

II.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE ARTIFICIAL ISLANDS IN THE HIGHLAND AREA. BY REV. F. ODO BLUNDELL, F.S.A.Scot.

In previous years several artificial islands have been described by me in papers to this Society : thus the *Proceedings* for the year 1908 contain the description of Eilean Muireach in Loch Ness ; notices of the islands in the Beaully Firth, in Loch Bruiach, Loch Moy, Loch Garry, Loch Lundi, Loch Oich, Loch Lochy, and Loch Treig are contained in the volume for 1909 ; while that for 1910 includes a notice of the island in Loch nan Eala, Arisaig.

At this date, in order to continue and extend the investigation, the British Association appointed a Committee with a grant of £10 to defray incidental expenses. With a view to ascertaining what islands were thought to be artificial by persons dwelling in the near neighbourhood, this Committee issued a circular, of which 450 copies were sent out. The replies were both numerous and interesting, though in some cases information was supplied which had already been published in Dr Stuart's admirable article published by this Society in 1865, or in other occasional papers published since that date. The present paper will, I trust, be found to contain only original information, though some has been incorporated in an abridged form in the Report of the British Association. It seems, however, especially fitting that all the information available should be placed before the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. I may mention that I have generally been glad to include in the paper islands, partly or wholly natural, when an artificial causeway proved that they had at some time been adapted for habitation. Such causeways seem to prove the island-dwelling propensities of the inhabitants almost as much as do the completely artificial islands.

PERTSHIRE.

Loch Moulin.—Of this and the following examples Mr Hugh Mitchell, F.S.A.Scot., sends very full reports. He writes: “Loch Moulin, Moyluine, the plain of the pool, from which the present parish gets its name. The loch adjoined the village of Moulin on the east, and was about 600 yards long by 400 wide. It was drained about 1770. The lake was shallow—probably not exceeding 7 feet or less—with a peaty bottom. A crannog or artificial island occupied the centre of the lake. About 1320 a large castle was built on this crannog by Sir Neil Campbell of Lochow. The castle has been a ruin since about 1550, but its walls, six feet thick, still stand about 30 feet high. The ground shows that the crannog was formed of small stones from ten to forty lbs. in weight, probably resting on wood, to prevent them sinking into the peat. The foundations of the castle seem to rest on wood lying in the peat. There is a sloping causeway on the shore, but it is only about 30 feet in length, and is probably where the boats landed from the castle. There is a weem or earth-house in the bank near the site of the lake. There was also a large stone circle, which was blasted about eighty years ago for building-stone. There are several standing-stones, remains of circles, and numerous forts in the neighbourhood. . . .” To the above may be added the statement in the *Old Statistical Account*, written in 1793, that “the vestiges of a causeway leading from the building to the nearest rising ground, a distance of 110 yards, are quite distinct.” This evidently refers to the opposite end of the causeway to that mentioned by Mr Mitchell, and establishes the fact of its existence fairly well.

Of the larger island on *Loch Tay* Mr Mitchell writes: “The Isle of Loch Tay is wholly formed of stones about 30 to 50 lbs. in weight. There is a long bank of gravel about 3 feet under the water, and the island has been formed by conveying stones from the shore and placing them on the gravel. The channel between the island and

the shore is 12 feet deep except in one place, where the depth is only 4 feet, and this is causewayed all the way from the shore to the island." Mr Mitchell then gives the later history of the island, and adds regarding Loch Tay that there is a small island opposite Fernan, and another near Ardeonaig, whilst in Dr Stuart's paper (*Proc. Soc. Ant. of Scot.*, 1865) mention is made of "a small islet near the shore in the Bay of



Fig. 1. Loch Tay Island.

Kenmore, on the S.E. shore of Loch Tay, within 100 feet of the head of the loch." Regarding these islands Rev. J. B. Mackenzie, for forty years the much-respected minister of Kenmore, writes as follows: "In Loch Tay there are fully half a dozen of artificial islands known to me. I have roughly investigated all of these, sufficiently to satisfy myself that they are artificial. They are of very varying size, down to simply a cairn of stones only visible at very low lake."

Mr Mitchell in a recent letter summarises the Loch Tay islands as

follows : " The artificial islands in Loch Tay, so far as I can ascertain, are as follows :

" 1. The Priory Island or ' Y ' of Loch Tay (fig. 1).

" 2. Cuigeal-Mairi or Mary's Distaff, about 200 yards west from the Priory Island, which is submerged when the lake is at its normal height, but is marked with a pole.

" 3. Island in Fernan Bay, which can be seen in low water, and which is marked by a pole to prevent the steamer or boats striking it.

" 4. Eilean nan Breaban, which is quite complete. It is almost wholly formed of stones of from 10 to 40 lbs.

" 5. In Finlarig Bay, to the west of Killin Pier. This island is marked by a tree.

" 6. There is also a small island in good preservation on the west side of Acharn Bay. It has no name. . . . I hope the above information will prove of interest."

In *Loch Tummel* Mr Mitchell investigated two islands. Of the larger (fig. 2), which measures 50 yards by 35 yards, he writes : " This island stands in about 7 feet of water, but there is a deep channel between it and the shore. . . . The island is formed of stones, which seem to rest on trees. What looked like the ends of trees could be seen below the stones. The stones seem to have been carefully laid—almost as if built in courses—and average about 1 foot square." He also describes a smaller island, 25 feet in diameter, where " the stones are placed closely together and present the appearance of being almost built into their present position. The loch having risen two feet in the last eighty years, has reduced the surface of the island."

In *Loch Rannoch* also Mr Mitchell investigated two islands. Of these he writes : " In the centre of the loch at that part there is a bank of sand 200 feet in length, and about 3 feet below the surface. At the S. end of this bank, and just where the loch deepens, an island (fig. 3) has been formed of stones evidently taken from the shore, as there are no stones on the sand-bank. . . . Rannoch was part of the

old parish of Killechronan, which was merged in Fortingall at the Reformation. The church of Killechronan has disappeared, but the burial-ground is there, and inside the burial-ground there was an ancient burial cairn about 30 feet long by 6 feet high. There are no stone circles in the Rannoch district, but several single standing-stones.”



Fig. 2. Loch Tummel Island.

Loch Clunie.—Mr David MacRitchie draws my attention to the very circumstantial account of the island in this loch published as early as 1793 in the *Old Statistical Account of Scotland*, and supplied by his relative, Rev. W. MacRitchie, parish minister of that date: “The island itself may be ranked among the antiquities of the parish. It is mostly artificial, if not altogether so. It must have been formed

with great labour, and in some very distant period too, as there is neither record nor tradition with respect to its formation. In papers dated 300 years ago (*i.e. circa* 1500) it is termed the island of the Loch of Clunie. The people here affirm that it was once joined on the S.E. side to the continent ; but this is not at all probable, as the land there

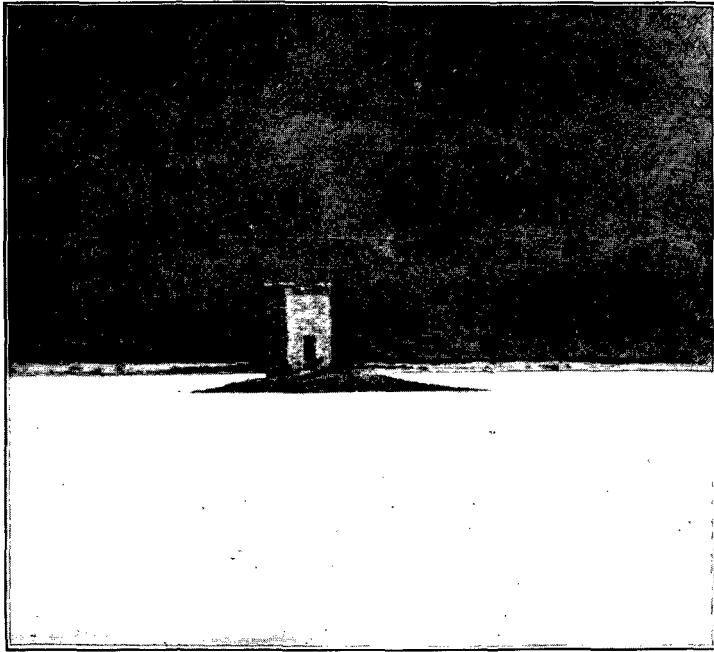


Fig. 3. Loch Rannoch Island.

lies at a very considerable distance, with deep water intervening. It is about 200 yards from its western shore, and as this is much the nearest point, one would expect a causeway to run from this side. It is about 400 yards from the S.E. shore. Its surface is a circular plain, of about half an acre, raised a few feet above the ordinary level of the loch, and surrounded with a strong barrier of stones, thrown

carelessly together, and sloping into deep water all round, like the frustum of a cone. . . . That this island has been formed principally by human art seems demonstrable from this, that the ground of which it is composed is evidently factitious; and in lately digging to the depth of 7 feet, near the centre of the island, nothing like a natural stratum of earth appeared. The foundation of the castle wall is



Fig. 4. Loch Earn Island.

several feet below the surface of the water, and in all probability rests on piles of oak.”

Loch Earn presents an interesting example (fig. 4) of how woodwork, known by one person to exist in the foundations of an island, may escape the attention of another. In fact, Dr Munro in his *Ancient Scottish Lake Dwellings* places the Loch Earn island amongst those in which no woodwork is discernible; and Mr Alexander Porteous, the author of several works on the district, writes that as far as he knows there is no woodwork in the construction of the island.

Dr Richardson, M.D., North Berwick, however, sends me the follow-

ing extract from a rare pamphlet by Angus M'Diarmid, printed in Edinburgh in 1816. The English is probably some of the most extraordinary issued from any press whatever: "An island, on that part of the said lake (Loch Earn) near Edinaple, which island, according to some affirmation, has been erected dexterous modelling; its foundations were laid on timber on which they executed the operation so emphatically, that it were specious habitation, the primary idea of operating the said island for place of refuge to some of the inhabitants, to protect their precious goods from the insult of multitude of inhuman transactions.

"Another island at the fit end, of the aforesaid lake, in anciently notoriously assaulters inhabited, wherein they were beheaded, in consequence of felonious conduct, by a valiant gentleman of Macnab, who on the execution of that purpose, has contribute the assistance of other three in bearing a boat from a far distance on their shoulder; over mountainous ground, in dead time of night. By which intellectual plan, got in to the island, and forthwith finished the ravished inhabitants."

Dr T. N. Johnston, assistant to Sir J. Murray in the Lake Survey of Scotland, suggested that the islands in Loch Hoil, Loch Derculich, and Loch Essan are artificial, and added: "In the majority of the lochs which I have visited, artificial islands exist, either as 'islands' or more often as 'cairns,' more or less submerged. The existence of causeways is frequent, and generally, as you may know, they have a bend or turn in them, so that strangers or enemies would probably step off into deep water. These islands have all a very similar structure and formation as far as surface inspection goes, and no doubt if you examined them in your diving-dress you would find them much the same in construction as Cherry Island in Loch Ness."

Mr Alex. Porteous thinks that at least one of the islands in Loch Ochtertyre is artificial, and this is corroborated by the following extracts from the Lake Survey Notebooks: "Loch Ochtertyre near

Crieff: last island said to be natural; second island just S. of first is of stones and is artificial, a submerged causeway runs E. to the shore; third island, W. of 'Narrows,' also artificial, built on piles, said to have been used as a prison." (Letter of Dr T. N. Johnston, 24th Aug. 1912.)

STIRLINGSHIRE.

Loch Lomond offers examples very similar to Loch Tay, though at the time of writing sufficient information is scarcely available. Mr Henry Lamond, secretary of the Loch Lomond Angling Association, suggests that *Insh Galbraith* is worthy of investigation as having apparently the same general formation as Eilean Muireach, in Loch Ness. He adds: "There are many of the smaller islets in Loch Lomond worthy of investigation in this connection. Boatmen speak of certain spots being 'sunken cairns,' which is also suggestive of artificiality." It will of course be remembered that it was only the lowering of the water of some of the lakes in Switzerland which brought the whole subject of lake dwellings into prominence, and that up to that date these Swiss examples were mere "sunken cairns."

In reply to my inquiry, Mr Robertson, of the Inversnaid Hotel, undertook to examine some of the cairns, which are situated five miles distant. In order to facilitate his work I sent him a water-telescope. On June 10th last he wrote: "I have now been able to examine the cairns, which can well be seen in the present low state of the loch. They occur in the bay where I have marked a red cross on the map enclosed, and immediately to the S. of the point called Rowchoish. . . . They are composed of large boulders, but are laid with such regularity that they appear to be artificial."

Other examples are suggested by Mr M'Gregor, farmer, Garabal, who reports one near the mouth of the river Falloch on the N. or Ardeish side. It is about 50 yards from the shore, and is only visible when the loch is very low. Mr Isaac Lynn, who has great experience

of the S. end of the loch, remembers seeing a large cairn of stones under the water just opposite Auchenheglish House.

Quite recently I received a most valuable piece of informatory evidence regarding one of the islands on Loch Lomond. Mr David MacRitchie, F.S.A.Scot., in company with Dr Munro, F.S.A.Scot., visited in 1901 an island on the S. side of Cashell Point. As the water was low at the time, they were able to stand on the woodwork of which the island is partly composed, the rest of it consisting of stones. At present it measures about 15 feet by 20 feet, and is distant 25 yards from the shore. On the shore, close to the island, are the ruins of a broch-like structure, called Caiseal na Fian, the Giant's Castle. The small promontory on which the castle stood was formerly known alternately as Ru na Fian, Ru na Caiseal. On modern Ordnance maps it appears as "Strathcashell Point."

Mr Walter Macdiarmaid, who has forty years' experience of fishing on Loch Lomond, of which he knows every bay and inlet, states that there is a large cairn of stones in the loch just south of Doune, and another opposite Rowchoish—the one investigated by Mr Robertson, Inversnaid. The Mill Cairn in Ross Bay he is sure is artificial. On the west side of the loch Mr Macdiarmaid mentions a large cairn in Luss Bay just north of the pier; another between the two points in Straddan Bay; with a third just south of this last. Mr Henry Lamont, who first suggested Insh Galbraith as artificial, confirms all the above suggestions. Mr Macdiarmaid further suggests an example in Rossdhu Bay, and another south of this midway between Auchintullich House and the burn. He agrees with Mr Lynn in suggesting the cairn opposite Auchenheglish, and also the one opposite Cameron Point. South of Inshruin he suggests another, while he well remembers the occasion when the example opposite Strathcashell Point was examined by Dr Munro and Mr MacRitchie. These, together with the one above mentioned at the head of the loch, would make fourteen—a large number, no doubt, but, in view of the fact that at least one has been

certified as artificial by such competent authorities as the above, who were able to stand on the woodwork of which the island is constructed, there would seem to be every probability of several of the others proving eventually to be in the same category.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

Aberdeenshire has so far added no fresh example to the four mentioned by Dr Munro, only one of which is at present an island (fig. 5), the other examples being now dry land, owing to drainage operations. The smaller of the two islands in Loch Kinnord measures 25 yards by 21, and is situated 250 yards from the nearest shore. The following note as to its construction is given by Rev. J. G. Michie in his work *Loch Kinnord*: "The essential structural feature of this island is the oak piling. The piles are arranged in three rows, one within the other, and planted at the distance of $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, with a framework of horizontal beams interlacing them. They are set almost perpendicularly, except on one side, that fronting the largest reach of water, where they incline slightly inwards as if the better to resist the shock of the waves. . . . Most of the horizontal beams have been carried off or washed away, but three are to be seen in position, covered in great part with stones, and a few more are lying about." Mr Diack, in his re-edition of Mr Michie's work published last year, gives a very full description of both islands, and arrives at the conclusion that the larger island may eventually be proved to be artificial, as well as the smaller one. Mr Diack in a recent letter mentions that an ancient canoe can be seen under the water, apparently filled with stones, and lying 30 yards S.E. of the crannog.

INVERNESS-SHIRE.

The island on *Loch Meiklie* is described by Mr William Mackay, author of *Urquhart and Glenmoriston*, and a well-known authority



Fig. 5. Loch Kinnord and its Islands.

on Celtic antiquities. He visited the island about 1876, and was informed "that a causeway was known to run some distance from the shore, and then turn at right angles in order to deceive strangers." This island, which I visited last year, is now submerged, partly no doubt owing to the soft nature of the ground on which it is built, and

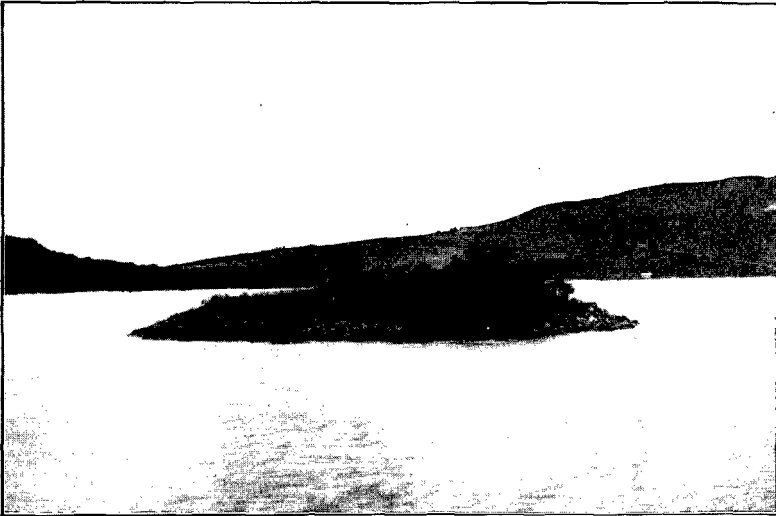


Fig. 6. Loch Ruthven Island.

partly owing to the outlet of the loch silting up, and thus raising the level of the water.

Loch Lundavra was suggested by Dr Miller and Mr Ewen-Watson, F.S.A.Scot. The latter accompanied me to inspect the island in October of last year, but the day proved most unfavourable, a regular gale blowing on the loch, which is very exposed. The island has no doubt been inhabited, the tradition being that Macbeth was slain at his stronghold on this island.

Loch Ruthven.—A careful survey of the island in this loch (fig. 6)

was made by Mr Roderick M'Lean, C.A., who also took excellent photographs. The island is almost circular, with a diameter of 57 feet, and stands about 4 feet above the average level of the loch. Though no causeway was visible, the natives stated that on a clear day one could be seen leading to a peculiar hill or mound on the shore, south of the island.



Fig. 7. Loch Arkaig Island.

Loch Arkaig.—The island here is partly natural (fig. 7), though evidently adapted for habitation. The west end is solid rock, but the south side seems to show signs of being artificially enlarged, and there is a well-preserved causeway going zigzag to the shore. The most interesting feature of this island is the large masses of vitrified material (fig. 8), one piece still in its original position being 8 feet long by 2 feet 6 inches high. I would like especially to call attention to

the two circular constructions, composed entirely of vitrified material, and possibly ancient smelting-furnaces.

Loch Phitiulais (Ord. Sur.).—Besides Mr Angus Grant, who first suggested this example, Rev. Mr Macrae, The Manse, Edderton, writes: "The island in Loch Pityoulish I often visited as a boy, and



Fig. 8. Vitrification on Loch Arkaig Island.

I remember it was always spoken of as artificial. Mr Angus Grant learned from a shepherd who had been there forty years—a very intelligent man, but in poor health—that the island was rarely now above water, but can be seen a foot or so under water at the east end of the loch near Pityoulish House, and in a line from two fir trees on the north side of the loch and a large rock on the face of the hill on the opposite side. The same correspondent gave the interesting informa-

tion that 'the Water of Druie at one time reached the Spey by Guslich and through Loch Pityoulish,' but the outlet is now almost completely silted up. Being at the end of July in that district, I accepted the invitation of Sir John Macpherson Grant, Bart. of Ballindalloch, to motor to the loch and inspect it with him. Captain Dunbar, the tenant of Pityoulish House, kindly placed his boat at our disposal, and we found the 'island' just in the position given above, but covered by 18 inches of water. The stones were of very even size, and the slope of the island about one in five, the depth of water at the island's edge being about 8 feet. On the north-east side we came upon wood, and made every effort to secure a log by means of the anchor and bring it to the surface. But in this we were not successful. From information gained on the spot, we learned that a causeway led from the island to a point on the north-east bay of the loch, and that black oak had been found and had been taken away as a curiosity.

Loch Knockie.—I visited the islands in the loch in June. The smaller island is certainly artificial, and measures 30 feet by 12 feet, but the purpose of its construction 50 yards from the larger one, which measures 219 feet by 242, is difficult to explain. I trust on a future occasion to examine the larger island more carefully.

Loch Asalaich, Glenurquhart, and Loch Farraline, Boleskine.—These islands, which were suggested as artificial, have not yet been examined; the latter presents some difficulty, as it is now part of the reservoir for the British Aluminium Works at Foyers.

Loch Vaa.—Mr Angus Grant, Drumallen, Glenurquhart, had suggested the island on Loch Vaa, near Aviemore, but later wrote that he doubted whether it was artificial or not. From a cursory view of the island in passing, I judged that it would prove not to be artificial, and accordingly I omitted it from the list which was compiled for the British Association. The omission was at once noticed by Mr Grant, who again wrote: "Please do not strike Loch Vaa out of your list. I was down there lately, and was told—too late for personal observa-

tion—that there is another island in addition to the one I explored, which only shows above water in very dry weather, and my informant says that since I made inquiry and attention has been directed to the matter, wooden beams have been looked for and seen round the edge of the stone of which the island is composed.” Rev. Mr Macrae also drew attention to the omission, and kindly sent me two local guide-books, published many years ago, both of which spoke of the island as artificial.

The county of Inverness includes some of the Hebrides, but the examples which these afford will be best considered later.

ROSS AND CROMARTY.

Loch Kinellan.—This affords an interesting example of proof as to the island (fig. 9) being artificial, even by an unwilling witness. Mr H. Corbett, the tenant of Kinellan, was at first most sceptical as to there being anything about the island that was not purely natural. After some correspondence, however, Mr Corbett consented to seek for wood amongst the foundations of the island, and on October 15th he wrote: “My brother and I first tried where I thought you had found the timbers, and here we found a paved causeway, just beneath the water, extending some yards from the island. We also thought we touched timbers at about 7 feet below the water-level and 10 to 12 feet from the shore—all this on the south-east angle, so to speak, of the island. Our sounding pole clung so hard to the mud that we could not work properly, so we tried along the south side nearer the stones. Here we found with an iron rod four beams about 6 feet apart in rather less than 4 feet of water. We then moved to the south-west angle, where we found four more, much more irregularly placed as regards the radii of the island, and much nearer together, not more than 3 feet apart. There are also the stumps of the oak posts above water-level that look as though they might have formed

a pier at one time." Mr Corbett also stated that the Ordnance Map showed the island to measure .558 of an acre. A fortnight later he wrote: "Taking advantage of the fact that the snow prevented work in the garden, I took the men over to the island this morning and dug a hole 6 feet or so in diameter and from 4 to 5 feet deep. All the soil was made, and had been piled in, and was full of big and little

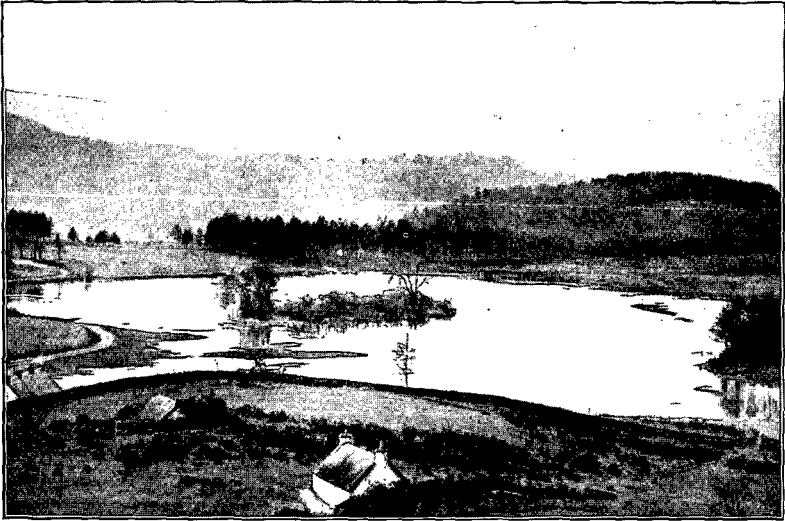


Fig. 9. Loch Kinellan Island.

boulders; none larger than could be carried by one man. I selected a spot near the middle of the south side where a kind of gap occurs in the stone wall of the island, and about 20 feet from the water-line. At about 3 feet or less we came to a layer of sand, consisting mainly of white sand and broken pottery, or what looks like it, forming a sort of beach to a smaller island inside the present wall. Piercing the sand layer vertically, and also at an angle of about 30 degrees, we found sharp and long-pointed stakes driven in groups, evidently with the

intention of 'containing' an earlier island than that now existing, and this probably was the basis of the present island. We found bones, sticks, and pottery of sorts (much broken), at all levels below

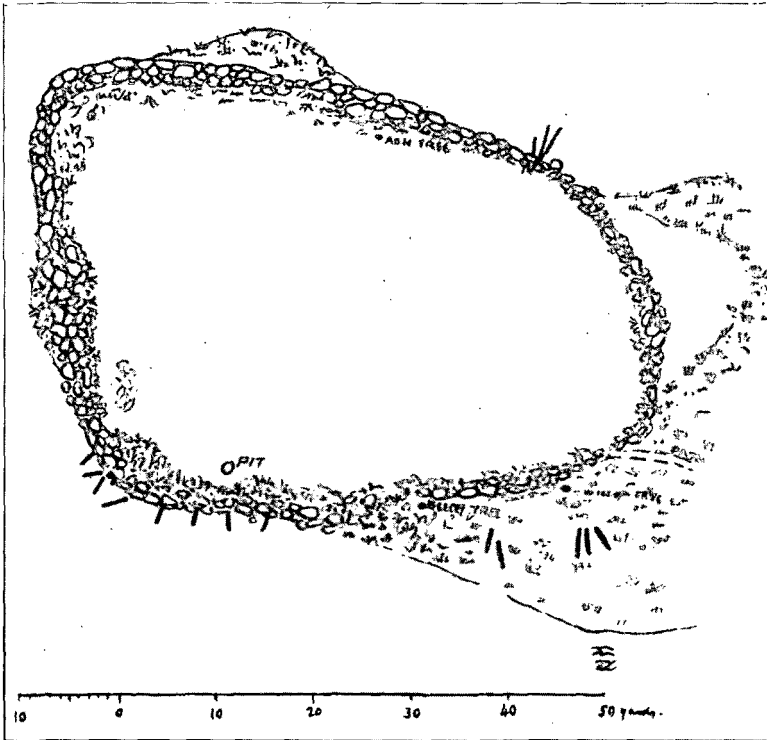


Fig. 10. Plan of Loch Kinellan Island, showing Woodwork.

18 inches from the surface. I have left the hole open, so that if you can come over soon you can see the pit for yourself. I have lifted and preserved the stakes, and have kept out a sample of the 'pottery sand' into which they were driven."

The samples of "pottery sand" were submitted to the Committee of the British Association at their meeting in Dundee, when Prof. Boyd Dawkins, F.R.S., Prof. Bryce, and Prof. Myres agreed that it was composed of fragments of pottery and of clay in process of manufacture into pottery, intermixed with bones of animals, all pointing to the neighbourhood of the refuse heap, and giving promise of interesting remains being found if the hole were further investigated. A plan of the island compiled from several plans by Mr Corbett is given in fig. 10.

Here the investigation ended for the year, and I can only hope that Mr Corbett's report may arouse sufficient enthusiasm for the island to be completely investigated. In consequence of the loch being used as the water supply for the Spa Hotel, Strathpeffer, its level has been lowered at least 3 feet, so that this island offers very favourable conditions, though not perhaps ideal, since a good deal of soil has been conveyed to the island in recent times to form a garden.

Loch Ailst.—Mr D. Macdonald, for many years commissioner to Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown, writes: "I may mention that I was always of opinion that a small island in Loch Ailst, which is on the course of the river Oykel, the boundary between Ross and Sutherland, is artificial; it seems to me to be constructed of rough unhewn stones regularly piled."

Loch Tollie.—Mr Donald Mackenzie, Inland Revenue, Bonar Bridge, writes: "There is an islet in Loch Tollie, situated on the road between Gairloch and Poolewe. This islet, which is said to be a crannog, was occupied by M'Leod of Gairloch towards the close of the fifteenth century." Bartholomew's map marks this as "Crannog," and not the following one.

Loch Kernsary.—Of this loch, three miles east of the former, the same correspondent writes: "There is a nice island called 'The Crannog' in Loch Kernsary, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the eastward of Poolewe. When last I saw it there was a rookery on it. I know

nothing of its history." He further states: "There is an islet said to be a crannog in Loch Mhic Ille Riabhaich, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Poolewe."

Loch Achnahinneach in Kintail is the same loch as that mentioned by Mr Mackenzie as Loch Ach-an-darrach. It has been carefully investigated by Mr George Forbes, Fernaig, Strome Ferry, and affords one of many instances of incorrect information supplied as to the recent date of an island, later found to be of much earlier date. The



Fig. 11. Loch Achnahinneach Island.

following are extracts from Mr Forbes's letters: "I have been trying to see some of the oldest inhabitants of the estate, as I was told that the island was built in Sir Alexander Matheson's time, but the correct history I only obtained to-day when I visited the loch. The island (fig. 11) is in Loch Achnahinneach, about four miles from here, in the parish of Lochalsh, county of Ross. It is quite small, and was disappearing altogether when they raised the level of the loch, and it was then that Sir Alexander did some repairs to it. It has been inhabited at one time, and the house has been built on oak piles; all that meets the eye now is nothing more than a pile of stones where

about thirty or forty sea-gulls have their nests every year. . . . The island is round, and not more than 30 feet in diameter, but I expect it had been much larger before the level of the loch was raised." In a later letter Mr Forbes writes : " I have two other lochs here which I intend to visit whenever I can find time ; they are a considerable distance away, but I hope to be able to inspect the islands on them

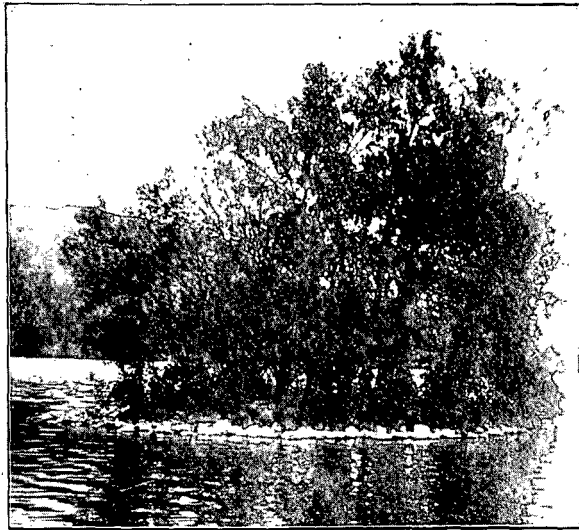


Fig. 12. Loch Achilty Island.

during the month of June. I am sure there are plenty of others, and I will try and find out about them from keepers, and then visit them with the camera."

In close proximity to Loch Kinellan, mentioned above, occur *Loch Ussie* and *Loch Achilty*, as to both of which reports have been sent in by Mr Hugh Fraser, M.A., Dingwall. The islands in the former appear to be natural, but a causeway exists between the shore and the larger of the islands ; the causeway is said to go zigzag. The Loch

Achilty island (fig. 12) was found to show wood projecting from the rubble on the south-west and also on the north-west, while at the east end the island appears to have been damaged by water wear, and the timbers are to be seen in numbers. The island measures 60 feet by 42 feet, and is distant fully 80 yards from the shore ; the water is deep all round, nowhere apparently less than 15 feet. Regarding these

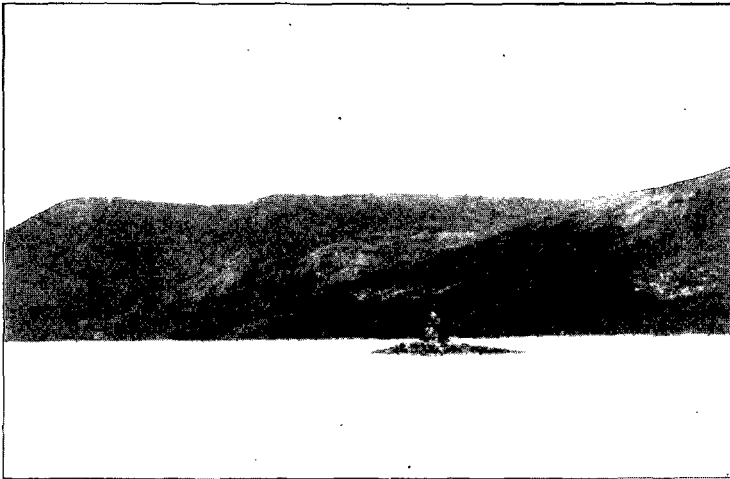


Fig. 13. Loch Glass Island.

three islands it is worthy of note that the district is rich in other prehistoric remains ; a stone circle exists at the eastern extremity of Loch Achilty (*Stat. Acct.*, p. 237). Mr Hugh Fraser also sent me details of the island on *Loch Glass* (fig. 13), which he says appears from the shore to be a heap or cairn of stones in fairly deep water. In this case also he mentions the existence in the neighbourhood of cup-and-ring marked stones and ruins of circular dwellings. His description and photograph of the island in Loch Morie prove it to be of very similar construction. The late Mr J. Meiklejohn, factor for Mr Munro

Ferguson of Novar, writes in similar terms, and gives the size of the Loch Morie island as 10 yards by 7.

Loch Beannachan.—Mr Hugh Fraser undertook to visit this island from Dingwall, but his experience was a not unusual one: "I spent a day," he writes, "in going to Loch Beannachan, only to find the island entirely under water, and, what was worse, to be misdirected as to its location." Of this island Mr John MacLennan writes: "I do not know of a crannog on Loch Luichart, but I have strong reasons for believing there is one in Loch Beannachan, and I have filled in the form with reference to it. This island is only visible at low water, and is 200 yards from the shore at the east end of the loch. About half a mile east of the crannog there appear to be the remains of an old Druid circle. The farmer's son at Carnoch dug inside the circle seven or eight years ago, and found a brass ring, now in his possession. About forty years ago a stone cist was unearthed in a small mound by the brother of said farmer."

Loch Achall, Ullapool.—Mr Hay Mackenzie, National Bank of Scotland, reports: "There is a small island or cairn of stones in Loch a Chal, Rhidarrock Forest, two miles from Ullapool, which is said to be artificial. . . . There is a path, now covered with water, leading to it, but which can easily be seen when the water is clear."

Loch Dhughail, Achnashellach.—Mr Norman Reid, one of the judges of the Scottish Land Court, spoke at some length about the island in this loch. In filling up the schedule he added: "The island is only above water when the loch is very low. It is about 100 yards from the shore. Some years ago oak sticks were washed ashore from it; they had been fastened together with large wooden pins."

Achnacloich Loch.—Mr J. Macleod, Alderman's House, Bishopsgate, London, writes: "If I remember rightly, there used to be something of this kind in the Achnacloich Loch, Ardross, the top visible at low water." This is confirmed by Major Cuthbert, Achindunie, Alness, who states that "it gives the impression of a huge cairn of stones."

In compliance with the latter's kind invitation, I visited the loch in February 1913.

The top of the island was then just covered with water, but our party could see that it closely resembled those in Loch Moy and Loch Garry. At the outer edge of the rubble building the water was 8 to 10 feet deep, and the diameter of what appeared to be the top of the island was about 50 feet. With the boat-hook we could feel wood, and we could bring up fragments of decayed wood, but could not displace one of the logs. Some of the larger fragments of wood which we brought up showed that some, at least, of the beams were of oak.

The Gead Loch.—In this loch, which is just across the boundary between Ross-shire and Inverness-shire, Rev. D. Mackay, Marydale, Strathglass, is confident that there are two entirely artificial islands, one of them with an evident causeway to the shore.

SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

Loch Craggie.—The island in this loch was first suggested by Mr Alex. O. Curle, secretary of the Ancient Monuments Commission, who advised my applying to Mr John Campbell, the ground officer. In reply Mr Campbell stated that the island, which is at the east end of Loch Craggie, has every appearance of being artificial. It measures 46 feet by 34 feet, and is 3 feet 6 inches above the average level of the loch. It is situated 110 yards from the shore, and is composed of stones of all sizes, without the appearance of any woodwork, nor can any causeway to the shore be traced. On the other hand, the floor of the loch is quite clear of stones, beyond the limit of the island, so that there is little doubt but that it is artificial.

Of *Loch Clibrig*, Rev. Mr Macrae, Edderton, writes: "Here there is an island with a distinct causeway to the shore." In *Loch Shin* (fig. 14) Mr Curle suggests four islands as possibly artificial, two of which may be seen in picture postcards of the loch. They certainly

have every appearance of being artificial, and are considered as such by other correspondents, viz., Rev. Mr Macrae, Mr M'Neil, post-master, Lairg.

The island of *Loch Migdale*, also suggested by Mr Curle, is similarly reported by Rev. Mr Macrae; whilst Mr Donald Mackenzie, Inland Revenue, Lairg, sends me the following quotation regarding this set



Fig. 14. Loch Shin Island, Lairg.

of islands from the *History of the Earldom of Sutherland*, by Sir Robert Gordon, who wrote in 1630: "In sundrie of these laikes ther ar ilands with habitations, as in Lochshin, Lochbroray, Loch Migdale, Loch Buy, Loch Dolay, and others. There are four islands in Lochshin . . . all pleasant dwellings in summer." Dr T. N. Johnston sends me the following extract from the notebooks of the Scottish Lake Survey: "Loch Migdale, near Bonar Bridge: island at west end of loch is composed of large and small stones and is artificial; a cross-

ing passes from west shore to the island, and was covered by 1 foot of water on 24th September 1902."

Mr Donald Mackenzie also suggests the island in *Loch Laro*, on the confines of the parishes of Creich and Lairg, which a gentleman who had seen it recently considered to be artificial. Mr Mackenzie wrote, after reading the British Association Report, that the local keepers told him that "there was what appeared to be the remains of an island in *Loch Crogail*, which is two miles north of Loch Laro. This island consists of a cairn of stones as if thrown together loosely. Of the island in *Loch Buie*, which was inhabited in 1630, only a pile of loose stones remained."

In the Lochinver district Rev. Angus MacIntyre thinks he can identify several islands as artificial. Mr MacIntyre had collaborated with Dr Erskine Beveridge in the latter's excellent topographical works on Coll and Tiree and on North Uist, and he has thus had exceptional opportunities of observing the construction of these islands. He writes: "I have not yet been able to verify several islands that have come under my notice, but feel quite or almost quite sure that they are the genuine article; one is at the west end of Loch Assynt, one in Loch Awe at Inchnadamph, one in the loch immediately in front of Aultnacealgach Hotel, and two in Loch Cama at Elphin—five in all. I propose on or after 12th July to make an exhaustive examination of all these, and report directly thereafter."

Loch Tigh Choimhead.—In reference to this loch Dr Hew Morrison, LL.D., writes: "In my native parish of Tongue, Sutherlandshire, there is a loch about two miles from Torrisdale, called Loch Tigh Choimhead, that is, the Loch of the Watch House. In that loch there is a green island, which has become more and more submerged in my own memory, and my brother, who is a strong swimmer, went to the island at my suggestion some years ago, and with a long stick sounded the various parts of it, and thought that it was very likely founded on piles or some kind of wood. . . . It might also be worth while

examining many of the lochs in the northern part of the county. Not far from this loch which I have referred to there are brochs, and in the near neighbourhood are two large boulders with cup-marks on them."

Loch na Hacon, Tongue.—Mr Evander Mackay, Farr Schoolhouse, Thurso, suggested that the island in this loch was artificial. He had visited it many years ago, and had noticed a causeway leading to it from the shore. At Mr Mackay's suggestion I wrote to the neighbouring farmer, Mr James Mitchell, whose reason for not considering the island artificial can scarcely be deemed conclusive, while the existence of the cup-marked stone is of considerable interest. The following is an extract from Mr Mitchell's letter: "I do not remember Mr Mackay being here, and I think that it was most likely a brother of mine who showed him the island. I do not think the island is artificial; there is no story locally that it is. . . . There is a rock with cup-markings on the shore just opposite the island, but I fancy this is of much older date than the building (on the island)." In a letter of later date Rev. David Lundie, Manse of Tongue, writes that he does not think the island itself artificial, but that he has noticed the causeway, also some prehistoric tumuli about a mile distant, and the "prominent cupped stone on the shore about 20 yards distant."

CAITHNESS.

On application being made to Mr Robert M'Clements, Schoolhouse, Keiss, this gentleman communicated with Mr John Nicolson, Nybster, who is greatly interested in antiquarian matters, and, being thoroughly acquainted with all parts of the county, Mr M'Clements reported: "In *Loch Alterwall* there is an artificial island. The loch was drained about fifty years ago by Sir John Sinclair, who led a burn from the loch and so left the island dry. On the island is a small dry-built structure, whose walls are 5 feet thick, with five steps leading down.

A jug was found in parts, which Mr Nicolson pieced together, and of which he sends a sketch. He has the jug in his house.

“ At the east end of *Loch Watten* there is a small island, a round heap of stones about 4 feet above water, and 200 yards from the shore. The *Loch of Stemster* has a small island planted with trees. An island in *Loch Rangag* has a broch built on it. *Loch Calder* has a natural island which has a hut circle built on it.” Other correspondents consider that the island in Loch Calder may prove artificial. The Ordnance Map shows that on the shores of Loch Watten there are two Picts houses, and close to the shores of Loch Rangag there are standing-stones. At the invitation of Sir John Sinclair I arranged to visit these lochs, which promised to be of unusual interest in view of the large number of other antiquarian remains in the district. Mr Nicolson was to meet me and spend the week in the investigation. On arriving at Barrock House on the Monday evening I found a telegram ordering my attendance as naval chaplain at the funeral of a marine belonging to H.M.S. *Indomitable*. The funeral was to take place at Cromarty on the Wednesday, so that only Tuesday was left for our work. The weather proved most unfavourable, heavy rain falling the whole afternoon. We visited the island on Loch Watten, which certainly bears every appearance of being artificial. We also visited the site of Loch Alterwall. Sir John Sinclair later made a short report as follows: “ Loch Alterwall: This island was investigated by Sir Francis Barry in 1900, when a square building and staircase were found. Lake dwelling at Stemster: This is an island in the Loch of Scarmlett, in the Stemster district of Bower parish, and not in the Loch Stemster in the parish of Latheron. It has now trees growing upon it, but before the trees were planted there were indications both of a building and of a staircase. . . . The dwelling in the island in the Loch of Rangag is an ordinary small broch of about 20 feet diameter, and it is always quite easy to wade out from the shore to the island.”

Mr John Davidson, West Watten, suggests an island in *Loch Toftingall* as possibly artificial. In the near neighbourhood of this loch are standing-stones, and at least four Picts houses.

ORKNEY AND SHETLAND.

Mr James Murray, of the Lake Survey, suggested the island on *Loch Skail*. He also in his letter corroborated the views of Dr T. N. Johnston given above: "Certainly we came across very many such islands, but at this distance of time my memory fails me when I seek for details. There are many islands in North Uist connected by causeways with the mainland, and some are doubtless artificial," etc.

Mr James Johnston, Orphir House, Orkney, further suggests, among the numerous islands on the lochs of Orkney, one on *Loch Wasdale*, with site of chapel; *Loch Clumly*, the island of which has a broch on it; *Loch Sabiston*, where there are stepping-stones leading to the island; *Loch Isbister*, the island of which has a broch on it.

Shetland.—Mr J. D. Mackintosh, Lerwick, replied to the circular: "I understand that there are some such (artificial islands) in Shetland, and I think if you sent me half a dozen of the circulars I could get some information from various parts of the islands of Shetland. . . ." At the time of writing these forms had not yet been returned. Dr T. N. Johnston reports that "the *Loch of Cliff* in Unst has an island cairn, but no causeway observed."

ARGYLLSHIRE AND THE WESTERN ISLANDS.

On the mainland of Argyllshire there have been suggested three islands in Loch Nell, one called Loch a Mhuilinn at Oban, one or perhaps two in Loch Awe, and one in Loch Ternate, Morvern.¹ Those in *Loch Nell* (fig. 15), briefly mentioned by Dr Munro, were visited

¹ Not a large number for so extensive a district, but this is due rather to the want of correspondents interested in the subject than to the absence of examples.

and photographed by Dr W. D. Anderson, Oban. Dr Anderson reported that there were two artificial islands still above water, and two others submerged, and mentioned that his photo "showed the serpent mound on the mainland behind the island and a little to the left of the picture." This item is recorded in view of the question



Fig. 15. Loch Nell Island.

which was added to the original circular by one of the members of the Committee as to whether there are any artificial mounds or other structures in the alluvium on the shores of the loch. The "serpent mound" was visited and examined by Dr Phene, who found at one end a prehistoric burial. I must, however, add that Dr Joseph Anderson considers the mound a natural one. Mr R. D. Murray Allan, of Glenfeóchan, kindly sent a tracing of the loch showing the

position of the two visible islands, and also that of the submerged ones.

The island in "*Loch a Mhuilinn*," Oban, was suggested by Mr D. M'Isaac, who exhibited a photo of the crannog being dug, and, in addition to the workmen, the photograph showed Professor Heddle of St Andrews and several members of the Town Council of that day. Mr M'Isaac also showed a piece of one of the logs. The crannog, which was first discovered by Mr Campbell, then burgh surveyor, was about 85 feet long by 53 feet broad. Dr J. A. Harvie-Brown, LL.D., on whose yacht Professor Heddle was staying, sent me a copy of the photo, along with the following extract from his notebook: "15th May 1888.—We inspected, along with Provost Drummond and Mr Munro, Oban, a new-discovered lake dwelling built on piles in the middle of Loch a Mhuilinn, which lies close to the town and railway embankment, and which, lately a loch, is now a deep stinking bog of mud and decayed vegetation. . . . The whole crannog is some 84 feet long by 56 feet wide—one of the largest discovered."

Loch Awe.—Mr Donald Macdonald, Taynult Hotel, writes: "I have come across an old man of seventy-nine, John M'Gregor, who knows Loch Awe from end to end. He tells of an artificial island on the loch opposite Ardnassaig House. In the old days Ardnassaig was called New Inverawe. When M'Gregor was ten years old he remembers quite well seeing men building this small island, which is about 12 yards long. Old Mr Campbell, of New Inverawe, noticed one day when the loch was very low some stones appearing under the surface of the water. He then got a lot of men to gather stones and earth to make up this mound. When finished he had some trees planted." It would thus appear that Mr Campbell, perceiving that the island was being submerged, heightened it on this occasion. All experience goes to show that these islands were constantly sinking under their own weight, and that even at the time when they were being inhabited

layer after layer of material was added, so that frequently three or four hearths are found one above the other.

Mr Francis Darwin suggested the island opposite Inverliever. In reply to the circular, Mr H. E. Bury, present tenant of Inverliever, wrote: "West of the Inverliever Burn there is a wooded promontory, which in very high floods is an island. Round this promontory is a bay, and in the next bay west of this is the island in question. It is composed of a mass of stones, in the otherwise sandy bay, and is about 50 yards from the shore. At the ordinary level of the loch the top of it is about 3 feet out of the water, and I should certainly say (and so does my friend Mr J. B. Hill, who was Geological Surveyor for many years for that part of Scotland) that the island is artificial. I think there are signs of a causeway to the shore."

Loch Ternate.—This island was suggested as artificial by Mr A. Nicholson of Arisaig; and Mr John Ross, keeper, sent the following interesting information and traditions about it: "The island is nearly circular, measuring on the water-line 70 feet in diameter. Its surface is about 5 feet above the summer level of the loch. Its diameter on the floor of the loch will be about 95 feet. The water is about 12 feet deep, though the island seems to be on the edge of a bank of clay over a deep bed of soft mud. The boulders are of two kinds, granite and whinstone, and have been ferried from each side of the loch, as these boulders occur on the opposite sides—the granite on the north and the whinstone on the south. No boulder is heavier than one man can handle. The timber foundation is of oak, and appears to have its logs laid from the centre to the circumference. A sycamore, now past maturity, grows on the island, and has attained a girth of 9 feet at breast height. The loch is pear-shaped, probably about 100 acres in extent, and the island is in the heart of the pear. The remains of the piers, one on each side of the loch, can be traced.

"This small island once had a retaining wall round it, except in two places where a boat could be drawn up—a necessary thing in

times of storm. On the island there was said to have been formerly a building or shelter for any who had to live on it. Those accused of crimes from Lismore or Mull or neighbouring places, if they got permission from the Chief of Ardtornish to reside forty-eight hours on the island, were free from any liability to punishment. The island was thus a sanctuary—hence name *Tearnait* or *Tearnaech Inaid*, ‘place of safety.’ While on the island the fugitives were fed on *fuarag*—meal and cream. On the north side of the island there is a place called *Roinn-na-bannaraich*, that is, point or place of the dairymaid. The meal was made by *quern*. In fleeing the fugitives often landed with boats at back of Ardtornish Castle, and till recently there were rings there in stones for holding boats. These were removed by tramps, but one iron ring still remains. The fugitives were often pursued from Ardtornish up the hill to *Tearnait*, and some hold that Ardtornish means ‘hard pursuit up the hill.’ If those pursuing managed to get between the fugitives and *Tearnait Loch*, the poor fugitives had to go *Eigneig* way. This was a hard plight for them, and *Eigneig* is supposed to mean ‘place of hardship.’ If the fugitives were caught ere reaching the island, they were taken to *Cnoc-nan-Tighearnan*, that is, the Hillock of the Chiefs, where they were tried. This hillock is in sight of the island. If condemned, the criminals were taken to *Savary*, and executed there on *Tom-na-Croich*, the Hillock of Hanging. The place bears the name to this day. The above tradition about the island has been current for long, and was often told by Dugald M’Gregor, who died twenty years ago at Knock, and whose ancestors were in *Morvern* for two hundred and fifty or three hundred years.”

Isle of Mull.—My letter to Messrs Lindsay, Howe & Co. was forwarded to the Duke of Argyll, who kindly answered it himself: “March 12th, 1912.—I received last night a typed letter with your signature asking about artificial islands. That on *Loch Baa, Salen*, is opposite Mr Melles’ house, on my side of the loch, and is a cairn of stones. There are one or two under water off this low shore at foot

of Glen Clachaig in the same loch, but these may be mere mounds of stone at the foot of some old glacier. The island opposite Mr Melles' house must be at all events largely artificial. It is small."

Mr M'Cormick writes: "Most of the information in my paper ('Brochs and Crannogs') was taken from Dr Munro's *Lake Dwellings*, but included two others in Mull of which I think there is little or no record. One is a stone-built lake dwelling in *Loch Assopol*, Ross of Mull, but as it is a long time since I saw it I can give no measurements or distance from the shore. Another is what I take to be an artificial island at the north end of *Pottee Loch*, near my father's house, and about half a mile from the Sound of Iona. It seems to be an accumulation of boulders very slightly above the surface of the water, and overgrown with brush, etc. . . . I might at some future time lecture in Gaelic on these brochs and crannogs, and your slides would serve well as illustrations."

Tiree.—Miss Elspeth Campbell writes from Inveraray Castle: "I would suggest two islands in *Loch Bhasapol* in Tiree. They are without doubt artificial, and should be of interest; both islands are fairly close to the shore, but there is no trace of a causeway. In fact, the bottom of the loch is sand and mud, though the islands are built of large stones. No one knows their origin. The two islands are at different ends of the loch, half to a quarter mile apart. One is very small, the other slightly bigger—almost big enough for a small fort." Regarding these islands Mr Peter Anderson, gamekeeper, Scarinish, sends the following details: "As regards the islands on Loch Bhasapol, I have been on them hundreds of times while duck-shooting. *Eilean Mhic Conuill* is entirely artificial, and there are a few stones, the remains of a causeway, towards the north-west. There is an entire absence of stones both on the floor of the loch (which is sand) and outside the limits of the island. The island is about 18 yards across, partly under water. *Eilean Aird na Brathan* appears to me to have been a much more important place. It is partly artificial, the stones

are very much larger, and they must have had great difficulty in getting them there. It is 50 yards from the shore, and the water round is 3 to 4 feet deep. The island is 15 yards by 10. . . . The other islet that is partly artificial is in *Loch na Gile*, and is just as Mr Beveridge mentions in his book (*Coll and Tiree*), page 115." Mr Anderson also considers the island on *Loch na Buaille* as probably artificial.

Coll.—Besides Tiree, the islands of Coll and North Uist have been described by Erskine Beveridge, LL.D., whose careful investigation and excellent illustrations make one wish that other districts in these distant parts could find as able an historian. It is unnecessary here to give more than a brief summary of his account of the island duns. He states that they are somewhat numerous in Coll, and that all have evidently possessed "clachans" or causeways for approach. The island in *Loch Fada* is 20 yards from the shore, with a causeway from the north. Half a mile south of this is *Loch Ghille Caluim*, the island in which can be reached in a dry summer by wading. It measures about 20 feet in diameter. The islands on *Loch Rathilt*, *Loch Urbhaig*, and *Loch an Duin* all have causeways to the shore. In *Loch Cliad* there are two natural islands, each of them approached by a causeway. About 15 yards south-west of these "is a smaller islet of stones, to all appearance entirely artificial," and connected with one of the larger islands by a causeway. The *Upper* and *Lower Mill Lochs*, marked on the Ordnance Maps as *Loch nan Cinneachan* (fig. 16) and *Loch Anlaimh*, both contain islands, evidently artificial, "with well-preserved causeways through rather deep water."

Isle of Eigg.—Just north of the foregoing islands is the small isle of Eigg, measuring three miles by four. In it is the little *Loch na Mna Moire*, with a distinctly artificial island. Rev. F. M'Clymont writes: "I thought it might interest you to know that there is one of these islands in a loch here. It goes by the name of the Loch of the Big Woman. There is a funny tradition of its being inhabited by abnor-

mally big women, who used stepping-stones so far apart that none else could use them." The island is 50 yards from the shore, and measures 35 feet by 15.

Isle of Skye.—Although artificial islands are so common in the Outer Hebrides, the only one reported from Skye as probable is that mentioned by Major Kenneth Macdonald of Skeabost, in the old *Loch of Monkstadt*, now drained. There are the remains of an old monastic

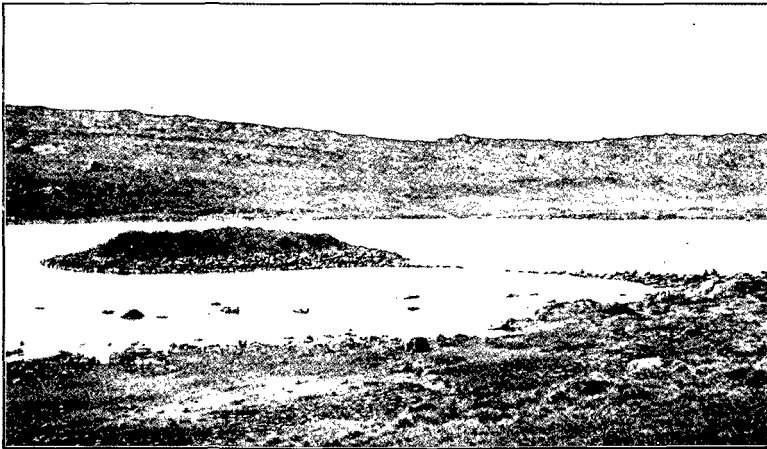


Fig. 16. Island Dun in Loch nan Cinneachan.

building there, on what was an island in the loch. The loch was drained about eighty years ago, and now gives a wonderful crop of hay. Hon. Godfrey Macdonald, Armadale Castle, and MacLeod of MacLeod both write that they know of no artificial islands on their properties, which comprise by far the greater part of Skye.

In singular contrast to the preceding, artificial islands occur in a continuous line throughout the Long Island. In Barra there is one in *Loch an Duin*, close to the road from Castlebay to North Bay. In South Uist they occur almost exactly every three miles, and may be

seen from the highroad which runs through the centre of the island. That on *Loch Dunnakillie* has the remains of buildings upon it, and is a fairly large island. In *Loch na Faoillen* (fig. 17), a small loch only a quarter of a mile across, there is an excellent specimen, with a causeway to the shore. When staying in South Uist in 1909 I had

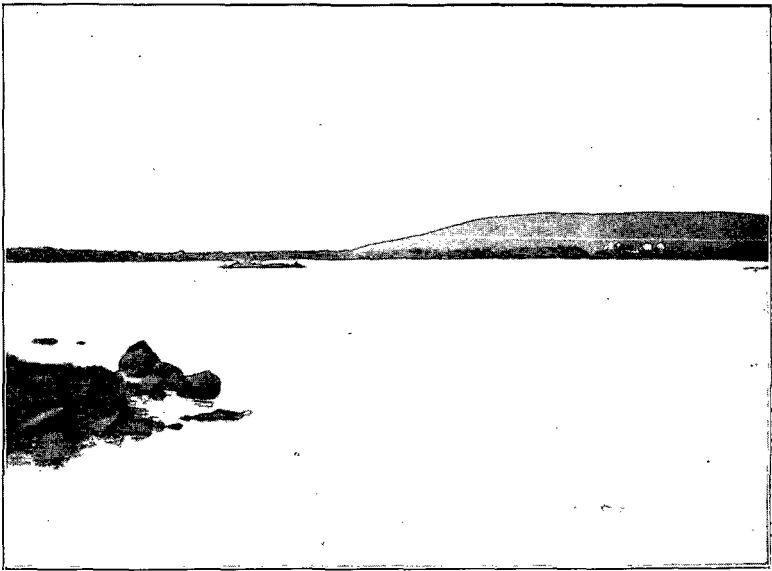


Fig. 17. Loch na Faoillen Island.

this island for six weeks just opposite my house, though it was with some difficulty that I had a tiny boat put on the loch and landed on the island. It is 50 feet in diameter, and is certainly artificial. The causeway to the shore, though quite distinct, is now unpassable except as a trial of skill. Three miles further north, and again alongside the highroad, there is another similar island with causeway in *Loch a Mhuilinn* (fig. 18). To these, which I frequently saw myself, Rev. Alex. Macdougall adds the islands in *Loch Ard Bornish*, *Loch Ceann a'*

Bhaigh in the Ormaclate district, *Loch Alt a Briac* in the Stoneybridge district, and in *Loch Druidibeg* in the Stillingarry district. These are quite independent of the great number of natural islets with which most of the lochs abound, and which make the presence of so many of the artificial islands all the more surprising.

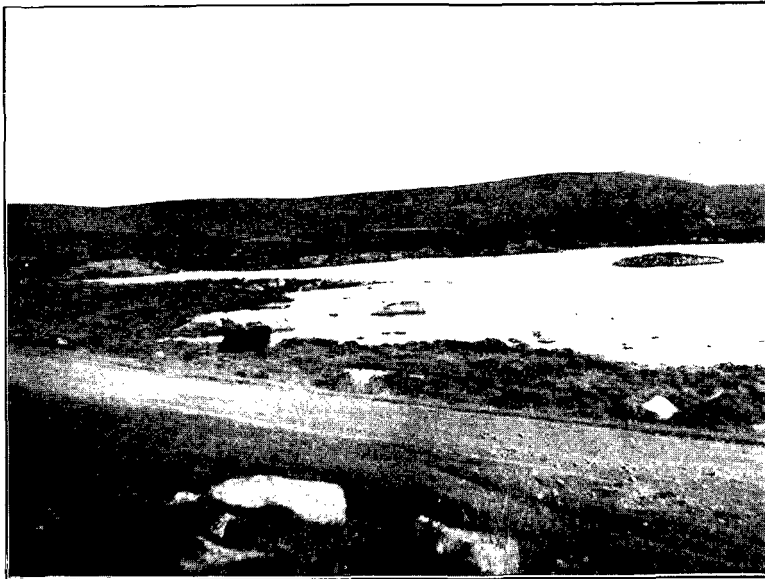


Fig. 18. Loch a Mhuilinn Island, South Uist.

Benbecula.—Regarding the examples in Benbecula I have the promise of a full report from Eric Gardner, M.D., who writes: “There are here several duns, three very good ones, but most have been used for building material. There are the remains of two stone circles; of one only a single stone remains erect, the rest having been used for building material; the other, very perfect till a short time ago, was blasted down for building material for a new school, but

there is still a good deal left. There are other sites which should be investigated, which I shall mention when I write again." Fortunately, the artificial islands are not so easily reached.

North Uist.—As already mentioned, North Uist has been fully and most ably described by Dr Erskine Beveridge in his work published as recently as last year. The following notes and illustrations are taken from this work by kind permission of the author. Treating of island forts, he says: "Our list includes no fewer than seventy island forts, each as a rule provided with a causeway from the neighbouring shore, whilst in exceptional cases it would seem that the only access was by means of a boat. The causeways show considerable divergence in type, and most of them have evidently been submerged to the extent of 12 or 18 inches, though others stand at about the normal surface of the loch. It was of special interest to find seven of these approaches interrupted by structural gaps, obviously arranged so as to give additional security. Again, and no doubt with a similar purpose, the causeways display much irregularity of outline, in general taking a curvilinear form, but sometimes that of zigzag, or of a double curve, shaped like the letter S." Treating of prehistoric forts in chapter vi., the author adds a footnote: "To all appearance several of the minor island forts have been built upon foundations at least partly artificial, though it seems obvious that in each case the site was chosen so as to take advantage of natural conditions already existing."

In a letter of August last, Dr Beveridge wrote: "I am now able to send you particulars of the apparently artificial islands in North Uist. I have classed seven as such, numbering them 1 to 7, and five others are doubtful, whilst there may be a few others which are less obvious as to character. Of the twelve I have only photographed six, and send copies herewith." No. 1 (fig. 19) is the island in *Loch an Duin, Portnain*, known as Dun Nighean rìgh Lochlainn. It is about 30 feet in diameter and 30 yards distant from the shore, with well-marked causeway. Stone circles and a chambered cairn exist in the near

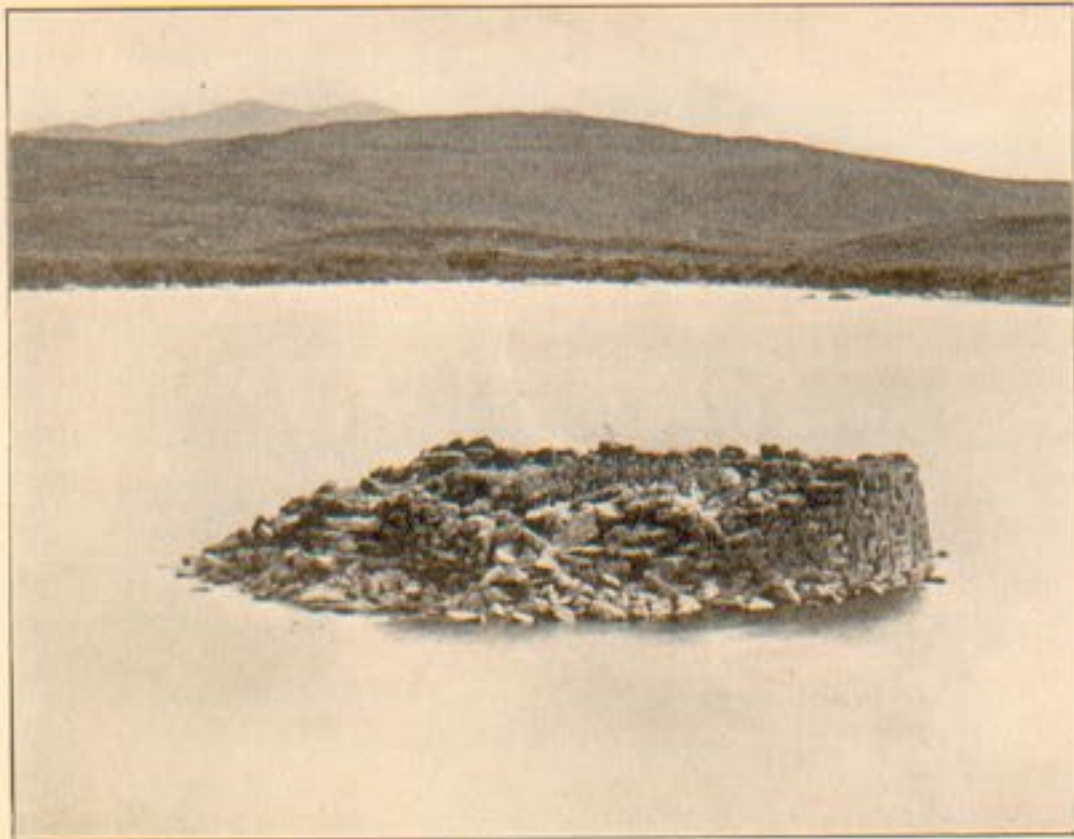


Fig. 19. Dun Nighean righ Lochlainn in Loch an Duin, Portnain, North Uist.

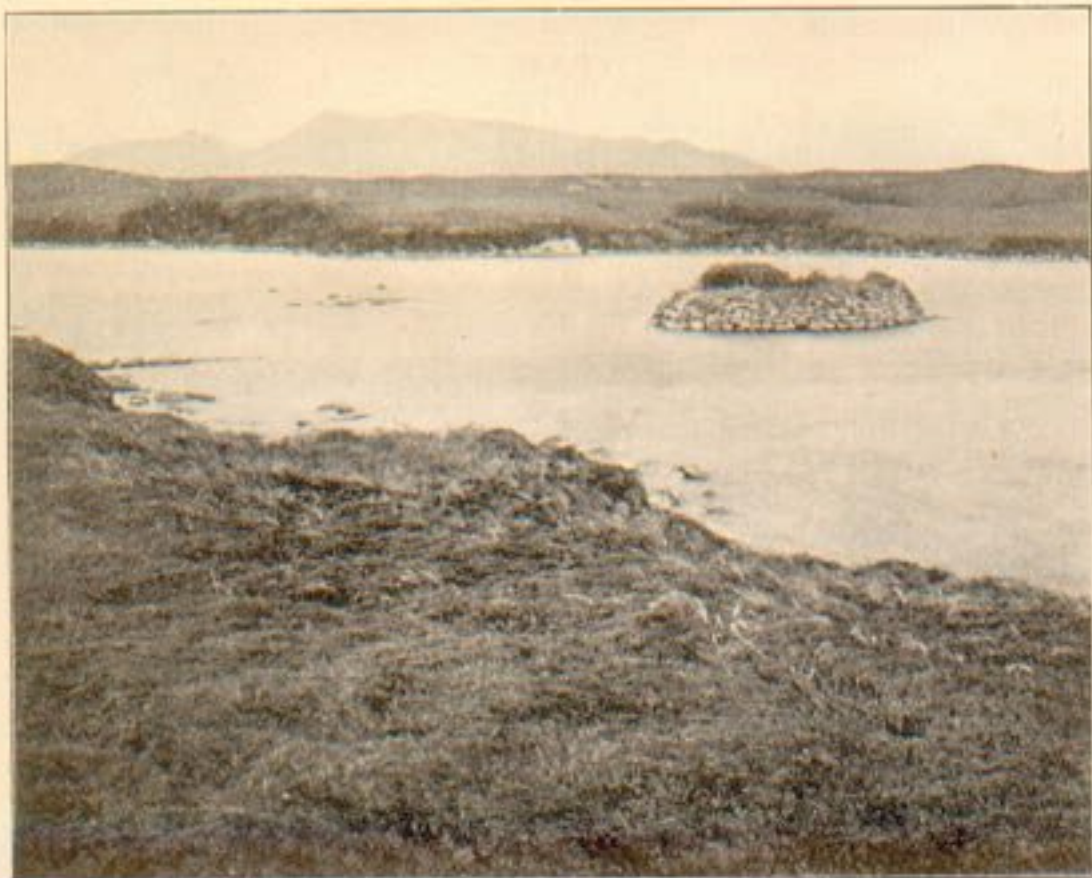


Fig. 20. Dun Breinish, Loch an Duin, North Uist.

neighbourhood. No. 2, *Loch an Duin, Breinish* (fig. 20), also known as Dun Nighean rìgh Lochlainn. This measures 28 feet by 32, is distant 25 yards from the shore, and has a distinct causeway. The two islets in *Loch Obisary* Dr Beveridge considers doubtful; the one measures 18 feet in diameter, the other 60 feet, but neither has any causeway visible. The two islets in *Loch Mor, Baleshare*, are classed as certainly artificial; one measures 40 feet in diameter, the other less. In each case there is a causeway about 5 feet wide. The two islets in *Loch nan Gearrachan* are also certainly artificial; one measures 32 feet across, the other 29 feet by 41 feet. They are distant respectively 35 and 25 yards from the shore, and each has its causeway. The island in *Loch Eashader* is of the "certain" class. It measures 52 feet across, is distant 40 yards from the shore, but the causeway in this case is doubtful. The *Loch Aonghuis* island is "doubtful," as is also that in *Loch Oban Trumisgarry*, but this latter has a causeway to the shore, a distance of 30 yards.

In *Loch nan Clachan* (fig. 21) occurs a very typical example. It measures 83 feet by 92 feet, and stands about 3 feet above the ordinary water level. Surface indications point to its being at least partly, if not altogether, of artificial origin. The causeway is 50 yards in length, and shows a gap of 2 yards at a point about 20 yards from the island.

Harris.—Mr J. Wedderspoon, C.E., a prominent member of the Inverness Field Club, sends particulars of two islands in Harris: "The first find was in the island of *Scalpay*, near Tarbet. I had occasion to visit the island in connection with a water supply to the school proposed to be taken from a small loch near the centre of the island, bearing the common name of Loch an Duin." Mr Wedderspoon mentioned that there are two islands about 20 yards apart, and that both have the appearance of being artificial, although one is more strikingly so. There is a causeway from the shore, and this appears to be continued between the two islands.



Fig. 21. The Ylen Dunikranil of Bleau's Atlas, 1654, in
Loch nan Clachan, North Uist.

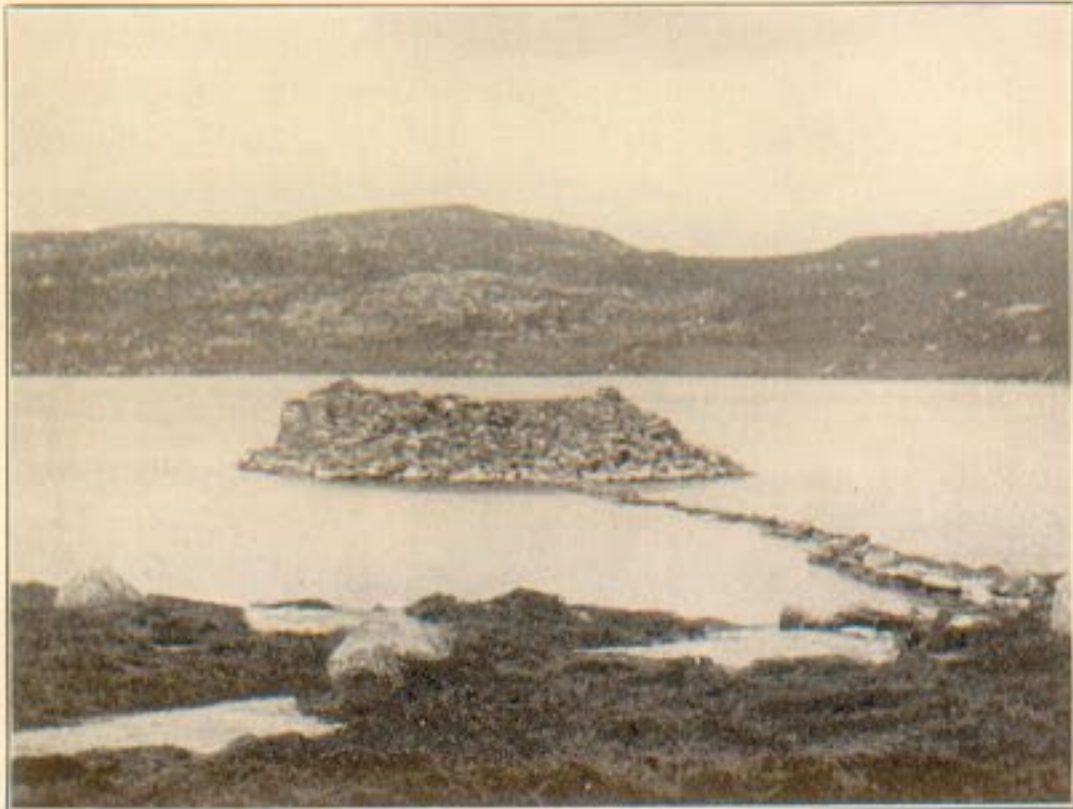


Fig. 22. Looh an Duin Island, Taransay, Harris.

The other example is on the island of *Taransay*, off the west coast of Harris, which also contains a Loch an Duin (fig. 22). There is a causeway from the shore a distance of about 40 yards, and the island measures 35 feet across. Mr Wedderspoon made exact measurements of the building on the island, which, however, he considers of much later date than the island itself.

Lewis.—Mr James Fraser suggests the island on *Loch an Duin*, near Loch Carlaway, and that on a loch near *Bragar*, seven miles further north on the west coast of Lewis. Mr C. G. Mackenzie, Procurator-Fiscal, Stornoway, suggests the islands on *Loch Arnish* and *Loch Chlathamir*: “In the first of these the foundations of the islet seem to be formed of rubble-work, and the same remark applies to the twin islands on Loch Chlathamir. On several little lochs of the island the common brochs or duns are to be seen.”

Mr K. J. Ross, Bank of Scotland, Stornoway, writes: “Quite recently another instance of an artificial island, which does not appear on the list, has been brought to my notice. It is situated on *Loch Orisay*, which appears on the reduced Survey Map as Loch Eilean Mor, about seven miles from Stornoway in a westerly direction. I do not think there can be any doubt about its being artificial, for the person who brought it to my notice had never seen or heard that artificial islands of the kind existed, yet he was quite positive that it had been built by the hand of man.”

One of the most interesting examples of the whole series is that at *Tolsta*, first suggested by Rev. W. Morrison, M.A., F.S.A.Scot., who writes: “At Tolsta, some 12 miles north of Stornoway, on the croft of a Mr M'Iver, a small shopkeeper, I saw a lake bottom on this croft. He had drained the loch with a view to adding it to his croft. He was astonished that, with the exception of a small mound on the otherwise arid area, he could get no crops to grow. I suggested that the mound was a lake dwelling. He at once agreed that it must be so, for he found stakes stuck all round the mound. He added that he found

fragments of clay pottery, which he threw aside as of no value to him. This took place several years ago. If Mr M'Iver is in life he will assist you with good-will. Lake dwellings should be found all over the interior of the island of Lewis."

Mr C. G. Mackenzie, Procurator-Fiscal, writes from Stornoway : " While in North Tolsta I saw a loch in the near vicinity of the one under notice, on which an islet is situated. From the general appearance of the island I do not doubt that it is a built one. At *Aird*, in the Eye Peninsula, I examined an island in Loch an Duin. A causeway of stones leads from the shore to the island, and this island too I regard as artificially formed. Whether the stones forming the island are the remains of a dun, or are the actual foundations, is not now easily determined, but I incline to the view just stated.

" In addition to those mentioned in my former letter, there appears to be an artificial island on Loch Orisay (spelt phonetically), between Grimsheder and Loch Chlathamir, in the parish of Lochs. The road surveyor, Mr Macleod, informs me that the island is undoubtedly a 'built island.' It may be of interest to know that some years ago, when alterations in the water-supply system to Stornoway were rendered necessary, the loch from which the town's water is drawn (*Loch Aird-na-bice*) had to be partially drained. At the north-west corner of the loch, some yards from the shore, a perfectly formed island was exposed, consequent on the draining operations, and it still exists, but now of course totally covered by water. If I remember rightly, some stakes were found about it."

Interest in this subject appears to be growing, and the hope has been expressed that a map will be drawn up showing the distribution of these islands, not only in the Highland district, but over the whole of Scotland. Before that can be done, however, each district must be surveyed fairly carefully, and I shall be only too glad of the co-operation of members of the Society in ascertaining whether there are not still many unrecorded examples. In west and south-west Argyllshire

especially there would appear to be need of further investigation, and it will be a great assistance if any members of the Society of Antiquaries will make inquiries in those districts, and forward the results of their inquiries to me.

The recently published volume on the Glastonbury Lake Village affords much information of the greatest interest as to the size and construction of lake settlements. The whole settlement consisted of ninety huts, probably the growth of many generations. One hut measures 32 feet across, and had five complete floors, and no fewer than fourteen hearths, one above the other.

The small size of some of the examples in our Highland lochs, their tendency to sink below the surface, the varying amount of wood foundation, are only some of the points which seem to characterise both sets of lake dwellings. Much of the information disclosed during the careful work at Glastonbury corresponds with that afforded by the excavations of Dr Munro in the South of Scotland, and also with what has so far been ascertained of those in the Highland area as described in the foregoing and previous papers.