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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 1989, 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 directions are  
approximate.

Edited by E. Sonia Jacks.

NH 64/74 OS 624439

No. 1

Ladystone Farm.

NH 64SW 0073

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

Wood 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. 6 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 multi-period.

NH 64/74 OS 633446

No. 3

N.W. of Leachkin.

Two parallel turf walls 18 feet apart running in mature fir wood N.E. from Leachkin - Blackfold old road. This appears to be an old drove road blocked off by a later turf wall alongside the Leachkin - 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 flat 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 629445

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 1½ feet deep in the centre section. This mound has a more crisp appearance than any 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 layby.

NH 44/54 OS 568453

No. 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 Barron of Tann Drumchardiny.

Wester 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 at the pier was known as Baile-chul.

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 2 most 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 Beaully.

NH 44/54 OS 543456

No. 10

Wester 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

Phoineas Farm.

Site on Phoineas 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 Phoineas, one of Bisset of Lovat's barons, known as Gasper Cristy Barron of Foynes.

NH 44/54 OS 526447

No. 12

Dunballoch Brae.

A turf wall 1 - 1½ 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 Kirkhill - 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 Dunballoch farm cottages the original road can still be seen as a terrace. The road alignment was probably changed at the time Telford bridged the Beauly River.

NH 44/54 OS 543453

No. 13

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-flich.

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  $\frac{1}{4}$  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.



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 overspill 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 Baile 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.

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 nineteen-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 and the silting 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.  $45^{\circ}$  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 causing 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

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 it's 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 Phoinias 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 V 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 - Phoinneas 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 L 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 W to X. This platform is also in direct line between gateway J & corner B & 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 L 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 L 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 L 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 coming 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 gateway 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 woodland 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 earthwork may be the remains of a stance and replacement stances adjacent to the drove road.

Above Ladystone Farm.

Circular enclosure which may be a hut 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.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 earthwork 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 64/74 OS 606425

No. 19

Ladystone Plantation (newly Planted)

There is a stone 4 feet x 4 feet x 1½ feet now sitting on its edge at the side of an old mill lade for Ladystone Farm. This stone marks the lowest down 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

Ladystone 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 Kirkton School on the other side of the Bunchrew Burn, Lord President Forbes' oak tree can still be seen.

NH 64/74 OS 603432?

No. 21

West 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 down 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 Kirkton 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 grazings, 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 grazings 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 cut through a hut circle to the right, where the road takes 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.W. - N.E. through a cairnfield.

NH 44/54 OS 597421

No. 26

Cnoc na Moine.

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

West of Blar nam Feinne.

120 yards down from the corner, and outside a high forestry fence, there is a hut circle 9 yards in diameter with walling 1 foot high at the N.N.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.W. 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 N.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 591425

No. 28

S.W. of Blar nam Feinne.

30 yards down 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.

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 discernable 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.

N.E. of Blackfold.

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

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 Dionach burn 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 Mam 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 N.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 N.N.W for 21 yards where there is a right-angle corner, after which it runs downhill for 13 yards. Here there is a gap of 6 feet, and then the stone

d/n  
Scam  
in

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.W. 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 are stone footings of an adjoining structure on the same line at the lower end.

NH 44/54 OS 535424

No. 37

N.E. of Phoinas 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 fort 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 hut 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.E. to form a high rampart.

NH 44/54 OS 528444

No. 41

West of Meikle Phoinneas.

In an area of old turf walls there is an approx. rectangular earthwork 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

and wattle structure. Local tradition also relates that there was a very ancient burial ground 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

Caiplich.

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

Sheet 27 OS 548386

No. 43

Baloan Farm.

Site of burials in rough pasture, believed to be after a clan battle between the Frasers and the MacDonaldis 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.

Culbirnie.

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 Halyburton Baron of Culbirnie, one of Bisset of Lovat's barons, known as Alanus Haleburton Barron of Cullbirnies, 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.

North side of Balcarse Farm Road.

At least 50 yards can be traced with certainty of what may have been a rampart or raised-causeway, 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 sconce, 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.

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 hipped 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

Kinlea Wood.

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 branches etc.

NH 44/54 OS 582433

No. 50

Mam Mor.

Turf walls of a cattlefold have been cut through by a forestry track. The wall on the S.W. 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 Bothy, 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

Top 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 OS 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 Moniack Burn. It was constructed to provide work on the Lovat Estate.

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.

Fairy Glen.

A flat topped mound known as the fairy hill, but probably the motte hill of MacGillie Andrais of Moniak, one of Bisset of Lovat's Barons in the early 13th Century, and known then as Ewn Mackleod vick illeandris Barron of Moniak. 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.W. for at least 160 yards. A length of this silted up ditch is used as a footpath, 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.W. 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 the S.W. 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 west 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 534434

No. 59

Balchraggan.

S.W. of Balchraggan Farm steading there is a small, flat topped area on a rocky knoll, overgrown with whins. There is a scatter of big stones around the foot of the knoll, which seems to indicate a crude stone structure once stood here.

bq NH 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 with 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 Cabrich at approx. OS 535433.

bh NH 44/54 OS 532428

No. 61

Ballindoun Farm.

Rectangular earthworks, apparently old, but were the site of targets for rifle practice during 1939 - 45 war.

bi NH 44/54 OS 574442

No. 62

Balabeck.

A natural mound which has probably been tailored when incorporated into an estate forestry nursery. The nursery was discontinued in 1914 but the boundaries can still be traced in Balabeck Wood.

bj NH 44/54 OS 494419

No. 63

Lonbuie Wood.

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

bk NH 44/54 OS 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.

bl Sheet 27 OS 529383

No. 65

Above Refour.

In 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.

*bn* 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.

*bn* 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 hut 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.

*bo* 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.

b p 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 44/54 OS 496403

No. 70

b q Fenock Wood.

45 yards from the layby and in Fenock Wood there is what may be a wooden henge site of slightly oval shape. 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.W. 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

b r 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 furthest 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 hut 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 hut circle 13 yards in diameter.

NH 44/54 OS 503437?

No. 72

b5

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

b6

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

bv

Balblair Wood.

Running N.E. from the fork of a forestry track there is a deep and wide ditch with the upcast to the S.W. 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 bank, 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 mounds. A short distance to the N.W. 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

bv

Balblair 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 N. - S. between two hollows.

bw

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.W. 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.W. 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 hut 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 mound 10 yards x 5 yards. To the S.E. of this mound there is what appears to be a hut circle 8 yards in diameter with a massive rampart 22 yards long running S.E. - N.W. close to the N.E. A few yards beyond this rampart there are the footings of a dyke running S.E. - N.W. 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 on its edge. Also visible are two 6 feet long mossy elongated recumbent stones which are disarranged. To the east and south of this area there are 9 hut circles which are respectively about 9, 10, 10, 12, 10, 6, 10, 10 and 6 yards in diameter. There are also numerous prominent mounds.



bx Balblair Wood.

A roughly circular pit 6 yards x 7 yards and 1 foot 6" 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.

by 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 approximately 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. W.S.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

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.W. of a 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 hut 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 West to East, 23 yards being N.W. 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.W. of the forestry track which it crosses and then runs south for at least 150 yards, a few yards away and N.E. of a track running in open ground to which it angles before the rampart ends. At a T-junction 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 hut 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.

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 4 ft 6" high.

Sheet 27 OS 485369?

No. 79

63 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 4 yards wide. At the other and bottom 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

CC 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

*cd* 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

*ce* 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

*cf* S.E. of Lochan Dubh.

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

NH 44/54 OS 495439

No. 84

*cg* N.E. 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 S.E. 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 N.W. 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 S.E. of the area. Over the fence above the bank at the S.W. 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 S.E. 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.

Ch 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)

Cl 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 earthworks of indefinite shape, one of which could be part of a flat topped circular mound. There is another circular mound a few yards to the S.S.E., opposite a substantial rampart which has a base now 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, <sup>have been re-used.</sup> ~~may be dated to this period.~~ D.F.C.

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.

NH 44/54 OS 503474

No. 87

*CJ* West of Rheindown Wood.

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.

NH 44/54 OS 492457

No. 88

*CK* East of Drumindorsair.

Coming out of a wood and running in a straight line S.S.E. through rough grazings 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.

NH 44/54 OS 478423

No. 89

*cl* Ruttle Wood.

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.

CM 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.

CN 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.

CO 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.E. 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.

Cp 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 Mealach 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 U 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.

Cq 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.



Cf 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.

CS Wester Clunes.

There appears to have been a D-shaped stone structure 10 yards in diameter with 3 kerb stones 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 N.E. there are the remains of a cairn 3 yards in diameter. A little distance to the S.W. there is crude stone walling which may be unconnected. The area where the stone structure is situated is now slightly marshy.

ct 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.

CU 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.

CV 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.

CW 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.

CX 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).

Cy 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.

C3 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. Bones and probably guano were landed here during high tides. This haven may have become redundant when John Cran, Kirkton Farm, built his manure factory at Bunchrew Railway Station in 1870.

dd

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 store 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 OS 472363?

No. 105

de

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 N.E. and opposite Clunvackie Cottage there are ancient stone footings.

NOTE Miss J.M. BITHELL has taken transparencies of some of the foregoing sites, and these are in the possession of Mr. Donald E. Coghill.

Site ID	OS Grid Ref	Notes
1	624439	boundary
2	628444	6 low mounds + ditch.
3	633446	drove road
4	632447	ditches + ramparts
5	639445	mound (post-med).
6	568453	bridge
7	572447	footings of house/castle
8	542464 <del>533447</del>	wooden piles of wharf
9	538462	wharf / stone platform
10	543456	cottage site
11	535447	Motte?
12	526447	old road?
13	543453	series of mounds
14	529452	circular ditches + ramparts
15	533452-535453	mounds
16	544453	military camp?
17	624436	enclosure.
18	618432	hut circle / caerns / enclosure, earthwork
19	600425	marker stone
20	616434	burnt area in field (45' x 15')
21	603430?	caern + enclosure.
22	602435	sculpt.
23	602436	ditch
24	604430?	caern + hut circle
25	604425?	walling x caernfield.
26	597421	'standing stone'
27	589424	hut circle / ditches / caerns
28	591425	hunting butts + small caerns
29	593421	ditch or track
30	595415	caerns / boundary ditch.
31	595414	hut circle.
32	603421	earthworks (some milit)
33	572427	robbed caerns (3).

STENO	OS Grid Ref	NOTES
34	577444	levelled cairn & parallel ditches.
35	593437	stone row (curved) - disturbed !
36	578425	depop. site.
37	535424	hut circles + fort foundations <sup>new</sup> destroyed?
38	521423	earthworks (ramparts/ditches) / enclosure?
39	518417	crenellated stone tower.
40	561431	site of house.
41	528444	earthwork (track? = chapel)
42	547389	ruins of school.
43	543396	burials (Xo site)
44	558403	ruins of long house.
45	483412	mound (Anglo-Norman earthwork).
46	563454	raised causeway <sup>or</sup> old road.
47	574457	<del>grass</del> track in saltings.
48	555456	18 <sup>th</sup> cottage - under threat of demolition ?
49	615454	cairn or mound, & ditch.
50	552433	cairns/ditches
51	586437	robbed cairn.
52	589442	ditch (not drainage) & stone structures
53	556445 / 557446	divided crafts & ponds (depop).
54	556425	tuft banks - drains, + to fence boundary
55	556413	raised causeway.
56	554414	footings of fortified building. <sup>see it</sup> <del>clay</del> structure prior to <sup>18<sup>th</sup></sup>
57	557431	motte?
58	533433	dimple ridge of small stones, pit, ditch + burnt mound?
59	534434	stone structure - destroyed
60	534432	linear earthwork
61	532428	rectangular earthworks (pass 2000?)
62	574442	natural mound - some <del>shaping</del> shaping etc.
63	494419	tuft wall
64	496432	stone footings of dyke?
65	529353	disused track
66	547418	cup marked rock

<u>SITE NO</u>	<u>OSGRID REF</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
67	557394	cattleyard + hut circle
68	487377	enclosure, terrace
69	494394	mound
70	496403	circular enclosure / rampart
71	494398	mounds / cairns + hut circle
72	503437?	rectangular enclosure
73	504440	sunken area - funerary site? (reburial)
74	495441	<del>two</del> ditch (x2), cairn + parallel ditch
75	506444	oval enclosure + rampart



# 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.

-oOo-

Edited by E. S. Cameron Jacks



APPENDIX I

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

NH 44/54 OS 524426

NH54SW0024

No. 106

df Phoineas Folly.

Semi-ruinous stone rectangular building  $9\frac{1}{2}$  yards by 7 yards, with ivy-covered round tower at the N.W. corner which has an inside diameter of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  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

dg 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

dh Cabrigh 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  
di 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-Sionnach. This is a no-go area but I spied the site from the public road.

NH 44/54 OS 572425? No. 110  
df 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  
dk 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  
dl 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  
dm 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

dn

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

do

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

dp

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

da

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

dr

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

*ds* Achnagairn.

In a mature beechwood there are traces of a linear earthwork 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

*dt* 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 hut circle. There is a similarity between this site and Site No. 70 in the record.

NH 44/54 OS 530413

No. 121

*du* 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

*dv* 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

*dw* Mam Mor.

200 yards up forestry road, then 20 yards on the up side, there is a well preserved hut 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. 124

*dx* 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 15 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 OS 584433

No. 125

*dy* 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

*d3* 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

*el* 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

*eb* Craggach Wood.

Kerbed cairn of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  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

*eg* 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.

NH 64/74 OS 616447

No. 130

Kinlea Wood.

In this area of pine woodland there can be seen in places the low embankment of a light narrow-gauge railway, constructed during World War I for the conveyance of timber from Cnoc na Moine Wood to Bunchrew Station. Also there are faint traces of very eroded ancient linear earthworks of indeterminate length. To the N.W. a similar eroded rampart runs through a dense spruce wood roughly parallel to, and a short distance from, the eastern edge of the Kinlea Burn gorge; it appears to join one that runs down from the public road.

NH 44/54 OS 533454

No. 131

Ferry Brae Wood.

In this area of woodland and just off the public road there are the turf footings of a cluster of at least seven dwellings. The dimensions of the best example are 10 yards by 4 yards, but some appear to be of a somewhat smaller size. Straight, very eroded linear earthworks connect onto some of the rectangular footings as if forming an enclosure for livestock. In addition to the dwellings the turf footings of 2 or 3 small outhouses can also, with difficulty, be identified in this township.

NH 44/54 OS 556428

No. 132

Fairy Glen Wood.

A stretch of very low stone walling with a rightangle corner; the lower section takes the form of a very eroded earthwork dyke. A little distance to the N.E. there is a hut circle of 9 yards in diameter and consisting of stones at the N.E. side and an earthwork at the S.W.

E.S.C.J.

June 1992

APPENDIX II

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

NH 64/74 OS 628444 No. 2

ek 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

el East of Ladystone Farm.

Recent prodding with a rod revealed that the ditch is silted up to a depth of almost 4ft, which further complicates the interpretation of this small unusual earthwork.

NH 44/54 OS 543453 No.13

em 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

en 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

eo 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

ep 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

eq N.N.W. of Altnacardich.

A recently uprooted fir tree revealed a suspected corner of a stone kist. 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

er Top of Knockbain Brae.

The header dams were for a waterwheel at Knockbain Farm.

NH 44/54 OS 557431

No. 57

es 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

et 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

eu 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.



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.

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

*ex* 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 hut circle in the dense wood above the croft was mentioned but could not be inspected.

NH 44/54 OS 553425

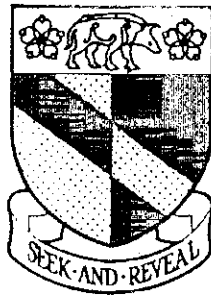
No. 104

*ey* 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 cost-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.

-oOo-

Edited by E. 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

e3 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

ff 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

fg 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

fh 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

bi 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 511478

No. 138

bj Rheindown Wood

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

NH 43/53 OS 488369?

No. 139

f\*

Boblainy Forest

There is a scattered cairnfield in this area.

NH 44/54 OS 508477

No. 140

f e

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. hut 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

f m

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 Culnaskiach, there is a three period settlement consisting of hut circles, later rectangular turf footings of cruck-type 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 hut 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. hut 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. It 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. hut 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 hut 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.

NH 44/54 OS 481441

No. 142

*fn* 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

*bo* Above Loch Lait

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

*br* 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

*br* 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 next 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

fr S.W. of Cnoc an t-Sionnach

There is a hut 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 flat-bottomed 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.

fs 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

*ft* East of Glodhaich

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

*fv* N.E. of Drumnagarrachan

Fifty yards down from the forestry road there is a 12yd dia. hut circle. The eroded wall is still massive, being broad and reaching a height of almost 4ft 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

*fv* Culnaskiach Falls

Running across a slope are three large foundation stones of a length of walling which disappears into dense forestry where it 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

*fw* East of Cragganmore

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

NH 44/54 OS 582430

No. 152

*fx* 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 kerbing. 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.

fy 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. hut 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 hut circle there is a 3ft 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. hut 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. hut 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 hut 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 OS 538394?

No. 154

*fz* 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

*gg* 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 earthworks.

NH 43/53 OS 515398

No. 156

*gh* 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 site, 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 what 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

*gi* 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

*gj* Long Wood

At OS 537453 there are traces of a hut 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

*gk* 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

*gl* West of Meikle Phoinneas

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

*gm* 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

*gn* 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.E. 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 huts 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 earth-works an oval shape.

NH 44/54 OS 594453

No. 82

go 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 the 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

gp 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

gq West of Rheindown Wood

This former grassy area, surrounded by heather now afforested, also contains a very damaged hut 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.

In File: Inverness FC Survey Appendix I B  
(word H/link)

# INVERNESS FIELD CLUB

INSTITUTED 1875

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Leader: DONALD E. COGHILL

### APPENDIX I B

Further Unrecorded Sites in the Aird noted between  
June 1992 and January 1995 (Nos. 158-238)

### APPENDIX II B

Additional Discoveries made at sites in the Aird Noted  
between October 1987 and May 1992

### APPENDIX III

Notes on Defensive Ditches at Wester Lovat observed  
by D. E. Cogill between 1947- 1977

Measurements and Compass directions are approximate

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Edited by E. S. Cameron Jacks

## APPENDIX IB

Further Unrecorded Sites in the Aird noted between June 1992 and January 1995. (Nos. 158 - 238)

NH 44/54 OS 501433

No. 158

### a Beaufort

At this point is the N.W. end of a level terrace between a high bank and a steep drop down to the Beaully River, where a stone and turf wall comes round in a curve and a modern track cuts through this low embankment. Opposite the cruives in the river there is a 6-yards wide gap, and 135 yards S.E. of this gap there are two closely spaced irregular shaped stone cairns adjoining the outside of the line of this long narrow enclosure. At this point there is a minor earthwork which seems to have formed some kind of entrance. The S.E. end of this elongated field cannot now easily be traced on the ground but it is marked on the map. At the S.W. side and below the steep bank of dense bracken the wall takes the form of a narrow terrace suitable for seating, and near the N.W. end of the enclosure (OS 501433) it is crossed by a (probably later) straight flat-topped stone wall, two feet high, which extends at an angle 30 yards into the enclosure and an equal distance on the outside where there appears to be a ditch at its S.W. side cut into the steep bank. Above this high bank and towards the S.E., at OS 502432, there is, on level ground, a rampart 18 yards long coming at right angles to the top of the slope where a pathway commences to curve down towards the N.E. and widens out above the seating terrace. Adjoining the rampart at the N.W. side and on the level ground at the edge of the steep bank there is a low turf wall 20 yards long curving in from the edge in the shape of a semi-circle, to again meet the edge. It has a diameter of about 15 yards. 30 yards further N.W. there is another and much wider pathway curving down the slope in the same north-easterly direction. 95 yards further N.W. from this point there is a similar semi-circular low turf wall of the same dimensions as the one to the N.E., but this one has a silted-up outer ditch clearly defined. This is also situated on level ground at the edge of the steep slope. Both small enclosures appear to have been some sort of grandstand for the gentry with a superb view overlooking, and more or less opposite, the centre of a medieval arena below where tournaments, horse racing and other contests were held. The whole, or part of this complex, may belong to an earlier period, later re-used.



NH 43/53 OS 495398

No. 159

b Femnock

Near the boundary fence next to Boblainy there are, among scrub, the turf footings of the south gable end of a crude bothy 5 yards wide which appears to be 8 yards in length. A little distance into the scrub towards the N.W. there are traces of a straight, very eroded, rampart running north eastwards. The very silted up ditch is to the S.E.

NH 43/53 OS 470366?

No. 160

c Boblainy Forest

Forestry ploughing has severely damaged a prominent hut circle of 6 yds diameter.

NH 44/54 OS 508429

No. 161

d Beaufort

Running towards the river and at the east side of the castle and on a lower level is a very eroded rampart on which stands a row of mature lime trees. A disused roadway is terraced into the slope on its west side and parallel, which may have led to the rear of old Castle Dunie.

NH 44/54 OS 511427

No. 162

e Beaufort

A rampart with its ditch on each side and 6 yards apart runs through woodland shrubbery westwards from an estate road to the top of a steep bank. The length is over 100 yards and the height of the best section is 3 feet.

NH 44/54 OS 508424

No. 163

f Beaufort

In woodland a levelled rampart comes round in a curve with its ditch on the inside; it can be traced from the edge of an arable field near its pointed corner. This linear earthwork overlooks a steep bank and after 100 yards the field dyke appears to be grafted on to it. To the east and south beyond the estate road on the other side of this narrow field there are at least three linear features of which only fragments can now be traced in the dense broom; one is a rampart similar to this rampart in the wood and may not be unconnected.

NH 44/54 OS 506419

No. 164

g Beaufort

On a wooded spur and close to the South West side of Kiltarlity Village sewage treatment plant there are faint traces of a sub-rectangular enclosure with an outer

ditch still visible on two sides. The length at its longest point is 24 yards; the width varies from 20 yards down to 15 yards at the narrowest end. A little distance further down a length of low rampart or turf walling can be traced running northwards in scrub; this feature was probably for stock control.

NH 44/54 OS 492423?

No. 165

g Lonbuie Wood

A U-shaped non-drainage ditch with the upcast to each side runs across the contour in an easterly direction until, after a considerable distance, it ends at a swampy hollow. Near its west end at Lonbuie Lodge forestry road, there are traces of other linear earthworks.

NH 44/54 OS 481424

No. 166

h Fanellan

Adjoining the top end of an arable field and partly hidden among whins are minor earthworks which may be connected to adjacent stone footings of a rectangular building.

NH 43/53 OS 462358

No. 167

l S.E. of Allt Poll an t-Searraich

A known curious shaped stone enclosure straddles, at its highest point, the levelled straight N.W. earthen rampart of an older, much larger, four sided enclosure; the up-cast came from each side. This later stone dyke surrounding a square enclosure that was much later planted with a few larches, some still standing, was an impressive construction. The four sides curved slightly inwards forming a bow shape, with each corner protruding as an arrow shaped sharp point ending in a standing stone the same height as the walling. A few lower stones that are seen at the outside, and next to a corner standing stone, were placed on edge similar to the lining of a passage grave. This prestigious enclosure, now much tumbled down, with its entrance in the middle of the N.E. side, overlooked the south-easterly slope of a grassy area surrounded by heather which was enclosed by the earlier linear earthwork. It would appear that the stone walling may have enclosed the site on which a temporary wooden pavilion was erected during the period of the great hunting parties which gathered in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Fraser of Phopacy may have been mistaken as regards the location when he mentions in his Wardlaw Manuscript about a lake dwelling on an island in Loch Bruaich that was fitted out for this purpose round about 1588. Loch Bruaich, which has a crannog, is a mile distant from this site.

J Boblainy Wood

A short distance down from the forestry road there is an undamaged hut circle of 13 yards diameter with its entrance towards the S.E.. From here boulder walling can be traced for a short distance running in a westerly direction. A little distance from the hut circle towards the N.E. there is a length of boulder walling running northwards; this is badly damaged by forestry ploughing. On the other, and up-side of the road, at OS 481395? there is a severely damaged hut circle of 12 yards diameter with its entrance towards the S.E.. A short distance further up there is low walling or rampart which appears to encircle the site on one side and may not be unconnected with the boulder walling on the down side of the forestry road.

K Beaufort

In open woodland pasture, 86 yards of a straight, but now levelled, rampart can be traced with certainty. It runs at right angles from a similar linear earthwork towards the top of a steep bank which it would have reached 15 yards further on. This other similar rampart, with its upcast from each side, runs southwards in a straight line from the right-angled corner, the first 16 yards now incorporated in a field boundary and faced with stone on the field side. A further 200 yards can be traced without too much difficulty and a short section, which has not been completely levelled, still stands about 2 feet high with its ditches at each side 6 yards apart correspondingly more well defined. After some distance this linear earthwork can again be traced, a stone dyke, the boundary between the woodland pasture and the arable field, having been grafted on. After this dyke ends the levelled rampart can be traced with difficulty and it continues in the same straight line until it almost reaches the drive to Beaufort Castle. The total length from the right-angled corner is about 450 yards.

L Beaufort

55 yards from the cattle grid and at the north side of the back drive to the castle, there is a circular stone bank similar to a hut circle. It is 6 yards in diameter and the centre is a deep sunken hollow faced with small round stones. At the other side of the drive there commence the very faint traces of a flat-bottomed 6 feet wide ditch which runs in a straight line in a south-easterly direction for 150 yards to OS 501432 where it widens out and finishes as a more definite shallow pit with the upcast to each side clearly visible. This level bottomed pit is in the shape of a

triangle the sides being 20 yards long and the end 8 yards wide. A little distance further on there is what appears to be a World War II practice trench running between the drive and a house.

NH 43/53 OS 473367

No. 171

M Boblainy Forest

About 22 yards down from the forestry road there is a considerable length of low boulder walling which has two right-angled turns but otherwise is more or less parallel with the road. At the west it swings downhill in a wide semicircle and after running eastwards for a short distance in a straight line it discontinues.

NH 44/54 OS 505416

No. 172

N Beaufort

From the top of a steep bank overlooking Bruaich Burn there runs a short straight length of low rampart and outer ditch to a right-angled corner, which after another short length is lost in scrub near workshop huts.

NH 44/54 OS 520427

No. 173

O Beaufort

A few yards west of the roadside dyke, and opposite Belladrum Lodge, a low turf rampart with its ditch on the west side runs northwards in a straight line from a stream. It is more or less parallel with the public road which it probably predates, and after some distance it becomes lost in dense vegetation.

NH 44/54 OS 521434

No. 174

P Beaufort

Close to the east side of a boundary ditch between an arable field and woodland sloping down from the public road, there is, on the level at the bottom of the slope, a low robbed cairn which appears to have been kerbed and oval-shaped, roughly 5 yards in diameter.

NH 44/54 OS 516434

No. 175

q Beaufort

Two lengths of low minor turf walling can be clearly seen between the arable field and dense shrubbery. One can be traced for 20 yards and the other for 24 yards. They are both curved and a few yards apart but appear to have converged in the arable field which seems to indicate they are of different periods.

NH 44/54 OS 563428

No. 176

f S.W. of Ardmachdunie

Completely hidden by roadside scrub trees is a massive three bay lime kiln. Further down the public road, the wooden bridge over the Moniack Burn was known as Collier's Bridge as coal, which fuelled the kilns, was carted across here.

NH 43/53 OS 482397

No. 177

S S. of Drumnagarrachan

A long V-shaped area of woodland between the steep side of a burn and a dry gully is cut off at the wide end by a straight 45 yards long turf and stone rampart with its ditch at the outside. A short distance into the interior from this stock control feature there can be traced the two sides of a square or rectangular less substantial earthwork with the ditch at the outside of the right angle. This may have been part of two of the straight sides of a stock enclosure.

NH 43/53 OS 476367?

No. 178

t Boblainy Forest

Overlooking a steep slope is a hut circle of 13 yards diameter with its entrance towards the S.E..

NH 43/53 OS 458399

No. 179

U Eskadale

There is crude boulder walling running in a straight line south-westwards from a forestry track; it has an entrance gap 3 yards wide not too far from the east end, and at the west end it turns uphill at right angles to meet, after a short distance, an extended boundary rampart and ditch which also runs across the slope. This linear stone and earthworks encloses three sides of an elongated lush grassy area beneath birch which is much less steep than the surrounding heath, previously forestry. Four yards beyond the top boundary ditch there is a parallel ditch which runs for much of the distance above this rich former grazing.

NH 44/54 OS 494417

No. 180

✓ Lonbuie Wood

In a bracken covered area overlooking Teanacoil Burn there are the stone footings of a small bothy, 8 yards x 4 yards; the entrance appears to have been on the S.W. side. Running in an easterly direction from the vicinity of the bothy are the traces, for a short distance, of two straight parallel turf ramparts with their ditches to the south and 16 yards apart.

NH 44/54 OS 492418

No. 181

W Lonbuie Wood

A forestry track has damaged the outer edge of a 9 yard diameter hut circle. The opposite S.E. side has been completely destroyed and no entrance can now be traced.

NH 44/54 OS 496433

No. 182

X Fanellan

There is a very low stone and turf walling joining on to the north and down side of a more substantial curved boundary dyke. The lengths are 40, 18 and 11 yards and appear to have enclosed an irregular shaped stock enclosure with a division at OS 495434. Also in scrub woodland 20 yards of a low linear similar feature can be faintly traced coming up at right angles to near the fence of an arable field at OS 494431. Faint traces of a very low rampart can be seen in places which runs in a straight line southwards from a swamp in the scrub. After 100 yards it reaches the boundary dyke of an arable field where it probably continued.

y NH 44/54 OS 496429

No. 183

Fanellan Wood

In dense bracken 110 yards of a stone dyke runs uphill in a straight line to near the boundary fence of the field mentioned at site OS 494431 with which linear feature it may have connected. The top section has been almost completely robbed. A section in the centre is now crude boulder walling and the bottom section consists of small round stones.

NH 44/54 OS 496433

No. 184

3 Beaufort

A low rampart with its ditch at the N.W. runs down through a strip of scrub woodland to meet the public road.

NH 43/53 OS 461392

No. 185

aa Knockmuy

There is a raised triangular platform adjoining the south side of a burn. The length of the straight ditch on its S.W. side, between the burn and a right-angled corner is 20 yards. In the interior there are stones on edge forming two right angles as if it was the back of a small hearth. On the S.E. side there is a sunken entrance 8 yards from the corner and the straight alignment of this small elevated area (where later stone dumping has occurred) can be traced in this same direction for a further 10 yards. Part of a stone stem in the burn is still in place which diverted water to what may have been a Norse Mill.

NH 43/53 OS 523396

No. 186

bb S. of Rhevackin

A damp hollow runs south eastwards from the forestry boundary fence. It curves round a steep sided knoll then runs westwards. Underneath the foliage of recently felled dense spruces, an eroded rampart with a silted up ditch on each side, 3 yards apart, can be traced intermittently as it curves round the other side of this promontory as if it formed a stock enclosure.

NH 44/54 OS 469411

No. 187

cc Eskadale

In scrub woodland, a half mile S.W. of Hughton crossroads and at the foot of a short slope down from the public road, there is the corner of an enclosure. It is a right angled earthwork of straight alignment with its ditch on the outside, and cut off at right angles by a later arable field boundary ditch 17 yards down from the corner. The rampart runs north eastwards from the corner for 16 yards where there is a 3 yards wide entrance gap; it then continues in the same straight line for another 70 yards where the field ditch, which is parallel with the road, cuts it off at an angle.

NH 44/54 OS 576438

No. 188

dd Newtonhill

The recent clear felling of a dense spruce wood has revealed what appears to be a robbed circular ditched cairn of 15 yards diameter with its centre still at a height of 3 feet. Also on a knoll at OS 574436, and next to the boundary fence of an arable field, there is a slightly pointed flat-sided tapered standing stone. It is roughly 2 feet x 1 foot near the top and almost 3 feet high and appears to be a survivor of the side of a passage entrance at the east of a robbed cairn. There are a few sunken kerb stones in the shape of a circle, inside which stands this stone.

NH 44/54 OS 526443

No. 189

ee Brockies Corner Wood

In the corner of the wood near where the stone dyke which runs uphill to meet the Inverness/Beauly road, there are the fragmentary remains of an 8 yard diameter hut circle. From here, running southwards in a straight line, there is an eroded rampart with its silted up ditch at the upper east side. It disappears into dense broom but can be traced intermittently for some distance before all trace is lost. In this area another lesser rampart with its silted up ditch to the south can be traced for a short distance running straight downhill and westwards on a line with Dunballoch farm steading. Near the Kiltarlity/Brockies Corner road, a length of straight rampart can be picked up on the same alignment as the first mentioned ramparts, and is most

likely a continuation being similar and with its ditch on the same side. At a right-angled corner it turns to run straight downhill in a westerly direction until after a short distance it is lost in dense spruces. Close inside the corner there is a prominent mound. At OS 526438 there is an eroded rampart running straight northwards for a distance of 90 yards where at a right-angled corner it turns to meet the same roadside dyke after 56 yards. The silted up ditch, being on the outside of the section of the rampart preserved in the woodland was probably part of a large enclosure. Twelve yards down from, and west of the 90 yard section of rampart, there is a similar and parallel rampart with its ditch to the east and up side, which continues on the same alignment northwards to where all traces are lost in dense scrub near the Inverness/Beaully road. A short distance further on and a little distance down from the road there are the fragmentary remains of a small turf walled enclosure 14 yards x 12 yards, which is ditched on the outside and an entrance cannot now be identified. Between a gate on the Inverness/Beaully road and a gate on the Kiltarlity/Brockies Corner road there is a bulldozed linear earthwork on the down side of a timber extraction forestry track which in the vicinity of ramparts running in the same direction in dense scrub can cause confusion. At OS 525438 and a short distance in from the gate on the Brockies Corner/Kiltarlity road there is what appears to be a small linear cemetery consisting of four mounds running in a straight line N-S. No. 1 is a circular mound 4 yards in diameter, and adjacent on the down side is No. 2 with a diameter of 5 yards. Four yards distant is No. 3, an oval mound 6 yards x 5 yards. Nine yards separates No. 3 from No. 4, and it is much the largest being about 3 feet high at the centre and also oval, 8 yards x 6 yards. There is no trace of a surrounding ditch at any of the mounds.

A large elongated mound can be seen with difficulty at the west side of a recently opened extraction track running from the roadside gate southwards through dense spruces. At OS 524436 a straight linear earthwork runs for 60 yards northwards at an angle from the public road. After an access gap of 3 yards it angles back in a straight line to reach the roadside dyke after a further 70 yards. Its ditch is on the west side with the upcast forming a terrace in the south section.

NH 44/54 OS 508437

No. 190

ff Groam of Annat

In permanent pasture which has on occasion been cultivated there are very faint traces for 24 yards of a straight rampart running S.W.-N.E. with the upcast from each side. At the S.W. end there is a sharp right angled turn towards the N.W. where after 7 yards all trace is lost. A similar feature can be seen at the N.E. end but only a 4 yard length up from the corner can be traced. This linear earthwork appears to be one side of a square or rectangular enclosure. At OS 504436 and on



the S.W. end of an elevated wooded spur there are very faint traces of a circular ditched enclosure which is 24 yards in diameter. Forty yards to the N.N.W. there are traces of an outer earthwork but more substantial and prominent linear earthworks can be observed further out from the west side of the enclosure. This may be the chapel site or burial ground, site No. 178 mentioned in RCAHMS Record N.E. Inverness as being in this immediate area.

NH 44/54 OS 493456

No. 191

gg Drumindorsair

From the N.E. boundary of the birch wood and up a few yards from the E. corner a shallow silted up non-drainage ditch runs in a straight line N.N. Westwards to almost reaching the N.W. boundary where there is a right-angled turn. From here it runs straight and downhill to OS 492455 at the edge of this almost rectangular block of scrub woodland. In this latter section there is a pronounced terrace on the up side in places. The up-cast of this linear earthwork appears to be at each side as there is no trace of a rampart at any point of the two sections of what appear to have been the surviving traces of an enclosure. There are two other lesser straight ditches within this area which appear to be of a later period. In the adjoining Drumindorsair Wood of firs at the west side there are a few fairly large clearance cairns dotted here and there on the slope.

NH 44/54 OS 495418

No. 192

hh Lonbuie Wood

Stone footings of a bothy 7 yards x 4 yards with entrance at S.S.E. side, the traces are very fragmentary.

NH 43/53 OS 479369?

No. 193

ii S.W. of Creagan Dubh

There can be traced with great difficulty, owing to fallen timber and bracken, crude boulder walling which appears to be roughly circular in places and perhaps enclosing over an acre. It takes the form of a terrace with silted up outer ditch at the S.W. side. Also in this area a length of boulder walling running downhill in the same easterly direction as the terrace ends at a large stone.

NH 44/54 OS 498462

No. 194

ff Ruisaurie

Close to the east side of the burn there are below bracken the footings of a crude divided building sunk into the brae. The dimensions are 8 yards x 5 yards and 5 yards by 4 yards at the narrower east gable end. Situated immediately below at the west end, there appears to be another small scooped out area of indefinite

dimensions. A short distance uphill and in the corner of this area of rough pasture, there is a knoll or circular tailored mound. At the N.E. side and close to the road there are traces of footings which, according to local knowledge, were the site of a house. Built into the south side of the mound and now hidden beneath bracken, there is a small circular chamber with a short passage to the S.E. which appears to have been a kiln.

NH 44/54 OS 482413

No. 195

*KK* Culburnie

In a small area of dense bracken there are a number of small clearance cairns which appear to be more recent than prehistoric. On the east side of this cairnfield there is a flat-bottomed ditch running downhill where at a short distance up from the public road it is joined by a lesser similar non-drainage ditch coming in from the S.E. at an angle. Nearer the road where it ends, it swings westwards in a curve and is deeper. On the other side of the road, a very low rampart with its shallow ditch at the east runs straight downhill through similar scrub woodland; it joins at right angles the boundary dyke of a field on the marshy flats.

NH 43/53 OS 550353

No. 196

*U* Loch Laide

A flat bottomed ditch with the upcast to each side runs S.E.-N.W. from a swampy area towards the wood in which after a short distance it is cut off by the public road. Almost all the area outside the wood is swampy through which this 5 feet wide winding ditch can be traced for 200 yards.

NH 43/53 OS 479383

No. 197

*NAM* Boblainy Wood

A forestry ride goes through a scattered cairnfield at a point where six cairns are in close proximity; there is a much larger isolated round cairn of 9 yards diameter further away towards the N.E.. Also near this cairn, there is a straight length of crude boulder walling running roughly N.W. to S.E..

NH 44/54 OS 561433

No. 198

*MM* Reelig

North eastwards and a short distance down from a sharp bend in the public road there are fragmentary remains of linear earthworks in woodland. Turf footings can be traced of what appears to be the gable end of a crude building 5 yards wide which sat at the east and highest point of a ridge. At OS 561432 and close to the same east side of the road there is a sheltered hollow which appears to have been the site of a drover's overnight stance. The ground is much pitted by later digging for

extraction of some sort, but at the south side and close to an arable field, 75 yards of a rampart can be traced coming round in a bow shaped curve on the top of a ridge. Forty yards of a straight similar flat-topped rampart can be seen with clarity on the north side and it continues past the east end of the south rampart at right angles to where it almost reaches the burn a few yards distant at the bottom of the slope. Between the two ramparts there is a gap 4 feet wide which gave access to cattle for water. The extension of the north rampart for a few yards past the opening facilitated the herding of stock back into the enclosure. This site is on the former drove road to the south.

NH 44/54 OS 471402

No. 199

oo No. 6 Kinerras

There are the footings of a dwelling 12 yards x 5 yards situated on a knoll above the steep slope of an arable field; the entrance is on the south side. The high hump of a small square building with a hollow in the centre is a few yards distant to the S.E..

NH 44/54 OS 507473

No. 200

pp N.E. of Ruisaurie Burn

Between and to the south of the adjacent ruins of two rectangular buildings which are close to and below a forestry track, there is a silted up stone built circular well 4 feet in diameter and adjoining at the west side are the fragmentary footings of a small building.

NH 44/54 OS 578443

No. 201

qq Holm Wood

22 yards down from a forestry track and overlooking a damp area there appears to be a very severely damaged hut circle of 13 yards diameter. Thirty five yards to the west, on the end of the terrace, are traces of what may have been a robbed cairn.

NH 43/53 OS 475365

No. 202

rr Boblainy Forest

Crude dry stone low walling of a narrow bothy 10 yards x 3 yards appears to have an entrance at the west gable on each side wall.

NH 44/54 OS 493425

No. 203

ss Fanellan Wood

A low stone rampart runs east through the fir wood from the field boundary dyke. After a considerable distance, all trace is lost in dense shrubbery.

NH 44/54 OS 485416

No. 204

H Culburnie

Buried beneath dense bracken on a slope below stone ruins, is crude stone walling of a field system at the east end of which there is a standing stone 2 feet high.

NH 44/54 OS 486425

No. 205

W Fanellan

On triangular shaped waste ground adjoining the road at the foot of Culbokie Brae there are faint traces of what may be the manse and garden of Old Kiltarlity. Here in the recent past children had gathered apples and the mature hardwood trees were known locally as the minister's trees. The site also contains a derelict sheep dipper below which there is a small ancient burial ground now completely hidden beneath dense vegetation. It is said that human bones were found when the dipper was being dug. A now disused and overgrown road ran past the west side of the site from the public road at the bottom of the brae to the public road at Lonbuie Lodge.

NH 44/54 OS 495459

No. 206

W N.E. of Drumindorsair

Sitting close to the fence immediately in front of a deserted croft ruin are two stone blocks. One is in the shape of a cube of approximately 2½ feet dimensions and probably originally came from Redburn Quarry 2 miles distant. The other stone is shaped as if for the base of a tombstone and is of lesser height. The craft of sculptor was pursued by a former occupier of this croft.

NH 43/53 OS 497380?

No. 207

WW Wood W. of Bruiach Burn

Down a short distance from the end of a new forestry road which runs for over three quarters of a mile northwards and downhill from a junction, there is a low circular cairn of 7 yards diameter. A further 20 yards in the same northerly direction there is a hut circle of 12 yards diameter but an entrance cannot now be traced. It is situated in a level location where it is evident that the grazing was markedly better than the surrounding area. Thirty yards further on there is what appears to be a sawpit which was excavated out of a spur protruding from the slope of the wood.

NH 43/53 OS 480392?

No. 208

XX Boblainy Wood

Sitting on and near the end of a spur there is a damaged hut circle of 11 yards diameter with its entrance overlooking nearby Allt Caoiche Burn below and towards the S.E.

Fanellan

In open woodland at the top end of an arable field a sunken road or track can be traced coming through scrub trees from the public road below Fanellan Cottages. After another 90 yards it reaches the field boundary fence on the other side of which it is ramped for a short distance as it crosses a hollow swampy area in scrub woodland. It continues in the same S.E. direction to near the boundary fence of another arable field where it swings southwards and now becomes a forestry track in Fanellan Wood.

NH 44/54 OS 556434

No. 210

Knockbain

Separating arable fields is a long ridge running S.E.-N.W.; a narrow section widens out to form a small level plateau with steep sides which appears to have been a lightly defended palisaded site as there is at least one ditch that cuts across the ridge at the narrow S.E. end. This well defined trench was crossed at the centre by a narrow ridge of now vitrified rock forming a causeway over this obstruction towards a gateway. Hard grazing has revealed that at the N.E. edge of the flat area there are circular traces of what may have been a drying kiln of 3 yards diameter with its passage towards the top of the slope at the N.E.. Adjoining this circular feature at the S.E. there appear to be extremely faint traces of footings 4 yards apart on two sides of a small rectangular building. This site may not be unconnected with site No. 57 (OS 557431) a short distance uphill to the S.E.; also it is most likely to be of more than one period.

NH 44/54 OS 495431

No. 211

Fanellan Wood

There is a grass covered stone cairn 13 yards x 8 yards which is about 3 feet high at the centre and appears to have been ditched. Half a dozen yards towards the west there is a very low flat cairn of approximately 6 yards diameter which appears to be circular.

NH 43/53 OS 498373?

No. 212

Ardendrain Wood

On a gentle slope and a short distance to the S.W. from the highest point in the immediate area there is an isolated, low, flat, moss-covered, robbed circular cairn of 10 yards diameter. A further examination of the 16 x 14 yards mound situated on the top of a ridge further to the N.E. mentioned in Appendix II site No. 80 has proved it to be a natural feature.

NH 44/54 OS 482400

No. 213

*ad* Drumnagarrachan

A short distance S.W. of the farmhouse there are footings of a rectangular building 11 yards x 5 yards. On the other side of the house there is a standing stone 3 feet high and nearby there are two cairns 3 yards apart which have a diameter of 3 and 4 yards. At OS 478397 (NH 43/53) in open gaps among dense whins, sections of an ancient field system can be traced. Also there are clearance cairns in this area. Towards the N.W. two more recent enclosures can be identified. One is square or rectangular and is bounded by crude stone dyking. The other appears to have low turf walling, is polygon in shape and has a length of 22 yards across the centre. Close to the N.E. side of this latter enclosure, are the stone footings of a building 12 yards x 5 yards but which appear to extend beneath whins for a further 13 yards.

NH 44/54 OS 466400

No. 214

*ae* No. 6 Kinerras

At right angles and close to the public road, there are faint traces of a straight substantial rampart 22 yards in length which after a gap of slightly over 2 yards continues in the same direction for another 12 yards.

NH 44/54 OS 556427

No. 215

*af* Fairy Glen Wood

Running down through the wood from near the Lyne road end is a sunken track which can be traced with certainty for over 200 yards. This may have been the old route before the present road was built.

NH 44/54 OS 482428

No. 216

*ag* Fanellan

On a knoll and partly obscured by whins are traces of linear earthworks and on the flat ground below at the north side are the footings of a turf walled rectangular building.

NH 43/53 OS 477366

No. 217

*ah* Boblainy Forest

There is a minor but bulky earthwork consisting of a right-angled corner situated at the S.W. of what may have been an enclosure. Its silted up ditch is at the outside and more clearly defined for a short distance on the lower south side.

NH 43/53 OS 483385?

No. 218

*al* Boblainy Wood

At the upside of a deer fence there is a prominent cairn of 9 yards diameter which appears to be an outlier of the uppermost cairns mentioned in Site No. 78. Still on this same side of the deer fence are lengths of low boulder walling running in more than one direction which have no connection with the walling mentioned in Site No. 78.

NH 43/53 OS 484396?

No. 219

*aj* Boblainy Wood

There are a few small cairns in this area, two of which are very close together. Also there is a low eroded rampart 14 yards in length. It runs across the slope and appears to be a butt connected with hunting.

NH 43/53 OS 474386?

No. 220

*ak* Boblainy Wood

In a forestry ride there appears to be a small crude shelter scooped out of the steep slope and at the side of a large partly sunken stone. There is an entrance in the centre of the slight breast work footings at the front. Above Ardnagrask, on map NH 44/54 OS 496485, there is a similar feature.

NH 43/53 OS 485376

No. 221

*al* E. of Carn Iain Bhain

In the wood close to and down from the W. corner of the top field of Clunevackie, there is a badly damaged drying kiln at the north end of a crude rectangular building, the footings of which are still prominent. At OS 485375 in the wood and on the ridge to the S.W. of this same top corner of the Clunevackie field there is a hut circle of 13 yards diameter with its entrance to the S.W.. There is a small cairn further to the S.W.. Coming from inside the field at the top corner there is low straight walling running S.W. into the wood and when it gets near the hut circle it swings to angle down the slope in a straight line passing a few yards to the east of and below a circular sunken site scooped out of the top edge of the brae. This hut circle type feature has an internal diameter of 5 yards and is in a sheltered position overlooking a steep bank. Some distance further down and to the south on a level area there is a rectangular ditched platform 13 yards x 8 yards. The upcast from the very silted up ditches forms a terrace at the edge of the platform. No ditch can now be traced at the West end.

NH 44/54 OS 578424

No. 222

am

Wood S.W. of Altnacardich

Stone footings of rectangular building 9 yards x 5 yards.

NH 44/54 OS 555418

No. 223

an

No. 2 Muir of Clunes

Fifteen yards from and parallel to the roadside fence there runs throughout the extent of a birch wood for 75 yards a straight flat-bottomed ditch or sunken road which is buried beneath a depth of soil. The edge of the levelled upcast at each side is 4 yards apart.

NH 43/53 OS 512372

No. 224

ao

South of Ruifour

In an area of extensive linear earthworks there is a low, much older turf and boulder wall coming northwards in a straight line from near the forestry above Blairmore. After a short distance it turns at right angles with its very silted up ditch at the outside and can be faintly traced as it runs straight downhill; a few yards beyond a boundary fence it discontinues where it meets a later turf wall at right angles. A short distance up from this fence which it cuts through at an angle is even more similar ancient walling, extremely difficult to trace, which runs North Eastwards uphill in a straight line from near the fence with its almost completely silted up ditch at the N.W.. Beyond a section that has been destroyed by later earthworks and bulldozing, a track can be picked up very faintly in the upper area of a small fir wood near and parallel to its southern edge. There is no further trace beyond the wood. Some distance further up from this wood and in the surrounding heath there is a green, low, flat, kidney shaped mound with a smaller somewhat similar one a few yards distant.

NH 44/54 OS 582447

No. 225

ap

Lentran Farm

Near the bottom of the south slope of a ridge covered with mature hardwood, there is a very eroded rampart running east to west in a straight line for 55 yards gradually curving round as it crosses the ridge at right angles with its very silted up ditch on the inside. After another 35 yards it meets the fence of an arable field.

NH 44/54 OS 512418

No. 226

aq

E. of Kiltarlity Village

In a strip of scrub and mature hardwood trees between the A831 public road and Lovat Shinty Field, there is a double disc earthwork. Each circle is 20 yards in diameter measuring across from the top of the rampart and these are 15 yards apart



NH 44/54 OS 512443

No. 227

*at* Groom of Annat

In an area where there is a substantial straight linear earthwork a little distance to the west, there can be traced mostly beneath dense bracken, a section of two straight sides (45 yards and 22 yards) and the complete end (18 yards) of what appears to be a rectangular enclosure. It is a low eroded rampart with its minor ditch at the outside of the two right-angled corners that are visible.

NH 43/53 OS 468387

No. 228

*as* Maol Dubh

On the south facing slope and near the cairn on the summit there is a severely damaged 12 yard diameter hut circle the lower third of which is completely levelled.

NH 44/54 OS 488416

No. 229

*at* Culbirnie Muir

In the wood and from the gate of a small field, there runs a 12 yard length of ancient low rampart cum boulder walling. It turns at right angles to run N. Eastwards for 30 yards where all trace is lost, near the corner of the field. At the right-angled corner there runs S. Westwards much less substantial stone walling in the same straight alignment as the 30 yard stretch which appears to be part of a more recent field system. Further to the south there is a silted up non drainage ditch running eastwards, with slight bends from the boundary dyke, towards and to near the house. Also in the wood at OS 489416, and in front of the house, there is a low small oval shaped ditched mound, 6 yards x 5 yards. An exploratory trench cut across the ditch revealed that it was about 3 feet 6 inches wide and shallow with a rounded bottom. It is silted up to a depth of 8 inches in the centre. It appears that the mound which is greener than the immediate surrounding area, was formed by the upcast from the ditch.

NH 43/53 OS 484354

No. 230

*at* Boblainy Forest

At the edge of the wood there are crude stone foundations of a rectangular building 16 yards x 4 yards with a stone cross wall 7 yards from the south gable. The entrance to the smaller section is next to the cross wall and facing the east. The east wall of the larger section, which appears to have had more turf incorporated in its construction, has been levelled and an entrance cannot now be traced. Adjacent to the north gable, there are traces of the turf walling of a rectangular stock enclosure 18 yards x 11 yards and a few yards distant from its S.E. corner a straight turf wall runs for 34 yards towards the south, with a small gap opposite the

from each other at their nearest points. Each rampart has an outer ditch from which in the best sections the ramparts still stand over 2 feet high. At the N.N.E. of the east circle, there is a later small stone dump in the ditch which slopes up against the rampart. Inside this eastern enclosure near the west side and next to a scooped out hollow, there is a small raised area below which stones can be detected by a prodding rod. The alignment of the two circles is roughly W.S.W.-E.N.E. and is parallel to a later turf wall which is faced with stone at the side next to the public road footpath. This linear stone and earthwork slightly impinges on to and flattens the inside of the two circular ramparts. For some reason perhaps connected with stock control at a later period, a lesser straight rampart with its ditch at the outside comes from the furthest out section of each enclosure rampart as grafted on earthworks to meet this even later straight turf-stone wall at an angle being 68 yards apart at these two points. The east rampart meets at a sharper angle than the west rampart. These two splayed out straight ramparts, would before being cut off, have most likely continued further beyond the modern road. No entrance can be traced in the two circular ramparts but they may have been blocked up by the later encroaching turf-stone wall. At the side farthest away from the road, the two circular ramparts are joined by a straight less substantial rampart which appears to be an intricate part of the double disc earthworks as it and its back ditch grafts on perfectly to the two circular ramparts and ditches. Coming from this rear rampart at right angles are two short straight ramparts which, with their ditches, graft on in a similar smooth incorporating manner to the two circular earthworks where they draw close together, their circular ditches being 10 yards apart at this point. The east short straight rampart has been severely damaged in its centre section and the west parallel similar rampart appears to extend over the back ditch but this may be due to soil dumping or perhaps connected with later land use. Five yards in front of the rear rampart, there is a parallel, very silted up, straight ditch which appears originally to have been considerably less substantial than the other ditches. This insignificant ditch meets the ditches of the two short straight ramparts at right angles which with the continuing outer ditches of the two circular ramparts form a low 10 yards wide soil platform. This area may have been square as nearer the road and 10 yards distant from the minor ditch there are faint traces of what may have been a similar straight cross ditch. This right-angled feature backed by a rampart 5 yards to the rear and flanked on each side by a more prominent curved rampart may possibly be a Pictish funerary site. From near the road, the curve of the two ramparts led in towards an almost due south facing frontage which may have been a ceremonial area. If there had been a square inset covering of small stones laid on the square platform which is now of minor visual impact compared with the two adjoining circular earthworks, or a cairn sited thereon, its accessible situation ensured it was an early target for stone robbers.

stone building which is situated a few yards to the west. At OS. 484356, also in this isolated former grassy area, there is a straight turf wall angling from East to West across a forestry ride.

No. 231

NH44/54 OS 529411

av

Forestry above Belladrum

A few yards of a low straight rampart runs uphill to almost meet at right angles what appears to be a much older linear earthwork with its silted up ditch on the up side, which is more or less parallel to, and on the up side of, the nearby forestry road. This short rampart, which does not appear to serve any useful purpose, stops short of the very eroded older rampart as if leaving an access gap. Its material appears to have been dug out of one spot which has left a round hole in the ground adjacent to the top end.

No. 232

NH 44/54 OS 530416?

aw

Forestry above Belladrum

Situated on the line of a forestry ride which runs downhill, and overlooking lower ground on three sides, there is, hidden underneath dense bracken, a large cairn over six feet high when viewed from across the slope. No stones are visible except where exposed by the roots of a fallen tree, and its now tumbled down, extended length across the slope is approximately 26 yards. It has a width now of approximately 16 yards and is situated adjacent to the foot of a higher, bracken covered, ridge which gives the impression of there being a silted up ditch running across the slope between the cairn and the steep end of the ridge.

No. 233

NH 44/54 OS 532420

ax

Forestry above Belladrum

On a level area in sloping woodland there is the site of a large summer shieling or permanent settlement. There are turf and stone footings of a rectangular dwelling 12 yards x 5 yards and aligned E-W with the entrance on the north side. Adjacent at the NW there are similar footings of a larger building or small stock enclosure 16 yards x 7 yards. This is aligned N-S with what may be the entrance at the west forming a small square area protruding outwards at the SW corner. Nearby, there are faint traces of turf footings of an E-W bothy 9 yards x 4 yards. Also there are turf and stone footings of two other rectangular buildings, both aligned N-S, the entrances appear to be at the east, the dimensions are 12 yards x 5 yards and 8 yards x 4 yards. Adjacent to the latter and smaller building is an outer ditched four sided stock enclosure; one side has a slight curve, the yardage lengths are approximately 38, 36, 22 and 32. The substantial turf walling is so eroded into the ditch in places that an entrance cannot be traced. Situated on a knoll a little distance

south of this enclosure there is turf walling about 2 feet high which now appears as almost circular with an outside diameter of 4 yards. This small bothy may have been used for storing dairy produce as the entrance is at the north away from the sun. Some distance further to the south there is a small elongated mound aligned E-W; there is at least one other similar mound; also one which is circular between this site and site No. 232. A little distance to the north of this shieling site there is a small area of what appears to be eroded earthworks, now of indefinite shape, situated on a prominent flat-topped knoll. Further down from this knoll and towards the west there is a triangular cairn over 2 feet high, the length of the straight sides are 5 yards, 3 yards and 5 yards. Where the two yard lengths converge the cairn is joined on to a curved length of low, wide boulder walling running downhill and ends as a small pointed cairn which forms a raised knob, and the combined length is 44 yards. Nearby, and also concealed under moss, bracken and fallen timber, is an almost circular cairn (one side is slightly flat); it is fully 3 feet high and has a diameter of 4 yards. Fifteen yards to the other NW side of, and 15 yards from the lower end of the boulder walling, there commences a straight parallel length of similar walling running downhill for 14 yards. Further down the slope, also running downhill in the same direction, there are 57 yards of similar straight boulder walling.

NH 44/54 OS 527444

No. 234

*ay* Paslaidh

There is, in dense spruces, a flat-bottomed pit almost 3 feet deep, 4 yards wide and 22 yards long. It is situated parallel to, and a few yards up from, the public road. Probably soil was carted from here to bind the surface metal of the Telford turnpike when built early in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

NH 44/54 OS 528418

No. 235

*az* Forestry above Belladrum

Close to the north side of a stone dyke there is an oval bowl-shaped hollow 12 yards by 9 yards and almost 6 feet deep at the centre. An indication of human activity is a straight 8 yards long stretch of low turf walling which runs downhill the length of the hollow, dividing it into two equal parts. A few yards further up there is a hollow running for 22 yards up the slope. This is 10 yards wide and about 5 feet deep at the centre. There is what appears to be an upcast with slight bends at the north side.

NH 44/54 OS 532423

No. 236

*bc* Forestry above Belladrum

On the south side of the forestry road the construction of a culvert has severely damaged a small cairn which now cannot be measured.

NH 44/54 OS 529416

No. 237

*bd* Forestry above Belladrum

A little distance east of a dyke there is a cairn measuring 8 yards by 7 yards. This is about 4 feet high at the centre and appears to have been ditched.

NH 44/54 OS 517423

No. 238

*be* Belladrum Farm

A very low eroded rampart comes out from the roadside dyke. After 8 yds it turns sharply S.W. to run in a straight line parallel with the public road for 230 yards, to near Belladrum Burn.

APPENDIX IIB

Additional discoveries made at sites in the Aird noted between 1987 and 1992.

b<sub>f</sub> NH 64/74 OS 629445

No. 5

East of Ladystone Farm

A trial dig has revealed that the mound is natural. The short deep ditch may be the result of the extraction of a large stone to be used in the construction of the nearby chambered cairn at OS 629441, No. 24 in RCAHMS Record for N.E. Inverness.

b<sub>g</sub> NH 44/54 OS 528444

No. 41

West of Meikle Phoinneas

On a later inspection of this site, prodding with a rod revealed rectangular stone footings 28 yards x 7 yards and with what appear to be rounded ends. It is aligned North to South, close to and parallel with the section of ditch at the east and upper side of the site. There are indications that a doorway was situated close to the end of the building at the South West. This ditched site which has no interior rampart appears to have had an entrance at the west corner and the turf dyke 20 yards to the north has a 9 feet wide access gap opposite this entrance. This straight linear earthwork which may be of a later period is the parish boundary between Kiltarlity and Kirkhill. A deep hole has been dug for some unknown reason, close to the North East corner of the enclosure and appears to be recent, perhaps dug when the nearby electricity pylon was erected. From near the South East corner of the site there are faint traces of a straight non-drainage ditch running 120 yards eastwards to reach the boundary dyke of Meikle Phoinneas Farm. This arable field or the one next to it adjoining the public road at Brockies Corner, was known as '*Ach an t-sagairt*' (the priest's field). At OS 529445, there are faint traces for 40 yards of a rampart with its ditch at the North East running south-eastwards towards the boundary dyke. This earthwork may not be unconnected with some of the fragmentary linear earthworks at Site No. 102 and possibly enclosed the inner church lands of Paslaidh. Chisholm Batten in his '*History of Beaully Priory*' mentions the lands of Lusfinan as one of the several lands in the parishes of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill, the multures of which John Bisset of Lovat gifted to Beaully Priory in 1231. This place name comes next to Lovat at the head of a list which seems to indicate that it may not have been too far distant from Lovat. Archibald B. Scott in his '*The Pictish Nation, its People and its Church*' states that St. Finan was one of the missionaries of the Ninian Church who were active in the last quarter of the 6th Century, at the foundation of chapels in Pictland. It is probable that the lands of Lusfinan were situated in the Phoinneas-Dunballoch area adjacent to Paslaidh and

derived its name from its associated saint. This enclosure at Paslaidh has almost the same dimensions as the later Roman chapel site at Dunballoch half a mile distant which was transferred to Wardlaw shortly after 1210. It is rectangular in shape, 42 yards x 22 yards, and slightly elevated above the surrounding field, and as at Paslaidh it is also aligned North to South. Normally the footings of a Celtic church would be aligned East to West. The somewhat diamond shaped enclosure at Paslaidh which is surrounded by conifers, has been left unplanted. It is possible that local tradition is mistaken about there being a burial ground in the wood situated on the other side of the public road but probably correct about a lady known as Annie Paslaidh who resided at Paslaidh perhaps about the beginning of last century. The width of the stone footings within the enclosure appears to be too wide for a humble domestic dwelling of that period, but perhaps she occupied a turf walled abode within or without the site of which no trace can now be found. Paslaidh is a place name that now appears to be unknown locally. It is, according to Professor Watson in his *'Gaidhlig Place Names in Scotland'* a word that comes from the Latin *'basilica'* (a church).

bh NH 44/54 OS 533433

No. 58

Ballindoun Farm

On the upside of the pit there is a straight row of 5 large, spaced stones running South East up the slope.

bi NH 44/54 OS 534434

No. 59

Balchraggan

This site has now been completely destroyed by the construction of a new road leading to a recently built house.

bj NH 44/54 OS 494419

No. 63

Lonbuie Wood

This turf wall with its upcast from each side which can be traced for 80 yards appears to start at a small round mound in the bracken and ends at the edge of a hollow 6 yards out from the corner strainer of an arable field. The ditch on the inside of the curve is at one point grafted on to the surrounding ditch of an 18 yard diameter circular mound. This mound is situated on the highest point of the immediate area, and its completely silted up ditch can only be traced with difficulty. Starting about 12 yards out from this mound and running eastwards with a very slight curve, are the faint traces, for 30 yards, of a ditch and a very eroded bulky

rampart on its upside can be traced for 25 yards. Further down the slope and opposite the lower end of the turf wall, it appears that a similar linear earthwork runs in the same easterly direction; the ditch can be faintly traced for 14 yards and the rampart now forming a terrace on the upside, for 9 yards.

bk NH 44/54 OS 522407

No. 114

N.E. of Colt Cottages

This funerary site of severely robbed cairns, two of which are kerbed, may have been a ditched enclosure. There is a straight, wide, very silted up non-drainage ditch close to the east side of the site, which can be traced for 26 yards running across the slope from south to north.

bl NH 64/74 OS 622433

No. 117

Above Ladystone Farm

Extract from report on findings at this site by Laurence Draper, President of Dingwall Field Club is as follows:

*"One of the more interesting sites in the Aird is that of an assembly of stones, each protruding about half a metre above the present vegetation level (in March), apparently placed in a line on the north western slopes of Dunain Hill south west of Inverness. They are in an old birchwood amongst very many rotted tree stumps; both the tree stumps and the stones are covered in several centimetres of moss and vegetation so that identification of which are stones and which are wood is not immediately obvious. However, by prodding with a stick it is easy to distinguish between them.*

*Recently, 20 members of the Dingwall Field Club participated in an exercise to identify which, if any, might be part of a man-made assembly of stones. Several hundred of these mounds in the vicinity were investigated; on those which were of stone a piece of new kindling wood was placed vertically in the vegetation on the mound, and on those which were of old tree stump it was laid horizontally. It transpired that there was a strong tendency for the stones to be laid in pairs, centres about 1 metre apart with a separation of about one to two metres between each pair. On completion of this exercise it became apparent that about 80 of the 90 stones identified lay in complete or incomplete pairs along a fairly good straight line of about 90 metres in length aligned virtually east-west, with the other ten lying randomly, and generally about a metre or so out of line. The width of 'walkway' between each pair of stones is perhaps 30-40 centimetres. At the eastern end there is a large blocking stone, of about 1 metre in height and now leaning at an angle of perhaps 45°, placed on the centre line of the 'walkway'. The western end terminates*



*at the edge of the wood adjacent to an arable field so it is not known whether or not this was the original extremity of the row. The best assemblies of pairs of stones are near the western end. In the middle, assuming that they were originally laid in pairs there also, many stones appear to have been robbed, possibly used in the construction of the adjacent drove road."*

NH 44/54 OS 553451

No. 144

*bm* Achnagairn Wood

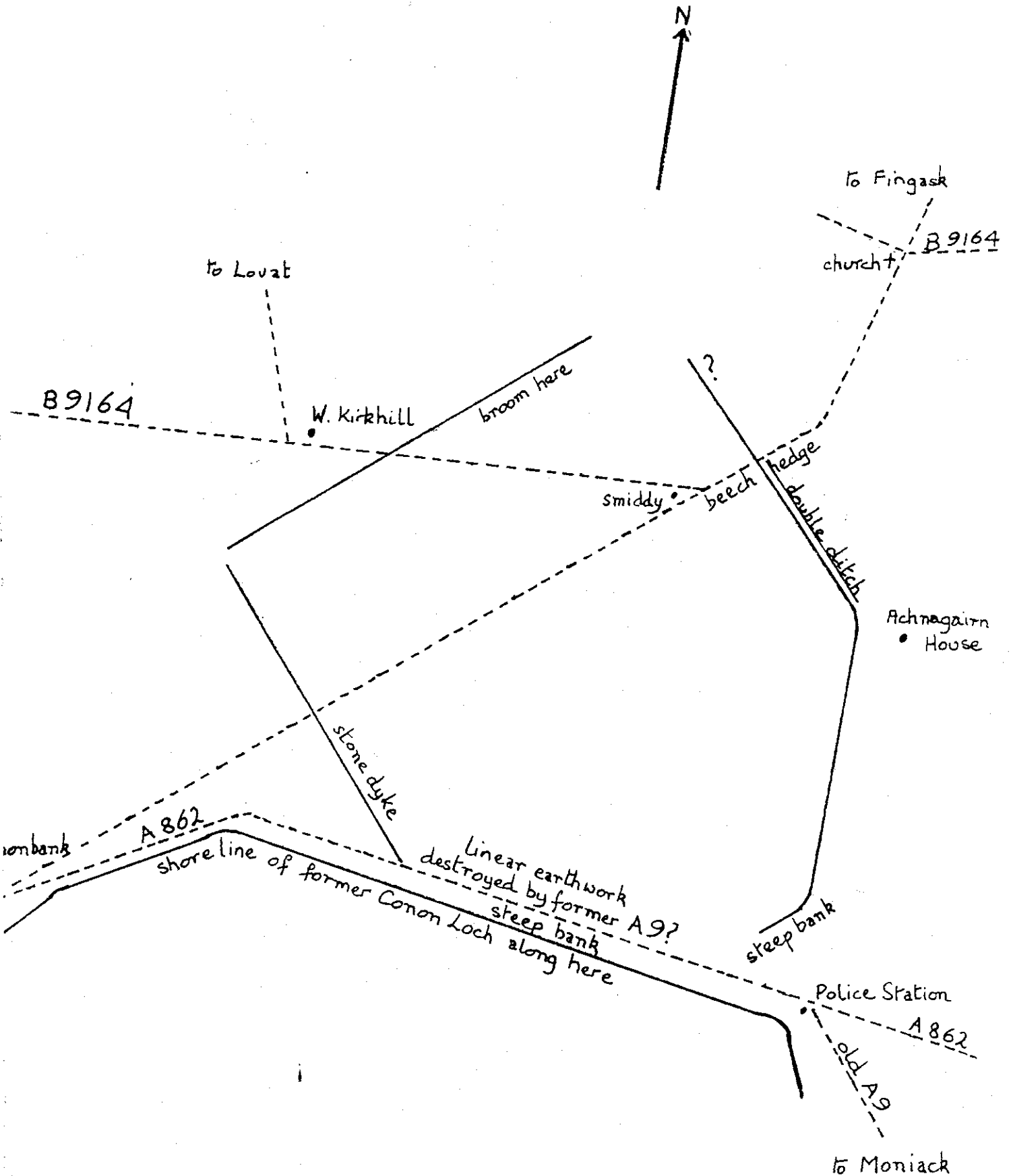
On a later inspection of this Site a more thorough scrutiny after the removal of foliage revealed that though levelled, this linear earthwork was a fairly substantial rampart with its ditch at the east. Below standing timber and then through broom and birch scrub it runs in a straight line northwards from a rounded corner at OS 553449 in the vicinity of Achnagairn House to meet a beech hedge on the south side of the public road, a distance of 300 yards. Twelve yards to the east of the ditch, a parallel smaller ditch with its less substantial rampart on the same west side is also cut off at the hedge. This outer rampart and ditch was destroyed near the rounded corner by a drive and landscaping has obliterated all further trace. This drive also cuts through the main inner rampart and ditch at an angle 10 yards north of the corner. After rounding the corner this main rampart and ditch runs in a straight line south westwards to where after 75 yards it is cut off by the boundary fence of an arable field. At OS 552447 adjoining the other side of this field and near the lower end, it can be seen on the same alignment as it crosses at an angle a strip of scrub trees and bushes near the south end of the linear earthwork of Site No. 119, the rampart and ditch being visible for about a dozen yards. This main rampart and ditch now runs at the south side of what may have been an old drove road. This was made evident a few years ago when the foundations of the second house from the road corner were being dug and the ditch, filled up with dumped stones, was discovered. The next location to provide a clue, and where only what appears to be the smaller ditch is evident, is at OS 549446. This point is at the west side of the second arable field through which the linear earthwork would have run. Fourteen yards of this non-drainage ditch can be seen running north westwards through scrub near the bottom of the boundary strip of Achnagairn Farm. Beyond the scrub it may have been the construction or the later widening of the parallel main Inverness/Beaully road that has completely removed any traces of the earthwork at the bottom of a field at West Croft. The next point where the rampart can be traced is at the south west corner of this field and from here the boundary dyke between West Croft and Cononbank Farm runs uphill in a straight line to meet the Kirkhill Village/Cononbank road at OS 546447. This stone dyke sits on the top and slightly to the east side of the eroded rampart throughout the length of this section which is distorted in places by dumped stones. This main rampart is exactly on the same

alignment as the section of rampart A-B at Site No. 16 which may be a large Roman temporary camp. This A-B section is in Blar na Coille fir wood which is beyond the arable field on the other side of the public road from the boundary dyke. From the road the main rampart would have run up through this field and appears to have been constructed along the top of the older rampart. About two thirds up from points X-A of Site No. 16, the latter rampart appears to have swung towards the east, as in the uncultivated strip between two arable fields the bump of the main rampart and the hollow of the outer ditch to the north can clearly be seen below the fence at OS 540451. This point is 128 yards down from the boundary dyke at the fir wood. In Wester Kirkhill Farm at OS 548453 there is a strip of dense broom in line with the feature observed at the field boundary (OS 540451) in which fragments of the rampart and outer ditch on the same alignment can be traced. A hard strip of ground running from this area to where the rampart comes up to the beech hedge in Achmagairn Wood has been observed when ploughing and was thought to have been an old road but is more likely to have been a compacted track on the higher ground of the levelled former rampart. No further traces of this earthwork, which appears to have enclosed about 70 acres, can now be seen. This area may have been the land of Lusnacorn which was one of the davochs in the Parish of Wardlaw, later part of the Parish of Kirkhill. This land appears to have been adjacent to those of Lovat and Fingask, while the lands of Moniack were separated from Lusnacorn by what was the Conon Loch on the one hand and what was an area of tidal alder marsh on the other, with the neck of dry land lying between. 'Lus' was probably a corrupt spelling of the Gaelic word '*lios*' which means an enclosure. 'Corn' was probably how a monastic scribe referred to Conon when writing in Latin the charter of mortification of the multures of lands donated by John Bisset of Lovat to the monks of Beaulieu shortly after the foundation of the Priory there in 1230. Those aforementioned four lands were linked together when mentioned by E. Chisholm Batten in one of the lists in his history of Beaulieu Priory, a work published in 1877.

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

Site No. 144

Sketch of what may have been  
the Davoch of Lusnacorn in  
the Parish of Kirkhill.



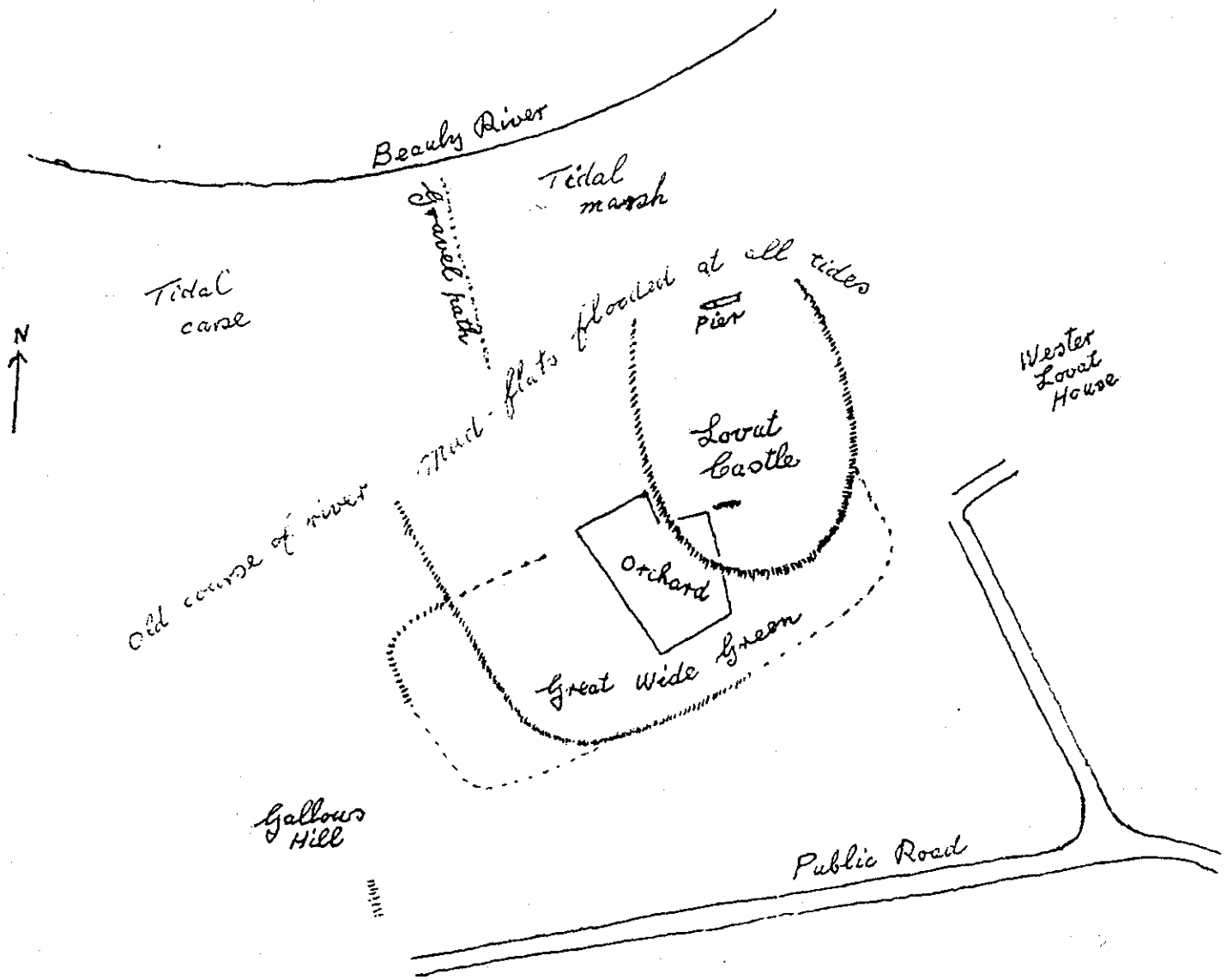
*bn* Notes on defensive ditches at Wester Lovat: OS 539461

In 1947, excavations for 3 silage pits and the excavation of a large replacement pit in 1970 revealed the line of the defensive ditch at the S.W. side of John Bisset's early 13<sup>th</sup> Century motte and bailey or ringwork castle.

In 1968, when a dragline was digging a deep drainage ditch in the field between the stackyard and the river, the 2 ends of this ditch were traced as they tailed out into the former mud-flats, and the castle wharf or pier is situated half way between. The farm steading is built over a section of this former ditch at the east and over the years serious subsidence has occurred behind, beneath and in front of the buildings. Also the gable of an adjacent cottage (now demolished) sat on the line of this ditch and a large crack appeared in the back wall near the gable. A curved strip of low ground which ran beyond the cottage garden indicated the extent and completed the shape of the earthwork, which is roughly 110 yards x 80 yards and U-shaped. In 1969, field drainage operations west of the steading revealed a ditch that came up a depression from the old course of the river, it appeared to be 15 feet wide in the places where it was cut through by new drains in the upper level of this field and where after some distance it swung round towards the east. This outer ditch probably, after another turn, grafted on to the earthwork ditch at the S.E. and enclosed an extensive outer bailey for the Anglo-Norman timber castle of that period. After extra deep ploughing subsequent to drainage, the black strip of another former ditch could be traced in the yellow clay. This ditch came out at right angles from the outer ditch near the top of the brae at the depression, and it ran westwards above the brae for 28 yards where it curved round and continued at right angles for another 25 yards where all trace was lost due to the surrounding soil being of a similar nature. In 1977, a trench was cut across this ditch in the section which ran roughly parallel to the top of the brae in order to discover its profile. It was 21 feet wide and 7 feet deep with a wide curved bottom and sides. To the east of the depression a continuation of this later ditch was not visible, but in the barley sown after the deep ploughing there was a strip of laid crop which was in the same straight alignment. When the steading was re-built after a fire in 1961, the road at the west gable was lowered and the excavation of under-lying clay exposed a black strip of soil running east to west which was probably the front ditch of the replacement stone castle built by Graham of Lovat towards the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. An old Lovat Estate map of 1800 shows that the orchard (which probably dates from the latter half of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century) was still enclosed and its situation and shape is in sympathy with this front ditch of the stone castle. Most likely the circular section of the original ditch at the south of the earthwork was filled in at the time the stone castle was built. The section of ditch fronting the stone castle is

on alignment with, and probably a continuation of, the later ditch that crosses at right angles the original outer ditch. Part of the west section of this outer ditch would have been filled in at the same time as the circular ditch, that is, from where it was crossed by the later ditch to where this later ditch grafted on after it had turned eastwards. This extended level area above the brae enclosed by the later now outer ditch, was known as the Great Wide Green, the location where Clan Fraser of Lovat assembled. When the orchard was enclosed it would appear that this later ditch in the section immediately S.W. of the stone castle was filled in as the orchard extended over it to near the top of the brae. This area of orchard may have been a later extension when defensive ditches were thought to be no longer required. The boundary of the orchard in this section to the west of the castle is adjacent to and parallel with the retained original ditch in its west section. The defensive ditches that Fraser of Brae had dug in 1644 at the time of the Montrose Wars cannot be identified, but perhaps he was re-digging existing silted up ditches. The possibility of there being a small 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> Century Viking ditched camp in the vicinity cannot be ruled out as this is the furthest west level area adjacent at the south to navigable waters of the Beaully. This terrace with its depth of soil and lack of stones was ideal for the construction of a defended site. The depression in the field prior to erosion aided by later cultivations may have been more of a narrow, shallow gully with the firm footing on each side facilitating the hauling up of boats ashore. A water diviner has traced a vein of water rising at the S.W. corner of the steading. A draw-well in the castle courtyard tapped this vein which emerges below the brae at the pier. When the field behind the river embankment (former tidal marsh) is newly rolled after cultivations, then dries out after rain, a straight strip of gravel can be seen which was probably a footpath leading from the castle grounds to a fishing platform or landing stage for a ferry boat when used at low tide. This gravel strip does not come as far back as the foot of the brae where the ground is lower, there being a silted up channel here that probably would have been crossed by a wooden ramp sitting on posts driven into the mud. Near the Gallows Hill (which actually is level ground overlooking former carse land) the deep ploughing turned up a strip of gravel; also some larger stones. This extended for 80 feet and its width appeared to indicate it was the floor of a linear building. Artefacts found during ditching included 2 triangular shaped cope stones, probably from the courtyard wall; a springer stone and a carved incised stone from arches, a chamfered stone from the side of a window or doorway and a moulded stone from the jamb of a doorway. Also 2 small lintel stones probably from arrow slits, one of which came from Redburn Quarry above Beaully which supplied stone for the Priory. All the other sandstones came from a quarry at neighbouring Fingask, the lands of which were in the original Barony of Lovat. The stone from Redburn would have been used in a later work at the castle after Lord Lovat obtained possession of Priory lands at the

Rough sketch of defensive ditches  
at Wester Lovat,



time of the Reformation. Also found was a pointed spike 11½ inches long with a slight knob at one end on the bevelled side, the other side is flat as if it might have been fixed at the top of a wooden gate. The spike and one or two of the sandstones were found near the pier where building material was loaded to be conveyed up river to Beaulieu at the time the castle was de-roofed in 1671. When the dragline bucket cleared vegetation from the stone platform, sandstone rubble buried by tipping over the brae was exposed. The east end of this hard standing was damaged during the construction of a later wooden wharf of longer length and which is in the same alignment. The black soil and small stone mix of its infill is at a slightly higher level than the stone pier and at a still higher level again than the adjacent reclaimed field. Both are the only constructions connected with the castle that are still visible. The old map shows that the site of the castle was a small arable field in 1800.

# DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND

**REGION** ..... Highland  
**DISTRICT** ..... Inverness  
**Site Name** ..... Aird Survey  
**Parish** ..... Kirkhill / Kiltarlity & Convinth / Kilmorack  
**Name of Contributor** ..... D.Coghill / R.Hanley  
**Type of Site or Find** ..... Multi-period sites  
**NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)** .....

## Report

The following is a selective list of the most significant sites noted by D.Coghill during a detailed survey of the Aird area from 1987-1989. The majority of sites lie within forestry plantations and are relatively inaccessible.

The complete list of sites recorded is reproduced in a Catalogue and two Appendices published by Inverness Field Club. A copy of this Catalogue is held in Inverness Museum.

A detailed survey programme on the sites listed below will be carried out by Inverness Museum during 1994. The following descriptions are for interim information only.

**Sponsor: HS, Society, Institution, etc, where appropriate**

**Address** ..... c/o Inverness Museum & Art Gallery  
..... Castle Wynd,  
..... Inverness IV2 3ED.



**NH 503 445 Balblair Wood** 76

Remains of large circular chambered cairn with spread of cairn material over area of c.20 m diameter. Site heavily obscured by tree and plant growth. The centre of the site consists of a small square chamber with back face consisting of large slab of c.2 x 1 m. The line of the passage is clearly visible, with a number of slumped lintel slabs in place.

**NH 504 441 Balblair Wood** 73

Possible site of heavily denuded circular chambered cairn with spread of material over c.11 m diameter. Two large stones may indicate position of central chamber. Probable line of passage truncated by kerb.

**NH 504 446 Balblair Wood** 76

Group of clearance cairns associated with hut circle.

**NH 494 439 NE of Kiltarlity Cottages** 84

Circular stone bank of c.26 m diameter located in rough pasture near River Beauly. Two opposing entrances of 2 m width cut through low stone-filled bank. No indication of internal or external ditch. The centre of the enclosure contains a number of probable stone dumps.

**NH 533 432 Ballindoun Farm**

Possible single stone row consisting of 5-6 stones running SE up steep wooded slope. Area of dense undergrowth.

**NH 536 453 Longwood** 15

Denuded hut circle

**NH 533 452 Longwood** 15

Circular ditch which may represent a roundhouse enclosure earthwork.

**NH 538 462 Wester Lovat Farm** 9

Possible site of quay associated with nearby Lovat Castle exposed during drain construction in 1968. Stone platform and possible timber quay infill deposit exposed in section.

**NH 622 433 nr Ladystone Farm** 117

Double stone row running E-W for c.90 m through dense wooded area, terminating in W at boundary with modern arable field. At E terminus there is a large standing stone c.1m in height.

**NH 586 438 Altnacardich A & B** 81

Two heavily denuded and overgrown ?chambered cairn sites. Both sites c.4 m in diameter and c.10 m apart. A probable collapsed passage and the edge of what may represent the kerb of the inner chamber are visible at site A.

**NH 581 433 Mam Mor** 123

Well-preserved hut circle of 11 m diameter lies on a large platform on a N facing slope. Entrance to SE.