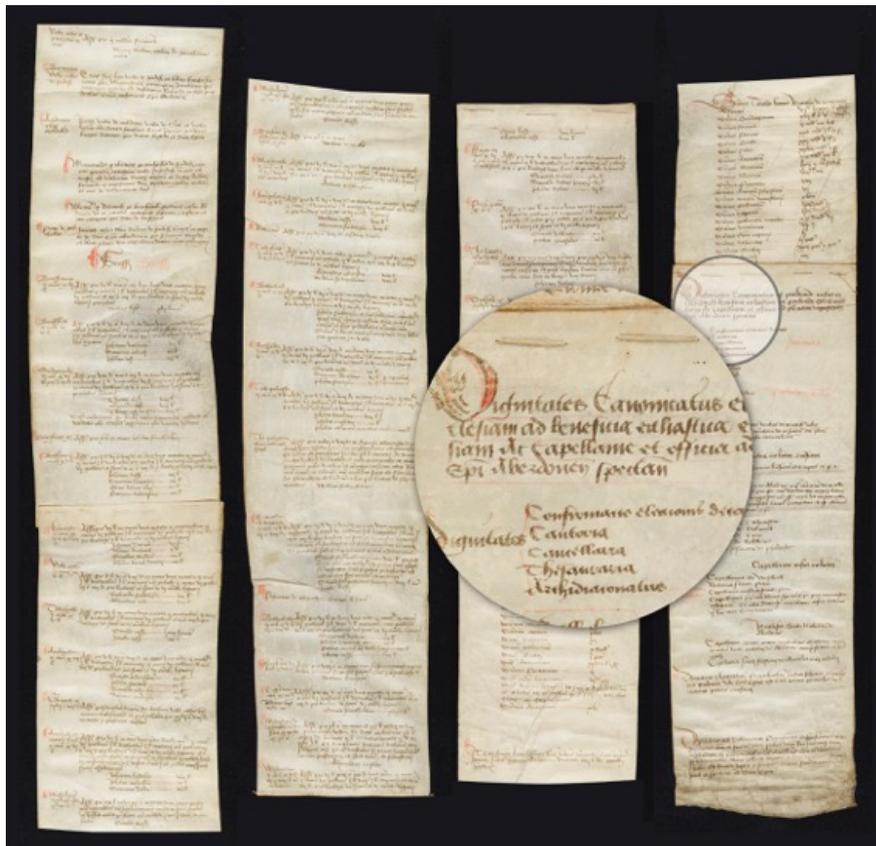


Birse Community Trust

The 1511 Rental of Lands in Birse Parish



PREFACE

This report contains the first modern transcription and translation of the rent roll or rental of the Bishop of Aberdeen's lands in Birse parish in 1511.

At the time of the rent roll, 500 years ago, the Bishops of Aberdeen owned the whole of Birse parish and the rent roll includes a list of all the townships or 'farms' in the parish, their tenants and the rents they paid in cash and in kind.

BCT is very grateful to Dr Rachel Butter for undertaking the transcription and translation for BCT, working from the original 1511 manuscript in the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh. Dr Butter also kindly donated a set of photographs of the manuscript for BCT's Parish Archive.

August 2016

TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION

Dr Rachel Butter

Introductory Notes

The Manuscript

The following is a transcription and translation of a 1511 rental of lands in the parish of Birse, Aberdeenshire. The rental is part of a document detailing lands held by the Bishop of Aberdeen.

The document is to be found in the NLS, shelf mark Adv MS 34.4.16 (vi). It is written in a reasonably clear hand on a roll of seven membranes of vellum. The section detailing lands in Birse occupies one whole membrane, and parts of two others.

Editions

An edition of the whole rental can be found in the Aberdeen Register (*Abdn. Reg* hereafter): *Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis, Ecclesie Cathedralis Aberdonensis regesta que extant in unum collecta*, 2 vols., Spalding Club 1845, vol. 1, pp. 356-81. The Birse section appears on pp 371-78.

A translation and discussion of the rental is found in Browne, G F 1923, *Forbes-Echt Family Charters 1345-1727: Records of the Forest of Birse: Notarial Signs 926-1786* (W & R Chalmers Ltd, 1923).

This Edition

The present edition is the first to bring together a transcription and translation of the 1511 rental.

The transcription is of the original, with an eye on the edition given in *Abdn. Reg*. The format approximates to the original: the line breaks are the same, and the name of the land with its value is set to the left of the rental conditions. Places in the text where readings are doubtful, are recorded in footnotes.

In the following, the transcript is in black with few words are in red, replicating the original. The translation is blue. The translation given by Browne (Browne 1923, 192-198) has been consulted, but not always followed exactly. It is acknowledged in a footnote where a translation is tentative.

The following principals were adopted in carry out the transcription and translation.

- (a) There is much use of contractions in the original. Sometimes a recognised abbreviation mark in the text indicates where letters are missing (superscript 3 represents *-ur* for instance) but sometimes there is no such indication in the text (*bondag* is given, where *bondagio* is meant for instance), and the expansion comes *ex nihilo*. In all cases the expansion will be italicized. In a few cases it is so uncertain what form the expansion should take that no attempt has been made and an apostrophe is given instead eg *Molendinum de clun'te*, p 12. Uncertainties and alternative readings are flagged up in footnotes.
- (b) The various versions of *libra*, plural *libre*, (pounds), *solidus*, plural *solidi*, (shillings) and *denarius*, plural *denarii* (pence) have been given, in the transcription, as, respectively, *lib*, *s* and *d*.
- (c) The contractions for *gressuma* and *firlot* are always given in the transcription as *gressuma* and *f'*, respectively. In translation they are 'grassum' and 'firlot'.
- (d) It is sometimes not clear if a *j* or an *i* is given as the last numeral of a number: *iiii* or *iiij*. Since *j* and *i* are frequently interchangeable in Latin, and there is no difference in meaning, this edition (like the *Abdn. Reg*) always gives a *j*.
- (e) The contraction 'b' with a loop and line – stands both for *bolla* and *bovata*. In the transcription both are given as *ḃ*, but *boll* or *bovate* is given in the translation.
- (f) Place-names are not capitalized in the transcription unless that is how they appear in the original. In the translation they are given in bold.
- (g) Place-names in the translation are given in the current Ordnance Survey (OS) form if the name still exists. If the name is obsolete it is followed by the symbol #, and will usually be given in the same form as it appears in the transcription (eg *Derahous* in the manuscript will be *Derahous #* in the translation). Some names are obsolete, but their modern form can be easily reconstructed. These reconstructed or hypothetical forms are preceded by an asterisk (eg *The haugh of the Hillockinches). Matching to modern names are given in footnotes where possible.
- (h) In the translation the personal names are given in modern Scottish Standard English (SSE) form – eg William for *Willelm*, Anderson for *Andersoun* – using the head-name spelling given in Black 1946. If the name has no obvious modern equivalent it is left as it is in the MS, with a note directing the reader to a related name in Black 1946, if there is one.
- (i) A mark resembling a contraction mark appears at the end of some surnames, such as *Andersouñ*. This may represent a final *e*, but it may just be a flourish. In the transcription, the name is followed by an apostrophe. There are a few other places in the MS where it is not clear what is meant by the contraction mark, as mentioned above.
- (j) Punctuation has been added to the translation to make the sense clearer, but no punctuation is added to the transcription.

Abbreviations in the Text

- Abdn. Reg:* *Registrum Episcopatus Aberdonensis, Ecclesie Cathedralis Aberdonensis regesta que extant in unum collecta* (2 vols., Spalding Club 1845)
- Alexander 1952: Alexander, W., 1952, *Place names of Aberdeenshire* (Third Spalding Club)
- Black 1946: Black, G., 1946, *The Surnames of Scotland* (New York)
- Browne 1923: Browne, G. F., 1923, *Forbes-Echt Family Charters 1345-1727: Records of the Forest of Birse: Notarial Signs 926-1786* (W & R Chalmers Ltd, London and Edinburgh).
- Place-names in Birse Parish:* Bailey, E, 2001, *Place-names in Birse parish*, (Draft, Birse Community Trust).

Glossary

Most of the definitions come from the Dictionary of the Scottish Language <http://www.dsl.ac.uk/>

Boll: A measure of capacity for grain, malt, salt, etc., or of weight, varying for different commodities and in different localities. *Bolla* occurs frequently in Latin documents and acts from 1240 onwards.

Bondage: Service due from a tenant to his superior.

Bovate: A bovate is the eighth part of a ploughgate. It is the same as an oxgang.

Celdar / Chalder, A Scottish measure which varies with different commodities and even in different districts

Chargeour: A large plate or dish, a platter or ashet.

Firlot: The fourth part of a boll.

Foggage: winter grazing or grass.

Grassum: A lump sum paid in anticipation of rent. It is paid by a new tenant, or on the renewal of a lease (Browne 1923, 192).

Mart: An ox or cow fattened for slaughter, a beef-ox or -cow. Applied both to the animal on the hoof and to the carcass after slaughter.

Service: The duty in return for which land might be held of a superior, chiefly military service, also attendance in the superior's court and various forms of labour. The term chiefly occurs in conjunction with the term bondage: *bondage and services*.

Victuals: Provisions, foodstuffs, staple goods, necessities, chiefly grain.

Rental of lands in the parish of Birse, 1511

Brass Brass

Brassmoir
ij aratra
gressuma vj lib

Assedatur pro vj lib xiii s iiij d in anno vna marta ij mu tonibus ij aucis j b victualium j b auenarum cum pabulo vj gallinis et iij s iiij d pro bondagio et seruicijs vj oneribus lignorum pro igne

Willelmo Rose¹

xvj bouate

Birsemohr², 2 ploughs, grassum £6

Is let for £6 13s 4d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 6 poultry, and 3s 4d for bondage and services, 6 loads of wood for the fire.

William Ross, 16 bovates.

Brassbeg
ij aratra gressuma
v lib

Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ij mutonibus j b victualium j b auenarum cum pabulo ij aucis sex gallinis cum seruicijs et iij s iiij d pro bondagio et vj oneribus lignorum

Johanni Valency³
Duncanobertj
Johanni ros

viij b
iiij b
iiii b

Birsebeg⁴, 2 ploughs, grassum £5

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 1 boll victuals, 1 boll oats with fodder, 2 geese, six poultry with services and 3s 4d for bondage and 6 loads of wood.

John Valency⁵, 8 bovates
Duncan Roberts, 4 bovates
John Ross, 4 bovates

Drumnequhy
ij aratra gressuma vj
lib xiiij s iiij d

Assedatur pro viij lib xiii s iiij d in anno vna marta iij mutonibus j b victualium vj f auenarum cum pabulo iij aucis vj gallinis et v s pro bondagio cum seruicijs et ix oneribus lignorum

¹ Rose (Black 1946, 699). The name is probably the same as Ross (Black 1946, 700).

² Birsemohr, NO 533974.

³ Or Valenty.

⁴ Birsebeg, NO 539971.

⁵ Vallance (Black 1946, 791).

Thome Ros	xij b
Alexandro ros	vij b
Thome ros Wilson'	<u>vij</u> b

Sub condicione de bona inuicem seruanda *proximitate* et *vicinitate* alias *censetur* assedacio ista vacari extunc

Drumneachie⁶, 3 ploughs, grassum £6 13s 4d

Is let for £8 13s 4d, one mart, 3 sheep, 1 boll of victuals, 6 firlots of oats with fodder, 3 geese, 6 poultry and 5s for bondage with service, and 9 loads of wood.

Thomas Ross, 8 bovates
 Alexander Ross, 8 bovates
 Thomas Ross Wilson, 8 bovates

On the condition that the immediate environs and neighbourhood be kept in a good state by each in turn, otherwise from then on this let is to be counted void

Derachous <i>gressuma</i> x s	Assedatur pro x s in anno Johanni Strathachin
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Derachous #⁷, grassum 10 s.

Is let for 10 s per year, John Strachan⁸

Balfour ij aratra <i>gressuma</i> v lib	Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ii mutonibus ij aucis j b victualium per medium j b auenarum cum pabulo vj gallinis et seruicijs et iij s iiii d pro bondagio et vj oneribus lignorum
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Johannj Ross	iiij b
Duncan Daidson'	iiij b
Cristine vidue turnour	iiii b
Patricio Andersoun'	iiii b

Balfour⁹, 2 ploughs, grassum £5

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 1 boll of victuals *per medium*,¹⁰ 1 boll of oats with fodder, 6 poultry and services and 3s 4d for bondage and 6 loads of wood.

⁶ Drumneachie, NO 543966.

⁷ Location unknown, it is not in Alexander 1952. This is a Scots name, the first element probably a form of *dewar* 'keeper of a saint's relics', from Gaelic *deòradh*, for details of which, see *Place-Names of Fife* vol. 5, 352-3. The second element is clearly Scots *house*.

⁸ Black 1946, 752.

⁹ Balfour, NO 555962.

John Ross, 4 bovates
Duncan Davidson, 4 bovates
Christine, widow (of) Turner, 4 bovates
Patrick Anderson, 4 bovates

[New membrane]

Kynmonty
ij aratra gressuma
v lib vj s viij
d

*Assedatur pro vj lib in anno vna marta ij mutonibus ij
aucis vj gallinis j b auenarum cum pabulo iij s iiij d
pro bondagio j b victualium et vj oneribus lignorum*

Johanni Turnour	vj b
Thome Durvart	ij b
Macolmo Willelmi	iiij b
Johanni turnour juniorj	iiii b

Kinminity¹¹, 2 ploughs, grassum £5 6s 8d

Is let for £6 per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 3s 4d for bondage, 1 boll of victuals and 6 loads of wood.

John Turner, 6 bovates
Thomas Durvart¹², 2 bovates
Malcolm Williams, 4 bovates
John Turner, younger, 4 bovates.

Villa ecclesie
ij aratra gressuma
v lib

*Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ij mutonibus
j b victualium j b auernarum cum pabulo ij aucis vi gallinis
iii s iiij d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

Richardo Findelason'	vij b
Alexandro reid	viii b

Kirkton,¹³ 2 ploughs, grassum £5

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 3s 4d for bondage with services and 6 loads of wood.

Richard Finlayson, 8 bovates
Alexander Reid, 8 bovates

¹⁰ *Per medium* usually means 'through the middle' or 'on average', but neither of these translations fits well here.

¹¹ Kinminity, NO 563966.

¹² Dorward (Black 46, 216).

¹³ The Kirkton refers to the land around the parish kirk of Birse. The name has survived in Haugh of Kirkton, NO 561974, originally a division of the lands of Kirkton.

Tulysnacht
ij aratra gressuma
v lib

*Assedatur pro vj lib in anno vna marta ij mutonibus ij aucis
j b victualium j b auenarum vj gallinis et iij s iij d pro
bondagio et seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

David ross
Jacobo ross

xij bouate
iij b

Tillysnaught¹⁴, 2 ploughs, grassum £5

Is let for £6 per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats, 6 poultry and 3s 4d for bondage and service, and 6 loads of wood.

David Ross, 12 bovates
James Ross, 4 bovates

Auchtinbala
ij aratra gressuma iij
lib

*Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ii mutonibus
j b victualium j b auenarum ij aucis vj gallinis et iij s
iij d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

David andersoun' iii b
Johanni Werrok iii b
Donaldo anderson' iiii b
Duncan anderson' iiii b

Auchaballa¹⁵, 2 ploughs, grassum £4

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats, 2 geese, 6 poultry and 3s 4d for bondage with services and 6 loads of wood

David Anderson, 4 bovates
John Warrack¹⁶, 4 bovates
Donald Anderson, 4 bovates
Duncan Anderson, 4 bovates

Glencat gressuma
xxvj s viij d

*Assedatur prescriptis tenentibus de balfour ville ecclesie Kyn
monity¹⁷ tulisnacht et auchinbala pro xxvj s viij d
in anno pro pastura animalium*

¹⁴ Tillysnaught is the former name of Ballogie House, NO 571954 (*Place-names in Birse Parish*, 30).

¹⁵ Auchaballa, NO 562944.

¹⁶ Black 1946, 802.

¹⁷ Or Kynmointy

Glencat¹⁸, grassum 26s 8d

Is let to the above-written tenants of **Balfour, Kirkton, Kinminity, Tillysnaught** and **Auchaballa** for 26s 8d for the pasture of animals.

Arnetuly et
Artulie hard
ij aratra gressuma vj
lib

*Assedatur pro vj lib in anno vna marta duobus mutonibus ij aucis
vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum cum pabulo iij
s iij d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum Et
tenentes infascripte¹⁹ edificabunt et reparabunt hartulyhard²⁰
in edificijs conuenientibus infra annum sub pena omissionis*

suarum assedacionum

Johanni lindsay	vijj b
Johanni nicholson'	iiij b
Duncan dolace	iiij b

Arntilly²¹ and Arntillyhard²², 2 ploughs, grassum £6

Is let for £6 a year, one mart, two sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood and the here-written tenants will build and repair Arntillyhard in convenient buildings within the year under pain of losing their leases.

John Lindsay, 8 bovates
John Nicholson, 4 bovates
Duncan Dolace, 4 bovates.

Molendinum
eiusdem cum crofta
gressuma xx s

*Assedatur pro xx b ordeii xx s argenti vno porco pasto
xij caponibus cum sustentacione eiusdem suis sumptibus
et habebit communem pasturam cum animalibus suis solitam et con
suetam.*

Dauid Ross

The mill of the same²³, with croft, grassum 20 s

Is let for 20 bolls of barley, 20 s silver, one fattened pig, 12 capons, with the maintenance of the same at his own costs, and he will have common pasture with his animals, as customary and habitual.

David Ross

¹⁸ Glencat, NO 541934

¹⁹ *Abdn. Reg.* i has *i* as the last letter which makes grammatical sense but is not what is in the MS.

²⁰ *Abdn Reg.*.i, 373 has Hartulyhead (in error)

²¹ Arntilly, NO 572947. The reading is not certain. There is a flourish over the e which might indicate another letter before the 't'.

²² Arntillyhard NO 581942

²³ Mill of Arntilly, former mill in Ballogie, NO 571952 (*Place-names in Birse Parish*, 24).

Brasina et
fabrina cum
croftis gressuma xl s

Assedatur pro xl s in anno

Willelmo Smytht

The brewhouse and smithy with crofts, grassum 40s

Is let for 40s per year

William Smith

Megstratht
ij aratra gressuma v
lib vj s viij d
cum marevell

*Assedatur pro vj lib xiij s iiij d vna marta ij mutonibus
ij aucis j b victualium vj gallinis j b auenarum ij b or
dei iij s iiij d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

Andree Elphinstoun'

Midstrath²⁴, 2 ploughs, grassum £5 6s 8d, with **Marywell**²⁵

Is let for £6 13s 4d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 1 boll of victuals, 6 poultry, 1 boll of oats, 2 bolls of barley, 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood.

Andrew Elphinstone

Inuerquhat ij
aratra gressuma v lib

*Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ij mutonibus
ij aucis j b victualium j b auenarum vj gallinis iij s iiij
d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

Willelmo ross viij b
Alexandro Findelason' viij b

Invercattie²⁶, 2 ploughs, grassum £5

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 1 boll of victuals, 1 bolls of oats, 6 poultry, 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood.

William Ross, 8 bovates

Alexander Finlayson, 8 bovates

²⁴ Midstrath, NO 587953.

²⁵ Marywell, NO 581959.

²⁶ Former name of the lands of the Shannel, NO 603957, and Tillenteach, NO 617958. The Mill of Shannel, NO 600959, was formerly known as Mill of Invercattie (*Place-names in Birse Parish*, 27).

Rewmoir'

Assedatur pro xxvj s viij d eisdem tenentibus

***Rewmoir**²⁷

Is let for 26s 8d to the same tenants

Tulygermont
ij aratra gressuma v lib
vj s viij d

*Assedatur pro vj lib vna marta ij mutonibus ij aucis vj gallinis
j b auenarum cum pabulo ij b ordeii s iiiij d pro bondagio
cum seruicio et vj oneribus lignorum*

Alexandro robertson'

viij b

Willelmo Foderinghame

viij b

Tillygarmond²⁸, 2 ploughs, grassum £5 6s 8d

Is let for £6, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 2 bolls of barley, 3s 4d for bondage with service and 6 loads of wood.

Alexander Robertson, 8 bovates

William Fotheringham²⁹, 8 bovates

Balnehard
ij aratra gressuma iiiij
lib

*Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ij mutonibus
vj gallinis ij aucis j b victualium j b auenarum iij s iiiij d
pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

*Johanni Findelason et suis subtenentibus agricultoribus
quos antequam imponet eisdem domino aut suis
camerario et factori presentabit vt admittentur*

*Duncan Foderinghame cum consensu dicti Johannis
pro quarta parte ville.*

Balnehard³⁰, 2 ploughs, grassum £4

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 6 poultry, 2 geese, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats, 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood.

²⁷ The final flourish might represent an 'e'. This name has no modern equivalent in Birse parish, and the name is only recorded in this document, according to Alexander 1952, 360.

²⁸ Tillygarmond, NO 634938.

²⁹ Fotheringham (Black 1946, 275).

³⁰ Balnahard, NO 605937

To John Finlayson and his subtenant farmers who, before he establishes them, he will present to the lord or else to his steward and factor, to be let in.

To Duncan Fotheringham with the consent of the said John, for a fourth part of the vill.

Balfaddy
ij aratra gressuma v
lib

*Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ij mutonibus
ij aucis vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum cum pabu
lo iij s iij d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum.*

Dauid ross	iiij b	
Duncanano Jhonesone	vj b	per equales
Johanni Finlason	vj b	portiones

Balfiddy³¹, 2 ploughs, grassum £5

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 3s 4 d for bondage with services and 6 loads of wood.

David Ross, 4 bovates

Duncan Johnson, 6 bovates

John Finlayson, 6 bovates

By equal portions³²

Tulyquhorsky
ij aratra gressuma v lib

*Assedatur pro v lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ij mutonibus
ij aucis vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum iij s iij d
pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

Johanni duncani	vij b
Johanni eustace	iiij b
Johanni Eekin cum macolmo Andree	iiij b

Tillyfruskie³³, 2 ploughs, grassum £5

Is let for £5 6s 8d per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats, 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood.

John Duncan, 8 bovates

John Eustace,³⁴ 8 bovates

John Aiken³⁵ with Malcolm Andrews, 4 bovates

³¹ Balfiddy, NO 616936

³² It is not clear what this phrase – *per equales portiones* – means in practice. There is a faint red curve apparently linking the first and third name which suggests that the phrase applies to the lands held by all three individuals. But since Duncan Johnson and John Finlayson are paying the same maybe it refers only to them.

³³ Tillyfruskie, NO 624929

³⁴ The name Eustace is not in Black, but appears in *The Oxford Names Companion*, with a cross reference to the name Stace.

³⁵ Aiken (Black 1946, 10).

The quhitstane
at the mvreaile
hous

Assedatur pro xxvj s viij d in Anno sed allocando duos annos huius assedacionis pro constructione edificiorum eiusdem. Et habebit ad extensionem seminationis xl b auenarum de terris incultis villarum de ennothy³⁶ et tulygarmontht et communem pasturam in lie bradbog et marragio³⁷ eiusdem atque Iter commune eundj et redeundj cum animalibus suis ad forestas de glenawen et lendrum et hoc per terras vt supra incultas

Willelmo Foderinghame

*The Whitestone³⁸ at *Mureaile house³⁹.

Is let for 26s 8d per year, but allowing two years of this rent for the construction of the buildings of the same. And he shall have 40 bolls of oats towards the extension of sowing of the uncultivated lands of the villis of **Ennochie** and **Tillygarmond**, and common pasture in the **Bradbog #**⁴⁰ and its marsh, and a common way for going and returning with his animals to the forests of **Glen Aven** and **Lendrum #** through the above-mentioned uncultivated lands.

William Fotheringham

Ennochy et couttacht
ij aratra gressuma v lib
vj s viij d

Assedantur pro vj lib vj s viij d in anno vna marta ij mutonibus ij aucis vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum iij s iij d pro bondagio cum seruiciis et vj oneribus lignorum. Sed tenentes edificabunt in edificijs conuenientibus terram de couttach⁴¹ sub pena perditionis presentis assedacionis.

Dauid foderinghame viij b et sub
tenentibus suis agricultoribus et filijs suis quos
si imposuerit domino primitus presentabit vt ab
eodem aut suo camerario admittentur.
Dauid foderinghame iuniorj viij b cum
Jacobo Ross

Ennochie⁴² and ***Couttacht #**⁴³, 2 ploughs, grassum £5 6s 8d

Are let for £6 6s 8d per year, one mart, two sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats, 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood. But the tenants will build buildings suitable for the land of **Couttacht #**, on pain of losing the present let.

³⁶ Could be **ennochy**

³⁷ 3 minims, contraction mark, 'ragio'. The contraction mark could be either 'er' or 'ar'.

³⁸ Whitestone NO 639924.

³⁹ Muir Ale House, shown in Blaeu's Atlas of Scotland (1654), now Feughside Inn (NO 643924)

⁴⁰ Scots *braid + bog* 'broad or wide bog'.

⁴¹ Other readings are possible as the distinction between c and t is not clear.

⁴² Ennochie NO 626921.

⁴³ Tuttach as in Muir of Tuttach, south of Feugh at Little Ennochie (NO 633919). The first mention of the name might, just, be read *touttacht*, but in the second the initial c is clear enough.

David Fotheringham, 8 bovates, and his subtenant workers and his sons, who, before he establishes them, first he will present to the lord to be admitted by him or by his steward.
David Fotheringham the younger, 8 bovates, with James Ross.

Piscaria de **glenawen** domino Reseruatur

The fishery of **Glen Aven**⁴⁴ is to be reserved for the lord.

Balnabotht
ij aratra gressuma v lib
vj s viij d

Assedatur pro vj lib in Anno vna marta ij mutonibus ij aucis
vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum cum pabulo
iij s iij d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum

Duncan Valency	iiij b
Johanni Duncani ⁴⁵	iiij b
Patricio moriss cum Willelmo harper	iiij b
roberto ross	iiij b

Balnaboth⁴⁶, 2 ploughs, grassum £5 6s 8d

Is let for £6 per year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood.

Duncan Valency, 4 bovates

John Duncan, 4 bovates

Patrick Morris with William Harper, 4 bovates

Robert Ross, 4 bovates

Brasina de
bad gressuma viij s

Assedatur pro viij s in anno cum sustentatione capelle
beati Johannis baptiste sumptibus suis per tempus assedationis

Willelmo harpar

Brewhouse of **Baulds**⁴⁷, grassum 8s

Is let for 8s per year with up-keep of the chapel of St John Baptist⁴⁸ at his own cost for the period of lease.

William Harper

⁴⁴ The valley of the Water of Aven (*Place-names of Birse Parish*, 17).

⁴⁵ 2 minims struck through follow this name

⁴⁶ Balnaboth, NO 605929

⁴⁷ Baulds NO 608935 (*Baud* on OS 6 inch 1st edition, 1869).

⁴⁸ Location not known, but presumed to be at the Bauds.

Eisterclune ij
aratra gressuma iiij lib

Addatur liij s
iiij d

*Assedatur pro iiij lib in anno vna marta ij mutonibus ij
aucis vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum iij s
iiij d pro bondagio et seruicijs vj oneribus lignorum*

Dauid Strathachin xvj bouate

Easter Clune⁴⁹, 2 ploughs, grassum £4. 52s 4d to be added.⁵⁰

Is let for £4 per year, one mart 2 sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats, 3s 4d for bondage and services, 6 loads of wood.

Molendinum de
clun'te cum bra
sina et crofta
gressuma xl s

*Assedatur pro xl s in anno et xx b ordei et vno
porco pasto videlicet de dicto molendino xv b
ordej de Inuercate ij b de tuligermontht ij b de
parsy⁵¹ j b. Et ideo tenentes dictarum villarum non
soluent nisi quadragesimum vasculum sed tenens huius habebit
communem pasturam et iter eundj ad forestam.*

Alexandro eustice

Mill of Clinter⁵² with brewhouse and croft, 40s grassum

Is let for 40 s per year and 20 bolls of barley and one fattened pig, namely from the said mill 15 bolls of barley, from **Invercattie** 2 bolls, from **Tillygarmond** 2 bolls, from **Percie** 1 boll. And so the tenants of the said vills only pay the fortieth sack⁵³, but the tenant of this will have common pasture and a way of going to the forest.

Alexander Eustace

Westerclun
ij aratra gressuma v lib
vj s viij d cum
midiltoun

*Assedatur pro vj lib xiiij s iiij d vna marta ij mutonibus
ij aucis vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum et iij s
iiij d pro bondagio cum seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum*

[New membrane]

⁴⁹ Easter Clune NO 613915

⁵⁰ This last phrase might be a slightly later addition, but it is in the same hand and accompanies the main text; it is not marginal.

⁵¹ The contraction mark after the p could rep 'er' rather than 'ar'

⁵² Mill of Clinter, NO 612920. The mill is close to Clune (Easter, Mid Wester) and *Abdn. Reg.* has 'clune'. However, there are certainly four minims after 'l', followed by a contraction mark, then 't', then 'e'.

⁵³ *Vasculum* can be translated 'sack' - it is Scots *vessel* - in the expression of the proportion of grain paid as *multure*. Multure (mill-dues) were often reckoned by the proportion of sacks paid to the miller.

David Ross viij bouate
Alexandro Ross viij b

Wester Clune⁵⁴, 2 ploughs, grassum £5 6s 8d, with **Midiltoun #**⁵⁵

Is let for £6 13s 4d, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats and 3s 4d for bondage with services, and 6 loads of wood.

David Ross, 8 bovates
Alexander Ross, 8 bovates.

Fingo iij
aratra gressuma
vj
lib xiiij s iiiij d
cum ardensoule

*Assedatur pro viij lib in anno vna marta iij mutonibus
iij aucis iij b victualium iij b auenarium cum pabulo
et v s pro bondagio cum seruicijs et ix oneribus lignorum*

Donaldo dolace xvij b
Donaldo dolace Iuniorj vj b
Johanni dolace vj b⁵⁶

Finzean⁵⁷. 3 ploughs. grassum £6 13 shillings 4 pence. With **Arde(n)soule**.

Is let for £8 a year. 1 mart, 3 sheep, 3 geese, 3 bolls of victuals, 1 boll of oats with fodder and 5 shillings for bondage with services and 9 loads of wood

Donald Dolace, 16 bovates
Donald Dolace junior, 6 bovates
John Dolace, 6 bovates

Persy ij aratra
gressuma iii lib

*Assedatur pro iiiij lib in anno vna marta ij mutonibus
ij aucis vj gallinis j b victualium j b auenarum cum
pabulo j b ordeij pro multura iij s iiiij d pro bondagio
j petra butirj et seruicijs et vj oneribus lignorum.*

David Valency xij b
Patricio zongstone iiiij b

Percie⁵⁸, 2 ploughs. grassum, £3.

⁵⁴ The ending of the word is indistinct, but this is Wester Clune, NO 596913.

⁵⁵ Presumably Middleton (of Clune), now Midclune (NO 607916).

⁵⁶ Browne suggests that 2 bovates might have been meant, so that the sum of the three rents would make 24, which is the number of bovates in three ploughs (Browne 1923, 197). The MS clearly has vi, however.

⁵⁷ Finzean House, NO 592934.

⁵⁸ Percie, NO 596921.

Is let for £4 a year, one mart, 2 sheep, 2 geese, 6 poultry, 1 boll of victuals, 1 boll of oats with fodder, 1 boll of barley for grinding, 3s 4d for bondage, 1 stone of butter and services and 11 loads of wood.

David Vallance, 12 bovates

Patrick Yongson⁵⁹, 4 bovates

The haucht
Of the hillock
ynchis

Assedatur pro terminis viii annorum pro xxvj s viii d quodlibet anno duorum primorum annorum huius assedationis pro constructione eiusdem et post lapsum duorum annorum xl s quodlibet anno durante tempore viij annorum

Johanni Dolace

*The haugh of the Hillockinches⁶⁰.

Is let for terms of 8 years for 26s 8d, each year of the first two years of this lease for construction, and after the two years 40s each year during the remainder of the 8 years.

John Dolace.

Dulsak *gressuma*
xxvj s viij d

Assedatur pro xxvj s viii d vnacum iiij duodenis plattis iiij duodenis dischis iiij duodenis salseris viij lie Chargeouris et iiij gret bassingis et fabricabit huiusmodi de lignis aridis et non dolabit de silua viri dj nisi tantum ad vsum domini sub pena amissionis assedationis sue presentis

Findelαιο reauch *per tempus assedationis*

Dalsack⁶¹ grassum 26s 8d.

Is let for 26s 8d with 4 dozen plates, 4 dozen dishes, 4 dozen saucers, 8 chargeours⁶² and 4 great basins, and he will make [them] in this manner, of dry wood, and he will not fashion [them] from green wood except only for the use of the lord, under penalty of the removal of this present let.

Findlay Reach⁶³, for the time of letting

⁵⁹ Youngson (Black 1946, 829).

⁶⁰ This name contains Scots *haugh* or flat land by a river and the Scots *hillock* 'hillock' + Scots *inch* (a loan-word from Gaelic *innis*) 'raised land in a bog; water-meadow' (the last meaning practically synonymous with *haugh*). This is understood to be Woodend NO 583913 (*Robin Callander, pers.comm.*). Names with *Inch-* in first position are more likely to be Gaelic coinings in *innis* e.g. Inchbare in Birse parish.

⁶¹ Dalsack NO 605917

⁶² Or ashets. See glossary.

⁶³ Reach (Black 1946, 685). Also spelt Reoch, Riach, Rioch.

Rauchtanz³eauch
 Dulnabuc
 Dulquhendill
 Auchtbrak
 Auchtspittale
 Blairdarrauch
 cum fogagio fo
 reste de byrs
 Knotty Know et
 Lauthinthy
 Ardefrom
 Aldgernyt
 Badmachais
 Corbeg
 Garwald
 Ebrunhedis
 Corne
 Bodlentur
 clatynfar'

Assedantur pro vj lib xiiij s iiii d in anno eo quod
 huiusmodi terre nunquam fuerunt tradite agriculture
 aliquo tempore neque vsquam in rentale domini
 Et propterea assedantur pro xix annis de consens'
 Capitulj solemnij seruato tractu

Andree Elphinstoune de Selmys et suis
 subtenantibus et assignatis secundum tenorem
 sue assedationis eidem facte sub sigillo
 domini et comune⁶⁴ capitulj anno presentis assedationis.
 Et hoc semper conseruando forestam
 prout temporibus transactis custodita
 extiterat et melius ad minus⁶⁵ absque sectio
 ne lignorum eiusdem de non licencia danda
 alijs. Et soluendo iiii b nucium
 per forestarios foreste singulis annis.

Libera foresta
 de brass

Rauchtanz³eauch #⁶⁶

Delnabut⁶⁷

Dulquhendill #⁶⁸

Auchabrack⁶⁹

Haugh-Spittal⁷⁰

Blairdarrauch #⁷¹ with foggage⁷² of the forest of Birse

Knotty Know #⁷³ and Lauthinthy #⁷⁴

⁶⁴ One would expect the last letter not to be 'e', but 'is' (gen. sing. agreeing with chapter 'the common chapter'). It is assumed to be scribal error (perhaps grammatical).

⁶⁵ Other readings are possible here. There are four minims, and the symbol for '-us'.

⁶⁶ This name is now not known. There is Rhachatan NO 567922 in the Forest of Birse.

⁶⁷ Delnabut, near Birse Castle (*Place-names in Birse Parish*, 14). In the MS the last letter could be 't' or 'c'.

⁶⁸ This name is now not known. The 'q' might be read as 'g' cf Aldgernyt in the same list, but the fact that it is followed by 'uh' makes it almost certain that it should be read as 'g'

⁶⁹ Auchabrack NO 541904.

⁷⁰ Haugh-Spittal NO 520905. In the MS the last letter might be 't'.

⁷¹ The location of this name is not known. It contains Gaelic *darach* 'oak'.

⁷² *Abdn. Reg* transcribes this as *focagio*, but the 'c' can be read as 'g' (*Abdn. Reg*, 377). Browne translates it 'sorage' (Browne 1923, 197), but foggage, 'winter grazing or grass' makes sense in the context and is a plausible reading. It can also mean 'the pasturing of cattle on 'fog[gage]'; also the privilege of doing this' (*OED*, which cites Cosmo Innes *Lect. Scot. Legal Antiq.* vi, 252 (1872) 'The foggage of the Bishop's forest of Birss').

⁷³ This could be Knockie NO 524893, with 'Know' as in Knoll.

⁷⁴ This is the reading in *Abdn. Reg*. The 'u' has been inferred from a contraction mark above the 'a' and could signify something else. The 'in' has been inferred from three minims. The following 't' could be a 'c'. The name might better be given as La'thinchy. This name is now not known in the Forest of Birse. Lenchie is a house name in Finzean (NO 604936).

Ardefrom #⁷⁵
 Auldgarney⁷⁶
 Badmachais #⁷⁷
 Corybag⁷⁸
 Garwald #⁷⁹
 Ebrunhed^{is} #⁸⁰
 Corne #⁸¹
 Badlean⁸²
 Clatynfar #⁸³

Are let for £6 lib 8s 4d per year because lands of this kind were never brought into agriculture at any time nor ever were in the lord's rental. And therefore they are let for 19 years by consent of the chapter, with the solemn tract preserved.

To Andrew Elphinstone of Selms⁸⁴ and to his subtenants and assignees according to the tenor of his let made to him under seal of the lord and of the common chapter in the year of this present let. And this man is always to conserve the forest just as in times past it was kept, more or less, without cutting wood of the same, and not giving license to do so to others.⁸⁵ And paying 4 bolls of nuts by the foresters of the forest each year.

Free forest of Birse

<i>Summa de terrarum firmis huius schire</i>	j ^c xliij lib xij s iiij d
<i>Summa bondagiorum</i>	ij lib xij s iiij d
<i>Summa grassume</i> ⁸⁶	
<i>Summa farrine</i>	x b 3 ⁸⁷
<i>Summa brasij</i>	x b 3
<i>Summa ordej</i>	xlij boll'
<i>Summa martarum</i>	xxj
<i>Summa mutonum</i>	xliij
<i>Summa auucarum</i>	xliij
<i>Summa caponum</i>	xij
<i>Summa gallinarum</i>	x duodene

⁷⁵ ID?

⁷⁶ Auldgarney NO 530905

⁷⁷ The location of this name is not known. The middle 'm' could be 'in', or (less likely in the context) 'ni'.

⁷⁸ Corybeg NO 561922

⁷⁹ This is Gaelic *garbh allt* 'rough burn'. Rough Burn at NO 545890. .

⁸⁰ The location of this name is not known. It is obsolete according to Alexander 1952, 269. The final element is Scots *he(i)d* 'head' in the plural.

⁸¹ Burn of Corn NO 510905

⁸² Badlean NO 542896.

⁸³ The location of this name is not known. It might be read as *clatynsar*'

⁸⁴ The Elphinstones had lands in Lothian. This is probably Selms, Kirknewton parish, Midlothian (NT 088660).

⁸⁵ This translation might be regarded as provisional as it differs from Browne, who has 'for which licence is not to be given to others' (Browne 1923, 198).

⁸⁶ *Abdn. Reg.* reads *girsume*. While it is possible to read the second two letters as 'ir' it is certain that double 's' is present.

⁸⁷ It is possible that here, and immediately below, the yogh signifies –arum, in which case the translation would be '10 bolls'.

<i>Summa Butirj</i>	j pet'
<i>Summa Auenarum</i>	xxviiij b ij f'
<i>Summa Porcorum</i>	ij
<i>Summa onerum lignorum</i>	vj ^{xx} xij
<i>Summa vasorum ligneorum vt supra in dulsak videlicet</i> iiij <i>duodene plattis iiij duodene dischis iiij duodene salseris viij char</i> <i>geouris iiij gret bassingis</i>	
<i>Summa Aratrorum</i>	xlij

Item tenentes huius schire habent soluere singulis annis centum
xxiiij *sarcula* lignorum aridorum vnacum iiij b de nucibus
gallicis

Sum of the rents of lands of this shire, £143 12s 4d

Sum of bondages, £3 13s 4d

Sum of grassums

Sum of flour, 10 ½ bolls

Sum of malt, 10 ½ bolls

Sum of barley, 42 bolls

Sum of marts, 21

Sum of sheep, 44

Sum of geese, 44

Sum of capons, 12

Sum of poultry, 10 dozen

Sum of butter, 1 stone

Sum of oats, 28 bolls 2 firlots

Sum of pigs, 2

Sum of loads of wood, 6 score and 12⁸⁸

Sum of the wooden vessels as above in Dalsak, that is 4 dozen plates, 4 dozen dishes, 4 dozen saucers,
8 chargeours, 4 great basins.

Sum of ploughs, 42.

Also the tenants of this shire have to pay in each year 124 hoes of dry wood,⁸⁹ with 4 bolls of gallic
nuts.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ ie 132

⁸⁹ The translation of '*sarcula*' from latin is hoes. Browne translates it as faggots (ie bundles of sticks) (Browne 1923, 199). While 124 faggots might appear to make more sense in this context than 124 hoes each year, this is not clear from the text.

⁹⁰ Browne discusses what these nuts might be (Browne 1923, 1999-200). He distinguishes them from the '4 bolls of nuts' to be paid by the foresters, which considers to be hazel nuts. He concludes that the '4 bolls of gallic nuts' are the type of galls or 'oak apples' which occur on oak trees and which were used for tanning, dyeing and making ink.