

3. TWO ROCK CARVINGS DISCOVERED IN ARGYLL

1. *Barnakill, Dunardry, Cairnbaan* (Nat. Grid Ref. NR 823915)

In 1959 a boulder bearing two incised carvings of hands was found by chance at the side of a track leading from the Crinan Canal to the deserted village of High Barnakill.

The boulder forms part of a ruined dyke of massive construction. It is 4 ft. 4 in. long

¹ Thanks are due to Miss R. Crawford and Mr D. Simpson for the numbers of Beakers and Food Vessels respectively in the Aberdeenshire area of the region. No figures were available for the Cinerary Urns in that area. The figures for all three types in the Banff area are taken from my unpublished M.A. thesis *The Prehistory of Nairn, Moray and Banff in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages: The Study of an Area* (1961). (See *Univ. Edin. Dept. of Arch. 13th Ann. Rep.* (1960-1), 6-9).

² Childe, V.G., *op. cit.*, cf. 45, fig. 6; 53, fig. 10; 67, fig. 15.

³ O.S. Name Book.

⁴ *New Stat. Acc.* XIII, 31 of Banff section, written June 1836, published 1842.

and 1 ft. 6 in. above ground. Near the north-west edge of the stone is a left hand, 7 in. across the palm of the hand and ball of the thumb by 8 in. from wrist to tip of middle finger; the line of the arm is continued by shallow incisions to the edge of the stone. Five in. to the south-west and in line is another left hand, of the same width and very slightly longer. There are two shallow parallel cuts in the stone between the hands, but these may be natural.

Both hands have been outlined by a thin incised line and deepened by pecking, and perhaps scoring down the fingers. The thumbs and fingers are clear, and there is no doubt that these are hands, and not feet.

2. *Creagantairbh Old Mill, Carnasserie, Kilmartin* (Nat. Grid Ref. NM 844013)

The site, first reported by Mr E. R. Cregeen, is close to the main Kilmartin-Oban road, opposite the ruined mill, east of the road and north of a farm track which runs from a gate under a low rocky outcrop. A small erratic boulder perched on top of the outcrop marks the carved area. Only a part of the rock has been stripped of turf as yet. Cups and other symbols occur on at least two levels of the rock. The uppermost sheet has the symbols here shown, at its north-easterly end. About 58 cups were found in all, on the exposed areas.

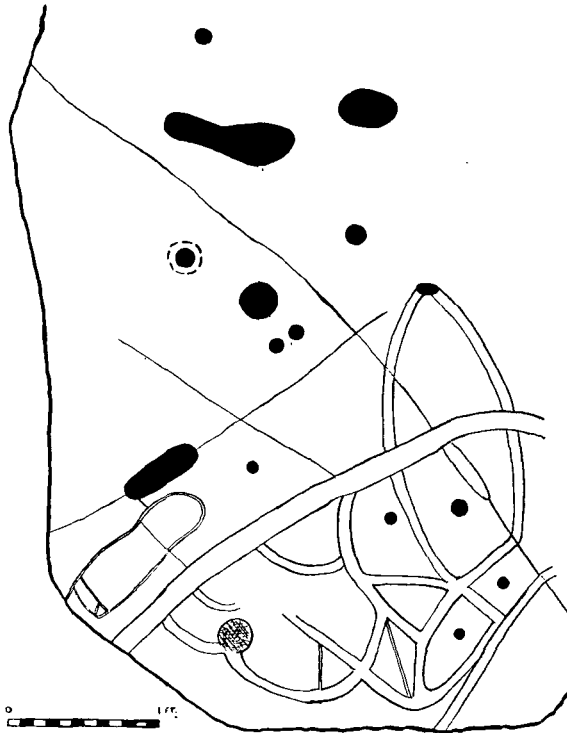


FIG. 1. Sketch of north-easterly corner of rock sheet, Carnasserie. The heavy line represents the edge of the rock; light single line, natural cracks (enlarged in places as shown); double line, artificial grooves or natural cracks deepened; broken line, slight lowering of surface around cup-mark (not a true ring-mark); solid black, cups and shapes hollowed out; cross-hatching, unfinished deep cup.

The north-easterly corner bears, over an area of 4 ft. by 3 ft. 6 in., a series of gutters intersecting to form imperfect geometric shapes resembling debased 'diamonds'. In addition, there are two possible 'footprints', one outlined by thin lines and the other deeply excised, three smaller ovals, and a number of cups, mostly rather small. One of the curving grooves connects with an unfinished but deep cup (fig. 1).

It seems very probable that intensive stripping of turf would show many more carvings.

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