Doone Castle : Archaeological monitoring May 2007.</i> For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2009, September</b>	Excavation of trench for insertion of sign at south-east end of car-park. Two concrete foundations, part of a 20 <sup>th</sup> -century wood and wire fence and an	Kirkdale Archaeology. (2010). <i>Doone Castle : Archaeological monitoring, September 2009.</i> For

	electricity cable were revealed.	Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2010, December 2011, January</b>	Geophysical survey. Difficult to image adjacent to and within castle. However, there are indications of possible medieval settlement and industrial remains at the northern approach to the castle supporting the argument for extramural activity during the late medieval Stewart occupancy, if not earlier. Moreover, there are indications that sections of the defensive earthworks and possible extensions to enclosure of the castle may have been levelled.	O'Grady, O. (2011). <i>Doone Castle, Stirling: Geophysical Survey [Part I: Fluxgate-gradiometer &amp; Resistance] Data Structure Report</i> . Unpublished. & O'Grady, O. (2010). <i>Doone Castle, Stirling : Geophysical Survey [Part II: Ground Penetrating Radar] Data Structure Report</i> . For Historic Scotland. Unpublished.
<b>2011, March</b>	Six trenches were dug to investigate anomalies in the castle noticed in a building survey in March 2010, possibly pertaining to an earlier 13 <sup>th</sup> -century castle. The trenches were: at the north wall of hall block, west of the gatehouse; easternmost cellar block of hall block; adjacent to the south wall of the kitchen tower; outside the castle on the east side; and outside the west wall of the hall	Addyman Archaeology. (2011). <i>Doone Castle, Doone Stirlingshire : Archaeological evaluation of the evidence for pre-existing structures</i> . For Historic Scotland. Edinburgh: Unpublished.

block. Below ground evidence for the 13<sup>th</sup> century proved more elusive than expected. Dateable material was recovered and the soil layers seem to suggest that there had been a re-modelled and scarped natural mound. There may have been a motte. Another notable feature is that all the footing structures encountered had extremely shallow or no foundations.