



ORMAIG FOREST
FORESTRY COMMISSION
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Project report
April 2005

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Commissioned by:

Forestry Commission Scotland
Whitegates District Office
Lochgilphead
Argyll

Contract number: 31/05

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Summary

The project fieldwork involved a survey of prioritised sites within the Forestry Commission's Ormaig Forest. The survey concentrated on listed sites which have prehistoric potential or sites about which little was known. In total 34 sites were visited and briefly recorded, this, in the majority of cases allowing initial interpretation and categorisation of the site. Several sites have been identified as being potentially Prehistoric in origin, justifying one of the main aims of the survey. The Prehistoric sites consist of six individual cup-marked rocks, three possible cairn sites and one site that possibly represent both dun and cairn. Further work has been recommend on five of these sites in order to better understand their nature and their immediate landscape setting. The majority of the remaining sites included within the survey appear to belong to the later historical period and likely relate to later agricultural settlement, including fields, clearance cairns and shielings. Two sites, however, indicate the presence of more substantial oval shaped structures and these are possibly of Medieval/Late-medieval date.

Acknowledgements

Kilmartin Museum would like to thank of the Forestry Commission for funding the project, along with supplying the maps and the database. Kilmartin Museum is also most grateful to Stuart Jeffrey at West of Scotland Archaeology Service for providing us with an event record for the North Kilmartin and Ormaig Forest area.

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1.0 Introduction

This report presents the preliminary results of a field survey of selected sites and monuments within Ormaig Forest in Kilmartin Parish, Argyll. In March-April 2005 Kilmartin Museum undertook the field survey on behalf of the Forestry Commission. The aim of the survey was to enhance the understanding of archaeological resource within Ormaig Forest by visiting sites where little or no information had been previously obtained. The work follows on from a Desktop Survey completed by Kilmartin Museum on the archaeological sites within Ormaig Forest (Regan & Webb 2005(b)).

2.0 Location and Topography

Ormaig Forest is located at the north west of the Parish of Kilmartin and lies 1.2 km north west of Kilmartin Village (centred NGR NM 82000 02000). The western side of the forest area borders Loch Craignish and the north of the area contained the open water of Lochan Druim an Rathaid. The geology of the area has led to the formation of SW/NE running glens and terraces situated between undulating rises and hills, the highest at Creag Madaidh Mor situated at the southern end of the forest at a height of 232m AOD. Much of the area is under forest at various stages of development, although open areas exist where more recent felling has taken place.

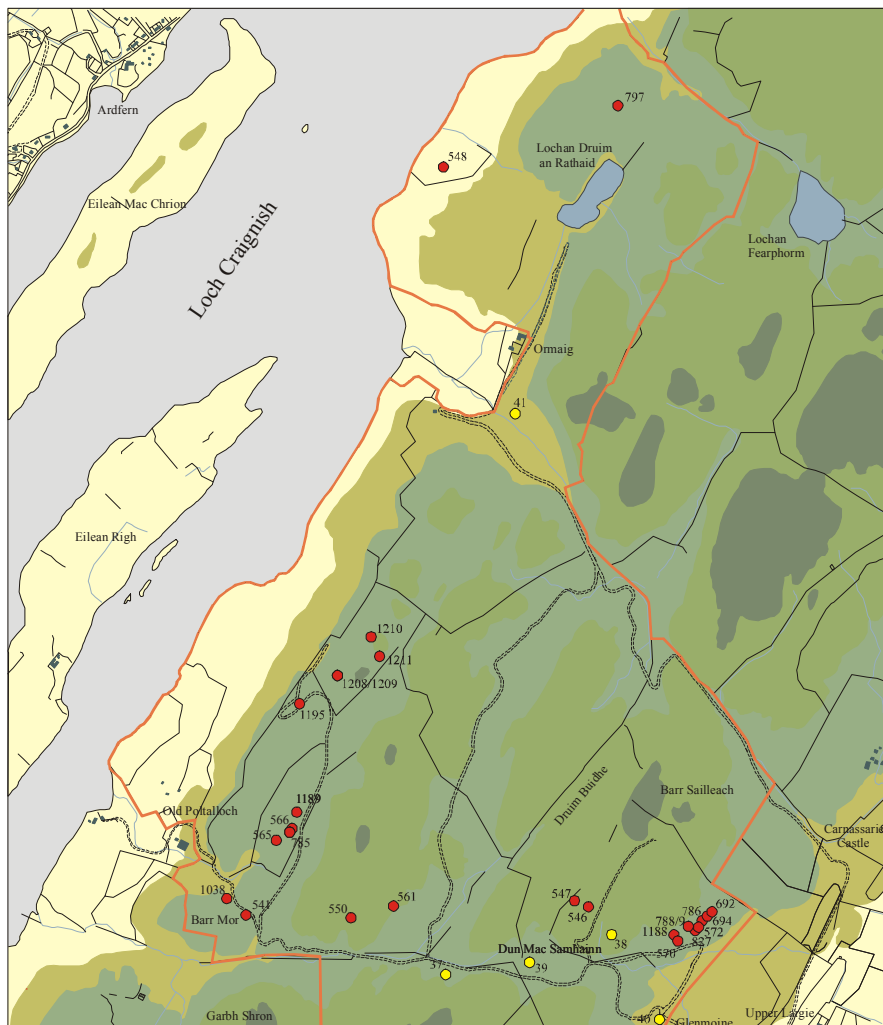


Figure 1: Ormaig Forest and Visited Sites

3.0 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the project was to achieve a better understanding of the sites listed by the Forestry Commission within Ormaig Forest, in order to assess, record and possibly categorise the nature of the sites. A high priority was given to those sites that suggested prehistoric potential or possibly represented the remains of a recognised type of earlier monument e.g. a dun or burial cairn. Beyond this several sites were prioritised because of their intriguing nature; this determined by a description supplied by the Forestry Commission or on the basis of digital photographs also supplied by the Forestry Commission. It is hoped the categorisation of the visited sites will inform the Forestry Commission as to archaeological potential of the sites in their care, with the final report helping to prioritise resources towards preservation and management of the sites. The results of the survey will be forwarded to other concerned bodies namely the West of Scotland Archaeological Service (WoSAS), Historic Scotland and the National Monuments Record held by Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). The survey results will also be published in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, helping to enhance the national archaeological record.

4.0 Archaeological Background

The archaeology of the Kilmartin area of Argyll has been subject to several publications and surveys. One of the first was published in 1830 when Archibald Currie makes reference to several archaeological sites within the study area in his *Description of the Antiquities, etc, of North Knapdale* (Currie, 1830). Other archaeological researchers continued to be interested in the area, with publications by Simpson (1868), Mapleton, R. J. (1870), White (1875), Christison, (1904a, 1904b) and Craw, (1930).

The first archaeological overview of the area was not published until 1964, however, when Marion Campbell and Mary Sandeman produced their '*Mid Argyll: an archaeological survey*' (Campbell and Sandeman, 1964). Much of their important work formed the foundation of later survey work undertaken by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) resulting in the two published volumes known as the 'inventories' for Mid Argyll and Cowal (RCAHMS, 1988, 1992). The RCAHMS did not record or list all sites, for example later landscape features such as 19th Century abandoned settlements were omitted from the volumes. Indeed only 16 sites under their classification 'Farms, Townships and Shielings' for the entire area of Mid Argyll & Cowal are listed (RCAHMS 1992). The under representation of such sites has been partly addressed by the survey of unroofed rural settlement depicted on the 1st edition OS maps (the First Edition Survey Project). Local historian Alan Begg has also highlighted the great number of deserted settlements within the parish of Kilmartin (95 in total; Begg 1998). More recently work on these later settlements or '*Medieval or Later Abandoned Rural Settlements*' (MOLARS as they are archaeologically classified) has been carried out by Heather James of GUARD, who surveyed 24 sites in Ormaig Forest (James 2003).

The Kist, the journal of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll, occasionally carries features about archaeological sites in the north Kilmartin area.

Currently 87 sites are listed by the Forestry Commission as being within Ormaig Forest, of which 26 have previously been reported on in the above mentioned publications. Historic Scotland lists 5 of these sites as Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Site 37 Creag Madaidh Mor	(NMRS No. NM80SW 41)
Site 38 Dun Mac Samhainn	(NMRS No. NM80SW 14)
Site 39 Dun Mac Samhainn	(NMRS No. NM80SW 4)
Site 40 Glenmoine	(NMRS No. NM80SW 36)
Site 41 Ormaig	(NMRS No. NM80SW 8)

For the rest of the 61 listed sites -beyond what was primarily noted by forest workers- little or no additional data was found (Regan and Webb 2005(b)).

5.0 Field Survey

5.1 Methodology

In total 34 sites were visited during the survey. The Forestry Commission had previously listed 26 of these sites. The sites included 15 of the 19 sites recommended for survey in the Ormaig Forest Desktop Survey. 3 of the prioritised sites could not be found (Site 432, Site 561 and Site 827) while it was found the millstone at Site 556 had previously been recorded (Regan & Webb 2005; Henderson 1992). The prioritised list is reproduced below.

FC No.	Site Name	NGR east	NGR north	Site Type
432	Barr Mor	180915	700536	cup-and-ring
541	Barr Mor	181024	700491	shieling
547	Druim Buidhe	182490	700530	dun/fort
548	Dun Arnal	181900	703800	enclosure
550	E of Barr Mor	181490	700454	cairn/cist
556	N E of Garbh Shron	181565	700330	mill/mill-stone
561	NE of Garbh Shron	181697	700530	shieling
565	Old Poltalloch	181160	700800	shieling
566	Ormaig	181218	700838	cup-and-ring
693	Ormaig	183026	700464	enclosure
786	Ormaig	183030	700429	shieling
787	Ormaig	183086	700052	shieling
789	Ormaig	182940	700360	shieling
797	Ormaig	182680	704070	cairn/cist
827	Ormaig	183031	700397	croft/settlement
1189	Old Poltalloch	181250	700940	shieling
1208	Ormaig	181435	701531	cup-and-ring
1210	Ormaig	181585	701706	cup-and-ring
1211	Ormaig	181620	701620	cup-and-ring

Table 1: Prioritised sites

In addition to the prioritised sites, a further 10 sites were visited and recorded because of their proximity to the prioritised sites and/or where little information was known about them. Also included in the report are 9 newly discovered or previously unrecorded sites that were noted during the field survey.

FC No.	Site Name	NGR east	NGR north	Site Type
546	Druim Buidhe	182530	700512	shieling
570	Barr Sailleach	182900	700300	cairn/cist
572	Ormaig	183059	700442	shieling
692	Ormaig	183094	700468	cairns
694	Ormaig	183078	700457	rock shelter
788	Ormaig	183020	700410	shieling
1038	Barr Mor	180914	700397	sheepfold
1188	Ormaig	182928	700376	cairn/cist
1195	Ormaig	181283	701428	other
1209	Ormaig	181433	701531	shieling

Table 2: Additional sites visited

Site Name	Site Type	NGR east	NGR north
Garbh Shron	Cup-marked stone	181703	700540
Ormaig	cairn	1814850	701540
Ormaig	Cup-marked stone	181450	701540
Ormaig	Cup-marked stone	181580	701698
Ormaig	wall	182994	700366
Ormaig	Circular structure	181225	700813
Barr Sailleach	wall	183086	700584
Barr Sailleach	wall	182996	00518
Barr Sailleach	wall	182791	700525

Table 3: New or unrecorded sites

The survey consisted of a series of field visits to targeted sites and a record of the features present was made. The pro-forma recording sheets used in the survey were based on those used by the James survey to facilitate recording continuity within the forest area. A blank example is reproduced in Appendix 1 (James 2003). The information recorded included the location, a sketch plan of the layout, orientation, length and width, wall height and width (if applicable), and a general description. The function of the site is suggested and its position in the landscape was recorded, especially any possible relationships *vis a vis* other features/sites. The sites were located by hand held GPS, although for the most part the given locations supplied by the Forestry Commission proved accurate enough to locate the most of the sites. GPS locations were noted and this reading is entered on the recording sheets and before the description of each site. However, because of tree cover in some cases an accurate GPS reading was unavailable and in the case of new sites, an approximate map location is given instead.

Individual sites are described in Appendix 2 and these descriptions have also been provided to the Forestry Commission as pro-forma Word documents. Also supplied are pro-forma Word documents that have been updated to include the survey results of Heather James of GAURD (James 2003). All Word documents and a copy of the report have been supplied digitally to the Forestry Commission these will ultimately be added to their existing HTML database.

5.2 Maps and Database

Use has been made of the early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps, (1st and 2nd Editions), especially the copies of the 2nd Edition Ordnance survey maps held by Kilmartin Museum which had been annotated by local archaeologist Marion Campbell. The Forestry Commission has supplied copies of 1:7000 maps of Ormaig forest with plots of the known heritage sites. The Forestry Commission has also supplied a copy of their heritage database.

6.0 Results

The visited sites fall into several identifiable categories and these have been divided into two broad archaeological periods, sites that are potentially Prehistoric and those potentially Medieval/Post-medieval.

6.1 Prehistoric Sites

One of the main aims of the survey was to target potentially Prehistoric sites and the field survey results suggest several sites may belong to the Prehistoric period, although, as with all archaeological sites, affirmation of their true character would need further investigation by more detailed survey and/or excavation

6.1.1 *Duns*

Site 547 and 548

The possible dun site at Druim Buidhe (Site 547) needs more survey work and closer investigation than the brief survey visit afforded it. The remains occupy an escarpment situated 280m NE of the scheduled site of Dun Mac Samhainn (FC Site No.39). Walling at the north of the ridge could suggest the remains of defensive outworks although a larger mass of rubble occupying the summit to the south of this walling is less obviously the remains of a wall. If not a defensive structure then the rubble may represent the remains of a cairn, similar to the second scheduled site in the immediate proximity, Dun Mac Samhainn cairn (FC Site No.38) occupying a summit lying approximately 200m to the south east. Of course it is possible that the site represents both types of monument and if so it is all the more crucial a better understanding of the site is obtained.

The supposed site at Dun Arnal (Site 548) still remains elusive, although a search of the site suggests no substantial structure in terms of defensive walls are present. This however does not preclude the possibility that a now less obvious structure once occupied this relatively easily defended site.

6.1.2 *Cup-Marked Sites*

Sites 566, 1208, 1210 and Garbh Shron

The site at Garbh Shron is a large boulder situated at the side of a glen with a single cup mark incised on its upper face. The other sites are all similar in that they appear to be single, (possibly transportable?) boulders each with a series of cup marks on their exposed faces. None appear to be part of an in situ rock outcrop although it is possible that the rock at Site 566 was glacially deposited. The two marked rocks at Site 1210 may originally have belonged together although without further investigation it is difficult to be sure. The cup marked rock at Site 1208 appears to have been included within possible cairn Site 1209 while a second cup-marked rock lies within the material that comprises a second possible cairn lying to the east of Site 1209.

6.1.2 *Cairns*

Site 797 and 1209

Site 797 appears to be the remains of a small kerb cairn, although much denuded, with traces of a central cist. The site lies close by a deserted settlement (Site 1187) lying north of Lochan Druim an Rathaid and may have been robbed to provide material for nearby enclosure walls belonging to the settlement. The site is within mature forest making topological observations of the surrounding area difficult, however, the site and its surrounds warrant closer scrutiny.

The position of the cairn material at Site 1209, lying on an elevated position overlooking Loch Craignish, with Jura and Scarba to the west, suggest this may be the remnants of a Prehistoric cairn with a possible second cairn similarly positioned to the east. That these cairns are Prehistoric is perhaps further suggested by the inclusion of cup-marked stones within the core material.

6.2 *Medieval-Post-medieval Sites*

The remainder of the visited sites suggest they are of Medieval or Post-medieval date the majority probably belonging to the later period.

6.2.1 *Shielings*

Sites 546, 572, 786, 789 and 1038

Shielings can best be described as temporary upland summer dwellings usually small oval-shaped or circular structures consisting of low rubble walls. The term, however, has been used more loosely to describe some forestry sites, from tumbled rectangular structures to amorphous heaps of stones. Of the visited sites listed as shielings three sites appeared to be 'classic' shieling structures, Sites 546, 786 and 1038. Site 572, although less convincing, may also be the remnants of a shieling structure. Site 546 appeared to be an isolated structure with no other recognisable features nearby such as cairns or other structures. On the other hand Sites 572 and 786 were situated close to a number of other recognisable sites or possible structures and may be contemporary (Sites 693 and Site 788). Similarly site 1038 appeared to have a number of features within its immediate vicinity, including a small cairn?/structure to the north.

6.2.2 *Possible Kilns or Small Circular Structures*

A small circular structure was located close to Site 565 and the reported sites of a group of 'sheilings' (Site 785). Without excavation the nature of this structure remains unclear, but the presence of other structures within the immediate area suggest these are all perhaps linked to settlement activity. Whether this activity represents permanent settlement or is reflective of annual shieling movement is again unclear.

6.2.3 *Dykes, Fields and Clearance Cairns*

Sites, 570, 692, 787, 1188 and 1189

Four wall lines were revealed during the survey. As these do not appear on the 1st or 2nd Editions of the Ordnance Survey they have been included in this report. Two of the walls recorded at Barr Sailleach are possibly part of the same system of land demarcation (NM 82944 00366 and NM 83016 00584). The walls may be the northern and southern boundaries of an agricultural system strung out SW/NE along sloping natural terraces. The presence of numerous clearance cairns situated between these walls further suggest the area had been cleared for farming (Sites 570, 692, 789 and 1188). There was also traces of a track (now a Forestry ride) leading from the field area at the south to the northern wall.

A third wall also at Barr Sailleach (NM 82996 00518) ran along the eastern edge of a higher but similarly aligned terrace. This wall turned north and then north west at its northern end.

Another wall at Barr Sialleach located at NM 82791 00525 was more difficult to place given its incomplete nature and that its full extent was not traced through thick forestry, but it no doubt formed some sort of field/settlement delineation.

Many of the glen bases and flatter terraces within what is now Forestry Commission land was no doubt utilised for agricultural purposes. Former fields are often indicated by the presence of rig and furrow earthworks, dykes/walls and clearance cairns. The survey of aerial photographs taken prior to plantation would undoubtedly reveal some of the field patterns now lost under trees. Despite this, however, several areas of former fields were noted during the survey work. These former field areas were mainly indicated by the presence of clearance

cairns at Sites 570, 692, 787, 1188 and 1189. Other clearance cairns were noted but not recorded during this survey at Barr Mor (Site 1046) and around the deserted settlement site north of Lochan Druim an Rathaid (Site 1187).

6.2.4 *Other structures*

Sites 541, 565, 787 and 788

Several structures are less easily categorised. Oval structures were located at two sites (Site 541 and Site 787) these being larger than 'typical' shieling structures. Neither of these structures is depicted on the early editions of the Ordnance Survey. While they may be no more than animal pens it is possible they represent structures dating earlier than the Post-medieval period. Slightly more enigmatic were the structures at Site 565 and Site 788. The circular heap of rubble at Site 565 suggests something more than a clearance cairn although what it represents is difficult to say without further investigation. Similarly at present the drystone work at Site 788 eludes functional interpretation.

6.2.5 *Quarries*

Site 694

Site 694, previously recorded as a rock shelter, but is probably the result of the quarrying of a natural outcrop. A second possible quarry site was also noted cut into a southern facing slope near Site/s 692.

6.3 *Sites not Located or Natural*

Sites 432, 550, 561, 827, 1195 and 1211

Three sites could not be located Site 432, Site 561 and Site 827. As Site 432 was described at being at 'ground level' and it may be that the site is now partially grown over. Similarly Site 561 may still lie under present brash and ground cover and thus difficult to locate. The 'medieval barn' at Site 827 is currently located amongst/under a tangle of wind blown trees and bramble growth and could not be safely accessed.

Sites that appear natural in origin are those recorded at Site 550, Site 1195 and Site 1211.

7. Recommendations

7.1 *Detailed Survey and Excavation*

Several sites are recommended for further survey work and possible excavation to ascertain their true nature. Perhaps not surprisingly possible Prehistoric sites are highlighted in this respect:

- i) It is recommended that possible dun/cairn remains (Site 547) be subject to further survey work. This is of particular importance given the sites proximity and similar topological position to both the scheduled dun and cairn sites at Dun Mac Samhainn (Respectively NMRS No's.NM80SW 4 and NM80SW 14).
- ii) The cairn sites with associated cup-marked stones (Site 1208/1209) should be further investigated to establish whether these cairns are of Prehistoric origin.

- iii) The area around the two cup-marked stones (Site 1210) should be more closely examined, firstly to locate any other existing rock art and to establish the context of the stones (i.e. are they incised on in-situ rock outcrops).
- iv) The possible kerb cairn should be further examined (Site 787). Firstly to establish the surviving extent of the cairn/mound material and secondly to examine/survey the surrounding environs setting the monument in its proper landscape. The site is in mature forest with little undergrowth cover on the monument; therefore non-intrusive uncovering of the cairn material would be a relatively simple task. It is strongly recommended that the limits of the monument and any associated features be established prior to any harvesting operations. This is particularly important to protect any prehistoric deposits that may surround the site.

7.2 Site Management and Preservation

At the sites mentioned in recommendations i)-iii) trees have already been cleared or pose an insubstantial threat to the monument themselves. To keep this threat to a minimum, trees should not be allowed to re-establish themselves over the sites. Mature trees surround the probable kerb cairn (Site 797, recommendation (iv)) and as mentioned above the outer limits of the monument should be established prior to felling operations.

At present the policy adopted by the Forestry Commission of marking and protecting sites discovered during operations seems to function well, and this should be maintained. More problematic, within the practicalities of planting and harvesting, is the preservation of more ephemeral sites such as fields and cleared areas. The location and extent of this category of site may however be preserved in old maps as well as in aerial photographs taken prior to tree planting. As within the North Knapdale Survey it is recommended that these sources be studied to compile a picture of past land use in Ormaig Forest and the north Kilmartin area (Regan and Webb 2005(b)).

7.3 Future Site Recording

As mentioned in the Survey Report for North Knapdale, the system of sites being recorded by forestry staff during operations appears to work well and brings to light many unrecorded features (Regan and Webb 2005(b)). This process enables those sites to be categorised by type and possible importance. Once prioritised the more intriguing or potentially important sites can be visited and recorded more fully as has been undertaken in this survey. To facilitate this process in the future a fuller recording of sites at the primary stage is strongly recommended here. Most sites when reported by forestry staff are accompanied by a very brief description of the site and while useful, could be more informative if they included some of the following:

- 1) Site location and other features near a site. This could include geological references as well as structural features, for example whether a site is on a ridge, near a burn, near a wall, east or west of a forestry track etc. etc.
- 2) Brief dimensions of the site. This could be simply done by pacing if a tape is unavailable. (1 pace = roughly 1m)
- 3) When noting structures it is desirable to record dimensions but also the shape of the structure (sketches are even better).

The presence of informative notes helps with the next stage of the archaeological process, in that this enables the sites to be more easily categorised and prioritised for further survey. This primary record is the most important; not only does it bring previously unknown sites to light, but may also prove to be the only record of sites that are not subject to further work. All sites are to a lesser or greater degree important, therefore notes taken at the discovery stage become crucial in our understanding of how the overall landscape was utilised in the past.

Kilmartin Museum would be able to produce basic guidelines and or pro-forma recording sheets to be used by Forestry Commission staff.

It is also recommended that there is periodic evaluation of any new sites that come to light during ongoing Forestry operations. This could perhaps be done annually in order to cross-reference the sites and assess their importance.

7.4 Heritage Record and Archive

It is recommended that the Forestry Commission's heritage database be updated to include the results of this survey. To this end, Word documents for each site have been updated or created and will be forwarded to the Forestry Commission along with a digital copy of this Report.

It is also recommended that all new or previously unrecorded sites are allocated Forestry Commission Site Numbers and these are added to their existing heritage database.

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Appendix 1

Archaeological Site Recording and Monitoring Sheet

Site No:	Date	Parish
Site Name:	NMRS No:	WoSAS Pin:
NGR: N__ E. N.	Satellites available (if using GPS):	
Scheduled YES NO	Listed YES NO	
Landowner	Planning Applications	
Documentary References		
Early Map References		
Description from first edition O.S. map		
Location (Height above sea level)	Aspect	
DESCRIPTION OF SITE (present day) Upstanding walls/Turf ruins	Field system	
Type	Enclosure? Dimensions	
Structural Survival	Building Plan shape	
Dimensions (plan)	Dimensions (plan)	
Dimensions (height)	Dimensions (height)	
Construction	Wall construction	
Alignment	Doors/Windows	
Features of note	Architectural Features	
Interpretation	Interpretation	
Relationships	Farmstead layout	
Associated settlements and evidence of access between them		

Sketch

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Current vegetation cover/land use

Recommendations	Suggested Date
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Recorded By (initials and date)	Photos Film No	Frame No	Film No	Frame No
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Appendix 2: Site Descriptions

Forestry Commission No.541
Barr Mor, shieling
NGR NM 81024 00491

This site is located to the south of the main forest track leading down to Old Poltalloch. Situated in a slight hollow above the forest track were the oval shaped remains of a structure now overgrown with moss and scrub. A few stones are visible around the outline of the structure with the overall rubble spread measuring 5.70m by 4m with a dip towards the central area. The covering of undergrowth made it difficult to trace exact wall lines but it would appear the building might have had rounded corners. A rubble pile lying some 10m to the west indicates a possible second structure, although its form was less distinct and may be a clearance cairn.



Figure 2: Barr Mor, structure

Forestry Commission No.546

Druim Buidhe, shieling
NGR NM 82530 00512

This site is located west of a forest track running NE from Dun Mac Samhainn towards Barr Sailleach. The site itself lies within a relatively level terrace with higher ground at the west and east, but overlooking lower ground to the south. Here there were the remains of a sub-circular structure measuring 3.30m in diameter with walls standing 0.5m high. Constructed of large angular boulders (maximum size 0.55m x 0.46m x 0.20m) the walls of the structure could be traced on the east, south and northern sides but was less obvious on the west where the entrance may have lain.

Forestry Commission No.547
Druim Buidhe, dun?
NGR NM 82490 00530

This site is located west of a forestry track that runs SW/NE from Dun Mac Samhainn towards Barr Sailleach and south of Lochan Druim Buidhe. The site is situated at the north end of a series of rises that form a steep sided ridge that runs NE from Dun Mac Samhainn.

The site would appear to consist of two parts, these located towards the northern and southern areas of the promontory. The northern area of the ridge has a near vertical drop on the north side with a more gradual slope on the south and west. The area contains a length of collapsed walling that partially encloses this part of the ridge. The visible remnants form a rough 'L' shape measuring 12m long, 0.8m wide and standing to a height of 0.40m. Facing coursing can be seen on the northern extent of the wall. To the south east of this wall there is a large area of rubble that suggests something altogether more massive, either a collapsed/disturbed wall or the remnants of a cairn. The rubble spread measured more than 16m across SW/NE and was evident some way down slope from the top of the ridge to the south and west, the overall height of the rubble spread was difficult to gauge given the amount of tumble downslope. The area has been recently felled and some areas of the ridge are partially covered in brash. The remains have also been badly disturbed by trees and possibly previous planting. A more systematic survey would be necessary to better understand what these remains are. The site is possibly important given its location with fine views down Kilmartin Glen towards Dunadd and situated close to both the cairn and Dun at Dun Mac Samhainn.



Figure 3: Druim Buidhe, cairn (looking south east)

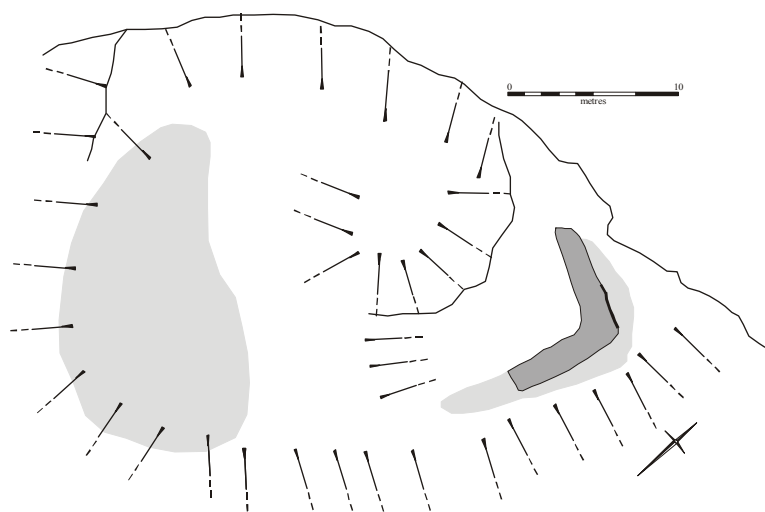


Figure 4: Plan of Druim Buidhe (based on field measured field sketch)



Figure 5: Druim Buidhe, wall remains.

Forestry Commission No.548
Dun Arnal, Dun
NGR NM 81900 03800

As the name of this ridge suggests some evidence of a defensive structure could be expected, however a close search over the site failed to find any evidence of any structural remains or earthworks suggestive of a dun-like structure.

Forestry Commission No.550
Barr Mor, cairn?
NGR NM 81490 00454

This site is located on the west side of a forestry track running north from the main Glenmoine-Old Poltalloch track towards Creag a' Chromain. Situated overlooking lower ground to the south were a group of boulders and these may be what were described as 'standing stones with a possible burial chamber'. As the only apparent group of large boulders within and around the given location these may be just a grouping of natural moss covered rocks. The grouping measures 3.5m by 2m and lay 5m from the forest track within a forest ride. It is possible that the 'standing stones' description alludes to another monument in the area and this is now masked/hidden by the numerous wind blown trees that litter the west side of the track, however, no site fitting this description was seen within the morass of trees.

Forestry Commission No.565
Old Poltalloch, shieling?
NGR NM 81160 00800

This site is located west of a forest track running north east towards Cruach Cruinn from the main forest track between Glenmoine and Old Poltalloch. The site is situated along the eastern edge of a relatively even terrace, which may have formerly been a field although subsequent harvesting damage makes this unclear. The structure comprised of an oval shaped collapse of stone rubble measuring 5.50m by 5m and stands to a height of 0.5m. The stones making up the rubble are angular suggesting they were quarried rather than derived from field clearance. Built over/against a natural rock outcrop, no definite coursing, walling or entrance is apparent within the rubble spread, making it difficult to be sure of the function of this

feature. The site has recently been cleared of trees and the surrounding area subsequently replanted.



Figure 6: Old Poltalloch, structure?

Forestry Commission No.566
Ormaig (Old Poltalloch) cup marked rock
NGR NM 81218 00838

As with site 565, this site is located west of a forest track that runs north east towards Cruach Cruinn from the main forest track between Glenmoine and Old Poltalloch. The rock lies on a relatively level terrace approximately 70-80m west and above the track and 20m south of probable cairn site 785. The rock measures 1.30m by 1.10 and its weathered upper face bears the remains of 7 cup-marks, some of these are badly worn.

Forestry Commission No.570
Barr Sailleach, cairns
NGR NM 82950 00370



Figure 7: Barr Sailleach, clearance cairn

These sites are located just north of the main forestry road running between Glenmoine and Old Paltaloch. The cairns are strung along the southern end of what was presumably a field area situated along a relatively even terrace running to the north east. 7 cairns were located (these including sites 789 and 1188). The largest cairn measured 3.30m by 2m and stood 0.45m high.

Forestry Commission No.572
Ormaig, shieling?
NGR NM 83059 00442

This site is located south east and down-slope from a forestry ride. The site consists of a sub circular/oval arrangement of stone rubble measuring 3m in diameter. This could be a denuded clearance cairn although there appears to have been some attempt at walling on the northern side measuring 0.70m thick and 0.50m high. There is also some evidence of walling on the west, while this is less clear on the south and east.

Forestry Commission No.692
Ormaig, cairns
Centred NGR NM 83094 00467

Series of cairns that occupy the edges of former fields, four of these were recorded.

- 1) NM 83064 00450 the cairn measures 6m long, 1.5m wide and stands 0.90m high mainly comprising of large angular boulders.
- 2) NM 83072 00504 a small cairn set against a natural rocky scarp the cairn measures 1.5m in diameter.
- 3) NM 83070 00494 an elongated oval cairn that measures 3m in length and 1.30m wide.
- 4) NM 83058 00506 this cairn is set against the base of a slope 14m SW of a possible quarry. The cairn measures 2.2m long, 1.50m wide and stands 0.70m high.



Figure 8: Ormaig, clearance cairn

Forestry Commission No.693
Ormaig, shieling
NGR NM 83026 00464

This site is situated south east of a forestry firebreak/ride and would appear to be the same site as recorded by Heather James as FC site 571 (James No.47). However, the GPS location and the digital photograph of this site suggests it has also been recorded as FC site 693.

This possible shieling has been constructed up against the north-west side of a large natural rock outcrop. The structure measures 5.0 m long by 2.6 m wide and has walls of collapsed boulders up to 0.3 m high and spread 1.4 m wide. There is a possible entrance in the south-west side. It is located a few metres to the south-east of a forestry ride within mature conifer forest and there are several trees inside the structure and close to its walls (James 2003).

Forestry Commission No.694
Ormaig, rock shelter/quarry?
NGR NM 183078 700457

An area of former fields surrounds this site. The site itself lies downslope and east of a forestry ride within mature forest. The site consists of a large natural rock outcrop with a slight overhang on its western face. Extending west from the southern end of the overhang is an elongated spread of rubble. While this could be the remnant of a wall, it is more likely the remains of quarrying waste, as the overhang appears to be partially the result of rock extraction.

Forestry Commission No.786
Ormaig, shieling
NGR NM 83030 00429

This site is located above and west of a forestry ride, situated on the brow of a ridge overlooking lower ground to the south and east. The site consists of a sub-circular/oval structure of drystone walling measuring 2.65m by 2.05. Inner coursing of the wall is still in evidence the walls measuring 0.40m thick and standing to a height of 0.40m above present ground level. The walling is less apparent on the eastern side of the structure and it may be that an entrance lay on this side. Mature trees are growing on and within the structure.



Figure 9: Ormaig, shieling

Forestry Commission No.787
Ormaig, shieling
NGR NM 83055 00520

This site has been recorded under two grid references (NGR NM 83086 00052 & NM 831 001) the former places this site outside FC land. The digital photograph is of an oval structure that is located at NM 83055 00520 just north west of a forest ride. Overall the oval structure measures 5.20m by 3.50-4.0m (internally 4m by 2m). The tumbled state of the walls made it difficult to determine wall dimensions, although the roughly coursed rubble stood to a height of 0.60m and suggested a width between 0.60-0.7m. No entrance was apparent within the wall lengths. There are mature trees growing on and within the structure.



Figure 10: Ormaig, structure

Forestry Commission No.788
Ormaig, shieling
NGR NM 83020 00410

This site is located south east of a forest ride and lies on a ridge above Site 693. Without excavation it is difficult to be sure about the nature of this site. In the main, the site appears as an elongated spread of angular drystone rubble measuring 7m by 1.50m and standing up to 0.40m high. Rough coursing along the western side of this feature suggests it is structural but whether this walling is for a building or an enclosure is difficult to determine. Lying 2 metres to the south east of the main rubble spread, a further 2m stretch of rubble suggests a interrupted continuation of this feature and if so indicates this was an enclosure rather than a building.

Forestry Commission No.789
Ormaig, shieling
NGR NM 82940 00360

This site is located north of the main forest track between Glenmoine and Old Poltalloch within a forest ride. The site is recorded as a shieling and consisted of a circular arrangement of stone rubble measuring 3m in diameter. While this may represent a shieling it is more likely to be a clearance cairn given that several cairns lie within close proximity (see Sites 570, 827 and 1188). The forest ride would appear to occupy cleared ground likely to have been a field.

Forestry Commission No.797
Ormaig, cairn
NGR NM 82680 04070

This site is situated in mature forest approximately 200m north of Lochan Druim an Rathaid. It is possibly the remains of a kerb cairn with central cist although much disturbed. The cairn measures 6m in diameter and stands to a height of 0.80m above present ground level. The mound material would appear to consist of rubble revetted on the edge by a series of upright stones forming a kerb around the central mound.

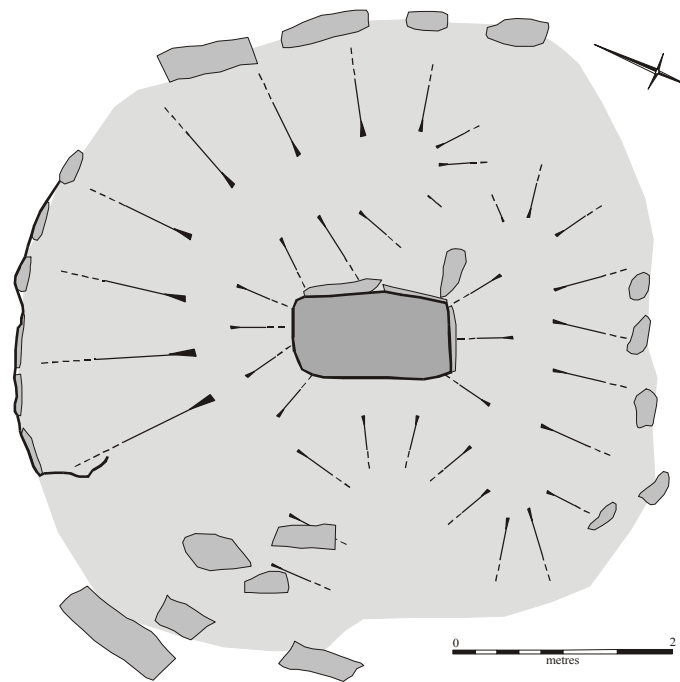


Figure 11: Plan of cairn (based of a measured field sketch)



Figure 12: Ormaig, cairn

The kerb is best preserved on the southern and western sides, although it is disturbed on the east and north. The largest stone seen constituting the kerb measured 1.0m x 0.45m x 0.20m (although this appeared disturbed). A rectangular hollow within the centre of the cairn surrounded on the north and west by angular stone slabs suggested a disturbed cist, this depression measuring 1.50m long by 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep. An upright stone lying 4m to the west of the cairn may also be of some significance. While the presence of thick mature forest precluded observation of the surrounding landscape, it would appear the position of the cairn might have afforded good views to the north east. The presence of a nearby drystone wall may explain the denuded nature of the cairn, the stones perhaps used in the wall construction. No trees are actually growing on the disturbed mound material but there are several growing in close proximity therefore root disturbance is obviously poses a problem.

Forestry Commission No.1038
Barr Mor, oval structure
NGR NM 80914 00566

This site is located south of the main forestry road running between Glenmoine and Old Poltalloch. The site is described as foundations of a sheepfold. Located on an east-facing slope above the forest track the tumbled drystone wall of this structure is oval in shape, measuring 3.0m by 2.50m and stands 0.70m high. A gap on the southern side possibly indicates an entrance. A second smaller group of stones lay to the north and either represents another structure or a clearance cairn.



Figure 13: Barr Mor, structure

Forestry Commission No.1188
Ormaig, cairn
NGR NM 82928 00376

These sites are located just north of the main forestry road running between Glenmoine and Old Poltalloch. Several cairns were located in this area (including sites 789 and 1188), situated at the southern end of a relatively even terrace running north east. The cairns referred to here are strung along the western side of this flatter ground which was probably a former field.

Forestry Commission No.1189
Old Poltalloch, sheilings
NGR NM 81250 00940
NMRS No. NM80SW 10
WoSASPIN: 1015
Campbell & Sandeman: 601

There is some confusion about this site, but it would appear to be the same site as that described by Marion Campbell as 'three small ruined huts or beehive cells, about 40 yards apart and about 10 feet in diameter'. This description matches the forestry description of a 'line of 3 sheilings...spaced about 50m apart along top of ridge'. This group of sites also includes Site 785.

Three hut circles, each about 10' in diameter with light walls. The middle one is published "Cairn": the others lie 50 yds SSW and 30 yds NE.
(Campbell and Sandeman 1964)

This site is now situated in a Forestry plantation but there is no doubt that the features described by Campbell and Sandeman (1964) are small shielings on which relatively modern clearance has been dumped.
Visited by OS (R D) 10 March 1970.

Forestry Commission No.1195
Ormaig, stones
NGR NM 81283 01428

This site was located just north of a forestry track before the track winds down to the north towards Big Wood. The site consists of a group of upstanding stones occupying a ridge overlooking Loch Craignish to the west. 5 upright stones are visible within the grouping the largest measuring 1.10m x 0.60m x 0.60m. While it is likely that this grouping is natural, no other rocks within the locality outcrop in this way and it may be worth checking that these are indeed natural.

Forestry Commission No.1208
Ormaig, cup marked stone
NGR NM 81435 01531



Figure 14: Ormaig, cup-marked stone

This consists of a single cup mark on a stone measuring 0.80m x 0.80m x 0.60m. The cup mark itself measures 0.13m in diameter and is 40mm deep. The stone was part of a grouping or scatter of stones that made up a probable cairn site 1209 a second cairn site and possible cup marked stone lay 10m to the south east.

Forestry Commission No.1209

Ormaig, cairn

NGR NM 81433 01531

This site was described as a shieling but the scatter of stones appears to be the remains of a disturbed cairn. The site is located north east of a forestry track and above Big Wood that lies to the west. The cairn occupies a promontory and has good views to the south west down Loch Craignish and out towards Scarba and north Jura. Consisting primarily of large rocks of mixed geology the oval cairn measures 6.60m by 4.40m and stands to a height of approximately 0.70m. Part of the make up of the cairn is cup marked stone Site 1208. A second cairn lies 10m to the south east. Both cairns occupy the higher steeper ground overlooking more even ground to the south. Their relatively inaccessible position makes it unlikely these represent just clearance cairns, which tend to occupy more accessible areas near or within cultivated areas. Both cairns also have accompanying cup-marked stones in their make up and it may be these represent small burial cairns.



Figure 15: Ormaig, cairn

Forestry Commission No.1210

Ormaig, cup-marked stone

NGR NM 81585 01706

The site is located on a ridge overlooking Big Wood to the west and north east of a forest track. The stone is situated on an east facing ridge overlooking more even ground to the south and east. A second cup-marked stone lies to the south (see Ormaig cup-marked stone 2 below). The stone measures 0.96m by 0.90m and bares the remains of three cups with the possible trace of a further two along a worn edge. The largest cup appeared to be broken around its upper circumference suggesting the stone has been broken. The worn nature of the cups gave rise to the question of whether these may be naturally derived examination of other outcrops within the area, however, failed to reveal any other instances of this type of weathering or stones that had such smooth defined hollows.



Figures 16 & 17: Ormaig, cup marked stones

Forestry Commission No.1211
Ormaig, marked rocks
NGR NM 81620 01620

This site had been described as a group of rock cut rings. Examination of the site, however, has shown that this group of four 'ring' markings is of natural origin. The rings are most likely the product of differential weathering of schist-like inclusions within the natural rock.

Sites not previously recorded

Garbh Shron, cup mark
NGR NM 81703 00540

The site is located to the north of the main Forestry track running from Glenmoine to Old Poltalloch and north east of Grabh Shron. Situated on a boulder strewn east facing slope, the site was uncovered while searching for site 561. On the upper face of a large boulder is inscribed a single cup mark measuring 9cm in diameter and 30mm deep. The boulder itself measures 3.20m by 2.10m and stands 2m high. Apart from its relatively large size nothing would appear special about this rock, being one of many littering the side of the glen. As with the other rocks, this appears derived from hillside itself, which may have been quarried in the past.



Figure 18: Garbh Shron, cup-marked boulder

Ormaig, cairn/s
NGR NM 81450 01540

Occupying the same ridge and lying 10m south east of Site 1209 is a second cairn. Similarly this cairn is made up of large boulders forming a sub circular mound measuring 8.50m by 7.50m and standing 1.50m in height. A possible cup marked stone had also been used in the make up of the cairn (see Ormaig Cup-marked stone 1 below). A smaller circular setting of stones could also be discerned lying 3m to the east of the main core of the cairn, this measuring 2.3m in diameter and standing 0.80m high.



Figure 19: Ormaig, cairn (looking south west)

Ormaig, cup-marked stone
NGR NM 81450 01540

This stone appears to have been incorporated within the body of a cairn (see above). The roughly triangular shaped stone measures 1.00m x 0.6m x 0.2m and bears the worn remains of 5 possible cup-marks.



Figure 20: Ormaig, cup-marked stone

Ormaig, cup-marked stone
NGR NM 81580 01698

Located approximately 5m south east of Site 1210 lay a second cup-marked stone. The upper face of the stone lay at an angle of 40-50°, the stone measuring 0.9m by 0.7m. The face bears the worn remnants of 6 cup-marks, with possibly evidence for a further 2 cup-marks on the broken/worn lower extent of the stone.

Ormaig, circular structure
NGR NM 81225 00813

This site is located west of a forest track that runs north east towards Cruach Cruinn from the main forest track between Glenmoine and Old Poltalloch. The site lies approximately 25m south east of cup marked stone Site 566. This appeared to be the remains of a small circular drystone structure constructed with angular limestone blocks. The structure measured 1.50m in diameter and stood 0.60m high. Indications of rough coursing suggested this was not a clearance cairn, although there are traces of several of these along this ridge to the north.

Ormaig, wall
NGR NM 82944 00366

This site is located just north of the main forestry road running between Glenmoine and Old Poltalloch. The tumbled moss covered wall is oriented NW/SE and measures 0.70m wide and stands 0.40m high, its eastern end cut by the present forestry road. The wall would appear to be the southern delineation of fields that once lay along a relatively flat ridge running to the north east. Just beyond the wall to the north are a number of clearance cairns (Sites 570, 789 and 1188).

Barr Sailleach, wall
NGR NM 83016 00584

This ruined wall is not depicted on the 1st or 2nd edition OS maps. The drystone wall runs between two steep ridges and is possibly the northern demarcation of field systems located along a south west running terrace. Oriented SW/NE the wall measures 0.80-0.90m wide and stands 0.40m high.

Barr Sailleach, wall
NGR NM 82791 00525

This is a ruined drystone wall that is not depicted on the 1st or 2nd edition OS maps. The wall is oriented E/W and has been badly disturbed by forestry operations. The remains of the wall stand to a height of 0.30m and are approximately 0.70m wide.

Barr Sailleach, wall
NGR NM 82996 00518

This wall ran along the eastern edge of a formerly cultivated terrace. Aligned SW/NE the wall ran north east from the south before turning north and then north west at its northern end. In places the drystone wall stood 0.5m high and was 0.80m wide. The wall appears to delineate the eastern boundary of field systems to the west.

Sites not located

Forestry Commission No.432
Barr Mor, cup marked stone
NGR NM 81024 00536

Despite persistent searches of the area this stone could not be found.

Forestry Commission No.561
Garbh Shron, shieling
NGR NM 81697 00530

This site is described as an 'oval earthwork about 2m in diameter' no trace of this could now be located.

Forestry Commission No.827
Ormaig, croft
NGR NM 83031 00397

This site was described as a possible 'medieval barn', however, its position is now located amongst/under a tangle of wind blown trees and bramble growth and could not be safely accessed. It is possible this may be a building associated with the fields and structures lying along the terrace to the NE.