

II.

REPORT ON STONE CIRCLES SURVEYED IN THE NORTH-EAST OF
SCOTLAND (BANFFSHIRE AND MORAY), WITH MEASURED PLANS
AND DRAWINGS; OBTAINED UNDER THE GUNNING FELLOWSHIP.
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In my recent Reports, the contrast between the large areas of investigation and the paucity of the megalithic remains therein has been frequently noticed. To some extent the meagreness of the remains of archæological interest in, *e.g.*, Buchan or the Aberchirder district, has been doubtless correctly attributed to the high state of cultivation of the land. In the districts at present to come under review, however, in addition to the same powerful modern agency which has caused the obliteration of so many Standing Stones, we have to note that the characteristic features of the land itself have a bearing on this important point. These characteristics I shall endeavour, at the outset, briefly to indicate.

In a general sense we may designate the new field of investigation as Lower Speyside. Including as it does the finely-contoured hill, Benrinnes, as its natural centre, the district lies within a great double parallelogram, of which the following four places mark the angles, *viz.* :—Grantown, the capital of Strathspey, at the extreme south-west; the farm of Achdregnie (in the vicinity of Tomintoul) on the corresponding south-east angle; Forres (near to which is the great "Sueno" Stone), 20 miles to the north of Grantown on the extreme north-west; and Garmouth (once famous for its boat-building), filling in the north-east angle. The district thus defined, and containing nearly 400 square miles, is far more richly diversified in features of landscape beauty than any in which our surveys have hitherto been conducted. In its southern portions the rivers Livet, Avon, and Spey are surrounded by hill, moorland, and wild forest-ground, of great beauty and

considerable altitude; and it is only in their less elevated plateaux, and their haughs and gentler slopes, that megalithic remains are to be looked for. Towards the sea, again, below Craigellachie, Rothes, Elgin, and Fochabers, and westwards near the rivers Lossie and Findhorn, wide tracts of level land occur, but slightly raised above the sea-

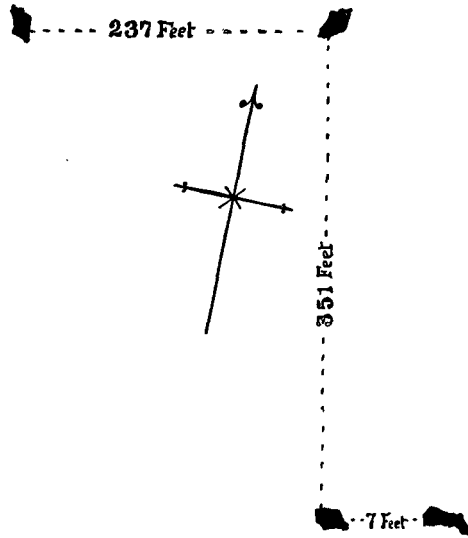


Fig. 1. Sketch-plan of Standing Stones at Upper Port, Castle Grant. (Not to scale.)

level, and enriched by low knolls and wooded banks. Amongst some of these there have been found, from time to time, archæological relics of surpassing interest.¹ But these sites contained few megalithic remains, being mostly either Cairns or earthen burial-mounds, or in close proximity to one or other of these.

The current Report, therefore, deals with what may seem to be a somewhat scanty total of sites, when compared with the very wide area

¹ See *Proceedings*, ii. p. 482, and xviii. p. 236.

traversed; but it contains plans of rather exceptional interest, and brings the surveys of the north-eastern Stone Circles into touch with those in the valley of the Nairn on the west and with the Aviemore group¹ on the south.

The plans are, for the most part, drawn to the usual scale of 20 feet to 1 inch; where this rule has been departed from, reason is given for the change. The orientation marked (P.N.) is true north, corrected

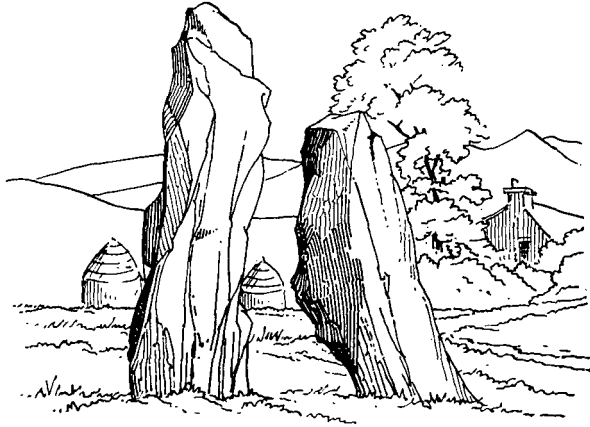


Fig. 2. Upper Port, Castle Grant; the two South Standing Stones.

from observation by magnetic compass for the difference of $19^{\circ} 28''$ for variation. Near the south-west angle of the parallelogram above defined, the first site to be brought under notice is at

No. 1. Upper Port, Castle Grant.—The Stones here stand on a level field nearly midway between Upper Port steadings and the Mill of Castle Grant, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant on the N.E. from Grantown. There are four Stones in all. I show them in a sketch-plan with their relative positions correctly given, but the interspaces are not to scale. (See fig. 1.)

¹ Planned and described by Mr James Fraser, C.E., in *Proceedings*, vol. xviii. p. 328, and Mr C. G. Cash, in vol. xl. p. 245.

(a) The two South Stones. The East Stone stands 4 feet 3 inches in height, measured at the smooth, vertical, north side; but a long "foot" runs down at its S.E. angle, and if this represents the true base of the Stone, its height would be fully 5 feet. The basal girth is 9 feet 7 inches; the top is narrow and ridgy, and it appears to be composed of rough whinstone largely mixed with white quartz.

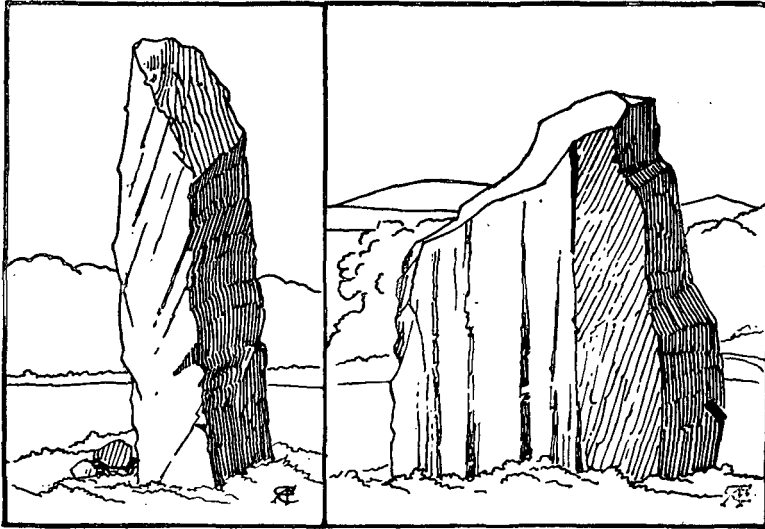


Fig. 4. Upper Port; the West Stone.

Fig. 3. Upper Port; the East Stone.

The companion Stone, standing nearly vertical 7 feet to the west, is of the same mineralogical composition, 4 feet 8 inches in height, with a rather flat top and a basal girth of only 4 feet 2 inches. In the view (fig. 2) these Stones are shown as seen from the west. This Stone is 117 yards Mag. S. 20° E. from

(b) the Stone which stands next in order on the sketch-plan. It is of whinstone, with a pointed top, broadish sides, and a basal girth of 5 feet 7 inches. It is quite vertically set up.

(c) The last Stone of the group is of whinstone, somewhat tapering up from a base measuring 7 feet 7 inches to a "bevelled" top which is 5 feet $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches above the ground. Its broadest face is distant, nearly due west, 79 yards from Stone *b*.

It is impossible to even conjecture the meaning of the disposition of these four Stones at Upper Port, and there is no local information obtainable now regarding them.

The last two, so widely separated, are shown in the drawing (figs. 3 and 4) as seen from the south.

No. 2. Achdregnie, Glenlivet.—This farm occupies the extreme S.E. angle of the parallelogram which is to represent in a general way the area of our investigations. East from Grantown 14 miles, and situated at the uncommon altitude of 984 feet above sea-level, this and the following site at Mid-town are yet not conspicuous, for the simple reason that great hill-ranges close them in on nearly all sides, adding the charm of loneliness to a scene of Scottish stream and woodland in itself lovely. In fact, these sites are so far to the south of Banffshire that we have close at hand the great hills that divide Glenlivet from Glenbucket (Aberdeenshire), while on the north other hills verge upon the confines of Glen Fiddich forest.

The Stones seen at Achdregnie constitute a discovery, for they are not indicated in any way on the Ordnance Map. They were shown by the tenant, Mr Macdonald, who informed me that the field was called The Standing Stones Field. All that now remains of what, therefore, was in all probability a Circle, are two small Stones, standing the one 16, and the other 34, inches above the ground, and only 6 feet apart in a line nearly north and south. They measure in girth only about 4 feet each; and their shape and position suggest to me the probability of their being the last remnants of an inner setting of Stones on edge placed concentrically within the ring of great Stones.

No. 3. Mid-town of Achdregnie.—The O.M. here shows a group of five standing Stones arranged in an oblong, having one at each corner and one near the middle. Not one of these is now *in situ*, nor could

any trace of them in the near dikes or elsewhere be seen. The tenant, however, says that he sometimes "comes across a big stone or two" when ploughing or harrowing near the spot indicated on the map as the site of Standing Stones.

No. 4. Achorachan.—At a point 352 yards S.S.E. from the farm-

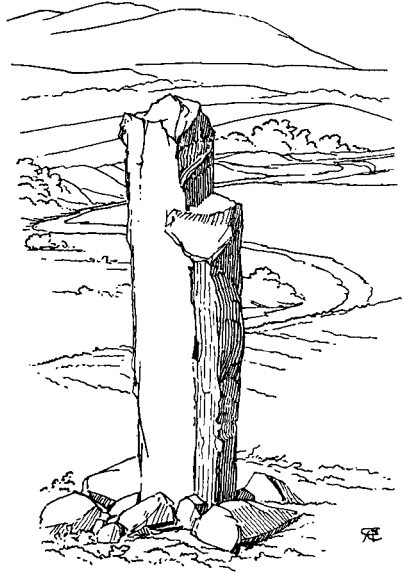


Fig 5. Achorachan ; Remains of Circle.

steading, the O.M. records the position of a monolith as the "supposed remains of a Stone Circle." Information obtained on the land was to the effect that the Stone had been long ago removed, and was on the point of being built into a wall, when the tenant became "troubled"—the precise symptoms not discoverable—and he thereupon caused the Stone to be replaced "as nearly as he could remember" on its original site. This happens to be on the distinctly steep westward slope of the

field, an unlikely place, as it seems to me, for a Circle. The drawing (fig. 5) shows the Stone as seen from the south-east, looking down into the water of Livet. It is an irregularly prism-sided, tall, block of, I think, quartziferous schist, 5 feet 6 inches in height, and with a girth of about 4 feet 5 inches.

No. 5. Deskie, near Old Bridge of Livet.—On the O.M. there are two Stones shown here, and the place is called “Stone Circle, Remains of.” They are shown on the level field close to and S.E. of Old Livet. When searching this field and coming on no Stones, we fell in with the tenant of Deskie, who directed us how to find the last remaining Stone of this group. It is a block of whinstone about 4 feet in length by 2 feet 10 inches in breadth, and it lies in the hedge between the garden and the paddock at Old Livet, about 50 yards N.W. of what was presumably its ancient site. We could discover no clear date of the demolition of the other Stone or the removal of this one.

No. 6. Doune of Dalmore, Strath Avon.—Between the fourth and the fifth mile up the river Avon from near its confluence with the Spey, the road runs along the top of a very steep ridge, which has for base on the west a broad flat stretch of meadowland bordering the river, beyond which rise fine wooded heights near Kilmaichlie. Close to the southern extremity of this meadowland a vast moraine-mound projects itself in line with the river and the road, and at the northern end of its grassy smooth summit of fine sand, 700 feet above sea-level, the men of the past have raised a Circle of Stones, of which seven remain still almost *in situ* and can be easily “picked out” against the vivid greens of the surrounding pasture and woodlands: this is the Doune of Dalmore.

The Circle (fig. 6) consists of an outermost ring of free-standing pillar-stones, the diameter of which is 52 feet; the remains of an inner circular setting of small thick stones set on edge, but not contiguous, 19 feet wide; and a rectangularly shaped central enclosure measuring 6 feet 6 inches by 3 feet.¹

¹ The Circle is shown to the usual scale (appended), but the contours of the Stones to twice that scale, in order the more effectively to show their shapes.

Beginning at the south arc, we have Stone A, which leans forward considerably towards the interior of the Circle: its vertical height is

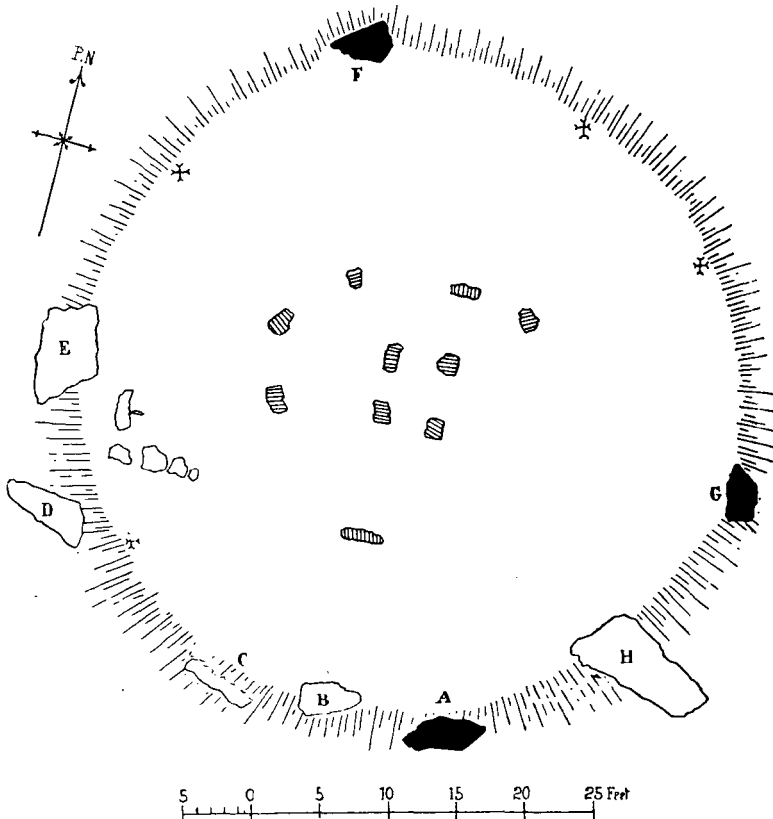


Fig. 6. Doune of Dalmore ; Plan of Stone Circle.

4 feet, its length on the slope 4 feet 7 inches, and its girth 6 feet ; Stone B only 18 inches above ground but 5 feet 9 inches in girth ; Stone C, deeply sunk, measuring 2 feet 6 inches by 10 inches ; Stone D evidently a fallen, and now much-grassed-over, monolith, 4 feet in measurable

length and 1 foot 9 inches in width ; Stone E, another prostrate, and probably broken, block, 9 inches thick, and in girth 10 feet 3 inches ; Stone F, erect, 4 feet 8 inches in height, 4 feet 5 in girth, with a pointed top ; Stone G also erect, smooth-sided, with a broad top, over 5 feet both in height and girth ; Stone H, 4 feet 4 inches in length, the inner end 2 feet 8 inches wide, the outer end 1 foot 6, and about 18 inches in thickness. As far as it was possible to ascertain, all these Stones seemed to be of a rough sort of quartzitic whinstone.

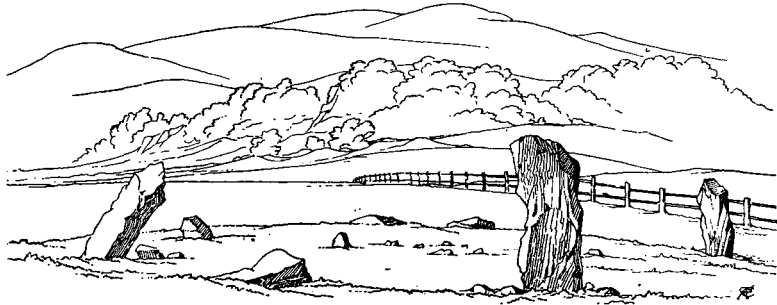


Fig. 7. Doune of Dalmore ; View of Circle, from the East.

Taking the spaces between the Stones AH and HG as a guide, we find that there is room on the circumference for three Stones in addition to all those now on the site ; therefore the Circle probably, when perfect, had ten Stones. Between D and E lie several loose Stones of no great size or importance. The six smallish Stones now remaining, set on edge and forming a concentric semicircle, rise only from 6 to 10 inches above the ground, and the four others, which form the rectangular enclosure within, are of similar size and height.

The ground throughout the interior of the Circle is nearly level and fairly smooth, covered only with short grass, and does not bear any obvious signs of disturbance. Just in front of the East Stone an ancient-looking ash has fixed its home ; otherwise there are no extraneous

features to confuse either the eye or the measuring-tapes. The Stones stand, as usual, on a well-defined, though slight, mound, and its pretty evenly circular contour encourages the inference that the place has been respected and has not suffered molestation through agricultural operations. The view (fig. 7) shows this interesting group as seen from the east, the river Avon coming in below the wooded distance, but invisible from the Circle, owing to the great breadth of the moraine.

For over 5 miles northwards there are no recorded sites, and it is not until the Avon is crossed at Ballindalloch Bridge that we meet with the next Circle, which is at

No. 7. Lagmore (Lower), Ballindalloch.—This site is in a quite flat, sequestered spot, on a field on the west of the Avon, and only 20 yards south of the road between Delnashaugh Inn and Ballindalloch Station on the Great North of Scotland Railway. It is doubtless quite well known to the people of the district, as well as to numerous visitors in Strathspey. The height above sea-level is 528 feet, as recorded on the map.

The Stones that remain are five in number, three of which are erect and conspicuously vertical. Stone A, on the south-west arc, is a rugged, broad but thinnish slab girthing at the base over 9 feet, and standing clear of the ground 6 feet 5 inches. At some period, probably before the farm was taken over by the proprietor, Sir George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch, this Stone was split right down to the ground, as shown in the plan and illustration (figs. 8 and 9). Stone B, 3 feet 9 inches in height, has a girth of 6 feet 3 inches, a sloping top, and rather smooth vertical sides. The North Stone, C, is 3 feet 11 inches in height and 5 feet 3 inches in girth. Its top is quite flat and broad, and all its sides straight and smooth. On the N.E. arc lies, almost overgrown with grass, a long flat Stone, D. It is 7 feet 9 inches at least in length, and about 2 feet 7 inches in breadth; but, as these dimensions were taken without any removal of the turf, they are probably within the mark. A still larger Stone, E, lies on the ground on the S.E. point, fallen outwards down the gentle slope of the mound upon which all the Stones are set. It is

10 feet 5 inches in length and 4 feet 2 inches in breadth, and its greatest measurable thickness is 1 foot 4 inches.

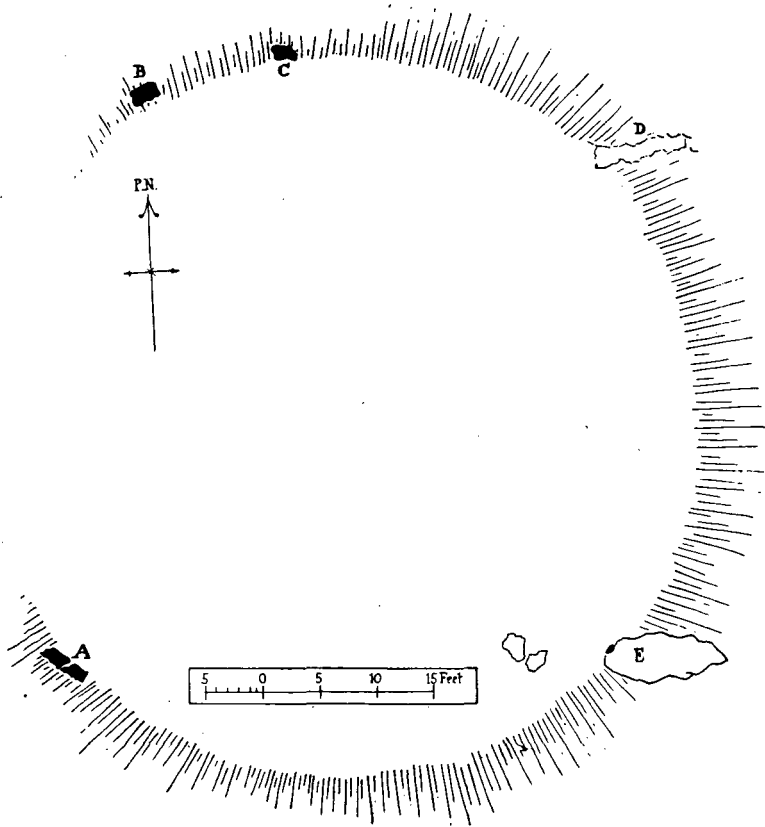


Fig. 8. Lower Lagmore ; Plan of Stone Circle.

This Circle may originally have contained thirteen or even fourteen Stones, if the space between B and C be taken as a mean interspace. The diameter is 65 feet ; and it should be noticed that the Stones occupy

positions—as at the Doune of Dalmore—on the circumference of a wonderfully true Circle. All the Stones are of the quartzose micaceous schist, greyish-red in colour, and splitting naturally into squarish or polygonal slabs, so characteristic of this portion of lower Strathspey.

The annexed illustration (fig. 9) shows this Circle as seen from the west, with Benrinnes in the distance. The large prostrate Stone E must have found this lowly position a great many years ago, because several inches of its outer extremity are inexorably gripped by the root of an



Fig. 9. Lower Lagmore ; View of Circle, from the West.

old and stout-stemmed rowan-tree. The interior of the Circle is fairly smooth and level, and absolutely devoid of obstructions either in the shape of stones or shrubs.

No. 8. Lagmore (Upper).—Concerning this site many points of interest arise. There is, first of all, its most unusual nearness to the lower Lagmore Circle just described, a space of only 312 yards separating the two, the one being visible from the other, though the upper site is 72 feet higher than the lower. Next, as will be presently shown, this Circle dominates the sites of four others ; and lastly, it may be safely asserted that, of all the many half-ruined, half-excavated Stone Circles measured during the course of the present surveys, this one at Lagmore is the most complicated, and possessed probably also the most interesting

and specialised "overground phenomena"—all left now in a condition of almost inextricable confusion.

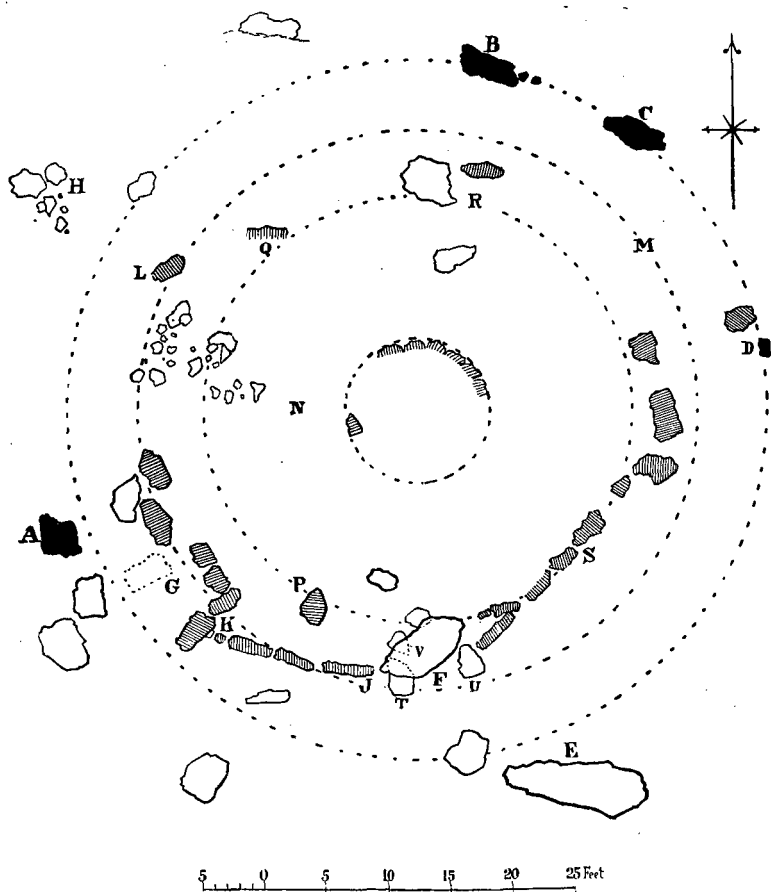


Fig. 10. Lagmore ; Plan of Stone Circle.

In addition, there is here one feature which, so long ago as 1864, attracted the observant eyes of Dr Arthur Mitchell, and induced him to

make a pencil sketch: a record which is interesting, not only because of its being one of the extremely rare observations of that comparatively early era of archæology, but because the sketch to some extent helps to fix the date of the demolition of the structure of the Circle.

As the ground-plan (fig. 10) shows, there are here only four great Standing Stones *in situ*; one more, at the south point, near letter E, lies prostrate outside the circumference and on the gentle slope of the Circle mound. Taking the Standing Stone A on the south-west arc first, we note that it is a shapely massive pillar of quartzose micaceous schist, standing 7 feet 11 inches in height, with a basal girth of 9 feet and a girth of the same at about 5 feet above ground. The top is distinctly pointed, as is the case with three out of these four Stones (see the view, fig. 11). The broad Stone, B, nearest the north point, though only 5 feet 5 inches in height, girths 11 feet 3 inches. The North-east Stone, C, very similar in form but more rugged in outline, is 6 feet 10 inches in height and 11 feet 4 inches in girth. Stone D, set so nearly on the eastern point, is very much slighter in all respects, its height being only 4 feet 4 inches, and its rectangular base only 3 feet 7 inches in girth. More than one monolith must have been removed between this Stone and the huge block lying at E, which measures 12 feet by 4 feet 6 inches, and in thickness about 18 inches above ground.

When carefully planned to scale, the following results are obtainable, viz., that these five great Stones, A, B, C, D, and E, were set with fair exactness upon the circumference of a Circle whose diameter was 66 feet, and that a space of exactly 13 feet lies between the centres of the two North-east Stones, and of 20 feet between the centres of the North-east Stone C and the small one on the east, D. On the supposition that a 20-foot interspace was the true basis of arrangement, the Circle most probably contained only nine Stones here. I suggest, merely, this interspace of 20 feet, as it falls in better with the positions of Stones E and A than would an interspace of 13 feet.

Nearly 6 feet within this great outermost ring of tall monoliths there is a circular alignment of Stones, concentrically arranged, and consisting

of ponderous, broad, but not very thick, blocks of the same quartzose schist. It begins on the south arc at J, and can be traced to a point some 13 feet north of the western diameter. The large Stone at J measures 4 feet 3 inches by 1 foot by 3 feet 4 inches in height; the next is 2 feet 7 inches in height, the next 1 foot 9 inches; all vertical and regularly in line. At K, two good-sized blocks meet this line almost at right angles, the lower one 1 foot 10 inches, and the upper one 1 foot 7 inches, in height; two smaller oblong blocks follow outside of our line from J, each (like the first three measured) massive and high, being 3 feet 4 inches above ground.¹ Two more, still larger, and about 2 feet in height, are also earth-fast and fairly well "in line"; while a third, almost contiguous, and of similar proportions, lies on edge, and has, I think, been displaced. Close to Stone A and on its south-east lies a large squarish block, its shape and size suggestive of its having been moved away from the dotted contour at G. Another still more displaced block lies fallen flat to the south of the just-noted Stone; it is a thin slab, however, and does not appear to have formed one of the Stones of this enclosure. The last block now clearly occupying a position upon this second Circle JLM is at L. It is an earth-fast Stone, 3 feet by 1 foot 6 inches, and 1 foot 6 inches in height. The whole of this western quadrant, between AHN, is an unsightly litter of broken fragments of large stones and innumerable smallish rounded stones so entirely free from lichens or moss and so bleached by the sun as to lead one to infer that they were lifted out of the deeper parts of the Circle and carried aside to be ready for use as road metal.

The third concentric circle of earth-fast stones, represented by the circumference lettered PQRS, has also suffered mostly on its western arc. At P stands one well-set-up block 1 foot 8 inches in height, at Q a second just touches the line, and at R the smaller of the two blocks is on edge and earth-fast, the larger block, which is 2 feet 6 inches above

¹ By "ground" is meant, in this Circle, the rough level of the innumerable small stones filling up the whole interior, not the soil, which was never visible, in spite of very many holes.

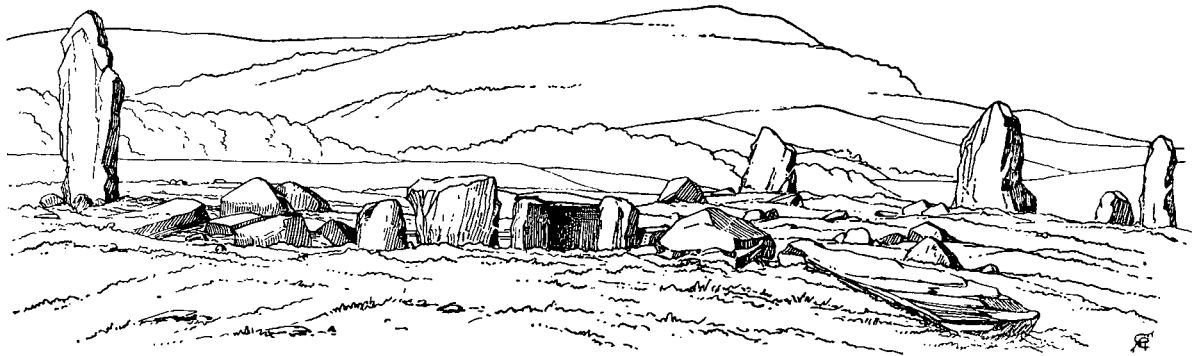


Fig. 11. Lagmore ; General View of the Circle, from the South.

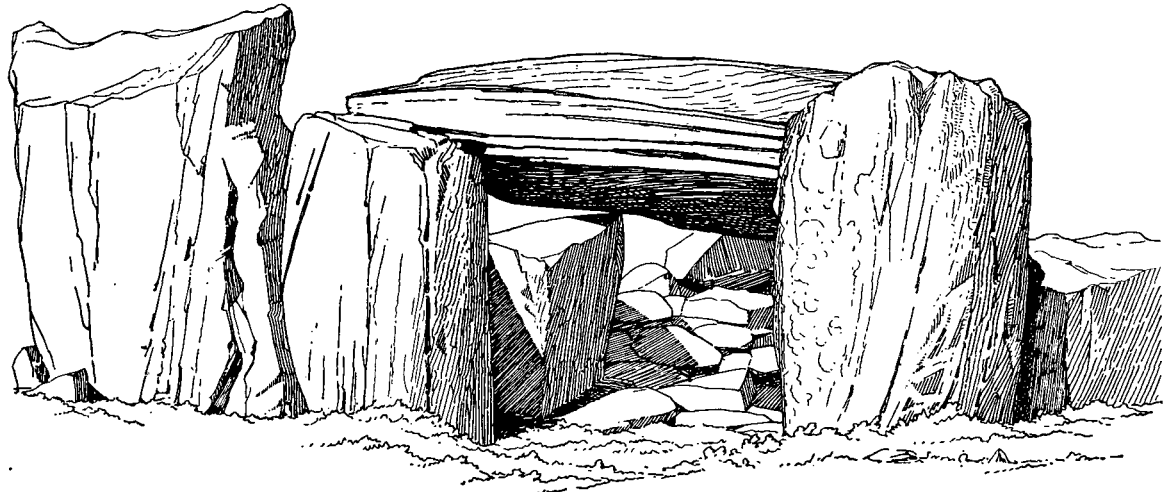


Fig. 12. Lagmore ; View of the Cist, from the South.

ground, being loose and seemingly displaced. The true arrangement, however, of these smaller earth-fast blocks may be gauged by the ten

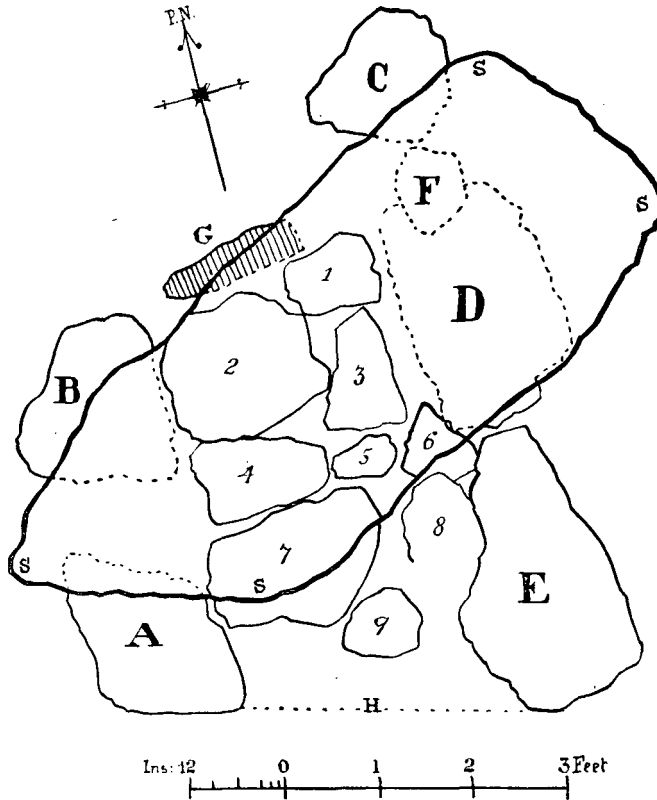


Fig. 13. Lagmore Circle; Plan of the Cist.

which still remain approximately "in line" on the south-eastern curve at S. The uppermost one, opposite the East Stone D, is 1 foot 9 inches above the ground; the next, a much larger stone, is only about 8 inches thick; and the others stand in the order named respectively, 1 ft. 4 in.,

1 ft. 6 in., 2 ft. 4 in., 1 ft. 10 in., 2 ft., 2 ft. 6 in., 1 ft. 3 in., and 1 ft. 4 in. in height. Their tops are never absolutely contiguous, but, doubtless, a very slight excavation would reveal the fact that their sides are really in contact.

In addition to this feature of two inner concentric alignments of almost contiguous blocks, we have now to deal with another of special interest and novelty. This is the occurrence of a rudely formed over-ground Cist between the two concentric alignments. On the precise south, the letter F on the plan indicates the middle of an open space between two vertical stones T and U. These two stones and others forming the Cist I have shown on a much larger scale (fig. 13), where the two front stones (T and U) are re-named A and E. On our first examination, nearly all the interior space between the side stones AB and CFDE was filled up with small rounded boulders, and the very much displaced and huge cover stone (*ssss* in fig. 13) was not at the first glance readily associated with these supports. Having Sir Arthur Mitchell's sketch for reference, we observed that at its date, 1864, the cover stone lay almost exactly over the cavity, and, on measuring it again, that it would more than cover the whole Cist from E to C and A to a point in line corresponding with C. We then set to work, and removed one by one all the boulders that had been cast into the Cist, and at last came upon the flat stones set on the ground forming a pavement (Nos. 1-9 in the plan of the Cist). The interior was then carefully measured by triangulation, the results obtained being as follows: G, an earth-fast stone, fully 11 inches in height, seems to mark the north limit of the Cist proper, which, measured to H, gives a length of 4 feet 9 inches; the breadth is 2 feet 9 inches. The fact that the cover stone, 7 feet 6 inches in length, would overlap G very considerably, may perhaps open up the possibility of this sepulchral place being in reality one long passage divided by segmental stones, which the further fact of its pointing in the direction of the centre of the Circle might tend to confirm.

The Stone A is 2 feet 6 inches in height at the open end, but 3 feet

where the cover rests on it; B is 2 feet 3 inches in height; C is nearly 2 feet; the top of F which rises above the sloping end of D is 1 foot 4 inches in height; D at the south end is 1 foot 10 inches; and E rises from 2 feet 7 inches at its inner angle to 3 feet at the open south end of the Cist. Most of these stones appeared to be of the same quartzose

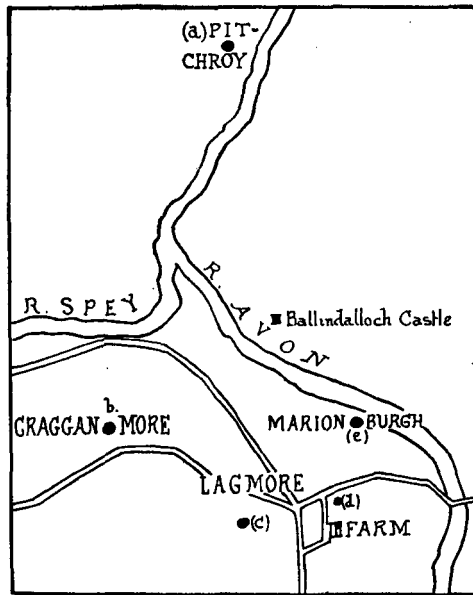


Fig. 14. Sketch-plan of five Stone Circles near Ballindalloch.

mica schist as are the great Standing Stones, and they are all vertically and neatly set up.

On the general ground-plan (fig. 10), if we refer for a moment to letter G, it will be seen that the disposition of four or five stones there is strongly suggestive of another Cist, or cist-like cavity, corresponding closely both in respect of size and radial direction with this Cist on the south arc.

Surrounding the true centre of the Circle there is here at Lagmore, in common with so many others, a space set round with stones on edge, much destroyed but measurable, and yielding a diameter of 11 feet 6 inches.

The greater portion of the interior of the Circle, though thickly overgrown with short grass, is extremely irregular in surface, full of half-concealed holes and jagged edges of large stones, in addition to the bewildering numbers of loose blocks which lie scattered about just where they seem to have been displaced from their original situations.

In the illustrations (figs. 11 and 12) I have shown a general view of the Circle as seen from the south, with the great fallen Stone E prone in the foreground to the right, and the four Stones which yet remain erect; and an enlarged view of the Cist also from the south.

The sketch-plan (fig. 14) was made to show the remarkably close proximity of the five Circles on Ballindalloch estate; viz.: (*a*) Pit-chroy, 2200 yards distant from (*b*) Cragganmore, but on the farther bank of the Spey; (*b*) Cragganmore, 880 yards from Upper Lagmore; (*c*) Upper Lagmore, 312 yards from Lower Lagmore (*d*), and (*e*) Marionburgh, 720 yards from Lower Lagmore. Cragganmore Circle, though so near, is not visible from Upper Lagmore, nor is the Marionburgh group visible from the Circle at Lower Lagmore. From the great Upper Lagmore Circle, a very distant site would be visible but for the plantation of firs which now encloses it. This is the Circle at Drum Divan, presently to be described. It occupies a conspicuous position on a hill straight down the valley of the Spey, 5 miles away.

No. 9. Cragganmore, Ballindalloch.—The remains here, named as such and correctly shown on the Ordnance Map, do not seem to be known to people in the locality; for even on close inquiry we were repeatedly informed that there were no stones left of the Circle formerly on the ground. The height above sea-level is 600 feet, the same level as the Upper Lagmore Circle, but an intervening rising ground prevents the one site from being visible from the other.

There are two Stones (fig. 15), both prostrate on the verge of a steep northward slope and lying about 25 feet apart, nearly east and west of each other. They are of the same nature as the Lagmore Stones, but have become polished by the rubbing of cattle. The East Stone has an exposed surface 5 feet long by 2 feet 3 inches wide, but it can be easily traced under the grass southwards for nearly 5 feet more, so that its total length is fully 10 feet. Its greatest thickness near the N.W. angle is 15 inches. The West Stone measures only 6 feet by 2 feet

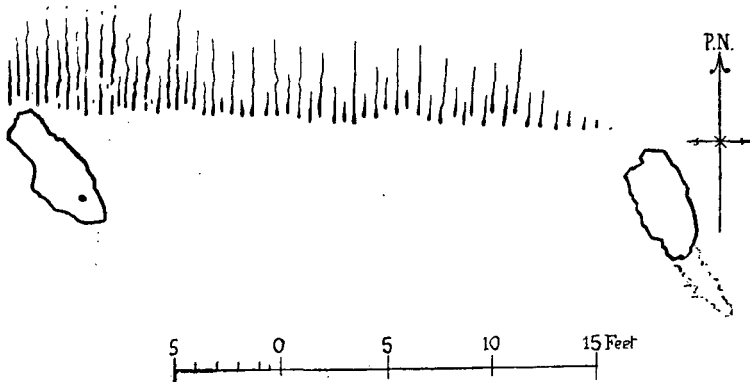


Fig. 15. Cragganmore ; Plan of Remains of Circle.

3 inches, and is 18 inches in thickness. Near the middle of its present upper surface, and at 2 feet from its south end, is a well-defined cup-mark $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. This is the only cup-mark on Circle Stones noted during the present survey.

The ground, which is an old pasture, is, towards the south of the Stones, nearly level, and stony to the tread: the interior of the Circle was probably here. Several yards to the S.W. is a still higher and more level space, more adapted, one would think, for the site of a Circle; and yet, for reasons undiscoverable by us, the site was not there, but evidently on the lower portion now just faintly indicated by its stony character.

The view (fig. 16) shows these two Stones as seen from the west, the woods on Avonside intervening between the site and the distant Benrinnes

No. 10. *Marionburgh, Ballindalloch.*—This name is adopted in lieu of any other, merely to keep the site clearly fixed as on Ballindalloch estate. The Circle occupies a level portion of a large field, now surrounded by woodland, which is divided only by the dike from the road

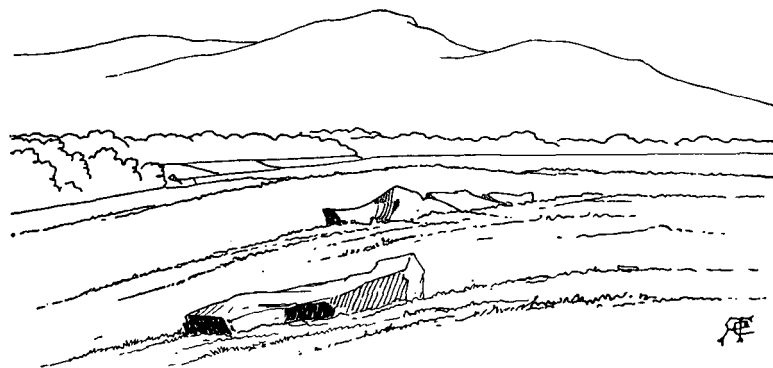


Fig. 16. Cragganmore ; Remains of Circle.

going westwards from Marionburgh to the Castle. It is about 440 yards west of the former, at a height of 628 feet above sea-level, and is recorded on the Ordnance Map. The Stones are enclosed within a strongly built rectangular dike; they are therefore so far protected from the inroads of cattle. But the interior is an utter wilderness of weeds and luxuriant raspberry bushes, which almost completely overgrow the fallen Stones and conceal more than half of those still standing, so that it is impossible to obtain an entire view of the Circle from any one point. It is equally impossible to test the nature of the very stony interior; and this is the more to be regretted, because, in a Circle of such dimensions—the largest noticed in this Report—stone-settings and

alignments would be almost certainly found, were the distracting

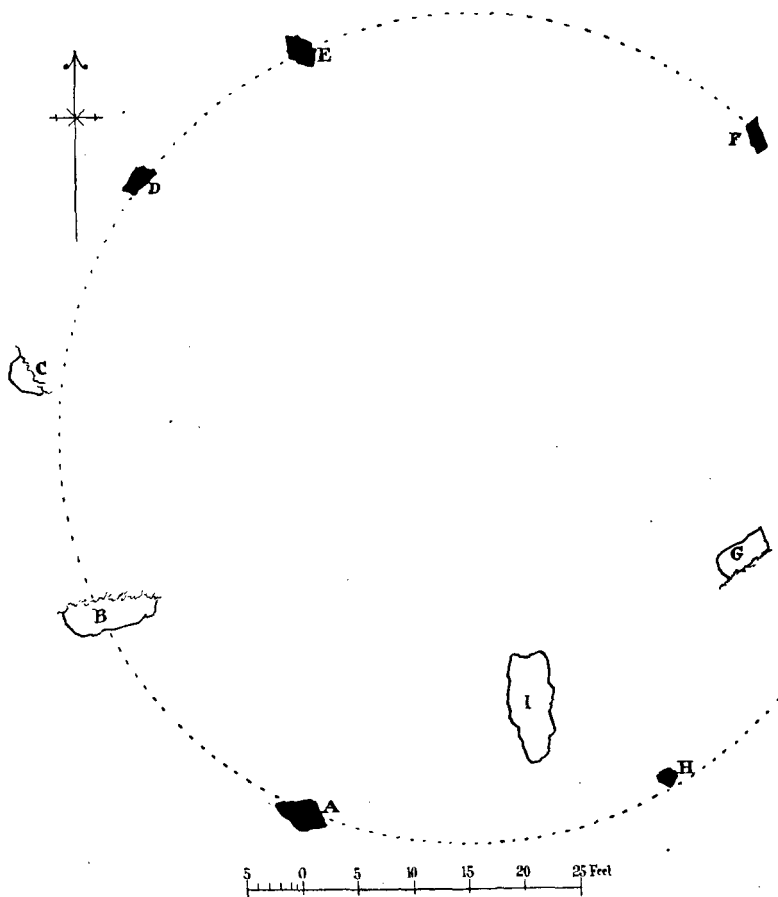


Fig. 17. Marionburgh ; Plan of Stone Circle

obstacles thoroughly removed and freedom gained for clear and careful investigation.

Taking the Circle, then, in its much entangled and imperfect condition, we have nine Stones in the following order: (fig. 17), Stone A, a shapely, four-sided block of quartzose-micaceous schist, 9 feet 1 inch in height. Measured for girth at three points, it is, at the base, 11 feet 2 inches, at the middle 10 feet 6 inches, and near the summit 10 feet 5 inches. The sides are smooth and quite vertical. At 25 feet 6 inches from its centre we strike the centre of Stone B, a prostrate block, partly overgrown with grass, measuring 9 feet by 3 feet 3 inches and about 14 inches in thickness. Stone C, also prostrate, nearly 23 feet to the north, indicates, by its downward slope towards the interior of the Circle, that its present exposed surface—4 feet by 2 feet—is merely its summit; but how far the body of the Stone may “run in” is, for reasons above stated, not at present ascertainable. The North-west Stone, D, is an erect block of whinstone, 3 feet 10 inches in height, ruggedly rectangular, and with a basal girth of 8 feet 1 inch. The next Stone, E, is erect, smooth-sided, vertical, flat-topped, and squarish in contour. Its height is 4 feet and its girth 7 feet 2 inches.

A Stone is evidently amissing at or very near to the north point, and Stone F is the next in order on the north-east arc. It is an oblong, rather straight-sided block, broad and flat-topped, and stands 3 feet 3 inches above the ground. A blank of nearly 40 feet exists between this Stone and the fallen one, G, on the south-east arc, which measures 5 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 3 inches; these dimensions may, however, represent only the breadth of the Stone and what little of its real length is now exposed to the eyes of the surveyor. At H is a remarkably small squat Stone, only 2 feet 3 inches in height and 1 foot 8 inches broad. Prostrate between this and Stone A lies a huge block of quartzose schist 10 feet in length, over 4 in breadth, and so deeply embedded that further dimensions are not procurable.

This great Circle possesses one marked feature, which is the result ascertained by our measurements; this is, that the five still erect Stones, A, D, E, F, H, stand upon a Circle so very nearly true that the circumference bisects three of them and touches the others.

The general aspect of the interior may be described as flattish ; but towards the centre there are several small heaps of small stones more suggestive of field-clearings than of anything structural.

No. 11. Pitchroy.—All the sites above described, from No. 2 to No. 10, are on the east or right bank of the Spey ; but at Pitchroy we are on the west bank of the river, and find there only two sites of Circles for a distance of many miles down the stream. The Ordnance Map records the position of two Stones at Pitchroy, at the height of 523 feet above sea-level, on the eastern edge of a field close to the road and midway between Ballintomb and Pitchroy, about half a mile south-east of Blacksboat Station, on the G.N.S. Railway. The site is open towards

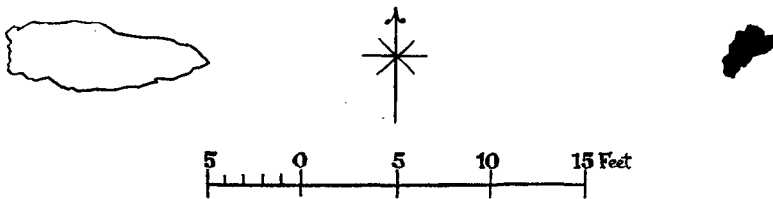


Fig. 18. Remains of Circle at Pitchroy ; Ground-plan.

the Spey on the east, but quite closed in by wooded heights on the north and west. Looking southwards, one can discern the higher of the Ballindalloch Circles.

Both the Stones are of whinstone, much veined with quartz. They are situated almost due east and west of each other. (See the ground-plan, fig. 18.) The monolith on the east is a tall and rugged block, standing 7 feet 1 inch above ground at its south angle, but only 5 feet 9 inches at the north edge. Its base is its narrowest portion, the girth there being 7 feet as compared with 8 feet 8 inches measured about 3 feet up, and 8 feet 2 inches round the middle. Twenty-eight feet to the west we touch the narrow end of the companion Stone, now fallen prostrate, which measures 10 feet 4 inches in length, 3 feet 8 inches in breadth, and 3 feet in vertical thickness at the heavy broad extremity.

The Stones are shown in the view from the N.N.W. (fig. 19), looking in the direction of the Spey and the hill ranges beyond. We were informed that many years ago the tenant on Pitchroy farm (now Pitchroy Lodge) had removed a third great Stone in close proximity to these two, and caused it to be built into some part of the house as a lintel, and that he never afterwards throve either in cattle or crops.

No. 12. Drum Divan, Cardow, Knockando.—This site is rather over 3 miles from the last, in a N.N.E. direction, and on this, the west

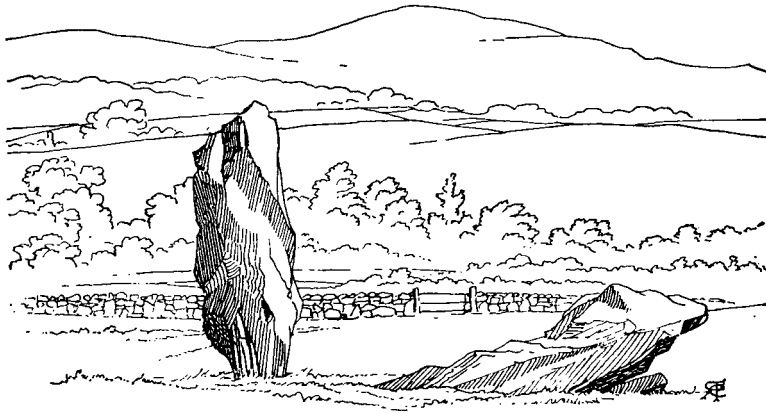


Fig. 19. Pitchroy; Remains of Circle, from the N.N.W.

bank of the Spey, no more sites are recorded throughout a moorland district of many miles in extent, comprised in the parishes of Dallas, Birnie, and Rothies. The name Drum Divan is applied on the 6-inch sheet of the Ordnance Map to an eminence west of Cardow Burn, and about one-third of a mile to the north of the distillery. The Map marks the site of one Stone as the remains of a Circle; but, following the lead of one of the workmen who knew the ground, we saw no Stone there, but were told that the Circle was in the fir-wood on the east of Cardow Burn. This proved to be correct, and the Stones found I show,

first in the ground-plan (fig. 20) and then in the view (fig. 21). The fir plantation rises to a maximum height of 700 feet above sea-level ; but the remains of the Circle are on the south-western slope of the hill, at perhaps some 40 feet lower. Much displacement has evidently occurred

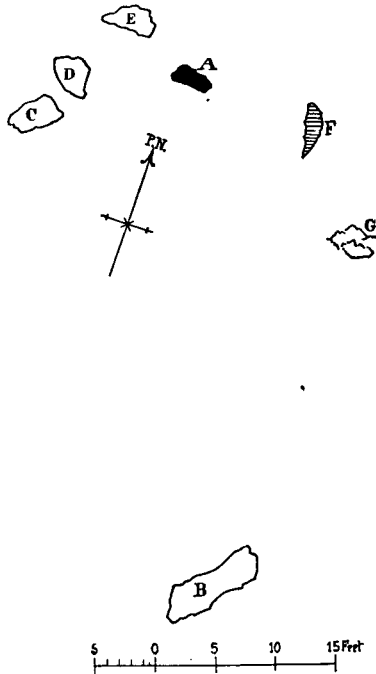


Fig. 20. Drum Divan ; Plan of Circle.

here. Only one Stone remains erect and *in situ* ; and it is extremely difficult to even conjecture the probable positions of five of the others (those shown in outline on the plan). The long crescent-shaped block (shaded in the plan) seems to be earth-fast, and may represent the circumference of a small Circle of which the Stone A was the centre. The largest and most ponderous of all these Stones, B, is the great block lying nearly 40

feet to the S.E. of Stone A. It measures over 9 feet in length by 3 in breadth, and is 16 inches thick. Stone C is flat, and measures 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 4 inches ; Stone D is 2 feet high and 4 feet by 2 feet 6 inches in length and breadth ; Stone E 1 foot 10 inches high and 4 feet 6 inches by 1 foot 9 inches. The one erect Stone, A, is 4 feet 3 inches in height, fairly smooth-sided, and girths at the base 7 feet 10 inches. Stone F projects above ground about 12 inches, and measures 4 feet by 1 foot 3 inches. At G is a much concealed block which appears to "run in" considerably. Its exposed portion measures 2 feet 6 inches by 1 foot

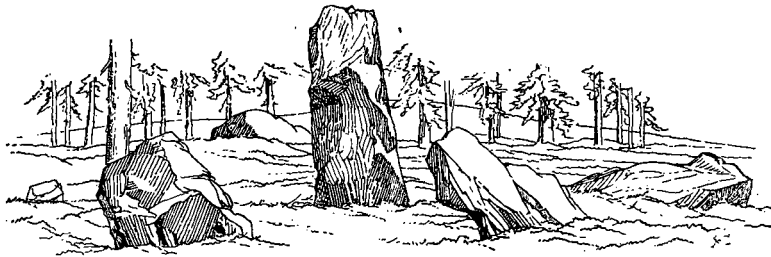


Fig. 21. Drum Divan ; View of Circle, from the S.W.

10 inches. The view (fig. 21) shows these Stones as seen from the south-west.

In recording the next site, our steps have to be retraced, the River Spey again crossed, and, proceeding eastwards, we cross the Lour and the two hills called Meikle and Little Conval,¹ till the neighbourhood of Dufftown is reached.

¹ At the request of Mr J. R. Findlay of Aberlour, I paid, with him, a visit to the great fort on Little Conval. Though the walling now left is not conspicuously high, there is ample evidence to indicate that a main enclosure, of an oval contour, composed in parts of large and massive stones, had once existed on the summit of this hill. Its diameters as given on the Ordnance Map are 737 feet by 420, the longer running nearly due north and south. But the Map omits the most interesting features, the existence of trenches, and of innumerable small enclosures, varying much in size and form, which cover the eastern slope of the hill over a wide area. Little Conval fort would be well worth planning ; it is unlike the Caterthuns, or any of the great forts known to me in Galloway.

To the south of Dufftown railway station, less than half a mile, the Ordnance Map shows the site of Aquavitæ Stone,¹ and a few yards further, in the same direction, King's Grave. Both names are still known in the locality; and the ground was at each site carefully searched, but without our discovering either a monolith or aught that could by any persuasion of rhetoric be named, now, a grave. The site called King's Grave is close to the verge of a wood planted on a rising ground named Tom-na-Muidh. There is here a rough, overgrown, squarish, and low mound, ridged in the middle down its longer axis, probably all that now remains to indicate the burial-place of him whom tradition has called a king. Competent excavation here could alone reveal whether tradition has in this instance spoken with truth.

We pass on to sites more definite.

No. 14. Nether Cluny, Mortlach.—In one of the most romantically picturesque little valleys in Banffshire, the Dullan Water forms a deep and winding channel between Pittyvaich and Nether Cluny. At a point nearly 700 feet above sea-level, and about a furlong N.W. of the latter farm-steading, there stands one Stone, the sole remnant of the Circle borne in the memory of old residents in the locality. And even this one Stone has experienced vicissitudes. An aged farm servant, whom we interviewed, avowed that about seventy years ago the Stone was removed by the tenant, that thereafter all the cattle died, and that the Stone was as promptly as possible re-erected on its original site. That the replacement was accurate there is good reason to believe; for the Stone stands on the south-west arc of a distinct, large, oval, but slight mound, having greener and taller corn growing on it than elsewhere in the field.

The site of Nether Cluny Standing Stone is quite inconspicuous; a rocky ridge on the east closes in all view on that side, and though arable

¹ Concerning Aquavitæ Stone, a guide-book informs us that this monolith marked the grave of Enotus, or Euetus, or some mythical personage; but that the Stone was rolled away into a near dike, and that to celebrate the event plentiful potations of the Dufftown blend were consumed: hence the name Aquavitæ Stone!

land surrounds it on the others, the ground beyond soon rises into the moorlands forming the base of the two Conval Hills. The Stone, of indurated quartziferous sandstone, is scarcely taller than the corn itself, being but 3 feet 10 inches at its highest angle. Nor is it very bulky, the basal girth being 7 feet 8 inches. The sides are regular and smooth,

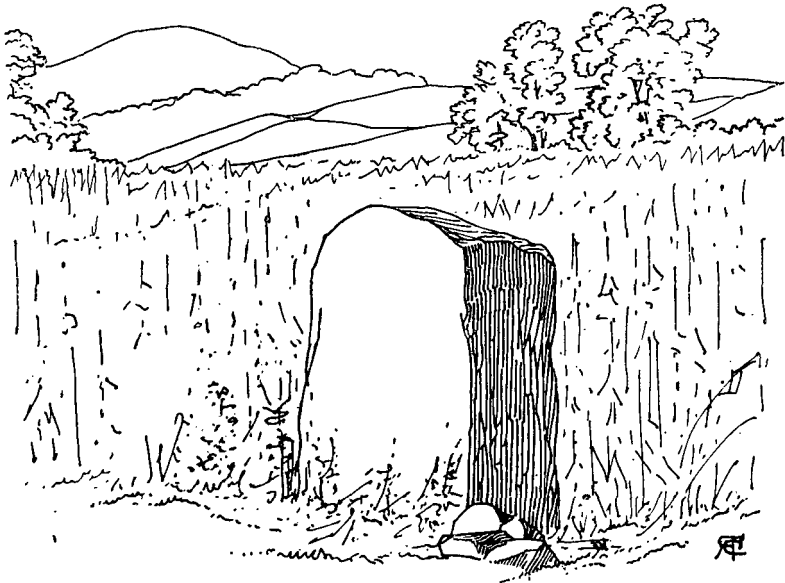


Fig. 22. Remains of Stone Circle at Nether Cluny ; View from S. E.

and the narrowest one faces due east. The view (fig. 22) shows it from the south-east, the distant hill being Little Conval.

As noticed in the last Report, the courteously offered collaboration of Mr John Geddie, and his brother Mr Alexander Geddie, M.A., of Spey-mouth School, had resulted in eliciting some interesting facts and incidents with regard to some of the Circles in that district. This year, owing to the unceasing interest taken by these friends, I am able to put

on record sites of two groups of megaliths not marked in any manner whatsoever on the Ordnance map.¹

The first of these to be dealt with in the order of our present survey is at

No. 15. *The Browland, Garmouth*.—This quiet little fishing village, once so busily engaged in boat-building, is situated within a mile of the sea beach at Spey Bay, and, about half-way between it and Kingston,

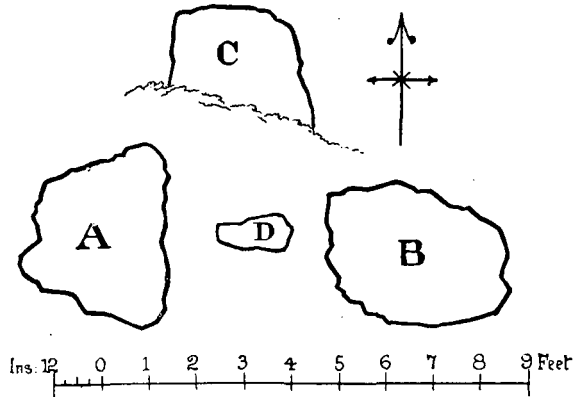


Fig. 23. The Browland ; Plan of Stone Circle.

the harbour of Garmouth, rises the Browland somewhat to the west. It is a sharply defined old beach-level less than 50 feet above the sea, and near its crest on a flat space stands the group of four Standing Stones. They are set as shown in the ground-plan (fig. 23), and occupy a space roughly triangular in contour, measuring 10 feet 2 inches along the base

¹ Between these sites near Duftown and those about to be described near Spey Bay there is no record of any archaeological relic except the site called on the map *Ranald's Grave*. We found this to be a small, low, but apparently ancient cairn, part of it moss-grown, the crown more modern-looking, as if passers-by or visitors to the summit of White-ash Hill had added their contribution of Stones.

I believe I am correct in adding that the site called *Ranald's Cross* is now built over by the obeliscal monument to the Duchess of Gordon, on the very summit of the hill.

and 8 feet 6 inches on the sides. The blocks A and D are of a bluish-grey granite or diorite, B and C are of a coarser granite of a very pale



Fig. 24. The Browland ; View of the Standing Stones, from the S.W.

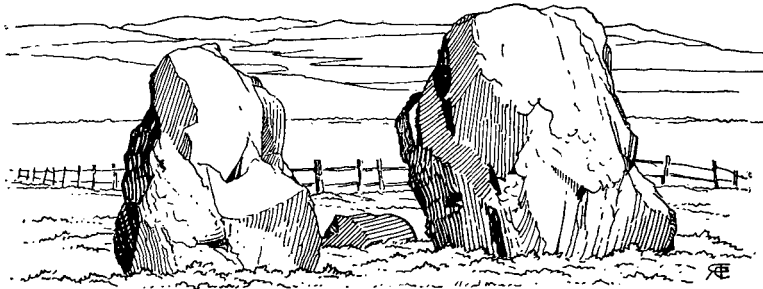


Fig. 25. The Browland ; View of the Standing Stones, from the N.W.

reddish-grey tint. The Stone A is due west of B, and C is due north of D. A is 3 feet 6 inches in height and girths 11 feet 6 inches ; B stands 5 feet 2 inches in height and girths 12 feet 6 inches ; C, which is nearly flat, "runs in" towards D, so that a breadth of only 2 feet 8 inches is

exposed, grass growing thickly over its southern portion. D is set on edge and seems to be earth-fast. It is 1 foot 5 inches long by 10 inches broad, and about the same in thickness. The relative positions and shapes of these two Stones, C and D, are highly suggestive of the cover stone and the head stone of a Cist. From the fact that C has been to some extent unearthed and tilted into an inclined position, probably the cist-idea suggested itself to some former observer who may have made an amateur excavation. The two illustrations on p. 161 (figs. 24 and 25) show this small but interesting group of Standing Stones respectively from the south-west and the north-west.

No. 16. Cappies Hill, Urquhart.—Although in September 1905 we were within half a mile of this place, we were not fortunate enough to meet with any one whose local knowledge was sufficiently accurate to state that there were stones of any description on this little isolated hillock of sand and gravel. Cappies Hill as a mere name is printed on the Ordnance map; but, as no information is there given regarding the presence of stones, the necessity of a visit did not press; and it was only during the past winter, when I opened a correspondence with Mr Alexander Geddie, at Balnacoul, that my attention was drawn to the site, and a visit to these Stones planned for the survey of 1906. In addition to Mr A. Geddie and his brother of the *Scotsman* office, I had the advantage of meeting Mr J. Brown of Innesmill, who, during the course of a day's driving, pointed out several interesting sites in this district, also Rev. George Birnie of Urquhart, who, in company with Mr W. Taylor of Lhanbryd, discussed certain geological problems connected with this site and others in the vicinity.

It must be frankly admitted, at the outset, that this site presents difficulties in the way of its being accepted as an archæological relic. In other words, there would seem, on a casual glance, to be perhaps some justification for its being passed over by the Ordnance Surveyors as a purely natural alignment of stones, though, even on that assumption, an alignment of an extremely rare form and character. After the fullest and most careful investigation, however, I have come to the conclusion

that the remains here are those of a Stone Circle. I shall proceed, therefore, to describe the site, and then show reasons for my conclusion—one, I may add, in which we were all unanimous.

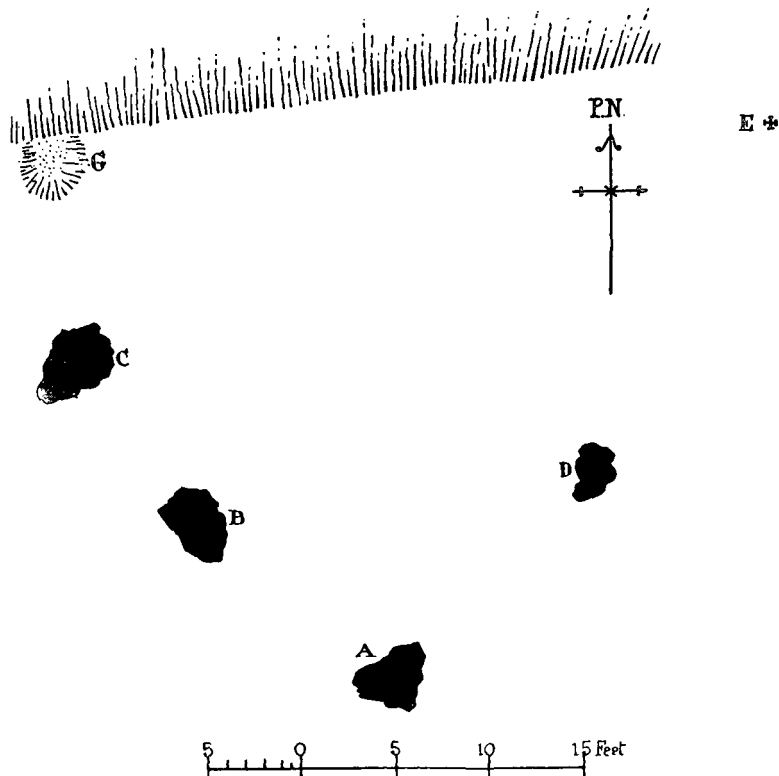


Fig. 26. Cappies Hill ; Plan of Stone Circle.

The name Cappies Hill is applied to a mound of gravel and sand whose nearly flat summit formerly measured about 75 feet north and south, and almost the same on the contrary axis. It is raised above the general level of the extensive flat land surrounding it about 25 feet, and

is now planted with trees. On its southern side the upward slope is very gentle; on the north, a considerable portion of the hillock has been removed within recent years, and there is now here a sharp escarpment. Towards this side there are now no Stones; but on the N.E. and E. several large blocks lie, so overgrown with dense whin-bushes which clothe this slope as, at present, to defy accurate measurement. These blocks are identical in composition with those constituting the Circle, and it is quite possible they were removed from its N.E. arc when the mound was dug into.

The Stones visible at present rest near the middle of the mound, as shown in the ground-plan (fig. 26). They are all of uniform geological character, of an extremely hard, deep-red quartzite of Upper Old Red Sandstone age, and quite distinct from the stones of the immediate neighbourhood. They correspond, said Mr Taylor, precisely with the rocks at New Spynie, at W. Findressie, and at Stotfield, localities about four miles distant. It is probable that in Neolithic times Cappies Hill was an island. The Stones, described in the usual order, have the following dimensions:—

Stone A, 4 feet by 3 feet by 1 foot in height.

„ B, 4 „ „ 2 „ „ 5 inches by 1 foot 3 inches in height.

„ C, 4 „ „ 8 inches by 3 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 8 inches in height.

„ D, 3 „ „ 2 „ „ 1 „ 2 „ „ „

Near E is a displaced block measuring 3 feet 2 inches by 2 feet 4 inches by 1 foot 5 inches. Two points at once strike us: first, the extreme lowness of all the Stones, and next, their approximate uniformity in size. The other eight or nine blocks on the N.E. slope closely resemble these in form and size. Settings of Stones so inconspicuous above ground as these assuredly do not occur in the Circles of normal type. Yet the very regularity of this littleness in height ought to be considered as a factor, especially when taken in conjunction with their similarity in bulk. They appear, in short, to have been selected on this account.

At the point G on the N.W., verging on the scarp of the hillock, is a

distinct cavity, suggestive of the site of a Stone.¹ It falls in with Stones C, B, and D (and probably with E), on a circle having a diameter of about 16 feet. Such a circle will, of course, be too small to include Stone A on its circumference.

As a collateral suggestion, I submit that the Stones may be, as so often is the case, the *revêtement* of a cairn of an oval contour, which, when complete on the north arc, would have had a Stone there 34 feet distant from A. There is, unfortunately, no tradition of any discoveries of relics having been found, on the supposition that the sepulchral part of the mound did extend so far. On the whole, I think it should be admitted that we have at Cappies Hill a quasi-circular arrangement of Stones of a variety not quite in accordance, perhaps, with the normal type, yet which, on excavation, might possibly be proved to be a sepulchral enclosure.

No. 16a. Netherglen, Rothies.—On the Ordnance map there is the record, near this farm, of a Standing Stone. It is shown in a wood about a furlong N.W. of the farm, and only a few yards to the east of the main road, at an altitude of 447 feet above the sea. The site was thoroughly searched, but no vestige of a Standing Stone found. The wood has been felled, which may account for the disappearance of the Stone. No local information was of any service, as the nearest residents were newcomers to the district.²

¹ Since writing this I have been informed by Mr A. Geddie that he had recently learned, in conversation with the son of the former tenant of Cappies Hill, that there was a Stone at this spot, and that it was pushed out of its place and down the slope among the whin-bushes.

² Not very far from Netherglen is marked on the map the site of *Bible Stone*, on the east of the road between Wellbrae and Rushcrook. In *Algie's Guide to Forres*, p. 124, it is written: "A rudely sculptured boulder of granite at the north gate of the churchyard [of Birnie] is known as the *Bible Stone*, from the fancied resemblance of the lines graven on it to the figure of a book. This stone formerly occupied a position about a mile east of the church, where it served the purpose of marking the boundary of the bishop's property." The author of the Guide is in error. The Stone at the north gate of Birnie churchyard is the Sculptured Stone figured on p. 119, part iii. of *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*; and the *Bible Stone*, I was assured by Mr Kennedy, the minister (and by others), is still where it used to be—

No. 17. *Camus Stone, near Hopeman.*—This rugged and picturesque monolith, the site of which is marked on the Ordnance map, stands at the foot of a wide sloping pasture on the S.S.E. of the Mains of Inverugie, near Hopeman, from which village the farm is distant about a mile.

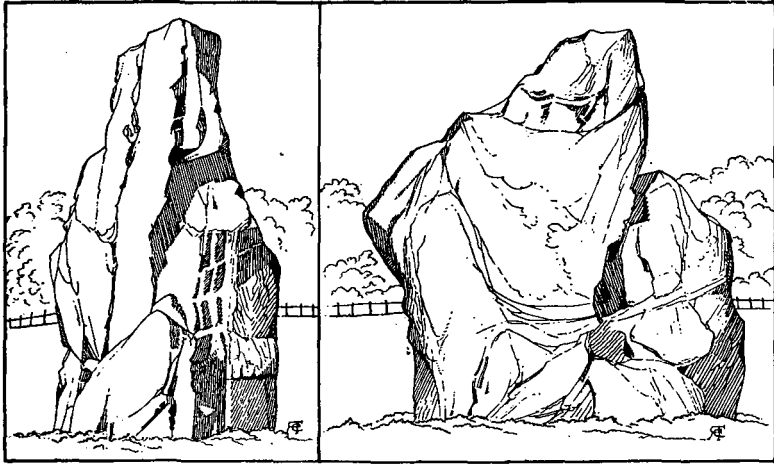


Fig. 27. Camus Stone, from S.E.

Fig. 28. Camus Stone, from S.W.

It is a slab of quartzose micaceous schist, common in the locality, unusually broad, and rather thin in comparison (see fig. 27). Its sides measure 5 feet 3 inches and the ends 20 inches, so that at the base the Stone girths fully 13 feet, swelling out to a very little more higher up. The broad sides face respectively 10° E. of N. and 10° W. of S.

The vertical height at the middle is 5 feet 9 inches, 4 feet 2 at the near Trochail. From Mr Kennedy's account, it would seem to be a huge rough block of granite, with an oblong "sunk panel" cut into its upper surface, as if for the reception of a column or other stone; and the cutting does not in the least resemble a book. As Trochail is three miles from Birnie Church, the quest for the *Bible Stone* had to be abandoned.

west end, and 3 feet 4 at the east end. It is full of cracks and cavities, and on the north side there are several very deep vertical fissures, giving the Stone almost a ribbed appearance. Near the east end one of these fissures has nearly split to the ground.

On inquiry at the Mains of Inverugie, I could hear no tradition or recollection of any other Stones having ever been associated with it. The two views shown in the accompanying illustrations (figs. 27, 28) are graphic enough to emphasise the extraordinary crookedness of the contour of the Stone. Is it a fair conjecture that the name Camus (from Gaelic *Camus* = a bay, crook, bend, elbow) may have been applied to it on account of its shape? This seems, at least, a more sane explanation of the name than to derive it from a Danish hero who bore the etymologically impossible cognomen Camus, or from a mythical Roman general who never trod the shore of the Moray Firth.

No. 18. Standing Stones, Alves.—This is the name attached to a farm-land in this parish which lies 2 miles to the N.E. of Alves station on the Highland Railway, between Elgin and Forres. The Ordnance map prints the name as Standing Stone; but I was assured by Mr Hamilton, the minister of the parish, that the right name should have the plural termination, Standing Stones; and the tenant whom I interviewed shortly after calling at the Manse called it so also. It is after all a mere matter of nomenclature now, since no stones remain on the farm of any size to be those of a Circle.

I therefore pass on with regret to notice the next site, which is at

No. 19. Templestone, Rafford.—This is a specially interesting group, deserving of notice, both on account of its smallness and because it is rather a square than a circle—one of those nearly rectangular arrangements, at any rate, which are more frequent in Perthshire than in the north-eastern areas in Scotland. Presumably, also, this curious little group of Stones has given name to the farm.

The distance from Forres, the nearest town, is, through Broomhill Wood, near Blervie Castle, about two miles, and a very few yards to the east of the steading the Stones are found, set upon a piece of ground having

a slight slope to the south. In the ground-plan (fig. 29) the Stones are shown to a large scale, in order to bring in clearly as much as possible of the details of the setting. The sides of the squarish figure enclosing the Stones measure thus: the N.W. side 10 feet 9 inches, the S.W. side

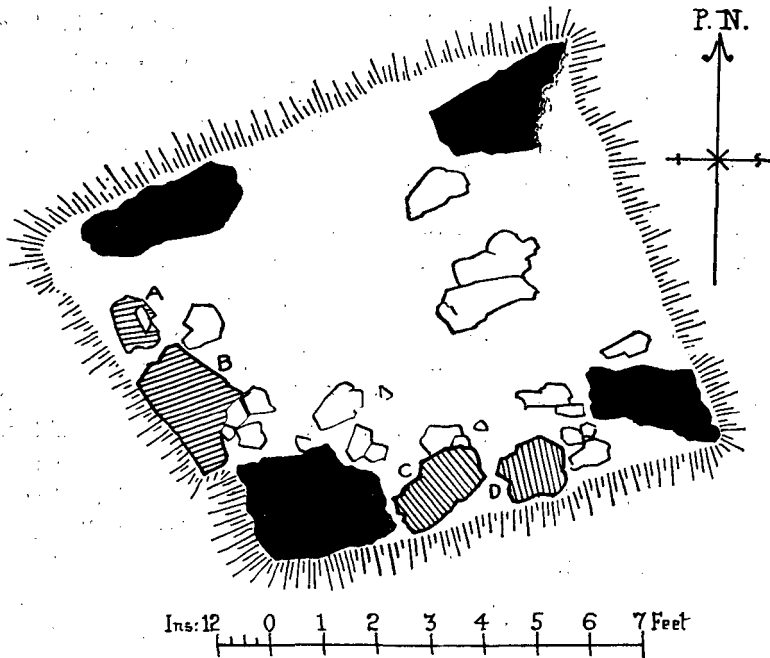


Fig. 29. Templestone; Plan of Stone Circle.

7 feet 6 inches, the S.E. side 9 feet, and the N.E. side 8 feet. The diagonals measured to extreme outside points are the N.E. 11 feet 3 inches, and its contrary line 12 feet 8 inches. The four plans shown black represent the bases of the four Standing Stones (see the View, fig. 30); the four much smaller blocks shown shaded, A, B, C, and D, are all earth-fast, and seem to be integral portions of the arrangement. They measure in height: A, 16 inches, of whinstone; B, 19 inches, of red

granite; C, 17 inches, of grey quartzite; and D, about 14 inches of a similar stone. Of the large and erect Stones, the one at the N.E. is a low bouldery stone, about 10 inches only above ground, and has evidently fallen partly forward towards the west, as the grass has to some extent overgrown it. The N.W. Stone, a pyramidal block of whinstone 2 feet 3 inches in height, has a broad oblong base; the S.W. Stone, nearly square, is of quartzitic sandstone, and stands 4 feet 7 inches in height; the Stone on the S.E. angle is largely quartzitic whinstone, and

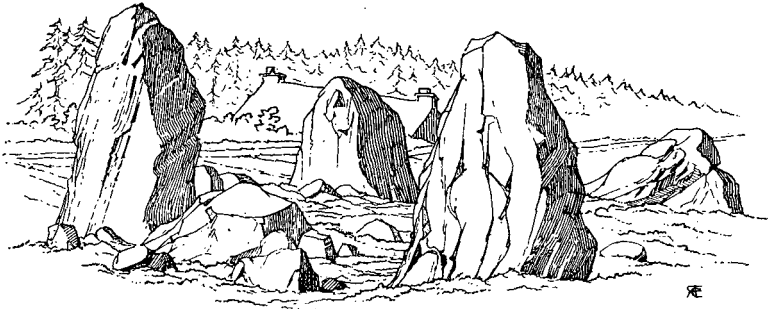


Fig. 30. Templestone; View of Circle, from the East.

stands 2 feet 6 inches above ground. The space thus enclosed between these four Stones measures only about 4 feet 6 inches and is nearly square. From the number of small stones lying loose in the interior, it is evident that a good deal of exploring has been done here, but at what time and with what results we could not learn.

This group is briefly described by Mr M. J. Algie.¹ In respect of smallness and abnormal disposition of the Stones, it may be compared with that at Park of Tongland, Stewartry of Kirkcudbright,² and with that in the Image Wood, Aboyne.³

¹ *Guide to Forres*, p. 42, ed. 1885.

² *Proc.*, xxix, p. 305.

³ *Proc.*, xxxix, p. 206.

20. *Standing Stones, Chapel Hill, Dallasbroughty.*—At this wild, open, moorland site, the extreme western limit of our surveys is reached. Only a short distance farther westwards, several Circles in Nairnshire existed, the majority of which are already planned and described; and these, by their geographical position, naturally merge into the great Cairn-Circles of the Valley of the Nairn, in the neighbourhood of Clava, which also are well recorded by Mr James Fraser, C.E.¹

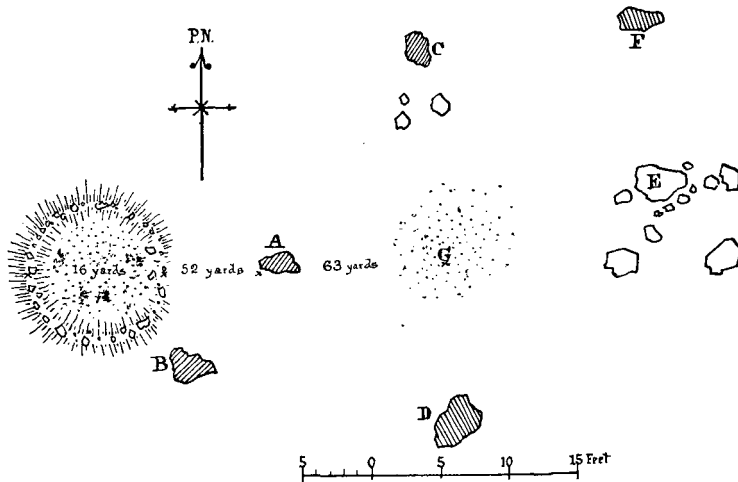


Fig. 31. Chapel Hill Standing Stones, Dallasbroughty.

The ground called Chapel Hill, on Dallasbroughty, is an upland of moor spreading out on the right bank of the river Divie, about a mile to the eastward of the great Divie viaduct, which carries the Highland Railway between the stations at Dunphail and Dava. The moor is conjoined with what was a woodland, called the Wood of Beachens,² now scarcely visible. A moorland road meanders round these uplands into Forres; and, shortly after the cottage of Knockyfin is passed, the slope

¹ *Proc.*, vol. xviii. p. 328.

² Locally pronounced Bay-chens, the *ch* guttural.

of the moor is seen to be covered with innumerable small Cairns of the same low and narrow type as have now been noticed in many parts of Scotland, but which hitherto have scarcely repaid the trouble of excavation. Near the crest of the moor there still remains the embankment of a large Cairn, 16 yards in diameter, with a few massive stones lying on its slope. I show this, not to scale, on the sketch-plan (fig. 31); the scale there given being only for the six separate Standing Stones. Fifty-two yards, measured by pacing, due east, we reach the Standing Stone A, one of the two, A and B, marked and named on the Ordnance map. It is a small block of rugged quartzose schist, 2 feet 8 inches in height and quite vertical. The other Stone, B, rises only 19 inches above ground and has one quite vertical side.

At a point 63 yards nearly east again we reach, at G, a slight hollow which appears to be, roughly speaking, the centre of Stones C, D, E, and F, which suggest the circumference of a small Circle. The Stone E has fallen outwards, its broad end having been originally its base. The others appear to be *in situ*, but are all insignificant in respect of height.

A large part of the moorland to the north and east of both these groups of Stones is full of similar blocks, less in size, but occurring in outlines, not unlike those drawn on the plan.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In summarising the features characteristic of the various sites examined in the present Report, there is one of the first importance to be borne in mind. This is the total absence of a Recumbent Stone. Although it is not at present possible to affirm either that there was or that there was not a Recumbent Stone in the great Circle at Innesmill (described in the Report for last year), it is certain that we have not in this current Report of the Circles surveyed in 1906 any indication of a Recumbent Stone, even in such Circles as exist on the east bank of the river Spey—the natural boundary between the great N.E. district of Scotland and the great N.W. district. The presence of a Recumbent Stone, then, may be properly designated the typical and

outstanding feature of the majority of the Stone Circles of the region roughly defined as lying between the Dee and the Spey.

Next, out of the twenty-one sites named in this Report, three are specially valuable as being additional to the sites recorded on the Ordnance map. The first, at the Standing Stones of Achdregnie, was found by what we are fain to call pure chance—driving up the “loaning” to Achdregnie, instead of following an old but now disused and grass-grown public road to the Mid-town.

The other two sites, as already pointed out, are due to the careful observation of Mr John Geddie and Mr Alexander Geddie.¹

Another structural feature which should be brought under notice is, that in several of the Circles above described the taller stones are set upon the south arc and the shorter on the north, and this is so in spite of the fact that these circles do not possess Recumbent Stones.

The existence of a large overground Cist in the Lagmore Circle, set near the outer ring of Stones, is also a novel arrangement. It recalls to some extent the arrangement of cists in a Cairn site in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, at Cairnderry, in Minnigaff parish, described and figured by me in 1897,² and it also resembles in form, size, and position the remains of the cist in the Cairn-Circle at White Cow Wood, parish of Old Deer, which was measured and drawn in 1903.³

¹ I should like here to include a brief notice of a highly remarkable stone, brought under my notice by Mr J. Geddie, which now stands with its base cemented into a circular pedestal in the front garden at Southfield, near Garmouth Station. There is no account of it in the *Proceedings*; but in *The Reliquary* for January 1897, Mr Hugh Young, of Burghead, has a notice of it, with drawings taken from rubbings. It is a tall Stone, and on one side bears a particularly fine double spiral, incised; on another side, a fine set of cup- and ring-marks; and on a third, a crescent symbol. Mr Geddie assures me that it is quite well known in the locality that this finely-sculptured stone was found originally at Clackmarras, which suggestive name occurs as the name of a farm about a mile east of Longmorn Station, in the parish of St Andrews-Lhanbryd.

² In *The Reliquary*, for January of that year.

³ See *Proceedings*, vol. xxxviii. pp. 276, 277.