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## 2 Introduction

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In August 1959 the firm of Tawse applied for permission to remove gravel from Bruach an Druimein (NGR: NR 820 972) in the Kilmartin Glen, for use in the construction of a hydroelectric dam at Loch Glashan. The then County Planning Officer, Mr R D Carr, was anxious to prevent the destruction of any antiquities that could be revealed by this operation, so E R Cregeen visited the site and observed some sample topsoil stripping by bulldozer. This revealed several features of potential archaeological importance and the contractor agreed to phase their operations in order to allow time for archaeological investigation. This became a major rescue excavation, which was conducted over several seasons between 1960 and 1962. It was carried out on behalf of Glasgow University and the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll using volunteer labour.

Cregeen produced summary reports for *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Cregeen 1960; Cregeen 1961; Cregeen 1962), as well as unpublished draft reports. Unfortunately, he died before a final report could be produced. His sister Sheila, who also took part in the excavations and did a remarkable amount of work on the site archive, also unfortunately died, leaving little in the way of finished text.

As part of the ongoing task to deal with the backlog of unpublished excavations in Scotland, Historic Scotland provided funding through Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division, to re-examine the archive and the finds from Cregeen's excavations at Bruach an Druimein in order to publish the results.

### 2.1 Biography of Eric Radcliffe Cregeen, 1921–83

Eric Cregeen was born in the north of England but his family were from the Isle of Man and much of his formative years were spent there. At the age of 13 he studied the Manx language and, in 1935, won a scholarship to Leys School in Cambridge, leading to a BA in history and Latin in 1947, and an MA in 1949. During World War Two, Eric was a conscientious objector and spent this time mainly in agricultural work. During this period, part of his time was spent on the Isle of Man where he was able to work with Professor Carl Marstrand, a linguist from Oslo who had been recording Manx speech, and Dr Gerhard Bersu, the brilliant German archaeologist who was interned on the island and conducted a series of important excavations coordinated by the Manx Museum. In 1948, Eric was

appointed assistant director to Basil Megaw at the Manx Museum and secretary to the Manx Museum and Ancient Monuments Trustees where his main responsibility was the organization of a Manx Folk Life Survey. After completion of this project he worked for three years teaching History and Latin at Culford School, Bury St Edmonds, before joining the University of Glasgow's Extra-Mural Department in 1954 as resident tutor to introduce extra-mural studies throughout Argyll. He spent 10 years in this post, encouraging individuals and groups to study systematically their own localities and helping create local historical societies as well as being instrumental in the setting up of Achindrain Folk life Museum (Ritchie 2005).

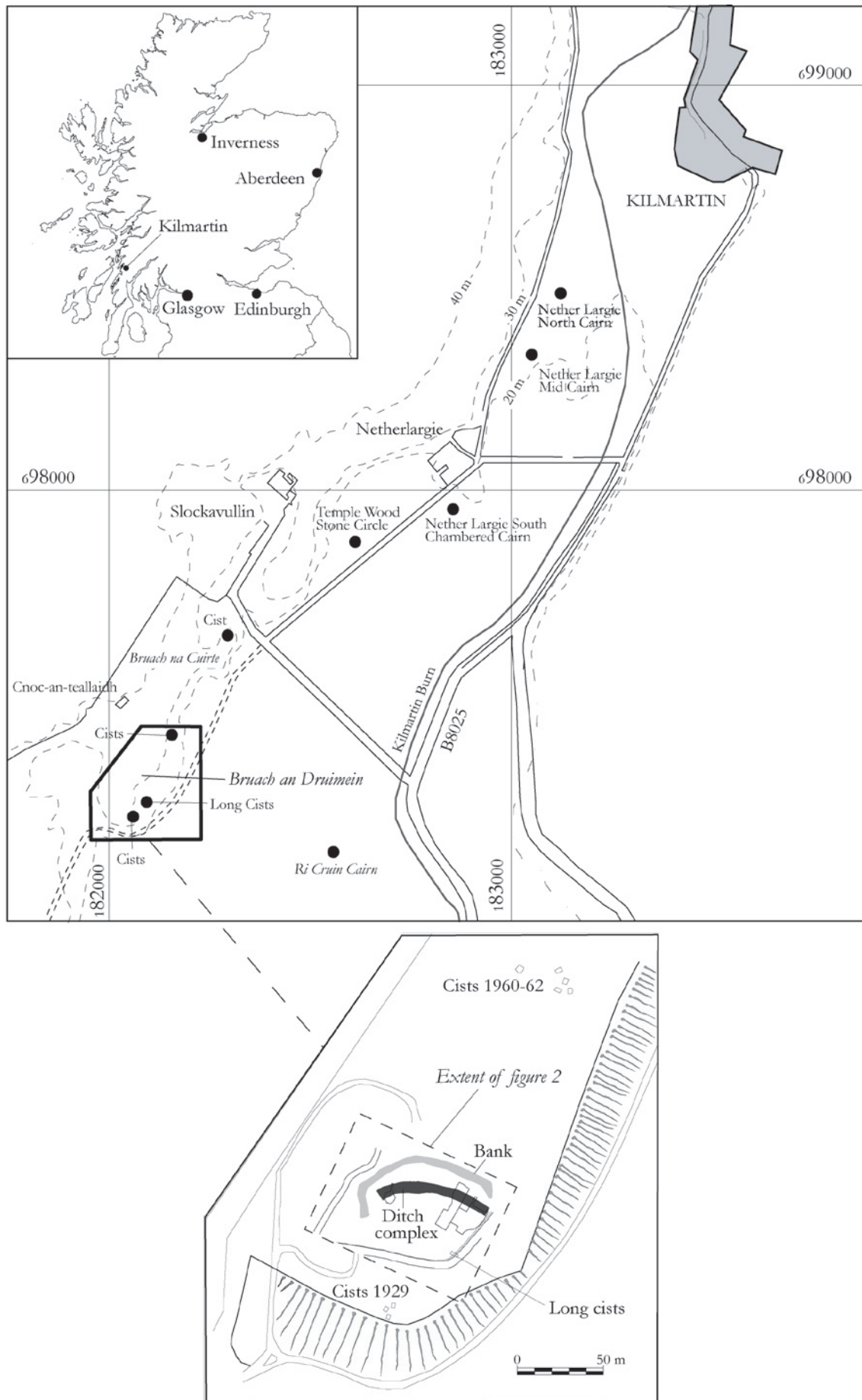
In 1958, Eric married Lilly Gemmill, an artist who taught at Campbeltown High School. In 1964/5, a Nuffield Foundation Sociological Award enabled Eric to widen the basis of his research on the West Highlands and Islands of Scotland with comparative studies in social history and anthropology. In 1966, he was appointed lecturer in the School of Scottish Studies in the University of Edinburgh with responsibility for research and teaching in the field of social organization; he became a senior lecturer in 1969. In 1981, he was appointed Reader in Scottish Studies until his death in 1983.

Eric's sister Sheila (1924–93) obtained a BA in English and French from Manchester University in 1944. She went on to teach at Kings School, Macclesfield and also researched an MA with Manchester University Department of Archaeology on *Aspects of Celtic Culture in the Isle of Man* (1952). She became an assistant at the Doncaster Art Gallery and Museum and subsequently was Deputy Director of the Verulamium Museum St Albans. From 1958 she held a part-time lectureship in Archaeology in the Department of Extra-Mural Education at Sheffield University and held similar positions at Glasgow and Edinburgh universities. During this period she liaised closely with Eric and conducted a number of archaeological excavations in Mid Argyll including Bruach an Druimein and Crarae chambered cairn. In 1966 she returned permanently to the Isle of Man and continued to be involved in teaching and archaeology, becoming President of the Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society in 1979. After Eric's death she spent many years working alone on the unpublished results from Bruach an Druimein.

Eric's wife Lilly assisted him in both research and fieldwork and was part of the Bruach an Druimein excavation team. After Sheila's death, Lilly deposited the Bruach an Druimein archive

in Kelvingrove Museum and asked Historic Scotland's help in the production of a report. Lilly lives at Ballochgair Cottage near Campbeltown, is

actively involved in the Kintyre Natural History and Antiquarian society and still works on Eric's unpublished work.



Illus 1 Site location