

III.

CUP-MARKINGS NEAR MOULIN, PERTHSHIRE.

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ROCK SLAB ON BALEDMUND ESTATE.

This rock, which bears a series of cup-marks, is rather more than half a mile to the north of Moulin village, near Pitlochry, at a height of 900 feet above sea-level, and commands a fine view of the Tummel and Tay valley.

To reach it, you follow the good path leading from Moulin to Ben y Vrackie, until it crosses a small burn by a wooden bridge. You then leave the path and go through a gate to the right, and cross a grass field to the gamekeeper's cottage known as "Crofts of Baledmund." From there the track continues northward to a gate in the deer fence separating the pasture from the open moor. This track is parallel with the Ben y Vrackie path, and about 100 yards to the east of it.

The cup-marks lie close to the track, on the right side, and about 200 yards beyond the gamekeeper's cottage, in a rough grass field, containing many brackens as well as scattered rocks and stones.

I came across the place by accident in August last, and nobody seems to have noticed it before. Mr J. H. Dixon, F.S.A.Scot., in his interesting book, *Pitlochry Past and Present* (1925), expresses surprise that, considering the numerous Pictish and older remains in the district, no cup-markings have been found quite near Pitlochry, the nearest being 5½ miles distant. Mr M'Lauchlan, who farms the hillside, told me that he had never noticed the cups, or heard them spoken about.

The slab in question is evidently an ice-ground outcrop of hard schistose rock, its surface almost level with the surrounding grass. It contains fourteen well-marked cups, varying from two to three inches in

diameter, and some of them nearly an inch deep; also two cups less distinct. One set of five cups, and another set of three, lie in two straight lines running as nearly as possible east and west. The hillside faces south, but the slab slopes gently to the west. The exposed surface is about 6 feet long, and 4 feet broad, and contains all the cups visible. With the farmer's kind help the turf was folded back for about a foot round about, but no more cup-markings were uncovered. No rings are to be seen.

There are vestiges of a possible stone circle round the cupped slab (which would not be in the centre of the circle), but if there is any truth in that idea most of the stones have disappeared.

PERCHED BLOCK BEHIND BADVO.

Four miles from Moulin, on the Kirkmichael road, there is a lonely cottage called "Badvo," formerly occupied by a shepherd but now empty. Two hundred yards north-north-east of the cottage, and at a height of about 1300 feet above sea-level, a prominent perched block, some 10 feet across, was discovered by my wife and myself when looking for hut-circles near the ancient road which crosses the moor. The flattish top of the block contains twenty-one or twenty-two well-marked cups, distributed in groups, and so far as is known they have not been previously described.

A few of the cups are three inches in diameter, and the rest smaller. It may be only a coincidence, but three of the cups lie in a straight line, running east and west, as in the case of the Baledmund cup-markings.

* When first visited, the block was partly covered with turf, and when that had been scraped off one or two more cups were disclosed. The position of the rock is immediately above the monument on the roadside to John Souter, who had perished in a March snowstorm in this exposed place.