

**Wester Teaninich
Tree Platform and
possible moated
feature**

NGR: 63234 67824

This site was presented as a possible moated feature in the HER. It consisted of a roughly square raised platform surrounded by shallow ditch on three sides (north east, north west and south east). Some sections of stone wall were visible at the edge of the platform. The north west and north east sides show several courses of stone visible. The south west side had no visible stone. The overall measurement of the platform was approx 23m x 23m x 30m x 2text/repo7m. Max height of wall was approximately 0.75m.

On the south west wall there was little visible ditch, the north west wall at the southern end also had little visible ditch. The ditch on the north west and north east was most easily defined and has an outer bank running around it. This is possibly from upcast material produced from digging the ditch?

There are still reasonable remains of this site above ground although it is not well preserved at the edges, suffering from agricultural disturbance and modern plastic drainage channels, starting at northern corner and north west ditch. The uneven surface on the top of the platform also indicates some disturbance and a photograph from mid 20th century provided by the landowner shows trees planted on the top of the platform. 19th and early 20th century maps also indicate it has been used as a tree platform. The corners of the site were not easy to define as a result of disturbance – perhaps because of tree planting at the corners as seen at the similar platform in the industrial estate. There were some areas of raised stone visible in the ditch which could be interpreted as

a possible causeway. Some interestingly placed facing stones suggest it is a made feature rather than a casual dump of stone into the ditch.

The field the site is located in has been owned by the Mairi Crew's family since 1922 and was bought from the Novar Estate.

The site is situated in agricultural/pastoral land approximately 100m from shore. The elevation of site is approx 15m (handheld GPS).

From the site there are views of the Cromarty Firth towards the Black Isle and to the north west towards Fyrish Hill. There is limited view to west and very limited view to the east as a natural slope blocks the view.

A similar platform is located in the industrial estate and still has large trees planted at three corners.
(MHG30899, NGR: 627 676)

It is impossible to determine from survey alone whether this site consists of an earlier moated feature then reused as a tree platform in the designed landscape of the Novar Estate or if it is just drainage associated with an 18th – 19th century tree platform.

HER ID: MHG30898

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Moated Site

Plane table survey

