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INVERNESS FIELD CLUB

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Leader: Donald E. Coghill.

Some unrecorded sites in the Aird

noted between Oct 1987 & May 1989

Since the great gale of 13 February 189, some of the sites to be found in forestry plantations must now be further damaged or even completely destroyed by fallen trees.

Measurements and compass direct-ions
approximate

Edited by E. Sonia Jacks,

NH 64/74 OS 624439 No. 1

LadYstone Farm.

Ditch. 7 - 8 feet wide with a flat bottom and upcast to each side, running N.N.E, close to the. south corner of a pylon and on to the boundary of some rough pasture. 150 yards are visible. There is an old track more or less parallel a short distance on the down side. This ditch appears to be an ancient boundary.

NH 64/74 OS 628444 No. 2

'Hood east of Ladystone Farm.

This site is 150 yards down from the furthest east gate of the furthest east field of Ladystone Farm and in a fir wood. A cluster of approx. & low mounds of indefinite shape and distribution and overlooking marshy ground. A ditch 12 yards long and 4 feet wide is adjacent on the up side. This site appears to be mufti-period.

NH 64/74 OS 633446 No. 3

RT.PJ. of Leachkin.

Two parallel turf walls 18 feet apart running in mature fir wood N.E. from Leachkin - 31ac'..cfold old road. This appears to be an old drove road blocked off by a later turf wall alongside the Leachki:, - Blackfold road, now disused as a through road.

NH 64/74 OS 632447 No. 4

S.S.W. of Blackpark.

Low oval shaped mound in west corner of mature fir wood, 18 yards long and 6 yards at the widest part. It runs east to west and 15 yards on the down side there is a ditch and rampart, also running west. After a short distance it disappears into the south corner of an arable field. On the other side of the field it continues for 200 yards through heather and birch to a marsh. The ditch does not appear to have been flat bottomed and the rampart is on the down side: it takes a slight turn to the north in the birch which makes sighting difficult. Another ditch and rampart is situated 30 yards on the up side near the fir wood where it runs roughly in the same direction, but the ditches are much farther apart when they reach the bottom marsh. This fiat bottomed ditch, in its best section next the marsh, is 9 feet wide and the rampart, which is on the up side, is 15 feet wide and 2 feet high. The ditches appear to be of different periods.

NH 64/74 OS 62..9445 No. 5

East of Ladystone Farm.

100 yards down from a layby and in the birch wood there is a mound 2 feet high in the centre. It appears to have been rectangular and is now eroded giving a measurement of 6 yards x 5 yards. It has been constructed of turf as there is about 5 to 6 times the amount of soil in the mound as could have come out of the small trench situated on the up side only. This ditch is hard up against the mound and is 17' feet deep in the centre section. This mound has a more crisp appearance than arty other mounds in the area. This may be a route marking sod erection constructed by a fatigue party sent from a camp near the ford on the River Ness, shortly before a large, well-organised army would be marching west on unfamiliar ground, where the distant visibility was obscured by open woodland. The later medieval track to the north and west is at the iayby.

NH 44/54 OS 568453 1;o . 6

Balintore Farm.

An arched stone hump-backed bridge in the middle of an arable field, wide enough for a cart. It could be on the track between Wardlaw Church and Drumchree, dwelling place of one of the cadet Fraser families. It probably crossed a stream from the now drained Conon Loch.

NH 44/54 OS 572447 No. 7

Behind Inchmore School.

Stone footings of the Drumchree residence of one of the Fraser families. It was mentioned in the Wardlaw Manuscript that the orchard was damaged in the great flood of 1637. It is situated at the confluence of, and between 2 streams, and probably had originally been the site of Corbet of Drumchardine's earthwork. He was one of Bisset of Lovat's Anglo-Norman barons known as Gilbert Corbet Baryon of Tann Drumchardine.

NH 44154 OS 542464 No. 8

Nester Lovat Farm.

There can be seen protruding from the river at low tide the round wooden piles of a wharf which was constructed, perhaps early last century, when the river was embanked further upstream, reclaiming the Carse of Lovat for cultivation. An estate map of 1800 reveals that there was a woodyard situated downstream at OS 543467. The township the pier was known as Baffle-chul.

NH 44/54 OS 538462 No. 9

Wester Lovat Farm.

This site is marked T on the plan, and is behind what was the stackyard of Wester Lovat Farm. Near the foot of the slope is a short length of level ground between the two westerly of 4 young beech trees. This platform of soil is at a higher level than the adjacent field, which was tidal mud flats before reclamation. The soil is darker in colour than the field. This feature was probably the infill of a wooden wharf which served Lovat Castle and is the only feature connected with the castle still visible.

At the west end, and on the same line, and at a slightly lower level but still above the level of the field, is a hard standing of shorter length consisting of stone paving. This stone platform is now covered with grass, but when exposed at the time the drainage ditch was dug in 1968, there was seen a turned-down lip next the ditch which curved sharply round to a right angle at the west end, where it disappeared beneath soil tipped over the edge of the stackyard. At the east end the paving appears to have been destroyed when the later wooden wharf was constructed. This paving does not appear to be the base of a wall and seems too substantial to have been a fishing platform. Fresh water flows from a spring emerging from the foot of the brae at the east end next the soil platform which would be very convenient for boats. The ditch runs on the line of an old channel of the river. A trench cut into the foot of the brae revealed sandstone rubble which may be debris left after loading stone from the castle ruins. The 10th Lord Lovat used material from the castle for a house he was building in Beaulieu.

NH 44/54 OS 54.3456 No. 10

Pester Lovat Farm.

Sunken area in field, 26 yards wide at the east end but wider at the west end at roadside. It is 56 yards long on the top and south side. It was the site of a cottage in 19th and early 20th Centuries and is now a stone dump. It appears to have been originally for some other purpose. The site is called Donaldston, a name which first appears not later than 1325.

NH 44/54 OS 535447 No. 11

Phoeneas Farm.

Site on Phoeneas farm, marked K on the plan. A ringwork with what appears to be a small motte hill now reduced to 4 feet in height. The ditch is completely obliterated in places: its diameter from east to west is 21 yards. This could be the earthwork of Christie of Phoeneas, one of Bisset of Lovat's barons, known as Gaspar Cristy Baryon of Foyaes.

NH 44/54 OS 526447 No. 12

Dunballoch Brae.

A turf wall 1 - 11 feet high runs in a southerly direction from the Kirkhill - Dunballoch road, with a 12 feet gap 30 yards down from the road. 85 yards from the road there is a sharp right angled corner with the ditch on the outside. It then continues due west for 42 yards where it is destroyed by extraction of

material for roadworks. The turf wall also continues on the other side of the Kirk hill - Dunballoch road, in a northerly direction on the same alignment through woodland until it reaches a field dyke.

50 yards on the down side of this section and opposite Lur:balloch farm cottages the original road can still be seen as a terrace. The road alignment was probably changed at the time Telford bridged the Beaully River.

NH 44/45 OS 543453

West of Wester Kirkhill Farm

Prominent mound marked V on the plan. It is 7-8 yards in diameter and is on the line of, and one third of the way between, 2 pylons if one walks from the Wester Lovat road. To the north of the mound and on the other side of a woody swamp and close to the Wester Lovat field are another 4 less prominent mounds with surrounding circular ditches. 3 are in a straight line but the westernmost one is slightly offset to the south. The one at the east end is 45 yards from the Wester Lovat road, and 12 yards from the field dyke. Three mounds are 7 yards in diameter from the bottom of the ditch, but the east one is slightly smaller. The distances the mounds are apart going from west to east are respectively 11 yards, 9 yards and 8 yards. There are suspicions that there may have been another 2 mounds, one 12 yards S.E. and the other 15 yards due west of the westernmost mound. Between this area and the old dam to the west there are another 4 definite similar mounds. On the other side of the dam there are another 6 definite similar mounds between the dam and OS 542453. These may be the mounds mentioned in the first Statistical Account as being situated at Blar-na-cui-flick.

NH 44/54

OS 528452

No. 14

Dunballoch Plantation.

There is a ditch (which may have been interfered with during the last war) 55 yards long and curved to form a wide circle. It is 7 yards wide at the top end, but narrower next the Kirkhill - Dunballoch road due to upcast from a sandpit. The upcast of the ditch is to each side and it is much deeper at the bottom end next the sandpit. 35 yards down from this bottom end and towards the west and next the road, there are the very eroded remains of what appears to be an outer circular rampart. It is 20 yards long and has a ditch on each side. The bottom of the ditches are 6 yards apart. About 25 yards in from the 55 yard inner ditch there appear to be stone footings of a rectangular structure 10 yards long on the S.W. side and 8 yards wide next the sandpit. The outer rampart and the broad inner ditch appear to be the remnants of a double circular ringwork enclosing perhaps a religious site. On the upside from, and unconnected to, this site, is an area consisting of heaps of spoil in the woodland, which has been left after digging mentioned in the first Statistical Account. Further up still is a very old turf wall with later stone facing on the down side. This wall now links across between 2 more recent and less substantial parallel turf walls, also with stone facing. The woodland on the outside of each parallel turf wall was formerly 2 arable fields belonging to Dunballoch Farm.

NH 44/54

OS 533454 - 538453

No. 15

Longwood.

On the south side of the Kirkhill - Dunballoch road, and in the mature fir wood known as Longwood, there are numerous low mounds of various sizes, both circular and oval with faintly discerned surrounding ditches. They are scattered over a large area and one or two overflow into an area of what may have been a previous enclosure at the east side. (see No. 16) Very faint traces of a ditch of medium width can be seen with difficulty running North - South; it is a short distance in from the corner OS 538453•

This ditch is unconnected with forestry drainage. Some of the mounds may be in the area known as Baffle na Sith mentioned in the Transactions of the Inverness Field Club Volume II page 235. This area is multi-period, being situated above the Stockford of Ross. This dry level plateau was a noted camping site for armies from Viking to Hanoverian times. Alexander I put down a Celtic uprising in a battle believed to have been fought in the vicinity of the Stockford of Ross in 1110. There is what may be a post-Culloden turf wall at the north and east side of this area, parallel to the public road and estate track respectively.

NH 44/54

OS 544453

~yo. 16

Blar na Coille.

Marked B on the plan. There can be seen in the fir wood a very eroded rampart and outer ditch running from the field dyke at A to B where there is a rounded corner. The Kirkhill to Dunballoch road is then parallel to it as far as corner D. Farm weeds were seen being dumped in the outer ditch at corner B in the late nineteenth forties. The best section of the outer ditch of this apparently large military camp of perhaps 168 acres can be seen at the roadside close to corner B. It appears to be 5 feet wide here—the sifting up has still left a depth of 1 foot in relation to the ground at the outside of the camp. At C there is evidence of what appears to be a gateway with an internal rampart turning inwards with a curve, and its ditch on the down side is 20 yards long. This rampart is now so eroded that it forms a terrace in the sloping ground here. A sharp dip in the ground below the roadside fence may indicate the spot where the outer ditch, after turning at right angles, came outwards in a curve and with its rampart continued a short distance forming a quarter circle, now below the public road.

About 18 yards from the dip and towards corner D, there comes out from the outer ditch at an angle of 'approx. 45° a strip of rushes 8 yards in length. This low strip now forms part of a drainage channel to the roadside ditch and may be following what was originally a traverse trip ditch at the gateway entrance. The best section of the rampart can be seen between a large stone and corner D. This large stone is 4 feet long, 2 feet wide and 2 feet high and is incorporated in the rampart near a lay-by. The rampart in this area is now 10 feet wide at the base and over 2 feet high in relation to the ground at the inside of the camp. The corner at D is very eroded, this may have been partly caused by logs being dragged across the rampart for loading at the roadside. It appears that the camp was later used at some period or periods as an enclosure for livestock. Soil from a more recent, narrower and shallower internal ditch was used to heighten an eroded rampart, which has since been further eroded, so giving an already silted up outer ditch to be completely filled up in places in the process. This later internal ditch now gives the impression of a less rounded curve at corner D than that found at corner B. 45 yards west of gateway C, at a higher and drier area, there is no trace at all of the rampart and ditches for about 4 yards. This could be where a later Higher, drier and more suitable gateway was placed opposite Lovat Castle for the use of domestic livestock. At E where an old estate track runs outside of, and parallel to, the camp outer ditch and rampart, there is evidence of a gateway which was later closed up. Some of the soil for this blocking up was probably taken from the nearest section of an internal curved rampart, resulting in the end of this rampart now being seen as a crag and tail mound. The mound itself is too substantial to be only the end of a rampart and is of a later period. A few yards southwards there are clear indications of a considerable quantity of soil being dug out of the centre of the main rampart in the recent past. The soil was probably used to fill in a nearby traverse trip ditch. This would probably be when the estate forestry track was laid out at the time the wood was first planted in 1766. Inside the camp and a short distance in from gateway E, there can be seen evidence of turf removal at some period or periods prior to 1766. This and other now swampy areas are marked in green on the map. At F there was an internal expansion to the rampart now eroded to 6 yards x 6 yards. On each side of this internal expansion, the later period internal ditch stops abruptly, which seems to indicate that the eroded

(iii)

expansion was used as a conveniently-high and dry gateway for livestock, the outer ditch having been almost completely silted up or filled in. Directly opposite the internal expansion at F, and outside the camp, there is a ring earthwork at P, now approx. 16 yards x 15 yards. It consists of an internal rampart and outer ditch which appears to be 9 feet wide in its best section. Due to its very eroded condition it is difficult to say whether this earthwork is circular or a square with rounded corners. An entrance causeway next to the camp cannot now be detected. The internal expansion may have been a platform for monitoring signals sent from a temporary wooden watch tower within the ring earthwork to a supportive fleet in the tidal river anchorage opposite the hard standing at T. This tower is also in the optimum position to keep surveillance over the Stockford of Ross, the crossing place for armies, and the surrounding area as far as the hill forts on Dun Mor and Phoinneas Hill. This ringwork is almost certainly multi-period and interfered with by camping armies in later times. Between N and M there is a straight and what now appears to be a flat-bottomed ditch ~9 feet wide with the upcast to each side. This ditch may have extended further at each end but cannot now be traced as those areas are outwith the woodland. Recent forestry ploughing has obliterated the section of the ditch near M, but it could be seen for a short time at M after scrub birch was cut in May 1987. This ditch is probably older than the camp, and in conjunction with the former Conon Loch shoreline (Y to Z), burial mounds at TJ and also swampy areas, dictated the situation and shape of the camp. At G there can be seen crossing the forestry track at an angle the remains of an eroded external curved rampart, also the dip of its outer ditch. This earthwork had not been thoroughly levelled when the estate track was made. The ground is also very slightly higher where the end of an internal curved rampart of a gateway would have been, if identical to that found at E. Also there are clear indications of the ground being slightly lower in a narrow strip on each side of the forestry track for a total length of 8 yards. It also comes out from the outer ditch at an angle of approx. 45°, but this traverse trip ditch appears to be a yard or two nearer the outer external curved rampart than at gateway C. Between gateway G and corner H there is a low mound inside the camp and very close to the rampart. The erosion characteristics indicate that it post dates the construction of the rampart and is earlier than the most probable and cost effective re-use of the camp as a stock enclosure by the Anglo-Normans and perhaps others before and later. The erosion characteristics were caused by the natural movement of animals, both wild and domestic, in the close proximity of the rampart. After whins were cut, very slight evidence could be seen of that section of the corner at H furthest away from the track. Soil may have been removed from the section of the corner nearest the rampart when it was extended as a turf wall for a short distance in sympathy with the newly laid out estate track. This corner was then ploughed out, as an estate map of 1800 shows this area as being cultivated. After sheep tramped down long grass growing among a line of high whins along the edge of an arable field, faint traces could be seen here and there of the outer ditch as far as J, where faint traces can also be seen of a gateway similar to that at E and G, such as a short section of the outer curved ditch and rampart. No evidence can be seen of gateway J having been blocked up in the same manner as gateways C, E and G. There appears evidence on the ground at a field dyke that the section of the internal curved rampart next to the main rampart was not demolished. Gateway J may have been retained in its original state, after whins had been cut below electricity pylons, very faint traces could also be seen of the main rampart near J. This main rampart is on the line of the parish boundary between Kirkhill and Kiltarlity, which seems to indicate that there may have been a linear earthwork here in Anglo-Norman times which began in this area at the end of the 12th century. After J the parish boundary now follows field boundaries and, being in arable fields, there is no further trace of the rampart and outer ditch, but faint traces of what may be the angled hump of the rampart at corner W can be identified in an uncultivated 5 yard wide strip behind the hedge at OS 537443. W being on the line of H to J, and X being on the line

of B to A, it is reasonable to assume that the Kirkhill proineas road was originally a track running on the outside of, and parallel to, a straight outer ditch of the camp, the road being slightly realigned. K is probably an Anglo-Norman earthwork at OS 535447 (No. 11) . At L there appears to be a very eroded soil platform with a very silted up ditch at the south side. This earthwork is similar to the one at OS 629445 (No • 5). 110 yds S.W. of this sod platform Z there is a ditch 7 yds long with the upcast to the N.E. This and another may be a Hanoverian sanitary trench, as there was a detachment of Redcoats camped in this area, above Conon Bank Farm in 1746< The sod platform L is situated almost equidistant between the line of rampart H to D & supposed line of rampart ':~f' to X,, This platI Or:Ti __, also i.n direct line betwee:: =;&i.a•IJu,~fl i ~c _...'?7er B Q~ On direct

line between the supposed corner at X and the corner at H. About 125 yards north of this platform there is a large stone 3 feet high, and this stone is also in a direct line between corner B, sod platform Z and gateway J. This stone is almost in the dead centre of the camp, and if the line from H to D was extended and the line from X to B likewise, the large stone would be on the alignment of this intersection and the presumed corner at W. The exact position of the large central stone and the sod platform Z was measured and calculated as to its distance from two nearby old forestry tracks which can be identified on the ground and on an old map. The other aforementioned large stone incorporated in the side of the rampart next to the outer ditch between corner D and gateway C, when aligned on corner B may have positioned corner D. All five corners of the camp can be lined up on the sod platform Z or one of the two large stones with another corner or an intersection point. Gateway E is almost the same distance (following the rampart round past corner D) from gateway C as it is from gateway G. R is a field track terraced into the brae and S is a public road, both coining up through the raised beach by the easiest route. From gateway E via R to the riverside hard standing at T, OS 538462 (No. 9) is the same distance as from gate-way C via S to T.

NH 64/74 OS 624436 No. 17

Above Ladystone Farm.

A rampart 1 foot high and outer ditch 1 foot deep. From an approx. 120° corner this runs 12 yards northwards and 33 yards westwards, both ends being cut by a later catch ditch between the scrub wood land and the arable field beyond. This earthwork does not appear to be connected with drainage and may have been part of an enclosure now ploughed out in the field. 130 yards further west from the corner there is the corner of another more prominent rampart or turf wall with its ditch, the corner this time being nearer a right angle. Here the lengths are 43 yards northwards and 30 yards westwards, where it is cut by a third and similar earthwork with length northwards 43 yards and westwards 34 yards, where it meets yet another with length northwards 29 yards and westwards 15 yards. This earth work may be the remains of a stance and replacement stances adjacent to the drove road.

NH 0,4/74 OS 618432 ATo. 18

Above Ladystone Farm.

Circular enclosure which may be a but circle with a very eroded rampart and outer ditch: the diameter of the rampart is 12 yards. It is hidden in scrub on the south side next the old road and an entrance cannot be identified. A short distance further westwards there are big foundation stones of ancient walling. These run westwards in a straight line throughout, and after 24 yards there is a gap, wide enough for a cart. On the other and west side of this gap the foundation northwards for 2 to 3 yards appears to be as for an entrance. The walling continues west for 100 yards where it is lost in scrub. Before the scrub is reached there appears to be a very eroded and roughly parallel ditch on the downside visible for a few yards. 22 yards west of the gateway and 4 yards on the up or south side of the walling, there is a low round cairn 7 yards in diameter with a surrounding ditch still visible on the north and east sides. Further west and in the newly planted moor there appears to be a very eroded ditch with the rampart on the up or south side running in a westerly direction. This earthwork is opposite the furthest up croft in Englishton Muir. 20 yards west of a very high oval natural mound and 20 yards down from the old road there is a round cairn 7 yards in diameter with a surrounding ditch. It has recently been opened in the centre. 46 yards further west there is a similar but less pronounced cairn, and further west still there is another. Down from the cairns there is an eroded flat bottomed ditch 10 feet wide running N.E. from the old road for 320 yards to a marshy area. This ditch is not absolutely straight throughout its length and the upcast appears to be to each side. On the line of this ditch, on the other and up side of the old road, there is an area of rough grass growing in the surrounding heather. This vague elongated earthwork is 30 yards long and 4 yards wide in the centre section where it seems the upcast came from each side. Opposite this earth work and 35 yards on the downside of the old road, there appears to be a cairn overlooking a natural circular hollow, and another smaller one back towards and nearer the old road. Further west there is a minor ditch running in a westerly direction which can only be seen in a short section where the scrub had recently been sprayed. On the up side and back towards the cairn at the hollow there appears to be an area of clearance cairns.

NH 64/4 OS 606425 No. 19

Ladystone Plantation (newly Planted)

Ladystone Plantation

There is a stone 4 feet x 4 feet x 11 feet now sitting on its edge at the side of an old mill lade for Ladystone Farm. This stone marks the lowest dawn point where armies were able to cross the Bunchrew Burn immediately above the gorge which reaches down to Bunchrew station.

NH 64/74 OS 616434 No. 20

Lady stone Farm.

Area of burnt soil including occasional blackened small stones 15 yards x 5 yards was observed in newly rolled field. In the furthest north field of Ladystone Farm and opposite Kirk ton School on the other side of the Bunchrew Burn, Lord President Forbes' oak tree can still be seen.

NH 64/4 OS 603432? No. 21

'Vest of Englishton Muir.

Forestry track crosses over what appears to be a robbed cairn 16 yards x 16 yards with what may be a curbstone still in position on the east side. 30 yards N.N.W. of the cairn faint traces of low walling run from the top edge of a steep depression up to an area of big boulders, then swings round and dawn to a swampy area 175 yards N.N.W. of the cairn. Below the big boulders there is a sharp kink in the walling and then it continues up in the same direction. The total length of this U-shaped feature is 450 yards and was probably built to control livestock.

NH 64/74 OS 602435 No. 22

South of Kirk ton Muir.

Site of a sawpit with a small heap of rough gravel which has been carted to the site for some purpose.

NH 64/74 OS 602436 No. 23

Kirkton Muir.

From the burn traces of a ditch can be seen running N.N.E. and on through forestry ploughing 40 yards west from the corner of a forestry fence. It continues on into rough gratings, being cut through by a later stone/turf dyke 25 yards north of the corner. After a short distance it swings round gradually to a N.N.W. direction and fades out among bushes in a swampy area. The length of this dry ditch in the rough gratings is 250 yards, and in the best section it is 2 feet deep x 3 feet wide with the upcast to each side. It was probably connected with the clearance cairns in the forestry ploughing to the west.

NH 64/74 OS 604430? No. 24

West of Englishton Muir.

There appear to be the remains of a large cairn a few yards to the south of the forestry road and near a quarry. Further up, the forestry road has _put through a but circle to the right, where the road tares a swing to the left.

NH 64/74 os 604425? No. 25

S.W. of Englishton Muir.

Approximately 110 yards of very faint walling winding S.PJ. - N.E. through a cairnfield.

NH 44/54 OS 597421 No. 26

Cnoc na iVtoine.

Close to the foot of, and south of Cnoc na Ivtoine, there is a minute standing stone 1 foot 6 inches high.

NH 44/54 OS 589429 No. 27

West of Blar nam Feinne.

120 yards down from the corner, and outside a high forestry fence, there is a but circle g yards in diameter with walling 1 foot high at the N.IvT.W. side. Further up, a broad flat bottomed ditch 9 feet wide runs from the top forestry fence (a short distance east of the corner) in a southerly direction and after some distance swings eastwards. It is lost after 300 yards in a forestry track, but traces can be detected further down near a green mound where it finishes above a swamp. Cairns are on the slope to the west here. Up at the forestry fence corner strainer, another ditch with the upcast to the N.E. runs N.'4. for 20 yards where it enters the fir wood and is lost. Just east of the grid in the gateway of the top forestry fence a ditch, 9 feet wide, with the upcast to each side, can be traced running downhill for 50 yards in recent forestry ploughing. On the other and south side of the forestry fence it runs on the same north - South line for 90 yards where it becomes obliterated by a forestry track. Further on traces of the ditch appear to be detected in broken ground above a swamp. 28 yards west of where the forestry track comes onto the line of this ditch there is a prominent cairn with a surrounding ditch 5 yards in diameter. Near this cairn and to the north, there is a ditch running Tt.E. - S.W. and roughly parallel to the top forestry fence. The total length of this ditch is 570 yards, but there appears to be a gap of 40 yards, which starts 90 yards west of this prominent cairn. The east end of the ditch is at a swampy strip below a knoll. Here there is a parallel and similar ditch 5 yards distant, 20 yards long and with what appears to be a very eroded rampart between. There appear to be traces of a similar feature further west. Also in this area there is a cairn 7 yards x 8 yards with the surrounding ditch well defined on the west side. This oval mound is 3 yards to the north of the ditch. In the section of the ditch west of the aforementioned prominent cairn, it appears to be 9 feet wide with the upcast to each side, other sections appearing narrower. This ditch is older than the aforementioned broad ditch by which it is cut through at right angles near the west boundary fence. This fence is roughly parallel to the broad ditch at this point. The narrower ditch appears to be fairly straight throughout its length, except that there is a turn in the section east of, and near the 40 yard gap. The ditch is well defined for at least 70 yards in a young fir plantation west of the west boundary fence.

12 yards west .of the aforementioned prominent cairn there is a ditch 20 yards long with the upcast to the west, coming out from the main ditch at right angles in a southerly direction. Also 15 yards east of where the aforementioned broad ditch cuts through this older ditch there is a similar feature with the upcast this time to the east and now forming a terrace 2 feet 6 inches above the short cross ditch which runs in a southerly direction also. There appear to be numerous somewhat similar earthworks in this area which may be connected with wattle shelters for livestock. Some earthworks

may be military, as the battle between Malcolm II and Thorfinn was supposed to have been fought on adjacent Blar nam Feinne in 1034.

NH 44/54 OS 91425 No. 28

S.W. of Blar nam Feinne

30 yards west from the iron strainer where the fence takes a slight turn, and 25 yards to the east there are prominent linear outcrops of rock forming breastworks, likely to be used as butts for hunting purposes. Nearby to the S.E. are two small cairns.

NH 44/54 OS 593421 No. 29

West of Cnoc na Moine.

A flat bottomed ditch 6 feet wide with the upcast to each side comes out of the young fir wood on the west side of the march fence, then goes in an easterly direction for 36 yards, where it now curves slightly towards the S.E. and is lost in a wider forestry track. This linear feature was, prior to the introduction of wire fencing, used as a track.

NH 44/54 OS 595415 No. 30

N.E. of Blackfold.

70 yards up from the S.W. corner of Cnoc na Moine wood and 10 yards west of the boundary fence, there is a clearance cairn, one of a number in the area to the S.W. Tight on the north side of this cairn there is a ditch faintly discernible in the long heather. It runs in a straight line westwards for 580 yards. It ends at a small round marshy area within which there is a low flat stone. This flat ditch appears to be 6 feet wide in places with the upcast to each side. Faint traces of this ditch can be seen on the same line in the wood to the east for 150 yards until it reaches a turf/stone dyke in the vicinity of an iron strainer. The area on the other side of this dyke is marshy. The ditch appears to be 8 feet wide in its best section in the wood which is between the boundary fence and a large cairn close to the south side of the ditch. There are other cairns in this area on the north side of the ditch.

NH 44/54 OS 595414,x. IvTo. 31

N.E. of Blackfold.

85 yards west of the fence there is a but circle 12 yards in diameter in the long heather.

NH 64/74 OS 603421 No. 32

E.S.E. of Cnoc na Moine.

Up a short distance from where the two burns meet there is a flat bottomed ditch 6 feet wide with the upcast to each side. This ditch runs south westwards from the Alit Dionaeh burr. for 20 yards. If one continues in a S.W. direction and roughly parallel to the turf/stone dyke (which is a short distance to the south), there is a deep cross ditch 28 yards long. Further S.W. there is what appears to be a boat-shaped earthwork 25 yards x 10 yards with a ditch on each side. Further S.W. there is another indefinite earthwork, and further S.W. still there is a prominent mound 3 feet high and 5 yards in diameter. This mound is opposite a large stone 7 yards to the south. This stone is situated in a flat bottomed ditch which appears to vary from 6 to 9 feet in width. This ditch is roughly parallel to the turf/stone dyke, and can be traced from the indefinite earthwork to where at its S.W. end it curves northwestwards round a D-shaped mound 17 yards in diameter. This mound stands 3 feet high from the bottom of the ditch at the south side. In this area and on the other and south side of the turf/stone dyke, there is a very prominent U-shaped earthwork which is probably modern. The other earthworks may be military as in this area may be the now unknown site of Mom Garbh, where William the Lion defeated Donald MacWilliam in July 1187, which preceded the Anglo-Norman feudalisation of the Aird.

NH 44/54 OS 572427 No. 33

Above Newton Hill.

Group of 3 cairns, centres 7 yards apart on forestry track, have been robbed to build adjacent dyke.

NH 44/54 OS 577444 No. 34

Holm Wood.

Forestry track crosses over what appears to be a levelled cairn on top of a ridge, with what may be the remains of a very low wall of soil and/or stones running in a southerly direction for 28 yards to a swampy area. Further IvT.E, towards the east boundary fence there is an unusual group of half-a-dozen short parallel ditches running downhill which is probably forestry.

NH 44/54 OS 593437 No. 35

Inchberry Hill.

A short row of big stones in a curve and close together could be seen on a low knoll in the Nineteen-Seventies. 4 stones can still be seen where they have been bulldozed into a heap in connection with forestry ploughing. The site of where 2 have been dislodged can still be seen.

NH 44/54

OS 578425

No. 36

S.W. of Altnacardich.

There appear to be the remains of an old settlement here, consisting of a low turf wall running S.E. for 17 yards with a gap of 11 yards, and then a further 24 yards in the same direction. A short distance further down there is a turf wall 2 feet high running hT.N.'N for 21 yards where there is a right-angle corner, after which it runs down hill for 13 yards. Here there is a gap of 6 feet, and then the stone

footings of the gable of a building on the same line. The opposite gable is 6 yards long and situated 9 yards to the S.S.i"l. 28 yards downhill and towards the north, there is a turf wall 22 yards long and running from West to East. 7 yards down from the east end of this fail dyke there are the stone footings of a building with an outside measurement of 13 yards x 5 yards. This building runs downhill and has a doorway facing south near the S.E. corner. There axe stone footings of an adjoining structure on the same line at the lower end.

NH 44/54 CS 535424 No. 37

N.E. of Phoineas Hill.

A heap of large stones which has been bulldozed over the edge of a steep cliff, lies on the slope below a plateau. A circle of large foundation stones placed at the start of building operations in the construction of a hill fort could be seen on the N.E. end of this flat ridge in the early Nineteen-Seventies, but can no longer be found among the fir trees. There was seen in the not-quite-completed circle an entrance on the south side, and one of the erect long stones seen at the side of the entrance at that time can now be seen lying on top of the heap. It would appear that the building operations had been overtaken by some disaster shortly after commencement, as only big stones for the foundation outline had been gathered and placed. Also in the early Nineteen-Seventies but circles could be seen in the newly planted flat ground below and to the south of the circle, the area on the plateau being planted shortly afterwards.

NH 44/54 OS 521423 No. 38

Belladrum.

A line of 6 oak trees is growing on the top of a very eroded rampart which runs at an angle from the drive and into an arable field in a south-easterly direction. The length of this rampart is 65 yards and width 9 feet and height a few inches. Its very silted up ditch is to the north side. This rampart is probably connected with an area of earthworks a few yards further south. This area of 80 yards x 80 yards appears multi-period and may later have been the site of Old Belladrum House. There is a frontage next the drive 80 yards long behind which, and at a different angle, is a slight inner rampart and ditch 82 yards long. To the east there are a number of enclosures of various shapes and sizes, with a residual core of stone in the turf footings. Entrances can be traced in some of the enclosures. At the east side of the site there is a considerable drop to the flat ground below with a beautiful curve at the S.E. corner.

NH 44/54 OS 518417 No. 39

Belladrum.

A partly covered crenellated stone tower 14 to 15 feet square and 12 feet high with clay mortar, also harled on the outside, is situated at the side of an arable field and on the edge of a steep bank to the south. A string course is 1 foot below the bottom of the crenels, of which 2 remain on the west wall and also one at the N.E. corner. The entrance has been at the east side, most of which has fallen, but part of the jamb at the north side of the doorway is still in position. On the inside of the west wall there is a row of 5 square holes for beams. There is another line of 3 square holes below, but these appear to be too close to the top line for flooring.

NH 44/54 OS 561431 No. 40

Knockrobie.

Site of Knocknarobie House, demolished in the late Nineteen-Twenties. Stone footings of house and outbuildings can still be traced and are situated in a natural sheltered U-shaped bowl which has been tailored at the N.F. to form a high rampart.

NH 44/54 OS 528444 No. 41

Nest of Meikle Phoineas.

In an area of old turf walls there is an approx. rectangular earth work about 35 yards x 22 yards, consisting of the outer ditch upcast forming a raised platform of soil. The west corner (which is the easiest to examine) is sharper than a right-angle. The site is very eroded and is extremely difficult to trace owing to bushes and scrub birch etc. There has been digging close to the east side, this may have been to obtain soil for the infill. This may be the site of Paslaidh, which according to local tradition was an old Celtic church in this immediate area. If so, it must have been a very early timber

in the wood on the other and south side of the road near Brockies Corner (approx. OS 527441) which seems to be too far away from the earthwork. It is difficult to see this earthwork being constructed for a secular purpose as it is not in a good defensive position if used as a lookout for the Stockford of Ross. It may have been a practice construction, or connected with the Montrose wars, or a drovers' stance.

Sheet 27 OS 547389 No. 42

Caiolich.

Ruins of old school, closed when Knockbain and Foxhole schools opened. Site of another car, still be pointed cut at Seanlios (OS 548421), also the old garden.

Sheet 27 OS 548386 No. 43

Baloan Fare.

Site of burials in rough pasture, believed to be after a clan battle between the Erasers and the itTacDonalds in 1429. Reclamation was discontinued here some years ago when human bones were turned up. The snow melts quicker. above where there have been burials.

NH 44/54 OS 558403 No. 44

Ladycairn Farm.

This site is known as Relugas, where there are ruins of a long house (84 feet) and yard, which was said to be a stance of John Cameron, Corriecoille, the famous early 19th Century cattle dealer from Lochaber. Across the burn at Cnoc an t-Sionnach (Sheet 28 OS 551400), local tradition says that a line of 3 butts used for shooting wolves can still be pointed out, but this is very doubtful. Only one could possibly be identified now as such, and it might have been somebody digging into the side of a clearance cairn.

NH 44/54 OS 483412 No. 45

Culbirmie.

A Mound 16 yards in diameter and 3 to 4 feet high at the east side, but now level with the rising ground at the west side. There are no signs of a surrounding ditch. Recent digging has taken place near the east side, which has been sufficiently deep to indicate that there is a considerable depth of soil here, indicating that the mound is not a shallow covering of soil concealing a shelf of rock. This may be the remains of an Anglo-Norman earthwork constructed by Alan:vHalyburton Baron of Culbirmie, one of Bisset of Lovat's barons, known as Alanus Haleburton Barron of Cullbirmies, in the early 13th Century. In the adjoining wood there appear to be traces of a rampart and ditch running westwards for a short distance.

NH 44/54 OS 563454 No. 46

North side of Balcarse Farm Road.

At least 50 yards can be traced with certainty of what may have been a rampart or raised.--causeways now very eroded, with silted up ditch on each side 5 yards apart and running N.E. - S.W. There appears to be another parallel ditch for a short distance on the south side. This linear earthwork survives in a small spinney and may be the last trace of the sponce, which was mentioned in the Wardlaw manuscript, as being at Kingillie in 1644. It is more likely to be an old road, built up in the marsh.

NH 44/54 OS 574457 No. 47

Balintore Farm.

At low tide traces can be seen of a grassy track in the saltings running N.E. and then turning north to the edge of the burn at a point where small boats could have reached at high tide. This track was later cut off by a sea wall constructed probably at the time the burn was embanked in 1780. The track would have been replaced by another to reach a newly dug canal at OS 574455 which was also cut off, this time by the railway in the early Eighteen-Sixties.

NH 44/54 OS 555456 No. 48

Kirkhill Village.

Behind the council houses there is an uninhabited 18th Century cottage with very low walls and-kipped gables, formerly thatched and now roofed with corrugated iron. In the aftermath of Culloden the MacDonald family who were resident at that time hid 2 fugitives under the rafters for about two months. This old building is under the threat of demolition.

NH 64/74

OS 615454 No. 49

Ki:aea 'rood.

A flat cairn or mound 6 yards in diameter with traces of surrounding ditch on the up and south side. Hard against the west side of the cairn there is a ditch 3 to 4 feet deep with the upcast to each side and running straight up and down the hill. Only 60 yards can be traced owing to broken brances etc.

NH 44/54 OS 582433 No. 50

Mam Mo r .

Turf walls of a cattelfold have been cut through by a forestry track. The wall on the S.d. side is 20 yards long, and the distance across to the N.E. side is 20 yards where the fold is narrower, it being hard up against a small stream on the east side. 16 yards to the west is the DotrLy, 10 yards x 5 yards, with the doorway facing south at the east corner. A considerable distance farther west on, and close to, the low side of this track, there is a boat-shaped cairn 10 yards long and aligned up and down the slope with faint traces of a surrounding ditch. Immediately on the west side there is a broad flat bottomed ditch with upcast to each side. It runs up and down the slope with slight bends, and a short section on the up side of the forestry track is as much as 15 feet wide. Immediately west of the ditch and on the upper edge of the track, there appears to be a cairn 4 yards in diameter with surrounding ditch. There are suspicions of other 2 narrow ditches running in the same direction in the vicinity.

NH 44/54 OS 586437 No. 51

N.N.W, of Altnacardich.

This appears to be a robbed cairn 24 yards x 15 yards, and there is a rickle of stones a short distance further east. The site overlooks an artificial loch at the south side, and is not far from the site at OS 593437.

NH 44/54 OS 589442 No. 52

West of Creag Dhomhainn.

A narrow and very eroded non-drainage ditch comes from the burn in a northerly direction for 47 yards. It appears that there may have been crude stone structures on each side of the ditch. A little distance away to the N.E. there are the turf footings of an ancient building 12 yards x 6 yards. The site at OS 593437 is also quite near.

NH 44/54 OS 586445-and OS 587446 No. 53

S.W. of Lentrán Hill.

Ruins of 2 crofts with large rectangular ponds immediately in front at the south, probably used for steeping purposes. There is another similar feature on the same line a short distance to the west.

NH 44/54 OS 556425 No. 54

Toy of Knockbain Brae.

Turf banks of 2 dams divided by an earthen bank to conserve water on the slope. A short distance further south, a turf wall runs down towards the burn, an estate and parish boundary.

NH 44/54 DS 556418 No. 55

2 Muir of Clunes.

A prominent raised causeway (wide enough for a cart) runs in a straight line from buildings at 2 Muir of Clunes to the near edge of the brae above the Moniak Burn. It was constructed to provide work on the Lovat Estate.

NH 44/54 OS 554414 No. 56

7 Muir of Clunes -

At 7 Muir of Clunes, east of the lime kiln and close to the house and quarry, there are traces of a fortified building. The area is 30 yards x 20 yards. Stone foundations are visible at the right angled N.E. corner and stone footings are visible for 30 yards on the inside of a narrow ditch with a rampart on the out and north side overlooking a steep slope. There are linear traces on the east and south sides of the site, the ground at the west falling away steeply then curving round to the north. To the east there appears to be a rampart 20 yards long ending at a large larch tree. Also to the east there is a line of 6 big stones running down the slope. This site was probably the seat of the Chief of Clan MacRae before he left Clunes for Eilean Donan in the latter part of the 15th Cent.

NH 44/54 OS 557431 No. 57

Fairy Glen.

A flat topped mound known as the fairy hill, but probably the motte hill of MacGillie Andrais of Jloniak, one of Bisset of Lovat's Barons in the early 13th Century, and known then as Ewn Mackleod vick illeandris Barron of fir2oniak. It is eroded on the east side overlooking the burn, and the base has been tailored for footpaths probably by a late 18th Century laird. It is likely he put a circular harding of small stones 4 yards in diameter in the centre of the top. This Laird of Reelig was noted for erecting follies. The motte was constructed by cutting a trench (now 9 feet wide) across the tail of a ridge and using the upcast to form the motte hill on the end of the ridge. The dimensions of the base are now, after erosion etc. 35 yards x 25 yards and the circular top is 9 yards in diameter. The height is approximately 15 feet from the footpath at the N.E. corner. To the S.W. and running S.W. for 35 yards is a very eroded rampart with the ditch to the N.E. side. Near the end of this rampart and across a little glade is the end of a similar feature 10 yards distant. This rampart with the ditch to the N.E. runs uphill in a south-easterly direction, crossing a footpath, and can be traced for 130 yards before being obscured by trees. At the top end there is definite evidence of human activity such as a slight earthwork of indefinite shape and also a heap of stones.

The position of the 2 ditches in relation to their ramparts would (if of the same period) indicate that this linear earthwork was constructed to keep livestock in, rather than keep an enemy out. 20 yards further to the S.W. there is a similar and parallel rampart with the ditch also on the N.E. side and running S.E. to N.N. for at least 160 yards. A length of this silted up ditch is used as a footpaths and if it is followed for a short distance, it comes to a flat area 90 yards x 50 yards which slopes down towards the N.N.N, and on which is growing a number of mature beeches. There are faint signs of cultivation running up and down the slope, the access to which was by a track running to the public road at OS 555428. The bottom of this area has been tailored by the track. There is also a non-drainage ditch running up the east side.

NH 44/54 OS 533433 No. 58

Ballindoun Farm.

In the corner of rough grazing there is a double ridge of small stones 14 yards long with a trench 3 feet wide between, and running N.E. to S.W. The bottom ridge is 4 yards wide at the S.W. end and 2 yards wide at the N.E. end. The upper ridge fades into the slope of the ground. At tie S.'N, end there appears to be a silted up rectangular pit at right angles to the stone ridges, and running up the hill for 12 yards. This pit is 3 yards wide and may have extended downhill, but it is difficult to say as there is a former sunken track here leading on to an old road. The top end of the pit is too steep for the track to have been here, To the S.W. of the pit there are very faint signs of a ditch with the upcast forming a terrace on the up side. This can be traced for 70 yards in a S.W. direction. In the arable field to the vest there are 2 areas of black burnt soil with small stones, approx. equi-distant from this linear mound of small stones and each other. They are not both of the same size, but the black burnt soil tails off in the same N.E. direction as the stony mound.

NH 44/54 os 5344 4 No. 59

Balchraggan.

S.W. of Batch aggan Farm stea ing there is a s all, flat to ed area on a rocky noll, overgrow with whins. T h re .is a scat r of big stones a oound the foot the knoll, whi seems to indicate a crude stone structure once tood here.

H 44/54 OS 534432 No. 60

Ballindoun Farm. Among bushes there is an ancient high rampart with a deep ditch on the up and N.E. side 25 yards long. This linear earthwork may be connected wi h Dun Mor hill fort above. If so, it would appear that construction had been discontinued shortly after commencement, as if overtaken by some disaster. There is a linear earthwork in the wood next to Cabr'ch at approx. OS 535433.

NH 44/54 0 532428 No. 61

Ballindoun Farm. Rectangular arthworks, apparently old, but were the site of targets for rifle pr ctice during 1939 - 45 war.

NH 44/54 0 574442 No. 62

Balabeck.

A natural mo nd whicla,-;has probably been tailored when incorporated into an ester a forestry nursery. The nursery was discontinued in 1914 but the boundaries can still be traced in \$alabeck Wood.

NH 44/54 OS 494419 No. 63

Lonbuie Wood. In Lonbuie Wood an ancient turf wall swings round in a curve from dense brack n to the west corner of an arable field.

NH 44/54 aS 496422 No. 64

West of Beaufort Home Farm. Stone footings come up the slope and below beeches, then swing round to the right on reaching level ground and after a short distance appear to discontinue. This feature may appear to be more than the footings of an old dyke.

Sheet 27S 529383 No. 65

Above Refour

it the moor a few yards west of the public road there is what appears to be a short section of an old track, with the top of the embankment on the east side 7 yards apart from a low rampart on the west side.

NH 44/54 OS 547418 No. 66

Leanach.

On the face of a rock a few yards south of Leanach Farmhouse there are about half-a-dozen cup marks, and on the south gable of the house there appears to be the fossil of a small snake. The cup marks are recorded.

Sheet 28 OS 557394 No. 67

Ladycairn Farm.

Stone walling of a rectangular yard 31 yards x 24 yards, which adjoins another yard 28 yards x 12 yards with a range of buildings on its south and east sides. This site is more likely to have been a handling yard for cattle than the site at Relugas. 40 yards distant from the fence at the other side of the stream and towards the south, there are very faint traces of a but circle 7 yards in diameter. At the other side of the swampy area, beyond the other fence and towards the N.E., there is an extensive cairnfield.

Sheet 27 OS 487377 No. 68

Clunvakie.

At Clunvakie, near the south and upper end of open permanent pasture, there is a knoll with a rampart and ditch 10 yards long running north to south on its west side. This appears to be all that is left of perhaps a round enclosure which has been obliterated by agriculture. Further east and above a steep bank there are the remains of ancient walling running north to south. At the north, end this appears to curve round towards the west as a turf wall as if enclosing a knoll. This knoll may have been surrounded by a ditch at the south side which the later turf wall crosses. To the west of the knoll there is what appears to be a terrace running northwards down the slope and then it turns eastwards at right angles and ends above a marshy area. This terrace may have originally been a rampart and later levelled by agricultural operations.

Sheet 27 OS 494394 No. 69

Boblainy Farm.

Before reaching Boblainy farm steading, and at the east side of the public road, there is a circular stony and grassy mound 16 yards in diameter. It is low and curves upwards to a flat top and appears to be too symmetrical to be a stone dump, although stones have been dumped later at the south side.

NH 44154 OS 496403 No. 70

Fenock Wood.

45 yards from the layby and in Fenock Wood there is what may be a wooden henge site of slightly oval A...It is an almost circular enclosure 15 to 17 yards in diameter, measuring from the top of the rampart. This rampart, which appears to consist of soil, has been very substantial and is 5 yards broad at the base and 2 feet high in the best section. There does not appear to have been an outer ditch and an entrance cannot be identified.

200 yards to the N.N. there appear to be faint traces of a less substantial but similar earthwork which could have an entrance. It is 11 yards in diameter. Also 70 yards in the same direction is a small oval mound. Also to the N.W, at OS 495406 there is a mound 8 yards in diameter and 2 to 3 feet high. Further N.E. there are 2 other smaller mounds. Down from the layby and in the wood close to, and at a slight angle to the road, are the remains of crude walling consisting of large stones.

Sheet 27 OS 494398 No. 71

Fenock Wood.

In Fenock Wood, a short distance in from, and roughly parallel to, the road are what appear to be 6 mounds of unequal distance apart. The mounds vary in size but some are 9 yards in diameter measuring from the surrounding ditch. Some of the mounds may be cairns. The farthest south mound is about 175 yards down from the corner of the road. A ditch runs past the mounds, first on the up side and then on the low side. A similar non-drainage ditch can be traced further down also roughly parallel to the road. In the scrub on the other side of the road opposite the corner and where there is an iron gate, there is a but circle 9 yards in diameter. There are signs of human activity further up, also a short distance in from the road. At OS 493401 can be seen a circle of stone footings 20 yards in diameter. Also a short distance to the N.N.E. there can be seen a but circle 13 yards in diameter.

NH 44/54 OS , 503437? No. 72

S.E. of Balblair Wood.

There are soil and small stone footings of a rectangular enclosure 23 yards x 11 yards. Entrance may have been at the N.E. end as footings can scarcely be traced here. 95 yards to the north there is a rampart 13 yards long crossing a hollow. To the N.E. there are extremely faint traces of a turf rectangular enclosure 30 x 34 x 14 yards. The edge of a very steep bank forms one side at an angle with perhaps a gateway at the end of the 14 yard length.

NH 44/54 OS 504440 No. 73

Balblair Wood.

At the edge and above a steep bank there is a circular or very slightly oval sunken area 12 yards in diameter. Inside are 2 large stones, one of which is erect as if in its original position. This may be a funerary site which has been robbed.

NH 44!54 OS 498441 No. 74

Balblair Wood.

Running N.L. from the fork of a forestry track there is a deep and wide ditch with the upcast to the S.""J, forming a small rampart. After some distance it meets a very long ditch at right angles, with the upcast to the other side. This section to the S.W. is less substantial and again meets the forestry track 225 yards from the point where it started. This forestry track runs along the edge of a steep hark, and on the flat below, near where this last section joins, there is a low cairn or mound 6 yards in diameter. Inside the triangle formed by the 2 ditches and the forestry track there are at least a dozen :hounds. A short distance to the N.VJ. of the short ditch -there are faint traces of a short length of a parallel flat bottomed ditch 9 feet wide.

NH 44/54 OS 506444 No. 75

Halblair ',Wood.

There are what appear to be faint traces of an oval enclosure 13 yards x 9 yards with an entrance at the south end. 44 yards further west there is a rampart 30 yards long, running PT . - S. between t:Vo hollows.

NH 44/54 OS 499443 No 76 (i) '

Balblair Wood.

There is a scatter of at least 12 low, mostly circular, mounds in the wood and opposite a pylon in the field. Further N.E. and in the field near the wood there are the footings of a rectangular building of an unusual 9 yards by 7 yards. At the edge of the field further N.E. ,there appear to be faint traces of small earthworks of indefinite shape. In from the corner of the field there are faint traces of short linear earthworks, mostly running towards the south. One beyond the glade and towards the east has been very substantial for about 20 yards. There are very slight traces of minor works on the plateau above. In the wood S.W. of here there is a scatter of at least 6 mounds or cairns. To the S.E. of the aforementioned 12 mounds and up on a plateau, there are faint traces of a rampart or turf wall running across the ridge in a S.E. direction. At the N.'JJ. end there are faint traces of a ditch at the N.E. side. Near the other S.E. end of the rampart there appear to be very faint traces of small earthworks of indefinite shape. 30 yards further N.E. there is another similar-,Parallel rampart, and a further 30 yards on there is yet another with a small mound between and near the N.vJ. edge of the plateau. A further 56 yards distant to the N.E. another rampart makes 4 similar parallel linear earthworks across the plateau which slopes very steeply down at the edges. 24 yards further N.E. of this last rampart there is what appears to be a robbed circular cairn 14 yards in diameter, overlooking (but for the trees) the aforementioned group of 6 cairns on the flat below, and near the field. Further N.E., beyond a glade and at a slightly lower level, there are 2 but circles both about 10 yards in diameter. There are numerous mounds in this area and beyond to the N.E. and the south. Also there is an elongated :hound 10 yards x 5 yards. To the S.E. of this mound there is what appears to be a but circle 8 yards in diameter with a massive rampart 22 yards long running S .E . - N .'JV . close to the N .E . A few yards beyond this rampart there are the footings of a dyke running S.E. - N.'aJ. across the ridge to very near the edge of the wood. This wall passes the edge of a robbed circular funerary site 20 yards in diameter. Near the centre of this circle there is a green and mossy cap stone 6 feet by 3 feet left standing or its edge. Also visible are two 6 feet long mossy elongated recumbent stones which are disarranged. To tie east and south of this area there are 9 but circles which are respectively about 9, 10, 10, 12, 10, 6, 10, 10 and 6 yards in diameter. There are also numerous prominent mounds. Also there are perhaps half-a-dozen ramparts or turf walls, short and long, running in various directions, some of them obviously used for the controlling of stock. In this area close to, and N.4Y. of a I forestry track, there are very faint traces of an oval enclosure 12 yards x 8 yards with the entrance to the south. There are 2 but circles 6 yards in diameter and three others at the south of and beyond and near this forestry track which runs N.E. to S.W. One of the ramparts crossing this track runs in a S.E. direction for 50 yards then turns to the S.W. for another 30 yards ending at a hollow. Another runs East for 55 yards along the south edge above a hollow, then at the other side of the track it runs west for 22 yards, where there appears to have been a gateway; it then continues for a further 50 yards. 22 yards to the S.W. of this rampart there is a short length of a less substantial and parallel dyke of 40 yards. The furthest N.E. linear earthwork runs '(Jest to East, 23 yards being f.'N. of the track and 50 yards being S.E. of the track. Another rampart runs at an angle to, and close to, the S.E. side of the track, finishing at one of the prominent mounds at the west end. This rampart is 40 yards long. The furthest S.W. linear earthwork starts a few yards N.'tJ. of the forestry track which it crosses and then runs south for at least 150 yards, a few yards away and is.E. of a track running in open ground to which it angles before the rampart ends. At a Tjunction another rampart 55 yards long runs N.E. with bends close to, and roughly parallel with, and on the S.E. side of the forestry track. This rampart is at right angles to the other rampart as are the forestry tracks. The N.E. end of this rampart is at a prominent mound and there is at least one other mound incorporated in its length. Even further S.E. there is a prominent, slightly curved rampart running N.E. and close to the S.E. side of a different forestry track. After swinging north it crosses the track and ends. The length is 95 yards. In the area south of here there are an elongated mound 7 yards x 3 yards, and 3 other prominent circular mounds. 120 yards from the end of the rampart and N.E. along the forestry track there is a but circle 7 yards in diameter almost at the N.W. edge of the track. From the aforementioned massive 22 yard long rampart there continues a turf wall which crosses the forestry track in a southerly direction and then swings round in a wide semicircle towards the west. Running eastwards from it

and before it swings is a rampart at least 30 yards long. There are a multiplicity of indefinite and faint earthworks in the vicinity of the semicircle.

NH 44/54 OS 499440 No. 77

Balblair Wood.

A roughly circular pit 6 yards x 7 yards and 6 feet deep with a flat bottom. Close to the east a rampart or turf wall runs S.E. from the foot of the steep bank for 47 yards. It then turns at right angles and runs N.E. for 8 yards.

Sheet 27 OS 484385 No. 78

Boblainy Wood.

In the fir wood there appear to be two adjacent damaged cairns about 8 yards in diameter, above an area of scattered smaller cairns or mounds, some of which are of indefinite shape. A short distance away in a northerly direction there are traces of a circular enclosure 18 yards in diameter with an entrance to the south. Also in this area there are faint traces of a dyke or rampart running approx

imately south to north for perhaps 32 yards. To the south of the 2 cairns and at the S.E. boundary of the wood, there now starts the remains of a substantial rampart or rough walling running approx. N.W. for about 265 yards, the last 35 yards taking a curve towards the south. This continues in a S.E. direction and ends near, or disappears into, a thick wood beyond a forestry fence. On the other side of a forestry track, which is close to the aforementioned curve, a similar rampart runs in a W.S.W. direction and eventually appears to have been later incorporated in an internal estate boundary before disappearing in a thick fir wood at the top, and beyond a forestry fence. Down the slope from this linear feature to the North and West there is a large area of dozens of scattered prominent circular mounds or cairns. Down below the aforementioned curve, straight, slender and much less substantial wall footings leave the rampart and run S.W., crossing the same rampart 30 yards further up, and forming a distinct D-shaped enclosure. This continues in the same S.W. direction for approx. 300 yards. After 100 yards, 5 yards of this dyke forms the N.W. side of a rectangular enclosure 5 yards x 4 yards which appears to be open on the S.E. side. In this immediate area to the south there are three other square or rectangular enclosures, 8 yards x 8 yards, 4 yards x 4 yards and 8 yards x 5 yards, plus a mound close to the dyke at its S.E. side. About 40 yards up from the 5 x 4 enclosure, a substantial cross rampart runs out at right angles to the N.W. for about 44 yards. At the other S.E. side of the dyke there is a gap of 10 yards and then it continues S.E. for 120 yards where it disappears into a thick larch wood on the other side of a forestry fence. After about another 75 yards along the dyke and to the S.W., a further substantial rampart runs at right angles to the S.E. for about 100 yards and ends near the thick larch wood. This continues on the other side of the dyke and to the N.W. for 75 yards and ends at a cairn. After another 95 yards the slender dyke turns at right angles to the S.E. and ends after 75 yards. Further up there are later dyke footings running S.E. to N.W. ending at a cairn, one of a few prominent cairns in this immediate area of which one is 9 yards in diameter and about 6 feet high.

Sheet 27 OS 485369? No. 79

South of Clunvackie.

Parallel to Bruiach Burn there appears to be an elongated pond adjacent to, and on the other side of, the forestry track. It is 70 yards long and 28 yards down from the S.W. end and is crossed at right angles by a flat topped causeway 20 yards long and 6 yards wide. At the other end two parallel low stone walls or footings 5 yards apart run towards the causeway and at right angles to it. The one nearest the burn is 27 yards long and the other 31 yards. The pond is 32 yards wide at the bottom end from where there appears to have been an open drain or ditch leading to the burn. At an angle. Above the causeway there appears to have been an open ditch crossing the later track at right angles from the burn to the pond. There also appears to be a collapsed drain under the causeway. The northerly end of the two wall footings is joined by the stone footings of a gable.

Sheet 27 OS 504378? No. 80

Ardendrain.

Crossing a wide forestry ride is a flat bottomed ditch 8 to 9 feet wide and about 100 yards long running from the wood at each side in a S.W. to N.E. direction. Further N.W. and overlooking a small swampy area there is another linear feature crossing the ride and running roughly in the same direction. Here the flat bottomed ditch, also 8 to 9 feet wide, has a rampart over 25 yards long on its S.E. and up side. This rampart has a base of 5 yards and there is a small ditch on its other and S.E. side.

Sheet 27 OS 452386 No. 81

West of Cruive.

A field system is seen in the recently burnt heather. Also there is a line of four mostly stone butts at the N.W. edge of a hill track. They are 55, 52 and 46 yards apart, respectively.

NH 44/54 OS 594453 No. 82

South of Cnoc a' Chinn. There is a group of huge stones which appear to be the remains of massive walling. There is a scatter here and there down the hillside almost reaching the arable field dyke to the north in places.

Sheet 27 OS 499336 No. 83

S.E. of Lochan Dubh.

Tumbled down stone walling of an elrig for trapping deer in a narrow pass.

Nib 44/54 OS 495439 No. 84

NE. of Kiltarlity Cottages.

A substantial rampart 50 yards long running N.E. - S.W. between the road and the bottom of a steep bank. In its best section it is 5 to 6 yards wide at the base and over 3 feet high from the bottom of the ditch at the SE side. This ditch is about 3 yards wide at the bottom. At the other and north side of the road there is the rampart only which runs at right angles to the NW and above the edge of a steep bank, where after 55 yards it meets the bottom of another steep bank. It appears there could be other minor earthworks to the SE of the area. Over the fence above the bank at the SW side, and in rough grazing at the edge of an arable field, there are the stone footings of a circular enclosure. This enclosure has a flatter side at the SE where there is a 6 feet wide entrance, and opposite there is another 6 feet wide gap. The diameter of this enclosure in both directions is 28 yards.

NH 44/54 OS 480409 No. 85

N.E. of Cragganmore.

A length of crude walling roughly parallel with the road. An offset gap of 5 yards makes it that same distance nearer the road when it continues N.E. in the same line for an indefinite length. This ancient linear feature may not be unconnected with that mentioned west of OS 483412 (No. 45)

NH 44/54 OS 515476 No. 86

Rheindown Wood.

Coming up from rough ground and from an easterly direction, and crossing below an electricity line almost at right angles, is a flat topped linear earthwork 8 yards wide. It has a small ditch at the upper and south side. On the north side the ditch is very substantial, 4 yards wide at the bottom, and appears similar to a sunken road. It is then in a fir wood, having turned uphill slightly, and keeping close to the edge of a steep bank above a burn. There is now a rampart at the side of this fosse next the burn. Near where this rampart starts there appear to be faint traces of earth works of indefinite shape, one of which could be part of a flat topped circular mound. (here is another circular mound a few yards to the S.E., opposite a substantial rampart which has a base maw 5 yards wide, and which runs in a southerly direction and stops a little distance short of a timber loading stance at a road junction. This rampart contains very much more material than could have come from the upcast of the small ditch at its east side. The 8 yard wide rampart can be traced at the other side of a tarred road and it continues in the same westerly direction. Near the top of the fir wood it appears to have narrowed to a width of 5 yards before all trace is lost. Also 65 yards up from this road there are 4 mounds a few yards to the south of this linear feature. The nearest one is the largest and very prominent. There appears to be another similar mound or cairn a short distance further up. It is mentioned in the Wardlaw Manuscript that scouts of the Clan MacKenzie were observed above Rheindown about 1577. This army was probably camped in the area during this disturbed period. The rampart running north to south with the 5 yard base and perhaps the one at the edge of the bank above the burn, may be dated to the 16th century. At OS 513476 a shallow flat bottomed ditch 6 feet wide runs from the burn for a few yards to meet the road, and continues on the

other side in a S.W. direction to meet traces of minor earthworks of indefinite shape near the fir wood boundary. Near the road and 12 yards south of the ditch, there is a crag and tail mound 5 yards in diameter which may be an outlier of the aforementioned cairn-field further south

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NH 44/54 OS 503474 No. 87

West of Rheindown 'ddood.

50 yards west of a hole in a deer fence at the side of a forestry

track and 10 yards down from a ride, there is a mound 5 yards in diameter with faint traces of its surrounding circular ditch. A little distance further west there appear to be very faint traces of earthworks of indefinite shape, one of which is a fragment of a rampart running north to south and crossing the forestry ride, where the ditch at the west side is more pronounced than that at the east side. Further up the slope and opposite an opening in the dyke there are half-a-dozen mounds of various sizes.

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NH 44/54 OS 492457 No. 88

East of Drumindorsair.

Coming out of a wood and running in a straight line S.S.E. through rough gratings are traces of a rampart almost 3 yards wide with the little ditch at the east. It continues in the same direction in rough pasture on the other side of the public road and reaches a private drive on the other side of which it stops at a well, where there appears to be minor human activity at the S.E. E

NH 44/54 OS 478423 No. 89

Ruttle `Hood.

A small low circular mound or cairn at the north edge of a forestry track which has exposed kerbstones. There are two other similar but heather covered cairns close together, a little distance to the west, and another two, along with an elongated mound 8 yards x 3 yards, a little distance to the north.

NH 44154 OS 47247 No. 90

Hughton.

A U-shaped enclosure with a low surrounding dyke, the top of which is more or less level with the soil at the inside. The dyke is much damaged in places at the south side of this site of mature oaks.

The area enclosed measures 34 yards along the roadside and 20 yards from the roadside dyke towards the turn of the U at the west.

There appear indications of what may have been a minor motte type earthwork on this spur, well sited overlooking the flat land below.

It has also a good view over the divided river at the south side of Eilean Aigas and well beyond to each side of the undivided river upstream. The mound appears to have been severely tampered with when the surrounding dyke was built and much material has been removed, perhaps when the adjoining road was constructed. 168 yards to the S.W. there are more oaks planted, but on a lower and less prominent spur, also adjacent to the west side of the road.

Nearer the north side of the interior there are indications of footings of the S.W. corner and south wall of a rectangular or square structure.

NH 44/5 4 OS 51 1 481 No. 91

West of Clashandorran.

A shallow flat bottomed ditch or track 6 feet wide runs uphill from the edge of the wood in a S.S.W. direction. After 240 yards it swings slightly to the west near where it passes a prominent flat topped mound on the east side. The circular surrounding ditch of this mound is 10 yards in diameter. There are at least 12 other mounds in the area round about; some of them are smaller than others.

NH 44/54 OS 475423? No. 92

Ruttle Wood.

A moss covered, very low, curved stone breastwork. It is 15 yards long and overlooks sloping ground to the north and was probably constructed as a butt for hunting purposes. A considerable distance to the N.W. there are two circular mounds or cairns 5 yards in diameter and 12 yards apart. There are two other similar cairns scattered to the S.W. of the breastwork.

NH 44/54

OS 530455

No. 93

Ferrybrae.

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Ferrybrae.

The remains of part of a rectangular enclosure which has been destroyed at the west side by a later boundary dyke, between the wood and an arable field now infested with broom. It measures 18 yards at the top, 32 yards at the east side and 28 yards along the bottom. The surrounding ditch is at the outside with the upcast to the inside forming a low rampart. Next to the dyke at the top S.W. corner there has been an inner rectangular enclosure, the section undestroyed by the dyke measuring 5 yards x 8 yards. It also has the ditch on the outside with upcast forming a low rampart. According to local tradition the enclosure was a drovers' stance situated above the Mealacr. Ford. Also in the wood and a short distance to the west there is a, probably older, flat bottomed ditch 6 feet wide. It forms a U-shaped curve with the bottom of the f towards the west. 72 Yards of the ditch can still be traced. Further west still at OS 533455 there is a very low flat cairn 5 yards in diameter in the middle of a forestry ride.

Sheet 27

OS 542387

x,70, 94

N.E. of Araidh.

In the fir wood there is a length of low, moss-covered crude stone walling which has gaps. It runs from south to north and joins a low broad rampart at an angle. At this point the rampart, which may have been an ancient boundary, has a gap of 16 yards and then continues. At the north end of the gap, similar stone walling, 18 yards long, joins the rampart at the same angle and is offset from the other stone walling by 9 yards. This linear feature appears to have been for hunting purposes or stock control.

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NH 44/54 OS 547408 No. 95

Wester Clunes.

Very low crude stone footings run straight south to north from a knoll and cross a swampy area, on the other side of which there is a right-angled turn. They then run west for a short distance when they appear to finish. There appear to be fallen stones close to and at the south side of the knoll. There appears also to have been human activity on other adjacent knolls, at least one of which has a flat top. This line of knolls forms an irregular ridge at the west side of, and parallel to, the Allt a' Choilich Burn.

NH 44/54 OS 543409 No. 96

Wester Clunes.

There appears to have been a D-shaped stone structure 10 yards in diameter with 3 kerb stores still in position in the curve at the west and up side. There is a heap of big fallen or dislodged stones at the opposite side and clear signs of a surrounding curved ditch at the west side beyond the aforementioned kerbstones. There are footings of a straight wall or dyke 13 yards long running from the S.W. side of the site. 13 yards to the f.E. there are the remains of a cairn 3 yards in diameter. A little distance to the S.W. here is crude stone walling which may be unconnected. The area where the stone structure is situated is now slightly marshy.

NH 44/54 OS 545410 No. 97

Wester Clunes.

In a secluded spot there is a roofless small sunken stone-built bothy with soil banked up against, and surrounding, the exterior. The inside dimensions are 6 yards x 5 yards. The fallen-in turf roof now leaves the inside wall less than 3 feet high. There is a 2 feet wide opening in the gable at the N.E. corner. At the opposite and lower end the 2 feet wide opening is in the centre. The end wall is slightly splayed outwards towards this centre opening. Silted up stone drains in the former arable area above have probably now reduced the volume of water in the small stream which runs past the side of the bothy. This building may have been constructed for the purpose of distilling, as local tradition informs us that there was a copper pot buried in the vicinity. The site was also used as a sheep dipper. There is a short length of ancient stone and/or soil walling running south to north, a little distance further up.

NH 44/54 OS 543405 No. 98

Wester Clunes.

From a recent large clearance cairn there are traces of a raised track running S.W. into a bracken infested young plantation. There are faint traces of a ditch, five yards apart, at each side of the track. There are also traces of what has been a substantial turf wall running N.W. to S.E. straight down the steep slope and it passes close to the cairn's N.E. side. All the linear features have been levelled by ploughing, which has also caused a rectangular terraced area to be formed in the very steep slope above the cairn.

Over the fence and in the young plantation, traces can be seen, where the bracken has died down, of field walling with footings of a rectangular building on the up side.

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Sheet 27 OS 548400 No. 99

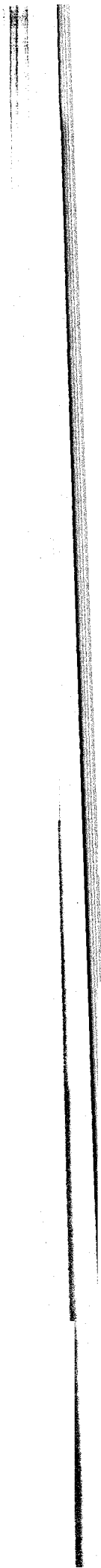
S.S.W. of South Clunes.

In an area which was re-seeded and worked over with heavy disc harrows in the early Nineteen-Seventies, there is still an ancient field wall visible and other raised linear features, also at least one ditch. To the westwards and on higher ground there is a cairn field. Further on and across a small stream, faint traces can be seen (at a certain stage when lying snow is thawing) of lazy beds running up and down the slope.

Sheet 27 OS 533395 NO. 100

Batten.

In a bracken and whin infested area of rough grazing, there can be seen with difficulty when the bracken is down, a scatter of at least 3 small cairns. 2 of the cairns are on a ridge and in line with a much larger cairn a little distance further north on the ridge. This cairn is about 4 feet high with a small pointed kerbstone in position at the east side. This cairn appears to have been robbed. To the S.E. and in a lower area there is turf walling with a right angled corner, also another turf linear feature which, after running straight for a short distance, curves round to the area of the small cairns.



NH 44/54 OS 575443 No. 101

Balabek Brae.

The public road runs between two roughly parallel turf walls at the edge of, and in, a fir wood on each side of the road. The road changes alignment slightly, and therefore is not equi-distant to the turf walls throughout their length. The distance the turf walls are apart appears to indicate that there was an old route here for driving livestock, perhaps to and from summer sheilings higher up as at OS 582433 (No. 50).

NH. 44/54 OS 527441 No. 102

Brockies Corner.

The right-angled corner of stone footings can be seen in and near the corner of the wood. This is the site of the former Brockies Inn. Further up in the wood and beyond a turf dyke running across the slope is a short length of very eroded rampart running westwards from near the boundary dyke next Phoinias Farm.

It has a

base now 4 yards wide in its best section and with the upcast coming from each side. Yet further up the slope there are very faint traces of a silted up flat bottomed ditch 2 yards wide which also runs westwards for a short distance from the vicinity of the stone boundary dyke. Thereafter all traces are lost in the dense forestry east of Paslaidh.

NH 64/74 OS 608461 No. 103

Phopachy.

Outwith the arable field and buried under grass are the concrete foundations of a store-house. Adjacent and towards the east there are dislodged blocks of brick walling and footings of another building. At the west side an inlet has been dug, but the entrance is now blocked with beach shingle. Bores and probably guano were landed here during high tides. This haven may have become redundant when John ran, Kirkton Farm, built his manure factory at Bunchrew Railway Station in 1870.

NH 44/54

03 553425

No. 104

Lyne.

An elongated sunken area 16 yards x 8 yards dug into and running up the steep hillside. It is now bowl-shaped, the centre being 5 feet below the level of the rim. It had -a caber-type roof and was constructed as a stare for barley which may not have been unconnected with the illicit distillation of whisky in this immediate area during the second half of the last century.

Sheet 27

09 472363?

No. 105

S.W. of Creagan Dubh and at Clunvackie.

Stone walling of dwellings and enclosures in spruce wood, some of which has been damaged by a water main. There are the ruins of a kiln 4 yards in diameter at the east side of the township. At OS 489377 there is a robbed low oval cairn 5 yards x 4 yards with three kerbstones. To the r.l.E. and opposite Clunvackie Cottage there are ancient stone footings.

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NOTE Miss J.°II, BITEEZZ has taker transparencies of so.-ne of the foregoing sites, and these are in the possession of Mr. Donald E o Coghill.

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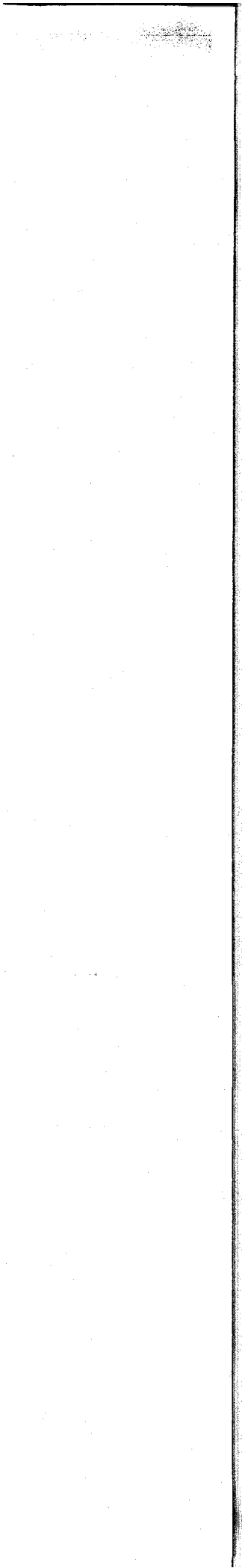
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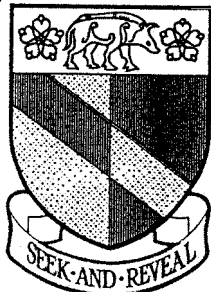
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INVERNESS FIELD CLUB
INSTITUTED 1875

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Leader: DONALD E. COGHILL

APPENDIX I

Further Unrecorded Sites in the Aird noted between
May 1989 and May 1992 (Nos. 106 - 132)

APPENDIX II

Additional discoveries made at Sites in the Aird noted
between October 1987 and May 1989.
Measurements and compass directions are approximate.

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edited by E. S. Cameron hacks



APPENDIX I

Further Unrecorded Sites in the Aird noted between May 1989 and May 1992.

NH 44/54 OS 524426 No. 106

Phoineas Folly.

Semi-ruinous stone rectangular building 92 yards by 7 yards; with ivy-covered round tower at the N.W. corner which has an inside diameter of 42 yards. The rotten roof of the tower is still in position, but the interior of the building has collapsed and its two windows on the south wall have been destroyed. There are two pointed lancet windows with chimney stack between at the east gable, and a pointed arched entrance doorway at the north side; also double ogee window in the west gable. There is an interior doorway into the tower which has two ogee windows and an outside entrance ogee doorway. The building was formerly a laundry and was re-roofed during WW II and used by the Canadian Forestry Corps as a store. This site is known to the Highland Region's conservation officer.

NH 44/54 OS 548433 No. 107

Milifiach.

Stone walling of two rectangular enclosures which may be domestic are in dense scrub next to, and at the west side of, an arable field. Local tradition informs that there was a temple in the field and flat gravestones were removed from an old burial ground situated near the Milifiach boundary

and were built into the Wester Moniack steading. This field was known in Gaelic as 'An Druim' and at one time was part of the lands owned by the Bishop of Moray.

NH 44/54 OS 537433 No. 108

Cabrich Wood.

Disjointed sections of rampart with ditches running south to north. In the best section the rampart has a ditch 7 to 8 yards distant at each side. This earthwork may not be unconnected with Dun Mor hill fort above. See No. 96 on R.C.A.H.M.S. list.

Sheet 27 OS .549393? No. 109

Caiplich.

Eroded rampart or turf wall running N.W. to S.E. This linear feature may already be known as there is a known cairnfield a short distance to the north at Cnoc an t-Sion nach. This is a no-go area but I spied the site from the public road.

NH 44/54 OS 572425? No. 110

Mam Mor.

Stone foundations of rectangular building 12 yards by 5 yards in an area where there was no arable land suitable for cultivation.

Sheet 27 OS 492368? No. 111

S.W. of Ardendrain.

250 yards of a 9ft wide ditch with the upcast to each side can be traced running in a N.E. direction. It can then be picked up occasionally until a wide metalled forestry road angles onto it. A forestry track appears to obliterate any further traces beyond the road.

Sheet 28 OS 553384 No. 112

Balnagriasehin.

A circular kiln was built into a bank close to, and east of, the dwelling house. There is what appears to have been a robbed cairnfield in a small area at the bottom of the field below Ladycairn farmhouse. A short distance northwards from Ballone farm steading and beyond a deep dip, at the east side of, and near, an old ruin, there is a very eroded circular enclosure. This has been a substantial earthwork with a diameter of 15 yards.

NH 44/54 OS 579440 No. 113

Newton Hill.

A short distance down from the public road and believed to be at the site of a former dwelling, three sides of what may have been a rectangular stone enclosure can be traced in the wood.

NH 44/54 OS 522407 No. 114

N.E. of Colt Cottages.

Remains of perhaps four small cairns in a line among mature beech trees in an open clump, and roughly 17 yards apart.

This site is in some ways similar to that at OS 522404, which appears to be the OS number of Site 61 in the R.C.A.H.M.S. list, instead of OS 524402 as indicated.

Sheet 27 OS 533364 No. 115

N.W. of Loch Lait.

Close to the dyke are the stone footings of what may have been a bothy, 8 yards long with 4 yards of the width at each end still extant. The side next to the dyke, with which it would have been parallel, was probably removed when the dyke was built. Further up this dyke, at approximately OS 530366 and 4 yards out from the forestry fence, there are parallel stone footings 25 yards long and with a small cairn built on top near the N.W. end.

NH 44/54 OS 592445 No. 116

West of Inchberry topfield.

Inside the outer forestry track near the turn a robbed cairn, 4 yards in diameter with some kerbstones in position, can be seen.

NH 64/74 OS 622433 No. 117

Above Ladystone Farm.

Close to the old disused road a pointed stone, three feet high and with a lean of about 45 degrees, stands at the end of a robbed straight double line of low stones approximately 15 ins. apart. This runs westwards for 100 yards through birch scrub to the boundary ditch bordering the arable field near which intermittent stones, some on the edge, are clearly visible and form a channel between the two rows.

NH 44/54 OS 563455 No. 118

North of drive to Newton House.

A doocote in the shape of a circular tower with a string course, the conical slated roof surmounted by a weather vane. On the south side a storm head window is positioned above the door.

NH 44/54 OS 550450 No. 119

Achnagairn.

In a mature beechwood there are traces of a linear earth work running close to, and parallel with, the old road to Moniack. This may have been connected with a previous drove road. (see Site No. 101 in the record).

NH 44/54 OS 528414 No. 120

Forestry above Belladrum.

What originally may have been almost circular, is now seen as a U-shaped earthwork. 17 yards is the diameter of this badly-eroded rampart which may possibly be part of a huge but circle. There is a similarity between this site and Site No. 70 in the record.

NH 44/54 OS 530413 No. 121

Forestry above Belladrum.

A rampart and ditch 47 yards long runs straight downhill from a stream to a steep bank. This barrier, enclosing a sheltered hollow with steep sides, may have been used for stock control.

NH 44/54 OS 563437 No. 122

Easter Moniack Farm.

After harrowing, the old road from Reelig House can clearly be seen running eastwards through this arable field.

NH 44/54 OS 581434 No. 123

Mam Mor.

200 yards up forestry road, then 20 yards on the up side, there is a well preserved but circle of 12 yards diameter, with entrance at the S.E., and consisting of a massive amount of material. It appears to have been rebuilt more than once.

NH 44/54 OS 582437 No. 12

Wood east of Mam Mor.

60 yards of robbed boulder walling sitting on the western edge of a ditch which runs downhill for the same length. For the last 1.5 yards at the bottom end of this ditch there is an adjacent rampart taking up the narrow width between this ditch and a parallel ditch to the east, also about 15 yards long.

NH 44/54 09 584433 No. 125

Roadside Wood, Altnacardich.

Suspected robbed cairn on low knoll in dense woodland, with what appear to be kerbstones covered with moss, three of which are large and closely positioned. This may be one of the three Clava cairns noted by Wallace in 1886 (No. 1 in R.C.A.H.M.S list for N.E. Inverness) of which nothing subsequently could be seen. (Henshall 1963-72)

NH 44/54 OS 566434 No. 126

S.W. of Windyridge.

Turf walls of a buaile (cattle fold) 24 yards by 24 yards with an outer ditch, the entrance on the upper south side. Almost all of the lower north side of this approximately rectangular enclosure has been removed during the construction of a forestry track.

NH 44/54 OS 579443 No. 127

Holm Wood.

Hut circle of 14 yards in diameter, with a stone and turf dyke on the western side of an adjacent track cutting into its eastern edge. The entrance appears to have been at the very eroded S.W. section. Nearer the public road and on the same side of the track are two sides of a rectangular turf enclosure with the site of a dwelling on the west side.

NH 44/54 OS 572440 No. 128

Craggach Wood.

Kerbed cairn of 32 yards diameter with traces of a circular ditch, probably destroyed during the laying out of a forestry track.

NH 44/54 OS 587443 No. 129

N.N.W. of Altnacardich.

Two low cairns 4 yards in diameter and 10 yards apart. Some distance to the N.E. there is a much larger low cairn buried below dense, wind-blown fir trees; 40 yards further N.E. (and 22 yards from the turf footings of the building at OS 589442 No. 52 in the Record) there is another low cairn of similar size, 6 yards by 5 yards.

APPENDIX II

Additional Discoveries made at Sites in the Aird noted between October 1987 and May 1989.

NH 64/74 OS 628444 No. 2

Wood East of Ladystone Farm.

A small cairn has now been discovered a short distance east of this site where army trench digging exercises during WW II cannot be ruled out.

NH 64/74 OS 629445 No. 5

East of Ladystone Farm.

Recent prodding with a rod revealed that the ditch is silted up to a depth of almost 0ft, which further complicates the interpretation of this small unusual earthwork.

NH 44/54 OS 543453 No.13

West of Wester Kirkhill Farm.

Between the disused overgrown track at OS 543454, and to near the public road at OS 544453, there are faint traces of a straight, broad, shallow non-drainage ditch.

Sheet 27 OS 548386 No.43

Baloan Farm.

This almost inaccessible site on the other side of the Allt Mor was viewed from a distance at the public road. At a later inspection on the ground burial mounds could not be identified, but there had been some peat and turf removal in the past. The moss in this particular area is much more suitable for interments than the harder ground of the supposed battlefield, which is adjacent to a clearance cairnfield.

NH 44/54 OS 574457 No.47

Balintore Farm.

Further east the railway embankment also cuts through a turf sea wall in two places, thus isolating this pocket of former arable land and causing it to revert to saltings.

NH 44/54 OS 582433 No. 50

Mam Mor.

After selective tree felling, 90 yards of boulder walling has been revealed at the western edge of the broad, flat bottomed ditch. Three cairns now appear to have been constructed with stones robbed from this walling, of which faint traces are to be found on the same line at OS 581430.

NH 44/54 OS 586437 No. 51

N.N.W. of Altnacardich.

A recently uprooted fir tree revealed a suspected corner of a stone lost. Also, by scraping away moss, some of the encircling kerbstones are now visible. About 85 yards to the N.E. there are two robbed cairns, 4 yards in diameter and approximately 10 yards apart. There are three kerbstones in one and perhaps 7, some of which are big, in the other.

NH 44/54 OS 556425 No. 54

Top of Knockbain Brae.

The header dams were for a waterwheel at Knockbain Farm.

NH 44/54 OS 557431 No. 57

Fairy Glen.

Fifty yards of minor boulder walling have been discovered a few yards up from the end of one of the ramparts and ditches.

NH 44/54 OS 534432 No. 60

Ballindoun Farm.

In dense whins close to and on the down side of the rampart there is a scatter of large boulders which appears to be the result of human activity. Whins prevent further inspection

Sheet 28 OS 557394 No. 67

Ladycairn Farm.

The name of this site should be Relugas. N.B. This place name may not apply to Site No. 44 as previously stated.

Sheet 27 OS~484385 No. 78

Boblainy Wood.

At OS 485385 in the field on the other side of the forestry fence there is an irregular rectangular turf and boulder enclosure 54 x 16 yards and 60 x 21 yards. The section with the boulder walling, with a shorter length of similar walling, roughly parallel adjacent to its exterior S.E. side, appears to have had the walling added to with small clearance stones. Running down the slope in the enclosure are half a-dozen lazybeds.

Sheet 27 OS 504378? No. 80

Ardendrain.

This may already be known as there is a large, prominent cairnfield in the adjacent unplanted area to the south. I have discovered since that the lower ditch can be traced to the N.E. for a short distance until lost at a forestry track. To the S.W. it continues in a straight line and stops after a considerable distance. From this point a rampart three yards wide, with its ditch to the west, runs downhill for 70 yards where it disappears into a dense spruce wood. It is at an angle sharper than 90deg. to the main ditch. After a wide gap the main ditch re-commences in the same direction where, after a dog-leg, it resumes southwestwards until it crosses the forestry road at an angle, and after a very considerable distance all traces are lost. There is another lesser ditch also running N.E. to S.W. and for a shorter distance. This is near the wood at the S.E., 240 yards along the road from the forestry gate, and then 16 yds to the S.E. there is what is now an irregular-shaped mound over 6 yards in diameter and three feet high. In this S.E. area and towards the west is a large cairnfield of similar mounds which spills over into open ground to the S.E. A few mounds are also at the other side of the forestry road. The cairnfield finishes at the S.W. in the fir wood with a large mound 16 x 14 yards on the top of a ridge, with traces of a ditch running the length of the mound close to its N.W. side. In the cairnfield near the S.E. boundary of the wood there are at least five circular earthwork enclosures with diameters ranging from 7 to 18 yards. There are traces of an entrance at the S.E. in some.

NH 44/54 OS 492457 No. 88

East of Drumindorsair.

Further down on No. 9 Broallan land a rectangular enclosure, 20 x 17 yards and with a badly silted exterior ditch, has been pointed out by the occupier. Also a but circle in the dense wood above the croft was mentioned but could not be inspected.

NH 44/54 OS 553425 No. 104

Lyne.

I have discovered since that this site was originally a saw-pit known in Gaelic as 'glaic na h-athainn'. This site is a first-class example of the cast-effectiveness in the re-use of sites practiced through the ages which makes sites that are more complicated than this so very difficult to de-code.

E.S.C.J.

June 1992.



INVERNESS FIELD CLUB

INSTITUTED 1875

ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Leader: DONALD E. COGHILL

APPENDIX I A

Further Unrecorded Sites in the Aird noted between

May 1989 and May 1992 (Nos . 133 - 157)

APPENDIX II A

Additional discoveries made at Sites in the Aird noted
between October 1987 and May 1989.

Measurements and compass directions are approximate.

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edited by :iJ. S. Cameron Jacks

APPENDIX IA

Further Unrecorded Sites in the Aird some of which may be known already. ,(Nos. 133 - 157)

NH 64/74 OS 602446 No. 133

Inchberry Hill

From a point a short distance west of a pylon a very eroded earthen bank with its upcast to the S.W. starts to run downhill to beyond the forestry fence.

NH 44/54 OS 583422 No. 134

Pollour

Ruins of a very small bothy situated a short distance below the croft ruins and beside a burn. The entrance is at the north side and there appears to have been a kiln at the west end. This building was probably used for distilling.

NH 44/54 OS 533412 No. 135

N.E. of Pettyvaich

An isolated length of turf and stone walling running S.W. - N.E. with slight bends throughout. This does not appear to serve any purpose other than shelter for livestock.

NH 43/53 OS 506377 No. 136

Ardendrain

Hidden in this area of forestry is a cairnfield consisting of at least six fairly large cairns.

NH 44/54 OS 594454 No. 137

Inchberry Farm

There are traces of lazybeds in an awkward pocket not suitable for later incorporation into the adjoining arable field.

NH 44/54 OS 511478No. 138

Rheindown Wood

There are at least nine fairly large, forestry-ploughed cairns; most have been robbed. Through this cairnfield a very badly eroded rampart (ICE. - S.W.) runs for a short distance and is then obliterated. This is between a track and a dry ditch, both redundant.

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NH 43/53 OS 488369? No. 139

Boblainy Forest

There is a scattered cairnfield in this area.

NH 44/54 OS 508477 No. 140

Rheindown Wood

Between two pylons on the upside and west of a forestry track there is a small, oval shaped, heather covered cairn situated in open ground. It is one of a number in a cairnfield, part of which is on the downside of the track in the unplanted area. A narrow, shallow, flat-bottomed ditch runs N.E. and downhill from here and disappears into the section of forestry west of Clashandorran. There is a prominent cairn just inside the section of forestry which lies at the upside and west of the oval cairn. Fifty yards south of the oval cairn there is an eroded rampart running west from the forestry track up to the forestry where, just inside the wood and opposite the end of the rampart, there is a 10yd dia. but circle. Further into this unploughed section of forestry and towards the north there are at least three mounds or cairns through which a similar narrow, shallow, flat-bottomed ditch runs. Further down, when it reaches the open ground beneath the electricity line, it is parallel to and a few yards north of the rampart. It can be traced in the open heath on the downside of the forestry track, and then in the forestry below, until it reaches a drainage ditch on the same line & after this takes a turn a short distance above the rampart mentioned in Site No. 138. There does not appear to be upcast from either of the two flat-bottomed ditches or from yet another exactly similar ditch running north to south in the area approx. OS 506476.

NH 44/54 OS 527422 No. 141

Forestry above Belladrum

Stone footings of a rectangular building 12yds x 4yds. Further up at OS 528415, and on the same side of the forestry road, there are similar stone footings of the same dimensions. These are situated near, and on the opposite side of the road to, the U-shaped earthwork at Site No. 120..

cannot be traced. Further S.W. on the main ride and near the next ride crossroads, where the water main crosses the main ride at Gulnaskiach, there is a three period settlement consisting of but circles, later rectangular turf footings of crucktype dwellings and~more recent stone ruins of houses. Situated on the main ride there are the very prominent footings of a circular drying kiln of 4yds diameter with an opening at the N.W. side. Opposite, and a few yards into the forestry towards the N.W. there are rectangular turf footings 40yds x 5yds in the middle of which, and slightly nearer the N.E. end, there are two prominent cross divisions 9yds apart. Near the east corner of the 40yd footings there is turf walling 10yds long, and this is at rightangles to the footings and the main ride. Situated on the main ride 30yds S.W. of the kiln there is a quite prominent but circle of 4yds diameter;. the entrance appears to have been at the south side. Further to the S.W., and near the ride crossroads at the watermain, there are rectangular turf footings 14yds x 5yds. Situated across the main ride and adjoining the footings at the S.W. side there are traces of a 13yd dia. but circle; only the N.W. half of the circle is visible. Opposite here, in the forestry at the N.W. edge of the main ride, are the rectangular ruins of two dwellings sitting a few yards apart. Joined on to the stone ruins are sections of stone dyking enclosing an area which cannot now be traced owing to dense forestry. Visible beyond the ride crossroads is a 40yd long stone dyke running along the N.W. edge of the main ride. z-- is 5yds distant from, and parallel to, the enclosure dyke to which it is joined by a cross dyke at the N.E. end. 45yds southwestwards from the S.W. end of the 40yd dyke, there are traces of a 9yd dia. but circle situated on the main ride. No entrance can be identified as the traces are so faint. Situated on the main ride further to the S.W. from the but circle there is a small stone cairn. In this area a turf wall starts to angle across the main ride coming from its N.W. edge. After this crosses the ride it finishes in forestry near a burn. It runs from the south corner of the stone dyke enclosure and cannot be traced beyond the dyke owing to dense forestry. It re-appears N.E. of the ruins of the two houses and disappears in forestry beyond the 40ft rectangular turf footings, having more or less the same alignment as the footings.

Above Loch Lait

NH 44/54 OS 481441 No. 142

Ruttle Wood On a terrace below and to the N.W. of a forestry track there is rough stone walling enclosing the greater portion of a level, bracken infested, area. It has two wide gaps and a much narrower one at the east end where at this point there is a parallel short length of similar walling offset from the gap and a few yards further out from this irregular shaped kraal. Near to and at the N.W. of this gap there is what might be a robbed cairn tight up against the walling at the inside of this puzzling enclosure.

NH 43/53 OS 553362 No. 143

Beyond a grassy clearing there is a crude stone dyke 14yds long, situated among conifers. This is fronted by a small, low, flat cairn covered with heather which appears to be square in shape. Nearby is a small robbed cairn destroyed by forestry ploughing.

NH 44/54 OS 553451 No. 144

Achnagairn Wood

In the vicinity of Achnagairn House at its N.W. side there is a similar linear earthwork to the one at Site No. 119.

NH 43/53 OS 493367 No. 145

N.E. of Culnaskiach

A long, wide forestry ride runs N.E. to S.W. on the N.W. side of, and a little distance from, a large, elongated, un-planted, heathery and swampy area. At a forestry ride crossroads opposite the N.E. end of this swamp a flat-bottomed non-drainage ditch, also running more or less N.E. to S.W., comes close to and parallel with (for a short distance) the S.E. side of the main ride. To the N.E. this is lost in forestry and to the S. W. it also disappears in dense forestry in the direction of the swamp, and may be the other end of one of the ditches mentioned in Sites Nos. 80 and 111. Further S.W. at the nest ride crossroads, and a little distance up the crossride towards the N.W., there is a square turf enclosure which encroaches onto the S.W. side of this ride. It has dimensions of 12yds x 12yds, and owing to damage caused by forestry ploughing, an entrance

NH 43/53 OS 547394 No. 146

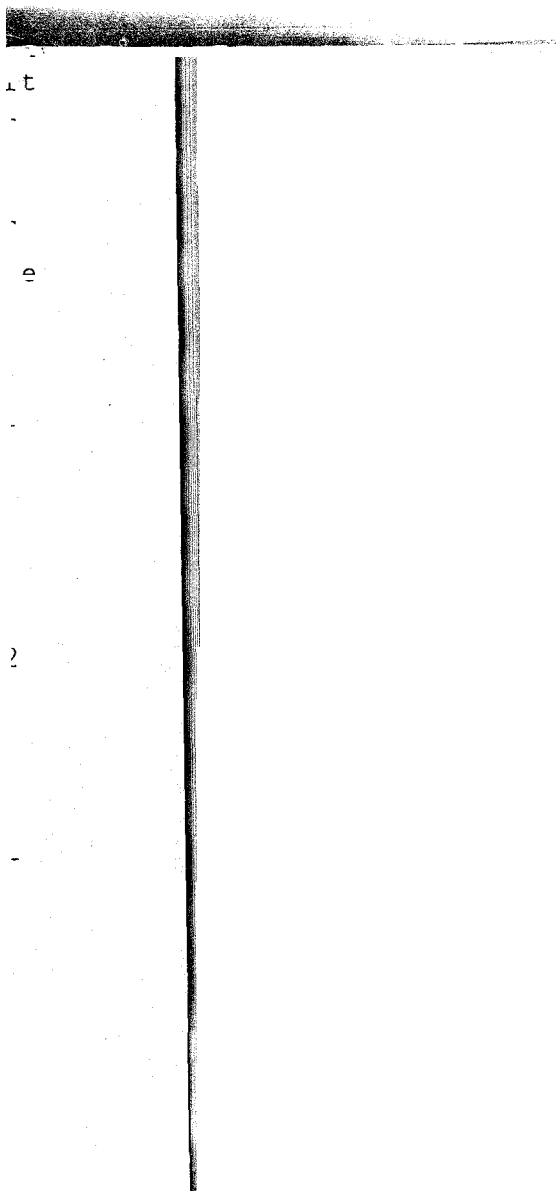
S.W. of Cnoc an t-Sionnach

There is a but circle of 6yds dia. with its entrance towards the south. Near the north side of this very uneven moorland area, which is covered with tree stumps, there is a 4yd dia. low cairn or mound situated near the public road. A short distance to the S.W. of the cairn there are traces of a flat-bottomed ditch which can be traced running in a southerly direction for about 40yds. On the other and east side of the road there is an 18yd length of turf and boulder walling running N.E. to S.W. at the edge of a swamp. A considerable distance away from the road, and up the hill towards the west, an 8ft wide flatbottomed ditch can be traced running northwards through the heath, from the fire break at the edge of the forestry to the cultivated grass area. Its length is about 300yds. It has slight bends throughout, as has a more or less parallel smaller ditch roughly 10yds to the west. The length of this from the grass area to where it is grafted onto the major ditch is about 240yds.

NH 44/54 OS 569431 No. 147

North of Bigwell

There is a length of boulder walling which is very wide at the top end. It runs downhill to near the public road and is very irregular throughout. At OS 571432 there is a stretch of what appears to be a very low consumption dyke 50yds x 5yds; this continues uphill as a minor boulder wall and after a right-angled turn it runs eastwards as a crude dyke for a short distance. Towards the S.E. from the end of this dyke there are rectangular stone footings 11yds x 5yds. After a gap of 8yds there are, on the same alignment, stone footings 33yds x 5yds with a cross division near the middle of the rectangle. A considerable distance uphill from these footings there is a very eroded but substantial rampart running roughly E. to W. This earthwork cannot be easily traced in the forestry as dense whins are growing on the better soil of the upcast turf. This rampart runs to the vicinity of the small cairnfield at Site No. 33 and may not be unconnected.



NH 43/53 OS 503376 No. 148

East of Glaodhaich

Emerging from dense spruces is a well-formed rampart running from west to east through a moss covered forest floor beneath a fir wood. It contains more material than the upcast from its ditch to the south, and after 80yds both discontinue abruptly.

NH 44/54 OS 486405 No. 149

N.E. of Drumnagarrachan

Fifty yards down from the forestry road there is a 12yd dia. but circle. The eroded wall is still massive, being broad and reaching a height of almost 0ft on the down side where the entrance is difficult to identify. A short distance to the N.E. there is a small cairn.

NH 43/53 OS 487362 No. 150

Culnaskiach Falls

Running across a slope are three large foundation stones of a length of walling which disappears into dense forestry where p cannot be traced any further. Towards the precipitous edge of the burn this continues as a narrow terrace and immediately behind, visible for a short distance, are similar faint traces of a parallel, but more bulky, terrace, which seems to indicate a defended site.

NH 44/54 OS 484406 No. 151

East of Cragganmore

There is a scattered cairnfield on a plateau in this area of forestry.

NH 44/54 OS 582430 No. 152

Altnacardich

As the result of heavy grazing in a pony paddock there can be seen the traces of an old road going in the direction of the settlement at Site No. 36 in the record. Cultivation has completely destroyed all evidence near the top end of this small field, but further down there are traces, for a few yards, of stone kerthing. Also in this area there are a few low, robbed clearance cairns. The old road angles in a straight line across most of the length of the field.

West of Street

Running uphill in a straight line north-eastwards from the entrance track to the fir wood is a very low eroded rampart which, after continuing a short distance in forestry, changes to a longer length of intermittent boulder walling in roughly the same alignment before all traces are lost. In this vicinity, and towards the N.W. there is a 12yd dia. but circle. It has a very clearly defined, somewhat wide, unusual N.E. entrance which may be a later feature if there was subsequent use as a very small stock enclosure. There are also faint traces of what may have been an original entrance at the S.S.E. This enclosure is situated near the S.W. end of a level, formerly grassy, plateau running S.W. to N.E. and is one of four well spaced out circular earthworks that can still be traced with difficulty. A short distance to the N.E. of this but circle there is a high 8yd dia. circular cairn well hidden underneath broken fir tree branches. From here northeastwards the remaining and much greater area of the plateau is covered with wind blown fallen timber, dense in places, beneath which there is a 17yd dia. but circle. No entrance can be traced, but close by, to the S.W., there is a small cairn which, along with a similar one a little distance to the N.E., is part of a cairnfield which is scattered throughout this area and reaches well down towards the N.W. slope in places. Further to the N.E. there is a damaged 12yd dia. but circle buried below fallen timber. Again no entrance can be traced, but nearby to the S.W. side there are two well-formed cairns of 5yds and 8yds dia respectively, with another possible cairn adjacent. Further again to the N.E., and near the limit of the grassy forest floor, there is situated the fourth and last but circle. It is of 14yds dia. and is obliterated in one section by unsympathetic forestry extraction, probably by the Canadian Forestry Corps during WWII. The earthworks (now grassed over) resulting from their bulldozer operations, caused distortion of this site where an entrance cannot now be traced. There is the odd small cairn or two in this vicinity. Also, near the public road there are, for a few yards, traces of a very eroded minor linear earthwork running in a straight line at a slight angle to the road. This settlement, situated on an exposed windswept ridge, extends for about half a mile.

████████████████████

NH 43/53 OS538394? No.154

N.E. of Torr Mor

A forestry ride runs northeastwards close to and below the S.E. side of Torr Mor. After a short distance this is crossed at right angles by very crude boulder walling. It commences about 4yds from the S.E. side of the forestry ride and after 30yds in a straight line, at the other side it;curves towards the west and after a few yards all trace is lost. It may have been built as a linear butt for use in hunting activities as it overlooks lower ground. Continuing northeastwards along the forestry ride, where this reaches the bottom of the slope there is an 8yd dia. circular cairn or mound close to the S.E. side of the ride.

NH 43/53 OS 533378 No. 155

W.S.W. of Arrie

There is a cairnfield in this area of forestry; also a ditch which appears to be ancient. This runs northeastwards from near the public road and stops abruptly at forestry extraction earth works.

NH 43/53 OS 515398 No. 156

Glaichbea

Situated under mature beech trees to the east of the public, road is a rectangular cattle fold 23yds x 17yds. Its eroded turf wall has levelled up the outer ditch. An entrance cannot now be traced but was probably at the west side. This earthwork forms the N.E. corner of what appears to be a larger sub-rectangular enclosure with its ditch on the inside of the turf walling. This possible enclosure widens out in scrub towards the road which obliterates any further trace of its straight turf walls. A short distance to the south and on the same side of the road there is a square earthwork 19yds x 19yds with an outer ditch. The turf wall at the east side overlooks the burn and the more eroded turf wall to the south appears to curve round to graft onto the roadside turf walling. The turf wall at the north side of the square appears to be a dividing wall as the turf wall at the east side continues northwards on the same alignment for another 14yds where, at a sharp right-angled corner, it turns westwards to meet the roadside turf wall This section, at the north end of the sate, has a much more substantial rampart with a deeper outer

ditch. Except for a small area of bare ground below mature beeches at the south turf wall, and its very silted up ditch, the remainder of the site is hidden beneath dense bracken and scrub. No entrances can be identified anywhere in the overall larger rectangular enclosure. Further to the south and beyond a glade on the same east side of the road there are, among scrub trees, the turf and stone footings of two long buildings, both aligned north to south and a little distance apart. The total length of the building at the north end is 19yds, which includes what appears to be a narrower outhouse. Close to the south, and probably the dwelling end, there is, at right angles and at a lower level, what may be the tumbled down stone ruins of a very small steading. The total length of the adjacent linear steading and dwelling is 24yds, the house being situated at the south end and on a slightly higher level. A few yards to the east of this building there is a more or less parallel turf rampart running above the slope which fades out towards the south. The arable land of w-h-at were probably two holdings lies lower down towards the burn at the east end, which is now woodland.

NH 43/53 OS 538379 No. 157

Cnoc Dubh, Arrie

A few yards east of a cluster of three very minor earthworks which mark the site of pre-war potato pits, there is a linear knoll. On the top of this steep-sided, uneven plateau, there are traces here and there of the footings of a range of crude buildings which are perhaps of 17th century date or earlier. One of the small buildings on what may have been a defended site appears to have been square with rounded corners.



APPENDIX IIA

Further discoveries made at Sites in the Aird noted between October 1987 and May 1989

NH 44/54 OS 533454 - 538453 No. 15

Long Wood

At OS 537453 there are traces of a but circle of 10yds dia. with the entrance towards the south. A section of the perimeter at the west side has been destroyed.

NH 44/54 OS 572427 No. 33

Above Newton Hill

After forestry extraction two unrobbed cairns nearby were visible. Also close to the upside of the forestry track, and further towards the east, three small mounds situated close together were seen.

NH 44/54 OS 528444 No. 41

West of Meikle Phoinias

A short distance to the south of this Site there is a low mound situated in dense forestry.

NH 44/54 OS 483412 , No. 45

Culbirnie

This linear earthwork with its rampart on the upside runs westwards from the boundary of the wood and after a short distance grafts on to a lower down ditch or sunken road also coming from the east boundary. This earthwork has the upcast to each side 5yds apart and runs roughly parallel to and 60yds distant from the public road. All trace is lost in scrub a short distance from the west boundary of this section of wood.

NH 44/54 OS 496403 No. 70

Fenock Wood

Close to the stones of the crude walling there is a group of very large stones which appears to form the remains of a small cairn. Nearer the N.F. corner of the wood at OS 497404 there is another badly eroded oval-shaped but less substantial enclosure 12yds x 10yds where also an entrance cannot be traced. Both this Site

and the one at OS 496403 were probably.-circular butts re-built most likely more than once and not exactly on the same position, which after erosion over a long period now gives the two earthworks an oval shape.

NH 44/54 OS594453 No. 82

South of Cnoc a' Chinn

More certain, as an archaeological site, is a low, moss-covered cairn of 8yds dia. with some kerbstones in place. This sits on th;- , valley floor below and to the north of the fort (Wallace 1886). Below this fort at OS 597451, and to the east, there is situated a sunken butt with boulder walling 5yds in length. This overlooks the lower slope. On the other side of the valley floor from this butt, and at OS 599454 which is near a Phopachy field, there were visible on bare ground, after bracken had been burnt, faint traces of extremely eroded turf walling. The dimensions of this ,rectangular enclosure are 22yds x 18yds.

NH 44/54 OS 495439 No. 84

N.E. of Kiltarlity cottages

A little distance to the east of the rampart there is a small cairnfield.

NH 44/54 OS 503474 No. 87

West of Rheindown Wood

This former grassy area, surrounded by heather now afforested, also contains a very damaged but circle. There is another mound in the forestry at the N.E. side of the forestry track.

NOTE Mr Laurence DRAPER has taken transparencies of some of the foregoing sites, and these are in the possession of Mr Donald E. Coghill.

E.S.C.J. October 1993

