

VII.

A SURVEY OF PREHISTORIC MONUMENTS IN THE
BLACK ISLE.

BY ANTHONY A. WOODHAM, B.Sc., PH.D., F.S.A.Scot.

The Black Isle is in fact a peninsula, 18 miles long by 8 miles wide, bounded on the N. by the Cromarty Firth and on the S. by the Moray Firth. For the purpose of this survey the neck of the peninsula is being taken approximately as the line of the main road joining Dingwall and Beauly.

Geologically the Black Isle consists almost entirely of a ridge of Middle Old Red Sandstone, its rounded backbone called the Millbuie running the length of the peninsula and attaining a height of over 800 ft. The region contains some of the best agricultural land in the Highlands and is renowned for both crops and cattle.

Situated directly at the N. end of the Great Glen, the importance of such a fertile region in prehistoric times must have been quickly recognised, and we have in fact abundant evidence of its habitation from the Neolithic Period onwards. The fact that the Black Isle is the meeting-place of the Clava group of chambered cairns and the Orkney-Cromarty group, marks it at once as deserving of the closest attention. In addition, the recognition within the region of two single-entrance henge monuments emphasised the necessity for a thorough study of the peninsula as a whole.

In view of the foregoing the paucity of published work on the Black Isle came as rather a surprise. Apart from two somewhat scrappy papers by Mr Angus Beaton in 1881-3, and brief descriptions of a few of the larger chambered cairns by Professor Childe in 1943-4, the *Proceedings* contains only the report on the final excavation of the Callachy Hill cairn by W. MacKenzie in 1907. Recorded finds are likewise rare. Many of the cairns, for example, have been robbed and their contents lost. The great Carn Glas at Kilcoy was opened in the presence of Lord Abercromby in 1906 but no report of the excavation is extant to my knowledge, and the only hint of it came from the presentation to the National Museum of Antiquities many years later of an arrow-head found therein.

The fertility of the soil in the peninsula, which has already been referred to, has ensured that agricultural operations have been carried on in the Black Isle from the earliest times, and must have entailed considerable loss to the archæologist. The removal of stones in order to clear fields for cultivation and to provide material for field drains, dykes and buildings has

led to the destruction and sometimes complete disappearance of cairns and doubtless other monuments. This process continues at the present time. Afforestation is a comparatively new evil from the archæologist's point of view, causing at best the camouflaging, and at worst the complete destruction of many sites. None of the Black Isle prehistoric sites is as yet scheduled for preservation by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments.

Some monuments are, however, reasonably intact, and it was in order to list these, and at the same time extract any available information from the remainder before they disappear completely, that this survey was undertaken. An attempt has been made to present as comprehensive an account of the surviving prehistoric monuments as is possible. A thorough literature search combined with a study of aerial photographs of the region where available, and the inspection of all recorded and likely sites on the ground, has been carried out, and it is hoped that, though there will almost certainly be omissions, they will be only of a minor character. For example, the identification of small cairns and hut-circles in some of the densely afforested regions is largely a question of good fortune. Plans are included of all sites which possessed features worth recording. In nearly all cases the state of preservation of the cairns has been so poor that chambers only have been planned, but where the original shape and size of the cairns can be judged they have been mentioned in the text. Similarly, while the heights of individual stones have not been indicated on the plans for the reason that in the majority of cases only the upper portions are visible, those of special interest are referred to in the Inventory. All compass points indicate True North.

The report commences with an inventory of the monuments, which are classified as cairns, henges, forts, enclosures and miscellaneous sites. The items are numbered consecutively and their positions indicated on the map. Their exact positions can be found from the map references which are provided in every case. A brief discussion of some points of interest follows, and the paper concludes with two appendices listing recorded cist burials and small finds from the Black Isle. The former are numbered in order to allow of their incorporation in the map.

INVENTORY.

CAIRNS.

Group I.—Round or oval, chambered.

1. CARNURNAN (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/566523).

The remains constitute the skeleton of a Clava type chambered cairn—almost certainly the only one in the Black Isle, and the most northerly so far recognised. The small cairn stones have been completely removed for building purposes,

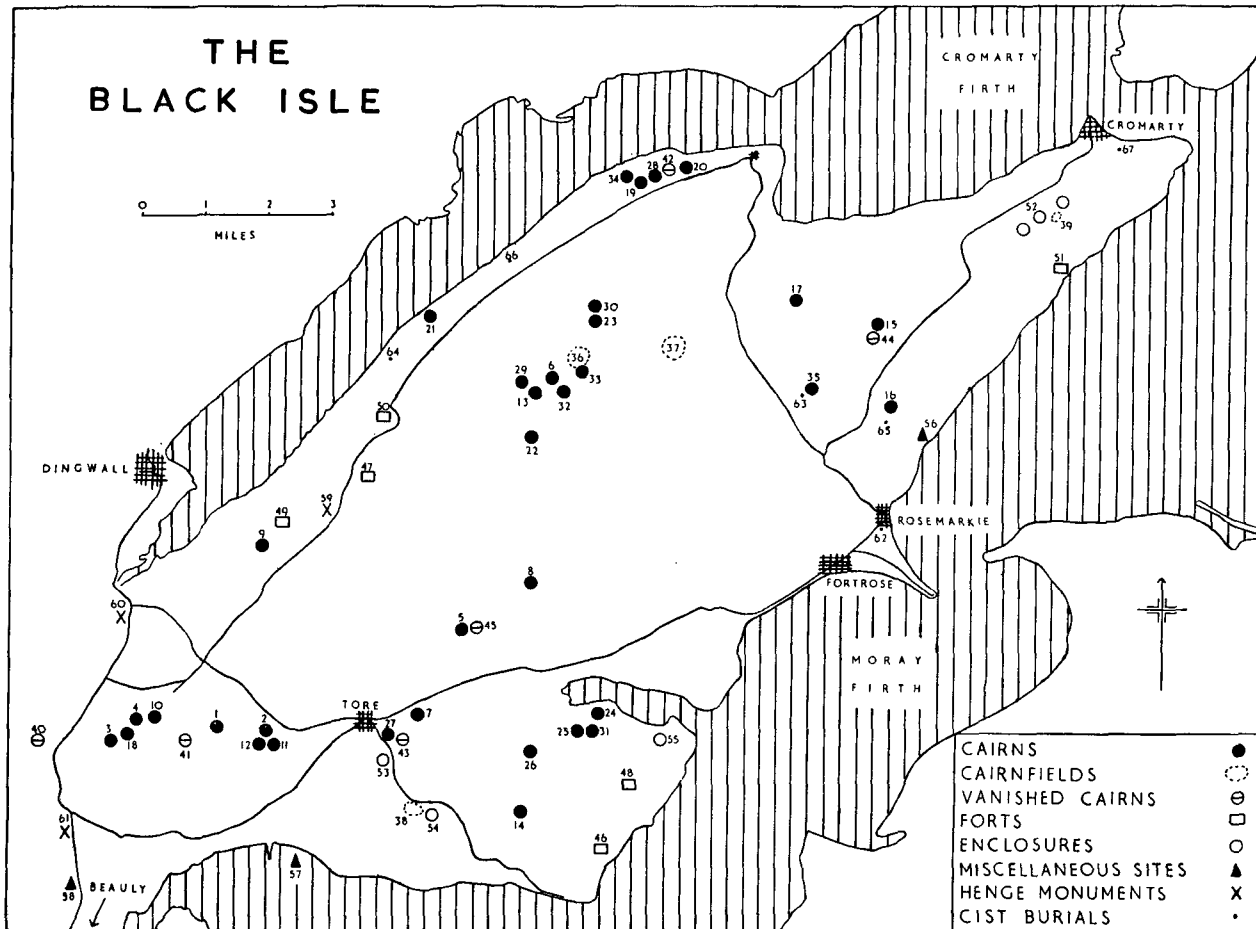


Fig. 1. Map of the Black Isle.

leaving only the larger kerbstones, etc. The result is an ideal ground plan of this type of cairn. A central ring of kerbstones marks out an oval chamber 14 by 11 ft., and this is surrounded by another ring forming a peristalith 37 ft. in diameter joined to the chamber by a passage 2 ft. wide (bearing 210° from the centre of the chamber). Three lintel stones are lying in proximity to the passage. Surrounding all is a circle of 8 free-standing uprights 70 ft. in diameter. A ninth stone must have originally stood in the gap now existing on the SW. Of the remaining 8, 4 have fallen and one of these is displaced somewhat from its true position. This displaced fallen stone is omitted from Beaton's plan (see below), and Childe, who doubtless accepted this plan, also mentions only 7 uprights. As is usual in cairns of the Clava type, the tallest uprights are to be found on the arc adjacent to the entrance. No cup-marks were noted on any of the stones. The cairn is situated on the very summit of the Millbuie at a height of just over 500 ft. above O.D.

In a report of the Rhind Excavation Fund Committee in 1868, the brief reference indicates that the cairn was in its present denuded form at that date.

Old Stat. Acc., xvii, 350.

Report on the Rhind Excavation Fund, *P.S.A.S.*, vii, 301.

Beaton, *P.S.A.S.*, xvi (1881-2), 478.

Childe, *P.S.A.S.*, lxxviii (1943-4), 37, No. 1.

2. KILCOY I, "CARN GLAS" (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/578522).

This cairn is the most northerly of a group of three situated on ground sloping gently to the SE. at a height of 400 ft. above O.D., on the Kilcoy estate. It is approximately circular, and a section of kerb preserved on the SW. perimeter indicates an original diameter of about 80 ft. It is therefore one of the largest round cairns in the Black Isle, and it is perhaps surprising that the chamber visible in its centre is the smallest and most compact of any of those which are exposed. It has been opened and refilled, and the top of the cist slabs are now flush with the cairn surface which reaches a height of 3-4 ft. Composed of large flat angular slabs set on edge, the chamber measures 9 ft. in length by 5 ft. in width and is aligned due E.-W. It is divided into two compartments of unequal size by transverse slabs having a gap between them of 1¼ ft. The W. section is 5 ft. long and the other 3½ ft. The slabs forming the cist-like chamber have more or less flat tops, with the exception of the headstone at the W. end which has a symmetrical pointed top and stands 2½ ft. higher than the others. A triangular capstone or lintel 6 ft. long by 3½ ft. wide at its base lies across the NE. corner of the chamber, and the side slab beneath it has split lengthways under its weight. There are slight indications of a passage approaching two further transverse slabs which form the E. end of the chamber and are set about 1 ft. apart. The details at this point are somewhat obscure and excavation is needed to prove the presence of the passage completely.

The cairn was visited by Beaton in 1881 and was then undamaged and standing to a height of 21 ft. It was subsequently opened in the presence of Lord Abercromby in 1906 and a small barbed flint arrow-head was found in it. No record of the excavation has been found, and the only hint of it is given in the notification of the donation of the arrow-head to the National Museum of Antiquities by Lord Abercromby's daughter in 1925.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 479.

Childe, *loc. cit.*, 71.

3. BALVAIRD (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/539519).

This is an oval cairn measuring probably 45 by 35 ft. in its original state. Situated on the edge of the plateau-like Muir of Conan, the ground slopes away steeply to the NW. and a magnificent view is to be had in that direction. The site has been extensively robbed to provide material for field walls and for a now ruined croft close by. An arc of large boulders on the SW. perimeter is probably not fortuitous and suggests a kerb, from the position of which the approximate size of the cairn can be estimated. The remaining cairn material forms an uneven mound about 3 ft. high, from the centre of which the tops of large upright slabs can be seen protruding. They form a chamber which is aligned WNW.-ESE. and the best preserved section is at the E. end. Here two side slabs, a head-stone and one transverse slab define a compartment 8 ft. long by 7 ft. wide. Resting on one end of the transverse slab is a large flat stone which may be a capstone or lintel, but a second transverse slab could not be detected under its other end. Two large slabs lie flat at the W. end.

In the *Old Statistical Account* is a reference to the opening of a cairn in the vicinity thus: "At the S.W. extremity of the parish is an extensive high but level moor on which are several tumuli or large heaps of stones. One was lately laid open when 3 stone coffins were found in it, ranged in a line from E. to W." Excepting the unlikely possibility of a cairn containing 3 cists now entirely vanished, the extract might refer to Balvaird or Muir of Conan I (*q.v.*), and a plausible explanation would seem to be that the 3 stone coffins were in fact a tripartite chamber or, more likely, a bipartite chamber and passage. The E.-W. alignment supports this.

Old Stat. Acc., v (1793), Parish of Urquhart and Logie W.

4. MUIR OF CONAN I (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/546525).

This is a very ruinous round cairn situated on a more or less level plateau and heavily overgrown with broom. A kerb was probably present but only an occasional stone can now be traced, and the diameter was about 60 ft. The cairn now stands 2 ft. high, and the tops of upright slabs forming a rectangular chamber can be observed in the centre. This has similar features to Balvaird and Kilcoy I. A westerly compartment 6 ft. square defined by a head-stone, taller than the remainder, two side slabs and two transverse slabs, is easily picked out, but only one stone to the E. of the transverse slabs can be seen. The chamber is aligned WSW.-ENE.

5. BALNAGUIE I (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/627547).

This cairn may originally have been as large as Kilcoy I but it has been extensively robbed, doubtless for the splendid dry-stone field walls which abound in the vicinity, and only the bare chamber remains. This is 15 ft. long by 7½ ft. wide and is aligned due E.-W. As at Kilcoy, the upper edges of the slabs forming it are more or less flat with the exception of the head-stone at the W. end which has a symmetrical pointed top. It now leans at a steep angle but must originally have been 6 ft. high. Two transverse slabs separated by a space of 2½ ft. divide the whole into two compartments. The main W. section is 9½ ft. long and the other approximately 6 ft. long. The E. end of the chamber is open, and two large stones stand one on either side of the entrance but not symmetrically placed about it.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 488-9.

Childe, *loc. cit.*, 34, No. 21.

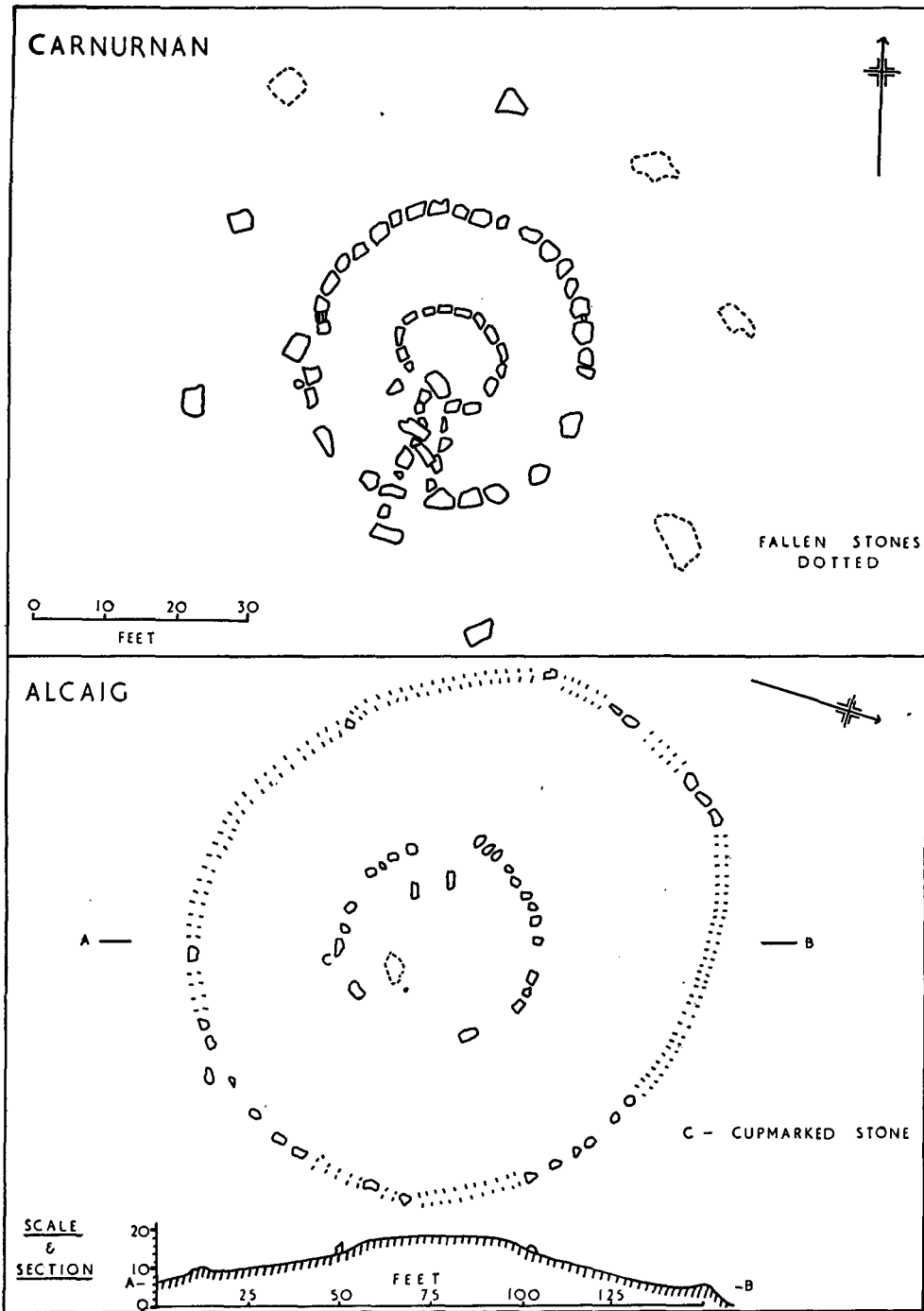


Fig. 2. Carnurnan and Alcaig.

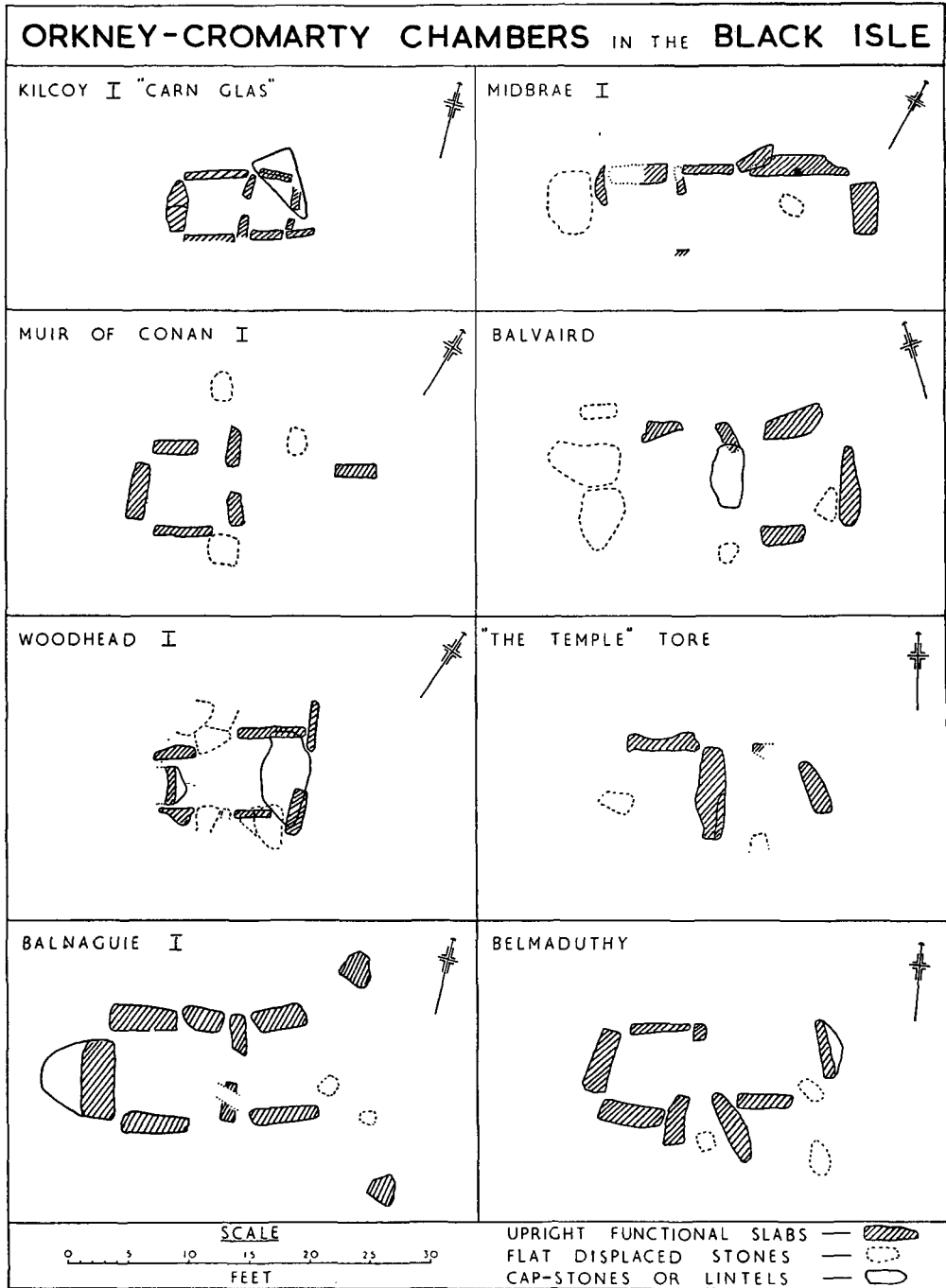


Fig. 8. Orkney-Cromarty chambers in the Black Isle.

6. WOODHEAD I (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/650610).

This cairn has been fully described by Professor Childe, and little needs to be added except to say that the chamber is aligned WSW.-ENE. and, like Kilcoy I and Balnaguie, has a symmetrical pointed head-stone at its W. end, the other stones being flat-topped slabs. The cairn was probably round and of fair size, but its dimensions are now impossible to determine due to extensive robbing.

It may be of interest to include here an extract from the *New Statistical Account* which probably refers to this cairn: "A large barrow or cairn was opened up by Sir Alexander MacKenzie of Avoch at Woodhead farm to obtain material for a farmhouse. In the centre was a large sarcophagus formed of large flags containing a quantity of human bones of immense size."

New Stat. Acc., XIV (1837), 45.
Childe, *loc. cit.*, 34, No. 18.

7. "THE TEMPLE," TORE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/618527).

The scanty remains of a cairn now covering an approximately circular area of 60 ft. diameter contain a completely ruined central chamber. Three substantial slabs on edge are visible, but no deductions as to the original size or shape of the chamber can be made. Extensive robbing had occurred prior to 1882 (see below), but a further unauthorised exploration in recent years led to the recovery of a small whetstone which is now in the possession of the proprietrix (see Appendix).

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 487.
Childe, *loc. cit.*, 35, No. 22.

8. BELMADUTHY (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/645559).

The much disturbed remains of this cairn are situated in a field on a low ridge and cover a roughly circular area about 60 ft. in diameter. Little of the cairn material remains, and an approximately rectangular chamber measuring 17 by 5 ft. and aligned E.-W. is exposed in the centre. The upright stones at each end of this seem to be in more or less their original positions, so there may have been an entrance in the middle of the S. side in this case. Two long stones rather lower than the remainder lie here roughly at right angles to the long axis of the chamber, about 2 ft. apart at their inner ends. A scatter of fair-sized stones near these may once have formed a passage, but this is pure conjecture.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 490.
Childe, *loc. cit.*, 34, No. 20.

9. ALCAIG (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/577568).

Rather more than half a mile above the village of Alcaig, and adjacent to the site of the old Ferintosh distillery, is a spur at a height of 200 ft. above O.D., which is surmounted by a large ruined round cairn. Fifty-five ft. in diameter, it has a well-defined kerb of large stones, one of them cup-marked, and stands centrally on what appears to be an almost circular platform 150 ft. in diameter also bounded by a kerb. The outer kerb is 5-8 ft. below the level of the inner kerb. Though much disturbed there is no visible indication of a chamber. Across the W. side of the cairn is a hollow, and standing in it an upright slab 2 ft. high. Near it, 8 ft. in from the kerb on the W. perimeter, is a second upright slab which is 3 ft. high. Eight ft. in from the SE. perimeter of the cairn is a large stone

lying flat and measuring $7\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long, 5 ft. wide and at least 1 ft. thick. These features in themselves do not admit of any reasonable interpretation. The central area of the cairn is not exposed and it may be that excavation here would clarify the position. The cup-marked stone in the kerb on the S. perimeter of the cairn has at least 14 cups on it of the usual type, as well as one which is fully 7 ins. in diameter and 2 ins. deep. The existence of a cup-marked stone at this site was mentioned by Jolly in 1882.

Jolly, W., *P.S.A.S.*, XVI (1881-2), 340, n.
 Childe, *loc. cit.*, 34, No. 19.

10. MUIR OF ALLANGRANGE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/550525).

A completely ruined round cairn spread over an area of diameter 70 ft. is situated on the high plateau comprising the Muirs of Conan and Allangrange. In the central region a single upright slab protruding from the debris, 2 ft. high, 4 ft. long and 6 ins. thick, indicates that the cairn was probably chambered originally. Clearance of the central area might reveal more. The whole site is heavily overgrown with broom.

11. KILCOY II (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/578518).

A completely ruined round or oval cairn covers an area of diameter 80 ft. and stands to a maximum height of 5 ft. A cavity in the centre exposes one slab standing on edge, probably part of a chamber. The cairn was ruined before 1882 (see below).

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 480.

Group II.—Round or oval cairns which may be chambered.

This group comprises those cairns which still stand to a height of at least 6 ft. and are considered, by virtue of their size and state of preservation, to be substantially intact and possibly chambered.

12. KILCOY III (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/578519).

This is an apparently untouched cairn lying 200 yds. SW. of Kilcoy I. It is referred to as a "tumulus" on the 6-inch O.S. map, doubtless because the interstices between the stones forming the outer surface of the cairn seem to have been packed with a reddish clay. The cairn is oval in shape, its longer axis being E.-W. and measuring 47 ft., while the N.-S. axis measures only 34 ft. The present height is 13 ft.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 480.

13. WOODHEAD II (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/646607).

On cultivated ground sloping gently towards the NW. stands this round cairn measuring 35 ft. in diameter. The highest point of the cairn is 8 ft. above the lower NW. edge and 6 ft. above the SE. edge. The outline is regular, and in view of the absence of any depression in the centre it is probable that the contents are intact.

14. BOGALLAN WOOD (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/644503).

Situated on a flat cultivated plateau commanding a view to N. and W. is a splendid roughly circular cairn measuring 70 ft. from N. to S. and 66 ft. from E. to W. It stands to a maximum height of 8 ft. Although the cairn has been extensively robbed on the N. side, probably to provide material for two now ruined crofts which flank it on the SW. and NE., the centre is still grass-grown and may well be intact.

According to the 6-inch O.S. map, this cairn marks "the site of the Battle of Blairnacoi, A.D. 1340."

15. GREY CAIRN (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/733625).

On a heather-covered moor at a height of 581 ft. above O.D. stands this round cairn measuring 65 ft. in diameter and standing 7 ft. high. Composed of smooth grey boulders it stands out conspicuously from the heather. A hollow in the E. side is of recent origin and the centre of the cairn seems to be untouched. A second smaller cairn standing less than 2 ft. high and covered with turf and heather lies 70 ft. to the W.

Group III.—Round or oval cairns which are unchambered.

16. CALLACHY HILL (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/738605).

At the W. end of a long ridge and at a height of nearly 700 ft., this round cairn commands a magnificent view in all directions. It is 45 ft. in diameter and 6 ft. high at present, and has been excavated on three occasions, all three trenches being still plainly visible. In 1883 Major MacKenzie cut a trench through the cairn from E. to W., exposing a small cist in the centre measuring 2 ft. 6 ins. in length, 20 ins. in breadth and 18 ins. deep. It was aligned E.-W. No record of this excavation exists, and the information is provided by Mr W. MacKenzie who, with Dr MacLean, excavated the cairn again in 1906 and cut a third trench in 1907. These later excavations exposed a secondary cremated burial near the edge of the cairn. A fragment of the rim of an urn decorated with "punctulated dots" was found here, but this seems to have been lost.

W. MacKenzie, *P.S.A.S.*, XLII (1907-8), 69.

17. UPPERWOOD (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/713632).

A confused jumble of stones covers an area approximately 75 ft. in diameter, the whole being overgrown with gorse. The centre appears to be a little raised but no sign of cist or chamber is visible. There is evidence for the existence of a kerb, as three 2-ft.-high earth-fast stones are visible on the E. side forming a small arc. The cairn has been extensively robbed, probably to provide building material for the now ruined croft of Upperwood some 150 yds. down the slope to the N. The area involved suggests that a large possibly chambered cairn stood here, but if so no indication of the chamber can now be seen.

18. MUIR OF CONAN II (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/544522).

This is a derelict round cairn 41 ft. in diameter and 3 ft. high. Its appearance does not suggest the possible remains of a chamber or cist amongst the debris.

19. CNOC NAN TAIBHSEAN (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/673661).

This is a round cairn of medium-sized stones intermingled with earth. It is 30 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high, and is situated on ground which slopes gently to the N. A cavity in the centre suggests robbing but there is no visible indication of a chamber, though a small cist could be present.

20. FERRYTON (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/681664).

A roughly oval cairn measuring 41 ft. N.-S. and 32 ft. E.-W., it is considerably turfed over and stands 2 ft. high. There is a noticeable depression towards the S. end.

21. TOBERCHURN (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/619629).

A scanty heap of stones 20 ft. across and not more than 18 ins. high beside a spring on the shore of the Cromarty Firth, it is completely covered with small trees and nettles.

22. WEST CULBO WOOD (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/646597).

A round cairn 32 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high stands on a northward slope which was once a plantation, and which has now been trenched preparatory to replanting. The cairn is heather covered, and has a few small trees growing on it. A depression in the centre suggests that an attempt has been made to plunder it.

23. MID BRAE II (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/661627).

This is a small round cairn 24 ft. in diameter with a well-defined kerb of large stones round the perimeter. Seventeen may be counted at least. Standing only 2 ft. high now, the cairn has a depression in the centre suggesting either robbing or possibly the collapse of a central cist. It is situated a mere 20 ft. from the edge of Mid Brae I.

24. DRUMDERFIT I (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/664527).

A very irregular but roughly circular mound stands on the northern slope of Drumderfit Hill, overlooking Munloch Bay. It is 26 ft. in diameter and is surrounded by a kerb of six more or less regularly spaced rough boulders. The cairn, or mound, stands about 2 ft. high and is completely turfed over and heather covered. The mound is not entirely convincing. The terrain is uneven and the whole hillside is thickly studded with boulders of conglomerate, so that mound and encircling boulders may be fortuitous.

25. DRUMDERFIT II (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/659522).

This is a round cairn of 30 ft. diameter having a huge depression in the centre. Its maximum height is little more than a foot. The perimeter is surrounded by large blocks of stone which must once have constituted a kerb.

26. DRUMDERFIT III (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/646517).

On gently sloping ground commanding a splendid view to N. and W., stands a featureless round mound about 30 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. high, completely overgrown with gorse and briars.

27. CROFTCRUNIE I (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/611522).

This small cairn is of particular interest in that it is one of the two cairns in the Black Isle whose excavation has been reported, albeit far from fully. (The other excavated cairn is No. 16.)

In its present state it consists of an oval stony mound measuring 22 ft. from N. to S. and 19 ft. from E. to W., standing 1 ft. high and having a circular depression 6 ft. in diameter resulting from the excavation referred to. Previous to this excavation it is said to have measured 24 by 15 ft. and to have stood at a height of $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. The whole is eccentrically situated within a circular bank of earth and stones measuring 86 ft. in diameter, varying from 12 to 15 ft. wide and standing 1 ft. high. Bank and cairn may be of different periods in view of their eccentric positioning with respect to one another and also in view of the unusual nature of such an association.

The excavation revealed that the cairn had an earth core, the surface only being formed of stones, and that it covered at least four pits which yielded ashes, burnt bone and a weapon-sharpening stone.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 485.

28. LOCH INCH (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/673662).

In the middle of a field 200 yds. N. of the boggy region which comprises Loch Inch, on ground which has recently been brought under cultivation, is a low, circular stony mound 65 ft. in diameter and standing 1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high. In the centre is a shallow depression about 30 ft. across, and probing showed that the whole area was covered with stones. The field slopes gently towards the north and the N. side of the mound was slightly raised, having the effect of levelling the surface off to give the appearance of a platform. Although this site is marked on the 6-inch O.S. map as an "Encampment," the appearance, size and situation all suggest rather a round cairn in the last stage of its disappearance. Field clearance stones along the N. edge of the field favour this view.

In close proximity to this spot are the sites of three other "encampments" according to the 6-inch map (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/665660). Nothing was visible at any of these sites. When visited, two were under grass and one under corn, but apart from a very slight flattening of the ground on one of the grassed sites and a scatter of stones at the adjacent field edges, nothing of a diagnostic nature was seen. This land had been under cultivation for many years in distinction from that nearer Loch Inch where No. 28 is situated, and it seems probable that all four sites were originally cairns and that intensive cultivation has brought about the complete disappearance of three of them.

29. CULBO (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/643610).

This is a small cairn of irregular outline averaging about 15 ft. in diameter and 4 ft. high. It is situated on the bank of a small stream and is probably a field clearance heap. It is included here only because it is marked as "Cairn" on the 6-inch O.S. map.

Group IV.—Long cairns.

30. MID BRAE I (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/661627).

A ruined and only partly exposed cist is visible amongst the ruins of old crofts and at the W. end of an irregular scatter of large stones, which suggest the possi-

bility only of a long cairn about 240 ft. long by 40-45 ft. in width. These measurements are in accordance with the shape of the cairn as planned on the 6-inch O.S. map, sheet 77, and it is possible that the state of preservation of the site when the surveying was carried out (surveyed 1871-3; revised 1904) enabled the cairn to be drawn with more confidence than could be done to-day. Professor Childe, who visited the site in 1943, did not commit himself with regard to the probable shape and size of the cairn. The cairn is one of the group which occupies the broad northern spur of Mount Eagle. It is here that the greatest concentration of cairns in the Black Isle occurs, and in particular two of the authentic long cairns to be described below (Nos. 32 and 33) are sited on the ridge and within a mile of this one.

The chamber measures 21 ft. in length and probably 6 ft. in width, and is aligned ENE.-WSW. (bearing 70° from W. end). This is on the long axis of the conjectural long cairn and 12 ft. from its W. end. The exposed northern side of the chamber is composed of three slabs on edge and a 4-foot-high head-stone stands at the E. end. Two transverse slabs project into the chamber from the N. side, and a flat stone which may have been a lintel lies at the W. end. Due to the presence of cairn material the S. side of the chamber is not exposed and no transverse slabs were located there, although they may well be present.

Childe, *loc. cit.*, 33, No. 15.

31. JAMES'S TEMPLE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/661522).

Running NNE.-SSW. and bounded on the N. by Munloch Bay is Drumderfit Hill, the summit of which forms a broad plateau $\frac{3}{4}$ mile long and 250 yds. wide,

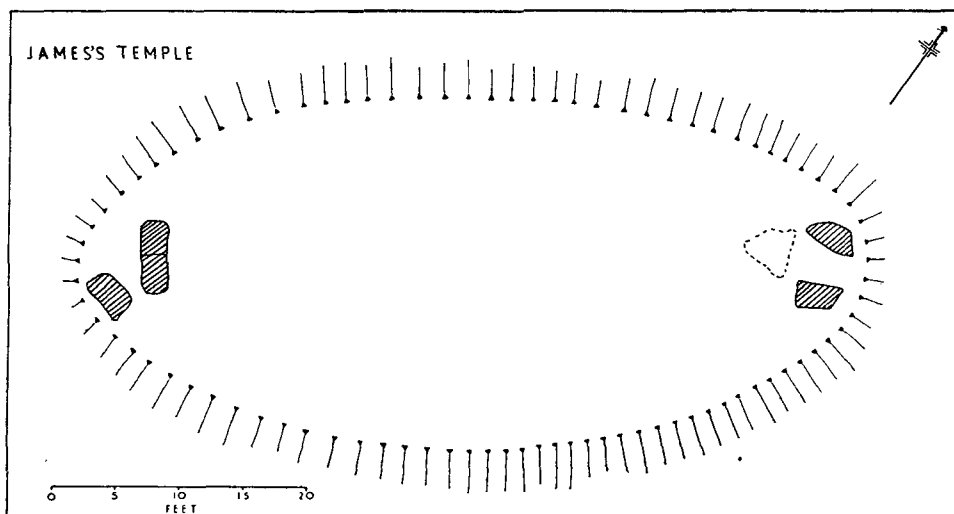


Fig. 4. James's Temple.

roughly defined by the 400-foot contour. At its extreme N. end is a small raised plateau about 25 ft. higher than the general level of the hilltop. This plateau is oval in shape, measuring 60 by 30 ft., and surmounting it are five large slabs. Three at the E. end appear to have formed a U-shaped chamber. The pointed-topped head-stone has fallen outwards. At the W. end of the plateau are two

stones, a pointed-topped head-stone again, standing 4 ft. high, and a single 2-foot-high flanking stone. The distance between the extreme E. end of the E. cist and the head-stone at the W. end is 54 ft., and both groups are at the extreme ends of the raised plateau, the long axis of which runs ENE.-WSW. (bearing 70° from W. end). Down the steep slope to the north is scattered a great quantity of stones, and large slabs as well as smaller stones are scattered around the summit on all sides. Practically no cairn material remains on the summit along with the five uprights.

The plateau itself consists of an outcrop of hard Middle Old Red Sandstone conglomerate, and denudation cannot have been significant. The proximity of the stones to the edges at each end is consequently puzzling as they must have been only just covered, if at all, by cairn material. The possibility that the stones have been moved from their original positions cannot, of course, be precluded absolutely. The distribution of scattered stones round the edge does not suggest two separate cairns, and a long cairn occupying the whole of the plateau and having a rudimentary cist at each end seems to be the most reasonable conclusion.

32. WOODHEAD III (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/653608).

At a height of 600 ft. above O.D., in a shallow depression in the plateau above Woodhead farm, is a long cairn oriented E.-W. (bearing from W. end is 100°). The area has been planted and the cairn stands out as a treeless heather-covered stony mound, 130 ft. long and 42 ft. wide. The sides of the cairn have become somewhat scattered and the original width is impossible to estimate without excavation, but the width quoted is the average of a number of measurements, and is the same at both ends. The highest point of the cairn is roughly at its middle, where it is about 8 ft., and it falls off towards each end, being perhaps a foot lower. Apart from a forestry drainage trench cut through the cairn near the W. end, exposing a section, the site seems to be untouched. Both ends of the cairn are rounded and no trace of horns is visible.

Childe, *loc. cit.*, 34, No. 17.

33. WESTER BRAE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/657614).

Within the area of a field of small cairns (No. 36) at a height of 550 ft. above O.D., and little more than half a mile NNE. of No. 32, is a second long cairn 85 ft. long by 40 ft. wide, oriented roughly E.-W. (bearing from W. end is 71°). This cairn too is in a fir plantation, and presents as a treeless green turf-covered stony mound. It attains a height of 6 ft. near the W. end and 5 ft. at the E. end, while there is an appreciable depression about the centre suggesting an attempt at robbing. The ends, however, do appear to be intact. The sides are considerably scattered, and again it is difficult to say if the cairn was originally wider at one end than at the other. The E. end appears wider now, but this may easily be due to a greater amount of scattering at that end. The ends are rounded with no trace of horns.

Childe, *loc. cit.*, 34, No. 16.

34. EASTER ALNESSFERRY (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/671663).

Three hundred yds. E. of Easter Alnessferry farm buildings, beside a streamlet and just above the 100-foot contour, is a small long cairn oriented NE.-SW. It stands 3 ft. high and is 52 ft. long by 18 ft. broad. The small size and low situation

engendered suspicion, particularly as the district is notorious for field-clearance operations. However, comparison of its regular shape and covering of turf, with the irregular unturfed clearance heaps by the burn to the N., seemed to justify its inclusion, at least tentatively, in the list of long cairns. In size it is paralleled by the small long cairn at Kinrive reported by Childe (*loc. cit.*, No. 7).

35. BLACKSTAND (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/714606).

Two miles N. of Rosemarkie on the flat southern slope of the Millbuie near its eastern end, and just below its summit at a height of 550 ft. above O.D., is a group of five mounds, forming a line a little under half a mile long running NE.—SW. The two most easterly of these are elongated, and have certain features in common with the long cairns previously described. The other three are oval in shape, but for convenience all five will be briefly described together. Starting from the NE., the mounds are as follows:

1. A long mound 170 ft. long by 66 ft. wide aligned NNE.—SSW. (bearing from W. end is 30°). The mound stands 5 ft. high at each end and is a foot lower in the middle. The ends are rounded.

2. One hundred yds. SW. of the first is a second long mound 264 ft. long by 95 ft. wide and standing 12 ft. high on the average, but a little higher at the NE. end. The ends are rounded and the mound is aligned a little more easterly than the first (bearing from W. end is 50°).

3. One hundred and fifty yds. farther to the SW. is an oval mound 80 by 66 ft. and aligned approximately E.—W. (bearing of long axis from W. end is 90°). This mound has been considerably robbed and shown to consist of stones intermingled with earth.

4 and 5. Two hundred and fifty yds. farther to the SW. are two contiguous oval mounds measuring 120 by 90 ft. and standing approximately 7 ft. high. These were so overgrown with gorse and broom that they were difficult to examine properly. In the side of one of these mounds a cist containing a beaker was unearthed in 1940 (see Appendix I).

In favour of the argument that these are artificial mounds must be cited their similarity in size, alignment and situation to indisputable examples in the Black Isle and elsewhere. Against it must be mentioned the fact that they differ from most of the authentic examples in their smoothness of surface and complete covering of grass due to the earth which is intimately mingled with the stones. Natural deposition by fluvio-glacial agency cannot be ruled out, and I am indebted to Dr C. D. Waterston of the Royal Scottish Museum for his opinion, based on analogy with more westerly regions of the Black Isle, and given without the advantage of actually visiting the site, that this is a distinct possibility.

Group V.—Cairnfields.

36. WESTER BRAE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/657617).

On the northern spur of Mount Eagle, at a height of 550 ft. above O.D., is a group of cairns averaging 10 ft. in diameter and standing to a maximum height of 2 ft. The area is planted and the full extent of the field could not be ascertained. The 6-inch O.S. map, sheet 77, indicates approximately 70 cairns in a roughly circular area one-third of a mile in diameter.

37. WOOD OF BRAE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/685619).

Another group of small cairns in a plantation of young firs and thickly covered with heather. The 6-inch O.S. map, sheet 78, indicates about 20 cairns in an area of 300 yds. in diameter and 500 ft. above O.D.

38. ARPAFEELE MOOR (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/620502).

These cairns, referred to by Beaton, are in a boggy region which is densely overgrown with trees, brush, etc. Any small cairns would be difficult to locate, and in fact only one was seen here, in the valley below Teandore farm. It was 10 ft. in diameter and 18 ins. high. The region is 200 ft. above O.D.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 480.

39. NAVITY (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/779653).

A group of round cairns somewhat larger than the usual, varying from 20 to 36 ft. in diameter and 6 ins. to 1½ ft. high. This group, numbering eight cairns, was discovered from an aerial photograph, and when visited the cairns showed up vividly as green grassy mounds on purple-brown stunted heather moorland, 400 ft. above O.D.

As well as this group, individual small cairns occur all over the Moor of Navity.

Group VI.—Vanished cairns.

40. HIGHFIELD (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/522519).

The site of this cairn is marked by a single standing-stone 4 ft. high. A scatter of small stones indicates the probable extent of the cairn, and the larger stones, which must have formed a chamber, or possibly a kerb, are now lying at the adjacent corner of the field just inside a recently felled plantation, at a point about 40 yds. to the N. of the standing-stone. Some of these stones have been split to facilitate their removal, and included is one splendid cup-marked stone which when intact measured 3 ft. 6 ins. in height, 4 ft. 6 ins. in width and nearly 2 ft. in thickness. It is split into two portions, and the cup-marks on the top half number approximately 24. The bottom half is face downwards, but some cups could be detected in it by probing.

This cairn site is especially interesting for two reasons. First, along with Alcaig (No. 9), it is associated with cup-markings, and these are the only two cairns in the Black Isle to possess them. Secondly, it may be the cairn which yielded a hoard of bronze axes and spear-heads presented to the National Museum of Antiquities in 1781 by G. Gillanders, Esq., of Highfield (see Appendix II). These are reputed to have been found in a cairn at Highfield, and certainly this is the only cairn recorded in the vicinity. Its nearest neighbours are on the Muir of Conan, more than a mile to the E.

41. DRYNIE PARK (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/562517).

Mentioned by Beaton as a large cairn of stones, all trace has now been removed. A scatter of stones occupies the site marked on the O.S. map, one of them being drilled for splitting, and the bulk have obviously been transferred to the adjacent corner of the field and piled against the dry-stone walls to form a field-clearance cairn of considerable size.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 480.

42. INCH (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/675665).

When visited this site was under corn, and the farmer supplied the information that his predecessor had removed the cairn completely in the course of field clearance.

43. CROFTCRUNIE II (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/612521).

"Stone circle—site of" is marked on the 6-inch O.S. map, sheet 100, about 200 yds. NW. of Crofterunie I (No. 27). This is the spot on which stood a "Beehive house" according to Beaton. When visited the site was under corn and no trace of any structure was visible, though a scatter of large stones at the edge of the field was observed. It is tempting to interpret Beaton's drawings as an opened and mutilated round cairn, his vaulted roof being conceivably a corbelled chamber. This seems quite possible considering the absence of authenticated beehive cells in the NE., and the fact that Beaton does not seem to have been familiar with chambered burial cairns. Note, for example, his descriptions of Belmaduthy, Balnaguie and Carnurnan.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 484.

44. WHITEBOG WOOD (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/733623).

The 6-inch O.S. map, sheet 78, marks "Cairn—site of. Human remains found in 1811" at this spot. The area is planted now and a search failed to reveal any trace of this cairn.

45. BALNAGUIE II (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/630546).

Beaton records that a "tumulus of 40 ft. base with fully 5 ft. curvature at the centre" is situated on a small knoll 150 yds. E. of Balnaguie I (No. 5). This tumulus is not marked on the 6-inch O.S. map. The knoll was easily found, but an extensive search, made extremely difficult by a plantation of young firs, brush and thick heather, was fruitless.

Beaton, *loc. cit.*, 488.

FORTS.

46. ORD HILL OF KESSOCK (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/662487).

The Ord Hill of Kessock rises fairly steeply on all sides to a height of over 600 ft., and the flat summit, which has a gradual slope to the SW., is crowned by a large roughly rectangular fort. This is 800 ft. long and averages 150 ft. in width, so that it is by far the largest fort in the Black Isle. A single rubble wall can be traced round the NE. and S. sides, but in places it has disappeared completely, leaving considerable gaps. On the SW. side, where the slope is much less steep than on the other three sides, the end of the fort is composed of two massive tumbled walls each 20 ft. wide and placed 20 ft. apart. Just inside the inner wall three more or less complete hut-circles were observed, all about 10 ft. in diameter. Extensive planting over the rest of the fort has presumably destroyed any other circles that might have been present.

Beaton refers to this site as being vitrified but no evidence for this was observed. A plan of the fort has been published by Wallace.

Beaton, *P.S.A.S.*, xvii (1882-3), 423.

Wallace, *T. Inverness Scientific Soc. and Field Club*, viii (1912-8), 95.

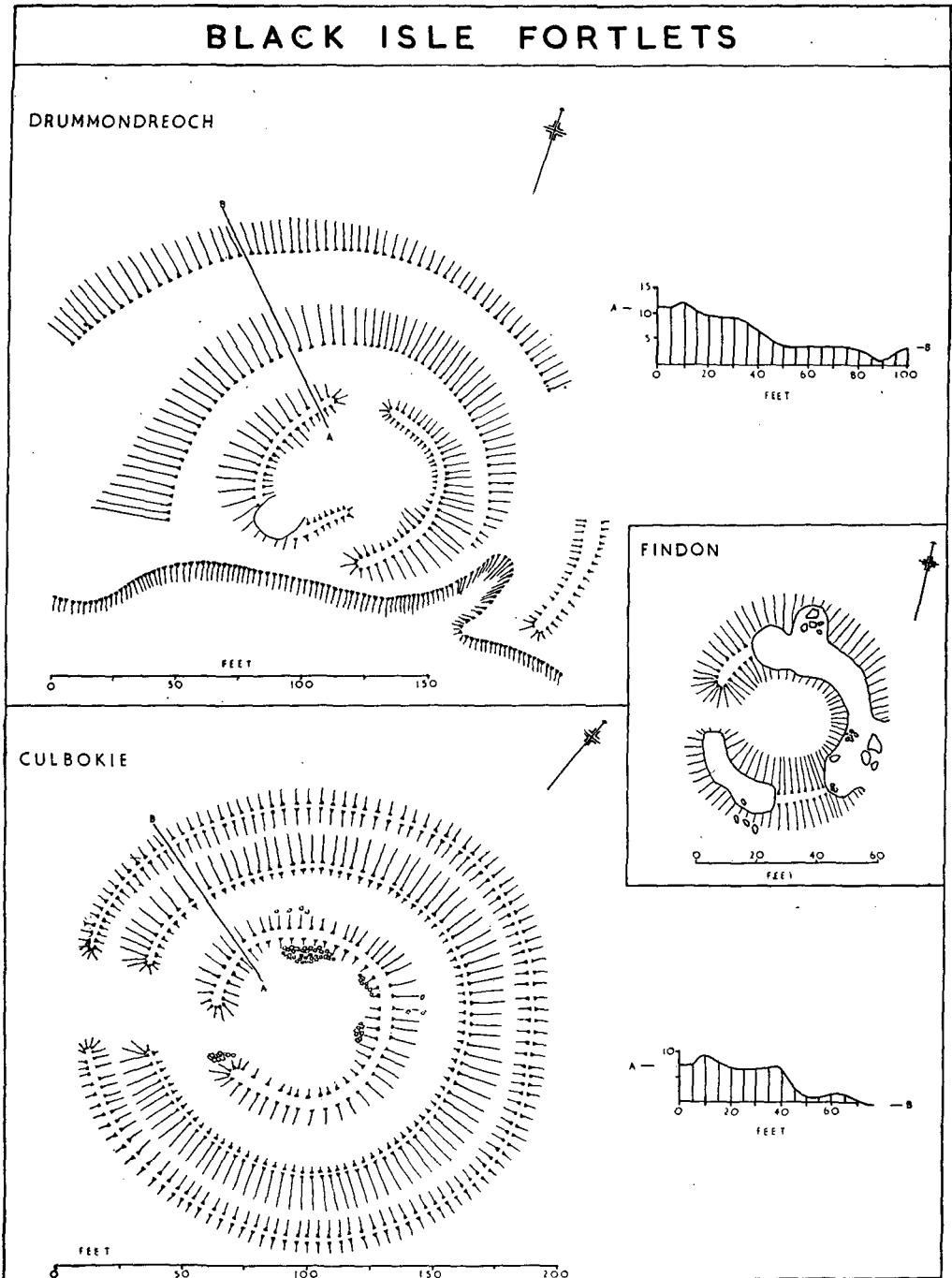


Fig. 5. Black Isle fortlets.

47. CULBOKIE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/603587).

A flat oval area measuring 52 ft. from N. to S. and 47 ft. from E. to W. is surrounded by three stone ramparts and two ditches with an entrance to the WSW. the whole complex having an overall diameter of 380 ft. The site occupies the summit of a small conical hill close to the W. end of Culbokie Loch, and in a plantation. When visited the fort was a wilderness of briars and small trees. Although the hill itself is not steep, the ditches and walls must have made this a very strong position. The inner rampart seems to have consisted of a solid dry-stone wall, while the two outer ones consist of earth and stones. While the inner ditch does not seem to have been a very substantial affair, that between the two outermost ramparts is a formidable barrier even to-day. The space between the inner stone wall and the middle rampart appears as a wide terrace.

48. LUNDIE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/669507).

On the highest point of a ridge of conglomerate which runs NE.-SW., a flat rocky plateau is surrounded by a single earth and stone wall. On the SW. side, where the natural defence is weakest, the wall consists of stones only, and these are of large size, forming a formidable barrier which is 5 ft. high in places. The entrance appears to have been on the SE., where there are traces of a very steep access path. The fortified area measures 54 ft. from NE. to SW. and 45 ft. from SE. to NW.

Beaton, *P.S.A.S.*, xvii (1882-3), 422.

49. DRUMMONDREOCH (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/583576).

A strong position at the edge of a 50-foot-deep gorge through which flows the Castle burn is surmounted by a very dilapidated stone wall enclosing an irregular area averaging 54 ft. in diameter. The wall is tumbled and stands not more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high. The strength of the position rests on the precipitous drop to the water on the S., and on two raised terraces upon which the fort is constructed, which are probably partly natural and partly artificial. The stone wall is broken at two places, and the gap at the S., which enters the fort at an angle, is probably original. The northern entrance does not appear so convincing.

50. FINDON (Nat. Grid. Ref. 28/609603).

At Findon, 1 mile NE. of Culbokie and 250 ft. above the Cromarty Firth, the ground, which is sloping gently in a north-westerly direction, drops steeply to the Findon burn. At this point a promontory is formed, bounded on the N. and W. by an almost precipitous drop of 30 ft. to the burn, forming the site for an approximately circular enclosure. The position is strikingly similar to that chosen at Drummondreoch, although the enclosure at Findon is not terraced. A sadly mutilated stone wall 22-27 ft. wide encloses a flat circular area 25 ft. in diameter, and has an entrance in the W. side 4 ft. across. The wall stands $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. at its highest point and has obviously been utilised as a quarry. The whole site is overgrown with briars, broom and small trees, and the wall itself is turfed over and very scattered. To the S. and E. the surrounding country is practically flat and there is no sign of a protective ditch.

51. CASTLEDOWNIE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/778641).

Fragmentary remains of a rampart are to be seen here at the edge of a very steep drop of 300 ft. to the Moray Firth. The site is obscured with fallen trees and undergrowth, and in any case not enough remains to give an intelligible picture.

ENCLOSURES.

52. NAVITY (Nat. Grid Refs. 28/780657, 774653, 769649).

Slightly below the highest point of the broad flat ridge forming the Moor of Navity and on the northern side of it is a group of three enclosures, one oval and the other two circular. They form a straight line running NE.-SW., the SW. member being 500 yds. from the middle one, which in turn is 800 yds. from the NE. site. The SW. enclosure is oval in shape and measures 114 ft. on its long axis, which lies NE.-SW. (bearing from SW. end is 60°), and 70 ft. broad. The middle and NE. sites are circular and measure 62 ft. and 58 ft. in diameter respectively. Each consists simply of an earth and stone bank now no more than 1 ft. high, averaging 12-14 ft. wide, and having no entrance gap. All are on ground which has only recently been brought under cultivation and all have been ploughed over, so that the banks are rapidly disappearing.

53. ALLANGRANGE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/609515).

About 50 yds. W. of the Kessock Ferry-Dingwall road and a quarter of a mile S. of Allangrange Station are the scanty remains of an enclosure defined by a wall of stones and earth. A farm track passes through the site, dividing it into two unequal portions. The southern sector has been completely cleared away by cultivation, and showed when visited only as a darker green area in a grass field. The northern sector has been completely destroyed by deep forestry trenching, and this, combined with a dense undergrowth of thick heather, gorse and young firs, obscured any traces that were still visible. The only portions that remain are sections of the wall on the E. and W., where the farm track and a ditch cut it. The remains are on absolutely flat terrain at a height of 250 ft. above O.D.

From the description given in 1882 by Beaton, who calls the site "Fort Allariach," the enclosure was circular and measured 58 ft. in diameter, with a wall 3 ft. thick and standing 2½-3 ft. high. He added that the wall had a slope of 5 ft., giving a total width including slipped material of 8 ft. These dimensions agree reasonably well with those which may be deduced from the fragmentary remains to-day. Unfortunately, the southern sector where any entrance might be expected had been destroyed before Beaton's time.

Beaton, *P.S.A.S.*, xvi (1881-2), 482.

54. ARPAFEELE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/621499).

On the summit of a ridge planted with beeches at a height of 120 ft. above O.D. is a group of six large circular enclosures occurring in three pairs. They vary in diameter from crest to crest of their banks from 49 to 61 ft., and all have entrances in the E.-ESE. segment. The bearings of the entrances from the centre of the circles range from 100° to 120°. The banks are formed of stones now considerably spread and turfed over. They are 8-10 ft. wide and 1 ft. high, and in every case the entrance gap is 6 ft. Within the easternmost circle lies a stone with a tapering cup cut in it, 8 ins. deep and 8 ins. in diameter.

Both circles and "basin-stone" have been referred to previously in the *Proceedings*.

Jolly, *P.S.A.S.*, xvi (1881-2), 385.

55. CRAIGIEHOWE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/678517).

Craigiehowe hill slopes steeply on the N. and E. to the shores of Munloch Bay and the Moray Firth respectively. On the northern spur of the hill is a gentle sheltered slope on which is situated an enclosure consisting of a circular stone bank 50 ft. in diameter and having a 10-foot-wide entrance gap on the WSW. arc. The bank is turfed over and grass-grown, and showed up when visited as a green circle against the more golden colour of the surrounding bent. It averages 16 ft. in width and stands to a general height of 2 ft. The entrance is on the downhill side and, as at Arpafeelie, there are no flanking portal stones.

MISCELLANEOUS SITES.

56. ROSEMARKIE CAVE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/745595).

This is one of a number of caves or, more properly, rock shelters in the cliffs along the eastern shore of the Black Isle between Rosemarkie and Cromarty. It is situated $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles N. of Rosemarkie and is in fact the nearest cave to it. Known locally as the Cairds Cave, it was inhabited as late as the opening years of the present century. It is worthy of inclusion in the survey because it was excavated in 1912 by Dr MacLean, who exhibited to the Inverness Scientific Society "numerous bone implements including needles and pins as well as bones of red deer and elk." One rather unusual bone pin from this cave has been presented to the National Museum of Antiquities (see Appendix II). Objects of stone and deer-horn were also found.

T. Inverness Scientific Soc. and Field Club, VIII (1912-8), 42.
P.S.A.S., LXV (1930-1), 412.

57. REDCASTLE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/586490).

About 400 yds. below high-water mark on the mud-flats to the SE. of Milton village is a low cairn of stones of considerable size. Its position, and the faint but quite definite remnants of a causeway leading to it, leave little doubt of this being a crannog.

Beaton, *P.S.A.S.*, XVI (1881-2), 480.
Old Stat. Acc., XVII, 350.

58. WINDHILL (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/531482).

Two monoliths about 100 yds. apart stand on either side of the main road at this point. They could conceivably be the remains of two cairns of Clava type, and a tradition to that effect is suggested by Beaton's remark that "they are supposed to be remains of stone circles."

Beaton, *P.S.A.S.*, XVII (1882-3), 416.

HENGE MONUMENTS.

59-61. CULBOKIE, CONONBRIDGE, MUIR OF ORD.

These three sites have been fully described in a previous communication and nothing need be added here.

P.S.A.S., LXXXVII (1952-3), 72.

ADDENDUM.

The remains of two more hitherto unrecorded chambered cairns were discovered in the Kilcoy region after the foregoing survey had been completed.

KILCOY IV (Nat. Grid. Ref. 28/570517).

Approximately one half-mile NW. of Kilcoy Castle and the same distance WSW. of the group of cairns already described comprising Kilcoy I-III, is a round cairn very much denuded but still standing to a height of about 4 ft. It is 60 ft. in diameter, and visible in its centre are the tops of ten large stones. These enclose a roughly pear-shaped area about 22 ft. long and 8 ft. across at its widest part, with a head-stone of the usual pointed-topped shape at its west end. The

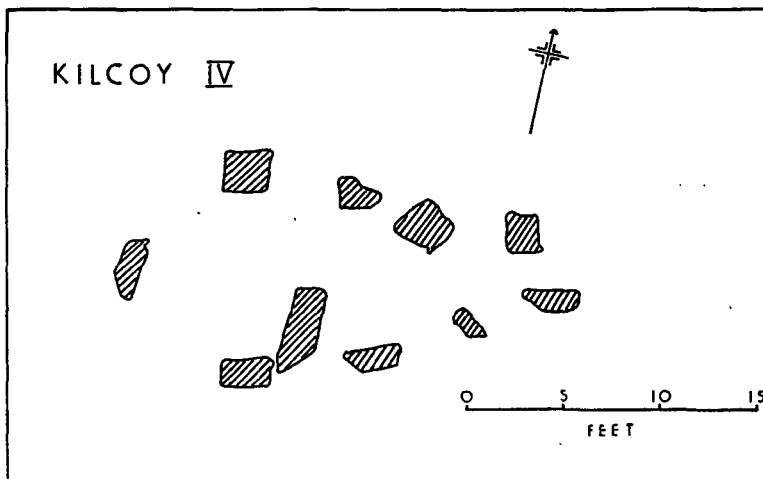


Fig. 6. Kilcoy IV.

chamber is aligned exactly E.-W. One transverse slab divides the whole into two compartments, the W. one being about 8 ft. square.

This cairn then has very similar features to those already described at Balnaguie, Balvaird, Kilcoy I, etc.

KILCOY V (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/569516).

About 100 yds. south of Kilcoy IV is a second cairn of irregular outline, standing to a height of 4 ft. and easily located by the fact that it is crossed by a stone field wall. Although much overgrown when visited, there seems a strong likelihood that this cairn is horned and, if confirmed, it is the only one of this type to be recognised in the Black Isle. On the SE. sector there is a distinct semicircular façade which appears to be built, and in the centre of this two upright slabs crowned by a lintel strongly suggest a passage entrance. Excavation is needed here to clinch the authenticity of this and to decide finally that the presumed forecourt is not merely the result of stone-robbing. The tops of several large slabs are visible in the body of the cairn, but no definite conclusion as regards the shape and size of any chamber can be made.

DISCUSSION.

Cairns.

A total of 39 individual cairns were visited in the course of the survey, omitting for the meantime the four groups composed of very small cairns which will be discussed later. Of this number 32 are probably round or oval, and the remaining 7 long cairns. This may not be absolutely correct, as many are in such a ruinous condition that the precise shape of the cairn as a whole can only be guessed at. All the long cairns, with the possible exception of E. Alnessferry (No. 34), and 19 of the round or oval cairns are of sufficient size to allow of the presence of a chamber. Of this total of 26 possible chambered cairns, 13 have been denuded sufficiently to expose at least one large slab, and may therefore be taken to be chambered with a fair degree of probability. Two of these (Nos. 30 and 31) have been included in the list of long cairns, though their state of dilapidation is such that doubt must exist regarding this classification. Nine of the 13 had sufficient visible features to enable a tentative plan to be drawn.

The cairn at Carnurnan (No. 1) is plainly of Clava type and has no associated cup-marked stones. No details regarding the chamber at Alcaig (No. 9) are available without excavation, but this cairn is unique in its siting upon what seems to be a platform of considerable size. Further, it possesses a cup-marked stone which resembles those in the Clava cairns, for example at Balnuaran of Clava, in forming part of the peristalith of the cairn and in possessing cups of similar size. It also, however, resembles the cairn at Contin Mains,¹ which is a typical example of the Orkney-Cromarty group, in possessing a single large cup-mark fully 7 ins. in diameter.

The remaining 8 cairns are distinguished by rectangular chambers made of flat angular slabs, and all can be visualised as falling into Professor Childe's "Pentland Group."

In 1866 Dr Anderson had recognised a group of cairns in Caithness characterised by a bipartite or more frequently a tripartite chamber with entrance passage in a cairn which might be round, oval or horned. The horned cairns might be short or long.² Later, the Royal Commission for Ancient Monuments extended the group southwards into Sutherland,³ and in 1943 Professor Childe noted further examples in Easter Ross,⁴ including some of the cairns described in the present communication. The present survey has added three more (Nos. 2, 3 and 4). Excepting No. 2 the plans are imperfect, due to the fact that the chambers are incompletely exposed and the tops only of some slabs can be seen. However, enough is visible at these sites to indicate a rectangular chamber either divided into at least

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXVIII (1943-4), 32, No. 13.

² *Ibid.*, VI (1865-6), 442; VII (1867-8), 480.

³ *R.C.A.M. (Sutherland)*, Nos. 134, 447.

⁴ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXVIII (1943-4), 26.

two portions by transverse slabs, or else undivided and separated from an entrance passage by these slabs. Apart from Carn Glas (No. 2), where there are slight indications only, there is no definite evidence of a passage at any site.

Balnaguie (No. 5) certainly consists of a bipartite chamber similar to that at Contin¹ and analogous with Torboll and Achany in Sutherland.² The two side slabs to the E. of the transverse slabs are too wide apart to constitute merely the entrance to a passage, and we must presume that two further transverse slabs as at Torboll, Achany and Carn Glas were originally present at the E. end of the chamber, in order to narrow it down at the passage entrance. It is possible of course that dry-stone walling was employed at this point; but this is not likely, as a frequent feature of these cairns is a large lintel stone at the point where the passage joins the chamber, and this seems to call for the firm support of single slabs rather than horizontal walling.

At Mid Brae I (No. 30), the one exposed side of the chamber suggests that it is bipartite, the large flat slab lying at the W. end and adjacent to the W. transverse slab having been a lintel originally supported at one end by the visible transverse slab and at the other by a fellow, still buried in cairn material. Possibly the slab, which is obviously displaced and now lies partially behind the eastmost side slab, was once a transverse slab in that position in the chamber. The result would be a tripartite chamber. Excavation is needed here to clarify the position.

At Woodhead I (No. 6), the complete destruction of all remains to the E. of the transverse slabs makes it virtually impossible to decide whether there was originally an outer compartment and a passage. Thus the remnant could be the remaining western portion of a partitioned chamber, or it could be a complete undivided chamber, the transverse slabs separating it directly from a passage. Certain features are directly comparable with the undivided chamber of the horned cairn at Achaidh, Sutherland.³ Flat slabs, now tumbled, suggest horizontal dry-stone walling filling gaps in the vertical slab construction of the chamber as at Achaidh. The chamber is of the same size, and a lintel is still in position on the top of the transverse slabs. Further, the lintel has been levelled by the interposition of two flat stones between its S. end and the supporting slab in exactly the same manner as at Achaidh. The cairn has been so much denuded that its outline has been destroyed and it is not now possible to tell whether it was originally horned.

Belmaduthy (No. 8) presents a peculiar feature in that the entrance appears to have been in the middle of the S. side of a rectangular chamber. This is not, of course, unprecedented in chambers of the Orkney-Cromarty

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXVIII (1943-4), 32, No. 13.

² *E.C.A.M. (Sutherland)*, Nos. 134, 447.

³ *P.S.A.S.*, XLIV (1909-10), 106.

cairns. Unston in the Orkneys is perhaps the best known case of a round cairn with a similar construction. Belmaduthy is the first example, as far as I am aware, on the Scottish mainland, and occurring so far south must be treated with considerable reserve, especially in view of its dilapidated condition.

I have tentatively interpreted James's Temple (No. 31) as the remains of a double-chambered long cairn. Simple cists consisting of 2-3 stones are paralleled in the long cairns on Essich Moor, Inverness, figured by Childe,¹ although none of these cairns contained more than one visible cist. The postulation of two separate megalithic cists in an unhorned long cairn suggests analogy immediately with some of the Scottish members of the Clyde-Carlingford group of cairns. In view of the ruinous condition of James's Temple, however, there is little encouragement to push the analogy very far.

A few general remarks about the chambers may not be out of place. Practically without exception the head-stone is a large more or less symmetrical stone with a pointed top, in distinction from the remaining slabs which are flat along their upper edges. Transverse slabs are always somewhat lower than the rest, and lintels are still in position at Woodhead I, Carn Glas and, probably, Balvaird. Chambers are oriented approximately E.-W., in every case lying between NW.-SE. and SW.-NE.

To sum up, with the exception of James's Temple, none of these eight cairns presents features which prevent its inclusion in Piggott's Orkney-Cromarty group of cairns of Camster type. This is probably correct for the rest of the long cairns also, which in no case show any visible signs of a crescentic façade of the Yarrows type.

Of the remaining round or oval cairns of sufficient size to be chambered, that at Callachy Hill (No. 16) revealed only a small cist on excavation, along with a secondary cremated burial. It is possible that more contain similar small cists or perhaps cover pit burials as at Crofterunie I (No. 27).

Two of the chambered cairns have yielded artifacts, namely Carn Glas from which Lord Abercromby obtained a barbed flint arrow-head, and The Temple (No. 7) from which has come a small perforated whetstone (see Appendix II).

Kerbs of boulders, either complete or in part, are visible at Carn Glas, Balvaird, Mid Brae II, Drumderfit I and II, Upperwood and Alcaig.

Cairnfields.

Reference has been made from time to time in the *Proceedings* to groups of small round cairns which occur on elevated ground in the north of Scotland particularly. Numerous cairnfields are known, for example in Inverness-shire, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland and the Shetlands. Four of them

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXVIII (1943-4), 26.

occur in the Black Isle (Nos. 36-39). The number of cairns in a group ranges from three or four to hundreds. Individual members are surprisingly consistent in shape and size, usually having diameters of ten to twenty feet and rarely exceeding two feet in height. The groups are sometimes, but by no means invariably, associated with hut-circles. The few that have thus far been examined have yielded no certain evidence of having been constructed for burial purposes,¹ and the excavators have concluded that the mounds are heaps of land-gathered stones constituting a primitive attempt at land clearance. One case at least is known, however, where cairns of this type covered unburnt burials,² but this group was exceptional in being sited on a sandy coastal strip and in exhibiting a greater variation in size of individual members than is usual. It should be stressed, however, that many more of these cairns must be excavated before it can be stated with confidence that all, or even the majority of them, had no connection with burial.

Forts.

Of the six fortified sites in the Black Isle, only that on the Ord Hill of Kessock (No. 46) can be described as a true hill-fort. Its size, strength of position and associated hut-circles, as well as the massive nature of the stone walls at the SW. end, render it comparable in conception with better known Iron Age hill-forts farther south.

Culbokie (No. 47) is unusual in possessing defences which seem out of all proportion to the small area of ground enclosed. The site, it is true, is not naturally strong, and the idea occurred to me that the area between the middle and inner walls, which forms a broad flat terrace distinct from the quite formidable ditch between the outer two walls, might have been utilised for the penning of cattle.

Findon and Drummondreoch (Nos. 49-50) are strikingly similar in their siting at the edge of a gorge with their entrances on the protected side. While Drummondreoch, however, has the additional advantage of being sited on a doubly terraced platform, Findon has nothing but its wall to protect it on two sides. The Findon circle can be roughly paralleled in Sutherland where circular structures of massive stones occur, forming a wide wall having a narrow entrance and enclosing an area of similar size.³ No examples with as thick a wall have been found, but the latter is so dilapidated that it was possibly considerably narrower originally.

At Lundie (No. 48) a naturally strong position has been improved by the addition of a stone wall, which must have made the site virtually impregnable.

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, LXX (1935-6), 161; LXXIV (1939-40), 20.

² *Ibid.*, XLII (1907-8), 332.

³ *R.C.A.M. (Sutherland)*, No. 112.

Nos. 47-50 are probably best considered as being each a single fortified dwelling site, in view of their small size.

Enclosures.

Not the least of the puzzling features regarding the described enclosures is the absence of small hut-circles and the rarity of even the larger structures. This is probably due in some measure at least to agricultural and forestry operations. The group of large circles at Arpafeelie (No. 54) and the similar one at Craigiehowe (No. 55) require some comment. A study of those hut-circles recorded in the *Proceedings* from its inception shows that the great majority have diameters of less than 30 ft., a few are as much as 40 ft., and only rare examples are to be found with diameters of more than 50 ft. In the Scottish lowlands J. H. Craw reported a circle of 69 ft. at Kirktonhill and one of 54 ft. at Tollis Hill.¹ At Dinnet, Aberdeenshire, the Hon. John Abercromby reported excavations of three circles with diameters of about 50 ft.² At least one of these had an entrance in the SE. sector and all were composed of massive blocks of stone. The excavator concluded that these circles were cattle-pounds, and they seem to be of a different character from the Black Isle examples. A study of the plethora of hut-circles, etc., recorded in the *Inventory* of the Royal Commission for Ancient Monuments for the County of Sutherland, reveals that circles of 50 ft. diameter occur only rarely and larger ones are not found at all. A group of six circles of 50-60 ft. diameter such as we have at Arpafeelie then appears to be unique, and the absence of small cairns and ordinary small hut-circles in the vicinity is also noteworthy.

Properly recorded excavations of hut-circles are so few that it is rather unwise to hazard any guess at the functions of these large structures. A possible interpretation is that the circles are the remains of enclosing walls built to form a wind-break round a wooden hut or skin tent. It might be that the wall also served as a compound in which cattle could be secured overnight in close proximity to their owner. Evidence in favour of this explanation is provided by some of the smaller circles in Sutherland in which the remains of a stone hut can still be seen. A good example is to be found near Bonar Bridge, where a stone hut 12 by 14 ft. is surrounded by a stone wall 40 ft. in diameter from crest to crest and having an entrance in the SE. sector.³

No absolute parallel outwith the Black Isle can be cited for the group of enclosures at Navity (No. 52) except possibly a single site at Dalrulzion.⁴ The absence of an entrance gap in the bank is inexplicable, and in no sense are these structures to be regarded as forts. A further possible example in the Black Isle is the unbroken bank which surrounds the cairn, Crofterunie I (No. 27).

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, LV (1920-1), 239.

³ *R.C.A.M. (Sutherland)*, No. 69.

² *Ibid.*, XXXVIII (1903-4), 102.

⁴ *P.S.A.S.*, LXVII (1932-3), 190.

APPENDIX I.

CIST BURIALS.

62. ROSEMARKIE MANSE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/734573).

On the summit of a slope facing the Moray Firth, in the grounds of Rosemarkie Manse, a cist was found in 1904 containing an unburnt skeleton and a food-vessel with impressed decoration. The latter is now in the National Museum of Antiquities (Cat. No. EE 92). The circumstances of the find have been fully described already.

P.S.A.S., xxxvii (1903-4), 469.

63. BLACKSTAND (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/714606).

A B/C type beaker decorated with serrated impressions and accompanied by skeletal remains was found about 1940 in a cist in the side of the southernmost mound at Blackstand (No. 35). It is now in the National Museum of Antiquities (Cat. No. E.G. 90). The beaker has been fully described already.

P.S.A.S., lxxxiii (1948-9), 235.

64. FINDON (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/612617).

A B/C beaker with incised ornamentation, and the base of a second one, were found in a cist on the farm of Findon in 1936. Both have been previously described and are now in the National Museum of Antiquities (Cat. Nos. EG. 69-70).

P.S.A.S., lxxxi (1936-7), 248.

65. FLOWERBURN (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/734602).

A cist containing bones only was found in a small hollow in the side of a natural mound near Flowerburn House in 1882. An urn, subsequently broken, had been previously found near the cist, but not apparently in it. Associated with the urn were a flint scraper and a nodule of iron pyrites. All these objects are in the National Museum of Antiquities (Cat. Nos. EQ. 189-191).

P.S.A.S., xix (1884-5), 352.

66. DRUMCUDDEN (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/640640).

The 6-inch O.S. map, sheet 77, records the finding here in 1859 of two "stone coffins," one containing ashes and the other human bones. No further information has been obtained about this site.

67. CROMARTY HOUSE (Nat. Grid Ref. 28/792671).

The 6-inch O.S. map, sheet 67, records the finding of stone coffins and urns here. This may be taken from a reference in the *Old Statistical Account* in which the finding of square cists containing ashes, burnt bone and urns is mentioned.

Old Stat. Acc., xii (1794), 258.

The precise location of the three cists recorded below and mentioned by Mr Angus Beaton is not known, but they are included for the sake of completeness.

MUNLOCHY.

The fragments of an urn and a complete skeleton were reputed to have been found in a cist at Cnoc-na-Gonnan near Munlochry in the mid-19th century.

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BRAES OF KILCOY.

A contracted skeleton was found in a cist here in 1881. There was no accompanying urn.

BROOMHILL.

A cist containing human remains and fragments of a clay urn, now lost, were found here in the mid-19th century.

P.S.A.S., xvi (1882-3), 477 ff.

APPENDIX II.

SMALL FINDS FROM THE BLACK ISLE.

FIND.	PROVENANCE.	PRESENT LOCATION.
Beaker.	Blackstand (63).	N.M.A. (Appendix I).
Beaker.	Findon (64).	N.M.A. (Appendix I).
Beaker.	Tarradale.	Victoria and Albert Museum (<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , xxvii, 358; LXVIII, 159.
Food-vessel.	Rosemarkie (62).	N.M.A. (Appendix I).
Fragment of urn	Flowerburn (65).	N.M.A. (Appendix I).
Nodule of iron pyrites		
Calcined flint		
Rim segment of urn.	Callachy Hill (16).	Unknown.
Bronze socketed axe with cast loop.	Taradale Quarry.	N.M.A. (Cat. DE. 61).
Bronze socketed axe with cast loop.	Conon Mains.	N.M.A. (Cat. DE. 62).
Hoard of 6 bronze axes and spearheads.	Highfield (? 40).	N.M.A. (Cat. DQ. 83-88).
Flat bronze axe.	Bishop Kinkell.	N.M.A. (<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , LXVII (1932-3), 17).
Hoard of 5 flat bronze axes.	Ladyhill.	Elgin Museum (<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , XIX (1884-5), 404).
Stone cup.	Kirkmichael.	Unknown (<i>New Stat. Acc.</i> , XIV (1837), 45).
Whetstone, 2" x $\frac{3}{8}$ ", perforated at broader end.	The Temple (7).	Miss N. Gammie, Crofterunie Farm, Tore.
Bone pin.	Rosemarkie Cave (56).	N.M.A. (Cat. HM. 237) (<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , LXV (1930-1), 412).
Worked flints.	Fortrose district.	N.M.A. (<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , LXV (1930-1), 412).
Barbed flint arrow- head.	Kilcoy I (Carn Glas) (2).	N.M.A. (<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , LIX (1924-5), 71).

N.M.A. = National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.