

III.

REPORT ON STONE CIRCLES SURVEYED IN THE NORTH-EAST OF SCOTLAND, CHIEFLY IN BANFFSHIRE, WITH MEASURED PLANS AND DRAWINGS; OBTAINED UNDER THE GUNNING FELLOWSHIP.
BY FRED. R. COLES, ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

In the report for the year 1903,¹ the most westerly site in the northern portion of the Buchan district was at the Standing Stones of Auchnagorth, three miles to the west of New Pitsligo. For an area westwards of Auchnagorth measuring ten miles by four, there are no sites recorded on the maps. The absence both of cairns and of circles is very marked. Doubtless, this is in great part due to the highly cultivated condition of the land in that district.

In the district dealt with in our last survey, the results of which are contained in the present report, the recorded sites are fairly frequent; but, on the majority of them, the actual megalithic remains are lamentably meagre. The district surveyed is a very wide and a very irregular one, and it will be most easily represented by being divided into four portions, viz.—(I.) Sites in Banffshire to the north-east of Huntly, and mainly in the parishes of Gamrie, Alvah, Boyndie, Marnoch, Ordiquhill, and Rathven; (II.) Aberdeenshire sites in the parishes of Cairnie and Glass; (III.) Sites to the north and the north-west of Huntly; and (IV.) Sites to the west of the river Spey, in Elginshire.

¹ *Proceedings*, xxxviii., p. 281.

I. BANFFSHIRE SITES TO THE NORTH-EAST OF HUNTLY.

No. 1. *North Burreldales, Moutbluiry, Alvah.*—This site is marked

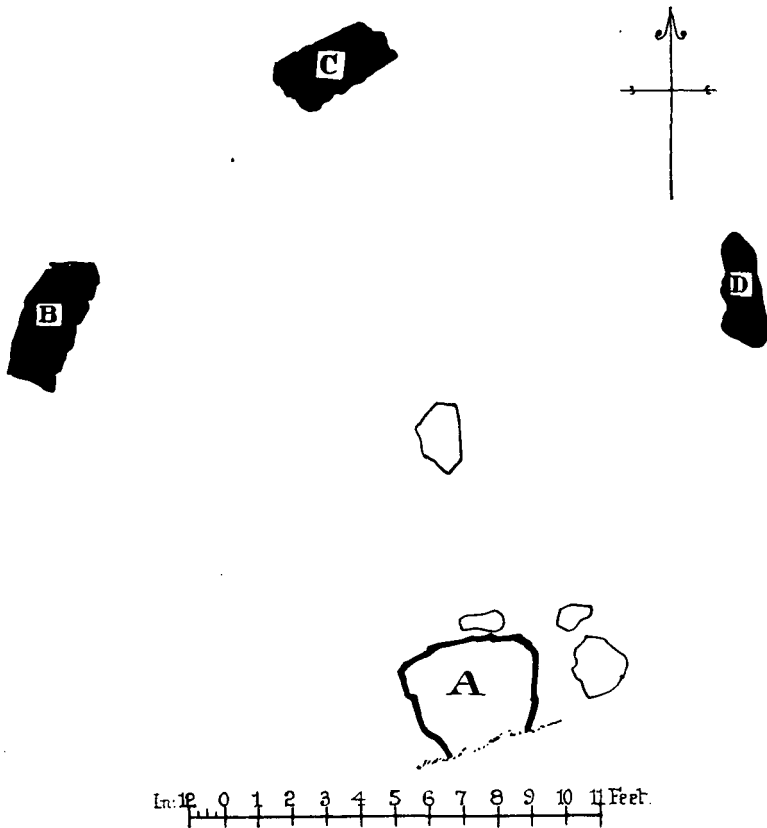


Fig. 1. North Burreldales Circle; Ground-Plan.

on the six-inch Ordnance map by the words "Stone Circle, site of"—a misleading record, for there are in reality four Stones still *in situ*.

They stand in a roundel of wood on the south-east of the farm-road

going up to Brownside Wood, at an altitude of 400 feet above sea-level, and distant three miles N.N.W. of the Circle¹ in Whitehill Wood, Forglen. If the hills were bared of wood, the two sites would probably be visible from one another.

The ground is flat, and the site is not conspicuous, being, except to the south-east, below the level of closely adjacent fields.

There are four Stones, all of grey granite, and placed as shown in the ground-plan (fig. 1). The south Stone (A) has fallen forward towards the centre of the Circle; if placed on its base, the diameter of the Circle, due north, measured from the inner face of this Stone to that

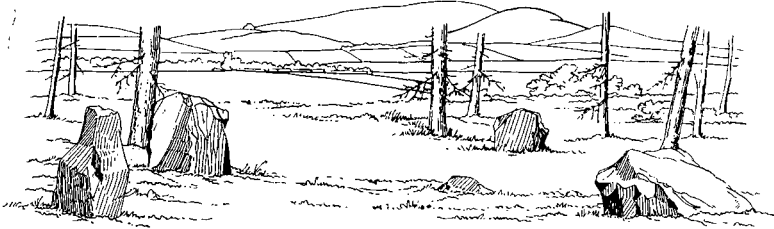


Fig. 2. North Burreldaes Circle; View from the West.

of Stone C, would be 21 feet, and the corresponding diameter, east and west, is 20 feet. The west Stone (B) is 3 feet 4 inches in height, with a very slight lean towards the centre. Its top is flat, and 21 inches in breadth. The north Stone (C) is quite vertical, has also a flat top, and is 3 feet 4 inches in height. The east Stone (D) is less regular, a good deal thinner, and stands only 1 foot 9 inches clear of the ground. Near the south Stone, and elsewhere, lie several comparatively small blocks of stone, and the whole of the interior space bears evidence, in its unevenness, of having been disturbed. In the view (fig. 2), I show this group as seen from the west.

Mountblairy estate has already yielded the following relics, as recorded by John Alexander Stuart,² who also notices this Circle at Burreldaes;

¹ See *Proceedings*, xxxvii., p. 138.

² In *Proceedings*, vol. ii., p. 370.

on the farm of Newton, one large Stone marking the site of another Circle, and a Circle on the farm of Wardend; on the Mains of Auchenbadie, close to the Ha' Hillock, a bronze armlet similar to the Belhelvie example in the Museum; and, on the Gallow Hill at Newton, a cinerary urn found in or near a Stone Circle. (See the Catalogue of the Museum, EA 13.) This urn is described and figured by Dr Anderson.¹ The Newton Circle was excavated by the late Mr Morrison of Bognie. The map does not record any Stone either at Wardend or Newton.

No. 2. *Mains of Auchenbadie*.—Shown on the map, and correctly, as a site only, on the sloping field north of the farm-steading, and but a few score yards above a pool on the river Deveron called Thief's Pot. The height above sea-level is 127 feet. The site is $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles N.N.E. of the Burreldales Circle and $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile S.E. of the Kirktown of Alvah. The map records the discovery of "bronze armour" at this site. This probably refers to the armlet already noticed as being found many years ago.

No. 3. *Gavenie Braes, Kirkside, Gamrie*.—This site is almost due north of Auchenbadie $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles, but on the eastern bank of the Deveron, and only 1 mile south from the Coastguard station in the town of Banff. The site, 100 feet above the sea, is near the western extremity of a long-extended ridge running east and west towards the river, and sloping to the north. The Stones have been placed on the flattest surface of the ridge. Their present unsightly condition is but another instance of the deplorable want of respect for megalithic remains which has been so prevalent throughout these northern agricultural districts.

Five Stones remain, but only one stands on its original base. The ground-plan (fig. 3) shows two bases, almost contiguous, and at right angles to each other, an arrangement not in keeping with the plans of the Stone Circles proper. The question arises, which of these two Stones, both quite erect, is the more likely to be still *in situ*? This it is, I think, possible to answer by an examination of the Stones themselves and their relative positions. In the ground-plan, the base of the Stone

¹ *Scotland in Pagan Times: The Bronze Age*, pp. 115, 116.

A is that of the less tall of the two monoliths ; it is altogether a smaller Stone than Stone B (see the views, figs. 4, 5).

Mineralogically, it is a somewhat uncommon stone, being of a dark greenish-grey schist, very smooth and weather-worn, and full of numerous little warty protuberances of a brownish-grey colour.¹

The other and more massive Stone (B) is of whinstone, and is so set, with its longer axis east and west, as to be truly in the normal position of the East Pillar of a Circle from which the Recumbent Stone has been removed. The position of the schistose block (A) does not conform

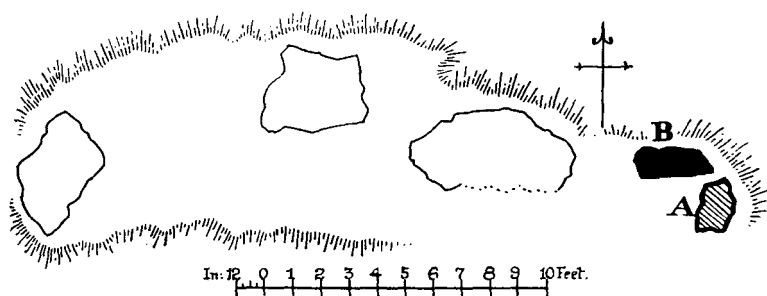


Fig. 3. Gavenie Braes ; Remains of Circle ; Ground-Plan.

to this arrangement. Therefore, of these two, I consider that it is Stone A that was moved from its original site, but I am unable to suggest where that may have been.

This schistose Stone (A) stands 4 feet 10 inches in height, girths at the base 4 feet 4 inches, and has a pointed top.

The other erect Stone (B), quite vertical, and with broad smooth sides, stands 6 feet 7 inches above ground, has a basal girth of 6 feet 9 inches and a pointed top.

The other three Stones shown in the plan, and in fig. 6, are all prostrate ; that lying most to the east is a very coarse laminated whinstone thickly

¹ On examining the specimens in the Banff Museum, I found pieces of the identical rock labelled as Knotted Schist ; and there are also specimens from Portsoy and the vicinity of Gavenie Braes in the Museum of Science and Art, Edinburgh.



Fig. 4. Gavenie Braes ; View from the East.

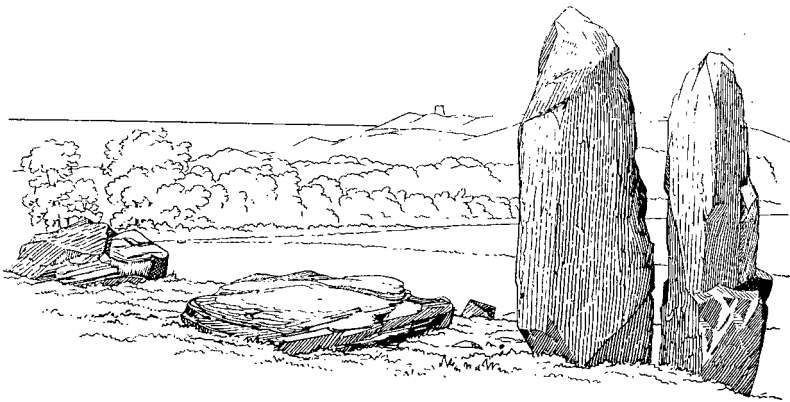


Fig. 5. Gavenie Braes ; View from the South.

veined with quartz. Its extreme dimensions are: length, 5 feet 8 inches, breadth, 3 feet, and thickness, 2 feet 6 inches. The other Stones are also roughly quartz-veined blocks of whinstone about 3 feet in thickness. There is a distinct stony mound of roughly semicircular contour about this group, the result, no doubt, of many seasons' ploughing, after the removal of the rest of the Stones.

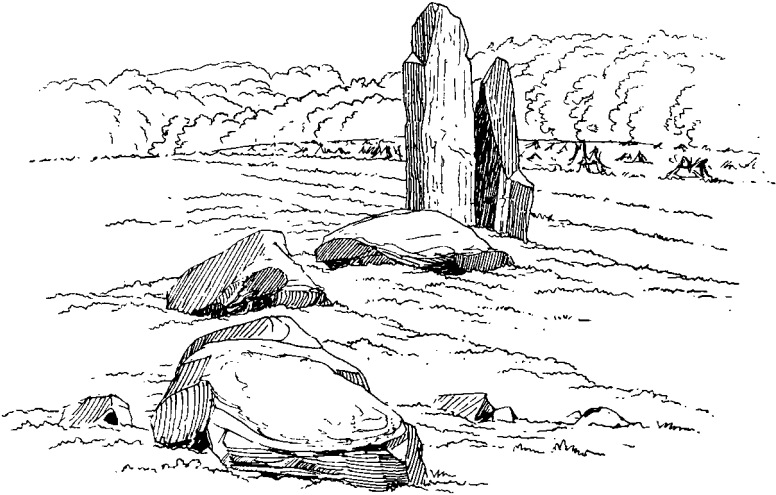


Fig. 6. Gavenie Braes ; View from the West.

In the three annexed views these Stones are shown from various points¹ (figs. 4, 5, 6).

Rev. Dr Garden, with regard to another site in this vicinity, writes² (in 1692) : " I was likewise told by an ingenious gentleman, who lives at

¹ During our drive to Gavenie Braes, we passed two sites named on the map as antiquities. One is *Barbara's Hillock*, a very steeply conical mound, due, I think, entirely to natural causes; the other, *Carlin-Kist-Cairn*, at Boghead, a long, low mound overgrown with broom and brambles. The tenant of the adjoining farm remembered seeing part of the Cairn and a big Standing Stone, but could not say when they were removed. The name Carlinkist is, by the writer in the *New Statistical Account* of Alvah parish, applied to the Stone itself.

² *Archæologia*, vol. i., p. 340.

a place called Troup, in the shire of Banff, and parish of Gamrie, that not far from his house, there is a den called the Chapel Den, from one of those monuments [*i.e.* a Stone Circle] which is near by."

From a recently published book¹ I take the following paragraph: "Opposite the top of the Strait Path [in Banff] there was formerly visible a large grey-coloured Grey Stone, which was a popular place of resort, and which has given its name to the adjoining property. The stone is now buried below the surface of the street."

In another local publication² it is recorded that, "on the site of the now ruinous windmill overlooking Sandend Bay, stood, up till the year 1760, a Circle of Stones 14 feet high and 60 feet broad [circle-diameter]. A stone coffin and a deer's horn were found in it. Another Circle stood at a hundred paces."

We must therefore include in our enumeration five sites of Circles and Standing Stones not named on the Ordnance maps, and of which only the above brief notes are known.

No. 4. Boyndie Church.—The map-record here, at a height above sea-level of 183 feet, is of the site of a Stone Circle, close to the south wall of the churchyard. There is now no vestige of any such remains to be seen; but the *New Statistical Account* records that "a huge red Stone used to stand near the manse offices, where a stone coffin was found."

The Rev. J. Ledingham, M.A., the present minister, writes, in reply to inquiries, from the Manse of Boyndie:—

"Dear Sir,—I have seen the notice in the *Statistical Account* to which you refer. I have looked for the stone and coffin again and again, but without success. My impression is that the stone had been broken up and used in building of new offices. The district here is very rich in Stone Circles. A good one on the glebe was cleared off some thirty years ago, much to the disappointment of Sir A. Mitchell."

The *New Statistical Account* mentions a Standing Stone at Buchragie in this parish.

¹ *Illustrated Guide to Banff and Macduff*, 1904.

² *The Banffshire Field Club Transactions*.

No. 5. *St Brandan's Stanes*.—The few stones now left of this Circle are at the southern extremity of a long strip of fir plantation running down from Bankhead Farm, at a point $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south-west of the site at Boyndie Church and half a mile east of the burn of Boyndie. Tillynaught Station on the Great North of Scotland Railway is distant slightly over half a mile on the north-west.

The farm-land is called Templeton, and is so named, I was informed

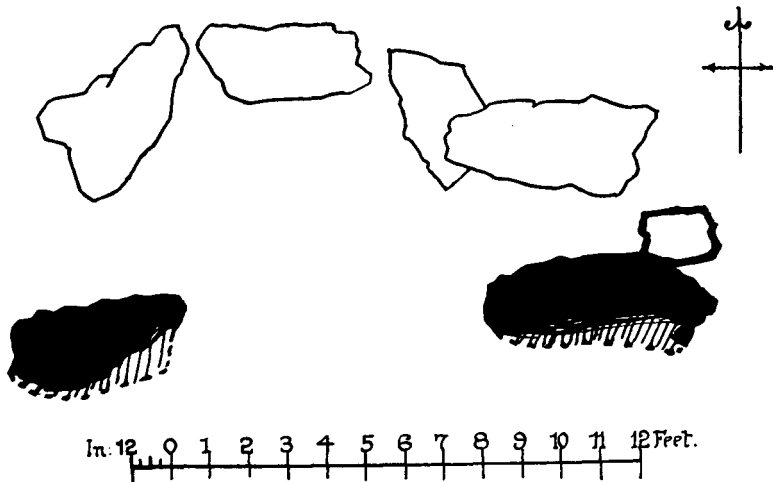


Fig. 7. *St Brandan's Stanes* ; Ground-Plan.

by the tenant, from these Standing Stones. The site is 300 feet above sea-level.

The ground-plan (fig. 7) shows the positions of the two great Pillars with an interspace sufficient for a Recumbent Stone fully 8 feet in length. Unfortunately, it is not possible to examine the whole bases of these Stones, on account of a huge and unsightly heap of field-wrack being piled up against them on the south. In front lie four large blocks, and close to the east face of the East Pillar is an almost square block, 3 feet in height, and apparently earth-fast, also quite vertical,

which may be the beginning of the inner stone-setting so frequently found in Circles of this type.

Both the Pillars are tall and massive blocks of grey granite, vertically set, and impressive in height and bulk. The East Pillar is 5 feet 5 inches in height, above the small stones covering the ground at its base. Its full height (on the outside) and its girth at the base could not be ascertained, for the reason above stated ; but from what of the girth was measurable, that dimension can be estimated to be about 16 feet. Its inner, *i.e.* its northward, face shows signs of having been in modern



Fig. 8. St Brandan's Stanes ; View from the North.

times split and robbed of much of its bulk (see fig. 8). Quite probably some of the larger fragments lying close to this part of the Stone once formed a portion of it.

The West Pillar is 5 feet 11 inches in height, and has one very broad, vertical, and smooth face towards the interior of the Circle. It is a more shapely block than its fellow-pillar, and, near its base, displays a well-preserved group of large and deep cup-marks, as shown (drawn to scale) in fig. 9.¹ There are eight distinct cups, and the highest is

¹ In, or before, 1866, this Stone was examined by Dr Black, who records "twelve cup excavations of the usual size" (see *Proc.*, vol. vi., p. 14 of the Appendix). The discrepancy may be accounted for by the growth of grass and weeds around the Stone.

almost precisely in the middle of the breadth of the Pillar. These cup-marks are also noticed by Dr Cramond, of Cullen, in the second volume of the *Transactions* of the Banffshire Field Club.

Of the other Stones, all prostrate, little need be said, except that they are blocks of rugged whinstone, of lengths varying from 5 feet 6 inches

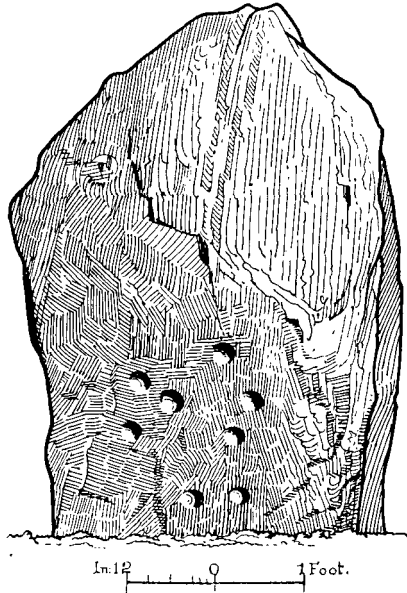


Fig. 9. Cup-marked West Pillar in the Circle called St Brandan's Stanes.

to 3 feet 8 inches, and showing above ground from 16 to 33 inches in thickness.

There was no story obtainable from the tenant of Templeton, bearing upon the name attached to the Stones, or upon the date or alleged reason for the demolition of this Circle.

It is, however, recorded¹ in connection with this locality that, "near the Parish Kirk is a Druid Circle, and another a mile north-east

¹ *New Statistical Account.*

of it, and a third at Bankhead. South of the last, a number of large stones are called *The Brannan Stanes.*”

Of these four sites, only the one above noticed is named on the maps.

No. 5. Thorax, near Culvie, Marnoch.—The map-record for this is

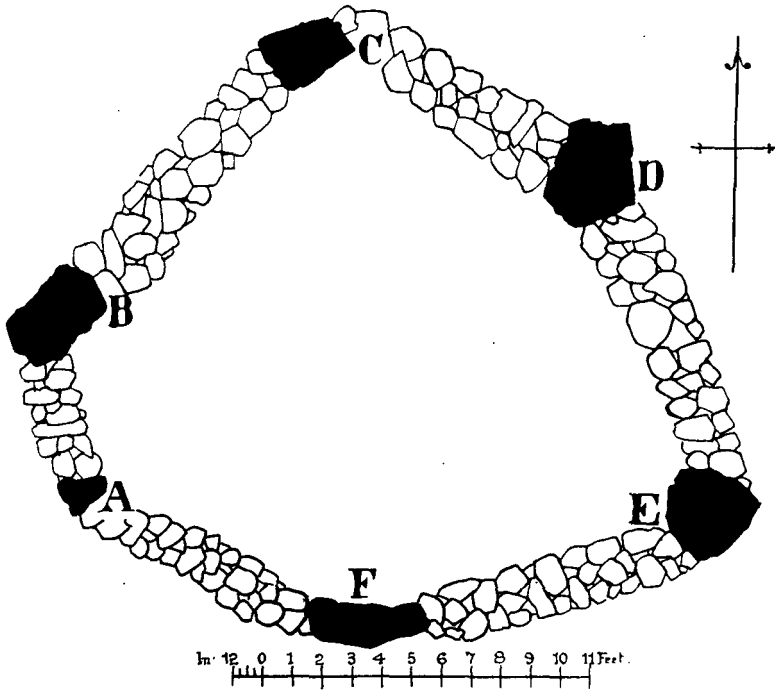


Fig. 10. Thorax Circle ; Ground-Plan.

given at the height of 800 feet above sea-level, on a slightly sloping field about a furlong west of Thorax farm-house, and very near what is now the boundary-dike between the parishes of Ordiquhill and Marnoch. The wooded Culvie Hill is close above it on the west, and below, to the east, is Culvie Moss.

The Stones composing this unsymmetrical Circle are six in number,

and between every couple a dike has been built, and the interior planted with a few small trees. In one respect, this treatment merits commendation, as the conjoined dike assures the security of the Circle Stones, while it, of course, also renders it impossible to measure all round each Stone, and the trees within impede the mensuration of the Circle itself.

The Stones, though differing considerably in size and contour, are all vertically set up, on a circumference which is not that of a true Circle but of a triangular oval figure (see fig. 10), the diameters of which are

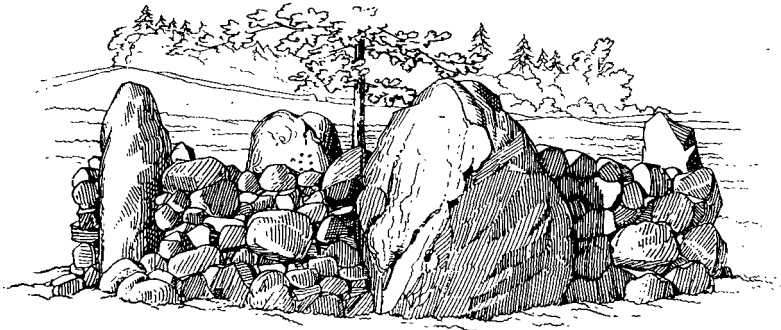


Fig. 11. Thorax Circle ; View from the South-East.

22 feet 4 inches (B to E) as against 17 feet 9 inches (A to C), the latter dimension being due north and south.

The heights and characteristics of the Stones are as follows:—

A,	3 feet 7 inches,	whinstone,	triangular and pointed.
B,	5 „ 5 „	whinstone,	top sharp-edged.
C,	4 „ 8 „	whinstone,	rough and thick at the top.
D,	4 „ 4 „	grey granite,	pointed.
E,	4 „ 7 „	„ „	rounded.
F,	5 „ 5 „	„ „	pointed.

The Stones B and D are specially massive, B being 9 feet 8, and D 10 feet 9 inches, in computed girth near their bases.

The distances, measured centre to centre, between the Stones are:—

A to B, 6 feet.	|	D to E, 11 feet 0 inches.
B „ C, 11 „ 6 inches.		E „ F, 11 „ 0 „
C „ D, 10 „ 6 „		F „ H, 10 „ 6 „

The general view (fig. 11) was drawn from the outside on the south-east.

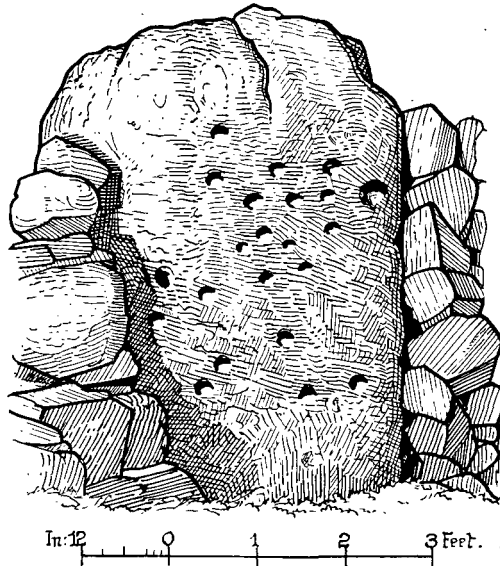


Fig. 12. The North-West Stone in Thorax Circle.

The next illustration (fig. 12) shows the inner face of the great Stone on the north-west, with its group of twenty-two cup-marks, the positions of which were all accurately measured, and are here shown drawn to scale.

The largest cups measure 4 inches in diameter, and are about an inch deep. The majority are rather less in diameter, but some are nearly as deep, and all, without exception, are circular and remarkably free from

any alteration in form through weathering or other interference. The absence of grooves is also to be noticed. This Stone is figured on Pl. IV. of Simpson's *Archaic Sculpturings*, App. to vol. vi. of the *Proceedings*.

No. 7. *Brodie Stone, Craighourach Moor, Marnoch*.¹—The rugged block of whinstone, known by this name, crowns the summit of the steep moorland here, at the height of about 800 feet above sea-level

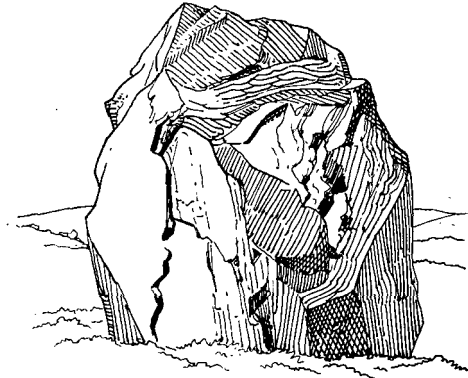


Fig. 13. Brodie Stone, Craighourach Moor.

(see fig. 13). Its longest and straightest side lies due north and south, and it is there 5 feet 4 inches in length.

At the base, the girth is 18 feet 8 inches; measured over the top, in a line from east to west, it is 12 feet 10 inches. The height is 4 feet 6 inches.

¹ During our rambling drive in search of this Stone and others, over an almost trackless moorland, we noticed a huge mass of whinstone outcrop, which, according to the Ordnance map, rejoices in the very odd name of Maggie Redhead. Beyond sundry fissures and ice-markings, there was nothing noteworthy on its hoary surface. Another curious example of local nomenclature exists in the *Court Stone*, over half a mile south of Brodie Stone, and on an extremely wild rocky slope of the same hill. This appellation, printed in the O.M. in Old English letters, is given merely to another vast outcrop of the whinstone. Unless the name *Court* be a corruption of *Corth*, *Cortha*, or *Corthie*, the common forms of the Gaelic word for a pillar stone, and may thus indicate the site of a now lost Standing Stone, there seems no meaning in it.

Though this Stone seems to be fairly well known in the vicinity by the name here quoted, no information reached me in explanation of that point.¹

No. 8. *Marnoch Church, Cairnhill*.—The map-record here is of the remains of a Circle, close to the walls of the church itself, which stands on a gently rising eminence about 250 feet above sea-level. The church is surrounded by a nearly circular wall, and, on the map, this wall is shown as if terminating in the two Stones, on the south, like the extremities of a penannular ring. Some disturbance must have taken

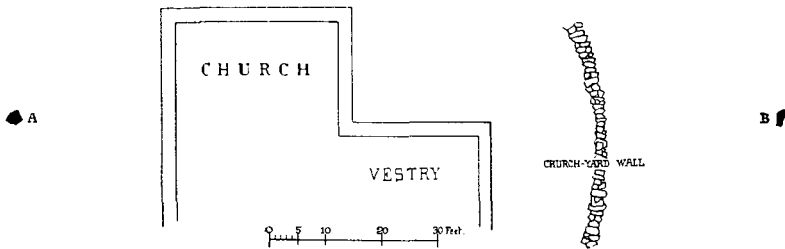


Fig. 14. Standing Stones at Marnoch Church.

place since the Ordnance survey was made, or else the drawing on the Ordnance sheet is far from correct;² for the present positions of the two Stones are as shown in my ground-plan (fig. 14, A and B).³ As

¹ On the southern slope of the moor is a small farm called Brodiefield. It would appear, therefore, as if there were some connection between this Stone and the farm; and, if so, probably their joint history is quite modern. But my reason for including the Stone in the report is that its name occurs on the O.M. in Old English lettering.

² In a letter from Rev. Dr Allan, minister of Marnoch, who kindly responded to my request for information on this point, it becomes clear that, on the Ordnance map, what was taken by me for the plan of a Standing Stone was really meant for the "Loupin'-on Stane," which still exists. Dr Allan further remarks that he had never, up to the date of my letter, heard anyone speak of the taller Stone as St Marnan's Chair; but that in the *Banffshire Journal* of the same week, a writer, in describing various objects of interest in the parish, mentions this very Stone and its name.

³ There are several sites to be recorded in which either a pre-Reformation chapel or an early Established church has been built on or close to the site of a Stone Circle. As far as my notes at present extend, these are at Kinellar, Midmar, Daviot, Culsalmond, Auchleven (Insch), Marnoch, and Boyndie. The present church of Marnoch is not on the site of the older.

the space between them is 135 feet wide nearly north and south, it is hardly probable that they are both *in situ* members of the same Circle. Probably the smaller one (B) on the north has been moved from its original site, on that side, and set up as a rubbing-stone for cattle ; and this conjecture receives some support from the fact that this Stone stands outside the wall surrounding the church, and close to the farm-steading.

The great Standing Stone on the south (fig. 15) is called locally

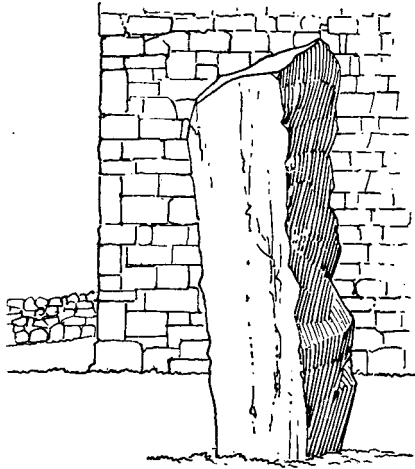


Fig. 15. Standing Stone (A) south of Marnoch Church.

St Marnan's Chair. It is a conspicuously tall Stone, being 8 feet 4 inches in height, and nearly 3 feet in breadth. At its base, it girths 8 feet 5 inches, and at about the middle of its height, it is over 9 feet in girth. It is a squarish-sided block of whinstone, and stands quite erect at a distance of 22 feet from the south wall of the church.

The small Stone on the north (fig. 16), near the farm-steadings, is also of whinstone, somewhat pyramidal in form, 4 feet 7 inches in height, and has a basal girth of 7 feet 1 inch, and a pointed top.¹

¹ Here the opportunity may be taken to record a fact disclosed to me, during the present survey, regarding the Circle at Rothiemay home farm—my plan of which is

No. 9. Bellman's Wood.—The remains here, on the farm of Sheep-park, are in a field half a mile north-east of the last. The site is 344 feet above the sea, and there is a bench-mark on one of the Stones. The East Pillar still remains based on its original site, but with a heavy inclination towards the S.S.E. The West Pillar, drawn in thickened outline on the ground-plan (fig. 17), is prostrate, and there is a space left between these two stones for a Recumbent Stone of nearly 10 feet in length. Upon the slight knoll where these Stones

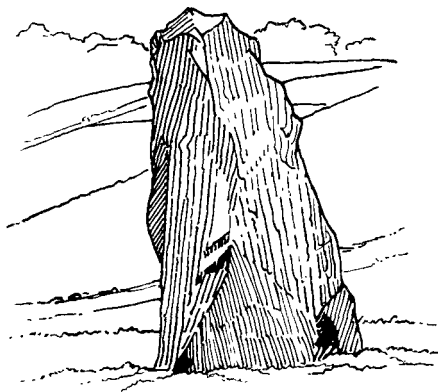


Fig. 16. Standing Stone (B) north of Marnoch Church.

now rest, there are also the five other blocks shown in the plan, all of considerable size and weight, but none large enough to have formed one of the true Standing Stones of the Circle. As a dike runs within 20 feet of the site, on its south, it is probable that the majority of the Stones were, as usual, utilised in building it.

All the Stones are of the blue whinstone common in the locality.

given in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii., p. 134. Close to the gate at the road on the north lies a huge oblong block of whinstone. I was assured by persons on the spot that this Stone had originally stood on the circumference of the Circle several feet to the south of the Recumbent Stone. My plan showed that in this Circle (as in others) this must in all likelihood have been the original arrangement, and this statement confirms my observation.

The East Pillar measures 5 feet above ground, and girths at the base 11 feet 9 inches. It is rudely square in section. The fallen West Pillar is 7 feet 9 inches in full length, 4 feet 9 inches in breadth, and from 2 feet 6 inches to nearly 3 feet in thickness at various points. The thickness of the largest block lying to the north of it is about 2 feet 5 inches. Though the rest of the Stones of this Circle must have extended north-

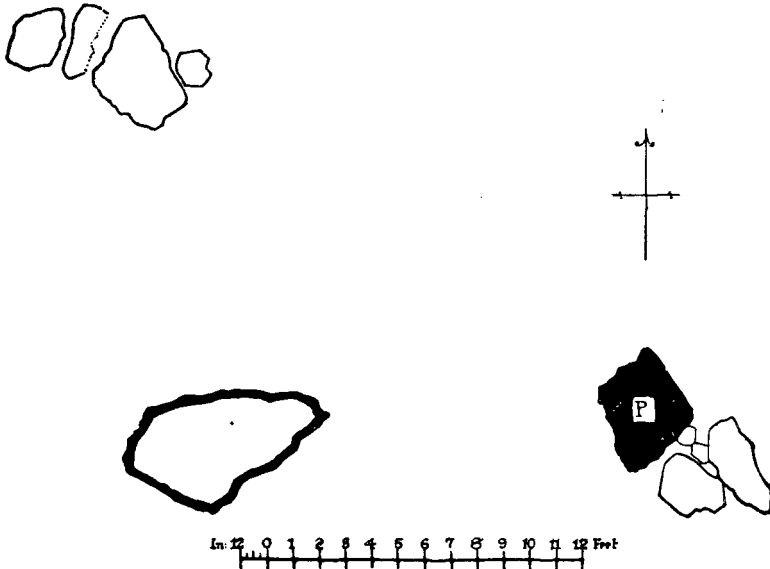


Fig. 17. Remains of Circle at Bellman's Wood ; Ground-Plan.

wards of the present remains, there is not, on the surface, the slightest indication of their positions ; therefore it is presumed that the removal of these megaliths took place at a somewhat distant date.

In the illustrations (figs. 18, 19, and 20) the remains are shown from three different points of view.

No. 10. *White Stone, Whitemuir, Marnoch*.—This is recorded on the Ordnance map in Old English lettering, but no further clue is given as to its attribution as an antiquity, or as to its possible association with

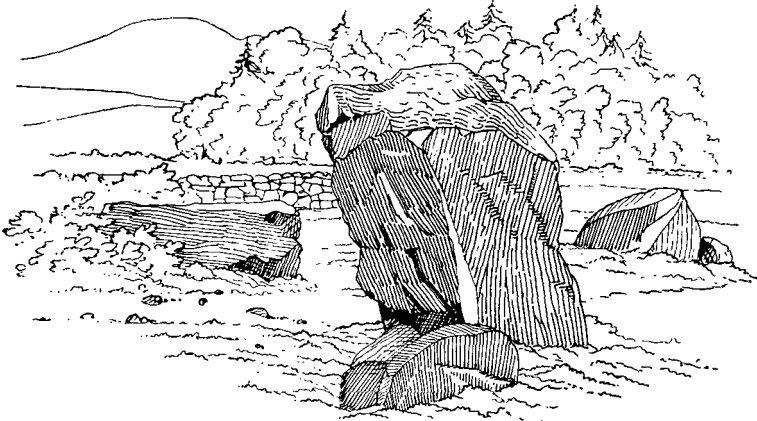


Fig. 18. Bellman's Wood Circle ; from the East.

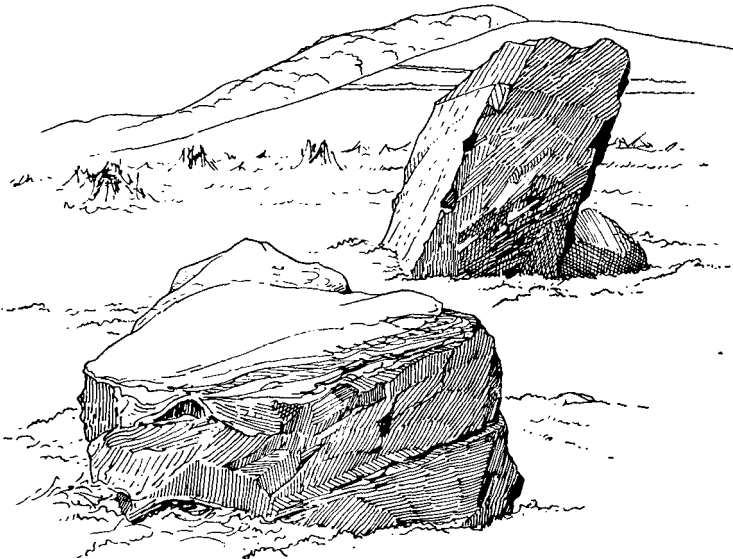


Fig. 19. Bellman's Wood Circle ; from the West.

other stones as part of a group. Locally, it is well known, and is also supposed to cover a hoard of gold.

The site is in a field, near the eastern edge of Bellman's Wood, on the farm of Whitemuir, and is distant from the Circle just described about 900 yards to the N.N.W.

The Stone is a massive block of very pure white quartz. It is only 2 feet 7 inches in height, rudely hexagonal in contour, and measures in girth 12 feet.

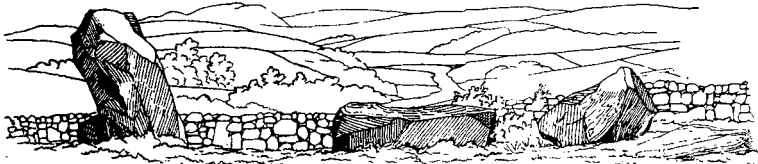


Fig. 20. Bellman's Wood Circle ; from the North.

II. SITES IN CAIRNIE AND GLASS, ABERDEENSHIRE.

Before continuing the Banffshire northern sites, it will be here convenient to record all that is known of four sites many miles to the south, in the parishes of Cairnie and Glass.

No. 11. *Nether Dumeath, Glass*.—Regarding this site, only the following particulars are now obtainable. Mr James Macdonald, late of The Farm, Huntly, states¹ that the Circle was “about 40 yards in circumference, when perfect; six Stones remain, two are erect and four thrown down, with drill-holes in them. Four have been removed. The Stones measured 7 to 8 feet in length, 3 to 4 feet in breadth, and about 2 feet in thickness.”

Quite recently, in a letter from W. J. Grant, Esq., of Beldorney, on whose estate this Circle stood, I received information to the effect that all the Stones had been blasted with gunpowder, by the tenant, and removed. I did not, therefore, after hearing this very explicit account, think it necessary to visit this empty site.

¹ *Place-Names of Strathbogie*, p. 128.

It is clear, however, from the notes taken by Mr Macdonald, that here was once a fine megalithic group of massive Stones, ten in number, set on the margin of a Circle about 40 feet in diameter; evidently, too, from there being no notice of a Recumbent Stone, this Circle belonged to the simple type.

No. 12. Gingomyres, Hill of Milleath, Cairnie.—Here, $4\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the W.N.W. of Huntly, on a lofty plateau, comparable to but a very few others in the county for extent of view, the Circle-builders had raised the stones of a great Circle.¹ The site, just north of the now wooded summit of Hill of Milleath, and bounded on the west by the still wild and uncultivated Ba' Muir, is level, and being at the almost unique altitude of 900 feet above sea-level, probably commanded views of other Circles on the south and east.² It is one mile north of the river Deveron at Mains of Cairnborrow.

All the more vexatious is it to record that, on this remarkable site, not one single Stone, or a fragment of a Stone, has been left to mark the ground set apart here by the prehistoric people.

On recognising the fact that I was assuredly treading on the very site of the Circle, and yet could discern nothing of it, I directed my steps to the nearest dike, and there found over sixty great blocks, their fractures all comparatively recent, utilised as building material. Countless other stones, rounded blocks, and smaller slab-like pieces are also there, all testifying to the fact that, when the Circle was destroyed, it was utterly annihilated.

By inquiry at the neighbouring farm of Blackhill, I ascertained that this wanton act of destruction (committed without any reference to the laird) was effected by one Dick, farmer at Gingomyres, in or about the year 1875.

My informant, who remembered the Circle, said that it measured about 60 feet in diameter, and that the Recumbent Stone was rather over 4 feet in thickness. Mr Macdonald states that it measured 13 feet

¹ It is noticed by Mr Macdonald in *Place-Names of Strathbogie*.

² The Circle called *Auld Kirk of Tough* is 300 feet higher.

6 inches by 6 feet. These measurements give a cubical content of 312 feet, yielding, as result, a weight for this Recumbent Stone of 19 tons.

In a notice¹ by Dr John Stuart, printed in 1853, it is recorded of this Circle "that there were three or four Stones only now remaining. A large Stone . . . lies partly on the ground, and is opposite to the opening to the south or south-east. It is 12 feet long, 6 feet deep, and 14 inches broad. In the centre of the Circle was a flat Stone which is now removed. The surface presented a barren moor-like appearance, while the interior of the Circle was of a rich green colour, which induced the Rev. Mr Cowie, the minister of the parish, to dig downwards, when he found a layer of charcoal and bones of animals."

The great Stone, 12 feet long, must have been the Recumbent Stone ; and it is of some interest to note that its position was rather to the east of south. If this observation was correct, this Circle at Gingomyres is the second example, only, having the Recumbent Stone so set. The other is at Old Bourtree Bush, Kincardineshire, surveyed in 1899.²

To the west of Blackhill, there are several large Cairns on Cairnmore, the edge of a lofty and desolate moorland. In one of these, partially explored some years ago, an urn of the "drinking-cup" variety was found, and broken in the finding. It is now preserved in the Brander Library at Huntly.

No. 13. Corshalloch, Glass.—This site is distant from the last described just over 3 miles in a W.S.W. direction. The farmhouse is situated at an altitude of 924 feet above the sea-level, and is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles to the north of the Market Inn, on the lower road into Huntly.

The position of the Circle is given on the Ordnance map as within a score of yards to the west of the house. This field, on the day of our visit, was in standing corn, above which there was not visible a sign of any stone whatsoever ; and I was assured by the present tenant that there were no stones either set up or prostrate in that field or elsewhere, to his knowledge, on the farm.

In subsequent communication with Mr George Watt, formerly tenant

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. i., p. 141.

² *Ibid.*, vol. xxxiv., p. 142.

in Corshalloch, and now at Cairnmore, the following scanty particulars were obtained: that the Stones, "as far as he could tell, were taken down and broken up and rebuilt for corners to the new buildings." The date is not mentioned.

No. 14. Edintore House, Cairnie.—A long strip of fir plantation runs down nearly north and south on the east side of the policies of Edintore, and, at its point of junction with the south end of the Cairds Wood, in the wood itself, there is marked on the map the site of a Circle. Here, again, the Ordnance record is only too correct; for no artificial feature can now be traced on this spot, but a very ill-defined, low, nearly circular ridge rather more green than its surroundings. The site is 3 miles N.N.E. of Corshalloch, and the same distance south of the Established Kirk at Keith. No information was obtainable relative to the former conditions.¹

III. BANFFSHIRE SITES TO THE NORTH AND THE NORTH-WEST OF HUNTLY.

At this point we leave behind the most westerly sites in this north-western portion of Aberdeenshire, and continue the report on sites in Banffshire, roughly speaking, between the burn of Fordyce and the river Spey.

No. 15. Gaul Cross, Ley, Fordyce.—The village of Fordyce lies inland from Sandend Bay about 2 miles, and the farm-house of Ley stands high up about a mile and a half to the west of the village. A few hundred yards to the north, on slightly higher ground, there stood once (and not at a very distant date) two Stones Circles² about 50 yards apart. Six large Stones stood in the southerly group, which measured 60 feet in diameter. The other Circle was similar, and the Stone that now remains (see fig. 21) was the most westerly of that Circle.

¹ Near Huntly, at Westerton, there is a great outcrop of whinstone, in separate masses, so vertical and so deceptively like Standing Stones that it was only by actual examination that I was convinced of their being solely natural.

² From a notice by Dr W. Cramond, of Cullen, in *Banff F. C. Trans.*, vol. ii., p. 92.

“About the year 1830, there were found, about 18 feet south-east of that Stone, at a slight depth below the surface, several articles of silver, consisting of a chain about 4 feet long, and what appeared to the uninitiated like buckles, pins, and brooches. These are now, it is said, all either in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, or in the possession of the proprietor, Sir Robert Abercromby.”

This discovery is also noticed by Stuart¹ as of “relics within a Stone Circle at Gaul Cross in Banffshire.”

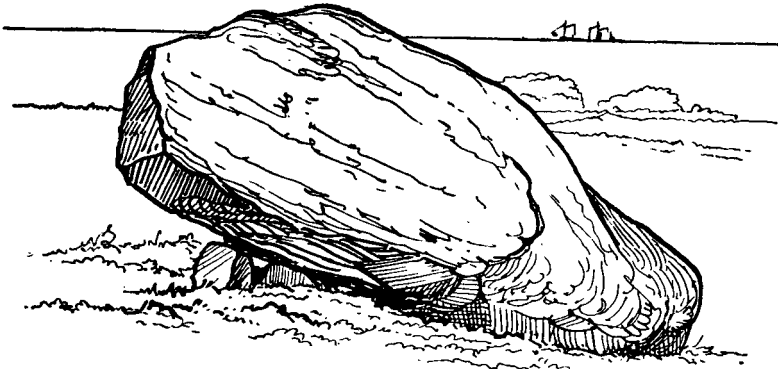


Fig. 21. Remains of one of the two Circles at Gaul Cross.

Whether found within the Circle or not, these silver objects belong to a much later period than that of the erection of the Stones. Stuart figures² three objects: a portion of a silver chain, a fine pin of silver, and an armlet also of silver; and these are all described by Mr George F. Black in his report on the Museum at Banff.³ The pin is of the type described and figured in my recent notice of the Moredun cist.⁴

¹ *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, Appendix to Preface, II., lxxxii.

² *Ibid.*, Pl. ix.

³ *Proceedings*, vol. xxii., p. 370.

⁴ From inquiries I find that the pin and the chain are still in the Museum at Banff, both, however, being labelled as having been found beside an urn at Gaul Cross. Mrs Cowieson, the curatrix, further states that “on a large card is written, ‘An amulet and pin found along with the chain.’” *Amulet* is no doubt a misspelling for *Armlet*. But this object itself is no longer in the Museum.

Dr Cramond further notes that an urn of cinerary type (now in Banff Museum) was found several hundred yards to the east of these two Stone Circles. This discovery is recorded on the Ordnance map.

The one Stone now left (fig. 21) lies semi-prostrate and propped up with small stones placed under its western end. It is a rounded boulder of diorite, about 2 feet in greatest thickness, and measures 6 feet by 3 feet 3 inches. It is in the form of an irregular pentagon, and its girth is 14 feet. The site of these two so closely-adjacent Circles,

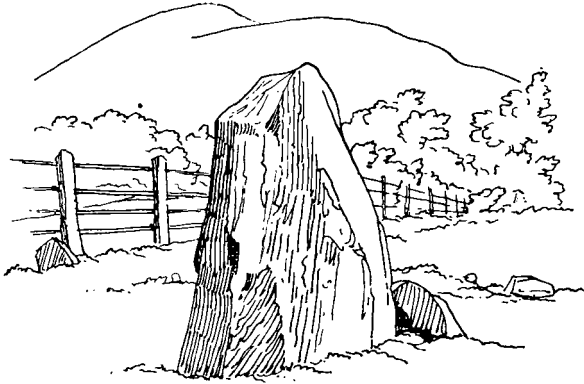


Fig. 22. Pittenbrinzean Standing Stone.

400 feet above the sea, would have commanded a wide prospect to the south and east, and towards the sea on the north; but it is closed in on the west by the Pittenbrinzean Woods and the Bin of Cullen.¹

No. 16. *Pittenbrinzean Stone*.—No map, so far as I know, puts this Stone on record. For the knowledge of its existence and its position I am indebted to Dr Cramond. It stands at an altitude of 780 feet, close to the north edge of the Clunehill Wood, at a point half a mile nearly due north of Clunehill, and one mile and a half W.N.W. of Ley Farm. It is situated outside of the wood, which is here bounded

¹ It is of some interest to record that Pennant (*Jour.*, sect. i. p. 159), after describing the Cottown Hill Cairns near Cullen, says: "not far from these are two circles of long stones called Gael Cross."

by a strong wire fence. The Stone is a pyramidal block of whinstone (fig. 22), 2 feet 9 inches in height, tapering sharply upwards from a base 8 feet in girth. Dr Cramond could add no information as to the conjecture of this Stone being the remnant of a group; and it does not seem to be known, commonly, in the immediate vicinity.¹

No. 17. Core Stanes, Greenbank, Letterfourie.—This site, in the parish of Rathven, is 3 miles to the south-east of the busy little fishing village of Buckie, and 6 miles due north of the town of Keith. On the south, in the direction of that town, and for many square miles to the westward of it, the maps show no sites of any archaeological interest, except one named *Ranald's Grave* in the wood of White-ash Hill, near Fochabers—a site too remote to visit on the occasion of our explorations in Rathven.

At Greenbank, less than a furlong south-east of the present farm-house, the map places the "site of a Stone Circle" at the height of about 500 feet above the sea. On the east flows the now wooded Whitefield Burn, and on the west the Core Burn. Despite the wording of the map-record, and the rumour² that many of the Circle stones had been used in the building of Letterfourie House, I hoped to find something tangible on the site. Expectations were, however, again doomed to disappointment; and, although the ground, then in stubble, was carefully gone over, no trace of any Stone or of any mound now remains to mark the spot.³

No. 18. Meiklehill Wood, near Newton, Letterfourie.—"Remains of Stone Circle" is the description on the O.M. at this site. Only one Stone remains. It is close to a sharp angle of the wood, at its extreme

¹ About one mile to the south, and near North Blairrock, on the west of the Ha' Burn, is a mound called on the map *Ha' Hillock*, and drawn as a clearly conical oval mound.

² See *Old Statistical Account* for the parish of Rathven.

³ The passage in the *O.S.A.* runs thus: "Druidical temples are common; on the heights of Corridown there was a remarkable one called the Core Stanes, the stones of which were employed in building the new house of Letterfourie. Mr Gordon has searched three of them to the bottom, and found only charcoal and a whitish soft substance, resembling the ashes of wood or of bones."

south end and on its west side, and distant from Core Stanes 1 mile in the direction of W.S.W. The height above sea-level is 500 feet.

The Stone (fig. 23) is an inconspicuous, low, and broad block of light grey quartziferous sandstone, pentagonal in contour, the sides measuring (south) 2 feet 10 inches, (north-west) 2 feet 6 inches, (north) 2 feet 1 inch, (north-east) 2 feet 5 inches, and (south-east) 1 foot 8 inches, thus giving a girth of 11 feet 6 inches. Above the ground, its height

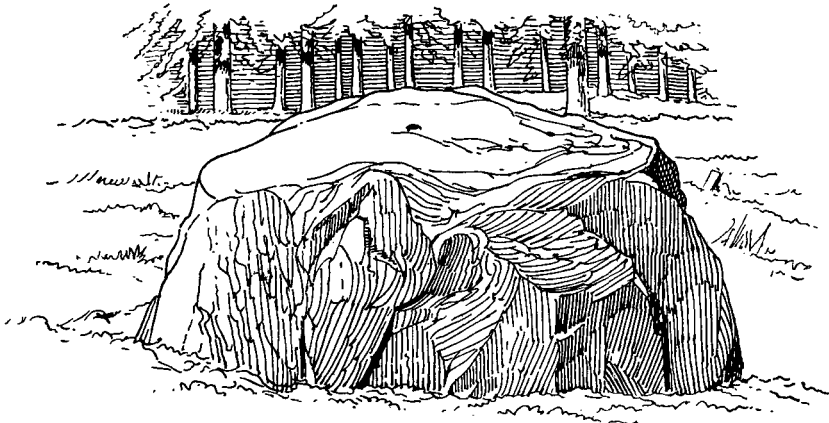


Fig. 23. Remains of Circle in Meiklehill Wood.

is only 1 foot 7 inches, and its longest diameter across the top 3 feet. The view of this Stone is from the south-east. No one in the vicinity was within reach to give any information concerning the removal of the other Stones; but the presence of a drill-hole, made by a mason's "jumper," to a depth of several inches near the centre of the Stone, is highly suggestive of the fate which befell them.

No. 19. Auchintea, Rathven.—This, also a site only, is situated 2 miles N.N.W. of the last, and about 1 mile E.S.E. of Port Gordon. The fields here are very open and level, and the site is shown on the map a few yards to the north of the public road, at Stonies Bridge

School,¹ at a height of about 40 feet above the sea, and within a furlong of the steadings at Upper Auchintea.

No. 20. *Cowiemuir, Bellie, Elginshire.*—At the burn of Tynet, we

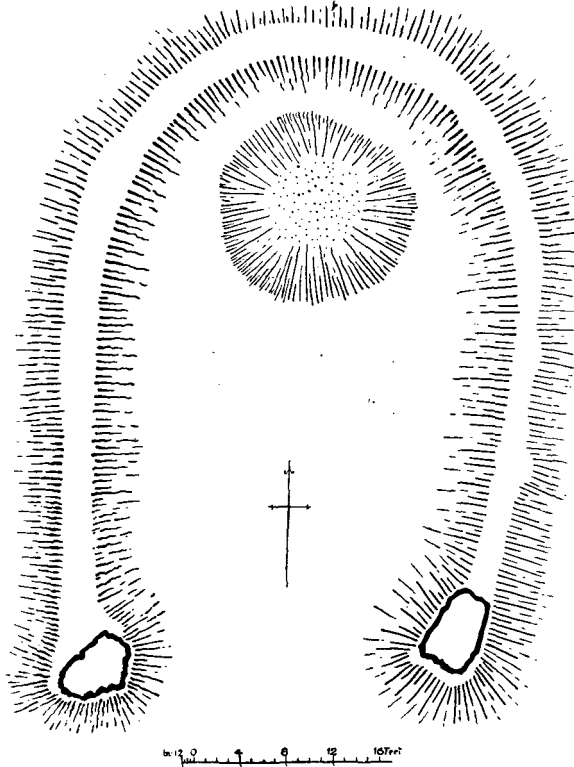


Fig. 24. Remains of Circle at Cowiemuir; Ground-Plan.

cross over from Banffshire into Elginshire, and, three-quarters of a mile due south-west of the stream, at a point where two roads now cross each other, we come upon this interesting and somewhat peculiar relic of a Stone Circle. The distance from the sea-beach at Spey Bay is a bare

¹ Possibly this name carries with it the tradition of the Stone Circle.

mile on the north, and the distance westwards to the river Spey is a mile and a half. The height above the sea is scarcely 50 feet.

Two great Stones still remain nearly *in situ*, and 25 feet apart (see the ground-plan, fig. 24). They lie east and west of each other, and rest on the terminations of an irregularly curved ridge, somewhat of the shape of a horse-shoe. The ridge has an average height of about 2 feet 6 inches over the wide central portion. At the north end, and well within it, is a roughly circular hollow about 17 feet in diameter. It is stony and uneven, and the same epithets may be applied with accuracy



Fig. 25. Remains of Circle at Cowiemuir ; from the East.

to the larger area of bushy ground between the edge of the hollow and the two Stones.

The Stone on the east (the nearer one in the view, fig. 25) is a huge, unshapely mass of conglomerate, furrowed with clefs and fissures, and rough with pebbles and ridges of quartz. It is, I presume, a fallen Stone, and its base was probably its long south edge, which measures 4 feet 2 inches. The opposite edge, on the north, is 2 feet 9 inches wide ; the east side is 6 feet in length, and the west 6 feet 5 inches. As it lies at present, it is 2 feet 6 inches in thickness. Between the two Stones, the ground is flat and more smooth than elsewhere, almost suggestive of its having been used as the most convenient roadway to and from the interior of the Circle when it was destroyed.

The Stone on the west, lying only 8 to 10 feet in from the road-fence, is a rough angular block of red granite, measuring 6 feet 3 inches in greatest length and 4 feet 8 inches in breadth. Its thickness above ground is 3 feet 9 inches, and it is gable-shaped.

The whole length of this site, measured from the crest of the ridge on the north to a point at the middle of the horizontal line of the bases of the Stones, is 55 feet; and the whole width, between the crests of the ridges east and west, 40 feet. If this ridge really carried the other Stones, we should have a pseudo-circular group, the circumference of which is, in contour, comparable only to that of the greater Auchquhorthies Circle at Kincausie, near Aberdeen, which we measured during our first survey.¹ Further, if the spaces between the Stones now lost were the same as that between the two remaining Stones, four others could be placed on the ridge, thus making a complete group of six Stones.²

No. 21. *Hatton, Abertour, Banffshire*.—Apart from its being situated on a rising ground near Ben Rinnes, whence a beautiful prospect of a portion of Strathspey is obtainable, this site, now unfortunately very

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xxxiv., p. 145.

² Within a very short distance of this site are the remains of what seems to have been a Cairn-circle, which in Forsyth's *Survey of the Province of Moray* (Aberdeen, 1798) is thus described:—"Upon the farm of Upper Dallachy, about a mile from the shore, there lately was a low conical mount; it was known by the name of the Green Cairn. It remained unviolated till a few years ago. It consisted of about 12 feet deep of rich mould incumbent upon an accumulation of small fragments of stone, mostly of the same height [*i.e.* at the same level], surrounded at the base by a double row of stones erect similar to the circles of the Druid Temples [*italics mine*]. Among this great accumulation of fragments was a stone coffin of unpolished flags: a small quantity of black ashes was its whole contents. Near the circumference, about 2 feet under the surface, was also found an urn, the rude workmanship of the potter, about 8 inches in diameter, and 1 foot in height; and on shaking out the mould with which it was filled, a piece of polished gold appeared, in form like the handle of a vase; it was $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch thick, its ends about an inch asunder; on them the solder, or the appearance of silver, remained, which, by the application of *aqua fortis*, was dissolved."

This "piece of polished gold" was in reality a penannular armlet of a well-known type. The discovery is noticed by Dr Anderson,* and an armlet corresponding with this, but found at Alloa, is figured.

* *Scotland in Pagan Times: Bronze and Stone Age*, p. 63.

incomplete, has an interesting record. It is one of the very few Circles named in a written record of a date considerably over 200 years ago. In a letter to John Aubrey, from which I have more than once quoted, the Rev. Dr Garden,¹ of Aberdeen, says of this Circle:—

“Another place in the shire of Banff and parish of Aberlour is called *Leachell Beandich*, which, as my informer told me, is as much as the Blessed Chapel, from another of those monuments, which lately stood there, in a cornfield, and is now destroyed.”

The date and tenor of Dr Garden's letter to Aubrey both possess interest, because, ere concluding, Dr Garden says: “I have found noth-

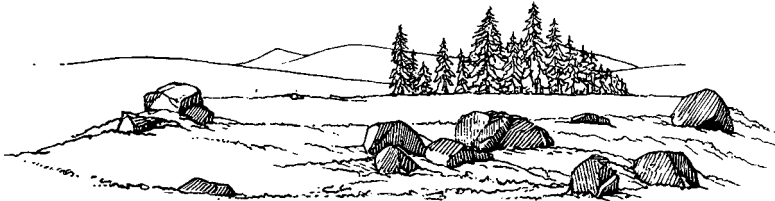


Fig. 26. Remains of Circle at Hatton of Aberlour; from the East.

ing hitherto either in the name of these monuments, or the tradition that goes about them, which doth particularly relate to the Druids or point them out.”

This evidence, taken in conjunction with the date, enables us to properly compute the age of the “Druidical theory” regarding Stone Circles. And the name attached to this Circle at Hatton being in its Gaelic form adds another note of interest to the site.

The field where the megaliths formerly stood is on the south of the farm-steadings and at a height of 600 feet above sea-level (fig. 26). The remains now visible on the ground are merely either portions of some of the monoliths, or, more likely still, parts of a circular setting of biggish stones set up edge-wise. Such as they are, they are all carefully set down on the ground-plan (fig. 27), which shows the contour of a well-

¹ *Archæologia*, vol. i., p. 339.

defined mound 36 feet in diameter, and about 3 feet at its highest point above the surrounding field.¹

As the demolition of the great Stones took place before 1692, there is,

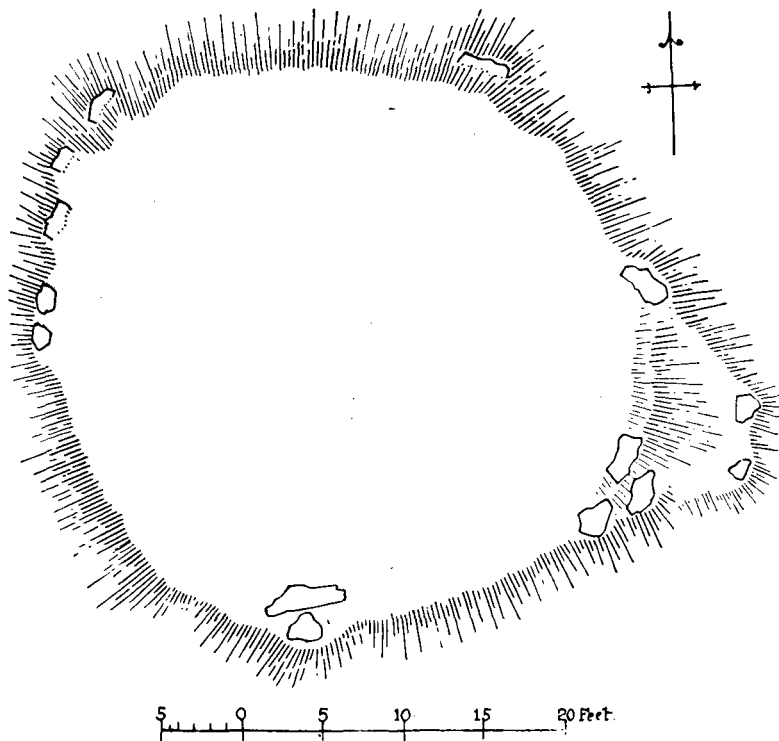


Fig. 27. Remains of Circle at Hatton of Aberlour; Ground-Plan.

of course, no possibility of estimating their number or positions. Of those that still remain on the rim of the mound, only one exceeds 3 feet in length, that on the south verge with a thick broadish block outside of

¹ The tenant told me that the field was called "the doo-cote field"; and this, not because there ever was a dove-cote in it, but because its shape resembled the outline of a dove-cote.

it. It is of grey granite, and is only 10 inches above the ground. The five small blocks on the western side are of about the same height. Of the three larger blocks close together on the east, the two larger are of red granite and are 16 inches above ground ; and the smaller of the two on the extreme east slope has the same height.

On the slope near the north-east curve of the mound, there lie five rather large, nearly flat, but not very thick slabs of stone. These, the tenant informed me, were placed there some twelve years ago by his own hands. They had formed the sides and ends of a cist which he found, minus the covering-stone, in the field about 30 feet to the north-east of the edge of the Circle-mound. The cist had evidently been discovered long previously, as it contained nothing but the soil turned up by successive years of cultivation. The side and end stones were carefully removed and placed where they now rest. In its original position, the longer axis of the cist lay nearly east and west. The slabs, which are of red granite and whinstone, measure respectively : one side-stone, 3 feet 2, by 1 foot 4, by about 5 inches in thickness ; one end-stone, 1 foot 10 by 1 foot 6 ; the other end-stone (both of red granite), 2 feet by 1 foot 5. The other side of the cist was made of three broken pieces of whinstone.

The tenant also told me that more than seventy years ago "two, or three, of the great Stones of the Circle were standing," *i.e.* during his father's occupancy of the farm of Hatton.

The Hatton Circle is rather over 1 mile east of the Spey, and 9 miles due west of the site at Corshalloch above described. If this line be taken as the base of an oblong figure 13 miles long north and south, by 9 miles broad east and west, we have an area of 117 square miles richly varied with streams, hills, forests, and glens, yet absolutely devoid now of megalithic remains. It is at the north-west angle of this wide area of romantic Speyside scenery, and at a point $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of the Spey, that we find the first of the three sites in the province of Moray, which, as a group, form the limit of our present survey.

IV. SITES TO THE WEST OF THE RIVER SPEY.

No. 22. *Innesmill, Urquhart*.—The remains of this great Circle possess several features of special interest. First, as to nomenclature, they are known by three distinct names : viz., *The Deil's Stanes*, *The Nine Stanes*,

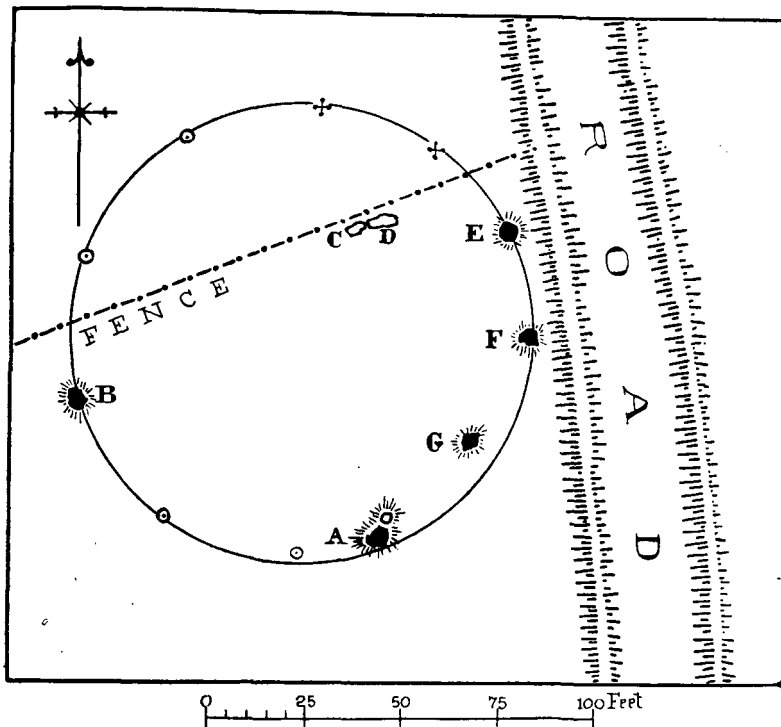


Fig. 28. Innes Mill Circle ; Ground-Plan.

and, simply, *The Standing Stanes of Urquhart*. With regard to the first appellation, this is the first occasion, in Scotland, on which local superstition has connected "the Deil" with a Stone Circle. I was told that the superstition goes a step beyond the mere name, and asserts that if one walk three times round the Stones at midnight, "the Deil" will

appear.¹ *The Nine Stanes* is the name attached to several Circles in Scotland; e.g., to the Circle in Garrol Wood, Durris, Kincardineshire; to another at Invergowrie, near Dundee;² to the famous Circle on the Nine Stane Rigg, near Hermitage Castle, Roxburghshire, where, says tradition, the wizard Lord Soulis was boiled to death in molten lead; and to a Circle in Whittinghame, Haddington.

The other principally interesting feature in this Circle at Innesmill is its great size, a point to which full importance will be given presently.

The site is on the west of the road going between Urquhart Station and Viewfield, at a height of 90 feet above sea-level, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles

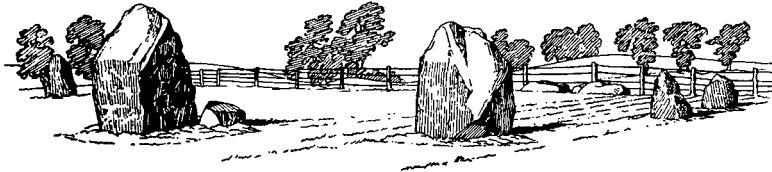


Fig. 29. Innes Mill Circle; from the South-East.

due south of Bear's Head Rock, to the west of Spey Bay. There are five Stones still extant and erect (see fig. 28), and two prostrate, the latter having evidently been moved out of their positions on the north-west arc so as to be either quite out of the way when the fence there was made, or else simply with some regard to keeping all the Stones together as nearly as possible (see the views, figs. 29, 30).

¹ It is true that the name Deil's Stane occurs in many Scottish localities; but in, I think, every such case, the stone is a solitary boulder supposed to have been flung in anger by "the Deil." In England, Devil's Arrows is the name of a group of stones at Borough Bridge, Yorkshire. They are called by Roger Gale "pyramids"—an epithet which leaves us very much in the dark as to their true nature (see *Archæologia*, xxv. 58). Devil's Quoits is the name of a group of three great stones at Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire. They are supposed by the writer in *Archæologia* (vol. xxxvii., p. 431) to be "the remains of a Circle nearly 900 yards in diameter." This computation seems to have been reached by estimating from the curve on which the three stones stand. See, however, a plan and notice of the Devil's Arrows, by A. L. Lewis, in the *Journal of the Anthropological Institute*, November 1878.

² Stuart, *Sculptured Stones*, vol. i., App. to Preface, p. xxiii.

As will be readily seen from the ground-plan, the space across from Stone B to Stone E is unusually great. It measures within these Stones 115 feet, and therefore constitutes a Circle of outstandingly great diameter, the largest yet measured in the north-east of Scotland. When the measurement is taken, not from the inner faces, but from the centres of the opposite Stones, we obtain the diameter of 120 feet. The circumference of this Circle, when perfect, would therefore have been 362 feet. The heights and characteristics of the Stones are :—

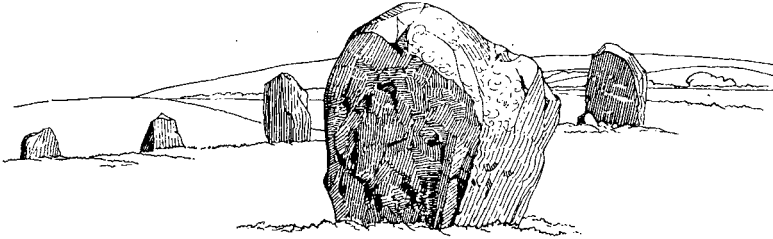


Fig. 30. Innes Mill Circle ; from the West .

- Stone A, 6 feet ; red granite, the top ridged.
 „ B, 4 feet 10 inches ; red granite, top ridged.
 „ C (fallen), 3 feet 10 inches long ; of red granite.
 „ D „ 6 feet 3 inches long ; grey granite.
 „ E, 3 feet 5 inches ; grey granite, flat-topped.
 „ F, 3 „ 4 „ red „ pointed.
 „ G, 5 „ 6 „ „ „ top ridged.

The distances between the Stones as they now stand, centre to centre, are :—

Stone A to Stone B,	.	.	.	.	85 feet
„ B „ „ C,	.	.	.	.	84 „
„ C „ „ D,	.	.	.	.	7 „ 6 inches
„ D „ „ E,	.	.	.	.	32 „
„ E „ „ F,	.	.	.	.	27 „ 6 inches
„ F „ „ G,	.	.	.	.	32 „
„ G „ „ A,	.	.	.	.	35 „

If the two Stones, C and D, now prostrate, were placed at the points on the north-east arc marked with a short cross, and the interspacing were equal, we should then have a complete Circle of eleven Stones, leaving a space for a Recumbent Stone of, let us say, 12 feet in length. That this great Circle probably possessed a Recumbent Stone is borne out by the disposition of its stones: the shortest being on the north and north-east arcs, and the taller and much more massive ones towards the south. And there is corroboration of this in the words used by the minister of Urquhart: ¹ "Near Innes House are nine tall stones in a circle, two of them at the entrance to the 'altar.'"

The Rev. James Morrison, in referring to Stone Circles in Moray,² says, "The largest remaining one, called the Nine Stanes, is incomplete and rude, the stones being just huge unshapen boulders, standing about 6 feet in height. The ground within the Circle has been examined, but there were no traces of graves." But there may have been evidence of burials notwithstanding.³

Two illustrations (figs. 29 and 30) show this fine Circle; the view from the south-east taken from the best point, in order to show clearly its great breadth. In the other, the view from the west, the two fallen stones on the north-east are not shown.⁴

No. 23. Bogton Mill, Lhanbryd.—The remains here stand on the

¹ *N.S.A.*, vol. xiii.

² *Trans. Inverness Sc. Society*, vol. ii., p. 44.

³ In a communication to our *Proceedings* (vol. ix., p. 256) the same writer records that "about half a mile to the north of these [*i.e.* the Nine Stanes] there were, thirty years ago [*circa* 1840], several upright stones of the same character and size, which were broken up and carted away to build cattle sheds."

⁴ Through the kindly proffered help of Mr John Geddie, several inquiries of mine connected with this Circle were most promptly answered by his brother, Mr T. Geddie, Mr Taylor and Mr Brown, all zealously interested in the megalithic antiquities of this part of Urquhart and Speymouth. "One of the Stones," writes Mr T. Geddie, "was taken away to be built into a new steading at Viewfield. Mr Brown thinks this was prior to the building of the Innesmill steading, which dates from 1843. No sooner had the Stone been deposited in the 'toon,' however, than uncanny signs and omens began to manifest themselves, and it was resolved to get rid of it. While it was being taken back to its original position, the horse stuck or fell when taking a somewhat steep little brae, and the Stone was taken no further, but buried where it was. The spot is about 80 or 100 yards from the Circle. Mr Brown says that, from

north bank of the mill stream, a quarter of a mile S.E. from the railway station at Lhanbryd, and over 2 miles S.S.W. of the Innesmill Stones. The height above sea-level is 150 feet.

Two Stones only remain, situated as shown in the ground-plan (fig. 31); and, from the manner in which their broader sides face the north and west, we may safely conclude that the area enclosed by the other lost Stones is in that direction. The Stones stand 49 feet apart. The

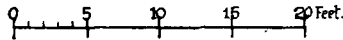


Fig. 31. Remains of Circle at Bogton Mill ; Ground-Plan.

more southerly one is 5 feet in height, and is oblong at the base, where its girth is 13 feet 5 inches. Its rectangularity and bulk continue almost to the top. It is of grey granite mixed with very large crystals of white quartz. The other Stone, which is of similar mineral composition, stands 5 feet 8 inches above ground, and at the base it measures in girth 13 feet 10 inches ; at a height of 3 feet 3, the girth lessens to 12 feet 8 inches.

Views of these Stones are appended in the illustrations (figs. 32, 33).

information supplied by his father and by Mr Anderson of Viewfield, he believes that he would have no difficulty in bringing it to light again.

'One circumstance Mr Brown mentioned which, I think, is worth recording, viz., that a great many flint arrowheads were formerly found within and around the Circle ; but they have been too well hunted, and are now rather rare.'

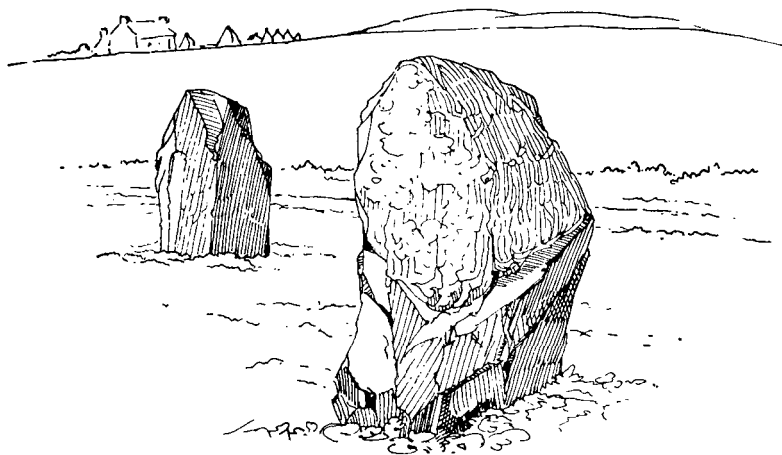


Fig. 32. Remains of Circle at Bogton Mill.

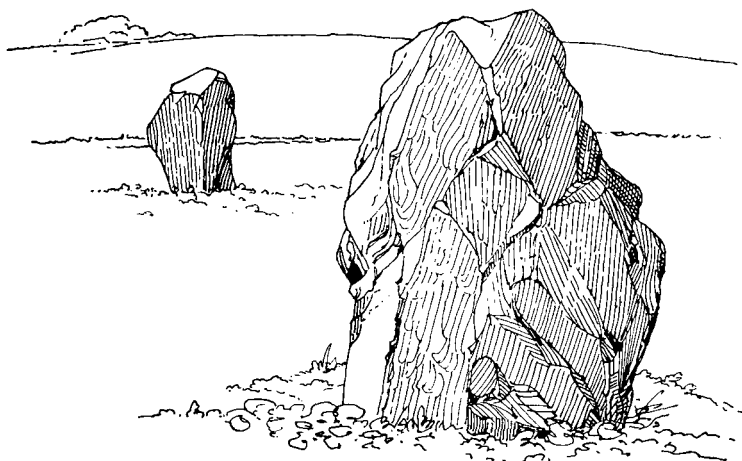


Fig 33. Remains of Circle at Bogton Mill.

It is recorded by Rev. James Morrison that this circle "was destroyed in 1810, to aid in the erection of a bridge."

I must here record the fact that on the Bogton Mill site there yet remain, in addition to the two erect Stones, four other Stones belonging to the Circle. These, however, were at the date of my visit hidden by the growth of turnips. The Stones are prostrate, and deeply sunk into the ground, which, as the name implies, is probably composed of peat.

For these details I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr A. Geddie of Speymouth School, who kindly sent me a measured plan of the present positions of the fallen Stones in relation to the two still erect monoliths—which clearly proved that at some unrecorded date the Stones had been moved out of the Circle and left lying as they now are.

No. 24. Haerstones, Lhanbryd.—This site is shown on the map at a point three-quarters of a mile S.S.W. of the last Stones, at about 160 feet above sea-level. On the farm, we heard long-handed-down tradition of the Circle, and the site was, but rather vaguely, pointed out. The only allusion I can find in print is the following, by the Rev. James Morrison:—¹ "We have remains of two so-called Druid Circles, and during the last half-century three others have been swept away. One of these was in horse-shoe form and was called the Haer Stanes."²

¹ "Arch. Finds in the East of Moray," in *Trans. Inverness Sc. Society*, vol. ii., p. 44.

² With regard to this word, the following notes may be of interest. The name Haer Stane, occasionally, as in the present instance, misspelt *Hair* on the map, also occurs in connection with Stone Circles at Feith Hill, Inverkeithney, near Premnay in Inch, at Stirling Hill, Cruden, at Kirkurd, Peeblesshire, and at Ancrum, Roxburghshire. In connection with Cairns, there are Haer Cairn (where cists and urns were found), near Marcus Lodge, Forfarshire; Hare Cairn, 1000 feet high, site of a tumulus, in Southdean, Roxburghshire; Haer Cairn, where a stone cist was found, at Morganston, Bendochy, Perthshire; the Haer Cairns, a group of six, on the Moor of Gormack, Bendochy. The name Haer Law or Hare Law occurs at Rattray, Perthshire, Eddleston, Peeblesshire (with a kist-vaen on it), at Maxton, Roxburghshire, at Ferry-Port-on-Craig, Fife and Kinross, and at Auchterderran; also on Gladsmuir and at Garvald, Haddingtonshire, the last with a fort on its summit, which is 1200 feet high. We have the word, probably, in still another form, viz. Hairny Law, in Morebattle, Roxburghshire, with a tumulus on it; while Hare Stane occurs on the Boroughmuir, Edinburgh, and Harestane Hill, with the Whitestone Cairn on it, is in Garvald parish.

“These stones were,” says the same writer elsewhere, “unfortunately found to lie in the line of a road then formed (1830), and were ignominiously tumbled down the slope on which for ages they had rested, and buried in a gravel pit by the side of the road.”

CONCLUSION.

Clear classification, where so very few tangible remains are left us, is scarcely possible; but the following deductions seem justifiable. In the very extensive districts passed under review, there are megalithic relics enough to show that Stone Circles, probably of several varieties, formerly existed at North Burreldales, Gavénie Braes, Templeton (St Brandan's Stanes), Thorax, Marnoch Church, Bellman's Wood, Gaul Cross (Ley, No. 1), Meiklehill Wood, Cowiemuir, Hatton of Aberlour, Innesmill, and Bogton in Lhanbryd.

In addition to these twelve, records are extant for Circles at thirteen other sites, viz., at Chapel Den, Newton of Mountblairy, Wardend, near Auds, Boyndie Kirk, Bankhead, Sandend Bay, Gingo-myres, Corshalloch, Edintore, Nether Dumeath, Viewfield, and at Haer-stanes, Lhanbryd. Out of this considerable number, it is possible to assert of only three of the Circles that they each possessed a Recumbent Stone; although Innesmill Circle most probably possessed that feature also.

On the subject of relics discovered within the area enclosed by the Standing Stones, extremely little evidence is forthcoming as regards the sites surveyed during last September. In the Circle called Corrie-down (or Core Stanes), a quantity of bone-ash seems to have been the main result obtained; while, at Dallachy, the gold armet, found in an urn beside one of several cists and deposits, still confines the archaeological horizon of the Stone Circles to the Bronze Age.

The presence of groups of cup-marks on Stones in the Circles at Templeton and Thorax is also to be noticed. And I may here record a further discovery of a group of five cups on one of the Stones in the

Circle at Rothiemay, which was not observed at the date of my first visit to that site. The cup-marks, which were noted but not figured in Simpson's *Archaic Sculpturings*, occur close to the ground on the Stone standing considerably to the east of the Recumbent Stone. They are large, clearly circular, and about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch deep.

These additional localities for cup-marks found on Stones of the Circles bring up the total to twelve.¹

I append the usual Tabular Summary.

Name.	Size.	Type of Circle.	Relics.
North Burreldales .	20' 8" × 20' 3"	Recumbent Stone.	
Thorax	23' × 19' 3"		
St Brandan's Stanes . . . . .	...	
Gaul Cross (North)	about 60' × 60'		
Gaul Cross (South)	"	Recumbent Stone.	
Sandend Bay	"		
Gingomyres	"		
Bellman's Wood	"		
Cowiemuir	55' × 40'	..	
Core Stanes	Ashes of Bones.
Hatton, Aberlour	37' × 35'	Probably Recumbent Stone.	Insufficiently examined.
Innesmill	120' × 120'		

¹ See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii. p. 227.