

THE ROLE OF MONUMENTS IN THE NEOLITHIC
OF THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND

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INTRODUCTION

This volume presents a Catalogue of probable neolithic monuments in the South of Scotland, excluding the south-west. The monuments appear in Regional sequence under two separate headings:-

1. Funerary monuments (long and chambered cairns and barrows)

Each of these entries is classified as a Category A, B or C site, a certain, probable or doubtful neolithic monument. Lists of other Category C sites and of Category D rejected sites follow the main entries, with brief details.

The Regional groups of funerary monuments are further discussed in the appropriate sections of the Gazetteer in Volume III, where attention is also paid to the problems of unrecognised sites and site types and to possible alternative monument forms in each Region.

2. Enclosures

Entries in this section of the Catalogue cover a very various set of probable and possible neolithic ritual enclosures. Criteria for identification of such enclosures are extremely uncertain, and many of the

sites consist only of untested cropmarks. As a result, this part of the Catalogue is necessarily selective rather than inclusive. Entries consist of two interrupted ditch enclosures; six probable cursus or long mortuary enclosures; twelve henges, some of doubtful status; two large enclosures, one a stockaded promontory, the other a stone banked enclosure, both with Late Neolithic radiocarbon dates; and four stone circles. Other possible sites in all these categories have been omitted, some of which are listed in Table III:4 in Volume III, others are described and discussed in Regional sections on Ritual Enclosures in the same volume. Small hengiform sites and ring ditches are not included in the Catalogue, and the only four stone circles covered are large sites selected for the particular interest of their location. Other stone circles are separately listed in Tables in the Regional Gazetteer (Tables IV:3; V:1; VI:2).

Each Catalogue entry in both sections consists of three parts, the first descriptive of the site, the second tabulating locational factors and the third assessing the context of the monument both in relation to other monuments and in terms of immediate prehistoric setting; note is also taken here of folklore and tradition and of earlier archaeological comment. At the end of each entry plans, maps and cropmark transcriptions are appended, as appropriate. Catalogue headings are more fully explained in the following Notes.

NOTES TO CATALOGUE

Bibliographic references and abbreviations appear at the end of Volume I. References in the form of an OS grid square and number (e.g. NT 04NW 21) indicate a site number in the index of the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

Catalogue entries appear in Regional sequence and site numbers incorporate a reference to the relevant Region, as follows:-

I	The Firth of Clyde
II	The Lothians
III	The Biggar Gap
IV	The Tweed Basin
V	The Borders
VI	Nithsdale and the eastern Stewartry

Funerary monuments have individual numbers within each Region (I:1; 1:2 etc.) and enclosures have letters (II:a; II:b etc.).

Entries vary slightly in format according to circumstances, but the usual layout conforms to the following system of headings.

A. Description of site

Heading

At left hand margin:-
Name of site, county or Code number after Scott 1969(a)
and Henshall 1972, 313
Local Authority District
Local Authority Region

At right hand margin:-
NMRS index number
National Grid Reference
Height in metres OD

Location: by reference to nearest village, farm or other mapped topographic feature.

Type: general site type, as long, chambered, round or trapezoidal cairn or barrow, enclosure, Class I or II henge, cursus, stone circle etc.

Status: Category Classifications, A, B, C or D are given on the basis of acceptability as defined below, not the condition of the monument. Scheduled Ancient Monuments are identified. Total destruction of site or survival as a cropmark only is noted.

Category Classifications:

A: Sites for which there can be no reasonable doubt of status as a neolithic monument.

B: Probable neolithic monuments, including most sites identified as cropmarks only.

C: Possible neolithic monument. Either surviving evidence is not sufficiently diagnostic, or the only knowledge of the site consists of an unsubstantiated record.

D: Sites once considered to be possible neolithic monuments, but which can be rejected from the record.

Category C and D sites are listed at the end of Part 1 of the Catalogue, and they are excluded, in general, from analysis of the monuments in the statistics of the thesis.

Outline: A summary description of the salient features of the monument.

Orientation: General compass directions only.

Long cairns = alignment, broad end first

Chambers = alignment, open end first

Cursus enclosures = alignment

Henges = entrance orientation

Stone circles = axis of the geometry

Dimensions: all given in metres

Funerary monuments have been planned in the field, and dimensions are taken from these surveys except where an excavation report gives accurate measurements. Other sources are acknowledged.

Enclosure measurements are based on published plans, as quoted, or on cropmark transcriptions.

Breadth: length ratios: given for long cairns

Excavation: date, name of excavator and extant reports are given and the extent of the excavation is summarised.

History of site and present condition: earlier information on the condition of the site and its history is quoted. Other observations are based on the present condition of the monument, which often allows for estimates of loss of material through slippage, stone robbing, plough damage, rebuilding or unrecorded excavations.

Description: individual parts of the monument are described under separate headings where appropriate: cairn, kerb, forecourt, chamber etc. Information is derived from survey, or, where acknowledged, from sources such as excavation reports, Henshall's 1972 description (particularly for measurements of chamber stones) or Inventory descriptions. Cropmark sites are described on the basis of transcription.

Excavation evidence and finds: are sometimes listed separately, especially in the case of excavated enclosures at Cairnpapple II:b, Meldon Bridge III:b and Blackhouse Burn III:c and d.

B. LOCATION

Distance from sea: in direct line to the nearest coast. Where maximum transgression coastlines are likely to have been significantly nearer, the distance to the 10m contour, probable washing limit, is also given.

Distance from water: whether stream, river or loch. Observed water courses are often closer than mapped streams, but may not always be visible, e.g. at Largs (I:1), where the chamber is in a built up area, or in forestry.

General topography: account of the local landscape in general terms.

Situation: specific siting of the monument and its relationship to local topography is described.

Aspect: general compass direction of the main outlook from the site.

Slope: taking account both of the site of the monument and adjacent slopes. Where mapped contours allow for measurement the degree of slope is given.

Local relief, within 500m: notes the highest and the lowest altitude within a 500m radius.

Outlook: percentages of the view from the site falling into the following categories:

Distant:	over 5km
Intermediate:	500 - 5km
Restricted:	under 500m

The same information is shown visually on figures entitled Situation and Outlook for each funerary monument.

Prominence: a subjective assessment taking account of general visibility and the extent of skyline views of the site.

Local landmarks: includes mention of striking features in the view or vicinity, such as prominent hills, waterfalls, gorges, rocks etc., which might have influenced the choice of location.

Solid geology: derived from the British Regional Geology volumes (HMSO).

Soils: derived from the maps of the Soil Survey of Scotland from the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research.

Land use: both as presently observed and as recorded or evidenced in the historic past.

Vegetation: a strictly local assessment of present conditions.

C. CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours: lists the nearest monuments, usually sites included in the Catalogue, with distances.

Monument context: a discussion of the site classification and comparanda, with comments on distribution, locational factors and any unusual aspects of the site.

Artefact context: gives an account of early prehistoric finds from within c 5km of the site: axes, lithics, pottery, beakers etc. Information is from museum catalogues, NMRS references and other accounts, as referenced. Axes with a county number (e.g. LNK 1; PBL 2) have been thin sectioned and listed by Ritchie and Scott (1989).


Prehistoric landscape: looks at the immediate vicinity of the site, listing cairns, small cairns, hut circles etc., and gives details of major cairns in a wider landscape, up to 5km distant. Some field walking has been carried out during survey; most information comes from the NMRS or quoted sources.

Tradition and folklore: after sources as quoted. At many sites only the name suggests local comment.

Archaeological interpretation: where appropriate a brief account is given of comment on the monument and its context by earlier archaeologists.

KEY TO SYMBOLS

as used in survey plans of funerary monuments

Manmade slope 

Natural slope 

Earth fast stone 

Loose stone 


Outcrop 

Built wall face 

Wall 

Rockface 

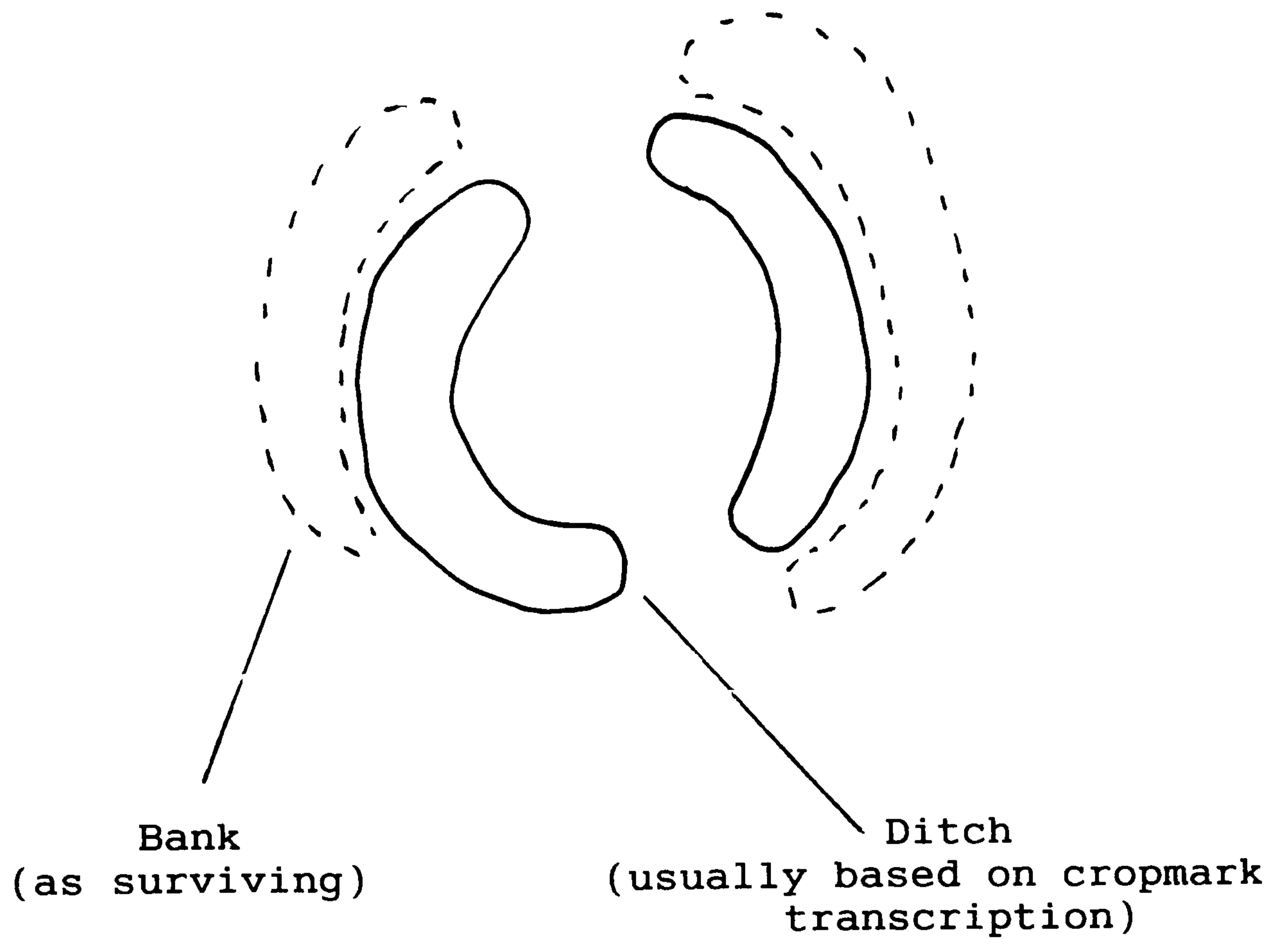
Fence 

Watercourse 

Track 

Tree 

Conventions used in drawing henges



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PART I: FUNERARY MONUMENTS

I:1 Margaret's Law, Haylie AYR 1
Cunninghame District
Strathclyde Region

NS 25NW 1
NS 2094 5858
30m OD

Location: At the S end of Douglas Park, in Largs, 100m N of Haylie House, on a terrace on the W side of Castle Hill above slopes down to the Firth of Clyde.

Type: Segmented chamber of the Clyde Group

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: A triple-segmented chamber formed of two orthostatic compartments and remains of a drystone outer compartment; no surviving cairn.

Orientation: ENE - WSW

Dimensions: Overall length: 6.7m
Inner compartment, internal: 1.8m x 1.3m x 1.2m high
Capstone: 2.5m x 2.0m x 0.3m thick

Excavation: In 1954 Aitken and Marshall (1957) examined the two outer compartments of the chamber; a length of 5.8m was cleared to the E of the septal slab which marks the outer end of the inner compartment; a plan of the chamber was published and a section drawing, site photographs and further excavation details are held by the NMR5.

History of site and present condition: The cairn, presumably overgrown with vegetation, was supposed to be a natural hillock in 1772 when quarried for stone to enclose part of the grounds of Haylie House (Stat Acct XVII 1796, 516). It was found to be a large cairn from which over 15000 carloads of stone were removed, and it contained 'five stone coffins', possibly the surviving triple segmented chamber and another with two segments. Another record, concerning a cairn on rising ground near the site of the Battle of Largs on the site of a supposed chapel being removed to reveal 'three long broad flat unhewn stones' covering 'three deep stone coffins' (Stat Acct II 1792, 365), would accord better with the present remains, but cannot certainly be identified with the Haylie site.

The episode appears to have resulted in complete removal of the cairn and any capstones over the outer compartments of the chamber. In 1822 Dillon observed that 'the stone building still remains; but the earth that formed the mound upon it has been carried away' (p.384). The 'building' indicated was evidently the inner compartment of the chamber, described as being circular(!) and 'with a kind of passage between two straight walls'. The capstone was *in situ*, but a drawing by J. Skene of 1832 (NMR MS 464 f 60) suggests that it may have been slightly broken at the rear and shifted out of position. A schematic drawing accompanying his sketch suggests that the central chamber terminated at a septal stone, now missing.

In the 1850s the ground around the chamber was being cultivated (ONB 42, 1447); rig and furrow could still be

seen in 1989 running E - W up to c 6m from the chamber wall and N - S to the E of it.

The outer compartments evidently became infilled and overgrown during the 19th century. In 1895 John Smith illustrated the rear compartment only (p.5 fig. 2), commenting that 'from certain foundation stones still to be seen it has been considerably longer'. Munro in 1910 (p.248) also commented on the outline of a second chamber formed 'by smaller stones, probably the broken bases of those which formed the original chamber'. The situation was probably as when Childe and Graham in 1943 (p.33) could see only the upper edge of the N side slab of the central compartment. Their photographs show two twisted old hawthorn trees then growing on either side of the rear compartment, one close against the S side stone (ibid Pl.IX). The site was in an annexe of Douglas Park, and a fenced path passed by its W end.

Excavation in 1954 cleared the outer chamber segments, cleaning the subsoil for c 0.5m beyond the entrance slab, to where a recently laid water main was encountered; the line of this pipe was still apparent in 1989. The excavation trench was left open and photographs in the NMRs show it gradually becoming overgrown. By 1983 bracken and brambles were growing in the trench; a paling fence had been erected around the chamber, but the hawthorn trees remained. By 1989 a site visit found the paling fence still *in situ*, the trees felled, and the brambles grown so as to completely conceal the outer part of the chamber. A low mound to the N of this area is presumably an excavation spoil heap.

Description

Cairn: The Clyde type chamber suggests that the cairn would probably have been a long one (although see Glecknabae BUT 4; Dunan Mor ARN 8). Rig and furrow running E - W 6m S of the chamber could be respecting the line of the edge of the cairn, no longer visible. A long cairn terminating at an axial chamber could have been up to 30m in length before reaching the slope to the W. Alternatively the chamber might have been set laterally in a N - S long cairn.

An unpublished excavation section drawing in the NMRs shows a 34" (0.9m) depth of cairn material surviving on the N side of the outer compartment, but this aspect of the site was not examined in excavation, except at the chamber entrance where 'masses of small stones' represented the cairn. Presumably a considerable extent of cairn material still survives under the turf.

Forecourt: Excavation found a low transverse slab across the mouth of the chamber 0.3m in height, on which were the remains of a walling of large slabs. The section drawing shows that this slab rested on smaller stones. 4 or 5 large slabs leaning against the outer side of this wall were suggested by the excavators to have fallen from it, but the angle at which they are set recalls that of forecourt blocking, for example at Mid Gleniron I (Corcoran 1969(a)). Beyond this, 'masses of small stones' represented cairn material, either slipped from the cairn, or added as blocking. 0.6m outside the N end of the closing slab a quantity of charcoal was found, presumably a forecourt hearth. To the E a water main had been laid shortly

before the excavation, and there had been no reports of obstructions.

Chamber: Excavation has revealed what appears to be the entire length of a triple-segmented chamber of constant width (1.2m - 1.3m internally, decreasing in the massiveness of its structural elements from W to E. The wall lines are continuous, with no overlap between the sidestones.

The inner compartment consists of a massive backstone of quartz conglomerate set across the end of two large conglomerate sidestones which support the pebbly sandstone slab of the capstone with the help of a few small slabs on the surface of the S sidestone. As Henshall points out the capstone appears to have had a piece broken off at the rear, where it does not rest on the backstone; Skene's drawing of 1832 suggests that the capstone may then have been shifted, but was replaced subsequent to his visit. A septal slab across the E end of the compartment leaves a gap of 0.5m below the capstone.

The second compartment consists of two sidestones lower than those of the inner compartment, the larger c 1.0m high. They are braced by a second, lower septal slab set in front of the first. No definition now remains across the E end of the compartment, although Skene places a slab here on his schematic drawing of the chamber. Excavation found a few stones on the floor between the E ends of the slabs, and the preservation of bones in the same area suggests a division line, defining a compartment almost identical in dimensions to the first.

The outer compartment was found on excavation to have had its N side destroyed, and cairn material stood 0.9m deep here. On the S side a drystone wall survived up to 3 courses in height. The low slab and walling across the entrance (see Forecourt, above) defined the end of a compartment of the same length as the inner two. The plan of the excavated chamber shows a line of stones c 0.5m back from the entrance, perhaps paving, and bones and a flint scraper were found in the same area.

Ritual/funerary evidence: in 1772 'five skulls with other human bones and several earthen urns' were found in each of the five 'coffins' (Stat Acct XVII, 516-7).

A later account (Robertson 1820, 111) adds: 'The earth and small stones at the bottom were calcined. It is supposed that the skulls and other bones within the coffins were those of the chiefs; whilst the bodies of the common warriors had been thrown promiscuously over them, and then stones, in vast quantity, heaped over all the quantity of bones which, on exposure, soon crumbled into dust, was immense'. Dillon (1822 383-4), more precisely, tells of one body with, around it, 'a number of others, to the amount, as supposed, of thirty'. Skene mentions that at one time teeth remained in most of the skulls (1832 f 60). John Smith's account (1895, 5) of skeletons in a sitting position is probably merely a rationalisation of the depth of the stone chambers (cf. re Cave Cairn: *ibid*, 224-5).

Excavation in 1954 found signs of *in situ* burning and fragments of charcoal immediately SE of the E end of the NE

slab of the central compartment. To the S were two crushed skulls of middle aged persons, one much thicker than the other, and other bones in fragile condition. These included parts of two thighbone shafts, one, again, thicker than the other. The pathologist, Dr. Laurence Wells, suggested the remains to represent a man and a woman. 0.4m back from the entrance near the S wall of the outer compartment were more fragmentary human bones and a flint tool, possibly associated with an area of paving (see above). A quantity of charcoal found in one spot in the supposed area of the forecourt may suggest a forecourt hearth.

Findings: Early reports and recent excavation both suggest the deposition of human skulls and other disarticulated bones.

No pottery sherds were found in excavation suggesting, perhaps, that the reported finds of 'earthen urns' concerned complete vessels, possibly later insertion, rather than neolithic sherd scatters.

A blade of grey flint was found in the 1954 excavation in the outer compartment. It was retouched around the tip and along one side to form an end and side scraper, or knife.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 400m

Distance from water: The nearest mapped stream is 500m to the S, but streams on the built up hillside are likely now to be carried in underground drains.

General topography: The north Ayrshire hills fall steeply to the raised beaches of the Firth of Clyde in a series of steep slopes, terraces and rock escarpments. Below the chamber the upper raised beach forms a plain c 500m broad, supposed to be the site of the Battle of Largs.

Situation: The chamber, sloping slightly uphill towards its entrance, lies across a terrace c 60m broad between a rocky scarp rising c 25m to the E and steep slopes which start to fall c 20m W of the chamber backstone.

Aspect: WSW

Slope: Very gentle on the terrace.
Very steep above and below - c 18%.

Local relief, within 500m: 0 - 190m OD

Outlook:

Distant: c 39% to NW and SW
Intermediate: c 18% to W (Great Cumbrae)
Restricted: c 43% to E

Prominence: Local only

Local landmarks: The rounded shape of Great Cumbrae island, 3km to the W, creates a distinctive outlook, particularly at sunset.

The cliffy scarps of Castle Hill, above, are themselves a striking local feature.

Solid geology: Old Red Sandstone; local outcrop appears to have furnished the stone for the large orthostats.

Soils: Brown forest soil on the terrace; sands and gravels on the raised beaches below.

Land use: There is public access from Douglas Park, but the area is probably also used for grazing.

Vegetation: Grass on the terrace, trees and shrubs on the slopes; brambles over the chamber.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Bicker's Houses, Bute, chambered cairn, 15km to WNW
Cuff Hill, chambered cairn, 18km to ESE

Monument context: The segmented chamber, even with no surviving cairn, can clearly be identified with other sites of the Clyde Group in the Firth of Clyde. It is only unusual in extending to three segments while using a straight rather than an overlapping arrangement of side slabs, as at triple segmented chambers on Arran, such as Monamore ARN 9, and elsewhere (e.g. Beacharra, Kintyre ARG 28; Bickers Houses, Bute BUT 5). Straight sided chambers are normally restricted to two segments, as at Glenvoidean, BUT 1, or Cairnholy, KRK 1, and the difference might support Henshall's suggestion that the pair of septal slabs between the inner and central compartments at Haylie illustrate her thesis of phased extension: the second septal would be necessary to support an unforeseen additional chamber-segment. The same double septal recurs at Clach na Tiompan PER 1, which may also have had three segments. Clearly, however, the Haylie chamber resembles the multi-segmented Firth of Clyde format, and thus differs from the simple lateral chambers with passages seen inland at Cuff Hill and probably at Dod Hill (I:2,5). It also overlooks the Firth of Clyde, giving easy accessibility in that direction. Like other chambered cairns in that area it is situated close to a stretch of raised beach (cf. Glenvoidean BUT 1; Achnagoul ARG 7, 8; Auchindrain ARG 38).

Details of funerary deposition are of particular interest, suggesting the movement of disarticulated bones, with an emphasis on skulls. Excavation in 1954 confirmed the prevalence of skulls, and two long bones were also noted among the residual material surviving. Funerary ritual within the Firth of Clyde cairns appears to have been very various, but Bryce's excavations on Arran encountered a similar interest in skulls and long bones at Torlin ARN 15 and at Clachaig ARN 16, the long bones, in each case, being laid along the chamber walls.

Artefact context: There are no known records of stone axes, lithic finds or neolithic pottery from Largs other than the objects from the chamber itself.

A macehead was found together with fragments of a collared urn in an urn cemetery to the north of the Gogo Water, 1km from the chamber. It carried decoration similar to that on a Crichtie axe, which, Roe suggested, argued for a late date for

the find (Roe 1967, 64, 74, no. 17).

A beaker no longer surviving, but probably of Late Northern type, was found in 1906 in a short cist 140m NW of Haylie chamber at the foot of the hill slope at NS 2080 5864 (Munro 1910, 246-7; Ritchie 1970 no.4).

Prehistoric landscape: The raised beach to the S of the Gogo Water in Largs was identified as being the site of the Battle of Largs of 1263 largely on the basis of the numbers of cairns and standing stones in the vicinity (Dillon 1822, 382). The 'battlefield' is now built up and the cairns destroyed.

A standing stone at NS 2052 5867, 450m WNW of the chamber, was supposed to mark the spot where Haco fell in battle (Stat Acct 1792, II 304). It was already prostrate by 1792, and was re-erected in 1823, at a slight remove, with a brass plate affixed to commemorate its origin (NSA V, 800). The pillar, 2.8m in height, is now in a private garden at NS 2050 5870 (NS 25NW 6). Several other stones are said to have stood in the same area (Dillon 1822, 384).

Smith (1895, 6) describes a prostrate monolith 'near the cromlech, but a little higher up the hill', away from the raised beach. The excavators of the chamber noted 'a large standing block of conglomerate' some distance to the SE of the chamber (NMR's Notes).

Besides the beaker cist (see above) several cairns are reported from the battlefield at 300m - 500m from the chamber; all were removed early in the 19th century. Two cairns stood at c NS 207 591 (NS 25 NW 10); one, at NS 2067 5875 contained several cists with human bones and 'a few sword handles' (NS 25 NW 12); near the standing stone were several small cairns at c NS 2049 5873 (NS 25 NW 27) containing stone coffins (Dillon 1822, 383-4; ONB 1856, BK 42, 102-3).

On the N side of the Gogo Burn, 1km N of the chamber, at NS 2050 5963, on the raised beach, a cemetery consisting of cists and pits was excavated in 1910, and several bucket shaped and collared urns were recovered, besides the macehead mentioned above (Munro 1910).

On the N side of the Gogo Burn there are also two mounds, now in a built up area. One, known as Greenhill, at NS 2073 5932 was suggested as a possible motte by Childe and Graham (1943, 45). It measures c 12.0m x 7.0m across its flat top. Recent OS comment suggests it to be a natural feature (NS 25 NW 7).

The larger mound, known as the Gallowhill is in Largs churchyard at NS 2022 5949. It has been supposed to be the burial place of the Norwegian troops at the Battle of Largs, human bones having been found in it before 1822 (Dillon 1822, 383). Excavation in 1873 found burnt clay, oak charcoal, green flakes, supposed to be remnants of copper or bronze armour, and some calcined bone, while at the centre of the mound 'was one mass of fat, unctuous earth, dotted all over with red and black formed by pieces of burnt clay and charcoal' (Bremner 1916, 277). The sub-oval mound, 31m x 24m at base, 10m x 8m across its flat top, and over 3.15m in height, is suggested by Linge (1987, 26-7) to be either a motte or a large barrow, comparable to other such sites in North Ayrshire.

Tradition: Although known before excavation as 'Margaret's Law', the discovery in 1772 of human bone in the cairn made it an obvious candidate for the site of the burial of the victims of the battle of Largs. This supposition is supported in the Statistical Account (XVII, 517) by place name evidence, Hailley being said to be the Anglo Saxon for a grave, while other local place names, such as Killingcraig, were also quoted. Robertson (1820, 111) rationalises the bone disorder by supposing the bodies of the common warriors to have been thrown over those of the chiefs. Dillon (1822), while accepting the general attribution, specifically excluded Haco from this burial, as Haco not only survived the battle but was supposed to have ordered some burial to take place at Largs Church (see Gallowhill, above). Nonetheless, Haco is said to have fallen at the site of the standing stone, mentioned above (NSA V, 800), and the Haylie chamber came to be known as Haco's tomb. Smith (1895, 74) gives the earlier name of the cairn as 'Magga Law', or the Burial place of the Pechts, with the later attribution to Margaret or 'Marget' developing as a corruption of this.

Archaeological interpretations: While early commentators persistently associated the chamber with the burial of victims of the Battle of Largs (see above), John Smith recognised and illustrated it as a prehistoric 'cromlech' (1895, 5), and it was listed by Childe in 1934 as a chambered cairn (p.25, no.24). After examining the site, Childe and Graham wrote that morphologically it 'might belong equally to the Solway or Clyde types' (1943, 31-5), and in 1946 Childe mapped it with the latter set (p.101).

J.G. Scott, outlining a projected sequence for Clyde cairns in which the earliest unit was a slab built quadrangular burial chamber, suggested that the 'self-contained' rear compartment at Haylie might be an example of just such a 'protomegalith' (1969a, 318).

Henshall developed the theory of phased evolution, comparing the chamber at Haylie with those at Cairnholy in their use of a high septal slab sealing the inner chamber; the outer compartments were thus seen as later additions (1972, 57, 61, fig.3). The absence of portal stones at Haylie created a point of difference, but these might have been removed on extension; the second septal slab provided additional evidence for phasing.

Fig I:1:1 Haylie: Chamber Plan, after Aitken and Marshall 1957

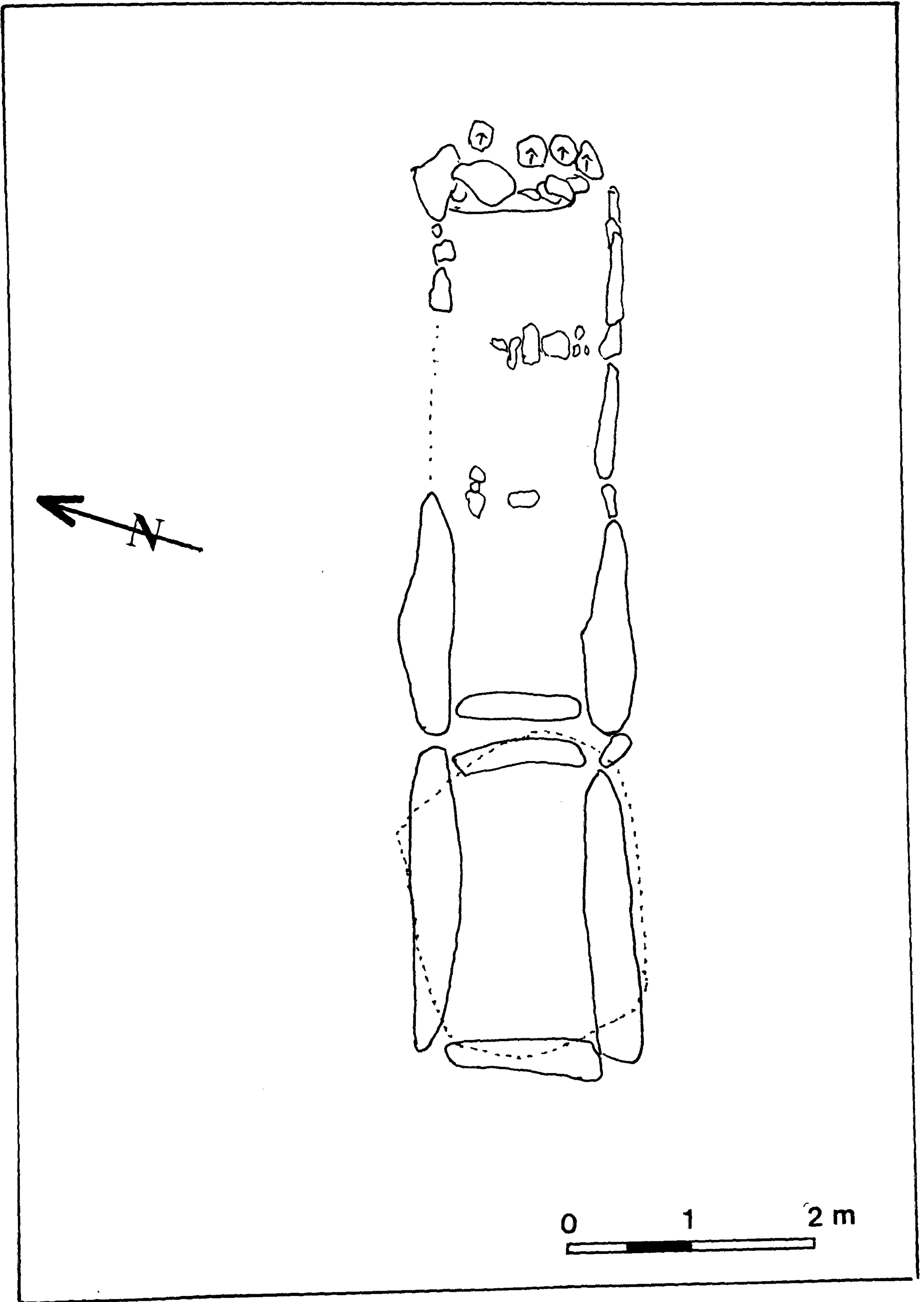
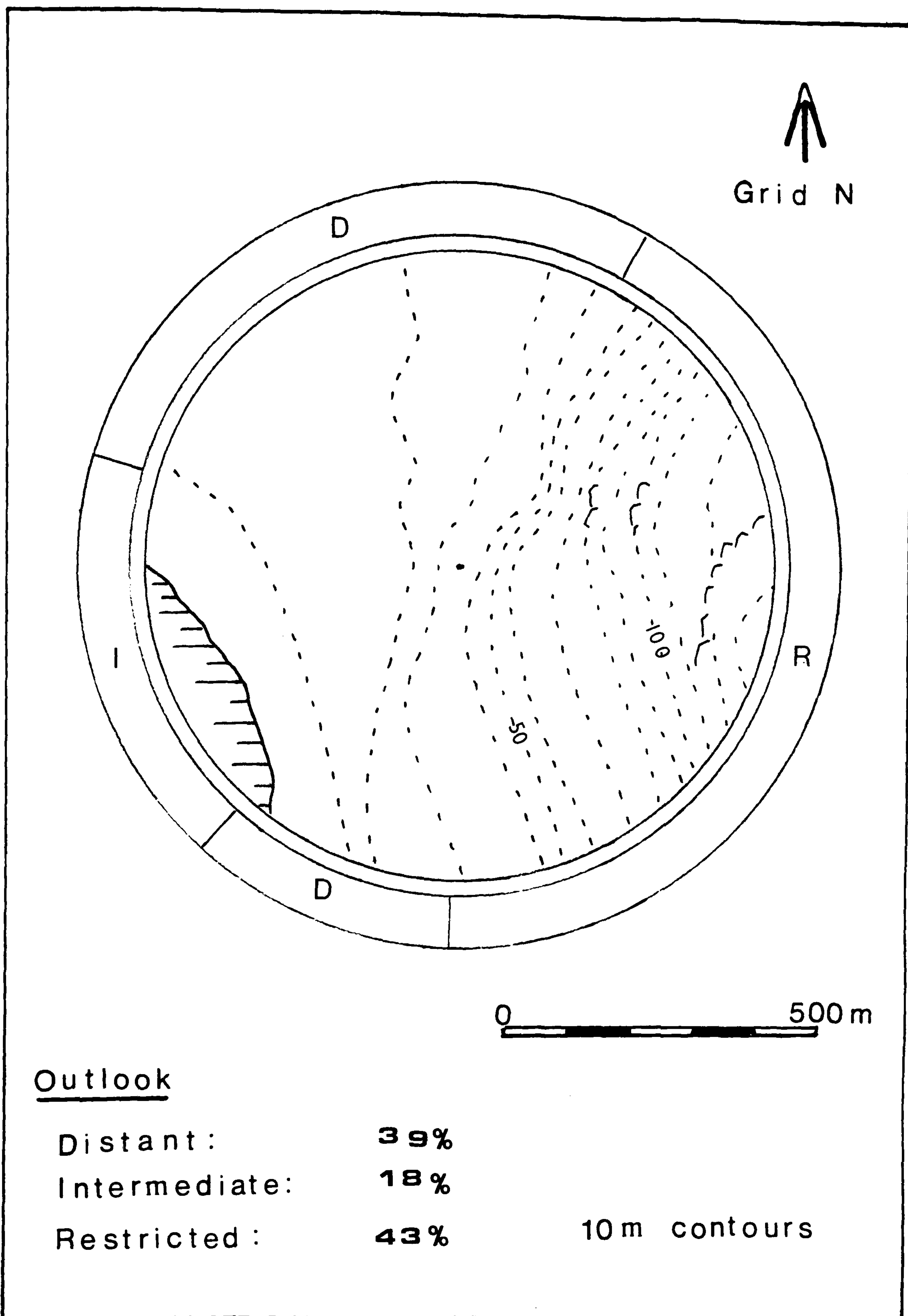


Fig I:1:2 Situation and outlook: Haylie



I:2 Cuff Hill, AYR 5
Cunninghame District
Strathclyde Region

NS 35NE 12
NS 3859 5508
150m OD

Location: Nearly 5km ENE of Beith, 180m SSW of Cuffhill Reservoir dam, below the E end of Cuff Hill.

Type: Laterally chambered long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: A gently trapezoidal long cairn with rounded ends; three lateral chambers remain exposed.

Orientation: NW - SE

Dimensions: Overall length: 42m
Max breadth: 19m
Breadth at tail: 11m
Max height: 2.4m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:2.2

Excavation: Initial discoveries were made in 1813 when the cairn was quarried for stone and the rear 24m stripped, removing some cists or chambers and leaving two chambers exposed (Robertson 1820, 293; NSA V, 578-9; Cochran-Patrick 1872, 231-3; Love 1876; Dobie 1876, Appx. III. Love and Dobie quote a letter by A. Aitken dated Feb. 26th 1836).

The N chamber was discovered and examined in 1864 while digging holes for fox-shelters (Cochran-Patrick *op cit*; Love *op cit*; Dobie *op cit*. Dobie quotes a letter by H. Parker dated April 5th 1874).

In 1874 Mr. R. Patrick examined the cairn and the unexcavated part was 'turned over' (Love *op cit*; Dobie *op cit*).

History of site and present condition: The early 19th century wall around the cairn overlies a low bank at the WNW corner of the cairn which suggests some early agricultural enclosure or perhaps drainage activity on the cairn perimeter. No internal features were known before 1813 when cartloads of stone were removed for roadmaking from what had been supposed to be a natural knoll; slippage of stone around its downhill N and NE sides had merged the cairn into the hillside. Stone was taken from the tail of the cairn, including the breaking up of slabs from cists or chambers. When this activity had advanced to reveal the SE chambers a neighbouring farmer, A. Aitken, appealed to the landowner Dr. Patrick, and the work was stopped. The site was then enclosed by the wall which survives in a denuded state riding up over cairn stone, perhaps spread, on the W side. Trees were then planted on the site, probably the

mature sycamore and larch which survive on the robbed out tail and around its flanks, and the single pine on the SW side of the cairn.

In 1864 the N chamber was discovered and emptied by three men digging shelter holes for foxes. The work appears to have caused considerable disturbance. Hugh Parker, one of these men, wrote that they opened an entrance at the NE end of the chamber, presumably making the 2m x 1m hollow now apparent at the outer end of the passage. Parker also describes 'piling up the stones as they were excavated, in order to get them safely out of the way' and giving the appearance of a cross-wall (Dobie 1876, 405-6). The chamber capstone was removed although passage lintels were left *in situ*, and 'every corner of the tomb' was searched.

In Spring 1874 the intact NW portion of the cairn was explored. The proprietor, Mr. R. Patrick, on request, employed 10 or 12 men for two days who turned over the stones and ascertained that no further chambers remained in the cairn. The effect of this work can be seen in the deep hollows and piles of stones in this portion of the cairn, although it would appear that the perimeter was left largely unscathed. There is still a great depth of cairn stone in the NW part, in contrast to the cairn tail which for c 18m consists of little more than a perimeter bank.

The cairn is largely grassed over, although quantities of loose stone remain exposed in the NW end. Tree root damage must be considerable.

Between May 1988 and Oct. 1990 the roofless S chamber has been protected by a covering of a neat capping of small overlapping stone slabs.

Description:

Kerb: Apart from a small upright slab 0.5m long at the apex of the cairn tail no probable kerb stones are visible. A 1m long conglomerate block in the base of the 19th century wall, 2m S of the above slab, does not appear to be earth fast and would lie just outside the supposed cairn edge. Well spread cairn stone around most of the perimeter could be concealing a kerb line.

Facade: There is no sign of a facade, but the rounded NW end of the cairn on the brink of a slope is widely spread and still high, masking any features.

Cairn: The cairn is built just back from the brink of a rocky scarp running along its N and NE sides. Rock outcrops just below the cairn, which is clearly well spread on this side. The W side may have been distorted by construction of a wall founded on cairn stone. It is possible that the original outline was a very regular trapezoidal shape, c 40m x 17m - 9m.

Love (1876, 279-81) described two sections of internal wall face running across the cairn between the N chamber and the two southern chambers, facing the

former. He took this feature, which is no longer visible, to be ancient, but Hugh Parker wrote to Dobie (1876, 406) that the wall had been built by the party digging for foxes as a safety precaution. Henshall (1972, 401) describes another such wall segment at right angles to the first, c 5m NW of the N chamber, but again, this may be a robbing feature. A similar segment of built walling can be seen on the WNW side of a robbed hollow c 7m WNW of the N chamber.

Chambers:

N chamber, opening to NE:

This chamber, 12.5m from the present NW end of the cairn, is distinguished from the other two in being built of thin, limestone slabs, evidently obtainable at Overton, 1 mile to the SW (Love 1875, 279). The chamber consists of a backstone set between side slabs up to 2.5m in length and 1.1m high. The backstone is now very slightly lower than the side slabs, but was described by Love as being 4' 10" (1.5m) high, and 9" - 10" (0.23 - 0.25m) higher than the sidestones. The chamber, 2.2m long, narrows from 0.7m broad at the backstone to 0.55m where a drystone passage c 2.0m in length and up to 1.0m high, supports three lintel stones, now sloping down to the NW. This passage splays out from 0.5m broad to 0.7m at the outer end. Parker mentioned a 'rough, broad whinstone flag ... set slanting across the tomb' near its lowest corner (Dobie 1876, 405). This was probably one of the covering slabs which were found overlying the chamber deposits 'broken in by the great weight of stones above' (Cochran-Patrick 1872, 232).

E chamber, opening to NE:

This chamber, 7m SE of the N chamber, is set back to back with the S chamber, their inner ends 3m apart. These two chambers, built of brown porphyrite stone, were both discovered in 1813 by means of clearing stone down the central axis of the cairn, and entry to the E chamber was made at the SW end, which still lies open, with no backstone. A capstone, c 2m x 1.5 x 0.3m in thickness, rests on two large side slabs, and slopes down towards the missing backstone. The chamber is choked with vegetation, but can be seen to be c 1.0m broad. The NW side stone, 2m in length, protrudes for 0.7m beyond the inner end of the capstone, and may, like the side stones of the N chamber, have protruded beyond the backstone. At the NE end of the chamber are two upright stones c 0.5m apart, partly covered by the capstone, but evidently once supporting a lintel (Love 1875), which, by 1962 was in danger of collapse (Henshall 1972, 402). These stones presumably indicate the presence of a passage, mostly hidden under cairn material.

S chamber, opening to SSW:

In 1990 this chamber was found to have been protected by a covering of small slabs, preventing any view of it. It was described by Henshall (1972, 402) as being wedge-shaped, 2.2m long and narrowing from 0.9m at the

backstone to 0.4m at the join with the short passage, consisting of small orthostats, blocked by two horizontal slabs at its outer end. The backstone was c 0.3m lower than the side stones, and the chamber was said by Love (1876) to have been c 1.0m deep. Love saw four small capstones *in situ* (1875), of which one remained in 1962, lying obliquely, and Henshall suggested that several flat stones lying around the chamber looked like fragments of a broken capstone.

W chamber (?):

4m NW of the backstone of the S chamber a slab c 0.85m broad, leaning to the NNE, protrudes from cairn material for c 0.75m. Its position suggests it to be the backstone of a chamber, parallel to the S chamber, the remainder of which is still concealed under cairn material and the roots of a pine tree planted on the cairn.

Other chambers: The most reliable account of the removal of the SE end of the cairn in 1813 is that of the eye witness, A. Aitken, addressed to John Dobie, senior in 1836 (Dobie 1876, 404). Stone removal began at the narrower, lower SE end of the cairn: 'After removing a few cart-loads of stones they encountered two small cells about two feet long, and proportionately wide and deep, formed of broad stones set on edge, and covered with stones of a similar description. Proceeding onward they met with other two cells like the former, but a size larger, etc., etc., always increasing in size to 6 or 7 feet long, and composed of stones which 8 or 10 men could not carry. The smaller cells were broken down and carted away with the other loose stones - a few of the uncovered large ones remain'. Aitken had secured a stop to the work of destruction in 1813 by a letter to the proprietor which he also quotes (*ibid*): 'Sir, I am this moment returned, both vexed and angry from visiting the cairn. It has turned out, as I expected, a very extensive cemetery of the sort, containing two regular rows of tombs or cells of lesser or larger size, to perhaps 40 in number'.

The latter description, although directly contemporary, may be excused for some exaggeration to achieve its effect. George Robertson, writing in 1820, described chambers in the cairn, c 6 - 7 feet (1.8m - 2.1m) long, 'arranged like catacombs, in two regular lines (lengthways in the middle of the tumulus) fronting each other with a passage between, of about 4 feet in breadth. In each, were found the bones extended of a man: the scull resting on a stone at the inner end, while at the feet were the bones or skeleton of a dog, lying across".

It may be concluded that cists were found in the SE end of the cairn, but whether there were further chambers is not known. The only present sign of structure is one 1.2m long stone just within the tail of the cairn, not certainly *in situ* and traces of an access passage made through cairn material by stone robbers, extending for c 5m NW of that stone on a line to SW of the cairn centre, which could have been interpreted by commentators as an original feature.

Excavation finds:

SE chambers/cists: Robertson's account (see above) of extended skeletons with dog bones could relate to intrusive cists. He added: 'A single bead and a small bit of copper like a piece of defaced coin were the only extraneous things found'.

Aitken was doubtful of the account of human remains. He wrote in 1836 (Dobie 1876, 405): 'It was said that human skeletons, etc., were found in the cells, but I never saw anything except fine black earthly mould'... 'a single bead, and a small bit of copper, like a defaced coin, were the only extraneous things found', - had any person among the vast crowds who visited the interesting spot found anything of consequence it could hardly have been concealed'.

In the NSA (V, 577) the minister of Beith also records the find of several stone coffins: 'In one of them were found some fragments of human bones, with a small bead of burned clay and a piece of copper like a defaced coin'.

N chamber: Hugh Parker gave a first hand account of finds in this chamber (Dobie 1876, 405-6). At the inner end of the chamber a red spot on the paving stone suggested fire, and there was a grey greasy deposit apparently bone ash. In the centre of the chamber bones, including a lower jaw and a right arm, suggested a crouched burial. These bones, however, were 'more or less perfect', and it seems clear that they did not represent a complete inhumation. To the NE, in a corner beside the slab found aslant across the chamber, were more bones, and Parker says that the number of 'shank-bones' observed suggested three or four bodies. There was also the shank bone of a small ox or large deer and two teeth of a carnivore. In the lowest corner, again beside the slanting slab, were 'three or four shovels full of black greasy deposit, which spread like butter, and washed off the hands like soap'.

Parker kept the bones for some time before lending them to a friend, and then sending them to Mr. Cochran-Patrick who published an account of the finds in PSAS (1872), including an anatomical description by Dr. Speirs of Beith. Cochran-Patrick comments that many of the bones had crumbled into dust on discovery, and the description above suggests, for example, rather more long bones than in the published note by Speirs, said to cover the principal fragments.

Speirs noted a jawbone, with 11 worn teeth, suggesting a minimum age of 50. A right *humerus*, *ulna* and *radius*, found together are evidently also from the central deposit, as described by Parker; both accounts mention a healed fracture of the upper arm. Speirs also lists the right half of a pelvis, probably male, two *femurs*, two right *tibiae*, two *fibulae*, one articulated with a *tibia*. and one *os calcis*, or foot bone. Speirs added 'that one, at least, of the bodies had been laid on its right side, with the face to the south, and back to the north, and in a doubled up

position, as the jaw bone was within 18 inches of the west end of the cist, and all that remained of the feet a little more to the east'. The bones, all human, are now lost (Henshall 1972, 401).

Robert Love (1876) had apparently also spoken to workmen involved in the find, who told him that when first discovered the bones were lying 'a' thegither' in the inner chamber a little way from the backstone. He also adds that Dr. Speir noted one dog bone to be present, although the workmen could not say in what part of the chamber it was found.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 17.5km from the Firth of Clyde

Distance from water: A stream passes 4m from the head of the cairn, and water gathers in the hollow along the SW side of the plantation wall. 40m to the SSE a spring rises.

General topography: To the S is the rolling countryside of Ayrshire dairy farming, but to the N rise the craggy volcanic hills of the Ayrshire - Renfrewshire borders, of which Cuff Hill is an outlier.

Situation: The cairn lies along a terrace, sited above a rocky scarp falling to the N and with hill slopes rising 10m to the SW. A stream gully immediately to the NW cuts off one end of the terrace, and beyond this Cuff Hill rises in steep cliffs to its 207m summit.

Aspect: SE

Slope: Precipitous or very steep. The cairn itself is on a level terrace.

Local relief, within 500m: 124m - 210m OD

Outlook:

Distant:	8% to SE
Intermediate:	38% to E
Restricted:	54% to W and S

Prominence: Low, set at the foot of the hill

Local landmarks: Cuff Hill itself is a prominent landmark. On its N side, 450m NW of the cairn, is a large glacial erratic known as a Rocking Stone.

Solid geology: Intrusive rhyolite outcrop in Basalt hills

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest soil of the Darleith Association on the lower slopes; peaty podzols on the hill top.

Land use: Mature amenity plantations amid farmland, mostly livestock farming in the immediate vicinity.

Vegetation: Sycamore, larch, rowan and pine on the cairn and along the hill scarp, with bracken and birches on the higher slopes. Improved pasture to E and S.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Dod Hill, chambered cairn, 11km to E.

Haylie, chambered cairn, 18km to WNW. (And see Prehistoric Landscape below).

Monument context: The classic trapezoid shape of the cairn is familiar throughout the study area and beyond. Lateral chambers are unusual in the Firth of Clyde, but occur in the south west (Mid Gleniron I and II; High Gillespie; Caves of Kilhern), in inland Ayrshire (Dod Hill; Loanfoot), at Burngrange, Lanarkshire, and in Perthshire.

The finds from the N chamber suggest deposition of part-articulated remains. As at Haylie (I:1) there is an emphasis on long bones placed together at the chamber entrance, and, in contrast to Haylie, skulls are here missing. Both chambers had seen the use of fire. Bones were also found at Loanfoot (I:3).

The situation of the cairn, like those of the other N Ayrshire cairns, is dramatic. It is also unobtrusively set against higher cliffs, a pattern seen, in other form, at the other sites. Nonetheless, careful siting on a rocky scarp adds to the apparent size and impressiveness of the cairn from its immediate vicinity, especially, as at Dod Hill and Loanfoot, in the position of the head of the cairn at a gully/scarp. Views from Cuff Hill are longest in the direction of the tail, to the SE, and approach from this direction allows for the most distant view of the cairn, visible from a distance of 250m. This approach is also from the direction of the best agricultural land, downstream from the site, and might be expected to have been a settlement area.

Artefact context:

Axes: No axes are recorded from within 5km of the chambered cairn.

Lithics: A large mound or cairn was removed from the summit of Cuff Law, 600m W of the long cairn, in the 1830s (see Prehistoric Landscape, below). Below the mound were found numbers of scattered flint chips. No tools were recognised, and the number of 'shivers' suggested to the workmen that it had been a place of manufacture (Love 1876, 290).

Several flints were also said to have been found with calcined human bones between the Four Stones four-posted, c 75m SW of the Cuff Law mound (Smith 1895, 80), although these are not mentioned in earlier accounts (NSA V, 577; Love 1876, 291) (see Prehistoric Landscape, below).

A flint flake was found in the vicinity of the Four Stones in 1969 (DES 1969, 19).

A 'red whin arrowhead' of unrecorded type was found at NS 388 554 on the E side of Cuff Hill Reservoir, c 400m NE of the long cairn in 1977 (DES 1977, 44).

Prehistoric landscape:

A boulder 1.1m in height and breadth stands upright 150m N of the long cairn within view of it at NS 3862 5523 (NS 35NE 26).

The Four Stones at NS 3790 5503 on the S facing slopes of Cuff Hill, 700m W of the long cairn and out of sight of it, has been a small Four Poster. The stones are all bulky boulders, the NE and NW stones 1.3m and 1.0m in height respectively. In 1956 the SW and SE stones had apparently fallen, but were still in position, making a N - S x E - W square, its sides 3.5m long. These stones measured 0.8m and 1.5m respectively along their longest sides. By 1983 the farmer had moved the two loose stones to lie against the earthfast pair (NS 35 NE 15). According to the NSA (V, 577) in the space between the stones were found calcined bones and earth, having the appearance of having been formed from the decay of animal substance. Love (1876, 291), sets this investigation 'some sixty years ago', that is c 1816, and also recounts 'a considerable quantity of dark mould, or earth, which contained "burnt bones"', and adds that 'Nothing else was discovered'. John Smith was however informed locally that 'a lot of calcined human bones and several flints were got' between the stones (1895, 80).

On the summit of Cuff Law, 80 yards NW of the Four Stones, was a mound described by Love (1876, 290) as being 'an artificial law, hill, circular mound or vallum having much the same appearance as the Irish raths'. He gives its measurements as c 30 yards in diameter at base and 3 or 4 feet in height (27.4m x 0.9m - 1.2m) with a slightly hollowed surface, recalled locally as having formerly been ^{the} height of a man. When removed in the 1830s it was found to consist of earth and stones, and the only finds were numbers of small flint chips (see Lithics, above). The site as indicated by Love is on the brink of the hill with good views to the S. It is crossed by farm tracks, and there are heaps of recent clearance stone and cattle feeding troughs on the site, with no indication of the original mound (Oct. 1990).

A cinerary urn found on Threepwood when ploughing in c 1804 disintegrated on exposure. It contained burnt bones and a pygmy vessel (NMS EE 18). The site, at NS 3884 5564 is 600m NE of the long cairn. A second pygmy vessel is said to have been found nearby (NSA V, 578).

Court Hill, Beith, NS 3611 5393, an irregular round earthen mound, 2.5km SW of Cuff Hill, appears to be a doubtful candidate for the role of motte and may be a prehistoric barrow. It measures c 15m in diameter by 2.0m in height, its flattish top 10m x 8m. It is in a low situation in a side valley of the Powgree Burn (NS 35SE 1).

Legend: The Rocking Stone on Cuff Hill was ascribed to the Druids (Robertson 1820, 293; NSA V, 577) and the Four Stones were thought to be a place of sacrifice (NSA V, 577). Finds of human burial in the Threepwood cinerary urn and in the long cairn were supposed to suggest the site of a battle (ibid).

Love (1876, 273) discusses the origin of the name Cuff as being the Celtic coibhi, a Druid or Arch Druid. He notes the use of the name Coifi for the heathen high priest serving the 7th century King Edwin of Northumbria. He suggests that Cuff Hill may have been the Moor of Beith, identified by W.F. Skene as the Wood of Beit, site of a late 6th century battle according to Taliessin.

By the 1890s Smith notes that the exposed chambers were known locally as Druids' caves (1895, 79).

Archaeological interpretations: Despite detailed early accounts of the long cairn, including the publication of an excellent plan by Love (1876), no archaeological context was suggested for the monument until Smith (1895, 79) classified it as a long barrow 'as such probably unique in Ayrshire'. In 1922 Smith identified the Loanfoot long cairn on the basis of comparison with Cuff Hill (letters in NMR\$; SAS 342).

Childe (1935, 31) compared the passages at Cuff Hill to those at the Water of Deugh, a circular cairn of the Bargrennan Group (Murray 1992), and thus grouped it with his Solway sub-group (Childe 1946, 5, fig.1), rather than the Clyde Group. Piggott and Powell (1949, 143) suggested comparisons with the Cotswold-Severn Group. J.G. Scott (1969(a), 211, 318) also regarded the lateral chambers with passages as unconformable to Clyde Cairn type, and suggested that its closest analogues lay in the Cotswold-Severn group. He envisaged the possibility of an immigration of people from south west England, landing at the mouth of the Irvine and moving inland to Cuff Hill and Loanfoot.

Henshall (1972, 2-14, 400-402) classified the cairn with her Bargrennan Group on the grounds of its wedge-shaped chambers and narrow passages. The 42 miles between this cairn and the remainder of the Group might be reduced by classifying Loanfoot as a Bargrennan Cairn. The closest comparison to Cuff Hill was the Caves of Kilhern, and it was presumed that in both instances the chambers had originally been enclosed in individual cairns (p201), support for this view being found in the supposed internal walls of the Cuff Hill cairn (p.251). While some Bargrennan chambers were thought to have been extended by the addition of passages to original simple rectangular chambers, the overlap of capstone and passage lintel at Cuff Hill E chamber showed the two elements to be contemporary here, and the structure to be a hybrid between rectangular Clyde-type chamber and passage grave (p.250). Comparisons could be found in Derbyshire, as at Ringham Low (p.253) and in the Cotswold-Severn group, particularly at Lanhill, with a slightly wedge shaped chamber which, like the E chamber at Cuff Hill, was built in one with the passage (p.254).

Fig I:2:1 Cuff Hill: Plan 1990

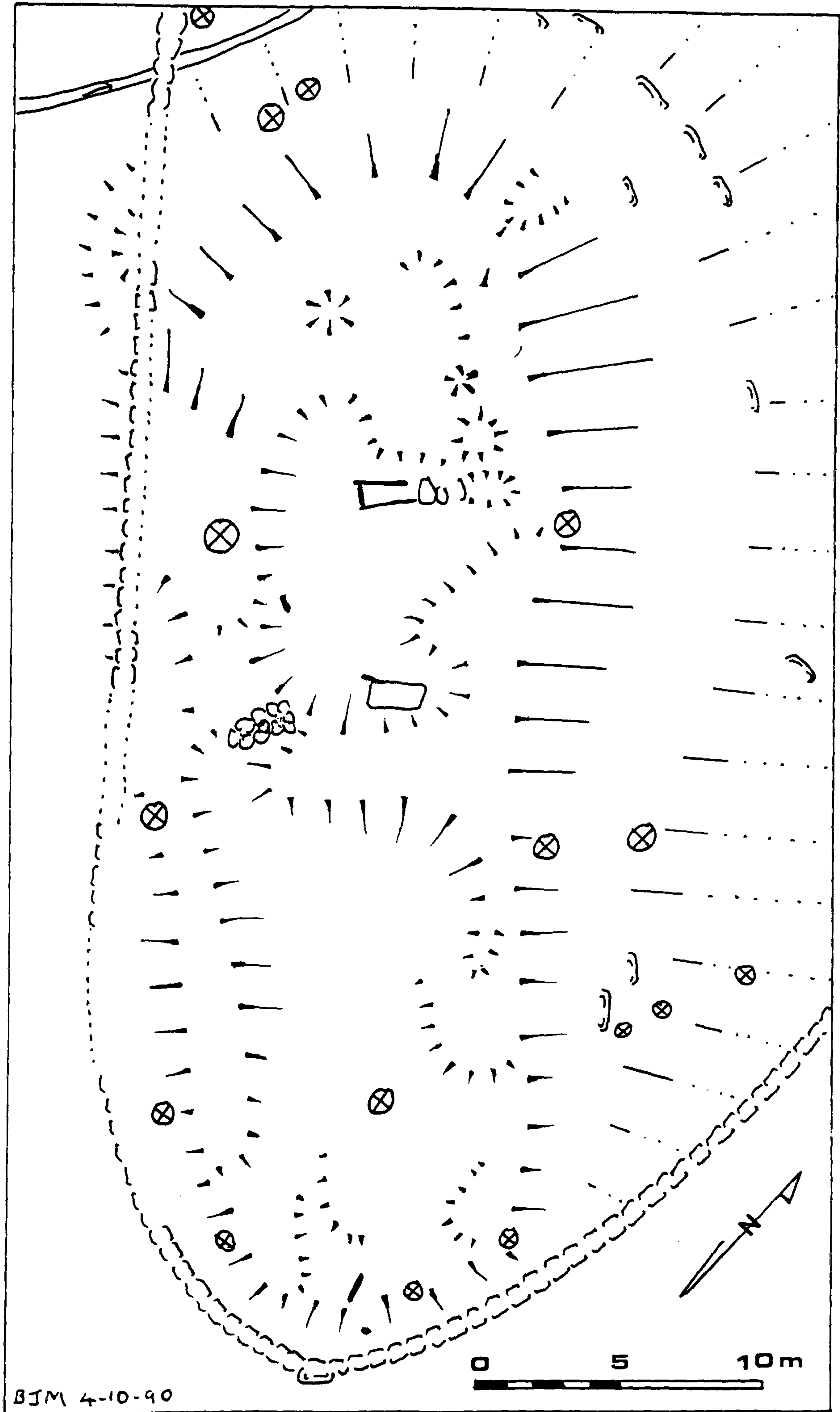
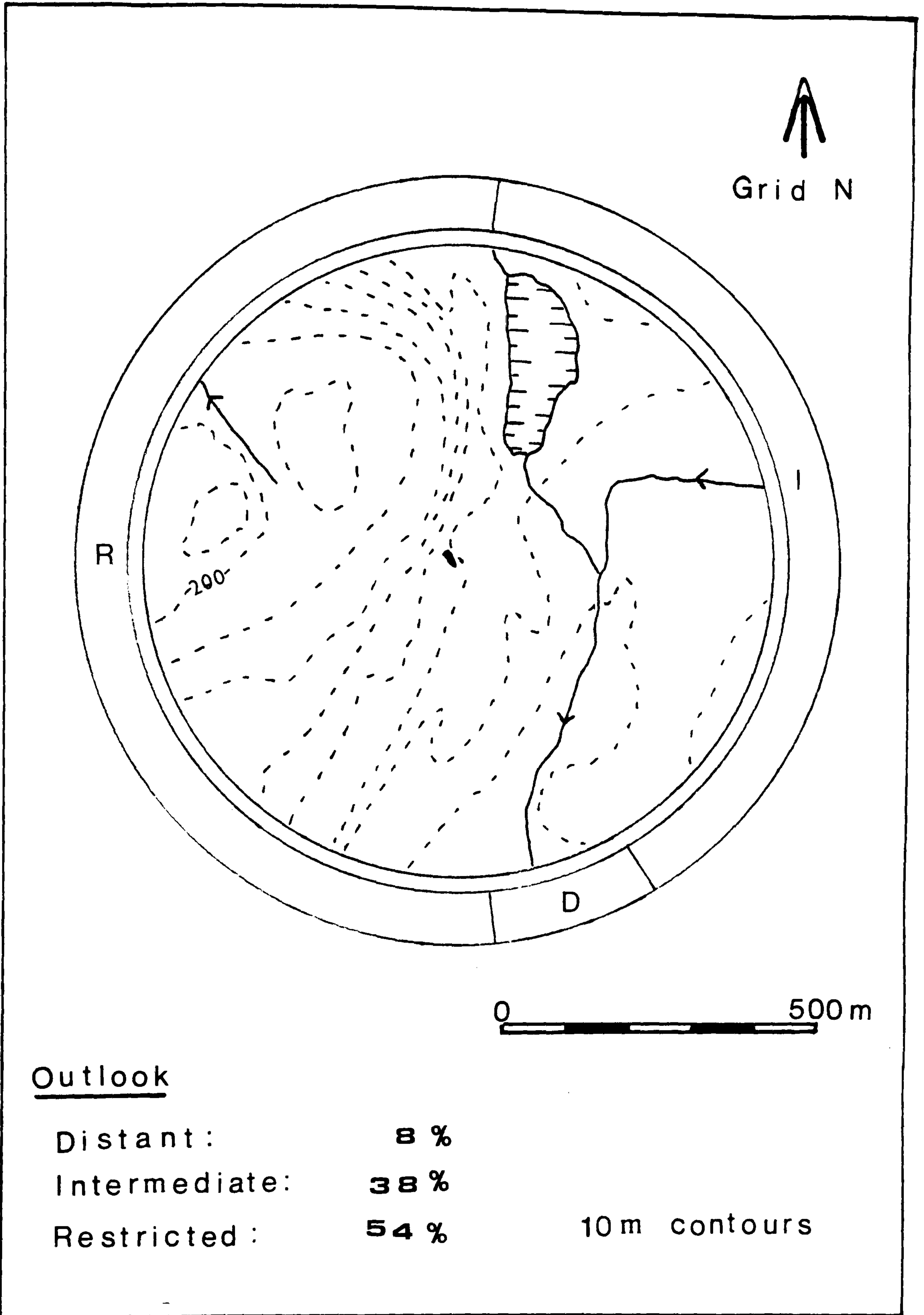


Fig I:2:2 Situation and outlook: Cuff Hill



I:3 Loanfoot, AYR 6
Kilmarnock and Loudon District
Strathclyde Region

NS 53NE 2
NS 5924 3595
215m OD

Location: 3km ESE of Darvel, on the S side of the Irvine valley, 300m E of Loanfoot farmhouse, above the Tulloch Burn.

Type: Trapezoidal chambered long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Probably trapezoidal, but its N side removed by ploughing, with an apparent change of alignment near the tail; at least one lateral chamber.

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Dimensions:

Max length:	105m
Max breadth:	23.5m
Breadth at tail:	10m
Max height:	2m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:4.5

History of site and present condition: The NE corner of the cairn abuts the brink of a precipitous bank and may have been eroded over time. Otherwise the cairn was probably essentially entire in the 1850s when the first Ordnance Survey (1855-7), evidently assuming it to be natural, described the mound as 'a small eminence' (ONB Bk 28, 95). On the 6-inch map it was shown as an elongated, hachured knoll entitled 'The Law'. A Mr. John Smith of Darvel wrote to Graham Callender in July and August 1922 recounting that 'the father of the present laird had many hundreds of tons removed about half a century ago for the purpose of building drystone dykes', and adding that 'an attempt was made at one time to clear off the south end and plough it' (Letters in NMRS:SAS 342). These episodes have left large parts of the cairn robbed out and cart tracks penetrate into its interior on both N and S sides. A sharply cut drain-line across the width of the cairn c 28m from the tail may indicate the portion to be ploughed away, although only a small part has actually been removed, leaving a 20m long cairn on a changed alignment 8m distant from the main body. The field N of the cairn, not fenced off on the 1st. ed. 6-inch OS map, may have been first ploughed and enclosed at the time of the intended destruction, but it is not possible to estimate how large a segment of the cairn has been removed within the field. Despite this history, there is still a mass of stone on the site, some in loose heaps, but much grassed over and apparently undisturbed.

Excavation: In July 1922 Mr. John Smith of Darvel organised an excavation of what he took to be a tunnel into the interior of a 'Pictish fort'. When it was realised that this feature was a burial chamber, advice was sought from another John Smith, author of 'Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire' (1895), who recognised the mound as a long cairn, similar in type to that on Cuff Hill, Beith. John Callander of the NMAS was also kept informed, and a visit was expected from him in August. There is no record of this event, but a contemporary letter seen by Henshall (1972, 404) says that the excavators opened 'four graves', suggesting that further excavation, either of this chamber or others, took place, presumably before October 1922, when Smith wrote again to Callander to inform him that a local Antiquarian Society had been formed which was carrying out a survey, and which had started to examine the round cairn, immediately adjacent to the head of the long cairn (Letters: NMR5:SAS 342). This round cairn was also excavated by Mr. McLeod of Darvel in 1948 (OS records), and has been left with a deep central hollow.

Description:

Kerb: No kerb stones are identifiable. On the N side of the cairn the plough scarp cuts through cairn material. On the S side the apparent edge coincides with the top of a natural scarp, and definition is uncertain; slipped stone and vegetation probably conceal the original kerbline.

Facade: The E end of the cairn, 1.5m - 2.0m in height, follows a straight line, giving no indication of the presence of a facade, even at the eroded NE corner.

Cairn: The cairn is composed of weathered boulders, mostly smallish, some quite large. Its original outline, as discussed above (Kerb), is uncertain, so that while it now appears to be trapezoidal, with a disjointed tail, it may originally have been parallel sided along most of its length. There must, however, probably always have been a kink in the S side, 80m from the proximal end following the line of the natural scarp. From the S the cairn still presents a classic neolithic profile, tapering in height from E to W.

Chambers:

NW lateral chamber: c 32m from the E end of the cairn, within the peripheral rim of cairn material, is a hollow, measuring c 4.5m N-S by c 3m in breadth. At its S end, 7m from the N edge of the cairn, a slab, deeply embedded in cairn material, leans to the S. An account of the 1922 excavation (NMR5MS), makes clear that this slab originally stood upright as the backstone of a chamber, measuring c 1.2m x 0.76m, but was 'laid back' in order to obtain access to this space. The chamber, paved with a flagstone, consisted of a slab at each side. The W sidestone and a roofing slab had fallen in, but were sufficiently supported by the opposing sidestone to protect skeletal remains on the floor. An excavation photograph now in the NMR5, shows the N end of this chamber to be blocked with cairn debris, but this area may have been examined in later unrecorded excavation (see above, Excavation). A letter speaking of the opening of 'four graves' in the cairn

(Henshall, 1972, 404) could relate to further segments of the chamber, or a passage, as at Cuff Hill.

E chamber: c 12m from the E end of the cairn a slab measuring 0.75m NW-SE and 0.35m in visible height leans forward into a hollow to the SW; a smaller slab on the same alignment overlaps its inner side on the NW. 0.8m to the SW, on the opposite side of the hollow is a third small upright slab. The neatly cut hollow is suggestive of an excavation trench, and it is possible that the 1922 excavation explored this area, which, like the chamber to the W, was originally designated as a 'tunnel' on a plan drawn up by Mr. Smith of Darvel. The visible remains could belong to either a cist or a chamber.

Excavation finds: In a letter of 8th Aug. 1922 Mr. Smith mentions that 'parts of a human skull in a fairly good state of preservation' were found in the NW chamber, and, he added that, he had 'carefully preserved all the bones found'. On 14th Aug. 1922 Smith sent Callander a photograph of the remains, which are now in the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, together with a description by Professor T.M Bryce (MS in Dick Institute). Bryce lists fragments of a dolichocephalus skull, a portion of a lower jaw, parts of a left hip bone, and the shaft of a right tibia. The teeth, showing a good deal of wear, were said to be those of an adult not beyond middle age. The small delicate cranium seemed likely to be female, despite an atypical arch to the frontal bone; the pelvic and tibial fragments also resembled those of a woman. The skull had decayed in such a way as to suggest that it lay on its right side.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 27km from the Firth of Clyde to the W, at Shewalton Sands.

Distance from water: 50m to the S a small stream runs NE to join the Tulloch Burn, which passes at the foot of a precipice below the NE corner of the cairn.

General topography: The upper Irvine valley is heavily moulded by fluvio-glacial activity and consists of rounded, drumlinoid hills and eskers divided by steep sided glens. To the S rise the moorland ridges of the central Ayrshire hills.

Situation: The cairn lies along the upper edge of a small valley from which a stream falls to the deep cleft of the Tulloch Burn, lying at the foot of a precipitously steep bank below the head of the cairn.

Aspect: S

Slope: Precipitous to the Tulloch Burn; very steep to S; nearly level across the field to the N.

Local relief, within 500m: 160m - 240m OD

Outlook: Distant: 13% to NW and NE
Intermediate: 56%
Restricted: 31% to E and W

Prominence: Very low. The cairn is below the level of the field to the N and can only be viewed from rising hill country to the S.

Local landmarks: Loudon Hill (316m OD), a prominent volcanic plug 2.5km to the NE, can just be seen over trees planted across the Tulloch Glen; the tail of the cairn is aligned onto the hill. The waterfall beside the cairn is also a notable feature.

Solid geology: Sedimentary Lower Devonian rocks overlain by fluvio-glacial sands and gravels.

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soil of the Ardoch Association over fluvio-glacial lake sands and gravels. Hill peats and peaty gleys begin 300m to the S, while in the Irvine Valley are poorly drained non-calcareous gleys of the Ardoch series.

Land use: Pasture around the cairn; arable, usually silage, in the field to the N.

Vegetation: Short grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours

High Hendryton, probable long cairn 3km to NNW
Dod Hill, chambered long cairn, 20km to NW

Monument context: Loanfoot is the longest surviving long cairn in Scotland, apart from the 322m long cairn at Auchenlaich, Perthshire (DES 1991, 9). Bellshiel Law, Northumberland measures 109m in length, but with a maximum breadth of only 12m falls into a category of elongated narrow cairns (Masters 1984, 55-7), such as the 104m x 12.8m cairn recorded at Caverton Hillhead (IV:3). The bulk of Loanfoot compares better to Trainford Brow, Cumbria, 101m x 23-13m x 3.8m in height (Masters 1984, 56, 63-4). None of the chambered cairns of the Firth of Clyde or the Solway areas approach these dimensions.

The chambers at Loanfoot are not presently classifiable, but were clearly lateral, as at Dod Hill and Cuff Hill to the NW and at the Lang Cairn, Dumbartonshire DNB 3, Burngrange III:1, and the Perthshire cairns, including Auchenlaich. It is, however, unusual for the very large or elongated cairns, discussed above, to display any evidence for chambers.

The situation of Loanfoot is isolated and secluded, and spectacular in its association with a precipitous glen and waterfall. The choice of site would, as at Dod Hill and

Cuff Hill, appear to have deliberately sought out these qualities. The absence of other funerary sites, apart from the adjacent round cairn, in the vicinity, is perhaps a reflection of this 'apartness', and is in contrast to the situation around the more prominently sited cairn at High Hendryton (I:4). The placing of the head of the cairn at the lip of a sudden drop is a feature seen also at Dod Hill, Cuff Hill, Greens Moor and other sites in the SW, such as High Gillespie WIG 7.

The round cairn beside the long may be an equivalent feature to the round cairn which overlies the probable long cairn at High Hendryton, on the N side of the Irvine valley (but see below, Prehistoric landscape).

Artefact context:

Axes: A polished stone axe found in a garden at Hutcheson Drive, Darvel, 3km NW of Loanfoot is in the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock (Ayr Arch. Nat. Hist. Coll. 6 1958-60, 247).

Lithics: Agate implements, worked from pebbles in the glacial drift, have been collected by H. McFadzean at Priestland, 2km NW of Loanfoot (McFadzean 1985, 33).

A fine set of barbed and tanged arrowheads and a pressure flaked flint borer come from the estate of Lanfine, 4km W of Loanfoot (PSAS 1892-3, 360-1, figs. 7-10). One of the arrowheads was found in peat 3km SW of Loanfoot at NS 5684 3440 (OS 1st ed. 6-inch map, 1857).

An AOC beaker sherd comes from the Roman fort at the foot of Loudon Hill, 1.5km NE of Loanfoot (Ritchie 1970, 142; PSAS 1953, 202, Donations).

Prehistoric landscape: A well mounded sub-circular cairn, 15m x 13m x nearly 1m in height immediately N of the head of the long cairn, has a deep central robbing hollow. The cairn may have been excavated in 1922 (see excavation above). Excavation in 1948 by a Mr. McLeod of Darvel found no features and concluded that it was a clearance cairn. Its well defined outline suggests it most probably to be a prehistoric cairn. While a round cairn might generally be supposed to post-date the long, an alternative sequence is also possible; the tail end of the long cairn is aligned onto the round one and Loudon Hill.

An upright stone, 1.2m in height by 0.7m x 0.5m, has been incorporated into the line of an old wall, 60m S of the tail of the long cairn. The stone is beside the small stream and at the edge of the hollow in which the cairn is situated.

No archaeological survey has been carried out around Darvel, but there is no sign of monuments around the cairn. The hilltops overlooking the cairn from the S do not have summit cairns, in contrast to those on the N side of the valley. These cairns (see High Hendryton I:4) are in sight of Loanfoot; one on the summit of Underlaw Hill (NS 53NE 19) is particularly prominent.

The slopes to the S of the long cairn carry traces of pre-improvement agriculture. A 5m round cairn on a small knoll at c NS 590 353, 600m S of the long cairn, may relate to these remains. There is also a banked enclosure, c 30m x 13m, at NS 591 354.

A reported cupmarked stone, the 'Dagon Stone', erected in Darvel 3km NW of Loanfoot (L. McL. Mann: Notes, Antiq. J. 3 1923, 6-7) probably carries weathering marks only (NS 53NE 12).

Archaeological interpretations: The site was first recognised as prehistoric in 1922 by Mr. Smith of Darvel. His plan, now in the NMR\$, interprets it as a Pictish fort consisting of several circular units (actually robbing hollows). When one of the 'tunnel entrances' had been found on excavation to be a burial chamber, John Smith, author of 'Prehistoric Man in Ayrshire' (1895), recognised the site as a long cairn, similar to Cuff Hill. No account of the excavations or description of the cairn was published. Piggott and Powell (1949, 143) suggested that the lateral chambers here and at Cuff Hill represented a sequence of development similar to that in the Severn-Cotswold group. J. G. Scott (1969, 318) also suggested a Severn-Cotswold classification and excluded the two cairns from his list of Clyde Cairns. The first site plan is that of Henshall (1972, 405) who listed it as a long cairn with unclassified chambers, and also suggested (p.7) that its geographical position might favour classification as a Bargrennan Cairn.

Fig I:3:1 Loanfoot: Plan 1988

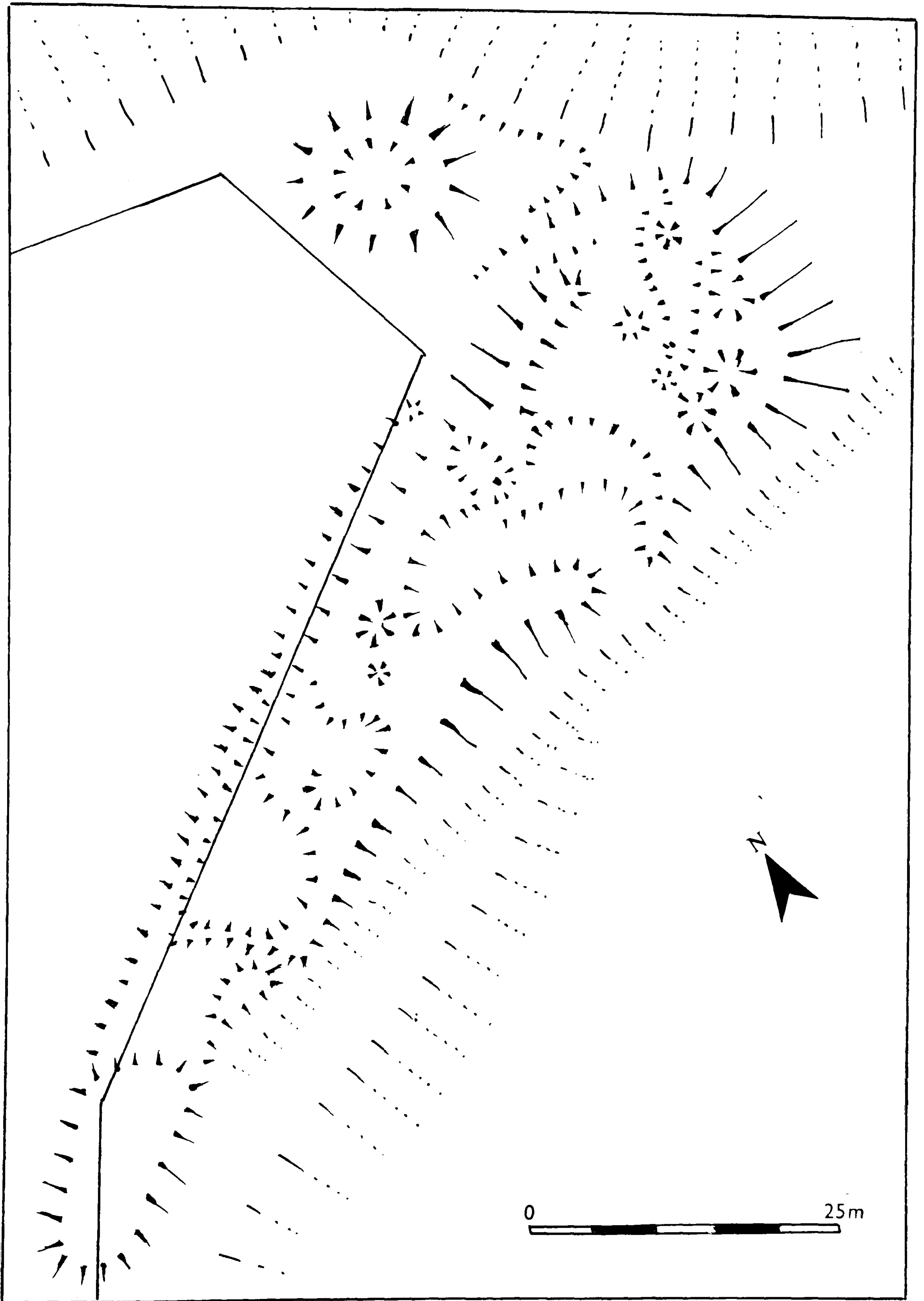
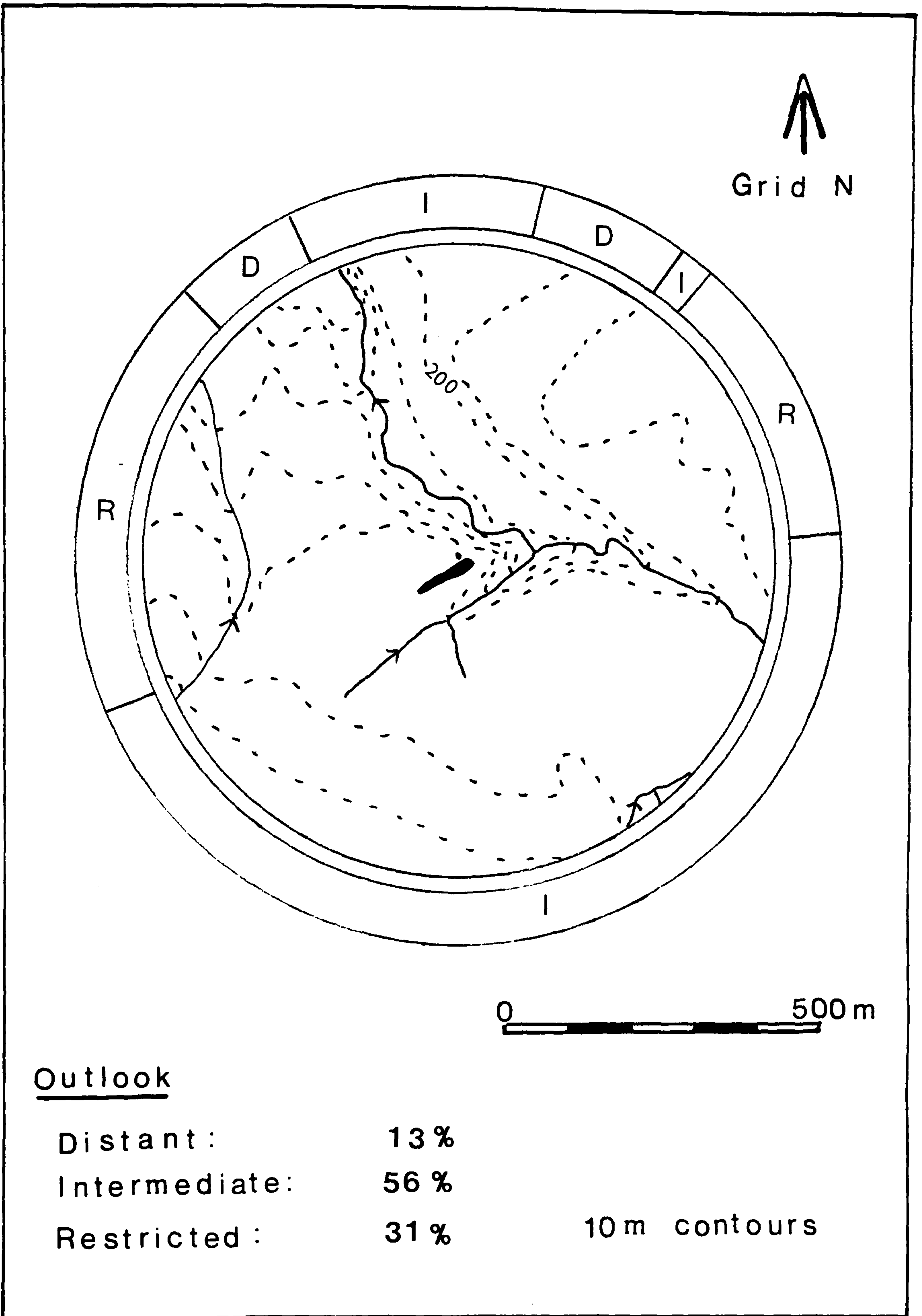


Fig I:3:2 Situation and outlook: Loanfoot



I:4 High Hendryton, Ayrshire
East Kilbride District
Strathclyde Region

NS 53NE 16
NS 5824 3890
230m OD

Location: 2km NE of Darvel, 500m NNE of Henryton farmhouse, alongside a wire fence on the W end of Underlaw Hill

Type: Probably an elongated long cairn overlain by a round cairn

Status: Category B. Severe robbing makes the original outline uncertain

Outline: A long, narrow, stony mound, overlain near its W end by a round cairn and truncated to an unknown extent along its entire length by an adjacent fence

Orientation: WSW-ENE

Dimensions:

<u>Long cairn:</u>	Overall length:	87m
	Max breadth:	9m
	Max height:	0.7m
<u>Round cairn:</u>	Diameter:	c24m
	Max height:	0.9m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:9:7

History of site and present condition: The Statistical Account in 1792 (Vol.III, 104-5) told of two cairns 'lately dug up' in a field adjoining 'Anchors Field' (see Excavation Evidence, below); the long cairn is in a field immediately N of Anchor's Field (NS 53NE 13), and could be the site indicated. On the 1st ed 6-inch OS map a track runs up to the long cairn from the farm of High Hendryton, 160m to the S, now demolished. The map depicts a stony spread along the S side of the field boundary in the position of the cairn, but without legend. The portion to the N of the fence had presumably already been ploughed away. The surviving cairn stone was perhaps retained for use as livestock shelter. Several circular pens are built out of the stones and there is a section of vertical wall face built in the cairn to the E of the round cairn. The site is badly robbed and grassed over. A farm track passes between the round cairn and the long cairn to the E, destroying evidence for a relationship. Another track at right angles to the first crosses over the round cairn. A wire fence runs along the N edge of the surviving cairn, and the only trace of the structure in the field to the N is a platform levelled into the hill corresponding to the missing segment of the round cairn.

Description:

Kerb: An earthfast boulder protrudes in the cart track rut at the W end of the cairn, and one or two similar boulders along the S side of the cairn could also be kerb stones.

Long cairn: The cairn is on a sloping hillside, its E end uphill. This end is only 5m in surviving breadth, truncated by the fence. At the W end a portion of long cairn appears to protrude for c 5m beyond the round cairn, 11m in breadth, apparently its full original width. Either the entire cairn has been very narrow, or the protruding W end is the tail of a much truncated but perhaps originally trapezoidal long cairn. Alternative reconstructions are shown in Fig I:4:2.

The cairn appears to consist of small stones with a few larger stones, perhaps field clearance, lying around its E end.

Round cairn: Despite severe robbing, parts of this cairn, especially on the SE, are steep sided. Presumably originally circular, a 7m segment has been removed to the N of the wire fence leaving only a levelled platform in this area.

Excavation evidence: The report in the Statistical Account, mentioned above as possibly referring to this cairn, says that burnt human bones were dug up in two cairns, 'and an urn with human bones that had been burnt was also found. A stone coffin was likewise found, 4ft 10ins (1.5m) long and about 1ft 7ins (0.5m) broad. It was full of human bones; the top was freestone, and the sides whinstone. The urn was about 6in diameter at the mouth and had no inscription'.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 25km from the Firth of Clyde

Distance from water: 150m from the Hendryton Burn to W

General topography: The site lies among rounded hills and knolls with craggy volcanic extrusions which form the upper reaches of the Irvine valley. To the N is higher country of rather bleak moorland.

Situation: The cairn runs along the crest of a hill ridge which slopes down to the W

Aspect: SW

Slope: Fairly steep down hill to the W - 10%; gentle up hill to the E and N

Local relief, within 500m: 160-250m OD

Outlook: Distant: 56% to S and NW
Intermediate: 22% to NE and W
Restricted: 22% to E

Prominence: Fairly high as a skyline feature on the ridge from S and W

Local landmarks: The prominent volcanic plug of Loudon Hill, 2.6km to the E, and the rocky summit of Underlaw Hill with its round cairn (Underlaw 2), 800m to the E, are both out of sight of the long cairn. Views to the higher hills S of the Irvine valley include Distinkhorn (386m OD), 6km to the S.

Solid geology: Basalt with rhyolite extrusion

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soils of the Darleith Association

Land use: Agricultural, principally livestock farming

Vegetation: Improved grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Loanfoot, chambered cairn, 3km to SSE

Dod Hill, chambered cairn, 17km to NW

Monument context: The original appearance of this very long cairn cannot now be assessed. The only sites in the study area which exceed it in length are Loanfoot and Caverton Hillhead, one a trapezoidal cairn, the other narrow and elongated. High Hendryton could have followed either pattern, or, like the Mutiny Stones, have incorporated both trapezoidal and parallel sided sections.

If the Statistical Account record, noted above (Excavation) refers to this cairn, the 'coffin' that was found could have been a Bronze Age cist in the overlying round cairn. Another round cairn lies 220m to the NE, on which is a possible disturbed cist slab (see Prehistoric landscape, below). On the other hand, the burnt bones in the cist and the suggestion that other burnt bones were found in the cairn must recall finds from Haylie (I:1) and Cuff Hill (I:2). Human remains have also been recovered at Loanfoot.

The proximity of the 105m long chambered cairn at Loanfoot provides a remarkable pairing, suggesting, perhaps, territorial division between the N and S sides of the Irvine valley and a degree of reactive emulation in producing such exceptional sized sites. The size might be related also to extent of territory and social co-ordination, perhaps appropriate in view of the distance to the next nearest neighbour on Dod Hill. The reduced state of both High Hendryton and Dod Hill must warn against expectation of high survival levels. There is a record from Loudon Park, 7-8km to the W, of a large cairn of stones destroyed in the early 19th century in which were found five stone coffins containing 'what appeared to be the

dust of the bodies which they once enclosed, and a few cutting instruments made of stone' (NSA V, 846). Another 7-8km to the W, near Kilmarnock, John Linge (1987) has noted some flat topped mounds of unknown date and function (Greenhill 1 and 2; Knockentiber; Knockinlaw). The neolithic landscape may have been much busier than survival suggests.

It is relatively common to find a round cairn superimposed on a long, as at Easton (III:3) and, perhaps, Cairn Avel (VI:1). That at High Hendryton is unusual in being on the lowest part of the long cairn. The positioning was perhaps to achieve prominence from downslope to the W, near the Hendryton Burn.

Artefact context:

Axes: An axe from Hutcheson Drive, Darvel (NS 565 375) 1.7km SW of the cairn, is in the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock (DL 270).

A large Cumbrian Club AYR 5, analysed as being only doubtfully of Group VI stone, comes from Mount Pleasant, Newmilns (NS 536 370), 5km W of the cairn (GAGM 1943, 25; Fell 1964, 53).

Agate implements have been collected from an esker at Priestland, 1.5km S of the cairn (McFadzean 1985, 33).

A single sherd of AOC beaker comes from the Roman fort at the foot of Loudon Hill at NS 605 371, 3km SE of the long cairn (Ritchie 1970, 140, no.5).

Prehistoric landscape:

Cairns: The round cairn overlying the long at High Hendryton is one of a series of four large round cairns on the ridge of Underlaw Hill.

1. Henryton NS 53NE 22 220m ENE of the long cairn and intervisible with it slightly higher up the hill, are the remains of a cairn, probably originally circular but with segments on the N and S ploughed down, probably in the creation of the E-W cultivation ridges, leaving an oval cairn measuring c 19m x 10m and 0.8m in height. A slab measuring 1.3m x 1.0m near its W end could derive from a disturbed cist (NS 5847 3997).

2. Underlaw 1 NS 53NE 8 600m E of the long cairn, near the brink of the ridge, at 250m OD, are the remains of a round cairn c 27m in diameter, severely robbed, but still c 1m high at centre (NS 5890 3887). Several hundreds of cartloads of stones are said to have been removed from this cairn during the earlier 19th century without revealing either structures or artefacts (ONB (1856), 43, p.89).

3. Underlaw 2 NS 53NE 9 200m E of the last cairn on a rocky summit on the S edge of the same ridge, is a severely robbed cairn c 23m in diameter and 0.5m in maximum height, with kerbstones, some over 1m in length, which may have formed a double ring (NS 5907 3890). This dramatic site, on rock outcrop, with a view of Loudon Hill and visible from Loanfoot long cairn is probably the 'Druidical temple' described in the Statistical Account (III, 104) as

standing on top of the highest hill in the parish apart from Loudon Hill itself. 'The foundation is composed of large, broad whinstones. The archdruid's sanctum sanctorum is 10ft in diameter and more entire than the rest' (ibid). Paterson (1847 ii, 316) locates this site in the field adjoining Anchor's or Acorn Field (see History of site, above), confirming the location of the 'temple'. Presumably the cairn possessed a central boulder ring, identified as a Druid Sanctum.

Archaeological interpretations: On 16th Oct. 1922 John Smith of Darvel wrote to J.G. Callander that there was a long cairn on Henryton farm similar to the one at Loanhead, much destroyed and evidently used as a quarry (NMR MS SAS 342).

A visit by the OS in July 1982 noted the 'round cairn and a probable linear clearance dump which extends to the E of the cairn for some 55m. Together, they have the superficial appearance of a long cairn. The possible clearance band is about 7m wide and lies entirely on the S side of the field boundary. Turf-covered, and comprised mostly of small, cairn-like stones, it is not typical of recent dumping, and although its archaeological significance is uncertain, it may be of some antiquity'.

Fig I:4:1 High Hendryton: Plan 1989

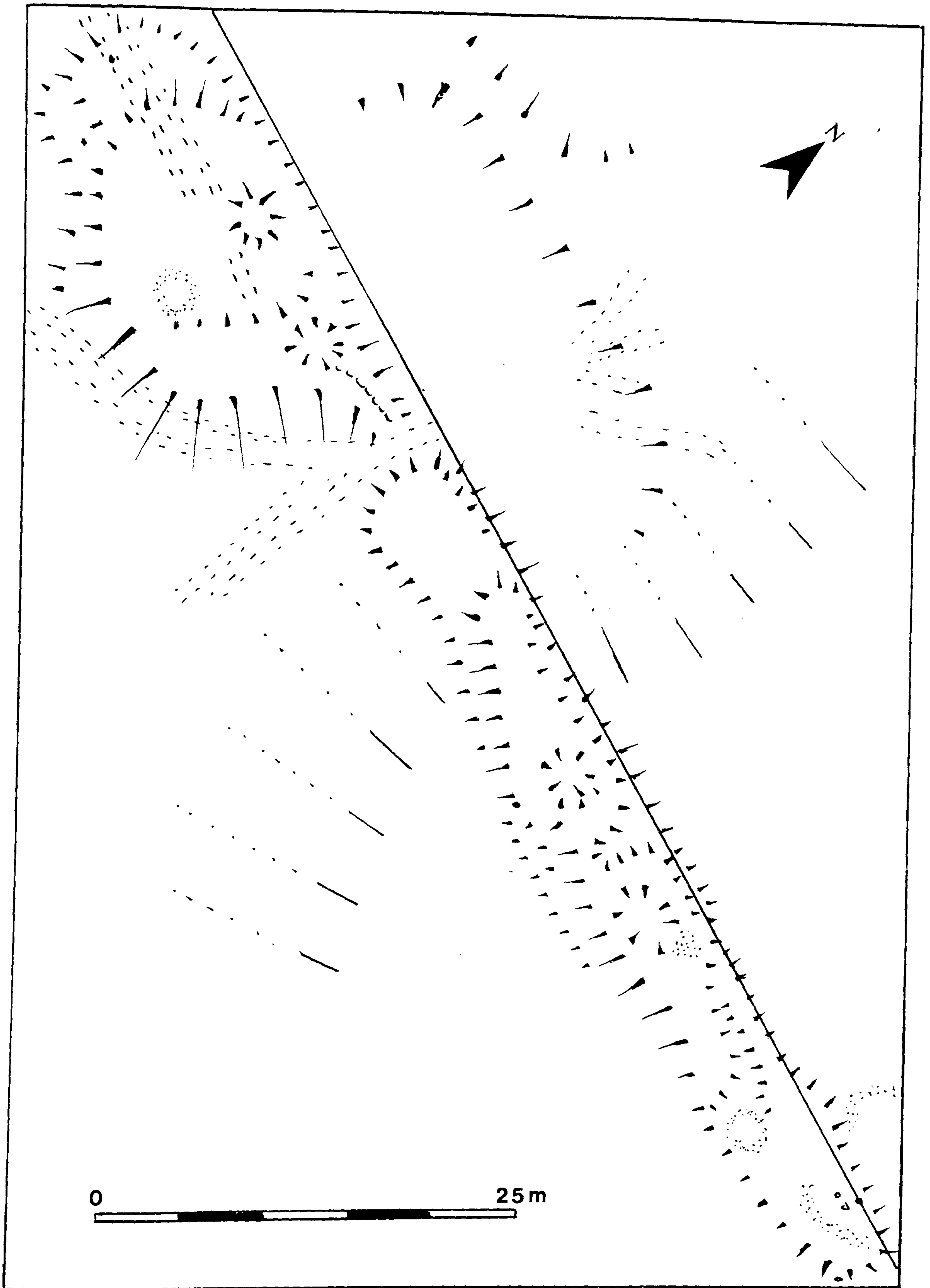


Fig I:4:2 High Hendryton: alternative reconstruction

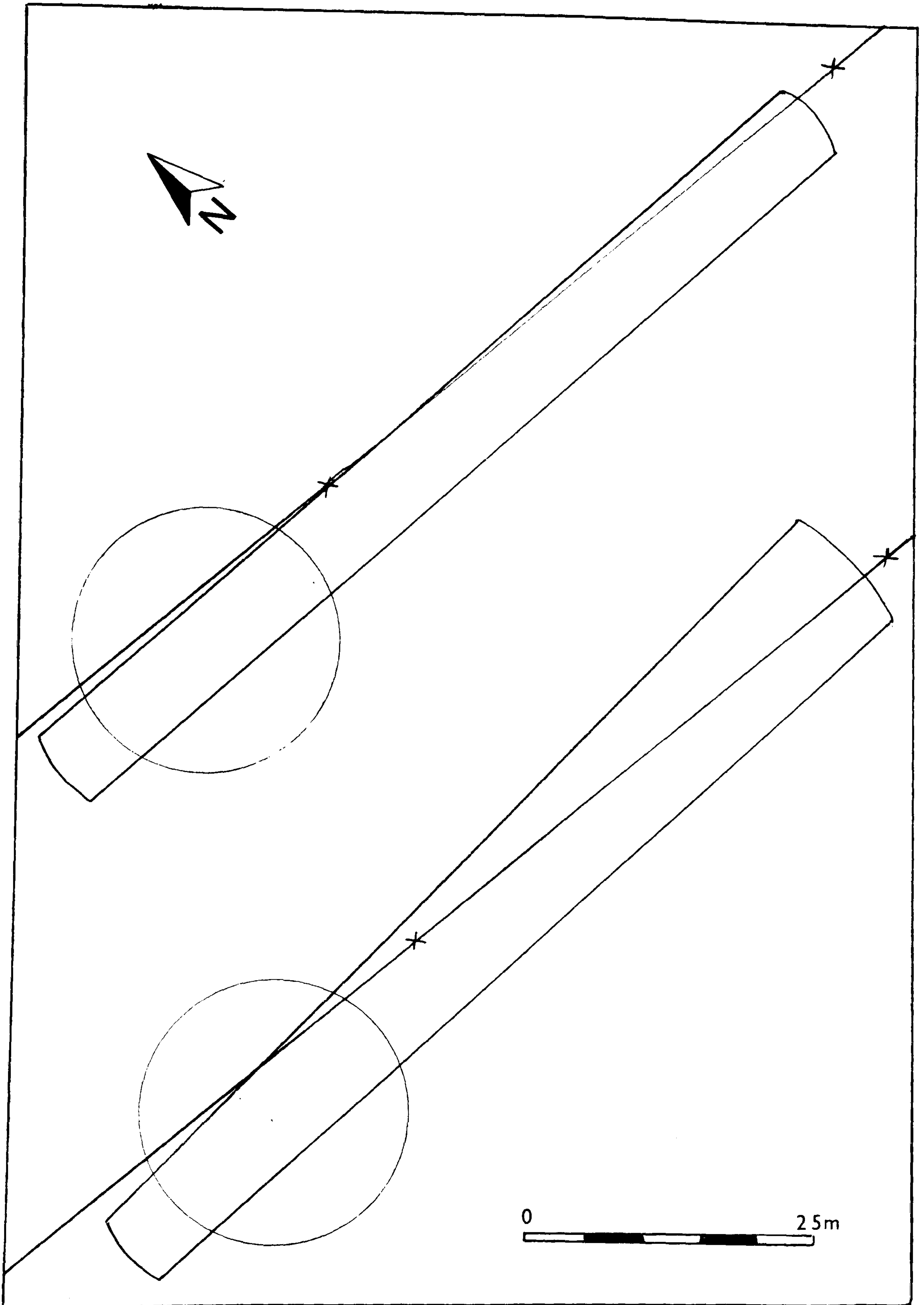
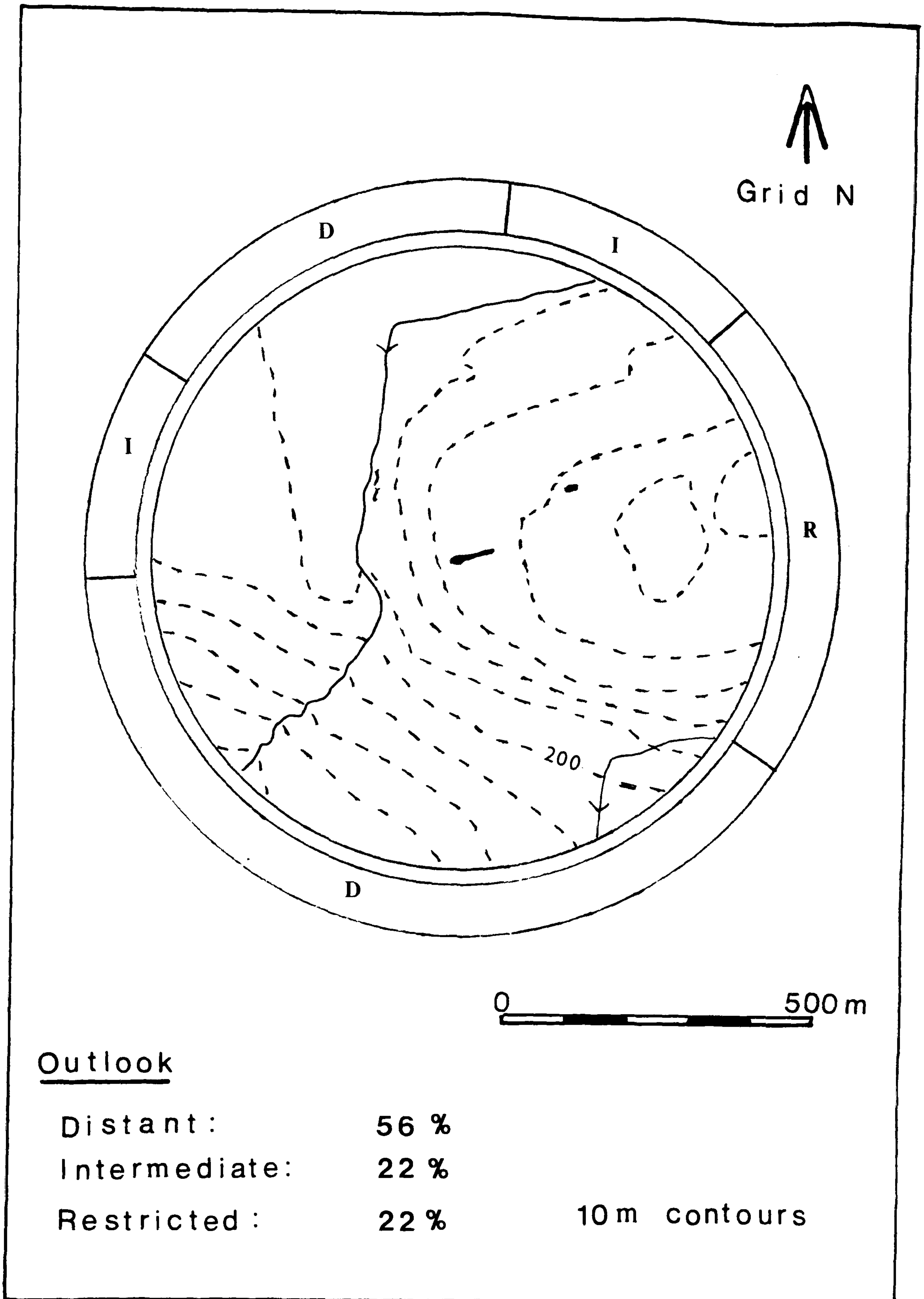


Fig I:4:3 Situation and outlook: High Hendryton



Outlook

Distant : 56 %

Intermediate: 22 %

Restricted : 22 %

10 m contours

I:5 Dod Hill, Renfrewshire
Eastwood District
Strathclyde Region

NS 45SE 21
NS 4943 5360
265m OD

Location: 4km SE of Neilston, 700m WNW of Dodside, within an old plantation, on the NW edge of the summit of Dod Hill (273m OD)

Type: Laterally chambered trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category B. Severely damaged, but certainly a chambered cairn

Outline: The indistinct outline is probably trapezoidal, its proximal end destroyed; one lateral megalithic chamber.

Orientation: NNE-SSW

Dimensions:

Overall length:	32m
Maximum breadth:	17m
Breadth at tail:	7m
Max. height	0.6m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:1.9

History of site and present condition: The broad N end of the cairn ends without definition on the lip of a short slope above the cliff scarp of the hill, and it appears probable that the terminal has eroded away. The 1st ed 6-inch OS map shows a plantation on the site, the wall of which passes 25m from the cairn. Tree planting and wall construction presumably account for the levelling of the cairn, which is reduced nearly to ground level. A large robbed out hollow near the N end could indicate the position of a second chamber, one of its slabs left lying in the area. The trees are now old and many of them have fallen or been cut down, leaving lichen covered stumps. Much of the plantation has been replanted, but, although furrows have been cut into the cairn no new trees have been planted. Drainage channels have also been cut through the cairn, spreading remaining cairn stone beyond original limits. Grass and moss growing over the cairn conceals details of its structure.

Description:

Kerb: Three earth-fast slabs near the NW corner of the cairn probably define a 7m stretch of the original W kerb. S of them a drainage ditch cutting along the cairn edge distorts its outline, but there may be at least one more kerbstone.

The E side of the cairn is more sharply marked as a raised edge, but no certain kerb stones are visible.

Cairn: Although robbed nearly to ground level and cut through and disturbed by furrows and drains, the

outline of the cairn is generally clear. It has a rounded tail at the SSW, from which it expands gradually to the destroyed NNE end, where the original width may have been c 14m.

Facade: A small earth-fast stone at the NE corner of the cairn could represent a facade stone, perhaps at the tip of a cairn horn. There is a second such stone 4m to the SW, but other stones in the eroded N end are probably part of the cairn matrix.

2m back from the rounded S end of the cairn an upright slab, 0.6m in height, with a smaller stone to the W, could represent a small deeply incurved forecourt, but the whole area is badly disturbed and robbed.

Chamber: 10m from the S end of the cairn, slabs are visible outlining a chamber aligned NE-SW across the centre of the cairn. The tops of two slabs form the NW side, and one the SE, tree roots here having greatly disturbed the layout. At the SW end of the setting, 3m from the cairn edge, a large block, 0.6m broad and visible for 0.4m of height is probably a backstone. At the SE corner the tops of two small stones could represent a double portal, 4m from the present edge of the cairn, but 1.6m from a possible kerb stone. The chamber measures 2.6m x 0.8m internally.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 28km from the Firth of Clyde at Largs; 14km from the River Clyde at Renfrew.

Distance from water: The nearest mapped stream rises 170m NW of the cairn at the foot of the hill, but doubtless other streams drain from the hill itself.

General topography: Undulating rough grazing to the S of Newton Mearns is interrupted by intrusive volcanic crags and ridges, including Dod Hill.

Situation: The ridge of Dod Hill terminates in 20m high crags which form its N and NW sides. The cairn, below the highest point of the ridge, lies transversely to the cliff top, its broad end directly above the crag.

Aspect: W

Slope: Very gentle on the hill top; precipitous to the W.

Local relief, within 500m: 205-276m OD

Outlook: Distant: 53% EW
Intermediate: -
Restricted: 47% to E

Prominence: The hill is extremely prominent, but cairn itself is secluded.

Local landmarks: Dod Hill itself is a notable landmark, as also Neilston Pad, 261m OD, 2.2km to the NW

Solid geology: Basalt with intrusive rhyolite etc.

Soils: On the ridge are freely drained Brown Forest soils of the Darleith series. The lower ground has freely drained peaty podzols with some areas of humic gleys and of peat.

Land use: A small plantation in an extensive area of livestock grazing.

Vegetation: Old larch trees, grass and moss. Beyond the wood is pasture, good on the ridge, but acid grasslands around the hill.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Cuff Hill, chambered cairn, 11km to W

Knappers, Dunbartonshire, possible stake barrow, hengiform site with grooved ware, 16.5km to N (see Ritchie and Adamson 1981).

High Hendryton, long cairn, 17km to SE

Monument context: This site provides a good comparison for Cuff Hill in its overall dimensions, its lateral chamber, and its situation beside a cliff, although at Cuff Hill the cairn is at the base of the cliff. Similarly dramatic sites were chosen at Haylie, Largs and at Loanfoot, and in the latter case the cairn lies head on to the top of scarp, as at Dod Hill. There is no evidence for an axial chamber at Dod Hill, and, indeed, the robbing pattern suggests another lateral chamber near the broad end of the cairn. An absence of axial chamber is unusual among Clyde cairns, but recurs at Clach na Tiompan, Perthshire, besides Cuff Hill, and possibly at Burngrange, Lanarkshire, although the head of this cairn has been destroyed.

The late recognition of this damaged site is a demonstration of the ease with which cairns could be destroyed leaving no record of their existence.

Artefact context:

Axes: At NS 476 540, 1.5km W of the cairn on the N side of Harelaw Dam a broken axe apparently of volcanic ash, originally c 100mm in length was found in plough, as also were a shale disc bead, two well ground quartz cores and two split flint pebbles (DES 1990, 39).

Other axes are recorded from Netherplace, Newton Mearns (NS 523 557), 4km NE of the cairn (GAGM 1938-40), from Neilston (NS 47 56), 4km to the NW (Paisley Art Gallery) and Fullwood (NS 444 501), 6km to the SW.

Lithics: A blade and a retouched flake of grey flint are reported from Moyne Moor at NS 4735 5318, 2km WSW of the long cairn (DES 1963, 46).

Pottery: Several small sherds of either Late Neolithic or Bronze Age Beaker pottery are said to have been recovered in upcast from a drain on Moyne Moor 150m of the above finds at NS 476 532, 100 yards SW of the Covenanter's Stone (see below) (DES 1965, 14).

Prehistoric landscape:

A hut circle, c 5m in internal diameter within an overgrown, stony wall is scooped 0.5m deep into the side of Laggan Hill at NS 4869 5305, 900m SW of the chambered cairn having a good view of Dod Hill (visited June 1988).

Moyne Moor is a promontory area lying between Harelaw Dam and Long Loch 2km W of the chambered cairn. Several cairns have been reported here (DES 1957, 32; 1963, 46) but the OS does not consider them to be man made features. Two other sites on the Moor may be listed:

a) A cairn 10.0m in diameter on the summit of Lochend Hill (262m OD), the highest point of the moor at NS 4798 5324 (NS 45SE 2).

b) The Covenanter's Stone at NS 4775 5323, 250m NE of the summit of Lochend Hill, is the name attached to a set of seven recumbent slabs, the longest 1.8m which lie in two parallel rows (NS 45SE 3). It has been suggested that the stones may be the remains of a small circle c 8m in diameter.

Archaeological interpretations: The site was first reported by T.C. Welsh in DES 1984, 30 as the possible remains of a long cairn containing a cist. No other visit to the site has been reported.

Fig I:5:1 Dod Hill: Plan 1988

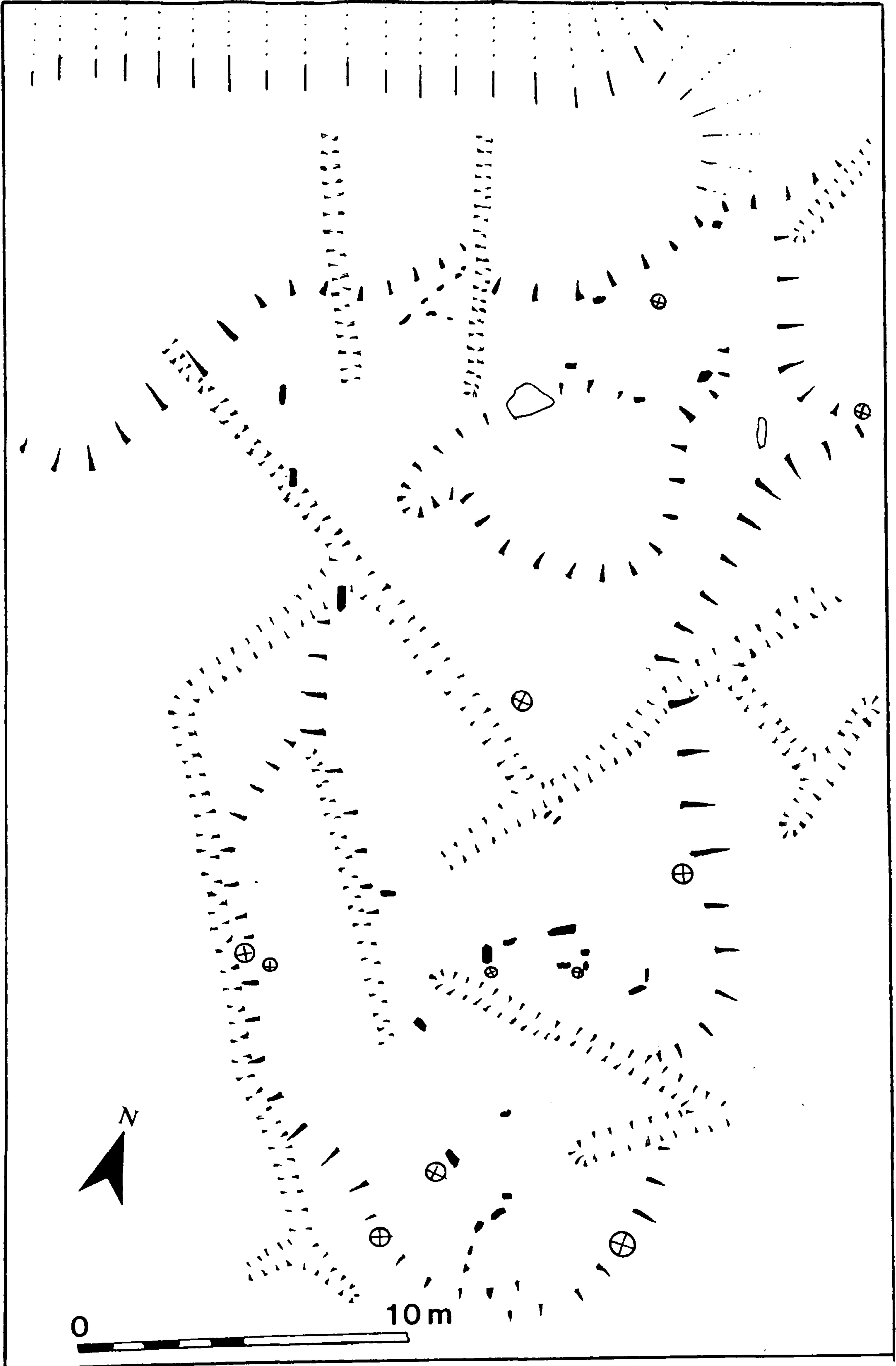


Fig I:5:2 Dod Hill: chamber plan

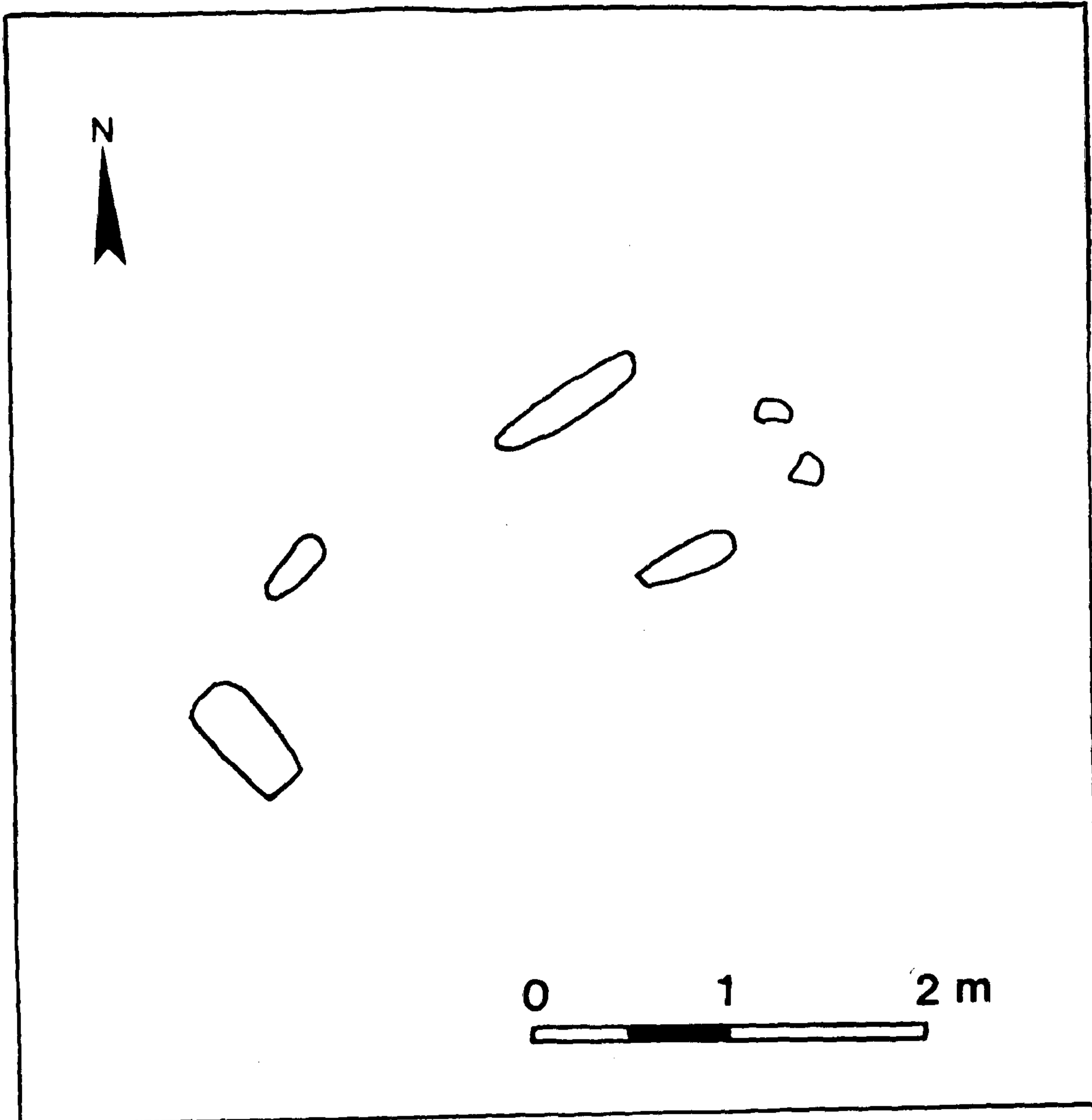
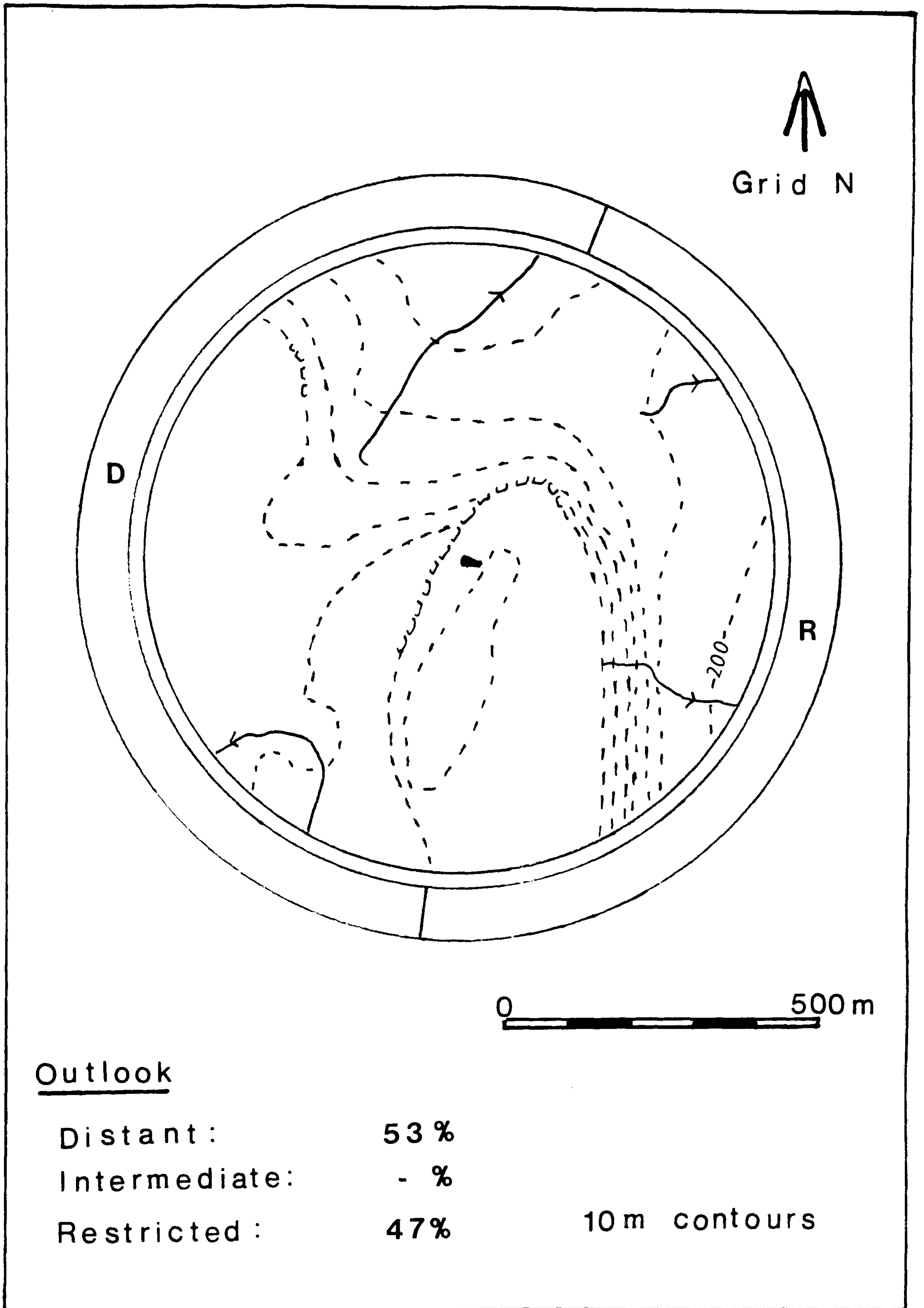


Fig I:5:3 Situation and outlook: Dod Hill



I:6 Courthill, Dalry, Ayrshire
Cunninghame District
Strathclyde Region

NS 24NE 3
NS 2924 4958
49m OD

Location: 200m NE of Dalry parish church on the W side of the River Garnock

Type: Round mound over a timber building suggested to have been possibly a neolithic mortuary structure or enclosure

Status: Category C. A demolished site, doubtfully neolithic

Outline: Burnt rectangular timber structure set eccentrically below a round mound.

Orientation: NE - SW

Dimensions: Mound: diameter: c 27m
max. height: 6.1m, or 4.6m above original ground level
Structure: 14m x 6.4m - 6.1m

Excavation: In 1872 it was planned to dump refuse shale from the Glen Garnock Iron Company's pit over the site, and with the agreement of the proprietors several local gentlemen spent the summer examining the mound. Accounts of the excavation are published in PSAS by R.W. Cochran-Patrick (1874) and by J.S. Dobie (1876) in his edition of his father's additions to Pont's Topography of Cunninghame. Cochran-Patrick reproduces a plan and section of the excavation drawn by one of the party, a Mr. Paton of Swinlees (Plate VIII).

A 1.5m broad trench was first carried into the mound from the SW, encountering structural features overlain by a stratum of dark material. The central and SE part of the mound was then examined in an area of c 15m x 10m, with additional extensions into the NW part of the mound and two narrow trenches to the SE, one of which encountered a small cairn.

History of site and Archaeological Interpretations:

The two excavation accounts provide the only information on sequences of construction below the mound. The varied interpretations to which these accounts have been subject now form a part of the history of the site, and an outline of the issues raised is provided here.

Whatever its origins, the steep-sided mound (38° angle of slope) with its flat top 11.6m in diameter, on the edge of the town of Dalry seems likely to have served as a motte, of which several probable examples exist in N. Ayrshire. Scott (1989(a), 277) suggests that such a role might be assignable to the period of Hugh de Morville's

tenancy of Cunningham, granted by David I in the 1120s, although there are no contemporary records to support this view. The Statistical Account, however, named the mound as 'Courthill', adding that 'it has been bored with iron rods to a considerable depth and found to be wholly made up of earth' (XII, 105). Also a stone, said traditionally to have been supposed to have supported the gallows, is reported to have 'formerly stood a little to the east of the moat' (NSA V, 220).

In the early 19th century 'an attempt was made to level this interesting monument of antiquity, in order to fill up some hollows in the field in which it is situated, but the hill proving to have been formed of rubbish the design was abandoned, not, however, till its appearance was greatly disfigured' (ibid). Nonetheless the mound profile appears to have been largely intact at the time of excavation. The site was subsequently covered by a slag heap.

Results of excavation led Cochran-Patrick to call the mound a 'tumulus', but he did not further discuss the nature of 'the curious palisade structure' beneath it. Dobie interpreted this feature as a 'House' with two opposing doorways which appeared to have been closed up by stakes, giving rise to the suggestion that the house had been burnt down by 'design, in consequence of some event such as the death of a chief'.

It was to this site that Coles and Simpson (1965, 46) turned when looking for parallels for Pitnacree, Perthshire, where a round neolithic mound covered two large posts within a rectangular enclosure with associated cremations. Lloyd Laing (1969, 113) agreed that it was 'conceivable' that the Courthill structure was neolithic, but, in the absence of close parallels from the period thought a Dark Age date preferable, the hall acting as a predecessor to a motte carrying a tower. Graham Ritchie (1970, 126-7) supported this interpretation on stratigraphic grounds as the mound overlay a cairn covering a beaker burial pit dug into the old ground surface. Ritchie added that this burial had apparently been disturbed at the time that the timber structure was burnt down, and he drew attention to the improbability of the shaped timbers being neolithic work.

More recently John Linge (1987) has referred to the growing body of evidence for neolithic timber structures, mentioning specifically Balbridie and Balfarg Riding School, and calling for a re-assessment of Courthill. He has suggested that the contemporaneity of structure, burial and mound could now be acceptable within a neolithic context, and has proceeded to speculate on the date and function of a group of flat-topped 'pudding basin' mounds in Ayrshire.

J.G. Scott (1989(a)) has countered with a detailed reconstruction of the structure as a timber hall of the 12th century AD deliberately destroyed and replaced by a Norman motte. Nonetheless, Barclay and Maxwell (1991, 39) include Courthill as a possible comparison for the Early Neolithic mortuary enclosure at Inchtuthil, Perthshire, destroyed by

fire and perhaps mounded over. The argument is not yet closed.

Mound description: The original ground surface under the mound is said to have sloped down to the E, probably, in fact, the NE where a natural slope occurs. The published sections, which call the NE the E, show a level old ground surface and a compensating but anomalous rise in external ground level to the NE and, more markedly, to the SE. Despite the sloping site the external profile of the circular mound appears to have been symmetrical and flat-topped; the NSA calls it 'conical' and 'covered with the finest verdure' (V, 220). As ground level outside the mound was up to 1.5m below that beneath it, a ditch may be supposed, but this drew no contemporary comment and was not investigated on excavation.

Excavation evidence (after Cochran-Patrick 1874 and Dobie 1876):

Mound stratigraphy: 'Ordinary earth' in which no finds were made, formed the upper levels of the mound, to a maximum depth of 3.7m.

Below this layer was a band of yellowish clay mixed with gravel, 0.30 - 0.36m deep, which Scott (1989, 276) plausibly suggests to represent subsoil from the ditch bottom.

The clay sealed a deposit described by Dobie as 'peaty soil and marsh silt' and by Cochran-Patrick as 'dark unctuous earth', varying in depth from 0.3m to 1.0m and containing fern and 'moor moss' together with some coarse grass, reeds and small pieces of charred wood. The fern, or bracken, green when first uncovered, quickly turned peat coloured; Dobie suggested that this material could have been brought from a 'morass' at the foot of the hill on which the mound was sited. The layer seems to have covered an area c 17m in diameter.

Below the dark layer, which was not itself burnt, Cochran-Patrick describes patches of grey and red ashes c 25 - 50mm deep on the old ground surface, which, in places, was reddened by fire. Small fragments of bone, including part of a bone of a large deer, were found in the ash. Dobie, on the other hand, speaks of a layer of charcoal covering the old surface within and around the structure described below, this surface showing 'everywhere the action of fierce heat'.

Timber structure: Set within the S and SE parts of the mound were the remains of a rectangular enclosure formed of split oak posts set 'a few inches apart' which had been burned down to ground level. Larger, structural posts, all of oak, were less completely destroyed, and some burnt remains stood upright in the dark, peaty layer or lay fallen on the ground. Posts in the NW wall had fallen outside the enclosure, but in the SE side they fell within it, and were nearly charred away.

The two largest posts stood axially on the centre

line of the enclosure, 2.7m from the end walls, set 0.6m into the ground, and wedged with stones. The buried portion of each was artificially squared, measuring c 0.29m x 0.25m, with 'marks of a sharp cutting tool' clearly visible. The SW post survived for 1.4m of overall length, leaning slightly outward, sealed under the dark peaty layer, here, at 1.0m, at its deepest. 1.2m from the base of the post a roughly circular hole 76mm in diameter had been cut to a depth of c 35mm.

At the corners of the enclosure and, as opposed pairs, at intervals along its sides, set slightly outside the line of split stakes, were squared oak posts. One such pair was c 2.4m from the SW corner posts and another c 3.3m further to the NE. A third such pair, less clearly marked on the plan, may have stood c 1.7m from the NE corner posts. Between these last two pairs were two pairs of even larger oak posts set 0.9m apart on the line of the split stakes. They were firmly wedged in the ground with stones, the depth below ground level, appearing on the section drawings to be similar to that of the centre posts (0.6m). These larger side posts, however, were carefully squared planks, c 0.50m broad along the line of the wall and 0.13m thick. Each of them had a groove c 50 - 75mm broad and up to 38mm deep roughly cut 'across the breadth 4 inches (0.10m) from the lower end', given alternatively as 'from the end of the stake which had been fixed in the original surface', and therefore, perhaps, 0.10m above ground surface rather than that distance above the buried end of the plank.

The corner posts, while set back from the side walls, were roughly in line with the end walls, which included no large posts. The SW end wall was originally encountered in the initial exploratory trench as 'a low dyke or line of small boulders and land stones' - perhaps packing stones. Burnt earth mixed with charcoal overlay these stones, and in this earth 'a very good flint arrowhead' was found with other flint 'chips and fragments' (see Flints below). This is the only area in which burnt earth is mentioned.

Internal features: As mentioned above, patches of ashes containing bone occurred on the old ground surface. Exceptional among these was a deposit extending for 1.8m to the NE of the SW axial post, 0.8m broad and c 8mm deep. 'Numerous small fragments of bone and parts apparently of deers horn' were found among the ashes. Dobie also mentioned one small piece of lead being found in the calcined soil.

Beaker cairn: After the timber structure had been exposed, the excavators decided to follow the line of stones encountered along the SW end wall to the SE, and a small cairn of boulders 0.9m high was found. The cairn, which covered and filled a pit measuring 1.5m x 0.9m x 1.04m deep, 0.9m SE of the corner post, is shown in a NE - SW section drawing to measure c 3m in diameter. If it were the same size transversely it must have butted against the side and S corner of the structure. It was certainly overlain by 'the layers of gravel and soil', but no mention is made

of the presence of the black peaty layer here. The NE end of the pit had been dug less deeply than the remainder, leaving a bench or platform of soil a few inches high on which was a piece of flat sandstone. On this slab were calcined bones and fragments of a beaker that had apparently been placed inverted over ashes. Near it was a piece of blackened oak that Cochran-Patrick regarded as being similar to the stakes of the structure and therefore as evidence for disturbance of the beaker at the time of the building of the tumulus. Dobie, on the other hand, thought that the oak had been originally placed over the beaker as protection, and, on its decay stones had fallen in and crushed the vessel.

Excavation finds:

Wood: Besides structural timbers 'a piece of hard oak, shaped somewhat like the blade of an oar or paddle', or, as Dobie says, 'an oak shovel, or paddle, neatly wrought', was found between the pair of grooved planks in the SE wall, (Cochran-Patrick 1978, 60, fig.5).

Bone: Small fragments of bone were found in patches of ash on the old ground surface, the largest piece being identified as belonging to a large deer. Numerous small bone fragments and parts of deer's horn were in the large ash deposit NE of the SW axial post. These bone fragments were white when first found, turning 'a beautiful bright blue colour' on exposure to air. Smith (1895, 70) describes these bones as being coated with 'vivianite'.

Flints: Finds in the NMS consist of two double edged knives, four scrapers and eighteen flint chips (AB 1 - 24). The knives are probably the flint described by John Smith (1895, 70) as 'a pointed article - perhaps a spear-head - 2½ inches in length' and 'Another one, also pointed almost 2 inches long and 1 inch in breadth at the base'. These articles may account for the excavation account reference to 'a very good flint arrowhead' being found with other flints in burnt earth overlying the line of stones at the SW end of the structure. Cochran-Patrick illustrates this find (p.57, fig.1), and also three scrapers (p.58, figs. 2,3,4) found with other flints on the ashes which lay in places on the old ground surface.

Metal: Dobie says that a small piece of lead was found in the calcined soil of the interior fireplace.

Beaker: The restored beaker from the burial pit now in the NMS (EG 11), belongs to Clarke's N/MR Group (Clarke 1970, 514 no.1558) or Burgess' Step 3 (Ritchie and Shepherd 1973, 22).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 9km from the Firth of Clyde

Distance from water: 320m from the Rye Water to the NE;
330m from the River Garnock to the SE

General topography: The River Garnock runs SSW from the rough hill country of N Ayrshire to join the boulder clays of the coastal plain at Dalry

Situation: The mound was at the highest point of a hill forming a ridge across a neck of land between the Rye and Garnock Waters. It was on the brink of the slope at the N end of this hill.

Aspect: N

Slope: Steep to the N where the hill drops away - 18%

Local relief, within 500m: 25 - 50m OD

Prominence: The situation is a commanding one.

Solid geology: Millstone Grit

Soils: Non-calcareous gleys over drift deposits

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Cuff Hill, chambered long cairn, 10.5km to NE
Haylie, Clyde chamber, 12km to NW

Monument context: The symmetrical regularities of the Courthill structure must argue for its having been a building, almost certainly roofed, paired posts along the side walls and axial central posts providing roof support. The building was destroyed by fire, and when the ashes were cool the remains were buried under a deposit of vegetation, itself sealed under a layer of impervious clay. An earthen mound was then founded on the clay. Apart from flints, which could have been an accidental inclusion, and an unsupported record of a piece of lead, the only dateable artefact was a beaker, buried, in a pit, under a small cairn adjacent to the structure, the cairn also being sealed under the earthen mound. The argument as to whether the structure was of neolithic or of medieval date has rested very largely on the character of the building itself.

The feasibility of the medieval attribution has been demonstrated by Scott (1989(a)). The size of the structure is very similar to that of Dark Age halls at Yeavering, Thirlings and Doon Hill, and several of the Yeavering examples have opposed entrances on the Courthill pattern. Scott describes the approach to joinery at Courthill as 'rather primitive', but quotes parallels from 11th century Dublin for the use of split oak timbers in the walls. Swift succession of timber hall to Norman motte seems an entirely plausible sequence.

Equally, however, the Courthill structure could belong to a neolithic tradition of long house building; the difficulty of distinguishing between neolithic and Dark Age halls, even where well recorded excavation evidence is available, has been demonstrated by the controversy over Hall A on Doon Hill, Dunbar (Hope Taylor 1980; Ralston 1980). Ritchie's caveat (1970, 126-7) over the sophistication of the carpentry techniques used at Courthill is no longer applicable in view of the

accumulated evidence for squared and morticed timbers in the Early Neolithic at Balbridie (Reynolds 1982) and Sweet Track (Coles and Orme 1980). Planks used in the mortuary structure at Haddenham long barrow, Cambridgeshire were of similar dimensions to the grooved 'doorposts' at Courthill, and were produced by the relatively difficult technique of splitting oak trunks tangentially (Morgan 1990).

Like Courthill, the larger (24m x 12m) hall at Balbridie was built of squared posts and, probably, split timbers, here set in slot trenches. The ground plans of the structures might appear more similar if the 19th century excavators had shown the trenches in which the Courthill timbers were set, rather than individual posts. It seems unlikely, however, that large internal postholes of the Balbridie type were missed by the Courthill excavators, and the two axial posts that did survive suggest that a different solution to the problems of weight bearing had been used by these builders. Fig. I:6:1 redraws the excavation plan reproduced by Cochran-Patrick with slot trenches for the posts, to demonstrate the similarities to and differences from Balbridie and other such timber halls.

Given its size, Balbridie may well have been a ceremonial building rather than a domestic structure. Nonetheless, it produced no evidence for funerary associations, and was not buried under a mound. The suggestion of a neolithic date for Courthill is intimately related to these latter aspects of the site, although the original comparison with a Pitnacree-style mortuary structure (Coles and Simpson 1965) would no longer seem valid. The narrow linear zone, now known to be a recurrent feature of Early Neolithic cairns and barrows in the north, as at Dalladies, Lochhill and Slewcairn, was not present at Courthill, unless in the form of the 'hearth', 1.8m x 0.8m in area, at the foot of the SW axial post. The position would seem an unfortunate one for a domestic hearth, setting the main structural support of the house at risk of fire, and the presence of fragmented, whitened bone among the ashes might argue for an interpretation as cremation pyre, a role perhaps associated with the destruction of the 'house'. The piece of antler also found in the ashes need not necessarily contradict this suggestion, and the find of a piece of lead may have been a misidentification.

The ground plan of the Courthill timber structure, enclosing the above hearth or pyre, might suggest it to have been playing a role of spatial definition similar to that of so-called 'mortuary enclosures' such as those set around funerary deposits at Fussell's Lodge and at Wor Barrow. Another such enclosure at Inchtuthil, Perthshire, measuring c 50m x 10m, consisted of radially split oak timbers evidently linked to form a continuous fence. These timbers had been set on fire, and had collapsed inwards, burning the soil in a sequence similar to that at Courthill (Barclay and Maxwell 1991). Quite apart from the



difference between roofed and unroofed structures, Courthill, at 14m x 6m, seems anomalously small among the linear mortuary enclosures listed by Barclay and Maxwell (ibid. Table 1), the smallest of which, at Fussell's Lodge, measures 41.1m x 12.2m.

There remains, however, little evidence for buildings comparable to the Courthill structure playing roles in relation to neolithic funerary mounds. Successive buildings in the forecourt at Nutbane long barrow (Morgan 1959) provide a very isolated example, geographically distant from Courthill and structurally rather different. It is, on the other hand, relatively common to find occupation evidence below neolithic mounds, together, in some instances, with postholes. It may be that this succession of domestic activity by funerary ritual is a sequence represented also at Courthill. One relatively substantial structure may be mentioned, from Gwernvale, Brecknock, where, besides domestic refuse, a six post setting occupied the forecourt, and bedding trenches, perhaps structurally related to the postholes, continued under the cairn (Britnell and Savory 1984).

The most complete structural evidence from pre-cairn levels comes from Ballyglass, Co. Mayo, where a building under the forecourt of a court cairn offers a remarkably close comparison to the Courthill structure. The building, formed of post holes and bedding trenches, probably for split planks, measured c 13m x 6m and had been burnt down before tomb construction (O'Nuallain 1972). There was no evidence as to whether it had fulfilled a domestic function or whether it played a role in funerary rituals; the same ambivalence, however, must apply to the structure at Courthill.

The controversy as to neolithic or Dark Age origin can also be approached by a consideration of the stratigraphic relationship of the structure and mound to the beaker cairn. Close contiguity between beaker deposition and neolithic mound is a recurrent theme; nonetheless Ritchie (1970) considered that in the present instance the enveloping of the beaker cairn by the overlying mound must create a secondary role for the latter, and, by implication, for the timber structure. It does appear, however, that the black, peaty layer sealing the structure did not cover the beaker cairn, and it is possible that the gravel and soil layers that did extend over it related to a later phase of mound extension, perhaps the creation of a Norman motte, founded on a low neolithic mound.

If, on the other hand, the hall was a medieval structure, this building must have been erected directly against the pre-existing small cairn, while the ditch for the motte would have cut closely along its other side. The resultant continuity of layers of gravel and soil over both cairn and structure accords with Cochran-Patrick's observation of the stratigraphy. Scott considers that the excavation plan shows evidence for this sequence in that the S corner post of the building seems to be set out of line

to avoid the cairn, and he accepts Patrick's suggestion that the beaker may have been broken at the time of the destruction of the hall as evidenced by the intrusion of a piece of blackened oak into the pit. The evidence of the plan is by no means clear on the first point, while disturbance of the beaker pit under its cairn of stones may seem less likely than the natural collapse proposed by Dobie. Nonetheless it is possible that the site was chosen for the added authority that the presence of the cairn could give to the structure, an 'appeal to the past' which, as Bradley points out (1985, 9-10) is also demonstrated by the alignments of the Anglo-Saxon township at Yeavinger, focussed onto prehistoric features. The relationship recurs at Doon Hill, Dunbar, where a bronze age cemetery of cinerary urns is included within the Dark Age enclosure.

Neither structural evidence nor stratigraphy then, can give conclusive support to either of the proposed contexts from Courthill. If the problem is approached on purely stratigraphic grounds, the simplest solution would appear to involve acceptance of the beaker relationship to both structure and mound. The beaker pit contained calcined bone and blackened oak linking it to the burning of the structure and the cremation pyre, and it was sealed under a ditched round mound as likely to be of second as of third millennium date. While no precise parallels for a funerary 'house' under a mound may be available, attention can be drawn to a brief record of a rectangular timber building, 9.5m long with a central stone hearth probably associated with grooved ware which was found under an 18m diameter kerbed cairn at Stonifield near Inverness (RCAHMS 1979, 11, no.45). The context of the Late Neolithic may be at least as probable as that of the Early Neolithic.

John Linge (1987) has called on the evidence from Courthill in a discussion of a series of large, flat-topped mounds in N Ayrshire which have generally been classified as mottes, but which would appear to include at least some examples of prehistoric barrows. It is clear that Courthill cannot itself provide unequivocal support for such a thesis and certainly provides no blueprint for alternative interpretation. Nonetheless these mounds must certainly be open to reinterpretation. Fundamental to the problem of classification is the fact that a barrow presents the external form of a monument whose function is concealed internally, while a motte displays its function in its exterior form and situation, providing a strategically sited and elevated building platform for a defensive tower. It would not be surprising if some mottes were found to utilise prehistoric burial mounds as a basis on which to build.

Artefact context:

Axes: A large 'Cumbrian Club' was found in 1885 0.66m deep in yellow clay near Dalry Station, 750m SE of Courthill on the opposite side of the River Garnock. The axe, 7" (178mm) in length, now in the NMS (AF 717), has been thin

sectioned, but no petrographic source has been identified (AYR 11).

A fine 'Duggleby adze' of flint $7\frac{3}{8}$ " (187mm) in length was found before 1865 near Dalgarven, 4km S of Courthill on the same side of the River Garnock (GAGM LA 6436 b).

A small 'chert axe of very rude workmanship' was found in excavations at Cleaves Cove, beside the Dusk Water, 3.3km SE of Courthill in 1883 (Smith 1895, 62-5).

An axe $4\frac{1}{4}$ " (108mm) in length comes from Hourat farm nearly 5km N of Dalry (NMS: AF 719).

Smith also mentions a broken celt from Blair Park, presumably at Blair Castle, 2km S of Courthill (1895, 73).

Prehistoric landscape:

A stone is said to have stood a little to the east of Courthill (NSA V, 220), while another 'massive whinstone boulder set up on end' a furlong to the west was removed for building purposes before 1895 (Smith 1895, 70).

Another 'earthen barrow' near Dalry, known as Greenknowe, was removed in the early 19th century (ONB 33). It stood c 1km SW of Courthill.

Fig I:6:1 Court Hill, Dalry: Mound and structure, after Cochran-Patrick 1874

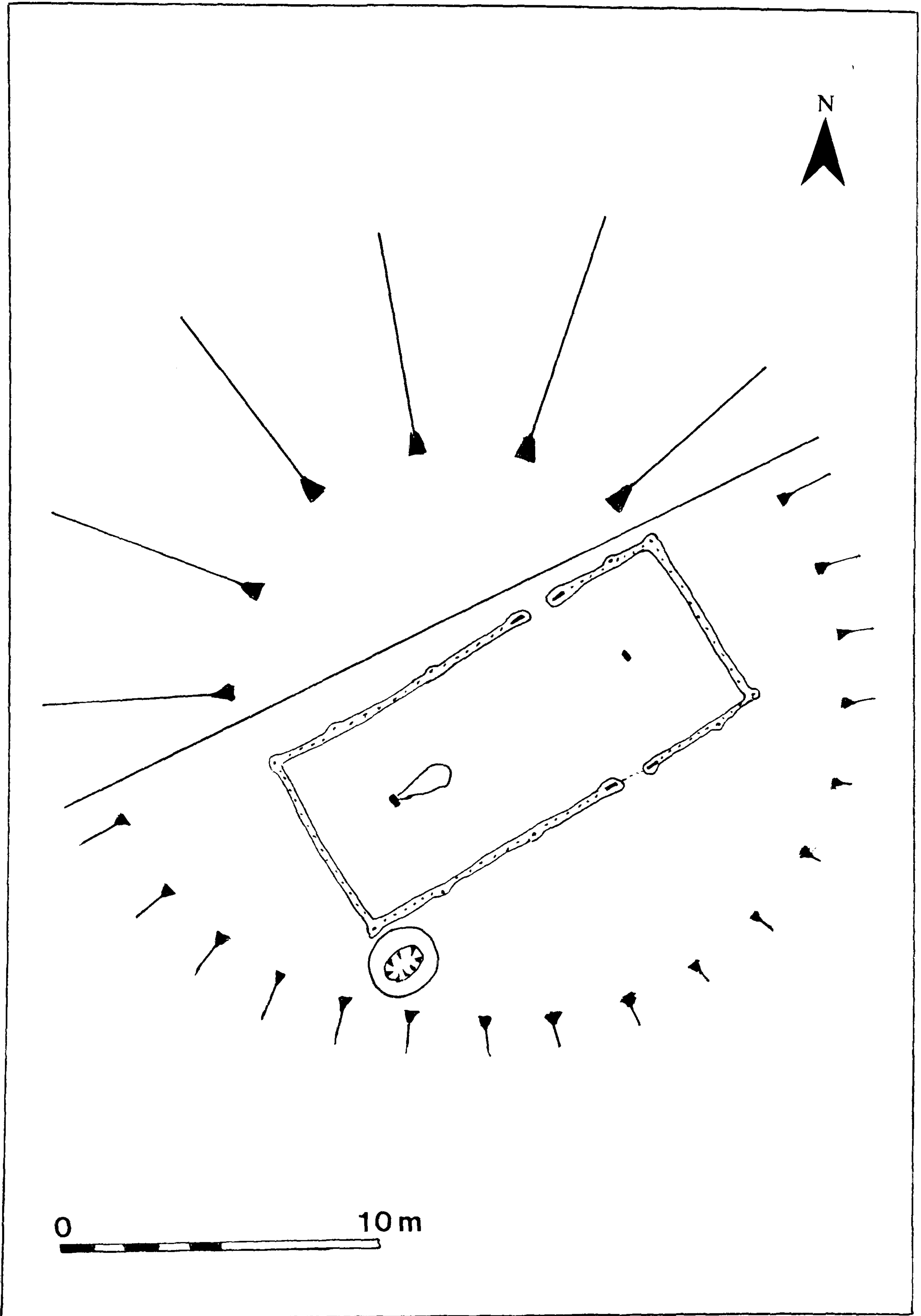
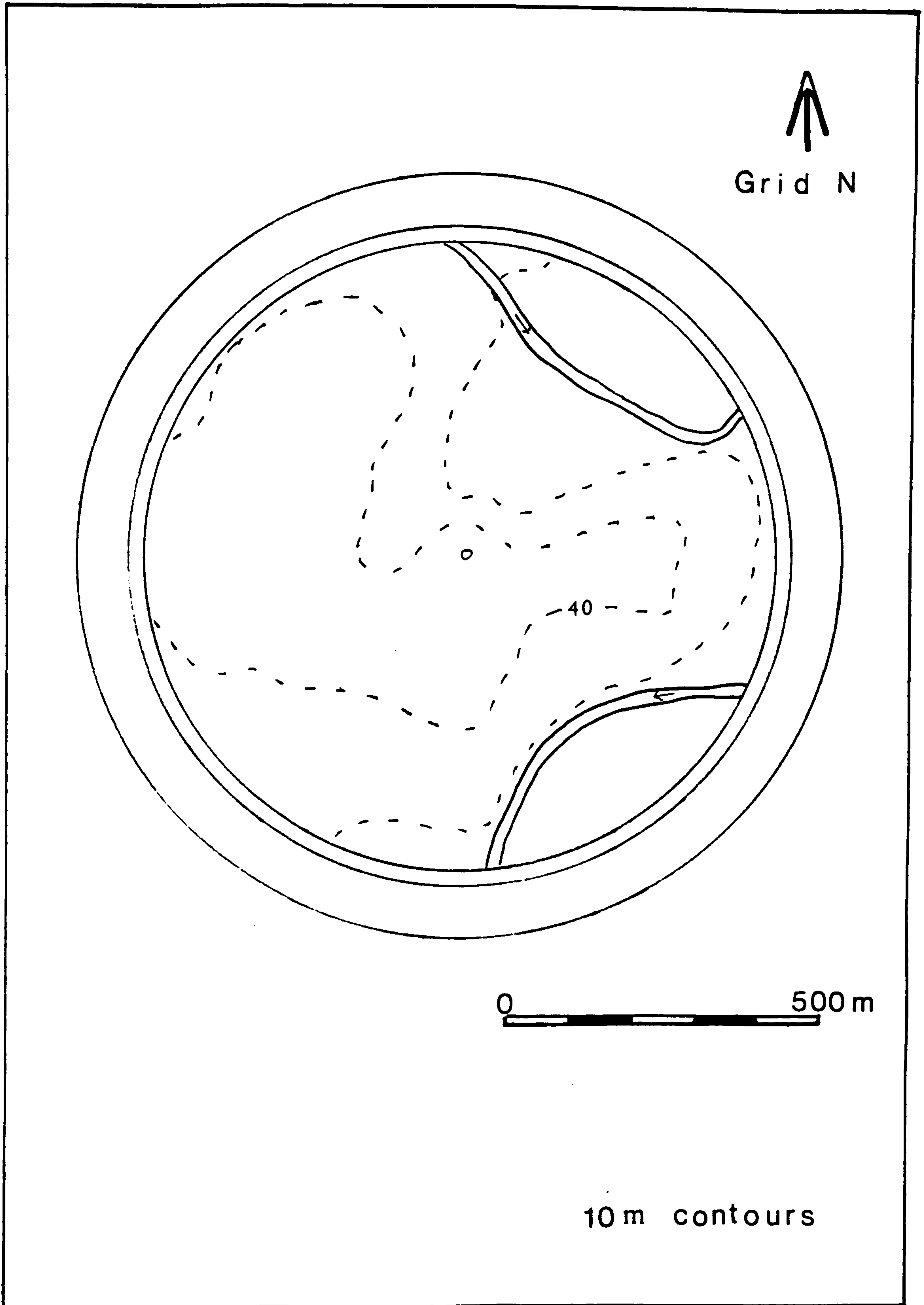


Fig. I:6:2 Situation: Court Hill, Dalry



I:7 Cairn Hill, Macawston, Ayrshire
Carrick and Kyle District
Strathclyde Region

NS 20SW 5
NS 2189 0483
90m OD

Location: 1.5km SE of Turnberry, 1km ENE of Macawston farm
steading, immediately N of the minor road on the hill ridge
N of Balsarroch Glen

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category B. A robbed and misshapen site, but most
probably a long cairn

Outline: Rather pear shaped, a rounded head and straight
sided tail with blunted end, perhaps truncated

Orientation: ENE - WSW

Dimensions:

Max. length:	28.5m
Max. breadth	12m
Breadth at tail:	9m
Max. height:	1.8m

Length: breadth ratio: 1:2.4

History of site and present condition: Robbing had probably
already taken place when the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map showed a
round cairn, representing the E end of the mound,
designated in Gothic script 'Cairn (site of)'. The public
road passing along the S side of the cairn, edged by a ditch
and hawthorn hedge is likely to have been constructed with
some levelling of the slope below the cairn, destroying its
outline here. A quarry affecting the E end of the cairn on
this side has removed a large part of the hill itself below
its head. Other robbing hollows occur on the summit of the
mound. The N side of the cairn is likely to have been
distorted by ploughing, while its W end is cut by a field
bank crossing the ridge. Whins and small bushes overgrow
the S side of the mound.

Description:

Kerb: No kerb stones can be identified and the
original cairn perimeter is probably concealed under
slippage.

Facade: The proximal end of the cairn is rounded with
no sign of features.

Cairn: The cairn, clearly built of stone, utilises
the ridge on which it is sited to give increased height to
the broad E end. Nonetheless there is also a distinct rise
in the level of the cairn surface at this end, and it seems
possible that a round cairn has been erected on top of the
long. Its original outline may, therefore have been more
smoothly trapezoidal than its present pear shaped
appearance. The tail, also, is probably truncated by

the passing dyke, while the S side of the mound, built along the brink of a slope, is probably greatly distorted through slippage, encouraged by road building here.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 2km, or 1.6km from maximum transgression levels

Distance from water: 150m from the Chapelton Burn to S and 150m from a smaller, feeder stream to N of the ridge

General topography: Glaciated countryside consists of low but steep sided ridges divided by narrow glens running down from higher hills to join the raised beaches along the coast.

Situation: The cairn, set along a ridge, runs along the S edge of the summit, giving greater visibility from this side.

Aspect: W

Slope: Very gentle on ridge, falling steeply to N and S

Local relief, within 500m : 50 - 120m OD

Outlook: Distant: 65% (38% sea view)
Intermediate: 35% to NE
Restricted: -

Prominence: High

Local landmarks: The cairn is aligned with the prominent volcanic plug islet of Ailsa Craig, 20km out to sea. Views of Arran are also obtained to the NW.

Solid geology: Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Imperfectly drained brown forest soils over glacial till

Land use: Agriculture, primarily livestock

Vegetation: Improved grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Druid's Grave, Bargrennan round cairn, 15.5km to SE
Baing Loch, probable Bargrennan round cairn, 19.5km

to E

Balmalloch, Bargrennan round cairn, 21km to S

Monument context: Despite its denuded state there appears little doubt that this cairn is a long one, perhaps

embellished by the addition of a higher round cairn emphasising its broad, uphill end. As such it would compare closely in size with Lochhill and Slewcairn, interestingly also coastal sites, overlooking the inner Solway. Absence of evidence for a chamber eliminates close comparison with cairns on Arran, only 25km distant, although, of course, at Macawston such evidence may still be concealed under cairn stone.

The cairn is curiously isolated, bearing no morphological relationship to its nearest neighbours, all upland round cairns of the Bargrennan group (Murray 1992). A similar site may exist 23km to the S near Ballantrae on Balnowlart Hill (NX 18SW 11), where, again, a round cairn appears to overlie a small long cairn on a ridge overlooking maximum transgression limits of the post-glacial sea. There must be a high level of probability that similar small long cairns within the agricultural zone will have suffered destruction without record.

Artefact context:

Axes: Two axes donated by the Marquess of Ailsa to the NMAS in 1979 together with material from Lochspouts crannog excavation (Munro 1882, 158-82), have been associated with that material. The crannog lies 7km inland from Macawston. No finds of axes are mentioned in the report of the excavation and it may be that the two axes, one possibly of Group IX stone, the other probably of Group VI material, come from elsewhere on the Ailsa estates (AF 1077; 1078).

J.K. McDowall (1947, 425) writes of the sand dunes of Maidens, 2.5km NW of Macawston: 'A considerable number of prehistoric remains, including stone axes, etc., has been found in the vicinity'.

Lithics: In 1990 a struck flake or broken blade of pitchstone was picked up in plough 70m ENE of the long cairn at NS 2200 0487. It measures 15mm x 10mm maximum length.

Flints have been collected above the raised beach at Dowhill (NS 204 035) and Drumbeg (NS 204 047), 2km and 1.5km SW and W of the long cairn respectively (DES 1973, 14; 1974, 23).

Prehistoric landscape;:

Cairns: Nothing remains of a cairn that may have stood on Hallowshean, 2.5km NE of the long cairn (RCAHMS 1983(a) 10, no.35).

A 12m cairn on East Threave lies c 4km E of the long cairn (ibid p.11 no.44).

Standing stone: The 'Sturdy Stone', c 1.2m in height, is said to have stood at NS 234 045 1.6km ESE of the long cairn (ONB 39, 80).

A 1m high stone stands on Bain's Hill at NS 207 077, 3km NW of the long cairn (RCAHMS 1983(a) 15, no.88).

A group of stones up to 1.1m in height is said to have stood at Kingsree (NS 244 079), 4km NE of Macawston (ibid. 15, no.89).

Archaeological interpretation: The Ordnance Survey first noted this 'ancient cairn' on the top of a long narrow ridge, (ONB 39, 80) portraying it on the 6-inch map as a round cairn. RCAHMS survey in 1982 (1983(a) 10, no.37) gave the measurements of the mound as 28m by 12m, but added 'it is uncertain whether these are the remains of a round cairn or a long cairn'.

Fig I:7:1 Macawston: Plan 1989

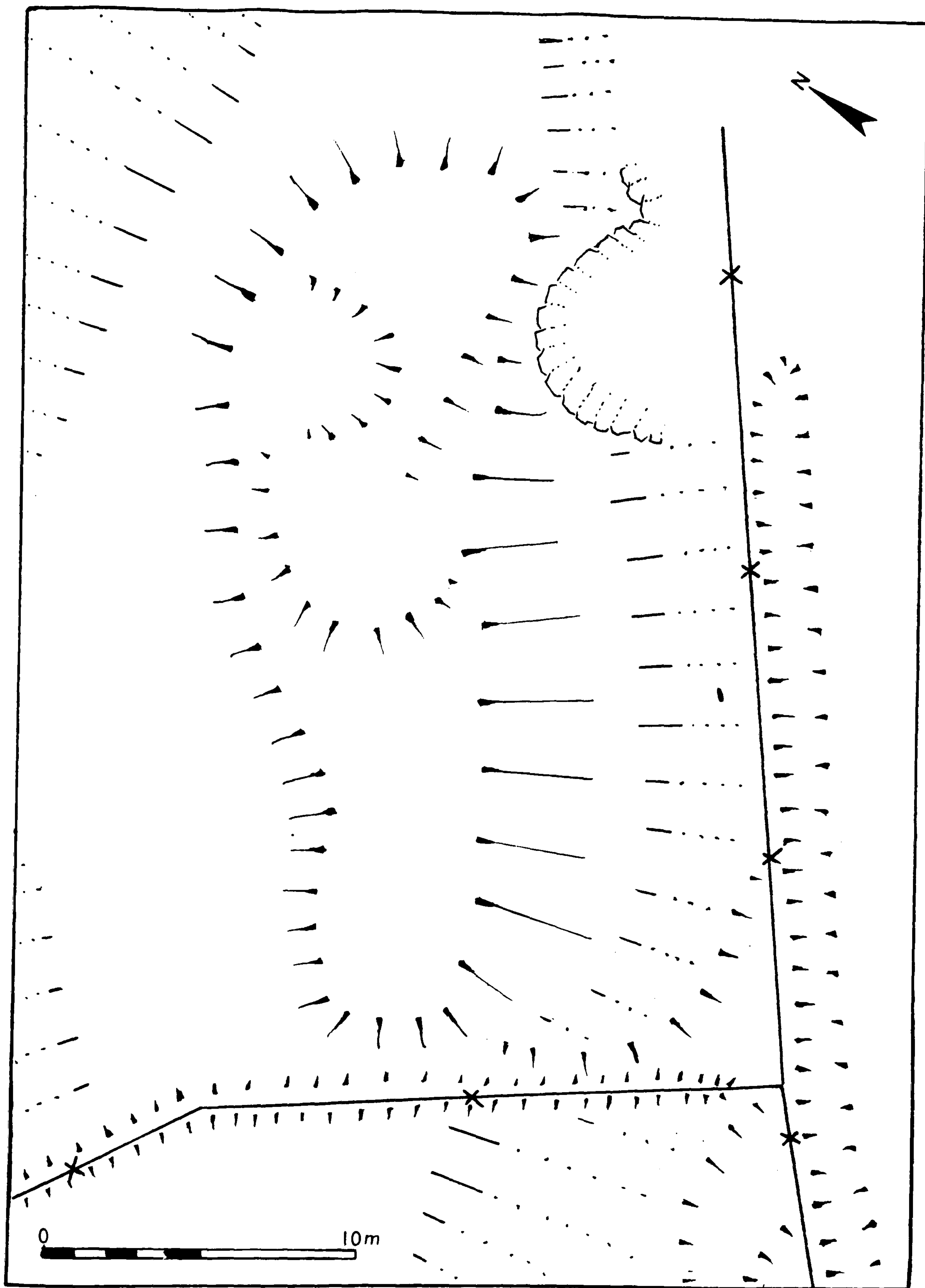
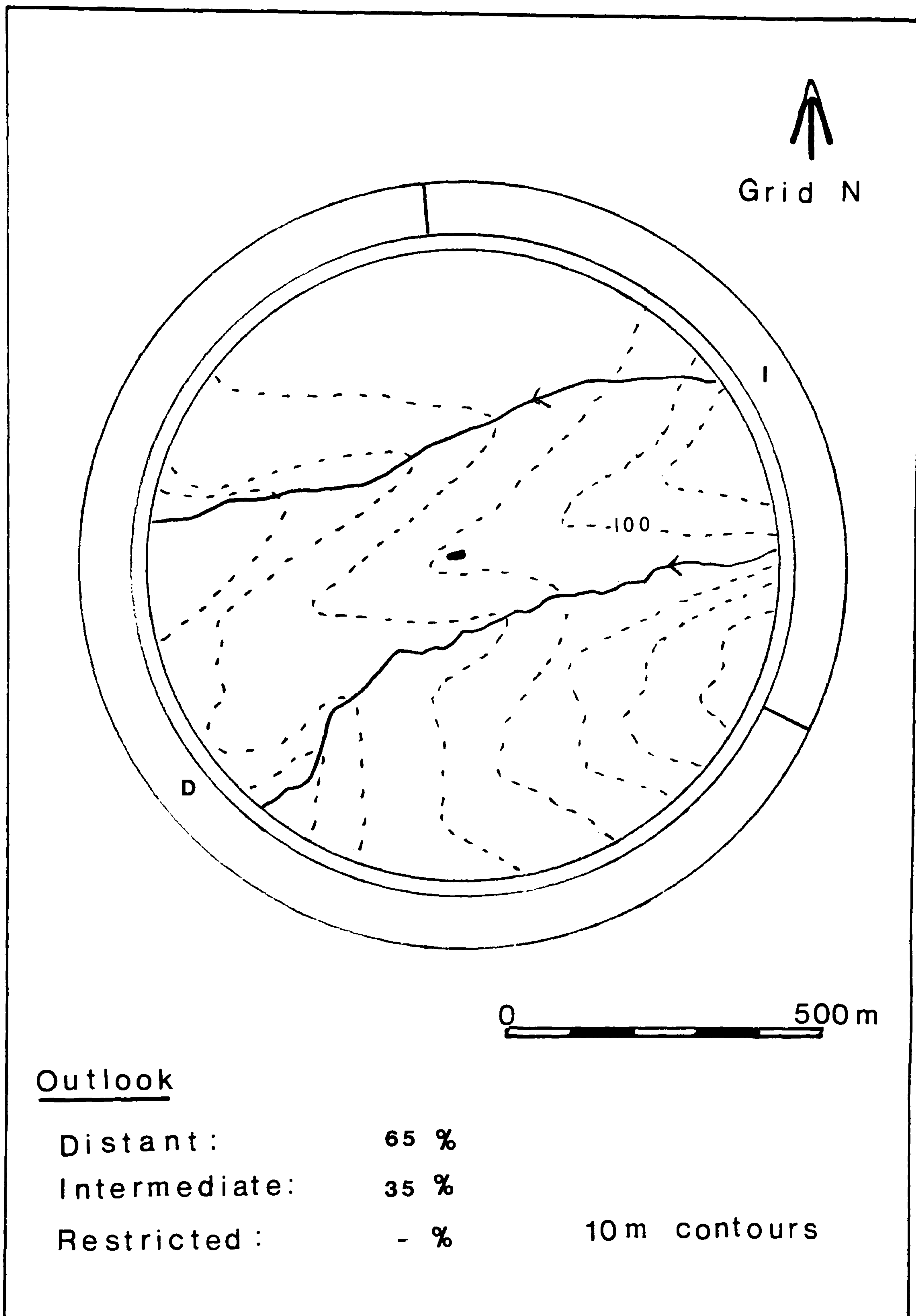


Fig I:7:2 Situation and outlook: Macawston



II:1 Port Seton ELT 1
East Lothian District
Lothian Region

NT 47NW 9
c NT 40 75
below 25m OD?

Location: 'In the neighbourhood of Port Seton'

Type: Possible long mound

Status: Category C. Doubtful record only

History of site: The only account of the site is that of Daniel Wilson (1851, 48): 'In a long barrow opened in the neighbourhood of Port Seton, East Lothian in 1833, a skeleton was found laid at full length within a rude cist'. Wilson was seventeen years old in 1833, and he gives no indication of whether he had seen this site.

Present condition: Destroyed

Description:

Mound: Wilson distinguishes stone cairns from earthen tumuli (1851, 46), but nevertheless calls the long cairns of Orkney and Perthshire 'long barrows', and his terminology is not specific. It must be noted, also, that the raised beaches behind Port Seton consist of sand and gravel ridges which could resemble long barrows.

Features: 'A skeleton laid at full length within a rude cist'. The description suggests a long cist, and see discussion below (the Neolithic context).

Finds: The skeleton was said to indicate 'the remains of a man nearly seven feet high, but the bones crumbled to dust soon after their exposure to the air'.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: In locating the barrow by reference to Port Seton, a tiny settlement beside the harbour on the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map, Wilson would imply that it was close to the sea.

General topography: A stretch of undulating raised beach nearly 1km broad separates the coast from a higher ridge of ground at 25m OD. The shore near the harbour is rocky, but immediately to the E are Seton Sands, an open, sandy bay sheltered by rocky ridges to seaward.

Aspect: NNW

Outlook: Almost certainly open, across the Firth of Forth.

Local landmarks: Arthur's Seat, 13km to the W, and the Lomond Hills of Fife form prominent local landmarks.

Solid geology: Calciferous sandstone

Soils: Raised beach sands and gravels

Land use: Arable farming and urban development

CONTEXT

The Neolithic Setting

Monuments: Considerable doubt must attach to this identification. The burial account resembles that of a long cist, while the local presence of gravel ridges could explain the supposed barrow.

150m SW of the harbour at Port Seton, in the grounds of Winton House, burials were discovered in November 1988 by contractors preparing the ground for house foundations (Dalland 1988). Investigation by HBM found the interments to have been greatly disturbed, but two cists were examined. One, a long cist, built of coursed masonry, contained a fully extended skeleton; a short cist contained a flexed inhumation. ¹⁴C determination on bone from a third deposit gave a Late Iron Age date (Dalland, pers. comm. 1991). Roughly in the centre of the area investigated was a large L-shaped modern pit. All features were dug into ancient beach sediments, the calcium-rich soil resulting in good bone preservation (Dalland 1988). It would seem to be entirely probable that Wilson's account rests on the discovery of another long cist in the gravel ridges of the raised beach. Conceivably the 'modern pit' at Winton House represents the 1833 excavation.

Artefact context:

Axes: An axe of Antrim porcellanite has been found on Seton Mains on the ridge behind the raised beach (NMR&NT 47NW 11). Other axes are recorded as coming from the same ridge within 5km of Port Seton (NMS: AF 1053, Tranent; NMR&NT 37SE 42, Bankton, 43 Falside Hill). A group of axes come from Longniddry, 4km to the E of the town (NMS:AF 958-9, 961-3, 972).

Prehistoric landscape: In June 1931 a short cist containing a food vessel and cremation was found 100m SW of the burials excavated by Dalland (Callander 1932, 403-4).

A series of short cist burials come from the raised beaches behind Seton Sands (Curle 1918, 32-4; Callander 1916, 150-1), some recorded as being in raised ridges (e.g. Curle 1918, 32, Longniddry Golf Course).

There is a record of a 'circle of stones' standing near the sea on the W side of Longniddry Dean, 2.4km E of Port Seton (NSA II, 291).

Archaeological interpretations: Henshall (1972, 429) listed this site as a doubtful long cairn, and accorded it its serial number ELT 1.

II:2 'Oliver's Mounts', Inveresk Churchyard NT 37SW 10
&3 Midlothian A. NT 3438 7208
East Lothian District B. NT 3446 7205
Lothian Region 30m OD

Location: In the old churchyard of St. Michael's parish church, Inveresk

- A. 40m NW of the church
- B. 30m E of the church

Type: Two possible long barrows

Status: Category C

- A. Landscaped and re-shaped
- B. Destroyed

Orientation: A. E-W
B. N-S

Outline: A. A cigar-shaped mound, spread slightly at each end.

B. Similar, but perhaps narrower.

Dimensions: A. Length: 43m
Breadth: 10.5m - 12.0m
Height: 1.0m at W end, rising to 2.4m at E end, where ground level drops

B. Length: c 40m
Breadth: c 8m (perhaps trimmed by parallel, adjacent wall)
Height: 1.2m (Stat. Acct. XVI, 24)

History of site and present condition: Although the mounds are only 50m E of the Roman fort at Inveresk (Richmond 1980), they are on a different alignment, and seem unlikely to bear any relationship either to the fort or to the bath house buildings, 150m to the E, neither of which is visible above ground. A more apparent connection could seem to exist between the church and the mounds which are set around it. This relationship could, however, derive from either subsequent enclosure of the church or original choice of site, traditionally in the sixth century AD (McWilliam 1978, 263). D.M. Moir (1860, 21) argued that the two mounds were depicted and referred to by Patten in his 'Expedition of his Grace of Somerset' (Dalyell's Fragments of Scottish History 1798), a contemporary diary of the events of 1547 and the Battle of Pinkie. The account of 'two hillocks before the church' seems as likely, however, to refer to natural features of the ridge of Pinkie Hill, as to the two mounds in the churchyard.

The earliest description is therefore that in the Statistical Account (1795, XVI, 24) where the E mound is said to have been levelled some five or six years previously to extend the burying ground. The origin of the mounds

was already lost, and while the Statistical Account ascribed it to Oliver Cromwell in 1650, Lord Hailes (1726-92) was quoted as suggesting a Roman context, as ramparts to the fort. A plan published in 1822 (de Cardonnel, facing p.159) shows the NW mound looking much as at present, and mound B, alongside the E wall of the churchyard, as a slightly shorter and narrower feature, perhaps reduced to accommodate the wall. The same plan, reproduced in Robert Stuart's '*Caledonia Romana*' of 1852 (Pl. IV, facing p.161), shows the mounds three dimensionally and looking rather less regular; this may be artistic licence.

Mound A survives in a regular, tailored form, with late 19th century gravestones cut into its S side and W end, where it is most widely spread. The N side of the mound is steep, probably cut away to create a 4m broad terrace with a row of graves between the mound and a steep drop to the N. A gravel path runs along the mound summit reached by stone steps rising up the S angle at either end. The original appearance of the mound is clearly lost.

Mound B has been levelled, but a slight scarp line 8m from the E churchyard wall and parallel to it could represent its original edge.

Description:

Kerb: Stuart (1852 p.159) mentions that 'vestiges of ancient masonry' were discovered along the edges of the mounds, suggesting that a built revetment lay buried under collapsed material. There is no trace of such a feature on the surviving mound.

Barrow: Around the tombstones weeded beds show the soil to be light and silty, but this may be superficial only. The surviving outline is too distorted to allow for useful comment.

Excavated features: In the Statistical Account it is related that, after the E mound had been demolished 'many human bones in full preservation' were discovered 7 feet (2.1m) below ground level, and 11 feet (3.3m) below the top of the mound when the foundations of a monument were being built.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 1.25km from the present mouth of the River Esk, but transgression seas could have washed the foot of the bluff on which the mounds are situated, at a distance of c 600m.

Distance from water: 200m from the River Esk to the S

General topography: The steep glacial ridge on which the mounds lie is separated from the sea by gently undulating raised beaches. The River Esk curves around the ridge, before cutting through it to reach the sea, creating a promontory effect.

Situation: Both mounds occupied the summit of a fluvio-glacial ridge, which runs E to W, parallel to the coast.

Mound A runs along the N edge of the summit, the ground dropping immediately to the N. Mound B lay across the ridge, at a point where it begins to slope gently down to the E.

Aspect: Open in all directions, with longest views to N and W.

Slope: Almost level on the ridge summit. A steep slope down to the N, c 20%.

Local relief, within 500m:5m-30m OD

Outlook: Distant: 78%
Intermediate: 22% (to E)
Restricted: -

Prominence: Before the churchyard was terraced, Mound A must have been a skyline feature from the N. Mound B may have been prominent from the E, where the level of the ridge drops slightly.

Local landmarks: Arthur's Seat is 7km W of Inveresk, and the surviving mound is aligned on its summit. The Lomond Hills of Fife also form a distant view point.

Solid geology: Calciferous sandstone

Soils: Glacial sands and gravels

Land use: The church and graveyard are surrounded by high quality housing with private gardens.

Vegetation: Mown grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Monktonhall possible cursus, 1km to SE
Port Seton, doubtful long barrow, 7km to NE
Harlawmuir, long cairn, 25km to SW

Monument context: The condition of the surviving mound is such as to make it impossible to classify it as a long barrow. The pairing of the two mounds would not be unknown in a neolithic setting, but it is rare to find such close proximity. The situation of the two mounds, at right angles to each other, enclosing the higher end of Inveresk ridge may suggest that a defensive purpose is more probable. The positioning of St. Michael's church within the enclosed ground could be a deliberate choice (cf. Cramond Kirk, inside the Roman fort), but the mounds do not appear to form part of a Roman complex. Perhaps, rather, they were themselves built to defend the church, either by the French troops who occupied Inveresk in 1548 with instructions to build defences (Stuart 1852, 158) or as the name

suggests, by Oliver Cromwell. The discovery of human bones deep below the mound cannot, of course, provide an answer to this problem, unless their good state of preservation suggests medieval rather than prehistoric burial. The case for a neolithic origin is slight, but the absence of any previous discussion of the possibility is of interest.

Long barrows, as opposed to cairns, are extremely rare in northern England and southern Scotland, although they appear to the N, in Kincardine (e.g. Dalladies NO 627 673). There is a possible, but doubtful, record of a long barrow from Port Seton, 6km E of Inveresk (ELT 1), and an oval barrow excavation from Biggar Common.

1km SE of the mounds a possible cursus enclosure at Monktonhall runs SW from the Inveresk ridge to the River Esk. Neolithic settlement in the Lothians may have been coastal, to judge by the sand dune sites further E, but the River Esk also forms an important link between the Firth of Forth and the long cairn cluster at the S end of the Pentlands. The situation then, would not be an unexpected one for a neolithic monument.

Artefact context:

Axes: A diorite axe 8½" (216mm) in length is recorded from near Monkton House, 2km S of Inveresk (PSAS 1884-5, 329).

A fine, flint Duggleby adze 6.9" (175mm) long was found beside the River North Esk at Castlesteads, 2.5km S of Inveresk (NMS AF 1047).

A sandstone axe, 135mm in length, is said to have been found on Falside Hill, 3.5km to the E (NMR\$ NT 37SE 45).

Pottery: Excavation in 1976 recovered two sherds of western neolithic pottery from disturbed deposits on the S side of the Inveresk ridge, c 150m SE of the church (G.D.Thomas 1988). The sherds, of unusually hard fabric, came from bowls with contracted necks, the one surviving rim being heavy and rolled in the Rothesay style. A similar rim occurs on a bowl from Oatslie, Roslin, beside the River North Esk, 13km to the SW. Henshall (in G.D. Thomas 1988), describing this pottery, comments on the rarity of the combination of hard fabric and rolled rim in Scotland, except at Luce Sands; the best parallels can be found in Yorkshire.

1300m SSE of the church pots of 'Neolithic-Bronze Age type' were recovered from pits on the edge of the possible cursus (Hanson n.d.)

Prehistoric landscape: 50m W of the surviving mound de Cardonnel's plan shows a round mound, known, according to Muir (1860, 22) as 'the Fairy Knowe'. The position would coincide with the NE corner of the Roman Fort. A second round mound immediately E of the NE corner of the churchyard, was regarded as being similar to the first (de Cardonnel 1822, 165; Moir 1860, 21-2). This mound survives, but contains an 18th century ice house and has been revetted by a stone wall, making it impossible to

assess its original appearance. Its position below the summit of the ridge does not encourage identification as a prehistoric burial mound.

Records suggest possible prehistoric funerary activity 100m S of the long mounds. Moir (1860, 12) relates that 'amid a circle of curiously shaped stones, which seem to have formed a sacrificial altar, two cinereal urns of baked clay were found' in 1827. 'Scattered upon and around the stones which bore the marks of fire, were fragments of half consumed bones of wild boars tusks, and of deers horns'. The urns were said to 8-10inches (203-254mm) in height, with narrow bases, and contained ashes. Reference to initials on the base of the urns and a coin of Vespasian beside them need not destroy the possibility of a Bronze Age burial site here. A similar urn was said to have been previously found in the area (Moir 1860, 13).

Other records of burials in the area relate more probably to long cists than to prehistoric interments (Moir 1860, 16-17), but 1km to the S, on the gravels beside the supposed cursus, at least two ring ditches can be identified on aerial photographs. Excavation of two small ring ditches in the same area, each with a pit attached, did not serve to date the sites, although a small quantity of bone was recovered from each (Hanson, nd, 4).

Tradition: The name 'Oliver's Mounts' was attached to the mounds by 1795, when the Rev. Dr. Alexander Carlyle (Stat Acct XVI, 24) related that they were supposed to have been batteries erected by Oliver Cromwell. Lord Hailes, the historian, had suggested them to be ramparts of a Roman camp, but the minister considered that the discovery of burials below the E mound showed them to post-date the use of the site as a cemetery. Robert Stuart (1852) revived this Roman interpretation, arguing that Roman burials were commonly found near to the station perimeter. Stuart identified the mounds as the 'two hillocks before the Church' mentioned by Patten in 1547, but the scale of the plan seems to have been misapprehended here. Moir (1860) agreed with Stuart as to the early date of long mounds, but suggested that the two round mounds could have been 'bastions' built by the French as fortifications following the Battle of Pinkie.

In 1975 the Ordnance Survey (BS) understood that it was the round mound to the E of the churchyard that was called Oliver's Mound. Beamon and Roaf (1990) learnt that the owners of Inveresk House called this 'Oliver's Mount', on the understanding that it had been the private burial ground of the family of Oliver Colt, minister of Inveresk and occupant of Inveresk House in 1727. By 1794 an ice house had been built into the round mound, a proceeding which it seems hard to reconcile with the suggested burial place.

Fig. II:2:1 Oliver's Mount: Plan 1990

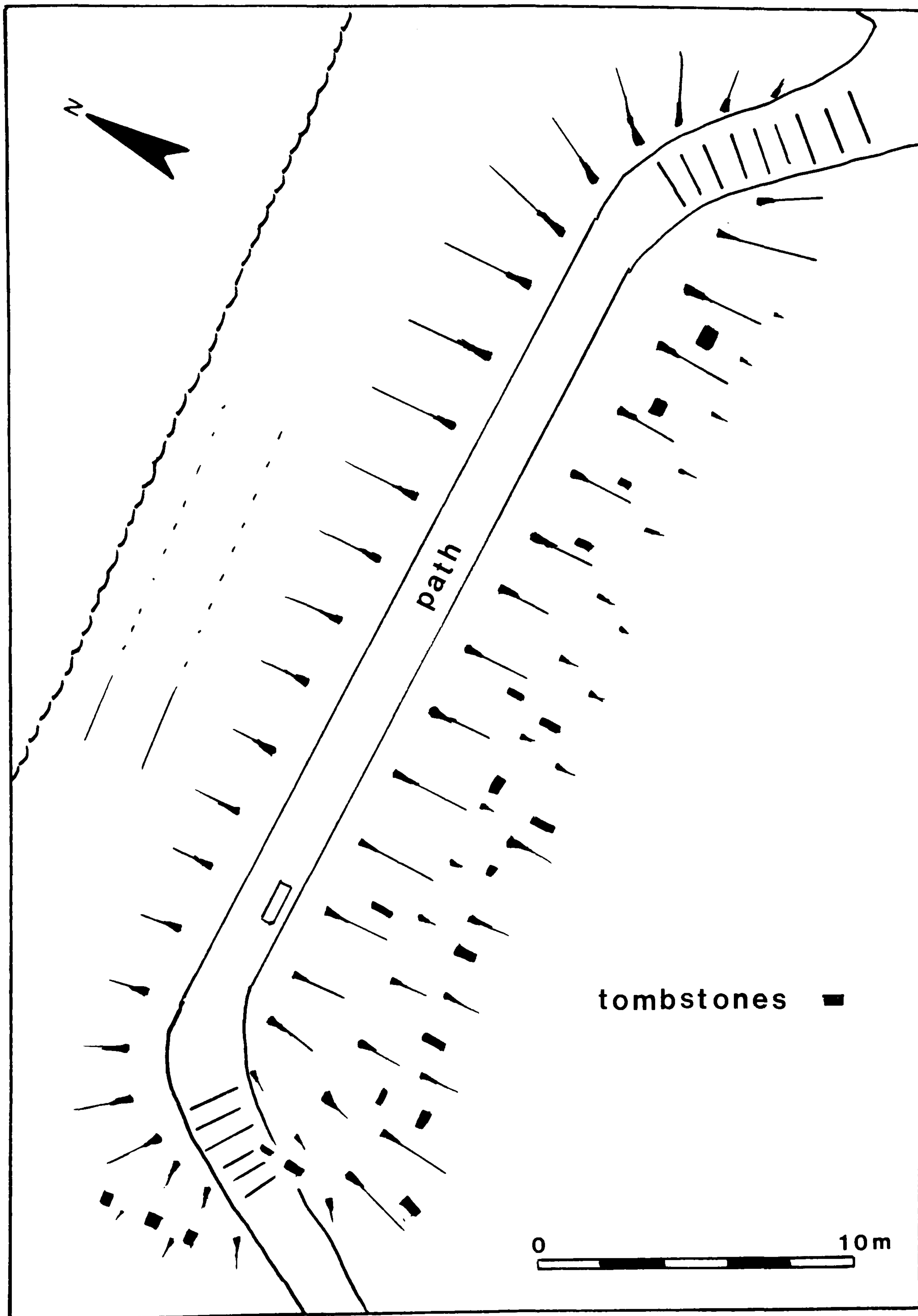
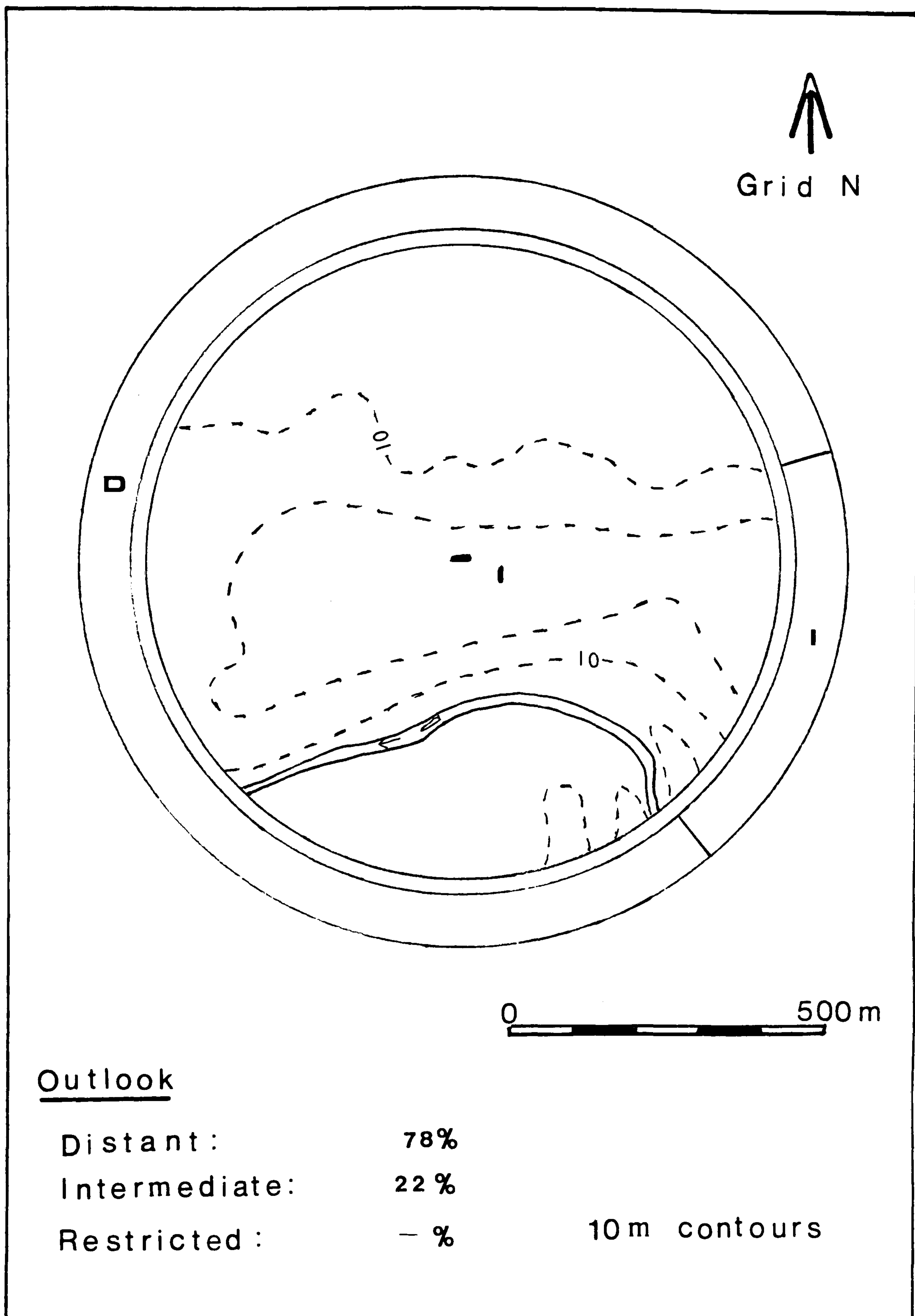


Fig. II:2:2 Situation and Outlook: Oliver's Mount



III:1 Burngrange LNK1
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NT 04NW 18
NT 0308 4953
260m OD

Location: 4km NNE of Newbigging, 800m N of the deserted farmhouse of Burngrange, on the S side of the Pentlands at the foot of Horse Law.

Type: Laterally chambered trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: A narrow, parallel sided cairn with orthostatic kerb, its proximal end destroyed by an overlying sheep stell; one lateral chamber on the S side, two possible chamber remains on the N side.

Orientation: ESE-WNW

Dimensions:

Surviving length:	36m
Breadth, max.	12m
at tail	8m
Max. height	1.2m

Breadth:length ratio: 1:3

History of site and present condition: A series of turf and stone sheep stells and small 'shieling huts' on the terrace immediately SE of the long cairn indicate a long period of pastoral use of the site. A circular stone sheep stell founded on an earlier turf banked enclosure, has destroyed the E end of the cairn. Low banks, c 4-5m long, extrude from the turf stell to the NE and, on either side of the entrance to S and SW. Small oval pens, or 'shieling huts' c 8m x 7m overall lie 2m beyond the ends of these last two banks, with which they are presumably contemporary. The SW bank overlies the cairn edge, concealing it, and the adjacent hut is built against the cairn, further obscuring its edge. The opposite N side of the cairn appears to have been used as another bank linking with the stell. The cairn then probably continues right up to the edge of the stell, but there is no sign of cairn stone in the stell interior.

A track runs N to S across the cairn immediately W of the two banks, reducing it nearly to ground level.

The body of the cairn is extensively robbed, principally through a 3m wide gap in its N side, 12m from the tail, leaving a 12m long hollow down the cairn centre. Major robbing has also occurred around the S chamber, and immediately to the N of this chamber a large hollow, delimited on the N by three pillar stones, suggests that another chamber, back to back with the first, has been robbed out. Only the tail of the cairn remains well mounded with a high, steep profile.

In 1988 heather grew over the flanks of the cairn, masking its edge. A visit in 1989 found that the heather had

been stripped off, revealing more kerb stones than before, and hollows had been dug into the cairn stones. The S chamber had been emptied of debris and a pit dug down below ground level in its NW corner. Removal of loose stone in the central hollow had revealed several large boulders, possibly the remains of another chamber, opening to the N. The incident was reported to Historic Scotland who initiated discussions with the landowner with a view to backfilling damaged areas; it was proposed to erect a notice advising of the protected status of the monument (letter from Dr. S. Foster 8.11.91).

Description:

Kerb: Spaced, upright orthostats, 1m-1.5m in from the present cairn edge, presumably represent the original kerb line. There are eleven slabs along the S side, mostly c 1m apart, some upright, others leaning or fallen outwards. They are up to 0.7m broad, and 0.5m in maximum visible height. Three similar slabs set around the high mounded tail, one leaning outwards and one fallen, are nearly clear of cairn material. Only a few slabs are visible along the N side of the cairn, others perhaps being still buried in cairn material which has fallen away less on this uphill side. There is one slab near the tail, deep in cairn stone; another on the S side of the robbing entrance could have been a portal to the damaged chamber here. Portal stones mark the entrance to the robbed out NE chamber, 3m in from the present cairn edge. Where the track has destroyed a strip of the cairn one kerbstone and a row of small set stones survive to mark the cairn perimeter. There are two possible kerb stones in the 'bank' of cairn material linking with the stell.

Cairn: The cairn is built diagonally across a steep bank, its E end at the top of the slope, its tail near the bottom. The kerb stones define a parallel sided or very gently trapezoidal outline, curving around the tail. There may have been a slight outward splay at the E end, but the outline here is obscure. It is possible that the sheep stell occupied the area of a crescentic forecourt of which no trace now remains. The slightly off-centre position of the stell, and the slope in the ground give an impression of a curve to the cairn axis, probably unjustifiably.

The cairn consists of loose boulders, small and large. The impressive height of the tail and the extent of cairn material beyond the kerb stones suggest the cairn to have been originally massive.

Chambers:

SE chamber: The chamber is defined by a backstone 1.2m broad and 1.0m high, joining neatly with a W side stone at least 1.25m long and 1.05m high. Broken slabs lie around, and the E wall is represented only by small footing stones which suggest a chamber breadth of 1.5m. The tops of three upright stones are visible in deep cairn material running SW from the chamber area, suggesting a passage. The backstone is 4.5m from the line of kerb stones, 7m from the present cairn edge.

NE chamber (possible): A robbing hollow to the N of the SE chamber suggests that there has been a second chamber set back to back with the first. The only structural remains are three pillar stones which appear to have served as double portals, the outer pair 0.6m apart, the inner, of which only the E one remains, leaving a narrower gap. These portal stones, set slightly back from the kerb line, are 3m in from the present cairn edge, which bulges outward at this point in a high bank of cairn material, perhaps as a blocking to the chamber.

W chamber (possible): 11m W of the SE chamber hollow, recent robbing has revealed a group of large stones which could represent the remains of a third chamber. A red sandstone boulder, 1.1m in length, lies in the centre of the cairn along its axis. 2m to the N a pillar stone, 1m in height, leans to the W. Between the two lies a large boulder. A kerb stone on the W side of the robbing gap on the N side of the cairn could have been a portal stone to a destroyed chamber here, the whole group of stones then measuring 3.5m from N to S.

Other features: 8m W of the last setting and 5m from the cairn tail is a red sandstone slab, visible to a height of 0.55m, set upright in the cairn, which is here over 1m high.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 30km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 200m from a stream to the N, which feeds the Westruther Burn passing the long cairn 300m to the W.

General topography: The southern Pentlands slope gently down towards the valley of the South Medwin and the River Clyde, beyond which rise the higher masses of the Southern Uplands.

Situation: The lower SW facing slopes of Horse Law drop in a series of terraces to the Westruther Burn. The cairn is built on the scarp between terraces, set diagonally across the slope, so that it is falling in level both towards the tail and near the E end, from the N side to the S.

Aspect: SW

Slope: Fairly steep (10%), although nearly level on the terraces both above and below the cairn.

Local relief, within 500m: 235m-310m OD

Outlook: Distant: 31% to S and SE
Intermediate: 69%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Very restricted. The cairn is against the slope of the hill, except from a very small area beyond the tail to the NW.

Local landmarks: Tinto Hill (707m OD) 17km to the SW and the Black Mount (516m OD) 6km to the SE are prominent features of the view. See also Prehistoric landscape for nearby visually impressive round cairns.

Solid geology: Upper Devonian Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Freely drained humus iron podzols of the Hobkirk Association on the slopes; peat and peaty gleys on lower ground to the W.

Land use: Presently rough grazing. Sheep stells and 'shieling huts' around the cairn attest long use of the location for livestock handling. Burngrange deserted farm steading, 800m to the S is in enclosed fields and traces of cultivation extend along the hill slopes to within 50m of the cairn.

Vegetation: Heather moorland. Some grazed pasture on nearby slopes.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Greens Moor, long cairn, 750m to W

Weston henge, 3.75km to S

Easton long cairn, 5km to E

Monument context: Although presently truncated, the total length of the original cairn seems unlikely to have been considerably greater. The use of orthostats for kerbing suggests that the cairn may also have had an orthostatic facade (cf. Cairnholy I KRK 2; Boreland KRK 4). Very probably the circular sheep stell was constructed within the curve of a semi-circular facade. Lateral chambers, on the other hand are frequently found with no evidence of a facade, as at Cuff Hill I:2 and the Perthshire cairns (PER 1,2,3). The Lang Cairn, Dunbartonshire DNB 3 does, however, combine lateral chambers with curved orthostatic facade.

Neighbouring Pentland cairns are all longer than Burngrange and with no evidence of chambers. Their morphology is, however, very various. Broughton Knowe, 11km to the SE, is a smaller, trapezoidal cairn, 28m in length, although again with no evidence of chambers (III:7).

The close spatial relationship with the very different Greens Moor (III:2), intervisible across the Westruther Burn, is interesting. It could be interpreted either in terms of territoriality, both cairns being surrounded by a landscape of small cairns and round cairns showing continuity of settlement patterns, or as succession. If the latter, however, the two monuments co-existed after the construction of the second site, suggesting the maintenance of separate foci of interest.

Artefact context:

Axes: Although c twelve axes are recorded from within 5km of the cairn, none comes from within 2km. The

closest finds are a broken axe piece from Easton farm, c 2.3km to the S (NMS: AF 996), and a 4" (102mm) axe found in peat on Little Sparta, 2.23km to the SE (NT 04NE 39).

c five axes come from the Dunsyre district 4km to the SE (see Easton III::3) and three from Walston 5km to the S.

A Group VI axe comes from Kaimend, 5km to the SW (LNK 7; NMS: AF 94) and three more axes from the same district (Kaimend; Carnwath Mill; Carlingdene) are in the L. McL. Mann. Collection in GAGM (1953-96).

Lithics: Peat cover impedes artefact recovery in the vicinity of the cairn. However in Dec. 1993 two scrapers were picked up at NY 028 495, c 220m W of the cairn and in full view of it on the terrace directly above the Westruther Burn, where a cart track had cut through the peat. One was an endscraper made on a chert blade 180mm in length; the other was a chunk of light brown flint, retouched along two edges. Flakes and blades of chert have also been picked up in drainage channels on the opposite hillside.

A large lithic assemblage was recovered from Corse Law, 1400m W of the cairn after forestry ploughing (Clarke 1989).

More artefacts, including one leaf shaped arrowhead, have been found in the fields around Weston henge, nearly 4km to the S (III:f).

Large lithic collections come from the Dunsyre area, 5km to the E, including several arrowheads (see Easton III:3).

Finds from the farms of Easter and Wester Yardhouses, 3km to the W, are detailed under Greens Moor (III:2). They include lithics, western neolithic pottery, a decorated cist cover and a beaker.

Beaker: One beaker was found on Wester Yardhouses in a cist with decorated cover slab, 3km W of the cairn (see above).

Two beakers come from a cist in Newbiggingmill Quarry, 4km to the S (see Weston henge III:f).

Prehistoric landscape:

Cairns: 200m NE of the long cairn and clearly visible from it at the top of a slope, a rectangular sheepfold has been built of stone from an underlying cairn. Only the S half of the cairn survives, outside the pen, suggesting an original diameter of c 18m NT 0327 4958.

On the summit of Horse Law, 600m N of the long cairn at NT 0367 4978 is a 6.0m round cairn, 0.4m in surviving height, topped by a modern cairn (RCAHMS 1978(a), 57-8, no. 64(8)).

Small cairns on the W side of Horse Law are shown in plan in the Lanarkshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1978(a), 56-7 fig. 18) (and see Fig. III:1:4). They do not occur on the level terrace to the W of the cairn, from which the best view of the site is obtainable, but the depth of boggy peat here would conceal any features (see also lithic recovery, noted above). The terrace to the NE of the long cairn is also largely without small cairns; the thin peaty podzols

here may have been a suitable area for cultivation or improved grazing in the past, leading to stone clearance. Several of the small cairns are large enough to be listed by the RCAHMS as individual monuments, including one 8.5m diameter mound 200m S of the long cairn (ibid 57, no. 64(7,D)). 250m SSW of the long cairn is a neat, circular cairn, 8.0m in diameter on the summit of a hillock at NT 028 493. Other 'small cairns' are elongated in shape, but none of these appear to have formal definition of outline.

On Greens Moor, W of the Westruther Burn, there are four large cairns described under the entry on Greens Moor long cairn (III:2). The two northernmost of these round cairns, at NT 0272 5017 and NT 0240 5003 are visible from Burngrange long cairn and not from Greens Moor.

The south Pentlands carry many more round cairns, large and small, within a few kilometres of Burngrange.

Settlement sites: Fig. III:1:4 shows the area to the SE of the chambered cairn. At the base of the slope of Horse Law, c 100m from the chambered cairn, a group of sites occupy two terraced levels in a well sheltered spot. On the lower terrace is a hut circle, 6m in diameter within a stony bank incorporating big boulders in its make-up; the entrance is to the SE. 55m to the NE, on the upper level, is a second heather and peat covered hut circle, 7m in internal diameter, the entrance again to the SE. A small structure 22m to the SW of this last may be another 'shieling hut' of the type found near the chambered cairn. 24m to the E of the first hut circle a circular raised platform, c 8m in diameter, can be made out under the long heather; a similar, slightly smaller platform sits on the lip of the terrace edge between the two hut circles. These two sites are not strictly classifiable, but it is possible that they represent house platforms. The group of sites is out of view of the chambered cairn and adjacent to groups of small cairns to the N and SE.

Archaeological interpretations: This cairn was first reported by Angus Graham who found it in the course of a fieldwork study of small cairns (Graham 1957, 18-19). The first plan was published by Henshall (1972, 459), and a second appeared in the Lanarkshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1978(a), 43 Fig. 9). Henshall discussed possible relationships with Bargrennan cairns on account of the chamber form, but argued that the peristalith represented Clyde practice, making this the more significant connection (1972, 3, 7). Commenting on the exceptional isolation of the cairn from the remainder of the Clyde Group, she noted that the elongated form of cairn was most characteristically found at outlying sites (ibid p. 31, 71-2). The RCAHMS suggested as alternatives connections with SW Scotland or the Stirlingshire cairns of Stockie Muir (STR 1) and Craigmaddie Muir (STR 2). Both these two cairns are relatively short and broad, with axial chambers only and no evidence of peristaliths, making the comparison here a weak one. Masters does not include the cairn in his map of long cairns which covers the area (1984, 55, Fig. 4:1), regarding the chambers as evidence for typological difference.

Fig. III:1:1 Burngrange: Plan 1990

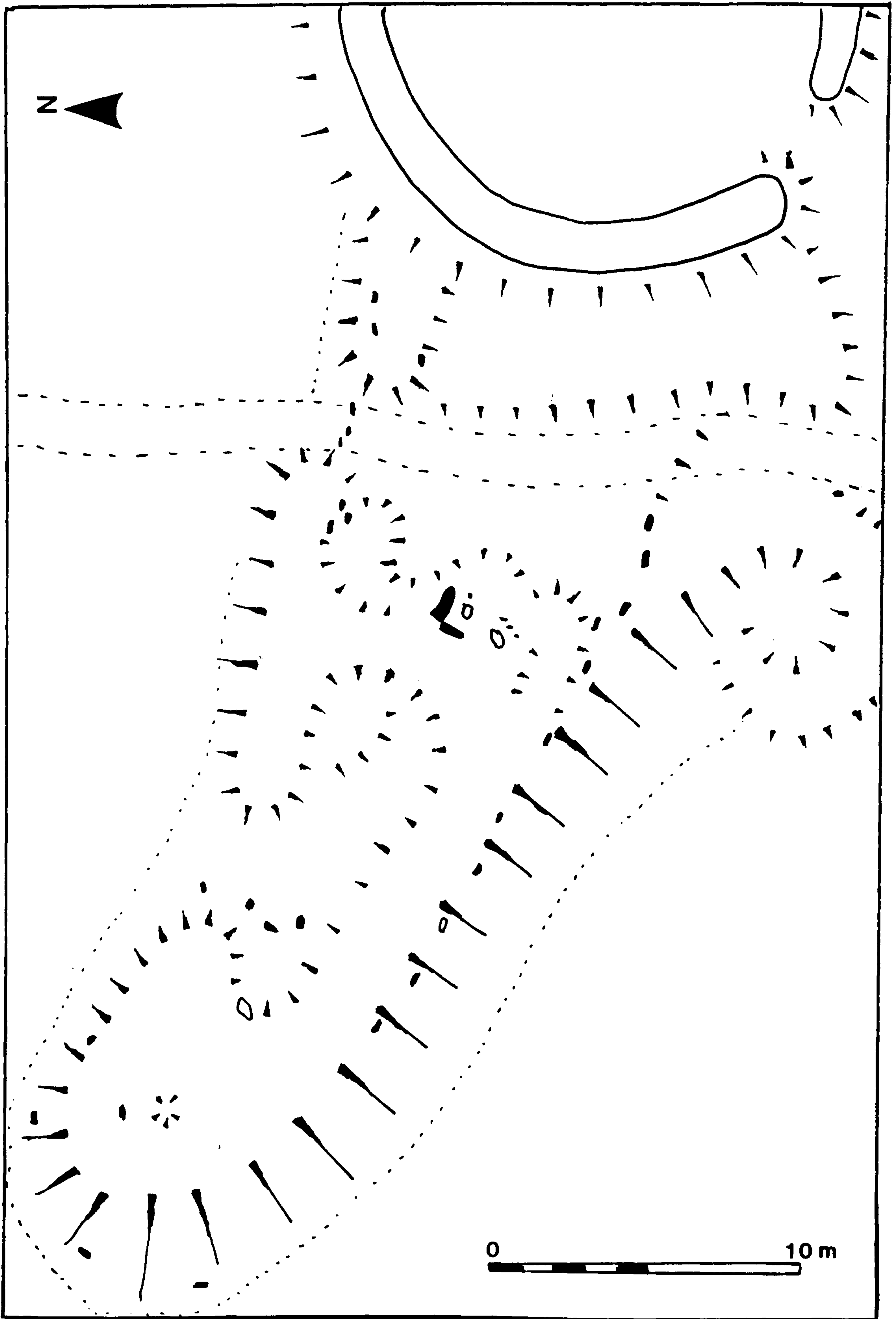


Fig. III:1:2 Situation and Outlook: Burngrange

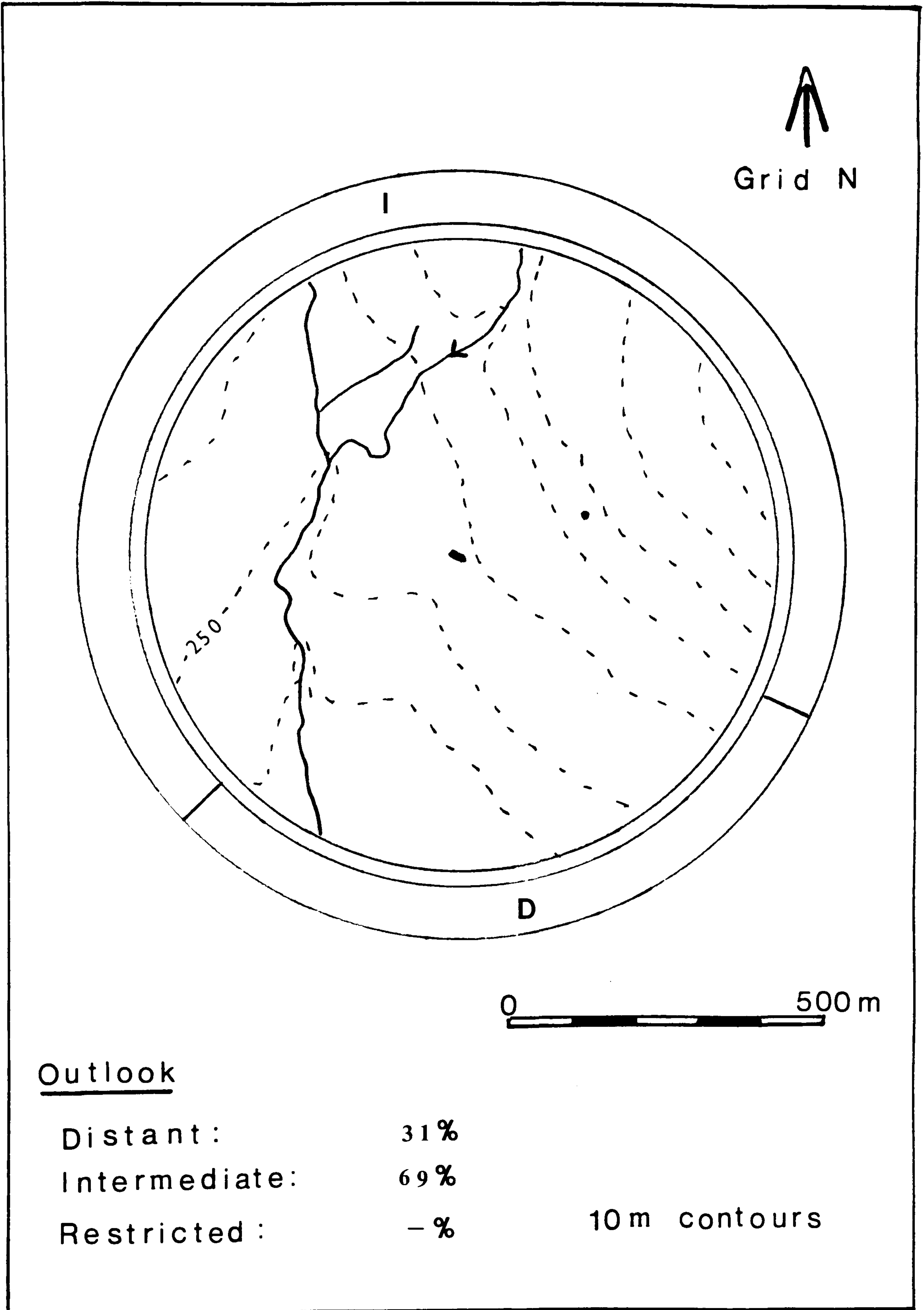


Fig. III:1:3 Burngrange: Profile and transects

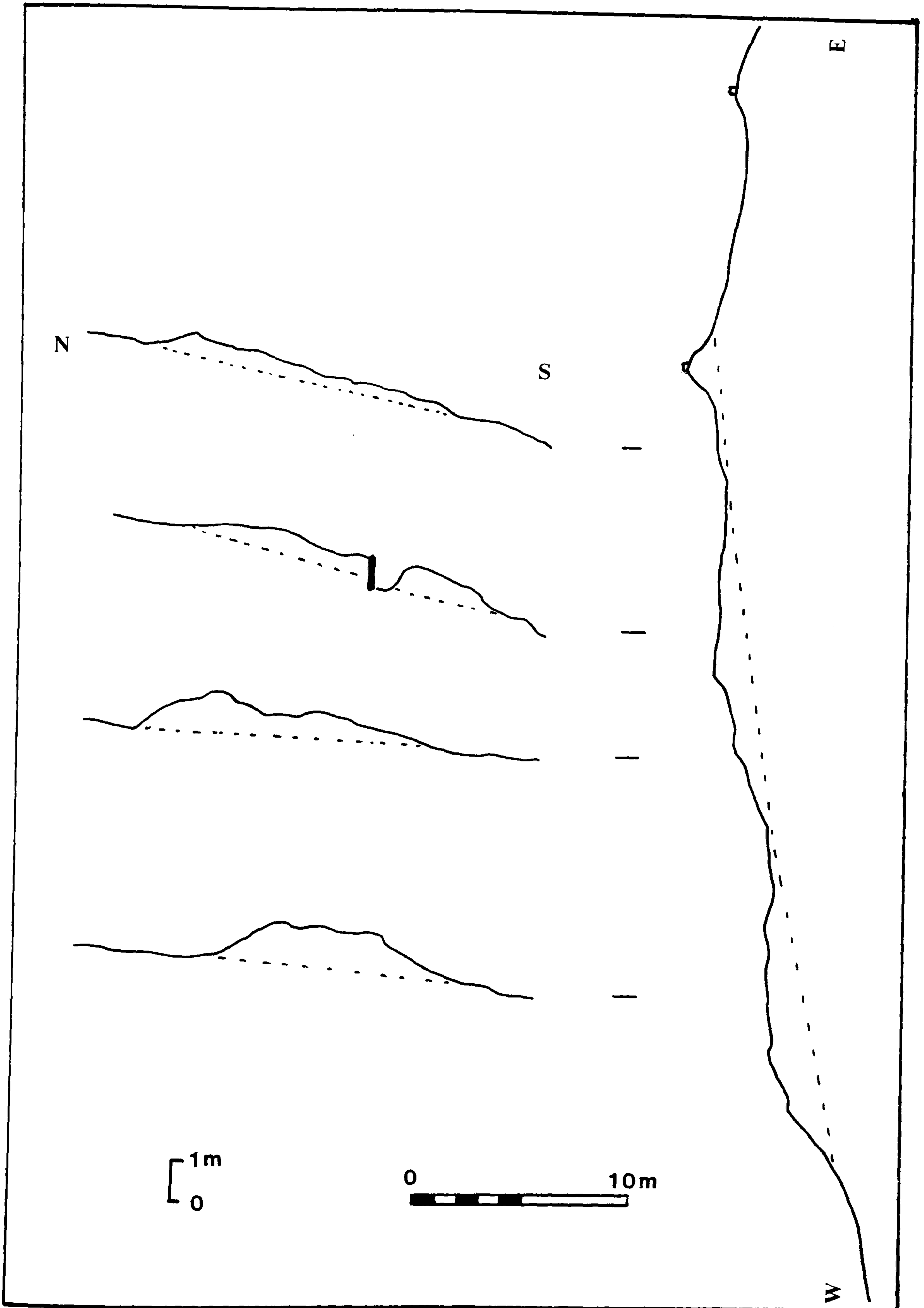


Fig. III:1:4

Burngrange environs after RCAHMS 1978,
with additions 1988

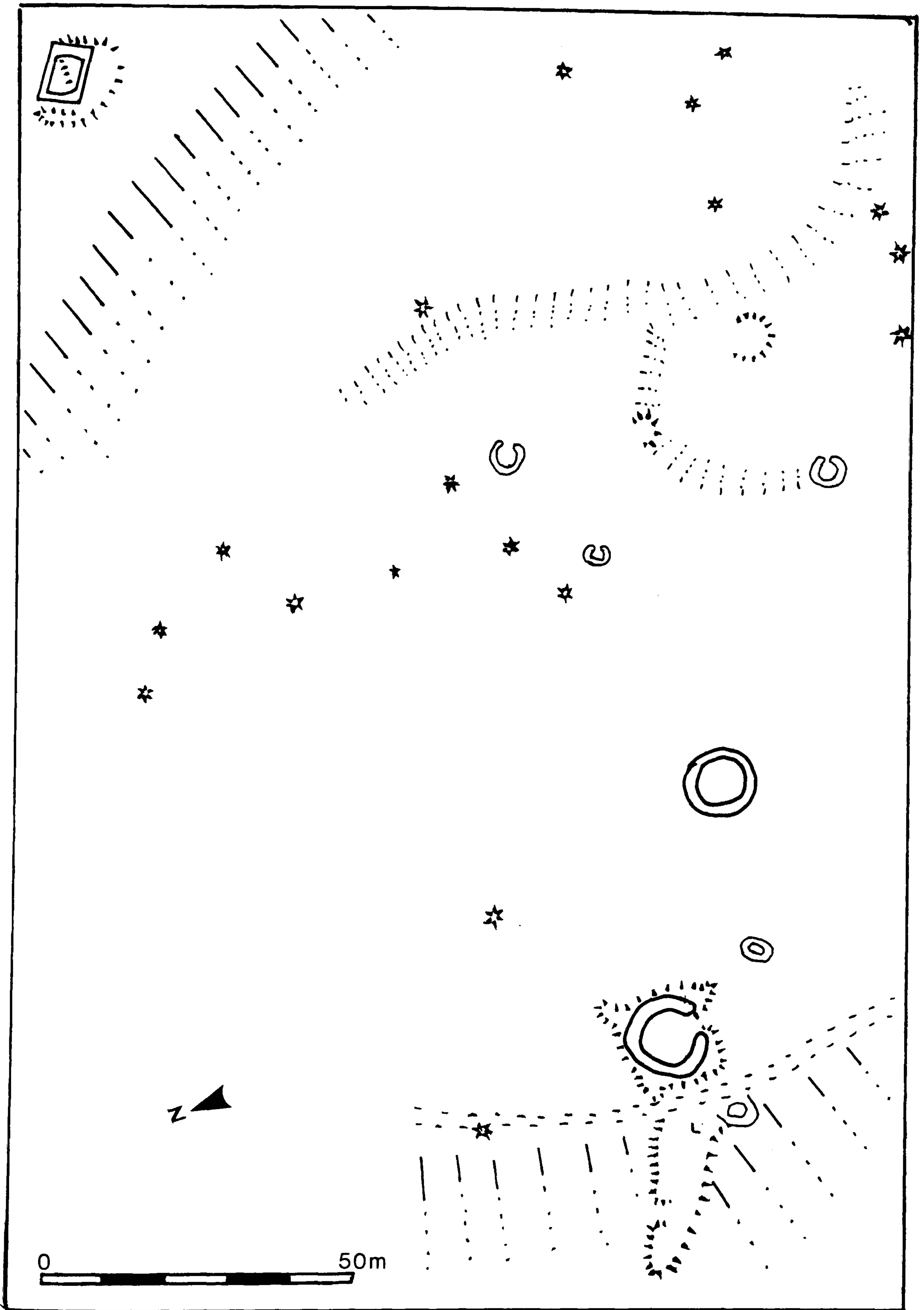
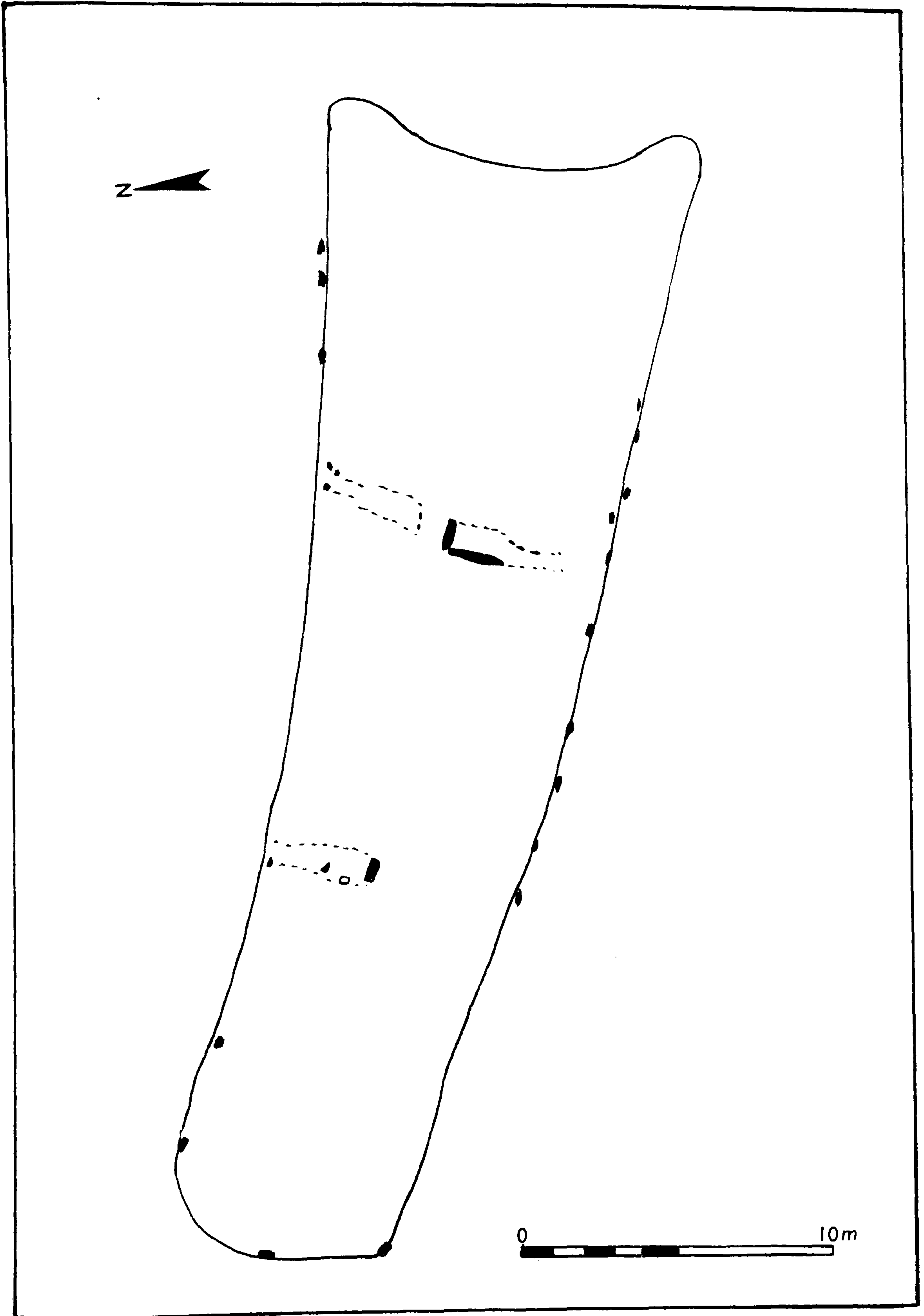


Fig. III:1:5 Burngrange: Suggested reconstruction



III:2 Greens Moor LNK 2
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NT 04NW 21
NT 0231 4952
65m OD

Location: 5km NE of Carnwath, 800m E of Redford Bridge, on the southern slopes of the Pentland Hills above the River North Medwin.

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: An elongated, gently trapezoidal shape with convex proximal end and squared tail. A slight change of alignment occurs between the 'head' and 'tail'.

Orientation: N-S

Dimensions:

Length:	83m
Breadth, max:	16m
at tail:	8m
Max. height:	1.3m

Breadth/length ratio: 1:5.2

History of site and present condition: The body of the cairn has been robbed, from the E side, in a series of discontinuous hollows along its central spine, the northernmost cleared down to ground level over an area 9m across and entered by a 6m broad gap through the E side of the cairn. The 18m of the cairn to the N of this void is the highest part of the mound, reaching 1.3m on the E side. Nonetheless robbing has taken place over the whole surface of this section, especially on the W where a subrectangular sheepfold abuts the cairn and runs up on to it. The denuded remains of a circular sheep fold sit on top of the W side of the cairn here, enclosing three small lambing pens. Another sub-oval enclosure on the E side of the cairn, its walls reduced to low grassy mounds, respects the long mound. The broad N end of the cairn is on the brink of a steep slope to a small valley, and some slippage of cairn material has probably occurred on the E side giving the front an asymmetric outline. A 5m long axial hollow at this end of the cairn suggests either a robbed out feature or an attempt to find a structure. Other lambing pens are built into the slope below the cairn. The nearest stone dyke passes 150m to the N, but access with cartloads of stone would have been difficult over the intervening gully.

In 1988 the hillside was threatened with afforestation, and a survey of the archaeological features was undertaken by Glasgow University Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (GUACFA 1988). A considerable area taking in the long cairn and other cairns on Greens Moor has been scheduled for conservation.

Description:

Kerb: The edges of the cairn are well defined, particularly along the W side where there are some possible small kerb stones; one stretch, from 15m to 25m from the tail, gives the impression of a wall footing.

Cairn: The cairn is composed of large, loose boulders, the largest being in the high, N end. The sides have settled into firm banks, partially turfed over and heather covered, which retain a steep profile.

Although there is no obvious junction between the 'head' and 'tail' of the cairn, there is a slight change of alignment c 25m from the proximal end, most noticeably on the W side. The N part of the cairn is more distinctly trapezoidal than the long body to the S, which becomes almost parallel sided. The N part lies mostly on a ridge running E-W along the S side of a dry valley, and this section of the cairn drops steeply in level to the robbing hollow which coincides with the junction of the two halves. On the ridge the cairn, although robbed, is still high, consisting of masses of loose stone, and, it may always have been the most massively built part of the cairn. The S part is on gently sloping ground, giving the cairn a continuously falling profile. The S extremity is thus out of sight of the proximal end of the cairn.

Structural features: 23m from the N end of the cairn and 5m from its W side a 1m long slab is visible at the W side of the large robbed area, set transversely to the axis of the cairn. 18m to the S a second slab, 5m from the E edge of the cairn is visible in the robbed interior; it is set upright, 0.7m broad and 0.4m in visible height.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 30km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: The dry valley immediately N of the cairn head may formerly have carried a stream flowing E to join the Westruther Burn, 450m distant. The N Medwin is 500m to the W.

General topography: The low hills constituting the S end of the Pentlands slope down gently towards the valley of the Medwin Water and the River Clyde, beyond which rise the larger Southern Uplands.

Situation: With its N end at the brink of a small dry valley, the cairn drops at first quite steeply, and then gently to the S, along the side of the long ridge of Corse Law between the North Medwin and Westruther Burn.

Aspect: S

Slope: Gentle: 5%, with a short steep scarp to N

Local relief, within 500m: 240-290 OD

Outlook: Distant: 65% to E, S and W
Intermediate: 9%, to NE
Restricted: 26%, to N and NW

Prominence: Restricted. The size of the cairn makes it impressive on approach from the ends or from the E, but it is never on the skyline from a distance.

Local landmarks: Tinto Hill (707m OD), 17km to the SSW, is the major landmark, but views take in summit cairns on Hare Law, 1.6km to the W and Dunsyre Hill, 5km to the E, besides the prominent Black Mount (516m), 7km to the SE, with Broughton Heights beyond.

Solid geology: Upper Devonian Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Freely drained humus iron podzols and peaty podzols, with peat in hollows and on the higher ground to the N.

Land use: Presently sheep farming with nearby forestry. Rig and furrow 300m to the W suggests earlier mixed agriculture. Minor industrial exploitation, perhaps in the 18th century, involved stone quarrying on a small scale. A possible millstone blank lies on the edge of a quarried hollow 10m E of the cairn, and broken and aborted stone troughs are found 130m to the SW. Wartime military use of the area is also recorded (GUACFA 1988).

Vegetation: Heather moorland, with short grass in the gully.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Burngrange, chambered long cairn, 750m to E
Weston henge, 3.75km to S
Easton, probable long cairn, 6km to E

Monument context: The classic trapezoidal outline of the front portion of Greens Moor resembles that at Harlaw Muir; the near parallel sided body is similar to that at the Mutiny Stones. As at this latter site, two phase construction may be suspected at Greens Moor.

The orthostats within the cairn do not give structural proof of the presence of chambers, although the position of the slab in the main robbing hollow is suggestive. Isolated standing stones and internal slab divisions do feature within cairns elsewhere (e.g. Skelmore Heads, Cumbria). However, the occurrence of chambers at the closely adjacent Burngrange cairn must increase the likelihood of chambers being found at Greens Moor. Loanfoot in Ayrshire, another extremely long (105m) trapezoidal cairn, evidently contained a lateral chamber or chambers. It may be noted that Burngrange, like Greens Moor, is sited with its proximal end considerably higher than its tail.

Although the two cairns are intervisible, neither site is prominent from the other. Although not necessarily contemporary in construction, one cairn must clearly have been built in awareness of the other. Separation by the Westruther Burn, assigns each cairn a separate 'territory', each with a large number of small and large round cairns. The Hare Law - Yardhouses ridge to the W of the N Medwin appears to have formed a third such 'territory' with its complement of cairns and artefact finds (see below), suggesting the possibility of a missing site here.

Artefact context:

Axes: c eighteen axes are recorded from within 5km of Greens Moor, but none from the immediate vicinity of the cairn. The two nearest finds are:

(a) NMS: AF 996: a broken piece of axe from Weston, 2.5km to the SE (see Weston henge; III:f).

(b) NT 04NE 39: a 4" (102mm) axe from Little Sparta, 3km to the SE.

Axe finds cluster around Dunsyre, 5km to the E, where five recorded axes include some unusual examples, one of Antrim porcellanite (see Easton III:3); at Walstone, 5km to the SE, where three axes are recorded (see Weston henge III:f); and near Carnwath, 5km to the SW, where there are records of seven axes, six small and one an $8\frac{1}{4}$ " (210mm) specimen of 'polished felstone' (AF 484). This last group includes one confirmed Group VI axe (LNK 7) and probably others.

Lithics: Field walking after forestry ploughing by Lanark and District Archaeological Society, produced a collection of 2262 flaked lithics from the W side of Corse Law, 1km NW of Greens Moor (Clarke 1989). These included microliths, thirty four scrapers, seven barbed and tanged arrowheads, three leaf points, one oblique arrowhead and one possible chisel arrowhead. Although 75% of the finds were of chert, all the pieces with invasive retouch were made of flint. Sixty seven pieces of pitchstone were found, mostly flakes and blades, non-period specific. These finds suggest that the general absence of artefactual material from the moorlands of the south Pentlands may be simply a function of poor opportunity for recovery.

The impression is confirmed by finds from East and Wester Yardhouses, two farms on the summit of the ridge W of the N Medwin, and 2-3km NW of Greens Moor, covering c 1km² of improved and enclosed land to the N of the heather moorland and small cairnfields on Hare Law. Small cairns were cleared from the enclosed fields in the mid-19th century, revealing a red clay not known elsewhere on Wester Yardhouses (Rankin 1874). Lithic collections from both farms were donated to the Hunterian Museum by A. Henderson Bishop (B 1951, 889-897), while other finds, including scrapers, knives and a triangular arrowhead (AD 2278) are in the NMS, purchased from the P. F. Dunlop collection

(PSAS 88 1954-6, 228, 241). Other flints from Wester Yardhouses are said to be in private hands (NT 05SW 24). Some of these finds, said to include several arrowheads, one barbed and tanged, come from near the souterrain on Wester Yardhouses at NT 0042 5079. Excavation outside the entrance to this structure found flakes of flint and chert and a flint fabricator, 2.6" (66mm) in length (Fairburn 1924; NMS: AB 2712-3, 2718-9).

Many finds, including several leaf arrowheads, come from the improved land of the Dunsyre district, 5km E of Greens Moor (see Easton III:3). One leaf arrowhead and other flint and chert artefacts come from Weston (see Weston henge III:f).

Pottery was found during the excavation outside the entrance to Wester Yardhouses souterrain. The excavation report speaks of 'several fragments of thick unglazed hand made pottery' including two different rim forms (Fairbairn 1924). These sherds have been recognised to be Western Neolithic ware (T. Cowie, pers. comm.). An area measuring c 4.6m x 3.0m was found to be covered with a rich, dark coloured earth suggestive of occupation material.

Removal of one small cairn immediately N of Wester Yardhouses steading (NT 005 508) in c 1870 revealed a cist covered by a slab on the underside of which was a design of concentric rings and two pecked triangles in a style normally associated with passage grave art. The slab had been trimmed for re-use as a cist cover, breaking off parts of the decoration (Rankin 1874; Maclaren 1970).

Beakers: The only find in the Wester Yardhouses cist, above, was an N2 Beaker, part of which is in the NMS (EQ 165).

Two beakers were found in a cist in Newbigginmill Quarry, 4.5km S of Greens Moor (see Weston henge, III:f; Welfare 1977).

Prehistoric landscape: The hillside has been surveyed by GUACFA, and their plan has been used to produce Fig. III:2.4.

The principal features are small cairns, but among these are a few large cairns, evidently funerary in function.

(1) NT 0213 4938, 200m SW of the long cairn and with a good view of its tail is a conical cairn of stones, 11m in diameter by 1.7m in height, which has been partially robbed from the S side.

(2) NT 0203 4943, 110m W of (1) on the same alignment as the summit cairn on Horse Law 1.5km to the W, are the robbed remains of a round cairn 14m in diameter but only 0.6m in surviving height. It is 300m WSW of the long cairn, which is just visible over the ridge.

(3) NT 0340 5003, 300m N of the long cairn but out of sight over the shoulder of the ridge, a sheepfold has been built on the site of a dilapidated round cairn, 18m in diameter and still 2.5m in maximum height.

(4) NT 0272 5017, 350m ENE of (3) is a bowl shaped mound of earth and stones, measuring 11m in diameter and 1m in height.

On the lower slopes south of the long cairn are at least four more probable burial cairns between 750m and 1.25m distant; there are also some larger mounds among the small cairns, measuring up to 9m in diameter, which appear too shapeless to be funerary monuments. There are large cairns on other ridges of the south Pentlands, including summit cairns on Hare Law and Horse Law, 1.5km to W and E respectively, and a big kerbed cairn on the prominent summit of Dunsyre Hill, nearly 5km to the E.

Small cairns: The small cairns depicted on the Glasgow University survey plan show a clustered distribution over the slopes of Greens Moor below the long cairn. Many of the blank areas however, particularly those to the east of the cairn, can be explained by the unsuitability of the ground, steep and broken at higher levels, boggy below 250m OD. There is, however, a tendency to avoid the immediate vicinity of the long cairn, within a radius of c 200m. One small group of cairns is strung out along the ridge to the W of the long cairn, the nearest only 20m distant. Other groups of small cairns occur to the NW, running into a forested area on Corse Law, and to the NE, where a thin scatter of cairns occur among long heather on the SE facing slopes above the Westruther Burn. Small cairns appear to adopt a somewhat linear distribution down the crest of the ridge to the south of the long cairn, extending on down the hill to 220m OD, 800m distant. The arrangement may be induced by topography rather than intention. Several of the small cairns are edged by large boulders, but there are no traces of central features or cists. This should not be taken to exclude the possibility of burial use. One 6.7 x 6.1m cairn on Hare Law contains a cist (RCAHMS 1978(a) 67-8, fig. 24), while the beaker and decorated cist cover from Wester Yardhouses (see above) came from a cairn only c 6.4m in diameter.

No convincing settlement sites or hut circles are identifiable within the area of the Glasgow University survey, although again this position is in contrast to that on Horse Law (see Burngrange III:1) and Hare Law, both of which have occasional hut circles among their small cairns.

Archaeological interpretations: Despite the size of the cairn and its proximity to footpaths across the Pentlands, it was not recognised as a prehistoric monument until survey work was being carried out for the 1978 Lanarkshire Inventory. The 1957 6-inch OS map showed the site as 'Pile of Stones'. It was first published by Henshall (1972, 459-60), and has since been accepted as a long, probably unchambered, cairn (see Masters 1984 55, fig. 4:1).

Fig. III:2:1 Greens Moor: Plan 1988

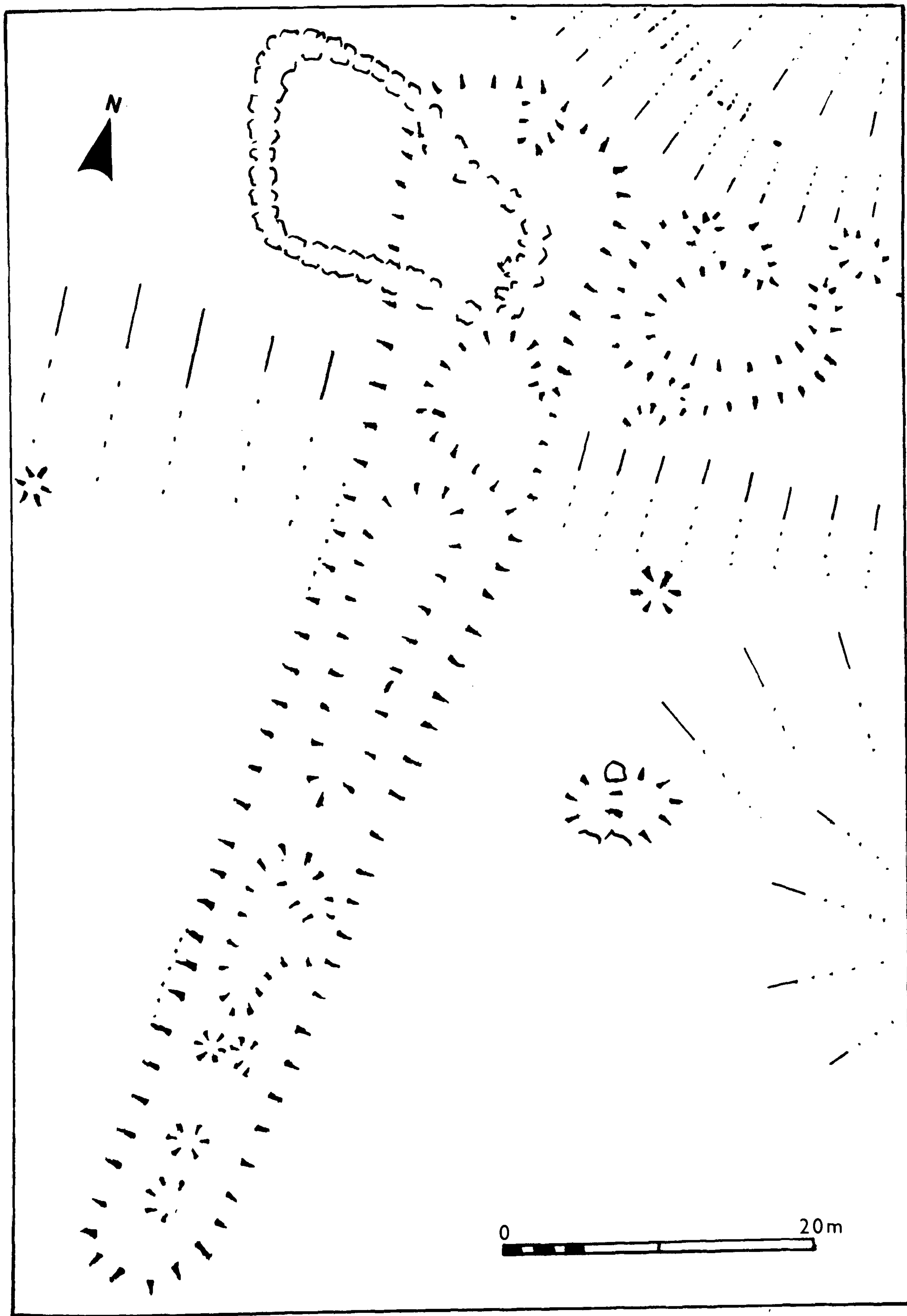


Fig. III:2:2 Situation and Outlook: Greens Moor

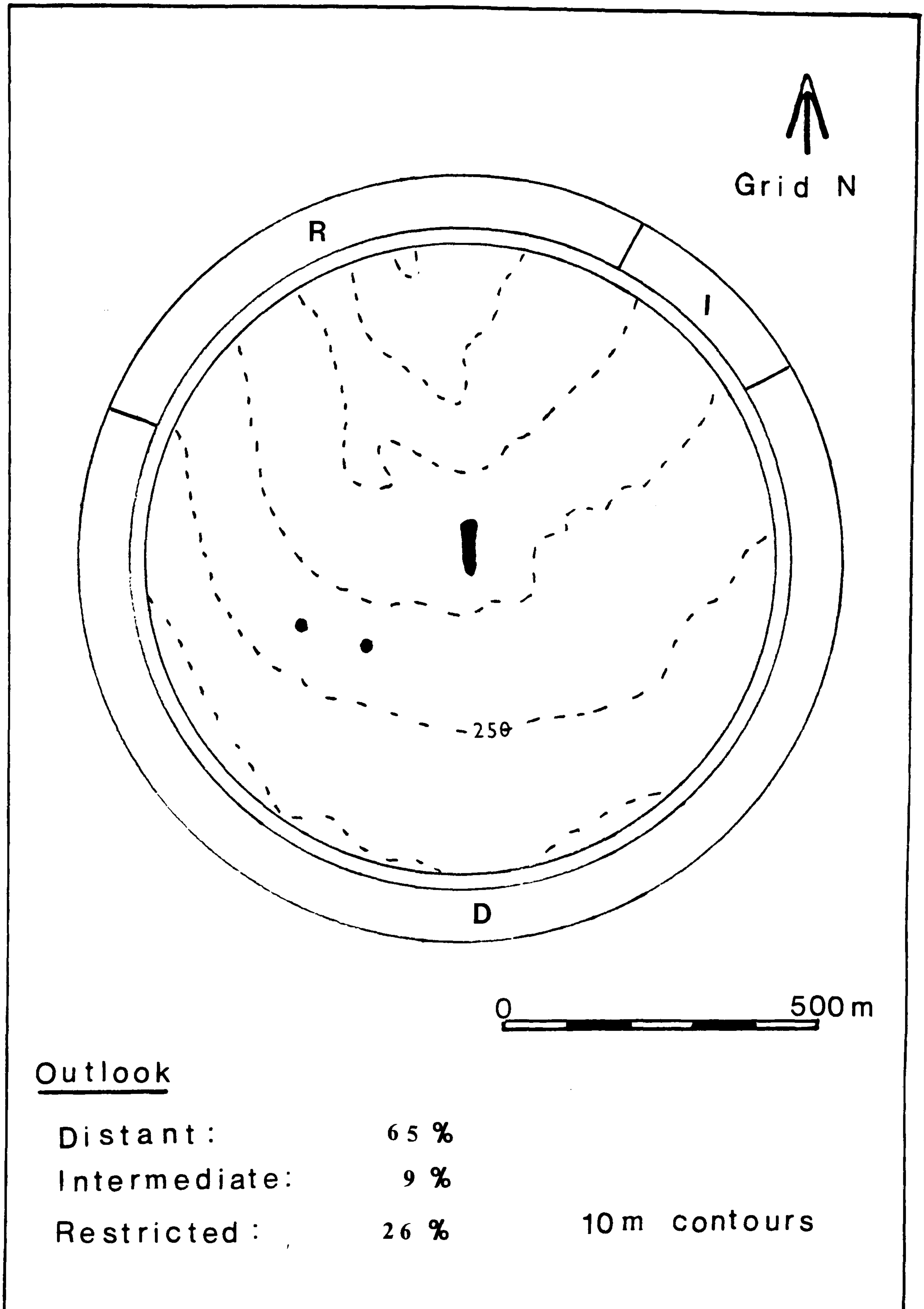


Fig. III:2:3 Greens Moor: Profile and transects

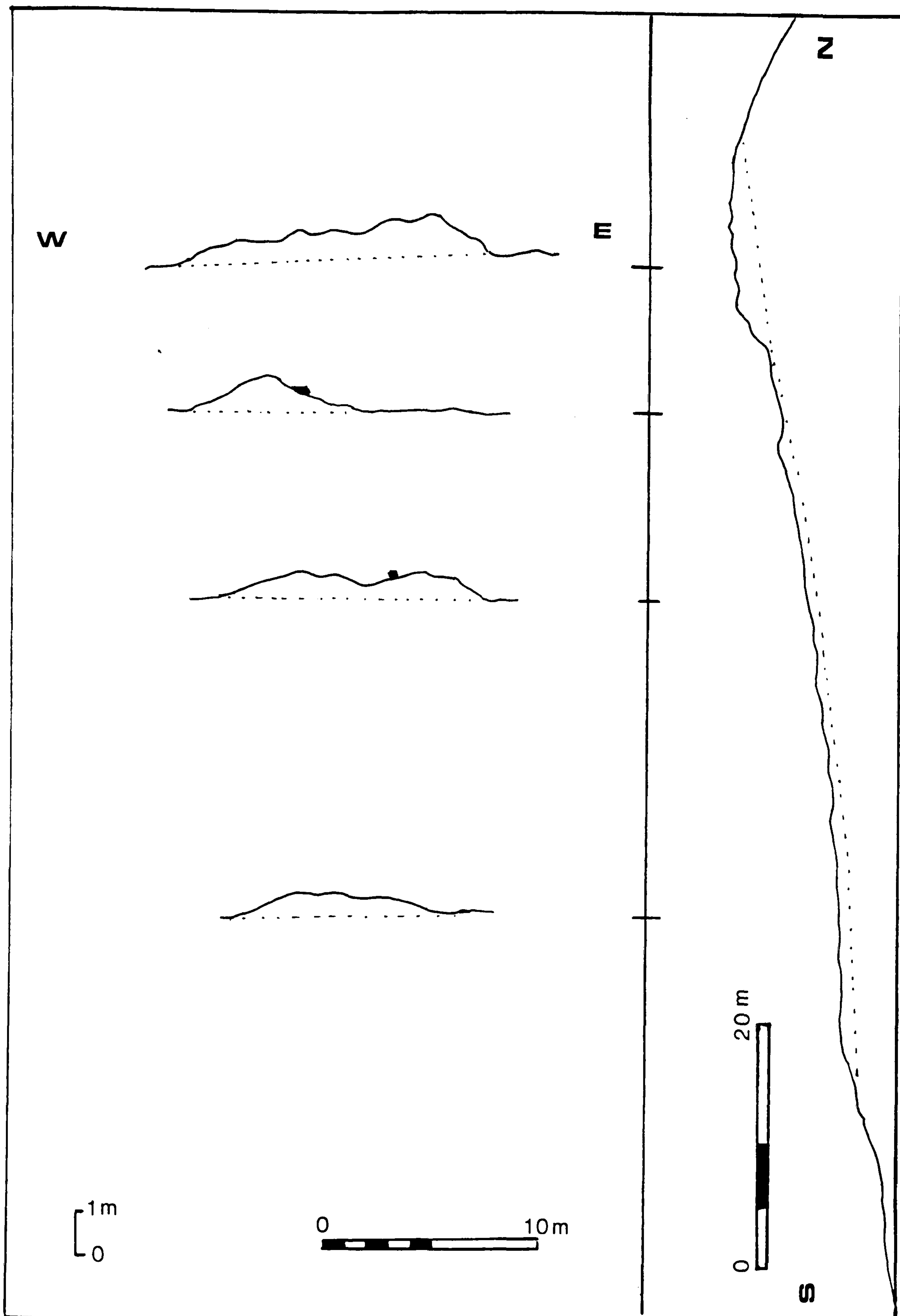
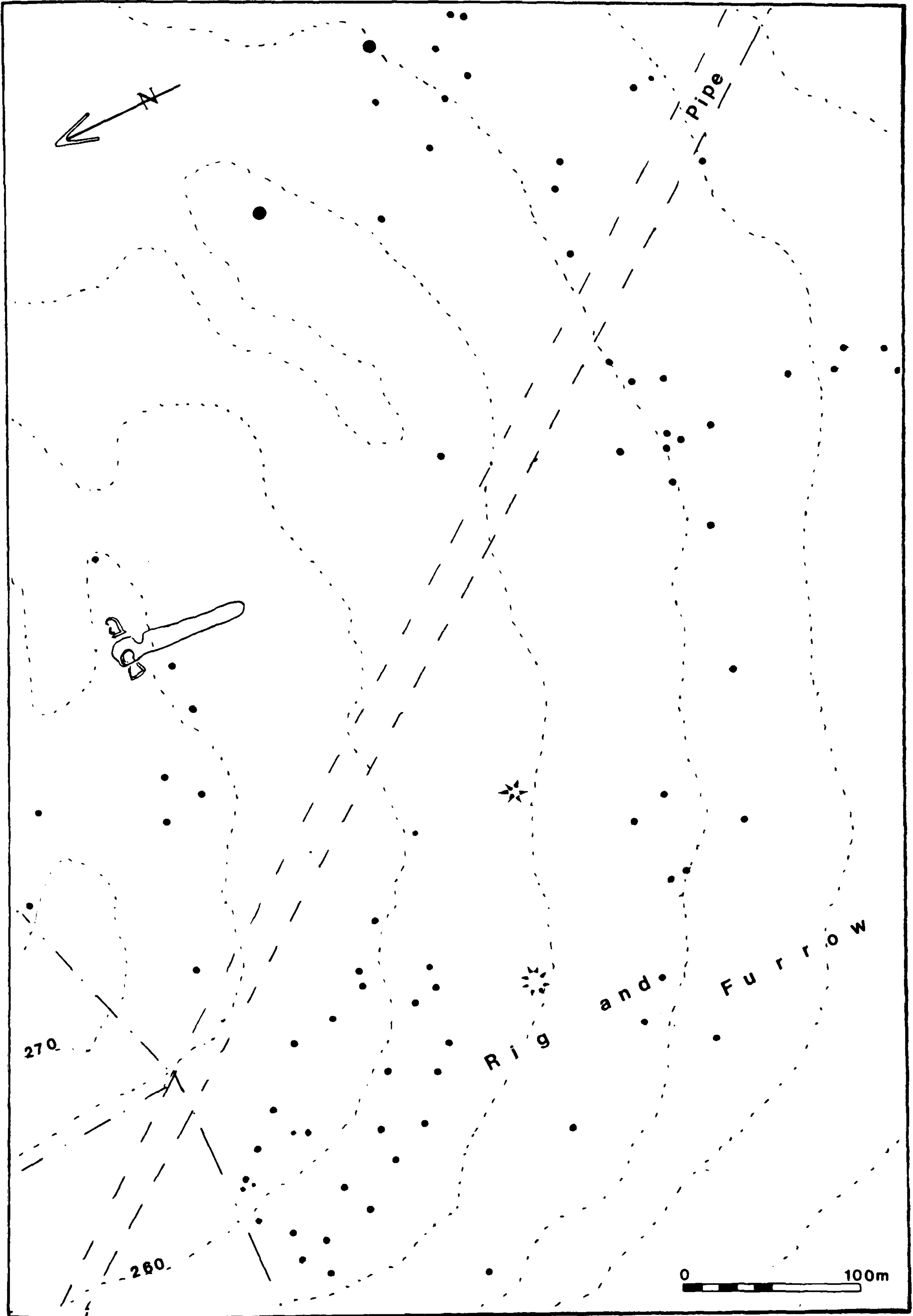


Fig. III:2:4 Greens Moor: environs after GUACFA 1988 with additions 1988



III:3 Easton, Lanarkshire
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NT 04NE 19
NT 0827 4964
285m OD

Location: 1.8km NE of Dunsyre village, 450m NNW of Easton farmhouse, on a low spur of Dunsyre Hill on the S end of the Pentlands.

Type: Probably an elongated long cairn overlain by a round cairn.

Status: Category B. A complex site but likely to incorporate neolithic elements.

Outline: A long, narrow band of cairn material robbed down the centre, swells to a rounded oval at the NE end. A round cairn overlies the SW end.

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Dimensions: Length: Overall: 77m
Omitting round cairn: 63m
Oval 'head': c 18m
Breadth: Oval 'head': 13m
Body: 7.5m
Round cairn: 15m
Max. Height: Oval 'head': 0.5m
Body: 0.4m
Round cairn: 0.6m

Breadth:length ratio:

Full length: 1:5.9
omitting round cairn: 1:4.8
Oval 'head': 1:1.4

History of site and present condition: There is no evidence for sequential relationship between the 'head' and 'body' of the cairn. The round cairn, however, overlies the long mound, here only 0.3m high. Stone robbing has distorted the S side of the round mound and its interior, and stone heaps have been left on and beside the mound. Robbing of the long cairn has left discontinuous hollows along its spine, including the centre of the oval 'head'. No structural evidence is revealed other than the odd earthfast boulder. Quarrying extends into the hill slope itself beyond the NE end of the cairn. The N side of the cairn has been to some extent distorted by the stone robbing that has occurred on this side. Nearby stone dykes and a circular enclosure, probably a sheep stell, 60m NW of the cairn, provide motives for the robbing. The remains are now grassed over.

Description:

Kerb: No evidence for kerbing can be seen, although the banks of cairn material forming the sides of the cairn have well defined edges.

Facade: The NE end of the cairn is the lowest part of the structure. The broadest point is 7m from this end, which is itself gently rounded. It is possible that the original proximal end was on the level ground at the SW end of the long cairn and that it has been concealed under the added round cairn.

Cairn: The cairn is apparently stone built, although now much grassed over. The present impression of two parallel banks of stone is almost certainly the effect of robbing (cf. Greens Moor III:2). The site slopes gently down from the SW to the NE, and also from side to side, from NW to SE. The broad 'head' of the cairn, measuring c 18m x 13m, is set slightly asymmetrically to the tail, bulging out on the downhill SE side. This may suggest slippage from an originally high built cairn before it was robbed; it is still the highest part of the structure. The 'tail' of the cairn is strictly parallel-sided throughout its length.

Round cairn: Although the perimeter of the round cairn appears to consist of straight sections, this is almost certainly an effect of robbing from an originally circular cairn. A large boulder against the NW may be a later addition.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 29km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 100m from a small stream to the E, which joins Loch Hart, a dammed section of the Bassy Burn, 150m SE of the long cairn.

General topography: The Medwin Water rises 5km N of the long cairn in the heart of the South Pentlands, and flows S through a narrow glen before reaching the edge of the hills and turning SW 1.5km E of the site to run through a valley of good agricultural land between the Pentlands and the Black Mount, overlooked by the long cairn.

Situation: The cairn lies along the side of a ridge, just below its summit, terminating at the nose of the promontory where ground level drops towards a stream.

Aspect: SE

Slope: Falling quite steeply to the S (10%) and gently to the E; rising gently to the W for 150m before the very steep slopes of Mid Hill are reached.

Local relief, within 500m: 255-315m

Outlook: Distant: 18% to SE and SW
Intermediate: 82%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Fair. The cairn ridge is prominent from the Medwin valley, although on approach the cairn itself is

hidden by the slope of the hill until nearly on a level with it. It is overlooked from the higher ground to the W.

Local landmarks: Dunsyre Hill (401m OD), with its craggy summit and cairn, 1km to the SW, dominates the site. The Black Mount (516m OD), 3.7km to the S is another prominent landmark. Tinto Hill (707m OD) is also in view, 20km to the SW.

Solid geology: Upper Devonian Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Imperfectly drained Brown Forest Soil and non-calcareous gleys of the Lanfine Association on the ridge; freely drained brown forest soil over fluvio-glacial sands on the lower slopes. In places sand is near the surface and can be seen to be eroding in the wind.

Land use: Livestock farming, with arable cultivation on the ridge now confined to the enclosed fields SW of the cairn. Evidence for more extensive arable farming in the past takes the form of cultivation terraces on the steep slopes of Dunsyre Hill, up to 350m OD.

Vegetation: Improved grass. To the N is heather moorland.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Burngrange, chambered cairn, 5km to W
Greens Moor, long cairn, 6km to W
Weston henge, 6.5km to SW

Monument context: The length of the cairn emphasises its narrowness, but this is not in itself exceptional (cf. Clach na Tiompan PER 1, 7m broad for most of its length). The combination of narrow body and oval head recurs at Lang Knowe (V:2) and at Great Ayton Moor, Yorkshire, where the 17m x 16.5m head contained a passage grave. The tail at Great Ayton measured 91m by 9-3m, but unfortunately excavation did not establish a construction sequence (Hayes 1967). The oval barrow on Biggar Common (III:4), 20m by 12.5m, is very similar in size to the oval E end at Easton. This barrow may have reached this form at the time of Late Neolithic deposition in the mound, so that analogy might suggest the E end protruberance to be a late addition to the Easton mound, originally a linear monument focussed on its uphill, eastern end, now under a round cairn. All the other Pentland cairns have their broad ends uphill, although the Mutiny Stones (IV:1), on the Lammermuirs is a downward sloping long cairn.

The 5km spacing between Burngrange and Easton conforms to expectations of spacing of neolithic cairns (cf. Bargrennan cairns, 4km apart: Murray 1992). A possible mortuary enclosure at Brownsbank (III:5) lies 6.7km S of Easton, in the next valley to the S. To the

NE Harlawmuir long cairn (III:6) is 11km distant, suggesting, perhaps a missing site in the intervening West Linton - Dolphinton area.

Artefact context:

Axes: Over 40 axes are recorded as coming from within 5km of Easton long cairn, the district having been the subject of a collection made by P.F. Dunlop in the late 19th century and donated to the NMAS in 1955. Many of these finds come from around Dolphinton on the SE side of the Medwyn valley and only c 12 axes come from within 3km of the long cairn. Those with AF Catalogue numbers are in the NMS.

From Dunsyre, the village 1.8km SW of the long cairn come three large axes, AF 600, measuring 6 3/16" (157mm) in length, Hunt B. 1914-160, 7.4" (186mm) long, and AF 989, 8.1" (206mm) in length, 'roughly pecked and unsharpened'.

On Dunsyre Hill a 5.5" (140mm) axe of crystalline grey stone was found in 1869 (AF 939).

From the farm of Kirkland, 2km SW of the cairn, comes a Group IX Antrim porcellanite axe, 5" (127mm) in length (AF 1006), one of two such axes from within 5km of the site.

Two axes come from Garvald, 1.6km E of Easton, the largest 5½" (140mm) long, a Group VI axe (PBL 8; AF 472).

Three small axes were found on Croft an Righ, 2.2km SE of Easton, including another Group VI axe (LNK 18; AF 943-5).

A 4" (102mm) 'greenstone' axe was dug up in peat on Little Sparta, 3km W of the cairn (NT 04NE 39).

There is also a record of an axe being found in a cairn at Borland Mill, some 3km to the SW (Irving 1864, i, 20).

Lithics: P.F. Dunlop's collection in the NMS (all the AA and AD Accession numbers, below) again give a great density of finds from this district.

From Easton farm comes a leaf arrowhead and two triangular points (AD 2271, 2291-2). Nearby a dozen leaf arrowheads, three triangular, and one lopsided example originate in the Dunsyre district (AD 2249-50, 2260-5; GAGM Mann Coll: M 183, M 226).

From Medwyn Bank, 1.5km E of the cairn, come three leaf and two triangular arrowheads and a ripple flaked flint knife 1.6" (41mm) long (AD 2263-4; 2267-9; AA 264).

A leaf arrowhead was found in Dunsyre Moss nearly 3km SW of the long cairn (AD 2266).

Some large flint implements come from Garvald, 1.5km E of the long cairn: two blades, 1.7" (43mm) and 2.35" (60mm) long; a flake of dark brown flint 2.9" (74mm) long; and part of a knife 1.95" (50mm) long (AA 279-82).

Pottery does not feature in these collections, perhaps because the eroding sandy soils which expose lithic finds are destructive of ceramics.

Beakers: Sherds from two different beakers were found in the primary fill of a sub-oval pit, 0.90m x 0.65m x 0.30m

deep, in a knoll on the NE side of a cist cemetery at West Water Reservoir excavated in 1992 (DES 1992, 9, NT 118 525).

Prehistoric landscape:

Cairns: The siting of a 15m round cairn in a prominent position on the highest point of the long cairn demonstrates a preference for summit sitings, observable at other local sites.

(1) Dunsyre Hill: On the rocky summit of this 401m high hill, 1.4km W of the long cairn, is a round cairn, 15m in diameter by 1.8m high kerbed with boulders up to 1m in length. The hill top, with views in all directions, is a notable landmark. The kerb stones show a concern with visual

effect from the proximity of the cairn as well as from a distance (RCAHMS 1978(a), 50, no.42).

(2) Easton: 800m S of the long cairn on a prominent glacial knoll at 250m OD are the remains of a round cairn in which several urns, one, perhaps, a food vessel, are said to have been found in the 19th century (RCAHMS 1978(a), 52, no.46(10)). The RCAHMS consider the remains to be minimal, only a scatter of stones and boulders suggesting a minimum diameter of 12m. It seems possible, however, that the steeply scarped summit of the knoll, 30m in diameter, may itself be artificial. The site has long views in every direction.

(3) Medwin Bank: A large cairn is said to have stood on a slight knoll at c 250m OD at NT 096 496, 1.2km E of the long cairn. A cist and an urn containing ashes were found in it in 1870 (RACHMS 1978(a), 62, no.83).

This site was at the SW end of a linear group of cairns stretching for 2.5km to the NE. It comprised two cairns on Ferneyhaugh, now destroyed, at NT 099 498 and at NT 102 500, the southernmost of which contained an urn and a dagger, the northern, nothing (ONB 20, p.25), and three impressive cairns on North Muir, Nether Cairn, Upper Cairn and North Muir Cairn (RCAHMS 1967, 53-4, 57, nos.16, 17, 46-48). 1km further to the NE a Bronze Age cemetery has been excavated on the edge of West Water Reservoir (DES 1992, 9).

(4) Easton-Medwin Water: Among the small cairns to the N of the long cairn a few possible burial mounds stand out. 600m W of the long cairn the RCAHMS noted a 7m cairn at NT 0768 4960 (325m OD) on the lower slopes of Mid Hill (1978(a) 52, no.46(8)). A similar sized cairn enclosed by a low bank was noted at NT 092 501 (ibid, 51, no.46(3)).

Small cairns: Easton long cairn, like Burngrange and Greens Moor, is situated in a small cairnfield. In the present case, however, the cairn is in pasture, not moorland, and on the hill slopes to the south the small cairns are being badly eroded by cattle trampling, while in one cultivated field SW of the cairn no small cairns survive. Small cairns scatter all along the ridge on which the long cairn is situated to the lower slopes of Dunsyre Hill, and stretch for c 1km, in moorland to the N. As aerial photographs in the NMR\$, taken in 1990 show, however, the

area around the long cairn, for c 50m, is clear of small cairns other than probable heaps of robbed stone immediately adjacent to the larger site. The RCAHMS (1978(a), 51-2, no.46(6)) suggest there to be over 120 small cairns on Easton.

Small cairns continue beyond the burn to E of the long cairn, beside the West Water and up onto Cairn Knowe, 1.5km from the long cairn. Plans of these groups in the Inventory (ibid 51, figs. 13, 14) show several elongated cairns in these groups. Inspection showed these to be linear stretches of stone banks defining small plots or areas of open ground (see Category C:7).

Circular enclosures: The Inventory noted two circular enclosures near the long cairn (ibid 52, no.46(9)).

On the summit of the ridge at NT 0820 4965 is a circular enclosure measuring c 12m in diameter within a solid turf bank; the site appears to be a turf sheep stell of a type common in the Pentlands (cf. Burngrange).

Terraced into the hill slope, beside the fence running S from the long cairn is a shallow circular ditch enclosing an area 6.6m in diameter with a low outer bank cut by the passing fence. The entrance is to the SW (NT 0830 4949). The enclosure is being badly damaged by cattle trampling, but is clearly most probably a ring ditch house of locally common type (cf. Broughton Knowe) likely to be of first millennium bc date (Reynolds 1982).

Archaeological interpretations: The site was noted as a long cairn by the OS (DES 1972, 51) and was planned in 1975 by the RCAHMS for the Lanarkshire Inventory (1978(a), 52, no.46(7), fig.16). The accompanying entry, however, described it as a round cairn linked by a low mound consisting of two banks of stone to a bulbous eastern end, possibly the remains of a second round cairn.

Fig. III:3:1 Easton: Plan 1988

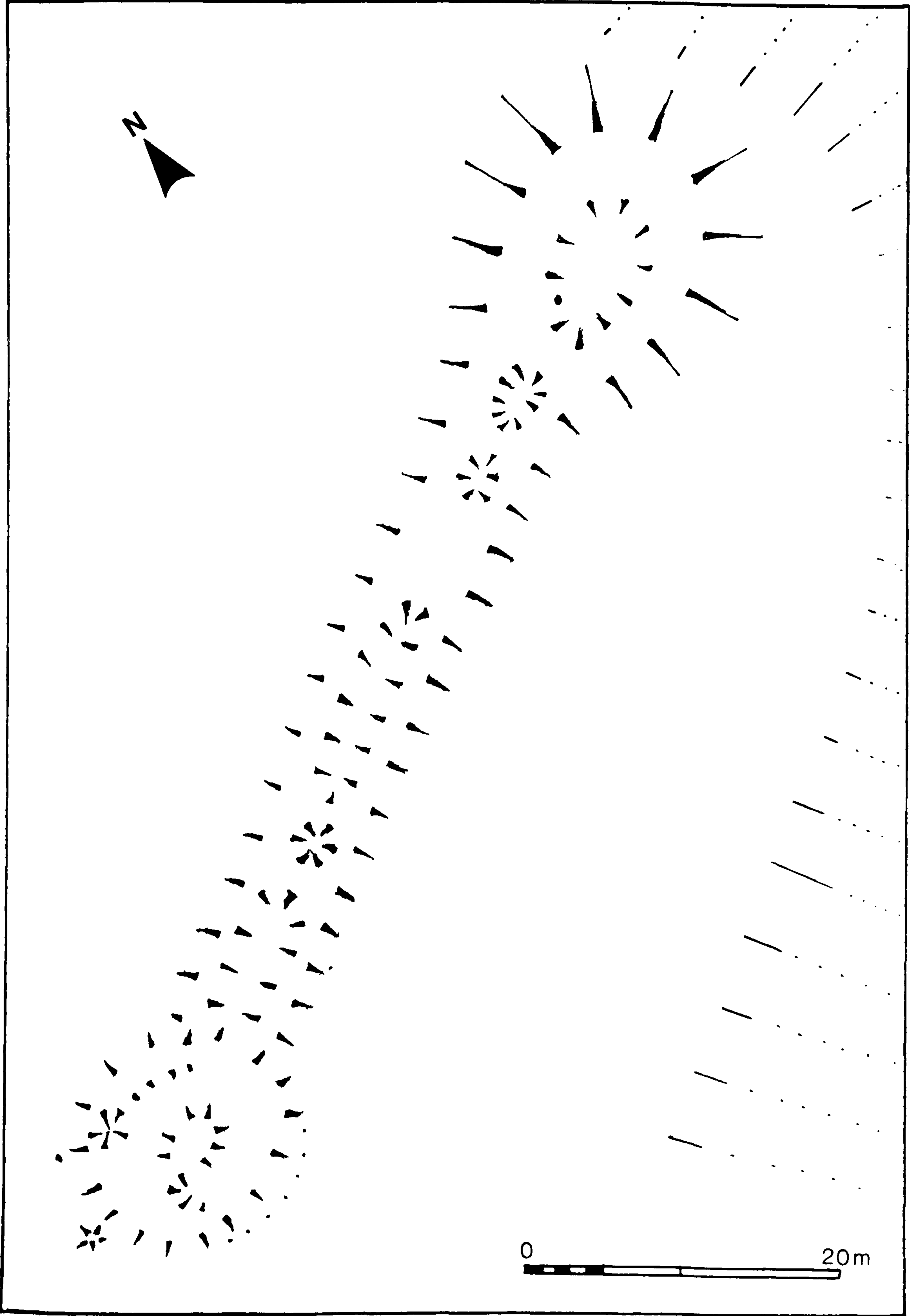


Fig. III:3:2 Situation and Outlook: Easton

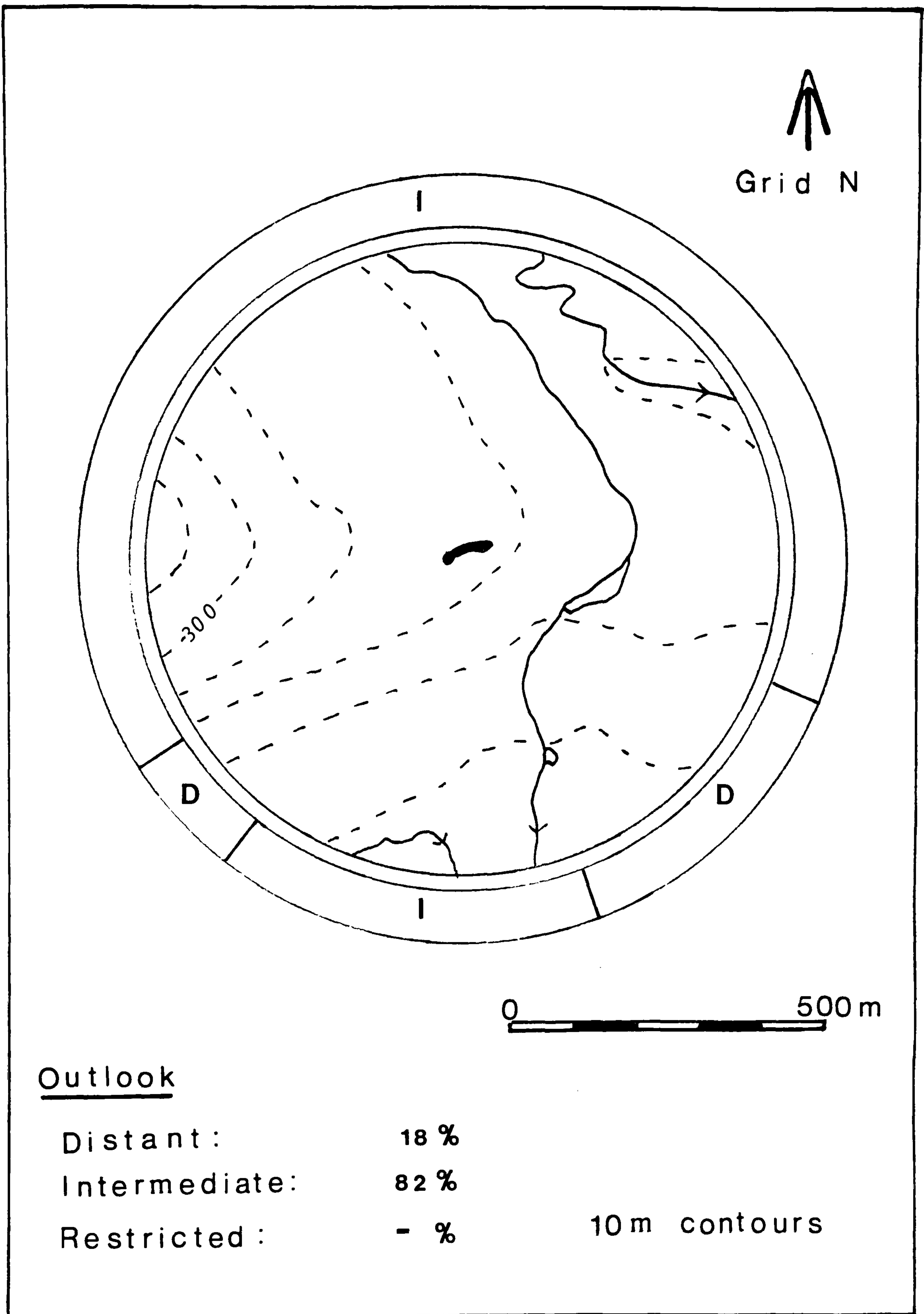
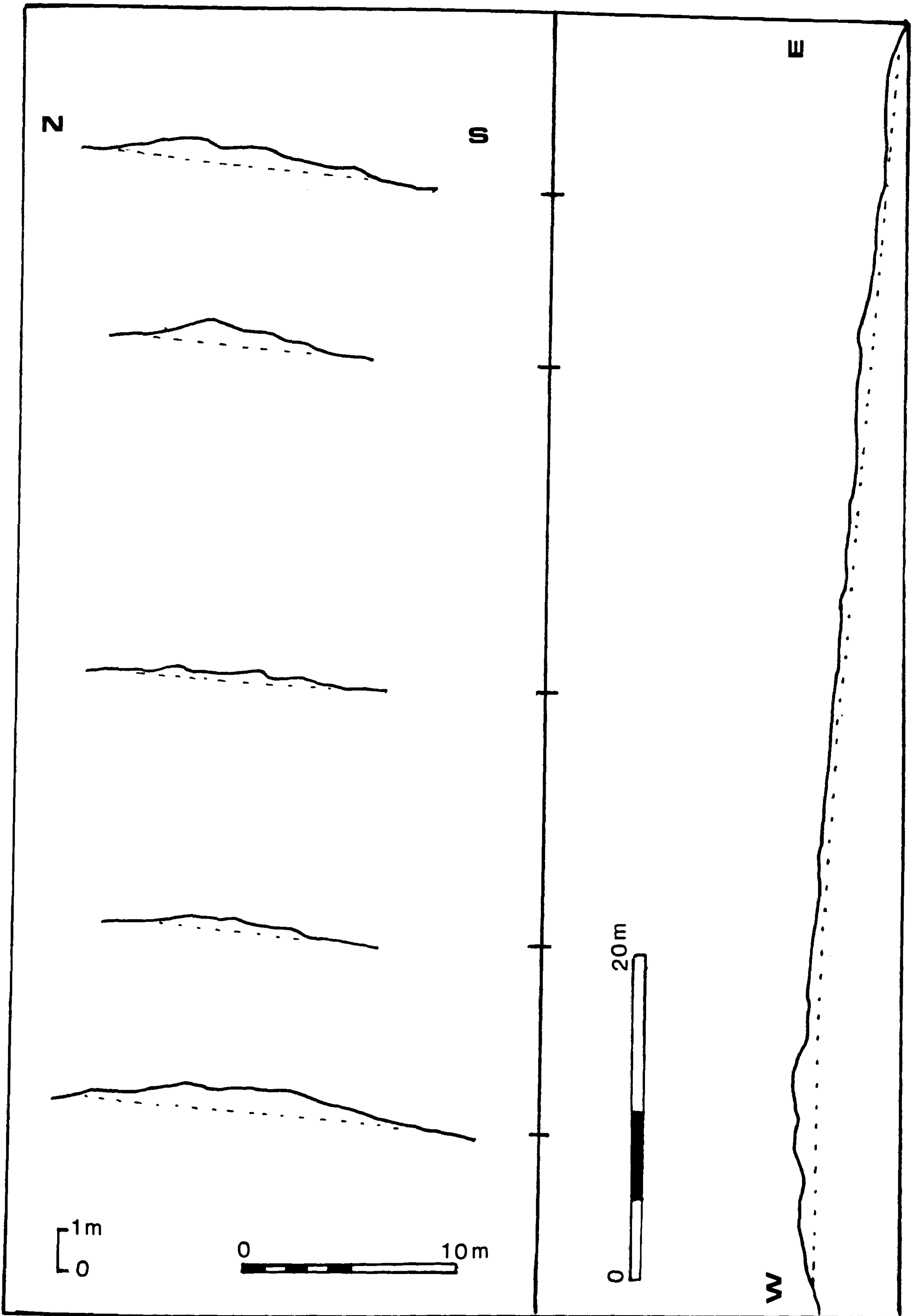


Fig. III:3:3 Easton: Profile and transects



III:4 Biggar Common, Lanarkshire
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NT 03NW 79
NT 0033 3882
320m OD

Location: 4km WNW of Biggar, just below the top of the ridge of the western spur of Biggar Common hill, within forestry plantations (Tillhill Forestry).

Type: Small non-megalithic long barrow

Status: Category A: Totally excavated

Outline: The final form of an oblong mound with straight sides and rounded ends enveloped an earlier narrow long mound.

Orientation: W-E

Dimensions: 20m x c 12m
Inner mound: 18m x 6-8m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:1.7
Inner mound: 1:2.3

Excavation: 1988 Dr. A. Sheridan, NMS
1990-91 D. Johnston, AOC

Near total excavation has removed most of the mound, taking 70-75% of the area down to natural. Information has been provided by D. Johnston, but detailed assessment is not yet available, and the present Catalogue entry can provide only a tentative outline. Publication is expected to appear in PSAS.

History of site: As common grazings, Biggar Common must have escaped cultivation throughout the medieval and pre-Improvement period. By 1859, however much of the hill, including the location of the mound, was planted with trees (1st ed 6-inch OS map). The open areas continued to be used for private grazing until the hill was ploughed for forestry in 1987. Lanark and District Archaeological Society undertook a programme of field walking in 1987-8, during which the mound was recognised (DES 1989, 60). It had been cut through transversely by four furrows at 4m intervals. Excavation trenches dug in 1988 failed to confirm its prehistoric status but the 1990 season revealed all the main features and the remainder of the mound was removed in 1991.

Description and excavation results: Damage caused by the four forestry furrows, each c 0.8m broad, has increased the problems of interpretation of what proved to be a complex monument. The following sequence follows that outlined by the excavator, D. Johnston, at the Clydesdale Archaeology Conference on 3.10.92, and the detailed evidence is derived

from the initial excavation report, to which Daniel Johnston has kindly given access. Some uncertainties, however, remain over the interpretation.

Phase 1: To the W of the centre of the mound a series of features were recorded in the subsoil; nine stake holes, the stakes burnt in situ, formed an L-shaped figure, and 3m to the SE was a shallow hollow. The charcoal, all of oak, gave the following dates:

6300 ± 130 bp	GU 2987
6800 ± 60 bp	GU 2988

Phase 2: The above features were sealed by a thick, uniform layer of soil, dark with charcoal fragments; this layer continued under the whole of the mound, but to the E of the above features it appeared to consist of redeposited or disturbed glacial till with only flecks of charcoal. The charcoal, pottery and worked stone occurred in this layer, cultivated and manured soil, redeposited. possibly

Phase 3: A series of burnt deposits occupied an area measuring c 3m x 2m, 7m from the W end of the mound. Two charcoal layers were separated by a charcoal rich layer of scorched red soil, suggesting that bonfires, burning mixed wood species, had been extinguished by the addition of soil. In the lower layer were pottery sherds, burnt flint flakes, burnt hazel nut shells, weed seeds and one seed of barley.

Radiocarbon dates are as follows:

5250 ± 50 bp	-GU 2985
5150 ± 70 bp	-GU 2986

The S and W edges of this deposit, were sharply defined by a stone kerb, possibly contemporary with a line of large stones which lay on a N-S axis across the mound c 3m to the E of the hearths, unfortunately truncated by a forestry furrow. Although the line only extended for c 2m to the N of the cairn axis, it is possible that they acted as definition of the E side of a short Phase 4 primary mound.

Phase 4: While the edges of the hearth material were still sharply upstanding, and therefore shortly after Phase 3, a mound of glacial till was piled over the remains. This material was evidently not from a ditch since there was no trace of such a feature in the forestry furrows to N and S of the mound. Some streaky layers in the mound composition suggested the use of turf: these layers were only observed to the W of the line of stones, above. The E end of the mound may have been a later addition concealed under a larger oval mound, perhaps a Phase 6 addition.

Phase 5(i): c 3m from the W end of the mound, on the axial line, a sub-oval pit measuring 1.6m E-W x 1.3m, broadest at the W end, was cut into primary mound material, although details of this relationship had been destroyed by a forestry furrow cutting right through the pit. Side by side on the floor of the pit lay two flint implements: a 'Seamer axe', and a large point or knife, both in pristine condition (see Artefacts, below).

Phase 5(ii): c 5m from the E end of the mound, on the axial line, a large, shallow pit, c 2m x 1.4m, was dug

into mound material. The filling consisted of three thin layers, on top of which a crushed, corded beaker lay on its side, with, beside it, a small, well used polished stone axe, a flint tool and other chipped stone artefacts. The pit was sealed by a small cairn of rubble, measuring 2.5m x 1.6m, defined by a discontinuous, sub-oval kerb of medium to large boulders, most considerable on the N and E sides. An AOC beaker had been broken over the cairn. More mound material, identical to that of Phase 4, had been deposited with this beaker and sherds of another.

Phase 6: Stone banks or dumps were added around the flanks of the mound, ^sas to give it the appearance of being a cairn of stones. This bank was most substantial along the E part of the N side of the mound, where it was cut into the mound flanks, and around the W end.

Phase 7: Later, following the accumulation of a layer of dark, peaty soil, small abraded rubble, possibly field clearance, was added around the skirts of the mound, giving the final monument the appearance of an elongated clearance cairn.

Artefacts: The pottery sherds recovered from the hearths below the primary mound, presumably associated with the radio-carbon dates obtained from it, were of western neolithic type, similar to material found elsewhere on Biggar Common, notably in association with a posthole structure, described below (Settlement evidence).

Lithic finds: Chert fragments were found in the mound, and flint flakes in the hearths under the mound. Surface finds were mainly of chert or quartz. In the E pit, with the beaker, was a flint scraper, flint and chert flakes, (one retouched), and a possible core of quartz.

The Seamer axe, from the W pit, was of high quality mottled flint in brown and greys, similar to that from Yorkshire sources. It measured 118mm x 41mm x 16mm, and was waisted, with broad butt and blade, polished on the blade and part of the body (Sheridan 1992, 206-7, fig. 15.4).

The leaf point of flint, accompanying the axe, measured c 120mm in length by c 50mm. It was of the same type of flint as the axe, bifacially flaked (ibid).

The polished stone axe from the E pit was small and plump, reduced in size and well used, its butt hammered.

The cord decorated beaker in the pit beside this last axe was a European Bell shaped beaker. Two other cord-decorated beakers could be recognised from the broken sherds over the small cairn; the major portion of the sherds came from an All Over Cord ornamented vessel.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 40km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 100m from a small stream in the valley to the SE.

General topography: Low hills to the NE of the bend in the Clyde reach their highest point (388m) on the moorland

ridge of Biggar Common, before dropping steeply to the river valley below.

Situation: The mound lies along the contour on a very slight terrace on the slope of the hill.

Aspect: SW

Slope: Fairly steep 10%

Local relief, within 500m: 260-350m OD

Outlook: Distant: 44% to S and W
Intermediate: 17%
Restricted: 39% to N

Prominence: Low. The cairn could only have been conspicuous from a very limited area downhill to the SE.

Local landmarks: The cairn was aligned towards the prominent summit of Quothquan Law (355m OD), 1.5km to the W. Tinto Hill (711m OD), 6km to the SW, dominates the view.

Solid geology: Old Red Sandstone andesitic lavas

Soils: Freely drained humus iron podzols on stony drifts (Hungry Brae series). Patches of Brown Forest Soil along the ridge may be the residue of earlier soil cover, now eroded.

Land use: Forestry; previously rough grazing

Vegetation: Conifers have replaced the heather/rough grass mixture of the moorland.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

West Lindsaylands, promontory enclosure, 2.5km to SSE

Balwaistie, cropmark henge, 3.6km to E

Wellbrae, ritual enclosure, 4km to W

Westside, probable henge, 5km to SW

The nearest long cairn is on Broughton Knowe, 9.5km to the E, while a possible mortuary enclosure at Brownsbank is 8km to the NE.

Monument context: Uncertainties remain over the relationships between phases at the Biggar Common mound and assessment at present can only be tentative. Some important points, however, can be made.

The phase 1 dates clearly place the initial structures on the site in the Late Mesolithic. The insubstantial features would accord with an interpretation as a temporary

shelter such as are recurrently associated with mesolithic occupation. The location might suggest use of the hill top for hunting, a resource specific activity away from the riverside settlement sites more characteristic of the region. Two problems are, however, raised by this evidence. In the first place, the absence of recognisably mesolithic artefacts from extensive field walking collections on the hill throws serious doubt on present ability to recognise a mesolithic activity area. The microliths expected of a mesolithic assemblage, particularly in a hunting station, are absent, although the same field workers recovered microliths at Corse Law (Clarke 1989). Secondly, the coincidence between mesolithic structures and neolithic hearths is difficult to interpret as representing continuity when the time lag between the two is well over 1000 years. It could more plausibly be argued that open ground on the hill top encouraged recurrent use of the slight natural terrace. Nonetheless such coincidence of location has now been found so regularly at neolithic funerary monuments (e.g. Hazleton North; Ascott under Wychwood) as to suggest some more compelling reason for the re-use of particular locations.

The phase 2 soil was not an *in situ* cultivated soil; nonetheless the possibility of its being a redeposited cultivated soil has been raised, which would constitute a remarkably early piece of evidence for cultivation. The soil report is awaited with interest.

The phase 3 hearths, which constitute the only evidence for activity directly sealed by the primary mound, produced no evidence of cremation, and appeared to be simple domestic fires. The only associated suggestion of structure was the stone kerb along the S and W edge of the burnt material. The radiocarbon dates, although early in neolithic terms, are perfectly acceptable for the pottery association (Herne 1988), and very similar to dates from pits at Thirlings, Northumberland with Grimston ware (Miket 1976). The limited economic evidence is mixed, suggesting use of both wild resources (hazelnuts) and cultivated (one grain barley; a possibly manured soil), besides unspecified weed seeds. The hearths not only owe their preservation to the covering mound, but they also derive a specific interest from the circumstance of its addition.

The phase 4 mound is beset by uncertainties regarding even such basic questions as its original extent. Mound material appears to have preserved the form of the phase 3 hearths, and presumably therefore closely follows them in sequence. This primary mound may only have extended as far as the stone row, 3m E of the hearths, and would thus have been no more than 10m in length. Its function would appear to have been simply that of sealing the hearths. Nonetheless, its significance appears to have been considerable, retaining importance for the site over the succeeding half century or more into phase 5. Equally,

the Biggar Common events acquire reverberations from the very similar happenings at other early neolithic sites. At Lyles Hill, Co. Antrim, a spread of black earth, rich in cultural material, sealed under a low platform cairn with boulder kerb, was dated to 3060 ± 170 bc -D37 (Evans 1953). At Boghead of Fochabers hearths with artefacts with a series of dates averaging 2981 bc, were sealed under small stone cairns topped by a mound some 14m in diameter (Burl 1984). A small cairn at Ford, Northumberland, covered a similar layer of burnt material with Grimston pottery (Burgess 1984, 139). In each case the addition of a mound gives significance to the activity which created the layer of burnt debris, transforming each site into a sealed monument.

The phase 5(i) burial pit with high status flint artefacts is wholly characteristic of the pattern of Late Neolithic elite burial seen in Yorkshire (Kinnes et al 1983). A dated comparison can be found at Whitegrounds, Burythorpe (Brewster 1984), where a skeleton with Seamer axe and jet slider inserted into an early neolithic oval mound was dated to 2570 ± 90 bc -HAR 5587. In both cases the Late Neolithic burial was placed into an insignificant mound of some antiquity. Individual burials with grave goods of this quality are extremely rare in Scotland, although a few similar axes are known including one in Ayrshire found with a kite shaped point (Kenworthy 1977; 1981).

The phase 5(ii) burial pit is more unusual in its combination of beaker and polished axe. Both artefacts suggest the burial to be relatively early within the beaker series, but, nonetheless, it is unlikely significantly to precede 2000 bc (Kinnes et al 1991), and must post date the phase 5(i) pit by several centuries. Whether the mound was extended in order to accommodate the beaker pit is uncertain, but it is clear that the modest monument had maintained its role as a special site.

The phase 6 addition of stone to the mound shows continuing concern with its appearance. The greatest effort was expended on the N side of the mound, presumably because an effect was desired in this uphill direction viewed from Cairn 3 with its handled beaker, besides the area of earlier settlement evidence (see below).

The phase 7 addition of clearance stone effectively disguised the earlier mound, so that on its initial discovery considerable doubt attached to its nature. Elongated clearance cairns elsewhere must now be considered as possible comparable monuments, although it must be added that the Biggar Common example, although only a short distance from some other, smaller cairns (see Prehistoric landscape, below), is not within a small cairnfield of the type known around the long cairns on the Pentlands.

In summary the Biggar Common long mound has proved to be of exceptional interest in relation to the mesolithic and to three separate periods within the neolithic. It

is one of the earliest proven sites of neolithic activity in northern Britain; it is one of a very few mounds used for individual Late Neolithic elite burial in Scotland; and it has a rare example of conjoined, as opposed to successive, neolithic-beaker deposition.

Settlement context: Artefact distributions on Biggar Common included several pottery clusters, which suggested the possibility of settlement sites. LDAS excavated at three of these points, and the AOC at a further site, without producing more than an accumulation of artefacts. In 1991, however, LDAS examined a further site at NT 0014 3888, 100m NW of the long mound, just out of sight from it, over the ridge. 140m² were examined, producing over 1000 pottery sherds, some worked chert and pitchstone, one flint scraper and one other piece of flint, besides hammer stones, two polished stone axes, and fragments of another. In addition, a series of postholes, groups of stake holes and a possible hearth were identified, with pottery sherds well stratified in the features. The pottery was all of western neolithic type with some carinated Grimston bowls. Blackish deposits from both inner and outer surfaces are being analysed.

The postholes were not particularly deep, the upper portion having presumably been eroded away. They appeared to form linear arrangements, suggestive of a long house, but the area examined was restricted and alternative interpretations are possible (DES 1991, 67-8). Radio carbon dates are awaited, but the pottery must indicate a date in the earlier neolithic.

Artefact context:

Axes: The two axes from the burial pits in the long mound are described above.

Three axes can be associated with the excavated structure, possibly of Group VI material. One axe was 110mm long, one 70mm, and the third was in fragments only. A fourth axe, of granitic stone, was picked up in forestry trenches on the hill. All are in Biggar Museum.

Excavation at Wellbrae enclosure, 4km W of Biggar Common, found an axe of local dolerite, 147mm in length, besides a resharpening flake from an axe of quartzite grit, again local. Another flake from a polished stone implement was found, and in a cremation pit with beaker sherds was a ground stone wedge of dolerite, heavily worn, and its butt battered. The circumstances of this last implement deposition may be compared to the axe with the beaker in the E pit in the long mound.

Records of c twenty axes from within a 5km radius of Biggar Common have been collected, but only one other axe comes from the same hill. This is the butt end of a large Group VI axe from Huntfield, the farm being 1.5km NE of Biggar Common mound (NMS AF 1023; LNK 8). An axe in Biggar Museum (D 10) from 'Millriggs', found in 1912, may be attributable to Hillridge, NT 029 389, on the E end of the hill, just over 2km from the mound.

Most of the other axe finds come from near Biggar town. A striking find is an axe of dark grey flint from Biggar (NMS AF 296), classifiable as another Seamer axe, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (146mm) in length (Sheridan 1992, 207).

Lithic finds: Artefact collection on Biggar Common consisted mostly of chert finds, including three leaf arrowheads of chert. Three leaf arrowheads and one barbed and tanged of flint were also found, besides three flint scrapers and c twenty six pieces of worked flint. Twenty pieces of pitchstone were also found. Excavation of sample areas increased the numbers of pieces of chert, flint and pitchstone, and agate finds were added to the score. These proportions of raw materials are similar to those found in excavation, both at the long mound (although no pitchstone occurred here) and at the posthole structure where flint was very rare. No microliths have been found on the Common.

Lacaille (1954, 187-9) listed four 'mesolithic' sites on the bend in the Clyde at the foot of Biggar Common, c 1km from the site. Other sites in the same stretch have been explored more recently (DES 1985, 41; 1988, 25; 1991, 65-7). Chert, some flint and occasional pitchstone are reported from these sites.

A flint spearhead from Huntfield (NT 013 401) on the N side of the common was exhibited in 1909, but no further details are known (NT 04SW 17).

A carved stone ball in the NMS (AS 31) comes from near Biggar.

Pottery finds: Pottery collected in field walking on Biggar Common was predominantly of western neolithic type, as found under the long mound and in association with the posthole structure. Several hundred sherds were recovered from the hill, widely scattered, but also in occasional concentrations. Such groups of sherds could be explained by the breaking of a single vessel. Excavation on the site of such concentrations increased the numbers of sherds recovered. The pottery all falls within the Lyles Hill-Grimston Ware family, and includes carinated vessels.

Similar western neolithic pottery has been found in field walking at Annieston, Thankerton Quarry (NS 992 375), 2km SW of the long mound, across the Clyde (DES 1988, 25). It was also found in a few pits within an excavated enclosure at Wellbrae, 4km W of the mound (DES 1991, 65).

A very few sherds of Late Neolithic Impressed Wares have also been picked up on Biggar Common over a wide area. One piece from a large bowl with horizontal flanged rim, decorated with a twig, was found near Cairn 3, nearly 700m E of the long mound.

Similar Impressed Wares were found in the majority of the pits in the Wellbrae enclosure. This was a large assemblage and the variety of decorative techniques used was wide. Grooved Ware was also found in a few features.

Beaker: In addition to the three beakers incorporated into the rituals at the E pit in the long mound, one

other cairn on Biggar Common, Cairn 1, c 55m NW of the long mound, produced a beaker. The primary burial here, in a central pit, was accompanied by a handled beaker. Fragments of a second beaker were found both in the pit and over the cairn. The rite may be compared to that employed at the long mound, where beakers were broken over the burial pit cairn.

At Drowsy Brae, Shieldhill (NS 982 388), 2km W of the long mound, a beaker of Clarke's Southern 3 series was found in a gravel slope above the Clyde (NMS: EG 92).

At Boatbridge Quarry, 2.5km SW of the long mound, across the Clyde, two cists were excavated in 1970, one of which contained a Step 4 beaker and a crouched inhumation dated to 1780 ± 60 bc - GU 1122 (NS 981 376) (Clarke et al 1984).

At Wellbrae enclosure 1, beaker was found in topsoil, in some of the pits with Grooved Ware, and in one pit with a cinerary urn. Central to enclosure 2 was a pit containing sherds of several beakers.

Prehistoric landscape: Initial survey of Biggar Common by LDAS identified five cairns besides the long mound. Two of these, Cairns 1 and 3, have been excavated by the AOC for Historic Scotland. A row of three cairns, 9m in maximum diameter, 200m NE of the long mound, have been Scheduled for preservation from forestry.

Cairn 1, at NT 0028 3886, 55m NW of the long mound, spread to 8.2m x 10.8m x 0.38m in height, covered a burial pit presumably for an inhumation, in which was a handled beaker and fragments of a long necked beaker, the remainder of which was found in the body of the cairn and on its surface.

Cairn 3, at NT 0105 3889, 700m E of the long mound, measured 9.2m x 8.0m. It covered two rings of stones, one set eccentrically within the other, cairn construction having begun over the central ring. A shallow oval pit within the inner ring was empty, presumably having contained an inhumation and organic artefacts only.

At the foot of Biggar Common Hill to the S is West Lindsaylands promontory enclosure (III:a), while to the east is Balwaistie cropmark henge (III:h).

Fig. III:4:1 Biggar Common: structural phases, after Johnston 1988

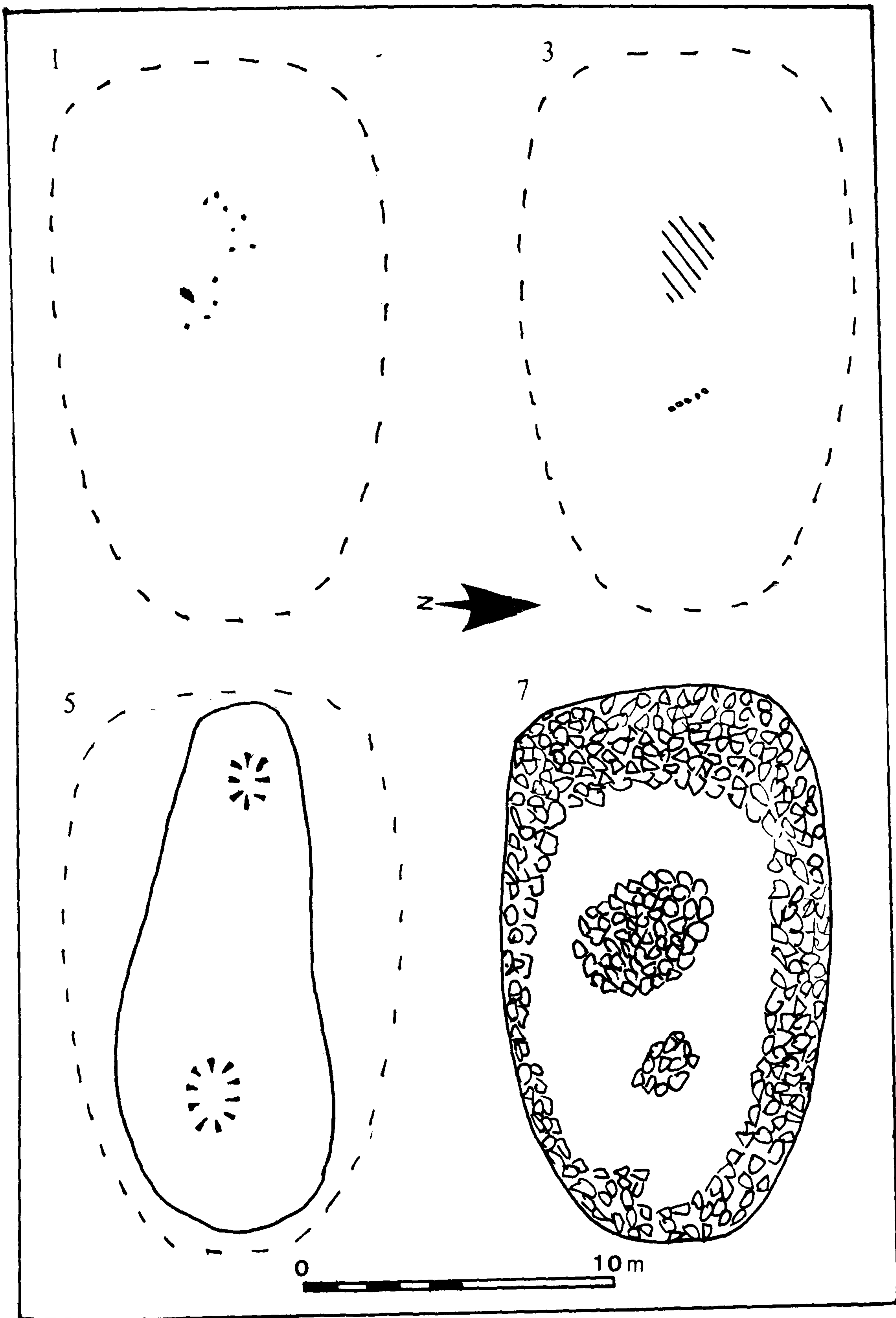
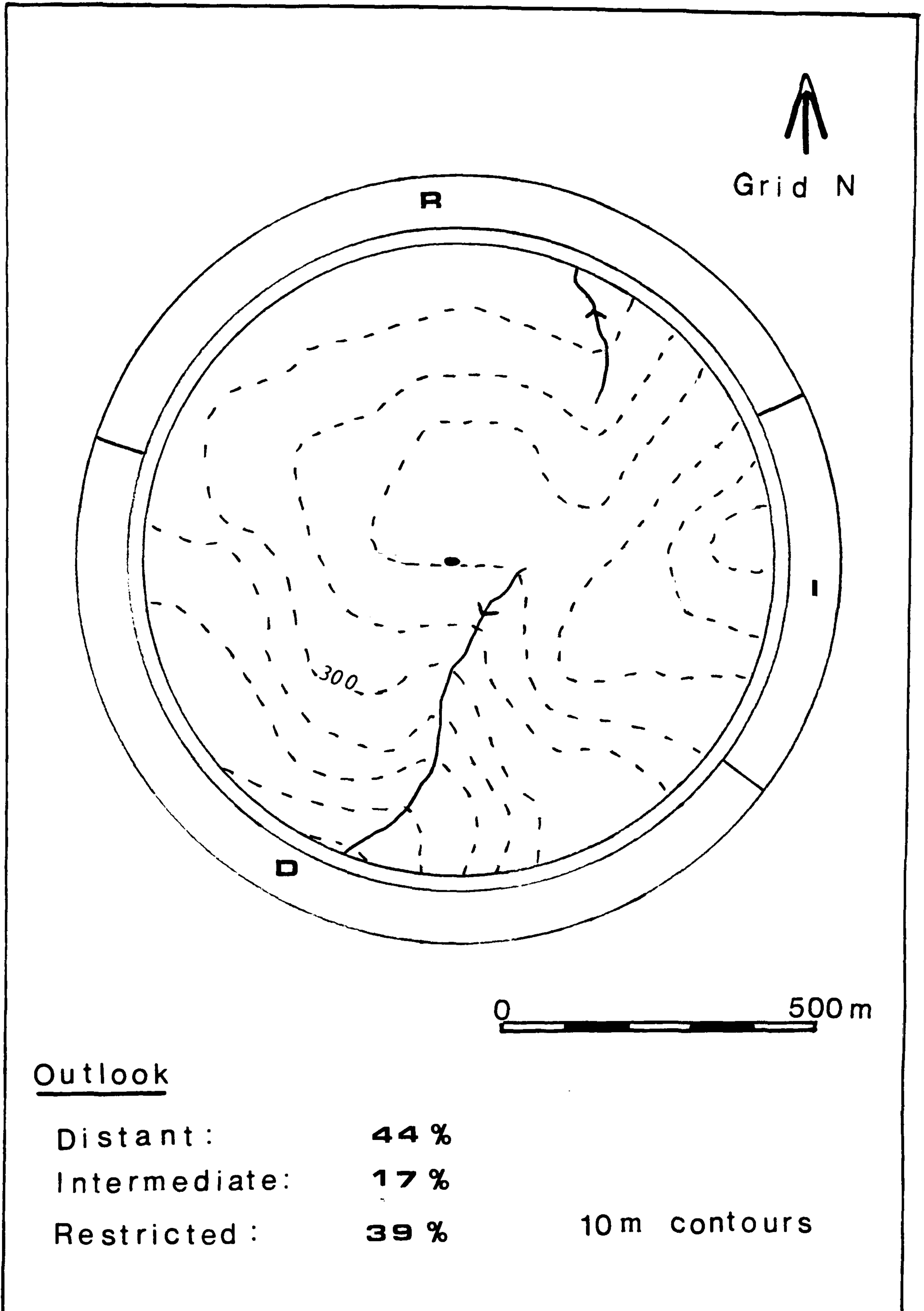


Fig. III:4:2 Situation and Outlook: Biggar Common



III:5 Brownsbank, Lanarkshire
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NT 04SE 8
NT 0741 4283
265m OD

Location: 1.5km E of Elsrickle, 800m NNW of Brownsbank farmhouse, 100m N of the A702, at the top of a slope down to the Hen Burn

Type: Possible mortuary enclosure

Status: Category C. The site, listed in the Lanarkshire Inventory as a Miscellaneous Enclosure (RCAHMS 1978(a), 145-6, no.275), was revealed by cropmark evidence in 1992 to be a small mortuary enclosure (DES 1992, 90; inf: 10-3-93 M. Brown). The photographs have not been inspected, and the site is included here in the doubtful Category C class as a valuable addition to the regional distribution, but one on which little comment can be made at present.

Outline: The RCAHMS (as above) describe this site as a sub-rectangular, banked enclosure surrounded by a berm and intermittent ditch.

Orientation: NE-SW

Dimensions (after RCAHMS, as above):

Internal diameter:	c 12m x 7.5m
Bank: breadth:	4m
height:	0.2m
Ditch (excavated dimensions):	
breadth:	1.9m
depth:	0.6m
Berm:	1.5m

Length: breadth ratio (over bank): 1:1.3

Excavation: In 1975 the ditch was sectioned by the RCAHMS.

Present condition: The site was visited, under plough, on 14.3.93. The bank appeared as a slight swelling consisting of light coloured soil spreading beyond its original limits. The ditch on the SE side was clearly visible as a slight scoop filled with dark soil; on the NW traces of a ditch were more doubtfully present.

Description:

Enclosure: The ploughed down, sub-rectangular bank appeared in 1993 to be spreading to fill the enclosure, now smaller than the 12m x 7.5m reported in 1975, and to eliminate traces of a berm. Otherwise the site was a small, banked enclosure as described by the RCAHMS.

Ditch: When sectioned, the ditch was found to be flat bottomed with vertical sides along the base of which were postholes which had held upright timbers against each face.

The ditch, which is now only clearly traceable around the SE side, probably features in the cropmark photographs of 1992.

Finds: Two small fragments of coarse handmade pottery were recovered from topsoil during excavation. These were said to be not closely dateable, but to 'bear a marked resemblance to certain Iron Age wares of the Tyne-Forth Province'.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 36km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 300m from the Hen Burn which lies in an ill-drained valley bottom.

General topography: High grassland hills surround the Elsrickle valley on all sides. The Hen Burn winds southwards through the hills to join the Biggar Water near Biggar.

Situation: The site occupies a slight promontory rise on a terraced shoulder of Broomy Law above a fairly steep drop to the valley bottom.

Aspect: NW

Slope: Fairly steep below the site. Gently undulating on the terrace.

Local relief, within 500m: 240-300m OD

Outlook: Distant: 56%
Intermediate: 44%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Fair

Local landmarks: Broomy Law rises above the site, its summit (426m OD) 1km to the E. The Black Mount (516m OD) dominates the view, 3km to the N. Tinto summit is just visible.

Solid geology: Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown forest soil with some gleying over drifts

Land use: Arable agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Broughton Knowe, long cairn, 4.5km to SSE

Balwaistie henge, 4.8km to SSW

Weston henge, 5.2km to NW

Easton, long cairn, 6.7km to N

Monument context: Until the photographs of the cropmark have been viewed, little can be said of the morphology of this monument. Clearly, however, no ditched neolithic sites are known locally, other than the rather larger henges, to provide parallels. A cropmark at Sheriffmuir (see Meldon Bridge III:6 Prehistoric landscape) might offer a possible comparison.

Spacing of neolithic monuments in the Biggar Gap Region is re-inforced by the addition of this site, occupying an otherwise empty valley between the known monuments. Balwaistie henge sits beside the Biggar Burn, downstream from Elsrickle. There is also a stone setting at Kirkurd

(Table III:5: no.3), 5km NE of Brownsbank, overlooking the next valley.

Artefact context:

Over thirty axes can be listed from within 5km of Brownsbank, the largest number coming from the Dolphinton area to the north, others from near Biggar, to the south.

A faceted axe of granitic stone, 6.7" (170mm) in length comes from Elsrickle, 1.5km to the NW across the valley (NMS AF 949). It is listed as part of the P.F Dunlop collection with a 7.4" (188mm) long axe of fine grain grey green tuff (AF 948) which may also have come from Elsrickle.

A partly polished granitic axe 10½" (267mm) long was found in 1899 at NT 0621 4095, 2km S of Brownsbank, at Candybank (NMS AF 495).

The Dunlop Collection includes two implements, an axe and a chisel of brown sandstone, from Cambwell, near Candybank, 3km from the enclosure (AF 1028, 1029).

'Three flint stones, one resembling a halbert, another of circular form, and the third cylindrical' were found in a cist with a contracted skeleton on The Mount in the latter half of the 18th century (Stat Acct X, 186). The Mount farm is 3km E of the enclosure.

Lithics: Few lithic finds are recorded from the agricultural soils of the Elsrickle valley, although 5km to the N and NW in the Dunsyre and Dolphinton areas finds proliferate.

Four leaf arrowheads of flint and one of chert in the NMS (AD 2326-8, 2272-3) come from Townhead farm, 3km NE of the enclosure.

A broken flint arrowhead is recorded from Walston, 3km to the NW (Anderson and Black 1888, 349).

Other arrowheads, illustrated by Irving and Murray (1864, 15), as being barbed and tanged, are said to have been found on Oldshields, 3km to the SW (NSA V, 363).

A leaf arrowhead comes from Skirling, 4km to the S (NMS: AD 546).

Flint scrapers were found on Melbourne, less than 2km to the NW (NMS: AB 2857-60).

Prehistoric landscape:

Enclosures: None of the upstanding or cropmark enclosures in the vicinity of Brownsbank enclosure could be suggested to be neolithic.

Stone circles:

1. A small stone setting at the Harestanes, Kirkurd, is just over 5km ENE of the enclosure (III:ix).

2. There is a record of four stones having stood on a round hill at Oldshields, perhaps on Ewe Hill, 3km SW of the enclosure (III:ix).

Funerary sites:

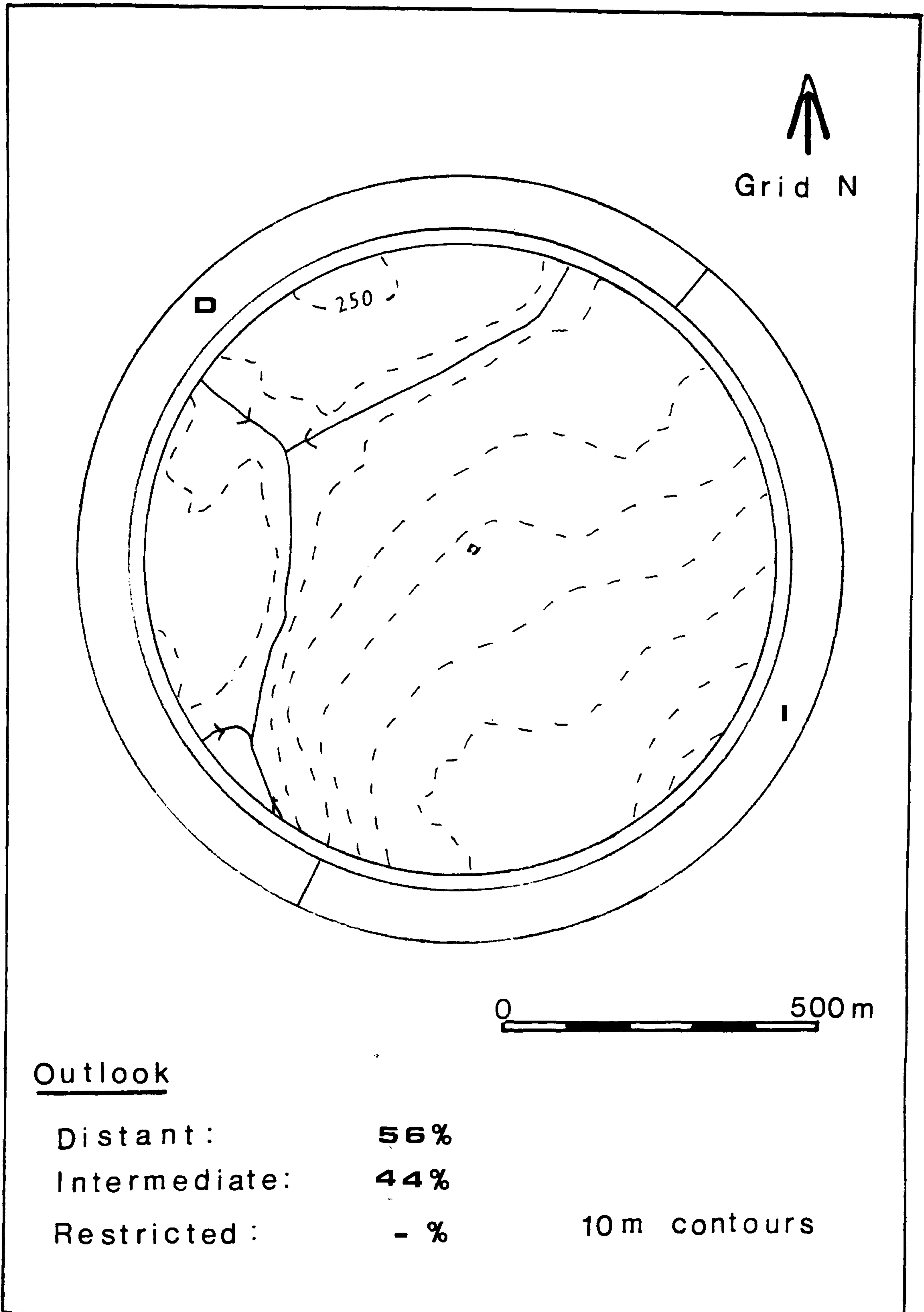
'Stone coffins' or cists are recorded at Elsrickle, 1.2km NW of Brownsbank, Craw Know, 2.3km to the WNW and Cloven Knowes 3km to the SE (RCAHMS 1967 i, 72, no.140; 71, no.134; 60, no.76). See also the flint finds from a cist on the Mount, under Axes, above.

Two cairns near Elsrickle, 2km N of the enclosure (NT 03SE 30) have a view of the site.

There are remains of summit cairns on the Mount 2.5km to the E, Gallow Law, 3.0km to the SSE and Wintermuir Hill, 3.5km to the S of the enclosure (RCAHMS 1967 i, 56, no.42; 54, no.20; 69, no.119).

A small ring ditch on Tours at NT 0820 4450, 1800m N of Brownsbank enclosure must have had a view of the latter site (NT 04SE 34).

Fig. III:5:1 Situation and Outlook: Brownsbank



III:6 Harlawmuir PBL 1
Tweeddale District
Borders Region

NT 15SE 5
NT 1798 5464
280m OD

Location: 2.3km SW of Carlops, 550m E of Deepsykehead farmhouse, in an unplanted area in private forestry, immediately S of an old water tower

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: The denuded cairn tapers gently from a convex NE end to a squared tail, the sides very nearly parallel.

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Dimensions:

Length:	61m
Breadth, max:	15.5m
at tail:	12m
Max. height:	0.9m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:3.9

History of site and present condition: The site was first noticed in the ONB in 1856 (Bk 21, 41) as having 'long since' had its stones removed for building a wall around the plantation that then covered it. The plantation wall, now much collapsed, crosses the cairn to the W of centre, leaving the tail outwith an enclosed area c 120m x 120m. The S corner of this enclosure overlies and crosses over an earlier stony bank which enclosed another 150m x 120m to the SW. This bank ran up to the NE end of the cairn, curving in to join it, apparently utilising the cairn itself as one side of a smaller stock enclosure. It may be contemporary with this use that an area measuring c 6m x 3m was cleared of stone within the N side of the cairn, its steep edges suggesting use as a pen. The ONB, however, is probably correct in attributing some stone robbing to construction of the plantation wall. On the S side of the cairn, immediately E of the wall, entry has been made into it, probably by carts, for removal of stone. Much of the surface of the cairn is robbed into hollows including a large area immediately within the convex E end. When the site was visited by the RCAHMS in 1959 (1967, i 51, no.1) and in 1962 by Henshall (1972, 468), the plantation had gone and the cairn was found to be ill-defined and grass-grown, with a few boulders protruding to confirm its stony character. In 1987 the area was ploughed for forestry, and, despite agreement to respect the cairn, holes were inadvertently made in it for intended 'amenity planting'; this planting has been averted. The site is fenced off, and, grass and weeds grow rampant over it; rushes nearly conceal the tail.

Description:

Kerb: No kerb is apparent

Facade: The NE end of the cairn is gently convex, with an apparent protrusion on the N side probably a heap of robbed stone. A robbed hollow immediately behind this 'facade' suggests the possibility that robbing has followed the line of a concave forecourt, 6m in from the present end, removing blocking material.

Cairn: Despite grass cover, the cairn is clearly stone built, some large boulders being apparent in the E end. The ONB (21, 41) commented on its composition 'of stones of different sizes', perhaps suggesting some orthostatic feature, but if so, no trace is now visible. Like Easton (III:3) this cairn lies along the side of a ridge, just below the summit. Most robbing and distortion of the outline has occurred on the downhill, S side. Planning shows the cairn to be a very regular shape, only slightly trapezoidal, and with a regular, squared off tail, c 0.3m in height.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 23km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 320m from the Cairn Burn to the SE;
430m from the Harlawmuir Burn

General topography: On the SE side of the Pentlands is a stretch of moorland ridges which, to the N of the cairn becomes the flat moorland of Auchencorth Moss. The area forms a watershed between the River North Esk, flowing N, and the Water of Lyne, flowing S.

Situation: The cairn occupies a NE-SW ridge between the Harlawmuir Burn to the NW and the Cairn Water to the SE; it lies just below the crest of the ridge, to the SE.

Aspect: SE

Slope: The nearly level ridge summit slopes gently down to either side.

Local relief, within 500m : 250m-285m OD

Outlook: Distant: 57% to N and S
Intermediate: 43%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Fairly high. The cairn is on the skyline from short distances to the SW and W. From the E it can be seen from longer distances, against the Pentland Hills.

Local landmarks: The view takes in a wide sweep of hills to E and W, but the Black Mount stands out as an isolated landmark, 13km to the SW. 300m N of the cairn the Harlawmuir Burn runs through a deep cleft between steep sides, as an impressive feature.

Solid geology: Namurian millstone grit

Soils: Freely drained humus iron podzol on drifts derived from carboniferous sandstone along the ridge; peat in all directions surrounds the ridge.

Land use: Forestry, formerly livestock farming. Walls and banks around the cairn define both a 19th century plantation and earlier stock enclosures. Limestone was formerly quarried 1km to the S.

Vegetation: Rank grass and rushes within new plantations of conifers

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Easton, long cairn, 11km to WSW

Meldon Bridge, enclosure, 14km to S

Burngrange, chambered cairn, 15.5km to W

Monument context: Although extensively denuded the cairn retains a classic neolithic outline, very similar in dimension to the slightly more tapered barrow at Dalladies. The sides are nearly parallel, as at some English long barrows, such as Giant's Hill, Skendleby, and also at the three other, very various, Pentlands cairns, Burngrange, Greens Moor and Easton.

Harlawmuir lies at a watershed between the River North Esk, flowing north, and the Water of Lyne running to the south. The North Esk passes through steep sided gorges, with cup-and-ring marked rocks, to a possible cursus near the Firth of Forth at Monktonhall (II::a). Some unusually fine axes, and several pottery finds occur in the North Esk valley (II:iv-vi). The Water of Lyne joins the Tweed near Meldon Bridge enclosure. The long cairn, however, belongs rather to the set of funerary sites around the Pentlands. There is an area of dense artefact recovery from West Linton to Dolphinton, just south of the site. Views to the Black Mount in the south emphasise this orientation.

Artefact context:

Axes: The cairn is at the NE end of an area with a dense distribution of axeheads at the SE end of the Pentlands. Nearly thirty axes come from within 5km of the cairn, with a preponderance of findspots being in the West Linton area to the SW. All AF Accession numbers below indicate finds in the NMS.

One find is attributed to Harlaw Moor, the farm immediately N of the long cairn, a 5¼" (133mm) polished axe (AF 473), identified by Ritchie and Scott (1989) as being made of fossiliferous limestone (PBL 5). Whether this material could originate from local limestone outcrops is not stated.

From the farm of Rutherford, 2km W of the long cairn across the Harlawmuir Burn, comes an axe of brown quartzite, 5⅞" (149mm) long (AF 581).

Two axes come from Carlops, 2.5km WNW of the long cairn. One, 4" (102mm) long, is described as being of finely polished granite (AF 261); the other, found in 1977 beside the River North Esk, is a tiny 46mm axe, possibly of Killin stone (AF 1074).

A group of four smallish axes were found together at a depth of c 0.9m by the farmer at Fairslacks, 3km W of Harlawmuir, when he was digging a hole to bury a dead calf in 1901 (AF 510-3). Two of these were said to be of indurated clayslate, one of weathered greenstone and one of weathered limestone. This last description is not necessarily reliable as the whitened appearance of weathered tuff was sometimes mistaken for limestone.

Two axes come from Lamancha, 3km SE of the long cairn. A 4½" (108mm) axe of porphyry was said to have been found 10feet (3m) below ground surface (Chambers Institute, Peebles, P5099), while in GAGM there is a 7¼" (184mm) axe from the Mann Collection (1955 96 uh).

Four axes were found on Cottage Farm, West Linton, 3km SW of the long cairn. Three of these in the Hunterian Museum, measure 3.6" (90mm), 5" (127mm) and 6.7" (170mm) in length, the first two described as being double edged (1951-1018). A 6" (152mm) axe in the NMS was another example described as being of limestone (AF 601).

Twelve axes come from around West Linton, 4km SW of the long cairn. These are mostly small, and Roy Ritchie warns that they may include some fakes (Hunterian A 191; B 1914 154-5, 222, 232; B 1951 1039). The most striking specimen is a 6½" (165mm) axe of basaltic stone from the Water of Lyne near West Linton (AF 615).

Lithic finds: Large lithic collections, including numbers of leaf arrowheads, come from the West Linton area (NMS: AB 993-1002, 1163-1218; AD 1379-1409; Hunt, B 1914 224, 1032; B 1951 1034-5). Locations tend to be unspecified and there are no reported finds from the immediate vicinity of Harlawmuir. During survey of the area two struck blades were picked up in forestry furrows beside the Harlawmuir Burn, 250m N of the long cairn, and a round scraper of black chert, 34mm x 37mm, was found beside the round cairn 450m to the NW (see below).

A battle axe of greystone from 'Harley Muir' was purchased by the NMS in 1884 (AHY 56).

There is also an Early Bronze Age flat axe from Harlawmuir in the NMS (OA 68).

Ring marked slab: 3km SE of the long cairn, at Lamancha, a slab bearing a complex set of designs with double rings and a spiral was found in a gravel bank in 1863 (Morris 1981 BDR 7). Although suitable for use as a cist cover, there is no evidence that it was associated with any structure.

Prehistoric landscape: Although one or two small stone heaps were noted on the N side of the tail of the cairn, these are likely to represent recent stone robbing rather than prehistoric cairns. There is no sign of the small

cairnfields which are so prominent a feature around the other Pentlands long cairns either on the ridge, in forestry ploughing on the flanks of the ridge or in pasture on rising ground to the NE of the long cairn.

Cairns: Only one probable round cairn has been identified in the vicinity of Harlawmuir. 450m NW of the long cairn, on the terrace above the steep drop to the Harlawmuir Burn at 270m OD, are two circular sheep stells now cut through by forestry furrows. The SE stell is of turf, 10m in internal diameter, with no entrance, closely comparable to the 'ring enclosure' NW of Easton long cairn (and see also sheep stells near Burngrange). 24m to the NW at NT 1767 5496 is a stone walled stell, 18m in internal diameter, which appears to have been built around a 14m round cairn. This monument, its outline somewhat damaged around its S side, has been robbed to a level surface, and presumably furnished considerable amounts of stone for construction of the stell, but it is still up to 0.6m in height. From the cairn the long mound would have been visible as a skyline feature.

Ring enclosures: There are four ring enclosures to the S of and within 1200m of the long cairn, but only the most northerly one is within sight of it. Three of the enclosures are now within a forested area, and have been Scheduled as Ancient Monuments and left unplanted. The two smaller rings are now difficult to distinguish under growth of vegetation, but they were all examined before forestry planting took place in 1987.

The southernmost of these three, just over 1km to the SSW of the long cairn at NT 1750 5363 was listed in the Peeblesshire Inventory as an Enclosed Cremation Cemetery, comparable to Weird Law, on account of its central cairn, 3.66m in diameter (RCAHMS 1967, i 66, no.112), its well preserved stony bank, 3m thick and up to 0.5m in height, encloses an area 17m in diameter.

120m to the E of this last is a ring enclosure measuring 9.6m overall, with no entrance, its interior slightly raised above the surrounding ground level (NT 15SE 20). 300m NE of the first site, in boggy ground, the remains of a third enclosure, 12.8m across, its E side missing, stands out in an island of green turf (NT 15SE 20). The date and purpose of these enclosures is uncertain, but a recent agricultural function cannot be ruled out.

A fourth enclosure, in a pasture field and unscheduled, lies at NT 168 544 just over 1km SW of the long cairn. It measures 9m in overall diameter. This somewhat reduced feature is on sloping ground above the Harlawmuir Burn, but shows no evidence of having been terraced into the slope, which may suggest a relatively recent origin for the feature.

Archaeological interpretations: Although this cairn, on the estate of the noted antiquarian Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, lay beside the turnpike road from West Linton to Penicuik, with a toll-house recorded as having stood

400m to the NE in the 18th century (SRO RHP 1937), it seems to have escaped record or protection before its identification by the OS in 1856. The site was considered too denuded to plan both by the RCAHMS (1967, i 51, no.1) and by Henshall (1972, 468), but both gave accurate descriptions of it. The former noted Piggott's suggestion that the unchambered long cairns of North Britain, such as Harlawmuir, could be seen as the equivalent in stone of the unchambered long barrows of the Windmill Hill culture (ibid, p.13). The site appears on Masters' map of unchambered long cairns in North Britain (1984, 55, fig.4.1).

Fig. III:6:1 Harlawmuir: Plan 1988

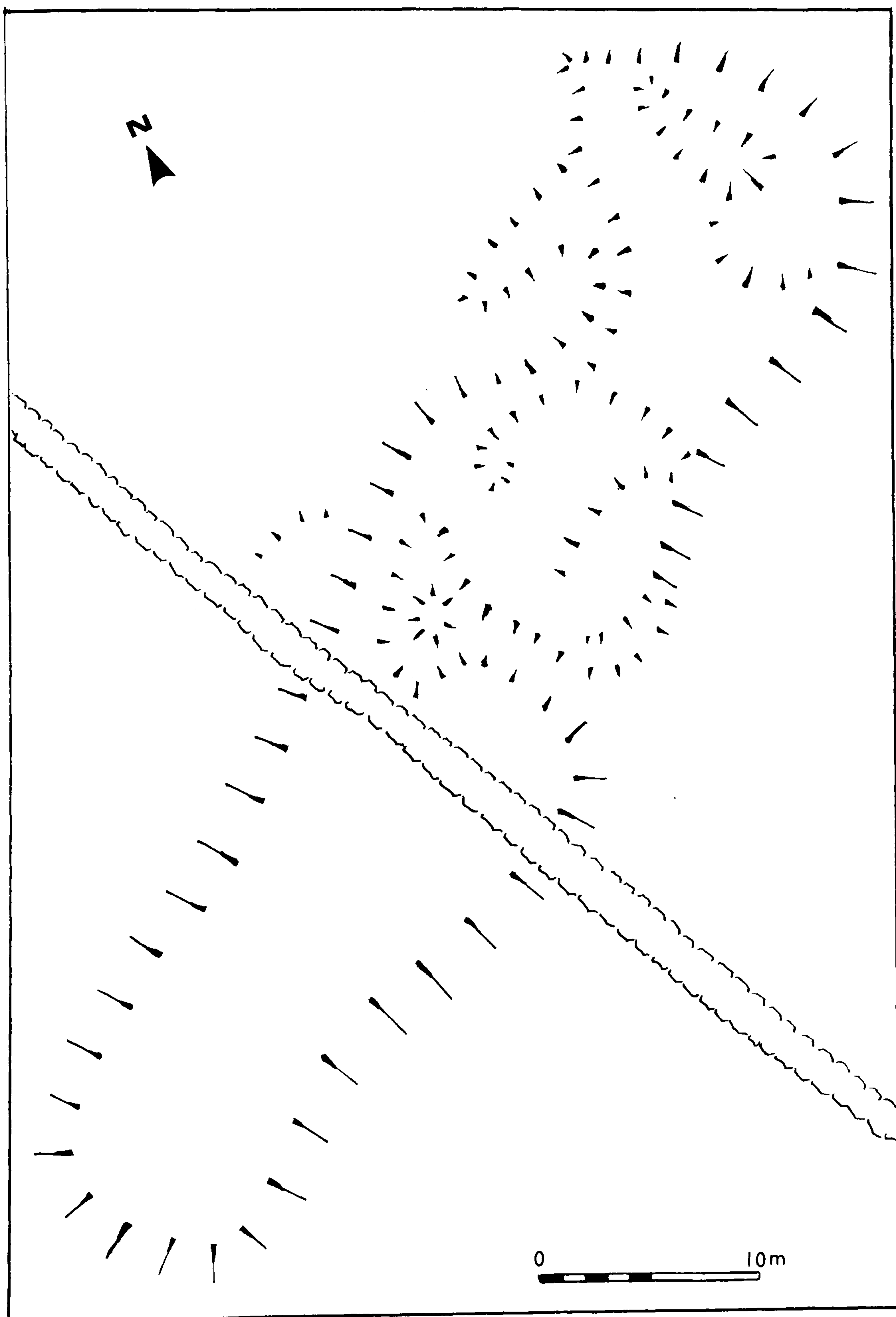


Fig. III:6:2 Situation and Outlook: Harlawmuir

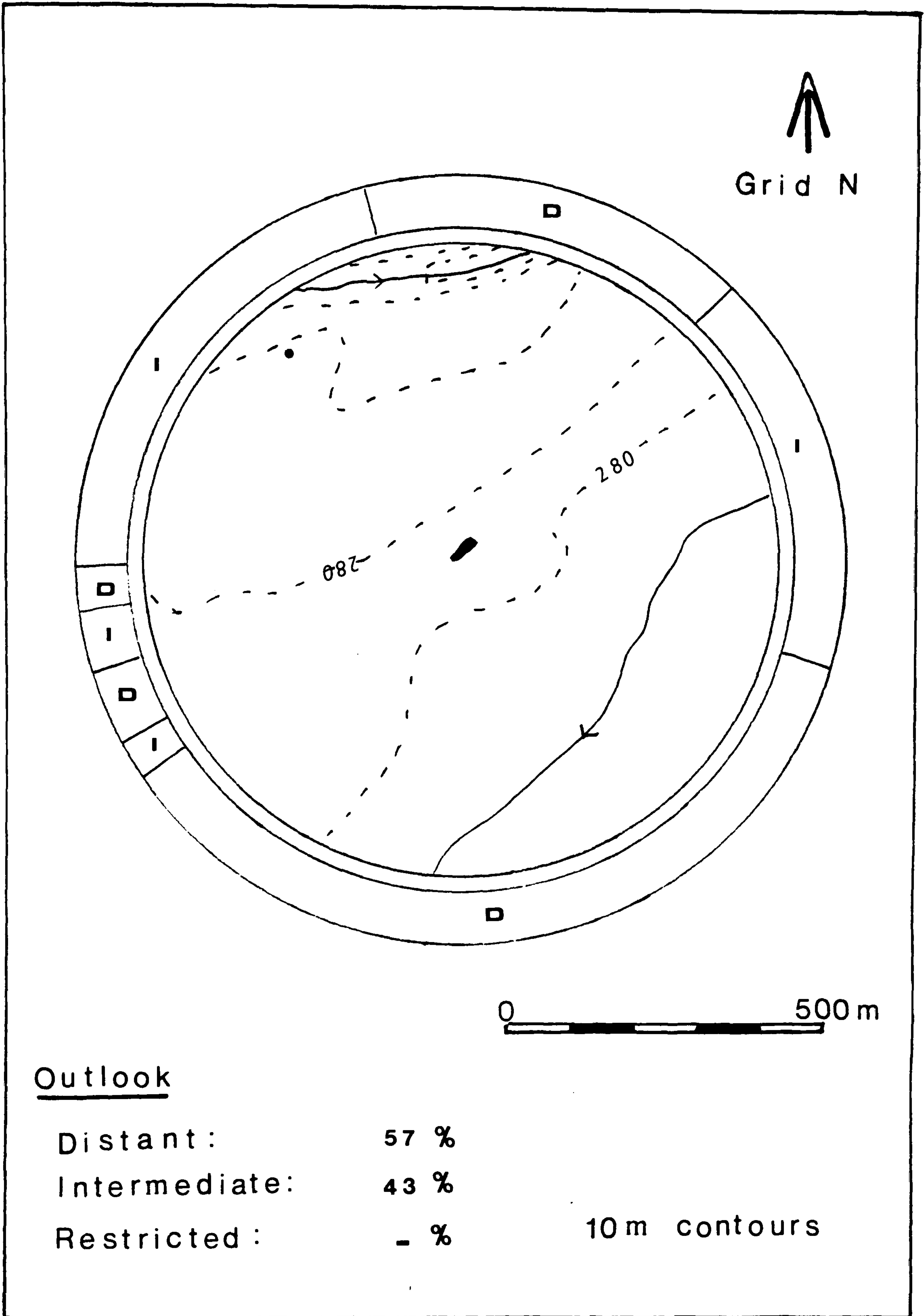


Fig. III:6:3 Harlawmuir: Profile and transects

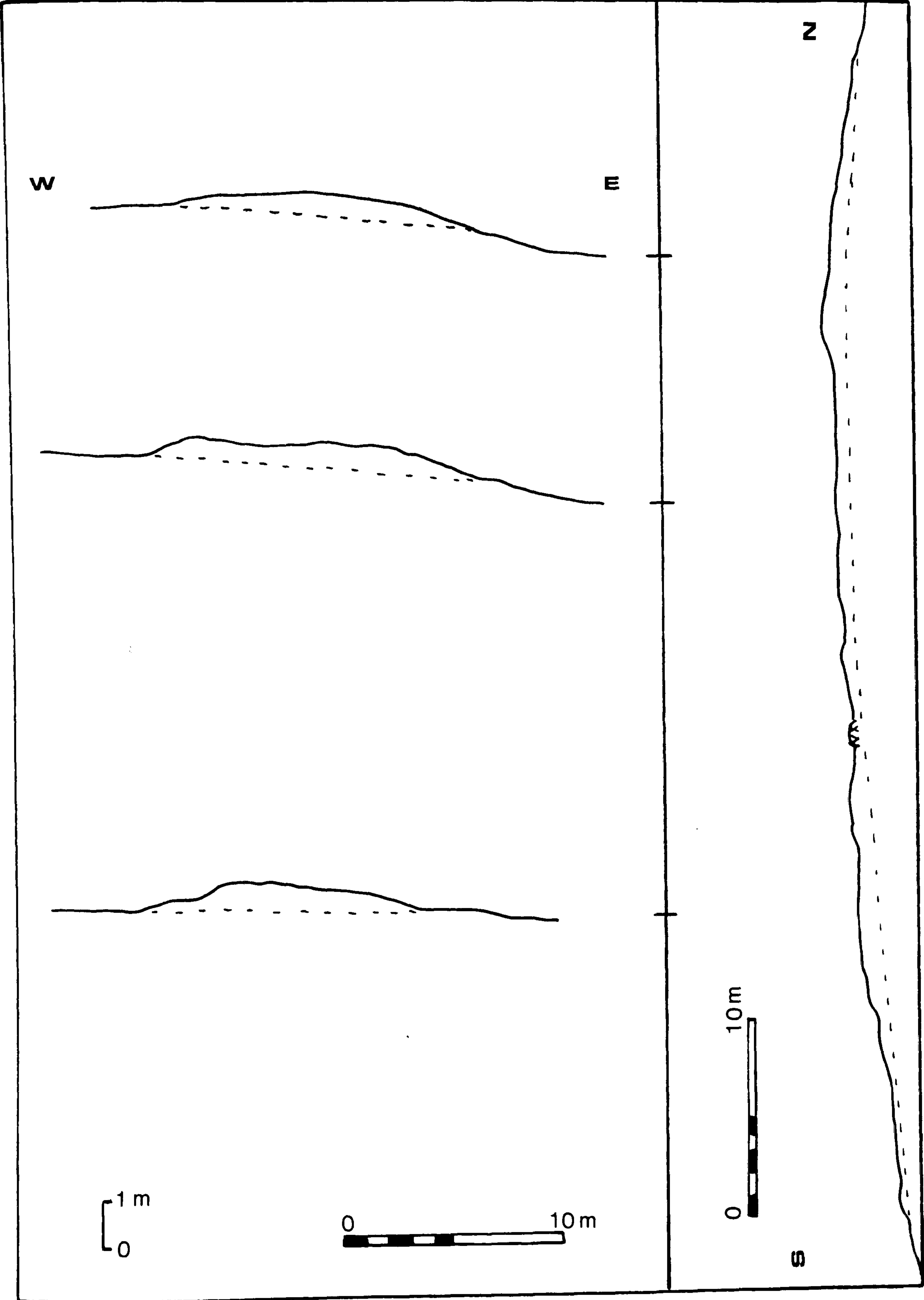
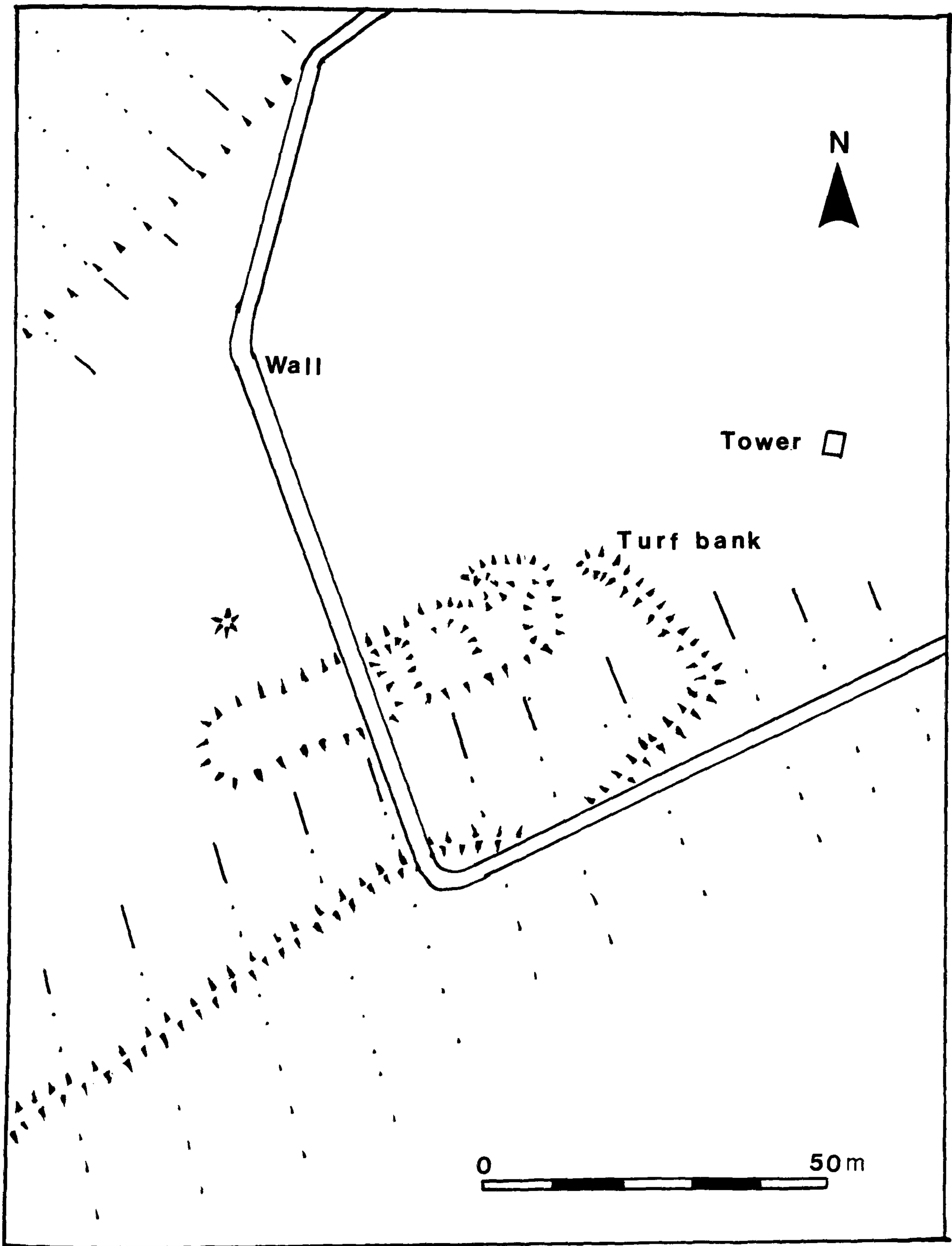


Fig. III:6:4 Harlawmuir: environs



III:7 Broughton Knowe, Peeblesshire
Tweeddale District
Borders Region

NT 03NE 49
NT 0989 3890
325m OD

Location: 3km N of Broughton village, 600m SE of Broughton Knowe steading, on the SE slopes of Broughton Knowe Hill (342m OD)

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category B. A much damaged and reduced mound, most probably a long cairn.

Outline: A trapezoidal mound with concave E end narrowing to a rounded tail; the eastern half is largely destroyed.

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Dimensions: Length: 28m
Breadth, max: 12.5m
at tail: 4.5m
max. height: 0.6m

Breadth : length ration: 1:2.2

History of site and present condition: Although there is much evidence for later prehistoric activity on Broughton Knowe (see below, Prehistoric landscape), the main agency for destruction is likely to be the construction of field dykes, probably in the 18th century. A track passes across the cairn 11m from its E end, facilitating stone removal, and the part of the cairn to the E of the track has been quarried almost to ground level. Stone has been quarried elsewhere on the hill, both in large quarries on its E face and in minor pits which disturb the surface over much of the field in which the cairn is situated. Nonetheless the tail of the cairn is still quite steep-sided, although even this portion has robbing hollows at its E end, along its crest and into its S side; heaps of stone lie beside the cairn. So insignificant are the grassed over remains that they escaped archaeological attention despite survey and excavation on the hill (RCAHMS 1967; Maclaren 1967; Ward 1970) until recorded by aerial photography (RCAHMS Catalogue of Aerial Photographs 1981, 6).

Description:

Kerb: No kerb is visible and the position of the cairn edge is not everywhere certain. A scarp line along the S edge of the cairn appears to be natural, although used as a platform for robbed stone, and lies a few metres beyond the probable edge of the cairn.

Facade: The E end of the cairn is reasonably well defined by a shallow scarp describing a broad, convex curve.

Cairn: Although turfed over, the mound is clearly composed of stone, the reason for its being so comprehensively quarried. Removal of the E part of the cairn makes assessment of its original appearance difficult. The outline appears to curve out on the S, an effect which is elsewhere associated with slippage from a high mound, or occasionally with the superimposition of a round cairn (cf. Cairn Avel VI:1). In this case, however, it may be a robbing effect. The surviving tail is quite well preserved, suggesting that the mound may have been originally high-built.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 38km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: A spring rises 40m SE of the head of the cairn and the stream falls steeply to join the Broughton Burn 450m to the E.

General topography: The long ridge of Broughton Knowe and Langlaw Hill is divided from the more massive Broughton Heights, at over 500m OD, by the steep sided, narrow valley of the Broughton Burn to the E. 3km to the S the burn joins the Biggar Water and thence the Tweed in broader alluvial valleys.

Situation: The cairn lies along the base of the upper slopes of Broughton Knowe on the N side of the saddle between that hill and Langlaw Hill, facing out over the steeper lower slopes to the valley of the Broughton Burn.

Aspect: SE

Slope: Moderate above the cairn to the N (5%)
Steep below the cairn to the SE (10%)

Local relief, within 500m: 250-350m OD

Outlook: Distant: 28% to SW and SE
Intermediate: 37%
Restricted: 35% to NW

Prominence: Low. The site could only have appeared impressive from a restricted area around the spring to the SE.

Local landmarks: Tinto Hill, 15km to the W, is visible over the saddle of the hill, almost on the alignment of the cairn tail.

Solid geology: Ordovician greywackes and shales

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soils of the Ettrick Association on the ridge and non-calcareous gleys on the

slopes. The soil on the ridge appears to be thin and stony.

Land use: Presently livestock grazing, with trees recently planted on the lower slopes. Broad ridge cultivation on some parts of the hill indicates pre-improvement arable agriculture. Aerial photographs show patches of cord rig surviving on the upper slopes of both Broughton Knowe and Langlaw Hill, a characteristic form of later prehistoric upland cultivation remains in the Cheviots (Halliday 1986). The cord rig runs down the slope above the long cairn, stopping short of the site itself.

Vegetation: Improved grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Brownsbank, possible mortuary enclosure, 4.5km to NW

Rachan Slack, possible henge, 5.2km to S

Balwaistie, cropmark henge, 6.0km to W

West Lindsaylands, enclosure, 8.5km to W

Biggar Common, long barrow, 9.5km to W

Monument context: Apart from the unusual mound on Biggar Common, neighbouring long cairns on the Pentlands are all longer than Broughton Knowe and less sharply trapezoidal. Closer comparisons of form are found to the S, in Dumfries and Galloway, and the excavated outlines of Lochhill and Slewcairn (VI:2 and 3) provide a possible template for the original shape of Broughton Knowe. There is also a trapezoidal cairn measuring 24m x 13m on Dod Hill, Northumberland at the opposite side of the Tweed Basin (Masters 1984, 59).

Like Harlawmuir, this cairn is something of an outlier from the main Pentlands group and may, perhaps, be more directly linked to the Neolithic of the upper Tweed, represented by the Meldon Bridge enclosure, 11km to the E rather than to the Pentlands. Its denuded state and delayed history of recognition must, however, emphasise the likelihood of a diminished record of sites. Survey and excavation close to the site took place in the 1960s without the long cairn being observed. The wealth of other prehistoric remains on the hill led to the direction of aerial photography to the ridge, recording the stony, trapezoidal outline. The thorough removal of stone would have made it easy to obliterate these traces by cultivation. The vulnerability of stone built cairns to total destruction is clearly illustrated (cf. Caverton Hillhead IV:2).

Artefact context:

Axes: Although c 16 axes can be listed from within 5km of the long cairn, many of these come from the Biggar district, 4-5km to the W, forming a different focus of neolithic interest.

The only axe found within 3km of the long cairn comes from the Broughton Knowe ridge itself, 700m N of the site. Excavation of a double ring enclosure at NT 0983 3962 recovered a small, weathered axe, with flattened sides, measuring 70mm x 46mm, from within the inner bank of the enclosure (RCAHMS 1967 i 66-7, no.115A). The axe, now in the NMS, is slightly chipped, and may be of Group VI stone. Chert artefacts came from within the enclosure (see below), but none of the finds can provide more than a *terminus post quem* for the structure, which remains undated (see Prehistoric landscape, below).

Two axes in the NMS come from Cambwell, just over 3km NW of the long cairn. One is a broken piece made of grey green speckled stone (AF 1028), the other a chisel made on an elongated parallel sided pebble of brown sandstone 5.6" (147mm) in length (AF 1029).

In 1963 the OS reported that Mrs. Murray of Spittal, 3km W of Broughton Knowe, had two small axes in her possession, but no findspot was known (Inf: NMS).

The mid-19th century collection of Adam Sim of Coulter, now in the NMS, includes two axes from 'Kilbucks' presumably the estate of Kilbucho, 3.5km SSW of Broughton Knowe. The two 'claystone' axes (AF 185, 186) measure 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " (111mm) and 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (121mm) respectively in length, and the larger has been confirmed as being of Group VI stone (PBL 6).

Another axe from the Sim Collection, ascribed to 'Winter Main' (AF 179) is probably from Winter Muir, 3.5km WNW of Broughton Knowe, This 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (114mm) axe is also of Group VI stone (LNK 15).

Ploughing in 1900 on Candybank, 3.8km NW of the long cairn, turned up a large handsome axe of granitic stone 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (257mm) in length (NMS: AF 495).

One other interesting find is recorded from within a similar distance. The Statistical Account (X, 186) mentions a 'stone coffin' at the bottom of The Mount, a hill 3.5km N of Broughton Knowe, in which was found a 'flint stone ... resembling a halbert', or a 'stone celt'.

Lithic finds: Despite prolific artefact collection from the Dolphinton district 6-7km to the N, few finds come from the vicinity of the long cairn. One leaf arrowhead in the NMS comes from Skirling, 2km to the W (AD 546).

Five sites have been excavated on Broughton Knowe by the RCAHMS and others, and three of these produced lithic artefacts (see Prehistoric landscape, below).

(1) A small barrow to the W of the long mound contained a flint flake and a blade fragment, a chert thumbnail scraper and a triangular piece of flaked chert, and a small utilised object of polished stone, all within the body of the mound (Ward 1970, 103).

(2) From an intrusive pit in another small barrow (3.4m) 700m N of the long cairn, five flint scrapers were recovered together with some pottery sherds (see below) (Maclaren 1967, 100-2).

(3) A ring enclosure beside this last barrow contained two chert knives and a scraper on the surface of its interior, as well as the axehead, mentioned above, in its bank (RCAHMS 1967 i, 66-7, no.115).

Recent survey of chert outcrops in the Peeblesshire hills has identified several sites with evidence for utilisation (DES 1989, 8). These include outcrops and screes above the Kilbucho Burn at NT 070 348 to 090 356, 5-3km SW of Broughton Knowe, with artefactual flakes, and an outcrop on Clashpock Rig, 4km NE of the site, with worked chert. 0.5km E of Clashpock Rig on Flint Hill (NT 136 407) shallow pits have been noted above chert screes containing artefactual flakes (Wickham Jones 1986, 6; DES 1986, 49). No period of use can be attached to these sites.

Pottery: Excavation of a ditched barrow at NT 0984 3962 700m N of the long cairn recovered three pottery sherds from the lowest level of the intrusive central pit and two from below the undisturbed core of the barrow. Three wall sherds were of fairly hard black ware with speckled granitic grits, smoothed internally, 13mm thick, which the excavator compared to wares from Kildalton, Islay, such as NMS HM 327 and to a neolithic bowl from Knappers, Dumbarton (Mackay 1948, 234-5, no.1). Two wall sherds of different thicknesses (10mm and 15mm) but probably from one vessel were of a fairly hard dark grey ware, the exterior surface buff. These were tentatively compared to neolithic pottery from chambered tombs on Bute and from Hedderwick Sands (Maclaren 1967, 102-3). The comparisons may be somewhat tenuous on the basis of wall sherds only, but clearly Maclaren regarded the pottery as neolithic in type although looking for a Bronze Age or even Iron Age context for the barrow itself.

Jet object: An unusual find from Broughton Knowe is a carved jet pendant with an incised design of unknown date (Wilson 1887, 193-4; NMS FN 60).

Prehistoric landscape: Fig. III:7:3 shows the layout of monuments on Broughton Knowe and Langlaw Hill, dominated by the fort on the latter summit (RCAHMS 1967 i, 128-30, no.300). This last is a complex, multi-phase earthwork with outer defences, including a linear bank and ditch across the approach. The other remains on the long N ridge of Langlaw Hill and on Broughton Knowe fall into three main classes, as described below. Help in elucidating these remains from Stratford Halliday must be acknowledged.

(1) Ring ditch houses: Three groups of circular ditched sites on Broughton Knowe (NT 03NE 21, 43, 44) and one on Langlaw Hill (NT 13NW 24) can probably be identified as the remains of ring ditch houses (Reynolds 1982). Such structures probably belong to the first millennium bc, and may be associated with the cord rig mentioned above (Land Use) as traceable on the hillside. The rig nearest to the cairn articulates with patches around a group of four ring ditch houses on the SE shoulder of Broughton Knowe 100m from the long cairn.

(2) Ring enclosures: During survey for the Peeblesshire Inventory attention was paid to the large numbers of circular banked enclosures encountered. Those with central features were classified as Enclosed Cremation Cemeteries which, by comparison with an excavated site on Weird Law in Upper Tweeddale (RCAHMS 1967, i, 666, no.112) could be expected to be second millennium funerary sites. Other sites were less easy to explain, even after excavation. Four ring enclosures were noted on the N side of Broughton Knowe, 700m N of the long cairn, three of them grouped closely with a small, ditched barrow (see below) (RCAHMS 1967, i, 66-7, no.115, Fig.11). Excavation of one of these sites (B) found a simple earthen ring bank, 7.6m in internal diameter, with no entrance, which produced no structural features or relics. 40m to the N Site A was also excavated and shown to consist of double concentric banks, 0.6m apart, again with no entrances, enclosing an area 6.4m in diameter. The small axehead mentioned above was found in the inner bank, and on the surface of the interior were two chert knives and a scraper. Only 10m to the E was the small ditched barrow which also produced lithic finds and pottery, and the ring enclosure may well have accidentally incorporated finds from prehistoric activity in the vicinity. The date and purpose of these enclosures must remain an open question.

(3) Barrows/funerary ring ditches: The remaining small circular sites on the ridge are variable in form, but include either a ditch or a mound or both ditch and mound. They can probably be classified as funerary sites although variability of form reflects variation in modes of function and it may be also in date. Only two of these sites have been excavated, both somewhat isolated small barrows, perhaps therefore exceptional, rather than being characteristic of the group of sites on the ridge of Langlaw Hill or the small cluster on the N side of Broughton Knowe.

At NT 0984 3962 excavation by Maclaren (1967) of an apparently unditched mound beside the group of ring enclosures discussed above found it to be a ditched barrow sealed under a capping of earth, clay and stones which extended over both ditch and mound to give a total diameter of 5.5m. The ditch had been refilled with stones, perhaps to support a wooden fence against its inner edge. The small central barrow c 2.6m in diameter, had been disturbed by a central pit, which did not, however, penetrate subsoil, suggesting that the original deposition had been laid on the ground surface. Two pottery sherds, scraps of cremated bone, and charcoal were found on the surface under undisturbed portions of the mound. In the lowest levels of the pit filling were three more pottery sherds and five flint scrapers. The pottery, as discussed above, was suggested by the excavator to be neolithic, and the form of the barrow and the flints to lie within Bronze Age traditions. Certain features, the deposition of cremated remains on the ground surface, and the refilling of the

ditch with large stones, were encountered at excavation of a group of ring ditch enclosures at Rullion Green on the Pentlands dated to 635 ± 105 bc (GU 1755) (Watkins 1984 b, 9). The pottery may, however, recall the attribution of small ring ditches at North Mains, Strathallan to the Neolithic on the basis of associated pottery and a radiocarbon date of 2690 ± 65 bc (GU 1546) from a pit cut by one of the ditches (Barclay 1983, 243-6).

A second excavation of an apparently ditched small barrow near the long mound took place shortly after the first with hope of clarifying the nature of these small sites (Ward 1970). 15m W of the long mound a shallow ditch with entrance to the SE enclosing a level area 5-6m in diameter is shown on the site plan as present in 1988. It is not certain whether this feature could represent traces of the excavation for which only a six figure grid reference is given. The site proved to be an unditched barrow 5.5m in diameter built on the slope of the hill. It had again suffered a central disturbance and neither human remains nor pottery were recovered. Charcoal was omnipresent in small quantities and a few lithic objects were found. Again the subsoil was unbroken and deposition is likely to have been on the old ground surface, again incurring as possible parallels both Rullion Green and North Mains, although in this case without a ditch. Three postholes outside the NW edge of the barrow did not constitute part of a continuous feature comparable to the postulated wooden fence in the ditch of the first barrow.

Comparable sites on the ridge occur in two groupings. Three small ditched barrows were noted by the RCAHMS on the N slopes of Broughton Knowe 400m N of the long cairn, measuring from 2.7 to 3.7m in internal diameter (1967, i, 51-2, no.5). Only one of these sites is still definable consisting of a slight ditch with outer bank and no appreciable internal mound. Its present appearance is close to that of the ring ditches at Rullion Green.

Eight sites of similar size occur on the ridge of Langlaw Hill (RCAHMS 1967, i, 56, no.36). Two unditched mounds 75m apart, the northern one 170m S of the long cairn, occupy the lower slopes. 120m S of these, further up the ridge is a cluster of five ditched sites, four with internal mounds, one with an outer bank. 60m to the SSE one further unditched site, 7m in overall diameter around a central 2m space, might be classified as a ring bank rather than a mound, but its small size and broad bank links it to the present category of sites.

The variety present among the above sites, and their tendency to cluster, reinforce the Rullion Green comparison. Like that site these small ditched barrows occur in close spatial relationship to ring ditch houses likely to be of comparable date; in both cases the funerary sites occur downslope from the settlement ones. There may, however, be no need to assume that all the sites on Broughton Knowe are of identical period.

Cairns: Several smallish cairns are to be found on the hills around Broughton Knowe. The 9m cairns on Parkgatestone Hill and Cleuch Hill, 3 and 4km to the SSW (RCAHMS 1967, i, 57 no.50, 52 no.12) are not within sight of the cairn. The robbed remains of a cairn measuring 12m x 14m, 1.4km to the ENE on Stirkfield Hope at NT 1108 3955, has a good view across the valley to Broughton Knowe (visited 8.10.1897).

There are also records of cists, doubtfully under cairns, from the valleys, such as a cist at Gallow Knowe, Broughton, 3km to the S (RCAHMS 1967, i, 60, no.80), and at the base of The Mount, 3.5km to the N (Stat Acct X, 186).

Archaeological interpretations: On recognition from the air the existence of the site was made known in the RCAHMS Catalogue of Aerial Photographs 1981 (p.6), and a survey drawing was made for NMRS records. Further aerial photographs were obtained in 1984 (RCAHMS Catalogue 1984-5, p.9). No description has been published.

Fig. III:7:1 Broughton Knowe: Plan 1988

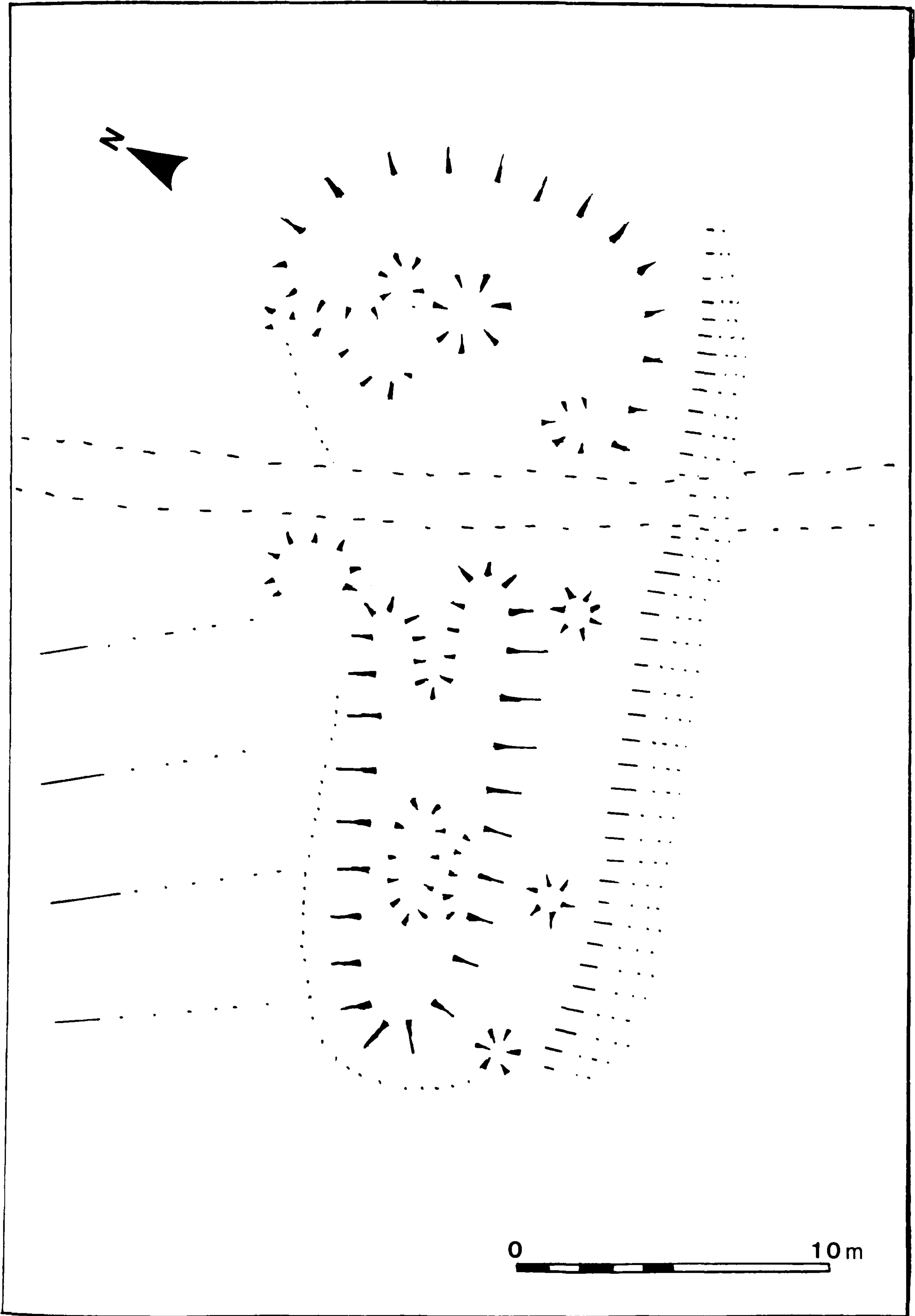


Fig. III:7:2 Situation and Outlook: Broughton Knowe

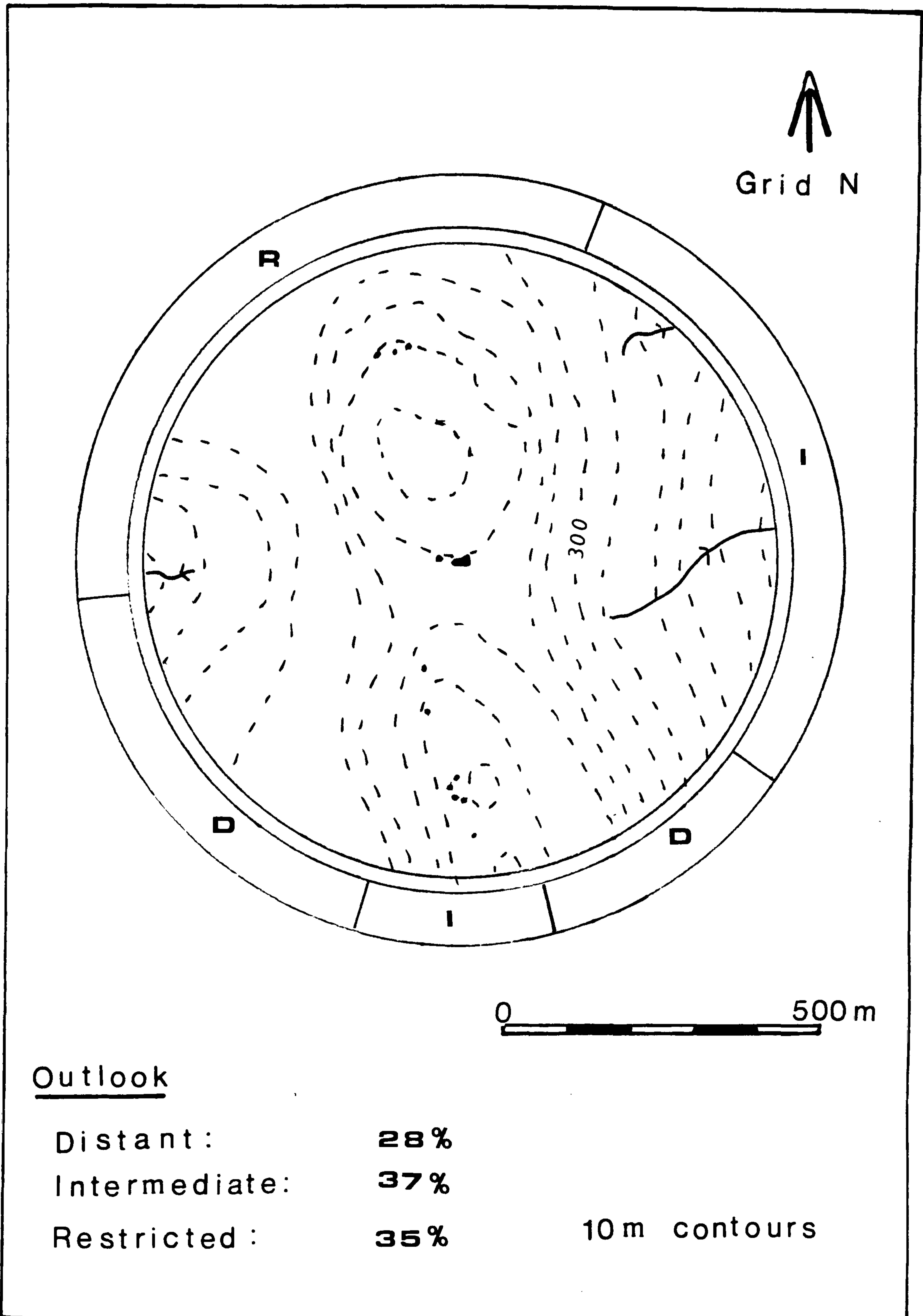
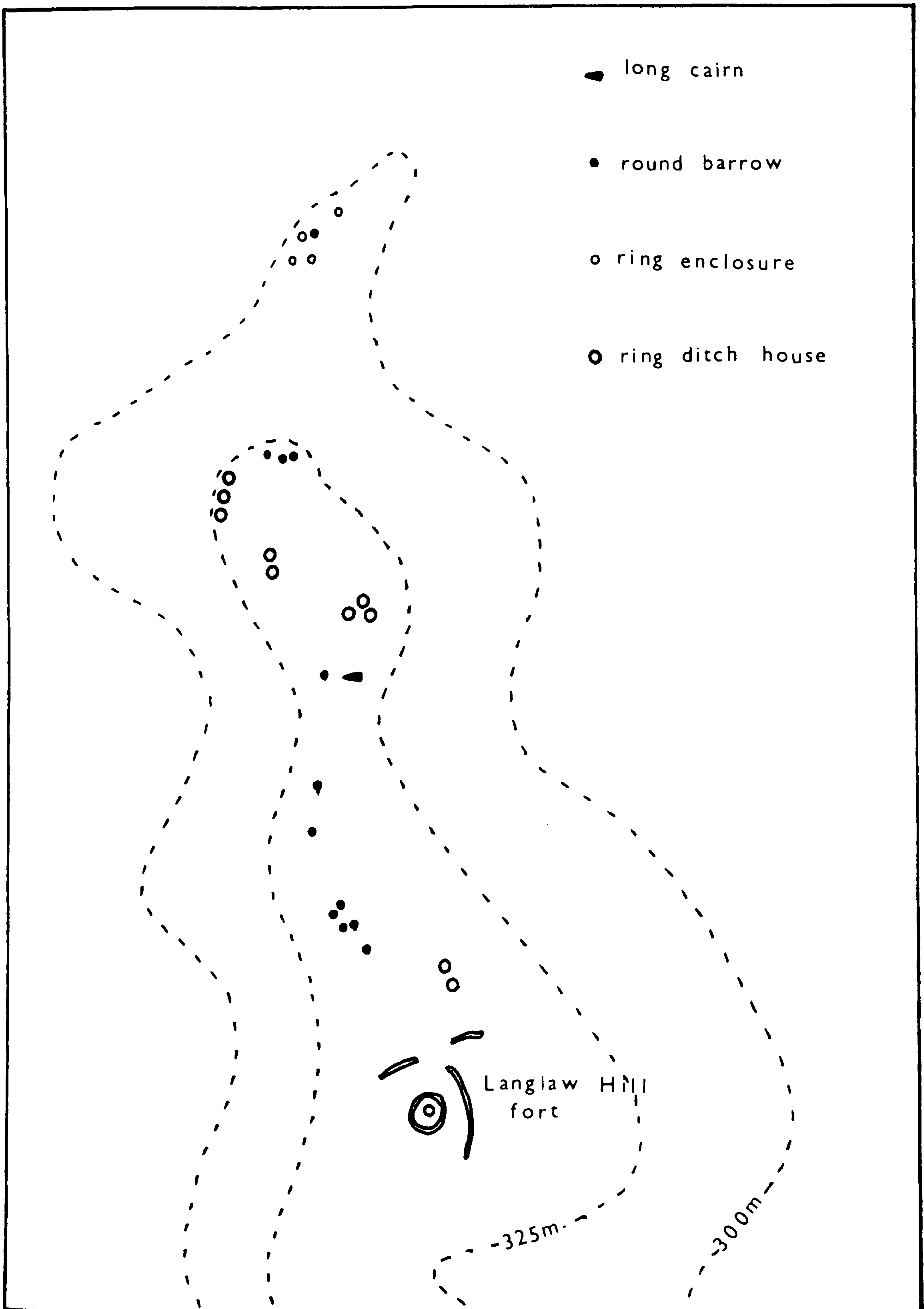


Fig. III:7:3 Broughton Knowe and Langlaw Hill,
after NMRS



IV:1 The Mutiny Stones BRW 1
Berwick District
Borders Region

NT 65NW 1
NT 6225 5902
385m OD

Location: 7km WNW of Longformacus, in the Lammermuir Hills,
on the N side of the Dye Water

Type: Elongated trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: High trapezoidal head and low parallel sided
tail

Orientation: ENE-WSW

Dimensions:

Length: Overall:	82m
Head:	35m
Tail:	47m
Breadth: max:	27m (spread from 20m)
at tail:	9m
Max. height:	2.4m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:4.1

Excavation: In 1871 Lady John Scott had two trenches dug into the cairn. Her diary entry (Craw 1925, 203) gives a brief account, and Craw shows the positions of the trenches (ibid p.199, fig.1; p.201, fig.2). 25m from the W end of the cairn one trench still lies open, from the N edge to the centre of the cairn; c 12m from the E end of the cairn spoil heaps, again on the N side, mark the position of the second trench.

In 1924 Craw dug an axial trench from the E end of the cairn, 10.0m in overall length, 3.7m in breadth for the first 6.5m, expanding thereafter to a maximum of c 6.0m. A spoil heap remains to the S of the E end of this trench (Craw 1925).

History of the site and present condition: A circular stone sheep stell against the S side of the cairn, already in position at the time of the first Ordnance Survey of 1854-62, is founded on an earlier turf stell. There are traces of other degraded structures to the W of the stell, while to the E there is disturbed ground. Later stone walls adjoin the stell, and these merge into the body of the cairn, revetting it internally and along part of its present edge. This building has presumably utilised cairn stone, and the cairn is much robbed along most of its tail, being cleared down to ground level along parts of its S side.

Around the E end a low 'platform' is probably an effect of stone slippage. A 'horn' extending from the NE corner may be a later sheep shelter. At the SE corner there

is a large spread of stone, probably tumble on the downhill side. Other extrusions of stone correspond with the probable positions of excavation spoil heaps (see above). The E end of the cairn has been reconstituted after excavation to a smooth profile, 1.8m in height.

Peat and heather encroach onto the N side of the cairn, especially near the W end.

Description:

Kerb: The N side of the cairn is buried in peat and the E end in slipped cairn stone. Craw found a transversely set upright slab on the line of the perimeter at the E end. Along the S side of the cairn, walls appear to be modern rebuilding, articulating with sheep shelters. One upright slab incorporated into the base of the wall to the E of the stail might derive from an original kerb on the same line. W of the stail the S edge of the cairn can be traced along the robbed out sections, periodically marked by large boulders.

Facade: The E end of the cairn is gently convex. Present 'horns' appear to be later additions, but could conceal original structure.

Craw encountered a cross wall (see below) 6.7m in from the E end of the cairn, possibly the remains of a facade.

Cairn: The cairn is composed of bare stones, many of which are large, angular boulders up to 0.8m in length.

The cairn outline is bipartite, the E end steeply built and sharply trapezoidal, the tail thereafter both low and parallel sided. While robbing must have affected the accessible tail most severely, it seems probable that the height difference is in part original, reflecting the change in angle of the sides. The gently rounded W end lies uphill from the trapezoidal head.

Excavated features: No features were encountered in the excavations of 1871, and Dr. John Stuart commented that the cairn appeared to have already been disturbed.

Craw's excavation revealed three upright slabs protruding 0.3 - 0.46m above ground level, c 1.7m apart, just S of the axial line of the cairn. The E slab was on the cairn perimeter, although Craw's plan, showing a straight facade between projections at right angles to the cairn axis, cannot be exactly correlated with the present edge. This slab was at right angles to the facade and to the other two slabs.

6.7m from the E end of the cairn a cross-wall was encountered, consisting of ten slabs set upright in the ground infilled with smaller stones and supporting an upper wall of 'rude masonry'. The wall was 4.3m in length and c 1.0m in height. Cairn material had been carefully placed against its E side. At the S end of the wall Craw's plan (fig.2) shows that the final stone angles to the W, at c 135°.

0.3m W of the wall, 1.5m S of its N end, were two

more upright slabs set in line at right angles to the wall. There were signs of disturbance S of these stones, with large slabs occurring in upper cairn material. Craw supposed that the 1871 trench had been encountered.

1.7m W of the N end of the wall were two more upright slabs, parallel to it and face to face with each other.

An old ground surface appears to have survived below the cairn. Craw says that 'the ground beneath the cairn was turned over until a reddish-yellow subsoil was reached, but no trace of charcoal, bones, flint, pottery or other relics was found'.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 20km from the North Sea between Dunbar and Cockburnspath

Distance from water: 150m from the ByreCleugh Burn to the E, where a waterfall drops into a pool. The Dye Water, a tributary of the Whiteadder, is 600m to the S.

General topography: The steep sided valley of the Dye Water cuts deeply into the centre of the Lammermuir Hills, where gently rounded summits reach heights of over 500m above OD.

Situation: The cairn lies along a terrace on the slopes of ByreCleugh Ridge, facing the steep glen of the ByreCleugh Burn to the E, the tail of the cairn rising slightly to the W.

Aspect: ESE

Slope: Fairly steep: 12%

Local relief, within 500m: 330~~4~~m - 415m

Outlook:

Distant:	7% to SE
Intermediate:	40%
Restricted:	53% to N and W

Prominence: Low. The terrace situation precludes views of the cairn from downhill (the S side) or from around the shoulder of the hill to the W. The E end of the cairn is striking against the skyline from a limited area to the E and SE, and from the hillside of Pyatshaw Ridge to the E a remarkable birds-eye view of the whole length of the cairn is obtained, as if in plan.

Local landmarks: Great Dirrington Law with its summit cairn forms the focus of the narrow view down the Dye valley to the SE.

The waterfall and pool immediately E of the cairn also give the location significance.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Peaty podzols of the Dod series, freely drained below the B horizon; blanket peat covers the upper slopes. Freely drained Brown Forest Soil of the Linhope series occurs not only in the valley, but well up the hillside on Pyatshaw Ridge, E of the Byrecleugh Burn. Given the evidence for a soil layer under the Mutiny Stones (see above) similar soil probably covered Byrecleugh Ridge before erosion developed.

Land use: Sheep farming and grouse moor. In the valley around Byrecleugh farmhouse, within 1.5km of the cairn, are the remains of several small farmsteads with rig and furrow cultivation (RCAHMS 1980(a), 39, no.327; 65, no.550; 64, nos. 564, 565, 568). No such cultivation would have been possible on Byrecleugh Ridge within recent historic times.

Vegetation: Expanses of *calluna vulgaris* with patches of *vaccinium myrtillus*. Ash trees grow in the narrow glen by the burn.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Crow Stones, possible stone circle, 6km to N
Borrowston Rig, stone circle, 9km to SW
Caverton Hillhead, long cairn, 34km to SSE
Harlawmuir, long cairn, 44km to W

Monument context: Very long stone built cairns occur at scattered intervals across S Scotland and N England. Greens Moor, 60km to the W, is of almost identical length to the Mutiny Stones (80m). Caverton Hillhead and Bellshiel Law, 34km and 60km to the S, were both apparently over 100m in length, and narrow throughout. Excavation of the slightly expanded head of Bellshiel Law found a rock-cut burial pit below the cairn, but, as at the Mutiny Stones, no evidence for a chamber or mortuary structure (Newbiggin 1936). Megalithic chambers, however, often lie laterally across long cairns in central Scotland (e.g. Loanfoot; Burngrange; Kindrochat, Perthshire), and at Dalladies long barrow, a banked mortuary structure occupied a similar position (Piggott 1972). It may be that the size of these cairns has successfully achieved its object in concealing primary structures.

Henshall, classifying long cairns on the basis of degrees of complexity, took the Mutiny Stones to consist of a long cairn combined with a short trapezoidal or an elongated cairn (her Type 2c), and she noted a kink in the main axis of the two sections (1972, 219-220, fig.25). Plane-table survey in 1990 did not reproduce this same change of alignment, which may have been suggested by differential slippage on the downhill side together with a rebuilding to create sheep shelters along the same side. Nonetheless, the cairn does consist of two contrasting components, a trapezoidal head and an elongated tail,

and may reasonably be expected to have incorporated two phases of construction. The suggested sequence for Henshall's Type 2 cairns supposed a long cairn to have been added to a primary, smaller structure (ibid), as was demonstrated in excavation at Tulach an t'Sionnach (Corcoran 1966, 17-22). As Mercer has pointed out, however, it may be possible in some instances to perceive a reverse relationship, with a smaller, chambered cairn being added to a long one (Tulach Buaile Assery, Caithness; Head of Work, Orkney; Mercer 1985, 19-22). A possibly relevant example of this sequence occurs at Bryn yr hen Bobl (ANG 8), where a terraced structure, measuring 99m x 12m, had a kidney-shaped chambered cairn appended, not necessarily significantly later (Lynch 1969, 117-9). In eastern Scotland a tradition of elongated monuments appears to have been established early in the neolithic, as is shown by the late fourth millennium dates from Inchtuthil mortuary enclosure, measuring 54m x 10m (Barclay and Maxwell 1991). The same emphasis of form is found in probably cursus-related double pit alignments in Angus (RCAHMS 1983(b), 32 nos.256-8), in narrow chambered cairns, such as Clach n Tiompan (58m x 11.8m max.), and in apparently unchambered long cairns such as Caverton Hillhead (104m x 12.8m max.) and Bellshiel Law (109m x 8.8 - 12.2m, with a head, 18.3m broad). The 'tail' of the Mutiny Stones, measuring 47m x 10m, belongs with this preferred eastern form of monument and it is possible to suppose it to be the primary feature on the site, with the trapezoidal head being added, perhaps towards the end of the Earlier Neolithic.

The location of the cairn is isolated not merely in terms of its distance from neighbouring sites, but in its use of a secluded terrace on the hillside above the Dye Water. The situation provides a dramatic view down the valley to Great Dirrington Law, and has the added special feature of the adjacent waterfall and pool. It is passed by an old track across the Lammermuirs from Dunbar to the Dye Water and beyond (Graham 1960, 269), suggesting possible use of the location as a meeting place for peoples from the Lothians to the north, Lauderdale to the south-west and the Whiteadder valley to the south-east. Nonetheless there is potential for agriculture within a short distance in the valley below, and it is possible that a significant degree of soil degradation has taken place since the neolithic around the site itself. The presence of a local population should not be excluded as a possibility.

Artefact context: Lady John Scott acquired a flintstone axe $7\frac{5}{8}$ " (194mm) in length from Byrecleugh in 1871 (NMS: AF 649), the year that she excavated the cairn. No association was suggested. This is the only nearby find to have been recorded, although on lower ground, to the S of the hills, numbers of axes have been found.

Prehistoric landscape: RCAHMS Survey in 1980(a) failed to identify any prehistoric sites along the hill ridge above the Dye Water. On the summits peat could be concealing remains, but the hillside is eroded and the absence of sites here appears to be genuine.

Round cairns on the summits of Dunside Hill, 2km to the S and Great Dirrington Law, 8.5km to the SE, are visible from the Mutiny Stones.

Folklore and Tradition:

Craw (1925) discussed the various forms of the cairn's name: 'Mittenfull of Stones' (Armstrong 1771); 'Meeting Stones' (Sharpe, Greenwood and Fowler's Map 1826); 'Mutiny Stones' (NSA II p.4; OS 6-inch map 1862); Deil's Mitten (HBNC vi, 11); 'Mittenfu Stanes' (Browne 1892, 76). 'Mutiny' and 'Meeting' Stones seem likely to be corruptions of the other variants. The involvement of the Devil who is supposed to have dropped the stones here on his way to dam the Tweed at Kelso (Browne op.cit.), suggests English tradition (Grinsell 1976, 21), as also at 'The Devil's Lapfu' in the Kielder forest, Northumberland (NY 638 922). Celtic legend more commonly features an old hag who drops her load of stones (Burl 1981(a), 81), as at the 'Auld Wife's Apronful of Stones, Kirknewton, Northumberland (NT c91 30).

A legend is also told that under the stones lies the hide of an ox filled with gold waiting to be dug for (Thomson 1902, 14). Stories of treasure hidden under cairns are commonplace (Grinsell 1976, 99), but the interesting addition here of an oxhide could have been suggested by the shape of the cairn, with its projecting 'horns' clearly appreciable from the hillside to the E. The belief in treasure could explain the apparent disturbance encountered during excavation in 1871.

The Statistical Account (Vol.I, p.71) suggested that the stones 'were collected, probably by some army, to perpetuate a victory, or some other remarkable event'. This common perception of prehistoric monuments is repeated in the New Statistical Account (Vol.II, p.94) within an explicitly medieval frame of reference.

Lady John Scott understood there to be a tradition that the cairn marked the burial place of a Pictish King (HBNC 6 (1869-72), 11).

Archaeological interpretations: The distinction drawn between stone cairns and earthen barrows by Daniel Wilson (1851, 42, 60) and most succeeding prehistorians, carried the implication that the former were megalithic monuments their chambers still concealed from view. A.O. Curle, who saw the origins of the megalithic series to lie in a movement of people around the Irish Sea and up the West coast of Scotland, expressed some doubt as to whether the isolated Mutiny Stones should really be classed as a long cairn (1919, 16). Craw, undertaking excavation in the hope of finding skeletal material which could be

compared to that found in Arran chambers by Professor Bryce, and which the latter could use in his forthcoming Rhind lectures on prehistoric populations, assumed that the low wall which he uncovered must be the remains of a disturbed lateral chamber. Childe, too, regarded the cairn as a member of his Clyde-Solway Group (1934, 21; 1935, 32, 268-9). Piggott seems to have been the first to suggest a different basis of classification, linking the long cairns of eastern Scotland to the earthen long barrows of the south as stone counterparts (1954, 210-1). However, in her argument for multi-period accretion (see above) Henshall appears to have expected that at least one part of the composite monument would contain a chamber (1972, 220). The encounter with 'mortuary structures' under both a long barrow at Dalladies and small long cairns on the Solway (Lochhill; Slewcairn) provided firm support for Piggott's interpretation, and Masters' discussion of long cairns in northern England and southern Scotland proceeds on the expectation that the majority of these sites will be non-megalithic (Masters 1984, 55, 71).

Fig. IV:1:1 The Mutiny Stones: Plan 1990

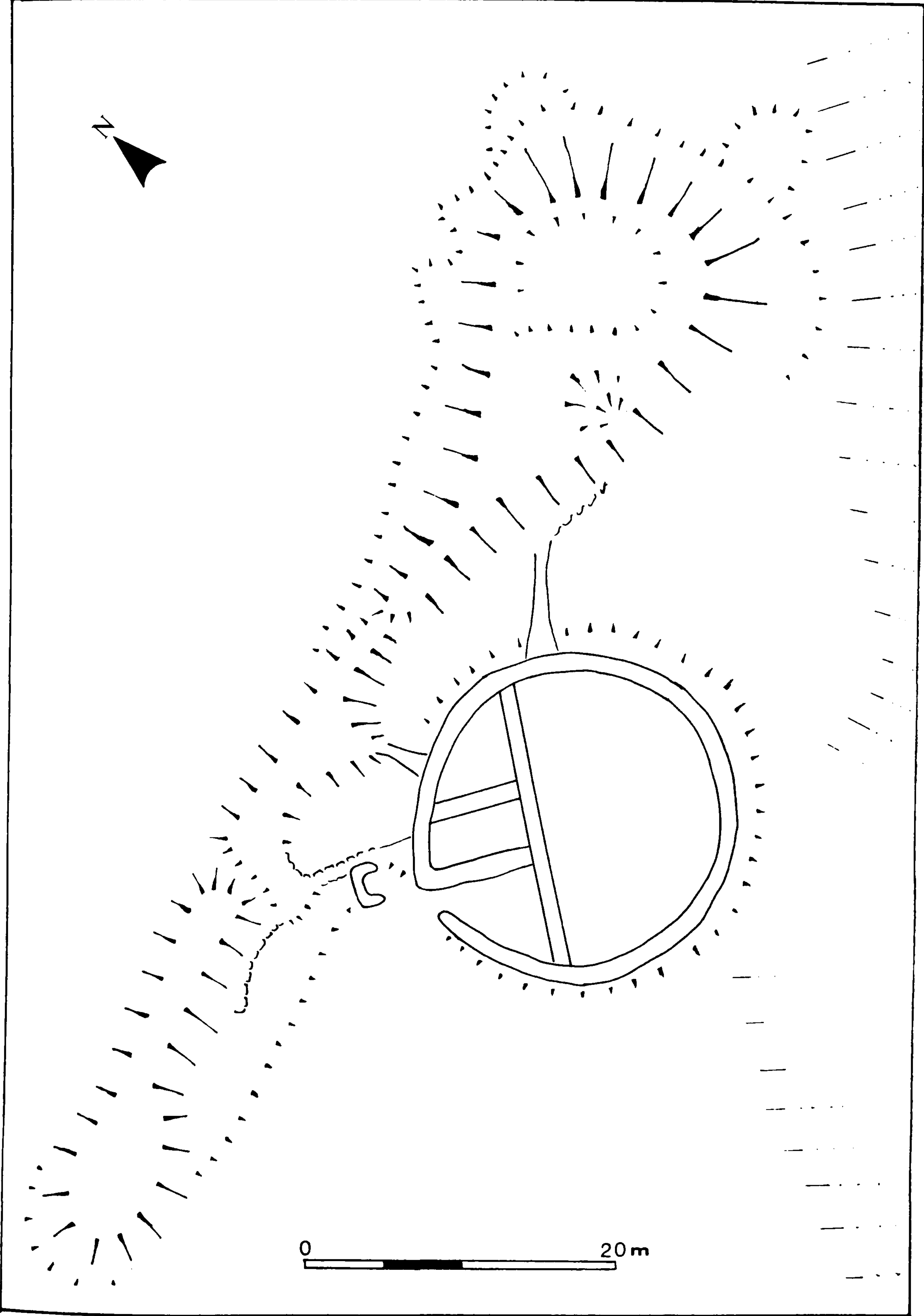


Fig. IV:1:2 Situation and Outlook: The Mutiny Stones

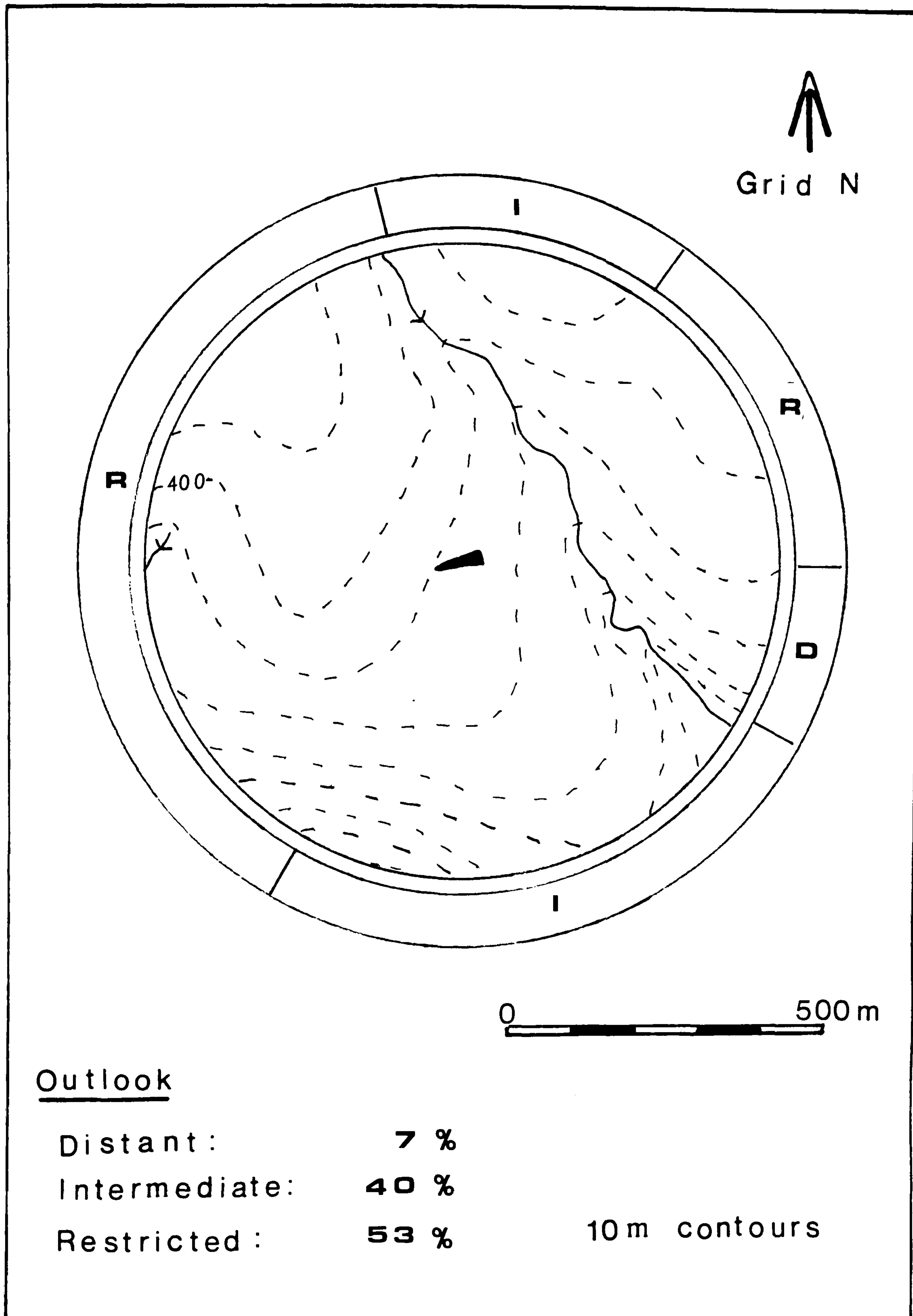
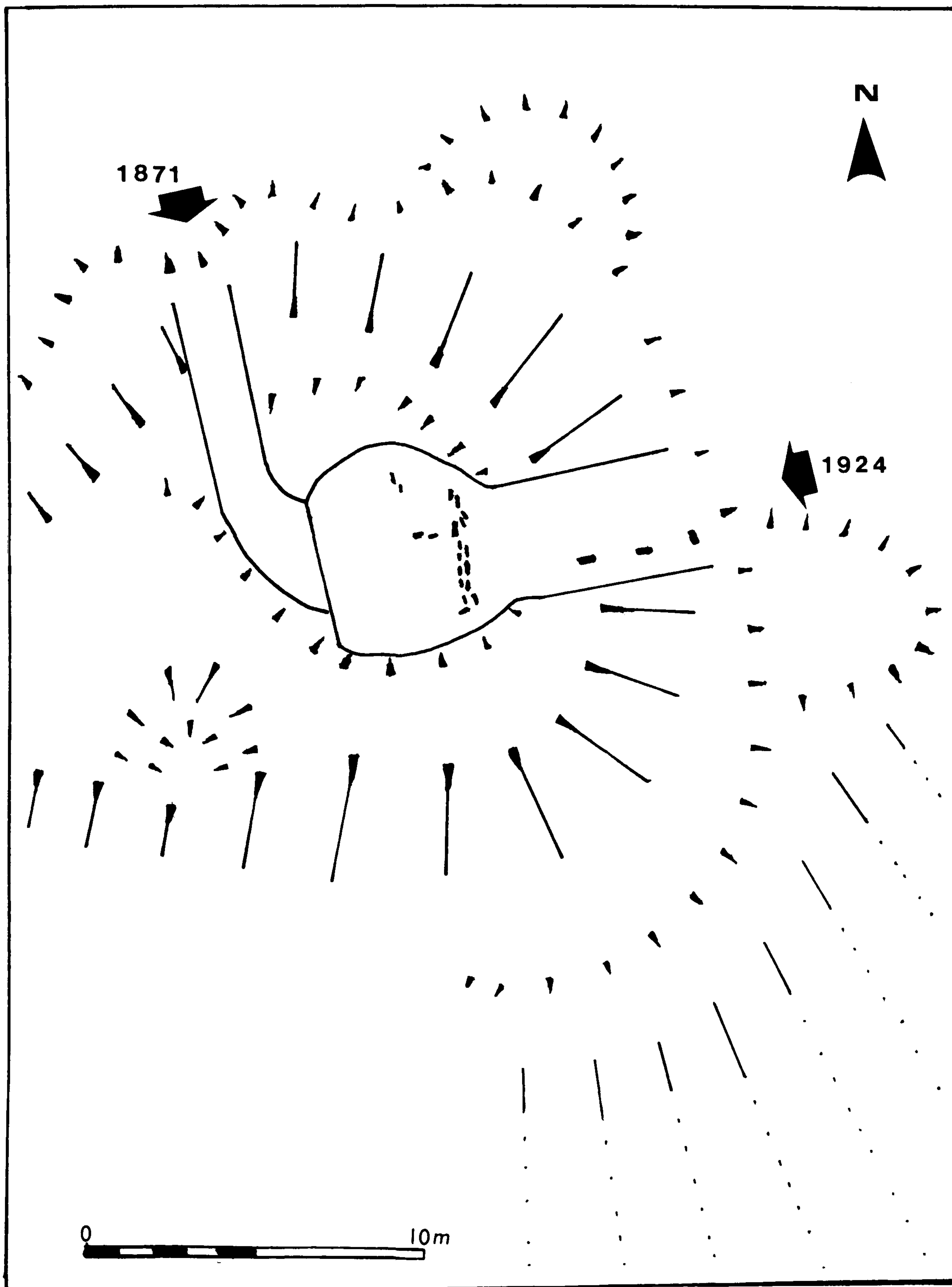


Fig. IV:1:3 The Mutiny Stones: Excavation trenches and stone features, after Craw 1925



IV:2 Borrowston Rig, Berwickshire
Ettrick and Lauderdale District
Borders Region

NT 55SE 7
NT 5578 5223
345m OD

Location: 5km NE of Lauder, 1.3km NE of Earnscleugh farmhouse, on a ridge of the Lammermuir Hills, between the Earncleugh and Blythe Waters.

Type: Round cairn with orthostats, suggested to have been a megalithic chamber.

Status: Category C. A ruined site, the suggested interpretation doubtful.

Outline: Probably originally circular, with two upright orthostatic slabs.

Dimensions: Diameter: 10.5m
Max. height: 0.6m

History of site and present condition: Stony banks no more than 0.2m in height around the SE side of the cairn, which were described by Craw as being a small enclosure or hut circle (1922, 155), presumably post-date the cairn and in part account for its severely robbed condition. A large circular stone sheep stell, 120m to the W, shown on the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map (1858) is also likely to have been a cause for stone robbing; the map showed the cairn without Gothic script, as a modern feature. In 1872 Lady John Scott made 'a search', without result, among the 'Barrow Stones', probably the scattered boulders to the E of the cairn, rather than the stone circle to the N (Milne Home 1872, 472), and in the same year she excavated part of a cairn 130m N of the present site (Craw 1922, 189). She may therefore also be responsible for the excavation which has taken place around the orthostats in this cairn, which were clearly visible in 1884, when James Tait remarked on them, adding that 'formerly there were a great number of broken pieces of stone close around them, the remains probably of some rude Cromlech' (p.311). The two stones and small cairn were again observed by the RCAHMS in 1908 (1909, 41, no.20; 1915, 121, no.228), and it seems that Craw's reference to 'four large upright stones' in 1920 probably includes some boulders which, as Henshall noted in 1964 'lie about the site partly covered by the turf and heather' (1972, 406). In 1988 the situation was unchanged.

Description:

Cairn: The largely turfed over cairn has been robbed from the NW, with consequent distortion of its outline on this side, and on the SE an added bank runs onto the cairn. A central hollow measuring c 2m x 2m, has been dug against the larger of two orthostats, with a contiguous smaller

hollow, 1m x 1m against the second. The cairn appears originally to have been circular.

Orthostatic features: On the SW side of the excavated hollows are two upright slabs roughly in alignment NNW to SSE nearly 1m apart. The larger, N slab measures 1m x 0.3m x 1.0m in height. Nearly 2m NE of the smaller slab the top of a large boulder is visible in cairn material, at a lower level than the uprights.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 27km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 120m from a stream to the SW

General topography: The high rounded Lammermuir Hills are cut by steep-sided valleys, draining SSW. The long, narrow ridge of Borrowston Rig, between two of these valleys, drops precipitously to the NW to the Earnscleugh Water, more gently to the SE, to the Blythe Water.

Situation: On the N end of a low knoll, the highest point of a plateau forming a shoulder of Borrowston Rig to the NW.

Aspect: SW

Slope: A gentle slope down to the stream to the W and SW. In other directions the plateau around the knoll is fairly level.

Local relief, within 500m: 320 - 355m OD

Outlook: Distant: 13% to SE
Intermediate: 52%
Restricted: 35% to NW

Prominence: Locally high, including from the stone circle. From beyond 600m views of the cairn are unobtainable.

Solid geology: Freely drained peaty podsols of the Minchmoor series, but interspersed with peaty hollows and eroded summits.

Land use: Rough grazing; rectangular turf-banked enclosures to the SE, and stretches of rig and furrow a little further to the SW suggest a former more intensive land use.

Vegetation: Acid grassland with patches of heather moorland.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Borrowston Rig stone circle, 80m to N

The Mutiny Stones, long cairn, 9km to NE

Overhowden henge, 7km to W, across Lauderdale

Monument context: The robbed hollow at the cairn centre, with two widely spaced slabs on its SW side, is not compelling structural evidence for a chamber, although it certainly does not resemble a cist. The low boulders to the NE do not define a probable second side to a chamber. Given the total absence of circular chambered cairns nearer than the distinctively localised Bargrennan Group 150km to the SW, the probability that this is a chambered cairn seems low. The nearest certainly chambered site is at Burngrange, 50km to the W, and while it is possible that the Borrowston Rig cairn represents an early-stage, small, simple proto-megalith which never acquired its long cairn, such a sequence would be purely hypothetical. More probable local contexts can be suggested.

14km to the NE, in the heart of the Lammermuirs, is a group of small stone settings, which includes six possible 'Four Posters' (Burl 1988(a), 124-5), a small circle of large stones, c 6.4m in diameter (Ninestone Rigg), central boulder and low cairn (Kingside Hill), and an area of scattered boulders some of which appear to have defined an oval ring measuring 43m x 33m (the Crow Stones) comparable in scale to the stone circle at Borrowston Rig. Some of these sites are doubtful but the group represents a local interest in megalithic settings, probably during the second millennium bc. Only at Kingside Hill is a cairn present, but Four Posters are sometimes incorporated into cairns elsewhere (see McCullagh 1987 on Park of Tongland). Other variations occur in SE Scotland, for example at Trestle Cairn (NT 751 161) with apparently an internal orthostatic ring within a 20m cairn, or Black Knowe cairn (NT 7506 1552), with a stone setting along the SE edge of a small cairn. At Brown Rig on Lauder Common, only 8.5km SW of Borrowston Rig, is a 10m diameter cairn with protruding orthostats apparently defining an internal 6m diameter ring (NT 4971 4657). It is among such sites that an acceptable context may be found for the orthostats in the cairn at Borrowston Rig; the adjacent stone circle may be a more probable candidate for a Late Neolithic monument.

Artefact recovery: A stone axe (NMS: AF 653) was found 'near the Haerfaulds', a fort less than 3km SE of Borrowston Rig. A flint adze and several arrowheads come from the farm of Longcroft, 3km to the NNW (PSAS XCVI, 375; Thomson 1902, 18-20). Large numbers of artefacts have been found in Upper Lauderdale, including axes from Addington Farm Park, 4km to the W (Trans Ber Nat Hist Club 15, 1874-5, 33; Thomson 1902, 18).

Prehistoric landscape: 80m N of the cairn are the disturbed remains of a large ring of small boulders, described in a separate Catalogue entry (IV d). Similar boulders are scattered over the plateau to the E of the cairn, and have been interpreted as defining an enclosure (Tait 1884, 311) or as forming stone rows (Craw 1922, 172),

but no pattern is now evident in what is clearly a very disturbed area with thin, eroded soil. Small cairns noted by Craw between this stony scatter and the cairn with orthostats no longer exist (Craw 1922, 189).

In heathery ground N of the stone circle are the remains of one cairn c 13m in diameter (NT 55SE 4), but a second site (Craw 1921, 189) is not now traceable. About a dozen small cairns, some with well defined kerbs, survive along Borrowston Rig, 500m W of the sites discussed above. At the N end of the Rig are two larger cairns, one at NT 5570 5288, 8m in diameter and a well-rounded 0.6m in height, the other, at NT 5564 5302, 13m in diameter, robbed down to a rim of cairn material.

A stony bank with a ditch on its NE side crosses Borrowston Rig, terminating 300m NW of the cairn under discussion, just short of a 7m diameter hut circle, partly enclosed by another bank, and terraced into the slope (NT 5550 5236). A second, more rectangular enclosure, measuring 13.2 x 10.5m within its bank, lies 30m downslope of the first.

Folklore and tradition: The name 'Borrowston' is given by Milne Home (1872, 471) as 'Burrow or Barrow Stones' and by Thomson (1902, 12) as 'The Baron's Stane', as being the local name marking 'the sepulchre of a great chief, who died on the battlefield with his face to the foe'. The tradition applies, however, to the boulder settings on the hills, the orthostats in the cairn having probably only been revealed in the later 19th century.

Archaeological interpretations: The earliest comment on the stones in the cairn was that of James Tait in 1884, who suggested them to be 'the remains possibly of some rude Cromlech' (p.311). The RCAHMS thought that the stones 'have evidently formed part of a megalithic cist' (1915, 121, no.228). Craw listed the site as the only megalithic cist in Berwickshire, and wondered whether its proximity to the stone circle 'denotes a survival of the type into the Bronze Age or at least into the transition period' (1920, 155). Henshall (1972, 406-7) offered no classification of the remains, saying only that 'The size and arrangement of the two visible earthfast stones suggest that the cairn covered a small, megalithic, non-rectangular structure'. She did not regard this evidence as sufficient to accord the cairn a county number.

Fig. IV:2:1 Borrowston Rig: Plan 1988

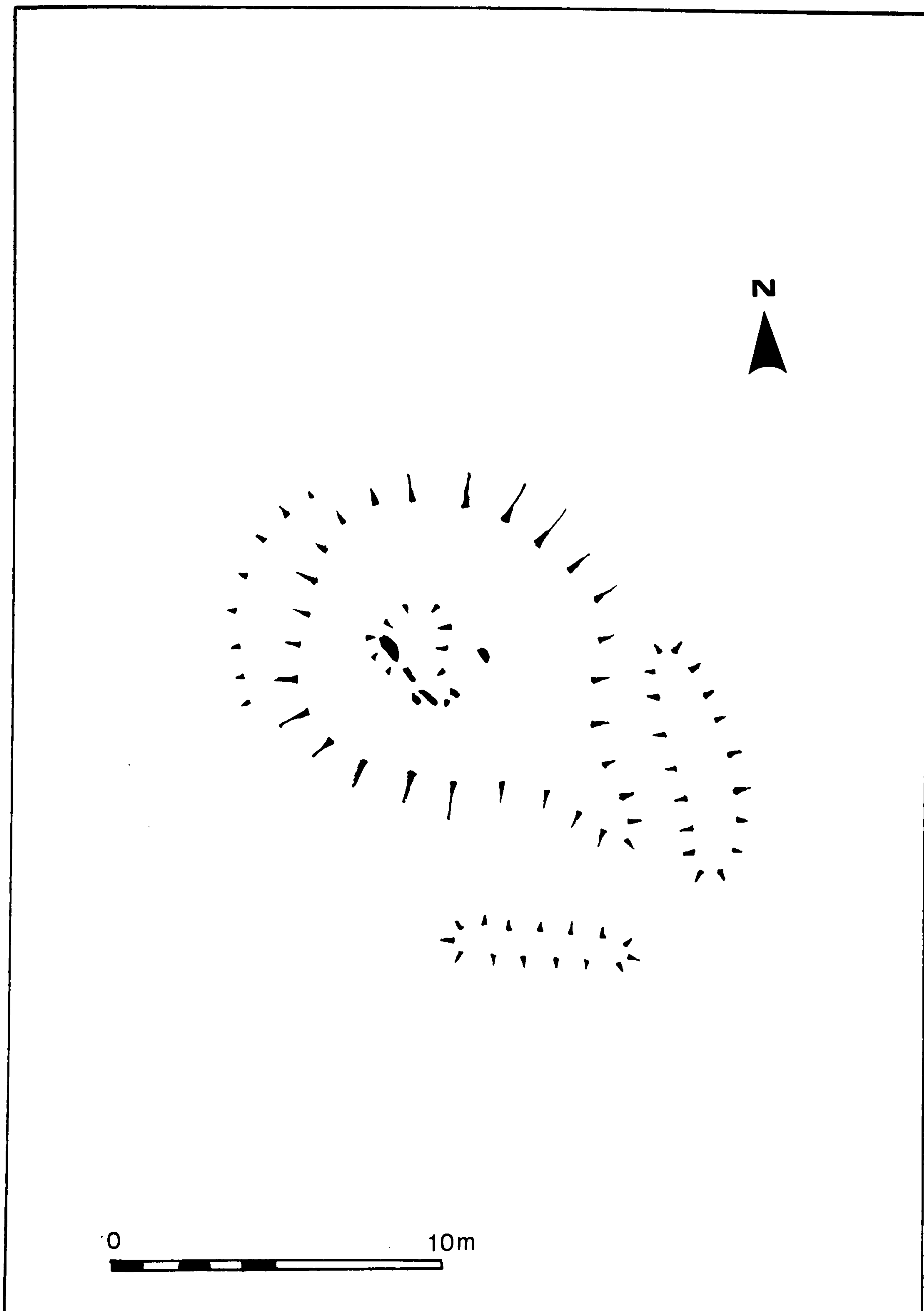
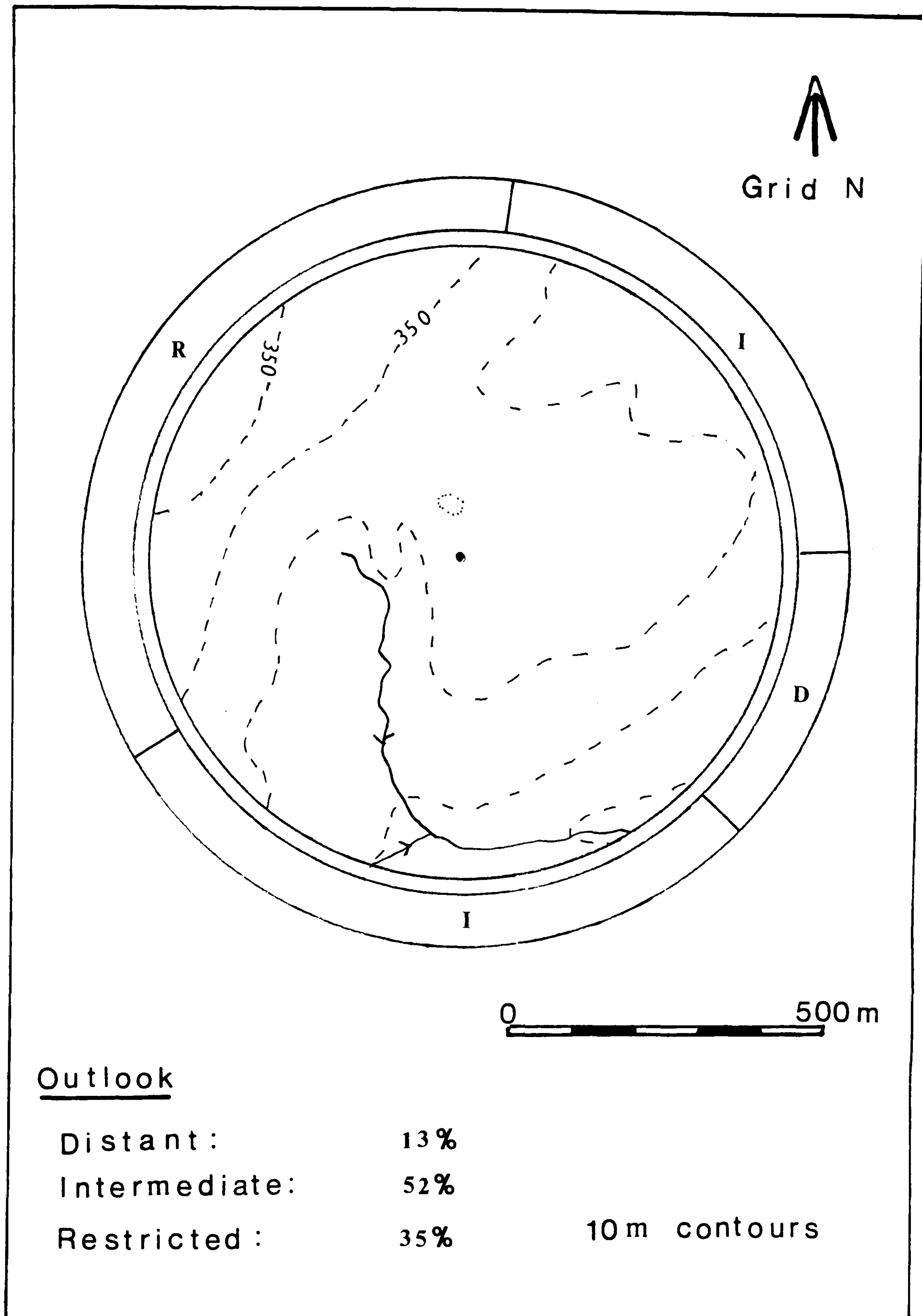


Fig. IV:2:2 Situation and Outlook: Borrowston Rig



IV:3 'Black Dyke', Caverton Hillhead ROX 2 NT 72NW 9
Roxburgh District NT 7329 2749
Borders Region 160m OD

Location: 2-3km E of the junction of the Rivers Kale and Teviot at Kalemouth Bridge, nearly 200m W of Caverton Hillhead farmhouse

Type: Elongated long cairn

Status: Category B; a destroyed site

Outline: The measurements as recorded suggest a long, narrow cairn expanding in trapezoidal sections at each end

Orientation: E-W

Dimensions: Length: 104m
Breadth: 12.8 - 8.2m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:8.1

History of site: In 1793 the mound was said to be of a conspicuous height, the W end apparently 'dug for a small space' (Stat Acct VIII, 34). By 1836 the mound was 'nearly level with the contiguous field' (NSA III, 227), and by 1859 the remains were 'scarcely perceptible' (Jeffrey 1859 iii, 344). In 1946 RAF vertical photographs recorded the site as a soil mark, and in 1956 the farmer commented that a black patch was visible here on ploughing (RCAHMS 1956 i, 133, no.218). A visit in March 1990 could see no indication of the site in plough either as a soil mark or change in field level.

Description: The mound was said to have been composed of fine loose mould intermixed with large stones and covered with heath. It 'measured 27 feet over' (8.2m) presumably centrally, 12.8m at the E end and 10.1m at the disturbed W end (Stat Acct VIII, 34).

The vegetation cover suggests that the stone content was considerable, the 'loose mould' perhaps being peat developed in the interstices. A barrow would probably have been grassy. The measurements suggest that the cairn had two broad ends and a narrower body, a shape seen at Windy Edge (V:1). It is possible that at least one of these swellings could have been an overlying round cairn (cf. Easton III:3).

Contents: The report that the tumulus had 'been a place of sepulture in troublesome times; but no human bones have as yet been dug up' (Stat Acct VIII, 34) is repeated in the NSA in 1836 (III:227). Jeffrey added the tradition that it had housed the bodies of victims of the plague of 1349 (1859, iii, 344). It is possible that these associations with

burial derived from some episode of discovery of human remains.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 36km from the mouth of the Tweed

Distance from water: 250m from a stream to the N; 700m from the Kale Water to the S.

General topography: A landscape of rounded hills, dropping steeply to the valley of the Kale Water, which, downstream from the cairn, passes through a section of narrow rocky gorges with caves.

Situation: On the brow of the hill above the Kale Water

Aspect: SW

Slope: Very gentle on the hilltop, dropping steeply to the valley - 16%.

Local relief, within 500m: 85 - 170m OD

Outlook: Distant: 60% to S and W
Intermediate: -
Restricted: 40% to N and E

Prominence: High. The Rev. William Paton commented that the mound 'by its elevation above the contiguous plowed field, cannot fail of attracting observation' (Stat Acct VIII, 34). It was probably on a skyline position.

Local landmarks: Dramatic views lie to the SW, looking up Teviotdale to the Minto Hills and Ruberslaw. Peniel Heugh, 8km to the W, now crowned by the Waterloo monument, could have been the focus of the alignment of the cairn.

Solid geology: Upper Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soil of the Hobkirk Association

Landuse: Arable cultivation. The field was being ploughed from at least 1793 and throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Sprouston, interrupted ditch enclosure, 9km to N
The Milfield Basin complex, 25km to E
Dod Hill, trapezoidal long cairn, 27km to ESE
Bellshiel Law, elongated long cairn, 27km to S

Monument context: The 1793 description must almost certainly refer to a neolithic long mound. As discussed above (Description) a cairn seems more probable than a

barrow, explaining the lack of cropmark ditches, and setting the site within the context of long narrow cairns in south eastern Scotland and northern England. In length it is close to Bellshiel Law, in Redesdale; the splayed ends may resemble Windy Edge. The cairn is located on better soil than most of the set, except, perhaps, Trainford Brow in Cumbria (Masters 1984 63-4), but it shares a general preference for elevated sites with dramatic, distant views. The complete disappearance of this enormous and prominent mound, simply through the gradual action of the plough, offers sobering reflections on site survival.

Artefact context:

Axes: A remarkable density of axe finds is recorded from the area, c eighteen axes coming from within 5km of the site. These include an axe found at NT 7483 2697 on Old Caverton, 1600m E of the cairn (DES 1969, 47), and another from Caverton Edge, the hill ridge to the N (Anderson and Black 1888, 389). These implements are 4.5" and 4.6" (114mm and 117mm) in length respectively.

Three of the eighteen axes were of flint, including one 'very symmetrical finely polished' axe of dark grey flint, 5¼" (133mm) long from Linton Burnfoot, 5km E of the cairn (Trans. Ber Nat Club 8 1876-8, 544). Two axes found at Kalemouth 2.3km W of the cairn, are thought by P.R. Ritchie (pers comm) likely to be of Group VI stone (W. Elliot: private possession).

Lithics: On the date of visit (March 1990) braiding corn limited opportunities to walk the field. Nonetheless, 60m NE of the site a steeply trimmed rounded end scraper of quartz was found, and two broken chert blades were picked up nearby.

At Kalemouth Bridge, 2.3km to the W, large lithic collections have been made (Mulholland 1970). These include microliths, but are clearly composite assemblages. Mulholland noted both small, narrow blades and larger, broader forms. There was a high percentage of coarse material, such as quartzite, probably local.

Leaf arrowheads have been found c 3km ENE of Caverton Hillhead (Hunterian B 1951-1422, 14 54).

Prehistoric landscape: 1.2km SW of the site on the far side of the Kale Water, a high tree-covered mound, topped by a monument to a local 17th century hero, Hoby Hall, is within clear view of the Caverton site. It appears to be an artificial mound, measuring c 23m x 21m, on the summit of a knoll, and it is probably prehistoric (RCAHMS 1956 i, 132-3, no.216).

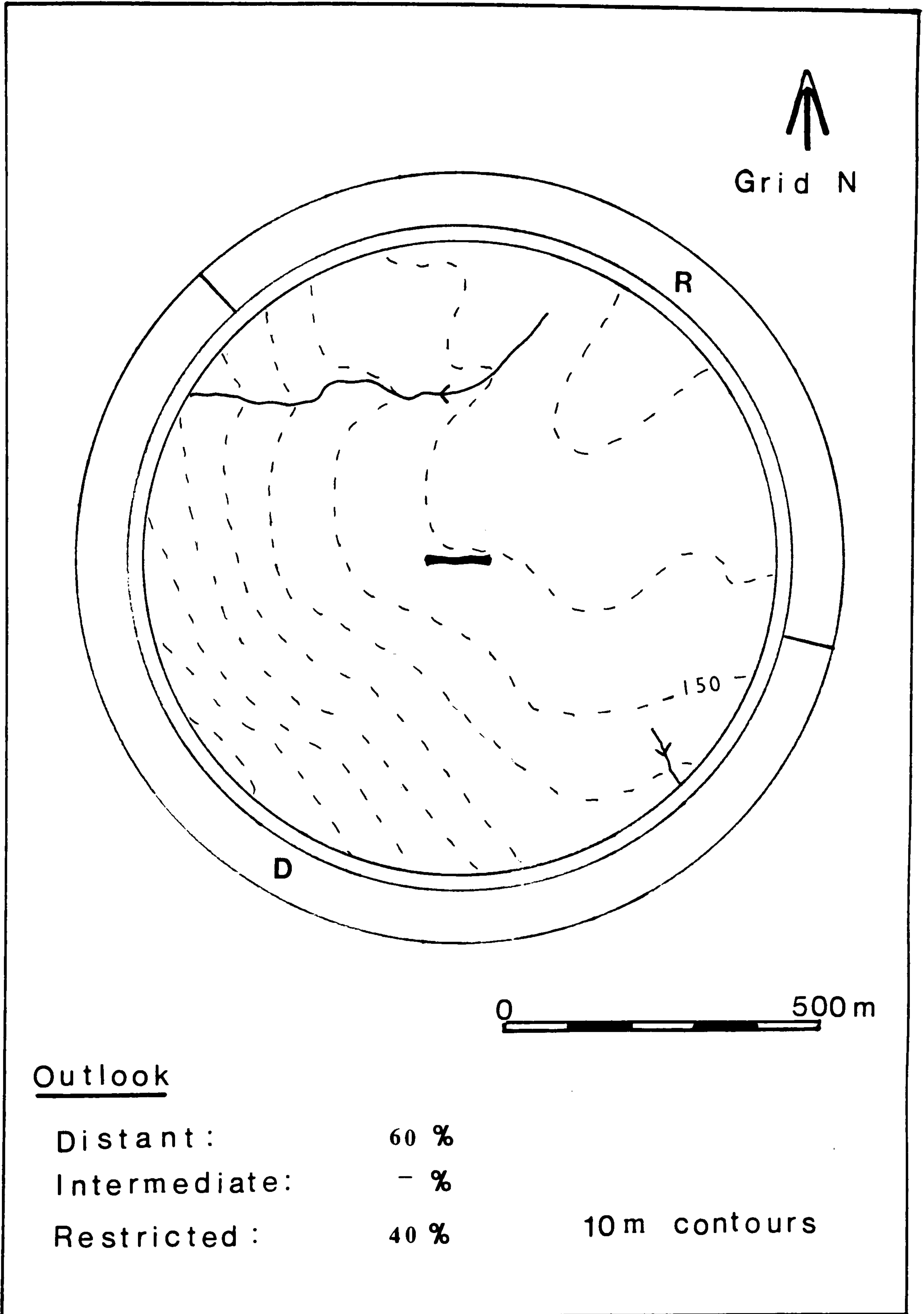
2km W of the site an oval cairn, measuring 7.6m x 6.6m on the N bank of the Kale Water was excavated in 1932, following the discovery there of a hoard of socketed bronze axes (RCAHMS 1956 i, 133, no.217). It contained two cists, one with a Food Vessel. In the field nearby a small gritstone boulder bearing a cup and four rings broken by grooved lines has been found (Morris 1981 BOR 6).

1km S of the site, across the Kale Water at Priest's Crown, a cist was found containing jet beads (Jeffrey 1859 iii, 332). This was one of a series of cists recorded from the area around the junction of the Kale and the Teviot, within 3km of the long cairn. Two beakers, both of Clarke's N3 Group, from the vicinity of Eckford, 2.5km SW of the site are in the NMS (EG 30; EG 38).

There is a record of five or six stones having stood in Five Stones Field, Frogden, 4km NE of the long cairn, which had disappeared before 1845 (NSA III, 152).

Archaeological interpretations: The original account of the site in the Statistical Account recognised it to be a 'barrow', but it was not until it was included in the Roxburghshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1956, i, 10; 133, no.218) that it received archaeological attention. The RCAHMS emphasises the earthen content of the mound, suggesting that it was strictly speaking a long barrow rather than a cairn (p.10), and on these grounds Atkinson used it, together with the long barrow series from further north, as evidence for an eastern spread of the Windmill Hill culture (1962, 12).

Fig. IV:3:1 Situation and Outlook: Caverton Hillhead



V:1 Windy Edge DMF 4
Annandale and Eskdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NY 48SW 1
NY 4297 8391
300-305m OD

Location: 6km SW of Newcastleton and 6.5km E of Langholm, on the S shoulder of Tinnis Hill in Tinnisburn Forest (F.C.)

Type: Elongated long cairn (or two cairns) with Clyde type chamber

Status: Category A, Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Two long narrow cairns in alignment, separated by a circular sheep stell, perhaps originally constituting one continuous cairn. At the W end are the remains of an orthostatic facade and an axial chamber consisting of at least three segments. At the E end a few earthfast slabs around a hollow suggest the presence of a second axial chamber.

Orientation: WNW-ESE

Dimensions:

Length:	Overall:	76m
	W cairn:	37m
	E cairn:	24m
Breadth:	W cairn:	11.5m - 7.5m
	E cairn:	7.0m - 5.0m
Max. height:	W cairn:	0.9m
	E cairn:	0.5m

Breadth: overall length ratio: 1:6.6

History of site and present condition: In 1795 the cairn was described (Stat Acct XVI, 85) as being 86 yards (79m) long, suggesting that the two cairns were then joined as one. It consisted of stones, 'chiefly of a square form of immense weight', and at the 'north' end (evidently the WNW end) was a chamber with capstone *in situ*. By 1920 (RCAHMS 1920, 28-30, no.47) a circular stone walled sheep stell c 14m in diameter occupied most of a space separating two portions of cairn. Its marshy interior suggests that if the stell occupied the site of part of the cairn, stone clearance has been total. Small shelters or sheep pens had been constructed in the N and S sides of both parts of the cairn. Only c 2m of the W axial chamber was then visible, apparently lacking a capstone; the inner end of the chamber was evidently hidden under cairn material, topped by a surveyor's cairn. There were indications of a chamber in the E end of the cairn.

In 1956 (Henshall 1972, 420-2) the cairn lay within the edge of a forestry plantation, and although itself left unplanted, trees grew close, obscuring the edges of the

sheep stell. Peat and vegetation were encroaching, especially along the S side. The surveyor's cairn had been removed from the W end, revealing the chamber over a length of 6.6m although several of the side slabs had fallen inwards, the one surviving capstone had tipped into the central segment of the chamber, and the backstone was missing. A few upright stones still suggested that there had been a chamber at the E end of the E cairn.

In 1981 (RCAHMS 1981(a), 7, no.1) the site was evidently in much the same condition with mature trees still growing round it.

In 1991 the adjacent forest had been cleared and replanted, and access to the cairn was signposted. Peat had been cut away along the N edge of the W cairn, but still encroached onto the S side. Rough, tussocky grass grew around the cairn, and the interior of the sheep stell was still boggy.

Description:

Kerb: 6m from the W end of the cairn an upright stone, 0.75 high probably marks the N perimeter. On the S side of the E cairn is a smaller earthfast block. The Inventory plan (RCAHMS 1920, 29, fig.229) gives the impression that the cairn may have been more clearly defined before afforestation.

Cairn: The cairn is composed of large, loose stones in heaps and hollows suggesting considerable disturbance. Along the S side cairn stone appears to continue below the encroaching vegetation. If the two sections were originally joined, the cairn outline probably narrowed gradually from W to E, broadening again over the final 8m. A natural scarp crossing the line of the cairn along the E side of the sheep stell would have created a rise in level at this point.

Facade: At the W end of the cairn two slabs in line, 6m apart, either side of the chamber entrance, indicate the existence of a flat facade, to which other loose stones in the area probably belonged. A short 'horn' of cairn material projects forward from the N slab, terminating at a small boulder. Shallow cairn material fills the space in front of the facade delimited by this 'horn'.

At the E end of the cairn two small boulders, 3.5m apart on either side of the possible chamber entrance may indicate the former presence of a facade here also.

Chambers:

W chamber: This collapsed chamber appears to be as described by Henshall, although details are not clearly visible. Its overall length of 6.6m apparently included a passage of which one 1m long side slab remains. There is no backstone, but septal slabs divide the chamber into three segments, the inner slab 0.2m high, the outer 0.35m below the tops of the side slabs. The side walls include some drystone masonry and four orthostats on each side, three of those on the N having fallen inwards. One capstone remains, partly dislodged.

E chamber: A robbed hollow at the E end of the cairn is delimited by a slab at the inner end, 0.6m long and 0.3m high, and by similar slabs on either side. The outline suggests an axial chamber c 4m in length.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 20km from the Solway Firth at Gretna

Distance from water: 300m from the nearest mapped stream to the E

General topography: The cairn is at the southern edge of the Southern Uplands on a ridge of hills between the steep sided valleys of Eskdale and Liddesdale, which merge 10km S of the cairn at the edge of the Solway plains.

Situation: The cairn lies along a ridge at the watershed between valleys, just below the highest point of ground.

Aspect: SSW

Slope: While the cairn itself is on level ground, 20m to the SW a moderately steep slope drops away (8 %).

Local relief, within 500m: 260m - 330m OD

Outlook: (partly obscured by trees)

Distant: 38% to S and to NE
Intermediate: 42%
Restricted: 20% to N

Prominence: While rising ground to the N leaves the cairn on a lower ridge, the situation is prominent from the valleys to either side and the cairn itself would occupy the skyline from the SW.

Local landmarks: Tinnis Hill (404m OD), the summit of which is 1.5km N of Windy Edge, is a prominent Liddesdale landmark, although not visible from the cairn itself. Distant views to the S take in Criffel to the N of the Solway Firth and the Lake District hills to the S.

Solid geology: Lower Carboniferous Limestone

Soils: Peat or peaty gleys

Landuse: Forestry; formerly rough grazing

Vegetation: Rank grass and bog vegetation surround the cairn.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Lang Knowe, long cairn, 10km to ENE
The Currick, long cairn, 10.8km to E
Windy Edge, possible stone circle, 30m to E

Monument context: Geographically this cairn is the westernmost of a group of sites in the Border Hills. Its nearest neighbour, Lang Knowe, has a long (35m) tail, c 7-8m broad, resembling the long narrow form of Windy Edge, but here with an oval 'proximal end', or head, and no sign of an axial chamber. The Currick is a trapezoidal cairn, closer in form to the cairns of N Dumfriesshire. Bellshiel Law, 109m x c 11-12m, is the most similar to Windy Edge, suggesting parallels with the long cairns of the east, such as the Mutiny Stones and Caverton Hillhead. On the other hand the multi-segmented chamber at Windy Edge introduces a Clyde Cairn element. The only other triple-segmented chamber in the study area is that at Haylie, Largs (I:1), and similar examples occur in the Kilmartin area (Nether Largie; Kilchoan). The multi-segmented chambers of Arran, besides being in small cairns, all use a different pattern of overlapping side slabs. Windy Edge appears to be borrowing features eclectically, rather than conforming to any single model. The isolated hill ridge situation finds its best comparisons in the east, at Bellshiel Law and the Mutiny Stones, suggesting that all were playing similar roles in relation to social space. Windy Edge is on a watershed ridge, between Eskdale and the Liddel Water with views NE up Liddesdale towards the Cheviots and S to the Solway and Cumbria. It is likely to have occupied a special position for many distant peoples. Incorporation of a Clyde chamber into the structure perhaps only emphasises this relationship, re-inforcing parallels with the position of the eastern cairns.

Artefact context: Local axe finds include two from Liddesdale (HAKMG 4140, 4117) one from Newcastleton (Hunt B. 1951-1958) and a finely polished black axe from Langholm (Corrie Notebook no.2).

A rough out wooden bowl of alder from Tinnis Hill in Hawick museum is suggested in the museum catalogue to be possibly neolithic (HAKMG 4346).

Immediate prehistoric landscape: 29m E of the E end of the cairns a stone, prostrate in 1991, still stood at an angle in 1981, measuring 1.3m in height (RCAHMS 1981(a), 7, no.1(5)); forestry ploughing has cut through a small mound beside it. 39m to the SSE a second stone, 1.8m in height, leans to the NNE. In 1795 six stones in all were observed, one upright, 7feet (2.1m) in height, and the others leaning or prostrate, forming a circle 45 yards (41m) in diameter (Stat Acct XVI, 85).

On the edge of the level ground, where the slope to the S begins, are two small cairns. One, 15m S of the W end of the long cairn, is 4m in diameter, and the other, 21m S of the E end of the cairn, 6m in diameter; both have been cut through and disturbed by forestry ploughing.

c 1200m to the W two more small cairns have been recorded on the Haunches, in an area now forested (RCAHMS 1981, 8, nos.11 and 12).

On the summit of Tinnis Hill, 1.5km N of Windy Edge, is a cairn 9m in maximum diameter (RCAHMS 1956 i, 94, no.111).

Archaeological interpretations: Following the first description of the cairn in the Statistical Account (Vol. XVI, p.85), Chalmers mentioned it in Caledonia (Vol. I, pp.74, 76) as a 'large, oblong cairn' with a cromlech at the south and a Druid circle at the north end' (a reversal of compass directions). It was shown as a cairn on the 1st ed 6-inch OS map, without any indication that it was not round, together with two standing stones, only the S one given antique script. It was only added to the Dumfriesshire Inventory as a late discovery (p. xlvii). Childe mapped it as a possible long cairn, the only example besides the Mutiny Stones in the south of Scotland (1946, 5, fig.1). Piggott also considered it to be a long cairn, grouping it with the apparently unchambered Dumfriesshire and Border sites, although acknowledging that some of these contained small chambers or large cists, and that in others chambers might still be hidden (1954, 270-1). He considered the group to be quite separate from the Clyde-Carlingford series and to show closer links with English long barrows. When Henshall planned the cairn she recognised the segmented Clyde-type chamber and discussed the site within this context. She treated the two cairns as separate entities and drew attention to the similarity in size and shape between the western cairn and Cairnholy I (1972, 36). Masters, omitting Windy Edge from his map of long cairns (1984, fig.4), called it 'the only chambered cairn to intrude into the distributional area of the long cairns in the Border area' (p.71).

Fig. V:1:1 Windy Edge: Plan 1990

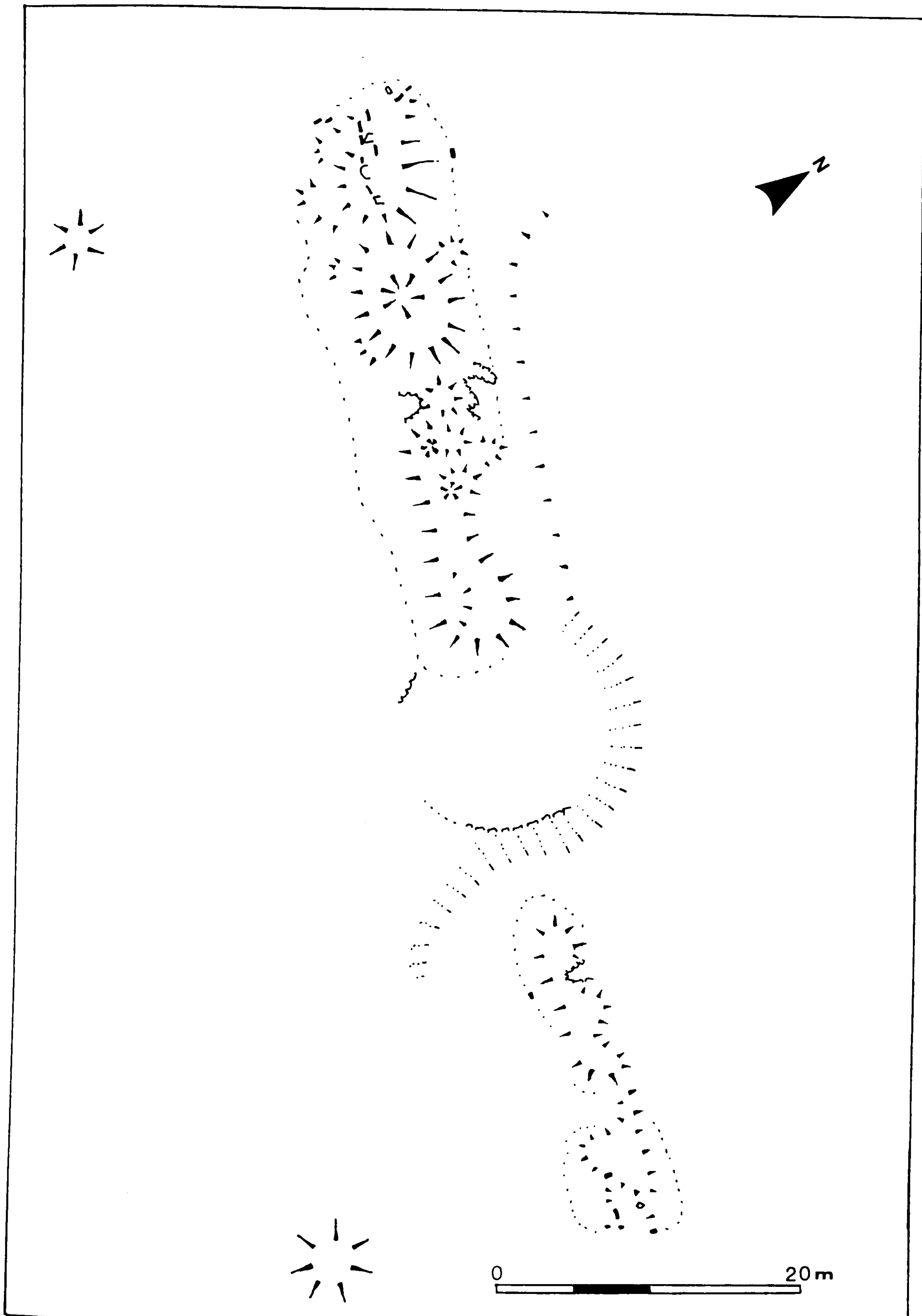
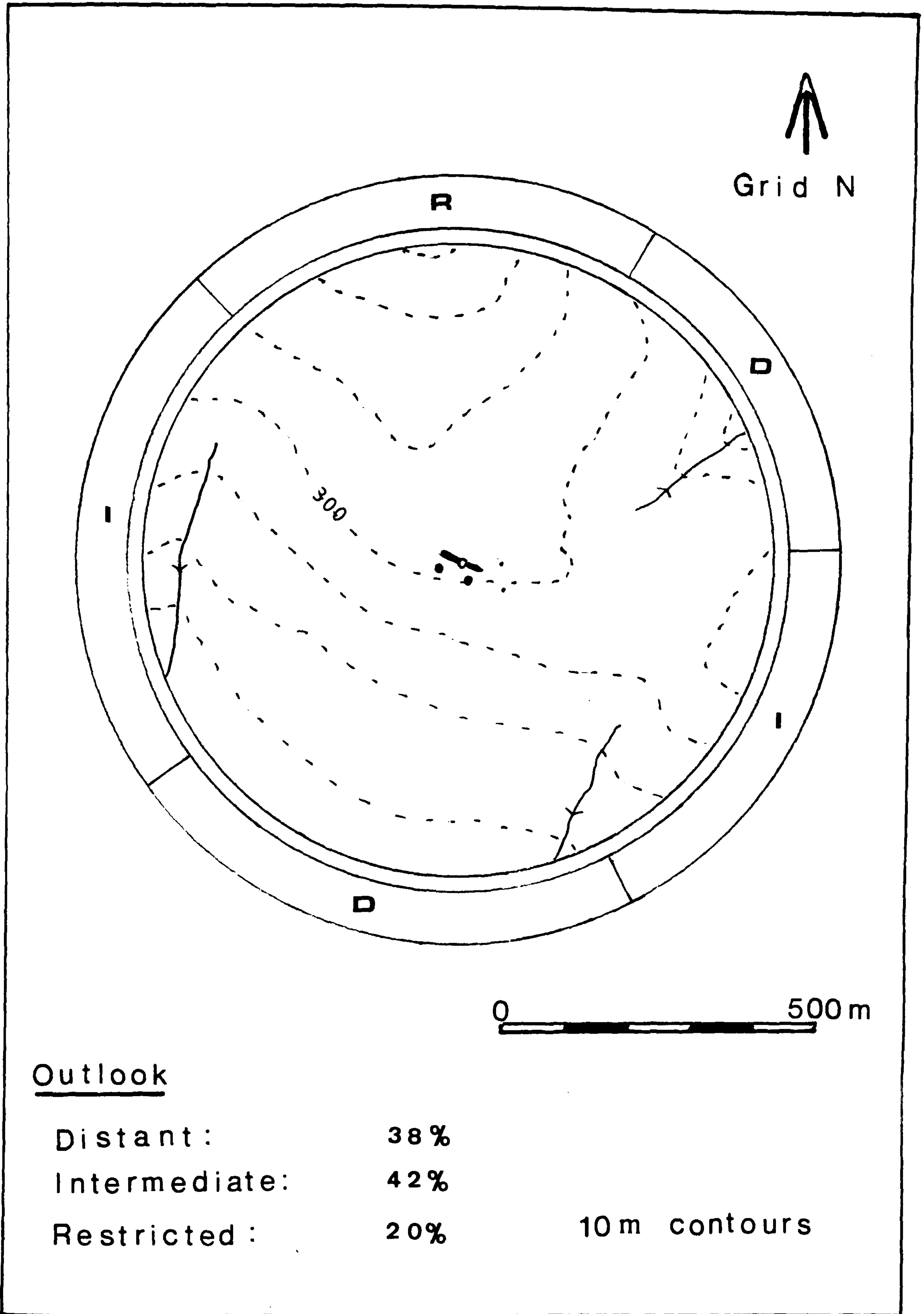


Fig. V:1:2 Situation and Outlook: Windy Edge



V:2 Lang Knowe ROX 1
Roxburgh District
Borders Region

NY 58NW 6
5272 8620
270m OD

Location: 7km SE of Newcastleton on the E side of Liddesdale
in Kershope Forest (F.C.)

Type: Long cairn, probably chambered

Status: Category A; Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: An oval head and long, parallel-sided tail. At the
junction the remains of a chamber or cist lie open towards
the tail; one further structural slab is set across the
cairn.

Orientation: N-S

Dimensions: Length: 53m
Breadth:: 12.5m - 6m
Max. height: 1.8m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:4.3

Excavation: Two 'graves' were 'opened' in the late 1840s,
but no report was published (Maughan 1854). An examination
of these open chambers and of the cairn between them was made
in 1870 (Brydon 1872).

History of site and present condition: The first
description of the site published in 1854 by J. Maughan
mentioned two openings in the cairn which had been made about
five years previously by 'a person named William Davidson,
residing at Bruntshield' (NY 40 80). In each opening there
was 'a kistvaen or grave' built of slabs set on edge. Maughan
comments: 'It appears to be composed of a series of graves
adjoining each other, placed across it and ranging from east
and west', presumably describing a lateral, segmented
chamber.

Apprised of the existence of the 'huge cairn studded
with stone coffins' J. Brydon and R. Murray enlisted the help
of the Duke of Buccleuch's gamekeepers in an examination of
the site in 1870. It was their impression that 'much, if not
the whole' of the cairn had been 'turned over'; exploration
of areas of heaped stone between the 'coffins' confirmed
their conclusion that 'not a stone had been left
unturnd'.

By 1950 (RCAHMS 1956 i, 94, no.110) the cairn was hard
to find in recently planted forestry, and its edges merged
into marshy vegetation. In 1965 Henshall found it to be much
overgrown and covered with pine needles and moss (1972,
479). Both plans show an open 'cist', a transverse slab, and
other loose stones, as in 1990. By this latter date,
however, the Forestry Commission had signposted the site and

felled the trees which, as surviving stumps show, had grown along its edges. Despite overgrowing moss, peat and bog vegetation, and trees still close along the E side, it has become possible to plan a wider tail, square ended, rather than the cone shape with rounded apex of the earlier plans. It can also be seen that the cairn has been built along the crest of a rocky escarpment, dropping away on the east, where many large rocks and boulders lie, split off from the natural face. The central spine of the cairn consists of loose boulders free of vegetation, with obvious robbing hollows and heaps of stone probably deriving from 19th century investigations. The N end or head of the cairn, although robbed level and with a large, loose slab lying on it, is still 1m in height above the built up peaty soil on the W side, and it does not display the deep robbing hollows of the central part of the cairn. A circular shepherd's shelter has been built into the top of the cairn near its N end.

Description:

Kerb: One earthfast slab on the E side of the tail of the cairn appears to be an isolated kerbstone. Other large boulders along this side of the cairn could include more kerbstones, but appear mostly to be part of or to have derived from the rocky scarp on which the cairn is built.

Cairn: The large bare boulders which form the spine of the cairn are loose packed, without intervening soil. It may be this original construction method which led Brydon to suppose that the whole of the cairn had been turned over. The bipartite outline suggests two construction phases, but there is no indication of sequence. The head is not trapezoidal, but oval; the tail is parallel-sided.

Chambers:

N chamber, or cist: Three slabs define a rectangular cist or chamber, 0.9m x 0.5m and 0.7m deep, situated at the S end of the oval head of the cairn, and open to the south. The top of a fourth slab visible on the W side of the opening may not be *in situ*. A slab measuring 0.75m x 0.70m lies in front of the opening. Although the remains are cist-sized, the depth of the chamber suggests that the slabs are resting on the ground surface, and the position of the structure could indicate that it had opened onto the S end of a primary oval cairn c 20m in length.

Second structure: 5m S of the N chamber of cist an earthfast slab 1.9m in length is set transversely across the cairn, visible for a height of 0.4m. Its position could relate it to a reported series of graves 'ranging from east and west' across the cairn (Maughan 1854).

3m to the south is a group of three displaced slabs set upright in cairn material, measuring 1.0m, 0.6m and 0.45m in length. This part of the cairn is much reduced by robbing, and has a heap of stone suggesting that 19th century exploration took place in this area.

Excavation finds: The first, cursory exploration of the chambers is said to have made no finds. Brydon examined

all the chambers 'carefully, but with the exception of a little charcoal in one of them they contained nothing but small quantities of mossy looking earth'.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 28km from the Solway Firth at Gretna

Distance from water: 400m from the nearest mapped stream to the NE. 600m from the Kershope Burn at the foot of the slope to the SE

General topography: To the NE rise the high Larriston Fells in the Border Hills, but to the SW the Kershope Burn joins the fertile valley of Liddesdale with access to the Solway Plain.

Situation: The cairn lies along a rocky scarp below the summit of the ridge, rising slightly to the wider N end.

Aspect: SE

Slope: Uphill the ground slopes gently to the summit of the ridge. Downhill a fairly steep slope (12%) drops to the Kershope Burn.

Local relief, within 500m: 210m - 275m OD

Outlook: (obscured by trees)

Distant: c 26% to SW

Intermediate: c 28%

Restricted: c 46% to N

Prominence: Although below the summit of the ridge, the position of the cairn along a craggy scarp must have given it prominence from the SE.

Local landmarks: Maughan (1854, 345) commented, before afforestation, that 'the view from this place takes in nearly the whole of Liddesdale'. Brydon (1872, 163) added that beyond Liddesdale could be seen the Solway Firth, with Criffel and Burnswark, both distinctively shaped hills, to the north, and Skiddaw and Blencathra to the south.

Solid geology: Lower Carboniferous limestone

Soils: Peat and peaty gleys

Land use: Forestry, formerly rough grazing

Vegetation: Mature conifers

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

The Currick, long cairn, 3.6km to S

Lamb Crag, possible records of a long cairn and of an excavated 'cremation trench' 8km to SE (Masters 1984, 66-7).

Windy Edge, long cairn, 10km to W

Monument context: If the record of a cairn at Lamb Crag is accepted, Lang Knowe is one of a cluster of cairns on the SW side of the Larriston and Bewcastle Fells. Master also lists Marven's Pike, 4.5km E of Lang Knowe as the site of a possible long cairn (1984, 67); the recorded evidence, however, is not persuasive, and a visit to the heather covered hilltop in 1990 failed to locate more than shepherd's cairns and rock outcrop. Both Lang Knowe and the Currick are large, stone built cairns built on hill slopes below ridges, but while the Currick is trapezoidal, Lang Knowe combines an oval head with a parallel-sided tail. The 7-8m broad tail is similar in breadth to the cairns at Windy Edge. If the two-part contraction of the cairn is the result of cumulative construction, this could involve an oval cairn having been imposed on a chambered narrow monument of Windy Edge type. Alternatively the narrow tail could have been added to an oval cairn, sealing the axial, S facing chamber. the same combination of oval head and narrow tail occurs at Easton (III:4), here with no chambers visible, raising the same problems of sequence. The existence of a segmented, Clyde type chamber at Windy Edge must give support to interpretation of the Lang Knowe evidence as a segmented lateral chamber. Similar structures occupy a lateral position in the long, narrow Perthshire cairns of Clach na Tiompan and Kindrochat.

Artefact context: Two axes in Hawick Museum originated in Liddesdale (HAKMG 4117, 4140) and one in the Hunterian comes from Newcastleton (B 1951, 1558).

Immediate prehistoric landscape: Forestry has been established around the cairn for over forty years, and there are no records of sites from within its immediate vicinity.

Archaeological interpretations: the 19th century accounts of the cairn failed to register with prehistorians before the publication of the Roxburghshire Inventory with plan and description (1956 i, 94, no.110). This account referred to cists or vestigial chambers (p.10), and Atkinson (1962), Henshall (1972) and Masters (1984) all treat the site as being an unchambered long cairn, although Henshall admitted (p.161) that Maughan's record of 'a series of graves adjoining each other placed across it' could 'just possibly' be describing a segmented Clyde type chamber.

Fig. V:2:1 Lang Knowe: Plan 1990

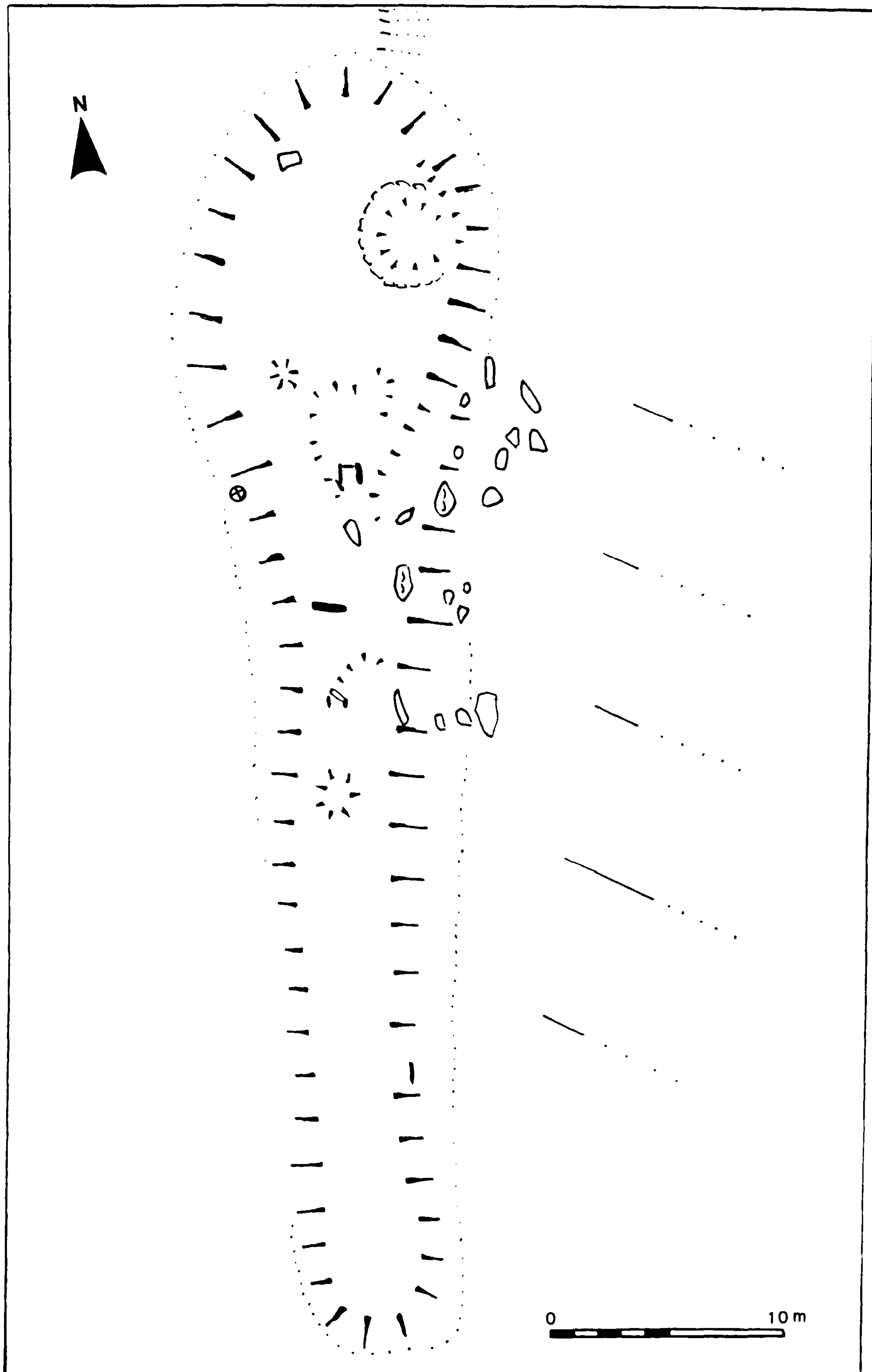
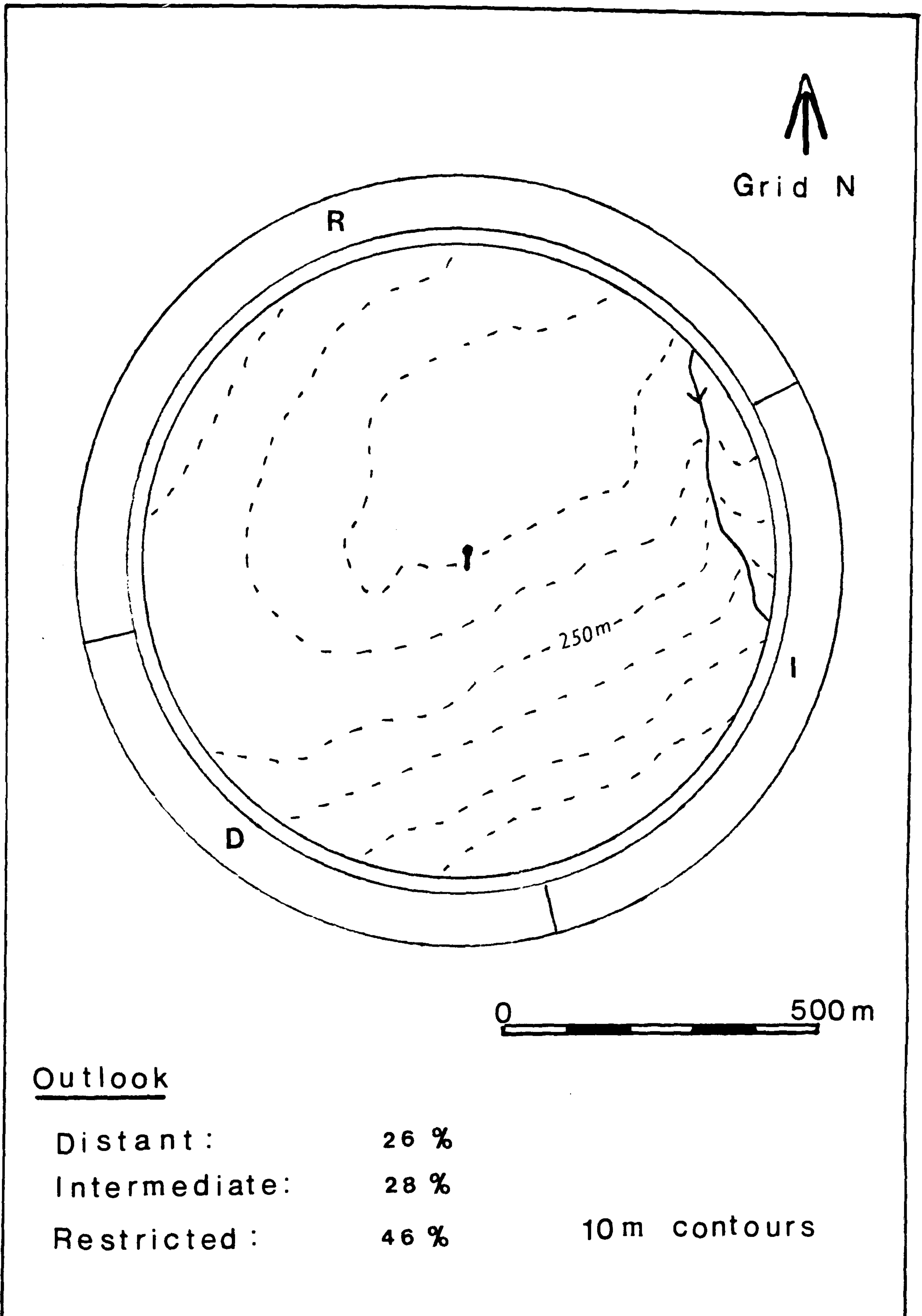


Fig. V:2:2 Situation and Outlook: Lang Knowe



V:3 The Currick, Cumberland
Carlisle District
Cumbria County

NY 58SW
NY 5375 8271
290m OD

Location: 7km SE of Newcastleton, on the E side of Liddesdale in Kershope Forest (F.C.), 2.75km S of the Border

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A

Orientation: Slightly S of E to N of W

Outline: Probably originally regularly trapezoidal, its S side now distorted by forestry and stone robbing

Dimensions: Length: 44m
Breadth: 21m - 8m
Max. height: 2m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:2.1

History of site and present condition: In 1813 'a great part of the stones were carted away to build the adjoining fences'; one man dug about 6 feet below the cairn 'and found nothing but sand' (Maughan 1854, 233). This stone robbing has reduced the height of the 'tail' of the cairn, made a deep hollow in the centre of its 'head', and removed stone down to ground level in an area entered from the centre of the E end of the cairn. Similarly, robbing on either side of the cairn has totally removed cairn stone, but these areas appear to have served as near circular sheep stells, c 7m x 5m in diameter. The S side of the E end of the cairn is so sheer as to suggest reconstruction here, perhaps associated with a low wall at the SE corner of the cairn, disappearing into undergrowth (but see below, Description). A shepherd's cairn, or 'Currick' has been built on the highest, NE part of the cairn, and there are other loose heaps of stone.

Three plans of the cairn have been published. That by Hodgson (1943, 169, fig.1) shows that the cairn was already extensively robbed before afforestation. The RCHME (1963, 10) planned the cairn after the area had been ploughed for forestry, and they show two furrows cutting through cairn stone along its S side. Masters' plan and description (1984, 58, fig.4:3) show that mature trees impinged onto both sides of the cairn, obscuring details. In 1991 the forest remained, while moss, heather and seedling trees were growing over cairn stone. The site can be reached by way of a firebreak from a forest track 60m distant.

Description:

Kerb: No certain kerb stones are visible. Two pairs of large blocks, 1m apart, on the S side of the cairn,

17m from the E end suggest an inner and an outer kerb, but could derive from the building of a sheep shelter here. 10m to the W is another large boulder inside the cairn. Hodgson indicated the first set of stones on her plan, and a second set nearly 20m to the W, now probably under trees.

Cairn: The cairn consists of large loose boulders, heaped high, and so steep in the SE as to suggest reconstruction. Such rebuilding could relate to a low wall adjoining the SE corner of the cairn, not mentioned by Hodgson, but shown on the two later plans as an integral, and robbed out part of the original cairn. In 1963 the RCHME must have had a clearer view of this feature than is now possible under forestry, nonetheless their interpretation creates an asymmetric wedge shaped plan, whereas a regular trapezoidal shape can be supposed without it (see fig.V:3:3). It may be best to reserve judgement on this feature.

Facade: The E end of the cairn is gently convex with no evidence for a built facade despite extensive robbing.

Features: During the stone robbing exercises of the 19th century, stones or slabs set on edge were evidently encountered in the body of the cairn, but a collapse of loose stone buried the feature preventing further examination (Maughan 1854, 233). Hodgson reported a local comment on hollows in the cairn: 'That would be where they fetched the headstones from' (1943, 170). It may be on the basis of this evidence that the RCHME recorded 'collapsed chamber' in its brief comment on the site (1963, 13). No slabs, other than those mentioned under 'kerb', are now visible.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 27km from the Solway Firth at Gretna to the SW

Distance from water: 30m S of the cairn tail a small stream has cut a channel into boulder clay. 370m to the W is the Currick Syke.

General topography: The Bewcastle Fells, rising to the NE are steeply rolling hills, outcropping in craggy summits. To the SW, gentler slopes lead down to the Solway plain.

Situation: The cairn lies diagonally across the slope of the hill, its broader E end uphill.

Aspect: West

Slope: Uphill, gentle; to the SW a steep drop.

Local relief, within 500m: 230 -306m OD

Outlook: Obscured by trees

Distant: c 50% to W, and the Solway Firth

Restricted: c 50% to E

Prominence: The cairn is below the summit skyline, but on a break in slope which should give local prominence from the W and SW.

Local landmarks: Views probably included Tinnis Hill to the W, Criffel to the SW and the Lake District and Pennines to the S. Christianbury Crags (487m OD), a dramatic rocky summit 4km E of the long cairn, is obscured from view by the adjacent ridge.

Solid geology; Lower Carboniferous Limestone

Soils: Peat overlies a Stony Brown Forest Soil subject to gleying

Land use: Forestry, formerly hill grazing

Vegetation: Mature conifers

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Lang Knowe, long cairn, 3.6km to N

Lamb Crag, possible record of long cairns and a cremation trench (Masters 1984, 66-7) 3.8km to ESE

Windy Edge, chambered long cairn, 10.8km to ESE

Devil's Lapful, long cairn, 14.5km to NE

Monument context: Neighbouring long cairns are longer and narrower than the Currick whose broad, trapezoidal outline resembles rather the Dumfriesshire cairns, Fleuchlarg, Laggan Park and Capenoch. Like these cairns the Currick has been a massive, high built structure. The contrast between a high head and low robbed tail, seen also at Cairn Avel, Capenoch, and Drumwhirn, is presumably a function of the ease of robbing of the more accessible, lower end. The high altitude of the Currick is a feature common to a whole set of Border cairns, which, in general, share the wide views of this site.

Artefact context: See Lang Knowe V:2

Immediate prehistoric setting: The RCHME (1963, 13) list two cairns within 2km of the Currick; Camp's or Kemp's Graves at NY 5395 8112 and the Clints at NY 5408 8092, a small cairn with a cist. Extensive forestry surrounds the cairn.

Tradition: On shaky etymological grounds the Rev. J. Maughan (1854, 233) suggested the Curragh, or Currack to be a corruption of Kirk or Church, producing the inference that it was a place of worship. He also referred to a legend of a chest of gold in the nearby Curragh Loch, becoming a peatmoss. The name seems more probably related to the 'curricks' of stone, forming landmarks for shepherds, erected on the cairn.

Archaeological interpretations: In her comment in 1943 Hodgson recognised the affinities between this site and Dumfriesshire cairns. Henshall, similarly, compared the Currick to short, trapezoidal cairns in Dumfries and Galloway, steep sided, and similar in shape to chambered Clyde cairns (Henshall 1972, 160).

Fig. V:3:1 The Currick: Plan 1991

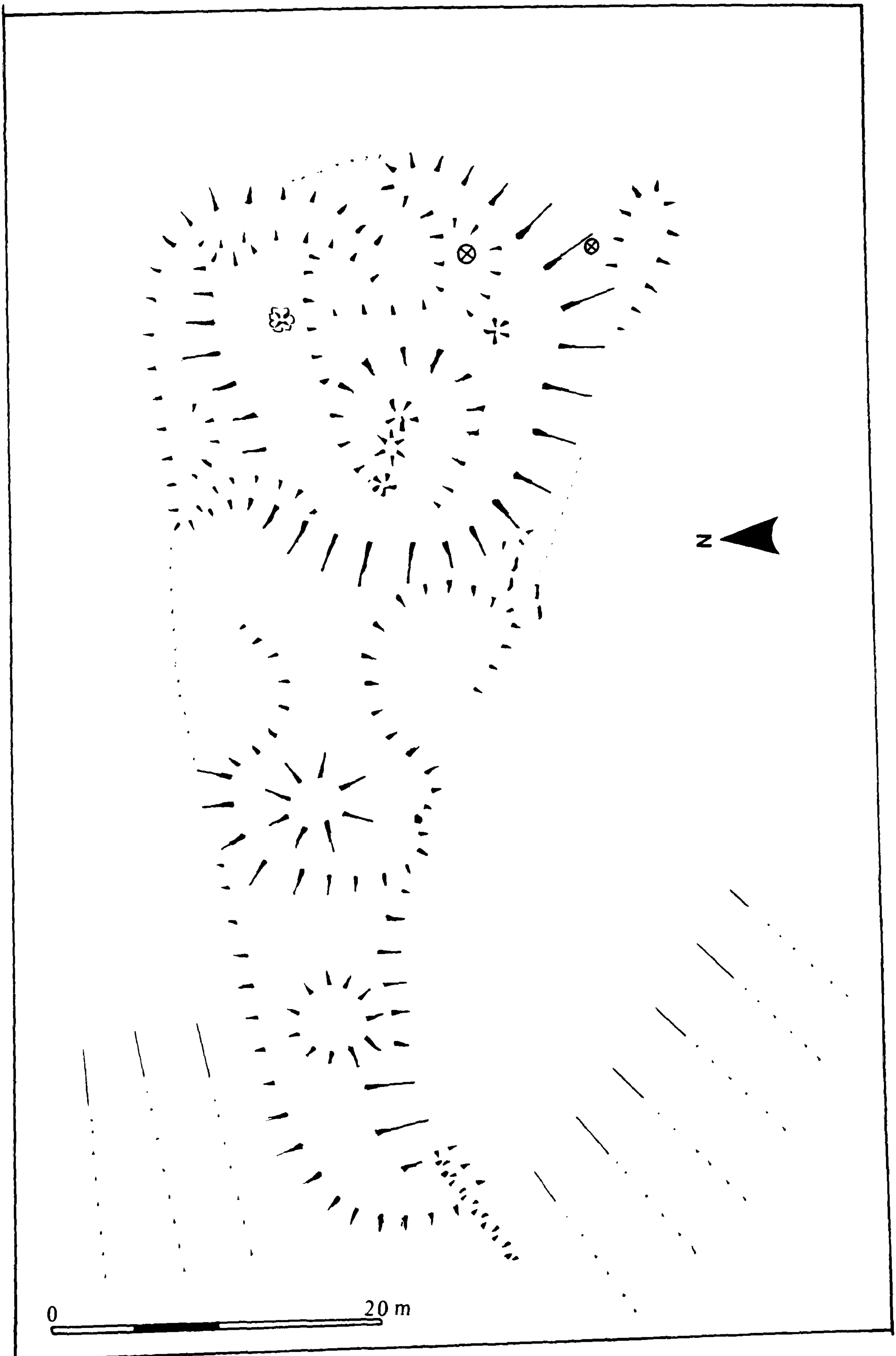


Fig. V:3:2 Situation and Outlook: The Currick

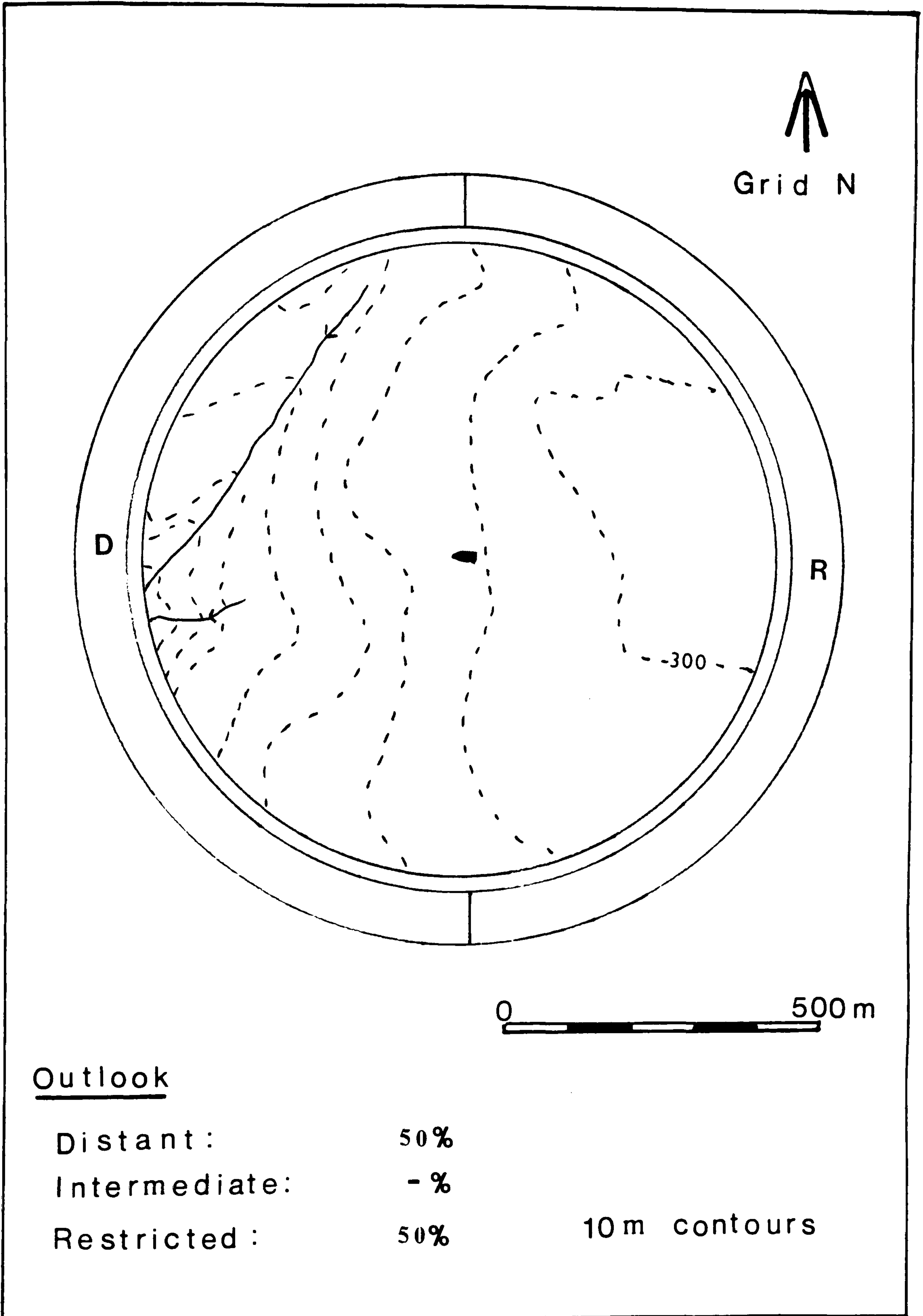
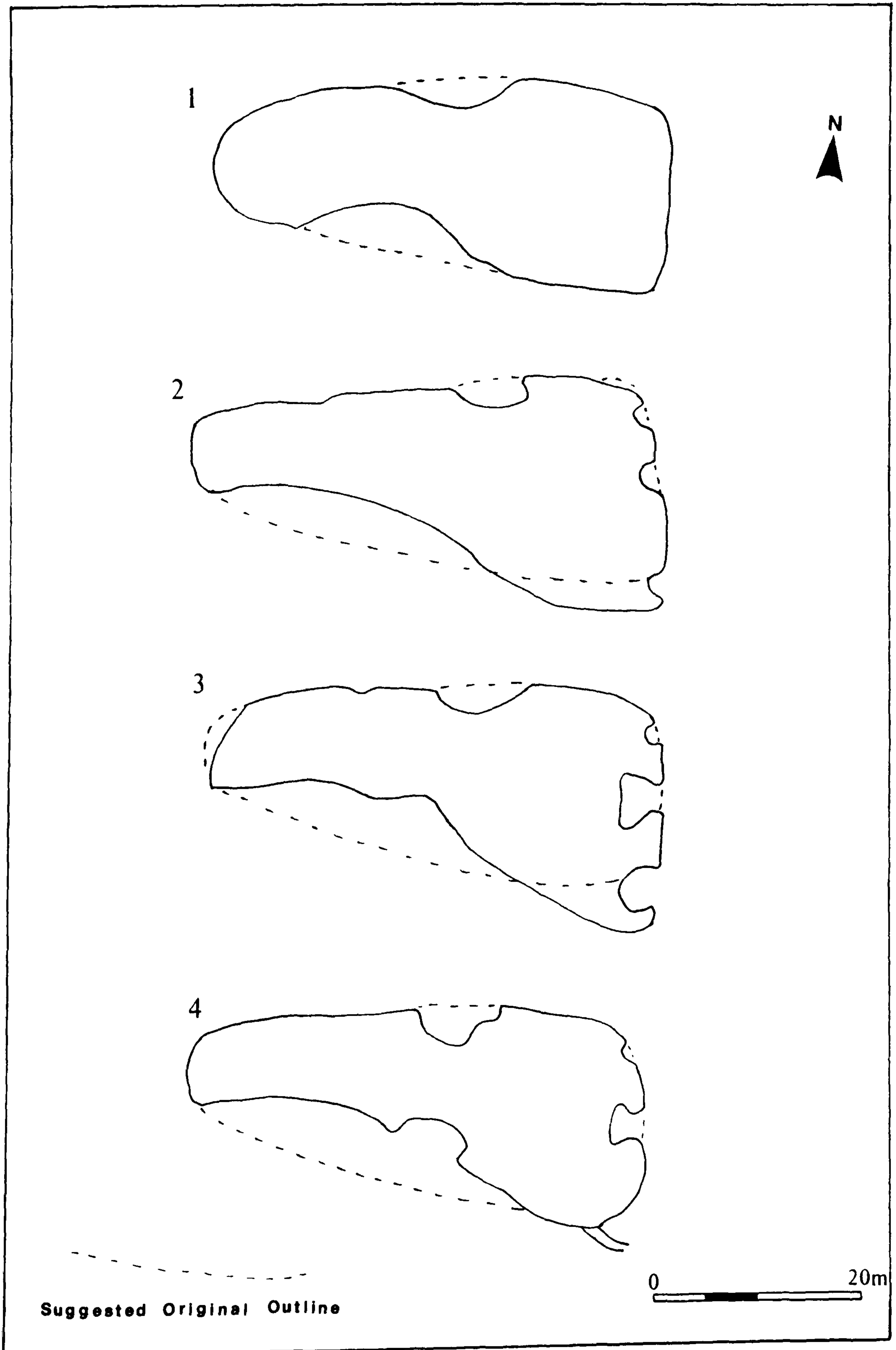


Fig. V:3:3 The Currick: after (1) Hodgson 1943, (2) RCHME 1963, (3) Masters 1984 and (4) as planned, 1991



VI:1 Cairn Avel KRK 6
Stewartry District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 59SE 2
NX 5594 9246
205m OD

Location: 900m SSW of the village of Carsphairn, 550m WSW of Carnavel farm steading, near the foot of the northern slope of Bennan Hill.

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Outline: Almost pear-shaped. A high, broad head, narrowing to a gently rounded, robbed-out tail.

Orientation: ESE-WNW

Dimensions: Length: 33m
Breadth: 22.5m - 10m
Max. Height: 3m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:1.5

History of site and present condition: Although the cairn is located just above a head-dyke in 'unimproved' rough grazing, the hill slopes here carry remains of pre-improvement farming (see Land Use, below), and the incentive for stone robbing must long have been present. A rectangular sheep-fold built into the adjacent dyke, shown on the 1st ed 6-inch OS map (1853), probably replaced earlier use of the body of the cairn for sheep handling activities. The 1853 map shows the cairn as round, ignoring its west end, presumably already robbed out. The western 17m of the cairn are now nearly at ground level and grassed over. 'Arms' of cairn material stretching out from the high head to NW and SW, probably used as sheep shelters, distort the outline at this point. A low (0.2m) stony bank and a circular pen, or 'shieling hut' on the surface of the robbed out tail suggest very early use of the site. The high, eastern end of the cairn, topped by a stone pile, or shepherd's cairn (shown on the 1st ed OS map), consists of bare stone, into which deep robbing hollows have been made. It is situated on the brink of a bank down to a stream, and slipped stone masks the actual edge. An oval heap of grassed over stone on a low terrace immediately N of the E end of the cairn, probably quarried from the cairn, forms a sheep shelter against the slope of the hill. A recent drainage channel carries water around the SE corner of the cairn to join the main stream, and another small drain has been cut along the face of the slope below the E end of the cairn. A signpost, pointing out the footpath to Polmaddy has been sunk into cairn material at the E end by the Carsphairn Heritage Society.

Description:

Kerb: One very large kerb stone, 1.5m in length, projects 0.35m above the robbed out tail on its S side. One large and two smaller kerb stones, 0.4 - 0.6m in length, define the curve around the N side of the tail. 5m further E a low bank along part of the N side may contain further kerb stones. The tops of three more possible kerb stones are visible among the stones of the N side of the head of the cairn. The absence of similar stones on the S side suggests an extra depth of slipped (or added?) cairn material here.

Facade: The E end of the cairn curves gently round, following the line of the top of the slope. The cairn is high here, and any internal structures would be well concealed.

Cairn: The surviving E end of the cairn consists of large, loose boulders, while the tail is grassed over with only some smaller stone lying around. The 'pear-shaped' outline is unusual, and although the angle of the largest kerb stone shows the cairn to splay outwards widely from the tail, it is possible that the very broad head is actually a round cairn imposed onto a long one, perhaps, indeed, utilising stone robbed from the tail. The addition would have been placed slightly asymmetrically, to the S side. On the other hand, the cairn at Laggan Park (VI:9) has an asymmetrically bulging head, and it may be that the extra height of this end of the cairns (cf. Capenoch Moor VI:6) tended to collapse to one side.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 36km from the Solway Firth at Creetown

Distance from water: A ditch running round the S side of the cairn joins a small stream passing 20m to the E. The Water of Deugh is 450m to the N.

General topography: The site overlooks the broad alluvial basin of the Water of Deugh set among the highest hills of south west Scotland.

Situation: The cairn occupies rock outcrop on a terrace edge on the lower slopes of the hill.

Aspect: N

Slope: Gentle: 6%

Local relief, within 500m: 180 - 260m OD

Outlook: Distant: 39%
Intermediate: 53%
Restricted: 8% to SW

Prominence: Although the site is visible from a long distance around the Carsphairn valley, it is set against

hills and is not prominent. From the immediate vicinity it is impressive on the skyline from short distances to N and NW, but undulations in the ground quickly mask it from view, and it is possible to approach the cairn quite closely before observing it.

Local landmarks: The amphitheatre of the Carsphairn valley among the hills is itself memorably striking. The cairn has a view of Cairnsmore of Carsphairn (797m OD) 6.5km to the NE.

Solid geology: Ordovician greywackes and shales

Soils: Peaty gleys on hummocky moraine

Land use: Presently rough grazing, with an improved grass field immediately to N. Formerly agricultural operations were carried out on these hill slopes. 150m S of the cairn old walls can be traced, forming an enclosure marked on the 1st ed OS map as 'Old Fence'. These walls continue to the E along the hill face between the 220 -240m contours. At a slightly lower level, c 210 - 220m OD, are the remains of old farmstead buildings, including small circular foundations, corn kilns or lambing pens (?), stretching for c 400m SE of the cairn.

Vegetation: Coarse grasses and sphagnum bog vegetation

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

- Water of Deugh, Bargrennan cairn, 8.8km to N
- Baing Loch, Bargrennan cairn, 18km to NW
- Holm of Daltallochan, stone circle, 1.8km to NNW
- The nearest long cairn is Capenoch, 28km to E

Monument context: Despite the considerable distance between Cairn Avel and the nearest long cairns, its dimensions, massive height, and absence of evidence for chambers all fall into a pattern seen at a series of upland cairns - Capenoch, Fleuchlarg, Stiddrigs, and, in the west, Cairn na Gaxth, almost identical in dimensions with Cairn Avel. The distance between Cairn Avel and its neighbours is explicable in terms of the occurrence of an isolated and fertile alluvial basin at Carsphairn. The ecological niche was filled, but surrounding hills limited opportunities for further expansion. The cairn overlooks this basin, yet, despite its overview, is not itself particularly dominant, and, indeed, occupies a knoll among the hummocks of a rocky and morainic landscape which, from close to, is in a secluded position.

If the suggestion that a prominent round cairn has been added to the head of a long one is accepted, the new site is one of a series of comparable cairns in the vicinity (see Prehistoric landscape: Cairns, below).

Artefact context: Mesolithic finds from the river terraces beside the Water of Ken demonstrate the potential for lithic recovery in the valleys. At the S end of Loch Doon, 7km W of Cairn Avel, such finds proliferate from the loch margins, including the occasional leaf arrowhead (DES 1968, 24). A leaf arrowhead from Knockgray, on the N side of the Water of Deugh at Carsphairn was exhibited in the 1880s (TDGNHAS 1882: 1886-7; Corrie 1928, 280).

Although there is a cluster of axe finds recorded from around Dalry, in the Glenkens to the S of Carsphairn, the nearest find is that of a very long adze (11½" x 3½" x 3" (292 x 89 x 75mm), probably of Group VI stone (Williams 1970), from Todstane Farm (NX 612 850) 9 km SE of Cairn Avel (Corrie 1928, 277).

A small, Step 7 beaker was found in the bank of the Water of Ken, 7km SSE of Cairn Avel (Ritchie 1970, 144; Richie and Shepherd 1973, 23).

Immediate prehistoric landscape: 530m E of Cairn Avel an erect boulder 1.2m in height, with a naturally cupmarked prostrate boulder 1.0m in length beside it, has a good view of the proximal end of the cairn (NX 5646 9243).

Other standing stones are known in the neighbourhood. One, now vanished, stood on Standing Stone Knowe at NX 551 932, 1km NNE of Cairn Avel. Another is said to have stood on Standing Stone Rig at NX 5876 9257, 3km E of the cairn (ONB 16, 16), although the Ordnance Survey suggest that the name may refer to a natural boulder here (NY 59SE 23).

2km N of Cairn Avel another standing stone at NX 5539 9420 stands 100m to the E of an oval setting of boulders on Holm of Daltallochan (NX 59SE 4). The large stones lie around the rim of a low knoll, and some doubt has been expressed as to whether the site is a genuine prehistoric monument (Burl 1976, 360; Thom, Thom and Burl 1980, 276-7). The problem is discussed in the Regional Gazetteer (VI:ix) and Table VI:2. The stones do appear to have been artificially set, defining an area measuring c 25m x 20m, presumably a ritual enclosure, with a full view of Cairn Avel.

Cairns: There are several large round cairns around the Carsphairn Basin.

Lagwine Cairn: (NX 5606 9398) has a view of Cairn Avel from a very similar position on a knoll on the lower slopes of Craig of Knockgray, 1.5km to the N across the Water of Deugh. This cairn has probably measured c 20m in diameter, but its shape is distorted by the addition of a bank of stone around its base.

Holm of Daltallochan cairn (NX 5528 9472) is 500m N of the stone circle and 1km NW of Lagwine Cairn on the same side of the river. It has probably been of similar size to this last, although now almost completely destroyed by an overlying sheep fold. It has views of Cairn Avel, Lagwine Cairn and the stone circle.

Bardennoch cairn (NX 5684 9120) on the S side of the summit of Bardennoch Hill, is a much robbed cairn

c 19.5m in diameter, 1.5km SSE of Cairn Avel. A central exposed cist has been suggested as being possibly a Bargrennan chamber (DES 1969, 23; D 17).

Small cairns and hut circles occur on the ridge of Bardennoch Hill and on its E and NE flanks to within 1.5km of the long cairn. 150m NW of the site are five 3m diameter cairns and one measuring 5m across.

Archaeological interpretation: As mentioned above the 1st ed 6-inch OS map shows this site as a round cairn. The 1914 Inventory observed its full length as 103 feet (31.4m), listing it, however, as a 'chambered cairn' on the supposition that stone built long cairns contained chambers (RCAHMS 1914 xxvii; 64 no.94). Henshall (1972) published the first plan of the site (p.449), categorising it as a short, trapezoidal long cairn, with some evidence for a peristalith (160-1; 300).

Fig. VI:1:1 Cairn Avel: Plan 1989

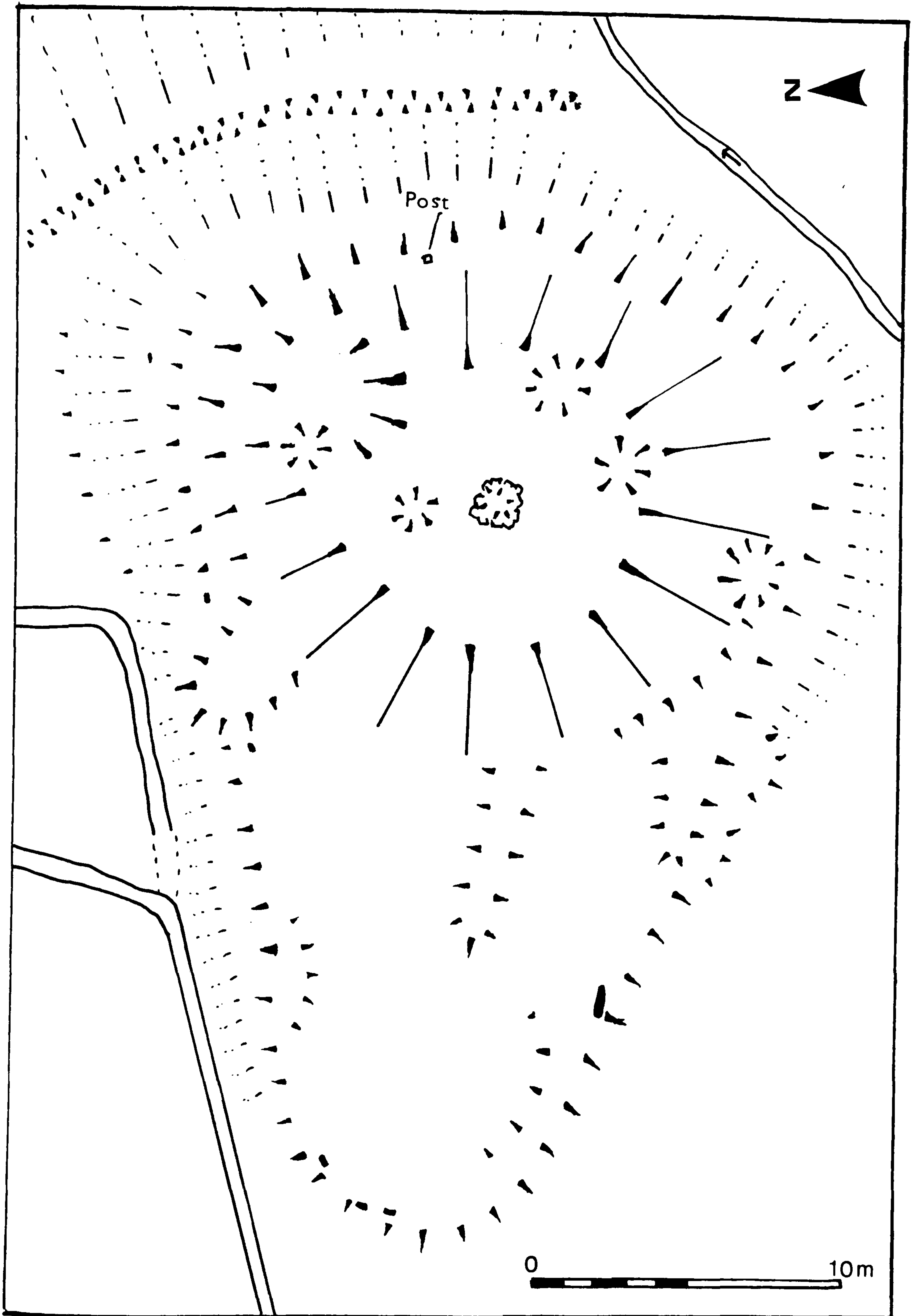


Fig. VI:1:2 Situation and Outlook: Cairn Avel

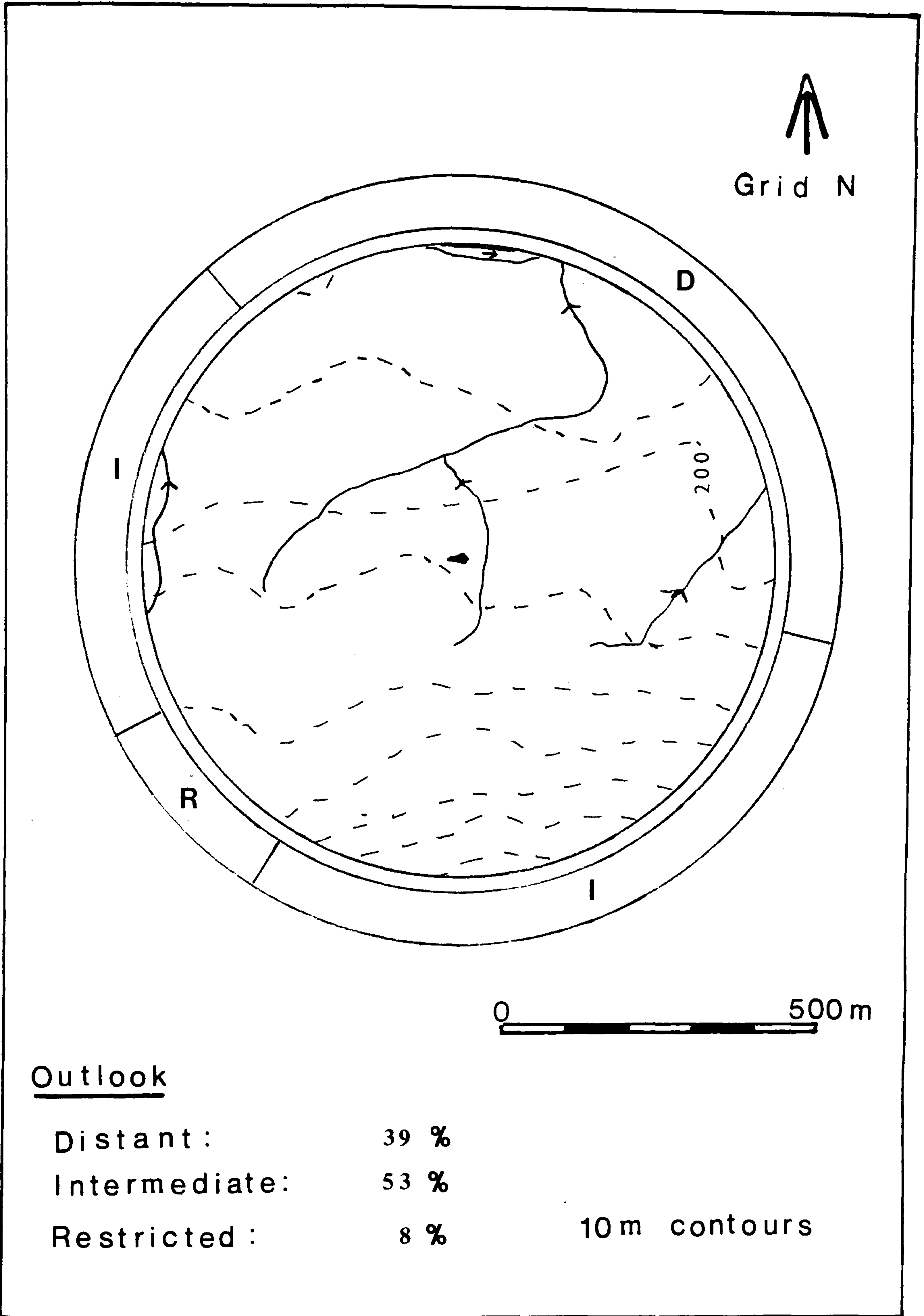
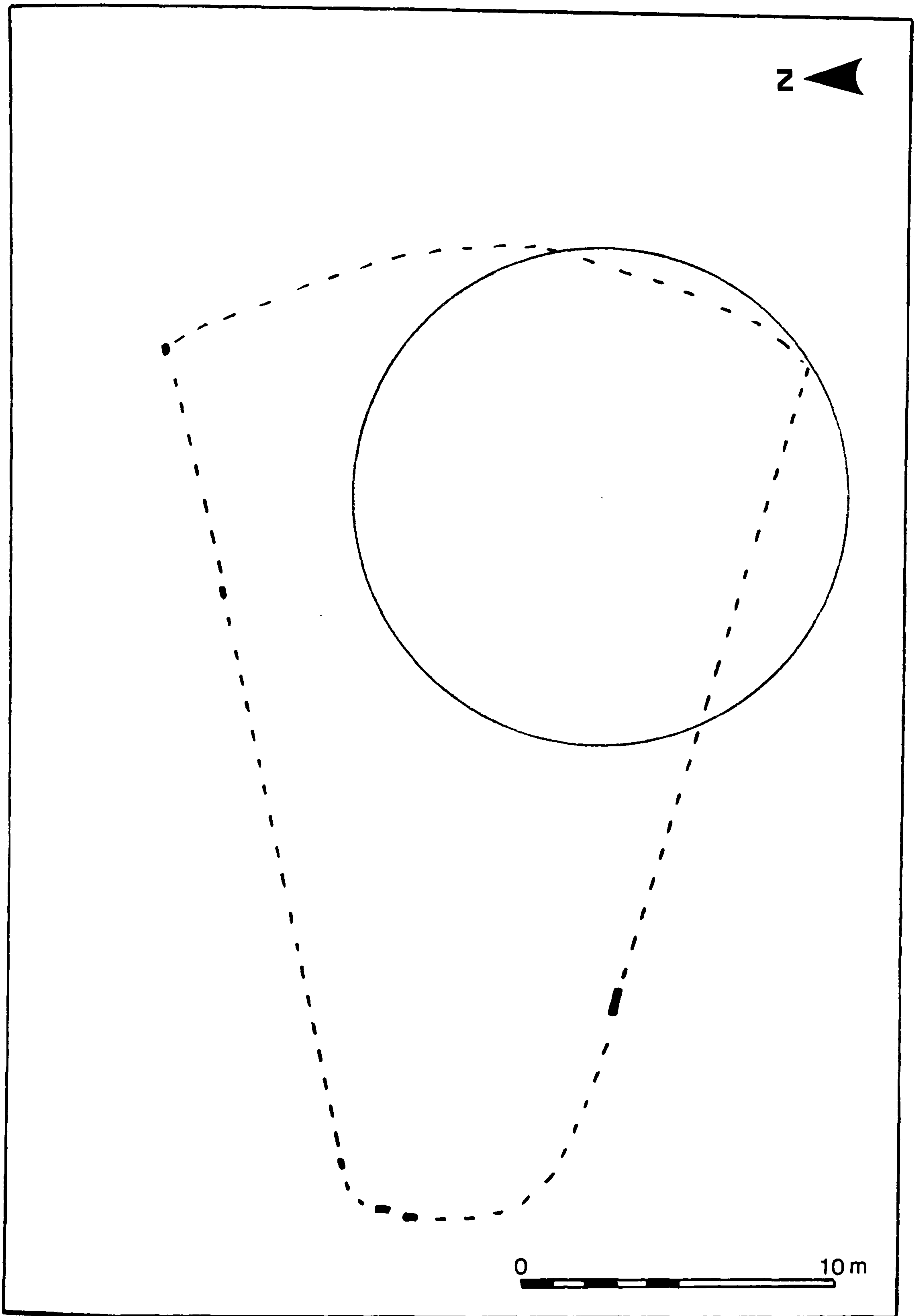


Fig. VI:1:3 Cairn Avel: suggested reconstruction



VI:2 Slewcairn KRK 12
Stewartry District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 96SW 1
NX 9239 6142
205m OD

Location: 4km N of Caulkerbush and 1km N of Boreland of Southwick farm steading, in Forestry Commission plantations on the W side of Criffel.

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn with facade, mortuary structure and stone features.

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument, unrestored after excavation.

Outline: Trapezoidal cairn with squared tail and fairly deep forecourt between horns; containing an axial mortuary structure, small orthostatic feature approached by a lateral passage and a stone pavement.

Orientation: N - S

<u>Dimensions:</u>	<u>Pre-excavation</u>	<u>Excavated outline</u>
	(after Henshall 1972)	
Length:	24.4m	22m
Breadth:	14.6m - 7m	13m - 5.5m
Max. height:	1.2m above peat	1.5m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:1.7

Excavation: 1973 I. Kinnes and L.J. Masters
1974-80 L.J. Masters, Glasgow University
Extra-Mural Department

Reports are in DES 1973-1980, in a typescript by Masters (c 1977) lodged in NMS Queen Street library and in Masters 1981(b).

Excavation took the cairn down to the basal layer, and, at the S end, to the old ground surface. Remaining *in situ* are an inner kerb of boulders, an orthostatic facade and a complex of central features. The relationships of these last have not been fully examined.

History of site and present condition: The cairn was shown on the 1st ed 6-inch OS map of 1854 as an oval mound, its long axis NW - SE, with the shortest hachures on the uphill NE side. A plan by F.R. Coles of 1897(b) shows a similar oval measuring 30m x 20m, extending for 7m to the N of two lambing pens which excavation found to overlie the forecourt. It seems that both plans failed to identify the N and NE edge of the cairn under encroaching peat and over-estimated its size. Coles also shows a round hollow dug deeply into the cairn centre on the position of the orthostatic structure excavated by Masters; two or three large slabs lay on the hollow. He was informed locally that the cairn had not been interfered with for the last

seventy years. The RCAHMS found the site so 'dilapidated' and 'reduced in elevation' with 'excavations' made in it, that they concluded that it could not contain a chamber (1914, 73, no.125; xxv). Again, they found the N end of the cairn confusing, and excluded from their measurements the ruins of a small hut which seemed to occupy an enclosure at the N end, thus giving a reduced estimate of 18.6m x 12.8m. Again, the depth of peat around the cairn, a feature which Henshall also commented on in 1972 (p.454), was hindering assessment. Henshall found the N end of the cairn vague and disturbed, with a small enclosure in the NW corner. Nonetheless, her plan (p.455) and dimensions show that she had very accurately assessed the extent of the revetted mound. Like Coles, she observed a number of flat slabs lying on the medial line of the cairn 8.5m from its S end. As outlined above excavation took place in a series of short seasons from 1973 to 1980. During that period the hillside was planted with trees, and in 1991 the cairn was found to be surrounded by mature conifers with an area c 100m across left unplanted around it. The cairn stood stripped of stones, as if excavation was still in progress, with the site hut still present, containing rusting equipment. The E facade stones have slipped sideways and some granite blocks are crumbling from exposure.

Description:

Kerb: An inner kerb of large, rounded boulders was set on a pale cream-yellow pre-cairn soil. The N end of the E kerb for c 2/3rds of its length was surmounted by up to four courses of drystone walling, a feature not seen on any other part of the kerb. The E wall was graded in size, with smaller boulders towards the S end, where the poorly constructed end wall met it slightly aslant. The W wall, on the downhill side, was more irregular, and curved gently inwards to join the facade. In contrast, the straight E wall made a sharp change in direction towards the NW 2.5m from the facade end which it joined.

Outside the boulders, and resting on an accumulated layer of black soil was a revetment of slabs set upright against the inner wall. In some cases these had fallen forward to rest flat or at an angle, where they were masked by a covering of small boulders, including some similar slabs, which ran out from the top of the wall for c 1.5m. The excavator considered these boulders to be deliberate 'extra-revetment' rather than slippage from the cairn, an addition perhaps made at the same time as the final filling of the forecourt.

Facade: The facade consisted mostly of close-set vertical slabs, rising to 1m in height at the centre of the better preserved E side, but broken and slipping outwards on the W. Along part of the E side the slabs were surmounted by one or more courses of walling. Four large boulders constituted the E tip of the facade, the outermost fallen forwards, and the excavator suggested that these might represent a later addition, perhaps related to the 'kink'

in the E wall. Some small slabs and blocks leant against the facade stones, resembling those against the boulder kerb, and the excavator suggested that these could have been added when the forecourt was being blocked. At the centre of the facade the line of orthostats turned inwards to join the side walls of the 'mortuary structure', following a curving line on the E side, but forming a sharp angle on the W.

Forecourt: A fan shaped blocking of slabs in front of the entrance to the mortuary structure, overlying some of the collapsed facade slabs, was said to resemble the blockings found at Cairnholy, Mid Gleniron and Lochhill, but no plan has been published. This blocking was enveloped in a masking of slabs and boulders which extended in an arc 1m outside the horns of the cairn, concealing them from view. Finds from the forecourt discussed below, were nearly all from beneath the blocking, but a few flints and a sherd of pottery occurred within it.

Cairn: The cairn consisted of local granite boulders, from 30cm to 70cm in length, among which was a scattering of small pieces of quartz. The lower layers were interspersed with a dark brown-black soil, up to 50mm deep containing small pieces of charcoal, a soil content which appeared to be original. No evidence for inner cairns or internal walls was observed, nor were there any indications of pre-cairn activity on the undulating surface below the cairn.

Mortuary structure: 0.75m S of the centre of the facade was an oval pit (A), measuring 1m E - W by 0.45m by 0.55m in depth. It proved to have held a D-shaped post, the flat side to the S, which had probably rotted *in situ* before being removed leaving only the stump. The upper fill of the pit consisted of small boulders tightly packed with black soil, burnt wood and some cremated bone, including two ribs. 4m to the S (centre to centre) was a second oval pit (B) with an ambiguous filling which might have held two posts. 4m further S was a third pit (C), which again had held a D-shaped timber, its flat side inwards, its history the same as that in Pit A. The upper fill of these pits was identical with the fill of the mortuary structure. Cremated bone was concentrated between Pits A and B, mostly occurring in small pieces. One special deposit consisted of the left half of a frontal bone and parts of the left and right parietal bones inverted to form a container for other pieces of skull and with rib bones packed below it. Nearby were two flint knives standing vertically and a burnt leaf shaped arrowhead. Some burning had taken place *in situ*, scorching the old ground surface; much burnt wood and bark occurred in the filling. The evidence did not, however, suggest a cremation pyre.

On either side of the pits and overlying their ends were walls, 1.0 - 1.1m apart, nearly 9m in length, consisting of four courses of slabs and c 0.3m in height. Some burnt wood lay on top of part of one wall. Along the outer side of the S end of the walls, for c 3m, a line of pitched slabs had been set, tilted towards the centre.

The boulders which filled the mortuary structure, rising 0.2m - 0.3m above the top of the walls, were smaller than the overlying cairn stones, and unmixed with soil. Masters observes that: 'Excavation of the mortuary structure wall and paved area indicated that they had been built simultaneously with the cairn' (DES 1980, 4), but the evidence for this is not presented.

Other excavated features: Immediately S of the S end of the mortuary structure were four upright orthostats linked on the SE by dry walling; two fallen slabs lay on a soil layer, and were presumably not in their original positions. Between the uprights was a filling of, 'small boulders, slabs and pillar like blocks', unlike the cairn boulders, and Masters considered that these and the fallen slabs might represent collapsed roofing; a possible corbel stone survived above the W orthostat and dry walling. Such a collapse could relate to the robbing hollow here observed by Coles (1897(b), 17-18) and the loose slabs noted by both Coles and Henshall (1972, 454). No finds were made in the structure.

Joining the orthostatic setting on the W was a passage, 2.5m in length and 0.70m in breadth, its outer end, 2m in from the boulder kerb of the cairn, marked by two small boulders. The N wall consisted of three small orthostats topped by five courses of corbelling; the S wall was of dry walling, rising to nine courses at the inner end, with a maximum height of 1.1m. There was no roofing and the passage was full of slabs and small boulders. The W end of the N wall may have overlain basal cairn material, but this was not tested by excavation.

Immediately S of the four stone setting a recumbent slab, 1.08m in length, marked the N end of a stretch of paving, 1.90m N - S by 0.75m. At the S end was another recumbent slab, 1.22m in length, and immediately S of this a standing stone 1.20m in height. The paving, set into the basal layer of the cairn, provided a level surface (except for 0.6m at the N end) on which were found over sixty undecorated neolithic sherds. As the excavator pointed out, the paving is in alignment with the mortuary structure.

Excavation finds: Small pieces of cremated bone with some pieces of skull and some long bones were found within the mortuary structure, including the upper filling of the pits. (See description above).

Pottery was found on the rear paving (60 undecorated sherds) and on the old ground surface under the forecourt blocking, where 300 tiny undecorated sherds and three small cord-ornamented fragments were recovered. One sherd, associated with flints, was on a possible pre-cairn soil layer immediately N of the forecourt blocking, and another was found in the body of the cairn. A large hollow immediately outside a break in the W side of the cairn wall contained a large number of minute sherds of pottery decorated with cord impressions.

Flints were also found under the forecourt blocking, including one serrated flake, a leaf shaped arrowhead and burnt end scrapers. To the N of the forecourt blocking were two leaf shaped arrowheads and several serrated flakes and knives, burnt and unburnt. A few pieces of burnt flint, including part of a flake scraper, were found in the blocking material. Within the mortuary structure was a deliberate deposit of two flint knives and a leaf shaped arrowhead, described above.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 5.5km to S. At maximum transgression the sea may have reached c 1km further in land.

Distance from water: 50m from a small streamlet to the SW. 200m from the Cuil Burn to the W.

General topography: The cairn is at the head of a small valley among undulating hills carrying pasture fields and some arable. 4km to the S are the level merse lands of the coastal fringe. Immediately to the N and E are the high moorland hills stretching from Dalbeattie to the Nith Estuary, which reach 569m OD at the summit of Criffel, 3km to the E.

Situation: The cairn lies diagonally across a sloping hillside, the broad end uphill.

Aspect: SW

Slope: Steep; 19%

Local relief, within 500m: 140 - 285m OD

Outlook: (partially obscured by trees)

Distant: 18% to S and SW

Intermediate: 57%

Restricted: 25% to N and NE

Prominence: Local only

Local landmarks: Criffel, 3km to the E, is not in sight. The view includes the Cumbrian coast and the cliffs of St. Bees Head.

Solid geology: Granite

Soils: Peat and peaty podzols. The cream-yellow pre-cairn subsoil suggests leaching below cairn stone.

Land use: Forestry, formerly rough grazing. Lambing pens were built on the site.

Vegetation: Heather and birch scrub in the clearing, with Sitka spruce to the N and E, larch, suggesting a shallow

peat cover only, to the downhill side. Across the Cuil Burn to the W the unplanted hillside carries good, permanent pasture.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Lochhill, long cairn, 5.75km to NE

Redbank, cropmark ditches, 4.25km to SE

Pict's Knowe, possible henge, 11km to NNE

Monument context: As at Lochhill, excavation of an apparently insignificant site has revealed a complex history of use; surviving features at the two cairns are however, very different. The initial activity on both sites seems to have been the digging of three large pits, the outer two holding D-shaped split tree trunks, their flat faces inwards. This is a primary phase found, over a wide geographical area, from Fussell's Lodge, Wiltshire, to Streethouse in Cleveland, Dalladies in Kincardineshire and Dooley's Cairn in Co. Antrim, while at many other sites a similar two post arrangement occurs. Of particular interest at Slewcairn is the evidence for the rotting of the posts before the deposition of the mortuary chamber fill, a situation apparently in conflict with the evidence from Haddenham near Cambridge, where axial split oak posts were incorporated into a timber mortuary structure (Shand and Hodder 1990), or with the reconstruction suggested at Street House, Cleveland by Vyner (1984, 165, fig.9). Burning of a mortuary structure at Slewcairn certainly appears to have occurred, but this may have involved a relatively flimsy construction supported by the vertical stone walls, which overlay the ends of the big pits, although not, it seems, the posts themselves. The mortuary structure walls appear to articulate smoothly with the facade stones, and they also align with the platform to the S, and with the northern two of the four vertical pillars, which Masters has suggested may have formed a porch at the S end of the structure. Walls and stone platforms to the S are said to have been constructed simultaneously with the cairn, but as the walls were only 0.3m in height this linkage presumably refers to basal layers of cairn stone only. At this level the cairn was composed of a stone and soil mix, in contrast to the pure stone of the upper levels. This low level cairn may thus have co-existed with a timber mortuary house and exposed platform. In comparison, the long cairn at Streethouse may never have been built higher than two layers of stone. The rear enclosure at Streethouse, 8m long by 6.6m - 7.6m broad, enclosing areas of pavement, closely matches the dimensions of the tail end of Slewcairn, where the final 8m, S of the central structure, splayed from 6m to 9m in breadth. The change of alignment of the E wall to meet the facade suggests that the cairn was constructed from the tail end first.

The central stone setting with its lateral approach passage may best be regarded as a feature remodelled

over time, in the same way as the stone porch at Lochhill was converted into a chamber. The N pair of orthostats at Slewcairn can, as Masters suggests, be seen as portals to the mortuary structure, similar to the two posts at the end of the Dalladies structure, and perhaps also the pair of slabs at the rear of the chamber at Dooley's Cairn. The portals at Slewcairn and at Dooley's Cairn were then both converted into chambers by the addition of both slabs and dry walling (Collins 1976). In each case the conversion transformed the structure into an acceptable version of a local 'court cairn', with deep, lobster-claw facade at Dooley's Cairn, but lateral articulation by means of a passage at Slewcairn. It should, however, also be noted that the S pair of orthostats at Slewcairn are asymmetrical, and that the SE pillar forms a pair with the stone standing to the S of the paved area. Each stone is set behind a recumbent slab delimiting the pavement. The stones are 4m apart, exactly the same as the distance between the pits of the mortuary structure.

Firing of the mortuary chamber was followed by an infilling of the space with small boulders, and, presumably shortly thereafter, by the addition of cairn stone to seal the whole. Closure of the 'entrance' by the laying of a fan like arrangement of slabs similar to those at more obviously accessible chambers such as Mid Gleniron emphasises the symbolic nature of such sealing, since actual access was no longer possible at Slewcairn. The blocking overlay a few cord ornamented sherds besides the mass of plain ones, and post dated partial collapse of the facade. It is likely to have been contemporary with the addition of slabs along the side walls of the cairn, which soil accumulation showed to be a considerably later activity than original construction. These slabs were themselves slipping from position when masked in a covering of small boulders. While such material might have been suggested to be tumble from an originally much higher cairn, comparable perhaps to cairns in upper Nithsdale, such as Capenoch, the continuation of the feature around the N end of the cairn, extending in a smooth curve for 1m beyond the horns, supports the thesis of deliberate addition. These stones presumably sealed the hollow containing impressed pottery on the W side of the cairn.

The location of Slewcairn at the head of a fertile valley with well drained soils and at the junction with the contrasting upland landscape is a classic one for neolithic cairns. The social context is supplemented by the accessible sites of Lochhill and Redbank, on different slopes around Criffel; the loss of other sites seems highly probable, given the problems of identification at the recognised monuments. Direct contact could most obviously be made with the Solway coast and the flat lands between Caulkerbush and Southernness Point. The view from the cairn takes in the Cumbrian coast and mountains, emphasising the importance of the link with the axe factories there (see below).

Artefact context:

Pottery from the forecourt was in an extremely fragmentary condition, which links it with the cord-ornamented sherds found in a better protected location, a hollow beside the cairn, perhaps a secondary deposit. The plain wares were presumably of Western neolithic type. The condition of the undecorated sherds from the pavement is not described. This assemblage together with that from Lochhill, represents the only find of neolithic pottery between Cairnholy, over 50km to the W and Annandale finds, from Kirkburn and Beckton, 26km to the NE.

Lithic finds from the area are also rare, apart from presumed mesolithic assemblages, including microliths, from the old shoreline behind Southernness Point, 6km to the SSE. The four leaf shaped arrowheads and other tools from the cairn are thus without local comparanda.

Axes: A set of three large 'Cumbrian Clubs' from the farm of Bogue Knowe, or Whitecroft, 2.5km SW of the long cairn, were donated to the NMAS in 1902 (Ritchie and Scott 1989 KRK 16, 17, 18; Fell 1964, 53). They measure 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ " (225mm), 7" (178mm) and 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (159mm) in length respectively, and were apparently found together in the 1880s when a drain was being dug (McDiarmid 1895, 27). A smaller axe 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ " (130mm) long, from Clonyard, 1km further S, was exhibited in 1887 (TDGNHAS 5 1887, 76), as were two 'celts' from Kells, 5km SSE of the long cairn, in 1896 (TDGNHAS 13 1897, 27).

A fine Class I jadeite axe, 226mm x 107mm, the widest of its class, was found in the late 18th century on the estate of Mains of Southwick when rocks were being blown up in the course of land clearance (Smith 1963, 166, no.53). An account of its discovery is given in a letter by Lady S. Riddell dated 1779, published in *Archaeologia* VII 1785, p.414-7: 'The stone in question was lying when found in a sort of cavity in the large one that was blasted'. (See Category C:12). Southwick House is 4km S of Slewcairn.

Prehistoric landscape: Slewcairn hill, now forested, carried a complex of prehistoric remains, mostly 400m - 600m E of the long cairn and out of its view. The following sites are listed:

1. NX 96SW 5. A hut circle, 7m in internal diameter, beside the Mid Burn at NX 9299 6173.
2. NX 96SW 2. A cairn, 15m in diameter by 1.2m in height, 170m W of (1) at NX 9270 6131 (Yates 1984, 142, SK 56).
3. NX 96SW 4. A cairn, 10m in diameter by 1.0m in height 140m SW of (2) at NX 9284 6143 (Yates 1984, 142, SK 55).
4. NX 96SW 3. c 20 small cairns SW of (3) (RCAHMS 1914, 74, no.125).
5. c 12 small cairns, 200m N of the long cairn (RCAHMS 1914, 74, no.126).
6. NX 96SW 6 and 7. Other groups of small cairns SE of Mid Burn, 700 - 800m S and SE of the long cairn (RCAHMS 1914, 73, NO.124).

Douglas Cairn on the summit of Criffel (569m OD), 3km E of Slewcairn, was said in 1984 to be 'still quite substantial measuring c 1.4m in height' (Yates 1984, 141, SK 54).

Archaeological interpretations: As discussed above (History of site) the cairn was difficult to distinguish above peat encroachment before excavation. F.R. Coles described two lambing pens on its surface as 'peculiarly built graves', and noted suggestions of another possible 'kistvaen' at the robbing hollow near the rear of the cairn (1897, 16). The RCAHMS regarded the cairn as being so low in elevation that they considered that no chamber could still be concealed (1914, xxv). Childe, however, presumed stone built cairns to be megalithic, and mapped this example as a 'Solway cairn' (1946, 5 fig.1). Henshall remarked on its small size and low elevation in comparison with the other trapezoidal long cairns in the SW (1972, 160). Excavation, and the discovery of a mortuary structure directly comparable to that at the recently excavated long barrow at Dalladies, enabled Masters to place the site as a 'western outlier of the non-megalithic barrow series of eastern and southern Britain' (1981(b), 168). He regarded the mixture of features, the 'western' orthostatic facade and stone kerb and the 'eastern' timber posts and mortuary structure, as evidence for a sharing of traditions, partly as a reflection of the materials available, but also probably involving developments over a long time span (1984, 72). Kinnes, recognising the common linkages which exist between megalithic and non-megalithic structural forms, such as forecourts and segmentary construction, drew attention to the use of stone in the mortuary arrangements at Slewcairn and the echoes of Yorkshire facade trenches reproduced in the prolific deposition of flint and pottery in the forecourt here (1985, 34, 36). Vyner (1986, 13) pointed a contrast between the primary reliance on wood at Lochhill, and the use of stone as 'the dominant constructional material' at Slewcairn; the combination here of mortuary structure and stone chamber was of particular interest.

Reconsideration has been given to the structural sequence at Slewcairn by Kinnes (1992(a), (b)) and Scott (1992). Scott suggests the first phase timber posts to have constituted a raised platform for the exposure of corpses; in the second phase stone was employed, as a more permanent material, demonstrating a merging into the Clyde series traditions. Kinnes, on the other hand, emphasises continued lateral accessibility of the slab built mortuary chamber, a priority which may explain construction of the 'unique' lateral passage. Kinnes places the burning of the mortuary chamber in a period post-dating addition of the outer slab revetments to the mound itself, which, as noted above, post-dated the original boulder kerb by a considerable period of time (Kinnes 1992, (b), 46). Lateral access to the chamber would thus have been maintained over a long period.

Fig. VI:2:1 Slewcairn, after Masters c 1977
(outline from Henshall 1972)

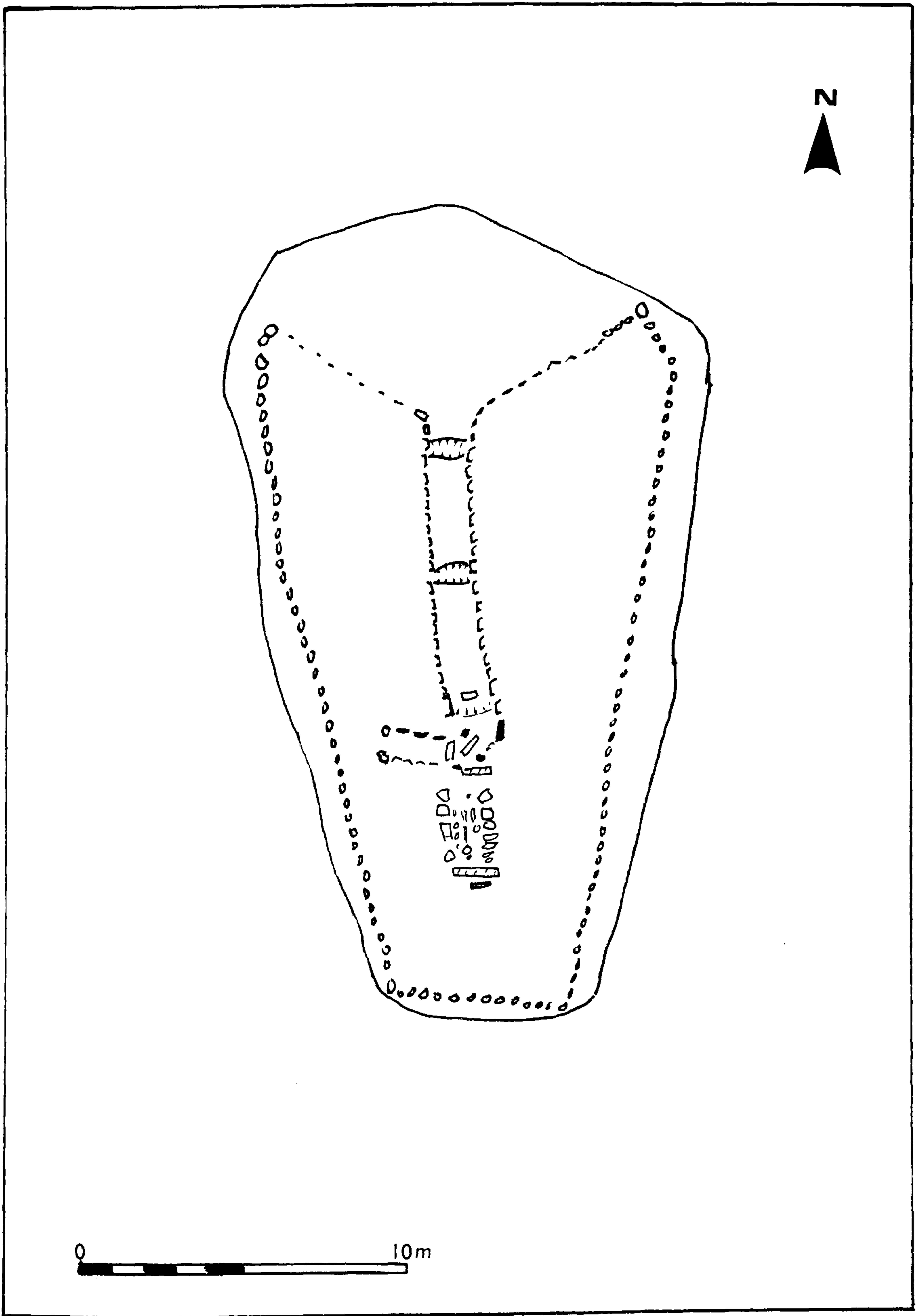
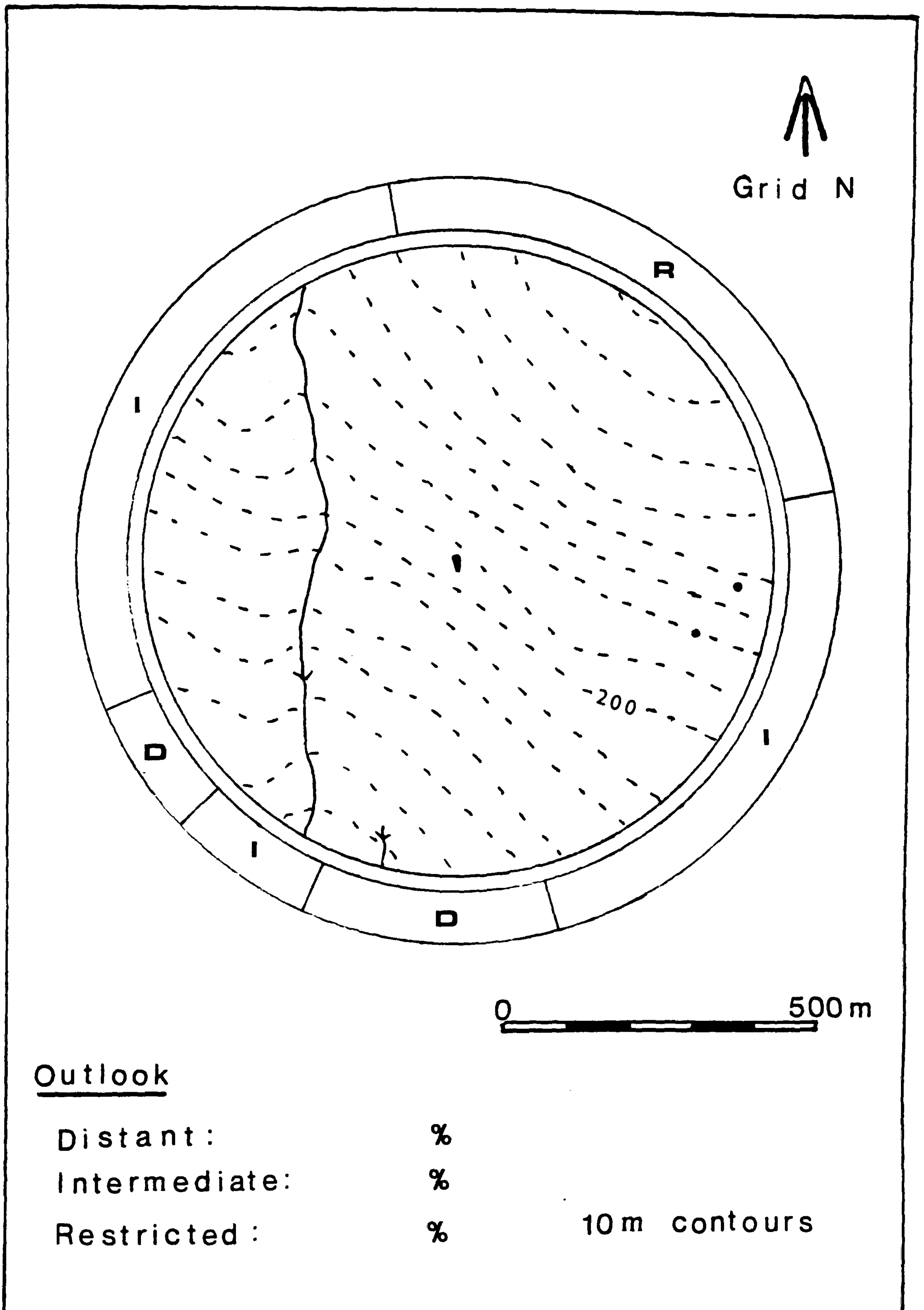


Fig. VI:2:2 Situation and Outlook: Slewcairn



VI:3 Lochhill KRK 14
Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 96NE 24
NX 9689 6506
48m OD

Location: 1km S of New Abbey, 500m S of Lochhill farm
steading, 300m N of Loch Kindar on the NW slope of Loch Hill
(70m OD)

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn with facades (2), timber
mortuary structure and stone chamber.

Status: Category A. Excavated and removed.

Outline: A short trapezoidal cairn with gently curving
orthostatic facade and small axial chamber set directly in
front of an earlier curving timber facade and axial
mortuary structure.

Orientation: NE - SW

Dimensions: Length: 25m overall; 21m after
excavation
Breadth: 14m - 6m
Max. height: 1.7m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:1.8 before excavation
1:1.5 after excavation

Excavation: The cairn was totally excavated and removed by
L.J. Masters in 1969-1971. See: DES 1969, 29-30; 1970, 29-
30; Masters 1973; 1981(b)

History of site: Despite its location in a cultivated field
the site was first reported only in 1968 (DES 1968, 25). It
had, however, already been robbed in the area of the
chamber, the rear part of which had been emptied. Siting of
the cairn to lie across the slope of the hill had resulted in
an accumulation of soil along the uphill SE side and much of
this kerb had been ploughed away probably inadvertently.
The cairn horns or corners on either side of the facade were
absent, presumably having been low and vulnerable, and
their shape cannot be reconstructed. The cairn was grass-
grown, but still steep sided. Excavation has removed all
traces of the cairn, and in 1991 the site could be
identified only as a slight hollow terraced into the
slope.

Description:

Kerb: The kerb consisted of a crude wall of granite
boulders and blocks under 1m in height, which included one
section along the SE side of the tail built in a post-and-
panel technique. There was little or no added revetment
stone, but at one point there were indications of collapse
and subsequent buttressing of the wall. At the proximal end

the NW kerb consisted of two parallel walls up to 1m apart standing to a height of 0.75m with no sign of collapse. The equivalent portion of the SE wall had been destroyed. The inner of the two walls commenced 1.5m from the outer post of the timber facade and ran for c 5.5m before curving to the S as if to enclose the mortuary structure. The outer wall had been destroyed at the N corner, but ran parallel to the inner, curving inwards, before resuming its SW course to the tail on the sole kerb line. The kerb continued across the tail of the cairn in a straightish line. A burning layer was observed under the wall on the SE side only.

Facades: A facade of partially overlapping slabs of granite, all under 1m in height, survived for c 3m SE of the chamber and c 4m to the NW, where it consisted of five slabs. There were indications that a wall had originally stood on top of the stones. The outer end of the SE half of the facade had been destroyed, and the same may be true at the NW where the facade terminated 2.5m within the line of the kerb. The side walls of the chamber, 1.2m apart, overlapped the central stones of the facade.

The timber facade was revealed by excavation as a line of post pits stretching for 6m on either side of a central trench, 2.5m long, set across the NE end of the mortuary structure. This central trench had held four posts, similar in size and spacing to six posts in the post pits to either side. The space between the two centre posts was 0.6m. There was no evidence as to whether these posts had been linked at an upper level. The fillings of the post sockets and upper packing stones showed traces of burning, and the facade appeared to have been burnt down at the same time as the mortuary structure. The post pits were then sealed under cairn stones showing no signs of burning, but there was no indication of the length of time that passed before their addition. The gently curving, slightly asymmetric line of the facade was echoed in the layout of the later orthostatic facade line.

Forecourt: Careful blocking of the forecourt with split and rounded boulders similar to the blockings at Mid Gleniron and Cairnholy I, only survived in the N half of the forecourt and across the chamber mouth. The extent of the blocking is not shown on the excavation plan (Masters 1973, fig.1), but the earlier cairn plan (Henshall 1972, 457) suggests that it extended for c 3m in front of the orthostatic facade. Bark was found under and between the blocking stones.

No such blocking was found in front of the timber facade. The four upright slabs which formed the inner part of the stone chamber may have stood in this first forecourt acting as a porch; they were supported by a mound of upcast suggested to have come from the facade trench. Pottery finds from a robbing hollow adjacent to the structure were thought likely to have been disturbed from the chamber, and may therefore be regarded as forecourt deposits comparable to those found near the centre of the facade at Slewcairn and in facade trenches at Street House and other

Yorkshire cairns. Flint and pottery occurred among cairn stones in the same area.

Cairn: The cairn consisted of granite boulders, such as could have been collected in the vicinity, the basal layer embedded in a Brown Forest Soil. Bark was found at some points among cairn stones. The recovery of sherds of Late Northern beaker from the stones along the spine of the cairn suggests that by the early second millennium bc the cairn was not significantly higher than when excavated. In the light of recent excavation results at Mid Gleniron (Corcoran 1969(a)), excavation was directed towards the recognition of internal cairn structures, and, at an early stage, the existence of an earlier round cairn, 8m in diameter, towards the back of the long cairn, was suspected. The existence of such a feature was not, however, confirmed. The incurving line of the NW kerb might have suggested a primary heel-shaped cairn enclosing the mortuary structure, and fronted by the timber facade, but no evidence for this phasing was recovered. Equally no break in construction was revealed at the line of the timber facade which was sealed under undifferentiated cairn material.

Chamber: The axial chamber, 2m in length, splayed from 0.75m broad at the backstone, to 1.20m at the facade. As mentioned above two pairs of side stones were set into a mound of upcast, perhaps from the filling of the timber facade trench, while the backstone, a third orthostat on the SE side of the chamber, and a length of dry walling on the NW were on top of the upcast, suggesting later addition. No roof survived *in situ*, although before the chamber was emptied the presence of collapsed roofing material over the filling was noted.

The chamber had been disturbed and the back portion robbed. The only finds from it were three sherds of undecorated neolithic pottery. A further 180 sherds in a robber trench to the S of the chamber may have been cleared out of it.

Mortuary structure: A rectangular area measuring 7.50m x c 1.40m had been dug 0.12m into the pre-cairn soil, its sides lined with pieces of granite topped by granite boulders, making a wall 0.3m in height. Pieces of birch bark measuring up to 1.0m x 0.4m were found under and in this walling. The walls overlay the ends of three large pits, c 1.4m long x 0.75m in depth, between them. The two end pits, 1.2m broad, had each held a D-shaped split timber, 0.90m in diameter, the flat sides inwards. The slightly narrower centre pit (B) had held two posts, 0.30m and 0.25m in diameter. In the 2m space between Pit B and the proximal Pit A were the remains of a burnt floor of oak planks. burning of this structure had affected the sockets of the posts both in the mortuary structure and in the facade trench, where remains of burnt timbers were found. Small amounts of cremated bone were found on the burnt planks and among the stones filling the mortuary structure, with one piece of skull as the only recognisable fragment. The stones

were thrown into the mortuary structure while it was still burning, and they were intermixed with pieces of burnt wood. A plank from the mortuary structure gave a date of 3120 ± 105bc - I 6309.

Excavation finds: Cremated bone was found only in the mortuary structure, in small amounts, as described above.

Pottery finds were mostly from a disturbed context in a robbing hollow on the S side of the chamber, where over 180 sherds of undecorated pottery, representing at least nine vessels were found. Some of the vessels were carinated and all the rim forms were simple, and the pottery can presumably be classified under the Grimston Ware heading. Three similar sherds were found in the chamber, and it seemed probable that the remainder of the finds had been cleared out of the same repository. One undecorated sherd was also found in the upper layers of the long cairn near the chamber.

Beaker sherds, from one beaker of Late Northern type, were found mixed with stones near the top of the cairn midway along its central axis.

Flint and chert chips and a fragment of polished flint were found in the upper layers of the cairn, near the chamber.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 1.7km from the present shoreline, but only 550m from the 10m contour around a former inlet of the sea.

Distance from water: 300m from Loch Kindar to the S and from the Sheep Burn to the W, draining from the Loch to the New Abbey Pow, 700m to the N.

General topography: A strip of undulating farming land between Criffel and the Nith opens out to the N onto the level carse lands around the New Abbey Pow.

Situation: The cairn lay along a slight terrace on the side of the hill.

Aspect: NW

Slope: Moderately steep: 10%

Local relief within 500m: 10m - 70m OD

Outlook: Distant: 11% to NE
Intermediate: 56%
Restricted: 33% to SE

Prominence: Local only

Local landmarks: Criffel (569m), 3km to the S, dominates the view.

Solid geology: Granite

Soil: Brown Forest Soil

Land use: Livestock farming

Vegetation: Improved grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Slewcairn, long cairn, 5.75km to SW

Redbank, cropmark ditches, 7.5km to SSW

Pict's Knowe, possible henge, 7km to N

Monument context: The cairn is a close match in size and shape to Slewcairn, and the fact that these neighbouring cairns have been examined by the same excavator allows for direct comparisons and contrasts to be drawn between them. Unfortunately only brief excavation reports are available, and various structural and stratigraphic questions, some raised only by the results of the second excavation at Slewcairn, remain unresolved.

For example, excavation at Lochhill presented the mortuary structure elements as an integral whole, with wooden features destroyed by fire. At Slewcairn it was clear that the timbers in the three axial pits had rotted away before the burning of the mortuary structure occurred. The fillings of the post sockets at Lochhill showed traces of burning, but 'burnt timbers' are only mentioned in relation to the facade posts (DES 1970, 29), and it is not clear whether the burnt material in the central post sockets could have been of later deposition, as at Slewcairn. Certainly burnt planks were only found in the front section of the Lochhill mortuary structure, suggesting that the rear post at least was not incorporated in the building.

The timber facade at Lochhill remains a feature unparalleled north of Yorkshire, although two posts at Dalladies could have provided a lintelled entrance to that mortuary structure. At Dooney's Cairn a trench was cut to test for such a feature, without result (Collins 1976), but there are few excavations of chambered cairns so thorough that sub-cairn postholes might not have escaped detection. It is clear, however, from the cropmark evidence from around Dumfries, notably at Holywood II, N cursus, and at Fourmerkland (VI: b and e), that timber monuments were a familiar component of the neolithic around the Nith Estuary. It is perhaps the more unexpected to find the long barrow feature of an entrance avenue of posts (cf Streethouse; Kilham) here translated into a stone porch in conjunction with the timber facade. The choice of materials may suggest that already, by c 3000 bc, stone chambers and antechambers, as at Cairnholy, were being built in the area.

There is no evidence from Lochhill to indicate the

length of time involved between phases. If the timber facade was erected at the same time as the large posts, little time can have elapsed from initial activity on the site to the burning of facade and mortuary structure. On the whole it may seem more probable to suppose the facade to have been secondary to the large posts and contemporary with the cutting of the stone lined mortuary structure. The close match between the line of the two facades suggests that the stone version was built shortly after the burning down of the timber one. This would place construction of the stone chamber shortly after the burning episode. Given the date of 2910 ± 115 bc from below an orthostat of a simple megalithic chamber at Glenvoidean (Marshall and Taylor 1977), it would seem acceptable to see the megalithic style being adopted early in the third millennium. Presumably the trapezoidal cairn, again echoed at Glenvoidean, dates to the time of the construction of the stone facade. The double kerb line on the N side, however, coupled with severe destruction on the S side, suggests some phasing of cairn construction. Although no internal cairn division was observable on excavation, it seems possible that the timber facade coincided with construction of an inner cairn, later extended.

The location of Lochhill long cairn above the estuary of the New Abbey Pow at the mouth of the Nith raises the possibility of direct connection with the local coastal mesolithic. Relevant finds come mainly from further south, near Southernness point, although chert implements from Millhill to the N of New Abbey (at NX 964 672) have been recorded (DES 1966, 32). The sea is said to have still been 1-2km inland of the present coastline at Southernness in 3000 bc (Jardine and Morrison 1976), suggesting that no disruption of mesolithic subsistence patterns need have occurred when the mortuary structure, with its date of 3120 ± 105 bc was built. Although Williams (1989, 511-2) has rejected this single date as being derived from wood that had not been pre-treated, the reading is in such good agreement with two dates on charcoal from the burnt mortuary structure at Dooley's Cairn, Co. Antrim of 2990 ± 50 bc and 3200 ± 90 bc (Collins 1976) that it must be regarded as being within an acceptable range.

Artefact context: The pottery from the excavation has not been illustrated, but the lack of decoration and presence of carination and of simple rims suggest a Grimston bowl tradition.

The Late Northern Beaker sherds from surface cairn stones probably belong to Burgess' Step 5 (Ritchie and Shepherd 1973, 21).

An axe from New Abbey, 5.1" (130mm) in length, is in the Hunterian (B 1951 -884).

A very large Group VI roughout, 317mm x 102mm x 56mm, was found in 1977 when digging a drain beside Roadside Smithy (NX 981 638), 2.2km SE of Lochhill (DES 1977, 41).

An ovoid macehead was found on Barbeth the neighbouring farm to the NW of Lochhill, and a small pestle macehead comes from Woodside 3.5km to the N. Two axehammers are known from New Abbey parish (Roe 1967, 77, nos.108-11).

A biconical incense cup from New Abbey is in the Hunterian (TDGNHAS 30 1952).

Prehistoric landscape:

Cairns

1. Peter's Cairn, 2.2km N of Lochhill (NX 974 673), no longer surviving, must have had a view of Lochhill cairn (Yates 1984, 141, SK 51).

2. Corbelly North, 2.2km SSE of Lochhill (NX 9811 6317) was removed in c 1830, when a polished granite ball, 3" in diameter was found (ibid. 5K 52).

3. Corbelly South, 160m S of (2) (NX 9813 6301), also totally removed, yielded human bones and a metal axehead (ibid. SK 53).

4. Douglas' Cairn, on the summit of Criffel (NX 957 619) is within view of Lochhill, 3.4km to the N (ibid. SK 54).

A small cairnfield containing round and oval cairns, some kerbed, on Auchenfad Hill (NX 950 682), 3.5km NW of Lochhill, was subject to excavation after forestry ploughing (DES 1965, 26; 1966, 29; 1967, 29). In one of these mounds some cremated bone was found, and among the excavated material an imperforate 'dummy' axe was recovered. There may be an indication here of less monumental funerary ritual serving the needs of some communities.

Archaeological interpretations: Excavation was undertaken at Lochhill with the aim of testing Piggott's suggestion (1954, 271) that the apparently unchambered long mounds of northern Britain might be the counterparts, in stony country, of the unchambered long barrows of England (Masters 1973, 96). Masters felt able to interpret the results as showing phased development, the early stage being related to the eastern barrows, while a later conversion brought the cairn into the orbit of the Clyde cairn traditions. The earliness of the date obtained from the mortuary structure was suggested to be evidence of the primacy of the former context in the region, offering a possible origin for the adoption of long cairns in the Clyde area (ibid, p.100). Kinnes advocated caution in the construction of such sequences when only two sites, Lochhill and Dooley's Cairn, demonstrated the progression (1981, 84). Subsequently he has accepted that the same order of development from non-megalithic to megalithic is seen at Wayland's Smithy and at Gwernvale (1985, 34). In 1992 Kinnes has published full reconsideration both of Lochhill and of the non-megalithic long barrow tradition in Britain, concluding in relation to the former that 'it is by no means certain that (the remodelling of the cairn)

represents any impact of separate megalithic tradition and might be no more than straightforward restructuring' (1992 (b), 116). His overall emphasis is on 'the essential complexity of embedded and manipulated traditions' (1992 (a), 103).

Developing perceptions have accentuated the problems of phasing of construction stages. Masters had originally envisaged the large pits as being integral to the mortuary structure, with burning of both elements taking place in conjunction with the burning of the facade. Excavation at Slewcairn demonstrated the probable distinction between the pit defined phase and the stone lined mortuary structure, a sequence observable elsewhere (eg. Dalladies) and now generally accepted for Lochhill (eg. Kinnes 1992 (b), 46-7). Scott (1992) would see this first phase as involving a high exposure platform for corpses. Kinnes, however, supposes the timber facade to be a primary feature, contemporary with the large post holes, although not burnt down until the time of the firing of the rebuilt chamber, subsequent to removal of the large posts. He comments that Lochhill is unusual in having a facade but no defined enclosure (1992(b), 89). Scott, while apparently accepting the contemporaneity of exposure platform and facade, despite rejection of such a conjunction at Street House (1992, 110-3), suggests a phased process of cairn building, the earlier stage, presumably represented by the inner kerb, perhaps intended to cover the wooden structures only.

Fig. VI:3:1 Lochhill, after Masters 1973
(outline from Henshall 1972)

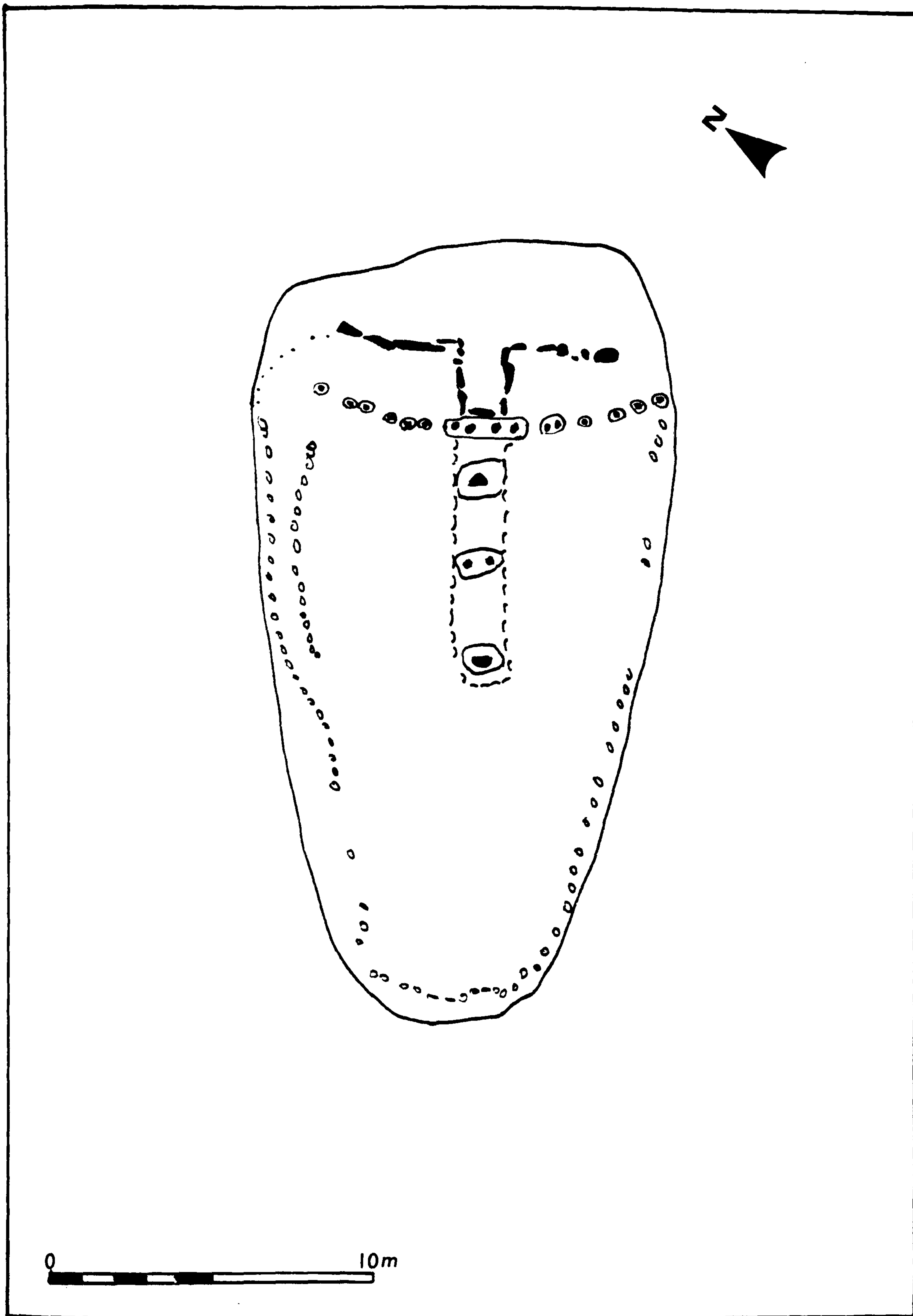
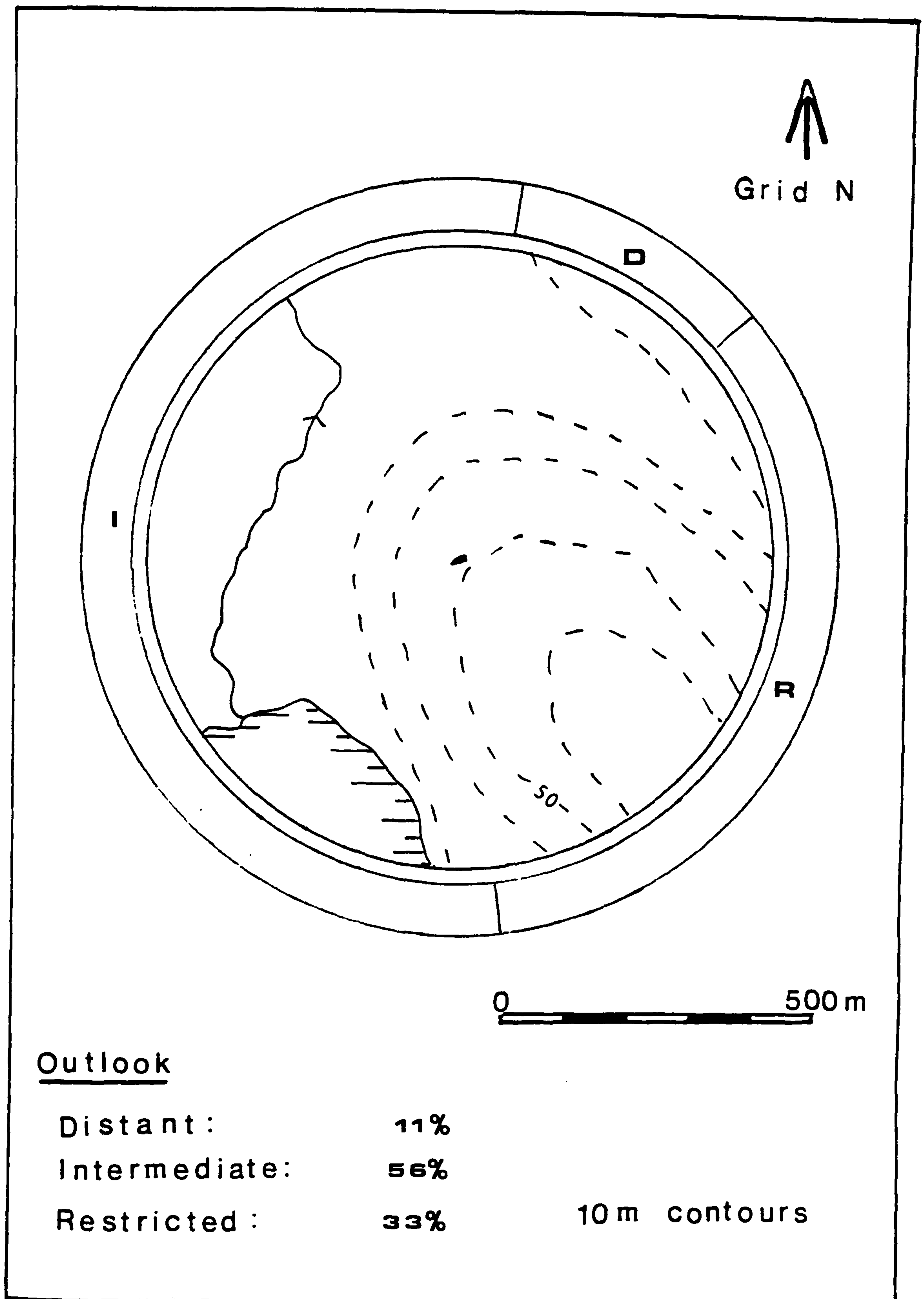


Fig. VI:3:2 Situation and Outlook: Lochhill



VI:4 Redbank, Kirkcudbright NX 95NE 6
Nithsdale District NX 9503 5782 - 9497 5796
Dumfries and Galloway Region 120 - 135m OD

Location: 2.5km ENE of Caulkerbush, 300m NE of Redbank farm
steading, on the S end of Airdrie Hill

Type: Cropmark parallel ditches, possibly a bank barrow

Status: Category B. A cropmark site of uncertain
status

Outline: A pair of ditches run parallel downslope from a
field wall in a gentle S-curve, to converge slightly on
either side of a feature at their SE end.

Orientation: SE - NW

Dimensions: Length: c 150m
Breadth: c 20m between 3m ditches,
narrowing to c 10m at the SE end

History of site and present condition: The site is recorded
in one aerial photograph taken by Professor B. Jones of
Manchester University (NMRS: A 53 771). If originally
mounded, the site must have already been much reduced when
the field wall was built across its NW end, sometime before
1854 (the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map). This wall shows a slight
indication of an undulation as it crosses the cropmark, and
in the field of rough grazing NW of this wall there is an
even less certain impression of raised ground for a length
of c 17m from the wall. A heap of recent clearance stone 4m
from the wall on the line of the NE ditch includes one long
narrow slab. There is a drop in ground level on the SE side
of the wall, a negative lynchet effect which may suggest
erosion in the area of the cropmark, but, perhaps, enhanced
preservation to the NW.

Description: Transcription of the cropmark suggests a
slightly curving feature c 20m in width between ditches.
The slight rise in the field dyke at 24 - 44m from the NE
corner of the field confirms this dimension. The SW ditch,
on the downslope side of the feature, is the better
recorded, undulations in the ground being perhaps
responsible for differential preservation. At the SE end
the two ditches curve towards each other, and between their
terminals, and parallel to them, is a possible cropmark
feature, like an elongated pit.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 3km from the modern coast line to the S;
1.5km from the 10m contour, perhaps indicating maximum
transgression limits.

Distance from water: The SE end of the cropmark is 30m from the small Redbank Burn.

General topography: Between the granite massif of Airdrie Hill and Criffel, and the undulating boulder clays of the coastal strip, is a band of low hills, 1 - 2km in breadth, on which the ditches appear.

Situation: The features run uphill at a slight angle to the slope.

Aspect: SE

Slope: Moderate: 12%

Local relief, within 500m: 70m - 200m OD

Outlook: Distant: c 60%
Intermediate: -
Restricted: c 40% to N and NW

Prominence: Moderate only; not a skyline feature

Local landmarks: Criffel, 4km to the N is not visible. Extensive distant views take in the coasts and mountains of Cumbria.

Solid geology: Brown Forest Soil, perhaps of no great depth

Soils: Silurian greywackes and shales, carboniferous limestone to the SE, granite to the NW.

Land use: Arable and livestock farming, the present enclosed field system laid out by 1854.

Vegetation: Seeded grass at date of visit (14.4.89). Grain crops when photographed.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Slewcairn, long cairn, 4.25km to NW

Lochhill, long cairn, 7.5km to N

Pict's Knowe, possible henge, 14.5km to N

Monument context: The length and narrowness of the enclosed area exceed that of a normal long barrow, taking the site into the category of cursus or bank barrow. The sinuous curving outline and the situation on a hillslope would be unusual in a cursus, and the slight indications of a central mound favour interpretation as a bank barrow. The visible length of 150m+ is very close to that of Dorset bank barrows, if Maiden Castle is excluded, such as Martin's Down, 183m (Grinsell 1959, 9), and although these are usually straight, local topography may induce variation

here. There is no reason to suppose that the structure of a barrow at Redbank would resemble one in Dorset as stone is amply available here, and a mixed mound would seem more probable. No comparable monuments are known in the north as the bank barrow of the Cleaven Dyke, Perthshire is on a different scale in terms of length and overall breadth. There is, however, a distinct pattern of building long cairns to extreme lengths and in very narrow form, as at Bellshiel Law, Northumberland, 109m x 11m. The local context for this site lies in a group of cursus-related monuments around Dumfries, 20km to the N of Redbank, (VI:ix(a)). These sites demonstrate the local neolithic tradition of ditch digging, responsible also perhaps for the ditched site at Bardennoch in Nithsdale (VI:10) perhaps a smaller long barrow. Overlooking the inner Solway Firth and Cumbrian coast the Redbank site is well placed to absorb influences from a wide background.

Artefact context: Mesolithic flints are commonly collected from the edges of the raised beaches below Redbank (DES 1965-1976, *passim*).

Two small Group VI axes have been found in the same area, on the farms of East Preston and Maxwellfield, 2.5km and 3km SE of Redbank (Ritchie and Scott 1989, KRK 2 and 22). Another axe, possibly of feldspar, was found eroding from the shoreline at Tallowquhairn 5km SE of the site (DES 1969, 30).

Fragments of an N3 beaker and a bone pottery ring were found in a cist with an inhumation at Mainsriddle, 1400m S of Redbank (Ritchie 1970, 144).

Immediate prehistoric landscape: 200m and 300m E of the Mainsriddle beaker cist, mentioned above, deposits of cremated bone have been found (NX 95NW 9). Two cairns, now removed, existed at the base of the slopes, 1.0km and 1.4km S and SE of Redbank (Yates 1984, 142, SK 58, 59); each contained a cist, one with human bone, the other with 'urns' and ashes.

The 1st ed. 6-inch OS map shows a standing stone, not in gothic script, on the summit of a knoll (129m spot height) at NX 9532 5774, 300m SE of the SE end of the ditches. Three standing stones remain 1.2 - 1.5km SW of Redbank (NX 95NW 7 and 8).

In 1795 'a Druidical circle still entire' stood on the farm of Airdrie, 2km ENE of Redbank. Two cists found near this site are mentioned in the same account, one of these, containing an urn, being masonry built. A second 'Druidical temple, which was lately destroyed' standing beside the public road near the centre of Kirkbean parish was probably c 3km E of Redbank (Stat Acct XV, 132).

Linear cropmarks on Cavens at NX 972 584, 2km E of Redbank, have been listed as a possible cursus (NX 95NE 20), but appear to represent right-angled ditches, perhaps part of field systems, rather than parallel ones.

Fig. VI:4:1 Redbank: cropmark transcription

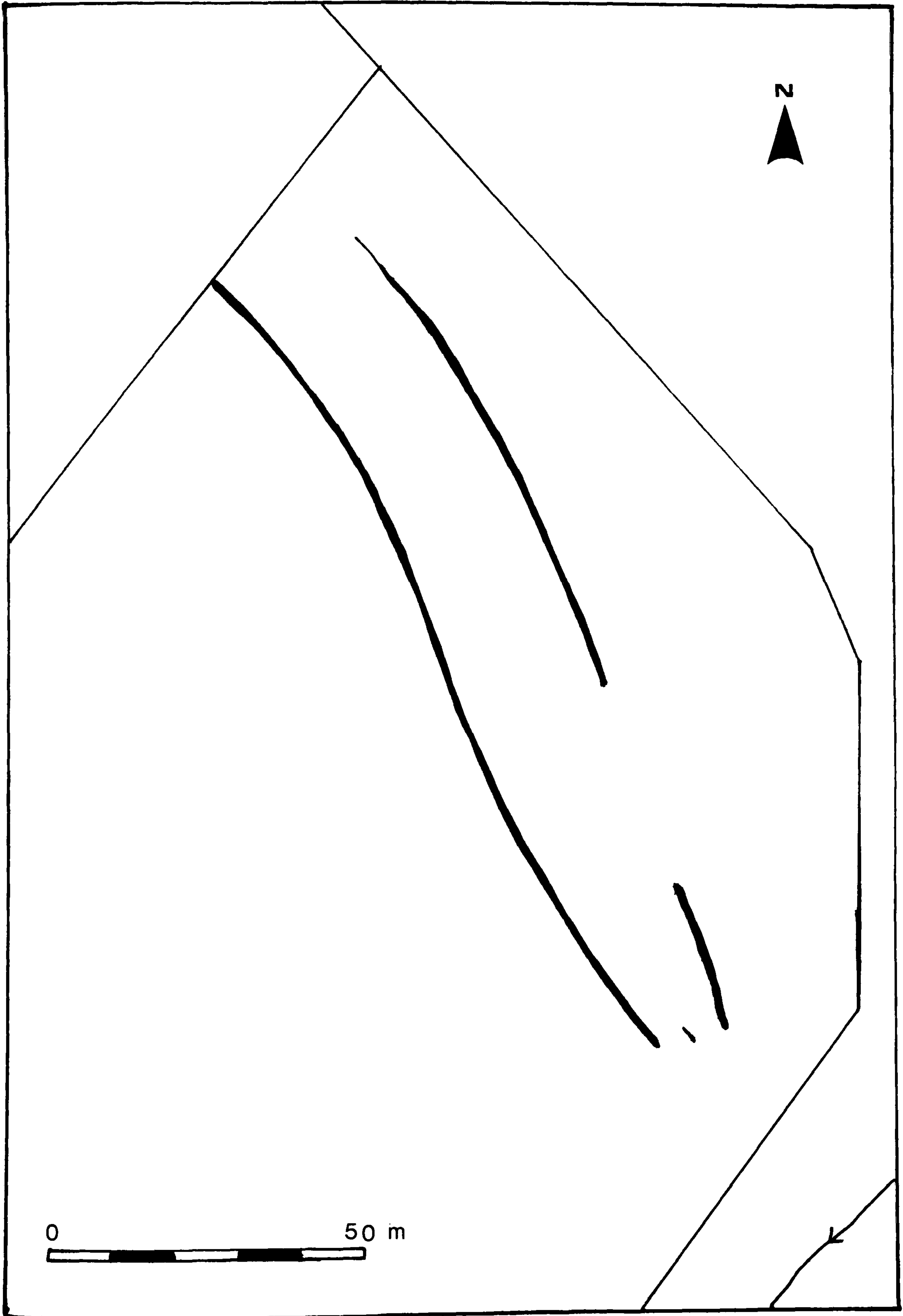
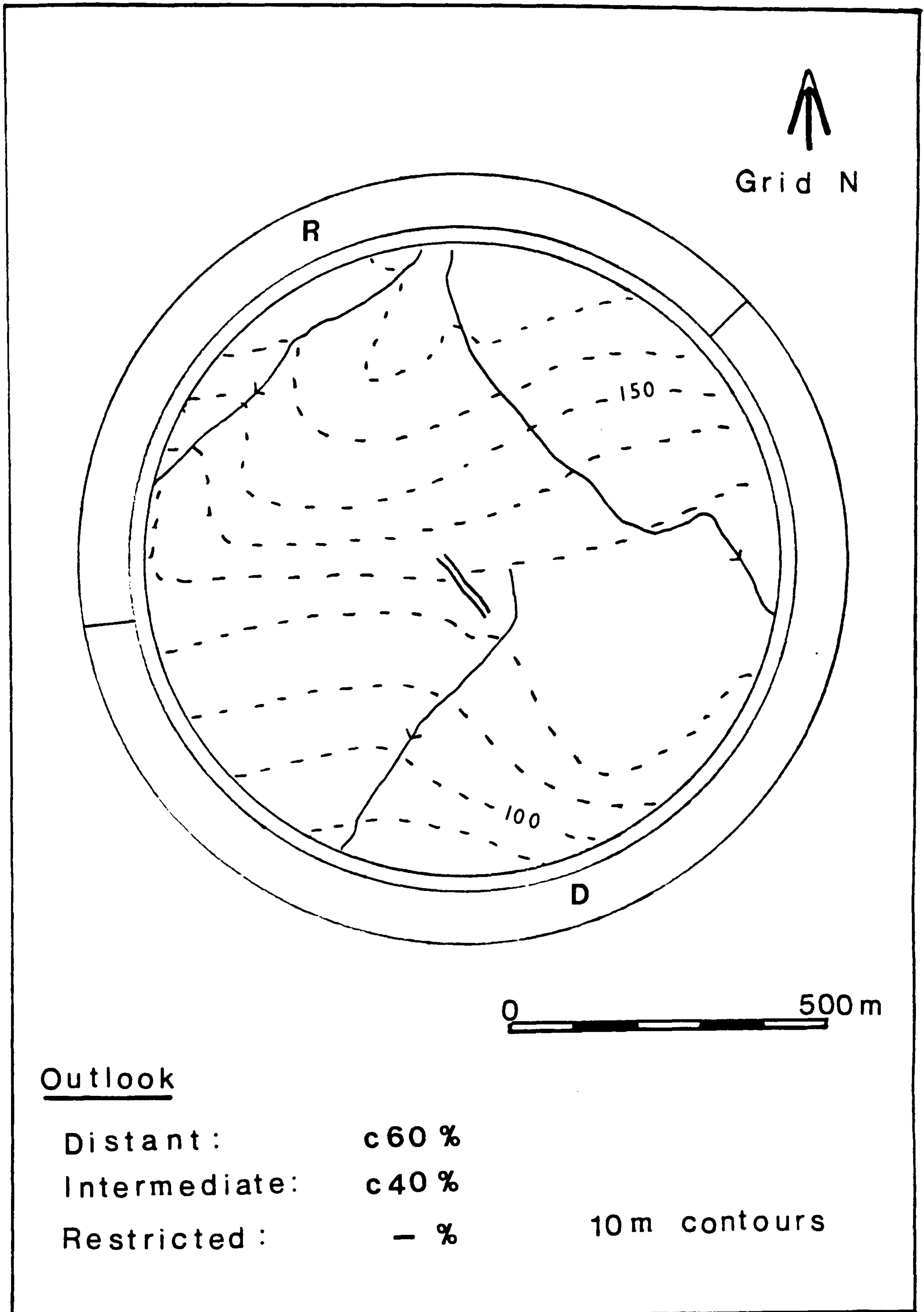


Fig. VI:4:2 Situation and Outlook: Redbank



VI:5 Greenlaw, Kirkcudbright
Stewartry District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 76SE 3
NX 7519 6404
50m OD

Location: Just over 2km NNW of Castle Douglas, 400m SSW of Greenlaw House, on the E side of the A713

Type: Possible long cairn, severely ploughed down

Status: Category C. The original form of this mound is now lost.

Outline: An oval mound, with suggestions of an original elongation or tail

Orientation: NE - SW

<u>Dimensions:</u>	Present	Suggested original
Length:	25m	c 47m
Breadth:	20m	25m max.
Max. height:	1.6m	

History of site and present condition: The mound, in former parkland in front of Greenlaw House, built in 1741, has been vulnerable to both agriculture and landscaping. It has evidently been quarried for stone with hollows dug into its top and sides. It had reached its present appearance when visited by the RCAHMS (1914, 81, no.144). A 'platform' of raised soil around it runs out in a ridge to the SW, suggesting ploughed down mound material, although it could represent merely downwash of soil from the mound. It is now grassed over.

Description: Stone is visible in the eroded top and sides of the mound, suggesting it to be a cairn, although, perhaps, with an admixture of earth.

The sides are steep, especially around the NE end. The surface level falls gradually from NE to SW. The top measures c 13m x 10m.

The 'halo' of soil spreading out for c 4m around the mound reaches a maximum thickness of 0.3m, except to the SW where it forms a 'tail' 0.5m in height and c 16m long. This feature would appear to be a ploughed down mound, perhaps therefore, the tail of a long cairn. The higher NE end of the cairn would have been too massive to warrant destruction.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 11km from the Solway Firth at Kippford

Distance from water: 80m from the Greenlaw Burn to the SE

General topography: Below Loch Ken, 2km to the NW, the Dee Valley broadens out between low hills, its alluvial floor subject to flooding.

Situation: On a level terrace slightly raised above the Greenlaw Burn

Aspect: SW

Slope: Nearly level, with a slight fall to the SE towards the burn

Local relief, within 500m: 45m - 65m OD

Outlook: Distant: 27% to SW
Intermediate: 44%
Restricted: 29%

Prominence: Low, although the height of the mound makes it a noticeable feature on the level terrace.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Brown Forest Soil developed on glacial sands and gravels

Land use: Arable agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

- Slewcairn, long cairn, 17.5km to ESE
- Lochhill, long cairn, 22km to E
- Newton, burial chamber, 23km to SSW

Monument context: Greenlaw falls into a category of oval mounds which it is difficult to classify (see Linge 1987). While the flat top and proximity to a mansion house might encourage interpretation as a motte, recent archaeological opinion has united in preferring to see it as a cairn (see Archaeological Interpretations, below). A round cairn can certainly be reduced to an oval shape by ploughing. In this case, however, the swelling at the SW end of the cairn suggests that, so far from being originally circular, any loss of material has occurred at the axial end of the mound. The suggested interpretation is therefore that this was originally a long mound. Several of the long cairns of the south-west have high heads, and tails robbed down to ground level (Cairn Avel; Capenoch; Drumwhirn). If these cairns had been in arable ground the denuded tails would soon have been ploughed down to the same condition as that on Greenlaw. The reconstruction is speculative, but possible.

A long cairn at Castle Douglas would have been in a relatively isolated location in terms of other monuments of the type. The same is true, however, of Cairn Avel, 43km to the NNE, and the opportunity for a loss of sites in

this dairying country is considerable. There is artefactual evidence for a neolithic presence in the Stewartry.

Artefact context: A good scatter of stone axeheads come from this district. Two probable Group VI axes were listed by Williams (1970, 116) as coming from Castle Douglas, one of which, now in Kirkcudbright Museum (3979), could be the axe from an unidentified 'Brownhill', at Crossmichael, the village 3km N of Greenlaw (Anderson and Black 1878, 398). Two axes come from farms near the Urr Water, one from Grange (NX 79 67), 3km NE of Greenhill (TDGNHAS XVII 1903, 298), the other an adze of Group IX Antrim porcellanite, extremely rare in the south-west, from Kirklandhill, Kirkpatrick Durham (NX 78 69), 5km NE of Greenhill (NMS: AF 699; Ritchie and Scott 1989, 237, KRK 5).

A find of an arrowhead, re-used as a knife or scraper, 49mm x 29mm, from old Carlingwark Loch before 1765, is said to be made of English flint of river type (DES 1991, 16, A. Penman). The findspot, at NX 7722 6125, is 3.5km SSE of Greenlaw.

Two small sherds, possibly of beaker, were found with a food vessel in a cist in a cairn at Mollance (NX 777 663), 3.5km NE of Greenlaw (Ritchie 1970, 144).

Immediate prehistoric landscape: Farming country around Castle Douglas would not be expected to produce a high ratio of surviving prehistoric monuments.

Two standing stones at Ernespie (NX 774 632), 2.5km SE of Greenlaw, are presumably the remains of 'an imperfect circle of upright stones' recorded in the NSA (IV, 153) (RCAHMS 1914, 105, no.202).

Cairns: A number of round cairns are known from within a 5km radius of Greenlaw, in the low hills to the N and E (see Yates 1984, 139-40 nos. SK 42-46).

Blackerne, probably at NX 781 644, 3km E of Greenlaw; a cairn was removed in 1756 and a central cist containing burnt bones, and also a silver armilla, probably Viking, was found (SK 46).

Mollance, NX 777 663, 3.5km NE of Greenlaw; a large round cairn excavated in 1950 enclosed a central polygonal cist with massive, displaced capstone, containing a food vessel and two fragments of possible beaker (SK 45).

A close group of four cairns occur 3.0 - 3.5km N of Greenlaw.

Carlochan Cairn, NX 757 674, a summit cairn, originally 25m in diameter, where a bronze dagger and a pin were recovered in 1776, and a cordoned urn containing an incense cup and cremation in 1975 (SK 44).

Kilnotrie, NX 753 670, a reduced cairn, 32.5m in diameter (SK 45).

Halfern, NX 759 669, now destroyed (SK 43).

Cultam Hill, NX 763 675, a probable 12m diameter cairn (DES 1975, 29).

The ONB records the discovery of stone coffins a century earlier in an 'old Roman Burying Place', a spot which had by then been enclosed and grown with beech trees. This location appears to be an elongated glacial drumlin, 600m NW of Greenlaw, its axis NNW - SSE, the same orientation as other such natural mounds in the vicinity (in contrast to the Greenlaw cairn). It measured 50m x 16m x 1.8m in maximum height at the S end, and was suggested by St. Joseph in 1949 to be a possible long barrow (NX 76SW 78).

Archaeological interpretation: The Kirkcudbright Inventory commented that the mound 'more resembles a cairn than a mote' (1914, 81, no.144), but it was nevertheless mapped as a 'mote' on the 1946 6-inch OS map. In 1963 Ordnance Surveyors preferred to identify it as a cairn (NX 76SE 3), and the site was listed by J.G. Scott in 1969 as an unclassified long cairn (p.324). Henshall disputed this diagnosis and suggested that it could be a natural feature (1972, 457). Yates listed it in his Gazetteer of Bronze Age round cairns in Dumfries and Galloway, although regarding it as 'open to considerable doubt' (1984, 138-9, SK 41). Scott, supporting John Linge's recognition of the existence of a class of large prehistoric barrows 'with a characteristic flattened top', again cited Greenlaw, though pointing out that this flat topped mound was a cairn rather than a barrow (1989, 278).

Fig. VI:5:1 Greenlaw: Plan 1991

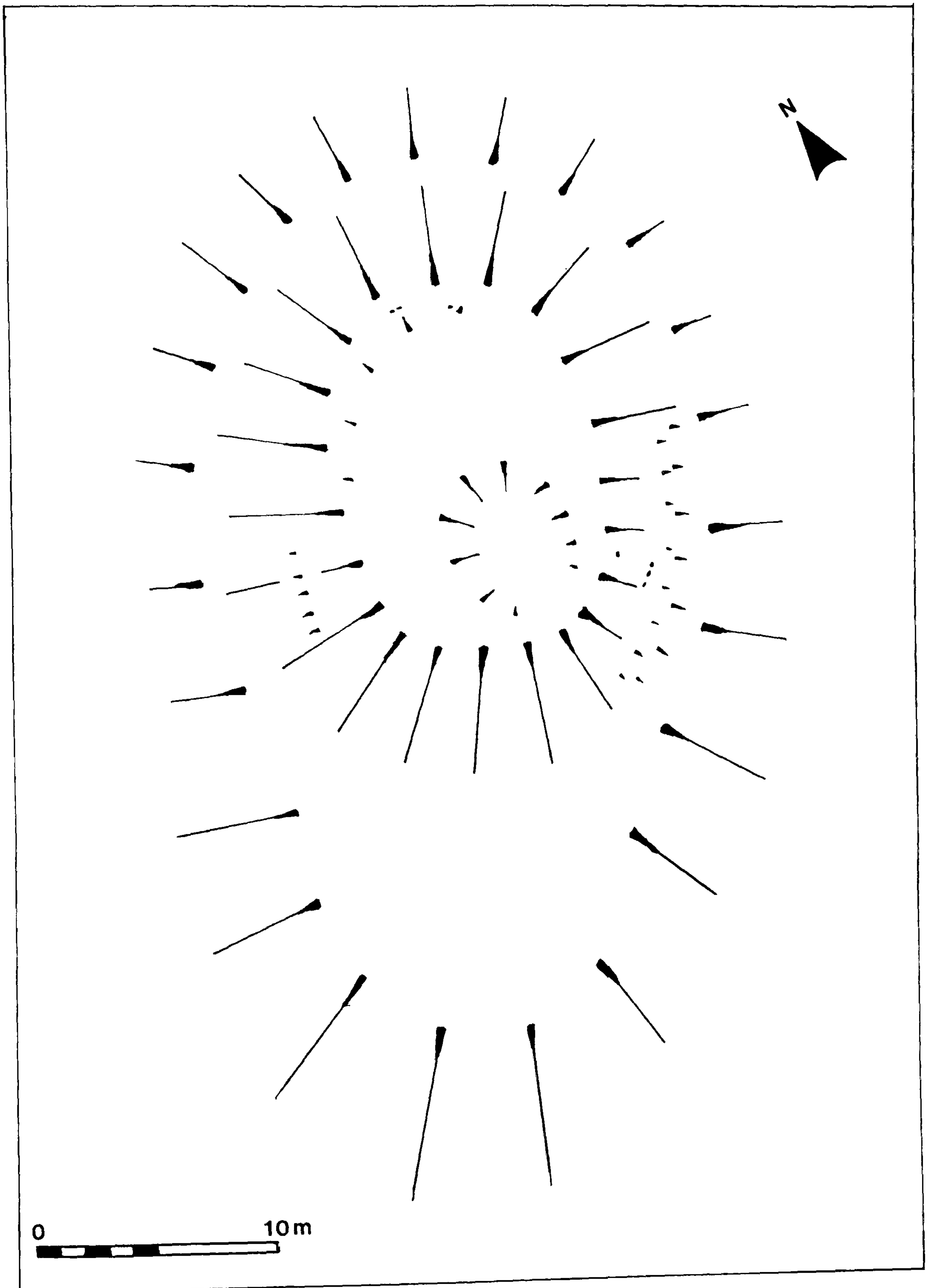


Fig. VI:5:2 Situation and Outlook: Greenlaw

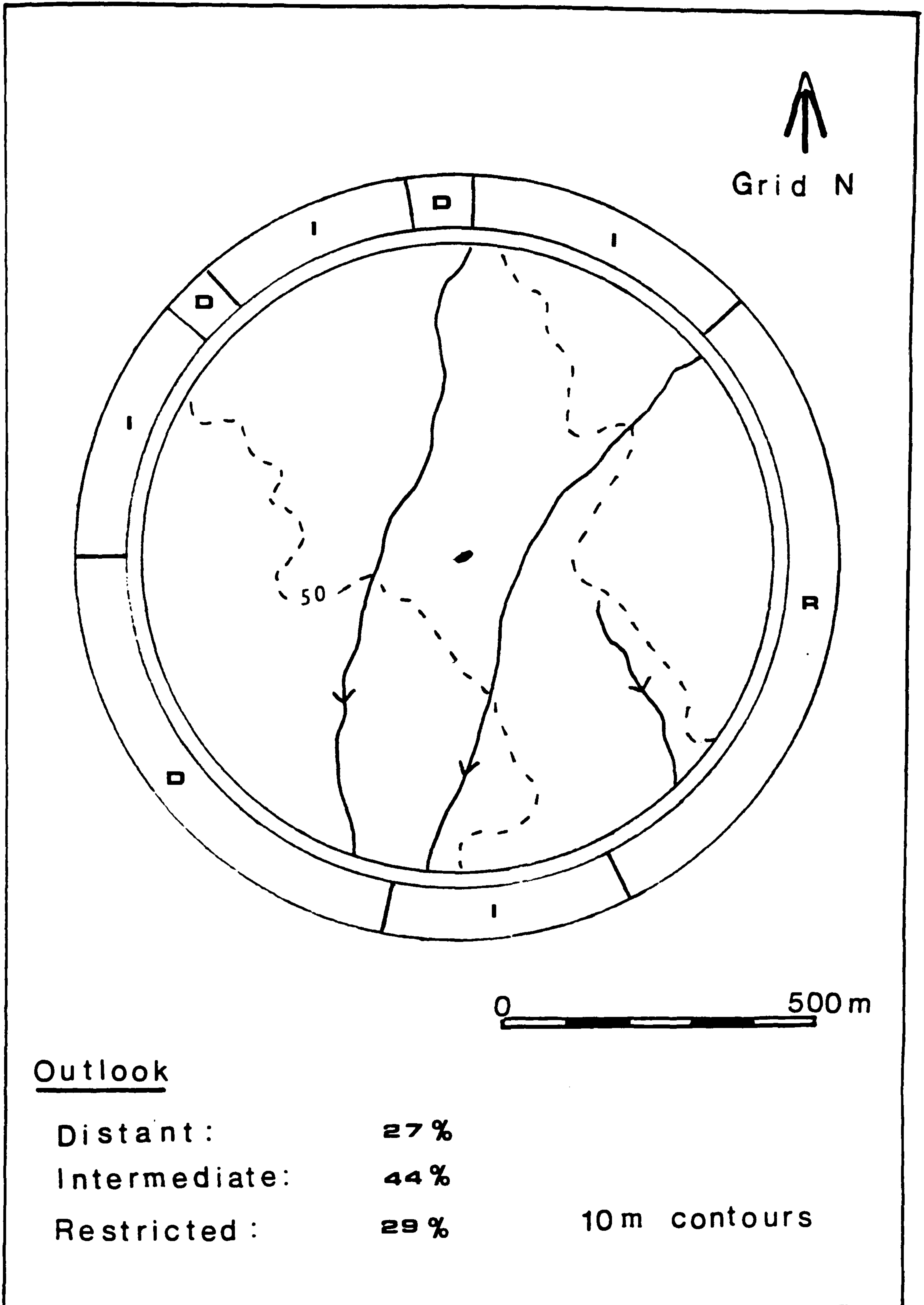
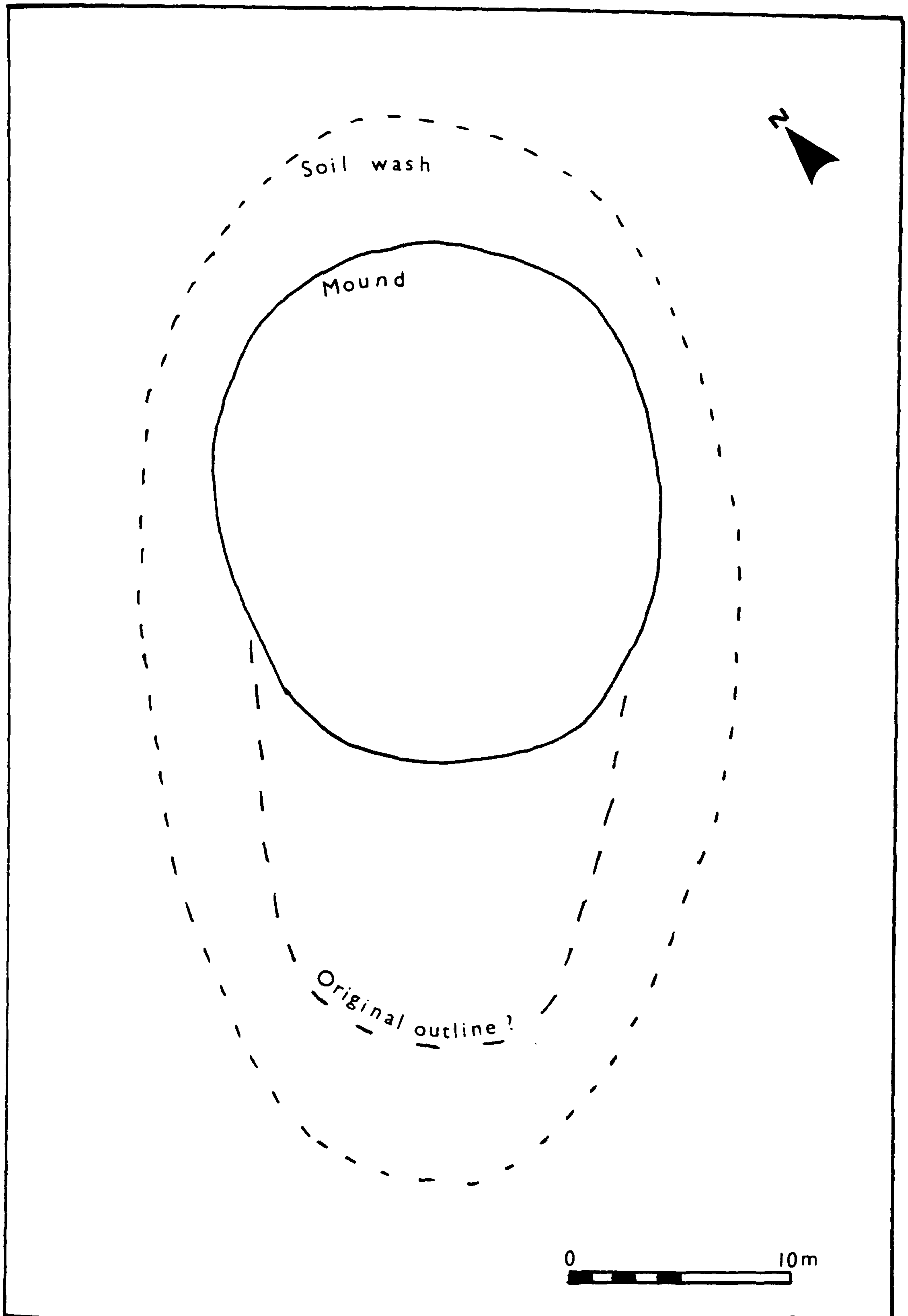


Fig. VI:5:3 Greenlaw: suggested reconstruction



VI:6 Capenoch Moor DMF 1
Nithsdale
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 89SW 5
NX 8382 9259
170m OD

Location: 2km SW of Penpont, on a hillside on the SE side of the Shinnel Water, above Capenoch Loch

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Gently trapezoidal, narrowing gradually from a squared head to a rounded tail.

Orientation: SSW - NNE

Dimensions: Length: 35m
Breadth: 17m - 12.6m
Max. height: 3m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:2.1

History of site and present condition: The 1st ed. 6-inch OS map does not mark the cairn, but shows the present head-dyke passing 50m to the SE. The cairn had probably already suffered from the robbing which by 1912 had left the N end almost entirely robbed away for c 10m from the tail (RCAHMS 1920, 120, no.329). Stone has been built into banks on this robbed area for shelter, and hollows up to 1.5m in depth are dug into the body of the cairn nearer the head. Grass and bracken grow over some of the lower parts of the cairn.

Description:

Kerb: While only one possible kerbstone was noted, on the W side of the tail, stretches of walling are visible within the body of the cairn acting as revetment, and described below under Cairn.

Facade: The S end of the cairn is steep, rising to 3m in height, with squared corners. Low 'platforms' of stone around the cairn corners and in front of its central part are probably slippage.

Cairn: The cairn consists of good sized, rather angular stones, among which some larger boulders can be seen. It is steeply piled at the front, and has settled to an asymmetrical profile, steeper on the uphill E side than on the W. In this E side two sections of wall are revealed in the central part, consisting of flat laid slabs in two courses, 2.0 and 2.5m back from the cairn edge and c 0.4m above ground level. Each stretch is c 1.5m long, with a gap of c 1.0m between them. The W side of the cairn may have slumped to conceal matching sections of walling. At 8 - 10m from the tail of the cairn, however, where the robbed section begins, are two slight indications of walling,

1.0m and 1.5m from the edge of the cairn. The inner N section has three overlying flat slabs, while the S section consists of three adjacent flat slabs in a line. These stretches of walling are well buried in the body of the cairn and unlikely to result from later interference, and seem best interpreted as internal cairn revetment.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 30km from the Nith Estuary

Distance from water: A small stream passes the cairn 40m to the SW, feeding Capenoch Loch 150m N of the cairn. The Shinnel Water is 900m to the N.

General topography: The moorland summits of the Keir hills rise to the S, while to the NW the steep narrow valley of the Shinnel Water curves around the hills towards the R. Nith.

Situation: Along a terrace above steep hill slopes with gentler slopes above

Aspect: NW

Slope: Fairly steep; 10%

Local relief, within 500m: 140 -230m OD

Outlook: Distant: 36% to NW
Intermediate: 33%
Restricted: 31% to NE

Prominence: Local only

Local landmarks: The valley itself is dramatic, and the cairn faces Barr Hill (276m OD), 750m to the S, while to the NNW is a view to the Lowther Hills, with the highest summit (725m OD) 18km distant.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Non calcareous gleys, with Brown Forest Soil on the lower slopes of the hill

Land use: Rough grazing

Vegetation: Bracken and rough grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Laggan Park, long cairn, 2.8km to S
Fleuchlarg, long cairn, 5.5km to SSE
Barddenoch, cropmark ditches of possible long barrow, 6.4km to SW

Monument context: Capenoch is a typical and comparatively well preserved long cairn of the type found in the uplands of south-west Scotland. It shares the classic trapezoidal shape of Fleuchlarg and Cairn na Gath, probably represented also by more distorted remains at Cairn Avel and the Currick; at 35m in length it is very slightly longer than Cairn na Gath and Cairn Avel. All these cairns have high broad ends, and are usually robbed out at the tail. The internal wall faces at Capenoch are of interest as being probably characteristic of the set, but not always visible elsewhere. The spacing suggests that two skins were present, a feature perhaps also encountered, although not recognised, in excavation at Fleuchlarg.

The recent discovery of a long cairn on the Keir Hills at Laggan Park, 2.5km S of Capenoch and 3km N of Fleuchlarg, has created a close cluster of sites here, to which may be added the cropmark ditches at Barddenoch. Barddenoch and Fleuchlarg demonstrate the use of low ground for monument building, and perhaps emphasise the marginality of the siting of Capenoch, near the top of the hill slope. Settlement may more probably have been sited at lower levels, where, as discussed below, there are records of several cairn sites.

Artefact context: A large (172mm) Group VI axe was found at Barhill in the 19th century, the hill immediately S of the long cairn (Ritchie and Scott 1989, DMF 27).

Another half dozen axes come from the valleys of the Shinnel and Scar Waters, within c 6km of the cairn. Three of these have been identified petrographically as Group VI axes by Ritchie and Scott (1989):

DMF 7 Tynron 115mm in length

DMF 23 Carson's Park, Auchenhassane, 113mm in length

DMF 26 Byreholm Farm, 140mm in length

A very large axe from Bennan, 220mm long despite a missing butt, is classified by Williams (1970, 115) as a Cumbrian type axe of probable Group VI origins.

An axe from Tynron Kirk in Dumfries Museum (D 1969/96), 160mm in length, is catalogued as being a rough-out, possibly of Group VI material.

A small adze from Dunreggan Brae, Moniaive, was found on sectioning to consist of greywacke (DMF 11).

Immediate prehistoric landscape: Trees have recently been planted on Penfillan Moor, immediately S of the cairn, precluding survey.

There are records of some valley cairns now destroyed. One was on the site of Cairnmill farm (NX 842 941), 1.6km N of the long cairn (Yates 1984, 110 WD 14), 150m NNW of the farmhouse. Oblique aerial photographs show a broad, penannular ring ditch, enclosing an area c 15m in diameter, the possible site of a barrow. A cairn containing a cist with a stone hammer and fragments of bone stood at Land, Tynron (NSA IV, 475), perhaps Lann Hall

or Low Lann (NX 820 916), 2km W of the long cairn. Another recorded site was on Cairn Knowe, Byreholm Moor (NX 8554 9388), 2km NE of the long cairn (NX 89SE 13).

In 1845 an upright stone called the Grey Stane, 6 feet (1.8m) high, surrounded by three or four flat stones, was standing on the SE side of the parish church of Keir (NX 859 932), 2.2km E of Capenoch cairn (NSA IV, 467).

Archaeological interpretations: The site was visited by the RCAHMS in 1912 and recognised as a long cairn (1920, 120, no.329). Childe mapped it as being possibly of Solway type (1946 5, fig.1). Henshall classified it as a short trapezoidal long cairn, and compared its moderately tapering shape to that of Fussell's Lodge and Willerby Wold (1972, 300, 235). Both Henshall and the Inventory drew attention to the internal revetment walls.

Fig. VI:6:1 Capenoch: Plan 1988

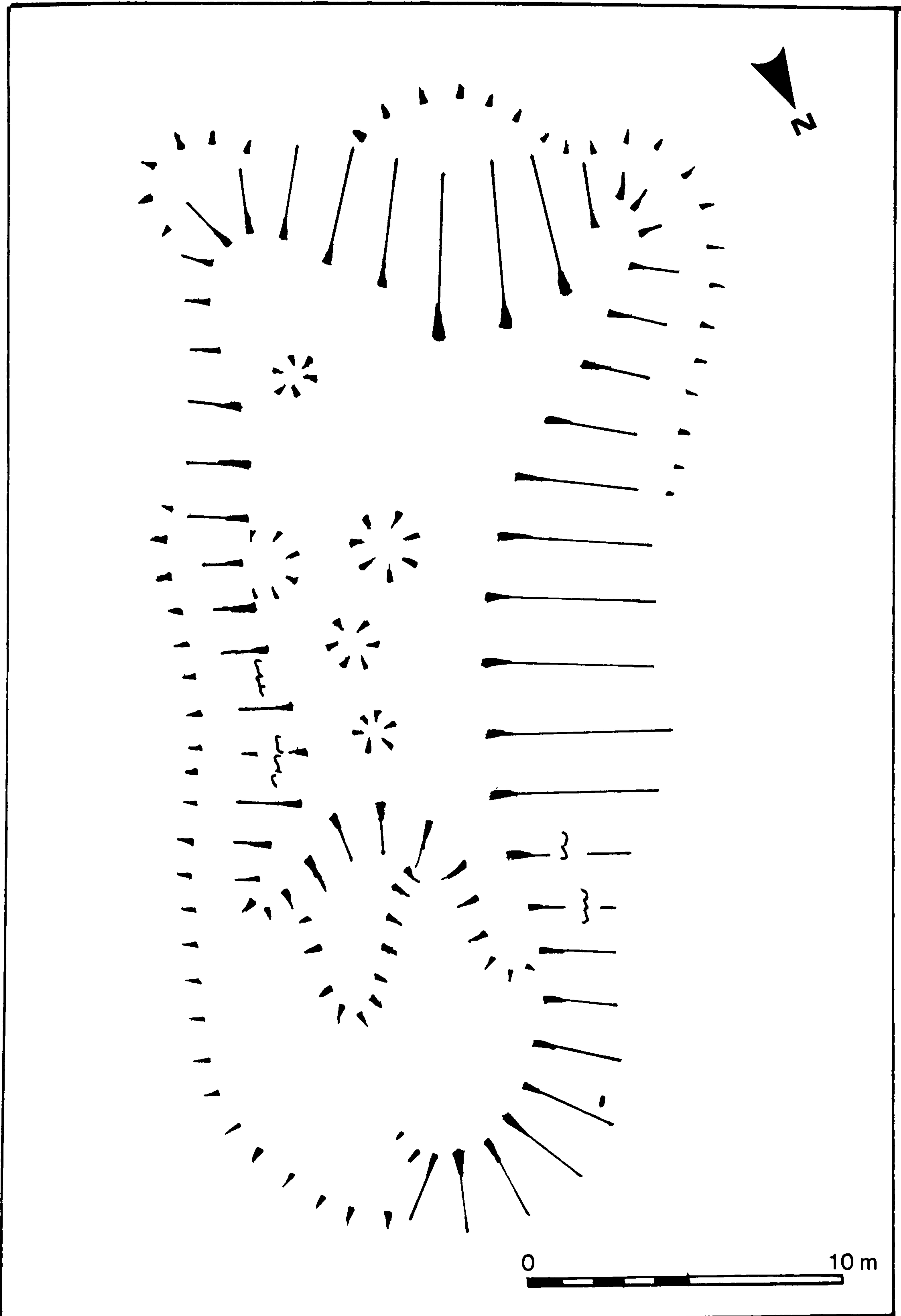
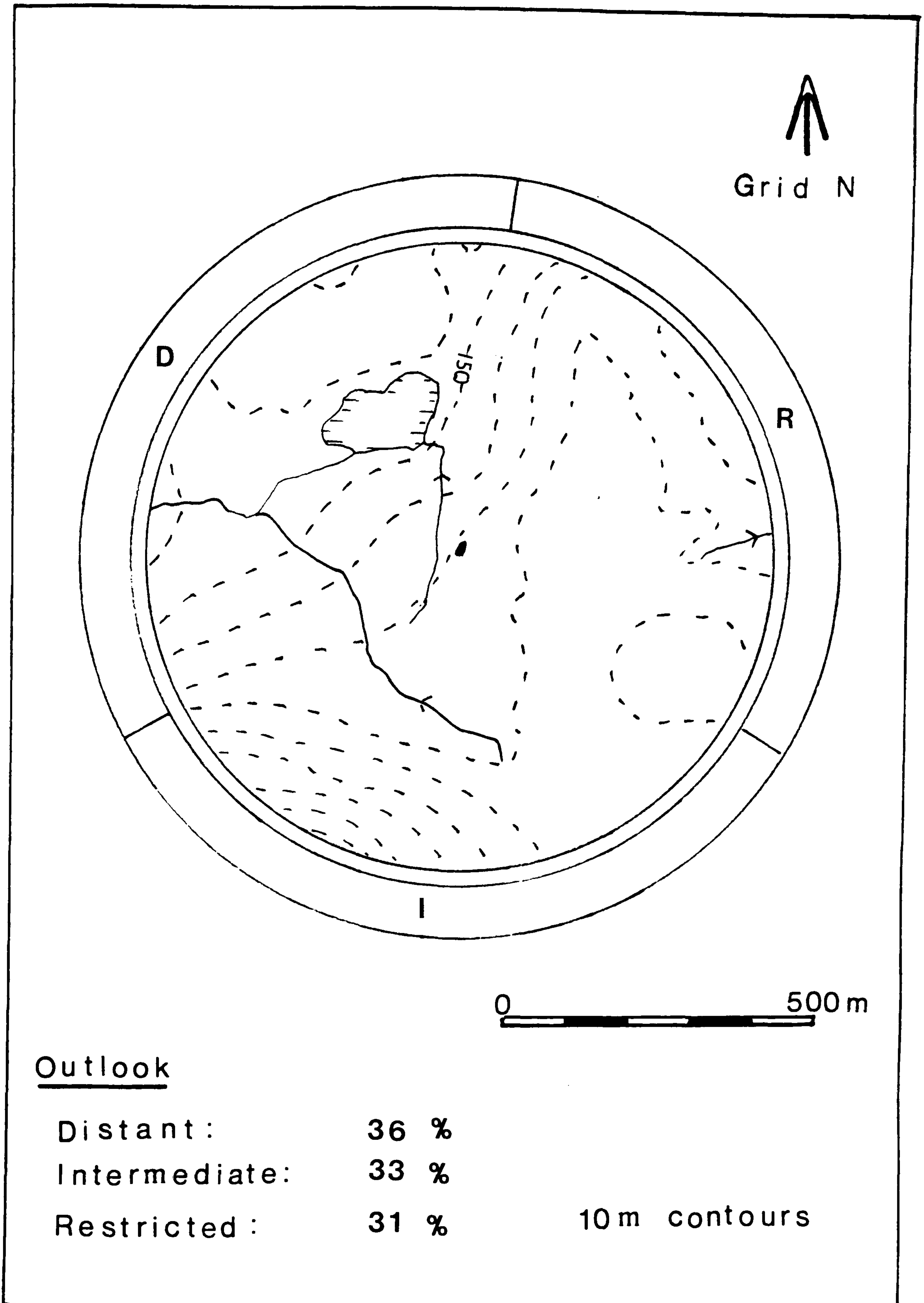


Fig. VI:6:2 Situation and Outlook: Capenoch



VI:7 White Cairn, Fleuchlarg DMF 2
Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 88NE 2
NX 8542 8734
130m OD

Location: 3km NNW of Dunscore, on the N side of the Cairn Water valley, 200m SW of Fleuchlarg farmhouse

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Gently trapezoidal with broad, blunt head and rounded tail.

Orientation: SSW - NNE

Dimensions: Length: 44m
Breadth: 25m - 13m
Max. height: 3.2m

Breadth: length ratio: 1: 1.8

Excavation: A Mr. S. Morris excavated parts of the cairn in 1937. His notes, made in 1958, photographs, and plan of the cairn are lodged in the NMRS (MS 248).

History of site and present condition: The location of the cairn in enclosed agricultural fields, only 200m from the farm steading, has lain it open to stone robbing despite the apparent abundance of field clearance stone lying in heaps around the fields; bedrock stone has been quarried in a hollow only 50m from the S end of the cairn. In 1911 the RCAHMS (1920, 91) found the tail of the cairn to have been much robbed, and in 1989 the tail and much of the E side of the cairn survived only to c 0.2m in surviving height. The head of the cairn is still high, but has deep quarry hollows into it, notably at the SW and SE corners. Some field clearance has probably been added to the untidy heaps that lie about, including, probably, a large boulder against the SE corner.

Neat lines of small stone forming an F-shape in the grassy tail of the cairn must indicate the 1937 excavation trenches. This episode has also left a deep hole in front of an E facing wall near the highest part of the cairn. Livestock have worn paths along the sides of the cairn, causing some erosion around the NE corner.

Description:

Kerb: 4m back from the SW corner of the cairn Morris observed a line of three boulders which he thought might be part of a cist. Henshall suggested that they were more likely to be part of a kerb. Hollows in this area of the cairn reveal large boulders, and part of the cairn has been built into a wall for shelter, but the three boulders

indicated by Morris are not identifiable. The actual edge of the cairn is defined in places by large stones, although the big boulder lying on the SE corner, is most likely to have been added during clearance of the fields. At the NE corner erosion by cattle has revealed a 2.6m long stretch of large stones each up to 0.6m broad, one leaning back onto the cairn, another fallen forward. These seem to represent kerbing, perhaps originally spaced boulders linked by walling.

Facade: The S end of the cairn is almost straight, 22m across, and rising to 1.3m in height, its slightly hollowed centre perhaps resulting from a settling of cairn material over a central feature. The effect of height is increased by a sharp drop in ground level immediately in front of the cairn. Behind the facade, stone heaps rise to a height of 3.2m above ground level.

Cairn: Superficially the cairn consists of quite small, angular stone, much of which is formed into heaps and shelter hollows, and may include added clearance stone. Basal cairn stone is, however, larger, boulders up to 0.8m in length being quite common.

The cairn has been built across an undulation in the ground, with levels falling at both ends, but the cairn gives the impression of having a level surface as a result of the built up height at the S end. Its outline is regular, swelling slightly to reach its greatest breadth at the summit of the ridge before beginning to narrow 10m from the front towards a blunt-ended tail. The slight waviness of the line of the E side of the cairn, and a slightly sharper narrowing at the tail here, probably derive from increased erosion on the more level ground, where cattle walk over the cairn edges.

To the E of the highest part of the cairn, and 8m in from the edge, a wall face is visible in a robbed out hollow over a distance of 4.4m. The S part of this wall, for 2.6m, is well built for a visible height of 1.35m. The remainder is a rough face of cairn stone. This feature was examined in the 1937 excavation, see below.

Excavated features: Surviving lines of loose stone in the grassed over tail of the cairn show that a trench has been dug down the centre line here for 6m, with two cross trenches to the W being pursued for 2m, one at the southernmost point of the main line, and the other at 4.5m from its N end. Mr. Morris' plan shows two parallel 'trenches' c 2m long and 0.65m broad, 0.7m apart in the position of the two cross trenches. He writes 'No peristalith was found, but there were two shallow ditches at the north end which, while they were not traced around the cairn, served to emphasise the shape as long not round'. These features were not parallel to the line of the cairn tail, and may represent some pre-cairn feature. They presumably extend beyond the excavated length and could easily be re-located.

Another feature explored by Morris was the internal wall face, described above. This wall was already

visible above cairn material when Morris started work, and he appears to have cleared its E face in the belief that it constituted the W wall of a chamber. The section of well built wall, still visible over 2.6m, was traced for 10'3" (3.1m) and found to be 'some six feet' (1.8m) high. An attempt to find the W face of the wall evidently resulted in partial collapse, as the wall directly revetted the body of the cairn. To the S the wall was discontinued, and Morris supposed it already to have collapsed. To the N a fall of stone accompanied efforts to clear the face, leaving the section of rough stone which is still visible for 1.8m. To the N of this section, Morris found the wall to change direction slightly, 7° to the E, and it took on a new character. It was traced for 3.2m at only 1.1m in height, and after the first metre a section built of orthostats and horizontally laid slabs was encountered. At the extreme N end of the wall, where again it was of drystone build, it seemed to work 'to a point'. Morris took this to be the inner end of a wedge shaped chamber, c9m in length, its entrance passage destroyed by the large robbing hollow still evident at the SE corner of the cairn. He was unable to trace the E wall of the 'chamber', although his plan gives indications of its position, suggesting a breadth of c 1.6m. There may have been a second revetment wall with an E face in this position, or simply a vacuous space in the make up of the cairn.

Excavation finds: Morris found fragments of shaped stone among cairn stones S of the excavated wall, and these he thought could have been small pieces of stone bowls. He also noted: 'various cupstones were found'.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 24km from the mouth of the Nith

Distance from water: 80m from boggy hollows to NE and to SW, which drain respectively SE and W.

General topography: The broad valley of the Cairn Water consists of undulating glacial knolls between steep sided hills to N and S.

Situation: The cairn lies across the W end of a ridge of glacial till running E - W.

Aspect: W

Slope: The hummocky field rises overall gently to the NE

Local relief, within 500m: 115m - 180m OD

Outlook: Distant: 11% to NW and SW
Intermediate: 89%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Local only. The cairn is low in the valley, but elevated on a ridge which adds to the impression of great bulk.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Brown Forest Soil over glacial tills and gravels

Land use: Livestock farming

Vegetation: Improved grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Laggan Park, long cairn, 3km to NNW

Barddenoch, cropmark ditches, possible long barrow, 3.8km to NE

Capenoch, long cairn, 5.5km to NNW

Fourmerkland, double pit alignment, 9km to SE

Monument context: The White Cairn, Fleuchlarg, with Capenoch, Cairn Avel and Stiddrigs, form a group of large, high, trapezoidal cairns in inland locations. Fleuchlarg is the largest of the set, and occupies the lowest, best agricultural position. Its internal wall face, seen also at Capenoch, demonstrates the expenditure of effort on the creation of a high profile, although in this particular case, the highest built part of the cairn is actually sited on falling ground. Nonetheless, from the lower hollow to the SW the full height of the cairn, on the brink of a steep bank, must have been impressive. The angle of the visible wall should be taken in conjunction with the excavation evidence for an original change of direction to the N, which would return it to being parallel to the cairn edge; restoration of a collapsed wall face to the visible N section would also assist in this respect. The revetment is thus much further in from the edge from that at Capenoch, but in both cases, perhaps c 5m from the highest point of the cairn ridge, and perhaps therefore serving an identical function of support to the central bulk of the cairn material.

12km SE of Fleuchlarg is the important Holywood complex of cursus monuments and stone circles.

Artefact context: While numbers of axes have been recorded from Nithsdale and from the Moniaive area north-west of Fleuchlarg, the nearest find to the cairn itself is a record of a hoard of axes said to have been found near a large boulder called the Siller Stane, 3km to the NE (ONB 29 1855, 74: see also Barddenoch, VI:4).

A finely finished barbed and tanged arrowhead is said to have been found on Standing Brae, Farding, the hillside NE of the White Cairn (Black 1893, 112).

Prehistoric landscape: Improved pasture fields around Fleuchlarg carry no traces of early settlement or agriculture. Surrounding hill country, however, preserves a landscape of small cairns, as on The Mull (NX 88NE 1), 2km NE of the cairn on the N side of the hills.

The nearest identifiable round cairn survives as a stony area in the valley bottom at Old Crawfordton, 4km WNW of Fleuchlarg at NX 816 889 (Yates 1984, 110-1).

Tradition: The name 'White Cairn' appears to be a generic term for stony cairns rather than an individual name (cf. White Cairns at Bargrennan, Whitecairn and Cairnderry). W.F. Cormack recalls a previous farmer's wife at Fleuchlarg, resident there from c 1900, who said she would not approach the cairn for fear of ghosts (pers. comm. 1990). In the 19th century a hole is said to have been left in the byre wall at Fleuchlarg, with a rope hanging out to assist the egress of evil spirits (Shaw 1890, 11).

Archaeological interpretations: The site was shown on the 1st ed. 6-inch OS map and was briefly described as a long cairn in the Dumfriesshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1920, 91, no.249). Childe showed the site on his map of chambered cairns (1946, fig.1) as being possibly of Solway type. Henshall published the first plan of the site, describing it as a long cairn of short trapezoidal outline (1972, 294; 418-9). She considered that the internal wall was likely to have had 'a temporary function as a revetment during construction work', but suggested that its discontinuities and changes of character indicated two building phases (p.161).

Fig. VI:7:1 Fleuchlarg: Plan 1989

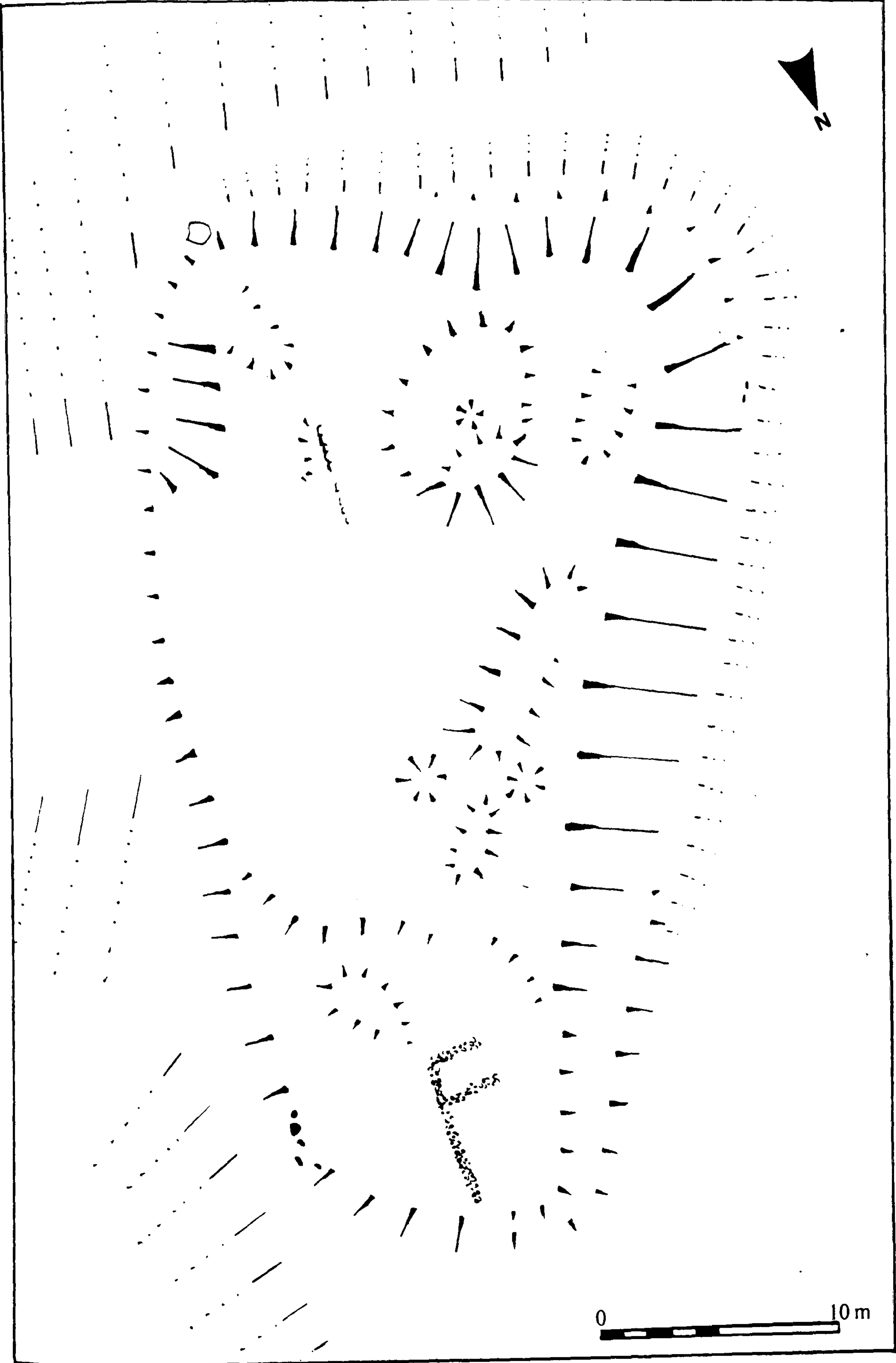
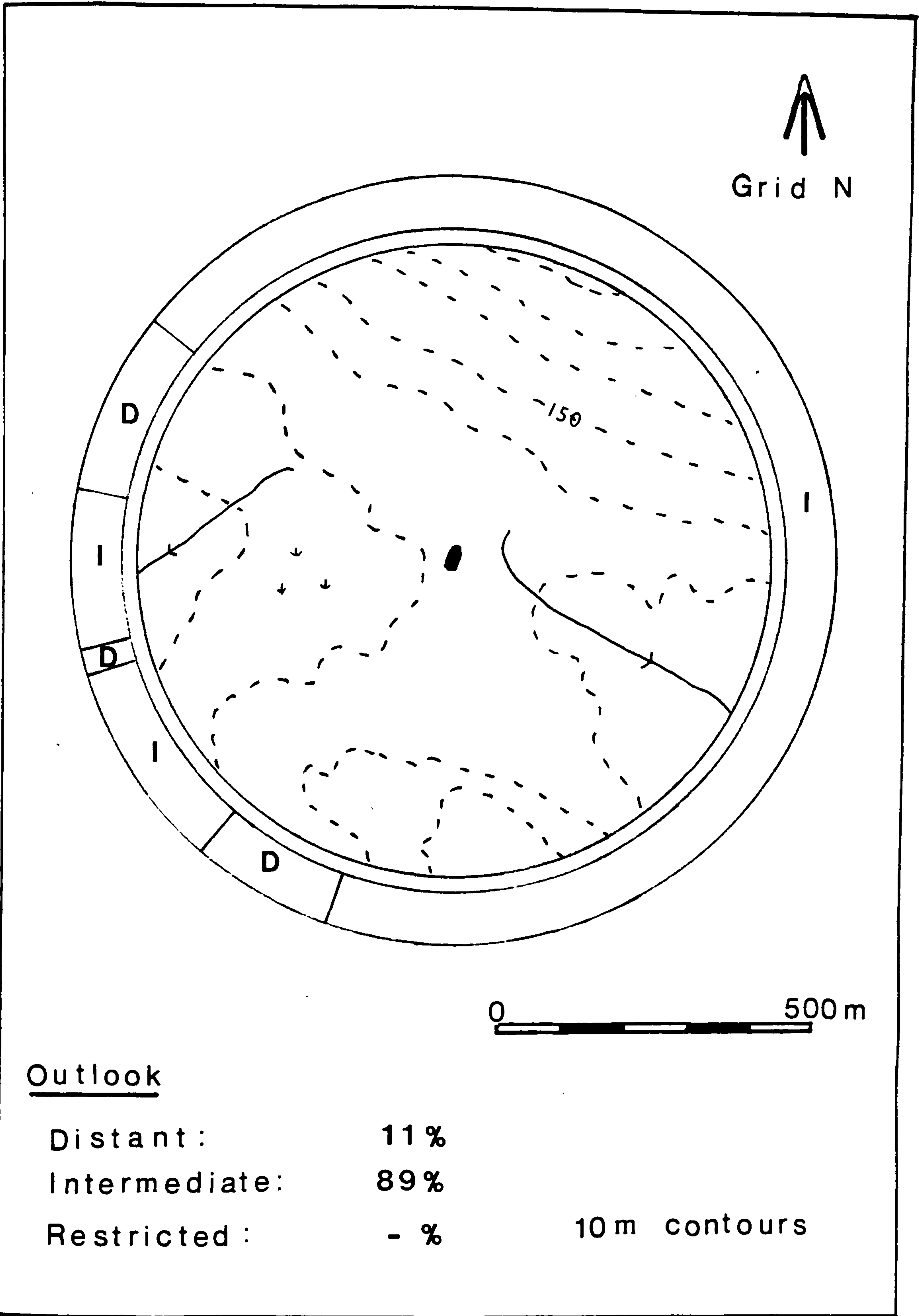


Fig. VI:7:2 Situation and Outlook: Fleuchlarg



VI:8 Stiddrigs DMF 3
Annandale and Eskdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NY 09NW 2
NY 0413 9877
260m OD

Location: 5km WSW of Beattock, 2km WSW of Stidriggs Farm, on the N end of Broadshaw Rig, within Raehill Estates forestry.

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: A short, trapezoidal cairn, narrowing sharply to its rounded tail

Orientation: SSE - NNW

Dimensions: Length: 30m
Breadth: 19m - 9m
Max. height: 2.3m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:1.6

History of site and present condition: The 1st ed 6-inch OS map shows 'Stiddrig Cairn', not in Gothic script, but its outline defined, with walls built over it as described below. Rebuilding of the cairn may date from the same period as six 'shieling huts' beside the Eyre Burn, 200m to the NNW. Walling has been built up over the cairn at three points: over the tail; over the S corner; and at right angles to the cairn axis on the E side. This last section articulates with a 6m stretch of wall, 1m in height, retaining cairn material, and the two lengths of walling create a shelter in the N facing angle between them c 5m across. The cairn has here been robbed right down to a low platform of surviving cairn material.

In 1912 the RCAHMS visited the cairn (1920, 144, no.415), noting the presence of the above walls, a 'shepherd's cairn' on the summit, and a 'platform' around the S end of the cairn. The shepherd's cairn is still present, besides a 3m broad platform of cairn material around the S end of the site, which could be either a robbing effect or an original feature. The central core of the cairn remains largely upstanding, with one deep hollow in its surface and several heaps of loose stone on it. The edges are grassed over, and encroached on on the E by damp vegetation and peat.

In 1978, following acquisition of the land to the N of the cairn by the Forestry Commission, the area was surveyed by Glasgow University Field Archaeology students for the Scottish Development Department (Masters (ed) 1978). Raehills Estate have since planted the land to the S, leaving a 100m stretch around the long cairn unploughed. The ungrazed vegetation here is becoming rank, obscuring features on the terrace.

Description:

Kerb: No kerb stones are visible; on the E side of the cairn peat encroachment, which has enveloped part of a recent wall, may be concealing the cairn edge. A 'platform' of cairn material around the S end of the cairn could be prehistoric (cf. Camster Long; Ord North), again, perhaps, concealing an original kerb line. Alternatively it may be the result of either slippage or robbing, and the position of the cairn edge is uncertain.

Facade: If the 3m broad 'platform' around the S end of the cairn represents an original cairn edge, it suggests that the cairn had 'horns'; the effect has been exaggerated on the SW by an overlying wall. The 'platform' may, however, be a robbed out part of the cairn, in which case this action has failed to reveal a facade.

Cairn: The central core of the cairn consists mostly of rounded, medium sized stones. These are piled up steeply on the SE and SW, but tail gradually down to the NW. Part of the NE side of the cairn has been rebuilt into a vertical wall face. On the NW side, however, at 7.5m to 12.5m from the tail, the appearance of large slabs, up to 0.5m x 0.35m, set against the steep side of the cairn in two places suggest original revetment walling (cf. Capenoch Moor). The 'stumpy' outline of the cairn is unusual, and suggests that the true perimeter line has been greatly distorted by later events.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 30km from the Solway at the mouth of the Nith

Distance from water: A spring rises 40m NW of the cairn and the Eyre Burn passes 180m to the N.

General topography: The cairn is in an upland environment of rounded hills interspersed with expanses of bog or 'flows', while to the W and NW are the higher Lowther Hills.

Situation: The cairn is on a near level terrace at the foot of Broadshaw Rig above a steep drop to the Eyre Burn.

Aspect: NW

Slope: Very gentle on terrace; fairly steep (15%) above and below.

Local relief, within 500m: 250m - 280m OD

Outlook: Distant: 25% to NE
Intermediate: 47%
Restricted: 28% to S and SE

Prominence: Low

Local landmarks: Distant views take in the Hart Fell hills above Moffat.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Peat, peaty podzols and peaty gleys. A specialist report in the Glasgow University Survey drew attention to a small area of boulder clay c 400m E of the long cairn, and also argued that before podsolisation Brown Forest Soil of relatively high base status would have covered the area offering good potential for prehistoric agriculture where soil depths were adequate.

Land use: Forestry, formerly rough grazing. A group of six turf shieling huts beside the Eyre Burn 200m to the NNW show that this sheltered waterside location has offered attractions whether on a seasonal or more permanent basis.

Vegetation: Scirpus-nardus grasses, rushes and heather, now growing rank in the ungrazed area within conifer plantations.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Gallaberry cursus, 17km to SSW

Barndennoch, possible long barrow, 18km to WSW

Kirkburn, neolithic pits, 18km to SSE

Capenoch, long cairn, 21km to WSW

Monument context: The upland location is apparently isolated from other neolithic cairns, but the surrounding landscape is rich in prehistoric remains, showing the area to have been well utilised at some periods. The cairn is irregular in apparent outline, but its original form is uncertain. It may have been a regular trapezoidal shape, and with its high steep build falls into the pattern of long cairns of the inland parts of the south-west.

Artefact context: A fine 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (222mm) axe with squared sides of ?Group VI material comes from Lockwood Mains, 6km to the E, across the Kirtle Water (Ritchie and Scott 1989, 234 DMF 1).

In peat covered country low artefact recovery rates are to be expected, and no field walking has accompanied forestry ploughing. A small number of worked flints and other types of stone from the Beattock area, c 5km NE of the long cairn, are in the Hunterian Museum (Stevenson and Atkinson 1952, 171.2). In April 1988 the writer picked up a broken chert blade in a forestry furrow 160m W of the long cairn and 20m N of a round cairn (no.3, below).

Immediate prehistoric landscape: The long cairn must be seen in the context both of a group of sites sharing the same terrace and of a wider landscape of small cairns

and other features. Some of these prehistoric remains were already indicated on the 1st ed 6-inch OS map, as 'Tumuli', the term being applied to a group of shieling huts beside the Eyre Burn as well as to small cairns; these sites and others were mentioned in the Inventory (RCAHMS 1920). Scott Elliot and Rae (1967) discussed some of these cairn groups, noting on Lonnachie Rig (NY 024 995), 1.5km W of Stiddrigs cairn, two stone heaps resembling 'miniature long cairns', measuring 11.0m x 3.6m and 8.2m x 2.7m (p.107, no.9); this area is now under mature forest. Feachem (1963, 44) saw these cairnfields as evidence for more extensive use of the moors 'in the second and perhaps the third millennium BC'. When forestry threatened the area (Jackson 1978), Glasgow University undertook a survey (Masters ed. 1978), and showed that the landscape of small cairns, dykes and lynchets on Meikle Hill and Fulton Hill to the N of the long cairn terminated 750m away, and occupied E facing slopes facing away from the site. A large small cairnfield on Broadshaw Rig to the S of the long cairn could still be observed in 1988 after ploughing. The cairns stretch along the ridge of the hill here to within 50m of the long cairn, with none appearing on the N slope of the hill within sight of the monument. The pattern would appear to be one of avoidance rather than attraction.

The opposite is true, however, of a group of more individual sites on the same terrace as the long cairn, obtaining impressive views of it (VI:8:3). These are as follows:

Fig

1. NY 0409 9879; 26m WNW of the long cairn, a well preserved round cairn 8.0m in diameter and 0.9m in height, on the terrace edge, just above the spring. NY 09NW 2; RCAHMS 1920, 114, no.415; Henshall 1972, 420; Masters (ed) 1978, no.397; Yates 1984, 121, WD 60.

2. NY 0410 9882, 40m E of (1) and 40m N of the long cairn, a low platform cairn or robbed site, damaged on the W side, 0.3m in maximum height, 11.0m x 11.5m in diameter. NY 09NW 14; Masters (ed) 1978, no.398; Yates 1984, 120, WD 59.

3. NY 0397 9882, 165m W of the long cairn the remains of a cairn severely robbed to build an overlying crescentic wall as a sheep shelter, and more recently ploughed across for forestry. It measures 10m in diameter NW - SE by 8m transversely, having lost part of its S edge to forestry. Ploughing has disturbed a boulder 0.6m in length bearing several cup marks. A small cairn under the E end of the sheep shelter may be associated with the construction of the later feature. NY 09NW 8; Masters (ed) 1978, no.389; Yates 1984, 121, WD 61.

4. NY 0404 9870, 100m SW of the long cairn recent forestry ploughing has badly damaged a ring site, measuring 8.2m within a stony bank 1.5m broad, 11.5m overall. There is no sign of an entrance, an absence previously observed when the site was still intact. NY 09NW 3; RCAHMS 1920, 144, no.416; Scott Elliot and Rae 1967, 108, no.13.

Scott Elliot and Rae mention four small cairns c 4.5m in diameter near the track which passes this site, but these were not observed after ploughing, in 1988.

Archaeological interpretations: Although depicted on the 1st ed 6-inch OS map, the site was first recognised as an antiquity, and as a long cairn, by the RCAHMS in 1920 (p.144, no.415). Childe mapped it as a possible Solway cairn (1946, 5, fig.1). Henshall provided the first plan (1972, 418), and suggested the platform to be probably an original feature.

Fig. VI:8:1 Stiddrigs: Plan 1989

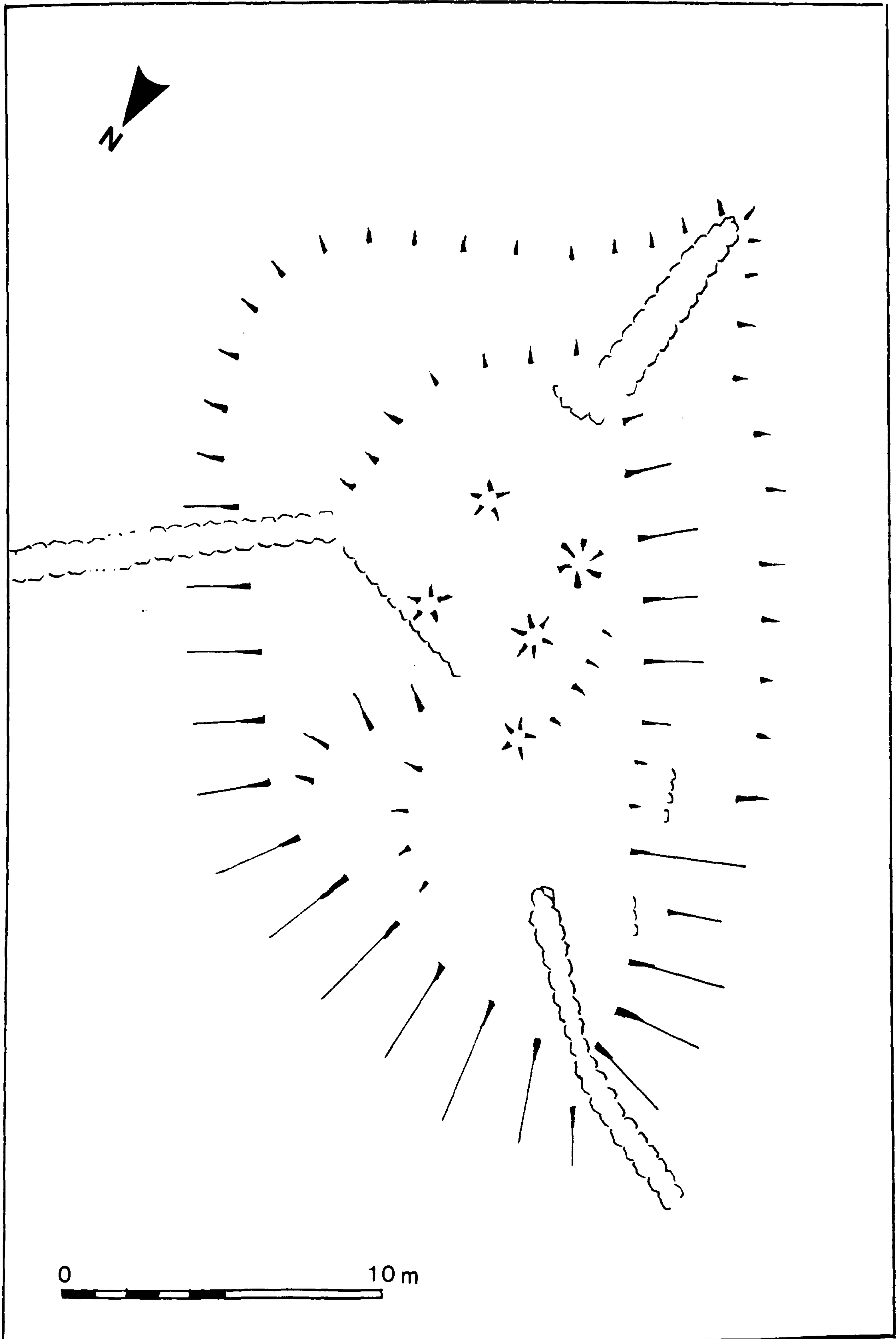


Fig. VI:8:2 Situation and Outlook: Stiddrigs

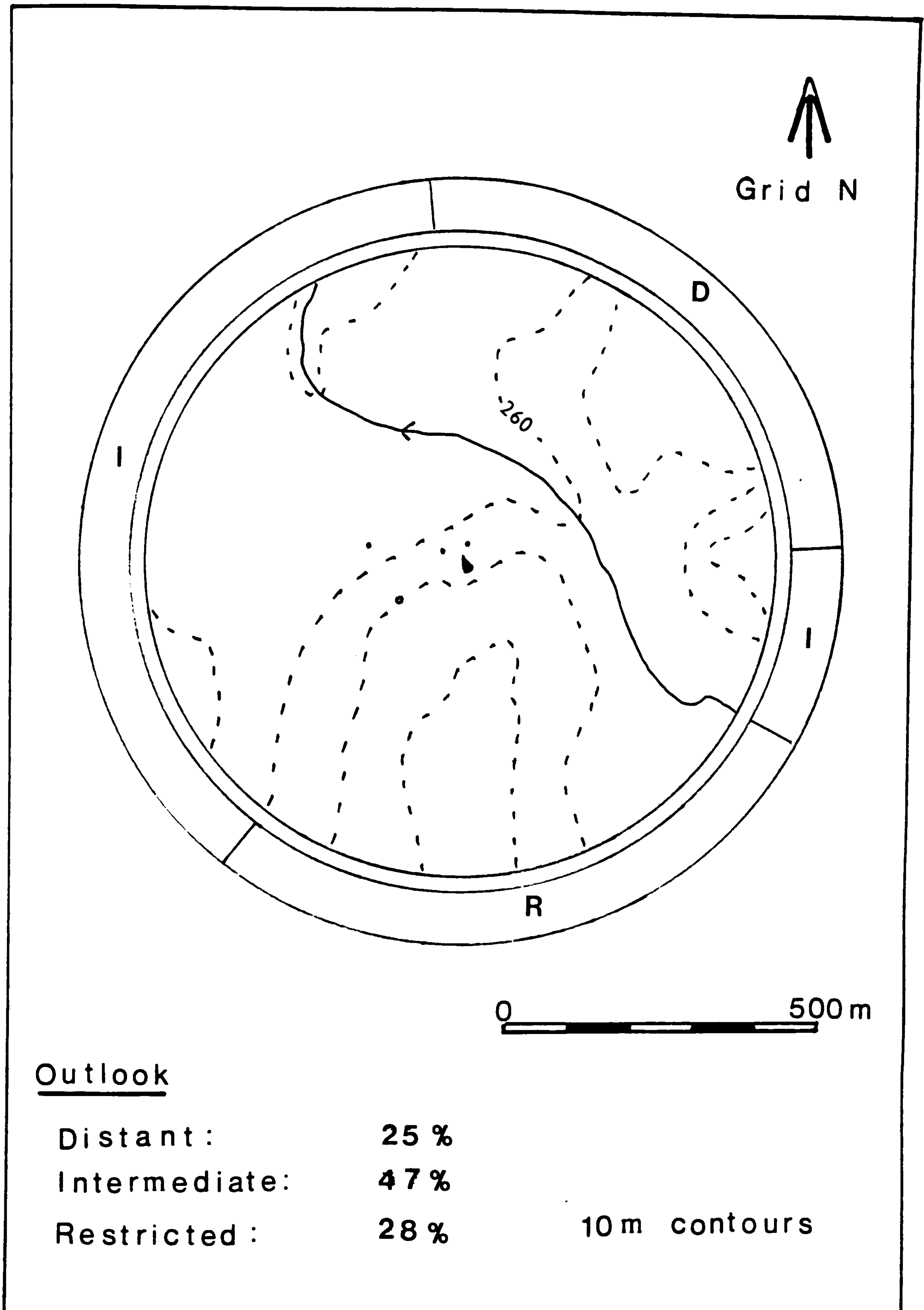
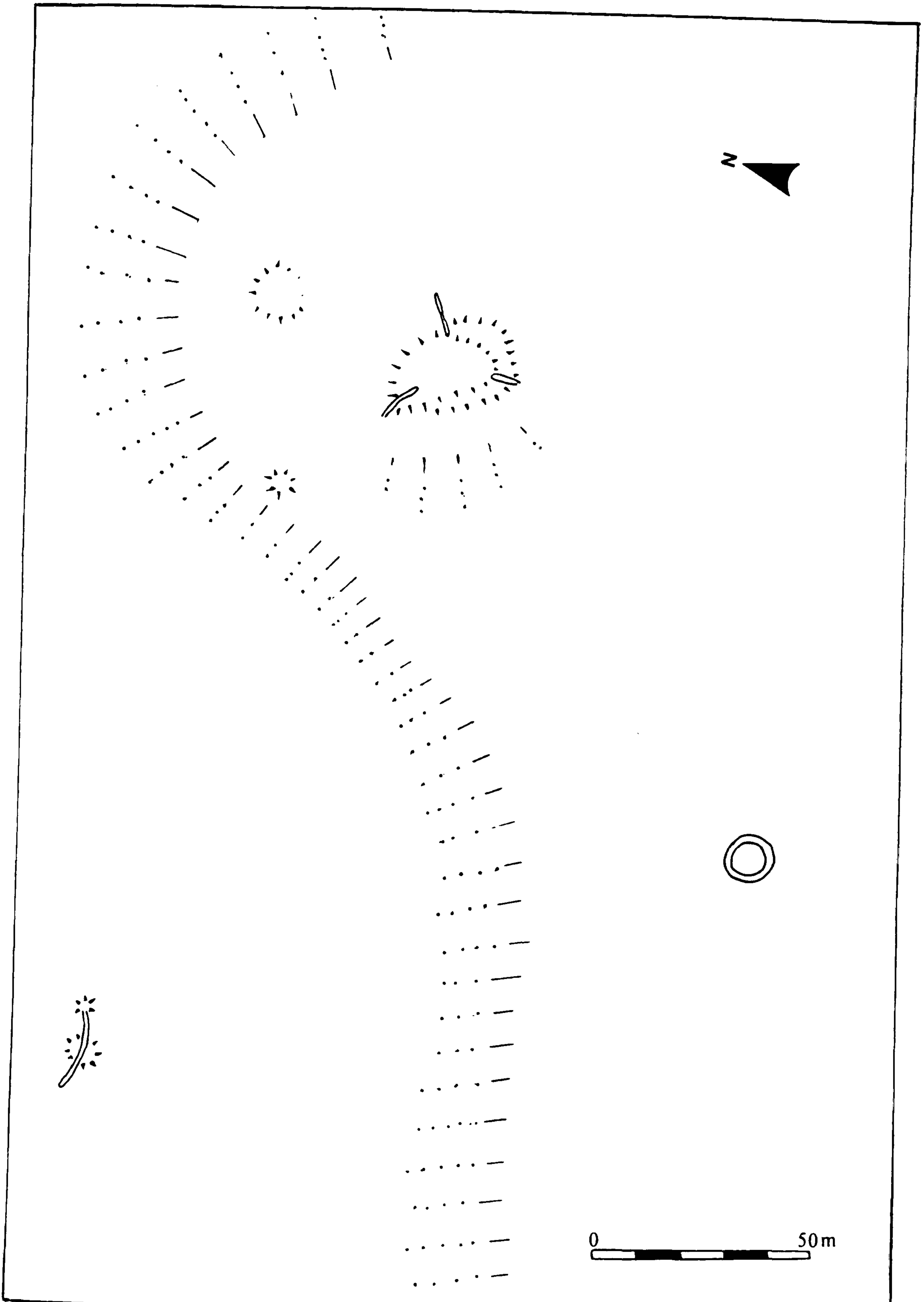


Fig. VI:8:3 Stiddrigs environs, planned 1989



VI:9 Laggan Park, Dumfriesshire
Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 88NW
NX 8371 8978
210m OD

Location: 6km NNW of Dunscore, in the valley of the Cairn Water, 300m S of Laggan Park farmhouse on the SW side of the Keir Hills

Type: Trapezoidal long cairn

Status: Category A

Outline: A pear shaped cairn, with broad head and narrow tail

Orientation: SSW - NNE

Dimensions: Length: 38m
Breadth: 22m - 7.5m
Max. height: 1.8m

Breadth: length ratio: 1:1.7

History of site and present condition: The degraded remains of a rectangular building and traces of other structures along the E side of the cairn are doubtless largely responsible for the severe stone robbing that has taken place. The centre of the cairn, adjacent to the building, has been reduced to a low platform c 7m across, entered from the E. The tail of the cairn has been robbed below ground level and a passing field track has removed all trace of the edge at the NW corner. Other reasons for stone robbing are evident in the form of drystone dykes enclosing the field, passing 16m from the cairn tail, and in the ruins of a substantial farm steading c 100m to the S. Subsequent addition of field clearance stone and use of the site for dumping refuse have left it littered with uneven heaps of stone, broken glass and rusted metal. Its edges are grass grown but the central portion consists of bare stone. The long cairn was first recognised in 1991 by Dr. Piers Dixon, in the course of RCAHMS survey.

Description:

Kerb: Robbing on the E side of the cairn has left three probable kerb stones, up to 0.5m in length, exposed and clear of cairn stone from 4m to 9m from the tail, and there are further traces of a kerb over the next 9m to the S. More possible kerb stones are visible in the steep S end of the cairn c 0.5m above present ground level. No kerb stones can be seen on the W side of the cairn, but this may be the result of soil build up against this edge.

Facade: The S end of the cairn is almost straight across, rising steeply at the edge, where a few possible kerb stones are visible. The highest part of the cairn is 5m back from the cairn edge.

Cairn: The cairn consists of medium -large stones, such as can be seen in the surrounding field walls, with some larger boulders, particularly at greater depths. A line of large stones runs parallel to the E edge of the cairn for 6.5m, c 5m in from the edge, and can be traced further N across the entrance of a robbed hollow, suggesting that the more superficially apparent stones may belong to a feature of some depth. It is possible that this is an internal revetment wall, as seen at the neighbouring cairns of Fleuchlarg and Capenoch. One large slab set on edge, 0.75m in length occurs 1.4m E of this stone line.

The apparent pear-shaped outline of the cairn may result from an original trapezoidal site having experienced some tumble of stone from the highest part on its E side together with some attrition of the more vulnerable tail. The resultant shape is very like that of Cairn Avel (VI:1).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 27km from the Nith Estuary

Distance from water: 120m from a spring at a cattle trough to the NE. 200m from the nearest mapped stream.

General topography: The Keir Hills rise to the NE and the slopes above the Cairn Valley consist of undulating hillsides with rock outcrop.

Situation: The cairn occupies rock outcrop on the edge of a terrace near the hill summit above a steep slope.

Aspect: ESE

Slope: Steep

Local relief, within 500m: 155m - 266m OD

Outlook: Distant: 16% to S
Intermediate: 56%
Restricted: 28%

Prominence: High. From the E the cairn occupies a skyline position.

Local landmarks: Criffel 30km to the SE, is visible from the site.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soil: Brown Forest Soil, probably thin on the summits

Land use: Livestock farming. The remains of deserted farmsteads suggests earlier more intensive land use with arable cultivation.

Vegetation: Improved grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Capenoch, long cairn, 2.8km to N

Fleuchlarg, long cairn, 3km to SSE

Barndennoch, cropmark ditches, 5.5km to E

Monument context: The long cairn at Laggan Park sits comfortably between its nearest neighbours, its dimensions, at 38m x 28m, falling between those of Capenoch (35m x 17m) and Fleuchlarg (44m x 25m). Both these cairns are more regularly rectangular in outline than Laggan Park, where the bulging head and narrow tail resemble rather Cairn Avel to the W, and perhaps Drumwhirn on the Cree and The Currick in Cumbria. All these cairns, however, share with Laggan Park an emphasis on the impressiveness of the broad, high proximal end. The surviving height at Laggan Park is less than in the other examples, although the bulge to the E may represent slippage from a higher original profile. Possible indications of an internal wall line, a feature found also at Capenoch and at Fleuchlarg, would also suggest a desire to maintain a height of stones. The siting of the cairn itself gives prominence to the broad end of the cairn, which may therefore not have needed to be quite so high as Capenoch.

In addition to the three long cairns on the Keir hills, cropmark ditches at Barndennoch, between the hills and the Nith may denote a long barrow. There is thus a close cluster of sites within easy reach of each other, none of which overlook another site. Laggan Park and Capenoch are situated high on their respective hillsides, each overlooking a valley bottom below, while the other two sites reverse the perspective, so that each cairn can be seen to command a similarly diverse territory. The ridge of the Keir hills summits, rising to 357m OD, could be viewed as a 'neutral' meeting ground between them.

A clear vista to Criffel and the Nith Estuary emphasises a link between Laggan Park and sites in that area, with access on to the Solway and the Cumbrian axe factories.

Artefact context: A large (172mm) Group VI axe comes from Barrhill, 2km N of Laggan Park and near to Capenoch long cairn (Ritchie and Scott 1989 DMF 27). Another Group VI axe comes from Tynron village, 4.5km N of Laggan Park (ibid DMF 7), while an axe in Dumfries Museum from Tynron Kirk is catalogued as a rough-out, 160mm in length, possibly of Group VI stone (D. 1969, 96).

Prehistoric landscape: Small cairns have been recorded in pasture 400m SE of the long cairn (Scott Elliott and Rae 1967, 111, no.29) and in wooded ground 500m to the south (RCAHMS 1920, 91, no.248), lower down the hill slopes.

At Old Crawfordton (NX 816 819), 2.2km WSW of Laggan Park in the valley bottom, Yates recorded that a cairn had been reduced to a stony rise in the field c13m in diameter (1984, 110-1, WD 18).

Fig. VI:9:1 Laggan Park: Plan 1992

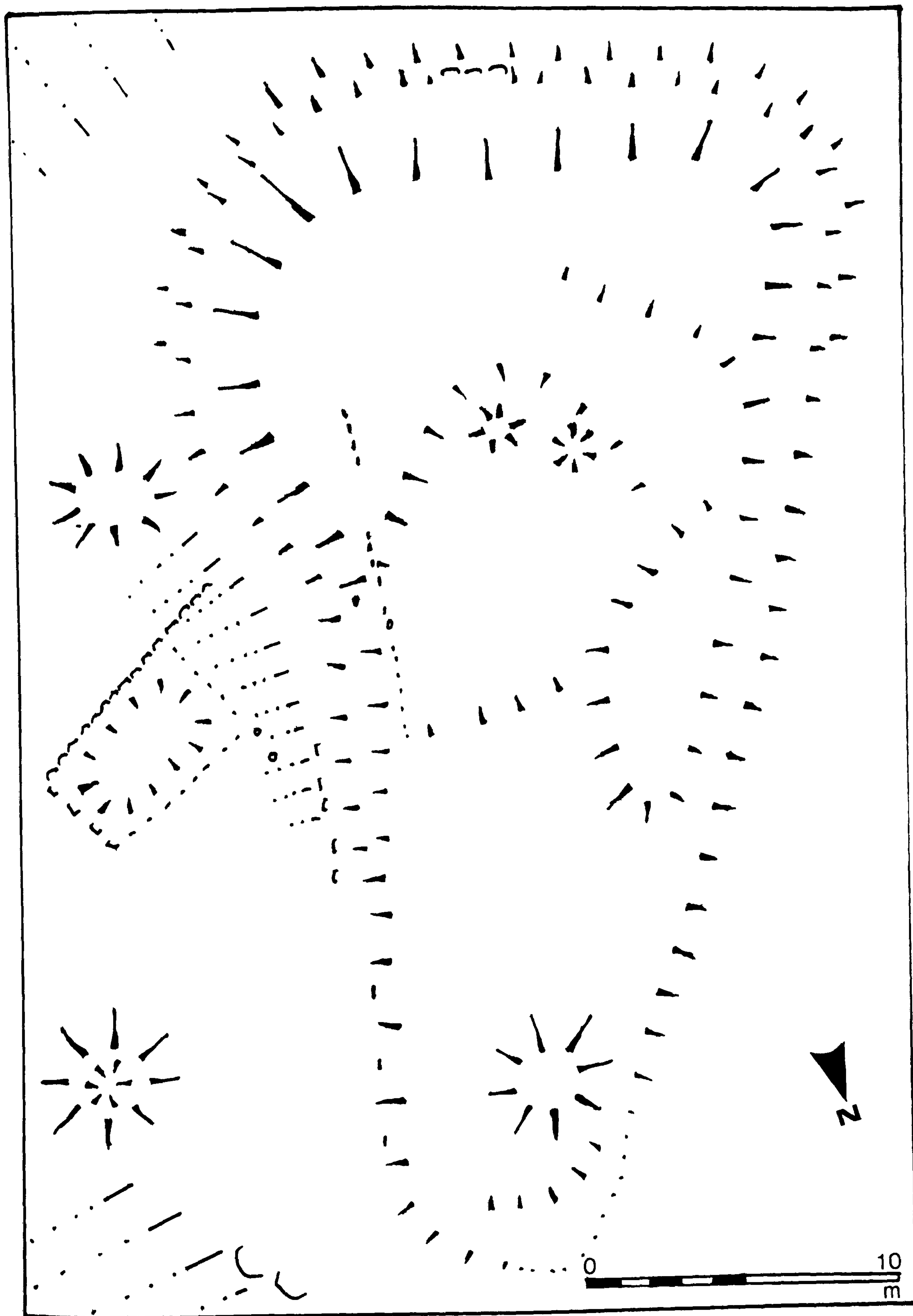
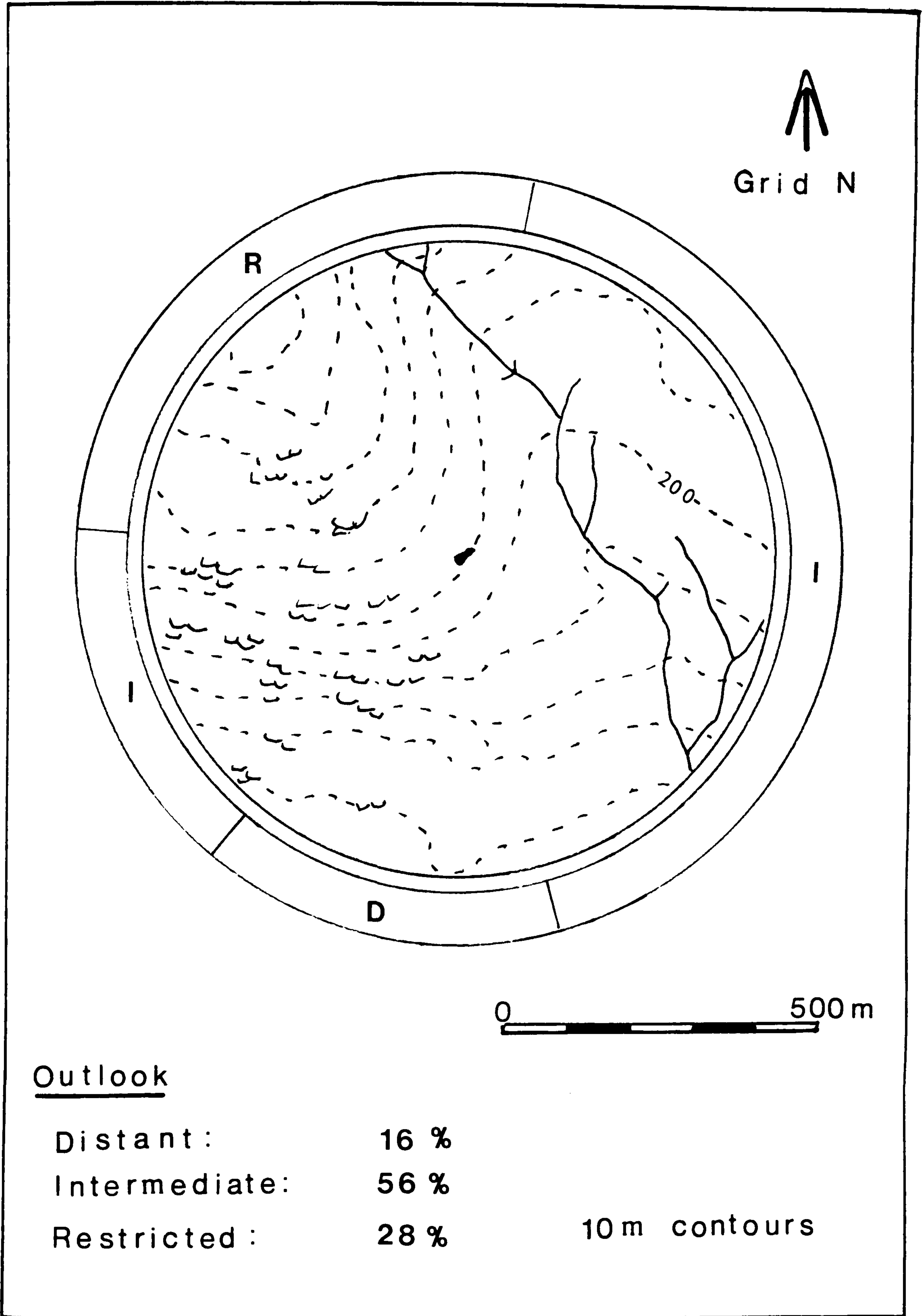


Fig. VI:9:2 Situation and Outlook: Laggan Park



VI:10 Barndennoch, Dumfriesshire
Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 88NE 23
NX 8910 8879
60m OD

Location: 5km N of Dunscore, 350m N of Barndennoch farm
steading, on a terrace above the W bank of the R. Nith.

Type: Cropmark ditches of a possible long barrow

Status: Category B. The cropmarks are suggestive, but not
conclusive.

Outline: A broad, gently curving ditch, paired on the N by
two ditch segments of rather slighter size; two adjacent
ring ditches and a round barrow.

Orientation: SW - NE

Dimensions; Length: S ditch: c 28m
N ditches: c 32m overall
Distance apart: c 10m - 6m

History of site: In the Third Statistical Account of 1962
the Rev. J.H.A. Inglis says that in 1862 a cairn at or near
Barndennoch was opened and seven cists containing burnt
bones were found. A flat stone axe was found nearby, as was
a flint arrowhead with marks of fire (Third Stat Acct
Vol.12, 213). His source for this information has not been
traced, although the Transactions of the Dumfries and
Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society for the
session 1862-3 record the display by Dr. Grierson of 'a
fine flint celt found last year along with some bones in a
cairn in the Parish of Keir' (p.48). An axe in Dumfries
Museum (1965-92), acquired from Dr. Grierson's Museum,
from 'Bardnoch Keir', is described below (Artefact
context). A barbed and tanged arrowhead of pitchstone
'remarkable for its very broad stem' was said to have been
found in a cairn on the farm of Barndennoch, and a burnt
plano-convex knife $2\frac{3}{8}$ " x 1" (60mm x 25mm) was found in a
cist in a cairn with a quantity of burnt bones at
Barndennoch (Black 1893, 112). No cairn sites were known
on Barndennoch until 1977, when three aerial photographs
were taken for the RCAHMS showing the cropmarks described.
On a visit in 1989 a 12m diameter mound was also observed on
the very edge of the field, plough-damaged and with
clearance stone added.

Description: The haughlands on the W side of the River
Nith are edged by a steep bank rising c 25m to the terrace
on which the cropmarks appear. To the W of this terrace a
series of depressions or kettleholes occur, dropping up to
10m from the higher level. At its narrowest point between
the river scarp and the kettle holes the terrace is barely
50m in breadth, and it is across this slightly

depressed neck of land that the cropmarks lie, rising gently to the west to the brink of the depression.

The S ditch is a broad, well defined sausage shape with rounded ends, terminating 10m from the kettlehole on the west and 30m from the river scarp. It would not be thus sited for defence or for drainage. The opposing ditch is in two segments, the NE portion the broadest, although slightly narrower than the S ditch. This segment angles in towards the S ditch and overruns it on the west, only c 6m distant. The slimmer west segment of the ditch follows the line of the S ditch exactly, c 10m distant. It may be the slightest feature because on the highest, driest ground. Parch marks along the summit of the ridge near the kettle hole make it impossible to decide whether any features occur between the two ditches here.

The space between the ditches would be narrow for a long barrow, but the primary feature at Biggar Common measured no more at 18m x 8m - 6m.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 23km from the Nith Estuary

Distance from water: 220m from the R. Nith

General topography: The alluvial flood plains of the Nith valley lie between low hills rising steeply on either side.

Situation: The ditches run across a narrow neck of a terrace, dropping steeply to the river haughlands on the E, and falling away to a kettle hole to the W.

Aspect: E

Slope: Very gentle, with very steep slopes to E and W

Local relief, within 500m: 30m - 105m OD

Outlook: Distant: 15% to N
Intermediate: c 85%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Low

Local landmarks: The location itself, between river scarp and kettle holes is remarkable, cutting the barrow off from approach.

1km to the W, at the top of the hill slopes, beside the Cleuch-house Linn, which drops from thence in a series of waterfalls to the R. Nith, is a large glacial erratic known as the Siller Stane. A find of stone axes is recorded from near this stone (NSA IV, 467). (See also Tradition, below).

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Brown Forest Soil

Land use: Livestock farming

Vegetation: Improved grassland

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbour:

Fleuchlarg, long cairn, 3.8km to W

Laggan Park, long cairn, 5.5km to WNW

Capenoch, long cairn, 6.4km to NW

Dalswinton, double pit alignment and possible
henge, 6.5km to SSE

Monument context: The cropmark has been interpreted as a ditched long barrow, presumably c 30m in length by 9m in maximum breadth at the uphill SW end. It may possibly be associated with a story of a cairn being opened in 1862, found to contain seven 'cists' with cremations, and with the find of an unusual axehead. It would be the only example of a ditched long barrow in the study area, apart from a pair of ditches, 150m in length, at Redbank near the Nith Estuary (VI:4). Nithsdale, however, contains a cosmopolitan mix of monument types and the cropmark appears to be reasonably diagnostic, allowing the monument to be included as a Category B site, with some reservations as to its status. The ditches, especially that on the S side, are broad and may be presumed to have functioned as quarry ditches in contrast to the 'marker ditches' at Dalladies, 1.5m broad by 0.5m in depth below the gravel surface (Piggott 1972). Equally they are quite unlike the shallow ditches, 0.65m in breadth, reported from below the neighbouring cairn at Fleuchlarg. The broken appearance of the N ditch might be supposed to be an effect of subsoil change restricting the record of the cropmark. Kinnes has, however, noted the appearance of a variant ditch (Type A1) 'in which a gap was left in the northern ditch, normally at one-third overall length from distal end' (1992(b), 65). The examples quoted are widely scattered, from Hambledon Hill South, Dorset, to Raisthorpe, Yorkshire, and it may be doubted whether this is a group with any real unity. Comparison of the Bardennoch cropmark with the ditch outline from Beckhampton Road demonstrates a close similarity, increasing confidence in the identification of this site.

The location of the site on good agricultural land is in contrast to that of neighbouring long cairns across the Keir Hills, although Fleuchlarg is relatively low-lying. Use of terraces above the flood plain is characteristic of the cursus enclosures and pitted sites 10km to the S. It may be that stone cairns have been generally removed from such terrain, leaving no cropmark traces (cf. Greenlaw VI:5). On the other hand choice of a dramatic location, on a terrace edge, is a favourite for long cairns (cf. Greens Moor III:2; Loanfoot I:3; Dod Hill I:5).

Artefact context:

Axes: An axe from Barndennoch, in Dumfries Museum, is referred to above (History of Site) as being possibly associated with a cairn. It is a large axe of riebeckite felsite, most probably from Shetland, measuring 195mm x 70mm narrowing to 34mm (DMF 18; P. R. Ritchie, pers. comm.).

Several stone axes were found near the 'Siller Stane' 1km from the site (see Local landmarks). Their present whereabouts is unknown.

John Corrie (Notebook No.2) referred to an 1863 record by Dr. Grierson of a stone celt being found in the Nith by a man from Lag's Tower, which is 2.5km SW of Barndennoch.

Immediate prehistoric landscape: 50m W of the cropmark, beside the scarp of the kettle hole, is a mound 12m in diameter and 1.3m in maximum height. It is misshapen, both by plough damage on the N and by the addition of clearance stone. On the E side is a horizontal kerb stone, 0.7m long, and there are more probable kerb stones around the S arc. The mound appears to be composed mainly of earth, with added stone.

20m NE of the above mound, and 20m NW of the long barrow ditches, are two penannular ring ditches, each c10m in diameter within narrow ditches. The S ring has a broad entrance gap on the E. The second ring, 5m to the N, has a narrow gap on the same side slightly overlapped by the N ditch terminal.

2.5km to the N, on the same terrace above the R. Nith, is a flat topped cairn, 22m in diameter and 1.7m in height, known as the Drum Cairn (NX 8787 9097) (NX 89SE 20).

3 km to the S is Cairn Hall, where, in 1787, Captain Riddel recorded 'one of the largest cairns in Nithsdale' (Yates 1984, 111, WD 22).

3.0km W of Barndennoch, at a height of 250m OD, is a group of small cairns on Barjarg Moor (NX 861 894) (NX 88NE 1).

Tradition: The account in the NSA of the discovery of stone axes near the Siller Stane continues: 'Some persons once attempted to split it with gunpowder, but at the first blast so dreadful a storm came on that they fled in terror! The piece which was blown off emits a strong ringing sound when struck or trod on'. (NSA IV, 467).

Fig. VI:10:1 Barndennoch: cropmark transcription

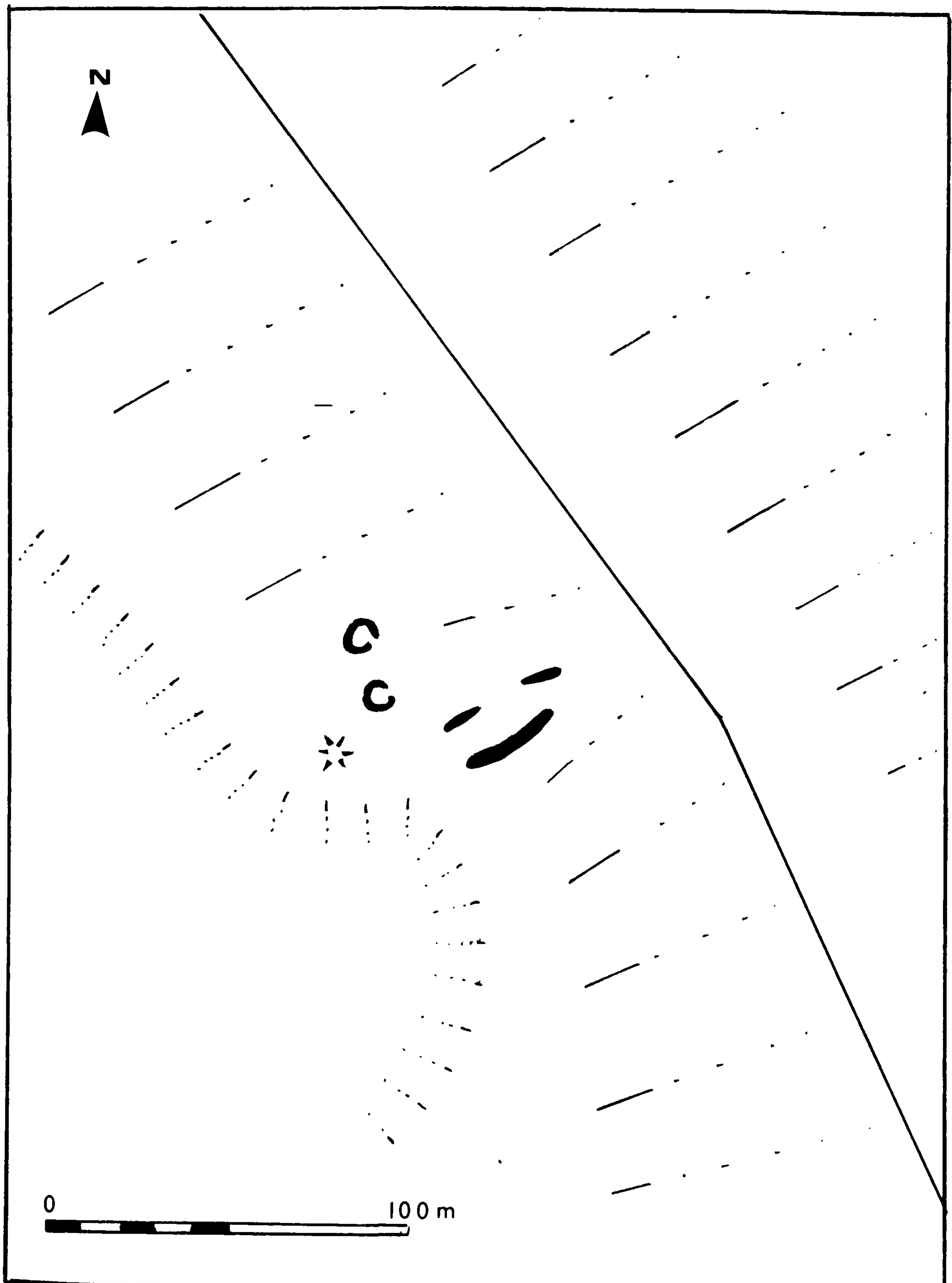
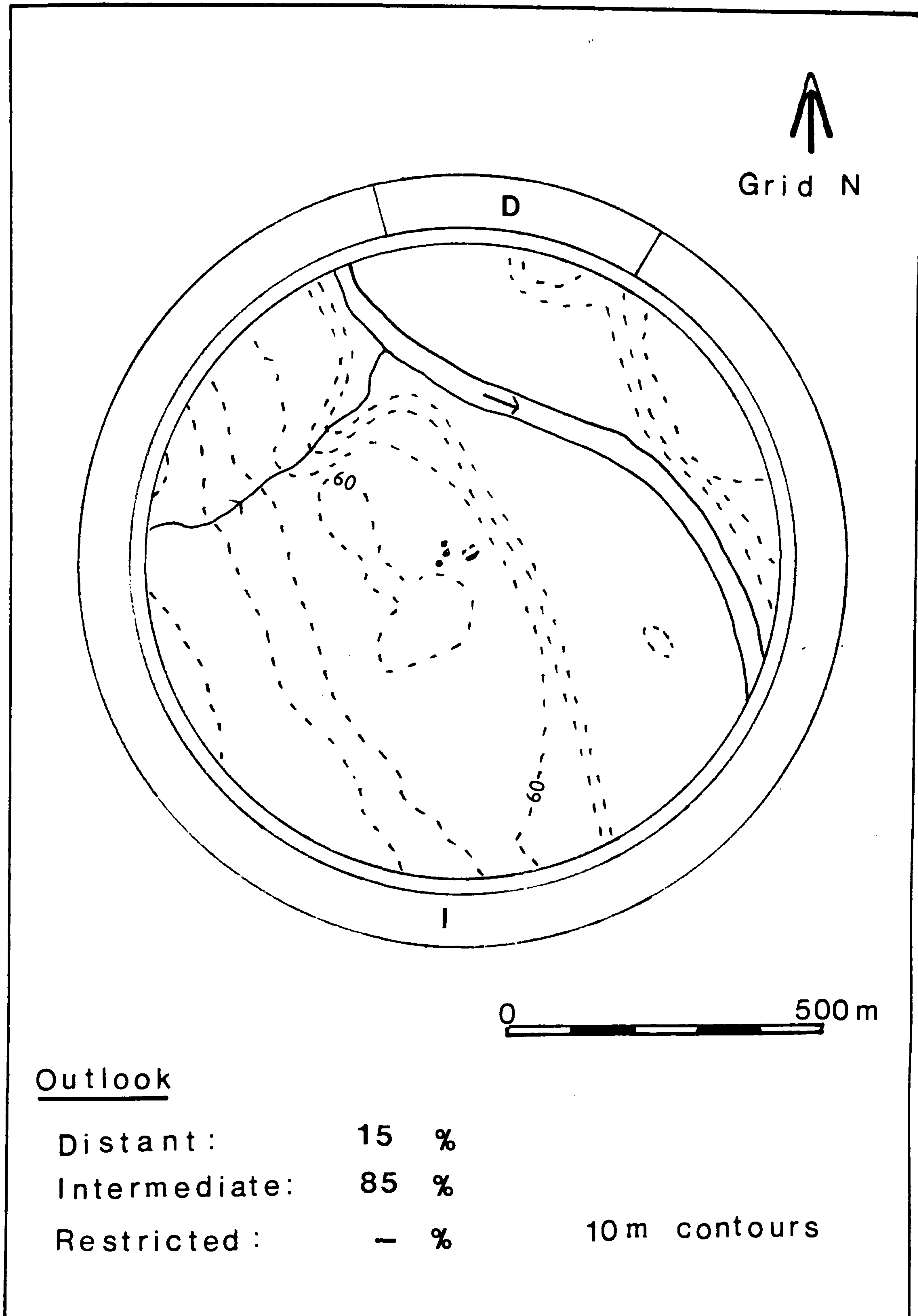


Fig. VI:10:2 Situation and Outlook: Barndennoch



LIST OF CATEGORY C SITES

(See also: I:6; II:1; II:2; III:5; IV:2; VI:5)

Category C sites are possible neolithic funerary monuments for which the evidence is inconclusive, consisting either of undiagnostic remains or descriptions of features which no longer survive.

C:1 Mound Wood, Kennox Moss, Ayrshire NS 34NE 7
Kilmarnock and Loudon District NS 3782 4564
Strathclyde Region 70m OD

On level ground on a drained area of Kennox Moss, now rough pasture, 200m SW of the Glazert Burn, an old plantation wall encloses a mound of earth with some stone content for which a natural origin seems unlikely. The enclosed area is ovate, measuring 36m NNE - SSW by 23m at centre. The wall, up to 1m in height externally, revets mound material up to its full height. The mound surface is level for c 3m inside the wall, then rises to a low dome over 2m in height at centre. Tree holes from the former plantation are visible on its grassy surface.

It seems probable that a pre-existing feature has been enclosed for planting, involving a re-definition of outline. Soil may have been cut back along sloping sides and piled behind the wall. The possibility of its having been an oval or long barrow cannot be excluded.

350m to the E, beside the Glazert Burn, cists are reported to have been found in the early 19th century, one containing two food vessels (NMS EE 144, 145), some flint arrowheads and beads of 'Druid glass', the other a probable axe-hammer (Paterson 1866, 578-9).

Pollen cores taken from Kennox and Bloak Mosses are discussed by Turner (1975). Although major disturbance of the vegetation did not occur until the second millennium bc, the Kennox Moss diagrams (figs. 4 and 5) show a well marked elm decline followed by the first appearance of ash and slight increases in grasses, *plantago lanceolata*, bracken and moorland species, including sphagnum.

Visited August 1991

C:2 Auchenfoyle, Renfrewshire NS 37SW 14
Renfrew District NS 3100 7137
Strathclyde Region 140m OD

Failure of a turnip crop around the narrow end of a clearance cairn induced F. Newall to investigate the feature in 1955 (DES 1955, 25). He cut one trench on

the W side, where he found a ditch 2.1m wide and 0.38m deep, and another on the S side, where a slot 0.38m wide and 0.20m deep was found to run along the centre of a depression 2.7m wide and 0.10m deep. No plan was published. The report concludes: 'The cairn is heel shaped with a broad slightly concave end facing east. It is possible that we have a ruined horned cairn used as a dump'.

A visit by the OS in 1964 found a large clearance mound 'showing no evidence of antiquity except for the occasional scatter of cairn like material'.

Scott mentioned the excavation report, regarding it as insufficient evidence on which to list the site as a Clyde Cairn (1969(a), 326). No further comment is possible on the information available.

Newall (1974-6) describes this site as a 'possible long cairn' with a central enclosure measuring at least 48m x 46m.

C:3 Witches' Stone, Lodgehouse Farm, NS 43SW 14
Ayrshire
Carrick and Kyle District c NS 427 323
Strathclyde Region c 130m OD

James Paterson (1847, i, 334) describes a large stone known as the Witches' Stone blown up in 1819. The boulder stood upright on three other stones, 'so high that a man could crawl under'. Traditionally a witch, flying with the boulder in her apron to demolish nearby Craigie Kirk, let it fall when her apron strings broke. It cannot now be judged whether the setting was glacial detritus (cf Wallacetown D:8) or a megalithic chamber.

C:4 Rutherglen churchyard, Lanarkshire NS 66 SW
Glasgow District NS 6133 6170
Strathclyde Region 20m OD

David Ure (1793, 84) reported 'a beautiful example of a Druid temple' standing within a grove in Rutherglen burial ground, and he quoted The Auld Wife's Lift, Stirlingshire as a comparable site. He added that 'a very large tumulus', said to have stood in the churchyard, had long since been levelled, perhaps contributing to the fact that the churchyard stood c 1.5m above the level of the surrounding ground. He also mentioned a stone grave and many human bones being dug up in the burial ground and in the church, but these features would be unsurprising in a medieval graveyard.

The church, founded in the twelfth century, has been replaced by a building of 1900. The graveyard is still 1.0 - 1.5m above the surrounding streets, with no sign of either tumulus or megalith, the original nature of

which cannot now be judged. The site lies back from the edge of a terrace overlooking the R. Clyde, 600m to the N.

Visited February 1993

C:5 Sanquhar Manse, Dumfriesshire NS 71SE 2
Nithsdale District NS 7757 1027
Dumfries and Galloway Region 130m OD

The ONB (44, 182) in 1856 reported that a 'cromlech' used to stand on top of a small tree-planted hill in the manse garden at Sanquhar. The site has been landscaped and bears no trace of the feature, (NS 71SE 2).

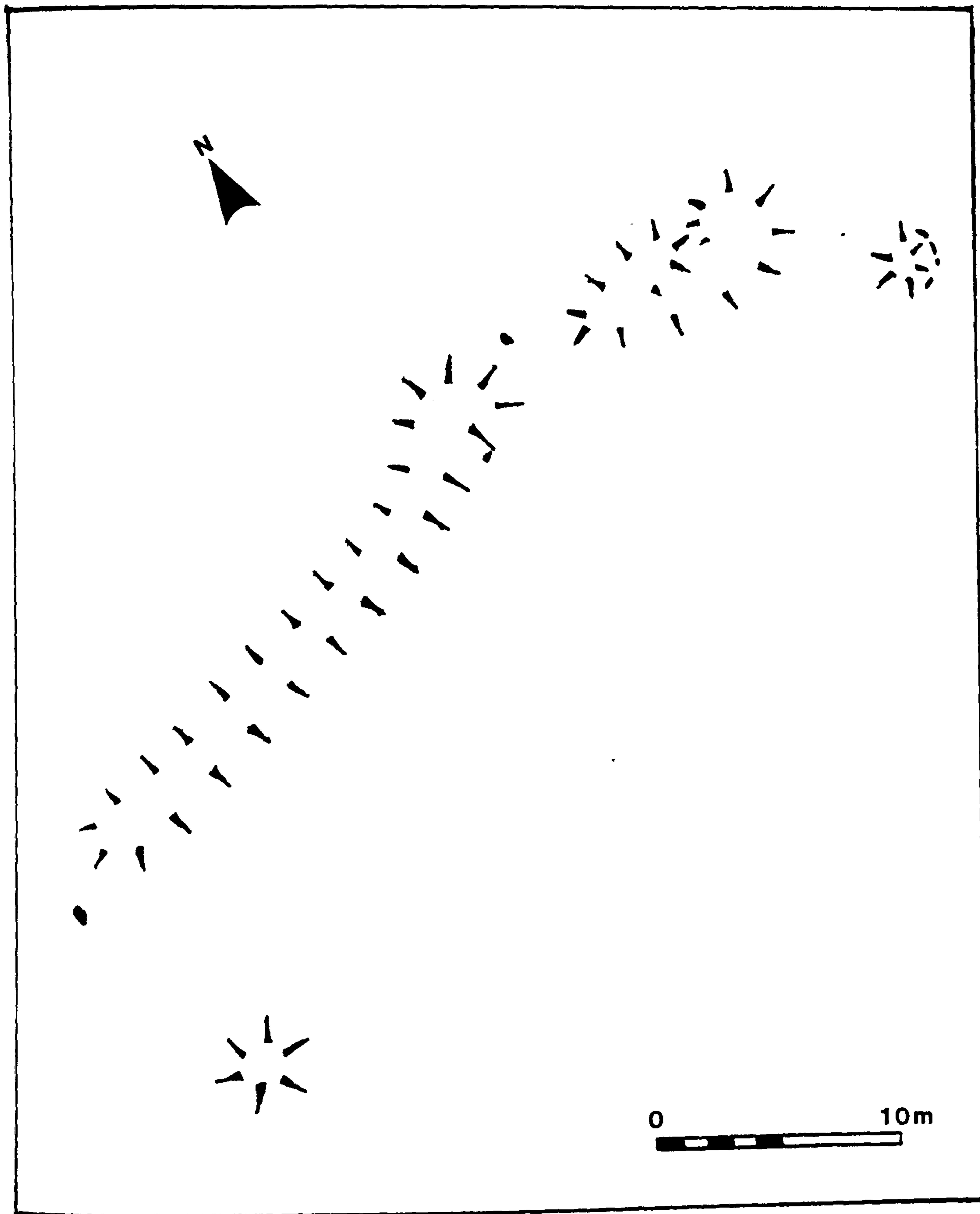
C:6 Horse Law - Easton-Medwyn Water NT 04
Clydesdale District c 250 -300m OD
Strathclyde Region

Plans of the South Pentlands small cairnfields published in the Lanarkshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1978(a), p.51 figs.13, 14; p.56-7 fig.18) depict several small, elongated cairns, and it seems possible that among them could be some neolithic mounds comparable to that on Biggar Common. Inspection of some of the cairns found no evidence of formal definition: some appeared to consist of two coalescing round cairns. The occurrence of these sites within small cairnfields argues for a general clearance function and distinguishes them from the Biggar Common situation where the only cairns on the hillside appear to be funerary.

On Cairn Knowe, in the Easton-Medwyn Water field, several of the elongated cairns shown in fig.13 in the Inventory were found to be linear features, or banks, apparently defining small plots or cleared areas. Fig. C:6 shows the central cairns in this group.

While it remains possible that neolithic structures are present among the small cairns, no means of identifying such monuments was apparent.

Fig. C:6 Linear cairn, Cairn Knowe, Horse Law
Plan 1987



C:7 Arthur's Table, Lour, Peeblesshire NT 13NE 30
 Tweeddale District c NT 17 36
 Borders Region 170m OD

Professor J. Veitch, in his 'History and Poetry of the Scottish Border' (1893, 125), relates that 'an almost perfect cromlech', universally known as 'Arthur's Table', stood until the beginning of the 19th century on the haugh of the River Tweed, on the line of an old road from Biggar, directly below the fort at Lour (NT 179 356). 'It consisted of two or more upright stones and one flat stone laid across as a roof, all of remarkable size'. Veitch attributed its destruction, with that of various other local ancient monuments, to Sir Walter Scott's father, factor to the estate, who was said to hate 'old stones', preferring 'to see them utilised in dykes and cow-byres'. If this agency is correct, the structure must have been destroyed in the eighteenth century as Walter Scott the elder, W.S. died in 1799 at the age of sixty eight having suffered a stroke two years earlier.

Although the description would suggest a megalithic chamber, it is possible that the stones constituted an above-ground cist, or were no more than natural boulders (cf. Category D sites Nos.8, 14, 15).

A stone axe is said to have been found near the fort of Lour, which is 500m from the river (Armstrong 1775), and a cup-marked stone was said to lie on the fort in 1899 (Douglas 1899, 28). Across the river a fragmentary stone circle near Stobo Mill has been recorded (Gunn 1907, 1), and near Stobo Castle Early Bronze Age armlets were associated with an unusual funerary site (RCAHMS 1967, i, 62, no.90). A large serpentine axe was found near Stobo (NMS: AF 470).

C:8 Linton Church, Roxburghshire NT 72NE
 Roxburgh District NT 7732 2622
 Borders Region 85m OD

In 1834 the New Statistical Account (III, 152) stated: 'About fifty years ago, during repairs to the church, a large grave was discovered in which were fifty skulls; all were equally decayed, and many of them bore marks of violence. It was conjectured that they belonged to individuals who had fallen on Flodden Field'.

An article by C. Wilson in 1850 discussed the local belief that the high knoll on which the church is situated was of artificial construction, but did not mention the above story. While the church itself, dating from c 1159, was not thought to incorporate traces of an earlier structure, it seemed theoretically possible that the church should have been built on the ruins of a 'heathen temple'. The knoll was known from grave digging to consist of pure compact sand to a depth of at least 15 feet

(4.6m), and Wilson related a legend concerning its construction in expiation of the killing of a priest. Wilson himself considered it to be a natural feature, created by wind blow from the glacial lake in the valley below: 'Even if it should be proved that the Linton Knoll had been used as a tumulus for purposes of ancient burial, this would [not] demonstrate its artificial origin' (Wilson 1856, 41).

The story of the skull collection could relate to a medieval ossuary. It seems possible, however, that prehistoric deposition was involved, as one version of local legend seems to have believed.

C:9 Kirkpatrick Durham, Kirkcudbright NX 77SE 18
Stewartry District NX 7879 7034
Dumfries and Galloway Region 120m OD

Beside the road on the NE side of Kirkpatrick Durham village the Kirkcudbright Inventory noted the presence of an oval flat-topped mound which 'though bearing a somewhat artificial appearance has not now the character of a mote or defensive work of any kind' (RCAHMS 1914, 168, no.311). The overall dimensions were given as 25.9m x 16.5m x 1.8m in height, and the circular summit measured 7.3m in diameter.

Subsequently the village war memorial has been erected on a remodelled summit and this part of the mound is now enclosed by a fence. In 1973 the OS considered the mound to be a natural feature, its base 'accentuated by ploughing'.

The mound, which is on sloping ground beside a stream, is steep-sided around the higher NW end where a portion has been cut off by the road. To the SE it tails away gently into a grass field, where erosion and the plough have left a sharply defined edge in a rounded shape. The dimensions closely resemble those of the oval cairn at Greenlaw (VI:5), 7km to the SE, which has been presented as a possible ploughed out long cairn. The same interpretation, whether as cairn or barrow, could be applicable here. A small round mound beside the tail of the site could be another cairn or barrow.

Visited October 1992

C:10 Gledbrae, Dumfriesshire NX 79SE 7
Nithsdale District NX 7839 9368
Dumfries and Galloway 190m OD

This robbed cairn occupies a terrace on the NE end of Maqueston Hill with views down the valley of the Shinnel Water. It is 3km north of Moniaive and 5km west of Capenoch

long cairn. It was described in the Dumfriesshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1920, 208-9, no.613) as a dilapidated oval cairn measuring c 28m x 26.5m with a boulder edging. A little to the north of centre two stones protruded, suggesting the presence of a chamber.

A visit by the Ordnance Survey in 1977 found no trace of the kerb or the 'chamber'. Field clearance had been added and the cairn edge was ploughed away. The investigator (JRL) concluded, however, that originally the cairn had extended under the farm track which passed on the west side of the site and into the field beyond, giving a total E - W length of 35m, with 22m of surviving breadth. A possible ditch was noted on the N arc of the cairn.

A visit in August 1989 found the site hard to distinguish under field clearance and long grass. It could be seen that the stone walls on either side of the track rose over a ridge of raised ground on the west side of the cairn, but whether this was caused by the presence of the cairn itself or by a rocky ridge on which it was situated, could not be established. There was no sign of the cairn in the grazed field to the west of the track. If the walls do indeed pass over a portion of the cairn itself, its dimensions would certainly be those of a long cairn. The slabs observed by the RCAHMS might have belonged to a lateral chamber, opening to the north, although the set of long cairns in the adjacent Keir Hills show no evidence for orthostatic chambers.

The cairn may be one mentioned in the NSA as a large cairn on McQueston in which was found a stone coffin with fragments of bone and a stone hammer (NSA IV, 475).

Visited August 1989

C:11 Camp Hill, Drumcoltran, Kirkcudbright NX 86NE 3
Stewarty District NX 8656 6961
Dumfries and Galloway Region 190m OD

A large cairn is said to have been removed from the summit of Camp Hill a few years before 1851, revealing a 'kistvaen built of free stone about 14 feet (4.3m) in length' containing no bones or ashes (ONB 90, p.25). When the site was listed in the Inventory (RCAHMS 1914, 151, no.281) no trace of the cairn remained. Yates has pointed out that the dimensions of the structure suggest the possibility that it was 'part of the passage of a chambered tomb' (1984, 141, SK 50). Equally, however, it could have been an orthostatic chamber.

No trace of this site survives on the rocky, uneven hill summit covered in short grass. The hill has long views in all directions, a situation occasionally chosen for long cairns in the south west, (cf. Dod Hill I:5).

Visited April 1990

C:12 Mains of Southwick, Kirkcudbright
Stewartry District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 95NW
c NX 93 57

In *Archaeologia* VII 1785, 414-7 a letter by Lady S. Riddell dated 1779 was published in which an account was given of the discovery of a fine jadeite axe when rocks were being blown up in the course of land clearance on the estate of Mains of Southwick. Lady Riddell wrote: 'The stone in question was lying, when found, in a sort of cavity in the large one that was blasted', a description which led Sir John Evans to suggest that the axe could have been in a 'dolmen'. Additional credence was given to this interpretation by an association between the axe find and a 'Druidical temple' recently also destroyed on the estate (e.g. Chalmers 3 1824, 228). Lady Riddell, however, mentioned this latter event as occurring on the estate without suggesting any close spatial connection with the axe. Given local practices of axe deposition in or near striking rock formations, such as a cave or rock shelter at Maidenbower Crag, Dumfries (Dfs Mus 1934-11) or the Siller Stane, Barndennoch (NSA IV, 467), it would seem as likely that the jadeite axe had been placed in a natural rock crevice, and the supposed megalithic chamber should be discounted.

C:13 Dryfeholm, Dumfriesshire
Annandale and Eskdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NY 18SW 5
NY 1085 8362
45m OD

The 1st ed 6-inch OS map (1861) marks a 'Tumulus (remains of)' at the above NGR, but no description is given in the ONB. In 1938 O.G.S. Crawford described the site as a low oval mound measuring c 40m NW - SE by 30m (NY 18SW 5). By 1966 the OS surveyor could see only a scatter of stones on the site. Yates found no trace of the mound, and the farmer suggested to him that an old pumping station had stood on the site (1984, 96 ED 24). Crawford's description suggests a very large and elongated cairn or barrow. The situation, on the level terrace between the R. Annan and the Dryfe Water, is an unusual one for a cairn, but a distribution in such locations is especially vulnerable to destruction.

LIST OF CATEGORY D SITES

Category D sites are those which, despite earlier classification or suggestion, can be rejected as being unlikely to be neolithic cairns.

D:1 Whitehill, Ayrshire NS 25NE 4
Cunninghame District NS 2659 5613
Strathclyde Region 190m OD

In DES 1966, 18 F. Newall reported 'a megalithic arrangement of boulders' suggestive of a disturbed chambered tomb measuring 7m x 3.8m overall, 'fronted by a standing stone', 2.7m x 1.4m x 2.0m high. He added: 'The leaning stones incline towards each other like jambs, while at the opposite end is an earthfast edge set slab, closing the area'.

On a visit in 1983 the OS concluded that the feature was not an antiquity but a random group of boulders combined with a 6m length of walling, the latter probably a late feature aligning with a similar wall base c 50m to the NW.

D:2 Glentane Hill, Ayrshire NS 25SW 15
Cunninghame District NS 2222 5193
Strathclyde Region 190m OD

In 1965 F. Newall noted the presence of a denuded round cairn, 9m in diameter, at the foot of Glentane Hill. On its E side it appeared to have a flat or hollow facade, at the centre of which three stones appeared possibly to indicate a passage. Several overlapping, edge placed stones at the cairn centre defined a central space measuring 3.8m x 3.4m (DES 1965, 15).

On visiting the site in 1982 the OS considered it not to be a cairn but a stone dump on the edge of a natural platform. Randomly placed, shapeless stones constituted the supposed passage entrance.

D:3 South Hourat, Ayrshire NS 25SE 1
Cunninghame District NS 2875 5385
Strathclyde Region 152m OD

The Marginal Lands Survey of the RCAHMS in 1954 noted some 'indeterminate remains' in the top of the right bank of the glen behind South Hourat farmhouse. A massive capstone could be seen to rest on vertical slabs, with

a second capstone visible behind the first. 'Whether it is a chambered tomb, the flue of a kiln or merely a medieval sewer can only be determined by excavation'.

In 1957 the OS observed the exposed end of a passage, 0.9m wide and 0.2m high, roofed by horizontal stone slabs for a visible distance of 2m; the outermost slab measured 1.1m x 0.6m. There was no trace of an artificial mound. By 1983 the OS reported seeing no trace of vertical slabs, and while 'heavy coursed slabs' were visible, these appeared to be functioning as a bank revetment of no antiquity.

The site is listed under the name of Castle Hill as an alleged cairn by David Hunt (1987, ii, 301).

D:4	Craig o'Todholes, Renfrewshire	NS 27SE 28
	Inverclyde District	NS 2633 7148
	Strathclyde Region	220m OD

In 1956 F. Newall reported 'a two-chambered round cairn' 8.2m in diameter and 1.2m in height on the S side of Loch Thom (DES 1956, 21). In 1962 he described it as a domed cairn 'disturbed at centre' (Newall 1962, 168). As the OS reported in 1964, a stony hollow at the centre of the cairn gives a false impression of a chamber.

J.G. Scott lists the site as one for which evidence is insufficient to allow for inclusion as a Clyde Cairn (1969(a), 326).

Visited June 1986

D:5	Glen of Hecklemoor, Renfrewshire	NS 27SE 17
	Inverclyde District	NS 2720 7273
	Strathclyde Region	230m OD

In 1956 F. Newall reported a round cairn at NS 256 727, and, 400 yards to the W 'a long mound with clear traces of build at the broad end which faces E' (DES 1956, 21). The NGR would place both sites in Loch Thom, and has been amended to NS 2770 7270 by the OS. 500m to the W, at NS 2720 7273 a natural knoll and rock outcrop appeared to the OS in 1964 to be the probable site of the supposed 'long mound'.

J.G. Scott lists this site as one for which evidence is insufficient to allow for inclusion as a Clyde Cairn (1969(a), 326).

D:6 Glen Moss, West Glen, Renfrewshire NS 37SE 19
Renfrew District NS 3711 7010
Strathclyde Region 150m OD

A long cairn measuring c 20m x 12.8m was reported at NS 3711 7010 by F. Newall in DES 1958, 31.

The site lies in a field 200m W of West Glen farmhouse. It consists of a discontinuous ridge of rock outcrop running NW - SE, parallel to the fence along the edge of Glen Moss 60m to the S. The segment of rock designated a long cairn measures 21m NW - SE x 10m - 13m and is up to 1.0m high on the downhill SW side, c 0.4m high on the NE. Much field clearance stone has been piled on the rock, which is overgrown with brambles and whins along its S side.

60m to the W more rock outcrops into the field at NS 3709 7009 again with field clearance added. This feature was also recorded in DES, as above, as a round cairn c 9m in diameter 'reared on a rocky knoll' (NS 37SE 20).

Visited May 1985

D:7 Elphinstone Wood, West Glen, NS 37SE 18
Renfrewshire
Renfrew District NS 3756 7008
Strathclyde Region 150m OD

A long cairn reported at NS 3765 7015 by F. Newall (DES 1958, 31) was said to measure 12m x 8.5m and to be built downslope, so that the N side was 'but little raised', the S side being up to 3.0m in height. The level top of the 'cairn' measured c 7m x 5m.

The only feature in the area approximating to the above description is an oval mass of rock outcrop at NS 3756 7008. The rock is a continuation of a ridge outcropping to the NE, and is 25m N of the wall bounding Elphinstone Wood. It measures 18m N - S x 13m - 15m, its flattish top 6m in diameter. It is 3.0m high at the W, 2.5m at the S end and 1.2m at the N. The 1m high E side has been cut by a tractor track revealing solid rock. The grassed over outcrop carries also whin, bracken, rowans and a birch tree. It is 100m SW of the published NGR, but no cairns exist in that area.

Visited May 1985

D:8 Wallacetown, Ayrshire
Cumnock and Doon Valley District
Strathclyde Region

NS 52SE 29
NS 5992 2154
175m OD

A 'rocking stone' resting on two upright stones beside the Bellow Water, just east of its junction with the Glenmuir Water, is described in the NSA (V, 326), by Paterson (1847, 236), and in the ONB (Bk 3, p.120), although John Smith (1895, 139) could neither find the feature nor obtain information on it.

The Rev. John Warrick gave the following description (1899, 15): 'It consists of two thick upright stones four feet (1.2m) high. Across these lies a massive block unhewn like the others, measuring 6 feet (1.8m) in length, 5 feet 3 inches (1.6m) in height and 3 feet (0.9m) in breadth.... On the west side of the upright pillars there is a semi-circular group of large stones, six in number and measuring from two to three feet (0.6m - 0.9m) square. The presence of the semi-circle of stones guarding the space behind the pillars favours the conclusion that it is a place of burial. In the language of antiquarians it is a dolmen or cromlech'.

Despite the general accuracy of the above description the three large stones on the N bank of the river, are clearly a natural feature, the 'rocking stone' being wedged between projecting rocks in a boulder strewn, rocky glen. The semi-circle of stones are a relatively recent addition, landscaping the site as a feature on a riverside walk. They are angular blocks, not earthfast, at c 1m to 3m from the setting. There is no evidence of prehistoric structures.

Visited March 1993

D:9 Wallace's Grave, Loudon Hill, Ayrshire
Kilmarnock and Loudon District
Strathclyde Region

NS 63NW 4
NS 6073 3721
210m OD

In 1856 the ONB (28, p.39) noted this name, given to 'a mound in the shape of a coffin' traditionally said to be the burial place of 'the English killed in the skirmish between Wallace and Fenwick'. J.H. Thomson (1903, 21) described the feature as: 'a mound about thirty yards in length and two or three in breadth at the base. Its form and name, and place at the entrance to a pass, confirm the popular tradition that it is the resting place of the dead.'

The description and association with burial might have suggested an attenuated long barrow, but the Ordnance Survey, visiting the site in 1956 and 1978 describe it as an 'island' between two old, hollow tracks on a steep hill slope, and certainly not a burial mound.

D:10 Cairnsaugh, Ayrshire NS 63NW 20
East Kilbride District NS 6175 3626
Strathclyde Region 6175 3626

In DES 1986, H. McFadzean reported a robbed long cairn at NS 617 363 'on the W bank of the Avon Water near a bridge at the foot of Cairnsaugh Hill'. No dimensions were given.

No trace of a cairn can be found in the field indicated by the NGR, but to the SW along the roadside immediately NW of the bridge over the Avon Water, the old field wall has been reduced to a low mound, measuring c 27m x 3.0 - 3.9m, only 0.25m in height, but with added clearance stone. The line of the wall can be seen to continue up the side of Cairnsaugh Hill to the NW. This feature is almost certainly the 'long cairn' of the report.

Visited April 1988

D:11 Shie Loans, Ayrshire NS 63NW 23
East Kilbride District NS 6304 3642
Strathclyde Region

In DES 1986, 35, H. McFadzean reported a robbed long cairn at NS 630 365, measuring c 41m x 4.5m, on the E bank of a small stream.

Field clearance has been heaped along the field edge forming a mound along the bank of the boundary stream of the dimensions quoted above and up to 0.8m in height. The edges of the mound are grassed over, but the central strip consists of bare stone.

Visited April 1988

D:12 Rough Castle, East Kilbride, NS 65NW 17
Lanarkshire
Eastwood District NS 6078 5536
Strathclyde Region 130m OD

James Wilson (1936, i, 67) suggested that a 'long mound' on the S side of the Kittoch Water seemed to be a chambered cairn. He appears to have founded this supposition on a report by David Ure in 1793 (p.148) of 'a pretty large vault' being found in the mound. The OS description of the site as a medieval motte with building remains on the summit makes Wilson's interpretation extremely unlikely.

D:13 Meadowfoot, Wanlockhead,
Dumfriesshire
Upper Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

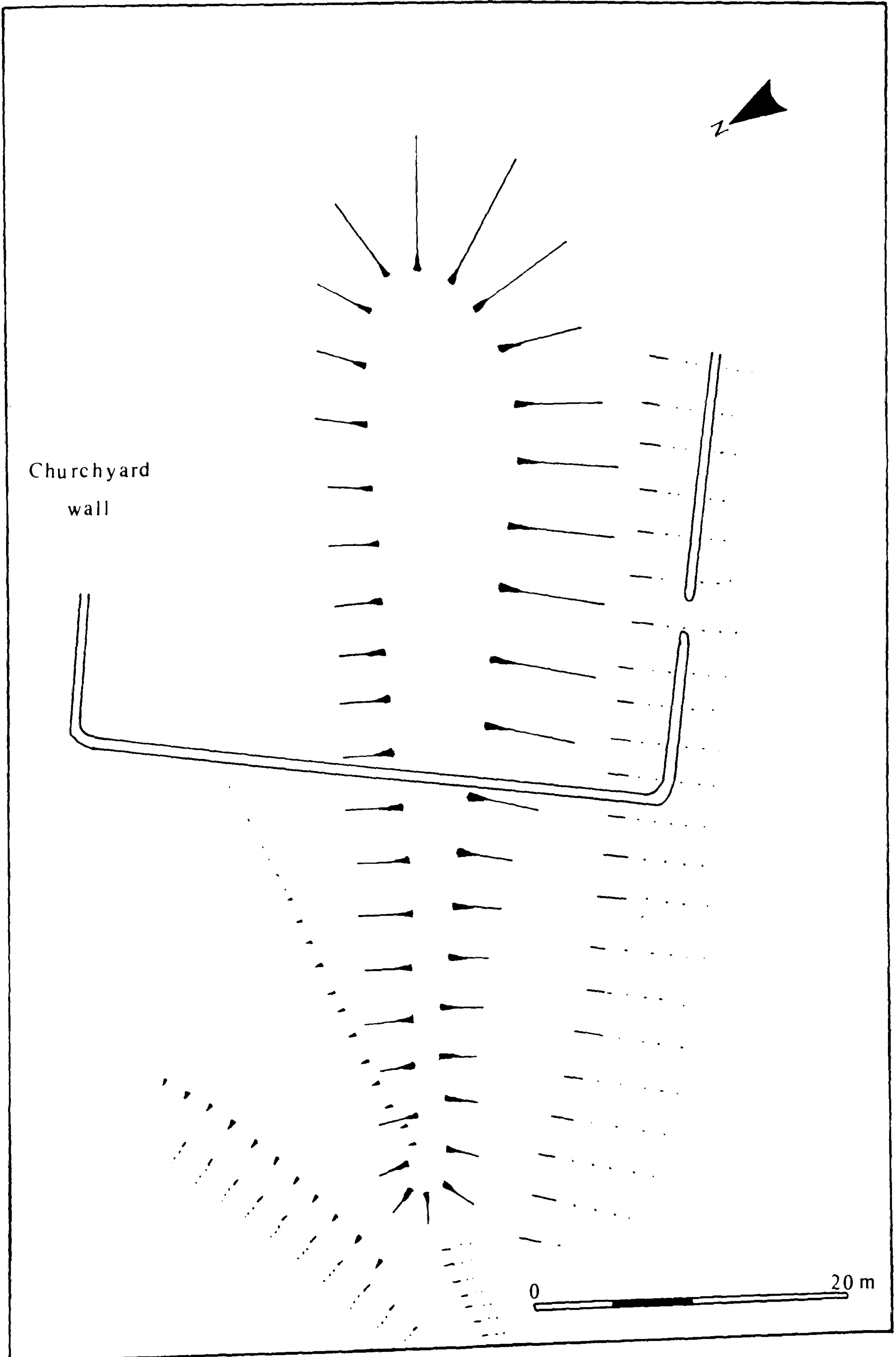
NS 81SE 10
NS 8644 1359
400m OD

This long mound was reported in DES 1975, 19 by T.C. Welsh as a possible long cairn, measuring 60m in length by 2m in maximum height, 18m broad at the SE end, narrowing to 13m mid-length and there after tapering substantially. The OS visited the mound in 1978 and discussed it as either a natural scarp or, possibly, turf covered debris from adjacent mining operations. Nonetheless the site has been listed by Kinnes (1992 a, 84; 1992 b, 73-4) as an unchambered long barrow.

The site is on the floor of the valley of the NW flowing Wanlock Water, lying parallel to the stream which passes some 20m to the SW, immediately NW of where a small stream joins the main one from a steep valley to the NE. The mound is very clearly a fluvio-glacial feature, the product of outwash from the side valley. It was planned in 1988 (fig. D:13), confirming this observation. It lacks the broad proximal end and squared off tail of a long barrow, and instead swells gradually from the SE to achieve its maximum breadth c20m along its length, tapering to a narrow tail, truncated by an old track.

Visited and planned October 1990

Fig. D:13 Meadowfoot, Wanlockhead: Plan 1990



D:14 Kipps, West Lothian
West Lothian District
Lothian Region

NS 97SE 17
NS 9908 7387

The antiquarian Sir Robert Sibbald (1641-1722) who owned the house and estate of Kipps, believed that a group of large glacial erratics to the E of the house was an 'ancient altar' beside a 'round range of stones'. His directions to these antiquities, addressed to Edward Lhwyd on the visit of the latter to the Roman wall, are published in PSAS xliv 1909-10, 322. Sibbald says that the stones were known locally as 'the cloven stones'.

In the Statistical Account (IV, 469) the setting is described as 'an altar of four great unpolished whin stones, on which, according to tradition sacrifices were anciently performed:- By others, it has been called the Temple of Terminus, although it may rather have been a Druidical place of worship'.

Thereafter the site was described as a cromlech with accompanying stone circle (Gough's Camden 1806, IV, 56; Chalmers 1807, I, 74). The jumble of stones, however, lacked the expected form of a 'dolmen', and in the New Statistical Account a tradition was given that the central 'stone of sacrifice' had been split by lightning and the circle partially destroyed by the removal of stones for agricultural convenience. The Ordnance Survey in 1856 agreed that stones must have been removed: 'those that remain are not arranged in regular order nor on end' (ONB, 46, p.5); nonetheless the boulders were still accepted as being the remains of a 'Druids' Temple'. A cordoned cinerary urn found nearby in the 19th century was said to have been 'far enough away from it [the Cromlech] to spare us the necessity of dealing with controverted questions touching the use of such erections' (Duns 1877, 411).

As both the RCAHMS (1929, 232, no.362) and Henshall (1972, 542) agree, the setting is a natural feature, the 'stone circle' no more than a scatter of glacial detritus. The group of boulders has been enclosed within a circular stone wall to protect it from livestock.

D:15 The Witch's Stone
Bonnington, Midlothian
Edinburgh District
Lothian Region

NT 16NW 8
NT 1273 6973

David Wilson (1851, 67-8) published an illustration and discussion of this 'cromlech', which consisted of a 'capstone' measuring 3.5m x 3.2m resting on two supports. He himself 'explored' the monument, finding natural rock at very little depth with no trace of sepulchral remains. He would have ascribed a natural origin to the setting, were it not for a regular line of 'shallow

perforations' along the centre of the stone which he regarded as being 'artificial toolings' possibly indicative of a design to split the rock in two.

Professor Simpson (1865, 51) examined the feature, noting the sloping angle of the boulder as evidence for its having slipped out of place. Two or three other large blocks lay around. He added that along the median line of the upper surface of the 0.6m thick capstone was 'a long row of some twenty two cup cuttings: and two more cuttings are placed laterally'.

Further examination of the geology of the rock and the hill in 1874 established that it was a glacial erratic embedded in boulder clay (Smith 1874, 141-6), and this assessment was accepted by Romilly Allen (1882, 80-2). The cupmarks continued to attract attention (e.g. Coles 1903), especially since the boulder lay 180m NE of the cup and ring marked rocks on Tormain Hill at NT 1290 6971 (Morris 1968, 70, no.151).

In c 1919 the stone was destroyed and no trace now remains (RCAHMS 1929, 164, no.222). It was listed by Henshall (1972, 466) as a 'Site formerly described as a cromlech'.

D:16 Craigcrocket, Kirkcudbright NX 58NE 12
Stewartry District NX 579 896
Dumfries and Galloway Region 236m OD

A note in the NMR dated 25th April 1978 gives the above NGR as a correction by M. Ansell of his entry in DES 1969, 32. The item reads:

'Craigcrocket, Chambered cairn NX 577 902
An exposed cist, 3.66m long E - W, 0.3m wide N-S, has entrance to E and a large blocking stone at W end. A natural outcrop of rock forms N side of cist whilst S side is partially collapsed made up walling. Around the cist is the remains of a 6.40m diam. cairn. At an elevation of 236.22m.'

The site is now forested, but the description does not suggest a chambered cairn. The use of rock outcrop and of walling are both unusual; the breadth of the structure is too narrow for a chamber; the cairn is much smaller than any local chambered cairns, such as those of the Bargrennan Group.

D:17 Barndennoch, Kirkcudbright NX 59SE 14
Stewartry District NX 5685 9120
Dumfries and Galloway Region 290m OD

M.L. Ansell has suggested (DES 1969, 32) that this 19.5m diameter round cairn could be a passage grave

similar to that at the Water of Deugh. A plan of the site was published by Yates (1984, 152, fig.36) showing the round cairn overlain by a modern wall, on the N side of which are two slabs in alignment. Yates interpreted the stones as the remains of a cist, which seems the more probable explanation. The larger stone, on the E, is 1.1m in length, but does not appear to be earthfast, the second slab is quite small, 0.55m in length. A large stone lies on the cairn surface and three large boulders up to 0.8m in length are built into the wall adjacent to the structure. Whatever the nature of the remains, they would appear to have been much robbed.

Visited May 1988

D:18 Glaisters, Kirkcudbright
Stewartry District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 86NE 15
NX 8838 6627

F.R. Coles described three adjacent enclosures, the smaller ones with boulder faced banks, which he took to be robbed out cairns (1894, 303-4). The largest enclosure was oval, and Coles supposed that it could be identified with a large cairn the destruction of which, involving the discovery of a number of urns with cremations, was described in the NSA (V, 220). The same mis-identification had been made by the Ordnance Survey (ONB 92, 21). R.C. Reid conducted an inconclusive search for the supposed long cairn in 1935 (Reid 1936), on the basis of which Scott excluded the site from his map of Clyde cairns (1969, 324).

In 1978 the Ordnance Survey visited the area and identified both the probable original cairn site, at NX 8829 6612 (NX 86NE 6), a stony area 22m in diameter, and, 200m to the NE, the three enclosures encountered by Coles. The largest oval enclosure, or supposed long cairn, at NX 8838 6627, measured 30.0m x 18.0m over an earthen bank 6.0m wide and 0.4m high. The smaller circular enclosures still had boulder faced banks of similar proportions.

A visit to the site in 1990 found the enclosures to be considerably denuded, the boulder facings removed, and the banks barely visible in an improved pasture field. There seems no reason, however, to question the OS description of three adjacent sites as enclosures.

Visited June 1990

D:19 Ingleston, Kirkcudbright
Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 96SE 3
NX 9827 6480

This site, was reported by Miss H.C. Nisbet in 1961 as 'a mound of cairn like appearance measuring 110ft (33.5m) NNW to SSE by 80 ft (24.4m) WSW to ENE and 11ft 6in (3.5m) in height from the downslope side (DES 1961, 34). She drew attention to an edging of roughly spaced large boulders and a kerb of smaller stones c 2m beyond them. The Ordnance Survey found the site unacceptable, with the 'kerbs' representing no more than an old plantation wall (J.T.T. 9.8.65). J.G.Scott, however, listed the site as an unclassified long cairn (1969 324). It was rejected by Henshall (1972, 457) who considered that the mound was probably mainly a natural feature. This view, and the former use of the site as a walled plantation, was confirmed on a visit in April 1991. There are several similar rocky outcrops masked in boulder clay in the vicinity, including, 400m to the NNW at NX 9812 6509, Ingleston Mote, an earthwork founded on rock outcrop (RCAHMS 1914, 211, no.385; NX 96NE 10).

Visited April 1991

D:20 The Twelve Apostles, Dumfriesshire
Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 97NW
NX 9475 7938
20m OD

In 1866 Professor J. Simpson published a description of the Holywood stone circle (VI:h). He drew attention (p.23-4) to cupmarks on the largest stone and on two of a group of three or four stones 'within the circuit of the circle'. These stones he considered to represent the capstone and one sidestone of a 'cromlech'. The group, on the E side of the circle, consists of one massive boulder and two smaller ones, bearing natural cupmarks. Presumably one of the members of the stone circle has been used as the site for the dumping of other field cleared stones. There seems no reason to accept Simpson's suggested reconstruction.

D:21 Clonfeckle, Dumfriesshire
Nithsdale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NX 98NE 3
NX 9586 8669

This site was listed in the Dumfriesshire Inventory as the remains of a long cairn measuring 33.5m x 25.6m. It was described as consisting of a ring of close set small boulders, up to 1.1m in length, interspersed by a packing of small stones. The western half of the enclosed area

was profusely scattered with stones, and two small excavated hollows showed that closely packed stones underlay the turf. It was suggested that the cairn had been almost entirely robbed away, leaving a ring of kerb stones. The site was thereafter regularly listed as a long cairn (Childe 1946, 5, fig.1; Feachem 1963, 44; Scott 1969, 322) until visited by Henshall, who recognised it as the remains of an enclosure (1972, 422). The same conclusion was reached by the Ordnance Survey in 1977, who described the remains as the partially surviving revetted bank of an enclosure c 30m in diameter. A visit in June 1990 confirmed this diagnosis. The enclosure straddles the summit of a ridge giving it an elongated look, but it has been originally circular, c 31m in internal diameter.

Visited June 1990

D:22 Gubhill Rig, Dumfriesshire NX 99SE 2
Nithsdale District NX 9641 9329
Dumfries and Galloway Region

This site was included in the Dumfriesshire Inventory as an oval cairn measuring c 28m N - S by 26m, and 1.5m in height. Scott listed it as a possible long cairn (1969, 322), but a visit by Henshall found it to be much smaller than the reported size and with nothing to suggest it to be a long cairn (1972, 422). In 1977 the Ordnance Survey observed that it had been completely destroyed by afforestation leaving only a small scatter of stones. Yates suggested that the original RCAHMS dimensions might have included the knoll on which the cairn was situated (1984, 113, WD 32). In 1990 the forest had been felled, but reseeded trees growing through a deep litter of branches made access impossible and the cairn was not identified. There seems, however, to be no reason to list it as a long cairn.

Area visited June 1990

D:23 Ninestone Rig, Roxburghshire NY 59NW 2
Roxburgh District NY 5151 9655
Borders Region 230m OD

Professor John Veitch (1893, i, 47) mentioned 'a large barrow of the oblong type, above 258 feet (78.6m) in length' which stood near the Ninestone Rig stone circle.

J. Snadden (1923, 22.3) gives a more detailed account of the location of the 'long barrow', on the western slope of Ninestone Rig and towards the Roughley Burn, and

describes it as consisting of lines of firmly compacted earth and small stones, 2.4m - 2.7m broad, and measuring 73m to 91m in overall length, emptied out internally except in retaining a central cross line.

The location and description make clear that the site indicated is one described in the Roxburghshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1956, i, 94, no.107) as two contiguous enclosures, measuring respectively 44.2m and 35.7m in length N - S, formed by a boulder faced rubble wall c 2.4m in breadth.

PART II: ENCLOSURES

I:a Lindston henge, Ayrshire
Kyle and Carrick District
Strathclyde Region

NS 31NE 6
NS 3722 1679
124m OD

Location: 2.5km N of Dalrymple, on the ridge summit 200m N of Lindston farmhouse.

Type: Probable Class I henge

Status: Category B

Outline: A circular ditch with single causeway and traces of external bank

Entrance orientation: E

Dimensions (after RCAHMS 1985(b), 13 no.54):-

Internal diameter:	36m
Ditch breadth:	7.5m
depth:	0.7m

History of site and present condition: The site was described in the 1890s (Christison 1893, 398; Smith 1895, 173) as consisting of a ditch filled with 'weedy water' with 'slight remains' of an outer bank. The ditch was still wet and reed filled in 1953 (Marginal Lands Survey: RCAHMS 1954). In 1980 the OS reported that the site was regularly under the plough and had been bulldozed some fifteen years previously. When visited in July 1992 the ditch was dry, the short cropped grass growing in it contrasting with the meadow grass of the rest of the field.

Description: Within the ditch a platform of level, rather stony ground appears to be higher than the surrounding field, perhaps because it occupies the highest part of the ridge. The shallow ditch is well defined by a change in vegetation, emphasising rounded terminals on either side of a single causeway. Only very slight traces of an outer bank around the NW quadrant can be made out, but this feature was described in the Marginal Lands Survey as being only a few inches high and spread to a maximum thickness of 7.3m.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 6km from the mouth of the River Doon

Distance from water: 400m from streams to N and SW, 450m from a stream to SE; 500m from Lindston Loch to S.

General topography: An agricultural landscape formed of low ridges between which lie a series of lochs.

Situation: On the highest point of a broad, level ridge summit

Aspect: All round

Slope: A level summit; fairly steep slopes to the N (10%), steep to the S (18%).

Local relief, within 500m: 85m - 124m OD

Outlook: Distant: 100%
Intermediate: -
Restricted: -

Prominence: The site is in a commanding position, but not a striking or prominent one

Local landmarks: The 100% views take in the whole range of Galloway and Ayrshire hills to the S, E and NE; to the W is Arran. Conspicuous at a closer distance are the cliffs of the Heads of Ayr, 9km to the W, Brown Carrick Hill, 8km to the WSW, and Mochrum Hill, 12.5km to the SW.

Solid geology: Upper Devonian Old Red Standstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soils with some gleying are mapped in the vicinity, but the ridge summit itself is well drained with shallow soils

Land use: Agriculture. In 1992 the field was in pasture.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Baing Loch, Bargrennan round cairn, 14.5km to S
Macawston, long cairn, 20km to SW

Monument context: The circular ditch, with no trace of an inner bank and ploughed down traces of an outer one, seems most probably to be a henge, despite its distance from comparable sites. Normangill, 60km to the E, is probably its nearest neighbour, with Pict's Knowe, 75km to the SE, as the nearest possible Class I site. Class I sites are exceptional in southern Scotland, with Balfarg, Fife as the only excavated example, nearly twice the size of Lindston. Balfarg, considered to relate to the Class I series despite its two entrances (Mercer et al 1988), shares the strict circularity of Lindston, as does the 45m Stenness (Ritchie 1976, fig.2). The hilltop position of Lindston, however, recalls rather the Class II location of Cairnpapple and Arbor Law.

A possible local context could lie in a series of smaller hilltop sites, ring-ditches, in Ayrshire. On Mochrum Hill, 12.5km to the SW, a shallow 2.6m ditch between banks encloses an area of 20m diameter; the site

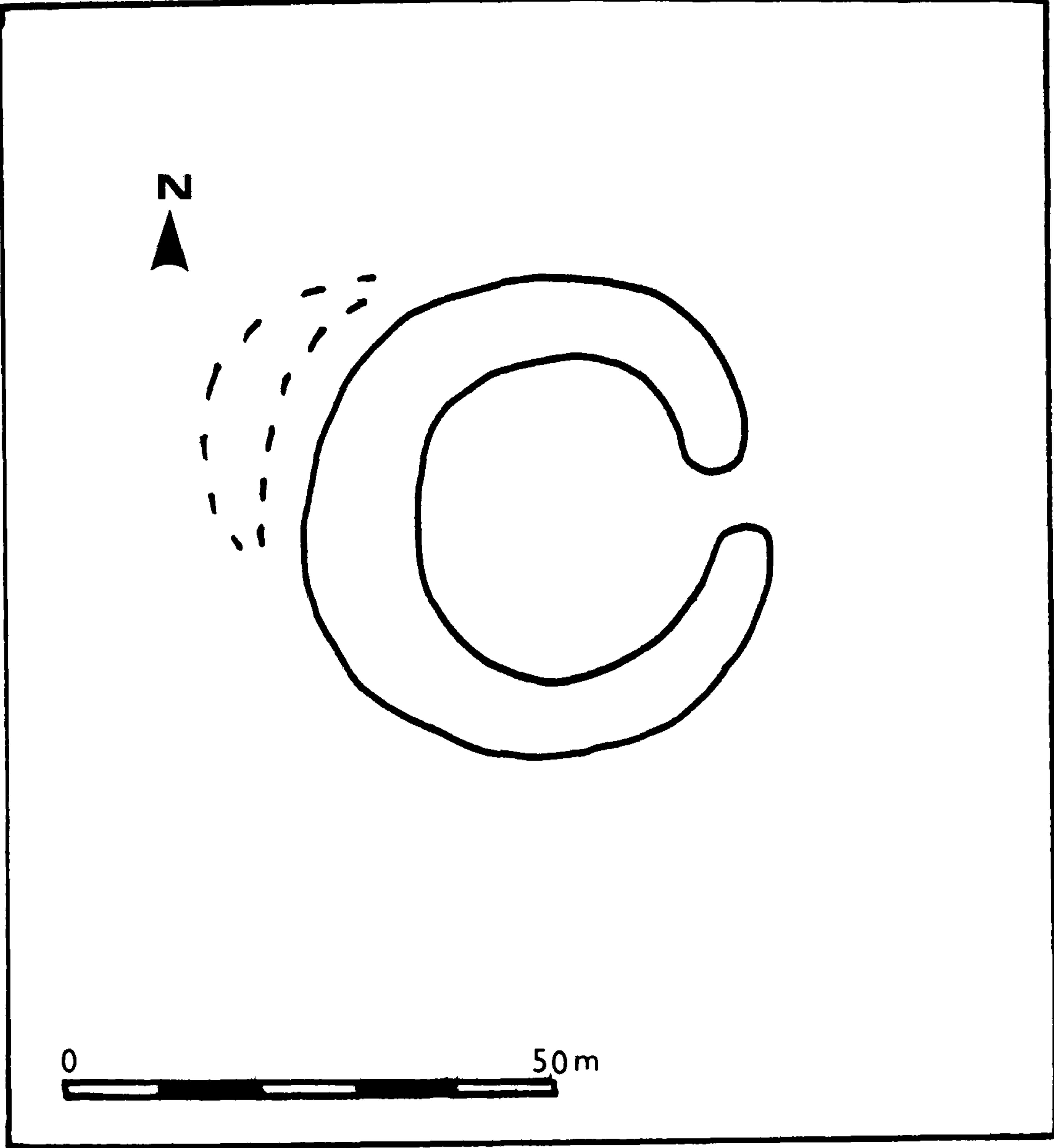
is immediately beside the summit cairn (RCAHMS 1983(a), 12, no.59). 25km to the NE, on the summit of Reoch Hill, a 3m ditch between banks encloses a circular area c14.5m in diameter (NS 53SE 3). 50km to the SSW on a shoulder of Finnart Hill is another ditch with outer bank enclosing a 17.3m, slightly domed, circular area, from which an urn is said to have been removed (RCAHMS 1981(b) 13, no.95). All three of these ditches are crossed by single causeways.

Artefact context: Prehistoric finds from the vicinity are confined to the coastal area, where mesolithic flints are collected, for example, from Doonfoot (PSAS 102 1970, 295, no.1).

Three stone axes have been found in the same area, c 5km W of the henge. One, from near Alloway, 48mm in surviving length, is suggested to be possibly of Great Langdale stone (Inf: NMS). Another from the same area, 139mm long, is in the Carnegie Library Museum, Ayr. The third, was 7¼" (186mm) long (DES 1972, 14).

Archaeological interpretation: Christison called the enclosure 'almost, if not quite, unique in Scotland' and suggested it to be perhaps medieval (1893, 398). Smith (1895, 173) also thought the arrangement 'peculiar', and suggested that the outer bank might be 'intended as a screen to effectually blind the ditch'. The Marginal Lands Survey agreed with Christison that no close parallels could be found and that the site was likely to be medieval. The Sites and Monuments list for Kyle and Carrick listed the site as a miscellaneous earthwork (RCAHMS 1985(b), 13 no.54). I should like to thank Dr. Sally Foster, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, for pointing out to me the probable status of the monument as a henge.

Fig. I:a Lindston henge
(after Ordnance Survey NS 31NE 6)



II:a Monktonhall cursus, Midlothian NT 37SE 49
East Lothian District NT 349 705 - 351 713
Lothian Region 20 - 25m OD

Location: 1km SE of Inveresk church, on the E side of the River Esk

Type: Possible cursus

Status: Category B: a cropmark site, sectioned in excavation, but undated.

Outline: A parallel sided feature consisting of three ditches on the W side, two on the E, and a possible curved terminal ditch at the N end.

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Dimensions (after Hanson (n.d.), and aerial photographs):-

Overall length: 900m

Overall breadth: 170m

Excavation: Limited excavation in 1984 in advance of Musselburgh bypass construction opened three trenches (Hanson n.d.). One trench, 20m in breadth, crossed the E ditches; another, up to 35m in breadth, crossed the W ditches and took in a 50m strip across the interior; a third trench was cut 60m to the W of the ditches.

Description (based on Hanson (n.d.) and aerial photographs): Excavation showed all the ditches to be shallow and flat bottomed. The two eastern ditches had largely silted up before the Roman ditch was cut across them. The eastern ditches, where sectioned, were c 9m apart and 3m broad. Of the western ditches, the centre one was the broadest where sectioned; 9m to the E the inner ditch was only 1.5m broad as was the outer ditch, c 12m to the W of the centre one. Aerial photographs show this outer ditch to follow an uncertain line.

The S end of the system is truncated by an old quarry pit on the N side of Whitecraig farm, but the eastern ditches are here curving round to the W, indicative of an original terminal. It may be supposed that the SW corner of the cursus reached to the top of the steep bank down to the river.

At the N end of the feature the three western ditches are obscured by buildings, while the eastern pair continue for another 120m to the foot of a rising slope. 60m further N, near the summit of the ridge, the cropmark of a broad ditch curves gently from E to W for c 130m, probably c 8m in breadth. The position of this feature suggests it to be a relatively massive terminal, set slightly askew to the line of the cursus. In 1865 cists are said to have

been found near the W end of this terminal, where aerial photographs show signs of disturbance and possible features, but details of the OS record are lost (NT 37SE 36).

Almost midway along the enclosure length, slightly W of centre, a ring ditch with central pit within half of an oval enclosure shows on photographs.

Other excavated features: Two small circular pits on the outer edge of the westernmost ditch both contained burnt hazel nuts; in one pit was a flint blade, in the other two broken but almost complete pots said to be of neolithic/bronze age character.

80m to the W of the cursus a series of large elongated pits ran parallel to it. The largest was 3.5m long and depths were up to 2.8m. These pits had silted gradually. A series of clayslate slabs were set to form steps down the side of one pit.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 2km from the present shoreline. Transgression seas may have penetrated up the channel of the Esk to within 500m of the cursus.

Distance from water: The S end of the cursus must have reached to within 50m of the River Esk.

Situation: The ditches cross undulating gravel ridges diagonally, both supposed terminals lying on high ground.

Local relief, within 500m: 10 - 30m OD

Local landmarks: Arthur's Seat, 7km to the E, is a prominent feature.

Solid geology: Calciferous Sandstone

Soils: Glacial sands and gravels

Land use: Arable farming, but crossed by a railway, a dual carriageway and several minor roads.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Inveresk Church and Port Seton long barrows, 1km to the NW and c 7km to the NE, are both doubtful, Category C sites.

Harlaw Muir, long cairn, 21km to the SSW

Monument context: Although the only other cursus enclosures in the study area are in Nithsdale, a variety of elongated enclosures are known in eastern Scotland north of the Forth. The long mortuary enclosure at Inchtuthil, Perthshire, was dated to the late fourth millennium

(Barclay and Maxwell 1991), and there are several cursus-like pitted enclosures, such as those at Balneaves and Kinalty in Angus (RCAHMS 1978(b), 22 no.158; 1983(b), 32 no.258).

All the above are much narrower than the Monktonhall enclosure. Its width between the inner ditches of c 130m is, however, the same as that of the Stonehenge cursus; outer ditches may represent later recutting of the feature, perhaps on the outer side of original banks, although the shallow ditches, 3m in breadth, would not have produced much upcast. Similar minor, flat bottomed ditches are found at cursus enclosures in the south (e.g. Drayton: Ainslie and Wallis, 1987).

The broad terminal ditch suggests the creation of a large mound, presumably on the inner side of the curving feature, where 'cists' have been recorded. Comparisons could be with long barrows across terminals, as at Stonehenge, or extra massive terminal banks, resembling barrows, at Rudston (Dymond 1966).

Artefact recovery:

Pottery found in pits beside the cursus (see above) has not been published. Fine, early neolithic sherds have been found at Inveresk Gate, 800m to the NW (see II:2, Inveresk Church; and Table II:2:10).

Axes: A fine flint Duggleby adze (NMS: AF 1047) was found at Castlesteads beside the River Esk, 1km to the SW.

Two axes come from the hillsides 2km E of the site:

NT 37SE 42 Bankton

NT 37SE 43 Falside Hill

An axe of diorite, 8½" (216mm) long is said to have been found near Monkton House, on the W side of the Esk (PSAS 1884-5, 329).

Prehistoric landscape:

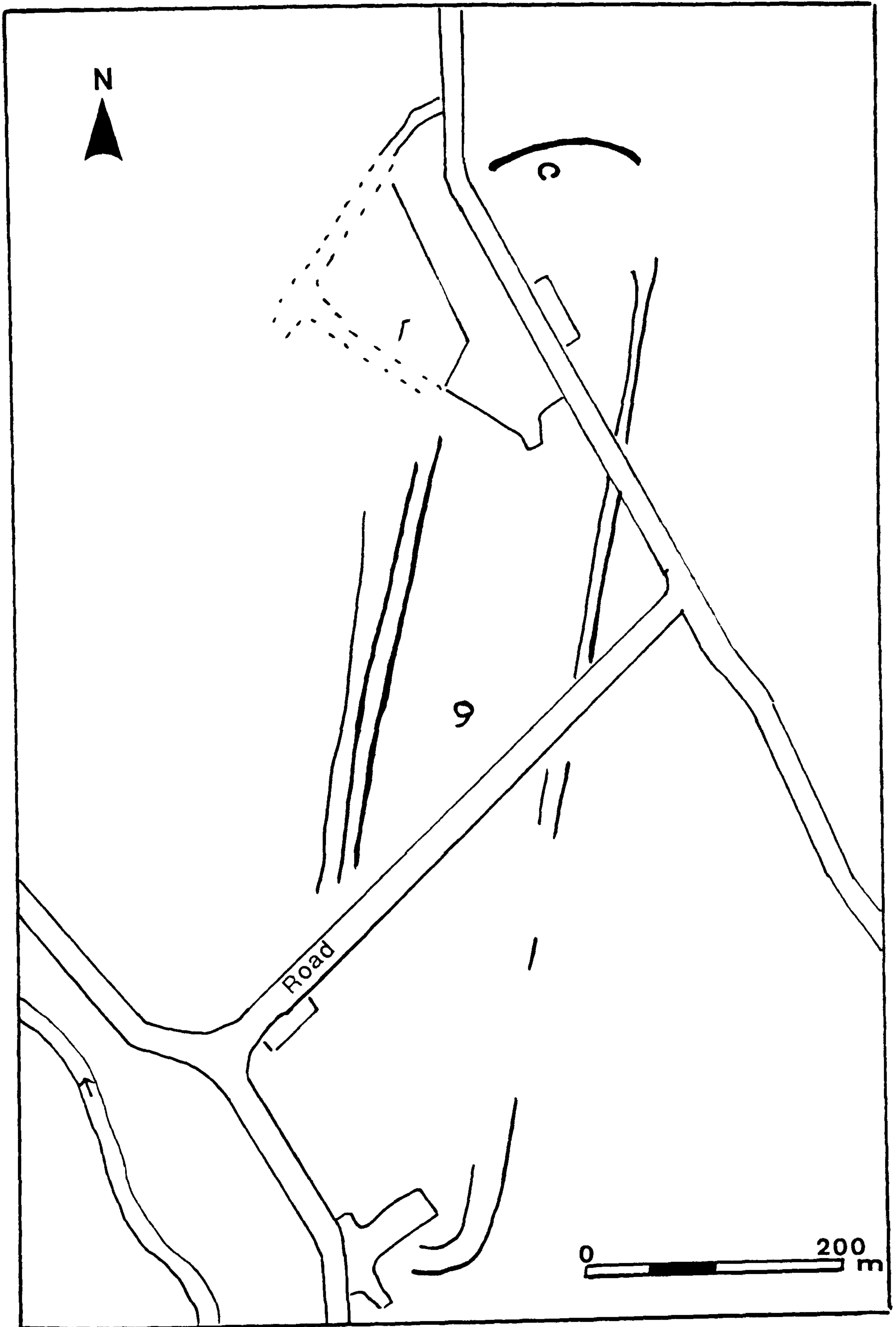
Ring ditches: The cursus encloses one ring ditch with central feature (see above).

Two ring ditches were excavated in 1984 (Hanson n.d.). In each a small quantity of bone was recovered, and beside each was a small pit, one containing large stones.

Burials: Numbers of cists are recorded from the Monktonhall area, generally apparently long cists. The customary attribution is to the Battle of Pinkie, fought 1km to the E, across Howe Mire.

Other cropmark features on the Inveresk gravels appear to consist of Roman, late prehistoric and medieval features, including extensive field systems.

Fig. II:a Monktonhall cursus, after Hanson, and aerial photographs



II:b Cairnpapple henge
West Lothian District
Lothian Region

NS 97SE 16
NS 9872 7174
310m OD

Location: 2km E of Torphichen village at the NE end of the summit of Cairnpapple Hill in the Bathgate Hills.

Type: Multi-period site, including a Class II henge and stone (or timber) circle

Status: Category A. Historic Scotland Ancient Monument.

Features: 'Cremation cemetery'; 'cove'; scooped pits; henge bank and ditch with two entrances; stone (or timber) circle; beaker burials; kerbed food vessel cairn; enlarged cairn; long grave cemetery.

Orientation: 'Cremation cemetery' facing W
'Cove' facing E
Scooped pits aligned S to N
Henge aligned S to N
Stone (or timber) circle aligned SSE to NNW

Dimensions (after Piggott 1948):

'Cremation cemetery': 17m x 5m
'Cove': 3.0m x 3.5m overall
Scooped pits: 10.4m x 6.7m overall
Ditch enclosure, internally: 42m x 32.5m
Bank, crest to crest: 60m
Circle: 35m x 28m diam.
Kerbed cairn: 15m diam.
Enlarged cairn: 30m diam.

Excavation: Piggott 1948

In 1947-8 Piggott excavated the entire surface within the ditch down to rock subsoil taking in the inner lip of the whole length of the ditch and part of the outer lip of the W ditch. Four sections were cut through the ditch and all four terminals were cleared; two sections were cut through the bank.

History of site: Once the cairn had been enlarged to a 30m diameter, overlying the henge ditch and perhaps robbing the henge bank for material, it constituted the most prominent feature on the site, and gave its name to the hill (gaelic: carn = cairn; Old English: popel = stones, pebbles). The cairn attracted the addition of long graves beside it, within the embanked area but there is no other evidence for ritual use in the Iron Age sufficient to justify identification of the site as Medio Nemeton, named in the 6th century Ravenna list. The cairn was then badly robbed, excavation evidence suggesting incidents in the

14th - 15th centuries, the 17th century and the 19th century. By the mid 19th century the site was wooded and enclosed by a ditch and bank. The trees were cut down in the early 1920s, but the henge details were still so obscure that the RCAHMS planned the later enclosure and omitted the prehistoric earthworks (RCAHMS 1929, 240 fig.303). It was, however, as a probable henge that the site was chosen for excavation by Piggott in 1947. Subsequently the Ministry of Works reconstituted the North Grave and Food Vessel cist under a concrete dome representing the kerbed cairn, and the site was laid out for public view, the excavated features marked by pebble settings.

Description

Stratigraphic relationships are only obtainable in relation to three phases of burial: (1) the North Grave, with beaker inhumation replacing the 'Cove'; (2) the kerbed cairn, encompassing the North Grave, overlaying the edge of the scooped pits, two holes of the stone circle, and one cremation on the old ground surface; (3) enlargement of the cairn burying the 'cremation cemetery', the scooped pits, six more 'stone' holes and part of the henge ditch. The features preceding this funerary activity are all unrelated stratigraphically and will be described separately, although it may be presumed that the ditch and bank are complementary and contemporaneous.

Cremation cemetery: a setting of seven holes, six containing handfuls of cremation material, and five similar cremations on the old ground surface were compared by Piggott to cremation cemeteries at Duggleby Howe, Stonehenge (the Aubrey Holes), and Dorchester. In one hole and beside one cremation were fragments of bone or antler pins similar to finds from these cemeteries. He therefore rejected the idea that the holes had held stones or posts, even though commenting on their similarity to the circle of stone holes within the henge. The holes, 3.0 - 5.0m apart, which vary in depth from 0.18m to 0.50m, did however contain packing stones, and the cremations were in some cases beside them, in others, against the sides of the holes, and in one case only scattered through the fill. There seems no reason to suppose that the holes did not originally hold uprights, whether stones or timbers. Erosion of soil from the domed interior of the site may have removed evidence of further holes, two of which could have continued the line of the present setting, their positions being marked by cremation deposits, one with a surviving packing stone, 3.0m and 3.5m beyond the westernmost, and shallowest of the holes. While the arrangement has been described as an 'arc', it is distinctly angular, and the standing uprights would have defined an area 17m across by 5m deep similar in shape to the free standing 'facade' in front of the mortuary structure at Street House (13m x 8m) (Vyner 1984).

The 'Cove': Facing the centre of the open, west side of the 'cremation cemetery' were three large holes up to 2.4m in length and averaging 0.6m in depth, forming three sides of a square open to the east. The earth and rubble fill contained no packing stones, and Harding and Lee (1987, 384) have suggested that they could have been graves. Piggott, however, envisaged them as having held large stones forming a 'cove' such as those at Avebury or Arbor Low; their position, slightly off centre of the henge, resembles that of the cove at Arbor Low.

Scooped pits: Very slightly to the west of the central axis of the henge a rectangular area measuring 10.4m N - S by 6.7m had been scooped into the subsoil to a depth of 0.25m. Its W side was defined by two oval pits, 4.4m and 3.8m in length while on the east a pit 7.0m in length consisted of a series of steps or recuts. These pits, up to 0.75m in depth, constitute one of the largest features on the site. They had lain open for a time, silting naturally from the outer side, before the west pits were filled up with blue clay to form a foundation for the overlying kerbed cairn. Traces of cremated bone and two sherds of beaker came from the fill, the latter near the bottom of the NW pit. Piggott's original explanation of this feature as a quarry pit has been modified in the most recent (1985) edition of the Historic Scotland guidebook in recognition of Ritchie's suggestion (1974, 10; 1976, 20) that it could be the remains of a dismantled three stone setting or rectilinear feature.

The ditch: At 3.6m in breadth and 1.2m in maximum depth, the ditch was irregular, in part because of the limitations imposed by the rock subsoil; Piggott also drew attention to the probable effects of gang labour. Its fill of fine clayey silt on the base, grading into coarser, loamy silt above, is likely to have washed in from the domed interior of the site. The only find was a scrap of abraded beaker from the surface of the lower silts. The N - S entrances, measuring c 9m across, are slightly E of centre, giving the ditch the asymmetry characteristic of Class II henges.

The bank: Separated from the ditch by a berm 3.6m in breadth, the bank was best preserved on the SE, where it stood to 1.2m in height and c 6m in breadth. It had a core of fine loam, possibly decayed turf, overlain by the earth and stone upcast from the ditch, and on the E it retained a capping of earth and largish stone.

'Stone Circle': An egg-shaped setting of twenty four holes, c 4m apart, measured 35.0m NNW - SSE by 28.0m; two additional holes lay 2.0m and 2.5m within the N and S ends of this setting, their axis co-inciding exactly with that of the scooped pits and the S entrance to the henge, and not with the alignment of the egg-shaped setting. The holes were circular or oval, up to 1.2m in diameter, and varying from 0.4m to 0.9m in depth. Fourteen contained packing stones, and one stone chips, and the excavator regarded them 'unquestionably' as stone holes. It has been

pointed out (Mercer 1981(a), 155), that a timber setting would have been at least as likely, and that one of the sections of the holes (no.16) shows traces of a ramp despite the loss of soil from the hilltop (0.15m of clay remained below the henge bank).

The setting is not concentric with the henge ditch, the holes being from 3.7m to 6.1m distant from its lip. The apex of the egg, with a 7m gap between the stones, could, however, be used as an offset entrance within the wide southern entrance through the ditch. There is no corresponding gap at the N end of the setting. 0.75m E of hole 8, on the E side of the ring, was a rock cut grave aligned NE to SW containing a beaker probably originally accompanying an inhumation.

The North Grave: The E end of the S hole of the 'Cove' was obliterated by a later grave measuring 2.1m E - W by 1.2m, cut 0.46m into the rock. This pit was surrounded by a setting of ten small stones, and at its W end a stone 2.4m in height was held upright within the large hole of the 'Cove' by surrounding cairn material. Stains on the floor suggested that a body had lain extended in the grave with one beaker beside the head at the E end, and another at the feet. Burnt oak wood over the area of the face and surviving teeth suggested a mask, and a long burnt oak stave or club lay along the N side of the body. A sherd of gritty, neolithic pottery with a lug which may have been grooved ware (McInnes 1964, 47) was in the fill of the grave. Later damage prevented identification of a separate cairn over the grave, although a few large blocks of stone, overlapping the edge of the N hole of the 'Cove' could have formed part of the kerb of a small cairn enclosing the grave.

Kerbed cairn: A cairn 15m in diameter enclosed the North Grave, a central stone lined pit with massive capstone (2.4m x 1.2m), and a smaller grave under the E side of the cairn, also with a large capstone. The central grave contained the remains of an inhumation, a small carbonised object and a food vessel; the east grave held a cremation. The cove was also enclosed within the kerb of this cairn, composed of twenty one large stones up to 2.7m in length, laid lengthways, which, Piggott suggested, to have come from the 'stone circle', overlapped by the cairn. The kerb stones were set in a blue clay, also used to fill the central scooped pits where covered by the cairn, but not the 'stone holes', and which formed part of the basal layer of the cairn itself.

Cairn enlargement: At a later period, when the clay underlying the Food Vessel cairn had eroded from the remainder of the henge interior, the cairn was enlarged to a 30m diameter, concealing the large kerb stones of the earlier structure. A less impressive kerb of rounded boulders edged the enlarged cairn, beneath which were found two cinerary urns covering cremations and two pins of red deer antler.

Excavation finds (in NMS):

Lithics: A neatly flaked round flint scraper was found in topsoil (EP 184). Other small flint flakes were on the old ground surface below the cairns, and burnt flint chips were with the cremation in Hole C of the 'cremation cemetery' (EP 163).

Axes: Two pieces of polished stone axes were found on the old ground surface. One was the cutting end of an axe of Langdale stone (EP 166), the other, a flake struck from the blade of a Graig Lwyd axe (EP 167).

Wooden objects: The burnt remains of a 1m long oak stave, 76mm in cross section with one broad end, 152mm across, lay along the N side of the North grave beside the body.

The face area of this burial was covered by a slice of burnt oak, 23mm x 15mm across. More burnt oak covered the beaker at the foot of the grave.

A small carbonised object near the bottom of the food vessel grave may also have been of wood.

Bone and antler pins: Two pins were found with cremations in the 'cremation cemetery' (EP 162, 164), and two more lay below cinerary urns (EP 179, 181).

Pottery: A sherd from an Early Neolithic carinated bowl lay on the old ground surface below the food vessel cairn (EP 170).

In the fill of the North Grave was a coil-built lugged sherd, possibly of grooved ware (EP 176).

Beakers: Two northern beakers were in the North Grave, one at the head and one at the foot. Morton (1990, 266) categorises these as belonging to Burgess' Step 5 - 6 (EP 173, 174).

A N/NR beaker in a rock cut grave to the E of stone hole 8 is of a Step 3 style (ibid) (EP 172).

Fragments of indeterminate beakers were found in the central scoop, and in the North Grave, while one abraded piece lay on the surface of the lower ditch silts.

A food vessel was in the central grave under the kerbed cairn, probably with an inhumation (EP 177).

Two cinerary urns were within the body of the enlarged cairn (EP 178, 180).

Cupmarked stones: A stone with three pecked cupmarks had formed part of the wall of the food vessel cist. Other cupmarked and utilised stones were found among the stones of the cairn.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 10km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 200m from the nearest mapped stream to the S

General topography: The volcanic Bathgate Hills rise to a series of rocky summits overlooking the level Lothian plains.

Situation: Towards the NE end of the summit ridge of the hill

Aspect: All round

Slope: Steep below the level hill top - 12%

Local relief, within 500m: 240 - 310m OD

Outlook: Distant: 100%
Intermediate: -
Restricted: -

Prominence: The hill is visible from an extremely wide distance, although not the highest or most prominent in the range. Approaching the site from the E, however, results in its 'disappearance' until the hill is climbed, as it lies back from the edge of the slopes. From S and W it has a good skyline position.

Local landmarks: Prominent nearby summits include Knock Hill 700m to SSE, Cockleroy Hill 2.5m to the N, and Binny Crag with a vertical W face towards Cairnpapple, 6km distant. The wide view takes in all the notable hills of the Pentlands, Tinto, Arran, Ben Lomond and the Southern Highlands, the Lomond Hills in Fife and the islands in the Firth of Forth.

Solid geology: Basalt lava hills interbedded with Lower Carboniferous sediments

Soils: Brown Forest Soils with some gleying. The hill summit is eroded to a rocky subsoil by the loss of 15cm soil since the henge bank was built.

Land use: Now an Ancient Monument, maintained by Historic Scotland. The hill itself consists of rough grazing, with arable cultivation within 300m of the site.

Vegetation: Mown grass and pebbles on site; rough grass, heather and bilberry beyond.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Greens Moor long cairn)
Burngrange chambered cairn) 23 km to S
Weston henge, 26km to S

Monument context: Despite the apparent isolation of Cairnpapple in neolithic terms within the Lothians and the central belt, in form and dimensions it is clearly a member of a set of henges which extends both to the north of the Forth (North Mains, Strathallan) and the south (see the sites of the Biggar Gap Region). The Class II henge with its bank and ditch is, however, only one element in a

sequence of successive activity phases on the hilltop. Unfortunately, despite preservation of subsoil features below the later cairns, the original nature of the early features and their chronological relationships remain doubtful. The 'cremation cemetery' may have been a set of ritual pits, or a setting of standing stones or of timbers, free standing or linked by fencing. It could have been the primary feature on the site, or have articulated with the 'cove' which it faces, the scooped pits, which it embraces, or, indeed, possibly, as Harding and Lee discuss (1987, 384), with the North Grave as a satellite burial area (although one cremation deposit, not in a pit, is overlain by the kerbed cairn). The big pits of the 'cove' may have held orthostats in a dolmen-like arrangement, or perhaps, as Harding and Lee suggested (ibid), have been graves. Again, the range of possible combinations is wide, and the use of the name 'cove', with connotations from southern Britain, perhaps misleading. No comparable feature exists in neighbouring henges, and, given the very different form of the central stone setting at Balbirnie (Ritchie 1974), the nearest structures of comparable status would appear to be the 'dolmen' at Stenness, Orkney (Ritchie 1976, 19) and the Arbor Low 'cove' (Burl 1988(b), fig.8), neither of which are exact duplicates of the Cairnpapple setting. The structure which occupied the area of the central scoop and pits has vanished beyond recall, leaving it only possible to comment on its centrality to the henge and alignment with the southern entrance, and its massive nature. The structure was deliberately destroyed and all traces removed, and the pits on the E side of the scoop appear to have been recut. Two beaker sherds from the NW pit may indicate that recuts here were contemporary with a clearing out of the ditch, where a beaker sherd came from the surface of the basal silts. The egg shaped setting of holes, whether for standing stones or timbers, does not align with the henge ditch or entrance, and seems likely to have preceded it. It is rather larger than Ring B at North Mains, 22.5m x 18.5m, for which similar precedence seems likely on the same grounds of lack of relationship to the henge ditch although the excavator argues otherwise (Barclay 1983). Free standing, egg shaped stone circles occur in the Tweed Basin, at Borrowston Rig IV: d and Burgh Hill, Table IV:3:3.

Artefact context:

Axes: An axe, possibly of Cumbrian stone, 141mm in length, was found in a field S of Cairnpapple, opposite Knock Hill, on Ballencrieff farm in 1979 (Inf: NMS).

A stone implement, roughly ground into the form of an axe, found in plough near Cairnpapple, is in the NMS (EP 191).

Three further axes in the NMS come from the S side of the Bathgate Hills, within 3km of the henge; all are damaged:-

Craigs Farm, at NS 9930 7000, 3.85" (98mm) long (AF 928).

Bught Knowes, 5.9" (150mm) long (AF 927).

Boghall Cottages, found in cutting a drain at the side of the road (AF 1064).

Lithics: The NMR§(NS 97SE 31) record an arrowhead and scraper from Torphichen, 2km NW of Cairnpapple exhibited in 1956.

Beakers: A N3 beaker was found in a cist on the neighbouring farm of Tartraven in the 19th century (EG 32).

Two AOC beakers were found 4km S of Cairnpapple, in a sandpit, at the foot of the Bathgate Hills at NS 9856 6787 (NMS EG 47, EG 53).

Immediate prehistoric landscape:

Cairns: The kerbed cairn and its later enlargement on the side of the henge offer the closest site association. Another cairn, 11m in diameter with kerb stones up to 1m in length, occupies a similar summit position on Riccarton Hill at NT 017 737, 3.5km NE of Cairnpapple.

Another large cairn is said to have stood on the Lochcote Hills, near Bowden Hill, 3km N of Cairnpapple, near which several stone coffins were found (NSA II, 50).

A ring ditch reported at NS 983 715, 500m WSW of the henge (DES 1967, 54) was visited in 1988. The 2m broad ditch, without visible entrance, enclosing an oval area 7.4m x 5.8m, occupies a shoulder on the SW side of the hill. A funerary role seems possible.

Standing stones on nearby hills have been known as 'Refuge Stones' and traditionally associated with the extent of sanctuary around Torphichen Preceptory. One stone at NS 9806 7311 is 1.5km N of the henge. Two stones are on Gala Braes, 2km S of Cairnpapple, at the foot of one of which, at NS 9881 6983, human bones are said to have been found before 1902 (Coles 1903, 205-7).

Archaeological interpretation

Before excavation, attention focussed on the cairn (RCAHMS 1929, 240, no.303) and enclosing bank (Duns 1878, 410), Childe described it as a fine bell cairn with peristalith, standing on an octagonal platform (1935, 110). The surrounding plantation bank was incorporated into these descriptions.

Piggott condensed the complex sequence which he revealed into a Period I, consisting of cremation pits and cove, and a Period II, comprising bank, ditch, stone circle and North Grave, before reaching the cairn building periods with food vessel and later connotations. Period I was Late Neolithic, its comparisons found at Dorchester on Thames and Stonehenge; Period II involved the work of Beaker people in creating a composite henge and stone circle, with associated burials. Accepting this

general association of features, Burl set Cairnpapple within a 'North Channel' Regional Group, linked to Dun Ruadh, the Giant's Ring in Co. Down and Ballymeanoch in the Kilmartin Valley, on the basis of the presence of internal features, including burials (Burl 1969, 18). Mercer (1981(a), 164) also focussed on the occurrence of beaker burials as a characteristic of Scottish henges, seen within Cairnpapple, Balfarg, North Mains and Ballymeanoch, but only at Fargo Plantation in England despite ample evidence for other forms of beaker activity at henges in the south. Such burial, Mercer acknowledges, lacks stratigraphical association with the henges, but is likely to represent a late stage of development, at Balfarg, perhaps, contemporary with the replacement of timber circle by standing stones.

Other commentators have examined the possible contemporaneity of Piggott's Period I features with the henge ditch. Kinnes has classified the cremation pits in his Stage F6 as an enclosed cremation cemetery (1979), seeing them as effectively the only known example of late third millennium burial in Scotland (1985, 42). Ritchie has suggested that the scooped pits, central to the henge ditch, could have been integral, a rectangular structure, similar to that at Mount Pleasant and in the stone circle at Balbirnie (1974, 10), and he suggests that the rectangular scoop, surrounded by cremation pits, and the 'cove' may have functioned together as in the arrangement of stone setting and 'dolmen' at Stenness (1976, 18-20). Clare would classify Cairnpapple with Arbor Low on the basis of the presence of internal features, such as the 'cove' (1986). Harding and Lee (1987, 384, no.284) accept that the scooped pits are central to the ditch, and consider that the egg shaped setting is also symmetrically placed and should be contemporary with the ditch, although, surprisingly, they doubt whether these holes are deep enough at under 0.5m to have held stones. They suggest that while the three holes of the 'cove', which they interpret as possible graves, should also be attributed to the henge phase, the cremation cemetery might have functioned with the North Grave in a secondary phase, involving burial. Burl (1988(6)), on the other hand, has now proposed precedence for the cove as a possible equivalent to the chambers at long cairns, Burngrange to the S, the Lang Cairn, Dumbarton to the W.

The lack of stratigraphic relationship between features, commented on by, for example, Mercer (1981(a), 164) and Harding and Lee (1987), has been used by Barclay in illustration of the unpredictability of the combination and recombination elements recurrently seen at henges (1983, 274). Such variability, he argues, vitiates any attempt to create classificatory systems on the basis of visible remains (1989(a), 261). He accepts the early appearance of cremation deposits at Cairnpapple, as at North Mains, where such deposits

were sealed under the henge bank. At North Mains, however, secondary funerary ritual led to the construction of a large barrow outside the henge, whereas at Cairnpapple it involved building a cairn, first inside the ditch, and then overlying it. MacKie and Davis (1989, 149) see these latter events as evidence for the continuing prestige of the site, although possibly representing conflict between an old elite class of astronomer priests and a newly emerging warrior group.

Fig. II:b:1 Cairnpapple henge, after Piggott 1948

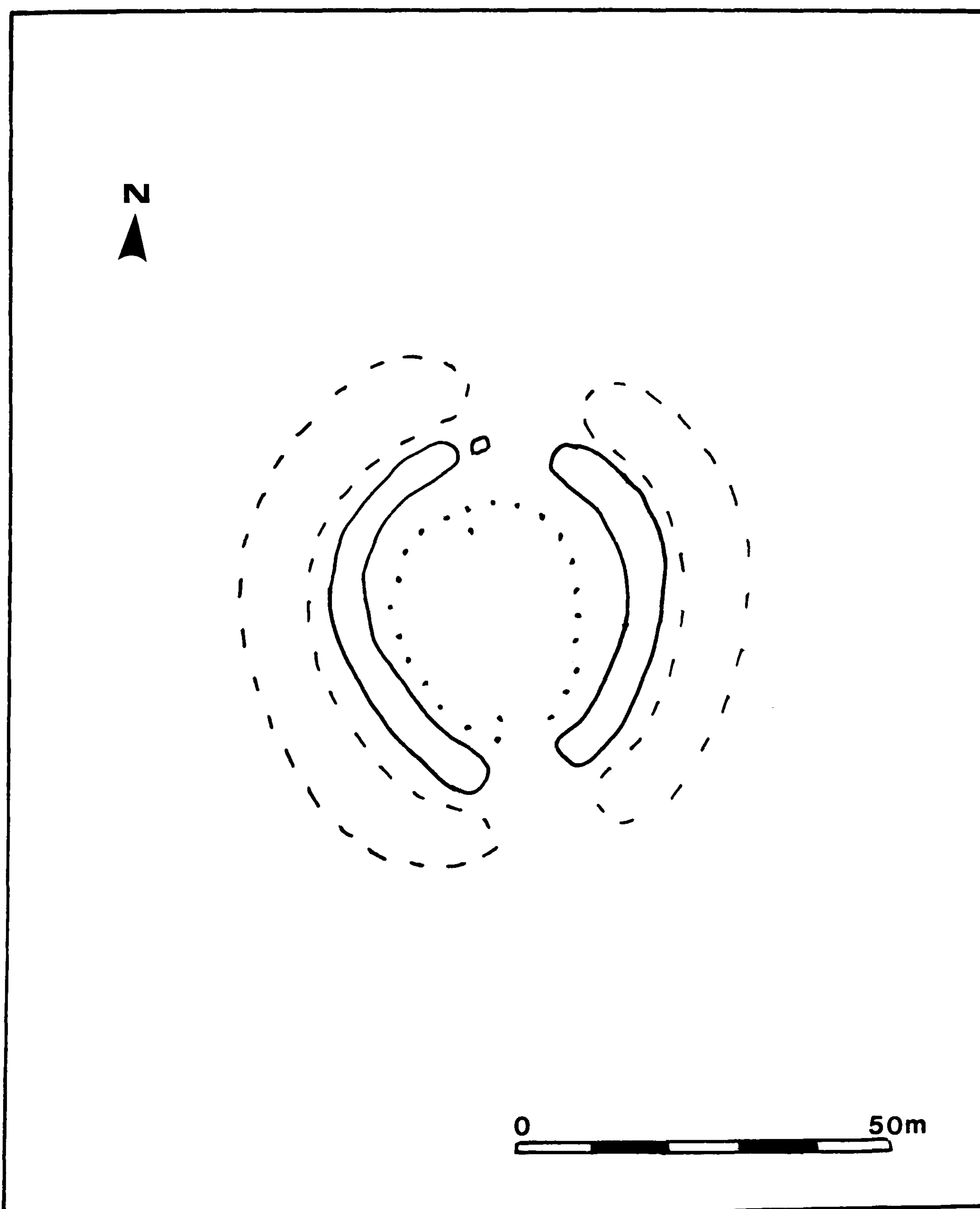
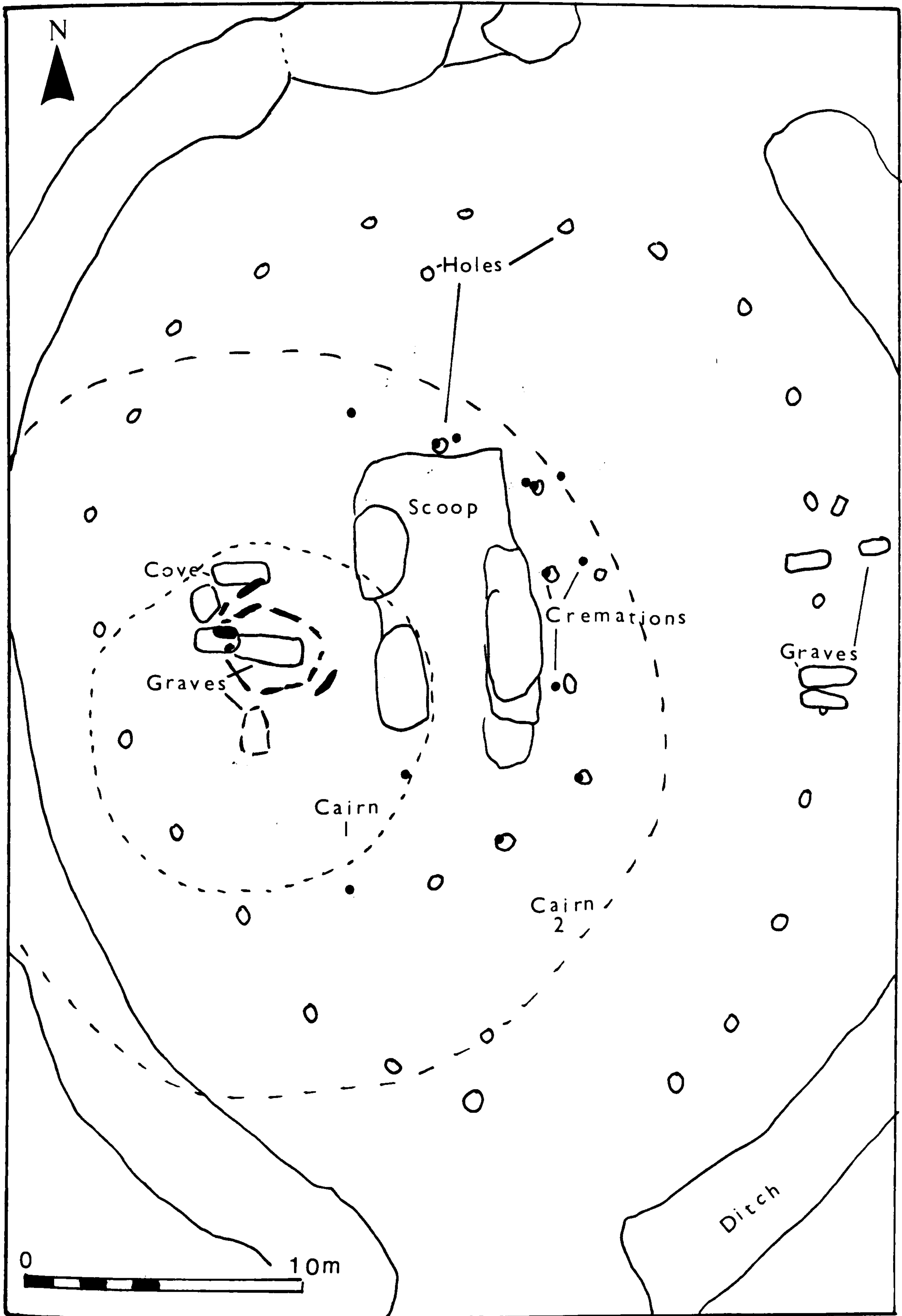


Fig. II:b:2 Cairnpapple, internal features, after Piggott 1948



III:a West Lindsaylands enclosure
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NT 03NW 35
NT 0157 3657
200m OD

Location: 2.5km WSW of Biggar and 600m WSW of West Lindsaylands steading on the N bank of the R Clyde, 150m SE of Netherton house.

Type: Interrupted ditch enclosure

Status: Category B. Cropmark only

Outline: A single curving segmented ditch defines one side of an oval area, delimited by the R Clyde and a ditched stream on the other side. Within the enclosed area is another ditched enclosure with single entrance.

Entrance orientation: ?

Dimensions (after aerial photographs): c 85m diameter

History of site and present condition: The promontory site has been re-used for, probably, an Iron Age enclosure (RCAHMS 1978(a), 155, no.323). The field is regularly cultivated and there are no ground traces of either enclosure.

Description: The enclosure site, rising slightly above the level of the rest of the field, is bounded by a steep scarp to the R Clyde on the S and on the W by the gentler slope of a hollow through which a stream presumably ran before being ditched along the field edge. The inner enclosure, nearly rectangular, is defined by two very gently curving ditches with a slightly staggered entrance between their terminals on the NE; this enclosure measures c 60m N - S by 50m E - W. The interrupted ditch lies at a lower level linking two hollows in the field. The clearest portion, terminating c 30m from the river scarp, consists of three or four nearly continuous, sausage shaped segments, stretching for c 65m. The remaining 35m, curving to the W, consist of a slighter, discontinuous line. Several dark features in the field to the E, including one outside a possible entrance beside the river, may be pits. The entrance through the inner ditch does not correspond with any gap in the outer, and the two features seem unlikely to be related.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 43km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: The S side of the enclosure is formed by the R Clyde and the W side by a small stream.

General topography: The bend in the Clyde, here at its easternmost point near Biggar, takes the river through a broad, agricultural valley below hills.

Situation: The enclosure is on the riverside edge of a level terrace below the steep slope of Lindsayland Hill, which reaches 306m OD less than 1km to the NE.

Aspect: SW

Slope: Nearly level. 200m to the N a steep slope begins to rise.

Local relief, within 500m: 200m - 270m OD

Prominence: Local only

Local landmarks: Tinto Hill (707m OD) 7km to W.

Solid geology: Upper Old Red Sandstone lavas

Soils: Brown Forest Soils on river gravels

Land use: Arable agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Biggar Common, long mound, 2.5km to NNW

Balwaistie, cropmark henge, 3.5km to NE

Westside, probable henge, 4km to SW

Monument context: Lack of articulation between the two ditches at West Lindsaylands argues for considerable chronological disparity. The discontinuous outer ditch would seem a prime candidate for the role of 'interrupted ditch enclosure', creating a riverside site such as occur in southern Britain (Staines; Abingdon). Similar sites have not been confirmed as existing in northern Britain, although a cropmark at Sprouston on the Tweed provides another possibility (IV:a). It may be that other neolithic riverside enclosures escape attention because their ditches are continuous.

An Early Neolithic local context is provided on nearby Biggar Common by dates from below the long mound, with pottery, similar sherds collected from plough furrows, and a post built structure, again associated with early neolithic pottery. The complex is discussed in relation to the long mound (III:4). There is also a long cairn on Broughton Knowe, 9km to the E (III:6), and a possible mortuary structure at Brownsbank, 8.5km to the NE (III:7).

Artefact context:

Axes: c thirty axes are recorded from within 5km of West Lindsaylands, although none come from within 2km of the site. Six come from Biggar Common, both from excavations and as casual finds. Another group comes from around Biggar town. These include a handsome flint axe, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (146mm) long found in the 19th century (NMS: AF 296).

Lithics: Much chert has been turned up by the plough in the field around the enclosure as natural chunks and as flaked pieces. Local chert was used for riverside assemblages which Lacaille classified as being mesolithic, although only at one local site, on Eastfield, just across the Clyde from West Lindsaylands, were microliths found (Lacaille 1954, 188-9). Some flint and a better quality green chert were also used at this site. On Cornhill (NT 019 356), immediately S of Eastfield, worked chert, flint and pitchstone and a jet bead have been found (DES 1991, 65-6). Other finds come from gravel-quarried areas near Thankerton, 3 - 4km to the W (DES 1985, 41; 1986, 33; 1988, 25).

Lithic finds from Biggar Common include several leaf arrowheads (see III:4).

Pottery: Western Neolithic pottery comes from Biggar Common, including sherds from the hearth under the long mound, and from a post-built structure, presumably neolithic. There is also some impressed ware from the Common.

Pottery has also been found on Annieston, at NS 992 375), just across the river from West Lindsaylands, (DES 1988, 25).

Beakers: Excavated beakers and sherds collected in field walking on Biggar Common are detailed under the long mound (III:4).

One of two cists at Boatbridge Quarry, Thankerton, 3.5km W of the enclosure, produced a Step 4 beaker with a burial dated to 1780 ± 60 bc (Clarke et al 1984).

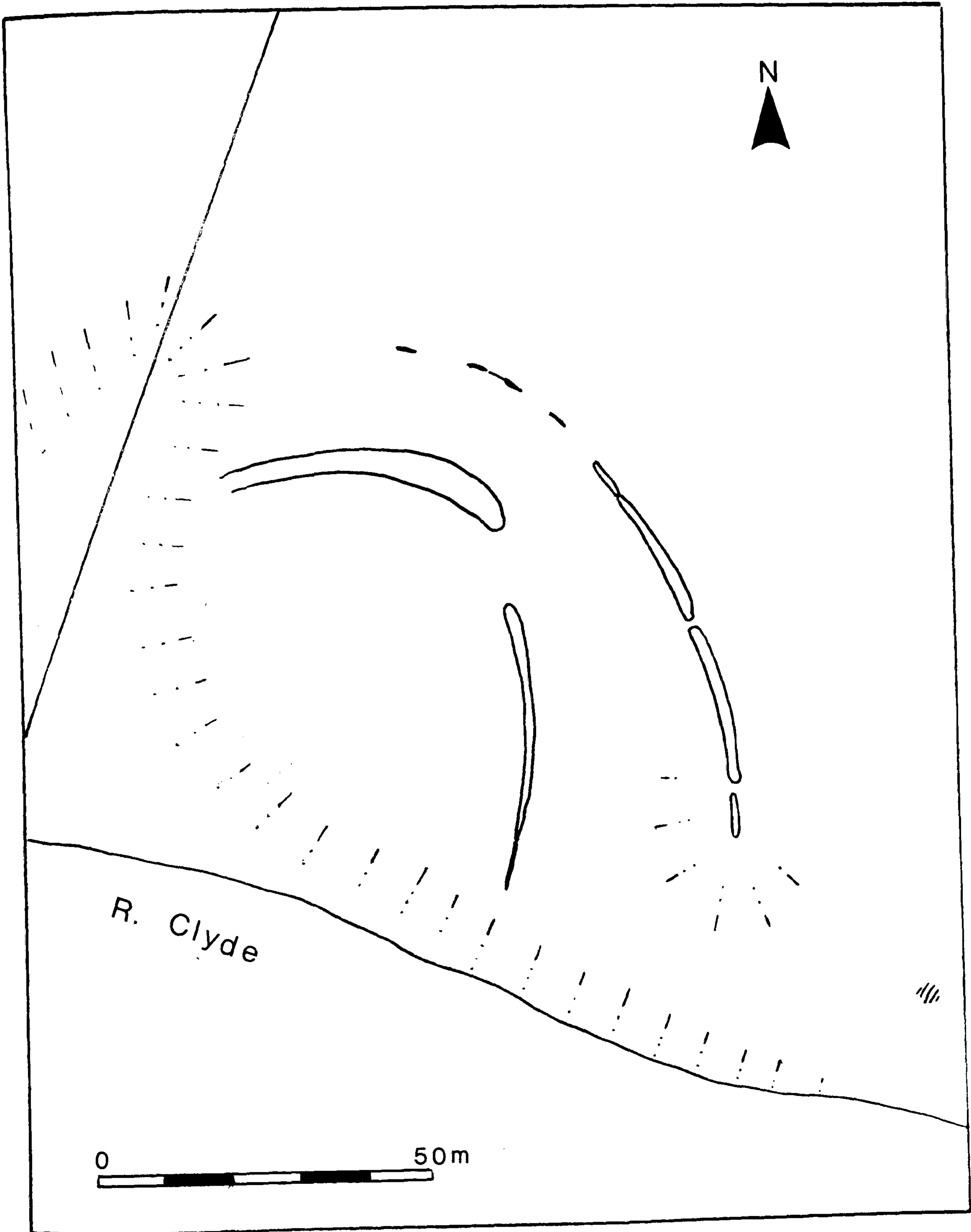
Prehistoric landscape: The complex of monuments on Biggar Common lies 2 - 3km from West Lindsaylands and at 100m OD higher. The area was used throughout Early and Late Neolithic periods, apparently for settlement as well as burial and ritual, and must be providing a complementary, contemporaneous landscape for an Early Neolithic riverside enclosure.

Other riverside sites must have suffered much from later agricultural activity. Two cropmark ring ditches on Annieston just over 1km W of West Lindsaylands were excavated in 1992. Surviving features suggested that while one site could have been a roundhouse, the other, with broad ditch and small central areas, might have been ritual (DES 1992, 69). Other pitted cropmarks could not be recovered as subsoil features.

Discovery of the cists at Boatbridge Quarry (see beakers) also related to soil removal in gravel quarrying.

Archaeological interpretations: The RCAHMS (1978, 155 no.323) noted the lack of concentricity between the two ditches at West Lindsaylands and suggested that the outer one might never have been completed.

Fig. III:a West Lindsaylands enclosure, from aerial photographs



III:b Meldon Bridge enclosure, Peeblesshire NT 24SW 46
Tweeddale District NT 205 403
Borders Region 180m OD

Location: 5km W of Peebles, the enclosure, bisected by the A72, occupies the angle between the Meldon Burn and the Water of Lyne, 0.5km N of the junction of this latter river with the Tweed.

Type: Late Neolithic stockaded promontory enclosure

Status: Category A; a partially excavated cropmark site

Outline: Burgess (1976 fig.9:1) reconstructs the enclosure as a rectangular area, its S side formed by the Water of Lyne, running out into a point between that river and the Meldon Burn on the E. The cropmark shows the W side to consist of a sinuous line of pits shown by excavation to angle sharply to the E at its N end. Neither the N perimeter nor the S end of the W side are clearly visible on APs. On the ground the enclosed area consists of a low, domed plateau edged by riverside terraces. c 50m SSW of the N corner of the enclosure a double alignment of pits projects at right angles to the perimeter, as an 'avenue'.

Avenue orientation: NNW

Dimensions (after Burgess 1976):

Overall extent (max.): 500m NW - SE x 240m NE - SW

Area: c 8ha

Excavation: In August 1974 Colin Burgess stripped 550m² immediately N of the A72 and five of the pits visible on APs (RCAHMS 1967, 169, no.370) were examined. Radio carbon dates were obtained (Burgess 1976).

In August 1975 Burgess examined a 260m long strip 13m wide to the N of the road and 10m from the foot of the slope N of the site to the terrace edge above the Water of Lyne on the S (c 0.3ha). A further five perimeter pits running E from the N corner of the enclosure were excavated (Burgess 1976).

In 1977 another 4750m² were excavated in a swathe nearly 250m long along an E - W line in advance of road improvements. Only brief details of this work have been published, but aerial photography in the NMR show the layout of the trench (DES 1977, 27).

Excavation showed that ploughing had penetrated to the gravel subsoil and had removed at least 60cm of the subsoil itself over much of the site. Immediately N of the road a greater depth of soil had protected the subsoil, and it is possible that some of the neolithic land surface had survived.

Description:

Perimeter pits: The five pits on the NW excavated in 1974 were up to 1.10m across and under 1.0m deep and held posts c 25 to 30cm in diameter spaced 3.3m to 4.0m apart. In each intervening space were two postholes c 25cm in diameter and 8.20cm in surviving depth placed at the outer edge of the line of large pits. Radio carbon dates from three of these pits were as follows:-

HAR 796 2330 ± 80 bc - burnt wood at base of pit

HAR 797 2150 ± 130 bc - packing of pit

SRR 648 1791 ± 70 bc - from a weathering cone

This last date presumably indicates that the posts had, not surprisingly, rotted away after 300 to 500 years, allowing intrusion of charcoal.

The five pits excavated in 1975 at the N corner of the enclosure proved to be larger than those previously examined at 1.40m across by 1.20m deep, although these pits had not been revealed by early aerial photographs, presumably because of greater soil depth at the base of the slope. The posts themselves were also larger, up to 60cm in diameter, but slightly more closely spaced at 3.0m to 3.65m apart. No small holes were found in the intervening spaces near the corner, but a pair appeared between the easternmost pits excavated, similar to those on the NW boundary. Ramps at all five pits were clearly related to the use of larger posts here; their profiles (Burgess 1976 fig.9:4) confirm the loss of subsoil, even at this base of the slope. The corner pit was the only one excavated to show signs of post replacement.

Excavation in 1977 found the pits to the S of those excavated in 1974 to have been disturbed by later quarrying. Some pits, however, evidently survived, as it is stated that ramps were observed, as in the northern pits. No dimensions are reported. Aerial photographs show that this trench might have taken in the E end of the NE perimeter, above the Meldon Burn, but the excavation summary does not discuss finding any such feature.

In 1976 Burgess estimated the posts on the NW to have stood at least 3.20m high, and to have been 4.8m in total length, while those at the N corner would have stood 4m in height being 6m in length (but see Monument context, below). 135 major posts would have been needed for the supposed circuit. A reconstruction (ibid, fig.9.9) shows a solid fence of horizontal boards held between the big timbers and the smaller posts.

Avenue: Aerial photographs show the sixteen pits of the avenue to be slightly larger than the perimeter pits with a width between them of c 6m, resulting in a failure to match exactly the positions of the adjacent perimeter pits spaced c 4m apart along this side of the enclosure. The pairs of pits are evenly placed, and both the third pits from the enclosure edge appear slightly blurred or enlarged. Overall length of the avenue is c 35m.

Interior features:

(1) Structures:

A post hole circle, 9m in overall diameter, was found near the terrace edge on the S side of the site. Three quarters of the feature were excavated. Only 20cm depth remained of holes 40cm in diameter which had held posts

15 - 20cm in diameter spaced c 2m apart around one central post hole. No dating evidence was recovered.

A boat shaped structure measuring c 14m x 6m overlapped the N side of the above circle, but no stratigraphic relationship between the two was evident. The N end of this feature consisted of an L-shaped slot measuring 8m x 6m; the curving S end was defined only by a damp mark in the gravel.

A line of holes ran diagonally E - W across the 1975 trench, with a second line of smaller holes to the S. Some of these pits had held posts, beside which, in two cases (F4; F34) cremations had been dug into the pit sides (see Sepulchral evidence, below). The whole set may originally have held posts, forming a continuous fence line.

Another line of small holes ran along the edge of the terrace just outside the perimeter of the Roman temporary camp which overlapped the enclosure. Again, this feature was not dated.

Part of a substantial palisaded enclosure was encountered in 1977 at the E end of the site. Pottery sherds from the disturbed upper fill of the palisade trench, described as 'Late Neolithic' were presumably in the decorated styles found in previous seasons. Part of this trench had contained a double setting of timbers, separated by a central core of packing stones.

(2) Other features: A large number of pits and post pits were found during excavation which were classified as Domestic or as Sepulchral/Ritual features. A ritual function cannot be excluded for any of these pits, but a general division may be made between those containing occupation material and those with sepulchral remains.

(a) Occupation evidence

A cluster of pits was excavated in 1974 just inside the NW perimeter, to the S of the entrance. Although of varying depths, these pits were characteristically shallow and bowl-shaped and contained decorated pottery sherds, hazel nuts and charcoal.

The deepest of these pits (B15), 32cm in depth, was an ill-defined feature with vertical sides containing sherds with complex, impressed decoration which Burgess described as 'false relief' and which he regarded as being ancestral to food vessel styles (1976, 16). Charcoal from this pit was radiocarbon dated to 2736 ± 90 bc - SRR 640, a date which seemed inconsistent with the above thesis of stylistic development, and was suggested to come from 'old charcoal'.

One pair of pits side by side (BF12; BF14) were very similar to each other, being lined with crushed pottery

showing traces of the impressed decoration known from elsewhere on the site; a considerable part of one such vessel was found in Pit BF12. Both pits contained burnt nuts and charcoal, and it was unexpected when they yielded very different radio carbon dates:-

SRR 643 2726 ± 180 bc BF14 - mixed nuts and charcoal

SRR 646 2336 ± 50 bc BF12 - burnt nuts

SRR 647 2290 ± 55 bc BF12 - charcoal

A shallow (9cm) pit, BF6, 10m N of the above pair of pits and 6m from Pit B15, again containing decorated pottery, gave a date of:-

SRR 645 2132 ± 80 bc

Excavation in 1975 found one pit similar to the above group (F40), 25m to the NE; it contained a high proportion of rim sherds.

A pit containing hazel nuts (G7), 30m S of the 1974 group was cut by an Early Bronze Age cist and may also have been neolithic.

Further to the S, Pit H5 contained plain, coarse sherds, unlike others on the site.

Other pottery was pressed into depressions rather than pits, and some sherds adjacent to the road appeared to rest on an old ground surface in which traces of depressions and gullies were visible.

Two features in the northern part of the 1975 trench may also represent settlement activity. The base of one pit (K65) had survived, with a row of stake holes screening its N side. 7m to the E was a cluster of stake holes (K79).

Excavation in 1977 found two further groups of 'domestic' pits containing decorated pottery, burnt hazel nuts and 'other rubbish'; in one of these pits there was a polished stone axe. Large post pits were also found scattered across the 1977 excavation trench, referred to again below (Sepulchral evidence, V).

(b) Sepulchral evidence - from N to S

(i) Cremation pits K21, K26

These adjacent features lay c 30m inside the entrance. K21 was a large pit, 1.0m x 0.75m x 0.75m deep, within a close circle of stake holes. It had held, successively, possibly two posts, a long stake and a large stone. Cremated bone in the W part of the fill pre-dated the stake and stone, but its relationship to the post(s) is unknown.

K26, immediately to the SE was a small pit containing cremation material encircled by a 3m ring of holes likely to have been post holes. A shallow depression ran along the N side of the setting.

(ii) A pit, F22, 12m to the SW of (i) and on the line of the entrance avenue, held two urned cremations. The pit had been backfilled with stones, smashing the urns which appeared to have been bucket shaped with decorated rims; these were described as being 'no ordinary cinerary urns'.

iii) An E - W line of pits, 14m S of (ii), ran for 15m as an irregular series of about a dozen features (see Structures, above); a row of seven mostly smaller pits lay parallel to and c 2m S of a part of the first row. Some of these pits had held posts; other, bowl shaped features had no traces of having done so, but none the less the spatial relationship must suggest a similar function. Two shallow pits (F4; F34) had cremations tunnelled into their sides. It would appear to have been these burials that are reported by Burgess (1984, 144) to have given dates of c 1170 and 1200 bc. No artefacts were found in these pits.

iv) A group of Bronze Age burials lay to the S of the road, c 25m S of the above line of pits. An empty cist, lacking its capstone cut a pit (G) containing hazel nuts; fragmentary remains of an inverted collared urn were found beside it, and, nearer to the road, was a fine inverted cinerary urn, its base missing, containing a cremation. Burgess has suggested (ibid) that these urns are likely to have been contemporary with the dated cremations above.

(v) One cremation lay at the foot of a post hole over 100m from the tunnel cremations beside posts, above (iii). This find was made in 1977 when several large post holes were found. One post had been replaced by a standing stone, then broken off, leaving the stump *in situ*.

(vi) A cist burial, over 100m E of the cemetery (iv), just outside the perimeter of the Roman temporary camp, had been disturbed by the Roman road. Pottery sherds and cremated bones were scattered around, but within the cist there remained a fine slug knife and a triangular jet bead.

Finds: Flint finds were said to be few, and no description of lithic material has been published. A fine slug knife was in a cist described above (vi), with a jet bead.

One polished stone axe was found in 1977 in a 'domestic pit'.

Pottery finds were described as being 'spectacular by northern standards'. Apart from Bronze Age funerary pottery, the two bucket shaped cremation urns in Pit F22, and the coarse, plain sherds in Pit M5, all the pottery appears to have been of similar decorated type, in a local version of 'Peterborough' styles. Basal fragments were missing, creating uncertainty over profiles, but also suggesting an emphasis on deposition of rims of vessels. Rims were angular, flattened on the outside, bevelled towards the inside, above narrowed shallow necks and slight shoulders. The sides sloped inwards towards bases of unknown shapes. Decoration was varied with short cord impressions and other impressed and incised designs. Rims were regularly decorated, including the upper surfaces. The pottery generally was in a fragile condition.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 35km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: The E perimeter of the enclosure is provided by the Meldon Burn, the SW and SE sides being delimited by the Water of Lyne.

General topography: Steep hills on all sides surround the so-called 'Lyne Basin' (Burgess 1985), at the confluence of four relatively narrow valleys. The broadest valley bottom is that of the Tweed; the Meldon Burn is no more than a glen; the Water of Lyne and the Manor Water, joining the Tweed 2km E of the site, both offer restricted corridors of good alluvial soil.

Situation: The stockade encloses a low, elongated dome formed by the river terrace between two watercourses.

Aspect: S

Slope: The valley side above the enclosure rises quite steeply (10%).

Local relief, within 500m: 180 - 240m OD

Prominence: Although in a low, valley bottom situation, the domed terrace of the enclosed area stands out clearly as a distinct feature.

Local landmarks: The avenue is aligned onto Hamildean Hill (370m OD) with its summit fort, 2.5km to the NNW, and Cademuir Hill, 3.5km to the SSW.

Solid geology: Ordovician greywackes and shales

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soils of the Yarrow Association on gravels derived from greywackes.

Land use: Arable agriculture. In a discussion of settlement in the Lyne Basin, Burgess (1985, 212) states that at the time the enclosure was built, the promontory had long been farmland.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Broughton Knowe, long cairn, 11km to W
Rachan Slack, possible henge, 11km to SW
Brownsbank, possible mortuary enclosure, 13km to
NW
Harlawmuir, long cairn, 14km to N
There is also a possible record of a 'megalith' 5km
to the SW, at Lour (Cat: C:8)

Monument context:

The size of the enclosed area at Meldon Bridge, the scale of construction of the perimeter fence, the quantity of neolithic pottery recovered from pits within its bounds and the evidence for long term use of the promontory

for funerary purposes, all combine to emphasise the importance of this site. Nonetheless, despite excavation of nearly a hectare of the surface area, major uncertainties remain concerning the nature and function of the enclosure, making its adoption as the eponymous type site for a 'Meldon Bridge period' in British prehistory (Burgess 1980) appear a somewhat tenuous proposition.

One aspect of particular relevance to the study of the southern Scottish Neolithic must be the evident elusiveness of the site in terms of archaeological visibility. Like so many neolithic cropmark sites, such as some of the pitted and ditched cursus enclosures in Nithsdale and at Inveresk, Meldon Bridge pits were first glimpsed during photography directed towards Roman sites. Only the avenue and c 100m of the adjacent perimeter registered in the early photographs (RCAHMS 1967 i, 169, no.370), and it was after the first season of excavation had taken place that CUCAP photographs revealed the line of pits extending S of the road towards the Water of Lyne and angling sharply at its N end towards the Meldon Burn on the E. Although, however, the pitted boundary is clearly using these two water courses to define a promontory enclosure, the NE perimeter remains ill-defined. Interior features have failed to respond to photography, and the size of the enclosure is such that 90% of the interior remains unexcavated. Field walking seems unlikely to add much to understanding of the use of the enclosure: flint finds from excavation were few, and there is no record of lithic collection from the area; excavated pottery was in a fragmentary condition and finds came largely from pits, making the chances of surface collection slim. Major questions remain unanswered concerning the function and even the structural form and extent of the enclosure.

Excavation discovered a regular structural pattern over a 20m stretch of the perimeter to the S of the avenue where the cropmark was at its clearest. Larger ramped posts were without supporting smaller posts around the N corner, large posts again recur to the S of the road. It is possible that the double fence was at the entrance only. The NE side of the enclosure is not clearly definable on available aerial photographs, and the 1977 excavation trench failed to locate it near the Meldon Burn. It cannot be certain that the enclosure forms a complete circuit.

Radiocarbon dates from the stockaded area place the large timbers in the latter centuries of the third millennium, coincident with the period of henge building in Scotland in terms of the main timber rings at Balfarg and North Mains and the central features at Stenness (Mercer 1981(a) 166; Barclay 1983). The Meldon Bridge enclosure, however, is much larger than any Scottish henge, and presumably functioned differently. Its size might suggest comparison with the large earthwork enclosures of the south such as Durrington Walls (12ha)

or Marden (14ha), this last formed by a right angled bend of the enclosure ditch and a loop in the River Avon, giving a very similar outline to that of the Meldon Bridge enclosure (Wainwright 1971). Radiocarbon dates for these enclosures are apparently slightly later than for Meldon Bridge, but being chiefly based on ditch bottom material are not strictly comparable to dates from timbers. The palisade at Mount Pleasant was a late addition to that enclosure dated to c 1690 bc (Wainwright 1979, 50). There is, however, a growing number of directly comparable timber enclosures of the early second or late third millennia such as those at Avebury (Whittle 1991) at Greyhound Yard, Dorchester (Woodward 1984) and at Blackhouse Burn (III:c), 25km W of Meldon Bridge, where timber posts erected in a secondary enclosure phase against the faces of a low stone bank gave a date of 2085 ± 55 bc.

Cropmark pitted enclosures are also increasingly being recognised. One such site at Lauder Barns (see IV:ix) is c 34km E of Meldon Bridge. Of particular interest are pitted enclosures with appended avenues of paired pits. At Forteviot, in Strathearn, some 80km N of the Tweed, St. Joseph has photographed a roughly circular enclosure measuring c 265m x 220m, or 6.5ha (1978). At right angles to its NNW side a 35m long avenue of eight pairs of pits, leading away towards the R Earn seems identical in every particular to the Meldon Bridge feature. At Walton, Radnorshire, an arc of pits suggests an enclosure up to 325m in diameter with a 75m long avenue of c fourteen paired pits stretching away, in this case not at right angles to the perimeter. The dry, early summer of 1992 revealed another circular enclosure with avenue at Dunragit, beside Luce Sands, Wigtownshire (NX 1992 5738) (DES 1992; NMRS photographs; M. Brown). In this case concentric circles of pits measured c 100m and 150m in diameter, with a third irregular line 80m outside the outer perimeter on the S side. Extending at right angles to the 150m enclosure to the SSW is a double alignment, c 35m long, consisting of eight pairs of pits. In this instance the pairs are not evenly spaced as the western line appears to bulge outwards, making interpretation of the setting as a structure unlikely. All the above enclosures are associated with other circular cropmarks or round cairns; at Forteviot there are four henge-related enclosures, and at Dunragit smaller ring ditches and a large conical sandy mound, classified as a motte (RCAHMS 1987, 61, no.338), but now seeming likely to have originated as a barrow.

The non-defensive siting of these enclosures, particularly perhaps in the case of the stone banked Blackhouse Burn, must weaken the arguments for Meldon Bridge having been a fortified defensive site. Kinnes has argued (1985, 29) that the choice of timber stockade, rather than ditch and bank on the gravel terraces of Strathearn and Tweeddale eminently suitable for ditch

digging, supports the defensive interpretation. Account must, however, be taken of the local tradition of pit-defined monuments in eastern Scotland, rectangular enclosures and cursus related monuments. It must be added that the reconstruction drawing of the Meldon Bridge stockade (Burgess 1976, fig.9.9) overstates the defensive nature of the structure. The paired posts between large uprights certainly suggest a cohesive arrangement, but not necessarily a solid barricade. Given the limits of the proven extent of the pattern it is possible that the small posts were a secondary addition. Large posts at the NW corner, suggested to be a re-inforcement of the weak point in the defences, may have been a visual device of rising height to either side of the avenue. It should also be noted that Burgess' figures of 4m height, based on a 6m maximum length of post has been scaled down on estimates by Mercer (1981(a), 166) to a height of c 2.6m, with maximum post lengths of 3.50m.

Construction of such a structure must nevertheless, be acknowledged to have been a major undertaking. Even to complete the clearly visible W side of the enclosure would require cooperation from numbers of people in the procurement and erection of timbers. It need not be supposed, however, that this was a resident population; neolithic ritual enclosures are likely to have been the work of different groups, perhaps gathered from a wide area. The location of Meldon Bridge at the junction of valleys, emphasises this point. Upper and Lower Tweed, Lyne and Manor Waters and Meldon Burn all lead to the site, with the Eddleston Water also joining the Tweed at Peebles. It has been suggested that the Sheriffmuir promontory, between the Tweed and the Water of Lyne, which served as a mustering ground in medieval times, may have retained this function from the Iron Age, as a meeting place for the Selgovae (RCAHMS 1967, 34).

A note may be added on the character of the avenue and its relationship to the enclosure. Although the exact identity of dimensions and of numbers of pits in the three avenues at Forteviot, Dunragit and Meldon Bridge suggests that the juxtaposition of the feature with an enclosure is not fortuitous, nonetheless there is no indication, at Meldon Bridge at least, of an entrance at the point of junction. The 6m wide avenue here overlaps asymmetrically the perimeter pits, spaced c 4m apart. There must be a possibility that one or other feature was already obsolete by the time that the second was erected. The paired pits as a free standing entity can be paralleled among early neolithic mortuary structures and cursus related monuments (see Douglasmuir, Angus; Fourmerkland VI:e); they recur with grooved ware associations in the Milfield Basin (Harding 1981). The avenue at Walton projects at an acute angle from the enclosure and is both longer and broader than the Scottish enclosure avenues. Double pit alignments pass by henges in the Milfield basin, at Thornborough Rings, Yorkshire (St. Joseph 1977 fig.1)

and perhaps at Dalswinton Mains (VI:f). It would seem that the three, short Scottish avenues may be a separate class of feature, of different form and function from double pit alignments elsewhere. The late second millennium dates, apparently obtained from pits constituting alignments within the Meldon Bridge enclosure, must stand as a warning against assumptions of identity based on superficial resemblances of form.

It seems that very little of the activity revealed within the enclosure can be related to its short period of life. The five radiocarbon dates obtained from pits with decorated neolithic pottery suggest two periods of use, one pre-enclosure, the second apparently contemporary with it. Pits with pottery occurred in three separate groups and were interpreted by the excavator as evidence for domestic use. As Kinnes points out, however (1985, 24), the selection of decorated rims for deposition, as at Brackmont Mill, Fife, argues for 'processes outwith normal ceramic use'. If ritual deposition of midden material and special items is at issue it may be wise to express caution over the early dating of the pottery, as older charcoal could well have been incorporated in such activity; the identity of form between adjacent pits B12 and B14 with widely different dates also points to possible re-cycling of material. Nonetheless, the importance of hazel nuts in these pits and the complete absence of charred grain or other evidence for agriculture is of general interest in interpretation of the economy in the third millennium.

None of the other features in the interior have been proven to be neolithic. Artefactual associations and radiocarbon dates refer only to Bronze Age funerary use. These include two cists, one containing a slug knife and triangular jet bead probably of the Early Bronze Age, two cinerary urns, and two cremations beside posts with dates of c 1100 bc. It seems that these last, said to be part of a post row, are the 'tunnel cremations' originally thought likely to relate to the enclosure period. Similar tunnel cremations at Yeavinger were associated with grooved ware (Hope Taylor 1977), although another example, in Oxfordshire, produced a date of 1530 ± 50 bc BM24 - 28 (Lambrick 1988, 79-80). Comparisons with the southern English earthwork enclosures were originally supported by the presence of post rows and a post ring. This latter feature must also be open to a wide variety of interpretations, from later prehistoric timber round house to Bronze Age stake barrow. The category of funerary site may, equally, include the smaller stake rings around pits or cremations found in the N half of the 1975 trench. 'Late Neolithic pottery' was found in a substantial palisade trench at the E end of the site, but it was incorporated into the upper levels, and could have been a casual inclusion. Thus the only activity that has been shown to have been contemporary with the enclosure is the deposition of decorated neolithic pottery and other items in pits.

There is a gap of nearly 700 years between the latest date from the stockade (the weathering cone date of 1791 ± 90 bc) and the next known radiocarbon date of c 1100 bc from a cremation beside a post. Burgess has postulated a period of abandonment at this time, with occupation moving from the valleys to the hitherto unoccupied uplands (1984, 144; 1985, 212). The disruption of settlement patterns is thus suggested to coincide with the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age transition which sees changes in pottery styles, funerary traditions and settlement types. The evidence for such a social reorganisation in the Lyne Basin is however, unacceptably flimsy and must be rejected as being likely to distort perceptions of the site itself. Funerary remains from within the enclosure are varied, and as likely to span the entire second millennium as to be confined to its extremities. The evidence for the shift to the uplands relates to the platform settlements of the area, specifically Green Knowe, 3km N of Meldon Bridge at 275m OD with radiocarbon dates running from 1270 ± 75 bc - GU 1213 to 781 ± 75 bc - GU 1014 (Jobey 1980, 82). These platform sites are in fact, the earliest dated domestic structures in the area and the question of earlier settlement location remains open. Dates from two pits below the cairn at Harehope, 140m N of the platform settlement, actually overlap with dates from the Meldon Bridge enclosure at 2140 and 2180 ± 90 bc (GU 1213, 1214), and suggest that the Meldon Valley, far from offering a contrast in settlement chronology, represents an area of activity directly related to the enclosure. The primary burial at the cairn, with jet buttons and flint knife, may well be contemporary with a cist within the enclosure containing a slug knife and triangular jet bead, and the same parallelism is seen in the cinerary urns and unaccompanied cremations at both sites.

Further points regarding the chronological context of the enclosure are raised under Pottery, below, while discussion of the Prehistoric landscape explores other evidence for the use of both uplands and valleys. Two particular pieces of landscape evidence may be mentioned here. First, the remains on Sheriffmuir, immediately opposite Meldon Bridge, across the Lyne, suggests that the stockaded enclosure may be only part of a larger complex of ritual activity at the junction of Tweed and Lyne. Secondly, there could perhaps be importance in the alignment of the Meldon Bridge avenue onto Hamildean Hill, its 380m summit, 2.5km distant, occupied by a so-called 'unfinished' hillfort. The possibility of an earlier neolithic enclosure on this hill has been raised by Smith (1991) and the pattern of relationship between hilltop causewayed enclosure and valley bottom henge may be being played out here as in the southern English pairings such as Windmill Hill - Avebury or Maiden Castle - Mount Pleasant.

Artefact context:

Axes: Seven axes can be listed as being found within 5km of Meldon Bridge, originating in both upland and valley bottom locations.

One of these is the polished stone axe found with domestic refuse in a pit within the enclosure (DES 1977, 27).

A broken axe, 4" (102mm) in length, found at 280m OD in Harehope Forest at NT 2085 4354, 3km N of Meldon Bridge, was donated to the NMS in 1977 (PSAS 108 1976-7, 384, Donations). The location is 350m NW of Green Knowe platform settlement and 500m W of Harehope cairn, with associated neolithic dates (Jobey 1980).

A 6" (152mm) axe of serpentine comes from Stobo, in the Tweed valley, 3.5km SW of Meldon Bridge (NMS: AF 470), while a slightly larger greenstone axe was found on Harrow Hope farm in the hills above Stobo (NMS: AF 218).

An 8" (203mm) axe of felstone was found at Castle Hill, Peebles, a Tweedside promontory 4km NE of Meldon Bridge (NMS: AF 252).

An axe from Venlaw, a hill on the NE side of Peebles, 5km E of Meldon Bridge is in the Chambers Institute, Peebles (P 510D). It has been described as a 'fine axe of sandstone' (Anderson and Black 1888, 334).

A broken axe of claystone, 4 $\frac{3}{8}$ " (111mm) long, comes from Drochil in the Lyne valley, 5km NW of Meldon Bridge (NMS: AF 480).

Lithic finds: The Tweed terraces above Peebles do not feature in early records of artefact collection, but there is a recent report of flint and chert flakes, including microliths, being found beside the Tweed at Manor Bridge, 2.5km SE of Meldon Bridge (DES 1986, 49).

Chert extraction sites have been reported on Wood Hill and Stevenson Hill above the Lyne, 4 - 5km to the NW (DES 1989, 8). Chert nodules occur at the confluence of the Lyne and the Meldon Burn (Wickham Jones and Collins 1978, 17).

Pottery: The 'spectacular' pottery finds from Meldon Bridge re-emphasise the deficiencies in the surviving corpus of Scottish neolithic pottery and the under representation of the original richness of local variation. It is now possible to characterise a 'Meldon Bridge style' by reference to this collection. The pottery has angular, T-shaped rims, bevelled to the inside with profuse incised decoration especially on the rim itself. Similar material comes from sites in the Milfield Basin, notably from Thirlings (Miket 1976), from Hedderwick Sands (Callander 1929) and from Brackmont Mill, Fife (Longworth 1967). Recovery contexts are commonly from pits, including it seems, at least some of the pottery from Hedderwick (Table II:2:12). It may be pointed out that the profuse, almost baroque, decoration on the surface of the rims and sometimes running on down the inside of the rim, would make this ware somewhat impractical for regular use, and the ritual contexts of

recovery may thus be confirmed. Such deposition practices can, however, confuse dating associations, and it may be premature to use the Meldon Bridge evidence to push the origins of the style back to c 2700 bc (contra Gibson 1984, 79). Dates from pit deposits at Grandtully, Perthshire (Simpson and Coles 1990) support the late contexts of such recovery. There is also a find of several sherds of a Meldon Bridge pot at one end of a cist with AOC beaker on the haugh of the Tweed at Drumelzier, 11km SW of Meldon Bridge. The angular rim of this vessel matches a group illustrated in fig.9.7 of Burgess' 1976 account, while the rather Z-shaped dotted impressions on the rim of the Drumelzier pot are seen on the rim of the shallow bowl from Meldon Bridge shown in the same illustration (Craw 1931, p.367-8, fig.9).

Pottery types absent from Meldon Bridge are also of interest. No Grimston ware was recovered, perhaps because this class of pottery was already obsolete by c 2700 (Herne 1988), the earliest dated horizon on the site. Grooved ware is also missing, despite the close agreement between the stockade dates and those from Class I henges in the north, Balfarg and Stenness, both of which have produced grooved ware in direct association with internal features (Mercer 1981(a), 96; Ritchie 1976, 22-5). There is, however, an absence of grooved ware from Class II henges, North Mains and Cairnpapple, the latter with one possible sherd only, and contexts of deposition would appear to be selective. The association of grooved ware and 'tunnel cremations' at Yeavering (Hope Taylor 1977, 349) must clearly be divorced from the cremations tunnelled into the sides of pits at Meldon Bridge, which have apparently produced much later dates. It can be added that the preservation of pottery on the site was poor, and the quality of much local grooved ware is such that it may well have been subject to rapid disintegration.

Another absentee is beaker, in contrast to the regular appearance of this ceramic, in secondary contexts, on all types of henge, and also at the Blackhouse Burn enclosure. The explanation could be chronological, but site abandonment seems unlikely given the presence of a probable Early Bronze Age cist in the enclosure. It is, however, possible that after the decay of the stockade there was no obvious context such as ditches or standing stones remaining on the promontory to attract beaker deposition. It must be repeated, however, that only 10% of the surface area has been excavated, and localised features may remain undetected.

Early types of beaker are known in the Tweed Valley area. The four beakers from Harehope Cairn, 3km N of Meldon Bridge (Jobey 1980) include a European Bell Beaker apparently disturbed from a pit to be replaced by two Northern beakers. This pit lay between the two 'kerbs' of the cairn.

The primary cist at Drumelzier cairn contained an AOC beaker in a central position in addition to neolithic sherds (Craw 1931).

A cup-and-ring marked stone was found lying beside the fence crossing the North Annexe of the Roman fort at Lyne, 1.5km W of the enclosure (RCAHMS 1967, i, 62, no.100).

The find of an Early Bronze Age halberd, rare in southern Scotland, at Lyne Farm should also be mentioned (Coles 1969, 87) (now in Chambers Institute, Peebles).

Prehistoric landscape: There is a general contrast to be drawn between the cluster of hengiform and ring ditch sites within and around the pit-defined enclosure at Forteviot and the absence of similar cropmarks at Meldon Bridge. Excavation has only partially redressed the balance, showing that the enclosure was indeed used for various types of burial comparable, perhaps, to the ring ditches at Forteviot. No details are available of the 'substantial palisade trench' encountered in 1977, and in view of the suitability of the promontory for the siting of an Iron Age enclosure, the remains cannot be supposed to represent a second neolithic feature. There are, however, important indications of prehistoric activity directly across the Water of Lyne, on Sheriffmuir, and these must here be considered.

Sheriffmuir constitutes a level plateau between the Water of Lyne and the River Tweed c 12ha in extent, at 190m OD slightly higher than the highest part of the Meldon Bridge promontory. It presently consists of arable fields in which the only visible antiquities are two standing stones, c 2m apart, each just over 1m in height (RCAHMS 1967, i, 63, no.106). In 1792, however, it was 'a flat uncultivated heath' (Stat Acct III, 326), and at that date, and still surviving in 1845 (NSA III 123), there were also 'a number of stones about a foot high, erected at regular distances, and extending eastward in a curved direction' from the two taller stones. There were also two cairns, the larger of which could still be traced in 1967 200m N of the standing stones on the edge of the terrace, as a stony patch of ground over 25m in diameter (RCAHMS 1967, i, 58, no.57). There were also said to be 'upon the muir, a few small circular appearances, which are evidently the effect of art' (Stat Acct III, 326).

Aerial photographs reveal an exceptionally interesting cropmark 50m W of the standing stones, consisting of two adjacent pairs of bowed ditches suggestive of wide-entranced mini-henges (NT 24SW 74). Overall the double cropmark measures c 25m NE - SW, with a maximum breadth of c 10m between each pair of ditches. The original monument may have been a pair of round barrows, but the very wide (c 8m) gap between the adjacent ends, against gaps of c 5 - 6m at the distant ends, suggests that this is a deliberately composite structure. It would not be impossible to envisage it as a small long barrow, perhaps the result of an extension from c 14m to 25m in length (cf. also III:5 Brownsbank).

c 35m S of the double cropmark aerial photographs suggest the possible presence of two small penannular ring ditches, set back to back, open to the NE and the SW, the remains, perhaps, of the 'small circular appearances' of the Statistical Account. In summary, it would seem that the Sheriffmuir promontory may have carried as much in the way of ceremonial monuments as that of Meldon Bridge.

It may be added that the preference in Tweeddale for stone built cairns, as on Sheriffmuir and possibly unmounded cists or simple cremations in pits or urns, as at Meldon Bridge, naturally reduces the incidence of cropmark features. The stake and post-circles found in excavation were not sufficiently well-marked to appear on aerial photographs. A similar combination of cairn (RCAHMS 1967, i, 56, no.35) and unmounded cist (DES 1985, 3) is reported from King's Muir Meadows on the S side of the Tweed at Peebles, 4.5km E of Meldon Bridge.

In the valley of the Meldon Burn to the N of Meldon Bridge there are several large burial cairns besides groups of small cairns. On the summit of White Meldon, at 427m OD, 2.5km NNE of the enclosure, are the remains of a kerbed cairn, once over 13m in diameter (RCAHMS 1967, i, 59, no.67). Jobey (1980) noted two large burial cairns on the same 270m contour as the Green Knowe platform settlement, 140m to the N and S respectively of the group of platforms, 3km N of Meldon Bridge. Excavation of the northern cairn demonstrated chronological coincidence with the enclosure, meriting some examination.

The much robbed cairn had been defined by two kerbs, one 12.5 - 13m and the other 19m in diameter, interpreted by Jobey as representing enlargement. The surviving slabs of the inner kerb leaned outwards, however, and it seems possible that they had revetted the inner side of a ring cairn before it received its central infill (cf Sketewan, Perthshire). Beneath one of the boulders of the outer kerb, on the N side of the cairn was a heat-reddened pit containing charcoal which gave a date:-

GU 1213 2140 ± 90 bc

A second small pit, c 0.5m in diameter and 0.3m in depth within the SW arc of the 'ring cairn' had suffered disturbance, apparently scattering sherds of a long necked beaker and fragments of calcined bone on the adjacent ground surface. Remaining charcoal, however, gave a date earlier than expected.

GU 1214 2180 ± 90 bc

These two dates point to activity on the site contemporary with construction of the Meldon Bridge palisade.

A robbed rectangular pit, 2m N - S by 1.5m, at the centre of the cairn, appeared to have held an inhumation. On the pit floor was a tight group of finds: thirty two conical V-bored buttons, an oval button and a belt fastener, all of shale, and a flint knife. Fragments of carbonised wood, mainly oak, gave a date:-

GU 1215 1875 ± 95 bc

Two further cists, one containing 127 disc beads of lignite and two cremations, also occupied the central cairn area. These central burials are likely to have been contemporary with the cist burial at Meldon Bridge accompanied by a jet bead and a flint knife.

One cist underlay the outer ring of cairn material. It contained a Step 5 beaker and a broken fragment of a Step 4 beaker, but these appeared to have been inserted into an earlier pit, disturbing a European Bell beaker.

Four more cremations were within the outer ring cairn, one on the ground surface, but the other three probably late insertions into the E side of the cairn. From these deposits came dates of:-

GU 1211	1555 ± 60 bc
1212	1265 ± 90 bc (possibly with a collared urn.

Jobey commented that this last date 'as it happens is comparable with dates for two late cremations at the Meldon Bridge complex' (p.111).

One further beaker sherd, flint flakes and a single edged flint knife were found during excavation.

Standing stones: Besides the evidence for standing stones within the Meldon Bridge enclosure and the two surviving stones on Sheriffmuir, there is a standing stone at Kirkton Manor, on the promontory between the Tweed and the Manor Water c 2.5km ESE of Meldon Bridge (RCAHMS 1967, i, 63, no.104). This stone, 1.9m in height, which apparently originally stood some 100 yards to the NW, has natural cupmarks on both faces.

There is also an unsubstantiated record of 'a fragmentary stone circle' observable in 1907 near the Mill of Stobo, 4km SW of the enclosure (Gunn 1907, 1).

Archaeological interpretations: At the time that the Peeblesshire Inventory was published (RCAHMS 1967), aerial photography had recorded only the double pit alignment of the avenue at right angles to a stretch of single pits; an Iron Age context therefore seemed to be possible. Two seasons of excavation, combined with additional photographs, enabled Burgess to publish his account (1976) of the enclosure as, a 'Neolithic defended promontory complex', discussing the site in comparison with the large Late Neolithic earthwork enclosures of southern Britain. After a third season of excavation in 1977, and some more, apparently unpublished, radiocarbon determination, this interpretation has been somewhat modified, and various aspects of the wider context of the site have been considered (Burgess 1980; 1984; 1985). These contributions have been partially analysed under 'Monument context' above. It can be added here that the site has been used as the type site for the 'Meldon Bridge period' (Burgess 1980), lasting from c 2500 bc to 2150 bc, characterised by early henges and Late Neolithic individual burial in round barrows. Meldon Bridge itself falls towards the end of this period, pre-dating the

onset of the Beaker phenomenon, which heralded the onset of the Mount Pleasant period, lasting from c 2150 bc to 1700 bc.

The site has in general been accepted at the excavator's original valuation (e.g. St. Joseph 1978), seen as 'a vastly important site giving a glimpse of the complexity of the Later Neolithic' (Mercer 1981(a), 164). MacKie (1981) has questioned the defensive emphasis of the interpretation, pointing out that the two streams were not difficult to cross and adding that no gate has been identified in the entrance avenue. He preferred to see it as a 'ceremonial centre', the astronomical alignments of the avenue being identical to those at Castlerigg stone circle. Kinnes (1985, 29) would accept the arguments for defensive status, pointing to the 'changing circumstances of the early second millennium bc where the appearance of Beaker pottery, whatever its particular interpretation, at least indicates a period of considerable social readjustment'. He linked Meldon Bridge and Forteviot to the palisade phase at Mount Pleasant as evidence for 'a society under exceptional pressure'. The contrast between this linkage, and the period distinctions drawn by Burgess should be noted; the majority of identifiable sherds from the palisade trench at Mount Pleasant were of beaker mostly of Wessex/Middle Rhine type (Wainwright 1979, 53), while no beaker was found at Meldon Bridge.

Fig. III:b:1 Meldon Bridge enclosure, after Burgess 1976, and aerial photographs

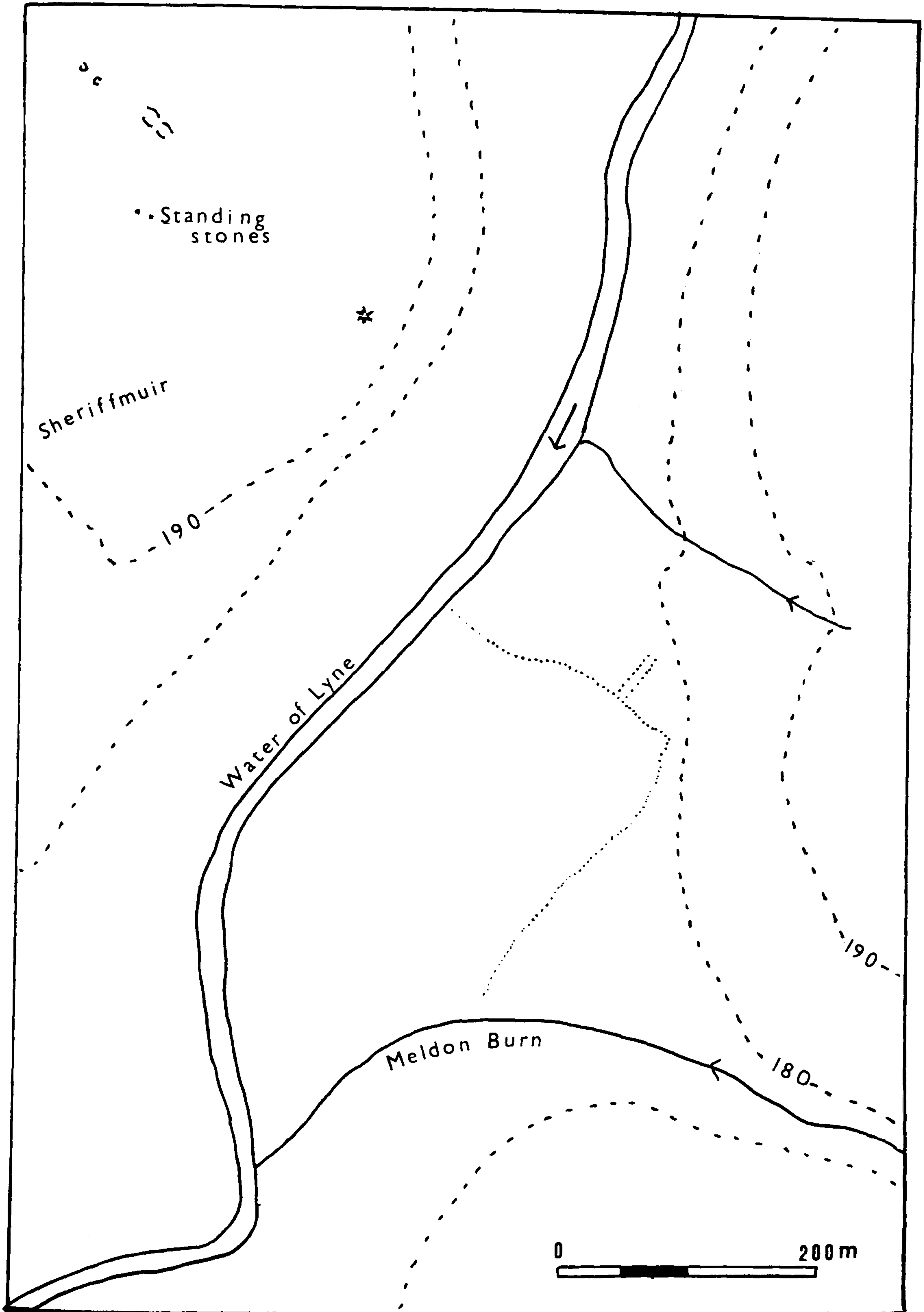
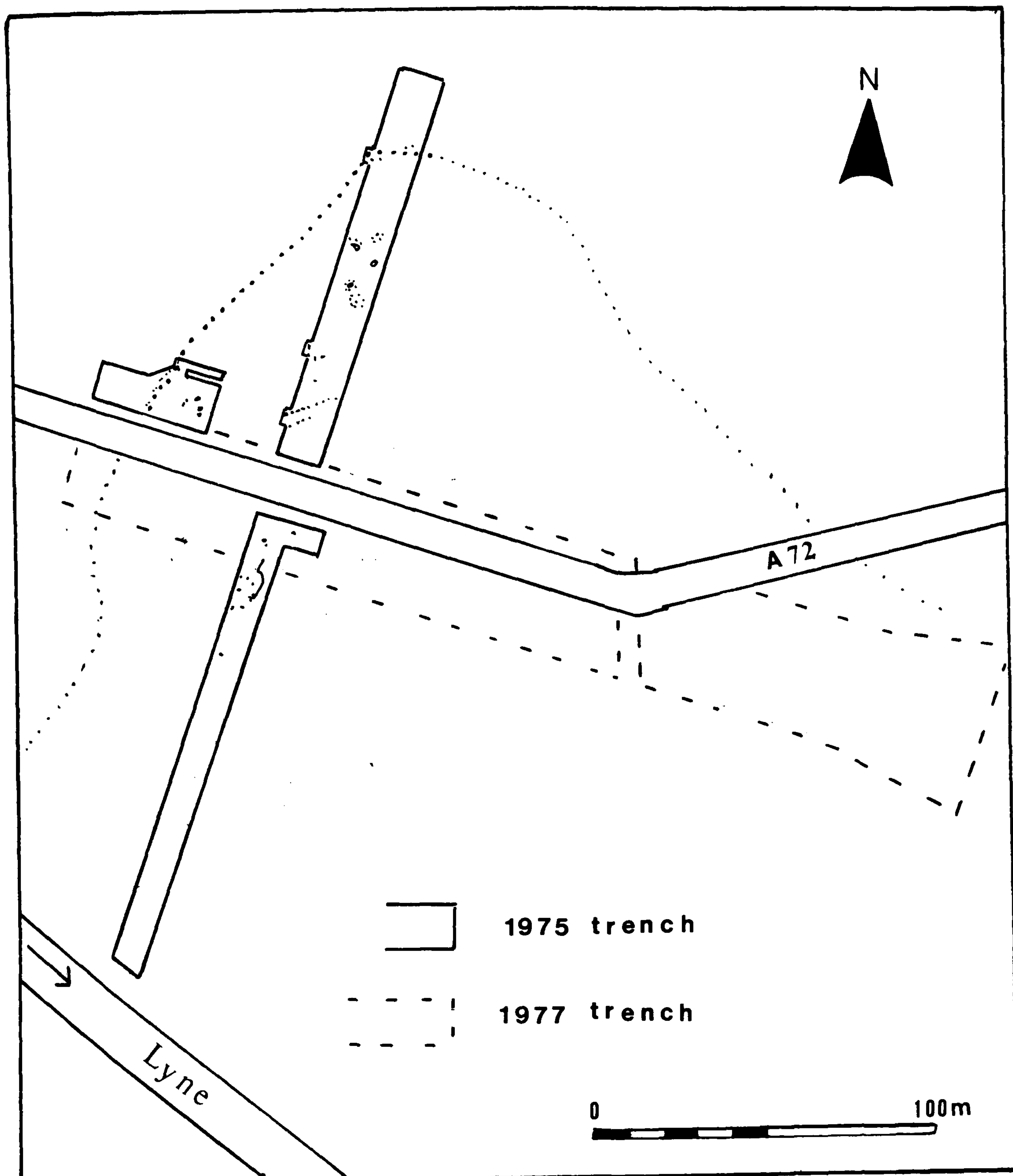


Fig. III:b:2 Meldon Bridge, excavated features, after Burgess 1976



III:c & d Blackhouse Burn enclosures I & II
 Lanarkshire NS 94SE 11
 Clydesdale District I NS 9527 4050
 Strathclyde Region II NS 9509 4053
 285 - 295m OD

Location: Set within a loop of the Clyde which passes 3km distant to the E, N and WNW, the enclosures are 2.5km S of Pettinain and 1km NE of Blackhouse farm steading.

I: Large, Late Neolithic, sub-circular stone-banked enclosure

II: Subsidiary circular or slightly oval enclosure

Status: I: Category A; II: Category B; Scheduled Ancient Monuments tested by excavation

Outline: I: A hexagonal enclosure formed by a broad stony bank broken by three possible entrances.

II: A nearly circular enclosure defined by a slight stony bank with single entrance opening directly onto an entrance of the adjacent larger enclosure.

Entrance orientation: I: One entrance faces NNW, with possible entrances to SSW and SE
 II: SE

Dimensions (after RCAHMS 1978(a)):

I	Diameter:	c 300m NE - SW x 280m NW - SE crest to crest
	Area:	c 6.5ha
	Bank breadth:	c 11m
	max. height:	1.2m
II	Internal diameter:	c 40m
	Bank breadth:	8.5m
	max. height:	0.7m

Excavation: A programme of survey accompanied by limited excavation carried out by Peter Hill for HBM - CEU is reported in DES 1985, 389. Further details of this work and of a second season of excavation were given in a talk to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland by Peter Hill on 11 April 1988.

History of site and present condition: The enclosure was evidently less depleted in the 18th century, when an Estate Plan of the Farm of Cloburn showed a good representation of the polygonal circuit of the large enclosure bank. Stone robbing in the 18th century is reported in the *Statistical Account* (xii, 39-40), probably related to the establishment of enclosures and plantation belts which the 1st ed OS map (1859) shows to reach to within 300m of the site; this map marked the enclosure only as 'Camp (site of)'. Further damage

occurred in the 19th century as drains were cut across the site, initiating a process of desiccation of neolithic post stumps (see below). This drainage may have allowed the smaller enclosure to protrude above the shrinking bog.

In 1890 Christison described the bank as being 'thinly covered with moss and heather', but added that the 'many breaks and several accidental sections showed it to consist almost entirely of stone (p.327). This description still applies today. The bank of the main enclosure has been much disturbed and robbed, and is only well preserved on the N; even here there are robbing hollows and stone heaps distorting its outline. The interior of the enclosure is crossed by recent drains, tracks and sheep paths.

The smaller enclosure, described in 1794 as being 'within a deep moss' (Stat Acct xii, 39), is overgrown with boggy vegetation and with peat, which fills the interior.

Description and excavation results:

Enclosure I: While the N part of the site is on level ground with a slightly domed interior, the S part slopes downhill and is drained by two springs with streams running downhill to feed the Glade or Blackhouse Burn. The perimeter is in straight sections forming an irregular polygon. Although the condition of the bank is poor, the low spread of stone surviving in parts of the N side appears to represent its original maximum height. The best defined entrance is in the straight NW side of the enclosure, giving out onto Enclosure II. Breaks on the downhill side, accompanying the two streams, may not represent formal entrances.

Survey in 1985 noted nineteen mounds and small cairns in the interior, which was traversed by a network of trackways and drains. An excavation trench exposing two of the mounds found them to be insubstantial stone settings on either side of a recent rutted track. An unrutted gravel path may have been an earlier feature.

Excavation of the bank consisted of two trenches; one, 12m in length, dug in 1985 and 1986 across the best preserved portion of the bank, on the N; a second trench, dug in 1986 on the W side, took advantage of a pre-existing ditch to examine a second section across the bank. The excavator has emphasised the small scale of the undertaking and the need to treat all results as being of an interim nature. The following sequence of construction was suggested.

Phase 1: Turf and topsoil stripping, revealing a tree root, followed by activity producing stake holes, a possible hearth, and an extensive spread of charcoal and ash.

Phase 2: Construction of a low, drystone bank contained by external and transverse divisions of upright flag stones.

Phase 3: Erection of upright oak posts on, first, the inner and then the outer margins of the bank. On the inner side, posts 50cm in diameter were set 50cm deep, suggesting that their original height was 1.5m. The second excavation trench on the W side of the enclosure encountered the same pattern of post holes. Waterlogged conditions allowed for the survival of some of the post stumps, although it could be seen that drainage had begun a recent process of drying out and shrinkage. Dendrochronological studies proved inconclusive but one post gave a radiocarbon date of 2085 ± 55 bc - GU 1983.

Phase 4: After the posts had rotted, which indicates a period of c 100 - 200 years, low heaps of earth and stone were laid against both inner and outer flanks of the bank, overlying the post stumps.

Phase 5: Flagstones were laid to cap the flanks and possibly the crest of the bank.

Phase 6: Extensive robbing of the centre of the bank, probably in the 18th century AD.

Enclosure II: The smaller enclosure appears to be of similar, rather slighter construction to that of the larger enclosure.

Excavation consisted of a trial trench on the NW, which showed that no substantial bank structure existed. It appears that the perimeter consisted of a discontinuous ditch or a series of spade dug pits refilled with displaced subsoil and stone. This enclosure remains undated.

Finds: A sherd of AOC beaker was found in the B horizon at the S end of the trench cut in the interior of the large enclosure.

Inverted urns were found under the wall during 18th century stone robbing, each vessel set between four flagstones and below a cover slab. Within these stone settings or cists was fine whitish sand surrounding the urns, and below the vessels 'something of a soft slimy nature was found upon the sand' (Stat Acct xii 39-40).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 40km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: The twin springs of the Glade or Blackhouse Burn rise within the large enclosure.

General topography: The large rounded hills surrounding the enclosures form an upland enclave N of Tinto Hill within the loop of the River Clyde in its broad valley.

Situation: The enclosures lie in an amphitheatre surrounded by hills. The long ridge centred on Swaites Hill curves around the E and NE sides of the hollow rising to 323m OD to the E of the enclosure and 340m OD at Cairngryffe Hill to the NW. Carmichael Hill (353m), 2.5km distant, fills the view to the SW. Falling ground to

the S gives a more distant outlook, taking in Tinto Hill, over Chester Hill, due S of the sites.

Aspect: S

Slope: Rising gently to the E and NE (5%)
Falling fairly steeply to the S (10%)

Local relief, within 500m: 260 - 323m OD

Outlook: Distant: 17% to S
Intermediate: 83%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Very low

Local landmarks: Tinto Hill (707m OD), 6km to the S, is the outstanding landmark, although the enclosure is ringed by lesser hills.

Solid geology: Lower Devonian Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soils, with gleying, being encroached on by peat

Land use: Upland grazing

Vegetation: Rough grass and bog vegetation

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Biggar Common, long mound, 5.3km to ESE

Westside, probable henge, 7km to SSE

Balwaistie, cropmark henge, 9km to E

Weston henge, 9.5km to NE

(Craigie Burn, possible henge, 4km to ENE)

Neolithic sites are also noted below (Prehistoric landscape) at Cloburn Quarry cairn, 1km to NNW and at Wellbrae enclosures, 1.5km to E.

Monument context: A limited and still unpublished excavation programme has revealed a remarkable construction sequence at the two enclosures, confirming the suggestion of the RCAHMS (1978(a), 4) that the larger, at least, was a neolithic site. The single radiocarbon date, presumably from one of the inner posts, sets the revetment of the bank in the Late Neolithic. Although no estimate has been made of the time lapse between phases, nor are dates available from charcoal spreads below the bank, it would seem likely that the bank itself was also of Late Neolithic construction. The large enclosure is thus contemporary with henge building in Scotland, although in size it can only be compared to the large earthwork enclosures of the south. Its location, in a basin surrounded by hills, is also matched at these southern

sites, such as the 5.6ha Mount Pleasant. The smaller enclosure, although undated, seems to have been constructed in more orthodox fashion for a henge, as a segmented ditch (cf. East Marleyknowe in the Milfield Basin), and in size it is closely comparable to local Class II henges. The infilling with stones can be matched at other neolithic sites, for example, at Hambledon Hill, Dorset, where, around the main enclosure, a slot had been cut and recut into the original causewayed ditch, and finally was filled to overflowing with flint nodules (Mercer 1988, 97). Whether such a process should be regarded as constituting a closure of the monument, comparable to the stony infill of the forecourt of a long cairn, or whether the stones were intended to convert the ditched henge into a banked enclosure, resembling its larger neighbour, must remain an open question.

The actual technique of bank construction at Blackhouse Burn, using external and transverse divisions of upright flag stones, recalls the methods used in revetment of stone cairns. Stony bank construction at Mayburgh henge, near Penrith, apparently unditched, has not been examined by excavation. This bank, however, is much more massive than at Blackhouse Burn, reaching 30 - 35m in breadth and standing over 6m in height; the interior of this site is only 90m in diameter. Unditched banks are constructed around Late Neolithic enclosures in Ireland, such as at Monknewton (c 96m diameter) and other sites in the Boyne Valley; the enclosure at The Giant's Ring, Belfast reaches 180m in diameter. It must be acknowledged, however, that identification of simple, banked enclosures as being of neolithic date is an extremely uncertain process. The presence of a passage grave within The Giant's Ring, or the extraordinarily undefensive location of the Blackhouse Burn enclosure provide clues which may not be available elsewhere. The technique of slab revetment might provide an approach to recognition, but it is used locally for quite narrow walls, presumably of iron Age date, such as the inner rampart at Cairngryffe Hill fort (RCAHMS 1978(a), 95, no.220).

The addition of large timber posts to the bank at Blackhouse Burn creates a relationship between this site and other large timber-defined sites of the Late Neolithic. 21km to the E the promontory enclosure at Meldon Burn is a near contemporary of similar dimensions. Other timber enclosures more closely match the outline of Blackhouse Burn: Forteviot, in Strathearn, measuring c 265m x 220m (St. Joseph 1978); Walton, in Radnorshire, perhaps c 325m across (St. Joseph 1980); and Greyhound Yard, Dorchester, c 250 - 300m in diameter, its timbers dated to c 2110 bc HAR 5508 (Woodward 1984). There was evidently a class of large timber defined enclosures being constructed at the same period as henge ditches were being dug. There are very important implications in this concurrence for social reconstruction in the Biggar Gap

Region in the Late Neolithic, which are considered in Section III:ix. It may here be noted that Blackhouse Burn is less than 10km from at least three henges, suggesting the possible existence of a hierarchical network of sites around the Clyde. This is in contrast to the site relationships of Meldon Bridge, with no recognised henges within this radius. Site locations are also very different, in that while Meldon Bridge is at a hub of communication lines to all points of the compass, Blackhouse Burn is in a secluded basin, apart from probable routes of travel. On the other hand, the view from the adjacent Swaites Hill, both up and down the Clyde, up the Medwin valley to the NE, and across the Biggar Gap itself to the E, creates a very similar impression of centrality to that of Meldon Bridge. Possibly the contrast in actual situation should not be translated into comment on wider locational aspects. At Meldon Bridge, also, the more prominent plateau of Sheriffmuir was not utilised for enclosure.

Finally, the evidence for continual refurbishment and adaptation at Blackhouse Burn is of particular interest. Not only was construction achieved in possibly three distinct phases; bank building, internal post revetment and the erection of posts on the outer edge of the bank, but interest continued into later generations with the addition of further material after the posts had decayed and an apparent sealing of the bank with capping flagstones. At Meldon Bridge, where only the corner post showed signs of replacement, a maximum lifespan for the enclosure of c 100 years was suggested, although it is possible that the eroded land surfaces at this site failed to reveal evidence of some other type of reconstruction, such as the erection of an unditched bank.

Artefact context:

Axes: Although at least ten axes or pieces of axes have been recorded from within a 5km radius of the Blackhouse Burn enclosures, most of these are excavation finds, and the record of casual recovery is low. Nor do most of these finds fall into the category of 'prestige implements'.

Excavation of a 'platform cairn' at Cloburn Quarry, 1km to the NNE of the enclosures, produced 'a stone axe' in 1987 (DES 1987, 46), and a flake from 'a green polished hand axe' was found in a cremation pit in 1989 (DES 1989, 60).

A pair of cropmark enclosures at Wellbrae, 1.5km E of the enclosures, excavated in advance of the laying of the Shell pipeline in 1991, produced two implements and two flakes from implements. An axe or rather wedge, deposited with beaker sherds in a central pit in the W enclosure, was 75mm in length, and made of dolerite. Between the two enclosures a fat, heavy axe, also made of dolerite was recovered, 147mm in length. In pits in the E enclosure were found a resharpening flake of quartzose grit from

an axe or adze and a flake of dolerite from a ground stone implement, possibly an axe. The raw material for all of these finds could have been obtained locally, the dolerite as erratic cobbles (Inf. D. Alexander and Dr. A. Sheridan; DES 1991, 65).

The 19th century excavation of Hyndford crannog, nearly 5km W of the enclosures across the Clyde, evidently produced two axes, now in the NMS, although no details of the circumstances of recovery appear in the report (Munro 1899, 379-80). One was a polished axe, 2.9" (74mm) long, of fine grain weathered greystone (HTA 90); the other piece consisted of the cutting edge of a large polished axe of fine grain, grey-green stone (HTA 91).

Two 'felstone' axes from the collection of Adam Sim, both measuring $4\frac{3}{4}$ " (121mm) in length, come from Covington, whether the farm of that name beside the Clyde, just N of Wellbrae, or the parish which stretches from Tinto Hill to Swaites Hill (AF 189; 190).

The largest find is a cylindrical axe of greenstone, $7\frac{3}{4}$ " (197mm) in length, provenanced only as coming 'from a camp near Libberton' (NMS: AF 485). Libberton village is 4.5km NE of the enclosures, across the Clyde.

Lithic finds: Chert artefacts, and rarely flint, have been collected from the terraces of the River Clyde to the E and N of Blackhouse Burn. These are generally supposed to be of mesolithic origin (Lacaille 1954, 187-9), although the collection from Bagmoors (NT 951 434), 3km N of the enclosures, included a lozenge shaped arrowhead (NMS: BME 144), presumably a Late Neolithic artefact (PSAS xciv 1961, 327, Donations).

On excavation of the cairn at Cloburn Quarry, on Cairngryffe Hill, flint tools, two pieces of pitchstone and some worked green quartzite were recovered. A so-called 'dummy arrowhead' came from the same cremation pit as the axe flake (DES 1987, 46; 1989, 60).

Chert, flint and pitchstone were all found during the excavation of the W enclosure at Wellbrae, suggested to be a settlement site.

Several flint arrowheads of unspecified type, now lost, are said to have been found in a cairn on the E side of Swaites Hill (Greenshields 1864, 30).

Pottery: Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pottery, the latter including food vessel and beaker, the former unspecified, was found in deposits under the platform cairn at Cloburn Quarry at NS 947 415 (DES 1987, 46; 1989, 60; T. Pollard lecture, 3.10.92).

The possible domestic enclosure at Wellbrae (NS 9661 4010) contained a number of pits with pottery, chiefly impressed wares, but also western neolithic bowls and grooved ware. The enclosure itself was apparently built in a grooved ware context (DES 1991, 65; Clydesdale conference 3.10.92).

'Several pieces of prehistoric pottery with dot decoration' have been found outside the S side of the Roman fort at Castledykes (NS 928 441), 4.5km NW of

Blackhouse Burn. The description suggests neolithic impressed wares. The site is at 200m OD at the top of the S facing slopes above the R Clyde.

Beaker: Besides the AOC sherd found within the large Blackhouse Burn enclosure, a beaker, of unknown type, was found with a cremation below the platform cairn at Cloburn Quarry (DES 1987, 46).

At Wellbrae, 1.5km E of the enclosures, both the adjacent excavated enclosures produced beaker sherds. In the E enclosure beaker sherds were found in pits with grooved ware, and were also in topsoil over the E extension of the E enclosure, the only ceramic type associated with this annexe. In the W enclosure a pit containing burnt bone (probably animal), a stone wedge and a flint scraper, also contained comb impressed beaker sherds from two or three vessels, probably later in date than the cord impressed sherds from Enclosure 1.

At Boatbridge Quarry (NS 981 376), on the S side of the Clyde at Thankerton, 4km SE of the enclosures, one of a pair of cists contained a Step 4 beaker and the crouched skeleton of an adolescent which gave a date of 1780 ± 60 bc - GU 1122 (Clarke et al 1984). A beaker of Southern type (S3) was found in a gravelly slope above the Clyde at Drowsy Brae, Shieldhill (NS 983 387), 3.5km ESE of Blackhouse Burn in 1911 (PSAS lxxxv 1950-1, 183, Donations) NMS: EG 92.

Prehistoric landscape: Integral to the planned excavation strategy at Blackhouse Burn was a programme of survey of the environs of the enclosure. The ridge of Swaites Hill was found to carry abundant prehistoric evidence. As stated in DES 1985, 38: 'The remains include four 'field systems', comprising small cairns, field banks, lynchets and trackway. Other features include isolated cairns, roundhouses of various designs and patches of narrow and broad cultivation ridges. Two raised curvilinear platforms with insubstantial stony rims may be the remains of houses or ritual enclosures'.

The Lanarkshire Inventory (RCAHMS 1978, 64-5, no.106) noted at least twenty six cairns along the crest of the ridge at Swaites Hill. The largest of these was:-

The Hero's Cairn (NS 9587 4051), 500m E of the enclosure. This heavily robbed cairn, 32m in diameter, is recorded as being the site of a cist containing 'a large urn surrounded by five smaller ones' (Irving and Murray 1864), i, 24). A cist in the SE side of the cairn was excavated by the RCAHMS in 1976. It was found to have been previously disturbed, but fragments of food vessel and pieces of cremated bone were found.

None of the other cairns listed in the Inventory was over 12m in diameter, and eighteen might classify as being 'small cairns'. c six small cairns were also noted 300m W of the enclosure (ibid 46, no.14) and another twelve at the foot of the SE slopes of Cairngryffe Hill, 700m to the

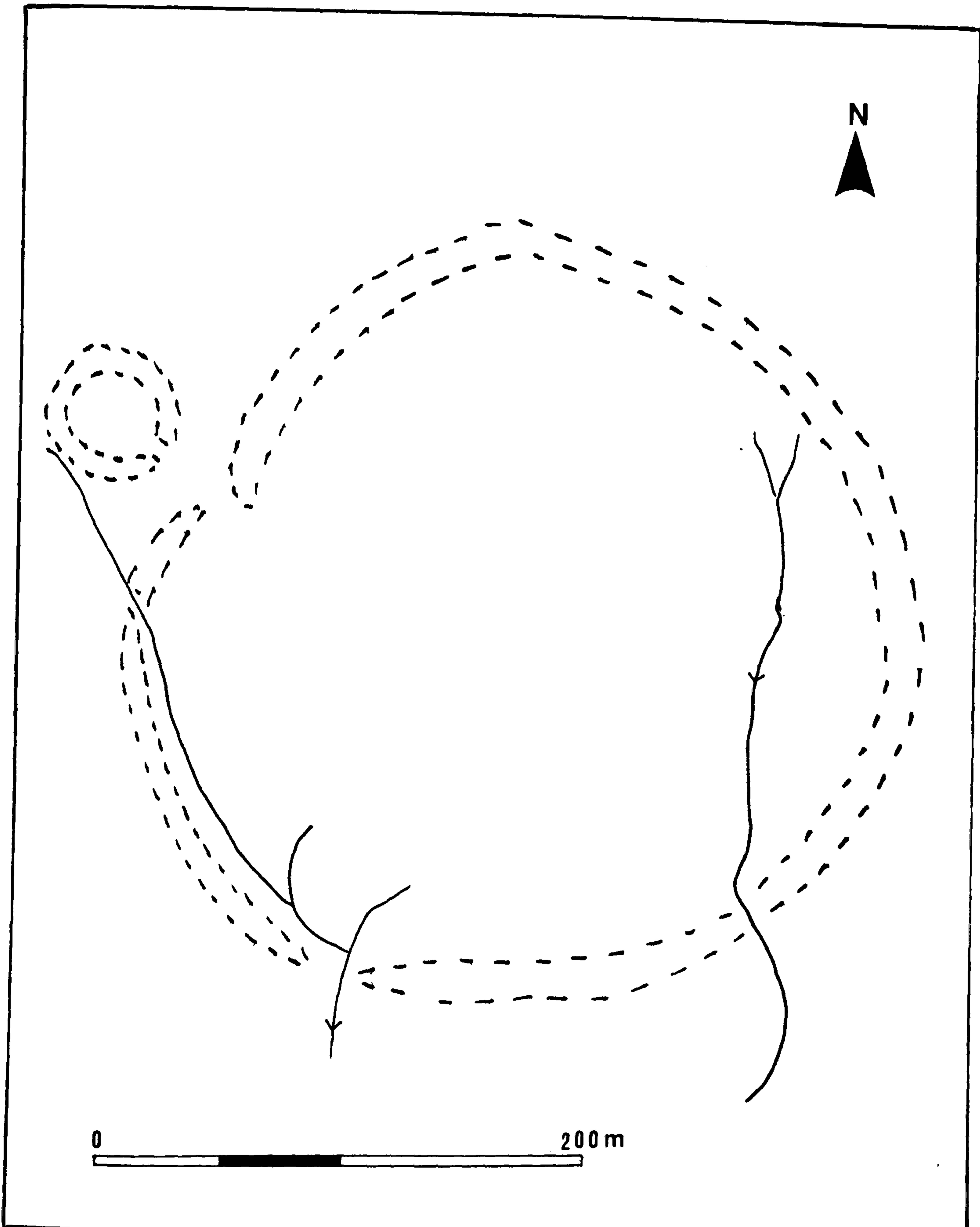
NW (ibid, 47, no.23). A record of arrowheads being found in a cairn on the E side of Swaites Hill (Greenshields 1864, 30) may refer to a destroyed site.

Beside Cloburn Quarry, at NS 947 415, 1.5km N of the enclosures, excavation of a low circular site in 1986 by HBM found it to consist of a platform of stones ringed by larger boulders, which sealed a cremation pit and a variety of other Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age deposits. Finds included polished stone axes, beaker, jet disc beads, a v-bored jet button, flint and chert tools and neolithic and Bronze Age pottery (DES 1987, 46; 1989, 60; T. Pollard, lecture 3.10.92). The site which has good views all round, does not overlook the enclosures.

At Wellbrae, on the E side of Swaites Hill, 1.5km E of the enclosures and 1.8km W of the R Clyde at NS 9661 4010, two adjacent sub-rectangular enclosures were excavated by the CFA in 1991 in advance of Shell pipeline construction (DES 1991, 65; Clydesdale conference 3.10.92). The E enclosure, 14m x 40m, contained a density of features, the majority pits containing impressed Late Neolithic pottery, but also some with western neolithic pottery and others with grooved ware. The enclosure itself appeared to be of grooved ware construction, and a domestic function suggested (see Table III:3).

Archaeological interpretations: The breadth of the stony bank around the enclosure caused early commentators to suppose that it must once have been of great height (Stat Acct xii, 39-40). It was therefore supposed that it must have been greatly plundered (Christison 1890, 326). The RCAHMS recognised, however, that this 'remarkable monument' was 'patently not any kind of fortification or settlement site' and suggested it to be neolithic (1978, 4). Although this assessment has been confirmed by excavation, the absence of a full report has restricted archaeological appreciation of the importance of the site.

Fig. III:c/d Blackhouse Burn enclosures, after
RCAHMS 1978



III:e Normangill henge, Lanarkshire NS 92SE 11
Clydesdale District NS 9275 2212
Strathclyde Region 280m OD

Location: 2km NE of Crawford on the S side of the Camps Water, 480m S of Normangill farmhouse. The site is bisected by the public road to Camps reservoir.

Type: Class II henge

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Two asymmetric banana shaped ditches with matching outer banks, leaving broad entrances between each set of terminals. A central portion of each feature has been removed by road cutting.

Orientation: NNW - SSE, the larger segment is on the W side.

Dimensions (after RCAHMS 1978(a), 77-8, no.169)

Internal diameter:	c 35m
Ditch: breadth:	c 4.0m
depth:	c 0.3m
Berm:	c 3.0m
Bank: breadth:	c 8.0,
height:	c 0.7m
Entrances: between ditch terminals:	c 16m
between bank terminals:	c 20 - 23m

History of site and present condition: A sub-circular banked enclosure, c 14m in internal diameter, has been built to incorporate the S terminal of the W bank in its circuit, its entrance facing to the SSE. The Inventory description of this structure as a sheepfold may be correct, but the possibility of an earlier origin should not be ruled out. The bank of the henge is apparently composed of both earth and stone and has been partially robbed, surviving as a series of disjointed heaps, now grassed over.

Major damage was caused shortly before 1963 by the construction of the road to Camps Reservoir, which passes through the centre of the site (Feachem 1963, 66). The road has removed a strip 11m in breadth, cutting away the ground surface and throwing upcast into the remaining henge interior, where it has become grassed over.

Description: A plan and description is given in the Inventory (RCAHMS 1978(a) 77-8, no.169, fig.31) and aerial photographs in the NMRs also reveal details. The broad ditch has the usual asymmetry of Class II henges, and incurved terminals at the entrances. The bank, now much degraded, originally followed the line of the ditch, and can be seen on APs to continue below the overlying

enclosure on the SW, its terminal still protruding slightly.

Ground level slopes gently from S to N, and best preservation of features is on the downhill N side, perhaps because originally better constructed here. The interior is uneven and shows no sign of original features.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 52km from the Nith Estuary to the S, 56km from the Firth of Forth to the N

Distance from water: 80m to the W a small stream flows towards the Camps Water, which runs just over 100m N of the henge.

General topography: The valley of the Camps Water, 5km in length, forms a corridor of alluvial land through high hills, joining the R Clyde where it passes through a narrow defile at Crawford. The upper Tweed lies only 8km away across the hills to the E.

Situation: The henge is on a terrace at the foot of Normangill Rig; 15m to the N is a steep slope down to the valley bottom.

Aspect: NW

Slope: Very gentle, but rising steeply to the S - 14%

Local relief, within 500m: 270 - 350m OD

Outlook: Distant: 3% to E
Intermediate: 97%
Restricted:

Prominence: Very low. Some local prominence from the N

Local landmarks: Although the site is surrounded by hills, no summit is particularly striking.

Solid geology: Ordovician greywackes and shales

Soils: Peaty gleys on the hillsides; alluvium on the valley bottom; restricted areas of Brown Forest Soil on the terraces between the two, broadest on the N side of the valley.

Land use: Livestock farming. Turf covered building remains beside the Camps Water 250m W of the henge suggest earlier, more intensive land use.

Vegetation: Acid grasslands, with some improved grass in the valley.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Hillend, possible small henge, 6.5km to NE
Wildshaw Burn, stone circle, 10.3km to WNW
Westside, probable henge, 12.2km to N
Tweedsmuir, stone setting, 12.2km to E

Monument context: This is a classic Class II henge, comparable in form and dimensions to excavated sites at Cairnpapple and North Mains, Strathallan. Its valley bottom position, while shared by many henges, as at North Mains, is here unusually confined, with hills closing in the view. It thus appears isolated, although Late Neolithic sites have been increasingly recognised in the nearby Clyde valley. Perhaps, in a different way from the hilltop Cairnpapple, it is deliberately sited in a 'place apart'. It is an outlier to the cluster of henges in Clydesdale, at the upland limits of settlement. It is close, however, to lines of communication, both as a link between Clyde and Tweed, here only 11km apart, and being set back from the upper Clyde route to Annandale, over Beattock summit (290m OD) or Nithsdale over the Dalveen Pass (355m OD). Broadlea henge, in Annandale offers the next neighbour to the S. Such liminality could, however, derive from a role as a territorial marker, rather than as a 'staging post' on a routeway. Overhowden, similarly, occupies a position near settlement limits in Lauderdale.

There is a dearth of prehistoric sites within close range of the henge, with both funerary and settlement sites avoiding its immediate vicinity (see Prehistoric landscape, below). This effect could, however, relate to site destruction rates in the valley bottom.

Artefact context:

Axes: The only axes recorded from within 5km of the henge are two exceptionally large specimens bequeathed to the Hunterian Museum in 1951 by A. Henderson Bishop, said to come from Crawford. The designation could refer to the parish rather than the village.

B 1951 - 905 is 10.4" (264mm) in length and polished

B 1951 - 906 is 15.6" (398mm) in length, and a roughout of Cumbrian type. Annable refers to this axe as being the largest known Cumbrian roughout, and matched in size only by a partly polished axe from Ehenside Tarn (1987, 60).

Lithics: Several chert tools have been collected from the vicinity of the henge (DES 1985, 41). Chert debitage and an endscraper possibly of Bronze Age type were found in excavation of the Crawford Roman fort (NS 1954 215), 2km WSW of the henge (Maxwell 1972, 188). Chert scrapers and other struck chert has been found on the W shore of Camps Reservoir (NT 010 221) near small cairns (DES 1992, 66).

At Stoneyburn (NS 9606 1963), 2.7km SSW of the henge, excavation of three small cairns recovered lithics and Late Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age pottery from pits below one cairn. Other flints, including one leaf shaped and one barbed and tanged arrowhead, came from the surrounding ground surface (DES 1991, 67-8).

Beaker: A Step 5 beaker, with a cremation and a bar armlet, were found in a cist in a cairn down river from Crawford, c 4 - 5km W of the henge. (RCAHMS 1978(a), 16).

Prehistoric landscape: The steep slopes of Normangill Rig between the Camps Water and the Midlock Water carry a remarkable number of groups of house platforms scooped into the hillsides. To some degree the site type must be a product of topography, nonetheless the grouping of sites midway up the slope may, by analogy with the excavated Green Knowe platform settlement (Jobey 1980), be assumed to be a phenomenon of the late second and early first millennium. On Normangill Rig the settlements are located chiefly on the SW facing slopes above the Midlock Water, and the only recorded set in the Camps Valley are in the gully of Earns Gill, 1600m E of the henge and out of sight (NS 92SE 34).

A variety of funerary sites have also been identified on Normangill Rig. Pre-eminent is a large, heavily robbed cairn, still 26m in diameter and, in parts, up to 2m in height, which occupies a summit at 352m OD 600m S of the henge (RCAHMS 1978(a), 63, no.95). The situation is back from the brink of the hill and the cairn is invisible from the henge, although the latter can be glimpsed by standing on the summit of the cairn.

Other, less prominent, funerary sites, are, like the platform settlements, concentrated on the SW side of the ridge and show a degree of correlation with the settlements, with which they may be contemporary. For example, a possible enclosed cremation cemetery, on Fall Hill, 1km WSW of the henge, is likely to be of late second millennium date (ibid 77, no.168, 7-8). A 3m ditched cairn 110m WNW of the ring site at NS 9618 2184, excavated by the RCAHMS, appeared to cover the site of a fire. Unfortunately the scorched central grave pit had been disturbed and remaining sherds of coarse pottery gave no indication of its date (ibid 53-4, no.55). Several other small cairns, some ditched, on the ridge and on the SW slopes of the hill, may be regarded as potentially being related to the platform settlements and thus, presumably, considerably post dating the henge.

On the farm of South Crawford, 2km W of the henge, an urn containing fragments of bone was found in the 19th century (NSA VI,331).

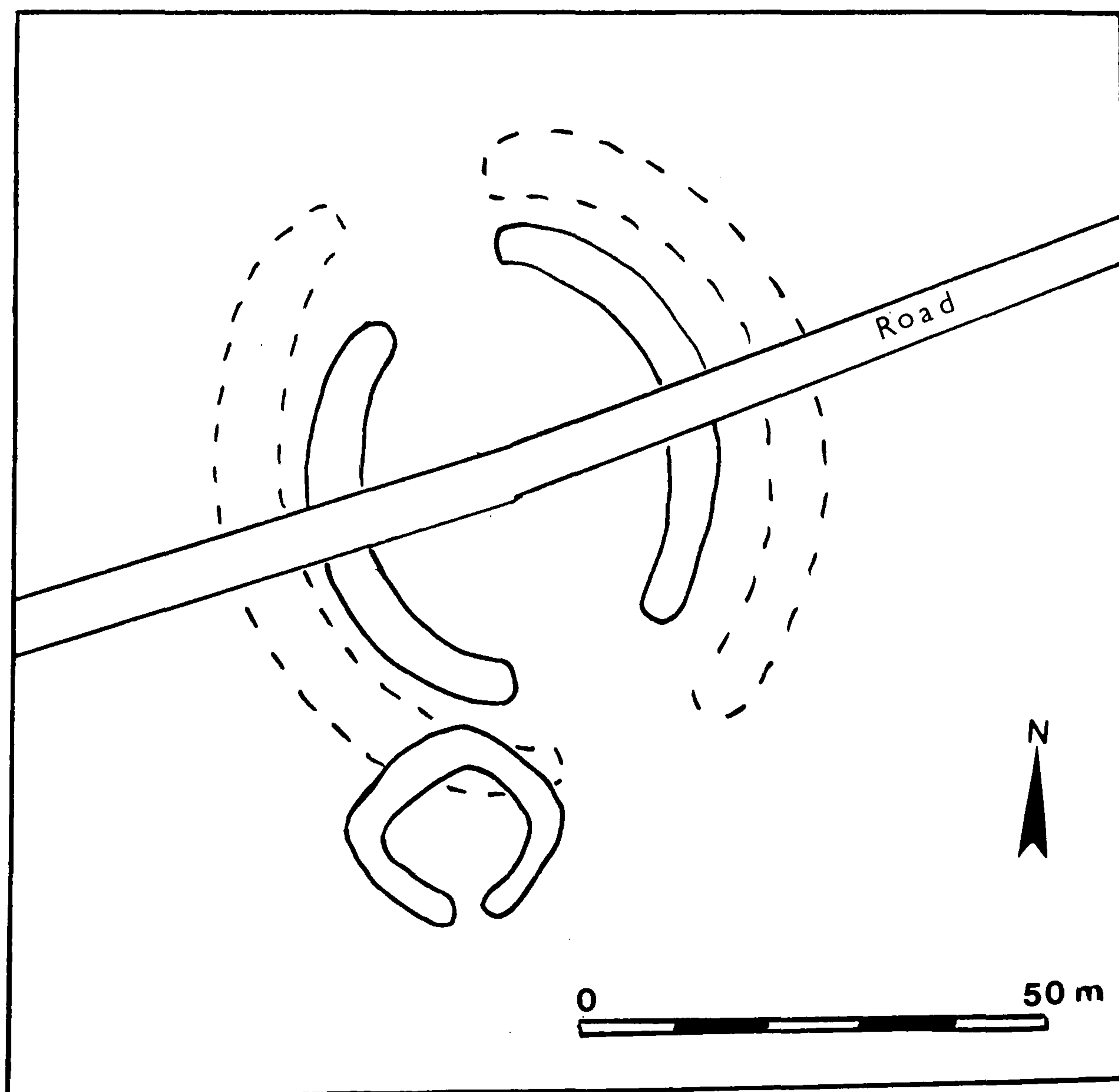
Several funerary sites occur in the nearby Clyde valley (see RCAHMS 1978(a), 49, no.35; 60, no.111). Among these are the three small cairns, 2.5km SW of the henge, at Stoneyburn recently excavated by the APG (see Artefact

context, above). Two of these cairns covered cremation pits, one containing a pygmy cup, while the largest covered pits containing Late Neolithic and Bronze Age artefacts with only small quantities of cremated bone (DES 1991, 67-8).

Low water in 1992 revealed a ring enclosure, ring cairn and seven small cairns on the W shore of Camps Reservoir, 4km E of the henge. There was also a burnt mound, and other indications of possible settlement (DES 1992, 660).

Archaeological interpretations: The site was first published by the Ordnance Survey in 1959 (DES 1959, 42). Feachem gave fuller descriptions (1963, 66; 1965, 59), on the basis of which it was listed as a Class II henge by Burl (1969, 25, no.73) and Wainwright (1969, 128). A plan was published by the RCAHMS (1978(a) 77-8, no.169), and the site has been accepted by Harding and Lee (1987, 395, no.297) as a 'probable henge'.

Fig. III:e Normangill henge
(after RCAHMS 1978(a) fig.13, adapted to
incorporate aerial photographic detail)



III:f: Weston henge, Lanarkshire
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NT 04NW 9
NT 0300 4578
255m OD

Location: Overlooking the valley of the S Medwin from the NW, the henge lies 1.5km E of Newbigging village and 1km N of Newbiggingmill farm steading.

Type: Class II henge

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Two opposing ditch segments, asymmetric and slightly angular, accompanied by partially eroded outer banks, define an oval Class II henge. Aerial photographs show the line of an outer ditch on the SE.

Orientation: Slightly E of N and W of S, the larger segment on the E side.

Dimensions (after RCAHMS 1978(a), 78, no.170)

Internal diameter:	36m E - W x 62m N - S
Ditch breadth:	c 10.7m
depth:	c 0.5m
Berm:	up to 10m
Bank breadth:	c 8m
height:	c 1.8m
Entrance through ditch:	N: 15m
	S: 10m

History of site and present condition: Situated in cultivated fields, the henge has been vulnerable to plough damage, and the 1st ed 6-inch OS map shows that by 1859 the N end had been obliquely truncated acquiring the outline it still retains today. A plan of the site published in 1890 (Christison, fig.30), suggests that the S end was still relatively undamaged by ploughing. The RCAHMS plan (1978(a), 78, fig.32) shows that the S end of the W terminal has now also been largely destroyed. It would appear that ploughing has trimmed the outer edge of the bank on all sides and created a scarp across the entrances. A wire fence crosses the SE segment of the site and a gap cut through the E bank to accommodate its line is already present on Christison's plan.

In 1864 Irving and Murray (i, 21-2) noted an 'outwork' on the E side of the henge, c 46m long. Christison looked for this feature in 1890, but could find no trace of it (p.39-40), and it is now visible only on aerial photographs. Its presence may suggest secondary use of the site for defensive purposes which would probably have involved some remodelling and damage to the interior (see Description).

Description: The site has been positioned to occupy a rocky knoll overlooking the S Medwin valley. The

interior rises not only above surrounding ground level, but as a domed platform above the broad berm within the bank. The exigencies of utilising this situation, together with the problems of cutting the ditch into the sandstone rock, have no doubt dictated the outline of the henge which is an unusually elongated oval. The exceptionally broad ditch has rock visible in its steep outer face on the W side. Its broad, flat bottom may be the product of water-laid silt settling on an impervious rocky bottom. The rather angular appearance of the ditch in the Inventory plan is, at least in part, the product of later interference. For example, the SW arc of the ditch is exceptionally narrow on the plan, probably because infilled here to support the fence. This ditch can be seen on aerial photographs to follow a more smoothly curving line, and to curve inwards at its N terminal, as it still does on the ground at its S end (see fig. III:f). Similarly, the bank outside this E ditch curves inwards at its S end, but has been truncated at the N end. On the W side of the henge there is a narrower berm than on the E side and it seems possible that the bank here has been enlarged to form a defensive feature on the uphill side, perhaps concurrently with the addition of an outer defensive work on the E.

The interior rises gently from the ditch to a natural rocky platform. Loose stones and boulders lie around, but the only definable feature is a circular stony area immediately SE of the summit point. This could be the remains of a cairn, or a later feature, such as a sheep stell. Neat heaps of clearance stone are piled on the E ditch bottom, although it would be unnecessarily awkward to carry clearance from the surrounding fields over the outer bank to be piled here. One sandstone boulder lying just inside the S causeway measures 2m x 1.2m. It seems possible that boulder and clearance heaps derive from some internal feature that has been broken up.

The narrow outer ditch seen on an aerial photograph (CUCAP-LA 2420) runs along the brow of the hill c 15m E of the henge bank, forming an L-shape at the SE angle, to terminate outside the S entrance.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 32km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: No streams are mapped on the hillside, but before modern drainage it is probable that a channel ran from a hollow 60m W of the henge downslope to the S Medwin, 900m to the SE.

General topography: The S Medwin runs along a broad valley between the Black Mount (516m OD) rising steeply to the SE and the lower slopes of the Pentlands to the NW. A ridge of high land runs out SW from the Pentlands to Newbigging between the S and N Medwin valleys.

Situation: The site is on the crest of the hill above the S Medwin valley, just below the summit of the Newbigging ridge.

Aspect: SE

Slope: Fairly steep below the henge - 9%. Gently undulating to the N and W.

Local relief, within 500m: 220 - 264m OD

Outlook: Distant: 64%
Intermediate: 6%
Restricted: 30% to W

Prominence: Fairly high from the S Medwin valley, occupying a false summit.

Local landmarks: The Black Mount across the valley dominates the view, but other prominent peaks include Dunsyre Hill (400m OD) and Mendick Hill (451m OD), 5 and 10km respectively to the NE, and Tinto Hill (707m OD), 13.7km to the SW.

Solid geology: Upper Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soils of the Hobkirk series

Land use: Arable on the slopes below, but primarily grazing on the ridge, with forestry having taken over the NW hillslopes, reaching to the henge vicinity on the W.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Burngrange, chambered cairn, 3.7km to N

Greens Moor, long cairn, 3.8km to NNW

Brownsbank, possible mortuary enclosure
5km to SE

Craigie Burn, possible henge, 5.7km to SW

Balwaistie, cropmark henge, 6.4km to SSE

Monument context: This site conforms to local patterns as a Class II henge, almost identical in internal diameter to the more circular cropmark site at Balwaistie (III:h). The unusually elongated outline of Weston is explicable as a function of topography and the exigencies of cutting the ditch through rock. Rock cut ditches occur also at Cairnpapple (III:b) and Overhowden (IV:b), but are both much slighter than that at Weston, being cut into rocky brash subsoils. The sandstone at Weston was probably easier to split creating the flat bottomed feature still visible, but at 10.7m in breadth it is a massive achievement. The site, in its prominent location, perhaps enclosing a stone circle, must have been an impressive monument.

The situation, on the crest of a rise, not far below the hill summit, is unusual for a henge, and would appear to be chosen to overlook the S Medwin valley, as Overhowden does upper Lauderdale. Three long cairns overlook the same valley, suggesting a sequence from more scattered to more centralised foci. The long cairns, although nearer the Pentland hills, are only marginally higher in location than the henge. Neighbouring henges, at Balwaistie and Cairnpapple (26km to the N), are out of view of Weston.

The suggested re-use of the site as a fortified enclosure with remodelled defences is seen also at Westside (III:g) and perhaps at Swallowdean (IV:c). Such activity must make identification of henges particularly uncertain, and lead to an understatement of original numbers.

Artefact context

Axes: Although c eighteen axes can be listed from within 5km of the henge, only two come from within a 3km radius.

A half-piece of an axe from Weston farm, 3" (76mm) in length, and of fine grain grey green stone, was given to the NMS in 1962 (AF 996).

A 3.7" (94mm) axe was found in a secondary location in the wall of a cottage on Greenshields Farm at NT 020 435, 2.5km SSW of the henge. It is of Group VI stone (LNK 21; NMS: AF 1013).

Eight axes from Walston, Elsrickle, Little Sparta and around Dynsyre, to the E of the henge, are detailed under Easton long cairn (III:3). These include an axe of Antrim porcellanite and five axes over 5.5" (140mm) in length.

Another eight axes come from around Carnwath, 4 - 5km W of the henge. Those in Glasgow Museum were donated by L. McL. Mann. Their locations are as follows:

Carlingdene Farm; 2 $\frac{7}{8}$ " (73mm) long, weathered and whitish; GAGM 1955-96.

Kaimend; 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (89mm) long, similar to above; GAGM 1955-96.

Kaimend; broken, Group VI (LNK 7); NMS: AF 947

Carnwath Mill; 5" (127mm) long, of slate-like stone; GAGM 1955-96.

Carnwath; GAGM 1955-96.

Carnwath; 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (210mm) long, of felstone; NMS: AF 484.

Carnwath; 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (146mm) long, of felstone; NMS: AF 487

Bankhead; 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (222mm) long; a 'Cumbrian Club' - Fell 1964, 54; NMS: AF 483.

Lithics: Chert and flint artefacts have been collected from the fields around the henge, particularly from the upper part of the ridge to the NW and W of the henge, centred on NT 0293 4592 (PSAS 110, 1978-80, 539). A leaf shaped arrowhead is reported, besides microliths,

ten scrapers, nodules, c twenty cores, flakes and blades. Apart from the microliths, retained by the finder, these finds were donated to the NMAS (NT 04NW 39, 41). More flint and chert material comes from the W and N ends of the hill ridge, c 1km from the henge (NMS: BME 162-186).

Lithic finds from Corse Law and Wester Yardhouses 5 - 6km to the NW, are discussed under Greens Moor long cairn (III:2) and from the Dunsyre area, 5km to the E, under Easton long cairn (III:3).

Beakers: Gravel quarrying in Newbiggingmill Quarry discovered a cist in the crest of an esker above the S Medwin, 700m SE of the henge at NT 0355 4531. Within it were a female inhumation, two beakers of Step 4 type, and a flint knife (Welfare 1977). The site, in full view of the henge, lay 400m S of a standing stone (see Prehistoric landscape).

Prehistoric landscape:

A circular cropmark (NT 04NW 40) 200m SW of the henge may be merely a feature of cultivation on a slight knoll.

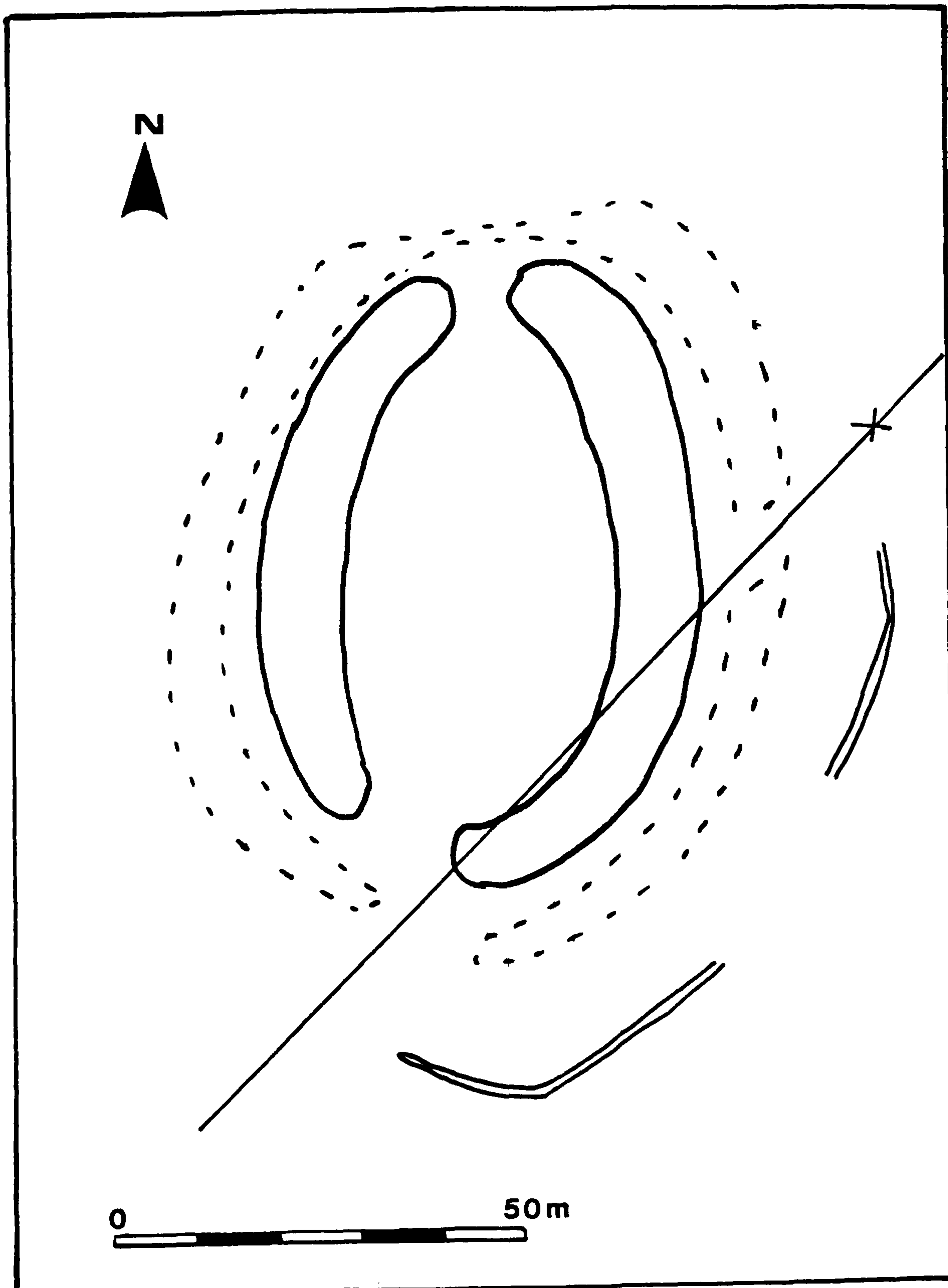
A standing stone, c 1.4m in height, was removed in 1955 from a gravel ridge above the S Medwin at Todholes at NT 0384 4560 (RCAHMS 1978(a), 81, no.181). The site, in full view of the henge, is 400m NE of the beaker cist inserted into the same ridge at Newbiggingmill Quarry (see above).

Cairns: There is an unverified report of a 'circle' at NT 0260 4632, now under fir plantations, 650m NW of the henge (NT 04NW 37).

The nearest confirmed funerary site is an 11m cairn at NT 0196 4657, 1.3km NW of the henge (RCAHMS 1978(a), 63, no.94). In 1975 this field had recently been converted from moorland to arable. In 1988 only a slight swelling survived, apparently within a ditch c 4 - 5m broad. This cairn is the southernmost of a distribution stretching beside the N Medwin and Westruther Burn to the hills to the N of the long cairns on Greens Moor and Burngrange (RCAHMS 1978(a), 58, no.67; 55, nos. 60, 64).

Archaeological interpretations: This site was known as a 'camp' in the 19th century, being shown on John Ainslie's map of 1821 and the 1st ed 6-inch OS map of 1859, and it was commented on by Irving and Murray (1864 i, 21-2) and Christison (1890, 339-40). Christison published a plan and elevation, noting the 'raised platform' inside the E bank (the berm), and the narrower 'banquette' inside the W bank. He called the ditch 'a modern looking slight excavation' clearly being confused by rising ground levels over the site, and distrusting the sharply vertical appearance of the rock cut ditch sides. Feachem recognised the site as a Class II henge (1965, 88), after which it was listed as such by Burl (1969, 25, no.74) and Wainwright (1969, 128). A plan and description were published by the RCAHMS (1978(a) 78, no.170, fig. 31) and the site has been accepted as a 'probable henge' by Harding and Lee (1987, 400, no.299).

Fig. III:f Weston henge, after RCAHMS 1978, and
aerial photographs



III:g Westside, Lanarkshire
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde Region

NS 93SE 4
NS 9857 3408
230m OD

Location: At the SE edge of the Tinto Hill group, just above the R Clyde, the site is 1.5km SW of Symington and 300m S of Westside farmhouse, beside a by-road.

Type: Probable Class II henge, later remodelled.

Status: Category B. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, but of uncertain original form.

Outline: APs show the classic, broad, asymmetric ditches of a Class II henge with traces of an external bank, both bank and ditch partially eroded away on the S. On the ground an internal bank, utilising the same two entrances, is the more prominent feature. A possible stretch of outer ditch exists on the SE.

Orientation: E - W

Dimensions (after RCAHMS 1978(a), 155, no.324, and aerial photographs)

Diameter within ditch:	75m E-W x 60m N-S
within inner bank:	55m E-W x 45m N-S
Breadth: ditch:	c 10m
outer bank:	up to 6m
inner bank:	8 - 15m, average 11m
outer ditch:	c 7m
entrances:	c 8m
Height of inner bank:	0.5m max.

History of site and present condition: If the site was indeed originally a henge the inner bank must be a secondary addition, the creation of which may have involved recutting the ditch (see Description, below) and stripping the interior. Both banks have suffered plough damage, the outer one being almost entirely removed, but the broad ditch is still traceable, and was noted by Christison in 1890 (p.331). Erosion of the S side of the henge bank and ditch must already have occurred (if these features ever formed a complete circuit), by the time that the inner bank was constructed, as the latter runs straight along the top of the scarp. The possible outer ditch is presumably also a later addition, and may be no more than a recent agricultural drainage work.

Description: On the ground the low inner bank is the most obvious feature, surrounding the levelled platform of the interior set high above the scarp to the S. The ditch is visible as a slight depression around the N and NW sides of the inner bank, but the outer bank is only just perceptible on the NW.

Aerial photographs show the ditch clearly, the central section of the S arc represented by the tree covered bank above the road. The terminals at the E entrance curve inwards towards each other in a fashion characteristic of a Class II henge. On the W the entrance is less distinct. The N ditch appears to have both a rounded terminal, probably representing the original henge, and a straight, transverse line cutting off part of the ditch at the edge of the slope, and perhaps relating to a secondary ditch enlargement. Photographs show parchmarks defining the inner and outer banks, the latter only as a narrow strip around the N side of the ditch, but broadening out near the edge of the scarp at each entrance, probably where the bank escaped the most severe plough damage. On some photographs a well defined dark strip outside the outer bank on the SE suggests a stretch of outer ditch, but may be no more than a deepening of the hollow for modern agricultural purposes.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 45km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: A stream runs along the foot of the slope immediately SW of the henge, and there is a second stream 150m to the E. Both join the R Clyde, 800m to the SE.

General topography: Tinto Hill and its outliers form a steep sided massif carrying rough grazings and moorland above the undulating agricultural fields on either side of the R Clyde. Lower hills stretch to the SW, towards Douglas, but across the Clyde to the SE the Southern Uplands rise up steeply.

Situation; The site is on the SE edge of an undulating terrace above fields which edge the R Clyde. 80m to the NW ground level starts to rise towards the steep flanks of Tinto Hill.

Aspect; SE

Slope: A short steep scarp to the SE separates two areas of gently undulating terrace.

Local relief, within 500m: 220 - 250m OD

Outlook: Distant: 64% to S and NE
Intermediate: 36%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Local only, from below the scarp to the SE

Local landmarks: Tinto Hill, its 707m summit 3.2km to the W, dominates the site. The prominent small Castle Hill, 261m OD, 1km to the E is also a feature in the view.

Solid geology: Andesitic or basaltic lavas and tuffs

Soils: Brown Forest Soil, imperfectly drained

Land use: Agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Biggar Common, long mound, 5km to NNE
Blackhouse Burn, enclosure, 7km to N
Hillend, possible henge, 7.5km to SW
Balwaistie, cropmark henge, 7.6km to NE

Monument context; Aerial photography has made possible recognition of this probable Class II henge, underlining the difficulties which may be created by re-use and adaptation of such sites, effectively eliminating opportunities for recognition of original forms. The Westside ditch encloses one of the largest internal areas among the Biggar Gap henges, although closely comparable to, for example, Overhowden in Lauderdale, Balfarg in Fife and Coupland in the Milfield Basin. Status need not, however, be directly related to internal dimensions. At Westland labour investment may have been reduced by use of the scarp edge location, a device comparable, perhaps, to the incorporation of a natural gully in the Balfarg perimeter, although at this site some ditch digging in the hollow was still required (Mercer et al 1988). The Westside henge does not appear to have attracted later monuments or satellite burials, and there is no record of artefact associations with the site.

The chosen location accords with common henge preferences for terrace sites in valleys. Nonetheless, it is back from the R Clyde and more directly related to the adjacent slopes of the Tinto hill group. The prominent summit of Tinto is within view of most of the henges of the Region, and it may be that association with this hill was the important factor in selection of this particular location. The regularity of the spacing with neighbouring henge sites may also be noted.

Artefact context:

Axes: Three exceptionally large Cumbrian axes have been found on the slopes of Tinto Hill, but while one of these is not further provenanced, the other two come from farms on the W side of Tinto 5 or 6km from Westside. These are as follows:

Lochyloch Farm (NS 9226 3505); a 12" (315mm) axe, now in Biggar Museum - D26.

Burnhouse, a 'Cumbrian Club' (Fell 1964, 54) 10" (254mm) long; NMS AF 251.

Tinto Hill, another 'Cumbrian Club' (Fell 1964, 54), 11½" (292mm) in length, of tuff (LNK 13), given to the NMS in 1860; AF 38).

There is also a fat black axe, 101mm in length, from Chesterhall, 2km SW of Westside, evidently made from a pebble, now in Biggar Museum.

Another seven axes come from within a 5km radius of the site, but from the E side of the Clyde. One is a Group VI axe from Lamington, 3km S of the henge, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (171mm) in length (LNK 5; NMS: AF 256).

Six axes come from Coulter 4km to the E of the henge. Five of these, four from the Sim Collection, are in the NMS:

- AF 175, 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " (133mm) long, of 'claystone'
- 176, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (171mm) long, of porphyry
- 177, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (114mm) long, of Antrim porcellanite (LNK 1)
- 182, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (114mm) long, of 'felstone'
- 491, 3" (76mm) of serpentine

A 122mm axe from East Mains, Coulter is in Biggar Museum - D28).

Lithic finds: Chert artefacts are recorded from Annieston and other Clydeside findspots near Thankerton, 3km N of the site (Lacaille 1954, 188; DES 1985, 41; 1986, 33). Such finds are usually classified as being mesolithic, but recent walking of disturbed land at NS 992 375 on Annieston by M. Brown found flint and chert artefacts, a barbed and tanged flint arrowhead, pitchstone and neolithic pottery (DES 1988, 25).

Possible neolithic working debris of quartzite and flint comes from the Roman fortlet at Lamington (NS 977 307, 3.5km S of Westside (DES 1988, 25).

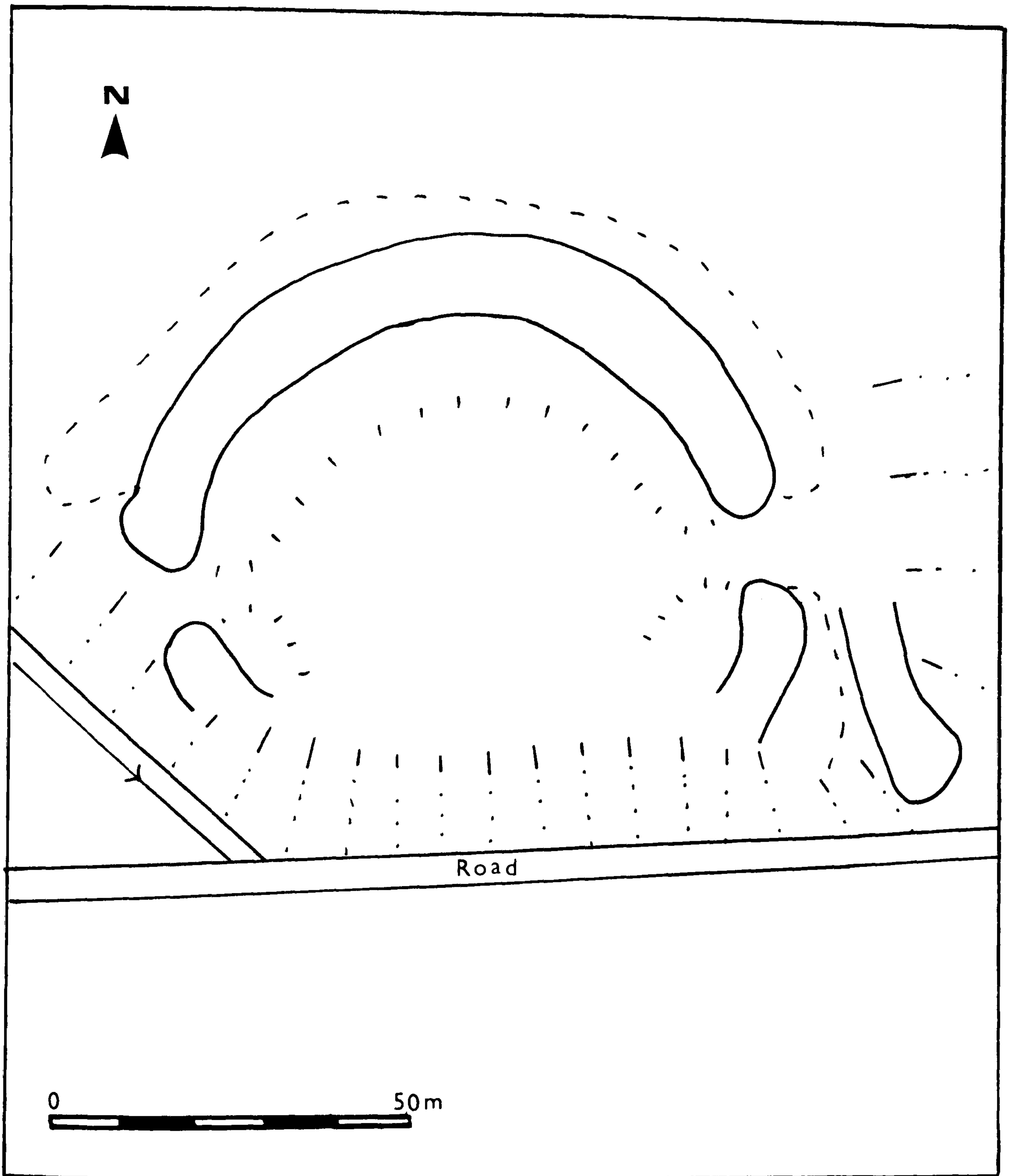
Beaker: A Step 4 Beaker was recovered from one of two cists excavated at Boatbridge Quarry, Thankerton (NS 981 376), 4km N of Westside (Clarke et al 1984). The accompanying inhumation gave a date of 1780 \pm 60 bc - GU 1122.

Prehistoric landscape: A cairn on the summit of Scout Hill (586m OD), 2km W of Westside measures c 13m in diameter (RCAHMS 1978(a) 64, NO.99).

The summit cairn on Tinto Hill (707m OD), 3.3km W of the enclosure, is an enormous pile, 45m in diameter and nearly 6m in height (ibid, p.66, no.107).

Destruction rates on lower ground in the Clyde valley have probably been high. Two ring ditch cropmarks at Annieston, 3km N of the site, excavated in 1992, proved to be badly denuded; one of the sites was probably of a ritual nature (DES 1992, 69). A cairn at Chapelhill, Coulter, 3km to the E, largely removed in the 19th century, is now without visible trace (RCAHMS 1978(a) 48 no.29).

Fig. III:g Westside earthwork and henge, after RCAHMS 1978, and aerial photographs



III:h Balwaistie henge, Lanarkshire
Clydesdale District
Strathclyde District

NT 03NW 63
NT 0401 3927
250m OD

Location: 1.5km N of Biggar, 350m SSW of Balwaistie, at the foot of Bizzyberry Hill, between the B7016 to Newbigging and the Elsrickle road.

Type: Class II henge

Status: Category B. A cropmark only, although morphologically characteristic.

Outline: Two asymmetric banana shaped ditches separated by broad entrance gaps.

Orientation: NE - SW

Dimensions (from aerial photographs):

Diameter: Internal: c 52m NE-SW x 38m NW-SE
Overall: c 62m NE-SW x 52m NW-SE
Entrance gaps: N: c 20m
S: c 12m

History of site and present condition: There are no records of there being any remains in this agricultural field and no evidence of the site can be seen on the ground. A large round barrow, 220m to the NNW, crossed by a fence, survives to a height of c 1m, evidently reduced by ploughing.

Description: The cropmarks clearly show the two arcuate ditches, the longer on the NW, broad and regular. The SE ditch is slightly less firm in outline; at its SW end it terminates c 20m from the opposing ditch, but a fainter mark continues, reducing the gap to 12m. Even if this extension is included, the SE ditch is slightly shorter and less deeply curved than the NW one. Two possible pits lie outside the NE entrance, and another outside the NW ditch.

220m to the NE are the remains of a large ditched barrow (see Prehistoric landscape, below).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 40km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 300m from the Biggar Burn to W

General topography: The Biggar Burn flows S through a narrow valley between the Biggar Common hills to the W and Ewe Hill and Bizzyberry Hill to the E. At Biggar the stream turns away from the Clyde, just over 2km to the W, to run through a level agricultural open valley to the E, to join the Tweed.

Situation: The henge is in a slight hollow on the

terrace between the slopes of Bizzyberry Hill, rising to the E and the scarp dropping towards the burn to the W.

Aspect: S

Slope: Bizzyberry Hill is very steep (20%); fairly steep slopes fall to the burn (10%).

Local relief, within 500m: 225 - 330m OD

Prominence: Low

Outlook: Distant: 22% to S
Intermediate: 78%
Restricted: -

Local landmarks: Bizzyberry Hill (363m OD) overlooks the site on the E. There is a view of Tinto Hill, 10km to the WSW.

Solid geology: Andesitic lavas and tuffs

Soils: Brown Forest Soils over fluvio-glacial gravels

Land use: Agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Biggar Common, long mound, 3.6km to W
West Lindsaylands, ditched enclosure, 3.6km to SW
Brownsbank, probable mortuary enclosure, 4.8km to NNE
Broughton Knowe, long cairn, 6km to E
Weston henge, 6.4km to N

Monument context: Although a cropmark site only, Balwaistie can be accepted as one of a group of northern Class II henges of very comparable scale. The view to the Hartree hills S of Biggar links the site to the broad intervening valley which stretches for 8km E from Biggar to Broughton; in the same way, Weston relates to the valley of the S Medwin. Both sites, as also Westside, Blackhouse Burn, and local long cairns, have a view of Tinto Hill.

The large ditched barrow, 220m NNE of the henge, raises a direct comparison with the smaller Class II henge at North Mains, Strathallan (35m x 32m internal diameter). This excavated site lay 200m ENE of a 37m ditched barrow, 5.5m in height, whose use was successive to that of the henge (Barclay 1983). Dates from an internal timber ring A, its erection probably shortly preceding ditch construction, were 2155 ± 60 bc and 2090 ± 70 bc - GU 1353, 1354, giving a probable dating horizon also for Balwaistie, Weston and Cairnpapple. At North Mains there was no grooved ware (at Cairnpapple one possible sherd), and exotic artefacts were restricted to pitchstone. The grouping of henges in the Biggar Gap Region probably suggests that,

as at North Mains, their importance was local rather than inter-regional. Nonetheless Balwaistie, unusually among local henges, is at the centre of a rich distribution of exotic artefacts (see below).

Artefact context:

Axes; Well over thirty axeheads can be listed from within 5km of Balwaistie, half a dozen of these being finds from field walking and excavation on Biggar Common (see III:4). The fine Seamer axe of flint from a grave pit in the Biggar Common long mound can be matched by a polished axe of dark grey mottled flint, 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (136mm) long, from Biggar, less than 2km from the henge (NMS: AF296).

The majority of the finds come from within a 2km radius of the henge, and only the most closely adjacent finds are discussed here.

On Bizzyberry Hill, E of the henge, the OS have a record of an axe being found at NT 0455 3890, 650m distant, the axe itself not surviving. Two other axes come from 'Bissberry' or Bizzyberry, one of serpentine, not precisely provenanced, 3 $\frac{7}{8}$ " (98mm) in length (NMS: AF489), the other, possibly of Group VI stone, 105mm in length, found at NT 0556 3879, 1.6km SE of the henge (Biggar Museum 70).

A remarkable group of five axes come from Biggarshiels, the farm, 800m N of the henge, taking in Ewe Hill (358m OD) to the E. All the axes, now in the NMS, are described as being of felstone; three, from the Sim Collection (AF 21-3) measuring 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (241mm), 9" (229mm) and 8" (203mm) in length, while a further pair (AF180-1) are 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (114mm) and 4" (102mm) in length. It is not known whether any of these axes were found together (see Prehistoric landscape, below).

Three axes found in Biggar Moss in 1867 were presumably together (Biggar Museum 27, 25, 88). The moss, to the S of Bizzyberry, is 1.5km SE of the henge. One axe is of crystalline stone, the other two, both damaged, possibly of Group VI stone.

The only axe to be confirmed as being of Group VI stone (LNK 15), 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " (114mm) long, is said to come from Winter Main, probably Winter Muir, 2km ENE of Balwaistie (NMS: AF179).

Lithics: Flint arrowheads are said to have been found on Borrowmuir (Hunter 1867, 4), that is, Biggar Moss, 1.5km SE of Balwaistie.

Arrowheads were found near four large stones on a hill on Biggarshiels, the farm to the N of Balwaistie, which also produced axes (NSA VI, 363). These are illustrated in Irving and Murray (1864, 15) as being barbed and tanged. Another barbed and tanged flint arrowhead from the neighbouring estate of Carwood was purchased by the NMS in 1955 (PSAS 88 1954-5, 228).

Extensive lithic collections, including leaf arrowheads from Biggar Common are described under the Biggar Common long mound (III:4). Another leaf arrowhead comes from Skirling, 3.5km E of the henge (NMS AD 546).

Lithic collection from beside the Clyde at Eastfield (Lacaille 1954, 188-9) and Cornhill (DES 1991, 65-6), 4 - 5km from Balwaistie is supposed to represent mesolithic assemblages.

Struck flakes of chert have been found below outcrop and screes on Oak Brae, 5 - 6km SE of the henge.

A carved stone ball with six facets comes from Biggar (NMS AS 31).

A pair of gold lunulae were found on the farm of Southside, 4.5km S of Balwaistie (PSAS L 1915-6, 16 Purchases).

Pottery from Biggar Common is described under III:4.

Prehistoric landscape:

Ditched barrow (NT 03NW 64)

220m NNE of the henge, hidden from it by a rise in the ground, an oval mound, c 1.0m high, is crossed by a wire fence. It measures 42m E-W, having probably spread downhill to the W, by 35m N-S. Aerial photographs show the site to be surrounded by a broad (c 10m) circular ditch enclosing an area c 32m in diameter. There is apparently an entrance through the ditch to the E, with a rounded ditch terminal on its S side; the N terminal is not visible in disturbed ground at the corner of the field. The outline of the ditch could be that of a Class I henge, the barrow itself being a secondary addition. The inner side of the ditch is not clearly defined, probably because infilled by slippage from the barrow.

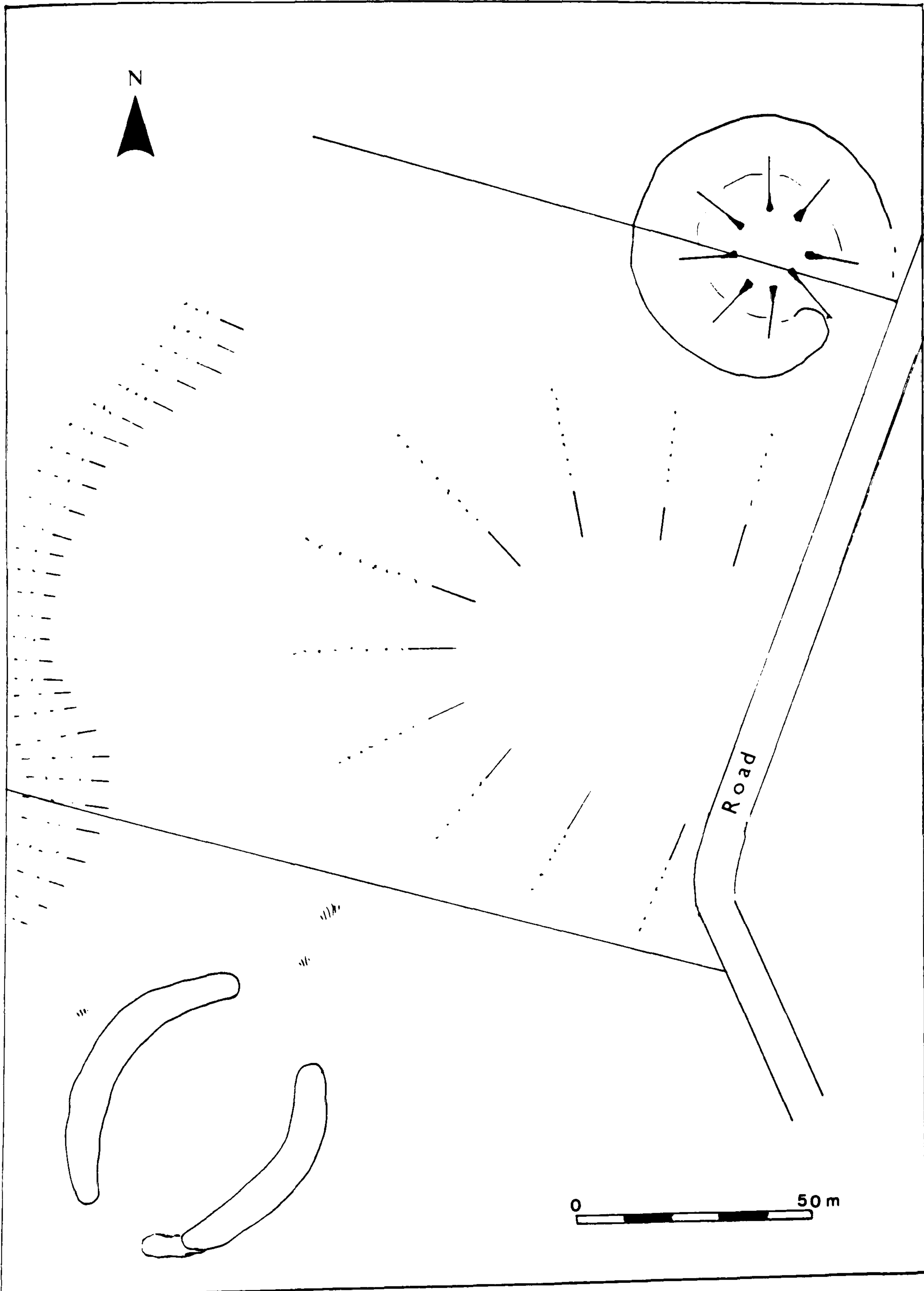
Bizzyberry Hill: On the hill summit, at 363m OD, are the remains of a fort 780m E of the henge. 600m to the ENE, on a lower spur of the hill is a second fort. A circular ditched enclosure, 150m E of the summit fort, was suggested in the Inventory to be a possible ritual enclosure (RCAHMS 1978(a) 144, no.270), and by Harding and Lee (1987, 392) to be a possible henge. The site measures c 7m in diameter within a ditch 2 - 3m in breadth and low outer bank; it has an entrance causeway on the SE. It should probably be interpreted as a ring ditch house, similar to one within the eastern fort.

There are also two small ditched barrows to the E of the ring ditch at NT 051 394 (RCAHMS 1978(a), 66 no.109). These sites are hardly mounded within their ditches, and may be cremation sites of a Rullion Green type (Watkins 1984(a) and (b)); there are similar ditched barrows on Broughton Knowe, again not far from ring ditch houses (III:7). A first millennium bc date could be suggested for both houses and funerary sites.

Ewe Hill: On the hill summit at 350m OD, 1.5km NNW of the henge, the Inventory has noted two barrows, 8.5m and 5.0m in diameter (RCAHMS 1978(a)), 53 no.50).

This could be the 'round hill' on Oldshields on which the NSA in 1835 recorded four large stones, apparently the remains of a Druid temple (VI, 363). (See also Artefact context, above).

Fig. III:h Balwaistie henge and ditched barrow, from aerial photographs and ground survey



III:i: Rachan Slack, possible henge, Peebleshire

Tweeddale District
Borders Region

NT 13SW 2
NT 1139 3364
210m OD

Location: 2.5km S of Broughton village and 200m SW of Rachan Slack, between the R Tweed, nearly 1km to the E and the Holms Water, 500m to the W.

Type: Possible henge

Status: Category C. With no evidence for the position of the bank this ditched enclosure can be classified only as a possible henge. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Slightly oval ditch with broad entrance to the E, its W side obscured by field clearance.

Entrance Orientation E Dimensions (after RCAHMS 1967, i, 191, no.456):

Internal diameter: 88m x 76m
Ditch breadth: 7.6m
Entrance width: 14.6m

History of site and present condition: The situation of the enclosure on low ground subject to flooding has led to a silting up of the ditch, parts of which are only visible on aerial photographs. Agricultural use has reduced any bank to invisibility. 150m to the NW is the site of a destroyed tower house, and the area is thus likely to have been subject to much interference. Clearance stone has been heaped onto the edge of marshy ground, one stone pile overlying the W arc of the ditch. The site was first noted as a possible henge by Atkinson (1950).

Description: The published site plan (RCAHMS 1967, i, 191, no.456, fig.208) derives partly from aerial photographs, and the ditch outline has been completed by dotted lines as a regular oval with one broad entrance on the E. As Atkinson pointed out (1950) the clearance heaps on the W arc may have been concealing not the continuous ditch of a complete circuit, but the second entrance of a Class II henge. The suggestion has been strengthened by oblique coloured photographs taken by J. Dewar (NMR: PB/1926-8) showing the line of the ditch faintly, under grass, possibly terminating to the S of the stone heap. Such an entrance position would make the N ditch portion the larger, giving the enclosure an asymmetric outline. In 1990 the ditch was still visible on the ground around the SE part of its course, but the entrances and N segment of the ditch could not be defined. A slight swelling outside the surviving portion of the ditch is probably a natural ridge not a bank.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 44km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: The site tends to waterlogging, and marshy ground to the N may at times have been open water. The Holms Water is 550m to the W.

General topography: The Holms and Biggar Waters join the Tweed at Broughton, creating a complex of waterside meadows among the hills. To the S the bulk of the Southern Uplands rise steeply, reaching 500m OD within 3km of the enclosure.

Situation: The site is in a hollow between Wrae Hill to the S and Rachan Hill to the NE, in a corridor of low land between the Tweed and the Holms Water.

Aspect: NW

Slope: Nearly level, rising fairly steeply to the SW

Local relief, within 500m: 210 - 300m OD

Prominence: Low

Solid geology: Ordovician greywackes

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soil over gravels, but with developing mire on the lowest ground.

Land use: Livestock farming

Vegetation: Improved pasture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Broughton Knowe, long cairn, 5.2km to N
Balwaistie, cropmark henge, 9.2km to NW
Tweedsmuir, stone setting, 10km to S

Monument context: When the site was first published by Atkinson, after it had been noted on RAF vertical photographs by R. Feachem, considerable doubt was expressed as to whether it was a henge (Atkinson 1950; Atkinson, Piggott and Saunders 1951). In favour of the proposition were the near circular plan, the breadth of the entrance and the non-defensive situation. Circular enclosures do, however occur in the local Iron Age, while other such enclosures are in low lying situations, as pointed out by the RCAHMS (1967, i, 191). The broad entrance at Rachan Slack is, nonetheless, unusual, bearing comparison with 15 - 16m entrances at Normangill and Weston henges. If the site did, indeed, have two entrances, it would fit more closely into local patterns; in size it is very comparable to Overhowden, Balfarg or

Westside. The marshy location is unusual, valley bottom henges being more often on terraces above a river, but Pict's Knowe, Mabie (VI:f) may provide a comparison. Given the absence of a surviving bank at Rachan Slack, it seems better to treat the site with caution.

Artefact context:

Axes: Only two axes are recorded from within 5km of the site, a reflection, perhaps, of the combination of permanent grass, on the hillsides and deep alluviation in the valleys. The two specimens both come from Kilbucho, 3km NW of the site, and were both catalogued as being $4\frac{3}{8}$ " (111mm) long and of claystone (NMS: AF 185, 186). One of the pair has been sectioned and confirmed as being of Group VI stone (PBL 6).

Lithics: Chert and flint flakes have been collected from Drumelzier Haugh beside the R Tweed, 3km NE of the enclosure.

Artefactual flakes have been reported from the chert outcrop and screes above Kilbucho Burn at NT 070 348 to 090 356, 3km NW of the site (DES 1989, 8).

Pottery: Excavation of the central, boulder-built cist in a cairn on the bank of the R Tweed at Drumelzier (NT 123 326), 1350m ESE of Rachan Slack, recovered sherds of Late Neolithic Impressed Ware, similar to the pottery from Meldon Bridge, 11km to the NE (Craw 1931).

An AOC beaker stood upright in the centre of the same cist and sherds of a second beaker of indeterminate type were with the neolithic pottery at the S end of the cist (NMS: ER 394).

A slab marked with concentric rings lay on the periphery of the cairn (ibid).

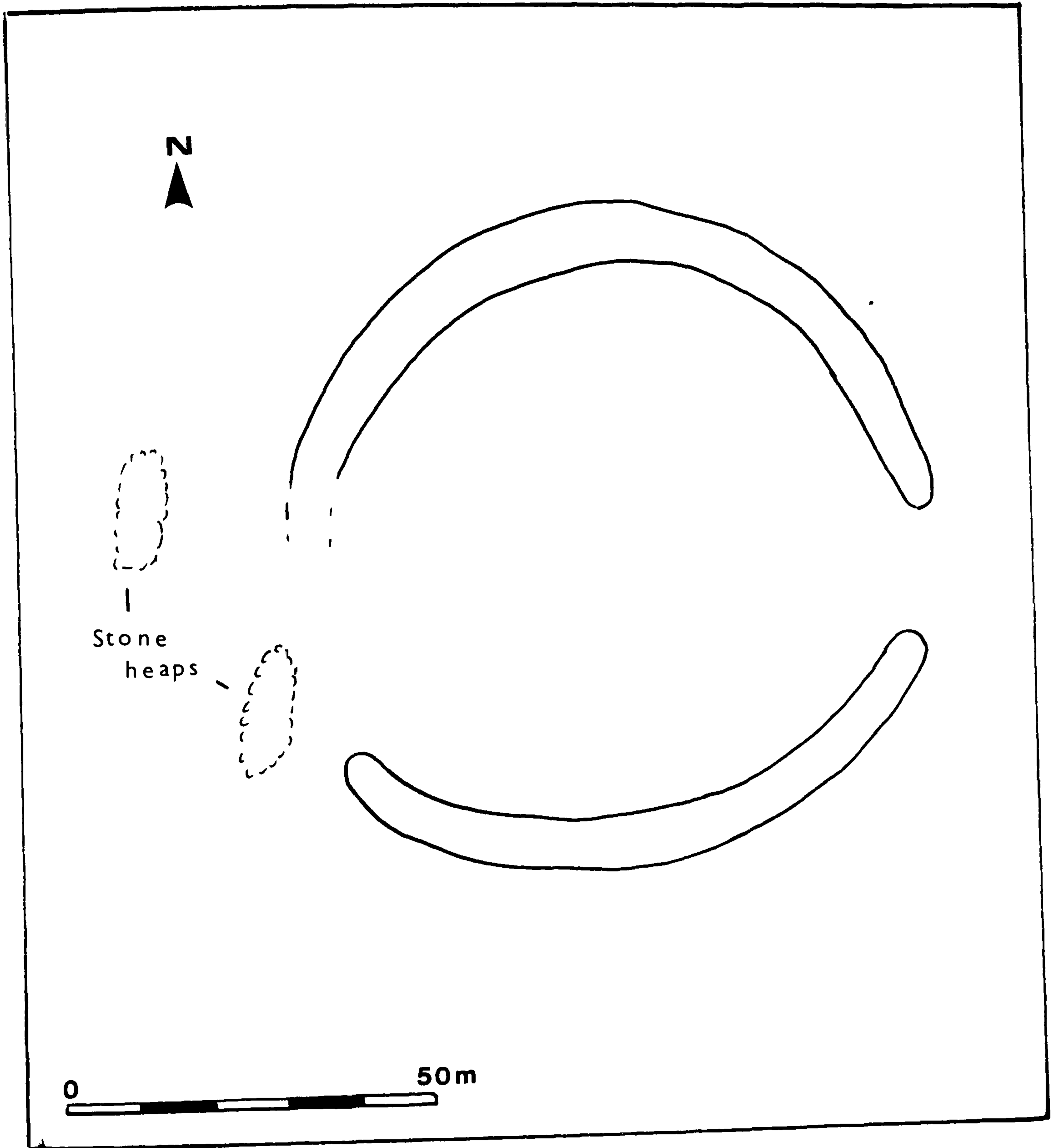
Prehistoric landscape:

The Drumelzier cairn excavated by Craw in 1931 (see pottery, above) shared with other cairns in the region (Harehope; Limefield; Cloburn Quarry) a long and complex history of use involving the addition of cists and several cinerary urns. Other cairns were noted by Craw in the same field.

The cairn is one of a series along the Tweed valley, such as that at Woodend (NT 121 313), 2.3km SSE of Rachan Slack, over 18m in diameter and with remains of a cist visible (RCAHMS 1967, i, 59 no.68). 'Merlin's Grave' is traditionally supposed to have lain 200m from Drumelzier church beside the Tweed, just over 2km from the enclosure (ibid 61, no.90). Another nearby mound, Whinny Knowe, (NT 132 350) beside the Biggar Water, now removed, is said to have contained a number of cists in which were skeletons, one wearing 'golden bracelets' (ibid 62 no.98). Other nearby natural knolls, Deadman's Knowe (NT 132 347) and Maggie's Knowe (NT 131 342) are said to have contained burials (ibid 60, no.79; 61 no.81). The place of origin of a food vessel in the NMS 'from Rachan' (ibid, 518) is not known.

There are also some hilltop cairns within c 3km of the site (Worm Hill; Brown Hill; Parkgatestone hill).

Fig. III:i Rachan Slack, possible henge, after RCAHMS 1967 and aerial photographs



III:j: Wildshaw Burn, stone circle
Lanarkshire NS 82NE
Clydesdale District NS 8825 2717
Strathclyde Region 285m OD

Location: 3km N of Crawfordjohn, 500m N of the A74, on the E side of Wildshaw Burn

Type: Circle of (prostrate) stones

Status: Category A

Outline: Three earthfast stones and c 20 prostrate ones lie on an elliptical outline

Orientation: N - S

Dimensions (after LADAS plan in NMRS): 48m N-S x 40m E-W

History of site: If these prostrate stones have been toppled from upright positions the event must be of extreme antiquity. One broken stone on the N is weathered and has lichen growing over the break, and peat has grown to a depth of c 0.3m over many of the stones. No record existed of the site before it was discovered in 1989 by volunteers from Biggar Museums and Lanark and District Archaeological Society who were carrying out survey in advance of motorway construction. The Society has cleared the peat off the stones and made a plan of the site, which has been lodged in the NMRS.

Description: The stones, all of andesitic tholeite rock quarried from local outcrops, are nearly all over 1m in length, the largest being 1.7m long. The three upright stones protrude no more than 0.5m above the peat and seem unlikely to be as long as the prostrate ones; they stand with flat faces inwards on the line of an oval.

Many of the prostrate stones were revealed by probing and peat stripping. They are of various shapes, but include several elongated 'pillar stones', most of which have one end blunt and one pointed. They lie on the outline of an irregular ellipse, the interior relatively level, but sloping slightly overall downhill from NE to SW. On the SW the scarp above the burn has eroded, removing a short stretch of the perimeter. The stones appear to be grouped in threes, leaving some gaps in which no stones can be discovered. A recumbent stone, 1.6m x 1.0m, lying 260m NW of the circle could represent a missing member (DES 1990, 37-8).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 54km from the Firth of Clyde to the W and from the Firth of Forth to the N

Distance from water: 20m from the Wildshaw Burn to the W

General topography: A range of low hills forming a ridge at c 300m OD run SW from Tinto Hill between the R Clyde and the Douglas Water, bounded on the S by the valley of the Duneaton Water, fed by the Wildshaw Burn.

Situation: The site occupies a level terrace immediately above the steep scarp of the bank above the Wildshaw Burn on a gently sloping hillside.

Aspect: S

Slope: Fairly gentle - 6%

Local relief, within 500m: 270 - 320m OD

Outlook: Distant: 47% to S and W
Intermediate: 39%
Restricted: 14% to E

Prominence: Low

Local landmarks: Cairntable (593m OD), 16km to the W, with its summit cairn, is visible from the circle. Several other notable summits are in closer view, such as Auchensaugh Hill (392m OD), with summit cairn, 2.8km to W.

Solid geology: Lower Devonian lavas

Soils: Peaty gleys and peaty podzols

Land use: Upland grazing

Vegetation: Acid grasslands and some bog vegetation

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Hillend, possible henge, 6.2km to ENE

Normangill henge, 10km to SE

Westside, probable henge, 12km to NE

Monument context: This site is the only stone circle of any size in the Clyde catchment area, more generally dominated by henges. The surviving circles of Dumfries and Galloway lie nearly 50km to the S, although circles may have once existed in Nithsdale, at 30km distance (see Tables V:1 and VI:2). Borrowston Rig and the Crow Stones in the Lammermuirs are also isolated sites, and the condition may be a characteristic of some stone circle sitings.

Similar in size to Wildshaw Burn may have been destroyed circles at Graitney and Tinnis Hill and the

half destroyed Girdle Stanes (Table V:1). The 56m diameter circle at Whitcastles is interesting as also consisting of prostrate stones, here large granite blocks. It seems very possible that these blocks were laid out, ready for erection and abandoned, as may have happened also at Cultoon on Islay, 41m x 35m, where stone holes beside prostrate stones showed no evidence of the stones having stood in them (MacKie 1981). Certainly the peat growing over the fallen stones at Wildshaw Burn shows that they have long lain on the ground. This may, of course, be because they were toppled in antiquity, perhaps accounting for the northernmost stone having been long broken, but gaps in the circle and an outlier, which may have failed to reach the site, suggest rather a failure to complete. One explanation for this may be the relatively large size of the stones compared with the small boulders of the Lammermuir sites and some of the Galloway ones, and the consequent need to dig stone holes.

The diameter of the ring, slightly larger than that of the Lammermuir settings, is closely comparable to the interior of local henges such as Westside and Balwaistie to the N; Broadlea and King Arthur's Round Table to the S.

Artefact context:

Axes: Three stone axes are recorded from within c 5km of the circle.

A 'Cumbrian Club' 5" (127mm) in length comes from Crawfordjohn, the parish in which the circle is situated (NMS: AF 488; LNK 6; Fell 1964, 54). The village of Crawfordjohn is just over 3km S of the circle.

A white, polished axe was found on the farm of Gilkerscleugh Mains, 4km SSE of the stone circle in 1979 (DES 1979, 39).

An axe, 5" (127mm) long, made of a pebble, was found in c 1880 near the farm of Mount Herrick, 5km SSW of the circle (Dumfries Museum 1946/2b).

There is also a piece of fine, polished jadeite axe found within a mile and a half of the ancient castle of Douglas, the ruin 6km NW of the circle, given to the NMAS in 1782 (NMS: AF 86).

Lithic finds are rare in upland locations, but a pressure flaked flint knife, 67mm long, is reported from NS 852 291 on Redshaw, 3 - 5km NW of the circle (DES 1991, 66).

Prehistoric landscape: Survey by the Biggar and Lanark group noted two near circular enclosures on the hill slopes c 300m N of the stone circle (DES 1990, 38). The larger of these sites was noted as being potentially at risk, and excavation was undertaken by the APG under Alan Leslie in 1990 (DES 1991, 68-9). The site possessed the classic features of an enclosed cremation cemetery: a roughly built wall enclosing an area 12m in diameter in which, slightly off centre, was a mound, 5m x 4m, of

earth and stones. A layer of black humic earth underlay the mound and covered most of the surface of the interior. Below this layer were several irregular features near the centre of the enclosure, probably stone holes, and two man made pits, one packed with stones. Half the site remained unexcavated, so the absence of evidence of cremation need not be conclusive, but phosphate samples suggest that one of the pits had probably contained an inhumation. The second site, 7m in diameter, may have been a hut circle.

Two groups of small cairns were noted in field walking on Wildshaw Hill (W), just over 1km and 2km respectively NW of the Circle (DES 1990 38).

Cairns:

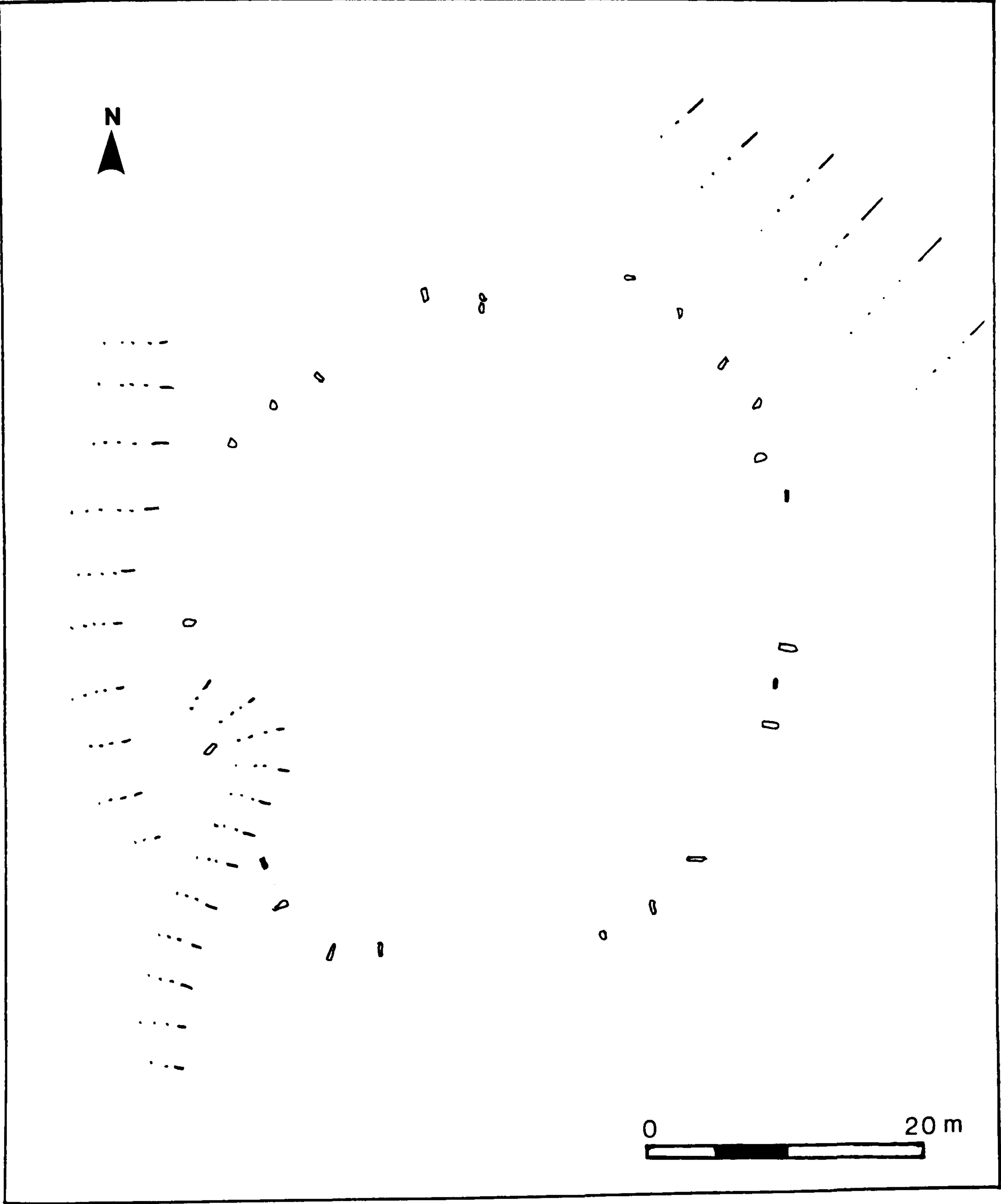
1. 2km NE of the stone circle a 10.7m diameter cairn is located unobtrusively at the foot of the SW slopes of Wildshaw Hill (E) (RCAHMS 1978(a), 69, no.117).

2. A very large cairn, now largely destroyed, appears to have occupied a shoulder of Middle Muir, 2.5km WSW of the stone circle with a view across the valley of the Black Burn (ibid, 62, no.84).

3. On the summit of Knock Leaven, 2.8km SW of the stone circle, a 6.4m diameter cairn is also within view (ibid, 59, no.70).

4. A large 20m diameter cairn on the summit of Auchensaugh Hill (392m OD), nearly 3km W of the stone circle, is a feature of the view from the site (ibid, 44, no.4).

Fig. III:j Wildshaw Burn stone circle, from LADAS
plan in NMRS



IV:a Sprouston enclosure, Roxburghshire NT 73NE 22
Roxburgh District NT 7568 3608
Borders Region 30m OD

I must thank I. Smith for access to his Chalmers Jervise Prize Essay, including cropmark transcriptions, in advance of publication (Smith 1991).

Location: 3.5km NE of Kelso, 200m N of Whitmuirhaugh steading, on the E bank of the Tweed

Type: Interrupted ditch enclosure

Status: Category B, cropmark only. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: The arc of a D-shaped enclosure is formed by discontinuous ditch segments against the bank of the R Tweed. A short stretch of double pitted palisade runs inside one ditch segment; one ring ditch is enclosed. External palisade lines articulate with field systems.

Entrance orientation: E

Dimensions (after Smith 1991): 190m x 100m

History of site and present condition: Arable soils on the river terrace have attracted prehistoric and historic settlement and agriculture, leaving a complex of cropmark features. Palisaded field systems articulating with the enclosure ditches presumably refer to a period shortly post-dating original use; these are overlain by a linear field system, itself post-dated by the main settlement features. These represent a probably Dark Age/Anglian multi-phase settlement. The area was a medieval royal manor, and later farm buildings represent post medieval occupation. Arable agriculture must have been practised throughout the period of use, but with modern ploughing methods cropmark features are rapidly disappearing despite restrictions on ploughing depths (0.9m maximum under a Scheduling Order).

Description: The D-shaped enclosure, utilising the R Tweed as the N part of its W side, slopes down to the SSE into a gully. The cropmark is missing here, on riverside grassland, but, if projected, the ditch line would meet the Cockerlaw Burn near its junction with the river.

There are three major breaks, or causeways, in the ditch, c 7-8m wide. Two barely separated ditch segments to the S of the central causeway run parallel with a double line of pits, c 7m distant and c 7m apart, on their inner side, while externally they are edged by a narrow palisade line, at its N end, clearly respecting the ditch. Other short stretches of outer palisade also show this

respect for the ditch. Similar lines, not necessarily contemporary, run out at angles away from the ditch, and at the N these link with a complex of further boundary lines. At the central causeway these lines form two sides of a square around a small, subrectangular enclosure, c 10m across, with central feature.

c 15m inside the ditch is a penannular ring ditch c 10m in diameter, its entrance gap to the E. No palisade pits are visible adjacent to the ring ditch, but its position would place it immediately inside the pair of pitted lines if reproduced here as visible further to the S.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 37km from the North Sea

Distance from water: The site is bounded by the R Tweed, with the Cockerlaw Burn on its S side.

General topography: The valley of the R Tweed here forms a corridor of alluvial land between the low rounded, elongated hills of the glacially formed landscape.

Situation: The site is on river terraces immediately beside the R Tweed.

Aspect: SW

Slope: Gentle

Local relief, within 500m: 30 - 40m OD

Prominence: Low

Solid geology: Lower Carboniferous sediments and lavas

Soils: Alluvial soils

Land use: Arable agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Caverton Hillhead, long cairn, 9km to S

Flodden, possible henge, 16km to E

Milfield Basin complex, 18km to E

Monument context: The cropmark at Sprouston suggests this to be a classic riverside interrupted ditch enclosure of the neolithic, the internal palisade lines being either a later feature, or, perhaps, revetting the upcast bank from the ditch. The site type is surprisingly rare in southern Scotland, although one possible, smaller example is described at West Lindsaylands near Biggar (III:a). It is possible that other ditched riverside enclosures are escaping recognition because the ditches have been dug, or

redug, as continuous features. Excavation at The Hirsell shows that riverside terraces in the area did attract neolithic settlement (IV:iii).

The external fence lines articulating with the ditch segments may also represent a phase of neolithic activity; the ditches were certainly still visible when the fences were erected. Smith suggests these enclosures to relate to a palisaded homestead set in the mouth of the central causeway, but the small feature may represent a funerary site, possibly comparable to the subsidiary rectangular enclosure with central beaker pit at Wellbrae (Table III:3:11).

Prehistoric artefacts have been recovered from the field, and other cropmark features may be of early date (see below).

Artefact context:

Axes: Eight axes have been recorded from within 5km of the Sprouston enclosure.

One axe from Sprouston itself is in the British Museum (Evans 1897, 114-5).

A 10" (254mm) axe of 'felstone' comes from 'Witch's Cairn', an unknown site on Kerchester farm, which occupies the hill slopes immediately S of the cropmark complex (NMS AF 661).

A stone axe or adze 4.85" (123mm) long, comes from Wooden farm, 3km SW of Sprouston (NMS: AF 937).

A huge 'Cumbrian Club', 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (324mm) long, comes from Lempitlaw, 5km SSE of Sprouston (NMS: L-1953 2099; Fell 1964, 550).

A large axe, said to be of serpentine, 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (171mm) long comes from Eccles Moor, presumably near Eccles village, 5km N of the Tweed (NMS: AF 271).

Three small axes are known from the Kelso area, 4-5km SW of Sprouston (Hunt B. 1914-173; B 1951-1451; W. Elliot collection).

Lithics: Artefacts from the river terraces at Sprouston have been included as mesolithic evidence in Mulholland's compendium of Tweed basin material (1970, 84). Field walking by Smith in May 1982 produced a number of flint and chert artefacts from the site, including burins, points and scrapers.

Two leaf arrowheads from Hadden, 2km E of the site, are in the Hunterian (B 1951-1621).

'Mesolithic' flints are listed from the Kelso area, but there is also a lopsided arrowhead 1.3" (330mm) long from Spylaw on the S side of the river (Hunt B 1951-1414), and an endscraper has been found in meadows N of the river made of the same rich brown flint that is regularly used in the manufacture of lopsided arrowheads (NMS: Inf).

Beakers: 700m N of the enclosure, on the N bank of the river at Sprouston Dub, a 6m cairn was removed in 1843, revealing a cist containing an inhumation and a Northern beaker (NMS: L 1933-2116; Clarke 1970, iv, 521, no.1769).

Three Northern beakers are known from the Kelso area (Clarke 1970 ii nos.1774, 1775). One of these, from a cist at Springwood, covered five barbed and tanged arrowheads and a bronze awl lay among the bones of the cremation (Henshall and McInnes 1968).

Prehistoric landscape: A plethora of cropmark features at Sprouston, Early Historic and probably prehistoric, are discussed above (History of Site). Field systems and a possible square barrow in the central entrance to the enclosure may fall into the prehistoric category.

100m SE of the enclosure, across a gully, a ridge of dry land to the N of the buildings of Whitmuirhaugh steading carries another group of cropmarks. Smith's transcription (1991 Illus. 3, 4, 5) shows a small (10m diameter) ring ditch with central pit, probably a barrow, and aligned on this circle a near contiguous, pit defined feature measuring c 22m x 8m. Short lengths of trench outline V-gabled ends with centre posts, and five internal cross lines of posts recall the complex interior features at the rather broader (12m) hall at Balbridie (Ralston 1982; Smith 1991 Illus.3). It may be that the outer walls at Sprouston consisted of slot trenches which have not registered on the aerial photograph, giving a greater similarity of dimensions to Balbridie. Smith draws attention also to the similar excavated structure on Doon Hill, Hall A. (see II:iii), 23m x 10.4m, which, like the Sprouston cropmark, was post defined apart from its trench built, angled end walls. As at Sprouston, these end walls had central post holes, on alignment with two internal axial posts (three at Sprouston); at Balbridie there were two, axial posts, but within one end only, and there were none in the outer wall trenches. An additional comparison may be a series of post built structures at the 8th century monastery of Hoddum, the best preserved measuring 13.5m x 6.75m with one internal division of four post holes on a curving line (Lowe 1991, fig.4). The differences between this building and that at Sprouston are considerable, but the addition of another post built building to the later series must weaken claims for a neolithic origin for the Sprouston case.

Juxtaposition of hall and round barrow may suggest that the two should form a prehistoric entity. Given uncertainty over the relationship between hall and beaker cairn at Court Hill, Dalry (I:6), no precise parallels for the conjunction can be quoted, but there is a recurrent prehistoric tendency to construct funerary monuments on or near domestic sites (e.g. Sheeplays, Sixwells: Fox 1959, 171). Equally, at Balfarg Riding School, a post built ritual enclosure has a later ring ditch built over its NE end (Barclay, forthcoming). Dark Age parallels, however, also occur. At Yeavinger Building 3D is aligned onto the adjacent 'Western Ring Ditch', apparently a Bronze Age stone circle re-used for Dark Age inhumations before the construction of the building (Hope Taylor 1977,

Fig.41). At present then the cropmark can only be classified as a probable neolithic long house, and its proximity to the enclosure noted.

A small cairn with beaker inhumation on the far bank of the river has been noted under Beakers.

Two short cists were found in 1932 700m S of the enclosure; each contained a skeleton but no artefacts other than a piece of chert (Craw 1933).

Nearly 3km to the NE on the farm of Redden a short cist was found in 1949 containing a skeleton, food vessel and flint blade (RCAHMS 1956 ii, 434, no.973).

450m NE of the enclosure, oblique aerial photographs reveal a pitted feature consisting of an arc of widely spaced pits at right angles to a short row of pits, perhaps part of a small enclosure (NT 73NE 29).

Fig. IV:a:1 Whitmuirhaugh cropmark, from Smith 1991

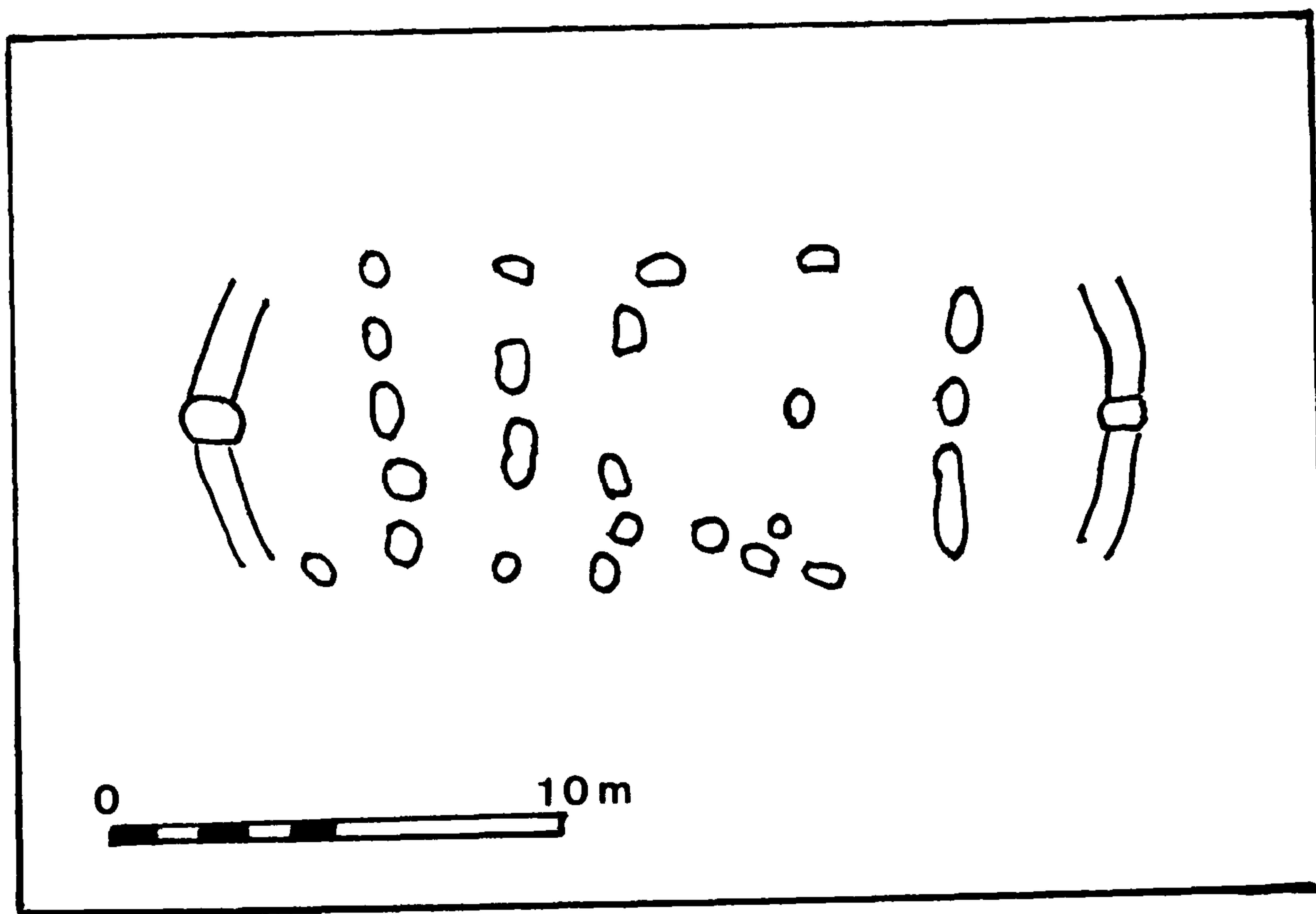
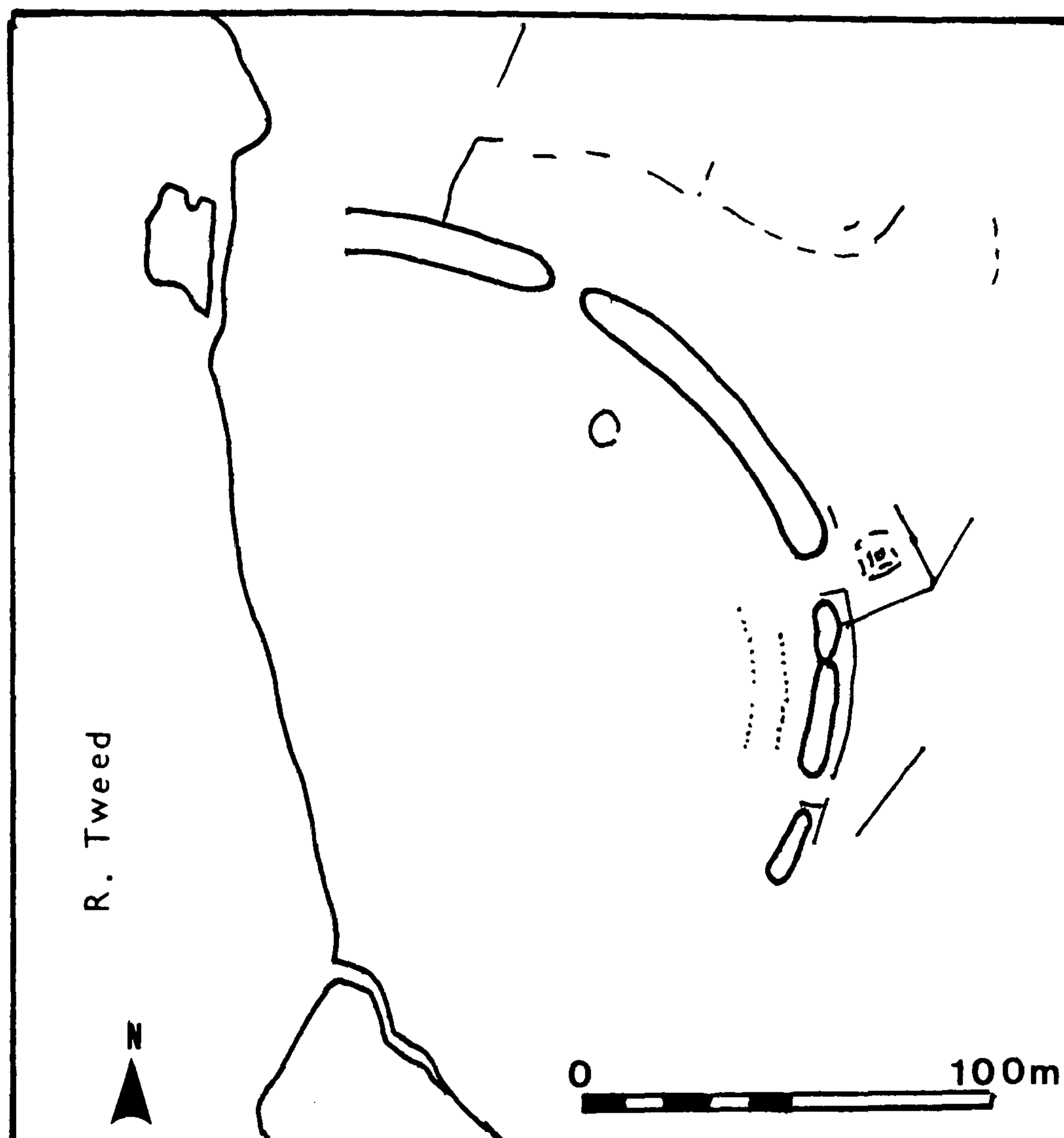


Fig. IV:a:2 Sprouston enclosure, from Smith 1991



IV:b Overhowden henge, Berwickshire
Ettrick and Lauderdale District
Borders Region

NT 45SE 10
NT 4869 5227
290m OD

Location: On the W side of Lauderdale, 1.6km SW of Oxton village, 150m W of Overhowden farmhouse

Type: Probable Class II henge

Status: Category B; classification rests on morphology, and doubts remain. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: A circular ditch with outer bank, one definite and one possible entrance

Orientation: NW - SE

Dimensions (after Atkinson 1950):

Diameter:	72m within ditch
Ditch breadth:	3.7m
depth:	1.2m
Berm breadth:	3.7m - 4.6m
Bank breadth:	6.1m

Excavation: In 1950 R.J.C. Atkinson cut a section across bank, berm and ditch on the NNW side of the enclosure; 25m to the E he made a second cutting to test for the presence of a gully found on the outer lip of the ditch in the first trench (Atkinson 1950).

History of site and present condition: The site was overlooked by the OS in 1856-7, but was later pointed out by the farmer (Allan 1900, 657) and recorded in the Berwickshire Inventory (1915, 15, no.30). The bank was said to be 0.3m high on the outside, 0.45m on the inner, suggesting the ditch to have been c 0.15m deep. The farmer in 1921 told J. Hewat Craw that the site had been in constant cultivation for sixty years without much alteration in appearance (Craw 1922, 249). In 1950 the bank was still 0.3m in height, but cut by a field track on the SE and broken through for drainage on the NE (downhill) side. By 1989 the bank was reduced to a low swelling, picked out when ploughed by the lighter colour of the soil making it up.

Description:

Bank: Aerial photographs in the NMRStaken under a scatter of snow show the bank as an upstanding feature, cut away on the SE by the track at the side of the field. On excavation it was shown to be only 0.3m in height, reduced by ploughing. Atkinson commented that spoil from the ditch could only have given it a height of 0.6m, but other sources may have supplemented this (see interior, below).

Ditch: The ditch shows clearly on aerial photographs, with some discontinuities on the NE side. It has an entrance 11m broad on the NW, and a probable similar one on the SE, the two entrances being slightly asymmetric. Excavation showed the ditch to be cut into shale rock, here only 15 - 20cm below the surface, and to be flat bottomed with gently sloping sides, slightly steeper on the outer side. It appeared to have silted naturally, primarily from the outer side.

Gully: Immediately outside the lip of the ditch a gully was found in two cuttings, c 25m apart. It was steep sided, 0.46m wide and the same depth, and contained loose dark soil with no packing stones. It lay on the inner edge of a berm between ditch and bank.

Interior: Atkinson's contour plan (1950, 61, fig.3) shows the slope of the interior, falling from 980ft (299m) to 964ft (294m) SW to NE. The contours also indicate a small levelled platform inside the NW entrance which is just visible also on the ground, but does not register on aerial photographs. In 1900 the farmer reported (Allan 1900, 657) 'that a vast difference exists between the soil outside and that inside the "ring". It is "thin" inside, as if the top earth had been lifted and laid on the wall tops'.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 23km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: 150m to the E a ditch drains to the S, joining a stream 400m from the henge. The Leader Water is 2km to the E.

General topography: Upper Lauderdale is relatively narrow between the rounded hills on which the henge is situated. To the N rises the larger mass of Soutra Hill linking the Moorfoots with the Lammermuirs.

Situation: The site is on the gentle upper slopes of the valley sides, which fall more steeply below the enclosure to the valley floor.

Aspect: ENE

Slope: Moderate (7%), dropping steeply (18%) to the SE

Local relief, within 500m: 245m - 340m OD

Outlook: Distant: 46% to E
Intermediate: 33%
Restricted: 21% to NW

Prominence: Locally unobtrusive, but set in a dominating position above the valley.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Freely drained Brown Forest Soil of the Linhope series. The field consists of very shallow soil, and broken shale pieces through the ploughed soil suggest that the subsoil rock is being broken up.

Land use: Arable agriculture, primarily grain crops. The field has been ploughed throughout the 19th century (see History of Site, above).

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Kirkton, destroyed stone circle, c 2.5km to NW
Borrowston Rig, stone circle, 7km to E
Lauder Barns, pitted enclosure, 8.3km to SE
The Mutiny Stones, long cairn, 14km to ENE

Monument context: The positions of bank and ditch at Overhowden must make it likely that this enclosure is a henge, despite the relatively slight proportions of the ditch construction. This feature may have been constrained by the problems of digging the rocky subsoil, and the ditch is, in fact, of similar proportions to the one at Cairnpapple, where the same difficulty arose. Nonetheless at Cairnpapple, the bank reached 1.2m in height, capped with earth and stone, and the same effect could have been achieved at Overhowden by the addition of scraped up soil from the interior.

It seems probable that Overhowden originally had two entrances, making it a Class II henge, comparable in size to Swallowdean (IM:c) and Coupland, Northumberland (65m diameter), although larger than most local henges. It is unusually situated on sloping ground, in contrast to the choice of level sites elsewhere in the Region. Use of hilltop or hillside terraces is, however, a common choice in southern Scotland, with sites overlooking valleys, as at Weston (III:f), in the same way as Overhowden overlooks Lauderdale.

The gully on the outer lip of the ditch is a curious and unexplained feature. It was, however, examined in narrow cuttings only, and it is possible that evidence for posts escaped discovery. If the gully had supported a continuous fence, however, the silting pattern of the adjacent ditch should have been different. It is possible that the gully was cut to hold a palisade as a secondary feature, in the same way as timber posts were added to the bank at Blackhouse Burn I, and a palisade was added at Mount Pleasant, Dorchester.

Acceptance of the site as a henge has been reinforced by the attendant recovery of lithic material, especially petit-tranchet derivative arrowheads (see below). The type is, however, a characteristic of Lauderdale as a whole, with a local concentration on Overhowden (Table IV:1). Axeheads, again common in Lauderdale, are almost absent on Overhowden.

Artefact recovery:

Axes: Only one axe, of polished flint, 4 5/16" (109mm) in length, is known from the farm of Overhowden (NMS AF 298).

Fourteen axes are recorded from Airhouse, on the next hill to the N. These include several coarsely worked specimens of local greywacke, and two of flint, one of these re-chipped into a tranchet arrowhead (Hunt B 1914-147).

Six more axes are known from neighbouring farms on the same side of the valley.

Lithics: Atkinson noted finds of petit tranchet derivative arrowheads from the farm, besides scrapers, a polished edge knife and a perforated macehead. He test pitted an eminence in the NW corner of the field within which he understood the finds to have been associated, but with negative results.

Lithic finds from the farm were discussed by Sharp (1912); these included 'sixteen worked triangular flakes which may be intended for arrowheads' - perhaps transverse arrowheads. Sharp stated that two thirds of finds came from the field with the henge, including seventeen lopsided arrowheads of black flint, the central focus of the collection lying 200 - 300 yards north of the 'fort': Atkinson's trial pits were not in this area, but c 165 yards NW of the entrance.

In walking the field in 1989 a 'sub-triangular' transverse arrowhead was picked up at NT 4867 5255, at the bottom of the slope to the E of Atkinson's 'eminence'. As Wainwright and Longworth show (1971, 256 Table XXVIII) lopsided and subtriangular transverse arrowheads have a recurrent association with grooved ware sites, in particular henges. The lopsided variety (Form H) was common at Durrington Walls and Woodhenge. The edge polished knife from Overhowden is likewise a high status artefact with limited distribution (Atkinson 1962, 25), and being of brownish yellow flint must have a different origin from the black arrowheads; its findspot, however, is unknown.

The impressive collection of finds from Overhowden must, however, be viewed in the context of a general density of flint recovery from Lauderdale, and, in particular, a concentration of artefacts from the hills NW of Lauder. The largest collection comes from the farm of Airhouse, 1.5km N of Overhowden, especially from one field NW of the steading above a precipitous drop to the Mountmill Burn on the N (Callander 1928). Finds here include numbers of transverse arrowheads (Form D and lopsided forms), besides leafshaped and barbed and tanged types, knives and scrapers of flint and chert. The farm of Bowerhouse, 1.5km SSE of Overhowden, has also produced leaf and lozenge shaped, hollow based, lopsided and triangular arrowheads (NMS: BMA 899-902; AD 1518; NMS/NT 45SE Another transverse arrowhead comes from Trabroun, 3.5km SE of Overhowden (BMA 1571). The henge is thus

central to an area of distribution, rather than acting as a single focus for finds.

Macehead: The butt end of a macehead of banded flint (NMS AH 218) was found on the top of the ridge, 900m SW of the henge at NT 480 517.

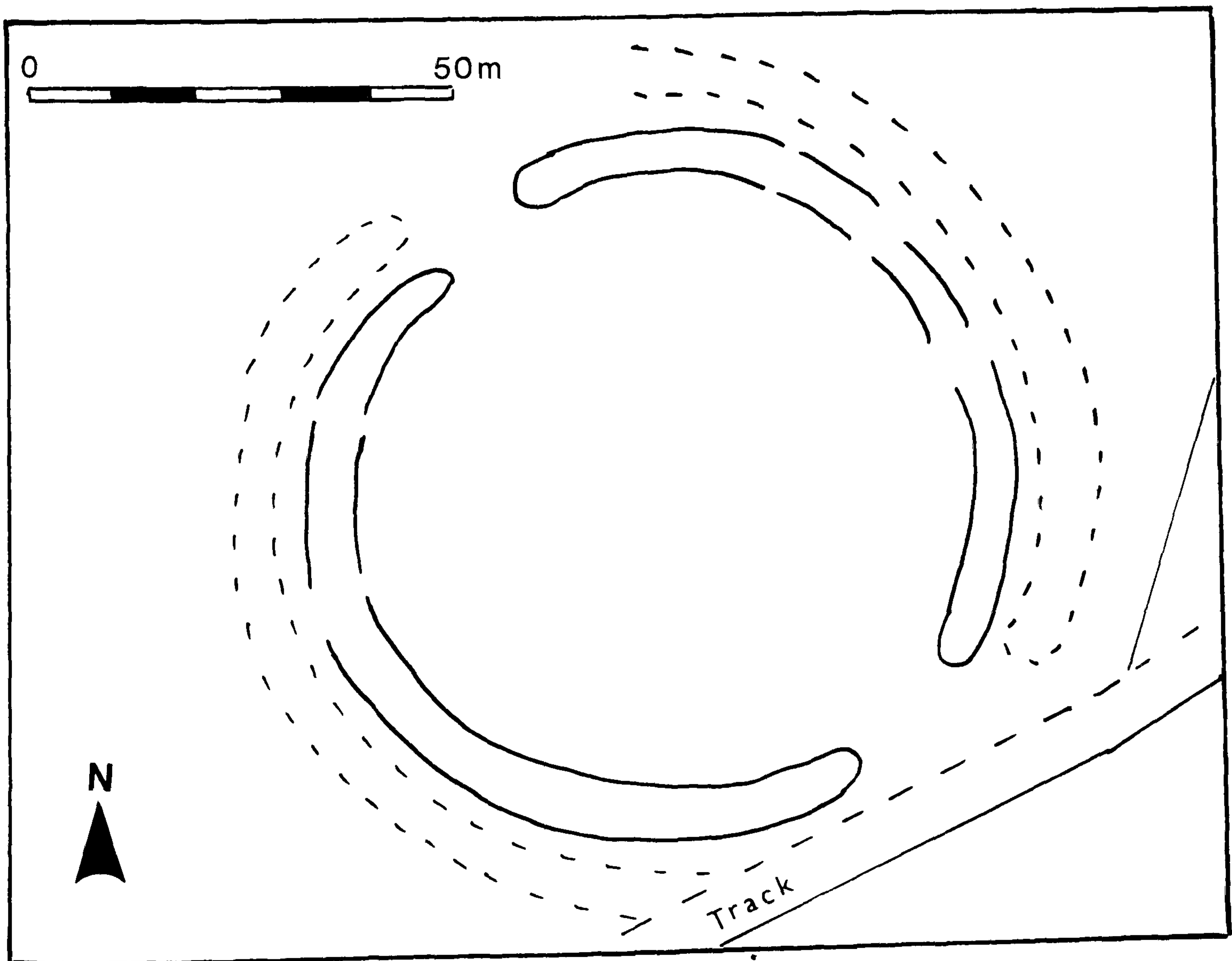
Prehistoric landscape: The remains of a fort or earthwork enclosure, one of a series of such sites along this range of hills, lies 200m SW of the henge.

The site of a cairn on the ridge summit, 600m WSW of the henge, is now under a plantation belt.

There is a record of a stone circle having stood near Kirktonhill Fort, 2.5km NW of Overhowden until destroyed for dyke building in 1864 (Proc Ber Nat Club 6, 1869, 11), but no details of its nature are known.

Archaeological interpretations: Following Atkinson's identification of the site and trial excavations (1952) it has generally been accepted as a Class I henge, the SE entrance not being clearly visible (e.g. Feachem 1963, 65). Harding and Lee, however, remain doubtful, making the comment: 'Insufficient information available: cannot be ruled out as henge related' (1987, 343).

Fig. IV:b Overhowden henge
(after Atkinson 1950, and later aerial photographs)



IV:c Swallowdean, Cumledge, Berwickshire NT 75NE 21
Berwick District NT 7963 5602
Borders Region 100m OD

Location: 2.5km NNE of Duns and 200m W of Swallowdean,
500m S of the Whiteadder Water

Type: Class II henge

Status: Category B: a cropmark site only

Outline: Two curving ditch segments enclose a sub-circular area; a narrow outer ditch line runs around the S and W sides.

Orientation: NW - SE

Dimensions (after aerial photographs):

Internal diameter: inner ditch: c 70m
outer ditch: c 140m

History of site and present condition: The site is in cultivated fields and has been almost obliterated by the plough. In 1980 vertical APs suggested a settlement (RCAHMS 1980(a), 33, no.262). Dry conditions in summer 1992 allowed the RCAHMS to photograph the outline of a probable henge.

Description: Aerial photographs show the enclosure to consist of two asymmetric ditches, the deeper curve on the SW. The NE ditch is uneven, suggesting segmented construction. Parch marks indicate the position of an outer bank which, on the E, runs along the top of a steep slope down to the Swallowdean Burn. The NW entrance is very broad, but that on the SE less so. The narrower ditch or palisade trench which runs around two sides of the enclosure, c 30m outside it, has an entrance on the NW matching that of the henge, but a second entrance, to the S, would only allow an angled approach to the inner ditch entrance. This ditch line terminates to the E where ground level drops sharply to the burn. On the ground the enclosure interior appears to be slightly domed, the dip around the raised area perhaps representing traces of the ditch.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 16km from the North Sea at Cockburnspath

Distance from water: The Swallowdean Burn passes the henge 100m away to the S, and angles to the N to run along the bottom of the slope to the E, c 50m from the ditch. A second stream, 150m to the NW runs through a steep-sided gully to join the first, before both join the Whiteadder Water.

General topography: The site is at the eastern extremity of the Lammermuirs where the foothills merge into undulating agricultural land along the valley of the Whiteadder.

Situation: The henge occupies the summit of a plateau with ground level falling gently all round and steeply immediately outside the bank on the E.

Aspect: ENE

Slope: Nearly level, falling gently to S and W, steeply to E

Local relief, within 500m: 80m - 125m OD

Prominence: Low

Outlook: Distant: 10% to E
Intermediate: 90%
Restricted: -

Local landmarks: Cockburn Law, 325m OD, with remains of a summit cairn (NT 75NE 1) lies just under 5km to the NW, and the two entrances may be aligned onto it.

Solid geology: Upper Old Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soils over fluvio-glacial gravels

Land use: Arable; barley in 1992

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

(Groat Haugh, possible henge, 15km to SE:

Harding and Lee, 1987, 210, no.124)

The Mutiny Stones, long cairn, 17.5km to WNW

Sprouston, interrupted ditch enclosure, 20km to S

Monument context: The cropmark shows this to be a Class II henge comparable in form and dimensions to Coupland, 26km to the SSE and Overhowden, over 30km to the W. Other possible henges are listed by Harding and Lee (1987) on the English side of the Tweed, and the whole complex of monuments in the Milfield Basin lies only 25km distant. The site is thus not isolated, although the overall distribution is dispersed.

It occupies a valley situation, characteristic of henges, in contrast to the upland siting of stone circles in the Lammermuirs. Like other henges in southern Scotland, it is on a slightly elevated site in the valley (cf. Westside; Balwaistie III:g, h). The orientation towards the summit of Cockburn Law echoes preferences for local summit alignment seen also in the Milfield Basin (Harding 1981).

The uneven, segmented appearance of the NE ditch

suggests characteristic neolithic digging patterns. The presence of an outer ditch or palisade may represent re-use of the site as a settlement. The same effect is seen at Weston (III:f). Such 're-use' may itself represent a neolithic phase of activity, as seen, for example, in the erection of timber uprights at Mount Pleasant (Wainwright 1979) and at Blackhouse Burn I, where timbers were added to an enclosure bank before the end of the third millennium bc (III:c).

The cluster of cists in the valley around the henge, some containing beakers, others food vessels, is an interesting pattern (see below). The presence of beaker in the vicinity is in contrast to the situation around Overhowden, in Lauderdale.

Artefact context:

Axes: Four axes are known from within 5km of the henge. A Group VI axe, 6½" (165mm) in length, comes from Preston, the village immediately across the Whiteadder to the N of the henge (Hunt B 1914-135; BRW 1).

A stone axe was found together with two probable human leg bones at NT 7708 5649, when ploughing in 1979 (NT 75NE 30). The site, on rising ground at 190m OD, is 2.5km W of the henge, and probably within view of it.

A polished axe with squared sides 5.5" (140mm) in length comes from Cockburn Farm, on Cockburn Law, 4km NW of the henge (Hunt B 1951-428).

There is also a record of a weathered felstone axe, 4" (107mm) long, being found near Manderston, 2km SE of the henge (Black 1894, 323(4)). Black noted the oblique cutting edge of this axe, which he attributed to resharpening.

Lithics: A broken petit tranchet derivative arrowhead, 0.9" x 0.9" (23mm x 23mm) in remaining size, comes from Preston, just over 1km N of the henge (Hunt B 1951-434).

The NMRS have records of flint collection from various sites in the vicinity, including finds of worked flakes and a thumbnail scraper from the far side of the burn E of the henge at NT 802 562 (see also NT 75NE 24, 25, 26).

A plano convex flint knife 2¼" (57mm) long and a barbed and tanged arrowhead were found at NT 779 561, 1.6km W of the henge, and a finely flaked leaf shaped flint knife, 3" (76mm) long and several thumb nail scrapers come from Duns Law at NT 788 547, a similar distance to the SW (DES 1967, 17).

A piece of worked jet, apparently part of a bracelet, was picked up on the site of the henge after drainage work had been carried out there (DES 1969 16).

Beakers: A cist containing a skeleton and a beaker of N3 type was found at Manderston West Lodge, NT 805 542, 2km SSW of the henge (Clarke 1970, no.1599).

Another cist at Grueldykes, NT 781 527, 3.5km SSW of the henge contained a male skeleton, a beaker of N2

type (NMS: EG 27) and fragments of two other beakers (EG 56) (Clarke 1970 no.1594).

Prehistoric landscape:

Cists: A cist found on Piper's Knoll in 1853, containing an inhumation and probable food vessel, appears to have come from a hillock 700m SSE of the henge, now called Sheepy Knowe (NT 75NE 15).

Cists were found on Duns Law and on Little Duns Law in the 19th century c 1400m SW of the henge (RCAHMS 1980(a), 20 nos.144, 145).

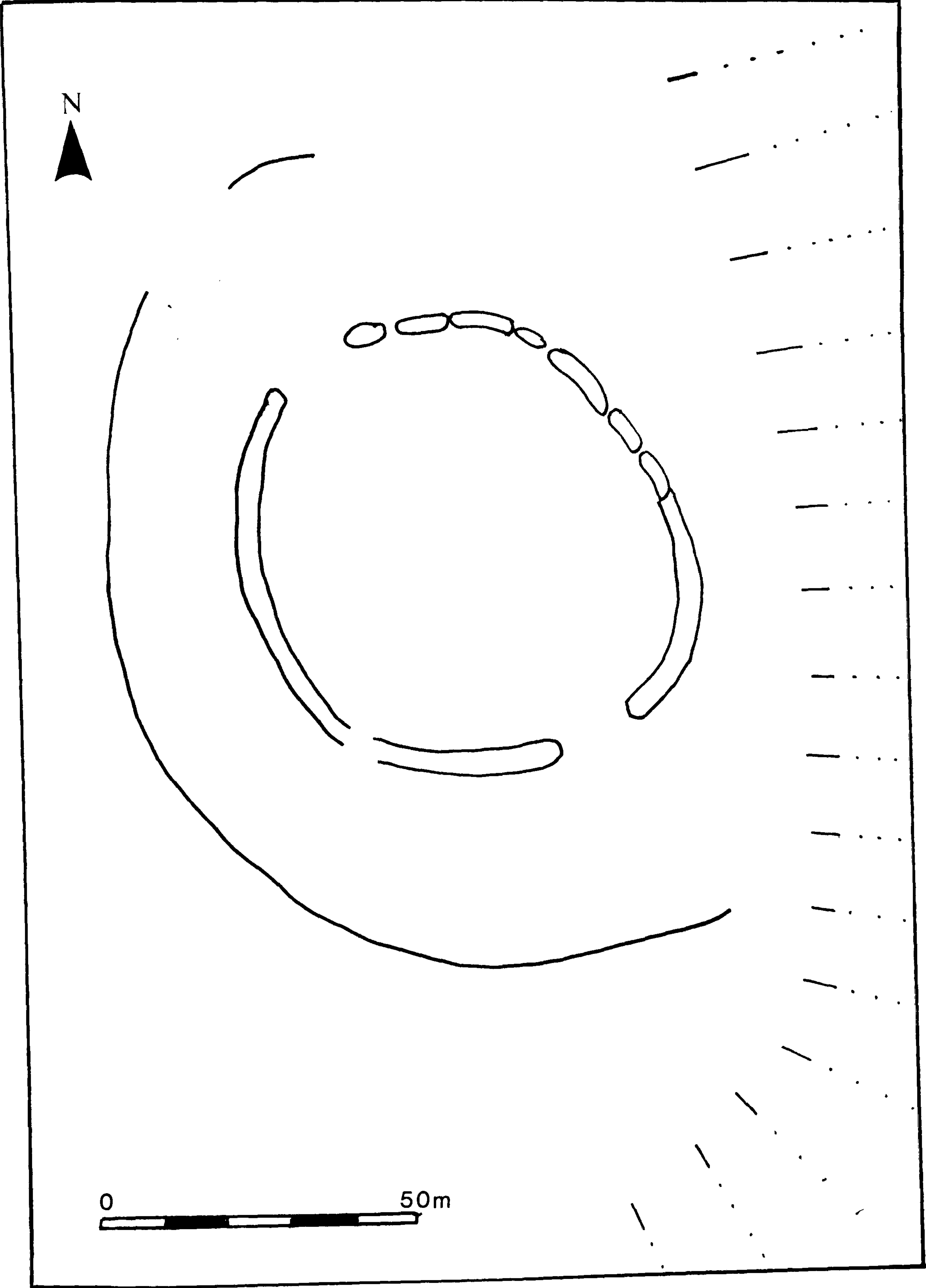
A cist containing a cremation was excavated in 1963 near Manderston Mill, c 1600m SE of the henge (ibid 21, no.157). This site may have been near the beaker cist, above.

A cist containing an inhumation and a jet ring was found in 1950 on the bank of the Whiteadder at NT 7834 5667, 1450m NW of the henge (ibid, 16, no.105).

A cist containing a food vessel (NMS: EE 102) was found at Cockburn Mill, just under 3km NW of the henge in 1911 (ibid, 16, no.102).

The NSA (II,270) also records finds of 'several skeletons' at Broom House, 800m NE of the henge in 1813, besides one skeleton in a 'stone coffin' to the SE of the house (ibid, 19, nos.134, 135).

Fig. IV:c Swallowdean henge (from aerial photographs)



IV:d Borrowston Rig stone circle,
Berwickshire
Ettrick and Lauderdale District
Borders Region

NT55SE 5
NT 5576 5232
340m OD

Location: 5km NE of Lauder, 1.3km NE of Earnscleugh
farmhouse, on a ridge of the Lammermuir Hills, between the
Earnscleugh and Blythe Waters

Type: Egg-shaped stone setting

Status: Category B: a disturbed and overgrown site

Outline: Type II egg (Thom 1967, 29-30)

Orientation: WNW (apex) to ESE

Dimensions (after Thom and Thom 1980, 364-5):

Diameter: 41.5m x 36.6m

Max. height of stones: 0.6m

History of site and present condition: In 1884 James Tait described the site as consisting of about forty small stones 'all apparently in their original position', and in 1908 the RCAHMS counted thirty two *in situ* stones and a displaced boulder, 0.9m in length (RCAHMS 1915, 121, fig.13). These descriptions probably do not indicate any fundamental change in the condition of the site before it was planned by Thom and Thom (1980, 364-5), and about thirty two stones were drawn, although only c eight stones were shown as being upright. The stones are in an ill-drained boggy hollow, and encroaching vegetation has completely concealed some of them.

Description: Although inconspicuous and disturbed, the stones do convincingly describe a sub-oval setting, as shown on both the published plans. Individual segments of the ring consist of straight lines, and while these may be associated with the joining of two arcs at the narrowing end of the oval, a straight segment also occurs on the SE arc, and it may be that this is an effect of construction techniques rather than being a function of geometry, as MacKie suggests (1975, 92).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 27km from the Firth of Forth

Distance from water: The stones are in a boggy hollow which drains to the NE through the Long Bog. The nearest mapped stream is 150m to the SW.

General topography: The high, rounded Lammermuir Hills are cut by steep sided valleys draining SSW. The long narrow ridge of Borrowston Rig runs NNE to SSW between the valley of the Earnscleugh Water to the NW and the Blythe Water to the SE.

Situation: In a hollow between the ridge of Borrowston Rig to the NW and a shoulder of level ground to the SE.

Aspect: NE

Slope: The shoulder of the ridge forms a level plateau, which drops steeply to valleys to NW and SE.

Local relief, within 500m: 310m - 355m OD

Prominence: Low; besides its insignificant size of stones, the site is inconspicuously placed.

Solid geology: Ordovician greywackes and shales of the Ettrick Association

Soils: A peaty hollow, among freely drained peaty podzols of the Minchmoor series

Land use: Rough grazing. Enclosures and rig and furrow to the S indicate earlier more intensive land use.

Vegetation: Acid grassland with areas of heather and of bogland communities.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Lauder Barns, pitted enclosure, 6km to S

Overhowden henge, 7km to W

Kirktonhill stone circle, (record only), 8.5km to WNW

The Mutiny Stones, long cairn, 9km to NE

Monument context: A contradiction is apparent between the 'classic' appearance of this monument on plan and its insignificance on the ground. The egg-shaped setting, similar to, although larger than, those at Cairnpapple and North Mains B, could accommodate a large assembly; its isolated position, high on a steep sided ridge, and secluded in an inconspicuous hollow, gives it a feeling of a place apart. Yet little effort has gone into the arrangement of small boulders, similar to those which still litter the plateau. The contrast perhaps reinforces recognition of the importance of the human element in 'ceremonial monuments'. A defined area is only brought to life when peopled by participants. It is possible that at such times the area defined by the small stones was additionally marked out by timber uprights; such a suggestion might be tested by excavation.

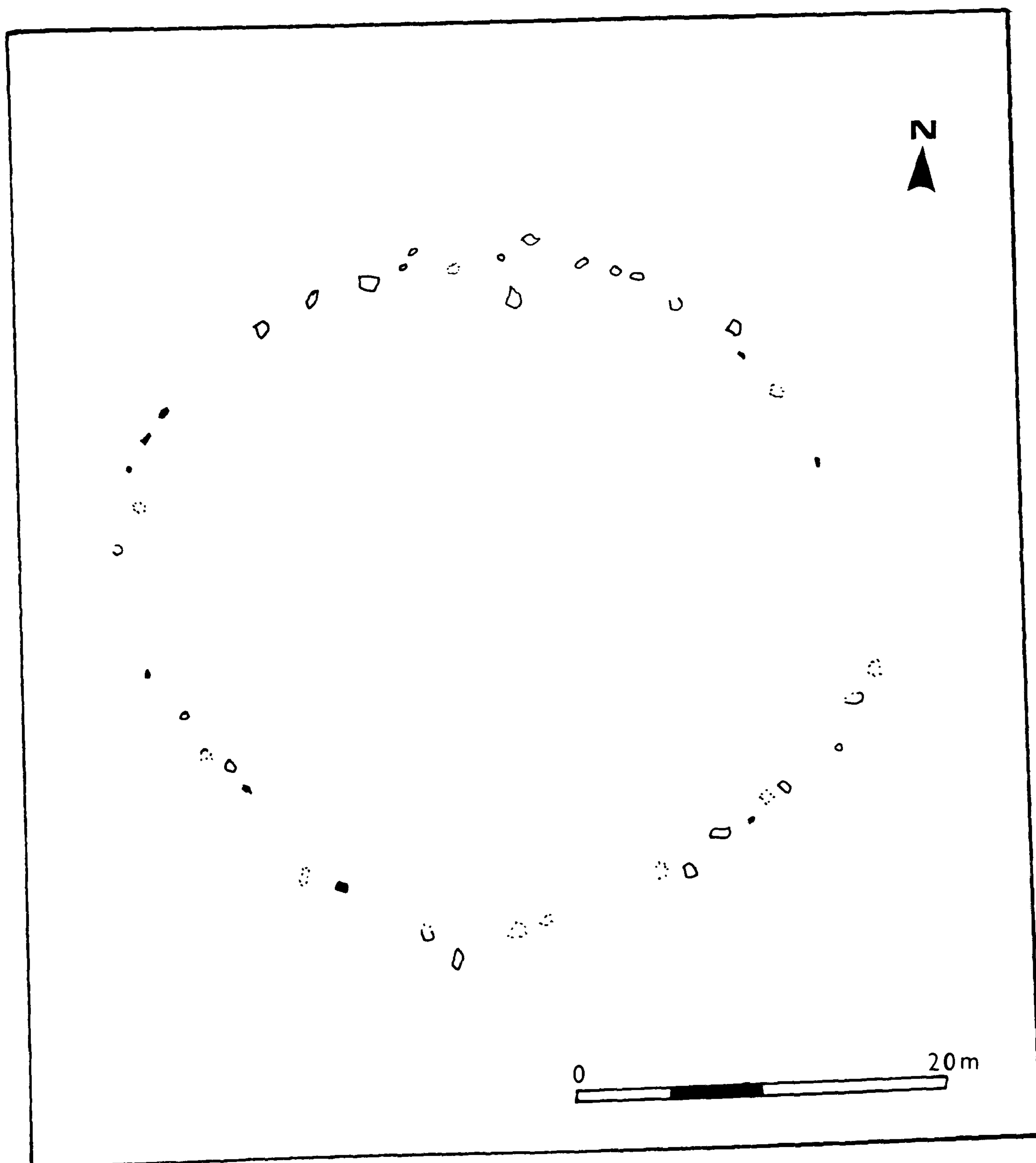
Stone circles are not common in this region, except in the case of a cluster of small sites, 13km distant, in the central Lammermuirs. These sites are listed in Table IV 3. All appear to represent small, possibly funerary settings of stones, with likely second millennium origins. One possible exception is the Crow Stones

(iv:e), which may be a ring of small stones, similar to Borrowston Rig, measuring 44m x 33m. On the W side of Lauderdale a destroyed stone circle is recorded at Kirktonhill and a henge at Overhowden.

The small size of the stones at Borrowston Rig illustrates excavational problems in identifying sites of stone rings (cf. Balfarg: Mercer 1981(a)). The problem is also discussed in relation to the Galloway sites (VII:ix:c).

Artefactual recovery: See IV:2, Borrowston Rig cairn

Fig. IV:d Borrowston Rig stone circle
(after Thom and Thom 1980)



IV:e The Crow Stones, East Lothian
East Lothian District
Lothian Region

NT 66NW 20
NT 6183 6519
330m OD

Location: 6km SE of Garvald, 500m N of the Gifford to Cranshaws road on the N side of the Kingside Burn

Type: Sub-oval ring of small stones

Status: Category B. A denuded site of uncertain antiquity

Outline: An ellipse, defined by c two dozen small stones and several stone holes.

Orientation: NW - SE

Dimensions: 43m x 33m

History of site and present condition: The site was once in cultivated ground, as traces of rig and furrow cultivation can be made out in the heather which now covers the area. By 1853 the ground was 'heathy' and the stones were known as a 'Druidical Circle', and supposed to be ancient (ONB, 3, 20). The 1st ed 6-inch OS map shows the oval as entire. So insignificant are the stones, however, that they were omitted from the Inventory (RCAHMS 1924), and it was only in 1979 that they were planned by the Ordnance Survey. At this date they had been robbed to their present condition. Heather conceals any internal features, including a possible low mound noted in 1979, but it is short, and most of the stones are free of turf. Clear cut holes on the line of the circumference suggest deliberate removal of stones, perhaps for the construction of a circular stone sheep stall, 200m to the SE; there are no nearby stone walls. Some of the stones are broken or flattened, and may have been moved. Erosion has left the north-western stones standing on 'pedestals' above ground level.

Description: Low stones, up to c 0.3m in height, are set around the NW half of an oval figure. On the E few stones remain, but some holes suggest their original positions. On the S side, above a slope down to the Kingside Burn, there is a cluster of earthfast stones and some broken pieces of stone. One group appears to be the set identified by Burl as a possible Four Poster, 1.5m across diagonally (Thom and Thom 1980, 308; Burl 1988(a), 124). Geometrically the main figure appears to be an ellipse, composed of two semi circles, of c 15m radius, their centres 13m apart, giving an overall length of 43m.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 14km to the N

Distance from water: 70m from the Kingside Burn to S

Situation: The site occupies a terrace on the side of a low ridge above a slope down to the Kingside Burn.

Aspect: SE

Slope: Nearly level, in an area sloping very gently to the S, above a sharp drop to the Kingside Burn.

Local relief, within 500m: 310m - 405m OD

General topography: The site is in an 'amphitheatre' among the high rounded Lammermuir hills, where feeder streams for the Whiteadder Water gather.

Outlook: Distant: 31%
Intermediate: 69%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Although visible from a distance, the site lies low in the landscape and is not prominent.

Local landmarks: The view down the valley gives a distant glimpse of Cockburn Law, 15km to the ESE.

Solid geology: Silurian greywackes and shales

Soils: Peaty podzol

Land use: Hill grazing (sheep) and grouse moor

Vegetation: Heather, with adjacent patches of grass

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

The Mutiny Stones, long cairn, 6km to S
Borrowston Rig, stone circle, 13km to SSW

Monument context; Although a number of stone circles have been recorded in the immediate vicinity, this is the only one of the set to be of appropriate dimensions for a ceremonial enclosure. Its size, and the smallness of the stones, almost exactly match the ring on Borrowston Rig, in the south western Lammermuirs, although the Crow Stones do not use the same geometrical design. Ellipses of comparable size occur at Wildshaw Burn, Lanarkshire (50m x 40m) and Cultoon, Islay (41m x 35m), both cases involving much more considerable stones. The situation on a terrace, beside a stream, in an amphitheatre of the hills, is very similar to that of Wildshaw Burn. The insignificant size of the stones must, as at Borrowston Rig, serve as a reminder of the importance of the human element in ritual sites.

Artefactual recovery: The hill country is not productive of artefacts.

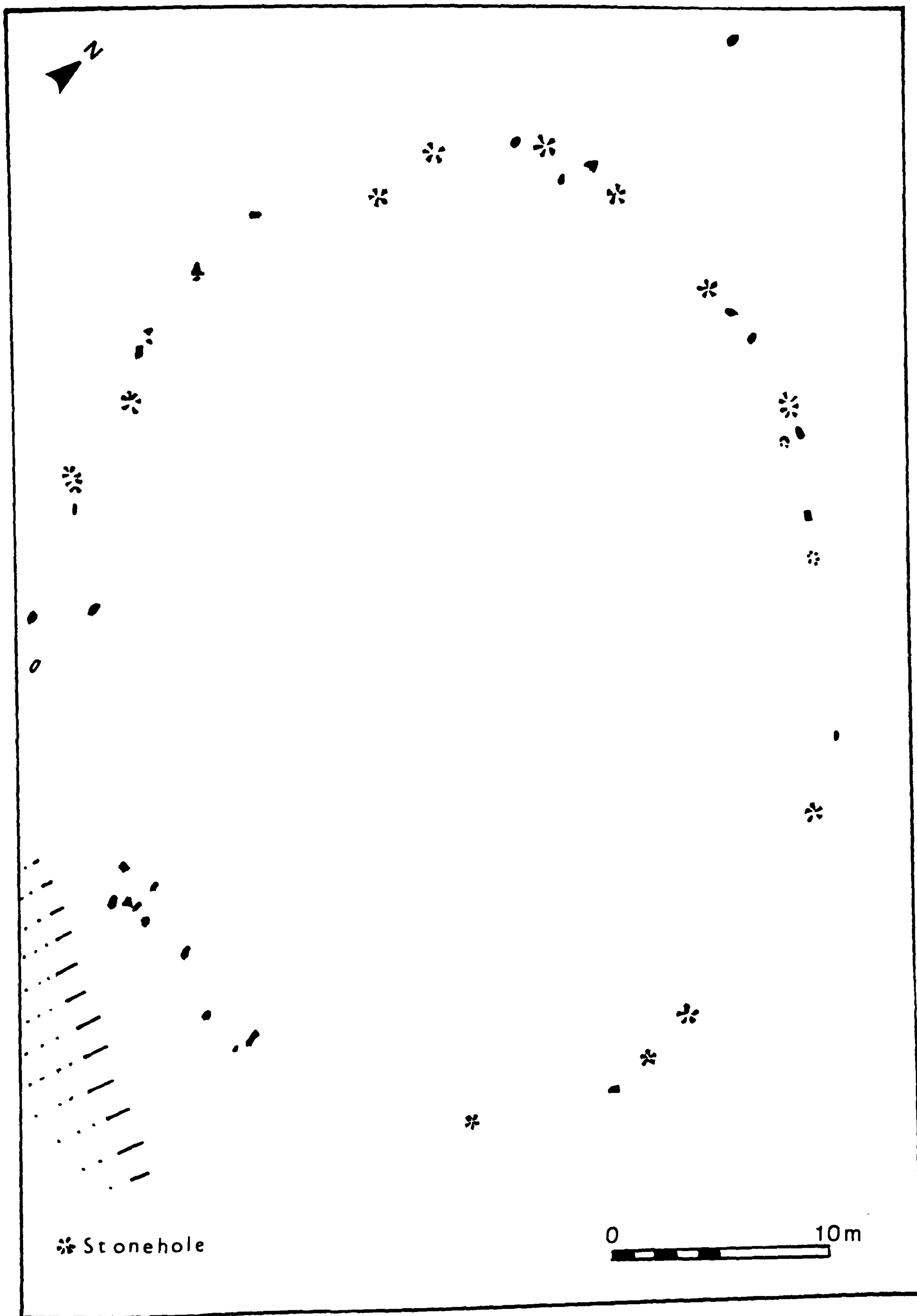
Prehistoric landscape: 750m ENE of the Crow Stones is a small but impressive setting of eight stones (with one probably missing), known as the Nine Stones (NT 6284 6549).

800m E of the Crow Stones a circular 12m diameter enclosure on Kingside Hill may represent a funerary site (NT 6263 6504).

Other stone settings in the neighbourhood are listed in Table IV 3 Stone Circles in the Tweed Basin; there are also several cairns to the S of the Kingside Burn.

The site has clear views of the summits of Spartleton and Priestlaw Hills, 3.5km to the E and 4.5km to the SE, each with a summit cairn.

Fig. IV:e The Crow Stones stone circle: Plan 1991



V:a Broadlea henge, Dumfriesshire
Annandale District
Dumfries and Galloway Region

NY 27SW 19
NY 2193 7464
65m OD

Location: 1.5km W of Eaglesfield, 250m NW of Broadlea farm
steading, overlooking the Mein Water

Type: Class II henge

Status: Category A. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Two banana shaped ditch segments with
accompanying outer banks enclose a sub circular area.

Orientation: NW - SW

Dimensions (after Atkinson 1950):

Internal diameter: 40 - 45m
Breadth of ditch: 9 - 10m
berm: 2m
bank: c 15 - 20m (spread)

History of site and present condition: The henge bank and
ditch are now severely reduced and were presumably already
so when the Roman temporary camp was created by digging a
ditch line through the bank, enclosing one half of the
henge, and siting the camp entrance to open directly onto a
ditch terminal. Nonetheless, the Roman ditch runs through
both entrances of the henge ditch, presumably of intent,
suggesting it to have been at least visible.

The henge was first recognised from aerial
photographs by St. Joseph in 1945-7 and was published by
Atkinson (1950) and Atkinson, Piggott and Saunders (1951).
Bank and ditch could then both be traced on the ground,
with a maximum drop between them of 1.2m. By 1967 the OS
could see only 'vague traces' of the ditch.

Description: Aerial photographs, combined with a contour
survey of the henge by Atkinson, have allowed an outline to
be produced. The ditch has the classic asymmetry of the
Class II henge and entrances 10m to 14m broad. Contours
show the bank to follow the line of the ditch closely,
slightly overlapping the entrance on the NW, but to be
widely spread on the NE side. On one set of photographs
(DF/2397-2400) a narrow palisade line runs along the outer
edge of the ditch to either side of the SE entrance, the
same position as that of a gully found in excavation at
Overhowden henge (IV:b). Two possible pits are also
present in the henge interior, one positioned axially
inside the SE entrance.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 9.5km N of the Solway Firth

Distance from water: 250m W of a ditched stream; 350m SE of the Mein Water.

General topography: Gently rolling agricultural country lies between steep igneous hills to the N and low plains to the S.

Situation: The raised terrace on which the henge lies is cut off by small stream valleys on either side and the Mein Water to the NW, making it into a promontory site.

Aspect: NW

Slope: A level terrace dropping sharply to the N and gently to the W

Local relief, within 500m: 50 - 65m OD

Prominence: Despite local elevation, the site is in a low hollow among higher hills.

Local landmarks: The distinctive shape of Burnswark Hill (287m OD) with summit cairn is 5km NW of Broadlea.

Solid geology: Lower carboniferous limestone

Soils: Brown Forest Soil over fluvio-glacial sands and gravels

Land use: Arable agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

- Seven Brethren, stone circle, 8km to N
- Clochmaben stone and possible stone circle
12.5km to SE
- Whitcastles, stone circle, 13.5km to N

Monument context: Broadlea is entirely characteristic of the pattern of small Class II henges seen in northern Britain, despite the fact that it is 50km from Normangill to the NNW and 53km from King Arthur's Round Table to the SE. 25km to the W is a possible small Class I henge at Pict's Knowe, but locally stone circles appear to have been a preferred site type. Broadlea does not share the interest of local stone circles in the SW, and its orientation and location are more characteristic of henges. The nearest long cairn, Windy Edge, is 23km to the NE, high in the hills.

Artefact context:

Axes: A large Group VI axe was found before 1895 on the farm of Lands, which occupies the N bank of the Mein Water opposite Broadlea (Ritchie and Scott 1989 DMF 16).

Three more axes come from within 5km of the henge, one from Johnstonelea to the S, probably of Group VI stone, the

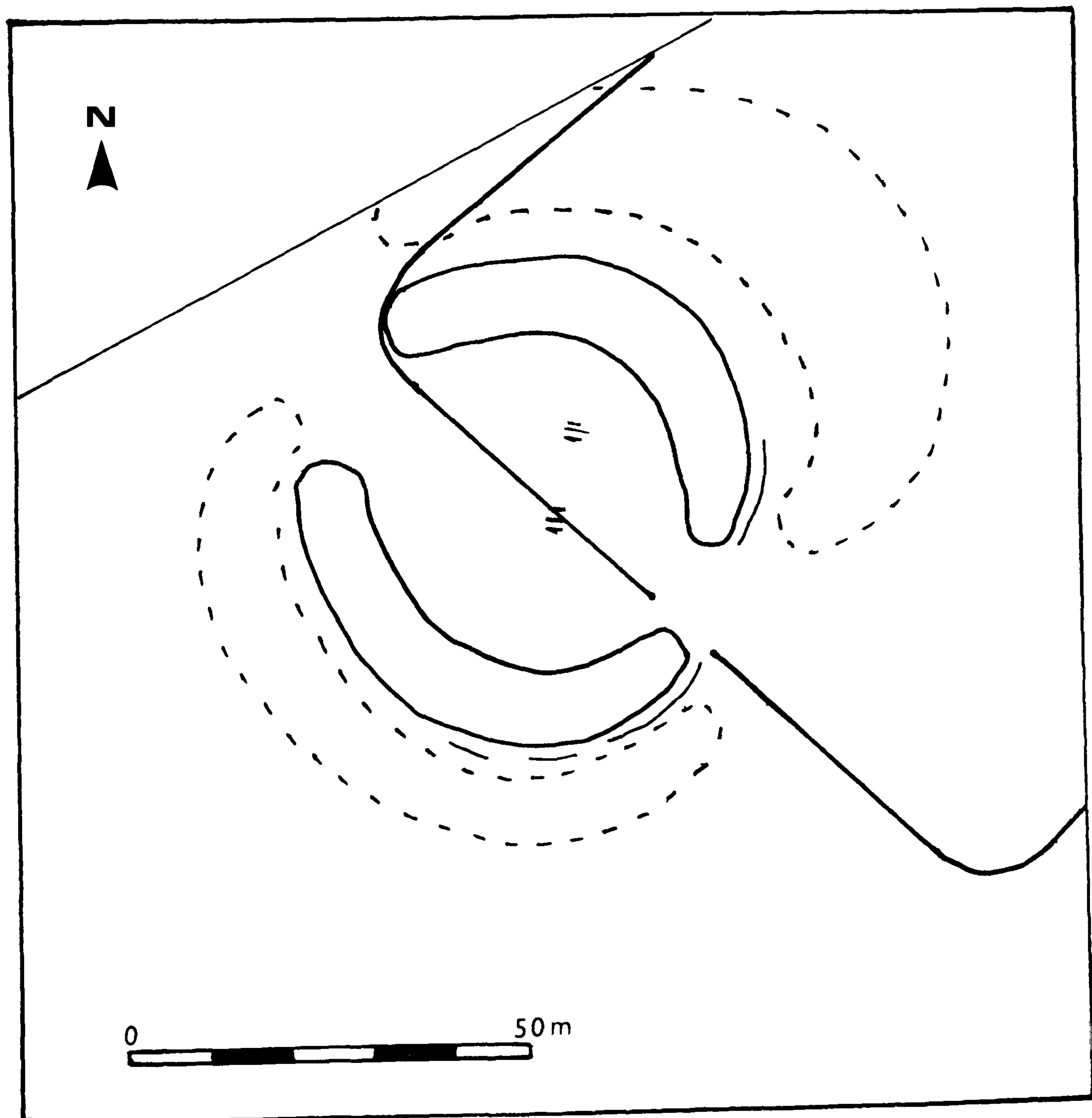
others from Newfield and Burnswark Hill to the NW (Williams 1970, 115).

Lithics: An arrowhead, a scraper and a flint knife are said to have been found on Robgill, 4km S of the henge (Anderson and Black 1888, 389).

Two flints and an undiagnosed piece of unglazed pottery were found in excavation at Kirkconnel, 2.5km to the E (Clough and Laing 1969).

Prehistoric landscape: A structure defined by large postholes excavated at Kirkconnel (NY 250 755), measuring 16.8m x 5.5m, could not be dated (Clough and Laing 1969). A neolithic origin must be considered possible (see V:iii).

Fig. V:a Broadlea henge
(after Atkinson 1950 and aerial photographs)



VI:a West Gallaberry, probable cursus, NX 98SE 51
Dumfriesshire NX 9638 8264 -
Nithsdale District 9660 8298
Dumfries and Galloway Region 15-20m OD

Location: 1km S of Duncow on the E side of Nithsdale, from West Gallaberry farm steading to the parks of Duncow House

Type: Probable cursus

Status: Category B. Cropmark site only, with no diagnostic features

Outline: A pair of straight, parallel ditches with no terminals visible

Orientation: SSW - NNE

Dimensions: Length: 400m minimum + c 200m possible
Breadth: c 30m

History of site and present condition: The paired ditches are crossed by the ditches of a palisaded homestead and a Roman camp, presumably offering no obstacle to either. West Gallaberry steading buildings overlies the S end of the E ditch, and there is no terminal visible. To the N the W ditch becomes an intermittent feature, but two very oblique photographs (CUCAP W 27, 28) suggest that both ditches may continue across the road in parkland, showing as parch marks. Again no terminal is visible.

Description: The pair of parallel ditches is straight and featureless and noticeably narrower than the ditch of the Roman camp. They run over gently undulating ground which, at the S end of the cursus, rises to a slight ridge before a sharp drop to a stream in the broad valley of the Nith. On the ridge the line of a ditch shows clearly, running NW of the cursus, and almost certainly unrelated, but there is no sign of a terminal. The E ditch gives a hint of a curve at its S end, as if beginning to form a terminal, before it is overlain by buildings.

Resistivity soundings in 1971 found 'good anomalies on the line of the Cursus' (DES 1971, 16).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: Presently 17km to the S, but the 10m contour reaches to 3km SE of the cursus at Locharbriggs.

Distance from water: A stream runs 60m from the visible S end of the ditches.

General topography: The Nith runs through a 1.5m broad alluvial valley, only confined by flood banks, and presumably formerly subject to flooding across the valley breadth. The upper terraces of earlier riverine deposition consist of good agricultural land. The valley sides rise to rough grazing and moorland on higher ground.

Situation: The cursus runs across the undulating terrace above the haughlands of the R Nith from the terrace edge towards rising ground on the valley sides.

Slope: Nearly level

Local relief, within 500m: 15m - 55m OD

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soils over fluvio-glacial gravels

Land use: Agricultural, with improved permanent pasture in parklands at the N end

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Dalswinton, cropmark complex, 2.5km to NW

Hollywood 2, lesser cursus, 2.8km to SW

Holm, cropmark complex, 2.7km to S

Monument context: The cluster of cursus-related monuments in Lower Nithsdale is discussed in the Gazetteer (VI:ix) as the only such complex in the study area. As regards the West Gallaberry site it may be stated that it is the existence of this group that underpins the case for identification as a probable cursus, despite the absence of diagnostic or accompanying features and visible terminals. The other factor is the extreme length of the ditches, ruling out an agricultural function. The apparent slightness of the ditches may be a function of the light alluvial soils at Gallaberry in comparison with Hollywood, but it is also normal to find cursus ditches being of very slight construction, and it is perhaps the well-defined Hollywood ditches that are atypical. The Gallaberry cursus is aligned directly onto the N half of Hollywood 2, although the intervening valley is likely to have been a major obstacle between them, subject to recurrent flooding. The line of Hollywood 2 can be projected to the SSW, through the Twelve Apostles stone circle to the circle at Easthill (Table VI:2:3). To the NE the ditches align onto an earthwork on a natural knoll at Castlehill (NX 9742 8427), 1.2km beyond the maximum extent of the visible ditches. The knoll is associated with two standing stones and an arrowhead find, see below.

Artefact context:

Axes: Despite a density of axe finds in Lower Nithsdale (VI:viii) few come from the left bank of the river. One Group VI axe was found near Kirkton church, 1.5km SE of Gallaberry (DES 1966, 23). A fine stone celt found 'on a mossland and in proximity to bog oaks' on Whitehill, Kirkmahoe (TDGNHAS 3 1880-3, 2) may come from Whitehill, Locharbriggs (NX 981 809), a farm among bogland c 1km SE of Kirkton church.

J. Williams (1970) suggests that grooves on a large boulder carved with an Early Christian cross at Foregirth, 1.5km NW of West Gallaberry, could have been caused by sharpening stone axes.

Lithics: A flint arrowhead is said to have been found in the camp at Castle Hill (TDGNHAS xxxviii 1957-8, 100, 109 - see above).

A plano-convex flint knife in Dumfries Museum comes from Locharbriggs, 4km SE of West Gallaberry (Truckell 1963, 58).

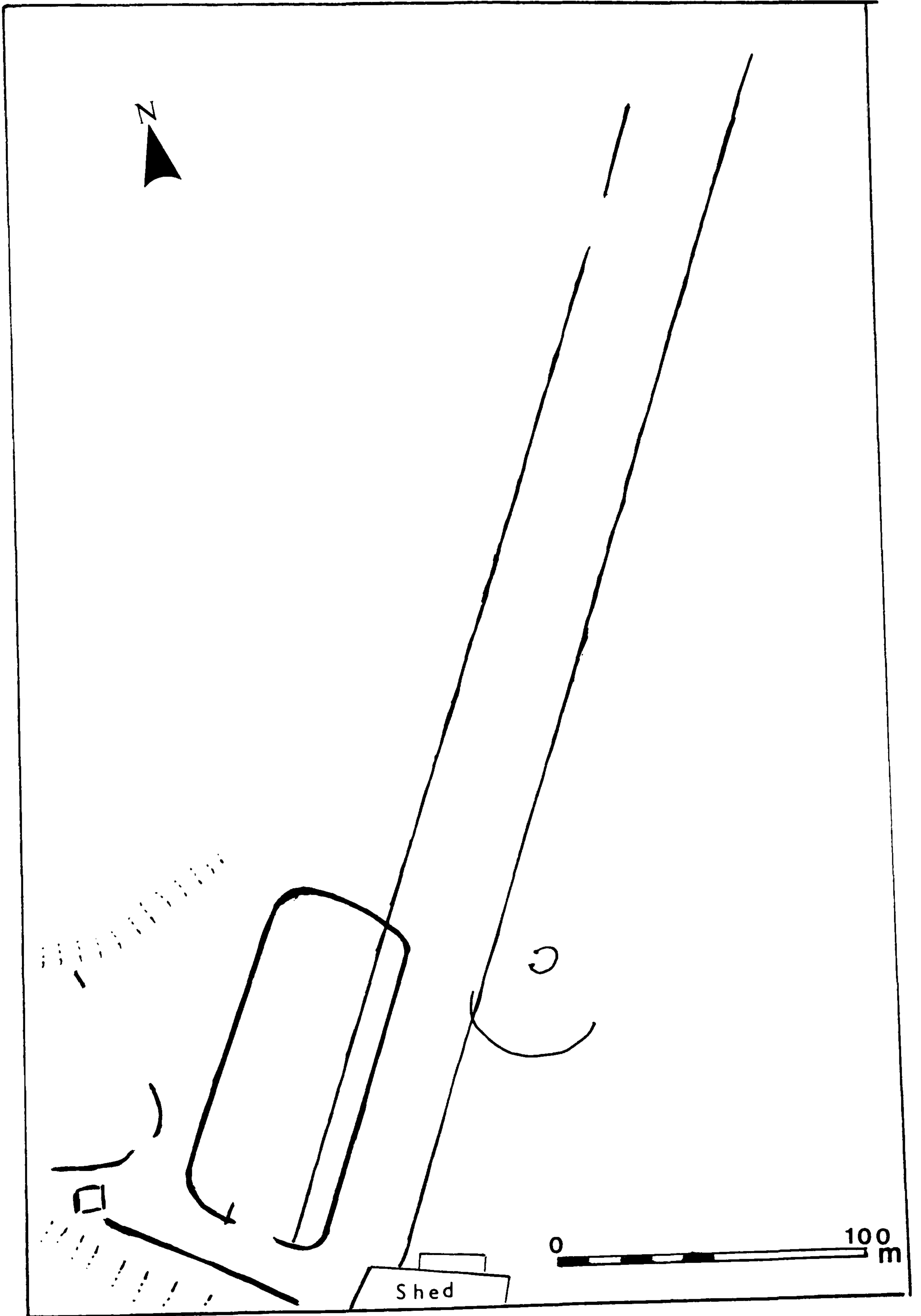
Prehistoric landscape: There is a wealth of cropmark features in addition to the cursus ditches in the field N of West Gallaberry steading, including a Roman temporary camp, a palisaded homestead, a small rectangular enclosure, a 70m length of ditch running along the ridge SW of the Roman camp, and a ditched promontory enclosure. This last, at the NW end of the ridge, measures c 65m x 50m, defined by a small stream and a discontinuous curving ditch. The breaks in the ditch may represent an entrance to the SE and a change of soil eliminating the cropmark, on the E. There is nonetheless a possibility that this is an interrupted ditch enclosure of the Neolithic. The ditch was sectioned by St. Joseph and found to be c 3m broad and 0.5m in depth below the gravel subsoil surface (St. Joseph 1952, 122, fig.12). It followed a shallow curving shape, in contrast to the V-shaped ditch of the Roman camp. Apart from a primary deposit of charcoal on the outer slope of the ditch, it had silted undifferentially, giving no indication of the former presence of a bank. St. Joseph did not section the cursus ditch, on which he made no comment.

Cairns: At Quarrelwood (NX 9582 8411), 1.5km N of the cursus, are the remains of a cairn c 20m in diameter (NX 18SE 2). Several other cairns apparently existed in the vicinity and were described by Thomas Johnstone in 1825-7. The details Johnstone gives are uncritically handled and unreliable; the possible distribution is discussed by Yates (1984, 100-1).

An urn is said to have been dug up in a garden in Duncow (NX 966 836), c 400m N of the last visible traces of the NE end of the cursus (NSA IV, 59).

Two small standing stones (NX 98SE 6, 7) are recorded at NX 9786 8400 and NX 9736 8419, to the E and S of Castlehill fort (NX 98SE 5). This earthwork, on a natural knoll, lies on the line of the cursus, 1.4km NE of the road which cuts across its NE end.

Fig. VI:a West Gallaberry cursus, from aerial photographs



VI:b Holywood 1, cursus, Dumfriesshire NX 97NW 23
Nithsdale District NX 9494 7953 - 9487 7979
Dumfries and Galloway Region 20-25m OD

Location: 2.5km NW of the junction of the Cluden Water and the R Nith on the N side of Dumfries 600m W of Holywood Abbey Church, on the W side of the A75

Type: Lesser cursus

Status: Category A: A well defined cropmark site and Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Square ended, narrow, rectangular ditched enclosure, with multiple breaks, enclosing a ring ditch.

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Dimensions: Length: 260m
Breadth: 30 - 40m
Ditch: c 4m broad
Ring ditch diameter: c 10m

History of site and present condition: The enclosure is cut across by a minor road, but is otherwise undamaged in open fields. There are no above ground traces of its presence.

Description: A square ended enclosure with slightly rounded corners, narrowing slightly towards the N end. There are three apparent breaks through the broad ditches of each long side, those on the W side formed by rounded terminals, but the southern two on the E side perhaps the result of poor definition of the cropmark above sloping ground. c 20m from the N end, just N of the NE entrance, a small ring ditch is enclosed. A narrow, wavering ditch or fence line runs N for c 70m from the N end of the enclosure.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 14km from the present Nith estuary but under 2km from the 10m contour.

Distance from water: 100m from a stream and boggy ground to the S and SW

General topography: The Cluden Water, which passes 400m S of the end of the cursus, joins the Nith 2km to the E at the head of what may have been an arm of the maximum transgression sea. Between the two rivers a series of gravel ridges run NE - SW. The whole area constitutes a basin of low ground among hills.

Situation: For most of its length the cursus runs along a narrow terrace on the E side of and below the summit of a promontory ridge. c 80m of the N end of the cursus are on the slightly higher ground at the base of the promontory. The S end of the cursus terminates at the nose of the promontory, above a drop in ground level towards a boggy hollow.

Slope: Nearly level, with a fairly steep slope away on the S and SE

Local relief, within 500m: 15 - 30m OD

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soil over fluvio-glacial drifts

Land use: Arable agriculture. Housing lies 100m to the E across the road.

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Hollywood 2, lesser cursus, its S end 160m NNE of the N end of Hollywood 1

The Twelve Apostles, stone circle, 250m to W

Holm, cropmark complex and record of stone circle, 1200m to E

Monument context: The set of cursus related enclosures in the Dumfries area is discussed in the Gazetteer (VI:ix), the only such complex in the study area. The Hollywood pair of lesser cursus enclosures is central to the distribution, and between them the two, differently aligned, enclosures cut off the promontory between the Cluden Water and the Lochfoot Burn. Morphological difference, one enclosure being round ended, the other square, seems unlikely to indicate significant chronological separation. There is also a close spatial relationship with the Twelve Apostles Stone circle, just visible on the ridge to the W, across a marshy valley.

Artefact context:

Axes: A large number of axes come from the Dumfries area, as discussed in the Gazetteer (VI:vi). The nearest to Hollywood 1, however, is probably that dug up in 1964 at NX 943 778 in Terregles, 1800m SSW of the cursus, across the Cluden Water. It is a Group VI roughout, 202mm long (Ritchie and Scott 1989, KRK 7).

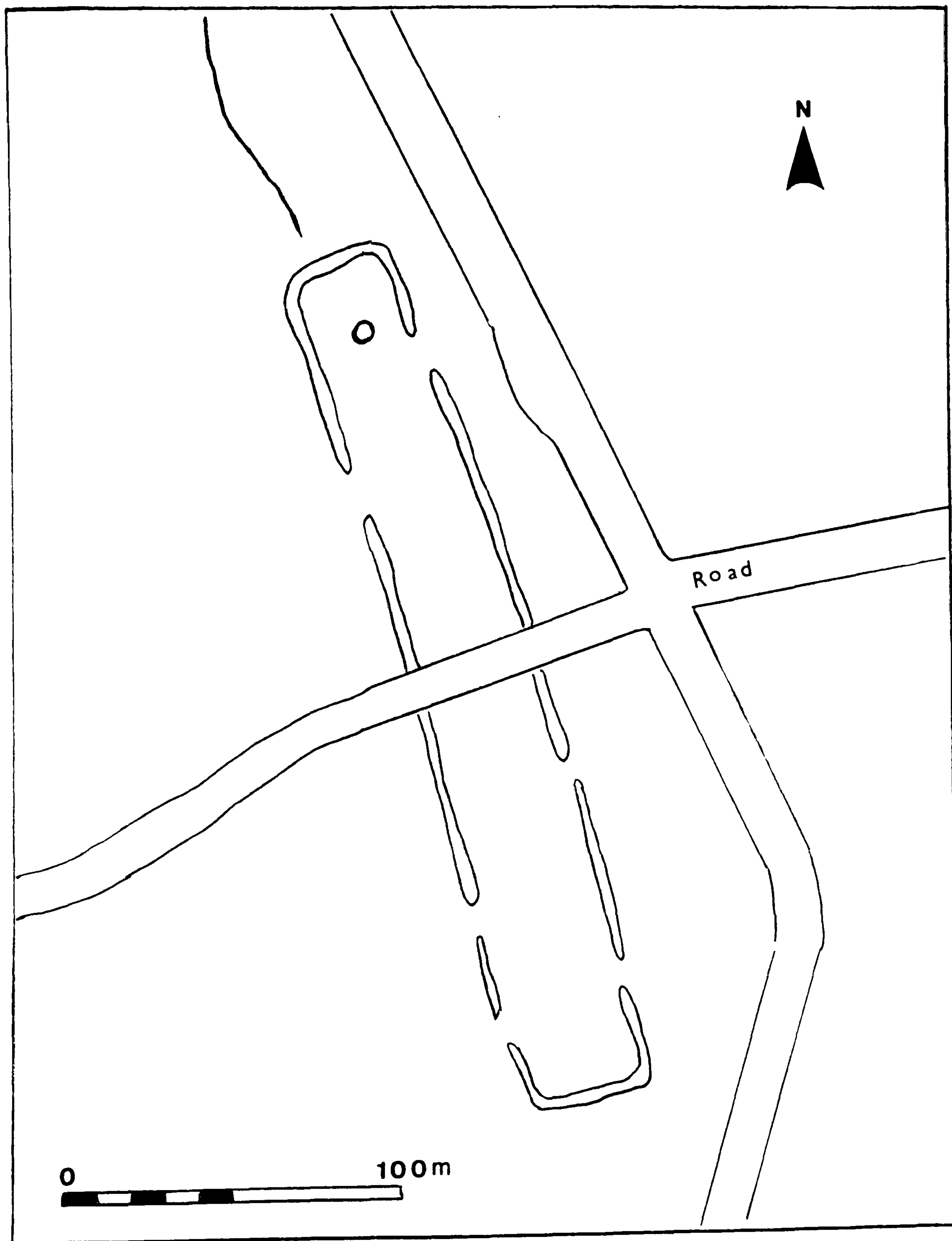
F. Roe lists five axehammers from Hollywood parish (1967, 75).

Lithics: There are collections of flints described as being of neolithic type from both Hollywood and Newbridge in Dumfries Museum (Truckell 1964, 57).

A small, neat flint scraper was found in 1962 on the N bank of the Cluden Water at Newbridge bridge, 400m S of the cursus (DES 1962, 27).

Besides the monuments listed above as nearest neighbours, there is a record of a cinerary urn with cremation being found on a low knoll at Newtonrigg, immediately to the N, when the railway line, which passes 500m N of the cursus, was being built (Martin 1905).

Fig. VI:b Hollywood 1 cursus, from aerial photographs



VI:c Hollywood 2, cursus, Dumfriesshire NX 98SE 42
Nithsdale District NX 9495 7995 - 9510 8031
Dumfries and Galloway Region 25m OD

Location: 1km N of Newbridge on the N side of Dumfries, 2km W of the R Nith, on the E side of the A76

Type: Lesser cursus

Status: Category A: a well defined cropmark site and Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: A round-ended, elongated, ditched enclosure with opposing entrances, partially lined by a series of pits

Orientation: NNE - SSW, the S half angled c 5° further to the S than the N half

Dimensions:

Ditched enclosure:	length: 400m
	breadth: c 32m
	ditch: c 5m broad
Pitted enclosure:	length: 130m
	breadth: c 25m

History of site and present condition: A variety of cropmark features suggest a complex site history. A plantation belt, c 25m broad, crosses the centre of the ditched enclosure, but there is no trace of the features either under trees or in the regularly cultivated field N of the plantation. To the S of the trees is a smaller field, generally under grass which has given fewer photographic opportunities, but here undulations in the ground appear to coincide with the position of the cursus, giving the impression of a slight ridge between hollows. A cattle feeding trough creates a dark mark central to the S end of the enclosure.

Description: The clearly defined ditch is broken by opposing entrances c 120m from the N end of the narrow enclosure. The northern third is lined internally by at least fifty pits, spaced c 4m apart, forming an even narrower inner enclosure, which at the N end has a larger central pit between rounded corners. The pits cross the W entrance of the ditched enclosure, and fade out to the S, nearer the trees. There is a possible feature, perhaps a small ring ditch, within the N terminal, and two possible small fenced enclosures adjoining the exterior of the N ditch terminal. There is a complex of unclear features within the N half of the enclosure, besides external features, including a fence line which runs NNE - SSW not quite parallel to the E side of the cursus (see also Prehistoric Landscape, below).

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 15km from the present Nith estuary;
2km from the 10m contour

Distance from water: 150m from the Lochfoot Burn in boggy ground to N

General topography; Between the Cluden Water to the S and the R Nith to the E a series of gravel ridges run NW - SE, divided by small streams. The whole area is in a basin among the hills.

Situation: The ditches run transversely across a WNW - ESE ridge; ground level falls beyond each terminal, the southern one being on a slight rise. The ridge itself is gently undulating, and the cursus appears to occupy a slight rise, so that from the NW it would appear to bar access to land to the SE.

Slope: Nearly level, sloping gently beyond cursus ends

Local relief, within 500m: 20 - 35m OD

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soil over fluvio-glacial drifts

Land use: Arable agriculture and a plantation

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Hollywood 1, lesser cursus, its N end 160m SSW of the S end of Hollywood 2

Twelve Apostles, stone circle, 500m to SW

Holm, cropmark complex and record of stone circle, 1100m to E

Monument context: The group of cursus related monuments around Dumfries, unique in the study area, is discussed in the Gazetteer (VI:ix). Note may be taken here of the close articulation between Hollywood 1 and 2, on different alignments, but combining to delimit a promontory between the Cluden Water and the Lochfoot Burn. The N half of the cursus is aligned onto the West Gallaberry ditches, 30km to the NE across the broad valley of the Nith; the S half is directed towards Easthill stone circle, 7km distant.

The inner, pit defined enclosure resembles monuments known in the east of Scotland, such as Balneaves, Angus (RCAHMS 1978(b), 22, no.158), of which there is another possible example at Fourmerkland, 3.5km W of Hollywood. A complex of pitted alignments has also been noted on Holm, just over 1km E of Hollywood 2. The inner enclosure does not have an entrance gap on the W to correspond with that in the ditched cursus, suggesting sequence, not contemporaneity, but the alignment of the two is so close that the succession must have been swift. Logically it may be

supposed that the ditched cursus was dug to succeed decaying timbers of an earlier pitted one, and it is possible that upcast from the ditch formed an inner bank marking the rotting timbers and helping to preserve them for future recording.

Artefact context:

Axes: Despite a cluster of axe finds from around Dumfries (see VI:vii), including some from the river itself, the nearest finds to the cursus come from Cowhill, 2.5km to the N on the W bank of the Nith. Both have been thin sectioned (Ritchie and Scott 1989):-

DMF 13 Bellfield Farm, Cowhill, 330mm in length, ?Group VI.

DMF 15 Cowhill Moss, 180mm in length, Group VI.
Found 1861, in moss.

Axehammers: F. Roe lists five axehammers from Holywood parish.

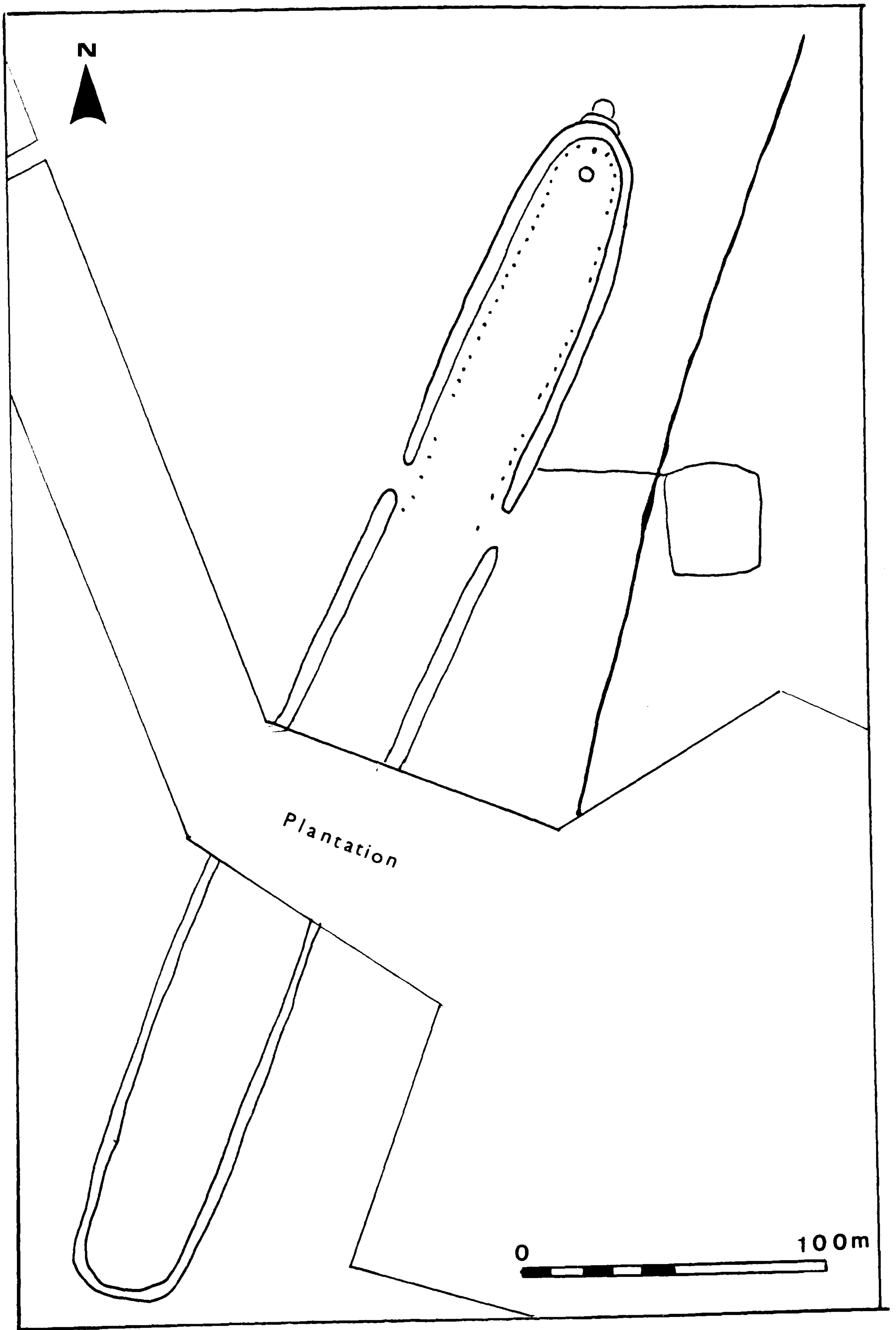
Lithics: A collection of flints, probably of neolithic type from Holywood, are in Dumfries Museum (Truckell 1964, 57).

A Bronze Age dagger is reported to have been found in Holywood Kirkyard, 600m SE of the cursus (TDGNHAS 13 1896-7, 67-70).

Prehistoric landscape: Repeated aerial photography of the enclosure has produced a set of additional cropmarks of uncertain significance. 60m E of the entrance gap in the E side of the cursus is a subrectangular palisaded enclosure measuring c 40m x 30m. A fence line runs W from the NW corner of this enclosure to join with the cursus ditch. Between the enclosure and the cursus a narrow ditch line follows a wavering course from the plantation belt to the S, past the NW corner of the palisaded site, and over the lip of the slope of the field down towards the Lochfoot Burn, a distance of c 260m. This ditch is not parallel to the line of the cursus, nor to a second, similar ditch line, E of the first. The two ditches are c 40m apart at their N ends and 100m apart at the edge of the wood to the S. The E line runs very close to the minor road edging the field, and could be a related feature, but its wavering line does not resemble that of a recent drainage ditch. A similar wavering ditch can be seen running N from the N end of the Holywood 1 cursus.

A cinerary urn containing a cremation was found in a low knoll on Newtonrigg, immediately W of the cursus, when the railway line, which passed 50m S of the S end of the cursus, was being constructed (Martin 1905).

Fig. VI:c Hollywood 2 cursus, from aerial photographs



VI:d Curriestanes, cursus-related enclosure NX 97NE 85
Nithsdale District NX 9575 7519 - 9612 7517
Dumfries and Galloway Region 15 - 20m OD

Location: On the SW edge of Dumfries town, between Troqueer and the Cargen Water, at the junction of the A71 and a minor road at Curriestanes.

Type: Probable cursus-related enclosure

Status: Category B; a cropmark site of unusual configuration

Outline: Elongated ditched enclosure with concave long sides and entrance in short end, containing a double concentric ring ditch

Orientation: E - W

Dimensions:

Length: 380m
Breadth: max: 100m
 min: 60m
Ditch width: c 3m
Ring ditch diameter: outer: c 24m
 inner: c 12m

History of site and present condition: The site, at the edge of the town, must be vulnerable to urban expansion, but the SE part is still in open fields. Two roads and a row of houses cross it diagonally, obliterating part of the outline, and the W terminal has not been recorded apart from its NW corner.

Description: Two gently curving ditchlines, their concave sides facing, form the long sides of the enclosure. The straight E terminal, with broad entrance gap just S of centre, is set at an angle to the enclosure sides, which it joins with slightly rounded corners. c 15m within the entrance are two possible pits, and other features occur in the same area. The W terminal is only visible at the NW corner, giving the N ditch a total length of c 360m. At the central point longitudinally, but to the S of the centre transversely, is a double concentric ring ditch with no apparent entrance (NX 9595 7517). The enclosure ditch has the somewhat pitted appearance of a neolithic feature.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 9km from the present mouth of the Nith; only 400m from the 10m contour, where transgression seas may have penetrated up the valley of the Cargen Water.

Distance from water: 400m from the Cargen Water, to W

General topography: The basin of the Nith estuary consists of undulating terraces cut through by streams. The area is surrounded by low hills.

Situation: The enclosure runs along a gently undulating terrace, its W end on a slight rise at 20m OD, before the ground drops towards the Cargen Water at 10m OD.

Slope: Nearly level

Local relief, within 500m: 10 - 20m OD

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soils over fluvio-glacial sands and gravels

Land use: Arable agriculture, roads and housing

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Greystone, stone circle (destroyed), 2.5km to the NE, across the Nith

Pict's Knowe, possible henge, 3km to S

Easthill, stone circle, 4.5km to W

Hollywood/Twelve Apostles complex, 5km to N

Monument context: The group of cursus related monuments around Dumfries is discussed in the Gazetteer (VI:ix) as the only such complex in the study area. It may be noted here that the curving line of the Curriestanes ditches are most unusual for a cursus, although resembling rather some of the smaller 'mortuary enclosures'. The discontinuous appearance of the ditch is neolithic in character, and the location, on terraces between two rivers, is entirely expected for a cursus, including the Hollywood examples to the N.

Artefact context: c twelve axes can be listed from the Dumfries area, within 3km of Curriestanes, one of them coming from Summerhill c 1km N of Curriestanes (British Museum 86-10-12).

An ovoid macehead has been found on Starrieheugh Farm (NX 951 752), immediately across the Cargen Water from Curriestanes (DES 1962, 27), and Roe lists two axe hammers and a battle axe from Troqueer, immediately E of Curriestanes (1967, 77, nos.117-9).

Flint collections of probable neolithic date are recorded from Summerville and from Terregles Street, Dumfries, just over 1km N of Curriestanes (Truckell 1964, 87).

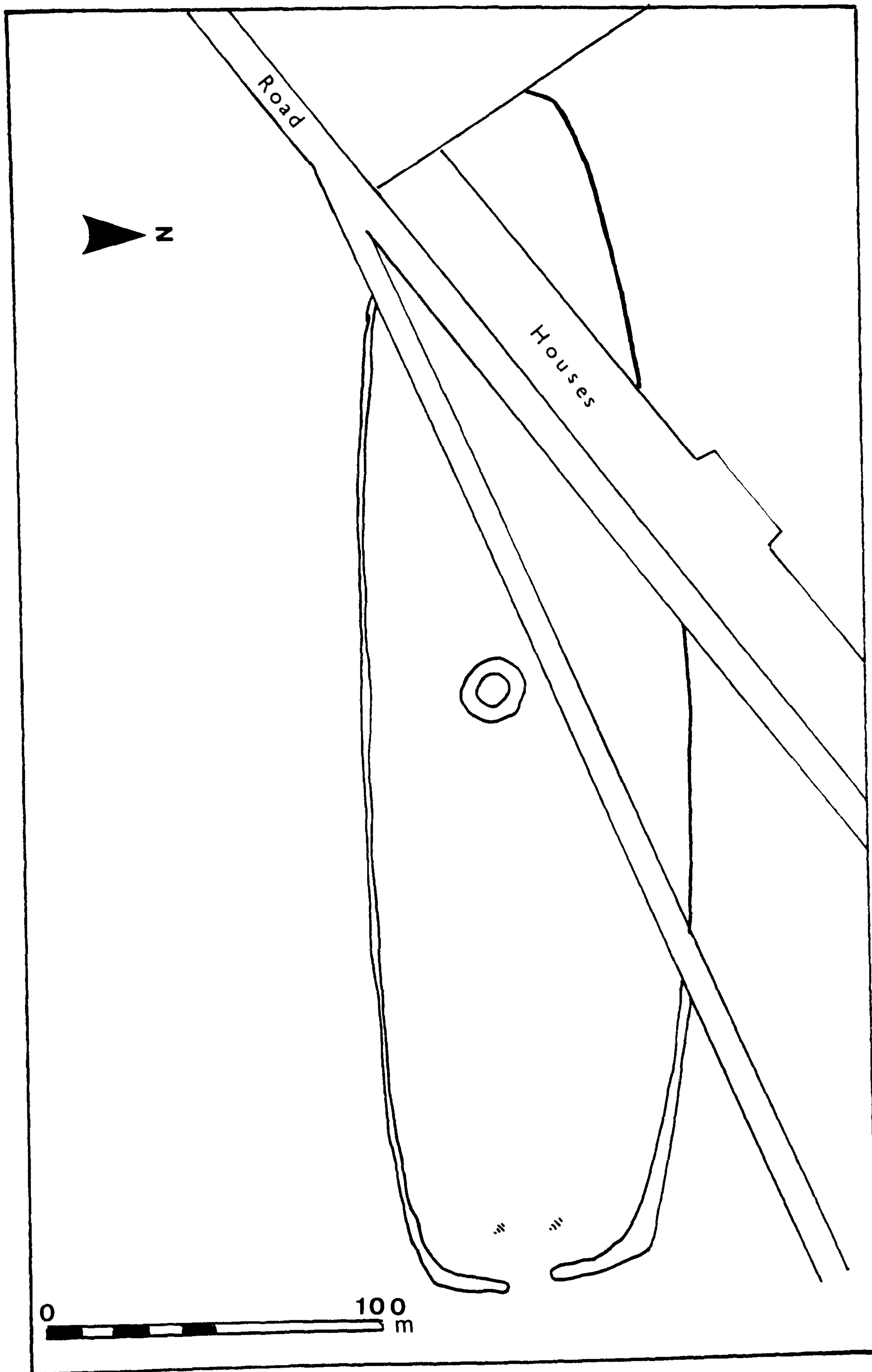
Prehistoric landscape: Besides the double ring ditch within the enclosure, aerial photography has recorded a penannular ring ditch with central feature c 150m S of

the E end of the enclosure (NX 97SE 22), and another possible ring 300m W of the W end, on the flood plain of the Cargen Water (NX 97NE 61).

c 1km NE of Curriestanes, on the SE side of Palmerston Park, an urn cemetery was excavated in 1930 (NX 9646 7621). Deposits had been made around a low knoll at 17m OD, thought to be a natural feature. Excavation found three inverted cinerary urns, three incense cups, broken urn sherds and a series of hollows, some containing cremated bone (Shirley 1931).

c 700m NE of the Palmerston site, two further cinerary urns were discovered at Goldie Park (NX 9667 7690) in 1904 (TDGNHAS 17, 1904-5, 377-8). The name of Curriestanes should not be supposed to indicate the presence of standing stones, as it appears on early maps as 'Curriestoun'.

Fig. VI:d Curriestanes enclosure, from aerial photographs



VI:e Fourmerkland, long pitted enclosure NX 98SW 67
Kirkcudbright
Nithsdale District NX 9151 8003
Dumfries and Galloway Region 30m OD

Location: 700m W of Gribton and 1km ESE of Fourmerkland
farmhouse, on the N side of the Cluden Water

Type: Elongated, pit-defined enclosure

Status: Category B; an incomplete cropmark site

Outline: Three pitted sides define a narrow enclosure
overlain by a ring ditch

Orientation: W - E

Dimensions: Length: N side: 50m
S side: 30m + 30m of faint,
discontinuous pits
Breadth: 22m
Ring ditch: c 6m diameter

History of site and present condition: The site is within
the cropmark of Fourmerkland Roman temporary camp, but few
of the aerial photographs of the camp show the pitted
features. The pits fade out to the E, giving no indication
of the position of a second terminal.

Description: Two parallel pitted lines run along the top
of a low ridge. There are nine pits on the N side, seven on
the S, spaced c 4 - 6m apart, while four more faint pits
continue the S line to the E. At the W end eight pits, more
closely spaced, link the two longer lines, with an
outwardly curving bulge. Near the terminal a small ring
ditch overlies the S line, enclosing two of its pits.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 16km from the present Nith estuary, but
the 10m contour at Lincluden, possibly representing an arm
of the maximum transgression sea, is only 4.5km to the
W.

Distance from water: 150m from the Cluden Water to the S
and 150m from the Glengaber Burn in a marshy valley to
the N

General topography: To the E the valley of the Cluden
Water opens out into the basin of the Lower Nith. On all
other sides the valley is surrounded by hills, the largest
around the Cairn valley to the NW.

Situation: The enclosure runs along the summit of a ridge
sloping gently down to water on either side. 300m to

to the E a scarp drops sharply to the Cluden Water, and the enclosure is likely to have terminated before reaching this point.

Slope: Level, sloping gently to N and S.

Local relief, within 500m: 30 - 40m OD

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soil over fluvio-glacial sands and gravels

Land use: Arable agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

The Twelve Apostles, stone circle, 3.2km to E
Holywood 1 and 2, ditched and pitted cursus
enclosures, 3.5km to E

Dalswinton, cropmark complex, 5km to N

Monument context: The group of cursus-related monuments around the Cluden and the Nith are discussed in the Regional Gazetteer (VI:ix:a) as the only such complex in the study area. The breadth of the Fourmerkland feature is closely comparable to that of the inner, pit defined cursus at Holywood 2, visible over a length of 130m. The terminals of the two monuments differ in form, but both appear to emphasise a central point. The Fourmerkland U-shaped enclosure may thus likewise have been of lesser cursus length, although it is also possible that it was a relatively short mortuary enclosure, perhaps comparable to the 65 x 19m of Douglasmuir (DES 1980, 35). Other double pit alignments in the area, at Dalswinton and at Holm, are narrower, only c 10m broad, and the Dalswinton lines curve in a manner quite unlike that of the Holywood enclosures or of Fourmerkland.

Artefact context: Axe finds from around Dumfries are discussed in VI:vii. Three quarters of a Group VI axe, still measuring 200m in length, was found at Baltersan, the farm immediately N of the enclosure (KRK 15).

Two Group VI axes, one a roughout 202mm in length, come from Terregles, 3.5km SE of the enclosure (KRK 7; KRK 22).

Two more possible or certain Group VI axes come from Cowhill, hear the Nith, 4.5km NE of the enclosure (DMF 13; DMF 15). The ?Group VI axe, from Bellfield Farm, Cowhill, measures 330mm in length (DMF 13, Dfs. Mus. 1935/1).

A 'flat axehead', presumably a bronze axe, was found on the shingle of the Cluden Water above Cluden Mill, 2km E of Fourmerkland (TDGNHAS xxii 1938, 134).

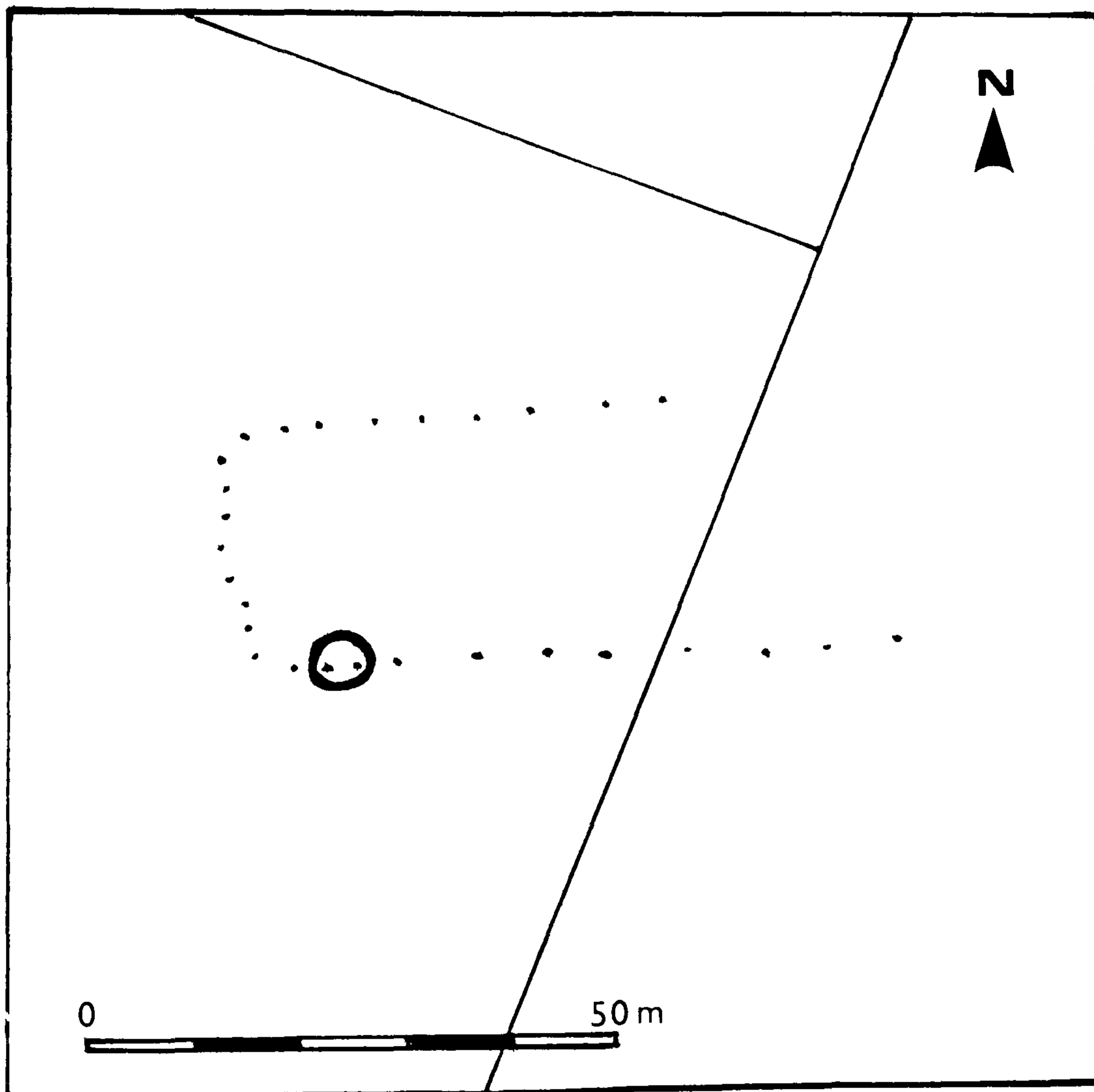
Prehistoric landscape: Aerial photographs show two or three ring ditches immediately NE of 'Cairn View

Cottage' 450m N or the enclosure (NX 98SW 54). The cottage name may suggest the sites to have formerly been upstanding round barrows, or round cairns.

The Fourmerkland site may be regarded as an outlying member of the Holywood complex of sites, 3.5km to the E.

Archaeological interpretations: The site has been listed by Kinnes (1985, 40), together with pitted enclosures in eastern Scotland, as a possible long mortuary enclosure.

Fig. VI:e Fourmerkland, pitted enclosure
(from aerial photographs)



VI:f Dalswinton Mains, NX 98SW 34, 36, 47
cropmark complex, Dumfriesshire
Nithsdale District NX 942 843
Dumfries and Galloway Region 25m OD

Location: On the E side of the R Nith, 3.5km SSE of Auldgirth, to the N of and partially overlain by the farm buildings at Dalswinton.

Type: Possible Class II henge, ring ditch and double pit alignment

Status: Category B; a cropmark site, the henge and part of the pit alignment now overlain by farm buildings.

Outline: A possible Class II henge and a small ring ditch flank a gently curving double line of pits.

Orientation: Henge: E - W
Pit alignments: NW - SE

Dimensions: Henge: c 16m x 12m
Ring ditch: c 6m
Pit alignment: c 50m x 10m

History of site and present condition: Undated CUCAP aerial photographs reveal the features in a field to the N of the farm steading of Dalswinton Mains. The area of the henge and part of the pit alignment is now overlain by new farm sheds.

Description:

Henge: NX 9418 8430. An oval cropmark, composed of two opposed curving ditch lines lies c 6m S of the pit alignment. The S ditch is smaller and slighter than the N one, giving an overall asymmetry to the feature. The N ditch has slightly swollen terminals at the broad, opposing entrances.

Ring ditch: NX 9422 8431. A small circular feature with narrow ditch lies on the NE side of the pit alignment, opposite the henge.

Pit alignment: Two gently curving parallel lines of pits run between the two features above. The NE line consists of c fifteen pits over a distance of c 35m; the SW line consist of c twelve pits over 30m.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 18km from the Nith estuary; 6km from the 10m contour to the S

Distance from water: 70m from Dalswinton Loch to the E and the same distance from a small stream to the W. The R Nith is 1km to the W.

General topography: The complex is on the gravel terraces above the flat alluvial valley bottom of the R Nith and below hill slopes rising steeply to the NE.

Situation: The pit alignment runs diagonally across the summit of a N - S ridge separating Dalswinton Loch from the valley flats of the Nith to the W.

Slope: Gentle slopes to either side of the ridge

Local relief, within 500m: 20m - 50m OD

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soil over fluvio-glacial sands and gravels

Land use: Arable agriculture, and farm buildings

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

West Gallaberry, probable cursus, 2.5km to SE
Holywood 2, ditched and pitted cursus, 4.5km to SSE

Holm cropmark complex and site of stone circle, 4 - 5km to SSE

Monument complex: The possible Class II henge has a narrow ditch and is smaller than other Class II henge sites in southern Scotland, such as Broadlea in Annandale; it is a little smaller than the Class I probable henge of Pict's Knowe, 22-23m in diameter, south of Dumfries. The proximity of the monument to other probable early prehistoric features must give support to its identification as a henge.

The double pit alignment is distinguished from those at Holywood 2 and Fourmerkland by its narrowness, closely spaced pits and curving line. Short lengths of equally narrow double alignments have, however, recently been photographed at Holm, between Holywood and the Nith. Double pit alignments in the Milfield Basin, such as Milfield North, also near a henge, appear to be closely comparable features (Harding 1981); these pits have produced grooved ware associations.

The Dalswinton group adds to the variety of monument types in Lower Nithsdale. Less than 7km to the NW, at Barndenoch, is the cropmark of a possible long barrow (VI:10).

Artefact context: Nithsdale has produced a number of polished stone axes, discussed in Section VI:vi. Two probable Group VI axes come from near Cowhill Farm, 2km to the S of Dalswinton across the Nith; one of these (DMF 13) measured 13" (330mm) in length. In his Notebook (No.2) Corrie quotes a note by Dr. Grierson of Thornhill in

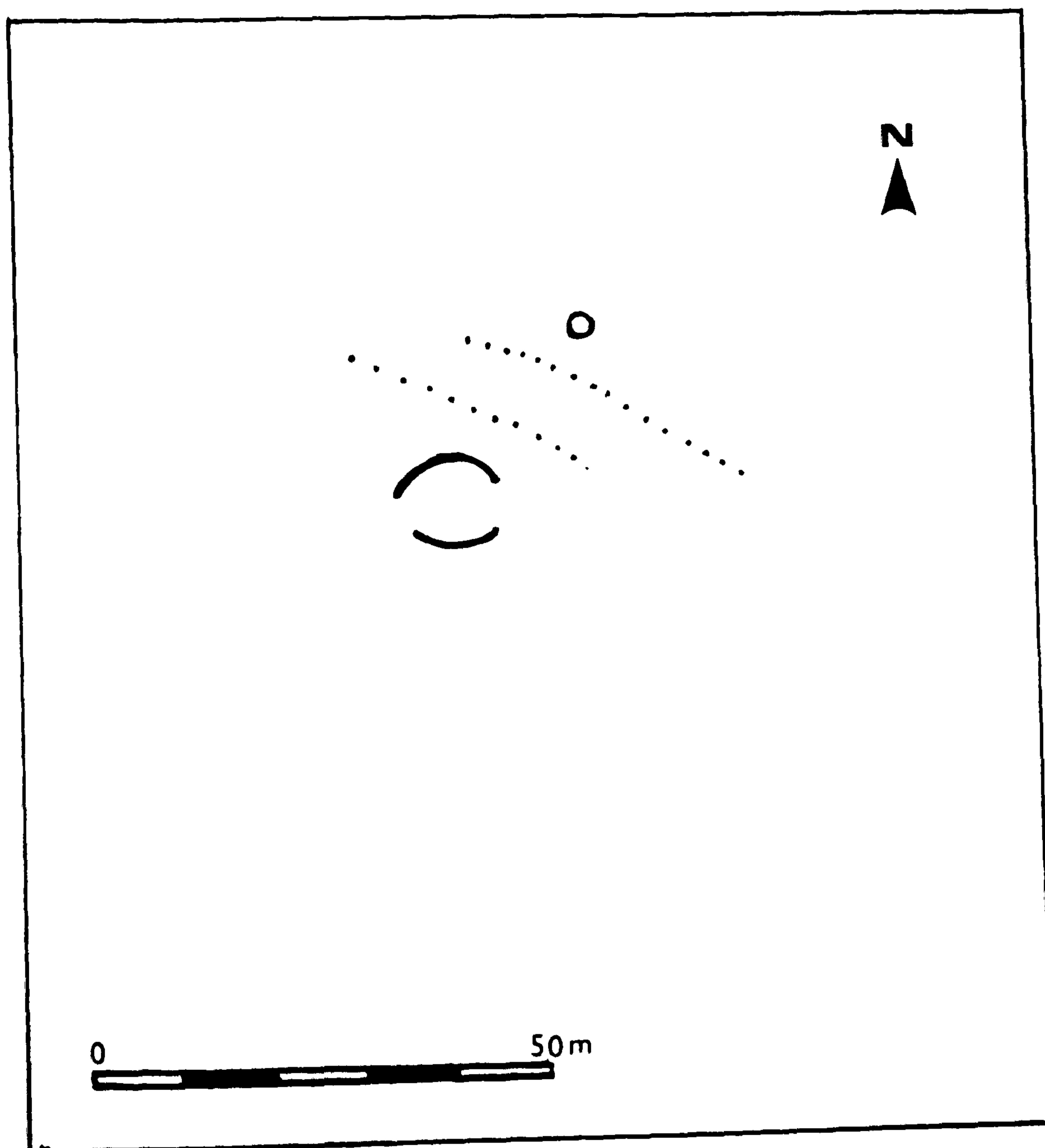
1863 regarding a stone celt found in the Nith by a man from Lag's Tower (NX 880 861), 6.5km to the W of Dalswinton, across the river.

Excavation in 1819 of submerged sites at Friar's Carse Loch, 2.5km W of Dalswinton, recovered an axehammer together with a wooden paddle from the W side of the loch (Munro 1882(c)).

Prehistoric landscape: In addition to the complex of sites at Dalswinton Mains, there is a series of cropmark ring ditches along the crest of the scarp above the flood plain of the R Nith from Bankfoot in the S to Bankhead in the N, 1.0km to 2.2km NW of Dalswinton Mains (NX 98SW 36, 49, 70). Cinerary urns are recorded as having been found on Bankhead in the 18th century (NX 98SW 19).

Cairn sites occur on the lower valley slopes to the east of Dalswinton Loch. A cairn containing a stone coffin with skeleton is said to have been removed from near Braehead farmhouse, 1km E of the pit alignment, in 1810 (Yates 1984, 116 WD 41). A large cairn at Quarrelwood, 1.5km SE of Dalswinton, is said to have been investigated revealing an inner circle of large stones in the early 19th century (ibid, 116, WD 42). Other records of sites in this area are discussed by Yates (1984, 100).

Fig. VI:f Dalswinton cropmark complex, from aerial photographs



VI:g Pict's Knowe henge, Kirkcudbright NX 97SE 13
Nithsdale District NX 9538 7213
Dumfries and Galloway Region 11m OD

Location: 2.5km S of Cargenbridge, 700m SW of Barbush Farm, on the W side of the Crooks Pow

Type: Probable Class I henge

Status: Category B. While the site displays the classic henge format of outer bank and broad inner ditch, the location raises some doubts, discussed under Monument Context, below. Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Penannular ring ditch with outer bank

Entrance orientation: E

Dimensions:

Diameter, within ditch:	22m x 23m
overall:	53m
Ditch breadth:	7 - 11m
depth:	1.3m
Bank, max. breadth:	9m
height:	1.5m
Causeway breadth:	6m

History of site and present condition: The broad flat valley of the Crooks Pow was reported by Coles to have been carse land, flooded by high tides, before it was drained in the 19th century (Coles 1893, 123). In 1879 a visit by the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society found the 'camp still in fine preservation, as when Mabie Moss was reclaimed, near the centre of which it is situated, the camp was fenced off so as to secure it intact' (TDGNHAS 2 1879, 29). Nonetheless, in 1893 Coles reported that 'havoc' was being caused by cattle trampling and by the dumping of weeds on the site; a crab apple tree was growing on the mound (Coles 1893).

In 1912 the RCAHMS found that rabbit burrowing had broken up the centre of the site without revealing any trace of occupation (1914, 266, no.461), and in 1992 Barclay and Fojut also comment on cattle trampling, tree rooting and rabbit burrowing as causes of damage. A visit to the site in April 1991 found the sandy interior to be extensively burrowed, and although peaty turf covering the bank gave it some protection, cattle had broken this up in some considerable areas. Water lay in the ditch, and a crab apple tree and two hawthorns grew on the site.

Description: A plan and description of the site are published by Barclay and Fojut (1992). It consists of a low dome of sandy soil, much burrowed by rabbits, surrounded by a broad flat-bottomed ditch with rounded

terminals to either side of the single causeway. A low spread bank on the outer lip of the ditch also displays rounded terminals at the entrance, although raised ground continues across the gap. This effect may simply be the result of 'platforming' the site through later agricultural activity, respecting its edges.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 6km from the present Nith estuary, but situated on the 10m contour, likely to have marked the limit of transgression seas.

Distance from water: 200m from the Crooks Pow to the NE; 60m from marshy ground beside the stream

General topography: The flat valley of the Crooks Pow lies between the hills of Mabie Forest to the SW and a low ridge to the NE, beyond which is the valley of the Cargen Pow. At the head of the Crooks Pow valley Mabie Moss is still bogland.

Situation: The site occupies a low sandy ridge, presumably a dry beach at the time of maximum transgression when the sea reached high up the inlet of the Crooks Pow beyond Pict's Knowe (Jardine 1980, fig.10).

Slope: Nearly level

Local relief, within 500m: 10 - 50m OD

Outlook: Distant: 17% to SE and NNW
Intermediate: 83%
Restricted: -

Prominence: Low

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Non calcareous gleys over estuarine clays

Land use: Grazing

Vegetation: Improved pasture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Curriestanes, cursus related enclosure, 3km to N
Easthills, stone circle, 3.8km to W
Greystone, stone circle (site of), 5km to NNE

Monument context: Although in plan the site appears to be a classic Class I henge, its location in the valley bottom must raise some questions as to its date and status. Maximum transgression seas must have flooded the valley well above Pict's Knowe to Mabie Moss. Regression

chronology varies in such locations, and has not been assessed here (Jardine 1980). It is possible that, as in Lochar Moss, gravel bars built up early, cutting off the inlet from the sea, but even so, the valley bottom must have consisted of open water before the development of fen and bog. Coles' comment (History of site, above) on tidal flooding, suggests open access to the sea, setting the site on sea margins in the later third millennium. While henges are regularly sited in low, waterside positions, there is no other example of such directly marine siting. Ballymeanoch, Argyll, in the flat Kilmartin valley, sits at 20m OD on a terrace above the probable flooding limits of the Kilmartin Burn.

Later prehistoric settlement, on the other hand, characteristically occupies flooded sites, producing crannogs, surrounded either by water, or by marsh. The outer bank at Pict's Knowe could have been contrived for such a settlement as a flood protection device. Similar sized ring ditches, albeit with narrower ditches, occur commonly as cropmarks in Nithsdale, and some of these appear to be settlements. For example, a 24m diameter ditch at Thornhill (NX 8764 9478), shows an internal palisade, suggesting it to be a homestead (NX 89SE 2).

On the other hand there is a set of small Class I henges in Scotland, as demonstrated by excavation at Moncrieffe, near Perth, where the ditch was only 9 - 10m in internal diameter (Stewart 1985). A set of Class I henges in Rosshire includes three circular sites with internal diameters of 9.8m to 14.6m, Contin, Conanbridge and Culbokie, while an oval site at Muir of Ord is close to the Pict's Knowe diameter at 25.6m x 19.5m (Woodham 1953). Nearer to Dumfries is a pennanular ditched site with outer bank on Finnart Hill, Ayrshire at NX 053 742, 17.3m in internal diameter. In the 19th century a 'sepulchral urn' was found in the slightly domed interior of this site (RCAHMS 1981(b), 15, no.95). Such sites may provide a context for the smaller Class I henge, while the location near the Dumfries monument complex, paralleled at Ballymeanoch (RCAHMS 1988, 52, no.22) by proximity to the Kilmartin valley cairns and stone circles, may also support the interpretation of Pict's Knowe as a henge.

Artefact context: Several axes are recorded from the Dumfries area (see VI:vii). A 'celt' 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (121mm) in length was found in Mabie Moss in the late 19th century (TDGNHAS 1878, 11; 1887, 86). An axe from Goldilea, 2.5km W of the site, exhibited in 1894 (TDGNHAS 1895, 10) was presumably a different implement.

A log boat and other 'lacustrine relics' are said to have been found near the site (Coles 1893, 122).

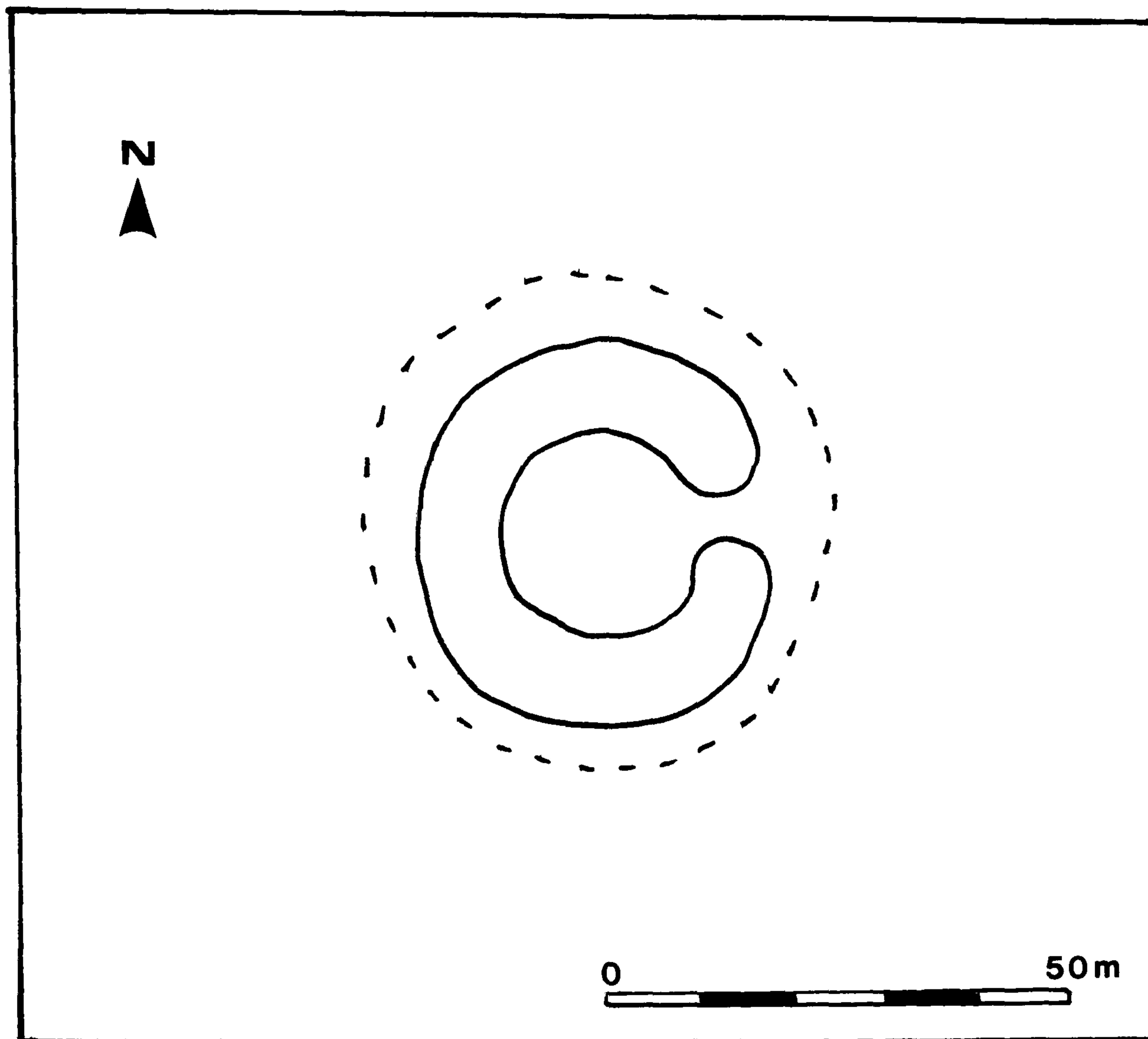
Prehistoric landscape: St. Quieran's Well, c 220m ENE of Pict's Knowe, has been used as a 'cloutie well', left with offerings of pieces of cloth and coins, presumably given associated healing functions (Barclay and Fojut 1990).

The monument cluster to the north is discussed in Section VI:xi).

A large cairn at Goldilea, 2km NW of the site, is at 20m OD on the first rise in ground level at the head of the valley (Yates 1984, 129, SK 8).

Archaeological interpretations: The site, regarded as 'an ancient British camp' in the 19th century (TDGNHAS 2 1879, 29), was accurately described by Coles (1893) and in the Stewartry Inventory (1914, 266, no.461) as having a bank outside its broad ditch. Nonetheless, it was assumed to be a fortified site, and the RCAHMS suggested that the broad entrance causeway might have been widened by a modern addition of material from the rampart. The site was Scheduled as a prehistoric fort in 1928, and retained this description, despite a MS suggestion by the OS that it might be a henge, until its alternative status was recognised by Barclay and Fojut (1992). These authors consider the site to be strikingly similar to other henges known in Scotland, particularly the Class I 'mini-henges' recognised in northern Scotland by Woodham (1953) at Cononbridge, Contin and Culbokie (p.70-1).

Fig. VI:g Pict's Knowe henge
(after Barclay and Fojut 1992)



VI:h The Twelve Apostles, stone circle NX 97NW 19
 Dumfriesshire NX 9470 7940
 Nithsdale District 20m OD
 Dumfries and Galloway Region

Location: 350m NW of Newbridge on the N side of Dumfries,
250m N of the Cluden Water

Type: Stone circle

Status: Category A; Scheduled Ancient Monument

Outline: Upright and prostrate boulders describe an oval,
perhaps a Type I egg (Thom 1967).

Orientation: NNE - SSW

Dimensions: c 88m

History of site: Of the twelve stones reported to be present in 1791 (Stat Acct 1, 18), eleven remained in 1845, one having been removed many years earlier (NSA IV, 559). A local resident confirmed the removal of a stone to F.R. Coles (1894(b)). The 1850 1st ed 6-inch OS map showed twelve stones, but Coles attributed this, after consultation with the OS, to the accidental reproduction of a blue spot on the plan. Only four of the boulders are still upright, and while it may be that some were never intended to stand erect, the uneven spacing of the stones suggests that some have been removed and others, perhaps, moved. The easternmost stone consist of one large boulder with three smaller ones beside it, and it may either have been broken or had others piled beside it. It is beside the largest gap between the stones, to its S side, 40m wide.

A hedge crosses the NW segment of the ring, leaving three stones on its N side.

Description: This large ring, consisting of big boulders of granite and porphyry, appears to have suffered considerable damage, stones lying prostrate and broken, besides probably at least one being missing. Descriptions of the geometry of the layout are therefore tenuous, and it may best be described simply as an oval, aligned slightly E of N and W of S. The tallest vertical stone is on the NE, 2m in height. A prostrate boulder on the SW is 3.2m in length.

LOCATION

Distance from sea: 13km from the present Nith estuary;
2km from the 10m contour to the ESE

Distance from water: 100m from a stream to the E; 250m
from the Cluden Water to the S

General topography: The Rivers Cluden and Nith join in a low basin of fluvio-glacial gravel ridges surrounded by hills.

Situation: The site is on the summit of a gravel ridge, but is set down into a hollow on the ridge.

Local relief, within 500m: 15m - 30m OD

Outlook: Possibly 100% distant, but impeded by trees

Prominence: Low

Solid geology: Permian New Red Sandstone

Soils: Brown Forest Soil over fluvio-glacial sands and gravels

Land use: Arable agriculture

CONTEXT

Nearest neolithic neighbours:

Hollywood 1, lesser cursus, 250m to E

Hollywood 2, lesser cursus, 600m to NE

Holm cropmark complex and elongated stone circle, 1.5km to E

Monument context: The Twelve Apostles, just across a valley from the Hollywood cursus enclosures, is very much part of the Dumfries complex of monuments, discussed in the Gazetteer (VI:ix). This includes a destroyed stone circle at Holm, another across the Nith at Greystone, 4km to the SE, and one at Easthill, 6km to the SW.

This is the largest circle in the study area, and may be grouped with the large open rings of Cumbria, such as Long Meg and her Daughters, which Burl (1976) regards as being early in date. These circles are all close to water, sharing this characteristic with henges. Burl (p.102-3) compares the overall size of the henge at Broadlea in Annandale to the Twelve Apostles, but internally the henge is a much smaller site, only 40-45m in internal diameter. Nonetheless, the stone circle has been sited in a hollow with a slightly raised rim around it, reminiscent of the bank at henges, and suitable for spectators to occupy when viewing ceremonies inside the ring.

Given the uncertainties of the original layout, the egg-shape outline projected by Thom and Thom (1980, 289) cannot be accepted. The projected line leaves three stones 2-3m outside the egg, including an erect stone on the N side of the hedge. The outline certainly suggests a generally oval form, aligned slightly E of N and W of S. It seems possible that, as suggested at Wildshaw Burn (III:j) and Whitcastles (Table V:1:1), some of the Twelve Apostle stones were never erected. The largest stone indicates a SW orientation, as seen at other Dumfriesshire circles,

such as the Loupin Stanes. Another important alignment, however, falls between this SW line and the N - S axis of the ring; the stone circle at Easthills lies 204° SSW of the Twelve Apostles, continuing the same alignment as Hollywood 2 and West Gallaberry cursus enclosures. The Twelve Apostles may be incorporated into this sequence of sites.

Artefact context: See Hollywood 1 cursus

Prehistoric landscape: See Hollywood 1 cursus

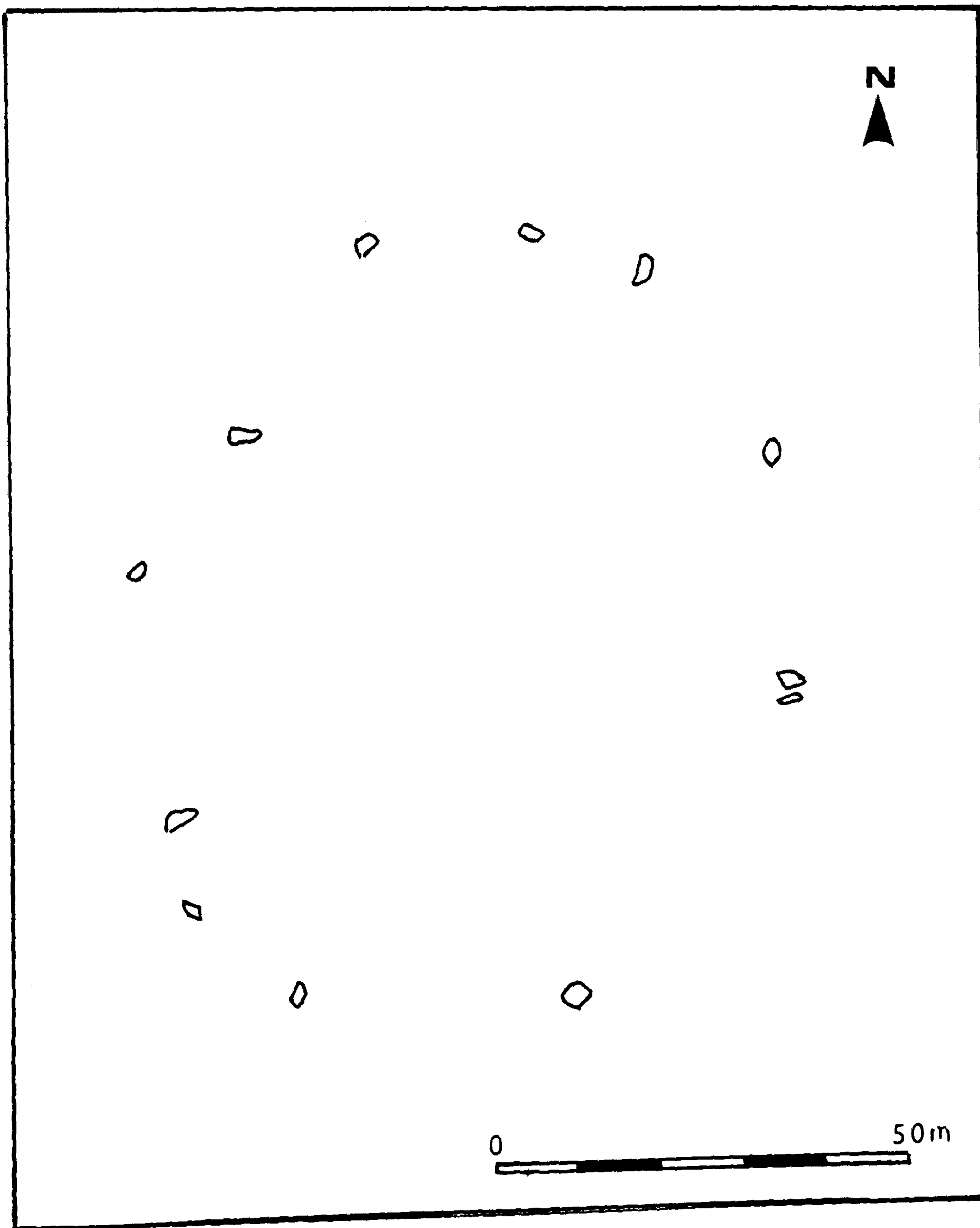
Early tradition: The Statistical Account (I, 18) regarded the stones as a Druidical temple placed at the termination of the Sacred grove, or oak forest, which stretched from here for eight miles to the NW. The trees gave the parish of Hollywood its name when the early church took over its sacred character. The name, the Twelve Apostles, is presumably an aspect of this transference of role.

Archaeological interpretations: Sir James Simpson's interpretation of the easternmost group of stones as a 'cromlech' (1866) is noted in the list of Category D sites (D:20).

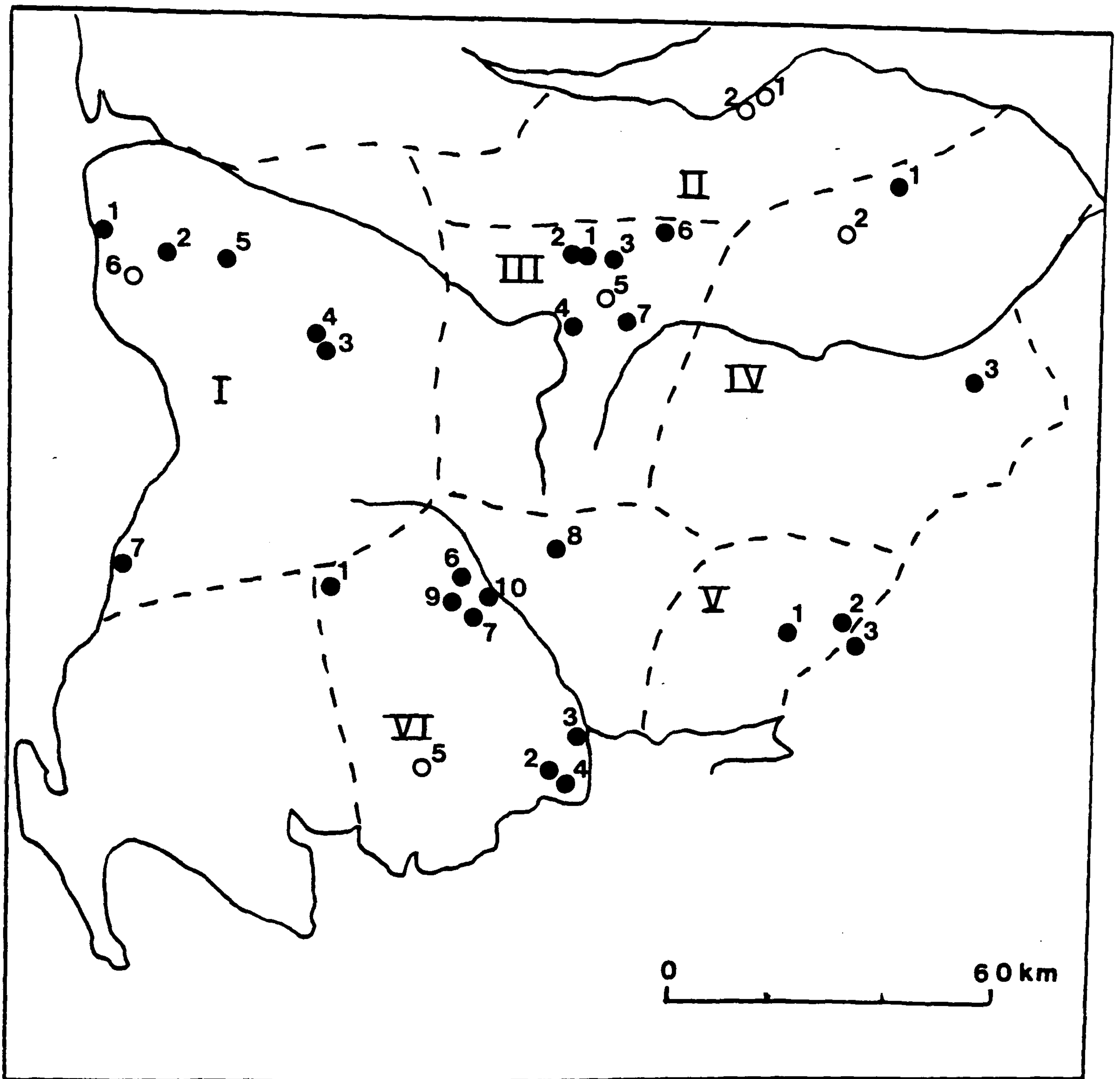
Thom originally listed this site as a Type B flattened circle (1967), but amended the interpretation to see it as a Type 1 egg, based on right-angled triangles (Thom and Thom 1980, 289).

Burl (1976) groups the site with the open rings of Cumbria, and suggests (1987, 125) that the elongated shape would have incorporated an astronomical alignment.

Fig. VI:h The Twelve Apostles stone circle, from
Thom and Thom 1980



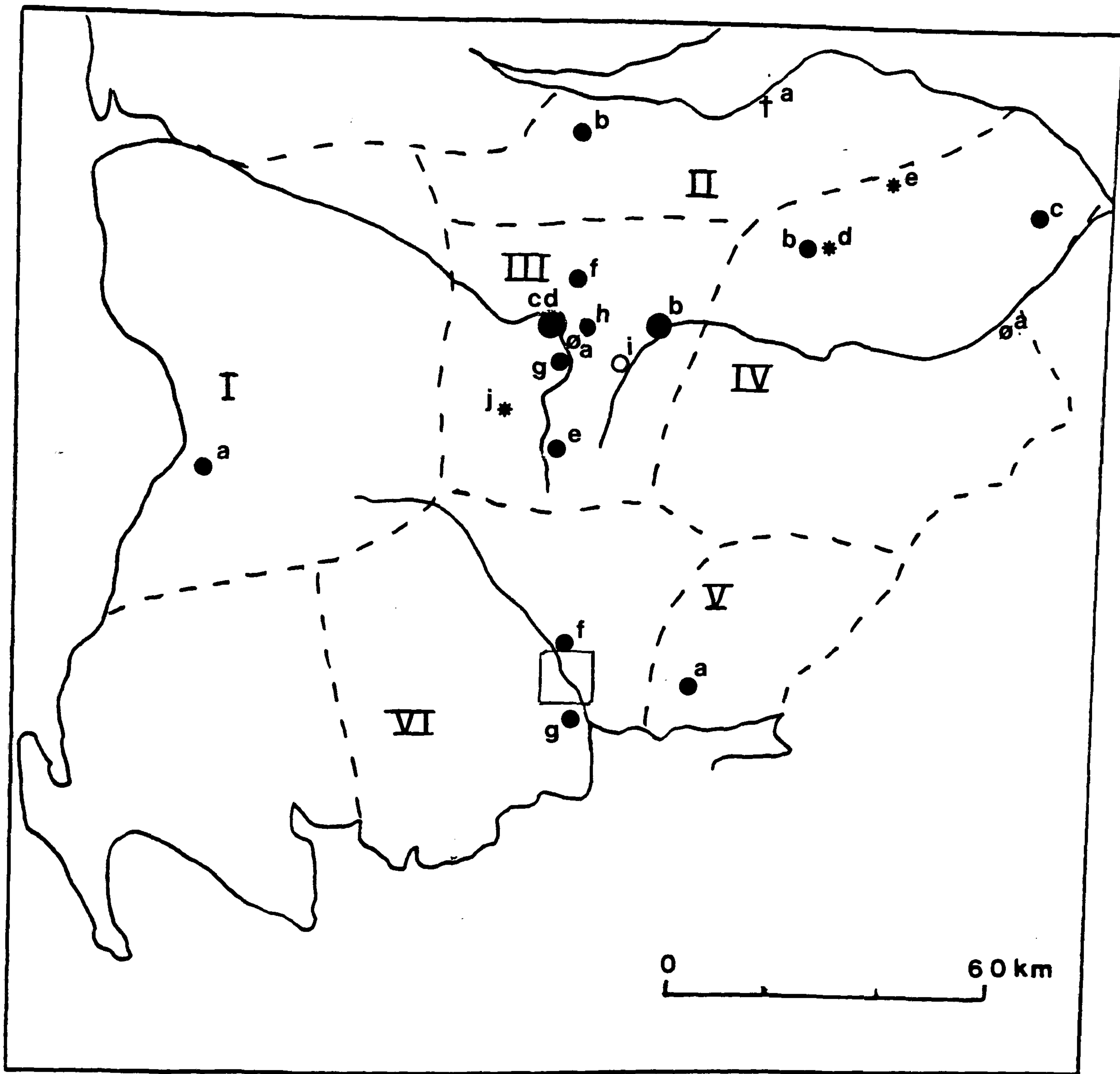
Map 1 Funerary Monuments in the South of Scotland



- Category A and B sites
- Category C sites

Numbers refer to Catalogue Site Numbers, by Region

Map 2 Enclosures in the South of Scotland



- Enclosure
 - Henge
 - Possible henge
 - * Stone circle
 - ⊙ Interrupted ditch enclosure
 - † Cursus
- See Fig VI:iii