

II.

REPORT ON STONE CIRCLES IN ABERDEENSHIRE (INVERURIE, EASTERN PARISHES, AND INSCH DISTRICTS), WITH MEASURED PLANS AND DRAWINGS, OBTAINED UNDER THE GUNNING FELLOWSHIP. By FRED. R. COLES, ASSISTANT-KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

The Report for the season just passed includes notices of megalithic remains scattered over an area of considerably greater extent than any hitherto examined. This has become necessary through several causes, such as: my own oversight in missing remains not easily recognised on the maps, difficulties of access to other sites, and, lastly, the ascertaining of precise localities of others only through the verbal direction of persons intimately acquainted with the special district in days so long ago, that, but for the retentive memories of such aged residents, all knowledge of such and such a Circle would ere this have perished. It is always a peculiar pleasure to meet with tenants to whom the Standing Stones are really objects of some regard and importance; and this distinct pleasure we several times experienced during our recent survey. It did much to counterbalance feelings of quite another kind, which swelled at the too frequent sight of rows of split boulders, coping stones of dikes, or lintels of barn-doors that bore sad testimony to the manner in which the ancient Standing Stones had been transformed into the mere building material of modern needs. That better feelings do now prevail is generally admitted; and, on most estates, the laird lays a restraining hand upon the tenant.

The remains investigated during the survey of 1901 fall naturally into three large divisions. In the first, which is geographically the same area as that partially surveyed in 1900, there are nineteen additional sites to report upon. Many of these are now marked by a monolith only. In the second division, which comprises the extensive area now known as the parishes of Belhelvie, Kinkell, Fintray, New Machar, Foveran, Udney, Tarves, Bourtie, Daviot, and Rayne, all lying

east of the rivers Don and Ury, this Report notices seventeen sites, a few of these being now marked by monoliths only, but the majority having remains of great interest. The third division lies entirely to the west of the Ury and mainly in the district called Strathbogie. Here the remains are very numerous, and they number, inclusive of monoliths, over thirty. This Report, therefore, has to deal, of necessity briefly in many instances, with no fewer than seventy sites, of greatly varying interest, and about many of which it is to be regretted that so very little can now be confidently affirmed.

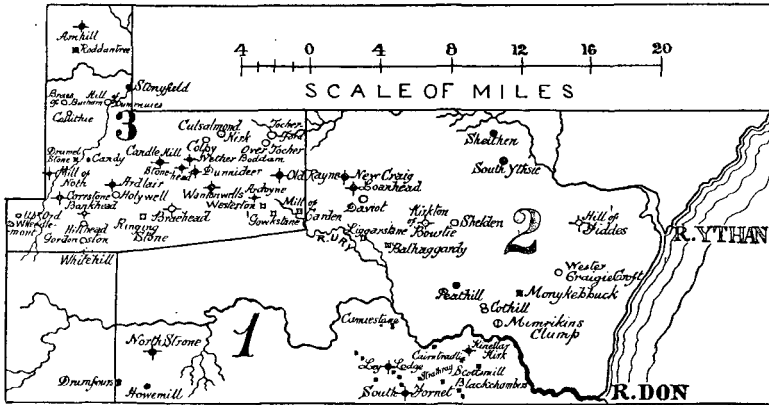


Fig. 1. Map of the District surveyed.

The ground-plans for the most part are shown, as before, on the scale of 20 feet to the inch, with a few exceptions which will be noted in their proper places; and reference to the stones in the circles is made, as before, by naming the first stone on the west of the Pillar No. I. In many examples it has been found simpler and clearer to use lettering for the stones.

DIVISION I. INVERURIE DISTRICT.

In the accompanying Map (fig. 1) the lower section shows the same area as that visited in 1900; but the sites now noticed are additional to those marked in the previous one.

The most southerly site is

No. 1. *Drumfours, Cushnie*.—At a point mid-way between South Fowlis and Drumfours farms, about four miles S.S.W. of Alford, the Ordnance Map shows five stones arranged in a rude oval. All that now remains *in situ* is one tallish monolith (see A, fig. 2), set with its longer axis east and west on a flattish piece of ground, having on its west and north a rather deep natural hollow crescentic in form. The

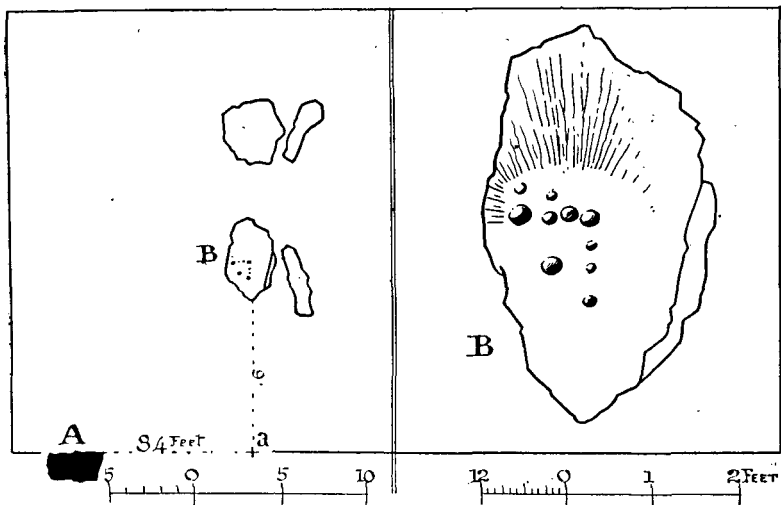


Fig. 2. Drumfours, Cushnie.

Fig. 3. Cup-marked Boulder.

height above sea-level is considerably above 600 feet. Going due east from this monolith for a distance of 84 feet, we strike a wooden paling, within which, on the edge of a quarry, lie several large stones. The nearest and largest is (see B, fig. 3) a rounded mass of whinstone, having on its smooth and nearly level upper surface the ten cup-marks shown in my drawing. The larger cups are $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and 2 inches deep. Under the very favourable light of a clear noon-day, it was just possible to detect the slight depressions of tool-marks in some of these cups.

From what I subsequently learnt in conversation with the farmer, this stone for years lay against the monolith A, but was removed by an old quarryman to its present position and there left for preservation. The other four or five stones recorded on the Ordnance Map must have been removed long prior to this tenant's occupancy of the farm of Drumfours. The next illustration (fig. 4) shows the Standing Stone from the east.

No. 2. *Howemill, Tough*.—On what was at the date of the Ordnance Survey the wooded summit of a hill 616 feet above sea-level, the Map

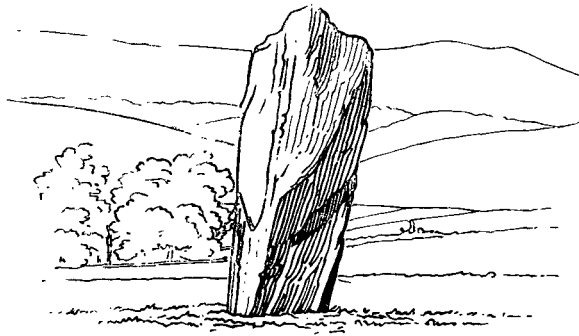


Fig. 4. Drumfours; remains of Circle.

shows a group of four large stones. The site is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile almost due east of the Drumfours Circle; but it is not visible from it. On the occasion of our visit, we encountered numerous stumps of trees and not a few bushy obstacles, before finding the one erect, massive stone (see figs. 5 and 6), which alone has, in this brief lapse of time, been spared the application of the quarryman's "jumper" and powder. Two others lie split and shattered, and the place of the fourth knows it no more. That it stood on the north-west (B on plan, fig. 5) is probable; there it would form with the others an ellipse of 30 feet by 23 in diameter, and there, as if in indication of a *quondam* monolith, still remain firmly set the three stones shown shaded in the plan. At a distance of 39

feet S.W. from the base of the Standing Stone A, is a fallen stone, 6 feet 4 inches in length by 3 feet 5 in breadth. When erect, it would

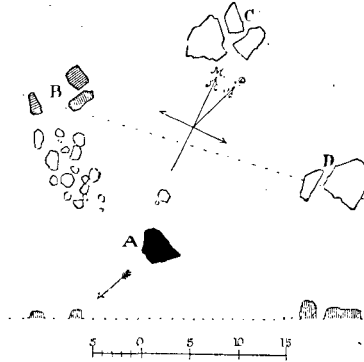


Fig. 5. Howemill, Tough; Plan.



Fig. 6. Howemill; View from the South.

probably have stood exactly in line with the centres of A and D, and if so, also in line, as they are, with the Mither Tap of Bennachie. The smaller part of this last-mentioned Stone D is on edge, seems quite

earth-fast, and stands about 22 inches above the ground. Its larger portion has been split away and left lying flat. The three large pieces at C are parts of one stone ; and between B and A is a litter of smaller fragments which I take to be pieces of the fourth stone thrown aside as useless.

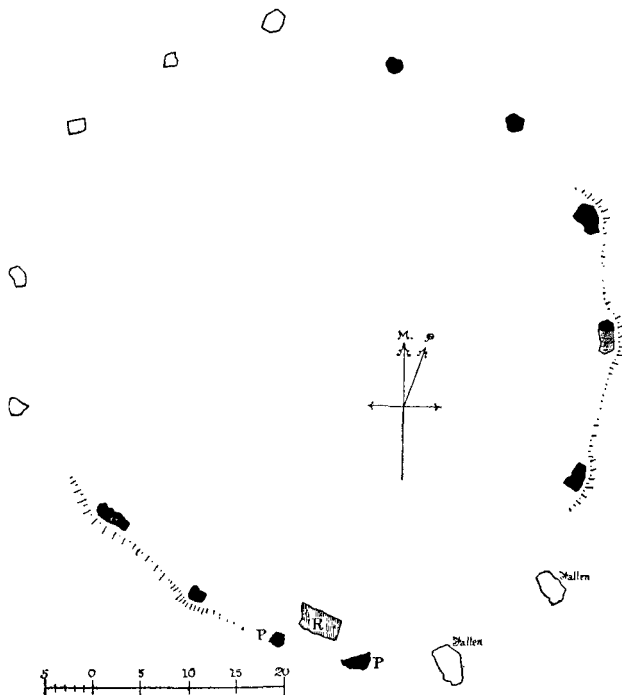


Fig. 7. North Strone, Alford ; Plan.

No. 3. North Strone, Alford.—This circle is in a larch wood, a quarter of a mile S.W. of the farm, and one mile and a half south of Alford, and must once have been visible from the Drumfours Circle, from which it is three miles distant. The site is 850 feet above sea-level. Several features present themselves at once to our notice. The stones composing the Circle are seventeen in number (see plan, fig. 7). They are

all short and not conspicuous for breadth ; indeed, the Recumbent Stone and Pillars are chiefly remarkable for their extreme smallness ; thirdly, I show on the plan five stones in line only, to distinguish them from the nine in black. The reason for this difference in representation is that the five outlined stones on the N.W. arc were quite recently raised from a prostrate position and erected at intervals believed to be in keeping with the spaces between the undisturbed stones on the east and south-west, by the order of the proprietrix of Haughton, Miss Farquharson, who had also directed some excavation to be made within the area enclosed by the stones. On communicating to Miss Farquharson my desire to know if any relics had been found, I was informed that, "on the east side of the Circle some human bones, and chips of what must have been an urn because of the marks of ornamentation on them, were found. The ground must have been gone over at some previous time ; there were marks of three or four graves with nothing in them."

A rather more detailed account may be consulted in *Scottish Notes and Queries* for May 1897, p. 178 ; from which we learn that the whole space enclosed by the stones was originally paved with rough stones set close together ; that seven ancient graves were found lying nearly east and west within the circle, all previously opened. One contained some bones and part of a clay urn with incised decoration ; another had several pieces of bone, a tooth, and two bits of flint ; and in the rest, only the outlines of skeletons could be traced.

The heights of the stones are :—

Stone I.	2 feet 5 inches ;	grey granite.
„ II.	2 „ 10 „	red „
(Stones III. to VII. are omitted, not being in their original settings).		
Stone VIII.	2 feet 8 inches ;	red granite.
„ IX.	2 „ 10 „	white „ (like Dyce).
„ X.	2 „ 10 „	grey „
„ XI.	2 „ 7 „	red „
„ XII.	3 „ 2 „	„ „
„ XIII. and XIV. (fallen ;	about 4 feet long).	

East Pillar . . . 2 feet 8 inches.
 Recumbent Stone, fallen forward, 2 feet high.
 West Pillar . . . 2 feet 9 inches.

The interspaces between all the original Stones, beginning at the north with Stone VIII., are :—

Stone VIII. to IX.,	. . . . .	14 feet 0 inches.
„ IX. „ X.,	. . . . .	12 „ 8 „
„ X. „ XI.,	. . . . .	12 „ 8 „
„ XI. „ XII.,	. . . . .	15 „ 3 „
„ XII. „ East Pillar	. . . . .	30 „ 0 „
	East to West Pillar .	11 „ 0 „
	West Pillar to Stone I. .	9 „ 3 „
„ I. „ II.,	. . . . .	12 „ 3 „

giving an approximate circumference of 170 feet.

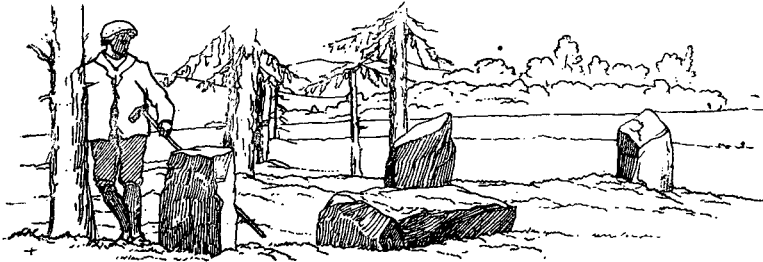


Fig. 8. North Strone ; View of Recumbent Stone, etc.

The diameters may be stated as 67 feet by 62. The Recumbent Stone, whose extreme dimensions are, length 4 feet 8 inches, present breadth (originally the height) 2 feet 4 inches, and thickness 1 foot 7 inches, has been pushed over from its original position between the two Pillars. It still lies almost in the same line of axis, however, and this is W.N.W. by E.S.E. Its weight is $1\frac{1}{4}$ tons.

If the two fallen stones (in outline on plan) on the S.E. are parts of the original arrangement and were set up, they would fill in the gap

here at about the same relative distances as the two stones still erect to the west of the Pillars. In order the more clearly to show the very small size of the stones in this circle, I have given a drawing (fig. 8) of the Recumbent Stone and Stone I. as seen from the S.S.E. near one of the fallen stones.

Figure A

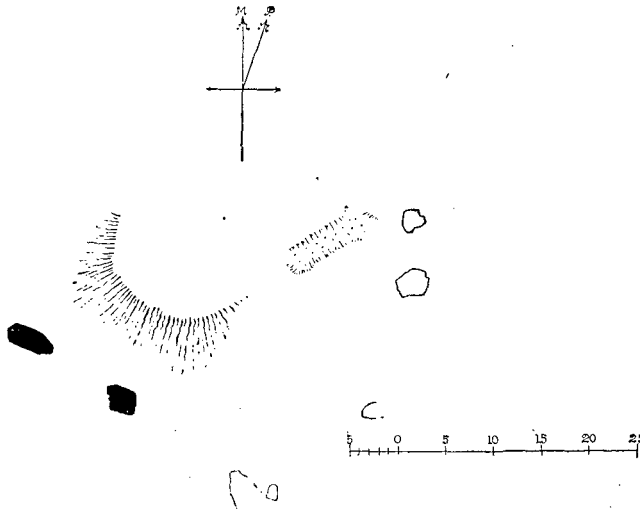


Fig. 9. South Fornet, Skene ; Plan.

No. 4. *South Fornet, Skene*.—The O.M. shows here, at an altitude of 600 feet, in a wood, a good-sized area dotted off in the shape of a heart, with the point to the south, and the plans of several stones within this strangely-outlined space. All that now can be asserted is, that the wood is still there ; two tall and massive Standing Stones (see

Plan, fig. 9) still remain on either side of a space doubtless once filled by the Recumbent Stone, and five other stones of varying size, one alone over 5 feet in length, lie prone, scattered over a grassy, uneven ground, which rises in front of the Pillars into a bank of uncertain dimensions about four feet higher than their bases. Evidence of further disturbance meets the eye in a sort of oblong trench on the eastern side, near to the point where this bank "runs out." The large and thick fallen stone on the N.E. (A, fig. 9), may mark the limit of the original Circle; its centre is 87 feet 6 inches distant from the base of the West Pillar.



Fig. 10. South Fornet; the two Pillars.

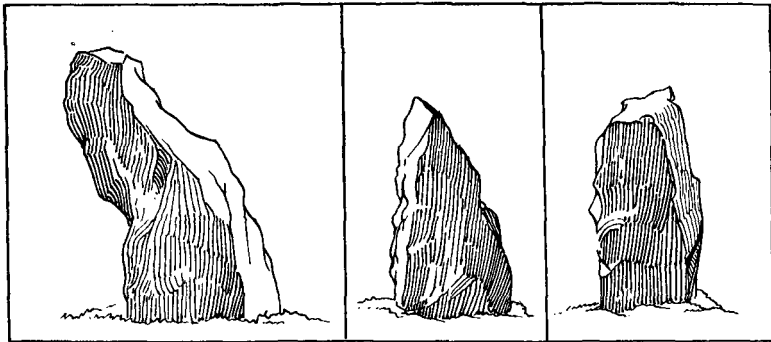
The two Pillars (see fig. 10) are of blueish whinstone richly veined with quartz. The West one stands 6 feet 10 inches in height, and its outer surface is perfectly smooth. The East one is 6 feet 6 inches in height, and both are pointed. The site of the Recumbent Stone is 6 feet 8 inches in length, and trends W.N.W. 60 degs. There is now no trace whatever of any continuation of the bank shown on the plan, or of any other ridge or trench external to this.

Nos. 5, 6, and 7. Standing Stones at Blackchambers.—In dealing with these separate monoliths, it was not thought necessary to affix a ground-plan to each; every stone was accurately measured at its base,

and its height taken ; and I here give drawings of them placed in order as we saw them, working from the most southerly one on this farm to the Camiastane, near Inverurie.

No. 5. This (A, fig. 11) is a small block of porphyry, girthing over 7 feet, and standing 4 feet 6 inches in height, its longer axis pointing to the north.

No. 6. The next, B, is of granite ; it is 3 feet 9 inches in height, girths 5 feet 8 inches at the ground, and stands east and west.



A.

B.

C.

Fig. 11. Standing Stones at Blackchambers.

No. 7. The third, C, is also 3 feet 9 inches in height, girths 4 feet 2 inches and stands north and south. This last stone is not the one marked on the O.M. as west of the farm-house of Blackchambers ; that one must have been removed, as we could not find it. The stone shown in my drawing stands in a sloping field on the N.E. of the steadings and about a furlong from them.

In the next illustration are shown drawings of

Nos. 8, 9, and 10. *Standing Stones at Strathray, Burnside, and Craighead Wood.*—There was also one at Aquherton, for which we made long search without any result. The Strathray stone (A, fig. 12) is of blue whinstone, stands 5 feet 2 inches quite erect, and girths 6 feet 10

inches at the ground. Off its west side a piece has been blasted, a quite recent fracture being here visible. Its longer axis is N. and S.

No. 9. The *Burnside Stone*, B, is a broad, very massive block of whinstone, much out of plumb towards the west. Its vertical height is 4 feet 7 inches, its girth 10 feet 3 inches, and its main axis N.W. and S.E.

No. 10. *Craighead Wood*.—This block of very quartzitic whinstone is but a portion of what I took to have been a boulder; the whole of its south surface being recently blasted from it (shaded portion to right, in

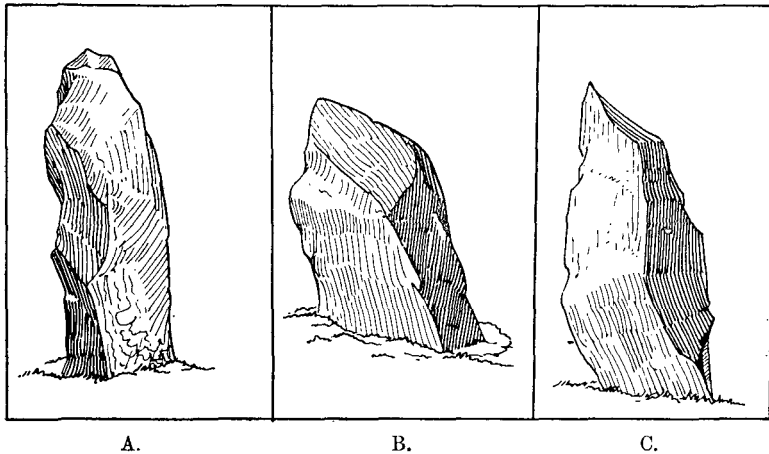


Fig. 12. Standing Stones at Strathray, Burnside, and Craighead Wood.

C, fig. 12). Its present height is 4 feet 8 inches, and its girth 7 feet, and its longer axis N.N.E. Of this stone, as the probable relic of a Circle, I can speak with some confidence; for a vast quantity of great split-up masses of stone, mostly of whinstone, lie about, gathered together at the edge of a plantation some sixty years old, close to the monolith—in all likelihood the remnants of the former Standing Stones. In the case of the other monoliths above described, all that can be said is that their appearance is as aged and time-worn as that of any stones in actual Circles, and that, in the Government Note-books of the date of the

Ordinance Survey, it is recorded that they had always been considered "Druidical."

No. 11. *South Ley Lodge*.—In a field a score of yards north of the road, the O.M. places three marks and gives the name, Standing Stones, at

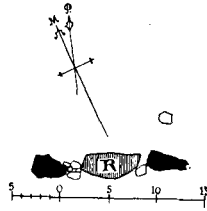


Fig. 13. South Ley Lodge ; Plan.

this site. On nearing it, we were delighted to find a Recumbent Stone and its two Pillars (see figs. 13 and 14).

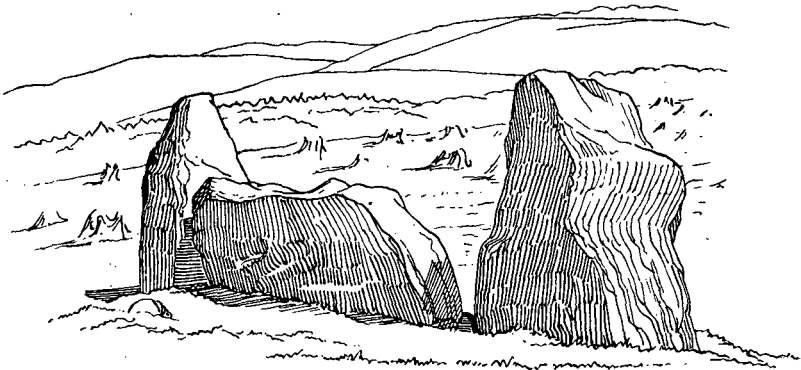


Fig. 14. South Ley Lodge ; Recumbent Stone and Pillars.

The site is level ground, about 300 feet above the sea, and distant from the farm about a furlong. The group is composed of ponderous blocks of grey granite, the Pillars erect, the Recumbent Stone, as in most cases, fallen considerably inwards. The ground at their bases is slightly higher

on the north, that is, the interior of the Circle, than on the outside. Structurally, one notices, at a glance, the unusually wide space between each end of the Recumbent Stone and its Pillars ; beyond this, there is little calling for remark. The height of the East Pillar is 5 feet 7 inches, of the West 5 feet 2 inches, and of the Recumbent Stone, which is broad and uneven at the top, 4 feet 7 inches. Its weight may be stated in round numbers as 4 tons.

No. 12. Standing Stone on the West of South Ley Lodge.—This stone (fig. 15) measures 4 feet 10 inches in height, and stands on an almost square base 5 feet 10 inches in girth. One of its sides trends N.N.E.

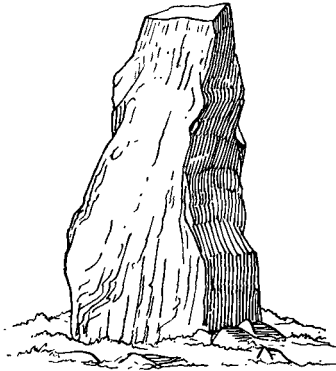


Fig. 15. West of South Ley Lodge.

No. 13. Standing Stone on the North of South Ley Lodge.—Very much higher up and due north of the last monolith, we found the great pyramidal block of grey granite next noticed (figs. 16 and 17). Its longest side measures 7 feet 4 inches, and, with the irregular lines of the rest of its contour, helps to bring its girth at the base to considerably over 11 feet. It is fully 26 inches thick at the top, and its vertical height 5 feet 7 inches. The two broadest faces look north and south (Magnetic), respectively. The smaller stones seen in the view are clearings off the field.

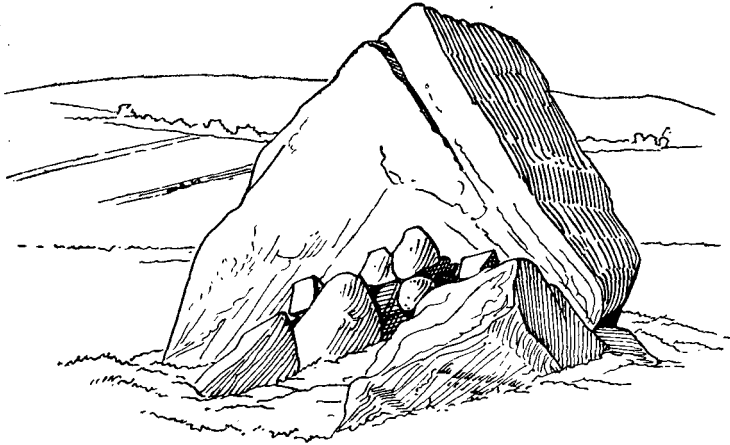


Fig. 16. North of South Ley Lodge ; view of Stone.

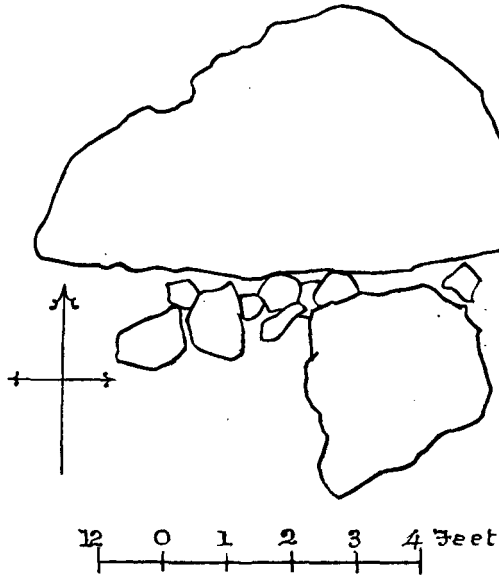


Fig. 17. North of South Ley Lodge ; Plan.

No. 14. *Cairntradlin Standing Stones*.—This well set-up pillar of whinstone (fig. 18) stands in a low field sloping gently down towards the Skare Moss, through which one of Wade's military roads was made, amidst a plethora of Cairns, Tumuli, and so-called Camps. The stone is 6 feet in height, and girths at the base close upon 7 feet; its longest side lying W.N.W. and E.S.E.



Fig. 18. Cairntradlin.

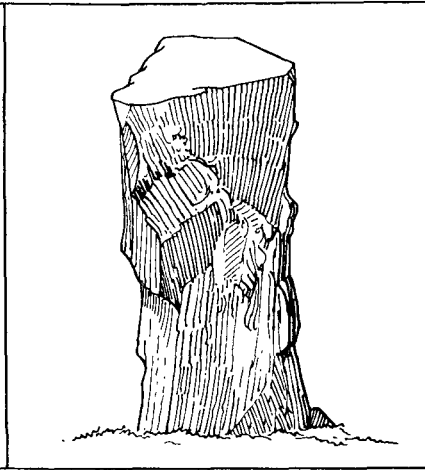


Fig. 19. Scottsmill.

15. *Scottsmill Standing Stone*.—This stone (fig. 19) is noticeable from the perfect flatness of its summit, which has a rudely-triangular outline, and measures due N. and S. 23 inches in width. The base is an oblong of 21 inches by 13, and girths 5 feet 8 inches. The stone is quite vertical, and 4 feet 4 inches in height.

At Ferneybrae, the O.M. shows a Standing Stone; but the only one discoverable now, seemed too slight to be the one intended, and was therefore passed over.

No. 16. *Kinellar Kirkyard*.—At this place the map records the remains of a Stone Circle. Searching in the Kirkyard itself, however,

availed nothing; but, on reaching the field below the South wall, which is of red granite, we at once recognised two great, fairly straight-edged blocks of whinstone lying as shown in the drawing (fig. 20), evidently the two Pillars of the Circle, made use of, with as little effort at removal as might be, to eke out the wall. These stones are over 9 feet in length along their upper edges, and close upon the same at the ground; their thickness varies from 2 feet to 1 foot 9 inches. In the illustration, the dotted lines show how I have ventured to restore them to what were their probable original positions, which would leave space for a Recumbent Stone about 13 feet long. The horizontal breadth of these stones is unascertainable, because the ground-surface of the Kirkyard,



Fig. 20. Kinellar Kirkyard.

north of the wall, is very much higher than the level of the field where the stones rest.

No. 17. *Camiestone, near Inverurie*.—On this farm are several remains of interest, and through the ready courtesy of Mrs Wilson we were without loss of time conducted to them. I may just note, in passing, the existence of a huge circular Cairn, the summit of it visible to the left of the Camiestone (fig. 22) itself, and the remains of a cist cover with one of its supports as partly shown in the plan of *Camies Grave* (fig 21). The Cairn seems totally undisturbed, and is densely overgrown with broom-plants of giant size. Of the grave, no history appears to have been handed down as to former condition or associations. The *Camie Stone*¹ is a fine grey granite monolith (fig. 22), seamed with white quartz;

¹ Compare Camus Stone, Comiston, Cambus O'May, Cambuskenneth, Cambuslang.

its base is a rough oblong, measuring in girth about 7 feet 3 inches. In height it stands 4 feet 8 inches, and its longer side trends East and West.¹

There are yet a few other monoliths in the lower part of this district, not here noticed, at sites not accessible in the short hours of a September

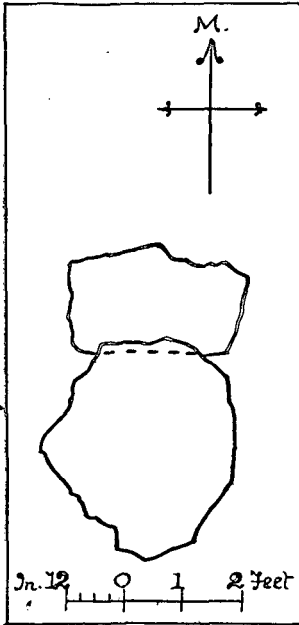


Fig. 21. Camies Grave.

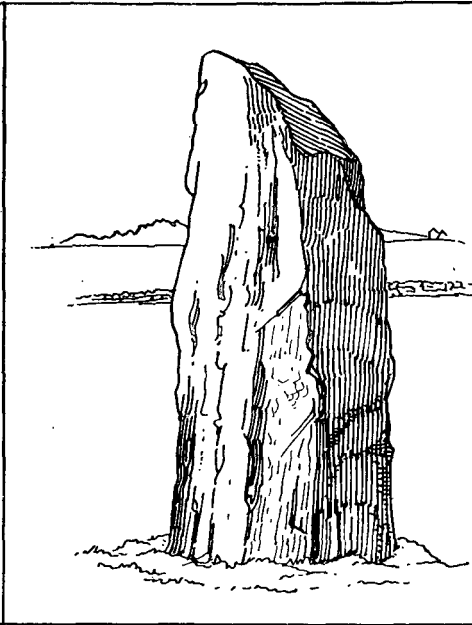


Fig. 22. Camie Stone.

ramble or drive; but enough have been recorded to show at any rate how extraordinarily abundant in this portion of Aberdeenshire prehistoric remains must once have been.

¹ Some little distance to the south, there is a great boulder called Cloven Stone. In *The Early History of Kintore*, by Alexander Watt (1865), there is a record of "This Court of the Burgh of Kintore holden at ye Cloven Stane, upon ye elleventh day March MCVJ nyntie fyve years."

DIVISION II. EASTERN PARISHES.

No. 18. *Mimrikin's Clump*.—Such is the name accorded on the O.M. to three rings, one very large, and two small, on a site buried in woodland a hundred yards or so north of the farm-house of Logie on the East bank of the river Don, at 300 feet above sea-level, and just opposite Pitmedden Station on the Great North of Scotland Railway. I visited the site on the 10th of September; but, except for a veritable jungle of trees and their roots, and bracken rising fully six feet in height, there is nothing to record about this spot. In one or two comparatively clear spaces lay biggish boulders in partially circular lines, suggestive to me more of the rim-stones of cairns than anything else. Unless the wood and undergrowth were systematically cleared, no results of archæological value could be obtained. At the farm, no one seemed able to impart any information regarding the curious name of this wooded summit; therefore we may conclude that Mimrikin's Clump as a place-name has dropped out of living memory.

No. 19. *Cothill, Fintray*.—I might describe my investigation of this site in almost the same terms as those just used regarding the previous one. The map shows two dotted rings as Stone Circles, close to the south edge of the wood at Cothill, and on the east of the road, one in an open field, the other in the wood, and at the height of 350 feet above sea-level. The field is now absolutely bare of stones; and in the adjacent wood there are low heaps of stones at many spots. None of these stones are very large or ponderous, nor are any whatever so grouped as to suggest the handiwork of man.

No. 20. *Peathill, Kinkell*.—This stone has already been briefly recorded¹ as follows:—"In Monkeizie [now Keith-hall or Kinkell] the place of the Druidical Temple that stood in the end of last century is now unmarked, with one exception, where a single stone remains, nearly two and a half feet square and seven feet high. It is remarkable that the corn grows very luxuriantly around this solitary pillar to a distance

¹ *Old Stat. Account*, vol. xxxix. p. 744.

of 15 yards, and has always been eighteen inches higher than the crop immediately beside it."

The O.M. also records that an urn was found close to it. The site is a field west of the long strip of fir-plantation below Kinkell Post Office; its height above the sea 400 feet. This shapely, straight-sided monolith (fig. 23) stands 6 feet 7 inches above ground, and girths at the shoulder

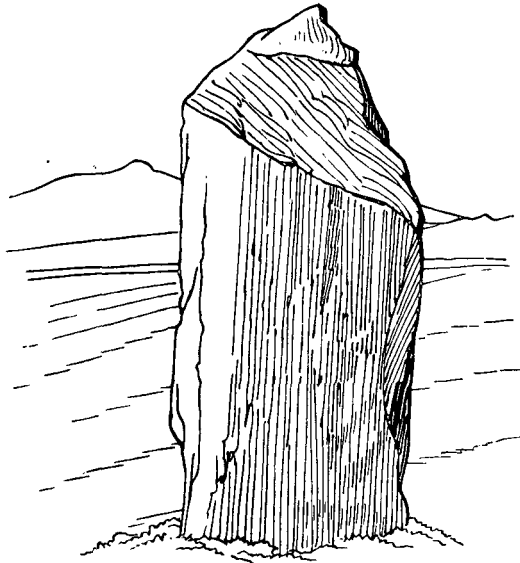


Fig. 23. Peathill, Kinkell.

over 10 feet. It is of grey granite. Its longest and straightest edge, 2 feet 8 inches at the ground, trends W.N.W.

If the words of the writer of the Statistical Account be taken as literally descriptive, this monolith must have stood in the centre of a Circle from 45 to 50 feet in diameter.

The New Statistical Account records the finding of three urns in a barrow or tumulus about 80 yards distant; and so recently as in

December 1893 an urn was found, which, in part, is figured and described by Mr D. R. Thom.¹

Moneykebbuck, New Machar.—We are now well into the heart of the richest agricultural district of Aberdeenshire, and need not be disappointed if local antiquities are few and far between. That this is so a glance at the Map (fig. 1) will prove; for a distance of nearly five miles



Fig. 24. Moneykebbuck, New Machar.

separates this monolith from the last noticed; and, for many square miles around, only half a dozen vestiges of Circles can now be seen.

This monolith (fig. 24) stands on a small, flat, oblong space, which is partly a natural and partly an artificial break in the northern slope of the hill here, about a quarter of a mile west of the farmhouse. Above it, the height is considerable, shutting off all prospect southwards; below it, the slope continues very steeply northwards, and on the west there

¹ In *Scottish Notes and Queries* for April 1894, p. 166.

is a less steep incline. To the north and east the prospect is very extensive, though the actual height above sea-level, of 300 feet, is not remarkable. Around the base of the Stone are many smallish stones, some of them to all appearance firmly set. The Stone is rugged red granite, so chafed and ridged on the north side into horizontal grooves, as at a little distance almost to suggest Ogams. Its base, nearly square, measured 7 feet in girth. The height of the Stone is 6 feet 10 inches. In a roundel of fir trees, about two hundred yards to the north, is a distinct grassy mound, in all likelihood a Cairn; and farther away in the same direction another fir plantation encloses an irregular mound, said to be the remains of a chapel. A field close to it is still called Chapel Croft.

No. 22. Wester Craigie-croft.—A very dubious entry on the O.M. led me to examine this remote site, which is there marked at a point a little east of the main road between Aberdeen and the village of Udny, and almost equi-distant from those places. The words on the map are "Cromlech, supposed Remains of a Stone Circle"; and the site is in a mossy ground. On reaching the moss we saw many huge rocky outcrops at a spot corresponding to that indicated on the map. But on examination I satisfied myself that all of these, and some adjacent boulders, were purely natural, that none could be a Cromlech, and that certainly none could be portions of a Stone Circle.

No. 23. Hill of Fiddes.—A wide stretch of country intervenes between the last site and the poor remnant of the once noble specimen of Stone Circle at this far-easterly farm in Foveran. There exists, fortunately for antiquaries, a ground plan¹ of it, taken so long ago as 1777 by Mr James Anderson. This I here reproduce (fig. 25) on a somewhat reduced scale. The plan is, perhaps, a trifle diagrammatic; indeed, Mr Anderson speaks of it rather as a specimen of the type of Circle with Recumbent Stone, so prevalent in Aberdeenshire, than as an actually measured ground-plan of this Circle in particular. Neither does he state to what scale the drawing was made. From his statement,

¹ *Archæologia*, vol. v. p. 246.

however, that the Recumbent Stone was 12 feet long, we can compute the over-all diameter of the Circle to be about 46 feet, and the circumference taken through the centres of the stones, 138 feet. The very well-defined platform in front of the Recumbent Stone was about 20 feet by 6 feet; its height is not stated. The ten stones stood, evidently,

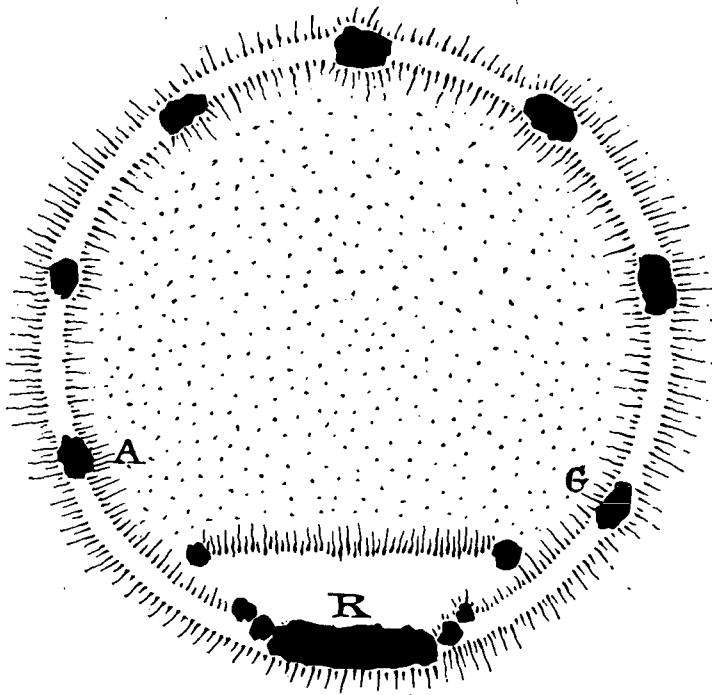


Fig. 25. Hill of Fiddes; Plan by Anderson in *Archæologia*.

on an equally well-defined ridge of earth and stones, and the interior is shown flat and undisturbed.

From a later very brief notice by Mr C. S. Temple¹ in 1863, we gather that all that then remained were one or two stones. Of these

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. iv. pp. 65, 66.

two stones I now give a ground-plan and illustration (figs. 26 and 27). In the dike, which has been built up against the Pillar on the west, and the east end of the Recumbent Stone, there stand several great stones ;

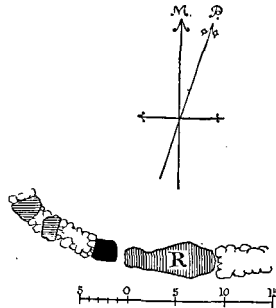


Fig. 26. Hill of Fiddes ; remains of Circle.

two of these are within a few feet of the Pillar ; the others on the east are both more massive and more numerous, so that the common fate has befallen the Standing Stones of this Circle. The Pillar is a squarish-based



Fig. 27. Hill of Fiddes ; View of remains of Circle.

upward-tapering block of whinstone, 6 feet 6 inches in height. The Recumbent Stone, of the same material, is ponderous and unshapely in its irregular contours. On the inner face it measures 4 feet 3 inches in

height, but on the outside, fully 6 feet; and its extreme length is 9 feet 8 inches. It lies due east and west by compass; its weight, roughly computed, is rather over six tons. The site of this Circle is 260 feet above sea-level.

No. 24. *Shelden, Bourtie*.—At the height of 500 feet above sea-level on this farm there are shown on the O.M. seven stones in a broad oval, and the record of the finding of a cist here is also printed. After over-

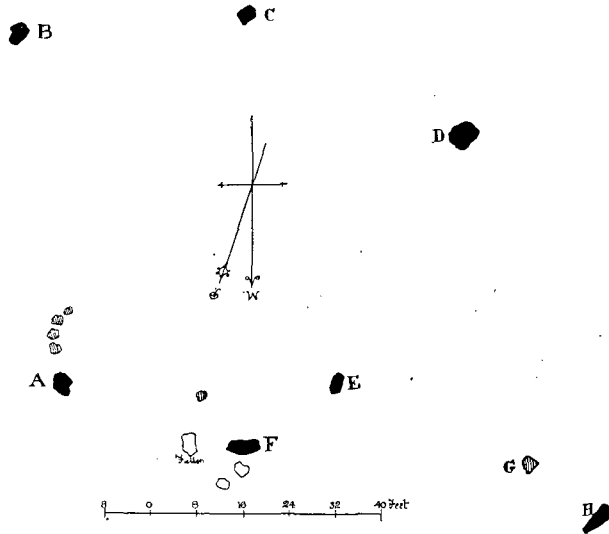


Fig. 28. Shelden, Bourtie; Plan.

coming many difficulties in reaching this hill, in a district abounding in similar heights, fresh obstacles met us at the site itself, in the shape of an utter wilderness of broom-bushes and brambles, and a roughness of stony interior, second to none of all the sites examined in the county, in addition to which a very high wind rendered our work, if exhilarating, also somewhat capricious. The ground-plan,¹ therefore, shown (in fig.

¹ This ground-plan is shown on a scale of 32 feet to 1 inch.

28), must be consulted as the best possible result of measures taken in most unfavourable conditions. For example, even the great square monolith, D, over 8 feet high, was not visible from either C or B, owing to the great height and density of the broom. In front of H and in line with B is a large flattish stone, G, 18 inches above ground, and earth-fast. Another earth-fast stone is 10 feet west of F, and four others are to the north of A. The interior, speaking generally, is free from any very marked rise or low cairn-like feature, but irregularly stony all over it.

The heights of the Standing Stones, which are all of granite, are: A, 5 feet 10 inches (but 3 feet out of plumb); B, 5 feet 9 inches, pointed;

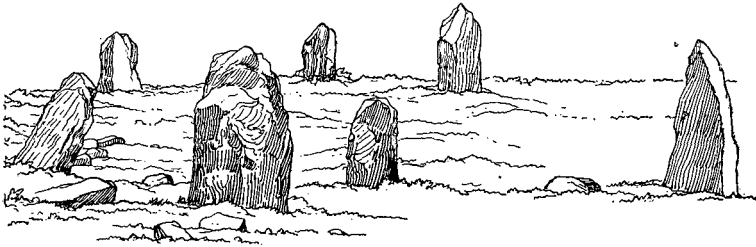


Fig. 29. Shelden; View from the South.

C, 6 feet, pointed; D, 8 feet 2 inches, pointed; E, 5 feet, flat-topped; F, 5 feet 10 inches, pointed; and H, 5 feet 10 inches, pyramidal. This last stone is very conspicuous by reason of its tapering so suddenly from a base of great breadth. The illustration (fig. 29) taken a few feet from the south, is "constructed" from our measurements and plan. It shows the relative heights and positions of the stones, but does not pretend to accuracy of shape, since, as already stated, it is not possible to see any three of these stones simultaneously from a point advantageous for making a sketch.

No. 25. Kirkton of Bourtie.—The remains here, still extant, are the same in number as those shown in the O.M., in the second field west of the Manse, at a height of 525 feet above sea-level. They consist of a

Recumbent Stone of uncommon bulk, the East Pillar, and two tall and massive stones on the S.W. arc (see fig. 30). With these three definite points, we can accurately determine the diameter of the Circle to have been 60 feet. I have no record of the date at which, or the reason why, the rest of the stones were removed, the present tenant knowing nothing of this. The Recumbent Stone group stands on a very definite mound (see the views, figs. 31 and 32); partly on this mound, at the outside, lies a large fragment of stone, with a second close to it. In front of the Pillar are two biggish stones on edge (shaded in the plan), rising a few

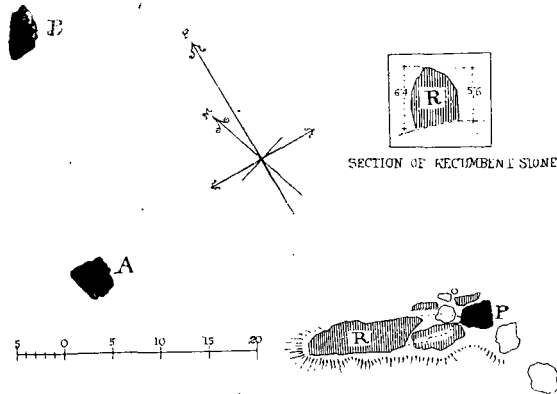


Fig. 30. Kirkton of Bourtie; Plan.

inches above ground. Between the Pillar and the end of the Recumbent Stone lies a large fragment split off the under side of the latter; when whole, this Recumbent Stone must have measured quite 16 feet in extreme length (fig. 31); its base now measures 3 feet 4 inches in breadth, its height is 6 feet 4 inches on the outside (see sectional view within the plan), and 5 feet 6 inches on the inside; and its weight, therefore, must be about 17 tons. It is of grey granite. The dimensions of the Pillar are: height, 9 feet 10 inches, and greatest girth about 10 feet. The other two Standing Stones are also very broad and massive,

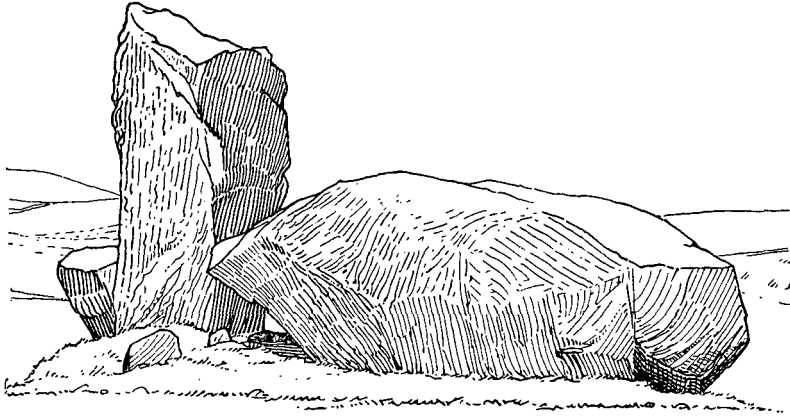


Fig. 31. Kirkton of Bourtie ; Recumbent Stone Group from within the Circle.

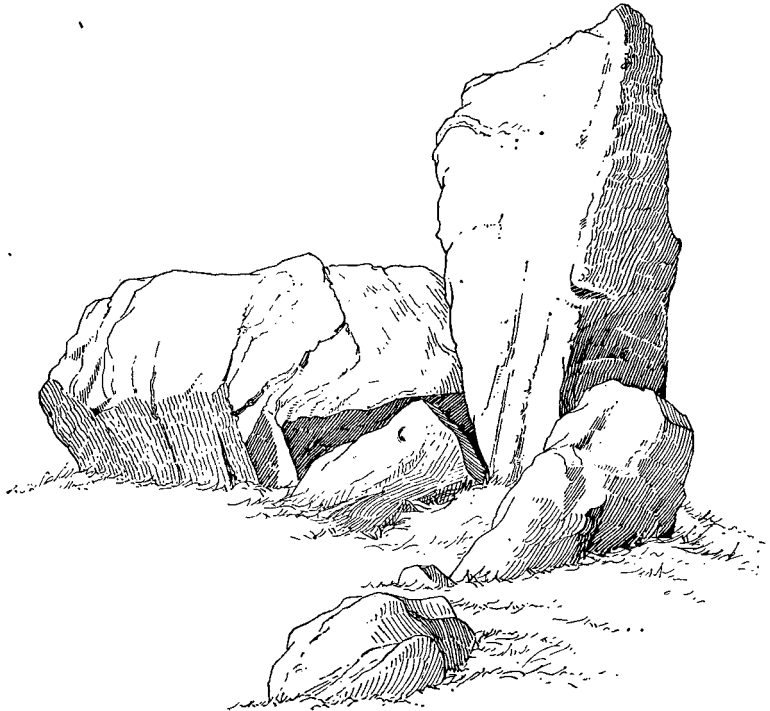


Fig. 32. Kirkton of Bourtie ; Group from outside.

as well as tall ; the height of A is 6 feet, and its girth over 13 feet ; B is 7 feet 9 inches high, and in girth nearly 14 feet. In the next illustration (fig. 32) is a view of this fine group from the outside on the south-west.

No. 26. Balhaggardy.—The map places here a conventional dotted ring to indicate the remains of this Circle, in combination with a triangle and bench-mark, giving the altitude as 310 feet. This survey mark of course implies a stone, and this stone we found to be a great monolith

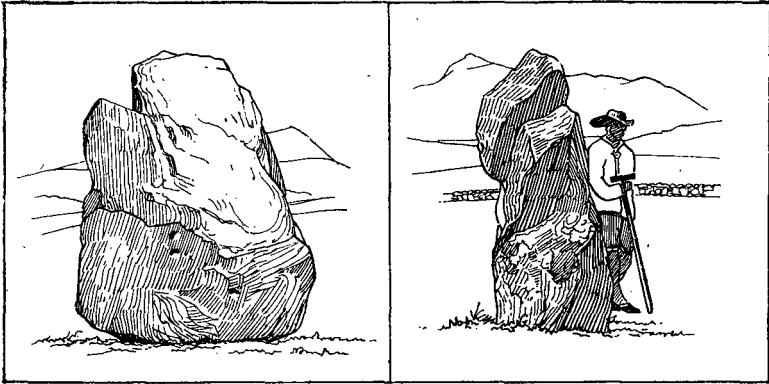


Fig. 33. Balhaggardy ; from the North.

Fig. 34. Balhaggardy ; from the East.

set upon an oblong base trending east and west, and presenting, when seen respectively from the north and the east, two such very dissimilar faces, that I have appended illustrations of both (figs. 33 and 34). The site is the crown of a hill one-third of a mile north of Balhaggardy farm house. On its comparatively smooth northern side, this block of whinstone bears three distinct cup-marks more artificial in appearance than most of the hollows observed on the stones of megalithic Circles during our previous surveys. The eastern side is extremely jagged, and probably fractured within recent times. The height of the stone is 6 feet 7 inches, and at its greatest girth close upon 14 feet.

No. 27. *Liggars Stane, Harlaw*.¹—Under this title, there is shown on the Map the position of a stone some seventy yards to the N.E. of the farm-steadings at Harlaw. I can find no tradition concerning the stone or its name.

Its site is marked on the very edge of an old road now almost disused, and it is quite probable that when other and better roads were made the stone became an encumbrance to the ploughman and was removed. The same negative result attended our search for the sites of two Cairns once existent on this route between Balhaggardy and Inveramsay Mill; one of these, near the former place, being called Provost Davidson's Cairn, and the other, the Drum Cairn, on the Pleyfauld, the scene of the battle of Harlaw.

No. 28. *Daviot Kirkyard*.—It is on record² that “the remains of a Circle were to be seen within the last twenty years [that is, *circa* 1817] in the churchyard; but the stones were some time ago removed and employed as materials in building the walls of a dwelling-house.”

No trace of this Circle now remains. The site is 400 feet above sea-level.

No. 29. *Loanhead, Daviot*.—In this sequestered and umbrageous nook, we at last meet with a fine example of the Stone Circle, properly so-called. The gratitude of the antiquary is due to the proprietor who so judiciously planted this hill with trees of various species, yet left a wide margin clear of the Circle, and meddled not with its interior. As we thrust aside the thick branches of the spruce-firs, and emerge into this enclosure, mossy, cool, and silent, the eye is at once arrested by the novelty of a double Recumbent Stone (see fig. 35) and the extreme shortness of the west Pillar. The east Pillar lies prone, to the right in the illustration. At first glance, the notion is almost unavoidable

¹ *Liggars Stane*: As probably having some bearing on this, the following references may be acceptable: a Liquor Stone, near Falkland in Fife, on which funeral companies placed the coffin [*Hist. Antiq. of Fife*, Taylor, p. 217]; Lackerstone, the name of a barrow in Kettle, Fifeshire; and Lecturestane, used also as a support for the coffin, in Cleish [*New St. Account*, vol. ix, pp. 106 and 41 (Kinross)].

² *New Stat. Account*, vol. xii. p. 822.

that these two parallel stones are merely the halves of one Recumbent Stone, splintered by frost or forced asunder by artificial agency. But this is not so. The space between these two great Stones, set edgewise, is broad enough to admit of a man's easily walking there, as I did, in order to examine their vertical faces carefully. These inner sides I found to be, first of all, almost precisely vertical, the width of the space at the top tallying exactly with that at the base; next, the two surfaces do not present any of that correspondence of form in detail as if they could be fitted into one another; and, lastly, down to the very ground, the growth of grey saxicolous lichens was as heavy, and (if I

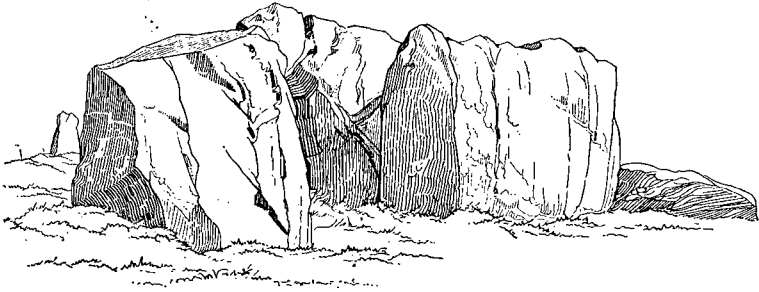


Fig. 35. Loanhead, Daviot, showing Double Recumbent Stone and West Pillar.

may use the expression) as closely woven into the grain of the stones there as it was everywhere else upon their sides, summits, and edges. The conclusion, therefore, is inevitable, that in this circle at Loanhead we have the new and distinctive feature of double Recumbent Stones. In order to make this quite clear, I made a careful drawing from the east end of the Stones (see fig. 36), to supplement the view from the opposite end. These Recumbent Stones are set W.N.W. and E.S.E., and weigh 7 tons and 5 tons respectively.

Turning our attention to the ground-plan (fig. 37), we see at once that the original arrangement of these Standing Stones was as nearly in the form of a perfect circle as that of any Circle investigated during these

surveys. Of the four prostrate stones on the north arc, Stone D is the only one much off the circumference; even as it is, the diameter taken from the middle of the space between the two Recumbent Stones to the edge of Stone D is exactly equal to the diameter from B to G. We further notice that the spaces between C and D and D and E are almost exactly equal to the corresponding spaces on the south arc, A to P (west) and P (east) to H. To the same extent the positions of E and F balance those of C and B, thus leaving a much wider space between the two

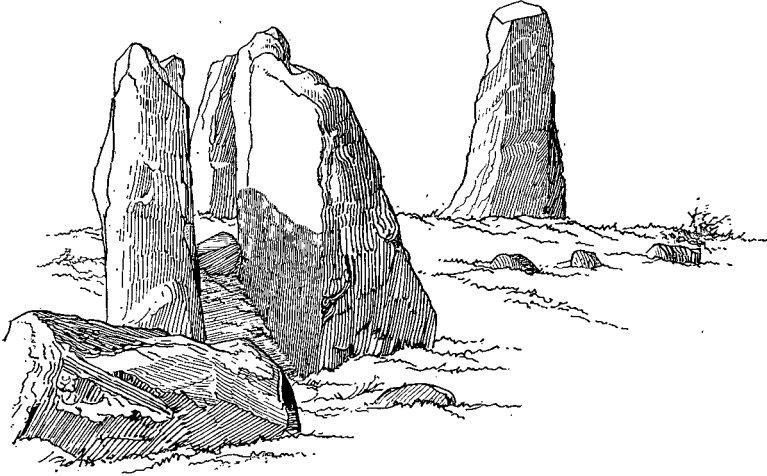


Fig. 36. Loanhead; the Double Recumbent Stones from the east.

middle stones on each side. The distances between the centres of the stones are:—

Stone A to B, 23 feet 9 inches.	Stone F to G, 21 feet 0 inches.
„ B to C, 17 „ 0 „	„ G to H, 23 „ 9 „
„ C to D, 24 „ 6 „	„ H to P, 22 „ 6 „
„ D to E, 24 „ 6 „	„ P to P, 15 „ 6 „
„ E to F, 14 „ 6 „	„ P to A, 21 „ 6 „

Giving a total circumference of 212 feet 3 inches.

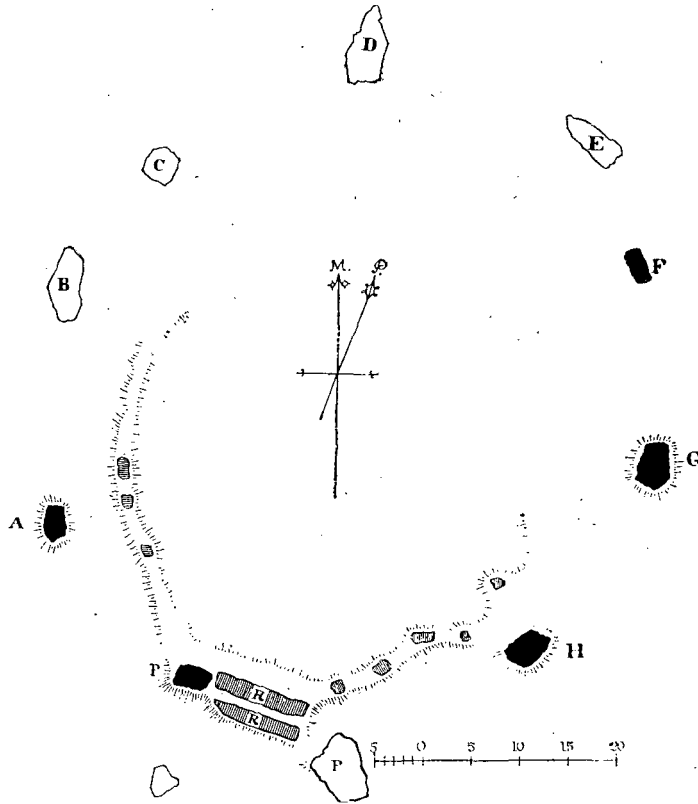


Fig. 37. Loanhead ; Plan.

The heights of the Stones are :—

Stone A	.	.	.	5 feet	6 inches.
" B	.	.	(fallen 8 "	0 "	long).
" C	.	.	" 3 "	0 "	" "
" D	.	.	" 8 "	1 "	" "
" E	.	.	" 7 "	2 "	" "
" F	.	.	3 "	3 "	" "

Stone G	.	.	.	4 feet	0 inches.
" H	.	.	.	5 "	9 "
East Pillar	.	.	(fallen 7 "	3 "	long).
Recumbent Stone (inner).	.	.	3 "	5 "	North side
"	"	"	5 "	0 "	South "
"	"	(outer).	4 "	5 "	
The West Pillar	.	.	2 "	11 "	(inner side).
"	"	.	4 "	0 "	(outer ") flat-topped.

Of the interior, which is grassy and unevenly stony, there is little to record; there is an entire absence of a rise in the middle, but a more or less regular ridge can be traced running in line with the eight small stones (shown shaded in the Plan), which are the fully-exposed portions of the concentric setting so often found within the great Standing Stones of Circles of this type. These small set stones vary in height from about 14 to 20 inches.

Measured from the previous site, this Circle is about half a mile to the north at a height of 531 feet above sea-level. The Map records that, at a few score yards to the east there were found in 1832, "a brass dirk and a stone cist"; at about the same radius on the S.E., urns were found in 1817, another urn due south, and in the interior of the Circle itself, "a stone ladle."

No. 30. *New Craig, Daviot*.—A bare half mile to the north of the Loanhead Circle are found the megalithic remains of another, which, on the principle of judging of the whole by a part, must have been one of the most imposing Circles ever constructed. The site, 400 feet above sea-level, crowns a steepish slope commanding an extensive prospect in all directions; but, at the present date, a long strip of woodland enclosed by a dike hides the view on the north-east. It is at the south-west extremity of this wood that there stand the three enormous stones, two Pillars with Recumbent Stone, shown in my illustration (fig. 38). The enclosing dike touches these stones at either side. The group is of whinstone. Beginning at the right hand, the east Pillar, with a basal

girth of nearly 11 feet, measures on the outside 9 feet in height, and on the inside 7 feet 8 inches. It stands slightly within the base-line of the Recumbent Stone, which here measures 11 feet 4 inches in length and is 5 feet 8 inches in height at its present highest point. The jagged unevenness of its summit is the result of an act of wanton mischief on the part of a vandal who shot at the stone¹ some years ago.

The entire length of the Recumbent Stone is 13 feet 8 inches, and its inside height is 4 feet 4 inches. There is a marked difference between the relative positions of the pillars as connected with the Recumbent

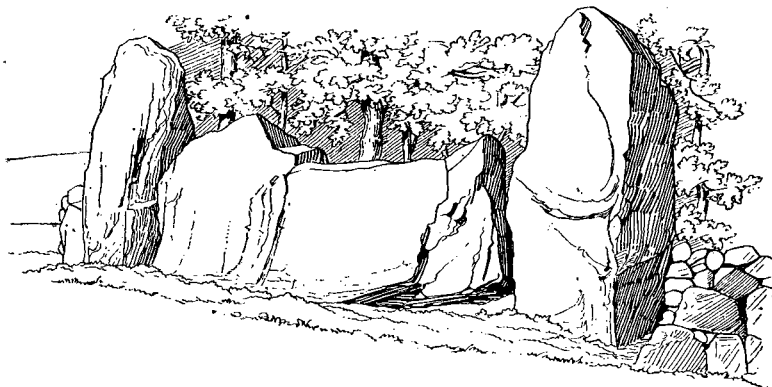


Fig. 38. New Craig, Daviot ; View from the south.

Stone ; the East Pillar all but touches it, while there is a gap of nearly 2 feet between it and the Pillar on the West. The Recumbent Stone is 3 feet in breadth at the summit, and I have computed its weight to be rather over $12\frac{1}{2}$ tons. The West Pillar, whose rhomboidal base measures in girth nearly 14 feet, stands 8 feet 9 inches in height on the outside, and about 7 feet 6 inches on the inside. Projecting inwards from the face of the Recumbent Stone (see Plan, fig. 39) is an earth-fast block 1 foot 10 inches in height and 3 feet broad. This is analogous in size and position to the projecting stones at Auchquhorthies,

¹ This I was assured of as a fact by the present tenant, Mr Anderson, whose forebears have occupied New Craig for upwards of two hundred years.

Manar, and, as we shall presently see, also at Ardlair in Kennethmont. Almost touching the outer edge of this Pillar, there is one more large stone apparently *in situ*, over 3 feet in height. The line of axis of this grand group calls for special notice, as on testing it by magnetic compass I found the Recumbent Stone lying N.W. 50 degs. and S.E. 50 degs.

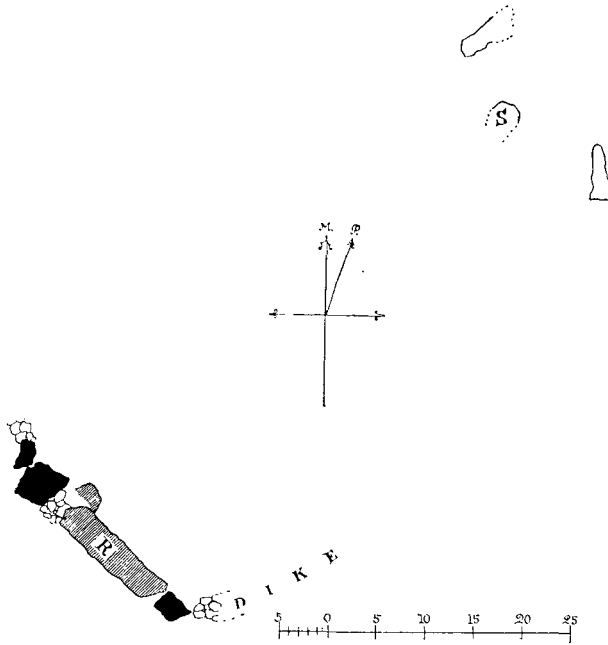


Fig. 39. New Craig ; Plan.

This means that the inner face of the Recumbent Stone looks, not towards the Polar North, but fully N.E.

With regard to the three other stones shown in outline, all prostrate: if a line, bisecting the circle from the centre of the Recumbent Stone, were carried out to the distance of 60 feet north eastwards, it would touch the farther end of the middle stone of these three.

This is not therefore necessarily the diameter of the original Circle.

Rambling down through the wood here, very dense with undergrowth, I found, at a distance (afterwards measured) of 84 feet east by compass from the point S on the Plan, a huge boulder of whinstone over 9 feet in length, 4 feet broad, and 3 feet 6 inches high. On the semicircular edge of a large hollow, scooped or flaked off its upper surface, is a row of seven very distinct cup-marks. As this stone cannot be said to bear any clear relation to the Circle, it need not here be further alluded to.

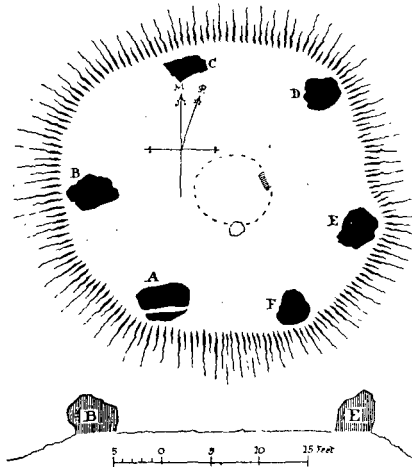


Fig. 40. South Ythsie, Tarves; Plan.

No. 31. *South Ythsie, Tarves*.—The Ordnance Map places a Standing Stone here, a furlong south of the farm-house, on the Chapel Fauld, and records the finding of a cist close to and west of it. This stone has been removed. But the small yet perfect circle is of exceptional interest. It is well shown on the map. The site, though fairly high, 200 feet above sea-level, is in reality a lowly one, being in a long trough of arable land quite surrounded by slopes and eminences. One might walk along the high road to the west of Ythsie¹ and altogether miss this group of megaliths. The next fact to be noticed is the absence of a

¹ Pronounced *Icy*.

Recumbent Stone, and the remarkable bulkiness of all the stones. (See the plan, fig. 40). That they are all vertically set upon a very clearly defined mound is another feature. This mound, very stony throughout its level and its slopes, is raised nearly three feet above the surrounding ground; and the six huge blocks stand close on its edge. The diameters are A to D (centres), 27 feet, and F to C 27 feet. The distances between the stones, centre to centre, are:—

Stone A to B, 13 feet 6 inches.	|	Stone D to E, 14 feet 6 inches.
„ B to C, 16 „ 3 „		„ E to F, 11 „ 0 „
„ C to D, 14 „ 6 „		„ F to A, 13 „ 3 „

giving a circumference of 83 feet.

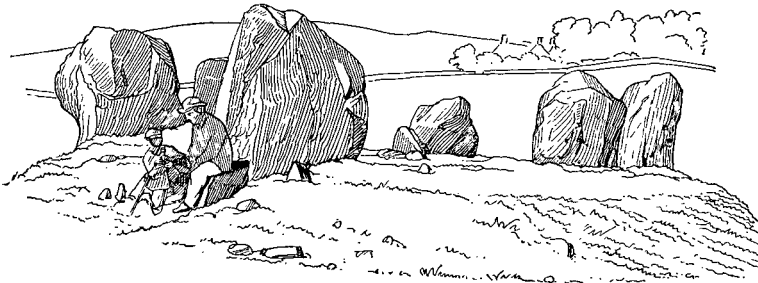


Fig. 41. South Ythsie; View from the S. W.

The heights of the stones are:—

Stone A, 5 feet 7 inches,	whinstone; split.
„ B, 4 „ 3 „	porphyry richly seamed with quartz.
„ C, 2 „ 6 „	„ „ „
„ D, 5 „ 6 „	grey granite.
„ E, 4 „ 4 „	whinstone <i>plus</i> quartz.
„ F, 2 „ 8 „	„

No two of these stones, it will be noticed, are either precisely due north and south of each other, or due east and west.

In the interior, 10 feet from Stone F, is a biggish lumpy stone, which

from a distance appears like a central monolith; it is, however, but a loose and easily-moved stone. Farther within, nearly 11 feet from Stone E, we found a single earth-fast narrow stone set on edge. This seems to point to the fact of the area having at one time been dug over and disturbed, as this stone lies in a position suggestive of its being a part of a central setting of about 6 feet in diameter. In the view (fig. 41) of this circle from the S.W., the relative proportions of the stones, and the height of the mound, are shown.

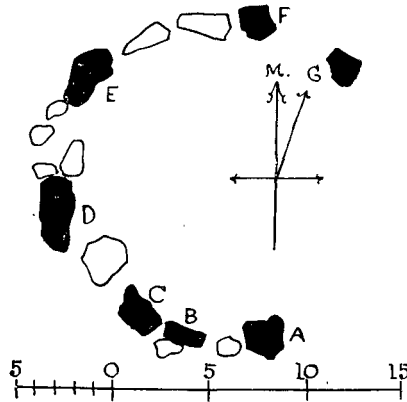


Fig. 42. Sheithen, Tarves; Plan.

No. 32. *Sheithên, near Raxton Wood, Tarves.*—In a field, locally known as Fountain Park (it is said, from the existence of a now dried-up spring), we found another still smaller circle. It is shown, with utter lack of definition, on the O.M. as a conventional dotted ring. The site is a level field, 230 feet above sea-level, nearly half a mile N.E. of the farm-steadings of Raxton. The diameter from south to north is only 16 feet (fig. 42), the shortest of any circle as yet recorded in Aberdeenshire. None of the stones is at all conspicuous for height. Taken in the usual order, the respective heights of the stones are :—

Stone A	.	.	2 feet 0 inches, whinstone.
„ B	.	.	2 „ 5 „ pure white quartz.
„ C	.	.	4 „ 6 „ whinstone.
„ D	.	.	3 „ 3 „ red granite.
„ E	.	.	5 „ 4 „ whinstone.
„ F	.	.	2 „ 0 „ „
„ G	.	.	2 „ 6 „ granite.

Several stones are wanting on the east arc, as may be seen by referring to the view (fig. 43) from the east.

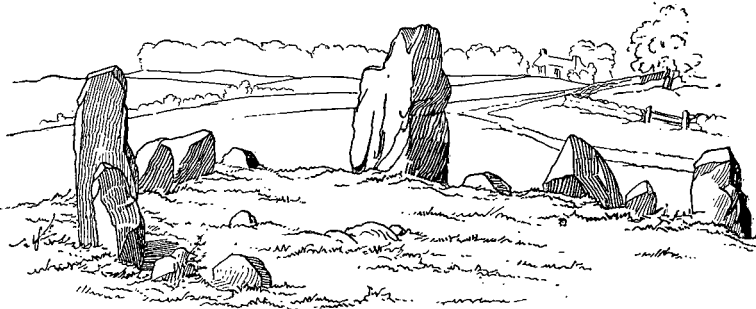


Fig. 43. Sheithén ; View from the East.

No. 33. Candle Hill, Old Rayne.—The site here, 415 feet above the sea, close to Broombrae farm, and distant from Old Rayne village not half a mile to the S.E., used also to be known under the name of Tap o' Mast. The O.M. correctly shows the number of the stones, but in too oval a contour. Only one is now erect (see Plan, fig. 44). A great deal of disturbance has occurred among these stones, some of it attributable to a definite cause, to which reference will later on be made. But taken as they are, we can approximate the main diameters to be, at present, 75 N.E. by S.W., and 70 feet on the contrary axis. The stones themselves are not strikingly large.

The East Pillar has been broken, or at least its extreme angularity suggests this ; as it lies, it measures 9 feet by 7 feet 6 inches. The

Recumbent Stone, also quite flat, and in part overgrown by the turf, measures 13 feet in length, 7 feet in breadth (its original height), and its northern edge stands above ground about 16 inches. This edge was probably its summit when the stone was set up. The West Pillar, fallen a long way inwards, measures 11 feet by 5 feet. Stone A, considerably out of place, measures 8 feet by 3 feet; and the dimensions of the others are:—

Stone C	7 feet 0 inches × 3 feet 0 inches.
„ D	6 „ 6 „ × 3 „ 0 „
„ F	6 „ 6 „ × 3 „ 0 „
„ G	5 „ 0 „ × 2 „ 6 „

and H, the one stone left standing, is 8 feet in height and girths at the base 14 feet. It is a block of very rough whinstone. At the point E, on the N.E. arc, lies a stone buried out of sight but responsive to the thud of a stick. The stones are all whinstones.

On the assumption of nearly equi-distant spacing, I should place A 10 or 12 feet farther west, and fill the long gap between A and C with a stone at B, thus completing a circle of 12 stones.

The tenant of Middleton happening to come up while our measurements were being taken, I took the opportunity to ask him concerning the fallen condition of so many of the stones. His reply was: "They were left just sae after Mr Dalrymple's diggings." To this I refer presently. About five years ago, continued the farmer, he was ploughing near one of the three stones on the south [the Recumbent Stone group], and found there what he described as a stone cup minus the handle; and in a little hollow close to the wood on the E.S.E. he had, only a few days previously to our visit, found an urn which was broken by his spade. In the urn was "whiteish stuff," which from his description I took to mean burnt bones mixed with earth.

From the notes made by Mr Dalrymple during the excavations conducted by him on this site in 1856-57, we learn that the original number of the stones was 12; that the two Pillars, the Recumbent

Stone, and a fourth, which must have stood near to them, were arranged so as to form two sides of a parallelogram, and that old people remembered when the other two sides were completed by dry-stone building. This curious arrangement may have been made during

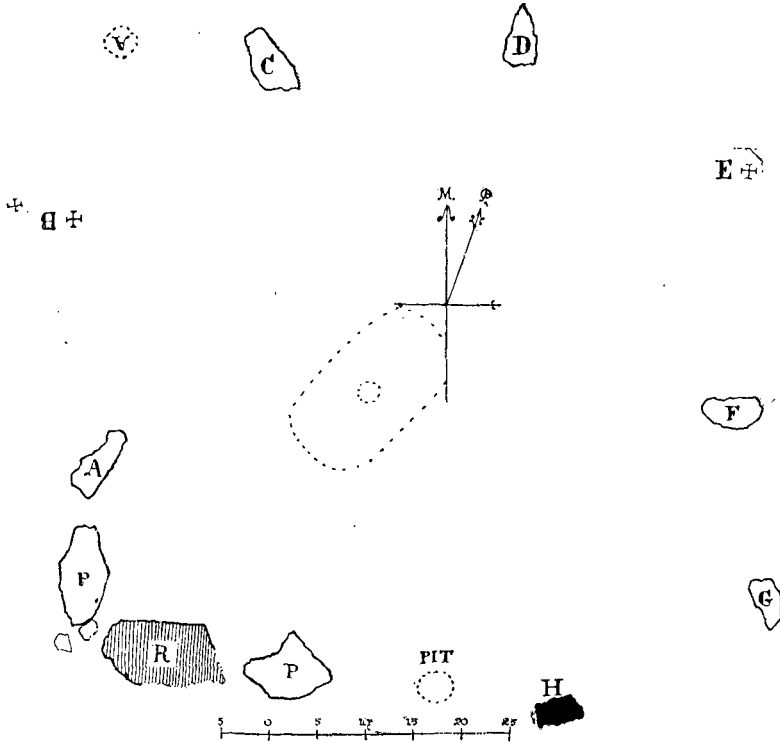


Fig. 44. Candle Hill, Old Rayne ; Plan.

the mediæval period ; for it is on record¹ that the Head Courts of the district were held at the Standing Stones of Rayne. As there is no

¹ Stuart's *Sculptured Stones*, vol. i. p. xxi., App. to Préface. "On 2nd May 1349 William Bishop of Aberdeen held a Court at the Standing Stones of Rayne at which the King's Justiciar was present."

other group of monoliths to which that appellation can be given, it is a fair inference that this Circle was the scene of these meetings.

The stones were from 5 to 6 feet in height, each being wedged up with smaller stones sunk into the ground. In the centre of the circle was an oblong deposit of stones, 19 feet long by 10 feet broad; see the dotted contour on the Plan (fig. 44). This layer of stones went down to a depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface. In the centre of this accumulation was a circular pit with built sides, 2 feet in diameter and $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, narrowing somewhat to the bottom. In this pit was a quantity of incinerated bones, charcoal, and pieces of an urn of reddish colour, and in this deposit was found the fragment of a bracer or wrist-guard of polished stone, now in the Museum. It resembles fig. 45, which was found at Glenforsa, Mull.



Fig. 45. Stone Bracer found with a drinking-cup urn at Glenforsa, Mull. (3).

Outside this central deposit, and at irregular distances, but within two feet of it, were small deposits of similar bones. At a point in the circumference of the circle, between what is now the fallen East Pillar and the nearest stone on the east (H on the plan), was a pit 5 feet deep. It measured $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide at the mouth, and kept that breadth for 2 feet 3 inches below the surface, when it narrowed to 2 feet in diameter for the rest of the depth, the last foot and a half being dug in rocky subsoil. This pit was filled with yellow sandy loam, very light, mixed with a small quantity of black mould and some boulder stones marked by fire.

This last item in the investigation is of great importance, as it shows that sepulchral deposits are to be looked for on the contour as well as within the area enclosed by Standing Stones. Regarding the diameter of the circle, Mr Dalrymple definitely states it as nearly 60 feet. The

disturbance of the stones has therefore been even greater than we were at first led to suppose. A view from the north (fig. 46) here follows.

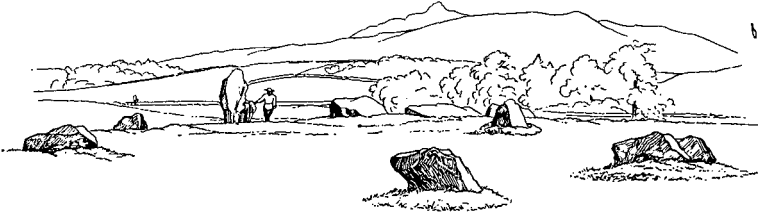


Fig. 46. Candle Hill, Old Rayne ; View from the North.

DIVISION III. SITES WEST OF THE RIVER URY.

As previously hinted, this westerly portion of North Aberdeenshire contains abundant objects of interest to archæology ; and though many are but the merest vestiges of Circles of the first magnitude, others still possess a goodly portion of their old estate, and will add substantially to the value of this record. The first Standing Stone here is—

No. 34. Mill of Carden, in Oyne.—At a height of 290 feet above sea-level, about one mile east of Oyne, on a rising ground S.E. of the mill. This striking monolith of vivid red granite rests on an oblong base just over 5 feet in length by 1 in breadth, and is bedded up with many small stones. In the view of it from the east (fig. 47), the narrowness of its edge and the remarkable straightness of its height of 9 feet are shown ; while, as a contrast, in the next illustration (fig. 48), I have shown the stone as seen from the north, with the Mither Tap of Bennachie in the distance.

No. 35. Gowk Stane, Oyne.—Whether this name, like some others, be a recent one bestowed by local observers who have seen the cuckoo select its summit as a song-perch, or whether it may not be the corrupted form of an ancient name, we shall not pause to inquire. Neither at present is there any direct evidence producible in favour of the stone being the remnant of a circle. It is conspicuous enough by its size

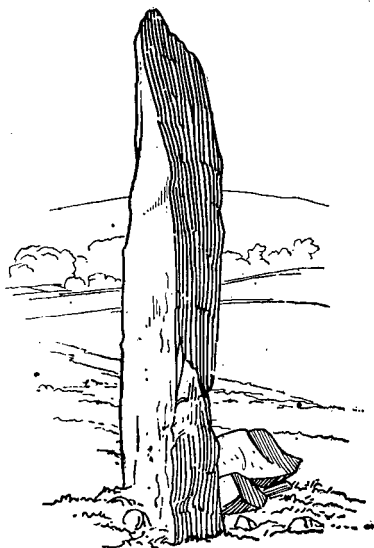


Fig. 47. Mill of Carden ; from the East.

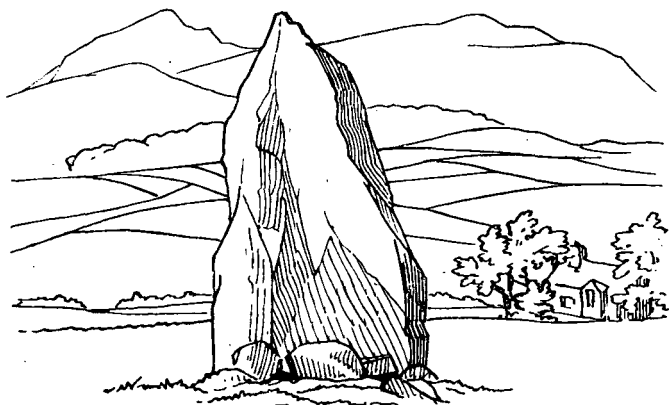


Fig. 48. Mill of Carden ; from the North.

and its proximity to the public road, to attract notice from the least observant wayfarer. (See fig. 49.)

The Gowk Stane¹ occupies the crown of a gentle eminence, called Max Hill, 400 feet in height, in the field on the west of the Free Church Manse at Oyne. It is a heavy but not unshapely block of whinstone, resting on a rhomboidal base which girths almost 12 feet. The longest side, 4 feet 4 inches, trends W.N.W. and E.S.E. The summit is somewhat flat, and the over-all height is 6 feet 5 inches.²

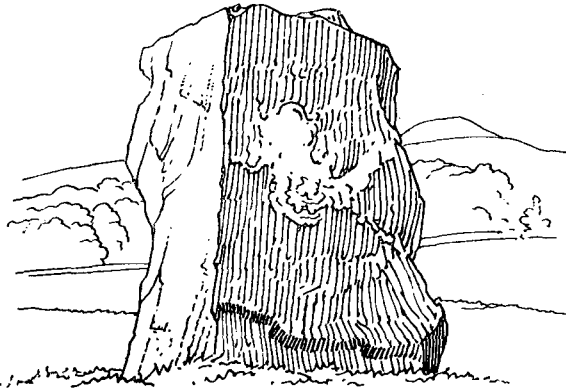


Fig. 49. Gowk Stane, Oyne.

No. 36. *Westerton of Pitmathen*.—This site also, 500 feet above sea-level, is marked by but one Standing Stone; but it is a megalith indeed—probably the weightiest, and certainly the grandest, of all the erect stones yet examined. The site is a sheltered corner of a field almost surrounded by the plantations of Pitmathen policies, and is distant from the farm-house of Westerton about 500 yards.

¹ There are two farms in Methlick called Gowkstone; but I have no record of any Standing Stone in this association. The name is of frequent occurrence in Scotland.

² These notes were taken and a pencil sketch made (to furnish the illustration) by my son Cecil, to whom I deputed this piece of 'prentice-work, when broken weather had rendered a division of our surveying-party advisable.

This strikingly grand whinstone monolith measures at the base, along its two longer edges, 4 feet 3 inches and 4 feet 1 inch respectively, the other edges being 3 feet 3 inches and 2 feet 7 inches, thus giving a girth on the ground of 14 feet 2 inches. But, as there is a considerable amount of stone overhanging (to the right in the illustration, fig. 50),

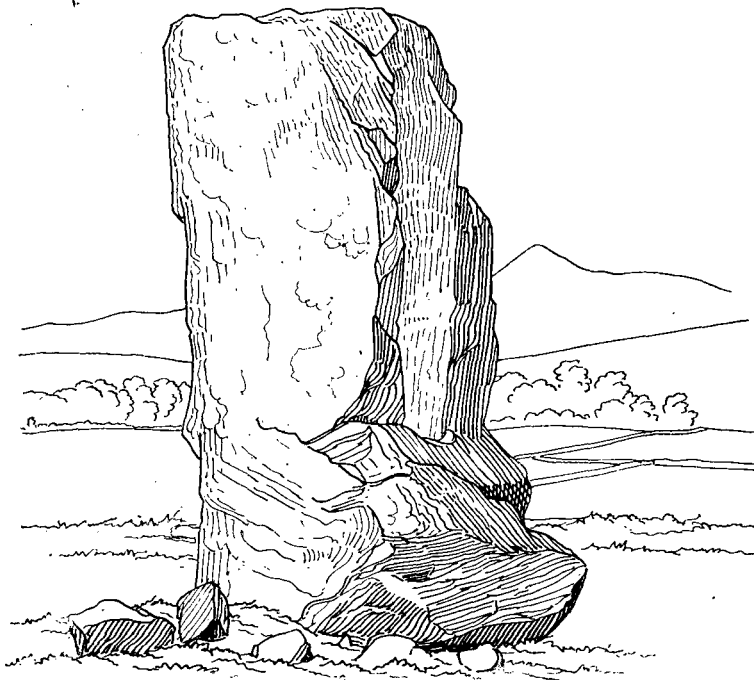


Fig. 50. Westerton of Pitnathen.

the lower part would there girth over 20 feet; and about midway up the stone the girth is 16 feet 4 inches. These dimensions, although considerably below those represented by the enormous Recumbent Stone, *e.g.* at Old Keig,¹ entitle this absolutely vertically-set monolith to be ranked as a veritable triumph of the science of mechanics.

¹ See Report in *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv. p. 241.

The Circle at Old Rayne is visible from this secluded site; but the much nearer Circle on the Currachs of Ardoyne,¹ just over the hill to the North, cannot be seen.

No. 37. *Wanton Wells*.—As you ramble up the steep road from Inch towards Leslie Castle, you are presently brought to a pause by the two huge stones shown in the illustration (fig. 51); the Pillar Stone on the East, for all the world like a colossal petrified pear, and, next it, a vast jagged, quartz-seamed, and storm-battered mass of whinstone leaning over northwards, the Recumbent Stone of the otherwise obliterated

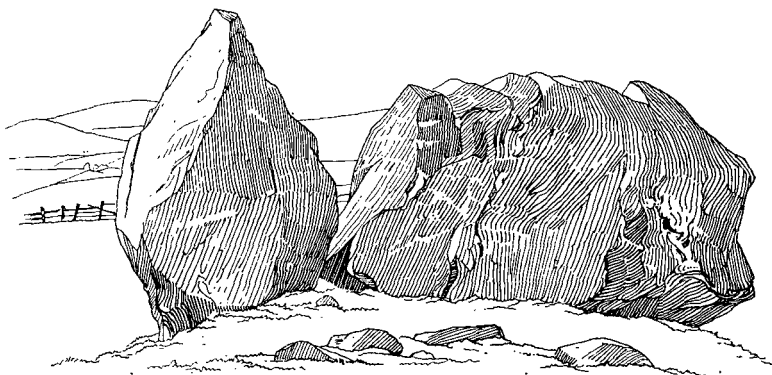


Fig. 51. *Wanton Wells*; from the N. E.

Circle. This site is about 600 feet above sea-level; and from it several Circles, about to be described, can be seen. The deep hollow on the north, through which road and railway run side by side to Huntly, is called the Dead Man's Howe.

This massive East Pillar stands 9 feet in height, measuring round the base 13 feet 9 inches, and at the middle about 17 feet. The three small stones (fig. 52) in front of it and of the Recumbent Stone are, I think, quite earth-fast and part of the original setting.

The Recumbent Stone has a base measuring 10 feet by 4 feet 6 inches,

¹ See Report in *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv. p. 241.

but its extreme length, about half way up, is close upon 11 feet. On the south side (see fig. 53), which is smooth, it measures 6 feet 9 inches in extreme height. It trends N.W. and S.E. The computed weight of this stone is nearly 14 tons.¹

No. 38. *Standing Stone, Wanton Wells.*—On the map there is shown, in addition to the two stones just noticed, a third close to the road, and about a hundred and forty yards distant on the west. On searching for this, we found only great masses of split-up whinstone lying in a rude

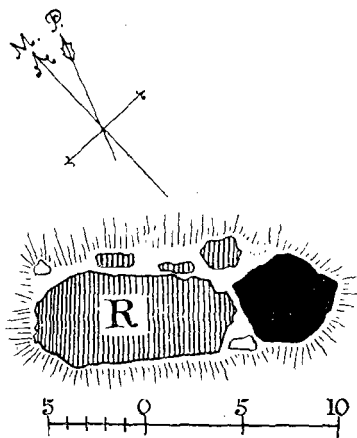


Fig. 52. Wanton Wells; Plan.

fence between two fields. Subsequently, in talk with the tenant, I learnt that, on his entry to the farm, some twenty-three years ago, there was a very large stone, more massive than either of the two now remaining, lying so close to the road as to be considered dangerous to traffic.

¹ At a point about one mile and a quarter to the S.S.W. the map records the site of a Stone Circle within the graveyard of the ruined chapel of St James; and, a third of a mile N.E. of this, the site of another Stone Circle on Ardlow. Half a mile S. of the latter, a third Stone Circle site is marked, between the Blue Butts and the Curracks; at this site a stone cist was found. Nothing now remains at any of these sites.

He accordingly caused it to be blasted, using a portion of it for coping over fifty yards of a dike close to the steadings.

No. 39. *Dunnideer*.—A Recumbent Stone, still erect, and two large fallen pillars (see fig. 54) remain here, on the upland slopes of the Hill of Dunnideer, at a height of 750 feet above the sea-level. The group is much disfigured by an accumulation of weeds and rubbish having been carted up against the south face of the Recumbent Stone, much of it being piled up also over the Pillars. The ground is newly-planted with

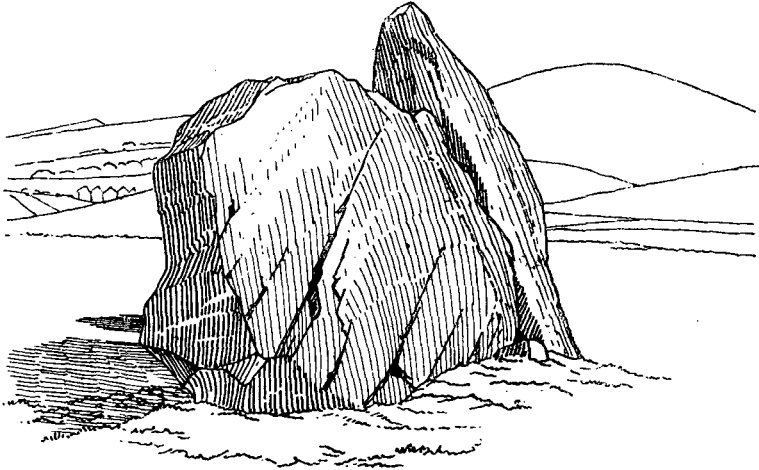


Fig. 53. Wanton Wells ; from outside on the South.

seedling-firs, so that, in another decade or so, this prehistoric relic will be quite lost to sight.

The group rests upon a mound of stone and earth, about 18 to 20 inches high. The East Pillar, so far as it is measurable, is 8 feet in length by 4 feet 6 inches in breadth, and its east edge is 2 feet 2 inches in thickness. The West Pillar is 10 feet 6 inches long, over 3 feet wide, and 15 to 20 inches thick. The Recumbent Stone, still quite vertical, measures in over-all length 9 feet 4 inches, and stands 5 feet 8 inches in height on its north side. From its top to the level of the rubbish-heap

at its back, the height is only 2 feet 6 inches. The one advantage to be gained from this rubbish-heap is that, standing on it, we could take, first, an exact median line for the bearings by compass, which we ascertained to be W.N.W. 60 degs., and then could examine the top of the stone with some care. We found it to be quite narrow, arched to

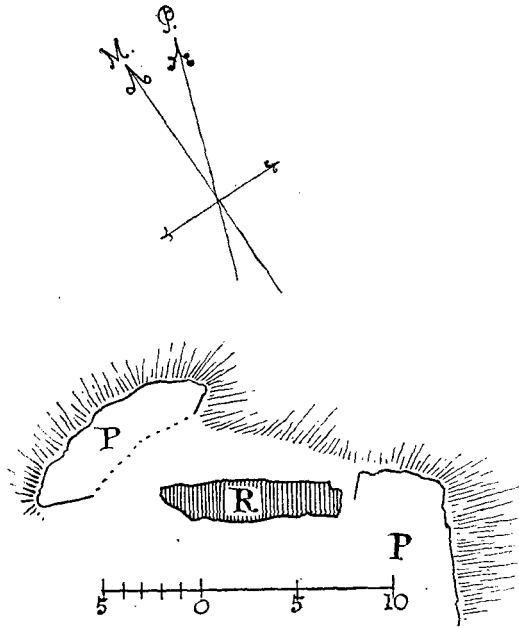


Fig. 54. Dunnideer ; Plan.

right and left (see fig. 55), as well as gable-shaped on the transverse axis, and comparatively smooth and unweathered. The weight of the Recumbent Stone is over six tons. In the view (fig. 55) the ruins of Dunnideer Castle are to be seen.

No. 40. *Stonehead*.—Here, at a height of 700 feet, on a similar site, only half a mile distant from the Dunnideer Circle, is a very similar group of remains, containing five stones in all, as shown in the ground-

plan (fig. 56). The principal group has just the same inward leaning-over so prevalent in these stones; and, as before, the stones are so set

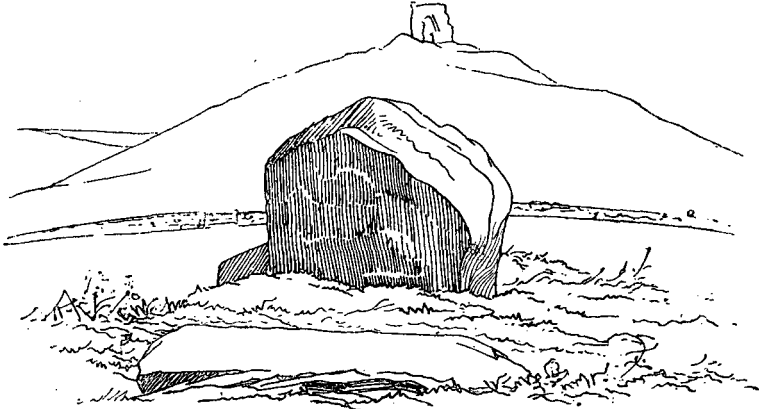


Fig. 55. Dunnideer ; View from the West.

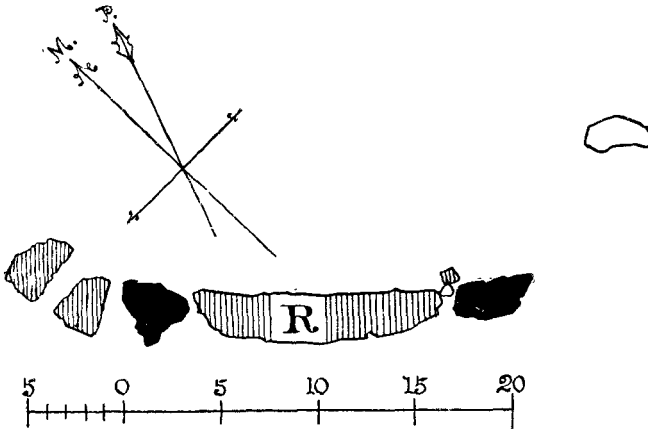


Fig. 56. Stonehead ; Plan.

upon a mound as to make their outer and inner heights markedly different. For instance, the East Pillar stands clear of the field on the south to a height of 8 feet 8 inches, but its northern face measures 6

feet 4 inches. The Recumbent Stone, measuring in full length 13 feet 4 inches, is very thin in proportion. On its outer face the vertical height is 7 feet 6 inches at the extreme ; on its inner face it measures 5 feet 3 inches in the middle, 3 feet 8 inches at the east end, and 4 feet at the west end. The summit is a narrow ridge barely 12 inches wide and very similar to the Dunideer Recumbent Stone (see fig. 57).

No. 41. *Candle Hill, Inch.*—It is worth noting that there are at least four sites bearing the name Candle Hill, each with a Stone Circle in this central portion of the northern division of Aberdeenshire. The Candle Hill at Old Rayne and that at Hatton of Ardoyne have been



Fig. 57. Stonehead ; View from the S.W. outside.

already described, and the Candle Hill in Ellon may come to be noticed hereafter. Of this site in Inch it is probably safe to state that its associations are distinctly the most peculiar of all the three, for reasons that will be shown.

The wood-crowned hill here is very conspicuous for several miles in all directions, not so much on account of its individual height above sea-level, which is only 872 feet, but it rises up rather solitarily out of the gentle undulations of the strath, and is in a sense the centre of this portion of its area. Whether its topographical characteristics attracted the notice of the Circle builders, and led them to select this site as one of special importance, we cannot of course allege ; but the peculiarities

of the environment would seem to suggest this. My curiosity was long ago aroused by the plan of this Circle given on the O.M. 25 inch scale, which, in addition to several stones, shows a large trench or rampart (or both trench and rampart) curving round the western boundary of the

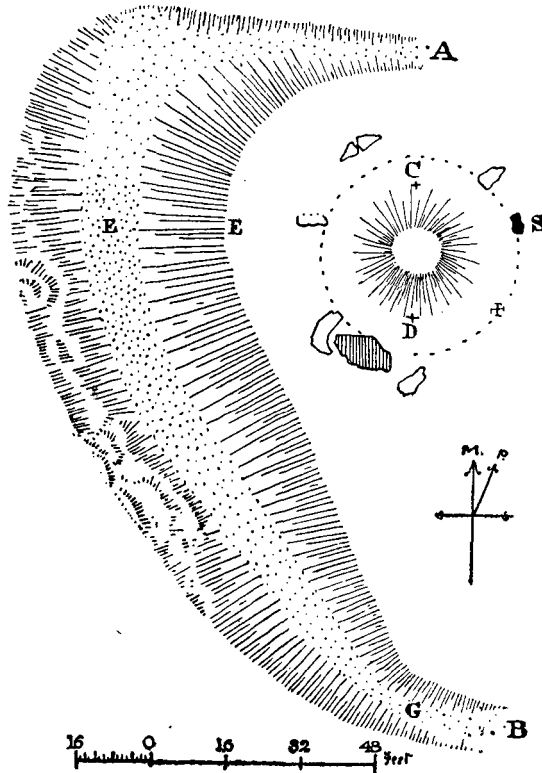


Fig. 58. Candle Hill, Inch ; General Plan of the Site.

Circle. And this curiosity was more than satisfied when, on approaching the wooded summit of Candle Hill, our progress was abruptly checked by the almost precipitous rocky declivities of an enormous trench (see fig. 58) several hundred feet in length, and, at a guess, fifty feet

wide from brink to brink. Proceeding, we found, on the higher level of the actual summit, the six great prostrate stones with a seventh still

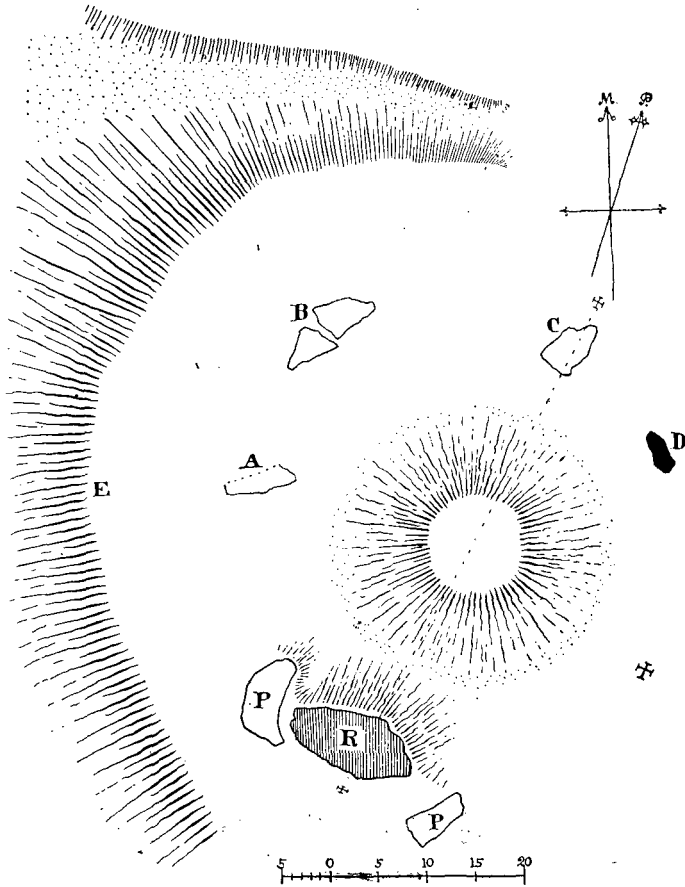


Fig. 59. Candle Hill ; Plan of the Circle.

erect, set near the base of a very well-defined central cairn, as shown on the ground-plan (fig. 59). All over this area, from the verge of the trench at the point E eastwards, and from the fallen east Pillar north-

wards, the stony nature of the site is very perceptible to the feet, though vegetation of most luxuriant growth conceals the actual stones and more than once rendered the measuring difficult.

In my general plan of the site (fig. 58), which it is pleasant to record as being almost the precise equivalent of the plan on the O.M., the trench, the cairn, and the sites of the seven stones are shown on the scale of 32 feet to 1 inch. The trench is marked by a dotted ground, and where the dots are thickest the trench is deepest. At the north and south ends, it practically "runs out," after slowly rising to very nearly the level of the Circle-plateau from its deepest portion (at E E), its vertical depth there, measured as from the level of the eastern slope, being 18 feet 6 inches. The surface of the slope, from the edge of the plateau on which the stones stand to the base of the trench, is smooth and regular, and feels as if composed of stones now, of course, well hidden by the grass. The opposite side of the trench is rough, jagged, and uneven, with large bare rocky spaces intermingled with its slopes. Measured throughout its entire length, from B to A, this great trench has a length of 240 feet, a width at the north, where it forms a loop, of 18 feet, and a fairly general width of 12 feet, except at the extremities, where it is reduced to about 5 feet.¹

Turning now to the ground-plan of the Stones themselves (fig. 59), it is clear that the original number must have been only eight. A circumference taken through the centre of the one Standing Stone D at a radius of 21 feet 6 inches, shows that the large broken Stone B is the

¹ I give the following coincidences of proportional measurement as possibly suggestive. The basal diameter of the central cairn is 28 feet (C to D). The same space of 28 feet occurs at the north from C, the base of the cairn, to A, the centre of the trench. On the south, the distance between D, the base of the cairn, and G, the centre of the trench, is 84 feet, or 28 three times multiplied. Again, the diameter of the Circle, upon which the stones stand, can be accurately obtained by measuring from the centre of the cairn to the centre of the one Standing Stone (S) on the east arc. This diameter is 43 feet. A space of 43 feet occurs from the edge of the trench on the north (near A) to the south edge of the summit of the cairn, and from that point to the inner edge of the trench on the south (near G), the distance is 86 feet, twice 43.

only one very much off this line; and there is on the south-east arc exactly space enough for one more stone. All the stones are of whinstone. The relative sizes of the stones are:—

A (fallen), 7 feet 2 inches, breadth unascertainable from its running into the ground.

B (fallen), 8 feet 9 inches \times 4 feet 5 inches, split; 18 inches thick.

C „ 6 „ 0 „ \times 3 „ 5 „ and 18 inches thick.

D, 4 feet 4 inches \times 4 feet 6 inches \times 2 feet 0 inches thick.

East Pillar (fallen), 6 feet 6 inches \times 3 feet 3 inches.

Recumbent Stone (fallen), 13 feet 9 inches \times 6 feet 6 inches; and on the north side, 22 inches thick.

West Pillar (fallen), 9 feet \times 3 feet 9 inches and 25 inches thick.

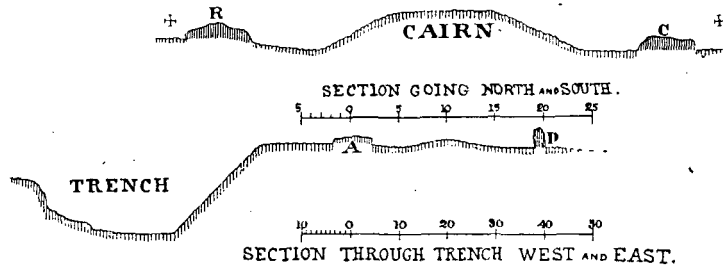


Fig. 60. Candle Hill, Inch; Sections.

In front of the Recumbent Stone, the stony ground falls for about 7 feet to the base of the cairn (see Sections, fig. 60); and from this point the incline of the cairn itself is well marked, its summit being 4 feet higher than its base. On the ground itself the cairn has a misleadingly conspicuous height, owing to the prostrate condition of the Recumbent Stone. This section (the upper one in fig. 60) is shown on the same scale as that of the ground-plan, 20 feet to 1 inch; but the section below to the scale of 40 feet to 1 inch, in order to display the entire width of the trench in its true proportion to the Circle plateau and the stones.

In the view from the east (fig. 61), the broad, rough surface of the

Recumbent Stone, and the peculiar incurving of the base of the (fallen) West Pillar, are indicated. The fine pointed hill in the distance is the famous Tap o' Noth, on the summit of which stands one of the largest stone forts in Scotland, displaying vitrification within portions of its walls.

This Candle Hill Circle commands views on the east and south-east of six other circles—namely, Stonehead, Dunnideer, Wanton Wells, Nether Boddam, Hatton of Ardoyne, and Old Rayne, besides the three

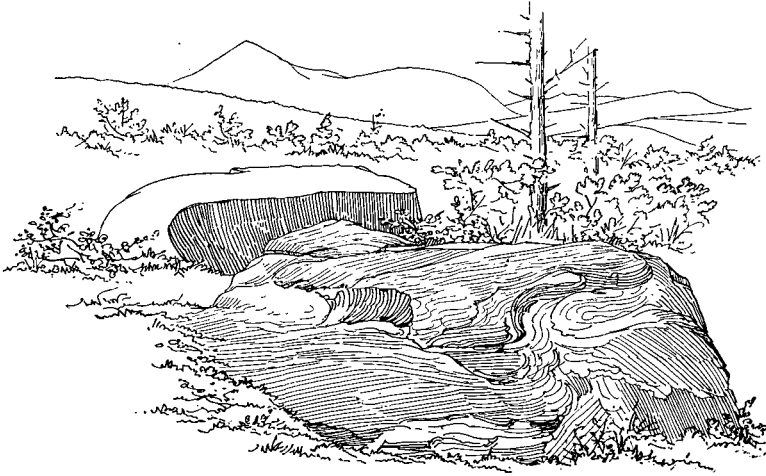


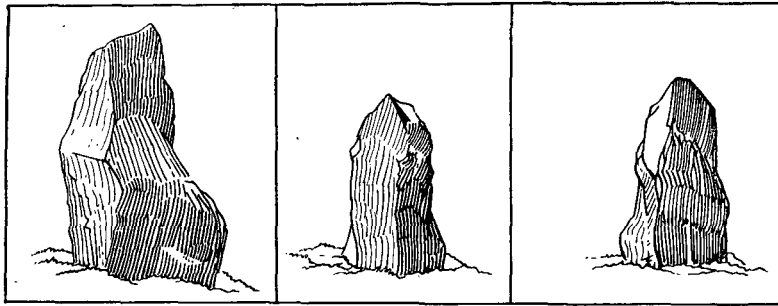
Fig. 61. Candle Hill, Insch ; Recumbent Stone and West Pillar, from the East.

Standing Stones yet existent in fields to the north and north-east of Dunnideer Castle, of which I proceed now to give some account.

Nos. 42, 43, 44. Standing Stones at Dunnideer.—Not one of these stones is recorded on the Ordnance Map. Taken collectively, they fill in the points of a right-angled triangle whose sides measure respectively 935 and 798 yards, and the base 467 yards. The longest of these measures, if extended, would bisect the circle on Candle Hill ; or, in other words, two of these stones, A and B (fig. 62), are in direct line with the circle on Candle Hill. Another point to notice is that the

Stones A and C are almost equidistant from the circle at Nether Boddam (which I shall presently describe).

No. 42. Standing Stone on the East of Dunnideer House, which is A in fig. 62, is a huge block of whinstone, 7 feet high and measuring at the base over 13 feet. It stands at about the middle of the field next but one to the house. At the gateway into this field are two great squarish stones used as gate-posts, and in the dike are many others very suggestive of the probable fate to which the stones of the (assumed) circle were years ago subjected.



A.

B.

C.

Fig. 62. Standing Stones at Dunnideer.

No. 43. Standing Stone on the N.W. of Dunnideer House.—This is B in the illustration. It is a short, very irregular, but very ancient-looking monolith, standing 3 feet 8 inches high and girthing 7 feet 6 inches at the ground.

No. 44. Standing Stone on the N.N.W. of Dunnideer House.—This also is a smallish stone just 4 feet in height, C in the illustration, but very broad and massive, measuring between 9 and 10 feet at the base.

Between Stone B and the farmhouse of Mireton, the O.M. records the spot where, in 1861, an urn was found; and at another spot farther up the slope, half a mile away and towards Candle Hill, an urn was also found in 1860. Lastly, due south from Stone A, on the first gentle

swell of the east side of Dunnideer Hill, there is a third spot marked by the finding of an urn in 1828.

With our next Circle, at

No. 45. *Nether Boddam or Insch-field*, the archæological interest of the lands immediately surrounding Dunnideer ceases.

The distance between this circle and that at Wanton Wells is slightly over one mile and a quarter, between it and that on Candle Hill one

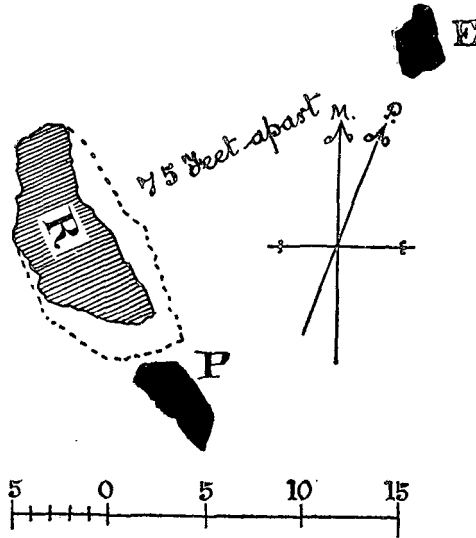


Fig. 63. Nether Boddam ; Plan.

mile and a half, between it and Stonehead all but a mile and a half, and between it and the Dunnideer Circle a few yards over a mile. The site is an open field 550 feet above sea-level.

When the Government surveyors were at work in this district in, I think, 1868, there were six stones on this site, one of which, clearly enough, is the prostrate Recumbent Stone, and one other, the Pillar erect on the east. At the present date, only three stones remain (see the ground-plan, fig. 63). The distance of 75 feet between the

Recumbent Stone and Stone E does not, however, represent the full diameter of the original circle. That is ascertainable from the plan of

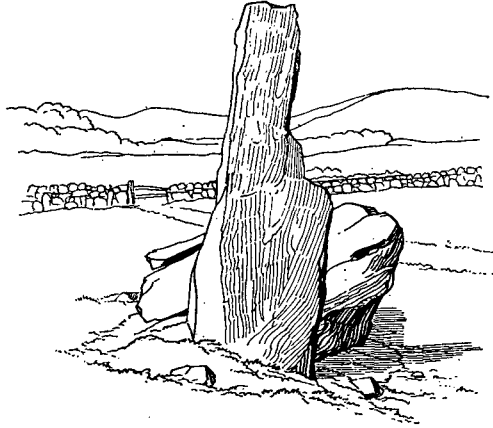


Fig. 64. Nether Boddam ; View from the South-East.

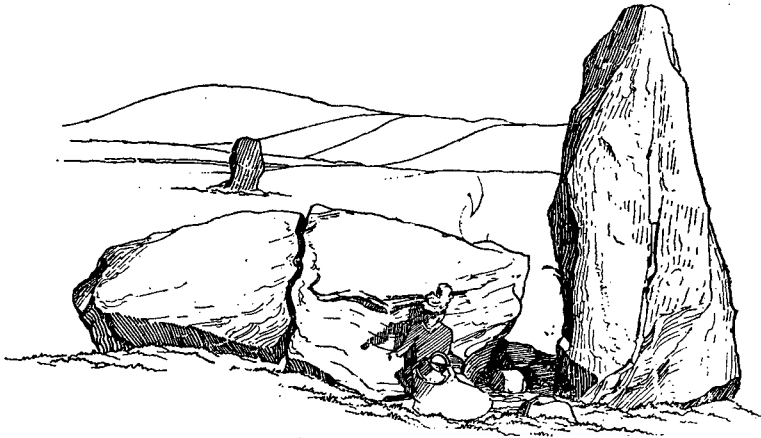


Fig. 65. Nether Boddam ; View from the West.

the six stones shown on the O.M., which stand on a circumference whose diameter is about 90 feet.

All these three stones are of whinstone. The one remaining Pillar, resting on an oblong base of over 12 feet in girth, varies considerably in shape and height. On the side next to the Recumbent Stone, it is 8 feet 6 inches high, on the north face 9 feet 2 inches, and on the east 10 feet 2 inches. The Recumbent Stone now reclines at a very low angle (see view from the south-east, fig. 64), and overhangs its base to a large extent. The full dimensions are: length, 13 feet 5 inches, breadth 7 feet 2 inches, and its mean thickness 26 inches. Its weight is computed to be about 8 tons and a quarter. It has split right across near the middle (see fig. 65). The solitary Standing Stone on the north-east arc (E in the ground-plan) leans inward, being 13 inches out of plumb, in a vertical height of 4 feet 10 inches. It is 14 inches thick at the top, and its back measures 5 feet 3 inches. Its girth at the ground is 9 feet 3 inches.

No. 46. Braehead, New Leslie.—At this site we are now between three and four miles to the south-west of Inch, and on our way to Clatt and Rhynie in search of the most westerly Circles in Aberdeenshire.

The one great Recumbent Stone now extant on this site, called on the O.M. a "supposed Cromlech," was in the olden time closely associated with several interesting facts, for the details regarding which I am indebted to Mr Ingram of New Leslie, who, in the course of correspondence, sent me a sketch-plan, with measurements, of the piece of ground containing the relics I now proceed to put on record.

The march-fence between Braehead on the east and New Leslie on the west passes a few feet behind this Recumbent Stone (fig. 66), going nearly north and south. The altitude above sea-level is 750 feet, but the site is by no means conspicuous, nor even visible from any of the roads near it. In or about the year 1873, the late Mr Ingram found a cist at a point 180 yards W.S.W. of the Recumbent Stone, lower down the slope. In the north end of the cist, near the head of the body it contained, stood an urn, evidently, from the sketch sent to me by Mr Ingram, junior, one of the drinking-cup type, about 12 inches in height

and 9 across the mouth.¹ So recently as July 1900, Mr Ingram found a second cist on the Braehead land at a point 85 yards S.E. from the

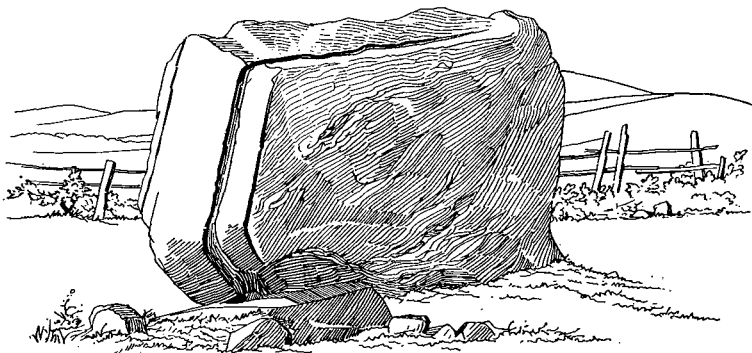


Fig. 66. Braehead, New Leslie; the Recumbent Stone from the East.

Recumbent Stone. This part of the hill is gravelly to a depth of over three feet, and the spot where the cist was found was recognisable when we visited Braehead during the current survey.

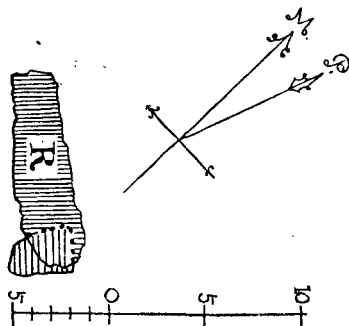


Fig. 67. Braehead, New Leslie; Plan.

In the ground-plan (fig. 67), the Recumbent Stone and its main supporting stone on the east are shown. The length of the stone is

¹ This urn, my informant positively affirms, was sent to a Museum in Edinburgh, where a friend somewhat recently saw it. Up to the present date (September 1902), however, I have not succeeded in finding it.

10 feet 3 inches, its greatest breadth 3 feet 2 inches, its height at the west outer angle 5 feet 10 inches, and at the east end 5 feet. Its computed weight is over six tons and a half. In another illustration (fig. 68) the size of the large flat stone, serving to support the east end of the Recumbent Stone, is better seen; its dimensions are 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, and it is about 11 inches thick. This illustration also shows the remarkable groove which traverses the entire length and height of the Recumbent Stone. This groove is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide throughout its whole (visible) length, and it can be distinctly felt by the hand on

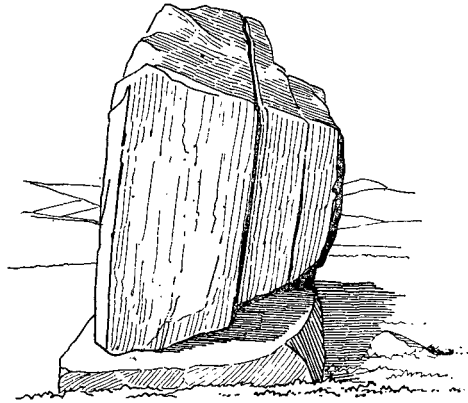


Fig. 68. Braehead, New Leslie; from the East.

the under edge of the stone for some feet. It is mostly semi-tubular in section, and has an extraordinarily artificial appearance. Despite of this, however, it is intelligible that, after all, this groove is entirely due to natural causes. If the illustration (fig. 68) be inverted, and this huge whinstone block be considered merely as a fragment of indurated matter in layers of unequal thickness, this groove, and the much narrower one above it, will represent two layers of so much (relatively) softer deposits as to have been worn away by natural agencies even during the lapse of time marked by the existence of the stone, as the member of a circle erected by the hand of man.

The map records that human remains and flint arrowheads were found in a cairn which once existed to the N.W. of the stone; that stone cists and urns were found in a second cairn, on the south; while in the Castle Croft at New Leslie, a celt and flint arrowheads were found.

No. 47. Ringing Stone, Johnstone.—On this upland farm, distant from the last site about three-quarters of a mile to the west, and 730 feet above sea-level, stands a well-set block of whinstone, 6 feet 8 inches high, and 6 feet 2 inches in girth at the base (see fig. 69). On its quite vertical and smooth eastern face is a clear cup-mark, an inch and a half wide by half an inch deep, at a point 2 feet 3 inches above ground.

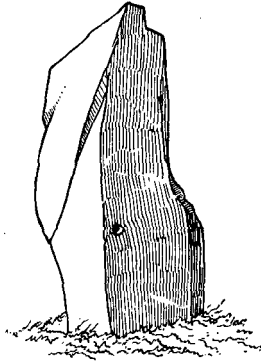


Fig. 69. Ringing Stone, Johnstone.

As to the name: unless "Ringing" be a local form of Ninian (as "Ringan" in Galloway and elsewhere is), which seems unlikely, I do not pretend to understand it; for the stone, unlike others, does not give forth any ringing tone on being struck, whether heavily or lightly. The map records the site of a Cairn close to this stone.

No. 48. Whitehill, Clatt.—On the flat summit of this heather-clad hill the O.M. shows a ring as of the nature of a low rampart, and names it "Stone Circle." But, though a circle of stones, this relic is not a Stone Circle in the sense understood by the Aberdeenshire folk, or the antiquary who investigates their megalithic remains. It is merely a

fallen dike of small stones once set in a circle, measuring 126 feet in diameter ; and tradition associates it in some inexplicable way with the Covenanters.

No. 49. Gordonstown, Clatt.—The Map here also shows a ring (in this case dotted) in signification of the site of a Circle with a dike built through its midst. But there is now no vestige of anything of the kind ; nor did any of the few elderly persons about the farms here, whom I questioned, know even of the tradition of a standing-stone on the lands.

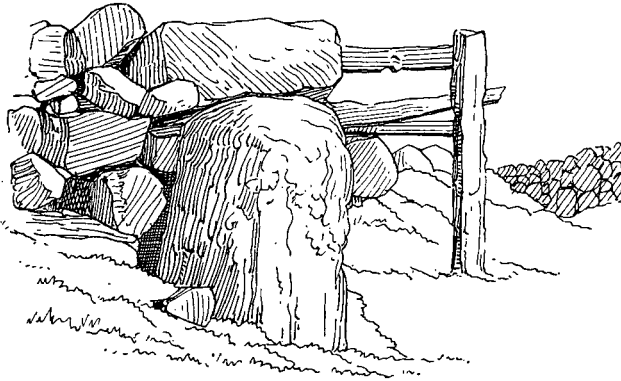


Fig. 70. Hillhead, Clatt ; remains of Circle.

No. 50. Hillhead, Clatt.—A Stone Circle is recorded on the Map here, at a point where two very old tracks meet at right angles on the summit of the hill, over 800 feet above the sea ; and this site, after much searching, I found. The track from the east leaves Clatt by the church, and, though still good as a footpath, is picturesquely overgrown with broom ; the other track joins this one after leaving the main road near Bankhead Wood. At their junction, in the angle formed by their two dikes, stands the small but aged and hoary stone shown in the illustration (fig. 70). It is rounded at the top, and a large stone rests on and partly conceals it. It is 2 feet 8 inches in height, and about 2 feet square.

To have to record the above paltry remnant as the sole relic of a group of structures once teeming with interest is vexing; to what extent this is so, may now be gathered by a comparison of this twentieth century Report with that penned by the Rev. Robert Cook, M.A., Minister of Clatt, in 1842, which I here copy in abridged form.

“Until within the last thirty years there remained, in the northern division of the parish, the distinct remains of a Druidical temple, of which only the supposed altar stone and a few of the upright stones remain. The stone supposed to have formed the sacrificial altar in the centre was of large dimensions, consisting of 10 feet in length, 9 feet in breadth, and 4 feet in thickness. At each extremity, longitudinally, there stood a perpendicular stone of about 6 feet in height, vulgarly styled the ‘Horns of the Altar,’ and in the line of the Circle, of about 25 yards diameter, there were placed, at equal distances, seven upright stones from 5 to 6 feet in height. The whole space within the circumference was rudely paved with stones to the depth of about 3 feet.”

Mr Cook then goes on to describe, with considerable attention to detail, the position of certain tumuli which were connected with the Circle by a rudely-paved causeway, and in which were found graves (some of them cut into the solid rock), and cists containing small pieces of burnt bones. He also records the discovery, at a short distance from the tumuli and six feet below the surface, of “a smooth stone,¹ 4 feet long by 2 feet broad, on which is represented the figure of a salmon above a distinctly described arch.” (*N.S.A.*, vol. xii. pp. 851–2).

This bare and denuded site is 560 yards due south of the one next to be described, nearly as empty and despoiled by the improver of land; it is at

No. 51. Bankhead, Clatt.—The altitude of this site is much the same as that of Hillhead; the position, in relation to the farm-house, two fields distant on the N.W. Near the angle where two dikes meet, westwards of the one, northwards of the other, the O.M. shows a ring and a

¹ This is the stone now at Persylieu, figured in Stuart's *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, vol. i. pl. 5.

curved double line of dots. The ring marks the former position of the Circle, and the line the causeway leading out from it. Some 80 or 90 feet south of the site of the Circle, lies a huge flat Recumbent Stone on its broad face, with the dike built on the top of it (see Plan and Section, fig. 71). The edge of this stone on the north of the dike has been blasted away, a "jumper-hole" being visible there; its original breadth, or height when erect, is therefore unascertainable; but taken as it is, this dimension is 4 feet 3 inches. Its greatest present length is 9 feet 8 inches, and it rests 21 inches above ground. It is of whinstone.

Forming the west gate-post in the gateway a few yards down the dike is another whinstone monolith over five feet high, and nearly the same

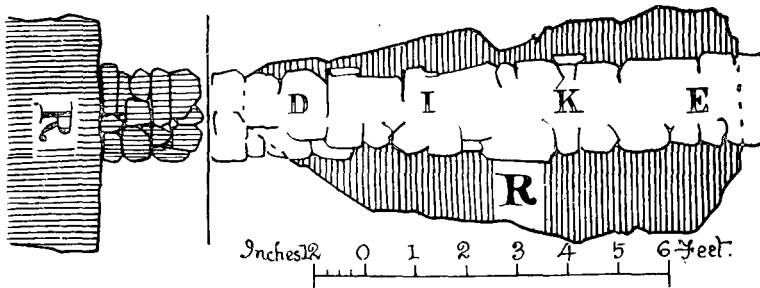


Fig. 71. Bankhead, Clatt; Plan and Section.

in breadth, which may be one of the Standing Stones of the Circle yet *in situ*. Both it and the Recumbent Stone, however, seem rather too far away on the south from the ring marked on the O.M. to be taken as in their original positions.

No. 52. Holywell, Kennethmont.—Once more we have to record a negative result. This is the more to be regretted, as, in this instance, the O.M. shows seven stones set in a circle of 80 feet in diameter. Even at that date, however, 1866, the road-makers had begun to destroy the circle, two cart-roads meeting in its very centre, one a mere track from Toft hills going north to meet the wider road going west to Persy lieu. Their point of junction is 730 feet above the sea-level. An

urn and stone cists were found in the Circle. In 1837, a stone cist was found in a field about a furlong to the N.E. of it. Tofthills also is not lacking in interest. There is a Fairy Hillock on it, in all likelihood a Sepulchral Cairn, near to which flint arrowheads were found; and, quite recently, Mr F. C. Eeles has come across a stone set into one of the dikes, having several well cut cup-marks on it.

From the now barren site of this Circle, in a field 600 yards to the north, is a spring, pointed out to this day as the Holy Well, from which the farm has its name; and if we make a bee-line across the fields in a direction slightly N. of E. from the Well, we strike one of two Standing Stones, in which I own to a very special interest. They are not marked as stones on the O.M.; but a bench-mark is printed at what looks very like the exact spot occupied by one of these stones. They stand 84 feet apart south and north of each other. When we first saw them, from the summit of Ardlair Hill, we naturally took them to be remnants of a Circle nowhere recorded. On reaching the one which stands nearer Ardlair, we at once observed sculpturing on its south face. This, on closer examination, proved to be two of the well-known Celtic symbols, the so-called elephant and the upright rectangle, a combination never hitherto noticed on any sculptured stone in Aberdeenshire.¹

These two stones have, intrinsically, as much claim to be considered the two surviving members of a Circle as have any others of the many stones observed during this survey. They are as ancient in appearance as any others; their distance apart is not greater than the diameters of several of the Aberdeenshire Circles; they stand with their broader sides facing each other—all facts not inconsistent with my proposition. And the fact of one of the stones bearing an early Christian symbol ought not *per se*, to be held as disqualifying them as members of a Pagan structure. While, therefore, admitting the want of evidence for the existence of the Christian symbols on any monolith absolutely known to be a member of a Stone Circle, hitherto, we must keep an open mind on this interesting point, for which more light and knowledge are yet required.

¹ This stone will be more fully described, and figured, elsewhere.

No. 53. *Ardlair*,¹ *Kennethmont*.²—The circle here is almost within a stone's throw of the two stones just noticed. This hill, 800 feet high, is now bare of all but the stumps of the trees, which, half a century ago, clothed its broad declivities. The 25-inch scale of the O.M. shows here a circle of eight stones, none of which tally with the group of three on the south arc; nor does it show the two inner stones abutting on the Recumbent Stone. At present, only the south group and Stone I. are erect (fig. 72).

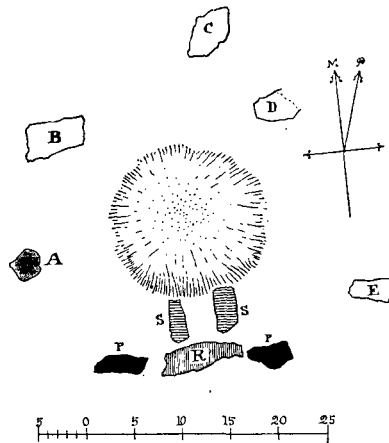


Fig. 72. Ardlair, Kennethmont; Plan.

Four others lie at various distances either within or outside of a circumference whose radius is $17\frac{1}{2}$ feet; and two other stones are set projecting inward from the Recumbent Stone, as in the great Circle at Auchquorthies in Manár.³

The diameter is 35 feet, the surface stony and covered with grass and heather; and a wide, irregular, and nearly central depression exists,

¹ We nowhere heard this name pronounced *Ard-Láre*; but always with the stress on the first syllable, and with a vowel-sound suggestive of the Perthshire name *Úrlar*.

² This name, having the stress on the second syllable, is precluded from any connection with the personal name Edmund. An old writer explains it as meaning "the head of the mossy land"—quite descriptive of the site of the old church.

³ See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxv. p. 228.

showing the remnants of a slight ridge observed there before the excavation of this circle took place in 1857. The first remarkable feature of this circle is the position of the Recumbent Stone. It is set with its broad face looking full North by compass, and not towards the Polar North, as the majority do. With it, the two Pillars stand precisely in line E. and W. by compass. The East Pillar, of grey granite intermixed with clear quartz, is 4 feet 8 inches in height, and is nearly 12 feet in girth. The Recumbent Stone is 4 feet 6 inches high, 8 feet 6 inches in extreme length, and varies in thickness from 3 feet to 14 inches. It is of whinstone, protuberant with contorted veins of quartz, and has been much mutilated (see my view from the N.E., fig. 73*a*), as, in the illustration given by Col. Forbes-Leslie,¹ both its ends and top were very much more level and shapely. The West Pillar is 4 feet 2 inches in height, and over 12 feet in girth. It is of whinstone. The only other erect stone, A, is of granite, stands 5 feet clear of the ground, and girths 8 feet 9 inches. Of the two rudely-oblong stones, S S, set in front of the Recumbent Stone, the one on the east is 2 feet 3 inches above ground, and the other 1 foot 7 inches. Both are quite free of the Recumbent Stone. The sizes of the remaining stones are—B, 6 feet 2 inches \times 3 feet 6 inches; C, 5 feet 10 inches \times 3 feet 9 inches; D runs in on the east, and leans inward, having a vertical height of 2 feet 3 inches; and E is 3 feet 7 inches \times 2 feet 8 inches. I append a general view of this circle, taken from the N.W. (fig. 73); and in another illustration (fig. 73*a*) a much nearer view from the N.E., to show the extreme ruggedness of the principal group and the two projecting stones.

In 1857 Mr C. E. Dalrymple conducted an excavation within this circle. He noticed that the five stones in the upper portion of the circumference were only about 3 feet high, and that the circular ridge of stones and earth inside was not concentric with the outer circle, but 10 feet within it on the north, and 5 feet within it on the south side. The interior of this inner circle was depressed below the level of the

¹ *Early Races of Scotland*, pl. xiv.

ground outside, and lowest in the centre. Towards the south side of this central portion, about one foot below the surface, were two flat stones, 3 feet long and 1 foot broad, and laid together lengthwise with their

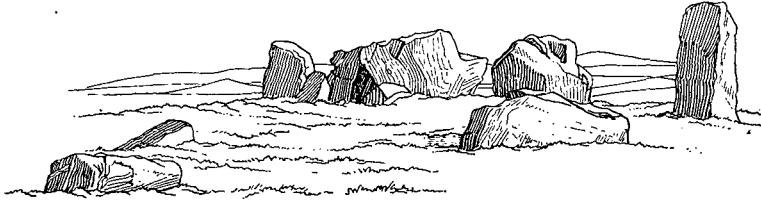


Fig. 73. Ardlair ; General View from the N. W.

edges touching, and at an angle to each other, like the roof of a house. Beneath them was a pit, 4 feet in diameter and 2 feet 4 inches deep, about a foot of it being into the subsoil ; in this pit were found inciner-



Fig. 73A. Ardlair ; Recumbent Stone and Pillars.

ated bones and charcoal among the light, open, yellow loam which filled it nearly to the top. No trace of urns was found.¹

¹ In conversation with Mr Henderson, formerly of Holywell farm, I learned that he remembered that in 1821 excavations were made in this circle, or near it, by Sir Alexander Leith-Hay and friends, and that an urn was then found. He also remembers having seen a stone standing as the headstone of a grave 10 or 12 yards to the S. W. of the Circle.

On writing, however, to the present proprietor of Leithhall, C. Norman Leith-Hay, Esq., I was informed that there is no record in the estate registers of any excavation being made at about the date above mentioned.

No. 54. *Corrstone Wood, Druminnor*.—In the beautifully-wooded seclusion of this hill-summit, about three miles S.S.W. of the last site, and at a height of 780 feet above sea-level, there remain six great stones, only one of which is now erect. They appear to be all of whinstone,

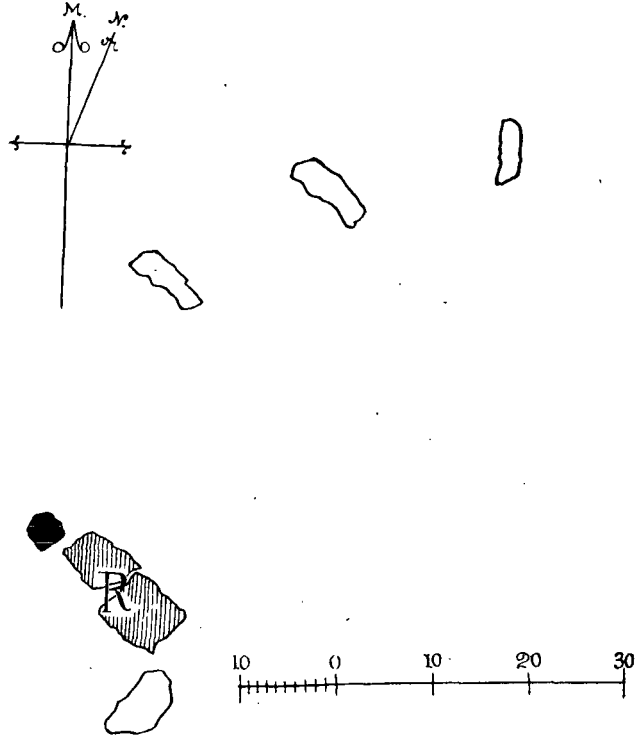


Fig. 74. *Corrstone Wood* ; Ground-plan.

and they range as shown in the ground-plan (fig. 74). We have, first, the fallen East Pillar, much out of position, 8 feet long by 4 feet wide, and in thickness above ground about 20 inches ; next, a Recumbent Stone of vast proportions, fallen inwards nearly flat, and split ; it is 14 feet long, 7 feet broad, and 3 feet thick, making in all a mass of nearly

19 tons in weight. Thirdly, there is the very massive West Pillar, 7 feet 3 inches in height, and 10 feet 5 inches in girth (see fig. 75). The dimensions of the three other stones, all prostrate and thickly moss-grown, are: Stone I., 7 feet 9 inches \times 2 feet 10 inches; II., 9 feet 6 inches \times 2 feet 9 inches; III., 7 feet 0 inches \times 2 feet 6 inches. In the last, along its upper surface lengthwise, are six deep oblong wedge-marks, done, doubtless, in preparation for splitting asunder this "useful" stone.



Fig. 75. Corrstone Wood; Recumbent Stone and West Pillar.

No. 55. Wheelmont, Rhynie.—This site is the most westerly of all that fall to be noticed in the present Report. It is west of the quaint old village of Rhynie about two miles; and the two stones that remain to mark the existence of a circle are situated at a height of 700 feet above sea-level, on a strip of level ground in the little valley watered by the Ord Burn. The Circle must have been fairly conspicuous from, at any rate, the east, otherwise nearly invisible.

The annexed ground-plan (fig. 76) shows a long, rather tapering block of much-rounded whinstone, lying at an angle of about 32° , and in a line pretty nearly N.W. and S.E. It was somewhat difficult to determine whether this was a Recumbent Stone or not. Taken as it is, it seems too narrow, especially at the east end. But as seen in the drawing (fig. 77), the greater portion of the long side nearest to us is

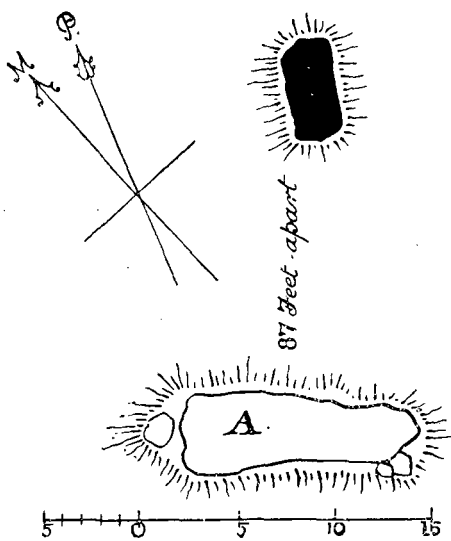


Fig. 76. Wheedlemont, Rhynie; Plan.

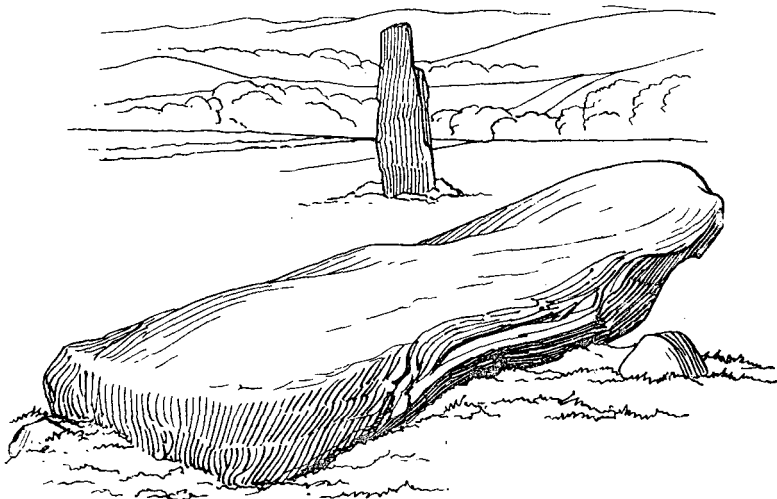


Fig. 77. Wheedlemont; remains of Circle.

very jagged and broken, suggestive of somewhat recent fracture ; so that the stone may, not so long ago, have been of greater dimensions. Against this possibility, however, there is to be placed the ascertained fact that the tall Standing Stone, 87 feet to the north, is not set with its broad face looking towards the centre of any Circle of which this fallen monolith could have been the Recumbent Stone, on principles of arrangement at all analogous to those that usually pertain in the Circles generally. I take, therefore, the now prostrate Stone A to have been simply one of the erect stones of a Circle, the diameter of which was about 87

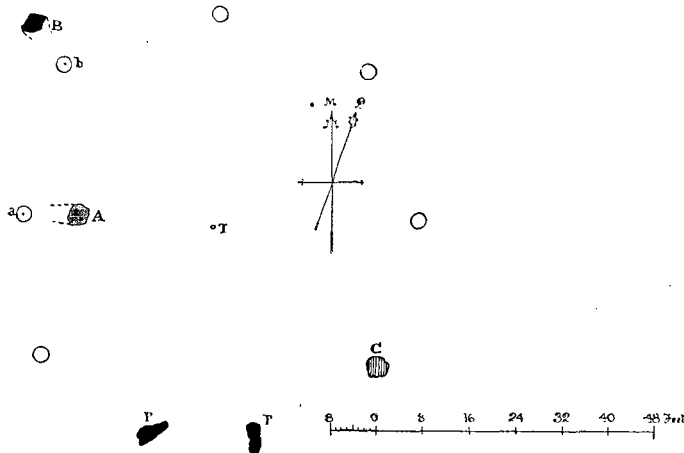


Fig. 78. Upper Ord, Rhynie ; Plan.

feet. The Standing Stone is 8 feet 6 inches in height, and girths at the base 14 feet 3 inches.

Nos. 56 and 57. Upper Ord, Rhynie.—The O.M. record for these is a Standing Stone, and the remains of a Stone Circle, within a furlong of each other. The site is a field, reached by a track branching off the road between Upper Ord and Wheedlemont in a northerly direction, and the stones can be seen from this road. The height above sea is 750 feet.

These remains are shown to the scale of 32 feet to 1 inch (fig. 78). The stone on the extreme right, D on the plan, I presume to be the

Standing Stone of the Map. It has a considerable lean inwards, but was probably, when erect, about 5 feet 6 inches in height.

Of the Circle, of which there now remain only the five stones shown in the plan, it is difficult to speak with certainty. But the following suggestions may be made. The two stones nearest together on the south are probably the two Pillars between which may have rested a Recumbent Stone about 13 feet long. Stone C is either a broken Standing Stone or a short squat stone set earth-fast, for want of a better. If we treat these three stones as integral parts of the circle, we obtain a radius of 37 feet, which is too great to include Stone A, and too small

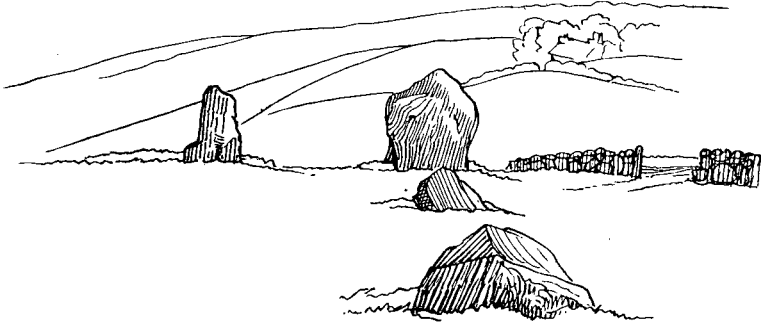


Fig. 79. Upper Ord; View from the North.

to include B. The absolute straightness of the line connecting B, A and P (West Pillar) is, at first sight, another perplexing feature. There is evidence on the actual ground, however, to show that A certainly, and B most probably, are not in their original positions. The drawing (fig. 79) showing how these stones are related to each other will confirm this impression. The middle stone of the three in line is Stone A of the plan. It is nearly prostrate; but, were it raised to the vertical, its base would be about 9 feet further west. We should then have these two Stones A and B on the arc of a circle 140 feet in diameter—a dimension unprecedented in Aberdeenshire. But if, allowing for disturbance of the stones no greater than that we have observed on other sites, we

replace A at *a* and B at *b*, then these two stones fall with sufficient exactness into the circumference of the circle obtained by the ascertained radius of P. T. and T. C. ; and this implies a circle of 74 feet in diameter. Lastly, on the assumption of equidistant spacing, this circle would have contained ten stones in all ; and D, standing at a point 96 feet nearly east of the centre, would be the outlier.

No. 58. *Milltown of Noth, Rhynie*.—These two well set-up and shapely Pillars, doubtless, once flanked a Recumbent Stone of rather less than 9 feet in length, and they now are the only representatives of the Circle. They stand a furlong west of the Water of Bogie, and half a mile

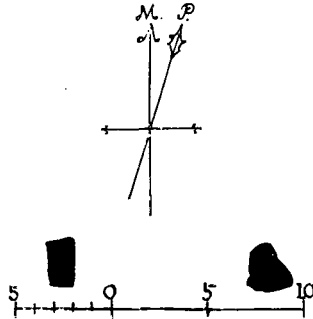


Fig. 80. Milltown of Noth, Rhynie ; Plan.

N.W. of the Circle in Corrstone Wood already noticed. About a hundred yards to the north, in a sandy hollow, according to the O.M., a stone cist and an urn were found, but I was also informed by residents that, to the north of the stones and close to them, sepulchral relics were found many years ago. The stones are, I think, of granite. By my measurements (see plan, fig. 80) the longer sides of the west stone lie N. and S. by compass, and the east stone is also set with one edge parallel to these, so that the Recumbent Stone, unless somewhat obliquely placed between them, must have faced 18 deg. west of the Polar North. The nearer of the two stones in the view (fig. 81) is 6 feet in height, its neighbour 5 feet 9 inches.

No. 59. *Drumel Stone, Old Noth*.—On a field, one-third of a mile S.W. of this farm and close to the heathery verge of the Hill of Noth, and by no means conspicuous, there stands the very sharp-pointed block of whinstone shown in the next illustration (fig. 82). It is 5 feet 7 inches in height and 5 feet 10 inches in girth at the base. An urn was found at it, so runs the record on the O.M., but no date is appended to this discovery. And we met with no one who could enlighten us on the subject.

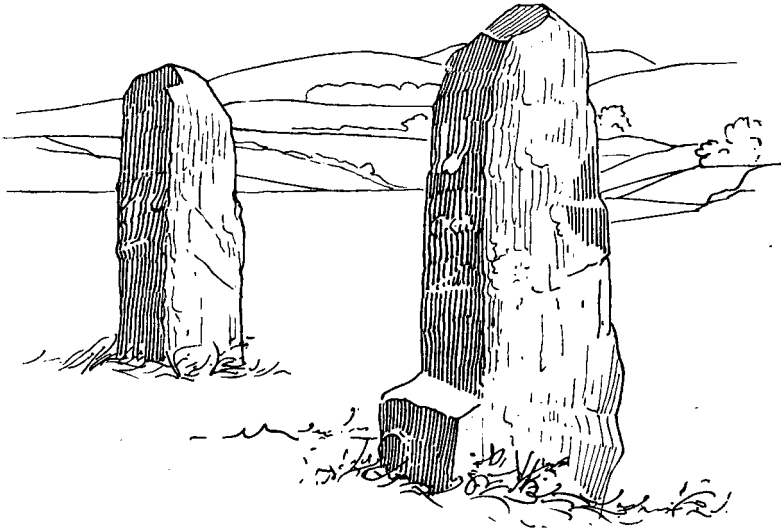


Fig. 81. Milltown of Noth ; the Pillars.

No. 60. *Candy*,¹ *Kennéthmont*.—At a point less than a hundred feet west of the cart road that goes to Crossburn of Cults, due north of the main road between Gartly and Kirkhill of Kennéthmont, not a quarter of a mile to the east of Candy, the O.M. marks with a black dot the site of a stone, but does not qualify this with the honour of the antique lettering. Naturally, therefore, during my study of the map-localities,

¹ Locally pronounced Ca'anie, a fairly frequent place-name.

this was passed over. Of the fact that this stone is the only surviving member of a Circle I was assured by the aged tenant of Seggieden, Mr

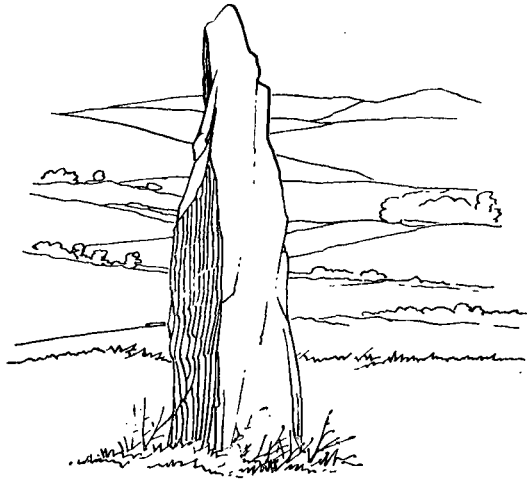


Fig. 82. Drumel Stone, Old Noth.

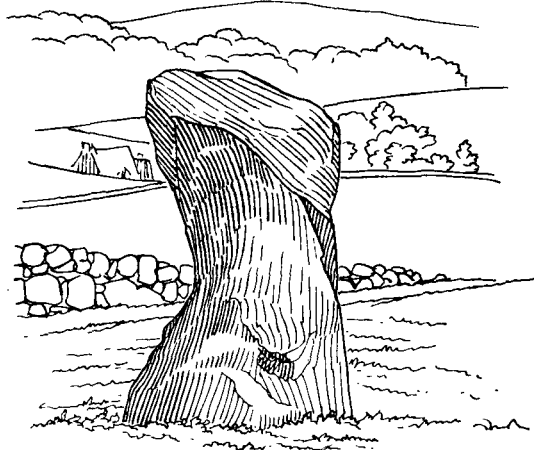


Fig. 83. Candy ; remains of Circle.

W. Sangster,¹ with whose multitude of recollections of past times many a profitable hour might be spent.

There is no difficulty in finding this monolith (fig. 83); it stands dark and gloomy against the upward slope of the stubble-field. The site is 600 feet above sea-level. The stone is syenitic. It stands 4 feet 9 inches high and its basal girth is over 11 feet. On the east is the cart road referred to, which, I take it, was cut through the Circle; for, on the east side of it, is a row of sixty or seventy huge fragments of both syenite and whinstone rolled into the line of the fence above the road, many of them 3 feet and 4 feet broad, all extremely suggestive of the remains of the Standing Stones once forming the Circle.

No. 61. *Collithie, Gartly*.—At the north edge of a strip of fir plantation that runs into Wood of Culdrain, and a quarter of a mile due south of this farm, is the Government survey symbol for the site of an antiquity. The height above sea-level is 600 feet. This being so, I saw no reason for examining what was recorded as the mere site of a possible Stone Circle.

No. 62. *Braes of Bucharn*.—This also is now but the site of a Circle; but the O.M. records, in addition to the mark, that "human remains were found here." The spot is on the gentle slope of the Braes, 470 feet above sea-level, slightly to the N.W. of and above the Bridge of Ness Bogie, and distant from the last site three miles and a quarter to the N.N.E. Both these sites are on the west of the Water of Bogie.

No. 63A. *The Standing Stones of Huntly*.—Not being aware that the group of stones known in mediæval annals as the Standing Stanes of Strathbolgie were placed within the site of the town of Huntly, I did not, at the date of my visit, notice the two remaining stones in the Square, overshadowed as they are by the monument to the Duke of Richmond. Having written to Mr Grant, the proprietor of the Gordon Arms Hotel, I was by him referred to Miss Gray, of the Brander

¹ Apparently, age is not computed in years by the hale Aberdeenshire folk. This worthy man, who was in his 81st year, I found splitting tough billets of wood with a 10 lb. axe. His memory was clear and his talk vividly descriptive.

Library, through whose courtesy a correspondence was opened with Mr James M'William, residing at Greens of Glenbeg in Glass. From the ready and liberal information supplied by this keen observer, it is, therefore, possible to describe this Circle in the following terms:—

Mr M'William recollects seeing six Standing Stones, none remarkably tall, the average being about 4 feet 6 inches; five of these were upright; one other, a very large stone, was lying in front of two. This I take to be the Recumbent Stone fallen forward. Judging by the position of two of the Standing Stones, the diameter of the Circle was between 40 and 50 feet; whether the area was quite circular or not, my correspondent does not remember. There appeared to be no rising in the centre. In replying to my question, if relics of any sort had been found within the circle, Mr M'William writes: "Yes, a stone or part of a stone with markings on it had been removed, thought to be etchings representing horse-shoes; but such an idea is altogether out of the question. If my memory is not at fault, they were much the same as the etchings that the Hindoos call the Yoni. I have made inquiry of several persons if they knew by whom (or when) the stone with the etchings on it was removed, but failed to get any information." The destruction of the circle took place, probably, when the Raves of Strathbolgie were being built; and, adds Mr M'William, "the stones would have been all removed when the Duke of Richmond's statue was erected,¹ had it not been that an antiquary interfered and gave them [the architects] to understand that they were punishable if they did so."

The two now extant stones are of diorite, and measure, respectively, 4 feet 6 inches in height, 3 feet in breadth, and 1 foot 6 inches in thickness, and 4 feet 6 inches × 2 feet × 0 feet 10 inches.

There is record² of a Court being held at the Standing Stanes of Huntlie in the year 1557; and the stones were in 1594 the rendezvous at which Argyle met the Earls of Huntly and Errol on the eve of the battle of Altihullihan.

¹ In 1865 or thereabouts.

² See *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, ii., App. to Preface, xlii.

Miss Gray informs me that a third stone used to stand "close by a house flanking the east side of the southern half of the Square," and that the two stones still left used to guard the street well; therefore it is highly improbable that either of them can be in its original position as a member of the Circle. There was also a stone, described by Stuart as one of these Standing Stones, which bears an incised symbol resembling a horse-shoe or arch.¹

No. 63. *Roddantree, Robieston in Cairnie*.—The one stone now left of the Circle here stands less than a furlong S.E. of this croft. It is



Fig. 84. Roddantree; Cairnie.

reached by the road crossing the River Deveron, in the direction of Banff, and is distant from the confluence of the Water of Bogie and River Deveron rather over a mile. The monolith is called Cummerstone (fig. 84), and is the only partially erect one of scores of out-cropping whinstone and boulders of the same formation that mark the skirts of the thick wood which here borders the arable land.² A little to the west is the Clean Cairn.

¹ *Sculptured Stones*, vol. i., Pl. cxxxi.

² Several of these huge boulders or out-crops have names; e.g., Ha' Stone, Hummel Stone, and Truttle Stones. In Old Deer there is a Cairn Cummer and a Humble Cairn.

The Cummer Stone stands 5 feet 10 inches in height, and has suffered rather recently from a fracture, the whole south edge (shown in the drawing shaded) presenting quite a fresh characteristically blue grey surface. Close to it are several other lumpy masses of whinstone, one or two of which may possibly be fallen monoliths and members of the Circle ; but, as I could not satisfy myself on this point, I prefer to omit them altogether.

No. 64. *Arnhill*,¹ *Rothiemay*.—At this site we reach the farthest northern limit of the area surveyed during the past autumn. As the train, speeding along from Huntly, begins to slacken at Rothiemay station, any one with an open eye for the landscape on the west will notice the dark mass of stone crowning the summit of this particularly green hill, 400 feet high, which is within a very few minutes' walk of the station. On approaching it, several weather-worn and smooth rock-surfaces invite examination for possible cup-and-ring-markings ; then, on passing these unrequited, we observe the very distinct artificial mound, greener far than the surrounding slopes, where rest the four great stones shown in the ground-plan (fig. 85). Two of these are prone upon the gentle slope of the mound, the third appears to have been moved off it entirely, while the fourth is the great Recumbent Stone poised securely upon several small flat blocks, in such a manner, let us hope, as to defy both storm and vandalism (see fig. 86, view from the east). This Recumbent Stone is named on the O.M., *Ironstone*.² It is set N.W. and S.E., absolutely vertical, on a base 8 feet 10 inches long by 3 feet 4 inches broad. Its extreme length is 11 feet 7 inches ; and, standing, as it does, 10 inches clear of the ground, on smallish stones set at right angles to its own length, the extreme height of the east end is 5 feet 8 inches ; nearer the middle it dips to 4 feet 8 inches, and rises again at the west end to 5 feet. The top is 16 inches wide,

¹ Spelt *Ernehill* by Macdonald. *Place Names in Strathbogie*, p. 207.

² The reason for this was accidentally discovered by my daughter Helen, who, as we were finishing our measurements, patted the stone, when it responded with a clear metallic tone ; we then found that, by striking the stone at all sorts of different places and with various amounts of force, the same tone was produced.

smooth, and very slightly concave. The breadth of the stone at the ends is 3 feet 9 inches. Taking into consideration the very unusual density of this stone, its probable weight may be computed to be about 16 tons.

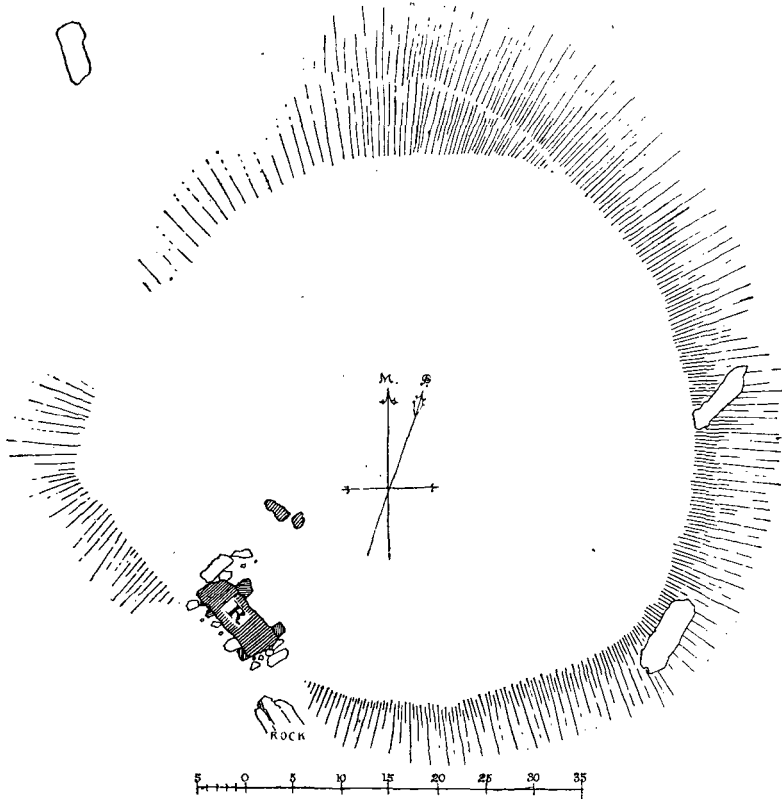


Fig. 85. Arnhill, Rothiemay; Plan.

In the view (fig. 87) from the N.E. within the Circle-area, a small group of six semi-circles on the centre of the stone attracts notice. These grooves are so markedly similar to the much-weathered concentric

rings so frequently found with cup-marks, that without positively claiming them to be such, I deem them of sufficient interest to be here recorded. Even if they be not artificial, they are very curious, if only as a natural freak. The group measures radially 15 inches wide, the outermost arc is about 15 inches long, and the innermost 11 inches. The grooves are about 1 inch wide and definitely hollow but quite smooth. The centre of the group is 3 feet above the ground, and almost precisely in the centre of the height of the stone here.



Fig. 86. Arnhill ; Recumbent Stone from the East.

This north side faces the fine pointed Knock Hill of Grange, six miles distant.

On the ground-plan (fig. 85), I have shown the only two stones belonging to an interior setting about which we were at all assured. They lie about 9 feet inward from the west end of the Recumbent Stone, but are not many inches above ground. All this western portion of the area has been ploughed flat, so that the bank of the mound, the base of which on the east is fully 6 feet below the true summit, here disappears. The prostrate block of whinstone on the extreme N.W.

measures 6 feet 2 inches \times 2 feet 7 inches \times 1 foot 3 inches. Of the other two, the one on the north measures 8 feet \times 2 feet \times 1 foot 8 inches. A space of 17 feet 6 inches separates it from the other fallen block, the size of which is much the same.

The conjectural diameter of the circle is 60 feet.

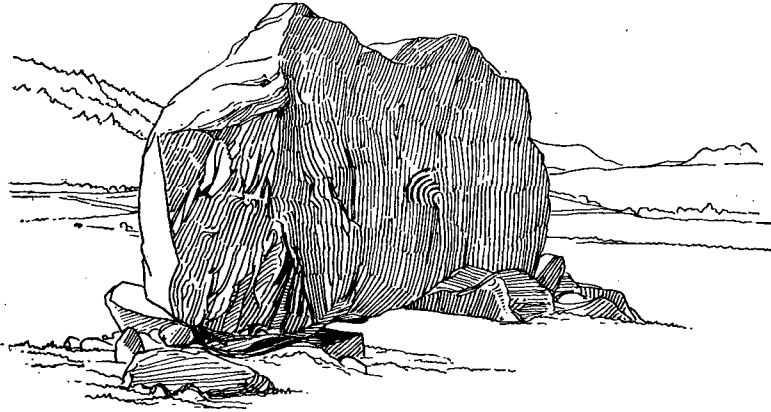


Fig. 87. Arnhill ; Recumbent Stone from within the Circle.

*No. 65. Hill of Dummies, Drumblade.*¹—For many square miles to the south of Rothiemay, on both banks of the Deveron, there are no sites of Stone Circles. Cairns are fairly frequent. Not until travelling eastwards out of Huntly by the Aberdeen road, and at a point about three miles from that town, do we reach the Hill of Dummies, upon which, long ago, there existed some remains to justify the Ordnance Map-makers in naming it Site of Stone Circle. There is nothing visible above ground now. It is over 800 feet above the level of the sea ; and near it on the S.W. is a spring called Cobban's Well.

Passing on by Shield-knowe, Thomastown, and Chapelton (on a by-road going N.E.), we reach at length

¹ Local pronunciation Drimlet, with the accent on the first syllable.

No. 66. *Stonyfield, or Stonyfauld, Drumblade*, where remain the last measurable relics of stone circles dealt with in this Report. From the measurements and notes taken here, with the ready assistance of the tenant, John Anderson, the ground-plan (fig. 88) furnished herewith supplies us with the following facts : that there are nine stones in all ;

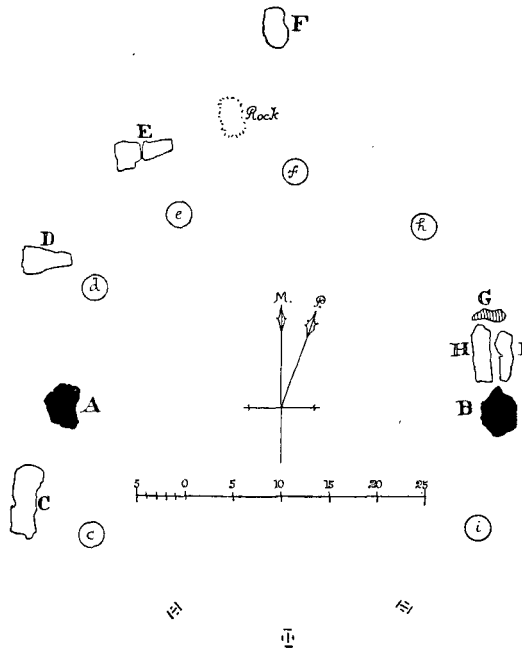


Fig. 88. Stonyfield, Drumblade ; Plan.

that two of the biggest stones, A and B, are still *in situ* ; that they stand east and west of each other ; that, measured from centre to centre, they are 46 feet apart, and that they stand in such a face-to-face relation that we may safely conclude this space of 46 feet is the diameter of the circle. All the stones are whinstone, except the oblong-oval one on the extreme north, which is a large boulder of pure white water-rolled

quartz, and now lies deeply embedded in the earth. The heights and sizes of the stones are :—

- Stone A, 5 feet 6 inches and 13 feet in girth.
 „ B, 5 „ 0 „ „ 14 „ 6 inches in girth.
 „ C, resting on edge, and its surface is 3 feet above ground ;
 8 feet \times 3 inches.
 „ D, 5 feet 3 inches \times 3 feet 0 inches and about 14 inches thick.
 „ E, split, and measures over all 6 feet 2 inches \times 3 feet 0 inches.
 „ F, quartz boulder, 4 feet \times 2 feet 9 inches.
 „ G, 3 feet 8 inches \times 1 foot 2 inches ; seems to rest on its edge.
 „ H, on edge, which is 3 feet above ground, and measures 6 feet
 0 inches \times 1 foot 9 inches.
 and „ I, is 5 feet 3 inches \times 1 foot 9 inches, and is also on an edge
 nearly as high above ground as H.

A piece of rock crops up between E and F.

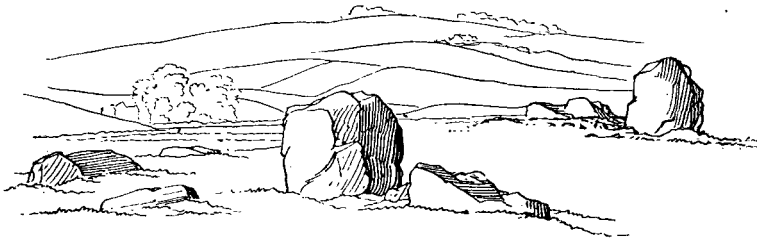


Fig. 89. Stonyfield ; View from the S.S.W.

Now, all these seven stones, at present prostrate, and three of which, C, H and I, have been purposely placed in line with the two Standing Stones A and B, so as the more thoroughly to be out of the way of the plough, are not far removed from the circumference of this Circle. With a little trouble, each might be replaced on the little circlelets I have suggested on the plan as their probable sites, C on *c*, D on *d*, and so on.

If this restoration in theory be allowed, and the usual tolerably equal spacing be admitted, we should have a Circle of twelve stones. In the view from the S.S.W. (fig. 89), it will be seen upon what a comparatively low and level site this Circle has been set. On all sides it is closely environed by slopes which converge near this spot on the banks of the Begs Burn. Macdonald¹ states that in 1821 the tenant carried away several of the erect stones for building, and others, fallen, were removed.

The next four sites with which this Report has finally to do call for the briefest notice: they are literally nothing but sites now.

No. 67. Colpy, Culsalmond.—The record on the O.M. for this is, Site of a Stone Circle, the road going to Jericho Distillery having been made through it, and, on the south side of this road, close to the Circle, the Site of a Cairn. Within the possible diameter of the Circle an urn was found. The site is 522 feet above the sea-level.

No. 68. Culsalmond Kirkyard.—In the New Statistical Account,² it is stated that the Circle here “consisted of twelve large upright stones”; but the subsequent statement, to the effect that they were all blasted and used as building material, is not borne out by what I hear from Mr J. G. Callander—a native of the district and a Fellow of the Society—who has been told by the aged sexton, Florance, that he many a time came across a great stone, when preparing graves, and that he had himself blasted these more than once.

No. 69. Tocherford, Culsalmond.—The Circle was situated in the S.E. angle of the roads at Tocherford, just three miles due east of the last site, and two miles north of the Circle at Old Rayne. Nothing now remains.

No. 70. Over Tocherford.—This site is marked at a point half a mile S.S.W. of the last, and south of the turnpike between Aberdeen and Huntly. Nothing now remains but a low, slightly stony mound.

¹ *Place-Names in Strathbogie*, p. 72.

² Volume xxxix. pp. 731, 732.

CONCLUSION.

I believe it is correct to state that, with the exceptions of the North Strone and the Hill of Fiddess sites, not one of the Circles above described, nor any of the Standing Stones, have hitherto been put on record in any volume either of our own *Proceedings* or those of other Societies.¹ A few of the Circles near Huntly are mentioned very briefly by the late Mr J. Macdonald.²

It is, therefore, after all, to the Ordnance Maps that antiquaries are indebted in this matter; for, out of the seventy-four sites noticed in this Report, only five, the Circles at Candy and Huntly, and the three Dunnideer monoliths, are unrepresented on the six-inch scale maps. The general accuracy also, with which the sites are located, is a boon to the investigator.

Parcelling out all this varied material, we can group these remains as follows: (1) Sites which on the Maps are marked merely as sites, *e.g.*, Collithie, Colpy, Over Tocher, Tocherford, Hill of Bucharn, Gordonston in Clatt, Mimrikin's Clump and Ardlow, St James' Chapel and the Blue Butts in Premnay. (2) Sites recorded on the maps as remains of Stone Circles or as Circles, but now sites only, *e.g.*, Cothill of Fintray, Liggarr Stane, Standing Stone at Wanton Wells, Holywell, four in all; Wester Craigie Croft may be entered as doubtful. (3) Sites marked by single Standing Stones known to be, or recorded as, parts of Circles, *e.g.*, Drumfours, Peathill, Balhaggardy, Hillhead of Clatt, Candy, Roddantree, six in all. (4) Sites marked by the two Pillars which flanked the Recumbent Stone (when *in situ*), *e.g.*, South Fornet, Kinellar Kirkyard, Milltown of Noth. (5) Sites having yet *in situ* either a Recumbent Stone or a Recumbent Stone with one or both Pillars, *e.g.*, North Strone, South

¹ In the second volume of the Spalding Club, p. 179, the following words are quoted from the Macfarlane MSS. with regard to the parish of Rhyrie: "Here are monuments in several places, thought to be the remains of heathen superstition, though many other fabulous stories are told of them." The various Statistical Accounts also possess notices more or less brief of several of the sites.

² *Place-Names of Strathbogie.*

Leylodge, Hill of Fiddess, Kirkton of Bourtie, New Craig (Daviot), Candle Hill (Rayne), Wanton Wells, Dunnideer, Stonehead, Candle Hill (Insch), Nether Boddam, Braehead (Leslie), Bankhead, Ardlair, Corrstone Wood, Rothiemay, sixteen in all, but making with the previous four (which have the pillars) twenty in all; so that the Recumbent Stone variety is still the predominant one. (6) Circles without a Recumbent Stone, as at Howemill, Shelden of Bourtie, South Ythsie, Sheithên, Wheedlemont and Stonyfield. The exceptional feature of a double Recumbent Stone occurs at Loanhead of Daviot; and at Shelden of Bourtie and Upper Ord in Rhynie we have an outlying monolith apart from the Circle. Thus the number of sites recognisable as Circles is forty-eight. The number of sites marked by monoliths, concerning which there is no definite record as to the particular monolith being or not being the sole surviving member of a Circle, is twenty-two. Several of these in all probability are parts of a group of Standing Stones, *e.g.*, these at Blackchambers, for which there is at least a verbal tradition in favour of this assignment; the great stone near Dunnideer (A in fig. 62), the Candy monolith, and that at Craighead Wood, close to all of which sites there are numerous massive fragments of stone evidently moved to the nearest convenient section of a dike.

As regards the direct evidence of the sepulchral character of the Circles, the sites examined during this survey do not furnish us with much, for the sufficient reason that so very few have been thoroughly excavated. In those that have been excavated,—North Strone, Old Rayne, and Ardlair,—this evidence is forthcoming. Yet, even in those cases where there is no record of the actual discovery of an urn or other Bronze Age relics within the area of the Circle itself, there is frequent record of sepulchral relics having been discovered very close to the Circle, as, *e.g.*, at Loanhead of Daviot, Candle Hill, Insch, Colpy, Drumel Stone, South Ythsie, Upper Ord, Mill of Noth, Braehead of Leslie, Shelden of Bourtie.

I append a Tabular Summary of the more important sites investigated.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF STONE CIRCLES SURVEYED IN 1901.

Survey No.	Locality.	Diameters (in feet).	Peculiar Features.	Relics Found.
1	Drumfours, Cushnie		Monolith only extant	
2	Howemill, Tough	30 × 23		
3	North Strone, Alford	67 × 62	Remarkably small Recumbent Stone	Several graves; incinerated bones; fragments of one urn; two pieces of flint.
4	South Fornet, Skene	? 84 × 80	Pillars; on each side of Recumbent Stone (removed)	
11	South Ley Lodge		Recumbent Stone	
16	Kinellar Kirkyard		Pillars; on each side of Recumbent Stone (removed)	
20	Peathill, Kinkell	About 50 (probably)	Monolith only extant	Urns found near it (N.S.A.).
23	Hill of Fiddes, Foveran	46 × 46	Recumbent Stone	
24	Shelden, Bourtie	87 × 74	Tall pyramidal outlier on the S.E.	Cists found here (O.M.).
25	Kirkton of Bourtie	60 × 60	Recumbent Stone	
26	Balhaggardy, Daviot		Monolith only extant	
29	Loanhead, Daviot	64 × 64	Two Recumbent Stones (parallel)	
30	New Craig, Daviot	60 × 60	Recumbent Stone	
31	South Ythsie, Tarves	27 × 27	Massive stones on distinct mound.	Urns found between it and a Standing Stone (removed) (O.M.).
32	Sheithèn, Tarves	16 × 16		

33	Candle Hill, Old Rayne	60 × 60	Recumbent Stone	Pits containing incinerated bones (one pit on the circumference) and a stone bracer.
37	Wanton Wells, Rothney		„ „	
39	Dunnideer, Rothney		„ „	
40	Stonehead, Inch		„ „	
41	Candle Hill, Inch	43 × 43	Recumbent Stone ; and trench of great depth and height	
45	Nether Boddam, Inch	75 × 75	Recumbent Stone	
46	Braehead, New Leslie		„ „	
50	Hillhead, Clatt		Monolith only extant	
51	Bankhead, Clatt		Recumbent Stone	
52	Holywell, Kennethmont	(probably) 80 × 80		Urn and stone cists (O.M. and local information).
53	Ardlair, Kennethmont	35 × 35	Recumbent Stone and nearly central hollow	Central sepulchral deposit (? and an urn).
54	Corrstone Wood, Drumminor	? 70 × 70	Recumbent Stone	
55	Wheedlemont, Rhynie	(probably) 87 × 87		
58	Milltown of Noth, Rhynie		Pillars ; on each side of Recumbent Stone (removed)	Urns found close to these two stones (local tradition).
60	Candy, Kennethmont	(probably) 90 × 90	Monolith only extant	
63	Roddantree, Huntly		Monolith only extant	
64	Arnhill, Rothiemay	? 60 × 60	Recumbent Stone	
66	Stonyfield, Drumblade	46 × 46		