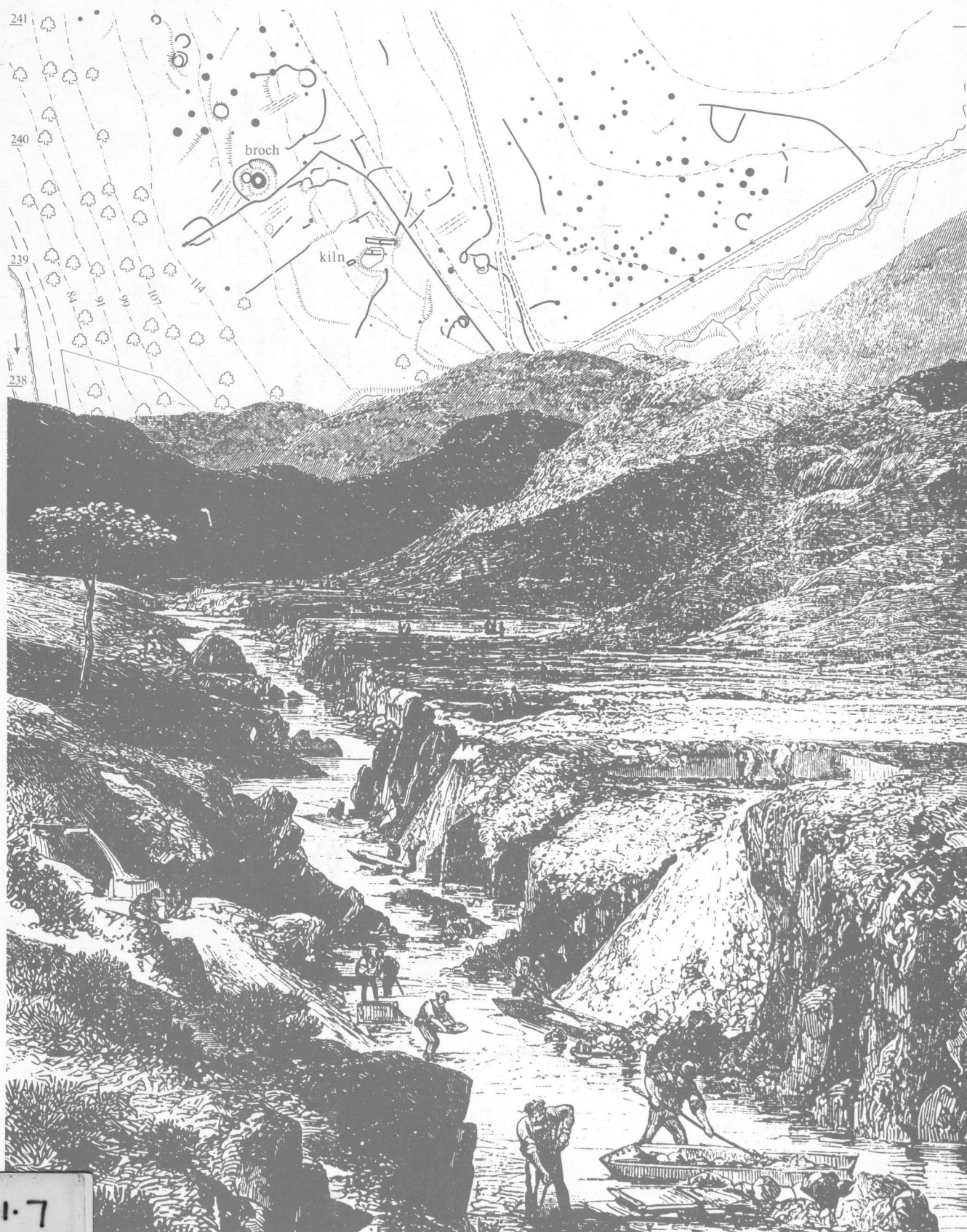




Royal
Commission on the
Ancient and
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Monuments of
Scotland

STRATH OF KILDONAN
An Archaeological Survey



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The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

AREAS OF AFFORESTABLE LAND SURVEY



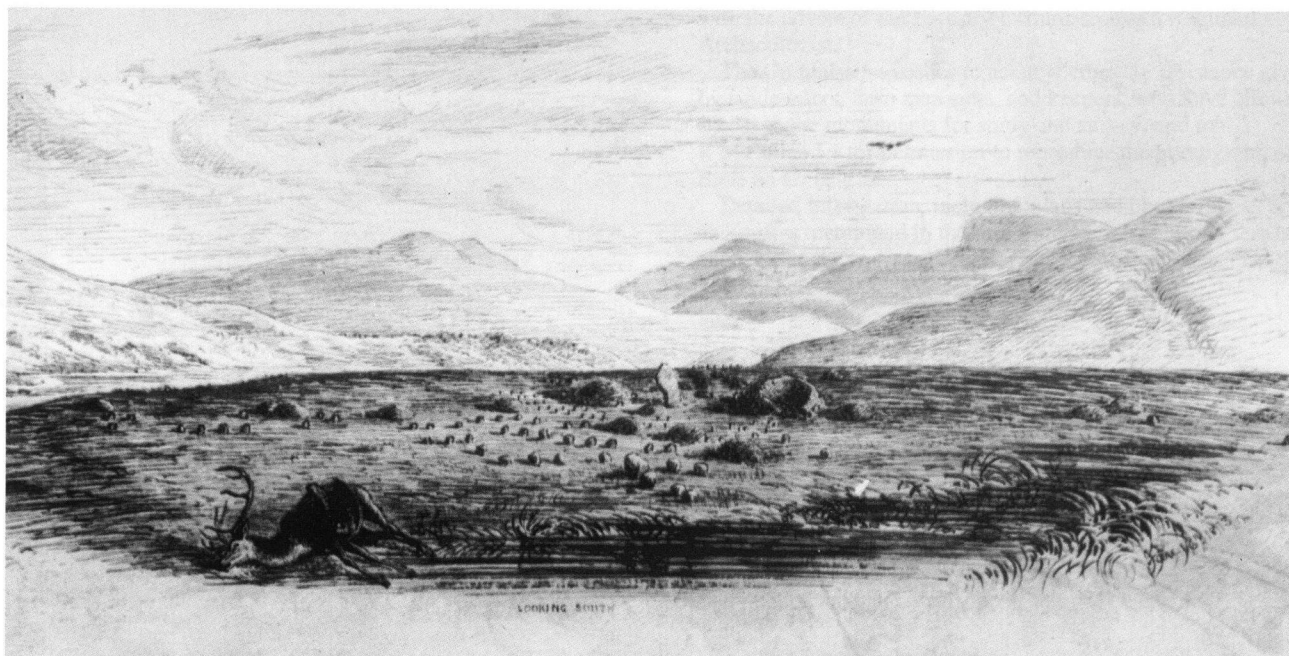
Map showing past and current areas of work of ALS

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STRATH OF KILDONAN

An Archaeological Survey



Drawing by the Rev. Dr Joass of the standing stone and stone rows at Learable



RCAHMS
NMRS

Afforestation Land Survey
RCAHMS

STRATH OF KILDONAN SUTHERLAND DISTRICT HIGHLAND REGION

PREFACE

This report was written by Mr D C Cowley with contributions by Dr P J Dixon and Dr J N G Ritchie, and was edited by Mr J B Stevenson and Mr G S Maxwell. It was based on fieldwork carried out by Messrs D C Cowley, P J Dixon, S P Halliday and J N G Ritchie, with survey and drawing work by Miss G Brown, Miss H L Graham, Mrs J Green, Messrs A J Leith, K H J MacLeod, I G Parker, R Shaw, and Miss A R Wardell. The layout of this publication was prepared by Mr J N Stevenson and Miss E Gilfeather.

The Afforestation Land Survey was established in 1989 to carry out archaeological survey in areas where there is likely to be new planting, and it works on the basis of a rolling programme which has been the subject of consultation and agreement each year between RCAHMS and Historic Scotland, with the advice of the Forestry Commission and Regional Archaeologists.

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the assistance given by landowners, farm managers, and keepers, who have allowed access to the monuments for study and survey, and to R M Callender for permission to reproduce the photograph of Baile an Ór (Fig.18).

Detailed information, including plans and photographs, about sites mentioned in the text and listed in the Gazetteer is available in the National Monuments Record of Scotland at the address below:

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical
Monuments of Scotland
John Sinclair House
16 Bernard Terrace
EDINBURGH EH8 9NX (031-662 1456)

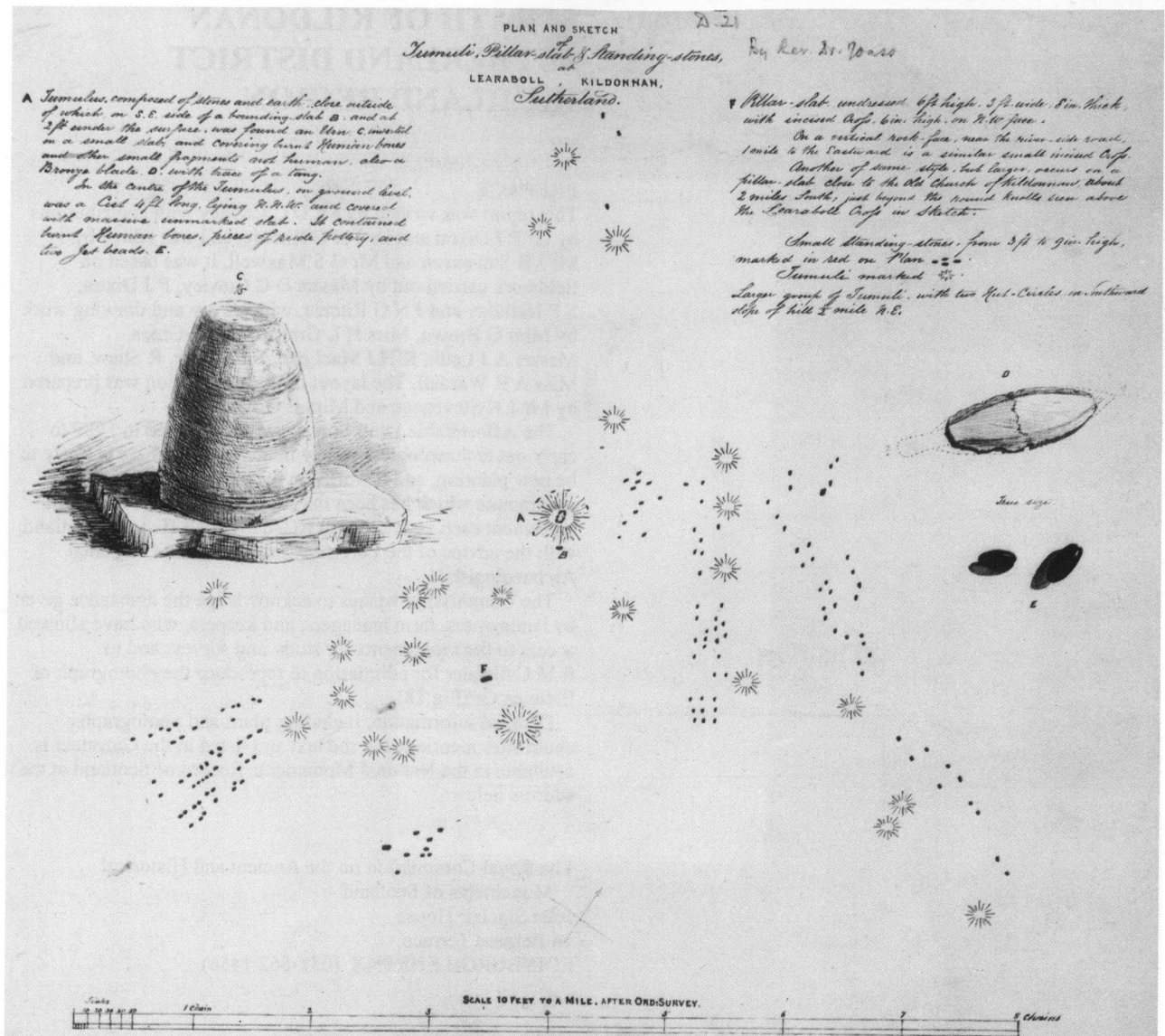


Fig.1 Learable, sketch and plan of the excavation of the prehistoric monuments by the Rev. Dr Joass (1873)

INTRODUCTION

The Survey Area

An area of some 95 square kilometres of the Strath of Kildonan, forming a transect across the River Helmsdale and including the catchment of the Suisgill Burn in the east and the lower and middle reaches of the Abhainn na Frithe in the west, was surveyed between March and July 1991 (Fig.2).

The area is dominated by the broad valleys of the Abhainn na Frithe and the River Helmsdale, which are both fed by a series of burns cutting through open, rolling moorland, bounded by a series of hills rising relatively steeply to 300m and higher. The solid geology is dominated by granulites of the Moine Series (Read 1931); along the water-courses, however, there are narrow, discontinuous bands of intensively reworked alluvium and gravels, while much of the higher ground is covered by extensive deposits of peat.

Although the majority of the prehistoric and later monuments survive on the gently-rolling valley sides, there is a thin scatter of sites on the haughlands, and these may represent a fragment of a once extensive pattern of valley-floor settlement. At Upper Suisgill, excavations (Barclay 1987) revealed evidence of settlement activity, extending over much of the 1st millennium BC, which had been buried under considerable deposits of hillwash, and the *Statistical Account* records problems of flooding associated with more recent use of the haughlands. Hillwash has evidently been a major factor in the development of the Kildonan landscape and, although its effects will have been felt on the higher ground, destroying a number of hut-circles and burnt mounds, its principal consequences will have been concentrated in the valley floors, where it is possible that alluvial and colluvial deposits mask much of the early settlement remains.

Method of Survey

Building on the work of the Royal Commission, carried out by A O Curle in 1909 (RCAHMS 1911), the field staff of the Ordnance Survey established an extensive archaeological record for Kildonan during their remapping of the area in the late 1970s and early 1980s. The OS written record showed a bias towards the prehistoric material, but much of the medieval and later settlement had previously been depicted on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map (1879).

At the outset of the present survey there was already, therefore, a relatively large number of sites known in the area, and fieldwork was directed towards visiting them and prospecting for unrecorded sites in the intervening gaps. All the surviving structures were recorded on a Husky Hunter portable computer, and the database created in this way (available in the NMRS) forms the primary survey-archive from which the written descriptions of sites or landscapes have been produced. Most mapping involved established techniques, including offsets and sight-lines, but the application of EDM survey techniques has allowed a number of large areas to be surveyed, many of them (e.g. Learable, Fig.21), containing extensive areas of cultivation remains.

An appreciation of the wider patterns of settlement and land-use in the strath has been gained by an examination of the NMRS record card holdings for an area defined by the catchment of the River Helmsdale, and this information, although at a lower level of intensity of coverage than that within the field-survey area, has been used as the basis for the distribution maps.

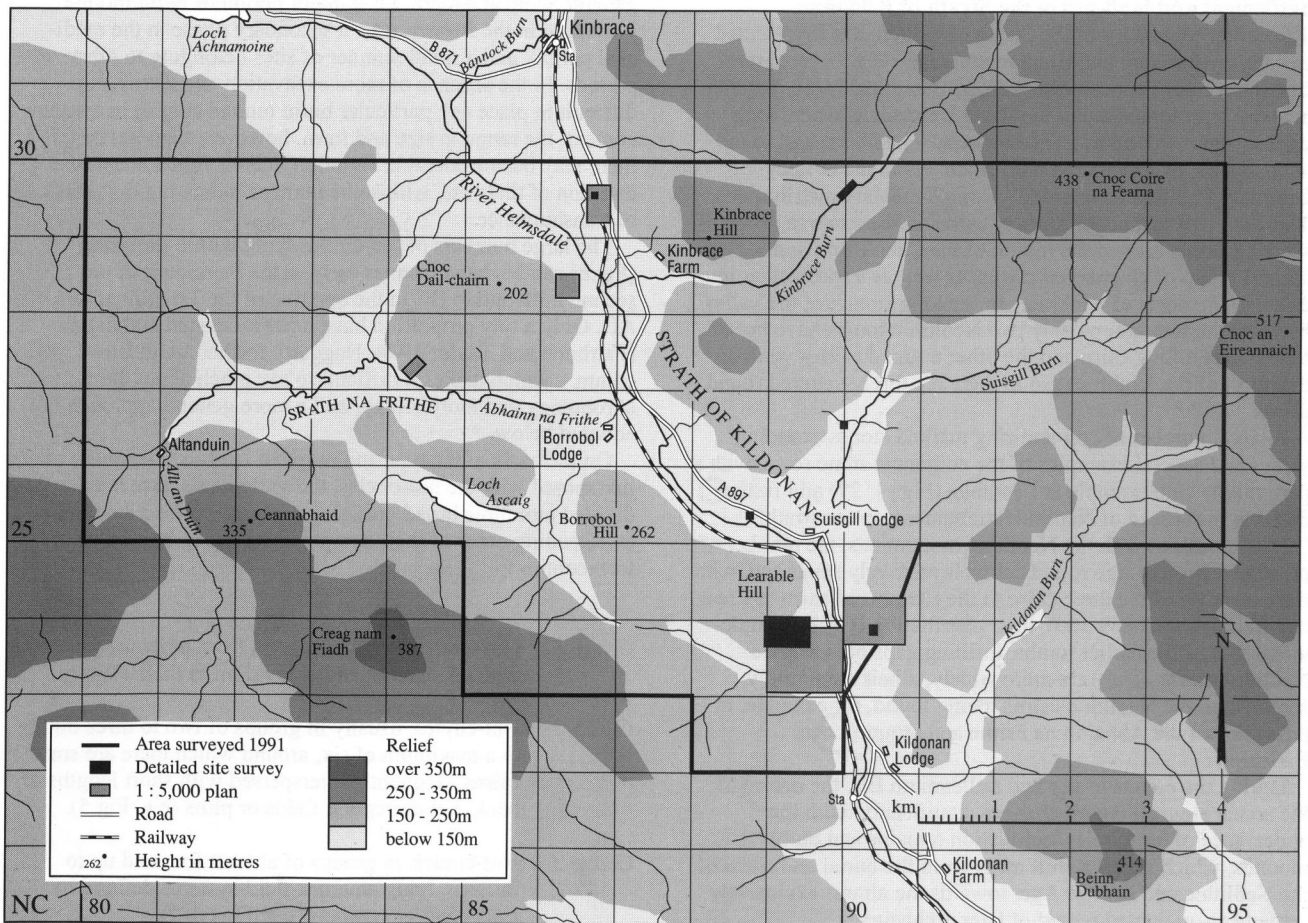


Fig.2 Map of the survey area

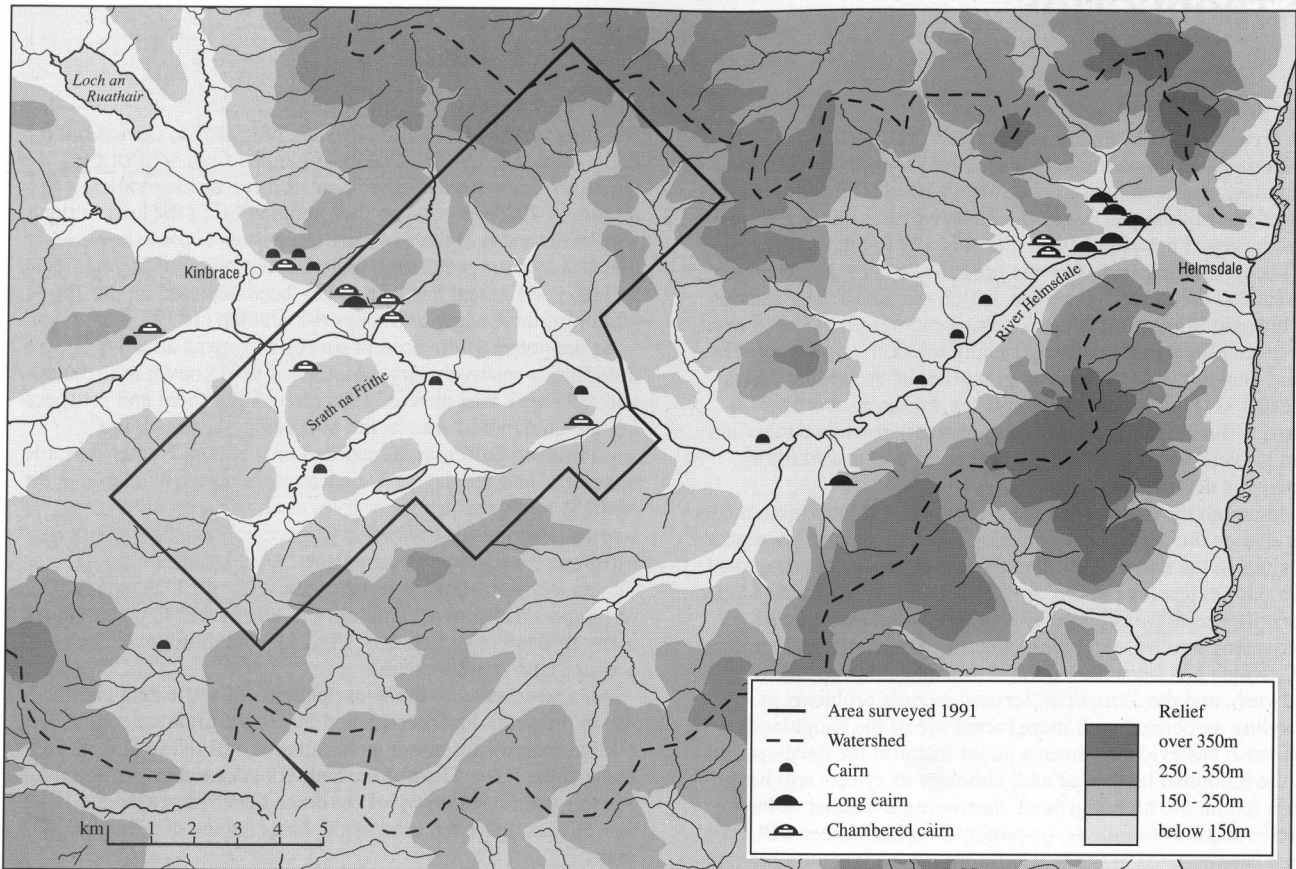


Fig.3 Distribution map of Neolithic and Bronze Age cairns

Settlement and land-use in the Strath of Kildonan

The earlier prehistory of the Strath of Kildonan is represented entirely by funerary and ritual monuments (Fig.3). Neolithic cairns have not yet been discovered in Strath na Frithe, but they are well represented along the River Helmsdale, where long cairns (often with no evidence for stone chambers) and round, heel-shaped, or oval cairns with chambers in the Orkney-Cromarty tradition have broadly complementary distributions. There are two distinct clusters of cairns in the strath: a group of six long cairns around the mouth of the Caen Burn, and a second group of chambered cairns, as well as a spectacular long cairn, to the north of Kinbrace. In the long stretch of the valley between the two groups only two Neolithic tombs have been noted - one a long cairn and the other a round cairn - while to the north of the Kinbrace group there are three scattered round cairns.

A small number of cup-and-ring marked stones, standing stones and several examples of the enigmatic stone rows, with a particularly fine example at Learable, (Figs 1, 21) add further detail to the spread of Neolithic monuments in the strath.

In comparison with the Neolithic monuments, the number of presumed Bronze Age round cairns is relatively small and, with the exception of the three close to the chambered cairn at Creag nan Caorach (NC 869 309), their distribution (Fig.3) complements that of the earlier tombs, infilling gaps between the Neolithic cairns. They are more widely, albeit more thinly, spread than the Neolithic cairns, being found, for example, in the valley of the Abhainn na Frithe and around Loch Badenloch.

During the course of the 2nd millennium BC, the nature of the archaeological record changes significantly with the appearance of hut-circles, cultivation remains and burnt mounds, which signal a shift away from the burial and ritual of the Neolithic and Bronze Age, towards the almost exclusively settlement-orientated record of later prehistory.

The dating of the excavated burnt mounds in the strath (Barber 1990, 102) suggests that Kildonan conforms to the

general Scottish pattern, i.e. a major period of burnt mound formation in the Bronze Age, a secondary phase in the medieval period, and a small number of sites belonging to other periods. In the absence of more excavation and dating, it is difficult to place any particular burnt mound (Fig.4) in a secure context; the range in size and form, however, suggests that there may be considerable variation in their function and the duration of their use, with some perhaps indicating the practice of transhumance.

The large numbers of hut-circles lying within the strath (Fig.8) can be dated from as early as the beginning of the second millennium BC to the opening of the 1st millennium AD. Only a tiny proportion have been excavated and dated (Fairhurst and Taylor 1974; Haggarty forthcoming; Lowe, pers. comm.), which makes it difficult to say much about their chronology and morphology, and a more general approach is adopted below.

On the basis of the type and range of land-use remains juxtaposed with the hut-circles, the settlements have been divided into three broad groupings, which are described below in ascending order of their complexity (see Fig.8 and Cowley forthcoming):

- Group 1* Hut-circles, usually isolated from other monuments, with no signs of any cultivation in their vicinity.
- Group 2* Hut-circles, usually in groups of two to three but up to a maximum of six, around which there are small cairns, frequently interspersed with short lengths of bank, but no regular fields or plots (e.g. Fig.5).
- Group 3* Hut-circles, in groups of at least four and up to thirteen, lying amongst field-systems defined by banks and/or lynchets (e.g. Figs 6, 7).

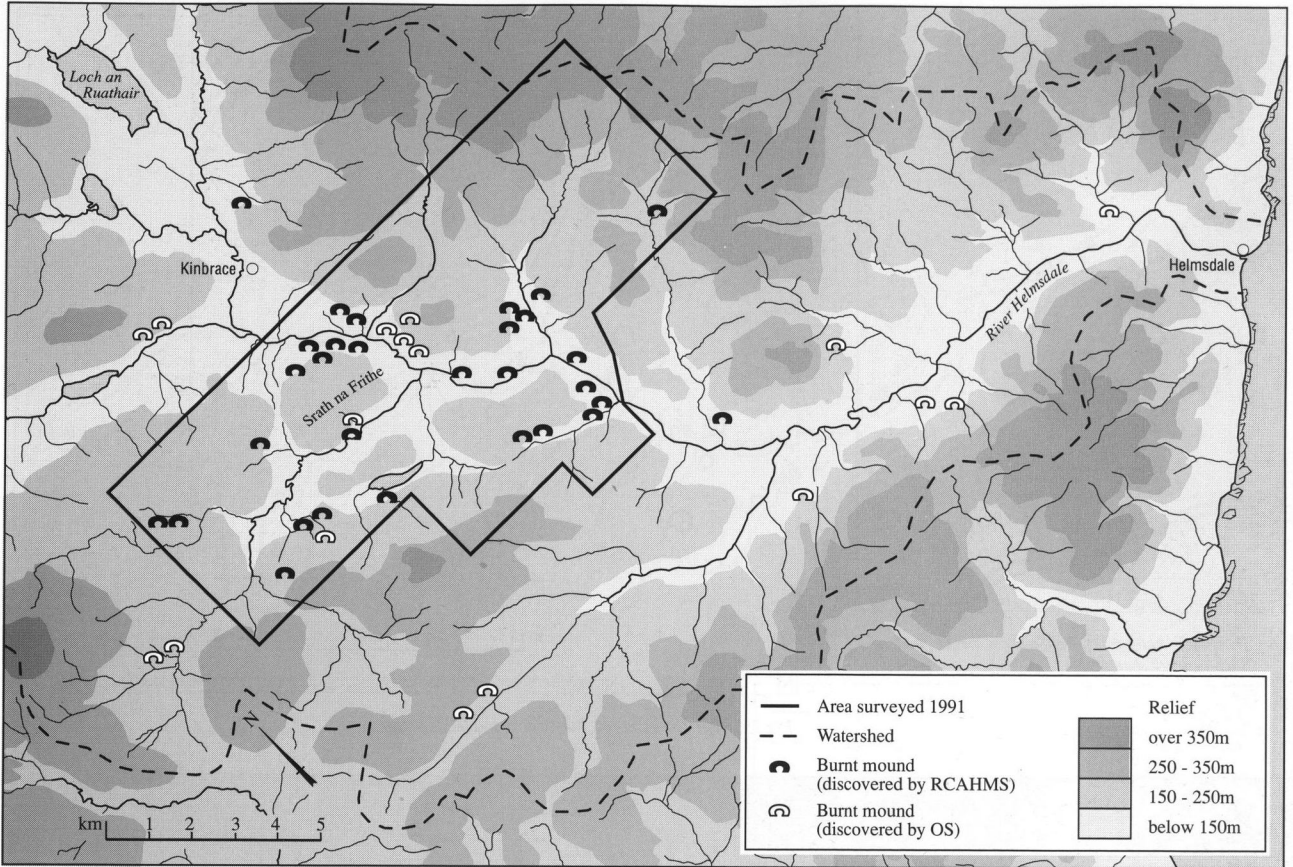


Fig.4 Distribution map of burnt mounds

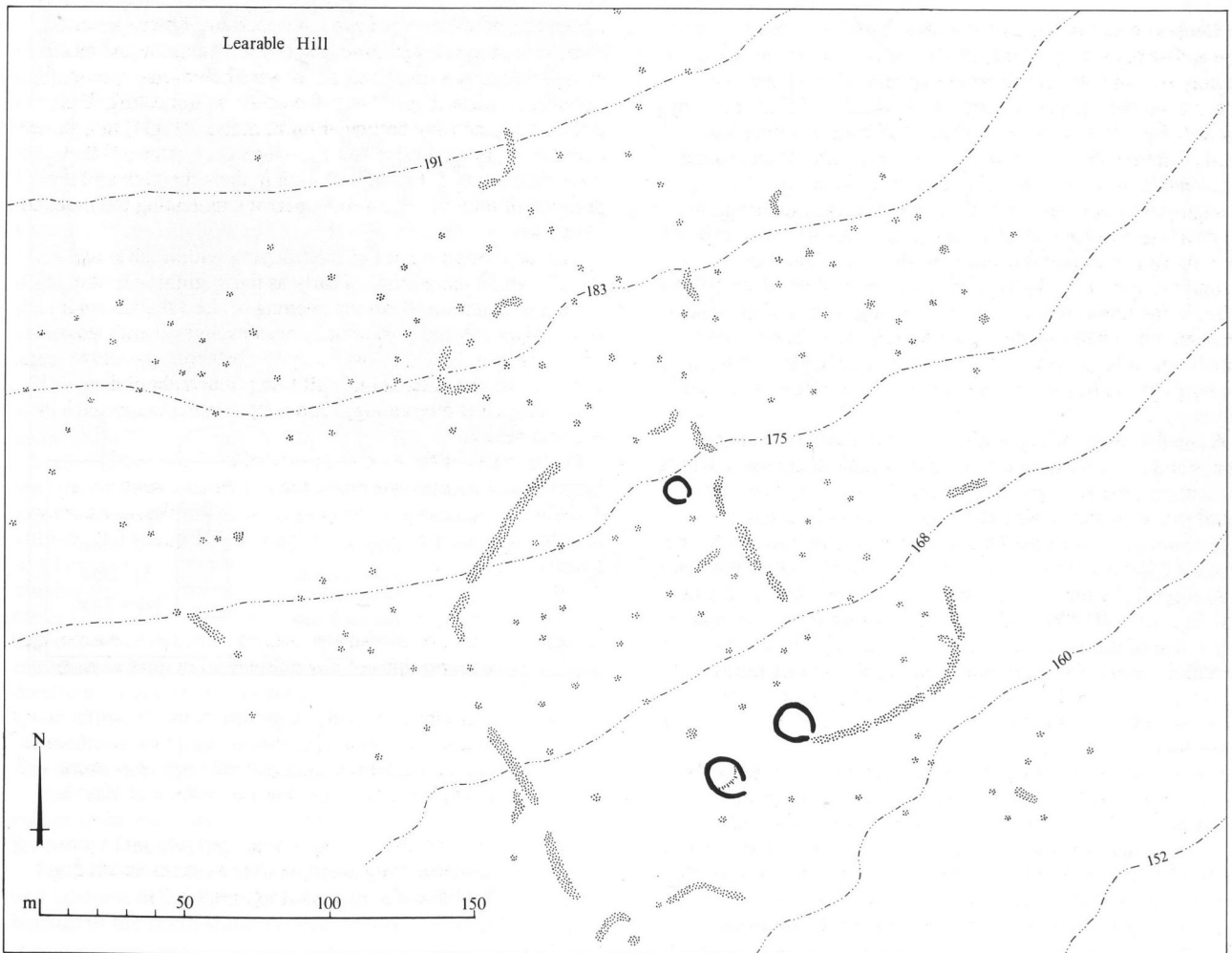


Fig.5 Learable Hill, hut-circles and small cairns

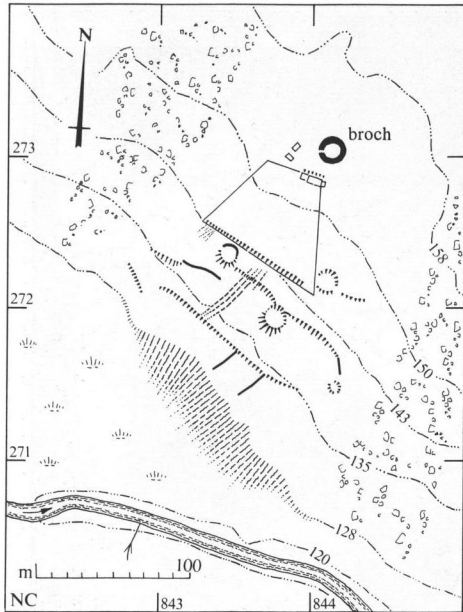


Fig. 6 Feranach, hut-circles, field-system, broch, and 19th-century sheep farm

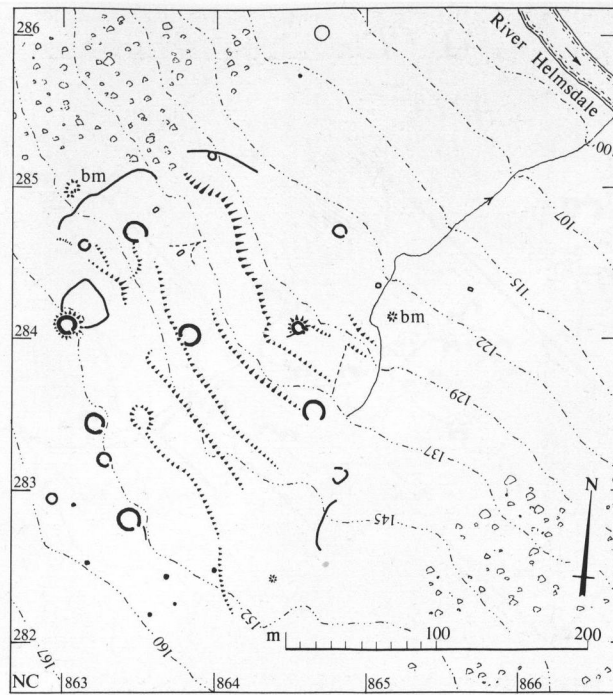


Fig. 7 Cnoc Dail-Chairn, hut-circles and field-system

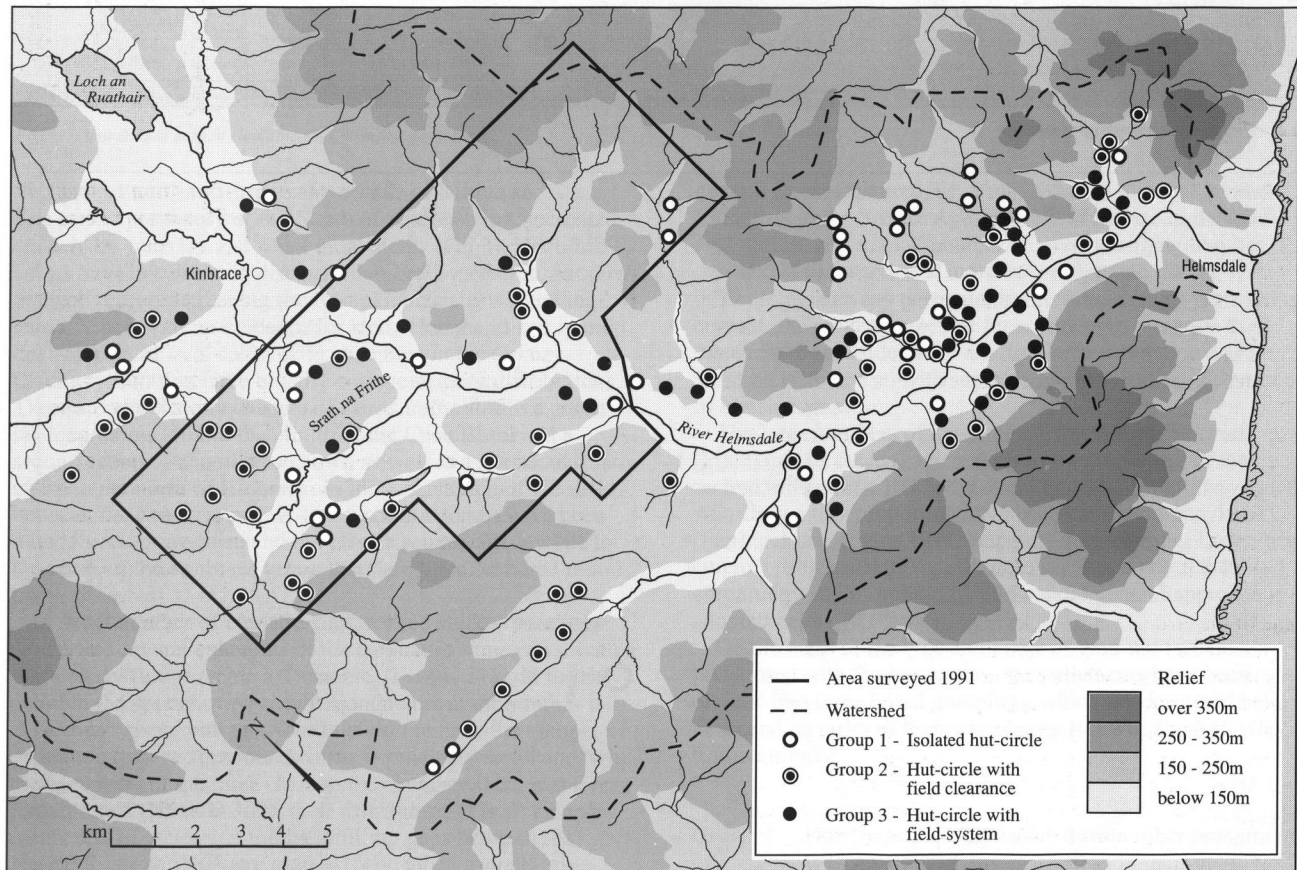


Fig. 8 Distribution map of hut-circles

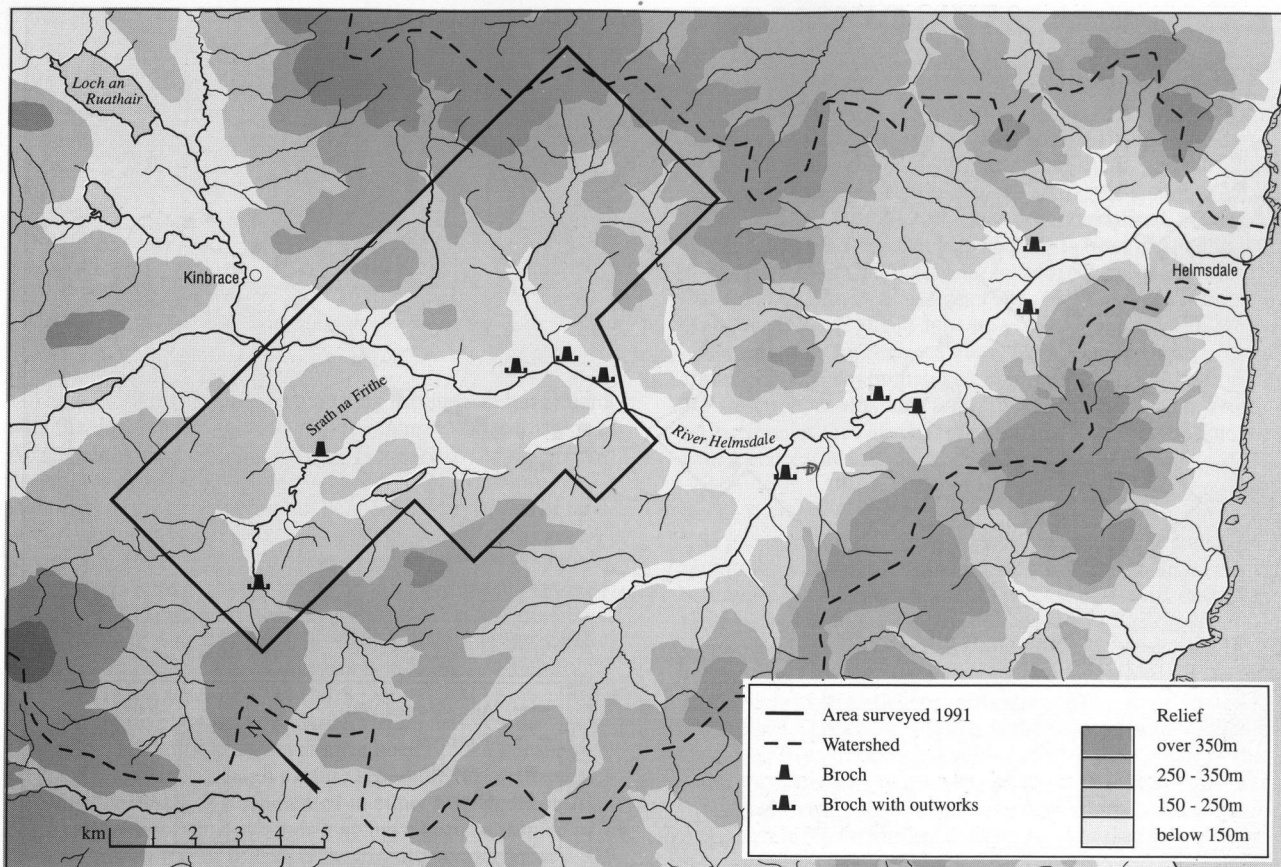


Fig.9 Distribution map of brochs

Allowing for the possible biases in survival and recognition of the structural elements, the groups appear to represent three distinct patterns of settlement. The distinctions between the groups are reflected by their altitudinal distribution, with about two-thirds of the Group 3 sites situated below 150m OD, while the other third lies between 150m and 200m OD, most of them lying closer to 150m than 200m. The Group 2 sites, which are more evenly spread in altitude, display a tendency to be situated between 150m and 200m OD, with only a handful above 200m. There are other respects in which the same groupings can be discerned: the hut-circles of Group 3 sites are generally larger than those of Group 1 and 2 sites, and they include a greater variety of structural forms, as well as being more likely to show signs of chronological depth.

The allocation of sites to either Group 2 or 3 can be made with a reasonable degree of certainty, but this is not the case for some of the Group 1 hut-circles, particularly those at low altitudes where later agriculture may have destroyed much of the site, or for those where peat cover may mask possibly associated features. However, in general, the greater the altitude, the greater the degree of certainty that can be attached to a Group 1 designation. Amongst the Group 1 sites there are a number that lie at the altitudinal maximum of the hut-circle range (250m OD). Some of these may represent settlements that either pre-date the climatic deterioration of the late 2nd millennium/early 1st millennium BC, or they may be temporary dwellings, associated with permanent settlements situated at lower altitudes, and fulfilling a role similar to the shielings of the medieval and post-medieval periods. The altitudinal overlap with these shielings (Fig.10) may add weight to the suggestion of their role in a transhumance economy, but changes in the role of a site may have occurred through time, as was the case for some of the shieling sites.

Fig.8 illustrates the varying intensity of hut-circle settlement and land-use in the Strath of Kildonan as a whole. The lower reaches of the strath show a concentration of Group 3 sites, and

the proportion of Group 3 sites declines as the distance from the coast increases. Group 2 sites seem to fill gaps between clusters of Group 3 sites in the main valley, but many of the Group 2 sites are to be found along the tributaries of the Helmsdale River, indicating that exploitation of the side valleys was apparently less intensive.

The most favourable locations in the strath for hut-circle settlements coincide with the clusters of Group 3 sites, while Group 1 and 2 sites occupy mainly poorer ground. Overlaps between the locations of some of the Group 3 sites and the distributions of Neolithic monuments and, to some extent, brochs (Figs 3, 9), suggest that some of these areas may have been prime settlement locations over long periods of time.

The areas where Group 3 sites predominate have the greatest potential for continuous settlement, while the areas of Group 1 and 2 sites may have been characterised by less intensive activity. Excavations on several Scottish hut-circles have revealed alternating phases of occupation and abandonment (Barber 1982, Mercer n.d., Stevenson 1985), and a similar intermittent pattern of occupation may have characterised the hut-circle settlements of the strath, occupation being increasingly intermittent on Group 2 and 1 sites respectively. Once established in the second millennium BC, this shifting pattern of core and fringe occupation has continued in the strath to the present day.

There are eleven brochs in the Strath of Kildonan (Fig.9), of which seven have some form of outworks (e.g. Suisgill, Fig.15). They are generally placed on the leading edge of the first major terrace above the haughland, and the availability of a commanding view to, and from, the haughland appears to have been a prime consideration in the choice of the site.

With the possible exception of the brochs, there is a dearth of sites which may be ascribed to first millennium AD. The distribution of brochs in the strath (Fig.9) does not extend into the upper reaches of the River Helmsdale and, taken in isolation, the small number of sites might imply a low

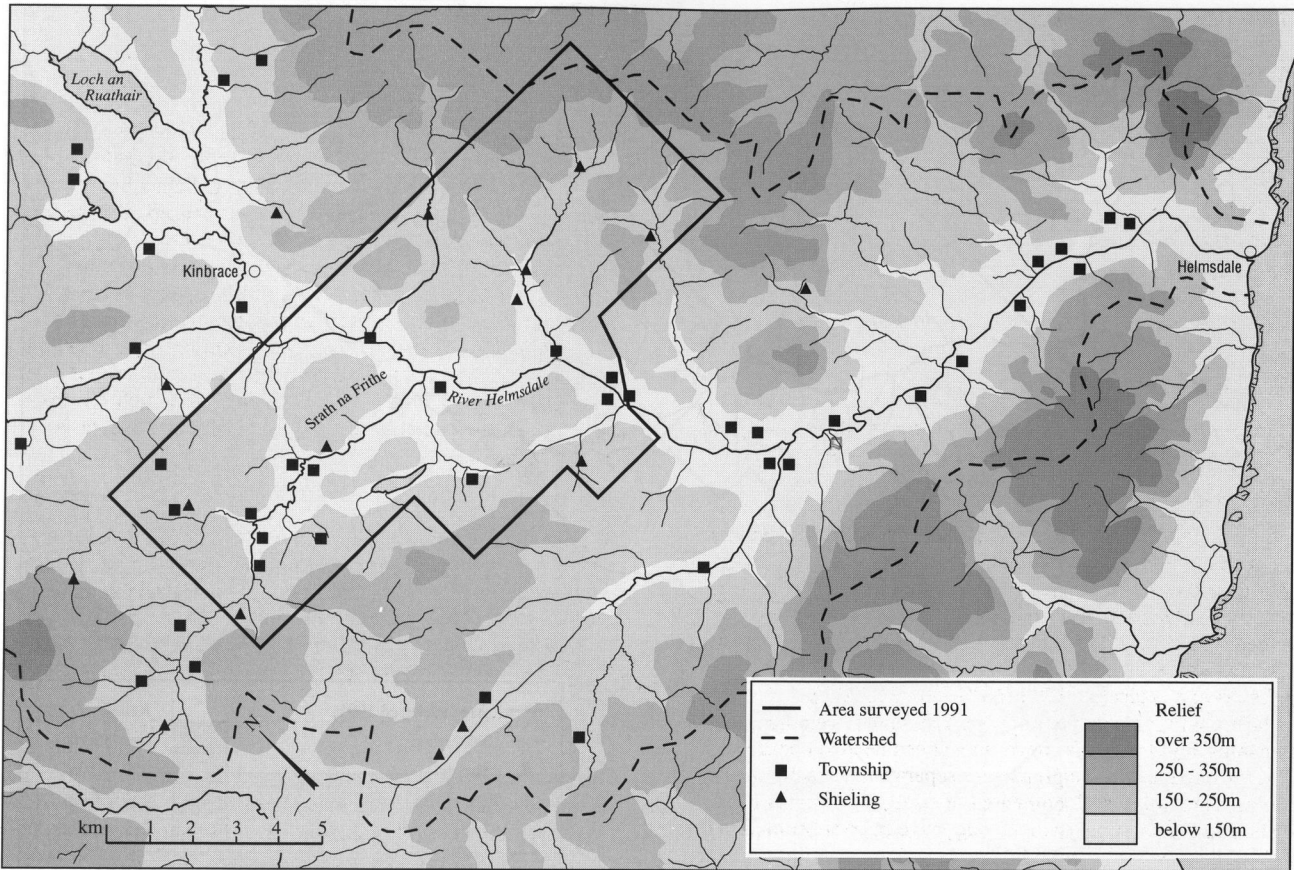


Fig.10 Distribution map of townships and shielings

population in this period. There are no signs of the extra-mural domestic structures commonly found around brochs in north Sutherland and Caithness, but the latest dates from Kilphedir, in the lower reaches of the strath, indicate that some hut-circle settlements may have remained in occupation into the first millennium AD (Fairhurst and Taylor 1974). How long this occupation may have lasted is not known. Documentary records push the earliest dating of township settlements back at least as far as the 14th century, which leaves a lacuna of over 1000 years in the settlement record.

This lacuna may, in part, however, be filled by a handful of buildings found within the strath which do not sit happily either in a hut-circle/prehistoric horizon or amongst the later township buildings. Structures at Kinbrace Farm (Fig.13) and elsewhere (e.g. NC 91 NW 24), described by the OS as 'homesteads' and 'wags', may fill the settlement gap in the first millennium AD, but, numerically, they are probably under-represented in the present survey, as their sites may either have been reused by later settlements or overlain by alluvial and colluvial deposits.

The townships (Fig.10) have a largely riverine distribution, the handful which lie outwith the major valleys possibly representing phases of settlement expansion. Many of the townships overlaid earlier settlement and cultivation remains (e.g. Learable, Ceannabhaid), and there may be a considerable degree of continuity of occupation at some locations. Many of the townships appear to have a direct functional relationship with a group of shieling huts occupying the same valley, but the inter-relationships of townships and shielings are not always so neat, and details of the use of summer pastures are not well documented in rentals or deeds (see below).

Medieval and later historical framework

A partial search of the Sutherland MSS in the National Library of Scotland (NLS) and of the taxation records in the Scottish Record Office (SRO), as well as secondary sources, was carried out to help provide the historical framework for the medieval and later periods.

The parish of Kildonan, in which the survey area lies, formed part of the extensive possessions of the earldom of Sutherland. The distribution of townships within the strath (Figs 10, 16) has its origins in the medieval period and, within the survey area, the townships of Suisgill, Kinbrace, Free, Learable, Ascaig and Borrobol are all documented by the 16th century. Of these, Borrobol is the earliest, referred to in the 14th century as a piece of land given to Scone Abbey together with the Church of Kildonan (*Orig. Par. Scot.*, vol. 2, pt. 2, 736). The remaining townships are documented by the mid 16th century in charters of James V and Queen Mary. The same townships are itemised in a rental of 1687 (NLS Dep. 313/2100), along with a new township called *Keenvad* (Ceannabhaid in the strath of the Abhainn na Frithe), listed in the Hearth Tax return of 1690 (Table 1).

With the exception of the addition of the township of Kannais on the south bank of the Abhainn na Frithe, General Roy's map (1747-55) confirms that the earlier distribution persisted into the mid 18th century. By 1808, if not before (Adam 1972, I, App. A, 226 and 228), new townships were established at Altanduin, Finfal (listed in wadsets of 1742 and 1744, NLS Dep. 313/311,313), and Tomich, whilst Borrobol and Kinbrace had been split respectively into four and two farms (Dalcharn, Balnashawn, Balvullin and Eachter; Kinbrace and Shunachy). This proliferation of farms is not linked to a growing population - indeed there is a slight decline between 1755 and 1790-5 (*Stat. Acct.*, iii, 408) - but it may reflect an attempt at the improvement of whatever lands were available, e.g. along the river terraces of the Frithe, or a practical subdivision of the existing farmsteads of the township of Free, using the nuclei that had already developed (e.g. Kinbrace, see

Township	Nos of Tenants with one Hearth
Suisgill	5
Leriboll	6
Borroboll	11
Ffrie	5
Askaig	5
Keenvad	2
Kinbrace	7

Table 1 *Hearth Tax 1690 (townships within the area of survey)*

Fig.16).

There is some difficulty in matching the sites on the ground with the documented townships; for example, the townships of Achan and Auchnasheenish are not recorded in the rentals or deeds. It is possible that some late medieval townships identified in the charters should be identified as pieces of land within which there is more than one settlement, i.e. dispersed townships. Thus, Achan, Tomich, Auchnasheenish, Altanduin, Kannais and others may all have been included in the lands of Free. In the 18th-century rentals Free township is sometimes divided in half (e.g. 1752 rental, NLS Dep. 313/2112), which may in practice have been along the line of the Abhainn na Frithe, as in a wadset of 1744 (NLS Dep. 313/311).

There are no physical boundaries visible between the townships, and these may never have been needed because of the large expanses of rough pasture separating the settlements. Shielings are not well documented in either the rentals or the deeds, and the shieling-grounds may have been subsumed in the lands of the township, though how the summer pastures operated is unclear.

By the end of the 18th century, when the *Statistical Account* was compiled, the economy of the parish was largely based upon cattle, especially in the upper parts of the strath, but bere, oats and potatoes were grown in the more favourable areas (*Stat. Acct.*, iii, 412).

The clearance of the townships from the strath was carried out between 1813 and 1816, with the intention of establishing a new settlement, based on allotments, at Helmsdale. Suisgill was already a sheep-farm by 1813, but the establishment of three new farms in that year at Feranach (see Fig.6), Torrish and Kilphedir set off riots. In fact, the tenants of Free were allowed to stay at Borroboll until 1816 when the allotments became available. A fifth sheep-farm was then established at Kilcalmkill in Strath Brora which stretched as far as the south side of Abhainn na Frithe (Adam 1972, I, lvii ff).

THE MONUMENTS

Neolithic Cairns

The group of cairns to the south of Kinbrace appears to imply extended Neolithic activity in the area (Fig.3). Several forms of cairn and chamber can be detected. Sadly, the chamber at Kinbrace Burn (NC 82 NE 4) has been vandalised, but the form of the cairn, with short stubby horns, has been likened to the forms present in Caithness and, indeed, Shetland (Henshall 1963, 320; 1972, 240; Mercer 1992, 56). The long cairn at Kinbrace (NC 82 NE 3) appears as two separate cairns with a space of about 3m between them, now occupied by a track, but there seems no doubt that the monument is of multiperiod construction, comparable with Tulach an t'Sionnaich, Caithness. None of the cairns of the Strath of Kildonan has, however, been excavated.

Stone Rows

The purpose of the enigmatic rows of low upright stones is unknown, as no excavation has been undertaken on any of the examples in northern Scotland. The best preserved example in the Strath of Kildonan is that on Learable Hill (Figs 1, 21), where there is a fan-shaped setting of at least nine rows of stones. The fan does not appear to be related to the small cairns in the vicinity or to the conspicuous standing stone some 23m to the north. The stone rows of Sutherland are smaller than the examples from Caithness, but they clearly form a part of the same phenomenon.

In recent years, stone rows have been surveyed in detail in order to test the possibility that the layout of such sites was determined by their use for making astronomical observations in prehistoric times (Myatt 1988). Such surveys have served to draw attention to the precision with which the stones were set out, as well as to the range of small cairns and other prehistoric monuments adjacent to the rows. The stone rows themselves, while remaining an enigma, nevertheless represent a conspicuous element in the ritual landscapes of the third millennium BC.

Burnt Mounds

The present survey has resulted in a roughly eight-fold increase in the number of recorded burnt mounds (Fig. 4). The majority are situated in the same general habitat as the hut-circles, and in these areas more detailed fieldwork would undoubtedly reveal further examples. Extensive prospection in the apparently blank areas lying between the hut-circle settlements, however, failed to identify more than a handful of new sites, and it is unlikely that a significant number await discovery in these areas. The scatter of isolated burnt mounds found at the higher altitudes may be associated with hunting or the use of summer pastures.

The dramatic increase in the number of burnt mounds indicates that the known distribution elsewhere in the strath can only be used with caution, but the uneven level of fieldwork cover is not the sole constraint in analysing the distribution. For example, stretches of the River Shin, to the south-west of Kildonan, flow along a rock-cut bed, and adjacent to the river-banks a number of burnt mounds have been discovered (NC 50 SE 62), whereas the extensively reworked gravels of the valley floor of the River Helmsdale and its tributaries preclude the discovery of burnt mounds close to the river- and stream-banks, and skew the weight of their distribution towards the smaller water-courses along which most of the mounds have been found. However, even relatively minor streams have a demonstrable dynamism, e.g. on the Allt Alla Choire, a tributary of the Kildonan Burn, where a burnt mound (NC 92 NW 8) has been isolated on a small ledge as much as 3.5m above the present level of the burn.

The burnt mounds fall into two basic categories: crescentic, and oval or circular. The term crescentic encompasses U-shaped, C-shaped, penannular, H-shaped, kidney-shaped and

multi-peaked - essentially any mound within which there is a hollow that may indicate the position of a trough. Of the 39 mounds recorded in the area, 32 are crescentic, while of the seven oval or circular mounds, five are being, or have been, eroded. They range in diameter from 5.5m by 4.5m to 12.7m by 10.2m, with one exceptional example measuring 15.5m by 13.7m and 1.8m in height. This mound (NC 82 NE 30) has a large, well-defined, stone-revetted hollow measuring about 3m across (see Blood 1989, 140, Fig.2). The size of this site which contrasts so markedly with the other mounds in the area, possibly indicates a different function, and it may be comparable with the large burnt mounds of Caithness and the Northern Isles. The size-range of the burnt mounds implies a considerable variation in the longevity of their use and/or the intensity of activity at the site. Most occur singly, and there is only one group (NC 82 NE 53), comprising three mounds lying within 30m of one another along the side of a burn near Kinbrace Farm.

The burnt mounds are composed of cracked, reddened stones set in a matrix of black soil which contains varying amounts of charcoal. The only artifact found in any of the Kildonan mounds is a saddle quern recovered from the surface of a mound (NC 82 NW 17) after it had been disturbed by forestry ploughing. Burnt stones have also been noted eroding out of the banks of a number of hut-circles, an association noted elsewhere in Scotland (Barber 1990, Blood 1989, Stevenson 1985).

Hut-circles and Souterrains

Most of the hut-circles recorded in the survey area (160 in total) ranged fairly evenly between 5.5m and 12m in diameter internally, and all were roughly circular (Fig.8). There are several hut-circles as small as 3.5m in diameter and one as large as 15m in diameter. The walls grade evenly in thickness from 0.9m to 4.2m, with the implication that those at the thicker end of the range may represent multiperiod structures. The composition of the hut-circle walls varies from predominantly stone to earth faced with stone. Not all these structures may have been domestic; indeed, some hut-circles need not have fulfilled the same function throughout their life, as has been demonstrated at the recent excavations at Lairg (*DES 1991*, 47; McCullagh 1992). Although hut-circle entrances may face to most points of the compass (except due N), the majority lie on the E-SE arc, and most of the remainder are on the S-SW.

There are a number of instances in which the hut-circles show a degree of elaboration, the simplest being the thickening of the wall-terminals to form an extended entrance-passage; another is the provision of an external baffle-wall to shield the entrance, while some are accompanied by souterrains (Figs 11, 12). In general, unelaborated hut-circles of Curle's simple form (RCAHMS 1911, xxv) are most likely to be found within groups of small cairns or isolated from other monuments (Groups 1 and 2), while substantial stone-built hut-circles and hut-circles with architectural embellishments are more likely to occur in Group 3 sites. In many cases there is also evidence implying multiperiod construction, ranging from abnormally thick walls or the thickening of wall-terminals to the partial superimposition of structures (e.g. NC 92 NW 4, NC 92 SW 14).

Of the fourteen souterrains known in the strath, nine are entered from the interior of a hut-circle, normally one belonging to a Group 3 cluster (Figs 11, 12), and the passages either project from the outer wall-face, or are concentric with the wall, or lie beneath it. Of the other five, four are in contexts where it is likely that any associated house has been removed or buried, and only at Loch Ascaig (NC 82 NW 5) is there what appears to be a free-standing souterrain, with an entrance projecting from the side of a mound which lies at the edge of a group of hut-circles.

Recent excavations near Lairg (McCullagh 1992) have demonstrated the existence of all-timber houses (i.e. without an outer stone wall), situated amongst a group of stone-walled hut-

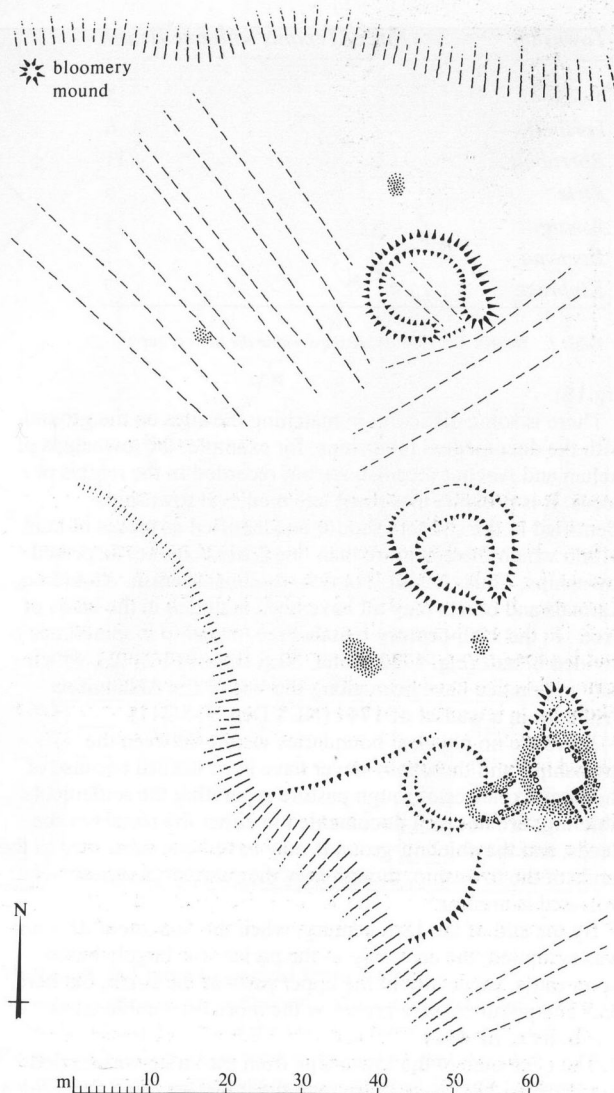


Fig.11 Allt Bad Ra'fin, hut-circles

circles. Under the conditions prevalent in Kildonan and elsewhere in northern Scotland, such remains would be difficult to detect during the course of field-survey, and thus it is probable that the total number of house-structures has been underestimated. The presence of at least some timber buildings in Kildonan is suggested by a number of platformed hut-circles (e.g. Tomich NC 82 NW 3) and hut-circles with unusually thin walls (up to 1m thick), where the low banks may represent little more than clearance against a wooden wall. Although most of these platforms appear to have supported timber buildings, there is a notable exception at Ceannabhaid, which was excavated by Curle (1911, 23-6). This hut-circle appears to have two stone walls between which there was a void. The inner line presumably represented the main wall of the hut-circle, while the outer formed a revetment to the backscarp and would have aided drainage.

Two oval enclosures have been noted which are overlain by hut-circles. The larger enclosure (NC 82 NE 28), which lies within a scatter of small cairns on the south side of the Kinbrace Burn and measures 20.5m by 18m internally, is overlain on the E by a hut-circle; the smaller enclosure (NC 92 NW 4) measures 17.5m by 16.5m internally. In neither case can the date and function of the structure be ascertained without excavation.

Excavations at Kilphedir (Fairhurst and Taylor 1974) have demonstrated the probability that some hut-circle settlements may have continued in occupation into the opening centuries of the first millennium AD, but a considerable gap in the settlement record still remains before the appearance of the town-

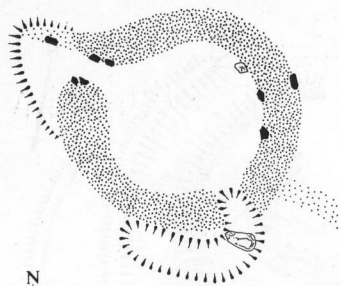


Fig.12
Ach an Fhionnfhuaireidh,
hut-circle and souterrain

ships, the earliest elements of which may be represented by the type of broad, solidly-built structures seen at Learable (see below). No unambiguous examples of wags have been identified in the strath, but, in this context, a structure at Kinbrace Farm may be relevant (Fig.13, NC 82 NE 1, 'F'); it is oval, with the suggestion that there may be oval cells in the interior, and it appears to postdate elements of the surrounding prehistoric field-system (Fig.14). The building is, therefore, also likely to be later than the hut-circles and should be considered as a candidate to help fill the apparent gap in the settlement record in the first millennium AD.

Prehistoric Cultivation Remains

In the strath, two distinct, but probably related, types of prehistoric land-use remains have been identified in association with certain types of hut-circle (i.e., Groups 2 and 3, see Fig.8). Both classifications are necessarily defined in somewhat simplistic terms which belie the complexity of the remains revealed when the relevant sites are excavated (McCullagh 1992).

The small cairns associated with Group 2 hut-circles are found in clusters ranging from as few as six mounds to several hundred. Although the cairns are generally found in the neighbourhood of one or more hut-circles, there are also some clusters in which no buildings were noted, but in these cases the presence of undetected timber structures cannot be discounted. The few short stretches of banks found on some of these sites may represent little more than linear clearance heaps, although in other cases they may have served a more positive function, e.g. on Learable Hill (Fig.5), where a series of disjointed banks may have formed a large enclosure, or at Loch Ascaig (NC 82 NW 8), where a substantial bank subdivides a terrace thickly scattered with small cairns.

Substantial lynchets (Figs 6, 7, 14), up to 1.8m in height, which define subrectangular plots ranged along the contour, are a common feature of the developed field-systems within the survey area (e.g. Learable, Ceannabhaid, Feranach, Cnoc Dail-Chairn, Kinbrace, and Ach an Fhionnfhuaireidh). Frequently, a scatter of small cairns and short lengths of banking can be found around the edges of the plots, suggesting that the lynchets represent a development of earlier agricultural systems. The cultivated areas range from plots of about 40 square metres up to fields measuring 200m by 40m (8000 square metres).

Narrow cultivation ridges, similar to the cord-rig found elsewhere in prehistoric contexts, have been recognised in excavations in the north of Scotland, and in Kildonan they have been identified from oblique aerial photographs on a number of sites (e.g. Loch Ascaig, NC 82 NW 8), while in one case the furrows are visible on the ground (Feranach NC 82 NW 6). Peat-cover generally renders the remains of narrow rig invisible, and its extent may well be appreciably greater than is at present recognised.

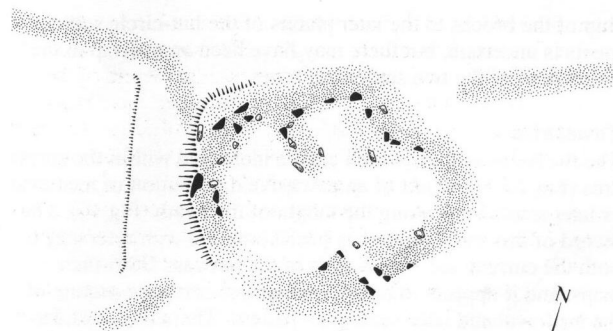


Fig.13 Kinbrace Hill, oval building

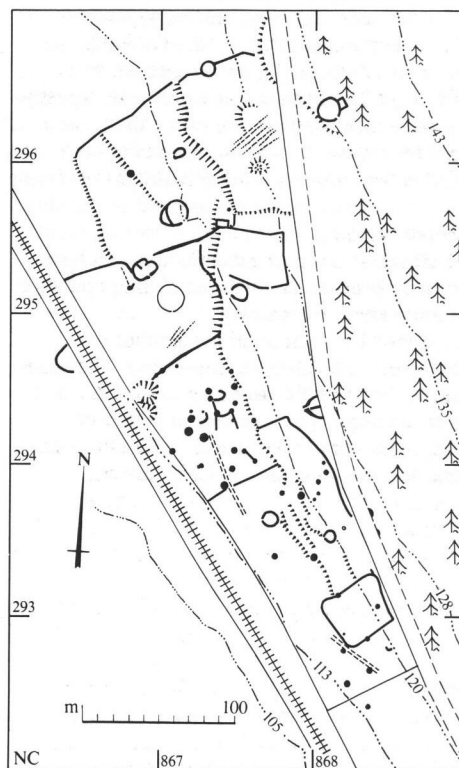


Fig.14 Kinbrace Hill, hut-circles and field-system

Brochs

There are five brochs in the survey area (Fig.9), ranging from 7.5m to 10m in diameter within walls between 3.4m and 5m in thickness, and, with the exception of Feranach (NC 82 NW 1), all are accompanied by outworks. The outworks have been designed to accentuate or supplement the natural defences of the site. At Ach an Fhionnfhuaireidh (NC 92 SW 13) the outworks comprise a ditch and a slight counter-scarp bank (Fig.20), while the flanks of the knoll on which the broch at Carn nam Buth (NC 82 SE 11) is situated have been steepened on the north and west, with a ditch added on the south. Altanduin (NC 82 NW 4), on the other hand, is defended by two ditches and a medial wall.

With the exception of Suisgill (Fig.15), which is placed close to the river in a narrow part of the valley (NC 82 NE 12), all the brochs have been situated so as to command good views of the valley floor. In general, they are found in the areas already farmed by the occupants of the hut-circle settlements, but their positions suggest a realignment of settlement foci, as well as indicating possible social changes. The chronological relation-

ship of the brochs to the later phases of the hut-circle settlements is uncertain, but there may have been an overlap in the occupation of the two settlement types.

Townships

The twelve townships which can be identified within the survey area (Fig.16) form part of an extensive distribution of medieval or later settlements along the length of the strath (Fig.10). The record of this distribution has been compiled with reference to both the current and 1st editions of the relevant OS 6-inch maps, and it appears to provide an almost complete picture of the medieval and later settlement pattern. There is a considerable range in the size of the settlements; the majority comprise between three and nine buildings, but there are three sites which are much larger: Ascaig (NC 82 SE 19) with 15 buildings, Kinbrace (NC 82 NE 42) with 20, and Learable (NC 82 SE 20) with 28.

There are two distinct types of building represented in the townships, both predominantly of drystone construction with square corners: the first comprises long buildings, which measure up to 35m in length and 2.5m to 3m in breadth, are usually set across, or at a slight angle, to the contour, and comprise more than one compartment (the lower end, typically with an opening in the end-wall, used as a byre); the second type is characterised by shorter structures, measuring up to 10m in length. The range in the numbers of long buildings occurring in each township (from one to nine) is not as great as the range in the total numbers of buildings (from three to twenty-eight) and, if the long buildings are seen as accommodating a basic domestic unit, they may provide a better clue to the population of a site than the total number of buildings.

There is also considerable variation in the amount of cultivated ground within the head-dyke (if present). The head-dykes seem to be a relatively late feature (e.g. Learable), and they may have been constructed in response to increased pressures on grazing. The head-dykes usually extend upslope from a water-course or a boggy area (e.g. Ceannabhaid,

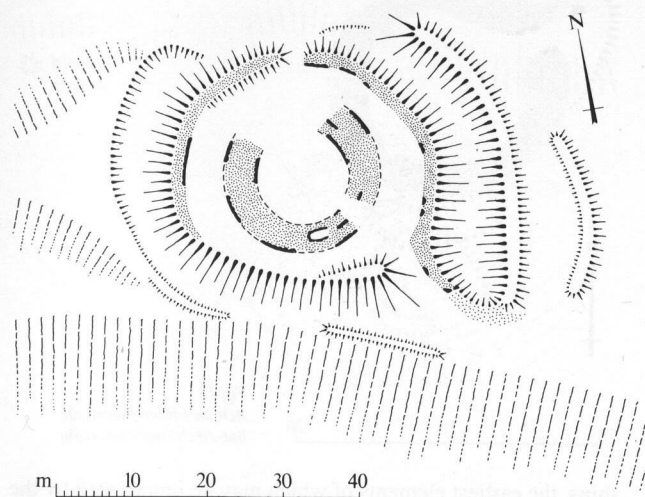


Fig.15 Suisgill Broch

Learable) and enclose an area of valley side. Cultivation ridges, where present, are produced by ploughing, not spade digging, and in some cases they take the form of a shallow reversed-S. Lynchets are also evident, some of them possibly a relict from earlier agriculture.

The majority of the townships are situated at the mouths of burns, and, although such a position rendered them more liable to flooding, the availability of good land on the haugh may have been a more important consideration. In many cases, there appears to be a direct geographical relationship between the township at the mouth of the burn and a shieling group in the head-waters of the burn.

Only nine, from a total of forty-two, townships in the entire length of the strath lie outwith the major valleys. These are generally situated at altitudes approaching 200m OD and may well represent a phase, or phases, of settlement-expansion

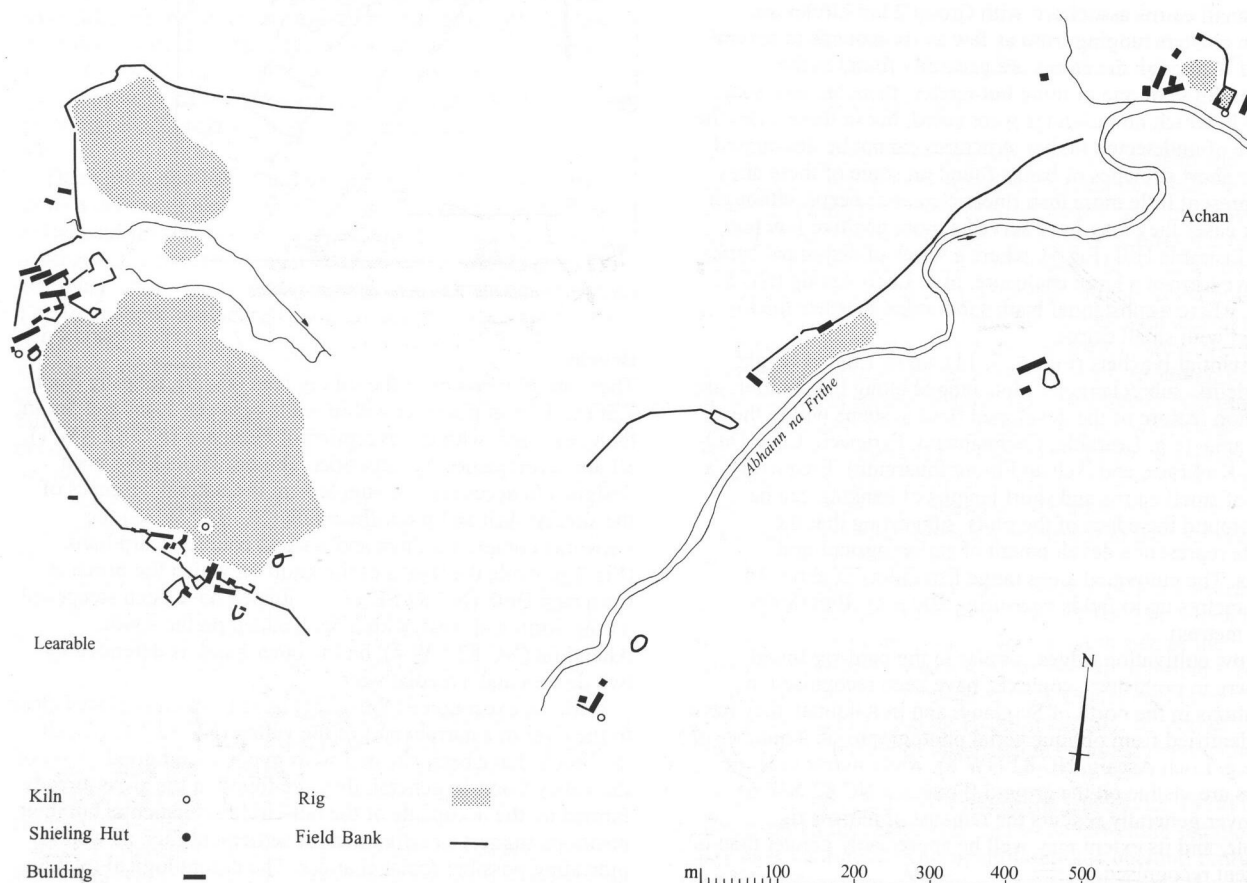
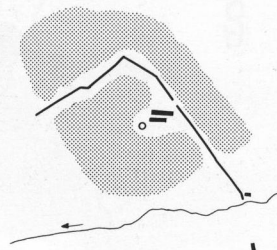
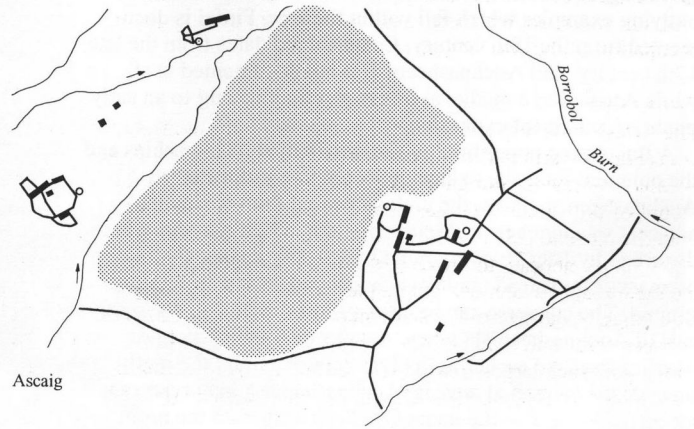


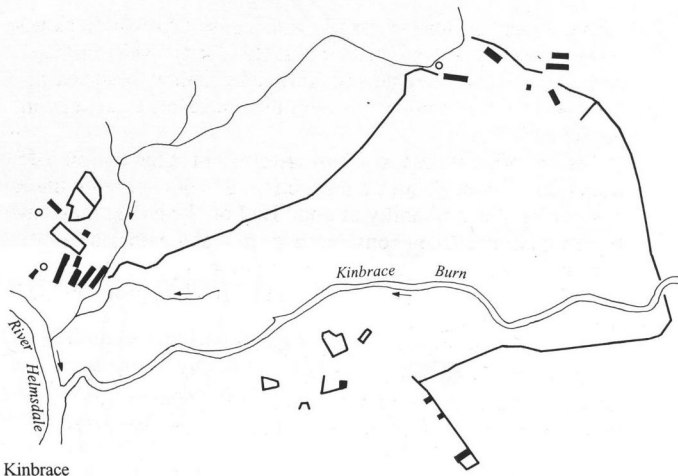
Fig.16 (and on opposite page) Strath of Kildonan, townships



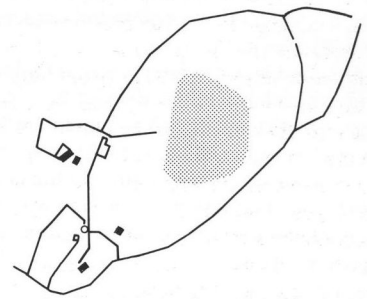
Ach an Fhionnfhuaraidh



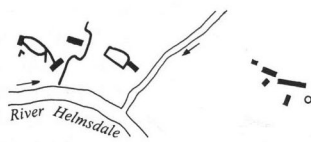
Ascaig



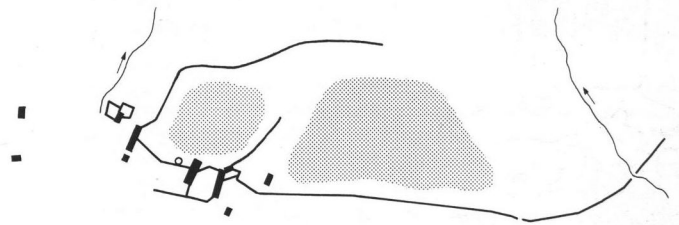
Kinbrace



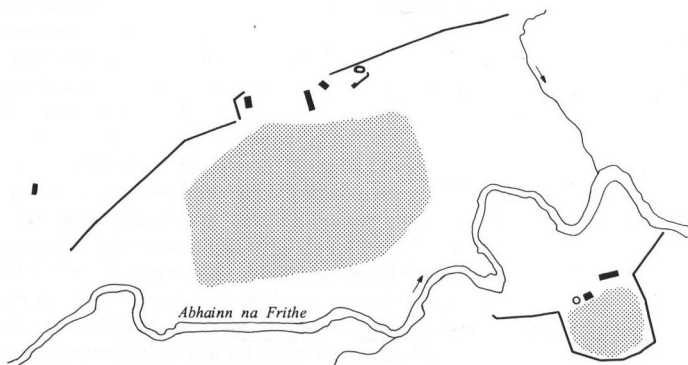
Finfal



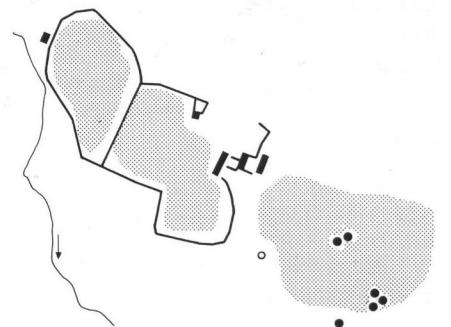
Suisgill



Ceannabhaid



Feranach



Auchnasheenish

spreading out of an immediately riverine habitat. Of the four outlying examples which fall within the area, Finfal is documented from the 18th century, Ceannabhaid dates from the late 17th century, and Auchnasheenish is not documented at all, while Ascaig has a medieval origin and may belong to an early phase of settlement expansion.

A fluctuating upper limit to the distribution of townships and the potential for a site to change its role are illustrated at Auchnasheenish. Here, the undocumented farm is situated adjacent to a number of shieling mounds which may have been disturbed by later cultivation, and this suggests that the permanent farmstead may have developed from a shieling ground. The converse can be seen a short distance to the south-east of Auchnasheenish, where a series of shieling mounds overlies traces of earlier agriculture; alternatively, the partly unenclosed cultivated areas at Auchnasheenish may represent an outfield (see also the unenclosed cultivation on the north side of the Suigill Burn, NC 82 NE 26).

The documentary evidence pushes many of the townships back into the 16th century and, the earliest, at Borrobol, comes on record in the 14th century. There are good grounds for presuming an early medieval origin for these townships; some, including Learable and Ceannabhaid, incorporate elements of prehistoric settlement and land-use which may point to continuity in the locations of certain of the settlements. At Learable, in particular, structures and terracing are overlain, or disrupted, by plough rigs.

Also at Learable, there are particular buildings, levelled into the slope, which have a form distinct from that of the township buildings, being round-ended and up to 2m broader. Similarly, a building at Suigill (NC 82 NE 38), may also belong to this group. These buildings may represent the last vestiges of the earlier medieval occupation of the site, with the majority of the surviving structures dating to relatively late phases in the history of the townships.

Shielings

Nine shieling-sites were located during the survey; the other sites in the strath, outwith the survey area, have been identified from the Ordnance Survey maps alone (Fig.10). The shielings lie at altitudes between 150m and 300m OD, the majority between 180m and 200m OD. With three exceptions, all are situated alongside burns, in some cases on the valley floor itself (e.g. Suigill Burn, Kildonan Burn, Kinbrace Burn), despite the dangers of flooding illustrated by an 18th century account:

In Breincheol, a shieling or grazing in this parish (Kildonan), happened the fall of a dreadful water spout about 40 years ago. The Bowman, with his family, and the produce of the dairy, were all carried away in one heap, in the hut or booth where they slept that night.... The course, which the tremendous stream marked out, may be computed at 60 or 80 feet deep.... (Stat. Acct., iii, 410-11).

The groups range in size from three to twelve huts which vary in form from low amorphous mounds, with a slight central dimple, to three-compartment structures set on mounds up to 0.5m in height (Kinbrace Burn, Fig.17). Extensive use was made of turf in the construction of the huts, but, in some cases, stone-facing has been employed, usually in the end-walls and around the entrance. Although the majority are situated upstream of the farms and townships, there is an overlap in their altitudinal spread, e.g. at Auchnasheenish, and the relationship of townships to shielings may not have been a simple one.

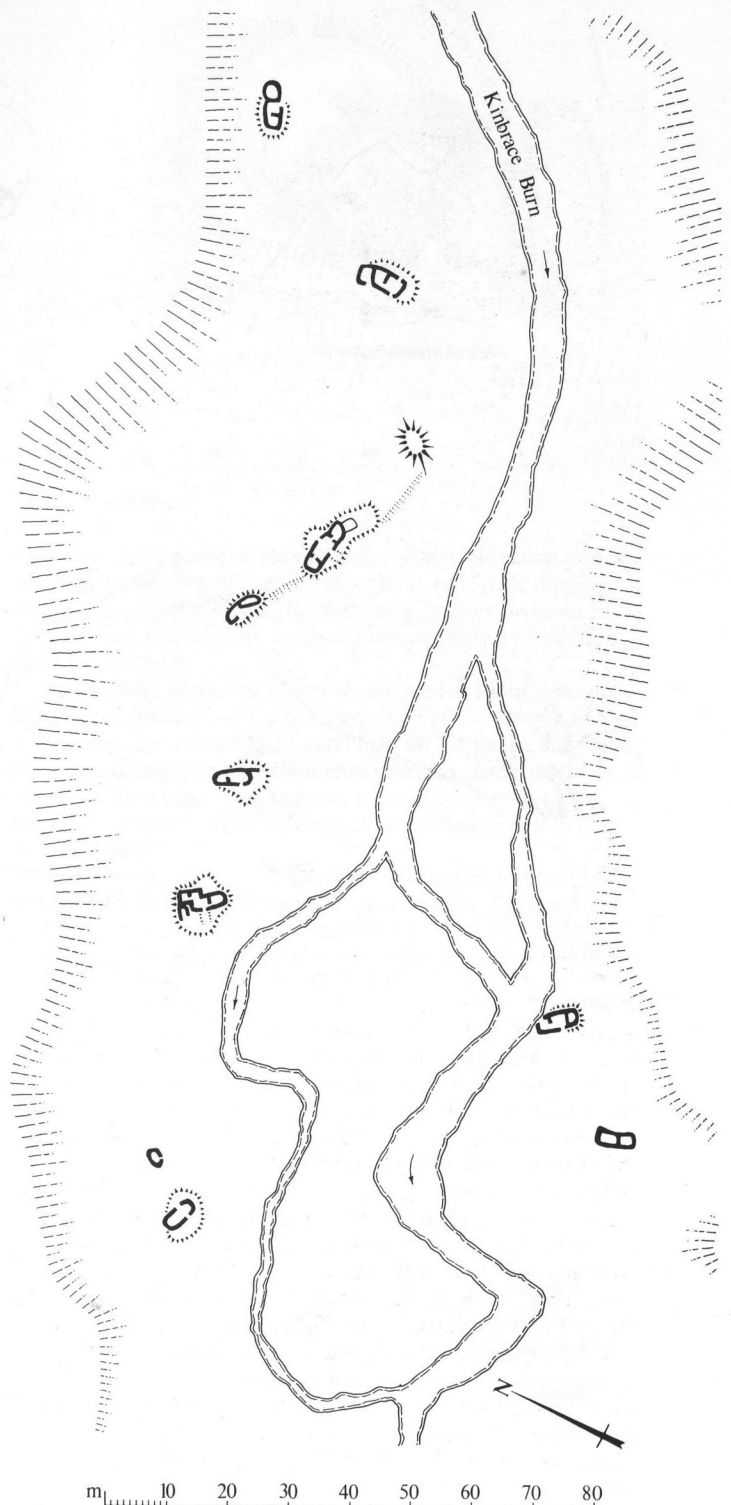


Fig.17 Kinbrace Burn, shielings



Fig.18 Baile an Òr, the gold-mining village in 1869

The Kildonan Gold-rush 1868-1869

The Clearances left the Strath of Kildonan an empty expanse with few habitations, but, between 1868 and 1869, parts of the Strath saw a large influx of miners seeking gold in alluvial deposits along some of the tributaries of the River Helmsdale. In 1868, Robert Gilchrist, a native of the area and a veteran of the Australian goldfields, began to pan for gold and established that there were deposits worth working; news spread quickly and the numbers of miners grew rapidly. In March 1869 the Duke of Sutherland began to organise the prospection, allocating plots of 40 square feet in the Kildonan and Kinbrace Burns for a license fee of one pound a month, with 10% of any winnings theoretically going to the Crown. By April 1869 there were an estimated 500 prospectors, some living in a settlement of wooden huts at Baile an Òr, complete with an alcohol-free 'saloon' (Fig.18), near the mouth of the Kildonan Burn, with many more living in a settlement of tents at Carn nam Bùth at the mouth of the Suisgill Burn (Saxon n.d.).

The prospectors were obviously having a considerable impact on the environment, and as complaints from sportsmen about the effect on the deer and salmon were added to those of the farmers about the loss of so much grazing on the haughlands, during December 1869 the granting of licences was halted.

This frenetic burst of activity has not had a lasting or immediately noticeable impact on the landscape. Although gold was discovered along many of the water courses in the strath, it was the Kildonan, Kinbrace and Suisgill Burns that saw the most extensive working, the approximate extent of which is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map. The lower reaches of the Kildonan Burn lay outwith the survey area, and the majority of the Kinbrace Burn has been afforested. Along the Suisgill Burn, however, extensive areas of the stream bank have been turned over, leaving the surface of the ground irregular and broken (NC 900 260 - 905 270 and NC 910 271 - 910 278). The activities which produced these features are shown in an illustration of the Kildonan Burn (Fig.19), but the absence of traces of large or distinct pits is probably due to the licence stipulation that all claims were to 'be levelled up and



Fig.19 Panning for gold along the Kildonan Burn, 1869
(reproduced from the Illustrated London News, 29 May 1869)

left free from holes or pits'.

There was no further activity until 1911, when the Marquis of Stafford engaged Mr William Heath, a mining engineer, to establish the real viability of the Kildonan goldfield. Extensive prospection over the summer of 1911 led Mr Heath to the conclusion that gold was not present in economically viable quantities, and work was halted (Callender n.d., 22-24).

Conclusion

To provide a wider context for the monuments and landscapes surveyed by RCAHMS in 1991, OS record cards relating to the rest of the Strath of Kildonan were consulted in the NMRS. While not as systematic and intensive as the RCAHMS survey, the holdings of the NMRS for the north of Scotland generally help to provide an adequate regional perspective. Such assessment of existing records across large areas not only allows an evaluation of the bias in survival and recovery, which may be inherent in the data, but also provides a basis for a wider discussion of settlement and land-use patterns.

It is also worth highlighting the significance of the site excavated at Upper Suisgill (Barclay 1987), which, together with the scatter of known monuments on the haughlands of the River Helmsdale, may represent fragments of a previously extensive settlement of relatively unstable habitats, further elements of which could await discovery under alluvial and colluvial deposits, though a proportion will also have been destroyed by fluvial processes. The implications of this are relevant to the other Highland straths, in particular those with wide valley floors, such as parts of Strath Brora.

Afforestation Land Surveys give equal weight to the prehistoric and later material, as well as encompassing extensive surveys of cultivation remains of all periods. The plan and analysis of Learable highlights the value of this approach. The survey of cultivated areas materially enhances the study of land-use history by allowing the documentary sources to be reviewed in the context of the surviving remains.

For the first time since Fairhurst's work at Rosal (Fairhurst

1969, 135ff.), the medieval and later settlement of an extensive area of a Sutherland strath has been mapped and recorded. In many ways, this survey has confirmed his inferences and suggests that both the northern and eastern straths of Sutherland have a similar pattern of township settlement. However, the discovery of round-ended buildings at Learable demonstrates the potential for this type of survey to identify the traces of earlier phases of occupation which may fill the lacuna between prehistoric and medieval settlement remains (Dixon 1993).

In addition, the combined documentary and archaeological approach demonstrates that townships could be dispersed (e.g. Free) and that even in a unitary township there may be two or more foci (e.g. Learable). Thus the administrative and fiscal townships of the documentary record should not be confused with the physical units to which archaeological recording refers. In the context of this estate, township splitting (Dodgshon 1980, 59-62) should be seen as an administrative improvement and not as the development of new settlements. The various foci of the townships are the result of settlement expansion and contraction within the lands of the township, some of which have coalesced into a single unit for agriculture (e.g. Ascaig) and some not (e.g. Free), according to topographical circumstance.

Finally, the present survey has identified considerable attrition of the township remains through recent improvements, such that only Learable of all the townships in the survey area survives relatively intact as an example of both the settlement and cultivation remains of a typical Kildonan township.

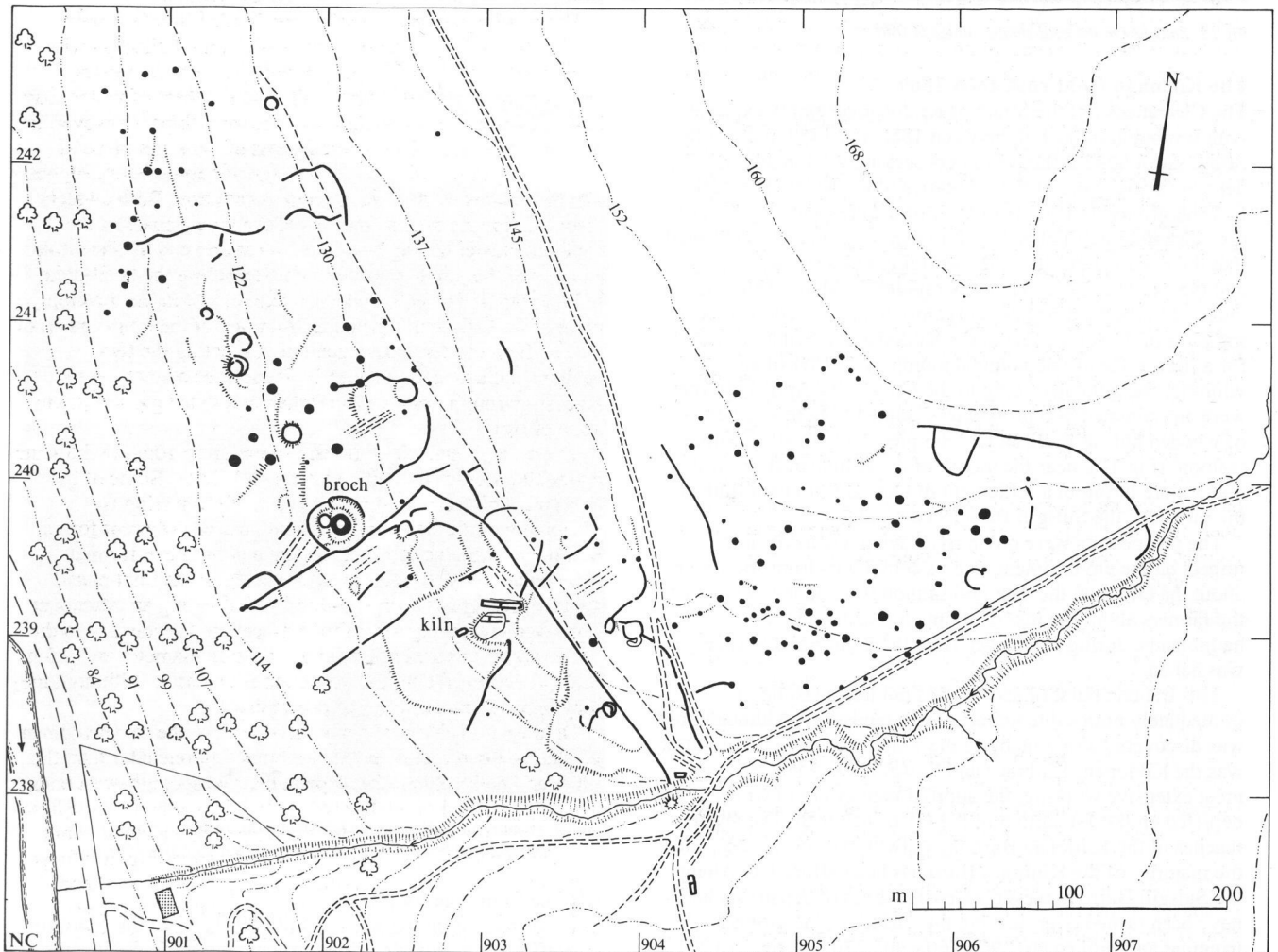


Fig. 20 Ach an Fhionnfhuaraidh, hut-circles and field-system, broch, and farmstead

APPENDIX: Case Studies

Ach an Fhionnfhuaraidh

The multiperiod site at Ach an Fhionnfhuaraidh (NC 901 239), which constitutes one of the two key settlement complexes in the survey area, lies to the east of the River Helmsdale, on the leading edge of the first terrace (Fig.20). In presumed chronological order, the principal elements comprise: a hut-circle settlement, including a field-system which itself is undoubtedly multiperiod; a broch, which appears to be superimposed on the earlier field-system; a farmstead (comprising two long parallel buildings and a kiln-barn) with which the rig is presumably associated; and post-Clearance activity represented by an L-shaped dyke that cuts across the earlier cultivation remains, a drystone sheepfold and a metal deer-target.

The hut-circle settlement is represented by ten houses, which may span at least two millennia in date and exhibit a variety of structural details, including simple, predominantly turf, walls, thickened wall-terminals, and a souterrain (Fig.12). One hut-circle has been built within the remains of an earlier house, which may itself postdate a fragmentary structure on its north side. Two of the hut-circles are physically related to elements of the field-system, which is composed of subrectangular plots, most of them containing later rig. To the north and east of the field-system, there is a scatter of small cairns, together with a large bank and a more fragmentary bank, which may represent an attempt to enclose an even larger area of ground.

In the absence of excavation, it is difficult to provide a detailed context for the broch. Although some chronological overlap between the occupation of the broch and some of the hut-circles is not impossible, it appears to be superimposed on part of the field-system.

The two parallel buildings and the kiln represent a small undocumented farmstead with which the cultivation ridges are presumably associated. The context of the two buildings to the south is not clear, but they may well form part of the same settlement. Peat-cutting visible on the hill to the north-east of the site may be related to the same phase of settlement, although peat and turf may have been used for fuel and roofing since the Neolithic period.

Relics of more recent developments are the sheepfold and, possibly, the L-shaped enclosure-wall, which serve as reminders of the Clearances and the introduction of sheep-farming. Their now ruinous state, together with the metal deer-target on the east edge of the site and the well-made track, bleakly chronicles the subsequent rise of the shooting-estates, the old Suisgill Lodge, at the side of the public road, where shooting-parties were once hospitably entertained, having long since been burnt down. Today, small numbers of sheep graze limited patches of grass, which generally coincide with areas of cultivation ridges.

Ach an Fhionnfhuaraidh encapsulates a settlement and land-use history which can be observed on many sites in the strath. The communities of the 2nd and 1st millennium BC, presumably practising a mixed economy, with agricultural and stock-based elements, are well represented, perhaps continuing into the 1st millennium AD, although with some form of disruption represented by the broch. The settlement of the later 1st millennium and early 2nd millennium AD is not unequivocally present here, and there may have been a localised intermission, perhaps with a dislocation of settlement on to the valley floor before the establishment of the farmstead.

This brief outline understates the complexity and dynamism of change which the site may represent, and which is demonstrated more explicitly on excavated sites (McCullagh 1992); it does however cast a light upon the populated landscapes of the past which contrasts starkly with the silence of so many of the Highland glens today.

Learable

The township of Learable (NC 895 235) is the best preserved of the townships in the area of survey (Fig.21), its cultivation remains, which are in exceptionally good condition, indicating a surprising intensity of agriculture. It is also one of the larger townships, illustrating many of the characteristic features of the group. Partially concealed beneath the remains of the township, there are traces of earlier phases of settlement and agriculture which suggest that the site may have continued in occupation from the prehistoric period until recent times.

Despite its proximity to the major Neolithic and Bronze Age complex on the crest of Learable Hill (see below), the only early prehistoric monuments located, so far, within the township are two cupmarked rocks (cm on plan). In the deciduous woodland on the east of the township, however, there are the extensive remains of the type of field-system normally associated with a Group 3 hut-circle settlement. Further traces of probable prehistoric agriculture, in the form of substantial lynchets, survive within the head-dyke, despite their partial destruction by medieval or later rigs. The focus of these agricultural remains was probably a group of hut-circles, of which at least three survive (A), although doubtless the heart of the earlier settlement has been destroyed by the township. Also probably belonging to the prehistoric period are a burnt mound (bm), a terraced enclosure occupied by clearance heaps (B), and a promontory cut off by a stone wall and a ditch (C).

The buildings of the township are divided into two main clusters, both dominated by a number of long buildings with associated kiln-barns. The long buildings, or byre-houses, appear to form the basic farm-units, the numbers of which may have grown with the population of the townships. However, the presence of the two foci on the fringes of the same piece of cultivated ground, with no visible sign of sub-division, suggests that the tenants worked the ground in common. Both clusters display evidence of phasing, two of the long-houses in the southern cluster having been overlain at one end by sheepfolds, and one of them in the northern cluster having the head-dyke built across it. The head-dyke is a late feature in the development of the township, springing from one of the long-houses of the southern cluster and, in general, respecting the two settlement clusters. Significantly, it encloses a much larger amount of rough pasture (28ha) than cultivated ground (up to 10ha of rig).

The rig is plough-rig, typically some 8m to 10m in width and about 100m in length, with a reversed-S shape. Some of the terracing which can be seen is a result of cultivating rig diagonally to the slope of the ground, but elsewhere it forms part of an earlier agricultural system and has been formed independently of the alignment of the rig. In its final phase some of the rig has been sub-divided, indicating an attempt at improvement. Along two of the terraces, and secondary to their use as arable, a series of pits about 1.5m in diameter and 0.5m in depth has been dug; their function is uncertain, although they may indicate the positions of potato clamps.

On the south side of the more northerly of the two settlement clusters are two round-ended buildings (D), one later than the other and both set into the slope at their west-south-west ends. The opposite end of the later of the two is overlain by the head-dyke. They are remarkable for their breadth, which, at about 5m, is some 2m wider than the rest of the township buildings.

In the southern cluster of the township, outside the head-dyke, there is a building (E) with rough-coursed stone walls still standing up to 1.4m in height, which may be a post-Clearance shepherd's house, a better example of which can be seen at Feranach (a stone-built cottage with central doorway set between two windows, NC 82 NW 6). The final

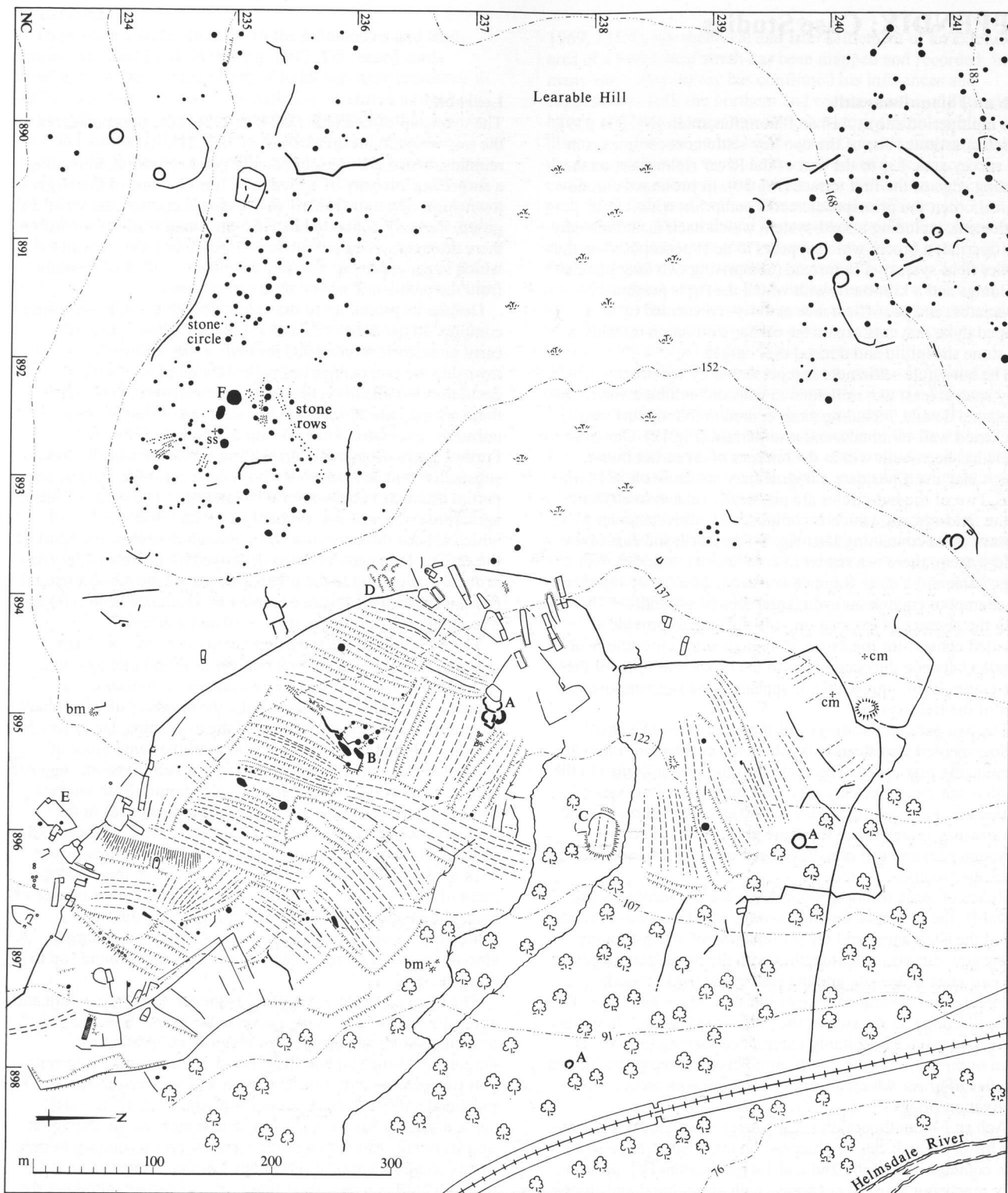


Fig.21 Learable, township and prehistoric monuments

phase of occupation at Learable is represented by an even later shepherd's cottage, on the south-east of the site, associated with rectilinear fields.

As mentioned earlier, on the hill to the west and north-west of the township there are extensive prehistoric settlement and cultivation remains of Group 2 type (Fig.5) and on the south-east spur of the hill an important ritual site (Figs 1, 21, see also

Title Page) incorporating at least four groups of stone rows, a standing stone (ss), a stone circle and an excavated burial cairn (F). The standing stone has a small linear incised cross carved on its west face; a similar, but larger, cross with expanded terminals is carved on a standing stone at Clach na H-uaigne (NC 92 SW 1) near Kildonan Church, and both indicate Early Christian activity in the strath.

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GAZETTEER

LIST OF SITES RECORDED IN THE STRATH OF KILDONAN, SUTHERLAND

(The sites are listed by OS 1:10,000 quarter sheet and by NMRS number)

NC82NW				NC82SE			
1	NC 8441 2730	Feranach	broch	16	NC 8537 2893	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	hut-circle, field-system, burnt mound
2	NC 8397 2708	Feranach	cairn	17	NC 8540 2886	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	cairn
3	NC 80 26	Tomich	small cairns, hut-circles, enclosures	19	NC 870 290	Kinbrace Farm	hut-circles, small cairns
4	NC 8097 2605	Altanduim	broch, buildings	20	NC 8740 2888	Kinbrace Farm	cairn
5	NC 8447 2527	Loch Ascaig	souterrain	21	NC 875 288	Kinbrace Farm	hut-circles, small cairns
6	NC 843 272	Feranach	hut-circles, field-system, huts, cord rig, farmstead	22	NC 863 283	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	hut-circles, field-system, huts, burnt mounds
7	NC 834 255	Ceannabhaid	hut-circles, homesteads, small cairns, field-system, saddle quern	23	NC 8710 2880	Kinbrace Farm	hut-circle
8	NC 843 253	Loch Ascaig	hut-circles, small cairns, cord-rig, burnt mound	24	NC 859 288	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	hut-circles, small cairns, burnt mounds, hut
9	NC 815 258	Ceannabhaid	hut-circles, burnt mound	26	NC 897 264	Allt Bad Ra'fin	hut-circles, burnt mounds, cairn (possible), enclosure, rig, hut
10	NC 820 273	Achan	hut-circles, small cairns	27	NC 897 253	Suisgill	small cairns
11	NC 8092 2880	Auchnasheenish	hut-circles, small cairns, shieling-huts	28	NC 8762 2831	Kinbrace Burn	enclosure, small cairns, hut-circle
12	NC 820 272	Achan	township	29	NC 8753 2828	Kinbrace Burn	burnt mound
13	NC 807 238	Auchnasheenish	township	30	NC 8746 2780	An Cnoc Buidhe	burnt mound
14	NC 830 256	Ceannabhaid	township	31	NC 8727 2748	An Cnoc Buidhe	hut-circle
15	NC 836 251	Allt Ceann a' Bheithe	hut-circle, enclosure, small cairns	32	NC 880 265	Cnoc Bad na h-Eirig	hut-circles, lynchets, small cairns
16	NC 812 256	Allt an Duin	hut-circles, small cairns	33	NC 8530 2711	Srath na Frithe	burnt mounds
17	NC 8296 2598	Ceannabhaid	burnt mound, saddle quern	34	NC 8754 2786	An Cnoc Buidhe	burnt mound
18	NC 8294 2578	Ceannabhaid	hut-circle	37	NC 8724 2930	Kinbrace Farm	cairn
19	NC 809 287	Auchnasheenish	shieling-huts, rig	38	NC 898 250	Upper Suisgill	township
20	NC 8079 2849	Auchnasheenish	burnt mound	39	NC 8506 2699	Srath na Frithe	shieling-huts, enclosure
21	NC 808 284	Auchnasheenish	shieling-huts, rig	40	NC 8990 2550	Upper Suisgill	enclosure, shieling-hut (possible)
22	NC 8049 2879	Auchnasheenish	burnt mound	41	NC 8665 2629	Borrobol	horizontal mill
23	NC 819 298	Finfal	township	42	NC 875	Kinbrace	township
24	NC 8179 2845	Cnoc Feith na Fola	hut-circle, small cairns	43	NC 8982 2516	Upper Suisgill	corn-drying kiln, structure
25	NC 8287 2854	Cnoc Feith na Fola	hut-circles, small cairns	44	NC 8701 2917	Kinbrace Farm	hut-circle
26	NC 833 282	Cnoc Feith na Fola	hut-circles, small cairns, burnt mound	45	NC 8980 2669	Allt Bad Ra'fin	hut
27	NC 834 275	Feranach	township	46	NC 8995 2656	Allt Bad Ra'fin	bloomery mounds
28	NC 8330 2742	Feranach	hut-circle	47	NC 8988 2679	Allt Bad Ra'fin	hut-circle, small cairns
29	NC 8308 2736	Feranach	building	48	NC 8792 2621	Cnoc Bad na h-Eirig	burnt mound
30	NC 8382 2723	Feranach	farmstead	49	NC 8888 2545	Cnoc Bad na h-Eirig	hut-circles, small cairns
31	NC 8332 2608	Ceannabhaid	hut-circles	50	NC 8859 2528	Upper Suisgill	burnt mound
32	NC 8243 2594	Ceannabhaid	hut-circles, small cairns	51	NC 8796 2576	Cnoc Bad na h-Eirig	building
33	NC 847 288	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	hut-circles, enclosure, small cairns	52	NC 8702 2887	Kinbrace Farm	burnt mound
34	NC 8319 2969	Finfal Burn	hut-circle, small cairns	53	NC 869 290	Kinbrace Farm	burnt mounds
35	NC 826 295	Finfal Burn	hut-circles, small cairns, bank	54	NC 853 296	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	buildings, kiln-barn
36	NC 8273 2615	Ceannabhaid	burnt mound	55	NC 873 264	Borrobol	township
37	NC 8311 2620	Ceannabhaid	hut-circles, burnt mound, small cairns	56	NC 8993 2509	Upper Suisgill	building
38	NC 8124 2634	Cladh na Frithe	farmstead	57	NC 8656 2868	Kinbrace Farm	enclosure: stock
39	NC 815 268	Tomich	farmstead	58	NC 852 292	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	hut-circles
40	NC 801 257	Allt an Taghain	shieling-huts, banks	59	NC 8529 2940	Cnoc Dail-Chaim	building
NC82NE				2	NC 8948 2400	Learable	stone: cup-markings
1	NC 866 295	Kinbrace Hill	hut-circles, field-system, souterrain, enclosures, buildings	3	NC 8949 2403	Learable	cairn
2	NC 8688 2935	Kinbrace Hill	chambered cairn	4	NC 8916 2351	Learable Hill	stone circle
3	NC 8717 2915	Kinbrace Hill	chambered cairn	5	NC 8945 2403	Learable	stone: cup-and-ring markings
4	NC 8757 2830	Kinbrace Burn	chambered cairn	6	NC 892 235	Learable Hill	stone rows
5	NC 852 270	Srath na Frithe	hut-circles, field-system	9	NC 8922 2351	Learable	cairn
6	NC 8575 2711	Srath na Frithe	cairn	11	NC 8989 2498	Carn Nam Buth	broch
7	NC 8754 2873	Kinbrace Farm	chambered cairn	12	NC 890 241	Learable Hill	hut-circles, small cairns, field-system, shooting butts
8	NC 876 278	An Cnoc Buidhe	hut-circles, field-system, burnt mound	13	NC 879 239	Learable Hill	hut-circles, burnt mound
9	NC 8742 2904	Kinbrace Hill	cairn (possible)	16	NC 889 234	Learable Hill	banks, enclosure, hut-circles, small cairns
10	NC 8741 2916	Kinbrace Farm	cairn	17	NC 869 244	Askaig	hut-circles, small cairns
11	NC 8917 2511	Suisgill	souterrain	18	NC 859 244	Askaig	hut-circles, enclosures
12	NC 8875 2530	Suisgill	broch	19	NC 860 242	Askaig	township
13	NC 8702 2690	Dalcham	cairn	20.00	NC 895 236	Learable	township
14	NC 8553 2972	Allt Choinneis-Gil	enclosures	20.01	NC 895 236	Learable	township, kiln-barns
15	NC 8979 2506	Suisgill	souterrain, hut-circle (possible), stone: cup-marked	20.02	NC 895 236	Learable	boudary dyke, cultivation remains
				20.03	NC 8949 2371	Learable	hut-circle, enclosures
				20.04	NC 8960 2397	Learable	hut-circle
				20.05	NC 8980 2380	Learable	hut-circle
				20.06	NC 8973 2365	Learable	burnt mound
				20.07	NC 8949 2337	Learable	burnt mound

20.08	NC 8961 2329	Learable	burnt mound
20.09	NC 8938 2362	Learable	buildings: round-ended
20.10	NC 896 239	Learable	field-system, hut (possible)
20.11	NC 8959 2381	Learable	enclosures
20.12	NC 8950 2360	Learable	enclosure
21	NC 8984 2316	Learable	hut-circle
28	NC 8947 2459	Learable Hill	hut
29	NC 8866 2287	Allt Bad an Fheoir	hut-circle
30.00	NC 879 226	Allt Bad an Fheoir	shieling-huts
30.01	NC 8825 2285	Allt Bad an Fheoir	hut
30.02	NC 879 226	Allt Bad an Fheoir	shieling-mounds
30.03	NC 877 225	Allt Bad an Fheoir	shieling-mounds
31	NC 8734 2344	Cnoc Ascaig	hut-circle, small cairns
32	NC 8985 2301	Allt Leitir Nan Caile	cairn
33	NC 899 245	Carn nam Buth	burnt mounds

NC92NW

2	NC 905 271	Allt na Beiste	hut-circles, small cairns, field banks
3	NC 900 265	Allt Bad Ra'fin	hut-circles, souterrains, small cairns, bloomery mound
4	NC 902 260	Druim nan Comhrag	hut-circles, small cairns, burnt mound, lynchet
5	NC 905 269	Suisgill Burn	shieling-huts
6	NC 930 277	Suisgill Burn	shieling-huts
7	NC 9319 2507	Kildonan Burn	hut-circle
8	NC 9371 2553	Allt Alla Choire	burnt mound
9	NC 9394 2556	Allt Alla Choire	hut-circle
10	NC 937 259	Allt a' Choire Ghlais	shielings
11	NC 9019 2642	Suisgill Burn	enclosure
12	NC 902 296	Kinbrace Burn	shieling-huts
13	NC 9013 2516	Upper Suisgill	hut-circles, small cairns

NC92SW

7	NC 9039 2390	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	hut-circle, field-system, souterrain
13	NC 9020 2396	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	broch
14	NC 901 260	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	hut-circles, field-system, small cairns
35	NC 9061 2394	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	hut-circle, small cairns, field-system
36	NC 9015 2423	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	hut-circle, small cairns, field-system
37	NC 9037 2385	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	hut-circle
43	NC 9030 2382	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	farmstead, kiln-barn
44	NC 9117 2103	Kildonan Farm	burnt mound
45	NC 904 237	Ach an Fhionnfhuardh	buildings

