

PRE-FELLING WALKOVER SURVEY: SOUTH DALCHORK JUNE 2015



Forestry Commission Scotland
Coimisean na Coilltearachd Alba

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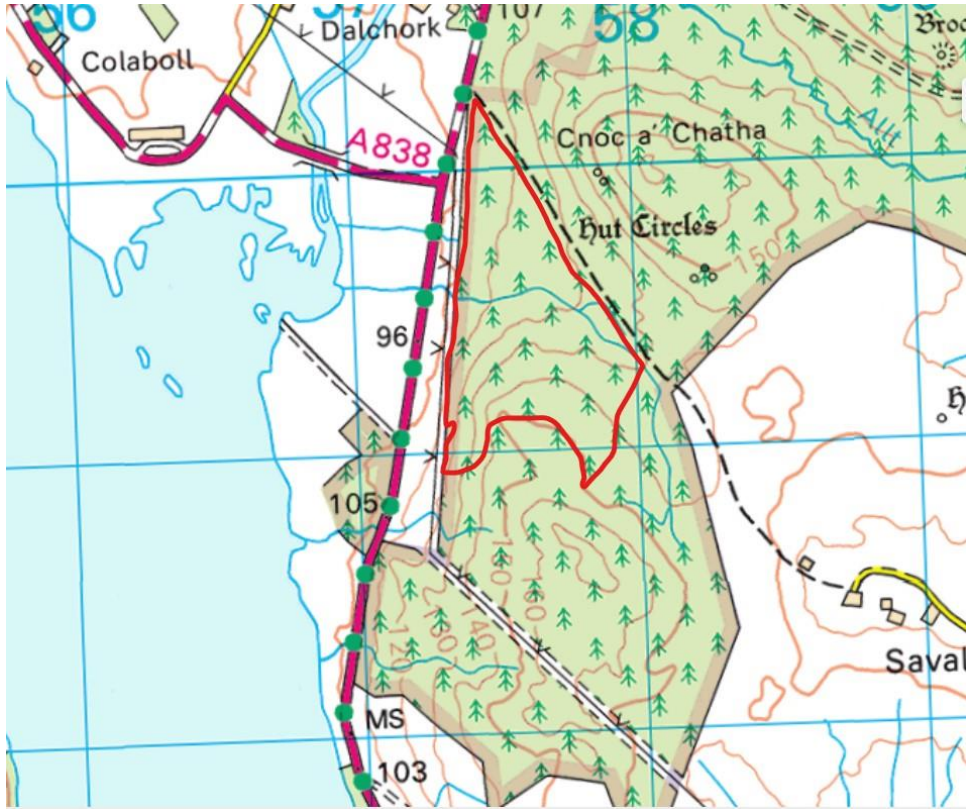


Figure 1 Map of S. Dalchork 26203 forestry block. O.S. Open data.

S Dalchork 26203 June 2015

Site 1 NC 57475 09631

This site is described by RCHAMS and HER as consisting of 2 hut circles damaged by forestry. The hut circles were not accessible due to windblow. If the windblow is cleared it is possible that there are still visible remains and the site should be re-assessed after clearance. There was no gsp or photographs taken.



Figure 2 General view of site 1 looking N

Site 1 A. NC 57401 09539

A large clearance cairn was found beside the burn. It was marked with gps and taped and photographed.



Figure 3 View of clearance cairn 1A looking N

Canmore ID 5050 Event ID 648840 also **HER ID: MHG 11872 NC50NE 75 574 096.** There are two hut circles, 'A' (NC 5746 0960) and 'B' (NC 5751 0962) mutilated by forestry ploughing and planting. They measure internally about 11.0m in diameter and about 12.0m SE-NW by 10.0m respectively. Both are most clearly defined around the W arc. A few damaged clearance heaps can be seen in the vicinity of the huts. The feature at NC 5748 0963 is a modern sheepfold.

See also ROCAS survey

Site 2

Clearance cairn 2.1 NC 57473 09176



Figure 4 View of clearance cairn 2.1 looking N

Clearance cairn 2.2 NC 57483 09229



Figure 5 View of clearance cairn 2.2 looking N

Clearance cairn 2.3 NC 57492 09224



Figure 6 View of clearance cairn 2.3 looking N

Clearance cairn 2.4 NC 57514 09218



Figure 7 View of clearance cairn 2.4 looking N

These 4 clearance cairns lie just within the plantation but have not been planted. Each clearance cairn is c.5m in diameter and c.0.5m high and covered with heather. The clearance cairns were marked with gps and photos taken, all were taped except cairn 4 but it was photographed.

Site 3 NC 57732 09222



Figure 8 View of mound looking N

Mound. This large mound is c.12m in diameter and c.0.75m high and grass covered. It lies on the S edge of the plantation and has not been planted. Trees have been planted within 5m of the mound. The mound was marked with gps and some of the trees were taped; photos were taken

Site 4 Clearance cairn 4.1 NC 57812 09153



Figure 9 View of clearance cairn 4.1 looking N

Clearance cairn 4.2 NC 57791 09166.



Figure 10 View of clearance cairn 2.2 looking N

The 2 clearance cairns lie on the SW edge of the plantation outwith the trees by a maximum of c.4m. Each clearance cairn is c.5m in diameter and c.0.5m high and covered with heather. Both cairns were marked with tape and gps and photos taken both close up and from the forestry track.

Site 5

Clearance cairn and burnt mound. The nearest position to the burnt mound NC 57387 08967. This site is covered with old windblow. A small burn was located and an area of willow lies in the approximate area of the burnt mound. No clearance cairns are visible in the windblow but given the number in the adjacent areas it is likely that several may be hidden under the timber. The site was not marked by gps or taped and only a general photo was taken of the area.



Figure 11 General view of site 5 looking NE

General comments. All the features that were found lie in clear ground and it is likely that the burnt mound and associated clearance cairn and the hut circles survive within the windblow. Given the number of clearance cairns found on the edge of the plantation it is also likely that more survive within the plantation. This indicates the survival of a prehistoric field system and while it is important it may not be possible to protect all the features during felling and clearance. The present regime of leaving the individual features unplanted may allow the archaeology to remain largely intact within future planting. The presence of the clearance cairns were marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map and the succeeding maps as 'Tumili' and these maps may give an indication of the number of clearance and other cairns.

Canmore ID 5012 Event ID 649285

(Centred NC 5747 0926) Tumuli (NR) OS 6" map, Sutherlandshire, 2nd ed., (1908)

These earth and stone mounds, some of which have been opened by Forestry ploughing, appear to be field clearance heaps. Visited by OS (W D J) 22 June 1963.

This area is re-afforested; no pattern of cultivation is discernible. Visited by OS (N K B) 13 August 1976.

Canmore ID 181240 Event ID 553720

NC 57 09 (centre) A survey of a proposed timber extraction route in this existing plantation identified two additional areas of clearance cairns and burnt mound sites at NC 5745 0896 and NC 5739 0900. A more detailed report has been lodged with Highland SMR. Sponsor: Forest Enterprise J Wordsworth 2000. References **Wordsworth, J.** (2000m) *Dalchork Forest, Lairg, Highland (Lairg parish), survey', Discovery Excav Scot, vol. 1, 2000. Page(s): 54*

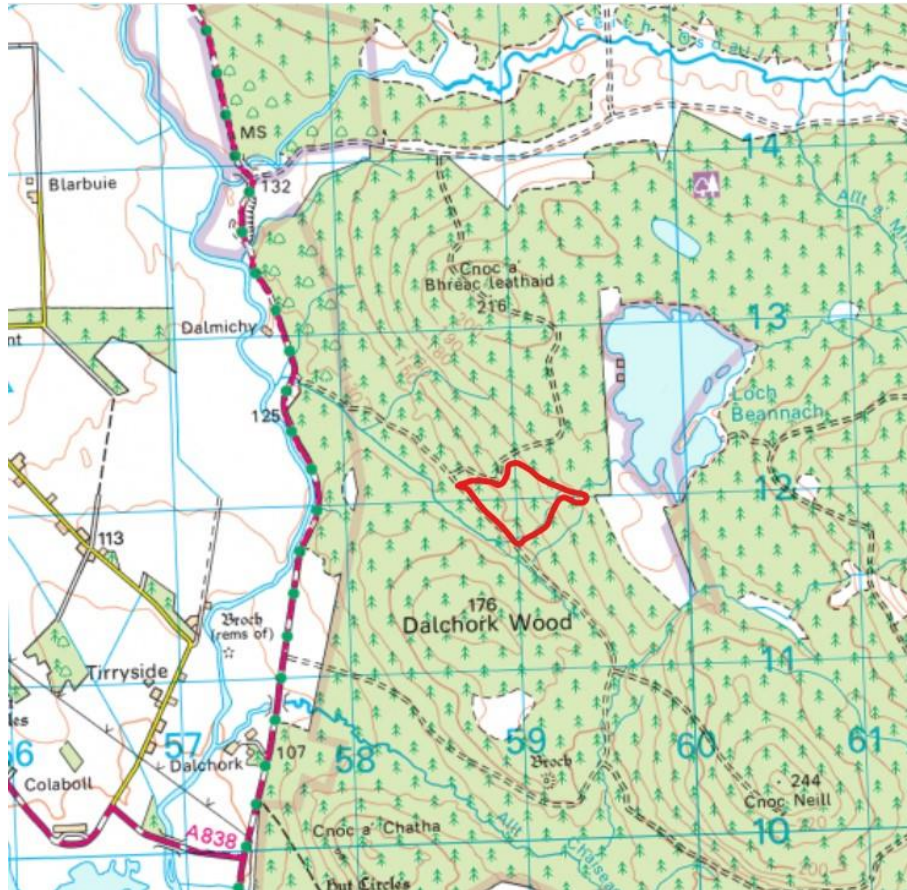


Figure 12 Map of S. Dalchork forestry block 26220. O.S. Open data

S Dalchork 26220 June 2015

Site 1 NC 58994 12126 corner 1 NC 58995 12129 corner 2 of enclosure.

The only part of the site within the work area is the SE corner of the head dyke of a township or enclosure and a small structure possibly a small enclosure or unroofed structure as depicted on the 1st Edition OS map. Below standing trees 2 walls survive extending c.5m SW-NE and c.5m NW-SE c.2.5m wide and up to c.0.75m high. It is difficult to see if other walls survive as there is some windblow in the area. The head dyke/enclosure wall may also survive below dense regen. to the N and the windblow to the SW. The walls were marked by gps, taped and photographed. Part of the wall is covered with bracken.

The rest of the township lies to the N of the forestry track and has been clear felled.

Canmore ID 91131 Event ID 754909 [First Edition Survey Project \(FESP\)](#)

What may be a township comprising three unroofed structures, four enclosures and a head-dyke is depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map (Sutherland 1879, sheet lxxxvi). One unroofed structure attached to an enclosure is shown on the current edition of the OS 1:10000 map (1992). Information from RCAHMS (SAH) 13 October 1995

HER ID: MHGN19102 As the above RCHAMS description

ROCAS report The township NC 59023 12140 (SE corner)



Figure 13 View of wall looking ENE



Figure 14 View of wall looking E