

Press Release

July 2005

HRH THE DUKE OF YORK COMMEMORATES RESTORATION OF 'WOLF'S LAIR'



The Crown Estate's Glenlivet estate welcomed His Royal Highness The Duke of York on Thursday 14th July 2005, when he visited Drummin Castle to commemorate the completion of its restoration.

The five-year project by The Crown Estate to renovate the grounds and ruins of the 14th century Drummin Castle on the Glenlivet estate and to make the building accessible to the public has now been completed.

The historic Drummin Castle has walls over two metres thick and was once the residence of Alexander Stewart (1342-1406), otherwise known as 'The Wolf of Badenoch'. Noted for his temper and harsh justice, and remembered for the sacking and burning of Elgin Cathedral (1390) as part of a long-term feud with the Bishop of Moray, Drummin was one of several castles used by 'The Wolf' when on excursions away from his main residence in the island fortress at Lochindorb near Grantown on Spey.

Press Release

Following centuries of deterioration, Drumin Castle, known locally as the ‘Wolf’s Lair’, lay out-of-bounds for many years until local resident Cathy Reid instigated the stabilisation and renovation project, to protect the castle from further deterioration.

The completion of the restoration works was marked by a ceremony where HRH The Duke of York met members of the local community and the contractors involved in the project, while being given a guided tour of the castle.

The £300,000 renovation project has been undertaken by The Crown Estate, with funding assistance from Historic Scotland, Moray Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise, Moray Council and the EU Community Economic Development Programme.

Andrew Wells, Countryside and Forest Services Manager for The Crown Estate, said: “The project and has involved the complete re-pointing and repair of the castle walls and adjacent walled garden, the restoration of the impressive lower vault of the castle, the construction of a new car park, new footpaths, landscaping and interpretation works.

“We are absolutely delighted that The Duke was able to join us on what was a great community occasion and I am sure he was impressed by the sense of history and mystery which the castle displays. The Crown Estate’s Glenlivet estate has many attractions and the completion of this project will help attract more visitors to this remote part of Moray, boosting tourism and adding significantly to the enjoyment of a visit to this wonderful part of Scotland.”

The castle is set to become an important landmark on the Glenlivet estate and will hopefully become an established part of the popular Grampian Castle Trail. Very sadly Cathy Reid, a well admired and respected local resident, passed away last October. While she did not live to see the works finally complete, she was absolutely delighted at the improvements that had been made before her death, and felt tremendously proud of the part she played in the care and protection of one of Moray’s most interesting ancient monuments.

Further information about the castle can be found at www.drumin.com

Notes:

The Crown Estate’s Glenlivet estate covers 23,000 hectares (90 square miles) between ‘The Ladder’ and the Cromdale Hills in the Cairngorms National Park. The estate holds some of the finest scenery and landscapes of the Grampian Highlands and its rolling hills, forests, farms, rivers and moorlands provide excellent opportunities for outdoor pursuits and rest and relaxation. For more information on the Glenlivet estate see: www.glenlivetestate.co.uk

The Crown Estate acquired the Glenlivet estate in 1937. Around 23,000 ha (58,000 ac) in size, it comprises over 30 let farms, 3,500 ha (8,500 ac) of commercial forests and a sporting tenancy including grouse moors, salmon fishing and deer stalking. Within Glenlivet, The Crown Estate has encouraged sustainable economic development, backed up by significant re-investment, a policy

Press Release

that has won the estate several major awards. Facilities and services for visitors are continually being developed and it is the policy of The Crown Estate to encourage new enterprises and activities, which are in keeping with the area's traditional land uses.

The Crown Estate is a UK wide property organisation with interests including urban properties in London, Edinburgh and other towns and cities throughout the UK, agricultural and forestry land, the seabed and about half of the foreshore around the coast. The Crown Estate is not government property, nor The Queen's private estate. All of the net revenue generated annually is paid to the Government for the benefit of the taxpayer.