

M5, A Field Survey in the Loch Rimsdale Area, June 1975.

SUT 1274

GRID REF.	OTHER REFERENCES.	NATURE OF SNG.	SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS	HEIGHT O.D.	ORIENTATION	ASPECT	SLOPE	
1	NC 707350	Nil	Former peat hags	Somewhat irregular cuts at 90° to the Allt na Creadha; 30-50m in length and extending some 200m along the W side of the stream. Each hag is defined by a low bank on either side, c2m wide and up to 0.5m high. XXXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX	c330m O.D. ✓	—	E/SE	Slight
2	NC 701359	OS 6" NC 63 NE	Clearance settlement of shielings known as Bad an Leathaid, lying on the NE slopes of Cnoc Bad an Leathaid.	As OS 6" sheet NC 63 NE	150-200m O.D. ✓	XXXXXXXX ✓	NE	Mod/Stp
3	NC 715348	OS 6" NC 73 SW	Cairnfield, astride the saddle of the S ridge of Cnoc Bad na Fainne. Apparently clearance cairns, although other functions are possible. 50-60 exist in an area relatively clear of heather, but scattered examples continue along the hill in all directions.	Cairnfield amorphous. Cairns circular or oval, sometimes elongate. Size 3m or less up to 8m diam. Height up to 0.7m. Sometimes joined by low banks into long undulating banks 30m long and more, usually fairly straight.	200-260m	Southerly	Many	Mainly slight
4	NC 715355	Nil	Cairnfield, on the NE-facing slope of Cnoc Bad na Fainne. Due to the generally broken nature of the ground and the more profuse vegetation on this lee slope the number present is impossible to determine.	As 3 above, where measurable	165-200m	-X-	E/NE	Mod/Stp
5	NC 727356	Nil	Cairnfield, on the SE slope of Cnoc na Gaoithe, above the W shore of Loch Rimsdale. Number undetermined in very broken ground.	Cairnfield amorphous and appears to be in several small blocks. Cairns as 3 above.	150-180m	—	E-S	Mod/Stp

GEOLOGY & SOILSUNUSUAL FEATURES.ASSOCIATIONS AND/OR STRATIFICATION.CONDITION

Widespread peat bog.

None.

Some 300m. NW of the head dyke of Truderscaig village over the SE ridge of Cnoc Bad an Leathaid, and surely associated with it.

Much overgrown

Glacial till.

3 distinct areas are represented, possibly indicating increase or decrease in the acreage in use.

Either a sheiling site for the village of Truderscaig, or a separate township in its own right. The peat hags may be also associated, (1 above).

Ruinous, overgrown, with dykes much disturbed by animals in the past.

Glacial till.

Some cairns are notably of different composition, i.e. most are of close-packed stone, others loose heaps of stone, others again with a large admixture of earth.

No hut-circles are apparent in the heather-free area, but site 9, below, is close by. Two such sites are recorded by the OS here but were not found by us. Curving banks of linked cairns might be mistaken for enclosures.

Much heather growth, but area of improved land is clear.

Glacial till & much broken rock.

None.

3 sites (7, 8 & 9 below) lie within this area, but no clear pattern is visible.

Very overgrown by heather and indistinct. Probably also much obscured by peat.

Glacial till & peat.

Some very clear but others obscured by heather growth. They appear to be smaller than in 3 & 4 above, but this is probably due to depth of peat deposit.

No hut circles or other structures distinguishable.

Very overgrown and indistinct.

6	NC 720350	Nil	Cairns. A few scattered examples in the low ground between Cnoc na Gaoithe and Cnoc Bad na Fainne. Presumably clearance cairns as indistinguishable from other examples.	As 3, above.	c150m	—	SE/E	Slight
7	NC 715355	Nil	Hut circle or enclosure, on the NE slope of Cnoc Bad na Fainne.	Sub-circular or oval. External diam: 15.75 x 12.50m. Internal diam: Indeterminable. Height: c.0.2m.	c200m	105°	NE	Steep
8	NC 716355	Nil	Hut circle or enclosure, on the NE slope of Cnoc Bad na Fainne.	Almost circular. External diam: 14.20 x 13.20m Internal diam: Indeterminable. Apparently outer banks in concentric arcs at varying distances. Height: c.0.2m.	c185m	150°	ENE	Steep
9	NC 718350	Nil	Hut circle or enclosure, on the E slope of Cnoc Bad na Fainne.	Sub-circular or oval. External diam: 13.50 x 11.90m. Internal diam: c.9.00m.	c200m	164°	SE	Mod/Stp
10	NC 719347	Nil	Circular scooped stone structure of unknown purpose in the form of a platform with many stones visible on it, scooped into the slope of the hill.	Almost circular, with an external diameter of c.9.00m.	c185m	?	SE	Steep

Peat.	The almost flat, rather wet land upon which this group lies is untypical, although this may be related to peat depth.	None distinguishable.	Overground, but heather makes these distinct amongst bog vegetation. Probably much is under the peat.
Glacial till & much stone.	Sharply scooped into the slope. Walls appear to be slightly expanded at the entrance. <i>No stone visible.</i>	A similar site (8, below) c.50m downslope. Also the clearance cairns (4, above) probably in association.	Indistinct, heather covered, but possibly well preserved. Soil creep obscures uphill side.
Glacial till & much stone.	Outer concentric banks to the N, NW, and S, at varying distances from the enclosure. The SW portion of the wall appears to project upslope. Sharply scooped into the slope.	<u>see</u> 7, above.	As 7, above.
Glacial till & much stone.	2 gaps in the wall, at 207° and 32° - resembling the entrance but probably due to an animal track. No stone is visible.	<u>see</u> 7, above.	Seems more disturbed than others, but hard to assess due to growth of heather.
Glacial till.	Two upright slabs to the SW. Another upright slab in the NE, where there is a curious rectangular structure.	None apparent.	Much disturbed and overgrown.

11	NC 717349	Nil	Possible standing stone, although it may have been erected in the historic period as an animal rubbing stone.	Upright tapering slab, c.0.55m wide, 0.2m thick, and standing in a slight hollow to a height of 1.00m above present ground level.	c185m	<u>see under additional comments.</u>	SE	Mod.
12	NC 716348	Nil	Stone rows. Comprises 42 stones, none of any great size and some now invisible on the surface, arranged in 4 rows. These run from 4 larger stones which taper slightly towards the top, and converge northwards over a distance of some 12.4m., where they disappear under a clearance cairn and cannot be located.	5.43m at widest (S) end, tapering to c.1.00m where the stones disappear under the clearance cairn.	c185m	<u>see under additional comments</u>	S	Sl/Mod
13	NC 723350	Nil	Large enclosed area, apparently a clearance village of the late historic period. It lies on the almost flat land to the west of Loch Rimsdale and to the S of the Allt Achadh an Daraich. Note that the stream name contains the Gaelic element <u>Achadh</u> (field), which might be of some significance.	Roughly trapezoidal in shape and c.180m across the two longest axes. <i>Some evidence for rectangular structures within the enclosure.</i>	140-170m	180	ESE	Slight
14	NC 707340	OS 6" NC 73 SW OS Record card of that sheet describes them as 'hut circles'	Hut circle or enclosure on the ridge of Cnoc Bad XXXXXX an Leathaid, just E of the easternmost point of Truderscaig village.	Roughly circular. External diam: 13.00m Internal diam: Indeterminable. Height: c.0.2m.	c170m	160°	SSE	Mod.
15	NC 707340	<u>see</u> 14 above	Hut circle or enclosure, 24m east of site 14 above.	Roughly circular. External diam: c.12.70m. Internal diam: Indeterminable. Height: c.0.15m.	c170m	160°	S	Mod.

Glacial till & shallow peat.

None

Stone rows (12, below), about 150m to the SW. Also many earthfast stones, some tapered, upslope. These were incoherent in their location, although they may be in some order. They were not recorded.

Slightly off vertical, this stone has been much used by deer for rubbing, as there is a trampled ^{hollow} around it.

~~The flat axis of the stone aligns very roughly on Morven, some 2.5 kms distant in Caithness.~~



Shallow peat.

None. This is however a very small example of such a stone setting.

Standing stone(?), site 11, above. Clearly stratified below a field clearance cairn.

Small stones obscured or nearly so by soil creep, which has probably caused some displacement.

~~The front row of larger stones may be aligned on the summit of Ben Klibreck, 11.4 km to the NW~~



Peat.

Area rather more flat, wet, and exposed than is usual among such settlements in the district.

None apparent.

Much overgrown and peat-covered, it is however easily seen on the ground and on aerial photographs.

Glacial till.

Slightly scooped into slope. Stone visible around entrance only.

There are 5 similar sites (15-19 below) in close proximity. Sites 20 & 21 below may also be associated.

Extremely low and difficult to see. It can only be discerned from downhill by the slight scooping, and stones at the entrance.

Glacial till.

Slightly scooped into slope. Stone visible around entrance only.

see 14, above.

As 14, above.

16	NC 708340	Nil	Hut circle or enclosure, some 33m east of site 15 above and slightly up upslope of it.	Roughly circular. External diam: c.10.00m. Internal diam: Indeterminable. Height: Negligible.	c170m.	164 ^o	S	Mod.
17	NC 708340	Nil	Hut circle or enclosure, some 18m uphill of site 16 above.	Roughly circular. External diam: c.10.00m. Internal diam: Indeterminable Height: Negligible.	c170m	175 ^o	S	Mod.
18	NC 708340	Nil	Hut circle or enclosure, some 30m east of site 17 above and at the same height.	Roughly circular. External diam: c.12.00m. Internal diam: Indeterminable. Height: Negligible.	c170m.	165 ^o	SE	Mod.
19	NC 709340	Nil	Hut circle or enclosure, about 20m east of site 18 above and slightly upslope.	Roughly circular. External diam: c.12.50m. Internal diam: Indeterminable. Height: Negligible.	c.175m	172 ^o	SSE	Mod.
20	NC 708341	Nil	A stone bank, upslope of sites 14-19 above, and possibly related to them.	2-3m in width; c.0.5m in height, and perhaps 200m in length, with gaps c.2.0m wide a irregular intervals.	c190m	—	SW/S	Mod.

Glacial till	Slightly scooped into slope. Stone visible around entrance only. Slightly smaller than 14 & 15, above.	<u>see</u> 14, above.	Low, overgrown and extremely difficult to detect. As 14.
Glacial till.	Slightly scooped into slope slope. Size as 16, above. Entrance seems to have been sheathed with stone, and slightly splayed. No stone visible elsewhere.	<u>see</u> 14, above. Also overlain in the NW corner with a stone bank related to Truderscaig village.	As 14. Almost totally obscured by soil creep.
Till.	Slightly scooped into the slope. No stone visible.	<u>see</u> 14 above.	As 14 only even less distinct. No stone visible to guide the searcher. Found only because it was half expected.
Till.	As 18 above.	<u>see</u> 14 above.	As 18.
Till.	The numerous breaks are curious. The bank lies generally on a break of slope, that above rather less steep, and appears to enclose the downhill side, and sites 14-19, 21.	Possibly encloses sites 14-19 and 21.	Overgrown with heather but fairly well-defined.

21	NC 707340 (centred)	Nil	Cairn-like structures, on the hillslope below the bank (site 20 above) and above sites 14 & 15. There are twelve or more in close juxtaposition. Their function is obscure.	Circular. c.5.00m diam; 0.5-1.0m high.	175-180m	————	S-SW	Mod.
22	NC 712352	Nil	Circular feature, apparently of turf or earth construction, with a central hollow. The enclosing bank is slightly higher to the NW.	External diam: 5.50m. Height; 0.75m.	c225m	————	SSW	Mod/Stp.
23	NC 719346	OS 6" NC 73 SW OS Card " (5) 'hut circles'	Hut circle or enclosure, on the slope of XXXX Leathad an Daraich, which is the S spur of Cnoc Bad na Fainne above Loch Truderscaig. Structure built of earth and stone.	Slightly ovate. External diam: 18.00 x 17.00m. Internal diam: c.15.5m Height: c.0.75m.	c175m	<u>160°</u>	SE	Slight.
24	NC 719345	OS 6" NC 73 SW OS Card " (5) 'hut circles'	Hut circle or enclosure, some 50m NE of site 23 above.	Slightly ovate. External diam: 14.00m x 18.00m. Internal diam: Indeterminable. Bank c.2.0m wide, 0.50m high.	c170m	c.90°	SE	Slight.

Till

Much stone exposed, most of it on the downhill side. In some cases this stone seems to derive from the centre of the structure, leaving a distinct hollow. Some have the appearance of small kilns of some sort, but this open to doubt.

Associated with 14-21 ? or with Truderscaig?

Apparently much disturbed but easily visible. *af*

Till.

No apparent entrance. Part of the bank to the NW is higher than elsewhere. Little stone apparent - possibly only a slipped cairn. Very regular circle.

None apparent.

Abundant growth of grass and heather in contrast to surrounding area, but not easily distinguishable from other 'bumps' in the area. *o/*

Shallow peat.

Earth & stone built. Many stones visible in the wall but edge not defined. Note that OS cards give the entrance to the SSW.

Site 24, below; some 50m NE.

Well-preserved and clearly visible.

Shallow peat.

Splayed wall terminals at entrance. Stone sheathing visible at this point.

see 17 above, for similar sheathing and expanded terminals. Also site 23 above, 50m SW.

Well-preserved and easily visible, if somewhat overgrown. *af*