

CERTIFICATE IN FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY, OCTOBER 1998.

SMR No:

NN175W0004

Site Report by Andy Beaton, Inverness group.

Site Name: Dun Dige

Location: Glen Nevis, near Fort William, Lochaber. Ordnance Survey Landranger sheet 41, GR 126719. On privately owned grazing land.

Access: Site lies immediately adjacent to an unclassified public road which runs from the Glen Nevis Restaurant to some houses. NOTE; A good 'aerial' view of the site can be had by walking a short distance up the Ben Nevis footpath, which starts at Glen Nevis Youth Hostel, close to the site.

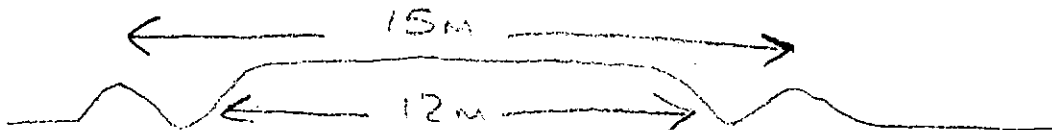
Site Description/Interpretation: Site lies on flat floor of Glen Nevis on terrain which does not afford natural defensive advantage to the site.. Site is surrounded by rough grazing land, bordered to the north by a camp-site; to the west by housing and to the east by the Ft. William to Glen Nevis public road. Site consists of a flat topped circular mound, approx. 12 metres in diameter and approx. 1.5 metres high (measured from surrounding valley floor). This in turn is enclosed by a circular ditch, bordered by a circular embankment of regular and apparently man-made shape, approx. 1 metre high. Entire site has diameter of approx. 15 metres.

Site is covered in grassy turf, with signs of marsh vegetation in and around the ditch area, suggesting the presence of an underground spring at the site. Several tall, mature trees grow on the top of the central mound feature..

The only documentary reference to the site which has been located is in a collection of local historical and ethnological notes held in the reference collection at Fort William Public Library under the title 'Lochaber Historical Routes', by an unidentified author.

Ordnance Survey Landranger sheet 41 marks the site as a 'cairn'. The document referred to however names the site as Dun Dige; (note; Gaelic 'dige' translates as fortified or moated )

Site is further claimed to have been the fortified household of the kindred MacSorley; feudal tenants of Glen Nevis c.1495 ad. at which time, incidentally, they are said to have been all but annihilated in an assault on Dun Dige by members of a hostile kindred.



Dun Dige; Cross Sectional sketch- not to scale.

Bibliography: Lochaber Historical Routes (author etc. unknown)  
OS Landranger Sheet 41.