

GROUND FLOOR



Boghead doorway, internal
checks (rebates) for two doors, two draw tunnels; drawbars c 100mm square, built in during construction



Boghead doorway, external
surviving two stones of relieving arch; outlet of a 'quenching hole', for dousing of fires lit outside



Black Middens 1
ventilation slits

Windows



Boghead
ventilation slits

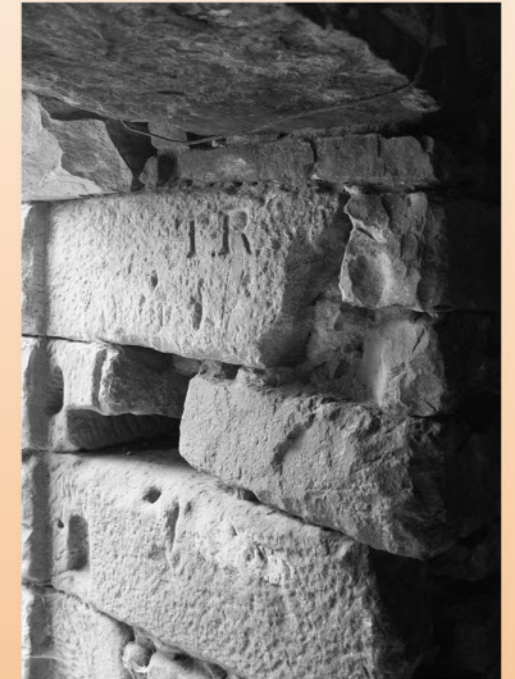


Hollinhead
ventilation slits

Usable Space

The internal space was quite small, perhaps only 4m by 8-9m. It has been assumed that it was used for housing animals and some supplies of fodder.

The actual number that could be accommodated is open to question and priority would have been given to the most important.



North Gatehouse
'T.R.' went to some trouble to leave his mark. Owner or builder?

Doors

The ground floor of bastles had a single narrow doorway, usually set in an east or west gable end, and a few narrow slits for ventilation. Double doors were common and usually harr-hung, i.e. pivoting on a post set into sockets on the threshold and the lintel. They were secured from within by strong drawbars, slotted into the masonry.



North Gatehouse
one of very few Tasset bastles showing traces of ground floor stone vaulting



Falstone Farm
enigmatic inscription ABCDEFG1604HJK above well-made, roll moulded doorway



Black Middens, doorway
chamfered margin, substantial lintel; door jambs particularly massive, in uniform grained sandstone



North Gatehouse, doorway
with relieving arch to reduce loading on the lintel

Inscriptions and Graffiti

No dates are recorded on any of Tasset's bastles, though there is a nice example of graffiti at North Gatehouse. There are few known inscriptions and any dates are usually over the byre rather than the main entrance doors.



North Gatehouse
spread foundation (base course wider than walls) used to improve stability, marginally reduces bearing pressure

Foundations



Glacial Till
exposed in bank of Tasset Burn; generally good foundation material, but can shift under weight of walls