



**A Project to Identify, Survey and Record
Archaeological Remains in Strathconon, Ross-shire**

**Report of Phase One
Scatwell and Lower Strathconon
November 2006 - April 2007**



With the kind permission of the Scatwell, Lochluichart and Fairburn Estates

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The Report of Phase One Lower Strathconon and Scatwell

**of a Project to Identify, Survey and Record Archaeological
Remains in Strathconon, Ross-shire
by the North of Scotland Archaeological Society,**

November 2006 to April 2007

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Scotland's Rural Past is a five-year nationwide project that has been set up to support local communities to research, record and raise awareness of abandoned rural settlements. The project is hosted by RCAHMS, with partnership funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and The National Trust for Scotland.

Front page - Survey work in progress on the kiln at Allt Dubh, Scatwell

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2. The Strathconon Project

2.1 Introduction

The aim of the project was to identify and record the archaeological remains in Strathconon, a long and beautiful glen in the east part of Ross-shire, Scotland. It extends for 40 kilometres westwards from Dingwall on the Cromarty Firth and was once one of the main routes to and from the west coast. According to documents of two hundred years ago it was well populated with "many townships, some of them with 3 and 4 families". Today, however, the glen has very few settlements and the surfaced road comes to an end after 26 kilometres.

In the Autumn of 2006 the North of Scotland Archaeological Society set out to identify, survey and record the archaeology of the glen as part of the Scotlands Rural Past Scheme. It was recognised that it would be quite a major undertaking, since the targeted area is roughly 70 square kilometres in size, but there was plenty of enthusiasm, many NOSAS members lived locally and there was no time limit. It was also the intention to involve the local community.

The lower course of the River Conon is a wide fertile strath and was not included in the project since much of it has been given over to intensive agriculture. The Achonachie Dam, 3kms west of Marybank, was the east limit of the project. From here the glen falls naturally into several sections. In order to make the project more manageable each section was taken as a separate phase of work. There are 4 phases:

- The lower glen, principally the Estate of Scatwell, which is mostly wooded and covers an area of 15 km². It is defined by 3 dams - the Achonachie dam, the Lochluichart dam and the Meig dam.
- The east middle part of the glen, comprising much of the Strathconon Estate, an area of 15 km². It has most of the settlements today and includes Strathanmore, Milton, Porin, Dalnacroich, Bridgend, Achloorachan and Glacour. The hydro scheme of Loch Meig occupies the lower 3 kms of this section.
- The west middle section of the glen, also the Strathconon Estate, from Carnoch Church to Loch Beannacharain includes Invermeinie, Inverchoran, Carnoch and Glen Meinich which is now largely forested
- The upper part of the glen, from Scardroy westwards to the watershed. An area of 25 km² of remote hill land is mostly the Scardroy Estate.

Inevitably some seasons lend themselves to the different sections of the glen - the lower glen for example is better done in the winter when the days are short and the bracken is at its least vigorous and the upper glen lends itself to the summertime when the weather is better and the days are longer. Very few archaeological sites had been recorded, although a good number had been picked up in the First Edition OS Project (FESP) of 1998-2002 and it was the intention of the project to verify these sites.

2.2 Historical background of Strathconon

The long glen of Strathconon penetrates far into the central mountains of Ross-shire to the west of Dingwall. It links with Loch Carron, Lochalsh and Kintail on the west coast and there is evidence that this was a routeway possibly even going back to prehistoric times. From Scardroy and Milltown there are low passes which link with routes to Wester Ross and these were used as droving routes for the cattle coming to the tryst at Muir of Ord. Today the Strathconon Estate occupies the majority of the glen, with the smaller estates of Scardroy, originally part of the Strathconon Estate, at the west end and Scatwell at the lower, east end.

The Strathconon and Scatwell estates have been separate from early times but yet they are very much linked geographically and politically. Although it is Scatwell Estate that is of concern here, a short history of the whole of glen will be given by way of introduction.

The history of Strathconon in the late medieval period is closely linked with that of the Mackenzie Clan. In 1476 the Earldom of Ross was forfeited by John Macdonald, the Lord of the Isles, accused of treason by signing the Treaty of Ardtornish in 1462 and "other acts of rebellion against the Crown" (England and Scotland were separate realms at this time). In 1463 the Mackenzies had been granted lands known as the Braes of Ross, including Killin, Garve and Kinlochluichart by John Macdonald. They had established strongholds on the crannog at Loch Achilty and later on the crannog of Loch Kinellan, near Strathpeffer. At that time the Mackenzie clan occupied lands in Kintail and Lochalsh on the west coast. They consolidated their lands in Ross-shire by moving northeast, most probably through Strathconon, and in 1477 were granted a charter from the Crown, not only confirming them in the lands of Kintail, but granting them the lands of Strathconon, Strathgarve and Strathbraan. They and their cadet branches became firmly established in Ross-shire over the next century. Not only were the Mackenzie lands on the west and east coasts linked politically they were

also linked geographically by a direct route which passed through Strathconon.

There were various conflicts in the ensuing years when the Macdonalds tried to retrieve their lands in Ross-shire but, by and large, the situation remained the same throughout the 16th and 17th Centuries. In the early 18th century the royalist Earl of Seaforth, Chief of the Clan Mackenzie, was sympathetic towards James Stewart, the "Old Pretender". He had a major part in the uprising of 1715 and, after the defeat of the rebels at the battle of Sherrifmuir, he fled to France. He died in exile but his forfeited lands were later restored to his son, Kenneth, 6th Earl of Seaforth. He and his successors raised several regiments from their clansmen for the British overseas conflicts in the latter part of the 18th century. However the direct male line came to an end with the death of Francis Humberston Mackenzie, the 8th Earl of Seaforth in 1815

The later 18th Century was "an Age of Improvement" throughout the whole of the British Isles. Industrialisation was taking place in the South. Highland landowners believed that sheep-rearing was one of the most effective ways of improving and exploiting their lands. There is documentary evidence suggesting that Seaforth deferred the introduction of sheep to Kintail because he had promised land and reduced rents to returning men from the military operations overseas. It is quite possible that the same applied to Strathconon and his other estates. It is also well known that Seaforth moved his people around his estates.

The introduction of sheep and reorganisation of people in Strathconon was clearly underway by the last decade of the 18th century. The Old Statistical Account of 1791 for the Parish of Contin, states: "the population is on the increase but is feared will soon decrease as the gentlemen are encouraging shepherds to come and settle on their properties which must necessarily remove the present inhabitants and force them to go in quest of bread to other countries as there are no manufactures established here to employ them"

And James Hogg (The Etrick Shepherd) in 1803 states:

"Amongst the fellow lodgers (*he was staying at an inn on Rannoch Moor*), I was glad at meeting here with Mr McCallum, who had taken an extensive farm on the estate of Strathconnon, which I viewed last year, who informed me that all that extensive estate was let to sheep farmers saving a small division on the lower end, which the General (*The Earl of Seaforth*) had reserved for the accommodation of such of the natives as could not dispose of themselves to better advantage"

During the first part of the 19th century there was a period of relative prosperity. The political situation during the Napoleonic Wars led to a demand for the products of the Highlands. Many of the folk from Strathconon had joined the military, some were able to find seasonal work in the arable areas of Easter Ross and the Black Isle, there was revenue from cattle, sheep, and illicit whisky. When the war came to an end in 1815 and the demand for the produce ceased, a vastly increased population was left without a means of supporting itself. Strathconon was one of the most congested areas in the Highlands of Scotland. The continual displacement of people to make way for sheep meant that there were many squatters in addition to the official tenantry. Farms which originally had been leased by 2 tenants now held 15 families.

Sheepfarming and the dispersal of the people from Strathconon proceeded quietly and slowly over the next decades with apparently little resistance. Evidence from the Deer Commission in 1892 states that there was a decline in the first half of the 19th century - from a population of 1100 in 1829, there was 870 in 1834 and 568 in 1839.

Seaforth had died in 1815 and the kelp industry on the Isle of Lewis, one of his other estates, failed in the 1820s. Most of the Seaforth lands had to be sold to clear debts. Strathconon was initially taken over by Trustees, but was put on the market and eventually sold in 1839 to James Balfour (1773-1845) who had made his fortune by supplying the British Navy with provisions whilst they were in Indian waters. Balfour also had extensive estates in East Lothian and Fife.

Further history of the Strathconon Estate will be explored in the reports of subsequent phases of this project

3. Phase 1 - Scatwell and the lower part of Strathconon

3.1 Introduction

Phase 1 (SC1) of the Strathconon Project covers an area defined by the 3 dams of Achonachie, Lochluichart and Meig. To the north, the west end of Loch Achilty is taken as the limit. The area covers a total of 15 km² (Fig 1.) and is principally the estate of Little Scatwell, but it also includes a small part of the Lochluichart Estate to the north and the Fairburn Estate to the east. Most of the land is in the Parish of Contin, but a small part in the lower glen, to the east of the Allt na Fannaich is in Urray Parish. At the time of the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1872, the boundary between the parishes was the Allt na Criche which runs parallel to the Allt na Fannaich a few hundred metres to the northwest.

Loch Achonachie occupies half the valley floor in the east and there are several fertile fields in the western part. The surrounding hills are rolling and heathery and rise to a height of 450m. The lower slopes of these hills are tree clad - some, particularly on the south side, with natural birch, but much is commercial woodland. This woodland was planted in the 1950s and 60s and has been or is about to be felled and replanted. Forest operations and hydro schemes have had a great impact on this part of the glen. The dams and consequent bodies of water have overwhelmed some of the former settlements and the forest roads, construction camps, realignment of public road and power lines have destroyed much of it.

The objectives of the project were:

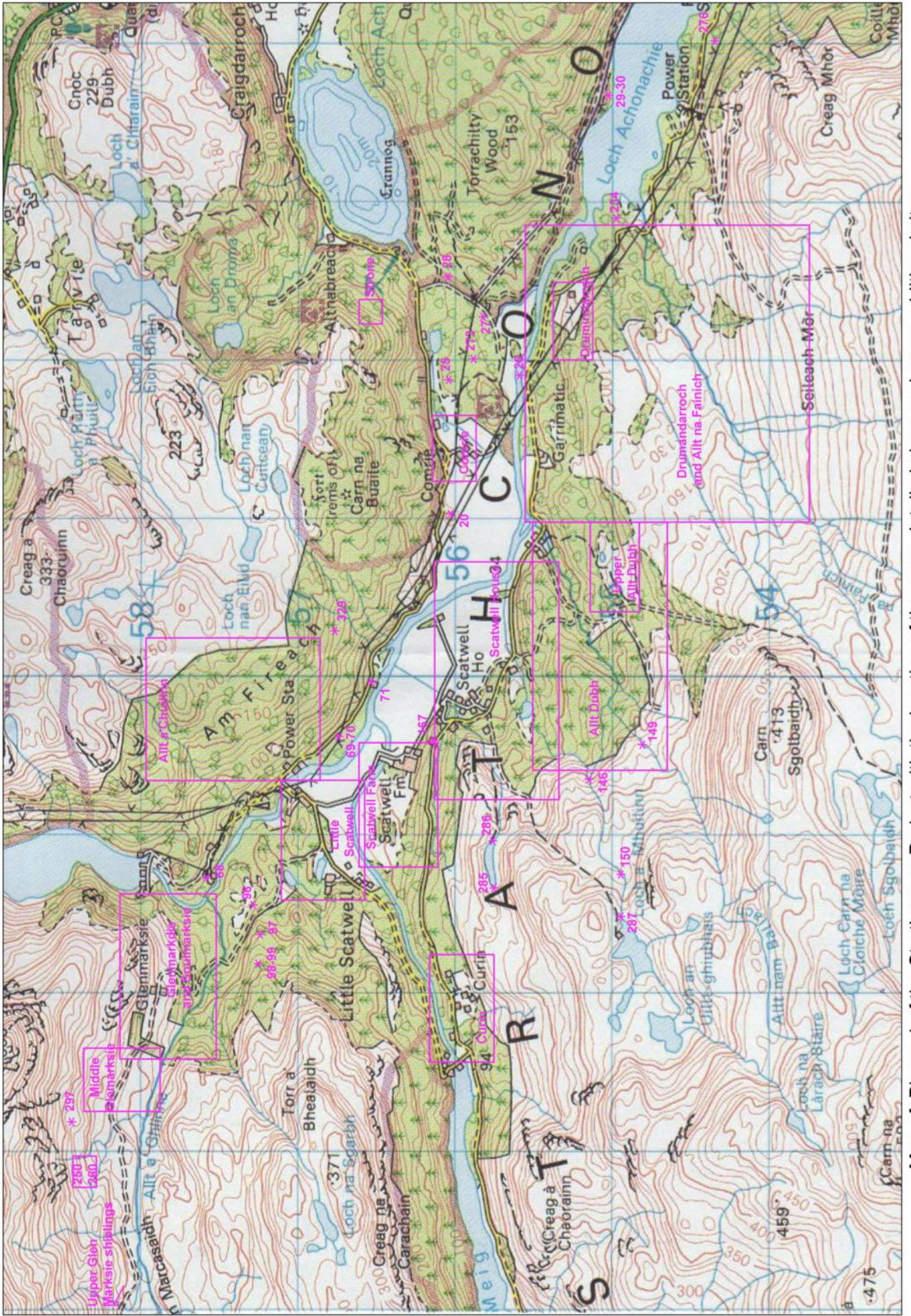
- To research the historical background
- to locate and identify the surviving archaeological remains
- to survey and record these archaeological features
- To produce a report of our findings at the end of the project
- To verify the sites picked up in the First Edition OS Project (FESP) of 1998-2002. This was a desk based study and no previous visits had been made to many of the sites.

3.2 Method

Some research into the historical background of the area was undertaken, but unfortunately any surviving Estate plans or rentals were unable to be traced. The Mackenzie of Scatwell Papers in the British Library were very limited in their reference to the Scatwell Estate, mostly referring to the Black Isle properties of the family. The Roy map of c.1750 and the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881 (surveyed 1872) were particularly useful. The Old Statistical Account of 1791 and a list of male householders and their occupations, produced in 1798 by the minister of the Parish of Contin, (together with the Roy map) was the only source of "pre-improvement" information, although a small booklet "Fearchar a Ghunna - The Ross-shire Wanderer", produced in 1881, gave a snapshot of the boyhood of this eccentric who was born in the glen in 1784. The Old Parish Records and the Census Records of 1841 to 1901 proved useful, as did old newspapers with advertised "lets" going back to 1808. The Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held by the Highland Council Archaeology Unit was consulted. Much of the area had been planted with trees in the 1950s so the aerial photographs of 1950, held by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments, RCAHMS, were particularly helpful in giving an idea of prior land use. Oblique aerial photographs were taken by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in the Spring of 2007.

Interested NOSAS members were recruited to help and the first field day was held in November 2006. Our usual method is to divide into teams of two or three, a more experienced person being matched with a "buddy". The area of Phase 1 was divided into yet smaller sections and each section was walked over, with likely locations being inspected. In some parts dense trees, windblow and brashings underfoot made the going difficult, in others bracken or heather was a problem. We had a good idea from the maps where features might be found, but inevitably some features will have been missed. We did not, for instance, prospect some of the more remote burns and corries where there may be shielings. For safety's sake when visiting the higher locations we went in pairs. We did not record quarries; borrow pits or clearance cairns unless they were thought to be of particular interest, their presence was however noted on the plans. Details of upstanding roofed buildings were not taken. If they were on the 1st Edition OS map or thought to be of interest they were photographed.

The objective was to note the exact location of each feature by taking a 10 figure grid reference using a GPS, taking written details and digital photographs of the remains, and drawing measured sketches where possible. When we had the required number of helpers, the structures were measured by tape, but on other occasions measurements were taken roughly by pacing. Internal measurements of all buildings or enclosures were taken, the rough height of the remaining walls, a description of their composition, other details such as



Map of Phase 1 of the Strathconon Project with the location of the more detailed plans and some additional sites

internal partitions, entrances or annexes and associations with other features were noted. A description of the surroundings together with other information where relevant was also included; if for example we felt that a feature was threatened. On occasions, if we felt that a building was special or unusual, we would complete a more detailed survey using either the taped offset method or a plane table. An overall plan of the more complex sites was also to be produced so that the features could be seen in relation to each other. Most of the plans and drawings were to be drawn up using either pen and ink, or OCAD, an orienteering cartographic software programme, the symbols of which have been modified to represent archaeological features.

The features were to be photographed using a digital SLR camera - only selected photographs are reproduced here in the report, the complete set of photographs is available on a DVD.

Each feature was given its own three figure number. We anticipated finding many, possibly hundreds of features, and this method had proved least confusing on previous NOSAS projects. All associated features would then be grouped together for entering on the record.

Copies of the full report are to be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (Highland Council), National Monument Record of Scotland, Historic Scotland, Dingwall Museum and the North of Scotland Archaeological Society.

3.3 Historical Background of Scat well and the Lower glen

The name Scatwell has Norse origins and is thought to mean a place for paying tribute or tax - "skat" meaning tax and "vollr", a field, but another theory is that it derives from the word "skati" meaning large timber or logs. Whatever the meaning, no evidence for settlement by Norse people has ever been found and it is generally thought that the area of Ross-shire was visited by Norse peoples from Sutherland and Caithness for the purpose of exploiting the timber resources only. Many of the Norse placenames in the Ross-shire area seem to be connected with trees and timber.

Land Ownership

The majority of Phase 1 of the Strathconon Project comprises the present Scatwell Estate. However the estate has changed considerably over the years, in former days it was much more extensive. Comrie in the lower glen was part of the estates of Mackenzie of Coul and Achonachie, in Urray Parish, was part of the Fairburn Estate. Most of the Phase 1 area is in the Parish of Contin with only a small part, to the east, in the Parish of Urray. The present boundary is the Allt na Fannaich.

Scatwell is first mentioned, together with Strathconon, in a royal charter of land made to the Mackenzies in 1528. Kenneth Mackenzie, second son of Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Coigeach, tutor of Kintail, was the progenitor of the cadet branch of the Mackenzies of Scatwell.

Kenneth Mackenzie, 1st of Scatwell, had a sasine of Little Scatwell in 1619. He died at Lochluichart in 1662 and 3 sons succeeded him in turn. The 3rd son, also Sir Kenneth Mackenzie, 4th of Scatwell (d1729) was created 1st Baronet of Nova Scotia (and Scatwell) in 1703, he acquired lands on the Black Isle at Avoch and at Findon. A dwelling house was built at Findon and the family moved there from Lochluichart in 1696, the Mackenzies of Scatwell were never to reside in Strathconon again. In the 1790s they built a new mansion at Avoch, the original Rosehaugh House. James Wemyss, 5th Baron of Scat well (1770 - 1843) succeeded to the title in 1811 and became MP for the County of Ross in 1824 and Lord Lieutenant of Ross in 1826.

The first half of the 19th century was a difficult time for the old order of landowners and from 1831-32 the lands of Scatwell and Lochluichart began to be broken up. Meikle Scatwell, on the south side of the river, was sold in 1832 and eventually passed to Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth c.1844. Little Scatwell and Lochluichart, on the north side of the river, were still owned by Sir James John Randoll Mackenzie (1814 - 1884), 6th Baron of Scatwell and Rosehaugh, son of Sir James Wemyss, but he had an extravagant lifestyle and following improvements to both Scatwell and Rosehaugh Estates incurred considerable debts. He sold Little Scatwell c.1849. Kinlochluichart and Glenmarksie followed in 1853 and he was declared bankrupt in 1864. In 1849 the estate of Meikle Scatwell had been bought by Capt John Douglas who, in 1850 built Scatwell House, adapting it, it is thought, from the old Drovers Inn built before 1800. He died in 1852 and his widow, Jemima, continuing at Scatwell House, extended the estate by purchasing the lands of Auchonachie, Cabaan in Glen Orrin and Little Scatwell in 1853. For a time the two estates were united again. Mrs Douglas established a school and "made generous distribution of comforts to her tenantry". In addition she was responsible for the schoolmaster's salary and house. But in 1857 the two estates were split again when John Murray of Touchadam and Polmaise purchased Little Scatwell. In 1853 Kinlochluichart and Glenmarksie had been bought by William Bingham Baring, Lord Ashburton, (son of the founder of Barings Bank). His wife Louisa, Lady Ashburton, was the daughter of Mary Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth.

Perhaps the owner who left the most impression on the estate over the next part of the 19th Century was Dr

William James Bell. He had possession of Scatwell House in 1864 through to 1892 and was responsible for introducing one of the earliest hydro electric schemes to the Highlands. He establishing a system of electric light in Scatwell House in 1889 (see Appendix) and may also have established a field telephone system, over the hill to Cabaan Lodge in Glen Orrin (*local knowledge*). We do however know for certain that he built a new bridge in 1890 3 kilometres east of Scatwell House, the Black Bridge.

More recently Scatwell has had a variety of owners which have included Sir James Buchanan, Lord Woolavington, from the 1890s to 1920s, he laid out the woodland and formal garden in their present form, Sir William Cross (Coates Cross Family of Paisley), owner in 1930s, and the family of Macdonald Buchanan in the 1950s (the wife was the daughter of Lord Woolavington)

Settlement and population

Unfortunately no early estate plans, documents or rentals for the Scatwell Estates could be traced; the Mackenzie of Scatwell papers in the British Library referred only to the Black Isle properties of the family. The earliest detailed evidence for settlement in the Scatwell area is the Roy map of c.1750, it gave a good idea of the location of the settlements at that time. On this map much of the valley floor was given over to cultivation strips and interestingly there was only a limited amount of woodland in the main glen. There are 12 settlements in total, mostly on the valley floor. The only other document that gave information on settlement and population in the pre-improvement period was a list of male inhabitants, between the ages of 15 and 60. It was compiled under the settlement names and was collected by the minister of the Parish of Contin in 1798. The settlements on this list roughly concur with those on the Roy map. The 1798 list reports that “the tenantry have only garrons or small oxen” (Sir George Mackenzie of Coul has the only draught horses, oxen and wagons in the parish) It describes the occupations of the people, with an equal number of tenants, labourers and cottars - a few weavers, a miller, a shoemaker, a wright and a smith.



Roy military map of c1750

The Old Statistical Account (OSA) for the parish of Contin of 1791 states that

“The people are averse to inclosures as they wish to have all kinds of pasture in common. The situation of 1782 and 1783 was truly deplorable and no doubt many of the poorer sort must have died from want, were it not for the timely supply of corn sent by the government. One remarkable circumstance to be observed was that although these years produced little or no corn they were particularly favourable for the growth of grass which yielded immense quantities of milk, the principal support of the inhabitants. Another favourable circumstance was that there was a great demand for cattle, the staple commodity of the parish, and they sold at a high price”

One source of revenue for the population at this time was whisky. Strathconon was well known as a no-go area for the excise man. Fearchair McLennan (A' Ghuna), the Ross-shire Wanderer was born in Strathconon of a family of smugglers/crofters in 1784.

The OSA of 1791 has

“There is a sufficiency of corn grown for supporting the inhabitants but owing to the number of distillers of whisky of which there are no less than three in the parish there are 300 bolls of barley imported annually from the neighbouring parishes”

The production of the illicit spirit seems to have flourished into the first half of the 19th century, but by the 1820s the Excise were exerting their authority. In 1829 a report in the “Inverness Journal” reads:

“An Officer of Excise was deforced at Strathconon last week by the country people, who used so much violence as to render it necessary for the Excise party to leave without completing their survey, or destroying two illicit stills which they had discovered. On Friday the party again proceeded to the spot, but were met by a mob, chiefly women, who poured upon them showers of stones. The party retreated finding it impossible to effect their object. A party of Royals stationed at Fort George were sent to assist them. Twenty-one rank and file marched to Strathconon, the stills were destroyed and a considerable quantity of spirits seized. The Surveying Officer has reported that it is impossible for officers of the revenue in that district to do their duty if a party of soldiers are not constantly in attendance to give assistance”

And in April 1831:

“Assault on a Party of Excise Officers - An Excise Officer, assisted by two seamen belonging to the Revenue cutter (in the Beaully Firth) discovered a still at work in Strathconon. On endeavouring to seize the spirits and destroy the utensils, the party was deforced and obliged to retreat. They were reinforced by two additional assistants and revisited the bothy where they found eight sturdy Highlanders round the fire – a scuffle ensued, and both parties were severely hurt, some of them to the danger of life. Two of the smugglers have been taken, and will be tried before the ensuing Circuit Court”

By 1837 the New Statistical Account states

“For many years smuggling prevailed in the interior of the parish to an alarming extent and must have been hurtful to the morals of the people, but it has been so completely suppressed that illicit whisky has now become almost as rare as foreign spirits”

The NSA also reports

“The few black cattle reared for sale are the remains of the old Highland breed which seem to have degenerated in the same ratio in which the circumstances of the people have declined” “Several farms are stocked both with Cheviot and black faced sheep and those reared on some grazings fetch the highest prices at market”

The Old Parish Records and the census records from 1841 for the Phase 1 area give a good idea of the decline in numbers and the changes of occupations of the people living there. The list of 1798 has 47 households (assuming that each male mentioned is the head of a household), in 1841 there are 44 households, and by 1871 there are 30. In 1851 the occupations are farmers/grievs, agricultural labourers, shepherds, servants, fishermen, gamekeepers, 2 ferrymen and a gardener, which when compared with the 1798 list give an indication of the changes that have taken place.

Changes too were apparent when the 1st Edition OS map of 1882 was consulted. Many of the settlements on the Roy map of 1750 had disappeared altogether, Milltown of Scatwell, for example, was replaced in the mid 19th Century by Scatwell House and its policies. Likewise the settlement of Little Scatwell which was replaced by (the first) Little Scatwell House, depicted on the 1st edition OS map. Some settlements which appeared on the Roy map and which had been mentioned in the earlier census, did not appear on either the First edition OS map of 1881 or on the current 1:25,000, so it was safe to assume that they had been abandoned at quite an early stage, this was the case with Drumindarroch and Coulinture. The names of some of the settlements on the Roy map seem to have been transferred to new locations, as with Glascharn.

The Sporting Estate played a part in providing employment for the population, particularly after the mid 19th Century. The new breed of landowners brought money with them and undertook new projects and

enterprises. New shooting lodges and houses were built, gardens landscaped and bridges erected. A "model" farm was established at Scatwell and a herd of pedigree dairy cattle reared. There was also speculative exploitation of the natural resources, mining for mica for example and the harnessing of water power at the Falls of Conon, a private scheme for the benefit of the wider community. Some of the woodland was felled during WW2 and there was large scale planting of commercial forest in the 1950s.

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3.4 Results

In total 12 full field days were organised over the 5 month period. Numbers of people on each day varied from 4 to 11. In addition, individuals and small groups made several ad hoc outings. There were close on 100 man days in the field and perhaps half that number spent in the preparation and research, and the writing and drawing up of the data collected.

61 sites have been identified and recorded during the project. Some are single features or sub sites; others are much more complex with as many as 30 or more associated features. In total 329 individual features or sub-sites have been recorded. All are detailed in the gazetteer. Photographs were taken of most of the features/sub sites and some are reproduced here, but all are available on a DVD.

We were able to add just one prehistoric site, the cup marked rock (SC 056) at NH 39560 57838, to the record. No other early sites were identified and the two forts, of Carn na Buaille (Nmrs No NH45NW0005), at NH 4114 5669 and Glenmarksie (Nmrs No NH35NE0019), at NH 38300 58200 remain the only iron age sites in the area, although the rock shelter (SC 033) at Soulmarksie, NH 38458 58027, and a possible hut circle (SC 329) at Allt an Torrain/Allt a'Chuilinn, NH 40190 56860, may be early in date.

The sheilings (*Figs 2 and 3*) were probably the earliest structures recorded, and those in upper Glenmarksie are worthy of mention. 48 were recorded and, together with the 16 previously identified in 1996, make a total of 64 in this small glen to the NW of Scatwell. A particular feature of some of these sheilings is the abutting chambers or cells, some were surveyed in detail using the taped offset method.

As expected there has been so much development that very little of the pre-improvement period survives. The features that probably have their origins in this period are the substantial enclosure walls which surround the former settlements at Soulmarksie (almost defensive in nature), Glenmarksie and Drumandaroch. The system of enclosures and field walls (SC 047-067) on the SW facing slope at Allt a'Chuilinn may also date from this period.

The illicit distillation of whisky flourished in the Highlands from 1780 to 1825. Strathconon was well known for it and was apparently a "no-go" area for the Excise Man. But yet one of the most surprising finds in the glen was that of at least 14 probable or possible still bothies (*Figs 4, 5 and 6*). The archaeological remains of illicit stills are difficult to identify. The pot still and worm will have been removed and the only consistent features of the bothies are that they are in secret, remote locations and that they are close to a source of running water. A few bothies were in remote burns in the hills, but most were in more accessible woodland lower down and in an area of roughly half a square kilometre within a small wooded glen there was a landscape which appeared to be devoted to the industry. There were 4 probable still sites, 10 small farmsteads, 2 kilns (*Fig 8*) and a further site which as yet remains a mystery - there appears to have been some sort of process on an industrial scale going on. In a wider area of 2 square kilometres a further 7 probable still bothies have been identified. All the sites are in a pretty wasted state and in the summertime most are covered by bracken or heather.

It may be significant that a group of structures thought to be associated with the production of illicit whisky are to be found on the NW side of the Allt na Criche which was the former parish boundary and also the march between the two estates of Fairburn and Scatwell. This led to speculation that the Scatwell landowners may have turned a "blind eye" to the illicit activities, whereas the Fairburn landowners were less tolerant.

We have recorded all the features associated with illicit whisky in detail but we feel that this particular subject merit's further research and a separate project is planned.

We identified the usual sites which one might expect to find in a rural landscape of the post medieval period. Several farmsteads (*Fig 9 and 10*), enclosures and corn drying kilns were recorded, a few farmsteads were on extremely marginal land and in some cases there was evidence that former shieling grounds had been utilised. Of particular interest were the lynchets or cultivation remains in Glen Marksie.

Water management seems to have played a big part in the glen, as it almost certainly did in all rural communities. In several instances it was evident that the courses of streams had been redirected. Several mill ponds and lades were identified, as at Comrie (*Fig 11*) and Scatwell House, where two were located, one to provide power for the early sawmill and the other almost certainly connected with the township of Milltown of Scatwell, which occupied the site prior to the building of Scatwell House.

Sheep farming was seen as one of the ways forward by the "improving" landlords. We have encountered sheepfolds of many different shapes, sizes and ground plan, sheep stells (*Fig 12*) and sheep creeps too, particularly at Comrie, at Drumandaroch and in Glenmarksie.

The new breed of landowners brought money to their estates and built shooting lodges and houses. They undertook new projects. A couple of hydro-electric schemes were identified. Both were interesting in that they were early examples of their kind. One was constructed to supply electric light to Scatwell House in 1889 and we were able to locate a detailed account in the local newspaper at the time (see Appendix). The other hydro-scheme harnessed the power at the Falls of Conon, for the benefit of the wider community in the 1920s - it was a piece of private enterprise and not entirely successful. Mica mines were worked on 2 different occasions, most recently during WW2, and a "model" farm was established at Scatwell with a herd of pedigree dairy cattle being reared.

Of the 15 sites recorded during the First Edition Ordnance Survey Project (FESP) we were able to verify just 12, the remaining 3 sites are under water. Some of the sites had undergone considerable reconstruction and new building completely altering them. There are also a considerable number of sites which are marked as roofed buildings on the 1st edition OS map but which are now ruinous.

3.5 Appendices

3.5.1 Some background to the Conon Falls hydro-scheme (SC 068)

The early hydro scheme at Conon Falls was established by the Ross-shire Electric Supply Company with Edward Blunt Mackenzie, the husband of the Countess of Cromarty, pushing the initiative through in 1925. In 1903-04 he had developed a private enterprise to supply electricity to the community. Strathpeffer and Dingwall were provided with electric light through a scheme using water from Rogie (Strath Sgiach). However the scheme was costly and the company ran into debt. By 1925 it was assisted with a loan of £20,000 and a dam across the River Conon to utilise the waters of Loch Luichart was built. The scheme fed two 500kw turbines. By 1933 a transmission line was running up the Moray Firth seaboard from the generating station at Loch Luichart through Dingwall and the Easter Ross towns as far as Dornoch. Ownership however had passed to the Scottish Power Company in 1928 and the capacity of the Loch Luichart Power Station had been increased.

Refs:

The Hydro - Peter L Payne - 1988

Cromartie - Highland Life 1650-1914 - Eric Richards and Monica Clough - 1989

The Dam Builders - James Miller – 2002

3.5.2 Article from the Scottish Highlander 10th Oct. 1889 - "The Electric Light at Scatwell"

Mr W.J.Bell of Scatwell has just introduced into his residence a system of electric lighting so complete and simple, that it will probably give an impetus to the extension of the new illuminant throughout the Northern Counties. The son of a leading scientist, Mr Bell possesses scientific tastes, and has always moved among scientific men, and probably the associations thus formed have induced him to take advantage of this invaluable means of illuminating a country residence. The arrangements are of the most simple character. In a little building about 200 yards from Scatwell House, the electricity is, so to speak, manufactured through the agency of a turbine wheel driven by water which comes from the hill above. From this spot, a pair of cables is carried to a chamber in the basement of the house, where, in a series of boxes or cells, the electric power is stored. From the accumulating chamber the cables are carried to a box in the lobby, where three "mains" are taken off; one for the servants' room, one for the bedrooms and one for the public rooms. From

each "main" the connecting wires are carried to the separate apartments. In every room there is a knob like the handle of a bell; the turning of the knob in one direction sets up the electric communication and lights the room; the turning of it back severs the connection and extinguishes the light. The operation is, if possible, even more simple than the ringing of a parlour bell. For some of the rooms are also provided portable lamps which can be connected by means of a short coil of cable with tubes in the wall. One convenient contrivance consists of a cigar light; a sort of ornament that hangs from the wall, and as it hangs has no connection with the electric wire. The mere act of lifting it up, however, forms the connection, and the lighted end is ready to communicate its spark to the cigar. In the principal bedrooms there are two handles for turning on the light; one at the door on entering, the other at the bedside. A person entering the room, or one lying in bed, can turn on and off the light at pleasure. There are in all eighty lights throughout the house. Mr Roderick Fraser, contractor, Inverness, carried out the work in connection with the water supply for the turbine and house.

4. Gazetteer

The sites are generally listed from east to west, taking the north side of Loch Meig and the River Conon first and then the south side. Individual features have been given a three figure project number, not in any particular order. For recording purposes the features have been grouped together as a site and though they are geographically associated they may not be contemporary with each other. The site name is generally that of the nearest named place or feature on the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map

4.1 North Side of the Glen

Loch Achonachie

Farmstead (029 and 030) with an enclosure and clearance cairns is on the north side of Loch Achonachie. The surrounding ground is grassy and on a south facing slope, but it is generally rough going as it has the remains of felled commercial trees. Power lines occupy the north part of the site and to the west of the farmstead there is an extensive area of improved land with several clearance cairns. It is named as Cul an Tor on the FES and marked as a roofed building with extensive fields adjacent on the valley floor. These fields are now submerged under Loch Achonachie. The census record has 2 households in 1861, after which it is described as deserted.

029 Enclosure - Adjacent to building 030 and defined by two walls. The west wall, NH 43742 55019, runs N-S up the slope and the wall in the east contours from NH 43800 55000 for roughly 100m. It is constructed of turf and stone, has a spread of 1m and a height of 0.5m height on its lower side. There are several clearance cairns within the enclosure - at NH 43782 55020 and at NH 43772 55016, a straight stone edge on the south side of the latter could possibly indicate that it has the remains of a building underlying it.

030 Building - NH 43771 54992 This building is on an E-W alignment and is c.16m x 6m overall. It has 2 compartments - the west/main one is 10m x 4m internally. The walls have been well constructed of dry stone, but are mostly ruinous although they are upstanding to a height of 1.2m in places - thickness is generally 0.8m. There is a fine cruck slot in the north wall. The outshot or byre to the east is very wasted and measures 3.5m x 3m internally. The whole structure is grossly overgrown and difficult to photograph.

Loch Achilty

Enclosures (027 and 028) These two enclosures, probably associated with each other, are 4 kms west of Contin. Site 028 is in commercial woodland 200m SW of the west end of Loch Achilty, 027 is in birch woodland on the edge of a large marsh 400m SW of Loch Achilty.

027 Enclosure - NH 42306 55839 The remains of an enclosure lie on the NW side of the junction of two tracks. It is very overgrown with heather, bracken and self-seeded pine trees. The west and north walls each of c15m length enclose a low grassy hollow area. The walls are wasted with a spread of 1.5m have a height generally of 0.4m but are 0.8m at one part. There is a gap at the corner and a pit 4m to the NW which may be associated. The pit (NH 42298 55837) is 0.8m deep, has a diameter of 2.5m and may have been a sheep dip.

028 Enclosure - NH 42554 56021 The overgrown wasted remains of the stone walls of this enclosure lie on the S side of a low knoll. The main enclosure is roughly 15m by 18m - an elongated D shape - right-angle corners at the west end but rounded in shape at the east end. Walls very variable, and as far as it was possible to determine in the deep heather, were generally 0.4 to 0.5m in height and 1.5m spread. No entrance could be identified.

There appears to be a possible pen abutting, roughly 6m x 2.5m at the NE corner, the walls of this are 0.5 to 0.7m in height and have a spread of 1.5m. To the north there is a further pen/compartment running the length of the enclosure and recessed into the knoll. It is sub-rectangular, 5m in width at the east end and 2.5m at the west end.

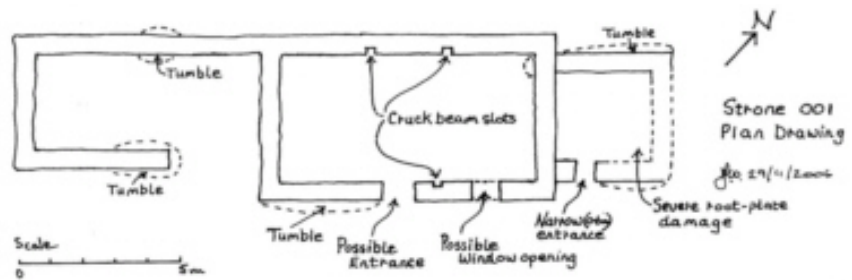
Strone

Farmstead (001 - 010) at NH 4235 5645 this site is on SE facing "ledge" above a crag, at a height 110m overlooking Loch Achilty. The site is roughly 250m x 100m and has been planted with trees, many of which have fallen and cover at least half the site. The farmstead comprises 1 main building, 4 smaller buildings or pens, 2 enclosures and at least 7 clearance cairns. The site appears as a roofed building and enclosure on 1st edition OS, it was not recorded as part of FESP. It is mentioned in census records as being occupied from 1871 to 1891 but is deserted by 1901

001 Enclosure - The main enclosure measures roughly 70m x 80m with an extension to the south where the main farmstead is located. It is surrounded by a substantial wall of single boulder thickness, generally to a height of 0.5m but 1.2 - 1.5m in height along the NW sides

002 Building - This substantial well constructed drystone building, the main building of the site, is on a NE-SW alignment and measures 20.5m x 5m overall. The walls are 0.5m thick and largely intact to a height of 1.2m. The building comprises 3 compartments. The central or main one is 8m x 4m internally, has 3 well

preserved cruck slots, a 4th slot is missing (it should be near to the entrance and suggests a partial collapse of the front wall and a rebuild using some other form of roof support). One of the cruck slots tapers towards the wallhead clearly indicating that the walls were built to fit the cruck frames which were not matching.



Only one small widow space survives but it is reasonable to assume that there was a second “matching” window in the other part which has been destroyed by recent windblow. A possible entrance exists in the SE wall too(see plan and photos). The west compartment measures 7m x 3m and has a wide entrance in its SE wall. The east extension is 3m x 3m with a narrow entrance in its SE wall. The whole building is overlain with windblown trees and there is severe root damage at the east end. Unable to determine whether or not there was a garden to the front of the building because of windblow.

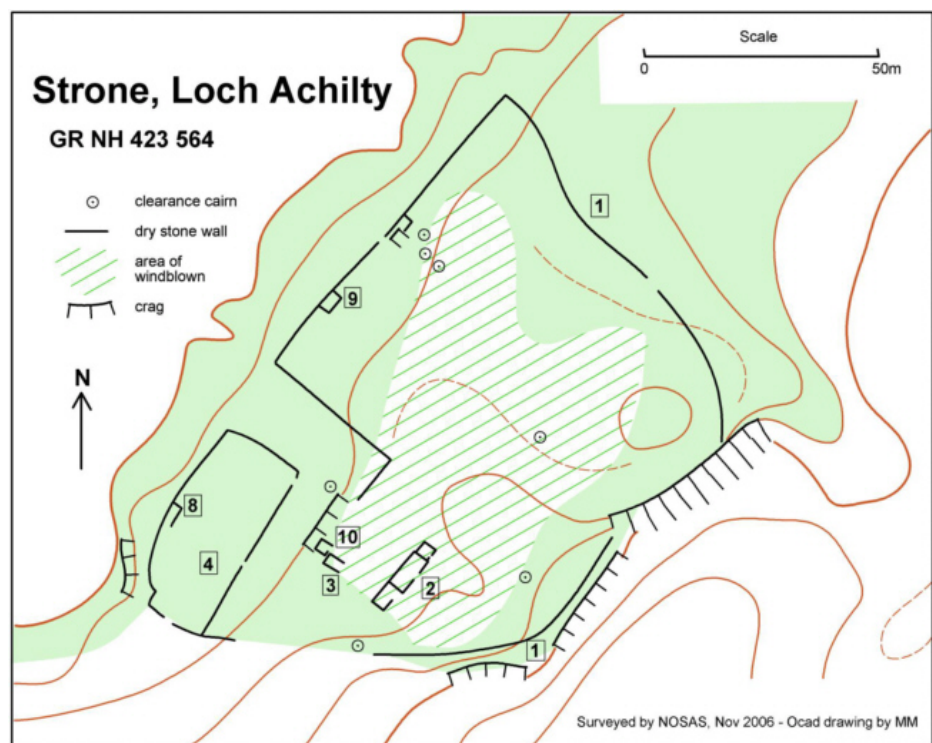
003 Possible Byre - The southern of two small buildings a few metres to the northwest of the main building. It measures 3m x 2.5m internally. The walls are roughly constructed of a single thickness of boulders upstanding to between 0.4m and 0.6m height. Open ended at the south. Boulders generally moss covered.

004 Enclosure - NH 42261 56496 (SW end) An irregular sub rectangular area, roughly 40m x 20m, enclosed by a flimsy, roughly made wall of single stone thickness. The wall is tumbled in parts, generally 0.5m in height but 1m in some places. There appears to be an entrance at the east corner, roughly 1.2m in width. The internal area of the enclosure is level, grassy with some bracken and just a few trees.

008 Pen - A small pen, abuts the inside NW wall of enclosure 004. It measures roughly 3m x 1.5m internally and has low walls of stone, 0.3m in height and with a spread of 1m. Moss covered. The structure is open at its SW end.

009 Pen - A small platform attached to the south (inside) of the NE wall of the large enclosure 001. 3m x 2m

010 PossibleByre/Pen - The northern of two small buildings a few metres to the north of the main building. This pen almost abuts 003 and is 2m square internally. Abuts a rock face which forms N wall. The walls are roughly constructed of a single thickness of boulders Recessed into slope at west side where wall is 1m in height. East wall is 1m in thickness and 0.6m in height. There is an entrance at the SE corner, 0.9m in width. The boulders are generally moss covered and the structure has been planted with trees. See plan.



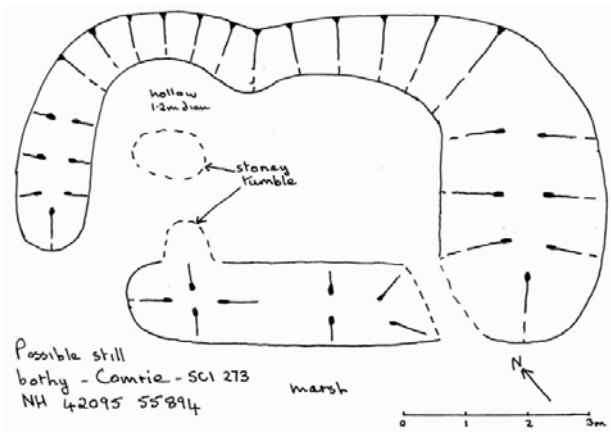
Comrie

Four separate sites are recorded

Possible Still bothy 273 - NH 42095 55894 This bothy is situated in a narrow rocky gully beside a marsh, in an area of birch wood between Comrie Farm and Loch Achilty. It is a rectangular building on a NW-SE axis and measures 5.7 x 3m internally. The low footings are very distinct and have a spread of 1.3m on the NW and SW sides but 2.7m on the SE side. The walls are generally 0.3m in height and covered with bracken and moss. The building is recessed into the slope on the NE side and there is a steep curving bank of 0.9m height at the west part (0.6m height at the east end). There is an entrance of 1.2m width in the west corner and a soggy channel cutting the wall at the south corner. Two discreet areas of stone tumble and a shallow depression in the north corner may be significant.

To the SE under a small crag and in a small rocky ravine, there is a further structure much overgrown and c.100m to the south there is the remains of another crudely built structure under a crag. Both are well hidden and may have been associated with site 273

Bridge 026 - NH 41930 55696 (N abutment) The earth bank forming the north abutment of the bridge is situated in a gorse bush 15m from the rivers edge. It is roughly 1m in height and forms the south termination of a track which can be traced across the field. The track is 2.5m in width and bounded on its west side by a low bank with some stone composition.



NH 41925 55613 (S abutment) The south abutment of the bridge is better preserved. It is 2.5m in height and 3m in width at the top and constructed of dressed and mortared stone. It presents a straight face to the river but tapers to ground level on each side of the embankment. There are two large vertical cracks on the side facing the river. The embankment leading to the abutment from the edge of the road is more or less complete, 25m in length and 1 - 1.5m in height.

The masonry component of the north abutment may have succumbed to the river and the south abutment, being in a precarious state and threatened by high river levels, may well go the same way.

The bridge is known locally as the Black Bridge and is said to have been washed away in the "big flood". It does not appear on 1st edition OS map, but the track and bridge are depicted on the OS 1" edition of 1928-30. There are references in the Inverness Courier to the bridge being opened in 1890.

Track/Hollow way 025 - NH 4170 5605 An old track can be traced for 200m in birch wood to the east of Comrie Farm. It is aligned ENE - WSW and its west end has been recessed into the slope to make an easier gradient, at this point it is c. 1m deep.

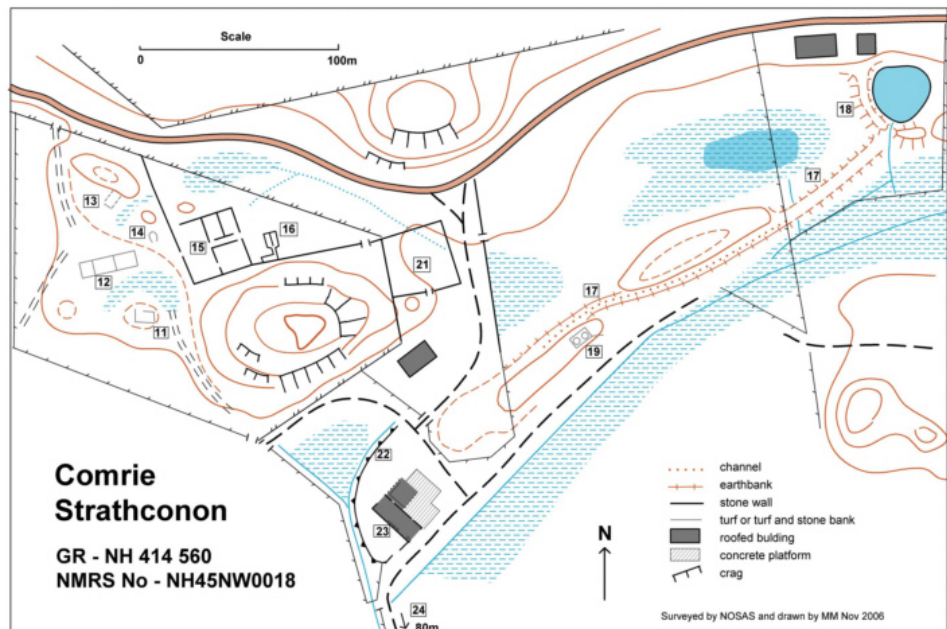
Farmstead, Enclosures, Mill pond and Lade (013 - 019 and 021 - 024) (Nmrs No NH45NW0018)

Centred on NH 4139 5593, this township is situated 4.5kms west of Contin. The present site of Comrie Farm is on the valley floor to the SE of a rocky knoll and the lade, mill dam and site of the mill are to the east. There is a raised area of rough ground above the valley floor and to the west of the rocky knoll which has the remains of earlier buildings and this may have been the site of the original township. A few metres to the east of this there is an extensive and complex stone sheepfold. This site has been recorded as a township and enclosure by FESP.

013 Possible Building

- NH 41227 56016

Appears as a level platform on a NE-SW axis. It measures roughly 9m x 3.5m and is defined at its S end by an earth bank of 0.3m height. It is possibly recessed into rising ground at its N end. Any stones may have been robbed for the nearby sheepfold. It may be the site of a timber building, there are a number of other humps and bumps in the vicinity possibly indicating other ?buildings but no form to them could be made.



014 Probable Building - NH 41253 55994 This probable structure is oval in shape and measures internally 4m x 3m. Appears as an oval depression, 0.8m deep, surrounded by stone and turf walls of height 0.2m. Open at its south end.

015 Sheepfold - NH 41277 56001 Complex sheepfold close and to the NW of a rocky knoll and the farmhouse of Comrie. It appears to have been in use until relatively recently. The walls are almost complete and generally to a height of 1m but 1.5m in places. Sheepdip 16, to east is associated

016 Sheepdip - NH 41330 56001 Sheepdip with disintegrating wooden superstructure and concrete floor, abutting and on the N side of a stone wall and close to sheepfold 015.

017 Mill Lade - NH 41425 55940 (SW end) to NH 41637 56084 (NE end) This substantial lade (*Fig 11*) can be followed for c.220m from the edge of the field by the farm to the west, to the dam and mill pond at the ENE end. It contours two elongated knolls in the field to the east of the farmhouse of Comrie. In the immediate vicinity of the farmhouse it has been levelled and destroyed. Significant earth movement has been involved in its construction. The associated dam and millpond lie 250m to the ENE of Comrie farmhouse. The lade can be divided into 2 sections:

1. A c.70m length to the east where it has been raised on an earthbank which traverses marshy ground. The bank is 5m in width and 1m height. The channel has been filled in throughout this length and the water exiting the pond at the dam/sluice has been diverted to the south.
2. A length of c.150m where the lade "contours" round the south side of one knoll and then the north of a second knoll, through the field. The channel varies between 0.7m and 0.3m in depth and the earthbank containing it is generally 0.6 m in height and as much as 1m for a short length. A 30m length of the channel at the very west most section has been filled in but the bank is quite clear.

It is difficult to determine where the mill was, but the wall, 22, may have contained the tail race, in which case the mill would have been somewhere in the 100m between the end of the lade and the N end of the wall 22, probably nearer the latter (there is a small building on the 1st edition OS survey). Considering the length of the lade, there is very little "fall".

018 Dam and mill pond - centred on NH 41637 56100 This dam and mill pond are 250m to the ENE of Comrie Farm, in the private garden of Comrie House and surrounded by birch wood, The dam is c60m in length, 5m in width at its base and generally 1m in height, although at the south end it is 2m in height for a short stretch in the trees. It forms an arc and encloses the pond which is approx 40m in diameter. The outlet/position of sluice is aligned with the mill lade 17. Nothing now remains of the sluice.

019 Possible Kiln - NH 41487 55985 c.80m to the east of Comrie Farm in a grassy field on the north end of an elongated knoll. The remains of this structure are on a NE-SW axis, measure 6m x 3m overall and contain two circular pits adjacent to each another. Each pit is 2m in diameter and has a depth of 0.7m, the NE one being 0.5m lower than the SE. The low footings of the surrounding walls are barely discernable, but are made up of stones now moss covered. The footings of an abutting wall, 4m in length descend the slope to the east from the east corner. The channel of the lade 017, runs only 2m to the NW and the ground to the NE, which appears to have formerly dropped away quite steeply, has been filled in with what appears to be rubbish, earth, stones etc. Cover is of moss, reeds, grass, some bracken and young whins rapidly encroaching

021 Enclosure - NH 41410 56018 (NE corner) 40m to the north of Comrie Farm and to the NE of the prominent knoll. This largely intact enclosure is roughly 40m square and has dry stone walls of 1.2m height. There is a gate halfway along the south wall. Has internal cover of grass and reeds.

022 Retaining wall - NH 41390 55920 (N end) - NH 4139155854 (S end) To the south of Comrie Farm and forming the west boundary of a level, raised, grassy area on which stands the complex building, 23. A dry stone wall, largely intact, retains a raised, level area roughly 60m square. It is substantial, curving in nature, runs for 80m from N to S and is between 1 and 1.2m in height. A ditch runs along the bottom of it and a marshy area is to the west. It may be the tail race for a mill

023 Building and Platform - NH 41404 55877 - 70m to the south of Comrie Farm and situated on a dry raised grassy area (retained by wall 22), there is a complex building of three parts:

A. - Main roofed building on a NW-SE axis measures c.6m x 15m. Mortared walls to 2m height are built of dressed stone. Open at both ends, but with the frame of a sliding door at the NW end. It has 3 doorways in the long NE wall, the middle one blocked up. Tin roof with 3 glassed skylights in SW side. The broken remains of a row of troughs lie against the inside of the SW wall

B. - An open sided shed abuts to the north of A. Measures 10m x 11m. The tin roof is supported by timber posts to the NW and posts of concrete breeze blocks to the SE. A sill, 0.4m high and 0.4m in width, runs round the inside on the NW and SW sides, retaining a walkway of 0.5m width. This is probably a sheep shearing shed.

C. - An irregular shaped platform (see plan) of concrete slabs to the north and east of A and B
The main building, 23A, may be the SW building in the group of four forming a square on the 1st edition OS map. There is no trace of the other three.

024 Building/Platform - NH 41462 55777 Situated on a dry raised grassy area, 200m to the south of Comrie Farm. This concrete platform measures 25m x 7m on an E-W axis. Immediately to the west and north are broad banks of earth up to 1 m in height. These may be the earth displaced to make a level area for the concrete slabs. The platform is covered with grass and moss. May have been the base for a timber building.

020 Enclosure - NH 40988 56052 This natural rocky knoll to the west of Comrie Farm is totally enclosed by a low ruined wall of large stones and turf, revetted into the lower edge of the slope. A possible entrance lies across a natural neck of land to the N of the knoll. A secondary inner wall is set into the slope on the N arc with a second section on the SSW arc. The top of the knoll is fairly flat and is topped by several large stones and a lower terrace on the NE. There are several outcrops of bed rock and a pylon on the W side of the knoll. There are oak trees on the knoll and thick bracken and areas of nettles on the lower slopes. This may be an area of managed woodland, the purpose of the wall being more to exclude animals and protect the trees

Allt an Torrain

Possible Hut circle 329 - NH 40190 56860 A circular platform with internal diameter of c8m, is seen in dense forest on a south facing terrace at the foot of a steeper slope and altitude of 150m. It is built up on its south side and has a substantial semicircular wasted stone bank defining its north part. To the east this is 0.7m in height, with a spread of 3m, otherwise it is 0.4-0.5m height and with spread of 2m

Luichart Power Station

Platforms (69 - 71) NH 3957 5715 and NH 39890 56980

Three concrete platforms are seen on the north side of the river, between the river and the minor road. Two, to the west, are situated close together; the third is 300m to the east. The west most two of the three platforms are set in an area of grassy pasture land at the east end of a much larger stoney area. The area is free of trees because of the power lines. They may be part of the construction camp, possibly residences, for the workers on the Luichart Dam in about 1957. Most certainly the middle of the three platforms has had some sort of building standing on it. The westmost may have been altered and reused as a pen, possibly for sheep

069 Platform - NH 39588 57158 The middle of the three rectangular concrete platform is aligned NW-SE and measures 13m x 4m. It is raised at the west end by 0.1m and at the east end by 0.3m - here there is a step 1.5m in width. Moss covered

- 150m to the east on a slightly raised knoll there may be a building, NH 39636 57068. Aligned NW-SE it is difficult to determine its limits but a stone alignment may be its NE wall

070 Platform/Possible Pen - NH 39559 57158 The westmost of the three platforms, is of concrete, on the same alignment and measures 25m x 4.5m. There is a wall of "breeze" blocks, 0.9m in height, on three of the sides, the NE, SW and NW but there is an aperture of 2m width in the short NW side with a ?step 2m x 1.5m. The structure is open at its SE end. Moss covered

- An elongated manmade depression is situated alongside the structure between it and the road. It is 15m x 4m and 1.5m deep and may be associated

071 Platform - NH 39890 56980 The eastmost of the three platforms, is also of concrete and rectangular in shape, on a WNW-ESE alignment, it measures 55m x 9m. The majority of the platform is free of vegetation but the west most 10m is covered with grass and moss. There is evidence of a brick wall at the east end. At the SW end there is a linear moss-covered "pathway" 1m in width and 20m in length which heads for the river to the S. At the SE end there is a square brick lined pit, 0.7m square and 0.9m deep

Allt a'Chuilinn

Field system, enclosures, walls and buildings (047 - 067 and 329) Centred on NH 3965 5750 the site comprises an extensive and complex system of field walls, enclosures and at least 5 roughly constructed buildings. It is on the SW facing slope, 1 kilometre to the NE of Little Scatwell overlooking the River Conon. It is situated at a point where the angle of the slope eases off, and extends for roughly 1 kilometre, across the slope between the 140m and 190m contours. The area has been commercially forested and recently felled. There are a number of tracks but the majority of the area is covered in brashings and tree stumps which obscure the archaeology and make the "going" extremely difficult. Much of the archaeology has been destroyed or badly damaged by the forest operations.

047 Enclosure - NH 39750 57300 A turf and stone field wall bounds this large enclosure and is almost complete (possibly because it is within the part of the forest that has not been felled and has therefore not been destroyed). It follows the west bank of a small stream to the SE and as much as 0.8m in height on its outer face in some stretches. The NE part is not quite as well preserved. A small sub-circular pen (site 67) is incorporated into the SE wall

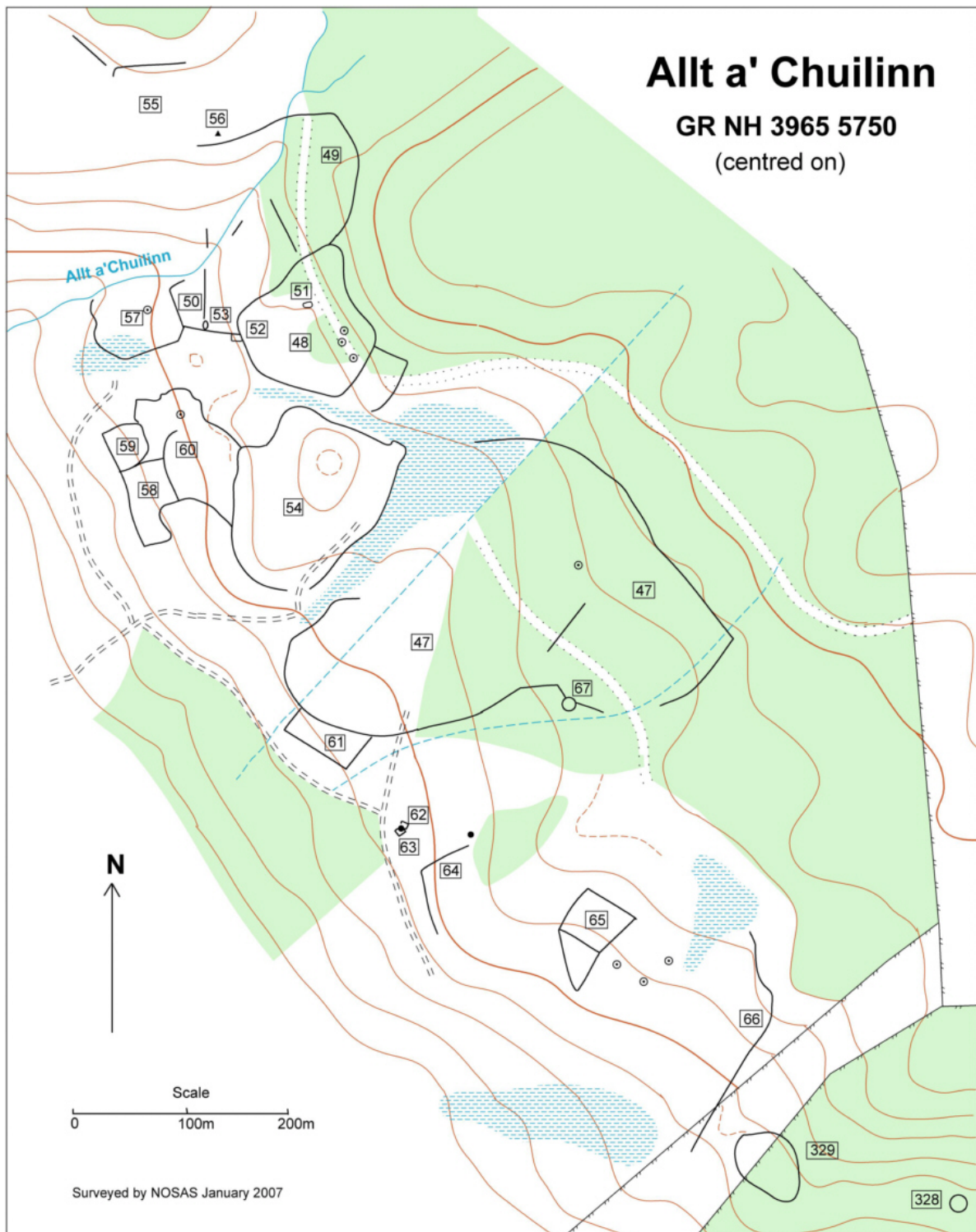
048 Enclosure - NH 39650 57650 (roughly centred) A sub-square enclosure, roughly 100m square, to the north of enclosure 54. Remains of stone walls encircle the enclosure and are more obvious in the forested part to the north, less so to the south where the area has been felled.

049 Enclosure - NH 39650 57800 (roughly centred) Adjacent and to the north of enclosure 48, this enclosure is roughly 80m x 60m. Remains of stone and turf walls are obvious on its east side and also on the west side. It is bounded on the NW by the Allt a'Chuilinn.

050 Field walls - NH 39539 57656 (centred) A complex of walls to the west of enclosure 48, see plan. The remains of the stone and turf walls are obvious under the brashings and seem to form a series of small enclosures which bound the Allt a'Chuilinn

051 Building - NH 39650 57655 A small building, roughly oval in shape and on a NE - SW alignment, measures 5m x 2m internally and uses a sloping natural rock face as its NW wall. To the S the ground has been built up to form a level platform. The roughly constructed walls are of irregular boulders and are 0.2m in height, but 0.5m where they abut the rock face. The walls have a spread of c1.2m. No entrance is discernable.

052 Building - NH 39580 57556 A small sub-circular building, measuring 3.5m x 3m internally in the angle between 2 field walls. Roughly constructed walls of irregular boulders, 0.5m in height and with a spread of 1-



1.5m approx. There is an entrance in NW corner.

053 Building/Pen - NH 39539 57546 A small oval building, measuring 2.5m x 1.3m internally. The roughly constructed walls of irregular boulders are 0.5m in height and have a spread of 1m. Small entrance in SE corner is 0.3m in width.

054 Enclosure - NH 39650 57501 (roughly centred) An area roughly 150m x 120m, oval to the south and squared to the north enclosing the summit of an obvious hill. A continuous turf and stone field wall encircles the area. The outside or lower face of this is as much as 1m in height, but generally it appears as a low irregular scatter of stones. To the north there is a prominent stretch of turf wall to a height of 0.4m.

055 Enclosure - NH 39560 57860 (roughly centred) A rectangular area roughly 150m x 80m on a gently southeast facing terrace. A short section of turf and stone wall is to be seen bounding the south edge of the enclosure before the ground drops away more steeply and to the north the stone footings of a boundary wall can be detected but nowhere are these walls obvious and continuous.

056 Cup marked stone - see elsewhere

057 Enclosure - Roughly 60m square and bounded on its north side by the Allt a Chuilinn. There is a large mound which is possibly clearance material in the middle.

058 Enclosure - Small enclosure roughly 40m square, forms part of a complex area

059 Enclosure - an irregular linear enclosure, part of a more complex area

060 Field walls/Enclosure - This is part of a much more complex area. The substantial south wall links up with that surrounding enclosure 054. The north wall is distinct but quite wiggly.

061 Enclosure - NH 39750 57276 - This small enclosure abuts enclosure 047 to its south. It has very regular straight walls and right angle corners, measures roughly 70m x 30m.

062 Building/Possible Pen - NH 39716 57218 - To the north of a large boulder which it uses as one of its walls this small pen measures 3m x 4m internally. The walls are roughly constructed of stones and have a 1m spread. There is an entrance in the N wall.

063 Building/Possible Pen - NH 39716 57218 - Uses the same boulder as 062 but is on its southwest side. Of similar size to 062 but much more obscure under the brushings.

064 Field wall - NH 39750 57162 Two sides of an enclosure have badly damaged by forest operations. A large boulder is situated at the NE corner.

065 Enclosures - NH 39882 57087 2 small enclosures with a common central wall. Walls mostly complete but badly damaged by forest ops.

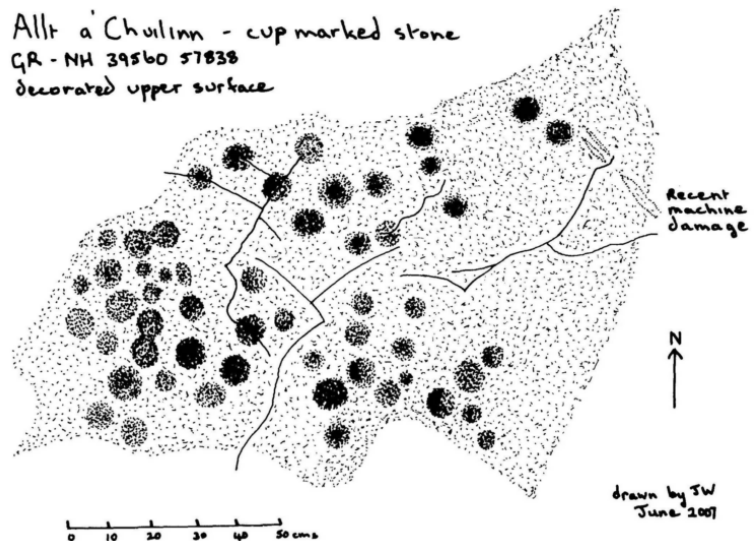
066 Field wall - NH 40051 57102(N end) A turf and stone wall badly damaged by forest ops can be followed for 200m. Has probably been part of an enclosure and may well extend north to link up with enclosure 47 (this info from aerial photos of 1950)

067 Pen - NH 39772 57294 - A small sub-circular pen of 7m diameter incorporated into the S wall of enclosure 47. Walls of stone to 0.5m height

329 Enclosure - NH 40034 56909 - A sub-circular enclosure roughly 50-60m diameter. Wasted turf and stone walls surround. It is bisected by a deer fence, the NW part is under birch wood and the SE pine trees.

Cup marked rocks (056 A, B, C and D) NH 39560 57838 The site comprises one main boulder and three "satellites". It has a wonderful aspect to the south overlooking Strathconon and is at an altitude of 180m, on a terrace about 1.5kms to the north of Little Scatwell. The whole area has been commercially forested and recently felled leaving a mass of brushings and tree stumps which make access very difficult. There is evidence of improved land in the vicinity with a number of large enclosure and a complex field system to the SE. There are also cairns which may not be clearance. There may well be other cup marked rocks in the vicinity

056A Cup Marked Stone - NH 39560 57838. A large boulder of sparkling mica schist measures 2m x 2m x 1m height. The upper surface is slightly tilted to the northeast and has 54 discernable cups, and probably a further 10 or 12 now too eroded to be sure of. The cups are approx 5 - 7cms in diameter, with the smallest being 4cms and the largest 9cms. Maximum depth of the cups is 2cms. Of note are the two pairs of cups running together and the probable use of natural cracks in the boulder to join some of the cups. On the east edge of the upper surface there is an obvious score which could have been caused by heavy machinery during the tree planting process (ie. it appears to be not too recent). The damage does not encroach on any of the cups.



056B Cup Marked Stone - NH 39192 57963 An earth-fast boulder, triangular in ground plan, c2m x c2m x c2m, rising c1m in height to a round topped pyramid, with a single cup c7cm in diameter and 2cm deep at the high point. The boulder sits near the edge of a gently sloping terrace at c160m OD, in an area of recently felled conifers. The boulder is set back from the break of slope, but standing beside it one is looking into Glen Marksie and the lower end of Loch Luichart. The boulder also sits above Conon Falls.

056C Cup Marked Stone - NH 39490 57820 An earth-fast boulder, roughly triangular in ground plan, c3m x c3m x 2m, rising to c1.5m in the form of a peaked ridge, with a single cup c8cm in diameter and 1cm deep at the high point of the boulder. Standing beside the boulder the main view is down into Strathconon looking towards the Model Dairy at Scatwell Home Farm. The boulder lies in an area of recently felled conifers, close to a steep break of slope at c180m OD.

056D Cup Marked Stone - NH 39588 57807 An earth-fast boulder, roughly trapezoidal in ground plan with an upper surface sloping steeply to the SE, c2m x c1.5m x 2m x c1.2m, and c0.5m above ground level at its upper end - less at its lower end, with 2 definite and one possible cups cut into its upper surface. The cups are well separated, and vary in size, being c8cm, c6cm and c4cm across, and c1cm to 2cm deep. The upper and lower cups are shelf-cut i.e. the axes of the cups are vertical so the lower part of the cups form small shelves. The boulder is set in an area of clear fell near to the top of a broad gully, at c175m OD.

Conon Falls House

Hydro-scheme (68) - NH 3875 5755 (S end) to NH 3885 5795 (N end)

On the east bank of the River Conon in birch woods below the Conon Falls this early hydro scheme predates the current one powered by Loch Luichart

68 Hydro scheme - Comprises:

A - the turbine house at NH 3875 5755, currently being refurbished by the Hydro Board,

B - the remains of two/three pipes. The pipes comprise the severed fragments, set in concrete, to the rear of the turbine house; the two smaller pipes derive from a single one coming down from the hill.

C - the course of the two parallel pipes descending from a dam (the remains of which have been subsumed by the present Loch Luichart Dam). The courses of the two pipes run parallel and are defined by a series of concrete cradles set at close intervals (there is also in a rock-cut defile for part of the course). The course extends north-northwestwards from the turbine house for 250m to NH 3863 5776 and then turns NE for a further 200m, becoming more wasted with the remains of the last concrete cradle being discerned just below the present dam at NH 3885 5795. The diameter of the westmost pipe appears to have been smaller and with an outer diameter of approx 1m (it is the one which bifurcates just above the turbine house). The east most pipe has been c1.7m in external diameter - much of the course of this pipe has been destroyed by the current road.

A warning notice on a pylon close to the turbine house has the words "DANGER - 33,000 volts Ross-shire Electric Supply Company". There is no evidence of the original dam but it is thought to be in much the same position as the current one.

Soulmarksie

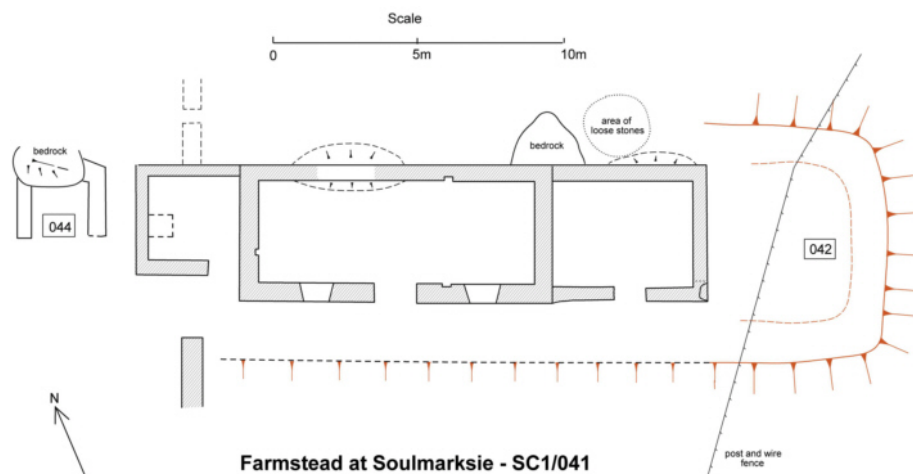
Farmstead, enclosures, pens and field system (40 - 44 and 31 - 35) (Fig 9) - Centred on NH 3851 5800 and set on a knoll on a SE facing slope to the west of the River Conon and the Loch Luichart Dam. The farmstead comprises a large enclosure, a substantial building and at least 2 small pens or byres. There is also evidence of an earlier building and field system and to the east on the steeper bouldery slope there are 2 pens, several walls and a possible well. See plan. To the north, above the main farmstead there is a well constructed rock shelter, site 33, which may be associated. The area is grossly infested with bracken. A roofed building and enclosure appear on the FES, but this is not a FESP site. The settlement of Glenmarksie also appears on the Roy map c.1750 in this position. The census record has 4 households in 1841 and then 2 from 1851 which may have been the time at which the large dry stone wall which bisects the whole of this hillside dividing Soulmarksie from Glenmarksie, was constructed. From 1901 there is only 1 household at Glenmarksie, presumably Soulmarksie had been abandoned by this time.

040 Enclosure - This main enclosure is sub rectangular and on a N-S axis, it measures roughly 120m x 80m. It is bounded on 3 sides by a substantial wall which on its lower/outer face reaches 1.2m in height in several places. The wall is quite irregular and tortuous and may be on the line of an earlier one. The south side of the enclosure is bounded by a crag. The main building is situated at the north end of the enclosure. There are several quite large clearance cairns within the enclosure and in the southeast part there is a linear wall, possibly a consumption dyke, NH 38536 57932, 9 x 1m in length, which may form the east wall of a small level area, possibly an enclosure, to the west.

041 Building - NH

38495 58006 The main building is 19.90m E-W by 4.80m and the walls are largely intact up to gable height at both ends. There are 3 compartments each with S facing entrances. The E compartment may have been extended to the S (there is an indication of a wall join on the external face, this is less pronounced on the inner face.) The W wall is partially tumbled. There are no internal features (apart from a corrugated iron arc). The central

compartment has a tapered window space on either side of the doorway. To the E of the doorway there is a cruck slot and also a corresponding one on the N wall. There are no cruck spaces to the W of the doorway. The N wall is partially tumbled. The W compartment has no internal features apart from a setting of loose stones that appears to be recent and may be a fox trap. The S wall is set back from the general line of the S wall. The outer face of the east end of the central compartment and the W end of the E compartment is



inaccessible due to a fallen tree. Along the front (S) of the building there is an apron or platform 2.10m wide. 1m to the W of the main building is a small structure set into the bedrock. To the S of the main building are the upstanding (c.0.75m) remains of an enclosure wall. To the N and abutting the building is a more tumbled enclosure wall. There may be an entrance through this wall c.1m N of the building but it has been filled with tumble.

This building may possibly be built on the site of an earlier building indicated by a platform which extends to the SE - site 042.

042 Platform/Building - NH 38502 58002 This platform extends to the SE from building 041. It is a raised area measuring 7m x 8m and 0.8m in height with steep banks. There is a dished central area - this and its situation may be evidence of an earlier building.

043 Byre/pen - NH 3852 157981 15m to the SE of 041 there are the low stone footings of a building measuring 3m x 2m internally

044 Structure/Pen - NH 38485 58012 Situated 1.5m to the NW of the NW corner of main building 41, this rectangular structure is on a NE-SW axis and measures 2.5m x 1.5m internally. It uses two large in-situ boulders for its NE(1.8m x 1.8m) and NW walls. There is rough stonework adjacent to the largest boulder to a height of 1m, but on the SE side the wall is tumbled and has a height of 0.3m and spread of 1-1.5m. The structure is open to the SW. Bracken covered.

031 Pen - NH 38475 57991 A small pen measuring 2 x 1.5m, set into the hillside and defined on its south side by a single setting of stones

032 Wall - A short length, 20m, of curving wall which contains a marshy area to its west and which may continue east to join the main wall of enclosure 40. It ends at its west end at a large boulder. The 1st edition OS map has a well in this vicinity, but there is only a silted up marsh, alder trees surrounding today.

034 Pen - NH 38432 57978 A sub-rectangular pen on a NE-SW axis. This pen is to the west of a large boulder and on 2 levels. The overall dimensions are 14 x 8m and it is defined by very wasted walls of small boulders. Bracken covered.

035 Wall - NH 38458 57980 A curving wall recessed into the slope on a E-W axis to the SE of pen 34. Length 20m and height generally 0.8m on its outer face.

Rock shelter (033) this rock shelter is situated at NH 38458 58027, 200m to the west of the Loch Luichart Dam, amongst large boulders on a steep SE facing slope, above and just 60m from the farmstead of Soulmarksie. The rock shelter is a bit of a mystery and difficult to interpret. The stonework is very fine and more reminiscent of older monuments such as brochs and chambered cairns.

033 Rock shelter - NH 38458 58027 The chamber of this rock shelter lies under a large flat boulder, 8m x 3.5m. It is on NE-SW axis and measures 3m x 2.5m internally. Access is gained by a small passage at the back of the rock. The rock forming the roof slopes from N to S and the chamber is 1.5m at its highest part (the north end) but grades away to the south side where there are just a few gaps which allow light in. The back and side walls are constructed of very regular well made stone work and curve neatly round the corners. One large in-situ boulder makes up part of the wall

Access to the chamber is gained by a short stone lined passage roughly 1.5m in length and 0.9m x 0.7m which descends from above. The external aperture appears as a pit, 1m x 0.7m at the rear of the boulder and the internal aperture in the north wall of the chamber has a flat step or slab at a height of 0.5m

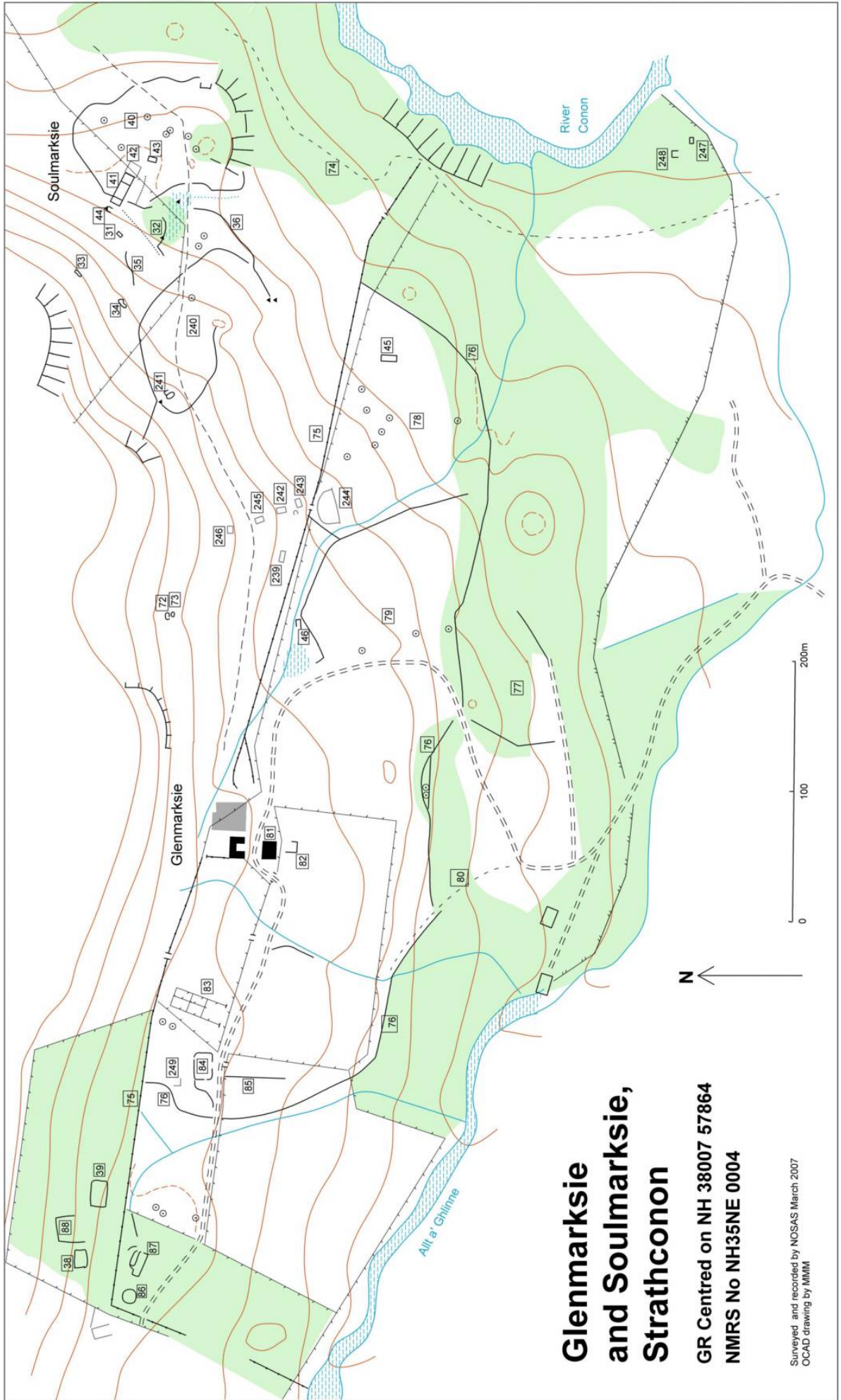
Farmstead, wall and enclosure (36, 240 and 241) At NH 38424 57880, 200m west of Loch Luichart Dam, at an altitude of 120m on a southeast facing slope overlooking the River Conon and to the west of the main farmstead of Soulmarksie. The site comprises one building and a large enclosure, although a pen and walls to the east, which have been associated with the main farmstead (40 and 41) at Soulmarksie, may well be associated with this one. A wall to the SE has been described here. The whole area is grossly covered with bracken.

240 Enclosure - NH 38424 57880 Trapezoidal in shape and roughly 120m x 70m this enclosure is very similar in size to the adjacent one at Soulmarksie, but it is on a steeper slope. Surrounded for the most part by an earth and stone bank which is particularly substantial on the north and east sides and which links into earth bank 36 to the south where there is a gap, possibly a gate - see plan. The enclosure wall is missing in the SW portion where there is a gap of 60m on a bouldery spur. Building 241 is situated on a small knoll in the upper part of the enclosure.

241 Building - NH 38387 57929 The low turf and stone walls of this rectangular building, on NNW-SSE axis, have internal dimensions of 8m x 2.5m. The walls are more evident on the east side and on the south the structure is platformed. There is evidence of a small outshot on the east side of the building and on the west side there is the remains of a short length of turf and stone bank at 2m distance from the building.

36 Wall - NH 38493 57942 (E end) to NH 38447 57854 (W end) This substantial earth and stone wall is 100m long and on a NE -SW axis. It now survives to a maximum height of c0.5m above the internal ground level but when revetted into the slope it is over 1m high in places. The west part of the wall is common with that of enclosure 240

Pens and enclosure (247 and 248) NH 38490 57591 400m to the SW of the Loch Luichart Dam in birch wood close to the River Conon and on its west bank



247 Pen - NH 38497 57542 Small enclosure abutting a large rock - 2.5m x 1m. Rough stone walls variable and of height 0.3m - 1m

248 Enclosure/Pen - NH 38490 57591 Three sided structure formed using in-situ rock, 5m x 7m. Walls up to 1m height

Buildings and enclosure (242 to 246 also 239) NH 38250 57865 400m to the west of the Loch Luichart Dam on a south facing grassy slope between the farmstead of Soulmarksie and lodge at Glenmarksie, at an altitude of 140m, the remains of this discrete group of structures comprising 5 buildings and a small enclosure are on a spur. The buildings are on the north/upper side of the prominent stone wall and the enclosure is on the south/lower side.

242 Building - NH 38250 57865 This building on a NNW-SSE axis has internal measurements of 5.8m x 2.7m. It is recessed into the slope at its N end and platformed out at its S end. The walls which are barely discernable have some stone content.

243 Building - NH 38263 57857 This building on an E-W axis measures 5m x 2.5m is situated a few metres to the south of 242. The low turf walls are barely discernable. The structure is recessed into the slope on its N side and plat formed out on its S side.

To the NW there is a small pit which may be a kiln. It is 1.5m x 1m x 0.4m deep, open to the west and has some stones in its walls.

244 Enclosure - NH 38254 57844 On an E-W axis this enclosure has internal dimensions of 15m x 10m. It is recessed into the slope at its north side and there is a substantial earth bank 2m thick on its south side.

245 Building - NH 38245 57874 A few metres to the N of building 242 and immediately adjacent to the footpath. The shape of this building is difficult to determine it is possibly on a N-S axis and c5m x 2m. It is recessed into the slope at its N end.

246 Building - NH 38250 57890 On the N side of the footpath this building appears more as a platform measuring roughly 5m x 5m

239 Building - NH 38237 57861 Close to and on the N side of the stone wall the remains of this building on an E-W axis measure 9m x 3.5m. The low turf walls are barely discernable and the building appears more as a platform recessed into the slope at the N side and built out at the S side.

Glen Marksie

Building and enclosure (045 and 078) NH 38318 57793 Set on a S facing slope overlooking the Allt a' Ghlinne at an altitude of 150m. Much of the area is a field enclosure which is infested with bracken. The dry stone wall, 75, bounds the area to the northeast and appears to divide Glenmarksie from Soulmarksie. The building is located within the east part of the large enclosure 76

045 Building - NH 38358 57813 A building in a ruined condition under a thick cover of bracken is on a N-S axis with overall measurements 16.1m x (max) 5.80m. The ends of the building are rounded with tumbled stone filling them. Internally the building measures 8.80m x 3.00m. There is a possible internal division projecting from the SW wall. No clear entrance was found, a possible entrance was suggested by a dip in the masonry at the S end of the NE wall. The walls were visible for 1-2 courses with a maximum height of 0.5m.

078 Enclosure - NH 38318 57793 A roughly triangular enclosure, with sides of 200m x 180m x 130m. This enclosure is bounded to the NE by the substantial wall, 75, to the SE by the older wall, 76 and to the west by a ruined stone wall which follows the course of a small stream. Building, 45, is situated in the east part of the enclosure and there are several clearance cairns.

Building and enclosures (046, 077, 079) NH 38179 57813 **and sheilings (072 and 073)** NH 38174 57976 on a S facing grassy slope overlooking the Allt a' Ghlinne at an altitude of 150m. The sheilings are in a shallow gully, on a steeper slope above. A dry stone wall, 75, bounds the area to the northeast dividing Glenmarksie from Soulmarksie.

046 Building - NH 38179 57863 To the south of the substantial dry stone wall, 75, and in the north part of enclosure 79 are the wasted remains of a rectangular building on an E-W axis. It is truncated at its west end and may have been robbed of its stone for the nearby wall. The remains of the building measure 6.8m x 5.1m overall, but only a length of 3.9m of the N wall remains. S wall has a spread of 2.3m and height of 0.6m at one point.

079 Enclosure - NH 38179 57813 A sub square enclosure, roughly 120m x 120m, is bounded on its NE by the stone wall, 75, on the south by the older wall 76, on the east by a wall which follows a small stream and which forms the W wall of enclosure 78. At the west side there is the track which serves Glenmarksie itself.

077 Enclosure - NH 38107 57693 An enclosure abutting enclosure 76 on its S side. Substantial turf and stone wall at west side is truncated by modern track. To the SE the wall takes a contouring course SW-NE for 50m. It is generally 0.6m high and 0.5m thick

072 Building - NH 38174 57976 The largest and north most of the 2 buildings, which are just 2 metres apart, is roughly oval in shape and measures 3m x 2m internally. The walls are very roughly built of large boulders which are up to 1.2m in height. There is an entrance in the lower SW corner. Bracken infested

073 Building - 2 metres to the south of 072 and recessed into the slope this smaller building is also oval and 2m x 1.5m internally. The walls are generally 0.8m in height. Bracken infested

Farmstead/Lodge and enclosures (075, 076, 080 to 082) (Nmrs No NH35NE 0004) Centred on NH 38007 57864 and 800m west of Loch Luichart Dam this site is situated on a gentle south facing grassy slope overlooking the lower reaches of Gleann Marcasaidh. It comprises a large linear area on a WNW-ESE axis some 800m x 150m of grassy fields. The main roofed building/estate lodge is inhabited and there is a steading to the rear. At the site of the main building there is also a concrete platform and a small enclosure. The main enclosure, 76, has been taken as the whole enclosed area to the south of the substantial wall, 75, although it has been divided into a couple of enclosures at the east end, each possibly with its own associated building. At the W end there is a forested plantation or shelter belt. The complex remains related to sheep management to the west are almost certainly related

075 Wall - NH 38535 57758 (SE end) to NH 37625 57975 (NW end) Stretches for nearly 1 kilometre on NNW-SSE alignment, this wall is more or less intact and 1.2m high. In many places it is constructed of large irregular stones carefully balanced so as to form holes or gaps in the wall. There are several gateways and at least one sheep creep at the west end. The wall appears to divide the lands of Glenmarksie from those of Soulmarksie.

076 Wall/Enclosure - NH 38112 57800 On a WNW-ESE alignment this large enclosure is 600m x 140m. It is bounded to the N by wall 75 and to the S by an apparently older wall, 76, which is more or less continuous for its whole length. In many places this wall is very substantial and takes the form of a stone retaining wall 1-1.5m height. There are many coppiced trees along its length. The east part is divided into 2 separate enclosures 78 and 79, each appearing to have an associated building

081 Lodge, Steading, and Platform - NH 38010 57876 A roofed building in good order with a steading to the north and a large concrete platform to the NE. The platform is built up to the east and is on the site of the old farmstead, marked on the FES.

082 Enclosure - NH 38007 57864 This small enclosure lies a few metres to the south of Lodge 81 and is on a NE-SW axis, it has internal dimensions of 11.4m x 8.7m. The SW wall is substantial 0.6m high and 2m thick with some clearance composition. The SE wall is similar but truncated. The enclosure is recessed into the slope at the NW side and slopes towards the east.

080 Track - To the south of the large enclosure, 76, an old track climbs the hill in a north-westerly direction from a bend in the modern road. It passes through a gap in the wall, 76, and continues ascending at an easy angle. It may have been an early access route to the farmstead.

Sheepfold and Enclosures (75, 76, 83 to 88, 38 and 39) (part of Nmrs No NH35NE 0004) Centred on NH 38007 57864 and 800m west of Loch Luichart Dam, at least 6 enclosures and a variety of walls and earth banks occupy a discrete area at the west end of the farm of Glenmarksie in the lower reaches of Gleann Marcassaidh itself. They are on a gentle south facing grassy slope at an altitude of 150m. A recent plantation of conifers has almost certainly been planted as a shelter belt and covers many of the enclosures. The drystone wall, 75, "marches" through the area and some of the enclosures are within the enclosure/wall 76

083 Sheepfold - NH 37881 57941 A complex modern sheepfold on a NNE-SSW axis measures 50m x 13m - see plan. The super-structure is of timber fences and corrugated iron. There is a dip in the NE corner.

084 Enclosure - NH 37840 57934 This enclosure on an E-W axis has internal dimensions of 21.8m x 12.4m. It is raised at the south side to form a level area. The N and E walls are very substantial reaching 1.3m height and in places are 3m thick - they almost certainly contain clearance material. S and W wall less substantial but the S wall reaches 1m on the outside. There has been recent excavation creating a gap or quarry on this side of 8m width. There is an entrance at the NE corner of the enclosure and also ?in the W wall c.8m.

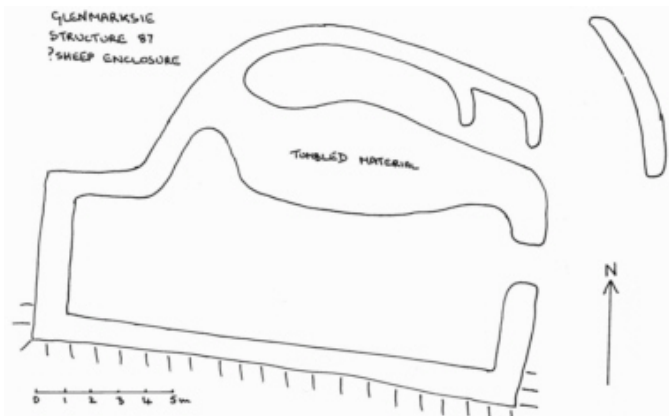
A sinuous wall to the west may be associated. It is 30m in length, 0.4m high and has a spread of 1.5m

249 Structure/Possible Building - NH 37828 57948 A sub-square structure, with overall measurement 4.8m x 4.5m. The S and W earth walls are more obvious and have a spread of 1.5m. Dished centre 0.3m deep.

085 Wall/Consumption dyke - Centred on NH 37828 57907 On an axis N-S this wall is 40m long generally 0.6m high and has a spread of 2m.

086 Enclosure - NH 37657 57993 Sub-circular enclosure of c.12.3m diameter this enclosure is defined by a tumbled stone wall of 0.2m height and 1-1.5m spread. It is platformed at the S side where there is a bank 1m high.

087 Enclosure/ Possible Building - NH 37670 57994 A complex irregular structure with considerable tumbled material such that it was very difficult to determine the form to it. It lay on a NW-SE axis and had internal dimensions of 16m x 11.2m. The S side is raised to form a platform and the wall is 1m high here with a thickness of 2m . The central and north part of the structure were



more complex - see plan. There is a detached curving section of wall to the east which is 6.6m long x 0.7m high x 1m thick.

088 Enclosure - NH 37680 58034 A trapezoidal shaped enclosure on a steep slope roughly 16m square. 3 sides only are extant, the south wall is missing. Walls are very tumbled and have a spread of 2m.

038 Enclosure - NH 37670 58028 A rectangular enclosure on an E-W axis measuring 10.5m x 8.2m, defined by a degraded stone setting. Recessed into the slope at the N side and built out at the S.

039 Enclosure - NH 37700 58014 A rectangular enclosure on an E-W axis measuring 15m x 9.3m internally and defined by tumbled stone walls with a 2m spread. The north side is recessed into the slope where there is a bank of 1.5m height and the S side is built out to make a more level area. There is an entrance in the SE corner and in the W side.

Gleann Marcasaidh (middle Glen Marksie)

Buildings, enclosures/improved land and cultivation remains (264, 265 - 267 plus 289 - 294)

centred on NH 37618 58150 and 1 kilometre west of the Loch Luichart Dam in the lower reaches of Gleann Marcasaidh, on its north side. This extensive grassy south facing slope has 2, possibly 3, large enclosures, several smaller enclosures and 3 buildings, with a possible track in the form of double earthwall. A few clearance cairns are to be seen.

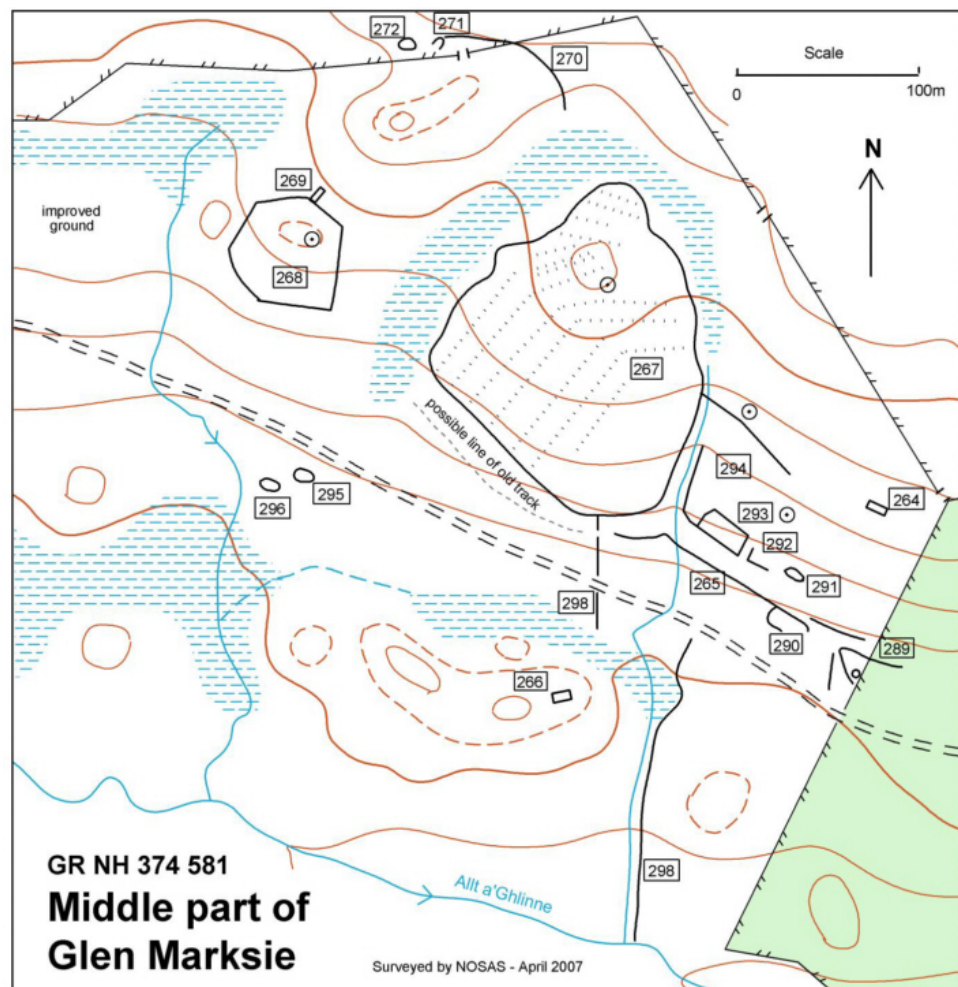
264 Building - NH 37657 58083 - At the east end of the area and at an altitude of 188m, on a steep slope, this rectangular building is on a SE-NW axis and has internal measurements of 7m x 2m. The stone footings are almost complete, 0.3m in height and 0.8m in thickness. The east end has rounded corners but the west is squared and the footings here are much more roughly constructed indicating a possible outshot at this end

265 Earthbanks/Old track - NH 37515 58080 (west end) to NH 37629 58048 (east end) Two incomplete parallel earth banks which contour around the hill for approximately

150m are roughly 7 to 8m apart, although there is a narrower part at the E end. The lower one is the more substantial and is 1m in height in places; it has enclosures 289 and 290 abutting to the S. This S earthbank together with earthbank 298 may form a larger enclosure to the south which extends down to the river and which is cut by the present track. The north bank defines the south limit of enclosure 294. A smaller enclosure 293 abuts in the west. The walls are truncated at the east end by the fence and the plantation in which are several probable sheep enclosures.

266 Building - NH 37475 57979 Situated on the lower valley floor on the east side of a small knoll the wasted stone footings of a rectangular building with rounded corners lie on an E-W axis. Internal measurements are 5.2m x 2.4m. There is an entrance of width 0.5m in the S side. Heavily bracken covered.

267 Enclosure/Cultivation remains - NH 37475 58180 On a broad well drained grassy knoll this area is roughly 150m x 130m. Remnants of an earth bank surround. Broad lynchets can be seen particularly in the SW part where they descend the hill on a SW-NE axis and are as much as 1m in height. In the NE part they run in a WNW-ESE direction.



289 Enclosure - NH 37651 58071 The enclosure lies to the south of the old track/double wall 265 and may have been truncated by the construction of the fence and stone wall to the east. Two sides of a possible small triangular enclosure, measuring internally 9m x 8m are seen just to the west of the fence. The N earthbank is recessed and 1.5m high, it continues east into the wood. The SW bank is 0.3m high and has some stone composition. Within the S corner of the enclosure there is a circular depression 1.3m in diameter and 0.4m deep with the remains of a low stone wall surrounding it.

290 Enclosure - NH 37629 58043 Small enclosure on an E-W axis abutting the double earth banks 265 to the north. Measures 15m x 7m, N wall is substantial and 1m high. E and E part of S walls are missing. Nettles grow in the E part.

291 Building - NH 37621 58065 The remains of this small building are more of a platform on an E-W axis and measuring 4m x 1.5m. There are low walls with some stone composition around the edge.

292 Building - NH 37613 58067 A possible building on an E-W axis, just 10m to the west of 290, is represented by its west and SW stone walls to a height of 0.5m. Internal dimensions are 7m x 3.5m

293 Enclosure - NH 37601 58073 A small enclosure on a NW-SE axis measuring roughly 20m x 8m. N wall recessed into hillside. Abuts the old trackway 265 to south

294 Enclosure - NH 37613 58075 This steep and stony enclosure has the remains of an earth wall to the west beside a small stream and to the NW. To the south it abuts the double earth wall 265. 3 buildings are located within.

298 Earthwall - Forms the west wall of a large enclosure which occupies the lower valley floor to the stream.

Buildings/possible Sheilings (295 and 296) NH 37340 58100 1 kilometre west of the Loch Luichart Dam on the north side of Gleann Marcasaidh, on the lower valley floor and on the lower side of the vehicle track

295 - Building/possible Sheiling - NH 37346 58102 An oval grassy mound, 0.75m in height, on a N-S axis, measuring 6m x 4m. It is dished in the centre and there are nettles in the vicinity.

296 - Building/possible Sheiling - NH 37339 58090 An oval grassy mound, 0.5m in height, on a N-S axis and measuring 5m x 4m. No central hollow.

Farmstead/Building, enclosures (268 - 272) and possible Still bothy (297) NH 37362 58257 36997 58407 One kilometre west of Loch Luichart Dam this building and enclosure occupy the lower slopes of a prominent knoll which is grassy and fertile at an altitude of 200m. Comprises the building/farmstead and adjacent enclosure and the surrounding improved land which has the remains of a boundary wall, possibly a head dyke, at its upper limit, 220m altitude

268 Enclosure - NH 37352 58227 A sub-square enclosure roughly 60m² has a largely intact surrounding turf and stone bank. It is generally 0.6m high and 1m thick.

269 Building - NH 37362 58257 Sadly quad bike tracks run through the middle of this building and have all but flattened the central area. The stone footings at both ends however survive to indicate its extent. The building is on a NE-SW axis and measures 7m x 2m internally. The south end, which may be an outshot, abuts the enclosure 268 and is the more substantial; here they are 0.3m in height. The NW corner of the building also has stonework to 0.3m height.

270 Wall - NH 37472 58311 The low wasted remains of curving stone wall are to be seen to the NE of the prominent knoll dividing the grassy area from the heather. Roughly 80m in length

271 Possible Pen - NH 37418 58325 A sub rectangular enclosure defined by stones is seen in the heather. Overall measurement is 10m x 4m.

272 Possible Pen - NH 37432 58321 A semicircular setting of stones in the heather at the west end of wall 270 which measures 5m x 3m.

297 Building/possible Still - 36997 58407 400m to the NW of building 269, behind a knoll in a small marshy valley at an altitude of 212m, this building is well hidden. A fresh water spring lies a few metres to the NE. The remains of a rectangular building on a N-S axis abut a crag to the south. Internal measurements are 6m x 3m. Walls are composed of a single course of large angular stones 0.3 to 0.4m in height and it is marshy and reedy internally.

Enclosures and sheilings (250 – 260) centred on NH 3665 5839 This site is 2 kilometres west of Loch Luichart Dam on the north side of the Allt a' Ghlinne at an altitude of 200m. It is on a SE sloping spur in a broad gully in which runs a small burn, a tributary of the Allt a' Ghlinne. The ground is generally heathery but the enclosures stand out as grassy improved ground. There are 3 enclosures and 7 shielings

250 Enclosure - NH 36625 58450 The northmost and upper of the three enclosures, it is irregular in shape and roughly 50m x 50m. There are 2 clearance cairns and a patch of lazy beds 251 within

251 Cultivation remains/Lazy beds - NH 36617 58458 Situated within enclosure 250

252 Enclosure - NH 36682 58391 The middle enclosure, rectangular and roughly 60m x 25, has 2 structures 253 and 254 within

253 Building/Sheiling - NH 36682 58410 The well formed stone and turf walls of a structure aligned NW-SE and measuring 4m x 2m internally sits inside the NE corner of enclosure 252. It appears as a rectangular depression with an entrance in the SE corner. Rounded corners inside and out

254 Building/Sheiling - NH 36677 58395

The indistinct very low walls of an oval structure aligned WNW-ESE sit within the south part of enclosure 252. The structure has internal measurements of 5m x 2m. There is a clear depression through the centre of the structure. No visible stonework. Grass, heather and bracken cover the structure.

255 Building/Sheiling - NH 36653 58391

The low turf and stone walls of a wasted structure aligned SW-NE measuring 4m x 2m internally sit c.22m west of enclosure 252. Appears as a clear depression and has bracken and heather cover.

256 Building/Sheiling - NH 36667 58384

The partial remains of a roughly circular structure on an E-W alignment and measuring 5m x 2m internally lie c3m outwith the SE corner of enclosure 252. The structure is cut into the hillside on the N side and the ground falls away to the open S side. Walls of turf are heavily heather covered. A short length of turf wall runs SW from the structure to a small burn

257 Building/Sheiling - NH 36641 58359

The wasted remains of a roughly rectangular structure aligned SW-NE measure 4,5m x 2m sit on an elongated sloping mound in a group of 3 structures. The stone and turf walls are covered in grass and bracken and there are reeds internally

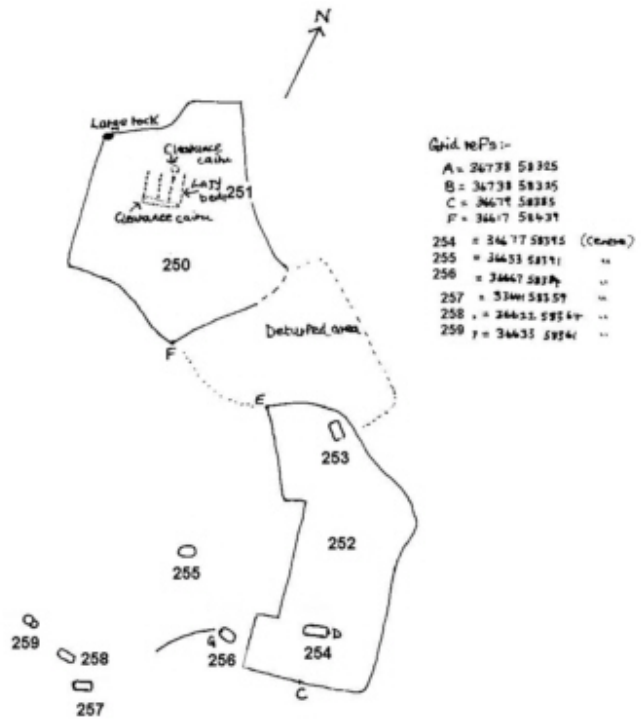
258 Building/Sheiling - NH 36633 58361

The low indistinct grassy walls of a sub rectangular structure which measures 4m x 2m internally. It is the middle of 3 structures.

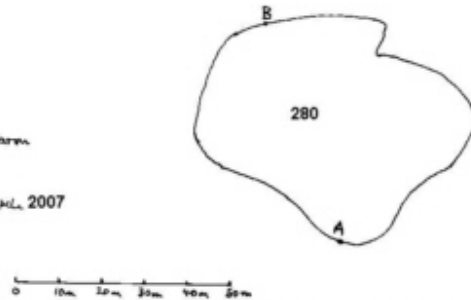
259 Building/Sheiling - NH 36622 58364 The upper of 3 structures, this indistinct, possibly figure of 8 shaped, structure is on a NW-SE alignment and measure 4m x 2m internally. The low walls are of turf and stone, bracken and grass covered. 2 probable depressed centres of 2 conjoined circular cells.

260 Enclosure - NH 36720 58325 The south most and lower of the three enclosures is roughly circular and 60m in diameter

151 Building/Sheiling - NH 36557 58393 The distinct turf and stone footings of a building are seen in the bracken to the west of the enclosures at an altitude of 242m OD. It is aligned NW-SE and measures 3.3m x 2.2m. The wall footings are 0.3-0.4m high and there is a possible entrance at the SE end



Glenin Marcasaidh
Sheiling / Summer Farm
Group
John & Co. Sat 21st April, 2007
Scale 1:1,000



Allt a Ghlinne (upper Gleann Marcasaidh)

Four sites or groups of buildings, mostly of sheilings, are described here. Two more groups of sheilings, one of 3 structures at Loch a' Charn Dubh, (Nmrs No NH35NW0011), GR NH 3380 5865, and one of 9 structures at Allt Loch nan Dearcag, (Nmrs No NH35NW 0012), GR NH 3435 5800 were recorded in 1996 by Jonathan Wordsworth ahead of forestry plantation. They were not visited as a comprehensive description of them appears in an "Archaeological Survey of a Proposed Plantation in Glen Marksie"

Shielings and enclosure/improved ground (152 - 156) Centred on NH 3610 5814 Situated 4.5m to the west of the Loch Luichart Dam on a S facing slope on the north side of the upper glen at an altitude of 200m, this site is to the east of a small stream. The site comprises 4 buildings and a sizable area of improved ground with clearance cairns. The west part of this is enclosed by the remains of a stone wall

152 Enclosure/improved ground centred on NH 3614 5812 A linear area of improved ground roughly 150m x 50m is on an E- W axis. The west part is enclosed by a wall, the remains of which are seen as two 50m alignments of stones contouring the slope to the north/upper and south/lower sides. Within this part are the two buildings 153 and 154. The east section of the improved ground has 2 buildings 155 and 156 and at least 3 clearance cairns at NH 36131 58107, NH 36144 58123 and NH 36168 58109. A short stretch of wasted wall is seen at the NE side and an alignment of single stones forming a corner at NH 36204 58075

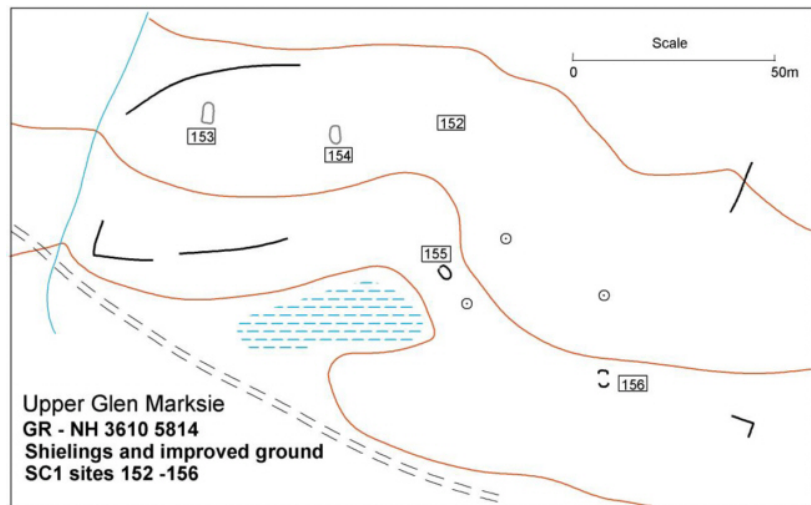
153 Building/Sheiling - NH 36069 58153 The clear turf wall footings of this building, aligned N-S, are 0.3m high and have a spread of 1m. The building has internal dimensions of 4m x 2.2m. There is a possible entrance at the SE corner.

154 Building/Sheiling - NH 36103 58147 Less distinct, this building appears more as a dished platform. On a N-S alignment it is 4m x 2m internally. Barely discernable turf wall footings are to 0.1-0.2m and the south end is built up with visible stone composition

155 Building/Pen - NH 36127

58115 In a shallow boggy recessed area the walls of this building are seen as a curving line of stones. The building is aligned NW-SE and has internal dimensions of c4m x 2m. What may be an entrance, 1.5m in width, is at the west end between 2 larger stones

156 Building/Sheiling - NH 56166 58088 The two ends of a structure on a N-S alignment are clearly seen but the central sections of the long walls are missing. The N end is recessed and has a rough stone facing 0.7m high. The S end is built out with a stone built apron 0.8m high.

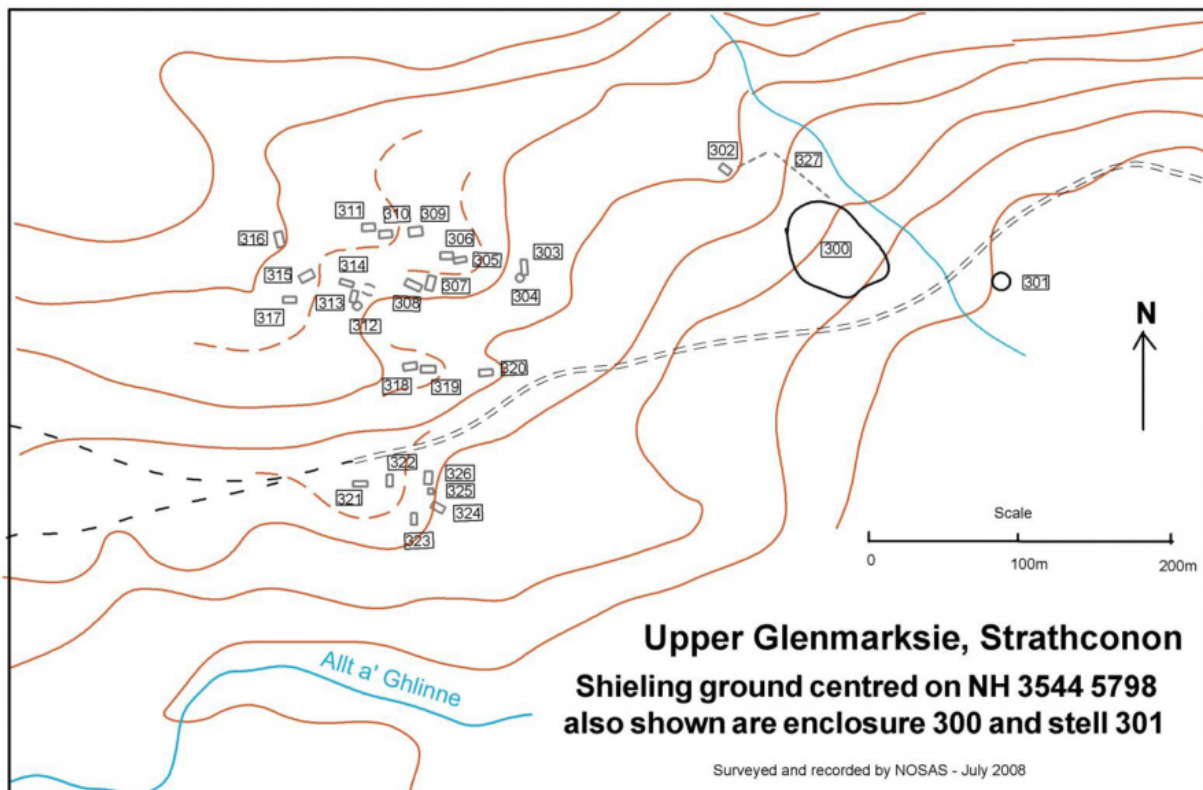


Enclosure, earth wall, building (300, 302 and 327) Centred on NH 35695 58111 and

Enclosure/Sheepfold (301) NH 35842 58063 Five kilometre west of the Loch Luichart Dam on a SE facing slope on the north side of the upper glen at an altitude of 220m. The site comprises a sub-circular enclosure the wasted remains of a (possibly earlier) wall, a small building adjacent and a circular sheep stell

300 Enclosure - NH 35695 58111 (northwest wall). This enclosure is marked on the OS 1:25,000 map. It is roughly 80m x 60m. The remains of the surrounding stone walls are low and unbroken. There are 12 substantial clearance cairns within the enclosure.

327 Earth wall - abutting the NW wall of the above enclosure there are the remains of an earth wall heading off in a NW direction, it continues for 50m or so then turns west and abuts the building 302. It is almost certainly the remains of an earlier enclosure.



302 Building/Sheiling - NH 35653 58135 A small rectangular building on an E-W axis lies on top of a knoll to the NW of the previous 2 enclosures. Internal dimensions 3.5m x 3m. The walls have some stones are very low and covered with heather.

301 Enclosure/Sheepfold (Fig 12) - NH 35842 58063 A circular sheepfold on the lower side of the vehicle track, has internal diameter of 10m, and largely intact stone walls to a height of 1.5m. The wall is well made and has a coping of vertical stones, but two sections of the east side have collapsed. There is a sheep creep or "lunkie", 0.5m square in the south part of the wall with a nice blocking slab 0.65m square adjacent. Fifty metres to the east, at NH 35901 58062, there is a small overhanging rock with a short stretch of dry stone wall across the front, a possible rock shelter or small animal pen.

Shielings and improved ground (303 to 326) Centred on NH 35412 58034 Five kilometre west of the Loch Luichart Dam Situated on the north side of the upper part of Gleann Marcasaidh, there is a SE facing spur/slope at an altitude of 250m with 21 shielings and 3 possible small stores. All the remains of the shielings are similar and have a rectangular shape with rounded ends. The low turf and stone walls have a spread of between 0.8m and 1.5m. Some of the buildings have small cells or chambers attached. There is a small area lower down at the east end where several clearance cairns appear to indicate that the ground has once been improved and possibly cultivated.

303 Building/Sheiling - NH 35513 58071 A rectangular building on a N-S axis, has internal dimensions of 4m x 2m

304 Building/possible Store - NH 35515 58068 A small circular structure defined by banks with some stones. Internal diameter 2m

305 Building/Sheiling - NH 35461 58066 A rectangular building on a well defined ridge, has an E-W axis and internal dimensions of 4m x 2m. Walls to 0.2m height

306 Building/Sheiling - NH 35460 58075 A few metres to NW of 305 this rectangular building is on an E-W axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 2m. Walls are to 0.2m.

307 Building/Sheiling (Fig 3)- NH 35460 58054 A rectangular building on a NW-SE axis, has internal dimensions of 4m x 2m. An outshot outside SE corner, roughly circular and 2m diameter. Further outshot outside NE corner is possibly semi-circular and 1.5m x 1m.

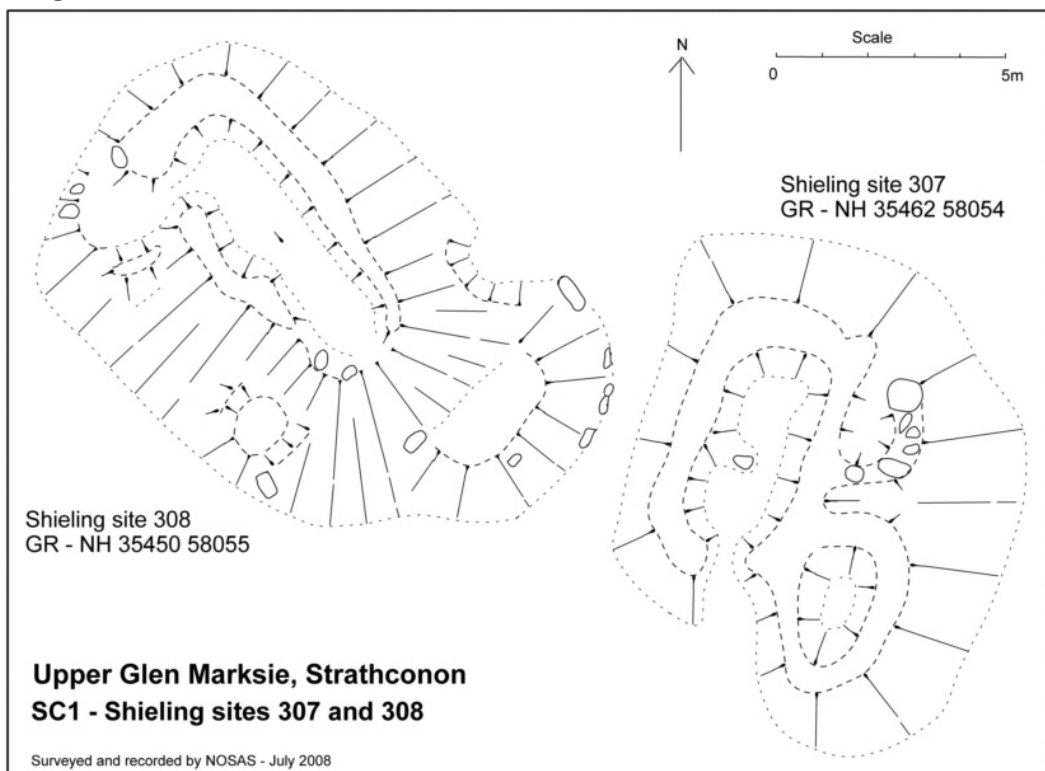
308 Building/Sheiling (Fig 3) - NH 35447 58059 A rectangular building on an E-W axis, has internal dimensions of 5m x 2m. Circular outshot at SE corner, 1.5m diameter

309 Building/Sheiling - NH 35445 58084 On top of a ridge, this rectangular building is on an E-W axis and has internal dimensions of 4m x 2m. There is an entrance in the S wall and an outshot to the west in alignment with the building, 2.5m x 1.5m.

310 Building/Sheiling - NH 35416 58081 A rectangular building on an E-W axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 2m

311 Building/Sheiling - NH 35407 58083 A rectangular building on an E-W axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 2m. Hump in centre.

312 Building/Possible Store - NH 35412 58034 A circular structure 1.5m in diameter



313 Building/Sheiling -

NH 35409 58041 A rectangular building on a N-S axis, has internal dimensions of 4m x 2m

314 Building/Sheiling -

NH 35404 58047 A well mounded rectangular building on a NW-SE axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 1.5m. Entrance to SW. Outshot to NW, 1.5m x 1m. A few metres to the east there appears to be a roughly circular enclosure, c 12m diameter surrounded by a very low turf bank

315 Sheiling - NH 35381

58062 A rectangular building on a NE-SW axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 1.5m. Entrance in NE gable.

316 Sheiling - NH 35351

58088 A rectangular building on a SE-NW axis, has internal dimensions of

4m x 2m. Outshot to SE in line, 2m x 1.5m, has a well defined stone edge.

317 Sheiling - NH 35372 58036 A rectangular building on an E-W axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 1.5m. Walls defined by heather cover.

318 Sheiling - NH 35441 57984 on the summit of a prominent ridge, this rectangular building is on an E-W axis and has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 2m. Turf walls at east end are 0.3m high. Entrance at NE corner and possible outshot at SW corner

319 Sheiling - NH 35456 57983 A few metres to the east of 318, this rectangular building is on an n E-W axis and has internal dimensions of 4m x 2m. Entrance at the NE corner and also possibly at SW.

320 Sheiling - NH 35488 57987 A rectangular building on an E-W axis, has internal dimensions of 4m x 2m. Possible outshot at W end.

321 Sheiling - NH 35403 57918 A few metres from the end of the track on a grassy knoll, this rectangular building is on an E-W axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 1.5m

322 Sheiling - NH 35432 57914 Terraced into the side of a slope, this rectangular building is on a N-S axis, has internal dimensions of 3m x 1.5m. Walls not very well defined.

323 Possible Sheiling - NH 35442 57890

324 Building/Sheiling - NH 35471 57893 A rectangular building on a SE-NW axis, has internal dimensions of 3.5m x 2m. Outshot at NE corner c.1.5m square - stones.

325 Building/Possible Store - NH 35464 57901 A small raised square building, 1.5m x 1.5m

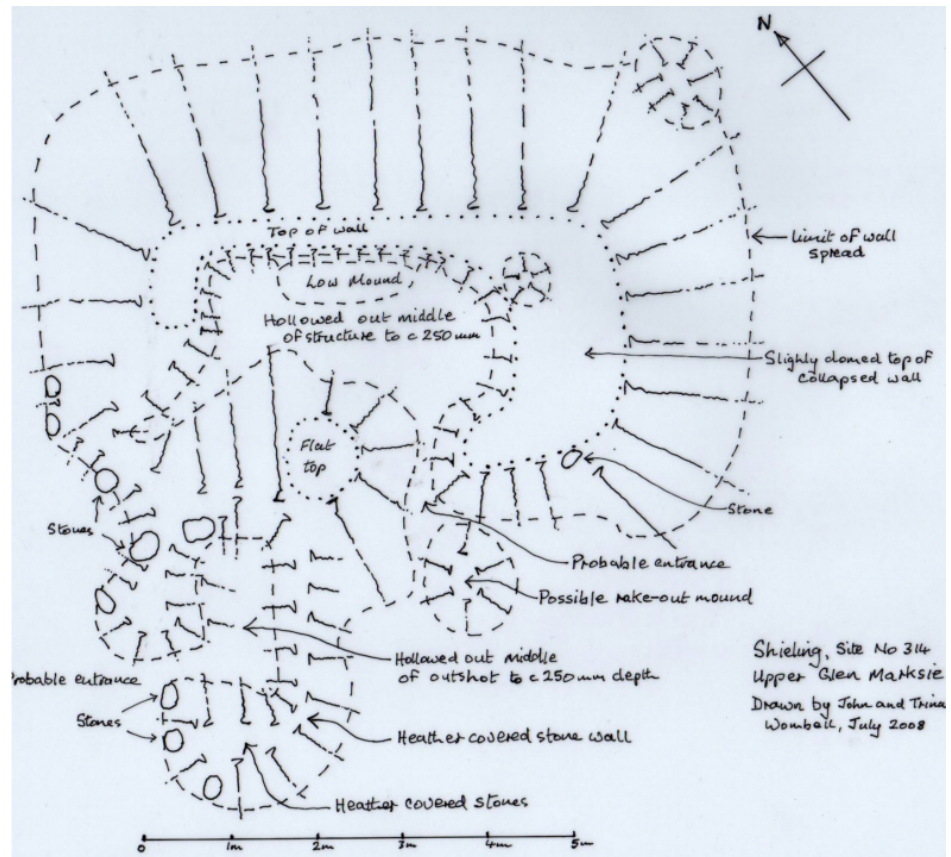
326 Sheiling - NH 35462 57908 A rectangular building on a N-S axis, has internal dimensions of 4m x 2m. Low walls are barely discernable and have some stone composition at N end.

Sheilings (261 - 263, 298 and 299) centred on NH 3500 5750 Five kilometre west of Loch Luichart Dam on the south side of the valley in the upper part of Glen Marksie, close to an unnamed burn

261 Sheiling Hut - NH 3525 5750 An oval shaped building c4.5m E/W x 2m internal. Walls: turf covered double faced boulder lower courses. Turf and stone tumble either side of lower courses to a spread of c1.5m max. The centre of the structure is dished to c0.3m deep and there is a possible entrance on the N side overlooking the valley below. Signs of recent game-keeper activity near the front of the structure by way of an upturned turf sod on which has been scattered grit for grouse. The grassy area at the front of the structure shows enrichment. The structure and all of the ground round about is heavily infested with bracken. No pens or other associated structures could be found.

262 Sheiling Hut - NH 3490 5750 An oval shaped building comprising low turf covered footings c3.5m NE/SW x 2.25m internal. Wall spread to c2m in places. The structure has a dished centre c200mm max depth. Structure sits on a distinct turf mound.

263 Sheiling Mound - NH 3490 5750 A turf and bracken covered mound with no visible structure due to the dense vegetation, approx 20m N of Site 262



298 Sheiling Hut - NH 3490 5750 The low moss and Blaeberry covered footings of an oval shaped shieling hut c3m NE/SW x 2m internal. Wall spread to c2m. Structure sits on a clearly defined mound c40m SW of Site 263, so Sites 262, 263 and 298 form a group of three related structures.

299 Sheiling Hut - NH 3490 5750 A stone built sub-rectangular building c3.5m E/W x c2m internal, comprising 3 double faced walls of large flat stones set against an insitu outcrop which forms the back wall. The walls stand to a max of c0.75m. There is an entrance in the SE corner.

Little Scatwell

Mica mine/quarries (096 - 099) Centred on NH 384 572 and situated 500m to the northwest of Little Scatwell House, on an east facing spur overlooking the River Conon and Luichart Dam. The quarries and associated spoil heaps range over an area of 500m ascending the spur from an altitude of 70m to 180m. The area has a cover of commercial forest, although the lower quarry on the east side of the track is in birch woodland. There are 12 discrete quarry faces and associated spoil heaps. They can be divided into 2 groups which appear to have been worked at different periods. Also associated are the remains of a building close to the lower quarry.

096 Building - NH 38528 57298 On a NW-SE alignment and depressed into the slope the remains of this building measure 4m x 2.5m internally. It is recessed into the slope on the S side where the face is 1.5m height. The northeast wall is of dry stone construction and 0.7, in height but roughly 0.4m of this height is recessed. There is an entrance 1m in width at the N corner. Because of its sunken nature it was thought that this building may have been a store for explosives.

097 Lower group of mines/quarries - comprises 6 worked faces and associated spoil heaps of varying size and height spaced irregularly over the lower part of the spur. Of the 2 groups this appears to have been worked at an earlier stage

1 NH 38558 57295 - the east most or lower face

2 NH - on the west side of the track just inside the forest

3 NH - a few metres to the SW of 2 this is quite small and irregular

4 NH - c.50m to the west of 2 and 3, quite small

5 NH 38366 57227 - the largest of the lower group measures 30m x 15m with a 5m high face at the west end and 1m face at the east end

6 NH -

098 Upper group of mines/quarries - comprises 6 worked faces in close proximity to one another and spread over an area of 200m x 50m on the north side of the upper part of the spur. These quarries are much larger than the lower ones and some of the worked faces reach a height of 10m. Two free standing pinnacles of heights 6m and 10m indicate the original land surface and the extent of the quarrying. These mines were worked during WW2

099 Pillar - NH 38075 57233 - concrete pillar 0.4m square and 0.9m tall, has 3 2cms steel bolts in a triangle on its upper surface. May be a survey point for the Luichart Dam

Possible Township/Farmstead (089 - 095) (Nmrs No NH35NE 0005) Centred on NH 390 568 this site is in the angle between the Rivers Conon and Meig on the north side of Strathconon. There has been considerable development of the farm lands and the estate in the vicinity. There is a terrace to the NW of the site on which are situated most of the current dwellings, this may well have been the site of the original settlement. The remains of several enclosures and a building were located. The majority of them were to the east of the terrace on lower ground, next to the fields. The area has been planted with commercial trees which have recently been felled.

Comment - It was thought that there could have been buildings/possibly a settlement in a field in front of Little Scatwell House at GR NH 38816 56744. The field, although grassy, is very stoney with very shallow soil. There are 2 possible trackways descending the slope from the terrace to the flats below. This would have been a most appropriate and ideal situation for a settlement.

089 Building - This small roofed building is all that remains of the complex which was the original Little Scatwell House (the present building 40m to the east was built in 1935). Local knowledge has it that this small building was the laundry and ice house

090 Wall - A short stretch of the wasted remains of a field wall (marked on FES), 23m in length, are located on the northwest side of a small enclosure which now has the road bisecting it.

091 Platform - Modern concrete platform measuring 7m x 13m.

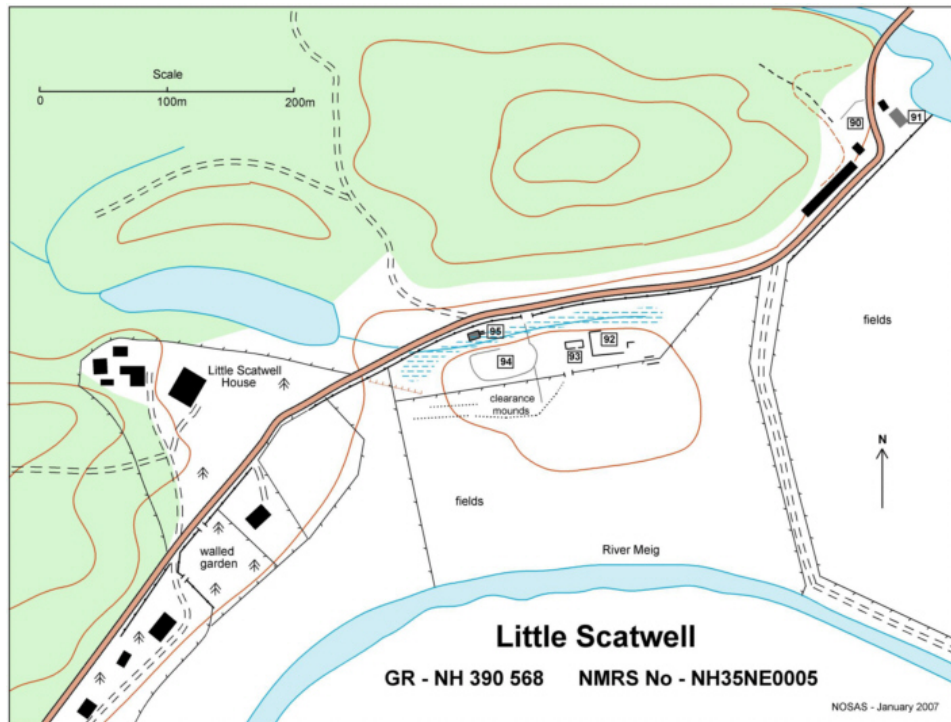
The majority of the other features are located on a linear strip of land to the south of the road and are probably associated with sheep farming. The site had been planted with commercial coniferous trees and recently felled leaving a considerable amount of debris with piles of brushings. All the features were affected by root damage and movement of heavy machinery.

092 Enclosure - Three sides of an enclosure measuring 20m x 23m, the bank on the east side is missing. The turf and stone banks generally 0.3m in height with a spread of 1.2m. There may be a further 2 features to the east, where there was a stone edge and two short lengths of parallel earthbanks

093 Building - NH 39038 56831 - Stone footings of a rectangular building on an E-W axis which measures 13.8m x 3.8m internally. Walls generally 0.2m height and 0.9m spread. Corners squared. Possible entrance in S wall 5m from east end. Has been planted over with trees!!

094 Enclosure - To west of the 2 features above and south of the sheepdip, 095, which may be associated, this enclosure is roughly 50m x 20m. The earth banks are straight with squared corners at the N. but curving at the south. They are mostly turf, 0.2m in height and with a spread of 1m generally.

095 Sheepdip – a relatively modern concrete structure



4.2 Sites on the South side of the glen

Loch Achonachie

276 Building NH 4408 5438 - In light birch woods on a north facing slope and on the south/upper side of the road, the low turf and stone footings of a small building appear as a rectangular depression on a N-S axis and have internal dimensions of 2.5m x 2m. The walls are between 0.2 and 0.3m in height, have some stone composition and the N and E walls have a spread of 1.5m - 2m. The SW corner is recessed into the slope and there may be a small annexe at the south end.

A rectangular depression, truncated at its north end, lies a few metres to the NE and may be a platform for another building. The area is heavily bracken infested and there must have been considerable disturbance during the construction of the power line just to the south.

The building may be associated with the settlement of 1 roofed building and 2 unroofed buildings which appears on FES to the NE but which now would seem to have been submerged under Loch Achonachie,

Farmstead and enclosure walls (Allt na Fainich) (211 and 212, 226 also 232, 233 and 234) -

NH 42642 54876 In birch woods on a broad north facing spur, this farmstead lies in a shallow saddle. Improved land is to the NE also power lines. The site comprises a building, a further possible building and a series of enclosure walls some of which extend north east across to the other side of the road. See plan.

211 Building - NH 42642 54876 Ruined walls of a rectangular building on a NE-SW axis with internal dimensions 12m x 3.5m. The nature of the remains divides the structure into two, although no distinct demarcation line exists.

East end - wall to 0.4m height and 0.5m width, timber planking evident amongst the tumble.

West end - walls to 0.5m height and tumble to 1-1.5m spread, grossly covered with heather.

Gaps in the long walls may indicate possible entrances

212 Wall - NH 42657 54835 - a short section of turf and stone wall can be discerned in the birch trees. From the SW corner of Building 211 it stretches south to the stream and is 0.5m in height in places.

226 - Platform/Possible Building - NH 42577 54913 - In a shallow re-entrant on a steep east facing slope about 60m to the NW of 212. On a NW-SE axis this structure measures 3m x 1.5m internally. It is recessed into the slope at the rear/NE side with a bank of 0.8m height. A line of stones defines the northwest wall

232 - Wall - NH 42637 54861 (SE end) to NH 42525 55025 (NW end) - Roughly 200m in length the scattered mainly stone remains of this wall curve around a steep rocky spur and then follow a small stream (the former parish boundary) eastwards. The wall has probably been truncated by the construction of the road.

233 - Wall - NH 42615 54934 (SW end) to NH 42895 55135 (NE end) - Similar to 232, a short section of this wall abuts 232 at its SW end but then has been truncated by the road. It may continue on in the turf and stone bank which traverses a small valley on the north side of the road, if so it would be about 300m long.

To the north of this wall and beside the road there is a small fertile clearing in the trees where it would appear some sort of activity has been going on but no definite remains other than a ?clearance cairn and patches of nettles could be identified.

234 - Earth bank - NH 42895 54975 (W end) to NH 43080 55060 (E end/disappears into the loch) - This substantial earth bank is generally 1m in height and has a spread of 2m at its maximum. It is roughly 250m in length before it disappears into Loch Achonachie. It appears to border an overgrown track on its south side. May be associated with the farmstead 211

Farmstead and enclosure (Allt na Fainich/Seileach Mor) (213 and 214) - NH 42516 54470 At an altitude of 100m on a north facing slope and on a small terrace above and to the south of the Allt na Fainich. To the west lies an extensive area of improved land at a lower level. Marked on FES

213 Farmstead - NH 42516 54470 - Ruined walls of a rectangular building, on an E-W axis, measuring overall 14m x 6m. There are 2 compartments - main/east compartment has internal dimensions 8m x 3.5m and the smaller west compartment has internal dimensions 3m x 3.5m. The walls of roughly dressed stone are generally 0.8m thickness and 0.5m height. Squared corners

214 Enclosure - NH 42504 54430 A small area of improved land immediately adjacent to farmstead 213 is surrounded by a low stone and turf bank on the east and south sides. A stream appears to define the west side although there is a further stretch of turf bank on the other side of the stream a few metres to the north.

Allt na Fainich (Seileach Mor)

Farmstead and enclosures (Loch Achonachie) (205, 206, 207 and 208) (Nmrs No NH45SW 002)

Centred on NH 42226 54673, **enclosure (209)** NH 41835 54419 and **enclosure (210)** (Nmrs No NH45SW 003), NH 41591 54247. The farmstead is in an elevated position on a NE facing spur at an altitude of 100m, this farmstead lies on the N bank of the Allt na Fainich. The area surrounding the farmstead is improved, grassy but has considerable bracken. Light birch woods further afield.

205 Building/Farmstead - Substantial ruined walls of a rectangular building, on an NE-SW axis. Comprises a main building and an outshot/byre to the NE:

Main building - Internal dimensions 12m x 3.5m. Walls are of mortared stone construction
 - NE gable wall rises to 4m in height and has a tree growing out of it
 - the other walls are 1.5 - 2m in height and have tumble "spread" of 2 - 3m. A cruck-slot is seen in the east end of the north wall. No entrance is evident

Byre - Internal dimensions 6m x 3m
 - the low ruined walls generally to 0.5m. Entrance in east corner

206 Enclosure - to SW of main building, measures 16m x 15m and is defined by a low turf and stone bank

207 Pen - Measuring 2m x 1.5m externally, in east corner of enclosure 206

208 Enclosure - An area of c.2acres adjacent to the settlement is surrounded by a low ruined turf and stone wall. A modern fence follows a short section of this in the south and a ruined fence much of the rest

209 Enclosure - NH 41835 54419 Lies immediately adjacent to and on the north bank of the Allt na Fainich in a sheltered position. Light birch and alder woods surround. A sub-square enclosure measuring roughly 30m x 30m is surrounded by a low turf wall 0.5 - 1m in height. It has a modern fence bisecting it obliquely. A platform to the SW may be the site of a building

210 Enclosure - NH 41591 54247 - Also immediately adjacent to and on the north bank of the Allt na Fainich in a sheltered position. A sub-square enclosure measuring roughly 26m x 26m is surrounded on 3 sides by a low stone wall 0.5m in height. The south side is formed by the stream which at this point runs in a gully. Majority heather covered.

Roughly halfway between the 2 enclosures at NH 41705 54366, also on the north bank of the stream, there is an area of improved ground in a sheltered re-entrant, with several clearance cairns

Both the enclosures may be associated with farmstead 205, to the NE or farmstead 217 to the SW

Farmstead and enclosures (217, 218, 219, 220 and 221) (Nmrs No NH45SW 004) centred on NH 4134 5412 **and sheepfold (222)** (Nmrs No NH45SW 005) NH 41273 53965. In the upper reaches of the Allt na Fainich at an altitude of 170m on an east facing slope. The enclosures, 218 and 219, and an extensive area of improved land lie to the east on both banks of the Allt na Fainich. The site comprises a building, 2 enclosures and several clearance cairns, 2 of which may have buildings/possible sheilings underlying them and which are therefore described here. See plan

There appears to have been several phases to this site. It may well have originally been used as a sheiling ground. The construction of the farmstead appears to have gone through several phases, indicated by the different materials and orientation of the walls. Finally an enclosure 222, 150m to the south and a sheepfold 215 to the east indicate that the area has been used for sheep rearing.

217 Building/Farmstead (Fig 10) - NH 41223 54101 - The ruined walls of this substantial L-shaped building are on a ENE-WSW axis. There are 2 compartments:

- Main/north compartment has internal dimensions 10.5m x 3m. The east part has walls of dry stone construction which are generally 0.5m height and 0.8m thick. The east gable wall rises to a height of 1.5m at the SE corner where there is a small internal pen with internal dimensions of 1m x 0.6m. There is a prominent upended stone which may be significant in the centre of this compartment and also a small window in the east wall. The wall corners at the east end of the building are squared. The west part of this main compartment has turf walls making internal dimensions here of 2.5m x 2.5m. These wall footings have a spread of 2m and height of 0.4m. There is a wide entrance into the south compartment.

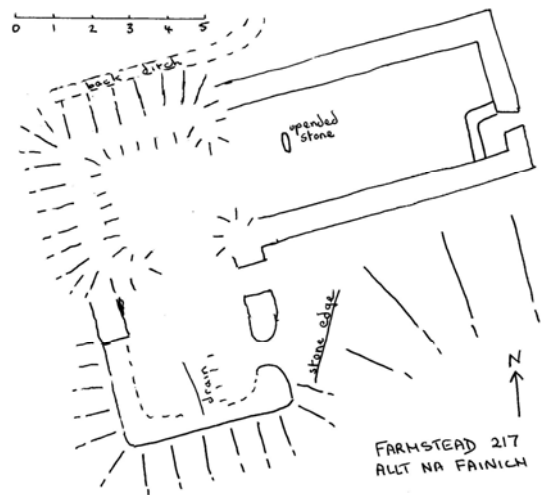
- South compartment has internal dimensions 4m x 3m and is at right angles to main one. It may well be an extension of the west part of the main compartment - see plan. The south part of this compartment is platformed and there is an apron of 1m height at the S end. The walls are barely discernable and may well have been of timber construction. There is a drain in the centre and 2 entrances, both 0.7m width in the east wall - see plan

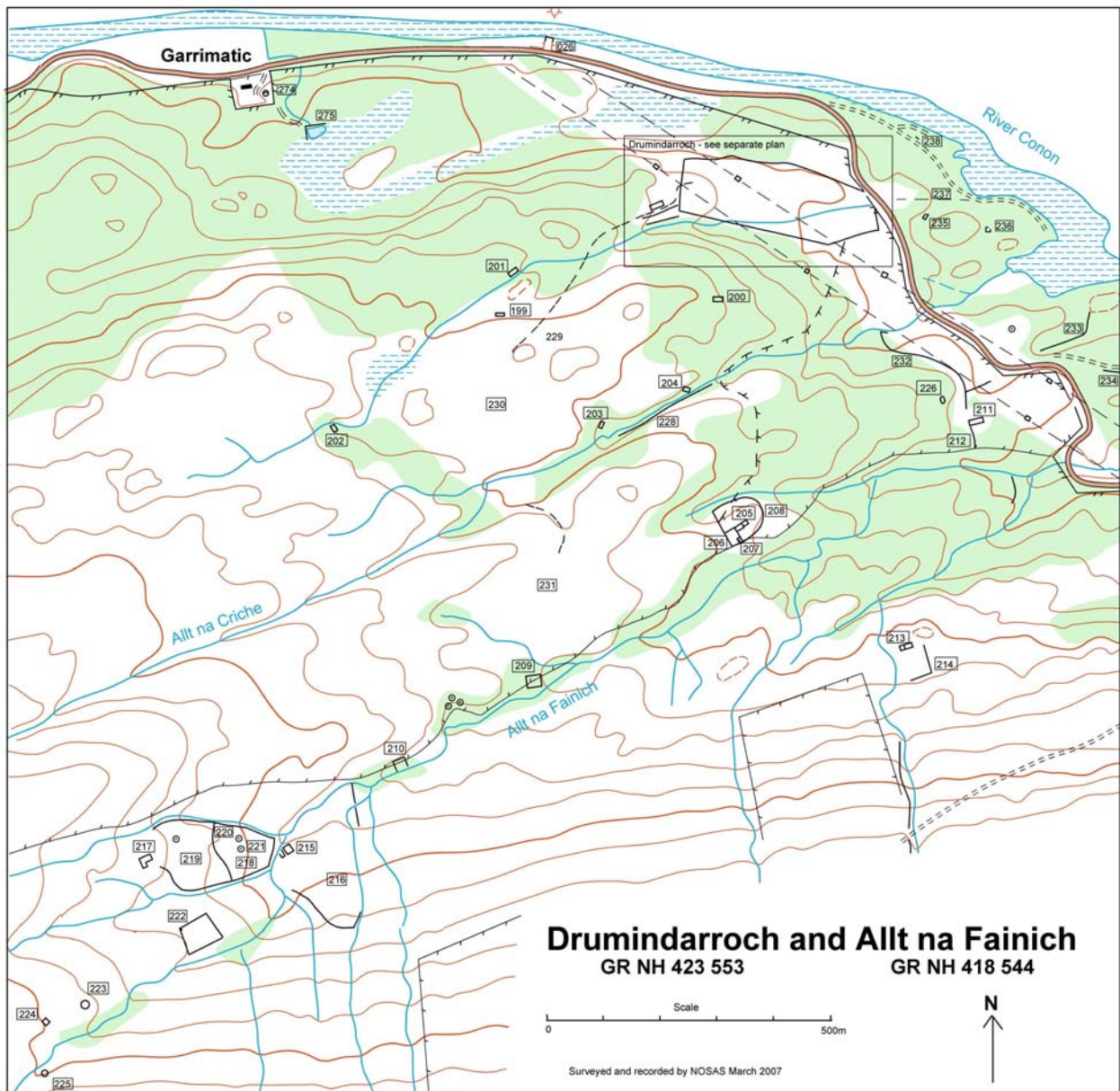
218 Enclosure - NH 41343 54125 the eastmost of 2 enclosures to the east of Farmstead 217 is roughly 80m x 80m. This enclosure has the remains of a stone wall almost completely surrounding it. It is bounded on its N, E and S by streams and to the west by Enclosure 219, where the wasted wall which is common to both enclosures follows a sinuous course up the slope. Grass and bracken covered

219 Enclosure - NH 41273 54121 The westmost/upper of the 2 adjacent enclosures is larger, roughly 100m x 100m. It also is sub-square and bounded on its north and south sides by streams.

220 Clearance cairn - NH 41327 54146 The north most of 2 cairns within enclosure 218, which may have buildings/possible sheilings underlying them, this rectangular cairn is on an E-W axis and measures 6m x 4m

221 Clearance cairn - NH 41343 54125 The south most of 2 cairns which may have buildings/possible sheilings underlying them, this rectangular cairn is on an NW-SE axis and measures 5m x 4m. It is "dished" in the centre





222 Enclosure NMRS No - NH45SW 005 - NH 41273 53965 This enclosure is c.60m square. It is surrounded by ruined dry stone walls to a height of between 0.6-1m. Grass and bracken covered

Sheiling and Buildings/possible Stores (223 - 225) centred on NH 41058 53829 On a NE facing spur on a small terrace of improved land at an altitude 190m. 223 and 224 are on the NW bank of the Allt na Fainich, 225 is on the SE bank.

223 Sheiling - NH 41058 53829 - Circular structure with internal diameter of 2.5m. The turf and stone wall footings have a spread of 1m and are 0.2-0.3m in height. No evidence of an entrance

224 Building/possible Store - NH 40990 53811- This ?storage pit lies at the foot of a steep NE facing slope 70m to the SE of sheiling 223. It is roughly square with internal measurements roughly 1m x 1m and 0.6m deep. A setting of largish stones, roughly 0.5 - 0.7m in diameter, surrounds. There is tumble material inside and a possible entrance at the S corner

225 Possible Store/Sheiling - NH 40965 53703 - Lies close to and on the SE bank of the stream on a steep N facing slope. This small circular structure has an internal diameter of 1.5m. It is 0.5m deep and the walls are of turf and stone construction having a spread of 1m. There is an entrance at the SW side

Loch Achonachie (Allt na Criche/Drumindarroch)

Probable Peat track and peat cuttings (229 – 231) Centred on NH 41765 54910 Two areas of peat cuttings are to be seen at circa 110m contour, 500m and 700m to the SW of the large enclosure at Drumindarroch. The overgrown remains of a constructed track, possibly a peat track, can be traced from Drumindarroch to the two areas

229 Probable Peat track - The track is in 2 sections:

- N section from NH 42054 55221 to NH 41810 54987. The remains of a constructed track climb the hill to the SW from the farmstead to the west of the large enclosure at Drumandaroch and stops at the peat cuttings, site 230. The track is c400m long and 2 metres wide in places but generally overgrown with heather

- S section from NH 41824 54737 to NH 41906 54683 is roughly 100m long and more overgrown. It climbs the hill in a NW-SE direction out of a small valley to reach peat cuttings, site 231

230 Peat cuttings - centred on NH 41765 54910 A level marshy area aligned E-W with evidence of peat banks, roughly 250m x 150m

231 Peat cuttings - centred on NH 41882 54601 A level marshy area aligned NNE-SSW with evidence of peat banks, roughly 300m x 200m

Still bothies and associated structures (199 – 204 and 228) Centred on NH 4181 5508 in an rough area of heathery and rock terrain above and to the SW of the main enclosure of Drumandaroch there are at least 4 possible still bothies and 2 structures probably associated with them. Two streams run from SW to NE through the area

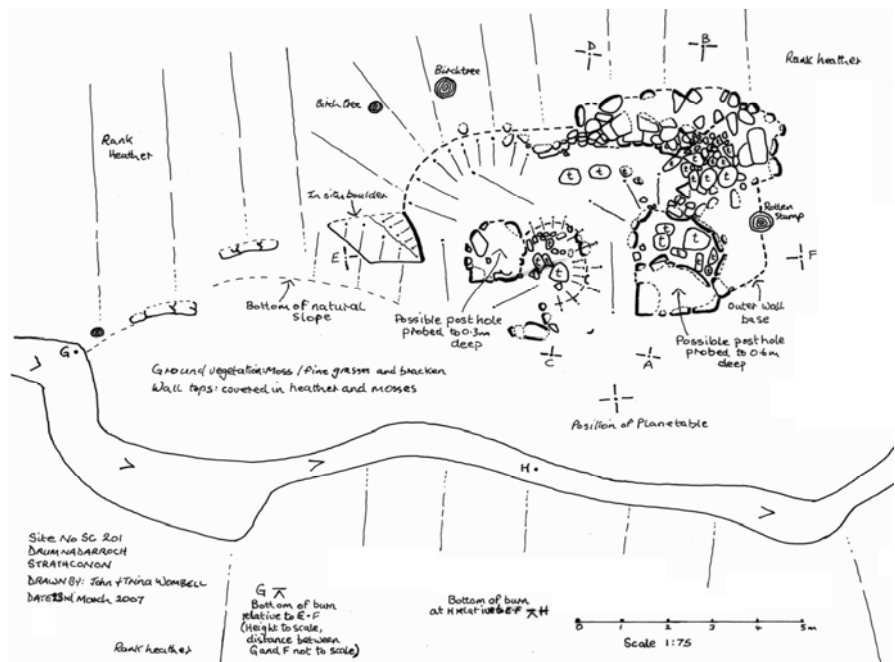
201 Still bothy (Fig 5) - NH 41825 55132 This structure is on the edge of derelict birch woodland, on the NW side of a small un-named burn, above and to the WSW of the large enclosure at Drumandaroch (west end Loch Achonachie). The ruined remains of this probable still bothy measure c6.75m SW/NE x 3.75m internally. The front of the structure sits c4m back from the burn. The wall tops are covered in heather and moss. It appears that the structure was open fronted facing SE.

The back of the structure and the SW wall are dug into a rising bank, whilst the NE wall is free standing. The structure may well have been deliberately destroyed as much tumbled stone lies within it. That part of the drystone rear wall towards the N corner survives in a tumbled condition to a max of c1m high, and it appears that the walling against the cut bank was single faced, and there is clear indication that there was a semi circular feature built into the N corner c1m in diam. This is a feature found in many of the Strathconon still bothies and better preserved specimens show within evidence of a half-moon shaped stone plinth c0.6m above the floor level. The front of the SW wall is formed by a large insitu boulder. An oval shaped shallow pit c1.8m NW/SE x 1.2m internal lies in the centre of the front opening, which may have been a fire pit. Adjoining this pit to the SW is a roughly circular stone built feature c1.2m in diam with a flattened front, standing c0.5m high, with a soft centre probed to c0.3m deep which probably held a roof support post. A similar sized 'D' shaped stone feature to the NE side of the front opening also has a soft centre which was probed to c0.6m deep, which probably held another roof support post. Behind and adjoining this feature is an oval shaped stone lined pit, c2m E/W x c1m internal, and 0.5m deep, with tumbled stones and standing water in it. Its purpose is not known but it may have been a holding tank from which cooling water could be bucketed into the barrel surrounding the worm.

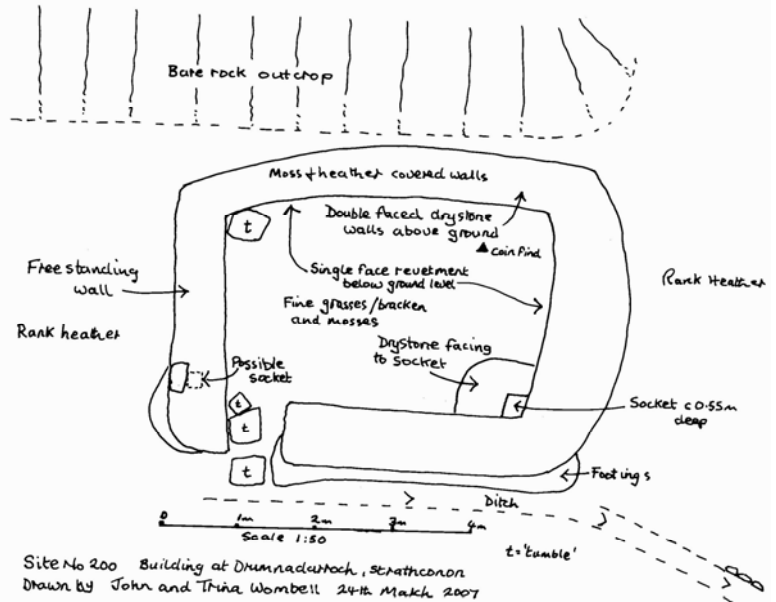
The ground vegetation around the structure is rank heather, whilst inside the structure it is fine grasses, bracken and heather. Considering its position and the other structures to be found in the surrounding landscape 201 may well be associated with the production of illegal whisky.

199 Building - NH 41804 55044 This structure is 100m to the south of still 201. It sits on the south side of the small valley and is well hidden under an overhanging crag. It is overgrown with heather and easily missed. It is a D-shaped structure on an ENE-WSW axis with internal measurements of 3.5m(max) x 2.6m. The crag has a projection of 0.8m, more or less, along its whole length. The structure has substantial stone and turf walls which are 0.6m high and the internal area may have been excavated into the ground. There is an entrance 0.6m in width. 199 is probably associated with 201 and may be hiding place

200 Building (Fig 4) - NH 42247 55056 At an altitude of 90m high on an east facing slope in the lee of a crag and in a small re-entrant, this relatively hidden structure has a good prospect to the east. Birch woods and dense heather surround. It is a rectangular structure measuring 4.5m x 2.5m internally and on an E-W axis. The dry stone walls are intact with little tumble, they are 0.9m in height and 0.8m thick. There is an entrance in the W corner of the S wall.



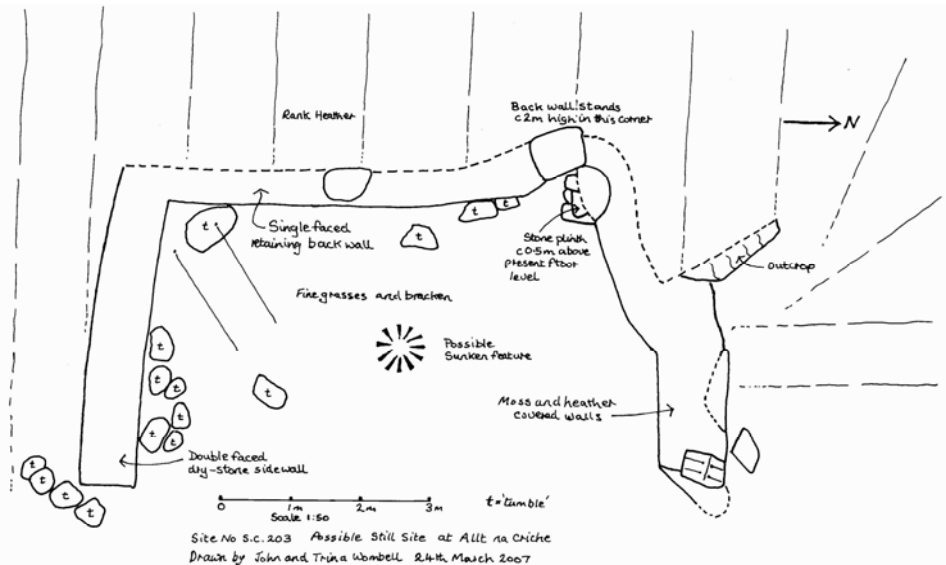
Of particular note is a strange feature constructed into the SE corner of the building. It is a small conical chamber, 0.6m in height and with the arc around the base measuring c.1.2m, tapering to the top where there is a sub-square aperture of 0.3m diameter. Considering its position and the other structures to be found in the surrounding landscape this structure may well be associated with the production of illegal whisky. It may be a look-out or a hiding place. It has been suggested that the feature in the SE corner is the support for a ?timber post



202 Building/probable Still bothy - NH 41527 54867 At an altitude of 110m in the upper reaches of a small stream which later flows through the main settlement/enclosure of Drumaduroch 1km to the NE, this structure is remote and well hidden. It is recessed into a NE facing slope on the S side of the burn. It is a rectangular structure measuring 6m x 3m internally on a NW-SE axis and recessed into the slope. A stone setting marks the SE wall and there appears to be a small raised platform, 1.5m x 0.9m, here. The NW end of the building is occupied by a small pen, probably of later origin, which measures 2m x 1m. It has well constructed dry stone walls of 1m height, the stream passes very close and in times of spate runs through this small structure - there is considerable tumble to the north of the building. Considering its position and the other structures to be found in the surrounding landscape this structure may well be associated with the production of illegal whisky. It may be a still bothy.

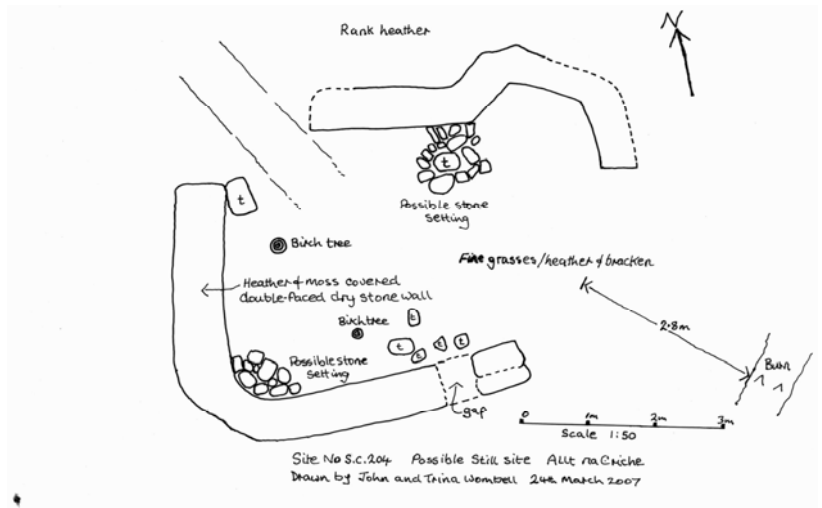
203 - Building/probable Still bothy (Allt na Criche) NH 41978 54858 In the wider part of the small valley of the Allt na Criche, at an altitude of 90m, this structure is recessed into a steep east facing slope. It is on the NW side of the burn and some 30m from it. There is a small trickle of a watercourse descending a scoop to the north of the structure. Birch woods surround. The remains of a rectangular structure measuring 8m x 4m internally on a NNE-SSW axis are recessed into a slope to the north of the small stream.

The rear/NNW wall is substantial and 2m in height at its N end but 1m at its S end. The NE wall is tumbled and has a spread of 1m and height 0.5m. The SW wall likewise is tumbled but with a 1.5m spread and 0.7m height. The structure is open to the front/SSE. No other features were noted. Considering its position and the other structures to be found in the surrounding landscape this structure may well be associated with the production of illicit whisky.



204 Building/Still bothy (Allt na Criche) - NH 42174 54938 This structure is secluded and in a small ravine on the NW bank of the Allt na Criche and only 2.8m from it. Birch woods surround. The remains of the rectangular structure, on a NW-SE axis, measure 5.5m x 3.5m internally. The NW and SW walls are 0.5m-1m in height and 0.5m in thickness with little tumble. The NE wall is recessed into the slope and is generally 0.8m in height. Its east end extends to form part of the arc of a circle, c1.75m diameter. The structure is open at its south end and there may be an entrance at the NE corner. Heavy growth of heather.

This building is almost certainly a still bothy and the other structures to be found in the surrounding landscape reinforce this interpretation. It may be significant that all these structures are to be found on the NW side of the Allt na Criche which was the former parish boundary and also the march between the two estates of Fairburn and Scatwell, perhaps the Scatwell owners may have turned a "blind eye" to the illicit activities, whereas the Fairburn landowners were less tolerant!!



228 Boundary wall (Allt na Criche)

- NH 42180 54930 (NE end) to NH 42013 54842 (SW end). This

boundary wall follows the course of the Allt na Criche on its south side. It is mostly heather covered and in birch woodland. The remains of the drystone boundary wall run for some 200m along the south bank of the Allt na Criche from circa NH 42180 54930 (NE end) to NH 42013 54842 (SW end). It is very fragmented, surviving in some places as a well built free-standing double faced wall of quarried stone to c1m in ht, and elsewhere as no more than a line of large boulders and tumble being parts of a single faced retaining wall where it was cut into the river bank. In yet other places it is missing altogether where it has fallen into the burn. It changes from the N side of the burn to the S side around 4204 5485.

This wall follows what was probably the boundary between the Scatwell and Fairburn Estates. On the 1st edition OS map it is the old boundary between Urray and Contin Parishes, the present boundary follows the Allt na Fainich 300m to the SE. It seems strange that the wall has only been built at the stretch of the burn which is closest to the stills and this may have some significance. But the wall may also mark the limit of the land associated with farmstead 205 since it stops at the north end at a point where a ruined fence crosses the burn.

Township, Farmstead and Enclosures (Drumdarroch) and milestone (170 - 196 and 235 - 238)

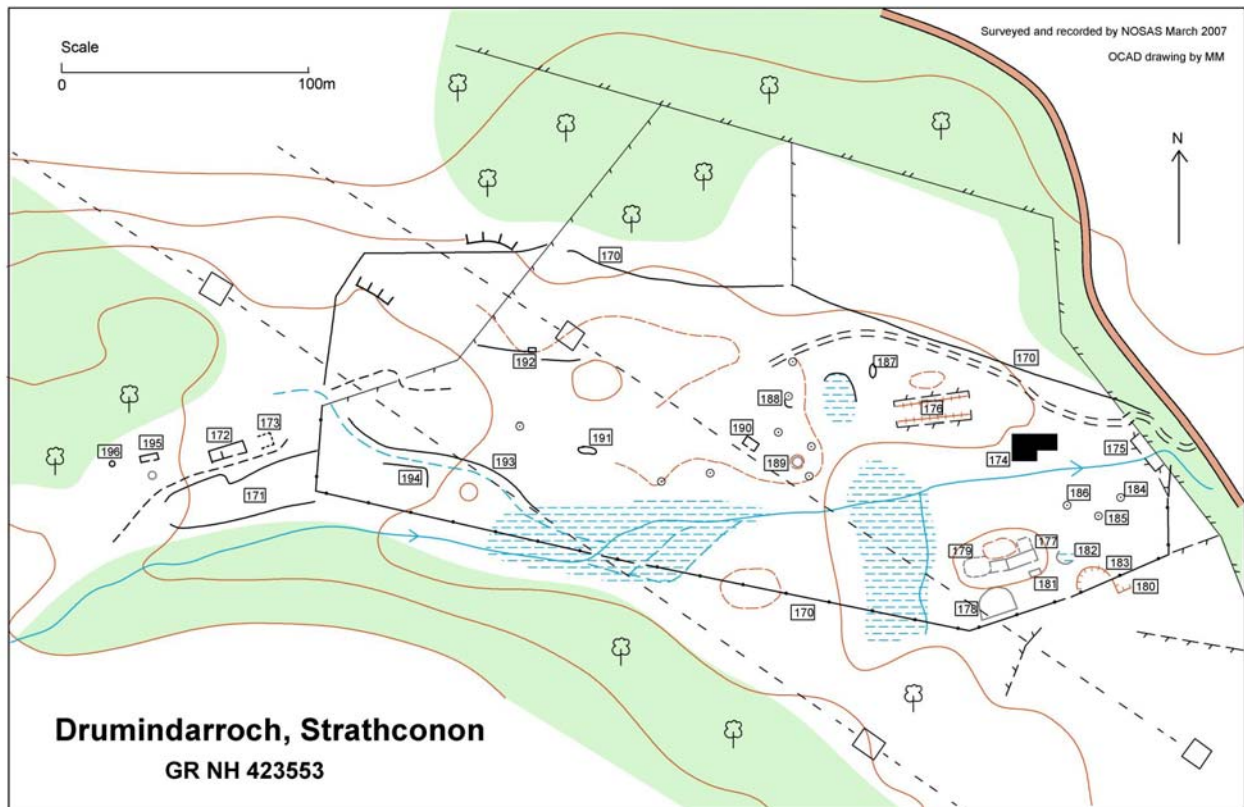
centred on NH 42301 55244 At an altitude of 50m on the south bank of the River Conon this settlement is on an E-W axis and covers an area 400m x 120m along an east facing ridge. The south side of the site is bounded by a small stream and a rising craggy slope. The main enclosure, in which most of the features are situated, is grassy with some bracken and there is much evidence of recent sheep management. The remains of the farmstead, which lie outwith and to the west of the main enclosure are at a higher level and are grossly infested with bracken. Birch woods and heather surround the settlement and a major power line traverses the site. The site comprises at least 5 buildings, 2 main enclosures and at least 3 smaller ones, several clearance cairns which may have buildings underlying them, several lengths of wall(?consumption clearance). More recent activity is represented by a roofed timber shed, a sheepdip and a silage pit. Two more structures and the remains of an old track are seen on the north side of the road in wooded ground beside the river. A milestone beside the old track is also included here.

An unroofed structure and 2 enclosures appears on the 1st edition OS survey and a township is marked in this location on the Roy map of c.1750

170 Enclosure - centred on NH 42301 55244 The main enclosure is on an E-W axis and is 350m x 120m. The surrounding wall is almost complete and has 2 distinct phases of construction. The southern half is more recent and relatively intact - it is a modern, well-constructed structure of 1.2m height and 0.6m thickness. The northern part appears to be much older and is more wasted. It is constructed of irregular boulders and stones and generally has a spread of 0.7-1m. In parts it forms a retaining wall which is very substantial and as much as 1m in height. Several coppiced trees are associated.

171 Enclosure - centred on NH 42084 55221 A smaller sub-rectangular enclosure, which abuts 170 at its east end, is on a WSW-ENE axis and is 60m x 25m. The north and south walls are relatively intact and up to 1m in height - they curve towards each other at the west end where there is a gap of 15m. The farmstead 172 is situated a few metres to the N

172 Farmstead - NH 42084 55241 A rectangular building on an E-W axis with internal measurements 13.1m x 3.3m. Walls of dry stone construction are 0.6-0.9m in thickness and very variable in height. At the SW corner the wall is 1.3m high and the rear wall is generally 0.6m but higher at the east end where there is a nicely preserved cruck slot of 1m height x 0.2-0.3m width x 0.25m depth. The south wall is collapsed and may have been robbed of its stone. There is no obvious entrance to the building and no dividing walls discernable. Much tumble lies internally and the whole site is infested with bracken with heather growing over the walls. A ditch, 0.8m deep x 0.9m width, runs along the outside of the rear/north wall, it has been excavated into the slope



- 173 Building** - NH 42107 55451 Abuts farmstead 172 to the west and is on the same axis this building has internal dimensions of 4.2m x 3.8m. The structure is defined by large upstanding stones and is built out at its east end. The ditch to the rear is continuous with that described in 172
- 174 Building/Shed** - NH 42406 55243 A modern timber shed on an E-W axis with overall dimensions of 18.2m x 7.4m. Corrugated asbestos roof.
- 175 Sheep-dip and shed** - NH 42459 55233 Small rectangular fenced enclosure on a NW-SE axis, 10.7m x 6.6m, containing - in its west corner, a roofed timber shed (3.5m x 2.6m) and in its east corner the timber and metal remains of a sheepdip. A stream runs through the structure. The remains of a timber bridge with stone abutments are seen to the SW and to the NE there is a loading ramp adjacent to the road.
- 176 Pit (Silage)** - NH 42379 55263 A modern rectangular silage pit on an ENE-WSW with overall dimensions of 33.8m x 7.9m. The two linear banks to N and S have a height of 1m and spread of 2.5m. The structure is situated on the top of a ridge and has a ruined fence surrounding it.
- 177 Building** - NH 42408 55200 Rectangular building on an E-W axis with internal dimensions of 8.3m x 2.9m. The walls are very wasted, having probably been robbed for nearby stone wall, where they are evident they are 0.6m thick and 0.1m high. The structure is recessed into the knoll on its N side and platformed to the east. There is an entrance, width 0.8m, in the east end of the S wall. An outshot to the east is barely discernable. It has internal dimensions of 3m x 4.5m and a possible entrance, width 1.1m, in the south wall. A further outshot represented by a level platform to the north of 177 is on an E-W axis and has dimensions of 3.9m x 3.3m. It is recessed into the knoll on the west side with a height of 0.6m here
- 178 Enclosure** - NH 42402 55185 immediately adjacent to the modern field wall this sub-circular enclosure is on a NE-SW axis and has internal dimensions of 13.5m x 16m. It has squared walls to NE and SE. The west wall is recessed into the slope where it is 1m high and there is an earthbank on the SW side 0.2m high.
- 179 Enclosure** - NH 42398 55197 this enclosure is on the top of a knoll and adjacent to 177 and 178. The leveled area on an E-W axis with dimensions 8.5m x 7.1m is defined by large boulders to the S, the stone footings of a wall, height 0.1m, to the east, and low turf walls to west and north.
- 180 Possible Building** - NH 42447 55190 A rectangular depression outwith the main enclosure wall 170. On NE-SW axis and with dimensions of 6m x 4.4m this feature is recessed into the slope. The height of the bank at this S side is 0.6m and it is continuous with the bank of enclosure 183 (on the west side of wall 170). The structure may well be associated with 183. The main enclosure wall of 170 has been built across the west side of this structure.
- 181 Pit** - NH 42413 55197 Small rectangular pit on a NE-SW axis a few metres to the south of the entrance of building 177. The dimensions are 3m x 1.4m and 0.2m deep. There is some stonework in surrounding walls and a possible entrance on the south side.
- 182 Depression/Circular structure** - NH 42419 55199 A regular depressed circular feature of unknown use. Has a diameter of 6.5m and is recessed into the slope of the knoll on its west side where the bank has a height of 1m. A raised bank (height 0.2m) forms an arc on the east side. Water filled

183 Enclosure - NH 42435 55196 This semi-circular enclosure is on a NE-SW axis and measures 17.7m x 9m at its widest. It is level and has been recessed into the slope at the west side where it has a bank of 0.8m. To the north east it is defined by a stone and earth bank which is 0.5m in height, this bank is continuous with the S bank of 180. The main enclosure wall of 170 forms the south east side of this enclosure.

184 Clearance cairn/possible Building - NH 42437 55219 A sub-square clearance cairn with straight edges and dimensions of 4.3m x 3.7m x 0.6m height. Dished at the centre, it may have a building/?shieling underlying it.

185 Clearance cairn/possible Building - NH 42426 55214 A sub-circular cairn of 3.8m diameter and 0.4m height

186 Clearance cairn/possible Building - NH 42418 55218 A sub-circular cairn with diameter 4.8m and height 0.6m, it is dished at the centre and may have a building/possible shieling underlying it

187 Clearance cairn/possible Building - NH 42346 55284 A rectangular field clearance cairn with rounded ends on a N-S axis and with dimensions of 8.6m x 3.2m and height 0.6m. Its regular shape suggests that it may have a building, possibly a sheiling, underlying it

188 Clearance cairn/possible Building - NH 42322 55265 An elongated cairn on a steepish E facing slope. On a N-S axis and with an overall measurement 11.5m x 6m. In 2 parts - N part has more clearance material and is 4.7m x 3.5m, S part has the footings of a possible curving stone wall on its W and S sides c.15m in length x 2m spread

189 Building/possible Kiln - NH 42317 55240 Situated on a small knoll this rectangular structure with rounded ends on an E-W axis appears more as a depression. Internal measurement is 3.6m x 2m and depth is 0.3m. There are several clearance cairns in the vicinity. Grass and moss covered with light bracken

190 Building - NH 42301 55244 A rectangular building on an E-W axis with internal measurements of 6m x 3.5m. This structure has substantial earth and stone wall footings 0.5m high and with 1.4m spread. There is an entrance 1m in width in the S wall and a terrace along the S side of the building. Moss and bracken covered.

Two large clearance cairns lie to the SW and linear consumption clearance along the marsh edge to the S

191 Building/Clearance cairn - NH 42242 55237 this rectangular structure on a south facing slope and an E-W axis has overall measurements of 12m x 6m. Can be divided into 2 parts - the east part has more clearance material with some large boulders and is 4.5m x 5.6m the west part has more evidence of linear stone walls although clearance material obscures much of them. The internal dimensions here are 5.2m x 2.3m and the walls are 0.5m high and 0.9m thick. There is an entrance in the S wall 0.7m width and possible entrances at the west end.

192 Wall/Consumption clearance/possible Structure - centred on NH 42214 55287 Rather amorphous, this linear structure, aligned E-W, bounds the upper part of a marshy re-entrant. The west part is 28m in length, the east 30m. At its centre there appears to be a small rectangular structure, internal dimensions 3.2m x 3.6m.

193 Wall - NH 42220 55220 (east end) to NH 42134 55261 (west end) On an ESE-WNW axis this wall is 100m in length and 1m in thickness. It bounds a marshy area to the S which it may well have been constructed to contain.

194 Wall - centred on NH 42155 55239 An L shaped wall 25m in length on the opposite side of the marsh to 193. May have bounded a small enclosure to the SW

195 Building - NH 42052 55240 A rectangular building on a NE-SW axis with internal measurements 5.7m x 2.6m. Walls are of dry stone construction, with N wall containing some dressed stone. They have a thickness of 0.8m and height of 0.9m. There is an entrance in the SE corner and much tumble in the centre of the building. It is grossly overgrown with bracken and there is a birch tree growing in the N wall. To the east there is a possible outshot abutting. It has internal dimensions of 4.6m x 2.6m. The walls are constructed of angular undressed stone and are 0.6m thick and 0.5m height. There is an entrance (0.7m width) in the SE corner

196 Pit/possible Kiln - NH 42041 55244 Appears as a circular depression 10m to the west of 195. It has an internal diameter of 1.3m and is 0.5m deep. The turf and stone walls are 0.5-0.7m thick. Bracken and heather cover

237 Track - The overgrown remains of a track (marked on the 1st Edition OS map) which linked the east end of the main enclosure/settlement with the old track, which is now submerged, can be traced through the birch woods on the east side of the road. There is also quite a fertile area/clearing in the trees and evidence of more recent agricultural activity.

235 Structure - NH 42554 55207 - recessed into the west slope of a heathery knoll on the east side of the road this rectangular structure is on a NW-SE axis and has internal dimensions of 3m x 2m. The W wall is 0.3 - 0.5m in height and there is a large in-situ boulder at the N end. There is an entrance in the NW corner

236 Possible Structure - NH 42676 55199 - Also on the east side of the road, appears as a square depression, 0.6 - 0.8m deep and measuring 4.5m square. There is some stone composition in the retaining banks and a possible entrance at the N end (3.5m wide)

238 Milestone - NH 42527 55369 - On low lying wooded ground beside the river and on the north side of the old road which disappears into the river/loch only a few hundred metres to the SE, a small worked slab of sandstone stands upright and is 0.45m in width, 0.6m in height and 0.1m thick. Apart from a benchmark on its south side there are no other markings.

Garrimatic

Building and Dam (274 and 275) centred on NH 4142 5540 This site is on the south side of the road, in a sheltered position with birch woods surrounding and a fertile field on the north side of the road adjacent. It is on a north facing slope and only 60m or so from the river. The main roofed building of the settlement is occupied and in good order, it is not described here. The surrounding enclosure/garden has been extensively altered and landscaped. A track leaves the SE corner of the enclosure and heads up for the dam 275 just 100m away. A small settlement of 2 roofed buildings appears on FES and 3 households are noted in the census records between 1841 and 1881

274 - Building - NH 41399 55448 - A few metres to the SE of the main building on top of a small knoll there is a circular stone walled enclosure with a diameter of 6m surrounding a level platform recessed into the knoll. It is probably of recent construction and may be a sun lounging platform; although the owner had been told it may be the footings of a circular building for hanging deer. A straight stone setting 6m in length cuts off an arc in the north part. It is almost certainly the single course of an internal face of the wall of a building and extends to the east, outside the possible garden feature. This appears to be all that remains of a roofed building marked on the FES.

275 - Dam - NH 41471 55382 - Encloses a small body of water at the NW side of a large marshy area. The retaining wall or embankment, which is 2 to 3m thick and 0.9m in height, forms a 2 sided "dog-leg" - that side on the north edge of the pond being 30m long and that on the west side 15m long. The outlet is part way along the N side and there is no evidence of a sluice.

There was no evidence of a building which could have been a mill on the course of the stream, although any evidence may have been destroyed during the construction of the road.

Allt Dubh

The Allt Dubh is a small tributary of the River Conon, 1 kilometre to the SE of Scatwell House. The area is on a north facing slope and part of the Little Scatwell Estate. At the foot of the burn, where it merges with the river, there is a collection of houses, formerly known as Blackburn, which include an old Schoolhouse. The burn of Allt Dubh runs through a small wooded valley, descending from SW to NE, it is c.2 kilometres in length. Its upper reaches are quite complex with many small burns merging from the surrounding hills. To the south the moorland rises to a height of 400m and to the north the area is bounded by Cnoc Dubh and the former lands of the Scatwell Estate. The majority of the area is wooded with open birch in the lower part to the south of the burn, and planted conifers in the upper part to an altitude of 150m. Thereafter there is open heathery moorland with birch and Scots Pine following the burns

Within an area of roughly half a square kilometre of this small valley there are 10 small farmsteads, 4 probable still sites, 2 kilns and a further site on which there appears to have been some sort of process, as yet unidentified, taking place on an industrial scale. In a wider area of 2 square kilometres a further 7 probable still bothies have been identified. All the sites are in a pretty wasted state and in the summertime most are covered by bracken or heather. This could be a landscape which has been devoted to the production of illicit whisky.

Aerial photographs from 1950 indicate that the upper part of the Allt Dubh had been recently felled at that time. There are many tracks, probably used for extracting timber, the remains of which still exist today.

Farmstead and enclosures/walls (160 and 118) centred on NH 4068 5538 and situated in the lower part of the Allt Dubh valley. The farmstead is on a knoll on the south side of the main track in open birch woods. The enclosure/walls are on the opposite side of the burn, on a steep north facing slope, partly in open land and partly in birch wood

160 Farmstead of 2 buildings and an enclosure on N side of Allt Dubh:

A Building - NH 40695 55378 On the top of the knoll there is a rectangular platform on a N-S axis of 7m x 5m. A steep man made bank of 0.8m height shelves off on the west side

B Building - NH 40681 55390 A few metres to the north of 160A this building is on an E-W axis. It appears as a depressed rectangle of 2 compartments. The main/west compartment is 6m x 3m internally. There is a strong turf and stone bank at the west end c0.4m in height. The east compartment is just 2.5m x 2m internally and at a lower level.

C Enclosure - NH 40665 55371 Trapezoidal in shape this enclosure is roughly 12m x 8m internally. The surrounding walls are well defined and very substantial on the north and west sides where they reach 1m in height at one point, generally though they are just 0.5m

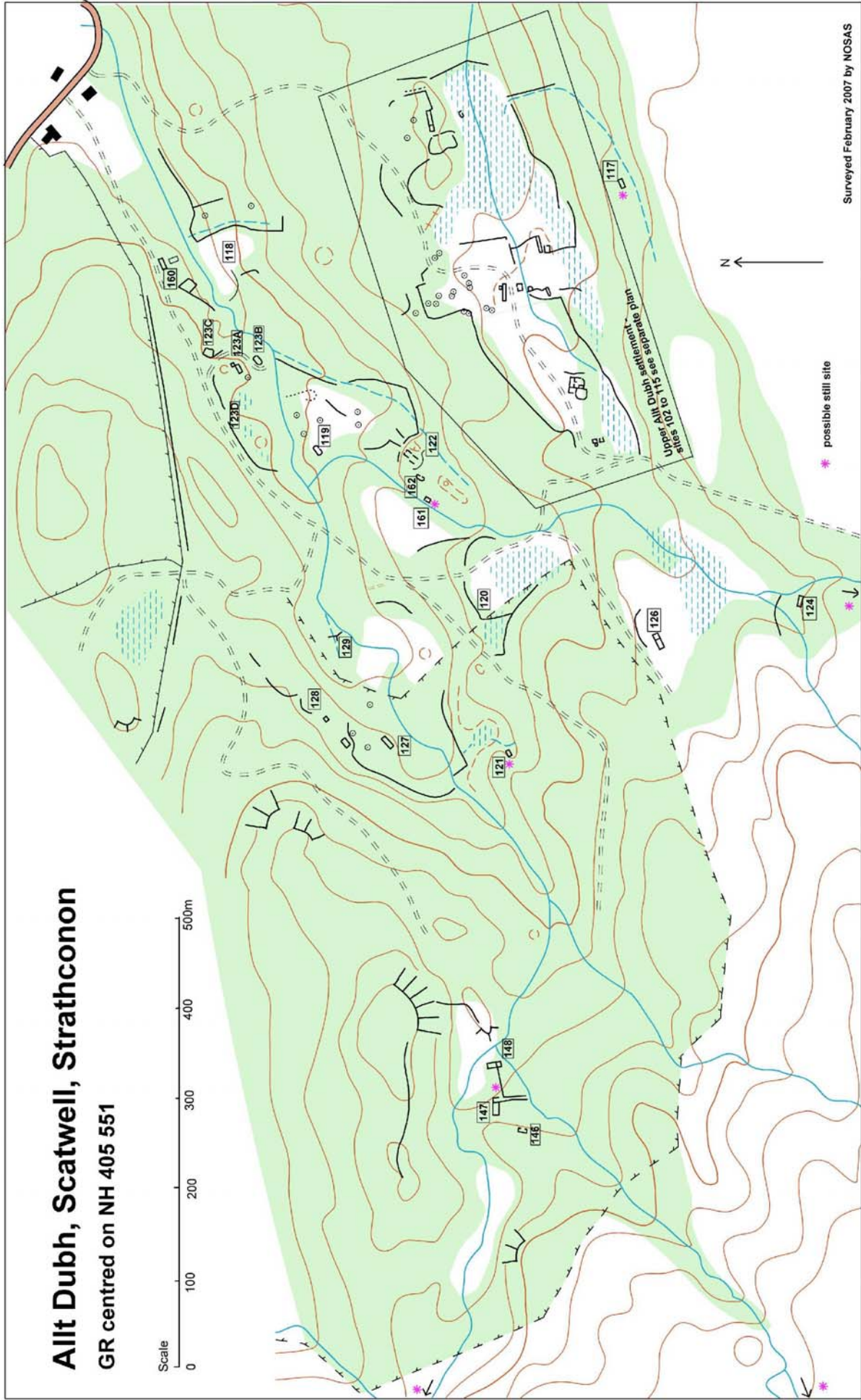
118 Enclosure and walls on S side of Allt Dubh - NH 4075 5543 - There are 2 distinct parts to this area, they are separated by a small burn running down the middle:

- To the west an area of rough grassland cleared of boulders. On the east side it is bounded by a wasted wall which continues up the slope following the west bank of the small stream. On the west this part of land is bounded by a barely discernable wall which is incomplete, curving and in the form of a steep bank in places

- To the east in the woodland there is a further area enclosed by the remains of a stone wall which meanders along the base of the slope and continues eastward for 100m or so. There is a wall going up the slope at right

Allt Dubh, Scatwell, Strathconon

GR centred on NH 405 551



angles forming an enclosure in which there are several clearance cairns. The south/upper wall of this enclosure may link with the long wall of the west enclosure previously mentioned where it takes a right angle bend at the top and runs to the east.

Farmstead and enclosures (123A, B, C and D) centred on NH 4058 5539 this farmstead is on the north side of the burn on a spur in open birch woods, a small structure abuts. A wall, possibly a headwall, runs parallel to the track to the north of the building and two enclosures are lower down.

123A Farmstead/Building - NH 40586 55307 the low but substantial remains of this building which is aligned NE-SW measure 7.5m x 2.5m internally. Remains of the walls are to 0.8m height, 0.8m thick, and of double faced dry stone construction. There appears to be a division internally and a probable entrance, c0.8m wide, in the long SE wall.

There is a small structure NH 40583 55316 tacked on to the north corner of the building. It appears as a square platform 3m x 3m and is recessed into the slope to the north, the west and east walls are made up of large stones.

123B Enclosure - NH 40582 55281 Close to the Allt Dubh and covered with moss and bracken the low remains of a dry stone wall forming a roughly oval enclosure are seen. It is aligned NE-SW and 9m x 5m internally. The walls are 0.5m in height and there is no evidence of an entrance

123C Enclosure - centred on NH 40591 55335 A few metres to the NE in a small sheltered situation three wasted dry stone walls of this enclosure, measuring 13m x 10m are seen. The enclosure is on a steepish ESE slope and grossly covered with bracken. The lower ESE side is bounded by a marsh.

123D Wall - NH 40554 55342 (east end) to NH 40468 55287 (west end) The wasted remains of this stone wall are seen running parallel on the south side of the track. It is c100m in length and in all probability is associated with the farmstead.

Farmstead, enclosure/improved land and walls (119) NH 4050 5513 This farmstead with improved land is on a north facing slope and bounded on the north by the Allt Dubh itself, on the west by a small ravine, and on the east by the wasted remains of a wall/linear clearance which crosses a small stream and continues up the slope to meet a more substantial wall coming down from site 122. The area is open with scattered birch and vigorous bracken. At its south/upper part there are considerable heaps of ?clearance material which form the north boundary of the working area, site 122. There are several large clearance cairns within the area. Two main features were identified:

118A Building - NH 40502 55131 - Rectangular and on a SW-NE axis this measures 7m x 4m internally. The dry stone walls are 1m thick and to 0.5m height. The corners are squared and there is an entrance in the SE wall

119B Enclosure - a horse shoe shaped enclosure, roughly 25m in diameter, defined by largish boulders. This farmstead may be associated with the complex area of disturbance to the SW described as a working area/possible industrial complex 122 and the probable still bothy 161

Working area/possible Industrial complex, building and Still bothy (122, 161 and 162) centred on NH 4050 5512 This site, in natural birch woodland, is on a small NE facing spur of ground between a small ravine to the NW and a linear marsh to the SE. Site 122 comprises a sloping scooped area roughly 15m x 20m within which there are several features. A few metres to the west there are the remains of a building, site 162 and site 161 is a probable still bothy at a lower level close to the stream.

122 Working area/ possible Industrial complex - Centred on NH 40482 55133 an area measuring roughly 20m x 15m on a NE facing slope. The site is defined by, on its SW (upper) side a curving earth "cut" c.0.5m in height and c.12m in length, and on its northeast (lower) side, by a curving bank of stone ?clearance 22m in length, quite substantial and up to 3m in thickness. This wall is broken in its northmost half by a gap of 6m in which there is the termination of a stone wall/probable field boundary at right angles (see sketch). To the northwest there is a steep bank/ravine and stream, and to the southeast a marshy area with a small stream running through it. The site has a cover of heather, bracken and light birch trees. The features are:

122A - A possible building/possible kiln which appears to be the centre of activity. It is roughly 3.5m square, oval internally and open to the north where there is an entrance of 1m width. The internal area is 2.5m x 1.3m. On the NW side of the feature there is a substantial stone wall 1.4m in thickness and 0.5m in height, on the SE side a stone and earth bank rises to 0.4m height.

122B - A possible building to the SW of A. It is defined by two roughly parallel stone settings of single stone thickness (c. 0.4m) 3.5m in length. They are 3.5m apart.

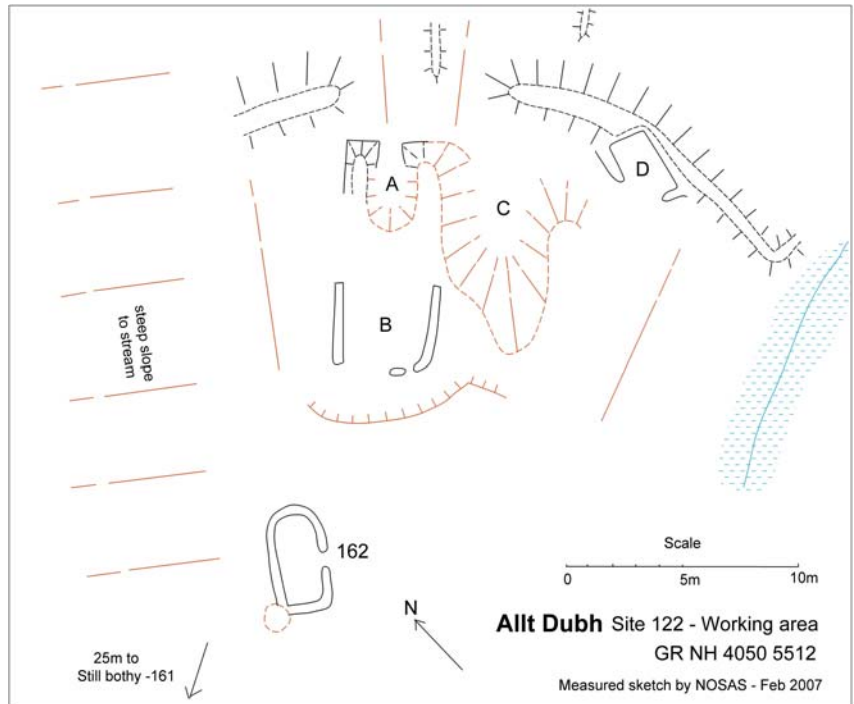
122C - A pit or depression to the SE of A. It is U shaped, open to the NE, roughly 4m in width and 8m in length with "central"/internal area of 2.5m x 3.5m and 0.8m depth.

122D - A building constructed within the east part of the boundary wall (see sketch). It is rectangular, on a N-S axis and has internal measurements of 2m x 3m.

161 Building/probable Still bothy (Fig 6) - NH 40441 55114 40m to the SW of site 122 and in the bottom of the ravine on the east bank of the stream and just 1.2m from it, this rectangular building is aligned NNE-SSW. It measures 3.25m x 2.6m internally. Dry stone walls, double faced on 3 sides are c0.7m thick and 1m in height. The entrance is 0.9m in width and in the NW corner. The back retaining wall is single faced with the

head forming a scarcement. Small rough outshot to SW c1.3m wide has no obvious entrance. This building is in an excellent state of preservation.

162 Building - NH 40462 55127
 Just 4m to the west of site 122 on the edge of the small ravine, this small structure is on a NNE-SSW axis and measures 3.8m x 1.9m internally. The remains of the walls are of rough stone and turf construction, up to 0.5m in height and 0.8m in width. The corners are rounded apart from the SW corner which is squared internally and which has a knoll 0.8m in height externally. There is an entrance in the east wall
 Some metres to the south of 122, on a shallow north facing slope there is a pit on a small linear knoll in natural birch woodland which may be associated. It is 2m in diameter and 0.5m deep.



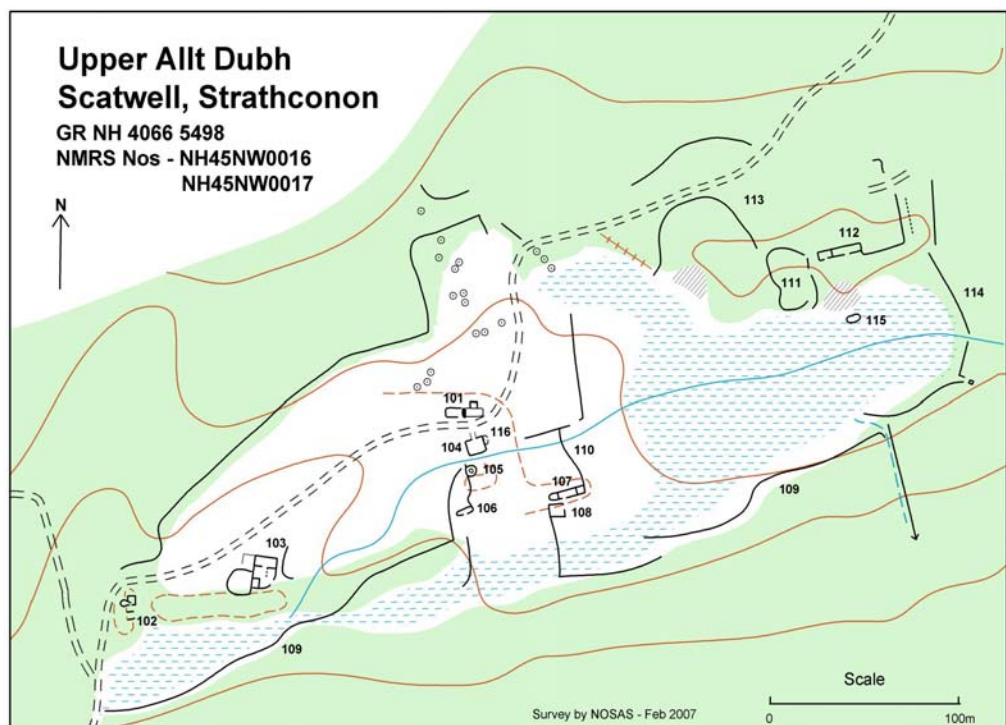
Site 122 appears to have been the centre of some activity or process on a semi industrial scale. In view of the surrounding landscape it may well have been associated with the production of whisky. Site 161 is almost certainly a still bothy.

Upper Allt Dubh

This settlement is 1km to the south of Scatwell House, above and on the south side of the Allt Dubh. It occupies an open flattish area of 500m x 150m on a north facing slope at an altitude of 90m. The hillside is covered in birch woods and grossly overgrown with bracken particularly in the east part. The higher slopes have heather and the occasional indigenous Scots pine.

The area appears as a green fertile "oasis" - it is used for feeding deer and has been limed in recent years. To the east there is a dam and aerial photographs of 1950 indicate that this held back a substantial body of water which is now silted up, forming an extensive marshy area. A turf and stone bank surrounds the area but there are three distinct clusters of buildings within it:

- To the east there is a farmstead with 2 buildings and several enclosures on a hill - this region has received considerable trampling from deer and from tractors.
- In the centre there are 4 buildings, several enclosures and a kiln.
- The western group comprises a kiln with associated buildings and a complex structure with 2 buildings and several abutting enclosures.



East Township/Farmstead, enclosures, building and dam (111 – 115) (Nmrs No NH45NW0017)

Centred on NH 4086 5509 The site of this settlement is used for feeding deer and has been limed in recent years. Much of it is heavily trampled by deer and the deep furrows of tractor tracks cut up the area (particularly relevant to enclosure 113) This east group of structures comprises 2 buildings and at least 2 enclosures. Included here also is a dam which lies to the SE of these structures. There appears to be 2 different phases with one of the buildings, 115 (in the middle of the marsh/former pond!) being earlier. The site appears on 1st edition OS survey as a single unroofed building.

111 Enclosure - NH 40835 55077 - Rectangular enclosure on a gently S facing slope a few metres to west of building 112. Long axis is N-S. 25.8m x 21m. Walls of dry stone, tumbled and with a spread of 0.9m, maximum height 0.8m. There is an entrance in the east wall.

112 Building - NH 40860 55087 A long rectangular building on an E-W axis with an internal measurement of 21m x 3.4m. Divided into 2 compartments:

- West compartment, the smaller, is 6.9m in length (3.2m width). Possible entrance in S wall, 0.6m width.

- East compartment, probably the main one, is 13.5m in length.

Walls generally of rough dry stone construction and very wasted, have an overall spread of 1.3m and 0.25m height, although there are places where they are 0.5m height, have squared corners. No entrance discernable. Self seeded birch trees grow within structure and east compartment trampled by deer.

113 Enclosure - NH 40860 55115 Large irregular enclosure on north facing slope. Walls more complete in west section and SE section adjacent to building 112, generally have a spread of 1.2m and height of 0.5m. There are 2 large clearance cairns within and also the remains of a wall/clearance. The area is used for feeding deer and heavily trampled by same.

114 Dam - NH 40907 55078 (N end) NH 40928 55031 (S end) This dam has held a shallow pond to the west which is now silted up. The dam is roughly 60m in length and constructed of dry stone with probable earth infill, thickness is 3m and height is 0.9m. Existing outflow looks like a breach and is towards the centre of the dam. Original outflow was to the south where there is a concrete sluice gate with baffles for boarding.

115 Building - NH 40875 55053 This rectangular building on a SW-NE axis is situated on a slight raise in an extensive marshy area (silted up pond - see dam114). The internal measurement is 5.2m x 2.4m. Low walls or stone footings have a thickness of 0.7m and rounded corners. There is a possible entrance at N end of long SE wall. This building may be earlier than the others and may be connected with shieling activities.

Middle Township, Farmstead, Kiln and enclosures, (101, 104 - 108, 110 and 116) (Nmrs No

NH45NW0016) Centred on NH 4066 5498 this middle group of structures comprises 4 buildings, a corn drying kiln and at least 3 enclosures. There are also various humps and hollows which indicate manmade intervention and evidence of more recent ditching and field clearance in the immediate area. 101 appears on FES as a single unroofed building

101 Building - NH 40657 55006 A complex rectangular building on an E-W axis with an internal measurement of 17.8m x 2.7m. A large boulder 3.6m x 1.6m x 0.7m height forms the dividing wall between 2 compartments:

- Main compartment to the west is 7.7m in length has wasted walls of 0.6m thickness and height of 0.3m.

Corners are squared. There is scattered tumble internally and a possible entrance in the S wall of 0.9m width.

- East compartment is 8.5m in length. The walls are less distinct and non existent in the eastern half. There is an obvious centrally placed stone channel along the length of the compartment which has a width of 0.25m and depth of 0.15m in places but it is untraceable for some of its length. To the south of the compartment there is a stone setting forming the edge of a terrace 1m in width.

- an outshot to the north of the E compartment is 2.8m square internally with rough stone walls of 0.45m thickness and 0.45m height and a possible narrow entrance in its NE corner.

104 Enclosure - NH 40662 54981 A small rectangular enclosure on an E-W axis of internal measurements 9.7m x 5.8m. Walls of dry stone rubble are 0.6m in thickness and 0.2m in height. There is an entrance of 3.5m width in the N wall. A truncated grain drying kiln is situated 4m to the south of this enclosure and separated from it by a modern drainage ditch. Covered by grass, moss and bracken and occupied by a large derelict feeding rack.

105 Kiln and possible barn - NH 40663 54971 The remains of a rectangular building on a N-S axis are recessed into the north side of a small knoll. There are two parts to it - the kiln and the possible barn, which appears to have been truncated by a recently excavated ditch to the north. The kiln is contained within a square structure 3m x 3m which has a external stone faced N wall of 1.2m height in which there is a flue. The circular bowl is 1.2m deep internally and roughly 1.5m in diameter with more or less vertical sides.

106 Building - NH 40658 54951 This site lies in rough grazing and scattered deciduous woodland to the south of 104 and 105. The building lies E-W and is 7.10m E-W by 2.50m internally with walls from 0.60m wide to 0.80m wide. The walls are a maximum of 0.25m high and there is a S facing entrance. There is a possible N facing entrance but this is now filled with tumbled stone. The corners of the building are curved internally and externally. There is a turf and stone dyke extending N from the E end of the building and another dyke 1.50m to the W of the W end of the building. There are no internal features. The building may be a house or a byre.

106a Enclosures and pits - NH 40673 54946 The structures are 2 slight depressions with some stones set into the edge of the depression. To the SE of the 2 depressions there is a double line of stones and an enclosure wall.

107 Building - NH 40724 54967 A complex building, aligned E-W, sits on a slight platform to the east of 104 and 105. It consists of a central compartment with 2 (possibly later) outshots one at each end:

- the central compartment is 10.10m x 3.10m internally. The W wall is 1.10m wide and is slightly tumbled on the E side. The E wall is 0.50m thick and has a large amount of tumble on the W side. The S wall is 0.30m thick and has an entrance. There may be the remains of an internal division towards the W end of the compartment indicated by several earthfast stones.
- The E outshot is 3.10m E-W by 2.50m internally with a S facing entrance. The walls are 1m high and well preserved with square corners.
- The W outshot is 3.40m E-W by 2.15m internally with walls 0.60m wide and a S facing entrance. The corners are rounded internally and externally. The walls are reasonably well preserved.

To the S, at the W end, the wall of the associated enclosure (site 108) is 1.50m from the building wall.

108 Enclosure - NH 40720 54957 This site is an enclosure lying immediately (1.5m) to the S of site 107 and appears to be associated with this building. The enclosure is 6.80m E-W by a maximum of 6.20m internally with turf and stone walls a maximum of 0.80m wide. The SW corner of the enclosure is curved with the other corners square; the inner wall face is most visible at the NW corner.

A small burn runs E-W to the S of the S wall and there is another wall lying N-S to the S of the burn.

116 - Building/possible Byre - NH 40669 54989 - A small rectangular building on a N-S axis and sloping towards the east, is filled with clearance material and therefore difficult to make out exact extent. The overall measurement is c5.2m x 2.7m. There appears to be an entrance in the east wall.

West Township/Farmstead enclosures and kiln (102 and 103) Centred on NH 4060 5500 This is the west part of the settlement. There are 2 complex buildings to this part of the settlement:

102 Kiln and associated buildings (Fig 8) - NH 4052 5488 This sub-rectangular complex is aligned NNW-SSE and is recessed into the east side of a birch clad knoll. There is an overall height drop of 2.2m over the site and it measures 14m x 6.5m. It comprises 4 parts:

- The kiln - The bowl is well preserved and 1.5m deep (from scarcement to floor). There is an obvious level scarcement around the top of the bowl, generally 40cms in width. The bowl has a lower diameter of 1.3m and upper of 2.5m (across rim of scarcement). The flue opens to the east and has a curving passage into the adjacent chamber. The aperture measures 40cms x 30cms (there is almost certainly some tumble material occupying the floor) and there is a substantial arrangement of lintel stones - see drawing

- Building - To the east of the kiln and contiguous with it, there is a rectangular building measuring 3.5m x 4m internally. This has dry stone walls to a height of 0.6m, but more generally 0.4m/0.5m, and 0.8m in thickness. The remains of a curving wall occupy the west part of the building. This wall forms the north wall of the flue passage which is 0.8m in width and relatively well preserved being 1.5m in length.

- The south part of the site has two not quite parallel walls. These are of dry stone construction, 3.5m in length, 0.8m in thickness and generally 0.5/0.6m in height.

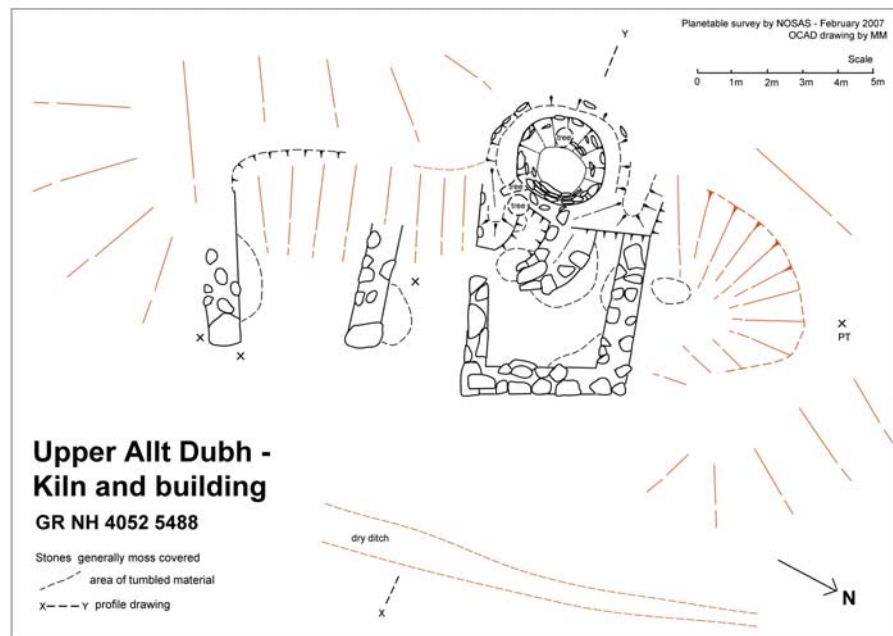
The entrance in the south wall of the building is common with that of the flue - it is 0.6m in width.

- A recessed compartment to the north, roughly 4.5m square and with steep banks to north and west (height drop of 1m). There is an entrance in its SE corner

A ditch, now dry, 4m to the east has been cut. It drains a marsh to the south

103 Farmstead and enclosures - NH 40555 54918 Fifty metres to the east of the kiln, site 102, this site is revetted into the wooded slope on the N side and overlooks a level area of grass to the S. The site has 2 buildings within an enclosure wall.

A - The N building is set into the slope on the N side with the N wall forming part of the enclosure wall. The building is 9.300m E-W by 3.60m internally with a S facing entrance. The walls are 1m wide and are up to



0.75m high except on the N side where there is an area of collapse at the W end.

B - The other building is to the S of building 1 and at right angles to building 1 and the S wall forms part of the enclosure wall. Building 2 is 5.10m N-S by 2.50m internally with an E facing entrance. The walls are 1m wide and up to 0.75m high. There is a possible apron along the N wall and between building 1 and building 2 1.70m wide with a large boulder in between the buildings at the W end of the apron.

C - The E enclosure wall curves round from the end of building 2 and passes to the E and building 1 where it joins the slope and bed rock. The enclosure to the W of the buildings is 17.40m N-S, 12.50m wide at the S end and 5.60m wide at the N end. There may be a feature at the N end of this part of the enclosure as there is a scatter of stones some firmly earthfast, however the stones had no clear arrangement to suggest whether they were a building or a wall or hard standing.

On the slope above the enclosure is a small depression, this may be the remains of a potato clamp or a sheiling.

Probable Still 117 - NH 40694 54864 At an altitude of 110m and on a north facing slope this site lies to the south of the main settlement of Allt Dubh. The site lies in a small wooded valley to the south of a small burn running E-W. It is a well preserved building set into the ground on the S side. The building is 3.40m E-W by 2.35m internally with walls c.0.60m wide, the S wall is 1m high. There is an entrance on the S side of the W wall 0.60m wide leading to a passage 0.75m wide. The passage wall curves to the N ending with 2 earthfast stones which may indicate an outer entrance. The NW corner of the building is tumbled and may have been another entrance or drain through the wall as there is a channel to the burn immediately to the N. There are no internal features. In view of its situation and the history of the surrounding landscape this site is in all probability another still

Farmstead and enclosure (126) at NH 40255 54838 **and building (124)** at NH 4035 5477 At an altitude of 110m and on an east facing spur, which is part of a generally north facing slope. This farmstead is just to the south of a coniferous. The site is grassy with some bracken and heather. It comprises a building of 2 compartments and 2 stretches of field wall:

126A Building - NH 40255 54838 On a NE-SW axis the main/west compartment measures 7.6m x 3.5m internally. The N and S walls are wasted and appear only as a low bank 0.2m in height and with a spread of 1.5m. The west wall is recessed into the slope, is of dry stone construction and 0.8m height. The east compartment is defined by a dry stone wall 0.7m in height and 0.7m thickness. It measures 4.8m x 2.8m internally and there is an entrance in the south wall. The corners of the building are squared throughout.

126B Enclosure walls - to the north the remains of a curving stone wall, 45m in length, generally 0.5m height and with 1-1.5m spread. To the south the remains of a wall extend down the slope

124 Possible Building - NH 4035 5477 To the west of a small burn, this building is roughly rectangular and on a NW-SE axis, it is recessed into the slope and measures 4m x 2m internally. There appears to be an entrance at the lower/west end. There is a short section of dry stone wall to the north but it has been much mutilated by vehicle tracks (probably timber extraction tracks dating from WW2)

In view of its situation and the history of the surrounding landscape this building may be another still.

Farmstead, enclosures and walls (127 - 129 and 120) Centred on NH 4016 5515 at an altitude of 80m, this farmstead sits in the bottom of the valley. It is on a SE facing knoll just to the north of the burn and is in the middle of a mature coniferous plantation. There is an area of open improved land just to the east and adjacent to the burn. 128 may be associated with 127 and is 40m to the north within the same mature coniferous plantation. 129 is situated in the bottom of the valley and may be the east boundary of enclosure 127, it is now quite marshy with the occasional trees in this area. The walls 120 are on the opposite side of the valley some 200m to the SE.

127 Farmstead and enclosures - NH 4016 5519 comprises a building and 2 enclosures:

A Building - NH 40164 55146 - On a knoll and on a NE-SW axis this building is 6.5m x 3.5m internally. The walls are of dry stone construction, 0.6m high and 0.8m thick. The corners are squared and there is a possible entrance in the S wall. Heavily moss covered

B Large enclosure - Occupies the bottom of the valley on both sides of the main Allt Dubh. This large area is part open and part forested. On its west side the enclosure is bounded by an obvious curving moss covered wall to the west of the main building. On the south side a less obvious wall runs along the base of the slope and to the east a possible dam, site 129, may be the limit of the enclosure here. Also to the SE there is a short stretch of stone wall in the birch wood which may form the boundary here. At this point there is a depression abutting the wall which is 3m in diameter and 0.5m deep (it may be a borrow pit for the old stalkers track nearby)

C Small enclosure - NH 40173 55196 To the north of main building, roughly 11m x 8m, the walls are 0.5m in height but 1m at one point. The NW wall has been severely damaged by a track

NH 4016 5519 there are several

128 Building and walls - NH 40198 55219 The site includes:

- A small square structure which measures 3m x 3m. The wasted walls are heavily moss covered and comprised of irregular boulders generally 0.5m in height. The structure may have an entrance in the south and the north wall may have been disturbed by a forest track which runs close by.

- A meandering wall going off to the NE which also has been disrupted by the track

129 Possible Dam/boundary wall - NH 40274 55182 on a N-S axis this possible dam is 12m in length and ends in the south at the Allt Dubh burn. It does not appear to cross it. A small side stream has breached the structure. The north part is a substantial double skinned dry stone wall with a width of 1m and height of 0.4m whereas the south part is less obvious. There is a bank of 4m length going off at right angles on the west side. This structure could equally be the foundation of a boundary fence

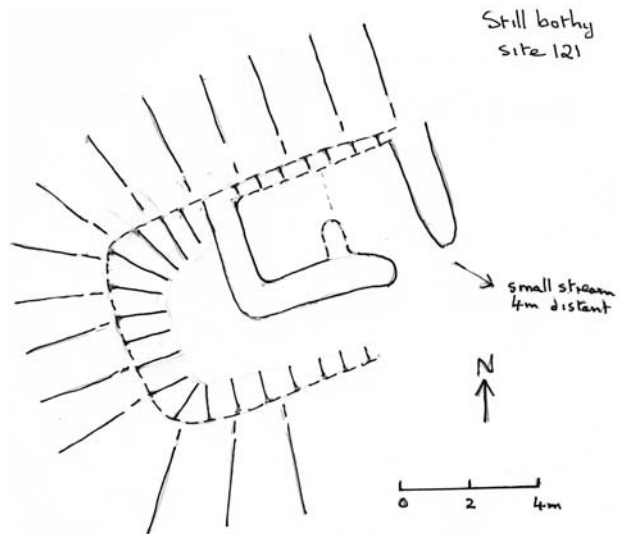
120 Boundary walls/Field walls centred on NH 4050 5513 on a north facing slope, the walls are in the vicinity of a high deer fence which divides a coniferous plantation to the west from natural birch woodland to the east. The wall to the east bounds an open area which has vigorous bracken. There are 3 turf and stone banks:

A Earthbank to the west - curves from SE to NW and runs round the foot of a steep slope

B Earthbank in the middle - from a junction with earth bank A at its SW end curves to the NE and bounds a marshy area to the south continuing across the present road and curving south where it is met by earthbank C coming from the north

C Earthbank to the NE - Runs from N to S and forms the SW border of an open area on a gentle NE facing slope. This area appears to have been previously cultivated but is now infested with bracken. Its east boundary is formed by a burn in a small ravine.

Still bothy 121 NH 4012 5495 Tucked away in a small re-entrant/valley to the south of the main Allt Dubh and just a 100m from it, this site is well hidden and in natural birch woodland. The rectangular building is on a WSW-ENE axis and is constructed within a larger recessed area, see sketch. The building measures 5m x 2.5m internally. The north side is recessed into the slope, with a bank of 0.5m. The structure has dry stone walls of 1m thickness and 1m height at its W end. The south wall is 1m thickness and 0.6m height. Two compartments are formed by a partition with the westmost compartment possibly on a slightly raised level. There is an entrance 1m in width at the E end of the south wall of the building. A very small burn runs down the slope a few metres to the south. Overgrown with bracken and heather



Shielings 125 NH 4005 5465 At an altitude of 160m and on an east facing sheltered slope on an otherwise north facing slope. This relatively fertile area has remnants of tree stumps and is bracken covered. Three small rectangular buildings with rounded ends were identified:

A - Recessed into hillside and on a NE-SW axis this building is 3m x 2m internally. The banks to the north and east have evidence of stones and that on the east side is 1m in height. There is an entrance at the SW end

B - On an E-W axis this measures 3m x 1.5m internally

C - On a N-S axis this is 4m x 2m internally. It has banks of 1m height on its E side

Building/Probable Still bothy 149 (Allt nam Ballach) - NH 39549 54780 At an altitude of 170m this building sits below a steep heather clad riverbank on the east bank of the Allt nam Ballach. Rank heather surrounds A 3 sided building of rough dry stone construction. The structure is quite ruined and mostly covered by rank heather. The steep river bank appears to have been cut vertically to form the back/SE wall but slumping now obscures this back wall. The building is aligned NE-SW and measures 5.5m x 2.5m with an entrance c1.5m from the NE end in the NW wall. In view of its situation and the history of the surrounding landscape this site is in all probability another still

Farmstead, enclosure, building, possible still and lade (146 – 148) (Nmrs No NH35NE 0014)

Centred on NH 3978 5505 this site sits in a sheltered hollow, with a rough marshy clearing to the north, at the junction of the Allt Dubh and the Allt nam Ballach. The surrounding topography has been seriously affected by the construction of a forest track. All the features have been over planted with trees, and some are affected by windblow. The site comprises 2 buildings, an enclosure and a further building, thought to be a still bothy, with a stone lined lade. Moss covers the structures and there is vigorous bracken cover.

146 Building - NH 39731 54993 Above and to the west of structure 147 this is on the upper side of a forest track. It is recessed into the slope, aligned N-S and measures 5.5m x 3m internally. The back/west recessed wall is stone faced and 0.5m high. The front east wall appears to have fallen away or perhaps been truncated by the forest track although there is a well built stone corner at the north end. The north and south walls are c 0.5m in height with the recessed NW corner 1.2m.

147 Building and lade (Fig 7) - NH 39760 55020 The main building is built into a steep slope and is of dry stone construction. It is aligned WSW-ENE and there are three parts to the structure:

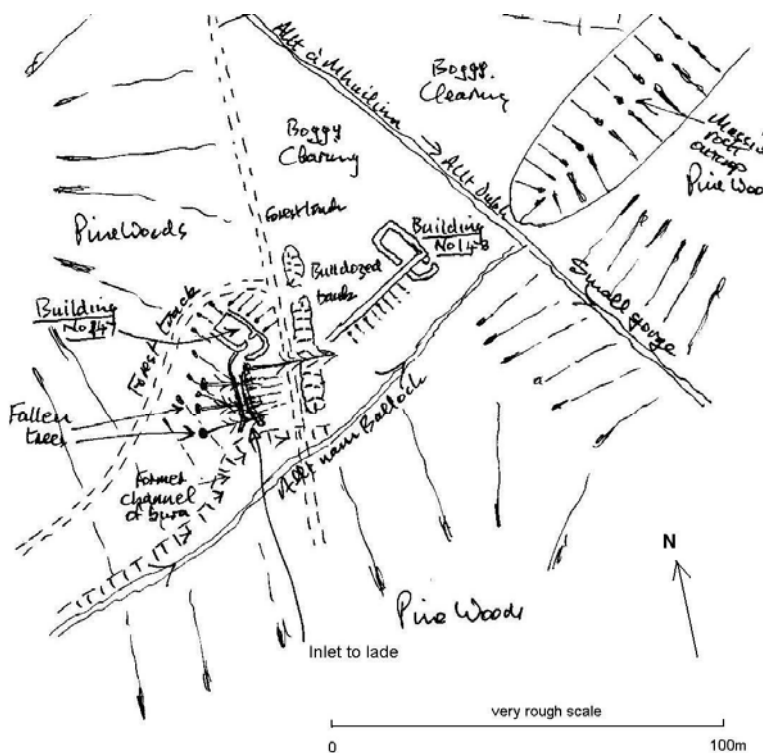
A. A main compartment is c5m x 3m internally, with a clear entrance in the S wall.

B. An outshot to the east on the same alignment is c2m x 3m. It is open to the south into an apparent water channel of dry stone construction

C. Water channel/lade - Aligned N-S this is c 20m in length. It is heavily embanked on the lower east side. This curving stone lined channel is generally 0.5m deep, although the side walls are 0.8m high in places. It has a width of 0.6m except for the inlet at the SW end which is 1.5m. Numerous up-rooted Scots pines lay across the lade and one has uprooted the terminal end of the lower wall confusing interpretation considerably. The burn from which it is fed is several metres away and lower from the south end and there is no visible tail race at the north end. It is thought that there has probably been some change in the course of the burn over the years

148A Building - NH 39790 55040 The substantial remains of a dry stone building aligned NW-SE and measuring 6m x 3m internally has a small outshot c2m x 2m internally of similar construction at the SE. The walls survive to c1m height in several places and are double faced and c0.8m in thickness. A fine section of buttressing is seen outside the N wall of the main building. A possible entrance c 0.8m wide is in the SE corner of and a dry stone wall extending out from it in a SE direction. This wall has fallen trees over it and encloses an area to the Allt nam Ballach on its east side

148B Enclosure - centred on NH 39790 54997, aligned WSW - ENE and roughly 33m x 17m. The wall probably extended to the building 147 but it has been truncated by a bulldozed forest track. There are no obvious animal enclosures or cultivatable nearby. In view of its situation and the history of the surrounding landscape this site is in all probability associated with the production of illicit whisky Structure 147 may have been a horizontal mill or it may have been a still similar to the one recorded at Carn Bhithir on the Mar Lodge Estate with a lade and a drain leading off and taking away excess water.



SKETCH PLAN OF CLEARING AND THE 2 BUILDINGS

Scatwell House

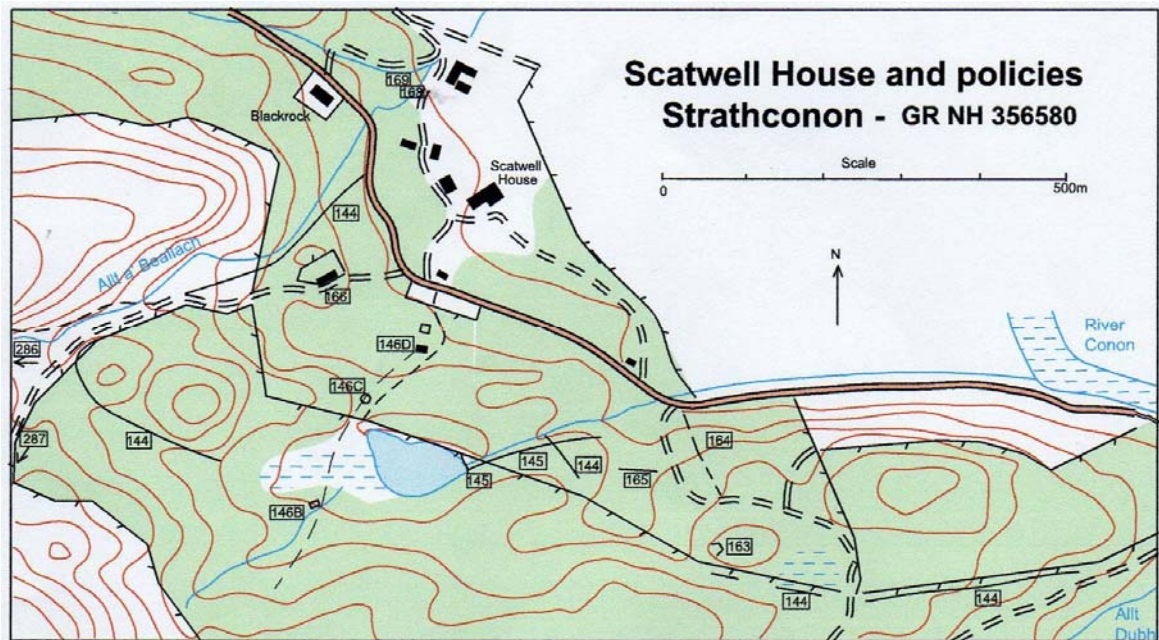
Boundary wall, dam and lade, hydro-scheme, lades and sawmill (144 - 146 and 163 - 169)

Centred on NH 3978 5571 Scatwell House was constructed in 1850 on the site of the township of Milltown of Scatwell. The house is in a sheltered wooded corner on the south side of the river and the policies extend over the north facing slopes above and to the south. They are surrounded by the remains of a substantial wall, 144. The enclosed area is mostly birch wood with some overgrown rhododendrons, but there is some commercial woodland in the higher parts. A complex system of burns, some of which have been diverted, descend the hill. The wall and structures found within it are described here.

144 Boundary wall 144 - NH40625 55402 (East end) NH 39350 55650 (West part) NH 39700 55903 (North end) Mostly in open birchwood but sometimes in planted coniferous forest, this old boundary wall has largely been superseded by a high deer fence which runs along a similar course. The remains of this substantial dry stone wall traverses the north facing hillside to the south of Scatwell House for a distance of nearly 2 kms. The wall is incomplete having been broken in many parts by forest tracks or more recent forest operations. The wall is well made and up to 1m in height and 1m thickness in many places. It is best preserved at its west/north end and at its east end. The middle part is not extant and the boundary may have followed the line of a burn and then a small pond here

145 Dam and lade This is almost certainly the original dam and lade associated with the township of Milltown of Scatwell. The dam has possibly been enhanced as part of later garden improvements. At the lower/north end of the lade, and close to the road, there has been considerable disturbance in connection with the Scatwell policies and in particular East Lodge. No evidence of a mill survives.

A Dam - NH 39847 55525 350m to the south of Scatwell House and c450m and to the WSW of the site of the original township of Milltown of Scatwell. A small burn (originally tapped for the hydro-scheme) feeds the pond, but the main Allt a Mhuillinn has been diverted to run eastward down the Allt Dubh. This diversion was probably achieved at the time of the construction of Scatwell House and its policies in 1850 as part of



attempts to improve the drainage of the area as it is marked on the 1st edition OS survey of 1872. The earth dam, 50m long and 3m thick, is at the east end of a small artificial pond, 200m square and now partly silted up.

B Lade is approx 200m in length and running east from the east end of the pond on the south bank of the natural watercourse. It is cut into the hillside and built out on its north/down side by an embankment of random boulders up to 1.5m in height and 1.5m in thickness. The lade turns and follows a northerly direction, descending steeply down to the line of the former burn, the bank at this point is composed of larger boulders. The boundary wall, 144, crosses the lade at NH 39952 55555. A well made track follows the line of the former burn on its north side from the dam to ?Scatwell House. It is 2m in width

165 Possible Dam - NH 40062 55525 In birchwood 200m to the east of dam 145, the wasted remains of a possible linear stone dam aligned ENE-WSW are seen, it crosses the mouth of a large marshy hollow. The feature is roughly 40m in length, grossly wasted and very overgrown. Situated only 100m or so from the site of the original Milltown of Scatwell, this may be an earlier or supplementary dam.

163 Quarry - NH 40419 55414 In birchwood at an altitude of 80m, about 600m to the SE of Scatwell House, there is an area of roughly 50m x 20m on the west facing spur of a knoll which has been quarried. It may be a quarry for extracting the stone used to build Scatwell House in 1850

165 Hollow way/probable Stalkers path - NH 40419 55414 In birchwood, 500m to the SE of Scatwell House, an old path can be traced ascending the slope from NW to SE for 100m. It is 1m deep in places and may be the remains of an old stalkers path. Other similar stretches of hollow way were noted some 500 or 600m to the south close to the Allt Dubh.

146 Hydro-scheme - From NH 39345 55071 (SW end) to NH 39783 55709 (NE end/generator shed)
The remains of a hydro-scheme can be seen on a northeast facing forested hillside above and to the SW of Scatwell House. It comprises an intake/slucie from the Allt a' Mhuilinn which is now diverted to run into the Allt Dubh, a pipe, a cistern and valve, and 2 generator sheds (one older than the other). Some of the remains described are almost certainly those of an original hydroscheme described in the Scottish Highlander of 10th Oct 1889, see appendix, but much too appears to be of an updated version on the same line. If this is one of the earliest examples of a private hydro-scheme then it might warrant more detailed recording and investigation as a separate project

146A Intake - NH 39345 55071 The old intake is at the foot of a steep rocky gully just above the plantation. The remains comprise an overgrown dry-stone wall across the line of the burn with 2 cast iron valves visible below it. At an angle across the burn on a solid rock shelf is a partial line of dry-stone work, possibly evidence of a one time dam. There is a course iron grill in the burn below and a length of 6" (15cms) cast iron pipe whilst on the bank are the remains of what might have been a timber framed sluice gate and a perforated steel screen. Below the intake the lower side of the Allt a'Mhuilinn has been banked up and faced with stone - this wall extends for c200m downstream. It diverts the flow of water away from the natural line of the Allt a'Mhuilinn and towards the Allt Dubh.

Some 100m below the old hydro intake there are the remains of a wooden box in the river embankment, it is thought to be an old intake to a 4" fireclay pipe - a possible drinking water supply.

146B The course of a pipe descends from the intake for 1 kilometre in a NE direction. For the majority of its course the pipe, which is 20 cms in diameter, is buried underground. It crosses the course of the Allt a' Mhuilinn at GR NH 39660 55463, besides a cistern, before traversing a marsh and descending steeply down to the generator house.

146C A valve is seen at the top of the last steep slope. It is located in a stone lined watery pit. From this point to the generator shed there appear to be 2 pipes running parallel.

146D A generator shed - GR NH 39783 55709 of timber and tin and rapidly becoming overwhelmed with rhododendrons. A few metres to the north in the rhododendrons, there is a further collapsed timber shed with a tin roof. From this position Scatwell House lies 200m to the north

166 Kennels - NH 40062 55525 In birchwood, on the west side of a track, 200m to the SW of Scatwell House there is block of 4 disused kennels constructed of timber. It is surrounded by a fenced enclosure

168 - Lade - NH 35647 58130 100m to the NW of Scatwell House there is stone lined water course 1m in width and 0.6m deep. It is 40m in length and drops 2.4m in this length. The policies of Scatwell House were landscaped and garden walks constructed in the 1920s. A small loch, now a grassed lawn, is depicted on FES at the SW end of the lade and a sawmill at the NE end. Nothing remains of the sawmill and the small loch has been filled in. A small sluice and laide, site 169, which diverted water from a further small stream into the loch has been filled in and converted to a walkway

The dam/sluice, 286, in the hills 1kilometre to the SW may be associated. From here the Allt na Bhealach has been diverted from its original course, which flowed close to Scatwell House, to a more NW direction.

169 - Site of sluice and lade - NH 38895 55750 A small wooden bridge occupies the site of the sluice and the line of the lade is now a terraced walk contouring around the hill for 50m. Marked on FES

167 - Sawmill - NH 3960 5615 On the north side of the minor road and in birchwood 400m to the NW of Scatwell House, the roofed timber building of a sawmill is now used as a store. This sawmill is not to be confused with the one mentioned in 168 which possibly preceded this one.

150 Building/probable Still bothy (Allt a’Mhuilinn) - NH 38727 54929 At an altitude of 240m this building sits some distance below the Loch a’Mhuilinn dam on the west bank of the Allt a’Mhuilinn in a course wet area of rank heather. The substantial remains of a well constructed dry stone building aligned E-W and are roughly 7m x 2.5m internally. Half of the back wall is cut into a low natural bank. Some of the walls appear double faced but large flat “through” slabs have also been used in the construction. There is a possible opening at the NE end of the ESE wall, facing the Allt a Mhuilin. A small grassy area is off the east gable of the structure. This site is in all probability another still

287 Dam (Loch a Mhuilinn) - NH 3848 5495 At an altitude of 270m, 2 kilometre to the SW of Scatwell House, this substantial dam of stone with an overflow at its south end is 1.5m in height and 40m in length. This may have been constructed to raise the level of the water for fishing or it may have been the head of water for the hydro-scheme, 146. A boathouse is seen on the north shore of the loch 150m to the west

286 Dam and sluice - NH 38947 55745 - At an altitude of 150m, 1 kilometre to the W of Scatwell House, this small but substantial dam of stone is topped with turf. 1m in height, with a 2.5m spread and 25m in length, there is a concrete sluice in the centre. The loch/dam almost certainly supplied the water for the original sawmill at Scatwell House although the First edition marks only a sluice 100m to the east of the site of this dam. The Allt a’ Bhealach which exits the loch has been diverted at GR NH 3945 5575 to flow in a NE direction passing Scatwell House on its west side (the burns natural course is eastward, passing to the south of Scatwell House). The burn is depicted on the First Edition OS survey 1881 as having this NE course and there is a small loch/probably dammed and sawmill marked to the NW of Scatwell House. At the west end of the loch there is a possible still bothy, 285, and which is described under Curin

Scatwell Farm

Possible Township, buildings and dams (Glascharn) (131 – 133, 138 – 143) centred on NH 3929 5634 to the west of Scatwell Farm there is an area of grassland and a knoll projecting west into marshland. The area appears to have been extensively worked. The knoll is in quite a defensive position surrounded as it is by marshland and cut off by a deep drainage ditch; however it is at the low point of a much wider “bowl” in the countryside. There seems to have been many efforts in relatively recent times at controlling the water/marsh. This site is known as Glascharn on the 1st edition OS map and may be one of the settlements on the Roy map of c.1750. A series of 3 dams are also included here.

131 Dam - NH 39374 56713 Situated in a copse there are the L shaped remains of an earth bank which appears to have formed a pond. The present stream breaches the long side of the dam which is 12m in length and on a N-S axis. The shortest bank is at right angles to the N and is 4.5m. The banks are 2.5m in width and 0.5m in height.

132 Dam - NH 39323 56394 to the west of 131, this dam is 24m in length and on a N-S axis. The banks are 2.5m in width and 0.8m in height.

133 Dam/Wall - NH 39251 56427 the stone remains of this dam are incomplete and continue as a wall for 35m to the NE.

138 Building - NH 39333 56358 Rectangular building on a E-W axis measures roughly 10m x 2.5m internally. The defining earth bank on the N side is 0.5m in height. A disturbed area 139 to the S may be associated

139 Possible Building - A depressed area of irregular shape a few metres to the south of 138

140 Possible Building - NH 39293 56339 On the summit of a knoll this rectangular building is on an E-W

axis and measures 5m x 1.5m internally. It has turf banks and rounded ends. A pit, of 1m diameter, to the east may be associated

141 Pit - NH 39240

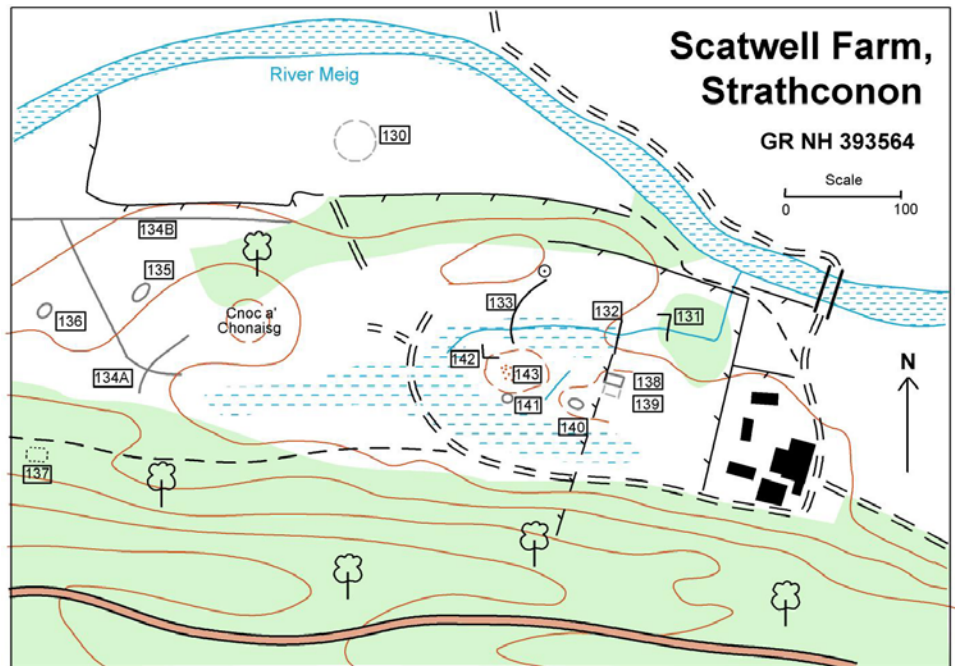
56348 this pit is excavated into the south side of a knoll. It is 3m in diameter and 0.5m deep.

142 Wall - NH 39238

56371 A turf and stone bank 1m in width and 20m in length this wall forms a dogleg

143 Worked area - NH

39241 56363 A level disturbed area on the summit of a knoll. It may have some sort of structures on it but no particular forms could be identified



Buildings and earthbanks (Cnoc a' Chonais/Glascharn) (130, 134 – 137) centred on NH 3893 5637 500m to the west of Scatwell Farm, this is an area of rough grassland, birch and bog at the foot of the Meig gorge. There is a large grassy field adjacent to the river to the north in which there is:

130 Sub-circular area - NH 39118 56575 slightly raised, roughly 30m in diameter, of stony ground. It has been used as a dump for rubbish.

134 A series of earthbanks on marginal land to the SW

A - on a NW-SE axis 140m in length, ends to the SE (GR NH 38931 56373) in an intersection of banks in a saddle and at the N end abuts B

B - Earthbank on an E-W axis 200m in length in boggy ground

135 Building - NH38934 56442 on a NE-SW axis, this rectangular building has internal measurements of 6mx2m. It has raised turf banks, rounded ends and there may be an entrance in its NW side. There is a drainage ditch external to its west end. It is covered by bracken

136 Building/possible Shieling - NH 38867 56418 This building also is on a NE-SW axis. Its internal area appears as a depressed oval, measuring of 4m x 1.5m. The NW bank is 0.4m in height and has a spread of 3m

137 Turf cuttings - NH 38856 56293 an area of turf cutting in the birch wood to the south of 135 and 136. Measures 22m x 21m

Curin

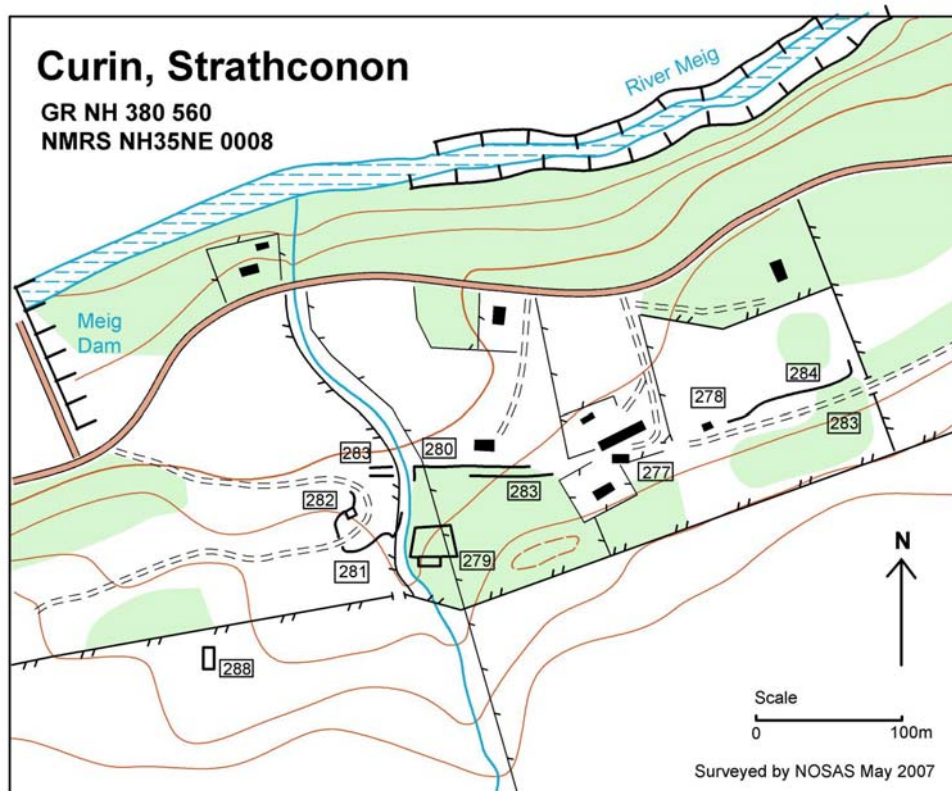
285 Possible Still Bothy - NH 38667 55723 At the west end of a small loch tucked away in the hills above and between Scatwell and Curin. This is a sheltered situation at the foot of a steep NE facing slope. The stone footings of the rectangular building are on a N-S axis and measure 4m x 3m internally. The rear/west wall is recessed into the slope and there is a section of drystone wall upstanding to 1.1m height and 1.5m width at the south end of this wall. The remaining footings are composed of largish blocks, single course in height, which are heavily bracken covered. There may be an entrance at the N end of the east wall and a scooped recess outside the north wall may be of some significance. There is a small stream immediately adjacent to the south.

Possible Township (crofting) and Old Drove road (277 – 284 and 288) (Nmrs No NH35NE

0008) Centred on NH 3800 5590 the settlement is situated on a gently north facing slope on the south side of the River Meig, above the Meig gorge. There are 6 occupied houses, four of which are recent bungalows and these have not been recorded, although two are marked on the FES. The settlement site is thought (by the owner of the main building) to have been a droving stance and his own house the old inn. An old (droving) road, 283, runs along the back of the house and can be followed both east and west to join the line of the present road. The Meig Dam and reservoir are immediately to the west and there has been considerable disturbance of the surrounding land due to the construction of this, the diversion of the present motor road and forestry.

277 Building - NH 37996 55917 Roofed and in good order to rear of main building. Marked on FES

278 Building - NH 38052 55925 Roofed, in good condition and used as a shed for horses. The original stone footings form the lower part of the building and are 0.5 - 0.8m high. The building on an E-W axis measures



4m x 2.5m internally and the NE corner is recessed into a knoll.

279 Building and enclosure - NH 37862 55830 The stone footings of a rectangular building on an E-W axis measure 9m x 3.5m internally and lie on the east side of a small stream. They are generally 0.5m in height, the corners are squared and a fallen tree lies across the building. A sub-square enclosure abuts to the north, it is 17m x 15m and the low stone footings are only a single course in thickness

281 Enclosure - NH 37808 55839 an irregular shaped enclosure, badly damaged by forestry planting and felling and with a forest road making a sweeping bend through the middle of it. The south part of the enclosure has surrounding low walls with a scatter/spread of 1m. The enclosure abuts the old track, 283, to the north and the stream to the east. A pen, 282, is incorporated in the west wall.

282 Probable Pen - NH 37802 55848 A crudely built 3 sided rectangular building on a NE-SW axis measures 2.5m x 1.5m internally. The walls are upstanding to 1m.

288 Building/possible Sheiling - NH 37773 55775 in a sheltered place just above the deer fence and the forest are the incomplete turf and stone banks of a rectangular building on a N-S axis measuring 6m x 2m internally. The banks are up to 0.6m high and heavily bracken infested. There is an area of flattish improved ground to the south and west.

284 Earthbank - NH 38072 55934 (W end) to NH 38163 55952 (E end) A substantial earthbank of turf and stone with a height of 0.6m and a spread of 1.5m, this bank has a winding course for 100m and may define an enclosure to the north with the old track, 283, to the south.

283 Road - NH 389 562 (E end) to NH 377 559 (W end) A 1 kilometre section of an old ?droving road can be followed through the settlement of Curin. Much of the old route particularly at the west and the east ends has been affected by forestry workings. It is marked on FES. At its east end the first 300m of the track has been trashed by forestry vehicles, it then becomes a pleasant grassy track for 200m before a gate through the deer fence and the settlement of Curin. At this point, NH 38163 55952, there is a substantial earthbank, 284, on its north side. For a further 150m it can be followed as a grassy track around the rear of the main building at Curin, through a gate and down a slope to GR NH 3789 5589 where it becomes a double wall for ?40m, each wall is 1m in height and the two are 10m apart . The track crosses the stream, bridge abutment 280, and there is another short section of double walls each 1m high and the two being 4m apart. The remaining 170m has been destroyed by a forest track.

280 Bridge abutment - NH 37857 55885 On the east side of a small stream and of dry stone construction, this abutment is relatively intact and measures 4m in width and 1.5m in height.

4.3 Selected photographs



Fig 1. General view of the lower part of Strathconon from the northwest. Scatwell lies to the right



Fig 2. Remains of sheilings 318 and 319 in upper Glen Marcasaidh



Fig 3. Surveying sheilings 307 and 308 in upper Glen Marksie using taped off-set method

Fig 4. Possible still bothy 200 viewed from the west. Loch Achonachie is in the background





Fig 5. Still bothy 201 at Drumandarroch



Fig 6. Probable still bothy 161 at Allt Dubh



Fig 7. Stone lined lade of site 147 at Allt Dubh



Fig 8. Kiln and associated structures 102, upper Allt Dubh, from the NE



Fig 9. Farmstead 041 with cruck slot at Soulmarksie



Fig 10. Farmstead 217 on marginal land in the Allt na Fainich, viewed from the west



11. Lade 017 at Comrie Farm from the NE



Fig 12. Sheep stall 301 in Glen Marcasaidh, with sheep creep and covering stone

Strathconon Project – Phase 1

List of Photographs

1. General views

Lower glen from Glen Marksie
Allt a Chuilinn from Glen Marksie
From unnamed loch above Curin/Scatwell
Glen Marksie from Loch a Mhuilinn
Lower glen from Glen Marksie

North side of glen from E to W

2. Comrie

Cul an Tor	029 clearance cairns x 4
	029 wall x 2
	030 building and cruck slot x 2
Strone	002 x 16 – MP photos
	001 wall x 3
	002 SW corner
	003 from SW
	004 W end from SE
	004 W wall from SW
	008 from SW
	010 from E
	027 from SW
	027 with pit from SW
	028 NE part from S
Bridge	026 N abutment from NW
	026 S abutment from E
	026 S abutment from W
Still	273 from E
	273 from NW
	273 from S
	273 from SW x 2
	273 Rear wall from SW
	273 Rear wall from NW

Comrie Farm

	General view from W
Lade and dam	017 and 018 from SW
	017 from NE
	017 from SW x 3
	017 NE part from SW
	017 SW end from NE
	018 from NW
	018 from SE
Building	22 from NE
	23 from E
	23A detail from E
	23A from S
	23A from W
	23B detail from N
	23B from N
Poss. township	011 from E
	012 from NE
	013 from NE
	013 from SW
	014 from N
	014 from SE
	015 from S
	016 from S
	019 from NE
	019 from SW
	020 enclosure detail

	020 from NW
	024 from NE
	025 E part from NE
	025 W part from W

3. Allt a Chuilin

Allt a Torrain	328 poss. hut circle from N
	328 poss. hut circle from NE
	328 poss. hut circle from W
Field system etc	General view from W
	329 E end from E
	029 N part from N
	029 N wall from E
	029 SE wall
	029 SW wall from SE
	048 NE corner
	048 SE wall from S corner
	048 SW part from E
	049 W wall
	050 and 053 from W
	051 from NW
	051 from SE
	052 from E
	052 from SW
	053 entrance from E
	053 from E
	053 from W
Cup marked stones	027 from N
	Single CMSs x 3
	027 from E
	027 from ENE
	027 from ENE cropped
	027 from N
	027 from NW
	027 from SE
	027 JW photos x 4
Luichart PS	069 from ESE
	070 from ESE
	071 from WNW
	071 pit from S
Conon Falls Hydro	Danger notice - RESC
	068A from E
	068A from SE
	068B x 3
	068C x 3
	Fish ladder

4. Glen Marksie

Soulmarksie

Farmstead	041 entrance from SW
	041 feature in NW end
	041 feature to N of E end
	041 from NW
	041 from W
	041 from E
	041 from NW
	041 NE cruck slot
	041 SW cruck slot
	041 from NW x 2
Enclosure walls etc	031 from E
	032 from SW
	032 E wall from W
	034 from NW
	034 from N

	035 from W
	036 from E
	040 E wall from E
	040 E wall from SE
	040 linear wall in S
	040 E wall from from NE
	042 from E
	042 from S
	043 from E
	043 from SW
	044 from SW
	240 N wall from N
	240 cairn
	240 N spur
	240 N wall from E
	241 from NW
	074 track
Rock shelter	033 entrance from W
	033 entrance from NE
	033 internal entrance
	033 internal entrance
	033 E end x 2
	033 W end
Dun/fort	Mostly from N or NW x 6

Glenmarksie

Glen Marksie east	Farm 045 from NW
	045 from W
	045 from N
	045 from S
	046 from W
	072 from SW
	072 from W
	073 from W
	072 and 073 from SE
	072 and 073 from SE
	075 east end x 2
	239 from NW
	242 from NW
	243 from NW
	244 from NW
	244 from SE
	245 from NW
	246 from NW
Glen Marksie Lodge	General view from E
	Upper glen from E
	General view from W
	075 W end sheep creep
	076 E part from W
	076 mid W part
	077 from NW
	081 lodge from SW
	081 steading from SW
	082 from W
	083 N part from NW
	083 S part from NW
	084 from NE
	084 from WSW
	249 from NW

Middle Glenmarksie

	General view from W
	Enc 267 from NW
	267 from S

	267 from S
	267 lower part from E
	267 lower part from W
	267 lower part /lynchets
Mid Glen Marksie	Oblique APs of lynchets x 5
	264 from NE
	264 from NW
	266 from NW
	266 from SW
	266 from W
	268 from NE
	268 from NE
	269 from NE
	270 from W
	271 from SW
	272 from S
	289 from NE
	291 from E
	292 from E
	294 from SW
	297 from N
	295 from S
	296 from S
Mid GM Upper part	General views Mar 05 x 7
	JW photos unnamed x 8
	Enclosures from SW x 3
	151 from NW

Upper Glen Marcasaidh/Allt a Ghlinne

Lower shielings	152 and 153 from N
	153 from NNW
	154 from N
	155 from NW
	156 from S
enclosures	Enc 300 from N
	Stell 301 lunkie
	Stell 301 from N
Sheilings ground	305 sheiling
	307 and 308 from N
	307 and 308 from N
	307 from SE cell at SE corn
	307 from E cell at NE corn
	307 from N
	307 from NNE
	307 from NNE
	307 from SSW
	308 cell W side from SW
	308 from N
	308 from W
	308 cell at W side
	308 from NW
	308 recess & platform to E
	?314 - May 07
	314 from SE
	314 from SW
	314 from W
	314 from WNW
	314 from NW
	314 cell to SW
	316 from SE
	318 & 319 from W
	321 from NW
	321 from SE

5. Little Scatwell

Mica mines	096 from N
	096 from SW
	097/1 from E
	097/2 from E
	097/3 from E
	097/4 from E
	097/5 from E
	097/6 from E
	098 x 3
	099
	Mica debris
Possible township	092 S wall from E
	093 from SE
	093 from W
	094 from W
	094 S end from E
	095 from E
	095 from NE
	095 from W
	Walled garden and gate
	Little Scatwell House

South side of glen from W to E

6. Curin

Possible Still	285 from N
	285 from SE
	location/lochan from SE
	285 from E
	285 from SE
Poss township	277 from NE
& road	278 from E
	278 from SW
	279 from N
	279 from W
	280 from W
	281 from SW
	282 from S
	283 at 278 from E
	283 mid part from NE
	283 W part from W
	283 W part from W
	284 E end from E
	284 W end from W
	288 from S

7. Scatwell House

Dams to west	167 sawmill from SW
	Track to dam
	286 (unnamed loch) dam from NW
	286 (unnamed loch) dam from SW
	287 (Allt a Mhuillin) dam from SE
	287 (Allt a Mhuillin) dam from SW
	287 (Allt a Mhuillin) dam from S
	Allt a Mhuillin boat house
Probable still	150 (Allt a Mhuillin) x 2
Scatwell Farm	130 enclosure from SE
	130 enclosure from SE
	130 enclosure from SW
	133 from NW

	134 junction
	134 mid part from SE
	135 from W
	136 from S
	136 from SW
	137 from NE
	138 from SE
	140 from NW
	141 from W
	142 from N
	Cnoc a Chonsaig track
	Farm building x 4
	Bull pen x 2
	Farm 1920 photo
Boundary wall	144 W end from W
	144 E end from W
	144 E end from W
	144 mid part from NW
	144 N part from W x 3
	144 W end from W
Within policies	145 dam from NW
	145 lade from N
	145 lade from N at junction
	145 lade off shoot to W
	146C valve from W
	146C valve and key
	146D shed from N
	146 JW photos x 8
	163 quarry from N
	164 hollow way from S
	164 hollow way from N
	165 dam from W
	166 kennels from SE
	166 kennels from SW
	168 from NE
	168 from SW
	168 N part from NE
	169 from E
	169 from NW
	Aerial photo 2007
	Cabaan photo

8A. Allt Dubh – wider area

Allt nam Ballach	149 poss still x 2
Farmstead	146 from S
	147C x 9
	147A x 4
	147B from SW
	148 x 3
	148 enclosure retaining wall
Poss still	117 from SE
	117 from SE
Farmstead	160A from SW
	160B from NW
	160C from W
	118 E wall from S
	118 E wall from NW
	118 wall from E
Farmstead	119A building from NE
	119A building from SW
	119B enclosure from SW
Poss still	121 from NE

	121 from W
	121 from E
	121 from SW
Farmstead	123 from NW
	JW x 3
Building	124 from NW
Shielings	125A from NW
	125B from NW
	125C from N
Farmstead	126A from W
	126A from N
	126B wall from E
Farmstead	127A from SW
	127B enc from NE
	127B pit next to E wall
	128 from NW
	129 from N
Schoolhouse	X 2
Working area 122	122 from NW
	122 from SW
	122 from NW
	122 N part from SE
	122A from NNW
	122A from N
	122A from N
	122A from NE
	122A from SW
	122A from E
	122B from S
	122B from SSE
	122B from SW
	122B from W
	122B from NW
	122C from E
	122C from SW
	122D from S
	122D from N
Poss still 161	161 from NW
	161 from W
	161 from NE
	161 from E
	161 from NW
	161 from SW
	161 from SW
Building	162 from E
	162 from NE
	162 from SW

8B. Allt Dubh – Upper settlement

W part - kiln	102 from SW
	102 from SSE
	102 from S
	102 N part from NE
	102 N part from NE
	102 Kiln from E
	102 Kiln from NE
	102 Kiln entrance from E
	102 Kiln entrance from E
	102 bowl from W
	102 detail of bowl
	Bowl S scarcement from W
	Bowl S scarcement from E
	Plans and profiles x 3
	Tree felling Mar 2008 x 30

W part - Farmstead	103 from W
	103 from SW
	103 from SW
	103 from SW
	103 from SE
	103 from SE
Middle part	101 from SW
	101 E end from SW
	101 outshot from S
	101 drain from W
	104 from N
	105 from S
	105 from NW
	106 from ENE
	106 from W
	106 from WSW
	Pits near 106
	107 from SW
	107 from W
	107 W part from E
	107 E part from W
	109 N part of bank
	109 N part of bank
	116 from E
	Clearance cairns to N
East part	111 from E
	112 from NW
	112 W part from S
	112 E part from S
	112 from E
	114 N end from NW
	114 S part from SW
	115 from NW
	115 from NE

9. Drumandarrach

Garrimatic

	274 from N
	275 dam from NE
	275 dam from NE
	Cottage from SE

Main Settlement

	General view lower part from SE
Farmstead	172 from NW
	172 from W
	172 cruck slot from S
	172 E end from W
	172 rear ditch from W
	172 and 173 from SE
	173 from W
	195 from SSE
	195 from W
	196 from S
	196 from W
Farmstead	177 from WSW
	178 from N
	178 from SSW
	178 from W
	179 from E
	180 from WNW
	181 from NNW

	182 from W
	183 from W
	183 from NE
Cairns	184 from W
	185 from W
	186 from SW
	186-5-4 from SW
Others	174 from SW
	175 from SW
	175 from SW
	175 dip from NW
	176 from W
	187 from SW
	187 from SW
	189 from W
	190 from SSE
	191 from SW
	191 from W
	191 from WSW

Wider area

	199 from NW
	199 from NW
	228 wall x 3
	229 B poss peat track
Building	200 from E
	200 from NW
	200 from NW
	200 from NW
	200 from S
	200 from SW
	200 from WNW
	200 structure SE corner
	200 structure SE corner
	200 structure SE corner
Still bothy	201 from S
	201 from S
	201 from S
	201 from S
	201 from S
	201 from NE
	201 feature in SE corner & pit
	201 central pit from N
	201 SE corner from N
	201 SE corner from W
	201 SE corner from E
Poss still	202 from NNE
	202 from S
	202 from W
Poss still	203 from NE
	203 from S
	203 from SE
Poss still	204 from NW
	204 from NW
	204 from NW
	204 from SE
	204 NE part - arc in wall

North of road

	235 from NE
	235 from SW
	236 from E
	236 from W

	238 from N
	238 from S

Allt na Fannaich

	General view upper part from SW
	General view upper part from SW
Enclosures	215 from SW
	216 N wall from S
	216 SW wall from SE
Farmstead	205 from E
	205 from NE
	205 from SSE
	205 from SW
	205 from SW
	205 from W
	205 from W
	205 from W
	205 cruck slot from SE
	207 from SE
	209 from SW
	210 from SW
	210 from WSW
Farmstead	211 from E
	211 from W
	211 from W
	212 from N
	226 from NE
Farmstead	213 from S
	213 from NE
	213 from SW
	214 from N
Farmstead	217 from SW
	217 from NE
	217 from NNW
	217 from NNW
	217 from SW
	217 from WNW
	217 from WSW
	217 drain from N
	217 Pen from W
	217 S part from N
	217 Stone from E
	222 & 217 from S
	218 & 219 from SE
	218 S wall from E
	220 from W
	221 from NW
	221 from W
	222 from NNW
	222 from WSW
	227 from W
Shielings	223 from NW
	223 from S
	223 from SW
	224 from S
	224 from SSE
	225 from S
	225 from SW

Achonachie

	276 from NW
	Aerial photos of dam