


	CO.TT.22/12		
TTDB.2009/120	TREASURE TROVE		No finds:1
Artefact type: Tools & Manufacture	Period/Culture:	Date:	
Findspot: Balloan		NGR: NH58 59	
Place: Black Isle		Local Authority: Highland	
Method of discovery: archaeological intervention/chance/ metal-detecting (Highlight as bold)			
Artefact(s) description: A small bronze* ingot, of unusual form length 53mm, thickness 12mm. The ingot has been cast in an open face mould and a slight irregularity mirrored on both sides suggests a mould made by impressing a tool into clay or sand rather than a cut stone mould. Commonly ingots of this sort are interpreted as a means of storing excess melt after casting, or creating an easily transportable source of metal for an itinerant worker. Ingot of this type are commonly Bronze Age or Iron Age, although the inclusion of zinc in this example would indicate a Roman or later date. The appearance of this ingot, an inverted bathtub profile, is unusual and does not conform to the well understood typology of Iron Age ingots. Nevertheless other ingots of this type are known and the size would suggest both that it dates from a period when copper alloy had a high intrinsic value, and that it was intended for an itinerant bronze worker, both attributes which would exclude it from a modern date. As more are discovered it should be possible to say more about the class and an example like this with a good provenance is a useful addition to the corpus of known examples. *Tin bronze with 11% tin and 4% zinc			
Report by: Stuart Campbell			
			
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Museum allocation: Groam House			
Ex Gratia Reward:			
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